



## Preamble

KVTC was founded on the principle that the commercial utilization of a small area of land can benefit the conservation of much larger areas of land. KVTC has implemented this principle by planting up to 30% of its landholding to teak whilst setting aside the balance of the land for conservation purposes.

The company believes that maintaining open land in its natural state through voluntary land conservation is good policy and that open natural zones of vegetation are a long term benefit to the company as well as the surrounding communities.

Air, water and biodiversity resources are limited resources. By conserving tree canopy, natural vegetation, wetlands, streams and rivers and actively protecting biodiversity, these limited resources are conserved. The maintenance of conservation land reduces the releases of greenhouse gasses, protects soils, provides a refuge for biodiversity and combats the change in rainfall patterns as a result of deforestation.

In addition to the environmental benefits resulting from conservation land there are also economic benefits to the company. Enhanced biodiversity on company land will improve the growing conditions for teak and will enable the company to enter the eco-product markets. Conservation land could also provide additional benefits to communities were the use of non-forest timber products can occur sustainably.

The company will operate according to the following principles and monitor its performance in respect of them.

## Policy

1. KVTC will meet all laws and regulations covering Conservation and Land Protection. KVTC also subscribes to the ISO14001 and FSC standards regarding land conservation and environmental protection.
  - a. No evergreen or riverine forests will be converted to teak plantations and will be conserved to maintain its biodiversity value.
  - b. High Conservation Value Areas<sup>1</sup>(HCVA) will be identified. These sites will not be converted to teak plantations and will be conserved
  - c. Management Plans will be developed for conservation areas, and the specific needs of HCVA will be specifically included. Implementation and review of these plans will occur continuously.
  - d. Conservation areas and HCVA are frequently monitored for indicators of conservation attributes to maintain and enhance biodiversity. Where necessary management actions will be adapted to achieve conservation goals.
  - e. The design and layout of plantations has been and will be done in such a way that it promotes protection, restoration and conservation of natural forests and does not increase pressure on natural forests. Wildlife corridors, streamside zones and mosaic stands of different age and rotation have been considered in the layout of the plantations.



- f. Any change to the final plantation layout (as achieved in 2011) will only be done after consultation with Conservation Organizations and will ensure that FSC requirements are included
2. KVTC maintains strict rules on activities allowed and disallowed on Conservation Land, and only activities which do not impact on the long term sustainability of the land Where required the enforcement of these rules will be maintained with the use of conservation guards.
    - a. Collection of Non Timber Forest Products<sup>2</sup>, which excludes uses that fall in the category of prohibited or non-sustainable activities, such as:
      - i. Thatch grass collection
      - ii. Bee keeping
      - iii. Medicinal plant collection for non-commercial use
      - iv. Household hunting as allowed under Tanzanian law.
      - v. Spiritual and cultural site visits.
    - b. Prohibited Activities:
      - i. Unsustainable or unauthorized Logging
      - ii. Unsustainable and unauthorised hunting.
      - iii. Charcoal production from natural woodland
      - iv. Grazing of cattle or other livestock
      - v. Farming
      - vi. Collection of fuel wood
      - vii. Camping
      - viii. Open Fires
      - ix. Hunting

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General Manager

**1. High Conservation Value Areas** are defined according to the FSC Principle and Criteria as:

- a. Areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values and/or large landscape level areas where viable populations of most/all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance
- b. Rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems;
- c. Areas that provide basic ecological services in critical situations (e.g. water quality or flow, protection against erosion or natural disasters such as cyclones or hurricanes, pollinators);
- d. Areas fundamental to meeting basic economic or bio-physiological needs of local communities or critical to local community cultural identity.

**2. Non-Timber Forests Products** are defined according to international standards as:

- a. Any commodity obtained from the forest that does not necessitate the harvesting of trees and this includes game animals, fur bearers, nuts, seeds, berries, mushrooms, oils, foliage, medicinal plants, peat, fuelwood etc....