

SPGS 2008 SEMINAR QUESTIONS

NB. Apologies for the few gaps but we missed the names of some of those who asked the questions.

| | Name | Subject | Question | Response |
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| 1. | Campbell Day – NFG | Cost per ha for plantations | Has SPGS calculated a cost/ha for SPGS supported planting? | Research in early 2005 put the average cost of establishment at UGX 1.2 Million per ha |
| 2. | ? | SPGS budget | What portion of the cost so far plant and land preparation and maintenance and what is the portion for extension, training and administration? | Around 70% of the total SPSG budget goes directly towards establishing trees. |
| 3. | ? | SPGS general | Are there strategies planned for effective plantation establishment and maintenance? | Yes, through the financial support e.g. SPGS establishment grant and sound technical support. Also a pruning/thinning grant |
| 4. | Cornelius Kazoora | Key observations for follow-up | We need to explore how to keep in balance NFA's self sustaining (financially) objective with increasing demand for its own land where it would perhaps argue, that it needs to hold on to it in order to be financially viable. | Comment |
| 5. | ? | Uganda Carbon Bureau | What is the cost of the credit? | The price of a carbon credit in the market varies widely according to the type of standard to which it has been produced, and whether it is fully verified or not. It's a bit like asking "what's the price of a car?" Prices can be as low as \$2.50 or up to \$20 (or higher) if there is a particularly strong interest in the type of credit and the story that surrounds it. |
| 6. | ? | | What is the benefit to an investor to credit? | As long as a project developer (say a tree planting company) does not have to pay too much (in time and money) to create the credit, then there can be a real benefit in getting some early income from a forestry venture that typically has a long wait before trees are harvested. Small growers face high costs trying to do this on their own, |

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| | | | | which means that it is not worth their while. However, by working together the SPGS members can spread these costs and the exercise is worthwhile – this is what the Uganda Carbon Bureau has been proposing. |
| 7. | ? | | Why is there low awareness of carbon credit bureau? | We have just started our work and we are not over-promising dramatic results that cannot be substantiated. But we are now at a point where we have the knowledge, market contacts and the staff to handle this work successfully, especially in the forestry sector, and in finding buyers in the local market. |
| 8. | Ambrose Kyaroki (UFA Chairman) | To: Bill Farmer (UCB) | There are some land owners who still own patches of natural forests on their “ <i>bibanja</i> ”. How can these private forest owners be assisted to get access to carbon funds so that they can conserve (protect) their natural forests? | This is what we are hoping to pioneer with SPGS members, Mabira, Sango Bay and with one or two test cases (such as Margaret Kyenkya next to Bugoma CFR. By aggregating owners together we hope that there will be a net amount of cash from this exercise to make sufficiently attractive incentive payments for land owners to conserve their natural forests. |
| 9. | Robert Bariho | Attracting Investors | Private planters are willing to offer some of their growing plantations for sale to the big investors at an agreed cost to enable them hit the 10,000 ha mark. Would they be interested? | Need to discuss on individual basis. Factors like quality of plantation and location need to be considered. |
| 10. | Martin Okumu, EC Delegation | | What is the plan for commercial forestry in Acholi in particular Amuru districts? I own more than 40 hectares of private land in Amuru district. Please help me with seedlings to plant at least 15 hectares of pine trees. | SPGS had a portion of the grant specifically targeted to plantations in Northern Uganda. Acreage smaller than SPGS minimum (25ha) can apply under the SPGS Community Initiative. |
| 11. | Rose Hogan | Attracting small holders | Could a reduction of the minimum areas (currently at 25ha) combined with a wider species choice a product and service focus make plantation forestry | 25 ha is a good minimum for commercial forestry. Smaller land owners should take advantage of the community planting initiative. |

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| | | | more attractive to farmers in Uganda? Would this also make SPGS more successful in achieving poverty reduction objectives? | Other organizations/initiatives are dealing more with small scale tree planting: the SPGS will keep its more commercial focus but at the same time will promote tree planting in general. |
| 12. | Robert Charles Aguma | Forest Certification | What is the boundary (in terms of hectareage) between small and big planters to warrant individual/group certification? | 5,000 ha. + has to go for individual certification |
| 13. | Amanyire Deo | Carbon Funds | For a long period, most Ugandans have planted trees but no access to carbon funds. How can one access the guidelines for carbon funds? | Information on what carbon funding is all about and how to access these markets is available from the Uganda Carbon Bureau – see www.ugandacarbon.org |
| 14. | Musoke John B. | To Hon. Sheila | What are the characteristics that let a farmer qualify to be big or small? | Depends on the size of plantation one has or intends to plant |
| 15. | Tony Waldron | Types of Trees | What is SPGS doing to find suitable indigenous trees? | Any indigenous species that can be proved to be commercially acceptable for timber and/or poles are acceptable to SPGS: Musizi is the main indigenous plantation species at present. |
| 16. | ? | | While clonal trees may grow quickly and uniformly by being identical, aren't they more susceptible to being wiped out by one disease that it is not resistant to? | Any monoculture – whether it is seedlings or clones – is more susceptible to pests and diseases (P&D) than a mixed crop. There are techniques to reduce the risk, however, such as restricting the size of block planting to any one clone (30ha) and longer term by having strict P&D screening of clones at the trial stage. |
| 17. | | | Both pine and eucalypt affect the soil, will big plantations be useful for any other purpose after 25 years? | Research in other countries has shown that with proper management, the soils remain productive after numerous rotations of plantations - provided there has been good planning and management practices. |
| 18. | | | Is there any possibility of making money from eucalyptus oil from prunings and thinnings? | That is a possible subject for research but nearly all eucalyptus species that produce commercial quantities of oil are species that grow in cooler |

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| | | | | regions - so SW Uganda might be suitable for trials. |
| 19. | | | What size of planting makes it viable to have mechanization to move sawlog timber in 20 years or could SPGS hire equipment? | This will need to be looked at as the plantations expand in Uganda. |
| 20. | | | If trees are used for bioenergy, aren't they reverted to CO ₂ so are they available for carbon credit during 20 year growth, whatever use? | Energy forests (3-5 year rotation) are substituting fossil fuel power generation, it is not a forestry project but a so called fuel switch project and treated differently than afforestation, but still carbon credits can be earned |
| 21. | | | With % of bioenergy that produces electricity, is it only worthwhile if heat is useful too (e.g. presumably at James Finlay heat for tea and electricity for machines?) | Absolutely, the economics are much better if a use for the heat is available like drying tea or fruits. |
| 22. | Kenya Bullen | Certification | Elaborate on practical certification process for Uganda and verifying indicators. | Stakeholders meeting has been held, FSC contact people for Uganda nominated. A working group is being constituted to formulate FSC standards for Uganda against which audits will be made. |
| 23. | Gombya | Comment | Planters outside SPGS – yes they might not get money but they need advice to make sure that what they produce is the required standard. | Free Guidelines are available from SPGS office and office consultations are welcome. |
| 24. | Peter Pinetree | Refreshments | When is SPGS going to serve free beer throughout its annual meeting? | Uganda Breweries will be contacted to be next year's sponsors. |
| 25. | | To: John Spears | Lack of Pulp and Paper industries in Uganda | This is due to lack of economies of scale in Uganda: a modern pulp mill requires a multi-million dollar investment. |
| 26. | Dr. Epila | Research (Allan) | What is meant by challenges in research as presented by PM? | No commercial forestry in Ug. for 35 yrs means that there are very few people with the required skills and experience to take on commercial forestry research. There is therefore need to build up the skills and experience in R&D to |

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| | | | | support the growers. |
| 27. | Patrick Mbonye | Pests & Diseases | Which places to go to in Uganda in case of pests and diseases attack? | This is the very constraint we have on research. |
| 28. | Patrick Mbonye | Fire control | The fire fighting issue has been discussed for a very long time and questions raised haven't been dealt with? | SPGS has contacted some insurance companies, but the concern is the relatively small hectareage of plantations in Uganda. Best option is to invest on fire prevention and basic fire fighting equipment. |
| 29. | Gaster Kiyingi | Figures/Statistics | Regarding hectareage planted under SPGS, why not reflect figures/ statistics for tree planters anticipating to join the SPGS? | 10,000 ha is direct SPGS support – a lot of additional planting has been triggered by SPGS although we do not know the extent of such plantings. The SPGS has no commitment to planters without contracts; all work is done under contract. Rules are very strict. We can't pay retrospectively. Have to sign contract and know the rules and standards. |
| 30. | Paul Mafabi | | Encroachment is a big challenge. Clarify on how the issue can be managed. | GoU is working out a solution to relocate the existing encroachers on CFRs. |
| 31. | Hon. Winnie Masiko | | What are the deliberate efforts being put in place to support neighbouring communities surrounding commercial plantations? | For the last 2 phases, the community component has been small, but next funding the community component will be substantially increased. Planters also have a role to play in mobilizing communities surrounding their areas so that they can be able to be supported. |
| 32. | Daniel Wandera | Sustainability | What sustainable strategy has SPGS have for the planters supported? Will you leave them to go by themselves or continue supporting them? | A small grant is available for thinning and pruning to keep growers on board. The future lies with UTGA to support growers and ensure that people understand how they can maintain their crop. |
| 33. | Daniel Wandera | Encroachment | Encroachment in CFR – forest activities are not | NFA has surveyed all CFRs to assess level of |

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| | | | linked with the local people especially forestry management and the rest. | encroachment. Government through NFA will negotiate with encroachers to find a solution. |
| 34. | | | Energy production – SPGS should look at possibility to cut small trees to use them for energy | This should be of higher priority. Will be considered in the possible next phase of SPGS. |
| 35. | Scott Geller | SPGS relationship with stakeholders | What is the relationship between SPGS in future with other forestry service providers? | We work closely in terms of positive engagement with NFA; we engage with DFS in selected districts and all the institutions and agencies that are in forestry. |
| 36. | | Land allocation | Is NFA allocating land to the very large scale investors? | NFA is interested in allocating land to big planters and are already planting on CFRs. Some are allocated more than 10,000 ha. At the same time, NFA wants to make sure that small planters are not left out. Areas are being set aside for big and small planters. But CFR land is limited. |
| 28. | Dr. Epila | Certification | Is certification costly or not? | It is costly for those going in for individual certification as a number of costs are involved ie. certifiers, training, protective wear etc. For the group certification, management costs are shared. |
| 37. | Dr. Epila | Certification | Is certification species specific? | NO. You can plant any spp you want. The important point is sustainability. You have to plant the right species on the right site no matter which spp. – bearing in mind the environmental & social aspect. |
| 38. | Dr. Epila | Research | <i>Comment on:</i> Demand and priority to drive research –when UTGA visited NaFORRI about 4 wks ago, they were told research is done -. All the stakeholders are invited to seek priority to research, so that is already addressed. If one is invited to come and set priority to research he/she should | Thanks for that comment. |

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| | | | respond positively. | |
| 39. | Bakiika Robert | Bureaucracy | Clarify bureaucracy on certification | People should not worry about bureaucracy. We have already moved we held stakeholders meeting, have had the contact people, plans are under way to formulate the FSC working group for Ug. Shall have FSC standards for Uganda. A no. of companies have already had pre-audit. |
| 40. | Bakiika Robert | Urban forestry | Urban Forestry not mentioned at all in the seminar, ignored by SPGS | Urban forests are good for environment – but not SPGS business. We encourage people to plant trees wherever there is space. |
| 41. | Robert Nabanyumya | Bioenergy | Bioenergy – planting Jatropha was a waste of time, being discouraged and its efficiency in producing bioenergy is not tested and they are working against it. – what is your comment on that? | Efficiency of Jatropha – is heavily dependent on variety and right site spp matching. Like Euc, the yields can be improved through research. |
| 42. | Robert Nabanyumya | Research | Promoting research, sustainable support methods. There is need for best strategy on how we can ensure the demand driven research by the planters can be implemented because the next stage will be very useful for planters. | Better interaction between Researchers and tree planters e.g. through COMFORT |
| 29. | Hon. Ebong | | In order to promote rapid afforestation programmes within the region, why not put forward the concept of fresh air producing country as a global issue, free of charge? | Selling of carbon credits is being explored by Uganda Carbon Bureau |
| 43. | Hon. Ebong | | Why minimal interaction with the committee when we see you from the private sector offering the forestry policy options and solutions that can enrich decision making processes? | We have been in touch with old NR Committee, though we have not had formal communication from the new committee. Happy that they know what is happening. |
| 44. | Ambrose Kyaroki | Research & Training | Need for getting access to research findings and need for association members to be trained. Research findings should be available for plantation development, but no, to training, because there is a | Disappointed by huge bank of graduates – they should have a bias towards commercial forest management and establishment. Growers are interested in the investment being put down thus |

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| | | | huge bank of well trained foresters from MUK & NFC who could be deployed instead of the members to be trained. | need skilled people to work with. |
| 45. | Kai Windhorst (Unique) | CDM | Green Resources – how far have you gone with Uganda carbon crediting? (CDM) | In Kachung Lira District, GR looking at CDM, CCDA and FSC and are also in the process of completing the project design document. |
| 46. | | | Do you include indigenous spp? | When accrediting to CCBA standards, we have to include some indigenous spp though they have not shown good performance in plantation form – we are now doing enrichment planting to herbals indigenous incorporated. |
| 47. | Scott Geller (LTS) | | Regional value – SPGS future regional learning programme | Interaction regarding regional representations has started. We don't want to look at forestry in Ug in isolation. |
| 48. | Scott Geller | 2030 Vision | 2030 Vision– other countries manage their plantations differently. How is GoU involvement in management of plantations in future? | This doesn't apply in Ug. The private sector is showing willingness to invest in commercial forestry. GoU will not do it as cost-effectively. |
| 49. | David Walugembe | Promotion of indigenous commercial trees | Commercial forestry promotion – does it have mechanism for catering for famous commercial indigenous tree species. Does commercial forestry imply automatic exclusion of agro forestry spp. | There is no proper site spp matching for indigenous commercial trees. Agroforestry does have a place in commercial forestry but not under SPGS, intercropping and agroforestry are not allowed. |
| 50. | David Walugembe | <i>Eucalyptus</i> & Environment | Dilemma of <i>Eucalyptus</i> , is there any new information on its performance? | A lot has been done on Euc. productivity. We are looking at further seed sourcing, clonal cuttings and SPGS guidelines are printed on Eucs and environment. |
| 51. | Dr. Tweheyo | UTGA fees | <i>Comment:</i> UTGA registration, costs etc. are left out though essential for some people. | UTGA has a project manager who has all information required – membership fee is 400,000, annual subscription 200,000. This is money to safeguard and promote UTGA. Hope to revise the figure in future to put it at hectares planted or sold. |

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| 52. | Loek Verburg | Seed | Millions of tree spp are being seen - where do they come from? Do you expect your growers to have their own seedlings? | Millions of trees – no don't expect all growers to have own nurseries. We focus on improved seed, looking at trees which can be converted into timber. SPGS do not have nurseries but can recommend nurseries. |
| 53. | ? | | Green Resources a challenge in TZ. | The company is involving the GoTZ in the initial stages of project proposals. In TZ there is no clear CDM definition of the forest. Since TZ signed an agreement with Norwegian Govt, hopefully the issue will be taken seriously. |
| 54. | ? | | Plantation development in TZ- do they consider the certification development in TZ | TZ does not have a clear definition of the forest. TZ Govt signed an agreement with NORAD Govt - hope to be taken seriously. |
| 55. | (Sudan) | | Is there CDM in Uganda by Green Resources? | Green Resources is so far operating in 2 projects in Ug. i.e. Bukaleba looking at voluntary carbon standards, climate, community and biodiversity standards and FSC. In Kachung looking at CDM, CCDA and FSC and we are also in the process of completing the project design document. |
| 56. | Prof. Gombya | SPGS safaris | Why is it that the same people are taken on tour? | The TAs are the essential tour guides, so we cannot send people without them: the other members of the tours are different every trip. |