NATIONAL FORESTRY RESOURCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

P O Box 1752, Kampala
Tel: 255163/4, 071 161161, 0752 161161
Fax: 0414 383028
e-mail: naforridir@infocom.co.ug

INTERNAL MEMO

To: Director

From: J.S. Epila-Otara, J.F.O Esegu, P. Kiwuso, M. Basoga and S.Kato

Date: 12/08/2013

NORMAL/PRIORITY/URGENT

RE: BACK TO OFFICE REPORT.

Project: Relative carbon sequestration capacities of selected plantation tree species for carbon trade.

1. **Background**

   Climate change has now been proven to be real and is threatening to get worse over time. However, we can mitigate the causes of climate change or learn how to live with the changes in climate. Planting trees that are able to sequester (absorb) green-house gases such as carbon dioxide that cause global warming is one of the options of mitigating this effect. Mechanisms have been set up to help poor farmers in developing countries to plant trees that absorb carbon dioxide and get paid by the highly polluting nations and companies. However, Uganda has not fully benefited from these initiatives because of inadequate technical capacity and information on baseline carbon. To address this, NaFORRI is undertaking research to understand how much carbon is currently stored in soil, trees and other plants growing in the various farming systems of Uganda. We shall also estimate how much carbon dioxide is gradually removed by selected plantation tree species in trials we shall establish in various agro-ecological zones of Uganda.

2. **Objective of field trip**

The objective of the trip was to assess the performance of the established carbon sequestration trial of *Pinus caribaea* and protect the trial from wild fire.

3. Daily activities

The team was engaged in the assessment of the general condition of the test trees, measuring DBH (Plate1) of 450 trees and supervising the weeding of the trial plot (Plates 2 and 3).

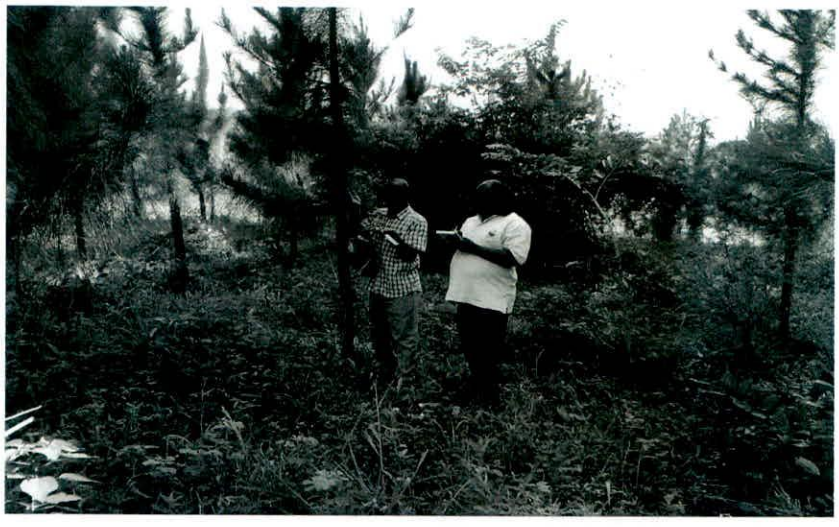


Plate1. Measuring DBH of pine trees

Original planned activities at the planning stage of this trip to spot weed the trees and open a fire line to protect the trial from wild fire was based on the assumption that at the age of three years the canopies of the trial trees would have suppressed the undergrowth of grass and shrubs and thus, fire line would be effective. However, site inspection by the team indicated that the grass and shrubs had overgrown within the trial plot itself (Plate 2).



Plate 2. Overgrown weeds with the trial plot

Hence, on-spot discussion and the subsequent decision by the team to do clean weeding of the trial plot (Plate 3) as opposed to spot weeding and fire line as originally planned was deemed to be more effective against the potential wild fire hazard.



Plate 3. Freshly clean-weeded pine trees

The six-man-crew (Plate 4) that was hired to do clean weeding spent three days to complete the job (Table 1). Daily activities for performing these tasks are reported in Table 1.



Plate 4. Three of the six-man crew hired to clean-weed the trial

Table 1. Daily **ac**tivities of the trip

Date	From	To	Activity
3/08/13	Kifu	Lira	Travelling
4/08/13	Lira	Apala	Measuring tree diameters
5/08/13	Lira	Apala	Measuring tree diameters
6/08/13	Lira	Apala	Clean-weeding trial plot
7/08/13	Lira	Apala	Clean-weeding trial plot
8/08/13	Lira	Apala	Clean-weeding trial plot
9/08/13	Lira	Kampala	Travelling