

Ultimate Forests Company

"Your Sustainable Timber Partner"

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

ULTIMATE FORESTS COMPANY LTD

2022



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"Your Sustainable Timber Partner"

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01

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER STATEMENT

Jean Rindiro

As we continue to excel in the supply and production of forestry products we must remember that sustainable management of our forest resources is paramount. We continue to serve our country and regional markets at large with environmentally friendly production procedures as we continue to be mindful of the impact of climate change and the role we play in it.





COMPANY PROFILE

Overview Of The Company

Ultimate Forests Company Limited (UFCL) is a sustainable forestry company operating in Rwanda, supplying forestry products including but not limited to sawn and value-added timber for construction, manufacturing and electrical transmission poles that we supply to local and international markets. UFCL is exposed to a widely open swiftly growing construction, infrastructure and energy sectors in Rwanda and the wider region that use timber products for construction, and poles for electricity transmission, which we have supplied with our high-quality commercial tree species growing in the Nyungwe buffer Zone that covers around 10,000ha that we have taken great care of to ensure we contribute to global reforestation and mitigation of climate change. We are ultimately looking to expand our production into other forestry products like Bio-energy and managing carbon sequestration among a few.







VISION

To be the leading regional partner for sustainable timber products.

Ultimate Forests Company

"Your Sustainable Timber Partner"

MISSION

To provide our customers with high-quality wood products that meet the highest international standards.

To create value for our communities and for our stakeholders.

To manage our forests responsibly and sustainably.

VALUES

- ***Integrity***
- ***Sustainability***
- ***Efficiency***
- ***Honesty***

With the fast growing economy and population both in Rwanda and Africa, which eventually led to wood and timber shortages, UFCL has strategically positioned itself to offer various wood products for short, medium and long term demand. We have positioned ourselves as the leading company in sustainable forests management practices, high quality timber products that we supply to both the Rwandan and international markets. However, our current major market focus is in Rwanda, where we grow and manage plantations, and have timber processing and value addition plants. We have plans to expand our operations internationally in the near future.

We boast in our human capital of 129 permanent employees across all divisions and over 700 casual labourers from the communities around the buffer zone. UFCL also works with different partners and stakeholders in both private and public sectors. Above all, UFCL prides itself in partnering with the communities around its operations, which created more than 642 seasonal employments for the local people for FY22.

Human Resources

UFCL has since employed up to 129 permanent staff and about 700 casual labourers from the communities around the buffer zone.

FY22 Permanent and Temporary Staff			
MEN		WOMEN	Total
Permanent 108		Permanent 21	129
Temporary 531		Temporary 111	642
Total 639		Total 132	771
Grand Total 771			

Markets

The demand for timber and poles has rapidly increased in Rwanda and around the region, which puts UFCL in an ideal position to serve this demand. Most of our timber products and poles are used by manufacturing, construction and electricity companies. Our main produce are wet and dry sawn timber, and wooden treated poles. However, we are seeking to expand our production into a wide range of engineered wood products for construction and manufacturing; green biomass fuel products for cooking and heating; and carbon credit initiatives for protection of our climate and restoration of our nature. UFCL also produces both treated and untreated poles and timber which coupled with a great turnaround time, quality and reliable deliveries has enabled us to build a strong reputation that has made the company a preferred supplier of wood products in Rwanda.

Key Developments 2022

FY22 has been slow but showed a lot of potentials for growth. Even when still recovering from covid-19 pandemic, the national priorities in construction industry and electrification projects has put UFCL at an advantage primarily as the sole manufacture of wooden poles in Rwanda and manufacturer of high quality wood construction materials.

The sawmill production is steadily growing and scaling up feeding into the market directly and indirectly through the value addition factory in Nyanza. This has also birthed the Kigali shop in the Centre of the timber business located in Gisozi sector; this is where our customers are able to source ready to buy timber. We have also managed to bridge the gap in the market by producing treated timbers from our own treatment plant, in substitution of importations.

Our planning department is focusing on planting more trees for sustainability of the forests. In 2022 UFCL planted 76 hectares with around 84,435 trees, this is complemented by our out grower partners who feed into this initiative. Proper systems and processes are being focused on for efficiency as trees are mature and continue to get ready for harvesting.

Parteners and Associations

UFCL is proudly associated with international standards and partnerships.

ISO 9001
Forests Stewardship Counsil
Private Sector Federation
MicroForests
Rwanda Standard Bureau
Rwanda Forestry Association
Wood association
RSSB
BRD

UFCL works in compliance with all the required laws including environmental laws; the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and ISO certifications. We carry out Biodiversity studies and monitoring plus Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) that support the proper management of the plantations. We also conduct social baselines and Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs) throughout all our operations to assess and mitigate any potential negative social impacts. From these we develop action plans to avoid environmental, economic or social harm and identify opportunities to increase positive impacts.

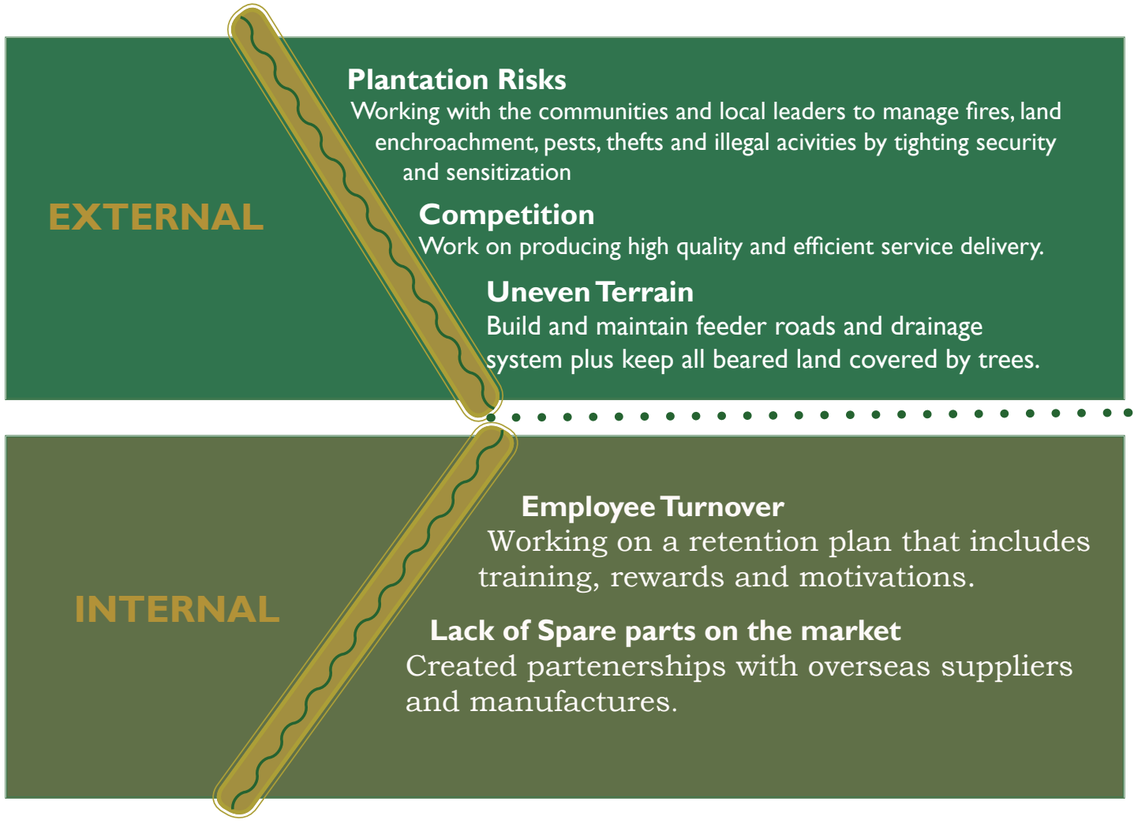
> “A highlight was the successful FSC TM extenal audits.

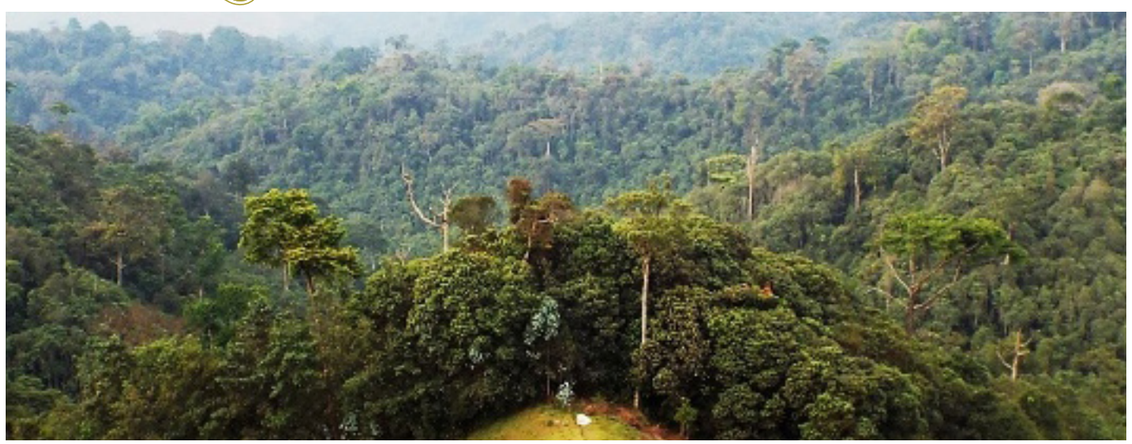


Threats and Oppotunities

Threats

ULTIMATE FORESTS COMPANY LIMITED has identified the following key risks and is proactively managing them through a risk register and mitigation strategy, summarized below.





Opportunities

The government of Rwanda's vision that supports and encourages the private sector particularly in forestry and wood sectors.

Market

- UFCL is the only company that produces wooden poles in Rwanda and this is an advantage of winning all markets.
- State-of-the-art equipment that support in making both quantity and quality products as required by the market and ensuring customer satisfaction.
- Well experienced staff in the industry.
- With the world currently pushing forward the climate and environment change agenda through forestry, UFCL is at an advantage to be part of the agenda and contributes to environmental management initiatives.

Governance

- UFCL's highest governing body is the Board of Directors, which is made up of 5 directors. They report to the shareholders of the company who also appoint them.
- Board members are required to declare their conflicts of interest before and immediately they arise during their tenure.
- UFCL's shareholders are Rwanda Social Security Board and the Development Bank of Rwanda, two institutions that play a key role in strengthening the national economy.
- The Management team that drives the company's mission and vision as an ongoing concern. The management is made up of managers, department leads, coordinators, supervisors and technicians.

Compliance

- UFCL's employees are governed by the code of conduct and they have an anonymous whistleblower line of communication where all their issues are received and dealt with.

S/N	Community Projects	Members/Beneficiaries	Achievements
1	BeeKeeping (6 groups)	289	Harvested 1,121.5 Kg of Honey Equivalent to Rwf 4,486,000
2	VSLA projects (6 Pilot groups)	136	Kintobo VSLA has paid Community based Health Insurance (Mutuelle de Sante) to its members for the period July 2022-June 2023. The Total amount paid was Rwf 225,000 (five family members for each house of VSLA members
3	Outgrowers Project (30 Associations)	500	Outgrowers maintained their forests (thinning practices)
4	Located in 9 Districts	592	Employment still going on but sofar it is at the cost of 7,957,500
Total Beneficiaries		**1517**	



03
COMMUNITY

03

COMMUNITY

UFCL through its Corporate and Social Responsibility department is committed to improve the livelihoods of the communities surrounding our operations. We have done this by putting in place projects that include but not limited to Apiculture, Village Savings loan association, out grower farmers etc.

Tree Outgrowers

UFCL is committed to investing in Out-grower programs by distributing quality seedlings to the communities in an effort to increase forest resources. We support the out growers who are working on their private land of up to 279.1 hectares to plant more commercial trees. This year, the program evolved with increased technical assistance from UFCL. We dedicate our time and expertise in this program to advise the communities on the best practices in seedling preparation, land preparation and best silvicultural practices such as planting, thinning, pruning and harvesting.

Both the communities and UFCL have benefited from this program, which has brought about a win win situation, with a great social capital in the people living around the plantations who also support with checking and preventing illegal activities in the concession area. The existing out growers have made it possible for the pole plant to have a sustainable source and supply of poles plus mitigating the risks of these trees being in one plantation. These out growers are given seeds and training from UFCL ensuring that gap is well covered. Through this program, the local communities will receive an income while conserving the environment and as a result great and successful partnerships shall emerge.

Even though when partnerships with local communities are growing, some challenges are still encountered. Due to financial constraints, some farmers opt to cut the trees before they reach maturity. Out growers may prioritize food since it caters to the immediate need of feeding their households, they may also need to be FSC certified but it may be very hard to control quality of their forest management. To Mitigate some of these issues, UFCL makes sure that farmers have extra land where they can plant trees in coordination with the Local authorities; we train farmers to start using FSC standards and make sure they get the right seedlings for planting; and setting up saving associations to fill the gap of their urgent financing needs.



TESTIMONY FROM UWANYIRIGIRA Shadia-AN OUTGROWERS



> *The seedlings I was given by UFCL enabled me to start achieving my dream which focused on planting a forest. Around RwF 2,500,000 was earned in my forest when I cut the trees for the first time, and this allowed me to build a house from which I earn Rwf 40,000 per month as rent and this constitutes to my main investments. My forest has regenerated producing at least 3 coppices where I harvested one tree, and this is a ripple benefit for me. Also, my livelihood has improved.*

Apiculture

The apiculture project is a community project where UFCL supports up to 6 groups of beekeeping associations that benefit around 289 members and over 1000 household members. With 208 modern and 327 traditional bee hives, the bee keepers produce approximately 1,121.5kg of honey, which is sold for their livelihood upkeep and development plus the bee benefits of pollination in conserving the environment.

These bee farmers are supported with provisions of substantial bee farming, equipment and training to increase honey production in both quality and quantity. Some apiaries are fenced to avoid any damage of hives and thus honey production. These farmers however face some challenges like unfavorable weather and or climate for honey harvest, honey theft or beehives damaged by predators.

The communities also make their contributions in different ways including buying their PPEs, managing the beehives' sites and attending trainings. There has been a spillover of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy not leaving out the communities and their projects. This is making it hard for these projects to pick up again, for example the Village Loan Savings Associations were most hit because the members were unable to pay back the loans they had taken plus unable to make savings since the majority had lost jobs or closed businesses. Due to the lockdown there was no access to the beehive area for an extended period of time, the farmers found that the bees had been attacked by predators due to lack of regular checks.



PETRONILLE-SAWMILL COORDINATOR



I am motivated to lead our sawmill team towards achieving the company's goals and solving problems with an advanced supervisory skills, I drive my team to achieve the company's success. Partnering with the CSR department, we pride ourselves working with communities, which is where we get our temporary staff not forgetting gender balance and on job trainings. Working with UFCL has enabled me to develop a mature and responsible approach to any task or situation given. As a forestry graduate with six years of experience from different forestry operations and coordination of timber processing, together with my team we intend to make the sawmill a better place than it has been before.

FELIX BEEKEEPER

The support of beehives and capacity building we received from UFCL made us better farmers and we are strong enough today, capable to produce honey in good quality and quantity. We have earned enough income to improve our livelihoods even though the climate did not fully favor our activities this year. I appreciate the support UFCL has given us.





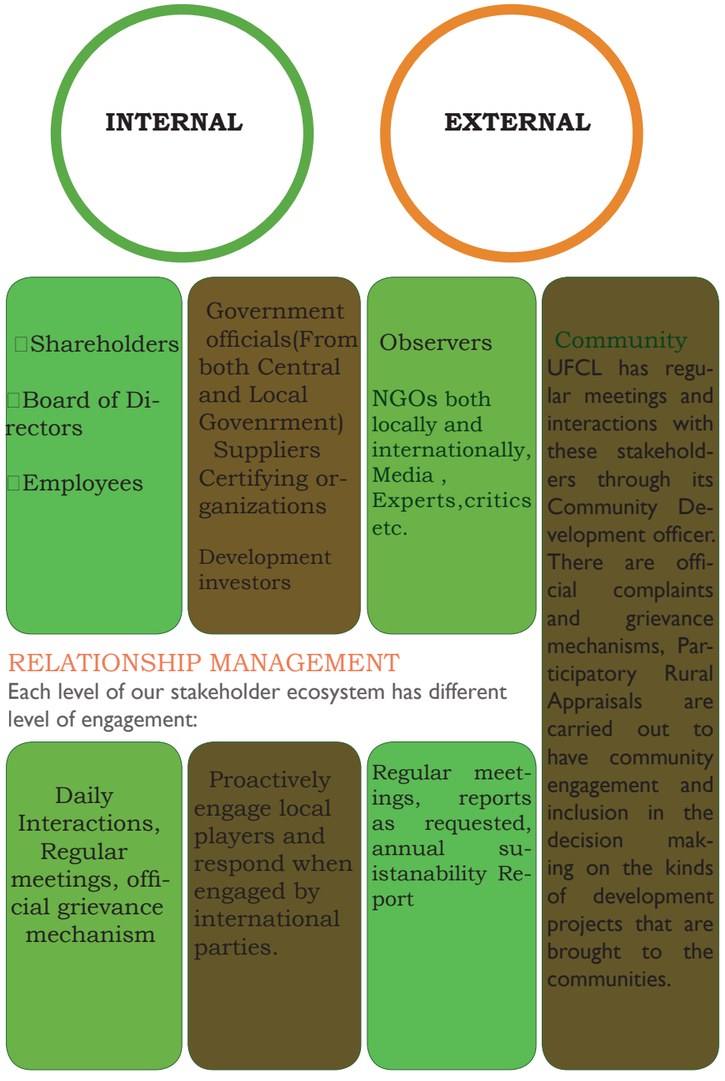


Stakeholder Engagement

UFCL 's relationships with different stakeholders are critical to its success, and we take a holistic approach in identifying and engaging these stakeholders, to reflect our focus on business, environmental conservation and communities.

Opportunies

UFCL has identified the following key stakeholder's groups:



Stakeholder Interactions

UFCL is very intentional on interacting and listening to stakeholders. In addition to responding to their complaints, UFCL actively listens to stakeholders' proposals, observations and desires. Because of this we no longer decide on which community projects to set up but follow the lead of the community members in setting up projects tailored to their needs. This has helped the company to do what is relevant in the communities and not work on assumption.

The partnerships with FSC ™ and the Ministry of Environment enable us to make conscious decisions for sustainability, which leads to improved forest management activities in the region. Our sawmill, value addition and pole plant operations also work hand in hand with the communities, and contribute to development programs. Through the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRAs) the communities are able to engage in identifying their core problem and suggesting proposals for solutions freely. This leads to informed consent for the operations on ground.

Mitigation

As a social baseline requirement, the communities surrounding the plantations have their engagement and development programs. UFCL periodically carries out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAS), Biodiversity Studies for the forest and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). In FY22, UFCL successfully went through an annual audit plus a plan in place for a biodiversity monitoring training to be carried out.

UFCL made a significant positive social impact on the communities surrounding the buffer zone. These include but are not limited to employment opportunities, income generating projects, roads creation and maintenance, clean water and sanitation, Health and safety, Education. Even with the positive impact sometimes the plantations may be impacted negatively by the communities. Potential negative impacts include fires, destruction of gardens while harvesting, noise and dust pollution, displacement of activities like grazing, cultivation, encroachment on private property and plantations, soil erosion and degradation.

In FY22 some UFCL operations caused a bit of destruction in a few community gardens while harvesting, however the company has done all it can to solve these mishaps and compensated the affected parties. This has not been hard because of the great relationship with the communities. The company also does everything in its power to mitigate the negative impact and make sure that the positive impact overrides the negative impact which leads to long term relationships with our stakeholders and success of the operations. All UFCL operations are sensitive and adhere to the child labour law. Rwandan citizens are eligible for work when they are above 18yrs old. While recruiting staff especially locally from the communities the company is always conscious of this law and fully complies with it.

Anti Corruption

According to our internal policies and Code of Conduct, UFCL takes a zero-tolerance stance for corruption both internally and externally by employees, vendors, or other stakeholders. We have a strong mechanism in place that our finance teams uses to evaluate any possibility of risk of corruption in every operation. This applies in all our operational areas from forestry, pole plant, value addition and to the sawmill. The mechanisms are regularly updated. This policy is open and communicated to all parties concerned including employees both permanent and casual, suppliers, local partners and other stakeholders. For FY22 UFCL was fully compliant with the laws and regulations and did not pay any fines for non-compliance.

Participatory Rural Appraisal(PRA) Community Proposal

HEALTH	EDUCATION	AGRICULTURE	INFRASTRUCTURE	SANITATION	INCOME GENERATION
There are few scattered health centers. Recomendation: Additional buildings are needed, power, Clean running water.	*Many parents are poor and this leads to many dropouts. Recomendation: Equiping classroom, Buildings libraries, Youth Projects with TVETs.*	*Most of population of Nyamagabe rely on farming activities. Recomendation: Provide Quality Seeds, Organic Fertilizer, Livestock.*	*Poor access roads for daily use,so as to access to basic needs. Recomendation: Create good roads, Repair the existing roads.*	*Most of the community members rely on streams of water. Recomendation: Build water sources, Build toilets for those who doesn't have.*	*Some of the projects improved the community livelihoods. Recommendation: Bee keeping, Small retain shops.*

Employment



Leadership development and talent management through coaching and mentoring.

Having in place recruitment process and good working environment to benefit all employees regardless of ethnic, socioeconomic backgrounds, physical disability etc.

Prioritizing, pushing and focusing on learning and development as a way of managing performance and talent.

Ensure we recognise our staff well through good pay, promotions that also shows that the company values them for its success.

Improving policies, procedures and programs to ensure the staff well being in all areas that is physical, mental and emotionalwellness.

Creating avenues/ channels for staff to give regular feedback about their work and experiences.

UFCL has a solid people strategy that helps the company transform the lives of our employees plus improve performance. The company has a well-drawn people strategy to catch up with the fast changing world and also deal with the unexpected future.



Recruitment

For FY22 workforce total number were 771 employees with 129 permanent staff plus 642 temporary workers of which 132 are women within the age range of 21-58. The HR manual mandates recruitment to be local unless the skill and or expertise cannot be found locally or a skill cannot be trained in a short period of time. All openings are advertised locally in media and other avenues within the communities. The local leaders are also involved in the search and reference process. Women are always and especially encouraged to apply and they are usually at the same competitive advantage of benefits. HR officers with the support of the recruitment panel go through the whole process of shortlisting, interviewing and finally selection of the successful candidates.

Culture

Culture mechanism of how things are done at work or a set of behavior at a workplace. These affect both the employees and stakeholders. Culture is important for UFCL and to have a healthy culture, there is a need to instigate change in the behavior of employees. UFCL prides itself in its employees working together as a team in these fast paced economies. This helps in sharing and exchanging knowledge and experiences. Employees being flexible and passionate about work improves employee engagement, belonging and effectiveness.

Fairness and inclusion among others are important in shaping the future of the company. It leads to staff creativity allowing their views and opinions to be included in decisions that are made for the company which would not normally have been included.

Sensitisation, Training and Development

UFCL has continued to reach out to the community and its employees in the areas of training. Our training are packaged in formal, informal, on job and off job training, mentorships, coaching and online training. These range from technical to leadership trainings by making it as flexible as possible for the employees to ensure that they maximize the training opportunities from wherever they are.

Anti Discrimination Policies

UFCL commits to fair treatment and has nondiscrimination clause on all our policies. We are happy to announce that in the year FY22 there were no discrimination incidents registered. There are grievance policies and procedures for staff on how to report and handle grievances. We have formal grievance procedures for employees. Employees are encouraged to use all the channels the company has availed to them for their grievances to be reported and heard. e.g through their managers, fellow employees, HR department plus Trade Unions where necessary. This year there were no major grievances reported.

UFCL encourages its employees, stakeholders, partners and communities to report any irregularities and illegalities in an anonymous way for the success of the company. It takes every collective action, decision of both employees and partners for UFCL to grow and in turn the communities around the plantations to grow well. Great relationships are an important aspect for UFCL growth and this year 2022 many have been created with stakeholders.

Health And Safety

For the Year 2022 the company has not encountered any major health and safety related events at most of our operational sites. We always make sure that every employee has Personal Protective Equipment for their safety and have carried out continuous training with emphasis on compliance of the health and safety policy. In some circumstances there have been a few incidents especially but with further training and strict compliance to the health and safety policy these incidents have significantly reduced.

Illegal encroachment has increased from one to four due to neighboring communities needing firewood from the concession for cooking energy. As a mitigating strategy, UFCL established a program whereby communities are allowed to collect the firewood once a month under full control of UFCL's staff.

Human Rights

In all UFCL's operations and agreements with its partners, there is consideration for Human rights and social impact. Through the CSR department and teams human rights sensitization is carried out all through the communities. In the year FY22 the company did not register any case of human rights violation.

WOODEN POLES' PRODUCTION





04 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

04

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change has been cited as one of the major challenges to the environment and as people are the beneficiaries of a good environment, forestry has been seen to be the most effective and affordable way of managing and maintaining a good environment plus mitigating climate changes. UFCL's activities are always in line with managing climate changes through proper and standardized forestry activities and practices. Activities include but not limited to out growers' projects, afforestation, conservation of indigenous trees and riparian zones reducing green gasses from the atmosphere hence managing climate changes.

UFCL is in the initial processes of doing research and working with experts on a model to manage and measure carbon sequestration and flow in the Nyungwe Buffer Zone. This information is the starting point to UFCL accessing carbon management certification, which will then be transformed into finances.

Biodiversity

In FY22 UFCL did not register any significant negative impact on biodiversity from our activities going on in the plantations within the areas that are highly protected including all the riparian zones. High conservation is being beefed up by training of our own staff to monitor biodiversity of the Nyungwe buffer zone which is protecting one the richest biodiversity areas(Nyungwe National Park). The CSR department is in charge of running the biodiversity monitoring of the conservation areas. The areas UFCL protects include but are not limited to wetlands, water streams, rivers, indigenous and rare Flora plus all the Fauna in the areas where our operations are and beyond. As a result we have seen an increase in the number of animals and plants in the surrounding area.

Land

The land is covered by plantations and has been left in its natural state. Most of the land is planted with Pine, Eucalyptus and Acacia as a conservation plan with a small area left for company offices, access roads and workshops.

	PLANTATION NAME	TOTAL AREA	TOTAL COMMERCIAL AREA	CONSEVATION AREA (ha)	%	REMAINING PLANTABLE AREA(ha)
RWANDA	KARONGI	3,549	3,055	494	14	671
	NYAMAGABE	1,823	1,622	201	11	94
	NYAMASHEKE	3,326	2,770	556	17	178
	TOTAL	8,698	7,447	1251	42	943



Water And Chemical Usage

UFCL has responsibly used water which is provided and monitored by Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC). Pole treatment is the activity that usually consumes the most water while diluting chemicals like copper chrome arsenate (CCA). This treatment protects the poles and timber from damage which may be caused by insects, weather or any other things. The treatment process is the main operation that has the potential to produce waste that is hazardous, however it was designed in a way that waste is not created. Our pole plant is equipped with the great technology of having the chemical continuously recycled to stay within the system, sometimes there are small residues of CCA that are found on; gloves, small pieces of wood which are all collected and disposed off well following the health and safety measures.

CCA is well kept in small 48kg containers that are then kept in larger 20/40 foot containers for safety and less exposure. In case there is a spill we have measures in place to mitigate any damage and neutralize it. There has been no spill for this FY22.

CHEMICAL USAGE IN FY 22(LITRES)

Active Ingredient	Rwanda
Glyphosate	0
Imidacloprid	0
Triclopyr	0
Copper Chrome Arsenate(CCA)	87,753

ENERGY

FY22 UFCL did consume a total energy of 100,800 across all our operations. It includes 96,000 litres of Diesel and 4,800 of Petrol used both in the machines and vehicles during the operations. When we commence our biomass project whereby we will have a by- Product of sawn timber we will be able to sell energy to other people.

05

BUSINESS

05 BUSINESS

UFCL currently leads the supply of timber products and treated poles within Rwanda. We have built a strong reputation based on our high quality of our products, Integrity and honesty. We strictly adhere to both local and international standards and best practices in all our activities. Our areas of operations and activities for FY22 included sawmill, silviculture, pole plant and value addition. We produce timber and poles used for construction, wood products, Electricity and Telecommunication transaction.

Job creation

In FY22 UFCL created both direct and indirect employment within our communities and our partners. A total of 771 direct jobs were created together with a number of indirect jobs through our suppliers and other partners. While recruiting, UFCL gives priority to communities surrounding our operations as part of our partnership programs. We also train them since majority have generally completed only the primary level with no knowledge or expertise in forestry.





Quality

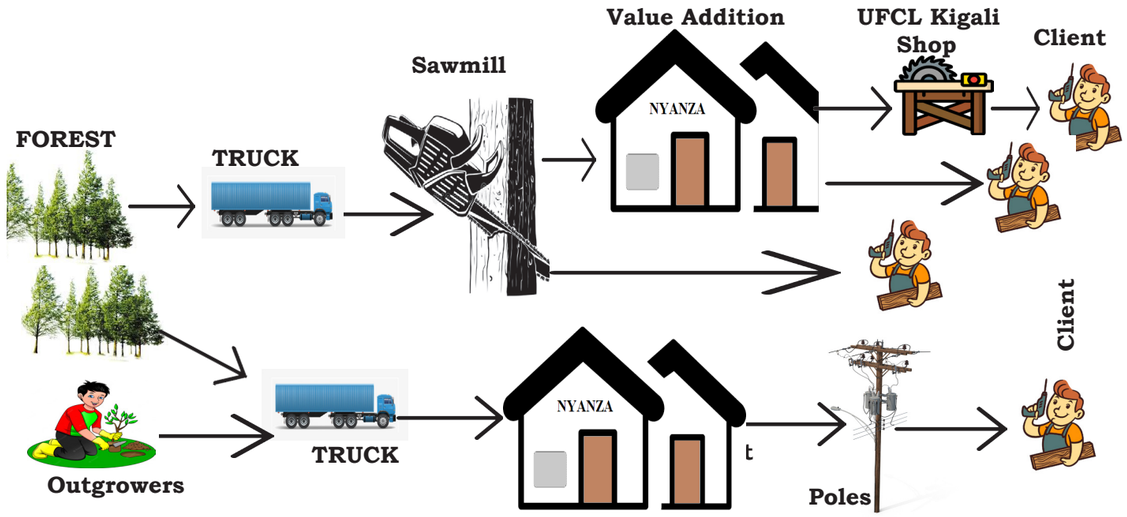
Quality is an important aspect of UFCL and to ensure there is quality control and management in all our operations and products, a Quality Assurance expert was hired to follow through all the quality elements closely. The staff works in close consultation with both local and international institutions in charge of standards to make sure that we are in full compliance. FY22 UFCL had no fines to pay of non-compliance with laws and regulations concerning quality.

During FY20, we conducted the following ISO quality audits and FSC.	
ISO 9001:2015: Surveillance	Pole Plant
	Nyungwe BufferZone Plantations And Sawmill In Gatare,Nyamagabe...



SUPPLY CHAIN

It is our policy to prioritize working with local suppliers in order to have most funds spent locally and also support our communities. UFCL only considers external suppliers when the local suppliers cannot meet the company's needs or when they are significantly higher in prices.
The UFCL procurement and logistics teams have put in place a supply chain system for all the company's operations and offices to enhance the whole supply function from planning to delivery.





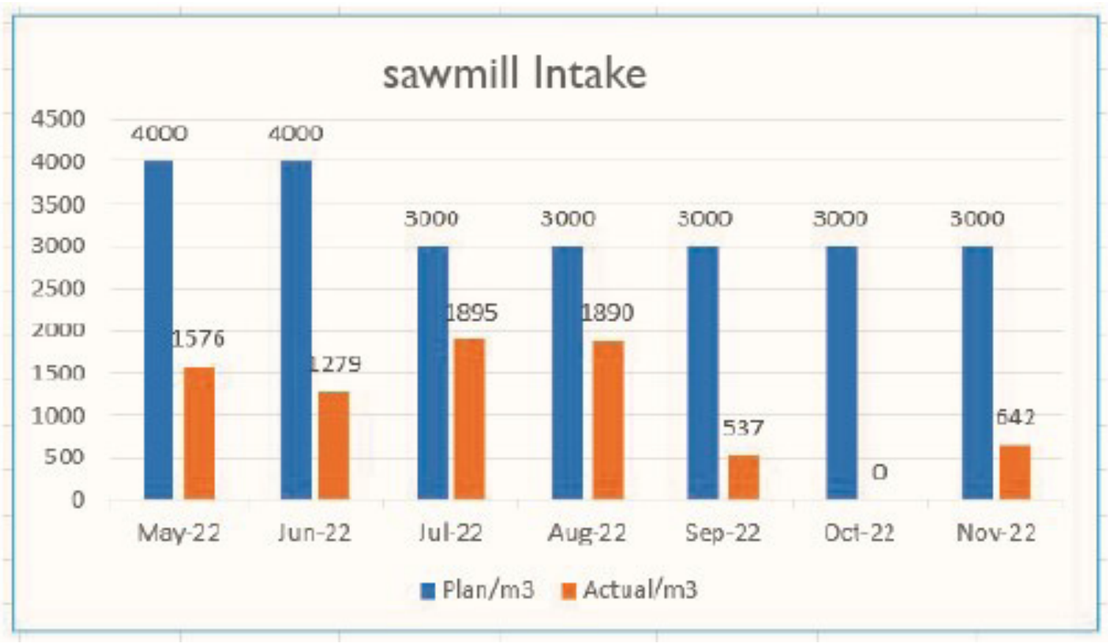
> UFCL was recently granted a Quality Management System certification which means that all our products will have an S-mark which is an assurance of the good quality of our products

Projects FY22

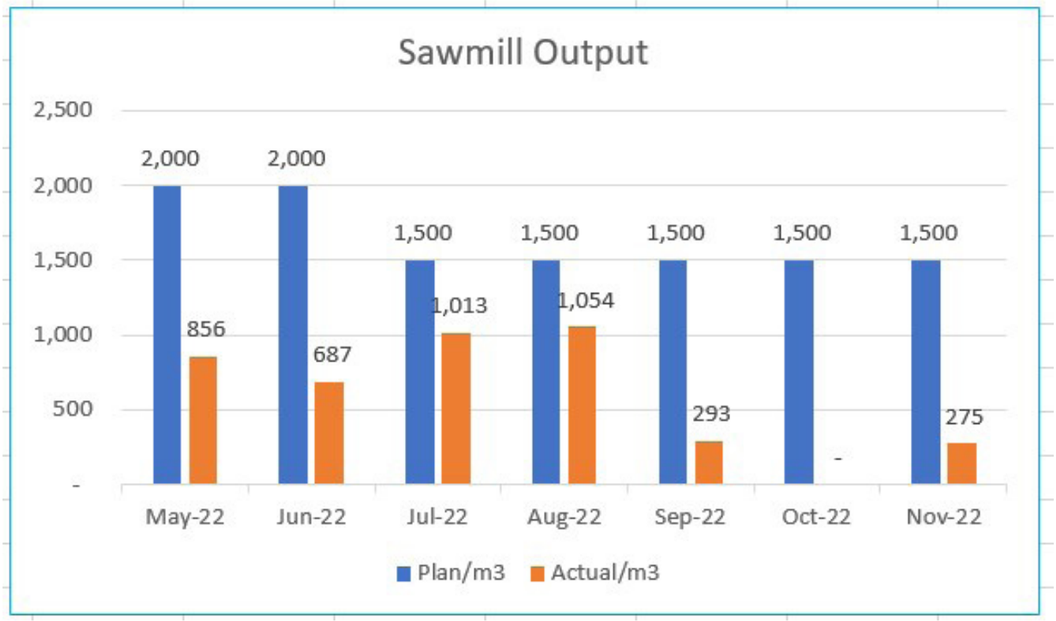
Sawmill

UFCL has fully equipped and operational sawmill sites across Nyungwe Buffer zone. Each sawmill site has well trained operators and with sufficient input from harvesting and UFCL managed to have good sawn timber production for the FY22. Timber is one of the most sustainable building and furniture material available in Rwanda and is mostly used in construction and wood manufacturing. With logs coming from a well managed forest certified by FSC this provides an assurance not just of legality but also of responsible management.

Sawmill Intake



Sawmill Output



Dynamic Sawmill Team



FORESTRY PLANNING, SILVICULTURE AND EXTENSION

For the FY22, there were silviculture activities like planting, weeding, thinning and prunning of the younger trees. Under the CSR plan the forestry department also took time to visit the out growers for monitoring and training. 97,774 seedlings were produced (30,956 seedlings of Pine and 67,801 seedlings of Eucalyptus) and 117.9ha were prepared (bush clearing and removal of grass) among them, 75.2ha were marked and 69.5ha were pitted. 64.91ha of natural regenerated pine were thinned. Even when all this happened we faced a couple of challenges like some seeds not germinating well, the sites have heavy vegetation making it hard and more costly for land preparation and heavy rainfall that sometimes halts the operations.



Pole plant

The Pole plant was also operational in FY22 in the UFCL business chain with activities starting from sourcing raw poles from our own plantations and third party out growers that are received at the plant for quality check and seasoning; from the seasoning of poles to preparation, treatment and finally dispatching them to the customers. The whole process is done as per customer requirements.

UFCL is in a position to steadily supply high quality treated poles as part of its contribution to Rwanda's sustainable economic growth. The sales are mainly to the Rwanda Energy Group (REG) through its subsidiary companies, plus other sub-Contractors engaged in rural electrification programs. At the end of FY22 UFCL successfully supplied 45,000 poles.



Value addition

In FY22 UFCL engaged in timber value addition activities by using hot water kilning technology. This technology is driven by the need to utilize biomass and a technology which gives the best quality timber at a reasonable cost.

Depending on the customer's need, the timber is also treated with Chromium Copper Arsenic (CCA), which works as a preventive mechanism of timber from damages caused by the weather conditions, insects, fungus and other microbes. Like other copper based wood preservatives, it imparts a greenish tint to treated timber. CCA treatment also prolongs the life of timber.



06 CONCLUSION

PROFILE

Ultimate Forests Company Limited publishes a sustainability report every year, this particular one is covering the fiscal year 2022 (FY22). Most of the areas of operation are highlighted in the report.

Queries and comments can be sent to:

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Address: P.O Box 5590, Pension Plaza 4Th Floor Nyarugenge . Kigali.

MATERIALITY

The performance of the company over the year 2022 was reviewed by the Management of UFCL. The criteria for determining materials for this report was also checked and supported by the management teams. Compiling of the report included engagement of shareholders, partners, and staff.



UFCL RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES



RISKS

1: ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

2: FIRE

3:COMPETITORS

4. UNEVEN TERRAIN

5. INSUFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTERS

6. LAND ENCROACHERS

7. SCARCE SPARE PARTS

OPPORTUNITIES

11: OUTGROWERS SUPPLY
Increased timber supply while developing liveli hoods & reducing risks.

15: EMPLOYMENT
UFCL gave an opportunity to many people includ-ing those in the rural areas.

48: BEE KEEPING
When the forests are well conserved Bees get there well
being and increases the quality and quantity of Honey.

74: PROFITABILITY
Increased sales and profits due to reduced regional supply





RWANDA

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REPUBULIKA Y'U RWANDA

UBUMWE - UMURIMO - GUKUNDA IGIHUGU

RWANDA SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD

RSSB Our Health Our Future

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FSC™ www.fsc.org FSC™ C131488

The mark of responsible forestry

RDB RWANDA DEVELOPMENT BOARD

RSB Rwanda Standards Board ISO 9001 Certified