

12 Miscellaneous

National Parks

The Department welcomed the passing in 1952 of the National Parks Ordinance and the declaration of the first two National Parks, the Murchison Falls Park and the Queen Elizabeth Park. The latter included part of the Kalinzu Forest and the small blocks near Katwe. At a meeting held in July, 'the Trustees agreed that it was their policy to co-operate in every way possible with the Forest Department. They were unanimously of the opinion that the Parks authorities should not in any way interfere with the proper development of the forest reserves as heretofore'.

Amenity Planting

In 1953 arrangements were made for the raising of ornamental trees and shrubs in departmental nurseries in all districts where this was not already being done. This replaced in part the centralised service provided by the Agricultural Department.

Commemorative Tree Planting

Lady Cohen, the wife of the Governor, planted a Wild Kapok (*Bombax reflexum*) in Government House grounds to commemorate the Coronation of H.M. the Queen. H.M. the Queen Mother planted a mahogany (*Entandrophragma angolense*) and H.R.H. Princess Margaret a Cape Chestnut (*Calodendrum capense*) at Government House on 17th July to commemorate their visit to Uganda. Uniformed Forest Guards were in attendance at these ceremonies. HM the Queen planted a mvule (*Milicia excelsa*) in the grounds at Government House in 1954 close to the trees planted by the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret.

Records and Returns

Progress was made in the simplification and standardisation of departmental record-keeping. The first consolidated issue of departmental standing orders was made in 1954. They were greatly appreciated by the staff.

Visits and Conferences

In 1957 the following conferences were attended by members of the Department:

- (1) 7th British Commonwealth Forestry Conference (Australia and New Zealand);
- (2) EAAFRO Forestry Research Co-ordinating Committee.

Visitors included M.V. Laurie, Chief Research Officer of the UK Forestry Commission and F.C. Ford Robertson, Director of the Commonwealth Forestry Bureau.

H.E. the Governor visited forests in the Northern Province and the Sesse Islands in 1958. Later the Acting Governor visited the softwood planting project on north Mt Elgon.

In 1959/60, the Ecologist visited Kenya at the invitation of the CCF Kenya to advise on the silvicultural treatment of natural forest.

Visitors included Professor Mobbs of the University College of North Wales, Jack Westoby of the FAO Forest Products Division, Dr Russell, Director of EAAFRO, the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Local Government.

In 1961, the PFO Northern Province attended the first meeting of the Forestry Commission for African organised by FAO.

The Silviculturist took part in a seminar and study tour of Latin American conifers organised by FAO followed by a brief visit to the southern States of the USA.

Visitors included members of the World Bank Economic Survey Mission, the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary of Natural Resources, the Katikiro of Bunyoro.

The Eighth British Commonwealth Forestry Conference in East Africa was attended by the CCF and DCCF; the Forest Engineer attended only the Forest Products pre-Conference tour. The Conference was the highlight of the year. There were three visits to Uganda, one pre-conference tour designed to show operations in the dry savanna woodland zone and two plenary tropical mixed forest. Visits were also made to eucalyptus fuel and pole plantations, the Forest School and the plywood factory in Jinja. It was a pleasure to welcome back among the Conference visitors, two former CFs, Dr Eggeling and C. Swabey.

A Regional Forest Officers Conference was held in 1962 but due to the numerous problems arising from the loss of senior staff, a second conference was held later in the year. The Minister of Agriculture and Co-operatives addressed both conferences.

During his leave in the UK the Ecologist attended a Senior Officers Conference at the Commonwealth Forestry Institute, Oxford. He also visited tree breeding research centres of the UK Forestry Commission and studied electronic computer techniques.

In 1963/64, the CCF attended meetings of the East African Forestry Research Co-ordinating Committee and the East African Wildlife Co-ordinating Committee, the East African Timber Advisory Board and the Eighth General Assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in Nairobi.

E.K. Serwanga, ACF, attended the Twelfth Session of the FAO Conference in Rome.

The following seminars were attended:

Aerial Forest Inventory (USSR) – M.L.S.B. Rukuba, DCCF

Savanna Afforestation Techniques (Sudan) – C.M. Kerali, Forester

Forest Fire Prevention and Control (USA and Canada) – A.G.R. Jasi, Forester.

Visitors included J.N.R. Jeffers, UK Forestry Commission, advising on research methods, and A. Lamb, Commonwealth Forestry Institute, studying tropical pines.

We were particularly pleased to welcome back W.E.M. Logan, FAO, formerly CCF Uganda.