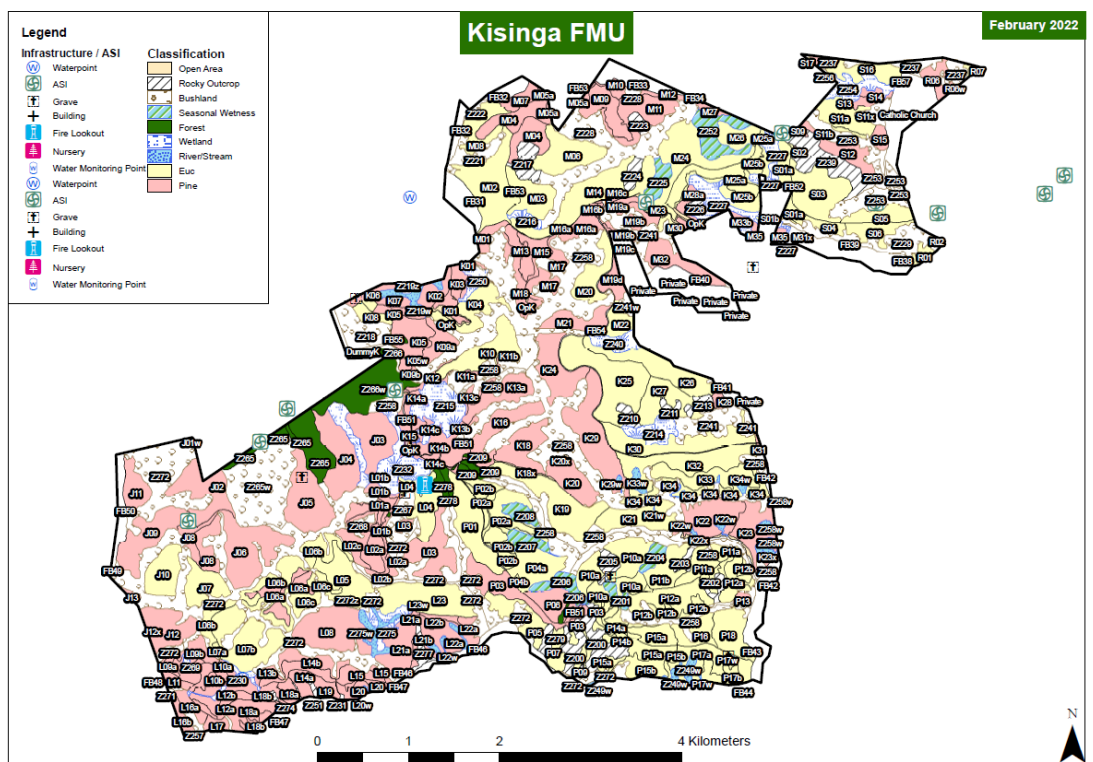


# Kising'a Monitoring Public Summary FY23

## 1. Introduction

This document summarises the monitoring of activities at The New Forests Company's (NFC) Kising'a Plantation, located in Kilolo District of Iringa Region in the United Republic of Tanzania. This monitoring has been conducted in line with the management objectives, and the requirements of international standards. Familiarity with the management plan summary for Kising'a Plantation is helpful in understanding the management objectives that relate directly to these monitoring results.

The period under review is FY23, from July 2022 to June 2023.



Map 1: Kising'a Plantation

## 2. Employment

Our people are the source of our strength. Kising'a employed on average 60 people over the period under review. Of these, 18 were own labour and management, and 42 were contracted. About 17% of all workers were women. Approximately 70% of all workers are sourced within 30km of the boundaries of Kising'a Plantation.

The second half of the year saw a downturn in the number of contract workers, this significantly impacted the total number of female workers downwards to less than half.



*Chart 1: Labour statistics, gender, and locality*

## 3. Environmental Impacts

As a triple bottom line business, our positive impact on the environment is an important part of our ethos.

### 3.1. The results of regeneration activities (Criterion 10.1)

The temporary unplanted area (TUP) of Kising'a is 0ha. Accordingly, there were no establishment activities during this period. We look forward to a change in this once harvesting commences.

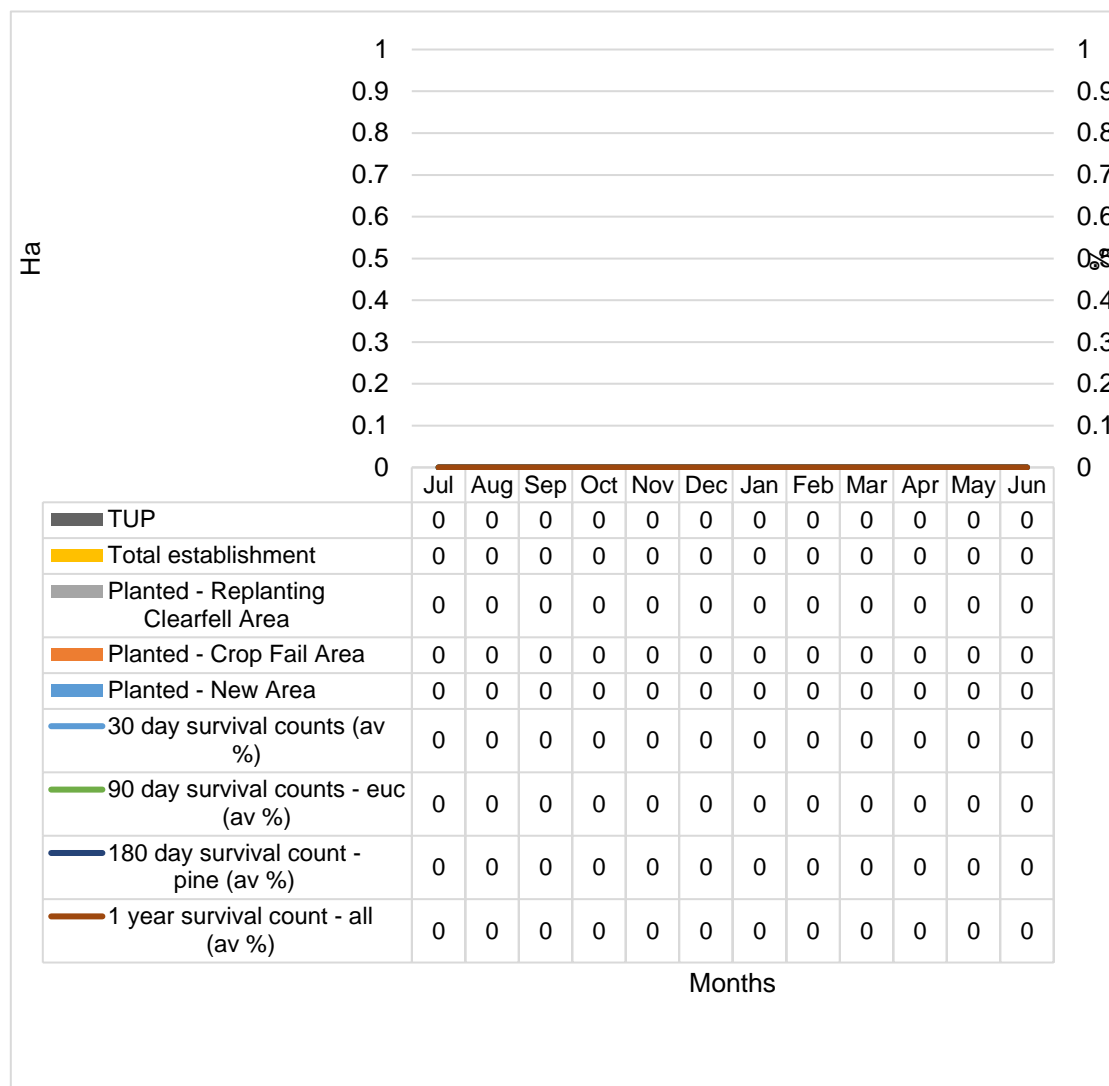


Chart 2: Establishment activities

### 3.2. The use of ecologically well adapted species for regeneration (Criterion 10.2)

In line with The New Forests Company's requirements, only *Eucalyptus* and *Pinus* species are planted. There is an established history of the ecological suitability of these species in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania, as these species have been

planted on government and private plantations for decades after research showed them to be suitable.

### 3.3. Invasiveness or other adverse impacts associated with any alien species within and outside the Management Unit (Criterion 10.3)

There are currently no significant recorded invasive or other adverse impacts associated with the species planted on NFC plantations. *Pinus patula* has had some invasive impacts and is managed through removal where these impacts are observed.

### 3.4. The results of silvicultural activities (Criterion 10.5)

Weedings were carried out according to the plan.

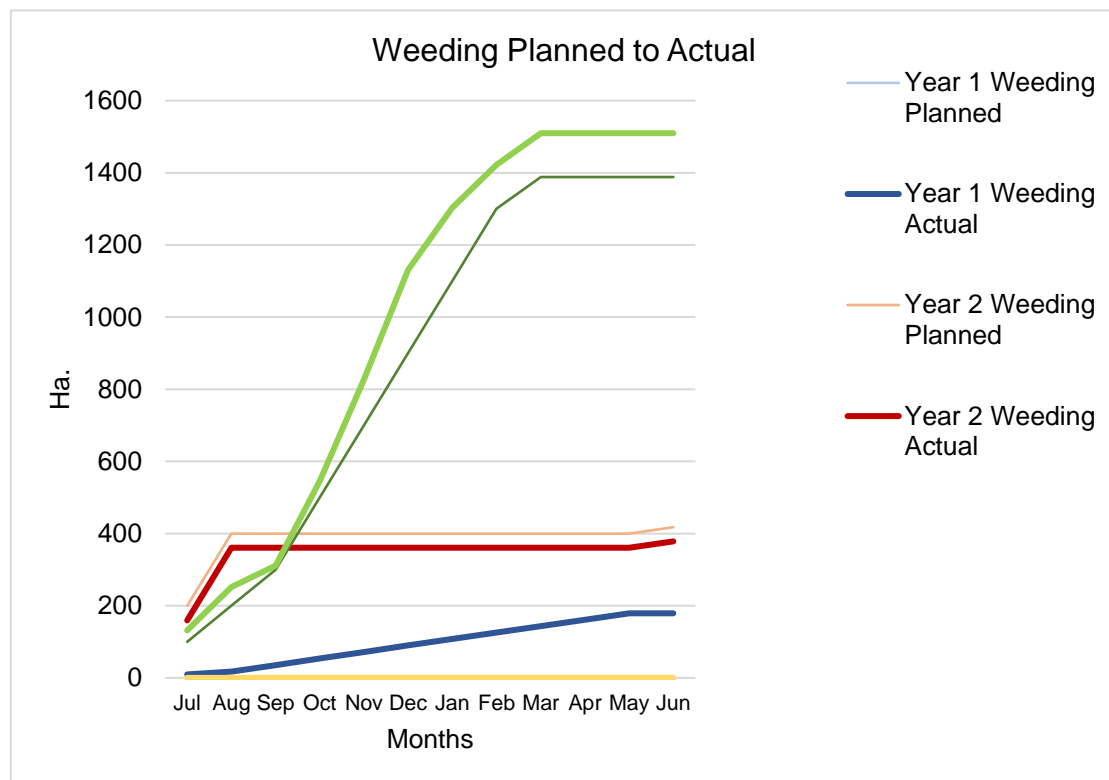


Chart 3: Weeding Planned vs Actual

### 3.5. Adverse impacts to environmental values from fertilizers (Criterion 10.6)

Fertilisers were not used for the period under review.

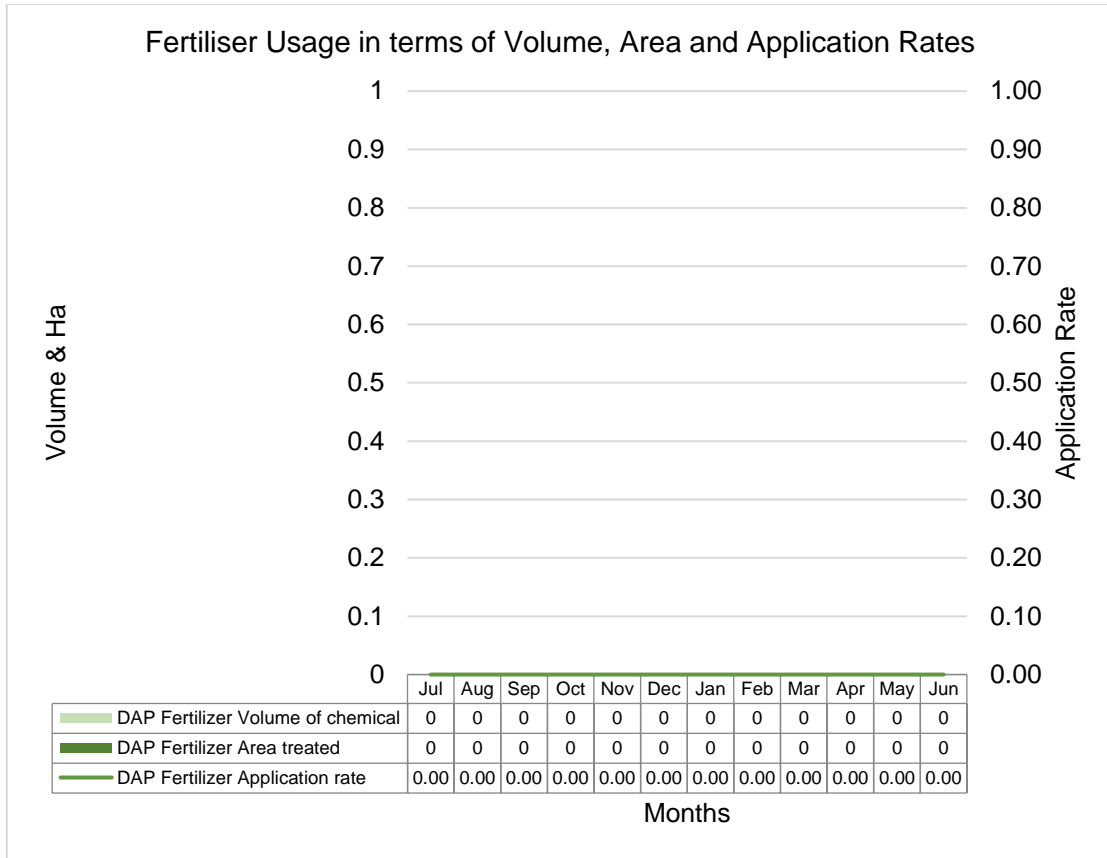
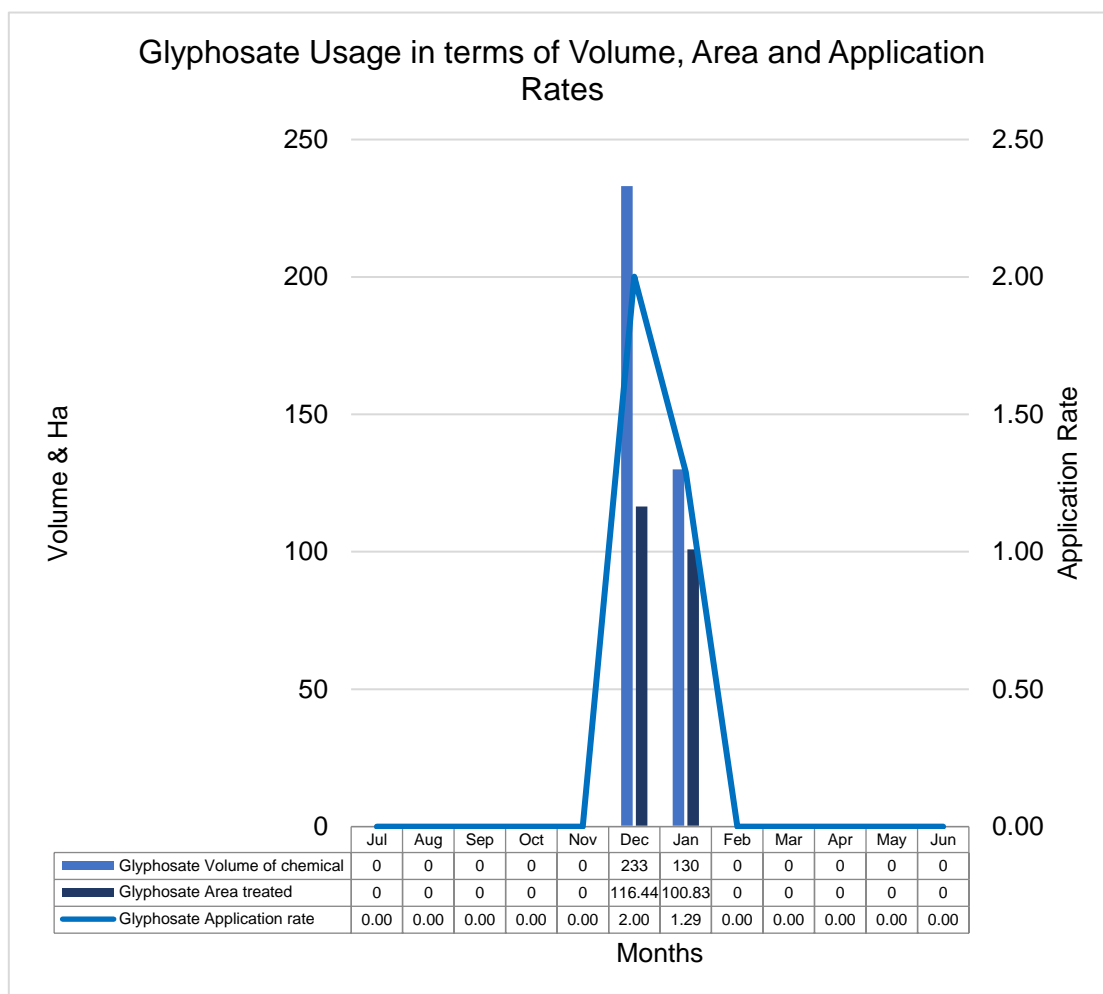


Chart 4: Fertiliser usage and application rates

### 3.6. Adverse impacts from the use of pesticides (Criterion 10.7)



*Chart 5: Glyphosate usage and application rates*

We are yet to experience adverse impacts from pesticide use, of which glyphosate is the only one currently in use. Application is in accordance with the company's prescriptions that meet certification requirements. It is important to understand that as replanting commences after harvesting in the future, the usage of this herbicide may increase commensurate with the size of the planting programme.

Progress towards meeting the revised FSC™ Pesticide Policy is complete, with the Environmental and Social Risk Assessment (ESRA) fully in place. Negative impacts are yet to be recorded.

### 3.7. Adverse impacts from the use of biological control agents (Criterion 10.8)

Biological control agents were not used in the period under review, as was the case for the previous two years.

### 3.8. The impacts from natural hazards (Criterion 10.9)

There were no natural hazards observed or reported at Kising'a in the period under review. The most prevalent natural hazard in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania are landslides, the likelihood and impacts of these are reduced by our core activity of tree planting.

### 3.9. The impacts of infrastructural development, transport activities and silviculture to rare and threatened species, habitats, ecosystems, landscape values water and soils (Criterion 10.10)

The company did not observe impacts in this regard, neither were there any reports or complaints from stakeholders of this nature. Conservation areas have been set aside that have habitats for rare, threatened and endangered species, such as *Dissotis arborescens*<sup>1</sup>. Monitoring of these sites are scheduled for 2024.

### 3.10. The impacts of harvesting and extraction of timber on non-timber forest products, environmental values, merchantable wood waste and other products and services (Criterion 10.11)

Harvesting is yet to begin, only thinning to waste has been carried out.

There have been no impacts on non-timber forest products and environmental values reported from the thinning, to date.

### 3.11. Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials (Criterion 10.12)

All waste has been disposed of in line with legal requirements, and as specified in the company's policies and procedures. Negative impacts related to this were not observed, and there have been no reports or complaints from stakeholders in this regard.

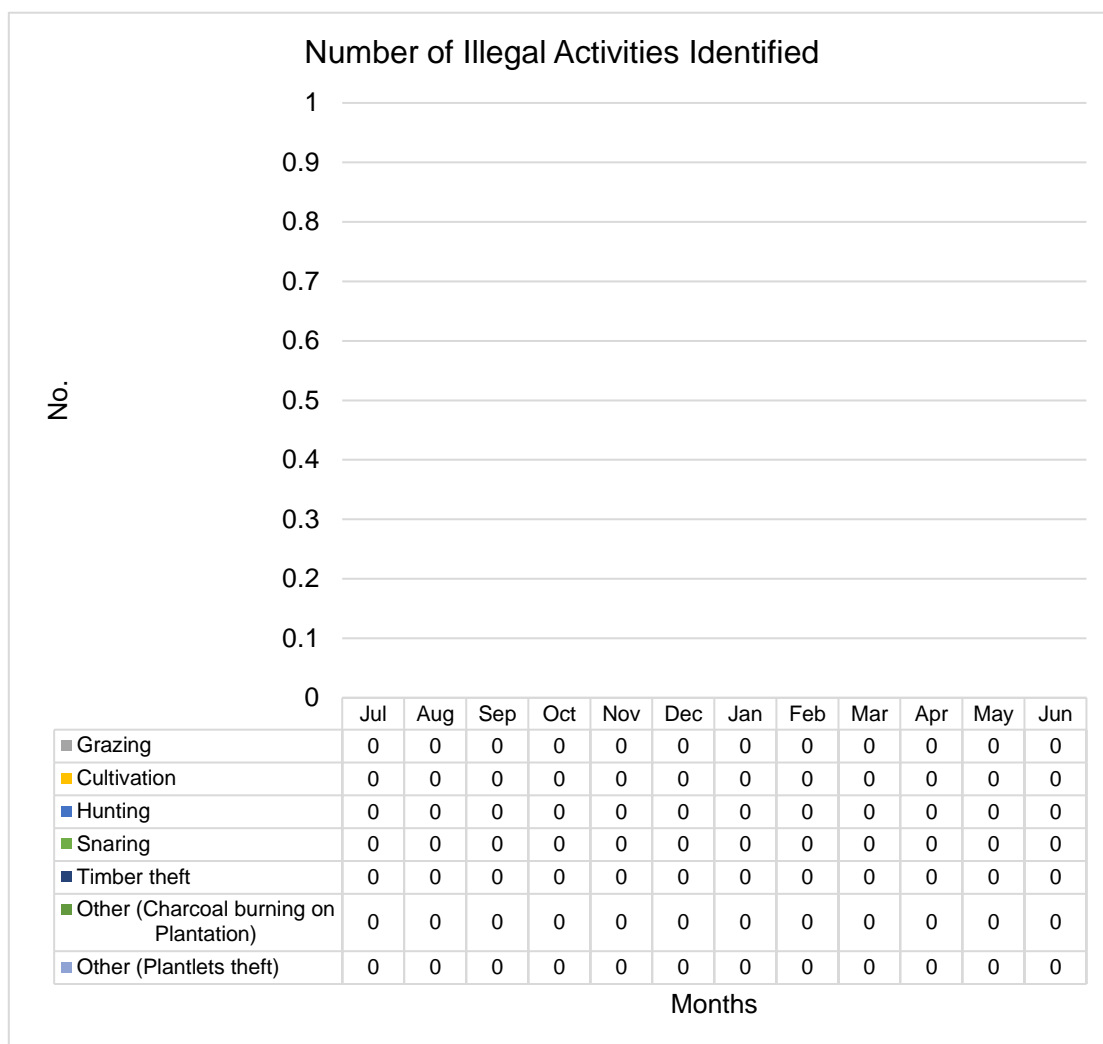
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<sup>1</sup> A. Fern. & R. Fern., First published in Bol. Soc. Brot., sér. 2, 29: 51 (1955). This name is a synonym of *Dissotidendron arborescens*

## 4. Social Impacts

### 4.1. Evidence of illegal or unauthorized activities (Criterion 1.4)

Monitoring for illegal activities is carried out on an ongoing basis on the plantation. There were no reports of illegal activity in the period under review.



*Chart 6: Illegal Activities*

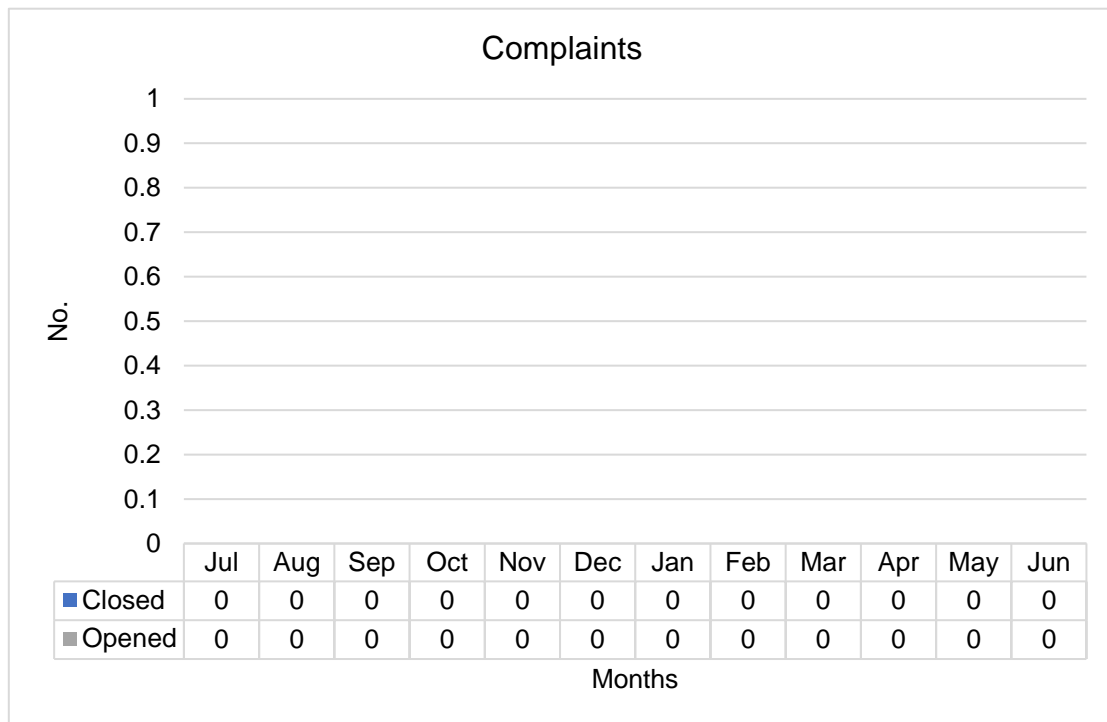
### 4.2. Compliance with applicable laws, local laws, ratified international conventions and obligatory codes of practice (Criterion 1.5)

There were no cases of non-compliance with national or local laws reported.

There were no instances of non-compliance with obligatory codes of practice or ratified international conventions, reported.

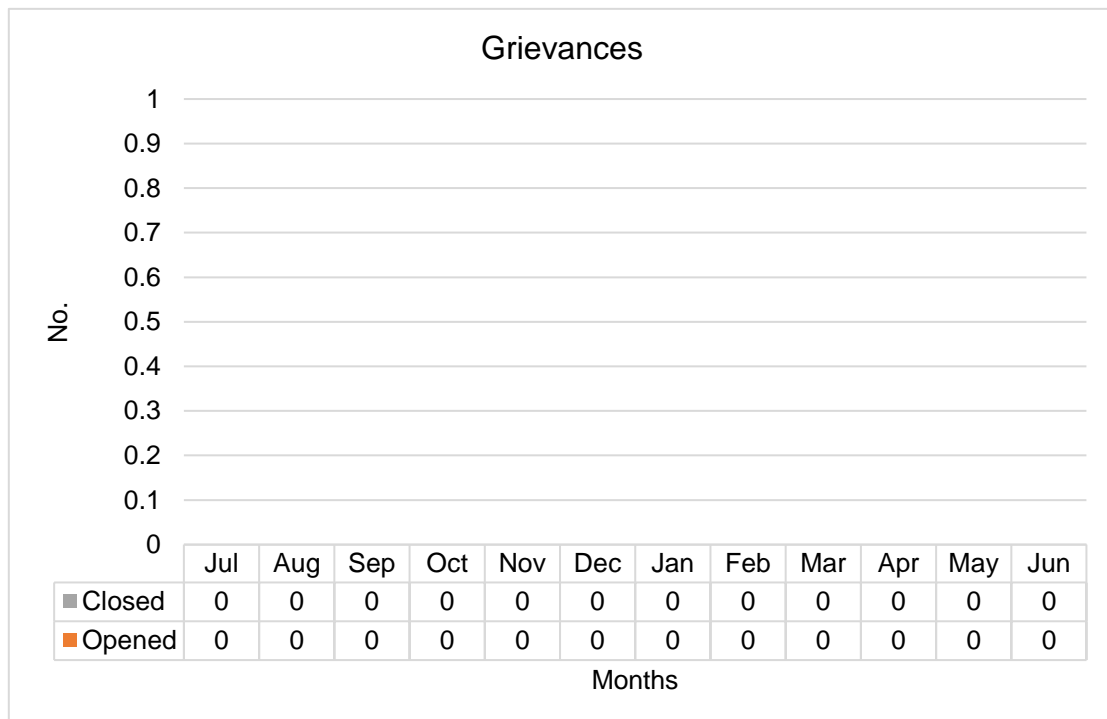


4.3. Resolution of disputes and grievances (Criterion 1.6, Criterion 2.6, Criterion 4.6)



*Chart 6: Complaints*

No complaints from stakeholders were raised in the period under review.



*Chart 7: Grievances*

No grievances were raised by employees. Issues that were brought to the attention of management were attended to.

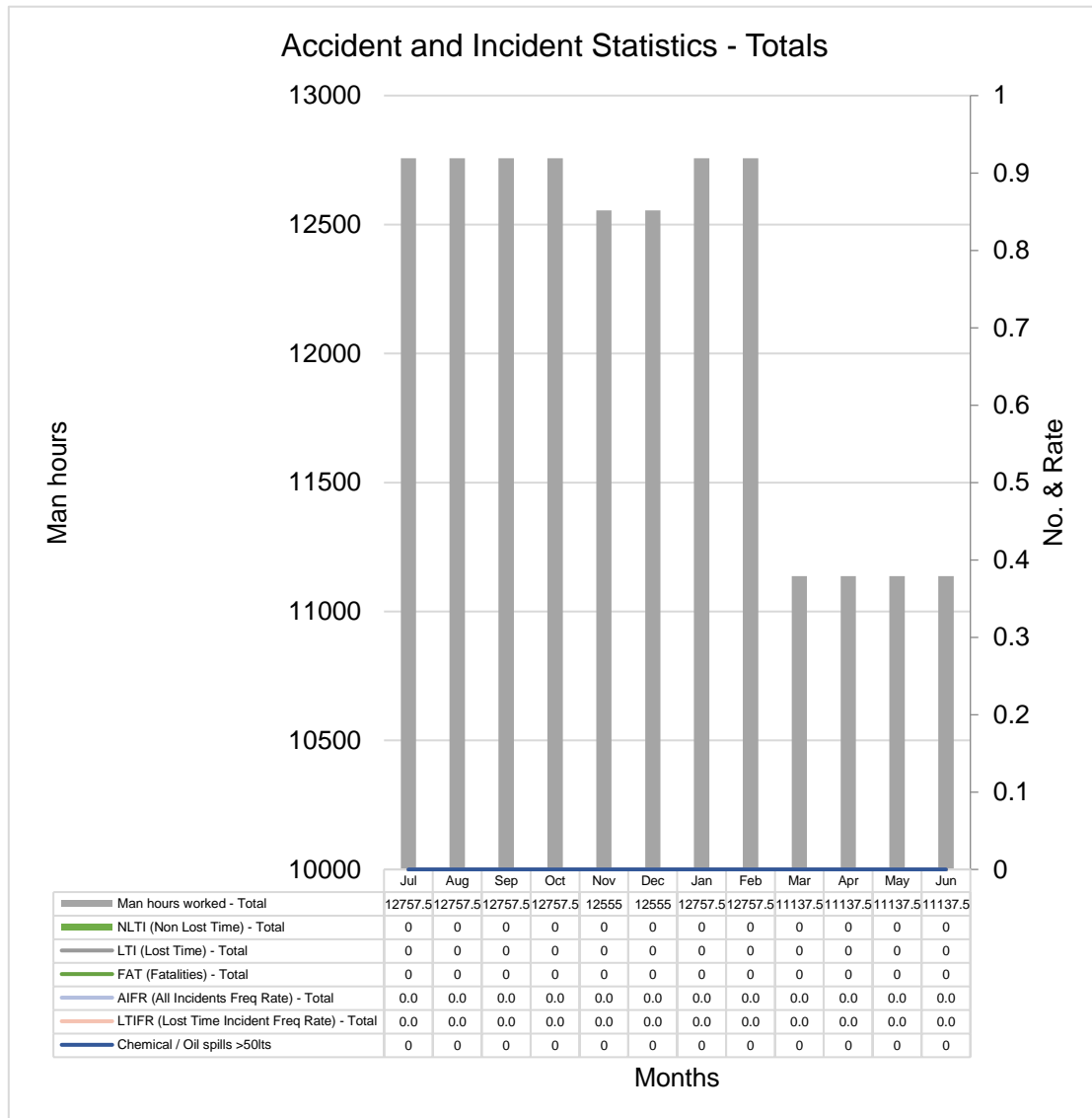
#### 4.4. Programs and activities regarding workers' rights (Criterion 2.1)

All workers' rights with regards to the employment and labour relations act are implemented in line with the current human resources best practice. All of the 8 Core ILO Conventions are complied with.

#### 4.5. Gender equality, Sexual harassment and gender discrimination (Criterion 2.2)

Where we have had cases, these have been dealt with expeditiously and in accordance with our procedures and systems. We also encourage the enforcement of gender equality throughout our operations and are monitored on progress by some of our investors. We have also embraced diversity and inclusion in recruitment and management forums.

#### 4.6. Programs and activities regarding occupational health and safety (Criterion 2.3)



*Chart 8: Safety statistics*

Company policies, systems and procedures meet International Labour Organisation (ILO) requirements. No fatalities were reported. 0 incidents were recorded. 22 near misses were reported.

#### 4.7. Payment of wages (Criterion 2.4)

All wages and salaries were paid in full and on time.

#### 4.8. Worker Training (Criterion 2.5)

Training needs were identified, and a training plan drawn up. There has been reasonable implementation of the plan, with a plan to carry out any remaining training from the previous year.

#### 4.9. Where pesticides are used, the health of workers exposed to pesticides (Criterion 2.5 and Criterion 10.7)

Glyphosate is the only pesticide used currently. Instances of adverse effects on workers' health are yet to be recorded.

#### 4.10. The identification of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and their legal and customary rights (Criterion 3.1 and Criterion 4.1)

There are no indigenous peoples in the areas where we operate.

There has been no change in the identification of local communities and the identification of their legal and customary rights as there are no new communities, and there has been no significant change in the existing communities.

#### 4.11. Full implementation of the terms in binding agreements (Criterion 3.2 and Criterion 4.2)

All of the terms in binding agreements were fully implemented for the period under review.

#### 4.12. Indigenous Peoples and community relations (Criterion 3.2, Criterion 3.3 and Criterion 4.2)

Where appropriate, local communities are consulted on management activities that affect their rights, though none were recorded in the period under review. Local communities are aware of the existing mechanisms for commenting on and requesting changes to management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights.

#### 4.13. Protection of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to Indigenous Peoples and local communities (Criterion 3.5 and Criterion 4.7)

There are 5 graves on Kising'a. The families that they belong to have been consulted and their wishes in terms of their management are respected.

4.14. The use of traditional knowledge and intellectual property (Criterion 3.6 and Criterion 4.8)

The company does not use traditional knowledge in operations.

4.15. Local economic and social development (Criterion 4.2, Criterion 4.3, Criterion 4.4, Criterion 4.5)

The company has embarked on a program called Forests for Prosperity (Misu Kwa Maendeleo, in kiSwahili), where the company pays community associations for risk mitigation activities. There are established agreements for this with different communities, with performance assessed periodically. This puts the community association firmly in control of how they utilise the funds they earn.

A Village Savings and Loan Association was formed with the assistance of the company and benefits its' members. A Tree Growers Association was formed and trained and engage in different activities such as composting. Apiculture is another activity that has been supported by the company.

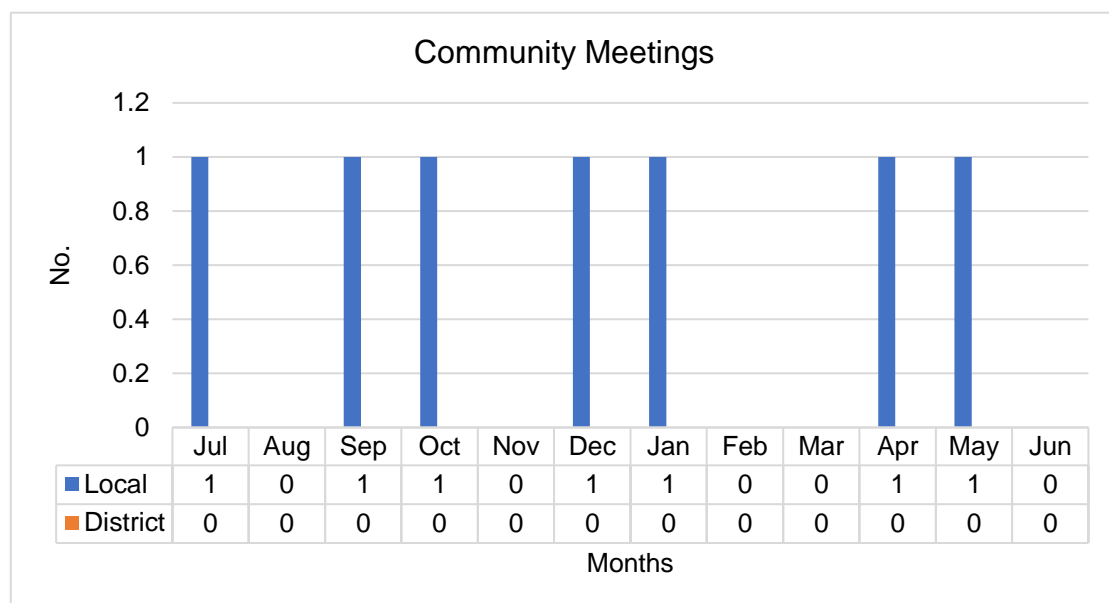


Chart 9: Community meetings

4.16. The production of diversified benefits and / or products (Criterion 5.1)

There were no products produced at Kising'a. The only thinning to date has been first thinning to waste.

#### 4.17. The maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services (Criterion 5.1)

Ecosystem services are not effectively implemented in the operation for the time being.

#### 4.18. Activities to maintain or enhance ecosystem services (Criterion 5.1)

Ecosystem services are not effectively implemented in the operation for the time being.

#### 4.19. Actual compared to projected annual harvests of timber and non-timber forest products (Criterion 5.2)

Harvesting of timber is yet to commence.

#### 4.20. The use of local processing, local services and local value-added manufacturing (Criterion 5.4)

Where possible, local service providers are used to supply services.

#### 4.21. Long term economic viability (Criterion 5.5)

The company has long term plans that cover the next 25 years. In terms of the harvesting plan, the objective is to increase harvesting towards a maximum harvesting volume based on the sustainable total allowable cut. The volume forecasts over the next 25 years are aligned with the financial model.

Harvesting shall commence within the next 5 years. The realised sustainable cut approaches 300 000m<sup>3</sup> in the long term and a clearfell area of about 800ha. Harvesting will scale up rapidly in the next 10 years to meet the growing availability of timber.

#### 4.22. High Conservation Values 5 and 6 identified in Criterion 9.1

There are currently no high conservation values on the forest management unit.

## 5. Changes in Environmental Conditions

5.1. The maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services (Criterion 5.2) (when The Organization makes FSC™ promotional claims regarding the provision of ecosystem services, or receives payment for the provision of ecosystem services)

Ecosystem services are not effectively implemented in the operation for the time being.

5.2. Environmental values and ecosystem functions including carbon sequestration and storage (Criterion 6.1); including the effectiveness of actions identified and implemented to prevent, mitigate and repair negative impacts to environmental values (Criterion 6.3)

For environmental values, a review of the biological diversity study carried out in 2014 is scheduled for 2024.

5.3. Rare and threatened species, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to protect them and their habitats (Criterion 6.4)

The conservation areas that were set aside still have the observed endangered<sup>2</sup> species, *Dissotis arborescens*. A full review will be carried out in 2024.

5.4. Representative sample areas and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.5)

The regeneration of representative areas has been encouraging, some areas have required burning, at a suitably low intensity that achieves the desired objective of removing material that may hinder operations without inflicting undesired environmental damage, to maintain the vegetation.

5.5. Naturally occurring native species and biological diversity and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.6)

A full review will be conducted on this in 2024.

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<sup>2</sup> Listed in the IUCN Red List as Endangered B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii), with a decreasing population trend, assessed 24 April 2012

5.6. Water courses, water bodies, water quantity and water quality and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.7)

5.6.1. Stream Quantity

The chart below is for the current year.

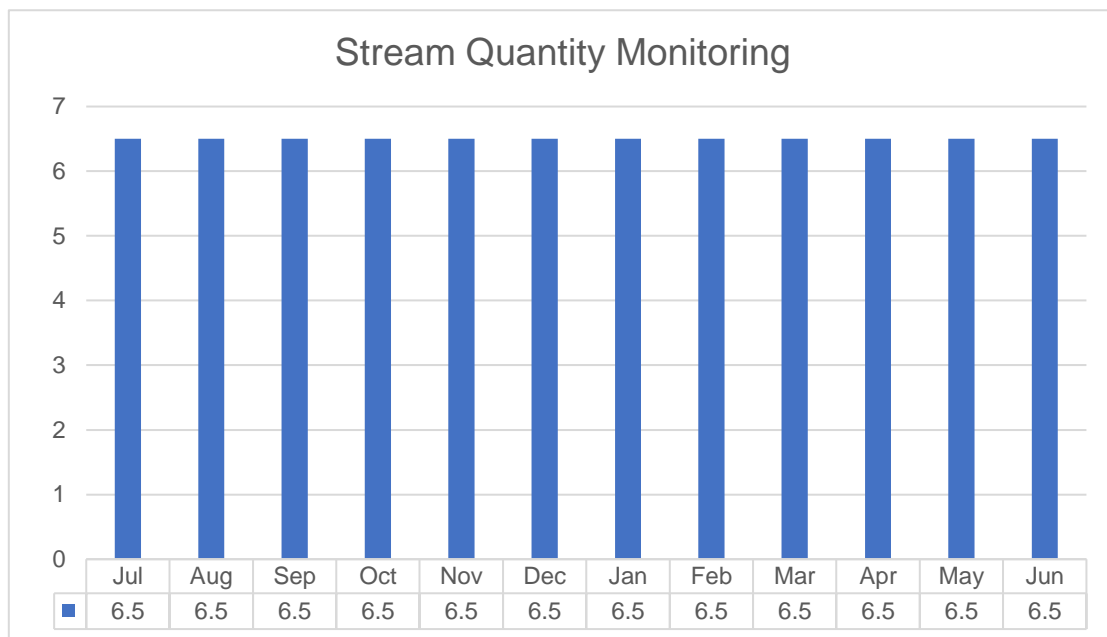


Chart 10: Mizimu Stream quantity monitoring for the current year

This is for the first year of monitoring as we changed the monitoring point recently. Trends over time shall be used to inform how this is managed.



### 5.6.2. Sediment

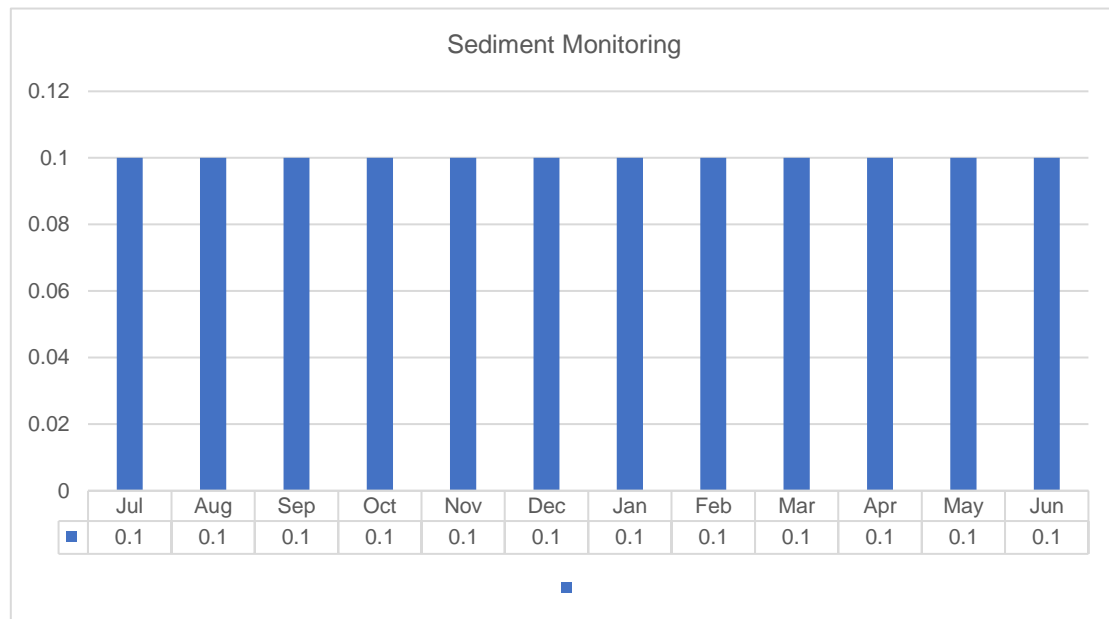


Chart 12: Mizimu Stream sediment monitoring for the current year

This is for the first year of monitoring as we changed the monitoring point recently. Trends over time shall be used to inform how this is managed.

### 5.7. Landscape values and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or restore them (Criterion 6.8)

Kising'a Plantation is close to the Udzungwa range, that has importance for biological diversity at a national scale. Thus, corridors have been left unplanted to maintain connectivity with the surrounding landscape, in addition to riverine areas that are representative of local ecosystems.

### 5.8. Conversion of natural forest to plantations or conversion to non-forest (Criterion 6.9);

There has been no conversion in the period under review.

### 5.9. The status of plantations established after 1994 (Criterion 6.10)

This forest management unit was established after 1994 and was assessed for conversion at the initial certification of the first FMU of The New Forests Company in 2014. There was no evidence of conversion found at that time. The New Forests Company sets aside conservation areas that are protected from illegal activities.

5.10. High Conservation Values 1 to 4 identified in Criterion 9.1 and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or enhance them.

There are currently no high conservation values on the forest management unit.

END OF SUMMARY