A Review of Industrial Forest Plantations in Africa
There is growing interest in Africa as a destination for forest investors, drawn by the availability of land, competitive rates of tree growth, and low labour costs. In many African countries there is good potential to develop local markets for wood products. The continent is potentially an important future source of biomass for the European bioenergy sector, as well as being ideally placed to supply the Asian log and pulpwood markets.

According to the FAO (2005) there are 10.8 million hectares of industrial forest plantation in Africa, yet with the exception of a small number of countries (e.g. South Africa) there is very little reliable information on this resource.

KEY STUDY QUESTIONS

Pöyry has developed a study aimed at assisting potential investors policy makers or wood consumers by answering the following key questions:

• What is the real extent of industrial forest plantations currently in Africa?
• What is the condition and level of management of these plantations?
• Who are the main players in each country?
• What countries have good potential for expanding plantation development, and why?
• What potential is there for these plantations to serve local/export markets?
• What countries are currently “hot spots” for plantation development?
APPROACH

Pöyry will utilise its extensive internal data resources as the foundation for the study. This data has been gathered over years of project-related activity in Africa, and provides Pöyry with a unique insight into plantation development on the continent. This base will be complemented by further desktop research, including interviews with plantation owners and relevant stakeholders.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

In addition to analysis at the continental-level, the study will provide individual profiles for 24 countries. These countries have been selected on the basis of a significant plantation resource being present and/or the potential for new large-scale plantation development to occur within the coming few years.
Pöyry is a global consulting and engineering company dedicated to balanced sustainability and responsible business. With quality and integrity at our core, we deliver best-in-class management consulting, total solutions, and design and supervision. Our in-depth expertise extends to the fields of energy, industry, urban & mobility and water & environment. Pöyry has 7,000 experts and a local office network in about 50 countries.
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