

Impact of L'Hoest's monkeys on pine plantation in Mafuga and Kiriima CFRs

(By: NDEMERE STEPHEN, Forest Supervisor, Kerere-Mafuga)

- They peel off the bark of the trees and break the tree tops of young trees
- This result in blocking of food and water movement in the plant. The trees yellow and eventually dry up. Breaking of tree tops lead to formation of forked trees hence affecting their forms
- Trees that are not severely damaged, the scar inflicted on them will eventually heal outside but inside the wood during lignifications, a rot remains. It eventually affects timber quality

- Trees that are not severely damaged, the scar inflicted on them will eventually heal outside but inside the wood during lignifications, a rot remains. It eventually affects timber quality

IMPACT CAUSED ON NFA

- Loss of hectareage of the planted area due to trees drying
- Losses in terms of money incurred on raising seedlings, establishment and management of the plantation
- Poor tree forms result and do not produce good timber

MEASURES SO FAR BEING TRIED

- Hunting and is proving ineffective
- Poisoning and this is having a serious impact on neighboring communities since people eat them
- Shooting with a gun was tried. It is not sustainable economically. You can kill one monkey having shot 5 bullets
- Biological control is being thought about to introduce Baboons which eat them. No proper research study has so far been done

FUTURE CONSEQUENCES

- Replanting is proposed to be stopped since NFA is making double losses
- NFA Staff will eventually lose their jobs since there will be no area to manage

HOPE

- NFA endeavored to send e-mails to many people requesting for any practical solution to this problem. So far, no practical answer has been given. It is patiently waiting
- Again as believers, we are still not seated. We are humbly asking God to intervene since he has all answers to all problems on this earth.