

A word from Jean-Paul Deprins, CEO

This month marks an important milestone for Better Globe Forestry with the renewal of our Memorandum of Understanding with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI).

For 19 years, KEFRI has been a trusted scientific partner, providing independent expertise that strengthens our work in Kenya's drylands.

In a sector facing climate uncertainty, evolving carbon markets, and rising expectations from communities and investors, such a professional third-party institution is essential. Their objectivity and research capacity complement our practical, on-the-ground experience.

When both organisations think and move in the same direction, progress becomes faster, more credible, and more sustainable.

Our renewed collaboration ensures that the models we scale are scientifically validated and suitable for long-term dryland restoration.

For BGF, this MoU reinforces our identity as a company guided by evidence and committed to continuous learning. Working with KEFRI prepares us for the larger and more complex forestry challenges ahead.

BETTER GLOBE FORESTRY SIGNS A NEW MOU WITH THE KENYA FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (KEFRI) *Strengthening a 19-Year Partnership in Science, Research and Dryland Forestry Innovation*

Better Globe Forestry (BGF) has taken an important step in reinforcing its long-standing relationship with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) through the signing of a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 10th November 2025 at KEFRI Headquarters in Muguga.

BGF CEO Jean-Paul Deprins and KEFRI Director General Dr. Jane Njuguna exchange a handshake with the signed MoU. (Photo: KEFRI)

This MoU marks nearly 19 years of cooperation, uniting KEFRI's national scientific mandate with BGF's practical field experience in Kenya's drylands. It is a partnership grounded in evidence, long-term learning, and a shared commitment to improving forestry in arid and semi-arid regions.

From left: Jan Vandenabeele, Jean-Paul Deprins, Dr. Jane Njuguna, and Dr. Tito Mbuvi, showcasing the signed MoU. (Photo: KEFRI)



Advancing Dryland Forestry Through Joint Research

A core focus of the MoU is strengthening research on dryland species central to BGF's operations. These include *Melia volkensii* (Mukau), a high-value indigenous hardwood widely recognised for its suitability to dryland timber production, and *Acacia senegal*, a key species for gum arabic with significant economic potential for communities in arid regions.

Under the agreement, both institutions will deepen collaboration on seed quality improvement, propagation techniques, nursery technologies, and climate-resilient planting systems. This research aims to enhance seedling survival, optimize productivity, and advance dryland forestry models that deliver strong economic and ecological outcomes.

Expanding the Scope of Collaboration

The renewed MoU broadens cooperation beyond species research to include work on bamboo, a fast-growing resource with rising commercial and environmental importance in Kenya. The partnership will identify suitable bamboo species for drylands, explore sustainable management approaches, and support development of value-addition opportunities for local communities and

A candid moment as BGF and KEFRI formalize their MoU. (Photo: BGF)



The agreement also strengthens collaboration in technology transfer, scientific support, and community-level capacity building. This includes joint initiatives in disease and pest management, soil enrichment, growth monitoring systems, and practical training through field days, demonstrations, and extension services across BGF project areas.

BGF's Jan Vandenabeele and KEFRI's Dr. Tito Mbuvi sign the MoU. (Photo: KEFRI)



A Partnership with Long-Term Impact

For BGF, the MoU reinforces a long-term commitment to dryland forestry grounded in research, innovation, and community benefit. By aligning KEFRI's scientific expertise with BGF's on-the-ground experience, the partnership provides a solid foundation for scaling dryland forestry models that are both climate-resilient and economically sustainable.

The collaboration will further contribute to Kenya's **15-billion-tree initiative**, national restoration goals, and broader climate resilience strategies. By uniting scientific research with practical implementation, KEFRI and BGF reaffirm their shared vision of restoring degraded landscapes, strengthening rural livelihoods, and advancing a sustainable forestry model for future generations.

From left: Dr. Stephen Omondi, Florence Towett, Jan Vandenabeele, Jean-Paul Deprins, Dr. Jane Njuguna, Dr. Eston Mutitu, Priscilla Kimani, and John Kigomo after the signing ceremony. (Photo: KEFRI)

