

### ***A word from Jean-Paul Deprins, CEO***

Better Globe Forestry (BGF) is entering a new phase of growth, with our mission unchanged: to plant trees at scale for a sustainable future and to produce quality timber in drylands. Achieving these ambitions requires resilience, innovation, and continuous learning.

Together with world-class partners like CIFOR-ICRAF, we are not only generating the knowledge needed for success in the challenging realities of dryland forestry, but also

applying it directly with communities and entrepreneurs who depend on these landscapes. This MoU is more than a renewal; it is a reaffirmation of trust and shared purpose. By combining scientific excellence with on-the-ground action, we are confident that we can transform drylands into engines of resilience, opportunity, and prosperity.

With this partnership, we look forward to advancing resilient landscapes and thriving livelihoods across Africa's drylands.

## **BETTER GLOBE FORESTRY SIGNS AN MOU WITH CIFOR-ICRAF**

On 26th August, BGF CEO Jean-Paul Deprins and Senior Director Forestry Jan Vandenabeele visited the CIFOR-ICRAF headquarters in Gigiri, Nairobi, to formalise the renewal of a long-standing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). CIFOR-ICRAF (the Centre for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry) is a leading global research partnership

Dedicated to advancing sustainable forestry, agroforestry, and land management solutions.

The brief signing ceremony was hosted by Dr. Eliane Ubalijoro (CEO, CIFOR-ICRAF), alongside Prof. Catherine Muthuri (Kenya Country Director and Regional Coordinator for Eastern and Southern Africa) and Dr. Sammy Carsan (Scientist – Trees and Forest Genetic Resources & Biodiversity).

*1st photo from left to right: Jan Vandenabeele (BGF Senior Director Forestry), Jean-Paul Deprins (BGF CEO), Dr. Eliane Ubalijoro (CIFOR-ICRAF CEO), Dr. Sammy Carsan, Prof. Catherine Muthuri. Photo by BGF, (2nd photo by CIFOR-ICRAF).*



## **STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION IN DRYLAND FORESTRY**

This renewed MOU reaffirms a shared commitment to align institutional efforts in dryland forestry, co-develop research trials, and leverage complementary strengths to address the pressing challenges of climate change and livelihoods in arid and semi-arid regions.

*Jean-Paul Deprins (BGF CEO), Dr. Eliane Ubalijoro (CIFOR-ICRAF CEO)  
Photo by BGF*



*Jan Vandenabeele (BGF SDF), Jean-Paul Deprins (BGF CEO), Dr. Eliane Ubalijoro (CIFOR-ICRAF CEO) Photo by BGF*





## SHARED RESEARCH PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES

BGF has already initiated trials on the performance of two priority dryland species, *Melia volkensii* and *Acacia senegal*, while CIFOR-ICRAF is spearheading dryland restoration initiatives across Africa. Recognizing these synergies, both parties committed to collaborate in the following areas:

- Advancing research on tree improvement for priority dryland species.
- Supporting the collection, evaluation, and conservation of germplasm.
- Expanding smallholder access to improved planting material
- Promoting tree-based value chains & entrepreneurship linked to restoration
- Disseminating research findings through platforms such as *Miti Magazine*
- Joint resource mobilisation and technical exchange with national entities like KEFRI

Jan Vandenabeele (BGF SDF), Jean-Paul Deprins (BGF CEO), Dr. Eliane Ubalijoro (CIFOR-ICRAF CEO) Photo by BGF



Jean-Paul Deprins (BGF CEO), Dr. Eliane Ubalijoro (CIFOR-ICRAF CEO) Photo by BGF



## BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

This agreement builds upon earlier MOUs signed in 2012 and 2017, which enabled cooperation in areas such as:

- Dissemination of research findings through *Miti Magazine*.
- Participation in field visits and events.
- Joint resource mobilisation for research.
- Exchange of technical information of mutual benefit.

From left to right: Prof. Catherine Muthuri, Jan Vandenabeele (BGF Senior Director Forestry), Jean-Paul Deprins (BGF CEO), Dr. Eliane Ubalijoro (CIFOR-ICRAF CEO), Dr. Sammy Carsan, and Claudiah Caroline (BGF EDC). Photo by BGF



## A SHARED VISION FOR RESILIENT LANDSCAPES

The renewed partnership underscores a shared commitment to innovation, sustainability, and collaborative action in forestry and agroforestry, benefiting dryland communities and ecosystems.

