

A word from Jean-Paul Deprins, CEO

Dear reader,

Dryland forestry is a complex endeavour. It requires expertise, organization, and precise logistics factors that are often taken for granted in more favourable environments. At Better Globe Forestry, we are committed to this path, specializing in dryland forestry because we believe in its promising future for Africa.

Your ongoing support and partnership make this journey possible. Enjoy the read!

Success in these challenging conditions is not achieved alone; it relies on collaboration with like-minded organizations and institutions that contribute valuable knowledge and expertise in their respective fields. We recognize the important contributions of institutions such as the Kenya Forestry Service (KFS) and the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), and we express our gratitude to many other stakeholders who play a vital role in promoting dryland forestry.

Better Globe Forestry: Your Partner in Sustainable Dryland Afforestation

Since January 1, 2025, Better Globe Forestry (BGF) has operated as a fully commercial enterprise, leveraging over two decades of afforestation expertise. Specializing in large-scale tree planting in arid regions, BGF offers businesses, investors, and institutions sustainable forestry solutions with both environmental and economic returns.

Why Work with BGF?

BGF develops afforestation projects aligned with international carbon credit standards, helping partners meet sustainability goals through carbon sequestration. With expertise in commercial forestry, it ensures long-term productivity in timber plantations and agroforestry. A research-driven approach cultivates drought-resistant species and applies advanced silviculture techniques. From site selection to long-term maintenance, BGF provides full project management to maximize tree survival and growth.



Better Globe Forestry's Dokolo site (Photos by BGF)

Climate & Livelihood Solutions

BGF restores degraded land using climate-adaptive techniques that improve soil fertility, water retention, and community livelihoods. Its afforestation projects help combat climate change by absorbing carbon and enhancing ecological stability. Agroforestry plays a key role, supporting farmers in integrating trees into farming systems for sustainable productivity. landscapes.

Beyond Afforestation: Consultancies & CSR

BGF also provides consultancies in forestry investment, sustainable land management, and policy development. Its **Go Global** program allows organizations to support afforestation through donations, driving environmental restoration and socio-economic growth.

Shaping the Future of Forestry

With deep roots in East Africa, BGF continues to expand, refine methodologies, and attract new investments. As a trusted partner in commercial afforestation, it is creating sustainable forestry solutions in some of the world's most challenging landscapes.



BGF Kiambere Plantation (Photo by BGF)



BGF Strengthens Ties with Key Stakeholders

February marked a significant period for BGF's partnerships, as we engaged with key stakeholders to reinforce our collaborations. With January allowing time for people to settle into the new year, we took the opportunity to visit some of our main partners at their offices in Nairobi.

We visited the **Kenya Forestry Service (KFS)**, the leading state corporation responsible for managing Kenya's forests, both plantations and indigenous forests. KFS also plays a crucial role in forestry education, training, and revenue collection from forest products.

BGF received a warm welcome from KFS CEO and Chief Conservator of Forests, Mr. Alex Lemarkoko, along with members of his management team. During the meeting, the Better Globe Forestry CEO provided insights into BGF's recent restructuring and outlined our vision for the future. Mr. Lemarkoko emphasized the long-standing collaboration between our organizations and expressed appreciation for BGF's expertise. He praised the quality of BGF's staff, some of whom have transitioned into roles at KFS.

Next, we visited the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), a long-term partner in our efforts to develop *Melia volkensii* as a commercially viable dryland timber species. It was an opportune time to connect with KEFRI's newly appointed CEO, Mme Jane Njuguna, and her team, all key figures in socio-economics, research, partnerships, and public relations.



BGF's visit to KEFRI (starting from the left: Joram Kagombe, Sarah Mogaka, Jan Vandenabeele, Jean-Paul Deprins, Jane Njuguna, Titus Mbuvi and Betty Prissy). (Photo by KEFRI)

BGF maintains **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** with KFS and KEFRI, solidifying our commitment to sustainable forestry and innovative research. These engagements reinforce our shared vision for a greener future and lay the groundwork for even greater impact in the years ahead.



BGF's Jean-Paul Deprins with Mr Alex Lemarkoko (left), the Chief Conservator of Forests of Kenya (Photo by KFS)

Melia volkensii remains a top priority, with promising potential to produce high-quality timber in dryland areas. The director reaffirmed KEFRI's commitment to advancing its development, and BGF continues to collaborate closely with KEFRI researchers to drive this initiative forward.



KEFRI's *Melia volkensii* seed orchard in Kibwezi, from where BGF purchases improved seeds. (Photo by Jan Vandenabeele)

