

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM JEAN-PAUL, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Forestry has become a diverse and highly sophisticated industry, evolving significantly due to various needs. It often requires an extensive knowledge base, with many interconnected elements, much like a complex puzzle.

A key factor in a forestry company's success is its relationship with community neighbors and, in agroforestry, with partner farmers. One way Better Globe Forestry supports communities is by providing microfinance services in underserved areas. This initiative has been highly successful, with the impact showcased and explained at the annual general meetings (AGMs). This simple, useful, and effective

community support is an integral part of forestry for BGF. Today's forestry also benefits from diverse funding sources, driven by needs such as carbon sequestration, restoration, and other commercial but also crucial environmental reasons. To adapt to these changes, we have adjusted our market approach, leading us to participate in the Land Accelerator program. This excellent initiative attracts young entrepreneurs and rising executives, providing training for future forestry leaders. Better Globe Forestry proudly participates in this dynamic environment.

Enjoy this May newsletter.

THE VILLAGE BANKS PROMOTED BY BETTER GLOBE FORESTRY

An enduring legacy



Many people attended the Annual General Meeting of the Village Bank

BGF was instrumental in establishing and funding two so-called "Village Banks" or Financial Services Associations (FSAs) in the north of Kitui County, the first one in Kasten Location (Nguni FSA) and the second one in Kamuwongo (Kamuwongo FSA). The last one was initiated in 2018 with the aim of improving livelihoods of farmers through loans and savings in the area of Seven Forks, where BGF is operating. Its 4th Annual General Meeting was held on 4th of May, with hundreds of farmers and stakeholders, to celebrate its achievements and progress, as well as getting the annual financial statement. This was presented by the auditor, indicating an increase in shares and savings leading to total assets worth 24.8m KES by end of 2023, which is up from 16.5m KES at the end of 2022. This led to an increase in dividend from 19 to 23 KES per share. So this Village Bank is in good health.



The Local Administration, led by Kamuwongo Local Area Chief, Mme Mwende, also graced the occasion, highlighting that BGF had helped many farmers in the region through training on smart farming, financial management and tree planting

As a reminder, the Village Bank is managed by K-Rep Financial Services (KFS), under guidance of the Bank's Board of Directors, which is locally elected. The Bank is fully owned by its shareholders, who are the farmers that have their savings accounts there.

Emma Kimani, the General Manager of KFS had the following to say: "On behalf of Nguni and Kamuwongo fraternity, we want to thank Better Globe Forestry for championing and funding the establishment and operationalization of the FSAs. We acknowledged BGF in both FSAs." She also congratulated the management and the farmers/members.

BETTER GLOBE FORESTRY PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES FOR LAND RESTORATION



Samuel Nakhone at his work station

In 2018, the World Resources Institute (WRI) and Fledge launched “Land Accelerator Africa” to support the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100). The AFR100 Initiative’s goal is to restore 100 million hectares of land by 2030. Land Accelerator Africa is a continent-wide programme, annually repeated.

The 2024 edition of Land Accelerator Africa receives generous funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The initiative is designed to bolster the capacity of restoration companies.

Land Accelerator Africa runs two simultaneous programs: the continental Land Accelerator Africa and the Land Accelerator Landscapes. The latter focuses on three critical landscapes: Kenya’s Greater Rift Valley; the Lake Kivu & Rusizi River Basin (Burundi, Rwanda, DRC); and the Ghana Cocoa Belt.

BGF applied for the Initiative, and due to its trajectory and realizations was selected with another 99 companies for Land Accelerator Africa. All selected participants began with a 12-week virtual training program, with future in-person training opportunities for selected cohort members.

From the BGF side, our Executive Director Samuel Nakhone, is leading this comprehensive training. By the end of the free three-month training, participants will complete deliverables such as creating a compelling one-minute business pitch, developing a PowerPoint presentation, building or improving a company website with assistance from the Land Accelerator team, and producing a financial model, an impact assessment, marketing plan and a short video summarizing our business.

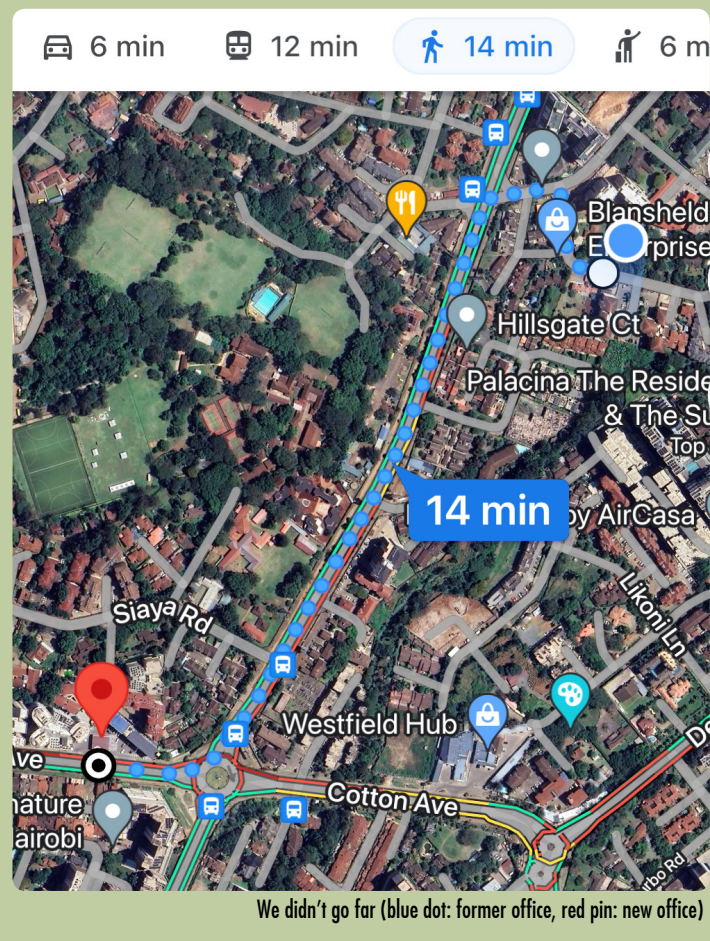
These deliverables will also serve as our application to the Top 15 cohort, the second phase of the Land Accelerator program. We are excited to embark on this journey and contribute to the restoration and sustainable development of our landscapes.

Apart from training to properly present the company in a commercial space, the programme is quite valuable for networking, getting in touch with funding opportunities, and for companies to grow.

For more information, visit [WRI's Land Accelerator Africa](https://wri.org/land-accelerator-africa)

WE'VE MOVED TO A NEW OFFICE!

We are excited to announce that Better Globe Forestry's Head Office has relocated! Our new, improved office is now at the Oloitokitok/Olenguruone roundabout commercial building, 2nd Floor, in Kileleshwa. This move was prompted by plans for a high-rise building at our previous location on Tabere Crescent No. 4. Our new location provides a more accessible and spacious environment, allowing us to better serve our mission of cultivating a thriving ecosystem of agroforestry and forestry operations, integrating commercial viability with social responsibility.



We didn't go far (blue dot: former office, red pin: new office)

