

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM JEAN-PAUL, MANAGING DIRECTOR

BGF are professional implementers of sustainable projects in the fields of Dryland afforestation, Agroforestry, Landscape restoration, International forestry projects, Carbon sequestration, Forestry consultancy and Environmental impact Assessment, for both national and international clients. To this purpose we continuously improve our systems and tools. Being pioneers in dryland afforestation has not been an easy task but we learned from the past and are already in the future!

KENYA'S NATIONAL TREE GROWING RESTORATION CAMPAIGN



Mission 15B#JazaMiti

The Kenyan Government has announced a Special Presidential Programme to raise the country's tree cover to 30% by 2032 (the current cover is 12%). That's nine years away, and implies the production of 15 billion seedlings for restoration of 10.6 million ha of degraded landscapes, across the country. This is the biggest tree planting exercise ever in Kenya. The programme was officially launched in a tree planting ceremony on 21st December of last year, at Ngong Hills Forest, by the President himself, Hon Dr William Ruto.

The target can only be achieved by a concerted effort by the whole of government and civil society. It certainly is ambitious, but the challenge of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss is enormous, threatening the well-being and maybe even survival of humanity. A taste of things to come is the drought Kenya and East Africa have been suffering over the last 2 years, leading to loss of at least 2.5m heads of livestock, directly impacting 4m Kenyans. These are immense socio-economic losses seriously affecting the National GDP.

The programme aims to grow five billion trees in the next 5 years (2022-2028), and another ten billion the five years after (2028-2032). To translate this onto an individual level, everybody should be growing 30 trees every year during the next 10 years. We've seen well, to grow and not to plant, meaning the seedlings have to survive.

There will be incentives for tree growers, like certificates of Green Conduct, to be issued after three years, to outstanding efforts, and the creation of the Green Army. This is to engage the youth, expected to contribute to youth employment creation.

Foresters all over the country are scratching their heads about issues like seed production, seedling production, logistics, water availability, seedling protection, meaning the government's decision has sparked serious thinking and debate, all good towards tree planting.

Better Globe Forestry will certainly contribute to the JazaMiti campaign, and the Managing Director and Senior Director Forestry were present at the launch and planted their first trees during the ceremony.

Jaza is Swahili and means "fill up", implying filling up the spaces with trees.





General view of Kona Baridi (Ngong hills) where the tree planting exercise took place

UNSUNG HEROES WORKING QUIETLY IN THE BACKGROUND

In case this sounds mysterious, it's about the growing digitization of BGF. We're in the digital age, and want to take full advantage of the many gains that come with it. Notably last year has seen a significant development of digital tools in BGF. An app to contract farmers and manage our interactions with them, had been introduced before, tailor-made by a specialized company.

But now we're able to do things ourselves. BGF has its own IT department, manned by two staff, one being a programmer, with the

job title of "Information Security Manager", while the other one is more in trouble shooting and system maintenance, with the job title of "System & Administration Manager". Their work is being coordinated by the Acting ICT Manager, who is the MD, which shows the level of importance given to this new department. Through the apps they create, test, implement and if need be, troubleshoot, the departments of forestry, operations, finance, accounts, procurement, HR, communications and monitoring and evaluation all can work better, faster and in a more accurate way. Various tasks are simply made easier, which ultimately culminates in more efficient tree planting.

The Information Security Manager also manages the Cloud and Physical Server, and the System & Administration Manager is trouble-shooting the multitude of hick-ups that are normal occurrences when staff uses computers, tablets and smart phones. He also trains the users on new apps being introduced.

The number of apps has kept on growing (see screenshot BGF Apps), and apart from the farmers app, stock management, requests for IT assistance, maintenance of tools, vehicles and equipment, purchase, personnel management, monitoring & evaluation are in use. Last but not least, Miti Magazine is now digitally accessible in East Africa for subscription and for reading: <https://miti-magazine.betterglobeforestry.com/> Often overseen in companies, there is a document repository where essential information how the company functions is brought together, again digitally and easily accessible. Not too forget, taking advantage of Kenya's unique mobile money environment, for quite some time our temporary workers are being paid timely by phone which is fast, safe and easy.

In 20 years BGF has evolved from pioneers in dryland afforestation, to implementers of forestry projects and is continuously improving its tools in relation its activities.

View of the BGF Applications dashboard from which apps can be selected



INTERNAL APPLICATIONS

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