



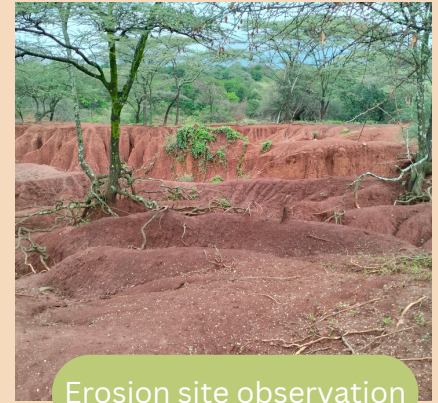
LAND DEGRADATION & RESTORATION IN LAKE BARINGO BASIN



Highly eroded site

The image depicts severe land degradation, due to soil erosion, as seen in the deeply eroded gullies.

The presence of a few sparse trees and vegetation highlights the environmental challenges faced in this area. This reflects the critical need for urgent action to restore degraded lands.



Erosion site observation

Observations

The Lake Baringo Basin is not only grappling with severe land degradation but also with significant human-induced challenges, including charcoal burning, overgrazing, and tree felling. These activities are accelerating desertification in the region, threatening the delicate balance of the ecosystem and undermining efforts to restore the landscape.

Charcoal burning is a major driver of deforestation in the basin, as trees are felled to meet the growing demand for fuel. This unsustainable practice strips the land of critical vegetation, leaving it vulnerable to soil erosion and reducing its ability to sequester carbon, which exacerbates the impacts of climate change.

Overgrazing by livestock has further compounded the degradation. The excessive grazing pressure prevents natural vegetation from regenerating, exposing the soil to wind and water erosion. The result is the formation of gullies and loss of fertile topsoil, as evident in the image.

Tree felling, whether for construction, charcoal burning or other uses, continues to deplete the forest cover. Trees are vital for stabilizing soils, maintaining water cycles, and supporting biodiversity. Their removal disrupts these natural processes, leading to an ecological imbalance and the degradation of critical habitats.

Commitment

Plus One Tree Initiative is fully committed to restoring degraded landscapes like the one in the Lake Baringo Basin. This basin is a globally significant ecological and cultural hotspot, forming part of Kenya's Rift Valley lakes, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site for its unique biodiversity. However, increasing desertification threatens its ecosystem, affecting both its global importance and the livelihoods of the local communities. We have aligned our efforts with the objectives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), with an aim to:

- Restore degraded lands through tree planting, sustainable land management, and ecosystem restoration techniques.
- Promote conservation through protecting biodiversity, preventing soil erosion, and enhancing carbon sequestration.
- Control desertification by addressing root causes like deforestation, overgrazing, and unsustainable agricultural practices.



Old trees stumps



Grazing

Importance of Restoration

(a) Lake Baringo has global significance as it is a key water body in a semi-arid environment and is vital for migratory bird species and aquatic biodiversity. Its degradation could have cascading effects on global biodiversity conservation goals.

(b) It has a local impact on the surrounding communities, as land degradation exacerbates food insecurity, increases vulnerability to climate shocks, and limits livelihoods based on farming and pastoralism. Restoring the basin can:

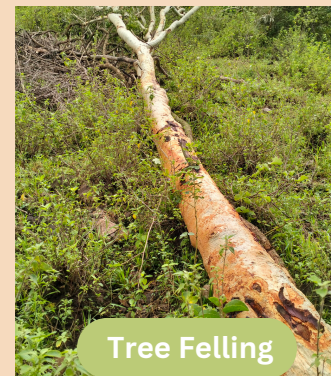
- Enhance agricultural productivity.
- Build climate resilience through reforestation and improved soil fertility.
- Secure sustainable livelihoods, reducing poverty and dependence on external aid.

Call to Action

Restoration in the Lake Baringo Basin is not just about planting trees; it is about creating a greener, more resilient future for the environment and the people who depend on it. Together with local stakeholders, international partnerships, and the UNCCD framework, we remain steadfast in our goal **"One tree today, a forest tomorrow."** This project embodies our vision of healing the land while empowering the local population to thrive sustainably.



Local community engagement and empowerment



Tree Felling



Charcoal burning