



**PLUS ONE TREE INITIATIVE**

# NEWSLETTER

## **STORIES OF HOPE FROM KENYA'S DRYLANDS**

Welcome to the latest edition of Restoring Roots, your go-to source for updates, insights, and progress in the world of ecological restoration and climate-resilient land use. At Plus One Tree Initiative, we're dedicated to transforming degraded landscapes through community-driven solutions that foster sustainability, biodiversity, and long-term resilience.

**WEDNESDAY**

**29 JANUARY, 2025**

### **MISSION**

We strive for a better environment through active management and restoration of degraded ecosystems by replanting and reducing pressure on land and building climate-resilient projects

### **VISION**

To nurture a value-driven society that actively champions people, climate action, and nature conservation for a sustainable future.

Sustainability is at the heart of our mission to restore land and livelihoods. Explore how our community-driven initiatives, such as agroforestry training, indigenous tree planting, and school-based greening, are promoting eco-friendly land use across Baringo's drylands. By integrating Earth Observation tools, climate-smart farming, and environmental education, we're helping smallholder farmers and local youth reduce land degradation, boost biodiversity, and build resilient futures.

### **INNOVATIONS DRIVING SUSTAINABLE LAND USE AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

Stay ahead of the curve with insights into the latest trends shaping the land restoration and agroforestry sector. Discover how innovations like Earth Observation tools, seedball technology, and climate-smart farming systems are transforming the way communities restore degraded ecosystems and build sustainable livelihoods.



## **GROWING RESILIENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY-LED REFORESTATION**





# INSIDE OUR THRIVING NURSERY MAKEOVER

## Greener Workspaces, Happier Teams

Our nursery transformation has created an ideal environment for nurturing diverse tree seedlings, combining optimal soil conditions, water management, and care. This revitalized space supports biodiversity and strengthens our restoration efforts by producing robust plants ready to thrive in the field.

## Sustainability starts from within

Our nursery is the heartbeat of restoration efforts, where every seedling is nurtured with care and commitment. Through precise soil management, optimal watering, and dedicated attention, we cultivate healthy young trees ready to thrive in their natural environments. This foundation empowers our mission to restore degraded landscapes and support resilient ecosystems for generations to come.

## RECENT UPDATES:

### Tree Treasures

Our nursery grows a diverse mix of indigenous and fruit tree seedlings, chosen to restore biodiversity and ecosystems.

### Soil Protection

Mulching conserves soil moisture, suppresses weeds, and improves nursery seedling growth.

### Eco-Friendly Office

Our office embraces sustainable practices, reducing waste and conserving energy daily.



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# SCHOOL MENTORSHIP

## OUR FUTURE GREEN STARS



We mentor children in tree growing, seedling planting, and seedballing. This hands-on program teaches land restoration and empowers students to care for the environment, representing our wider school outreach efforts.

Kids learn how to grow trees and restore the land. We plant seedlings and make seedballs to help nature. Together, we make the earth green and healthy for all living things.



*Lelen Primary students are planting tree seedlings to help restore and green their school environment.*



*Lelen Primary students are happily throwing seed balls to restore nature.*

## YOUNG GUARDIANS OF NATURE

A school greening program helps students learn how to plant trees and care for the environment. Through fun activities and mentorship, kids grow into young leaders who protect nature and make their school greener and healthier.



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# COMMUNITY ACTION



## BARSEMOI COMMUNITY FOR LAND RESTORATION

Led by the Plus One Tree Initiative, the Barsemoi community is actively restoring degraded land through planting indigenous trees and seedball dispersal. This community-driven project combats soil erosion, enhances biodiversity, and rebuilds healthy ecosystems.

By empowering local people with restoration skills, the initiative fosters climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods, and a greener future for both the environment and generations to come.



*Once fertile land in Barsemoi now lies degraded, inspiring urgent community restoration action.*



*In Barsemoi, community members come together to plant trees and restore their land, reviving hope, ecosystems, and sustainable livelihoods.*

## INVESTING IN NATURE'S FUTURE

By supporting community-led tree planting and seedball projects, donors help restore degraded lands, combat climate change, and empower local livelihoods. Together, we can nurture resilient ecosystems that provide lasting benefits for people, wildlife, and the planet.



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# ROOTED FUTURE

## GROWING LIVELIHOODS, RESTORING LAND

In the heart of Kapkirwok, a transformative community-led tree nursery is taking root. This flagship project replaces unsustainable shifting cultivation with tree-based livelihoods, including coffee farming.

By restoring degraded land and enhancing biodiversity, it builds long-term climate resilience and offers sustainable income opportunities for local families.



*Young tree seeds sprouting in the nursery marking the first step toward restoring healthy forests and thriving ecosystems.*



*In Kapkirwok, thriving coffee plantations are growing strong, thanks to sustainable farming practices promoted by the Plus One Tree Initiative, supporting local livelihoods and restoring the land.*

## LIVELIHOOD TRANSITION

We support livelihoods by promoting coffee farming integrated with agroforestry. This sustainable approach provides reliable income, enhances soil health, and boosts biodiversity, empowering farmers to restore degraded land while building climate-resilient, thriving communities for a sustainable future.



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## OUR IMPACT

We've raised 100,000 tree seedlings, empowered over 300 local farmers and youth with sustainable livelihoods through agroforestry and coffee farming, and greened 5 schools through mentorship programs focused on tree growing and restoration. Together, these efforts are transforming landscapes, restoring ecosystems, and building a climate-resilient future from the ground up.



established greening and environmental mentorship programs in 5 local schools, inspiring young minds through hands-on tree planting, seedballing, and climate education.



100,000+ Tree Seedlings Raised  
Indigenous fruit and high-value trees are nurtured across community nurseries for restoration and livelihoods.



300+ Local Farmers & Youth engaged in sustainable livelihoods through coffee farming, agroforestry, and tree nursery development offering viable alternatives to shifting cultivation and restoring degraded landscapes.

Through Sustainable Development Goals 15 (Life on Land), 13 (Climate Action), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), we collaborate to restore ecosystems, combat climate change, ensure food security, and foster global partnerships for sustainable, community-driven impact.

## "Stay inspired. Never stop restoring Land."

We call for partners and like minded institutions to support our mission. Together we can scale impact, transform more lives, and restore degraded landscapes across entire communities. Join us in empowering local farmers, greening schools, mentoring youth, and expanding our nursery network to grow hope one seedling, one community, one future at a time.



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# GLOBAL IMPACT

## GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN CLIMATE ACTION

Our Founder, Bennittes Kipyegon, was honored to speak at the Annual Ocean Network AGM in Prague on July 13-14, 2024. Invited to address alumni on environment and climate change, he presented our innovative land restoration use case and actively sought partnerships to broaden our community impact.



*Our Founder Bennittes Kipyegon presenting at the Annual Ocean Network AGM held at the Hermitage Hotel, Prague, sharing insights on land restoration and climate action.*



*Bennittes guides participants through an interactive training session focused on tree planting and sustainable land restoration techniques.*

## HANDS-ON LEARNING

Bennittes leads a dynamic training session, empowering participants with practical skills in tree planting, indigenous knowledge, and land restoration. Through hands-on activities and expert guidance, attendees gain knowledge to support sustainable ecosystems and contribute to long-term climate resilience in their communities.



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# UNCCD COP 16

## RIYADH, 2024



### AT UNCCD COP 16 RIYADH SAUDI ARABIA

Our team participated in the UNCCD COP16 held from December 2 to 14 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. We presented our restoration use case of the Lake Baringo Basin, supported by GEO-LDN, showcasing the power of Earth Observation (EO) data in driving effective landscape restoration.



*Plus One Tree Initiative team representing community-led restoration efforts at UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia sharing our Lake Baringo Basin success story powered by GEO-LDN support.*



*Our Kenya country team joined global delegates at the GEO-LDN Dialogue Forum side event, exchanging ideas and sharing Kenya's roadmap for landscape restoration.*

### GLOBAL DIALOGUE FORUM 2024

During the GEO-LDN Global Dialogue Forum, held as a side event at UNCCD COP16, our team joined 11 country delegations to share Kenya's progress in land restoration. We presented our roadmap, highlighted Lake Baringo's restoration strides, and exchanged strategies for scaling EO-driven solutions across landscapes.



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Bennittes Kipyegon

## Message from the Founder

At Plus One Tree Initiative, we believe that restoring landscapes is not just about planting trees; it's about rebuilding hope, livelihoods, and climate resilience from the ground up. Each seedling we raise, each school we mentor, and every partnership we build reflects our deep-rooted commitment to a greener, fairer future.

In 2024, we made great strides, from engaging schools in greening programs to expanding our flagship tree nursery in Kapkirwok and presenting our work on global platforms like the UNCCD COP16 and GEO-LDN. These milestones remind us that local action, when guided by community voices and supported with the right tools, can drive global impact.

As we look ahead, I invite you, our friends, partners, and changemakers, to walk with us. Together, we can grow more than trees. We can grow resilience, equity, and a planet that thrives for generations to come.



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### More Information:

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