

Rooting Change:

The Sengwer Community Tree Nursery



Nestled in the heart of the Embobut Forest, a community-led revival is taking root. What started as an ambitious collaboration in 2024 between the Eldoret-Iten Water Fund (EIWF) and the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) has blossomed into a beacon of sustainability and empowerment. The Sengwer People, long-standing custodians of nature, are not just planting trees, they are cultivating resilience.

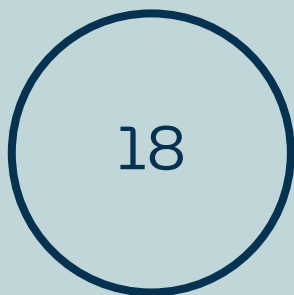
The Sengwer tree nursery, the first of its kind under the EIWF-KFS partnership, became a reality through collective effort. With nursery equipment supplied by the EIWF and training conducted by Kapyego Forest Station Manager, the community was equipped with both knowledge and tools to succeed. Under the careful supervision of the Sengwer Council of Elders Chair, Mr. Kiptuga, the nursery became a source of livelihood and a testament to the power of community-driven conservation.

“This job gives me purpose because I have seen the land degradation challenges my community faces.” – Timo, member.

In just a year, the nursery prepared an impressive 43,000 tree seedlings, all of which were purchased by the EIWF, an achievement that underscored the dedication of the 18 people working tirelessly within the nursery. Among them are women and youth, individuals who now have a sustainable source of income while playing an integral role in environmental restoration. For many, this initiative represents more than just employment, it is an opportunity to reaffirm their role as stewards of nature.

Building on their resilience and deep connection to their homeland, the nursery now holds over 300,000 tree seedlings awaiting maturity. These seedlings will soon be supplied to restore degraded parts of the Cherang’any ecosystem, their ancestral home, and even landscapes beyond, turning their commitment into tangible restoration impact.

Impact Snapshot



Women and youth
employed



Tree seedlings
supplied in 2024



Tree seedlings as of
September, 2025

The trees the community are nurturing today are more than just saplings, they are living proof that when people come together for a cause greater than themselves, they can sow the seeds of a greener, more sustainable tomorrow.

By supporting initiatives like this, we not only restore landscapes but also empower Indigenous communities to lead the way in environmental stewardship. Let’s stand with the Sengwer and nurture the roots of change together.