



# the green belt movement

ANNUAL REPORT 2013





## table of contents

“We owe it to ourselves  
and to the next generation  
to conserve the environment  
so that we can bequeath our  
children a sustainable world  
that benefits all.”

— PROFESSOR WANGARI MAATHAI  
Founder, The Green Belt Movement

3	Letter from the Green Belt Movement (GBM) Board Chair
4	Our Story
4	Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies
	Key Achievements of 2013
6	<i>Tree Planting</i>
8	<i>Advocacy and Climate Change</i>
10	<i>Community Empowerment and Education (CEE)</i>
12	Financial Statement
14	Supporters and Partners
16	In Memoriam — <i>A Tribute to Wangari Maathai</i>

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# letter from the GBM board chair



Dear Friends,

I send you warm greetings from the Green Belt Movement (GBM). This year was a particularly important year for the Green Belt Movement family. I felt in all of us a sense of renewal and resurgence. I hope that through this annual report you will see concrete evidence of our optimism and renewed energy.

When, at the end of 2012, during our Annual Programme Review, our guest speaker urged us to “step into the light” and move GBM to the next level, it felt like an impossible task. He added this question: “If Wangari were to return today, would she be proud of the Green Belt Movement she would find?” Those were the words we needed to hear and 2013 has indeed made us all proud of the Green Belt Movement. Indeed, Prof (as we called her at GBM) also would be proud of the resurgence of GBM today.

We are excited about the re-alignment of GBM programmes that has brought to the fore GBM's work in protecting and restoring the most critically degraded watershed areas in Kenya. The link between intact forests, climate mitigation and improved livelihoods has never been clearer. Now the urgency is to ensure that the communities we work with also make these connections. GBM continues to seek new ways of highlighting the critical and central role the environment plays in changing the lives of the communities we work with.

That's why the addition of our Bamboo Biomass and Entrepreneurship Project in Murang'a is so exciting. I have been struck by the fact that energy access continues to be a massive development challenge across Africa. Fewer than 7% of rural households in Kenya have access to electricity, and more than 90% of the rural population depends on firewood for cooking and heating (and will for the next fifty years). For the foreseeable future, therefore, Kenya will need access to sustainable sources of firewood, charcoal, and other forest products at a massive scale, if our forest ecosystems are to remain intact. Bamboo is showing great promise as both a fuel and cash crop: its rapid growth, high income potential, source of firewood and easy conversion to charcoal make it one to watch.

The Bamboo Project, a partnership between GBM and Waterstone Norway, is on the cutting edge of moving this discussion forward. We are promoting the planting of indigenous bamboo to demonstrate that it can serve multiple roles: conservation, climate mitigation, fuel (firewood and charcoal) as well as offer economic opportunities in the crafting of bamboo products. I was amazed to learn that from the same acreage, bamboo yields four and a half times more biomass than eucalyptus! The rapid turnover and consequently high production of biomass makes bamboo suitable as a feedstock for clean cooking stoves. I am grateful to the visionary Board of Directors of GBM for agreeing to allocate five acres of GBM owned land for this exciting bamboo pilot project in Murang'a.

Today, we are more determined than ever to keep the legacy of our founder alive and to continue to push boundaries in search of transformative change. I will always be grateful to the many friends and partners who stood by us and encouraged us to soldier on, that peace will come in time and that GBM will begin to rise again. It has! Thank you for your continued encouragement and support. They have meant a lot to us over the past two years. I am honoured to provide the strategic leadership to an organization I know has such enormous promise and potential. Drawing on our strong roots and looking firmly toward the future, I believe that for GBM the best is yet to come.

Sincerely,

WANJIRA MATHAI, CHAIR  
The Green Belt Movement Board



## our story

**Green Belt Movement (GBM)** has been engaging women in environmental conservation and community mobilisation for climate change adaptation and mitigation for over three decades. During this time over 51 million trees have been planted and thousands of lives have been impacted. GBM has supported more than 4,000 community groups in Kenya forming the grassroots network that is the backbone of GBM's work. When it was founded in 1977, GBM sought to respond to the needs of rural Kenyan women who reported that their streams were drying up, their food supply was less secure, and they had to walk further and further to get firewood for fuel, building and fencing. GBM encouraged them to work together to grow seedlings and plant trees to bind the soil, store rainwater, provide food and firewood and receive a small monetary token of appreciation for their work.

Shortly after beginning this work, Professor Maathai saw that behind the everyday hardships faced by populations — poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation, water scarcity, deforestation and food insecurity — were deeper issues of disempowerment, disenfranchisement, political and economic mis-governance, inequities and loss of ethics, values and traditional practices that had previously cushioned and enabled communities to protect their livelihoods, work together for mutual benefit of all, and to do so both selflessly and honestly for the common good. The Green Belt Movement, then an independent organisation, instituted seminars

in Community Education and Empowerment (CEE) to encourage individuals and communities to analyze why they lacked agency to change their political, economic and environmental circumstances and what they could do to change the status quo that had betrayed them and their aspirations. On the other hand, even those in the community were undermining and sabotaging their own lives by not working with their environment and for failing to manage their natural resources wisely and in accordance to the rules of nature. As a result they suffered drought related famine, soil erosion and dwindling water supplies.



## Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies

### Hosting the wPOWER Hub

The U.S. Department of State launched the Partnership on Women's Entrepreneurship in Renewables ("wPOWER") in January 2013 at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies founded by Professor Wangari Maathai in partnership with the Green Belt Movement. wPOWER aims to empower more than 8,000 women clean energy entrepreneurs across East Africa, Nigeria and India who will deliver clean energy access to more than 3.5 million people over the next three years.



The CEE seminars remain a cornerstone of the Green Belt Movement's success seeking to facilitate the process of self-empowerment and inspiring individuals in communities to find their agency and take action. With time, the movement experienced that working with women who had gone through this empowerment process engendered community transformation. This was because when women are empowered economically, psychologically or with the necessary tools and skills to change their circumstances, they often always invest in bettering their families and communities.



## OUR VISION

A values-driven society of people who consciously work for continued improvement of their livelihoods and a greener, cleaner world.

## OUR MISSION

We strive for better environmental management, community empowerment, and livelihood improvement using tree planting as an entry point.

“This stream dried sometimes back, but from the time we planted trees with Green Belt Movement, it no longer dries, it should be called Green Belt, now I believe trees bring rain.”

—MIRIAM WAMBUI  
Donduri forest, Nakuru County

To reach this goal, the U.S. Department of State and USAID have teamed up with the MacArthur Foundation, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, CARE International, Solar Sister, Swayam Shikshan Prayog and the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies. Under the leadership of Wanjira Mathai, wPOWER Project Director and GBM Board Chair, the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies is playing a critical role as the host of the wPOWER Hub. The Hub will build the evidence base on women, energy access and climate

solutions; hold Trainers of Trainers workshop; facilitate Africa/India women entrepreneur and leadership exchanges to build a network of women climate leaders and build public awareness.

The wPOWER hub will partner with GBM's 4,000 community groups. This will further expand wPOWER networks of clean energy entrepreneurs and introduce new livelihood opportunities to GBM's grassroots women leaders.

## KEY 2013 ACHIEVEMENTS

# tree planting

*The Green Belt Movement has aligned its strategy with Kenya's Vision 2030, which aims to transform Kenya into a middle-income economy by 2030. The environment component calls for increasing Kenya's forest cover to 10 percent by 2030. This is an ambitious goal; however it is one which GBM has long supported in its own targets for the five water towers of Kenya.*

### **The Bamboo Biomass and Entrepreneurship Pilot Project in Kenya**

The lush green farms of Maragua constituency in Murang'a County is the backdrop for the Bamboo Biomass and Entrepreneurship project launched by the Green Belt Movement (GBM) in April 2013, in partnership with Waterstone, Norway. The aim of this pilot project is to encourage propagating, planting and nurturing indigenous bamboo varieties, both for conservation as well as economic benefits. GBM conducted a two-day intensive training workshop at Kitil farm where twenty four women representatives from Maragua were trained on how to effectively grow bamboo and its various uses. Over 1,500 bamboo seedlings have been planted on a twelve-acre piece of land owned by GBM.

The opportunity for Bamboo as a source of biomass energy is immense and the biomass benefits of bamboo impressive: from the same acreage, bamboo gives

four and a half times more biomass than eucalyptus. The rapid turnover and consequently high production of biomass makes bamboo suitable as feedstock for cooking stoves. Bamboo is renewable and can be used on degraded land. It also lends itself to larger scale propagation for energy. It has been estimated that for the next forty years in Africa, biomass energy will continue to be a major part of the energy equation. Success in the "energy for all" agenda area, therefore, will necessarily include alternative biomass feedstock for firewood and charcoal production. The possibilities for bamboo are therefore great and GBM is on the cutting edge of establishing this potential.

### **The Aberdare Ecosystem**

The Green Belt Movement (GBM) finalized the identification of GBM's priority watershed areas in Kenya's five major water towers (thirty watersheds in twenty-five counties). All watershed-based project implementation will be integrated and combine a series of criteria to ensure all projects are designed for impact. One of the elements to be considered is water quality. GBM works on the premise that when forests regain their integrity, water systems rivers, streams, and aquifers—are also restored. In partnership with Global Water Watch (GWW), GBM is empowering communities to monitor water quality at the grassroots level. The overall goal is to ensure that communities make the connection between the quality of their water and the health of their natural environment—indeed a healthy environment support healthy rivers.

Protection and rehabilitation of the Aberdares ecosystem is key to the realisation of Kenya's vision 2030 which is the country's economic blueprint that aims to make Kenya a middle income country by 2030. Recent studies (Environment, Social and Economic Assessment of the fencing of the Aberdares 2011) indicate that the Aberdares ecosystem contributes about 2% to Kenya's GDP (KES 56 billion at 2011 estimates). About 25% of the Kenyan population, in Central Province, Nairobi and parts of Rift Valley, Eastern, North Eastern and Coast provinces depend on the Aberdares water for domestic use and agriculture. The Aberdares ecosystem is also key to increasing the irrigation potential in the Tana River basin with an estimated potential of 205,000 hectares (Ha).



GBM is working with communities around Maragua by training them on bamboo's economic value.



Its importance in the energy sector, tourism, horticulture/ floriculture, smallholder and large-scale agriculture and carbon sequestration is of considerable value. The Aberdares Ranges therefore, has a national significance and its destruction would result in a national disaster.

### **Afforestation of Sondu Miriu River Catchment**

In 2013, the Green Belt Movement (GBM) successfully applied and was awarded a three-year contract by the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum to rehabilitate the Sondu Miriu River Catchment, in the Mau Conservancy. A project of the Kenya Energy and Environment Social Responsibility Programme (KEEP) Fund of the Ministry of Energy, the Sondu Miriu Restoration Project was established following a presidential directive on the need for the government and its parastatals to engage in environmental conservation.

The project is located in Chepalungu forest (Bomet County), and lies within Migori Watershed, part of the greater Mau Water Tower. By employing an integrated catchment-based approach in its implementation of the project, GBM will restore just over 155 Ha of degraded forests with the local community by planting 248,960 indigenous trees and empowering women to seek alternative sources of fuel to reduce the pressure on the forest. The Chepalugu Forest ecosystem sustains the Sondu Miriu hydroelectricity generation dam, which produces 80 megawatts (MW) of electricity yearly.

Other activities of the project have involved the mobilisation of community and youth groups, Community Forest Association (CFA), relevant stakeholders, and local and county administration to raise awareness about the role of the forest in sustaining their daily lives.

To date, 50 Ha of the 155 Ha have been planted with 80,000 tree seedlings with the remaining 105 Ha ready for planting in the coming rainy season. The sourcing of seedlings to be planted continues through the mobilisation and training of groups to supply the tree seedlings. A total of 700 community members from different age groups and gender composition have participated in conservation efforts of the site to date, providing services that include site preparation, seedling production, supervision and after-care of planted seedlings.

“We have been experiencing erratic rainfall and drying of rivers in Bomet but we didn’t know that these are effects of climate change; now we are aware and we know how to reverse the trend, thanks to the Green Belt Movement.”

—MR. KIRWAI  
Community leader, Kapchumbe Bomet County

### **Integrated Rehabilitation and Conservation of Kirisia Forest Watersheds**

The Green Belt Movement (GBM) partnered with the Prince Albert II of Monaco, Yves Rocher, and the Schooner Foundations to conduct a three-year project to rehabilitating Kirisia Forest watershed. GBM used its watershed-based approach to begin the rehabilitation of 55 Ha of degraded Kirisia forest with indigenous trees. A total of 132,897 trees have been planted to date: 25,000 multipurpose agro-forestry tree species on-farms, 52,427 in public schools and 55,470 indigenous conservation trees on mapped high priority sites within Kirisia watershed. Kirisia forest is in Samburu County and has many forests and woodlands.

In addition to rehabilitating this area, GBM has also purchased Geographic Information Monitoring (GIS) tools to facilitate forest monitoring in the project area, which has greatly enhanced surveillance of the planted sites. In addition, community members have been trained on participatory Geographical Information System mapping and map interpretation. In total, GBM has successfully mobilised and registered thirty-five new Tree Nursery Groups (TNGs) encompassing 359 green members of which 259 are women and 100 are men within 292 households.

## advocacy and climate change

*The Green Belt Movement advocates from the grassroots level and continues to play a role in climate change mitigation and adaptation by restoring and protecting forest watersheds, piloting climate finance models, advancing good governance and cultures of peace and creating sustainable livelihoods.*

### Children and Youth in Peace Building

In December 2013, the Green Belt Movement (GBM), in partnership with Green Cross Sweden, organised the first SPECO (Sports, Peace, Environment and Cohesion) Marathon, which was held in Rift Valley Region. The events were hosted in two counties, Nakuru and Baringo, home to some of Kenya's world known athletes like Paul Tergat. Over 300 persons registered to participate in the marathon.

This event was a success and celebrated a peaceful transition following the national elections and enhanced community cohesion post-election. This was significant because in the past this was a region riddled with inter-ethnic clashes around elections. The marathon was held on a public holiday set aside to mark fifty years of Kenya's independence. This was the first marathon hosted by the Rift Valley Regional office at the urging and leadership of the Green Belt Movement (GBM). Fifty peace trees were planted to mark the event and celebrate Kenya's "Fiftieth Birthday" at a newly identified Wangari Maathai Peace garden inside Kipsyenan Secondary School. A peace torch was carried by the runners and handed over to the Regional Commissioner symbolising cultivating cultures of peace in the region through sports.

The goal of the marathon was to reflect, celebrate and re-energize efforts aimed at strengthening sports, peace, environmental conservation and the deepening of peaceful co-existence of communities living in the Rift Valley Region through community driven and inclusive peace building events.



GBM Staff and a community member during a radio session at Radio Serian.

### Training of Communities through Radio

GBM identified radio broadcasts as a powerful tool to send out information, education and knowledge to build to communities' capacity to interrogate and engage them in the development discourse. Due to very low literacy levels prevailing within the Samburu County most members are not aware of their basic bill of rights as stipulated by Kenyan law. They shy away from confronting their political leaders on accountability, equitable sharing and access to resources. This has contributed to the destruction and loss of forest in the region due to lack of meaningful representation and engagement of communities at governance levels.

The radio is a powerful education tool considering that most of the community members have very low literacy levels and have no access to the main grid or television. GBM has partnered with Serian FM to broadcast themes that affect community livelihoods, enhance sustainable natural resource management, promote indigenous knowledge and remains a powerful tool for community advocacy, peace initiatives, and mobilization. During this project period GBM supported 88 morning live radio shows that were repeated the same evening at 8pm when all people are settled back into their homes. The guest presenters on the show included the Kirisia Community Forest association, Kenya Forest Service, Professional Community Resource persons, and the Green Belt Movement.



## **Sustainability, Peace and Security – Conflict Mitigation in the Rift Valley Region**

Peace and security remain two of Kenya's priority development cornerstones. The inequitable distribution of wealth, natural resources and land are major factors that continue to trigger conflict during general elections. The post-election violence of 2007–2008 brought a political and humanitarian crisis of historical proportions. Some 1,500 civilians were brutally killed and over 360,000 of the population were internally displaced.

The Peace and Reconciliation project aims to strengthen peace building through identifying and nurturing the existing community peace building structures, such as the Peace Building Committees' (PBCs) in Molo, Kuresoi and Naivasha Constituencies.

The Peace and Reconciliation Project, also known as the Peace Tent Project, was implemented in Nakuru County and consisted of several districts including Molo, Naivasha and Kuresoi. This county was classified as a post-election violence hot spot, and hosted over 200,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in camps all over the region. The project targeted its work towards District Peace Committees, the Provincial Commissioner, in charge of internal security for the region, as well as the Peace Building Committees, women groups, youth groups, school children and teachers.

The project facilitated the development of nineteen strong local mechanisms for conflict mitigation and conflict transformation, by establishing and training peace keeping strategies and structures through the District Peace Committee networks. A total of 50 members were trained to support the District Peace Committees, which consisted of fifteen individuals incorporated into community elder forums.

The project promoted peace through radio shows, in various dialects, focusing on the new provisions of the Kenyan Constitution that promote peace: the Bill of Rights, leadership and integrity, devolved government and national values and principles of governance. A community hotline was also set up to monitor and inform on any outbreaks of violence, to report threats of violence by an early warning trigger, and to facilitate immediate response from the government security agents in the region.

Commenting on the effects of climate change that has led to reduction on rainfall in the region:

“At this time of the year, maize is usually over knee high but this year the maize is still at ankle height and was planted at the same time.”

— JACKLINE NYARANGI  
women group leader, Cherangany

## **Climate Change and Women's Empowerment**

Along with the PRBB Foundation, GBM held a train-the-trainers workshop for community environmental leaders on environmental stewardship and community-based conservation approaches.

Twenty community leaders were trained over 4 days in Nairobi, bringing together women from various counties to build their capacity in climate adaptation strategies for their own regions, food security, water harvesting, and energy saving technologies.

The team returned to their respective counties, each charged with training 20 more women, enabling the training of 1,000 women. These new leaders also committed to establish at least 2 adaptation strategies on their farms, to be shown to at least 50 other households in the neighborhood, so at least 1,000 households will gain these skills.

This program builds understanding and capacity in rural communities and raises national awareness of the local role in tackling climate change.

GBM partners with corporate firms to plant trees as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in Ngong and Karura forests.



## community empowerment and education

*The Community Empowerment and Education (CEE) programme of the Green Belt Movement educates communities about the linkages between human activity and the environment, which empowers communities to come together, take action and stand up for their rights.*

### Tree Planting with the Military

The Green Belt Movement (GBM) continues to expand its tree planting partnerships with the government and other corporate entities, particularly in urban areas. Working closely with the Kenya Army, under the auspices of the environmental soldier programme set up by Professor Wangari Maathai and then Chief of General staff, General Jeremiah Kianga, of the then Kenya Armed Forces has been a highlight of this programme. The aim of this partnership is to plant trees on land managed by the army as well as for the soldiers to support GBM to plant trees on public lands. The army provides much needed logistical support, including vehicles to transport seedlings in areas that are not easily accessible.

During the October to November rainfall in 2013, GBM undertook its first ever mass tree planting initiative in Kirisia Forest. Under the theme of “trees for peaceful coexistence and biodiversity conservation” the project brought together the county government leaders, Samburu political leaders, the Kenyan military, Friends of Kirisia Forest, green groups, members of Kirisia Community Forest Associations (CFA) and the general Samburu community to plant a total of 132,897 trees to date, of which 25,000 are multipurpose agro-forestry species on-farms, 52,427 in public schools and 55,470 indigenous conservation trees on high priority sites within the Kirisia watershed to restore the biodiversity and peaceful coexisting.

Since 2006, GBM's tree-planting programme with the Kenya Army has expanded to include Civic & Environmental Education (CEE) training seminars on climate change and supplemental courses about the environment. Hundreds of thousands of trees have



Community member planting a tree with the KDF soldier during a tree planting activity.

been planted by soldiers, and the barracks routinely evaluate their tree-planting operations to improve their techniques. Mass tree-planting activities with the Kenya Defence Force has attracted the attention of local and international media causing great impact in advocating for environmental conservation in Kenya. GBM also partners with corporations to plant trees as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. Some of the corporations that planted trees in Ngong and Karura forests with the Green Belt Movement included Citibank Kenya, Standard Chartered Bank Corporate and IT Department, Postal Corporation Kenya, Trees for Cities and Peponi House Preparatory School.

*“We have seen how environmental destruction can harm the nation. Our members have received a lot of training from Green Belt Movement in the past — what we need to do now is to put the knowledge into practice to secure our livelihoods”*

—MR. MUYA  
Geta CFA chairman, Kinangop



## Renewable Clean Energy Solutions

In Samburu County, the main source of cooking, heating and lighting fuel for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists comes from forest resources, mainly wood. This wood is often obtained from already highly degraded surrounding forests. In order to ameliorate this over exploitation, the Green Belt Movement (GBM) has initiated a project that empowers women on alternative sources of clean and renewable sources of energy, while also securing the health and hygiene of women in the Manyattas homesteads.

GBM has conducted capacity building workshops on renewable clean energy solutions amongst tree nursery group members and women entrepreneurs in Porro, Shabaa, Loikas, Tamiyoi and Ngari villages. Women were introduced to a variety of clean cook stove technologies and briquette making skills. This will facilitate the adoption of these sustainable energy solutions and ultimately enhance the health of rural women and children by reducing indoor air pollution caused by inefficient cooking and lighting. In addition to tree planting, the women will have alternative sources of fuel while at the same time grow their own fuel trees on their farms. The women who attended the training are now sharing this knowledge with other community members and building affordable and efficient cook stoves within their villages. Twenty-one households from Nanyok women group and Rangau self-help group have constructed efficient cook stoves in their homes.

This initiative will go a long way in saving trees, both in forests as well as on community land, and will also reduce the time women spend collecting fuel every day.



Samburu women assembling the clean stove inside their manyatta (house).



A Green Belt volunteer visiting one of the trained beekeepers.

## Nutrition, Income and River Protection

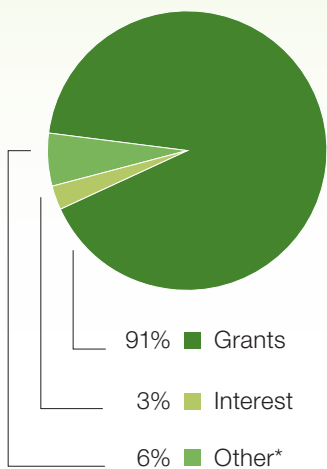
Honey has been an important part of the human diet for millennia, and gathering wild honey predates agriculture in many parts of the world. In Kenya, traditional cultures placed a high value on honey and related products of the beehive. A new project of Global Water Watch (GWW) at Auburn University and the Green Belt Movement in Kenya is finding innovative ways to link honey production with improved nutrition, higher incomes, community development, and river protection.

Beekeeping builds community solidarity and economic stability that allows people to consider other activities, including community service and volunteerism. Raised incomes from beekeeping allow people to pay for their children's school fees and otherwise increase the family's quality of life. It also allows them to think broadly about environmental protection and restoration, and to consider getting personally involved with watershed stewardship.

# financial statement

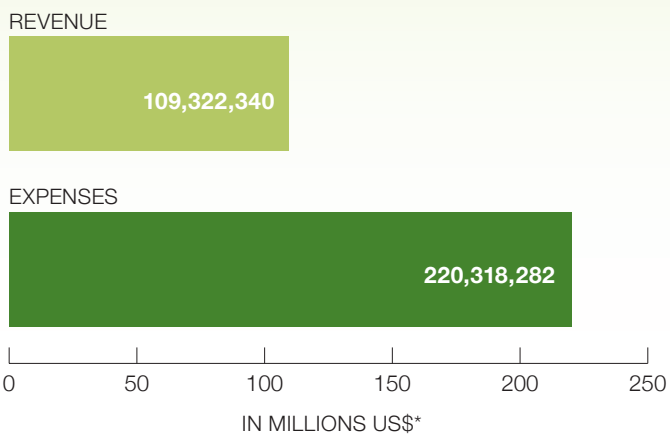
FY2012

## Revenue Sources



\*includes Langata Learning Centre, Green Belt Safaris and GIS

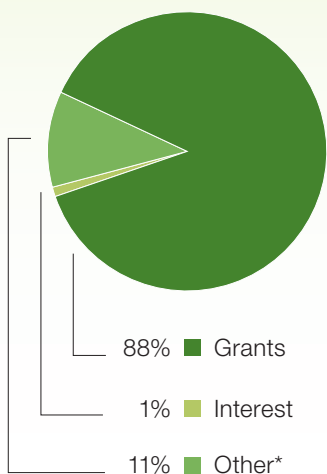
## Revenue vs Expenses



\*Calculated from Kenyan Shillings

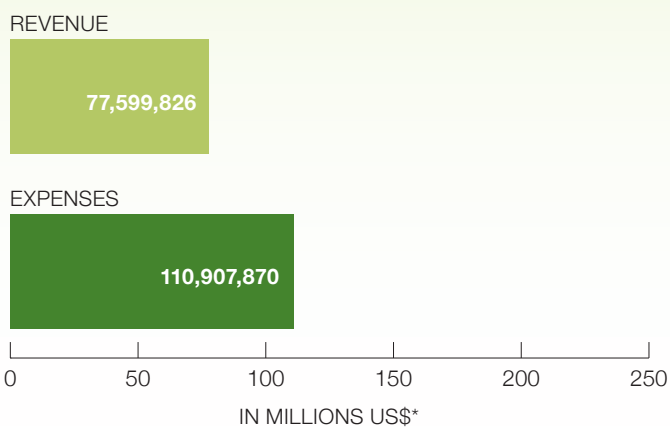
FY2013

## Revenue Sources



\*includes Langata Learning Centre, Green Belt Safaris and GIS

## Revenue vs Expenses



\*Calculated from Kenyan Shillings





“Since the Green Belt Movement set foot in that school the school has been the mirror of many and everyone wants to be associated with the school.”

— JENIFER  
Kamara Primary School, Molo

Community members taking a field course in kitchen gardening, at the Langata Training Centre

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#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. These figures are a summarised version of the Green Belt Movement's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013. A full set of accounts can be obtained from the headquarters in Nairobi. Separate annual accounts from Green Belt Movement International-Europe and US offices can be requested from those offices separately.
2. The exchange rate value for Kenyan Shillings to US Dollars was calculated at the annual average of 88.87. The figures are expressed in US Dollars to assist appreciation of the overall funding position.

# supporters and partners

*The Green Belt Movement gratefully acknowledges the outstanding contributions of our donors and stakeholders. Their support is helping to ensure that we succeed in providing better environmental management, community empowerment, and livelihood improvement using tree planting as an entry point.*

## **\$100,000+**

MacArthur Foundation

## **\$10,000+**

AMREF

Ashden Trust

Exchange Gain

Family Health International

Foundation Philanthropia

General Funds GBM

Green Cross - Peace Pack

Green Belt Safaris

Hafslund Oslo

Interest Income

Jambo Tours

Joan Stroud Blaine

Jonathan Auerbach Memorial Fund

Mainichi Newspapers

Miscellaneous Income

Mitsubishi Corporation

Nobel Women's Initiative

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Lorna Taylor

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Standard Chartered Bank

Shaklee Million Trees

The Nature Conservancy

Tudor Trust

Trees for Cities

USAID (United States Agency for  
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Nina Dougar

Peg Snyder





“Like a seedling, with sun, good soil, and abundant rain, the roots of our future will bury themselves in the ground and a canopy of hope will reach into the sky.”

— WANGARI MAATHAI

RSF Small Planet Fund

Roy Cederholm, Jr.

Size of Wales

Source Logistic/Optimal Print

Stephanie Van Dyke

Strileckis Oil/Alison Parker

The John McAslan Family  
Charitable Trust

Vermont Energy Investment Group

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DLA Piper

Lucinda Crabtree

Wolfgang Merkt

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**The Green Belt Movement** is grateful for the generous support from friends and supporters around the world. Although we don't have room to acknowledge all of our donors by name, the achievements we have accomplished this year would not have been possible without your continuous support. Thank you!



# GBM board and staff

## GBM Kenya Board

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Roger Northcott, COMPANY SECRETARY

**The Green Belt Movement** proudly acknowledges our remarkable staff and volunteers in Kenya and internationally who give generously of their time and talent so that we continue to honour Professor Wangari Maathai's legacy through our globally recognized projects.

in memoriam







## Wangari Muta Maathai 1940–2011

### Her Legacy and Inspiration

“In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground. A time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other. That time is now.”

— PROF. WANGARI MAATHAI in ending her Nobel Prize acceptance speech

From the humble village of Tetu in Nyeri District in Kenya, Wangari Maathai rose to study in prestigious institutions in the USA, Germany and Kenya, becoming the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a Ph.D. She was also the first woman in East Africa to be given a professorship. Professor Maathai, due to her continuous inner inspiration, became involved in the National Council of Women in Kenya and under its auspices founded the Green Belt Movement (GBM) in 1977.

For close to three decades GBM was her way of life. Her clarity of vision, unflagging determination and lobbying skills transformed a good idea of planting trees using ordinary people into a formidable movement. To her credit too were her unique skills of effectively combining and balancing science, social commitment and politics to protect the environment. GBM focused mainly on organising, inspiring and mobilising women’s groups to plant trees to conserve the environment and in the process empower themselves by improving their quality of life. Through GBM, Prof. Wangari Maathai helped women plant more than 51 million trees across Kenya.

Her unwavering struggle for democracy, human rights and environmental conservation earned her international recognition, with some of her most memorable undertakings being the struggle to save Uhuru Park in the 1980s and Karura Forest in the 1990s. Professor Maathai clearly demonstrated her resolve to protect our environment at all costs, a reflection of courage, faith in her mission, patriotism and love for mankind.

Prof. Wangari Maathai worked to link the two great passions of her life: her belief in the need to raise environmental consciousness and her commitment to grassroots development by founding the Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI) at the University of Nairobi.

As Prof. Wangari Maathai envisioned it, WMI has brought the academic experiences on GBM’s community-based networks to future policy-makers, political leaders, and community organisers to understand the realities of ordinary people, and develop far-sighted initiatives to assist them. Students and professionals from across Africa and other continents have also learnt from the values on which the Green Belt Movement was founded.

Prof. Wangari Maathai left behind a blueprint of how to change the world. Through her tireless determination and passion for environmental conservation and women’s rights, she helped unite communities and improve the quality of life for millions of people. She merged environmentalism with concepts of self-worth and self-awareness.

The legacy of Prof. Wangari Muta Maathai lives on!

I am a  
**Hummingbird**



Realising Professor Maathai’s vision of a healthier and more peaceful environment will require not just Kenyan or African action but global action. We are calling on all of her friends from across the world to join in the ‘I am a Hummingbird’ campaign and plant a tree in memory of Professor Maathai and all she stood for. In Professor Maathai’s own words, “It’s the little things citizens do. That’s what will make a difference. My little thing is planting trees.”

the  
green belt  
movement



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