



Dear Green Belt Movement Supporter...

In the spirit of the season, we would like to thank you for your continued support and interest. We are especially grateful for the tree-planting efforts of those who registered with the [Billion Trees Campaign](#). The goal to plant one billion trees worldwide in 2007 was finally reached in November! Another reason to celebrate is Wangari Maathai's recent recognition by [Time Magazine as a Hero of the Environment](#). An exciting end to 2007!

The end of the year is an extra busy time for our staff in Kenya as we prepare for GBM's Annual Program Review in January 2008 and the short rains tree-planting season. Kenya will have general elections planned for the end of December 2007.

2008 is set to be a busy year. In Kenya we are looking at developing tree planting on a larger scale than ever before and internationally, to expand our regional offices to Japan and Wangari Maathai will visit Europe in February-March and the US in April-May 2008. Stay updated on news and events at [GBM's website](#).

Training Workshops in October

GBM training sessions at the Langata Training Center in Nairobi in October 2007 focused on themes of equality and gender. The workshops were led by Maggie Baxter and Jane Esuantsiwa Goldsmith, highly experienced professionals working on women's rights and gender issues.

60 GBM staff ranging from policy makers to volunteers shared their experiences and opinions to raise awareness about gender issues. The workshops tackled questions around gender and sex, and the differences between equality and equity in the workplace and everyday life.

One participant reflected, "...on both gender & empowerment - outlining and expanding differences between gender and sex, it really transformed my mind almost 100%."

The trainers were equally satisfied with the training results: "Everyone was enthusiastic to apply their new found skills and knowledge to their work at both organizational and community level."

[More on the workshop!](#)



GBM staff participate in gender training workshops



GBM Women Visit Haiti

In the early 1990s, then Vice President Al Gore invited Wangari Maathai to join him on a trip to Haiti. He was concerned about the extent of environmental degradation in Haiti and wondered whether GBM could inspire an environmental revolution there. Wangari Maathai had a vision for how GBM could help Haiti.

Last month, the much anticipated visit of the Kenyan delegation representing GBM finally happened. Four women from GBM visited the Lambi Fund of Haiti as part of a long-term partnership and mutual exchange program to inspire tree-planting in Haiti. They attended a national fair which explored themes of domestic agricultural production and food security, participated in a conference about Haiti's environmental and ecological crisis, visited a Lambi Fund greenhouse, and met with members of grassroots organizations and political leaders alike to compare and contrast the contexts in which environmental work is conducted. GBM looks forward to hosting a group of women from Haiti in April 2008.

Climate Change

In October, GBM was delighted at the news of Al Gore and the IPCC being awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. The Norwegian Nobel Committee rightly reminded us that climate change and the resulting consequences are the single biggest threat to world peace today. Wangari Maathai said, "I look forward to working with the new Peace Laureate to promote dialogue and concrete action against global warming."

As we go to press the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali is just getting under way. Green Belt Movement is represented by staff member Fredrick Njau who oversees GBM's carbon offset projects. Professor Maathai has issued a [statement for the conference](#). The conference provides an important forum for discussions about the terms of the new post-Kyoto treaty which will form the foundation for international cooperation on climate change after 2012.

GBM and other organizations will be pushing hard for improvements which promote the protection and restoration of forests as a critical component of the global strategy for reducing greenhouse gases. On the ground, GBM has been planting trees to combat climate change for the benefit of local communities, and partners who want to offset, including the World Bank Biocarbon Fund, Basque Government and others.



Acclaim for *UNBOWED*

Public appreciation for Wangari Maathai's memoir, *Unbowed*, resonates worldwide. The September release of *Unbowed* in paperback took Wangari Maathai on a 2-week speaking tour through the US, which culminated in New York just in time for her participation in the annual Clinton Global Initiative. *Unbowed* also made the New York Times' paperback non-fiction book bestseller list for the first week of October – a delightful surprise!

"Working on Unbowed was a wonderful journey for me... tracing my past and especially honoring those who made such a difference in my life. I believe it is critical for our positive stories to be told to inspire the next generation," commented Wangari Maathai early this month in accepting the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award in the non-fiction category.

[Purchase your copy for the holidays!](#)

The Gift of Giving

Are you looking for a special gift this holiday season? Honor the love and friendship of those you care about by supporting the work of the Green Belt Movement.

Thanks to the support from donors and friends like you, we are able to make lasting change in the lives of rural families in Kenya through:

- Planting trees with existing GBM members for livelihood creation, and start new GBM tree nurseries.
- Supporting education for girls through our scholarships program.
- Helping communities to stand up for their rights through education and legal support.

Request a personalized holiday certificate from your regional GBM office that will acknowledge your donation and enable you to share the messages of GBM.

[Click here to make your gift today.](#)



Wangari Maathai Meets With UN Secretary General to Call for Immediate Release of Political Prisoners in Burma

On September 29th Wangari Maathai visited the UN offices in New York to hand-deliver a statement from 6 of the 7 Nobel Peace Laureates to UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, calling for the immediate release of the their sister Nobel Laureate – Aung San Suu Kyi – and all other political prisoners in Burma.

The statement says, "We women Laureates are doing as Aung San Suu Kyi has asked of people everywhere: using our freedom to promote theirs." Despite several trips to Burma since then by the UN human rights envoys, little has changed. Attacks and arrests of peaceful protesters by the military continue to threaten Burma's democratic development.



Employee Spotlight: Judy Nyguthii Kimamo

Judy was born in the Nyeri District of Kenya and has worked with GBM for 4.5 years. She has a Bachelor of Science in Natural Science – Botany and Zoology. Here she describes how her experiences in GBM have changed her views of the world.

During my years as a student I keenly followed the advocacy activities of Professor Wangari and saw her consistent lifestyle and passion for the conservation and restoration of forests. In her village, her homestead stood out for the huge trees that grew around it. The opportunity for me to later work with GBM came as very exciting. I would find a niche in the movement and contribute to the process of conserving and restoring Mother Earth, while participating as a change agent to improve livelihoods of our communities.

I started working as a Project Officer in the School Environmental Education program and engaged school children in fun nature-based education activities that created enthusiasm and a bond with nature. It was very rewarding and fun. I currently work in the Women and Girls program that seeks to improve their livelihoods by empowering them and strengthening their voices and space in matters of governance, households, and negotiating for their rights (such as the right to good and safe environments, access to quality education, and support for orphans and vulnerable children).

My experience in GBM has greatly changed my worldview. Everyone feels they belong and takes on their role with determination to see positive change. The inclusive process of dialogue, networking, and the management and implementation of programs has made me think Green, work Green, and eat Green – live Green.

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