

# The Green Belt Movement

Annual Report 2010

## 2010 Highlights

- Planted over 4.2 Million trees across Kenya
- Launched GBM's watershed-based approach
- Held Kenya's first REDD Training of Trainers workshop
- Conducted baseline biomass surveys of the Mau Forest
- Led national advocacy activities around the new Kenyan Constitution



# Achievements in 2010

Since 1977, the Green Belt Movement (GBM) communities have planted nearly 47 million trees in Kenya to increase national forest cover and restore essential ecosystems. Forest cover has decreased over the years, and communities have suffered from severe crop failure and water shortages. GBM's community development programmes have evolved to help women and their families address basic needs at the grassroots level.

In 2010 GBM communities planted 4,222,268 trees (with a 5% variance). GBM also expanded in a range of new areas and had some significant successes during the year.

## The Green Belt Movement's watershed-based approach

Water is one of the most important assets that we have on this planet. That is one of the reasons GBM has launched a watershed-based approach to environmental conservation and included it in its tree planting strategy.

A watershed refers to a geographic region where all of the water within it drains into a common point such as a stream, river, pond, lake or other body of water.

The functioning of water catchment areas is crucial to the livelihoods of people in Kenya, and all over the world. They help us with water filtration, water storage, climate regulation, nutrient cycling, disease regulation, and flood control.

If we continue to degrade indigenous forests in watersheds, we undermine livelihoods and future opportunities for rural poor by robbing them of fertile soil and a forest rich in biodiversity. Fertile soils and water resources are crucial to agricultural productivity and the cornerstone in poverty reduction strategies.



Photo above: A water catchment area in which the top circle illustrates the filtering and storage section, the second crops and livestock irrigation and the last one urban consumption. (Photo credit: The Nature Conservancy)

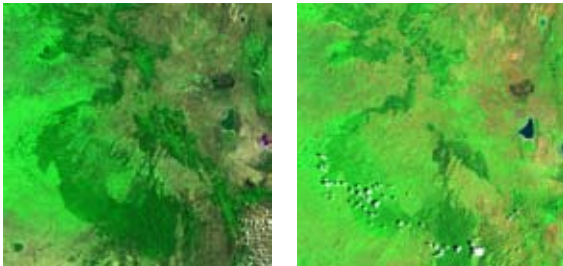


Photo above: The Mau Forest Complex, one of Kenya's five water towers, in 1984 (left) and in 2010 (right) showing extreme deforestation and degradation of the remaining forest. These images were produced by GBM's GIS team.

As Professor Wangari Maathai has said:

*"If you destroy the forest then the river will stop flowing, the rains will become irregular, the crops will fail and you will die of hunger and starvation."*

GBM's watershed-based approach ensures that our tree planting work is focused along critical river watersheds. It allows us to identify the most effective tree planting locations, which will maximise the benefits derived from each tree planted within a particular watershed. Find out more about how the watershed approach benefits local people, the ecosystem and us all on our website.

## Kenya's first REDD "Training of Trainers" workshop.

Tropical Forests cover about 15% of the world's land surface. However they are being rapidly degraded and deforested, approximately 13 million hectares (the size of Nicaragua) a year, resulting in the emission of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere. Emissions from deforestation and degradation activities are the second largest source of greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

In Kenya, as forest cover has decreased to less than 2%, local communities have become more susceptible to climate change, including droughts and floods. GBM has actively engaged grassroots communities to conserve and restore the environment, which will help to buffer themselves against the worst effects of climate change.

GBM with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Woods Hole Research Centre (WHRC) held a Training of Trainers Workshop in August 2010 on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD).



Photo above: Field Officers learning about REDD+

REDD is an initiative by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to tackle climate change through the reduction of carbon emissions from standing forests. In other words, it enables the conservation of forests, the sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks. However, REDD initiatives implemented without first considering the necessity for stronger governance and the needs of local communities may have an overall negative impact.

The workshop was conducted to increase engagement with local communities on REDD, to ensure that the REDD strategy for Kenya addresses community needs and to promote transparency and accountability in decision making. More than 70 field practitioners working at the grassroots level attended the training.

Participants learned key aspects of REDD policy and some of the challenges in stakeholder engagement. They also gained tools to enable them to participate in REDD activities on the ground with local communities.

The workshop enabled participants to engage communities more effectively in the formulation and implementation of Kenya's National REDD Strategy. Since the training, two more workshops have been conducted at the grassroots level to inform communities on climate change, REDD, and their rights and responsibilities. As a result, community groups adjacent to the Mau

forest complex have initiated a pilot climate change mitigation project that will focus on protection of the forest as well as enhancement of the carbon stocks. In 2011, training will be rolled out in many more communities to ensure they understand what could be expected in the event of REDD projects in the future.

### Baseline biomass surveys in the Mau Forest

GBM partnered with the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) to develop and implement a forest carbon project in Enoosupukia Forest Trust Land, which will help alleviate poverty and adapt and mitigate against climate change in the region. The Trust land occupies 8000 hectares in the Mau Forest Complex.

The Mau is Kenya's largest closed-canopy forest ecosystem and an important water catchment area. The forest provides critical ecological services to the country such as regulating river flow, maintaining ground water, purifying water, regulating microclimates and conserving biodiversity. Prior to the 1970s, Enoosupukia Forest Trust Land was covered with forest that supported rich biodiversity including wild animals and indigenous vegetation. Unfortunately, intense conflicts among local populations coupled with increasing poverty have degraded the Enoosupukia Forest.



Photo Above: GBM field staff collecting biomass data

GBM conducted a biomass baseline survey to establish the amount of carbon stocks in Enoosupukia Forest. A biomass baseline survey tells how much biomass (the amount of leaves and woody mass of a tree) exists in a specific geographic area – the more biomass, the more carbon. GBM used GIS and remote sensing techniques to establish baseline stratification and permanent sample plots that were then measured by field staff. The data collected provided a baseline or reference that will be used to determine the changes in carbon stocks (and greenhouse gas removal) over the next 60 years.

The project will reforest 1277 hectares of degraded lands with local endemic species, which will provide local communities with periodic revenue through the sale of carbon credits and will make the region more resilient to climate change.

### National advocacy for the new Kenyan Constitution

Two thousand and ten was an important year for governance in Kenya. On the 5th of August, Kenyan's voted for and passed into law a new constitution. GBM was heavily involved in both advocacy and civic education activities throughout this process and particularly in ensuring that environmental rights were enshrined in the law.

In the 1990s, Kenya embarked to rewrite its constitution but repeated attempts to amend the original constitution were unsuccessful. Following the 2007 general elections and subsequent violence, a committee was reestablished to draft a new constitution. The original constitution did not efficiently address issues of gender equality and lacked adequate provisions on environment and natural resource management.

GBM engaged in civic education activities to raise awareness about the benefits of the new constitution. The benefits include accountability and transparency for public offices, greater participation by the masses including women and girls, an affirmative action clause that ensures women represent at least a third of the government, and a clean and healthy environment for all. GBM hosted and supported month-long media programs to reach communities in and beyond the major cities on the importance of adopting the new constitution.

## Staff Spotlight: Mwangi Maru – Senior Accountant

In the early 1990s, tribal clashes erupted in GBM's senior accountant, Mwangi Maru's, home region of Kericho County ahead of the country's first multi-party elections. To reduce tensions and promote peace in the region, GBM established the Tribal Clashes Resettlement Volunteer Service (TCRVS). Mwangi was drawn to GBM's work as a result of this initiative and the impact GBM had on his home community and the country.



Photo above: Mwangi Maru stands proudly by a tree at GBM HQ.

Since 1994, Mwangi has been spreading the vision and mission of GBM. He has been influential in many GBM milestones, but it was the fight to save Karura Forest that Mwangi treasures most. GBM held many campaigns highlighting the destructive political and commercial interests threatening Karura Forest. Despite strong opposition including police brutality, GBM won the fight in the late 1990s. Today, the forest has been restored and will officially open to the public in 2011.

Sixteen years later Mwangi is still motivated by the work he does for GBM.

"When I think of what GBM has contributed to my country, I feel encouraged and inspired." He said, "You only need to listen to the stories of GBM communities to know the impact this organisation has had."

Working in the finance department, Mwangi is at the heart of the organisation ensuring that funds are properly accounted for and that GBM operates efficiently. Other GBM staff comment on how Mwangi always has a smile on his face and warm words of encouragement and guidance. He has come to embody the vision of GBM and his dedication is truly inspiring to all.



Professor Wangari Maathai chaired the committee that drafted chapter five of the constitution related to land and the environment. During the promulgation ceremony on 27th August 2010, both Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka and Prime Minister Raila Odinga paid tribute to the advocacy work done by Professor Maathai.



Photo Above: GBM staff leading CEE activities on the adoption of the new constitution.

The new constitution strengthens GBM's mission through reinforcing issues of gender equality as well as protection, conservation and management of natural resources for sustainable development. GBM stands proudly behind the new constitution and the right of every Kenyan citizen to a clean and healthy environment for both present and future generations.

### GBM's Urban Forest Partnerships

Since 2004 GBM has developed strong partnerships for tree planting in Nairobi's urban forests. The US Embassy was GBM's first urban forest partner. In 2010, GBM partnered with several organisations and planted trees in Karura and Ngong forests, which are the two major urban forests in Nairobi city.

### Partnership Spotlight: AEON Corporation

Through a partnership with AEON Corporation, a Japanese company, GBM has set up several project sites outside of Nairobi on the Cherangany Hills, Upper Mau Complex and Mt. Elgon, targeting water catchment areas with degraded gazetted forest lands.

So far, GBM planted almost 300,000 trees for this project, which is an area of nearly 3 km<sup>2</sup> (approx. 1 mile<sup>2</sup>). Trees planted in the upper catchment will help restore the hydrological functions of the water catchments. There are over 7,500 people involved in this project and over half are rural women who will directly benefit from the survival of these trees.



Photo above: The Mutege Women Tree Nursery Group

### Climate change annual talks: COP16 in Mexico

In December 2010, GBM participated in the 16th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP 16), in Cancun Mexico. A team of four staff members, including the GIS specialist, senior project officer, media manager, and the Europe director, attended. COP16 attracted almost 12,000 participants, including government officials, observers, representatives of UN bodies and agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, and press.



Photo above: Side event on Climate Justice

GBM attended COP16 to advocate for full and effective participation of women, indigenous peoples and local communities in climate change decision making. It is crucial that the

global climate change agreement addresses rights and needs of those not present as well as promoting transparency and accountability in decision making. At COP16, GBM stressed the need to recognise the other factors beyond carbon that will help vulnerable people adapt and mitigate against climate change including rights, governance, healthy ecosystems, biodiversity and livelihood creation.

One of the highpoints at COP16 was co-hosting an official side event on Climate Change Justice and the Grassroots Perspective on REDD+. GBM partnered with the Nobel Women's Initiative, Mary Robinson's Climate Justice Foundation, and Climate Wise Women. A panel of women leaders discussed climate change justice and grassroots perspectives on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Strategies that can be used to increase participation of women in the decision making processes related to climate change and the perspectives from the grassroots were shared.



Photo above: Francesca de Gasparis (GBM), Mary Robinson (Mary Robinson's Climate Justice Foundation), and Constance Okollet (Climate Wise women).

**Thank you to all of our generous supporters around the world.**

Major partners in 2010 include:

- Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- Alcatel -Lucent
- AMREF (African Medical and Research Foundation)
- Auerbach Family Foundation
- Avery Dennison
- Cindy Barber
- Clinton Climate Initiative
- Comic Relief
- Comiform - Spanish UNEP
- ECCAS
- Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)
- Family Health International
- Fonroche Energie
- Foundation Philanthropia
- Green Cross - Sweden
- Hafslund ASA
- Jambo Tours Scandinavia
- Jostens Inc.
- KPMG
- Lorna Taylor
- Mainichi newspapers
- Mitsubishi Corporation
- Moore Foundation
- Postcode Foundation
- Schooner Foundation
- Stockholm Convention Secretariat
- The Ashden Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Waterloo Foundation
- What is Missing? Foundation

# About GBM

**Vision:** To create a value-driven society of people who consciously work for the continued improvement of their livelihoods and a greener, cleaner environment.  
This vision is achieved through the protection and rehabilitation of the environment.

**Mission:** To mobilise community consciousness for self determination, justice, equity, reduction of poverty and environmental conservation using tree planting as an entry point.

**Programmes:**

- Tree Planting
- Civic & Environmental Education (CEE)
- Advocacy & Networking
- School Environmental Education (SEE)
- Society of Greens
- Climate Change
- The Langata Learning Centre
- Urban Tree planting

## The Green Belt Movement (GBM) Approach

GBM has an extensive grassroots network that facilitates the mobilisation of communities around local development activities. The focus for GBM is environmental education, conservation activities, and livelihood creation. GBM engages communities through its unique 10-step tree planting procedure, and mobilises individuals to take action and improve their livelihoods. Through this process, they learn to make linkages between the challenges they face and environmental degradation. This leads to community-led action and a commitment to safeguard natural resources.



To date, GBM has facilitated the formation and sustenance of over 4,000 community groups, of which 70% are women. These groups have created over 500 networks across Kenya. GBM is leveraging this development model in other parts of Africa and across the world.

## Board of Directors

Professor Wangari Maathai, Professor Vertistine Mbaya, Mrs. Rahab Mwatha, Mrs. Lilian Njehu, Mrs. Miriam Chege, Mrs. Wanjiru Karanja, Mrs. Marion Kamau, Mrs. Jane Ngugi, Ms. Wanjira Mathai, Ms. Njeri Gakonyo, Mr. Cyrus Kimamo

**Many thanks to all of GBM's generous supporters.**

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# Financial Summary

## Consolidated Income and Expenditure for 2010

See note 1

	2010	2009	
INCOME STATEMENT	USD	USD	See note 2
Grants Received	1,967,412	1,778,657	
Interest Income	18,591	11,480	
Miscellaneous Income	24,067	40,002	
	2,010,070	1,830,139	
EXPENDITURE			
Tree Planting	1,080,108	764,617	See note 3
Civic & Environmental Education	75,864	22,944	
Advocacy & Networking	103,404	69,980	See note 4
Capacity-Building	89,895	37,054	See note 5
International Travel	-	64,235	See note 6
Technical Assistance	205,641	151,140	
Depreciation	126,753	278,315	
Special Programmes	78,343	-	See note 6
Programme Management	310,325	249,542	
Wangari Maathai Institute (WMI)	42,004	-	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,112,336	1,637,827	
Surplus for the Year Transferred To General Reserves	(102,266)	192,313	See note 7

	2010	2009	
BALANCE SHEET	USD	USD	
Non-Current Assets			
Property and Equipment	706,944	682,356	
Current Assets			
Receivables	358,917	416,111	
Cash Balance	910,105	780,144	
	1,269,022	1,196,254	
TOTAL ASSETS	1,975,966	1,878,611	
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES			
Reserves			
General Reserves	1,524,400	1,620,864	See note 8
Current Liabilities			
Payables	451,566	257,747	
	1,975,966	1,878,611	

### Notes

1. The above figures are a summarised version of the Green Belt Movement's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2010. A full set of accounts can be obtained from the headquarters in Nairobi.
2. The figures have been valued at the exchange rate as at the end of each financial year, and are expressed in US dollars to assist appreciation of the overall funding position.
3. The increase in tree planting expenditures was the result of aftercare of young trees by green rangers to improve their survival rates; as well as increased compensation to women's groups for tree seedlings.
4. GBM conducted additional advocacy seminars to support community engagement around the new constitution that was promulgated on 27th August 2010.
5. During 2010, additional training was held to build staff capacity in communication & documentation.
6. International travel during 2010 is included under special programmes. Special programmes include activities that do not fall directly under GBM's thematic areas.
7. The deficit for the current year was financed by the reserves carried forward from previous years.
8. The General Reserves reflect both restricted and unrestricted funding- 65% of these funds are restricted to programme funds and will be spent in the following year. GBM aims to have a reserve of 6 months of operating costs of unrestricted funding.
9. Separate accounts of our northern offices GBMI-US and GBMI-Europe are available upon request.