



# the green belt movement

Annual Report 2008

## 2008 Highlights

- Planted 8.3 million trees across Kenya
- Launched GBM's Climate Change Strategy and Peace Tent Initiative
- Trained staff in GIS digital mapping techniques
- Expanded corporate and institutional partnerships

# Achievements in 2008

The Green Belt Movement's (GBM) tree-planting activities continue to focus on public land, degraded forest areas, and in select areas on private farms. Since 1977, GBM communities have planted over 45 million trees in Kenya to increase national forest cover and restore essential ecosystems. Despite our efforts, forest cover has decreased nationally over the years, and communities have increasingly suffered from severe crop failure and water shortages. In response, GBM's community development programs are helping women and their families to address these basic needs at the grassroots level.

GBM's tree planting activities are focusing on the Mt. Kenya, Aberdares and Mau Complex areas that are under serious threat. Our five-year plan extends this to Mt. Elgon and the Cherengani Hills. Together these mountain catchment areas constitute the five "water towers" of Kenya that provide water to over 90% of the population.

In 2008 Kenya faced post-election violence following the national elections in December 2007, and a prolonged drought. Despite these serious challenges, GBM had significant achievements:

## Tree-Planting Scales Up

GBM communities planted 8.3 million trees in 2008— an amazing 43% increase compared to 2007! Support from our donors and partners helped us increase the number of tree nursery groups and their capacity to supply seedlings. The Oprah Winfrey Foundation enabled a total of 5.2 million trees to be planted—or 63% of all trees planted by GBM groups in 2008.



## Climate Change Strategy Launched

Climate Change finally rising on both global and domestic agendas, GBM is in a unique position at this critical juncture. Able to engage with governments and grassroots communities, GBM is offering experience and expertise in several key areas:

- GBM's tested model for community-based reforestation takes into account the value of threatened ecosystems with community rights and livelihoods;
- GBM Founder, Professor Wangari Maathai, is a global advocate for our holistic approach to climate change, combining community rights with strong policies that protect carbon sinks such as indigenous forests;
- GBM has been implementing projects in Kenya for over 30 years, offering a depth of understanding of the benefits and challenges of reforestation and community engagement for its sustainability at a grassroots level;
- GBM's model addresses both adaptation and mitigation strategies by integrating forest restoration with food security programs, soil erosion control and water harvesting;
- GBM's development approach recognizes the multiple benefits to climate change mitigation for communities and helps them to adapt by improving water management, fuel wood use, education, livelihoods and biodiversity;
- GBM brings to the local and global debate the importance of forest protection beyond carbon sequestration to include ecosystem functions, biodiversity, and a value-based approach.



GBM's Climate Change strategy and programs closely aligns with many issues facing developing countries and their approaches in mitigating and adapting to climate change. Some of these issues include: the role of forests in climate stabilization, protecting standing indigenous forests, and the role of communities in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

## In 2008, GBM's climate change strategy focused on four key issues:

- Influencing national & international climate and forest policy.
- Engaging with the Kenyan government on its REDD policy. REDD is Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation. Kenya is one of the pilot countries identified by the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to fast track a REDD readiness plan.
- Building the next wave of tree-planting projects, enabling GBM to ensure ecosystem repair at a scale that makes a national impact on the five major water towers, and
- Mobilizing communities' understanding and action on climate change, forests and developing mitigation and adaptation strategies.



## ‘Women for Change’ Program Empowers Women & Girls

The ‘Women for Change’ program, supported by Comic Relief (UK), consciously encourages women’s leadership within GBM groups. Our findings show an increase in the confidence of women within our groups, with more women stepping forward to represent their communities in the GBM network. We are pleased some women from GBM groups have even stood for elective office!

This program aims to support women in pursuing more active decision-making roles in Kenyan society. Women are also benefiting from legal services, particularly in relation to domestic violence, through the resources offered by GBM.

Food security is a cornerstone of this program. The link between health and nutrition is highlighted since women are most likely responsible for the nourishment of their families. Strengthening the farming practices of rural women who make up over 70% of our network is essential. Women are encouraged to grow and use indigenous foods to support healthier families. GBM also encourages the planting of fruit trees, vegetables, herbs and spices on women’s farms. Through demonstration gardens, community group members—women and men—learn practical tips for growing and diversifying crops. They gain knowledge of techniques for soil and water conservation, including erosion control, soil feeding and composting.

In 2008, the ‘Women for Change’ program awarded much needed secondary school scholarships to 9 girls and 3 boys—nominated by GBM tree-planting groups.



## Staff Spotlight: Judy Nyaguthii Kimamo – Project Officer, ‘Women for Change’ Program



Judy Kimamo grew up in the fertile Nyeri district in Central Kenya between the base of the Aberdares and the western slopes of Mount Kenya. Judy holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Jomo Kenyatta University in Agriculture and Technology. Judy has worked at GBM since 2004, and currently focuses on the involvement of women, youth groups and school children in GBM programs. She works with our ‘Women for Change’ program, empowering women of all ages to be leaders and agents of change in their communities..

When asked about the inspiration for her work, Judy says,

“The Green Belt Movement seeks to reawaken community wisdom so that they (communities) can live in harmony with nature. In my related travels to the villages where we work, I have learned and appreciated the value, healing and sense of peace that comes from harmonious interaction with nature.

Let no one make us believe that we don’t have what it takes... Our soils are good, and with good governance, if our environments are wisely managed, our rains would fall, our rivers would flow, our indigenous forests would provide us the services that would support our well being, and our lands would be full of plenty”.

Judy has represented GBM in local and international conferences – sharing the work of GBM through the gender lens.

## Program Spotlight: The Peace Tent Initiative

In the wake of the disputed elections of December 2007, violent clashes led to over 1,500 deaths and over 500,000 people fled from their homes across Kenya. Women and girls were disproportionately affected by the violence, with many forced to leave their homes for overcrowded refugee or Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. The challenges they faced—including limited access to their farms and food, lack of health services, water, and schools—significantly impacted many GBM communities.

GBM's 'Women for Change' program, responded to these challenges by creating a Peace Tent Initiative in areas affected by the violence. The goal was to create safe spaces for people of warring communities to come together in dialogue for healing and reconciliation. A series of intercultural conversations in GBM's signature white and green tents explored the root causes of the violence as well as avenues for restoring peace and trust in each other. A total of six inter-community dialogues and 21 open meetings were held



in some of the worst hit areas of violence with community leaders, elders and youth. This resulted in the establishment of Peace Building Councils that are continuing to foster inter-community understanding through ongoing dialogue and joint implementation of activities, including sports for youth.

### **GBM Engages New Partners to Green Nairobi**

In 2004, the US Embassy in Nairobi engaged with GBM in its first tree-planting activity in urban Nairobi. Since that time, GBM has seen a huge increase in such partnerships—with many from the corporate sector. We call these new donor relationships “Corporate partnerships”.

In 2008, 17 corporate partners engaged in tree-planting activities with GBM in the Nairobi area. The goal is to encourage environmental conservation as part of our partners' codes for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

### **GBM's Monitoring and Measurement Facility**

As GBM continues to expand and scale-up its tree-planting activities in forests and degraded lands, our capacity to map and monitor activities is increasing. With significant support from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), Planet Action, Google and Leica Geosystems, GBM's GIS (Geographic Information Systems) lab acquired essential software and high-resolution images. With this support, the GIS team trained 53 extension officers on GIS techniques to enhance data collection and analysis: including data collection, site mapping, baseline survey procedures and project monitoring.

This has significantly improved the level of monitoring and evaluation of GBM projects, and enhanced our capacity to engage in larger-scale projects. GBM is active in 92 constituencies around the country, and by the end of 2008 a total of 59 constituencies (64% of GBM's existing project sites) were mapped or in the process of being mapped.

### **Tree-Planting with Institutions**

GBM expanded its tree-planting partnerships with several Kenyan institutions, including the army, prisons, schools and churches. The partnership with the Kenya Army is supported by funds from the Shaklee Corporation (US) and aims to plant trees on land managed by the army, as well as to assist GBM plant trees on public lands. The army provides much needed logistical support, including vehicles to transport seedlings in areas such as the Mau Forest that are not easily accessible. Soldiers and officers collaborated with GBM this year by including information and activities relating to climate change in their training courses curricula. As can be expected from a military unit, the barracks evaluate their tree-planting operations regularly in an effort to improve their techniques. GBM is very appreciative of the Kenya Army's support and their valuable service to the community in tree-planting.

## **Thank you**

to all of our generous supporters around the world.

Major partners in 2008 include:

African Union  
Agency for French Development (AFD)  
AMREF  
Atticus Capital LP  
Auerbach, Grayson & Company  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
Basque Government  
CitiGroup Foundation  
Clinton Family Foundation  
Comic Relief (UK)  
DLA Piper  
Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)  
Femina HIP  
Fardan, Linda D.A.Trust  
Global Green Grants  
Government of Spain  
Green Cross, Sweden  
Green Forum  
Heinrich Boell Foundation  
Henry J. Kaiser Foundation  
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KPMG Norway  
LEICA Geosystems  
Leitner Family Foundation  
Lorna Gregory  
Mainichi Newspapers  
NoVo Foundation  
Optimal Print  
Oprah Winfrey Foundation  
Restore UK  
Shaklee Corporation  
Soros Family  
Spot Image  
The Nature Conservancy  
Tides Foundation  
Trimble Inc  
Trees for Cities  
UNDP  
UNEP  
USAID  
Wallace Global Fund  
Williams Serendipity Trust



# About GBM

- Mission:** To mobilize community consciousness for self determination, justice, equity, reduction of poverty and environmental conservation using tree planting as an entry point.
- 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.
- Values:**
- Volunteerism for community benefit
  - Love for the environment
  - Action and self-improvement
  - Accountability and transparency
  - Self and community empowerment
- Programs:**
- |                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tree-Planting                         | Watershed Management     |
| Civic & Environmental Education (CEE) | GIS & IT                 |
| Advocacy & Networking                 | Society of Greens        |
| Women for Change                      | Mottainai                |
| School Environmental Education (SEE)  | Green Belt Safaris (GBS) |
| Climate Change Adaptation             |                          |

## The Green Belt Movement (GBM) Approach

GBM has an extensive grassroots network that facilitates the mobilization 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 in a development model that mobilizes them to take action and improve their livelihoods. Through this process they learn to make linkages between the challenges they face and the degradation of their natural environments. This leads to community-led action and commitment to safe guard their community's 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. Today, GBM is leveraging this development model in other parts of Africa and across the world.

## Board of Directors

Professor Wangari Maathai, Mrs. Rahab Mwatha, Mr. Njogu Kahare, Professor Vertistine Mbaya, Mrs. Lillian Njehu, and Mrs. Jane Ngugi

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# Financial Summary

## Consolidated Income and Expenditure for 2008

	2008	2007
INCOME STATEMENT	USD	USD
Grants Received	1,695,721	2,557,046
Interest Income	19,533	11,146
Miscellaneous Income	3,138	5,315
	1,718,392	2,573,507
EXPENDITURE		
Tree-Planting	457,009	1,262,827
Civic & Environmental Education	25,334	117,997
Advocacy & Networking	236,593	176,453
Capacity-Building	25,613	46,485
Technical Assistance	54,000	
Program Management	604,618	418,711
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,403,167	2,022,473
Surplus for the Year Transferred To General Reserves	315,226	551,035

	2008	2007
BALANCE SHEET	USD	USD
Non-Current Assets		
Property and Equipment	881,753	683,656
Current Assets		
Receivables	251,817	136,371
Cash Balance	377,151	570,184
	628,969	706,555
TOTAL ASSETS	2,139,690	1,390,211
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES		
Reserves		
General Reserves	1,444,742	1,303,287
Current Liabilities		
Payables	65,980	86,924
	1,510,722	1,390,211

### Notes:

- For the year 2008, the surplus transferred to reserves of \$315,226 represents 100% restricted program funds carried over to be spent in the following year.
- In 2007 grants received included one very large donation which explains the significantly higher total figure compared with 2008.
- The above figures are a summarized version of the Green Belt Movement's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2008. A full set of accounts can be obtained from the headquarters in Nairobi.
- The accounts of GBMI-US and GBMI-Europe are available upon request.
- 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.

