

The Green Belt Movement

Annual Report 2009

2009 Highlights

- Planted 3,967,276 trees across Kenya
- Launched 'Community Participatory Mapping' at the grassroots
- Expanded Advocacy & Networking activities
- Expanded Corporate Initiatives in urban areas
- Launched the Mottainai campaign in Kenya
- Sent a Delegation to the UN climate change talks in Copenhagen

Achievements in 2009

Since 1977, the Green Belt Movement (GBM) communities have planted over 45 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 2009 GBM communities planted 3,967,276 trees. GBM expanded in a range of new areas and had some significant successes during the year. However, Kenya also faced a prolonged drought that posed challenges to the organisation's tree planting activities.

Challenges with Tree Planting

For 2009 there was an overall decrease in total trees planted and surviving this year compared to 2008. This was due to extreme weather conditions, including extended droughts during the rainy periods. Most parts of the country received 10% to 50% of the normal rainfall with delayed onset of between 10 and 30 days and early

March – May 2009

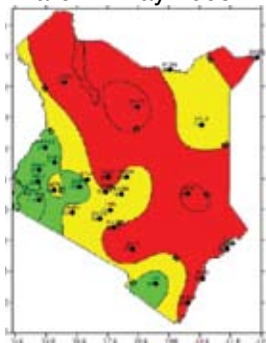
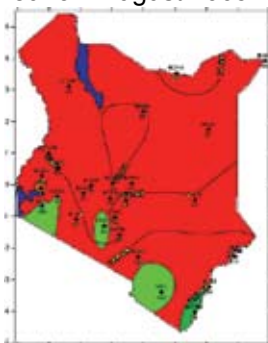


Photo credit: UN OCHA Kenya

Photo above: These maps show the rainfall patterns in Kenya. The areas in red highlight regions where the rainfall was 50% below normal

June – August 2009



cessation of 3 to 4 weeks. This is shown by the images to the left, where the red areas highlight the areas where the rainfall was less than 50% of the normal. It is difficult to be certain that these extreme conditions are due to climate change because it requires years of data to be collected and analysed. However, Kenya and Africa have experienced more frequent and severe weather conditions. From GBM's experience on the ground, communities seem to be experiencing the impacts of climate change. This can be noted from field data where a lack of rain caused GBM communities not to plant as many trees and, where trees were planted, it decreased survival rates.

GBM Launches Community Participatory Mapping at the Grassroots

The Geographic Information Systems or GIS lab at the Green Belt Movement has been critical in supporting the development and implementation of project activities on the ground. Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) has partnered with GBM to build our GIS capacity. During 2009, ESRI provided upgrades for a suite of GIS software that had been donated in June 2007 to ensure that GBM has the most current software for data collection, mapping and analysis. In addition, ESRI continued to provide technical support for an enterprise solution that includes a web-mapping application that provides project information to its officers, field staff and monitoring team. Through this support, GBM developed a comprehensive spatial database of projects and activities that has continued to tremendously improve efficiency and effectiveness in planning, monitoring, implementing and reporting GBM's projects.



Photo above: The GIS lab with massive plotter/printer at the back

High-resolution imagery from Spot Image and Geovantage, at 2.5m and 0.5m resolutions respectively, has greatly increased GBM's technical ability to monitor Mt. Kenya, Aberdares and the Mau forests.

The images enable the GIS team to assess the status of the forest and determine the extent of deforestation and forest degradation. This data enables GBM to delineate areas that require restoration and tree planting. Spatial information and accurate acreage measurements have been important for planning the numbers, types of seedlings required for tree planting and climate change mitigation projects. In addition, these images have been very valuable in monitoring the trees planted in the forests and technical information such as the changes in biomass that are a key requirement for the forest carbon projects. Biomass (the amount of woody mass and leaves of a tree) is considered a good indicator of carbon stored in trees.

GBM staff have worked with communities to identify and map the priority areas for tree planting in highly threatened ecosystems and to map the locations of their tree nurseries and trees they planted in the forest. This enables GBM to monitor the progress and survival rate of the trees. Production of maps with this accurate information that represent GBM project areas are readily recognised and understood by local community groups and GBM staff.

It is not an overstatement to say that the GIS lab has revolutionised the way that GBM captures information in the field and analyses it. Mapping and being able to assess projects spatially is a tool that has applications across our work: from presentations by our founder Wangari Maathai to community advocacy against land-grabbing.

GBM Expands its Advocacy and Networking Efforts

GBM's Advocacy and Networking programme uses a combination of public education, citizen mobilisation, and legal challenges to oppose illegal land-grabbing as well as developments that do not comply with environmental and planning regulations. This includes both natural forest in rural areas and green spaces and fragile environments (like wetlands and riparian areas) in urban centres such as Nairobi. GBM organised demonstrations to stop further land-grabbing and constructions on forested land. Highlights include the launch of the 'Enough is Enough' campaign; winning two legal cases on human rights and protection of property; and launching the Lake Naivasha campaign to sensitise the communities.



Photo above: GBM's Women for Change programme

The Advocacy programme also provides legal aid to communities and individuals in support of human rights, especially for women. During 2009, GBM was involved in a range of policy discussions and lobbied the government on several contentious issues. One such issue is the Shamba system, which promotes planting of crops in forests and is detrimental to ecosystems and biodiversity. GBM has also pushed for revisions in wetland management policies and the planting of exotic eucalyptus trees in catchment areas in the five water towers, including Mt Kenya and the Aberdares. Exotic eucalyptus trees have become popular among some farmers because of their rapid growth rates. However, they are water intensive and contribute to the depletion of waterways, which threaten the five water towers that are essential for providing the country with water and energy resources.



GBM's Corporate Initiatives in Urban Areas

GBM is involved in a project focusing on restoring forest areas around Nairobi, particularly Karura Forest, Ngong Forest and Ngong Hills. Businesses based in Nairobi are supporting relatively small-scale tree planting in these urban areas as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes and as a way to promote environmental awareness with their employees and involve them in a tree planting project.

Staff Spotlight: The IT team- Cosmos Melley & Samuel Njuguna

Ten years ago GBM had no computers. Record keeping was largely manual, except for the reporting forms that were generated on typewriters. Cosmos Melley tells us when he first joined the GBM team he spent inordinate amounts of time providing basic computer support. Once, he instructed a staff member to "click on My Computer". To this the staff member responded, clearly perplexed, "What is your computer doing inside my computer?" Cosmos knew then that he had his work cut out for him!

Cosmos' love for computers started when his uncle introduced him to the world of Information Systems when he was 12 years old. Cosmos excelled in IT studies at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in Nairobi, Kenya.



Photo above: Sammy (L) and Cosmos in their element

GBM has moved on to more complex IT solutions, such as centralising the filing system.

"The new system enables us to remotely and automatically back-up data which allows uninterrupted access to a network system of all files. We no longer have duplication of records and for the first time staff can share and access programme files. I love what I do because on a daily basis I can see IT making life easier for my colleagues to do their work," says Cosmos.

Sammy Njuguna joined GBM in 2010. Thanks to a generous donation of software from Microsoft, Sammy has been busy upgrading computers and training staff. "I really enjoy implementing systems and seeing staff advance in their IT knowledge and practice," he says.

Working closely with the GIS department, Sammy has been able to provide hands-on training with great gadgets. Sammy's dream is to see every GBM staff member have his or her own computer. Today some staff share computers, especially for data management. Still, Sammy stresses that "GBM has gone through an IT revolution. Everyone knows that building IT capacity is critical to the efficiency and success of GBM operations".

These days thanks to GBM's two IT staff, the tapping of fingers on keyboards and the humming of computers is part of the melody at the GBM head office in Nairobi.

GBM's Mottainai Campaign

Professor Maathai started the Mottainai campaign to eliminate waste plastic from littering the natural environment. Mottainai is an ancient Buddhist term from Japan that means to have respect for the resources around you, to not waste resources, and to use them with a sense of gratitude. It is also a modern environmental movement in Japan. The concept is closely associated with the conservation practices that people most commonly recognise as the three R's – reduce, reuse, recycle – with a fourth R for respect. GBM applied the four R's concept as: Reduce desertification through tree planting activities; Recycle and Respect indigenous knowledge to improve food security by introducing indigenous food crops; Reuse the available natural resources sustainably for improvement of livelihoods and reduce poverty.

GBM's campaign has successfully influenced government policy against the production and use of very thin plastic materials that cannot be recycled.

In 2009, the Mottainai campaign received a grant from the Mainichi Newspaper in Japan. The goal is to plant 200,000 trees in Kieni constituency in Kenya's Central Province on farms, public lands and degraded forest areas.

Delegation to Copenhagen climate change talks: COP15



Photo above: Wangari Maathai addresses Forest Day 3

for community-lead initiatives for the restoration and conservation of forests in order to address the challenges of climate change and poverty alleviation from the grassroots.

Professor Maathai was invited to speak at the opening of the high level segment of COP15 with HRH the Prince of Wales. At the conference, GBM advocated for full and effective participation of all stakeholders in the climate change negotiations, especially women, indigenous peoples and local communities. This would ensure that the international climate change agreements addresses the rights and needs of those most vulnerable.

Professor Maathai spoke at many fora and debates during the two-week period on topics such as building climate change resilient communities and ecosystems and the challenges that climate change poses to sustainable development in Africa. GBM co-hosted an official UNFCCC side event on "Livelihoods, Forests and Climate" with partners from Brighter Green, Nobel Women's Initiative and a representative from the Maasai community. The panel discussed issues from GBM's holistic development approach to forests to the role of livestock husbandry in reducing the impact of climate change.

GBM, the NGO community, and many other attendees called for a fair, legal and binding agreement. We were profoundly disappointed that heads of state who came to COP15 did not heed the calls of their people. The lack of political will to address climate change at COP15 meant 2009 ended on a low note. Like many others who had invested so much time and energy into this process, GBM left COP15 with renewed impetus to focus on our work at the grassroots.



2009 was the year of climate change and a major turning point in international negotiations. Like many other NGOs and concerned bodies around the world, GBM sent a delegation to the 15th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP15). Four staff members, plus associates, travelled to Copenhagen, Denmark for the talks. Wangari Maathai led the delegation, which played a central part in advocating

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

Major partners in 2009 include:

- ABC Home & Carpet
- ABC Home and Planet Foundation
- Agency for French Development (AFD)
- AMREF
- Andrew Tobias, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
- Atticus Foundation
- Avery Dennison
- Basque Government
- British Council
- Clinton Climate Initiative
- Comiform – Spanish UNEP
- Comic Relief
- Economic Commission for Central African States (ECCAS)
- Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI)
- GEM HAAG Amnesty International
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Green Cross, Sweden
- Jostens Inc.
- Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund
- KPMG
- Lorna Taylor
- Mainichi Newspapers
- Margot Walstrom
- Novo Foundation
- Postcode Foundation
- Segal Family Foundation
- Stockholm Convention Secretariat
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Uplands Family Foundation
- Tides Foundation
- Timothy & Michele Barakett
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Waterloo 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
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS) & Information Technology
- Civic & Environmental Education (CEE)
- Advocacy & Networking
- School Environmental Education (SEE)
- Capacity Building & Income Generating Activities (IGAs)
- Food Security
- Society of Greens
- Climate Change Adaptation
- The Langata Learning Centre
- Tree Planting with Institutions
- Green Belt Safaris (GBS)

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, Mrs. Rahab Mwatha, Mr. Njogu Kahare, Professor Vertistine Mbaya, Mrs. Lillian Njehu, Mrs. Jane Ngugi, Mrs. Wanjiru Karanja, Ms. Njeri Gakonyo, Ms. Wanjira Mathai, Mr. Cyrus Kimamo

Many thanks to all of GBM's generous supporters.

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Financial Summary

Consolidated Income and Expenditure for 2009

See note 1

| | 2009 | 2008 | |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|
| INCOME STATEMENT | USD | USD | See note 2 |
| Grants Received | 1,778,657 | 1,695,721 | |
| Interest Income | 11,480 | 19,533 | |
| Miscellaneous Income | 40,002 | 3,138 | |
| | 1,830,139 | 1,718,392 | |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Tree Planting | 764,617 | 457,009 | |
| Civic & Environmental Education | 22,944 | 25,334 | |
| Advocacy & Networking | 69,980 | 236,593 | See note 3 |
| Capacity-Building | 37,054 | 25,613 | |
| International Travel | 64,235 | | See note 4 |
| Technical Assistance | 151,140 | 54,000 | |
| Depreciation | 278,315 | 285,831 | See note 5 |
| Programmes Management | 249,542 | 318,787 | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 1,637,827 | 1,403,167 | |
| Surplus for the Year Transferred To General Reserves | 192,313 | 315,225 | See note 6 |

| | 2009 | 2008 | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| BALANCE SHEET | USD | USD | |
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Property and Equipment | 682,356 | 881,753 | |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Receivables | 416,111 | 251,817 | |
| Cash Balance | 780,144 | 377,151 | |
| | 1,196,254 | 628,968 | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 1,878,611 | 1,510,721 | |
| RESERVES AND LIABILITIES | | | |
| Reserves | | | |
| General Reserves | 1,620,864 | 1,444,742 | See note 7 |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Payables | 257,747 | 65,980 | |
| | 1,878,611 | 1,510,722 | |

Notes

1. The above figures are a summarized version of the Green Belt Movement's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009. 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. During 2008 due to post election violence which occurred in the early part of the year, a lot of advocacy seminars were conducted to support peace building and reconciliation between communities under Advocacy & Networking.
4. International travel during 2009 was covered by a specific grant to Professor Maathai for her work as co-chair of the Congo Basin Forest Fund.
5. Depreciation and programme management has been shown separately in the year 2009.
6. The surplus transferred to reserves of \$192,313 (2009) and \$315,226 (2008) represents 100% restricted programme funds carried over to be spent in the following year.
7. 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.
8. Separate accounts of our northern offices GBM-US and GBM-Europe are available upon request.