



# the green belt movement

ANNUAL REPORT 2015





*“You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people, you inform them, and you help them understand that these resources are their own, that they must protect them.”*

*— Professor Wangari Maathai, Founder, The Green Belt Movement*

## table of contents



3	A Message from the Board Chair
4	About the Green Belt Movement
6	Tree Planting and Water Harvesting
8	Climate Change
9	Corporate Partnerships
10	Gender, Livelihood and Advocacy
11	Outreach Updates — Kenya
	Updates from Green Belt Movement International — United Kingdom and U.S.A.
12	Financial Statements for 2015
15	Our Donors, Supporters and Partners
16	GBM Board and Staff







## a message from the board chair



Dear Friends,

Over the past couple of years, I have had the pleasure of watching the resurgence at the Green Belt Movement. The transition, though difficult, has been a wonderful learning experience for us all. I am most humbled by the resilience of the team and their singular focus of keeping the legacy of our Founder, Professor Wangari Maathai, alive.

In our 2015 Annual Report we welcome you to read the stories of change embodied in our programmes and projects, and the partnerships that have enhanced the way we work.

In 2015, the Movement provided training to over 200 rural women and community-based organizations who have in turn trained over 20,000 members of their communities in natural resource management and impacted thousands of others. Involvement in peace initiatives, smart water projects, livelihoods, climate change, rehabilitation of degraded lands and still ensuring that tree planting remains our entry point in all that we do.

I was proud to play a part in the launching of AFR100 (African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative) at COP21 in Paris. AFR100 is a Pan-African, country-led effort to restore 100 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes by 2030. The Green Belt Movement is positioned and prepared to engage in landscape restoration as an integrated environmental management strategy. Through grassroots mobilization, we will do our part.

Thanks to our diligent staff and the grassroots efforts of all our members, we yet again achieved another year of success. Enjoy the pages of this report and join us in celebrating our 2015 achievements.

I thank all of you for being part of us and look forward to our future collaboration.

Sincerely,

Wanjira Mathai, Chair  
The Green Belt Movement Board

## who we are

The Green Belt Movement (GBM) was founded by Professor Wangari Maathai in 1977 under the auspices of the National Council of Women of Kenya (NCWK) 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 and fencing. GBM encouraged the women 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 for their work.

Shortly after beginning this work, Professor Maathai saw that behind the everyday hardships of the poor—environmental degradation, deforestation, and food insecurity—were deeper issues of dis-empowerment, disenfranchisement, and a loss of the traditional values that had previously enabled communities to protect their environment, work together for mutual benefit, and to do both selflessly and honestly.

The Green Belt Movement instituted seminars in civic and environment education, now called Community Empowerment and Education seminars (CEE), to encourage individuals to examine why they lacked agency to change their political, economic, and environmental circumstances. Participants began to understand that for years they had been placing their trust in leaders who had betrayed them and that they were sabotaging their lives by not working for the common good and failing to use their natural resources wisely.

Consequently, the Green Belt Movement began to advocate for greater democratic space and more accountability from national leaders. What began as a grassroots tree planting program is now a vehicle for empowering women and communities.



### Vision

The vision of GBM is to create a value driven society of people who consciously work for the improvement of their livelihoods and a greener, cleaner Kenya.


### Mission

GBM's mission is to strive for better environmental management, community empowerment, and livelihood improvement using tree-planting as an entry point.

### Core values

GBM promotes the following values:

- Love for environment conservation
- Self and community empowerment
- Volunteerism
- Accountability, transparency and honesty



Our main areas of activity are — Tree Planting and Water Harvesting, Gender, Livelihood and Advocacy, Mainstream Advocacy and Climate Change and Corporate Partnerships, with each of them building and informing the other.

**•Tree Planting and Water Harvesting**

Using the Green Belt Movement's (GBM) Watershed Based Approach, communities help to conserve biodiversity, restore ecosystems, and reduce the impact of climate change. GBM relies on its network of over 4000 community groups to deliver its watershed based approach.

**•Climate Change and Corporate Partnerships**

Climate Change: GBM has a Climate Change Program that aims at strengthening the understanding and capacity of rural communities to take action against climate change as well as raise awareness nationally on the role of local communities and forests in tackling climate change.

Corporate Partnerships: The main goal of this program is to mobilize corporate organizations' consciousness for the rehabilitation of urban ecosystems through tree planting as a 'Corporate Social Responsibility' (CSR).

**•Mainstream Advocacy**

We continue advocating for greater political accountability and the expansion of democratic space in Kenya. GBM has called for, time and time again, an end to land grabbing, deforestation and corruption as well as for the protection of public spaces in the country.

**•Gender, Livelihood and Advocacy**

GBM promotes and enhances gender relations and involves women in decision-making processes. The CEE centers on women and community empowerment to take over leadership in their own situations.

GBM's experience shows that when the communities understand the linkage between their actions, the environment and their livelihood situations (poverty, water scarcity and soil loss and food insecurity) they are more likely to muster their energies and to take action for change.

Through our CEE approach and building on over 35 years of experience working at grassroots level, we take community members through a process of understanding their environment, natural resources and identifying their problems and together, exploring sustainable solutions to these problems that affect their livelihoods.



## tree planting and water harvesting

### Greening Project in Mount Kenya Ecosystem

The Green Belt Movement, in partnership with Mainichi Newspapers, undertook this project in Upper Sagana watershed, Nyeri County.

The momentum of local communities in the project area was enhanced to sustain the changes and impacts achieved towards livelihood improvement and natural resource management.

20,000 indigenous tree seedlings were planted in Thingithu watershed and 30 farmers trained on the adoption of ecologically friendly initiatives for livelihoods improvement.



Members of the community are required to provide after care for the seedlings to increase the survival rate.

### The Green Belt Movement's Bamboo Biomass and Entrepreneurship Project (BBEP)

This project, in Mathioya watershed, Murang'a County, aims to promote the planting of indigenous bamboo for: conservation, climate mitigation benefits, fuel source (firewood and charcoal) and economic opportunities through green businesses for and by local communities.

The BBEP project was featured in a side event at the XIV World Forestry Congress held in Durban South Africa in September 2015 dubbed 'The Hottest topic in forestry: How can we make Wood-fuels more Sustainable?'.

In the year 2015, we hosted students and officials from NLA University College, Bergen Norway and Ethiopia, who visited the project site for experiences and lessons learnt by the communities involved in this particular project.



The community group is trained on the making of simple products from bamboo.

### Forest Restoration, REDD and PES Promotion in Upper Tana Watershed, Kenya

Kenyan mountain forests are the 'lifeline' of the nation. Mt. Kenya and Aberdares forests form a critical water catchment for the country. The integrity of these forests governs their capacity to regulate floodwater, drought, soil erosion, water quality, groundwater recharge and micro-climate in the region.



Upper Tana Water Fund Project rehabilitation.



The need to restore the degraded areas of these water catchments is critical to millions of people who depend on the water resource.

The primary objective of this project in 2015, a partnership with Global Environmental Facility /Small Grant Programme (GEF/SGP) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), was to mobilize 300 farmers to restore 150 km of riverine reserves and their local species diversity by December 2015.

During the year, we conducted a socio-economic baseline survey to analyze and prioritize soil, water and livestock management systems for action in Upper Tana Watersheds. 512 farmers were interviewed to establish the baseline data for the project. This information was used to develop a monitoring framework against which the project implementation, achievements and impact can be articulated and assessed.



GBM was awarded by TNC in recognition of outstanding development of the Upper Tana Nairobi Water Fund.

### **Natural Resource Management in Chania Watershed of the Aberdare Ecosystem**

The project is now in its second year and was implemented in Chania Watershed. It aimed at strengthening local communities' capacity to protect Chania watershed and restoring the function of natural ecosystems, with regard to water retention, carbon sequestration, biodiversity protection and rural income generation through mobilization and sensitization.

The project strengthened local communities' capacity to protect Chania Watershed and restore the function of natural ecosystems, with regard to water retention, carbon sequestration, biodiversity protection and rural income generation.



Preparing the potting bags for seedling transplanting.



## climate change

### **Catalyzing Forest and Landscape Rehabilitation for Climate Resilience and Biodiversity Conservation in East Africa**

The aims of this project included:

- Demonstrating replicable examples of reforestation at the local level
- Developing a system for local monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of forest restoration
- Documenting and publishing best practices, lessons learned, and key challenges during the reforestation process
- Convening regional workshops to discuss experiences, lessons learned and potential models for financing forest restoration and a foundation for scaling-up restoration activities

This project, a partnership between the Green Belt Movement, German Ministry of Environment, the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) and the World Resources Institute (WRI), was undertaken in Malewa Watershed, Nyandarua County.

50,000 tree seedlings were planted in Geta Forest to curb the effects of deforestation and among the project beneficiaries, 130 farmers across Wanjohi, Geta and Gatondo locations



The team from Ethiopia visits Mary's farm, one of GBM's community members.

were supported in the establishment of kitchen gardens, growing fodder crops and starting water harvesting initiatives. Over 600 community members also received training on environment management practices.

Through the project's exchange learning program, two international exchange visits were held between members of the community from Kenya and Ethiopia.

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

Sondu Miriu River catchment is a critical ecosystem which sustains Sondu Miriu River which in turn supports Sondu Miriu hydro dam.

The Green Belt Movement was contracted by the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum to rehabilitate 155.6 Hectares of this critical water catchment, in Bomet County, in 2013. The three-year-long project, under the Kenya Energy and Environment Social Responsibility Program (KEEP) is under the supervision of Kenya Forest Service (KFS).



Community members clear one of the sites in readiness for tree planting.



## corporate partnerships

In 2015, the Green Belt Movement undertook four projects under our Corporate Partnership banner: Green Urban Schools Project, the World Environment Day and Beijing+ 20 Celebrations, supporting community tree nursery groups in Nairobi County and rehabilitation of Karura Forest.

### **Green Urban Schools Project**

The two-year project in partnership with Oiko Credit Ltd sought to plant 15,000 indigenous and fruit tree seedlings in five schools within Nairobi County. This will not only rehabilitate the school compounds but also raise the student's awareness on the linkage between destruction of ecosystems, climate change and socio-economic problems.

2,000 tree seedlings were successfully planted in Kasarani Primary School and a further 13,000 will be planted within the project period in different schools



The students of Kasarani Primary School do their bit towards greening their school.

### **Up Scaling Seedlings Production by Tree Nurseries in Nairobi**

In partnership with Rockefeller foundation, the one year project focused on up scaling of tree nursery groups (TNGs) in Nairobi County.

The project supported the establishment of tree nurseries with a capacity to produce 30,000 tree seedlings annually.

The TNG members were also trained on seedling production as an income-generating activity.

### **Rehabilitating Karura Forest**

Through funding by the Standard Chartered Bank, 500 indigenous tree seedlings were planted by staff from the Bank and Green Belt Movement at Wangari Maathai Corner in Karura Forest.



Part of the team from the Green Belt Movement and Standard Chartered Bank during the tree planting event.

### **World Environment Day and Beijing+20 Celebrations**

UN Women joined hands with the Green Belt Movement in celebrating the 2015 World Environment Day, as the global community also marked the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Informed by the theme: '7 Billion Dreams: One Planet, Consume With Care', the event was marked by a tree-planting ceremony where 500 trees were planted at the Professor Wangari Maathai corner in Karura Forest, Nairobi – the same location where in the late 90's, the late Nobel Laureate led a group of citizens to demonstrate against the illegal grabbing of land. This action, brought attention to the work and significance of the efforts of Professor Maathai.



## gender, livelihood and advocacy

### **Training Rural Women for Environmental, Economic and Livelihood Improvement in the Great Lakes Region**

The Green Belt Movement in partnership with New Course and through funding by MacArthur Foundation is implementing a project aimed at unlocking women's potential in natural resource management and climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in Upper Nile, Lake Victoria and Cherangany Watersheds.



In a different session, trainees learn how to grow traditional food crops to supplement their diet.

In 2015, 215 community Trainers of Trainees (CTOTs) were trained, bringing the total number to 289 trainees who have in turn trained over 20,000 members of community groups on different water harvesting and food security initiatives.

### **Smart Water for Green Schools**

The project, implemented in Kamara Primary and Kamara Secondary Schools in Kuresoi Constituency, Nakuru County, aimed at enhancing access to clean water and promoting sanitation and hygiene in the schools.

12 lavatories were constructed in Kamara Primary School and a further 24 refurbished in Kamara Secondary School with students going through basic sanitation and hygiene education.

### **Integrated Rehabilitation of Kirisia Watershed**

A partnership with Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, Yves Rocher Foundation and the Schooner Foundation, the project was implemented in Samburu County and ended in April 2015.



A beneficiary of the bee keeping, one of the aspects of this project .

The project focused on improving community livelihoods and the reduction of poverty by protecting and restoring the degraded forests in the County. In promoting better land use practices, over 250,000 trees were planted in Kirisia Forest, public lands and on-farm.

### **Sustainable Peace - Cohesion and Integration through Decentralized Governance in Rift Valley Region of Kenya**

Through a partnership with Green Cross Sweden, this project was implemented in Nakuru and Baringo Counties in Rift Valley, Kenya.

One of the project objectives, strengthening peace-building structures, was achieved through training the local communities on alternative dispute resolutions in a bid to foster meaningful and sustainable peace in the regions.

We also promoted youth-led and children-based peace building activities through children's peace festivals that attracted thousands of youth. and school-going children. This provided a forum for the youth to interact and receive education on peace. A follow up of the event sought to establish peace clubs in all the schools represented in the festival.

## outreach updates —KENYA

### **Wangari Muta Maathai House**

The Wangari Muta Maathai House (WMMH) is a project of the Wangari Maathai Foundation (WMF) – a one of a kind center for reflection, inspiration and action that will further the mission of WMF. It will be a tribute to Africa's First Woman Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.

The Wangari Muta Maathai House will be a celebration of Wangari Maathai's life and capture in three dimensions the vision, passion, and holistic consciousness of the first African woman and first environmentalist to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The house will provide an opportunity to explore Wangari Maathai in all her facets: activist, environmentalist, peace laureate, elder, politician, mother, educator, movement builder, believer in women's empowerment, writer, and cultural & spiritual person.

### **Celebrating Professor Wangari Maathai's Fourth Memorial Anniversary**

Marking Professor Maathai's fourth memorial anniversary, the Green Belt Movement led over 500 community members and partners in a public walk from the Jeevanjee Garden to Freedom Corner in Uhuru Park, Nairobi on September 25, 2015.

Simultaneous celebrations were held in the Lake Victoria Watershed with 120 women CTOTs from Western Kenya leading in the event.



Green Belt Movement staff, communities, partners and friends march on in Nairobi City.

## updates

from Green Belt Movement International

— UNITED KINGDOM AND U.S.A.

### **Wangari Maathai Memorial Lecture – UK**

On June 16 2015, Green Belt Movement International (GBMI) Europe hosted the Third Annual Wangari Maathai Memorial Lecture at St James Church Piccadilly, London.

More than 200 people joined us for an evening with Kumi Naidoo, the Executive Director of Greenpeace International as he shared his thoughts on Professor Maathai's life, legacy and the climate change injustices she fought for, punctuated by stories from Kumi's own life of campaigning and advocacy under the theme "A billion acts of courage"

### **Documentary Film 'Taking Root: the Vision of Wangari Maathai' released in 12 Languages – USA**

The release of Taking Roots Documentary in different language versions was coordinated to coincide with the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21), which took place in Paris from November 30th to December 11th. The release timing was designed to call attention to the connection between the worldwide problem of deforestation and climate change. The film is now available in 12 languages -online for free.

### **The Wangari Maathai Award for Civic Participation in Sustainability - USA**

The Maathai Award for Civic Participation in Sustainability, inaugurated by The Rockefeller Foundation, The Bette Midler Family Trust, and Million Trees NYC, is an annual \$10,000 cash award granted to two New York City public high school seniors. The award was established in honor of Professor Wangari Maathai, the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize (2004).

The 2015 award winners were Maya Bernstein-Schalet and Sabastian Rahman.



# financial statements for 2015

## Green Belt Movement Statement of Comprehensive Income Year Ended 31 December 2015

	2015 Kshs	2014 Kshs	2013 Kshs
INCOME			
Grants Received	95,635,208	117,118,121	105,511,622
Interest Income	1,034,841	1,270,633	767,157
Miscellaneous Income	10,892,340	3,019,919	4,479,119
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>107,562,389</b>	<b>131,408,673</b>	<b>110,757,898</b>
EXPENDITURE			
Environmental Rehabilitation	12,532,788	67,336,562	41,448,070
Community Initiatives	16,091,432	–	–
Communication & Contractor	3,973,065	–	–
Climate Change	1,811,144	–	–
Corporate Engagement	1,731,915	–	–
Gender & Advocacy	7,730,851	–	–
Monitoring & Evaluation	748,483	–	–
Depreciation	3,156,101	2,882,338	2,361,211
Technical & Professional Services	3,754,401	5,248,531	8,718,781
Lang'ata Expenses	–	–	782,054
Project Overheads	3,724,907	4,049,650	11,268,106
Printing & Stationery	–	490,908	396,374
Personnel Costs	35,382,926	34,258,829	53,945,326
Staff Benefits	2,480,529	2,133,967	–
Capital Purchases	294,659	–	–
Other Overheads - Administrative Costs	3,050,960	4,027,719	2,149,254
Repair & Maintenance	992,003.00	1,011,638	230,874
Telecommunication	742,709	1,299,569	1,648,045
Insurance	328,095	299,070	140,852
General Workshop	–	2,108,000	11,567
Stolen Equipment	–	–	870,000
Bank Service Charges	622,739	588,207	467,032
Local Travel	3,806,574	3,403,851	15,922,974
Foreign Travel	3,004,858	1,032,439	624,383
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>105,961,139</b>	<b>130,171,278</b>	<b>140,984,906</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b> transferred to general reserves	<b>1,601,250</b>	<b>1,237,395</b>	<b>30,227,008</b>

Green Belt Movement Statement of Financial Position  
Year Ended 31 December 2015

	2015 Kshs	2014 Kshs	2013 Kshs
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property and Equipment	673,194,129	675,131,129	676,843,285
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash Balance	58,618,500	65,222,313	43,247,759
Receivables	2,852,407	–	25,120,413
	61,470,907	65,222,313	68,368,172
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>734,665,036</b>	<b>740,353,442</b>	<b>745,211,457</b>
<b>RESERVES AND LIABILITIES RESERVES</b>			
General Reserves	692,450,574	717,812,814	625,842,678
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Payables	22,831,072	22,540,628	119,368,770
Deferred Income	19,383,390	–	–
<b>TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>734,665,036</b>	<b>740,353,442</b>	<b>745,211,448</b>



Green Belt Movement Statement of Cash Flows  
Year Ended 31 December 2015

	2015 Kshs	2014 Kshs	2013 Kshs
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	1,601,250	1,237,395	(30,227,008)
Depreciation	3,156,101	2,882,338	2,361,215
General Reserves	(26,963,491)	–	–
Exchange Gain	–	–	3,848,259
Assets Written off	–	90,732,732	–
Purchase of Equipment	(1,219,100)	(1,170,182)	(369,710)
(Decrease)/Increase in Receivables	(2,852,407)	25,120,413	(233,654)
Increase in Accrued Revenue	19,383,390	–	–
Increase/(Decrease) in Payables	290,444	(96,828,142)	293,839
Net cash generated from/ (used in) operating activities	(6,603,813)	21,974,554	24,327,059
Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash and Cash equivalents during the year	(6,603,813)	21,974,554	(24,327,059)
MOVEMENT IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
At Start of Year	65,222,313	43,247,759	67,574,818
Increase/ (Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(6,603,813)	(21,974,554)	(24,327,059)
Cash at End of the Year	58,618,500	65,222,313	43,247,759
REPRESENTED BY:			
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	58,618,500	65,222,313	43,247,759

## our donors, supporters and partners

Your support and your commitment to helping in achieving our aims are truly appreciated.

Each year the GBM continues to advance its mission of advocating for a greener, cleaner world and improving the livelihoods of thousands of communities. Through our different programs we have seen many lives changed for the better and dreams to make our planet a better place come true.

On behalf of the Board and the Green Belt Movement team, we thank you for your generous support towards our efforts of keeping the legacy of Prof. Wangari Maathai alive.

### \$100,000+

Prince of Monaco/Yves Rocher /Schooner Foundation  
MacArthur Foundation  
United Nations Development Programme/GEF Small Grants Programme  
Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Kenya  
The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety of Germany (BMU)/  
Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI)

### \$10,000+

Legacy Donation from Dagmar Jutta (German)  
The Nature Conservancy  
Auerbach Family Foundation  
Premier Eye Care  
Waterstone Resource Fiber Limited (Norway)  
Auer Bach Memorial fund  
Foundation Indosuez (Suisse)  
Foundation Philantropia  
World Resources Institute  
The Mainichi Newspapers Ltd  
Green Cross Sweden  
Oikos-Credit Regional Development Centre East Africa  
UN-WOMEN East Africa Regional office

### \$1,000+

Finley's Green Leap Forward  
Marion Institute  
Aid for Africa  
RSF Social Finance  
Mia MacDonald  
Presbytery of Western North Carolina  
Calvert Social Investment Foundation  
Berde- Berdea of Spain  
RVS Service AG  
Save Our Rainforest Trust  
The Schooner African Fund (Kenya)  
BBC Radio 4 Charity Appeal  
Standard Chartered Bank

### In-Kind Supporters

Lucinda Crabtree  
DLA Piper



## GBM board and staff

### GBM Kenya Board

Wanjira Mathai, CHAIR

Obadiah Kavivya, VICE CHAIR

Vertistine Mbaya, TREASURER

Lillian Njehu, VICE TREASURER

Cyrus Kimamo, ACTING SECRETARY

Miriam Chege

Njeri Gakonyo

Gerishon Kinyanjui

Peter Ndunda

Monica Opole

### GBMI USA Board

Lisa Merton, CHAIR

Wanjira Mathai, SECRETARY

Mia MacDonald, TREASURER

Margaret Snyder

Ochoro Otunnu

Nyaguthii Chege

Mary Evelyn Tucker

### GBMI Europe Board

Maggie Baxter, CHAIR

Navjyot Johal, TREASURER

Roger Northcott, COMPANY SECRETARY

Wanjira Mathai

Nadia Sood

Alice Macaire

Ritu Kumar

To the Green Belt Movement (GBM) staff and volunteers, your time and caring is immeasurable and is most certainly warmly felt in the hearts of those whom you continue to serve. None of this would have happened without you, THANK YOU.











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