



the  
green belt  
movement



# The Green Belt Movement Annual Report 2019





## Message from the Chair of the Board

Dear Partner and Friend,

We are pleased to share with you the Green Belt Movement's annual report 2019. The report describes significant progress and outcomes as we continue to deliver on our mission – to empower communities, improve livelihoods, and better environmental management.

We also take this opportunity to convey our deep appreciation for your contributions to GBM's mission and your involvement in our work. What you will read about in this report is a reflection of the work of many people, sustained across numerous years and sometimes decades. Most of all, however, it is the result of the hard work of our community groups, with the steady support of our GBM Secretariat.

There's much more work to be done, but we're well on our way. We thank you for helping deliver these results and for your continued support.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the report.

Thank you and be safe.

Sincerely,  
Jane Gitau  
Chair of the Board



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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.

**Our Mission** is striving for better environmental management, community empowerment, and livelihood improvement using tree-planting as an entry point.

**Our Vision** is to create a value driven society of people who consciously work for the improvement of their livelihoods and a greener, cleaner Kenya.

**Our Values** are shared ideals that bind us together.

They articulate who we are and what we believe.

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



# Tree planting & water harvesting

The Green Belt Movement uses a watershed-based approach to restore degraded watersheds of key water catchments so as to improve their functions and improve the livelihood of the local communities.

## 10 million trees initiative to rehabilitate Maasai Mau

In May 2018, the President of Kenya issued a directive that Kenya should increase its forest cover to 10 % by 2022 through the planting of an estimated 1.8 billion tree seedlings. To support this ambitious goal – currently, forests cover only 7.2% of the landmass in the country according to the Ministry of Environment – GBM embarked on a massive restoration exercise of the Maasai Mau Forest. Over the years, the Green Belt Movement has been advocating for the protection of Mau and mitigating its destruction by conducting tree planting exercises and community empowerment seminars on the need to protect this ecosystem.

At the end of a 60-day notice period, 96% of the settlers voluntarily evacuated the iconic water tower and the remaining settlers were in the process of leaving.

GBM, partnering with the Kenya Forest Service and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, marked this successful reclamation in November by officially launching plans to plant millions of trees in the degraded sections of the forest.

Speaking at the launch of the 10 million Maasai Mau reforestation program, the Ministry confirmed that 35,000 acres of the critical water tower has now been reclaimed, thanked the community for voluntarily moving out of the forest, and noted that their cooperation ensured the exercise was carried out humanely.

The restoration of the water tower dubbed “Restore Mau Save the Mara-Serengeti Ecosystem, Save Lives” drew the participation of multigovernment agencies led by Kenya Water Towers Agency, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Forest Research Institute, National Environment Management Authority, National Environment Complaints Committee, National Youth Service, Ewaso Ngiro South Development Authority, Kenya Defence Forces, various universities, and members of the public among others.



Community groups in Tinderet Forest, Nandi County, during a planting exercise

## Rehabilitating Kenya’s Watertowers



One of the numerous GBM-rehabilitated sites within Mt. Kenya Forest in Nyeri County

GBM continues to partner with the Kenyan Government in forest restoration around the country. We participated in the review and update of the Draft National Forest Policy.

The Draft National Forest Policy, 2018, whose overall goal is to safeguard the ecological and livelihood security of present and future generations, based on sustainable management of the forests for the flow of ecosystem services, will result in the following impacts:

- i) Increased forest cover as a minimum of one-third of the total land area will be under forest and tree cover
- ii) Contribute towards achieving forestry-related Nationally Determined Contribution Targets (NDC’s) of the country

GBM is a key stakeholder in the pursuit and support of the national targets. In our reporting to KFS, we submitted records of 850 hectares that were restored in 2018 countrywide so that through the Ministry we can have a clearer picture of where we are on hitting 5.1 million Hectare targets for Kenya.

This year, we also participated in the Inaugural Forest Summit 2019: Global Action and Armenia. Armenia has embraced the agenda of forest conservation and restoration by committing to double its forest cover by 2050 as part of its commitment to the Bonn Challenge and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The goal of the Forest Summit was to facilitate open and rigorous discussion of policy decisions on Armenia’s forests with the aim of catalyzing improvements in forest conservation and restoration in Armenia and internationally. Key learning on how forests benefit from innovations in water management, community engagement, better international donor coordination, enhancement of tree biodiversity and use of endemics, improved education and training, and the optimal utilization of nurseries and commercial forests. GBM shared its experience in community mobilization and its contribution in guiding and shaping policies that govern environmental conservation and governance in Kenya.



# Climate Change & Corporate Partnerships

Our approach empowers communities to take action against climate change, the impacts of which are already being witnessed across Africa, through food security and water harvesting activities (adaptation) and planting the appropriate trees in appropriate places (mitigation).

## Implementing Strategies for Regional Transitions to Low-Emissions Rural Development

Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) is a high priority on the Government’s agenda. In September 2016 Kenya announced a significant commitment to restore 5.1 million hectares of land, nearly 10% of its total landmass by 2022. Towards this end, the government established a multi-stakeholder technical working group led by KFS, where GBM is a key player. Through the International Climate Initiative (IKI) support, GBM as a partner continues to implement the various landscape restoration options identified to meet this ambitious goal.

To meet Kenya’s Nationally Determined Contribution Targets, the country has committed to mitigate and reduce 30% of its carbon emissions by 2030. On mitigation contribution, the government has established that Kenya’s projected emissions for 2030 are 143 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e. However, currently, the country can reduce projected emissions by only 86 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e, while the mitigation target projects only half this potential MTCO<sub>2</sub>e. Through this, GBM commits to reduce/avoid greenhouse gases of 12 MTCO<sub>2</sub>eq in the Mau ecosystem and contribute a further 400,000 hectares of improved or protected ecosystems by 2020.

Begining in 2018 and continuing in 2019, GBM has planted 600ha in the Mau ecosystem to meet these goals.

This project is developing and operationalizing a community-based online Monitoring Reporting and Verification system in Nakuru and Nandi counties in Kenya. We will also train existing agricultural cooperative societies on an incentive system and adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in Kenya. As a result, Kenya will have informed communities implementing adaptation strategies across the country. An operational knowledge management system on climate change for Kenya will also be a major milestone for this project as well as a contribution to an operational climate change policy for Kenya. The impacts are still realistic and achievable.

GBM continues to partner with KFS on Climate change and Development in Africa (CCDA-VI): Policies and Actions for Effective Implementation of the Paris Agreement for resilient economies in Africa. GBM is also a key Partner on the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and REDD+ Readiness Project (2018-2020) with support from UNDP.



Hosting a delegation from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) at one of our restored sites in Gakanga Forest, Nyeri

## Marking Wangari Maathai Day/Africa Environment Day 2019



The family of Finley Broadus, one of our international partners, plants a tree to mark Wangari Maathai Day alongside GBM staff at City Park Nairobi

The Green Belt Movement teamed up with Nairobi County Government and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to highlight the role of green spaces during the Wangari Maathai Day celebration on March 3rd 2019.

The day kicked off with a cleanup exercise at City Park, led by Cabinet Secretary Keriako Tobiko, and a tree planting session afterward in the same location.

The theme for this year’s celebration was the role of green spaces in promoting sustainable cities and communities; those are inclusive, safe, affordable, and resilient, as enshrined in Sustainable Development Goal 11.

CS Tobiko reiterated the government's commitment to work with stakeholders to achieve the recommended 10% forest cover by 2022 as directed by the President.

In Kenya, urban green spaces have become rare despite their ecological and socio-economic significance. City Park is a national monument and an important ecological jewel that serves as the lungs of the city due to its role in carbon sequestration and micro-climate regulation. It’s a habitat for key biological species, a pre-historic /cultural site, and a cherished recreational facility.

## Prof. Maathai Feted on Wangari Maathai Day

This year, Professor Maathai’s relentless environmental conservation work was immortalized with the naming of a landmark international conference hall in her honor at the August 7th Memorial Park.

Presiding over the inauguration ceremony, First Lady Margaret Kenyatta paid glowing tribute to the late Nobel Peace Laureate saying Kenyans will forever be indebted to Wangari Maathai for her relentless advocacy campaigns to preserve public lands and forests that we enjoy today.

The First Lady said the Wangari Maathai Conference Hall and space where the memorial peace museum stands, also symbolize hope, reconciliation, and peace in the memory of the victims of the August 7, 1998, terrorist attack.

Speaking on behalf of the family, Wanjira Mathai shared with all those in attendance the symbolism that Green Belt Movement places on the August 7th Memorial Park. Ms. Mathai reminisced how her mother and GBM staff voluntarily participated in the rescue on-site on the fateful day when the blast occurred in 1998.



First Lady Margaret Kenyatta cuts the ribbon to Wangari Maathai Hall at the August 7th Memorial Park



# Gender and Livelihoods

Our experience shows that when the communities understand the linkage between their actions, environment and their livelihood situations, they are more likely to muster their energies and take action for change.

## Improving Access to Clean Water and Sanitation



Students from Likia Primary School celebrate the launch of the eco-bio toilet project in their school

In Kenya, approximately 19 million people lack access to sufficient sanitation, a cause for multiple bacterial diseases and infections.

"Improving Access to Clean Water, Sanitation Facilitation and Hygiene Promotion in Nakuru County, Rift Valley, Kenya" was made possible by Green Cross Sweden and Acqua for Life, in partnership with the Green Belt Movement.

The project, which aims to improve access to clean and safe water and sanitation facilities, in Nakuru County, will reduce diseases and improve lives by incorporating a new innovation, the Eco-Bio toilet, a long term solution to the sanitation needs of the underprivileged.

Twenty six eco-Bio toilets were handed over to four of the six schools where we are piloting the project. They are: Likia Primary School, Mosop Secondary School, Mau Summit Primary School, and Kianjoya Primary School, as well as the Rongai Peace and Sports Center. The project provided a rainwater harvesting tank at Likia Primary School. The three-year pilot project, which seeks to address growing concerns about the poor state of toilets in learning institutions across the county, will eventually be rolled out in more schools.

The toilet is equipped with a ventilation system that includes a wind-powered fan while the roof is made from a translucent material that allows adequate light to eliminate the need for an electric bulb at night. The ventilation unit ensures that the toilet remains odorless and pathogen-free in the process of breaking down waste.



A block of eco-bio toilets at Likia Primary School

At Likia Primary School within Njoro-Sub-County where eight eco-bio toilets were constructed, the head teacher Catherine Mwangi says the initiative has improved health and dignity of more than 600 pupils from poor backgrounds.

"Women and girls are the biggest beneficiaries of eco-bio toilet technology. The loos provide them a sense of security and dignity and contribute to girls' school attendance" observed Ms Mwangi.

## Launch of the Green Belt Movement's community-based bamboo craft center



GBM's community bamboo project site in Maragua, Murang'a County

This year marked a great milestone for GBM as we launched a unique Community Based and Craft Center as a successful Bamboo Model for Kenya in Maragua, Murang'a County.

The bamboo project, which was featured in 2015 by the Al Gore Foundation as one of the two most innovative green projects in Africa, involves women groups and local communities in Maragua, Tana-Athi watershed.

The "Community Bamboo model for Kenya" aims to generate sustainable income for smallholder farmers and their households through the development of bamboo as a sustainable source of fuelwood, promoting the use of energy-saving cook-stoves



Alexander Kiburi, Deputy County Commissioner Maragua and Lawrence Kamau, County Director Environment cut the ribbon during the launch event

and creating market opportunities for bamboo products. This will ultimately contribute to poverty reduction, saving of natural forests, reducing landscape degradation, and mitigation of climate change in Kenya.

In partnership with Waterstone Resource Fiber Limited Kenya, GBM established a bamboo biomass and entrepreneurship project in 2013 aimed at promoting the planting of indigenous bamboo for conservation, climate mitigation benefits, renewable energy and income generation for smallholder farmers.

In 2019 we grew from bamboo cultivation, training and learning and upscaled to commercial bamboo product processing and sales, a prerequisite for a self-sustaining project. The communities will produce bamboo items at the bamboo craft center for sale in local and national markets. They will develop products for sale, under the supervision and advice of a professional bamboo craftsman and the experience gained will contribute to improved market understanding and adaptation.



# Mainstream Advocacy

GBM has extensive experience in advocating for a greater democratic space and accountability from national leaders, formulation of public policies, conducting community awareness and supporting participatory governance.

## Hands off Uhuru Park



An aerial view of Uhuru Park

that Prof. Wangari Maathai learned of a plan to construct a 60-storey skyscraper in Uhuru Park by then-President Daniel arap Moi in 1989. Her vocal and persistent objections to the project halted the construction and saved the park. GBM together with partners is committed to once more protecting Uhuru Park for current and future generations and our challenge to the development of the expressway continues.

Uhuru Park is also the sanctuary to the Freedom Corner where the Eco-warrior, Prof. Maathai successfully led protests that culminated in the release of all political prisoners.

Ecologically, the park serves as the lungs of over four million Nairobi residents, shielding them from the silent killer of today (air pollution), it's also a green space that reduces ambient heat in cities, mitigates the effects of other forms of pollution, and absorbs greenhouse gases. It continues to be an invaluable haven in the heart of downtown Nairobi. Indeed Uhuru Park acts as a simple but socially vital safety valve for citizens to release some of the pressures of daily life.

The Green Belt Movement has and remains acutely alert to the full preservation and conservation of such monuments of our heritage across all the Counties. We do this selflessly for the public good and future generations.

In October 2019, we received information of planned major road infrastructural development that would pass through vital sections of the park. As a steward and champion of sustainable conservation of green spaces, the Green Belt Movement resolutely stood up against the China-funded multi-billion project, petitioning the relevant government authorities and calling on the public to be vigilant.

The launch of the project dubbed Development of Nairobi Expressway Project was presided over by President Uhuru Kenyatta earlier in October.

Coincidentally, October is the same month

# Wangari Maathai's Legacy Lives On

Professor Wangari Maathai dedicated her life to improving women's livelihoods by empowering them to lead the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Today, her legacy continues to thrive across the world.

## School built in honour of Professor Wangari Maathai in France



Ecole elementaire Wangari Maathai in France

The late Professor Wangari Maathai is a woman of many firsts the world over.

Professor Maathai is celebrated globally for her environment conservation efforts and in France, the government unveiled a school in her honor.

Ecole élémentaire Wangari Maathai is a public elementary school situated in Aubervilliers area, Paris, France

## The Wangari Maathai 'Forest Champions' Award 2019

Burundian forestry activist Leonidas Nzigiympa received the 2019 Wangari Maathai 'Forest Champions' Award in recognition of his passionate commitment and outstanding contribution to improving forests and the lives of indigenous peoples, women and youth in his country.

Since 2012, the award has recognized inspiring individuals who have helped preserve, restore, and sustainably manage forests and improve the lives of people who depend on them. It was established by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

CPF, which is chaired by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, consists of 15 international organizations working together to promote sustainable management of various forests and strengthen long-term political commitment to this end.

## The Maathai Impact Award

The Maathai Impact Award, hosted by Deep Learning Indaba, encourages and recognizes work by African innovators that shows the impactful application of machine learning and artificial intelligence to positively impact Africa and her communities.

This award reinforces the legacy of Wangari Maathai in acknowledging the capacity of individuals to be a positive force for change: by recognizing ideas and initiatives that demonstrate that each of us, no matter how small, can make a difference.

Olubayo Adekanmbi received the Maathai Impact Award for his role as founder and a key driver of Data Science Nigeria, an initiative focussed on training Nigerian data scientists and strengthening machine learning in Africa and AI ecosystem more broadly.

An honorable mention was given to Nabuuma Shamim Kaliisa of Community Healthcare Innovation Lab, who developed an AI-based application delivering cervical cancer e-consultations for women in Uganda.



# Participation in International Fora

Within the framework of accomplishing our mission, the Green Belt Movement participated in different international fora in partnership with other organizations, research and centers and institutions, as well as NGO's to highlight our work.

## Sustainable Tropics Alliance annual meeting



Representatives of STA organizations during the annual meeting. Fourth from the left is GBM's Mercy Karunditu

The meeting also offered the STA member organizations an opportunity to take stock of progress within current focal areas, as well as cross-regionally.

## Greening the Future: Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry in African & Asian Drylands

The Right Livelihood College (RLC) Campus Bonn brought together 18 Ph.D. students from 12 countries in Africa and Asia from September 15-18, 2019, for an interdisciplinary workshop at the Center for Development Research in Bonn.

The workshop focused on research and practice concerned with sustainable agriculture and forestry in drylands in Africa and Asia. The topic was addressed in a transdisciplinary way, combining case studies from agricultural, environmental, social, and economic sciences with best practice examples from civil society action and agency.

In his keynote address at the event, Wycliffe Matika, the Deputy Administration and Operations Executive reported on GBM's grass-roots work towards converting the ecological debate into mass action for reforestation and livelihood security. "You cannot change the people unless you empower them. You have to understand the issues around their livelihood security and also give them tools so that environmental actions and efforts are more sustainable", Wycliffe said.

RLC is a global education and research initiative of universities and the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize'. Professor Wangari Maathai won the Right Livelihood Award in 1984.



Participants at the RLC workshop in Bonn, Germany

## Africa Security Forum 2019: The Impact of Climate Change on Security in Africa

The Green Belt Movement was represented in this year's Africa Security Forum by our Project Officer Paul Thiong'o. The forum brought together over 400 experts representing 60 countries, including 35 from Africa to Rabat Morocco to deliberate on the impact of climate change on security in Africa.

Experts from different countries shared their experiences in security and peace with special relationship with natural resources and climate change.

Some of the solutions identified included agricultural economy development and youth, South-South cooperation, adaptation agriculture for Africa, capacity building, Public-private partnerships, improvement of governance and inter-intra-continental cooperation. The forum also recommended for the establishment of "Club of Casablanca", a network of think tanks to represent Africa in such fora as Conference of Parties.



GBM's Paul Thiong'o (first on the right) alongside some of the panelists at the forum

## Forest Summit: Global Action and Armenia

The inaugural Forest Summit: Global Action and Armenia co-organized by the Armenia Tree Project and the American University of Armenia Acopian Center for the Environment took place on October 20-23, 2019 in Armenia.

GBM's Project Officer David Mathenge was among the host of speakers at the event. Mathenge shared insight on how GBM supports communities and bolsters ecosystems across Kenya through tree-planting. Globally, forests are critical in the fight against climate change, in conserving biodiversity, and in ensuring water security.

The goal of the Forest Summit was to facilitate open and rigorous discussion of policy decisions on Armenia's forests with the aim of catalyzing improvements in forest conservation and restoration in Armenia and internationally.

The Forest Summit attendees had a chance to participate in plenary sessions, panels, breakout sessions, and field visits to forestry sites in Armenia. There were also sightseeing and social gatherings.



# Financial statements for 2019

Statement on Comprehensive Income  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2019

	2019 Kshs	2018 Kshs
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grants Received	51,535,395	62,819,298
Other Income	2,382,793	2,868,096
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>53,918,188</b>	<b>65,687,394</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Direct Program Costs	42,968,336	57,368,102
Administration Costs	11,316,136	18,894,589
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>54,284,472</b>	<b>76,262,691</b>
Deficit of the year	<b>(366,284)</b>	<b>(10,575,297)</b>

Green Belt Movement Statement of Financial Position  
Year Ended 31 December 2019

	2019 Kshs	2018 Kshs
<b>NON- CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property and Equipment	<b>681,409,558</b>	<b>682,397,154</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Accounts Receivable	441,142	138,994
Cash and Bank	25,569,058	34,898,101
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>26,010,200</b>	<b>35,037,095</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payables	33,023,053	42,671,260
<b>Net Current Liabilities</b>	<b>(7,012,853)</b>	<b>7,634,165</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>674,396,705</b>	<b>674,762,989</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
Revaluation Reserve	634,053,182	634,627,982
Restricted Funds	12,982,587	12,982,587
Unrestricted Funds	28,845,546	28,845,546
General Funds	(1,484,610)	(1,693,126)
<b>Net Funds</b>	<b>674,396,705</b>	<b>674,762,989</b>

Green Belt Movement Statement of Cash Flows  
Year Ended 31 December 2019

	2019 Kshs	2018 Kshs
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Deficit for the year	(366,284)	(10,575,297)
<b>Operating Balance Before Working Capital Changes</b>	<b>(366,284)</b>	<b>(10,575,297)</b>
<b>Adjustment for:</b>		
Depreciation	1,257,529	1,374,007
Inter Fund Adjustments	0	(2,340,184)
Opening balance adjustments	0	(27,802)
Prior Year Adjustments	0	1,517,540
<b>Change in working capital</b>		
(Increase)/Decrease in Accounts Receivable	(302,149)	2,598,402
Decrease in Accounts Payable	(9,648,207)	(3,400,828)
<b>Net Cash used in Operating Activities</b>	<b>(9,059,111)</b>	<b>(10,854,162)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		
Purchase of Property and Equipment	(269,932)	0
<b>Net Cash Used in Investing Activities</b>	<b>(269,932)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Decrease in Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>(9,329,043)</b>	<b>(10,854,162)</b>
<b>Movement in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents 01 January	34,898,101	45,752,263
Net Decrease in Cash & Cash Equivalents	(9,329,043)	(10,854,162)
<b>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>25,569,058</b>	<b>34,898,101</b>



