

News Bulletin



Issue 1
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Wangari Maathai Day 2015



In recognition of the work of the late Nobel Laureate Professor Wangari Maathai, the AU designated the 3rd of March, every year, as Wangari Maathai Day to be observed in conjunction with Africa Environmental Day.

This year, the Government of Kenya, led by His Excellency the President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, hosted the celebration held at the Nairobi National Park. H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta and First Lady Margaret Kenyatta visited GBM's exhibition stand.



Inside this issue:

Wangari Maathai Day 2015 1

Annual Review 2014 2

María Teresa Fernandez de la Vega, pays homage to Wangari Maathai 2

Workshops and forums 3

Workshops and forums & highlight visits to GBM 4

Special recognition 5

Wangari Maathai House 6

Staff moments 7

Annual Review 2014



GBM held its Annual Review at Lang'ata Training Centre on February 19-20, 2015.

The Annual Review was an action learning process that will enable us look back on the past and revisit the capacities and

priorities of GBM in order to understand the present and draw lessons for the future.

María Teresa Fernandez de la Vega, pays homage to Wangari Maathai



In 2012, Fundación Mujeres por África planted 71 trees, one for each year Wangari Maathai lived.

Since then, Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid in Madrid Spain, has a promenade with her name.



Founding President of the *Mujeres por África* (Women for Africa) Foundation and former Deputy Prime Minister of Spain visited GBM office on February 5 2015. Hers was no ordinary courtesy call. It was homage to her friend and sister, Professor Wangari Maathai, whom she was last in touch with in July 2011, just three months before her passing.

Moringa TOT program

On March 26 2015, GBM conducted a 'Training-of-Trainers' program at Lang'ata Training Centre on the nutritional and social-economic benefits of Moringa oleifera – commonly known as the Moringa tree.

The training drew together 20 participants from Siaya, Tharaka nithi and Nakuru Counties.

No Ceilings: The Full Participation Project report launch

Wanjira Mathai, GBM Board Chair and Director - Wangari Maathai Institute -wPOWER Hub joined Melinda Gates, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton on March 9 2015 in New York City to launch the "No Ceilings: The Full Participation Report".

One of the videos used in this report was shot in Kenya featuring our very own Board Chair Wanjira Mathai and Samuel Kariuki

Watch the video [here](#).



Management of the Ecological Crisis in Kenya symposium



On March 5 2015, GBM attended a symposium on the Management of the Ecological Crisis in Kenya at St. Paul's University-Kenya ; our Executive Director Aisha Karanja was the keynote speaker at the event.

Planting seeds of Hope at St. Pauls University

Empowering Women for Sustainable Natural Resource Management: Women and Environment Forum 2015



In the spirit of Environment Day & Wangari Maathai Day, GBM in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), the Government of Kenya, UNEP and World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) hosted a day-long Women and Environment Forum to explore the multiple dimensions of gender and natural resource management on March 4 2015.

The forum, at ICRAF Nairobi, attracted 63 participants from six different countries.

Africa Regional Workshop on Social & Environmental considerations in REDD+¹

GBM participated in a week long Africa Regional Workshop on Social & Environmental considerations in REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) and related Natural Resource Management programs, in Lusaka, Zambia.

The aim of the workshop is to enhance the social and environmental integrity of the work of USAID and partners in Eastern and Southern Africa on REDD+ and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks and related programs.

Highlight Visits to GBM



Sabine (Crédit Agricole)—February 5 2015



Nigel Sizer, Global Director of World Resources Institute's (WRI) Forests Program—March 25 2015

GBM recognized for their role in implementing the Nairobi Water Fund

The Nairobi Water Fund, launched on March 20 2015, is designed to provide a sustained water supply to over 9.3 million people.

GBM in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Programme is implementing a project under the Nairobi Water Fund in Gura and Upper Sagana sub-watersheds.

GBM is working with farmers and adjacent communities to ensure comprehensive soil and water conservation measures are implemented on the farms and river banks.

The Water Fund President awarded GBM for our outstanding leadership in development of the Fund



Wangari Maathai featured on CNN's list of 7 women who changed the world



In celebration of International Women's Day on March 8, CNN's Leading Women took a look at seven of the many females throughout history who changed the world for the betterment of all.

Professor Wangari Maathai was [featured](#) for her role in empowering rural women through the Green Belt Movement.

According to CNN, “all of these women left a mark on the world that would change people's thinking for decades—in some cases centuries—to come”.

Thumbs up from the Ministry of Energy

On February 9 2015, a team of officials from GBM, the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum and Kenya Forest Service (KFS) visited Chepalungu forest where GBM, in partnership with the Ministry, is implementing a rehabilitation project.

The project aims at restoring 156.8 hectares by planting 248,000 seedlings.

The project lead from the Ministry, applauded GBM's project management and community mobilization, stating that this is the best among all the projects the Ministry is implementing in the country.

A legacy project—The Wangari Muta Maathai House



Wangari Muta Maathai's legacy takes many forms: the special qualities of her personality and vision; the lessons she took from her experiences; and the fortitude she displayed in speaking truth to power.

In Kenya, she remains a symbol of hope and steadfastness. Her moral authority, resoluteness, and incorruptibility are truly missed by the ordinary people she championed and on behalf of whom she spoke. Throughout the world, she is remembered for her unwavering commitment to the global environment and the most marginalized people, particularly women. The loss of her strong voice and accessible presence has left a huge gap, particularly as nations and communities grapple with the realities of a changing climate.

We, her friends, family and the extended Green Belt Movement family are dedicated to ensuring that her work and life are not forgotten, but that they continue to encourage people to live with conviction and courage. We believe that legacy projects are a vital way for people to honor Wangari's memory, share experiences and be inspired by her life's journey to take action.

To that end, we are proposing the creation of the Wangari Muta Maathai House (WMM House): a sanctuary for reflection and renewal; a final home for her ashes; and a place of learning, growth, and action.

Read the entire Concept Note [here](#).

Staff Moments

We are a happy people...



...and who is the happiest of them all?



We also dance a lot...



...did I mention we dance a lot?



But above all, we're one big family.

