

# Internal News Bulletin



Issue 2  
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## Green Belt Movement Features at The No Ceilings Conversation

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On May 1, 2015, President Bill Clinton and Chelsea Clinton attended a No Ceilings Conversation held at the Farasi Lane School in Mitini, Nairobi as part of their efforts to raise awareness about girls' education. Among the special guests invited were: Wanjira Mathai, Chair of the Green Belt Movement (GBM) and Director, wPOWER Project at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies and Professor Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary-Environment, Water, & Natural Resources.

During the event, President Clinton invited Ms. Wanjira who is also the daughter of Professor Wangari Maathai, Founder, the Green Belt Movement and 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Winner. President Clinton highlighted the pioneering leadership role that her mother played as the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a PhD and the first woman in the University of Nairobi to head a department.

The president noted Wanjira's leadership too in her work as Chair of GBM and Director of wPOWER, noting that both Wanjira and Wangari Maathai have had the opportunity to make a difference. President Clinton recognized Wanjira and her mother as examples of women who have made a difference in the world, and asked the audience to consider that the world misses out on individuals like Wanjira and Wangari when they restrict the potential of women and girls by limiting their opportunities for education.

## International Day for Biological Diversity Tree Planting at Karura

On May 22 2015, we held a tree planting activity at the Wangari Maathai Corner in Karura Forest to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB).

This year's theme – 'Biodiversity for Sustainable Development', reflects the importance of biodiversity for the achievement of sustainable development.



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



We conducted a training workshop aimed at unlocking women's potential in natural resource management and in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The "Training Rural Women for Environmental, Economic and Livelihood Empowerment in the Great Lakes Region" seeks to train and support 300-400 women and community leaders over three years who will in turn train an estimated 200,000 individuals across three East African watersheds: Upper Nile, Lake Victoria and Cherangany.

The workshop provides a platform to share best practices and experiences in relation to natural resources management among participants from different regions in the country.

This will increase knowledge, enhance skills and change attitudes, behaviors and practices with regard to sustainable natural resources management, clean energy entrepreneurship and transformative leadership.



## GBM Team Hosted by the Ethiopian Minister of Forestry

A team from Green Belt Movement and Clinton Foundation led by our Executive Director Aisha Karanja and Jackson Kimani, Country Executive Director of Clinton Foundation visited Ethiopia on April 24-27, 2015. The visit was to meet SOS Sahel NGO, a partner organization in Catalyzing Forest and Landscape Rehabilitation for Climate Resilience and Biodiversity Conservation in East Africa project. The team was hosted by Kebede Dawd -Minister of Forestry in Ethiopia who also accompanied them in a field tour to Hawasa where SOS Sahel is implementing a landscape restoration project.



This was a pre exchange visit that will in turn lead to the main exchange visit where 16 community members from Kenya will visit Ethiopia in September 2015.

This project aims at demonstrating community restoration initiatives which will catalyze restoration of highly degraded yet critical ecosystem sites, and will demonstrate to other countries the value of developing national restoration opportunity maps.

## GBM's New Support From 'Save Our Rainforest Trust'



On April 21, 2015, we hosted Mr. Nick Muriuki Mugwandia and Mr. James Waibocho - founders of "Save Our Rainforest Trust" - at our office in Nairobi. Save Our Rainforest Trust aims to restore degraded forest land in the country particularly in the Aberdare Ecosystem.

During the courtesy call at GBM, they made a contribution to support GBM's work in memory of the late Dr. Pravin Shah who was a co-founder of Save Our Rainforest Trust.

GBM will use the funds in our rehabilitation projects around the Gura Watershed in the Aberdare Ecosystem that aims to reduce communities' dependence on forests through Natural Resource Management and provision of alternative livelihood options.

## wPOWER Global Partnership Forum 2015



A team from GBM and Partnership on Women's Entrepreneurship in Clean Energy (wPOWER) attended the wPOWER Global Partnership Forum 2015 held at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India as part of an India –Africa exchange facilitated by the U.S. Department of State. The forum was a platform for sharing experiences on clean energy between African wPOWER, India wPOWER, government officials and the private sector.

The a 24-member team from Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania was led by Ms. Wanjira Mathai, Director of the wPOWER Hub, & Chair of GBM.

The team also visited The Energy Resource Center (TERI) in India—a center committed to providing environment friendly solutions to rural energy problems.

**Did you know?** wPOWER Hub was created by the U.S. Department of State with support from the MacArthur Foundation. It is located at Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies (WMI), at the University of Nairobi. wPOWER Hub's role is to build the evidence base on women, energy access and climate solutions; conduct training of trainer workshops; facilitate African and Indian women entrepreneur and leadership exchanges to build a network of women climate leaders, and build public awareness.

## Community Compensation Process

Before



After



For a long time, GBM had not been in a position to ascertain how much it owes the community groups.

In turn, this has caused a huge backlog which has translated into anxiety on communities GBM works with.

In January 2015, we hired six graduate casuals to support and hasten the process. Right now, the tree nursery records are properly filed and information can be easily traced.

## Staff Corner

### Some humorous description of leadership from great leaders:

- “The question, ‘Who ought to be boss?’ is like asking, ‘Who ought to be the tenor in the quartet?’ Obviously, the man who can sing tenor.” –**Henry Ford**
- “Don’t tell people how to do things, tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results.” -**George S. Patton**
- “You do not lead by hitting people over the head — that’s assault, not leadership.” – **Dwight Eisenhower**
- “The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint to keep from meddling with them while they do it.” - **Theodore Roosevelt**
- “First rule of leadership: everything is your fault.” – *A Bug’s Life*
- “The very essence of leadership is that you have to have vision. You can’t blow an uncertain trumpet.” –**Theodore M. Hesburgh**
- “Always drink upstream from the herd.” – **Will Rogers**
- “Delegating work works, provided the one delegating works, too.” - **Robert Half**
- “Success in almost any field depends more on energy and drive than it does on intelligence. This explains why we have so many stupid leaders.” – **Sloan Wilson**
- “It is a terrible thing to look over your shoulder when you are trying to lead — and find no one there.” – **Franklin D. Roosevelt**
- “Leadership involves finding a parade and getting in front of it.” – **John Naisbitt**
- “I suppose leadership at one time meant muscles; but today it means getting along with people.” - **Mohandas K. Gandhi**

By Aisha Karanja—Executive Director GBM

## Professor Maathai is Honored by Oregon Artist in Portrait



Inspired by Professor Wangari Maathai, [April Waters](#) has painted a beautiful portrait to honor her at an upcoming art show. Waters is a talented painter who gets inspiration from water and her passion for the environment. This is apparent in her breathtaking landscapes as well as in a unique exhibit titled “Sheros”, Contemporary Women Leaders for Peace and the Environment. This exhibit highlights six women leaders, including Professor Maathai.

Waters had the opportunity to meet Professor Maathai in Seattle and learn more about her and the Green Belt Movement, while also photographing her in order to render a larger-than-life size portrait of Professor Maathai to be presented alongside the other portraits in the exhibit.

Waters hopes to bring many students through the shows to introduce the Green Belt Movement’s work to young men and women

Upon completion of these shows, Waters will sell the portraits, of which a portion of the proceeds will go to the Green Belt Movement and other distinguished causes. She hopes for the paintings to end up in a museum or non-profit where the public may enjoy them and learn more about the causes of the incredible women she has painted.



## Staff Moments

It has been a very busy period for us. As we strive to achieve our mandate, we had to climb over so many barriers and descend several hills.



All this effort made some of us thirsty and hungry.



We realized nothing quenches your thirst like a big sip of mursik.

In the long run, having a helping hand kept us going,



and knowing we always had a shoulder to lean on.

