

the
green belt
movement



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Adams Arcade, Kilimani Road, Off
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www.greenbeltmovement.org



GBM Board Chair Ms Jane Gitau

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Partner and Friend,

We are pleased to share with you the Green Belt Movement's annual report for 2020. 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 cannot take lightly the challenges we have faced this year. The advent of COVID-19 made us change our lives drastically. We have learned the value of human life as well as the importance of our environment, which is the main source of oxygen for humanity.

I also take this opportunity to convey our deep appreciation for your contributions to GBM's mission and your involvement in our work. All this was done while we were grappling with the harsh effects of COVID-19, which required minimum or little movement and human interaction. 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.

We are happy to let you know that in keeping with the expectations of good corporate governance, we had a change of guard on top. This gives us fresh energy, fresh thoughts and enthusiasm as we continue to deliver our mandate.

There's much more work to be done, but we're well on our way. As we continue to recover from the many effects of the pandemic, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Gitau'.

Jane Gitau
Chair of the Board

MAINSTREAM ADVOCACY



Our advocacy for greater political accountability continues with requests for expanding democratic space in Kenya. GBM advocates for an end to land grabbing, deforestation, and political corruption with an ultimate goal to mobilize mass public support for environmental conservation and protection of public spaces (i.e. wetlands, parks, and forests) to ensure sustainable development today and for our future.

SIERRA LEONE HOSTS WANGARI MAATHAI DAY 2020



Wangari Maathai Day celebrations in Sierra Leone

The regional Wangari Maathai Day and Africa Environment Celebration drew stakeholders from the African Union, NGOs, and civil organization from across the continent to celebrate the legacy of Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai and to imbue leaders on the pertinent need to manage resources sustainably.

With the theme 'Our Resources - Our Future' the event was full of songs, dance, poems, and exhibitions increasing awareness of environmental conservation.

The Chief Minister of Sierra Leone, Hon. Professor David John Francis, highlighted the work of Professor Maathai in saving Mother Nature. He honored her memory as an African icon championing sustainable development, women's empowerment, and equality. Professor Francis urged African leaders to emulate her model and assured them that the government of Sierra Leone would continue to make financial commitments to conserve the environment via plastic eradication and the promise to plant 1 million trees annually.



Construction of the Nairobi Expressway

ENVIRONMENT TRIBUNAL PETITIONED TO OVERTURN OKAY FOR KES 62BN EXPRESSWAY

A spirited campaign by the Daima Coalition, of which the Green Belt Movement is a founding member, is demanding intentionality from the government as plans to construct the multi-billion-shilling expressway from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to Westlands in Nairobi begin.

The KShs. 62 Billion development is to be undertaken as a Public-Private Partnership with the China Road and Bridge Construction Corporation (Kenya) (CRBC) on a build-operate-transfer model. That is, CRBC will finance, build and operate the tolled road for 30 years during which it will recover its costs (with interest) before transferring its operation to the Kenyan National Highways Authority (KeNHA).

The project has faced opposition due to reports that it would hive off 23 meters of Uhuru Park, which KeNHA considers part of the road reserve for Uhuru Highway. A spirited campaign led by GBM compelled KeNHA to rollback on this position, giving assurances that the design of the road has been amended to ensure it does not affect Uhuru Park.

Despite this promise and heavy public censure, construction of the project has begun even as the Public-Private partners have failed to share their new plans or heed the legal appeal to stop the project.

Through the NET appeal (NET/19/2020) by the Green Belt Movement, Natural Justice, Katiba Institute, and Wildlife Direct Vs NEMA, KENHA, and CRBC, we are opposing the irregular issuance of the EIA License by the National Environment Management Authority of Kenya (NEMA).

TREE PLANTING AND WATER HARVESTING



GREENING IN KENYA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MAINICHI PAPERS

The Green Belt Movement continues the long-term collaboration with the Mainichi Newspapers Limited and the people of Japan, a partnership spanning over a decade that supports communities through the Mottanai Greening Project (MGP). Through this partnership over 1500 households in Mathira, Kieni, Lower Imenti, Nithi, South and Central Imenti have been empowered through sustainable land management.

In 2020, GBM and the Mainichi Newspapers Limited mobilized local communities to rehabilitate 20 hectares of degraded forest land through the planting of 20,000 indigenous tree seedlings in Hombe forest - a part of the Mt. Kenya forest ecosystem. Additionally, the project promoted community-based climate resilience and livelihood improvement through the implementation of food security and water harvesting initiatives and the rehabilitation of riparian lands adjacent to the farms by planting 500 bamboo saplings.

This project is hinged on the Mottanai concept of 3Rs (Reduction of environmental pollution, Reuse of natural resources, and Recycling). Since 2007, over 11 million trees have been planted within the Mt. Kenya forest through this partnership. This has seen increased tree cover in the region, regeneration of new animal habitats, and mitigation of flash floods during the long rains season.



Mainichi tree planting project

RESTORING MAU AND MT ELGON WATER TOWERS



Tree Planting in Mount Elgon Water Tower

Mt. Elgon has historically been one of Kenya's five important water towers, which provide an estimated 75 percent of the country's water resources and are central to Kenya's economic and social well-being.

Despite its critical role, this water tower ecosystem has been seriously degraded and continues to be impacted by several activities including irregular and ill-planned settlements, overgrazing, uncontrolled and illegal forest resource extraction, and the conversion of forest land to agriculture.

In recent years, the forest has been cleared for cultivation, charcoal, and timber. This has dramatically impacted wildlife, infrastructure, and the livelihood of communities buffering this ecosystem.

Since 2018, GBM has been working in partnership with ECOSIA GmbH from Germany to restore degraded forest land in Mt. Elgon and Cherangany water towers, both in TransNzoia County. During Phase 2 (2019-2020) in Mt. Elgon and the Mau Complex, we planted 374,508 and 500,000 trees respectively to help reestablish a sustainable water supply through the protection of water catchments within the water towers.

These trees will also restore habitat for wildlife, stabilize steep slopes prone to landslides, and secure livelihoods. The continued degradation of these forests contributes to a growing water crisis in Kenya and the larger region. Moreover, the loss of biodiversity and increased carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation are exacerbated by climate change.

GENDER AND LIVELIHOODS



REWARDING CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS

Economic incentive measures play a crucial role in nature conservation at all levels of society – spanning from local to global systems. At the community level, it is important to have appropriate incentive measures for nature conservation as natural resource use is so closely linked with issues impacting livelihood.

In the context of nature conservation, economic incentives are a more worthwhile investment for financial stability and quality of life of communities. These investments support the stability of natural resources in the course of their economic activity.

GBM developed and adopted a reward system for the conservation of forests, biodiversity, soil, and water in Gura and Sagana watersheds in Nyeri County. Over the years, the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) plan has given specific rewards commensurate to both individual and group conservation efforts. The conservation champions in Upper Tana were given multipurpose jikos, beehives, high-value fruit trees, and dairy goats.

In the longer term, PES can positively affect poverty reduction through improved resilience of communities and increased land productivity while substantially improving community-level forest conservation.

Economic incentives present a valuable tool for both nature conservation and sustainable livelihood development.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRENUERSHIP TRAINING

The Green Belt Movement rolled out an awareness creation programme using various media modes while focusing on specific groups of the population in the counties.

We conducted awareness workshops and training for stakeholders and community groups involved in waste recycling.

Furthermore, we developed a network 'Waste to Wealth' of community groups actively involved in recycling and this provided them with an opportunity to be recognized in the project.

Being a relatively new area, there is no specific legislation in Kenya aimed at reducing the release of UPOPs. Therefore, there is a need to ensure that developers and policymakers understand the linkages between chemicals and waste management concerning development and poverty reduction.



Dairy Goat Farming



Community members receiving bee hives

CLIMATE CHANGE



COMMUNITY- BASED MEASUREMENT, REPORTING AND VERIFICATION SYSTEM (MVR) ON CARBON EMISSION

Climate change poses major threats to the environment, economic growth, and sustainable development. Over the years, the increased intensity and magnitude of weather-related disasters in Kenya has aggravated natural resources and contributes to resource insecurity. The country is working to reduce its Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and transition to a low carbon development pathway delivers benefits beyond GHG emissions reductions including sustainable development, green growth, and resource efficiency.

Thusly, the Green Belt Movement with support from the International Climate Initiative (IKI), and other development partners is establishing mechanisms to enhance the implementation of the National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) for Nandi and Nakuru counties. One of the project milestones was the development of a county climate change Measurement, Reporting, and Verification system to assess and quantify its emissions (MRV). The MRV system is designed to combine adaptation and mitigation functions based on community reporting systems.

We developed an online community data collection tool and piloted it in Kipsamoite (Nandi County) and Dundori (Nakuru County) as sub-locations where 17 enumerators collected data using an online app 'Kobo collect'. The experience gained will be analyzed and made available to replicate successes and influence the development of national MRV regulations.

WASTE TO WEALTH: MAINSTREAM WASTE MANAGEMENT

Agriculture remains a key sector in Kenya's economic development. It accounts for 65 % of the country's export earnings and is the livelihood source of more than 80 % of Kenya's population.

Nakuru County is one of the major agricultural regions in Kenya and has seen an increase in organic farming for improved food safety over the years. Some of the key characteristics of organic farming include protecting the long-term fertility of soils by maintaining organic matter levels, minimum mechanical operations on soil, and encouraging soil biological activity.

Composting presents an opportunity for farming households to increase food and agricultural production using organic inputs originating from waste and including farm residue, market waste, and livestock manure. Through our Sound Chemicals Management Mainstreaming and UPOPs Reduction project, community group representatives in Mombasa, Nakuru, and Kisumu have been trained on recycling and preparation of organic compost.

In collaboration with the Kenya Bureau of Standards, GBM visited different composting groups in Nakuru County to assess their capacity and effectiveness in the production of organic fertilizer. The assessment of the different groups indicated a great potential to reduce waste going to the dumpsites by recovering organic materials for composting into organic fertilizers.

For better access to the local, national and regional markets, there is a need to certify the quality of organically produced fertilizers. Organic Certification will give a written assurance that production and processing methods employed conform to organic standards and the certified products will be allowed to use the KEBS diamond mark of certification.



Organic Fertilizers



GBM Board Chair Ms Jane Gitau participating in a water purification exercise at GBM Offices



Tulip Water Filter

SAFE WATER, SAVE TREES, SAVE LIVES

Adequate and safe drinking water is important for human health and well-being, economic production, and sustainable development. Failure to ensure the safety of drinking water may expose the community to the risk of outbreaks of waterborne and infectious diseases.

Although drinking water is a basic human right, many people do not have access to safe and adequate drinking water or proper sanitation facilities. In Kenya, approximately 80% of hospital admittance is due to preventable diseases and about 50% of these illnesses are water, sanitation, and hygiene-related, as reported by UNICEF.

It is essential to establish a comprehensive drinking water system that integrates water supply, quality, and management as well as associated educational programs to ensure the safety and sustainability of drinking water supplies.

To enhance access to the safe drinking water supply across the rural areas of the country, we partnered with Basic Water Needs, a private organization from the Netherlands to supply GBM community groups with Tulip water filters. Using a simple state-of-the-art filtration system, the filter will lower the carbon footprint since most rural communities treat their water through boiling, using firewood.

This partnership also promotes micro-entrepreneurship in rural areas as community trainers of trainees will be selling the filters through their community networks.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF EARTH DAY

While COVID-19 forced us to keep our distance, it did not silence our voices or halt our actions to heal Mother Earth. For Earth Day, GBM held a joint tree planting session with Kenya Forest Service at the Wangari Maathai Corner in Karura Forest to mark this auspicious day.

The theme for Earth Day 2020 was 'Climate Action'. The enormous challenge and the vast opportunities of action on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary. GBM and the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Julius Kamau planted 50 indigenous trees, symbolic of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Speaking at the event, the GBM Chair urged the participants to further the message of tree planting to replenish the earth and heal her wounds, and in Professor Maathai's words, our own.

The CCF took note of the fact that the tree planting exercise is a welcome relief at a time when the world needs to heal from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The planting activity was planned to strictly adhere to guidelines against the spread of Covid-19 as outlined by the National Emergency Response Committee on the Corona pandemic. Across the country, our community tree planting groups also took part in various activities to mark Earth Day 2020 as a bold action against climate change.



URBAN TREE PLANTING & SCHOOL GREENING INITIATIVE

The Green Belt Movement champions tree planting in schools by building sustainable relationships with institutions. The aim is to increase environmental awareness and to foster schools' and students' engagement in improving their environment, by actively participating in the process and having their voices heard.

Despite schools shutting down nation-wide due to the Covid-19 pandemic, GBM planted a total of 6,500 indigenous and high-value fruit trees in Lenana School, Athi Primary School, and St. Georges Athi Secondary School.

The project also drew support from communities living around the schools through the '*nyumba kumi* initiative.' These community members are involved in the planting process and also monitoring the planted trees.

OTHER UPDATES



Left to right

Dr. Grace Wangombe, Dr. Grace Musangi, Ms. Jane Gitau, Ms. Monica Aoko, Mrs. Mary Gakunga

We are delighted to announce the election of Jane Gitau as our new Chair of the Board effective November 14, 2020. Ms Gitau, currently the Head of Communication at Kenya Seed Company Ltd, has over 20 years of experience in strategic leadership in both corporate and international communications.

She is the President Emeritus & Fellow of the Public Relations Society of Kenya (F. PRSK) and the Founder and Chair of the Chevening Kenya Alumni Association (ChevKenya). She is also a Fellow & Secretary-General of the African Public Relations Association (F.APRA).

Previously, Jane has served as a board member of other reputable organizations such as the Global Alliance for PR & Communication Management (Portugal) and Trans World Radio.

GBM also conducted its annual general meeting that resulted in the election of a new Board of Directors for the organisation. Led by Ms. Gitau, the other members of the board include: Ms. Imelda Aoko, Mr. Stan Miano, Dr. Grace Wang'ombe, Dr. Raphael Kweyu, Mr. Mwangi Maru, Dr. Linus Muli Maundu, Ms. Mary Gakunga, Dr. Gacuuru Karengi, Dr. Grace Musangi, Dr. Thuita Thenya, Ms. Mary Njoroge, Rev. Michael Wagatua and Ms. Marion Kamau.

WANGARI MAATHAI CELEBRATED AS UON MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Pomp and color characterized the University of Nairobi's (UON) 50th anniversary in November 2020. As part of the UON at 50 celebrations, the Wangari Maathai Institute hosted a webinar "My Reflections on Prof. Wangari Maathai: Wangari Maathai Institute" to celebrate the life of Prof. Maathai.

Prof. Stephen Kiama, the UON Vice-Chancellor, gave a detailed presentation of the various works of the Late Prof. Wangari Maathai noting her unique approach to involve everyone in the community in various conservation activities and the passion she had to ensure all her activities had a long-lasting impact. He highlighted the thinking behind the formation of the Wangari Maathai Institute including the various community-driven interventions in peace and environmental conservation. Prof. Maathai envisioned an Institute that was to take the lead in research, policy influencing, experiential learning, community outreach, and global networking.

GBM NAMED A GLOBAL ALLIANCE PARTNER OF THE EARTHSHOT PRIZE

October 8, 2020, marked the launch of The Earthshot Prize, the most prestigious global environment prize in history, incentivizing worldwide change with a decade of action to repair our planet.

The Green Belt Movement is proud to be a Global Alliance Partner and to have worked closely with The Royal Foundation on the development of The Earthshot Prize. This project will support the global effort to protect and restore the environment while also turning the current pessimism surrounding environmental issues into optimism, highlighting the ability of human ingenuity to bring about change.

Together, the five Earthshots, – 'Protect and restore nature', 'Clean our air', 'Revive our oceans', 'Build a waste-free world' and 'Fix our climate', aim to generate new ways of thinking, as well as new technologies, systems, policies and solutions. By bringing these five critical issues together, The Earthshot Prize recognizes the interconnectivity between environmental challenges and the urgent need to tackle them together.



STATEMENT OF AUDIT AS OF 31ST DEC 2020

STATEMENT OF COMPREHESIVE INCOME-YEAR ENDED 31ST DEC 2020

INCOME	2020	2019
	KES	KES
Grants Received	63,893,864	51,535,395
Other Income	2,351,301	2,382,793
Total Income	<u>66,245,165</u>	<u>53,918,188</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Direct Program Costs	55,908,652	42,968,366
Administration Costs	10,637,994	11,316,136
Total Expenditure	<u>66,546,646</u>	<u>54,284,472</u>
Deficit of the year	<u>(301,481)</u>	<u>(366,284)</u>

STATEMENT OF AUDIT AS OF 31ST DEC 2020

STATEMENT OF COMPREHESIVE INCOME-YEAR ENDED 31ST DEC 2020

	2020	2019
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Property & Equipment	<u>682,153,232</u>	<u>681,409,557</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Accounts Receivable	21,432	441,142
Cash & Bank	80,556,794	25,569,058
Total Current Assets	<u>80,578,226</u>	<u>26,010,200</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	23,673,130	20,183,956
Deferred Income	65,546,809	12,839,096
Total Current Liabilities	<u>89,219,939</u>	<u>33,023,052</u>
Net Current Liabilities	<u>(8,641,713)</u>	<u>(7,012,852)</u>
Net Assets	<u>673,511,519</u>	<u>674,396,705</u>



When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace, and seeds of hope

WANGARI MAATHAI

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