



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY SCIENCES
WANGARI MAATHAI INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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**DIRECTORS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF WANGARI MAATHAI INSTITUTE
FROM APRIL 2010 to APRIL 2011**

Introduction

I wish to thank the Distinguished Chair, Prof Wangari Maathai for her personnel involvement which contributed immensely to the success of most of the activities described in this report. I am also grateful to all the Board members for their support, without which the milestones achieved would not have been attained. I am particularly grateful to Wanjira Maathai, Prof Njenga Munene, Prof V. Mbaya and Karanja Njoroge for being available for consultation on day to day basis. Through the team effort the Institute has been able to achieve the following activities in the last one year.

Development of the strategic plan

Members you are aware of the dictum that says “You can’t get lost if you don’t know where you are going”. The institute embarked on a strategic planning process in June last year and I will table the 2010- 2020 in this meeting. WMI endeavours to pursue the following five strategic objectives in the delivery of its mission during the first five years.

- Improved the societal values, ethics and attitudes towards the environment
- Greater effectiveness in environmental management practices

- Enhanced environmental resource management that upholds peace and improves livelihoods
- WMI becomes an icon of the best environmental practices
- Creation of new and improvement of existing policies that provide for sound environmental practices.

However, as we seek appropriate synergies between these initiatives and the Institute's priorities, we will remain responsive to powerful ideas emerging from the experience in the field, extension research, and from communities in the campus and across the country. This readiness to embrace and support initiative will always be vital to our development as an Institute devoted to comprehensive environmental excellence. It is therefore imperative that a plan such as this remains 'a work in progress' even as it is being implemented, to allow sufficient flexibility to enable us to respond effectively to emerging challenges and initiatives.

What remains now is to implement the activities as specified in the implementation matrix. We shall look into the matrix with an objective of identifying "quick wins" during this board meeting.

Design Competition:

Architectural designs competition to construct the green Campus for the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) was completed on 16th February 2010. The Green Campus is envisioned as a functional and inspiring hub of activities in the natural resource management area and education for sustainable development and must be particularly appealing in its esthetics and environmental considerations. The Campus is envisaged to be self sufficient in terms of lighting, energy, waste management and water requirements.

The Cape Town based firm of architect's dhk, won the competition to design the Green Campus. The winning design was unveiled by Dr Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP accompanied by Dr Reuben Mutiso, Chairman of the panel of international jurors and other jury members at a successful awards ceremony held at

the national Museums of Kenya. I am grateful to Dr Idle Farah, the Director General, National Museums of Kenya for providing an exhibition area for pin up, and Louis Leakey Auditorium for the public launching ceremony.

International Collaborations and linkages

The institute has continued to attract a lot of interest both locally and internationally. To this extent, we have received the following visitors in addition to several email and telephone inquiries

Visitors to the Institute

	Name	Department and Organization	
1.	Maria Nystrom	Chalmers, UN Habitat Partner University	8/1/10
2.	Lars Reutersward	UN Habitat	8/1/10
3.	Lars Lindvisk	Basecamp	8/1/10
	Per Rasmussen	University of Copenhagen	11/1/10
4.	Mr Ajas Mellbye	Mellbye Architects, Norway	27/1/10
5.	Andrew Gremley	Pharos Architects	27/1/10
6.	Nina S. Dundik	Seeding Labs, USA	18 th March 2010
	Vibeke Vindelov	Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen	20 st -23 rd March 2010
7.	Professor Jens Emborg	Department of Forestry and Landscape, LIFE, University of Copenhagen	20 st -23 rd March 2010
8.	Andreas de Neergaard,	Department of Agriculture and Ecology, LIFE University of Copenhagen	20 st -23 rd March 2010
9.	Peter Furu	Senior Advisor, PSU- Parasitology, Health and Development, Department of Veterinary Disease Biology, LIFE, University of Copenhagen	20 st -23 rd March 2010

10.	Per Stig Rasmussen	Strapa Manager, Development Collaboration, LIFE, University of Copenhagen	20 st -22 rd March 2010
11.	Dr. Carl Eric Schou Larsen	Head of secretariat, Development Collaboration, LIFE, University of Copenhagen	20 st -22 rd March 2010, 20 th – 22 nd May 2010
12.	Jennifer Bond,	PhD student, Dept of Forest and Landscape, LIFE, University of Copenhagen	20 st -23 rd March 2010
13.	Prof. Kanichiro Matsumura	School of Policy Studies, Department of Informatics, Kwansai Gakuin University, Japan	1 st April 2010
14.	Akpezi Ogbuigwe	UNEP	14 th April 2010
15.	Kizito Masinde	UNEP	14 th April 2010
	Suraj Sudhakar	Project Manager, Peepoople	19 th April 2010
16.	Tim Hunt	Assistant Director, International Office Coventry University, UK	17 th May 2010
17.	Prof Peter Blaze Corcoran	Florida Golf State University, USA	20 th -22 nd May 2010
18.	Paul Okwaro	UNEP	20 th -22 nd May 2010
	Dr. Alfred Omenya	Eco Build Africa	7 th June 2010
19.	Prof. Phil Harris	Head of International Development, Coventry University	9 th June 2010
	Gary Armstrong	Head of Finance, Coventry University	9 th June 2010
20.	Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri	Director-General; The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)	28 th June 2010
21.	Oystein Aasaaren	Managing Director, Norwegian Forestry Group	17 TH – 18 TH FEBRUARY 2011
22.	Knut J. Huse	Chairman of the Board,	17 TH – 18 TH

		Norwegian Forestry Group	FEBRUARY 2011
23.	Ulf Lindgreen	The Norwegian Forestry Association (NORSKOG)	17 TH – 18 TH FEBRUARY 2011
24.	Ola Gram Daehlen	Project Director, Norwegian Forestry Society	17 TH – 18 TH FEBRUARY 2011
25.	Preben Kaarsholm	Head of BSU steering Committee, Department of Society and Globalisation, Roskilde University, Denmark	29 th November 2010
26.	Bodil Folke Frederiksen	Department of Society and Globalization, Roskilde University, Denmark	29 th November 2010
27.	Arne Wangel	DTU Management Engineering	29 th November 2010
28.	Anne Marie Ejdesgaard Jeppesen	Department of English, Germanic, and Romance studies, University of Copenhagen	29 th November 2010
29.	Joshua Busby	The University of Texas at Austin	15 th December 2010
30.	Todd G. Smith	The University of Texas at Austin	15 th December 2010
31.	Daniel I Rubenstein	Director, African Studies Program, Princeton University and Director, Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Princeton University	5 th November 2010
32.	Sophia Roberts	Science and Natural History Film Making, Montana State University	2 nd August 2010
33.	Jutta Bakonyi	German Development Service	22 nd October 2010
34.	Jannet Jerop	German Development Service	22 nd October 2010
35.	Gerald Saucier	University of Oregon	10 th December 2010
36.	Ernest Bighaus	Lost Orphans International	10 th December 2010
37.	Thomas	Department of Linguistics,	22 nd February 2011

	Kaltenbacher	Psycholinguistics Laboratory, University of Salzburg, Austria	
38.	Birgit Breniger	Intercultural studies, University of Salzburg, Austria	22 nd February 2011
39.	Tony Devise	Global Peace Festival Foundation	17 th February 2011
40.	Vincent Rapando	Global Peace Festival foundation	17 th February 2011
41.	Japtheth Ouda	Global Peace Festival Foundation	17 th February 2011

Memorandum of Understanding

Organization	Status
The Energy Research Institute in New Delhi, India:	Signed
The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)	Awaiting to be signed

International Visit

Visit to USA

Wanjira Maathai and I visited Princeton University, Princeton, USA on 27th September 2010 where we held discussions with Katharine Burks Hackett and Holly P. Welles, Princeton Environmental Institute; David S. Wilcove, Woodrow Wilson School; Daniel J. Linke, University Archivist and Curator of Public Policy Papers, Seely G. Mudd Manuscript Library; and Daniel I Rubenstein, Director of African Studies. As a result of our visit Daniel Linke promised to assist in the archiving of Prof Maathai Papers. Daniel Rubenstein also made a reciprocal visit to the Institute in November 2010 in which he offered to support two students recommended by the Institute to attend a course on evolution of mammals at Mpala Research Station. Daniels and Margaret Kinniard, Executive Director, Mpala Research Station have also agreed to sponsor the two students to carry out their projects at Mpala Research Station. The two students Vindonyi Mwanyumba Hillary and Martha Ngala Chizi) are already in the field.

Clinton Global Initiative Meeting:

In September 2010, Prof Maathai, Wanjira Maathai and I participated at the Clinton Global Initiative meeting in New York where Commitment for establishment of Wangari Maathai Institute was pronounced by John Podesda, former White House Chief of staff and current President of the Centre for American Progress, to an international audience. This commitment can be watched on You tube at the following address: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7K5dWoHWtw>

In addition a certificate of Commitment was issued to Prof Maathai and Vice Chancellor University of Nairobi by President Clinton and will be framed for pin up.

MDG Group Meeting,

In September 2010 Prof Maathai requested me to participate and represent her in the Millennium Development Goals Advocacy Group Meeting Chaired by President Paul Kagame at the United Nation Headquarters in New York. This was very appropriate, as I had an opportunity to get the global view on the ongoing activities that are aimed at achieving the MDG's and in particular to appreciate the role the Institute has in the achievement of the MDG number 7.

Media Appearances and Exhibitions

This is America with Dennis Wholey

In September 2010 I participated in a round table discussion involving six high profile international guests in a TV program entitled "This is America by Dennis Wholley". The topic of discussion was the United Nation's goals of eradicating poverty, improving maternal and child health, gender equality, and climate change. Other guests included the UN Foundation's Reid Detchon, Vice President for Energy and Climate, the World Health Organization's Flavia Bustreo M.D., Director of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Thomas Stelzer, Johnson & Johnson's Vice President of Corporate Contributions, Sharon D'Agostino,

and the United Nations Development Program's Director of Poverty Reduction Group, Selim Jahan. The one hour round table discussion was later released as two half-hour programs, which played on Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) stations nationwide (in USA) the weekends of October 15th and 22nd. This discussion is available on you tube at the following address: http://www.thisisamerica.net/videoarchive_2010-2011.html

Citizen Television.

On 24th March 2011 I was interviewed for 30 minutes by Mutegi Njau at Power breakfast Show where I expounded to the members of the public the vision and Mission of the Institute. The video clip is available.

The Institute has also received media coverage under the following:

Print Media

- Nairobi star on February 21, 2011: South African firm wins Wangari Maathai Institute architectural Design Competition.

Online

- **Media for Environment, Science, Health and Agricultural association in Kenya (Mesha)** on February 11, 2011. Kenya's first "Green" University set to be launched. <http://www.wfsj.org/mesha>
- Sa Property News: March 15, 2011. Cape architects win Wangari Design Competition. <http://www.sapropertynews.com/cape-architects-win-wangari-architectural-design-competition/>
- **Leading Architecture and Design:** SA Firm wins Architectural Design Competition for the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies. <http://www.leadingarchitecture.co.za/sa-firm-wins-architectural->

design-competition-for-the-wangari-maathai-institute-for-peace-environmental-studies/

- **Architecture Kenya on August 19 2010:** AAK Approves Wangari Maathai Institute Competition. <http://architecturekenya.com/2010/08/19/aak-approves-wangari-maathai-institute-competiton/>

Exhibitions

The Institute participated in University of Nairobi Open Day held at Great Court and in CHE exhibitions in Nyeri and Kakamega in 2010 and 2011 respectively. Those who visited the stand were interested to know when the Institute will start offering courses.

Workshops

These are some of the key workshops the institutes participated/ or organized

- 1) Green Building in Africa on 4th to 6th May 2010 at **UNEP headquarters, Nairobi**
- 2) Workshop on non-violence and peace building for Public University Administration Officials on 10th – 14th May 2010 at the **ARC Hotel Egerton University**
- 3) Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation 20th to 23rd April 2010 at **Panafric Hotel, Nairobi**
- 4) Consultative meeting on Global University Partnership on environment and Sustainability (GUPES) on 18th to 19th Nov 2010 at UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi
- 5) Workshop for the Stability, Democracy and Rights platform of the Building stronger Universities, an initiative of Universities Denmark on 10th and 11th March 2011 at Jacaranda Hotel, Nairobi
- 6) WMI Strategic planning workshop at GBM Centre Langata on 20th to 22nd May 2010.
- 7) WMI Strategic planning workshop at Naivasha Simba Lodge on 16th to 18th July 2010.

- 8) Preliminary jury meeting for Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) design competition held on Monday 31st January 2011 at the Jacaranda Hotel, Westlands
- 9) Meeting with the Norwegian Forestry Group on 17th – 18th February 2011 at Chiromo Campus.
- 10) WMI Green Campus Architectural Design Competition Jury adjudication process and announcement of the winner on 13th to 16th February 2011 at the National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi.
- 11) Consultative meeting with the dhk Architects on 12th and 13th April 2011 at Kabete Campus, Nairobi.

Establishment of a tree Nursery:

Establishment of a tree Nursery at Kabete campus: A tree nursery with about 20,000 seedlings has been established at the WMI site with the assistance of GBM.



**Kiama S. G., BVM, MSc. (Nairobi), PhD. (Bern), MKNAS
Ag. Director, Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental
Studies**