



# Wangari Maathai Institute

**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI HAS STARTED the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies. The inspiration behind the formation of the institute is the need to transmit the transformational leadership qualities of Wangari Maathai, an Alumna of the University and the first African woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace prize, through a process of institutionalization and creation of a 'home' for her experiences at the University of Nairobi.

Currently, the Institute is being housed by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences with plans to construct its own premises. The Statutes of the Institute are also in place, and a Director has been appointed.



The Institute is in the process of appointing a management board to oversee the operations of the Institute.

Professor Wangari Muta Maathai, has distinguished herself as an uncompromising environmental conservationist, an advocate for better natural resource utilization practices, a tireless champion for democracy and good governance and a committed campaigner for a culture of peace. Because of her exemplary work Prof. Maathai has been honored with several recognitions, awards and prizes internationally.

It is an opportune moment for the University to seize the moment to recognize, celebrate, institutionalize and immortalize her achievements for posterity through the establishment of an institute in her name. The Institute will be located at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences and a special "green" building will be erected to house its operations.

It is envisaged that the institute will spearhead multi-disciplinary training, research, outreach and extension services in environmental and natural resource management, good governance and a culture of peace. Further, the Institute will institutionalize the experiences and values of Prof. Wangari Maathai through a permanent exhibition of her work. The Institute will also develop regional and international partnerships and linkages in order to create a centre of excellence in sustainable community development and to inspire, attract and develop talent that can sustainably promote and drive these values as well as provide a forum and platform for leaders to exchange ideas and interrogate issues that affect

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the socio-economic transformation of societies. In doing so, the Institute will promote sustainable farming, post-harvest processing, indigenous foods and dietary knowledge, soil conservation, water harvesting and storage and the management of watershed ecosystems.

The Institute shall be responsible for the promotion and conduction of teaching, research and commu-

nity outreach initiatives relating to the application of multi-disciplinary research to contemporary problems of the environment, governance and culture of peace.

The University appointed Dr Stephen Kiama Gitahi as the Acting director of the institute to spearhead its establishment with effect from 22nd January 2010.



**Prof. Wangari Maathai with Prof. Agnes Mwang'ombe, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences.**