



The aspiration for establishment of Wangari Mathai Institute (WMI) was to recognize Professor Wangari Maathai, the Nobel Peace Laureate 2004. WMI is indeed a pioneer institute in Africa that fosters and inculcates the transformative values of promoting good governance, preserving sound environment and maintaining peace. The intention of WMI is to create present and future transformational leaders as an inheritance for future generations. Thus, WMI will walk the path of promoting these noble values by sharing unique knowledge through teaching, experiential learning, community outreach, advocacy and research.

WMI endeavors to foster a distinctive value of developing a deep understanding of interactions of the environment, humans and animals in the concept of One Health for promotion of ecosystem health, conflict resolution and human prosperity. In so doing, WMI will provide skills to provide solutions to issues threatening good governance, factors undermining environmental conservation and determinants of peace. Thus, WMI will serve to be an Africa-based “Earth Watch”, by proactively monitoring the environment and giving early warning signals that will allow for preparedness in emerging contexts.

WMI is a unique University based entity designed to touch the souls of different kinds of people to promote unparalleled transformative linkages with grassroots households and/or communities. In this spirit, WMI targets to shape present and future generations through inter-linkages with learning institutions, communities, opinion leaders, academia, researchers and policy shapers (parliament, non-governmental organizations, environmentalists and global networks). WMI is open to all interested stakeholders, be it individuals, corporates, institutions, counties, states, nations or countries. WMI is keen to foster strategic partnerships with top environmental schools and institutions in the world over to trigger policy debates for green technologies.

The five major areas of focus that WMI seeks to currently embark on include but not limited to provision of solutions on: (1) Threats to community and/or national security caused by poor governance - to resolve conflicts over utilization of natural resources. (2) Negative climatic change resulting from global warming caused by carbon emissions - to resolve disasters caused by hostile environment. (3) Complex disasters caused by interactions of poverty, conflicts and climatic change – to resolve disaster resilience within households, communities and countries. (4) Cycles of conflicts within communities caused by lack of cohesion, differences in opinions and poor environmental governance – to resolve poor governance impacting negatively on environment and natural resources. (5) Poverty caused by multiple factors that affect ecosystem health leading to emergence of emerging and re-emerging one health disease disasters, destruction of trees, and disruption community livelihood assets in highlands and Arid and Semi-arid (ASAL) environments (crop farming, livestock rearing, bee keeping etc.).

The success of WMI will require the provision not only of academic resources, but of experiential learning opportunities, community mentoring and utilization of indigenous knowledge. WMI institute campus established within the 50 acres allocated by the University of Nairobi will provide a special example of being a trademark sustainable “green” building. The campus will be self-sufficient in its energy needs as much as practically possible and will be a core part of making the environmental values come alive for all those who will interact with WMI. The Institute shall also develop and manage demonstration farms for organic farming, indigenous trees, medicinal plants, rain forest and wetlands management. WMI welcomes all strategic partners out there to come on board this noble course!

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