

Wangari Maathai Institute participates in tree planting for 44 tribes on August 31, 2017



Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director WMI, Prof. S. G. Kiama, Principal CAVS, Mrs. Marion Kamau, Chair Elect GBM planting tree at the WMI site

Prof. Henry M. Mutembei, Director, Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies led the WMI team in tree planting activity for the forty four (44) tribes. This event was organized by the Green Belt Movement Kenya and held on August 31, 2017 at the WMI site. In his speech, Prof. Mutembei noted that, “This is a great day for me to witness a noble activity of planting trees that symbolize the 44 tribes of Kenya. These trees will not only symbolize peace but also remind us the importance of our strength in accommodating our diversified cultures. And this is actually the cultures of peace that our founding Mum “Prof. Wangari Maathai,” cherished a lot during her life with us. Some of us who had an opportunity to share experiences with the late Prof. Wangari Maathai will attest to the fact trees occupied a central part of her life and particularly in relation to peace.

As the Director of WMI I strive to uphold what I learnt from Prof. Wangari Maathai and promise to protect her legacy. This is the reason why when Mrs. Kamau, the Chairlady elect of GBM shared with me the need to provide space for the 44 trees symbolizing the 44 tribes of Kenya, I immediately saw an opportunity to advance the legacy of our founding Mum Prof. Wangari Maathai.

In consultation with the Principal of College of Agriculture Veterinary Sciences (CAVS), Prof. S.G. Kiama, we embraced this idea as a part of the learning platforms within the institute. We decided to plant the trees along the walk pathway, each separated with a distance so that as the future generations or the visitors walk through, they can also find time to appreciate to learn about the diversity of Kenya tribes.

Personally I will be thrilled whenever I visit in future and find the generations to come looking through the trees and saying, *wow! look at the beautiful diversity of Kenya*. I have looked at the list of the trees and I am very happy that each of them has a significant role for each of the tribes. This means the trees themselves represent a diversity of the kind of students and staff the Institute endeavors to accommodate.”

The Director concluded by extending his gratitude to the GBM for helping dream for WMI to create such a learning platform, which contributes to its vision, “Excellency in experiential learning, transformational community outreach and research for sustainable environment and cultures of peace,” and to Principal, CAVS for finding time to participate in this noble activity.