

Wangari Maathai Institute For Peace & Environmental Studies

Our Experience in Managua, Nicaragua,

Jane Mutheu and Raphael Kweyu, WMI PhD student.



University of Nairobi

NEWSLETTER

2013: A Year in Review



"One aspect of a love of nature that we need to foster is experiential. Nature – and in particular, the wild – feeds our spirit and a direct encounter with it is vital in helping us appreciate and care for it. For unless we see it, smell it, or touch it, we tend to forget it, and our souls wither." - Professor Wangari Maathai, Replenishing the Earth

We were privileged to attend an experiential learning course in Managua, Nicaragua (25th feb-5th mar, 2013). The theme of the course was 'Conservation, Development and Communication in Diverse Landscapes: Theories and Methods'. The course was hosted by *Universidad Nacional Agraria* (UNA) and facilitated by Professors from both UNA and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). Participants in the course were drawn from Nicaragua, Sweden, Columbia, Mozambique and Kenya and were from diverse disciplines.

"We learnt how to apply new methods such as mapping the mess as the starting point in understanding complex situations"

The issues involved in the management of natural resources can be complex and messy because of the different actors with multiple perspectives and sometimes differing needs and interests. We learnt new methods for solving complex situations such as the use of the diagramming technique as a way of presenting research problems. Indeed the whole course was important to our projects at

WMI under the theme 'Stabilizing Kenya through Solving Forest related conflicts (STAKE)'.

However, we had language challenges since we

"Our experiences in Nicaragua also included interacting with new cultures, very sociable peoples and Nicaraguan delicacies such as *Gallo pinto* (a mixture of rice and beans) and *Tortilla* (corn flour

could not comprehend the Spanish language which is spoken widely in Nicaragua.

We wish to appreciate Prof Nadarajah Sriskandarajah and Prof Kiama Gitahi on behalf of Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and WMI respectively for sponsoring our participation in the course. We also recognise the intervention of Mr Telémaco Talavera Siles, the Rector of the Universidad Nacional Agraria (UNA) in Managua, who made it possible for us to be issued with Visas for entry into Nicaragua.



From left, Ms. Mutune, Prof Nadarajah Sriskandarajah, Mr Telémaco Talavera Siles and Mr. Kweyu

Prof. Judi Wakhungu the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Water and Natural Resources Launches the STAKE Project at WMI

The Cabinet secretary for Environment and Natural Resources visited Wangari Maathai Institute on 2nd July 2013 to launch the STAKE project. Commenting during the launch Prof Wakhungu said "Kenya is riddled with conflicts and instability, as evident in the widespread violence that occurred after the 2007 national elections. She noted that most of this violence took place in rural areas, where conflict and competing claims over natural resources appear closely entangled. The underlying drivers of conflict and violence remain contested and poorly understood. This project is expected to contribute to stability in Kenya by understanding and targeting the underlying factors that lead to conflicts over forest related resources. Prof Wakhungu indicated that she was happy that Wangari Maathai Institute has taken this issue for its first project.

This 3-year project funded by the Danish Development Agency (DANIDA) will also contribute to Kenya's long-term development by mentoring and training the next generation of talented, young academics through provision of scholarships for Masters and PhD training.

It is a partnership between the Wangari Maathai Institute, the Green Belt Movement (GBM), Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI) and the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Prof. Wakhungu noted that in search for stability and prosperity, the government of Kenya in 2005 enacted a Forest Act aimed at improving natural resources management by decentralizing responsibilities and rights of forest management to civil society bodies called Community Forestry Associations (CFA).

After the launch Prof Wakhungu led the participants in planting indigenous tree to commemorate the life of the late Prof. Wangari Maathai at the WMI site. The trees planted include: *Prunus Africana*, *Warburgia ugandensis*, *Olea europaea* ssp. *Cuspidate*, *Podocarpus falcatus*,

Vepris simplicifolia, *Croton megalocarpus*, *Juniperus procera*, *Markhamia Lutea*, *Syzygium guineense*, *Olea welwitschii*, *Trichilia emetic*, *Brachylaena huillensis*, *Spathodea campanulata* and *Vitex keniensis*. Prof. Wakhungu planted a red stinkwood (*Prunus africanas*) and a Nandi flame (*Spathodea campanulata*). The tree planting exercise was coordinated by Dr Thenya Thuita, Mr Gachathi and Prof. Karanja Njoroge. When delivering her speech, Prof Wakhungu indicated that she was glad that the development of the physical infrastructure of the Institute is well on course. She noted that the first phase has received funding from the African Development Fund in collaboration with the Government of Kenya's under the "Support to Enhancement of Quality and Relevance in Higher Education, Science and Technology Project". "The government is committed to ensure that this work commences soon and I will personally follow this up" Said Prof Wakhungu

Other people who attended and spoke during the launch included: Prof. Agnes Mwangombe Principal College of Agriculture & Veterinary Sciences, University of Nairobi, Prof. S. G. Kiama, Ag. Director Wangari Maathai Institute, Prof. Vibeke Vindelov, University of Copenhagen, Dr B N. Chikamai, Director, Kenya Forest Research Institute, Dr Njeri Gakonyo Chair of the Board, Green Belt Movement, Mahesh Pradhan Head of UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Unit and the daughter of the late Prof Wangari Maathai, Ms Wanjira Maathai.



Prof Karanja Njoroge, Chairman Friends of Karura Forest, explain to Prof. Judy Wakhungu Cabinet Minister for Environment, Water and Natural Resources the value of *Prunus African* tree.

Photos: Cabinet secretary for Environment, Water and Natural Resources visit to Wangari Maathai Institute

1. Cabinet secretary being received by Director, WMI, 2. Cabinet Secretary being received by the Principal, CAVS, 3. Cabinet secretary being received by Prof. Vibeke Vindelov the PI to the STAKE project, 4. Cabinet secretary planting a tree at WMI site, assisting her is the Principal of the College, 5. Director KEFRI planting a tree at WMI site, assisting him is the Director WMI, Looking on is the Cabinet Secretary, and Drs Thenya Thuita and Njeri Gakonyo. 6. Mahesh Pradhan, Head of UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU) planting a tree at the WMI site



Visiting scholars at Wangari Maathai Institute

Fulbright Scholar

Prof. Peter Blaze Corcoran, Fulbright Professor at WMI and Professor of Environmental Studies and Environmental Education, College of Arts and Sciences, Florida Gulf Coast University, USA. Peter is also the current Director of the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education. In 2013, Peter received the prestigious Fulbright scholarship from J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board to Wangari Maathai Institute, University of Nairobi. We are honoured to have Peter spend time with us from 1st September 2013 for a period of nine (9) months at the Institute.



Visiting Professors

Linda Nielsen, Visiting Professor WMI and Professor of Law, University of Copenhagen Chairman of the Danish National Commission for UNESCO, and Vice President of UNESCO's International Governmental Bioethics Committee. Former Vice-chancellor, University of Copenhagen and chairman of the Rector's Conference.



Prof. Vibeke Vindeløv, Visiting professor at WMI and Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, Bergen, Norway, Professor, Faculty of Law, UC.

Vibeke has been conducting training for the UN, AU and EU in connection with her work for The Folke Bernadotte Academy under the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs where she was member of the task force for mediation and dialogue



Prof Jens Emborg, Visiting Professor at Wangari Maathai Institute and an Associate Professor at the Department of Forests & Landscape, University of Copenhagen Master of Mediation and Conflict Resolution, MMCR, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen (2004). PhD, the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen (1996)



Prof. Iben Nathan, Department of Forests & Landscape, University of Copenhagen. Her research has focused on Political and Socio-economic aspects of Natural Resource Management



Prof Jens Friis Lund, University of Copenhagen His research has focused on natural resources governance in developing countries, in particular community forestry processes in Tanzania and Nepal



Visiting Lecturer

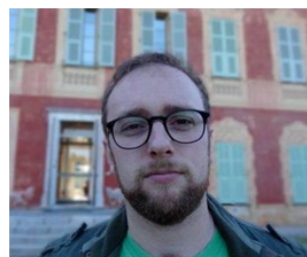
Prof. Thumbi Mwangi, Visiting Lecturer WMI and also an Assistant Research Professor at the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health, Washington State University and the Integrated Human-Animal Health program under the Kenya Medical Research Institute/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KEMRI/CDC) Research and Public



Health and collaboration.

Affiliated Researcher

JOSHUA WILLIAMS, is serving as an affiliate researcher at WMI. Joshua is from the Department of Theater, Dance & Performance Studies, University of California, Berkeley. Joshua is working on a project entitled "Don't tell the hyena how well you can bite:



performance, race and animality in Eastern Africa"



The Founder Distinguished Chair of Wangari Maathai Institute, the late Prof Wangari Maathai



**STAKE project coordinator
Dr. Thuita Thenya**

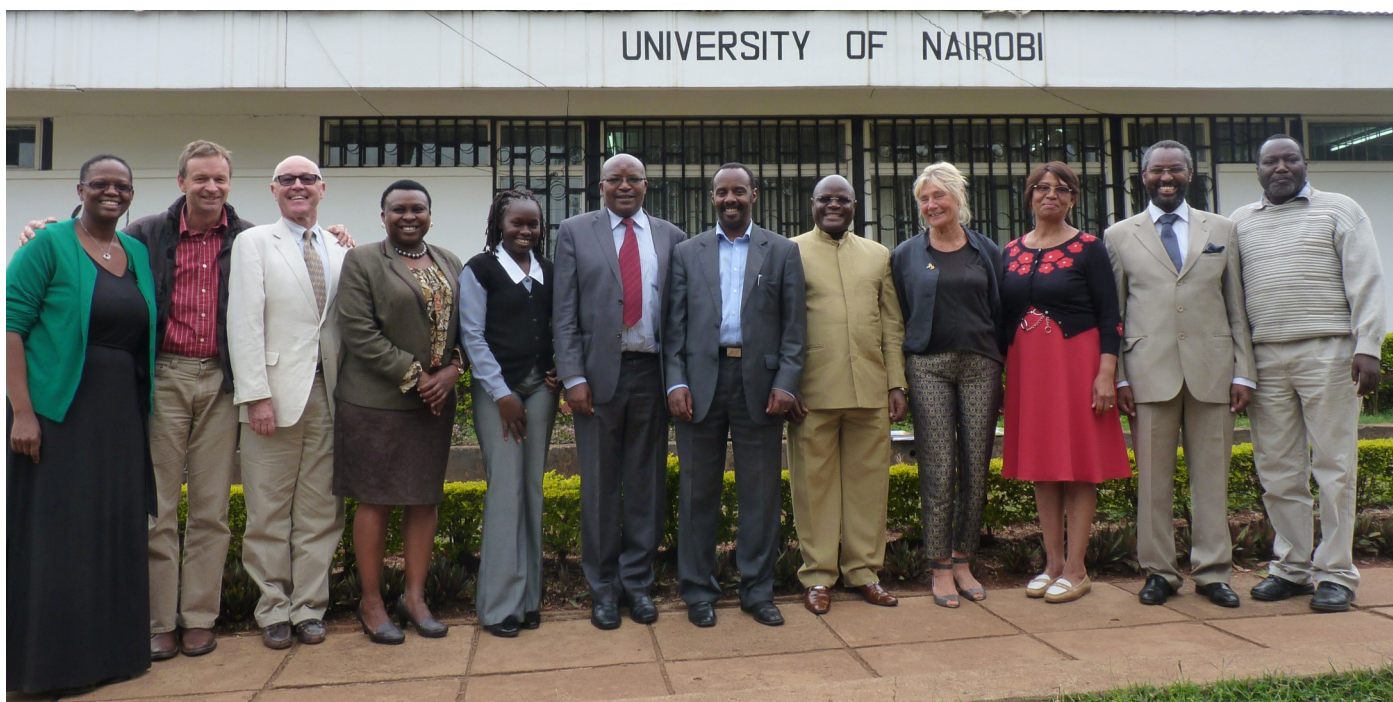
First STAKE steering Committee meeting Held.

The 1st Steering committee meeting for the STAKE project was held on 8th October 2013 under the chairmanship of the Principal of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Prof Agnes Mwang'ombe. The STAKE project Steering Committee is mandated with the Strategic project management as well as external advocacy for the project (in policy and practice) and is comprised of the following members: Distinguished Chair, Wangari Maathai Institute, Principal of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Prof. A. Mwang'ombe; Director of KeFRI, Dr. B. Chikamai; Vice Dean - Faculty of Law, UC, Prof. J. Vestergaard; Project Coordinator UoN, Dr. T. Thenya; Principal Project Coordinator UC, Prof. V. Vindeløv and; Director of WMI, Prof. S.G. Kiama who serves as ex officio member (secretary) to the PSC. Dr. B. Chikamai noted that that STAKE team has done a commendable job in overseeing the success of the project and urged all to keep up with the same spirit.

The day-to-day practical project management is carried out by the Project Management Committee (PMC) which is comprised of the project coordinator Dr. Thuita Thenya, supported by STRAPA coordinator Prof. R. G. Wahome, a representative from KeFRI, Mr. Joram Kagombe and the Executive Director of the Green Belt Movement. The PMC co-ordinates closely with the University of Copenhagen partners and, in particular, the Principal Coordinator, Prof Vibeke Vindeløv.



**Prof. Raphael Wahome, Assistant
STAKE project Coordinator**



From Left: Ms Wanjira Mathai, Prof Jens Emborg, Prof Peter Blaze Corcoran, Ms Pauline Kamau, Lilian Kongan'i, Joram Kagombe, Dr Thenya Thuita, Dr B. Chikamai, Prof Vibeke Videlov, Prof Agnes Mwangombe, Prof. S. G. Kiama, Prof. R. G. Wahome

The Prince of Wales and Mary Robinson attends a special event to honor Prof Wangari Maathai in London.



Mary Robinson, Former Prime Minister of Ireland

The Green Belt Movement International-Europe in partnership with the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew hosted a very special celebration of the life and legacy of Professor Wangari Maathai in April 2013 at Kew Garden in London. Giving the inaugural Wangari Maathai Lecture at the event, the former Prime Minister of Ireland, Mary Robinson spoke about how the late professor inspired her *"because of her personal courage and commitment, and her practical way of doing"*. She noted that nearly 40% of the world's population – cook on wood, coal, charcoal, animal waste and suffer severe health risks.

These figures are completely unacceptable in the twenty first century, and we need to target sustainable forms of energy to those who currently have none. There is a need to scale up our response in positive ways. This is something that Wangari would have been a great champion of, and I hope we can link

with the work of the Wangari Institute and "others in the initiative wPower launched by then Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton in January 2013".

Speaking during the same event, the Prince of Wales recalled how Prof. Maathai inspired him.

"She was someone I admired and loved. We first met at highgrove. We ended up on hugging terms. My heart went out to her. She had an infectious spirit, a sense of optimism and a deep sense of hope. She understood the link between poverty and the natural environment".

Prince Charles later planted a tree, *Quercus x Kewensis* (Kew Oak) at Kew Gardens to celebrate the life and legacy of Prof Maathai

Other people who attended this meeting included, Wanjira Mathai, the daughter of the late Prof Maathai, Prof. S. G. Kiama, Director Wangari Maathai Institute and Shirin Ebadi the exiled Iranian Nobel peace prize winner and human rights activist.



The Prince of Wales giving a speech during the occasion



The Director WMI in a conversation with the Prince of Wales during the occasion

wPOWER: Promoting Women's Critical Role in Clean Energy Solutions to Climate Change



"Working together, we have proven that sustainable development is possible; that reforestation of degraded land is possible; and that exemplary governance is possible when ordinary citizens are informed, sensitized, mobilized and involved in direct action for the environment."

*Wangari Maathai,
2004 Nobel Peace
Laurent*

The Department of State launched the Partnership on Women's Entrepreneurship in Renewables ("wPOWER") in January 2013. wPOWER aims to empower more than 8,000 women clean energy entrepreneurs across East Africa, Nigeria and India who will deliver clean energy access to more than 3.5 million people over the next three years. To reach this goal, the Department of State and USAID have teamed up with the MacArthur Foundation, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, CARE International, Solar Sister, Swayam Shikshan Prayog and the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies.

Globally, more than 1.3 billion people lack access to electricity, and at least 2.7 billion people lack access to clean cookstoves and fuels. While not the primary source of climate pollution, inefficient lighting and cooking contribute to climate change and the degradation of natural resources. In off-grid communities, women are the primary users of clean technologies like solar lamps and

clean cookstoves and are at the forefront of adopting the use of new technologies.

wPOWER is working to unlock this largely untapped potential of women and women's groups to help fill the "last mile" gap in the supply chain to reach areas lacking energy access.

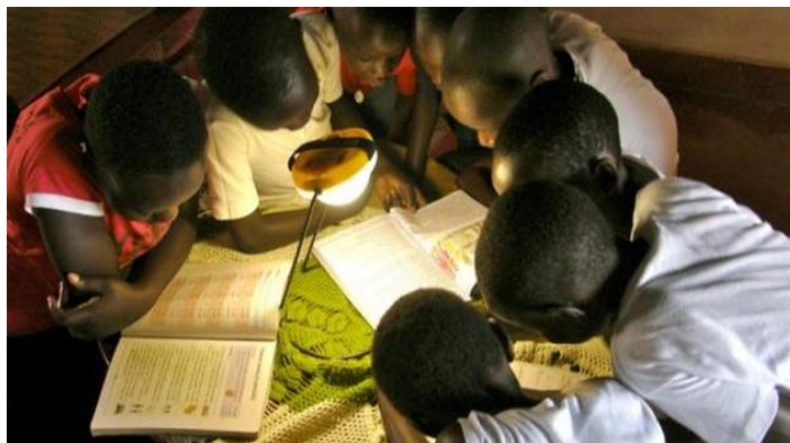
New Strategic Partners:

- **Women for Women International (WfWI):** WfWI provides women survivors of war, civil strife and other conflicts with the tools and resources to move from crisis and poverty to stability and self-sufficiency. WfWI will work with wPOWER partners to begin offering a clean energy entrepreneurship vocational track to the women who are part of its program in Nigeria.

- **Green Belt Movement-Kenya (GBM):** Professor Wangari Maathai's GBM pioneered a community-based tree-planting approach that put women at the forefront of environmental stewardship. By partnering with some of GBM's 4,000 community groups, we will expand wPOWER networks of women clean energy entrepreneurs and introduce new

livelihood opportunities to GBM's grassroots women leaders.

***Launch of wPOWER Hub at Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies (WMI):** The Department of State, together with parallel support from the MacArthur Foundation, has created a wPOWER Hub at the WMI, founded by the late Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai, at the University of Nairobi in Kenya. The new wPOWER Hub will build the evidence base on women, energy access and climate solutions; hold train the trainer workshops; facilitate African and Indian women entrepreneur and leadership exchanges to build a network of women climate leaders, and build public awareness*



Children study under a solar lamp. "Photo credit: Solar Sister"

Wangari Maathai Institute hosts a round table discussion on “Impacts of Trade and Investment-Driven Biotechnological Innovations on Food Safety-Security in Africa” Wednesday, 18 December, 2013

Food safety, food security and ecological safety are among the pressing issues facing the world today. While these problems are global, they are more acute in developing and least-developed countries where millions of people face severe food shortages. To “eradicate extreme hunger and poverty” is one of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Although “food security” was traditionally understood to mean the availability of adequate food stocks in times of need, it has now been realized that there are other important dimensions to food security.

“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. World Food Summit Plan of Action of 1996,

Given this holistic approach that incorporates food safety as an integral part of food security, ongoing policy work has focused on the inexorable linkages between food safety, food security and ecological safety. These linkages pose serious policy challenges for most African countries in the context of emerging biotech innovations, the investment-driven and profit-oriented corporate interests in the food sector. In order, to attempt and unravel these challenges, Wangari Maathai Institute hosted a one-day round table discussion of prominent scholars in the region who are working in related field at Lenana House Conference Centre, Nairobi in December 2013. This meeting was convened by the United Nations University-Institute for Sustainability and Peace, Tokyo, Japan and facilitated by Prof Obi Aginan (UNU-ISP) and Prof David Mungai, University of Nairobi



Participants in the round table meeting. **From the left:** Front row, Dr. Jane Dwasi, Dr. Catherine Taracha, Prof. A. Obijiofor. Dr. Orleans Mfunne, Prof. V. Kimani, Prof. T. Mutui, Prof. Nancy Karanja, Prof. J. Imungi, Prof. Marion Mutugi. Prof. S.G. Kiama. **Back row:** Dr. Ben Okolo, Prof. David Mungai and Dr. Benson Mburu. Photo credit (David Mungai).

News in brief

Interdisciplinary land use and natural resource management (SLUSE)

WMI in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen, Denmark organized for a Sustainable Land Use and Natural Resource Management (SLUSE) experiential learning Field-Based Course in March 2014. The course is founded on the acknowledged fact that land and other natural resource management issues cannot be adequately handled by any one discipline. The field course therefore brings together WMI students and international students from a variety of disciplines such as agriculture, sociology, anthropology, economics, forestry and livestock production to address development difficulties of an identified rural community. The group explored opportunities for development of the community towards achieving food and nutrition security as well as their empowerment. The Course utilizes experiential learning and research approaches.

Global challenges to food security: interdisciplinary exploration of theory and methods in conservation, development and communication

WMI in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Communication, Swedish University of Agriculture, conducted a collaborative PhD training in March 2014 in Kenya. The overall objective of the PhD course was to elaborate on themes in the field of theory of science and research methodology. The aim is also to give opportunities for the participating PhD students to discuss theoretical and methodological issues in relation to their PhD projects, utilising practical experiences gained from the field trip and class room. The course contains lectures, discussions and seminars and a field visit.

Wangari Maathai and Africa Environmental Day

During the 2012 Session of the General Assembly of the African Union, the Assembly decided in recognition of Prof Wangari Maathai numerous achievements in her capacity as the first Presiding Officer of the African Union-Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU – ECOSOCC), African Union Peace Ambassador, Founder of the Green Belt Movement, Goodwill Ambassador to the Congo Basin Forest Initiative, UN Peace Messenger for Environment and Climate, and UNEP Champion of the Earth, to designate 3rd March as Wangari Maathai Day to be observed in conjunction with Africa Environment Day, each year beginning in 2012. Wangari Maathai Institute celebrated this day in Nyeri. The theme of this year's celebration was "YOUTH - Healing the Earth: Environment . Education . Empowerment



One aspect of a love of nature that we need to foster is experiential. Nature- and in particular, the wild- feeds our spirit and a direct encounter with it is vital in helping us appreciate and care for it. For unless we see it, smell it, or touch it, we tend to forget it, and our souls wither". From Replenishing the Earth, by Wangari Maathai

Statements from 2012 Students



"My experience on the SLUSE course at WMI provided the kind of learning you cannot get from reading books. Being able to meet people face-to-face and

develop an understanding of their aspirations, their hardships, and their perspectives on life is invaluable. Learning through experience is not always easy, but it is most definitely rewarding." - Mark Wilson, MSc Agricultural Development from Copenhagen University, Denmark and Participant in SLUSE Course

"My experience at WMI was exciting, unique and mind opening. The curriculum was priceless and left an indelible mark in my life as a researcher, thus it is a mandatory curriculum for any budding researcher." – Jackline Ogolla Akinyi, MSc Food Safety and Quality from the University of Nairobi, Kenya and Participant in 2012 SLUSE Course



WMI PHD STUDENTS ATTEND THE 2013 SESSION ON SECURITY AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN DAKAR, SENEGAL

Mr. Claude Benard Muthee Kamau and Mr. Raphael Mulaha Kweyu, Doctoral students in Environmental Governance and Management Program at WMI, attended the 2013 Session on Security and Democracy at Democratic Governance Institute in Dakar, Senegal from 5th to 23rd August 2013. The travel grant was provided by the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA).

During their stay in Senegal, the students had an opportunity to visit Goree Island (the Slave Island) a UNESCO

World Heritage Site along the coast of Dakar where they witnessed the horrors of the slave trade throughout the Atlantic world.

The students also attended a round table discussion on "Security and Democratic Governance in Africa" that was held at the Cheikh Anta Diop University – Dakar. The speakers of the round table discussion included prominent scholars from across the globe who are knowledgeable in various issues related to the African continent and included Dr Kwamena Ato Onoma, current and Founding Director of the Training Center of the Institute for

Security Studies (ISS) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Professor Abdullah Cisse, former Dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Science of the University Gaston Berger of Saint Louis (Senegal) and former Vice Chancellor of the University of Bambey (Senegal; General Mamadou Seck, former Ambassador of Senegal to the United States from 1993 to 2002 and also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the African Organization of Business Intelligence (AOBI); Dr Jeffrey O. Isima, former coordinator of the African Security Sector Network, and currently the Principal Research and Planning Officer at the Inter Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA); and Professor Jean-Herve Jezequel, Senior Analyst of the Sahel International Crisis Group/West Africa Project



Mr. Claude Benard Muthee Kamau (left) and Mr. Raphael Mulaha Kweyu (right), Doctoral students in Environmental Governance and Management Program at WMI when they attended the 2013 Session on Security and Democracy at Democratic Governance Institute in Dakar, Senegal



Mr. Claude Benard Muthee Kamau (back) and Mr. Raphael Mulaha Kweyu (2nd row right), Doctoral students in Environmental Governance and Management Program at WMI pose for a photo with their other participants when they attended the 2013 Session on Security and Democracy at Democratic Governance Institute in Dakar, Senegal

Senate Approves a New Program for Wangari Maathai Institute

In July 2013, the Senate approved a new MSc syllabus to be taught at Wangari Maathai Institute entitled "Master of Science in Environmental Governance". This program was developed by Wangari Maathai Institute in a process that involved various stakeholders. It was developed in realization that the world is characterized by skewed trade in natural resources, deforestation, geo-political struggles over oil and gas supplies, desertification and increasing environmentally related diseases among other issues. This raises important questions about how humans currently - and in future should organize the governance of natural resources and environments upon which they depend. In September 2013, the Institute admitted the first cohort of students who have now completed their first semester.



I am very fortunate to be member of WMI. The institute offers interesting and informative lectures. The sessions are very engaging, lecturers and students exchange and

share information. We also have seminars where we are able to network with other people who have the common goal of sustainable development.

Grace Kemunto Ogechi, Msc Student in Environmental Governance Program



Masters program on environmental governance at The Wangari Maathai institute is comparable to no other as it enhances and equips leadership skills in environmental conservation to an individual! Am a better person as a result of the course as it challenges me

to be more alive to the biotic and abiotic environment. It is timely especially now when our world is facing so many environmental challenges!

Rosemary Gichure, Msc Student in Environmental Governance Program



The 2013 PhD and MSc students posing for a photo after meeting the Director with some of the teaching staff.

Scholarships provided to postgraduate students

Scholarships under the STAKE Project



Claude Benard Muthee Kamau, PhD: Legal Pluralism in the Management of Forest Ecosystems in Kenya



Jane Mutune, PhD: Analysing Forest Access and Livelihoods in Mau Forest Complex



Raphael Mulaha Kweyu, PhD: Analysis of Conflicts in Utilization of Forest Resources in a Multi-Ethnic Setting



Muriki Dominic Muriuki, MSc: Environmental conflict resolution mechanisms and procedures: A Case Study of Sururu CFA in Mau Ecosystem.



Titus Wamae, MSc: Impact of Community Forest Associations on Forest Resources Management in Kenya



Paul T. Wahome, MSc: Contribution of Legal Pluralism in Land Law to Conflicts and Violence in the Mau Forest Complex Region



Rudolf Makhanu, MSc: Assessment of factors that contribute to forest resource use conflicts: A Case Study of Eburu Forest, Kenya



Robert K. Koech, MSc: Effects of Forest Resource Use Conflicts on Conservation Efforts. A Case Study of Sururu Forest in Mau Forest Complex



Scolastica W. Kuniya, MSc: Roles and Status of children in Forest related conflict



Nyole Florence Chepchumba, MSc.

Offered Mellbye Architects - Wangari Maathai Institute Scholarship for Sustainable Architecture Scholarship. This Scholarship was sponsored by Ajjas Mellbye of Mellbye Architects, Sweden



Dr. Nanyingi O. Mark, PhD

Livestock-Climate Change CRSP International Graduate Student Fellows. Funding provided by USAID- Colorado State University: Livestock adaptation and Climate Change (LCCRSP) Working on a project entitled Spatio-temporal predictive modelling of Rift Valley Fever in response to Climate Change in Kenya

Guest Lecturers share their experiential knowledge with WMI students



WMI students and Staff interacting with the Guest Speaker after the Lecture

Prof Karanja Njoroge, Chairman of the Friends of Karura visited the Institute to give a guest lecture to the WMI students. His lecture was entitled *"Participatory Forest Management: The Role of Community Forest Associations"*. He shared with the students on how Karura forest was saved by the heroic struggle of Prof Wangari Maathai and the successful partnership between Kenya Forest Service and the Friends of Karura under the premises of the Forest Act 2005 that gives communities the right to participate in forest management. WMI students were also privileged to receive a lecture from Mr. Jamleck Ndambiri, Chairman of the Kenya Forest Association who presented on the topic *"Forest Society of Kenya: Enter a New Paradigm"*. Further, The Masters class had a very productive interactive session dubbed "Chai with Peter Blaze" on World Charter, Environmental Education and Ethics and their application in Environmental Governance by Prof. Peter Blaze Corcoran. From all three guests' lectures, the students learnt the challenges and opportunities on environmental governance from the practitioners.



The 2013 PhD and MSc students taking a cup of tea after one of the guest's lectures

Message from the Director



Prof. S. G. Kiama, BVM, MSc, PhD
Ag. Director, Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies
Email: kgitahi@uonbi.ac.ke
Website: wmi.uonbi.ac.ke

On 27th July 2008 on a Sunday afternoon, Prof. Wangari Maathai, Prof Peter Gehr from University of Bern, Prof. Vertistine Mbaya and I met for lunch at Fare view hotel here in Nairobi. Prof. Gehr had requested to meet Prof Maathai on his return from Masai Mara where he and I had presented a joint paper at the international conference on Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry, Molecules to Migration, Maasai Mara, Kenya. Prof Maathai and Prof Gehr worked together in late 70's when Peter was doing part of his post doc work at the Department of Veterinary Anatomy, University of Nairobi. Wangari was then the chair of the Department. They therefore had a lot to share going back to those years. At the tail end of the meeting, I requested Prof. Maathai to consider doing something with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine where I was serving as the Associate dean or the University of Nairobi at large particularly in mentoring and motivating students. Prof Maathai responded in the affirmative and requested for another meeting where she could share some of the things that she had also been thinking about concerning engaging her almer matter, University of Nairobi. In the subsequent meeting it became clear that Wangari had a bigger vision– The Vision of the Institute. Since then, the University of Nairobi and the Green Belt movement walked with her to realize her dream. I have been privileged and humbled to be part of bringing the dream to reality.

In February 2010, the University of Nairobi appointed Prof Maathai, the Founder Distinguished Chair of the newly established Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies. Wangari was very instrumental in its establishment where she attended every meeting I convened for this purpose. She saw in it a real possibility of training transformational leaders and change

agents that will bridge theory with practice in the fields of peace and environment governance and its linkages with democracy. The Institute was very close to her heart and she has shared some of her thoughts on it in her last book "Replenishing the Earth: Spiritual values for Healing Ourselves and the World".

During the inaugural Board Meeting held on Tuesday March 09, 2010. Prof. Maathai at the beginning of the meeting requested for a moment to sing the song **Amazing Grace**, a Christian hymn written by the English poet and clergyman John Newton and published in 1779 to reflect her journey and the formation of the Institute. The Board members joined her in singing the first three (3) stanzas of the song.

*1. Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound)
 That saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found,
 Was blind, but now I see.*

*3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
 I have already come;
 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
 And grace will lead me home*

*'2. It was grace that taught my heart to fear,
 And grace my fears relieved;
 How precious did that grace appear
 The hour I first believed!*

Prof. Maathai also expressed gratitude to the University of Nairobi administration and Prof George Magoha, Vice Chancellor University of Nairobi in whose leadership the Institute was founded.

Since these humble beginnings, the Institute has established formal linkages with international partners, launched teaching programs and admitted students; and is soon putting up a green campus in line with the hopes and aspiration of the Founder, the late Prof Wangari Maathai. I am very grateful to the Government of Kenya, University of Nairobi Administration, the staff at the University of Nairobi and all International partners for the roles they are playing and continue to play to ensure the dream of this great woman, the Late Prof Wangari Maathai is realised.

VISION: Excellence in experiential learning, transformational community outreach and research for sustainable environment and cultures of peace

MISSION: To cultivate positive ethics, values and practices towards the environment by training stewards who foster peace, holistic sustainable development and link theory with practice