From the GBM Chair

May 2022,

Dear GBM Member, Partner and Friend,

This -E-newsletter forms our continued quarterly series and bulletin of the current progress and milestones achieved by GBM across its core programmes. We are particularly delighted to continue empowering local communities while still managing the effects of COVID-19. We are hopeful that everything will improve with the easing of restrictions to enable us fast-track the implementation of our 2022 projects.

The GBM Programme activities are anchored in the new Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025. The priorities as articulated in the strategic plan are: -

- Effectively execute watershed-based tree planting and forest restoration and conservation; and
- Contribute to livelihood improvements through nature-based enterprises.

Introduction of the new GBM Executive Director

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our new Executive Director, Mr Shadrack Mutembei. Mr Mutembei emerged the winner after a rigorous recruiting exercise that was headlined by the board.

He brings a wealth of experience to GBM, with more than 24 years of experience working in the nonprofit sector, of which 14 years were as a country director. Most recently, he was the country director at Help Lesotho, an international charity, where he oversaw a considerable growth in program's stature, reach and scope.

He is a worthy addition to the GBM Family and I wish him all the best as he begins his new role.



Pic 1 Mr Shadrack Mutembei

Q1 & Q2 Summary Programs and Achievements

GBM has undertaken quite a lot of activities during the past few months.
We have begun a project with GIZ that aims to improve the usage of improved Cookstoves in Nyeri and Laikipia Counties.

We have a target to plant 957,000 trees this year that will be spread across various regions as follows: Mau (Makutano Forest), Mt Elgon (Suam, Kiptogot and Kimothon forests), Makueni (on private farms) and Ngong (Kibiko forest) and Aberdares (uplands Forest).

We have also attended various forums for advocacy and lobbying, mainly of climate justice. GBM is a major partner of the Kenya Forest Working Group where we are lobbying for the rejection of the proposed amendment of Kenya Forest Conservation and Management Bill.

We also had the pleasure of attending the launch of 'Follow the Money', a campaign that is aimed to ensure the accountability and transparency of the funds set aside to fight the climate change crisis in Kenya. The World Bank signed a financial agreement that will see Kenya benefit from a grant to strengthen her fight against climate change.

Appeal for Support

We continue to ask for your support. Your efforts to ensure that The Greenbelt Movement continues to support communities and uphold the legacy of Prof Wangari Maathai is greatly appreciated. My appeal to you our beloved partners is to continue showing us this incredible support as we prepare to implement our ongoing projects and begin new ones this year.

Sincerely,

GBM Chair of the Board

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