



## Wangari Mathai honored on World Forest Day

In acknowledgement of the achievements of the late Wangari Mathai, the Ministry of Forest & Wildlife, the Kenya Forest Service, the Green Belt Movement and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) planted trees at the Freedom Corner in Uhuru Park to mark this year's World Forest Day on 21 March, 2012.

During the Day, whose theme was **Forests for Community Livelihoods**, the late Wangari was recognized as a remarkable woman who devoted her



(L) UNEP Kenya Country Programme Coordinator Mr. Henry Ndede presenting his remarks (R) Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Wildlife; Mr. Wamwachai planting a tree at the Freedom corner, Uhuru park. © UNEP, 2012

### UNON VISITORS' SERVICE

The UNON Visitors' Service is up and running for visitors at the UN Gigiri complex.

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life to peacefully protecting what she called "our common home and future". The Day was also an opportunity to celebrate the heroine's life and linkages between good governance, peace and the environment in sustainable development.

Professor Njoroge Karanja from the Green Belt Movement, who was the Director of the Ceremony, reiterated the African Union Assembly's decision to designate 3 March as Wangari Mathai Day to be observed in conjunction with the Africa Environment Day each year. Following this decision, it was prudent to honor the late Wangari Mathai during the World Forest Day as a symbolic recognition of her contribution of forests

to human development, particularly on livelihoods and improvement of all people, which was also in line with the Day's theme.

In his remarks, UNEP Kenya Country Programme Coordinator Mr. Henry Ndede acknowledged the importance of honoring the late Professor as a champion of the African culture who campaigned for forest conservation for its intrinsic values of providing food, medicine, shelter, spiritual wellness, fresh air, and water.

The Government, through the Kenya Forest Service demonstrated its multi-pronged approach to ensure sustainable forest management in support of establishing over 355 Community

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### Upcoming Events

World Press Freedom Day: 3 May, 2012

International Day for Biological Diversity: 22 May, 2012

Africa Day: 22 May, 2012

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers: 29 May, 2012

Forest Associations nationally in line with the provisions of the 2005 Forest Act. Under this arrangement, forest-adjacent communities are encouraged to establish the Associations whose primary aim is to promote positive interaction with the forests. The communities are allowed to engage in non-destructive livelihood activities in the forests as provided for in forest management plans.

In support of this approach, Ambassador Sofie From-Emmersberger of the Embassy of Finland cited her Government's involvement in the Miti Mingi Maisha Bora Programme,

which aims at working with local communities by offering technical advice and financial support towards the maintenance of Kenya's forests. She further stated that the Government of Finland had been offering support to Kenya in relation to environmental issues since the early 90s.

Other guests who attended the ceremony and also presented their remarks included the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Forest and Wildlife, Mr. Wa-Mwachai; the Chairman and Director of the Kenya Forest Service, Professor. Richard Musangi and Mr. David Mbugua

respectively, the Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Multiparty Democracy, Ms. Njeri Kabebere; Green Belt Movement Board Member Professor. Vertistine Mbaya; representatives of the young and future generation; and schools around Nairobi.

As the late Wangari Mathai once said, "you are a gift to your communities and indeed the world". This day was an opportunity to commit ourselves to activities that promote environmental responsibility, good governance, and a culture of peace, Wanjira Mathai, the late Wangari's daughter said in her closing remarks.

## Hundreds in Nairobi campaign against gender-based violence



*Part of the procession in Nairobi campaigning against gender-based violence*  
© UN WOMEN, 2012

Hundreds of people from all walks of life participated in a walk to campaign against gender-based violence in Nairobi during this year's International Women's Day celebrations.

The walk was flagged off at Uhuru Park by Regional Development Minister Fred Gumo on 7 March 2012. Pomp and

colour marked the event that was held on the eve of the International Women's Day. A Nairobi-based band, Shangilia, belted out tunes as it led the procession through the city's streets.

Speaking at the event, Minister Gumo underlined that gender-based violence had no place in today's society adding that both the President and the Prime

Minister were committed to ending violence against women and girls in Kenya. Earlier, Prime Minister Raila Odinga had presented the Kenyan flag to Kenya's representative to Mount Kilimanjaro Climb campaign, Ann Njogu.

Tanzania President Jakaya Kikwete flagged off 75 climbers mainly from Africa who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro from 5 to 8 March to raise awareness, create visibility and mobilize national commitments to end violence against women and girls.

On her part, Executive Director of Nairobi Women Hospital's Gender Violence Recovery Centre Grace Wangechi said that cases of gender-based violence had increased from 2900 victims last year compared to 2487 in 2010.

UNFPA Representative Fidelis Zama Chi noted that the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey of 2008/9, demonstrates that 39% of Kenyan women had experienced violence since they were aged 15. He further lamented that the statistics by the Kenya Police

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Crime for 2007 point out vast numbers of cases of gender-based violence, many of them still lacking justice and closure.

“Ensuring men and boys, women

and girls are engaged in prevention and response activities remain key to successful eradication of violence.

Society needs changes which can only

be brought about by men and women joining hands in full understanding and respect of one another,” he said.

## Ground-breaking IOM study reveals migrant sex workers in Nairobi more vulnerable to HIV

**A** ground-breaking study conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reveals that migrant female sex workers in Nairobi, Kenya, lack basic HIV prevention knowledge and are less likely to be tested for HIV.

Of all the migrant female sex workers that were interviewed, 81.6 per cent were unaware that a healthy looking person can have HIV.

The study was launched in partnership with the Ministry of Health through the National AIDS & STI Control Programme in Nairobi on 22 March along with seven other reports that highlight the need for effective interventions in Kenya’s national HIV response among populations that are most-at-risk of getting HIV and AIDS.

Lead researcher Kelsi Kriitmaa comments: “The findings of the study clearly show that although migrant female sex workers have a similar HIV prevalence compared to Kenyan female sex workers, risk behaviours and access to services differ. Due to fear of stigmatization, coupled with irregular immigration status, migrant female sex workers are not accessing HIV testing. This is compounded by language barriers and a lack of migrant-inclusive health policies. It is a serious issue that must be addressed.”

The study, which is the first of its



*Of all the migrant female sex workers that were interviewed, 81.6 per cent were unaware that a healthy looking person can have HIV. © Celeste Hibbert, IOM 2012*

kind among female sex workers in Kenya, also uncovered that 93 per cent of migrant female sex workers interviewed had their first sexual encounter between the age of five and fourteen.

HIV is currently affecting 1.3 million people between the ages of 15 to 64 in Kenya. According to the Kenya National AIDS Control Council, female sex workers and their clients account for 14.1 per cent of all new HIV infections. The national HIV response in Kenya is currently reaching female sex workers with research and programming, but very little support is offered for

migrants.

As the economic hub for East Africa, Kenya receives a high number of Ethiopian, Tanzanian, Ugandan and Somali migrants, all of whom require migrant-friendly healthcare packages. “IOM and partners have already reached 4,188 urban migrant female sex workers, and over 1,916 have been tested for HIV, but there is a need for intensifying HIV combination prevention programmes,” says IOM’s Dr. Nahashon Thuo.



## Kenya unveils new evidence on populations most-at-risk of HIV



*Guests listening attentively to the results of various studies carried out by the National AIDS and STI Control Programme © UNAIDS, 2012*

The National AIDS and STI Control Programme disseminated results of various studies conducted from 2009 to 2011 on key populations to over 200 stakeholders,

Preliminary results from a national geographic mapping of populations most-at-risk of HIV conducted from

October 2011 to March 2012 provides estimates of 138,000 female sex workers operating in over 10,000 active hotspots in the country with HIV prevalence ranging from 24% to 34%. Migrant female sex workers from Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Somalia and Rwanda had an average HIV prevalence of 23%. The study revealed a high proportion

of sex workers operating from home venues across the country.

An HIV prevalence assessment and related risk behavior in prison settings in Kenya found a prevalence of 19% among female inmates as compared to 6% among the men.

These results marked an important milestone for the HIV response to populations most-at-risk of HIV in Kenya (sex workers, men who have sex with other men, injecting drug users and fisher folk) since the Modes of Transmission Study conducted in 2009 which revealed that 33% of new infections are attributed to most-at-risk populations.

This new evidence will inform national and regional programming and provide data for better estimates for baselines in development of the next phase of the AIDS strategic plan. The eight studies are available at the National AIDS and STI Control Programme (NASCOP) website on <http://nascop.or.ke>

## Kenya marks the first World Down Syndrome Day

On Wednesday, 21 March 2012, Kenya joined the global community in commemorating the first ever World Down Syndrome Day at the United Nations' Gigiri Complex.

Through a message delivered on his behalf by the United Nations Information Centre Director, UN

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon acknowledged the difficulties being faced by persons with Down syndrome: "Intellectual impairments have been seen as legitimate grounds for depriving persons with Down syndrome of their liberty, and for holding them in specialized institutions, sometimes for their entire lives." He went on to

applaud those behind the realization of the day for "working tirelessly and passionately to bring the Day into existence"

Ms. Wahu Kagwi, the Down Syndrome Society of Kenya Goodwill Ambassador and renowned R&B artist invited the media to be partners in fighting the negative perceptions about

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Down syndrome in order to enhance public understanding for attitude and behavior change.

In her remarks, Ms. Jamila Mohammed, a lawyer and prominent media personality challenged everyone to take up the responsibility of highlighting the plight of those affected by the condition.

The ceremony was attended by parents, children, medical practitioners, the Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya, Dr Willy Mutunga among many other guests.

Down syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement that has always been a part of the human condition, exists in all regions across the globe and commonly results in variable effects on learning styles, physical characteristics or health. Adequate access to health care, to early intervention programmes and to inclusive education, as well as appropriate research, are vital to the growth and development of the individual.

In December 2011, the General Assembly declared 21 March as World



*Part of the guests who attended the World Down Syndrome Day at UNON.*  
© Richard Ngetich, 2012

Down Syndrome Day. The General Assembly decided, with effect from 2012, to observe World Down Syndrome Day on 21 March each year, and invites all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, including non-

governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Down Syndrome Day in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public awareness of the condition.

## Capacity-building for collaborative conflict management

Conflict is a spontaneous phenomenon especially where joint management of natural resources is applied. Nothing describes better the spontaneity of conflicts in this context like the Kikuyu proverb :-“axe heads in the same basket will never fail to knock on each other”.

It has been observed that famine, drought and poverty are traits that tend to fuel frequency and severity of conflicts that relate to forests, water and pasture. Unfortunately, even during

development and implementation of livelihood or emergency programmes, conflicts and skills to address it receive little or no attention.

Participatory forestry management (PFM) is a key approach being mainstreamed in the development of forestry in Kenya and has continued to face increasing challenges emanating from conflicts related to the nature of the approach. Involvement of a wide range of stakeholders is a recipe for incompatibility of the diverse interests

in the forests and allied resources, and often leads to frictional relationships. It has become more apparent that for smooth implementation of the PFM, knowledge and skills in conflicts and conflict management are essential.

To this end, FAO in collaboration with the Kenya Forest Service organized training in Nakuru on Collaborative Conflict Management from 4 to 16 March 2012. A total of 50 participants that included foresters, forest inspectors, civil society representatives

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*Community Forest Association participants during one of the training sessions.*  
© FAO, 2012

and Community Forest Association leaders were trained.

The training was supported by FAO-Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) facility and was aimed to equip foresters and other stakeholders with skills and in-depth knowledge on conflicts and

collaborative conflict management in the context of PFM implementation. It was envisaged that by the end of the training, participants would be equipped to address issues of conflict and be better placed to negotiate and mediate on behalf of themselves and the institutions they represented.

Participants were expected to have enhanced understanding of how conflicts evolve and the available management approaches that can support smooth implementation of PFM.

During the training, theory was blended with practical and experiential skills, intertwined with real life cases. Participants had the opportunity to reflect on the theory, the exercises, group work, the experience and the implication to challenges in the work environment. The participatory approach was highly appreciated and the reflection moments provided enlightenment to both participants and facilitators.

More localized trainings were proposed and seen as not only crucial for professional purposes but also as life skills. Participants pointed out that the techniques and skills may be very useful to provincial administrators including chiefs who often are called upon to either, chair negotiations, mediate or arbitrate during conflicts or in other community based negotiations fora.

## United Nations Country Team seeks aid effectiveness in Kenya

**A**id effectiveness seeks to ensure that development aid offered to developing countries supports economic progress and fosters human development. On Tuesday, 27 March 2012, members of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) hosted Mr. Jackson Kinyanjui, the Director, of the Governmental External Resources Department and Co-chair of the Aid Effectiveness Group (AEG). The meeting reviewed the progress of implementation of aid effectiveness in Kenya.

During the meeting the UN agencies operating in Kenya held a dialogue on key issues of importance for the aid agenda, particularly recommendations of the 4th High-Level forum held in Busan, South Korea in November 2011 and what this means for the aid effectiveness in Kenya. Areas discussed include the new Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (IFMES) and E-Promise, a computer information software for aid management platforms for tracking projects and financial expenditure

across Government and development organizations; new opportunities to align the next Medium Term Plan (MTP) for development with the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Kenya; and the importance of Government and development partners rolling out fully the mutual accountability framework.

UNDP, Co-chair of the Aid Effectiveness Group in Kenya said that development partners will continue to lobby the Government for full realization of the Paris Declaration, the

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Accra Accord and the Busan Outcome. Ms. Monica Assuma, head of the AEG secretariat also attended the meeting.

The aid effectiveness movement picked up steam in 2002 at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, which established the Monterrey Consensus. The international community agreed to increase its funding for development but acknowledged that more money alone was not enough. Donors and developing countries alike wanted to know that aid would be used as effectively as possible. They wanted it to play its optimum role in helping poor countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the set of targets agreed by 192 countries in 2000, which aimed to halve world poverty by 2015. A new paradigm of aid as a partnership, rather than a one-way relationship between donor and recipient, was evolving.



*Addressing the UN Country Team is Mr. Jackson Kinyanjui, Director, Governmental External Resources Department and Co-chair, Aid Effectiveness Group (AEG) with Mr. Aeneas Chuma, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and Maria-Threase Keating, Country Director, UNDP Kenya.  
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