

People Taking Action

Seeds of Peace

Wangari Maathai, Earth Charter Commissioner and 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Promote the recovery of endangered species and ecosystems.

Earth Charter Principle 5c

By the mid-1970s less than 2% of Kenya's original forests were left. Biologist Wangari Maathai was concerned. Poverty and high population growth were placing severe strain on the natural environment, as poor people cut down trees for fuel and cleared forests to plant crops.

In 1977, Wangari began encouraging **rural women to plant trees** so they could improve the

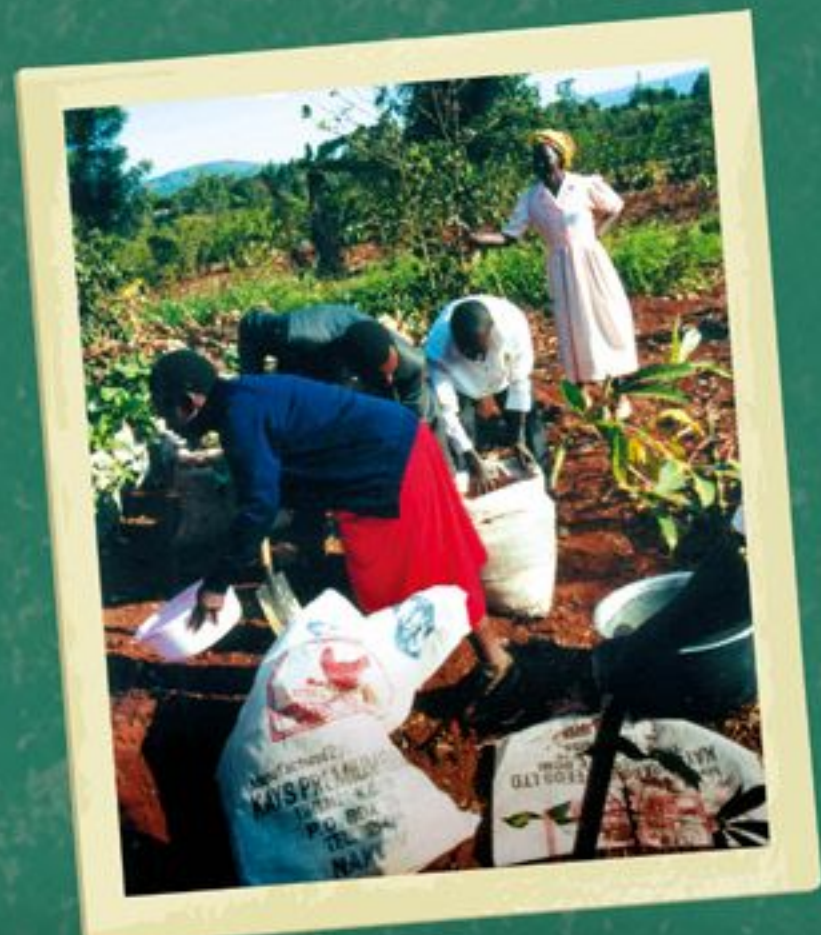
land through water retention and reducing soil erosion, and earn a small income for their families.

As of 2010, the Green Belt Movement which she founded had planted more than 45 million trees and helped change attitudes in Kenya and elsewhere in Africa. Women have become empowered.

What began as a small nursery in Wangari Maathai's backyard has now spread around the globe.



MARTIN ROWE



“ It's very, very important for us to **take action at the local level.** Because sometimes when we think of global problems, we get disempowered. But when we take action at the local level, we are empowered. ”



ENDANGERED ANIMALS
EAST AFRICAN BONGO ANTELOPE

The color of the East African Bongo Antelope becomes darker with age until old males are almost black. Adults have horns which last throughout their lives.
PHOTO: RSCF WWW.RARESPECIES.ORG



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