

# Africa's Green Future: Nurturing the Vision of Wangari Maathai



Wangari Maathai (1940-2011) spent her life advocating for social justice and ecosystem preservation in post-colonial Africa. As founder of the Green Belt Movement, she encouraged Kenyan women to plant trees as a tool for environmental conservation, poverty reduction, and empowerment. Wangari was a Yale McCluskey Visiting Fellow for Conservation (2002), received a Yale Honorary Doctorate (L.D.H. '04) and was a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (2004).

In a two-day event, the Yale community will honor her legacy with the screening of a documentary film about her life and a series of panel discussions about the key environmental issues pressing the region.



## September 19-20, 2013

Hosted by the African Student Interest Group at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies  
Burke Auditorium, Kroon Hall - 195 Prospect St., New Haven, CT

### Thursday, September 19, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

- 6:00 p.m. Opening remarks by **James Leitner** (Yale, B.A. '75) President of Falcon Mgt. Corp.
- 6:30 p.m. Screening of "Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai," followed by a discussion with directors **Lisa Merton and Alan Dater**



Lisa Merton and Alan Dater



James Leitner

### Friday, September 20, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

- 8:30 a.m. Registration and light breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Interview with our special guest, **Wanjira Mathai** daughter of Wangari Maathai and Project Leader for the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies (WMI). The interview will be led by **Maria Ivanova**, (Yale, M.E.S. '99, M.A. '99, Ph.D. '06) Assistant Professor at John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston



Wanjira Mathai



Maria Ivanova

10 a.m. Panel discussion

**Panel moderator**



**Rob Bailis**  
Associate Professor at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies

**Women and Land Rights**



**Cheryl Doss**  
(Yale, M.A. '87)  
Senior Lecturer in Economics and African Studies at Yale University

**The CorpsAfrica Model**



**Alia Kate**  
Member of the Board of Directors for the non-profit organization, CorpsAfrica

**Governance & Responses to Environmental Disasters in Africa**



**Ngoni Munemo**  
Associate Professor of Political Science and Chair of the International Studies Program at William's College

**Forest Conservation in Africa**



**Amy Vedder**  
An expert in conservation and ecology, Amy has worked for more than 30 years dedicated to wildlife and wildland conservation

### 11 a.m. **Workshop 1: Building from the Bottom Up**

Cheryl Doss and Alia Kate will lead a discussion on efforts that aim to build the capacity of the next generation of African leaders with a focus on women leadership

Burke Auditorium

### 11 a.m. **Workshop 2: African Political Ecology**

Ngoni Munemo and Amy Vedder will lead a discussion on the intersection of equitable governance, bio-conservation, and environmental management in the region

Kroon Hall, Room 319

12:30 p.m. Closing Remarks by **Sir Peter Crane**, Dean of the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, at Burke Auditorium followed by a commemorative tree planting at Sachem Woods

1:30 p.m. Lunch at the Knobloch Center, Kroon Hall

The Africa SIG would like to thank the FE&S Dean's office, FE&S Student Affairs Committee and the Global Institute for Sustainable Forestry for making this event possible.

**REGISTER:** [africagreenfuture.eventbrite.com](http://africagreenfuture.eventbrite.com)

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**For more information:** [esther.rojas-garcia@yale.edu](mailto:esther.rojas-garcia@yale.edu)