

Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai
Timeline of Key Events in the Film

1895-1902	British arrive in Kenya; Mombasa/Uganda Railroad established.
1940	Wangari Maathai born, Central Highlands, Kenya.
1952	The Land Freedom Army fought colonial rule. The first armed liberation struggle against colonialism in Africa, it was called the “Mau Mau Emergency” by the British.
1960	Wangari wins Kennedy scholarship and begins university education in the United States (through 1966).
1963	Jomo Kenyatta named first prime minister of Kenya.
1964	Republic of Kenya formed; Kenyatta becomes president.
1966	Wangari Maathai becomes research assistant at University of Nairobi
1969	Wangari Maathai marries Mwangi Mathai.
1971	Wangari Maathai becomes first woman to receive a PhD in East & Central Africa.
1971	Wangari Maathai has first of three children.
1977	Green Belt Movement founded by Wangari Maathai.
1977	UN Conference on Desertification held.
1978	President Kenyatta dies; Vice-President Daniel arap Moi appointed president.
1979	Wangari Maathai divorced.
1982	President Moi establishes one-party state.
1982-92	Opposition groups suppressed; many political arrests & imprisonments.
1989	Times Tower project in Uhuru Park announced; protests organized by Green Belt Movement.
1992	Times Tower fence taken down; development project cancelled.
1992	February: Freedom Corner March - Women’s vigil and protest of imprisoned sons, started in Uhuru Park and continued for 11-months in All Saints Cathedral, Nairobi. Call for multi-party elections.
1992	Civic and Environmental Education workshops by the Green Belt Movement begin in response to tribal clashes prior to elections.
1992	December: First multi-party elections held in 26 years; Moi claims victory.
1998	Karura Forest privatization protested.
1998	Green Belt Movement starts planting only indigenous trees.
2002	Multi-party elections; Moi defeated and a coalition government advocating reforms.
2002	Wangari Maathai elected to Parliament with 98% of the vote.
2004	Wangari Maathai awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

For more information on Wangari Maathai’s life and the Green Belt Movement, please see www.greenbeltmovement.com.