

Hon. Prof. Wangari M. Maathai

*Chair & Founder, The Green Belt Movement
Nobel Peace Laureate, 2004*



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Dr. Yemi Katerere
Head of the UN-REDD Programme Secretariat
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Geneva, Switzerland

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Dear Dr. Katerere,

I would like to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 28, 2009.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate the UN-REDD team for having organized such a successful high-level event hosted by the Secretary-General. It was a great honour to have been invited and to have been given the opportunity to speak at the official reception.

With our common vision of protecting world forests and our certainty that REDD is an essential tool for mitigating climate change, it should be our priority to ensure that the ongoing climate change negotiations result in an ambitious and comprehensive deal that includes the protection and conservation of world forests. I look forward to working together with the UN-REDD Programme to ensure that forest countries speak with one voice during the climate negotiations.

It is also my hope that with the strategic importance of the Congo forest, that in the near future, more countries from the Congo region be included as part of the UN-REDD Programme. It is important to ensure that countries maintain the dynamic by working together as a region. You may recall that President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, speaking on behalf of Africa, has been calling for general support to the UN-REDD Programme and also for the Programme to be eligible to a maximum of countries in Central Africa.

Thank you once again and I wish you and your team much success in the challenging tasks ahead.

Sincerely,

Hon. Prof. Wangari Maathai
Goodwill Ambassador of the Congo Basin Forest Ecosystem
Co-Chair of the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF)



Former Member of Parliament for Tetu