



African  
Development  
Foundation

**Press Statement**  
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**Contact: Bryan Callahan**  
**202.673.3916**

**Statement of African Development Foundation President Nathaniel Fields  
Congratulating Sustainable Development Champion Wangari Maathai  
On Receiving the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize**

The African Development Foundation (ADF) today joins the people of Kenya and people around the world in congratulating Ms. Wangari Maathai on receiving the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. It is a tremendous and well-deserved recognition that speaks to Ms. Maathai's remarkable achievements as leader of Kenya's Green Belt Movement.

ADF awarded a grant to Green Belt Movement in 1985 for a project that engaged Kenyan women in an innovative community-based reforestation initiative. Since that time, the Green Belt Movement has expanded across sub-Saharan Africa, sponsoring the planting of more than 30 million trees. This effort has provided rural women, who once spent hours every day searching for cooking fuel, with the essential resources, knowledge and skills they need to achieve ecologically sustainable development.

Ms. Maathai's Nobel Peace Prize highlights the powerful role that women-led grassroots organizations across Africa and the developing world have played, and continue to play, in building broad-based foundations for prosperity, democracy and peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.