



# Armenia Tree Project

GREENING ARMENIA SINCE 1994  
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January 1, 2005

Wangari Maathai  
Green Belt Movement  
PO Box 67545  
Nairobi, Kenya AFRICA

Dear Prof. Maathai,

On behalf of the Armenia Tree Project, we salute you on the occasion of your being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Like people all over the world, we were pleased that the Nobel Peace Prize has been linked with environmental issues for the first time. We, too, believe that peace must grow out of the soil of democracy and environmental health.

We at Armenia Tree Project (ATP) were inspired to learn that your grassroots movement, the Green Belt Movement, has initiated the planting of 30 million trees in Kenya. In fact, just last year we established the goal of planting one million trees per year in the former Soviet republic of Armenia.

Our organization was founded in 1994 with the vision of protecting Armenia's environment and advancing its socio-economic development by mobilizing resources to fund reforestation and community tree planting. ATP uses trees to improve the standard of living, promoting self-sufficiency and aiding those with fewest resources first.

In 10 years, ATP has planted and rejuvenated 580,000 trees at more than 500 sites in 11 regions of Armenia. Last year, we established backyard nurseries in a refugee village, where we are paying residents for every seedling they grow which is planted into the forest.

After learning that you were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, ATP placed advertisements in various Armenian newspapers congratulating you and raising awareness within our community of your vital message. We have also posted a similar announcement on our web site.

It is our hope that during your next visit to the United States we will be able to meet and share our tree planting experiences with each other, so that we may learn from the Green Belt Movement and increase our effectiveness, and contribute our knowledge to others working in this vital field.

Sincerely,

Jeff Masariian, Executive Director