

June 2016

Amb. Bob Godec, the United States Ambassador to Kenya

The United States Ambassador to Kenya, Bob Godec, visited Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace & Environmental Studies (WMI) on June 16, 2016, to assess the progress of the Partnership on Women's Entrepreneurship in Renewables (wPOWER).

Launched by the Department of State in 2013, the wPOWER seeks to build evidence based on women, energy access and climate solutions, hold train the trainer workshops, facilitate African and Indian women entrepreneur and leadership exchanges to build a network of women climate leaders, and build public awareness.

The Ambassador expressed his satisfaction with the impact of the project especially in the lives of women in the rural areas and the reduction of the negative effects of climate change. He said that wPOWER was launched to help women use renewable energy and reduce the devastating effects of climate change. The wPOWER project is being implemented in several African countries including Uganda, Nigeria, Rwanda and Tanzania, among others. So far over 8,000 women have been reached and up to 3.5 million lives have been touched.

The Ambassador also took the opportunity to tour the construction work of Wangari Maathai Campus which is being funded both by the Africa Development Bank and the Kenya Government. He as well planted a tree at the Peace Park at the Campus. The Peace Park was established in commemoration of the 147 students who were killed during the Garissa University terrorist attack in 2015.