



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung Female Pioneers
of Research

Pt.69

Wangari Maathai





Wangari Maathai (1940-2011)
Biologist & Politician

After receiving her early education from missionary sisters in her native Kenya, she earned a scholarship that enabled her to attend *Mount St. Mary's College* in Boston to obtain her high-school degree.

In 1970 she received her Master's degree in Botany from the *University of Pittsburgh*.



As the first woman, she earned a doctorate in the natural sciences from the *University of Nairobi*. Immediately afterward she was appointed professor of veterinary anatomy and later became dean of the *Department of Forestry*. In this role she began to elevate environmental issues as a public discussion topic, as well as to promote the presence of women in politics.





In 1991 she founded the *Green Belt Movement*.

This organization mobilized women to plant trees in order to combat erosion, deforestation, and poverty. By 2017, more than 51 million trees had been planted. The project became a symbol of environmental protection, women's rights, and democracy in Kenya.

the
green belt
movement





For her work she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 – the first African ever to receive it. Even after that she continued to champion gender equality, sustainable climate policy, and human rights.

Wangari Maathai died in 2011; her legacy and achievements continue to inspire people today.





„Es sind die Frauen, die die größte Kraft für die Wiederherstellung des Planeten darstellen.“

“It is the women who are the greatest force for the restoration of the planet.”

