

When Nature's Forces Meet Degraded Environments

There is emerging recognition of the vital role natural habitats play in reducing the impact of natural disasters. Despite this, ecosystems continue to be degraded at an alarming rate. While economics and engineering have a role to play, one individual's actions can also make a difference.

Prior to being awarded the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize, Wangari Maathai introduced the idea of community-based tree planting in Kenya. She has continued to develop this idea into a broad-based grassroots organization, whose main focus is poverty reduction and environmental conservation. On this rare occasion, join her, Bruce Babbitt, Chairman of the Board for World Wildlife Fund, and Thomas Friedman, *New York Times* Columnist, for a discussion on the future of environmental management of natural disasters.



PRESENTER: Wangari Maathai
Founder
The Greenbelt Movement

DISCUSSANTS: Bruce Babbitt
Chairman of the Board
World Wildlife Fund

MODERATOR: Apurva Sanghi
Senior Economist
World Bank

Thomas Friedman
Foreign Affairs Columnist
The New York Times

TUESDAY
APRIL 14, 2009
2:00-4:00 PM

Coffee and cookies will be served

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