Forests are vital for our well-being. They cover nearly a third of the globe and provide an invaluable variety of social, economic and environmental benefits. Three fourths of freshwater comes from forested catchment areas. Forests stabilize slopes and prevent landslides; they protect coastal communities against tsunamis and storms. More than 3 billion people use wood for fuel; some 2 billion people depend on forests for sustenance and income, and 750 million live within them.

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
Message for the first International Day of Forests
The International Forest Photograph Award was launched in 2013 by the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat to honor efforts that visually capture the unique connection between forests and people everywhere. Over 400 entries from 39 countries competed to win. Young students vied with professional nature photographers to showcase a personal and often extraordinary perspective of forests.

This exhibit features 21 photographs which were picked as finalists by the international jury of lauded photographers and industry experts. They include 6 winners, 9 Honourable Mentions and 6 Special Acknowledgements. Also on display are the winning films from the 2013 International Forest Short Film Festival.

Map: 426 entries from 39 countries competed for the Awards

The UN Forest for People Awards had 3 categories – Forest Heroes, the Forest Short Films and Forest Photographs. Each award highlighted how forests sustain communities, from food to shelter, and medicine to livelihoods. Twenty-one finalists from the film and photo contests were announced on the occasion of the first International Day of Forests on 21 March 2013.

WINNERS, in alphabetical order:

- Budur by Atakan Baykal, Turkey
- Faces of the Mau: Community leader planting trees by Riccardo Gangale, Italy
- Morning from Situ Gunung by Prasetyo Nurramdhan, Indonesia
- My favorite place by Olga Lavrushko, Ukraine
- Pahmung krui Damar Forest by Eka Fendiaspara, Indonesia
- Sleeping beauty by Pablo Pro, Spain

HONOURABLE MENTIONS, in alphabetical order:

- Forests are “honey” for traditional tribals by Aulia Erlangga, Indonesia
- Farming the forest by Lamphay Inthakoun, Lao
- Mangrove reforestation by Irwandi M. Gade, Indonesia
- Hungry animals in winter by Muzaffer Ketmen, Turkey
- What if this is the last tree? by Dwi Kristiyadi, Indonesia
- Wood Man by Somenath Mukhopadhyay India
- Once a playground and source of life by Budi Setiawan, Indonesia
- Pray by Danang Sujati, Indonesia
- Pine forest by Zulkarnaen Syri Lokesyware, Indonesia

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, in alphabetical order:

- Am I visible? by Ajay Chandwani, India
- Beech avenue in autumn by Robert Clamp, United Kingdom
- Collecting fodder by Sandesh Timilsina, Nepal
- Northern Hawk Owl by Finella Pescott, Canada
- Rubber farmers by Rahmat Rahim Nur, Indonesia
- Walking alone by Ali Mustofa, Indonesia
The photograph was taken in Budur and is part of a series of images taken by the photographer, Atakan, to capture a breadth of moods of the Turkish Forests.

Born in Kırklareli, Turkey in 1979, Atakan graduated from Istanbul University - Forestry Faculty to become a forest engineer. His adventure in photography started in 1997. He has been a professional Nature Photographer with the General Directorate of Forestry (GDF) since 2008.

The photograph was taken in the Damar Forests of Indonesia. Eka revels in landscape, wildlife and nature photography. While he studied to be a teacher of mathematics, he took classes in photography – turning his hobby into a second career.

Eka Fendiaspara was born in Padang Ratu, Indonesia in 1983. Since 2007 he has been teaching math in a high school in West Lampung and at the Terbuka University since 2012. In 2010 he became an instructor of an extracurricular photography class. He continues to be an active contributor to a number of online photography communities.
RICCARDO GANGALE, ITALY

The photograph is of Grace - a farmer and forest community leader where she works to protect the forest from illegal loggers. This photo is part of a portrait exhibition on the Mau Forest in Kenya.


OLGA LAVRUSHKO, UKRAINE

The photograph was taken on the Khortica Island in Zaporizhzhya, Ukraine. Olga is an explorer at heart - discovering cities on her bicycle always with a camera at hand. She draws inspiration from everything from long walks to music festivals.

Olga was born in Zaporizhzhya in 1991. In June 2013 she graduated from the Zaporizhzhian State Engineering Academy.
The photograph was taken at dawn in Situ Gunung (Mountain Lake) Natural Park in West Java, Indonesia. Prasetyo camped out the night before, rising early to capture the perfect shot of mist rising up above the lake as the morning broke.

Prasetyo was born in Bandung, Indonesia in 1992. He was first attracted to photography in high school and is a self-taught photographer. Prasetyo now lives in Jakarta.

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The photograph of a sleeping Kogi girl was taken in the Tayrona National Park, Colombia. The Kogi base their lifestyles on their belief in "The Great Mother" - their creator and the force behind nature.

Pablo specializes in films on nature and social issues. He has worked on Child of our Time (BBC), Earth Story and On the Road. Pablo has been commissioned by the National Geographic, Canal Plus France and Discovery Channel. He worked in advertising as Director of Photography for Coca-Cola, Aquafina, Nike and Telefonica; and taught photography in Cuba. He is the recipient of Best Photography Awards for La China 2007, En el hoyo 2008 and El Palacio de la luna 2009.
Forests are “honey” for traditional tribal
by Aulia Erlangga, Indonesia

The photograph was taken in Bukit 12 National
Park, Jambi Province, Sumatra, Indonesia.

Mangrove reforestation
by Irwandi M. Gade, Indonesia

The photograph was taken in Kampung Jawa,
Banda Aceh with a EOS 550D camera.

Farming the forest
by Lamphay Inthakoun, Laos

Upland women weed their swidden rice fields,
an integrated method of agro-forestry. The
photograph was taken in the Mokpon village of
the Pha Oudon District, Bokeo Province, Laos.

Hungry animals in winter
by Muzaffer Ketmen, Turkey

The snow is one meter high making it quite a
challenge to herd the animals through the forest
in search of food. The photograph was taken in
Çukurhisar, Kahramanmaraş, Turkey.

What if this is the last tree?
by Dwi Kristiyadi, Indonesia

The photograph of a landfill was taken in Bekasi,
Indonesia.

Wood Man
by Somenath Mukhopadhyay, India

A firewood seller arranges his pile of wood. The
photograph was taken in Jharkhand, India.
Once a playground and source of life
by Budi Setiawan, Indonesia

This photograph captures the aftermath of a tsunami. Before the tsunami, forests were a source of life and the locals used sago trees for their staple food. The photograph was taken in Biak, Papua, Indonesia.

Pray
by Danang Sujati, Indonesia

The photograph is taken in St. Mary's grotto located in the heart of the forests of Kenyalok Hill, Sintag, West Borneo, Indonesia.

Pine forest
by Zulkarnaen Syri Lokesware, Indonesia

The photograph was taken on Mt. Telomoyo in Central Java, Indonesia.

International Forest Photograph Awards

Am I visible?
by Ajay Chandwani, India

The Scops owl camouflages itself with the bark of the tree making itself invisible. The photograph was taken in the Bandhavgarh National Park in Madhya Pradesh, India.

Beech avenue in autumn
by Robert Clamp, United Kingdom

The photograph was taken in the Selm Muir Forest of West Lothian, Scotland.

Collecting fodder
by Sandesh Timilsina, Nepal

The photograph was taken in Rokuwa, Nawalparasi, Nepal.
Northern Hawk Owl
by Finella Pescott, Canada

Highlighting the relationship between raptors and decaying trees as perchers, the photographer has observed these animals in their natural habitat in the Kluane region for several years. The photograph was taken at the Coultis Bay in the Yukon Territory, Canada.

Rubber farmers
by Rahmat Rahim Nur, Indonesia

The photograph was taken in Bulukumba, South Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Walking alone
by Ali Mustofa, Indonesia

The photograph was taken early in the morning when farmers go to paddy fields in the Maos village, central Java, Indonesia.

Since 2011, Nacho has served as both President of Olympus Imaging America and Director of Olympus Imaging Corporation of Japan and Olympus Corporation of America’s Boards. His regional responsibilities cover North and South America.

Previously, he worked as Managing Director of Olympus Europa in Hamburg (Germany), for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. From Barcelona, he positioned the company as leader of its various markets, including Consumer Electronics and Photography. Nacho has a Master’s degree in Telecommunications Engineering, an MBA and a Diploma in Advance Management by IESE.

Phillip Block was Founder and Director of Light Work from 1972-1982, when he developed artist sponsorship models and an artists’ residency that became the model for statewide sponsorship. From 1975-1979 he was Adjunct Curator of Photography at the Everson Museum of Art. In 1998 he was appointed Deputy Director for Programs at the International Center of Photography.

Phillip served on The Kodak Education Advisory Council and The W. Eugene Smith Foundation, and advised the Gallery Association of New York State and the New York State Council for the Arts, jurying the Scholastic Art and Writing Award JGS Prize, Aperture Book prize, and Overseas Press Club Awards.
ALINKA ECHEVERRÍA
Independent photographer

Alinka Echeverría (b. 1981) of Mexico City and London, graduated from The International Center of Photography in New York, with an M.A in Social Anthropology at University of Edinburgh. Named ‘International Photographer of the Year’ by the Lucie Awards in 2012, Echeverría won 2011’s HSBC Prize for Photography, with awards from PX3 Prix Pour la Photographie, CENTER, Magenta Foundation and American Photo.

Echeverría’s work has been in over fifty exhibitions, including solos at the 2012 Lima Biennial of Photography, the Moscow Photobiennale, London’s EB&Flow Gallery and Buenos Aires’ Festival of Light. Collections include: Museum of Fine Artes in Houston and Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

JUAN M. GABARRÓN
Director & CEO
The Gabarron Foundation, New York

From Valladolid, Spain, with an IT career and a Masters in E-Business, Juan also received a degree in International Business from the Institute for Executive Development at Tongji University, Shanghai, China. As director of ArtFutura Castilla y León film festival (2003-2004) and founder of International University Film Festival FESTCINE, Juan moved to New York in 2005 to manage the US headquarters of The Gabarron Foundation, one of the most important Spanish cultural institutions in New York. He is on the Board of Directors of the Spain-US Chamber of Commerce in NYC, chairing its Arts, Science & Sports Committee.

In 2012 he collaborated with UNFF on two Award programs. More recently he collaborated with the United Nations on the UNEarth exhibition which is being travelled internationally until 2015.

MARK GARTEN
Chief of Photography
United Nations

Mark Garten, Chief of Photography at the United Nations, has been creating images for 26 years, and has a Bachelor in Fine Arts in Photography from the University of Buffalo.

Now at the United Nations, he leads a team of photographers. Travelling the globe with UN Secretaries-General Kofi Annan and Ban Ki-moon, Mark observed the impact of UN programmes, documenting internally-displaced people in Colombia’s jungles, camps in Pakistan, refugees in Jordan and Turkey, conflicts in Iraq, Lebanon and Somalia, climate change issues in Africa and ice flows in the Arctic Circle. Mark shows ways we can help through his images, through media around the world.

JAN MCALPINE
Director, 2008-2013
United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat

Jan McAlpine has been working on environmental, trade and social issues for over 30 years. She previously served as Senior Negotiator and Advisor for Forests for the United States Department of State (Foreign Affairs), and participated in international processes on forests including the UN processes on forests after the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), the FAO Committee on Forestry, UNCTAD and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Jan grew up in Central and Southern Africa, in Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, Kenya and South Africa.
In 2013 UNFFS partnered with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival to honor the creative efforts of film makers who capture how forests inspire, shelter, nurture and contribute to our lives. The 2013 Film Festival was for short films of five minutes or less. 128 entries from 38 countries competed.

All 21 finalists of the International Forests Short Film Festival can be viewed here: http://www.un.org/esa/forests/international-day-of-forests/video.html.

WINNERS, in alphabetical order:

- Amazing Grace by Rowan Pybus, South Africa  
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjHvD3Nubks
- An Unseen World by Paul Rosolie, USA  
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOXKg6wftk
- Feel like a Mountain by Elio Alonso Vasquez Miranda, Peru  
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ae5bEySxkHg
- Ma Forêt by Sébastien Pins, Belgium  
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zYUggOOg_M
- Reynaldo by Dan Childs & Nick Werber, UK  
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCDvqZCM0Uk

HONOURABLE MENTIONS, in alphabetical order:

- The Water Forest by Rose Rogers, UK
- The Mother Forest by Maria Luz Fang-asan, the Philippines
- Adaptación by Sofia Carrillo, Mexico
- Mbuti: Children of the Forest by Molly Feltner, USA
- Our Little World by Apip Rea, Indonesia
- What’s Happening In Our Forest? by Jamie Cundiff, USA