



International Year of Forests

Forest Heroes Programme and Awards

Background:

There are countless individuals around the world who are dedicating their lives to nurturing forests in quiet and heroic ways. To celebrate the International Year of Forests (Forests 2011), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat is identifying and celebrating these “unsung” heroes with the Forest Heroes Programme and Awards. By honouring “everyday people”, we would like to show that it is possible for everyone to make a positive change for forests.

Select Heroes will be honoured at the Forests 2011 closing ceremony.

Objectives:

The Forest Heroes Programme and Awards aims to:

- Recognise and honour everyday unsung Forest Heroes;
- Inspire people to get involved and take action;
- Provide the Heroes with the visibility to expand the impacts of their work;
- Promote networking and partnerships between heroes around the world to share knowledge and work together locally, regionally and globally.

Selection Criteria:

A Forest Hero can be ANYONE - From grassroots initiatives and innovative entrepreneurs, to school teachers or children dedicated to actively promoting forest values. If they share a commitment for forests, we want to know who they are!

In selecting the heroes, the jury panel will focus on the following considerations:

- Achievements and impacts with meaningful environmental, social, educational, or community benefits.
- Inspirational value of their efforts and achievements.





- Innovation in their thinking and approaches.
- Respect from their communities and colleagues.
- Balance and broad representation in terms of issue, geography and gender.
- Willingness to promote Forests 2011 through their activities.

Programme Highlights:

- Select Heroes will be honoured at the Forests 2011 closing ceremony.
- The UNFF Secretariat plans to work with heroes to promote their experience and initiatives. The stories of these heroes will be featured regularly on the Forests 2011 website and other United Nations communications platforms.
- We hope that the Heroes will take part as Forest Messengers to help raise awareness, nurture regional/global partnerships, and develop mentor/support networks.
- The programme is designed to carry through Forests 2011 and beyond, to continue to inspire everyone working together well into a greener future.

Nomination Process:

- Nominations will be sought from Member States, Collaboration Partnership on Forests (CPF), regional organizations, forest stakeholder organizations, and academia.
- In addition, nominations from general public are also welcome.

Timeframe:

- Nomination deadline: 1 September 2011
- Nomination screening and fact-checking: 15 September – 1 October 2011
- Short-list of finalists for jury review: 15 October 2011
- Announcement of Heroes: December 2011
- Award Ceremony: January 2012 (date to be confirmed)

To submit a nomination.....

- Please refer to the official nomination form for details