

FORESTS FOR PEOPLE



A co-publication between Tudor Rose and United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
For the International Year of Forests 2011.



INTRODUCTION

The history of human existence and civilizations is intertwined with forests and trees. Forests are crucial for the goods and services they provide, upon which people all over the world depend. Strategies to enhance the contributions of the world's forests to social development, livelihoods and poverty eradication are vital at a time when unsustainable practices and economic crises continue to threaten healthy forests and the people who depend upon them.

- Forests are home to 300 million people around the world.
- Many farming, silvopastoral, hunter-gatherer and other land-based livelihoods are linked with forests and forest health.
- A number of religions, faiths and spiritual traditions have links to trees, plants, forests and animals. Forests and wildlife are also a source of folklore and spirituality.
- Traditional forest-related knowledge accumulated over thousands of years is deeply linked with the cultures of indigenous and forest-dependent peoples.
- For the rural poor, access to food, fuel, water and medicine is vital; forest products often help meet these basic subsistence needs.
- 80 percent of the world's forests are publicly owned, but ownership and management of forests by communities, individuals and private companies is on the rise.
- Rights to access and benefit-sharing for local people is a fundamental requirement for sustainable forest management and poverty reduction of rural forested areas.
- More than 1 billion hectares of degraded areas throughout the world are suitable for forest landscape restoration, providing an opportunity for community-based forest management to be woven into other existing rural economic activities.
- More than 60 million people are employed by forest-based industries.
- Where forests are sustainably managed and utilized, they can contribute significantly to alleviating poverty and creating forest-based enterprises and services.
- Forests play a critical role in ensuring a sustainable water supply and in the transition of society toward green economies. Wood energy, green infrastructure and buildings, and forests as carbon sinks represent opportunities for the forest sector.
- A number of "payment for ecosystem services" initiatives have shown the possibilities of valuing and paying for forest ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water-quality, biodiversity conservation and soil conservation, all of which are vital for human well-being.
- Every one of us – all 7 billion of us – are connected to forests.
- Forests contribute to the balance of oxygen, carbon dioxide and humidity in the air.
- Over 40 percent of the world's oxygen is produced from rainforests.
- A tree releases 8 -10 times more moisture into the atmosphere than the equivalent area of the ocean.
- Forests protect watersheds which supply fresh water to rivers – a critical source of the water we drink and use in our daily lives.
- Healthy forests sustain healthy people.
- Tropical forests provide a vast array of medicinal plants used in healing and healthcare, worth an estimated \$108 billion a year.
- More than a quarter of modern medicines originate from tropical forest plants.
- Forests curb transmission of infectious diseases. Undisturbed tropical forests can have a moderating effect on the spread of insect- and animal-borne disease.
- 40 percent of the world's population lives in malaria-infested regions. Heavily deforested areas can see a 300-fold increase in the risk of malaria infection compared to areas of intact forest.
- 72 percent of emerging infectious diseases transmitted from animals to humans come from wildlife as opposed to domesticated animals. Deforested areas increase contact between wildlife and humans and affect pathogen transmission.



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FORESTS FOR PEOPLE

Tudor Rose and the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat are collaborating to publish a book for the International Year of Forests 2011. This innovative public-private partnership has been formed to combine the professional publishing and marketing skills of Tudor Rose with the global knowledge, extensive organisational relationships and international development interests of the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat.

It will enable both organisations to advance their shared commitment to the importance of forestry management in achieving sustainable development throughout the world. Tudor Rose has worked on previous publications for the United Nations, including UNESCO (Tomorrow Today for Decade of Education for Sustainable Development), the WMO (Elements for Life & The Full Picture/GEO), UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction/ISDR (Know Risk, Real Risk, Risk Wise & Risk Returns), UN International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (Natural Disaster Management), UN International Year of Freshwater (Freshwater Futures), International Telecommunications Union (Digital Reach & Digital Outreach), and World Health Organization (Know Risk Epidemics). Full details of these publications are included on the concluding pages of this document.

FORESTS FOR PEOPLE will be a fully illustrated 200-page book with over 75 authors relating their work in sustainable forest management at international, regional, national, municipal and local levels of activity. Their commentaries will draw upon experiences around the world, reflecting how people are changing their interaction with forests to improve the sustainability of their development.

Typical subjects may include:

- Community Based Forest Management
- Indigenous People and Their Forests
- Climate Change and Forests
- Biodiversity and Forests
- Landscape Restoration
- Agroforestry and Sustainability
- Forest Financing
- Economic Development and Forests

FORESTS FOR PEOPLE will reflect the progress and challenges in these fields, highlighting good practices in a wide variety of societies and disciplines. By focusing on the experiences and livelihoods of people, especially those in vulnerable human habitats, the book will strive to project the benefits of experience into future actions and institutional commitments to better understanding and use of forests in achieving future sustainable development.

In this latter respect, the public-private partnership between Tudor Rose and UNFF Secretariat will amplify and conclude the international dialogue being conducted for the remainder of the International Year of Forests 2011. This innovative endeavour is a striking example of sharing respective resources to engage the many official governmental, international organisations, institutional and professional interests in displaying the extent and variety of their efforts to make the world a better place.

The book will be a co-publication between Tudor Rose and the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, available from November 2011.



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International Year of Forests 2011

In 2006, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 the International Year of Forests and invited Governments, the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other actors to make concerted efforts to raise awareness at all levels to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

The General Assembly also requested the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to serve as the focal point for the implementation of the Year, in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and international, regional and subregional organizations and processes as well as relevant major groups. It also encouraged voluntary partnerships among Member States, international organizations and major groups to facilitate and promote activities related to the Year at the local and national levels, including by creating national committees or designating focal points in their respective countries.

The International Year of Forests 2011 (Forests 2011) offers a unique opportunity to raise public awareness of the challenges facing many of the world's forests and the people who depend on them. Great success stories and valuable lessons on how to promote sustainable forest management already exist. The Year provides a means of bringing those voices together and building momentum towards greater public participation in forest activities around the world.

Forests 2011 is a unique opportunity to highlight the key role of forests in our lives. By showcasing success stories and solutions, the year will galvanise greater public participation in forest-related activities. "Forests for People" is the main theme of the Year. It highlights the dynamic relationship between forests and the people who depend on them.

The success of Forests 2011 will be a combination of actions on the local, national and regional level. All organisations, from governments to schools, are encouraged to hold activities in celebration of the Year.



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TUDOR ROSE PUBLICATIONS

The United Nations, Tudor Rose, and a range of institutional and commercial organizations have collaborated to produce a series of books on key public sector issues.



TOMORROW TODAY

Tomorrow Today was published for UNESCO in 2010 as part of their ongoing efforts in promoting the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) (2005-2014). It is a fully illustrated 192-page book with more than 75 authors relating their work in education for sustainable development.



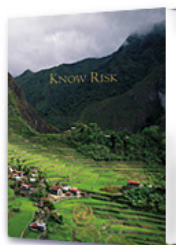
CLIMATE SENSE

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Tudor Rose collaborated to issue a publication about climate prediction and information for decision-making. Published in August 2009, *Climate Sense* was launched at World Climate Conference-3 in Geneva on 31 August.



THE FULL PICTURE

This fully illustrated, 280-page book brings together the views and experiences of experts from across the world, who are working towards a framework for sharing Earth observation data for the benefit of all.



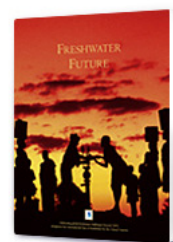
KNOW RISK

This fully illustrated, 376-page hardback book was published in January 2005, with commentaries from over 160 authors describing their work in disaster reduction at international, regional, national, municipal and local levels.



RISK RETURNS

Published in April 2011 for launch at the 3rd Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction: (8-13 May 2011), *Risk Returns* is the latest of a series of volumes for The Secretariat of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).



FRESHWATER FUTURE

The book provides a comprehensive view of water projects and initiatives supported by the United Nations which gave all agencies and organizations dedicated to protecting global water resources a chance to commit publicly to improving the world's water supplies.