



FORESTS 2011

السنة الدولية
للغابات ٢٠١١

2011 • 国际森林年

INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011

ANNÉE INTERNATIONALE
DES FORÊTS • 2011

МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ
ГОД ЛЕСОВ • 2011

AÑO INTERNACIONAL
DE LOS BOSQUES • 2011

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Forests and People: A Historical Relationship

The history of human existence and civilizations is intertwined with forests and trees. Forests are crucial for the goods and services they provide, which people all over the world depend on. 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.

Quick Facts:

- Over 1.6 billion people's livelihoods depend on forests.
- Trade in forest products was estimated at \$327 billion in 2004.
- 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.
- 30 percent of forests are used for production of wood and non-wood products.
- Forests are home to 300 million people around the world.
- The annual value of wood removed from forests is estimated to be more than \$100 billion.

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- 🌿 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.

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- 🌿 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.
- 🌿 There is a need to reconcile traditional forest-related knowledge, intellectual property rights and the equitable sharing of benefits between indigenous and local communities and external agents operating in forests.



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 towards 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.