



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF FORESTS • 2011**

*Global Launch of the  
International Year of Forests (Forests 2011)*

Wednesday 2 February 2011 (9:30 - 13:00)  
General Assembly Hall, United Nations Headquarters, New York

The global launch of the International Year of Forests, 2011 will be held in conjunction with the High-Level Segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF9). The ceremony will be presided over by H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss, President of the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The launch of Forests 2011 will feature a programme of high level speakers, the premiere of the short film "FOREST" directed by Mr. Yann Arthus-Bertrand, and film clips from the winning entries of the International Forest Film Festival.

**High level Speakers**

- H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss, President of the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly
- United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon - video message on International Year of Forests, 2011
- H.E. Mr. Božidar Pankretić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Regional Development, Forests and Water Management, Croatia
- Official emissary of President Paul Kagame, H.E. Mr. Stanislas Kamanzi, Minister of Environment and Lands, Rwanda
- Mr. Sha Zukang, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
- H.E. Mr. Juan Manuel Gómez-Robledo Verduzco, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mexico
- Mr. Tom Rosser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service
- Professor Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
- Ms. Jan McAlpine, Director, United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
- Mr. Yann Arthus-Bertrand, International Filmmaker
- Ms. Lisa Samford, International Forest Film Festival (IFFF)
- Mrs. Monique Barbut, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Mr. Felix Finkbeiner, presenting "Felix & Friends", a Plant-for-the-Planet Children's Initiative

Film components- film clips will be interspersed throughout the programme.

- Premiere of "Forest" film by Mr. Yann Arthus-Bertrand
- Forests 2011 logo animation and promotional video
- 11 film clips of International Forest Film Festival (IFFF) winners

