

Forests and Water

Sustain Life and Livelihoods

21 March 2016, UNHQ NY | A joint celebration of the International Day of Forests and World Water Day

DID YOU KNOW

- More than 1.6 billion people worldwide depend on forests for food, water, medicines and fuel, as well as their jobs and livelihoods.
- Availability and quality of freshwater in many regions is increasingly under threat, with estimates that up to two-thirds of the world's population could be living under water-stressed conditions by 2025.
- 75 per cent of freshwater used for household, agricultural and industrial needs is provided through forested catchments.
- Some of the world's largest cities such as Durban, Jakarta, Rio de Janeiro, Bogotá, New York, and Madrid draw a significant portion of their drinking water from forested areas.
- Water is an essential component of national and local economies, and is needed to create and maintain jobs across all sectors of the economy. Sectors with heavily water-dependent jobs include forestry, along with jobs in agriculture and industry.
- The 2016 World Water Development Report (WWDR), to be launched on World Water Day, estimates that more than 1.4 billion jobs, or 42% of the world's total active workforce, are heavily water-dependent.
- Many payments for watershed services programs include forest conservation and regeneration, providing an incentive to land users to adopt practices that ensure the supply of environmental services.

Water and forests are inextricably interlinked and mutually enforcing, supporting not only each other but also essential for our daily lives, providing food, fuel, medicine, jobs and livelihoods, and much more.

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL DAYS



World Water Day is marked on 22 March every year to celebrate water and focus attention on the importance of freshwater and addressing water-related challenges. In 1993, the UN General Assembly designated 22 March as the first World Water Day. Today, World Water Day is celebrated around the world; coordinated by UN-Water, the topic of the annual campaign rotates each year in alignment with the UN World Water Development Report (WWDR). The theme of the 2016 World Water Day celebrations is 'Water and Jobs' and led by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

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The **International Day of Forests** is celebrated on 21 March every year. It's an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and trees. The Day was established by the UN General Assembly in 2012. Activities range from scientific conferences and workshops, to art exhibits, tree-planting and community-level events. The theme of the International Day reflects the multi-faceted aspects of forests, highlighting the many ways forests contribute to our daily lives and global sustainability. The theme of the 2016 International Day of Forests is "Forests and Water."

<http://bit.ly/DayForests> | forests@un.org