

EDITORIAL

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS 2011

Celebrate forests every day

2011 is a special year for forests and for all who care about them. To inaugurate it, FAO has created a special issue of *Unasyuva*.

More than 100 international days are celebrated throughout the year, in recognition of a vast range of issues, occupations, activities and cultural values important to humanity. What better way to demonstrate the myriad functions of forests than to show that forests have a link to almost all of them? The *Unasyuva* Editor, Andrea Perlis, has compiled a collection of images that illustrate these links. With only photos and the briefest of stories, the issue expresses the theme of the international year – “Forests for people” – by showing how forests are important to nearly all kinds of human activity. So when you celebrate Peace Day in 2011 – or International Women’s Day, or Human Rights Day, or World Health Day– even International Civil Aviation Day – you can celebrate forests.

While the international days are the thread that holds this collection of photos together, the organization is thematic, rather than chronological, the better to catalogue forests’ place in many sectors. We admit that a few have been left out – World Tobacco-Free Day and World Television Day, for instance – but perhaps you can think of forest linkages even to these.

Some of the photos highlight FAO activities and those of our partners; many come from less usual partners, UN agencies that are not often associated directly with forestry – such as the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

We have not managed to be completely comprehensive in the selection – it has not been possible to obtain photos from every country, and you will surely think of great examples that we have left out. We welcome you to send us your own photos and captions (to unasyuva@fao.org), and time and space permitting, we may highlight them on a calendar that we will run on the FAO Forestry Web site throughout the year.

You may notice that one day is missing from the collection. There is no universally celebrated day for forests. We hope that the International Year of Forests will change this, and give impetus to consider creating an international day for forests, as recommended by the FAO Committee on Forestry at its most recent meeting in October 2010.

I hope you will enjoy this special all-photo issue, and celebrate forests all the year long. Celebrate forests for people – and people for forests, and forests for life.



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Visit the Web site for the international year, www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011, and FAO’s site devoted to the year at www.fao.org/forestry