

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Food security

16 OCTOBER
World Food Day



In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the leaves of *Gnetum* sp. are consumed as a leaf vegetable and also provide revenue for women, further contributing to food security. [FAO/FO-7084/ OUSSEYNOU NDOYE](#)



Children learn improved food production skills in an FAO food security project in a drought-prone area of Honduras. The project encourages tree growing to shade and protect crops and poultry and to retain moisture in the soil. The trees are also pruned for fuelwood.

©FAO/22087/GIUSEPPE BIZZARRI

In Senegal and other savannah areas of sub-Saharan Africa, baobab (*Adansonia digitata*) is an important contributor to food security. Its fruit contains 50 percent more calcium than spinach, is high in anti-oxidants, and has three times the vitamin C of an orange. The leaves are also an important source of vitamins and micronutrients, and the seeds produce edible oil.

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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Alleviating poverty

More than 25 percent of the world's population – an estimated 1.6 billion people – rely on forest resources for their subsistence and livelihoods. Of these almost 1.2 billion live in extreme poverty, like this family in Bangladesh. Sustainable forest management, including ensuring people's rights to use forest resources in a sustainable way, is therefore key to the fight against poverty. ©FAO/24706_0831/MUNIR UZ ZAMAN



The Lobi people of southern Burkina Faso live in houses made out of mud and tree branches. Forests and trees provide poor families with food, shelter, clothing and heating...

©IFAD/10291/FRANCESCO PAOLO GIANZI

17 OCTOBER
International Day for the
Eradication of Poverty

A United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported project in Khovd Province, Mongolia, offers farmers converted land for the production of fruit tree seeds to generate additional income and prevent deforestation in the region. UN PHOTO/420689/ESKINDER DEBEBE



.... and also generate income through employment
and through the sale of goods and services (Malawi).

UNCDF/MALAWI047/ADAM ROGERS



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Products and livelihoods

16 APRIL
World Entrepreneurship Day



A craftsman in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, weaves a rattan chair. An FAO project in Central Africa is promoting small-scale entrepreneurial activities based on sustainably managed non-wood forest products, through reinforcement of existing capacities. ©FAO/24683_1006/GIULIO NAPOLITANO

In the Philippines, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) supports efforts by UNDP to help small-scale entrepreneurs gain access to the financial services they need to succeed. This couple was thus able to obtain loans to purchase the supplies and tools they needed for their bamboo furniture making business. ©UNCDF/2372/ADAM ROGERS



A small enterprise in Nepal makes traditional lokta paper for export. This strong, insect-resistant paper is made from the bark of *Daphne* spp., a flowering shrub growing at forest margins in the high Himalayas. Community forest user groups provide the raw material, for which they have obtained Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.

ASIA NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND BIORESOURCES



Sustainable forest industry contributes to Africa's development: men at work in a sawmill, Democratic Republic of the Congo. An FAO project in the country is helping to improve financial, scientific and technical capacity, including implementation of forestry research as well as efforts to improve infrastructure. ©FAO/24683_0637/GIULIO NAPOLITANO

20 NOVEMBER
Africa Industrialization Day



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Products and livelihoods

26 APRIL
World Intellectual Property Day

Maasai women grind bark from the neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*) into a paste for deworming animals and treating abdominal pains in humans. In the United Republic of Tanzania, an FAO project on gender, biodiversity and local knowledge systems is promoting greater recognition of rural people's knowledge about the use and management of biodiversity among researchers and development workers.

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Non-wood forest products prepared for sale in a Cameroon market, to be used as condiments and spices. Fair trade initiatives can help the producers obtain better trading conditions locally and abroad, while promoting resource sustainability.

FAO/FO-7083/OUSSEYNOU NDOYE





15 MARCH
World Consumer Rights Day
SECOND SATURDAY OF MAY
World Fair Trade Day

Employees of the Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS) verify compliance with chain-of-custody requirements for certification.

©TFT/EDWARD PARKER/CIB



The forest company Congolaise Industrielle des Bois (CIB) provides housing for its employees – as well as health care and education – in efforts to fulfil certification requirements. ©TFT/EDWARD PARKER/CIB

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Work

28 APRIL
International Workers' Memorial
Day (an international day of
remembrance and action for
workers killed, disabled, injured or
made unwell by their work)

1 MAY
Labour Day



A logger standing on the end of a log above the North Umpqua River in southwest Oregon, United States of America, in a snowstorm. Forest harvesting is surely among the most dangerous and physically demanding professions. JIM PETERSEN



A forest industry worker in the Congo wears protective glasses and gloves in accordance with good safety practices. ©TFT/EDWARD PARKER/CIB



18 DECEMBER
International Migrants Day

Families of migrant workers in Phang Nang, Thailand, often undocumented, marginalized and impoverished, depend on the forest for their survival – like this young woman with her harvest of mushrooms. ©IOM/MTH0043/THIERRY FALISE

4 MAY
International Firefighters Day

Southern Europe suffered severe forest fires in the summer of 2009. On the French island of Corsica, 6 000 ha of land were destroyed in just a few days. ANP



DURING THE LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER
World Maritime Day

Boat-building using wood at El Jadida shipyard, Morocco. ©FAO/21913/GIUSEPPE BIZZARRI

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Cooperation

In its work with forest products industry, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) relies mainly on south-south cooperation for technology transfer. A project with the Indian Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre of Guwahati helped establish a Bamboo Skill Development and Demonstration Centre in Timor-Leste, where bamboo is plentiful but underutilized. With the aid of Indian expertise and technology, the centre trains craftspeople and entrepreneurs in production of bamboo laminates and furniture, among other activities.

UNIDO CENTRE FOR SOUTH-SOUTH INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION (UCSSIC) INDIA BAMBOO PROJECT



19 DECEMBER
United Nations Day for South-South
Cooperation



A Vietnamese expert shares knowledge of food and fodder legumes with a counterpart in Senegal under an FAO programme for South-South cooperation. ©FAO/FABIO MASSIMO ACETO/AG. GRAZIA NERI

FIRST SATURDAY OF JULY
International Day of Cooperatives

Members of a women's cooperative in Mauritania work on their tree nursery, preparing *Prosopis filensis* to be planted on dunes for stabilization – illustrating the theme of the International Day of Cooperatives in 2010: “Cooperative enterprise empowers women”. ©IFAD/13731/HORST WAGNER



The Ohio Forestry Cooperative, United States of America, holds a field day. These forest owners collaborate to market and increase the value of their wood, share the costs of developing stewardship plans and also help each other with forest work such as thinning. NATIONAL NETWORK OF FOREST PRACTITIONERS/SUSI



A project of FAO and partners in Central Africa assists with collective marketing of non-wood forest products in Nkolandom, Cameroon. FAO/FO-7178/IGNACE FOKOU SAKAM

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Health



7 APRIL
World Health Day

FIRST TUESDAY IN MAY
World Asthma Day

10 NOVEMBER
World Immunization Day

Forests contribute to human health by offering pharmaceutical products and nutritional foods derived from forest products, as well as living environments conducive to good health. They also provide mental and physical health benefits as a setting for exercise and fresh air – especially for people who live in cities and have little daily contact with nature. FAO/FO-6113/VIRGINIE ST-ONGE



Women preparing baby food with a combination of flowers and fruit from *Adansonia digitata* and the leaves of *Tamarindus indica*. FAO/CFU000243/ROBERTO FAIDUTTI



Many forest plants, including leaves, bark and seeds, have medicinal properties. The nut or seed of *Garcinia kola* (bitter kola), for example, is used in Central Africa as a purgative, antiparasitic and antimicrobial. It is used in the treatment of bronchitis, coughs and throat infections and to prevent and relieve colic, and it may benefit ebola victims by slowing down multiplication of the virus, giving the patient's body more time to develop a proper autoimmune response.

FAO/FO-7207/ARMAND ASSENG ZE

A health care worker weighs a child using a scale suspended from a village tree, Mozambique.

UNCDF/1777/ADAM ROGERS



The medicinal plant *Chuquiraga jussieui*, locally called chuquirahua, is used for treating kidney problems in the Andean highlands of Ecuador.

FAO/CFU000737/ROBERTO FAIDUTTI



SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Health



25 APRIL
World Malaria Day

Malaria claims almost a million lives every year. Wormwood (*Artemisia annua*) has been used in China to treat malaria for over 400 years and is the source of the leading antimalarial drug artemisinin. A research project at the University of York, United Kingdom, is using the latest biotechnology to develop improved varieties of *Artemisia annua* with increased artemisinin yields, to help fight malaria while also providing an important source of income for farmers in Asia and Africa.

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

1 DECEMBER
World AIDS Day

The HIV pandemic in Africa has increased the dependence of woodland communities on forest resources, especially in terms of herbal medicines, wood energy and food, as illness and deaths lead to livelihood crises. FAO developed the concept of Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools to help fill knowledge and skill gaps left by the premature death of parents, enhancing children's agricultural and life skills (Kenya).

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2 APRIL
World Autism Awareness Day

10 SEPTEMBER
World Suicide Prevention Day

10 OCTOBER
World Mental Health Day

Studies have shown that activities in woodland settings can improve mood – depression, anger, tension, confusion and fatigue. In the Branching Out project of the Forestry Commission Scotland, adult clients of mental health services spend approximately three hours per week in the forest doing physical activities (walks and tai chi), conservation activities, bushcraft (e.g. fire lighting and shelter building, shown in the photo) and environmental art. Participants – both men and women – report increased energy, confidence and self-esteem.

FORESTRY COMMISSION/1060201 / JOHN MCFARLANE



In Mozambique, *Aloe* spp. (left) and *Hypoxis* spp. (right) collected from the woodlands are sold in the market and used in the treatment of HIV for about one-sixth the price of retroviral therapy. A. SIOE