

unasyuva



Food and Agriculture
Organization
of the United Nations

An international journal
of forestry and forest
industries

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2011/1

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS 2011
Celebrate forests every day



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Design: Maxstudio

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Cover photo: In a mass wedding held on Valentines Day, 14 February, hundreds of couples celebrate their marriage by planting mangrove saplings. In this annual event designed to rehabilitate fish spawning grounds, the government of Puerto Princesa City, the Philippines, allows couples to marry free of charge – as long as they plant a mangrove. ©Reuters/Romeo Ranoco

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS - 2011

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 *Unasylva*.

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 *Unasylva* 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 unasylva@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.



Eduardo Rojas-Briaies
Assistant Director-General
FAO Forestry Department



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FAO Forestry

World of Forestry

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PEOPLE

Family

1 JANUARY
Global Family Day

15 MAY
International Day of Families

There are 25 million family forest owners worldwide. Organizing these small forest holders is a key to sustainable forest management and better livelihoods. The International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA) gives them a voice at the global level and assists in sharing of experience. For example, IFFA organized this exchange exercise for Swedish and Kenyan family foresters, supported by Growing Forest Partnerships.

JIM DEGERMAN



A mother and her children transport wood home from the Yoko Forest in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In forested developing countries, rural families commonly depend on woodfuel for cooking and heating. ©FAO/24683_1790/GIULIO NAPOLITANO



Forests: a rich resource for family recreation: bicycling on a family-friendly forest trail.

©CROWN COPYRIGHT / FC PICTURE LIBRARY



In Europe, private forest owners are ageing, as part of a general trend towards an ageing population in developed regions, compounded by increased rural-to-urban migration. This is likely to have an impact on forest management, as the motivation of future owners to participate in forestry is uncertain (Turkey). FAO/FO-6988/SEVGI GORMUS

1 OCTOBER
International Day for Older Persons



Elders pass along knowledge and respect for natural resources: In Gujarat, India, a tribal elder speaks up in a community's effort to protect tribal rights over forests and forest resources, facilitated by the non-governmental organization ARCH (Action Research in Community Health and Development). ARCH

PEOPLE Children



1 JUNE
International Children's Day

12 AUGUST
International Youth Day

Childhood encounters age.

©UNESCO



Children are the hope for the forests of the future: a young boy paints a home-made tree in a Tokyo street, Japan. As the world becomes increasingly urbanized, it is more important than ever to educate city children about the importance of forests and trees. UN PHOTO/70319/JAN CORASH

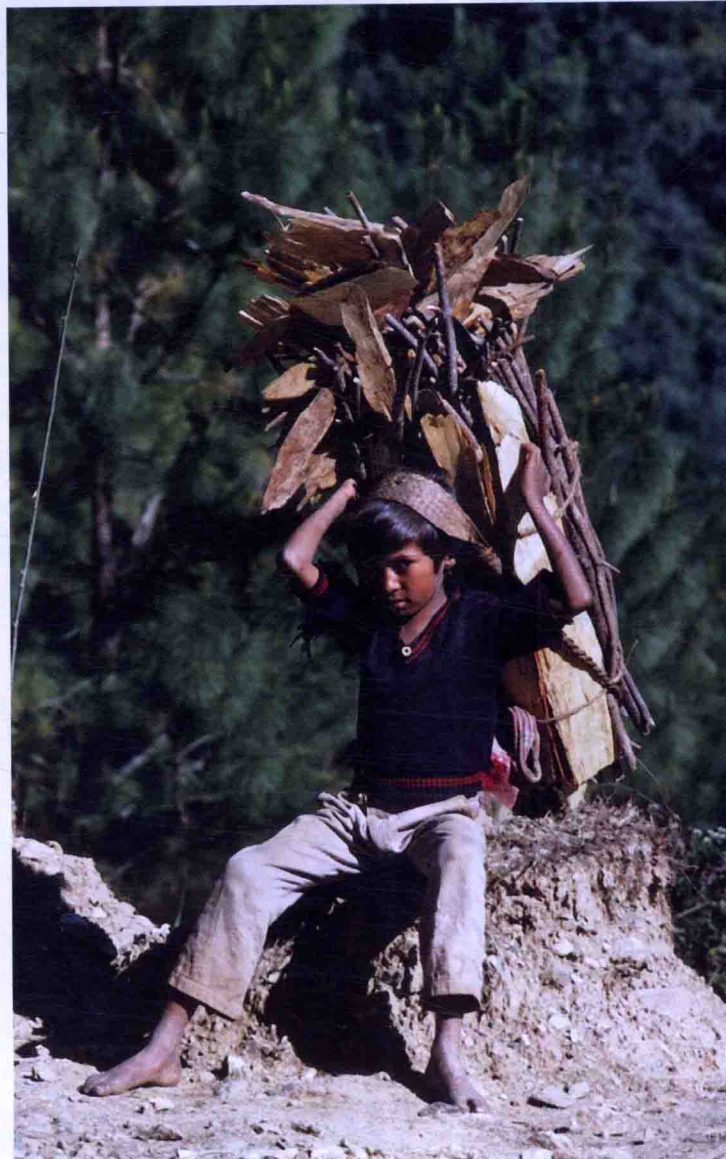
Schoolchildren in Rwanda set out to plant trees on World Environment Day 2010. MEAGHAN O'NEILL



Children plant trees to celebrate Tree Day (el Día del Árbol) at the Escuela Nacional Central de Agricultura, Guatemala. FAO/FO-6147/EDWIN E. VAIDES LÓPEZ

12 JUNE
World Day Against Child Labour

Like children in many countries, this young boy in Assam, India labours hard in carrying fuelwood over long distances. UN PHOTO/149396/JEAN PIERRE LAFFONT



PEOPLE Women



In Elisiya, Bangladesh, Alo Rani, 36, weaves a basket from bamboo, an important non-wood forest product. She received financial and technical assistance to develop her bamboo weaving business.

©IFAD/3590/G.M.B.AKASH

8 MARCH

**International Women's Day
United Nations Day for Women's
Rights and International Peace**

15 OCTOBER

International Day of Rural Women

25 NOVEMBER

**International Day for the
Elimination of Violence against
Women**



This women's collective in Burkina Faso gathers *Butyrospermum paradoxum* ssp. *parkii* nuts for processing into shea butter for sale.

FAO/CFU000183/ROBERTO FAIDUTTI



Women play a particularly important role in managing forests because they depend on them for many of their activities. This woman in Argentina, for instance, has to spend much time and effort in collecting fuelwood and carrying the heavy load home. CARE

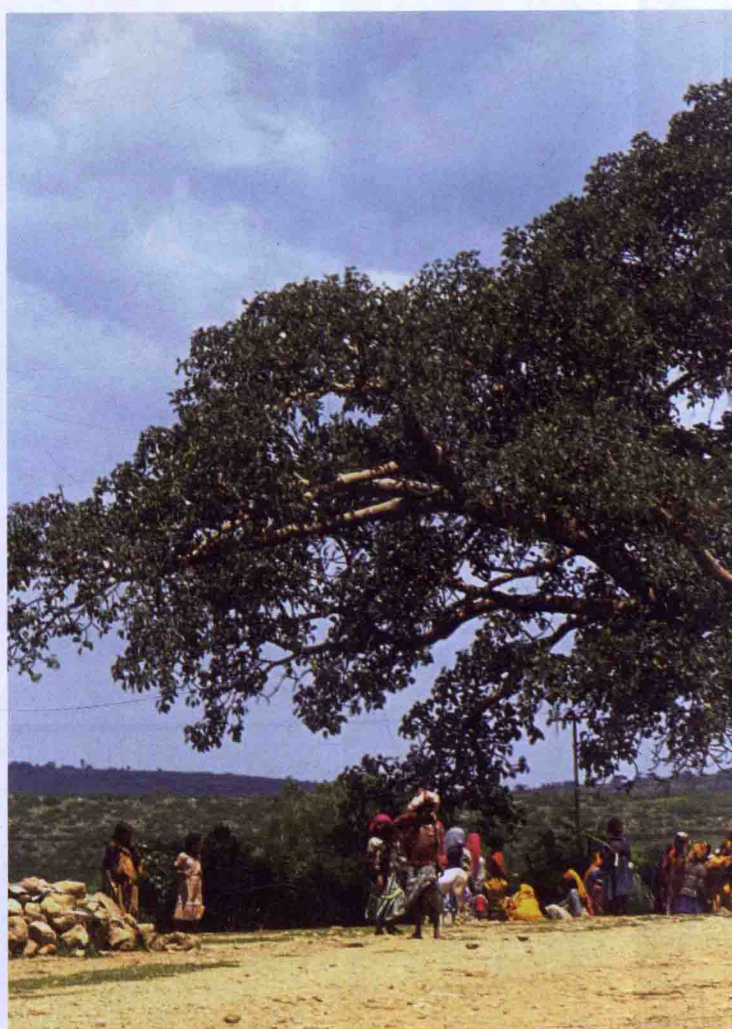
PEOPLE

Diversity



The indigenous Shavante Indians of Brazil make fire using sticks from the buriti (*Mauritia flexuosa*), a palm that grows in the Amazon forest; the fibre is also used to make art crafts such as baskets.

UN PHOTO/31707/JOSEANE DAHER



21 MAY
World Day for Cultural Diversity for
Dialogue and Development

11 JULY
World Population Day

9 AUGUST
International Day of the World's
Indigenous People

16 NOVEMBER
International Day of Tolerance

DECEMBER 20
International Human Solidarity Day



People rest under the shade of a large tree in the Shewa region, Ethiopia.

©IFAD/12342/ALBERTO CONTI

3 DECEMBER
International Day of Disabled
Persons

All people should be able to enjoy the beneficial effects of visiting the forest. In the United Kingdom, where there are over 8.6 million disabled people (including people with hearing, sight, speech and learning impairments as well as those with physical impairments), the Forestry Commission consults with representatives of disabled access groups to ensure equal access and enjoyment of the outdoors for all people under the Equality Act 2006 and the amended Disability Discrimination Act 2005.

FORESTRY COMMISSION/1044046/
ISOBEL CAMERON



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.

©IFAD/14920/ROBERTO FAIDUTTI



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 UZZAMAN



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