



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS SPECIAL forests for people



The International Year of Forests (IYF) is drawing to a close. Since its launch at the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in February, communities around the world have tasted and tested and breathed and squeezed the essence of life of our planet through events celebrating *forests for people*. *UnasyIva* is pleased to present a selection of FAO's IYF activities, including a glimpse of FAO staff getting their hands dirty. IYF may be ending, but forests are on the international agenda – and **forests are for people**.

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A mission to Rwanda focuses on wildlife and climate change



The year in print

At the outset of 2011, this journal encouraged its readers to **celebrate forests every day** through a photographic montage of themes pertaining to the international days celebrated throughout the year. Forests wove a thread through the International Day for Older Persons, World Teacher's Day, International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, World Creativity and Innovation Day.

The ninth biennial *State of the World's Forests 2011*, which considered the theme *changing pathways, changing lives: forests as multiple pathways to sustainable development*, was launched at the IYF inaugural event in February. A chapter on the local value of forests examined the nexus of forests and people. What role does traditional knowledge play in natural resource management? How much can small and medium forest enterprises contribute to rural livelihoods? How can policy support community-based forest management?

FAO Forestry Papers shared the Organization's technical work throughout IYF. *Guide to implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry* provided public information and guidance on how to address burgeoning threats to forest health by exploring phytosanitary concepts and showcasing good practice. *Reforming forest tenure – issues, principles and process* provided government policy-makers and others concerned with forest tenure reform with a holistic view of key issues to consider in tenure reform and proposals to address them. *Community-based fire management – a review* presented the state of the art in a participatory approach to fire management that takes into account such issues as fire prevention, the role of traditional knowledge and climate change mitigation. *Wildlife in a changing climate* explored the effects that climate change has had, and is likely to have, on wild animals and provided information on how these changes might be addressed.

Special issues of UnasyIva and State of the World's Forests were published

The year in wood

In October, Rediscovering wood: the key to a sustainable future drew together 350 participants from around the globe and more than 3 000 members of the public in Bangalore, India, to discuss the key role of wood use as part of the path to sustainability. The conference placed a particular emphasis on the aesthetics of wood and included various exhibitions and side events as well as the involvement of a broad range of speakers from a diverse array of fields.

The end of IYF featured an unusual sculpture exhibition. Some 30 large-scale works by the group of Finnish wood sculptors Puunkuokkijat were on display for FAO staff and visitors, who paused to reflect on the grand works as they crossed through FAO headquarters in Rome. The three artists in the group – Kari Kärkkäinen, Matti Kurkela and Seppo Kalliokoski – share a common mission to **reinvent wood as a modern material for sculpture**.



FAO/G. NAPOLITANO

FAO headquarters, Rome, hosts a sculpture exhibit



FAO/P. CSOKA

FAO staff plant a forest in Italy



FAO/G. NAPOLITANO

Sustainable forest management is the theme in Zimbabwe

The year in dirt

In August, FAO staff attended a tree-planting event that the Forestry Commission of Zimbabwe held to encourage local tobacco farmers to **practise sustainable forest management**. Honorable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Management Francis Nhema was the guest of honour at the event, along with other senior government officials and representatives from NGOs and the private sector, particularly those involved in tobacco production.

October saw FAO staff planting trees in honour of IYF. The FAO Forestry Department, together with the Italian Corpo Forestale dello Stato, held an event at Castel Fusano, Italy, to which all staff from FAO headquarters were invited. Participants learned about forestry and sustainable forest management – and planted a forest.

Watch FAO staff get their hands dirty:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxyYh95PoQ4.

The year in good will

In May, popular recording artist and FAO Goodwill Ambassador Anggun visited Jakarta, in her native Indonesia, to view a forestry site and to **discuss reforestation activities** in areas affected by the 2004 tsunami. Goodwill Ambassador Anggun's visit highlighted the protective functions of coastal forests. She stressed that IYF was an excellent opportunity to raise awareness on both the importance of forests for people and communities and the need to protect those forests.

In June, FAO Goodwill Ambassador and Olympic track legend Carl Lewis visited the Dominican Republic and Haiti to mark IYF. In Haiti, reforestation efforts were under way to help the country protect itself against flash floods and mudslides at the outset of hurricane season.



FAO Goodwill Ambassadors support IYF

To view a video of FAO Goodwill Ambassadors in support of IYF, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_HF5kiYV_Y.



Assistant Director-General Eduardo Rojas-Briaies participates in an Earth Day concert, Rome

The year in song

In April, less than a year after a devastating earthquake hit Chile, the Lollapalooza music festival debuted in Santiago, including headline acts from around the world. As part of the IYF activities, several musicians planted some of the first trees of a programme supported by FAO and the Government of Chile to plant 20 000 trees in Santiago.

Also in April, the fourth annual concert to **mark Earth Day** was held in Rome. The Assistant Director-General of the FAO Forestry Department, Eduardo Rojas-Briaies, spoke to the audience of 30 000 young people about IYF, and, in particular, of the importance of forest ecosystems to local communities and to the planet as a whole.

The year in small-scale production

Sharing products and services

On the occasion of the International Year of Forests (IYF), Germany, in close cooperation with FAO, held an international fair in Bonn on *forests for people* – the central theme of IYF. The event, International Bonn Forest Days, was convened 6–9 October 2011 at a central marketplace near the Bonn cathedral. Its concept was to showcase products and services from forests around the world. Visitors enjoyed performances about forests and their multiple roles. Dozens of exhibitors, from Germany and ten other countries representing all regions of the world, provided forest products for viewing, tasting and testing. Visitors chewed raw caoutchouc, sipped beer brewed from Black Forest waters, petted raccoons, and sampled cosmetics made from tropical forest plants. The booths of FAO-supported small producer groups from Burkina Faso, Central Africa, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal showed how local people can **generate income from sustainably managed forests**. Information was shared on the role of forests, conservation of biodiversity and emerging technologies in the production of forest-based products.



A producer from Burkina Faso exhibits at the International Bonn Forest Days



IYF banners are sewn into bags by detainees at a women's prison, Italy

Harnessing opportunities

The IYF banners that have graced the south side of FAO's Rome headquarters have found a new purpose. Thanks to an initiative spearheaded by FAO staff member Sergio Ferrara, and in close cooperation with Ora d'Aria, an association concerned with offering opportunities to those who live in isolation, in particular in prisons, the banners were cut and sewn into satchels by detainees at a local women's prison. The detainees have an opportunity to earn money for their work, and to practise skills that will help them reassimilate into society in the future.