



FORESTRY DEPARTMENT



FAO FORESTRY LAUNCHES FIRST MULTIMEDIA IPHONE APP

FAO's Forestry Department has launched the Organization's first multimedia app, designed to bring its work on forests and forestry to a growing generation of iPhone and iPad users. The iFOn FAO Forestry App can be downloaded free from the Apple App store and provides users with news, videos, select publications and interactive maps showing world forest statistics, together with a quiz, all navigable with a touch-screen wheel. It also includes a "donate" button that takes users to the Web site of FAO's TeleFood fundraising programme – which uses public contributions to finance small-scale agriculture, livestock and fisheries projects that help poor families produce more food.

"This project increases our potential capacity to communicate FAO forestry's message to over 100 million users of iPhones and over 20 million users of iPads," said forestry officer Lauren Flejzor (lauren.flejzor@fao.org), who came up with the idea along with colleague Magnus Grylle. "We're hoping students and people in public and private organizations with an interest in forestry will start downloading the app so that they can have the information at their fingertips."

The app was financed by the Innovation Fund, which invests in creative ideas that lead to savings and increased efficiency in the Organization, and was backed by Forestry Department Assistant Director-General Eduardo Rojas-Briales. (Source: Forestry Department, FAO.)

Interdisciplinary collaboration shaping FAO's edible insect programme

FAO's edible insect programme. What began as a small effort in FAO's Forestry Department to recognize traditional livelihood practices and sustainably managed habitats is unfolding into a broad-based effort to look into the multiple dimensions of insect gathering and rearing. A growing body of evidence has made it increasingly apparent that insects offer unique opportunities not only to serve as important sources of food and feed – with minimal environmental costs – but also to contribute to alleviating malnutrition.

The first expert consultation meeting "Assessing the potential of insects as food and feed in assuring food security" took place from 23 to 25 January 2012 at FAO headquarters in Rome (please see page 70 for full details). This expert consultation proved to be a significant step forward on the global stage in enhancing awareness, networking and sharing information. The proceedings of the consultation will be included in a FAO technical position paper on edible insects which is expected to be available later this year. (Contributed by: Esther Mertens, Intern, Edible Insect Programme, FAO Forestry Department.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Paul Vantomme, Senior Forestry Officer, Non-Wood Forest Products, Forest Products and Industries Division, Forestry Department, FAO, 00153 Rome. E-mail: paul.vantomme@fao.org; www.fao.org/forestry/65422/en/

FAO raises alarm on consequences of mountain forests loss

The integrity and resilience of mountain forests is under threat from increasing temperatures and wildfires, population growth and food and fuel insecurity, warns a new FAO publication released today.

Population pressures and the expansion of intensive agriculture have forced smallholder farmers to move higher up towards marginal areas and steep slopes, sparking a loss of forests, warns *Mountain forests in a changing world*. It also notes that climate change is likely to facilitate more rapid expansion by pests and disease-causing organisms that may cause additional damage to mountain forests. The report, jointly produced by the

FAO-hosted Mountain Partnership Secretariat and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, was published in the lead-up to the UN International Mountain Day on 11 December 2011.

"Mountain forests protect local communities against natural disasters and they safeguard the natural resources and environmental services that billions of people rely on for their well-being and livelihoods," said Eduardo Rojas-Briales, FAO's Assistant Director General for Forestry. "Mountain forests are being affected by many global challenges, such as climate change, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity and desertification, but they also offer significant opportunities for solutions. Sustainable development of mountain forests requires and deserves a prominent place on the international agenda."

Mountains provide 60 percent of the world's freshwater resources despite covering only 12 percent of the Earth's surface, the FAO report says. Mountain forests strongly influence both the quantity and quality of water supplies to mountain and lowland communities and industries. When forests are removed from mountains and land is left unprotected, runoff and soil erosion increase, with water quality deteriorating in streams and rivers as a consequence.

Mountain forests store a vast quantity of carbon and have an important role to play in climate change policies, the FAO report notes. The loss of mountain forests would release large amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, it says.

Mountain people – who are among the world's poorest and hungriest – are key to maintaining mountain ecosystems, adds the report. They should have a say in the management of the local forestry resources upon which they depend, and share the benefits from forest use and conservation.

Together with the report on mountain forests, FAO also released two more publications focusing on the important role of mountain ecosystems for improving rural livelihoods and poverty alleviation: *Highlands and drylands: mountains, a source of resilience in arid regions and Why invest in sustainable mountain development?* (Source: FAO newsroom, 9 December 2011.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Olman Serrano, Coordinator, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, FAO Forestry Department, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome. E-mail: olman.serrano@fao.org; www.mountainpartnership.org/



FAO releases training package for community forest enterprises

The FAO Community-based Forest Enterprise Development programme has released a training package on market analysis and development (MA&D). The manual is the result of ten years of input from partners implementing MA&D in developing countries.

MA&D is a participatory training methodology that aims to assist rural people in developing sustainable forest-based enterprises that both generate income and conserve tree and forest resources. In the MA&D approach, local people are the principal decision-makers on matters such as financing, developing business plans, and sustainable management and enterprise operation. MA&D stresses linkages between social and environmental concerns, as well as with the technological, commercial and financial aspects of small enterprise development.

The training package provides for a preliminary phase to set the context, followed by four successive phases to assess the existing situation and define opportunities; carry out surveys to identify products, markets and enterprise ideas; prepare an enterprise development plan and strategies for sustainability; and support the start-up phase of the enterprise.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Sophie Grouwels, Forestry Officer, Community-based Enterprise Development (CBED), Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division, Forestry Department, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome. E-mail: Sophie.Grouwels@fao.org; www.fao.org/forestry/enterprises/en/; www.fao.org/forestry/enterprises/25492/en/ (MA&D background information); www.fao.org/forestry/enterprises/73076/en/ (training materials).

Forestry in improving food security and nutrition: FAO's work in Africa

Forests and trees make a large contribution to improved diets and nutritional quality, by adding variety to diets, improving taste and palatability of staples and by providing essential vitamins, protein and calories. They provide a wide range of edible foods such as seeds, fruits, leaves, roots, mushrooms and gums; they are habitats for wild animals, insects, rodents and fish; and they provide fodder for livestock and fuelwood for food processing. Forestry contributes significantly

to food security through its role in maintaining agricultural systems that are the basis of cropping. In the last two decades, there has been more and more interest in the role that forests play in food security and improved nutrition, as a result of increased realization of the dependence of local people on forests and trees to meet important needs such as food and income.

FAO's Forestry Department provides countries with legislative and policy support, capacity development and technical guidance on sustainable forest management, including trees outside forests, and sustainable management of wildlife within and outside protected areas. The aim of this work is to support improved livelihoods and poverty alleviation. There are some challenges related to policy environment, lack of hard data on contribution of NWFPs to diets, and other governance constraints that mask the visibility of forestry and its important role in national food security and nutrition policies and strategies. (Source: *Nature & Faune*, 25(2).)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Fred Kafeero, Forestry Officer (Participatory Forestry), Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division, FAO, 00153 Rome. E-mail: Fred.Kafeero@fao.org

FAO IN THE FIELD

African Forestry Wildlife Commission (AFWC)

The AFWC session was held in Cotonou, Benin from 16 to 20 January 2012. It was held in parallel with the Second African Forestry and Wildlife Week. Over 200 participants from 19 member countries attended. The theme was "the importance of governance and benefit sharing in the sustainable management of Africa's forests, trees and wildlife resources". Important features of the week included dialogues on forest governance and forest financing, and a special session on the International Year of Forests 2011. (Source: www.fao.org/forestry/afwc/40495/)

Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC)

The 20th Session of the Commission was held together with the second Near East Forestry Week (NEFW) in Antalya, Turkey, from 29 January to 2 February, under the common theme of "Good Governance of Forests and Rangelands: Pillar of Food Security". The rationale behind the NEFW theme was to

contextualize the important contribution of forests and range in reducing poverty, hunger and malnutrition in the Near East region and to re-emphasize to policy-makers the significance of forests and rangelands in national economies, and their potential as viable sectors for improving the livelihoods of their populations. (www.fao.org/forestry/65542/)

Mise à jour sur les activités du deuxième semestre 2011 du Projet GCP/RAF/441/GER «Renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique centrale à travers la gestion durable des produits forestiers non ligneux»

Financé par le Gouvernement allemand et mis en œuvre depuis octobre 2009 par la FAO et les ministères en charge des forêts au Gabon, au Congo et en République centrafricaine, le projet contribue à l'amélioration des moyens d'existence des communautés dépendant des forêts du bassin du Congo à travers le développement du secteur PFNL et la gestion durable des ressources forestières. Les activités sont mises en œuvre au niveau international, régional, national et local, et ont compris entre autres, pour le deuxième semestre 2011, les volets suivants:

- Des représentants des ministères, des organisations de la société civile, des partenaires au développement et des producteurs membres des Comités consultatifs nationaux sur les PFNL au Gabon, au Congo et en République centrafricaine, ont été sensibilisés au droit à une alimentation adéquate et à l'importance du secteur PFNL à cet égard.
- Le volet petites et moyennes entreprises (PME) a été pris en compte: organisation d'une journée portes ouvertes sur les potentialités de création au Congo de PME s'appuyant sur les PFNL; collaboration entre la FAO et le Ministère congolais en charge des PME; et présentation de produits forestiers non ligneux à la foire internationale RaceWood au Congo.
- Une machine à fendre la mangue sauvage (*Irvingia gabonensis*) d'origine camerounaise a été adaptée aux besoins gabonais, fabriquée au Gabon puis distribuée aux producteurs sur le site pilote de Woleu Ntem.
- Au Congo et en République centrafricaine, six bourses d'étude ont été octroyées, en vue d'analyser les chaînes de valeur et la domestication



Irvingia gabonensis

de *Gnetum* spp., les possibilités de domestication des champignons et l'exportation des PFNL sur le marché international.

- L'accent a été mis sur la nécessité du transfert des connaissances issues des projets antérieurs de la FAO concernant les PFNL en Afrique centrale et sur l'importance du partage d'expériences avec et entre le Gabon, le Congo et la République centrafricaine, notamment sur des questions telles que l'internalisation des directives sous-régionales relatives à la gestion durable des PFNL d'origine végétale d'Afrique centrale de la Commission en charge des forêts d'Afrique centrale (COMIFAC), et l'étude des systèmes d'information sur les marchés des PFNL.
- Après avoir formé les communautés locales sur la commercialisation des PFNL en appliquant l'approche Analyse et développement des marchés (ADM) de la FAO, des ONG facilitatrices ont suivi la finalisation des plans de développement d'entreprises (PDE), le renforcement structurel des groupements existants ainsi que la mise en place de nouveaux groupements sur les sites pilotes du projet. Ainsi, 75 petites et moyennes entreprises forestières (PMEF) – ce qui représente au total 1 200 entrepreneurs – ont été appuyées en République centrafricaine, 25 au Congo – 407 entrepreneurs au total – et 44 au Gabon – 668 entrepreneurs au total.

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POUR EN SAVOIR PLUS, CONTACTER:

Ousseynou Ndoye, Coordonnateur régional du Projet PFNL GCP/RAF/441/GER, FAO, B.P. 281 Yaoundé, Cameroun. Courriel: Ousseynou.Ndoye@fao.org; www.fao.org/forestry/nwfp/55079/fr/ (Please see pages 23, 49–50 and 59 for more information.)

FOREST HEROES AWARDS

Forest Heroes Awards: International Year of Forests closing ceremony at UNFF

All over the world, people are working in quiet and heroic ways to sustain, protect and manage our forests. To honour these heroes, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat launched the first ever international Forest Heroes Programme and Awards.

“The UNFF Forest Heroes Programme and Awards was launched as part of our International Year of Forests 2011 activities to identify and honour the countless individuals around the world who are dedicating their lives to nurturing forests in quiet and heroic ways,” said Ms Jan McAlpine, Director of the UNFF Secretariat and member of the jury panel. “The programme aspires to spotlight everyday people working to make positive changes for forests.”

WINNERS OF THE FOREST HEROES AWARD

Africa. *Paul Nzegha Mzeka* (Cameroon), Director, Apiculture and Nature Conservation Organization. After retiring from Cameroon public service in 1990, Paul founded the Apiculture and Nature Conservation Organization (ANCO), which promotes sustainable beefarming to raise awareness on biodiversity conservation. In 2004, ANCO teamed up with NGOs to integrate conservation with sustainable land management and rural poverty reduction. Since then, it has helped 30 communities protect watersheds and conserve four community forests by planting a total of 685 000 trees.

Asia. *Shigeatsu Hatakeyama* (Japan), Founder, *Kaki no Mori wo Shitau Kai* (rebuilding from land to sea), the Society to Protect Forests for Oysters. Oyster fisher by trade, Shigeatsu has been planting trees in the forest surrounding Kesenuma Bay for 20 years to protect oysters' natural habitat. After making the connection between oceans and mountains, he and his colleagues from the *Mori wa Umi no Koibito* (forests are lovers of the sea) movement initiated yearly afforestation activities that have led to a regionwide proactive movement to preserve the environment and ocean resources.

Europe. *Anatoly Lebedev* (Russian Federation), Chairman, Bureau for Regional Outreach Campaigns (BROC). Anatoly led a successful media campaign against a construction project that threatened indigenous and wildlife territories, and resulted in a national logging ban in cedar forests.

While in regional office, he passed legislation ensuring sound forest management and kept national parks from destructive logging. Anatoly produced the first regional environmental television show, “Preserved”, and a quarterly magazine *Ecology and Business*, focusing on environmental education and advocacy.

Latin America and the Caribbean. *Paulo Adario* (Brazil), Amazon Campaign Director, Greenpeace Brazil. In 2001, Paulo led a field team into the Amazon to assist the Deni tribe in demarcating and protecting their land, resulting in the protection of 1.6 million ha of pristine forest. He has pioneered campaigns to protect the Amazon, from boardroom meetings with industry leaders to field expeditions deep into the Amazon, to the coordination of international public campaigns to fight deforestation and demand sustainable solutions.

North America. *Rhiannon Tomtishen* and *Madison Vorva* (United States of America), Founders, Project ORANGS (Orangutans Really Appreciate And Need Girl Scouts). Since the age of 11, Rhiannon and Madison have been raising awareness on endangered orangutans and their rapidly diminishing rain forest habitat in Indonesia and Malaysia. Now in their teens, the girls have expanded their work, launching multiple campaigns to ensure that Girl Scout Cookies are made from sustainable resources. Their work prompted Girl Scouts USA to commit to improving sustainability of their cookies and boosted efforts to reduce deforestation for palm oil. (Source: UN Web site, www.un.org/)

Ninety nominations from 41 different countries were received. Fifteen finalists throughout five geographic regions – Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and North America – were in the running for one prestigious award in each region. At a special ceremony, hosted by UNFF in New York on 9 February 2012 to mark the conclusion of the International Year of Forests, the five people who made special contributions towards protecting forests and forest communities received the Forest Heroes Awards.

The five winners were: Mr Paul Nzegha Mzeka (Africa); Mr Shigeatsu Hatakeyama (Asia); Mr Anatoly Lebedev (Europe); Mr Paulo Adario (Latin America); and Ms Rhiannon Tomtishen and Ms Madison Vorva (North America).

"The Forest Heroes programme, launched by UNFF, is destined to become a grand new tradition, placing an annual spotlight on individuals who are showing extraordinary courage and determination in saving the forests of the world," said Mr Jan A. Hartke, from the Clinton Climate Initiative and member of the jury panel. "These forest heroes inspire governments, businesses and NGOs to work together to protect one of the critical life support systems of the planet, sequestering carbon, preserving biodiversity, reducing poverty, and providing a host of benefits to over one billion people who depend upon them," he added.

While these heroes come from varied backgrounds, they share a common courage, passion and perseverance that serve as

Since its launch in February 2011, global observance of the International Year of Forests has been dedicated to raising public consciousness on issues of sustainable management and catalysing actions in the development and conservation of all types of forests. "The full picture of what forests offer is much more than simply economic values and carbon. Forests cover 31 percent of the total global land area, securing livelihoods for 1.6 billion people, shelter and sustenance for land-based biodiversity and climate control. To enhance these benefits, increased investments and greater action are needed, at all levels, in support of sustainable forest management and rehabilitation of degraded forest lands," said Mr Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director-General for Forestry at FAO and member of the jury panel.

inspiration to anyone who wants to make a difference for forests. (Sources: various, including UNFF, UN Web site and CPF Web site.)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Mita Sen, Programme Officer, United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, 1 UN Plaza, DC I-1244, New York, NY 10017, United States of America. Fax: +1 917 367 3186; e-mail: sen@un.org; www.un.org/esa/forests/



RIO+20: UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Rio+20 – the short name for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012 – is an historic opportunity to define pathways to a safer, more equitable, cleaner, greener and more prosperous world for all. Twenty years after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, where countries adopted Agenda 21 – a blueprint to rethink economic growth, advance social equity and ensure environmental protection – the UN is again bringing together governments, international institutions and major groups to agree on a range of smart measures that can reduce poverty while promoting decent jobs, clean energy and a more sustainable and fair use of resources.

Rio+20 is a chance to move away from business-as-usual and to act to end poverty, address environmental destruction and build a bridge to the future.



RIO+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

About the Rio+20 Conference. At the Rio+20 Conference, world leaders, along with thousands of participants from governments, the private sector, NGOs and other groups, will come together to shape how we can reduce poverty, advance social equity and ensure environmental protection on an ever-more crowded planet to get to the future we want. The Rio+20 Conference is envisaged as a conference at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other representatives. The conference will result in a focused political document.

Themes of the conference. The conference will focus on two themes: (i) a green economy in the context of sustainable development

poverty eradication; and (ii) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Seven priority areas. The preparations for Rio+20 have highlighted seven areas that need priority attention; these are decent jobs, energy, sustainable cities, food security and sustainable agriculture, water, oceans and disaster readiness.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
UNCSD Secretariat, 2 UN Plaza, Room DC2-2220, New York, NY 10017, United States of America. E-mail: uncsd2012@un.org; www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.html/



SILVA MEDITERRANEA

The Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions-Silva Mediterranea held its Twenty-First Session in Antalya, Turkey, from 2 to 3 February 2012. Eleven member countries and several observers from international and non-governmental organizations attended the session.

A decision was made to create two new working groups – one on Urban and periurban forestry and the other on Desertification and restoration in arid zones – and to extend the mandate and review the work programme of the Working Group on Cork Oak as well as change the name of the group to Mediterranean Non-Wood Forest Products in order to reinforce the active participation of all interested countries and, consequently, review the work plan for 2012 to 2013 (www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/4911/ and www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed/35411/). (Source: InFo News.) ♣



We claim that any man who is honest, fair, tolerant, kind, charitable and well-behaved is a success. No matter what his station in life.

Proverb