



FORESTS 2011

Briefing Session on Youth and Environment

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International Year on Youth
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Major causes of deforestation & forest degradation



- Main: Conversion of forests to agricultural lands, mining & infrastructure; forest fires; pests & diseases; natural disasters; conflicts in forested areas; invasive species
- Often times the causes originate outside the forest sector
- Indirect: Unclear land tenure & property rights; weak law enforcement; land use incentives; insufficient resources
- Lack of alternative sources for food, fodder, firewood & income



How does this affect youth?



- Economic – unemployment & rising food prices
- Environment - climate change, air pollution, biodiversity loss, soil degradation & natural hazards
- Health - diseases & vectors; water-borne & insect
- Social - displacement, migration; conflicts; green areas; livelihoods & cultural integrity
- Most affected will fall greater into poverty & have lower opportunities for education
- ↑ Global population => ↑ pressure on forest resources



Importance of Youth Involvement:

Key stakeholders & major civil society group



- Generation of environmentally conscious citizens
- Well-versed in technology
- Recognize the value of becoming more aware, informed & connected
- Capable of positive action -> help shift values & lifestyles
- Areas of action: Media campaigns, films, art expression, volunteering & advocacy work





**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS • 2011



**INTERNATIONAL
YEAR ^{of}
YOUTH
AUGUST 2010-2011
OUR YEAR OUR VOICE**

Youth Involvement in the work of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF)



- UNFF Youth Focal Points / Junior Professionals
- Prepare discussion papers to inform policy dialogues
- Voice priorities on forest issues
- Promote intergenerational equity in SFM- thru education & transfer of knowledge
- Raise awareness & promote forest-related education
- Hands on activities: Tree planting



Youth related Events- Forests 2011 Calendar

Campaigns, Ceremonies, Seminars

- **Brazil:** host the *International Congress on Cities and Forests*
- **Germany:** National awareness campaign launch
- **Japan:** held a ceremony to bridge closing of 2010 International Year of Biodiversity to International Year of Forests 2011
- **Republic of Korea:** commemorative ceremony including forest achievement awards

Festivals, Cultural Events, Tree planting

- **China:** national *China Tree Planting Day*
- **El Salvador:** field trips to forest protected areas
- **Ethiopia:** seedling planting, community events
- **Israel:** national *Green Belt* seedling planting program
- **USA:** MillionTree event in NYC / This is my forest video contest



Youth Heroes & Messengers



- **Forest Heroes** – celebrating everyday people
 - To be featured through stories and videos on Forests 2011 site
 - Encourage youth participation- their role as agents of change
 - Nominate your Hero- Forests@un.org



Forests 2011 Website- Engaging Youth Creativity



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Celebrating Forests for People

The livelihoods of over 1.6 billion people depend on forests.

Welcome to the International Year of Forests, 2011 (Forests 2011) Web site, a global platform to celebrate people's action to sustainably manage the world's forests. The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

Here, you will find information regarding events being organised throughout the International Year as well as interactive web tools and resources to promote dialogue on forests. Tell us how you plan to celebrate "forests for people" during 2011, so that we may showcase your stories and initiatives through this website.

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the platform -
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