



United Nations Forum on Forests

Global Partnership: For Forests, For People

FACT SHEET 2: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS (2011)



What is the International Year of Forests?

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed 2011 as the International Year of Forests and has invited Governments, the United Nations system, NGOs, the private sector and other forest-related stakeholders to come together to raise awareness to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

The International Year of Forests is a unique opportunity to increase public awareness of the key role of forests and sustainable forest management in building a greener, more equitable, sustainable future. The year-long series of events will build partnerships, showcase success stories and innovative solutions and galvanise greater public participation in forest-related activities at all levels.



Where will the International Year be celebrated?

While the Year will be a global event, a large number of activities to celebrate the International Year will take place at the national and regional level.



Who will coordinate the International Year?

The UN Forum on Forests Secretariat was requested by the UN General Assembly to serve as the focal point for the implementation of activities related to observance of the Year, in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and other relevant organisations.



What kinds of activities are planned for the International Year?

The focus of the activities will be on communication and outreach - to convey messages and materials to promote greater public understanding and awareness of the multiple values and benefits that forests offer. Activities planned include tree planting, forestry fairs, exhibitions, competitions in areas ranging from photo, art, school posters and essay writing to athletic triathlons in forests, and publication of books, brochures and educational materials.



When will the International Year be launched?

The official launch of the Year will take place at United Nations Headquarters during the 9th session of the UN Forum on Forests (24 January - 4 February 2011). The launch will feature a series of events including high level panel discussions, media activities, issuance of the UN commemorative stamp series for the International Year, and other public events currently under consideration.



Where can I get more information on the International Year?

An official web site is being developed by the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat which will serve as a central clearing-house for information about the Year, its objectives and activities, and a calendar of national, regional and international initiatives related to the Year. Until the official website is launched in mid 2010, information about the International will continue to be made available on the UN Forum on Forests website.