



Forests

**Ensuring the 'lungs of the planet' keep us alive:
5 things you need to know about forests and the UN
(UN News, 10 May 2019):**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/05/1038291>

UN Entities

- United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF): <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/>
 - UN Forum on Forests: 5 things you need to know (UN News, 8 May 2023): <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136442>
- Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF): <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests>
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Forestry: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/en/>
 - Committee on Forestry: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/cofo/en/>
 - Regional Forestry Commissions: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/46199/en/>
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) - Forest Biodiversity: <http://www.cbd.int/forest/>
- Secretariat of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) - Sustainable Forest Management: <http://www.thegef.org/topics/sustainable-forest-management>
- Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD): <http://www.unccd.int/>
- Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
 - REDD Web Platform: <http://redd.unfccc.int/>
 - Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF): <https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/land-use--land-use-change-and-forestry-lulucf>
- United Nations Commission for Europe (UNECE) – Forestry and Timber: <http://www.unece.org/forests/>
 - The UN Forest Podcast: <https://unece.org/podcasts>
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – Forests: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/forests>
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - The World Heritage Forest Programme: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/forests>
- The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD): <http://www.un-redd.org/>
- World Bank – Forests and Landscapes: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/forests>

UN Observances

- International Day of Forests – 21 March:
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/forests-and-trees-day>
<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/outreach/international-day-of-forests/>
<https://www.fao.org/international-day-of-forests/en/>
- International Year of Forests 2011:
<http://www.fao.org/forestry/iyf2011/en/>



21 March
International Day of Forests

Selected UN Documents

- United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 (E/RES/2017/4):
<http://undocs.org/E/RES/2017/4>
- United Nations forest instrument (A/RES/70/199, adopted on 22 December 2015):
<http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/199>
- Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (A/RES/62/98, 31 January 2008):
<http://undocs.org/A/RES/62/98>
- "Forest Principles" (Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (1992): <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-3annex3.htm>
- Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 - Combating Deforestation:
<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>
- Documents of the UN Forum on Forests:
<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/documents/index.html>

Further information

- Sustainable Development Goal 15 – Life on Land: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss:
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/biodiversity/>
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal15>
<https://sdgs.un.org/topics/forests>
- UN Library Vienna Research Guide - Wildlife and Forest Crime:
<http://libraryresearch.unvienna.org/wildlifecrime>

Selected Statements and Speeches of UN Officials

- Secretary-General stresses need for recommitment to healthy forests for healthier livelihoods, in International Day Message (SG/SM/21177, 14 March 2022):
<https://press.un.org/en/2022/sqsm21177.doc.htm>
- Not too late to undo forest damage, Secretary-General Says, in Message for International Day, while warning 'we risk a point of no return (SG/SM/20635, 19 March 2021):
<https://press.un.org/en/2021/sqsm20635.doc.htm>
- As wildfires, heatwaves sweep globe, urgent action key to stopping alarming rate of deforestation, Secretary-General warns at Alliance for Rainforests Event (SG/SM/19755-ENV/DEV/1994, 23 September 2019): <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sqsm19755.doc.htm>
- As forests are 'lungs of planet', tree-planting contributes to mitigating climate change impact, Secretary-General says at event commemorating International Day (SG/SM/18945-ENV/DEV/1837-OBV/1778, 21 March 2018):
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sqsm18945.doc.htm>

- Secretary-General warns two thirds of global population could face water-stressed conditions within next decade, in Message for International Forests Day (SG/SM/17610-ENV/DEV/1641-OBV/1589, 18 March 2016): <http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sgsm17610.doc.htm>
- Safeguarding forests will be essential to realizing Sustainable Development Goals, Secretary-General tells Wildland Fire Conference (SG/SM/17220-ENV/DEV/1592, 12 October 2015): <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sgsm17220.doc.htm>
- In Message for World Congress, Secretary-General says upholding health of forests among greatest challenges facing present, future generations (SG/SM/17052-ENV/DEV/1551, 7 September 2015): <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sgsm17052.doc.htm>
- Time to get serious about forests in pursuit of 'balance between man and Nature', Deputy Secretary-General tells Forum as session opens (DSG/SM/864-ENV/DEV/1514, 4 May 2015): <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/dsgsm864.doc.htm>
- Secretary-General, on International Day of Forests, stresses investment, smart policies essential for building sustainable, climate-resilient future (SG/SM/16597-ENV/DEV/1494-OBV/1435, 16 March 2015): <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sgsm16597.doc.htm>

Selected publications available online

- The State of the World's Forests: <https://www.fao.org/publications/home/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-the-worlds-forests/en>
- State of Mediterranean Forests 2018 (FAO / UNEP / Plan Bleu): <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2081EN/ca2081en.PDF>
- FAO Forestry Papers: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/publications/en/>
- unasyuva - An international journal of forestry and forest industries (FAO): <http://www.fao.org/forestry/unasyuva/en/>
- UNECE Publications – Forests: <https://unece.org/publications/forests>
- World Bank - Forest Research Publications: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/forests/research>

Selected material available on forest/wildfires

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Managing wildfires: <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/forests/what-we-do/managing-wildfires>
- Wildfires cause huge loss of life in Chile amid heatwaves in South America (5 February 2024): <https://wmo.int/media/news/wildfires-cause-huge-loss-of-life-chile-amid-heatwaves-south-america>
- Summer wildfire season is becoming longer and more destructive than ever – The UN Forest Podcast (11 October 2023): <https://unece.org/media/news/384005>
- UN News on frontline of deadly Greece forest fires as WMO declares 'hottest' month ever (UN News Interview, 27 July 2023): <https://news.un.org/en/audio/2023/07/1139182>
- UNU Technical Report: Mediterranean wildfires - Interconnected Disaster Risks 2021/2022: <http://collections.unu.edu/view/UNU:9025>
- Air pollution from wildfires expected to surge as world warms (UNEP, 17 November 2022): <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/air-pollution-wildfires-expected-surge-world-warms>
- WMO Air Quality and Climate Bulletin highlights impact of wildfires (7 September 2022): <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/wmo-air-quality-and-climate-bulletin-highlights-impact-of-wildfires>
- As climate changes, world grapples with a wildfire crisis (UNEP, 9 March 2022): <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/climate-changes-world-grapples-wildfire-crisis>

- Spreading like Wildfire: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires (UNEP, 23 February 2022): <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/spreading-wildfire-rising-threat-extraordinary-landscape-fires>
- Wildfires under climate change: a burning issue (UNEP, February 2022): https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/38061/Frontiers_2022CH2.pdf
- Climate Change: UNESCO Commits to a new approach to integrated fire management in the region (28 October 2021): <https://en.unesco.org/news/climate-change-unesco-commits-new-approach-integrated-fire-management-region>
- 'Best of the last' tropical forests urgently need protection - joint study by UNDP, NASA and WCS (26 August 2020): <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/best-of-the-last-tropical-forests-urgently-need-protection--und.html>
- Ten impacts of the Australian bushfires (UNEP, 22 January 2020): <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/ten-impacts-australian-bushfires>
- Who turned up the temperature? Climate change, heatwaves and wildfires (UNEP, 17 January 2020): <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/who-turned-temperature-climate-change-heatwaves-and-wildfires>
- Are "megafires" the new normal? (UNEP, 10 January 2020): <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/are-megafires-new-normal>
- Australia suffers devastating bushfires (WMO, 7 January 2020): <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/news/australia-suffers-devastating-bushfires>
- Australia bushfire crisis: UNICEF offers help and support (UN News Centre, 6 January 2020): <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1054821>
- Governments, smart data and wildfires: where are we at? (UNEP, 3 January 2020): <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/governments-smart-data-and-wildfires-where-are-we>
- Australia wildfires: communities must stay vigilant, urges UN weather agency (UN News Centre, 12 November 2019): <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/11/1051131>
- "The world has never seen a threat to human rights of this scope": High Commissioner's update highlights climate threats (OHCHR, 9 September 2019): <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24956>
- The Amazon rainforest is burning, but it is food price profiteering that really swings the axe / Inger Andersen, Opinion, The Independent, 30 August 2019: <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/amazon-fires-rainforest-food-prices-deforestation-un-bolsonaro-a9085021.html>
- Statement by Inger Andersen on the ongoing fires in the Amazon rainforest, 23 August 2019: <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/statement/statement-inger-andersen-ongoing-fires-amazon-rainforest>