21 March International Day of Forests

INVITATION

The International Day of Forests is celebrated on 21 March 2019 under the theme **"Learn to Love Forests"**, and underscores the importance of education at all levels in achieving sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation. Healthy forests mean healthy, resilient communities and prosperous economies.

Join us in Geneva for a Forest Breakfast, Arts & Crafts and a Quiz!

In the Salle des Pas Perdus at the Palais des Nations:

21 March
09:00-10:00

Forest Breakfast

Opening speech by Ms. Malgorzata Golińska, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Poland
Welcome by UNECE, FAO, UN-REDD
Join us for a delicious breakfast with foods from the forest, and learn about the importance of forests for sustainable development.

21 March
10:00-12:00

Forest handicraft workshops

Make your own forest ecosystem in a jar or learn how to create beautiful wooden decorations. And discover the paper cave full of innovative wood products.

At the International Conference Centre Geneva during the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the ECE region (CICG, Room 4, 17 rue de Varembé):

21 March
12:45- 14:30

Forest Quiz Time!

Test your knowledge and win some exciting forest prizes while enjoying a light lunch
Opening by UNECE, FAO, and PEFC
Prizes offered by the Government of Poland

Register at: https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=_YuKIM
For more information: www.unece.org/forests/idf2019

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#FORESTFACTS

01 **Forests are home to over 80% of land animals and plants and cover 31% of the world's total land area.** About 1.6 billion people around the world depend on forests for their livelihoods and daily subsistence needs.

02 **A tree can sequester up to 150 kg of CO2 per year.** The world's forests store an estimated 296 gigatonnes of carbon in both above- and below-ground biomass. Just imagine: **Europe's 400 billion trees currently absorb almost 9% of the continent's greenhouse gas emissions!**

03 Trees are important for creating sustainable cities: **in urban areas, they can cool the air by up to 8°C, reducing air conditioning needs by 30%.** Urban trees are also excellent air filters, removing harmful pollutants in the air and fine particulates.

04 **Woodfuel provides 40% of today's global renewable energy supply** - as much as solar, hydroelectric and wind power combined. Greater investment in technological innovation and in sustainably managed forests is key to increasing forests' role as major source of renewable energy.

05 **Forest products contribute to reducing and replacing polluting and carbon intensive materials.** Certified wood-based fibers (such as Lyocell) used in textile production are very resource efficient. Cotton requires, on average, 130 times more water and polyester emits, on average, 170 times more greenhouse gas emissions in comparison.

06 Using wood for construction saves about 40% of carbon emissions in comparison to concrete, and about 30% in comparison to steel. **Overall, global CO2 emissions could be reduced by up to 31% if builders used wood instead of steel and concrete.**

07 More than **25% of the medicines we use originate in rainforest plants.** Yet only 1% of rainforest plants have been studied for medicinal properties.

08 **More than one third of our biggest cities,** including New York, Bogota, Tokyo and Barcelona, **get a significant proportion of their high-quality drinking water from protected forests.**

09 The **tallest tree** in the world is called Hyperion. It's a coast redwood from California that **is an incredible 115.61m tall.** The largest tree in the world by volume is a giant sequoia called General Sherman which has a trunk 10m round and contains an estimated 1486 cubic metres of wood.

10 **A large oak tree can transpire 151,000 litres of water in a year.** On average, 40% of rainfall over land originates from evapotranspiration from plants. In some areas the amount is even higher. For example, more than 70% of rainfall in the Rio de la Plata river basin originates from evapotranspiration from the Amazon forest.

Learn to love forests!

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