



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://forests.desa.un.org/>
 - Global Forest Goals: <https://forests.desa.un.org/global-forest-goals>
 - 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: <https://www.fao.org/forestry/en/>
 - Committee on Forestry: <https://www.fao.org/forestry/committee-on-forestry/en/>
 - Regional Forestry Commissions: <https://www.fao.org/forestry/statutory-bodies/regional-forestry-commission/en>
- Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) - Forest Biodiversity: <https://www.cbd.int/forest/>
- Secretariat of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) - Sustainable Forest Management: <https://www.thegef.org/what-we-do/topics/sustainable-forest-management>
- Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD): <https://www.unccd.int/>
- Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
 - REDD Web Platform: <https://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: <https://www.unece.org/forests/>
 - The UN Forest Podcast: <https://unece.org/forests/un-forest-podcast>
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – Forests: <https://www.unep.org/topics/forests>
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - The World Heritage Forests: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/forests>
- The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD): <https://www.un-redd.org/>
- World Bank – Forests and Landscapes: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/forests>

UN Observances

- International Day of Forests – 21 March:
<https://forests.desa.un.org/events/international-day-forests-2026>
<https://www.fao.org/international-day-of-forests/en/>
- International Year of Forests 2011:
<https://web.archive.org/web/20111227055910/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):
<https://docs.un.org/E/RES/2017/4>
- United Nations forest instrument (A/RES/70/199, adopted on 22 December 2015):
<https://docs.un.org/A/RES/70/199>
- Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (A/RES/62/98, 31 January 2008):
<https://docs.un.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): <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/154752>
- Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 - Combating Deforestation:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf>
- Documents of the UN Forum on Forests:
<https://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:
<https://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:
<https://libraryresearch.unvienna.org/wildlifecrime>

Selected Statements and Speeches of UN Officials

- Without tropical forests, 'no path' to 1.5°C limit on global warming, Secretary-General says at launch of global facility (SG/SM/22900, 6 November 2025):
<https://press.un.org/en/2025/sqsm22900.doc.htm>
- Protecting forests, oceans 'smart economics', Secretary-General says at Climate Summit Thematic Session, calling for action to limit 1.5°C warming overshoot (SG/SM/22901, 6 November 2025): <https://press.un.org/en/2025/sqsm22901.doc.htm>
- 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://press.un.org/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://press.un.org/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): <https://press.un.org/en/2016/sqsm17610.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): <https://press.un.org/en/2015/sqsm17220.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): <https://press.un.org/en/2015/sqsm17052.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): <https://press.un.org/en/2015/sqsm17052.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): <https://press.un.org/en/2015/sqsm16597.doc.htm>

Selected publications available online

- The Global Forest Goals Report 2026 (DESA): <https://forests.desa.un.org/documents/global-forest-goals-report-2026>
- The State of the World's Forests: <https://www.fao.org/publications/home/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-the-worlds-forests/en>
- FAO Forestry Publications: <https://www.fao.org/forestry/publications/en/>
- unasyuva - An international journal of forestry and forest industries (FAO): <https://www.fao.org/forestry/unasyuva/en/>
- UNECE Publications – Forests: <https://unece.org/publications/forests>
- UNEP Publications on Forests: <https://tinyurl.com/2ja343c8>
- World Bank - Forest Research Publications: <https://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>
- UNDRR - The invisible costs of wildfire disasters in 2025 (13 January 2026): <https://www.undrr.org/news/invisible-costs-wildfire-disasters-2025>
- World Bank - Forest fires are spreading—and so must global solutions (Opinion, 16 June 2025): <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/opinion/2025/06/16/forest-fires-are-spreading-and-so-must-global-solutions>
- UNDRR - Europe steps up wildfire preparedness with new integrated strategy (27 May 2025): <https://www.undrr.org/news/europe-steps-wildfire-preparedness-new-integrated-strategy>
- UNU-INWEH - January 2025 Los Angeles Wildfires: A Wake-Up Call as 'Once-in-a-Generation' Events Become Frequent (27 May 2025): <https://unu.edu/inweh/news/january-2025-los-angeles-wildfires-wake-call-once-generation-events-become-frequent>

- UNECE - Rising heat, rising risk: managing forest fires in a warming world (14 May 2025): <https://unece.org/biodiversity/news/rising-heat-rising-risk-managing-forest-fires-warming-world>
- WMO - Wildfires rage in California (10 January 2025): <https://wmo.int/media/news/wildfires-rage-california>
- UNEP - As wildfires consume South America, experts warn of a new normal (27 September 2024): <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/wildfires-consume-south-america-experts-warn-new-normal>
- WMO - Vicious circle of climate change, wildfires and air pollution has major impacts (4 September 2024): <https://wmo.int/media/news/vicious-circle-of-climate-change-wildfires-and-air-pollution-has-major-impacts>
- UNECE Air Convention experts to model wildfire impacts on air pollution (6 May 2024): <https://unece.org/media/news/390746>
- UNEP - Fighting fire with forests across the Mediterranean (19 March 2024): <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/fighting-fire-forests-across-mediterranean>
- WMO - 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>
- UNECE - Summer wildfire season is becoming longer and more destructive than ever – The UN Forest Podcast (11 October 2023): <https://unece.org/media/news/384005>
- UNESCO - Stopping Amazonian wildfires before they even occur (9 August 2023): <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/stopping-amazonian-wildfires-they-even-occur>
- 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: <https://collections.unu.edu/view/UNU:9025>
- UNEP - Air pollution from wildfires expected to surge as world warms (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://wmo.int/news/media-centre/wmo-air-quality-and-climate-bulletin-highlights-impact-of-wildfires>
- UNEP - As climate changes, world grapples with a wildfire crisis (9 March 2022): <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/climate-changes-world-grapples-wildfire-crisis>
- UNEP - Spreading like Wildfire: The Rising Threat of Extraordinary Landscape Fires (23 February 2022): <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/spreading-wildfire-rising-threat-extraordinary-landscape-fires>
- UNEP - Wildfires under climate change: a burning issue (February 2022): <https://www.unep.org/resources/frontiers-2022-noise-blazes-and-mismatches>
- Climate Change: UNESCO Commits to a new approach to integrated fire management in the region (28 October 2021): <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/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
- UNEP - Ten impacts of the Australian bushfires (22 January 2020): <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/ten-impacts-australian-bushfires>
- UNEP - Who turned up the temperature? Climate change, heatwaves and wildfires (17 January 2020): <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/who-turned-temperature-climate-change-heatwaves-and-wildfires>
- UNEP - Are "megafires" the new normal? (10 January 2020): <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/are-megafires-new-normal>
- WMO - Australia suffers devastating bushfires (7 January 2020): <https://wmo.int/media/news/australia-suffers-devastating-fires-after-hottest-driest-year-record>

- Australia bushfire crisis: UNICEF offers help and support (UN News Centre, 6 January 2020): <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1054821>
- UNEP - Governments, smart data and wildfires: where are we at? (3 January 2020): <https://www.unep.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/statements/2019/09/global-update-42nd-session-human-rights-council>
- 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.unep.org/news-and-stories/statement/statement-inger-andersen-ongoing-fires-amazon-rainforest>