



Notes to Editors

The World Future Council

The World Future Council brings the interests of future generations to the centre of policy-making. Its up to 50 eminent members from around the globe have already successfully promoted change. The Council addresses challenges to our common future and provides decision makers with effective policy solutions. The World Future Council is registered as a charitable foundation in Hamburg, Germany. For more information, visit www.worldfuturecouncil.org

For information on the Future Policy Award: www.worldfuturecouncil.org/future_policy_award.html

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The International Year of Forests

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness of management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. The theme of the Year is “Forests for People” celebrating the central role of people in sustainable forest management. The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, based in NY, serves as the focal point for the implementation of the International Year of Forests. The Secretariat works in cooperation with governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and international, regional and sub-regional organizations and processes, as well as relevant major groups. For more information visit www.un.org/forests. For additional information, please contact Mita Sen at sen@un.org or Sylvia Chen at chen14@un.org.

The United Nations Forum on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is an intergovernmental policy forum which promotes the “management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and strengthens long-term political commitment to this end”. The Forum was established in 2000 by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and is composed of all Member States of the United Nations. In 2007, UNFF adopted the landmark UN Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument). The instrument provides a comprehensive framework for national action and international cooperation to reduce deforestation, prevent forest degradation, promote sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty for all forest-dependent peoples. The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is located at United Nations Headquarters in New York. For more information, visit www.un.org/esa/forests/. For additional information, please contact Mita Sen at sen@un.org or Sylvia Chen at chen14@un.org.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 Parties onboard, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders. This includes indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a subsidiary agreement to the Convention. It seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 160 countries plus the European Union have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal, Canada. For more information, visit

www.cbd.int. For additional information, please contact David Ainsworth at david.ainsworth@cbd.int or +1 514 287 7025, or Johan Hedlund at johan.hedlund@cbd.int or +1 514 287 6670.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information. FAO helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all. Since the founding in 1945, FAO has focused special attention on developing rural areas, home to 70 percent of the world's poor and hungry people. For additional information, please contact Maria De Cristofaro at Maria.Decristofaro@fao.org or +39 06 570 52120 / + 39 345 499 6331, or Irina Utkina at Irina.Utkina@fao.org or +39 06 570 52542 / +39 34 88 967 961.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, non-governmental, not for profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. FSC is a unique forum where stakeholders from around the world meet and define essential social and environmental criteria for forest management. These fundamental principles are realized in forests worldwide through FSC certification. Through programs, services and solutions that support FSC certification, the Forest Stewardship Council empowers organizations, businesses and communities to support forest management that meets the social, economic and ecological needs of present and future generations. Find more information at www.fsc.org. For additional information, please contact Alison Kriscenski at a.kriscenski@fsc.org.