



World Environment Day Roundtable Forests: Nature at Your Service

People and the Social and Economic Value of Forests

Monday, 6 June 2011, 10h00 – 12h00
International Environment House II

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on conservation, sustainable management and development of all types of forests. World Environment Day this year will reinforce this global concern with the official tagline *Forests: Nature at Your Service*.

Forests cover one third of the earth's land mass, performing vital functions and services around the world, with 1.6 billion people depending on forests for their livelihoods. They play a key role in our battle against climate change; they feed our rivers and are essential to supplying the water for nearly 50% of our largest cities; they create and maintain soil fertility; they help to regulate the often devastating impact of storms, floods and fires.

Splendid and inspiring, forests are home to more than half of the terrestrial species of animals, plants and insects, vital to the survival of people. They provide shelter, jobs, security and cultural relevance for forest-dependent populations.

To celebrate World Environment Day, you are cordially invited to a special roundtable targeting *People and the Social and Economic Value of Forests*. This roundtable will be followed by a reception offered by the Swiss government and the local authorities.

AGENDA

10h00 Welcome and introduction

Christophe Bouvier, Director and Regional Representative, UNEP

10h10 People and the social and economic value of forests

- ***Forests in a Green Economy*** by Steven Stone, Head, Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP
- ***Economy and renewable energy issues*** by Paola Deda, Chief, Forestry & Timber Section, UNECE/FAO
- ***International trade of forest products*** by Marceil Yeater, Chief, Legal Affairs & Trade Policy Unit, CITES
- ***Contribution to national sustainable forest management*** by Christian KÜchli, Head of Section, Forest Division, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment
- ***Local communities, livelihoods and the involvement of the private sector*** by Scott Poynton, Executive Director, The Forest Trust (TFT)

11h30 Question-and-answer session

12h00 Presentation of the new Geneva Environment Network website

12h15 **Reception** offered by the Swiss government, the Canton and the City of Geneva, preceded by official speeches.

