

2011

## International Year of Forests



### The United Nations General Assembly,

- *Reaffirming* its commitment to the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests and Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted at the Millennium Summit in 2000, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002,
- *Recalling* the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, and other relevant conventions dealing with the complexity of forest issues,
- *Recognizing* that forests and sustainable forest management can contribute significantly to sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,
- *Recalling* Economic and Social Council decision 2006/230 of 24 July 2006,
- *Emphasizing* the need for sustainable management of all types of forests, including fragile forest ecosystems,
- *Convinced* that concerted efforts should focus on raising awareness at all levels to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations,

**declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests.**

For more information about the International Year of Forests, see <http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/events.shtml>

Despite being one of the world's driest continents, Australia has approximately 147 million hectares of native forest, representing 19% of land use. There are 457 forest communities distributed across Australia. These have been grouped into the following seven native forest types which are characterised by dominant species and the structure of the forest: rainforests, melaleuca forests, eucalypt forests, casuarina forests, callitris forests, acacia forests, mangrove forests.

Plantation forests (softwood and some hardwood) have been defined as an eighth group, which covers trees planted for commercial use.

The majority of Australia's trees are hardwoods, typically eucalypts, rather than softwoods like pine. While softwoods dominate some native forests, their total area is judged insufficient to constitute a major forest type in Australia's National Forest Inventory.

Adapted from [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

## Consider the Life of Trees

Aside from the axe,  
what trees acquire from humans  
is inconsiderable.  
What humans may acquire from trees  
is immeasurable.  
From their mute forms there flows a poise,  
in silence;  
a lovely sound and motion in response to wind.

What peace comes to those aware of the voice  
and bearing of trees!  
Trees do not scream for attention.  
A tree, a rock, has no pretence,  
only a real growth out of itself,  
in close communion with the universal spirit.

A tree retains a deep serenity.  
It establishes in the earth  
not only its root system  
but also those roots of its beauty  
and its unknown consciousness.

Sometimes one may sense a glister  
of that consciousness,  
and with such perspective,  
feel that humans are not necessarily  
the highest form of life.

Cedric Wright in Earth Prayers  
Ed. Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon  
(adapted)