

## International Year of Forests, 2011

### International Forest Film Festival

To celebrate Forests 2011, the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) is working in collaboration with the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival to organise the International Forest Film Festival (IFFF).

IFFF winning films will be presented to delegates of all 192 countries at the launch of the International Year of Forests 2011 at United Nations Headquarters, New York in February, 2011. The launch of the International Year will take place as part of the official programme of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). Subsequently, the winning films will also be screened around the world.

The International Forest Film Festival aims to raise awareness on the importance of forests, their relationship with people and the planet we share, and consequently, to inspire a sense of personal responsibility/stewardship for a greener, more equitable, sustainable future.

#### Key Dates:

- **2010 Submission Deadline:** November 30, 2010
- **Jury Deliberation:** December 2010.
- **Announcement and awarding the IFFF Winners:** February 2-4, 2011, during the High-Level Segment of the 9th Session of the UNFF
- **Forests 2011 Launch screenings:** January 24-Feb 4 2011 (NYC)

#### Film Categories

The overall theme of the Festival will be: **Forests for People**, with sub categories:

- **360 Degrees on All Things Forest:** Awarded to the film that best communicates humanity's social, cultural, economic or spiritual interconnectivity to forests.
- **Living Forests:** Awarded to the film that most effectively showcases the rich diversity and complexity of the forest ecosystem.
- **Issues & Solutions:** Awarded to the film that most effectively communicates solutions to environmental and sustainability issues facing forests and all its inhabitants, including people.
- **Forest Hero:** Awarded to the film that most effectively celebrates the work of individuals or groups committed to forest research and sustainability.
- **"This is my forest":** Awarded to the film that tells the story of the forest, captures the best or most moving personal experience with forests, whether it's in your backyard, in the city or in the country, that mean the most to you.
- **Shorts:** Awarded to the best forest film of less than 15 minutes in length.

The Festival welcomes films in all United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). English subtitles will be required for non-English films.

To learn more about The IFFF including submission procedures and guidelines, please visit [www.forestfilmfestival.org](http://www.forestfilmfestival.org) or the [United Nations Forum on Forests](http://www.un.org/forests)

## Create a Film to Celebrate the “Year of The Forests, 2011”

Although it's too late to enter the IFFF competition, it would still be a challenging and rewarding enterprise to create your own film to celebrate the “Year of the Forests”. This could be undertaken as a class, group or individual task.

Look at the Film Categories listed and decide which one to select.  
Suggestions:

- If you wanted to include the plight of the orangutan in your film, the first three categories are very applicable.
- Whilst addressing issues of bio-diversity in your film, you could possibly focus on the endangered status of animals in the Sumatran forests such as the orangutan, Sumatran tiger, Asian rhino and pygmy elephant.
- In the third category, the complex and critical issue of palm oil could be addressed.

You may also like to create your own category.

eg Create an advertisement to inform people about an important issue. Possible topics could be:

- The consequences of destroying rainforests to plant palm oil plantations.
- The need to change labelling laws so that palm oil can be listed generically as vegetable oil.