

role of those working to sustainably manage our forests and water resources to preserve the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and for future generations.”

The critical link between forests and climate was also stressed by UNDP Administrator Helen Clark in her statement for the Day: “As the largest terrestrial storehouses of carbon, forests play a massive role in addressing climate change and are also a vital source of energy, water, livelihoods, and biodiversity. The health of forests is also essential for 1.6 billion people, including many of the world’s poorest people, who depend on them directly for their food, fuel, shelter and medicine.”

To preserve these resources, Steven Johnson, Officer-in-Charge of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), recommended increasing capacity for sound land-use planning “to safeguard the potential of tropical forests and landscapes to provide the full range of benefits to society, including water supply.”

Mike Wingfield, President of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), noted the need for better information and scientific knowledge of forests and water. IUFRO, he added, is working to address the gaps regarding what we know of the forest and water relationship through a new interdisciplinary Task Force on Forests, Soil and Water Interactions.

The annual celebration of the International Day of Forests raises awareness of the importance of forests and trees, and serves as a platform to highlight best practices in sustainable forest management, from around the world.

For more information, please visit:

UN Forum on Forests website: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests>

The Sustainable Development Goal Indicators website: <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs>

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