



NEWS BULLETIN

# Plants and Pollution

## ENVIS RP-NBRI

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International Day of Forests-2021

CSIR-NATIONAL BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LUCKNOW

### Healthy forests provide a pathway to fight climate change and unlock green recovery

UNDP, 19 March 2021

Forests are a core natural climate solution, critical to addressing the climate emergency. The central argument for REDD+, and the *raison d'être* for the UN-REDD Programme, is that if deforestation is stopped, and degraded forests are restored, they can provide around a third of the carbon reduction needed to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change.

Last year brought into sharp focus another critical role that forests play in the Earth's natural system of checks and balances: One in three outbreaks of new and emerging diseases are linked to deforestation and other land use changes. The world's forests act as shields, keeping humans safe from new diseases, such as COVID-19. As we are now collectively learning firsthand, the cost of reducing deforestation to prevent the spread of novel pathogens is substantially less than the economic and mortality costs of responding after the fact. An unprecedented portion of the world's population has experienced some degree of lockdown in the past year, resulting in massive social and economic shock across the globe - exacerbating existing inequalities and exposing vulnerabilities in social, political, economic and natural systems. Where existing social safety nets are not enough to compensate for the income losses of informal labour, forests and ecosystems are immediate resources for subsistence livelihoods, posing increased pressure on forests and ecosystems and on the people who rely on them.

Despite the hardship and loss of the past year, there are reasons to be hopeful that societies will emerge in 2021 with changed attitudes about the natural world, engaged in our collective role as custodians of the planet:

The People's Choice Climate Vote, the world's biggest ever survey of public opinion on climate change, published in January 2021, revealed that conserving forests and land is the most favored policy response to climate change. This preference is strongest in countries with high emissions from deforestation and land change, indicating that citizens are ready to support aggressive.....

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### World Forest Day 2021: Know What The Experts Have To Say About Forest Preservation

Republic World, 20 March 2021

A March 21 is celebrated as the International Day of Forests every year worldwide after the United Nations General Assembly coined it back in 2012 with the aim of raising awareness about the importance of forest reservation. Afforestation has become a rampant act today and it is hardly being noticed. When pollution is making our cities uninhabitable and climate change is causing natural disasters after disasters, Australia bushfire 2020 being the prime example, experts are saying that the only way to save ourselves from what we've created is by going green. On the occasion of World Forest Day 2021, let's see what the experts have to say about the importance of forest preservation.

Grow-Trees.com's eco-planner and environmental expert Supriya Patil spoke in detail about the act of going green, "It is time to go back to the basics and simply plant more trees. Let me give you just five reasons why we should though there are a million more."

Supriya continues, "Trees create the much-needed carbon sinks, absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and even sequester pollutants like nitrogen oxides, ammonia and sulphur dioxide. It is a commonly known fact that just one tree can absorb nearly 10 pounds of polluted air annually. Thriving forests and green lung spaces are critical to the health of the planet as they are the most effective eco-warriors and natural oxygenators. "

More trees mean less natural disasters. Commenting on the sudden spate of environmental disasters, Supriya shared, "A lot of natural disasters occur because there is an imbalance between what we take from nature and what we give back. Trees prevent soil erosion, curtail fires, floods and even landslides. They also sustain biodiversity, protect animal habitats and even slow down the filtration of water into the drainage .....

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International Day of Forests-2021

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**International Day of Forests: 10 Reasons Why Forest Conservation is Important**

News18, 21 March 2021

The day was founded by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations in 2012. It is aimed at raising public awareness among diverse communities about the values, significance and contributions of the forests to balance the life cycle. Government networks and private organisations work together on this day every year to enlighten people about the importance of forests and the role they play in our ecology as well as the economy.

This International Day of Forests, here are 10 reasons why forest conservation is important and why individuals and governments should make reforestation a priority:

**1. Livelihood and sustainable economy**

It is estimated that over 1.5 billion people directly depend on forests for their livelihood. With shrinking forest, the culture, tradition, and survival of these communities is also threatened.

**2. Home and shelter**

Additionally, over 300 million people live in forests who would lose their home, increasing poverty and making refugees of those left bereft of a home.

**3. Food security**

Apart from humans who use nuts, mushrooms, berries found in forest, the forests also support animals which we depend on for food and other resources. Deforestation aids food insecurity in many populations.

**4. Prevent droughts**

Forests with their network of tree roots and transpiration process play a pivotal role in influencing weather, especially rainfall. They also store water.

**5. Thermoregulation of the earth**

Our Earth has non-electric air-conditioning which are the trees in the forests. They play an important role in regulating temperature, keeping the planet cool, and global warming somewhat controlled.

**6. Wind barrier**

Farming near forested areas helps the farmers as the dense tree cover acts like strong..... [Read More...](#)

**Forest restoration provides a path to pandemic recovery, greener future**

Modern Diplomacy, 23 March 2021

The Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic should lead to stronger action to safeguard the world's forests, a senior UN official said on Friday, highlighting how these natural resources have helped to protect health and well-being during the global crisis.

Liu Zhenmin, head of the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), issued the call during a virtual event to commemorate the International Day of Forests, observed annually on 21 March.

He said the forest sector has provided essential and lifesaving health products during the pandemic, such as face masks, cleaning supplies and ethanol used in sanitizers.

Meanwhile, green spaces, parks and forests have been vital during "these times of social distancing", and healthy, well-managed forests also act as natural buffers against zoonoses, thus warding against the risk of future pandemics.

"Yet, despite their obvious importance, forests continue to be under threat", Mr. Liu said.

"Every year, seven million hectares of natural forests are converted to other land uses such as large-scale commercial agriculture, and other economic activities. And while the rate of deforestation has slowed over the past decade, tree-cover loss has continued unabated in the tropics – largely due to human and natural causes."

The UN believes sustainable management of forests is critical to combating climate change and to ensuring a better future for all.

The theme for this year's International Day – "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being" – also aligns with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, from 2021-2030.

"If we fail to act now, we risk a point of no return", UN Secretary-General..... [Read More...](#)