



Society of the
Sacred Heart
at the UN

THE 21ST UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS– (UNFF 21)

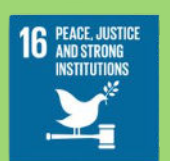


The 21st session of the UN Forest Forum (UNFF21) took place at the UN Headquarters in New York from May 11–15, 2026. The Forum focused on strengthening policy guidance and accelerating the implementation of agreed forest-related commitments.

Forests stand at the intersection of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), contributing to priorities ranging from poverty eradication and economic growth to climate action and ecosystem protection. Their role extends beyond environmental conservation, serving as a foundation for sustainable development and resilient communities worldwide.

OPENING OF THE FOREST SESSION

Juliette Biao–director of UN Forum on Forest
Secretariate drew the attention to the Launch of the Global Forest Goals/ Report
2030



Juliette Biao– Director of UN Forum
on Forest Secretariate



Forest are essential to achieving sustainable goals

- Forests sustain livelihoods
- Support food security
- Regulate climate
- Safeguard biodiversity
- Forests sit at the intersection of the SDG from poverty eradication and economic growth to climate action and ecosystem protection



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Ongoing Meaningfull Actions

- Strengthened governance
- Expanded restoration efforts
- Growing engagement across sectors



Challenges



- Progress is not at the scale or speed required
- 2 targests are off track and 17 are partially achieved
- Since 2015 the world has lost more than 4 million hecters of forests
- Financing is far below what is needed to meet global goals.
- Forest insufficient investment are at the heart of the challenges

Progress is possible

- There is large scale restoration initiatives
- There is expansion of forest areas
- Improved world fire expansion and response
- Investment in forest based value chains
- Innovation in forest finance
- Stronger forest monitoring and data systems
- Better coordination across sectors
- Growing international cooperation



Why progress matters beyond forests



With greater investment, countries can secure:

- Climate, biodiversity loss and land degradation
- Food security and resilience
- Water security
- Livelihood and sustainable value chains
- Nature based solutions



**United Nations
FORUM ON
FORESTS**

Turning commitment to implementation

The director called for:

- Scalling up finance for forest
- Turning commitment into implementation
- Turning forum pledges into measurable results

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the 2026 UN Forest Forum demonstrated that forests are far more than natural resources; they are essential solutions to some of the world’s most pressing challenges. Discussions highlighted the critical role forests play in addressing biodiversity loss, land degradation, water security, sustainable livelihoods, and resilient value chains. The Forum reinforced that investing in forests means investing in people, communities, and the future of our planet. Moving forward, stronger cooperation, greater commitment, and collective action will be essential to transform dialogue into meaningful progress and ensure that forests continue to support both people and the planet for generations to come.

Closing ceremony



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