

Public Affairs
Information Resource Center

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The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center is pleased to offer you an "Issue-in-Focus" on Global Issues and Environment.

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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2010

JUNE 5, 2010

"On World Environment Day, I appeal to everyone – from Kigali to Canberra, from Kuala Lumpur to Quito – to help us sound the alarm. Get involved, speak out. Learn and teach others. Show leadership and help clean up. Reconnect with nature, our life force. Together, we can develop a new vision for biodiversity: Many Species. One Planet. One Future."

-- [Message from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on World Environment Day 2010](#)



Commemorated since 1972, [World Environment Day \(WED\)](#) aims to stimulate worldwide awareness of the environment and encourage political attention and action. The international celebrations are hosted by a different city every year on June 5. The United Nations uses this day to increase awareness of the environment and improve political attention and public action.

This year's theme '*Many Species. One Planet. One Future.*' focuses on the central importance to humanity of the globe's wealth of species and ecosystems, and supports the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

"It is also reflected in the commitment of the United States to building global partnerships to preserve the earth's rich biodiversity. From protecting the forests in the Congo Basin in central Africa to preserving the coral reefs in Southeast Asia, we are working together to meet our shared challenges. We are strengthening partnerships such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN) and working to build similar networks in Central America and South Asia." - [Read the Full Statement by Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton on World Environment Day \(June 5, 2010\)](#).

MANY SPECIES. ONE PLANET. ONE FUTURE.

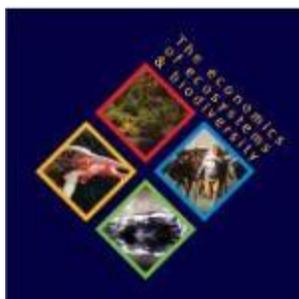


[One Million Trees and Counting](#) - An American with African roots returned to his native country to stop deforestation and give young people a new purpose. Meet the man who made a difference and join in the discussion. [Join Global Conversations: Climate on Facebook.](#)



[An Online Art Exhibition for WED 2010](#) - "Millions of Pieces, Only One Puzzle" -- a new online photography exhibition created for World Environment Day 2010 to explore the critical connections between humans and biodiversity -- features 10 diptychs pairing the stories of individuals with the land upon which they rely for their sustenance and well-being.

BIODIVERSITY IS OUR LIFE



[Natural Capital](#) - The world's forests, wetlands, coral reefs and other precious ecosystems and the rich biodiversity they harbour provide trillions of dollars worth of benefits each year. They feed and clothe us, controls floods and pollinate crops. Learn more about [The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity.](#)

[Save Biodiversity and ...Boost the Economy](#) - One of the most startling discoveries has been the abundance of coral reefs, living hundreds of metres below the surface of the sea, at around 4 to 13 degrees centigrade. What's more, many of these reefs seem to play a significant role in the health of sea life in the area, and harbour an incredible diversity of life.

[The Precious Rainforest](#) - Rain forests are critical carbon dioxide storage sites that are most useful in their natural state. Their removal from the Earth, as is being done today in several large forests, could lead to catastrophic consequence. John B. Flynn, who has managed the Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) initiative that promotes sustainable resource management in the Congo Basin, discusses rain forests in Africa and elsewhere and possible solutions to an urgent problem.

JOIN WED 2010 BLOGGING COMPETITION

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in partnership with host country Rwanda and TreeHugger, are sponsoring a free trip to Rwanda for a winning blogger to write, blog and tweet about World Environment Day. For every submission UNEP will donate US\$10 towards Gorilla Conservation projects in Rwanda. [Learn more here.](#)

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