



Let our activities be preceded by an environmental impact assessment to minimize the destruction to the environment and natural resources. The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context 1991 calls for the 'establishment of an environmental impact assessment procedure that permits public participation'.

The preamble to the seminal Stockholm Declaration of the UN conference on the Human Environment 1972 emphasizes that the environment is 'essential to the enjoyment of basic human rights—even the right to life itself', while Principle 1 states that 'Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being'. Article 24 of the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights 1981 provides that 'all people shall have the right to a general satisfactory environment favorable to their development' whilst Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 explicitly refers to the need for the education of the child to be directed *inter alia* to 'the development of respect for the natural environment'.

The final text of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) meeting on the environment in Sofia in 1989 reaffirms the respect for the rights of individuals, groups and organizations concerned with the environment to express freely their views, to associate with others and assemble peacefully, to obtain and distribute relevant information and to participate in public debates on environmental issues.

By Nana Célestin: Green Organization for Operational Agricultural, Horticultural and Environmental Activities for Development (GOOAHEAD). P.O.Box 503 Buea;  
Tel: (237) 74 54 16 19/33 12 14 99;  
e-mail: nana\_goahead@yahoo.com.  
Website: www.incone.org  
With the collaboration of Foundation of Applied Statistics and Data Management (FASTDAM).

# Join in the celebration of The world environment day, 5 June 2011

**The theme of World Environment Day 2011 is:**

**'Forests: Nature At Your Service'.**

World environment day (WED) was established by UN General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.

Commemorated yearly on 5 June, WED is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. The day's agenda is to:

- ⇒ Give a human face to environmental issues;
- ⇒ Empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development;
- ⇒ Promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues;
- ⇒ Advocate partnership which will ensure that all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

'Forests: Nature At Your Service'. This theme reflects the urgency for individuals and nations to agree on a new deal to fully integrate the conservation of forests in the local and global efforts to protect the environment and resource base and overcome poverty worldwide.

This year's host is India. India is the second most populous nation in the world with around 1.2 billion people. It has the seventh largest land mass on the planet, 3.28 million square kilometers, providing home to a largely Hindu population.

The country faces serious environmental challenges related to population increase and uncontrolled urbanization, industrialization, and the massive intensification of agriculture. The problems include deforestation, pollution, loss of water resources and wildlife trade. As the economy continues to grow, however, India is seeking solutions to tackle these issues.

Releasing a major report on the assessment of the impact of climate change last year, the Minister for Environment and Forests, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, noted that, "There is no country in the world that is as vulnerable, on so many dimensions, to climate change as India is. This makes it imperative for us to have sound evidence-based assessments on the impact of climate change... We must continue this focus on rigorous climate change science."

Among the numerous endangered species of flora and fauna, there is the primate Golden Langur.

'Every one of us surely has deep feelings about the contribution of the quality of the environment in which he is living to his personal development, that of his locality, that of his State and that of the world at large. The world citizens earlier accepted that the world is God's creation for all and that its resources must be used with integrity for our welfare and for that of the generations to come. Aspects of environmental conservation are found in most African cultures which are the oldest of the world testifying that human was earlier conscious that his survival is inextricably linked to that of his environment. These efforts are being pursued and much more important at global level given that it is now obvious that many environmental issues could be tackled successfully only in an international framework. The global environmental ethic is now a fact although more is still to be done. In this vein, one of the biggest meetings of world experts took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June 1992 at Rio, within the framework of United Nations' conference on sustainable development. The countries and organizations present took the engagement to promote sustainable development at national and international levels. One of the salient facts of the Rio Summit was the high representation of the African continent. The Earth Summit resolved that the environment is a global matter that needs consensual actions from every nations and experts of the world. The global environmental ethic was highly expressed'. Let us think globally but act locally.

**FORESTS ARE NOT ONLY SOURCES OF RESOURCES; THEY PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL AND GLOBAL CLIMATE, SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES .**

### **Forest, Climate Change, Nature Protection and Development.**

Global warming is the increase of the global temperature. This increase of the global temperature may make life impossible on Earth. That is the reason why environmentalists are drawing attention on this problem such that together we can fight against it.

We really feel it in our own environment here in South West. It is Obvious that Buea for instance is warmer than before. Deforestation is one of the main factors that contribute to global warming.

In fact, rural communities of Africa and the word rely essentially on biological resources for survival. Vegetable, fruits, meat, fish, medicinal plants, building or craft materials, etc. are biological resources that if poorly managed may lead to disastrous consequences. The diversity in plants, animals, ecosystems and cultures also attract tourists.

The conservation of forest is so important because in the course of doing this, we equally preserve the natural habitat of plants and animals and at the same time the climate equilibrium necessary not only for the survival of mankind, animals and plants,

but to the conservation of water resources and soils, to the development of agricultural activities, and socio-economic development as a whole.

### **RESORT MEASURES INCLUDE:**

- ⇒ Sustainable forestry and forestation. So just by planting a tree and taking care of it, you contribute to mitigating global warming. Ensuring the respect of forest reserves.
- ⇒ Sustainable urbanization (we should avoid the proliferation of towns with unplanned designs where very few or no space is given to greenery) and rural development.
- ⇒ The agricultural sector can contribute by stopping bush fire, promoting agro-forestry, under-wood farming and promoting more productive and environmental-friendly farming system that improves on the yield, conserves soil, water and forests. Improving sensitization in urban areas.
- ⇒ Enhancing the use of alternative energy such as solar energy, energy efficient stove that consume less wood or charcoal.
- ⇒ Strengthening awareness among populations, fostering the training of trainees on the importance of forests and conservation strategies, and implementing policies.

