

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS (IDF)

21 March 2013



**Food,
Oxygen,
Remain
Everlasting in our
Society, where
Trees
Sustain life.**



Dear members and stakeholders of the ITTO,

Tropical forests cover nearly 1.7 billion hectares of our planet, providing oxygen, food, water, medicine, timber, biodiversity, scenery, recreation, and in one word “life” to humanity. The benefits of tropical forests are global, and for this reason ITTO is working locally, in the forest, hand in hand with national governments, research institutions, NGOs, and local communities to preserve this great asset which sustains life on our planet.

On 21 March 2013, we together with the international community celebrate the first International Day of Forests, in accordance with the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations (resolution A/RES/67/200).

ITTO and its members are joining the celebration by sharing a series of short stories of our current work to sustain tropical forests at a local level and its impact at global level, so please check our website on 21 March to learn more.

I take this opportunity to urge everyone who cares about tropical forests to use the occasion of the inaugural International Day of Forests to redouble their efforts to sustain these crucial resources. ITTO will be working together with you and looks forward to hearing about efforts of member countries and other stakeholders in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emmanuel Ze Meka', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Emmanuel Ze Meka
Executive Director