



## MESSAGE

Forests harbor a vast amount of the world's biodiversity and regulate key aspects of the global carbon cycle. They also provide essential livelihoods and environmental services. Amid lack of options and opportunities for employment and income generation, communities, particularly in the rural areas, depend on forests as their primary source of livelihood as well as food, shelter, energy, and medicines.

But despite the increase in protected area coverage worldwide, natural tropical forests are still declining due to deforestation, consequently threatening biodiversity, water and air quality, the livelihoods and food security of forest-dependent communities.

In recognition of these issues, this year's World Wildlife Day is observed with the theme Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet, which aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

On this day, the Climate Change Commission calls on all national and local government officials, sectoral stakeholders, and development partners to raise awareness on the importance of our forests in sustaining the livelihoods of peoples globally, particularly the indigenous people with close affinity to forests.

We also call on individuals to undertake simple, doable steps to preserve our forests as a way of exploring challenges and solutions to protect wildlife and showing commitment toward environmental protection.

May this celebration also encourage us all to uphold the 1.5-degree Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement in pursuit of climate resilience and inclusive sustainable development.

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