

Trees would benefit and change lives, just as Mandela's life and times have, said Janneh

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Addis Ababa, 18 July 2011 (ECA) - UN Under Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary of Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Abdoulie Janneh, said today in Addis Ababa that the human and environmental benefits arising from planting trees would touch and change the lives of millions of people, just as the life and experience of President Nelson Mandela have changed lives globally.

South African Embassy in Ethiopia had organized a tree-planting ceremony in Entoto National Park, Addis Ababa, in honour of the Nelson Mandela International Day which is celebrated on July 18 yearly.

In a statement read on his behalf by Josue Dione, Director of Food Security and Sustainable Development Division, at the celebration marking the Nelson Mandela International Day, Mr. Janneh said the choice of Entoto National Park, an important heritage site for Ethiopians and a recreational park for millions of people who live in Addis Ababa or visit Ethiopia, would also guarantee that the trees being planted would be sustainably managed for the benefits of all.

"These trees will therefore continue to echo the call to make the world a better one for all and for each of us to play our part individually and collectively" he said.

Mr. Janneh said today's event would transform Entoto Park into a powerful tool which would inspire many people, for decades ahead, to take action and create change, in line with the theme of the day.

Since the General Assembly had declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests, Mr Janneh said today's celebrations had made the Nelson Mandela International Day a unique and important vehicle to raise awareness and strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

ECA contributed 200 trees to the event.



Issued by:

ECA Information and Communication Service
P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: 251 11 5445098
Fax: +251-11-551 03 65
E-mail: ecainfo@uneca.org
Web: www.uneca.org

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