

# awards and events



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## the billion tree campaign

The **Billion Tree Campaign** began officially on 1 January 2007. Inspired by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Wangari Maathai and under the additional patronage of Prince Albert II of Monaco, the campaign invites individuals, civil society organizations and governments to take action to reverse environmental degradation. UNEP is coordinating the Billion Tree Campaign to foster a spirit of environmental citizenship and to empower communities. Every citizen can become a campaigner and mobilize friends and family, organizations and governments to join in and enter tree planting pledges on a dedicated web site at [www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign](http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign) with the objective of planting and caring for at least one billion trees worldwide in the course of the year.



**Dolphins** are among the planet's most well-known, but also increasingly vulnerable, marine mammals. Threats for dolphins are on the rise. These include, marine pollution, disturbance by noise from shipping, entanglement in fishing nets, deliberate hunting, and prey depletion due to overfishing. To raise awareness and help stop the decline in dolphin numbers, UNEP and the Convention on Migratory Species and its partners decided to launch the **Year of the Dolphin 2007** with many activities planned throughout the year. [http://www.yod2007.org/en/Start\\_page/index.html](http://www.yod2007.org/en/Start_page/index.html)



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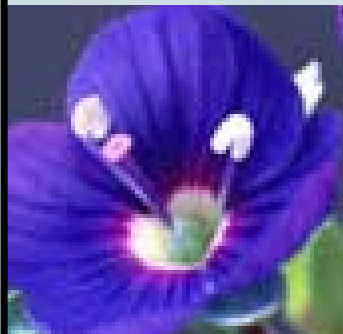
## year of the dolphin

In the first quarter of 2007, the Republic of Congo will host an international forum on **indigenous peoples from African forests**, with an emphasis on forest dwellers collectively known as pygmies. This meeting will be held in the heart of the Equatorial forest, in the town of Impfondo, with representatives coming from all over Central Africa (Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe). According to the main organizer of this event, Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy and Environment of Congo, also current President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), indigenous peoples from the forests will be able to express themselves for the first time by talking to government representatives, researchers, anthropologists, and the international community.



Seven prominent and inspirational leaders from each region of the world have been declared as **UNEP Champions of the Earth 2007**:

- Cherif Rahmani, Algeria's Minister of Environment, for significantly advancing environmental law and economic instruments that conform to international norms;
- Elisa 'Bebet' Gillera Gozun of the Philippines, whose commitment to the environment has won her the trust of all sectors of society;
- Viveka Bohn of Sweden, for her global efforts to ensure chemical safety and prominent role in multilateral negotiations;
- Marina Silva, Brazil's Minister of Environment, for her efforts to protect the Amazon rainforest while taking into account the perspectives of people who use its resources in their daily lives;
- Al Gore, former Vice-President of the United States, for making environmental protection, and the issue of climate change in particular, a pillar of his public service;
- Prince Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan for his transboundary and holistic approach to environmental protection in the region and for establishing a number of national and international environmental institutions;
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and its President, Jacques Rogge, for reinforcing the importance of the environment in the work of the Olympic Movement. <http://www.unep.org/champions/>



## indigenous peoples from african forests



## right livelihood awards

This year's **Right Livelihood Honorary Award**, sometimes called the 'alternative Nobel prize' went to a critic of the wrong sort of globalization, Chico Whitaker Ferreira, for "a lifetime's dedicated work for social justice that has strengthened democracy in Brazil, and helped give birth to the World Social Forum, showing that 'another world is possible'". The 2007 World Social Forum was held in Nairobi, Kenya, also the home of UNEP. The 2006 Right Livelihood Award of \$230,000 was shared between Ruth Manorama, India's "most effective organiser of, and advocate for, Dalit women, a caste known also as 'untouchables'; Daniel Ellsberg of the USA "whose whistleblowing helped end the Vietnam War", and the Festival Internacional de Poesia de Medellin in Columbia, "a unique poetry festival, which has helped build peace in one of the most violent cities in the world."



## world challenge

The **World Challenge**, in association with Shell, has announced its 2006 winner. Maximus is a papermaking firm that makes high-quality products from a variety of wastes, including paper from offices and bark from banana trees. The firm set up shop in Kegalle, Sri Lanka, in 1997, not far from an elephant orphanage. In Sri Lanka there is competition between elephants and a growing human population for land. On discovering that elephant dung is an ideal raw material for paper products, they began a range of elephant-dung paper to draw attention to the plight of the Sri Lankan elephant. This unusual product has found buyers within Sri Lanka and throughout the world. A proportion of the sales are donated to the elephant orphanage. <http://www.theworldchallenge.co.uk/entry.php>