

Welcome to World Environment day, 5 June 2015

What is World Environment Day?

World Environment Day (WED), commemorated each year on June 5, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations (UN) stimulates world-wide awareness on environmental issues and enhances political attention and action. WED is celebrated around the world in many ways, including street rallies, bicycle parades, green concerts, essay and poster competitions in schools, tree planting, recycling efforts, clean-up campaigns and much more. In Ethiopia it will be celebrated in all refugee camps with different activities, including concerts, dramas, tree planting etc. which are aimed at creating a greater environmental awareness in the community.

Why UNHCR and WED?

UNHCR recognizes that protecting the environment leads to better protection for our people of concern (PoCs). Refugees in Ethiopia greatly rely on the natural resources surrounding them for growing food crops, for fuel wood and construction materials. They spend a significant amount of time collecting firewood for cooking, heating and shelter. Natural resources are often limited, making it a critical challenge to secure sources of fuel for cooking and lighting, as well as shelter and some resources for livelihoods activities. Energy and environment have significant implications on the well-being of refugees. UNHCR –Ethiopia therefore uses WED to reiterate the importance of the basic relationship between its work on promoting and enabling sound environmental management and improving the protection and wellbeing, including safeguarding livelihoods, of the refugees – both for today and the future

7 Billion Dreams, 1 Planet Consume with Care

The theme for 2015 is how “the well-being of humanity, the environment and economies ultimately depend on the responsible management of the planet’s natural resources. Evidence is building that people are consuming far more natural resources than what the planet can sustainably provide. Many of the Earth’s ecosystems are nearing critical tipping points of depletion or irreversible change. By 2050, if current consumption and production patterns remain the same and with a rising population expected to reach 9.6 billion, **we will need three planets to sustain our way of life.** Living well within planetary boundaries is the most promising strategy for ensuring a healthy future.”



Awareness creation campaigns



Environment and livelihood relationship



Cabbage the widely eaten green meal