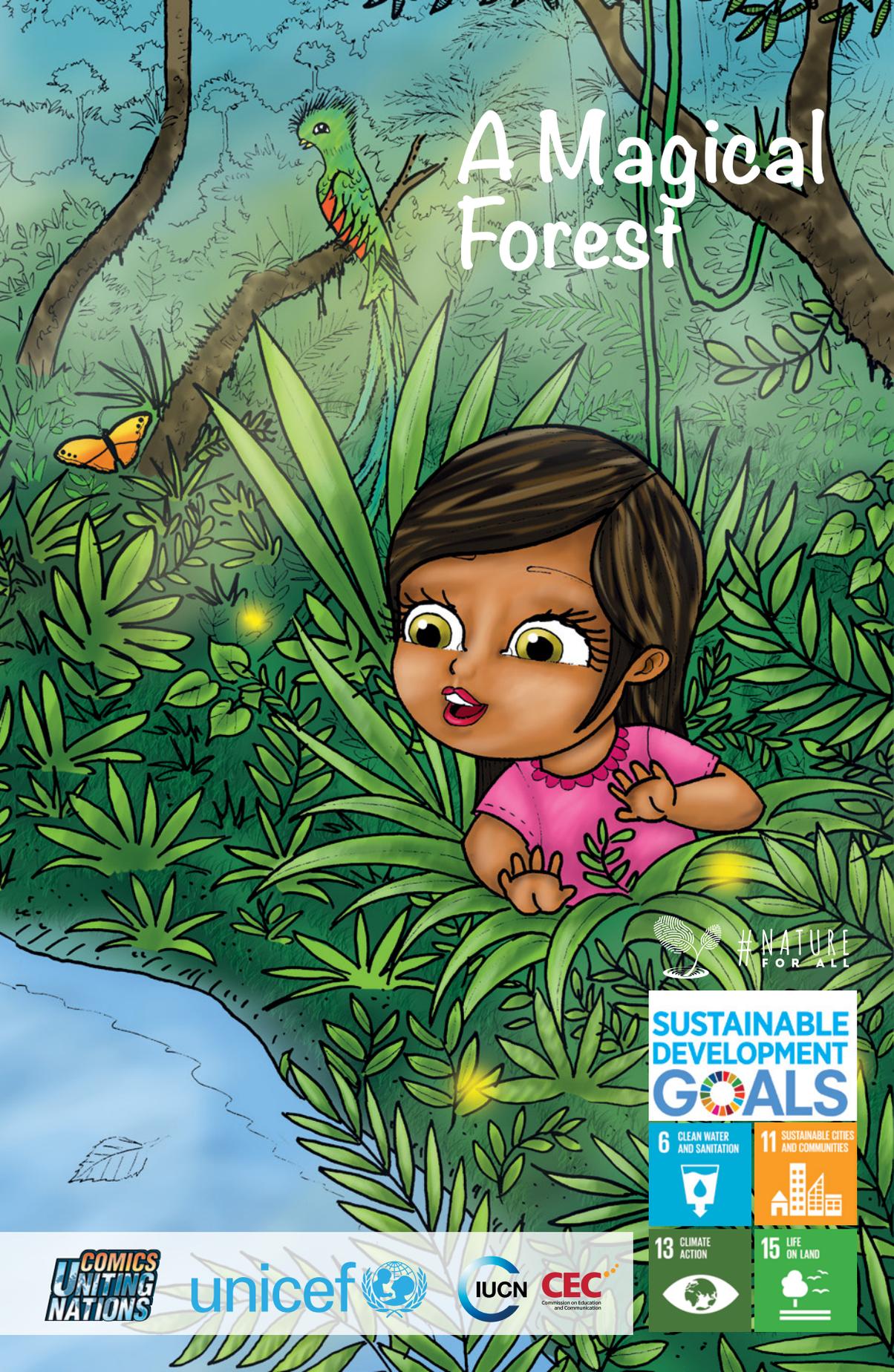


A Magical Forest



#NATURE
FOR ALL

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



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ON LAND



**COMICS
UNITING
NATIONS**

unicef 

IUCN **CEC**
Commission on Education
and Communication

A Magical Forest

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A Magical Forest

The misty forest of El Triunfo is a magical forest. As soon as you start walking along the trails that take you up the mountain, you already find small gifts from nature, like colorful mushrooms growing among the leaves, the traces of a jaguar, green landscapes sheltered by fog and, if you're lucky, the fantastic flight of a quetzal. In addition, as you progress, you are able to see again with the eyes of the soul, your heart makes contact with the spirit of the forest, and you feel the energy that emanates from the trees and the streams of transparent water. That is when you can experience the deeper magic that is hidden in the forest. It is a magic so powerful, that it enchants your memory so that you may never forget these landscapes, that gifts you bird songs capable of making you smile in difficult times, and that allows you to discover the wonderful beings that live there, like the forest elves, who watch over to make sure life continues to flourish in this fantastic territory.

Executive producers: FONCET AC / UICN CEC / COMICS UNITING NATIONS

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A strange force causes David's mat to fly over the bushes.



Huh?
What's going on?

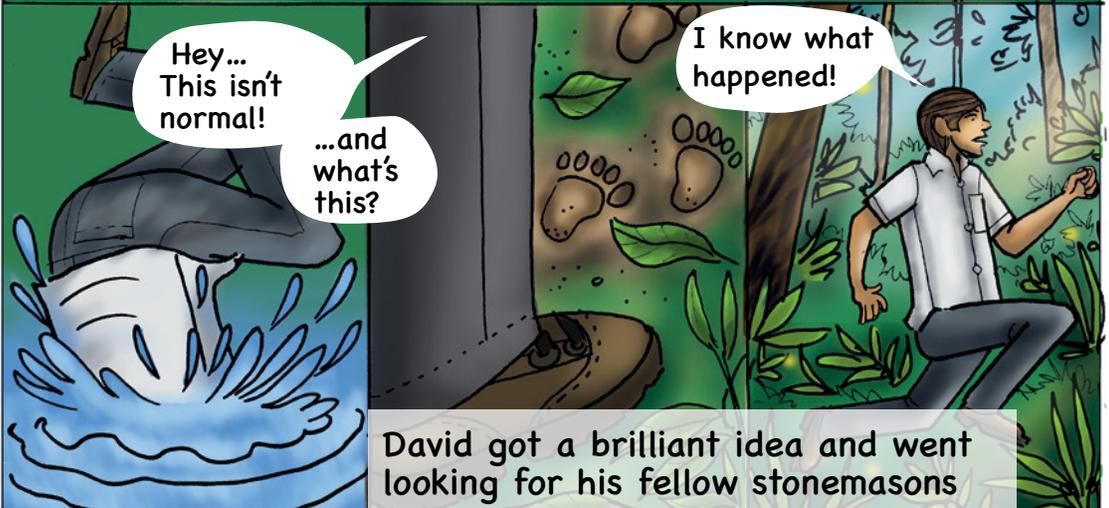


Before David could jump off the mat, a major force threw him into the air.

Hey...
This isn't
normal!

...and
what's
this?

I know what
happened!



David got a brilliant idea and went looking for his fellow stonemasons



There's no one left here...

David feared that his colleagues may not have been as lucky.



David, help me!

I'm here!

It wasn't long before everyone was free.



Do you know who did this?

I didn't see anything, but I'm thinking that maybe...

What are you thinking? Tell us!

Only David dared to speak what was on his mind.



Let's go!

I don't want to work here anymore; this hill is full of elves!

We have to explain what's going on to people in the community. I'm sure they will understand!

I think it was the forest elves... and nobody will convince me otherwise.

Nobody believed them, and even though Don Gonzalo -the most respected man in town -tried to reassure them, everyone was screaming in anger.



David, we need that tank so that the water can reach more houses with more power

We know all of that, Don Gonzalo.



So why do you come here with stories about elves living on the Venado Hill?!

Because they are there! They keep bothering us! They never let us work!

They would hide our tools, and drop them on the floor, but the worst thing happened early today!



We want the tank!!



Just because I know you, I won't say that you're crazy

...even though that's what I'm thinking.

Well, since David and his colleagues were of no use in this, let's choose other people.



Yes! Let's vote for other people!

Liars!

You are all crazy!



Don't even pay them!



David had no choice but to return home. Jade, his only daughter, was waiting for him there.



Hi, daughter. I'm back; will you give me a hug?



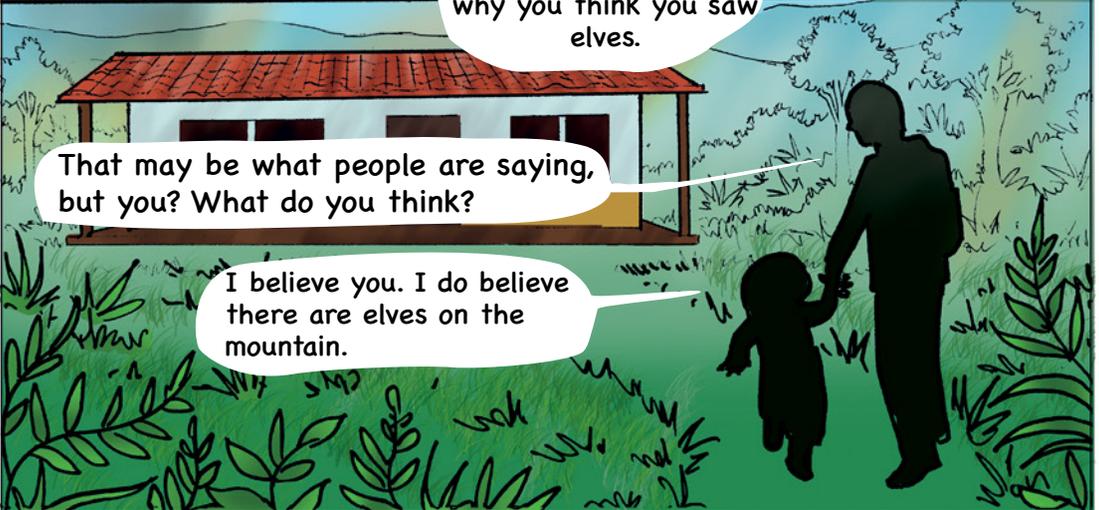
Well, I will find another job and buy it for you.

Nobody will want to hire you now!



I already heard that you lost your job! That means you won't be able to buy me a bicycle!

People in the village are saying that you are insane, and that's why you think you saw elves.



That may be what people are saying, but you? What do you think?

I believe you. I do believe there are elves on the mountain.

Jade was so angry that she had a bad night and woke up at dawn



I really wanted a bicycle. Too bad my dad lost his job because of the elves.

Now everyone is saying he is crazy. If I could see the elves, I would scold them for being so mean. It's not OK that they keep being naughty!

I know what I'm going to do... those elves will hear what I have to say! Nobody messes with my dad!

Before sunrise, and without telling her parents, Jade went looking for the elves on the Venado hill.

Jade arrived to the campsite at sunrise.

Elves!...
Elves...! Where are
you?



What's going on? Aren't these
birds supposed to be shy?

The quetzals are our
friends and they always
come say hello at dawn!

And who
are you?

You keep calling out for
us, yet you don't know
who we are?

... I am Túum,
the oldest elf in
this forest.

Are you really the forest
elves?

Well, we're not desert
giants! Anyway, what do
you want?

I came to ask you to please
let my dad work! Why are you
being so mean?



We are protecting them!
We are not mean!

Every
time humans build something,
they cut down trees in the forest.
And it is thanks to trees that there
is water, because they are like a
sponge that captures it and
then filters it to the
springs...

In addition, with their roots
they protect the soil from the
powerful rain. Otherwise, it
would drag the soil into the
seas and the hills would be
bare... if there were no trees,
the water would form giant
mudslides, which would bury
your town!

Without trees there is no water!

I don't believe
a word you are
saying. There will
always be water.

It has happened be-
fore. The Cayado hill in
front of your town was
left completely bare in
order to build a tank.
And then they were
surprised because it
didn't catch any water!

I remember that
tank dried up and...
I got it!... It dried
up because the
hill didn't have any
trees left on it!

That's right! Now no
animal or plant can
live there. If you
do the same to this
mountain, all of us
who inhabit it will
die!

You guys weren't bothering my dad.
You were protecting the forest!

Exactly! Go and tell your people!

I'll do it! ...

I don't want a bicycle anymore
... I'd rather have a forest and
water!



Jade's parents soon noticed their daughter's absence

She left a while ago.
Her bed is cold.

She took her shoes.

They immediately went out looking for their daughter accompanied by Don Gonzalo.



I saw a light go towards the hill.
I thought it was a ghost.

If Jade went into the forest at night,
she surely got lost. We have to go look
for her.



I will call more people to
help us look.

Soon dozens of volunteers were ready
to look for the little girl.



Let's split into groups
to cover more
territory!

Luckily, the townspeople did not have to walk very far to find her.

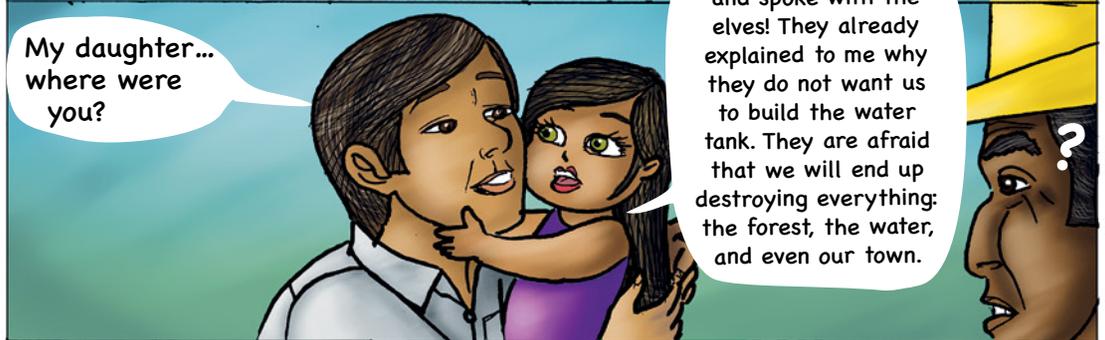


There's Jade!



I went to the mountain and spoke with the elves! They already explained to me why they do not want us to build the water tank. They are afraid that we will end up destroying everything: the forest, the water, and even our town.

My daughter... where were you?



And here I was worried about the little girl

He already passed on his craziness to his daughter



They are liars

Don't listen to them. Let's go home.

The population hired a new crew of workers, but they couldn't climb up the mountain because that same afternoon, heavy rainfall began and didn't stop...

Hurricane Tiburcio is hitting the shores of Chiapas, a big storm is expected tonight, and it is suggested to take precautions.

Windows have to be closed to prevent water from coming in.

At least I'm not scared of lightning anymore

The whole village is sound asleep, not knowing they are in extreme danger...

Jade is the first to awaken from her dreams.

Jade, wake up!

What's going on?

The rain loosened the earth from the Cayado hill. Soon there will be a mudslide. Let people know so they can be saved!



And why don't you let them know?

I just did... Goodbye!



Dad, dad! The Túum elf came to warn me that we are in danger.

... Jade, it must have been a dream.



When you told me there were elves I believed you... now you must believe me!



My daughter, remember everything they said to us this morning because of your elf story...

Túum was right! The Cayado hill is collapsing!

BRUUMMM

What was that noise?...

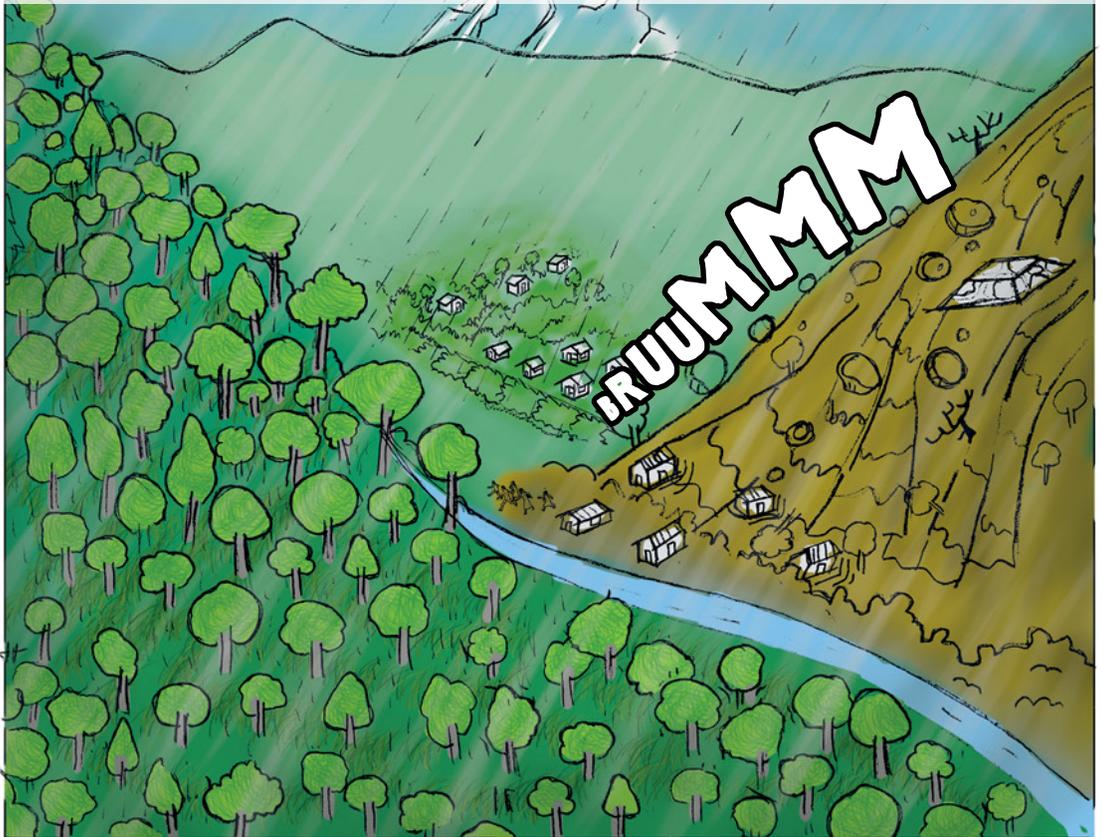
Get out of your houses!

A mudslide is coming!

Let's go to the Venado hill!



Everyone listened to the warning signs of nature and fled to the Venado hill, to escape the huge mudslide that was coming down from the Cayado hill





As soon as the rain stopped, people were ready to rebuild their village

The elves were right, if we had cut down the trees on Venado hill, the mud would have come from both sides



I lost my home

Me too!

Do not worry, my friends and I will help you rebuild your homes

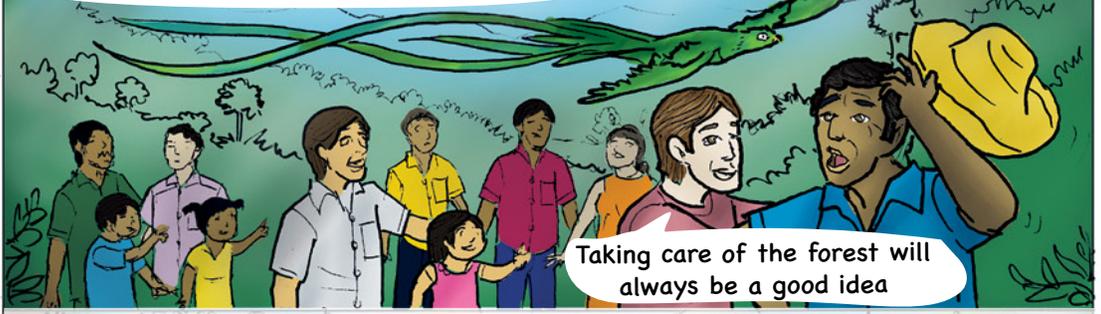


We will never have that water tank, right?

Maybe we will, but we shouldn't cut trees down. We should never forget that trees capture water, not tanks.



Taking care of the forest will always be a good idea



The reconstruction of the village took some time, but with effort and patience, together they rebuilt a more beautiful place where everyone could live together in harmony





**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



Ensure access to water and sanitation for all



Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss



MARVAD

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