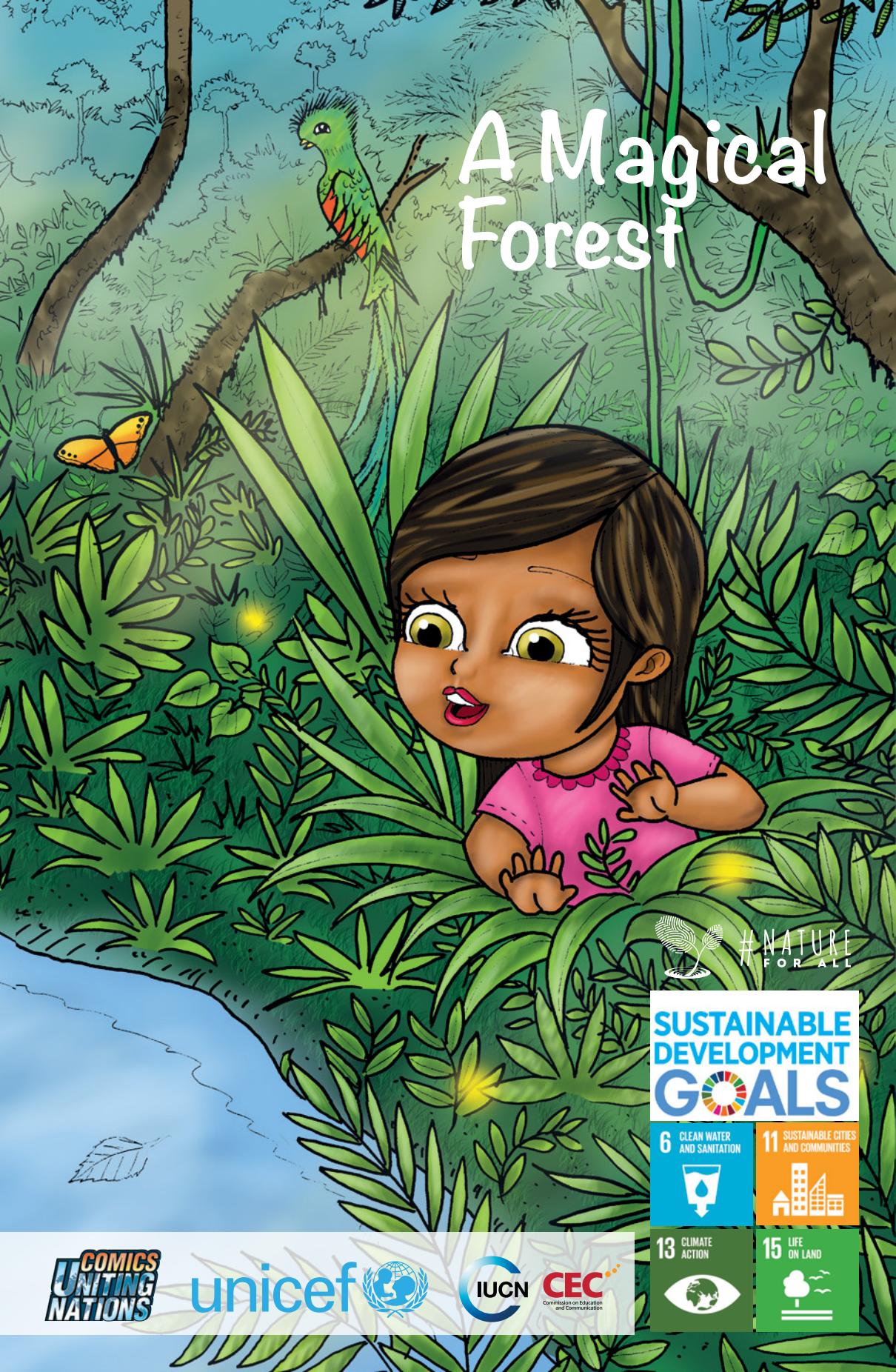


# A Magical Forest



#NATURE  
FOR ALL

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
13 CLIMATE ACTION	15 LIFE ON LAND

# 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.

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



Huh?  
What's going on?

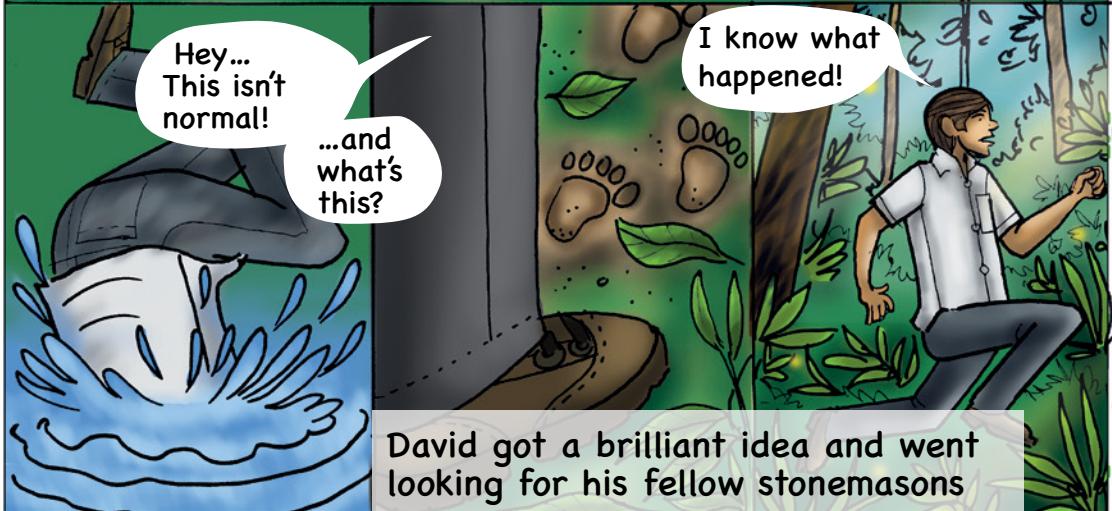


Before David could jump off the mat, a major force threw him into the air.

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.



I'm here!

David, help me!

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.



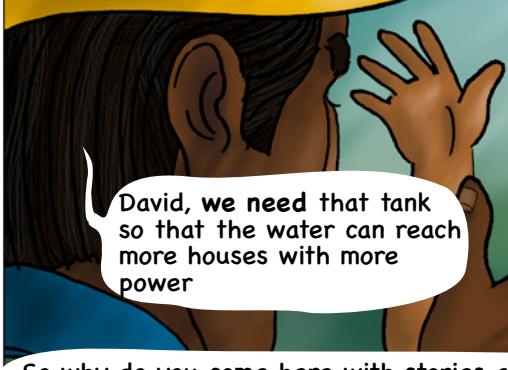
I think it was the forest elves... and nobody will convince me otherwise.



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!

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.



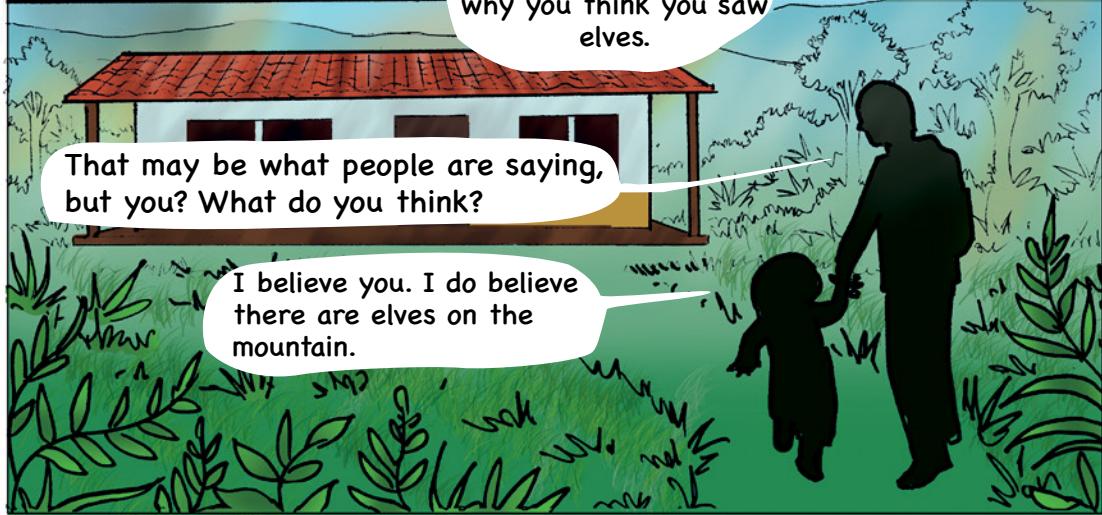
Yes! Let's vote for other people!

Liars!

You are all crazy!



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



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 before. 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.



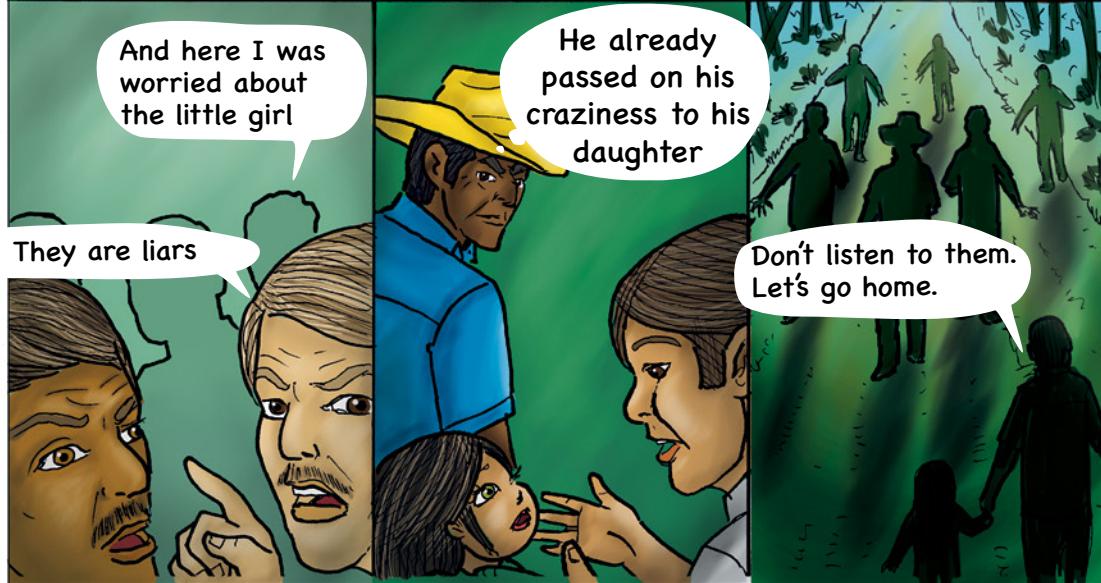
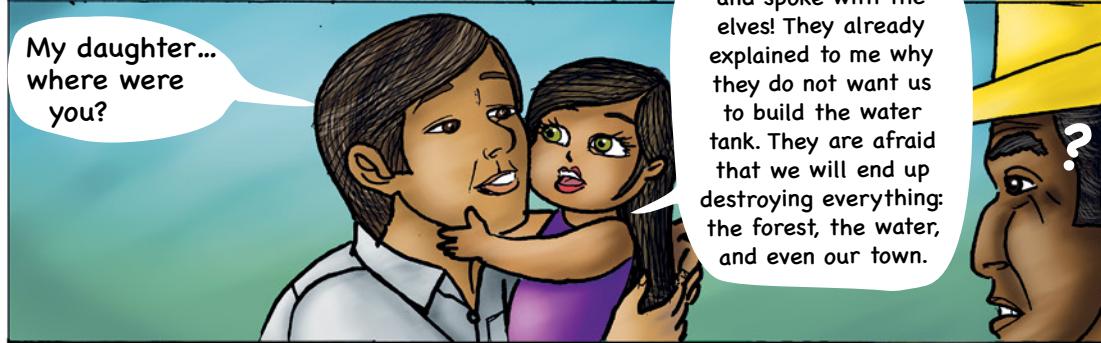
I will call more people to help us look.

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

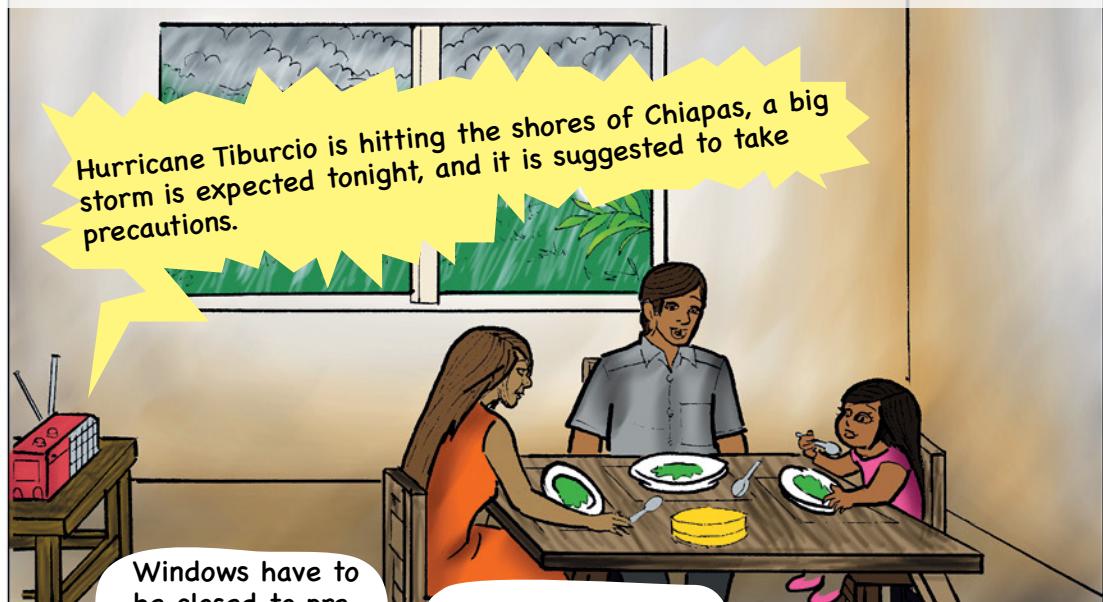




Luckily, the townspeople did not have to walk very far to find her.



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...





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!

**BRUUUMM**

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.

BRUUMMM



Don Chilo's house got  
buried under the mud!



But we're alive. That's  
what matters. Thank  
you for warning us!

... thank you  
to the elves

The mud took  
several things  
with it



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



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**

6 CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

15 LIFE  
ON LAND



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



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