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Subject: Celebration of the 2018 and 2019 International Day of Forests

Dear Colleagues,

The Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) have the honor to transmit the following information in relation to the celebration of the International Day of Forests (IDF) in 2018 and 2019.

The UN General Assembly established the International Day of Forests to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests. Forests have been at the forefront of international discussions, from the 2030 Agenda to the Paris Agreement.

In order to capitalize on this interest, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) proposed that a central theme for the annual celebration of the International Day would provide an opportunity to highlight specific forest contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by considering topics of the annual sessions of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. In so doing, it would also enhance coordinated communications from the forest community, while enabling countries and organizations to tailor the theme to their own priority areas.

To that end, the CPF has proposed that the theme for the 2018 International Day of Forests be "Forests and Sustainable Cities", while for 2019 the theme is proposed to be "Forests and Education". We hope that you will join us in raising awareness on how sustainably managed forests provide a wide array of contributions in these areas. We hope that you would find this early communication of the suggested themes for both years helpful in allowing sufficient time for your preparations.

We remain fully at your disposal to assist in your national celebrations of the International Day, and in this regard, the FAO Forestry Department and the UNFF Secretariat will continue to produce various multi-media products.

Yours sincerely,



Maria Helena Semedo
Deputy Director-General and
Acting Head of the Forestry Department
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