



21 June 2016

Dear Mr Belen,

**Subject: Forest and Landscape Restoration regional initiatives: toward the regionalization of the Bonn Challenge – 20 July 2016 from 8.30 to 10.00 hours**

I have the pleasure to refer to the Twenty-third Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the Fifth World Forest Week (WFW), which will take place from 18 to 22 July 2016 at FAO headquarters in Rome. The provisional agenda for COFO/WFW is attached for your information.

I would like to invite you, in your capacity as keynote speaker to participate in a side event named "Forest and Landscape Restoration regional initiatives: toward the regionalization of the Bonn Challenge" which will take place on Wednesday, 20 July from 8.30 to 10.00 hours in the Ethiopia room.

The side event will allow the members of several regional initiatives on Forest and Landscape Restoration that are contributing to the achievement of the Bonn Challenge, to understand the diversity of the existing dynamics in the different regions. Also, it will help each region to build on successful recent results in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Pacific and the Mediterranean regions.

As keynote speaker, your contribution *as the Chair of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions – Silva Mediterranea* would be very much appreciated. The pertinent programme is attached for your reference. I would be grateful if you could present the current Mediterranean dynamic on Forest and Landscape Restoration in the context of the implementation of the Tlemcen Declaration and the Strategic Framework on Mediterranean Forests. A short presentation of the upcoming Fifth Mediterranean Forest Week to be held in Morocco in March 2017 on Restoration of Mediterranean Forests and Landscapes could also be an excellent opportunity to highlight the commitment of Mediterranean partners on Forest and Landscape Restoration issues. I am convinced that the COFO delegates from the different regions participating in this session will greatly benefit from your broad experience and expertise on regional initiatives.

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Mr Ismail Belen  
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Ankara  
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In addition to the above, I would like to inform you that the last part of the session will be dedicated to a signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Model Forest Network (IMFN) and FAO.

I thank you very much for your participation in the work of COFO and look forward to welcoming you at FAO headquarters.

Yours sincerely,



*for* René Castro Salazar  
Assistant Director-General  
Forestry Department