

Urban Forestry.

a call for action

In preparation of the first World Forum on Urban Forests promoted by FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), which will be held from 28 November 2018 to 1 December 2018 in Mantova, Italy.



we, designers of the first Vertical Forest in Milan, invite



architects, urban planners, botanists, agronomists, forestry corps, tree growers, geographers, ethologists, landscape scientists, technicians, researchers and experts in green care and urban forestry, real estate developers, administrators and representatives of local institutions and civil society, members and representatives of international organisations, funding agencies, universities and research institutes, and NGOs

to consider that:

- by 2030, **60%** of the **global population** is projected to live in **urban areas**.
- cities consume **75%** of the world's **natural resources** and account for more than **70%** of **global CO₂ emissions**.
- cumulative **emissions** of **CO₂**, together with methane and other greenhouse gases, largely determine **global mean surface warming of the planet**, causing ice melting, biodiversity loss and rising sea levels.

and to consider also that:

- **forests and trees** – which are at risk of continuous erosion all over the world – **absorb** nearly **40%** of **fossil fuel emissions** largely produced by our cities every year.
- **leaves and roots** of a mature tree **absorb CO₂** through photosynthesis and help reduce the pollutants (responsible for a high percentage of respiratory diseases and premature deaths) present in the air.
- if a **single tree** can bring great benefits to the city and its inhabitants, an **urban forest** can be an extraordinary help to **improve the quality** of health and life in a city.

we believe that:

- **cities**, which are largely **responsible** for **climate change problems**, have the opportunity to become an **integral part of their own solution**, by increasing the number of **forests and trees** that can “fight the enemy” on its own ground (the city), using **CO₂ as fertiliser**.
- increasing **forests and trees** in world's cities can help absorb **CO₂**, drastically **reduce pollution, energy consumption** and the “**urban heat island**” effect, increasing biodiversity of living species and making cities safer, more pleasant, healthier and attractive.
- **a global action on urban forestry** will help to prevent global temperature from rising **above 2 °C**, the maximum acceptable threshold defined by the COP 21 agreement in Paris (2015). ▶



therefore:

we have the duty to launch a **global campaign on urban forestry** in order to **multiply the presence of forests and trees in our cities**.

Such a campaign should start with these major **actions**:

- protect and increase **permeable and green surfaces** in the city,
- create **new parks and gardens**,
- transform **city roofs** into **lawns** and **vegetable gardens**,
- transform **perimeter walls** and **urban barriers** into **green facades**,
- transform **urban voids** and **courtyards** into **green oasis**,
- promote **community gardens** and implement **urban agriculture**,
- use **tree roots** to decontaminate **polluted soils**,
- create a **network of green corridors** (tree-lined avenues, street trees...) to connect **parks, forests, and green buildings**,
- multiply the number of **green buildings** and **Vertical Forests**,
- create **new orbital forests** and **woodlands** all around our cities.



thus:

if we want to **reverse climate change**,

if we want to **favour the survival** of living species,

if we want our **cities** to be **greener, healthier and more pleasant places**, **urban forestry** should be a **priority** in the international agenda of governments and local and international institutions.

The next months will be crucial to pledge your support, and collect your experiences and urban forestry projects, in preparation for the first World Forum on Urban Forests, promoted by FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) with Municipality of Mantova, SISEF (Società Italiana di Selvicoltura ed Ecologia Forestale), Politecnico di Milano, which will be held from 28 November 2018 to 1 December 2018 in Mantova, Italy.



join us. it's time to act.

share this call, suggestions and best practices with us at:

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for more info:

www.wfuf2018.com