



Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

30 March 2026

Dear Mr Belen,

The Food, Nutrition, and Wildlife team of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is pleased to invite you to the Expert Group Meeting on Improving the Definition and Data of Forest Food, to take place in hybrid format at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy from 25-26 May 2026.

The meeting will convene technical experts from regional organizations, civil society, Member States, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and relevant UN agencies. The objective is to strengthen conceptual clarity and improve the evidence base on forest foods in support of FAO's normative and analytical work. Please find the concept note attached for your reference.

More specifically, the meeting will provide opportunities to:

- Take stock of existing definitions, terminologies, and classifications of forest foods at local, regional, and international levels and assess their advantages and disadvantages.
- Convene an expert panel to develop a proposed unified, comprehensive definition of forest foods, and outline pathways for its adoption and next steps.
- Produce a consolidated background document to inform policy and technical discussions.

Given your expertise, your participation would be highly valuable to the success of this meeting. We welcome your technical input, including suggestions of experts from your networks who could contribute meaningfully to the discussions.

Please note that the cost of your participation (flight tickets, meals, transport, and accommodation) will be funded by FAO.

In case you have not yet confirmed your attendance please do so by writing to Francesca.Bruzzese@fao.org, with copy to Sonia.Fioretti@fao.org by 7 April 2026.

Please do not hesitate to write to Francesca.Bruzzese@fao.org with copy to Sonia.Fioretti@fao.org should you need any further clarifications.

Yours sincerely,

Hubert Boulet
Team Leader, Food, Nutrition, and Wildlife team

Mr Ismail Belen
Chief Inspector
General Directorate of Forestry
Ankara