



## **Estrela da Floresta Achieved Significant Development Milestones in 2017**

*Forestry Plantation Company Strongly Positioned for 2018 Growth*

**Luanda, Angola, 12 February 2018:** Estrela da Floresta, Angola's leading sustainable forestry plantation company, announced that it has successfully planted over 250,000 eucalyptus and pine trees in the provinces of Benguela and Huambo in 2016-2017. Estrela da Floresta is currently developing the concessions in Alto Catumbela, Cuima and Sanguengue with an aim to develop forestry plantations and rehabilitate the old pulpwood plantations in the region.

In 2017, Estrela da Floresta planted over 250,000 pine and eucalyptus trees across more than 200 hectares. This considerably exceeds the area that was harvested during the year, thereby reflecting the company's sustainable approach to forest management. Furthermore, environmentally sensitive areas are being restored by Estrela da Floresta.

Reflecting on the success of 2017, Jose Evangelista, Public Relations Manager, Estrela da Floresta said, "Since it commenced operations in Angola, Estrela da Floresta has achieved significant milestones and has introduced new forestry techniques and international best practices to the region, thus substantially changing the situation on the ground. Estrela da Floresta has implemented an improved technique of cutting and handling of wood with the introduction of responsible practices of forest management. We have built a relationship with the local communities in Huambo and Benguela and have brought many significant benefits to them. Given the considerable milestones we achieved in 2017, we are extremely excited about growth prospects in 2018."

In 2017, Estrela da Floresta also collaborated with the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at the José Eduardo dos Santos University in Huambo. Together, the University has introduced a new undergraduate course specifically for forestry studies, which helps in developing and strengthening the skills of local Angolans. As part of the partnership, Estrela da Floresta will hire recent graduates and trainees from the University and give them an opportunity to obtain professional skills and technical know-how about best forestry practices. The University will also receive grants for the students in forestry studies.



Additionally, Estrela da Floresta is introducing a pilot project to build meteorological stations in cooperation with the University in Huambo. These stations will help gather accurate information on weather conditions including temperature, rainfall, wind speed as well as direction.

Moreover, Estrela da Floresta has also supported income generation for the provincial governments through the effective collection and payment of forest harvesting fees. In the last year, Estrela da Floresta has created over 150 direct and indirect jobs in the province.

Estrela da Floresta, in collaboration with local IDF authorities, has instituted a procedure in relation to the Transport Guides of wood cut under contracts which has consequently supported the local authorities to collect revenue and to control and improve the transportation of timber. Moreover, to curb illegal logging in the forests, the team has implemented a monitoring plan and subsequently controlled the continuous seizure of illegal logging.

Looking forward to the coming year, Evangelista added, “Our main focus will continue to be the rehabilitation of the old plantations in the forests and the creation of new plantations along with the establishment of forestry industries in the provinces including Huambo, Benguela and Huíla. As the project progresses, it will continue to create substantial impact on the local economy including the creation of jobs, a more favorable trade balance, and will support the diversification of the economy.”

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**About Estrela da Floresta:**

Estrela da Floresta has been established by Swiss-based Quantum Global as part of its diversified timber investment portfolio. Estrela da Floresta will provide long-term community benefits for Angolans by revitalizing the country’s sustainable timber industry. The company is managing 18 separate land forests leased from the Government of Angola to develop large-scale wood fiber plantations. Currently, the company is developing the concessions in Alto Catumbela, Cuima and Sanguengue. Estrela da Floresta aims to achieve third party sustainable forest management certification.



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