



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

SW4SW & Grow the Solution

FAO/CPF Initiatives to promote sustainable wood

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Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood

XV WFC Seoul, Korea | May 2022



XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS

Building a Green, Healthy and Resilient Future with Forests
2-6 May 2022 | Coex, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood

Sustainable production and consumption of wood promotes forest conservation, enhances the value of forests and mitigates climate change. Building and living with wood responds to an increased demand for renewable materials and provides impetus for green recovery. Sustainable wood offers solutions across multiple value chains, including construction, furniture, packaging, renewable energy, biomaterials for clothing and biochemicals.

Scaling-up bio-economies by using sustainable wood replacing carbon-intensive materials has high potential to become a cost-effective and innovative contribution at scale to achieve carbon neutrality and build more resilient economies.

Sustainable wood-based solutions build synergies with broader aims for economic recovery, growth of rural areas and circular economy innovation. Sustainable wood-based solutions need to build on sustainable forest management and address risks of trade-offs with the multiple other roles of forests, such as carbon storage in forests, loss of biodiversity and of other essential forest services, including through enhanced management, restoration and afforestation efforts.

Building on our national policy experiences and commitments to use wood resources sustainably, and conscious of the need for cost-effective and equitable solutions at scale for value-added and carbon-neutral products, we have come together in the Ministerial Forum on Sustainable Wood to call for scaling-up sustainable wood-based pathways:

- to address the lack of awareness of their potential;
- to enhance global and regional policy dialogues on pathways and related synergies and trade-offs and ways to strengthen investments;
- to improve modalities to promote technical exchange, sharing of experiences and learning in order to drive innovations, from sustainable forest management and efficient wood value chains to sustainable wood use;
- to significantly increase the use of sustainable wood-based solutions within Nationally Determined Contributions by 2030.

We also commit to join forces together to promote enhanced policy and technical dialogue and exchange among producer and consumer countries and key stakeholders to develop the necessary momentum and actions at scale, and invite the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and members of the Collaborative Partnership of Forests (CPF) to support our efforts.

We are convinced that mobilizing the full potential of sustainable wood will enable us to build more carbon-neutral and resilient economies and progress towards more sustainable societies.



Address the lack of awareness of sustainable wood potential to meet developmental goals



Enhance global and regional policy dialogues on pathways and related synergies and trade-offs and ways to strengthen investments



Improve modalities to drive innovations, from sustainable forest management and efficient wood value chains to sustainable wood use



Significantly increase the use of sustainable wood-based solutions within Nationally Determined Contributions by 2030

FAO Sustainable Wood Milestones 2022-24

2022

- XV World Forestry Congress
- Forest Sector Outlook 2050
- SW4SW Dialogue Cameroon
- IUFRO joins SW4SW

2023

- Wood for Globe Project
- COMIFAC Governance Working Group
- SW4SW Dialogue Latin America & the Caribbean
- SW4SW Dialogue AFOCO
- Sustainable Wood for Sustainable Future – APFC
- Forest Positive Buildings – FCN and Cities4Forests
- Accelerating Finance for Sustainable Wood in East Africa

2024

- Wood for Globe Policy Dialogue: Advancing sustainable wood policy and science for carbon-neutral and resilient economies
- Launch of **Grow the Solution** campaign by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
- **Wood for Globe Ministerial Dialogue**



FOREST SECTOR OUTLOOK 2050

Wood in the Bioeconomy

We need at least 1 billion m³ of additional roundwood to meet demand for timber in 2050.

Increased adoption of mass timber and man-made cellulose fiber (MMCF) could lead to up to **6%** increase in consumption of primary processed wood products and up to **3%** increase in industrial roundwood additional to business-as-usual

Value-added innovation

Material
Efficiency

Productivity and
Restoration

Planted
Forests
Increased
area

Lesser-known Species

Increased
Productivity
Natural
Forests



Wood For Globe

The project is led by

- **International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)**

in collaboration with

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**
- **Centre for Bioeconomy of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)**

Financed by:

 **Forest Fund
Republic of Austria**

An initiative by the Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions
and Water Management





WOOD FOR GLOBE

Objectives

- Facilitate creation of policy networks and platforms
- Leverage knowledge exchange and good practices
- Promote scientific evidence dissemination and uptake



Main Findings: Policy review

1. Lack of Consensus Definition for Sustainable Wood Policy:

The absence of a universally agreed definition leads to inconsistent practices and hampers progress in sustainable forestry.

2. Inadequate Data Sharing:

The lack of a systematic framework for collecting and sharing wood-related data impedes informed decision-making and policy development.

3. Absence of Direct Linkages to Sustainable Forest Management:

Sustainable wood policies often fail to directly align with sustainable forest management practices, posing challenges to long-term wood resource sustainability.

4. Need to Improve Linkages to Financial Services:

Enhanced connections with the financial services, pension funds, and insurance industries are essential, as they manage significant institutional investments.



Main Findings: Policy review

5. Lack of Integration with Forest Bioeconomy:

The absence of direct connections between sustainable wood policies and the forest bioeconomy can hinder efforts to optimize forest resource value and minimize waste.

6. Need for Improved Climate Change Linkages:

Sustainable wood policies require better integration with climate change and greenhouse gas reporting frameworks to acknowledge the role of sustainable wood products in carbon storage and contributions to achieving a carbon-neutral bioeconomy.

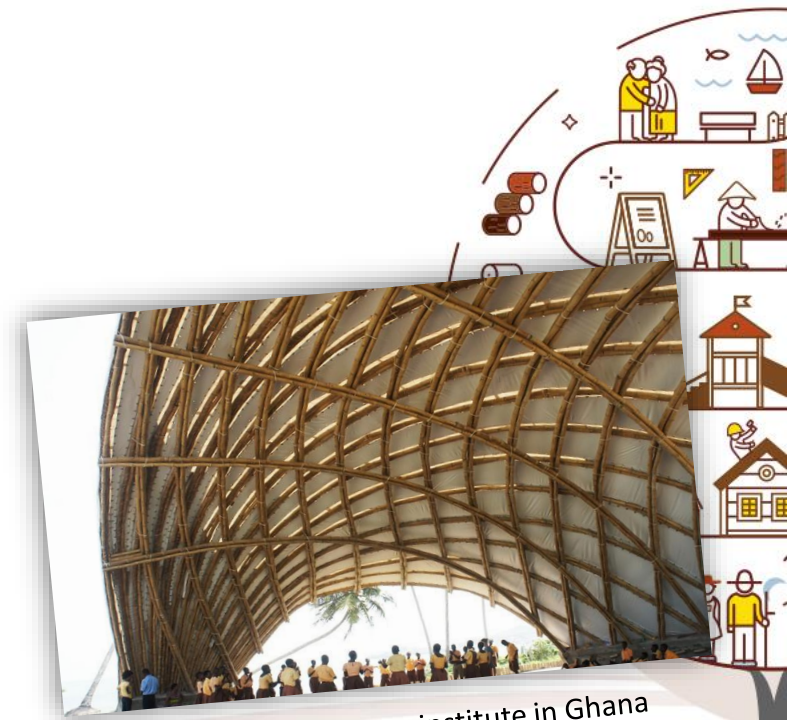
7. Need for Ongoing Efforts to Communicate the Merits of Wood Products:

Despite years of effort, significant doubts persist within civil society regarding the sustainability of tree harvesting and its contributions to society through various products and services.



Main Findings: Innovations for scaling up sustainable wood use

- Scaling up **production capacity** for regionally sourced materials, and creating **new products** from **underused residues**
- Embracing methods like **prefabricated mass timber construction**, bamboo utilisation or **reclaimed wood**
- Adopting sustainable practices in production of **packaging and textiles**, and **regulations** for the collection of **used materials**
- Promoting best practice with **holistic policy frameworks** integrating SFM and principles of circular bioeconomy
- **Legality, transparency, equality, and sustainability** of the supply chains and businesses are **prerequisite**



Haduwa arts & culture institute in Ghana protected by dynamic bamboo canopy

Main Findings: Audience and media consumption analysis

1. **Median age of public** shows noticeable differences, with Africa in the 20s, Asia in the 30s and the EU in the 40s. These translate to different habits in media consumption and general outlook.
2. **Media consumption** is primarily conducted via mobile devices, with a predominance of video content.
3. There is generally **greater optimism towards environmental and economic issues** and prospects in African and Latin America than in the rest of the world.
4. **WhatsApp** emerges as the most popular communication platform, especially across African regions.





CPF/SW4SW Dialogue:

Advancing Sustainable Wood Policy and Science for Carbon-neutral and Resilient Economies

A Call for Action

- ✓ Focus on the essential and outcomes at scale
- ✓ Multi-sectoral approach
- ✓ Data and indicators
- ✓ Inclusiveness and monitoring of adverse impacts
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Demonstration projects
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Capacity building, skills development, and technical cooperation, especially in developing countries
- ✓ Support to adequate building policies and codes
- ✓ Green Cities



Opportunities and Challenges



Growing markets for sustainable wood products, especially in the building sector

- Nature-based solutions → Wood-based solutions
- UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration
- UN Decade of Family Farming
- FAO Green Cities Initiative



Awareness and Consensus-building

- Biodiversity and inclusion of small and medium producers
- Investments





GROW
THE SOLUTION
WOOD. NATURE'S SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION.

- Launched at the XIX UNFF by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Communicators Network.
- The need of unified global communication on sustainable wood, adapted to different needs and geographies.
- Raise awareness of the contributions from sustainable wood to climate-neutrality and resilience.
- Use multimedia channels, global events and training workshops to convey this message, raising awareness globally, with the general public, policymakers, private sector and civil society.

[Strengthening global advocacy on the role of sustainable wood value chains \(fao.org\)](https://www.fao.org)



Ministerial Dialogue

WOOD for GLOBE: Leading Pathways to carbon neutrality and resilience

JOIN US ON 19 JULY 2024
FAO HQ, ROME, ITALY

- Hosted by FAO, IUFRO and H.E. Norbert Totschnig, Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, Austria.
- Review of progress on sustainable wood use since the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood.
- Global exchange of knowledge, experiences and lessons learned among initiatives and projects.
- Identification of opportunities for international cooperation and collaboration among initiatives.
- Renewed and broadened country commitments to implement the sustainable wood pathways.



Thank You!

Merci!

[Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World \(fao.org\)](https://www.fao.org)

<https://www.iufro.org/science/partnership-projects/wood-for-globe/>

