

GREENING CONSTRUCTION WITH SUSTAINABLE WOOD

KEY ACTORS

Co-leads: Canada, France, Kenya.

Active members: Australia, Costa Rica, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Republic of Congo, South Korea, Sweden, Tanzania, UK, USA. Observer: New Zealand.

Critical non-members: Global ABC, Built by Nature, FAO, International Sustainable Forestry Coalition.

OBJECTIVE

To advance the use of sustainable wood in construction.

DEFINING THE PROBLEM

The construction sector accounts for 40% of global greenhouse gas emissions; with building number expected to double globally by 2050 (mostly in the global south). Meanwhile, forests globally are under extreme pressure from forest conversion, degradation and unsustainable forestry practices, which account for about 12% of global GHG emissions annually.

The use of wood in construction offers one important win-win solution to these converging crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and housing, and can help governments, and others, to meet their net zero commitments. It provides both an alternative to traditional fossil-intensive building materials, and economic value to forests, creating investments and job-generating opportunities, driving demand for the application of sustainable forest practices.

But achieving such a systemic change requires high-level political leadership, nationally and internationally, to mobilise the scale of policies, partnerships and resources needed.

VALUE ADD

The FCLP unites the forest commitments in the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD) and the commitment to near-zero emission buildings in the [Buildings Breakthrough](#), to provide the only forum for intergovernmental cooperation specifically aiming to advance the use of sustainable wood and bio-sourced materials in construction. Significantly, in 2025 this work is set in the context of an international agenda to advance the bioeconomy, which was elevated by the G20 agreement on high-level principles to facilitate the development and financing of the global bioeconomy, a sector projected to reach a value of \$30trn by 2050.

COP30 DELIVERABLES [INCLUDING EXTERNALLY-LED DELIVERABLES]

Ahead of COP30 (at Woodrise conference, Sept 2024):

1. Wood culture promotion: including FCLP keynotes at Woodrise, and through a public webinar on benefits of wood, lessons learnt, good practice.
2. Guidance on best practice and comms on policy advancements in wood in construction.



FCLP

The Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership

At COP30:

3. [National level] At a country level, A, B, and C announced new commitments and or significant progress in greening construction with sustainable wood, contributing to their NDCs and sustainable development goals.
4. [Built by Nature lead] X countries and X actors in industry and NGOs, including X and X, endorse a set of guiding principles for responsible timber construction
5. [Built by Nature lead] Recognizing best practice in the building sector, the 2025 Built by Nature Prize for Responsible Timber Construction was awarded to [country / recipient X] to support programs promoting the use of sustainably sourced wood as an efficient and feasible alternative to more conventional building materials
6. [BRB Secretariat lead] Demonstrating action aligned with these principles, the Brazil Restoration & Bioeconomy Finance Coalition [including FCLP members USA, UK, ...] announced an unprecedented investment of XXX USD in forest restoration.

FCLP SYNERGIES

This work falls under FCLP Strategic priority 2, Action Area 1 ‘International Collaboration on the Sustainable Forest and Land Use Economy’. In addition, the initiative has synergies with other priorities of the FCLP:

1. **Country Packages:** for relevant countries, there is opportunity to align SFM/bioeconomy priorities and fundraising ambitions with their country package strategy
2. **Deforestation-free trade:** There is an inevitable link between efforts to increase building sector demand from sustainably sourced wood and any trade policy or measures to reduce international commodity market drivers of deforestation and degradation.
3. **IP and LCs:** development of the bioeconomy can offer climate smart opportunities for IPs and LCs as well as greater equity and self-determination. Further development of guiding principles for responsible timber construction and any place-based pilot initiatives must include opportunity for IP and LC input – via the IP&LC platform or other format – as begun at NYCW 2024.

PROGRESS TO DATE

1. **Statement of support:** At COP28, 17 FCLP members committed to advancing policies and approaches that support low carbon construction and increase the use of wood from sustainably managed forests in the built environment. Three non-member countries have since expressed interest in joining this initiative.
2. **Sharing knowledge and experiences:** Canada contributed to sharing of experience and best practice through a ‘Forest to Frame’ study tour in October 2024, with the participation of 6 member countries and the Climate Smart Forest Economy Program. This has resulted in further exploration of exchanges, collaborations and has directly influenced decisions regarding Kenya’s and Costa Rica’s recent building code updates.
3. **Stocktake on public policy for forest-positive buildings:** France has led an in-depth review of building codes and demand-side practices in a set of 8 countries, and this is complemented by a high-level policy scan of all FCLP working group member countries. The results, to be published in Q1 2025, will identify effective policies, gaps and best practices, and will inform a second phase of work.
4. **Building alliances and promoting wood culture:** the FCLP has hosted and provided keynotes at a number of key events e.g. Forum on Buildings and Climate (Paris, March 2024) and engaged in

collaborative discussions with a number of partners, e.g. with Bauhaus Earth, BTG Pactual-TIG, Built by Nature, Cities for Forests, Climate Smart Forest Economy Program, FAO WoodforGlobe, Global ABC, International Sustainable Forestry Coalition, Laudes Foundation, Pilot Projects, Woodrise Alliance

MILESTONES AND KEY EVENTS

