Wood for Globe

Towards a Global Wood Policy Platform: Sustainable Wood for a Carbon-neutral Bioeconomy

Realizing the potential of the forest-based bioeconomy through sustainable wood

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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)**

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

Objectives

- Facilitate the establishment of policy networks and platforms
- Leverage knowledge exchanges and good practices
- Promote the dissemination and uptake of scientific evidence

Wood: A Potential Solution for Urgent Global Challenges

WOOD for GLOBE

Activities	Outputs
Stocktaking of policies and initiatives globally	• Global sustainable wood policy review • Wood and carbon emission reduction in Asia-Pacific
Mobilizing expertise of policy makers and scientists	• Syntheses of latest scientific innovations • Audience and media consumption analysis
Exchanging knowledge, experience and good practices	• Global and regional policy dialogues • Stakeholder consultations on sustainable forest-based bioeconomy

WOOD for GLOBE Knowledge Products

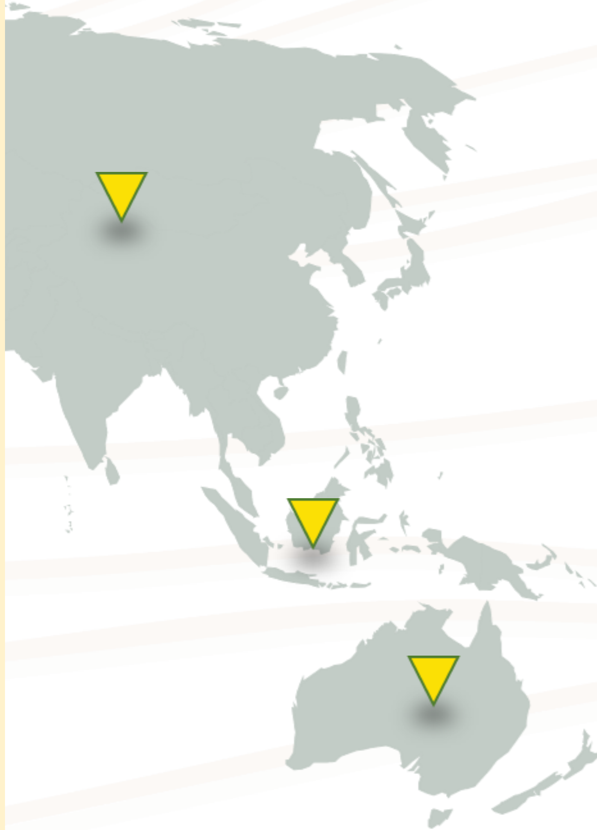
- Global stock-taking and review of sustainable wood policies – Gary Bull and Erica di Girolami
- Assessment of the policies and existing networks of the forest-based bioeconomy in Latin America and the Caribbean: Trends, opportunities, and challenges – Rajat Panwar and Jazmin Gonzales Tovar
- Wood products for climate change mitigation in the Asia-Pacific region - Rod Keenan
- Scientific background paper: Sustainable use of wood in construction, textile and packaging sector towards a carbon-neutral bioeconomy – Elisabeth Gerhardt and Martin Greimel (ed.)

WOOD for GLOBE
Global Sustainable Wood Policy Review

1. **Sustainable wood policies are rare** denoting that policy-making have no particular focus on sustainable wood products.
2. **Linkages between sustainable wood, sustainable forest management, climate change, and nature-based solutions** often not captured by policies.
3. **Low availability and quality of data** hampers advancement of sustainable wood as a nature-based solution.
4. **Awareness raising, policy and knowledge exchange** are key for optimizing sustainable wood as a nature-based solution, catering for the different local circumstances.
5. **Bioeconomy** still needs a common guiding framework to support policy making, knowledge and investments.
6. **Global, regional and local policy platforms and exchanges** can help to build consensus and shared principles.

WOOD for GLOBE
Wood and carbon emission reduction in Asia-Pacific

1. **Six of 34 countries in the Asia-Pacific region currently report on net emissions** from wood products to the UNFCCC: Australia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Japan, Mongolia, and New Zealand.
2. **Countries need to individually assess their potential and comparative advantages for use of wood products.** Potential for increasing carbon stocks in wood products varies between countries in the region, according to population size and growth rate, national income, urbanization, wood production and processing capacity, and cultural attitudes towards timber construction.
3. **Assessing the potential future contribution of wood products to climate mitigation is complex.** Analysis needs to include estimates of net emissions across the entire production and usage of wood and alternative products over long time frames.



WOOD for GLOBE
Wood and carbon emission reduction in Asia-Pacific

4. **More efficient product processing and use of current wood supply are the most promising options to increase carbon stocks in wood products in the next 10 to 20 years**, including through producing more higher-value, long-lived products, such as sawn timber and engineered wood products, extending lifetimes of these products and using them to substitute for energy-intensive products.

5. **Most countries in the region lack reliable, consistent data and models** needed to analyse and report on carbon in wood products.

6. **In the longer term, over 500 million ha of degraded forestland or marginal or retired farmland in the region could be used to expand forest area and sustainably produce more wood and wood products for use in the region.**

WOOD for GLOBE
Forest-based bioeconomy policies and networks in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region

Four key features shaping bioeconomy development in the region:

1. Fragmented Participation
2. Emerging Avenues
3. Divergent Focal Areas
4. Tensions between industrial and socio-bioeconomy approaches

WOOD for GLOBE
Forest-based bioeconomy policies and networks in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region

Strengthening bioeconomy networks and policies in the LAC region can be achieved by:

1. Emphasizing subnational/local policies
2. Integrating technological advancements with nature conservation
3. Harmonizing with other sustainability frameworks
4. Enhancing data-driven decision-making
5. Safeguarding community interests

WOOD for GLOBE
African Consultation – Wood Supply and Bioeconomy

1. **Central Africa** region focus on value addition and sustainable supply.
2. **The continent is investing in sustainable fast-growing tree planting** to advance restoration and the bioeconomy.
3. **Increased productivity**, including through efficient industrial processing and multiple tree uses.
4. **International cooperation, including South-South,** is key to a comprehensive approach to bioeconomy implementation that addresses both environmental sustainability and capacity building in Africa.

WOOD for GLOBE
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.

WOOD for GLOBE
Synthesis of latest scientific innovations

- Led by BOKU University

- Scientific background paper: developed together with 6 selected senior and 7 junior scientists from Austria, Bangladesh, Chile, Finland, Madagascar and Switzerland

- Focus on 2 main topics: wood in construction (building sector), and wood fibre in textile, packaging and construction

WOOD for GLOBE
Wood Fibre in Textile, Packaging and Construction

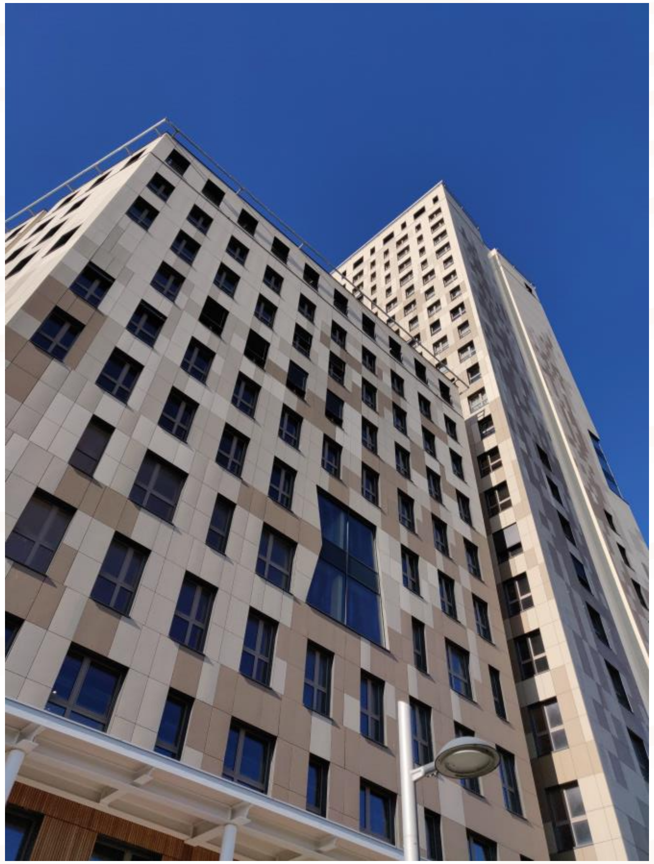
- **Use of wood in textile and packaging products is a significant business opportunity**, however, conditional to stable and sufficient supply of proper-quality raw materials and extensive investments (especially in the Global South countries).

- **The substitution effect of fossil alternatives can vary significantly** because the impact of greener alternatives is highly dependent on local conditions.

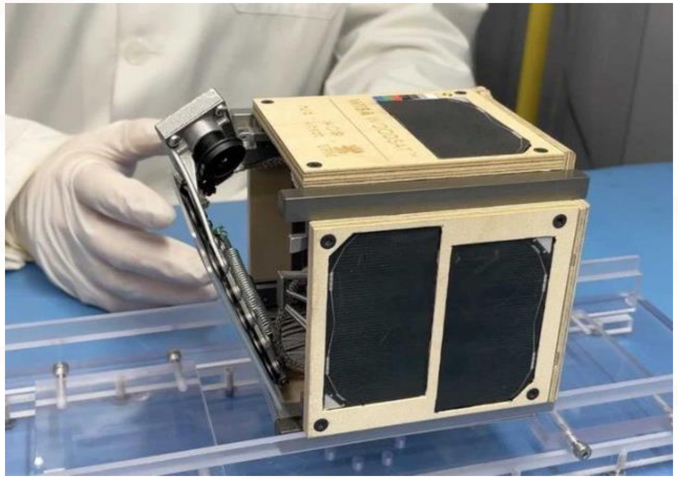
- **Sustainability is three-dimensional** and assessing the environmental (e.g. LCA – life cycle assessment, CO_2 footprint) and social (ethical reviews) impact of bioeconomy feasible technological solutions (including post-treatments) is fundamental.

WOOD for GLOBE
Synthesis of latest scientific innovations – Recommendations (1)

- Balance between conserving and restoring valuable forests and the sustainable use of wood



Hoho in Vienna



Wooden satellite

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Synthesis of latest scientific innovations – Recommendations (2)

- Awareness raising activities to promote holistic understanding of the sustainability of exploiting natural resources

WOOD for GLOBE
Synthesis of latest scientific innovations – Recommendations (3)

- Emphasis on circularity, cascading principles and resource-efficiency:
  - appropriate integrated design
  - promotion of alternative renewable energy sources and improvement of stove technics in countries with traditional use of fuelwood

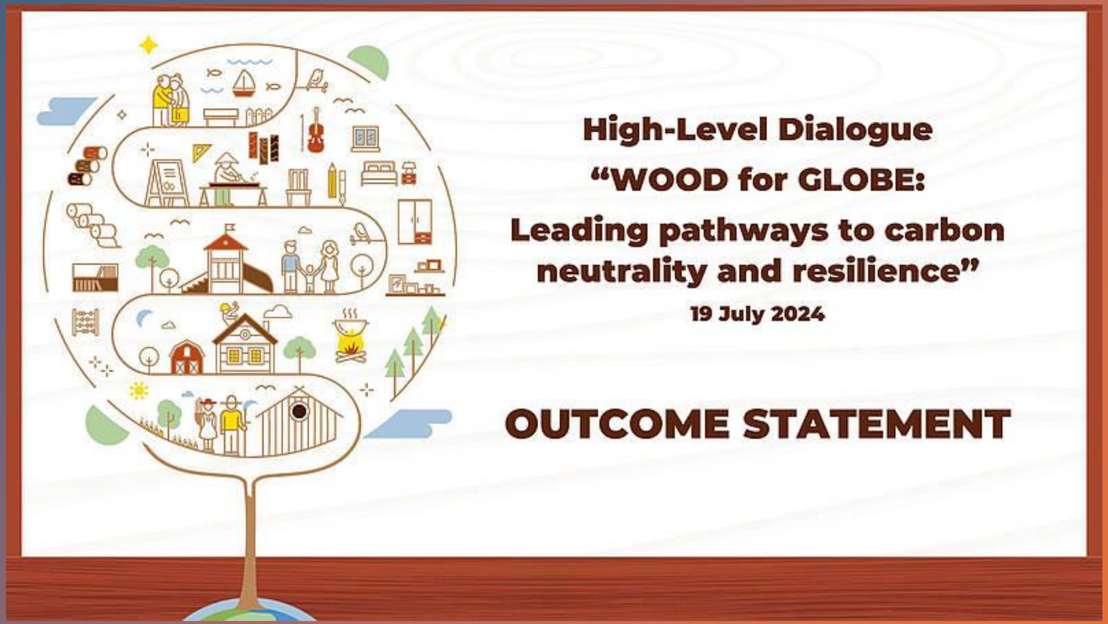
WOOD for GLOBE
Synthesis of latest scientific innovations – Recommendations (4)

- Cascading from highest added value to “return to nature”

Opportunities

Technology has made wood an accessible and responsible solution for addressing various developmental goals. We need robust carbon accounting, sustainable forest management, and assessment of impacts on livelihoods and local communities to ensure it contributes to reducing carbon emissions, poverty, hunger and inequality, as a true example of sustainable bioeconomy.

- Policy exchange and sharing of lessons learned and technical knowledge at regional and global level, to foster policies and institutional arrangements (norms, finance, insurance, etc.) and create sustainable wood networks.
- Advance normative work and technical cooperation to strengthen linkages between sustainable wood policies, climate policies, green cities, and the bioeconomy.
- Increase collaboration to accelerate awareness raising and skills development to deploy sustainable wood solutions.
- Build partnerships to develop and implement targeted and impactful local actions.



Associate to Wood for Globe Outcome Statement

Attributors on 19 July 2024

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WOOD for GLOBE Outputs

The SW4SW Call for Action: Key points to accelerate adoption of the sustainable wood solution

1. Sustainable wood is a low-carbon option to address the housing deficit and increase affordable sustainable housing.
2. Reliance on science and data, enhanced governance, and ensure consideration of inclusive approaches and impacts on vulnerable people.
3. Demonstration projects are needed to increase Global South awareness and generate engagement.
4. A variety of pathways can sustainably support more wood in the bioeconomy: Increased efficiency; Utilization of more species; Increased forest and tree planting, especially using degraded land; a shift of production systems towards circularity, increasing total value and jobs per hectare.
5. People's perception of wood is still a barrier: there's a need to raise awareness and sensitize stakeholders, supported by strong communications and marketing campaigns.
6. Need to mobilize resources, including through climate and restoration finance.
7. Adoption of innovation and multi-sectoral approaches.
8. Capacity building, skills development, and technical cooperation, especially in developing countries, including support to the development of adequate building policies and codes.
9. Promote sustainable wood as part of Green Cities.
10. Focus on the essential and outcomes at scale.

Outcome of the Policy Dialogue, Advancing sustainable wood policy and science for carbon-neutral and resilient economies, on 25.03.24, in Rome, Italy)

Next Steps

Keep updated by visiting the Wood for Globe webpage and following **#WoodForGlobe** and **#SW4SW** on social channels

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

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

IUFRO
Interconnecting Forests, Science and People

Forest Fund Republic of Austria
An initiative by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management

Wood for Globe

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