

COP31 Implementation Proposition

A proposed pathway to demonstrate progress and accelerate delivery through 2030

COP31 Delivery Objective

Building for Forests is a partner-led Plan to Accelerate Solutions that connects action across forests, construction, housing, industry, and finance. It builds on existing commitments and initiatives, including the FCLP Greening Construction with Sustainable Wood commitment and the Principles for Responsible Timber Construction. It seeks to turn them into visible and practical delivery.

In the lead-up to COP31, Building for Forests partners propose assembling credible evidence of implementation since COP28, identifying the barriers preventing wider delivery, and developing a limited set of practical next actions with interested governments, companies, and partner organisations. This includes addressing policy, procurement, finance, technical and carbon-accounting conditions that can prevent responsibly sourced wood and other appropriate bio-based materials from competing on an even basis.

The proposed COP31 outcome would combine two connected elements: a progress package showing what governments and other actors have already delivered, and a forward implementation agenda identifying priority policies, partnerships and projects for 2027 and beyond. Subject to agreement, these could provide the basis for a high-level COP31 moment that links climate action and responsible forest value chains with the need for adequate, affordable and resilient housing.

About Building for Forests

Building for Forests was [launched at COP30](#) as a Plan to Accelerate Solutions under the COP30 Presidency's Global Climate Action Agenda. The Plan runs through to 2030, with a progress report and high-level event at COP31 identified as planned milestones. It was co-developed by the [Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World](#) (SW4SW), a joint initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, together with the [Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership](#) and [Built by Nature](#), with input from more than 20 national and international organisations. SW4SW coordinates its contribution through its Secretariat at FAO. The Plan connects forest policy, construction, housing and finance to lower construction-material emissions, strengthen responsible forest value chains, and advance adequate, affordable and resilient housing.

Proposed COP31 products and outcomes

Subject to partner agreement and confirmation by participating actors, Building for Forests would aim to develop:

- **A COP31 implementation and progress package** presenting concise, evidence-backed examples of action since 2024 by national and sub-national governments, companies, financial institutions, international organisations and civil society. The relevant actor would confirm each contribution and clearly describe it as delivered or underway, with proposed next actions recorded separately. The public package would combine a short synthesis of cross-cutting findings with selected actor profiles, a separately labelled forward pipeline and a brief explanation of the method used.
- **A forward implementation agenda for 2027 and beyond**, identifying a limited number of priority policies, programmes or projects, together with their next milestones, barriers, support requirements and potential delivery partners.
- **Subject to securing an appropriate platform, a COP31 recognition and leadership moment** to showcase progress, recognise contributors, communicate shared barriers and invite further political, technical and financial leadership.
- **A pathway for follow-up through to 2030**, including periodic progress updates and, where funding and partner agreement allow, the development of practical pilot projects, demonstrators and knowledge-sharing activities.

Where agreed, relevant material could also be offered to FCLP, ICBC and Action Agenda processes for use in their own reporting or meetings. Any reporting through NAZCA would depend on confirmed eligibility and reporting arrangements. New endorsements or expressions of support could be pursued selectively where they broaden political or delivery backing, but would not be required for participation or treated as the principal outcome.

What participants could contribute

Contributions would be concise, proportionate and tailored to the participant. As relevant, participants would be asked for one confirmed example of progress since COP28, one principal barrier to wider implementation, one practical next action for 2027, and any role or support they could offer or would need. This would not require a new pledge or repetition of an existing commitment. The initial contribution would be light-touch. Shortlisted contributors would subsequently be asked to confirm the action's status, provide appropriate supporting evidence, address relevant safeguards and approve any published text and attribution.

The focus would vary by participant:

- **Countries and sub-national authorities, including cities:** policy or implementation progress and a practical next step involving procurement, codes, housing, forests or public investment
- **Companies and industry organisations:** implementation examples, responsible sourcing, investment plans, barriers and the conditions needed to scale
- **Financial institutions and funders:** relevant investments, barriers to investability and opportunities for project preparation or delivery
- **International organisations, technical partners and civil society:** evidence, verification, policy knowledge, country engagement and delivery capacity

Progress under earlier initiatives may be included, but would be attributed to Building for Forests only where its contribution can be demonstrated.

How the package demonstrates implementation

Examples, barriers and next actions would be organised against the Plan's four shifts: **paradigm**, covering leadership, demand and perceptions; **technology**, covering codes, standards, skills, innovation and resource efficiency; **finance**, covering investment, project preparation and value-chain development; and **policy**, covering procurement, housing, forest and climate strategies, and regulatory reform.

The Principles for Responsible Timber Construction would provide a cross-cutting reference for responsible forest supply, traceability, biodiversity, climate integrity, circularity, rights and inclusion.

Bringing this material together would allow participants to demonstrate progress under existing commitments, identify policy, market, technical, financial and carbon-accounting barriers, connect priority actions with potential partners, and help shape the COP31 and post-COP31 implementation agenda.

Participation would not itself guarantee funding, technical assistance or a role at a COP31 event. Inclusion in formal reporting or other delivery arrangements would be confirmed separately with the relevant partners.

Indicative pathway

The proposed pathway from now to COP31 is:

- **Immediate coordination:** agree on the core COP31 products, contribution format, evidence criteria, priority audiences and minimum coordination capacity
- **New York Climate Week:** test the proposition with industry and finance stakeholders, gather implementation examples and barriers, and explore possible connections with relevant Action Agenda and sustainable procurement initiatives
- **COFO28:** engage FAO, SW4SW and country and forestry stakeholders, identify possible examples and country leadership, and clarify potential institutional roles, subject to approval
- **Global Bioeconomy Summit and COP17:** connect sustainable timber construction with the wider bioeconomy, housing, biodiversity and responsible forest value-chain agendas, while broadening the group of potential contributors
- **Before COP31:** review and confirm the evidence, select examples, finalise the implementation package and forward implementation agenda, and seek appropriate political sponsorship and presentation opportunities.
- **At COP31:** publish the implementation package, recognise contributors through confirmed platforms, communicate shared barriers and priorities, and seek support for the next phase of delivery.

Coordination and resourcing

The current Building for Forests coordination group could support the initial scoping, partner engagement and preparation of the COP31 package within its available capacity and subject to institutional approval. Producing a credible package would require clear responsibility for gathering and reviewing contributions, maintaining contact with participants, preparing the final material and coordinating potential COP31 opportunities.

Delivery beyond this initial phase would require dedicated and funded coordination capacity. Subject to partner agreement, this could support continued progress tracking, communications, partnership development, and the preparation of pilot projects, demonstrators and knowledge activities through to 2030. The appropriate governance, institutional arrangements and level of resourcing remain to be agreed.

Invitation to contribute

Building for Forests invites national and sub-national governments, cities, companies, industry bodies, financial institutions, international organisations, technical partners and civil-society organisations to discuss contributing to the COP31 implementation package and forward implementation agenda.

An initial discussion would consider a relevant example of progress, a significant barrier, a practical next action, and any role or support the participant could offer or would need. For actors already involved in the FCLP, ICBC, the Principles or related initiatives, this provides an opportunity to demonstrate progress under existing commitments rather than make another endorsement.

Participation would be non-binding, and any reference to an organisation's contribution would be confirmed with it before publication. Further technical, financial or delivery arrangements would require separate agreement and institutional approval.

For further discussion

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