Building for Forests COP31 Success Package

Established through the COP30 Action Agenda, Building for Forests was co-developed by Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW), the Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership and Built by Nature. PEFC International contributes through coordination, partner engagement and expertise in responsible forest management and traceable wood supply chains.

The aim of Building for Forests: Accelerating Wood-Based Construction for Climate, Forests and Livelihoods is to accelerate the decarbonization of the construction sector by promoting the use of wood from sustainable and responsible forest value chains, thereby replacing high-emission construction materials with renewable, carbon-storing alternatives while also helping accelerate sustainable and resilient housing. It offers a triple win: reducing emissions from building materials, fostering forest conservation and restoration, and enabling adequate and affordable housing.

Learn more about Building for Forests:
www.buildingforforests.org

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Cover photo: Wood frame condominium construction in Canada. Credit: Marek Ślusarczyk
Background photo: Marita Kavelashvili / Unsplash

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Executive Summary

New rules, funded programmes, completed buildings and shared tools are expanding the foundations for sustainable wood and biobased construction. This portfolio brings together 27 contributions from national and subnational governments, companies and institutions, documenting progress since January 2023 and the partnerships supporting it.

Five patterns recur across the stories. They show how advances in policy, investment and technical practice are being connected with construction demand and responsible supply.



1. **Forest and construction policy are being connected.**

   Kenya's industrial wood vision, building-sector coordination and finance platforms link sustainable supply with affordable housing and investment. The United Kingdom's distinct national approaches and Bhutan's Thimphu-Paro roadmap connect forestry, manufacturing and construction through government and industry cooperation.



2. **Codes and standards are creating clearer pathways.**

   Guatemala's timber-code launch and South Korea's fire and floor-performance advances support timber design. Finland, Japan, France and the European Union are making building-carbon assessment a clearer basis for decisions. Costa Rica's funded code development and timber testing are preparing future standards.



3. **Public and private demand are building markets.**

   France reports timber gaining housing market share and ground in selected non-residential markets despite lower construction volumes. Japan reports 5,002 buildings using wood under promotion agreements in 2025. Heartwood, SAWA, BaleBio and Sumitomo's projects demonstrate delivery across building types; the Biobased Cities Challenge connects procurement with project experience.



4. **Industrial capacity, skills and innovation are being strengthened.**

   Canada's forest-sector awards, France's industrial investment and Sweden's Biosociety projects connect manufacturing with construction needs. FSC's training programmes, Mercer's BuildSpec tool and UK workforce initiatives build practical capability. TIMBERHAUS and the newly established SITCA alliance organise research and technical cooperation. SW4SW's regional innovation-hub work supports knowledge exchange, including a workshop involving participants from seven countries.



5. **Responsible supply is being addressed alongside demand.**

   Ghana's operational FLEGT licensing system strengthens verification of legal timber supply, including construction products. PEFC's 2026 Project Sourcing Standard and FSC-certified projects demonstrate ways to verify sourcing and traceability. The Principles for Responsible Timber Construction and Built by Nature's Implementation Framework connect forest stewardship with whole-life assessment and circularity. PEFC's circular-material work and FSC's Danish biodiversity pilot are testing further approaches.

What this progress means for climate and forests

Cooperation is helping this experience reach more actors. COLI's 2026 Vienna Summit on Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches, with more than 400 participants from over 60 countries, and the WoodPoP Dara Award's 59 selected projects from 22 countries extend international exchange. Built by Nature's network, Bauhaus Earth's regional projects and participants such as oneshot.earth connect delivery experience with policy, finance and data expertise. SW4SW and Grow the Solution extend this cooperation through global policy dialogue and public communication. The Wood for Globe Outcome Statement was endorsed by 14 government representatives and six organizations, while the COP30 "Wood You" video received 4.65 million views.

These achievements provide options for advancing Nationally Determined Contributions, the 2030 forest goal and housing objectives. Their climate and forest benefits depend on responsible forest management, credible whole-life assessment and applicable safeguards. Through the Climate Champions' Action Agenda, implementation experience can support partnerships, replication and evidence for the Global Stocktake. The portfolio keeps future activities and ambitions distinct from completed results.



Heartwood replication
Photo: atelierjones.com

Introduction

Purpose and strategic context

The Building for Forests COP31 Success Package assembles actor-confirmed evidence of tangible progress since January 2023 across the forest-to-frame value chain. It shows where governments and partners have moved from commitment to delivery, why those actions matter, what safeguards support responsible implementation and what activities are planned next. By presenting comparable national, subnational, private-sector and institutional contributions, the package is intended to make effective approaches easier to recognize, finance, adapt and replicate.

The package responds to a clear implementation need. Since COP28, governments and partners have established a stronger international architecture for responsible wood use and forest-based bioeconomy action, including the **Greening Construction with Sustainable Wood commitment**, the **Declaration of Chaillot**, the **Principles for Responsible Timber Construction**, the **Building for Forests Acceleration Plan** and the **Forest Finance Roadmap**. COP31 provides an opportunity to demonstrate how this architecture is changing public demand, building codes, procurement, industrial capacity, investment and project delivery while protecting natural forests, biodiversity and rights.

Action across this value chain can support several connected goals. Lower-carbon and resource-efficient construction can contribute to Paris Agreement mitigation and resilience objectives. Responsible demand for sustainable wood can strengthen forest stewardship, restoration, legal and traceable supply, local value addition and progress toward the 2030 forest goal. Better design, reuse and circularity can reduce material demand and waste. Investments in skills, processing and delivery can support affordable and resilient housing, decent work and local livelihoods. These outcomes contribute directly to sustainable cities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life on land and partnerships for implementation. They depend on whole-life carbon assessment and credible safeguards; increased demand alone is not treated as success.

Action Agenda and Global Stocktake

The package is positioned as a delivery contribution to the Climate High-Level Champions' Global Climate Action Agenda. The Building for Forests Acceleration Plan provides a shared implementation framework and 2028 targets under Action Agenda Objective 12, while Activation Group 12 offers a route to connect national policy and public leadership with cities, businesses, finance and implementation partners. The portfolio provides the evidence layer for that work: a curated record of delivered and funded action, a separate pipeline of credible next steps and a basis for a COP31 recognition moment that can mobilize peer exchange, technical support and capital.

This connection is intended to convert recognition into further action. This package highlights measures that can be adapted elsewhere, the enabling conditions behind them and remaining delivery needs. Follow-up on the Building for Forests Acceleration Plan and related Action Agenda engagement should include specific partnerships, links to finance or peer support, and a progress review scheduled for 2027.

COP31 also marks the start of the second Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement, covering the 2026–2028 period. As the Stocktake begins with information collection and preparation, the package can contribute a structured body of implementation evidence on mitigation, resilience, forest integrity, means of implementation, barriers and opportunities for enhanced action. Governments and eligible partner organizations may draw on this evidence in relevant submissions, dialogues and reporting. The **Building for Forests Dublin Statement**, developed following the Global Bioeconomy Summit in October 2026, further identifies priorities for connecting policy, responsible material choices, investment and practical implementation.

The package does not itself constitute a formal Global Stocktake input and it does not replace Party reporting. Its purpose is to make credible real-economy delivery more visible and usable as the Stocktake assesses collective progress and identifies opportunities to strengthen action and support.

Further information about Building for Forests, including the Dublin Statement and ongoing activities, is available at www.buildingforforests.org

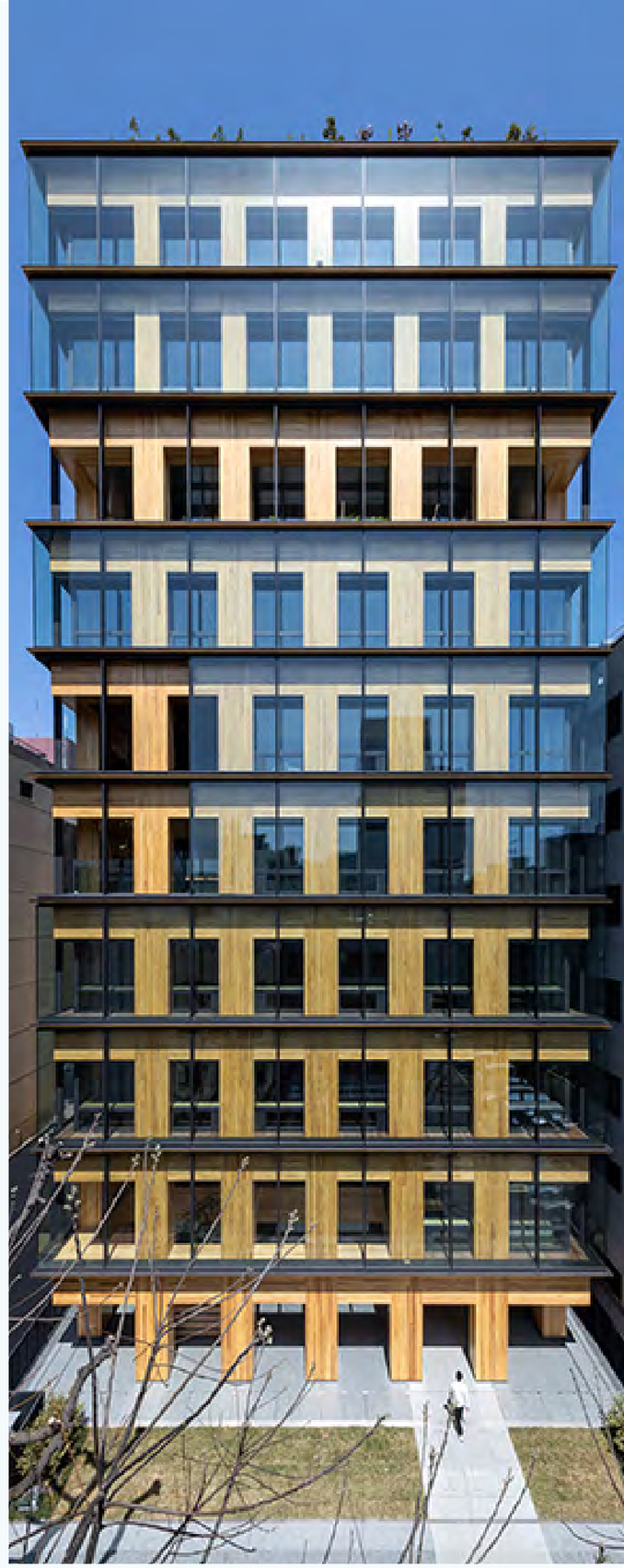


Photo: Obayashi Corporation

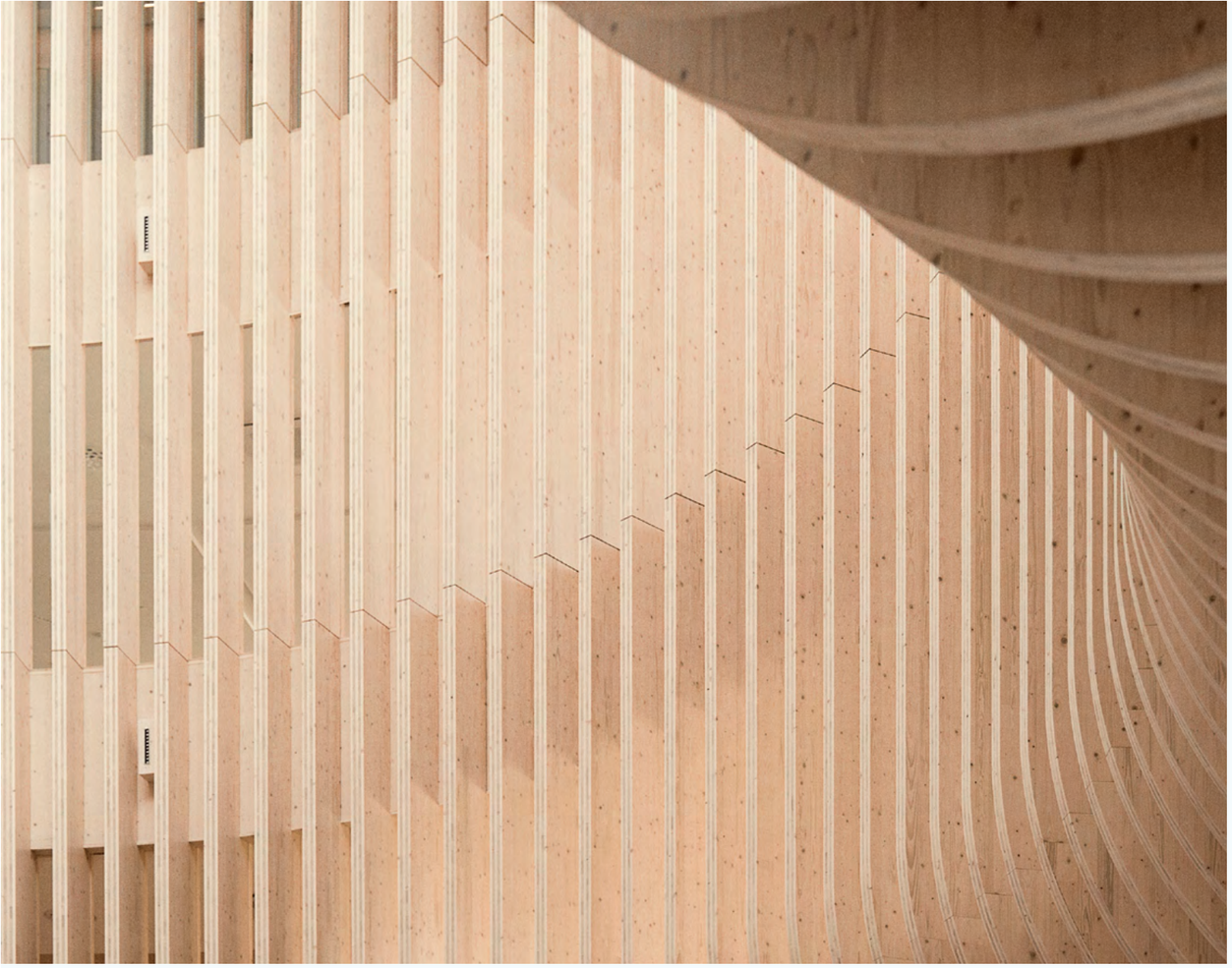
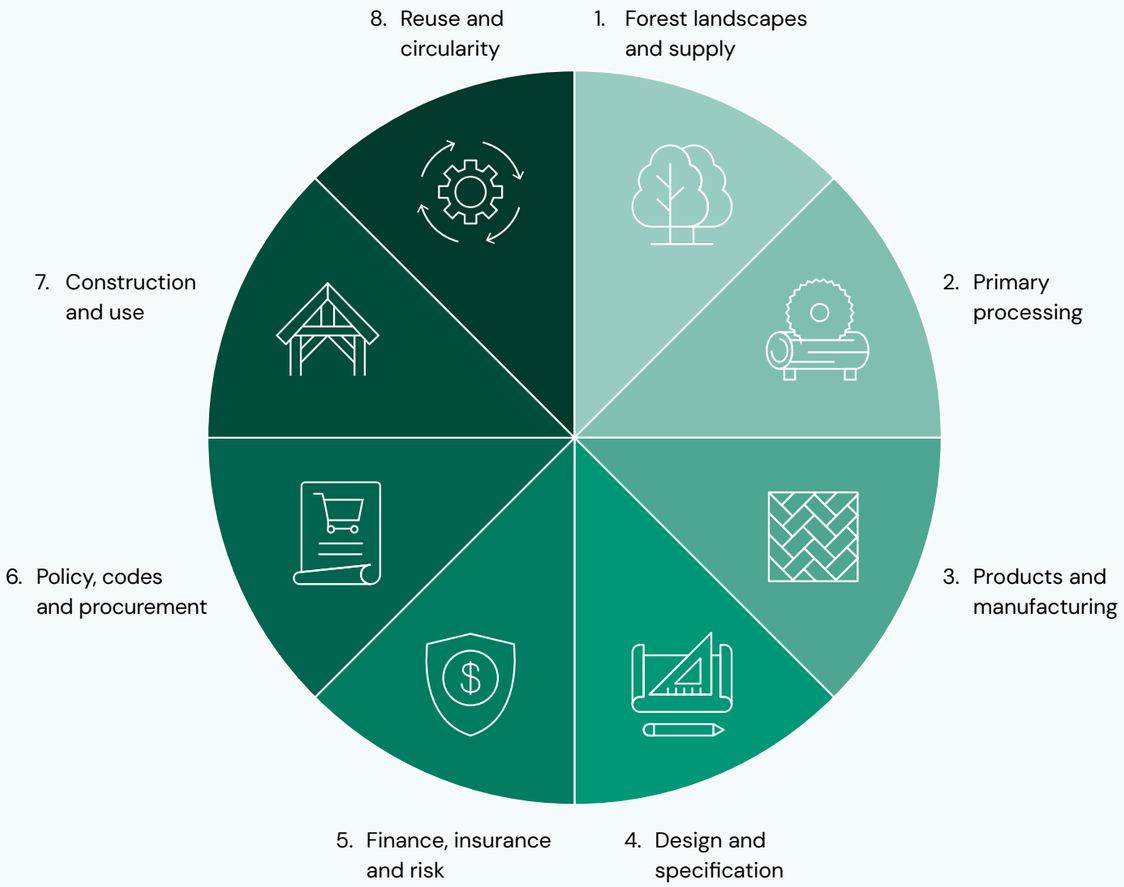


Photo: Katajanokan laituri

Value-chain classification

Every contribution is assigned one primary stage and up to three secondary stages:



This classification shows how individual actions fit within a connected delivery system. It also helps reveal gaps and dependencies, such as situations in which increased construction demand is not yet matched by sustainable supply, processing capacity, finance, skills or appropriate regulations. The approach allows progress to be compared and assembled into a coherent portfolio without reducing diverse national and organizational contributions to a single metric.

CAVEAT

While drawing from publicly available information, any errors, omissions or misrepresentation of the individual success stories presented in this report are the responsibility of the authors.

Methodology

The methodology is designed to provide credibility without turning the package into a certification exercise or a rigid global ranking. The selected examples of progress have been curated and the claims and evidence have been sourced from publicly available references and, where possible, validated through contact with the responsible organizations. The Success Portfolio recognizes only actions classified as delivered or funded and under implementation. Credible next actions and project opportunities are retained in a separate forward pipeline so that future commitments are not presented as results already achieved.

Eligibility

Each contribution must:

- Show material progress since 1 January 2023, even if the action began earlier.
- Advance at least one forest-to-frame stage or an enabling system connecting multiple stages.
- Be supported by at least one primary source, with corroborating evidence recorded where available.

Success Portfolio

Globally, more governments, institutions and industry actors are connecting forest policy, construction rules, public demand, industrial capacity and responsible supply. This Package assembles an indicative sample of the evidence of progress into a common portfolio so credible progress can be recognized at the UNFCCC COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, and practical next steps can be connected to partners and finance.

2025 Korea Timber Construction Award Grand Prize Winner (Gyeongju _House of Healing_)

The following table lists all 27 portfolio entries, the country, company or institution concerned, and their primary and secondary stages in the forest-to-frame value chain.

Entry title	Country, company or institution	Primary stage	Secondary stages
Expanding public investment in timber products and housing delivery	Canada	Finance, insurance and risk	Products and manufacturing; Policy, codes and procurement; Construction and use
Advancing technical standards for sustainable tropical timber construction	Costa Rica	Policy, codes and procurement	Forest landscapes and supply; Products and manufacturing; Design and specification
Connecting building regulation with funded innovation and practical delivery	European Commission and European initiatives	Policy, codes and procurement	Products and manufacturing; Design and specification; Reuse and circularity
Making whole life carbon assessment part of construction regulation	Finland	Policy, codes and procurement	Design and specification; Products and manufacturing; Reuse and circularity
France advances timber construction through investment and policy	France	Construction and use	Products and manufacturing; Finance, insurance and risk; Policy, codes and procurement
Building confidence in legal timber and connecting supply with construction	Ghana	Policy, codes and procurement	Forest landscapes and supply; Primary processing; Products and manufacturing
Leading with a Wood Construction Code	Guatemala	Policy, codes and procurement	Design and specification; Construction and use
Making the Environmental Value of Wood Visible: Japan's Frameworks for Promoting Wood Use in Buildings	Japan	Construction and use	Forest landscapes and supply; Design and specification; Policy, codes and procurement
Establishing a national framework for the industrial wood value chain	Kenya	Policy, codes and procurement	Forest landscapes and supply; Primary processing; Products and manufacturing; Construction and use
Linking domestic timber policy with public construction and technical support	South Korea	Policy, codes and procurement	Forest landscapes and supply; Products and manufacturing; Construction and use
Launching a funded programme including circular forest-based innovation	Sweden	Products and manufacturing	Finance, insurance and risk; Reuse and circularity
Connecting timber construction policy with housing delivery and skills	United Kingdom	Policy, codes and procurement	Forest landscapes and supply; Design and specification; Construction and use
The Biobased Cities Challenge	Built by Nature and Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance	Policy, codes and procurement	Design and specification; Construction and use; Forest landscapes and supply
Roadmap for the Thimphu-Paro Region in Bhutan to initiate a transition towards a regenerative construction sector	Bhutan, Thimphu-Paro region / Bauhaus Earth	Policy, codes and procurement	Forest landscapes and supply; Primary processing; Products and manufacturing
BaleBio demonstrates bamboo construction and supports wider adoption	Indonesia, Denpasar, Bali / Bauhaus Earth	Design and specification	Forest landscapes and supply; Products and manufacturing; Construction and use
atelierjones	atelierjones	Design and specification	Construction and use; Products and manufacturing; Reuse and circularity
Mercer International and Mercer Mass Timber	Mercer International and Mercer Mass Timber	Products and manufacturing	Design and specification; Construction and use; Forest landscapes and supply
NICE Developers and Mei architects and planners	NICE Developers and Mei architects and planners	Construction and use	Design and specification
oneshot.earth	oneshot.earth	Finance, insurance and risk	Policy, codes and procurement
Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.	Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.	Construction and use	Forest landscapes and supply; Products and manufacturing; Finance, insurance and risk
Advancing Sustainable Forest-Based Bioeconomy through International Cooperation	Austria / Country and Organization-Led Initiative (COLI)	Policy, codes and procurement	Products and manufacturing; Forest landscapes and supply
Accelerating the responsible use of timber and biobased materials	Built by Nature	Policy, codes and procurement	Design and specification; Finance, insurance and risk; Construction and use
Promoting sustainable wood products and their value chains	Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World	Forest landscapes and supply	Primary processing; Construction and use; Reuse and circularity
Connecting responsible forestry with timber construction	FSC International	Policy, codes and procurement	Forest landscapes and supply; Products and manufacturing; Construction and use
Making responsible timber sourcing verifiable at construction project level	PEFC International	Policy, codes and procurement	Forest landscapes and supply; Products and manufacturing; Construction and use
Rooted in Forests. Built for Tomorrow. Generating robust scientific evidence for transforming the built environment	Science and Timber Construction Alliance	Construction and use	Forest landscapes and supply; Finance, insurance and risk; Policy, codes and procurement
Promoting Sustainable Timber Construction across Europe	WoodPoP / Austrian Federal Ministry	Products and manufacturing	Policy, codes and procurement

I. National Progress

Photo: Katajanokan laituri

Canada

Expanding public investment in timber products and housing delivery

What changed and why it matters

Canada has expanded support for sustainable timber construction through programme calls backed by a CAD 500 million commitment to the wider forest sector. Opened in February 2026, the funding umbrella includes major initiatives like Green Construction Through Wood (GCWood) and Investments in Forest Industry Transformation (IFIT). In September 2025, Build Canada Homes (BCH) was established to support the building of affordable housing using of modern methods of construction, including low-carbon building materials such as mass timber.

June 2026 awards included CAD 1 million for Winnipeg's Bond Tower demonstration and CAD 3.5 million for an automated laminated veneer lumber production line using poplar in Quebec. These investments support building demonstrations and the manufacturing capacity needed to supply timber construction. Separate GCWood awards announced in December 2025 fund training, work on performance-based codes, insurance solutions and a mass-timber costing guide.

Together, these measures support product development and the knowledge needed to design, finance and deliver timber buildings. ConstructConnect's analysis highlights the value of information on moisture management and repair costs for insurance decisions. The funded activities provide a shared basis for manufacturers, project teams, public authorities and insurers to assess timber options and support wider adoption.

Lead actor

Natural Resources Canada with provincial governments and funded delivery partners

Primary stage

Finance, insurance and risk

Secondary stages

Products and manufacturing

Policy, codes and procurement

Construction and use



Photo: kk-law-courtesy-naturallywood.com

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Reported or documented result
Programme establishment and renewal	February 2026: Government of Canada launches 500 million in support for retooling Canada's forest sector§September 2025: Government of Canada established Build Canada Homes
Named projects	June 2026: Bond Tower and LVL Global awards identify recipients, amounts and intended outputs. Canada advances forest sector transformation to protect jobs and strengthen communities nationwide
Housing demonstrations	March 2025: funding announced for four Ontario projects; residential units were prospective outputs. Canada invests in sustainable wood construction in Ontario

Forward pathway

Canada's Federal Budget 2025 sets a three-year renewal envelope beginning in FY2026/27, providing a programme horizon through FY2028/29. Expected activity includes additional project selection, value-added manufacturing, timber and modular housing demonstrations, and market development.

Contact for further information: media@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

Costa Rica

Advancing technical standards for sustainable tropical timber construction

What changed and why it matters

Since Costa Rica joined the Greening Construction with Sustainable Wood initiative at COP28, it has moved forward with two national technical codes. Both initiatives were included in Costa Rica's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) presented at COP30 in Brazil. They aim to make wood construction safer, improve the environmental performance of buildings and support responsible use of the country's forest resources.

The National Timber Construction Code is led by the Cámara Forestal Madera e Industria (CFMI), with support from Luxembourg Development Cooperation (LuxDev) and cooperation from public institutions, universities and the private forest sector. The technical document is expected to be completed by mid-2027. Work is underway to test at least seven timber species from natural forests and plantations, establish their structural strength, develop resistance-based design rules and connection details, provide simplified design guidance for timber housing, and standardize lumber dimensions and commercial grades after primary processing.

The Climate Change Code is being developed by the Colegio Federado de Ingenieros y de Arquitectos de Costa Rica (CFIA), Costa Rica's Federated Association of Engineers and Architects, with an approved budget from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), with funding already being implemented. It is expected to be completed in 2028. The code will provide a method to measure the environmental footprint of buildings throughout their life cycle and help assess the full environmental and economic costs of construction.

Both codes have the support of the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE). Once completed, each code will be submitted to the CFIA for technical approval. This professional approval process allows them to become technical standards without the need for a separate law or government decree.

Costa Rica has also completed studies of the capacity of its primary and secondary forests, providing information for responsible timber supply planning. In September 2026, the Architecture School at the University of Costa Rica (UCR) inaugurated the Chair in Timber Building Design (Cátedra de Diseño de Edificaciones con Madera). This initiative supports education, research and professional training in timber functionality design.

Lead actor

Cámara Forestal Madera e Industria (CFMI), coordinator of the National Timber Construction Code with support from Luxembourg Development Cooperation (LuxDev); Colegio Federado de Ingenieros y de Arquitectos de Costa Rica (CFIA, Costa Rica's Federated Association of Engineers and Architects), responsible for the Climate Change Code with an approved Global Environment Facility (GEF) budget already under implementation. Both initiatives are supported by the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE).

Primary stage

Policy, codes and procurement

Secondary stages

Forest landscapes and supply

Products and manufacturing

Design and specification



Photo: www.camaraforestal.org/projects-3

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Reported or documented result
Timber code, under implementation	CFMI-led initiative with LuxDev support; launched in 2025, with documentary completion targeted for mid-2027
Laboratory and design, under implementation	Testing of at least seven timber species; strength-based design, connectors, simplified housing design and primary-processing lumber standards
Climate Change Code, under implementation	CFIA-led, GEF-financed technical code; building-footprint methodology in development; target completion in 2028
Forest resources, delivered	Assessments of national primary- and secondary-forest capacity completed
Education, delivered	UCR School of Architecture inaugurated its Chair in Timber Building Design in September 2026

Forward pathway

Costa Rica's next steps are to complete timber testing, structural design rules, simplified housing guidance and lumber standards; use its forest studies to support legal, traceable and sustainable supply; and finish the building-footprint method. The National Timber Construction Code is expected to reach the CFIA approval stage after its planned completion in mid-2027, followed by the Climate Change Code after its planned completion in 2028.

To put these standards into practice across the country, the Climate Change Code already has an approved GEF budget under implementation. Additional funding is being sought for nationwide implementation of the codes, industrial modernization and the adoption of new wood-processing technologies, as well as to provide ongoing technical assistance to keep the codes updated, and train purchasing and procurement teams to better understand, specify and buy wood products. Together, these efforts will help expand safe, responsible timber construction in Costa Rica.

Contact for further information: Cámara Forestal Madera e Industria (CFMI), Costa Rica

European Commission and European initiatives

Connecting building regulation with funded innovation and practical delivery

What changed and why it matters

Since January 2023, European legislation, funded research and technical cooperation have strengthened the framework for timber and biobased construction. Progress now includes a common building-carbon calculation framework, a product-standardisation work plan, housing guidance and active projects connecting material choices with construction practice.

A major regulatory milestone was the entry into force of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/52 on 24 May 2026. It establishes a common framework for national calculations of buildings' life-cycle global warming potential under the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. This gives designers, developers and public buyers a shared basis for strengthening material data and whole-life assessment.

The Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Certification Framework has established a voluntary route to recognise carbon stored in long-lasting products for at least 35 years. Built by Nature contributed to development of the buildings methodology through its consultation response of 22 May 2026, informed by network and partner feedback. Its recommendations address credible baselines, proportionate monitoring, whole-life emissions, responsible sourcing and circularity.

The first Construction Products Regulation Working Plan for 2026–2029 sets out work on harmonised standards for structural timber and wood-based panels, alongside phased development of digital product passports. The Commission's September 2026 housing Recommendation adds non-binding guidance on procurement, local demonstrations and modern construction methods, explicitly recognising sustainably sourced, carbon-storing biobased materials.

Funded innovation is supporting this policy direction. TIMBERHAUS began in November 2024 with approximately €6.97 million in EU funding and 19 partners. Its work combines processing innovation, underused wood resources, post-consumer timber and circular building design. Collaboration with Berlin, Baia Mare and Siena is developing local approaches and digital pilots. Built by Nature contributes stakeholder engagement, knowledge sharing and work on a European wood-construction observatory and building decarbonisation strategies.

Cooperation has also produced practical exchanges. TIMBERHAUS and WoodStock delivered a workshop on underutilised wood at the New European Bauhaus Festival in June 2026, within the Facility's wider support for research, demonstration and neighbourhood transformation. The FOREST Partnership began in June 2026 and held its launch event in Helsinki in October. Built by Nature brought construction demand, financing and long-lived wood use into that forest-sector exchange.

Built by Nature's 2024–2025 support for ECOS enabled technical work on timber reuse, carbon-accounting methodologies and the application of emerging policies across its networks. Together, these contributions connect European institutions with knowledge and experience from the forest-to-building value chain.

Lead actors

European Commission; Member States; research consortia, cities and industry partners

Primary stage

Policy, codes and procurement

Secondary stages

Products and manufacturing

Design and specification

Reuse and circularity



Photo: www.metabolic.nl/projects/timberhaus/

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Implementation milestone
Whole-life carbon	Common EU calculation framework entered into force on 24 May 2026.
CRCF buildings methodology	Voluntary framework established; Built by Nature submitted methodology input on 22 May 2026. Buildings methodology publication is planned by end-2026.
TIMBERHAUS	€6.97 million EU-funded project, 2024–2028, with three city partners.

Forward pathway

The next milestones include publication of the buildings carbon-storage methodology, planned for the end of 2026, and Member State roadmaps for life-cycle carbon limits and targets by January 2027. Future credit issuance will depend on the completed methodology and recognised certification arrangements. Calculation and disclosure in energy performance certificates will apply to new buildings exceeding 1,000 m² from January 2028 and to all new buildings from January 2030.

Implementation of product standards and digital product passports will continue under the 2026–2029 Working Plan. TIMBERHAUS runs to October 2028, with further work on circular design, material use, city approaches and digital pilots. The wider research partnerships offer opportunities to test and share these approaches with cities and industry. Built by Nature will continue connecting them with network evidence and practice on responsible sourcing, safety and whole-life carbon.

Finland

Making whole life carbon assessment part of construction regulation

What changed and why it matters

Finland has made whole life cycle carbon assessment a requirement for most new buildings, established a stronger performance-based route for lower-carbon building materials, promoting emissions reductions and circular economy. The Construction Act 751/2023 entered into force on 1 January 2025 and introduced requirements for climate declarations and building-product lists for covered new buildings. The time limit for the processing of construction permits, requirement of calculation of the carbon footprint of a building and the carbon footprint limit-value entered into force in January 2026. A national emissions database published by SYKE gives designers a common basis for comparing material choices. Sustainable timber can therefore be considered through a transparent assessment of its contribution to a building's carbon performance.

The limit values will be introduced in phases to allow stakeholders sufficient time to adapt to the new requirements. The limit values have been defined according to building use categories and will become more stringent at the beginning of 2029. The intention is to continue tightening the limit values progressively beyond 2029. The limit values are expected to promote demand for low-carbon construction materials, such as wood. Compliance with the carbon footprint limit value for a new building is demonstrated through a climate declaration prepared for the final inspection.

Innovation support complements the rules. An approximately EUR 12 million funding round in 2023, within a wider EUR 40 million programme, supported low-carbon materials, reuse and life-cycle calculation. The funded projects include ProWoodBuild, managed by Aalto University to conduct research on durable timber construction; Green Building Council Finland for the preparation of carbon neutral region guidelines; Green Building Partners Ltd for a housing company carbon calculator; and Building Information Ltd for an environmental database for construction products to promote low-carbon construction. These activities develop the methods and product evidence needed to specify timber with confidence.

Puuinfo, the Finnish Timber Council, have reported on how the early carbon assessment can inform procurement and allow timber proposals to compete on comparable calculations. The combination of published assessment tools, statutory declarations and innovation support gives designers and clients practical ways to include sustainable wood in decisions about building materials.

In Finland science panels play a key role as independent expert bodies that support decision-making on the basis of scientific evidence. The Finnish Forest Bioeconomy Science Panel (The Finnish Forest Bioeconomy Science Panel) is an interdisciplinary and independent expert body nominated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland for the first time in 2022. The panel provides research information to support political decision-making regarding forests as well as to support innovation development in the forestry sector. The basis of the panel's activities is the sustainable value chain of forests, i.e., the economic, ecological, social and cultural sustainability of forest use. Results from a new research project by the Finnish Forest Bioeconomy Science Panel indicate that increasing the use of wood in construction would support Finland's carbon neutrality goal and help meeting the EU's increasingly stringent climate regulations. According to the report (2026) using wood—particularly in the construction of multi-story buildings—would be an effective way to reduce emissions from the construction sector without increasing logging volumes.

Lead actor

Ministry of the Environment and Finnish Environment Institute Syke with Business Finland

Primary stage

Policy, codes and procurement

Secondary stages

Products and manufacturing

Design and specification

Reuse and circularity

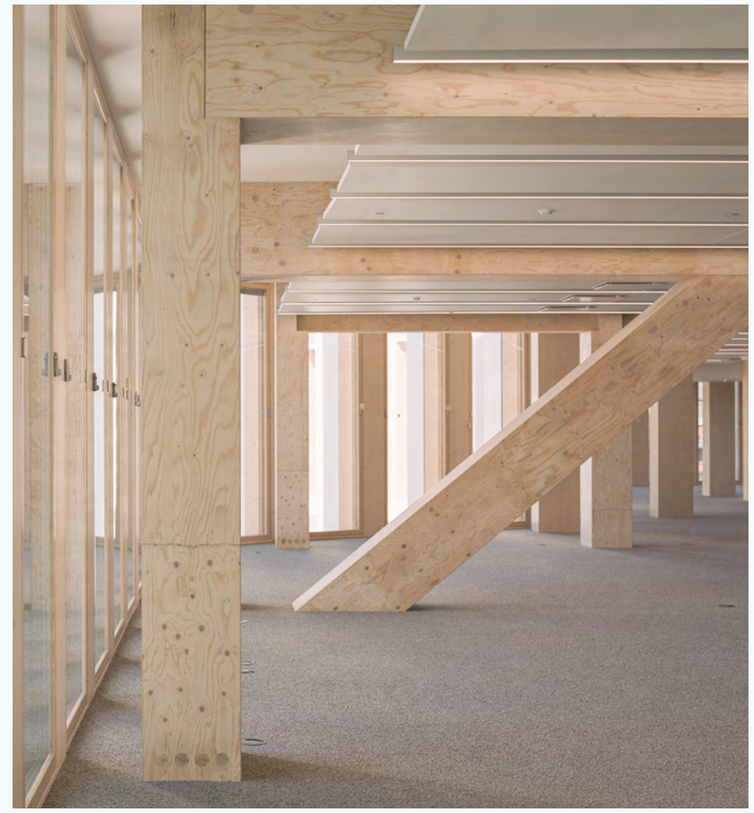


Photo: Katajanokan Laituri

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Reported or documented result
Regulatory milestone	January 2026: climate-declaration and carbon-footprint limit-value decrees entered into force.
Assessment infrastructure	National emissions database and 2026 whole-life assessment guidance support consistent calculations.
Innovation support	2023 funding round and government listing of ProWoodBuild timber research.

Forward pathway

Near-term activity centres on applying the new declarations, product lists, emissions data and assessment method through 2026–2027. Syke identifies the transition to the European buildings GWP framework from 2028 as the next methodological step. Innovation projects are expected to supply usable methods and material evidence but completed outputs and any successor timber-specific funding programme require confirmation.

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France

Advancing timber construction through investment and policy

What changed and why it matters

France has combined investment in wood products with carbon requirements for buildings, creating opportunities for greater timber use. In March 2024, France 2030 announced EUR 204 million for 72 industrial and innovation awards. Support for processing, fire performance and hardwood applications helps develop products suitable for a wider range of construction uses.

A 2024 guide helps local authorities include wood and other bio-based materials in planning, while RE2020 makes carbon performance a clearer consideration in building design. Together, industrial support and planning tools give manufacturers, designers and public clients a shared basis for incorporating more sustainably sourced wood into projects. These complementary measures strengthen cooperation between the wood-products sector and construction professionals.

The national timber construction survey for 2024 shows timber gaining ground in housing. Between 2022 and 2024, its share of new housing rose from 6.2% to 6.6%, with gains in every housing category. Apartments accounted for more than half of timber dwellings. Timber also represented more than one in four extensions and additional storeys, showing its established role in adapting existing buildings.

Timber also gained market share in tertiary and public buildings and in healthcare, showing that progress reaches beyond housing. These results point to several markets where experience with timber can support wider adoption. The gains reflect stronger relative uptake during a construction downturn: absolute timber construction volumes declined, and the overall non-residential timber share also fell.

Lead actors

French timber construction businesses; French Government through France 2030 and ADEME

Primary stage

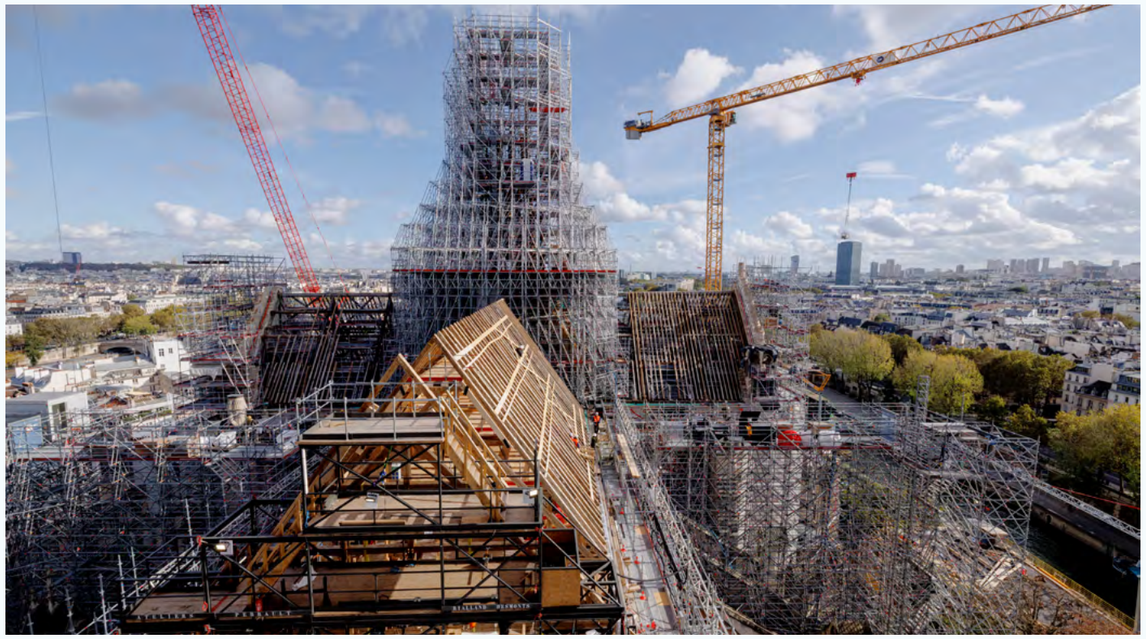
Construction and use

Secondary stages

Products and manufacturing

Finance, insurance and risk

Policy, codes and procurement



Rebâtir Notre-Dame de Paris, receives PEFC project certification
Photo: © Patrick Zachmann - Magnum Photos

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Reported or documented result
Industrial investment	March 2024: EUR 204 million announced for 72 industrial and innovation awards.
Planning guidance	A 2024 guide helps local authorities support wood and bio-based construction in planning.
Housing adoption	Timber's share of new housing rose from 6.2% to 6.6% between 2022 and 2024; its share of extensions and additional storeys reached 28.5% in 2024.
Public and healthcare buildings	Between 2022 and 2024, timber's share rose from 13.1% to 13.6% in tertiary and public buildings and from 9.8% to 10.9% in healthcare.

Forward pathway

The funded industrial and innovation projects are expected to deliver improved building products and publicly available technical findings. Further carbon-performance milestones in 2028 and 2031 provide opportunities to connect that capacity with construction demand. Cooperation between manufacturers, designers and public clients offers a route for incorporating more sustainable wood into buildings.

Ghana

Building confidence in legal timber and connecting supply with construction

What changed and why it matters

Ghana has strengthened confidence in wood products for construction through operational timber legality and traceability. Its Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) licensing system went live in August 2025, with European Union recognition applying from 8 October 2025. Ghana became the first African country to operate the scheme, which covers construction products including sawnwood, plywood and builders' joinery.

By June 2026, the Forestry Commission reported approximately 626 licences covering exports to 19 European countries. Its electronic tracking system follows timber from forests through mills to export and domestic markets, reconciling wood flows with documentation. This gives suppliers a recognised way to demonstrate legal origin and provides construction buyers with stronger sourcing information.

Ghana's 2024 Climate Action Roadmap for Buildings and Construction provides a complementary framework for low carbon local materials. In 2025, the housing ministry reported ongoing capacity building to put the roadmap into practice. These measures create opportunities to consider responsibly sourced timber alongside other suitable materials, connecting forest governance improvements with wider efforts to reduce the environmental footprint of buildings and develop local supply chains and professional construction capability.

Legal timber supply is also being secured through plantations and restoration. Ghana has developed about 400,000 hectares of forest plantations (340,000 ha public and 60,000 ha private), and its annual allowable cut combines up to 1 million m³ of natural timber with about 300,000 m³ from plantations. Under the Tree for Life Reforestation Initiative, more than 31 million seedlings were planted and over 23,600 hectares of degraded land restored in 2025 through enrichment planting and plantation development. In the same year the sector supplied about 952,000 m³ of timber and timber products to domestic and export markets, valued at about US$260 million.

Strengthening the stakeholder ecosystem

More than 350 industry operators had been trained in FLEGT licensing by the August 2025 launch. Domestic cooperation also advanced through the November 2023 launch of the Domestic Timber Trade Network, linking timber-right holders, millers and traders through a pilot committee involving the Forestry Commission and industry associations. Women in Timber Ghana participated in the launch.

The 2026 EU–Ghana Timber Trade and Investment Forum brought government, businesses and development partners together around processing, digitalisation, skills and investment. These partnerships connect the organisations responsible for timber supply with the commercial relationships and capabilities needed to serve building markets.

Lead actors

Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and Forestry Commission (including its Timber Industry Development Division); Ministry of Works, Housing and Water Resources, with industry and international partners



Photo: Forestry Commission of Ghana

Primary stage

Policy, codes and procurement

Secondary stages

Forest landscapes and supply

Primary processing

Products and manufacturing

Evidence snapshot

Area	Documented progress
Timber legality and traceability	Licensing system live in August 2025; EU recognition from 8 October 2025. The Forestry Commission reported approximately 626 licences covering exports to 19 European countries in June 2026.
Domestic timber partnerships	Domestic Timber Trade Network launched on 2 November 2023, bringing timber-right holders, millers and traders together with the Forestry Commission through a pilot committee.
Construction policy and skills	2024: construction climate roadmap launched. 2025: the housing ministry reported ongoing capacity building on low carbon building materials.
Forest supply and restoration	About 400,000 ha of forest plantations developed. In 2025, over 23,600 ha of degraded land restored and more than 31 million seedlings planted under the Tree for Life initiative.

Forward pathway

In its June 2026 update, the Forestry Commission set out plans to incorporate geolocation data into FLEGT documentation, with QR codes for verification under discussion. These developments are intended to strengthen traceability and preparation for EU deforestation requirements. Further cooperation on processing modernisation, sustainable supply and skills was explored at the June 2026 investment forum.

The 2026 Tree for Life target of 30 million seedlings, and Ghana's goal of restoring two million hectares of degraded landscapes by 2030, will further expand the future supply of legally sourced timber for construction.

In parallel, CTCN's April 2026 programme update identifies support for Ghana's green building standards and policy guidelines. The stated outputs include monitoring, verification and enforcement frameworks and greater use of sustainable local building materials, linked to the national construction roadmap. These activities provide opportunities to develop material guidance relevant to responsible timber use within the wider building sector.

Guatemala

Leading with a Wood Construction Code

What changed and why it matters

Guatemala reached a significant milestone for timber construction on 23 April 2026 with the launch of NSE 7.8 (2024), its code for structural design with wood. The code gives engineers, architects and other construction professionals a clearer technical basis for specifying timber as a structural material.

The code emerged from several years of joint work involving the National Institute of Forests (INAB), the Association for the Protection of Renewable Natural Resources and Gremial Forestal, with support from FAO Guatemala. It was evaluated and approved by the Guatemalan Association of Structural and Seismic Engineering (AGIES) and the National Coordination for Disaster Reduction (CONRED).

By formalising wood-design requirements, the code provides a recognised route for professionals to consider timber in construction. This is a practical step towards making wood a more accessible structural material option.

The process has also strengthened cooperation between forestry and construction actors. INAB's Industry and Commerce Directorate is directly involved in examining how construction demand can support sustainable forestry, while the participating organisations have raised awareness of this connection.

Lead actors

Gremial Forestal de Guatemala

Primary stage

Policy, codes and procurement

Secondary stages

Design and specification

Construction and use



Photo: Jose Figueroa / Unsplash

Forward pathway

Over the next one to three years, planned activities include work with universities and local education providers to strengthen wood-construction content in technical and undergraduate programmes. INAB also plans to build its main offices with wood as the principal material.

Regional virtual campaigns and public information activities are expected to explain the role of wood products in construction and their contribution to quality of life for future generations. These activities will draw on knowledgeable organisations to build public awareness and support wider use.

Contact: https://www.gremialforestal.com/contacto

Japan

Making the Environmental Value of Wood Visible:
Japan's Frameworks for Promoting Wood Use in Buildings

What changed and why it matters

As part of efforts to make the environmental value of wood use in buildings more visible, Japan developed and published the "Guidance for Evaluating Wood Use in Buildings" in March 2024. In July 2026, legislation was enacted to establish a Whole Life Carbon Assessment system for buildings, enabling the assessment of decarbonization efforts throughout the entire lifecycle of buildings, from manufacture of material to demolition.

The Guidance for Evaluating Wood Use in Buildings is expected to encourage the wider use of wood by enabling developers and other stakeholders to communicate the environmental benefits of wood use externally, including its contribution to carbon neutrality and the sustainable use of forest resources. By creating an environment in which companies and other stakeholders can assess and communicate the environmental value of wood use, these measures are expected to promote the wider adoption of wood in buildings and to contribute to the achievement of NDC.

Through efforts to make the environmental value of wood use more visible, interest in using wood has been increasing. Japan has established a mechanism where national and local governments, along with private-sector building owners and developers, can make agreements to promote the use of wood. Under these agreements, 5,002 buildings with wooden structure and both wooden interior and exterior were constructed in 2025, with a total wood use volume of 132,738 m³. One example is a convenience store company that made such an agreement has constructed new stores with wooden structure. In October 2025, Japan launched the "Mori-no-Kuni, Ki-no-Machi Development Declaration", inviting local governments, companies, and other organizations to declare their commitment to promoting wood use in buildings and visualizing its benefits. As of October 2026, 680 organizations have made the Declaration.

Lead actor

Forestry Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan

Primary stage

Construction and use

Secondary stages

Forest landscapes and supply

Design and specification

Policy, codes and procurement



Seven-Eleven Fukuoka Momochi Store
Photo: Seven-Eleven Japan Co., Ltd

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Reported or documented result
Code reform	New 1.5-hour and 2.5-hour fire-performance standards took effect in April 2023; further reforms took effect in April 2024 for large timber buildings
Promotion agreements	32 national agreements by March 2026 and 192 local agreements by December 2025
Construction output	5,002 buildings used about 132,738 cubic metres of wood under agreements in 2025
CLT capacity	More than 1,700 CLT buildings expected by FY2025 end; 11 JAS-certified factories with about 100,000 cubic metres annual capacity in June 2025

Forward pathway

Preparations are underway to introduce a Whole Life Carbon Assessment system for buildings in FY2028. Through the wider use of building life-cycle carbon assessment, further technological innovation in the design and construction of buildings, including mid- and high-rise timber buildings, is expected.

Contact for further information:
https://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/e/index.html

Kenya

Establishing a national framework for the industrial wood value chain

What changed and why it matters

Kenya is developing the connections between sustainable timber supply, building regulation, affordable housing and finance needed to advance responsible bio-based construction. The Industrial Wood Sector Vision 2050, published in 2025, links tree growing with processing and higher-value products. The National Building Code 2024 and the National Buildings and Construction Decarbonisation Roadmap, launched in February 2026, provide the wider policy foundation. Together, these developments establish a basis for connecting forestry and industrial development with construction-sector needs.

The draft National Green Building and Sustainability Framework makes this connection more explicit. Sections 25 and 26 address bio-based materials and sustainable timber, including responsible sourcing, biogenic-carbon accounting, structural design, fire safety and durability. Related provisions cover embodied-carbon assessment and design for disassembly. If adopted and supported by technical guidance, these provisions would provide clearer pathways for specifying and assessing timber and other bio-based materials. At least five green-building pilots across three settlement tiers are also proposed through the Affordable Housing Programme, offering opportunities to test affordability, performance and delivery. These remain proposals rather than completed projects.

KGBS, supported by WorldGBC's Building the Transition programme, is strengthening the institutional coordination needed for implementation. BTT connects government and industry across policy and standards; materials, industry and decarbonisation; finance, risk and investment; and development, implementation and housing. Participation includes the Office of Kenya's Special Envoy for Climate Change, the National Treasury, relevant state departments and regulators. KGBS's contribution to the draft Framework and support to the Treasury's Sustainable Public Procurement Market Readiness Assessment connect building requirements with supplier readiness. This creates an opportunity to inform future procurement criteria and supplier development for responsibly sourced bio-based materials.

Market and finance infrastructure is also developing. KGBS launched the Kenya Sustainable & Resilient Built Environment Projects and Solutions Repository in October 2026, improving visibility of projects, products and solutions. The Buildings Decarbonisation Funding Accelerator brings government, financial institutions and construction stakeholders together to address financing barriers. These platforms provide channels through which suitable bio-based solutions and projects could gain visibility, demonstrate performance and improve investment readiness. Kenya's endorsement of the Principles for Responsible Timber Construction reinforces the importance of responsible supply as this market develops.

Together, these developments are establishing enabling conditions for responsible bio-based construction. The next step is to translate them into practical specifications, procurement criteria and demonstrator projects that establish performance, affordability and investment readiness.

Lead actor

Government of Kenya's State Department for Public Works; State Department for Forestry with Kenya Forest Service, KEFRI, National Construction Authority; Kenya Green Building Society, housing, finance and industry partners

Primary stage

Policy, codes and procurement

Secondary stages

Forest landscapes and supply

Primary processing

Products and manufacturing

Construction and use



Photo: Hammilton Ojijo/ Unsplash

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Reported or documented result
National vision and responsible timber supply	Kenya's Industrial Wood Sector Vision 2050 (2025) connects tree growing, processing and higher-value products, with an estimated KSh176 billion investment requirement. Kenya's endorsement of the Principles for Responsible Timber Construction and regional cooperation through Built by Nature, CSFEP and the Biobased Construction East Africa Coalition complement this direction.
Building regulation and bio-based construction	The National Building Code 2024 and the Buildings and Construction Decarbonisation Roadmap provide the wider policy foundation. Sections 25 and 26 of the draft Green Building and Sustainability Framework address bio-based materials and sustainable timber, including sourcing, carbon accounting and performance. Proposed affordable-housing pilots offer a pathway to test implementation.

Evidence point	Reported or documented result
Institutional coordination and sustainable procurement	KGBS's Building the Transition programme connects government and industry across four implementation pillars. KGBS contributes to the draft Framework and supported the National Treasury's Sustainable Public Procurement Market Readiness Assessment, helping establish the enabling conditions for sustainable materials in specification and public purchasing.
Finance and market infrastructure	The Buildings Decarbonisation Funding Accelerator brings government, financial institutions and construction stakeholders together to address financing barriers. KGBS's October 2026 Repository launch complements this work by improving visibility of sustainable projects, products and solutions, supporting connections between suppliers, developers and financiers.

Forward pathway

KGBS is preparing a 2027 action plan to translate Building the Transition coordination into practical guidance, stronger project preparation and implementation with county partners, focusing on Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Lamu and Laikipia. Continued Repository development is expected to broaden participation and strengthen the information available to assess and specify responsibly sourced biobased materials. KGBS's ongoing engagement on the Framework and sustainable procurement provides channels for developing guidance on material selection, performance and public purchasing.

As the Framework evolves, its proposed Affordable Housing Programme pilots would test affordability, performance and delivery across three settlement tiers. The proposal envisages at least five green-building pilots; timber-related criteria, pilot protocols and procurement provisions are among the areas addressed by Built by Nature's technical recommendations. Translating the proposed biobased provisions into practical guidance and implementation pathways is a next step identified by KGBS.

On finance, UHAI Coalition partners are co-developing a Funding Strategy and Investment Prospectus, with a national launch planned for 2027. The Finance Accelerator's four working groups are pursuing green financial products, bankable project pipelines, regulatory incentives and inclusive access to affordable housing. These planned outputs are intended to connect low-emission building and retrofit projects with financing and risk-management tools.

Contact for further information: info@kenyaforestservice.org; psoffice@environment.go.ke; info@housingandurban.go.ke



Kakamega Forest, Kenya.
Photo: Nala Okallo / Unsplash

South Korea

Linking domestic timber policy with public construction and technical support

What changed and why it matters

South Korea has connected domestic timber supply with construction through its Third Comprehensive Timber Utilization Plan for 2025–2029. Announced by the Korea Forest Service in January 2025, the plan contains five strategies and 15 tasks covering sustainable production infrastructure, regional industry clusters, specialist training and advanced processing research. Its 27% timber self-sufficiency target for 2029 gives direction to work on domestic resources and construction products.

As of April 2026, the Korea Forest Service, in collaboration with local governments, is promoting wood-friendly city development as well as wooden architecture and wooden observation deck demonstration projects across 44 regions nationwide. The National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) is establishing guidelines for the use of domestic timber. These guidelines cover timber application methods, key considerations, origin tracking, and quality certification schemes across seven process stages, including project planning, design, construction, and maintenance.

In addition, research is underway to increase the proportion of domestic timber used in wooden architecture. First, research was conducted to secure the fire-resistance performance required for major structural members of large and high-rise buildings. By developing a standard fire-resistant design method for structural timber elements, it has become possible to construct wooden buildings without height or size restrictions. Second, research on floor impact sound insulation was conducted to enable the construction of multi-family housing—which accounts for a large proportion of residential buildings in South Korea—using timber structures. As a result, a wooden inter-floor system that meets performance standards was developed, and existing regulations that recognized only concrete floors for multi-family housing were improved, making the construction of wooden multi-family housing possible.

The Korea Forest Service has been providing complementary support through low-interest housing finance, standard house designs and identification of domestic wood products. Together, these measures address financing, design and sourcing needs. The national plan, local programme activity and technical support provide a basis for cooperation among forest authorities, researchers, local governments and construction clients, helping build the capabilities and confidence needed for wider timber construction.

Lead actors

Korea Forest Service and National Institute of Forest Science with participating local governments

Primary stage

Policy, codes and procurement

Secondary stages

Forest landscapes and supply

Products and manufacturing

Construction and use



2024 Korea Timber Construction Award Grand Prize Winner (Pocheon _Second Chance Library_)

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Reported or documented result
National plan	13 January 2025: Third Comprehensive Timber Utilization Plan 2025–2029 announced.
Programme implementation	April 2026: government research release reports activity at 44 locations across three programmes.
Technical pathway	NIFoS identifies domestic structural materials and fire and acoustic support for construction.

Forward pathway

Through 2029, the Third Comprehensive Timber Utilization Plan envisages improved sustainable timber production, industry-cluster infrastructure, processing technology and specialist training. Furthermore, led by NIFoS, technical guidelines will be continuously refined to ensure the safety of public and high-rise wooden buildings. Research aimed at enhancing the efficient use of domestic timber as a building material will also be pursued on an ongoing basis. Through these efforts, the Korea Forest Service plans to establish policy guidelines in the field of wooden architecture, strengthen the capacity of specialized personnel, and promote the widespread adoption of outstanding demonstration cases.

Contact for further information:
Korea Forest Service (+82-42-4291), National Institute of Forest Science (+82-2-9612-402, +82-2-9612-732)

Sweden

Launching a funded programme including circular forest-based innovation

What changed and why it matters

Sweden has since 2013 through its strategic innovation program established a funded route for developing innovations from biomaterials and forest products e.g. Bioinnovation ending 2026. In 2025 the Government tasked Formas, a government research council for sustainable development, with creating a new programme, and an industry-led programme office began operating by September 2025 and incorporate the projects awarded in Formas calls.

The programme Biosociety connects research with businesses across forestry and other bio-based sectors, providing an organized route for developing ideas with potential users and producers. A condition for the program projects are co-financing by the business sector by at least 50%. Co-financing may consist of in-kind time, funding or other resources. Exploring structural uses for residues can improve material efficiency and create opportunities for higher-value products from existing wood resources. Biosociety supports shared knowledge and collaboration by connecting funded research, an industry-led office and participating businesses. These arrangements give researchers and manufacturers a basis for developing circular products that could expand the material options available to construction.

The Government also tasked Formas to fund a research school in bioeconomy and after a call for proposals decision was made in October 2026 to fund a proposal from a consortia lead by Chalmers University of Technology.

Lead actors

Formas, with the Biosociety programme office, industry organizations and funded research partners

Primary stage

Products and manufacturing

Secondary stages

Finance, insurance and risk

Reuse and circularity

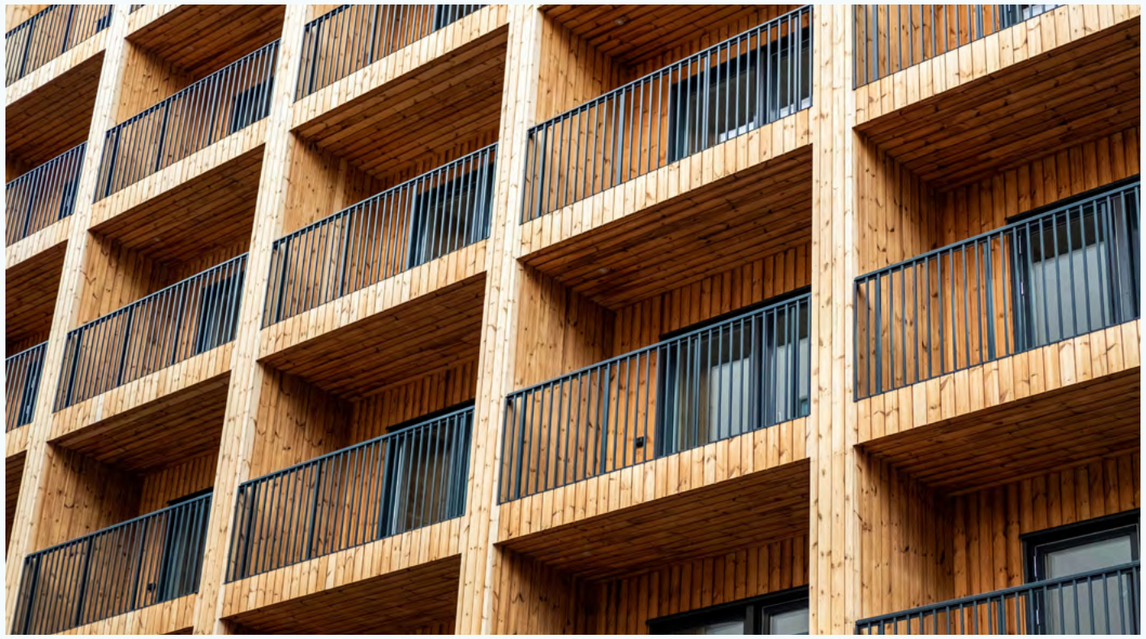


Photo: Nikola Johnny Mirkovic / Unsplash

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Reported or documented result
Programme delivery	2025: Biosociety established and industry-led programme office operating.
Award portfolio	20 November 2025 Bio-based production processes, 15 projects funded with duration between 12 and 36 months, call budget SEK 40 milllion. 16 June 2026 Idea-testing, 25 projects funded with duration a maximum of six months ; call budget SEK 10 million. 20 October 2026 Fossil-free and resilient bio-based production, 16 projects funded with duration between 12 and 36 months , call budget SEK 50 million
Wood construction link	SEK 6,4 million awarded to Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in November 2025 for Next-generation engineered wood products using bio-based adhesives SEK 391,647 awarded to RISE in June 2026 for testing oak flooring residues for structural building products.

Forward pathway

The Biosociety programme anticipates further calls and development of concepts that pass early testing. Formas reports expected public programme funding of SEK 60 million in 2027 and SEK 83 million in 2028, with matching industry participation sought. The national graduate-school call covers an initial 2026–2030 phase. Expected outputs include tested concepts, research capacity and evidence for later scale-up.

United Kingdom

Connecting timber construction policy with housing delivery and skills

What changed and why it matters

Across the UK, governments and delivery partners are advancing timber construction through distinct national approaches, supported by sustainably sourced wood and UK-wide action on forestry skills and workforce capacity.

Woodland expansion and improved management of existing woodlands across all four nations will help strengthen future timber supply. The UK Forestry Standard, adopted by all four governments, provides the shared framework for creating and managing woodlands sustainably and underpins forest planning, felling approvals, woodland creation and grant support. A forestry workforce census is underway across Great Britain in 2026–2027 to inform skills and workforce planning. Aligning forestry and timber construction skills can strengthen capacity from forest management to building delivery.

ENGLAND

In England, tree planting rates over the last two years are at their highest for more than two decades, with over 13,500 hectares of trees planted over these two years, contributing to the target of 16.5% tree and woodland cover by 2050. The 2025 Timber in Construction Roadmap for England links government and industry action on demand, supply, skills and safety. A new building standard, PAS 8700:2025, adds a shared technical framework for modern methods of construction, including approaches for timber use. Its coverage, from design and manufacture to assembly and end-of-life, supports confidence in off-site building methods.

New opportunities for the application of modern construction methods have been realised through the Homes England–Vistry joint housing venture, as well as working with local authorities on standard house designs.

SCOTLAND

The Scottish Government is committed to increasing woodland cover, as set out in its Climate Change Plan. This will see the proportion of land under woodland cover rise across Scotland from 19% to 21% by 2032.

Scotland has an established timber-frame construction and off-site manufacturing sector and over 90% of new build homes are timber frame. In October 2026, the Scottish Forest and Wood-based Industries Leadership Group launched A National Wood Strategy – Delivering in Scotland 2025–2035, with Scottish ministerial endorsement and implementation envisaged in partnership with the Scottish Government and its agencies.

The strategy seeks to increase domestic processing and higher-value manufacture, strengthen skills and innovation, and make wood a material of choice in appropriate housebuilding and construction applications, including retrofitting existing buildings. Its ambitions include increasing the UK market share of Scottish timber-frame companies by 50%, developing more integrated models for manufacturing and delivering buildings, and expanding the reuse and recycling of wood products. These construction ambitions are supported by action to maintain a productive, resilient and sustainably managed forest resource.

WALES

The Welsh Government's ambition is to plant 43,000 hectares of new woodland by 2030 and 180,000 hectares by 2050 to help Wales meet its carbon emission reduction targets.

In July 2025, the Welsh Government published Wales's first Timber Industrial Strategy, linking sustainable timber production and processing with housing, manufacturing, skills, circular use and decarbonization. Priority 4 of the strategy, 'Instilling Confidence in Demand' identifies social housing, public procurement and standardised off-site manufacture as opportunities to increase demand for Welsh-grown and Welsh-manufactured timber. It highlights Tai ar y Cyd, a collaboration of social landlords, as a route to mainstream C16 and other Welsh-grown timber through standardised, off-site-manufactured net-zero timber homes.

The strategy was informed and supported by the Home-Grown Homes programme, which ran from 2018 to 2026 and was delivered by Wood Knowledge Wales with Welsh Government funding. Working across social housing, timber manufacturing and forestry, it developed evidence, guidance and tools for lower-carbon timber construction. Its outputs include case studies, an early-stage embodied-carbon tool, skills activity and recommendations on circular use. Its second phase (2023–2026) directly supported the strategy's development and launch, and the strategy lists the project's tasks among its implementing actions.

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland has set out key actions to accelerate tree planting rates and support achieving 12% forest cover in Northern Ireland by 2050.

In Northern Ireland, the current contribution is strongest on sustainable timber supply and wood processing. Forest Service Northern Ireland manages the public forest resource and supplies timber to local industry, supporting processing capacity, rural employment and the wider economy. In 2026, DAERA published Northern Ireland's first Tree Planting Action Plan (2026–2032). This provides an important foundation for future links between Northern Ireland's forest resource, local manufacturing and lower-carbon construction. The plan notes the sector's ambition to develop in construction, and includes education and skills actions.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Internationally, the UK's Partnerships for Forests programme is supporting sustainable timber value chains in East Africa, helping strengthen links between sustainable forest production, local processing and manufacturing, investment and emerging markets for bio-based construction. The UK's Forest Governance Markets and Climate programme is working with tropical forest countries across west and central Africa, SE Asia and Guyana to strengthen forest governance and enable their businesses to provide UK market assurances on the legality and sustainability of their supply chains. Ghana and Indonesia have established national scale legality and sustainability compliance verification and certify all exports. Other countries are progressing in the development of these national traceability systems that will greatly facilitate meeting UK market due diligence requirements.

Lead actors

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with forestry authorities (Forestry Commission, Scottish Forestry, Natural Resources Wales, Forest Service Northern Ireland), Forest Research, Homes England, BSI and industry delivery partners including Confederation of Forest Industries UK (Confor)

Primary stage

Policy, codes and procurement

Secondary stages

Forest landscapes and supply

Design and specification

Construction and use



Photo: RM_Pobl_Gwynfaen_007

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Reported or documented result
Workforce capacity	Forestry operations census underway in Great Britain, with reference dates of 1 October 2026 and 1 March 2027.
Woodland supply	27 February 2025: Timber in Construction Roadmap relaunched for England, covering data, demand, skills, sustainable supply, safety, insurance and innovation. 17 March 2026: UK Parliament written question
Technical standard	29 April 2025: BSI published PAS 8700:2025 for modern methods of residential construction across the project life cycle.
Housing delivery partnership	8 September 2025: Homes England and Vistry announced Hestia, a joint venture backed by £150 million of combined capital.
Government and industry plans	27 February 2025: Timber in Construction Roadmap relaunched for England, covering data, demand, skills, sustainable supply, safety, insurance and innovation. May 2025: Scottish government plans to expand tree cover October 2026: A National Wood Strategy – Delivering in Scotland July 2023: Welsh ambition to expand woodland cover 22 July 2025: Welsh Timber Industrial Strategy 21 October 2026: Northern Ireland Tree Planting Action Plan
International programmes	Partnership for Forests Sustainable Forestry and Manufacturing (S-FORM) Facility in East Africa.

Forward pathway

The 2025 Timber in Construction Roadmap for England includes plans for improved professional development and design support by 2027, research on timber in retrofit by 2027, and Department for Education-led GenZero pathfinder projects for ultra-low carbon classrooms by 2028. Work on housing delivery and standard house designs provides further opportunities to apply modern construction methods. These activities are expected to build practical capability for specifying and delivering timber systems, alongside continuing forestry and supply-chain development.

Contact for further information: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-defra; https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/; https://www.confor.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/

II. Subnational Progress

ForestManagementUnit III Bumthang-Paro
Photo: BasPrincen 2024

The Biobased Cities Challenge

Cities are building a shared route from climate commitments to procurement and construction. Built by Nature's collaboration with the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA) connects municipal demand, policy development and industry experience through the Biobased Cities Challenge. In August 2026, BbN reported that the initiative had engaged 20 cities in examining how to enable the biobased transition.

An early implementation exchange brought together Amsterdam, Glasgow, Nantes, Barcelona, Greater Manchester, Bordeaux, Helsinki and Stockholm. The programme combined work on procurement, carbon and material criteria, supply-chain confidence and project pipelines with visits to timber housing in Amsterdam. These included De Warren's resident-led housing cooperative and the Centrumeiland social-housing development, connecting policy discussions with the experience of architects, housing providers and residents. The eight participating cities form a documented exchange cohort within the wider engagement effort.

The collaboration builds on CNCA's embodied-carbon policy work and procurement guidance developed with Arup. It gives cities a way to compare tender requirements, learn from operating projects and adapt approaches to their own housing and market conditions. BbN contributes the Principles, implementation guidance, network expertise and convening capacity. The emerging Biobased Cities Challenge Fund is intended to support the transition from individual pilots to wider delivery.

Value-chain contribution

Policy, codes and procurement,
linked to design, construction, responsible supply and peer learning.

Delivered progress

City engagement; implementation exchange; procurement learning and project visits.

Forward pathway

Translate learning into city-owned procurement measures, supported projects and reporting.
Funding awards and resulting construction outcomes remain to be documented.

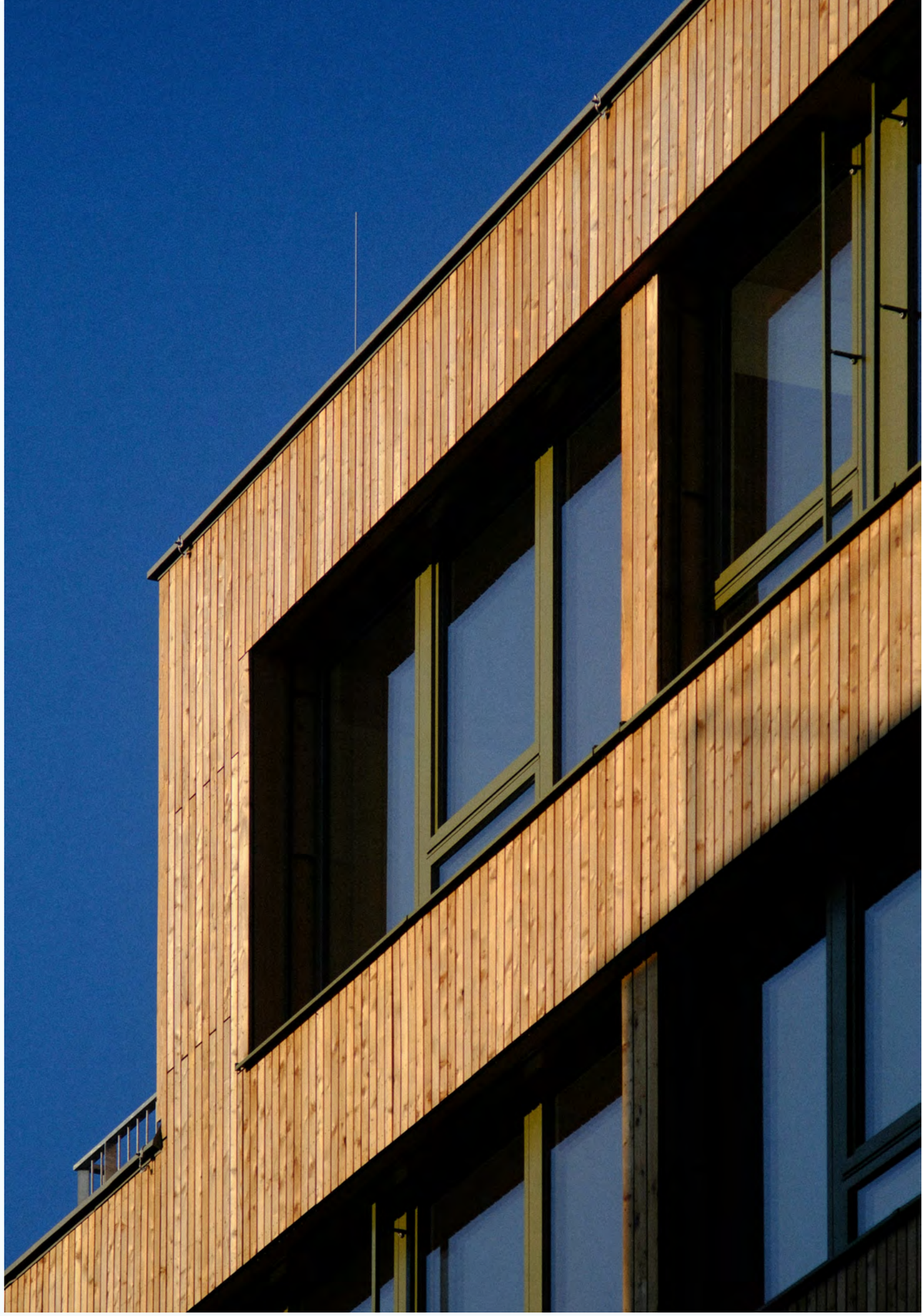


Photo: Kajetan Powolny / Unsplash

Bhutan, Thimbu-Paro Region

Roadmap for the Thimphu-Paro Region in Bhutan
to initiate a transition towards a regenerative construction sector

What changed and why it matters

Bhutan's Thimphu-Paro region has established a shared roadmap for a regenerative construction sector, co-created with 50+ stakeholders from government, the construction industry and local partner organisations. The process identified strategic opportunities for change. The Minister of Infrastructure & Transport officially presented the roadmap, which was released with key construction-sector stakeholders.

The roadmap sets out five linked priorities for nature-based construction. It calls for stronger value chains for timber, bamboo, hemp and earth, supported by domestic research, testing and innovation to inform decisions. It also identifies policy and regulatory reforms to remove barriers, investment and procurement mechanisms to scale solutions, and national capacity and public awareness to support adoption and long-term cultural acceptance.

These priorities connect collaborative governance, evidence-based policy, strategic investment and skills development with Bhutan's values of Gross National Happiness (GNH) and environmental stewardship. The work has also contributed to advances in reformulating the timber building code.

Strengthening the stakeholder ecosystem

The roadmap process brought sawmills, local entrepreneurs, government, NGOs and the Asian Development Bank together around the shared goal of building more with timber and hemp.

The project formed part of ReBuilt: Transformation Pathways Towards a Regenerative Built Environment and received support from Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. The work also involved close collaboration with knowledge partners, the International Centre of Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the Climate Smart Forest Economy Program (CSFEP).

Contributing organisation

Bauhaus Earth

Primary stage

Policy, codes and procurement

Secondary stages

Forest landscapes and supply

Primary processing

Products and manufacturing



Hemp-Earth Blocks in Bhutan
Photo: Bauhaus Earth

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Reported result
Roadmap presentation	The Minister of Infrastructure & Transport (Royal Government of Bhutan) officially presented the roadmap, which was released with key construction-sector stakeholders.
Hybrid timber building	A hybrid timber building was put into use as a showroom and meeting space during the project.
Public exhibition	An exhibition was held in central Thimphu for the general public.

Forward pathway

Bhutan's architectural heritage and sustainability ethos provide a basis for further regenerative, climate-responsive building practices, including around Gelephu Mindfulness City in the south of the country.

Bauhaus Earth is working with engineers from Arup, architects from Gray Organschi Architecture and forestry experts from the Climate Smart Forestry Program on a framework for transforming design and construction in the Thimphu capital region. The work links milling timber from local forests with knowledge sharing on design implementation. A six-storey building in central Thimphu is planned as the initial prototype. It is currently at concept-design stage, with construction scheduled for summer 2027.

Contact: https://www.bauhauserde.org/subpages/case-study-bhutan

Indonesia, Denpasar

BaleBio demonstrates bamboo construction and supports wider adoption

What changed and why it matters

Bauhaus Earth and local partners developed BaleBio, an award-winning bamboo pavilion in Denpasar designed by Cave Urban. It introduced structural laminated bamboo in a multi-use building in Bali for the first time. The project transformed a neglected site into a community hub that remains permanently open to the public, serving as a meeting place, classroom and stage for local events.

The pavilion and its co-creation process have supported wider use of nature-based construction and sparked new partnerships to scale it across Indonesia. This progress complements policy momentum from the Timber and Bamboo Roadmap and Bali's Net Zero Emission 2045 Strategy, while mainstream adoption continues to develop.

Through its public and community role, BaleBio offers an alternative to tourism-driven coastal development and a construction model in which concrete structures are replacing traditional wood and bamboo craftsmanship across the island.

Strengthening the stakeholder ecosystem

The project brought Bauhaus Earth into close collaboration with the Bamboo Village Trust, a philanthropic financial vehicle, and Kota Kita, a participatory urban design organisation. It also established dialogue with local, regional and national governments on shifting public procurement towards bamboo.

The work formed part of ReBuilt: Transformation Pathways Towards a Regenerative Built Environment, with support from Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

Contributing organisation

Bauhaus Earth

Primary stage

Design and specification

Secondary stages

Forest landscapes and supply

Products and manufacturing

Construction and use



BauhausEarth_ReBuiltBaleBio_ Photo: MuhammadZianurrahman_1273

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Reported result
Life cycle assessment	The project included a Life Cycle Assessment, Value Chain Analysis and scalability research. Bauhaus Earth reported a 110% reduction in embodied carbon compared with a conventional building and a carbon-negative result from Cradle to Construction (Stage A).
Recognition	International recognition includes the Australian Good Design Award for Social Impact, a commendation in the Built by Nature Prize, and Gold in Excellent Architecture at the German Design Award.
Practitioner guidance	A field guide for practitioners in Bali was developed, published and disseminated to promote nature-based and reusable construction materials.

Forward pathway

BaleBio's success has prompted BAMBU BARU, a follow-up initiative in Indonesia that aims to bring cement-bamboo frame technology into national affordable housing standards in Indonesia and beyond. Proven bamboo-based systems could be scaled through existing government programmes while creating opportunities for future innovations. Potential routes include the National Strategy for Bamboo Development, the Social Agroforestry Programme, the 3 million Housing Programme and the People's School Programme (Sekolah Rakyat, 100 schools per year).

Contact: https://www.bauhauserde.org/subpages/denpasar-indonesia

III. Industry implementation

Manufacturers, developers, designers and climate-market organisations are bringing different capabilities to responsible timber construction. The examples included in this report bring together endorsers of the Principles for Responsible Timber Construction and Built by Nature network Frontrunners, supported by completed projects and operational tools. A Frontrunner is an organization or leader within the Built by Nature network that drives the transition toward sustainable mass timber and bio-based construction. Projects delivered before the Principles' launch at COP30 in 2025 demonstrate relevant practice and provide learning for their implementation.

Heartwood
Photo: atelierjones.com

atelierjones

Based in Seattle, USA, and an early endorser of the Principles, atelierjones designed Heartwood, completed in 2023, an eight-storey building providing 126 workforce-housing apartments.

The project combines regional timber supply chains, prefabrication, a fire-tested structural connection and provision for future adaptation. Recognised through the 2025 Built by Nature Prize, Heartwood provides a completed housing example from which other teams can learn. Atelierjones is developing a replication publication with support from a US Forest Service Wood Innovation Grant, extending the project's contribution into shared delivery knowledge.

Heartwood
Photo: atelierjones.com



1265 Borregas
Photo credit: blog.google

Mercer International and Mercer Mass Timber

Based in Canada and the United States, with wider forest-products operations in Germany. A listed endorser of the Principles, it reaffirmed its support publicly in February 2026. Mercer Mass Timber supplied materials and design assistance for Google's five-storey 1265 Borregas office in Sunnyvale, California, publicly introduced by Google in November 2024. Google reports that all structural mass-timber lumber came from FSC-certified forests. The project connects corporate demand with engineered-wood manufacturing and documented sourcing.

Mercer's BuildSpec platform adds a practical implementation tool. Available for Canadian projects in 2026 and developed with ZGF Architects and Fast + Epp, it helps teams compare hybrid cross-laminated-timber and cold-formed-steel approaches for mid-rise housing using preliminary cost, carbon and material quantities. Bringing this information into early design helps developers and designers assess timber while structural options remain open. The tool supports concept decisions and requires project-specific engineering and assessment as designs progress.

NICE Developers and Mei architects and planners

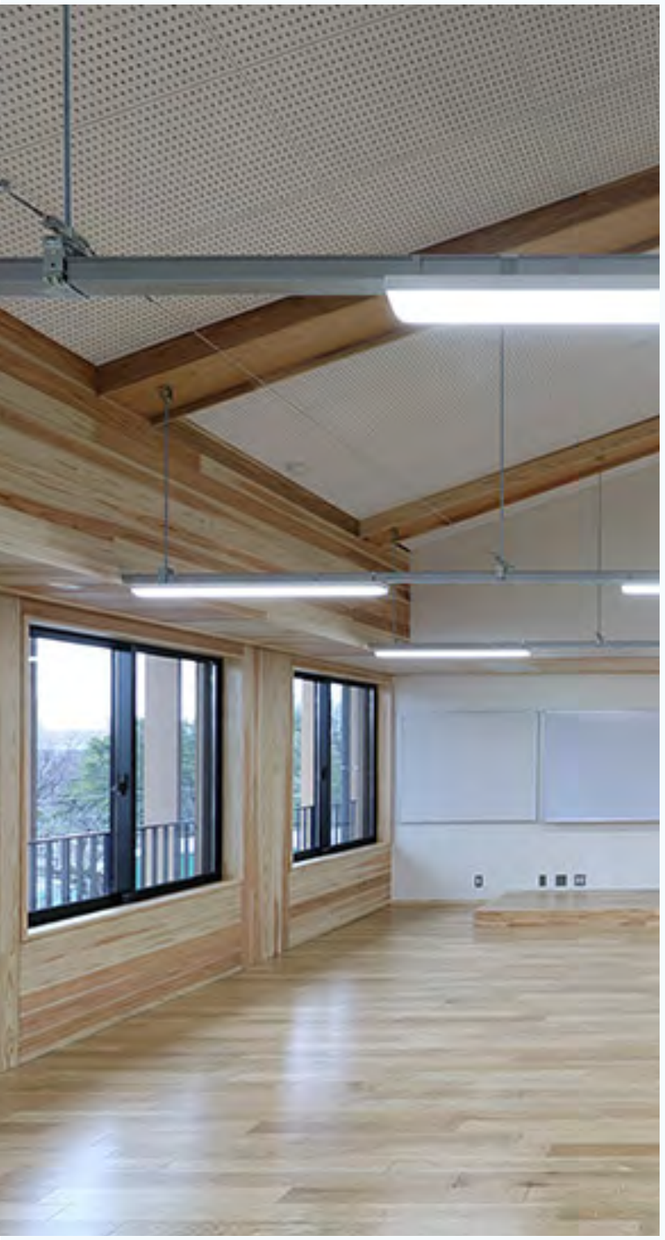
Based in the Netherlands, Built by Nature Frontrunners NICE Developers and Mei architects and planners completed SAWA in Rotterdam in summer 2025. The development provides 109 homes, including 50 middle-rent homes, alongside shared facilities. It illustrates how timber construction can be delivered within a wider housing offer that considers tenure, community and urban quality. Together with the UK network projects described above, it demonstrates the role of frontrunners in turning technical and market capability into occupied buildings.

oneshot.earth

Operating from New York and Amsterdam, oneshot.earth has endorsed the Principles. Its work on environmental-credit registry infrastructure and the Open Carbon Protocol brings climate-finance and data expertise into the coalition. Its participation broadens the range of actors working towards responsible timber construction and strengthens connections with the infrastructure used to document and reward climate outcomes.



SAWA Photo: ©Ossip



Classroom on the third floor
Photo: www.sfc.jp



Exterior view of the school building
Photo: www.sfc.jp

Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.

Completed projects are linking Japanese timber supply with public and residential construction. Sumitomo Forestry completed the three-storey hybrid-timber No. 1 building at Aichi Prefectural Kasugai High School in March 2025, reporting approximately 453 m³ of timber use, of which 65% came from the prefecture.

Its six-storey Midorino-no-Niwa company housing in Tsukuba followed in May 2025, using Japanese-produced structural timber.

The company's partnership with UK Frontrunner Bywater Properties also connects Japanese timber expertise and investment with commercial delivery overseas. These projects illustrate practical uptake across building types and that local origin is one element of the wider sourcing evidence required.

IV. Institutions / Non-Governmental Organizations

HAUT Amsterdam
Photo: builtbn.org

AUSTRIA - COLI

Advancing Sustainable Forest-Based Bioeconomy through International Cooperation

What changed and why it matters

Austria has brought governments, international organisations, researchers and industry together to advance a sustainable forest-based bioeconomy. Its Country and Organization-Led Initiative (COLI) reached a major milestone with the Global Summit in Vienna in February 2026, co-chaired with South Africa.

The Summit produced the Vienna Call for Action and the Co-Chairs' Summary, establishing shared priorities for political leadership, inclusive development, financing, innovation and international partnerships. These priorities provide a basis for connecting sustainable forest management with supportive policies and investment in wood-based value chains, including timber construction.

Strengthening the stakeholder ecosystem

Regular exchanges through the Friends of COLI network connect partner countries and international organisations, including Australia, Finland, Japan, Sweden, Türkiye, FAO and IUFRO. Participants share knowledge and develop common objectives, while partners are encouraged to organise activities and events that extend the initiative's reach.

Lead actor

Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management

Primary stage

Policy, codes and procurement

Secondary stages

Forest landscapes and supply

Products and manufacturing



Global Summit "Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches" (February 2026)
Photo: Max Slovencik

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Documented progress
International participation	The Vienna Summit, held on 23–25 February 2026, brought together more than 400 participants from over 60 countries and 100 organisations.
Shared policy priorities	The Vienna Call for Action and the Co-Chairs' Summary set out priorities and recommendations for advancing a sustainable forest-based bioeconomy.
International policy engagement	Summit outcomes were presented at the 21st session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the 28th session of the FAO Committee on Forestry in 2026.

Forward pathway

Planning is underway for COLI's continuation, with further cooperation, knowledge exchange and partnerships intended to support policy development and investment in sustainable forest-based value chains. Interested countries, organisations and stakeholders are invited to contribute to future activities.

Contact for further information: https://www.bmluk.gv.at/en/coli.html

Built by Nature

Accelerating the responsible use of timber and biobased materials

What changed and why it matters

Built by Nature (BbN) works to transform the built environment globally by accelerating the responsible use of timber and biobased materials. Its networks in France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom, alongside its support for a 26-member East African coalition, help actors develop shared solutions. Network priorities inform the BbN Fund, which finances research, technical guidance and collaboration addressing cost, insurance, safety, sourcing and policy.

The Built by Nature fund has supported multiple knowledge outputs including the Mass Timber Insurance Playbook, New Model Building guidance, CircuLaw legal tools and a timber-detailing handbook. The Knowledge Hub also features Wood & Wellbeing, a UK fire-safety roadmap and low-carbon loan guidance. The insurance playbook has secured industry endorsement, recognition in England's Timber in Construction Roadmap and US adaptation. Organised by theme, country and actor, the Hub helps apply this knowledge across markets, while the Principles for Responsible Timber Construction and Implementation Framework guide action throughout a building's life.

The 2025 Built by Nature Prize assessed and recognised completed, in-use projects demonstrating alignment with the Principles for Responsible Timber Construction. Its published portfolio includes 28 shortlisted projects, six winners and six commendations across housing, workplaces, education, public infrastructure and industrial buildings. Examples range from modular housing in Uganda and workforce housing in the United States to public infrastructure in Australia and bamboo construction in Indonesia. Through project documentation and the documentary Our Future: Built by Nature, the programme shares practical experience of responsible sourcing, material efficiency, building performance and social value. The projects were delivered by their respective teams; BbN's contribution is to assess, document and communicate their approaches so others can learn from them.

Built by Nature engaged with endorsers of the Principles for Responsible Timber Construction, to gather examples from real-economy actors – ranging from developers, designers and contractors to manufacturers, forestry businesses, certification bodies, carbon consultants and educators – across Europe, the Americas, East Africa and the Asia-Pacific. Developers and designers report the Principles influenced 158 completed modular timber homes in Denmark, and a 1,000 m² crèche and community centre in Ireland using mass timber and wood-fibre insulation. Manufacturers and project teams have demonstrated dismantling and reconstruction of a timber pavilion in Germany, while a Danish forestry, certification and manufacturing partnership links acoustic panels with additional forest biodiversity measures. Carbon consultants in Canada have used the Principles to assess renovation impacts; an architectural practice in Italy has developed digital renovation-passport and whole-life carbon tools. In Ecuador, timber suppliers, foresters and educators combined local-species research with carpentry workshops, while a completed bamboo pavilion in Indonesia now connects rural cooperatives, manufacturing and construction. Designers and contractors in Uganda and Kenya are developing affordable biobased rental housing. Together, these reported examples demonstrate how responsible sourcing, efficient material use, circularity, skills and housing delivery are advancing through the value chain.



The Black and White Building | Waugh Thistleton Architects. London, United Kingdom
Photo: builtbn.org

Strengthening the stakeholder ecosystem

BbN's policy function connects voluntary standards, procurement and regulation, translating network experience and technical evidence into proposals for policymakers. In the UK, its Frontrunner exchange produced a fire-safety toolkit used in members' responses to England's Approved Document B consultation, alongside BbN's submission. Its EU carbon storage recommendations under the Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming (CRCF) frameowrk link potential incentives with whole-life accounting, responsible sourcing and circularity. Fund-supported ECOS work has produced guidance on timber reuse and carbon methodologies, while CircuLaw helps municipalities use existing legal powers. In Kenya, BbN has prepared recommendations on timber provisions, procurement and housing pilots in the draft Green Building and Sustainability Framework, connecting climate and forest objectives with construction decisions.

Lead actor

Built by Nature

Primary stage

Policy, codes and procurement

Secondary stages

Design and specification

Finance, insurance and risk

Construction and use



Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Reported or documented result
Network and Fund scale	By October 2026, BbN reported over 200 Frontrunners and over €9 million in grants since its 2021 launch, helping unlock a further €8.3 million in industry investment.
Health and wellbeing evidence	ORGA architect in the Netherlands produced Wood & Wellbeing, a BbN-funded review of over 100 studies and reports, translating evidence on indoor comfort and wellbeing into practical guidance for design and material choices.
International implementation	16 campaign endorsers shared examples of practice aligned with the Principles spanning at least 13 countries across six continents: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South America and Oceania.
City implementation challenge	A new Cities Challenge, with the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance funds procurement, planning and policy measures for responsible biobased construction. Planned awards are €100,000 each for two European cities and US$100,000 for one non-European city, with technical support and lessons for wider adoption.

Forward pathway

BbN is developing collaboration with building rating-tool owners to explore how schemes can recognise and reward alignment with the Principles. The Cities Challenge requires proposals to align with the Principles, connecting voluntary commitments with funded city implementation. [BN9; BN18] BbN's roadshow screens its 'Our Future: Built by Nature' responsible timber construction documentary across Europe and at multilateral events, engaging civil society, universities, industry and government stakeholders.

The 1 Billion Homes: Built by Nature campaign aims to enable one billion homes to be built, renovated or adapted through a responsible biobased transition by 2050, seeking commitments covering 200 million homes by 2030.

Contact for further information: Built by Nature | contact@builtbn.org

NORTH - Rahul Bhushan, Himachal Pradesh, India.
Photo: @north.himachal

Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World

Promoting sustainable wood products and their value chains





The Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) and Grow the Solution joint initiatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) have helped advance policies, knowledge and markets for sustainable wood construction value chains. Their work combines knowledge products, advocacy campaigns and capacity building with action to create conditions for innovation at global, regional and country levels. The initiatives have focused on the recognition of wood-based solutions as nature-based solutions with wide-ranging impacts. They provide scientific evidence, assessments, and guidance for the sustainable supply of wood, and promote the environmental and socioeconomic benefits of sustainable wood use: from carbon sequestration and storage to insulation, seismic resilience, circularity, jobs, income, and adequate and affordable housing, including in rural areas. Drawing on the expertise and credibility of six international organizations with complementary mandates in forestry and sustainable development, and with support from the CPF and the Forest Communicators Network, the initiatives collaborate with other forest-related initiatives to raise awareness, change perceptions and catalyze wider adoption of sustainable wood-based construction.

What changed and why it matters

FAO and IUFRO led the Wood for Globe project, which culminated in the Global High-Level Dialogue in 2025. Supported by the Austrian government, the dialogue produced the Wood for Globe Outcome Statement, endorsed by 14 government representatives, including five ministers, and six international and civil society organizations.

The Wood for Globe project published knowledge products to support sustainable supply chains for wood-based construction and carbon storage. These include 'Wood Products for Climate Change Mitigation in the Asia-Pacific Region' by Rodney Keenan (FAO 2025) and the Scientific Background Paper: Sustainable use of wood in construction, textile and packaging sector towards a carbon-neutral bioeconomy (IUFRO 2024).

Publications supporting the Country and Organization-Led Initiative on Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches (COLI) include Global Webinar Series on Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches - Summary of Findings (FAO 2026) and Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches: an expanded policy brief (IUFRO 2026).

In Uganda, FAO has worked with partners to deliver new investments in forest management, silviculture and restoration focused on wood construction value chains. Its projects have supported campaigns on the benefits of timber construction and its effects on forests, rural development and the built environment. They have also supported training in timber construction, life-cycle assessment, carbon accounting and circular design, and the integration of timber construction into climate, urban development and housing programs.

FAO has provided preliminary support for forest innovation hubs focused on wood-based construction in East Africa, Latin America and Brazil. This work mapped key actors and needs to help develop a wood-based construction ecosystem. In March 2026, a two-day workshop in São Paulo brought together 33 participants from seven countries and 33 institutions. They developed a shared vision for a collaborative platform to connect stakeholders, strengthen existing initiatives, support knowledge exchange and accelerate innovation across the wood-based construction value chain. Participants also established a community for knowledge and information exchange. In Brazil, the wood-based construction innovation hub is also working to mobilize resources.

ITTO established the Global Timber Index (GTI) Platform and the Blockchain-based Timber Traceability System (BTTS) to support legality, traceability and carbon accounting. ITTO also implemented a sustainable wood use (SWU) project and a teak project. In Thailand, ITTO promoted sustainable domestic wood consumption through training programs, consumer awareness campaigns and legal compliance training. This work laid the foundation for the project "Thailand wood metropolis - promotion of sustainable wood uses in urban area".

Grow the Solution has delivered workshops for governmental and non-governmental forest and environment professionals to improve communication on sustainable wood use. The initiative also launched the "Wood You" campaign and the "Grow the Solution Podcast". For COP30, it produced a "Wood You" video featuring six examples from six regions, showing the diverse uses of sustainable wood and its role in addressing global challenges. The video received 4.65 million views across Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube, Weibo and TikTok. The hashtag #WoodYou reached 1.63 million users, while #GrowtheSolution reached 18.6 million users across social media. The video was screened during the 21st session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF21) in New York and the 28th session of the Committee on Forestry (Rome, Italy, October 2026). Six "Wood You" posters were produced in the six official UN languages and German. They were displayed in front of the Forest Pavilion at COP30, as well as at the COLI Summit in Austria and COFO28.

Together, these activities aim to raise awareness and change public perceptions, reduce uncertainty about the sustainability of wood supply, and create conditions for technological and policy innovation. They also support capacity building, the sharing and application of lessons learned, and investment.

Strengthening the stakeholder ecosystem

The SW4SW and Grow the Solution initiatives connect international organizations with researchers, producers, consumers and other stakeholders. Their activities contribute to the four shifts proposed by the Building for Forests plan and help create conditions for structural transformation. Results at global, regional and country levels have helped position sustainable wood construction on the international forest agenda and strengthen understanding of its role as a nature-based solution. Reports from the 27th and 28th sessions of the FAO Committee on Forestry (2024 and 2026) show countries' recognition of wood-based construction as part of the bioeconomy and as a nature-based solution. The FAO Green Cities Initiative has recently included wood-based construction as an area for exploration, while the COLI Summit on Forest-based Approaches to the Bioeconomy recognized wood-based construction as a pillar of a sustainable forest bioeconomy and a driver of innovation. Members of the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees are developing research on fast-growing tree cultivation to support the wood construction value chain, particularly engineered wood. These developments help create a more favourable institutional and investment environment for expanding sustainable wood construction.

Lead actor

FAO (Secretariat), with CPF

Primary stage

Forest landscapes and supply

Secondary stages

Primary processing

Construction and use

Reuse and circularity

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Reported or documented result
Policy endorsement	2025: The Wood for Globe Outcome Statement was endorsed by 14 government representatives, including five ministers, and six international and civil society organizations.
Regional innovation platform	March 2026: A São Paulo workshop brought together 33 participants from seven countries and 33 institutions. Participants developed a shared platform vision and established a community for knowledge and information exchange.
Public communication reach	The “Wood You” video produced for COP30 received 4.65 million views across six social media platforms, presenting six examples of sustainable wood use from six regions.

Forward pathway

The next steps are to further develop the three initial innovation hubs in Brazil, Latin America and East Africa and extend the approach to other regions and countries. Closer collaboration with cities, including through the Green Cities Initiative, will support the development of sustainable investment pipelines. Further priorities include expanding the "Wood You" campaign and the “Grow the Solution” podcast, launching knowledge products and mobilizing resources to scale up action and expand work at country level.

Contact for further information: https://www.fao.org/forestry/our-focus/forest-products/sustainable-wood-for-a-sustainable-world; and https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/Grow-the-Solution



Photo: Mjøstårnet, Voll Arkitekter, Ricardo Foto

FSC

Connecting responsible forestry with timber construction

What has changed and why it matters

FSC and its partners are connecting responsible forest management with construction through certified sourcing, professional training and demonstration projects. Progress since 2023 includes resources for social housing providers, applications of certified timber in buildings and community infrastructure, and a pilot linking construction products with additional biodiversity measures in their source forest.

These activities address a practical challenge: increasing timber use requires both confidence in material origins and the skills to specify, procure and build with it. Certification provides a framework for verifying sourcing claims, while training and project experience help construction professionals apply responsible sourcing requirements in practice.

Through HOME for the future, FSC Netherlands and FSC Denmark have worked with housing, industry and university partners to address barriers to timber construction in social housing. Co-funded by the EU LIFE programme, the project has developed resources covering sourcing, environmental performance, construction systems and costs. Its online course, developed with TU Delft and VIA University College, reports more than 5,000 learners. The Sustainable Building with Timber course is also listed by the New European Bauhaus Academy, extending access to knowledge on forest management, circular design, structural performance and prefabrication.

In Maseru, Lesotho, the FSC Stadium of Life brought together Kick4Life, rise International, FSC and independent certification body DNV, officially opened in May 2026. Rise International led the design and construction as part of a training programme for young construction professionals. Its use of >8,500 treated eucalyptus poles from FSC-certified plantations in South Africa significantly reduced application of concrete, and demonstrates a regional supply chain for community infrastructure, alongside facilities supporting sport and social development.

FSC has also supported knowledge exchange through REBUILD in Spain, ReBuild Ukraine and Carrefour International du Bois in France. These activities bring together forest-sector and construction stakeholders to discuss material origins, procurement, traceability and practical applications. FSC's construction communications, including the French newsletter, provide further channels for sharing project experience and resources.

In Spain, FSC participates in Construyendo Maderaula, a collaboration connecting local forest resources, timber processing and professional training. The Maderaula Lab building in Soria uses FSC-certified structural timber and has received FSC project certification for its structure. The centre is intended to support training in industrialised timber construction and materials innovation, linking a physical demonstration of responsible sourcing with the development of professional skills.

Completed projects illustrate how certified sourcing can be applied in different construction contexts. In Madrid, Infinito Delicias transformed an existing industrial complex into a 2,700 m² civic space. FSC-certified chestnut from Asturias reinforces the retained steel structure, with chain of custody certification providing traceability through the timber supply chain. The design also considered future disassembly and reuse.

Certification verifies defined sourcing requirements and supply-chain claims. It does not, by itself, establish the whole-life carbon performance, affordability or overall environmental performance of a building. These examples demonstrate how responsible sourcing can be integrated into projects pursuing wider social and environmental objectives.

Lead actor

FSC International, working with national FSC teams and project partners

Primary stage

Policy, codes and procurement

Secondary stages

Forest landscapes and supply

Products and manufacturing

Construction and use

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Reported or documented result
Practitioner guidance	Publication FSC® Netherlands; A Long-Term Perspective on Timber Façade Cladding: Insight into the total cost of ownership of timber cladding. Launch of a lesser-known timber species directory to promote diversification and reduce pressure on high demand species.
Education & enablement	Online course, developed by FSC NL with TU Delft and VIA University College, reports >5,000 learners Online course developed by FSC US on the USGBC course catalogue; outlines how certified materials can access increased scoring in LEEDv5. Learners can earn 1 AIA LU|HSW and 1 GBCI CE credit. >1500 learners.
Timber construction	FSC Stadium of Life in Lesotho: FSC project certified March 2024 The Maderaula Lab building in Soria; FSC Project certified March 2026

Forward pathway

In Denmark, Hedeselskabet, FSC Denmark and Troldtekt are testing a closer connection between construction demand and additional forest biodiversity measures. Within the 380-hectare Jenssen-Buchske Plantation, 58 hectares have been taken out of conventional production as part of the pilot. Timber from productive areas supplies Troldtekt's acoustic-panel manufacturing, with timber sales helping finance the forest measures. The additional measures are documented through FSC Verified Impact.

The pilot is testing how traceable building-product supply chains can support and communicate additional biodiversity measures in production forests. It remains an approach under development; the reported land-management measures should not be presented as evidence that biodiversity recovery has already been achieved.

Potential follow-up with Building for Forests partners could include sharing existing training resources, identifying projects interested in certified sourcing, and verified impact initiatives, and documenting lessons from housing, adaptive reuse and community infrastructure. The Danish pilot offers a further opportunity to examine how construction purchasing can support additional forest biodiversity measures.

Possible outputs towards COP32 include documented applications of responsible sourcing requirements, wider use of existing educational resources, and practical case studies explaining procurement processes, supply-chain collaboration and implementation barriers. These are proposed areas for cooperation, subject to agreement with FSC and the relevant partners.

Contact for further information: Matteo Mascolo, Global Sustainability Policy Lead, Europe, FSC International (m.mascolo@fsc.org)

FSC Stadium of Life Opens in Maseru
Photo: africa.fsc.org

PEFC International

Making responsible timber sourcing verifiable at construction project level

What changed and why it matters

In June 2026, PEFC International published PEFC ST 2102:2026, Project Sourcing - Requirements, establishing an updated international framework for verifying the responsible sourcing of forest- and tree-based materials in construction projects. The standard addresses the practical challenge of demonstrating responsible sourcing across multiple suppliers, contractors and material deliveries, providing independently verified evidence of sourcing claims.

The revised standard introduces greater flexibility by allowing certification of entire projects or defined components, such as structural timber, roofing or joinery. Multi-project arrangements enable organisations to apply consistent sourcing procedures across several developments, while project sourcing groups allow smaller businesses to share administrative responsibilities and reduce certification costs. Mandatory registration in the PEFC database strengthens transparency by distinguishing projects undergoing certification from those that have successfully completed final verification, making their certification status publicly accessible.

Project certification has already been applied in different construction contexts, including the reconstruction of Notre-Dame Cathedral's timber roof structures in France, the Takinoue public health clinic in Japan and Timber Square in London. These examples demonstrate how verified sourcing can support responsible procurement, strengthen confidence in timber supply chains and provide evidence for green building certification.

Alongside the published standard, PEFC is developing a voluntary circular materials module for use with its Chain of Custody requirements. The module will support the identification, verification and traceability of eligible recycled, reused and recovered materials, including components transferred for further use without becoming waste. Publication is targeted for mid-2027.

Lead actor

PEFC International

Primary stage

Policy, codes and procurement

Secondary stages

Forest landscapes and supply

Products and manufacturing

Construction and use



Timber Square: a London and PEFC landmark completes
Photo: Hufton & Crow/Bennetts Associates

Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Reported or documented result
International standard	PEFC ST 2102:2026 published in June 2026
Multi-project approach	Provisions for sourcing and certification across multiple projects
Commercial construction	Timber Square, London: final PEFC project certificate, 25 June 2026
Heritage restoration	Notre-Dame Cathedral, France: certified timber roof reconstruction, 2024 HMS Victory, UK: PEFC-certified oak used in ongoing restoration, with project certification pursued, 2026
Public infrastructure	Takinoue public health clinic, Japan: project certification, 2025
Engineered timber building	Hasslacher headquarters, Austria: project certification, 2025
Circular material standard development	Development initiated in 2024; Working Draft 3 prepared in 2026 as a voluntary module to PEFC ST 2002
Circular material piloting	Task force and pilot-testing programme supporting requirements for recycled, reused, repaired and reassembled forest- and tree-based materials



Forward pathway

Building on the revised Project Sourcing Standard and experience from existing certified projects, PEFC will focus on encouraging wider application across housing developments, public buildings, renovation projects and construction portfolios. Practical guidance and training can help developers, contractors and procurers integrate responsible sourcing into project planning, material specifications and procurement procedures.

PEFC could work with Building for Forests partners to identify suitable projects and connect developers, suppliers, certification bodies and other stakeholders involved in their delivery. Particular opportunities include public procurement, affordable housing and projects involving smaller businesses, where sourcing solutions need to be credible and cost-effective. Cooperation could also help document implementation challenges and lessons for other projects.

The circular materials module, expected in mid-2027, offers opportunities to explore responsible sourcing in renovation, material recovery and reuse. Working with construction partners, PEFC could identify suitable applications to test the requirements and document experience with material identification, traceability and verification, contributing to wider efforts to reduce construction waste.

Potential outputs towards COP32 include additional certified projects, documented applications of the revised standard, examples of circular sourcing and practical guidance informed by implementation experience. Through Building for Forests, these results could support knowledge exchange and wider replication across different construction markets.

Contact for further information: Thorsten Arndt, Head of Advocacy, PEFC International (thorsten.arndt@pefc.org)

The Grand Ring, designed by Sou Fujimoto Architects
Expo 2025 Osaka
Photo: Bart Wellens / Unsplash

SITCA

Rooted in Forests. Built for Tomorrow.
Generating robust scientific evidence for transforming the built environment

What changed and why it matters

On 1 July 2026, SITCA – *the Science and Timber Construction Alliance* – was established under the scientific leadership of IIASA, in partnership with leading international companies along the timber construction value chain.

The aim of this global partnership is to generate research and communicate its findings to relevant audiences, demonstrating how sustainable forest management, wood construction and bio-based regenerative materials can serve as strategic levers to repair the climate, improve livelihoods, and protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity.

To launch Workstream 1 of the programme - creating robust scientific evidence - an international workshop was held to refine and prioritise the key scientific research questions. Initial information about the programme was shared at various meetings and conferences including at the 28th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), and at 17th Conference of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 17).

Although the alliance is still in its early stages, it is already contributing to a more evidence-based and balanced debate by providing scientific input on key challenges and opportunities related to wood availability, carbon accounting, policy frameworks, and competitiveness.

SITCA brings together a broad range of stakeholders from across the forest and timber construction value chain, including the private sector, academia, policymakers, the finance sector, and environmental and social NGOs.

Lead actor

Science and Timber Construction Alliance

Primary stage

Construction and use

Secondary stages

Forest landscapes and supply

Finance, insurance and risk

Policy, codes and procurement



Launch of SITCA
Photo: www.sitca.earth/news

Forward pathway

SITCA aims to advance timber construction through robust scientific evidence, stakeholder engagement, and raising awareness and informing decision makers - positioning sustainable forest management and timber construction in a contemporary, evidence-based context. Key research questions include:

1. **Wood Availability.** Can timber construction be scaled up without compromising forest ecosystems, biodiversity, or the availability of wood for other industries? Research focuses on future wood supply, forest productivity, sustainable harvesting levels, and the capacity of the forest-based value chain.

2. **Carbon Accounting.** How can the climate benefits of timber construction be measured and compared consistently? Research focuses on robust approaches to accounting for carbon storage in buildings, the forest–construction carbon pump, and the potential for long-term carbon removal.

3. **Competitiveness.** What determines the competitiveness of timber construction, and how can it be enhanced? Research examines technical performance, costs, market conditions, supply chains, and the economic viability of timber construction systems.

4. **Policy and Regulatory Frameworks.** What institutional conditions are needed to scale up timber construction? Research identifies barriers and enabling mechanisms in regulations, standards, certification systems, public procurement, and policy frameworks.

Contact: www.sitca.earth, sitca@iiasa.ac.at, info@sitca.earth

WoodPoP Dara Award

Promoting Sustainable Timber Construction across Europe

What changed and why it matters

The European Wood Policy Platform (WoodPoP), initiated by Austria and Finland, has created a European award to recognise progress in timber construction. Launched in October 2025, the Dara Award highlights projects that combine innovation, sustainability and architectural quality.

The first edition has brought 59 projects from 22 European countries into the Dara Hall of Fame. By making this experience more visible, the initiative provides examples that designers, policymakers and construction professionals can draw on when considering timber. Recognition and knowledge exchange are intended to strengthen confidence in sustainable timber construction and encourage wider adoption.

Strengthening the stakeholder ecosystem

The award connects architects, researchers, policymakers and timber construction professionals across Europe. An international expert jury and a public vote for the People's Choice Award bring professional assessment and public participation into the recognition process, creating opportunities to share experience and develop new partnerships.

Lead actor

European Wood Policy Platform (WoodPoP); Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management

Primary stage

Products and manufacturing

Secondary stages

Policy, codes and procurement



Evidence snapshot

Evidence point	Documented progress
Award launch	The first Dara Award was launched at WoodPoP's 4th High-Level Meeting in Slovenia on 15 October 2025.
European project showcase	The Dara Hall of Fame includes 59 timber construction projects from 22 countries across four categories.
Selection process	An international expert jury has selected the awardees, and public voting for the People's Choice Award has taken place.

Forward pathway

The first award ceremony is scheduled for 26 November 2026 in Prague, during WoodPoP's 5th High-Level Meeting.

The Dara Award is planned to take place every two years. In the intervening years, the WoodPoP Student Award will highlight emerging talent and ideas from the next generation of timber construction professionals. Together, the awards aim to sustain knowledge exchange, strengthen European networks and encourage wider use of sustainable timber construction.

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Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monestery. Photo credit: Fabian Ong Photography

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