

Guidance Note

Item 5.2 - Sourcing wealth and financing opportunities

1. Date & Time

Monday, 23 February 2026, from 15:00 to 18:15 CET.

2. Context

Sustainably managed forests provide wood as well as non-wood forest products and act as carbon sinks. Harvested wood products can store carbon and replace fossil fuel-intensive materials. Countries across the globe are starting to develop national bioeconomy-related funds or specific wood programmes. However, efforts are sometimes duplicated and the potential for harmonization, exchange and collaboration between relevant actors is big. For example, the building sector accounts for 21% of global emissions, with wood recognized by the IPCC as a key mitigation pathway. Innovations in engineered wood and recycling expand low carbon building options, supporting economies and creating sustainable jobs. However, challenges remain, including uncertainties in carbon accounting and limited policy integration.

Taking into account the outcomes of [COLI Webinar 2 “Financing the future: Unlocking investments for a thriving forest-based bioeconomy”](#), the session will explore diverse financial mechanisms—from innovative investment approaches to expanding climate finance and market-based solutions. Unlocking these opportunities will be key to building a resilient and thriving forest-based bioeconomy that balances economic growth with sustainability.

3. Objectives

This thematic session aims to identify:

- i. Key finance-related factors that support or hinder the global development of a forest-based bioeconomy.
- ii. Development strategies and instruments, including policy and infrastructure measures, to improve financial access, promote sustainable growth and leverage the benefits of the forest-based bioeconomy across regions.

4. Guiding questions

- i. Which **finance-related factors** support the global development of a forest-based bioeconomy?
- ii. What are the main **financial challenges** hindering the development of a forest-based bioeconomy, both globally and regionally?
- iii. Which **financial measures** could best leverage the benefits offered by the development of sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches?
e.g. sources of finance, financial instruments, markets and mitigation measures
- iv. Which actions could be established to improve financial access and support the development of sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches across regions? (e.g. **fiscal policy-, trade policy-, and infrastructure**)

5. Format and modalities

The thematic session will be hosted by the session lead. The session comprises a keynote presentation, followed by stakeholder views and facilitated discussions in breakout groups on site and online. During the facilitated discussion, participants will have the opportunity to contribute to the above-mentioned four guiding questions. Time allows for approximately 15 minutes of discussion per guiding question within the breakout groups.

The key points from the parallel sessions will be presented in the plenary followed by an exchange of views giving participants the opportunity to contribute to the discussion of all topics.

6. Draft programme

Location: Room 8 ("Sophie")		
	Moderator: Ewald Rametsteiner, <i>Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</i>	Speaker
15:00	Opening by session lead	Vicente de Azevedo Araújo Filho Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil
15:05	Keynote	Klas Sander World Bank
15:20	Stakeholder views	Henrick Fox (tbc) University of California, Berkeley, US Alexander Burghartswieser (tbc) Eva Mayr-Stihl Stiftung

		Cécile Njebedet (tbc) African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)
15:35	World café	<i>Breakout group discussion on guiding questions</i> <i>Facilitated by Lisa Lehner (AT), Lyndall Bull (FAO), Nelson Grima (IUFRO), Peter Mayer (BFW)</i>
16:35	Summary by facilitators	
16:50	Closing by session lead	
16:55	Coffee break	<i>Reconvene in plenary</i>

Location: Room 10 ("Orangerie")	
Moderator: Tiina Ryttilä-Broere <i>Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland</i>	
17:25	<i>Pitch of key points from Item 5.1 and 5.2</i>
17:45	<i>Exchange of views</i>
18:05	<i>Conclusion by Co-Chairs</i>

7. References

- i. **FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)**. 2025. *Summary report of Webinar 2. Financing the future: Unlocking investments for a thriving forest-based bioeconomy*. Rome, FAO. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd6687en>
- ii. **FAO**. 2025. *Background paper of Webinar 2. Financing the future: Unlocking investments for a thriving forest-based bioeconomy*. Rome, FAO. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd5568en>
- iii. **IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations)**. 2026. Policy Paper [link will be provided upon availability]
- iv. **Nature Finance**. 2024. Financing a Sustainable Global Bioeconomy. <https://www.naturefinance.net/resources-tools/financing-sustainable-global-bioeconomy/>