

Co-Chairs' Summary
Global Summit
“Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches”
A Country-Led Initiative in support of UNFF and COFO
23–25 February 2026, Vienna, Austria

Co-Chairs

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I. Introduction

- 1. The Global Summit on “Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches” was convened in Vienna, Austria, from 23–25 February 2026 as a Country-Led Initiative (CLI) in support of the work the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Committee on Forests (COFO). The Summit was hosted by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management of the Republic of Austria, co-chaired by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment of the Republic of South Africa and co-convened by the Governments of Australia, Finland, Japan, and Türkiye, the FAO, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), and the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS).*
- 2. The Summit brought together representatives from UNFF Member States, FAO Members, organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), regional and sub-regional organizations, Major Groups, the private sector, academia, youth, civil society and other interested stakeholders. In total, 260 participants onsite and 230 participants online from over 60 countries and 100 organization joined the discussions on-site and virtually, ensuring a broad and inclusive exchange of perspectives and expertise.*
- 3. Sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches (SFBA) have gained increasing global recognition as essential pathways for transitioning towards climate neutrality, circular economies, and more resilient societies. “A World Free of Plastic” cannot be achieved without a comprehensive commitment to building a bioeconomy with a forest-based bioeconomy being a significant pillar of that future. Scaling forest-based bioeconomy has to be based on sustainable forest management (SFM) and strengthened forest integrity and biodiversity, and committed to long-term system resilience.*

4. *The momentum for SFBA has been reinforced through a series of intergovernmental processes. UNFF19 (May 2024) called on Member States to engage major groups and stakeholders in advancing SFM and forest-based bioeconomy. COFO27 (July 2024) encouraged FAO to strengthen global bioeconomy partnerships and for the FAO to convene an international conference on the forest sector's role in sustainable bioeconomy. These calls were further supported by the FAO Council (December 2024), which invited FAO to scale up technical support, knowledge exchange, and innovation transfer related to SFBA. Thorough consultations were carried out in 2025 to develop a global, multistakeholder bioeconomy partnership for sustainable agrifood systems. A proposal to this end is expected to be presented at the 180th FAO Council on 8-12 June 2026.*
5. *In response, the Government of Austria, through its Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management launched a Country and Organization-Led Initiative (COLI) on Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches. This Summit represents the culmination of a broader COLI process, which has included a 2025 Global Webinar Series¹, bilateral and multilateral workshops, scientific policy briefs, and collaborative research studies. The outcomes of the Summit presented in this Co-Chair Summary report, are structured in clear, usable language to be presented at UNFF21 and COFO28, facilitate integration into UNFF21 and COFO28 deliberations and decision-making in those forums and serve as input for discussions in those forums and to wider international processes.*

II. High-Level Segment

6. *The Summit was formally opened on 23 February 2026 in Vienna, Austria by the **host country and Summit Co-Chair** represented by H.E. Norbert Totschnig, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management, Austria. The Minister's opening remarks welcomed participants and underscored Austria's commitment to enhance forest-based bioeconomy highlighting the unique role of forests in addressing climate change, supporting rural development, and promoting SFBA. He emphasized the need for exchanging ideas and strengthening international cooperation.*
7. *The **Co-Chair from South Africa**, Ms. Pumeza Nodada, Deputy Director-General: Forestry Management Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment stressed the need for SFM in national perspectives Ms Nodada pointed out that technology and innovation in the forest sector enhances the bioeconomy potential, expanding market opportunities, improving competitiveness, and strengthening specific value chains. Furthermore, digital tools play an important role in the transformation of the Global South towards sustainable forest-based bioeconomy, while addressing the need to ensure equitable benefits for local communities.*

¹ <https://www.fao.org/forestry/our-focus/forest-products/sustainable-forest-based-bioeconomy-approaches/en>

8. *The **High-Level Session** featured statements of high-level representatives from countries and organizations. Country representatives shared national experiences, commitments, and leadership perspectives. Many highlighted the progress in integrating bioeconomy approaches into national forest programmes, climate strategies, and development plans were highlighted. Others stressed the importance of international cooperation across sectors and innovation in all aspects including circularity of biobased materials. Together, these statements reinforced political momentum, with a shared recognition that SFBA should balance climate goals, biodiversity, and inclusive development. **Common themes** included the need for policy coherence, cross-sectoral coordination, and inclusive participation of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities².*
9. *In the **keynote** Emmanuel de Merode, Director of Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), highlighted the need to effectively promote bioeconomy by prioritizing the protection of our forests. These vital ecosystems are essential for the survival of human populations and wildlife alike. Illegal logging is a pervasive issue that we should collectively confront. It is crucial to foster a society that utilizes healthy forest resources responsibly and sustainably. In this context he presented the pioneer project located in eastern DRC, which stands for a harmonious integration of environmental conservation and socioeconomic development. Home to unparalleled biodiversity Virunga faces the challenge of safeguarding its rich ecosystems while addressing the needs of the 11 million people residing in extreme poverty around its periphery.*
10. *In response, the park has pioneered innovative strategies to balance conservation efforts with community empowerment by implementing bioeconomy solutions.*
11. *With the Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor, DRC is aiming to create the world's largest protected tropical forest reserve, encompassing 540,000 km², this initiative seeks to generate 500,000 new jobs and transport a million tons of food annually to Kinshasa, Africa's largest city. Virunga National Park exemplifies how creative conservation approaches can foster environmental preservation, economic growth, and peace-building in regions grappling with conflict and poverty.*

III. Business Talk

12. *The **Business Talk** brought in the private sector perspective related to the forest-based bioeconomy. Industry leaders outlined good practices, innovations and current investments and market opportunities in bio-based products, including wood and non-wood forest products (NWFP). Panelists emphasized that forests are dynamic, living systems and noted strong private-sector interest in investing in sustainable forestry and bioeconomy solutions. However, the panelists emphasized that progress is often constrained by fragmented regulations, uncertain tenure arrangements, limited financing, high production costs, and insufficient availability of raw materials. Discussions underscored the need for clearer and more consistent forestry laws, global alignment on standards and measurement protocols, and a holistic approach to carbon and forest management. Additional concerns included balancing growing demand with sustainable supply of timber and wild collected species,*

² Contributions included interventions from Australia, Finland, Japan, Türkiye, UNFF, FAO and IUFRO.

including aromatic and medicinal plants, ensuring legality and consumer confidence, and addressing fire-related forest losses. Strengthening cooperation, including public private partnerships, protecting native ecosystems, and improving the regeneration of burned forests were also identified as essential priorities.

13. *A joint statement from the forest-based private sector was released during the Summit by three private sector bodies that provide guidance to United Nations' entities, i.e. FAO's Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSFI) as well as the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA), and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) Forest Solutions Group, both collaborating under the Major Group "Industry and Business" of UNFF. The forest-based private sector called for action to further strengthen cooperation among governments, academia, industry, and communities to unlock benefits provided by the forest sector for a sustainable bioeconomy. The statement reflects a shared interest in ongoing dialogue and cooperation and a collective expression of support for continued engagement in advancing SFBA.³*

IV. Science Talk

14. *A **Science Talk**, showcased the latest research findings and providing cutting-edge insights into how forests and wood-based products contribute to carbon neutrality, material substitution, biodiversity conservation, and socio-economic benefits. The presentations of IUFRO, Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) and International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) covered the global as well as the regional specific research related to SFBA. The discussion emphasized the high importance of evidence-based policy making and the crucial role of research in shaping SFBA. Panelists highlighted that institutional innovation and a framework for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small holders is needed to promote the forest-based bioeconomy. In addition, sharing of best practice between nations and sectors is essential for efficient system transformation. Panelists further stressed that an active science-policy interface is key to successful implementation of bioeconomy in our societies and this requires scientific recommendations and advices be as practical as possible.*

V. Vision and scope of COLI

15. *The COLI Secretariat provided an overview of the development and the vision of the initiative. Lighthouse activities that led to COLI include: the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) initiative⁴, the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood issued at the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC) in the Republic of Korea 2022⁵, the WOOD for GLOBE project⁶ with its High-Level Event and Outcome Statement, the Austrian Wood Initiative and the Austrian Forest Fund as well as deliberations at*

³ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/eb2b6b79-c446-4558-8e44-bb04f9861eb1>

⁴ <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/initiatives/sustainable-wood-for-a-sustainable-world/en>

⁵ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/74ffc465-498a-46ce-bea6-c7839c9c4be3/content>

⁶ <https://www.iufro.org/wood-for-globe>

UNFF19, UNFF20 and COFO27⁷. The COLI's vision is to strengthen and find innovative ways to advance SFBA together in the spirit of collaboration. With its interactive format, the Summit focused on sharing experiences and gaining knowledge. Its design creates new opportunities for systemic transformation.

VI. Communication

*16. The Summit featured a Communication Session, organized by the Regional Forest Communicators' Network, to introduce Grow the Solution, a multiyear awareness-raising and advocacy initiative led by FAO under the aegis of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). Grow the Solution complements SW4SW, another CPF initiative, the aim of which is to ensure a stable and responsible supply of wood resources. The session emphasized the importance of shared narratives and coordinated messaging across all actors in the forest-based bioeconomy sector. The session concluded with a call to actively support and amplify **Grow the Solution** as a key tool and common platform for strengthening public understanding of - and trust in - sustainable forest-based solutions and amplifying shared messages. Austria, Canada, Germany and United Kingdom have underlined the importance to support Grow the Solution financially and emphasized that Grow the Solution should serve as a common platform for developing, aligning, and amplifying shared messages.*

VII. Summary of discussions on the thematic areas

17. The Summit participants discussed the six thematic areas, derived in from the COLI preparatory process. Each topic was introduced by a keynote presentation to set the context and provide a baseline of evidence and data, followed by stakeholder panel reflections bringing perspectives from countries and diverse stakeholders. Participants then engaged in interactive discussions guided by sessions leads, moderators, facilitators and drawing on theme specific guiding questions.

18. Throughout the Thematic Sessions a number of concepts came through repeatedly highlighting their importance and cross cutting nature of SFBA. These concepts spanned the issues of land tenure, leveraging cultural and traditional knowledge and experience and the need for and value in intra and inter sectorial communication and cooperation. The participants routinely recognized the importance of SFB being underpinned by effective enforcement of regulations and were convinced that these bioeconomies, and the forests inherent in them, are an important bridge between the three Rio Conventions. Across all thematic areas timber and wood products held an equal importance to NWFPs including ecosystem services (ESS), with discussions on forests and trees encompassing trees outside forests and agroforestry.

VII.A. Policy meets practice

*19. **Status.** Recent years have seen notable progress in embedding sustainable forest-based bioeconomy within policies and strategies. Globally, 27 countries have*

⁷ <https://www.fao.org/forestry/committee-on-forestry/cofo-27/en>

adopted national bioeconomy strategies or related policy frameworks, with around a third explicitly referencing forests as a key resource base. Countries like Brazil, Canada, Finland, Japan have adopted long-term policies that integrate forest-based industries into climate, industrial, and innovation strategies. At the global level, initiatives such as the Bioeconomy Challenge, which Working Group on Metrics and Indicators in led by FAO and which inaugural meeting took place in Vienna the day after the Global Summit, the G20 Bioeconomy Initiative and its High-Level Principles provide important lessons learnt and policy pathways. Furthermore, bioeconomy can be considered as a platform to provide synergies among the Rio Conventions. At the regional level, initiatives such as the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, ASEAN Forestry Cooperation, and African Union initiatives highlight forests as essential means for climate-neutral and circular economies.

20. **Success factors.** *Bioeconomy strategies and related initiatives can contribute to creating an enabling environment, economic development and knowledge exchange. Participants highlighted that effective cross-ministerial, cross-sectoral and multi-scientific coordination (e.g. Finland's Forest Bioeconomy Science Panel, Japan's Wood Change Council), integration of forest bioeconomy into Nationally Determined Contributions, and public procurement policies for low-carbon materials will accelerate the adoption of SFBA. Finland's Forest Bioeconomy Science Panel and Japan's Wood Change Council were seen as successful examples for these approaches. Participants underlined that the inclusive engagement of all relevant stakeholders including outside the forest sector, to drive innovation is a key for successful implementation. Furthermore, SFBA can be upscaled through adequate finance and aligned incentives such as carbon pricing or ESS payments. Capacity building and education at different levels fostering inter- and transdisciplinarity, as well as communication and dissemination of good practices can create a strong foundation for the acceleration of SFBA.*
21. **Gaps and challenges.** *The lack of a comprehensive and coherent vision, fragmentation of policies and conflicting regulations incl. misplaced subsidies hinder the implementation or upscaling of SFBA. Devising holistic national and international policies remains a challenge, due to, in part, overlapping mandates and competition for resources between forestry, agriculture, energy, and industrial ministries. The adoption of SFBA is limited by perverse incentives, uncertainty about tenure rights, insufficient regulations, lack of access to markets, an absence of data and inconsistency of standards and metrics. Insufficient communication, coordination, and exchange of knowledge may further limit the upscaling opportunities of SFBA.*
22. **Opportunities.** *Immediate opportunities exist for upscaling and mainstreaming SFBA into existing national forest strategies, industrial policies, climate strategies, biodiversity plans, circular economy policies, and rural development programs and other policy frameworks. Summit participants updating building regulations, aligning sustainability and product standards, and leveraging public procurement policies to stimulate demand for sustainable forest-based products across multiple economic sectors as immediate high-impact interventions. Providing visible benefits from SFB through pilot initiatives and demonstration projects are further steps that can be taken stimulate demand and public interest. Social, technical, environmental,*

and economic innovation at all levels of goods and services can contribute to the value addition of forest-based bioeconomy. Participants also emphasized the opportunities to harmonize policies and foster bioeconomy synergies promoted by global initiatives (e.g. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP30 Bioeconomy Challenge, G20 Bioeconomy initiative, FAO proposed global Partnership on Bioeconomy for Sustainable Food and Agriculture) and regional cooperation platforms (e.g. ASEAN, African Continental Free Trade Area). In addition, participants highlighted the need to go beyond wood value of forests and acknowledge the contribution of NWFPs and versatile ESS as an integral part of the forest-based bioeconomy.

VII.B. Sourcing wealth and financing opportunities

- 23. **Status.** The global forest-finance gap is estimated at USD 468 Billion annually. Domestic private finance remains the largest source, accounting for 40-45% of global flows, while international public finance (e.g. overseas development assistance) representing approximately 2%. Finance has proven decisive in enabling scalable SFBA. Global green bond issuance has grown rapidly surpassing USD 500 billion annually (2024), though forestry-specific bonds represent less than 5%. Climate funds (e.g., Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility) have mobilized more than USD 1.2 billion for forest and land-use projects between 2020–2024; small in comparison to investments in to agricultural or energy sectors. Access to capital for SMEs is particularly limited: fewer than 20% of forest-related SMEs report sufficient access to credit.*
- 24. **Success factors.** An immediate need to include a shift in incentives that stimulate and support market demand for sustainable bio-based materials was stressed. These incentives need to go along with instruments that provide focused, catalytic support to manage risks for and incentivize investments by producers. Positive examples already exist, such as green bonds, blended finance instruments, and investment funds driven by Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and targeting sustainable forestry and agroforestry. In some regions, public–private partnerships have helped de-risk long-term forest investments, channelling resources into afforestation, sustainable harvesting, and processing. The Summit noted success factors such as concessional finance mechanisms, dedicated funds like the European Union (EU) Bioeconomy Investment Platform, and growing private equity interest in bio-based start-ups. In addition, public procurement is another element that can enhance the application of the bioeconomy at all levels. Successful regional examples include the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, as well as regional support activities within the framework of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and FAO initiatives promoting the valorisation of forests beyond wood.*
- 25. **Gaps and challenges.** Innovation is often led by SMEs but is hampered by limitations in accessing affordable finance, and investment security. Investors continue to perceive forestry as a high-risk sector due to long investment horizons, unclear land tenure, and volatile markets. Fiscal and trade policies in many countries have yet to align with the needs of a bioeconomy in any form. The Summit noted challenges include adapting legal frameworks, removing insurance barriers, securing land ownership structure and engaging the interest of financial institutions, inconsistent*

enforcement, and policies favouring fossil-based products. These challenges could be addressed by ensuring ready access to reliable scientific evidence, best-practice business cases, information on forest resources, trade, supply and demand and enhanced cross-sectorial communication and coordination. Financial, technical, and infrastructure gaps constrain innovation adoption, especially in the Global South and fragmented research-practice linkages often hinder bioeconomy development.

26. **Opportunities.** Immediate opportunities include aligning policy, regulation and market-based mechanisms to reflect bioeconomy environmental value. The Summit considered that creating microfinance for communities and green credit lines for SMEs and other tailored financial products alongside disseminating information on successful business models for smallholders and SMEs, and creating service platforms facilitating access to markets were effective examples that could be implemented quickly. Tailored financial products can be supported by creating harmonized frameworks for lifecycle assessments and bioeconomy-related metrics and indicators. These can then be adopted by international finance and development organizations, strengthening market credibility and paving the way for increased investment flows. These instruments can be expanded through value-added mechanisms, incentive policies, low-barrier carbon accounting and tools that could enable a more inclusive market access. Voluntary carbon markets with strong integrity safeguards, along with innovative financial instruments such as carbon credits, guarantees, and insurance schemes, can help attract private capital. Fiscal reforms like tax credits for low-carbon construction materials could incentivize large-scale industries. The Summit also highlighted smallholders' access can be encouraged through aggregating projects and reducing risks in regional and national investment platforms and supported by digital finance tools.

VII.C. Building the future with wood

27. **Status.** Wood construction has emerged as a symbol of the bioeconomy transition, offering durable, historically proven low-carbon alternatives to conventional building materials and contributing to carbon storage in long-lived products. Studies show that substituting wood for steel and concrete with wood in construction could reduce building sector emissions by up to 30%. At the same time the substitution drives demand for sustainable managed wood and meets the housing for a growing population. Wood construction represents a strategic option to achieve carbon zero and resilient societies, including in the developing world, where generating decent jobs and addressing the housing deficit are critical. The global market for engineered wood is growing rapidly, driven by demand for sustainable housing solutions and projected to reach \$427.3 billion by 2033 (valued at USD 254.2 billion in 2023). Yet, fewer than 20 countries currently have building codes, norms and standards that fully recognize the technological advancements and environmental contributions of mass timber technologies, limiting wider adoption. Initiatives such as COLI, the European Wood Policy Platform (WoodPoP), the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World, Forest Climate Leaders Partnership, and the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction and the Building for Forests Climate Acceleration Plan have raised awareness and advance implementation of wood in construction as a climate solution. The Principles for Responsible Timber Construction were endorsed by 353

organizations from private sector and civil society and 15 national governments, is policy setting that can scale up wood in construction.

- 28. Success factors.** *The adoption of wood products, especially engineered ones such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) and laminated veneer lumber (LVL) has accelerated in several countries thanks to supporting projects in urban centers and favorable regulatory environments. Policy initiatives have driven the construction of sustainable wooden buildings in several regions such as Europe, North America, and Asia, where regulatory frameworks, research investments, and public procurement policies are favorable.*
- 29.** *Participants noted policy measures that have supported uptake, such as Costa Rica's climate change commitments that include carbon stored in harvested wood products, Türkiye's regulation on design and introduction of species in wood building standards accompanied by public projects shaping the markets; France's law mandating 50% bio-based materials in public buildings by 2030, Czechia revision of building codes to allow up to eight story buildings and demonstration through use of wood in construction of fire houses and provincial policies in Canada that prioritize building with wood and enable advanced wood-based building construction up to 12 to 18 stories. Participants also emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships, dissemination of knowledge and information, and investments in industrialized timber housing. Technological advances in prefabrication and modular construction reduce costs, making wooden structures more appealing to builders and developers.*
- 30. Gaps and challenges.** *Building codes, finance, and insurance rules in many countries fail to recognize the performance and safety of modern wood products, limiting wooden structures to three or four stories. Participants also noted several barriers to greater adoption of wood materials that will require a cultural transition. These barriers included: perceived higher costs of wood materials and lower fire-safety relative to conventional alternatives, as well as wood buildings being associated, in some countries, with low-income housing with a shorter useful life. It was recognized that there is a need to better relate the opportunities from building with wood to the housing needs of the global south. The lack of information within the sector about available resources at a given time and a gap between demand and supply of wood in some countries/regions, were also seen by participants as hindering the integration wood materials into housing policies. Participants noted that there are challenges related to engagement and capacity building of SMEs, lack of developed local industry, infrastructure, and skills shortages in the construction workforce wood-based solutions.*
- 31. Opportunities.** *Immediate opportunities include integrating wood into national building regulations, and demonstration in public and private sector buildings and infrastructure while ensuring the inclusion of substitution effect of wood products in reporting of climate change mitigation effect, thus boosting the full recognition of their positive effect and demand for these products. Policies systematically integrating wood-based constructions into housing, infrastructure and, climate strategies, as well as the renovation and extension of existing buildings using timber, can reduce emissions at scale. Coordinated efforts to develop and implement regionally compatible building codes and standards, as well as international carbon*

accounting systems, can drive wider adoption of wood-based construction. Certifying environmental profile and characteristics of wood-based construction products have potential to create a competitive market advantage. Clear sustainability standards and transparent supply chains are essential to build confidence and ensure that increased demand can be supplied sustainably. Public procurement initiatives, especially for institutional buildings, were considered high-impact entry points that can contribute to expand markets, addressing public perception challenges, and lower costs. Public-private partnerships, innovation, digitalization and education are important for realizing opportunities for wood construction. Policies that support research and development, coupled with industry–academic partnerships and international technical cooperation were considered as essential to accelerate innovation. Responsible private sector engagement was seen as essential for the future. Investing in training to address skill shortages in the construction sector, as well as increasing training to promote understanding of the built bioeconomy environment, is essential to support the scaling up of wood-based construction practices.

VII.D. Forest potentials beyond wood

32. **Status.** Forest products beyond wood, including NWFPs and ESS, represent a fast-growing but often underused pillar of the sustainable forest-based bioeconomy with strong focus on social aspects, including poverty eradication and socio-economic development. Forest products, firmly based in vast use of biodiversity, support the livelihoods of an estimated 5.76 billion people and sustain agrifood systems using more than 50,000 wild species. They contribute in average to 28% of total rural household incomes. NWFPs are particularly important for women, Indigenous Peoples and rural communities. Medicinal plants, nuts, resins, and essential oils are among the top traded products. Examples of initiatives on forest products beyond wood include the Latin America’s use of açai and other biodiversity products, Türkiye’s harvesting of medicinal and aromatic plants, use of wild shea trees in Africa, carbon forestry, statistics and quality systems for forest food such as ginseng in China and Korea.
33. **Success factors.** Good processing capacities, long term purchases agreement, value addition and certification and eco-labeling initiatives have enabled NWFPs to penetrate high-value markets, demonstrating significant consumer demand for sustainably sourced products. However, participants recognized that more documented evidence is needed to share good practices related to the use of forests beyond wood. Community-based management and cooperatives have proven essential for building economies of scale, enhancing bargaining power of local producers, and ensuring sustainable harvesting. Integrating traditional knowledge and the direct involvement of Indigenous Peoples, youth and local communities have demonstrated capacity to increase NWFP’s impact at a local level.
34. **Public support schemes for ESS, including carbon accounting, and targeted subsidies, have generated incentives for forest conservation while diversifying household income streams. However, solid data evidence is required in order to further increase the visibility of the contribution of NWFP and Forest ESS to bioeconomy, including poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation and sustainable development.**

35. **Gaps and challenges.** *Critical challenges include weak land tenure and resource access rights, limited recognition of the rights of women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, underdeveloped processing industries, inadequate infrastructure to connect producers to markets and a limited understanding of NWFPs and forest potential beyond wood. Monitoring systems often remain insufficient and NWFPs and ESS are not fully integrated into national policies, planning frameworks and accounting systems. Data and monitoring gaps also persist with a lack of harmonized statistics on NWFP production, trade, and ecosystem service valuation across different product and service categories limiting visibility in national accounts. In many contexts, policy incoherence and inconsistency, together with limited enforcement of existing regulations, constrain sustainable management and equitable benefit sharing of forests products beyond wood leading to a perception of being “secondary” products compared to timber. Many smallholders and local producers lack access to appropriate processing technology, finance or cooperative structures that could strengthen collective organization, improve bargaining power and enable upgrading of production and value chains. Quality standards and traceability systems are also underdeveloped, limiting competitiveness in global markets and increasing risks of illegal harvesting, encroachment, theft and transboundary leakage.*
36. **Opportunities.** *Opportunities from advances in biorefineries exist to expand bio-based material use such as natural fibers, latex substitutes, bamboo and bio-resins for construction and packaging industries. Strengthening market intelligence and diversification—including niche, certified, and health-related products—was viewed by participants as a fast-growing segment, particularly as global demand for natural, sustainable, and wellness-linked goods expands. Markets related to forest ESS offer potential, as biodiversity credits, voluntary carbon markets, and water-related PES systems can mobilize new forms of finance at scale. The use of e-commerce digital platforms, block-chain and traceability technologies also presents immediate opportunities to connect small-scale producers with global buyers while ensuring transparency and compliance. Innovative organizational mechanisms provide better integration of local stakeholders along the value chains and decision making.*

VII.E. Advancing forest-based value chains

37. **Status.** *Sustainability in forest product value chains, including NWFPs, are central to sustainable forest-based bioeconomy development. Forest-based value chains are unique compared with other agrifood systems due to their multi-year production cycles, provision of public goods, ESS, complex governance structures, including tenure challenges. Forest-based value chains are increasingly shifting from traditional extraction systems toward technologically advanced, multi-actor, circular, and regenerative models that require integrated management across production, processing, and consumption. The evolution in value chains is reinforced by a broad innovation landscape, spanning technological, social, policy, institutional, and financial domains. Value chain analyses show that investment in processing facilities is interdependent with raw material supply and market demand. Importantly the pressures and drivers for production (supply) and consumption (demand) are not uniform in regions or globally, requiring nuanced understanding of value chains to realize their full potential.*

38. *Rising demand for sustainable biomass, low-carbon materials, and packaging alternatives has accelerated interest and adoption of bioeconomy approaches, emphasizing cascading use, recycling, and re-use practices as key drivers for consideration in forest-based value chains. However, investments remain insufficient at several stages of the value chains.*
39. **Success factors.** *Sustainable forest-based bioeconomy value chains can't operate in vacuum; working together at different levels is key especially in changing geopolitical landscapes. Forest-based value chains that are strongly based on traditional knowledge and cultural practices are examples of the sustained success of SFBA. Advances in resource efficiency enhance performance and transparency, supported by an interdisciplinary workforce and the preservation of craftsmanship that enriches both cultural, traditional and technological dimensions of the bioeconomy.*
40. *Market-driven schemes such as certification and legality assurance system in forest biomass producing countries provide credibility and market access, incentivizing sustainable management practices across supply chains. The contemporary approaches for trade liberalization offer value-chains the chance to maximize benefit far earlier compared to history. Public–private partnerships and collaborative initiatives have strengthened linkages between smallholders, communities, and industry, fostering inclusive participation and equitable benefit-sharing. Technological advancements, including digitalization (“Industry 5.0”), precision forestry, and new monitoring methodology, have improved supply chain transparency, legality, and efficiency, also enabling producers to meet international market standards. Policies and regulations that support cascading use of biomass, resource efficiency, and circular economy practices can create frameworks for higher-value utilization of forest products. Access to targeted finance and economic globalization helped integrate producers into regional and global markets. At the same time, participatory approaches, including engagement of youth, women, and Indigenous Peoples, have promoted innovation, strengthened local governance, and enhanced the adaptability of forest-based bioeconomy solutions to diverse ecological and socio-economic contexts. Building on these strengths, forest-based value chains further benefit from strong cooperation among all actors, forest owners, manufacturers, technology developers, policymakers, and citizens. Enhanced productivity while ensuring sustainability, advances in resource efficiency, and transparency, are supported by an interdisciplinary workforce and the preservation of craftsmanship that enriches both cultural, traditional and technological dimensions of the bioeconomy.*
41. **Gaps and challenges.** *Global demand for forest products is rising faster than sustainable supply, creating competition for resources, pressures on natural forests, planted forests, and associated ecosystems. Boosting the productivity of forest while maintaining its sustainability and securing stable supply of raw materials remain key challenges. Competing proprieties across biomass production, biodiversity conservation, and rural livelihoods, highlighting the need for integrated planning. This requires stronger coherence in policy governance and enforcement as well as predictable regulatory frameworks; maintaining an awareness of perverse unintended outcomes. Progress is constrained by limited collaboration across sectors and actors, knowledge gaps, and lack of investment in human capital. Challenges in mobilizing raw materials are linked to infrastructure bottlenecks—particularly in the*

Global South - limiting efficient processing, transport, and market access. Fragmented or inconsistent sustainability standards and trade barriers such as international policy on wood and NWFP (e.g. EUDR) increase complexity for producers and exporters, while negative perceptions of wood in construction in terms of prestige of material or technological advancement slow the adoption within the sector. Financial barriers, including insufficient access to long-term, risk-tolerant capital, constrain investments in processing facilities, value addition, and local enterprises. Additionally, gaps in inclusive participation, especially for smallholders, Indigenous Peoples, and youth, risk leaving key stakeholders marginalized in the benefits of bioeconomy development and raise concerns of inequitable value distribution along global value chains.

- 42. *Opportunities:*** *Several actionable opportunities can accelerate the performance and contribution of forest-centered value chains to sustainable bioeconomy forest-based development. This includes improving restoration and agroforestry systems, and associated production. Scaling digital traceability and transparency systems, including new monitoring technologies, can improve legality, market access, consumer confidence and resource efficiency across supply chains. Promoting reusability principles of biomass and value addition at local processing hubs can increase economic returns, reduce waste, and optimize prolonged resource utilization. Investments in critical infrastructure, such as transport, storage, and processing facilities, particularly in underdeveloped regions, can quickly unlock access to markets and enhance competitiveness. Harmonizing sustainability standards and certification schemes simplifies compliance, facilitates trade, and encourages adoption of sustainable practices. Leveraging regional trade agreements and public procurement policies can further stimulate demand for sustainable forest products. Supporting smallholders and local enterprises through training, cooperative models, and inclusive partnerships ensures that scaling efforts are both socially equitable and economically viable. Innovation across technological, social, education, policy, institutional, and financial domains strengthens competitiveness through improved processing capabilities, community driven models, supportive governance, and green finance. Comprehensive education across all levels complimented by life-long learning, vocational training, as well as targeted awareness-raising can foster inclusive regional and global cooperative approaches.*

VII.F. Growing forest-based innovations

- 43. *Status.*** *Innovation in the forest sector is advancing across technological, social, policy, institutional, and financial domains. New materials such as forest-derived nanocellulose, combined circular textiles, lignin-based biochemicals, advanced composites, mass timber and bio-textiles are expanding their market share. Global demand for such bio-based alternatives is creating strong incentives for innovation development and adoption. In addition, circularity principles such as cascading use and product re-use are driving research into higher-value applications of forest biomass. National strategies, particularly those related to bioeconomy, innovation and well-functioning innovation ecosystems have strengthened linkages between research institutions and industry. Monitoring platforms, including those that are community based and participatory governance tools are enhancing traceability and opportunities for local decision-making. Innovative financial mechanisms, including*

venture funds, blended finance, and results-based payments, play a vital role in supporting inclusive and responsible innovation and adoption and thus, the scaling of forest-based solutions.

- 44. Success factors.** *Forest-based innovations have progressed where enabling conditions foster experimentation, collaboration, and investment. National strategies, innovation clusters, and dedicated research hubs have linked academic research with industry, providing structured environments for testing and scaling new technologies. Supportive policy frameworks and innovation-friendly enabling environments have reduced market uncertainties and encouraged private sector engagement. Participants highlighted recent innovations, including cross-laminated timber (CLT), Glued laminated timber, innovative regulations and solutions for construction joints. Participants recognized the success of re-designing traditional knowledge and methods, as well as technological advancements through digitalization such as 3-D printing, terrestrial laser scanning and easily accessible mobile applications. Access to targeted financing, including venture funds, blended finance, and results-based mechanisms, has allowed early-stage technologies to move from pilot to demonstration phases. Institutional and social innovation was highlighted through the examples of cooperatives and federations, as well as female empowerment among others. Trust is essential for effective collaboration and innovation. Creating a pre-market group and a 'safe space' for pre-competitive exchange fosters trust among stakeholders. This facilitates open communication and cooperation, leading to more successful outcomes. Collaborative networks and public-private partnerships have strengthened knowledge exchange, promoted skills development, and enhanced the integration of community perspectives, particularly those of youth, women, and Indigenous Peoples. These conditions collectively create an ecosystem conducive to developing, testing, and deploying innovations that strengthen forest-based bioeconomy value chains.*
- 45. Gaps and challenges.** *Critical barriers persist in translating responsible and inclusive innovation into widespread bioeconomy impact. There is a lack of coherence and coordination in policies and financial instruments. Innovation ecosystems often lack coordination, leaving communities, researchers, and industry disconnected. Financial instruments for scaling are insufficient, especially for mid-sized enterprises and smallholder-led initiatives. Policy and standards gaps, particularly for emerging bio-based materials, continue to slow market uptake. A lack of consumer awareness regarding forest-based products, leads to an unwillingness to change lifestyles and pay a fair price for sustainable products. Consequently, producers are reluctant to take risks on many potentials on forest-based bioeconomy. Participants noted, there is a lack of skills and education related to the forest sector, with technologies not fully implemented impacting inclusiveness of youth, women, and Indigenous Peoples.*
- 46. Opportunities.** *Several actionable opportunities could accelerate innovation adoption in forest-based bioeconomy approaches yielding measurable impact while setting the stage for broader systemic transformation. Readily deployable technologies and products, such as wood-based construction, lignocellulosic materials, efficient biomass energy production, packaging, plant genetics, NWFP filling market opportunities and adopting a problem-solving oriented approach offer*

near-term economic returns and local value addition. Remote sensing, data-based and AI-based technologies increase the availability of information for producers and consumers as well as improve legality verification, and market credibility. Cooperative and hub-based models provide low-cost platforms for knowledge transfer, joint investment, and skills development, particularly in rural areas. Aligning standards and regulatory frameworks for new bio-based products can remove bottlenecks to commercial adoption. Innovative communication tools can increase awareness and support change of perceptions. Strategic South–South and North–South partnerships enable technology transfer, capacity building, and shared learning, reducing innovation gaps between regions.

VIII. Recommendations

47. *Based on deliberations in plenary and discussions during the thematic sessions, the following key recommendations have been expressed by the Summit.*
48. **Recommendations on policy meets practice:** *Participants underlined that the realization of the potential of SFBA requires coherent policies, innovation, capacity building and inclusive participation of all relevant stakeholders. This requires prioritized actions by all stakeholders to:*
- a) *Develop integrated policy frameworks and metrics spanning forestry, agriculture, energy, and industry, to achieve integrated, coherent cross-sectorial plans that are anchored in measurable targets.*
 - b) *Mainstream sustainable forest-based bioeconomy within national and multilateral environmental agreements and reporting frameworks.*
 - c) *Accelerate and enforce regulatory reforms (e.g. building codes, trade rules, public procurement) to hasten sustainable forest-based bioeconomy adoption.*
 - d) *Advance innovation, research and development, and create enabling conditions to move sustainable forest-based bioeconomy solutions from pilot stage to commercial reality, strengthening market uptake, competitiveness and long-term added value creation.*
 - e) *Create platforms and governance mechanisms that expand the dialogue, co-design decision-making as well as capacity building, education and communication to foster implementation of sustainable forest-based bioeconomy with a focus on engaging youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local and rural communities.*
49. **Recommendations for sourcing wealth and financing opportunities:** *Participants noted that context-appropriate and inclusive innovations are essential to meet projected rise in wood demand sustainably. This requires actions by all stakeholder to:*
- a) *Reform fiscal and trade policies, enabling transformation, re-aligning subsidies from fossil-based industries to bio-based alternatives to make sustainable forest-based bioeconomy more competitive.*

- b) *Streamline standards for carbon and biodiversity credits to attract financial institution and investors, including easy access to markets.*
- c) *Enhance information on forest resources, trade, and supply and demand, sharing best-practice business cases and ensure transparency and accountability in financial flows by scaling guarantee schemes and risk-sharing mechanisms,*
- d) *Promote finance partnerships at all levels to support inclusive forest-based bioeconomy entrepreneurship.*
- e) *Build capacity for SMEs to access finance through creation of tailored financial products, such as microfinance for foresters, forest owners and smallholders, youth, women, local communities and Indigenous Peoples and other forest-related stakeholders.*

50. Recommendations to build the future with wood: *Participants recognized that greater reliance on sustainably sourced wood in construction offers the opportunity for a triple win: cutting emissions, strengthening forest value chains, and enabling affordable low-carbon construction. This requires actions by all stakeholders to:*

- a) *Integrate wood-based construction into housing, infrastructure and climate strategies, policies and programs.*
- b) *Integrate engineered wood and other sustainable wood-based construction materials into national norms and standards systems and building regulations.*
- c) *Align carbon accounting methodologies globally and improve traceability systems;*
- d) *Ensure the inclusion of substitution effect of wood products in reporting of climate change mitigation effect.*
- e) *Incentivize clean and circular production, including through pre-fabricated elements, off-site construction systems, and use of residues and low value wood parts.*
- f) *Develop international knowledge-sharing platforms on wood policy and wood-based construction systems, including integrated to other materials.*
- g) *Strengthen international cooperation in skills-building and technology transfer, especially to rapidly urbanizing regions in Africa and Asia.*

51. Recommendations to tap into forest potentials beyond wood. *Participants acknowledged that sustainable forest-based bioeconomy extends far beyond wood, advancing inclusive agrifood systems and contributing to sustainable and resilient livelihoods especially of marginalized people such as Indigenous Peoples, women and youth. This requires actions by all stakeholders to:*

- a) *Empower local communities and Indigenous Peoples as stewards and key beneficiaries of forest landscape by securing land tenure and equitable resource rights, strengthening collective action mechanisms, and ensuring equitable benefit sharing to enable long-term stewardship and investment.*
- b) *Invest in research and development, technology transfer across cultivation, sustainable harvesting, processing, and storage, alongside infrastructure and skills development, to strengthen value chains, increase local value addition, and improve competitiveness of NWFPs.*

- c) *Integrate NWFPs and FES into provincial, regional and international strategies, supported by transition roadmaps and strengthened data systems that improve inventorying and monitoring of production, trade, and ecosystem with a goal of aligning policy, finance and markets.*
- d) *Promote stable and inclusive market structures through long-term purchasing commitments, sustainability-linked procurement, and producer aggregation mechanisms that enhance income reliability, reduce volatility, and enable communities to plan and invest sustainably.*
- e) *Expand public–private partnerships for payment of ESS and biodiversity credit, and other nature-based finance mechanisms, mobilizing investment to support conservation management while diversifying income and improving livelihood opportunities and stability.*
- f) *Strengthen enabling legal and policy frameworks to remove business barriers, support sustainable enterprise development, improve compliance, and ensure equitable and transparent resource use.*
- g) *Enhance regional and international cooperation to harmonize standards, improve monitoring systems, reduce environmental and market leakage, and support shared learning and coordinated implementation across jurisdictions.*

52. Recommendations for advancing forest-based value chains: *Sustainably sourced forest products offer a multiple win scenario: reducing emissions, strengthening forest value chains, creating rural jobs and income, enhancing resilience of forests to fire, pests, and climate impacts and enabling affordable low-carbon products and construction. Advancing forest-based value chains requires smarter mobilization of resources, stronger innovation ecosystems, improved markets, and deeper partnerships across sectors and regions. This requires actions by all stakeholders to:*

- a) *Promote integrated planning that balances sustainable forest biomass production, biodiversity conservation, and rural livelihoods, with the demand for the derived products, while concurrently mobilizing diverse forest and tree resources, underutilized species, reclaimed timber, and circular material flows, supported by biodiversity safeguards, ecosystem protection, and science-based monitoring.*
- b) *Develop coordinated policy and regulatory frameworks that incentivize circular and cascading practices where appropriate, strengthen traceability and material transparency, integrate ecosystem services into valuation and accounting, and leverage public procurement and policy coherence to drive demand for sustainable bio-based products.*
- c) *Strengthen technical and institutional capacity across value chains by equipping actors with targeted training, technology transfer, and digital tools to accelerate innovation, improve processing efficiency and adoption of advanced forest-based solutions, while fostering science - industry collaboration, combining scientific and traditional knowledge, supporting entrepreneurship, and attracting youth and skilled workers to the sector.*
- d) *Mobilize long-term, risk-tolerant finance to support investment in processing facilities, value addition, and local enterprises, including blended finance and private–public partnerships, while also improving access to finance across the full innovation cycle, reducing administrative barriers, de-risking investments*

through guarantees and policy support, and bridging financing gaps between research, demonstration, and commercial deployment.

- e) Enhance inclusive participation by creating mechanisms for meaningful engagement of all stakeholders, particularly smallholders, Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth in decision-making, benefit-sharing, and innovation processes, and by supporting inclusive market participation, entrepreneurship, cooperative models, and advisory services that activate forest owners and industries, local enterprises, and community actors*
- f) Scale strategic partnerships across sectors and borders to unlock innovation, investment, and markets in forest-based value chains, through joint platforms, stronger public–private cooperation, and targeted regional knowledge exchange that reduces imbalances and accelerates sustainable bioeconomy growth.*

53. Recommendations for Growing forest-based innovation: *Participants stressed the importance of five types of innovation that are particularly valuable for the forest-based bioeconomy sector, ranging from cutting-edge tools and technologies to new funding mechanisms, improved policy frameworks, organizational reforms, and community-based participatory approaches. This requires actions by all stakeholders to:*

- a) Strengthen integrated innovation ecosystems linking research, industry, and communities to facilitate knowledge transfer and scaling of proven technologies.*
- b) Make best use of traditional knowledge and existing expertise in the uptake of innovative solutions.*
- c) Align policies, standards, and regulatory frameworks to ensure future sustainable timber supply, incentivize responsible and inclusive innovation development, adoption and commercialization of novel bio-based products.*
- d) Promote cross-sectoral collaboration and public–private partnerships to connect stakeholders along the forest-based value chain, especially SMEs.*
- e) Foster innovative skills development through education and training to unlock the full potential of the sector.*

54. Based on these recommendations, five collective priority actions *advancing SFBA have been identified at global, regional, national and provincial levels, which are reflected in the “Vienna Call for Action for a sustainable forest-based bioeconomy” and are intended to be embedded in relevant multilateral processes, including UNFF21 and COFO28, and aligned with broader global frameworks (see Annex VII.A.):*

- 1. Take leadership for systemic transformation*
- 2. Ensure an inclusive bioeconomy*
- 3. Mobilize targeted financial resources*
- 4. Create enabling conditions for forest-based value chains and innovation*
- 5. Build collaborative partnerships at all levels*

IX. Closing Session

55. *During the closing session, the Co-Chairs presented the draft **Vienna Call for Action** and the draft **Co-Chair's Summary** and sought inputs and comments from participants. Following a rich discussion, the Vienna Call for Action as well as the Co-Chair's summary was welcomed by the majority of participants, recognizing revisions will occur post-Summit with the final version endorsed by the Co-Chairs following Steering Committee review.*
56. ***Closing remarks** were delivered by representatives of UNFFS, FAO, and the European Commission as well as the Co-Chairs. They underlined the value of the discussion and declared their commitment for strengthening the forest-based bioeconomy and the importance to sustain the momentum, to scale it up and to enhance inclusive cooperation among all stakeholders and countries. The role of technical and institutional leverage points for nature positive transformation was highlighted as well as the vital need for resource efficiency and an agenda for investment that tackles the lack of financing.*
57. *The Co-Chairs' Summary and the Vienna Call for Action form the basis for maintaining the momentum to advance SFBA. Therefore, the Co-Chairs called on all participants to spread the results and to continue the discussion.*

X. Annex

X.A. Vienna Call for Action

X.B. List of participant

X.A.

Vienna Call for Action

for a sustainable forest-based bioeconomy



Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches 2024-2026

X.A.

The **Vienna Call for Action** aims to scale up and evolve sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches (SFBA) in the spirit of collaboration. It is derived from the discussions at the Global Webinar Series 2025¹ and the Global Summit on Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches held on 23-25 February 2026 in Vienna, Austria, co-chaired by Austria and South Africa².

The Summit is co-convened by Australia, Finland, Japan, Türkiye, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat as part of the Country and Organization-led Initiative on Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches. The Initiative was designed in accordance with the UNFF19 High-Level Declaration (2024) and the G20 High-Level Principles on Bioeconomy, and recognizing tools, evidence, technologies and initiatives that exist to upscale bioeconomy approaches, such as the Principles for Responsible Timber Construction and the evolving Bioeconomy for Sustainable Transformation Partnership.

We, the participants at the Global Summit, emphasize that advancing SFBA is essential for the transitioning to nature positive, resilient, diverse, equitable and inclusive economies and societies. SFBA has the demonstrated and proven capacity to, enable societies and the planet to derive greater benefit from sustainably managed forests.

The challenge now is to drive systemic transformation at scale, taking into account the vast expertise of the forest sector as a fundamental basis for SFBA; moving from visibility to viability. To achieve meaningful impact, we call on governments, inter-governmental organizations, private sector, research and academic institutions, and other forest-related stakeholders to join forces and accelerate the following **five collective priority actions** at global, regional, national and sub-national levels advancing sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches:

- 1. Take leadership for systemic transformation**
- 2. Ensure an inclusive bioeconomy**
- 3. Mobilize targeted financial resources**
- 4. Create enabling conditions for forest-based value chains and innovation**
- 5. Build collaborative partnerships at all levels**

¹ <https://www.fao.org/forestry/our-focus/forest-products/sustainable-forest-based-bioeconomy-approaches/en>

² <https://www.bmluk.gv.at/en/coli.html>

X.A.

1. Take leadership for systemic transformation

SFBA should be mainstreamed into policy, funded, and scaled up into practice and has to be based on sustainable forest management. Unlocking new growth opportunities for adding value with wood, non-wood forest products and ecosystem services through responsible value chains, resource efficiency and generating decent jobs are key. This is enabled through strong leadership, coherence of policies and inclusive decision-making at all levels to champion SFBA goals and benefits across climate, biodiversity, sustainability, natural resource management, energy, building, trade, social and industrial agendas.

2. Ensure an inclusive bioeconomy

SFBA should aim to be people-centered and rights-based. Scaling up such ambition requires empowering all forest-related stakeholders including foresters, forest owners, SMEs, forest cooperatives and smallholders, youth, women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Mechanisms that enhance co-creation, inclusive access to resources as well as fair and equitable distribution of benefits should be prioritized. More emphasis is needed on securing tenure rights, gender equality and integrated policies, knowledge transfer, and market participation. These measures will help to ensure that SFBA contributes in particular to sustainable rural development, improving livelihoods, alleviating poverty, protecting cultural values and traditional knowledge, and promoting social equality, resilience and inclusion.

3. Mobilize targeted financial resources

Financing is key for advancing sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches. Resources should move beyond project-by-project financing toward programmatic approaches that enable sector-wide transformation. This includes mobilizing substantial resources in global capital markets, such as blended finance mechanisms, de-risking instruments, access to start-up capital and green bonds. Furthermore, reorienting incentives toward renewable and bio-based solutions, tailoring solutions to local contexts and scaling up sustainable and transition investments are essential. Investments should equally focus on forest value chains, research and knowledge transfer in developing countries, where the potential for inclusive and sustainable growth is the greatest.

X.A.

4. Create enabling conditions for forest-based value chains and innovation

To thrive SFBA needs a sustainable supply of wood and non-wood materials as well as supportive cohesive regulatory and market environments. All relevant actors should act now to promote and advance the implementation of sustainable forest management and ensure resource supply and promote skills, training and science-based capacity building. This includes, tackling trade-offs between land use and management objectives, supporting market access mechanisms, modernizing standards and codes, and recognizing the role of certification schemes in identifying responsibly sourced bio-based products. Public and private procurement policies can help guarantee early markets for sustainable bio-based solutions and support the cultivation of forest-based consumer markets, including through coordinated awareness raising. The scaling of technological, social, political, institutional, and financial innovations should be tailored to national and local circumstances, keeping rural development and global markets in mind.

5. Build collaborative partnerships at all levels

To realize its full potential and to maintain global momentum, SFBA should be implemented within collaborative multistakeholder partnerships at global, regional, national and sub-national levels. This benefits from holistic framing where forest-based knowledge, including technologies, approaches, sustainability metrics and indicators, Indigenous and traditional knowledge are shared across the globe, allowing planet-wide responses to the climate and environment crises as well as context-specific economic and social challenges. SFBA should be recognized in intergovernmental bodies and multilateral processes, such as FAO, UNFF, CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, G20, WTO and the post-2030 Agenda. Multilateral processes should foster transboundary cooperation and equally strengthen existing regional forest governance frameworks as essential complements to global agreements. By linking national programs and actions with international frameworks, countries can create synergies across policy arenas. In this way, SFBA has the potential to contribute to planetary stewardship and the transition to equitable and inclusive prosperity.

X.B.

List of participants

Countries:

Algeria	India
Argentina	Indonesia
Australia	Ireland
Austria	Jamaica
Azerbaijan	Japan
Bhutan	Kenya
Bolivia	Malawi
Botswana	Malaysia
Brazil	Mexico
Burkina Faso	Mozambique
Burundi	Nepal
Canada	Netherlands
China	New Zealand
Colombia	Niger
Congo	Nigeria
Costa Rica	Peru
Côte d'Ivoire	Poland
Croatia	Republic of Korea
Czechia	Russia
Democratic Republic of Congo	Sierra Leone
Djibouti	Slovakia
Ecuador	Slovenia
Egypt	Somalia
Equatorial Guinea	South Africa
Estonia	South Sudan
Ethiopia	Spain
Finland	Sweden
Georgia	Switzerland
Germany	Thailand
Ghana	Türkiye
Guatemala	United Kingdom
Guinea	United Republic of Tanzania
Hungary	Zambia

X.B.

Organizations:

Aalto University
 Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries
 African Forest Forum
 African Wildlife Economy Institute
 Agricultural University of Tirana
 Agryforest
 proHolz Austria
 Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
 Amazon Forest Bioeconomy Businesses Association
 Association for Farmers Rights Defense
 Association of Austrian Land & Forest Owners
 Association of the Austrian Wood Industries
 Atacama
 Association of the People who Care about the Future
 Austrian Biomass Association
 Austrian Research Centre for Forests
 Austropapier
 Bamboo Forum of Tripura
 BeResilient GmbH BioBASE
 Bioeconomy Science Institute Bioeconomy Youth Champions
 Bioeconomy Youth Ambassador
 Biofuture Industry Council
 BOKU University
 Bosque Urbano de Extra A.C.
 Brewcycle
 Built by Nature
 Büro für nachhaltige Entwicklung
 Capman Natural Resources
 Casagrande Laboratory
 Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry
 Central African Forest Commission
 Central European University
 Centurion University of Technology and Management
 Charity Foundation For Livelihood Support
 Chatham House
 Chinese Academy of Forestry
 Clemson University
 Climate Fellow United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
 Commission nationale REDD+
 Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador
 Czech University of Life Sciences Prague
 denkhausbremen
 Industry and Competition
 Deutsche Säge- und Holzindustrie Bundesverband e.V.
 DFS Deutsche Forstservice GmbH
 Distrital University
 Divecha Centre for Climate Change – Indian Institute of Science
 Ecoflora Cares
 Ecosocial Forum Austria & Europe
 Estonian Forest and Wood Industries Association
 European Union Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors
 European Bioeconomy University
 European Commission
 European Confederation of Woodworking Industries
 European Forest Institute
 European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry
 European Wood Policy Platform
 Executive Forest Agency
 EY denkstatt
 Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

X.B.

fbi consult
 Federal College of Forest Resources
 Management
 Forest & Climate Leaders Partnership
 Forest Development Service Azerbaijan
 Forest Matrix
 Forest Products Association of Canada
 Forest Research Institute, Dehradun
 Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
 Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria
 Forest Stewardship Council
 Future Earth South Asia
 Gemeinsam am Hof
 Global Shea Alliance
 Gremial Forestal
 GROWNlab
 University of Innsbruck
 Hasslacher Group
 HerbaFarm
 Hinterland Systems - Verein zur Förderung
 von regenerativen Regionalsystemen
 Hochschule Geisenheim University
 Holzforschung Austria
 Homo Silvestris Europae
 International Advisory Council on Global
 Bioeconomy
 International Climate Councils Network
 International Institute for Applied Systems
 Analysis
 Innocirc e.U.
 InnovaWood
 Institute of Agriculture, Education and
 Rural Development Research
 Instituto Humboldt – Colombia
 International Tropical Timber Organization
 International Union of Forest Research
 Organizations
 International Union for Conservation of
 Nature
 Istanbul Technical University – Disaster
 and Emergency Management Coordination
 Office

JAF International
 Joanneum Research
 Junagadh Agriculture University
 Kampala Capital City Authority
 Kerala Agricultural University
 KfW Bankengruppe
 Kings College London
 Kingswood school
 Lenzing AG
 Loodushoiu Fond
 Lucerne University
 Mondi Group
 National Forest Centre, Slovenia
 National University of Sciences &
 Technology, Pakistan
 Österreichische
 Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft
 Organisation for Economic Co-operation
 and Development
 Olam Agri
 Oregon State University
 Pan African University For Water And
 Energy Science Including Climate Change
 Parlamento Latinoamericano y Caribeño
 Programme for the Endorsement of Forest
 Certification Schemes Austria
 Programme for the Endorsement of Forest
 Certification Schemes Brazil
 Programme for the Endorsement of Forest
 Certification Schemes International
 proHolz Styria
 PwC
 Queensland University of Technology
 Rainforest Alliance
 Rougier Afrique International
 RTDS Group
 SabzCarbon
 Service Public de Wallonie
 Silvanus Forestry Ltd.
 Smile Youth Initiative International
 Stockholm Environment Institute
 Stop The Desert

X.B.

Sumitomo Forestry Co.	UNFF Major Group for Children and Youth represented by International Forestry Students' Association
Sustainalyst Consultants	Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas
Technical University Dresden	Universitas Gadjah Mada
Technical University of Vienna	University of Agriculture, Faisalabad
The World Bank Group	University of Applied Sciences Salzburg
Thuenen Institute of Forestry	University of California, Berkeley
TRAFFIC International	University of Cambridge
Transilvania University of Brasov	University of Chile
Tropenbos Ghana	University of Copenhagen
Tropical Forest Network	University of Eastern Finland
Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center in Costa Rica	University of Freiburg
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	University of Hohenheim
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	University of Kinshasa
United Nations Environment Programme	University of Namibia
United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat	University of Primorska
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	University of Salzburg
United Nations Human Settlements Programme	University of Sopron
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	University of the Sunshine Coast
UNFF Major Group Farmers and Small Landowners represented by Federation of Swedish Farmers and Family Forest Owners	University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro
Finnish Forest Association	Wageningen University and Research
UNFF Major Group Women represented by Association pour le Développement de l'Entomoforesterie et la Sauvegarde de l'Environnement	World Business Council for Sustainable Development
	WIEHAG
	Wood K plus – Kompetenzzentrum Holz
	Wood Vision Lab Woodcluster Styria
	World Food Forum Youth Assembly
	World Resources Institute