

# Advancing sustainable wood: Opportunities, gaps, synergies, and trade-offs

*Supplying sustainable wood to meet the needs of the bioeconomy*

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# ITTO's mission – DUAL mandate



- Promote the **sustainable management and conservation** of tropical forests.
- Promote the **expansion and diversification of trade** in tropical wood from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests.

The **International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)** is **THE SOLE** inter-governmental organization focused entirely on tropical forest resources.

- 76 members (37 producers & 39 consumers) covering **80% of global tropical forests** and accounting for **90% of trade in tropical forest products!**



# SFM of tropical forests—crucial for carbon neutrality

- **Tropical forests** - a major source of building materials, food, energy and livelihoods - still crucial for economies & populations in the tropics.
- **Wood** - environmentally friendly and carbon neutral material, **PROVIDED:**
  - **HARVESTED FROM LEGAL & SUSTAINABLE SOURCES**, adhere responsible production.
- Developing sustainable wood-based supply chains in the tropics to achieve carbon neutrality presents challenges and opportunities. **POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS** include:
  - ADOPT SFM practices - balance ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIO-ECONOMIC needs.
  - Energy/construction needs - forest plantations in degraded/vacant lands.
  - Production of wood pellets/use of wood waste for electricity and heat in power plants and homes.
  - Energy generation from logging residues and wood processing waste.
  - Improve energy security and reduce GHG gas emissions.
  - Promote use of sustainably produced tropical wood in construction.
- Contribute to **SDGs 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17** and several others!



# SYNERGIES - ITTO's work on sustainable wood use



Furniture production in Indonesia for domestic market. Photo: Kharisman



## POLICY BRIEF

Encouraging greater domestic use of legal and sustainable tropical wood

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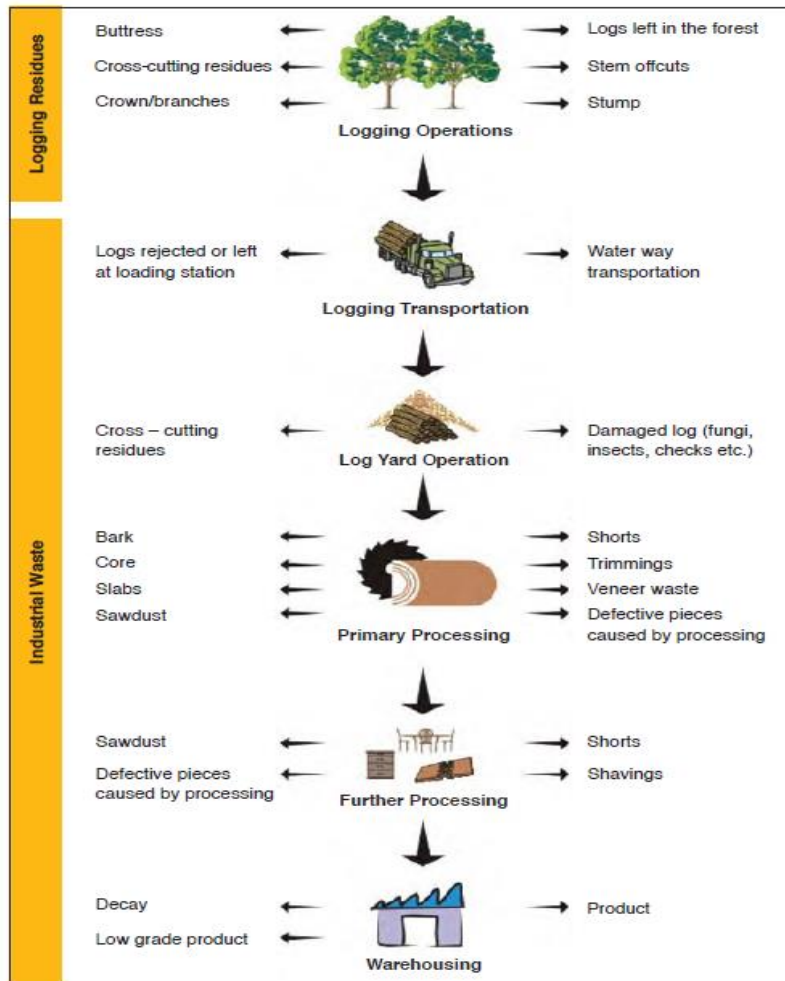
Lessons from experiences in Southeast Asia

- **Promote sustainable wood use, encourage synergies across its members:**
  - Promoting domestic markets through projects (supported by Japan) in Southeast Asia: Indonesia, Thailand, and Viet Nam. India and Malaysia (about to start).
- **The projects on capacity building aims to improve:**
  - Domestic strategy/policy.
  - Production capacity.
  - Community forest enterprises' skills.
  - Assortment of wood products.
  - Educate consumers/raise awareness on the advantages of using wood products vs other substitutes.
- **Projects' outputs:**
  - Strengthen sustainable wood value and supply chains.
  - Enhance social, economic and environmental benefits from production to consumption.
  - **Support SW4SW initiative! More such projects needed!**



Available at: [www.itto.int/guidelines](http://www.itto.int/guidelines)

# Opportunities (selected examples): bioenergy



- Substantial volumes of wood residues in timber industry operations in the tropics (around 50%), could be used to generate energy:
  - In Brazil, for example, logging residues amount to 600 million tonnes/year.
  - Could generate 36 000 megawatts of electricity.
  - Equivalent of three large hydropower stations.
- Wood-based bioenergy (wood and woodchips) have an advantage over agriculture-based bioenergy (biofuels, biogas) in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation performance.

**Several ITTO members doing so!**

\*Source: ITTO. 2007. *Report of the International Conference on Wood-Based Bioenergy*. Hannover, Germany, 17-19 May, 2007. ITTO Technical Series No.31. Yokohama, Japan.



# Opportunities (selected examples): wood in construction



## Wooden Cities for a Sustainable Future:

Aims to promote sustainable wood use through increasing wooden building/housing construction in urban areas in selected economies in the Asia-Pacific region.

- **Output 1: “Development of wooden city strategy and policy”** - promote domestic consumption of sustainable wood in urban areas through construction of wooden buildings/houses.
- **Output 2: “Sustainable production and consumption of wood”—strengthen capacity to produce & consume legally and sustainably wood** to stimulate domestic market demands and needs.
- **Output 3: “Public-Private Partnership for wooden city development”—increase partnerships/incentives among selected city governments and leading wooden building companies in the region to advance skills and technology** on wooden building/house design and construction.



# Sustainable wood use contributes to climate-change mitigation



- Implementing SFM practices across wood supply chains can **lower emissions by improved timber harvesting and processing.**
- **SFM=improved carbon sequestration.**
- Wood products=a significant **carbon sink** and the most environmentally friendly material.
- Using **wood in construction reduces the carbon footprint** of buildings/houses in comparison to other materials.
- WOOD offers great potential to **transform the construction industry's GHG emissions** - economies progression on NDC commitments.
- Support ITTO members achieving **decarbonized societies.**



 **the future made from wood!**

# What can the CPF do?

CPF members to **show solidarity & identify mutually beneficial aims & objectives** to achieve international forestry, bio/circular economy goals (UNSPF, GFGs, Kunming-Montreal GBF, SDGs etc)

More effort towards sharing skills, knowledge, appropriate scientific data and research – critical to be shared with Governments, the private sector and other stakeholder – enable effective formulation of policies & create enabling environment

Communicate widely the **compatibility between forest conservation and sustainable wood use**

**Political will imperative** in fostering public-private partnerships, ATTRACT investments (private, public, blended) – investments **MUST** be forthcoming

**Clear fiscal and non-fiscal incentives & rewards** – bolster enabling environment - dispel myth that forests=high risk. Implementation of SFM will allay this

**Acceleration of Adaptation & Restoration** – clear frameworks/programmes/outputs

Illegal logging much reduced in several regions – **more urgent to tackle deforestation** – **CPF members must collaborate!**

 **the future made from wood!**







Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



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

# Work with us!

***11-12 September 2024, Global  
Legal and Sustainable Timber  
Forum, Macao SAR, China***

***1-6 December 2024, ITTC 60***

