
CONCEPT NOTE

Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) Dialogue in China: Harnessing sustainable wood production and trade contributions to sustainable development

23-25 November 2019

Nanning International Convention & Exhibition Center

Organizers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), China National Forest Products Industry Association (CNFPPIA), ASEAN Expo and Nanning City Government and European Forest Institute.

Co-organizers: China State Forestry and Grassland Administration (SFGA), Center of International Forestry (CIFOR), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), DFID

SW4SW Steering Committee: CIFOR, CITES Secretariat, FAO, ITTO, The World Bank, WWF

Background

The benefits from forests to sustainable development are widely acknowledged. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places sustainable use of natural resources, including forests, as a vital tenet of the development vision. The Paris Agreement also highlights the contributions of forests to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as countries in drawing up their (intended) nationally determined contributions to mitigation mostly confirmed the prominent role of the forest sector.

Technical and methodological progress allows for better monitoring of harvested wood products' life cycle, giving them a key role in strategies for transitioning to low-carbon economies. Concurrently, the impact of sustainable forest management on enhancing livelihoods, contributing to sustainable cities and reducing the world's carbon and material footprints is gaining attention.

In 2018, FAO together with Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the World Bank, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) launched the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World Initiative (SW4SW) as a joint initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The Initiative is committed to convening a strong coalition to enable institutional and market conditions for recognition of sustainable wood benefits and curb illegal production and consumption of wood products. CITES Secretariat has joined the Initiative in 2019, strengthening the efforts to reconcile the international demand of wood products for a low carbon society and rural development, through regulating the legal, sustainable and traceable trade of tree species listed in the Convention's Appendices.

The principal goal of this Initiative is to strengthen sustainable wood value chains to enhance their social, economic and environmental benefits from production to consumption. In particular, the Initiative aims to enhance the contribution of sustainable wood value chains, for the more efficient

achievement of SDGs and climate change objectives.

Through setting up collaborative activities to strengthen policy, institutions, markets and finance for sustainable wood value chains along the value chains, the SW4SW focus on contributions to 11 SDGs at global and local levels, providing knowledge and support to countries through its four primary outcomes:

- Benefits from sustainable wood value chains and sustainable wood products are fully recognized in international policy dialogues, sustainable development and climate change strategies, and national policy frameworks;
- Capacities for managing forests for sustainable wood production and in the context of sustainable landscapes are built at all levels;
- Markets and finance for sustainable wood value chains and sustainable wood products are broadened; and
- Sustainable wood value chains and sustainable wood products contributions to the bioeconomy and the circularity approach are strengthened in both developed and developing countries.

Objectives of the Dialogue

The SW4SW Dialogue in China will bring together 100 experts from Asia, Africa and Europe, from forestry and related sectors to identify priority areas of work to make wood value chains more sustainable and increase their contribution to the achievement of the SDGs. The Dialogue will:

- Build on China's role as leading producer, consumer and player at international timber trade to deliver a strong message on the utmost importance of sustainability of wood value chains to achieve SDGs and accelerate climate change mitigation actions;
- Discuss and propose a course of actions related to sustainable production, industry efficiency and sustainable trade;
- Explore opportunities for international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, for capacity building and access to technology for upgrading wood value chains in developing countries and harness their contributions to the SDGs.

Programme

The meeting comprises three days: two days of discussions and one day for a field trip.

The sessions will lay down the approach of the SW4SW Initiative, including sessions on the contributions of wood value chains to the SDGs and forest value chains sustainability, results from the SW4SW Dialogues in Cameroon and South Africa. A keynote speech by Dr Yanshu Li, from the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources of University of Georgia, US, on the impact of the forest sector on national economies based on the forest sector economic multiplier will set up the stage.

From the afternoon of 23 November until the closing session, participants will engage on facilitated discussions on the trends of international trade and production, the role of legality in harnessing

sustainability in the timber sector, as well as ways to strengthen wood value chains through international cooperation. The experts will be organized in break-out groups organized according to regions as well as their roles in the international timber trade to produce recommendations on concrete measures to have trade contributing to increased sustainability in wood value chains and on areas for international cooperation, in particular, South-South cooperation.

Working languages: English and Chinese.