



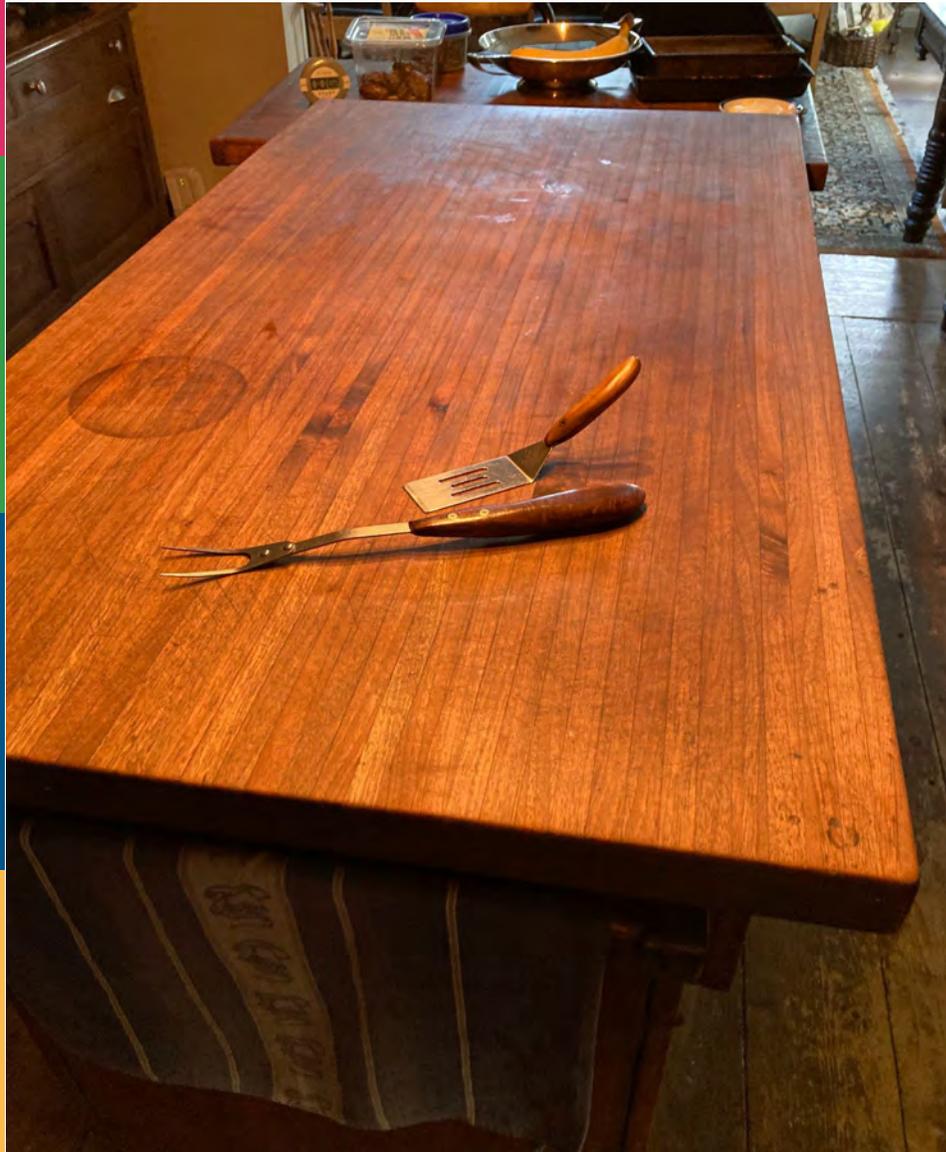
Cities **4** Forests

# Partner Forests Program + Sustainable Wood for Cities

Two initiatives that use wood as a connector between cities and forests, climate biodiversity and the built environment

Scott Francisco - Director Cities4Forests

# Where to start? Stories, questions, and wood...



# Cities4Forests network: sixty-nine cities and growing



Cities4Forests is also endorsed by the Association of County Governments of Kenya, the Brazilian National Front of Mayors, and the Mexican States of Guanajuato and Jalisco.

# Cities4Forests works at three scales

## INNER FORESTS

Clean air  
Shade from sun  
Urban wildlife  
Higher property values  
Recreation

## NEARBY FORESTS

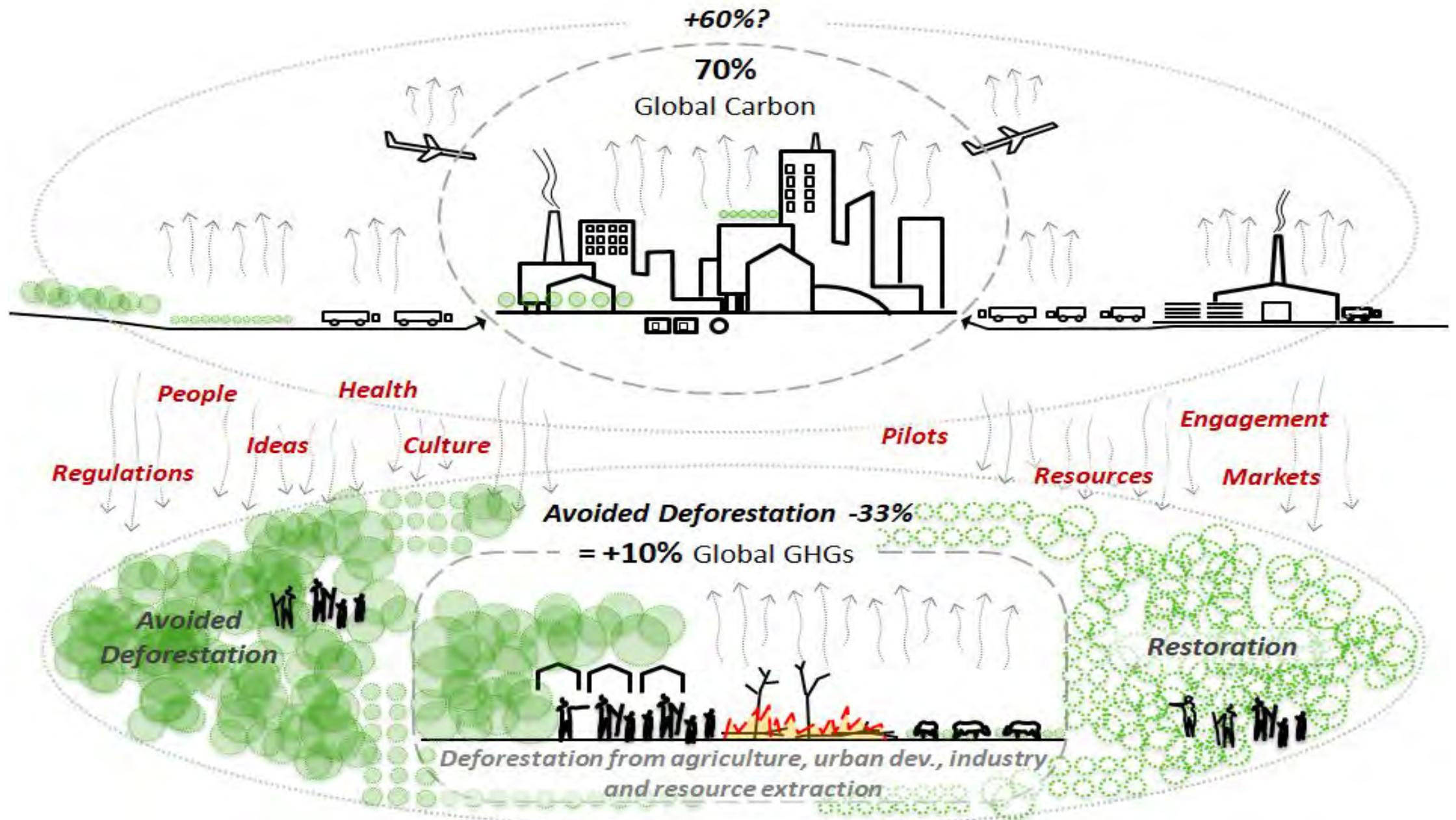
Clean air  
Drinking water  
Reduced flooding  
Reduced soil erosion  
Timber  
Recreation

## FARAWAY FORESTS

Carbon storage  
Rainfall generation  
Timber, NTFP, Medicine  
Biodiversity



# What are the relationships between cities and forests?



# Cities and faraway forests are locked in a vital relationship



**Urban consumption drives deforestation which impacts climate, biodiversity and forest residents**

## 1. “Call to Action”

Collective voices to encourage governments to take action in support of global forests.

## 2. **Better Forests, Better Cities**

Forthcoming report synthesizing the benefits of inner, nearby, and faraway forests to cities.

## 3. **Forest Footprint + Action Plan for Cities**

Estimating cities’ tropical forest footprints from their consumption of forest-risk commodities and providing guidance on procuring and encouraging deforestation-free and forest-positive products.

## 4. **Partner Forest Programs**

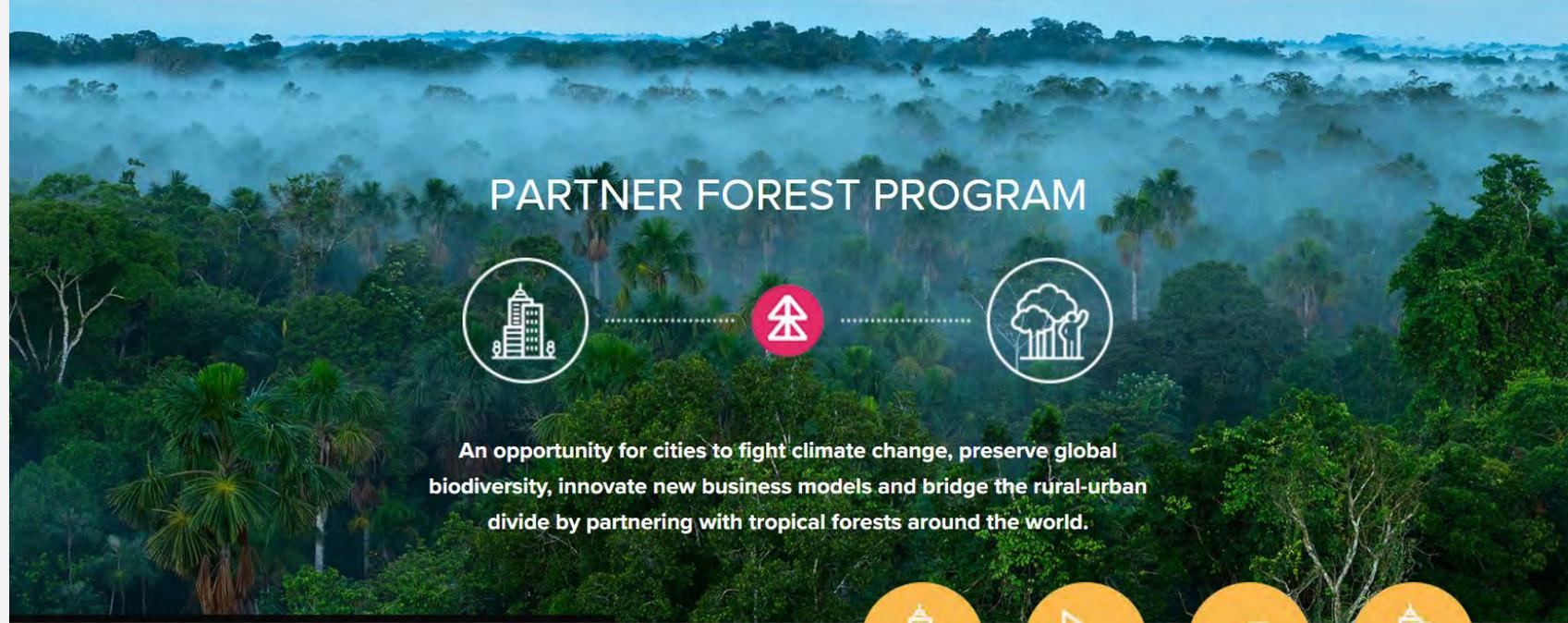
Creating meaningful partnerships between cities and forests.

## 5. **Sustainable Wood for Cities**

Guidance on procuring and specifying sustainable wood for cities from a wide variety of sources.

## Partner Forest Programs

*An opportunity for cities to fight climate change, preserve global biodiversity, innovate new business models and bridge the rural-urban divide by partnering with tropical forests around the world.*



- Timber
- Rubber
- Cacao
- Coffee
- Ecotourism
- Research



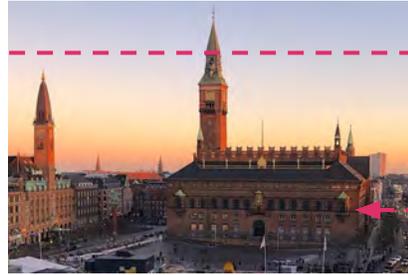
# Partner Forest Program - for European Cities

Cities4Forest's Partner Forest program is an opportunity for European cities to transform their impact on tropical forests and climate change through mutually beneficial, wood-centred forest partnerships.



# Matching Vanguard Cities with Vanguard Forests

The program will support Europe's most ambitious cities with a pathway to securing climate negative forest partnerships, featuring sustainably-sourced wood for urban infrastructure.



Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative, Tanzania



Iwokrama Forestry Initiative, Guyana

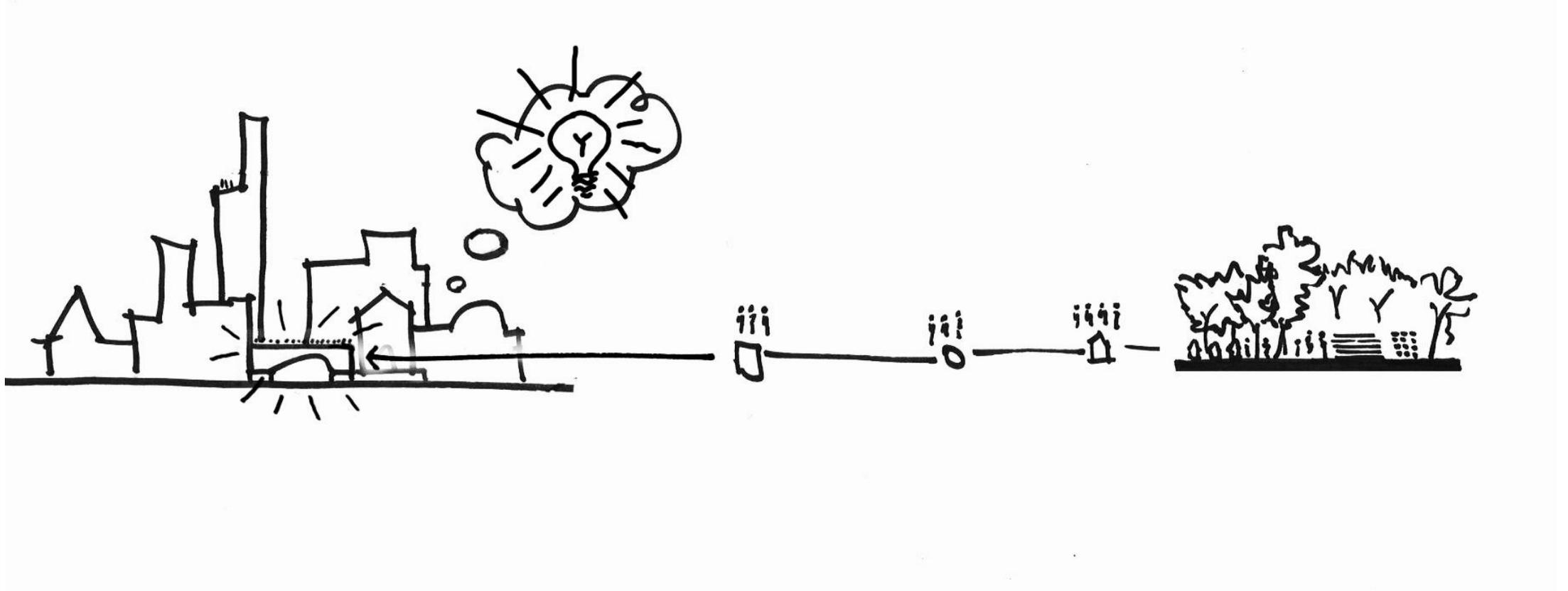


Uaxuctun Community Forest Concession, Guatemala



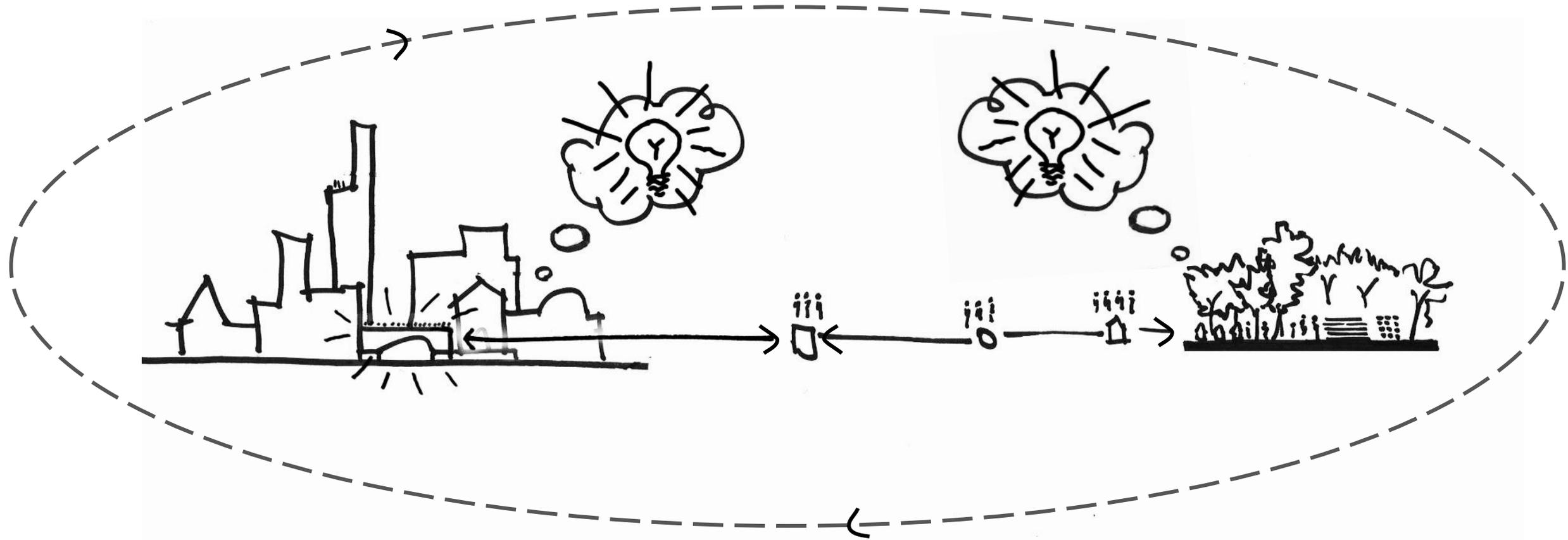


# How can cities know where their wood is coming from?



***Simplicity and transparency can provide a solution***

**More than knowing “where”... Who? How? and What are the benefits?**



***Simplicity and transparency can provide a solution  
and mutual interests can unlock innovation***

# Goals of the Partner Forest Program

*Imagine if the French National Library's tropical wood plaza deck was connected to the forest of origin in a long term relationship*



- Build city resident awareness on tropical forests and their important climate role
- Create opportunities for city governments to improve procurement policies and capacity for sustainable supply chains

- Expand markets for community forest enterprises who have a strong track record of forest conservation
- Emphasize a global culture that protects forests through high-visibility and exciting integration of wood into urban infrastructure

# What's in it for the cities?

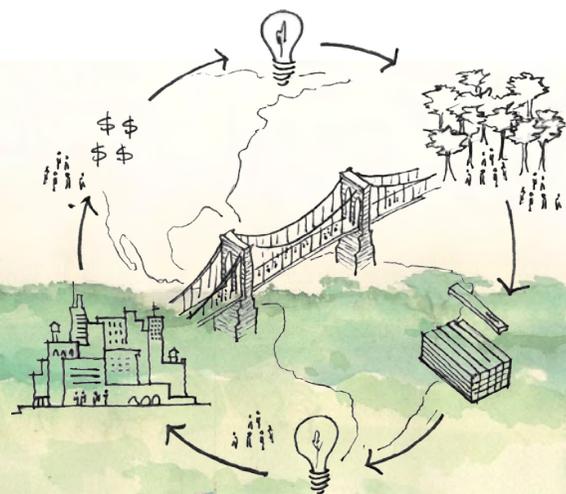
1. **Cities can procure high quality durable wood products** that directly support first rate tropical forest conservation. 'Pilot' status may help with procurement regulations
2. **Cities can show climate leadership** on one of the biggest emitters impacted by city consumption: tropical deforestation.
3. **Cities can invest in public awareness and engagement on climate, biodiversity and equity** by giving a story to the wood in public space.
4. **Cities can build their capacity in “global systems thinking”** by embracing the reality of consumption based emissions and the transactions that make their city possible.



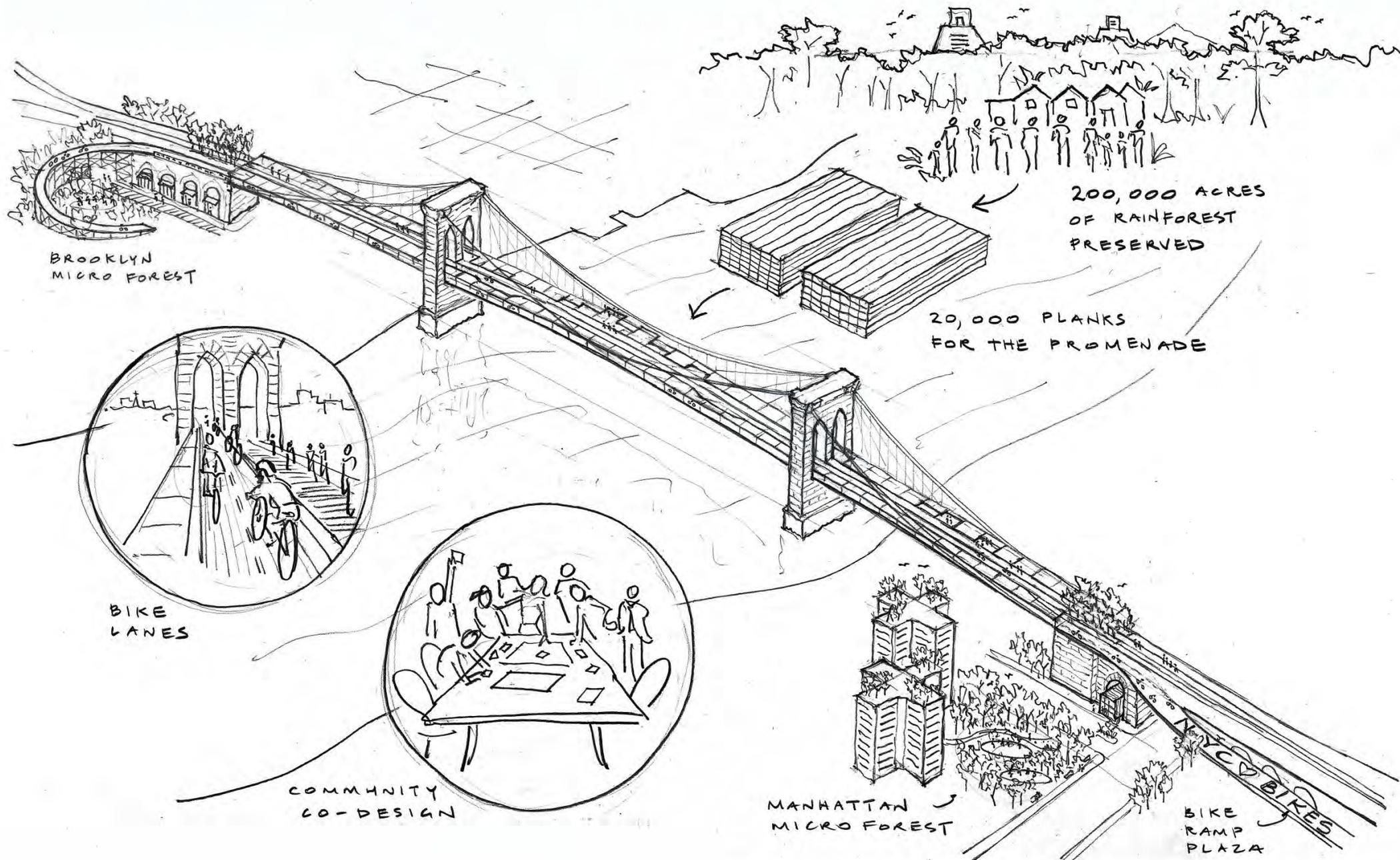
# Example: *Brooklyn Bridge Forest*

***Renew a Landmark. Protect a Rainforest.  
Cultivate a Global Partnership.***

Brooklyn Bridge Forest is a collaboration among practitioners in urbanism, forest conservation, engineering, design, and sustainability that reimagines the Brooklyn Bridge as an expansive public space that connects communities, protects tropical forests, and puts New York City at the forefront of urban leadership on climate change and biodiversity.



# Example: Brooklyn Bridge Forest



# Wood in the City?

Bus shelters

Boats

Light standards

Bridges

Boardwalks

Park benches

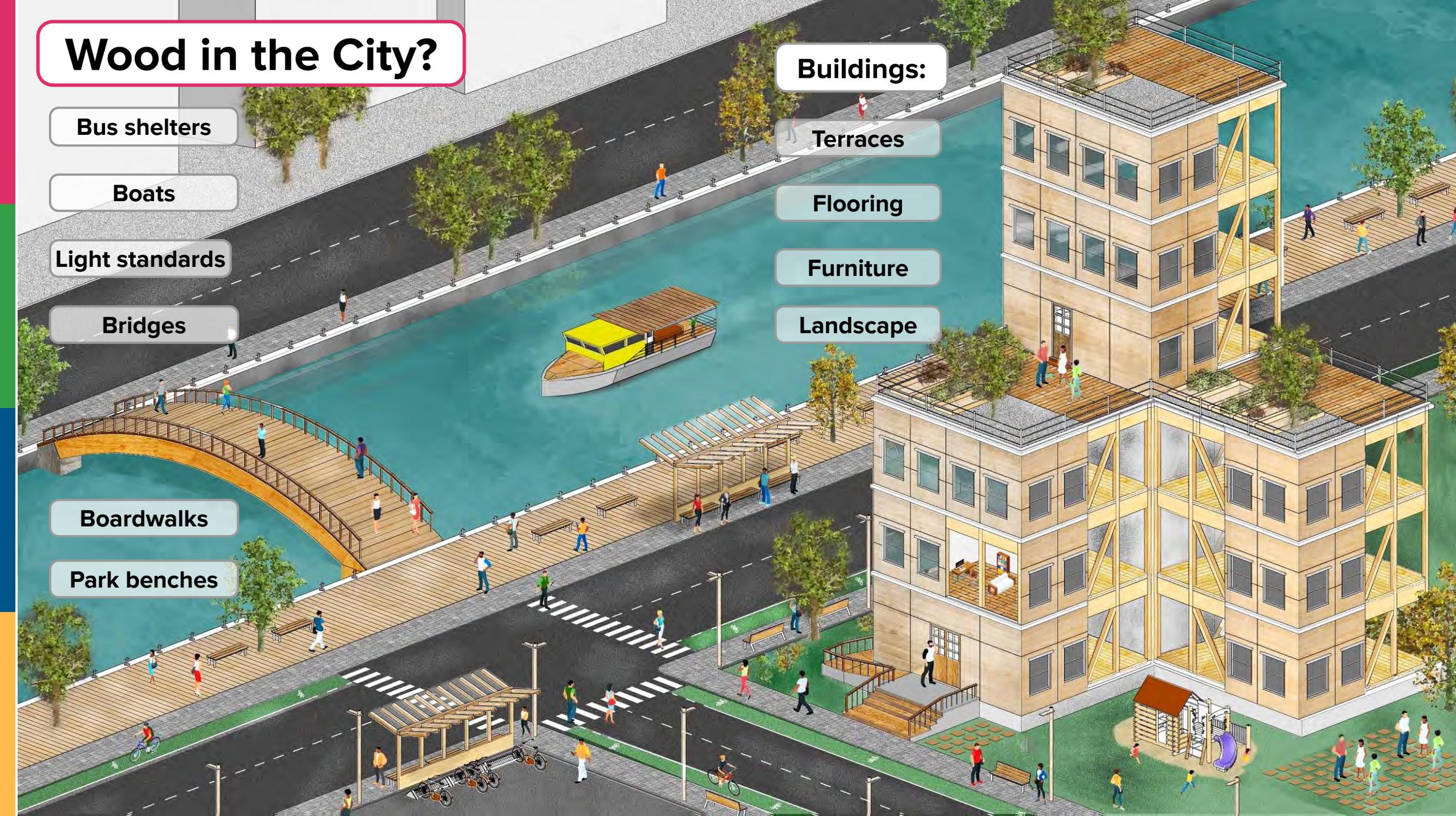
Buildings:

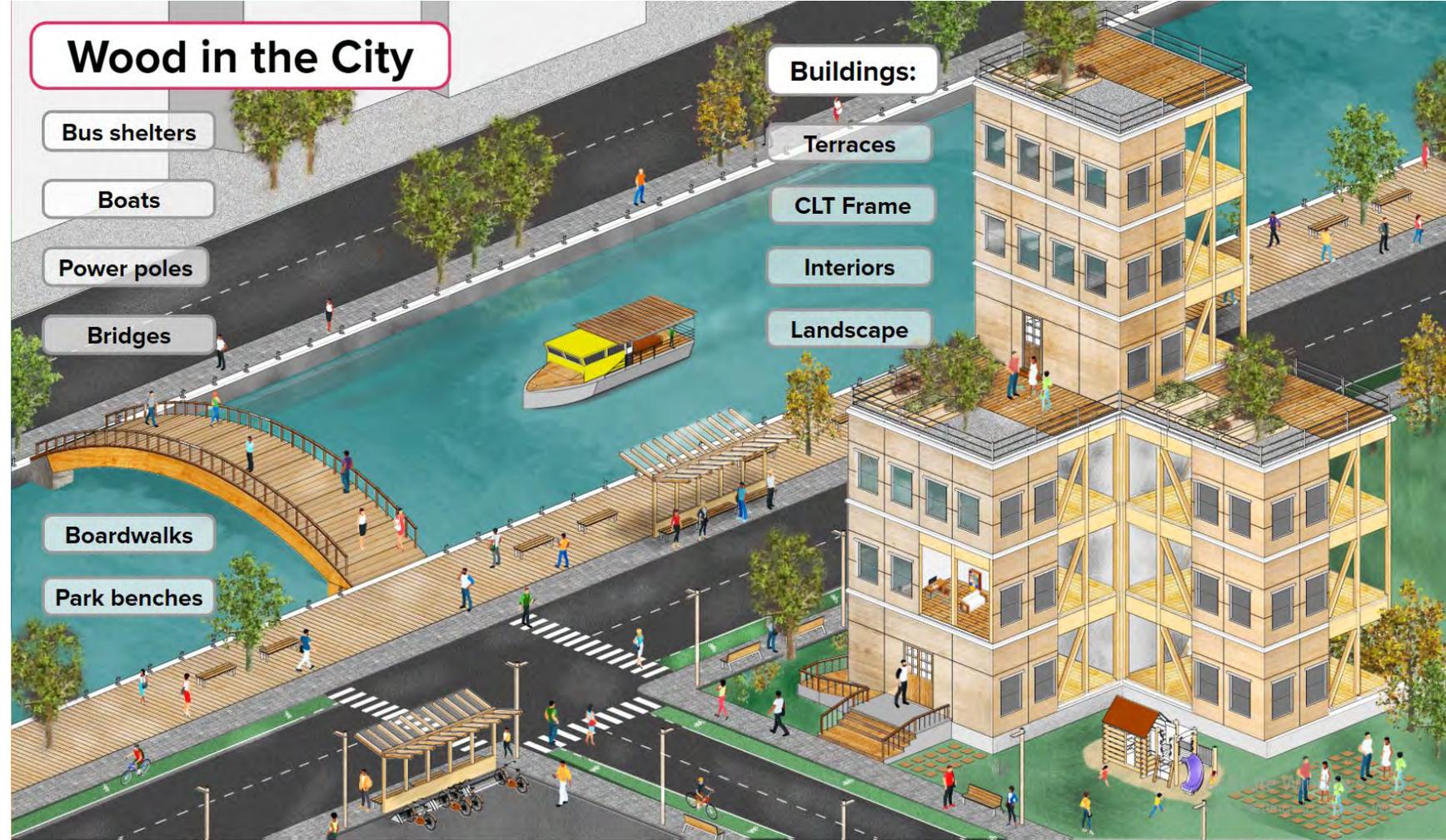
Terraces

Flooring

Furniture

Landscape





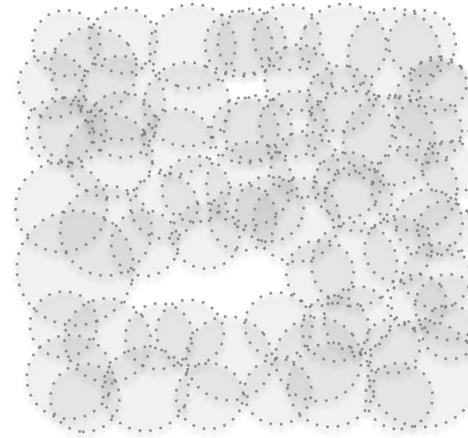
**Providing cities with expert guidance on reducing their impact on global forests through promoting sustainable and responsible wood sourcing and procurement:**

- Integrated with competitive bidding process
- Resources for initiating pilot and demonstration projects
- Policy guidance via research and case studies

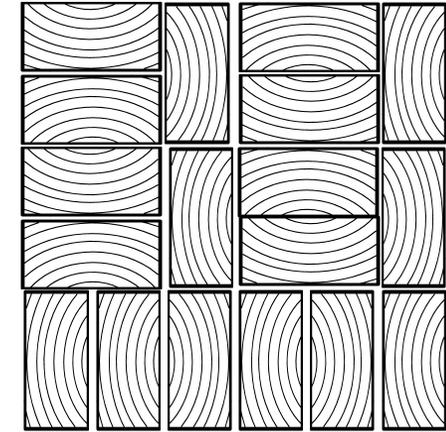
# What is Sustainable Wood?

## Four interacting impact systems:

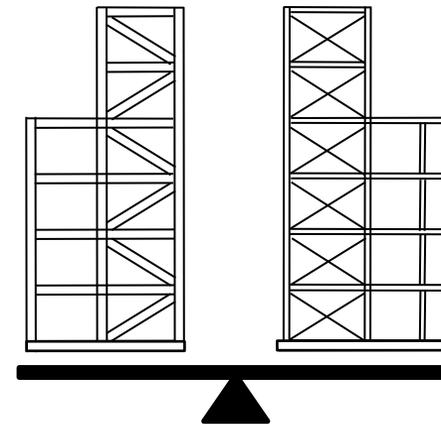
1. Wood that helps conserve forests, mitigate or reverse degradation and deforestation.
2. Wood that has embodied carbon benefits after all systems components are considered.
3. Wood that replaces more carbon-intensive materials on a life cycle basis (LCA).
4. Wood that reflects and supports sustainable economies, businesses and communities



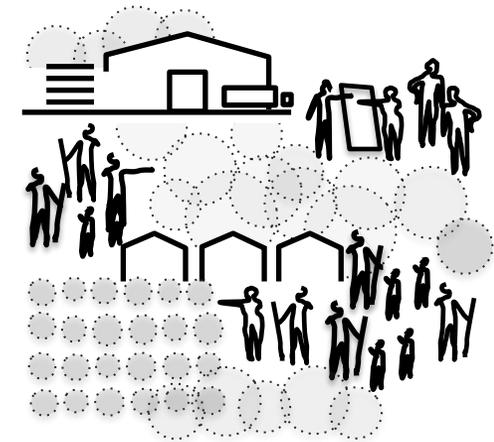
**Forest Impacts**



**Carbon Storage**



**CO<sub>2</sub> Comparison**



**Social Benefits**

# Where does sustainable wood come from?



# The Sustainable Wood for Cities Guide

1. **A framework to help city leaders define sustainable wood on their own terms**, with a focus on climate, biodiversity, health, and economic goals.
2. **Eight Pathways for sustainable wood sourcing** which can combine to form a broader wood sourcing **Strategy**.
3. **A voluntary evaluation system** that can help cities better understand, prioritize and track the benefits and impacts of their sustainable wood strategy.
4. **A process for cities and their partners to build internal capacity**, and guide new policies for municipal procurement with verification procedures, specification templates, and contracting requirements.

**Cities4Forests**  
**Sustainable Wood for Cities**  
 Pathways Handbook

The three-legged stool of sustainable wood. These three interdependent impact systems are vital to understanding the sustainability potentials and pitfalls of wood.

How can wood products protect the environment and mitigate climate change?

1. Wood that helps conserve forests, mitigates or reverses degradation and deforestation.
2. Wood that sequesters carbon (net negative, with all systems components considered).
3. Wood used in long-life infrastructure that replaces more carbon-intensive materials

The following pathways used independently or in synergy can help cities make wood sourcing decisions that match their sustainability and climate goals while building capacity within city agencies to incorporate knowledge, research and experience into policies and planning.

Pathways to sustainable wood	Description
1. Certification / Chain of Custody	Wood that is certified as sustainable by a third-party verifier such as SFI, PEFC, or FSC. Also explains how certification relates to Sustainable Forest Management
2. Social Forestry	Wood and related products that support sustainable community livelihoods and community forest management and conservation. Based on a business model that returns maximum value to the community and encourages local ownership and empowerment.
3. Species and Grade	By understanding and diversifying their choice of wood species and grades, consumers can become active partners in sustainable forest management.
4. Strategic Geography	Sourcing wood from specific places addressing sustainability & legality, i.e. jurisdictional approach and voluntary partnership agreements
5. Local / Urban Wood	Trees and forests inside or near cities can be a source of high value carbon-negative timber while supporting local economies and innovation.
6. Wood Reuse	Specifying wood that has already served a useful purpose, and/or designing wood components that can easily serve a second or third life. Includes recycling or "upcycling", designing wood products for eventual reuse, avoiding single-use products and designs; fasteners, geometry, standards, etc.
7. High Efficiency Production	Using smaller dimension wood components to reduce waste, and increase the percentage wood yield of forest area makes it into a long-life application such as a mass timber building, or long life furniture.
8. Net Carbon Accounting / LCA	Detailed calculation of carbon sequestration and storage using both long and short term models. Where sustainable forest management means long-life wood products and buildings, mass timber etc.

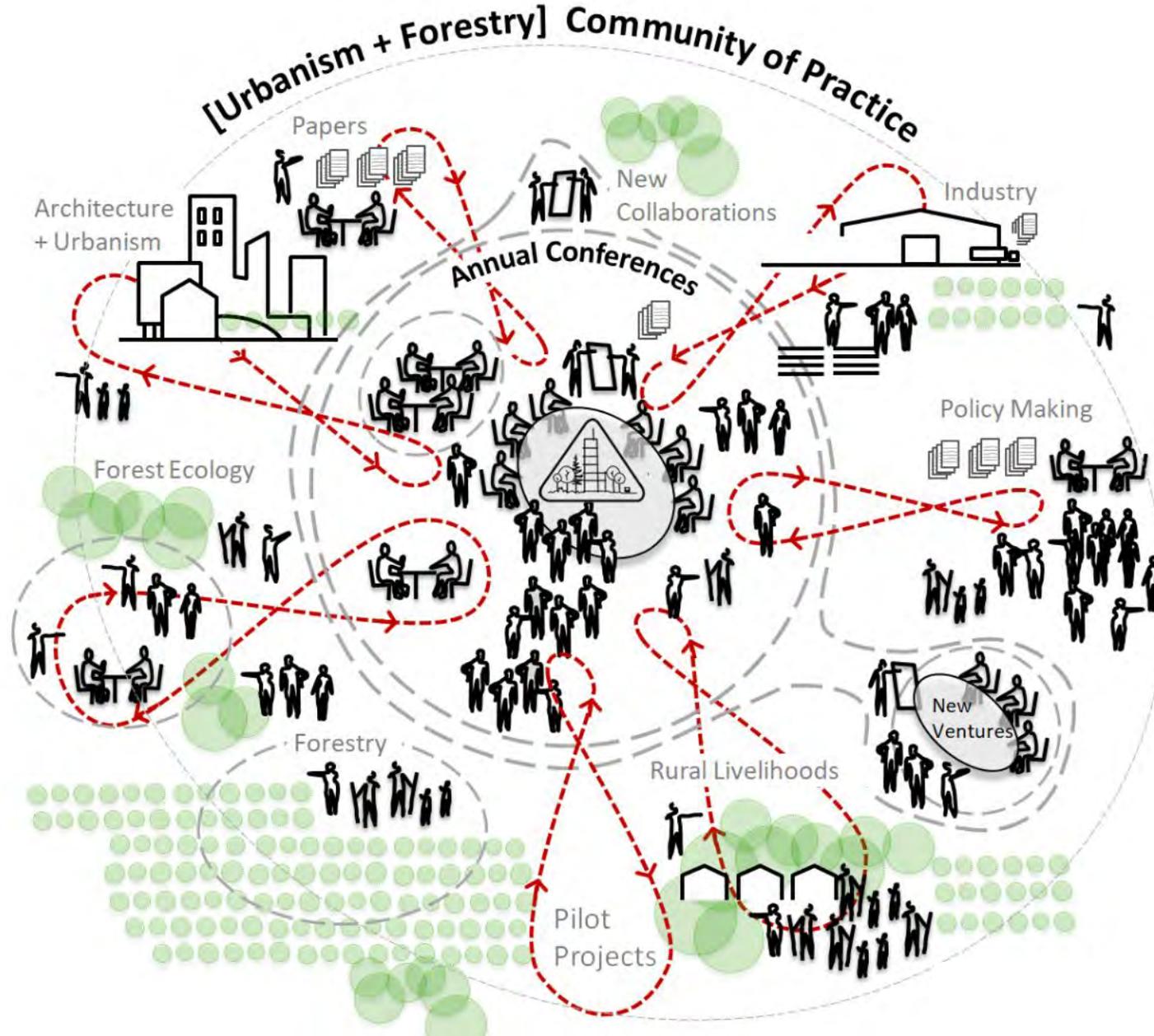
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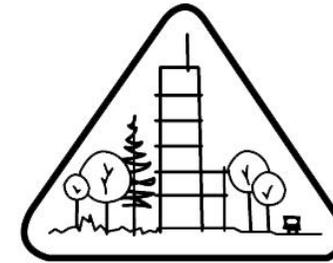
Synergies Certification and Chain of Custody; Species Selection; Strategic Geography

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# “Pathways” developed through *Communities of Practice*



## *Future of Forest Work and Communities*



WOOD  
at  
WORK

Cities4Forests

# Sustainable Wood Pathways

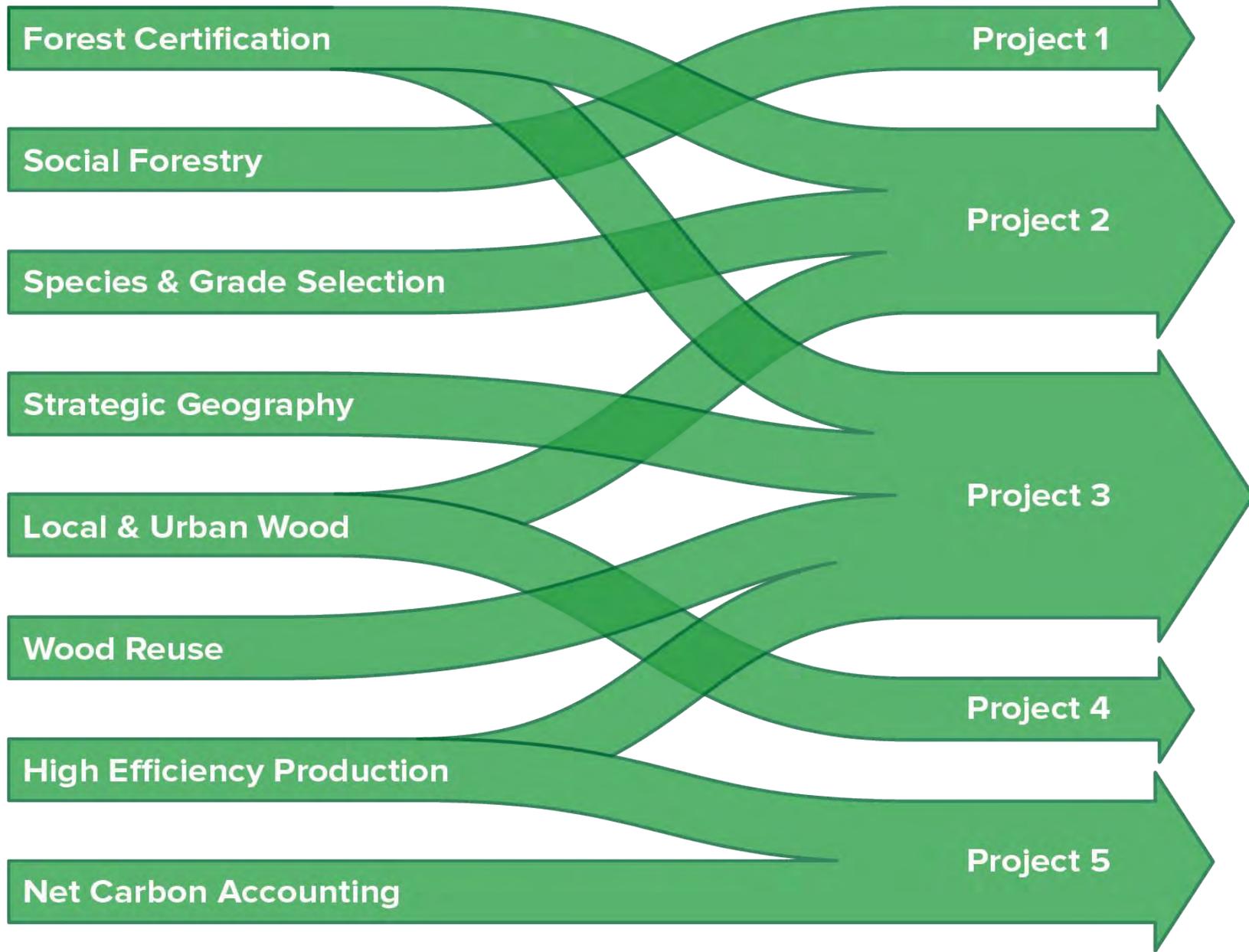
<i>Pathways</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>1. Forest Certification</b>	Wood that is certified under a third-party system such as PEFC or FSC. Forest certification systems offer a one-stop generalized approach to supporting Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).
<b>2. Social Forestry</b>	Wood and related products that support sustainable community livelihoods and community forest management and conservation. Based on a business model that returns maximum value to the community and encourages local ownership and empowerment.
<b>3. Species and Grade</b>	Understanding and diversifying the choice of wood species and grades. Allows consumers to become active partners in sustainable forest management.
<b>4. Strategic Geography</b>	Sourcing wood from specific places addressing sustainability & legality, i.e. jurisdictional approach and voluntary partnership agreements
<b>5. Local / Urban Wood</b>	Utilizing trees and forests inside or near cities that can be a source of high value carbon-negative timber while supporting local economies and innovation.
<b>6. Wood Reuse</b>	Specifying wood that has already served a useful purpose, and/or designing wood components that can serve a second or third life.
<b>7. High Efficiency Production</b>	Using smaller dimension wood components to reduce waste, and increase the percentage wood yield of forest area makes it into long-life applications.
<b>8. Net Carbon Accounting / LCA</b>	Detailed calculation of carbon sequestration and storage using both long and short term models. Where sustainable forest management meets long-life wood products and buildings, mass timber etc.

*Pathways*

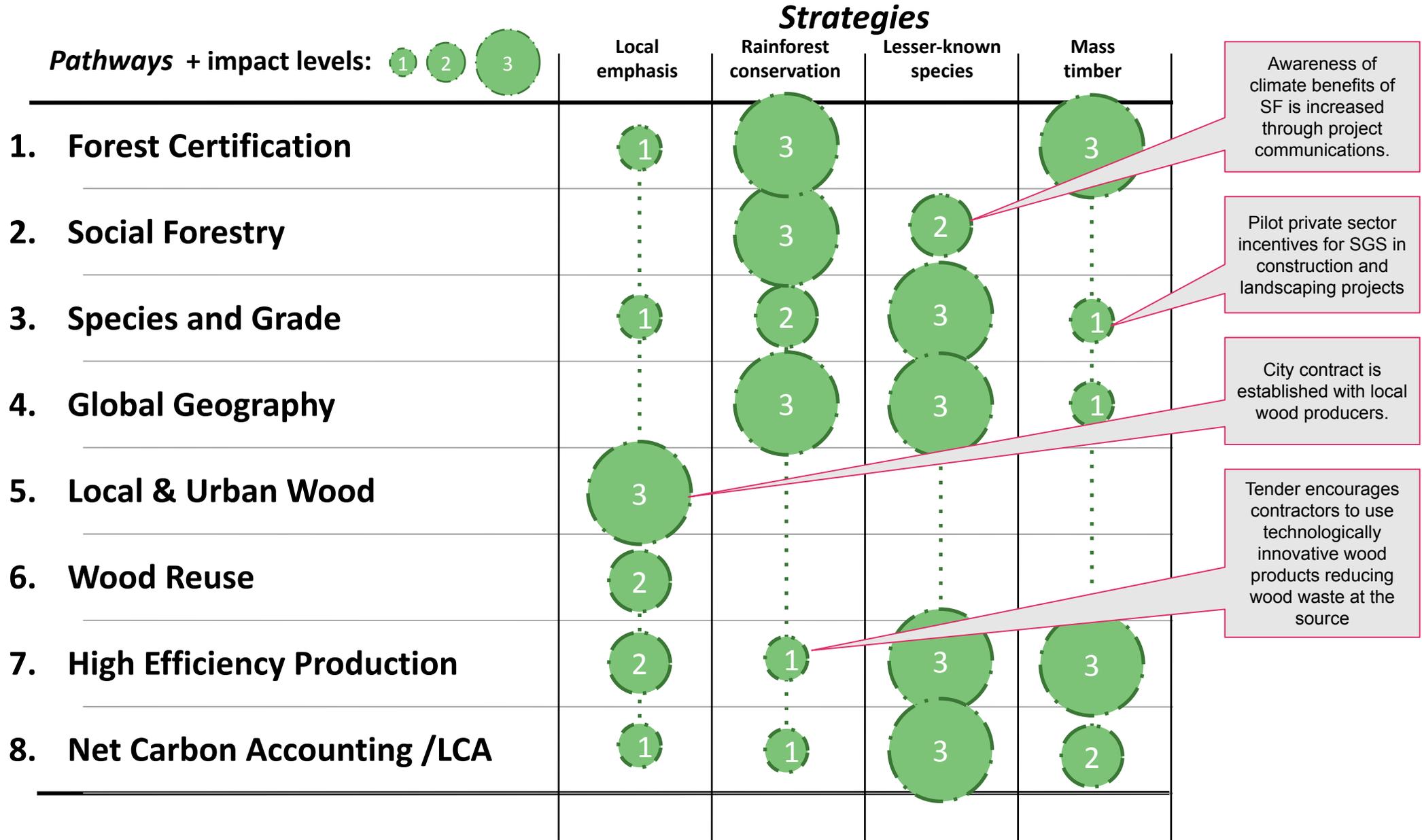
*Strategies*

*where we're starting*

*what we're co-creating*



# Sustainable Wood Sourcing Pathways and Strategies



# Structure of Pathway one pagers

- **Description**
- **Examples**
- **Sustainability Benefits**
- **Actions**
- **Challenges**
- **Evaluation/Levels**
- **Policy Options**
- **Synergies**

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#1	Certification and Chain of Custody (Cert/CoC)
<b>Description</b>	Certification systems offer a one-stop generalized approach to verifying sustainable forest management and supply chains. Other chain of custody (CoC) approaches involve paper or electronic trails to verify origin. In both cases it is the buyer's responsibility to align the specific claims of verification with their own sustainability goals. What, exactly, is being certified? Where does a chain of custody lead? Cert/CoC may be a good first step to help consumers specify and evaluate their own sustainability goals.
<b>Examples</b>	Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)
<b>Sustainability Benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cert/CoC builds customer confidence in "paying for" a wide range of claimed sustainability benefits. Certification aims to elevate the market value of sustainably produced wood to offset production costs and incentivize sustainable practices.</li> <li>○ Certification standards, to varying degrees, promote Sustainable Forest Management practices.</li> <li>○ Certification of forests can improve conservation, reduce deforestation, and enhance biodiversity.</li> <li>○ Can protect soil carbon beneath forests through management practices which reduce emissions.</li> <li>○ Wider usage and familiarity of Cert/CoC systems increase their capacity to transform the market.</li> </ul>
<b>Actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Define project requirements using the <i>Wood Needs Report</i> template.</li> <li>○ Briefly explore Cert/CoC options (<i>See Databases and References section for more information</i>).</li> <li>○ Create specification and or RFP requirements for certified wood or CoC documentation.</li> <li>○ Work with design teams to incorporate specific alignments between Cert/CoC products and the project potentials and requirements. Match specific wood components (framing, interior elements to the highest level of sustainability benefits that Cert/CoC can offer.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Certification can indicate a wide variety of goals, rigor, enforcement and measurable benefits, both between different schemes, and even within a scheme such as FSC.</li> <li>○ Certification claims and benefits tend to be generalized and may not provide strong connections between the goals of consumers and the specific forest landscapes or communities impacted.</li> <li>○ Certification has been criticized for failing to deliver on its promises due to poor enforcement, lack of transparency, corruption, leakage and unrecoverable costs to producers.</li> <li>○ Chain of Custody does not necessarily address the environmental and social impacts at the site of production (note that this differs from most Certification). It is the responsibility of the consumer to understand local conditions in order to make effective use of CoC information.</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluation / Levels</b>	<p><i>Level One:</i> All wood products sourced for a given project are certified, and/or CoC is verified through paperwork. In both cases, certificates (CoC or Certification) are filed with project documentation.</p> <p><i>Level Two:</i> Particular certification scheme(s) chosen to align with City's sustainability goals. And/or, Chain of custody is chosen to verify legality and source to match with City's sustainability goals. Rationale and certificates are filed with project documentation.</p> <p><i>Level Three:</i> Direct contact is established with the certifier (and/or CoC links) and/or third party, to verify particular benefits in the supply chain as they relate to the specific wood purchase. Environmental Benefits Report is filed with the rationale and certificates in the project documentation.</p>
<b>Policy Options</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1A. Establish requirement or preference of certified wood in public procurement.</li> <li>1B. Require chain of custody certificates for all wood products procured.</li> <li>1C. Specify preference or establish requirements for certification standards that deliver benefits of social and environmental sustainability.</li> </ol>
<b>Synergies</b>	<i>Social Forestry; Strategic Geography</i>

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#2	Social Forestry
<b>Description</b>	Social Forestry (SF) incentivizes local management groups to protect valuable forests from degradation and from conversion to other land uses. SF channels the purchase of wood and other forest products into sustainable support for community forest management/conservation by directly supporting the livelihoods of the people who are closest to the ground in forest frontiers. SF business models are designed to provide smallholders and communities with a fair price, encourage local ownership, and empower local management and participation. Social Forestry models include community forest concessions, co-ops, locally owned and/or managed businesses, Indigenous and or minority owned land and/or businesses.
<b>Examples</b>	<a href="#">BC Community Forest Association</a> , <a href="#">Uaxactun Management and Conservation Organization</a> , <a href="#">Union of Zapotec-Chinantec Forest Producer Communities (UZACHI)</a> , <a href="#">Sundari community forest group (CFUG)</a>
<b>Sustainability Benefits</b>	<p>If done well, Social Forestry can offer some of the highest sustainability benefits per unit of wood, owing to the often "high conservation value" of these managed forests. SF typically requires intensive forest management planning, oversight and partnerships with established NGOs. SF systems work to prevent poaching, fires, land grabs, and corruption by engaging and empowering committed communities who receive livelihood or other social benefits from the forest. Measurable benefits of social forestry include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ High forest carbon value per unit of wood purchased, due to attributed forest conservation.</li> <li>○ High biodiversity protection per unit of wood purchased, due to attributed forest conservation.</li> <li>○ Long term social benefits may include: education, job training, reduced out-migration, standard of living increase, and improved food security.</li> </ul>
<b>Actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Create a "wood needs report" that outlines the anticipated demands of the project.</li> <li>○ Contact SF suppliers and their key partners (NGOs), to deepen understanding of the benefits, costs, timing and any challenges to doing business with SF suppliers.</li> <li>○ <b>Where</b> feasible, create a shortlist of SF producers to bid on the wood supply subcontract. Inventory the benefits these suppliers offer with their wood products.</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges</b>	Social Forestry enterprises can be remotely located and may not have full access to markets, and/or supply chain partners. Language barriers and distances may slow down communication. Products may have quality control issues, which can be managed by supply chain partners (distributors, shippers, local reps, where applicable).
<b>Evaluation / Levels</b>	<p><i>Level One:</i> Project RFP/tender includes wood sourcing criteria that a SF enterprise is most likely to be able to fulfill, such as social inclusion, community benefits, sustainable management, conservation plan.</p> <p><i>Level Two:</i> Selection of a SF producer(s) is featured prominently in the sustainability narratives of the project and/or city. Awareness of climate benefits of SF is increased through project communications.</p> <p><i>Level Three:</i> Direct contact is established with Social Forest enterprise to deepen the understanding of sustainability benefits. Sole sourcing and/or partnership is established that increases the value of the transaction for the city and the SF enterprise.</p>
<b>Policy Options</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2A. Establish sustainable or green public procurement criteria that acknowledges and can give preference to social sustainability of wood products.</li> <li>2B. Establish partnership with NGO (or international programs such as REDD+) in promoting SF (such as Community Forest Management/Enterprises) in local and regional forest areas.</li> <li>2C. Encourage policy development and supplier registries that can promote wider demand for wood and products of regional and international CFM, CFE, and SMEs.</li> </ol>

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# Voluntary Evaluation System

Helping cities better understand, prioritize and track the benefits and impacts of their sustainable wood strategy.

## #1 Certification

Level One: All wood products sourced for a given project are certified under any certification system. Invoices for certified products containing valid certification claims and CoC certification codes are filed with project documentation.

Level Two: All wood products sourced for a given project are certified by a single scheme chosen by the cities. Invoices for certified products containing valid certification claims and CoC certification codes are filed with project documentation.

Level Three: Certification schemes have been researched and a scheme is selected based on benefits aligned with city sustainability goals and the Wood Sourcing Strategy including other Pathways (such as Strategic Geography, Net Carbon Accounting or Social Forestry).

## #4 Strategic Geography

Level One: Specify wood products with assured legality in tendering.

Level Two: Specify that wood be sourced only from jurisdictions that have signed formal commitments to slowing or reversing deforestation.

Level Three: Develop and pilot an inter-municipal or inter-regional voluntary partnership agreement (VPA) with a forest community or region to promote legal, sustainable wood in the city. Or, donate to programs such as UN-REDD from countries with reciprocal national-level VPA agreements.

## #6 Wood Reuse

Level One: Request for proposal (RFP) is written with specification language, that requires reused, reclaimed or recycled wood.

Level Two: A wood waste diversion pilot is implemented (such as promoting the reuse of wood components of city-commissioned buildings, installations, and/or infrastructure) with the intent of informing an organizational or city-wide Wood Waste Diversion program.

Level Three: Implement a design for reuse pilot (such as promoting the design and reuse of wood components of city-commissioned buildings, installations, and/or infrastructure) with the intent of informing a design for reuse program, for all wood in city buildings.

# Glasgow: CSIC COP26 Demonstration Project Example Cities4Forests

- The Construction Scotland Innovation Centre (CSIC) is constructing a two-storey demonstration project for COP26 to showcase locally-fabricated mass timber with wood from Scottish forests.
- We are looking into the opportunity of using tropical hardwoods for appropriate building elements, and/or to partner with CSIC to investigate the role of tropical hardwoods in MMC.



# Test the SW4C Guide

To find our more and to contact us, please visit:

<https://www.partnerforests.org/sustainable-wood-for-cities>

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Partner Forests Program


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### Sustainable Wood for Cities

A guide for city projects and policies on sourcing wood to benefit climate, environment, and society

*Sustainable Wood for Cities* simplifies wood sourcing for city officials and helps them compare the impacts of different sourcing strategies. Based on project goals and constraints, the interactive framework takes users through a step-by-step process to assess wood requirements. Sustainable wood Pathways are combined into a project strategy to deliver the best combination of synergies and benefits. An interactive matrix allows for comparison of strategies, and engagement of diverse decision-makers in the process.

Wood is emerging as a climate-friendly replacement for carbon-intensive materials like concrete, steel and aluminum for large urban buildings and smaller-scale infrastructure. Trees remove CO2 from the atmosphere, which remains stored in wood for as long as the material remains intact. Using sustainable, responsibly sourced wood can help to conserve forests, potentially producing massive climate and biodiversity benefits.

Wood production can also drive deforestation and emit carbon if it is produced unsustainably, used wastefully, disposed of improperly, or causes forest degradation or permanent deforestation of carbon and biodiversity-rich forests. For wood to be considered "sustainable" in terms of climate, biodiversity and other environmental impacts, it must be sourced from...

Pathways + Impact Levels	Hypothetical Project Strategies			
	Local Sourcing	Responsible Sourcing	Responsible Sourcing	Local Sourcing
1. Forest Certification	1	2	3	4
2. Social Forestry	1	2	3	4
3. Species and Grade	1	2	3	4
4. Global Geography	1	2	3	4
5. Local & Urban Wood	1	2	3	4
6. Wood Reuse	1	2	3	4
7. High Efficiency Production	1	2	3	4
8. Net Carbon Accounting / LCA	1	2	3	4

Sample matrix with strategies for comparison

Contact us for more information and to receive the full guide

Name

City

Email

Type your message here..

# Public & Private Sector Stakeholders

- **Fundamentally, the guide provides a common framework for clients, contractors, and third parties to navigate the complex field of sustainable wood sourcing, design, and use in project planning & assessment.**
- **We are working on adapting it for use by the private sector** as the guide is currently written for city staff & leaders.
- **Architects, timber traders, and forest managers have an important role to play in promoting sustainable wood to both private and public clients.**



## GRIMSHAW



**Diamond  
Schmitt  
Architects**