

Sustainable wood value chains for climate change

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AGREED MESSAGES ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND WOOD VALUE CHAINS

- Growing forests absorb carbon from the atmosphere.
- Reduced impact logging abates greenhouse-gas emissions due to smaller carbon-stock losses and improved regrowth. Moreover, revenues from sustainable wood production increase the value of standing forests and make converting forests less attractive. REDD+ should, as possible, consider sustainable forest management as part of cost-effective mitigation strategies.

AGREED MESSAGES ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND WOOD VALUE CHAINS (CONT.)

- Harvested wood products can store large amounts of greenhouse gases. A recent review of scientific studies concluded that one cubic metre of wood in substitution of non-renewable materials can displace up to two tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. Studies have shown that the European forest based sector has the potential to mitigate up to 13% of total EU greenhouse-gas emissions. This includes carbon in standing forests, carbon storage in harvested wood products, and substitution of fossil-based raw materials and products.

AGREED MESSAGES ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND WOOD VALUE CHAINS (CONT.)

- Using sustainably produced wood in construction helps mitigate climate change, thanks to the carbon stored in wood, substitution of more energy-intensive materials, and more energy-efficient buildings.
- For instance, the carbon balance of a timber-frame building is half that of a concrete-frame structure; new technology makes wood construction material fire-safe; and wood construction is more resistant to earthquakes. However, many construction codes do not yet recognize these benefits. Updating construction codes and enabling procurement policies that recognize the benefits of sustainable wood is key for realizing the full contribution of sustainable wood products to sustainable development.
- Using sustainable bioenergy from wood also helps mitigating climate change by substituting fossil fuels.