

Item 7: Advancing forest-based bioeconomy approaches for sustainable food and agriculture

The United Kingdom welcomes this paper and FAO's continued leadership in advancing sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches.

Forestry is not only a future opportunity but an established foundation of the bioeconomy, providing renewable materials, livelihoods and ecosystem services at scale.

The Forest Finance Roadmap, produced by Brazil together with members of the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership last year, identified growing a sustainable bioeconomy as one of six key readily available solutions for mobilising the finance needed to protect forests and enable transition to a forest-positive economy.

The UK is already supporting the growth of sustainable forest economies through programmes like Partnerships for Forests and Mobilising finance for Forests. These programmes help develop and scale forest-positive enterprises and value chains in commodities such as coffee and cocoa, mobilise private investment, support sustainable production and livelihoods, and reduce pressure on forests.

Sustainably sourced timber and wood products are another important part of this wider opportunity. They can help reduce reliance on more carbon-intensive and fossil-based materials, while supporting rural economies and creating stronger incentives for sustainable forest management. Long-lived wood products can also contribute to climate mitigation through carbon storage.

The use of sustainably sourced timber and other bio-based materials in construction illustrates this potential clearly. It can help meet growing demand for housing, reduce emissions from buildings and construction, and strengthen markets for sustainably produced forest products. The UK is proud to support work through the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership alongside FAO and other partners, to accelerate leadership, investment, and knowledge-sharing in this area.

But a thriving forest bioeconomy ultimately depends on healthy, resilient ecosystems and sustainably managed biological resources. Increased production therefore must go hand in hand with forest protection, nature recovery and sustainable management. We support approaches that strengthen legal and sustainable forest product value chains, promote innovation, and improve resource efficiency and circularity.

We welcome the growing international momentum behind sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches, including the Vienna Call for Action, and FAO's work on data, evidence, policy dialogue, innovation and capacity development. Stronger evidence, improved metrics and enhanced knowledge exchange will be essential to support informed policymaking and unlock greater investment.

We support the suggested actions and FAO's continued assistance to members, upon request, in developing sustainably and inclusive forest-based bioeconomies that support livelihoods and economic opportunity, whilst protecting and restoring the natural capital on which they depend.