

Country&Organisation-Led Initiative (COLI) Sustainable forest-based Bioeconomy by Austria, Japan, countries?, FAO and IUFRO

2025-2026

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Rationale

- Building on scientific evidence, and on the latest developments in the sector aiming to foster the sustainable use of wood and promote sustainable production and consumption
- Designed to foster the **global dialogue on wood solutions and other forest-based bioeconomy approaches** in a changing climate
- Inviting country representatives and other stakeholders to join forces by creating an enabling environment with an actor-centered approach

The momentum is now

- 2020-2029: Austrian Wood Initiative
- 2021: Start of the European Wood Policy Platform (woodPoP)
- 2022: **Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood** supported by Austria, Cameroon, Gabon, Republic of Korea, Japan, and Peru, FAO World Forestry Congress in Seoul/Korea
- 2022-2024: **WOOD for GLOBE** partnership project with IUFRO and FAO
- 2022-2031: Priority Programme Area “Bioeconomy” in **FAO’s Strategic Framework**
- 2024: **UNFF19** omnibus resolution with “Sustainable forest-based Bioeconomy” being an important element
- 2024: **WOOD for GLOBE Outcome Statement**: Leading Pathways to Carbon Neutrality and Resilience supported by Austria, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Slovenia, Uganda at political level and Italy, Spain, Korea, Peru, Japan, Brazil, Türkiye, New Zealand and Tanzania at technical level as well as by Built by Nature, woodPoP, FSC, ISFC, IUFRO, PEFC, IFSA
- 2024: **COFO27** invited FAO to convene, subject to availability of extrabudgetary resources, an international conference on the contribution of the forest sector to sustainable bioeconomy



WOOD for GLOBE:
Leading pathways to
carbon neutrality and resilience

Planned activities

- Taking stock of existing initiatives, processes, and platforms related to forest-based bioeconomy
- **Global exchange of knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned** among countries, international organizations, governmental and non-governmental agencies, academics, the private sector, etc. providing evidence on the contributions, opportunities, and challenges related to the forest-based bioeconomy and associated value chains, particularly for the most vulnerable populations such as small-scale farmers, indigenous peoples and local communities.
- **Generate guidance in integrating bioeconomy approaches, strategies, action plans and practices**, ensuring balanced outcomes for ecosystem services and land uses
- **Accelerating country commitments to implement the sustainable forest-based bioeconomy**, and to join forces to promote enhanced policy and technical dialogue and exchange among producer and consumer countries, and key stakeholders.
- **Preparing a consolidated, scientifically sound, synthesis report compiling the knowledge from the outcomes of the COLI activities**, including summaries of the events, which will be published by IUFRO in collaboration with FAO and partner countries.

Planned events

- **Global webinar series “Advancing sustainable wood-based pathways” in spring 2025**, to raise ambition for a sustainable forest-based bioeconomy.
- Sharing the outcome of above and other workshops at the technical session of **UNFF20 in May 2025**.
- International conference on **“Wood, health, and well-being” in autumn 2025 in Osaka, Japan/hybrid**, back-to-back with the EXPO, to foster specific implementation of applied sustainable forest-based bioeconomy.
- Special session at the international congress **WOODRise, 22-25 September 2025 in Vancouver, Canada**
- High-level events at **UNFCCC COP30 Thematic Days in Brazil in November 2025**, to make the best use of cross-sectoral synergies and accelerate actions for a sustainable forest-based bioeconomy.
- International conference on **“Global Leadership on sustainable forest-based bioeconomy” in the first quarter of 2026 in Vienna, Austria**.
- Sharing the outcome of the COLI at the political session of **UNFF21 in May 2026**.
- Sharing the outcome of the COLI at **COFO28 in 2026**.

Organisation of COLI

- **Initiator and Chair** of the Steering Committee: Austria
- **Steering Committee:**
 - Japan
 - Other financially contributing countries (join us!)
 - FAO (Collaborative partner organisation)
 - IUFRO (Coordinator and Scientific Lead Organisation)
 - UNFF (Secretariat, Bureau)
- **Friends of COLI:** wider circle of interested countries and organisations

WAY FORWARD

- Possibility to **send comments on the draft proposal until 13 September cob**
- Advance draft according to UNFF Guidelines and received comments
- Reach common agreement on the general approach and overall work plan until end of October incl. online meeting
- Forward proposal officially to UNFF

Join us.

For further information and questions:

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