



COP30 FOREST PAVILION:

A Shared Commitment to Our Planet

2025 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP30)

10-21 November 2025, Belém, Brazil

Building for Forests: Implementing Sustainable Wood Constructions for Climate Resilience and Livelihoods

November 10th, 2025, 12:00 – 13:55

PEFC International and FAO (on behalf of SW4SW)

Concept Note

I. Background

The “Building for Forests: Accelerating Responsible Wood-Based Constructions for Climate, Forests and Livelihoods” Plan — part of the COP30 Action Agenda — will be launched on 18 November. It presents an impactful solution that extends the climate benefits of forests to the built environment and to sustainable, affordable housing.

Format

The session will follow a fishbowl discussion format designed to promote open and inclusive dialogue. A small group of participants sits in an inner circle to exchange views, while the wider audience forms an outer circle to observe and listen.

In this moderated “shoulder-tap” variation, audience members may indicate their wish to join the inner circle — either by a gentle tap on the shoulder of an inner participant or by a non-contact signal. The tapped participant then leaves the inner circle temporarily, allowing the new participant to take their place and contribute to the discussion. Participants who have been tapped out may re-enter the fishbowl later in the session, ensuring that a wide range of voices and perspectives can be heard.

II. Objectives

- Surface cross-stakeholder expectations of forest-positive buildings outcomes and impacts (climate, biodiversity, livelihoods, rights, risk reduction).
- Identify near-term SFM priorities to strengthen first (e.g., conversion-free management, lesser-known timber species, mixed-species plantations, biodiversity/habitat quality, safe and decent work, inclusive smallholder pathways, fire/water resilience, impact/outcome data, integrity & assurance).

- Suggest a short list of decision-useful actions that need to be delivered in the short term (24-36 month) to achieve a fundamental shifts in paradigm, technology, finance and policy.

III. Programme/Schedules of Events/Speakers

Moderator

- Thorsten Arndt, PEFC International

Opening Remarks (5 minutes)

- Ambassador Antonio da Costa e Silva or Global ABC Representative (5 minutes)

Introducing “Building for Forests” (20 minutes)

- Amy Duchelle, Team Leader of the Forests and Climate Change Team, FAO
- Paul King, CEO, Built by Nature
- Peter Graham – The Forest & Climate Leaders’ Partnership (FCLP) Secretariat
- The Building for Forests targets: Thais Linhares Juvenal (recorded presentation) (5 minutes)

Fishbowl participants:

- Austria
- Herrick Fox, Berkeley University
- Yutaka Kawashima, Senior Policy Analyst for International Affairs, Forestry Agency of Japan
- Ross Hampton, CEO International Sustainable Forestry Coalition (ISFC)
- Philipp Misselwitz (CEO Bauhaus Earth)
- Jeanicolau Lacerda, Chair, PEFC Brazil & ATIBT
- Elson Fernandes (FSC)
- Jorge Hargrave (Marae Investimentos).

Round 1 (20 minutes)

Wood-based constructions deliver climate benefits, carbon-neutral and resilient built environment, and sustainable affordable housing. It’s a forest-based climate solution intrinsically cross-sectoral.

Guiding questions:

- How can we ensure the uptake of the solution globally to meet the proposed targets?
- What actions to adopt in forest Global South countries?

Round 2 (20 minutes)

Building for forests depends on innovation, policy coherence and finance. The wood-based constructions sector is already under development, but to meet the urgency and make it work for forests and livelihoods demand deviation from business-as-usual.

Guiding questions:

- How can we expand innovation networks to adapt technologies to local contexts?
- What partnerships between public and private sectors are needed to make sustainable wood part of mainstream construction finance and real estate portfolios?

Round 3 (20 minutes)

The Principles for Responsible Timber Construction have been endorsed by xxx.

Guiding questions:

- How can we ensure they hit the ground?
- What other actions are needed for the global expansion of responsible wood-based constructions?

Closing remarks 20 minutes)

- Garo Batmanian – Director General Brazilian Forest Service
- Elfriede Anna More, Deputy Director General for Environment and Climate
- Silvio Barros – Chair of Climate and Environment Brazilian National Front of Mayors