



Forests play an important role in creating options for affordable and clean energy, particularly in developing countries. They supply about 40% of the global renewable energy in the form of wood fuel, resulting in around 50% or 1.86 billion m³ of global wood production being used for energy. This use might increase and to ensure the poor participate in this new economy, additional financing, knowledge transfer, policy/institutional changes, market development and regulatory mechanisms will be required (GFG 6.3, SDG 17).

Emerging wood-based products offer new markets that are expected to increase, especially in construction, textiles, chemicals, biofuels, packaging and a number of small upstream niche markets such as cosmetics, food additives and pharmaceuticals. A higher use of wood-based products could also become an effective climate change mitigation option. This increase in value-added would be particularly important for rural economies that have a higher dependency on forests for income and employment.

National policies, NDCs and VNCs could help creating proper conditions and solutions for sustainable wood production, taking into consideration all actors in value chains, especially the most marginalized, ensure property rights and access to legal sources of forest products (GFGs 2.1, 2.4, 6.3, SDGs 8, 17).

Overall, demand for wood products will continue to rise and place pressure on natural forests, yet sustainably managed forests will play a significant role in enabling us to move away from more carbon-intensive materials (e.g. concrete,

The UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) is a