

Green

Bamboo & Rattan for Development

Global Assessment of Bamboo & Rattan (GABAR)
Call for Partners

The benefits of bamboo and rattan are well recognized, but their vast scope for new and innovative uses needs to be better understood. Today, bamboo and rattan producing countries can harness these resources to boost local economic growth, address climate change and protect the natural environment - as part of their sustainable development action plans.

Global Assessment of Bamboo & Rattan (GABAR)

Practical options for national 'green development' action plans

As an indigenous natural resources in countries across the Global South, bamboo and rattan create new jobs, boost household income and economic growth in rural areas and help communities adapt to the pressures of climate change.

For national and rural livelihoods, GABAR supports countries to speed their development of bamboo and rattan, to bring direct benefits to many millions of people in low income areas who rely directly and indirectly on forests for their livelihoods.

Outputs

Resources, case studies, maps, practical tools & data.

Outcomes

More effective use of bamboo & rattan in national green economy plans and development agendas. Increased investment in these resources by countries, donors and development partners.

Impacts

A better world. Improved livelihoods, income and environmental security on a large scale in bamboo and rattan resource countries.

About GABAR

GABAR is a partnership of INBAR and its 41 Member States with a range of national and international partners. It calls on the knowledge of national bamboo and rattan organizations and experts worldwide. INBAR's members comprise most of the world's key producers and some consumers of bamboo and rattan resources.

This initiative is planned as a \$100 million programme which will deliver a full range of support to countries, including the global assessment and inventory of bamboo and rattan, knowledge sharing, capacity building, policy shaping and technical advice. The programme's approach is to facilitate south-south cooperation and learning. Current commitments, contributions and pledges total some \$25 million.



GABAR products & services - key outputs

- **Comprehensive assessment of opportunities and challenges for bamboo and rattan** development in the Global South, especially Africa.
- **Policy/strategy recommendations** for effective management and use of bamboo and rattan.
- **Assessments of the potential of bamboo and rattan for climate change mitigation and adaptation.**
- **Land restoration** - recommendations for national and international priority actions.
- **Species and type inventory** - description of bamboo and rattan types, species and detailed characterization (physiological, ecological, practices, distribution maps).
- **Global network of field researchers and local experts**, coordinated by an INBAR network manager.
- **Information and knowledge sharing platform** for access to a wealth of resources on bamboo and rattan practices and policies.
- **Comprehensive maps** of bamboo and rattan distribution (global, regional, national).
- **Knowledge and tools** – reports, studies, useful packaged data.

Contributing activities - current status

Current contributing and supporting partners:

- **China's** State Forestry Administration - national inventory and assessment.
- **Ethiopia's** Ministry of Agriculture – assessment of bamboo's potential for land restoration.
- **Madagascar** - bamboo for land restoration..
- **Indonesia's** Ministry of Environment and Forestry – national inventory.
- **Cameroon** - bamboo for land restoration option and renewable energy.
- **Jamaica** - bamboo industry development, manufacture of bamboo charcoal for export.
- **Vietnam** - sustainable rattan management, regional assessment for bamboo development.
- **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** – works with INBAR on national assessments of bamboo for energy and livelihoods in 3 African countries; South-South exchanges with India.

Call for Partners

GABAR partners can help build the initiative by providing:

- **Funding for the initiative** or a specific component (thematic or regional activities).
- **Contributions of expertise or knowledge** (expert time, past work feeding into new bamboo & rattan knowledge, joint studies or synthesis work).
- **In-kind contributions of facilities, equipment or other resources.**
- **Sharing and synthesis of experience** on bamboo and rattan development.

Partners interested in innovative solutions to rural development include:

- **National policy makers and planners** responsible for green development plans.
- **National institutes** in research, forestry, agriculture and natural resources.
- **Development agencies, international institutions and NGOs:** looking for practical solutions for green development.
- **Donors,** looking for credible green economy activities that work at scale.
- **International Conventions and activities** linked to the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.



GABAR - Global Assessment of Bamboo & Rattan



Bamboo & Rattan: a world of innovative uses for the green economy



The value chain for bamboo and rattan commodities and products starts in rural areas of the world's resource countries. Many goods for the world market are locally produced, creating income for communities.

Here are some examples of innovative economic activities:

Community enterprise - new sources of jobs and income in rural areas. A growing body of evidence and examples shows that bamboo brings new jobs and cash to poor rural and peri-urban communities. INBAR has facilitated the creation of many women-led enterprises in India that use bamboo to produce low-cost products that have year-round market demand – including charcoal, matches, chopsticks, incense sticks, small household items, etc. Similar schemes are being piloted in Africa.

Value Chain: locally-created social enterprises use locally-sourced or planted bamboo to bring income to unemployed/underemployed and marginal populations, generating cash with low entry cost.

Encouraging local entrepreneurs and new industry. In Ethiopia, for example, a growing number of local entrepreneurs are creating businesses to tap and expand the country's one million hectares of lowland and highland bamboo – creating jobs and generating income among rural communities and marginal economies. These entrepreneurs produce cellulose, charcoal, flooring, furniture and other consumer goods. An entrepreneur in the Western Province has harnessed bamboo to create 1000 jobs in a remote rural area with no previous large-scale economic activity.

Value Chain: local communities maintain forests in partnership with local industry, for products transformed locally and sold on the national market.

Rapid landscape restoration. Bamboo grows to maturity in 3-7 years. A growing number of cases show how it can rapidly restore severely degraded landscapes in poor rural areas, returning life and productivity to the soil, and income to local communities. A recently-documented case in Allahabad India, tells of the rebuilding of rural livelihoods where 80,000 hectares of degraded land were brought back into productivity using bamboo as a pioneer species.

Value Chain: Communities plant bamboo that rejuvenates land over five years, opening a range of new village-level economic activities – from farming of new crops, to fisheries and timber production.

Sustainable animal fodder. Agricultural research is developing new varieties of forage and crops, or commodities such as barley for animal feed. Bamboo serves these same markets in areas where it grows or can be cultivated. Unlike food crops that have a seasonal growing cycle, bamboo is a perennial plant that requires less maintenance, very low inputs, and provides a constant source of food for livestock.

Value Chain: Communities harvest from managed forests, or local farmers plant bamboo for year-round harvesting for livestock or selling as feed.

Low-cost, climate-smart housing. In Latin America, affordable bamboo housing for low income communities is part of many local economies, with bamboo parts certified in national building codes. Practical bamboo house 'kits' are low-cost (\$5,000) and have many uses for improving livelihoods in natural disasters or refugee situations, where rapid building with affordable materials is needed. Bamboo resist shocks such as earthquakes, landslides and floods better than concrete - as the current material of choice for many low-cost dwellings.

Value chain: Locally sourced bamboo poles are transformed into housing kits for use by community organizations, disaster relief or government agencies.

Energy and biogas. Bamboo holds huge promise for reducing deforestation for firewood production. Much of Africa's deforestation is due to harvesting of wood for daily cooking. Bamboo plantations can be harvested and converted to charcoal for home use. A growing research area is the use of bamboo charcoal and chips to power small-scale electricity generators that can produce biogas for local electricity, powering villages and communities that receive poor services or are off the grid.

Value Chain: Local forests are harvested to provide bamboo for charcoal production; bamboo plantations are created to provide a local source of 'perennial' firewood; waste from bamboo factories is made into charcoal, creating profits from production waste.

International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)

The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) is the multilateral development organisation of 41 Member States for the promotion of bamboo and rattan. INBAR supports its members to include bamboo and rattan in their sustainable development action plans and green economy strategies. It promotes innovative ways of using bamboo and rattan to improve rural livelihoods, protect the environment, address climate change and issues of international bamboo and rattan trade and standards. INBAR connects a global network of partners from government, private and NGO sectors to promote a global agenda for sustainable development using bamboo and rattan.

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