



Bamboo and rattan – INBAR statement at COP24

INBAR – the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation – and its 44 Member States are at COP 24 to highlight the benefits of bamboo and rattan for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Bamboo and rattan can help countries mitigate the effects of climate change in a number of ways.

The first is carbon storage. Well-managed bamboo plants and products can store significantly more carbon than certain types of tree. With more than 30 million hectares of bamboo around the world, mostly in developing countries, bamboo has huge potential to act as a natural carbon sink in the Global South.

Bamboo products can also reduce our carbon footprint, and provide a low-carbon alternative to emissions-intensive materials, such as PVC, steel and concrete. They can make an important contribution to greening large new infrastructure projects.

Finally, bamboo provides a source of 100% renewable, clean-burning energy, meaning it can play a role in countries' nationally determined contributions to climate change.

Bamboo and rattan can also help us adapt to the effects of climate change. They provide climate smart-housing, and studies show that bamboo structures are more resilient in certain natural disasters; they are an important part of landscape management, with countries from China to Ethiopia using bamboo for land and watershed restoration.

Last but not least, bamboo and rattan provide an alternative income, and even a source of nutrition, to local communities. Tens of millions of people around the world rely on bamboo and rattan for their livelihoods, and bamboo is a much-used source of food and fodder.

In summary: As bamboo and rattan grow throughout the tropics in Africa, Asia and the Americas, INBAR believes these plants can provide a significant contribution to combatting climate change in the developing world.

INBAR and its 44 Member States urge you to include bamboo and rattan in your nationally determined contributions to the Paris Accord, and we stand ready to help.