



**Promoting sustainable tropical  
timber products trade and  
changing consumer perception:  
A new phase**

Emily Fripp – Efeca Director

ITTO Conference – Panama  
October 2025





# Introduction to Emily

- Founder and Director of Efeca, specialising in sustainable use and trade of timber and forest risk commodities (FRCs)
- Began my career as a Forest Economist, Overseas Development Institute (ODI) Fellow, in Guyana
- Previously Director of Donor Programmes for the Tropical Forest Trust (now Earthworm)
- Ran the EU Timber Trade Action Plan, supporting trade in legally produced timber products from 10 producer countries, working across trade associations in producer and consumer countries
- Provide technical support to the Broader Market Recognition Coalition (BMRC)
- Associate Thematic Lead for the PMSST of the UK Government's FGMC Programme



# Efeca – who we are

We provide advice and technical support to public and private sectors on policies, regulations and commitments, for responsible sourcing of forest risk commodities

Data analysis, monitoring and reporting, including MEL



Global collaboration, facilitation and partnering



Technical assistance, strategic support and policy development/implementation



Strategic research, including market trends and trade patterns



FACT Dialogue Evaluation

CIFOR GCS REDD+ Phase 3 and 4 Evaluation

UK Sustainable Commodities Initiative (UK SCI)

Global Resource Initiative (GRI)

Technical support to the Broader Market Recognition Coalition (BMRC)

Technical support to the Forest Governance Markets and Climate (FGMC)



Driving meaningful impact on the ground

# My task today:

Reflecting: The current status of forests, timber trade and markets

Looking forward: the broader consumer landscape of forestry, opportunities and challenges



# The importance of forests



Forests are essential for rainfall regulation and stabilisation of local climates. They offer **cost effective solutions** to **climate change** adaptation and resilience.



Forests are the second largest **storehouses of carbon** after the oceans and absorb up to **2.4 billion metric tons** of carbon per year.



Forests contribute over **\$1.3 trillion** annually to the global economy.  
Over **1.6 billion** people depend on forests for livelihoods, food, fuel and shelter.



Forests are home to over **80%** of terrestrial **biodiversity**.  
Over **75%** of the world's accessible **freshwater** comes from forested watersheds.

# The status of global forests



Forests cover **4 billion hectares** of the world's land surface.



The rate of deforestation has declined, from **16 million ha/year** in 1990-2000 to **10 million ha/year** in 2015-2020.



Between 2000 and 2020, forest coverage shrank by about **100 million hectares**.



In 2024, **tropical regions** lost **7 million ha** of primary rainforest, an 80% increase compared to 2023.

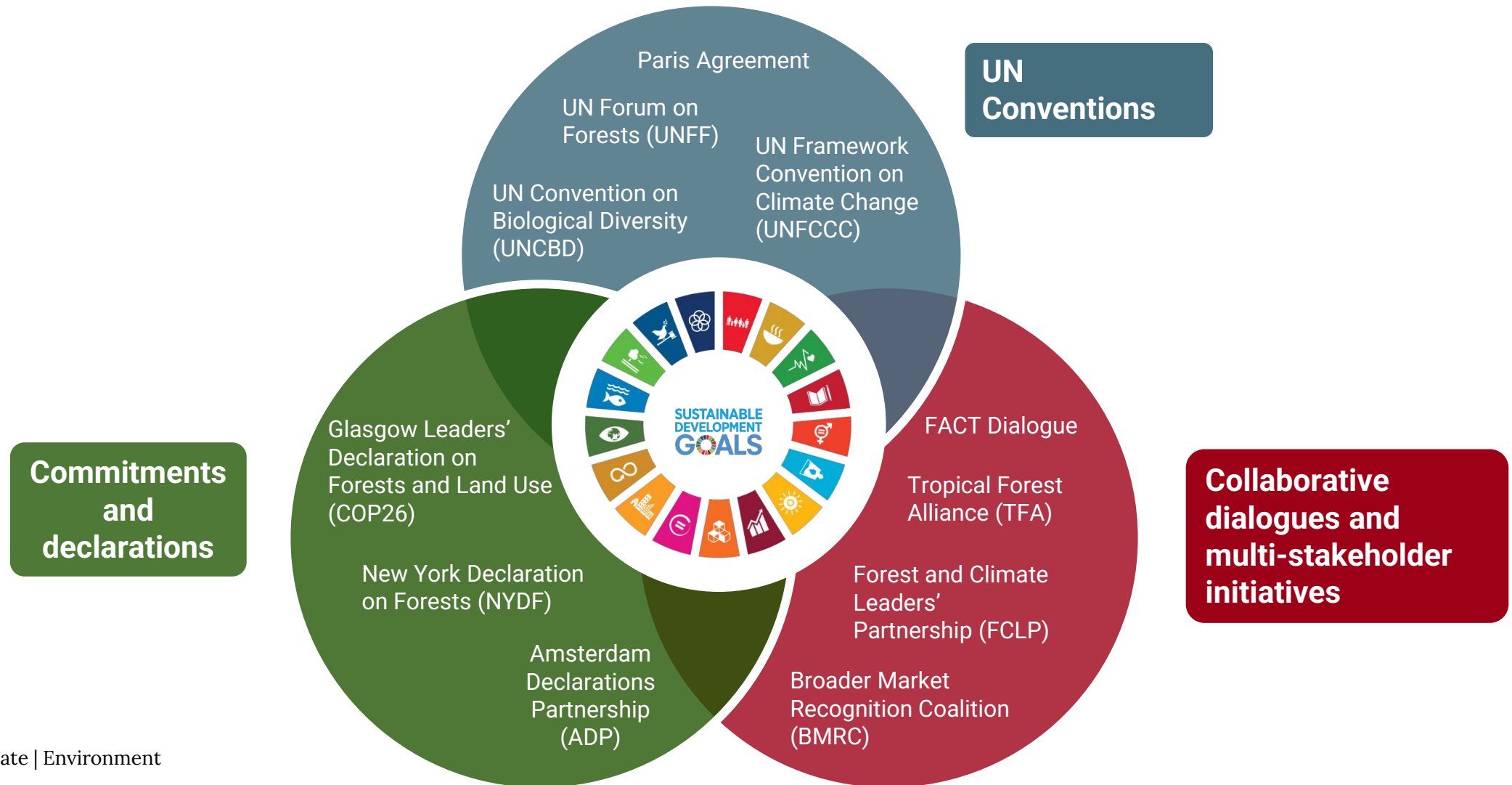


**48%** of tropical forest loss was due to wildfires in 2024, a five-fold increase from 2023.



At the current rate, achieving the goal of **halting deforestation** by 2030 will take another **25 years**.

# Current climate, nature and biodiversity frameworks and initiatives





# Geo-political context

**Minister of Finance pursues implementation of carbon trading in forestry sector**



**Brazilian wood product exports to the US facing tariff pressure**



**Fires in the tropics: ITTO shines a light on forest fires across tropical regions**



**Just 4% of Firms Selling Tropical Timbers Can Trace it to the Forest**



**GHANA BREAKS NEW GROUND IN FOREST GOVERNANCE: ISSUES AFRICA'S FIRST FLEGT TIMBER LICENCE**

**Europe's Tropical Timber Imports Sink to Decades Low — Here's Why**





# Global roundwood production

## Roundwood production

Production has **increased** moderately between **2010 – 2020** and is predicted to **increase** by **4-8%** by **2030**.

**4**  
BILLION  
M<sup>3</sup>  
(2022)

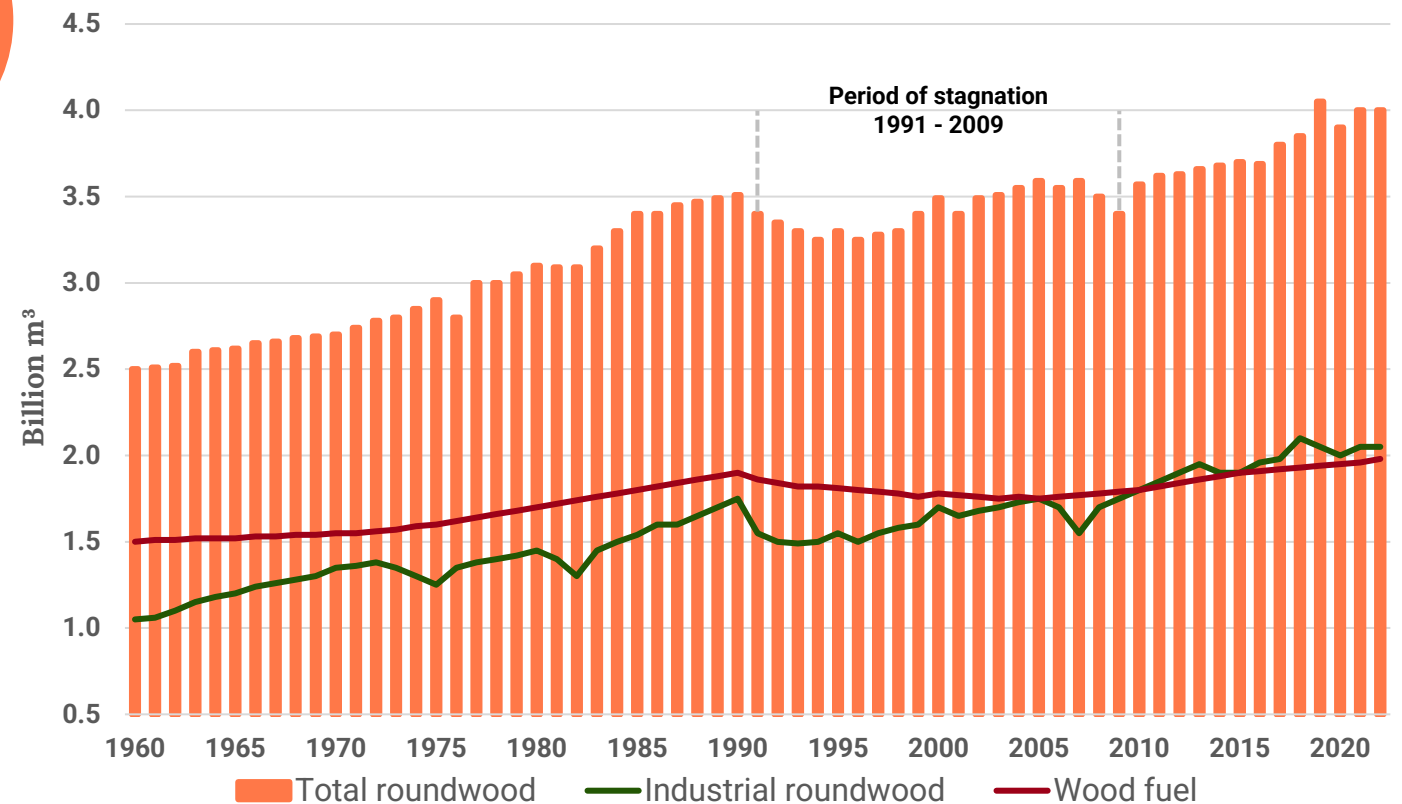
**1**  
BILLION  
M<sup>3</sup>  
(2022)

## Industrial roundwood production

## Wood fuel production

**2.1**  
BILLION  
M<sup>3</sup>  
(2022)

World roundwood production, comprising industrial roundwood and woodfuel, 1961 – 2022



# Tropical timber production

**73%**  
DECREASE



**Industrial roundwood** production has declined from **41 million m<sup>3</sup>** in **1990** to **11 million m<sup>3</sup>** in **2021**.

**164%**  
INCREASE



**Roundwood** production in **plantations** has grown from about **120 million m<sup>3</sup>** in **1990** to **317 million m<sup>3</sup>** in **2022**.

**12%**  
DECREASE



**Sawnwood** production peaked in **2017**, at almost **81 million m<sup>3</sup>**, declining to **71 million m<sup>3</sup>** in **2021**.

**56.5%**  
INCREASE



**Plywood** production reached **48 million m<sup>3</sup>** in **2021**.  
China accounted for **0.5%** in **1990**, which has increased to **57%** in **2021**.

**300%**  
INCREASE

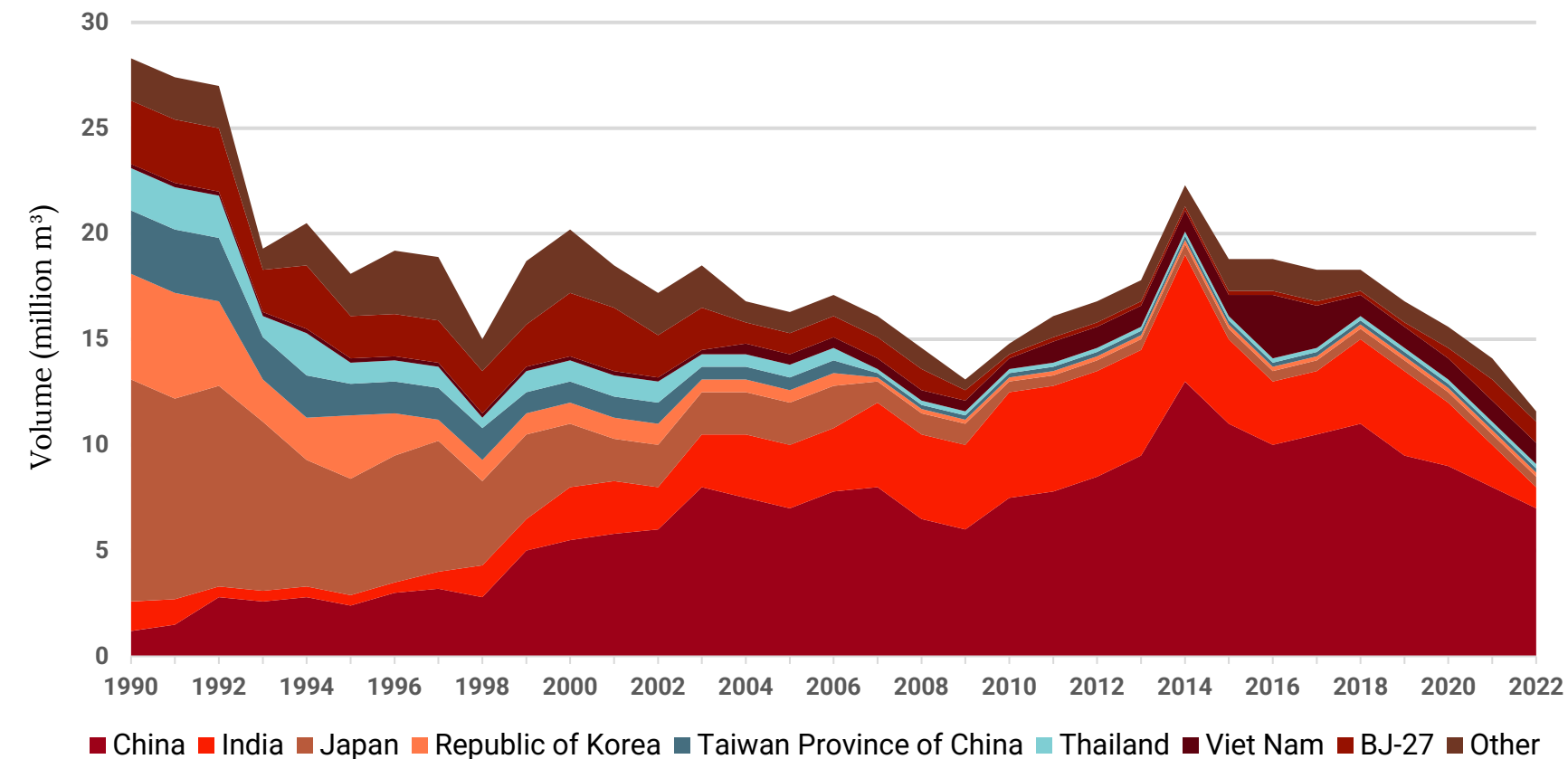


**Veneer** production has increased from about **2 million m<sup>3</sup>** in **1990** to nearly **8 million m<sup>3</sup>** in **2021**.



# Tropical timber imports

Imports of tropical logs by importing country or region, 1990–2022



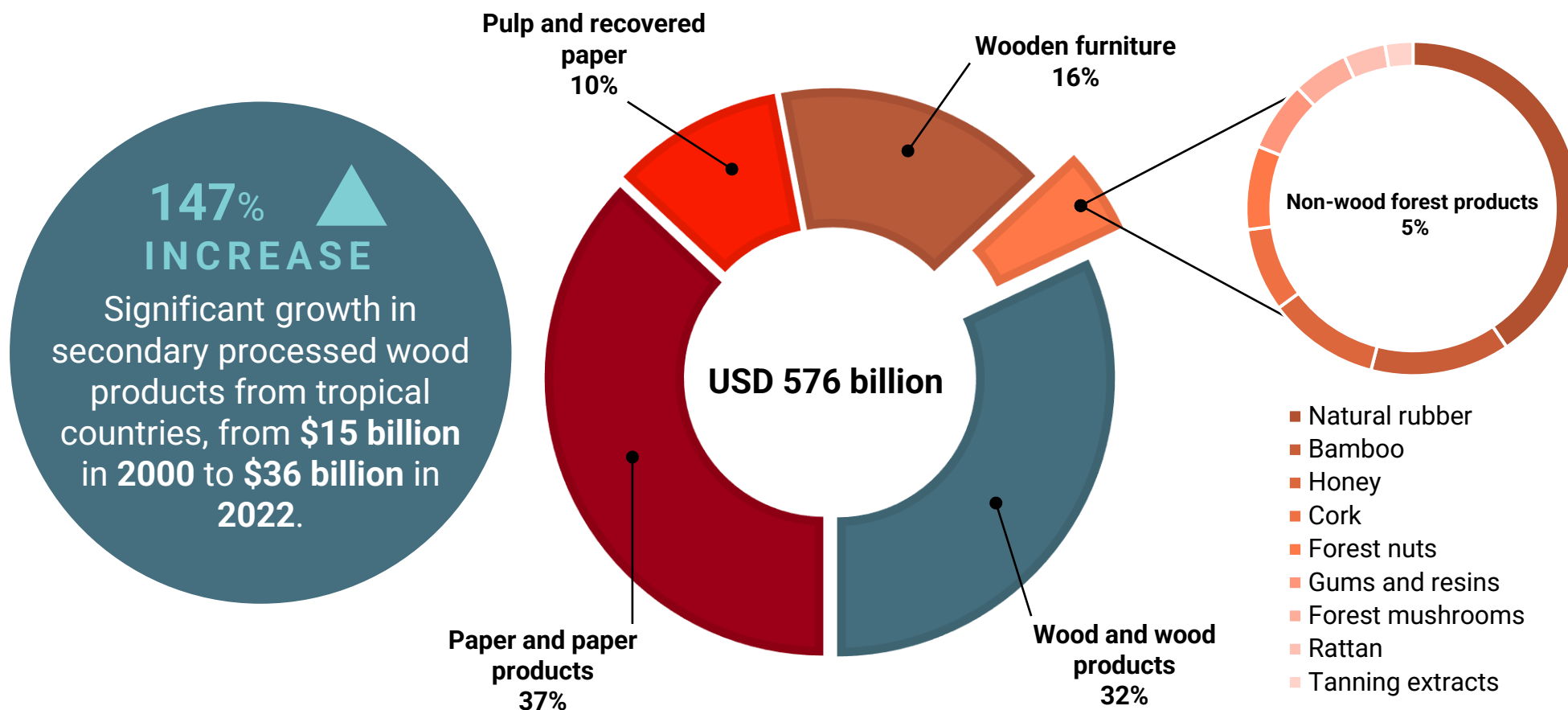
**69% ▲  
INCREASE**  
in imports from **China  
and India**, from 4%  
and 5% in 1990 to  
62% and 16% in 2021.

**64% ▼  
DECREASE**  
in global imports  
from  
**28 million m³** in  
1990 to **10 million  
m³** in 2022.

**69% ▼  
DECREASE**  
in imports from the  
Republic of Korea, Taiwan  
and EU countries, from  
**78%** in 1990 to **9%** in  
2021.

# Forest product exports

Share of global forest product exports, by product category, 2022



Shift away from low-value products towards production of higher value-added products (e.g., furniture).



# Future of tropical timber markets



Tropical industrial roundwood is increasingly supplied by plantations

**8%** ▼  
**DECREASE**

in natural forest supply of tropical roundwood from 2015 to 2050

Limited expansion possibilities for large-scale plantations means **smallholders** and **agroforestry systems** will become increasingly important producers



# Future of tropical timber markets

## PRODUCTION PROJECTIONS BY 2050:

GLOBAL

▲ **45%**  
INCREASE in industrial  
roundwood →  
**3 billion m<sup>3</sup>**

▲ **61%**  
INCREASE in primary wood  
products →  
**4 billion m<sup>3</sup>**

**BUT**

▲ **24%**  
INCREASE in industrial  
roundwood →  
**533 million m<sup>3</sup>**

▲ **36%**  
INCREASE in primary wood  
products →  
**476 million m<sup>3</sup>**

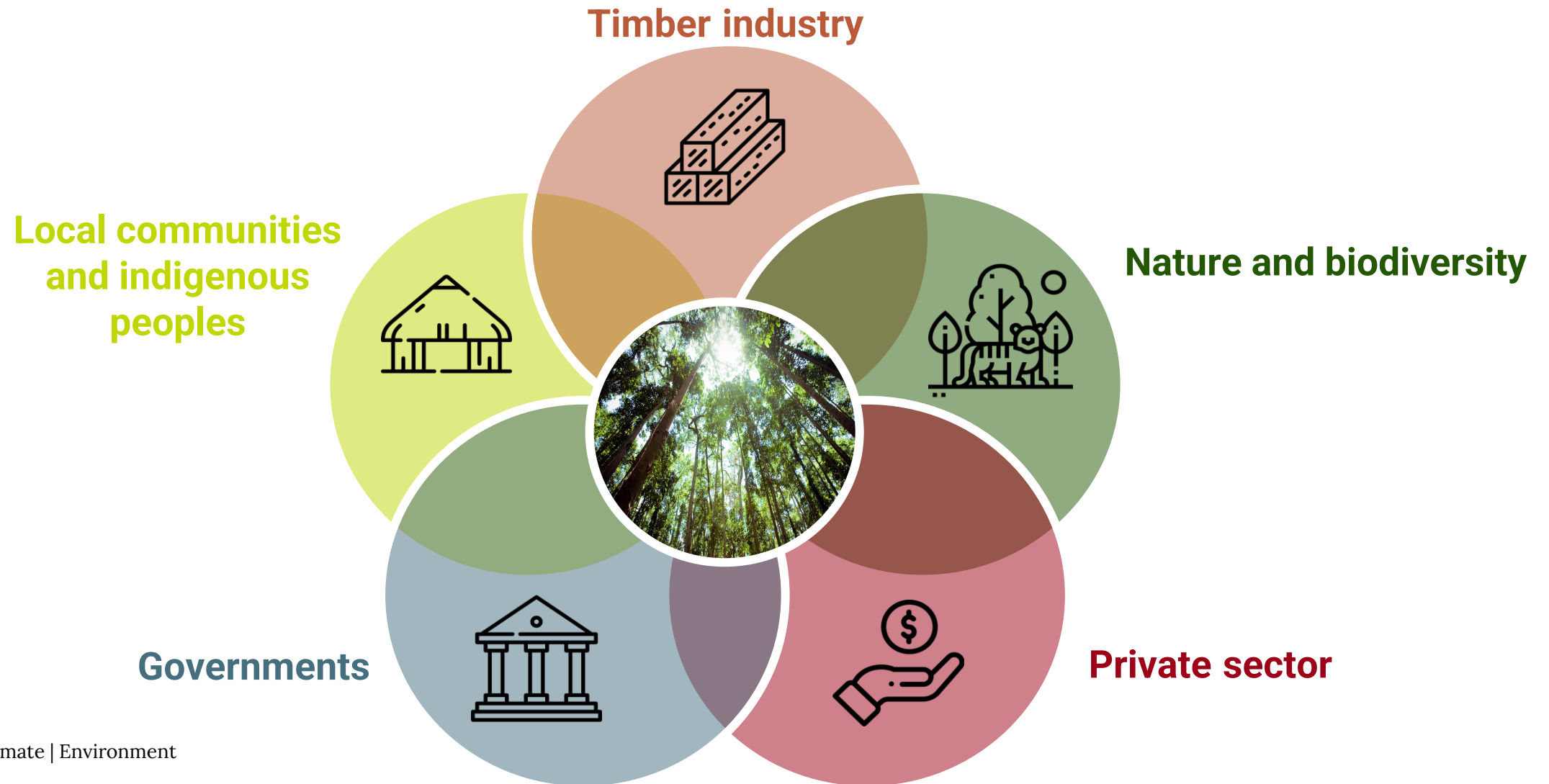
TROPICAL

**To maintain market share, tropical timber productions needs to expand into other revenue streams (e.g., carbon sequestration)**



# The evolving consumer landscape of forestry

# Growing landscape of interests



# Climate finance

**57%**

**reduction**  
(7.5% per year)

needed in GHG  
emissions by **2035** to  
achieve a 1.5°C pathway

Estimated adaptation  
finance gap of up to

**\$360**  
billion/year

**Private sector climate finance could help mobilise those funds. In turn, this could also increase the value of standing forests, and potentially that of tropical timber, whose market was valued at around **\$25 billion** in 2024.**

## **VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKET (VCM)**

**\$473 million**  
(2020)



**\$2 billion**  
(2022)

## **BIODIVERSITY CREDITS**

Still very new but important given the

**30 by 30**

UN goal of halting and reversing nature loss



# Broader Market Recognition Coalition



The mission of the **BMRC** is to achieve global market recognition of national tropical sustainable forestry systems.



\*source: Global Sustainable Investment Alliance (GSIA).

FIG 1

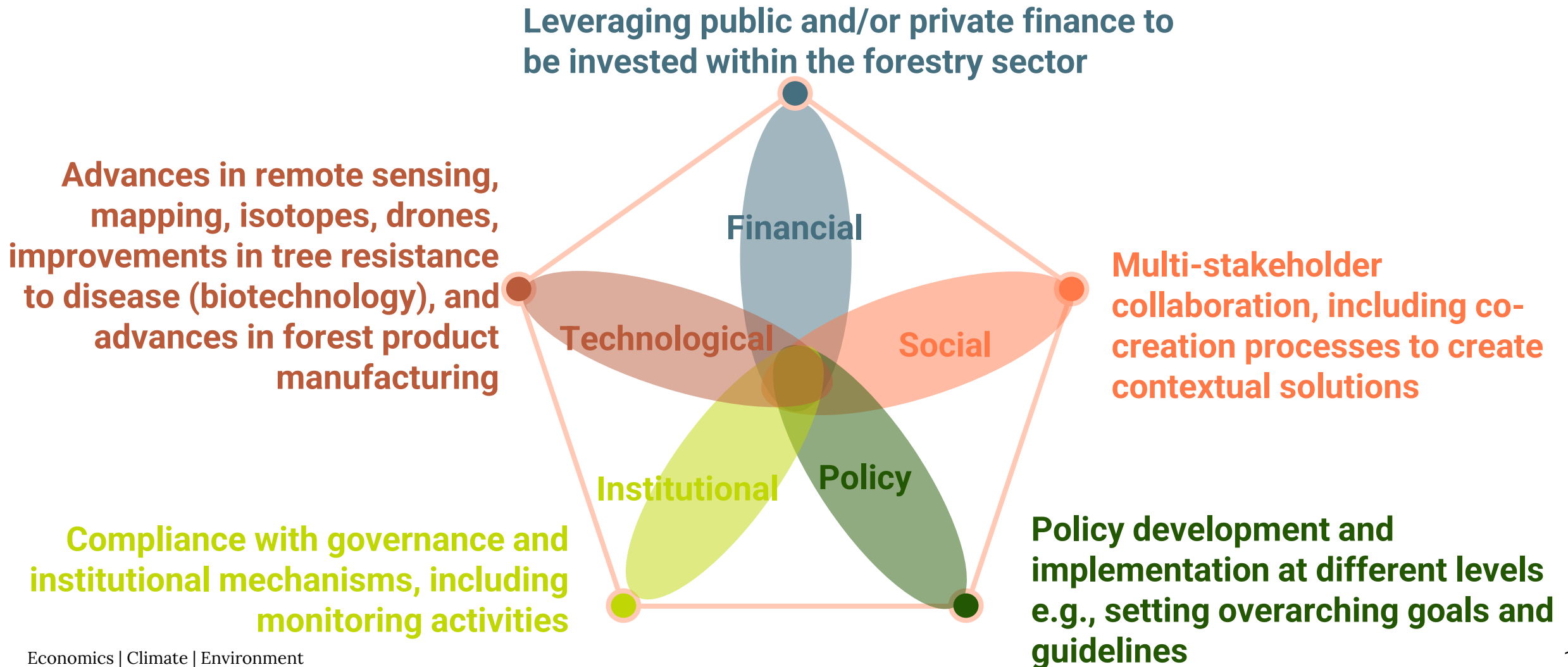
## Types of recognition

*BMRC is seeking recognition of national sustainable forestry systems at national and international policy and trade levels*

- Currently six member countries
- Gabon joining shortly
- Papua New Guinea remains an observer



# Need for innovation to deliver opportunities





# Thank you

Emily Fripp – Efeca Director  
ITTO Conference – Panama  
October 2025