



- Secretariat offices
- INBAR's member countries



BAMBOO AND RATTAN FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Partnering for sustainable development

SDG 17

The International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) is a multilateral development organisation of 43 Member states for the promotion of bamboo and rattan. In addition to its Secretariat headquarters in China, INBAR has regional offices in Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana and India. INBAR represents a large part of the Global South and is a major mechanism for enabling South-South cooperation.

Bamboo and rattan grow across the Global South and can contribute to the achievement of at least seven of the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 1

An end to poverty



Bamboo and rattan have the potential to create many new jobs across the value chain. Bamboo is easy to manage and fast growing: bamboo poles can be extracted within 3-7 years. China's bamboo sector alone employs some 8 million people. Rattan is also a very important source of livelihoods for rural communities, particularly in South-East Asia. Bamboo and rattan's annual trade value is estimated at USD 60 billion. Together, bamboo and rattan have over 10,000 estimated uses.

SDG 12

Efficient use of resources



Bamboo is often used as a fast-growing alternative to timber or other building materials, and its products can have a low or even negative carbon footprint across their lifecycle. Bamboo reduces pressure on forest resources and can replace cement and plastic in drainage pipes, housing and storage facilities. Adaptable, fast-growing, and easy to cultivate and manage, bamboo and rattan have huge potential for use as a sustainable material in public infrastructure and commodities.

SDG 7

Affordable and clean energy

Bamboo biomass can be used directly as fuelwood, modified into charcoal for cooking and heating, or converted into gas for thermal and electrical energy generation. Because it grows quickly and does not require re-planting, bamboo can provide a continuous supply of fuel. Using bamboo for cooking and heating can reduce pressure on other forest resources, avoiding deforestation. It also burns without smoke and odour, providing important health benefits for people inside the home.



SDG 13

Address climate change

Bamboo provides a wealth of practical solutions to combat climate change. The plant stores a large amount of carbon: a study in 2008 showed that Moso bamboo can sequester carbon at a higher rate than many fast growing tree species (12.7 tons carbon per hectare per year). Bamboo and rattan can also offer additional income opportunities to individuals whose livelihoods are impacted by climate change, making them important tools for adaptation.



SDG 11

Sustainable and resilient housing

Bamboo has been used in construction for thousands of years. Bamboo houses are flexible, modern and affordable. They can be particularly resilient in earthquakes, remaining intact even when concrete structures are destroyed. INBAR works in partnership with representatives from the public and private sector all over the world to carry out research, develop technologies, and recommend policies and standards for bamboo construction.



SDG 15

Life on land

Bamboos' extensive root systems help bind soil and regulate water flow. They are used to restore severely degraded soil across the world, and INBAR Members have pledged to use bamboo to reforest 5 million hectares of land by 2020. Bamboos and rattans are also an essential part of tropical forest ecosystems, providing a primary source of food and shelter for some of the world's most iconic and endangered animals.

