

2019 ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS



INTERNATIONAL BAMBOO AND RATTAN ORGANISATION



The International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation

The International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation, INBAR, is an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to the promotion of bamboo and rattan for sustainable development.

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International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation

PO Box 100102-86, Beijing 100102, China


Tel: +86-10-6470 6161; Fax: +86-10-6470 2166;

Email: info@inbar.int

www.inbar.int

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ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL BAMBOO AND RATTAN ORGANISATION

Established in 1997, the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) is an intergovernmental development organisation that promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo and rattan. It is currently made up of 46 Member States. In addition to its Headquarters in China, INBAR has five Regional Offices in Cameroon, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana and India. INBAR's mission is to improve the well-being of producers and users of bamboo and rattan within the context of a sustainable bamboo and rattan resource base, by consolidating, coordinating and supporting strategic and adaptive research and development.





ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
Beijing Expo 2019	International Horticultural Exhibition 2019, Beijing, China
BRIGC	Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition
CCICED	China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development
COP	Conference of the Parties
GABAR	Global Assessment of Bamboo and Rattan for green development
ICBR	International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan
INBAR	International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
NFGA	National Forestry and Grassland Administration, China
SIBGUADUA	Sixth International Bamboo and Guadua Symposium
TC	Technical Committee (of the International Organization for Standardization)
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change



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FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR



Sileshi Getahun
Board Chair



Jiang Zehui
Board Co-Chair

Thank you for reading this report, and for your continued interest in bamboo and rattan.

In last year's Annual Highlights, we recounted the success of the Global Bamboo and Rattan Congress 2018, a multi-day conference co-hosted by INBAR which welcomed more than 1000 participants from 70 countries. As you will read in this report, last year INBAR did not rest on its laurels, continuing to fly the flag for nature-based sustainable development solutions, and in particular for value chain development and green, climate-resilient growth.

In particular, in 2019 INBAR was honoured to be invited by the Chinese government to host a garden at the International Horticultural Exhibition 2019, Beijing, China, a major six-month exhibition. Between April and October, INBAR welcomed many guests to its Garden and stunning Bamboo Eye Pavilion, and hosted a large number of events with Member States and international partners. Under the Exhibition's theme 'Live Green, Live Better', INBAR strove to demonstrate the unique role of bamboo and rattan for environmental protection and sustainable lifestyles. We are very happy to have been part of this major event, and delighted to receive an award for our Pavilion's design: a true demonstration of bamboo's potential to inspire.

This Exposition was not the only platform where INBAR inspired people about bamboo and rattan.

Throughout the year, INBAR attended a wide range of international events, including the UN General Assembly's 74th session in New York, the UN climate conference in Madrid, the 25th International Union of Forest Research Organizations World Congress in Brazil and the 2019 Global Landscapes Forum in Ghana. We also continued to push for greater recognition of bamboo and rattan's potential in Europe, co-hosting events in Spain and Italy, and attending meetings and events in other countries.

On an organisational level, INBAR continued to expand and grow stronger as a network. In 2019, we welcomed two new Member States: the Republic of the Congo and the Kingdom of Cambodia. We also organised the 11th Session of the INBAR Council which was attended by representatives from almost all of our Member States, and hosted our 23rd Board Meeting.

Finally, earlier this year the Board of Trustees appointed a new Director General for the organisation. We bade farewell to Dr. Hans Friederich, INBAR's fourth Director General, and we are delighted to welcome Mr. Ali Mchumo, a Tanzanian national and former diplomat, who brings a wealth of experience in foreign affairs and sustainable development to his role at INBAR. With Mr. Mchumo at the helm, we have every confidence in the continued good work of the INBAR Secretariat in 2020 and beyond.



FOREWORD FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



Ali Mchumo
Director General

At the start of 2019, I was honoured to be appointed INBAR's fifth Director General. I joined INBAR in April, and in the months since then have had the pleasure to further the organisation's mission: promoting the use of bamboo and rattan for sustainable development around the world.

Back in 2015, INBAR agreed on a strategic plan for the organisation, with four main goals. This publication of 2019 Annual Highlights reflects our progress towards each of these goals in 2019.

Firstly, INBAR has continued to shape policy, supporting the inclusion of bamboo and rattan in socio-economic and environmental development policies around the world. In 2019, INBAR provided technical support to a number of our Member States to help them develop national bamboo strategies and product standards, and remained a strong member of international conventions, groups and initiatives, advocating for bamboo and rattan's inclusion in talks on climate change, land restoration, forestry, renewable energy and green trade.

In addition, INBAR continued its work in representation and advocacy. Staff have represented INBAR across our Member States, engaging with governments and the private sector, and advocating for bamboo and rattan in regional events. This effort was particularly pronounced in Beijing, where INBAR used its award-winning garden at the International Horticultural Exhibition 2019, Beijing, China to promote bamboo and rattan's potential to a

global audience, over a six-month period.

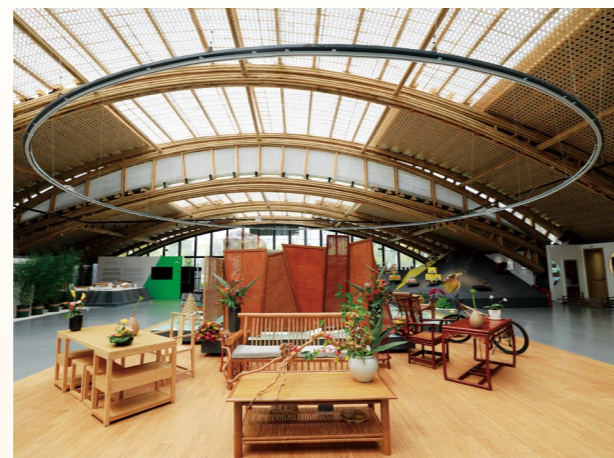
As usual, INBAR contributed to knowledge sharing and learning, training thousands of people from around the world in all aspects of the bamboo and rattan value chain. Of particular note, in 2019 INBAR hosted the INBAR Scholarship Programme, an important service for our Member States. This year, Scholarship participants from 16 INBAR Member and Observer States took part in a training workshop in China. We very much look forward to welcoming more candidates in future years, and hope they come away inspired by bamboo and rattan.

Finally, INBAR continued its action research and country support, working with Member States around the world. In particular, INBAR was delighted to open its Central Africa Regional Office in Cameroon in 2019, and to welcome two new Member States, as well as two Observer States, to the INBAR network. We are also delighted to introduce our new Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Sileshi Getahun, whose expertise as a former Ethiopian Minister will be invaluable to our continued growth, and we also welcome the new Chair of the 12th INBAR Council, Cameroon.

2019 was a big year for INBAR, and I believe this year's issue of Annual Highlights gives a sense of the breadth and scope of INBAR's work. All successes and achievements are the result of the dedicated teamwork of INBAR staff, and I feel lucky to lead this group of hard-working people.



The International Horticultural Exhibition 2019, Beijing, China



Beginning in April 2019, the International Horticultural Exhibition 2019, Beijing, China (Beijing Expo 2019) was one of the largest horticulture exhibitions ever held in the world: it covered over 900 hectares of land, ran for more than five months, and was visited by a number of heads of state, as well as over 9 million guests. The theme of the Beijing Expo 2019 was 'Live Green, Live Better', and its aim was to show the importance of the natural world to creating more sustainable development.

INBAR was invited to design a garden for the Beijing Expo 2019, in a prominent location. Under the theme 'Bamboo and Rattan for a Green World', the INBAR Garden aimed to demonstrate the unique role which bamboo and rattan can play in promoting sustainable lifestyles and ecological civilisation.

At the heart of the INBAR Garden was the 'Bamboo Eye': an imposing pavilion constructed entirely from bamboo poles, designed by renowned architect Mauricio Cárdenas Laverde and local architects from the Architectural Design Institute of Chongqing University. The Pavilion was made using more than 5000 bamboo poles and covered 1600 m², making it the largest round-pole bamboo structure ever built in northern China. The Pavilion was filled with exhibits of bamboo and rattan products, and surrounded by a bamboo garden.

INBAR's presence at the Beijing Expo 2019 was supported by a number of strategic China-based partners, including the Meishan municipal government, the International Centre for Bamboo and Rattan (ICBR), the China Flower Association, the China Eco-Culture Association and others.





INBAR Honour Day

On 16 May, senior policymakers and diplomatic representatives gathered to celebrate INBAR's Honour Day at the INBAR Pavilion, with a morning of speeches and performances to mark the important role of bamboo and rattan in sustainable development.

A number of high-level representatives from INBAR, its partners and Member States gave speeches, including: Professor Jiang Zehui, Co-Chair of the INBAR Board of Trustees; H.E. Mr. Carlos Larrea, Ambassador of Ecuador to China; Mr. Ali Mchumo, Director General of INBAR; Mr. Huang Yiyang, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Economic Affairs at China's Ministry of

Foreign Affairs; Mr. Peng Youdong, Vice Administrator of China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA); Mr. Zhou Jianping, Executive Deputy Director General of the International Horticultural Exhibition Coordination Bureau; and Mr. Mu Xinhai, Secretary of Meishan's Municipal Party Committee.

Following the speeches, all guests were invited to watch a performance at the Beijing Expo 2019's Lawn Theatre. Named *The Charm of Bamboo*, the performance featured dances, music and songs reflecting bamboo and rattan's historical importance to cultures around the world.

Promoting cultural exchange with Member States

As a global network of Member States from around the world, INBAR used its space at the Beijing Expo 2019 to share its experience of contributing nature-based solutions to sustainable development. From April to October, INBAR Member States Cameroon, Jamaica, the Philippines, Rwanda and Sri Lanka hosted events in the INBAR Garden. INBAR also celebrated

bamboo and rattan's contribution on a number of national and international days, including Beijing Low Carbon Day and International Olympic Day, as well as through events like bamboo painting and weaving. These thought-provoking events provided an exchange of cultures and ideas, and raised awareness about bamboo's relevance to a number of sustainable development objectives.

Strengthening cooperation with international partners

Aside from Member State events, non-Member States and other interested partners used the INBAR Pavilion to host their events. The Embassy of the Netherlands used the Pavilion to promote sustainable supply chains; the Embassy of France held a talk about biodiversity; and

the Embassies of Gabon and the United Kingdom invited participants to celebrate their respective National Days. These events helped to raise awareness about bamboo and rattan's widespread potential for green growth, particularly in Europe (page 9).

Showcasing bamboo and rattan's uses in China

A number of Chinese organisations, schools and local governments also used the INBAR Pavilion to showcase their bamboo culture and products. Events included bamboo paper writing, bamboo instrument performances, a 'Meishan Week' to celebrate the vibrant bamboo sector of Meishan

city, one of the top strategic partners of INBAR at the Beijing Expo 2019, 'Anji Day' to showcase the developed bamboo industry in this part of Zhejiang province, and a special position in Beijing Design Week to promote bamboo's role as an innovative design material.

International Bamboo Construction Competition

One key event on the INBAR calendar was the International Bamboo Construction Competition. This contest, which invited students to submit designs for innovative bamboo structures, was hosted by INBAR with the support of more than 40 universities, institutes and private sector organisations from across the world. More than 150 teams from almost 30 countries registered. In June, the three finalist teams—from

Belgium, China and Ethiopia—were invited to Beijing, where they built and presented their structures to an international jury.

At an awards ceremony on 19 July, the first prize was awarded to the team from the University of Liège, Belgium, for their innovative flower-shaped house design.

Grand Award for 'International Outdoor Garden'

The Beijing Expo 2019 ran from April until October. Before the closing ceremony, INBAR received the Grand Award for 'International Outdoor Garden', in recognition of the INBAR Pavilion's innovative and ecological design. The award is testament to bamboo's potential as a sustainable, durable and low-carbon building material.

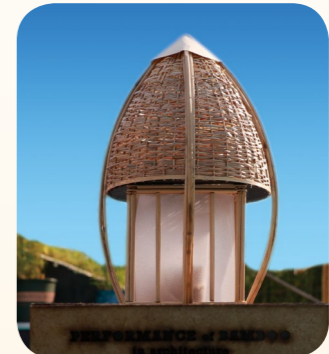
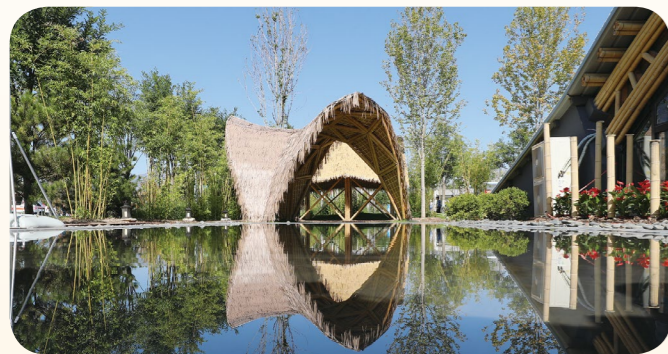
Garden served as a clear example of how to 'Live Green, Live Better'. The Pavilion provided an important hub for networking and knowledge sharing, as well as serving as an inspiring talking point about the importance of nature-based solutions for sustainable development. INBAR's participation in the Beijing Expo 2019 should result in a wider awareness about bamboo and rattan's potential, and a raft of new partnerships and plans for the future.

Over the course of its six-month run, the INBAR



Top row, from left to right: High-level participants at INBAR Honour Day; INBAR Director General Mr. Mchumo speaking at the bamboo construction competition awards ceremony; panelists speaking at an event about bamboo design; introducing the INBAR Pavilion to policymakers.

Below row: A number of countries held events to highlight their bamboo and rattan culture in the Bamboo Eye Pavilion, including Cameroon, China, Gabon, Jamaica, the Philippines, Rwanda and Sri Lanka.



Above row: The INBAR Garden showcased a range of bamboo constructions in addition to the Bamboo Eye Pavilion (centre), including the winning designs submitted for the International Bamboo Construction Competition.

Below row, from left to right: Meishan week at the INBAR Garden; a visit from the Vice President of Peru; a seminar on horticultural management with the Embassy of the Netherlands; the organisers of the Philippines cultural festival.





POLICY SHAPING

In 2019, INBAR continued to support the inclusion of bamboo and rattan in socio-economic and environmental development policies at national, regional and international levels.

Promoting bamboo in Europe



Left: Mr. Mchumo giving an address at the Ibero-Bamboo Symposium. Right: Participants at the Symposium; photo: Garcia Pena.

Although the European Union is the world's largest importer of bamboo products, the overall market is relatively small, with huge room for expansion. Currently, the plant's potential as a source of low-carbon products and sustainable biomass energy remains largely unrealised.

In October, INBAR co-organised two events in Europe to raise awareness about this plant. The first, the Ibero-Bamboo Symposium, took place in the Eduardo Torroja Institute for Construction Science, part of the Spanish National Research Council, in Madrid, Spain. The conference was co-organised with Spanish bamboo design specialists Bambusa, and hosted representatives from a number of European institutions. Speaking on behalf of Spain's Ministry of Agriculture, Mrs Silvia Capdevila said that bamboo

"holds great potential" for Spain, as both a climate-smart material and a tool in the fight against climate change. Other representatives, from UN-Habitat, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), and non-governmental organisation COPADE, discussed the important role of bamboo in construction and renewable energy, and as a replacement for single-use plastic.

INBAR also took part in the two-day event 'Under the Bamboo Tree' in Labirinto della Masone, Parma province, Italy, alongside the Italian Bamboo Association, the Masters of Landscape Festival and design educational institution ISIA Firenze. With a focus on innovation and style, the event provided a platform for a discussion of bamboo's potential as a cutting-edge material in modern design.

Greening the Belt and Road Initiative

In the past year, the Belt and Road Initiative—China's international trade and infrastructure programme—continued to gather momentum. In 2019, INBAR became a member of the newly formed Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC): a network made up of environmental ministries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations which aims to help integrate sustainable development considerations into planning processes along the Belt and Road. INBAR's membership of this coalition marks a significant step forward for the inclusion of low-carbon, durable and pro-poor bamboo and rattan products for use in trade and construction in the Initiative.

As a member of BRIGC, INBAR attended the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, which was hosted by the Chinese government in April.

INBAR Director General Mr. Ali Mchumo gave a speech at the BRIGC plenary session of the Forum, in which he highlighted bamboo and rattan's potential for use in infrastructure, construction and sustainable trade.

INBAR is not just a member of BRIGC; it is also a part of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), a think tank which occupies a prominent place in Chinese environmental discussion and research. In June, INBAR attended CCICED's annual general meeting in Hangzhou, and at the Council's invitation prepared a briefing note for all participants about bamboo's importance for sustainable development. The annual meeting was followed by a field trip to Anji, a county in north-western Zhejiang province, during which bamboo notably featured as a key part of Anji's 'green' economic development.

INBAR on the international stage

Outside of its host country China, INBAR continued to promote bamboo and rattan's role in contributing to a number of sustainable development priorities. In March, INBAR participated in the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, which resulted in an important ministerial commitment to reduce single-use plastics. In September, INBAR attended the 74th session of the UN General Assembly in its role as Observer, and the Director General met with heads from a number of key organisations and countries to discuss the potential of bamboo and rattan. INBAR also took part in the 'Climate Action Summit' convened directly after the session, and the Director General made remarks in support of the new Nature-Based Solutions Coalition, an initiative led by China and New Zealand to highlight the role of natural capital in sustainable development.

INBAR is an Observer to the three Rio Conventions, and promoted bamboo and rattan at meetings of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in January and September, and at the 25th Conference

of the Parties (COP) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Madrid, Spain, in December. For the latter conference, INBAR co-hosted a number of well-attended events, which discussed bamboo's role in the bioeconomy, as a tool for South-South cooperation, and as a driver of climate change mitigation. This included a side event 'Bamboo as a Substitute for Plastic', where speakers from the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, UNFCCC and a number of Member State governments discussed bamboo's important role in providing a low-carbon alternative to plastic and other materials.

Aside from UN meetings, INBAR participated in a range of international conferences and events, including the Common Fund for Commodities' annual meeting, a conference of ITTO, the annual Global Landscapes Forum and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress.

Membership of IUCN

In November, INBAR became the newest member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), an international organisation working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, made up of more than 1300 member

organisations and some 16,000 experts.

Membership of this network should pave the way for INBAR to contribute directly to the work of IUCN, and reflects the vital role bamboo and rattan can play in conserving nature and accelerating the transition to sustainable development.

Supporting bamboo strategy development

Policy support is vital to stimulate the development of a robust, sustainably managed bamboo sector, and is the reason why 'policy shaping' is included as a key focus area of INBAR's 2015–2030 Strategy. In countries such as China, the development of national and regional strategies has played an important role in the country's bamboo sector growth.

State governments during the creation of their national bamboo development plans. As part of the Dutch-Sino-East Africa Bamboo Development Programme, which concluded at the end of 2019, INBAR supported the governments of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda to produce bamboo strategy and action plans; INBAR also played a role in the creation of a national strategy for Ecuador, and is currently working with Togo to develop a national bamboo strategy.

In 2019, INBAR supported a number of Member



Left: Mr. Mchumo speaking in plenary at UNFCCC COP 25. Right: A delegation from Ethiopia's Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission visiting INBAR Headquarters.



Left: Several delegates at a meeting of ISO/TC 296. Right: The Coordinator of INBAR's Global Bamboo Construction Programme, Ms. Liu Kewei, standing with the Technical and Editorial Programme Managers of ISO/TC 165.

Setting international standards

As well as policy support, standardisation is a critical part of INBAR's work to stimulate bamboo and rattan sector development. For many years, INBAR has worked with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to develop and publicise standards for bamboo and rattan products.

INBAR is also part of ISO/TC 296: 'Bamboo and rattan', and convenes a Working Group focused on rattan. In 2019, INBAR continued to work on the development of rattan standards, and to raise awareness about the group's work among Member States.

In 2019, INBAR continued to work with ISO to develop standards related to bamboo construction and rattan products. INBAR is leading a group of global bamboo construction experts in Working Group 12 of Technical Committee 165 (ISO/TC 165), which concerns timber structures, to develop several new ISO standards for engineered and round-pole bamboo constructions. In 2019, under INBAR's leadership of this Working Group, ISO standard ISO 22157:2019 was published. The new standard provides guidance on testing the physical and mechanical properties of bamboo poles for use in construction. Two additional proposals for new standards have also been approved, and several more submitted.

On a national level, INBAR worked with relevant national standardisation authorities in its Member States of China, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda to develop bamboo product standards, as a boost to the countries' bamboo sectors. As part of the Dutch-Sino-East Africa Bamboo Development Programme, INBAR organised a regional workshop to build the capacity of national stakeholders in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda to develop standards. The Programme also supported the organisation of five national working groups and the development of over 10 national standards in these countries.



REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY

In addition to its Secretariat Headquarters in China, INBAR has five Regional Offices in Cameroon, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana and India. In 2019 INBAR represented its Member States in a number of regional events and engaged with governments and the private sector to raise awareness about bamboo and rattan.

Asia

In 2019, INBAR participated in a number of events in **India**: the World Bamboo Workshop, an event co-sponsored by INBAR, in Manipur state; an international conference on bamboo composites organised by the Indian Plywood Industries Research & Training Institute in Bangalore; a national conference on bamboo organised by the National Bamboo Mission in New Delhi; the annual Kerala Bamboo Fest; and a bamboo artisans' conclave in Jharkhand state. INBAR also took part in training events and workshops across the country, including a workshop on land restoration in New Delhi, and a training workshop on bamboo shoot processing in Mizoram state. One of the main events of the year was the UNCCD's COP 14, which INBAR attended in New Delhi.

INBAR was also active in other Asian countries. In November, INBAR attended a workshop in **Nepal** on the energy needs of various domestic value chains, including bamboo, which was organised by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development and the International Renewable Energy Agency. INBAR participated in a stakeholder workshop in **Sri Lanka** in March to provide technical advice for the creation of the country's national strategic plan for bamboo development, and attended a workshop in **Myanmar** on the bamboo industry in August. INBAR staff presented bamboo and rattan's contribution to sustainable forestry development at the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week in **South Korea** in June, and INBAR partnerships development at the ASEAN Bamboo Congress in **the Philippines** in August.



Left: A delegate from Ecuador speaking to suppliers at a bamboo fair in China during the INBAR Scholarship Programme. Right: The Director of INBAR's South Asia Regional Office, Mr. T.P. Subramony, with the Secretary of Industries for Jharkhand, Mr. Ravi Kumar.



Left: Ecuador was Chair of the 11th INBAR Council Session which took place in Beijing in November. Right: INBAR staff with bamboo stakeholders in São Paulo, Brazil.



Latin America and the Caribbean

INBAR's Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office took part in a number of regional events. In October, INBAR co-organised the Sixth International Bamboo and Guadua Symposium (SIBGUADUA) in Quito, **Ecuador**. The symposium welcomed more than 250 participants from all over the world to discuss bamboo's potential for environmental protection and sustainable development.

In January, INBAR attended and spoke at a meeting of the UNCCD in **Guyana**. In **Brazil**, INBAR participated in the 25th IUFRO World Congress. In November, representatives from INBAR's Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office also attended the international conference 'Bio-based Buildings' in Paris, France, to showcase the use of bamboo construction in South America. And in **Colombia**, INBAR took part in a forum, 'Bamboo

and Guadua: The Future of Colombia', meeting with representatives for a number of Ministries to discuss future collaboration.

To celebrate World Bamboo Day, on 18 September INBAR supported an international congress on bamboo for sustainable development in **Peru**, as well as a seminar on sustainable bamboo construction in Ecuador. Both events were well-attended by students, producers and stakeholders from across the bamboo value chain.

Finally, in November, INBAR and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador co-hosted the 11th Session of the INBAR Council, which was originally scheduled to take place in Ecuador, but was moved to Beijing, China. The Session was presided over by the Ecuadorian Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Xavier Lazo.

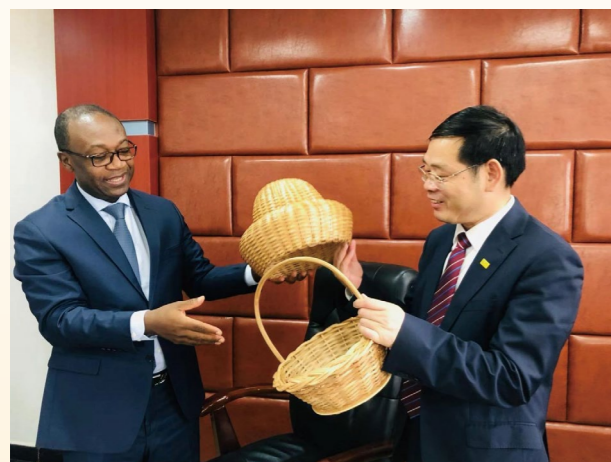
Africa

In December 2019, INBAR officially opened its Central Africa Regional Office in Yaoundé, **Cameroon**, and was active in Central Africa throughout the year. In Cameroon, representatives attended the Economic and Cultural Festival of the Mounjo, Littoral province; participated in workshops and meetings hosted variously by the Central African Forests Commission, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and German development organisation GIZ; and organised workshops for university students to raise awareness about bamboo and rattan's uses. Staff also visited the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** in June to raise awareness about bamboo and rattan's potential to government officials.

In East Africa, INBAR was very active in promoting cross-country knowledge sharing. In 2019, INBAR arranged for a delegation from the **Ethiopian** Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission to visit China to learn about its bamboo sector, at the invitation of NFGA. In turn, delegations from NFGA

and Zhejiang Agriculture and Forestry University visited Ethiopia to find out more about opportunities for future collaboration and shared research. Cross-learning visits were also conducted between forestry experts from **Eritrea** and **Ethiopia**, and **Kenya** and **Uganda**, and the Dutch-Sino-East Africa Bamboo Development Programme organised an investors' study tour to Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. On 29 July, INBAR also took part in a record-breaking national tree planting event in Ethiopia, seeding one hectare of land with bamboo.

In **Ghana**, where INBAR's West Africa Regional Office is based, INBAR supported the organisation of the first-ever National Bamboo and Rattan Investment Forum. Representatives also participated in the Global Landscapes Forum held in October to demonstrate the potential of bamboo in restoring degraded landscapes, and in the West Africa Clean Energy and Environment Conference, both held in Accra, Ghana.



Left: INBAR Deputy Director General Professor Lu Wenming meeting Cameroon's Minister of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicrafts. Right: The Global Landscapes Forum in Accra, Ghana, in October.



Left: Fiji's Minister of Forestry was one of a number of high-profile policymakers to visit INBAR Headquarters. Right: One of many entries in the Anji Construction Competition.



China

INBAR's Headquarters is based in Beijing, China, and so China remains a central hub for the organisation's advocacy and awareness-raising work. In 2019, INBAR co-organised several international events with local partners in China, including: the China Yibin International Bamboo Industry Development Summit and Bamboo Product Fair in June, the International Meishan Bamboo Industry Fair in September, the International Yong'an Bamboo Ware Fair in November, and the National University Bamboo Design and Construction Competition in Anji in December. These events, which involved the participation of a number of INBAR Member States, have helped successfully promote technology transfer and lessons in market development from China's bamboo industry abroad.

The Beijing Expo 2019 (pages 3-8) provided a good opportunity to collaborate with Member States on awareness-raising activities. Cameroon, Jamaica, the Philippines, Rwanda and Sri Lanka organised events at the INBAR Pavilion, and a number of other

Member States sent representatives to attend events. Throughout the year, INBAR organised two Council Working Group meetings at its Headquarters, as well as the 11th Council Session in November, all of which were attended by representatives from a majority of Member States.

Finally, a number of high-profile delegations from Member States visited INBAR Headquarters in 2019, including: Ecuador's President of the National Assembly; Togo's Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Protection of Nature; Ethiopia's Minister of Agriculture; Venezuela's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs; Ecuador's Minister of Agriculture and Livestock; and Cameroon's Minister of Forestry and Wildlife. INBAR also received delegations from non-Member States including Fiji and Pakistan, and continued to strengthen relationships with embassies in Beijing, meeting with ambassadors or representative diplomats from many of its Member States.



KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND LEARNING

Throughout the year, INBAR shared knowledge and coordinated training programmes to raise awareness and build capacity among its Member States.

Building capacity and sharing knowledge

Since its establishment in 1997, training has been a major focus of INBAR's work, and 2019 was no exception.

INBAR hosted the third INBAR Scholarship Programme, a service for Member States, which aims to raise awareness about the potential of bamboo and rattan, and provide very practical training and capacity building to a team of participants from developing countries. The 2019 Programme, which was conducted in partnership with the ongoing Inter-Africa Livelihood Development Programme (page 19), invited participants from a number of Member and Observer States to join a 12-day workshop, 'Bamboo Value Addition and Strategic Planning for Industrialisation'. During the course, trainees from Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Myanmar, Rwanda and Togo learned from experts at INBAR Headquarters in Beijing, and visited the Yibin Bamboo Products Fair in Sichuan province, as well as bamboo towns Lin'an and Anji in Zhejiang province.

The Construction Task Force

INBAR's Task Forces, comprising experts from around the world, play an increasingly important role in the fulfilment of INBAR's mission, as advocates, technical advisors and trainers.

In 2019, INBAR also continued its close partnership with ICBR to organise nine training programmes. Overall, more than 300 participants from national governments, research institutes and the private sector took part in these courses, which focused on bamboo resource mapping activities, bamboo's role in combatting climate change, bamboo and rattan development strategies, and potential international cooperation initiatives. All courses were funded with the generous support of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

As a result of previous INBAR capacity-building programmes, in 2019 several countries and regions started taking actions to develop their own bamboo and rattan strategies. INBAR provided support to a national bamboo workshop in Sri Lanka designed to help with the development of a bamboo road map, and to the Mekong Regional Bamboo Workshop, sponsored by the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund. INBAR also provided technical support and financial contributions to training for Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

In 2019, as well as being an important part of INBAR's work on standardisation (page 12), the Construction Task Force were critical in the organisation of INBAR's International Bamboo Construction Competition 2019

(page 6), and provided bamboo solutions to the 'BCN-NYC Affordable Housing Challenge' which took place across Barcelona and New York City. Task Force members spoke at a wide range of global events about sustainable construction, promoting the use of bamboo as a durable, low-carbon material, and took part in a number of INBAR-led training sessions.

Members of the Construction Task Force were also active on the ground. The award-winning Bamboo Eye Pavilion at the Beijing Expo 2019 was designed by a Task Force member, the renowned architect Mauricio Cárdenas Laverde. Task Force members are also active in a number of ongoing INBAR projects to show the potential of bamboo construction across the world.

The Global Assessment of Bamboo and Rattan for green development

Launched by INBAR in 2015, the Global Assessment of Bamboo and Rattan for green development (GABAR) has aimed to fill in the gaps in global knowledge about these plants' distribution and uses, and to provide policy-relevant information to stimulate investment and support for the sector.

In 2019, a number of outputs brought GABAR closer to this goal. National resource assessments were published for Madagascar and Viet Nam, showing the distribution of bamboo across each country. A global bamboo assessment mobile application was also developed, which allows Member States to conduct their own bamboo assessments on mobile phones and tablets. One survey has already been completed using this app, in Manabí province, Ecuador, and another is underway for the island of Flores, Indonesia.

The GABAR team also developed and published the first-ever manual for bamboo biomass and carbon assessment. The manual provides clear instructions for technical staff who conduct bamboo forest inventories and bamboo carbon assessments, and should help countries calculate the climate mitigation potential of their native bamboo. After publishing the manual, INBAR conducted training workshops in Cameroon and Ghana to build capacity among forest practitioners.

In keeping with its mission to provide policy-relevant information, GABAR produced a number of guiding documents for policymakers, investors and development practitioners across INBAR Member States and the world. These include a bamboo value chain assessment in Thailand, a strategic plan for ecosystem restoration with bamboo and rattan, and a framework (in partnership with the Center for International Forestry Research, CIFOR) for assessing ecosystem services from bamboo forests. Finally, an INBAR Policy Synthesis Report, *Bamboo in the Circular Economy*, was developed and released at COP 25 in December.



Training on INBAR's new bamboo carbon storage manual was conducted in Cameroon and Ghana.



ACTION RESEARCH AND COUNTRY SUPPORT

In 2019, INBAR continued to pilot case studies and support the scaling up of best practices across INBAR Member States.

Improving smallholder farmers' livelihoods in Africa

The Inter-Africa Bamboo Smallholder Farmers Livelihood Development Programme, a three-year project funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, started its work to improve smallholder farmers' livelihoods across Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Madagascar.

Throughout the year, around 2300 people were trained in various aspects of bamboo propagation, management, treatment, product creation and value addition. This includes a number of policymakers, who took part in a bamboo strategy awareness-raising workshop in Ethiopia, and

cross-learning visits to experience bamboo industry development and best practices in China, Ethiopia, Ghana and Madagascar. In Cameroon and Ghana, a remote sensing-based bamboo inventory was undertaken to quantify the countries' bamboo resources. Eighty people were trained in how to conduct remote-sensing assessments of bamboo resources and in the use of a mobile app which tracks on-farm bamboo stocks. Bamboo nurseries were established or upgraded in all four Member States, and work has begun on establishing a common production and training centre in Cameroon and Ghana.



Left: Participants on a furniture-making workshop in Ghana. Right: A new bamboo nursery established as part of the project.



The Dutch-Sino-East Africa Programme has trained thousands of people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

Developing East Africa's bamboo sector

In its final year, the Dutch-Sino-East Africa Bamboo Development Programme continued to support the development of the bamboo sector in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, through a wide range of activities. The Programme has been running since late 2016 with funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and support from NFGA.

Early in 2019, the project published a property test report of three bamboo species in East Africa. In Kenya and Uganda, the programme established two common production and treatment facilities and eight micro production centres, and trained over 1000 people on different aspects of bamboo value chain management. The project team also provided more direct policy support throughout the year, assisting with the development of three national bamboo strategies (page 11) and standards (page 12) in each country.

The programme staff developed two video and radio awareness-raising programmes, and

broadcast on national television. Other awareness-raising activities included a bamboo bike tour, and workshops which welcomed over 4500 participants. The team also organised one investor study tour to East Africa to promote investments, and facilitated the inclusion of small- and medium-sized enterprises in national-level exhibitions and trade fairs.

In terms of land use, in 2019 the programme facilitated the production of 600,000 plants, restored over 700 hectares of land with bamboo and brought over 500 hectares of bamboo forests and farms under sustainable management. Most importantly, seven tissue culture experts from East Africa were trained on bamboo tissue culture in India, ensuring that bamboo would continue to be propagated following the project's conclusion. The team continued to train large numbers of people on bamboo resource development, conducting training on bamboo nurseries, plantations and management for over 2000 beneficiaries, including smallholder farmers and extension workers.

Promoting sustainable bamboo in South America



A demonstration bioclimatic bamboo house, which was developed as part of the project in Ecuador and Peru.

The two-year project, 'Sustainable Bamboo for Ecuador and Peru', funded by AECID, entered its final year in 2019. With the aim to spur development

of the countries' bamboo sectors, the project team developed action plans for Ecuador and Peru, and established a number of awareness-raising demonstration sites: in Ecuador, a bioclimatic bamboo house was constructed, and in Peru, several hectares were planted with bamboo to showcase the plant's important ecosystem services and conservation potential.

The project is expected to benefit some 5500 people from the provinces of Manabí, Ecuador, and Piura, Peru, and caught the attention of the Spanish Minister of International Affairs, who visited the project demonstration site in Ecuador. The second phase of the AECID project for Ecuador and Peru will start in early 2020.

Growing bamboo for peace in Colombia

In 2019, INBAR launched a small but important initiative exploring the potential for local varieties of bamboo to contribute to rural development in La Macarena, a region of Colombia affected by more than five decades of civil war.

The project focused on ex-combatants and people displaced through the conflict, providing a series of capacity-building workshops to train

people in areas such as bamboo craft production, construction, management and propagation. An analysis of the region's local bamboo was also conducted to provide a better understanding of the plant's possible applications in La Macarena. A five-year action plan for bamboo has since been developed in the municipality of La Macarena to ensure continued support for the local bamboo sector in future.

Developing bamboo value chains in India

2019 saw the conclusion of a project to help establish micro and medium processing units in selected bamboo value chains in the state of Mizoram, North-Eastern Region, India. The initiative was funded by German development organisation GIZ and focused on preparing technical guidelines to build capacity for primary manufacturing processes and strategic skill development.

The project produced a number of studies: a market

report, a technical manual for how to process bamboo shoots, and two technical feasibility reports on bamboo activated carbon and bamboo gasification. These aim to lay the foundations for developing bamboo value chains in Mizoram. The project also conducted a hands-on training workshop on bamboo shoot processing with 25 entrepreneurs, farmers and non-governmental organisation representatives, with experts from Indonesia.

Preserving local heritage in Chishui, China

In partnership with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Chishui Natural World Heritage Management Bureau, INBAR continued this two-year project for livelihoods development, cultural heritage preservation and conservation in Chishui, a prefecture-level city in Guizhou province, China.

As part of the picturesque UNESCO World Heritage site 'China Danxia', Chishui is subject to environmental protection measures which restrict a number of traditional livelihoods, including logging, hunting and construction work. Since 2003, INBAR has worked to support sustainable livelihood activities in Chishui by training locals in bamboo weaving and business development.

With INBAR's technical support, in 2019 local artisans took part in a month-long bamboo weaving technical workshop, led by experienced weaving masters. The workshop curriculum was

designed to enhance the organisational capacity of the whole community, and to increase demand for sustainably sourced bamboo across the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Traditional woven bamboo products could be an important part of a growing global market for sustainably sourced, environmentally friendly goods; with this in mind, the project has focused on building capacity, empowering communities and increasing artisans' output to eventually create a sustainable source of income.

Following the training, INBAR supported many of the participants to carry out their own training workshops, further building capacity among their own employees and networks. With the help of these bamboo 'ambassadors', and a newly developed online training course on bamboo craftsmanship, it is hoped that the ancient craft of bamboo weaving will become a major source of sustainable employment once more in Chishui.



Bamboo weaving workshops aim to revitalise an old craft in Chishui.





PUBLICATIONS

A full list of publications can be found in the INBAR online library. All are in English unless otherwise stated. In 2019, INBAR published a total of 39 publications in all four official languages, and contributed work to two new anthologies. INBAR staff wrote or contributed to nine academic articles and books.

• Annual Highlights

Annual Highlights 2018 (Chinese, English, French and Spanish)

• General Information

Brochures: *The Inter-Africa Bamboo Smallholder Farmers Livelihood Development Programme*

Beijing Expo 2019 materials: *INBAR Garden Handbook; Bamboo and Rattan for a Green World* (Chinese and English); *A Review of the Brilliant INBAR Garden at the Beijing Expo 2019* (Chinese only)

Fact sheets: *Bamboo, Rattan and the Belt and Road Initiative; Bamboo and Climate Change; Bamboo and the Circular Economy; Bamboo as a Source of Bioenergy; Bamboo, Rattan and Biodiversity* (all English, French and Spanish)

Bamboo and Sustainable Development: A Briefing Note Prepared for the CCICED (Chinese and English)

2019 News Archive (Chinese only)

• Policy Reports

Policy Synthesis Report #6: Bamboo in the Circular Economy

• Trade Reports

Trade Overview 2017: Bamboo and Rattan in the International Market (Chinese and English)

Trade Overview 2018: Bamboo and Rattan in the Chinese Market (Chinese and English)

• Technical Reports

A Manual for Bamboo Forest Biomass and Carbon Assessment

• National Bamboo Strategies

2018–2022 Ecuador National Bamboo Strategy Guidelines for Inclusive and Green Development

• Working Papers

Remote Sensing—Based Regional Bamboo Resource Assessment: Vietnam

Mobile App—Based Regional Bamboo Resource Assessment: Manabí Province, Ecuador

Properties of East African Bamboo

Guide for Design and Construction of Guadua Structures (Spanish only)

• Academic articles and books co-authored by INBAR staff

Andriarimalala, J.H., Kpomasse, C.C., Salgado, P., Ralisoa, N., Durai, J. (2019) 'Nutritional potential of bamboo leaves for feeding dairy cattle', *Pesquisa Agropecuária Tropical*, 49, doi: 10.1590/1983-40632019v49i5a370

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Paudyal, K., Adhikari, S., Sharma, S., Samsudin, Y.B., Paudyal, B.R., Birhane, E., Darcha, G., Bhandari, A., Thang Long, T., Baral, H. (2019) *Framework for assessing ecosystem services from bamboo forests: Lessons from Asia and Africa*. Working Paper 255. Bogor, Indonesia: Center for International Forestry Research.

Xiao, Y., Li, Z., Liu, K.W. (2019) *Modern Engineered Bamboo Structures: Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Modern Bamboo Structures (ICBS 2018), June 25–27, 2018, Beijing, China*. Milton Park, United Kingdom: Taylor & Francis.

Zhao, C., Zhao, J., Wu, J., Classen, A.T., Li, Y., Lou, Y., Zhang, W., Jing, X., Shao, Y., Fu, S. (2019) 'Bamboo forest management leads to a shift in the soil energy channel', *Geoderma*, 353, 201–203.

• INBAR case studies

Climate Action Summit 2019 (2019) *Compendium of Nature-Based Solutions*. New York, USA: Nature-Based Solutions Facilitation Team, UN Environmental Programme.

UN Office for South-South Cooperation and Centro de Gestão e Estudos Estratégicos (eds) (2019) *South-South and Triangular Cooperation on the BioEconomy*. New York, USA: UN Office for South-South Cooperation.



EVENTS

Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention of the UNCCD , Georgetown, Guyana, 28–30 January	INBAR attended this session as an Observer to the UNCCD.
World Bamboo Workshop , Manipur, India, 4–8 February	INBAR took part in this workshop, which focused on construction, food and handicrafts.
SWITCH-Asia Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on Sustainable Consumption and Production , Beijing, China, 18 February	INBAR spoke at this event about bamboo's role in the circular economy and the food sector.
UN Environment Assembly , Nairobi, Kenya, 8–15 March	INBAR attended this Assembly to discuss bamboo's importance for environmental protection.
Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation , Beijing, China, 25–27 April	INBAR, as a partner of the newly formed BRIGC, was invited to attend this high-level forum.
Beijing Expo 2019* , Beijing, China, 29 April–7 October	INBAR built a Garden and large 'Bamboo Eye' Pavilion at this prominent international exposition, and worked with Chinese and international partners to carry out a range of events and activities.
INBAR Honour Day, 16 May	<i>A celebration of INBAR's work over 22 years. An event in the INBAR Garden for the Beijing Expo 2019.</i>
'Bamboo, Guadua and the Future of Colombia' , Bogotá, Colombia, 28 May	INBAR participated in this event about bamboo's potential in South America.
Annual General Meeting of the CCICED , Hangzhou, China, 2–4 June	INBAR representatives took part in the meeting and subsequent field trip, which prominently featured bamboo's usefulness for green development.
International Commodity Bodies Forum 2019 , London, United Kingdom, 6 June	INBAR presented in its role as the Common Fund for Commodities' International Commodity Body for bamboo and rattan.
<i>Rwanda Culture and Tourism Event: 'An Introduction to the Land of a Thousand Hills'</i> , 8 June	<i>A celebration of Rwanda's culture and tourism. An event with the Embassy of Rwanda in the INBAR Garden for the Beijing Expo 2019.</i>

*Individual activities of the Beijing Expo 2019 are presented in italics throughout this Events list.

China Yibin International Bamboo Industry Development Summit and Bamboo Product Fair , Yibin, China, 13–16 June	INBAR helped organise and invite participants to this conference about local Chinese bamboo development.
International Conference on Bamboo Applications , Fuzhou, China, 16 June	INBAR spoke at this conference on bamboo's potential within the circular economy.
<i>'Sustainable Horticultural Chain Management in the Netherlands'</i> , 17 June	<i>A discussion of how to create sustainable, plant-based value chains. An event with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the INBAR Garden for the Beijing Expo 2019.</i>
Asia-Pacific Forestry Week , Incheon, South Korea, 17–21 June	INBAR spoke in several panels about bamboo's relevance to landscape restoration, agroforestry and the built environment.
<i>Caribbean Culture and Film Day</i> , 20 June	<i>INBAR's Member State Jamaica was one of several countries to celebrate Caribbean Culture and Film Day. An event in the INBAR Garden for the Beijing Expo 2019.</i>
<i>'Bamboo and Biodiversity Conservation'</i> , 21 June	<i>A dialogue about bamboo's role in biodiversity conservation. An event with the Embassy of France in the INBAR Garden for the Beijing Expo 2019.</i>
Flag-raising ceremony for the Republic of the Congo , Beijing, China, 18 July	The flag-raising ceremony for INBAR's 45 th Member State.
<i>Awards ceremony for the winners of the International Bamboo Construction Competition 2019</i> , 19 July	<i>A ceremony honouring the winners of the competition. An event in the INBAR Garden for the Beijing Expo 2019.</i>
<i>Sri Lankan Handicrafts Day</i> , 8 August	<i>Sri Lanka hosted an event to celebrate the country's traditional handicrafts. An event with the Embassy of Sri Lanka in the INBAR Garden for the Beijing Expo 2019.</i>
ASEAN Bamboo Congress , Manila, the Philippines, 12–16 August	INBAR co-organised an event at this congress.
International Conference of Indonesia Forestry Researchers , Bogor, Indonesia, 27–31 August	INBAR gave a keynote speech on transforming research into development action.
ISO/TC 296 ('Bamboo and rattan') meeting , Manila, the Philippines, 2–6 September	INBAR attended as a Liaison Organisation to this TC meeting, which discussed ongoing work to standardise products made from bamboo, rattan, and derived materials.

UNCCD COP 14 , New Delhi, India, 2–13 September	INBAR attended this event as an Observer to the UNCCD.
<i>Gabon National Day</i> , 14 September	<i>A celebration of the Gabonese Republic. An event with the Embassy of the Gabonese Republic in the INBAR Garden for the Beijing Expo 2019.</i>
World Bamboo Day , 18 September	Many of INBAR's Member States celebrated the important role of bamboo in their national history and culture.
74th session of the UN General Assembly and the UN Climate Action Summit , New York, USA, 18–25 September	INBAR attended the session as an Observer to the UN General Assembly and the UN Climate Action Summit.
<i>'Bamboo and Rattan Culture in the Philippines'</i> , 21 September	<i>The Philippines celebrated the role of bamboo and rattan as a key part of Filipinos' heritage. An event with the Embassy of the Philippines in the INBAR Garden for the Beijing Expo 2019.</i>
ISO/TC 165 ('Timber structures') meeting , Bogotá, Colombia, 22–26 September	INBAR attended as a Liaison Organisation to this TC meeting, which discussed ongoing work to standardise the design and testing procedures for bamboo structures.
International Meishan Bamboo Industry Fair , Meishan, China, 26–28 September	INBAR helped organise and invite participants to this industry fair showcasing local Chinese bamboo development.
25th IUFRO World Congress 2019 , Curitiba, Brazil, 29 September–6 October	INBAR co-organised two sessions and gave five oral presentations and two poster presentations at this congress.
Ibero-Bamboo Symposium and Bioconstruction Workshop , Madrid, Spain, 1–4 October	Co-organised by INBAR, this symposium aimed to discuss the potential of bamboo in Europe. The symposium was followed by a workshop which introduced the basics of bamboo construction.
A forum at 'Under the Bamboo Tree' , Parma, Italy, 5–6 October	INBAR took part in this event about the potential of bamboo in European markets.
Yong'an Bamboo House Space Design Competition , Yong'an, China, 21 October	INBAR helped organise this competition to design bamboo houses.
SIBGUADUA , Quito, Ecuador, 22–24 October	INBAR co-organised this conference, which was attended by over 400 people from bamboo-producing countries across the region.

'Together Towards Global Green Supply Chains' , Shanghai, 22–25 October	INBAR spoke at this international forum hosted by ITTO.
Global Landscapes Forum 2019 , Accra, Ghana, 29–30 October	INBAR hosted a side event at this forum, about bamboo's potential for restoring degraded land across many countries in Africa.
ISO/TC 287 ('Sustainable processes for wood and wood-based products') preparatory meeting , Geneva, Switzerland, 5 November	INBAR has applied to be a Liaison A Organisation of this new TC.
International Yong'an Bamboo Ware Fair , Yong'an, China, 6–7 November	INBAR co-organised the expo with the Yong'an Government.
Bamboo Bioenergy Workshop , Accra, Ghana, 26–27 November	INBAR co-organised this event to raise awareness about the importance and uses of bamboo bioenergy.
11th Session of the INBAR Council , Beijing, China, 29 November	The biennial meeting of the INBAR Council.
Flag-raising ceremony for Cambodia , Beijing, China, 29 November	Flag-raising ceremony for INBAR's 46th Member State.
30th anniversary event of the Common Fund for Commodities , The Hague, the Netherlands, 3 December	INBAR contributed to a panel discussion about the development of commodity markets in the last few decades, in its role as the Common Fund for Commodities' International Commodity Body for bamboo and rattan.
UNFCCC COP 25 , Madrid, Spain, 2–13 December	As an Observer to the UNFCCC, INBAR hosted a number of events and spoke in the high-level plenary session about bamboo's contributions to climate change.
55th session of the International Tropical Timber Council , Lomé, Togo, 3–7 December	INBAR attended the session as an Observer to discuss opportunities for potential cooperation.
INBAR Central Africa Regional Office opening ceremony , Yaoundé, Cameroon, 6 December	INBAR hosted an opening ceremony for its latest Regional Office, and third in Africa.
Awards ceremony for the National University Bamboo Design and Construction Competition , Anji, China, 8 December	INBAR helped organise this year-long competition.
23rd meeting of the INBAR Board of Trustees , Beijing, China, 16 December	The annual meeting of the INBAR Board of Trustees.

The Republic of the Congo and the Kingdom of Cambodia join INBAR



Left: H.E. Daniel Owassa, Ambassador of the Republic of the Congo to China, speaking at the flag-raising event in July. Right: H.E. Mrs Khek M. Caimealy raising the Cambodian flag with Mr. Mchumo outside INBAR Headquarters in November.

Two new Member States joined the INBAR network in 2019. In July, H.E. Daniel Owassa, Ambassador of the Republic of the Congo to China, raised his country's flag outside INBAR Headquarters. Speaking at the flag-raising event, Ambassador Owassa expressed his hope that the Republic of the Congo's membership of INBAR "will help us to further integrate bamboo and rattan into our policies, programmes and partnerships, in areas such as poverty alleviation, environmental protection, and climate change mitigation and adaptation."

In November, this new flag was joined by another. The Kingdom of Cambodia became INBAR's 46th Member State. At the flag-raising ceremony, H.E. Mrs Khek M. Caimealy, the Ambassador of Cambodia to China, expressed her country's "delight" at becoming a Member State of INBAR, and said that bamboo and rattan could be an important part of the government's new National Strategic Development Plan 2019–2023 and climate change strategy.

As well as this, in 2019 INBAR welcomed two new Observer States: the Republic of Costa Rica, which joined INBAR on 18 April, and the Republic of Haiti, on 9 May.

INBAR welcomes the Republic of the Congo, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Costa Rica and the Republic of Haiti to its network!



Address: No. 8, Fu Tong Dong Da Jie, Wang Jing
Area, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100102, China
Post: PO Box 100102-86, Beijing 100102, China
www.inbar.int

