



# RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS FORUM

28<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026, MUMBAI, INDIA

## Advancing Responsible Forest-Based Value Chains in India

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### Background

Global markets are increasingly emphasizing responsible sourcing, traceability and sustainability compliance in forest-based commodity supply chains. Emerging regulations such as the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), growing ESG disclosure expectations and rising consumer demand for sustainable products are influencing how businesses source wood, fibre and other forest-based materials.

India is an important part of global forest-based value chains including wood and furniture, pulp & paper, natural rubber and bamboo. As sustainability expectations evolve, businesses and supply chain actors require practical knowledge, credible certification systems and collaborative platforms to respond to these developments.

FSC India has been working with businesses, civil society organizations, certification bodies and policymakers to promote responsible sourcing and sustainable forest management through FSC certification.

In 2025, FSC India organized its first Capacity Building Workshop on Forest Sustainability in New Delhi, which brought together over 60 participants from businesses, sustainability professionals and environmental organizations. Building on the positive response, FSC India now proposes to organize the FSC Responsible Business Forum in Mumbai, expanding the format to include policy dialogue, value chain discussions and technical learning modules.

### Objective

The FSC Responsible Business Forum aims to create a collaborative platform that brings together business leaders, sustainability professionals, policymakers, certification experts and environmental organizations to discuss emerging

sustainability expectations and strengthen responsible sourcing practices across forest-based value chains.

### The forum seeks to:



Promote dialogue on responsible sourcing and traceability in forest-based supply chains

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Build practical understanding of forest certification systems and sustainability frameworks

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Support businesses in responding to emerging regulations such as EUDR

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Advance integration of forest sustainability within ESG and corporate procurement systems

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Showcase credible sustainability practices and responsible sourcing stories from Indian businesses

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Identify and establish collaboration with key businesses/ institutions to develop a roadmap for strengthening priority value chains in India.

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### Event Structure

The forum will be organised as a two-day event combining high-level dialogue with practical learning sessions.

## Day 1: Responsible Business Forum – Strategic

# Dialogue

The first day will focus on plenary discussions and value chain-focused deliberations involving business leaders, policymakers, environmental think tanks and certification experts.

Time	Session	Session brief
10:00 – 11:30 AM	<b>Plenary Session:</b> future of responsible forest-based value chains	Emerging sustainability regulations, responsible procurement strategies and the role of certification systems in enabling credible sustainability claims.
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>Tea / Coffee Break</b>	
12:00 PM – 12:50 PM	<b>Business Dialogue 1:</b> Wood, Bamboo & furniture	Responsible wood & bamboo sourcing, supplier engagement, traceability and alignment of Indian supply chains with global brand expectations.
12:50 PM – 1:10 PM	<b>Tea / Coffee Break</b>	
1:10 PM – 2:00 PM	<b>Business Dialogue 2:</b> Pulp, Paper and Packaging	Responsible fibre sourcing, certification pathways and sustainability narratives in the rapidly evolving paper and packaging sector.
3:00 PM – 3:50 PM	<b>Business Dialogue 3:</b> Natural Rubber	Traceability challenges, sustainability risks and pathways for certification and responsible sourcing.

4:10 PM – 5:00 PM	<b>Business Dialogue 4:</b> Promotional licenses for brands: sustainability storytelling	Translating certification-backed sustainability actions into credible communication, avoiding greenwashing, and strengthening consumer and stakeholder trust.
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## Day 2: Forest Sustainability Deep Dive

The second day will be a forest sustainability masterclass, providing participants with a deeper understanding of certification systems, auditing processes, and regulatory compliance.

Time	Session	Session brief
10:00 AM – 10:20 AM	<b>ISEAL</b> : Empowering sustainability systems to drive global change	ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems
10:20 AM – 11:30 AM	<b>FSC certification system</b>	Overview of FSC certification systems (FM, CoC, RFSS & ecosystem services)
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>Tea / Coffee Break</b>	
12:00 PM – 01:00 PM	<b>FSC Auditing : Processes and Audit Preparedness</b>	FSC audit processes, common non-conformities and practical steps businesses and suppliers can take to prepare for certification.
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	<b>Lunch Break</b>	

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	<b>EUDR:</b> Readiness and Traceability Solutions	EUDR requirements, due diligence frameworks and practical tools for traceability and supply chain risk mitigation.
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	<b>ESG and Responsible Sourcing Integration</b>	How responsible sourcing and certification can be integrated into corporate ESG strategies, sustainability reporting frameworks and procurement policies.

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## Participants

The forum is expected to bring together approx 80 participants, including:

## Sustainability Initiatives

It is crucial to measure and monitor environmental impact to ensure that your company is operating sustainably. This section reports on any sustainability initiatives undertaken to ensure that the planet is not sacrificed in pursuit of profit.

	Businesses and brands using forest-based materials
	Environmental NGOs and think tanks
	Industry associations and sector experts

	Sustainability, Communication and ESG professionals
	Procurement and sourcing managers
	Certification bodies

## Expected Outcomes

The FSC Responsible Business Forum aims to:

- **Strengthen** collaboration between business, civil society, and sustainability experts
- **Build** practical knowledge on responsible forest-based supply chains for procurement, ESG, Sustainability and communication professionals.
- **Support** businesses in preparing for emerging sustainability regulations and market expectations.
- **Promote** certification as a credible system for responsible sourcing and sustainability assurance.

