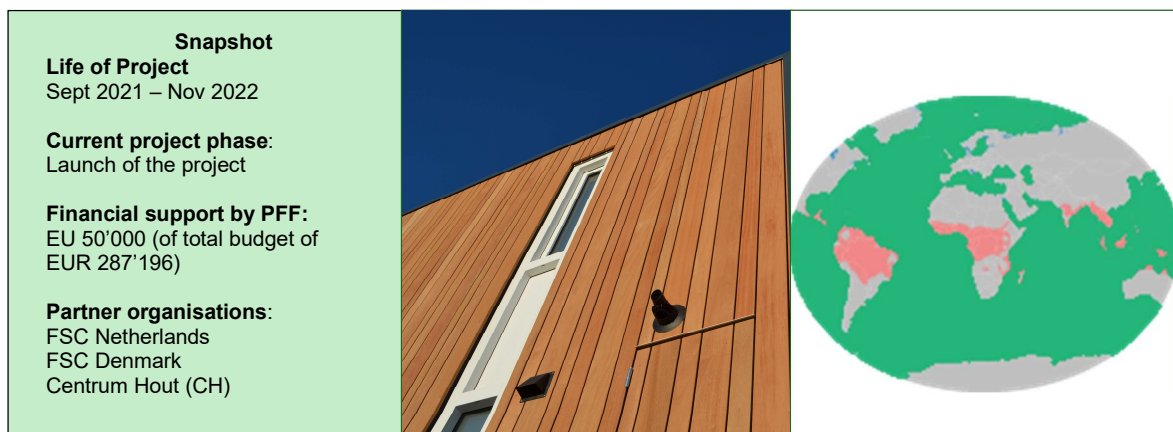


Project factsheet

Improve Life Cycle Assessment databases with accurate data on timber products

Principal investigator: Arjan Alkema, FSC Netherlands



Picture: Van den Berg Hardhout

Project overview

FSC Netherlands will receive funding under the EU LIFE Program Environmental Governance & Information for their project '*Increasing the use of timber in the Dutch and Danish social housing sector*'. Obviously, the timber shall come from demonstrably well managed forests. Several obstacles for applying (far) more timber in house construction have been identified. A major obstacle is the lack of recent and reliable Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) data. These LCA data are a necessity for calculating the environmental performance of a (wooden) building, which is a legal requirement and is increasingly becoming the norm throughout Europe. Development of new and update of existing LCA's for timber products is thereby a major part of the project. The EU LIFE funded project is a five-year programme and started in autumn 2021. The development of LCAs is planned for the first project year.

Methods

The project will aim at a) producing LCA data for relevant timber products and upload these into the "Nationale Milieu Database (NMD) – main LCA database in the Netherlands; b) adjusting outdated and incomplete LCA data of timber products in the NMD; c) where possible converting of existing LCA data from Denmark into the required NMD-format.

Expected Outcomes and impact

- LCAs for 6 crucial timber products for which LCA data currently do NOT exist used in the construction of timber houses
- Update of 6 existing but now outdated LCAs, and adjust data in the NMD;
- Three of these LCAs are for tropical hardwoods which will provide generic data to produce multiple product cards for the NMD

Precious Forests Foundation has been established in May 2018 and is committed to the sustainable preservation of tropical forests through the valorisation of their ecosystem services and the responsible, multiple use of their renewable timber and non-timber products.