

FACT SHEET | STADIUM OF LIFE

SALIENT POINTS

- First FSC certified timber football stadium in Africa
- First certified project in Southern Africa
- A pioneer in sustainable sports infrastructure with social impact focus
- Wooden poles sourced from FSC certified forests owned by MTO Forestry in Mpumalanga

LOCATION

Maseru, Lesotho

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

- Kick4Life
- Forest Stewardship Council
- **rise** - Relationships Inspiring Social Enterprise
- **in loco** – rise’s design, build and entrepreneurship fellowship programme
- DNV – project certification body

KEY MILESTONES AND PROJECT EVOLUTION

2009

- The original Kick4Life Centre was developed with support from FIFA’s legacy scheme for the 2010 World Cup “20 Centres for 2010”.
- Kick4Life was selected to host a centre in Lesotho and the site in central Maseru was secured.
- The centre was officially opened in September 2009 and the facility has since been used every day to deliver football-based social impact programmes.

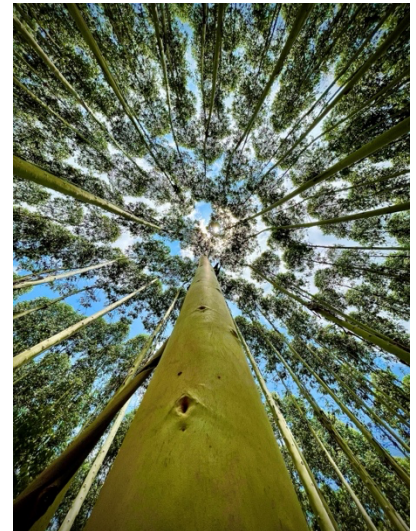


Image 1 – Sustainably managed Eucalyptus plantation - Credit MTO Forestry



Image 2 - Treated Eucalyptus poles - Credit MTO Forestry



Image 3 - Timber being audited

2014

- With support from several local organisations, the next phase of development was completed with the opening of Kick4Life’s social enterprises - No.7 Restaurant and the Hokahanya Inn & Conference Centre.

2021

- K4L selects **rise** to design and build Stadium of Life
- Since early 2021, **rise** has been working on several iterations of this latest stage of the Kick4Life Stadium development through community participatory design processes, having gone through options with gabion seating, rammed earth solutions, and an initial light-touch timber approach, which later through design iteration has developed into the design they have today.



Image 4 - Prototype spectator stand

2023

- April to July - The latest design was developed in full collaboration with young construction industry graduates who were taking part in **rise**’s flagship design and build programme, in loco. Working closely with K4L **rise** re-ran a series of participatory processes to fine tune the centre's requirements and the final design.
- July: FSC/K4L partnership established
- August - Breaking of ground
- October: DNV appointed as Certification Body
- December: FSC Project Audit in Maseru, Lesotho and White River, South Africa completed



Image 5 - Kick4Life uses sport as a tool for social change

2024

- February 2023 to December 2024 - Construction phase
- December - Stadium of Life Opening

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- New 11-a-side grass pitch.
- Resurfacing of the five-a-side pitch, with artificial turf donated by SIS Pitches.
- Timber spectator seating along two sides of the pitch including coach and team seating on either side of the halfway line.

- West and South stands
 - Combined perimeter of 146 metres
 - Total of 5864 CCA treated Eucalyptus poles
 - Bill of quantities: 3m: 25-32mm / 3m: 75 – 100mm / 6m: 100-125mm / 6m: 150-175mm poles.
- Perimeter fence
 - Combined perimeter of 160 metres
 - Total of 2720 CCA treated Eucalyptus poles
 - Bill of quantities: 3m: 75-100mm / 3m: 25-32mm poles
- Biodiversity stand
 - Raised planters along the front with various indigenous plants, keeping the stand relatively low maintenance, with most of the ground either baked earth or crushed stone.
 - Potential to have ten planters in total, one named for each district in Lesotho, with flora from that district, creating a microcosm of the country's flora.
- Other features
 - A solid fence running along the back in a zig-zag design creating a play of light and shade.
 - A pergola running the entire length, creating a shaded area, and a structure onto which various plants can be trained over time.
- Benches and tables placed for people to look out over the pitch and relax. As such an extension of the social enterprise space where guests could enjoy evening training sessions.
- Four new containers which will be converted into changing rooms with plumbing and lighting, container toilets for spectators, and a new storage container for Kick4Life's social enterprises.
- Integration of solar powered lighting
- If budget allows a fence with a perimeter of 105m will also be constructed behind the west stand consisting of 1765 CCA treated Eucalyptus poles. (Bill of quantities include 3m: 75-100mm and 3m: 25-32mm poles.)

FSC PROJECTS IN AFRICA AND UK

Restaurant in Conservation Area, Republic of Congo



Congolaise Industrielle des Bois (CIB), a subsidiary of Olam Agri, was the first company in Africa to complete a Forest Stewardship Council™(FSC™) certified project with the construction of a restaurant for employees of the Wildlife Conservation Society Congo (WCS) and Fondation Nouabale Ndoki (FNN). The project certification (FSC-P001887) means only FSC™ certified timber was used during the construction of the restaurant. The hut-restaurant has an equipped kitchen and a wooden bar which was manufactured at the same time as the structure. [Link](#)

French Embassy, Libreville



FSC certification assured that the timber façade of the new embassy came from sustainably managed forests, in line with Gabon’s pioneering approach to forest protection.

The new French Embassy in Libreville, Gabon, was inaugurated by the French President Emmanuel Macron during his visit to Libreville in March 2023. The building sits in a wooded park that is known for its wealth of tree species, while the choice of FSC-certified timber for its façade promotes local timber, setting a good example for other new buildings. The finished building was opened in June 2023 by Ambassador Alexis Lamek. [Link](#)

Photo: Fabienne Bulle Architecte et Associés (FBAA)

London Olympic Park

The 2012 London Olympic Park gained joint FSC/PEFC project certification (FSC P001512) and the main stadium, whilst not built as a football stadium, is now the ground for West Ham Football Club. It was the first project to achieve dual project certification from PEFC and FSC.

FSC PROJECT CERTIFICATION

FSC Project Certification is designed for builders, contractors, architects, artists, or anyone with a project that includes forest-based materials, whether large-scale, permanent, or temporary. It verifies that the forest materials that form part of a project come from FSC-certified forests, recycled, or controlled sources and allows the creator or builder to make their forest commitment tangible, highlighting this commitment to important stakeholders and potential investors who know and trust FSC.

FSC Project Certification grants project certificate holders access to the FSC logo and trademarks and allows them to make strong sustainability claims to communicate their commitment to forest-friendly sourcing.

The process provides a tool whereby the project itself, or components of the project, are certified providing assurance to the project owner, and members of the project.

Only independent, third-party, accredited certification bodies can conduct audits and provide the certification. Once the project has been audited and is validated, a certificate is issued as a FSC P XXXXXX license code, which means that the project or its components have been sourced from FSC certified forests, controlled wood sources or recycled content.

The Standard against which the Kick4Life project is assessed: SC-STD-40-006 FSC Standard for Project Certification V(2-0).

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