



General
Assembly
2025 **Panama**

Eco-friendly football stadium takes root in Lesotho

The Stadium of Life represents a pioneering venture in several respects. Not only will it be Africa's first FSC-certified timber stadium, but it also marks the first FSC-certified project (FSC®- P001979) in southern Africa and the third on the African continent. A sponsorship by FSC International has secured the naming rights for a five year period.



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Innovative approach

After various design options, timber won, with 8,584 treated Eucalyptus poles forming the west and south stands and a 160-metre perimeter fence.

A biodiversity stand, designed by Park Associati in Italy in collaboration with rise, will incorporate an array of indigenous plants from across Lesotho, enhancing K4L's work around climate education and action. Spectators will enjoy wooden seating on two sides, with separate areas for coaches and teams near the halfway line. Locally sourced sandstone from Lesotho will add a natural touch to the seating. A canopy of thin wooden beams will provide shade, while a timber fence enhances security. Importantly, the project minimizes concrete use, only employing it for the foundations of the wooden poles.



Scope and main objectives

- 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.



Conclusions

Located in the country's capital of Maseru, this innovative project, which harnesses timber's renewability and carbon storage properties, stems from a collaboration between local charity and football club Kick4Life (K4L), non-profit organisation Relationships Inspiring Social Enterprise (rise International), the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®), and international certification body DNV.

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

