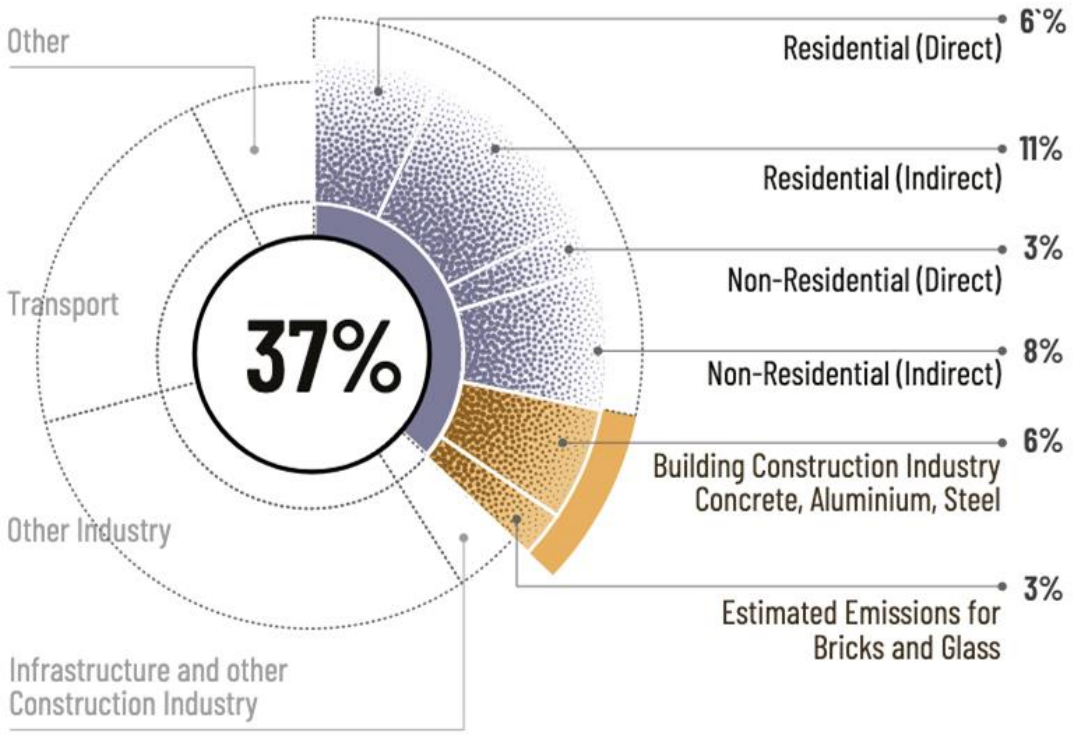
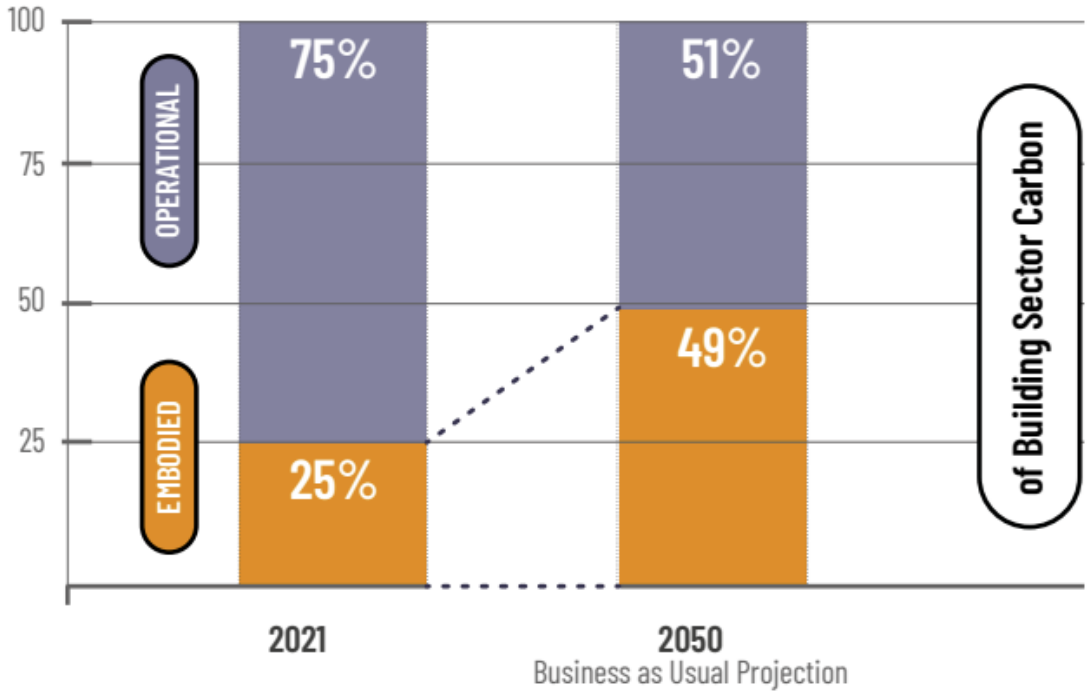
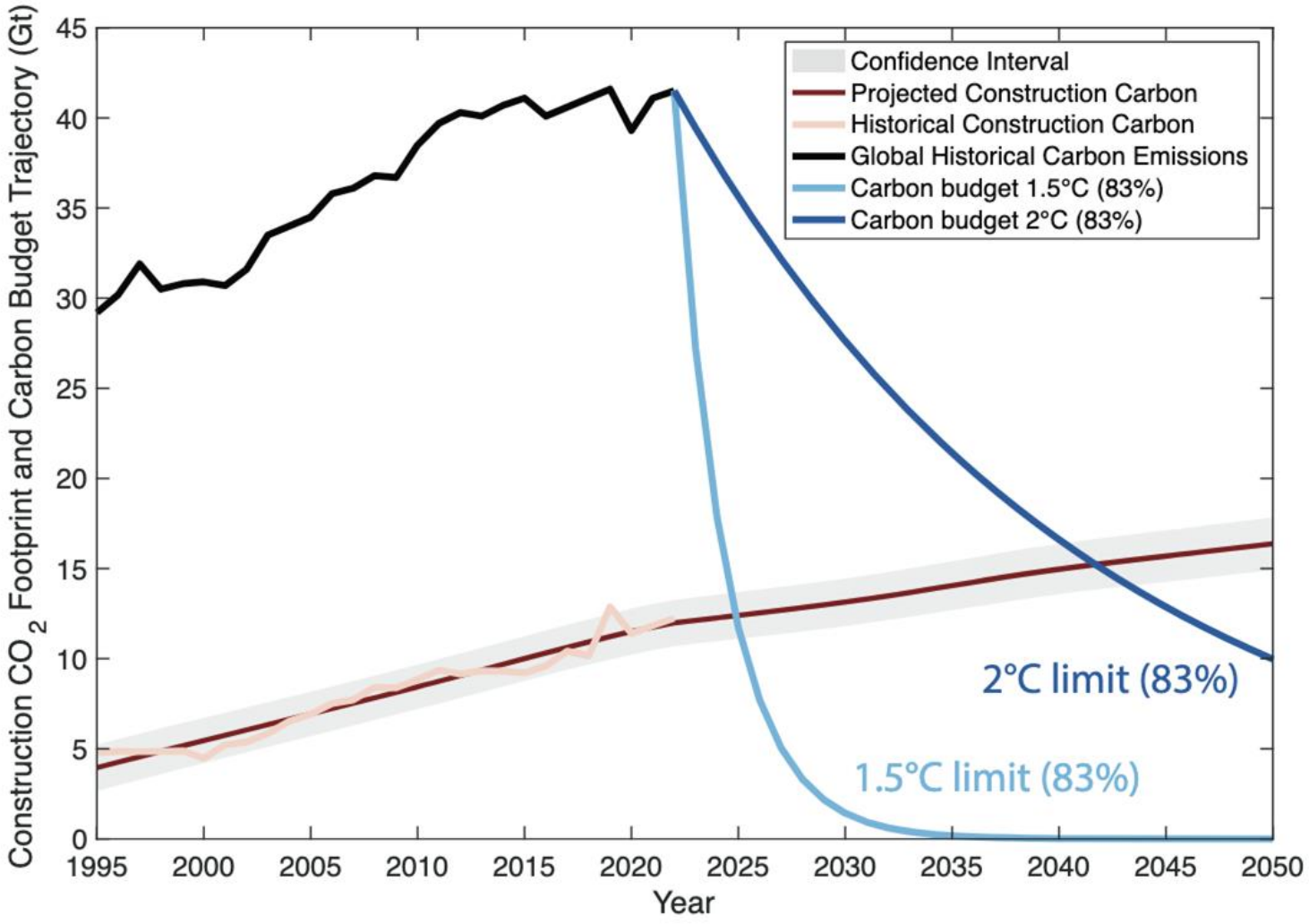
Buildings account for more than a third of global CO_2 emissions





Sources: United Nations Environment Programme (2023). Building Materials and the Climate: Constructing a New Future. Nairobi

The construction sector alone is set to exceed the 2°C carbon budget by 2040



Adapted from: Li, C., Pradhan, P., Chen, G., Kropp, J. P., & Schellnhuber, H. J. (2025). Carbon footprint of the construction sector is projected to double by 2050 globally. Communications Earth & Environment, 6(1), 831.

Nature-based materials are an opportunity for Sub-Saharan Africa

GATSBY AFRICA

BAUHAUS EARTH

Value where it grows.

Ideal Geo-climatic Conditions: up to 4 x faster timber harvest cycles than in Europe or US; ideal conditions for Bamboo.

Domestic value chain: keeps the value chain in the region. Construction is the highest-value use of timber.

Independence: Import substitution reduces exposure to FX volatility, energy prices and freight costs.

Less time on site, more control in the workshop.

Prefabrication: shorten on-site assembly and reduce exposure to weather and local skills gaps.

Factory conditions: improve dimensional accuracy, quality control and material efficiency.

Less heat in, less carbon out.

Low conductivity: Thermal conductivity of timber is an order of magnitude below that of concrete.

Delayed heat: bio-based insulation combines low conductivity with high specific heat capacity.

Humidity buffering: timber and earth absorb and release moisture, which keeps indoor humidity more stable.