



# Forest Partnership

between the European Union and Guyana

**Conclusions of the first Political Working Group**



# 1. Introduction

The European Union (EU) and the Cooperative Republic of Guyana (Guyana), hereinafter ‘the Partners’ concluded in November 2022 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a **Forest Partnership**. The Forest Partnership reflects their **shared vision** for a holistic and integrated approach to forests implemented on the basis of **formal strategic dialogue and policy cooperation bilaterally and in the international arena**. In this context, the Partners launch a partnership, hereinafter “Forest Partnership”, in the area of protection, restoration and sustainable management and use of forests aimed at:

- i) ENHANCING the role of Guyana’s forests in sustainable and inclusive national development, and
- ii) ADDRESSING challenges related to deforestation, forest degradation, climate change and loss of biodiversity

In order to operationalise the MoU, the Partners undertook to jointly agree on quantified **targets**, develop a **Roadmap**, and institute the **Working Groups**.

# 2. Targets

The special role of **investments** in rolling out the workstreams towards achieving the objectives is highlighted as is the pertinence of international **finance** motivated by climate and biodiversity actions.

The Partners agreed to lay out a set of **targets** to be reached **by 2030** to help sustain momentum and steer action towards the achievement of the objectives set in the MoU, as well as facilitate the mobilization of appropriate resources and attract the necessary investments:

- (1) Increase the area of protected, restored or sustainably managed forests:
  - Maintain Sustainably managed forests: 12.5 million ha
  - Expand Protected & Conserved forests: 30% by 2030 of terrestrial and marine spaces
  - Increase Restored forests: 200,000 ha
- (2) Increase the number of forest-related decent jobs by at least 8%
- (3) Maintain the annual rate of deforestation of natural forests: ha/y deforestation below 0.1%

The implementation will be guided by a **workplan** (outlining baselines, risks/challenges, timelines, associated actors and financial resources). This will serve as the tactical tool to help ladder up to the attainment of the objectives and targets.

# 3. The Roadmap

With the quantified targets in mind, the Partners agreed to develop a Roadmap, structured around the four key workstreams of the Partnership with concrete **actions, milestones** and **associated responsibilities** being identified at this stage to allow a full exploration of investment opportunities in the course of implementation. The special role of **investments** in rolling out the workstreams towards

achieving the objectives is highlighted as is the pertinence of international climate and biodiversity finance. The Roadmap is set out in [Annex I](#).

The Roadmap was developed **jointly** by the Partners (*and in consultation with relevant stakeholders*) in the course of six (6) months from the signature of the Forest Partnership MoU. It was **endorsed** via feedback from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Technical Working Group on 16 June 2023.

This Roadmap represents the **operational arm** of the Forest Partnership with the purpose of advancing its vision and deliver development impact for Guyana in line with the Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030. The Roadmap is firmly anchored in the Team Europe approach and further underpinned by strategic EU initiatives including the European Green Deal and the Global Gateway.

The Roadmap is a **living document** with regular reviews to ensure effectiveness, efficiency, feasibility and implementability. The Political Working Group will guide and steer its implementation and address proposals by the Technical Working Group towards the fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the Forest Partnership. The Technical Working Group will on the basis of the Work plan monitor and evaluate progress, identify opportunities for additional actions and investments as well as options to tackle challenges and mitigate unintended consequences.

## 4. Working Groups

In the context of the development of the Roadmap, the **composition of the Political Working Group** (PWG) was agreed between the Partners to include: the Vice President and/or Minister of Natural Resources, other representatives of the Government, and the Head of Delegation of the EU to Guyana and or other representatives and Member States of the EU.

The composition of the **Technical Working Group** (TWG) was agreed to include representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), the Protected Areas Commission (PAC), the National Toshias Council (NTC) and the Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association (GMSA). The TWG is also comprised of the Head of Cooperation and or other representatives of the EU Delegation to Guyana.

The Partners also agreed on the working modalities of the Working groups ([Annex II](#)).

*Done in Brussels on 29 June 2023*

On behalf of the European Union

On behalf of the Cooperative Republic of  
Guyana



European Commissioner for International  
Partnerships,  
Jutta Urpilainen



Minister of Natural Resources of Guyana,  
Vickram Bharrat

# Annex I - Roadmap

MILESTONES	ACTIONS	LEAD ACTOR	TIMEFRAME
<b>Policy Strategy &amp; Dialogue</b>			
Roadmap operational	Validate the roadmap at political level	FP focal point	June 2023
	Review progress at meetings of the technical and political working groups		
	Agree on priorities for each semester		
Implementation entities established and operational	Establish Technical Working Group, and sub-groups as needed, and appoint focal points	FP focal point	June 2023
	Establish Political Working Group and appointment of focal points	FP focal point	
Communication strategy developed and launched	Appoint communications focal person	FP focal point	June 2023
	Prepare a Forest Partnership communication strategy	FP focal point	June 2023
	Organise a launch event of the roadmap	FP focal point	June 2023
	Organise in-country events to support the	FP focal point	Aug 2023

MILESTONES	ACTIONS	LEAD ACTOR	TIMEFRAME
	Implementation of the roadmap		
	Enhance visibility for the EU Guyana Forest Partnership, including at international events	FP focal point	Sep 2023
Monitoring system agreed and operational	Develop a monitoring tool including baselines, sources for verification of performance	Ministry Natural Resources (MNR)	2023
Key themes for biennial political dialogue agreed	Political working group agrees on key milestones, targets and challenges	FP focal point	2023
<b>WORKSTREAM 1. Improved governance and regulations in favour of forest sector developments</b>			
1.1 Legal provisions for mangroves development and protection implemented and enforced, and sustainable management systems in place.	Support the adoption of the Sea and River Defense Bill	Ministry of Public Works, Environment Protection Agency (EPA)	
	Update, adopt and implement the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan, aligned with the National Mangroves Action Plan		
	Reinstate an interagency committee for coastal zone management for interagency coordination and information sharing		
	Support the establishment of regulations to govern	MNR, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and	

MILESTONES	ACTIONS	LEAD ACTOR	TIMEFRAME
	value chains for mangrove products and services	Ministry of Finance (MoF)	
	Establish a Mangroves Management Action Network as an interagency mechanism to protect mangroves and implement the mangroves action plan	MNR and MoA	
	Develop and implement community management plans that include measures for mangroves, forests, natural resource use, and forest fires	MNR and MoA	
1.2 Wood industry policies and strategies updated and implemented	Support implementation of wood industry priorities based on the National Forest Plan and Policy 2018, and as identified by the GFC	MNR	
	Review and enforce timber grading rules and log export policy	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)	
	Conduct awareness raising and communication campaign on GFC codes of practice (for timber and NTFP).	GFC	
1.3 Sustainable and green procurement in place for private and public sectors	Conduct awareness campaigns, including an annual forest products	GFC	

MILESTONES	ACTIONS	LEAD ACTOR	TIMEFRAME
	<p>exposition (including timber and NTFP), to promote the demand for timber as a sustainable building material and the use of lesser known species</p> <p>Support the GFC in reclassifying lesser known species on an annual basis as part of its work program</p>	GFC	
<b>WORKSTREAM 2: Sustainable forest management and forest-based value chains</b>			
<p><b>2.1 Community mangroves forests sustainably managed</b></p>	<p>Develop a comprehensive assessment of the ecosystem services including carbon sequestration from mangroves</p> <p>Conduct gender-sensitive feasibility studies and market analyses to develop sustainable mangrove business models (incl. wood, forest carbon, honey, fishery and shellfish collection, tourism, craft, shrimp production).</p>	<p>MNR</p> <p>MNR and MoA</p>	

MILESTONES	ACTIONS	LEAD ACTOR	TIMEFRAME
	Raise public and consumer awareness on mangroves value added	MNR and MoA	
	Develop certification standards for mangrove-based value chain products	MNR and MoA	
	Develop mechanisms to support business development and start-ups	MoF	
	Develop and implement community mangroves management plans (including identification of high-value conservation sites) and build capacity of Village Mangroves Action Committees	MNR, MoA and MoF	
2.2 Enhanced value added and increased local and international trade and revenue generation from wood products (including lesser known species).	Support the FPDMC in developing and implementing a market strategy for wood products and wood industry waste	MNR	
	Conduct feasibility studies and pilot projects to support the transformation of wood waste (including biofuel, biochar)	GFC	



MILESTONES	ACTIONS	LEAD ACTOR	TIMEFRAME
	Support measures aimed at the effective implementation of the Code of Practice for wood processing and revised timber grading rules	GFC	
	Establish consolidated log yard(s) and/or local log depots	GFC	
2.3 Compliance of FSOs with international market requirements	Provide support measures to FSOs to enhance readiness for FLEGT licensing and adoption of Sustainable Forest Management standards	GFC	
	Provide training (FTCI) to enhance value adding and accounting and business management capacities of FSOs (develop capacities to engage in secondary or tertiary transformation, with support and inputs from private sector and use of modern equipment)	GFC	
<b>WORKSTREAM 3:</b>		<b>Eco-system services based on forest conservation</b>	
3.1 Funding mechanisms and revenue strategies developed for the sustainable management and expansion of Protected Areas, in mangrove and inland forests	To support the international centre for biodiversity and ecosystem services	Office of the President/Department of Environment and	

MILESTONES	ACTIONS	LEAD ACTOR	TIMEFRAME
	research, in partnerships with European and global centres and academia	Climate Change (OP/DECC)	
	Assess and develop Roadmap to integration/recognition of ART TREES within the European Carbon Trading Mechanism (ETS).	OP	
	Support Strategic Plan for the Protected Areas Management	Protected Areas Commission (PAC)	
	Create a Protected Areas tourism development strategy under the national tourism strategic plan - in line with the LCDS	PAC	
3.2 Reduced pressure on Protected Areas from neighbouring communities, and economic activities	> Conduct an assessment of wood resources inside PAs and assess current and future demand by local and Indigenous communities, to inform community management plans	OP/ PAC	
	Develop livelihood projects around Protected Areas that encourage conservation with little-to-no impact on PAs	OP/PAC	

MILESTONES	ACTIONS	LEAD ACTOR	TIMEFRAME
WORKSTREAM 4	Prevention of deforestation and forest degradation		
4.1 Implementation of green-grey solutions along Guyana's coastline	Develop studies and pilots for green-grey solutions	National Agricultural Research & Extension Institute (NAREI)	
	Build capacities of actors involved in implementing green-grey solutions	NAREI	
	Upgrade and implement a mangroves monitoring system	NAREI	
	Establish bandwidths of mangroves 500 m supported by funding	NAREI	
4.2 Reduced deforestation and forest degradation linked to mining and unregulated logging activities	Increase mineral mapping to optimize land and mineral use	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)	
	Promote low-impact mining, higher recovery of gold/minerals and reduced use of mercury	MNR	
	Increase access for small and medium-scale miners to mining maps and reports to enhance effectiveness of private exploration.	MNR	
	Develop and implement livelihoods programmes for hinterland	MNR	

MILESTONES	ACTIONS	LEAD ACTOR	TIMEFRAME
	communities including alternatives to mining		
	Upgrade field-level forest monitoring, including the use of drones and real-time satellite imagery, and training of staff	MNR	
4.3 Response mechanism for forest fires defined and operational	Define and enforce institutional responsibility for wild/forest fire detection and responses	GFC	
	Conduct communication and awareness campaign and on forest fires	GFC	
	Increase community preparedness for wild/forest fire management, through provision of training and equipment	GFC	
4.4 Institutional mainstreaming and coordination in place, to achieve LCDS reforestation targets	Establish a task force to mainstream and coordinate reforestation activities in line with LCDS targets (building on past practice of Land Reclamation Committee).	MNR	
	Conduct feasibility studies to develop reforestation projects using specific species (such as bamboo,	MNR	



MILESTONES	ACTIONS	LEAD ACTOR	TIMEFRAME
	to prevent inland erosion along roadways).		
	Create a nursery/seedbank for appropriate species for reforestation	MNR	

## Annex II

### WORKING MODALITIES of the

### Working Groups established under the Forest Partnership between the European Union and the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

#### Role and responsibilities

1. The Political Working Group hereinafter “PWG”, established pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding on a Forest Partnership between the European Union and the Cooperative Republic of Guyana hereinafter “Forest Partnership” will oversee the management and implementation of the Forest Partnership and ensure the effective dialogue and cooperation between the Partners in this context.
2. The PWG will guide and steer the implementation of the Roadmap, address proposals by the Technical Working Group towards the fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the Forest Partnership.
3. The PWG will address any issues that may arise in relation to the interpretation and implementation of the Forest Partnership and facilitate their resolution in good faith and in accordance with the context, purpose and objectives of the Forest Partnership.

#### Chairmanship

4. The PWG will meet at least twice a year.
5. The PWG will be jointly chaired by the Vice President and/or the Minister of Natural Resources of Guyana and the Head of the EU Delegation to Guyana. The Chairpersons may arrange to be represented by alternates who will exercise all their rights.

#### Technical Working Group

6. The PWG will be assisted by a Technical Working Group, hereinafter “TWG”.
7. The TWG will be chaired jointly by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation to Guyana.
8. The tasks and responsibilities of the Technical Working Group will include:
  - i. Assessing the roadmap structure
  - ii. Developing technical content for the roadmap
  - iii. Coordinating the development of technical proposals for FP road map implementation
  - iv. Reporting on progress to the Political Working Group
  - v. Ensuring active stakeholder engagement and participation where required in roadmap activities

#### 9. TWG composition

The members of the TWG will comprise representatives from the different government agencies, civil society and private sector involved in the implementation of the roadmap, in their respective technical capacities. The Ministry of Natural Resources will designate representatives of the TWG on behalf of the Government of Guyana and upon agreement with the EU. Sub-groups may be created according to the needs of the different work streams of the roadmap.

#### 10. TWG coordination

The TWG will be co-chaired by the Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources. The TWG will convene on a quarterly basis as per the Forest Partnership MoU. In addition to the coordination and general implementation oversight of roadmap, the TWG will provide advisory support and guidance to the Political Working Group, including where necessary through briefings and reports, on a needs basis and in preparation of the biennial meetings.

#### Transparency

11. The PWG and the TWG will ensure that their work is transparent and that all relevant information about its work is made available to the public.

#### Representation

12. The Parties will notify each other in writing the list of its representatives to the PWG and TWG.

#### Official communications

13. The representatives of the Partners responsible for official communications on the implementation, dialogue and cooperation of the Forest Partnership, including in relation to the PWG and the TWG will be:
  - For Guyana: the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources
  - For the EU: the Head of the Cooperation of the EU Delegation to Guyana.

#### Meetings

14. The meetings of the PWG or TWG may be held physically or by videoconference.
15. A provisional agenda for each meeting shall be drawn up jointly by the Partners and agreed by the Chairpersons no later than 1 week before the beginning of the meeting unless otherwise agreed.
16. The agenda will be adopted by the PWG or TWG at the beginning of each meeting. Items other than those appearing on the provisional agenda may be included if the Partners agree.
17. Draft minutes of each meeting shall be drawn up jointly by the Partners or as designated by them. The minutes shall be approved by the Partners at the end of the meeting as "Aide-Memoire".
18. Unless otherwise decided, the meetings of the PWG or TWG will not be public.
19. Information or documents considered as confidential under national laws and regulations of a Partner will be treated as confidential.

#### Participation

20. The Chairpersons of the PWG or the TWG may agree to invite to their respective meetings where appropriate, private sector actors, social/non-state partners, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, youth, women, international public organisations, interested financial institutions, academia, research institutions and/or donors.
21. The invited stakeholders will notify their representatives as requested in the invitation.

#### Observers and Experts

22. The Chairpersons of the PWG or the TWG may agree to invite observers and experts to their respective meetings on an *ad hoc* basis and in relation to specific subjects.

#### Facilitation

23. The Partners will agree on the need, role and responsibilities of a Facilitator to accompany the implementation of the Forest Partnership and the functioning of the PWG and TWG.

#### Expenses

Each Partner will cover any expenses it incurs as a result of participating in the meetings of the PWG or TWG.