



# Forest Partnership

between the European Union and Guyana

Conclusions of the second 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 the first year following the signature of the MoU, the Partners developed quantified **targets** and a **Roadmap** for implementation, as well as formalised the Technical and Political **Working Groups**.

In order to further support the implementation of the roadmap, the Partners agreed to the development of a **work plan** for the year 2024.

# 2. Progress towards the targets

The **targets** to help sustain momentum and steer action towards the achievement of the objectives set in the MoU, to be reached **by 2030**, are:

- (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 progress towards the Forest Partnership targets will be updated on a yearly basis in the **Annual report implementing the Guyana Forest Partnership with the European Union**.

For 2024, the following progress has been made:

Targets to reach by 2030	Progress
(1) Increase the area of protected, restored or sustainably managed forests (SFM):  - Maintain Sustainably managed forests: 12.5 million ha	Area under SFM maintained at 12.5 ha  GFC's codes of practice in effect over all areas  GFC's monitoring system oversees all areas of State Forest
- Expand Protected & Conserved forests: 30% by	Proposal developed to expand the Protected

2030 of terrestrial and marine spaces	Areas System. Under internal discussions at the Protected Areas Commission, Board level
- Increase Restored forests: 200,000 ha	Initial work commenced on forest restoration. First phase pilot being implemented through national budgetary allocation.
(2) Increase the number of forest-related decent jobs by at least 8%	Increase in employment in the forestry sector by 4% as at June 2024
(3) Maintain the annual rate of deforestation of natural forests: ha/y deforestation below 0.1%	Deforestation rate of 2023 being finalized through MRVS reporting process. Initial results indicate that this rate will be below the threshold of 0.1%.

### 3. The Roadmap and work plan

The **Roadmap** constitutes the operational framework for implementing the Forest Partnership and achieving the targets laid out in the Agreement. It was developed using a consultative and participatory approach with the Technical Working Group (TWG) members and endorsed by the Partners at the first Political Working Group (PWG) on 29 June 2023.

Since its endorsement, the Partners, through the TWG, have developed a **work plan** for implementing several Roadmap actions in 2024. These actions span milestones across the four (4) different Work Streams in the Roadmap and address critical issues linked to the achievement of the Forest Partnership targets. Sustainable **investments in the forestry sector** towards achieving the objectives are also being pursued.

### 4. Working Groups

Since the signature of the MoU, four (4) TWG meetings were convened:

- 1<sup>st</sup> TWG, 6 March, 2023
- 2<sup>nd</sup> TWG, 6 December, 2023
- 3<sup>rd</sup> TWG, 29 January, 2024
- 4<sup>th</sup> TWG, 5 June, 2024

In addition, a forest coordination meeting was organized in March 2024 by the EU Delegation in Georgetown, Guyana, in which multiple significant factors of the Forest Partnership were discussed regarding support in the forest sector in Guyana.

The first PWG was co-chaired in Brussels on 29 June, 2023 by the Hon. Minister of Natural Resources of Guyana, Vickram Bharrat, and the European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen.

The second PWG is co-chaired in Georgetown on 7 June 2024, by the Hon. Minister of Natural Resources of Guyana, Vickram Bharrat, and the Ambassador of the European Union to Guyana, René van Nes.

## 5. Conclusions

The Partners have agreed to the following:

1. The Partners approved the Forest Partnership **Work Plan for 2024**
2. The Partners agreed to **review and update the Roadmap and the composition of the TWG** by the end of 2024
3. The Partners agreed to **update the targets** once per year in the Forest Partnership **Annual Report**

*Done in Georgetown, Guyana, on 07 June 2024*

On behalf of the Cooperative Republic of  
Guyana



Minister of Natural Resources of Guyana,  
Vickram Bharrat

On behalf of the European Union



Head of the EU Delegation to Guyana,  
René Van Nes



EU – GUYANA FOREST PARTNERSHIP WORKPLAN 2024							
Milestone	Action	Priority 2024	Activities/Next steps	Lead	Timeline (start)	Funding source	Achieved/Ongoing
1.1. Legal provisions for mangroves development and protection implemented and enforced, and sustainable management systems in place	Support the establishment of legal regulations to govern value chains for mangrove products and services	Development of regulations for mangroves	The EU will be providing support through: - Technical Assistance for developing the mangroves regulations	Ministry of Public Works, with support from NAREI	03/2024	EU TCF	This Technical Assistance was contracted. The draft regulation should be available for consultation by August 2024.
1.3 Sustainable and green procurement in place for private and public sectors	Conduct awareness campaigns, including an annual forest products exposition (including timber and NTFP), to promote the demand for timber as a sustainable building material and the use of lesser-used species (LUS)  Support the GFC in reclassifying LUS on an annual basis as part of its work program	Development of a strategy/policy for the promotion of wood and LUS in public procurement	Establish a working group to promote the use of wood, LUS - Formulate approach for research and testing facility - Technical classification of wood/LUS - Promoting/mainstreaming wood and LUS in national procurement - Marketing and promotion strategy/policy	MNR with support from GFC, GMSA, FPA, MoPW, CHPA, MoF	03/2024		The GMSA collaborated with the CHPA to promote LUS in housing projects via working group meetings.
2.1 Community mangroves forests	Develop mechanisms to support business	Tailored support to mangroves value chain start-ups	Identify support needed (with input from NAREI) <u>EU Support:</u>	NAREI/ GMSA/FPA	07/2024	EU TCF	NAREI is currently conducting a survey to assess livelihood opportunities to



<p>development and start-ups</p>	<p>Feasibility studies and market analyses for sustainable mangrove business models foreseen under the Budget Support programme in 2024.</p>	<p>MNR, with support from GFC, GMSA.</p>	<p>08/2024</p>	<p>identify the investment/ infrastructure support required to foster the opportunities for sustainable community enterprises.</p> <p>Assessment of livelihood opportunities in 2023 completed by NAREI. Results will inform the establishment of mangrove based enterprises.</p>
<p>2.2 Enhanced value added and increased local and international trade and revenue generation from wood products (including lesser-known species).</p>	<p>Support the FPDMC in developing and implementing a market strategy for wood products and wood industry waste</p>	<p>Establish a working group to discuss the revitalisation of FPDMC, taking into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Best functional model</li> <li>- Resources required to function</li> <li>- Leadership and roles (private and public sector)</li> </ul>	<p>09/2024</p>	<p>The MNR is currently assisting the FPDMC to develop its website. There are 2 staff in the FPDMC, but they have responsibilities in other GFC departments as well. This discussion was held between the GFC and MNR and it was decided that, structurally, this would remain under the GFC. GFC would receive financial support in 2025 to support this activity.</p>
<p>Develop a market strategy for wood (FPDMC) and conduct a</p>	<p>Initiate a working group to develop ToRs for 1. marketing strategy and 2. wood waste/ hybrid wood products feasibility study</p>	<p>GFC with private sector support</p>	<p>F4F</p>	



<p>3.1 Funding mechanisms and revenue strategies developed for the sustainable management and expansion</p>	<p>Build the capacity of FSOs to develop bankable proposals (can be broad-based to include mangroves and wood sector operators)</p>	<p>feasibility study for wood waste. Create a Facility for FSO access to finance (bankable business proposals)</p>	<p>Initiate a working group to explore best options for this objective, with support from the FGVC.</p>	<p>MNR with support from GFC, private sector, FAO (MoF)</p>	<p>07/2024</p>	<p>FGVC</p>	<p>Approx. 85% of the revolving fund was committed, and analysis would be conducted to determine the profile of main beneficiaries, etc. There is a possibility of the fund receiving a top up.</p>
<p>2.3 Compliance of FSOs with international market requirements</p>	<p>Provide training (FTCI) to enhance value added 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)</p>	<p>Provide skills training in sawmilling in the wood sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FAO to develop the full proposal</li> <li>- FAO to prepare Letter of Agreement (LoA) with FTCI</li> <li>- Procurement of services</li> </ul>	<p>EU, FAO, GFC</p>	<p>03/2024</p>	<p>FGVC</p>	<p>Initial assessment for FTCI support conducted under AFD EU FLEGT Programme.  Complementary to this, TCF TA is currently providing training on Code of Practice on sawmilling and timber grading.</p>
<p>3.1 Funding mechanisms and revenue strategies developed for the sustainable management and expansion</p>	<p>NO ACTION IN ROADMAP (certification mentioned under challenges) Create a Protected Areas tourism development strategy under the national tourism strategic plan - in line with the LCDS</p>	<p>Support FSOs to achieve sustainability certification Create a strategy for Tourism Development in PAs (and areas with high biodiversity values)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initiate discussions to explore possibility of supporting FSOs to obtain sustainability certification (PEFC/FSC).</li> <li>- PAC to complete the PAS Management Plan and share with the TWG</li> </ul>	<p>EU, GFC</p>	<p>03/2024</p>		<p>The PAC NPAS system plan is nearly completed and at the public review stage. It may be completed by the last quarter of 2024.</p>

WORK STREAM 3



NO ACTION IN ROADMAP (mangroves mentioned in the Milestone)	Develop an assessment of ecosystem services of the mangroves	TA on Comprehensive assessment of the ecosystem services of the mangroves across Guyana	NAREI	09/2024	Funding tbc	This activity is part of the EU Guyana mangrove BS. NAREI is currently reviewing gaps from studies conducted previously by Exxon.
4.2 Reduced deforestation and forest degradation linked to mining and logging activities in breach of legislation/regulation	Strengthen the forest monitoring capacities of GGMC and GFC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise a second in-depth workshop on Copernicus satellite uses</li> <li>Explore opportunities to obtain equipment such as drones for enhanced forest monitoring (on needs basis, GGMC, GFC)</li> </ul>	EU, GGMC, GFC, EPA	09/2024		Both the GFC and GGMC possess forest rangers/mines officers on the ground. However, they are not up to capacity.  Both agencies possess a few drones and have access to GIS and mapping technology. However, these need to be strengthened for increased efficiency.
4.4 Institutional mainstreaming and coordination in place, to achieve LCDS reforestation targets	Strengthen Land Reclamation Committee (reinstated in December 2023)	Initiate discussion to identify needs of Land Reclamation Committee that can be addressed by the Forest Partnership. This will be with the objective to support restoration activities in line with the Forest Partnership and LCDS targets.	MNR, with support from GGMC, GFC, and other members of the Committee	03/2024		The LRC has developed a scoping document to be shared.



**ACRONYMS**

<b>AFD</b>	Agence Française de Développement
<b>ALA</b>	Africa-Latin America Facility
<b>CHPA</b>	Central Housing and Planning Authority
<b>ENGO</b>	Environmental Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>EUD</b>	European Union Delegation
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organisation
<b>F4F</b>	Forests for the Future Facility
<b>FGVC</b>	Forest Governance and Value-chains Programme
<b>FLEGT</b>	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade [Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)]
<b>FPA</b>	Forest Products Association
<b>FPDMC</b>	Forest Products Development and Marketing Council
<b>FSC</b>	Forest Stewardship Council [certification]
<b>FSO</b>	Forest Sector Operator
<b>FTCI</b>	Forest Training Centre Inc.
<b>GFC</b>	Guyana Forestry Commission
<b>GGMC</b>	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Informations System
<b>GMSA</b>	Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association
<b>GTA</b>	Guyana Tourism Authority



<b>IPCM</b>	Implementing Partners Coordination Meeting
<b>JIF</b>	Joint Implementation Framework
<b>LCDS</b>	Low Carbon Development Strategy [2030]
<b>LRC</b>	Land Reclamation Committee
<b>LUS</b>	Lesser-Used Species
<b>MNR</b>	Ministry of Natural Resources
<b>MOF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MOPW</b>	Ministry of Public Works
<b>NAREI</b>	National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute
<b>NTFP</b>	Non Timber Forest Products
<b>PAC</b>	Protected Areas Commission
<b>PA</b>	Protected Area (s)
<b>PAS</b>	Protected Areas System
<b>PEFC</b>	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
<b>SBB</b>	Small Business Bureau
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>TCF</b>	Technical Cooperation Facility