



**FOREST  
PARTNERSHIP**



**FIRST PROGRESS REPORT  
2023 - 2024**

# **Guyana**

**Forest Partnership  
with the European Union**

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# 1. A Partnership for People and Forests

## 1.1 A high-level engagement

On 8 November 2022, during the COP27 UN Climate Change Conference, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, on behalf of the European Union, and Guyana Minister for Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat, in the online presence of Guyana President Irfaan Ali, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a Forest Partnership between the EU and Guyana.

The Forest Partnership will promote the protection, restoration and sustainable management and use of forests and is aimed at enhancing the role of Guyanese forests in sustainable and inclusive national development as well as addressing challenges related to deforestation, forest degradation, climate change and loss of biodiversity. The Forest Partnership is also a policy and political instrument for the EU and Guyana to advance the forest agenda at the international level.

Guyana's President Irfaan Ali remarked, "*This Memorandum of Understanding demonstrates our shared values of sustainable forest management and protection of the environment.*" He further highlighted how the Forest Partnership not only complements but further expands the cooperation between EU and Guyana on forests, namely the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). Building on the objectives of this bilateral trade agreement, the Forest Partnership further enhances "*the process of promoting the trade in legally produced timber and timber products*", which is the core objective of the FLEGT VPA.

In the run-up to the EU-CELAC Summit and in line with the Joint Communication on "New Agenda for Relations between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean" on 29 June 2023 in Brussels, Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen and Guyana's Minister of Natural Resources Vickram Bharrat validated and signed the Forest Partnership Roadmap. With the Roadmap, the Partners agreed on joint actions towards the achievement of the objectives set in the Memorandum of Understanding. The roadmap also facilitates the mobilisation of appropriate resources and attracts the necessary investments, which is in line with the EU Global Gateway objectives.

During the encounter, Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen expressed her support for the work jointly carried out with Guyana: "*Guyana wants to protect and use its forests sustainably. I am glad that we will continue to work together as partners on this shared ambition. The Forest Partnership will help us reach our joint climate and biodiversity goals, while promoting socio-economic development. With Global Gateway, the EU has adopted a very comprehensive approach to improving ecosystems around value chains with an objective to produce local added value.*"

Two years since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, the Partners are actively implementing the Forest Partnership through the development of the roadmap and a first annual

work plan, accompanied by a strategic political dialogue and technical cooperation to tackle pressing challenges and meet the agreed targets.

## 1.2 Overview of the forest sector, climate issues, and environmental challenges

Guyana is one of four countries globally, and two in the Amazon Basin, with a High Forest Low Deforestation status. Approximately 85% of the country—around 18 million hectares—is forested, with a minimal deforestation rate of just 0.06% from 2016 to 2020. While deforestation is not a major concern, illegal mining causes forest degradation, and rising global temperatures threaten coastal areas and, therefore, the mangroves.

The forests are classified as coastal swamp forests and rainforests, seasonal and dry evergreen forests in the interior, and natural interior savannahs. Protected areas currently cover 9% of the country, including 0.8 million hectares managed by the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) and 1.1 million hectares under the Guyana Protected Areas Trust. Guyana, through its Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, aims to increase the Protected Areas to 30% by 2030. Indigenous Amerindian territories hold around 3.5 million hectares of forest, including the Kanashen Amerindian Protected Area.

In 2023, the forestry sector contributed €80.35 million to Guyana's GDP, with a projected growth of 3.9% in 2024. Forestry exports amounted to about €19 million, producing roughly 446,000 m<sup>3</sup> of timber products, expected to rise to €29.25 million in 2024. This increase is driven by the significant economic growth Guyana is experiencing, largely driven by the burgeoning oil and gas sector. In return, the country's growing construction needs - with new housing developments, commercial buildings, and infrastructure projects rising rapidly - increased log production, sawn wood and round wood.

Guyana's forests sequester more carbon than the nation's human activities generate, holding globally important carbon stocks of 19.5 GtCO<sub>2</sub>eq. However, the country is particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise and other adverse effects of climate change, which pose increasing risks to its agriculture sector. Extreme weather events and the projected increase in global temperatures threaten the very existence of low-lying coastal developing states like Guyana.

Guyana was the first country to receive the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) certification, gaining access to the REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) carbon credits. ART TREES carbon credits are issued to countries that have successfully prevented forest loss and degradation. In 2022, the HESS company signed an agreement with Guyana to purchase 37.5 million ART-TREES credits for a total of \$750 million for the period 2016 to 2030. Payment by HESS is divided into three tranches set according to timelines outlined in the agreement (2016-2020, \$187.5 million; 2021-2025, \$250 million; 2026-2030, \$312.5 million). So far, \$187.5 million has been

disbursed. The government of Guyana has since been investing these revenues in development projects aimed at achieving LCDS 2030 goals, including the improvement of hinterland energy, food security and infrastructure, and the development of Indigenous Peoples' villages, including those that are forest-dependent. 15% of revenue from all carbon credit sales goes directly to Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

### **1.3 The Forest Partnership with the European Union**

The Forest Partnership addresses the protection, restoration and sustainable management and use of Guyana's forests, with a view to:

- (1) Increasing the area of protected, restored or sustainably managed forests, including mangroves
- (2) Increasing the number of forest-related decent jobs
- (3) Maintaining the close-to-zero annual rate of deforestation of natural forests
- (4) Looking for ways to facilitate investment and trade in legal and sustainable wood products between Guyana and the EU.

### **1.4 Policy dialogue and technical coordination**

In Guyana, high-level representation at the Forest Partnership dialogues is assumed by the Vice President or the Minister of Natural Resources, and the EU Ambassador. At the operational level, representation is made by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the EU Head of Cooperation, or its representatives, who preside over the Technical Working Group (TWG).

#### **1.4.1 Key themes, working groups and inter-sectoral dialogue**

The Political Working Group (PWG) oversees the management and implementation of the Forest Partnership and ensures effective dialogue and cooperation between the Partners in this context. The PWG guides and steers the implementation of the roadmap, addresses proposals by the TWG towards the objectives of the Forest Partnership. The PWG addresses any issues that may arise in relation to the interpretation and implementation of the Forest Partnership and facilitates their resolution in good faith.

In the context of the development of the roadmap, the composition of the PWG was agreed to include: the Vice President and/or the Minister of Natural Resources, other representatives of the Government, the Ambassador of the EU to Guyana and/or other representatives and Member States of the EU.

The first PWG was held in Brussels on June 29, 2023, by Guyana's Minister of Natural Resources, Vickram Bharrat, and European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen. The second PWG took place in Georgetown on June 7, 2024, co-chaired by Minister Bharrat and the EU Ambassador to Guyana, René van Nes. The policy dialogues related to strengthening forest

governance, promoting sustainable management of forests and mangroves, and enhancing forest sector value chains. Discussions focused on legal frameworks for conservation, community engagement in sustainable practices, and the integration of these practices within forest value chains.

The PWG is assisted by the TWG. The tasks and responsibilities of the TWG include developing technical content for the Roadmap, coordinating the development of technical proposals for the Roadmap implementation, reporting on progress, and ensuring stakeholder engagement and participation.

The members of the TWG comprise representatives from the different government agencies, civil society and the private sector involved in the implementation of the Roadmap in their respective technical capacities. In particular, the TWG was agreed to include representatives from the:

- i. Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)
- ii. Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
- iii. National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI)
- iv. Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)
- v. Protected Areas Commission (PAC)
- vi. National Toshiacs Council (NTC)
- vii. Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association (GMSA)

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been invited as an ad-hoc member and is now being included as a full member for the next TWG.

Since the signature of the Forest Partnership, five TWGs were conducted in Georgetown: 1st TWG, 6 March 2023; 2nd TWG, 6 December 2023; 3rd TWG, 29 January 2024; 4th TWG, 5 June 2024; 5th TWG, 5 March 2025.

## **1.5 Main achievements and lessons learned**

Keeping in mind the objectives of ensuring sustainable forest management, increasing jobs in forest value chains, reducing deforestation and facilitating trade in wood products, the Forest Partnership serves as an effective umbrella for addressing and resolving different challenges and, consequently, for coordinating various forest-related initiatives nationwide.

In March 2024, a coordination event was organised by the European Union Delegation with the participation of the European Commission, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), and various partners implementing projects funded by the EU. The two-day event aimed to foster discussions on ongoing and future activities, enhance synergies, and prevent duplication, while supporting the Roadmap's implementation. The initiatives include programmes funded through the Guyana NDICI Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP), more specifically the "Sustainable Forest Livelihoods" programme (managed by AFD and implemented by



WWF), as well as global EU NDICI programmes, such as the “Forest Governance and Value Chain Programme” (FGVC), managed by FAO, and regional Caribbean projects such as EUROCLIMA and Amazonia+. The United Kingdom (UK), an important bilateral partner in forestry in Guyana, was invited as well. Additionally, the meeting included a session on enhancing synergies between the different programmes in support of implementing the FLEGT VPA.

This coordination mission and the high-level reception hosted by the EU Ambassador in the presence of Guyana’s Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Indigenous Affairs reaffirmed the EU’s leadership in forest governance. It facilitated valuable information-sharing and increased transparency.

Building on the FLEGT VPA and the LCDS, the Forest Partnership has catalysed significant improvements in inter-governmental dialogue by involving relevant line ministries or agencies responsible for the key areas of intervention. The Forest Partnership provides a broad multi-stakeholder framework, through the TWG, addressing gaps and evolving priorities linked to the protection of forests. This framework provides scope to further strengthen existing interagency collaborations and harmonise efforts geared at achieving common green objectives for both Guyana and the EU.

The Forest Partnership promotes private sector engagement and has a strong focus on value chain development. Notably, it receives active involvement from the private sector, such as the GMSA, in the TWG and the development of the Roadmap and annual work plan.

## 2. Contributions to national, regional, and international policies

### 2.1 Contributions to the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

By implementing its Revised Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC, 2022) and updated LCDS 2030, Guyana is making significant strides towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals and fulfilling its obligations under various multilateral, regional, and bilateral agreements. The LCDS has set out four interlinked objectives, the first three of which were the basic objectives of the LCDS since 2009 and the fourth of which was added to reflect new local and global realities:

- Objective I - Value Ecosystem Services: Guyana aims to sell forest climate services that can be structured around voluntary markets that could include private, as well as international public sector financing. A bilateral agreement with Norway was passed to sell these services.
- Objective II - Invest in Clean Energy and Stimulate Low Carbon Growth: Revenues from voluntary carbon (and potentially other ecosystem services) markets, along with other national resources, will be invested in National Low Carbon Priorities and Community-produced Village Sustainability Plans.
- Objective III - Protect Against Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss: Guyana intends to start a new set of priority investments in drainage and irrigation, sea defences, mangrove restoration, flood, and drought measures to address the potential harm to households and businesses from climate change.
- Objective IV - Align with Global Climate and Biodiversity Goals: Guyana is advocating internationally for a strong global carbon price. Moreover, in September 2024, Guyana launched a Global Biodiversity Alliance focused on starting a biodiversity credit market, among other forms of innovative financing.

Guyana's Forest Partnership Roadmap holds significant potential to contribute to Guyana's climate targets in the forest sector, as outlined in its NDC and LCDS. The roadmap is built on a balanced set of actions targeting inland forests and mangroves with the objective to 1) improve governance and regulations; 2) ensure sustainable management by integrating community mangroves forests and by enhancing added value for wood products; 3) develop ecosystem services based on forest conservation; 4) prevent deforestation and forest degradation. An analysis of the roadmap's actions contribution to Guyana's NDCs & LDCS conducted in November 2024 indicates that most of these actions (48/63) coded as "green" category, are likely to produce a positive effect on the achievement of targets and actions outlined in the climate change strategies. They include: 1) strengthening forest governance and planning at all levels; 2) enhancing capacity for sustainable and participatory forest management in the public sector and communities; 3) developing forest value chains; and 4) developing landscape approach initiatives (water management and biodiversity). Another significant share of actions (12/63), coded as the "yellow" category, are presumed to have a neutral direct effect



on the climate strategies' achievements and targets. They refer to operationalising the roadmap itself. Only 3/63 actions, coded in the "red" category, might have negative LDCS targets and actions depending on the sustainability approach in their implementation. It concerns the actions regarding the development of carbon market mechanisms. To be successfully implemented, these mechanisms must be aligned with the *Call to Action for Paris-aligned Carbon Markets*<sup>1</sup>. The analysis also identified a series of gaps in reaching the forest targets, notably the lack of sustainable finance to invest in the forestry sector. It is therefore recommended to further develop the Forest Partnership roadmap actions focusing on market and non-market mechanisms, market readiness, carbon pricing, and carbon taxation applied to extractive companies (including oil and mining companies). Additionally, to enhance the integration of adaptation into forest development strategies, it is recommended that the existing REDD+ mechanism be built on by continuing to develop a robust MRV framework for the impact of climate change on forest resources. Another critical gap is the lack of cross-cutting initiatives for the most vulnerable people, communities, and regions. This can be addressed by developing targeted actions to enhance the resilience to extreme climate events of forestry livelihoods and value chains, particularly for communities reliant on both agriculture and forests. Future areas of intervention could also include developing a financial mechanism targeting forest sustainability. For example, the carbon taxation of extractive companies active in Guyana could contribute significantly to financing NDC and LDCS' forest sector actions. Equally valuable is to develop a cross-cutting climate mitigation investment programme with adaptation co-benefits targeting the most vulnerable communities and regions. Such a programme could mitigate lending risk, underdeveloped capital and financial markets. It can improve governance to support business development and enhance the capacity to monitor ecosystem-related impacts.

## 2.2 Contributions to the Global Gateway Strategy

The July 2023 EU-CELAC Summit signalled a fresh start in the partnership with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States: from natural partners to partners of choice. Via the Global Gateway Investment Agenda, the EU committed to mobilising at least EUR 45 billion of investment for the region by 2027. The portfolio includes over 130 projects. In Guyana, the implementation of the Forest Partnership is considered one of the EU's flagship initiatives.

In line with the Global Gateway's 360-degree approach, the Forest Partnership is also about creating an enabling environment for sustainable and quality investments, which promotes high social, environmental and governance standards. Through the FGVC programme, and supported by the TWG, initial work started at the end of 2024, to set up a forest SME accelerator programme, which assessment will continue in 2025. In addition, the EU Delegation intends to organise a forestry investment mission in June 2025. Both initiatives aim to bolster forest competitiveness in Guyana and attract further private partnerships and/or investments.

<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_6092](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6092)

## 2.3 Contributions to the external impact of the EU Green Deal

### 2.3.1 Progress in compliance with the EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products (EUDR)

Significant progress has been made by Guyana in tracking wood products through the supply chain, with inspection stations nationwide and obligations to trace logs from the production site until export or local sales. The forest administration makes use of IT systems covering production, processing, licensing, and export, but those are outdated and not linked with one another. Much of the work remains paper-based, which makes real-time log and timber tracking challenging.

In 2024, the EU financed the launch of a digital Wood Tracking System (dWTS), led by the GFC in its design and implementation. This will enhance the monitoring of the timber supply chain through near-real-time traceability. Forest sector companies will be able to submit information directly to the system. Legality will be ensured through the integration of procedures as described by the Guyana Forest Code. A module demonstrating compliance with the EUDR will be built. This will overlay satellite data and technological solutions (such as Copernicus) to the concession boundaries. Consequently, it will indicate instances of (or lack of) deforestation.

Compliance with the EUDR will help Guyana to increase timber exports to the EU. Once operational, Guyana will be the first country to have a system that complies with the legal and sustainability requirements of the EUDR.

### 3. Forest Partnership progress

#### 3.1 Progress towards Forest Partnership targets

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 mobilisation of appropriate resources and attract the necessary investments.

The EU and Guyana made a joint commitment to monitor the economic, social and environmental effects of the Forest Partnership. During the second TWG, members reviewed the progress as per the table below:

Targets to reach by 2030	Progress
Maintain sustainably managed forests: 12.5 million ha.	Area under Sustainable Forest Management was maintained at 12.5 million ha GFC's codes of practice in effect over all areas GFC's monitoring system oversees all areas of State Forest.
Expand protected and conserved forests: 30% by 2030 of terrestrial and marine spaces.	A proposal was developed to expand the protected areas system. This is 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. Under the FP 2024 work plan, the Land Reclamation Committee (LRC) was reinstated. The LRC is a multiagency body that provides guidance on the restoration of mined-out areas.
Increase the number of forest-related decent jobs by at least 8%.	Increase in employment in the forestry sector by 4%.
Maintain the annual rate of deforestation of natural forests: ha/y deforestation below 0.1%.	The deforestation rate of 2023 is being monitored through the MRV reporting process. Initial results indicate that this rate will be below the threshold of 0.1%.

#### 3.2 Main activities and results of the work plan

##### Workstream 1- Improved governance and regulations in favour of forest sector developments

Proposals for three regulations under the Sea and River Defence Act, the NAREI Act, and the Forestry Act were drafted by Guyana. These proposed regulations seek to strengthen frameworks for the protection, management, and sustainable development of mangrove ecosystems and green

infrastructure. In particular, the regulation under the Sea and River Defence Act was adopted and gazetted at the end of 2024. This was achieved with technical assistance under the current Mangrove Budget Support. The adoption of the Forestry and NAREI regulations is foreseen for 2025. In addition, the NAREI Act proposes establishing a Mangrove Secretariat to coordinate national efforts in conserving, managing, and enhancing mangrove ecosystems. By possibly 2025, NAREI intends to amend the Act to further regulate the development of mangrove value chains.

Partners discussed promoting Lesser Used Species (LUS) through a national strategy to mainstream LUS in public procurement. Public awareness initiatives and annual reclassification to adapt to market dynamics could also be supported. The MNR suggested building on existing marketing strategies that promote LUS in public procurement. Challenges include the negative impact of LUS on the competitiveness in public tenders, as LUS may increase construction costs.

WORK STREAM	Milestones	Action	Progress
1	Legal provisions for mangrove 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.	In 2024, a draft proposal to establish three regulations under the NAREI Act, the Forests Act and the Sea and River Defence Act was developed and submitted for interagency consultation. In November 2024, the proposal was being reviewed by the Sea Defense Board (Ministry of Public Works). Community consultations were completed. The Mangrove Regulation under the Sea & River Defence Act was adopted and gazetted in December 2024 Gazetting of the Forestry and NAREI regulations is pending.
	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-known species. Support the GFC in reclassifying lesser-known species on an annual basis as part of its work programme.	The priority for 2024 was the development of a strategy/policy for the promotion of wood and LUS in public procurement. The GMSA collaborated with the CHPA to promote LUS in housing projects via working group meetings.

## **Workstream 2 - Sustainable forest management and forest-based value chains**

This workstream progressed the most. Guyana's mangrove forests can generate a range of products and services suitable for value chain development. An action prioritised in 2024 was the development of business models and start-ups for mangrove value chains that benefit local communities. NAREI assessed community livelihood opportunities to inform the creation of mangroves value-chain businesses. In addition, NAREI aimed to support the creation of community start-ups in apiculture and mangrove tourism by the end of 2024. Supporting the creation of mangrove businesses is an indicator under the EU-Guyana Budget Support.

The wood sector has also benefitted from EU FLEGT VPA support to build capacity of Forest Sector Operators (FSOs) and GFC staff through training on the Codes of Practice, Health and Safety, data analysis for MIS officers, and TLAS compliance. This was achieved with technical assistance under the EU Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF).

Under the Forest Partnership's Forest Governance and Value-Chain (FGVC) programme, technical expertise has been provided in 2024 to set up a sawmilling training curriculum in collaboration with the Forestry Training Centre Inc. (FTCI), which seeks to upgrade local sawmilling expertise among local practitioners. In so doing, the project also hopes to render sawmilling more appealing to young people and women. FTCI will also benefit from a new sawmill that will be procured in 2025 by the project and set up to support future training in sawmilling by the FTCI. In October 2024, a rapid sawmilling capacity assessment was conducted, and conclusions will feed into the rollout of the sawmilling training manual.

One of the key challenges to the viability of the sector is insufficient access to affordable finance for wood-based SMEs to realize business growth. Discussions initiated in 2024 at the TWG to provide support through the FGVC programme. This will be further rolled out in 2025, with the development of a forestry SME accelerator programme aimed at providing financial and entrepreneurship coaching to forestry SMEs in combination with needs-based technical assistance. The main result of the accelerator would be enhanced access to the Forestry Revolving Fund Facility<sup>2</sup>, and other credit facilities<sup>3</sup> which in turn enable the scaling of value-added forestry manufacturing in Guyana.

In 2024, the TWG expressed as well the need to enhance Guyana's furniture industry. The Guyana Manufacturing & Services Association (GMSA) shared a high-level proposal for developing the furniture manufacturing sector by 1) developing processing capacity and skills, 2) utilising sustainable forest products, and 3) creating market linkages. Under the FGVC programme, in 2025, a wood and furniture market expert will undertake a market assessment of the Guyana furniture

<sup>2</sup> The 900 million GYD Forestry Revolving Fund Facility (FRF) is a collaboration between the Government of Guyana and Demerara Bank Limited.

<sup>3</sup> Eg. the Credit Guarantee Facility of the Small Business Bureau, the Logging Loan of the Institute of Private Enterprise Development (IPED) and GBTI Grow

sector and its potential contribution to Guyana’s Forest Partnership objectives. The assessment will identify opportunities in both the EU market and the Guyana/Caribbean market.

WORK STREAM	Milestone	Action	Progress
2	2.1 Community mangroves forests sustainably managed	Develop mechanisms to support business development and start-ups	Assessment of livelihood opportunities in 2023 completed by NAREI. Results will inform the establishment of mangrove-based enterprises.
	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.  Build the capacity of FSOs to develop bankable proposals (can be broad-based to include mangroves and wood sector operators)	The discussion to revitalise the FPDMC has led MNR and GFC to decide that, structurally, the department would remain under the purview of the GFC. A commitment was made that GFC would receive financial support in 2025 to support the activities of the department. In 2024, the MNR also provided support to develop a website for the FPDMC.  A working group was initiated to explore the best options for this objective, with support from the FGVC as a possible next step.
	2.3. Compliance of FSOs with international market requirements	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)	An Expert contracted under FGVC conducted an assessment of sawmilling training needs. The next steps include developing a training module and a model sawmill for procurement in 2025.  Through TCF fund, a training package on Codes of Practices of the forestry sector, was developed and party deliver in 2024. The remaining training sessions will be conducted during first quarter of 2025.

**Workstream 3: Eco-system services based on forest conservation**

The creation of a tourism strategy for Protected Areas (PA) was prioritised in 2024. However, this line of work is awaiting the completion of the National Protected Areas Systems plan by the end of 2024, which will inform and guide the creation of a tourism strategy.

With the support of EU technical assistance under the Budget Support, NAREI is assessing the potential of mangrove ecosystem services.

WORK STREAM	Milestone	Action	Progress
3	3.1 Funding mechanisms and revenue strategies developed for the sustainable management and expansion of Protected Areas, in mangrove and inland forests	<p>Create a Protected Areas tourism development strategy under the national tourism strategic plan - in line with the LCDS.</p> <p>Develop an assessment of the ecosystem services of the mangroves</p>	<p>It was agreed to create a strategy for Tourism Development in PAs (and areas with high biodiversity values). The PAC NPAS plan is now at the stage of public review. Following this, the TWG can proceed to develop a strategy for Tourism Development in the PAs.</p> <p>With support under the EU Guyana mangrove Budget Support programme, and assessment of the ecosystem services of the mangroves was conducted. The activity was discussed at the last Mangroves Management Action Network meeting in 2024. NAREI is currently reviewing gaps from studies conducted previously by Exxon in the scope of this assessment.</p>

#### Workstream 4 - Prevention of deforestation and forest degradation

The main result achieved under this Workstream is the formal reinstatement of the Land Reclamation Committee in December 2023, followed by the creation of a scoping document to guide the Committee.

Another significant achievement was the organisation, with the support of the EU Knowledge Hub, of two training workshops on Copernicus Satellite technology in Georgetown: a general one-day training in October 2023 and a specialised 4-day training in October 2024. Members from GFC, GGMC, and NAREI, along with other governmental agencies, were present.

Additionally, during 2024 the TWG explored potential opportunities under the Amazonia+ programme for support in forest fire monitoring and the possible acquisition of drone technology.

WORK STREAM	Milestone	Action	Progress
4	4.2 Reduced deforestation and forest degradation linked to unregulated mining and logging activities	Upgrade field-level forest monitoring, including the use of drones and real-time satellite imagery and training of staff	<p>Interagency strategy for optimising the use and management of logs felled by miners to be developed.</p> <p>Forest monitoring capacities of GGMC and GFC to be strengthened.</p> <p>Next steps can include joint discussion with the GGMC, GFC and MNR.</p>
	4.4 Institutional mainstreaming and coordination in place, to achieve LCDS reforestation	Support the establishment of a task force to mainstream and coordinate reforestation activities in line with LCDS targets (building on past	The Land Reclamation Committee was reinstated in December 2023. It has developed a scoping document, which will be shared with the TWG.

	targets	practice of Land Reclamation Committee).	
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### 3.3 Communicating the Partnership

Communication in Forest Partnership processes takes several forms. Information related to the Forest Partnership process (video recording of the signing ceremony<sup>4</sup>, publication of the Memorandum of Understanding<sup>5</sup>, the Roadmap<sup>6</sup>) and press releases<sup>7</sup>, were publicly disclosed. Three billboard signs were developed in 2024 to showcase the Forest Partnership and will be unveiled in 2025.

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<sup>4</sup> [High level signature ceremony - Forest Partnerships](#)

<sup>5</sup> [https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-10/mou-forest-partnership-c2022-6661-guyana\\_en.pdf](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-10/mou-forest-partnership-c2022-6661-guyana_en.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [European Union and Guyana Forest Partnership](#) | Capacity4dev

<sup>7</sup> [COP27: EU launches Forest Partnerships](#)



## 4. Looking ahead

Building on its achievements, in 2025, the Forest Partnership shall further consolidate its efforts and resources, focusing on areas that require more progress. Key priorities include developing value chains for mangroves and wood products, enhancing financial access for forestry sector organisations (FSOs), and strengthening inter-agency forest monitoring. There is also significant potential for expanding Workstreams 3 and 4.

In 2025, Partners and members of the TWG will have the opportunity to review and update the Roadmap and work plan to align with sector agency priorities, MoU priorities and recent achievements. This will also be an opportunity to propose new activities for implementation and identify solutions to potential roadblocks.

Further resource mapping may be necessary to address gaps in the Roadmap.

In 2024, it was agreed that other sector agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), should join the TWG. The TWG meeting in 2025 will provide an opportunity to endorse this proposal.

## Acronyms

AFD	Agence française de développement
ART	Architecture for REDD+ Transactions
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
COP	Conference of the Parties
CHPA	Central Housing and Planning Authority
dWTS	digital Wood Tracking System
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
EUDR	EU Deforestation Regulation
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan
FP	Forest Partnership
FSO	Forest Sector Operator
FTCI	Forestry Training Center Inc.
FPDMC	Forest Products Development and Marketing Council
FVCG	Forest governance and value chains
GCI	Guyana Conservation Initiative project
GDP	Groo Domestic Product
GFC	Guyana Forestry Commission
GGMC	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
GMSA	Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
INTPA	International Partnerships
LCDS	Low carbon development strategy
LUS	Lesser Utilised Species
MIS	Management Information systems
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MNR	Ministry of National Resources
MRV	Monitoring, reporting and verification
NAREI	National Agricultural Research & Extension Institute
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDICI	Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument
NKE	Non key expert
NPAS	National Protected Areas System
NTFP	Non-timber forest products
NTC	National Tshaos Council
PA	Protected Areas
PAC	Protected Areas Commission
PWG	Political working group
TCF	Technical Cooperation Facility
TLAS	Timber Legality Assurance System
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
TREE	REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard
TWG	Technical working group
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement