
REPUBLIC of GUYANA

Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027

1. Introduction

EU Cooperation represented in this Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) is guided by the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy and the new European Consensus on Development. The Guyana MIP is premised on several EU pre-programming and reference documents, which give context to the scope of the work intended, as well as the environment in which it will unfold.

1.1. Basis for programming

Guyana is amongst one of the 'greenest' countries in the world. Guyana has an estimated 18.4 million ha of forests, covering about 87% of the country's total land area. The country commands globally important carbon stocks (19.5 GtCO₂ eq) and is considered as a net carbon sink, whereby forests sequester more carbon than the nation's human activities generate.

Guyana has a good reputation in the Caribbean and South America region when it comes to forest governance. This reputation is defined primarily by political will and efforts to monetize conservation efforts and the preservation of its quasi-pristine and unexplored rainforest. With climate change (CC) becoming a global priority in the last two decades, these efforts were materialised into several policy and planning documents for Guyana, notably:

- The *Low Carbon Development Strategy* (LCDS 2009) was pivotal in shaping the future of Guyana's green economy efforts. It was issued from a memorandum of understanding between Norway and Guyana, in which the former agreed to pay the latter US \$250 million in several tranches for the preservation of the rainforest. As part of the agreement, the two countries agreed to establish the Guyana REDD+¹ Investment Fund (GRIF), a fund for the financing of REDD+ enabling activities identified under the Government of Guyana's LCDS. Projects funded by LCDS revenues included inter alia sustainable forest use and management, clean energy, and indigenous peoples' rights and development. Mangroves are also critically important in the LCDS because of their high rate of productivity, and their crucial role in mitigation and adaptation to climate change with Guyana's low-lying coast line. The LCDS placed Guyana on the regional map for conservation of its carbon sink. Though the LCDS expired in 2020, it is currently under renegotiation between Norway and Guyana for renewal and will replace the *Green State Development Strategy* (GSDS²), developed by the previous administration. It is anticipated that a renegotiated LCDS will canvas Guyana's green economy and climate change priorities in the coming years.
- Guyana's revised *Intended Nationally Determined Contribution* (INDC, 2015) resulting from Guyana's commitment to the Paris Agreement (COP 21) is another manifestation of the country's commitment to the global climate change agenda. Central to the INDC

¹ Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. REDD has evolved into REDD+, which includes the conservation and sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks. REDD+ aims at the implementation of activities by national governments to reduce human pressure on forests that result in greenhouse gas emissions.

² The *Green State Development Strategy - Vision 2040* (GSDS 2019) was a policy document commissioned by the government in 2018 and drafted by UN Environment Programme (UNEP). The final draft was delivered in May 2019, and covered a broad spectrum of sectors subject to green reforms, including forestry. At a time when Guyana was on the cusp of oil production, the GSDS was seen as a reassuring manifestation of political will to maintain interest in sustainable forest governance, and by extent economic diversification.

is forestry, with a commitment to pursue forest conservation and sustainable forest management, and to fight deforestation.

In 2020, Guyana officially transitioned into becoming an oil producing country. While this creates new expectations for economic development, it also increases the risk of oil spills (with impact on mangroves), neglect for responsible forest governance and may expose forest resources to increased exploitation, degradation and deforestation. More specifically, the mining sector (gold, bauxite) in Guyana's forest areas is the first cause of deforestation in Guyana, while the use of mercury (especially by artisanal and small scale gold miners) causes local land degradation and pollution of water resources.

These concerns related to Guyana's oil and mining economy present an opportunity for the EU to reassert itself as a green leader in the world, while playing a key role in the multifaceted greening of the economy through forest protection and preservation, to facilitate green governance and the continuation of Guyana as a green state and ensure adherence to strict ecological patterns.

The basis for programming are the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS - to be updated in 2022) and the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC). Partnering with the country on forest partnership initiatives (including mangroves) would contribute to achieving Guyana's LCDS objectives, but also be in line with EU's political commitments through the European Green Deal.³ The Green Deal sets out EU's response and commitments to tackling climate and environmental-related challenges through green alliances with like-minded partner countries and regions. This at a time when Guyana's rainforest is among the very few remaining in the world that are still fully intact.

The EU's engagement on forests in development cooperation is firmly enshrined as well in the European Consensus on Development, which affirms the EU's vision of development cooperation based on integrating economic, social and environmental dimensions. Additionally, Guyana's INDC clearly alludes to possibilities for financial partnerships to support initiatives, such as the "European Union - Forest Law Enforcement", Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement (EU- FLEGT VPA), which forms part of the country's conditional intended commitments, or incentivized prevention of deforestation.

The EU has benefitted, and continues to benefit, from good relations with the Government of Guyana. In addition to strengthening the EU's role as a development partner, a presence in the forest sector can also help to secure the EU's economic and political interests, therewith constituting a potential vantage point vis-à-vis other non-EU countries. In addition, at a time of change in Guyana, EU presence in this sector will in particular:

- (i) Further enhance the positive image of the EU as a reliable partner demonstrating long-term solidarity;
- (ii) provide excellent entry points for political and policy dialogue; and
- (iii) contribute to prevent replacement of the EU by other major players. Traditional close connections with the US are getting even stronger after Exxon-exploited massive oil discoveries have started to flow. Simultaneously, substantial Chinese presence is developing into rapidly growing influence.

³ European Green Deal, COM (2019) 640 final. 11.12.2019

All actions taken under this programming exercise shall comply with EU legislation, in particular EU restrictive measures (sanctions) adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

1.2. Status of joint programming

Joint programming with EU member states might be very limited as there is no member state embassy in Guyana and only few member states development programmes in the country for the time being. France might consider to deploy activities in Guyana through Agence Française de Développement (AFD), in close contact with the EU. Synergies will be sought with current support from the French Embassy to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Guyana, which seeks to build the capacity of indigenous peoples, notably through good governance. Through this project, an attempt will also be made to set up a multi-stakeholder committee (inclusive of the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs). Guyana is also beneficiary of the regional Future Forest – Amazonia Verde project, an initiative from the French government and implemented by Conservation International (CI), with the aim to support the conservation initiatives of 26 groups of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities from 7 Amazon countries⁴ to protect forests and conserve livelihoods.

Guyana is however in the same geographic area as the French EU outermost region French Guiana (as recognised under Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union), opening up opportunities for cooperation in the framework of Interreg. Under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), DG REGIO in shared management with the Collectivité Territoriale de Guyane, is preparing a new operational programme Amazonia 2021-2026. This programme, set for French Guiana under the EU cohesion policy, funded probably with EUR 19 M, is an Interreg programme with Suriname, Guyana and the Brazilian states of Amapá, Para and Amazonas. Up to 30% of the funds can be spent in these counties/regions that are neighbouring the EU beneficiary region (French Guiana).

The operational programme Amazonia is still under preparation. Some of the priorities will be closely related with a greener, better preserved and less polluted Guiana shield. It will also focus on biodiversity, green infrastructures in urban environment and reduction of pollution. This represents a possible match with the forest partnership of the present MIP.

Possible synergies between NDICI and ERDF have to be further explored, as well as management modalities that would allow to pursue a common objective, funded by two different funds. The only current example of such a match is the project of the ferry between France and Suriname, co-funded by the 11th EDF, ERDF and the French national budget. This project is a good example of partnership between NDICI and ERDF funds and a good incentive for further common ventures in the future.

For the implementation of the priority area defined in this MIP, the relevant services of the Commission shall discuss the implementing modalities and specific interventions to be used to implement this priority area, pursuant to draft Regulations NDICI (article 33), OAD (articles 72(c) and 82(4)) and ETC (article 55), which will be reflected as appropriate in the relevant Annual Action Plans/measures and within the Interreg programme(s).

1.3. Priority area of the EU cooperation with Guyana

⁴ Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname

Priority area: EU - Guyana Forest Partnership

Forest Partnerships are a pillar of the Green Alliances foreseen under the European Green Deal. They are an instrument to deliver on the EU Green Deal priorities in terms of climate and biodiversity as well as EU's development cooperation objectives like poverty alleviation, good governance and human rights. The main objective of the Forest Partnership with Guyana will be to address forests (including mangroves in a comprehensive and integrated way) – to protect, restore and/or ensure the sustainable use.

The importance and relevance of the EU-Guyana Forest Partnership as a priority area is supported and heightened by the country's geographical specificities (which include an at-risk coastline and a densely forested hinterland), the need for sustainable economic diversification in light of the country's future as a regional oil giant, and the sustained political will, which represents an opportunity and entry point for the EU to implement its Green Deal priorities and objectives.

1.4. Context and justification

Guyana is an Amazonian country given its expanse of tropical rainforest, but is also a Caribbean nation for its island-like concentration of population in a narrow coastal belt.⁵ Guyana's multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-linguistic characteristics, cobbled with its geographical specificities, provide the country with a double advantage of being both a Caribbean and South American nation of peoples. While the country shares a common colonial history and subsequent characteristics with other English-speaking neighbours in the Caribbean, it has pursued dual regional integration in both the Caribbean and the wider Latin American region. Drawing it close to South America is the fact that it is part of the world's vital Amazon basin and home to nine indigenous nations, as well as unique biodiversity and ecosystems. These similarities bind Guyana to South America through several instruments of regional cooperation, cemented, among others, by:

- The *Escazú Agreement* on the access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Guyana is one of the twelve countries having signed and ratified the agreement.
- *Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation* (ACTO/OCTA): Eight South American member states comprise ACTO, including Guyana and Suriname. ACTO specifically addresses development cooperation in the Amazon basin.
- The *Minamata Convention*: Guyana is a Party to the convention which addresses the use of mercury (notably in mining). All other South American countries, and several Caribbean and Latin American countries are also signatories. Its commitment to this convention is translated by a National Action Plan for Artisanal Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector project which commenced in 2019. Guyana ratified the Minamata Convention in 2014, and it has committed to disband the use of mercury in the mining sector by 2022.
- *EITI*: Guyana is one of the ten Latin American and Caribbean countries to be part of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), and the only English-speaking one. The Guyana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (GYEITI) is embedded in a 2012 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Guyana and the EITI. Under the purview of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the GYEITI secretariat has the objective to enhance the institutional framework that governs the management of the extractive industries (oil, gas and mineral resources), in view of promoting a global standard of

⁵ Guyana is therefore considered as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS). SIDS were recognized as a special case both for their environment and development at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

accountability and transparency in line with the EITI international prerogative. Nevertheless, gaps persist in terms of full independence of GYEITI from the Ministry of natural resources, its distinct budgetary sources and freedom to publish all reports, as well as awareness raising.

In 2019, Guyana presented a comprehensive First Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.⁶

Particularly related to SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land), Guyana has taken concrete steps to mitigate the effects of CC and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters (SDG 13.1), to integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning (SDG 13.2), and to keep deforestation rates low, in keeping with the national implementation of REDD+ (SDG 15.1; 15.2: 15.a). Various environmental education awareness have taken place as well (SDG 13.3).

However, challenges and gaps persist, especially in the areas of technical capacity, data and financing which hinders further progress. Additionally, legislation addressing mining on forest lands needs to be reinforced in Guyana, since gold mining – a high-earning industry – is the largest driver of deforestation (SDG 15.1; 15.2). Guyana has been and continues to promote the practice of reduced impact logging (SDG 15.1), however the country recognises the need for forest inventory to effectively implement this measure, hence the importance of the EU-FLEGT VPA. Another challenge for the forestry sector and the pursuit of low-carbon development is the need for sustained monitoring and reporting to meet national and international requirements. Finally, significant education and capacity programmes need to be further undertaken and sustained to ensure that sustainable practices in mining, forestry and even construction are adopted to minimise the impact of human activity (SDG 13.3).

Negotiations with Norway on the continuation of a forest agreement (through a phase two of the LCDS) are in advanced stages, and would aim to further enhance communities in the hinterland regions that depend on the forest and forest activities. These ongoing discussions provide opportunities for the EU to join efforts with a European partner (Norway), specifically in the area of forest governance, for the preservation of Guyana's forests.

It is for these reasons that the EU proposes to focus its sole priority area of this MIP on Forest Partnerships, addressing most of the challenges outlined above. Support to forest partnerships will contribute to the obtainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (cf. SDG list section 2.1), as well as to several national priorities under the INDC, of which:

- Rate of deforestation below 0.052% by 2025
- Expansion of the area under protection by 2 million ha by 2025
- Reduced impact logging practices by 20%

The general orientation of the EU-Guyana Forest Partnership is towards strengthening the intrinsic motivation for forest protection and restoration by reinforcing forest value chains based on sustainable management, for creation of decent jobs and income (SDG 8.3).

Human rights protection and promotion (which comprises gender equality, indigenous rights, persons with disabilities, etc.) will be mainstreamed throughout the different actions. Several EU documents will help to incorporate a rights-based approach in future cooperation activities,

⁶ https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24522Guyana_VNR2019.pdf

such as:

- (i) The EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024⁷
- (ii) The Gender Action Plan (GAP III)
- (iii) The Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy
- (iv) The Gender Country Profile
- (v) The GAP III Country Level Implementation Plan
- (vi) The CSO-LA Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society

Due to its multifaceted scope, this forest partnership can form the basis for an enabling environment for women and girls operating in the sector. Equal opportunities and access to capacity building, leadership roles and entrepreneurship (including in eco-tourism), are some areas where women can forge a strong presence. Indigenous women in particular are the backbone of hinterland communities and are the first to face the brunt of environmental degradation as they rely on the forest for their livelihoods and sustenance. In so doing, this programme will be contributing to achieving SDG targets 4.4, 4.7, 5.5, 5.a and 13.b. Beyond just obtaining sex-disaggregated data, this programme as implemented under a gender lens can stimulate positive institutional shifts and address gender blindness and biases across public, private and civil society sectors participating. Furthermore, the coordination with Indigenous Peoples, will seek opportunities for knowledge transfer and capacity development to facilitate the sustainable empowerment and socio economic advancement of women and girls.

Regarding the role and capacity of CSOs working on environmental thematic in Guyana, they possess varying levels of financial, operational and administrative capacity. Conservation International (CI) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) are renowned organisations in Guyana and are actively involved in the hinterland, providing community-led support.⁸ Local organisations addressing environmental issues (but not only) which are active on the ground, such as the Guyana Marine Conservation Society (GMCS), the South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS), the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) and the Caribbean Youth Environmental Network (CYEN), are heavily dependent on external support and have therefore less stable financial resources. Also, they may not possess the same level of technical expertise as other well-established organisations such as CI and WWF. They do however pay a lot of attention to conservation issues.

In comparison, the Iwokrama International Research Centre is the oldest conservation expert in Guyana and has a reputation of working well with other CSOs (including CI), forest communities and other grassroots organisations.

For CSOs working on indigenous peoples' rights, including the Amerindian Peoples Association (APA), environmental protection is considered a cross-cutting issue. They are, therefore, involved in interagency consultations, such as with the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) to ensure that their capacity and access to information is strengthened in the respective processes (such as with the FLEGT VPA).

In view of the above, the roles of CSOs in forest partnerships can be diverse, ranging from expert implementing partners, to building capacity and ensuring participatory decision making (notably for forest/indigenous peoples). The expertise of Civil Society lie particularly in the

⁷ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/46838/st12848-en20.pdf>

⁸ CI is involved in community-led projects, capacity building in communities, awareness raising, policy dialogue and innovations in science and finance; testing and demonstration of innovation. Similarly, WWF uses the same community approach with forest communities and additionally, they engage the private sector to improve entire supply chains with more sustainable and responsible extraction and production systems linked to use of natural resources (forest, gold (also linked to impacts on freshwater), fisheries).

areas of advocacy for human rights, gender equality, good governance (incl. budget and fiscal governance), transparency, accountability and monitoring (e.g. independent observation function of timber supply chains).

The EU is already an important stakeholder in Guyana's forest governance (since 2012), through the EU-FLEGT VPA, which seeks to enhance the timber legality, forest use and sustainable management. At the end of 2018, the Government of Guyana initialled the Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU, entering into an agreement for the implementation of the EU FLEGT (SDG 15.2).

Guyana is also beneficiary of the EU ACP Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) programme, as the only country in South America (2017-2024). The SWM programme is an international initiative that aims to improve wildlife conservation and food security, through innovative, collaborative and scalable new approaches to conserve wild animals and protect ecosystems. At the same time it aims to improve the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and rural communities who depend on these resources. The SWM project in Guyana is encouraging coordinated community-driven initiatives that support food security and traditional livelihoods in the Rupununi savannah.

In addition, thanks to previous EU support, Guyana has been able to reinforce its coastal defences (under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Budget Support and "Global Climate Change Alliance" projects; yet the threat of sea level rise and coastal floods due to CC is a continuous challenge to these sea defence structures (SDG 13.1).

The different tasks on mangroves carried out during the implementation of the ICZM identified multiple challenges to still be addressed:

- Formulating an overarching policy for ensuring inter-sectoral cooperation for building resilient mangrove ecosystems and ensuring adequate funding for strengthening government institutions.
- Legislative redundancy: Lack of clarity and gaps in mangrove protection. While there is, in general, a comprehensive "toolkit" of legal protections and management powers that exists, a combination of gaps in implementation or application together with insufficient or weak inter-institutional cooperation on policy and implementation mean that there are significant gaps in mangrove protection.
- Development of reserve management plans: The Barima-Mora Passage special protected area draft management plan developed in the context of the ICZM programme should be reviewed by the government agencies responsible for mangrove management and with Region 1 authorities, and then presented to and discussed with the indigenous communities that would be affected by the management plan, following Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) guidelines.

These lessons learned have informed the development of this current MIP.

1.5. Duration of the MIP and options for synchronization

This country MIP will have a duration of 7 years with a financial allocation for the initial period 2021-2024. A review is foreseen in 2024, which will provide the necessary flexibility to adjust to new contexts. Additional ad hoc reviews will be possible where and when needed.

With a new government in place since August 2020, the EU can expect to align its programming in 2021 with the national development plan of the government.

The 2015 INDC has a lifespan of 10 years ending in 2025, which makes it still relevant to the current country context. Although the INDC envisions a review in the near future, it is unlikely that there would be a significant shift from the main conditional and unconditional intended commitments.

2. EU support per priority area and TEI proposals

2.1. Priority Area: An EU-Guyana Forest Partnership

Considering that sustainable natural resources management in the forestry sector is a salient priority for coastal protection and flood mitigation; that it is crucial for economic diversification and employment creation; and that Guyana is open to international alliances, this MIP priority area 1 is presented as follows:

“An EU-Guyana Forest Partnership for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of Guyana’s rainforests, savannahs and mangroves.”

<p>Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):</p>	<p>1 No Poverty 5 Gender Equality 8 Decent work and Economic Growth 13 Climate Action 15 Life on Land 17 Partnerships for the Goals</p>
<p>Indicative Sectors covered (DAC codes):</p>	<p>312 Forestry 160 Other Social Infrastructure & Services” (“Employment creation”) 410 General Environment Protection</p>

To enhance the impact of EU’s action, programmes should address interlinkages between SDGs, to promote integrated actions that can create synergies and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. The NDICI 2021-2027 includes a climate change spending target ensuring the fight against climate change is mainstreamed throughout all programmes and actions. This MIP fully aligns with this requirement.

A key aspect of a forest partnership is to ensure full participation of all segments of society that have an interest in forest management. Via a multi-stakeholder approach, including civil society, indigenous organisations and private sector, it will be endeavoured to establish a shared vision on forestry, forest functions, ecological connectivity, and sustainable use (SDG 13.b; 15.1; 15.2; 15.6).

Guyana has a large indigenous population in the hinterland and EU assistance will prioritize the involvement of indigenous people in all programme activities. Poverty in indigenous communities is higher than the national average.⁹ Their inclusion and equal access to opportunities will form an integral part of all aspects of value chain development (SDG 8.3; 8.5; 8.9). Furthermore, enhancement of value chain development needs to be socially fair. Therefore, trade union representatives will also be included in multi-stakeholder coordination

⁹ Guyana Indigenous Peoples Survey of 2014 (IADB). The national poverty rate figured at 36.1% at the time.

events, to ensure that targets and agreements are in consideration of workers interests. Human rights interest groups may also be invited to specific forums such as those concerning the participation, inclusion and sectoral welfare of women, youth and other marginalised groups.

Additionally, to ensure the sustainable management and exploitation of forest resources in view of minimising the impact on biodiversity and the environment, conservation organisations will be duly consulted and may be invited to multi-stakeholder coordination activities. Their role in safeguarding and monitoring the environment (wildlife and biodiversity in general) can be crucial in this forest partnership (SDG 15.4; 15.5).

Finally, involvement of the private sector in the design of initiatives is also critical, particularly prioritising the private sector operators that have a direct relationship to the value chain. Having regard to their important role in economic development and decent job creation (SDG 8.3; 8.5), their early involvement may also help to increase efficiency in service delivery and enhance successful results.

Possible **risks** to the forest partnership:

- Margins in logging are slim, both for large and small concessions. Therefore, the MIP could potentially study business margins, conduct activities to reduce production and logistical costs, reduce inefficiencies, and stimulate investment in value added production.
- (Illegal) mining and its contribution to deforestation/ land degradation. The MIP may support development of a better detection and response capacity among GFC and other agencies which are tasked to monitor and screen forest activities.
- A large share of Guyana's forest area is unattended (10.7 million ha). In order to ensure a consistent low rate of forest loss and degradation for Guyana and to preserve endangered species of flora and fauna, Guyana needs a pro-active strategy of protection and conservation of its idle or unmanaged forests to prevent these become playgrounds for illegal activities such as mining, wildlife trapping or other illegal activities.
- Fore-shore mangrove restoration may not withstand extreme weather events. The MIP must take extreme weather conditions into account.
- Ocean oil spills from the expanding oil and gas industry. Government is to ensure proper oversight of safety measures in this sector.
- Urban sprawl in the coastal zone (where 90% of population live). A well developed integrated coastal zone management planning is to anticipate housing needs.
- Guyana has a border conflict with Venezuela, which is now under review at the Court of Internal Justice, and this requires continuous monitoring of the political situation.
- Migrants from Venezuela are seeking refuge in Guyana but not in very big numbers thus far (data from 2020: 26,000 people). No immediate concern for the state of the forests apart from some Warau indigenous people, settling with their kins in the mangroves in Region 1 and practising slash and burn agriculture.
- COVID-19 is regarded as a temporary constraint, tourism should pick up again once travel restrictions can be lifted. Further development of the domestic tourism market is crucial, which can gain importance also due to the expansion of the oil and gas sector, and its workers with growing purchase capacity.

2.1.1 Specific objectives related to the priority area

The following SOs will be considered:

SO 1: Improve forest governance

The interior of Guyana is sparsely populated and difficult accessible, the dominant population there being Indigenous. The large hinterland supports traditional income-earning sectors, mainly mining (precious minerals and bauxite) and forestry, which are responsible for deforestation and land degradation. The MIP will therefore have a component for improvement of forest governance via, amongst others, continuation of the EU VPA-FLEGT process (through implementation of the Joint Implementation Framework); as well as improved coordination and monitoring capacities of the dense forest areas for the state agencies involved. Noteworthy to highlight here are the monitoring and early detection services provided by the EU's Earth observation programme Copernicus. Digital technologies can help connect communities often distant and otherwise poorly connected to administrations. The use of Copernicus services could be the introduction to innovative digital cooperation between EU and Guyana in the area of sustainable use of forest.

In addition, focusing on governance issues, such as transparency, sustainable natural resources management and Public Finance Management (PFM) may help to maintain balance, which could in turn contribute to economic diversification through responsibly managed forest partnerships and assist in ensuring deforestation-free supply chains. Domestic Revenue Mobilisation (DRM), including revenues from natural resources, needs to be an essential component of countries' public finance reform programmes and part of the policy dialogue between the EU and partner countries. Promoting DRM does not only mean to increase the volume, i.e. the level of revenues collected, but also to improve the quality, i.e. equity, transparency, fairness and efficiency of the whole process and system. DRM is directly linked to the 'social contract' between the relevant stakeholders and a sovereign country.¹⁰

This will be complemented by support for transparency and accountability in the extractive sectors, of which gold mining is the first cause of deforestation in Guyana. GYEITI's latest report (2019) has established causal links between important institutional weaknesses and corrupt practices in the mining sector, which might ultimately be contributing to illegal mining. A well-regulated mining sector is vital to combat illegal mining as well as the other illicit activities it often engenders such as trafficking in human beings (THB), including of Venezuelan migrant women.

SO 2: Enhance livelihood opportunities of forest communities

In addition, this MIP will have a component on enhancing sustainable livelihood opportunities in forestry (wood, crafts, non-timber forest products (NTFP), sustainable wildlife management (SWM) etc.) via strengthening the communities in terms of capacity and market countervailing power (via access to finance), as well as via strengthening the wood processing sector. Especially indigenous and tribal entrepreneurs will be assisted, by means of specific training and education, with improvement of operations (better skills, better equipment, chain of custody) as well as improvement of market links and access to finance (appropriate and affordable financial services).

Attention will also be given to the development of options for responsible (artisanal and small-scale) mining through awareness raising educational campaigns.

Furthermore, EU will support the creation of alternative job opportunities through the Guyana Tourism Authority to result in decent jobs and income for community nature based eco-tourism

¹⁰ Tools and methods Series. Guidelines N° 7. 2017 EC Budget Support Guidelines

initiatives that are sustainable in terms of pressure to natural resources and waste management. Here as well training and skills development initiatives will be part of the intervention.

Employment effects must benefit women, youth and indigenous people foremostly. Developing entrepreneurial capacities in forestry and tourism, with a particular attention to co-operative, small and micro-business initiatives, aimed at indigenous populations, shall include creative industries and cultural tourism aspects as they both contribute to empowerment and creation of decent jobs.

SO 3: Expand PES/forest carbon projects

A third component of the Forest Partnership will be dedicated to enhancement of self-reliant funding mechanisms other than from wood production or tourism, via development of payment for environmental services (PES) mechanisms. In Guyana, PES is mostly synonymous with carbon offset payments. While the existing Guyana REDD Investment Fund (GRIF), funded by Norway's International Forests and Climate Initiative (NICFI) has ended, NICFI is preparing a follow-up scheme.¹¹ However, the slow spending rate of GRIF (USD 130 million out of 250 million available since 2015 yet to be allocated) is indicative of the high requirements of these schemes, and the need for assistance to Guyana partners agencies in preparing of proposals.

The MIP will therefore work with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Guyana Forestry Commission, the Protected Areas Commission and the Sea Defence Board on an overall investment agenda for forest carbon funding via facilitation of a series of technical studies into the forest carbon potential in e.g. fore-shore mangrove restoration, the protection of non-productive forest areas, forest certification and reduced impact logging, community forest protection, and forest monitoring. The MIP will ensure that proposals will be developed with full inclusion of forest communities and private sector, with due attention to FPIC (free and prior information and consent) as well as fair sharing of benefits. Next, proposals can be prepared for a broader range of possible funds, beyond GRIF or its successor scheme, e.g. also targeting the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the Green Climate Fund, or other similar schemes. Closer by, carbon offset schemes may be proposed to Guyana's oil and gas industry to compensate for their growing emissions and to keep the country on a low carbon development pathway. Enterprises active in that sector in Guyana have a corporate environmental responsibility which could be reflected i.a. in proportionate support for significant carbon reduction projects, funded by these enterprises.

SO 4: Protect and restore mangrove forests

The majority of the population (some 90%) live along the narrow, cultivated coastal strip which lays below sea level (on average 1.5 m below high sea tide level), thereby placing the population and economy at high risk of floods and natural disasters resulting from climate change. Coastal protection is, therefore, a high priority. Restoration of historic range of mangrove in the fore-shore area can act as a buffer by absorption of wave energy while mangroves have the capacity to trap sediments and reclaim land on the sea.

Capitalising on previous EU support with mangrove protection and management in Guyana, this MIP will further continue in this area by supporting institutional inter-agency coordination leading to an integrated coastal protection plan (including establishment of protected areas), while shoreline communities will be assisted with development of value chains for such mangrove products as honey, shellfish, charcoal and eco-tourism. MIP funding will be used to

¹¹ <https://www.artredd.org/>

develop an institutional basis for community exploitation of mangrove resources (e.g. via a community concession model and production modules in function of buyer agreements and market needs) and community members (with priority for women and youth) will be assisted in development of their production capacity in terms of skills, equipment and finance. Since mangroves have a very high carbon sequestration potential, forest carbon also has potential as a revenue stream, apart from the others products mentioned above.

2.1.2 Expected results per specific objective

SO 1: Improve forest governance

- a) EU FLEGT VPA support consolidated in Guyana
- b) Inter-agency coordination and reporting (domestic, regional) improved on forest related matters
- c) Improved capacity for detection of and responding to illegal activities on forest lands
- d) Enhanced transparency in extractive industries, based on EITI standards
- e) Forest governance reforms (especially DRM and PFM actions) developed
- f) Increased participation of women and girls in decision-making processes on environment and climate change issues

SO 2: Enhance livelihood opportunities of forest communities

- a) Access to finance improved for community and MSME forest-related livelihood initiatives (wood and non-timber forest products (NTFP) sector)
- b) Capacity enhanced among small and medium-scale forest sector operators
- c) Awareness raised amongst forest communities on responsible mining
- d) Tourism skills and products improved for community tourism initiatives (benefiting youth and women specifically)
- e) Enhanced conditions for nature based eco-tourism circuits (through marketing, tourism infrastructure and services, site accessibility) and SWM

SO 3: Expand PES/forest carbon projects

- a) PES (carbon) finance accessed for forest conservation, with due attention to Free and prior informed consent (FPIC) and fair sharing of costs and benefits

SO 4: Protect and restore mangrove forests

- a) Overarching policy for ensuring mangroves institutional coordination developed
- b) Integrated coastal protection plan consolidated
- c) Market links strengthened for community producer groups in mangroves

2.1.3 Indicators (including baseline and targets), per expected result

See Attachment 1 for an overview of indicators, baseline and targets relative to each of the results.

2.1.4 Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

While MIP funds are issued as grants, these could create the enabling conditions for further investments by EFSD+ instruments via support to forest governance, feasibility studies, and capacity development. MIP support will be instrumental in identification of investment

opportunities that will benefit especially indigenous groups, youth and women, while at the same time contributing to coastal disaster risk mitigation and biodiversity conservation.

Guyana's debt-sustainability analysis (DSA) shows that the risk of external and overall debt distress remains moderate at present, but debt dynamics will improve significantly with the oil production and will give the country substantial space to absorb shocks. Repayment capacity is measured against GDP, exports of goods and services, or government revenues.¹² Therefore, due to the expected revenues from the oil and gas sector, the repayment capacity of the country would be strengthened.

In the short term and based on the forecasts included in the national budgets, the government would need international loans and grants, as part of the transition period, in the coming years.

ESFD+ offers the opportunity for leveraging of sovereign loans, Development Finance Institutions (DFI) financing for private sector, local commercial financing as well as local and foreign private investments as follows:

EFSD+ guarantees

- **Guarantee for sovereign and sub-sovereign loans:** The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the exclusive implementer, unless unable or unwilling to carry out operations. These could be aimed towards grey-green infrastructural works for coastal defence (with a focus on 'green'); road and port infrastructure for logistical improvements in the wood value chain; or access roads for priority tourism circuits. In case EIB is unable to carry out these kind of operations, other donors as AFD, WB (IDA) and IDB have indicated high eligibility of Guyana for sovereign loans.
- **Guarantee for private sector:** can be instrumental in leveraging resources from pillar assessed financial institutions. Although the European preference prevails, other international and regional DFIs could also participate from this window. DFIs with a potential interest in Guyana include AFD-Proparco, IDB Invest or IDBLab. Private sector investments in wood production, wood processing and exports, or in tourism products and facilities are key for Guyana.

Blending

- EFSD+ blending funds with private sector investments is an instrument with potential in Guyana and it could target the forest sector, micro, small and medium size enterprises; sustainable cities, as well as water and renewable energy. Blending's technical assistance component will be particularly relevant to finance training programmes in sustainable forest management or tourism. Possible partners for blending could be among other AFD.

It is noted that both regional and national priorities can guide national interventions under the different EFSD+ windows (guarantees and blending).

2.2. Proposals of country/multi-country regional TEIs

A Team Europe Initiative on Forest Partnership has been identified for Guyana and Suriname. The contribution of this MIP to this TEI will indicatively be EUR 16 million under the Priority Area 1 (76% of the total MIP allocation for the first phase). This TEI and the foreseen indicative amount will also contribute to the Amazonia TEI in light of the possible

¹² IMF: Guyana 2019 Article IV Consultation.

alignment and synergies between the country and regional level, and thus potential direct support to the expected results at regional level.

1) Guyana/Suriname TEI on Forest Partnership

Guyana shares many geographic and environmental characteristics with neighbouring Suriname, for which reason a shared TEI has been prepared for both countries, with parallel initiatives on forest management and many opportunities for bilateral coordination between the countries and sharing of lessons - especially on such themes as mangrove restoration and controlling of illegal mining activities. The Guyana-Suriname TEI has formed the basis for the development of the MIP. France (through AFD) could be a potential partner in the Guyana-Suriname TEI.

2) Amazonia TEI

In addition, the cross-border nature of certain issues that affect forest management, such as illegal trafficking, illegal mining and exploitation of natural resources require a supra-national approach in order to be effectively tackled. Therefore, a specific multi-country TEI focusing on the Amazon region aims to enhance coherence and coordination in forest management while ensuring a better visibility and impact of EU interventions. A regional TEI is justified by the decisive and unique role that this region plays to mitigate climate change and preserve biodiversity for both its countries and the entire world.

The Amazonia TEI proposes four pillars of intervention built on the results and lessons from cooperation in the Amazonian basin during the period 2014-2020. The 4 pillars are in line with the proposed objectives under this MIP for Guyana on Forest Partnership:

- Pillar 1: Sustainable and inclusive natural resources and biodiversity management. Sustainable forest management, management and sustainable use of wildlife and forest products, biodiversity management, protected areas.
- Pillar 2: Green and inclusive growth, sustainable livelihood and quality services for all. Sustainable food, agriculture and deforestation free value chains, sustainable trade (notably in the context of EU FTAs), decent job opportunities for both men and women in the green economy, quality services for the population of Amazonia.
- Pillar 3: Environmental governance and human rights. Strengthening of civil society, community associations and women's organisations, land planning and tenure, rule of law, environmental law enforcement, environmental safeguards, indigenous people rights and environmental and human rights, illicit trafficking, environmental crimes.
- Pillar 4: Green investments. The development of a business environment that takes into account environmental, social and governance considerations and is conducive to investments in sustainable activities, allowing for green, inclusive and resilient transitions.

Complementarities and joint actions between the interventions proposed under this MIP and the TEIs will be sought when and where relevant to boost EU and member state engagement and maximise impact.

The EU's indicative contribution to this TEI (EUR 16 million) is subject to the confirmation of the Team Europe partners' indicative meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the absence thereof, the EU's indicative contribution may be redirected in accordance with the priority areas of the MIP and their allocations. The obligation of the Union and the Member States to coordinate their development policies following initiatives by the Commission to this

effect, as per article 210 TFEU, always applies.

These TEI proposals are indicative and will be further explored and developed during the implementation of the MIP and might be modified where needed, also taking into consideration other TEIs in the region, including the TEI on Security and Justice in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Finally, under the Caribbean window of the Caribbean Regional MIP, the EU will continue to support the region through a Partnership for a Caribbean Green Deal, whose key priorities include the countries' increased climate and environmental resilience and adaptation, climate mitigation through promotion of renewable energies and forestation, disaster risk management, and the protection and management of natural resources (ocean/water, biodiversity, forestry).

2.3. Subregional and multi-country dimension

In the Caribbean, EU action for the next 7 years will be framed by three mutually reinforcing Partnerships on: 1) Green Deal; 2) Economic resilience and trade; and 3) Governance, security and human development. The EU engagement in the country cannot lose sight of the importance of the articulation of bilateral, multi-country and sub-regional actions within these Partnerships. To that extent, multi-country approaches that allow to build on political opportunities and economies of scale could be promoted and supported from bilateral allocations.

2.4. Support to investments under the EFSD+

Support to investments under the EFSD+ for Guyana country MIP is provided under section 2.1.4. As regards suggestions for regional/multi-country MIPs, there is opportunity to synchronize EFSD+ investments between Suriname and Guyana, at the Amazon regional level or Caribbean regional level.

Subject to confirmation during the implementation phase, it is expected that an indicative amount of up to 28% of the resources of this MIP may be used to provision EFSD+ guarantees and to finance bilateral and regional blending operations to which the country will be eligible. From this indicative amount about one third would be dedicated to EFSD+ provisioning, representing 2 million euros for 2021-2024 under the priority area of Forest partnership.

Sustainable finance represents a real potential in the region and could help accelerate financial flows towards green, inclusive and resilient transitions.

3. Support measures

3.1. Measures in favour of civil society

It is anticipated that civil society will be part of the actions of this MIP. Only if certain relevant actions fall outside of the SOs, it is recommended to include separate civil society support measures.

Support to CSOs will be ensured through a three-dimensional approach addressing gaps and needs in advocacy and capacity strengthening, and the implementation of activities. Moreover, it is in the EU's interest to support efforts by Guyane to effectively implement relevant international labour standards in this area (and notably fundamental ILO conventions on freedom of association C87 and collective bargaining C98).

The advocacy component will involve the participation of CSOs in activities revolving around the regulatory framework enabling forest partnerships, as well the improved cohesion where possible of interagency collaboration/coordination. A wide scope of CSOs, including those working on indigenous peoples' rights such as the APA, and sustainable growth and decent jobs (some women's empowerment CSOs included), may be concerned by this type of activity. If the FPIC of indigenous communities is required for some activities, the involvement of the National Toshias Council (NTC) will be essential.

Strengthening the capacity of CSOs is also key to bolstering the sustainability of this forest partnership. Capacity needs of grassroots CSOs should be addressed, such as the SRCS, the NRDDDB, the NTC, the Forest Products Association (FPA) or other associations representing small timber and non-timber producers.

Finally, CSOs specialised in forest governance and conservation are foreseeable implementing partners for activities necessitating scientific expertise or community engagement. CI Guyana and the Iwokrama International Research Centre are two such CSOs with years of successful experience in community-based conservation, forest monitoring and research. Both organisations have also developed healthy relationships with forest peoples. The protection of mangroves and the unique biodiversity can be assumed by organisations such as the GMCS, as well as the Guiana Shield Facility (GSF) which also benefits from regional integration through the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Agreement (ACTO) among others.

In addition to mainstreaming gender balance and priority to women participation, as well as strong focus on indigenous participation, the MIP could benefit from some additional measures to strengthen the position of women, of indigenous groups, and of workers in general within the forest sector as follows:

- Gender sensitivity training of all agencies and organisations that cooperate under the forest partnership.
- Training of indigenous organisations in entrepreneurship and in negotiation skills.
- Training on workers rights.

3.2. Cooperation facility

MIP implementation requires support with preparation of action documents, preparation of terms of references, technical backstopping, stakeholder dialogue, progress monitoring and reporting. DG INTPA Forests for the Future Facility has been created to support the development of forest partnerships, and could provide such assistance to some extent from its own resources. More particularly, the Forests for the Future Facility can assist with programme oversight and monitoring and evaluation. Similarly, this Facility can assist with MIP communication and sharing of lessons learned both domestically, but also regionally among Leticia Pact signatories or ACTO member countries. Separate support with the deployment of FLEGT can be drawn from the ALA Facility.

In addition, a specific Cooperation facility is also foreseen in this MIP. This Cooperation Facility will cater for TA support in specific areas of interest for Guyana, including governance. The 2020 political crisis in Guyana was a perfect illustration of the impact of the shortcomings in governance, and how they stand in the way as formidable obstacles to sustainable and

inclusive development. The institutional and legal frailty and shortcomings were underlined by the major international community partners, as well as the EU Electoral Observation Mission (EU EOM)¹³. The EU EOM provided a highly meaningful and far-reaching set of recommendations in the area of electoral reform and beyond, which provide an excellent foundation for further action. In discussion with the Government of Guyana, the Cooperation Facility could support TA in different aspects of governance such as security sector reform, judicial and constitutional reform, and electoral reform, in light of the EOM recommendations (i.a. technical support to constitutional and electoral reform processes, GECOM and media monitoring). Support in strengthening governance may in part contribute to sealing existing gaps, as well as to help better prepare the country in its transition to becoming an economy primarily based on oil extraction. Stronger institutions and public systems will support the reduction of inequalities and the creation of an enabling environment for private, public and civil sectors. By extent, this will contribute to enhancing human development. Supporting legislative, judicial and economic reforms will also help to strengthen democracy, citizen's participation and inclusion in national decision-making processes.

This Cooperation facility will also be used for, inter alia:

- Supporting capacity development and institutional building, including through technical assistance (TA) and exchange of public expertise, such as TAIEX and Twinning.
- Supporting policy dialogues: events, conferences, studies, fellowships, exchange platforms to support sector dialogues leading to policy reforms and engagement with governments and other stakeholders.
- Support to facilitate joint programming / Team Europe coordination at country level.
- Actions may also support the participation of Guyana in EU programmes and cooperation with EU agencies, where relevant.
- Financing communication including strategic communication and fight against disinformation and visibility actions on EU cooperation and public diplomacy specific interventions to promote EU policies as well as its multilateral agenda in the partner country.
- Supporting the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the Union's cooperation, including via TA.
- Thematic areas such as gender, children and other vulnerable minorities can also be given more attention through dedicated TA and training (see above).
- TA can also be considered to guide and support early-stage project preparations for EFSD+ interventions by eligible DFIs, including the EIB (eg. studies, including environmental and social impact assessments, and (pre-)feasibility studies).

In the framework of the EU endeavours to reinforce its public diplomacy, and building on the experience of the Partnership Instrument and other good practices as described in the note on Public Diplomacy accompanying the programming guidelines, it is proposed to consider actions in this area, which could include:

- Dedicated long-term public diplomacy initiatives allowing to foster and mobilising specific networks, target groups and partners.
- Initiatives allowing to connect and leverage existing EU programmes and initiatives for Public Diplomacy purposes (e.g. Erasmus+, Jean Monnet Actions, Creative Europe).

When relevant, bilateral initiatives involving national initiatives will be connected at the regional and global levels (e.g. regional youth fora, civil society fora, business fora) in order to

¹³ An EU Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) was deployed to observe the general elections of March 2020. A second mission of EU EOM took place end of March 2021 whereby a set of recommendations were shared with stakeholders and presented during a press event

reinforce the understanding of multilateralism, highlight the role of the EU as a global player and foster intercultural dialogue (while, at the same time, allow developing operational synergies). Building on current good practices, public diplomacy initiatives could also reinforce the ‘Team Europe’ approach and joined-up public diplomacy initiatives could be organised across EU services, EU institutions and with Member States.

4. Financial overview

Although the duration of this MIP is seven years, the indicative allocations for Guyana and for each of the priority areas and support measures laid down in the table below are provided for the 2021-2024 period only. The indicative allocations for 2025-2027, as well as the possible modification of other substantial elements of this MIP, will be subject to a decision by the EU. This decision should be preceded by a review of the implementation of this MIP, which should include a dialogue with the authorities and other stakeholders of Guyana.

Overall indicative amount (for first MIP period until synchronised review for Country MIPs and mid-term review for multi-country/regional MIP):

MIP GUYANA	<i>million €</i>	<i>% of total</i>
Priority area: Forest Partnership for restoration, protection and sustainable use of Guyana’s forests	17.5	83.3%
Support measures	3.5	16.7%
TOTAL for initial period	21	100%

Attachment 1: Intervention framework

Note 1: As part of **mainstreaming of gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment** (SDG 5) in all EU supported programmes, it is important to design programmes and strategies based on information about gender (division of tasks, responsibilities, and access to assets and information, training and decision making. For instance, the analysis of value chains should be done in such a way that gender-based constraints and solutions are identified (so separately analysed for men and women). Implication is that indicators, as in table below, should integrate this dimension and sex-disaggregated data be collected and analysed during project implementation and monitoring.

Priority area: Forest Partnership			
Specific objective 1: Improve forest governance			
Expected results	Indicators	Baseline and targets	Means of verification
a) EU FLEGT VPA consolidated in Guyana (through support to the preparation of FLEGT licensing)	a1) Number of processes related to partner country practices on trade, investment and business, or promoting the external dimension of EU internal policies or EU interest, which have been influenced [EURF indicator 16]	Baseline: 0 Target: 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPA ratification document • FLEGT licensing registry
b) Inter-agency coordination and reporting (domestic, regional) improved on forest related matters	b1) Number of countries supported by the EU to strengthen investment climate [EURF indicator 17]	Baseline: 0 Target: 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central registry of land tenure and permits for forest lands • Annual reports ref international treaties (Leticia Pact, Minamata convention, etc.)
c) Improved capacity for detection of and responding to illegal activities on forest lands	c1) Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under a) protection b) sustainable management with EU support (ha) [EURF indicator 9]	Baseline: 0 ha Target: below 11,040 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual MRV report • Annual GFC report on illegal forest practices detected
	c2) Number of people supported by the EU with enhanced access to digital government services [EURF indicator 12]	Baseline: 0 Target: 5,000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GFC public web page count of visitors

d) Enhanced transparency in extractive industries, based on EITI standards	d1) Number of processes related to partner country practices on trade, investment and business, or promoting the external dimension of EU internal policies or EU interest, which have been influenced [EURF indicator 16]	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports submitted to GYEITI by extractive companies • EIA field inspection reports and water samples
e) Forest governance reforms (especially DRM and PFM actions) developed	e1) Number of countries supported by the EU to strengthen revenue mobilisation, public financial management and/or budget transparency [EURF indicator 20]	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 (2019) <u>Target:</u> 1 country supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFM/DRM diagnostic reports
f) Increased participation of women and girls in all their diversity in decision-making processes on environment and climate change issues	f1) Number of women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, activists and environmental rights defenders acting as agents of change on fighting climate change and pursuing environmental justice, at local, national and regional level, disaggregated at least by sex, with EU support.	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 200 (to be validated) ¹⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports of government, EU and specialised organisations

Specific objective 2: Enhance livelihood opportunities of forest communities

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline and targets	Means of verification
a) Access to finance improved for community and MSME forest-related livelihood initiatives (wood and non-timber forest products (NTFP) sector)	a1) Number of beneficiaries with access to financial services with EU support: a) firms b) Individuals [EURF indicator 18]	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 100 enterprises and 500 individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from financial intermediaries supported by EU • Survey among companies or individuals in forestry or tourism
b) Capacity enhanced among small and medium-scale forest sector operators	b1) Number of green jobs supported/sustained by the EU [EURF indicator 14]	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company records • GFC statistics and reports

¹⁴ The responsible government authorities and bodies will provide data during the drafting of the Action Documents for the implementation of the actions.

	b2) Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land/forest certification [EURF indicator 1]	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIL certificates issued
	b3) Number of people who have benefited from institution or workplace based VET/skills development interventions supported by the EU, disaggregated for digital skills [EURF indicator 15]	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 4,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIL training reports by service providers
c) Awareness raised amongst forest communities on responsible mining.	c1) Number of green jobs supported/sustained by the EU [EURF indicator 14]	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 green jobs supported/sustained by the EU <u>Target:</u> 1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote sensing information on mining operations • Survey of artisanal/illegal mines • Training reports by service providers.
	c2) Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land / forest certification [EURF indicator 1]	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 (all artisanal mining operations still using mercury) <u>Target:</u> 500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote sensing information on mining operations • Survey of artisanal/illegal mines • Training reports by service providers.
	c3) Number of people who have benefited from institution or workplace based VET/skills development interventions supported by the EU, disaggregated for digital skills [EURF indicator 15]	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 (no training in responsible mining with EU support) <u>Target:</u> 1,000 people (f/m) trained in mercury-free mining with EU support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote sensing information on mining operations • Survey of artisanal/illegal mines • Training reports by service providers.
d) Tourism skills and products improved for community	d1) Number of jobs supported/sustained by the EU, disaggregated for green jobs [EURF indicator 12]	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District statistics on licensed tourism facilities (lodges, restaurants, tour agencies) • Training reports by service providers

tourism initiatives (benefiting youth and women specifically)	d2) Number of people who have benefited from institution or workplace based VET/skills development interventions supported by the EU, disaggregated for digital skills [EURF indicator 15]	Baseline: 0 Target: 500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District statistics on licensed tourism facilities (lodges, restaurants, tour agencies) Training reports by service providers
e) Enhanced conditions for nature based eco-tourism circuits (through marketing, tourism infrastructure and services, site accessibility) and SWM	e1) Total length of transport infrastructure supported by the EU (kms): a) roads; b) rail-ways; c) waterways [EURF indicator 19]	Baseline: 0 Target: 300 km upgraded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District statistics on road conditions District statistics on internet network
	e2) number of people with access to internet with EU support	Baseline: 0 Target: 2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District statistics on road conditions District statistics on internet network

Specific objective 3: Expand PES/forest carbon projects

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline and targets	Means of verification
a) PES (carbon) finance accessed for forest conservation, with due attention to Free and prior informed consent (FPIC) and fair sharing of costs and benefits	a1) Number of beneficiaries with access to financial services with EU support: a) firms b) Individuals [EURF indicator 18]	Baseline: 0 Target: 1,000 beneficiaries in 10 forest firms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey among forest concessions GFC forest monitoring records MRV study details for mangroves and rainforests
	a2) Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under a) protection b) sustainable management with EU support (ha) EURF indicator 9]	Baseline: 0 Target: 500,000 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey among forest concessions GFC forest monitoring records MRV study details for mangroves and rainforests
	a3) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions avoided (tonnes CO ₂ eq) with EU support [EURF indicator 7]	Baseline: 0 Target: 21 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey among forest concessions GFC forest monitoring records MRV study details for mangroves and rainforests
	a4) Number of jobs supported/sustained by the EU, disaggregated for green jobs [EURF indicator 12]	Baseline: 0 Target: 2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey among forest concessions GFC forest monitoring records MRV study details for mangroves and rainforests

Specific objective 4: Restore and protect mangroves forests			
Expected results	Indicators	Baseline and targets	Means of verification
a) Overarching policy for ensuring mangroves institutional coordination developed	a1) Number of countries and cities with climate change and/or disaster risk reduction strategies: a) developed, b) under implementation with EU support [EURF indicator 5]	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of laws, regulations and jurisdictions • Steering group minutes and records
b) Integrated coastal protection plan consolidated	b1) Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under a) protection b) sustainable management with EU support (ha) [EURF indicator 9]	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 ha <u>Target:</u> 57,000 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master plan document • GFC MRV studies
c) Market links strengthened for community producer groups in mangroves	c1) Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land [EURF indicator 1]	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 500 mangrove community members (youth, women) trained in income generating schemes by 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training reports by service providers • Survey among mangrove initiatives • Financial records kept by financial intermediaries
	c2) Number of jobs supported/sustained by the EU, disaggregated for green jobs [EURF indicator 14]	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 1,000 new jobs in sustainable use of mangrove forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training reports by service providers • Survey among mangrove initiatives • Financial records kept by financial intermediaries
	c3) Number of beneficiaries with access to financial services with EU support: a) firms b) Individuals [EURF indicator 18]	<u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Target:</u> 10 community mangrove concessions (firms) with EU financial support by 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training reports by service providers • Survey among mangrove initiatives • Financial records kept by financial intermediaries

Attachment 2: Donor matrix showing the current indicative allocations per sector in Guyana

Agency	Project	Area/Sector	Donor and budget/ Timeline	Comments
Amerindian Peoples Association (APA)	Protecting Indigenous rights, the forest and environment	Forestry	France EUR 521,000 Timeline: 2021-2023	The project funded by France seeks to protect over 2 million hectares of forest, by building the capacity of indigenous peoples, notably through good governance.
Canada	One Technical, Vocational, Education and Training project is currently ongoing at Binah Hill, Region 9. Reinforcement of two women organizations on Binah Hill (ongoing).	Hinterland: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic diversification(growth) • Indigenous rights, • Sexual and reproductive health(TBC) • Technical and vocational skills. 	Canada CAD 25M (estimated EUR 17M) Timeline: 2021-2025	These actions (Area/Sector) would be implemented through funding to individual organizations. The global budget (CAD 25M) is for the five years period.
Conservation International	Pilot mangrove management plan	Mangroves	Exxon-Mobile Foundation	No carbon off-set scheme developed yet.
Conservation International	Amazonia Verde	Indigenous forest communities	France USD 17.4 million Timeline: 2020-2025	Multi-country project: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Guyana and Suriname

Agency	Project	Area/Sector	Donor and budget/ Timeline	Comments
				Support indigenous communities in 26 territories across the Amazon
Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)	Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme (regional)	Wildlife, tourism and agriculture	European Union EUR 45 million with a EUR 2.5 million budget for Guyana Timeline: 2018 - 2023	https://www.swm-programme.info/country-guyana
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	FAO-EU FLEGT Programme	Forest, governance and trade	European Union Phase III has a financial commitment of USD 882,326.63 for the period 2016-2021; As of January 2021, USD 442,230 was disbursed. Timeline: 2016 - 2021	Provides technical project-based support for the VPA implementation to the GFC on behalf of the EU. Currently, this programme supports activities under the VPA's Joint Implementation Framework (JIF). It also funds a communication officer for the FLEGT Secretariat and provides small grants to sector stakeholders through calls for proposals. The programme comes to an end in 2021.

Agency	Project	Area/Sector	Donor and budget/ Timeline	Comments
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	CSO-LA grant contracts		European Union USD 805,246.63 Timeline: 2016 - 2021	Since the beginning of phase III in 2016 14 projects have been funded: 6 ongoing projects (USD 278, 795.63) 8 closed projects (USD 526, 451)
European Forest Institute (EFI)	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)	Forest, governance and trade	European Union Timeline: Ongoing	Technical advisory support to the Parties for VPA negotiation and implementation.
International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN)	Amazonia 2.0	Forest	European Union EUR 6,671,331 Timeline: Starting date: 01/2017. Duration of 48 months.	Implementing partner in Guyana: Amerindian Peoples Association (APA). Objective: To help enhance the communities and organizations' technical and organizational capacities so as to enable them to exert social control, and implement integrated land management and independent monitoring of the forest governance and illegal trafficking of natural resources, as well as strengthening their capacity to influence national

Agency	Project	Area/Sector	Donor and budget/ Timeline	Comments
				<p>and regional climate change and forest policies.</p> <p>Coordinated by IUCN-South America and executed by a consortium of trained organizations in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname, in a set of territories that cover more than 1.5 million of hectares in total.</p>
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	Low Carbon Development Strategy	Forest, Sustainable Agriculture, Solar power in hinterland, Governance.	Forest Carbon partnership Facility Timeline: upcoming	In Guyana, the Ministry of Natural Resources submitted a proposal to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility supported by IDB. No public copy yet available.
IDB	The Amazon Bio economy and Forest Management Multi-donor Trust fund (MDTF) as part of the Amazon Initiative.	(a) bioeconomy, (b) sustainable agriculture, livestock, and forest management, (c) human capital, and (d) sustainable infrastructure and sustainable cities.	The initiative seeks to leverage ordinary capital (20 million USD), loan programs, Green Climate Fund private-sector investments (300 million USD, and the MDTF (50 million USD initial target). Timeline: 03/2021 to 2026.	Objective: Foster socio-environmentally sustainable and inclusive economic development models in the Amazon region that benefit its diverse communities. In March 2021, IDB launched the AI in response to Amazonian countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname) interest in a new regional financial and operational framework that can promote socio-environmentally

Agency	Project	Area/Sector	Donor and budget/ Timeline	Comments
				sustainable and inclusive economic development models
Ministry of Agriculture	Sustainable agriculture	Agriculture and forestry	IDB USD 15,000,000.00 Timeline: August 2016 to August 2021	IDB has a loan with the Guyana Ministry of Agriculture for Sustainable Agriculture. Global objective to increase productivity of the agricultural sector in Guyana, while maintaining a sustainable and resilient use of natural resources. This operation aims particularly to: (a) produce high quality data for the agriculture sector; (b) increase productivity, especially for medium and small farmers; and (c) increase sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards and access to meat processing facilities. One activity is to support the research center. It recommends to link this to forest sector research
Palladium	FLEGT Facilitator	Forest, governance and trade	UK Covering the costs of a facilitator only. Timeline: 2018-2022	Support to the FLEGT Secretariat in GFC.

Agency	Project	Area/Sector	Donor and budget/ Timeline	Comments
World Bank (WB), IDB	Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF)	Forestry	NORAD/NICFI USD 130 million until end of year 2021 Timeline: Ongoing	USD 50 million is left on holding account managed by WB plus USD 80 million kept by IDB for allocation for renewable energy projects in line with the Low Carbon Development Strategy. WB developed a Country Partnership Framework that offers analyses of various themes e.g. environment and tourism. WB is also preparing analytical studies on competitiveness and diversification looking at sectors such as tourism and manufacturing.
Winrock International	ART-TREES REDD+ Transfers Program	Forestry	NORAD Timeline: upcoming	This is a jurisdictional level carbon crediting mechanism for countries and subnational jurisdictions encompassing 2.5 million ha of forest and above, intended for emission reductions stemming from reductions in deforestation. Guyana has submitted a TREES concept last December 2020.
World Wild Fund (WWF)	Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) coordinator	Forest certification	WWF has no funds itself to support forest companies or forest communities with FSC	WWF intends to bring 8.5 million ha (Guyana + Suriname) of forest under conservation or

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			<p>certification. WWF sees the possibility to access REDD+ funds, or, that funds from oil and gas exploration are set aside in a sovereign wealth fund and are allocated to forest conservation.</p> <p>Timeline: upcoming</p>	<p>sustainable management in the next 5 years.</p>
WWF	Supporting the Development of Community Monitoring Reporting and Verification, Indigenous Civil Society and Forest Carbon Research Capacity in Guyana in Support of the Guyana/Norway Agreement (GNA)	Forestry	<p>Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)</p> <p>USD 1,268,171</p> <p>Timeline: Project ended May 2021</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>(1) By 2019, indigenous communities in Guyana have a clear path to include their 3 million hectares of forests in the Guyana Norway REDD+ Agreement and any future Guyana REDD+ agreements via a functioning and accessible opt-in mechanism</p> <p>(2) By 2019, the management of indigenous titled lands in Guyana is improved because communities have established capacity for CMRV, and development plans related to their natural and human resources.</p> <p>(3) By 2019, Guyana's human resource capacity to sustainably manage forests is enhanced, leading to better managed timber concessions and reduced carbon emissions.</p>

Agency	Project	Area/Sector	Donor and budget/ Timeline	Comments
WWF	Mainstreaming biodiversity: sector-based commitments emerging from multi-stakeholder dialogue (BIODEV 2030)	Biodiversity	<p>Agence française de développement (AFD). EUR 300,000</p> <p>Timeline: 18 months. Starting date: 01/21</p>	<p>The goal of the project is to stop biodiversity decline by 2030 and to restore biodiversity by 2050. Especially reconciling nature and development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tackling the roots of biodiversity decline, by engaging stakeholders for biodiversity preservation, around scientifically based objectives, and on a voluntary basis. -At least 2 key economic sectors committing to reduce their pressure on biodiversity for the next decade building on scientific diagnosis in each country. -Engaging now all stakeholders to define sectorial voluntary commitments towards halting -biodiversity loss by 2030 and demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach. -16 countries (including Guyana) to first pilot the approach and then to disseminate their outcomes.

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WWF	Protecting the Guiana Shield: The World's Largest Contiguous Tropical Forest	Forestry	Eaglemere Foundation USD 500,000 Timeline: 05/2016 to 12/2021.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pursue an integrated approach to managing the Rupununi wetlands landscape through a consultative process, including with indigenous people, government, civil society and private sector, including designating area for effective conservation of natural resources 2. Support sustainable livelihoods for indigenous communities
WWF	Securing a Living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Central Guyana	Forestry/Tourism	<p>Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Amazon Sustainable Landscape USD 5,152,753</p> <p>This project will be executed by a number of agencies. WWF GEF agency is the selected implementing agency</p> <p>Timeline: 5/6 years. Starting date: 2022 (TBC).</p>	<p>Objectives (under revision)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrated Protected Landscapes- management of existing PAs and financing for PAs 2. Integrated Productive landscapes including forestry and other locations 3. Capacity building and region cooperation

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WWF	Supporting mercury phase-out in the Guianas: Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana	Mining	<p>French Global Environment Facility represented by AFD through WWF France</p> <p>EUR 876,989 (funding covers Guyana and Suriname)</p> <p>Timeline: 4 years. 01/2020 to 06/2023.</p>	<p>Component 1. National policies targeting the gold sector are reinforced and regionally coordinated, in line with the Minamata Convention on mercury</p> <p>Component 2. A mercury-free gold extraction model has demonstrated locally its technical and economic viability, as well as its social acceptability</p> <p>Component 3. Key data on mercury provide the baseline and the basis for evidence-based mercury phase-out process across the region and in particular within key gold mining areas and constitute the basis for the implementation of a Regional Observatory</p>
WWF	Ecosystem Services Observatory for the Guiana Shield (ECOSEO)	Ecosystems (forest, savannahs and water)	<p>WWF France with ERDF funds - (PCIA)</p> <p>EUR 415,000</p> <p>The budget represent the amount covering implementation across Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana</p> <p>Timeline: 02/2019 to 06/2021.</p>	<p>The goal of the ECOSEO project is to assess, promote and preserve the benefits given by the terrestrial ecosystems (forests savannahs and freshwater), so called 'ecosystem services, on tee Guiana Shield.</p> <p>1. To promote, on a transnational level, the tangible</p>

Agency	Project	Area/Sector	Donor and budget/ Timeline	Comments
				<p>benefits produced by good management of natural capital and of ecosystem services.</p> <p>2. To enable a joint transnational strategy to ensure the sustainable management of ecosystem services across the Guiana Shield.</p>
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)	Bio-amazon project	Wildlife trade	<p>Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KFW)</p> <p>Timeline: Ongoing</p>	<p>This is a regional project to manage, monitor and control wild fauna and flora species threatened by trade. This project will support Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission.</p>