



Global Gateway



FOREST PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION Guyana

#GlobalGateway #ForOurPlanet

A comprehensive approach to sustain Guyana's forests



As part of Global Gateway, the European Union's (EU) strategy to boost sustainable links for the people and the planet, Guyana and the European Union aim at enhancing the role of Guyana's forests in sustainable and inclusive national development, and addressing challenges related to deforestation, forest degradation, climate change and loss of biodiversity.



Area
21 million ha
Population
783,900
Density
4 persons / km²
Growth
825,000 by 2030

Forests in a nutshell

85% Forest cover of total land (18 million ha)

Protected forest areas (1 million ha)

3 million ha Community/indigenous forest areas

less than 1% Forest loss since 1990

1.8% Forest contribution to GDP

19,000 Forest related jobs

Key work streams of the Forest Partnership

- Improved governance and regulations in favour of forest sector development
- Sustainable forest management and forest-based value chains
- Eco-system services based on forest conservation
- Maintain low rate of deforestation

Commitments by the Government of Guyana

- Maintain 99.5% of current forest cover
- Keeping deforestation below 0.07%
- Maintaining a high level of timber legality
- Expanding protected areas by 2 million ha (including watershed forests and mangrove forests)
- Improving biodiversity by restoring ecosystems in degraded areas
- Avoiding 48.7 million tonnes CO2 emissions annually
- Improving sustainable forest management

The Forest Partnership investments

- Forest carbon credits
- Support to state agencies
- Guarantees for loans and private sector
- Private sector investments in wood production
- Blended finance

TARGETS

SOURCES: Guyana's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2015

SOURCES: FAOSTAT 2020, Guyana Forest Sector Report (2018), Guyana REDD+ Monitoring and Verification System (2018)



People and forests

Guyana is amongst the 'greenest' countries in the world. With the world's second highest percentage of rainforest cover (85%), it commands an important carbon stock (19.5 GtCO₂eq). As one of only a handful of countries that are net carbon sinks, Guyana's forests sequester more carbon than its human activities release into the atmosphere.

Guyana is one of only four countries in the world verified to have sustained a High Forest Low Deforestation status. With an annual rate of deforestation of only 0.06% over the years 2016-2020, forest loss is hardly an issue, though forest degradation and small-scale mining on forest on forest areas are more of a concern.

The projected increase in global temperatures by 2.7 to 3 degrees is a main concern in Guyana as it threatens the very existence of this coastal low-lying developing state.

Forest-based value chains in Guyana

Guyana's forests (85% of land area) contribute to 2% of its GDP, so there is room for a bigger involvement of the forestry sector to the country's economy. Production forests should be managed for use of a broader range of wood species, with higher productivity and more efficient wood processing technology. Key actions could include strengthening community forest organisations, improving wood-processing skills and production techniques, increasing access to finance for communities and micro small and medium enterprises for livelihood initiatives based on wood and non-wood forest products. Nature-based tourism and strengthening of wildlife and eco-tourism is another important value chain to address.

Supporting state agencies with investment packages

The European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), mainly implemented by the European Development Finance Institutions, could provide opportunities for leveraging of sovereign loans and promote investments aimed at 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.

Our future is in our hands and in our trees

