

Development of a National Forest Management Standard and Certification System for Guyana



Preliminary Stakeholder Meeting

Friday, March 12, 2021

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- II. Background and context of Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)
- III. Rationale of PEFC and relationship to the Voluntary Partnership Agreement
- IV. Project phases and timeline
- V. Open Forum - Q&A
- VI. Closing Remarks

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Welcome and Opening Remarks
from the

Hon. Vickram Bharrat, M.P

Minister of Natural Resources, Guyana

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Dr. Kwame Asumadu
Consultant/presenter



Mr. Hamish Crawford
Consultant/presenter

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Background – Voluntary Partnership Agreement

- Negotiations between Guyana and EU commenced in 2012
- Aims to demonstrate legality of exported wood products
- Agreement concluded in November 2018
- Now in pre-implementation phase
 - GTLAS – design, develop, implement
 - Secretariat establishment
 - Trial FLEGT-licenses wood products in EU
- Full implementation could take upwards of **four years**

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Rationale for National Forest Management Standard and Forest Management and Chain of Custody Certification System

- VPA addresses legality, while market focus is increasingly on sustainability
- Unsustainable and illegal activities impact on livelihoods, revenue generation and ecosystem integrity
- Procurement policies looking to third party certification
- Need to look beyond legality

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Certification options and why PEFC?

- Third party certification offered by PEFC and FSC for whole supply chain from forests to retailers
- Both PEFC and FSC provide internationally accepted endorsement of sustainability, however:
 - PEFC is largest program globally
 - PEFC uses “bottom-up” approach to developing forest management standards
 - PEFC is specifically designed to work with current intergovernmental processes and recognise local conditions
 - VPA
 - ITTO, Tarapoto Process criteria and indicators

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The PEFC approach presents an opportunity to develop a globally recognised certification system that is truly reflective of the uniqueness of Guyana's forest management situation and the particular needs and expectations of the Guyanese people

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Relationship between VPA and NFM Standard

- Alignment of standard with PEFC system will provide strong linkages with existing government policies and processes of Guyana
- A natural extension of current FLEGT and REDD+ initiatives – complements the VPA
- Synergies between VPA and PEFC standard setting will speed process of standard development, so certification system can be up and running before VPA becomes operational and FLEGT licences issued

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Project scope - national forest management standard and certification scheme

- Will cover forest management on all land tenures where forest management for commercial purposes is permitted by law
- Intended that certification will be available to both individual forest management organisations and potential group schemes involving multiple forest management entities
- Certification will cover non-timber forest products as well as timber produce
- Scheme will also facilitate chain of custody certification for entities purchasing, processing and/or trading in forest products

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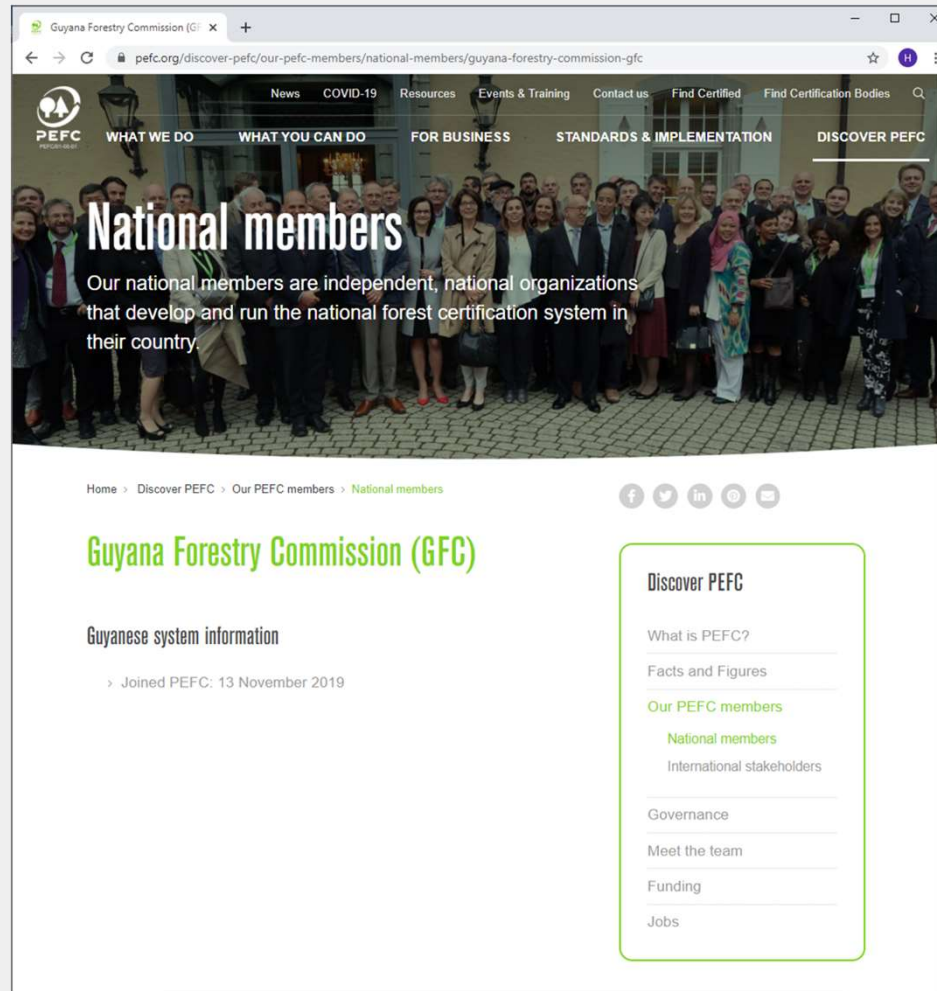
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Progress to date

- Project approved by GFC Board in early 2019
- In November 2019, PEFC General Assembly voted to approve GFC's membership of PEFC
- As Governing Body, GFC will oversee the establishment of a technical working group for development of the standard
- Work on project suspended in March 2020 due to election and COVID
- Project now re-commenced with PEFC endorsement of online technologies to support standard development

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Project development and target timeline

Phase	Details	Status
1	Application for PEFC Membership and nomination of the Governing Body	Complete
2	<p>Certification scheme development</p> <p>1. Stakeholder consultations through national workshops to develop the scope for the national standards and certification scheme</p> <p>2. Establishment of a broad-based national Technical Working Group (with representatives drawn from the major stakeholder groups) to guide the development of the national standards</p> <p>3. Development of the national standards including documentation, procedures and policy guidelines for a national certification scheme to meet the requirements of key international certification schemes</p> <p>4. Field testing of the standards</p> <p>5. Creation of a national forest management and chain of custody certification system</p>	Feb - Dec 2021

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Project development and target timeline

Phase	Details	Status
3	Implementation of certification scheme at the national level (i.e. prior to PEFC-endorsement)	Target early 2022
4	PEFC Endorsement of the certification scheme	Target end 2022
5	Ongoing implementation of the scheme, including management of ongoing PEFC accreditation	2023 on

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Next steps:

- Stakeholder nominations and invitations to join Technical Working Group

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Questions and Answers

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Closing Remarks
from
Mr. James Singh

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Thank you for your participation

Further information:

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