

THE GUYANA STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

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Version Preliminary Draft (this Draft was developed using the PEFC benchmarks and it is Guyana's expectation that upon finalisation, this Standard will be endorsed by the PEFC.)

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The Guyana Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (GSSFM) was developed by the National Standard Setting Working Group (NSSWG). The following organisations are represented on the NSSWG:

- National Steering Committee for Community Forest Organization (NSCCFO)
- Guyana Manufacturers & Services Association (GMSA)
- Forest Products Association (FPA)
- Conservation International Guyana (CI-G)
- World Wildlife Fund Guyana (WWF-G)
- Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development
- Amerindian People's Association (APA)
- National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
- Guyanese Organization of Indigenous Peoples (GOIP)
- The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG)
- Indigenous Peoples' Commission (IPC)
- Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
- Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MoAA)
- Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)
- National Toshias' Council (NTC)
- Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA)
- Guyana Agriculture Workers' Union (GAWU)
- Women and Gender Equality Commission (WGEC)
- Ministry of Human Service and Social Security (MoHSSS)
- The Forestry Training Centre Incorporated (FTCI)

This Standard has been developed to assist the implementation of forest management certification in Guyana.

Keeping the Standard document up to date:

To maintain its effectiveness, the Standard will be reviewed periodically, and new editions published as is necessary.

It is important that users ensure that they are using a current version of the Standard, which should include any amendments that may have been published since the last version was published.

Detailed information about the GSSFM including drafts, amendments and new projects can be found by visiting www.forestry.gov.gy

The Guyana Forestry Commission as the Standardising Body welcomes suggestions for improvements to the Standard and encourages readers to notify the Commission immediately of any apparent inaccuracies or ambiguities. Contact us by email at

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The Guyana Standard for Sustainable Forest Management

Sustainable Forest Management Blueprint for Guyana's natural forests: economic, social, environmental and cultural criteria and requirements

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1. PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the National Standard Setting Working Group (NSSWG), a technical committee of the key stakeholders in Guyana's forestry sector, established for the purpose of developing the Standard.

The objective of this Standard is to provide forest sector operators with environmental, economic, social, and cultural criteria and requirements that support the sustainable management of Guyana's natural forests.

Presently, commercial forest plantations are not an important component of Guyana's forestry sector and have therefore been excluded from the Standard. Prescriptions and requirements for establishing and managing plantations sustainably will be developed in the future as part of this Standard, if commercial forest plantations become an important component of the sector.

This Standard will be reviewed every five years or earlier if required, to take account of changing stakeholders' values and expectations, new scientific and technological information, and changes in international norms for sustainable forest management. It has been published as **The Guyana Standard for Sustainable Forest Management**.

The Standard applies to any of Guyana's natural forests being managed for the commercial production of wood and non-timber forest products and forest services.

The development of the Standard is a response to the global market demand for legal and sustainable wood and non-wood forest products.

It gives the assurance that the wood and non-wood forest products are certified by an independent, third-party accredited certification body. The Standard is intended for voluntary application by any forest sector operator from a State Forests Authorisation, private land or an Amerindian Village, who is seeking independent, accredited third-party certification.

It is a culmination of the policies, strategies and legal framework the Government has been developing and implementing to underpin the sustainable management and use of the Country's forests since Guyana gained its independence.

The prescriptions and requirements of this Standard will further support and enhance the policies, strategies and regulations to improve continually: the environmental, economic, social, and cultural objectives and outcomes for the management of Guyana's natural forests.

Independent, accredited third-party certification against the Standard provides a clear and unambiguous statement that the production of wood and non-wood forest products and forest services within a particular defined forest area, is managed in accordance with a set of predetermined and clearly defined environmental, economic, social and cultural performance criteria and requirements that support reducing deforestation, and improving continually the sustainable management and conservation of Guyana's natural forests.

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2. BACKGROUND

Guyana's forests cover is approximately 85 percent (18,070,000 hectares) of the total surface area. Of the forestland, 12,156,000 hectares have been designated as State Forests and placed under the management of the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC).

Another 2,485, 000 hectares is Amerindian/indigenous Titled Lands, the largest private landownership in Guyana.

According to the Protected Areas Commission, Guyana's National Protected Areas System currently comprises approximately 8.4% of Guyana's landmass. The National Protected Areas System includes the following:

- Iwokrama Forest (established by separate legislation, the Iwokrama Act 1996, and a joint mandate from the Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat);
- Kaieteur National Park;
- Kanashen Amerindian Protected Area;
- Kanuku Mountains Protected Area;
- Shell Beach Protected Area; and
- Urban Parks: National Park, Botanical Gardens, Zoological Park, and Joe Vieira Park.¹

With the exception of the Kanashen Amerindian Protected Area, which is owned and managed by the Wai Wai Community, all others are Government owned.

The country's economic development and prosperity is directly linked to the management and use of its forests and forested lands. Aside from the commercial timber industry, Guyana's forests are key to tourism development, biodiversity conservation, wildlife management, bio-prospecting, soil fertility and nutrient cycling, and other ecosystem services, such as; water provisioning and carbon sequestration.² Sustainable forest management in Guyana is underpinned by the Guyana National Policy Statement 2018. Commercial timber harvesting in Guyana is conducted largely on State forests and are governed by the provisions of the Forests Act 2009, Forest Regulations 2018, and the GFC Act 2007 and the Code of Practice for Forest Operations No.1 of 2018.

Under these statutory and regulatory instruments, the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) has the statutory mandate to manage the national forest estate sustainably for multiple use purposes, including:

- allocating forest concessions and harvesting rights; and
- protection of high conservation areas and biodiversity and cultural values within State forests.

¹ Protected Areas Trust (Guyana). 2022. <https://protectedareastrust.org.gy/protected-areas/>

² (GFC). 2020 *Guyana REDD+ Monitoring Reporting & Verification System (MRVS) MRVS Report – Assessment Year 2019* <https://forestry.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/MRVS-Year-2019-Report-Version-1-Final.pdf> and Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC). 2018. *Revised National Forest Policy Statement*. <https://forestry.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Guyana-National-Forest-Policy-Statement-2018.pdf>

The GFC has the responsibility for assessing and allocating State forest areas available for commercial timber and non-timber forest products harvesting in line with the provisions and requirements of the Forests Act 2009 and Forest Regulations 2018.

Guyana allocates two main concession types (large and small concessions) to provide forest use rights for commercial timber and non-timber forest products activities in State forests. Large Concessions are areas larger than 8,097 hectares and small concessions are areas less than 8,097 hectares.

State Forest Authorisations are areas of State forests available for allocation for commercial forestry operations, and are advertised publicly for allocation based on competitive open public tender. Applications received are reviewed by the GFC's Technical Committee, which submits a report on its review to GFC's Board of Directors. Applications approved by the GFC Board are then issued by the GFC to the successful applicants as either a large concession or small concession.

The two types of State Forest Authorisations issued by the GFC are as follows:

- Forest Concession Agreements which can be issued as large concessions (areas larger than 8,097 hectares) or small concessions (areas less than 8,097 hectares);
 - Forest Concession Agreements for large concessions are issued for up to 40 years and subject to conditional renewal, and in most cases, applicants are awarded a State Forest Exploratory Permit (SFEP) initially for the purposes of assessing the feasibility and viability of the area for long-term commercial forestry operations. SFEPs are converted to active large concessions with all harvesting rights when the applicants have satisfied all the required mandatory statutory obligations, and
 - Forest Concession Agreements (FCA) for small concessions which can be a State Forest Permission (SFP) or a Community Forest Management Agreement (CFMA) are granted by the GFC for up to three years, subject to conditional renewal; and
- State Forest Exploratory Permits (SFEPs) which are valid for a period of up to three (3) years, and enable successful applicants to undertake the following activities:
 - reconnaissance / Strategic Level Inventory;
 - preparation of Forest Management Plans (FMP);
 - preparation of Annual Operational Plan (AOP); and
 - undertaking an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Environmental Management Plan where applicable).

A Forest Concession Agreement for a large concession is issued after the FSO has obtained successfully, an Exploratory Permit and/or has satisfied all of the relevant requirements for conversion/issuance to a large concession. If for some reason a large concession is repossessed and an ESIA was already done, an associated Environmental Management Plan may be accepted by the Environmental Protection Agency and transferred to the new forest sector operator.

Outside State forests, the GFC's statutory mandate extends to Indigenous forests, private lands and state lands in conversions for commercial forestry operations.

Amerindian Village – Section 2 of the **Amerindian Act, Cap 29:01** defines Village or Amerindian Village as “a group of Amerindians occupying or using Village lands” and defines Village lands as

“lands owned communally by a Village under title granted to a Village Council to hold for the benefit of the Village”.

An absolute grant or a certificate of title is granted to a Village Council to demonstrate land ownership. An Amerindian Village becomes an FSO when it enters into a contract with the GFC to conduct commercial forestry operations on Indigenous forested lands within the boundaries of the Amerindian Village.

Private land – Section 2 of the **Forests Act No. 6 of 2009** defines private land as “land that is neither public land nor Village land”. Private land is legally held by either an individual or body corporate by registered title, transport or absolute grant. A private landowner becomes an FSO when it enters into a contract with the GFC to conduct commercial forestry operations within the boundaries of the private land.

A Third Party is a natural person, or body corporate that has a legal agreement with an FSO to conduct commercial forestry operations within the boundaries of an approved area. The FSO, who is registered with GFC is responsible for ensuring that the third party complies with the requirements of all laws, regulations and statutory procedures and guidelines governing commercial forestry operations in Guyana.

Under the Forests Act, 2009, large concession and small concession holders are subject to different requirements. Prior to commencing harvesting operations, large concession holders must prepare a five-year Forest Management Plan and an Annual Operational Plan for GFC’s approval. and if required, an environmental and social impacts assessment report for the EPA’s approval.

As part of its due diligence, the GFC also undertakes a 2.5 percent verification of the 100 percent pre-harvest inventory prepared by the FSO prior to approval of a block to commence harvesting in any one year. This involves verification of inventory data, including block boundaries. Harvesting operations must comply with the requirements of the Guyana Code of Practice for Forest Operations No. 1 of 2018 and the Guidelines for Forest Operations (Large Concession), which cover:

- Harvesting operations;
- Post harvesting activities;
- Occupational health and safety and hygiene at harvesting camps;
- Land and forest use rights and responsibilities; and
- Community and work-place relations, rights and responsibilities.

In addition, the GFC undertakes post-harvest checks and monitoring to verify compliance with statutory requirements, including Guyana’s Wood Tracking System (which deals with supply chain requirements from the forest to the market).

For small concessions/community forestry, the GFC uses information from satellite imagery, vegetation maps, extrapolation of surrounding concessions’ inventory etc. to give an estimate of the forest cover to determine stock levels used to calculate the annual harvesting quota for each FSO. State Forest Authorisations and Community Forest Management Agreements prepared by the GFC and signed with FSOs include sufficient information and data to obviate the need for holders of these State Forest Authorisations to prepare:

- Forest Management Plans (FMP);
- Annual Operational Plans (AOP); and

- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).

Boundary demarcation is undertaken by the small concession holder. Similar to large concession holders, small concession holders are subject to the requirements of the Guyana Codes of Practice for Forest Operations No. 1 of 2018 and Guidelines for Forest Operations (Small Concession), and the GFC undertakes post-harvest checks and monitoring to ensure compliance with the Code.

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3. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable forest management involves managing forests based on the principles and norms of sustainability. Managing forests to achieve sustainability outcomes requires forests to be managed in a manner that produces the goods and services that the current generation of humanity needs, while ensuring that the environmental, cultural and social values of forests are not irreversibly damaged to the extent that future generations cannot also use the forest resource to meet their needs.

The Precautionary Principle is a fundamental tenet of sustainable development, which requires actions to be taken to prevent and/or minimise damage to forests' environmental, cultural and social values even in the absence of verified knowledge and information.

Sustainability also embodies the principle of inter-generational equity to maintain, preserve and enhance the range of environmental, social and cultural values of forests for the present and future generations.

Four key sustainable forest management principles underpin the Guyana Standard for Sustainable Forest Management. These are environmental, economic, social and cultural sustainability.

Environmental sustainability requires managing Guyana's forests to maintain and enhance:

- the forests' ecological processes;
- the forest landscape, including its soil and geological features;
- the forests' food chains and energy flows;
- the forests' ability to sequester carbon;
- the forests' nutrient and water cycles; and
- the forests' biodiversity (flora and fauna).

It is important that Guyana's forests are managed in a way that maintains and improves the forests' ecosystems which are necessary for supporting their endemic systems, particularly their resilience. Such an approach will also enhance and maintain the forest's resilience including its productive capacity, adaptive capacity and its ability to renew itself continually. The Standard has been developed to ensure these fundamental environmental objectives are achieved on a long-term basis.

The economic sustainability principle involves managing the forests to ensure the economic benefits the country derives from them such as for income, employment, goods and services are maximised, while ensuring the forests as a national resource will continue to be available for use by future generations to similarly harness their economic benefits.

The social sustainability principle involves managing the forests of Guyana to maintain and enhance the social benefits the country derives from them. In particular, it requires forest sector operators to be cognisant of their social obligations such as benefit sharing with forest-dependent communities, the rights and welfare of their workers and maintaining good stakeholder and neighbourhood relations.

The ultimate social sustainability outcome is one that ensures the resilience of forest-dependent communities and allows forest sector operators to continue to maintain their social license from the nation's citizens to use the nation's forest resources for the benefit of both present and future generations.

Cultural sustainability entails managing the forests in a manner that allows the community, particularly indigenous peoples, to continue to have access to the forests for cultural practices including practicing their traditional customs and religion. Cultural sustainability also involves respecting and where necessary and appropriate, incorporating traditional knowledge and wisdom of indigenous and other forest-dependent communities in the management of the forests on benefit sharing basis. Some indigenous cultural practices also enhance the environmental assets of the forests, and these must be preserved and maintained through sustainable forest management practices.

3.1 BENCHMARK REQUIREMENTS

The Standard has been developed based on the PEFC's key benchmark requirements including the following:

- involvement of representatives of the key and primary stakeholders in Guyana's forestry sector in a balanced manner;
- providing opportunity for all interested parties to make their contribution to the standard development process in a fair and transparent manner;
- ensuring clear separation of the roles of the GFC as the Standardising Body and those of the National Standard Setting Work Group as the skills-based technical committee with the responsibility to develop the standard;
- taking into consideration the local conditions in Guyana and ensuring the Standard provides a cost-effective option for all interested parties to become certified;
- taking into consideration the country's existing forestry laws and regulations;
- drawing on available scientific-based information on sustainable forest management nationally and internationally;
- recognising and taking into consideration the differing capacities and performance levels of forest operators in Guyana, based on the size and scale of their operations;
- being easily understood in its application and leading to consistent results when used by different certification bodies and/or auditors;
- being reviewed regularly to allow for revision and update when new knowledge, technology and information is available to ensure improving continually sustainable forest management in Guyana; and
- being a voluntary market-based mechanism that is available to forest operators who are desirous to improve their market competitiveness nationally and internationally.

3.2 USE OF THE STANDARD

Forests are managed for various objectives, and the Standard takes this into account, and defines specific forest management performance requirements for operations and activities on the defined forest area. In this context, the "defined forest area" is the forest area to be certified under the Standard.

It defines a consistent approach and requirements for managing Guyana's State forests. It is not intended to be used for demonstrating the quality or fitness for purpose for wood products. It is intended to be used mainly for demonstrating that a defined forest area from which wood and non-

wood forest products have been produced, has been managed based on clearly defined sustainability performance (environmental, economic, social and cultural) objectives.

It is a market-based voluntary system intended for application to forests of any size, irrespective of ownership.

To help the use of the Standard including consistent interpretation of indicators and the suggested verifiers, a guidance document has also been developed. Application and implementation of the Standard must always take into consideration differences in the size and scales of operation, as well as ownership structures.

The Standard also allows for group certification, and a guidance document has been developed to support cost-effective certification by groups of forest sector operators.

A Chain of Custody Standard has also been developed linked to the Standard, to enable participants who are not managers of forests, such as processors and traders, to be able to obtain and trade in wood and non-wood forest products from certified forests in Guyana.

To support continual improvement in the sustainable forest management systems of Guyana's forests, the Standard defines review, research, monitoring and evaluation protocols and requirements including stakeholder engagement.

A defined forest area can only be classified as certified under the Standard and provided with the necessary documentation to prove this, after the defined forest area has been audited by an independent third-party auditor who is accredited by a PEFC accredited certification body and verified that the forest sector operator has met all the performance requirements of the Standard.

3.3 VERIFIERS

The sustainable forest management performance benchmarks for the Guyana Standard for Sustainable Forest Management have been developed based on the sustainable management prescriptions and requirements in:

- Guyana's forest laws and regulations;
- Code of Practice for Forest Operations;
- Guidelines for large and small concessions;
- The Wood Tracking System Guidelines; and
- the key requirements of the PEFC Benchmark Standard.

The auditable verifiers for evaluating a forest sector operator's compliance with the sustainable forest management performance requirements of the Guyana Standard for Sustainable Forest Management may be different depending upon the size and scale of operation.

The auditable verifiers take into consideration requirements already assessed and verified by the GFC prior to approving harvesting operations, post-harvesting checks and monitoring. Additional auditable verifiers are included only for PEFC Benchmark Standard requirements not already covered by the GFC's statutory approval processes.

Verifiers listed in this standard are examples of evidence that can be used by certification bodies to assess compliance with an indicator by a forest sector operator. They are not meant to be exhaustive, and a certification body may request additional supporting information in determining compliance.

This Standard is applicable to all tenures where commercial forestry operations are undertaken except State land in conversions.

The indicators apply to all situations unless specifically indicated otherwise.

Some indicators apply specifically to some tenures/and or size and scale of operations and these are specified in the Standard.

Unless indicated, the use of the term forest sector operator applies to all tenures and scales of operation. Similarly, the term “Indigenous” applies to the first nation’s people of Guyana. Indigenous forests therefore refer to forest lands belonging to the first nation’s people of Guyana.

3.4 DEVELOPMENT OF THE STANDARD

Development of the Standard has followed the requirements of the PEFC’s benchmark Standards PEFC ST 1003:2018 and the PEFC’s standard setting requirements PEFC ST 1001:2017. The proposal to develop the Standard was publicised widely in Guyana and was followed by a meeting of stakeholders to determine their support for the proposal.

Following acceptance by the stakeholders to develop the Standard, a stakeholder mapping was done leading to the establishment of the skilled-based technical committee of the key stakeholders in Guyana’s forestry sector: the National Standard Setting Working Group (NSSWG), which was tasked to develop the Standard.

The members of the NSSWG were drawn from civil society, national and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), forestry associations including community forestry entities, indigenous organisations, unions, academia, youth and gender equality organisations.

The initial (exposure) draft has been submitted for public review and comment, and the feedback received has been incorporated in the published version of the Standard.

Guyana is a member of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO). Development of the Standard has drawn on relevant and appropriate aspects of ITTO’s Criteria and Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests.

Over the years, Guyana has developed and implemented several policies and strategies such as participation in the EU’s VPA and a national wood tracking system. These policies and strategies are aimed at supporting legality and further sustainable forest management in Guyana, as well as enhance the governance and regulatory systems and structures for the nation’s forests. The Standard has been developed to also support and improve on these forest governance, regulatory structures and systems in Guyana.

As part of the VPA process, Guyana has developed a national Legality Definition, improved several aspects of its forestry governance and regulatory systems and enhanced the scope and capability of the national wood tracking system.

Experiences and lessons learned from the VPA process including important and appropriate elements of the Legality Definition, stakeholder involvement and the wood tracking system have been incorporated in the development of the Guyana Standard for Sustainable Forest Management.

The Standard is also guided by the National Forest Policy and Plan (2018) and is included in the Low Carbon Development Strategy which is the overall development strategy for Guyana.

Development of the Standard has also taken into consideration international norms for sustainable forest development, including international forestry-related conventions and treaties to which Guyana is a signatory.

The Forests Stewardship Council's (FSC) is the other globally recognised and accepted forest certification system. Development of the Guyana Standard for Sustainable Forest Management has also drawn on the relevant and appropriate elements of the FSC's principles and criteria for sustainable forest management.

The standard development process has also drawn on the assessment results of other tropical timber producing member countries whose national certification systems have been endorsed by the PEFC including Malaysia and the Congo Basin countries, as well as non-tropical timber producing members such as Vietnam, India, South Africa and Australia. Together, these international norms, protocols and requirements have influenced and underpinned the development of the Guyana Certification System (GCS), of which the Guyana Standard for Sustainable Forest Management is a very critical component. It is hoped that implementation and application of the Guyana Certification System will make a major contribution to Guyana's on-going efforts to manage its State forests sustainably for the benefit of this and future generations.

3.5 NORMATIVE REFERENCES

To the extent possible, the development of the Guyana Standard for Sustainable Forest Management has drawn on the elements, norms, protocols, knowledge and experiences of national and international systems and schemes dealing with sustainable forest management, in particular those related to tropical forests. As such, the Standard incorporates all the elements and requirements necessary for forest sector operators in Guyana to achieve sustainable forest management outcomes. No other normative references are therefore required.

4. ACRONYMS

AAC:	Annual Allowable Cut
AWP:	Area Work Plan
CBD:	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES:	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CO₂:	Carbon Dioxide
CoC:	Chain-of-Custody
CPI:	Corruption Perception Index
EMS:	Environmental Management System
EPA:	Environmental Protection Agency
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCAG:	Forest Certification Assessment Guide
FECV:	Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value
FICAT:	Forest Industry Carbon Assessment Tool
FLEG:	Forest Law Enforcement and Governance
FLEGT:	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FMD:	Forest Monitoring Division
FPIC:	Free Prior and Informed Consent
FSC:	Forest Stewardship Council
FSO:	Forest Sector Operator
GFC:	Guyana Forestry Commission
GHG:	Green House Gases
GLSC:	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission
GMOs:	Genetically Modified Organisms
GRA:	Guyana Revenue Authority
HCVF:	High Conservation Value Forests
IPCC:	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPF/IFF:	Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/ Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
IPM:	Integrated Pest Management
ISO:	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO:	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN:	World Conservation Union, formerly International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LAS:	Legality Assurance System
LCA:	Life Cycle Assessment
MOAA:	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs

NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
NIS:	National Insurance Scheme
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
NSSWG:	National Standard Setting Working Group
PEFC:	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
SFM:	Sustainable Forest Management
TI:	Transparency International
TLTV:	Timber Legality and Traceability
UNEP:	United Nations Environment Programme
VC:	Village Council
VLC:	Verification of Legal Compliance
VLO:	Verification of Legal Origin
VOCs:	Volatile Organic Compounds
VPA:	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
WWF:	World Wide Fund for Nature

5. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The terms and definitions of the Standard draw on those from the PEFC ST 1003:2018. They also include terms and definitions that are specific to Guyana's forestry context.

Term	Definition
Afforestation	Establishment of forest through planting and/or deliberate seeding on land that, until then, was under a different land use. It implies a transformation of land use from non-forest to forest.
Annual Allowable Cut	The sustainably permissible levels of harvest/removal of any forest produce by volume, ensuring that the rate of harvest does not exceed the calculated rate of long-term regeneration and growth.
Area Work Plan	The Area Work Plan is a document specifying objectives, actions and control arrangements concerning the management of ecosystem resources and services for a set period of time for small concessions, Amerindian Villages and private lands in Guyana. It includes the requirements that small concession holders, Amerindian Villages and private lands must follow in order to undertake forestry operations sustainably.
Avoidance Principle	According to Guyana's Environmental Protection Agency's Act 11 of 1996 (Cap 20:05), avoidance principle means it is preferable to avoid environmental damage as it can be impossible or more expensive to repair rather than prevent damage.
Biodiversity	Biological diversity is the variety of living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, as well as the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.
Biodiversity Conservation	The act of protection, preservation, maintenance, sustainable use (conservation), recovery and enhancement of the components of biological diversity, where: a) <i>Conservation</i> is the sustainable use of resources and encompasses protection as well as exploitation and; b) <i>Preservation</i> is an aspect of conservation meaning to keep something without altering or changing it.
Buffer Zone	Areas peripheral to a specific protected area, like water courses or core area, where there are lesser restrictions on resource use, and special development measures are undertaken in order to promote coexistence between wildlife and human activity.
Capacity Building	It is a process of developing and strengthening, human resource, scientific and technological capabilities, organizational and

	institutional capabilities.
Carbon Cycles	The flow of carbon in various forms, primarily as carbon dioxide through atmosphere, terrestrial and marine biosphere, oceans and lithosphere by various chemical, physical, geological, and biological processes.
Carbon Sequestration	It is the different processes through which carbon is removed from the atmosphere and stored in soil, biomass, geological formations and oceans.
Carbon Stock	The quantity of carbon contained in a pool of any ecosystem.
Certified area	The forest area covered by a sustainable forest management system according to the Guyana Standard for Sustainable Forest Management Guyana Standard for Sustainable Forest Management.
Certificate	A document issued under the rules of a certification system, providing confidence that a duly identified product, process, or service, is in conformity with a specified standard or other normative document.
Chain of Custody	All the changes of custodianship of forest-based products, and products thereof, during the harvesting, transportation, processing and distribution chain from the forest to the end- use.
Climate Change	A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.
Climate Change Adaptation	Actions taken to help communities and ecosystems to cope with changing climate condition. Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates, harms or exploits beneficial opportunities.
Climate Change Mitigation	The reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to achieve stabilization of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere and subsequently a cessation of further warming.
Collective Bargaining	Negotiations which take place between an employer, a group of employers or one or more employers' organisations, on the one hand, and one or more workers' organisations, on the other, for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) determining working conditions and terms of employment; and/or b) regulating relations between employers and workers; and/or c) regulating relations between employers or their organisations and a workers' organisation or workers' organisations.
Conflict Resolution	It is a process for two or more parties to find a peaceful solution to

	<p>a disagreement among them. The disagreement may be personal, financial, political, or emotional. When a dispute arises, often the best course of action is negotiation to resolve the disagreement. The goals of negotiation are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) produce a solution that all parties can agree to; b) work as quickly as possible to find this solution; and c) improve, not hurt, the relationship between the groups in conflict.
Continual Improvement	It is process of enhancing the management system and performance to achieve improvements in economic, environmental and social and cultural aspects of forest management.
Conservation	It is the protection, preservation, management, or restoration of natural environments and ecological communities that inhabit them. Conservation is generally held to include the management of human use of natural resources for current public benefit and sustainable social and economic utilization.
Criteria	It is a category of conditions or process through which sustainable forest management can be assessed. A criterion is characterized by a set of related indicators, which are monitored periodically to assess change.
Customary Rights	The non-commercial rights and practices determined by the traditional exercise of a community or individual(s) as per the customs which may or may not have been codified. They differ from prescriptive rights i.e., the former are local usages, belonging to all the inhabitants of a particular place or district, and the latter are rights of individuals, independent of the place of their residence. e.g., for certain tribal communities living inside forest areas, certain areas are traditionally used by them for flower or fruit collection or honey collection or for burial of their dead.
Defined forest area	It is an area of forest (including land and water) to which the requirements of the Standard are applied. It includes productive and non-productive forest areas, streamside reserves, conservation areas, and roads, etc. The defined forest area is described either by survey plans, legal title(s), gazettal notices or GIS shape files whether as private land, Amerindian Villages and State Forest Authorisation. The forest sector operator seeking certification to the Standard will need to demonstrate management control and legal rights over the forest operations in the defined forest area through appropriate agreements or contracts, which will allow them to achieve all of the requirements. The forest sector operator is precluded from omitting elements of its operation which would otherwise be included in its defined forest area from the scope of its certification.

Degradation	A reduction in the capacity of a forest to produce ecosystem services such as carbon storage and wood products as a result of anthropogenic and environmental changes. Although there may be no reduction in forest area, it may impact the quality of forest, decrease in number of species, reduction in tree cover, or the alteration of the forest structure.
Degraded forest	It is land with long-term significant reduction of the overall potential to supply benefits from the forest, which includes carbon storage, wood, biodiversity and other goods and services.
Ecological Communities	They are an association or group of actually or potentially interacting species occupying the same geographical area in a particular time.
Ecosystem Services	They are benefits obtained from ecosystems. According to the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), ecosystem services can be categorized in four categories: <i>Provisioning services</i> are the products obtained from ecosystems such as food, fresh water, wood, fiber, genetic resources and medicines. <i>Regulating services</i> are defined as the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes such as climate regulation, natural hazard regulation, water purification and waste management, pollination or pest control. <i>Habitat services</i> highlight the importance of ecosystems to provide habitat for migratory species and to maintain the viability of gene-pools. <i>Cultural services</i> include non-material benefits that people obtain from ecosystems such as spiritual enrichment, intellectual development, recreation and aesthetic values.
Ecologically important forest areas	<p>Forest areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • containing protected, rare, sensitive or representative forest ecosystems; • containing significant concentrations of endemic species and habitats of threatened species, as defined in recognised reference lists; • containing endangered or protected genetic in situ resources; and • contributing to globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscapes with natural distribution and abundance of naturally occurring species.
Ecosystem services	Benefits obtained from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food, water, timber, and fibre; regulating services that affect climate, floods, disease, wastes, and water quality; cultural services that provide recreational, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits; and supporting services such as soil formation,

	photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling
Endemic species	These are species that exist only in one geographic region. Species can be endemic to large or small areas of the earth: some are endemic to a particular continent, some to part of a continent, and others to a single island.
Environmental Management Systems	These are a set of processes and practices that enable an organization to reduce its environmental impacts and increase operational efficiency.
Forest Conversion	<p>It is the direct human-induced change of forest to non-forest land or forest plantation. Forest conversion occurs when natural forests are converted to highly cultivated forests, typically with an increased focus on wood production, and decreased environmental benefits.</p> <p>Regeneration by planting or direct seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources, to the same dominant species as was harvested or other species that were present in the historical species mix is not considered a conversion.</p>
Forest Dependent Communities	The members or communities who primarily reside in and depend on forests or forest lands for <i>bona fide</i> livelihood needs.
Forest Management	The branch of forestry concerned with the operational management of forest resources and the overall administrative, economic, legal and social aspects and with the essential scientific and technical aspects, especially silviculture, protection and forest regulation.
Forest Sector Operator	<p>A Forest Sector Operator is natural person or body corporate registered with and approved by the Guyana Forestry Commission to conduct forestry operation(s). Note 1: An organisation applies for certification under the Guyana Certification Scheme and is responsible for complying with the sustainable forest management requirements of the Guyana Standard for Sustainable Forest Management and can be responsible for several defined forest areas.</p> <p>A manager or owner can also take the role of an organisation.</p>
Free Prior and Informed Consent	The principle that an individual or a community has the right to give or withhold their consent to proposed projects that may affect the land they own, occupy or otherwise use. Free implies that there is no coercion, intimidation or manipulation. Prior implies that consent is to be sought sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of activities and respect is shown to time requirements of indigenous consultation/consensus processes. Informed implies that information is provided that covers a range of aspects, including the nature, size, pace,

		reversibility and scope of any proposed project or activity; the purpose of the project as well as its duration; locality and areas affected; a preliminary assessment of the likely economic, social, cultural and environmental impact, including potential risks; personnel likely to be involved in the execution of the project; and procedures the project may entail. This process may include the option of withholding consent. Consultation and participation are crucial components of a consent process.
Forest		The Guyana Forest Act, 2009 defines forests as an ecosystem dominated by woody plants, consisting of closed forest formations, where trees of various stories and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground; or open forest with a continuous vegetation cover in which tree crown cover exceeds 10 percent; and includes mangrove forests and any wetlands or open lands within a forest which form an integral part of the ecosystem.
Forest Agreement	Concession	Forest Concession Agreement is a contract between the Guyana Forestry Concession and a forest sector operator and gives the forest sector operator “effective control” of the concession area.
Forest health		Forest condition that is naturally resilient to damage; characterized by biodiversity. It contains sustained habitat for wood, fish, wildlife, and humans, and meets present and future resource management objectives.
Forest plantation		<p>Forest of introduced species, and in some cases native species, established through planting or seeding, mainly for production of wood or non-wood goods and services.</p> <p>Note 1: Includes all stands of introduced species established for production of wood or non-wood goods and services.</p> <p>Note 2: May include areas of native species characterised by few species, intensive land preparation (e.g., cultivation), straight tree lines and/or even-aged stands.</p>
Fundamental conventions	ILO	Eight conventions (ILO 29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138 and 182) identified by the ILO’s Governing Body as “fundamental” in terms of principles and rights at work: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
Genetically modified trees		<p>Trees in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination, taking into account applicable legislation providing a specific definition of genetically modified organisms.</p> <p>Note 1: The following techniques are considered as genetic modification resulting in genetically modified trees (EU Directive</p>

	<p>2001/18/EC):</p> <p>1) recombinant nucleic acid techniques involving the formation of new combinations of genetic material by the insertion of nucleic acid molecules produced by whatever means outside an organism, into any virus, bacterial plasmid or other vector system and their incorporation into a host organism in which they do not naturally occur, but in which they are capable of continued propagation;</p> <p>techniques involving the direct introduction into an organism of heritable material prepared outside the organism including micro-injection, macro-injection, and micro-encapsulation;</p> <p>3) cell fusion (including protoplast fusion) or hybridisation techniques where live cells with new combinations of heritable genetic material are formed through the fusion of two or more cells by means of methods that do not occur naturally.</p> <p>Note 2: The following techniques are not considered as genetic modification resulting in genetically modified trees (EU Directive 2001/18/EC):</p> <p>1) in vitro fertilisation;</p> <p>2) natural processes such as: conjugation, transduction, transformation;</p> <p>3) polyploidy induction.</p>
Genetic Diversity	It is the variation in the amount of genetic information within and among individuals of a population, a species, an assemblage, or a community.
Habitat	It is a place where an organism lives and/or the conditions of that environment including the soil, vegetation, water, and food.
Indicator	It is a quantitative or qualitative parameter which can be assessed in relation to a criterion. It describes objectively and unambiguously a relevant element of a criterion.
Integrated Management	<p>Pest</p> <p>An approach to enhancing crop and livestock production, based on an understanding of ecological principles. Chemical pesticides are used only when biological and cultural control methods and available technologies fail to keep pests below acceptable levels, and when assessment of associated risks and benefits indicates that the benefits of the use of chemicals outweigh the costs (SPIPM, 2007). The careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimise risks to human</p>

	health and the environment.
Keystone Species	Species whose activity governs the well-being of many other species.
Landscape	<p>A geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area.</p> <p>“Landscape approaches” seek to provide tools and concepts for allocating and managing land to achieve social, economic, and environmental objectives in areas where agriculture, mining, and other productive land uses compete with environmental and biodiversity goals.</p>
Large Concession	An area of State forest larger than 8,097 hectares approved for commercial timber production in Guyana.
Local Communities	Communities of any size that are in or adjacent to the Defined forest area, and also those that are close enough to have a significant impact on the economy or the environmental values of the Defined Forest Area or to have their economies, rights or environments significantly affected by the management activities or the biophysical aspects of the Defined Forest Area.
Management Plan	Documented information specifying objectives, actions and control arrangements concerning the management of ecosystem resources and services for a set period of time.
Management system	Set of interrelated or interacting elements of an organisation to establish policies and objectives and processes to achieve those objectives.
Monitoring and Evaluation	Monitoring and Evaluation can be defined as a continuing function that aims primarily to provide the management and main stakeholders of an ongoing intervention with early indications of progress, or lack thereof, in the achievement of results.
Non-compliance	It is a situation in which the audit evidence indicates that operations are not carried out in compliance with a certification criterion.
Non-forest ecosystem	Land not meeting the definition of forest.
Non-timber forest products	They are any product or service other than timber that is produced in forests. They include fruits and nuts, vegetables, fish and game, medicinal plants, resins, essences and a range of barks and fibres such as bamboo, rattans, and a host of other palms and grasses.
Plantation Forests	A forest area established by planting or sowing by using either alien or native species, often with one or few species, regular spacing and even ages, and which lacks most of the principal characteristics and key elements of natural forests.

Precautionary principle	According to Guyana's Environmental Protection Agency's Act 11 of 1996 (Cap 20:05), The precautionary principle states where there is a threat of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.
Pre-harvest inventory	Pre-harvest planning is an essential component of Reduced Impact Logging. It involves a detailed assessment of the timber stock and terrain conditions in the blocks which the concessionaire is allowed to harvest annually. A schedule for the planning and implementation of harvesting operations must be done as described in the Guidelines for Forest Operations (large concessions).
Protected Area	A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.
Regeneration	The act of establishing or enriching vegetation on barren or degraded land/forest naturally or artificially.
Scale, Intensity and Risk	<p><i>Scale</i> refers to the relative size or extent of the defined forest area and its operational and management activities such as silviculture operations, road building, etc. It also helps in identification and estimation of threshold levels with respect to the activities.</p> <p><i>Intensity</i> is based on the level of management activities within the defined forest area. It is a measure of the force, severity or strength of the impact of a management activity on environmental, social or economic values. In the context of forest management, intensity refers to site disturbing activities, such as disturbance caused by harvesting machinery, removal of trees, soil preparation, planting, use of fertilizers, use of pesticides, etc.</p> <p><i>Risk</i> refers to the likelihood or probability of an event with negative consequences or an unacceptable negative impact, caused by any activity in the defined forest area, to result in a non-compliance at the Criteria level.</p>
Small concession	Area of State forest less than 8,097 hectares approved for commercial timber production in Guyana.
Supply Chain (also supply system)	The different steps through which wood-based products go from being harvested in the forest to an end product.
Stakeholder	<p>A person, group, community or organisation with an interest in the subject of the Guyana Certification Scheme. A stakeholder may include:</p> <p>a) Affected stakeholder</p> <p>A stakeholder who might experience a direct change in living</p>

	<p>and/or working conditions caused by implementation of a standard, or a stakeholder who might be a user of a standard and therefore is subject to the requirements of the standard.</p> <p>Note 1: Affected stakeholders include neighbouring communities, Indigenous Peoples, workers, etc. However, having an interest in the subject matter of the standard (e.g., NGOs, scientific community, and civil society) is not equal to being affected.</p> <p>Note 2: A stakeholder who might be a user of the standard is likely to become a certified entity, e.g., a forest sector operator in the case of a forest management standard, or a wood processing enterprise in the case of a chain of custody standard.</p> <p>The following are examples of affected stakeholders, and may include -</p> <p>Local communities, forest dwellers and indigenous communities. Workers, Forest dwellers, Neighbours, Downstream landowners, Local processors, Local businesses, Tenure and use rights holders, including landowners, Organizations authorized or known to act on behalf of affected stakeholders, for example social and environmental NGOs, labour unions. b) Interested stakeholder</p> <p>It is an individual, group of individuals or an organisation; that has shown an interest or is known to have an interest in the activities of the organisation.</p>
Stakeholder Engagement	The process used by an organisation to engage relevant stakeholders for the purpose to achieve accepted outcomes.
Stakeholder Mapping	<p>An exercise of establishing contact with the already identified and interested stakeholders for the standard setting process. Stakeholder mapping exercise includes defining key sectors of stakeholders, issues of each sector and best means of communication to reach them.</p> <p>The major stakeholder groups outlined in the UN Agenda 21 are: business and industry, non-governmental organisations, scientific and technological communities, Farmers and small forest landowners' workers and trade unions, local authorities, Indigenous Peoples, women, children and youth.</p>
Sustainable Management	Forest The process of managing forest to achieve one or more clearly specified objectives of management with regard to the production of a continuous flow of desired forest products and services without undue reduction of its inherent values and future productivity, and without undue undesirable effects on the physical and social environment.
Sustainable Use	Use of components of biological diversity in such manner and at rates that do not lead to the long-term decline of the biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and

	aspiration of present and future generations.
Standardising body	<p>Body that has recognised activities in standardisation.</p> <p>The Standardising Body for the Guyana Certification Scheme is the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) and is responsible for the development and maintenance of the Standards comprising the Guyana Certification Scheme. The GFC is also the national governing body.</p>
Tenure Rights	A legal claim made on tenure of land and/or natural resources by an individual or group of individuals.
Threatened species	Threatened species is a group of three categories: critically endangered species, endangered species, and vulnerable species. Endangered species are considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild, while vulnerable species are considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
Vitality of Forests	A broad suite of factors that affect the structure or function of forest ecosystems. These factors can be generally classed as natural or exotic biotic agents, abiotic stressors, and anthropogenic emissions and manipulations of the forests.

6. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD

- Sustainable forest management performance requirements in the Standard are applicable at the Defined Forest Area level, except monitoring of forest health, which could be done at regional level but with the monitoring results communicated at the Defined Forest Area level;
 - where forest health is monitored at the regional level, it will not be necessary to carry out individual monitoring of each Defined Forest Area.
- All the requirements have been developed so they are clear, performance based and auditable.
- The requirements apply to activities of all forest operators in the Defined Forest Area which have an impact on achieving compliance with the Standard.
- Relevant and appropriate records must be kept, to provide evidence of compliance with the Standard's forest management requirements.
- Documents related to wood and non-wood forest products from forests certified under this Standard, and passed on to entities with PEFC-endorsed Chain of Custody certification, must specify "100% PEFC certified."

7. PRINCIPLES, CRITERIA, INDICATORS AND SUGGESTED VERIFIERS FOR THE STANDARD

7.1 PRINCIPLE 1 –COMPLIANCE WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND ORGANISATIONAL COMMITMENTS	
Criterion 1.1 The Forest sector operator has the legal right to harvest.	
Indicators	Verifiers
<p>Indicator 1.1.1 The Forest sector operator is the holder of one of the following: (State forest operations only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Forest Concession Agreement (FCA) <p>Note: The existence of an authorised permit or agreement from GFC demonstrates that the requirements for the legal right to harvest in State forests have been met. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A Valid Tax Identification Number certificate. An Approval Letter for the forest concession to be allocated as either large or small concession (applicable to state forest authorisations only). If the forest sector operator is a natural person or body corporate and has a business name registered under the Business (Name) Registration Act; If the forest sector operator is a local company, the body corporate has a Certificate of Incorporation; If the forest sector operator is a foreign company, the body corporate has a Certificate of Registration; If the forest sector operator is a Friendly Society, it has an Acknowledgment of Registration; or If the forest sector operator is a Co-operative Society, it has a Certificate of Registration. For large concession areas prior to issuance of a FCA, valid Exploratory Permit; An Environmental Authorisation ((applicable to state forest authorisations only). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For a large concession holder, a valid Forest Concession Agreement (which can be State Forest Authorisation -Large concession agreement or a State Forest Exploratory Permit). For a small concession holder, a valid Forest Concession Agreement (which can be either a State Forest Authorisation-Small concession or a Community Forest Management Agreement).
<p>Indicator 1.1.2 For forest operations in Amerindian Villages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Forest sector operator is a Village Council, and has been appointed lawfully in accordance with the Amerindian Act; The Village Council (the Forest sector operator) has a legal title for the forest land where commercial activities are being conducted; If residents of the Amerindian Village are acting on behalf of the Village Council, they have a written agreement with the Council to engage in commercial activities related to harvesting or extraction within Village lands; and If non-residents who are acting on behalf of the Village Council, they have a written agreement with the Council to engage in commercial activities related to harvesting or extraction within Village lands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement of elections results (Ministry of Amerindian Affairs {MOAA}); One of the following verifiers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certificate of Title (Lands Registry), Absolute Grant (Guyana Lands and Survey Commission). Written agreement between the Village Council (VC) and the Forest sector operator (resident). Written agreement between the VC and the non-resident Forest sector operator.
<p>Indicator 1.1.3 For forest operations on private lands, the Forest sector operator has legal title for the forest land where the</p>	<p>One of the following verifiers:</p>

<p>commercial activities are taking place.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Note: Iwokrama has its own enabling legislation. However, Iwokrama's commercial forestry operations will be subject to the requirements of either a large or small concession, depending on the size of the operations. The distinction between large and small operations is based on GFC's mandated threshold of 8,097 hectares for large and small concessions.</p> </div>	<p>i) absolute title (Land Registry)</p> <p>ii) transport (Deeds Registry)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iii) Absolute grant (GL&SC)
Criterion 1.2 The Forest sector operator complies with forest management and Wood Tracking System (WTS) requirements.	
<p>Indicator 1.2.1 The Forest sector operator harvests timber products within the boundaries of the concession (State forests), Village lands (Amerindian Villages) or private land. (Large concessions, Small concessions, Amerindian Villages and Private lands).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved Forests Monitoring Division (FMD) Inspection Report (GFC/FMD). • Maps of the Concession. • Field Inspection by the auditor.
<p>Indicator 1.2.2 The Forest sector operator does not prevent the legal user rights of other individual groups (Large concessions and Small concessions).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FMD Inspection Report (GFC/FMD). • Field interviews with forest-dependent communities within or near the concession.
<p>Indicator 1.2.3 The Forest sector operator complies with:</p> <p>a) in the case of a large concession agreement, the GFC approved Annual Allowable Cut; ;(the GFC approved Annual Allowable Cut is based on the inventory. In no case will it exceed the Maximum allowable cut of 20 m³/ha/60 year cycle but it can be less if the inventory stocking is poor) ; or</p> <p>b) in the case of a small concession agreement, the approved quota.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tag Management Report (GFC/FMD). • FMD Inspection Report (GFC/FMD).
<p>Indicator 1.2.4 The Forest sector operator complies with the Wood Tracking System requirements. (Large concessions, Small concessions, Amerindian Villages and Private lands).</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Note: Wood Tracking System requirements as they apply to large forestry operations in Large concessions only are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-harvest inventory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conduct of pre-harvest inventory for all blocks to be harvested in the operational year to establish the maximum AAC within a given harvesting cycle. ○ Pre-harvest inventory report, including stock map. ○ Affixing tags with a unique inventory number on each tree to be harvested. ○ Forest Management Plan. ○ Annual Operational Plan with pre-harvesting inventory information. </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Note: Wood Tracking System requirements applicable to small concessions, Amerindian land and Private lands are verifiable from GFC's FMD's Post-harvest Inspection Report (GFC/FMD) prepared for each Forest Sector Operator.</p> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tag Management Report for large concession holders (GFC/FMD). • FMD Inspection Report for large and small concession holders (GFC/FMD).

<p>Indicator 1.2.5 The Forest sector operator complies with the Code of Practice for Forest Operations' requirements. (Large concessions, Small concessions Amerindian Villages and Private lands).</p> <p>Note the following Code of Practice requirements apply to all concession/tenure types.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Harvesting only approved trees (Small and Large Concession). ○ Harvesting within approved boundaries (Small and Large Concession). ○ Harvesting only for commercial purposes trees approved in pre-harvesting inspection report (Large concessions). ○ Harvesting based on sustainable yield ((Small and Large Concession). ○ Affixing tags to harvested logs ((Small and Large Concession). ○ Affixing tags to harvested stumps (Small and Large Concessions). ○ Affixing tags to the batch of lumber if there is log conversion in the forest ○ Completion of Removal Permit (Large and Small concessions) or Private Property Declaration Permit for Private lands. ○ Following harvesting restrictions (minimum diameter and height) (Small and Large concessions). • Post-Harvest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Payment of fees, charges and levies (all forest sector operators). ○ Closure of harvested block (Large concessions). ○ Return of unused tags (All tenures). ○ Compliance with environmental requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Erosion control (Small and Large concessions). ▪ Waste removal management (Small and Large concessions). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FMD Inspection Report (GFC/FMD)
<p>Criterion 1.3 The Forest sector operator complies with required fees, charges and levies.</p>	
<p>Indicator 1.3.1 The Forest sector operator complies with the requirements for the payments of applicable management fees, charges and levies (Large concessions, Small concessions, Amerindian Villages and Private Lands).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the following verifiers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Receipts on the payment schedules (GFC/Finance Division{FD}), ○ Receipts for full payments (GFC/FD), ○ Agreed Payment Plan with the GFC.
<p>Indicator 1.3.2 The Forest sector operator complies with the tax requirements of the applicable tax schedule published by the Guyana Revenue Authority (RA) (Large concessions, Small concessions and Private Lands).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the following verifiers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Valid RA Tax Identification Number Certificate (for forest sector operators less than one year of operation), ○ Lodgement Receipt from the

	<p>RA (for forest sector operators exceeding one year of operation),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For entities exempted by law from payment of taxes, a valid Entity Exempt including a Non-liability letter/certificate
Criterion 1.4 The Forest sector operator makes policy commitments to comply with national forest management standard and continuous improvements to forest management.	
Indicator 1.4.1 The Forest sector operator has a documented policy commitment to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) comply with the requirements of the Guyana Standard for Sustainable Forest Management Guyana Standard for Sustainable Forest Management and other applicable requirements of the certification system; and b) continuously improves the Organisation's sustainable forest management system. <p>(Applicable to all concession and tenure types).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented policy commitments.
Indicator 1.4.2 The Forest sector operator makes the policy commitment referred to in 1.4.1 publicly available. (Applicable to all concession and tenure types).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of mechanism for public availability, e.g., websites, records of distribution, statement confirming availability on request.
Indicator 1.4.3 The Forest sector operator shall identify and have access to the legislation applicable to its forest management and determine how these compliance obligations apply to the Organisation. (Applicable to all concession and tenure types).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of legislation or Web-links to applicable legislation on-line.
Indicator 1.4.4 The forest sector operator shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) have a documented policy commitment not to offer or receive bribes or condone/ participate in any other form of corruption; and b) make the policy commitment publicly available. <p>(Applicable to all concession/tenure types)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented policy commitment. • Evidence of public availability.
Indicator 1.4.5 The forest sector operator shall comply with anti-corruption legislation, where it exists (Applicable to all concession/tenure types).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented policy commitment.
Criterion 1.5 The forest sector operator protects the forest from illegal and unauthorised activities	
Indicator 1.5.1 The forest sector operator shall implement measures to protect the forest from unauthorised activities such as illegal logging, illegal land use, illegally initiated fires, and other illegal activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies/procedures for preventing and/or managing illegal and unauthorised activities. • Observed sign boards

<p>Indicator 1.5.2 Where forest protection is the legal responsibility of regulatory bodies, the forest sector operator collaborates with these regulatory bodies to identify, report, control and discourage unauthorized or illegal activities.</p> <p>Indicator 1.5.3 If illegal or unauthorized activities are detected, measures are implemented to address them. (Applicable to all concession/tenure types)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of detection of illegal/unauthorised activities. • Records of collaboration with regulatory bodies. • GFC field monitoring reports. • Field observations of illegal/unauthorised activities. • GFC Compounding Reports and evidence of any follow up activities undertaken. • GFC field monitoring reports
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7.2 PRINCIPLE 2 – LEGAL, CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL RIGHTS

Criterion 2.1 The Forest sector operator respects legal, customary and traditional rights to land.

Indicator 2.1.1 The Forest sector operator establishes and implements a policy commitment to ensure that its forest practices and operations are conducted in a manner that recognises the established framework of legal, customary and traditional rights such as outlined in ILO 169, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

(Applicable to all concession and tenure types).

Indicator 2.1.2 The Forest sector operator does not prevent traditional rights of Amerindian peoples. (Large concession, Small concession, and Private Lands).

Note: The rights of Indigenous people of Guyana are entrenched in the Guyana constitution and the Amerindian Act, Cap. 29:01 of Guyana. The Amerindian Act guarantees land rights and sets out a legal process not only for titling of existing Villages, but also claims for new lands and extensions to existing lands.

- Documented policies and procedures.
- Evidence from affected stakeholders.

- (FMD Inspection Report (GFC/FMD)).
- Interviews with Amerindian communities.

Criterion 2.2 The Forest sector operator has appropriate commercial contracts with Amerindian village

Indicator 2.2.1 The Forest sector operator shall ensure that any contractual arrangements for timber harvesting on Amerindian lands are made with free and informed consent of the community.

Indicator 2.2.2 The Forest sector operator shall ensure that any contractual arrangements for timber harvesting on Amerindian lands are brought to the attention of the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MOAA) and the GFC.

Indicator 2.2.3 Forest sector operators desirous of negotiating commercial forestry contracts with an Amerindian Council shall inform the relevant Amerindian Council, the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and the Guyana Forestry Commission. (Applies to all Forest Sector Operators undertaking commercial timber operations on Amerindian lands).

- Copies of written agreements.
- Interviews with communities to verify free and informed consent.
- Records of communications with MOAA and GFC.
- Records of communications with Amerindian Councils and MOAA.
- Registration sheets from Village Meetings.

Criterion 2.3 The Forest sector operator has a system to manage conflicts between forest operations and local communities.

Indicator 2.3.1 The Forest sector operator shall ensure that any conflicts are first resolved through consultation before exploring legal options.

- Conflict Resolution Policy and Procedures.
- Conflict resolution committees.

<p>Indicator 2.3.2 The Forest sector operator shall ensure that conflicts are resolved through consultations through a neutral third party.</p> <p>Indicator 2.3.3 The Forest sector operator shall ensure that disputes over Amerindian land tenure and use rights are brought to the attention of the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission. (Applies to all FSOs undertaking commercial timber operations on Amerindian lands).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict Resolution Policy and Procedures. • Policies and procedures. • Records of communications with the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission.
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7.3 PRINCIPLE 3 – WORKERS RIGHTS	
Criterion 3.1 The Forest sector operator complies with employment law, social security requirements and the fundamental ILO conventions.	
<p>Indicator 3.1.1 The Forest sector operator complies with the National Insurance and Social Security Act and pays applicable National Insurance Scheme (NIS) contributions on behalf of workers (including employees and contractor employees). (Large concessions, Small concessions, Amerindian villages and Private lands).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of Registration with the NIS. • Records of wages payment/Payslips. • Records of NIS payment/deductions to NIS. • Interviews with workers. • A valid Entity Exempt Letter/Certificate including a Non-liability letter.
<p>Note: For entities exempted by law from making contributions to the National Insurance Scheme, a valid Entity Exempt Letter/Certificate.</p>	
<p>Indicator 3.1.2 The Forest sector operator shall ensure that forest practices and operations comply with fundamental ILO conventions (ILO Conventions 29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138 and 182.) and related legislation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of compliance with Section 11.2 of GFC Guidelines for Large and Small concessions. • Employee records/files. • Interviews with workers.
<p>Note – Guyana has ratified all eight fundamental conventions:</p> <p>C029 - Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (Ratified 8 Jun 1966).</p> <p>C087 - Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (Ratified 25 Sep 1967).</p> <p>C098 - Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (Ratified 8 Jun 1966).</p> <p>C100 - Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (Ratified 13 Jun 1975).</p> <p>C105 - Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (Ratified 8 Jun 1966).</p> <p>C111 - Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (Ratified 13 Jun 1975).</p> <p>C138 - Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) (Ratified 15 Apr 1998).</p> <p>C182 - Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) (Ratified 15 Jan 2001).</p>	

Criterion 3.2 The Forest sector operator provides appropriate workplace conditions.	
3.2A Child labour and forced labour.	
Indicator 3.2.1 The Forest sector operator employs persons above the relevant statutory ages in accordance with the operations being conducted. (Large concessions, Small concessions, Amerindian Villages and Private lands).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence with compliance with Section 11.2 of GFC Guidelines for Large and Small concessions. • Employee records/files. • Interviews with workers/communities.
Indicator 3.2.2 The Forest sector operator keeps records to verify that there is no use of child labour in keeping with the International Labour Organization Convention 182. (Large concessions, Small concessions, Amerindian Villages and Private lands).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of workers ages (e.g., register of employees, copies of birth certificates or national identity cards that record the date of birth). • Interviews with workers/communities.
Indicator 3.2.3 The Forest sector operator does not use forced labour in forest operations as outlined in the ILO Convention 29 on forced labour. (Large concessions, Small concessions, Amerindian Villages and Private lands).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with workers/communities. • Documented commitments by Forest sector operators.
3.2B Anti-discrimination in the workplace.	
Indicator 3.2.4 The Forest sector operator complies with Guyana's Non-Discrimination Legislation (Large concessions, Small concessions, Amerindian Villages and Private lands).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of compliance with Section 11.2 of GFC Guidelines for Large and Small concessions. • Interviews with workers.
Note: Based on Guyana's legal framework: Prevention of Discrimination Act; Occupational and Safety and Health Act; and Occupational Safety and Health (HIV and AIDS) Regulations.	
Indicator 3.2.5 The Forest sector operator does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, colour, ethnic origin and sexual orientation in relation to appointment, advancement and training opportunities (Large concessions, Small concessions, Amerindian Villages and Private lands).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented Anti-discrimination policy. • Interviews with workers/communities.
Indicator 3.2.6 The Forest sector operator ensures women and men are paid equal remuneration for the same work or work of equal value. (Large concessions, Small concessions, Amerindian Villages and Private lands).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of remuneration payments. • Interviews with workers/communities.
Indicator 3.2.7 The Forest sector operator, wherever possible, provides opportunities for employment and training to local and forest dependent communities within or adjacent to the forestry operation. (Large concessions, Small concessions, Amerindian Villages and Private lands).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and appointment records. • Interviews with workers/communities. • Number of employees from the local community as a proportion of the Organisation's total workforce.
3.2C Working conditions.	
Indicator 3.2.8 The Forest sector operator does not prevent workers from freely organising and/or joining a trade union or association of their choice, as well as negotiating for wages and conditions as stipulated under applicable legislation. (Large concessions, Small concessions, Amerindian Villages and Private lands).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documented policies. • Interviews with workers.

<p>Indicator 3.2.9 – The Forest sector operator ensures that wages of local and migrant forest workers as well as of contractors and other operators operating in PEFC-certified areas meet or exceed at least legal, industry minimum standards or, where applicable, collective bargaining agreements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of meeting legal, industry minimum standards. • Collective bargaining agreements. • Records of wages payments, payslips, timesheets. • Interviews with workers.
<p>Note: Where wages are below the living wage of Guyana, steps should be taken to attain increased wages towards a living wage level over time in addition to increases for inflation.</p>	
<p>Indicator 3.2.10 The Forest sector operator ensures that workers are paid on time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of wages payments, payslips, timesheets. • Interviews with workers.
<p>Indicator 3.2.11 The Forest sector operator ensures that contracts for employees include provisions for adequate rest and recreation time and facilities in keeping with the labour laws of Guyana.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work schedules. • Employees' contracts. • Interviews with workers.
<p>Indicator 3.2.12 The Forest sector operator ensures employees are informed (verbally or in writing) of the terms and conditions of their employment at the time they are hired.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written employment contract or appointment letter. • Job descriptions provided to workers. • Interviews with workers.
<p>Indicator 3.2.13 The Forest sector operator ensures that prior to or upon assumption of duties, the Organisation documents and informs an employee of his/her wages by task or by day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written employment contract or appointment letter. • Job descriptions provided to workers.
<p>Indicator 3.2.14 Where the Forest sector operator uses contractors and contracted labour, the Forest sector operator ensures work contracts include the following provisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the parties agree that a written agreement between the concessionaire/employer and any contractor shall be the basis of any engagement with any such contractor for the purpose of conducting forest operations in the concession; ii. the Organisation and/or the contractor provides a copy of any written agreement with any contractor(s) for the consideration of the Commissioner of Forests/authorised GFC Officer at least one month prior to the desired date of commencement of work by the contractor(s); and iii. the parties agree that any agreement regarding contractual work in which the employer/concessionaire is engaged includes the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) an explicit statement that the employer/concessionaire is responsible directly for all actions of the contractor; b) an explicit statement committing the employer/concessionaire and the contractor(s) to full compliance with the terms of the concession agreement, the provisions of the most recent Forest Management Plan where applicable and the provisions of the most recent Annual Operational Plan where applicable; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of contracts. • Evidence of compliance with Section 11.2 of GFC Guidelines for Large and Small concessions. • Evidence that a contract agreement between the contractor and the Forest sector operator is in place that ensures that the requirements of 3.2.14 are met.

c) an explicit statement committing the employer/concessionaire to reasonable responsibility for the social welfare of contractors and their families, while such contractors are engaged in the approved contractual operations; and

d) an explicit provision making clear that there shall be no transfer whatsoever of the concession, the concession area or any part thereof; (except with the approval of the GFC)

iv. the contractor agrees that it will maintain registers of all employees, together with employment records (including PAYE and NIS contributions) and that such registers will be available for scrutiny by the Guyana Forestry Commission and concessionaire, and such other agencies approved by the Guyana Forestry Commission.

Criterion 3.3 The Forest sector operator provides for the health and safety of workers.	
<p>Indicator 3.3.1. The Forest sector operator complies with applicable OHS legislation and the Guidelines for Forest Operations.</p> <p>Note - Section 10 Health and Safety of the Guidelines for Forest Operations for Large and Small Concessions includes detailed requirements for health and safety, including general rules, emergency rescue, personal protective equipment, fire prevention and suppression, equipment safety devices, chainsaw operations safety, skidding safety, landing area, loading, transporting workers and water operations. Applicable legislation includes Guyana's OHS Act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of compliance with Section 10 of GFC Guidelines for Large and Small concessions. • Interviews with workers.
<p>Indicator 3.3.2 The Forest sector operator identifies and documents the accident risks associated with planned forest operations.</p> <p>Indicator 3.3.3 The Forest sector operator specifies the measures to be applied to protect workers from work-related risks.</p> <p>Indicator 3.3.4 The Forest sector operator plans and organises forest operations to ensure all reasonable measures are taken to protect workers (including contractors) when undertaking forest operations.</p> <p>Indicator 3.3.5 The Forest sector operator informs workers (including contractors) of the risks involved with their work and the preventive measures adopted to mitigate those risks.</p> <p>Indicator 3.3.6 The Forest sector operator reviews safety risk assessments and mitigation measures at least annually, in consultation with workers or their selected representatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OHS implementation plan. • Risk analysis report. • Safe work operating procedures. • Workplace OHS Committee. • Interview with workers. • Records of communication of risks to workers. • Interview with workers. • Records of annual reviews. • Minutes of OHS Committee meetings. • Interview with workers.
<p>Indicator 3.3.7 The Forest sector operator ensures that first-aid facilities and other safety equipment are available or catered for at the workplace and kept up to date. (Large concessions, Small concessions, Amerindian Villages and Private lands).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection Report (GFC/FMD). • Inspection by Auditor. • Minutes/Reports of the OHS Committee.
<p>Indicator 3.3.8 – The Forest sector operator ensures that working conditions are safe, and guidance and training in safe working practices is provided to all those assigned to a task in forest operations.</p> <p>Indicator 3.3.9 – The Forest sector operator ensures that workers (including contractors) are provided with and use personal protective equipment appropriate to their work tasks in accordance with the ILO Code of Good Practice: Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation of working conditions and PPE use. • Records of training in safe working practices. • Records of provision of applicable PPE. • Safety signs. • Observation of working conditions and PPE use. • Records of training in safe working

and Health in Forestry Work. . (Large concessions, Small concessions, Amerindian Villages and Private lands).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> practices. Records of provision of applicable PPE. Safety signs.
Indicator 3.3.10 The Forest sector operator keeps an up-to-date register of all workplace accidents and injuries, including appropriate investigations conducted into these accidents and follows up action to prevent future occurrence. . (Large concessions, Small concessions, Amerindian Villages and Private lands).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of compliance with section 10 of GFC Guidelines for Large and Small concessions. Accident register. Records of follow up actions.
Indicator 3.3.11 The Forest sector operator has an emergency rescue plan, appropriate to the size and scope of the Organisation, for the quick evacuation of a person in the event of an injury or illness which requires medical assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An emergency rescue plan.
Criterion 3.4 The Forest sector operator ensures workers are competent and trained.	
Indicator 3.4.1 – The Forest sector operator identifies the competency and training needs associated with the implementation of sustainable forest management activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training needs assessment reports.
Indicator 3.4.2 – The Forest sector operator: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> establishes and implements a training plan to ensure that all workers (including contractors) are sufficiently competent to undertake assigned forest management activities; and undertakes refresher training and provides task-specific information to workers (including contractors) to ensure that competencies remain up-to-date and appropriate to the tasks being undertaken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training plans. Training materials. Records of training/refresher training. Observation of forest management activities being undertaken.
Indicator 3.4.3 – The Forest sector operator establishes and maintains records of competencies held by and training provided to all workers (including contractors).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training/refresher training records.
Indicator 3.4.4 The Forest sector operator has a plan, appropriate to the size and scale of the operation that provides: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a range of educational and skills training programmes for the purpose of enhancing workers' job performance and promotion within the workplace; educational and vocational skills programmes to communities within or adjacent to the forest management operation; and wherever possible, that certification for educational and skills training programmes for employees is issued by a recognized national institution or body. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans for educational and skills training. List of accredited national training institutions providing training services to the Organisation.
Indicator 3.4.5 The Forest sector operator demonstrates that the Organisation provides ongoing training to its employees in the safe handling of hazardous agents at its workplace.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training/refresher training records.
Criterion 3.5 The Forest sector operator manages workplace disputes appropriately.	
Indicator 3.5.1 The Forest sector operator ensures that in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records of disputes resolution.

the event of an industrial dispute, the relevant parties first explore the option to resolve the dispute through discussions with management/workers' representatives, and only seek to utilise mechanisms involving other parties such as conciliation and arbitration if the discussions fail.

- Interviews with workers.

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7.4 PRINCIPLE 4 – MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND PLANNING	
Criterion 4.1 The Forest sector operator has a structured and resourced forest management system.	
<p>Indicator 4.1.1 The Forest sector operator establishes and maintains a forest management system appropriate for the size and scale of operations, that includes the documented information required by the Standard and determined by the Forest sector operator as being necessary for the effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system.</p>	<p>Forest management system documentation includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies. • Forest management and operational plans (Large concessions). • Records (operational, monitoring and training). • Area Work Plan (Small concessions, Private lands and Amerindian Villages).
<p>Note Applicable to all tenures based on scale and intensity of operations.</p>	
<p>Indicator 4.1.2 The Forest sector operator determines and provides the resources needed for the establishment, implementation, maintenance, and continual improvement of the sustainable forest management system appropriate for the size and scale of operations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plans (Large concessions). • Area Work Plan (Small concession, Private lands and Amerindian Villages). • Financial budgets. • Evidence of human and physical resources.
Criterion 4.2 The Forest sector operator has a forest management plan appropriate to the size and scale of operation.	
<p>Indicator 4.2.1 Where applicable, the forest sector operator prepares, implements and maintains management plans to include the elements described in GFC/FPA: Forest Management Plan Guidelines, April 1999. These shall include:</p> <p>(a) For large scale operations on all tenures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A five-year management plan; An annual operational plan; and A publicly available summary management plan. <p>(b) For small scale operations on all tenures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A publicly available summary of Area Work Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plans (large concessions). • Area Work Plan (Small concessions, Private lands, and Amerindian Villages).
<p>Note – The GFC/FPA: Forest Management Plan Guidelines, April 1999 describes the various elements to be included in Forest Management Plan for large concessions in Guyana.</p>	
<p>Indicator 4.2.2 – The Forest sector operator makes the summary Forest Management Plan/Area Work Plan publicly available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary Management Plan/Area Work Plan. • Evidence of public availability, e.g., websites, policy on public availability.
<p>Indicator 4.2.3 – The Forest sector operator periodically updates the summary management plan to ensure it</p>	

continues to accurately reflect the forest management objectives and activities being undertaken.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Up to date summary of the Management Plan/Area Work Plan.
Note: The publicly available summary of the Management Plan (large concessions)/Area Work Plan (small concessions, Private lands, Amerindian Villages) may exclude confidential business and personal information and other information made confidential by applicable legislation or for the protection of cultural sites or sensitive natural resource features.	
Criterion 4.4 The Forest sector operator has a system for stakeholder engagement and managing complaints appropriate for the size and scale of operations.	
Indicator 4.4.1 – The Forest sector operator identifies and keeps up to date: a) the affected stakeholders that are relevant to sustainable forest management; and b) the relevant needs and expectations of these stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stakeholder lists.
Indicator 4.4.2 – The Forest sector operator establishes and implements procedures for effective communication and consultation with local communities, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders relating to sustainable forest management. Indicator 4.4.3 – The Forest sector operator ensures that mechanisms for communication and consultation are culturally appropriate and facilitate meaningful engagement. Indicator 4.4.4 – The Forest sector operator keeps records of communications and consultation sufficient to demonstrate implementation of its procedures and meaningful engagement with local communities, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders in relation to the Forest sector operator’s forest management activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Documented procedures.Records of communications and consultations.Stakeholder engagement policy and procedures.
Indicator 4.4.5 – The Forest sector operator establishes and implements appropriate mechanisms for resolving complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions. Indicator 4.4.6 – The Forest sector operator keeps records of all complaints and disputes relating to forest management operations, land use rights and work conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Documented procedures.Records of complaints and disputes.Interviews with affected stakeholders.

7.5 PRINCIPLE 5 – MONITORING, EVALUATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Criterion 5.1 The Forest sector operator monitors, measures, analyses and evaluates forest management

<p>Indicator 5.1.1 For large scale operations, the Forest sector operator establishes and implements a system for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> monitoring the forest resources (including non-wood forest products where these products are part of the operations) in their concession as well as evaluates the management of the forest resources; and feeds the results of the monitoring and evaluation back into the Organisation's planning process. <p>Indicator 5.1.2 For small scale operations, the Forest sector operator facilitates monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of forest operations by external regulators including the GFC, to provide feedback into the forest management and planning process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documented monitoring and evaluation system, including policies and procedures. Monitoring and evaluation records. Evidence that results are fed back into planning to improve forest management. Inspection report (GFC/FMD) Interview with stakeholders
<p>Note – Monitoring of impacts includes ecological, social and economic aspects and effects, such as;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the health and vitality of forests, especially key biotic and abiotic factors that potentially can affect health and vitality of forest ecosystems, such as pests, diseases, overharvesting of wildlife, fire, and damage caused by climatic factors, air pollutants or by forest management operations; and working conditions. 	
<p>Criterion 5.2 The Forest sector operator conducts internal audits and management reviews and practices continual improvement.</p>	
<p>Indicator 5.2.1 The Forest sector operator establishes and implements an internal audit program to provide information on whether the management system:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> conforms to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the organisation's requirements for its management system; the requirements of the Guyana National Forest Management Standard; and is effectively implemented and maintained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documented internal audit procedure. Records of internal audits.
<p>Indicator 5.2.2 Appropriate to the scale and size of the operation, the Forest sector operator:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> plans, establishes, implements and maintains an audit program(s) including the frequency, methods, responsibilities, planning requirements and reporting, which shall take into consideration the importance of the processes concerned and the results of previous audits; defines the audit criteria and scope for each audit; selects the auditors and conduct audits to ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process; ensures that the results of the audits are reported to relevant management; retains documented information as evidence of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documented internal audit procedure, including planning. Records of internal audits and audit results.

implementation of the audit programme and the audit results.	
<p>Indicator 5.2.3 Appropriate to the scale and size of the operation the Forest sector operator carries out an annual management review that includes:</p> <p>a) the status of actions from previous management reviews;</p> <p>b) changes in external and internal factors including, results of ongoing consultations with neighbouring forest dependent communities, that are relevant to the management system;</p> <p>c) information on the organisation's performance, including trends in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• nonconformities and corrective actions;• monitoring and measurement results;• audit results; <p>d) opportunities for continual improvement.</p>	Records of management reviews.
<p>Note - Outputs of the management review include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• decisions related to continual improvement opportunities and any need for changes to the management system;• demonstration that the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the sustainable forest management system and the sustainable management of the forest is being continuously improved; and• retention of documentary records as evidence of the results of management reviews.	
Criterion 5.3 The Forest sector operator has a system for detecting nonconformities and implementing corrective actions.	
<p>Indicator 5.3.1 The Forest sector operator establishes and implements a system to respond to nonconformities detected through internal mechanisms such as internal audits or through external sources such as regulatory bodies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• System for detecting and responding to nonconformities.• Records of nonconformities identified, and corrective actions implemented
<p>Note – The complexity of the system to respond to nonconformities will vary according to the size and scale of the forest management operation. However, the system should have the capacity that when a nonconformity occurs, the forest sector operator:</p> <p>a) reacts to the nonconformity and, as applicable:</p> <p>i. takes action to control and correct it;</p> <p>ii. deals with the consequences;</p> <p>b) evaluates the need for action to eliminate the causes of the nonconformity, in order that it does not recur or occur elsewhere, by:</p> <p>i. reviewing the nonconformity;</p> <p>ii. determining the causes of the nonconformity;</p> <p>iii. determining if similar nonconformities exist, or could potentially occur;</p> <p>c) implements any action needed;</p> <p>d) reviews the effectiveness of any corrective action taken;</p> <p>e) makes changes to the management system, if necessary.</p> <p>Where corrective actions are specified, the forest sector operator demonstrates that those actions are appropriate to the</p>	

<p>effects of the nonconformities identified.</p> <p>The forest sector operator keeps records of documented information as evidence of:</p> <p>a) the nature of the nonconformities and any subsequent actions taken; and</p> <p>b) the results of any corrective action.</p>	
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7.6 PRINCIPLE 6 - MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL CARBON CYCLE

Criterion 6.1 The Forest sector operator maintains or increases forests and ecosystem services, and maintains or enhances the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources.

Indicator 6.1.1 Appropriate to the scale and size of the operation the Forest sector operator establishes and implements a policy to maintain or increase forests and their ecosystem services and maintains or enhances the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources.

Indicator 6.1.2 Appropriate to the scale and size of the operation the Forest sector operator establishes and implements procedures to ensure:

- the area of forest and the associated ecosystem services are maintained or increased; and
- the economic, ecological, cultural and social values of forest resources are maintained or enhanced.

- Forest Management Plan for large concessions.
- Area Work Plan for small concessions/private lands/Amerindian Villages.
- Inspection Report (GFC/FMD)

Criterion 6.2 The Forest sector operator recognises the role of forests and forest management activities in the carbon cycle.

Indicator 6.2.1 The Forest sector operator adopts management practices including silvicultural strategies

- Forest Management Plan for large concessions.

<p>appropriate to the scale and size of the operations, that enhance the forest's carbon sequestration capacities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) For operations on state forest, the forest sector operator adheres to the approved allowable harvesting rates in order to balance harvesting and the natural growth rates of the forest. b) For operations on private or Amerindian lands, the forest sector operator demonstrates that harvesting rates are balanced by the natural growth rates of the forest (or follows the GFC guidelines governing harvesting). c) The forest sector operator implements post-harvest remedies in line with the national Code of Practice for Forest Operations, including silvicultural measures appropriate to the scale and size of the operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Work Plan for small concessions/private land/Amerindian Villages. • Harvesting records. • Inspection Report (GFC/FMD). • Tag management Report/Production Report • Evidence of compliance with the requirements of the national Code of Practice for Forest Operations.
<p>Criterion 6.3 The Forest sector operator does not undertake conversion except in clearly justified circumstances.</p>	
<p>Indicator 6.3.1 The Forest sector operator does not undertake forest conversion other than in justified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority including consultation with affected stakeholders; and b) entails a small proportion (no greater than 5 %) of forest type within the certified area; and c) does not have negative impacts on ecologically important forest areas, culturally and socially significant areas, or other protected areas; and d) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; and e) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that the Organisation's conversion of forests to create permanent forest operation infrastructure such as roads, bridges, meets the requirements of the national Code of Practice for Forest Operations. • Evidence that any conversion undertaken by the Organisation has appropriate governmental approval. • Evidence of authorised access and use of lands by regulatory authorities or other entities acting in accordance with applicable legislation or regulations. • Evidence that there is no connection between the forest

<p>Note 1: The clearing of forest by the forest sector operator for the establishment of permanent forest roads and other necessary forestry infrastructure, when carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice for Forest Operations, is not considered forest conversion. The forest sector operator may salvage and recover all forest products generated from such clearing and sell these products as certified provided that the forest sector operator maintains certification.</p> <p>Note 2: The clearing of forest by authorised entities other than the forest sector operator in association with Guyanese legislation or regulations for the purposes of public infrastructure (such as highways, powerlines, gas pipelines, communications or defence facilities) or authorised mining activities is not considered to be conversion undertaken by the forest sector operator.</p> <p>In such circumstances, these areas that are not effectively under the control of the forest sector operator shall be removed from the defined forest area. However, forest products salvaged by the forest sector operator prior to the change in land management responsibility (and subsequent removal of the area from the defined forest area) may be sold as certified by the forest sector operator provided that the forest sector operator maintains certification.</p> <p>For forest areas subject to mining activities, the capacity to remove the affected area from the forest sector operator's defined forest area and to sell salvaged forest products as certified is contingent on the forest sector operator demonstrating that they are not directly or indirectly involved in the carrying out of the mining activity.</p>	<p>sector operator and entities undertaking mining activities on the managed forest area.</p>
<p>Indicator 6.3.2 The Forest sector operator does not undertake afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems except in justified circumstances where the conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) is in compliance with national and regional policy and legislation applicable for land use and forest management and is a result of national or regional land-use planning governed by a governmental or other official authority; and b) is established based on a decision-making basis where affected stakeholders have opportunities to contribute to the decision-making on conversion through transparent and participatory consultation processes; and c) does not have negative impacts on threatened (including vulnerable, rare or endangered) non-forest ecosystems, culturally and socially significant areas, important habitats of threatened species or other protected areas; and d) entails a small proportion of the ecologically important non-forest ecosystem managed by an organisation; and e) does not destroy areas of significantly high carbon stock; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records of afforestation carries out. • Records of pre-existing non-forest ecosystems (e.g., maps). • Government policies and legislation. • Records of stakeholder engagement. • Compliance with Guyana national Code of Practice for Forest Operations. • Compliance with the Guidelines for Forest Operations for large and small concessions. • Evidence of afforestation approved by the regulatory body

and f) makes a contribution to long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits.	
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7.7 PRINCIPLE 7 - MAINTENANCE OF FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND VITALITY	
Criterion 7.1 The Forest sector operator maintains the health and vitality of the ecosystem.	
<p>Indicator 7.1.1 – The Forest sector operator ensures that the Organisation’s management plan specifies how to minimise the risk of degradation and damage to forest ecosystems.</p> <p>Indicator 7.1.2 The Forest sector operator maintains or enhances the health and vitality of ecosystems within the forest management area.</p> <p>Indicator 7.1.3 Where economically feasible, the Forest sector operator rehabilitates degraded forest ecosystems, by making best use of natural structures and processes and using preventive biological measures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Work Plan for small concessions/private lands/Amerindian Villages. • Management plan for large concessions. • Evidence of compliance with sections 7 and 8 of the Code of Practice for Forest Operations. • Evidence of compliance with sections 7 and 8 of the Guidelines for Forest Operations for both large and small concessions. • GFC inspection report (FMD).
Criterion 7.2 The Forest sector operator maintains the genetic diversity of species and forest structures.	
<p>Indicator 7.2.1 The Forest sector operator demonstrates that forest management practices:</p> <p>(a) encourage and/or support adequate structural diversity;</p> <p>(b) enhance stability, vitality and resilience of the forest to adverse environmental factors; and</p> <p>(c) strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management Plan for large concessions • Area Work Plan for small concessions. • Evidence of compliance with sections 4 and 7 of the Code of Practice for Forest Operations • Evidence of compliance with sections 4 and 7 of the Guidelines Forest Operations for both large and small concessions. • GFC inspection report (FMD).
Criterion 7.3 The Forest sector operator disposes of waste in an environmentally responsible manner	
<p>Indicator 7.3.1 The Forest sector operator establishes and implements waste management procedures to ensure that the indiscriminate disposal of waste within the forest management area is strictly avoided.</p> <p>Indicator 7.3.2 The Forest sector operator ensures that non-organic waste and litter is collected and stored in designated areas and removed in an environmentally responsible manner.</p> <p>Indicator 7.3.3 The Forest sector operator ensures that spillage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of compliance with sections 8, 9 and 10 of the Code of Forest Operations. • Evidence of compliance with 8, 9 and 10 of the Guidelines Forest Operations for both large and small concessions. • Field observation of forest

<p>of oil or fuel during forest management operations is prevented.</p> <p>Indicator 7.3.4 The Forest sector operator establishes and implements emergency procedures for minimising the risk of environmental harm arising from the accidental spillage.</p>	<p>operations at audit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GFC inspection report (FMD). • Evidence of waste management training for staff involved in forest operations.
<p>Criterion 7.4 The Forest sector operator adopts an integrated approach to pest management, minimising the use of pesticides and other chemicals</p>	
<p>Indicator 7.4.1 Where the management of pests is necessary as part of forest management, to the extent possible, the Forest sector operator uses integrated pest management, other appropriate silviculture alternatives and biological measures in order to minimise the use of pesticides.</p> <p>Indicator 7.4.2 Where the use of pesticides or other chemicals is required as part of forest management, the Forest sector operator</p> <p>(a) documents the use of such pesticides and chemicals; and</p> <p>(b) ensures that the use of the pesticides follows the instructions given by the pesticide producer and is undertaken with proper equipment by trained personnel.</p> <p>Indicator 7.4.3 The Forest sector operator ensures that within the forest management area:</p> <p>a) the use of WHO Class 1A and 1B pesticides and other highly toxic pesticides are prohibited, except where no other viable alternative is available; and</p> <p>b) pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use, and any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited.</p> <p>Note - "Pesticides banned by international agreements" are defined in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation's documented pest management plan/guidelines/strategy. • The organisation's documented procedures/guidelines for the use of chemical pesticides. • Evidence of training in the management and use of chemical pesticides by staff involved in forest operations. • The organisation's documented inventory of chemicals/pesticides approved for use by the regulatory authority. • Approved procedures/guidelines for the management and use of pesticides and other chemicals in forest operations. • The Organisation's documented chemical use records. • Interview with staff. • The Organisation's documented commitment relating to its pest management in forest operations. • The Organisation's documented chemical use records. • Approved procedures/guidelines for the management and use of pesticides and other chemicals in forest operations. • Where the regulatory authority does not have published guidelines, demonstrated compliance with the manufacturer's use instructions for the pesticides. • Demonstrated compliance with the regulatory authority's guidelines/code of practice on the use of WHO Class 1A and 1B

	<p>pesticides if any exists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of staff training in the use of pesticides where approved pesticides are used in forest operations.
<p>Indicator 7.4.4 Where fertilisers are used as part of forest management, the Forest sector operator establishes and implements procedures to ensure that:</p> <p>a) fertilisers are applied in a controlled manner that minimises the potential for adverse environmental impacts; and</p> <p>b) fertilisers are not used as an alternative to appropriate soil nutrient management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Organisation's documented guidelines on the use of approved fertilisers. • Where the regulatory authority has published guidelines on the use of fertilisers in forest operations, demonstrated compliance with these guidelines. • Where the regulatory authority does not have published guidelines, demonstrated compliance with the manufacturer's use instructions for the fertilisers. • Evidence of staff training in the use of fertilisers where fertilisers are used in forest operations.

7.8 PRINCIPLE 8 –MAINTENANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE PRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS OF FORESTS (WOOD AND NON-WOOD)

Criterion 8.1 The Forest sector operator maintains the capacity of the forest to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis.

Indicator 8.1.1 The Forest sector operator demonstrates how planned forest management operations maintain the capability of the forest to produce a range of wood and non-wood forest products and services on a sustainable basis.

- The organisation's documented statement of commitment to ensuring sustainable management and use of forest resources including policies and procedures.
- Management Plan for large concessions.
- Area Work Plan for small concessions/private lands/Amerindian Villages.
- Evidence of compliance with the Code of practice for Forest Operations.
- Evidence of compliance with both Guidelines for large and small concession.
- GFC inspection report (FMD).

Criterion 8.2 The Forest sector operator pursues sound economic management to derive maximum benefits from the goods and services from the forest.

<p>Indicator 8.2.1 The Forest sector operator's systems and procedures are designed to encourage the optimal use of forest resources.</p> <p>Indicator 8.2.2 The Forest sector operator has evaluated the financial costs and benefits from forest management and has incorporated this information into management planning decisions aimed at delivering sound economic performance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management Plan for large concessions. • Area Work Plan for small concessions. • Evidence of compliance with Code of Practice for Wood Processing Facilities for Guyana (Sawmills and Lumberyards). • Evidence of compliance with the Code of practice for Forest Operations. • Evidence of compliance with the guidelines for large and small concession
<p>Criterion 8.3 The Forest sector operator ensures that management, harvesting and regeneration operations do not reduce the productive capacity of the site.</p>	
<p>Indicator 8.3.1 The Forest sector operator establishes and implements management, harvesting and regeneration procedures, consistent with applicable Codes of Practice and Guidelines to protect the productive capacity of the forest, including:</p> <p>a) implementing reduced impact logging techniques to minimise damage to residual stand and protect crop trees;</p> <p>b) implementing extraction techniques that minimise damage to soil and water values;</p> <p>c) timing harvesting and regeneration activities to maximise the potential for successful forest regeneration; and</p> <p>d) demarcating sensitive areas for the protection of soils.</p> <p>Indicator 8.3.2 The Forest sector operator provides regular training for its workers on reduced-impact logging techniques and other procedures described in 8.3.1.</p> <p>Note – RIL techniques are described in the Code of Practice and the Guidelines for Large and Small Concessions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest management and annual operational plans for large concessions. • Area work plans for small concessions/private lands/Amerindian villages • Staff training records. • Field observation of management, harvesting and regeneration operations. • Evidence of compliance with the Code of Practice for Forest Operations. • Evidence of compliance with the guidelines for large and small concession.
<p>Criterion 8.4 The Forest sector operator sets harvesting levels to ensure long term sustainability and optimum use</p>	
<p>Indicator 8.4.1 The Forest sector operator demonstrates that planned harvesting levels of both wood and non-wood products are sustainable in the long term and based on the best available information.</p> <p>Indicator 8.4.2 For large concessions, the Forest sector operator undertakes pre-harvest inventories, harvest planning and sustainable yield calculations in accordance with applicable Codes of Practice and Guidelines for Large Concessions.</p> <p>Indicator 8.4.3 For small concessions, the Forest sector operator complies with allowable cut quotas established by the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Management Plan and Annual Operational Plan for large concessions • Area Work Plan for small concessions/private lands/Amerindian Villages. • GFC's inspection report (FMD). • Production Register and GFC's tag report.

<p>GFC.</p> <p>Indicator 8.4.5 The Forest sector operator maintains records of the quantity of timber and important non-timber forest products harvested and complies with the GFC's Log Tracking System.</p>	
<p>Criterion 8.5 The Forest sector operator plans, establishes and maintains adequate infrastructure ensure efficient delivery of goods and services while minimising negative impacts on the environment</p>	
<p>Indicator 8.5.1 The Forest sector operator plans, constructs and maintains its harvesting infrastructure (such as roads, skid tracks or bridges) to ensure the efficient delivery of goods and services.</p> <p>Indicator 8.5.2 The Forest sector operator establishes and implements procedures, consistent with applicable Codes of Practice and Guidelines, to ensure that the construction and maintenance of its harvesting infrastructure (such as roads, skid tracks or bridges) minimises negative impacts on the environment.</p> <p>Note – Specifications for roads, skid trails and watercourse crossings consistent with RIL principles are described in the Code of Practice and the Guidelines for Large and Small Concessions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of compliance with Guyana's guidelines for large and small concessions. • Evidence of compliance with the Code of Forest Operations. • GFC inspection report (FMD). • Topographic map showing road alignment

7.9 PRINCIPLE 9 –MAINTENANCE, CONSERVATION OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

Criterion 9.1 The Forest sector operator aims to maintain, conserve or enhance biological and structural diversity.

<p>Indicator 9.1.1 The Forest sector operator demonstrates that management planning aims to maintain, conserve or enhance biodiversity on landscape, ecosystem, species and genetic levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management Plan for large concessions. • Area Work Plan for small concessions/Private Lands/Amerindian Villages. • Evidence of compliance with Code of Forest Operations. • Evidence of compliance with guidelines for large and small concessions.
<p>Indicator 9.1.2 The Forest sector operator has procedures in place, appropriate to the size and scale of the operation, to promote, where applicable:</p> <p>a) diversity of both horizontal and vertical structures and the diversity of species such as mixed stands, with the aim of also maintaining or restoring landscape diversity; and</p> <p>b) the use of traditional management practices that create valuable ecosystems on appropriate sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management Plan for large concessions. • Area Work Plan for small concessions. • Annual Operational Plan for large concessions. • Interviews with Amerindian communities within the

	concession.
Criterion 9.2 The Forest sector operator identifies, protects, conserves and sets aside, where appropriate, ecologically important forest areas.	
<p>Indicator 9.2.1 The Forest sector operator has identified and mapped ecologically important forest areas from which harvesting will be excluded, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Areas of ecological, scientific or touristic importance; Areas of extensive diversity of wildlife; Habitat of endemic species, and unique and fragile habitats; Watercourses, swamps and rock outcrops; and Very steep areas (>60%). <p>Indicator 9.2.2 The Forest sector operator has implemented buffer zones in accordance with the Code of Practice and the Guidelines for Small and Large Concessions to protect or conserve ecologically important areas.</p> <p>Indicator 9.2.3 For large scale operations, the Forest sector operator has set aside 4.5% of their productive forest area as a biodiversity reserve, which typifies the representative ecosystems/forest types of the entire forest management area.</p> <p>Note The requirements of Indicator 9.2.1 can be met with the requirement in Indicator 9.2.3. Additional area over and above the stipulation in Indicator 9.2.1. may be set aside if required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Operational Plans for large concessions. Area Work Plan for small concessions. Maps of Forest Management Unit if not included in the Annual Operational Plans or Area Work Plans. GFC's Inspection Report (FMD). Large concession Annual Operational Plan Topographic Map
Criterion 9.3 The Forest sector operator ensures that protected, threatened and endangered species are not exploited for commercial purposes.	
<p>Indicator 9.3.1 The Forest sector operator does not exploit protected, threatened and endangered plant and animal species for commercial purposes (except in accordance with trade authorised under CITES), and, where necessary, implements measures for their protection and, where relevant, to increase their population.</p> <p>Indicator 9.3.2 The Forest sector operator ensures that keystone species are protected during harvesting in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Practice and the Guidelines for Large and Small Concessions and that no Bulletwood (<i>Manilkara bidentata</i>) trees are harvested without the written permission of the Commissioner of Forests//authorized GFC Officer.</p> <p>Note – Keystone species include: (Full protection)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hog Plum (<i>Spondias mombin</i>) Ubudi (<i>Anacardium giganteum</i>) Kokoritiballi (<i>Pouteria egregia</i>) Duru (<i>Apeiba</i> spp.) Pasture tree (<i>Trymatococcus paraensis</i>) Sawari (Butternut) (<i>Caryocar nuciferum</i>) Akuyuru (<i>Astrocaryum aculeatum</i>) <p>(Partial protection – at least 3 trees (.40cm dbh) retained per</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with the regulatory authority's threatened species management plan/guidelines if there is any. Annual Operational Plans for large concessions. Area Work Plan for small concessions/private lands/Amerindian Villages. Evidence (through interviews of local communities) that the Organisation actively discourages illegal hunting and trapping of protected and endangered species through regular education of the communities and its workers. CITES permits where CITES listed species are exported. GFC's inspection report (FMD)

100 ha block) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aromata (<i>Clathrotropis brachypetala</i>) • Maho (<i>Sterculia pruriens</i> and <i>S. rugosa</i>). 	
Criterion 9.4 The Forest sector operator ensures successful regeneration of harvested areas.	
<p>Indicator 9.4.1 The Forest sector operator implements RIL techniques in accordance with the Code of Practice and Guidelines for Large and Small Concessions to ensure successful natural regeneration of forests after harvesting, relying solely on natural seed and propagules present within the harvested area.</p> <p>Indicator 9.4.2 The Forest sector operator does not fell trees with a diameter at breast height (dbh) (or in the case of a buttressed tree at a point immediately above the top of the buttress) of less than 35 cm unless it is for demonstrated infrastructure purposes.</p> <p>Indicator 9.4.3 The Forest sector operator maintains canopy gaps in harvested areas in accordance with the Code of Practice and Guidelines for Large and Small Concessions to facilitate the natural regeneration of commercially harvested species and limit the proliferation of undesirable vines, weeds or pioneer species.</p> <p>Indicator 9.4.4 The Forest sector operator marks and protects potential crop trees, seed trees, heritage trees, trees representative of harvested species and very large (>120 cm dbh) in accordance with the Code of Practice and Guidelines for Large and Small Concessions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of compliance with section 4 of GFC Guidelines for Large and Small concessions. • Evidence of compliance with Code of Practice for Forest Operations. • Tag Management Report (GFC/FMD). • FMD Inspection Report (GFC/FMD). • Field inspection by the auditor of harvested areas.
Criterion 9.5 The Forest sector operator does not use genetically modified trees.	
<p>Indicator 9.5.1 The Forest sector operator does not use genetically modified trees within the forest management area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of compliance with the regulatory authority's policy/guidelines on non-introduction of genetically-modified trees for regeneration purposes. Policy document committing to the non-introduction of genetically-modified trees for regeneration purposes, unless approved by the regulatory authority.
Criterion 9.6 The Forest sector operator conducts forest management operations in a manner that minimises damage to forest ecosystems.	
<p>Indicator 9.6.2 The Forest sector operator plans, constructs and maintains the infrastructure (roads, skid trails, watercourse crossings, log markets, borrow pits, workshops and camps) for its forestry operations in accordance with the Code of Practice and Guidelines for Large and Small Concessions in order to:</p> <p>a) minimise damage to ecosystems, especially rare, sensitive or representative ecosystems and genetics; and</p> <p>b) take into consideration threatened or other key species, in</p>	<p>c) Evidence of compliance with Code of Practice for Forest Operations.</p> <p>d) Evidence of compliance with the guidelines for large and small concessions.</p> <p>e) GFC Inspection Report (FMD).</p>

particular their migration patterns.	
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7.10 PRINCIPLE 10 –MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF THE PROTECTIVE FUNCTIONS IN FOREST MANAGEMENT (NOTABLY SOIL AND WATER)	
Criterion 10.1 The Forest sector operator has identified and commits to maintaining and or enhancing the protective functions of forests.	
<p>Indicator 10.1.1 The Forest sector operator has documented a commitment to maintain or enhance the protective functions of forests for society within the forest management area, including their potential role in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion control; • Flood prevention; • Water purification; • Climate regulation; • Carbon sequestration; and • Other regulating or supporting ecosystem services. <p>Indicator 10.1.2 The Forest sector operator has assessed, documented and mapped the known protective functions of forests within the forest management area and incorporated this information into planned operations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Operational Plan/Management Plan for large concessions. • Area Work Plan for small concessions/Private lands and Amerindian Villages. • Evidence of compliance with the Code of Practice for Forest Operations. • GFC Inspection Report (FMD).
Criterion 10.2 The Forest sector operator implements measures to maintain and/or enhance the protective functions of forests in sensitive situations.	
<p>Indicator 10.2.1 The Forest sector operator has identified areas within the forest management area with sensitive soils, as well as areas prone to erosion and areas where operations might lead to excessive erosion of soil into watercourses.</p> <p>Indicator 10.2.2 The Forest sector operator has established and implements forest management techniques and uses machinery assessed as being suitable for such areas.</p> <p>Indicator 10.2.3 The Forest sector operator has identified and mapped forest areas where soil and water values are vulnerable to impacts of forestry activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas with fragile or erodible soils; • Watercourses and swamps; and • Steep areas. <p>Indicator 10.2.4 The Forest sector operator has implemented buffer zones in accordance with the Code of Practice and the Guidelines for Small and Large Concessions to protect areas identified in 10.2.1 to minimise the potential for soil erosion and the potential for soil to enter watercourses.</p> <p>Indicator 10.2.5 If approved by the regulatory authority to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Operational Plan/Management Plan for large concessions. • Area Work Plan for small concessions. • Evidence of compliance with the Code of Practice for Forest Operations. • Maps and plans showing areas identified as having sensitive soils, soils prone to erosion and watercourses. • Evidence of compliance with sections 4 and 5 of GFC Guidelines for Large and Small concessions. • GFC Inspection Report (FMD) • Field inspection by the auditor of infrastructure network.

<p>undertake harvesting operations in areas with steep slopes, the Forest sector operator shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> use appropriate equipment and RIL techniques to minimise adverse impacts such as soil erosion; and undertake harvesting operations in accordance with the national Code of Practice and the Guidelines for Large and Small Concessions. <p>Indicator 10.2.6 The Forest sector operator implements post-harvest rehabilitation of logged areas, including closure of blocks, roads and skid trails, in accordance with the Code of Practice and the Guidelines for Large and Small Concessions.</p>	
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7.11 PRINCIPLE 11 –MAINTENANCE OR APPROPRIATE ENHANCEMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS AND CONDITIONS	
Criterion 11.1 Forest management planning respects all socio-economic functions of forests.	
<p>Indicator 11.1.1 The Forest sector operator ensures that forest management planning recognises the importance of all socio-economic functions of forests and has clearly defined strategies to respect and enhance these functions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Operational Plan/Management Plan for large concessions. Area Work Plan for small concessions/private lands/Amerindian Villages. Evidence of compliance with the Code of Practice for Forests Operations.
Criterion 11.2 The Forest sector operator facilitates public access to forests in accordance with legislative requirements.	
<p>Indicator 11.2.1 For large and small concession holders, the Forest sector operator facilitates access to persons travelling through the state forest and occupying or using the state forest for the purposes of their journey in accordance with the Forests Act.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Forest sector operator complies with the legitimate uses of State Forests as described in the Forest Act 2009. Evidence of compliance with the Code of Practice for Forests Operations Interviews with forests communities.
Criterion 11.3 The Forest sector operator protects significant sites.	
<p>Indicator 11.3.1 The Forest sector operator marks and protects any existing verified areas of special cultural, religious or historical significance, sites of cultural or religious value, e.g., sacred trees and forests (these need to be identified with the local population) in accordance with the Code of Practice and Guidelines for Large and Small Concessions.</p> <p>Note Areas of special cultural, religious or historical significance, sites of cultural or religious value, e.g., sacred</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence that the Forest sector operator complies with the management system for any identified and approved significant sites on the concession by the regulatory authority. Evidence of compliance with sections 2 and 4 of GFC Guidelines for Large and Small

<p>trees must be identified in collaboration with the local population and the relevant regulatory authorities.</p>	<p>concessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with forest dependent communities within the concession. • Evidence of compliance with the national Code of Practice for Forest Operations. • GFC's Inspection Report (FMD) • Annual Operational Plan for Large Concessions. • Field inspection of harvested areas by the auditor.
Criterion 11.4 The Forest sector operator promotes the long-term health and well-being of forest-dependent communities and indigenous peoples.	
<p>Indicator 11.4.1 The Forest sector operator has a plan and strategy to promote the long-term health and well-being of forest-dependent communities including Amerindian peoples within or adjacent to the forest management area.</p> <p>Indicator 11.4.2 The Forest sector operator maintains regular communication channels for exchanging information with forest-dependent communities including Amerindian peoples.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of employment of forest-dependent communities within the concession commensurate with the Organisation's skills needs. • Evidence of on-going effective engagement with forest dependent communities within the concession. • Interviews with relevant stakeholders.
Criterion 11.5 The Forest sector operator makes best use of forest related experience and traditional knowledge.	
<p>Indicator 11.5.1 Where relevant, the Forest sector operator seeks and incorporates appropriate forest-related experience and traditional knowledge, innovations and practices such as those of forest owners, NGOs, local communities, and Amerindian peoples in the management of the forest, and rewards the use such knowledge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of on-going effective engagement with stakeholders within the concession. • Evidence of employment of forest-dependent communities within the concession commensurate with the Organisation's skills needs. • Interviews with relevant stakeholders. • Annual Operational Plan for Large Concessions.
Criterion 11.6 The Forest sector operator gives due regard for the role of forestry in enhancing local economies.	
<p>Indicator 11.6.1 The Forest sector operator ensures that the Organisation's forestry operations contribute to, and enhance local economies, including the well-being of forest-dependent communities.</p> <p>Indicator 11.6.2 Where the Organisation employs forest-dependent communities including Amerindians within the concession, the Forest sector operator provides regular, appropriate and relevant training, to ensure continual socio-economic benefits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that forest-dependent communities including Amerindians derive benefits from the organisation's operations. • Evidence of compliance with the national Code of Forest Operations. • Record of training for employees. • Interviews with stakeholders (forest-dependent communities including Amerindians).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest management and Annual operational plan for large Concessions. • GFC Inspection Report (FMD).
Criterion 11.7 The Forest sector operator contributes to sustainable forest management through research and data collection.	
<p>Indicator 11.7.1 Where applicable, the Forest sector operator collaborates with the regulatory authority in relevant research activities and data collection necessary to enhance the sustainable management and use of Guyana's forests.</p> <p>Indicator 11.7.2 Where applicable and appropriate to the size and scale of operations, the Forest sector operator supports relevant research activities carried out by other organisations that enhance sustainable forest management, when requested to collaborate and/or make a contribution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of collaboration in relevant research related to sustainable forest management. • Forest management plan and Annual Operational plan for large concessions.