



# GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION



## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

### **PUBLIC REVIEW AND FEEDBACK ON THE SECOND DRAFT OF THE GUYANA NATIONAL STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND THE GROUP CERTIFICATION STANDARD REQUIREMENTS**

The Guyana Forestry Commission, as the Standardising Body, and the National Standard Setting Working Group (NSSWG), as the technical working group, have now approved the second draft of the Guyana National Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (GNSSFM) and the Group Certification Standard Requirements, which are two key Standards under the Guyana National Forest Management and Chain of Custody Certification Scheme.

The Guyana National Forest Management and Chain of Custody Certification Scheme is being developed based on the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) systems' key benchmark standards and guidelines. When finalised, the GNSSFM and the other standard documents will be submitted to PEFC International for review globally and endorsement.

The initiative, which aims to further enhance Guyana's efforts to continually improve the sustainable management of the nation's valuable forest resources, also builds on Guyana's work on the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union. The Guyana National Forest Management and Chain of Custody Certification Scheme will also support Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS 2030) and the Monitoring Reporting and Verification System (MRVS Phase 3).

In line with the PEFC's requirements, the Standardising Body and the National Standard Setting Working Group provide the second draft of the GNSSFM and the Group Certification Standard Requirements for public review and comment.

The first round of public consultations was held from Wednesday, June 15, 2022, to Saturday, August 13, 2022, for 60 days. There was no adverse feedback from the initial public consultation. The only feedback received was letters of endorsement for the Standards. In line with the PEFC's standards setting requirements, a desktop review and field pilot testing were undertaken on the initial drafts by an independent consultant to check for audibility and practical application.

This second draft, now available for public consultation for thirty (30) days, incorporates recommendations and suggestions from the independent desktop review and field pilot testing. The main changes were grammatical and general re-formatting to improve further readability.

Electronic copies of the Standards are available at the GFC's website: <https://forestry.gov.gy>.

Hard copies are also available on request from the Guyana Forestry Commission by emailing [guyanaforestrypec@gmail.com](mailto:guyanaforestrypec@gmail.com).

The public is hereby invited to provide comments on these draft documents via electronic mail at [guyanaforestrypec@gmail.com](mailto:guyanaforestrypec@gmail.com). [The second public consultation period is from Wednesday, November 23, 2022, to Friday, December 23, 2022.](#)

**Following this second public consultation, the NSSWG will be asked to endorse the Standards for submission to the PEFC for it to commence its international assessment process for the Guyana Forest Management and Chain of Custody Certification Scheme, leading to its endorsement under the PEFC international certification system.**

Written submissions on the draft Standards can also be sent to the Commissioner of Forests, Mr. Edward Goberdhan, or Assistant Commissioner of Forests, Ms. Basmattee Mohabeer (GFC Head Office, 1 Water Street, Kingston, Georgetown).

Public consultations' outcomes will be published, including how the Standardising Body and the National Standard Setting Working Group have incorporated them in the draft documents.