

# National Forest Plan

(Draft)



**Guyana Forestry Commission**  
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**Contents**

**National Forest Plan objectives**

1. Introduction..... 1  
    1.1 Forest Policy ..... 1  
    1.2 Forest legislation..... 2  
    1.3 National Forest Plan ..... 2  
2. National planning and co-ordination ..... 4  
3. Forest resource management ..... 7  
4. Forest industry..... 12  
5. Research and information ..... 15  
6. Education and training..... 17  
7. Social development ..... 18

**Summary of programmes**

**Summary of activities**

## **National Forest Plan Objectives**

### **National planning and co-ordination**

To develop a sustainable and productive forest sector, fully and effectively integrated into the national economy, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders

### **Forest resource management**

To ensure that forest resources are sustainably managed to the highest practicable standards and that social, economic and environmental benefits are optimised and the needs and aspirations of all interest groups are considered

### **Forest industry**

To promote the growth of an efficient and competitive forest industry, optimising the benefits from sustainable harvesting, conversion and further processing of forest resources for national markets, and competing effectively in international markets

### **Research and information**

To develop improved understanding and awareness of the forest environment and processes through a broad based programme of forest research, dissemination of information and publicity

### **Education and training**

To satisfy sector requirements for properly skilled, trained and educated forestry personnel by providing high quality courses and programmes at all levels

### **Social development**

To contribute to the effective realisation of social responsibilities, satisfaction of social needs and attainment of social benefits by stakeholders in the forestry sector

# 1. Introduction

The Government of Guyana is updating and rationalising policies and laws relating to the conservation, management, protection and sustainable development of the nation's forest resources. This initiative began with the drafting of the National Development Strategy in 1996. The strategy provides guidance for the development of the forest sector by identifying national development objectives and constraints. Sections of the strategy of particular importance to the forestry sector include those on forest management, Amerindian policies and education.

The Guyana Forestry Commission has responded to the requirements of the National Development Strategy with a programme for the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies and action plans for the forest sector. The major components of this programme are:

- National Forest Policy
- Forest legislation
- National Forest Plan

## 1.1 Forest Policy

The **National Forest Policy** was prepared over a period of two years through a process of broad consultation with sector interest groups. Cabinet formally approved the Policy in October 1997. The Policy recognises changes in Guyana's economic, social and political environment over the nearly 50 years since the previous forest policy was published. There has been increased attention given to environmental aspects and to the importance of forest management in national development. International initiatives including the decisions taken at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 have been recognised. The new policy marks a significant shift in emphasis from the development of the timber potential of the forests to management of the forests multiple goods and services for the national benefit.

The **overall** objective of the National Forest Policy is:

*the conservation, protection, management and utilisation of the nation's forest resources, while ensuring that the productive capacity of the forests for both goods and services is maintained or enhanced.*

The **specific** objectives are:

- to promote sustainable and efficient forest activities which utilise the broad range of forest resources and contribute to national development while allowing fair returns to local and foreign entrepreneurs and investors;*
- to achieve improved sustainable forest resource yields while ensuring the conservation of ecosystems, biodiversity, and the environment;*
- to ensure watershed protection and rehabilitation: prevent and arrest the erosion of soils and the degradation of forests, grazing lands, soil and water;*

*promote natural regeneration, afforestation and reforestation; and protect the forest against fire, pests and other hazards.*

## **1.2 Forest legislation**

To support the implementation of the forest policy, the Guyana Forestry Commission has reviewed existing forestry legislation and prepared a new draft Forests Act. The purpose of the new Act is to reform the law relating to the management of forest resources, to provide for sustainable management and to consolidate provisions of predecessor legislation.

The new legislation provides for:

- (a) *the conservation of the forests of Guyana, including measures to conserve biodiversity, special species and habitats, soil and water resources, and to protect forests against pollution, fires, pests and diseases;*
- (b) *the participation of interested parties, including Amerindians, local communities, non-governmental organizations and persons engaged in the commercial utilization of forests, in the development and implementation of forest policies;*
- (c) *the sustainable use of Guyana's forest resources, in accordance with Guyana's development needs and level of socio-economic development, pursuant to national policies;*
- (d) *the integrated and comprehensive regulation of the multiple and complementary functions and uses of the forests of Guyana, including traditional uses;*
- (e) *the promotion and regulation of primary conversion, secondary and tertiary processing activities, including the use of environmentally sound technologies and the facilitation of market access for value-added forest products; and*
- (f) *the discharge of Guyana's responsibility to ensure that activities within its jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.*

## **1.3 National Forest Plan**

Both the forest policy and the draft legislation impose obligations on the Guyana Forestry Commission and other sector agencies. The **National Forest Plan** provides the framework and identifies programmes and activities that must be accomplished to ensure implementation of the policy and compliance with the law. The National Forest Plan also identifies responsibilities for implementation and describes mechanisms for monitoring and providing feedback to the policy and planning process.

The National Forest Plan is divided into ten programmes which follow the key areas of action identified in the forest policy. Policy issues are discussed in the following sections and objectives, programmes and activities are described. For each activity, indicators are defined that will be used to assess progress with implementation. The lead responsibility and key stakeholders that will contribute to and participate in implementation are identified.

Four approaches to implementation will be used:

- internal action by the GFC, mainly implementation of legal responsibilities;
- institutional and inter-agency collaboration;
- collaborative partnerships with specific groups such as GFC with government agencies, FPA, NGOs etc.;
- broad participation by interest groups where multi-stakeholder involvement is required.

The Commissioner of Forests is responsible for overall co-ordination and oversight of Plan implementation. The Planning and Development Division of the GFC will monitor progress with Plan implementation and prepare updates of the Plan as necessary. Monitoring reports and plan updates will be circulated to interest groups.

## 2. National planning and co-ordination

The Forest Policy provides a broad definition of forestry that embraces all goods and services that the forests may provide. Because responsibility for management of these goods and services lies with a number of agencies, the policy identifies the importance of co-ordination and collaboration. The first section of the plan therefore deals with the issues of national level planning and co-ordination.

*The objective is to develop a sustainable and productive forest sector, fully and effectively integrated into the national economy, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders*

### **NFP100 National forest programme**

The National forest programme requires a process of establishing policy guidelines and objectives, implementing these through the national forest plan, and obtaining feedback to inform policy review and update as the sector develops or as information on the sector improves.

A National Forest Policy has been approved by Cabinet and draft legislation prepared. The National Forest Plan (this document) identifies programmes and activities required for policy implementation and the contribution required from sector interest groups and organisations. The GFC will monitor implementation and regularly update the plan and there will be a periodic review of policy issues.

### **NFP110 National Forest Policy**

The policy process is led by the Commissioner of Forests with broad participation from a wide range of interest groups. The Commissioner is responsible for promoting the policy and for obtaining feedback on policy issues. The Commissioner will ensure that there is co-ordination and collaboration with other initiatives that impact on the sector through participation at national and international committees and meetings. The Planning and Development Division has responsibility for monitoring policy implementation and for providing information for periodic reviews of policy issues. Changes to forest policy are referred to Government through the GFC Board.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
111	Publication of the national forest policy	Improved public awareness of forest sector issues and objectives
112	Participation in national meetings and events of relevance to the sector	Awareness of forestry issues and improved co-ordination between sectors and agencies
113	Participation in international	Improved international reputation. Learning from experience of other

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	meetings and events	countries
114	Monitoring and review of policy issues and objectives	Policy remains current with updates available

***NFP120 Forest legislation***

The GFC is responsible for developing legislation and regulations and making recommendations to Government through the Board. The GFC will also promote interest and understanding of the law by providing information on the legislation and by and preparing training and field manuals for use by staff, the industry, students and the public.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
121	Submission of forest legislation	Consultation process complete and draft Acts submitted to Parliament
122	Preparation of forest regulations	Regulations approved by Parliament
123	Publication and dissemination of information on legislation to sector and public	Public awareness campaign, manual for GFC staff and training courses

***NFP130 National Forest Plan***

The National Forest Plan outlines a medium term (5 year) plan for the sector that addresses Forest Policy issues and identifies roles and responsibilities of interest groups and institutions. Implementation of the plan will be co-ordinated and facilitated by the GFC. The Planning and Development Division will monitor implementation and produce progress reports for the GFC Board.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
131	Preparation of draft National Forest Plan	Documentation prepared in accordance with policy
132	Consultation on draft and identification of roles and responsibilities	Interest groups agree with roles and responsibilities identified in draft
133	Completion and publication of National Forest Plan	National Forest Plan available to all interest groups
134	Monitoring of plan implementation and periodic review	Monitoring reports and updates of NFP available to interest groups

## **NFP200 Forest zoning and classification**

The Forest Policy identifies the importance of the National Land Use Committee as a forum for resolving land use conflicts, and the need for the forest sector to contribute information on resources, transactions, permits and applications. The GFC will be responsible for providing information on forest types, forest classification and forest use, for conducting economic studies on the value of forest goods and services, and for preparing strategic plans for forest allocation and use. Forest management plans will be used to assist co-ordination of the national land use planning process.

### ***NFP210 Forest zoning and classification***

The Forest Resources Management Division will lead work on zoning and there will be extensive consultation, particularly with regional authorities. The Planning and Development Division will contribute information on the costs and benefits of alternative uses. The outputs of this process will guide decisions on the allocation and use of resources.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
211	Classification of all forests by predominant and potential use	Zoning and classification of all forest areas and regular updates as information base improves
212	Calculation of annual allowable harvests for productive classes	National estimates of allowable harvests
213	Economic analysis of the present and potential value of forest goods and services	Information and policy recommendations inform land use planning and forest allocation
214	Identification of priority areas for forest development based on social, economic and environmental criteria	Strategy and plans detailing priorities for new investment in the forest sector (including non-timber products)
215	Provision of information to the national land use committee to inform co-ordination of land use planning	Information resources available and accessible

### **3. Forest resource management**

The Forest Policy establishes the principle that all forest resources must be managed in a sustainable manner and that social, economic and environmental benefits must be optimised. The Policy recognises the need for accurate and reliable information to inform planning, classification and allocation of forest resources. Allocation of forest resources for utilisation should be fair, transparent and competitive.

*The objective is to ensure that forest resources are sustainably managed to the highest practicable standards and that social, economic and environmental benefits are optimised and the needs and aspirations of all interest groups are considered*

#### **NFP300 Forest resource planning and allocation**

Considerable information on forest resources, particularly the timber resource, is available from valuation and other surveys conducted by the Forestry Department since the 1920s. In the 1960s the FAO carried out detailed forest type mapping using aerial photographs and completed a low intensity field survey of forest areas. More recently, satellite imagery has been used by the GFC to identify forest types. Information now needs to be compiled and a programme of field survey and inventory is required to update and refine information. Special surveys will be required for non-timber forest resources and to identify non-extractive forest values including protection and conservation. Information will be used for more detailed planning of forest areas to determine and define appropriate forest operations and activities. Area plans will be prepared by the GFC in consultation with interest groups and forest management plans will be prepared by concession holders. Plans will consider physical, social and economic factors and identify priorities for forest resource development and management in a particular geographic area.

The Forest Policy requires that all commercial utilisation of State forests takes place under concessions or licences issued by the GFC and that allocation of the resource is made in a competitive, fair and transparent manner. Allocation must be based on the potential of the forest resource for sustainable use. Existing forms of agreements and the process of concession allocation will be reviewed.

#### **NFP310 Forest inventory**

The Forest Resources Management Division will compile existing information on the resource and ensure that it is accessible for the sector and other interest groups. Priorities for further data collection will be identified.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
311	Compilation and analysis of resource information	Definition and description of forest types
312	Mapping of forest types	Extent and location of forest types defined
313	Implementation of a programme of field survey and inventory	Refinement of forest type maps and descriptions

***NFP320 Concession allocation***

The Forest Resources Management Division has responsibility for planning resource allocation and ensuring that areas are allocated for harvesting in accordance with the capabilities of the forest resource. The Planning and Development Division will support these activities to ensure that allocation procedures are transparent and acceptable to investors .

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
321	Review of concession and licence agreements	Concession agreements reflecting policy and acceptable to investors
322	Review of procedures for allocation of licences (SFPs)	License operations regulated in accordance with policy requirements
323	Review and publication of concession allocation procedures	Public awareness and understanding of concession and license requirements

***NFP330 Forest Management Plans***

The GFC will initiate a programme to bring all forest operations, including those on private and Amerindian lands, under forest management plans prepared in accordance with standard guidelines. The GFC will provide technical support to assist the preparation of plans. Forest management plans for licence areas (SFPs) will be prepared by the GFC. Activities will be led by the Forest Resources Management Division. There will be consultation with industry, communities and other interest groups.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
331	Preparation of guidelines for Forest Management Plans	Industry understanding and awareness of FMP purpose and requirements

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
332	Support to implementation of guidelines by concession holders and communities	Extension and advisory capability established within GFC
333	Preparation of forest management plans for licence (SFP) areas	Licence operations in accordance with FMP requirements
334	Introduction of systems for checking and approving management plans	Administration of management plan process for all operations proceeding efficiently

### **NFP400 Forest operation monitoring and regulation**

The GFC has developed standards for timber harvesting operations and procedures for the monitoring of standards. These will be refined as knowledge of forest ecology and dynamics improves and standards will be developed for the harvesting and management of non-timber forest products. Monitoring of forest operations by the GFC will be extended to consider both environmental and social impacts of operations.

The Forest Policy provides for charges on the productive area of a concession and on the volume of forest produce harvested. The Policy also requires that revenue systems are based on an economic assessment of the costs and returns of forest management that ensures a fair return to both the investor and the State. The revenue system has been reviewed and improved so that it is simple to administer, transparent and equitable.

#### ***NFP410 Codes of Practice***

The Forest Resources Management and Forest Monitoring Divisions will lead activities to review and improve the current code of practice for timber harvesting and to develop codes for other forest operations. There will be consultation with industry and other sector interest groups. Compliance with Code provisions will become a minimum requirement for certification of operations.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
411	Development of prescriptions for sustainable management of forest types	Operational standards established for all forest utilisation
412	Preparation of codes of practice to facilitate implementation of prescriptions	Public and industry awareness of operational standards
413	Development of national standards for certification based on codes of	Sector awareness of requirements for certification and international

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	practice	recognition of GoG initiatives

***NFP420 Monitoring of forest operations***

Procedures for monitoring of timber harvesting operations will be implemented by timber companies and the GFC and they will be developed further to incorporate social criteria and indicators. Similar procedures will be developed for non-timber forest products. Activities will be implemented by the Forest Monitoring Division with support from industry and government agencies.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
421	Implementation of concession audit and monitoring procedures	Information on compliance with codes
422	Monitoring and regulation of environmental and social impacts	Improved social and environmental awareness and performance
423	Extension of monitoring operations to include small-scale operations	Information on compliance with codes
424	Development of a strategy to monitor and regulate commercial use of non-timber forest products	Information on compliance with codes

***NFP430 Forest revenue***

The Forest Monitoring Division will implement the new revenue system and develop systems to monitor and improve collection efficiency. The Planning and Development Division will assist with continuous review and refinement of information on the economics of forest operations.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
431	Improvement of procedures for assessment and recording of forest produce.	Accurate and timely information on forest utilisation available
432	Studies to develop economic models for determining optimum revenue generation	Efficient use and allocation of forest resources. Revenue optimised for Govt. and investors
433	Introduction of the new forest revenue system and ongoing review and refinement	Efficient and timely collection of forest revenue
434	Monitoring of revenue system to	Inefficiencies identified and

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
	ensure compliance and collection efficiency	corrected. Revenue targets achieved

## 4. Forest industry

The Forest Policy emphasises the importance of a financially and economically viable forest industry and establishes the principle that the number and type of forest-based industries shall be consistent with the capacity of the forests for sustainable management. The Policy recommends measures, including market development and promotion, to encourage value added processing and to maximise national benefits from the use of forest resources. Non-timber forest produce and non-use forest values are to be promoted.

*The objective is to promote the growth of an efficient and competitive forest industry, optimising the benefits from sustainable harvesting, conversion and further processing of forest resources for national markets, and competing effectively in international markets.*

### **NFP500 Forest industry investment**

The Guyana Forestry Commission has a responsibility to assist the development of the forest industry and will support the private sector to conduct studies and develop schemes to broaden the range of species utilised, minimise waste and maximise the return from all produce harvested.

The GFC has established a Planning and Development Division responsible for monitoring national and international trends in the sector and providing information as a service to investors. The Division will develop guidelines for investors and facilitate the preparation of feasibility studies and investment proposals. The Division will conduct market and economic studies and make recommendations on policies and other initiatives to encourage investment in forest products processing.

The Forest Policy requires planning for forest industry development to ensure that the scale of operations is consistent with the sustainable supply of products from the forest resource. Licences will only be issued which are appropriate for the type and quantity of resource available on a sustainable basis. Licences will be required by all investors who will have to submit forest industry development plans as part of their application.

Portable sawmills and chainsaw lumbering are important components of the forest industry in Guyana. In order to maintain fair competition within the industry, the GFC will be responsible for regulating both types of operation and ensuring that acceptable working standards are maintained in the forest and during the conversion process.

### **NFP510 Forest industry investment**

The Planning and Development Division will maintain and analyse information on the forest sector and recommend policies for promoting investment opportunities. The

Division will work with the industry and Go Invest to promote new investment in the sector. Operational standards and licensing of processing facilities will be the responsibility of the Forest Monitoring Division.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
511	Monitoring of national and international economic trends in the sector	Information on the sector available to all interest groups
512	Promotion of investment with emphasis on improved technology and exports	Promotional material and advisory services available for potential investors
513	Studies and recommendations on fiscal and other initiatives to encourage value added processing	Govt. policies encouraging appropriate sector investment
514	Development of standards and regulations for primary processing facilities including portable mills	More efficient resource utilisation and improved quality and safety standards
515	Development and implementation of procedures for licensing of industry operations	Improved operational standards

## **NFP600 Forest products marketing**

Proper international marketing of Guyana's forest products is essential to support a viable forest industry. To this end, the Guyana Forestry Commission will, in association with the Forest Products Association and others, promote the export trade and underpin this with research and development aimed at both processing and marketing as well as offering training and extension programmes.

Product quality is a key element of a market development strategy. Standards for forest products need to be defined that are attainable by the forest industry and are of value to buyers. The GFC will be responsible for developing and promoting standards and grading rules for forest products to assist marketing initiatives and to improve market access.

The Policy recommends the establishment of a unit to provide technical and promotional material, undertake market research and promotion and provide advice to producers. A marketing strategy will include product research and promotion, market research and the identification and development of niche markets for specialist products.

### ***NFP610 Grading rules for timber and non-timber products***

The Planning and Development Division will work with industry and with the Guyana Bureau of Standards to develop and introduce appropriate product standards and specifications and to develop grading rules that are accepted both domestically and internationally.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
611	Establishment of standard nomenclature, sizes and specifications for forest products	Industry and public awareness of standards and specifications
612	Review and development of domestic and international timber grading rules	Improved market acceptance of forest products
613	Implementation of grading rules and standards through training and publicity	Industry compliance with standards and implementation of grading rules

***NFP620 Marketing strategy for timber and non-timber products***

The Planning and Development Division will co-ordinate the development and implementation of a marketing strategy and will contract specialist inputs as required. There will be consultation with industry who will be the major end users of outputs of the strategy.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
621	International and domestic market surveys and studies	Baseline data on markets available to sector
622	Product research and market promotion activities	Technical information and promotional material available on forest products
623	Research into niche markets including markets for relatively abundant lesser known species	Market opportunities for new forest products

## 5. Research and information

The Forest Policy promotes research into all aspects of forestry and forestry related activities including physical, biological, ecological, economic, social and cultural aspects. The Policy establishes the Guyana Forestry Commission as the national institution responsible for identifying research priorities, co-ordinating and promoting the conduct of forest research, and for disseminating knowledge and information on all aspects of forestry. The Policy also recognises the important contribution towards forest research made by non-government organisations.

*The objective is to produce and disseminate essential information and technology related to the forest and its social, economic and biological environment that is needed to implement the national forest policy.*

### **NFP700 Forest research**

The Forest Policy requires the promotion of research on all aspects of forestry. It acknowledges that a range of institutions and agencies should be involved in research, with the Guyana Forestry Commission providing a focal point to guide and co-ordinate research and undertake collaborative activities. Dissemination of research findings, along with information on all aspects of forestry is the responsibility of the Guyana Forestry Commission.

To plan and co-ordinate research activities, a Forestry Research Committee will be established. In addition, a Research and Development Fund, to which the forest industry will be encouraged contribute, will be set up by the Guyana Forestry Commission. Research activities will encompass social, economic and environmental research as well as more traditional silviculture and ecology, and will cover plantations and agroforestry as well as natural forest.

### **NFP710 Forest research**

The GFC will co-ordinate preparation of a forest research plan by review and analysis of past research activities and through a process of consultation. The plan will identify national research priorities and will be used to co-ordinate inputs from research organisations and the private sector. A forest research co-ordinating committee will be formed to monitor plan implementation and to regularly revise and update the plan. The Commissioner of Forests will co-ordinate activities leading to the development of the committee and the GFC will chair and provide a secretariat for the committee.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
711	Preparation of a forest research plan	Priorities for forest research identified

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
712	Establishment of a research committee to ensure co-ordination and collaboration	Forest research committee operational and research priorities being addressed
713	Forest resource research	Improved understanding of the factors influencing forest ecosystem processes
714	Social and economic research	Improved understanding of forest sector processes and impacts
715	Forest product research	Improved conversion and processing efficiency and information for promotion and marketing

### **NFP800 Forest sector information**

There are considerable information resources within the GFC and with industry and other sector agencies. Resources will be compiled and updated and systems developed to improve access by interest groups. Information will be disseminated, training material will be developed and publicity and public relations programmes developed.

#### ***NFP810 Forest sector information***

The Human Resources Division has responsibility for the library which will be the focal point for information resources and services. The Planning and Development Division will provide support including the development of information systems.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
811	Development and co-ordination of library facilities	Comprehensive collection of literature and other media
812	Development and co-ordination of information resources including databases, maps etc.	GFC information systems established with procedures for providing access to information and services
813	Information and publicity programmes	Improved public awareness and understanding of forest sector issues.

## 6. Education and training

The Forest Policy emphasises the importance of education and training in forestry and forestry-related disciplines at all levels and identifies the need for a co-ordinated and integrated programme of training at all levels, including skills and operator training. The Policy recommends that national standards for training are developed and that a system for certification of graduates is established. Opportunities will be provided for personnel working in the sector to upgrade skills by providing short courses, training modules and lectures at all levels. Education and training activities will provide equality of opportunity for all groups. Foreign funded projects and programmes in the sector will be encouraged to include a training component. In-service training for personnel currently working in the sector is a priority.

*The objective is to satisfy sector requirements for properly skilled, trained and educated forestry personnel by providing high quality courses and programmes at all levels.*

### **NFP900 Forest sector education and training**

The University of Guyana and the Guyana School of Agriculture are responsible for addressing sector needs for formal education and training at the certificate, diploma and degree level. The GFC will play a lead role in addressing vocational training needs. The Human Resources Division will take responsibility for promoting training within the industry and for extension activities.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
911	Promotion of training and capacity building for the forest industry	Improved number of trained Guyanese within the forest sector
912	Provision of vocational training courses for the sector	Courses meeting sector requirements
913	Development of training opportunities for hinterland communities	Training needs identified and courses developed
914	Development of national standards for forestry education and training	Improved quality of training and recognition of graduates
915	Provision of formal training at certificate, diploma and degree levels	Courses meeting sector requirements

## 7. Social development

The Forest Policy recognises the important social benefits that derive from forests, and requires that the GFC manages the forest resource to maximise benefits for all Guyanese.

A diagnostic study carried out for the GFC in 2000, identified social issues and outlined an approach to social development for the forest sector. The study recognised that any social development programme could not be the exclusive undertaking of the GFC, and recommended that the Commission should serve as a contributor and facilitator for a multi-disciplinary and inter-agency collaborative approach.

*The objective is to contribute to the effective realisation of social responsibilities, satisfaction of social needs and attainment of social benefits by stakeholders in the forestry sector.*

### NFP1000 Social development programme

The GFC has formed a Community Liaison Committee with membership from Government ministries and departments responsible for Amerindian Affairs, labour, health, social services and local government. The committee is conducting outreach visits to communities and identifying and addressing specific social issues and problems. The GFC will play a lead role in facilitating the activities of the committee and will provide support to further develop the operations and capabilities of the committee. As the work of the committee develops it is expected that NGOs will have the opportunity to participate and take the lead on specific community based projects.

<b>NFP</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
1011	Establishment of national liaison committee with key agencies	Committee effectively co-ordinating programme of community based activities addressing identified social issues and problems
1012	Outreach and monitoring visits to communities	Monitoring programme developed and being implemented with full participation of committee members
1013	Outreach programme to Amerindian communities	Outreach programme developed and being implemented with full participation of committee members

## Summary of programmes

### **NFP100 National forest programme**

Development of forest policy, legislation and sector plans, monitoring and evaluation of implementation and feedback to inform reviews and updates

### **NFP200 Forest zoning and classification**

Preparation of forest resource information and development of procedures to ensure that forest allocation and use is integrated and co-ordinated with national land use planning and land use conflicts are managed or resolved

### **NFP300 Forest resource planning and allocation**

Development and implementation of fair and transparent procedures for the allocation of forest resources and preparation of forest resource management plans using the best information available on resource capabilities and potential

### **NFP400 Forest operation monitoring and regulation**

Establishment, monitoring and enforcement of working standards and guidelines which allow appropriate returns to operators whilst maintaining the ecological functions, ecosystem integrity and sustainability of the resource

### **NFP500 Forest industry investment**

Preparation of guidelines and provision of support to attract investment in the forest sector that is consistent with the capacity of the forest resource base

### **NFP600 Forest products marketing**

Promotion of improved marketing through research, provision of market information and expertise and the development of quality standards for forest products

### **NFP700 Forest research**

Effective utilisation of human and other resources to address priority forest research activities and critical problem areas

### **NFP800 Forest sector information**

Promotion of awareness, understanding and appreciation of forestry issues and forest values by dissemination of knowledge and information

### **NFP900 Forest sector education and training**

Development of training capacity and improvement of delivery to provide forest sector personnel skilled, trained and educated to nationally recognised standards

### **NFP1000 Social development programme**

Development of partnerships to deliver social services to communities and to monitor and regulate the social impacts of forest operations

## Summary of activities

### **NFP110 National Forest Policy**

- 111 Promotion of the national forest policy
- 112 Participation in national meetings and events of relevance to the sector
- 113 Participation in international meetings and events
- 114 Monitoring and review of policy issues and objectives

### **NFP120 Forest legislation**

- 121 Submission of forest legislation
- 122 Preparation of forest regulations
- 123 Publication and dissemination of information on legislation to sector and public

### **NFP130 National Forest Plan**

- 131 Preparation of draft national forest plan
- 132 Consultation on draft and identification of roles and responsibilities
- 133 Completion and publication of national forest plan
- 134 Monitoring of plan implementation and periodic review

### **NFP210 Forest zoning and classification**

- 211 Classification of all forests by predominant and potential uses
- 212 Calculation of annual allowable harvests for productive classes
- 213 Economic analysis of the current and potential value of forest goods and services
- 214 Identification of priority areas for forest development based on social, economic and environmental criteria
- 215 Provision of information to the national land use committee to inform co-ordination of land use planning

### **NFP310 Forest inventory**

- 311 Compilation and analysis of resource information
- 312 Mapping of forest types
- 313 Implementation of a programme of field survey and inventory

### **NFP320 Concession allocation**

- 321 Review of concession and licence agreements
- 322 Review of procedures for allocation of licences

## Summary of activities

323	Review and publication of concession allocation procedures
<b>NFP330</b>	<b>Forest Management Plans</b>
331	Preparation of guidelines for forest management plans
332	Support to implementation of guidelines by concession holders and communities
333	Preparation of forest management plans for licence areas
334	Introduction of systems for checking and approving management plans
<b>NFP410</b>	<b>Codes of Practice</b>
411	Development of prescriptions for sustainable management of forest types
412	Preparation of codes of practice to facilitate implementation of prescriptions
413	Development of national standards for certification based on codes of practice
<b>NFP420</b>	<b>Monitoring of forest operations</b>
421	Implementation of concession audit and monitoring procedures
422	Monitoring and regulation of environmental and social impacts
423	Extension of monitoring operations to include small-scale operations
424	Development of a strategy to monitor and regulate commercial use of non-timber forest products
<b>NFP430</b>	<b>Forest revenue</b>
431	Improvement of procedures for assessment and recording of forest produce
432	Studies to develop economic models for determining optimum revenue generation
433	Introduction of the new forest revenue system and ongoing review and refinement
434	Monitoring of revenue system to ensure compliance and collection efficiency
<b>NFP510</b>	<b>Forest industry investment</b>
511	Monitoring of national and international economic trends in the sector
512	Promotion of investment with emphasis on improved technology and exports

## Summary of activities

513	Studies and recommendations on fiscal and other initiatives to encourage value added processing
514	Development of standards and regulations for primary processing facilities including portable mills
515	Development and implementation of procedures for licensing of industry operations
<b>NFP610</b>	<b>Grading rules for timber and non-timber products</b>
611	Establishment of standard nomenclature, sizes and specifications for forest products
612	Review and development of domestic and international timber grading rules
613	Implementation of grading rules and standards through training and publicity
<b>NFP620</b>	<b>Marketing strategy for timber and non-timber products</b>
621	International and domestic market surveys and studies
622	Product research and market promotion activities
623	Research into niche markets including markets for relatively abundant lesser known species
<b>NFP710</b>	<b>Forest research</b>
711	Preparation of a forest research plan
712	Establishment of a research committee to ensure co-ordination and collaboration
713	Forest resource research
714	Social and economic research
715	Forest product research
<b>NFP810</b>	<b>Forest sector information</b>
811	Development and co-ordination of library facilities
812	Development and co-ordination of information resources including databases and maps
813	Information and publicity programmes
<b>NFP910</b>	<b>Forest sector education and training</b>
911	Promotion of training and capacity building by the forest industry

## **Summary of activities**

- 912 Provision of vocational training courses for the sector
- 913 Development of training opportunities for hinterland communities
- 914 Development of national standards for forestry education and training
- 915 Provision of formal training at certificate, diploma and degree levels

### **NFP1010 Social development programme**

- 1011 Establishment of a national liaison committee with key agencies
- 1012 Outreach and monitoring visits to communities
- 1013 Outreach programme to Amerindian communities