

**GUYANA**

**NATIONAL FOREST POLICY STATEMENT**

**October 1997**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1. The New Environment**

No official Forest Policy Statement has been published by a Government of Guyana since 1953. There have, however, been profound changes in Guyana's economic, social and political environment over the last fifty years, which demand a re-appraisal of goals, and of the methods and the instruments that have been practised in the development of Guyana's forestry sector.

Perhaps the most important of these changes is the fact that Guyana became independent in 1966. This led the nation to realise that the forests are the patrimony of all citizens of the country.

Of great significance, also, is the increased attention that is now being paid by the public to environmental aspects of forestry, and to the importance of managing the multi-faceted resources of the nation's forests in a sustainable manner. The decisions taken at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, in 1992, have therefore informed and influenced the policies and strategies presented in this document.

While we are aware that there is a national and global responsibility for the sustainable management of Guyana's tropical rain forests and recognise its vital role in maintaining the earth's climate and eco-systems, it must be accepted that Guyana's forests are an increasingly important source of income and wealth for national development.

It is evident, however, that sustainable forest management can be attained only if there is the availability of sufficient basic information on which planners and forestry practitioners might draw for the formulation and implementation of policies and strategies.

Specifically, empirically derived knowledge is a necessary underpinning for policy and practice in the conservation, management, protection and sustainable development of the nation's forest resource. Investigations which elucidate the dynamics of the response of forest ecosystems to various types of human intervention, research in utilisation, product development and marketing, in order to optimise the economic returns from the forests, are therefore indispensable elements of sustainable forest management.

It has become obvious that if Guyana's forest sector is to realise its full potential, there must be a greater degree of secondary and tertiary wood processing locally. Guyana's forest industry must shift from producing mainly raw materials for foreign processing, and become both producer and processor.

It is envisaged that if the policies and strategies outlined in this document are implemented, Guyana, in a decade, will have

- (a) taken steps to ensure that its forest resources deliver substantial benefits for national development for all members of society, while not compromising the

livelihood of forest dwellers;

- (b) created an appropriate economic climate in which investors and operators can harvest and utilise forest resources and receive a fair return on their investment;
- (c) fostered the growth of an efficient national forest industry, based on national and international investment, that operates in a manner consistent with sustainable development;
- (d) published and adhered to transparent systems of allocation and administration of all licences and other agreements, including the level of fees and taxes charged;
- (e) developed a system for generating and approving forest management plans which meet defined standards and criteria for sustainable management;
- (f) established a code of practice, guidelines and working standards which allow appropriate returns to operators, whilst maintaining the integrity and sustainability of the resource;
- (g) created inviolate reserves of representative samples of the various forest ecosystems which occur in the country, on a scale which is adequate to ensure their indefinite reproduction and continuation, having regard to their biodiversity;
- (h) initiated a level of control over all harvesting activities, sufficient to provide adequate protection of biodiversity and to ensure sustainable production;
- (i) created and maintained an efficient database, containing up-to-date information which is freely available to all, without compromising confidentiality, on national forest resources, their productivity, management potential, and their ecology and dynamics;
- (j) instituted an effective system of information exchange and cross-sector discussion, which provides compatibility and consistency among relevant sectors of the economy;
- (k) established institutions to provide training and education in forestry and related disciplines for Guyanese nationals;
- (l) undertaken research to increase and refine the level of knowledge available on the forestry and forest industry sectors;
- (m) discharged its obligations under international treaties and agreements relevant to the forestry sector, and taken steps to ensure the continued discharge of such obligations; and
- (n) developed an environmental management system for the forestry sector which would address the environmental and social impacts of any activity within the forest and build strategies to minimise them.

## **2. The Constitution and Sustainable Development**

Article 36 of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana states: “In the interests of the present and future generations, the State will protect and make rational use of its land, mineral and water resources, as well as its fauna and flora, and will take all appropriate measures to conserve and improve the environment.” The Constitution emphasises that this is one of the main principles of the country’s economic and social system. The Forest Policy which is enunciated in this document is consistent with this principle; and in extension, provides for increasing involvement of entrepreneurs, the private sector, local and indigenous peoples, non-governmental organisations, women and young people, in the performance of these functions, on terms and conditions satisfactory to them and beneficial to the country as a whole.

## **3. The Forest Resource**

The total land area of Guyana is 83,000 square miles (215,000 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 65,000 square miles (169,000 km<sup>2</sup>) are forested . Thus, more than 75 percent of the country’s land resource is under forests.

Although many of the plant and animal species which abound in Guyana’s forests are as yet unidentified, it is known that the forests are an important reservoir of biodiversity. In addition, the forests provide important services to the country’s inhabitants: they protect the soil from erosion; they regulate and purify the nation’s water supplies; and, perhaps of greatest importance, they ensure environmental stability.

In addition to the services which the forests offer, and the wood which they yield for housing and for industry, they are a source of non-timber forest products, the commercialisation of which could also greatly assist in the country’s social and economic growth and development.

Forest resources can play an important role in the economic and social development of Guyana. Indeed, the forest industry sector possesses characteristics which are capable of providing much of the economic stimulus which Guyana requires at this stage of its development. For example, the capital requirements of the sector range from very low to very high; its technological requirements range from very simple to very sophisticated; and forest industries may be either labour or capital intensive. Forest industries can therefore, be accommodated at any stage in the country’s social and economic evolution.

The amenities which the forests provide, and the richness of their flora and fauna, are also important for the enhancement of ecotourism and recreation.

Finally, the utilisation and management of Guyana’s forests can play an important part in relieving the population pressure which exists on the country’s coastlands, and greatly assist in the development of its hinterland.

#### **4. Constraints To Development of Forest Sector**

Although the forests potential contribution to the rate of economic growth and development is considerable, their current role, in this regard, is marginal. There are many reasons for this failure to benefit from the relative abundance of the forest resource. These include inappropriate harvesting practices; low levels of efficiency in the utilisation of equipment; waste of forest resources after they have been harvested; critical shortages of skilled human resources in both the private and public sectors; inadequacy of available capital; absence of adequate rules and mechanisms for land use allocation; unclear government investment policies and procedures; lack of a policy on hinterland development; and absence of a tradition of sustainable forest management. Also of great importance, in regard to the introduction of sustainable management systems, is the paucity of reliable data on the volume of forest resources and on their rates of growth and yield. But perhaps the nature of the forests themselves provides the greatest constraint to development. Physical factors such as poor soils, and biological factors such as high species diversity, lead to greater complexity of forest management and a higher vulnerability to mismanagement. The forest policies and strategies presented herein are intended to take appropriate account of all these constraints.

## **PART I**

### **OBJECTIVES**

#### **1. Overall Objective**

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.

#### **2. Specific Objectives**

The *specific* objectives are to

- (a) promote the 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;
- (b) achieve improved sustainable forest resource yields while ensuring the conservation of ecosystems, biodiversity, and the environment;
- (c) 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.

## **PART II**

### **A. LAND USE POLICIES**

#### **1. Land Use Planning as a Basis for Forest Policy**

Land use plans and policies play a key role in the implementation of forest policy. The recently concluded baseline study highlights a number of issues related to land use which have a direct bearing on policy development and implementation in the Guyana Forestry Commission.

One of these is the need for co-ordination among related land agencies, such as the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, the Lands and Surveys Department, the Ministries of Tourism and Amerindian Affairs, the Guyana Energy Authority and the Guyana Natural Resources Agency.

A related area which has been identified is the need for legislative streamlining to eliminate concurrent jurisdiction in matters pertaining to the forests.

The need for a computerised land information base for making decisions on land use, including forestry, is another important issue area. Such a system is being developed for land use planning, and the GFC participates in it. The information base that will be created will be of use to both the GFC and the land use planning process. This type of participation needs to be encouraged and accelerated.

The baseline study also identified several land use policy parameters which are of direct relevance to this National Forest Policy. Prime among these is the principle of multiple land use by multiple land users. Recent experience, particularly between forestry and mining, has underscored the importance and urgency of this direction in policy.

The dual goals of economic efficiency and conservation, practically merged into the goal of sustainability, is central to the land use process in Guyana. This is also espoused by the GFC and stated in this National Forest Policy. Having common goals such as these is critical to the smooth implementation of the wide range of land use activities in the country.

Land use policy is leaning toward the principle of allocation based on beneficial occupation. This is a principle that is supported by this National Forest Policy, and indeed ought to be supported by all line agencies concerned with land utilisation.

The recognition of the rights of indigenous people is also identified in the baseline study as a parameter that will guide policy development. The people who work and reside in the forests are an important consideration in this forest policy. Respect for their rights, assistance in the management of their lands and forests, training to serve in their community areas, and consultation in matters that affect them are areas of land use policy that are also supported by this National Forest Policy.

## **2. Land Use Planning**

- (a) The nation's forest policy shall be an integral part of a comprehensive land use plan. This plan shall be based on land use policies that recognise the conflicting but legitimate interests of different stakeholders, and shall promote a process of developing a consensus on land use.
- (b) Priority shall be given to the preparation of a national land use plan which provides
  - (i) guidelines for environmental protection and sustainable resource utilisation;
  - (ii) a legal framework for resource management;
  - (iii) national programmes for resource management; and
  - (iv) an institutional framework for land use implementation.
- (c) Regional authorities and local communities shall be involved in the formulation and approval of land use plans.

## **B. LAND USE STRATEGIES**

### **1. Implementation of Land Use Plans**

- (a) Sectoral legislation shall be reviewed and reformed to remove overlaps in responsibilities for land management. Such reforms shall ensure that the Forests Act and Regulations are consistent and in harmony with other relevant legislation.
- (b) A centralised data-base shall be developed. This shall record and store all the available information on natural resources, transactions, permits, and applications for land in all sectors.
- (c) Formalised systems for the exchange of information within and among sectors shall be established.
- (d) Land use plans at national, regional and local levels, based on biophysical, social and economic information shall be prepared.
- (e) Mechanisms shall be established to disseminate land use information to assist informed participation in land use planning by local communities.
- (f) Amerindian Councils and private owners with more than 100 hectares of forested land shall be encouraged to develop and implement sustainable management plans for forests on their lands. The Guyana Forestry Commission shall assist in the preparation of these plans.
- (g) Pending the finalisation of a national land use plan, a Land Use Committee, which would serve as a forum for resolving land use conflicts at the institutional level, shall be established.
- (h) The Land Use Committee shall establish a mechanism to co-ordinate the use of

watercourses for multiple purposes, especially navigation, fishing, and the provision of drinking water.

- (i) Mining methods which damage the forest environment or which destroy water quality, aquatic life and ecotourism potential, and adversely affect the use of water courses, shall be discouraged and their negative impacts minimised.
- (j) Relevant information for land use shall be catalogued in accessible forms to ensure that the data are readily available.

## **PART III**

### **A. FOREST MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

#### **1. Resource Ownership**

- (a) The ownership of all forest resources, except those on private property and on Amerindian lands, shall be vested in the State.
- (b) All forests, including those now on State Lands, but with the exception of forests privately or legally held, shall be designated State Forests.

#### **2. Forest Classification**

State Forests shall be classified as follows:

- (a) **Permanent production forests** - in which the principles governing the sustainable management of forests shall be applied.
- (b) **Permanent protection forests and biodiversity reserves** - in which, because of the vulnerability of the forest ecosystem, no tree felling or other types of forest utilisation shall be permitted, and in which representative areas of biodiversity shall be inviolate.
- (c) **Reserve forests** - forests which are yet to be classified, and on which no exploitation shall be permitted.
- (d) **Extractive forests** - forests reserved for the exclusive utilisation of their non-timber forest products.
- (e) **Multiple use forests** - forests to be utilised for the concurrent production and provision of goods (timber and non-timber) and services.
- (f) **Permanent research forests** - forests devoted exclusively to research.
- (g) **Conversion forests** - forests to be cleared for other uses

#### **3. Conservation and Use of Forest Resources**

- (a) All the resources of the forests shall be managed in a sustainable manner for the optimisation of their social, economic and environmental benefits.
- (b) Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems, and by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and integrity of the forests.
- (c) The intellectual property rights of Guyana, particularly as they relate to the utilisation of Guyana's biodiversity, and the conditions under which foreign investors or their research teams operate, shall be clearly spelt out.

#### **4. Forest Allocation Regulation and Agreement**

- (a) Commercial exploitation of the State Forests shall be undertaken only under concession agreements.
- (b) Concession licences and permits shall be allocated through a process of advertisement and bidding or tendering.
- (c) A Scheme for the issuance of Exploratory Permits, which is open to all prospective investors and which does not conflict with other allocation mechanisms, shall be developed.
- (d) Concessions shall be transferable to new concessionaires provided that qualifying standards are satisfied.
- (e) Concessions shall be also granted for forest uses other than timber extraction.
- (f) The Guyana Forestry Commission, through the approval and monitoring of management and operational plans and the development and monitoring of Code of Practice, shall be responsible for the regulation of operations in concessions.
- (g) A legislative framework shall be developed for conflict avoidance and resolution, in relation to the multiple uses of State Forest resources without compromising the conservation of ecosystems and species.
- (h) In the absence of conclusive research data, the regenerative capacities of identified forest types and species shall be conservatively estimated, taking into account all relevant environmental factors.

#### **5. Forest Charges**

- (a) A formula shall be devised for charging area fees which ensure fair returns to both the investor and the State.
- (b) In addition to stumpage fees, an area fee shall be charged
- (c) All revenues derived from area fees shall be paid directly into the Consolidated Fund; all other revenues, e.g., those derived from stumpage fees and from fines accruing from offences, shall be the property of the Guyana Forestry Commission.
- (d) Fees shall be charged for Exploratory Permits.

### **B. FOREST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

#### **1. Resource Inventory**

- (a) The designation of State Forests shall be based on a comprehensive review of land use policy.
- (b) Inventories of State Forests shall be undertaken by the Guyana Forestry Commission. These shall be utilised to provide information:

- (i) on the value of the nation's forest resources in general, and
- (ii) for the specific purposes of allocating concessions, and for monitoring and checking on management plans.
- (c) Inventories shall be carried out by concessionaires for the purpose of formulating and implementing forest management plans. These shall be checked and approved by the Guyana Forestry Commission.
- (d) Topographic and other relevant surveys shall be conducted, as a matter of priority, in order to identify vulnerable ecosystems.
- (e) Separate surveys of the forests' non-timber forest resources shall be performed
- (f) The ecological and economic impact of utilising timber and non-timber forest products shall be assessed by the Guyana Forestry Commission in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency, and their extraction regulated as appropriate.

## **2. Conservation and Use of Forest Resources**

- (a) Forest harvesting and related infra-structural development in the permanent production forests shall be co-ordinated and regulated in accordance with prescribed forest management plans, to maintain levels of log production that are consistent with the need to safeguard environmental quality and ecological balance, where environmental authorisation is required.
- (b) The utilisation of the permanent production forests shall be based on the inherent capability of the forests, and their sustainable use.
- (c) To ensure the adequate supply of raw materials for the forest based industries and their development in perpetuity.
- (d) A licensing system for chainsaw operators shall be instituted urgently and shall require that those transforming the wood resource to lumber shall be registered and licensed before operating chainsaws in authorised areas of the State Forests.
- (e) Chainsaw operators shall be trained in skills that would assist them to achieve operational efficiency and reduce ecological damage during felling, harvesting and lumbering.
- (f) Relevant ecological principles shall be applied in the demarcation of different classes of forest, e.g., the conservation status of species and their habitats; the area required to sustain a given system; and the scale and intensity of forest management.
- (g) Management or operational plans shall be required for the harvesting of all non-timber resources of the forests, before a licence or permit is issued.
- (h) The Guyana Forestry Commission in association with stakeholders shall develop a Code of Practice, containing the monitoring criteria and indicators to be utilised

for forest management. The Code shall be made available to the public.

### **3. Resource Allocation Regulation Agreement**

- (a) The Guyana Forestry Commission shall develop a fair and transparent framework for the allocation , revocation, renewal and re-negotiation of forest concessions .
- (b) The Guyana Forestry Commission shall identify blocks of forests eligible for concessions. These shall include blocks of different sizes to provide opportunities for investors of different scales.
- (c) The Guyana Forestry Commission shall develop a standard agreement so that all concessionaires shall operate under the same conditions in regard to fiscal provisions and general forest management requirements.
- (d) Concessions shall be audited biennially by the Guyana Forestry Commission in order to ascertain whether the concessionaire is meeting the standards and conditionalities defined in sustainable management plans; following established guidelines; and maintaining production. The duration of the concession shall be rolled over for two years, if the required criteria are met. If they have not been met for two consecutive audits, the concession shall be abrogated.
- (e) Mechanisms shall be established to determine every five years for fines and penalties in relation to market prices for forest produce.

### **4. Forest Charges**

- (a) The Guyana Forestry Commission shall formulate an economic rationale for forest revenue systems.
- (b) The Guyana Forestry Commission shall determine compensation payments, for the established loss of resource value, for approved forest clearing for other land use activities.
- (c) Systems shall be devised for charging for the harvesting of specified non-timber forest products.

## **PART IV**

### **A. FOREST INDUSTRY POLICIES**

#### **1. Forest Harvesting**

The establishment of primary access roads by concessionaires in the permanent production forests shall be co-ordinated and regulated in accordance with national development strategies, to improve the road infrastructure of Guyana's hinterland.

#### **2. Industry Viability**

- (a) The fundamental objective shall be to develop a financially and economically viable forest industry.
- (b) The number and types of forest-based industries established shall be consistent with the capacity of the nation's forests for sustainable management.

#### **3. Forest Industry Investment**

- (a) Priority areas for foreign investment shall be the more capital intensive, higher technology projects, and those that are linked to an overseas marketing network.
- (b) All foreign investors shall recruit and train Guyanese citizens so that national expertise may be developed and employment opportunities maximised at all levels.

#### **4. Processing**

- (a) Efforts shall be made to encourage the utilisation of logs in downstream activity.
- (b) The commercial production and processing of non-timber forest resources, such as fibres, latex, oils and fruits, shall be promoted as an essential element of sustainable forest utilisation.

#### **5. Marketing and Promotion**

- (a) Measures shall be taken to maximise in-country returns on exports.
- (b) A financially viable local market shall be developed for Guyana's timber and timber products, with emphasis being placed on the utilisation of the lesser-used species.

#### **6. Revenue Generation**

- (a) A licence shall be required for each conversion process of logs into timber products.

- (b) There shall be regular revisions of fees, taxes and charges in order to reflect changes in production costs and the selling prices of the country's forest products.

## **B. FOREST INDUSTRY STRATEGIES**

### **1. Forest Harvesting**

Special fiscal rewards shall be provided to concessionaires who establish primary access roads which meet appropriate forest engineering standards, which can form part of a national road development programme.

### **2. Industry Viability**

- (a) The size, scope and scale of the forest industry sub-sector shall be related to the availability of timber and non-timber forest resources from sustainably managed forests, supplemented by those from such other areas as may be designated by the Guyana Forestry Commission.
- (b) The Guyana Forestry Commission and the private forestry sector shall establish a unit to provide technical assistance, at a cost to investors, in the preparation of feasibility studies.
- (c) New technologies for the economic utilisation of timber to broaden and diversify the range of species available, to minimise waste, and to maximise the returns from the conversion of felled trees, shall be developed and utilised so long as the sustainability of the forests is not impaired.

### **3. Forest Industry Investment**

- (a) A Policy and Planning unit shall be established within the Guyana Forestry Commission. The unit shall, *inter alia*, collect and disseminate information to both established and potential investors, in forestry-related matters, and shall collaborate with the Guyana Natural Resources Agency.
- (b) All investors in the forest industry sub-sector shall be required to submit forest industry development plans in order to obtain operating licences from the appropriate authority.

### **4. Processing**

- (a) All commercial processing activities including those of non-timber resources shall be licensed by appropriate institutions.
- (b) All processing operations shall be classified by their installed capacity.
- (c) The Guyana Forestry Commission shall develop criteria and regulations for the use of portable sawmills.
- (d) Chainsaw lumbering shall be confined to areas designated by the Guyana Forestry

Commission.

- (e) Processing centres shall be located in areas approved by the Guyana Forestry Commission and other relevant agencies. The criteria for their establishment and location shall be developed by the Guyana Forestry Commission and other relevant agencies.
- (f) Incentives shall be considered to encourage secondary and tertiary processing at these centres.
- (g) Existing timber grading rules shall be revised and expanded to incorporate other forest products.
- (h) Standard sizes of timber, lumber and other forest products, shall be developed for various applications, by the Guyana Forestry Commission, in consultation with the Forest Products Association, Guyana Manufacturers Association, Bureau of Standards, engineers, architects and the building trade.

## **5. Marketing and Promotion**

- (a) Promotional schemes to educate international buyers and end-users about the specific qualities of Guyana's woods shall be mounted.
- (b) The market advantages of Guyana's forest products shall be identified and exploited.
- (c) An international marketing strategy for Guyana's forest products shall be formulated and shall include the creation and promotion of niche markets for targeted species.
- (d) Guyana shall develop national standards for certification.
- (e) Seminars and training programmes for product development shall be conducted by the Guyana Forestry Commission and the Forest Products Association.
- (f) The marketing of lesser-used species shall be optimised through research and development to identify appropriate processing technologies at various stages of the supply chain: log conversion; storage; machine and tool setting; and post-conversion treatment such as preservation and drying.
- (g) The Forest Products Association and the Guyana Forestry Commission shall be encouraged to establish a Market Research Unit to develop the export trade and, in particular, to perform the following functions:
  - (i) provide technical and promotional material;
  - (ii) undertake market intelligence and explore market diversification;
  - (iii) seek markets;
  - (iv) advise producers on prices and markets; and
  - (v) recommend measures to gain entry to selected markets.

- (h) Appropriate measures shall be taken to:
  - (i) promote the marketing of Guyana's non-timber forest products;
  - (ii) encourage direct sales between suppliers and end users;
  - (iii) pursue more competitive freight rates;
  - (iv) establish and enforce grading rules for all forest products in accordance with local and international standards; and
  - (v) to promote the optimisation of returns on all forest products sold.
- (i) Marketing and product development research (including the use of by-products) shall be undertaken to support marketing strategy.

## **6. Revenue Generation**

- (a) A comprehensive study of all taxes, fees, rates and other charges pertaining to the forest industry sub-sector along with current incentives shall be undertaken for the purpose of revising present revenue generating mechanisms.
- (b) A range of fiscal instruments and incentives shall be developed to induce and encourage high quality wood production and higher levels of wood recovery.

## **PART V**

### **A. RESEARCH AND INFORMATION POLICIES**

1. The State shall promote appropriate research into all aspects of forestry and forest-related activities and on their physical, biological, ecological, economic, social, cultural and other impacts.
2. The State shall ensure the provision and development of material and human resources necessary to sustain research at a level commensurate with the potential value of the resource.
3. The Guyana Forestry Commission, acting under the guidance of the Forestry Research Committee, shall be the focal point for national research relating to forests and shall guide, co-ordinate, and collaborate with other institutions and agencies in their research programmes.
4. The Guyana Forestry Commission shall disseminate knowledge and information on all aspects of forestry to enhance understanding and appreciation of the value of Guyana's forests.
5. Appropriate technology for utilising forest biomass in energy production shall be researched and developed by the Guyana Forestry Commission in collaboration with other relevant agencies.

### **B. RESEARCH AND INFORMATION STRATEGIES**

1. The Minister responsible for forestry shall establish a Forestry Research Committee, the duties of which shall be to:
  - a) plan national forestry research;
  - b) determine priorities for research and development;
  - c) advise on the most suitable ways for conducting forestry research;
  - d) ensure close collaboration with organisations responsible for research in other aspects of land use; and
  - e) seek and co-ordinate the use of funds for research.
2. A research and development fund shall be established by the Guyana Forestry Commission.
3. A national centre for research in forestry shall be established.
4. The local industrial sector shall be encouraged to support forestry research.
5. Research into the development of non-timber forest products shall be undertaken, with emphasis on the sustainability of the resource.

6. Research on integrated multiple land use shall be pursued.
7. The economic values of market and non-market goods and services of forest lands shall be researched.
8. Silviculture and other enhancement techniques shall be studied.
9. Research on the growth and regeneration of a number of forest species in a range of ecosystems shall be conducted .
10. Experiments that are designed to assess rates of erosion, run-off, water-loss and felling damage under various logging regimes shall be undertaken .
11. The operation of the proposed National Protected Areas System shall be the subject of continuous study, in relation to forestry issues.
12. Sociological research relating to forest communities shall be pursued.
13. Specific attention shall be paid to research on the establishment of forest plantations, and to the relevance of agroforestry systems, in order to reduce the pressure on the country's natural forest resources.
14. Whenever appropriate, research centred on natural resources shall be undertaken in collaboration with local and overseas agencies. Guyanese shall, in every case, be statutorily assigned a responsible role within an integrated national forestry research programme.
15. A legislative framework shall be developed to monitor the activities of scientific personnel working in Guyana's forests.
16. Mechanisms shall be established to strengthen links among the Iwokrama Rain Forest Programme, the Guyana Forestry Commission, and other relevant agencies.
17. The Guyana Forestry Commission library and herbarium shall be upgraded and developed to provide an information service accessible both to the sector and to the general public.
18. Information and publicity programmes shall be mounted, using appropriate media, to inform the public on forestry issues.
19. A database shall be created and maintained, containing comprehensive and up-to-date information on national forest resources, including market intelligence, as well as results of relevant local and international research.
20. Information exchange among sectoral agencies shall be promoted in order to assist in harmonising policies and strategies in the different sectors.

## **PART VI**

### **A. FORESTRY TRAINING AND EDUCATION POLICIES**

1. Training and education in forestry and forestry-related disciplines shall be provided at all levels and for all types of forestry activities.
2. All programmes for forestry education and training shall be co-ordinated, and shall form part of a coherent policy and integrated strategy.
3. National standards shall be established for training and education at all levels, and for the certification of graduates.
4. Facilities for the development of the skills and experience of personnel currently working in the sector shall be provided.
5. Public education and awareness of forestry issues shall be promoted, and an appreciation for the forestry resources of Guyana encouraged.
6. All foreign programmes and projects operating in Guyana's forests shall include components for the training of local personnel and for capacity building.
7. The principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action shall be applied in respect of the education and training of women and indigenous people.

### **B. FORESTRY TRAINING AND EDUCATION STRATEGIES**

1. The Board of the Guyana Forestry Commission shall establish an Education and Training Sub-Committee as the principal agent for the co-ordination of training and education. The Sub-Committee shall comprise representatives of the Guyana Forestry Commission, teaching and research institutions, and the private sector. The Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee shall include general responsibility for co-ordination of programmes of public awareness and public information.
2. Complementarity of efforts in education, training and local institution-building shall be promoted between Guyanese agencies and institutions and all approved 'forest-based' programmes operating in Guyana, e.g., Tropenbos, the Smithsonian Institution, Conservation International, and Iwokrama.
3. The University of Guyana's Forestry Unit shall have an Advisory Board, which shall include representatives of the Guyana Forestry Commission, research institutions and local industry.
4. Collaborative efforts in forestry education and training shall be established between the Forestry Commission and the University of Guyana.
5. The Forestry Certificate Course at the Guyana School of Agriculture shall be

- developed, strengthened and supported, so that it would meet the needs of the Guyana Forestry Commission, the forest industry sub-sector, and other organisations, and serve as an entry requirement for the University programme.
6. Relationships shall be established with all international and overseas based programmes to allow those programmes and their staff to be utilised in the post-graduate training of students of the University of Guyana.
  7. Included in the training programme to be promoted by the Education and Training Sub-Committee shall be
    - (a) training courses aimed at improving the management, business, financial and marketing skills of senior managers of all sector institutions;
    - (b) training modules, within the Forestry Certificate Course, for the upgrading of workers;
    - (c) health and safety training courses for the forest sector;
    - (d) special training courses for schools, including career guidance; and
    - (e) development of specialist training-of-trainers courses.
  8. In-service training, at all levels, shall be given major emphasis.
  9. A dedicated Forestry Education and Training Fund shall be established by the Guyana Forestry Commission.
  10. National standards shall be developed for training of forestry sector personnel and provision shall be made for the monitoring and enforcement of standards. Action shall be taken at the instance of the Education and Training Sub-Committee and will involve the Board of Industrial Training or a similar national agency.
  11. The standards shall set mandatory skills for workers at various levels, and provide for the licensing of training courses and certification of trainers.
  12. Training and certification schemes shall be linked to pay incentives.
  13. A Forestry Vocational School shall be established in the interior.
  14. The Guyana Forestry Commission shall have special responsibility for public information on forestry matters.

## **PART VII**

### **A. FOREST ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE POLICIES**

All administrative arrangements for the development of the forestry sector in Guyana shall be aimed at servicing and supporting the sustainable management of the country's forest resources and forest industries.

The forestry sector shall be governed in accordance with the national objective of promoting sustainable development and especially the principle of sustainable utilisation of our natural resources. Towards this objective, the Guyana Forestry Commission will be guided by the principles set by the co-ordinating mechanisms such as the Natural Resources and Environment Advisory Committee and the Guyana Natural Resources Agency.

The Guyana Forestry Commission shall also work closely with the Environmental Protection Agency and shall participate in National Committees such as the National Biodiversity Advisory Committee.

### **B. FOREST ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE STRATEGIES**

#### **1. Roles and Responsibilities**

- (a) The public and private sectors shall be assigned clearly defined roles.
- (b) The responsibilities of the various government agencies which operate in the natural resources sector of the country shall be reviewed and harmonised.
- (c) The functions of the Guyana Forestry Commission, as set out in Section 4 (1) of the Guyana Forestry Commission Act, shall be reviewed in the light of new legislation for other agencies, and taking into account current administrative practices. This review shall result in the formulation of a new integrated National Forests Act.
- (d) The new integrated National Forests Act shall re-establish
  - (i) the Guyana Forestry Commission, which shall comprise a number of persons appointed by the Minister from the public and private sector. The Commission members shall include:
    - the Chairman of the Commission;
    - the Commissioner of Forests as an *ex-officio* member;
    - representatives of other relevant government agencies as *ex-officio* members;

- representatives of the Forest Products Association and Non-Governmental Organisations operating in the natural resources sector; and
- (ii) The Guyana Forestry Commission shall be served by a staff comprising forestry professionals, technicians and other categories of support staff.
- (e) The Professional Head of the Staff of the Guyana Forestry Commission shall be designated Commissioner of Forests. The Commissioner of Forests shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Commission.
- (f) Revised legislation and administrative arrangements shall clearly delineate and describe the functions of:
- the Ministry responsible for the forestry sector, and natural resources in general;
  - the Guyana Forestry Commission; and
  - the staff of the Guyana Forestry Commission.
- (g) The duration of appointments of Commissioners shall be staggered to allow for continuity of policies and the number of Commissioners shall be enough to facilitate the same.

## **2. Private Sector**

To supplement its own human resources, the Guyana Forestry Commission shall, from time to time and through contractual and other arrangements, enlist the expertise of private persons and agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations, for the performance of some of its operational functions, e.g., the inventoring of forests and the preparation of management plans.