

Guidelines and Suggested Format for Voluntary National Reports to the Fourth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

Introduction

The suggested reporting format and accompanying guidelines have been prepared by the Secretariat of UNFF, at the request of the Forum (decision 3/2 of UNFF 3), in order to provide guidance to member states on the preparation of their reports for the fourth session of UNFF (Geneva, 3-14 May 2004).

The format has been prepared, taking into account the guidance given at UNFF 3 that the format should be simple, streamlined, flexible, cover the thematic issues of UNFF 4 and take into account the results of related country-led initiatives and conferences, as well as considering the purpose of the reports, as follows:

- to help countries assess their experiences and progress in implementing relevant IPF/IFF proposals, catalyze discussion among government agencies and other stakeholders in the process of preparing the report, and help countries prepare their interventions for UNFF 4
- to provide input to Secretary-General's reports for UNFF 4, enabling the reports to identify key issues for discussion in UNFF 4 and to highlight possible subsequent international action;
- to furnish important information for the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests.

I. Guidelines for the Preparation of National Reports to UNFF 4

Contents of the report

The format focuses on progress in implementing IPF/IFF proposals for action related to the thematic issues to be addressed at UNFF 4: i) social and cultural aspects of forests; ii) traditional forest related knowledge; iii) scientific forest related knowledge; iv) criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management; and v) monitoring, assessment and reporting, and concepts, terminology and definitions. Annex 1 provides a list of the proposals for action related to each of these issues and an indicative summary of the actions called for, to facilitate preparation of the report.

UNFF Member States are invited to provide information on their experiences in implementing proposals for action since 1997. Member States are also invited to provide information on "means of implementation" (i.e. finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management) and relevant "common items" of UNFF in the context of the five thematic issues.

If a country does not have information on a certain point or that point is not relevant in the national context, the report may simply state "no information available" or "not applicable", respectively. If the information is available in another report or document, the country may choose to extract the relevant information and include it in the report to UNFF or provide the reference or document itself to the UNFF Secretariat.

Length, language and format

The length of the reports will vary from country to country. There is no recommended length, but countries are encouraged to be complete, yet as concise as possible.

Countries are asked to provide their reports in English, Spanish or French.

Countries are kindly requested to submit their national report in electronic form (in MS Word format), if possible, and are asked to specify the software used if it is other than Microsoft 2000. The following specifications are suggested: font in Times New Roman, size 11; margins of 1" or 2.5 cm on the sides, top and bottom; and simple text without tabs or line breaks.

Preparation of the report

Member States, to the extent possible and using whatever means they have available, are encouraged to involve a range of relevant government agencies and major groups in the preparation of their voluntary reports. This is consistent with UNFF's recognition (UNFF resolution 1/2) of the importance of stakeholder participation in the preparation of national reports.

Member States may wish to refer to information on forests that they have reported to other international processes or organizations, so as to reduce the burden of reporting. Member States are encouraged to consult to the CPF website for information on streamlining forest-related reporting (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf-mar>) for easy access to national reports related to forests submitted to various international organizations and conventions.

Submission of the national reports

The UNFF Secretariat requests that UNFF Member States submit their reports by **8 November 2003**, preferably in electronic form (by e-mail or by sending a diskette). The report may be submitted to:

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New York, N.Y. 10017
USA

Tel: (212) 963-3401
Fax: (917) 367-3186
E-mail: Patosaari@un.org

Dissemination of the national reports

To make the reports accessible, the UNFF Secretariat will post them on the UNFF website (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests>).

II. Proposed Format for the Voluntary National Reports to UNFF 4

**National Report to the Fourth Session of the
United Nations Forum on Forests**

Guyana

01/12/2003

I. Key Contacts

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Person to contact concerning the national report, if other than the UNFF national focal point:

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II. Progress and issues related to implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action

General

1. Please provide additional or new information on initiatives taken or lessons learned since 1997 further to the information on forests included in your national reports¹ to UNFF 2 and UNFF 3, the Commission on Sustainable Development, and other international instruments and organizations on the following points:

- assessment (including of the relevance, priority, status of implementation, planned actions) of the IPF/IFF proposals for action in the national context
- development and implementation of your national forest programme or similar national policy framework for forests, and
- Mechanisms or initiatives to facilitate stakeholder participation, including indigenous and local communities, in forest sector planning, decision-making and/or forest management.

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 4

Please provide information on: activities undertaken since 1997, progress made, constraints encountered, lessons learned, and issues that have emerged, as well as relevant information related to means of implementation (financing, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and capacity-building) to support the following actions:

Social and cultural aspects of forests

2. promoting the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of forest genetic resources and addressing the issue of intellectual property rights, including the identification of the origins of forest genetic resources, taking into account work undertaken by the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international agreements
3. strengthening the role of women in sustainable forest management, including through capacity building and greater participation in community-based forest management
4. integrating local and indigenous communities in sustainable forest management programmes, particularly as regards (a) recognition and respect of the customary and traditional rights and privileges of indigenous and local communities, (b) participation in decision making regarding the management of forests, (c) the attainment of secure land tenure arrangements, (d) capacity building and technology transfer for sustainable forest management directed at indigenous and local communities

Traditional forest-related knowledge

5. inventorying, cataloguing, and applying traditional forest related knowledge for sustainable forest management and promoting research on TFRK with the involvement of the knowledge holders

¹ National reports related to forests may be easily accessed on the CPF website at www.fao.org/forestry/cfp-mar

6. supporting the application of intellectual property rights and/or other protection regimes for traditional forest related knowledge, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of traditional forest related knowledge, innovations and practices

Scientific forest-related knowledge

7. disseminating scientific knowledge to all interested parties, including through new and innovative ways, and strengthening capacity and mobilizing funding for national and regional research institutions and networks
8. enhancing interaction between scientific research and policy processes, including priority setting of research, addressing of knowledge gaps and using scientific knowledge to support decision-making

Monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions

9. improving information on national forest resources, making the information widely available, and assisting other countries in their related efforts

Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management

10. developing and using criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management (at national level and/or subnational level and for policy, planning, management and/or monitoring purposes), and participating in regional and/or international C&I processes

III. Preparation of the Report

11. Describe the process of preparing this report, including which government agencies and stakeholder groups were involved, and the extent to which they contributed. Provide information on successes, challenges and lessons learned in the preparation of this report.

List of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action Related to Each of the Thematic Issues on the Agenda of the Fourth Session of UNFF

The proposals for action listed below have been identified as being those most relevant to each of the thematic issues on the agenda of UNFF 4. To facilitate reporting, the proposals for action have been clustered and a summary of each cluster has been provided. These summaries are by no means meant to replace the proposals for action. Countries are urged to refer to the full text of the proposals for action as provided in the reports of IPF 4 (E/CN.17/1997/12) and IFF 4 (E/CN.17/2000/14).

Social and cultural aspects of forests

| Type of action called for | Proposal(s) for action |
|---|------------------------|
| <p>Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of forest genetic resources Promote the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of forest genetic resources</p> | IFF 56 (j) |
| <p>Proposal(s) for action GFC activities The Guyana Forestry Commission is the Government of Guyana agency that is responsible for the proper management of the nation's forest resources. The GFC allocates forest lands in 3 broad categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timber Sales Agreement(20-25 years duration>60,000 acres) - Wood Cutting Leases (10-15 years duration>20,000<60,000 acres) - State Forest Permissions (annual Licences <20,000 acres) <p>All of the above licences are renewable based on certain criteria. The land allocation process is extremely transparent and gives individuals an equal opportunity to have access to lands. The GFC however recognizes that communities especially Amerindian Communities, may not at all times be able to satisfy the criteria re allocation of forest lands. Thus special consideration is given to the application for lands by communities. In the majority of cases the communities are given preferential access to land near to them and assisted by the GFC to manage these areas. The GFC has a Forest Resource Management Division (FRMD) which specializes in forestry extensions and information provision services. This Division has assisted communities and individual concessionaires to under take exercises such as forest inventories, preparation of 5 year and annual operating plans. The Planning and Research Development Division also assists in the provision of market information to the communities to enable them to negotiate prices in a more informed manner. In collaboration with the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, the GFC has also assisted Amerindian Reservations to negotiate better prices for their forestry products, even though the GFC has no jurisdiction over produce on Amerindian Lands.</p> <p>The Social Development Programme (SDP) of the GFC is another mechanism used to promote improvement in the livelihoods of the community residents. In addition to the SDP, the GFC conducts regular outreach visits to communities, including Amerindian reservations, and other forest</p> | |

| <p>concessionaires. The purpose of these visits is to inform persons of activities being undertaken by the GFC and to get feedback from the residents on their concerns and problems.</p> <p>Iwokrama was also represented on the National Advisory Committee on Access to Generic Resources and Benefit Sharing, convened under the aegis of the Environmental Protection Agency and on the Technical Working Group formed by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation that examines the International Property Rights and other implications of the FTAA agreement for Guyana.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|------|-----|----|-------|-------|--|
| <p>The role of women in sustainable forest management Involve women in national forest programmes (NFPs), and enhance their role in sustainable forest management</p> | <p>IPF 56 (m), IPF 56 (n), IPF 66</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Proposal(s) for action The Guyana Forestry Commission and other national resource agencies are employing and empowering women in the forestry sector. A number of women have held strategic positions within the GFC. The Guyana Forestry Commission and a number of other organizations such as Iwokrama and Conservation International also employ Amerindian women as their experience and knowledge of the forest is invaluable and can be used effectively. The University of Guyana and Guyana School of Agriculture also play a valuable part in educating women in the forestry sector. Every year a number of women enter the forestry sector in a number of capacities.</p> <p>Percentage of women graduating from the university in Forestry from 1997 - 2001</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="191 1052 919 1146"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>Qualification</i></th> <th><i>1997</i></th> <th><i>1998</i></th> <th><i>1999</i></th> <th><i>2000</i></th> <th><i>2001</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Diploma</td> <td>37.5%</td> <td>45.5%</td> <td>28.6%</td> <td>71.4%</td> <td>57.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Degree</td> <td>....</td> <td>50%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>55.5%</td> <td>37.5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note: ...Data Unavailable</p> | <i>Qualification</i> | <i>1997</i> | <i>1998</i> | <i>1999</i> | <i>2000</i> | <i>2001</i> | Diploma | 37.5% | 45.5% | 28.6% | 71.4% | 57.1% | Degree | | 50% | 0% | 55.5% | 37.5% | |
| <i>Qualification</i> | <i>1997</i> | <i>1998</i> | <i>1999</i> | <i>2000</i> | <i>2001</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Degree | | 50% | 0% | 55.5% | 37.5% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Enhanced role of indigenous and local communities in sustainable forest management Develop and implement programmes for sustainable forest management.</p> <p>Support indigenous people and local communities by funding sustainable forest management projects, capacity-building, information dissemination and participation.</p> | <p>IPF 17 (a), IPF 17 (f), IPF 29 (c), IPF 77 (f), IPF 131 (b), IPF 56 (f) IPF 66, IPF 115 (d), IPF 121 (b)</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Proposal(s) for action Communities are given concessions in order to allow them to benefit from their hereditary rights.</p> <p>The GFC provides scholarships to the Amerindian communities where they may acquire at the end of their training a certificate of Forest from the Guyana School of Agriculture.</p> <p>The initiatives of the Ituni Small Loggers Association, Region 10 and Upper Berbice Small Loggers Association in organizing itself to benefit from close working relations with the GFC would warrant a study of these association</p> <p>Outreach programmes are set up to inform indigenous communities of various aspects of forestry. The GFC has an approach to policy making that is based on participation at all levels and technical officers would visit communities to</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

hold workshops on issues such as preparation of codes of practices for selected products, the development of national standards for forest certification, the revised draft forest certification
A number of outreach programmes are carried out by the Iwokrama Centre for Forest Conservation and Development.

Conservation international

The Voluntary Community Investment Fund (VCIF) that Conservation International (CI) has established for three stakeholder communities (Apoteri, Rewa and Crashwater) provides US\$10,000 annually to be used for sustainable community projects.

The National Forest Policy and Social Issues

The Guyana National Forest Policy Statement. (October 1997) outlines the manner which the Commission is positioning itself to be a learning organisation. Scientifically and technologically in tune with the demands of sustainability for Guyana's forest resources. At the same time, the policy context displays a high regard for the attainment of tangible social and economic benefits to the population in general and specifically, the communities dependent on forestry.

The 1997 statement has made reference, for instance, to a situation whereby the country, during the decade (1997 - 2007) would have, among other factors.

>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:

> created an appropriate economic climate in which investors and operators can harvest and utilise forest resources and receive a fair return on their investment:

>fostered the growth of an efficient national forest industry, based on national and international investment that operates in a manner consistent with sustainable development: and

>published and adhered to transparent systems of allocation and administration of all licences and other agreements, including the level of fees and taxes charged.

>established a code of practice. guidelines and working standards which allow appropriate returns to operators, whilst maintaining the integrity and sustainability of the resource:

>instituted an effective system of information exchange and cross-sector discussion/programmed activities which provides compatibility and consistency among relevant sectors of the economy;

>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.

The attainment of such expected outcomes of a forest policy are explicit assumptions on which to premise re for various categories of socio-economic development issues, related to "livelihoods of forest dwellers"; "fair return on investment"; "growth of an efficient industry" and "transparent systems" for accountability. Those references are evident indicators of the GFC's statutory authority and corporate obligations that acknowledge a concern to address "social issues" in sustainable forest management.

Inherent in the current policy is, therefore, an awareness that the "policies and strategies" of the Commission must be formulated and implemented, in

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <p>efficient and effective ways that promote social development, equitable economic returns and genuine participation in benefits and policy-making by all stakeholders of the sector. This is indeed an explicit policy commitment to a participatory approach for the collaborative management of forestry resources.</p> <p>With the 1997 Policy statement projecting the above-mentioned desired outcomes over the decade in perspective, it is incumbent that appropriate measures be adopted to ensure realisation of results. Attention of the Commission to the social responsibilities and needs, inherent in the national policy, addresses what is commonly referred to as “social forestry.” But, the intention is not to consider such a notion as an additional area or disciplinary field of study that will parallel conventional theoretical or operational specialisations. The latter are necessary analytical categories for specialised knowledge in the natural and biological sciences on forest species or for instance, their ecology.</p> <p>It is indeed useful for an effective division of labour in the delivery of ft services to have disciplinary or operational departments, as presently obtains in the GFC. These may address such subjects as forest engineering. silviculture or resource management. However, the notion of “sustainable forest management” implies an acknowledgement of “social forestry” as <i>integral to a holistic view of the sector</i>, in which “trees” and “people” - their livelihoods, social organization, needs, cultural and economic endeavours are intrinsically associated in structural arrangements that are as inclusive as possible.</p> <p>Resulting from such a perspective, an enlightened discharge of the mandate and implementation of policies by the Commission requires a programmed and systematic response in designing how its work will be organised. Social issues will not he perceived or treated as an adjunct or appendix to other areas of operations in the performance of the Commission’s statutory obligations. Rather, it can be said that a “people’s - first” perspective and policy is inherent in every dimension of how the Commission functions.</p> <p>To enable such a policy and perspective to he realised in specific operational measures, appropriate organisational and management mechanisms will need to he employed. A tangible expression of this is found in the <i>Code of Practice for Forest Operations</i>, adopted in October 1998 and now advocated for voluntary compliance, during a testing period. There was also a second draft brought out in November 2002. Variation in levels of awareness, knowledge and practice, with regard to such issues as health and safety in the Code will he identified in subsequent discussion on the findings of the study (Section 4).</p> <p>In order to better appreciate the context in which the above “policies and strategies” can be expected to be effectively realised, it will be advantageous to briefly highlight the main features of the legal environment being created for the collaborative management and participatory development of the sector.</p> | |
| <p>Common Item: Monitoring, assessment and reporting on social data</p> | <p>IFF 121 (b), IFF 129 (a)</p> |
| <p>A number of forms are regularly filled out by our inspectors to assess the working situation. This function is carried out by the Forest Monitoring Division of the Guyana Forestry Commission. See example of monitoring form below:</p> | |

MONITORING INSPECTION OFFICE FORM

1. Company details

| | | | | |
|----|---|--------------|-------------|----------|
| a. | Company name | | | |
| b. | Concession number | | | |
| c. | Size of concession (acres or hectares) | | Acres | Hectares |
| d. | Forest Manager (name) | | | |
| e. | Other senior staff on site (names and designations) | Nationals | Expatriates | |
| | Name: | Designation: | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| f. | Number of permanent workers? | | | |
| g. | Number of temporary workers? | | | |
| h. | Number of contractors? | | | |
| | | | | |
| i. | Area of work for which contractors are used? | | | |
| | | | | |
| j. | Are contractors registered with NIS & Income Tax? | | | |
| k. | Number of contract workers? | | | |
| l. | Is there an organizational chart? (y/n) | | | |

2. Planning

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| a. | Is there a Forest Management Plan? (y/n) | |
| b. | Has it been approved by GFC? (y/n) | |
| c. | Is it on site? (y/n) | |
| d. | Who uses/has access to the FMP? (name) | |
| e. | Is there an Annual Plan? (y/n) | |
| f. | Has it been approved by GFC? (y/n) | |
| g. | Is it on site? (y/n) | |
| h. | Who uses/has access to the Annual Plan? (name) | |
| l | Is the GFC Code of Practice on site? (y/n) | |
| h. | Who uses/has access to the Code of Practice? (name) | |

3. Inventory

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|-------|--|----------|
| a. | Is there a management level inventory? (y/n) | | | | |
| b. | If yes, describe design | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| c. | What area has been inventoried at the management-level this year? | | Acres | | Hectares |
| d. | Is there a pre-harvest inventory? (y/n) | | | | |
| e. | If yes, describe design | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| f. | How many months ahead of logging is the pre-harvest inventory? | | | | |
| g. | Area covered by pre-harvest inventory this year (ha)? | | | | |
| h. | Number of felling blocks with pre-harvest inventory completed? | | | | |
| 4. Forest Organisation | | | | | |
| a. | Are the concession boundaries cut? (y/n) | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| b. | How often are these boundaries maintained? | | | | |
| c. | How many Biodiversity Reserves have been established? | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| d. | Have the Biodiversity Reserve boundaries been cut? (y/n) | | | | |
| e. | Is the concession divided in to compartments? (y/n) | | | | |
| f. | Are the timber-harvesting blocks defined and cut? (y/n) | | | | |
| g. | Has notice to work blocks been sent to GFC staff? (y/n) | | | | |
| h. | Has notice to close blocks been sent to GFC staff? (y/n) | | | | |

5. Roothing

| | | | |
|----|--|---------|-------------|
| | | Company | Contractors |
| a. | Number of workers? | | |
| b. | How many miles (or km) of road were built this year: | miles | Kilometres |
| | Primary? | | |
| | Secondary? | | |

6. Bridging

| | | | |
|----|--------------------|---------|-------------|
| | | Company | Contractors |
| a. | Number of workers? | | |

7. Harvesting

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| a. | What is the Annual Allowable Cut? | cu.ft. | m3 |
| b. | What is the Annual Harvesting Area? | Acres | Hectares |

| Month | Logs | Piles | Poles | Area Logged | Area Logged |
|-------|--------|--------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| | cu.ft. | cu.ft. | lin.ft. | Acres | Hectares |
| Jan | | | | | |
| Feb | | | | | |
| Mar | | | | | |
| April | | | | | |
| May | | | | | |
| June | | | | | |
| July | | | | | |
| Aug | | | | | |
| Sept | | | | | |
| Oct | | | | | |
| Nov | | | | | |
| Dec | | | | | |

8. Equipment List

List all equipment on the concession

| Equipment | Total Number of Serviceable Units | | Number in Use | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| | Company | Contractor | Company | Contractor |
| Chainsaw | | | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Skidder | | | | |
| Loader | | | | |
| Bulldozer | | | | |
| Tractor | | | | |
| Logging Truck | | | | |
| Dump truck | | | | |
| Grader | | | | |
| Personnel vehicles | | | | |
| truck | | | | |
| Landrover/Landcruiser | | | | |
| Other: | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

9. Social Issues in Concession

| What facilities are available? | (y/n) | (company/govt.) | | (y/n) |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| a. School? | | | e. Community Centre? | |
| b. First Aid point? | | | f. Health & Safety Committee? | |
| c. Doctor/medex? | | | g. Shop? | |
| d. Other | | | h. Other | |

| How many people live in the concession? | What is their source of water? |
|---|--------------------------------|
| a. How many people live in the township/central camp? | |
| b. How many people live in field camps? | |
| c. How many people live in independent communities? | |

| What other land-uses occur in the concession? | (y/n) | Extent |
|---|-------|--------|
| a. Mining? | | |
| b. Hunting? | | |
| c. Collection of NTFPs? | | |
| d. Tourism? | | |

10. Maps

Which maps are available in the concession?

| | Map Type | Scale | Description | Who uses/has access? |
|----|------------------------|-------|-------------|----------------------|
| a. | Concession boundaries? | | | |
| b. | Compartments? | | | |

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| <p>Common item: Promoting public participation</p> | <p>IPF 89 (h)</p> |
| <p>An Enabling Legal Framework</p> <p>A significant advance in the thinking and altitude on the part of decision makers and forestry professionals in Guyana are reflected in the proposed legislation of two Acts prepared in 1999, through an extensive consultative process with stakeholders sectors. The enabling legal framework addresses both the philosophical substantive issues for sustainable and collaborative management of forest resources as well as organisational/administrative functions, in the Draft Forest Act and the Guyana Forestry Commission Act., 1999, respectively.</p> <p>A Draft Forest Act (1999) aims to reform the law relating to the management of the forest resources of Guyana. In the draft legislation, new provisions are proposed, or current ones expanded, to address such topics as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >forestry planning ; >forest conservation and protection; >sustainable utilisation of forest resources and >forests on Amerindian and private lands. <p>On those and related topics, the law explicitly addresses, for example a prescribed process, involving stakeholder participation with regard to the preparation of a <i>National Forest Plan</i> by the GFC. Similarly for every individual or corporation granted a forest concession or licence, the governance of such operations carries the obligation of preparing a <i>Forest Management Plan</i>, acceptable to the GFC.</p> <p>Such references, and even more explicit ones, on the scope of the GFC to delegate authority for protection of wildlife, specific forest species and areas, to other entities, demonstrate that stakeholder involvement and consultation are essential attributes of a programme designed to achieve sustainable natural resource management in Guyana.</p> <p>Moreover, the recognition that measures be introduced to ensure that Amerindian communities have access to technical advice and assistance from the GFC confirm the need for new thinking, attitudes and measures to be adopted by all stakeholders so that genuine collaborative management of the forestry sector be achieve. This is all the more significant when one takes into account the legal provisions advocating advice and technical assistance for negotiating and enforcing contracts for the commercial utilisation of the forest resources of Amerindian lands by non-Amerindians. Legislation will also ensure that the accompanying processes for making such contracts are transparent.</p> <p>As stated in the draft law on the Guyana Forest Commission Act 1999, one of its many functions consists in providing “extension services”. The structure and composition, as well as the broad areas with which such services must be concerned, consist in facilitating the transfer of information and knowledge on socio-economic activities, whereby the quality of life of individuals and communities, dependent on the forestry sector, will be significantly enhanced.</p> <p>A comprehensive outreach function is thereby envisaged as pivotal to the discharge of responsibilities by the Commission, in particular to Amerindian communities. This of course is a further dimension of the implicit</p> | |

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|--|--|
| <p>commitment to “social forestry” as envisaged in the 1997 Policy statement and expressed in the National Development Strategy, now under revision and expected to be published for public debate, imminently.</p> <p>Codes of Practice All codes of practices developed by the GFC to ensure sustainable utilisation of the forest resource are developed through consultation processes.</p> | |
| <p>Common item: Social aspects addressed in national forest programmes National forest programmes and the socially relevant elements <u>National forest projects and the social linkages</u></p> | <p>IFF 122 (b), IFF 122 (d), IFF 129 (d), IFF 140 (a), IFF 144</p> |
| <p>Social Development Programme</p> <p>The Social Development Programme (SDP) has been recognized as an important component of the National Forest Policy and Draft National Plan. It is increasingly accepted that sustainable forest management would be a mere thought if the social aspects, including livelihoods and benefits to forest users/ dwellers, are not addressed. The SDP was designed with priority attention being given to addressing the adverse social conditions on large timber concessions, within small scale operations, on hinterland communities involved in forest operations and to capacity building and skills development of GFC personnel for effective performance of the SDP. It is hoped that the SDP would contribute to the effective realisation of social responsibilities, satisfaction of social needs and attainment of social benefits by stakeholders in the forestry sector.</p> <p>Multi-partner Stakeholder linkages- Iwokrama</p> <p>Beyond the two-way dialogues with institutions which are organic to the NRDDDB, Iwokrama also embraces very strong multi-partner stakeholder linkages that are delivering benefits to the communities of the North Rupununi. These linkages have brought together Iwokrama, CIDA Gender Equality Programme, APA, Help and Shelter, the Guyana Book foundation and the Ministry of Education to promote the concerns of the communities that live in or near the Iwokrama Forest.</p> <p>Environmental Education- Iwokrama</p> <p>Iwokrama’s major environmental education thrust has been in the Schoolyard Ecology (SYE) programme in partnership with Audubon and the Ministry of Education.</p> | |

Traditional forest related knowledge

| Type of action called for | Proposal(s) for action |
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| <p>Advance use of TFRK for SFM. With the participation of indigenous people and local communities who possess TFRK inventory, catalogue, retrieve and apply TFRK for sustainable forest management.</p> | <p>IPF 40a, IPF 40b, IPF 40g, IPF 40h, IPF 40i, IPF 40j, IPF 40k, IPF 40l, IPF 40m, IPF 40n, IFF 75</p> |

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| <p>Proposal(s) for action</p> <p>The GFC is the main body in Guyana that would collect and disseminate information pertaining to inventory and catalogue. The Division responsible for this is The Forest Resource Information Unit (FRIU)</p> <p>The Forest Resource Information Unit (FRIU) was established within the Forest Resources Management Division at the beginning of 2001 as a response to priorities identified in the National Forest Policy. These priorities were examined in the GFC FRI Strategy Paper (July 2000), which recommended the establishment of the unit within the Forest Resource Management Division.</p> <p>The role of the FRIU is to <i>Develop and manage a centralized GIS database containing comprehensive up-to-date information on national forest resources in accessible forms and disseminate this in response to requests from stakeholders.</i></p> <p>The Unit is responsible for all aspects of preparation, verification and dissemination of information on forest resources, including land cover, land use and the administration of State Forests. For this reason, the Unit is responsible for; managing the Commissions’ Geographic Information Systems, maintaining the website, coordinating GIS/GPS and map reading training courses, and production of maps for internal and external stakeholders based on requests.</p> <p>To effectively carry out this role, the unit operates in a dynamic and responsive manner that supports the achievement of the Forest Policy goal of “Improved Sustainable Forest Resource Yields while Ensuring the Conservation of Ecosystems, Biodiversity and the Environment”. The Unit closely monitors stakeholder demand to ensure that its portfolio of products and services continues to be appropriate to the needs of the GFC and sector. In addition the Unit maintains close linkages with other agencies that are responsible for Natural Resources Management</p> <p>Utilizing indigenous knowledge.</p> <p>The indigenous people of Guyana have fundamental skills and knowledge in forestry. The main reason being that the surrounding environment in which they live and acquire their livelihoods from is the forest. Amerindians with their traditional forest related knowledge are able to identify almost all plants/ trees within the forest using knowledge of the characteristics and uses of the species, passed down from generations. Organizations like Tropenbos – Guyana Programme, Guyana Forestry Commission, Iwokrama and Conservation International utilize this knowledge by employing people as Tree Spotters. Persons with the technical knowledge and background of Botany, Taxonomy, and Forestry are able to harness this knowledge and incorporate it with their technical skills for the sustainable management of Guyana’s forest.</p> | |
| <p>Develop intellectual property rights for TFRK and promote equitable benefit sharing.</p> <p>Develop ways and means to promote effective protection of TFRK and work with relevant international organizations and conduct studies to help to develop common appreciation and understanding of relationship between TFRK and intellectual property rights and promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from TFRK, including consideration of payments.</p> | <p>IPF 40c, IPF 40d, IPF 40f, IPF 40o, IPF 40p, IPF 40q, IPF 40r, IFF 74a, IFF 74b, IFF 74c, IFF 74d</p> |

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| <p>Proposal(s) for action</p> <p>There has so far, not been any formal National programmes for Intellectual Property Rights, however some organizations have taken the initiative to bring this issue in the lime light.</p> <p>Iwokrama has for the past five years worked towards agreements relating to Intellectual Property rights (IPR) access and benefit sharing to guide the work of the centre. In the absence of a formal policy, interim agreements have been drawn up on the initiative of staff members and used to guide activities including on-going collaboration, tourism, and filming.</p> <p>The Centre seeks at all times to protect the IPR of local stakeholders. Most notably Iwokrama helped to transfer copyright from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the North Rupununi Development District Board (NRDDB) for work completed by the Makushi Research Unit (MRU) in 1998 and 1999.</p> <p>The Centre has also negotiated and drawn up agreements on IPR and benefit sharing related to the use of verbal and printed information as well as artwork supplied by local collaborators and incorporated in Iwokrama books, booklets, posters and cards.</p> <p>Other activities related to IPR include an international workshop with key stakeholders and community level consultations in Region 8 and 9. In 2002 an internal IPR working group was formed.</p> <p>In November 2002, Iwokrama contracted an IPR lawyer to review the draft policy and agreement drawn up. The project to develop policy and Agreements relating to IPR, Access and Benefit Sharing for Iwokrama International Centre is funded by IDRC, Canada.</p> | |
| <p>Means of implementation</p> <p>Technology transfer and capacity building: as an integral part of national forest programmes, taking account of local TFRK</p> | IPF 17g |
| <p>Proposal(s) for action</p> <p>Developed Iwokrama Stakeholder Capacity and Skills .</p> <p>Iwokrama has trained 24 Forest Rangers, 15 of these rangers continue to work within the Iwokrama Forest. Iwokrama has trained 24 Community Environmental Workers (CEWs) based in their villages and 13 Young Guyanese Professionals. Iwokrama has also supported national and international undergraduates and graduate students and a volunteer programme. In addition the Centre has provided attachment for more than 12 Guyanese and 12 overseas interns on short projects. Short term employment of local people has also provided “learning by doing” opportunities.</p> | |
| <p>Common items</p> <p>Public participation: promote participation of people who possess TFRK in planning, development and implementation of national forest policies and programmes</p> | IPF 40e |
| <p>Proposal(s) for action</p> <p>The Forest Training Centre (FTC) is a collaborative project between ITTO, GFC, FPA (Forest Producers Association), TFF (Tropical Forest Foundation). It is responsible for the training in Reduced Impact logging (RIP). This training is extended to the concessionaires and the loggers working the concessions to reduce the damage done to the surrounding forest areas where logging is taking place. In so doing the GFC is in part supporting and assisting the drive to enhance SFM.</p> <p>Compilation of Indigenous Knowledge about the Iwokrama Forest</p> | |

The MRU have worked toward developing an understanding of the resources in the Iwokrama Forest and North Rupununi In addition, work on wildlife management has been a key entry point for developing natural resource management relationships between Iwokrama and local communities' Iwokrama's approach to wildlife research is not typical of neotropical wildlife research programmes; the high levels of local involvement permit the interaction of social and biological sciences in addressing management and research issues. The recognition of local knowledge has led to local ownership of management proscriptions and stronger local compliance than would normally occur.

Identification of non-Timber Forest products and Production procedures.

Work on NTFPs has been an active research theme at Iwokrama. Research has focused on wildlife and fish (*Arapaima gigas*) as well as on NTFP species that could form the bases for industries. In this context, research studies of Balata (*Manilkara bidentata*), Nibbi (*Heleropsis flexuosa*), and Crabwood Oil (*Carapa guianensis*) have been completed or are ongoing. In November 2002 the Centre conducted a workshop on the sustainable and equitable use of crabwood oil for local crabwood oil producing communities and other support agencies, as well as government and non-government organisations.

Established Trails and Development for Sustainable Timber Production

In 1999, Iwokrama jointly hosted a workshop with Tropenbos and the GFC on Reduced impact Logging (RIL). The workshop led to a review document in a special issue of the International Forestry Review, dedicated to the workshop proceedings. The workshop resulted in a training course for Guyanese foresters in RIL, the development of a national working group on certification, and an ongoing cost-benefit study of operational scale RIL currently being run jointly by Iwokrama, Tropenbos and the GFC in the Demerara Timbers Ltd. concession neighbouring the Iwokrama Forest. Iwokrama has encouraged independent researchers to use the research facilities at the field station. In April 2002, the Centre provided a bursary to the University of Guyana to support several students to undertake research projects in the Iwokrama Forest.

Tropenbos

Tropenbos – Guyana programmes also conducted Non-Timber Forestry Product (NTFP) work in the North Rupununi District of Guyana during their twelve years in Guyana (1989-2001). A number of publications have been brought out by the Tropenbos foundation on this topic.

Scientific forest related knowledge

| Type of action called for | Proposal(s) for action |
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| <p>Functional interaction between science and policy Improve linkages between scientific research and policy processes and involve guidance from all the interested parties.</p> | <p>IFF 96c, IFF 98b</p> |
| <p>Proposal(s) for action</p> <p>Developed a Systematic Programme for Natural Products - Iwokrama has established a national Natural Products screening laboratory at the University of Guyana. This programme will form the basis for future business development based on natural products.</p> <p>Developed Public Outreach Mechanisms - Iwokrama manages an Information and Communications Unit and has organized four International Technical Workshops, twice monthly Lunch-time Seminars, Friends of Iwokrama Meetings every two months, and annual Public Fora involving the Board of Trustees. Iwokrama, in partnership with GBC and UNESCO also facilitate the first community radio station in Guyana — Radio Paiwomak — based in the North Rupununi.</p> <p>National Forest Policy and National Forest Plan</p> <p>A National Forest Policy Statement was approved in 1997 and since then a draft National Forest Plan (NFP) was prepared specifically for taking forward the prescriptions of the Policy. No official policy statement was published since 1953. The overall objective of the National Forest Policy statement is <i>'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'</i>. 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 NFP is divided into ten programmes - <i>National Forest Programme, Forest Zoning and Classification, Forest Resource Planning and Allocation, Forest Operation and Monitoring, Forest Industry Investment, Forest Products Marketing, Forest Research, Forest Sector Information, Forest Sector education and Training and Social Development programme.</i></p> <p>Legislation</p> <p>Since the adoption of a National Forest Policy statement in 1997, the GFC has been working on new legislation. The old legislation was devised since 1953. The consultation processes have been tedious. However, the final set of concerns by the mining sector has been addressed and the Cabinet Subcommittee on Natural Resources approved of the modifications made to the draft Forest Bill. The Bill is now due to go before the full Cabinet for approval.</p> <p>Forest Management Plans and Annual Plans</p> <p>Forest management in large concessions is guided by forest management, annual plans, and code of practices. All TSA, WCL and SFEP Operators are required to prepare and submit to forest management and annual plans to the GFC for review and evaluation. Documented guidelines are given to all operators, and GFC offers extension services to the concessionaires to assist</p> | |

with the preparation of plans. For SFEPs, Annual Plans are not required until their operations have been approved for upgrading to either TSA or WCL. The plans set out the order and extent of all activities to be conducted on a forest concession. The Management Plan covers discussions on company policy towards national development, location and legal status, natural environment, area management history, silviculture, forest inventory, production operations, yield regulation, annual allowable cut, harvesting operations, environmental considerations, biodiversity reserves, monitoring and research, markets and utilization and social issues.

Forest enumeration is dealt within the forest management plan. All TSA and WCL concessionaires are expected to conduct inventories, management level, pre-harvest and post-harvest assessments.

Silvicultural Surveys

The GFC has started a programme in conducting post-harvest assessments in concessions under the Silvicultural Survey Programme. The objectives of the survey are to provide a clear indication of the quantity, quality and timings for the next two harvest cycles and to compare the projections with the recently completed harvest. It is intended to provide a quantitative demonstration whether the logging operator has harvested the forest in a way that is consistent with the goal of sustainable utilisation as outlined in the National Forest Policy. To date, four surveys have been completed with interesting results (Bird 2001).

Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting

The GFC has developed a Code for timber harvesting which applies to all TSA and WCL operations. The Code advises concessionaires of the benefits in profitability to be gained from strategic planning and control of operations (Hunter, 2001). Standards that governs road building, corduroys over swamps, skid trails, log markets, bridges and culverts chemical use, biodiversity, occupational health and safety are discussed in the Code. The GFC has also developed Draft Code of Practices for Non-Timber Products harvesting - Kufa (*Clusia spp*) and Nibbi (*Heteropsis spp*), Manicole Palm (*Euterpe spp*). The Mangrove Code of Practice is still in the preliminary stages. Social issues are an integral part of the Codes and will be incorporated. The Codes have all been developed using participatory consultations involving operators, communities and other stakeholders.

Area Management Plan

The administrative system for the State Forest Permissions (SFPs) has been recently reviewed and revised by the GFC. These small concessions are guided by the code of practices to be phased out on the phased introduction of the area management plans. The Area Management Plan initiative sets out to provide a strategic planning framework for the SFP areas. The GFC is currently conducting rapid appraisals (RAPs) for SFP concessionaires. The objective of the rapid assessments is to determine whether individual SFPs are sufficiently well stocked to support current timber harvesting. A secondary objective is to provide a strategic overview of the forest condition throughout the management plan area. The results of the rapid appraisal are fed into an Area Management Plan which set a framework and standards for small operators to work. Currently, one Area Management Plan Unit has been completed, and another has started.

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| <p>Strategic Plan</p> <p>The GFC is engaged in the development of a Strategic Plan 2002 to 2006. An important preparatory activity for the Plan was the environmental scan, which allowed the GFC to obtain an awareness of critical issues in the sector and to internalise the issues to provide a strategic direction for the GFC.</p> <p>Forest Monitoring/Environmental Monitoring</p> <p>The GFC has resident forest officers at approximately 20 forest stations country wide. The officer monitors the forest concessions, sawmills (and lumber yards to an extent). Compartments and blocks are inspected by the concessionaire Forest Manager, and GFC carries out random sample checks on activities as cited in the Code of Practice, and the companies' approved management and annual plans.</p> <p>A log tagging system was brought into operation in March 1999 with the aim to minimize the incidence of illegal logging practices. The number of tags issued to concessions is based on the area and volume to be removed per year. The tag accompanies the log/lumber and the other remains on the stump. The replicated number of the tag enables any log to be traced back to its source.</p> <p>For the SFPs, a quota system is in place which is determined by the size and the assumption of 80 percent productivity of the area. The number of tags issued to the SFP holder is determined by the quota.</p> <p>Tropenbos- Guyana Programme</p> <p>Tropenbos-Guyana Programme, was a major contributor to forest research for over 12 years, concluded its activities in Guyana on December 2001. The TGP was involved in a wide variety of research projects covering several disciplines including Ecology, Biodiversity, Earth Sciences, Forestry and Anthropology, with the biophysical disciplines being strongly represented. Through its research, TGP played a supportive role in Guyana's forest policy and management and biodiversity policy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Objectives of Tropenbos- Guyana Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To contribute to the conservation and wise use of tropical rain forests by generating knowledge and developing methodologies • To involve and strengthen local research institutions and capacity in relation to tropical rain forests | |
| <p>Setting the research priorities and addressing the knowledge gaps Set research needs and priorities nationally, regionally and globally, address knowledge gaps, and promote and strengthen research efforts in support of SFM.</p> | <p>IPF 46g, IPF 94a(i), IPF 94b, IPF 94d, IPF 104c, IPF 50b, IFF 96d, IFF 96a, IFF 98a, IFF 97d</p> |
| <p>Proposal(s) for action Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tropenbos Guyana Programme (TGP) – The Tropenbos-Guyana Programme, a major contributor to forest research for over 12 years, | |

concluded its activities in Guyana December 2001. Tropenbos had also a relatively strong capacity building component with several Master's and PhD level students passing through the Programme. Additionally, work on Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) has been well received and ITTO has provided funds to help set up a vocational school for training in RIL techniques. The TGP was carried out in partnership with a number of institutions and agencies locally and internationally. Core funding was provided by the Tropenbos Foundation of the Netherlands. The Programme has produced a number of publications some of which are available from the Guyana Forestry Commission.

- **Guyana Forestry Commission:** With the departure of Tropenbos from Guyana in December 2001, a Forest Research Unit (FRU) was set up at the Guyana Forestry Commission. This Division was merged with the Planning and Development Division in August 2003 to create the Planning and Research Development Division (PRDD). PRDD now serves as a repository for all the data and publications that emanated from the Tropenbos-Guyana Programme. Louman's (2001) report identified a number of priority areas for forest research in Guyana including marketing, wood and non-wood utilization, silviculture, growth and yield, non-timber forest product management and silviculture, social interactions and impacts, land use values, development and validation of standards, valuation of forest resources, cost and benefit analyses.
- **Conservation International-Guyana:** An initiative is being undertaken by Conservation International (CI) Guyana to conserve a portion of the State Forests estate for 25 years. CI - Guyana has acquired a conservation concession of about 80,000 hectares from the GFC under a Timber Sales Agreement. No logging of timber will be done though it is expected that some research activities will occur. GFC will be compensated on the basis of a timber valuation of the concession.
- **Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development:** A Government of Guyana initiative of 1989, Iwokrama aims to illustrate Guyana's commitment to the global agenda of conservation and sustainable development of the world's remaining forest resources. Iwokrama Development concession represents 5.8% of allocated State Forest). The Iwokrama Reserve is composed of A Wilderness Preserve and A Sustainable Utilisation Area which are approximately equal in size. Research is multifaceted, ranging from biodiversity surveys, wildlife management, non-timber forest products, remote sensing to community interactions. The vision of Iwokrama is to serve as a model which will showcase conservation and developmental activities (including timber harvesting), working in tandem for long lasting ecological, economic and social benefits for Guyana and the world at large.
- **Edinburgh Centre for Tropical Forests (ECTF):** A collaborative programme, which began in 1993, between the ECTF and the Barama Timber Company saw the set up of a number of Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) which focused on post logging incremental growth and mortality, logging damage to the residual stand, canopy gap size, operational efficiency and silviculture. At least five years of data has been collected and used in a Pilot study to predict yield using the 'Growth and Yield' model, SYMFOR. Unfortunately, Barama is no longer working in the concession area and there are no immediate plans by the company to

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| <p>continue remeasuring the plots.</p> | |
| <p>Promote efficient sharing of information and strengthen networks Make results and information available for all users to support decision making, develop new and innovative means of disseminating information and technologies and promote and make use of existing networks, institutions and mechanisms in efficient sharing of information.</p> | <p>IPF 58b(vii), IPF 94a (ii), IPF 94a(iii), IFF 97c, IFF98c</p> |
| <p>Proposal(s) for action</p> <p>The GFC has a website that has all relevant facts and information available on Guyana and its forestry sector. : http://www.forestry.gov.gy</p> <p>The GFC also produces a quarterly Market Report and these are disseminated locally and internationally to a number of government and NGO's all over the world. These include commercial institutions, ITTO, UN, European Union, etc.</p> <p>Annual Questionnaires are requested by ITTO and submitted by the GFC on the forestry sector in Guyana.</p> <p>Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development</p> <p>A Government of Guyana initiative of 1989, Iwokrama aims to illustrate Guyana's commitment to the global agenda of conservation and sustainable development of the world's remaining forest resources. The Government offered the 370,000 hectares of tropical forest in Central Guyana to the Commonwealth community, with the Centre having direct responsibility for the management of the area through the Iwokrama Act which was passed in 1996. The Iwokrama Reserve is composed of A Wilderness Preserve and A Sustainable Utilisation Area which are approximately equal in size. Research is multifaceted, ranging from biodiversity surveys, wildlife management, non-timber forest products, remote sensing to community interactions. The vision of Iwokrama is to serve as a model which will showcase conservation and developmental activities working in tandem for long lasting ecological, economic and social benefits to Guyana and the world at large. The Programme has been funded by several donors including DFID, CIDA, and UNDP to name a few. For further information, visit the Website at www.iwokrama.org .</p> <p>Conservation International</p> <p>CI has been active in Guyana since 1990 and has led research expeditions, hosted by media and implemented educational activities throughout the country. CI- Guyana's efforts promotes the conservation of biodiversities – the total sum of life on earth – and the protection of critical ecosystems through sound scientific research and priority setting, in collaboration with state agencies and partner NGO's and in consultation with communities and other stakeholders. For further information visit website: www.conservation.org</p> | |
| <p>Means of implementation Mobilize funding for forest research: examine new ways to mobilize funding for forest research to accomplish its objectives and build capacity at the national, regional and global levels)</p> | <p>IPF 94a(iv), IPF 94c, IFF 96b, IFF 97a, IFF 97b</p> |
| <p>Proposal(s) for action</p> | |

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| <p>The GFC receives funding from a number of organizations such as DFID (Forestry Support Projects), ITTO, the British High Commission (Funds acquired in 2003 for the construction of a new out station in Linden 2003), CIDA.</p> <p>Tropenbos- Guyana was funded by the Dutch Government. Iwokrama also received funding from several donors agencies including DFID, CIDA, and UNDP to name a few. For further information, visit the Website at www.iwokrama.org .</p> <p>To date other organizations that provide funding are: WWF Guyana Institute of Environment and Development (IIED) ITTO FAO</p> | |
| <p>Common items Public participation: apply participatory mechanisms to involve research into planning process</p> | IPF 17e |
| <p>Proposal(s) for action</p> <p>The recommendation for National research strategy was done through a thorough consultation process.</p> | |

Monitoring, assessment and reporting, and concepts, terminology and definitions

| Type of action called for | Proposal(s) for action |
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| <p>Collection and dissemination of national information on forests Improve national forest resource assessments and make information related to sustainable forest management widely available</p> | IPF 46b, IPF 89b IFF 17a, IFF 17b |
| <p>Proposal(s) for action The organization responsible for this function in Guyana is the Guyana Forestry Commission. There are several divisions that are responsible for the various functions within the GFC. The GFC's mandate is effected by a network of five (5) Divisions:</p> <p><u>PLANNING AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT DIVISION:</u> Is responsible for the implementation of the National Forest Plan, facilitating investment in the sector, conducting studies of sector issues and market product promotion. The Division also generates and disseminates information through ecological, socio- economic and technological research for forest managers and policy makers to promote the sustainable utilization and conservation of the tropical rain forest of Guyana</p> <p><u>FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION:</u> Responsible for data collection on national forest resource, conducting surveys and inventories, researching and making recommendations on forest dynamics and silviculture, planning and recommending the allocation of</p> | |

concession areas, preparing operational guidelines for forest management planning, evaluating management and operational plans, prescribing standards for forest management and providing support for forestry extensions.

A Herbarium

Is available for public use and has a collection of wood samples and plant specimens.

FOREST MONITORING DIVISION:

Responsible for the enforcement of forest laws and regulations, monitoring and control of environmental and social impact of operations within the state forest estate and collection of revenue.

FINANCE DIVISION:

Responsible for managing the financial resources of the Commission.

HUMAN RESOURCE DIVISION:

Responsible for staff management, development and implementation of human resource policies and procedures, education, training, including in – service training and liaison with relevant teaching and training institutions.

A Library

Has been opened for public use and is stocked with research findings and journals on issues on the local and international arenas.

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| <p>Improved and streamlined international reporting and information systems on forests Develop improved and streamlined reporting and information systems to assist in the collection, verification, synthesis, interpretation and dissemination of information on progress in sustainable forest management and financial resources for SFM</p> | <p>IPF 89d, IPF 89e, IPF 115e IPF 78a, IPF 78b, IPF 78c, IPF 89g IFF 18, IFF 19a, IFF 30d, IFF 142c</p> |
| <p>Disseminating Results Through Culturally Appropriate material.</p> <p>Iwokrama produces a regular newsletter, and has published over 80 national and international papers in this period. Furthermore, Iwokrama staff members have given over 75 public presentations over the last five years.</p> <p>Information Network with Collaboration Iwokrama, GFC, and Tropenbos – Guyana are the founding members of Guyana’s Information Network for Science and Technology (INSAT). This network was created to facilitate the exchange of information among member organisations. Among the services offered by INSAT is access via the internet to consolidated bibliographic information from nine national environmental organisations (www.insatguyana.net).</p> <p>Database of Information Relevant to Iwokrama</p> <p>The Iwokrama Information and Communications Unit houses one of the most complete libraries on natural resource management in Guyana. Species lists for vertebrates and trees are also available on the Iwokrama web site (www.iwokrama.org).</p> <p>Geographic Information System in use - Iwokrama An operational GIS has been developed at Iwokrama, including information on the Iwokrama Forest and neighbouring areas. The Centre’s GIS is key to the decision model developed to zone the Iwokrama forest and has also been used in community resource mapping, road management planning, and ecotourism development. Geographic Information Systems staff members have also contributed to the formulation of Guyana’s National Policy on Geographic Information. Iwokrama has also developed initial prototype spatial models for Greenheart distribution and tree growth, in addition, to having examined the application of satellite radar for the delineation of seasonal under-storey flooding of the forest.</p> | |
| <p>Concepts, terminology and definitions Formulate an internationally acceptable set of definitions of key terms used in forest resource assessment and criteria and indicators of SFM, including for low forest cover, planted forests and categories of protected areas</p> | <p>IPF 58a, IPF 89f, (IPF 115d) IFF 89, IFF 122a</p> |
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| <p>Means of implementation Capacity-building and financial resources: to assist countries efforts in</p> | <p>IFF 17e, IFF 19b IFF 17a</p> |

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| national reporting | |
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Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management

| Type of action called for | Proposal(s) for action |
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| <p>Develop, test and implement criteria and indicators at national, sub-national and operational levels Develop, field test and promote the use of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, including by integrating them into national forest programmes and national forest assessments and using them to monitor trends and promote best forest management practices</p> | IPF 17d, IPF 89a, IPF 115a, IPF 115b, IPF 115c IFF 17d |
| <p>The national certification process In July 2000 GFC and the UNDP-PROFOR Guyana project started a process that should lead to certification of forest operations in Guyana's natural forests. This process was seen by both GFC and UNDP-PROFOR as a policy instrument, providing market incentives to improve forest management practices. While this process is still going on, one of the major results so far has been an analysis of the forestry sector in relation to possible obstacles to come to sustainable forest management. This analysis was performed by sub-groups of the national interim-working group on certification (IWG) Stakeholders were grouped according to their main interests in 4 subgroups: 1) an "enabling conditions sub-group with mainly government agencies involved. 2) An "environment and management" sub-group with GFC, EPA and academic institutions 3) A sub-group on social conditions with representatives of Amerindian supporting organizations, and 4) an "entrepreneurial capacity" sub-group, mainly consisting of members of the manufacturing (GMA) and logging industry (FPA) The following sections summarise their findings (Forte <i>et al</i> 2001).</p> <p>Critical issues that the four groups had in common were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The continuing lack of a national land use policy. > Unresolved Amerindian land claims. > Poor co-ordinating mechanisms among the regulatory agencies charged with natural resources administration, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > A legal framework that is slow to change and whose regulations are honoured more in the breach than the observance, > Ignorance of the regulations at all levels, > Limited monitoring and enforcement capability. | |
| <p>Promote the use of criteria and indicators at regional and global levels Support international and regional initiatives to achieve a common international understanding of concepts, terms and definitions related to criteria and indicators, mutual recognition among sets of criteria and indicators, and methods for the measurement of indicators and the collection and dissemination of data</p> | IPF 115d |
| <p>Proposal(s) for action</p> <p>The Tarapoto Proposal This proposal addresses the National level and service at global level. The national level covers several criterion such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> >Socio Economic Benefits >Policies and Legal Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development of the Forests. | |

- >Sustainable Forest Production.
- >Conservation of Forest Cover and Biological Diversity.
- >Conservation and Integrated management of Water and Soil Resources
- >Science and Technology for the Sustainable Development of Forest.
- >Institutional Capacity to Promote Sustainable Development in the Amazon
- >Institutional and Legal Framework
- >Sustainable Forest Production
- >Conservation of Forest Ecosystems
- >Local Socio- Economic Benefits

Under the Service at Global Level the criterion addressed is Economic, Social, and Environmental Services Performed by Amazonian Forests.

ITTO Criteria

The original ITTO criteria and indicators focused primarily on sustainable management for the production of timber while this update covers the full range of forest goods and services, including biological diversity and other non-timber values. Meanwhile, the *ITTO Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical forests* and *ITTO Guidelines for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in Tropical Production Forest*, published respectively in January and September 1993, laid the foundation for a wider interpretation of sustainable forest management by ITTO. More recently, in September 1997, ITTO has published the *ITTO Guidelines on Fire Management in Tropical Forest*.

Natural forests are a very important renewable natural resource in most tropical countries they produce the bulk of tropical timber, are very rich in biodiversity and provide many other socio-economic, cultural and environmental benefits. This publication concentrates, therefore, on the identification and formulation of criteria and indicators for assessing progress towards the sustainable management of **natural** tropical forests. Reference to planted forests is only made when their management is relevant in supporting the sustainable management of natural forests.

Although the criteria for both types of forest are the same, there are many features in natural tropical forests which do not occur or are of little significance in planted forests and, conversely, many important features in the management of plantations (selection of site, species, genotype etc.) which do not apply in natural tropical forests. Appropriate criteria and indicators are, of course, also important in assessing the management of planted forests.

The Criteria

A criterion describes a state or situation which should be met to comply with sustainable forest management. Ideally, this meaning should be reflected in the way criteria are formulated. In this publication, however, for reasons of easy communication and simplicity, the criteria themselves are formulated as subjects of attention, while the full meaning of the criterion is elaborated in accompanying text.

Seven criteria are identified as essential elements of sustainable forest management. Criterion 1, Enabling **conditions for Sustainable Forest Management**, is concerned with the general legal, economic and institutional framework without which actions included under the other criteria will not succeed. Criteria 2 and 3 on **Forest Resource Security** and **Forest**

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| <p>Ecosystem Health and Condition, respectively, are concerned with the quantity, security and quality of forest resources. The remaining four criteria deal with the various goods and services provided by the forest, including Flow of Forest Produce, Biological Diversity, Soil and Water and Economic, Social, and Cultural Aspects. The order of presentation of the criteria represents a logical sequence but does not indicate priority or relative importance. The seven ITTO criteria are shown schematically in Appendix 1.</p> <p>The Indicators</p> <p>The indicators presented here have been carefully identified and formulated so that a change in any one of them would give information that is both necessary and significant in assessing progress towards sustainable forest management. They have also been defined so that they are clear, practical and easy to monitor, and based as far as possible on available research knowledge and statistics. It should, therefore, be possible for countries to provide information on many of them, although only a few countries will immediately be able to provide information on them all.</p> <p>Countries face a considerable load in reporting to different international organizations. This load can be eased by ensuring that the nature of the data required is as similar as possible. Indicators have, therefore, been chosen so as to be compatible with those being requested for FAO's Forest Resources Assessment (FRA-2000).</p> <p>Wherever possible, quantitative indicators have been suggested but, in some instances, this is not possible or would prove too expensive. Where this is the case, qualitative or descriptive indicators are provided.</p> <p>It is important, if the indicators are to give an accurate picture of trends, that comparable methods should be used between one time of assessment and the next and that there should be a means of estimating the degree of accuracy of any data presented. Over time, lessons will be learnt about the collection of certain data. Ideally, all countries should use the same methods of measurement and assessment, but this is unlikely to be for some time. Countries should, therefore, give a description of the methods used and an estimate of the accuracy of their figures and any difficulties encountered in their collection.</p> | |
| <p>Further develop biodiversity indicators</p> <p>Encourage, within the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the development of biodiversity indicators that are consistent and complementary to existing forest criteria and indicators</p> | IPF 115f |
| <p>Proposal(s) for action</p> <p>Other Management Programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Protected Areas System: Five large tracts of forest lands have been identified for protection status. The processes involved consultative and inclusive stakeholder approaches that have been coordinated by the Environmental Protection Agency. • The National Biodiversity Action Plan 1999: Developed by the Environmental Protection Agency the Plan sets out a strategy for the management of Guyana's biodiversity. | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Action Plan 2001: The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Committee coordinated by the Environmental Protection Agency has developed an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Action Plan 2001. The Plan sets out actions to be undertaken by government agencies, private sector and NGOs towards coastal zone management. • The National Mangrove Management Action Plan 2002: The Guyana Forestry Commission in collaboration with the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Committee has developed the National Mangrove Management Action Plan 2002. The Plan gives recommended actions to be undertaken by GFC in collaboration with other government agencies, private sector, NGOs and educational institutions for the management of mangrove forests. | |
| <p>Means of implementation Technical and financial resources: donor countries and multilateral organizations to provide adequate technical and financial assistance to countries for further development, field testing and implementation of C&I</p> | IPF 115c |
| <p>Proposal(s) for action</p> <p>Forest Certification Process</p> <p>The certification process in Guyana began in 2000 with technical support of UNDP-Programme for Forests (PROFOR) - PROFOR Phase I. An Interim Working Group (IWG) comprising a balanced representation of stakeholders from social, environmental, economic and institutional interests was formed with one of the main tasks being to choose a certification option for Guyana. Later in 2001 the IWG voted to start the development of a national standard based on the FSC Principles and Criteria. It was also agreed that the possibility of other international endorsements of the standard at a later stage should be an option (Forest Certification 2001). To date an active NGO, with funding from WWF, the Guyana National Initiative on Forest Certification (GNIFC) has been established as a legally recognised body under the Friendly Societies Act and is taking the process forward. Additional funding from USAID enabled the GNIFC to field test the 2nd Draft Standard which has now produced a 3rd Draft Standard last July 2003.</p> <p>Assessment of Forest Enterprises</p> <p>As part of PROFOR Phase 1, a survey was conducted on three forest enterprises to determine the state of forest operations in Guyana and what initiatives would have to be taken in the short term as well as the long term if, local enterprises were to be certified.</p> <p>The study yielded very valuable data on operational costs, the range of harvesting systems adopted by local enterprises, the quality of forest supervisors, and the integration of logging and saw-milling operations.</p> <p>Vocational Training Programme</p> <p>Guyana has acquired ITTO funding to set up a Vocational Training Centre in Guyana in association with the Tropical Forest Foundation, Forest Producers Association and the Guyana Forestry Commission. The Centre is expected provide key skills training in Reduced Impact Logging and include</p> | |

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| <p>dendrology, forest mensuration and surveying, chainsaw operations and directional tree felling, and cartographic skills. The 2 year project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish training programme and curriculum • Develop training site/s • Procure equipment and facilities • Recruit and train staff • Deliver training <p>Some Regional Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Meeting of the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Continental Forestry of the Caribbean Sub-Group within the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission-</i> The main objective of these meetings is to provide a forum for discussion of current developments facing the forestry sector and also to exchange experiences in forest management among Suriname, Guyana, French Guyana and Belize. • <i>Regional Expert Consultation on Forestry Education and Training in the Caribbean-</i> The objectives of this meeting were to share information in the current status of forestry education and training in the Caribbean, identify areas of main requirements of employers of forestry graduates in the region, identify areas of collaboration and linkages among training institutions and to assess the demand and feasibility of development of a Regional Forestry Education Network. The consultation was held in Guyana on July 10-11, 2002 and included participants from Guyana, Trinidad, Jamaica, Venezuela, St Lucia, Suriname, Puerto Rico, Cuba, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Belize, Grenada and Germany. In addition to participation of trainers/educators, representatives from respective countries' Forest Departments also attended. • <i>Brazil –</i> At a workshop on Lesser Known Species held in Brazil in August 2002, Guyana introduced 13 Lesser Known Species to a database which will help to promote the use of these species. The intent of this initiative is to help reduce the pressure on the commercial species currently being used. | |
| <p>Common items Public participation: encourage the formulation and implementation of criteria and indicators of SFM with full participation of all interested parties</p> | IPF 115a, IPF 115b |
| <p>Work in progress.</p> | |