11TH INTERNATIONAL HARDWOOD CONFERENCE · ANTWERP

Developments in Guyana’s Forest Sector

Legal, sustainable and moving up the value chain

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GUYANA AT A GLANCE

One of the world's great intact tropical forests

~85%

of national territory is forest, about 18.5 million hectares

0.05%

deforestation rate among the lowest in the tropics

21.6 bn

tonnes of CO_2e stored in Guyana's forests

1,000+

tree species, including Greenheart, Purpleheart and Wamara

Source(s): Guyana NDC 2025–2035 (UNFCCC, 2026); Timber Trade Portal country profile

THE CONTEXT

A transforming economy is creating a home market for wood

Oil revenues are funding housing, roads and public buildings, and the non -oil economy is growing with them.

10.1% non-oil GDP growth in the first half of 2026

40,000 homes in the government housing programme

Rising demand for kiln -dried, graded timber, doors, flooring and furniture



THE SECTOR TODAY

Growing output, new mills and more jobs

385,923 m3
timber products in 2025, enough for more than 20,000 homes

25,000+
Guyanese employed in forestry, many in rural and hinterland communities

20
new sawmills and new lumber yards opened in 2026

Targets met
GFC production targets exceeded in both 2024 and 2025



TRADE

Sawn lumber, not logs, now leads our exports

Exports by primary product, 2025 (US$21.1M · 22,500 m3)

Logs

US$1.4M · 7,500 m3

Shingles

US$5.1M · 5,000 m3

Sawn lumber

US$11.5M · 9,700 m3

Greenheart piles

US$3.1M · 5,900 m3



Main markets

USA, China, India, the Caribbean, and in Europe chiefly the Netherlands and the UK

What is changing

Sawn lumber, shingles and piles earn 93% of export value and logs just 7%, as log export commissions bite and the home market grows

Sources: Guyana Forestry Commission

LEGALITY

The road to FLEGT licensing

Dec 2022

EU–Guyana VPA signed at COP15, Montreal

Mar 2023

Agreement adopted by the Council of the EU

May 2024

PEFC endorses the Guyana National Forest Certification System

2024 –26

EU-funded rollout of GTLAS and a digital wood-tracking system

Next

First FLEGT licences once GTLAS is jointly verified

Guyana aims to be one of the very few countries issuing FLEGT licences, which give EU buyers legality assurance built in at source.



THE BIG SHIFT

From logs to finished products



From the forest



To precision -cut joinery

Policy priority

The GFC’s focus has moved to secondary processing and value addition

Investment

New kiln -drying capacity, furniture factories and joinery shops

Products

Kiln -dried lumber, flooring, doors, windows, furniture and building components

BUILDING ENTERPRISE

Partnership is building local enterprise

Sustainable Forest Livelihoods

EU, WWF-Guianas and GFC programme in Regions 2 and 10. 50 grant proposals, 12 shortlisted.

Community processing

Upper Berbice cooperative of 164 members commissioned its own sawmill and joinery shop, August 2026.

Wood-Based SME Accelerator

23 firms graduated, with a matching -grant facility to follow.

This week, Guyanese wood enterprises are in Belgium on an EU forestry business mission to meet European buyers.

OPPORTUNITIES

Four ways to work with Guyana

Buy

Legal, traceable hardwoods and finished products

Invest

Kilns, processing plants, engineered wood and joint ventures

Supply

Machinery, tooling, drying technology and technical training

Partner

Certification, product design, standards and market access



From standing forest to finished product, made in Guyana.



Thank you

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