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Annual Progress Report to the FCPF for Suriname

for the period 1 January – 31 December 2015

United Nations Development Programme

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6/6/2016

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6/6/2016

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, UNDP offers global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

The Participants Committee (PC) at its ninth meeting in June 2011 approved UNDP to serve as Delivery Partner under the Readiness Fund. The Transfer Agreement was signed between the World Bank, acting as the Trustee of the FCPF, and the UNDP on August 9, 2012.

To ensure a uniform set of safeguard standards, the Common Approach to Environmental and Social Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners was also approved at the ninth FCPF PC meeting. The Common Approach is designed to provide the World Bank and the Multiple Delivery Partners with a common platform for risk management and quality assurance in the REDD+ Readiness Preparation process which is substantially equivalent to the World Bank's applicable policies and procedures on environmental and social safeguards, disclosure of information, and grievance and accountability mechanisms.

The report has been prepared by UNDP and solely reflects the perspectives of UNDP as a Delivery Partner.

Summary

Country:	Suriname
Project Title:	Strengthening national capacities of Suriname for the elaboration of the national REDD+ strategy and the design of its implementation framework
Implementing Partners:	National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname, (NIMOS)
Implementation Modality:	National Implementation Modality (NIM)

Project Timeline			
FCPF PC Resolution Approving R-PP	PC/14/2013/7	Transfer of Funds to Country Office	\$200,000 22 Oct 2013
			\$3,600,000 21 Aug 2014
Preparatory Grant	17 October 2013	Inception Workshop	9-10 December 2014
Project Appraisal Committee	21 May 2014	Mid-term Review	
Project Signature	31 May 2014	No-Cost Extension:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	(ceremony 11 June 2014)	New End Date:	
Duration of Project	3 years		

2015 Results

1. Achievements

a. Progress on how the project activities are being coordinated with other REDD+ related initiatives, included those funded by others.

It is important to start this report by recalling that 2015 was a year of inception, very much focused on recruiting the staff of the Project Management Unit, on building their own capacities, on fine tuning the work plan presented in the project document and on finalizing the implementation arrangements with all the stakeholders involved in the project.

The implementing partner supported by PMU had been coordinating with the Wider Stakeholder Engagement (WISE) REDD project implemented in Suriname by Conservation International with funding from the US State Department. There are no other REDD+ initiatives active in Suriname to date.

However, interventions included in the UNDP project document that do intersect with specific REDD+ outputs/activities and provide opportunity for synergies or complementarity have been identified and will be explored.

b. any important changes in the technical design or approach related to the project activities

There is no substantial change in the technical design to the project activities. However, they have been some political and institutional realities in 2015 which have slowed down the implementation of the project, such as presidential election of May or the fact that the Climate Compatible Development Unit (CCDU) under the Office of the President was discontinued. The roles foreseen for the CCDU in the R-PP have been transferred to NIMOS. Options to address some of these challenges have been discussed with the national counterparts, and as a result of this discussion, some modifications related to the implementation arrangements have been agreed upon.

It has been decided in the end of 2015 that during 2016, some responsibilities related to the implementation of this FCPF project will be transferred from NIMOS to UNDP, which will then be in a position of supporting more pro-actively the implementation of some specific activities such as the creation or strengthening of the grievance mechanism, the elaboration of a FPIC protocol, the collective land mapping and others.

2. In Focus

Thanks to the Warsaw framework, all the pillars of REDD+ have been agreed upon and their interrelations have been clarified. And with the launch of the GCF, with its investment framework, and its concept note and funding proposal templates, it is now easier for countries such as Suriname to optimize their REDD+ readiness resources to and go faster through the readiness phase. Based on this reality, and on all the lessons learned from other countries in LAC, UNDP supported Suriname in 2015 and early 2016 to elaborate very comprehensive ToR to produce all the information requested for completing a REDD+ national strategy, the SESA and ESMF of the FCPF, the SIS and summary of information for the UNFCCC, in an articulated manner with the definition of the FREL and the setting up of the NFMS.

In 2015, the strongest focus has been on the recruitment of the Project Management Unit in charge of the implementation of the project, as well as its training.

The setting up of the governing body of the project, the project board, was also discussed extensively in 2015. In the project document, the idea was to have a relatively slim but representative project board for supervising the UNDP project, and a broad national REDD+ committee to supervise the overall REDD+ process at the national level. Eventually the GoS decided to have a very large and inclusive project board committee, composed by 30+ participants, in charge of supervising the UNDP-FCPF project as well as the overall REDD+ process in the country.

3. Risks and responses

The main concerns and challenges in 2015 were:

- Delays in recruiting staff to complete the PMU has delayed very significantly the inception of the project. By the time of writing this report, some important recruitment are still pending in order to have a full and operational PMU, such as the financial administrator, or a full time REDD+ technical officer, or an experienced planning, monitoring and reporting specialist.
- Delays in implementing the activities agreed upon. After the inception workshop, a series of activities have been agreed upon with the corresponding budget, but only a reduced portion have been really implemented. This was partly due to a lack of delegation of authority to the PMU and a lack of clarity on roles and responsibilities between the PMU and the national counterparts. To alleviate the burden on the PMU and reduce the quantity of administrative processes, it has been agreed upon to realize one large procurement process for a comprehensive consultancy in 2016, which will be in charge of analyzing the drivers of deforestation, prioritizing the policies and measures to address those drivers, elaborating the financial strategy and implementation plan for these PAMs, realize the SESA and ESMF, and support the elaboration of the SIS. All this work will be carefully articulated with the stakeholder engagement principles embedded in the R-PP, and will include a strong component of strengthening national capacities.
- The delays of government administrative processes have also slowed down the implementation of the project in 2015. UNDP proposed to the Office of the President in late December 2015 to manage some outputs of the project under the “support to National Implementation Modality” (NIM). The aim is hereby for UNDP to take on more operational aspects and facilitating roles whilst maintaining critical decision making on strategic direction of the project and policies with the national partners under leadership of NIMOS. At date of reporting this enhanced support to NIM has been accepted and signed off by the office of the President.
- The management of the expectation with local stakeholders and right-holders is also an important issue and potential risk related to this project, given that a lot of expectations have been raised around REDD+ in Suriname. The recruitment of REDD+ assistants was one of the first measures taken by NIMOS in 2015 to tackle this issue; but their work now needs to be articulated with the broader process of elaboration of the national REDD+ strategy.

4. Progress in addressing key capacity issues of the Programme Management Unit (implementation, technical, financial management, procurement) related to this project.

Capacity building is the first of the 3 components of the project document, and this reflect the importance of this work in Suriname. As stated above, in 2015, most of the attention was focused on recruiting the staff of the PMU and on providing capacity building to this newly recruited PMU and to the main counterparts in Suriname, namely NIMOS and SBB.

However, the current PMU staff includes a number of junior officers with limited project management experience for a project of similar size and scope. UNDP proposed to recruit an international CTA to strengthen the overall capacity of Suriname to go through this REDD+ readiness process and build staff capacity in the areas of project management, financial management, REDD+ substance and procurement. The CTA has yet to be recruited.

To strengthen the capacities of the PMU, PMU staff has been invited to several regional training and S/S exchanges in LAC. Besides, the material prepared by the UN-REDD Programme, known as REDD+ Academy, has been made available to the PMU, NIMOS and SBB. Representatives of VIDS and VSG have also been supported to participate to regional and international exchanges, which have contributed to increase their awareness on REDD+ topics.

The REDD+ project in Suriname organized an induction workshop (Nov. 23, 24, 26), which resulted in increased understanding of REDD+ issues for average 41 participants over all 3 days disaggregated as following (25 female, 16 male) from the government ministries, REDD+ Assistants, PMU, NIMOS, SBB, and UNDP Suriname.

The REDD+ project in Suriname, in collaboration with the REDD+ for the Guiana Shield project coordinated by Office National des Forets (ONF), organized a presentation on drivers of deforestation (Nov. 02). App. 47 persons (31 female, 16 males)

5. Progress in addressing social and environmental issues (including safeguards) related to the project. Is the SESA conducted in accordance with the Common Approach? Is the ESMF prepared in accordance with the Common Approach?

This will be addressed during the 2016.

6. Progress in stakeholder consultation, participation, and disclosure of information and the FGRM, related to this project

Meeting/event	Participants	Outcome/results	Way forward actions	Dates
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The first Project Board	Not all members were in attendance, however 20 persons (male/female) from REDD+ Assistants Collective (RAC), Ministries MGC were present	6 months work plan for the Approved by the project board (July - Dec 2015)	Implementation of the AWP 2015 as approved	July 23
Series of 6 meetings held with individuals and organizations from major groups collective (MGC)	43 persons (28 females and 15 males) attended the meetings	Representatives MGC informed on role assigned to MGC in the REDD+, need for organization of MGC and engagement of MGC	Nine major groups within MGC to discuss representation in the PB and designate representative.	Sept 7-9
Induction workshop	Nov.23: 35 participants (22 female, 12 male) Nov. 24: 36 participants (24 female, 12 male) Nov. 26: 52 participants (30 female, 22 male)	Sensitization of new PS and policy and technical staff to REDD+, detailed information and knowledge exchange between colleagues from PMU, NIMOS, SBB and UNDP REDD+ Zero draft AWP 2016 and draft tors	Work on AWP 2016, Recruitment of additional staff at PMU and NIMOS, Finalization of terms of Reference such as for NFI, NFMS and data manager	Nov .23 – Nov 26
The second Project Board	Nearly full Project Board members in attendance 20 persons (18 male/ 15 female) REDD+ Assistants Collective (RAC), Ministries, MGC and 8 ITP representatives. 33 persons	Project Board members informed on REDD+ and Suriname REDD+ project and progress to date. Draft AWP 2016 discussed and deferred to early 2016 for approval	PMU to facilitate one on one or cluster meetings with PB members to inform and align to AWP 2016.	Nov. 27

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	attended the meeting			
Village consultations 2 villages (2 indigenous: Powakka and Christiaankondre) 4 maroon: Nieuw Aurora, Tjalliekondre, Gujaba, Pikin-Slee	REDD+ PMU, traditional leadership and villagers disaggregated data not available	Discuss with the traditional leadership on their engagement with the REDD+ project	Agreement by local community to continue engagement within the REDD+ process. They were critical in reflecting negative previous experience with other projects/groups that in the past did not meet expectations created. They emphasized need for up to date communication on status and progress of the REDD+ program.	During second half 2015
Local government and local representatives	Saramacca (oct. 29): 19 participants (12 female, 7 male) Wanica (Nov. 03): 20 participants (2 female, 18 male) Commewijne (Nov. 10): 12 participants (7 female, 6 male) Marowijne (Nov. 13): 21 participants (12 female, 9 male) Para (Nov. 17): 12 participants (7 female, 5 male) Coronie (Nov. 19): 18 participants (11 female, 6 male) Nickerie (Nov. 20): 12 participants (5 female, 7 male)	Information shared on REDD+ and plans for 2015 and beyond as well as local government plans and synergies and linkages with REDD+ explored.	Continue dialogue with local authorities through the Ministry of Regional Development and directly via the District Commissioners	Oct – Dec 2015

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Additional National exchanges hosted SBB knowledge exchange	23 participants (14 females and 9 males)	Share information and knowledge gained during various international missions	Continue similar on NFMS, NFI, Geoportal, Transparency	Nov – Dec
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In November, UNDP contributed to a documentary on view on REDD+ which VIDS and VSG prepared for the COP21. The documentary¹ was presented during the side events of the COP 21.

In 2015 the PMU discussed the different governance related aspects with the Bureau Land rights, whom reflected capacity constraints given other priorities within its mandate. No actions undertaken in 2015 based upon REDD+ 2015 work plan and REDD+ project document. The Bureau Land rights, however did participate during the induction workshop of November 2015.

	Year 1 (2014)	Year 2 (2015)	Year 3	Year 4
Number of civil society organizations actively engaged in different aspects of the programme	5	6 CI,VIDS, VSG,Tropenbos, CELOS,PAS,		
Number of people trained on REDD+ and climate change (please indicate when possible Men/women ratio)	0	228 m/f: 100/128		
Number of people trained on the four Warsaw Framework elements (please indicate when possible men/women ratio)	0	25 M/ F: 11/14		
Number of national consultation workshops held (men/women ratio)	4	12		

7. Financial Data

The table below provides up-to-date cumulative financial progress of the R-PP implementation on planned, committed and disbursed funds, at the end of the reporting period and including all cumulative yearly disbursements.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLanbAygkwwz8xPikR05IEtKDoXJFkz-gH>

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OUTPUTS	Amount Transferred by UNDP	Cumulative Expenditures up to 31 December 2015		
		Commitments	Disbursements	Total Expenditures
				(D) = B + C
Transition Phase to implement Suriname Readiness Proposal	0	0	0	0
OUTPUT 1 - Human capacities and stakeholders engagement	0	15,751.79	285,818.54	301,570.33
OUTPUT 2 - REDD+ strategy	0	0	0	0
OUTPUT 3 - Implementation Framework and tools	0	0	0	0
Total	0	15,751.79	285,818.54	301,570.33



8. Picture and caption



July 28, 2015: First Project Board meeting



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<p>October 29, 2015: Presentation of the REDD+ project during the citizen participation training session Ministry of Regional Development in Saramacca</p>	<p>November 04, 2015: Meeting at local community 'Pikin Slee' during the field visit to the Upper Suriname river area</p>
	
<p>November 23-26, 2015: Induction workshop</p>	<p>November 27, 2015: 2nd Project Board meeting</p>



27 November 2015: 2nd Project Board meeting

Additional pictures can be provided as required.