

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: GUYANA

Sept 2013

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- The IDB and the Government of Guyana has been engaged for the last months on fruitful planning discussion for the implementation of the R-PP.
- An IDB mission to Guyana to assist in project preparation, review of activities and budget, took place in July 2013 with active participation of the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) and the Office of Climate Change (OCC)
- Agreements on type of activities, timing, budget, and results based framework were achieved
- All TOR's envisioned for consultants and firms that will support the R-PP implementation were drafted by the Government of Guyana and commented, reviewed and edited by the IDB. These edits are currently being reviewed by the GFC.
- The Technical Cooperation Document (TC Doc) which is the IDB form for internal project approval has been sent to the Quality and Risk Review (QRR) group as a first step leading towards final Board Approval
- Signature of the Agreement between the Government of Guyana and the IDB is expected to be signed in December 2013

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- National REDD Working Group will be convened by the GFC upon receipt of FCPF funds – this group will include wide stakeholder representation.
- A REDD Secretariat has been established as a functional unit within Guyana Forestry Commission to conduct work on the key technical aspects of REDD+.
- The Guyana Forestry Commission and the National Toshias Council decided, in 2010, to work together in the execution of activities regarding stakeholder engagement under REDD+ readiness, with NTC dealing with information sharing with Amerindian communities and the GFC implementing more technical aspects of readiness implementation.
- In addition to the GFC and NTC playing an active role in stakeholder consultation and engagement, the 4 local indigenous NGOs of Guyana: Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous People (GOIP), The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG), Amerindian Peoples Association (APA) and the National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF) will also be involved, with funds allocated to each for the conducting of stakeholder engagement on REDD+ and the R-PP.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

- Initial information-sharing meetings for REDD were held in numerous communities and sectors during 2008 and 2009.
- Consultations on Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy were held in 2009, and in some cases discussed the implications of REDD+. These consultations will not be viewed as substituting for consultations on REDD+ directly, but the information shared and feedback received from those sessions have helped to formulate the R-PP and to begin a dialogue, and the input received on the process will help improve future REDD+ consultations.
- Multi-stakeholders field visits and meetings with Amerindian communities and other forest dependent groups took place in four different Regions of the hinterland in 2009 and 2010. Reports of these visits were posted online.
- Government of Guyana, in some cases with World Bank team, held numerous outreach events in Georgetown:

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: GUYANA

Sept 2013

press conferences, and media interviews, meetings with various sectors and organizations.

- The first activities under the R-PP implementation grant will focus on awareness raising and information sharing with a variety of stakeholders groups, including Amerindian communities.
- Whilst funding has not yet been received from the FCPF, the GFC has continued to engage in a number of outreach activities in 2012 and 2013. Overall, these sessions targeted a total of 214 community groups and 88 regional groups across the country. These were two day, cluster sessions and covered areas of REDD+ including: update on the FCPF and the Readiness Preparation Proposal and Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), development and implementation of Guyana's Monitoring Reporting & Verification System (MRVS), Guyana's engagement in EU FLEGT and key Forest Policy of Guyana. These activities were implemented through funding from alternative sources.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- REDD+ is a pillar of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy.
- A number of alternatives for continuing and improving sound land-use practices are on the table and will be discussed and consulted on as Readiness Preparation continues. These include strengthening sustainable forest management and mining practices, exploring alternative livelihood opportunities to forest-dependent communities, ensuring consistency of land use management (e.g. infrastructure, other land uses) with REDD. The key is in the implementation of activities that will lead to the maintenance of Guyana's already low rate of forest area change.
- Guyana has commenced preliminary work on the development of REDD+ Candidate Activities for the REDD Strategy that will address the identified drivers of forest area change in Guyana, more specially, mining, logging, and agriculture; as well as address capacity building needs. More specifically, in identifying and assessing the feasibility of three (3) priority REDD+ Strategy options through analysis of the environmental and socio-economic risks for the proposed options; conducting of trade-off analysis/cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) of each REDD+ candidate activities proposed; and identifying means of modification of the potential REDD+ Strategy options to compensate affected institutions and various stakeholder groups.

5. Implementation Framework

- Free, prior and informed consent would be operationalized in the development of a benefits sharing mechanism for Amerindian communities.
- Titling of remaining Amerindian land claims were identified as a priority for Guyana, they are currently in the pipeline. Some land claims continue in the judicial system (courts). Discussions are underway on approaches that may be used to address these claims in a mutually-agreeable manner during the readiness phase.

6. SESA

- ToRs for SESA have been drafted, reviewed and edited and still in progress

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: GUYANA

Sept 2013

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- Establishing the reference level for Guyana will be based on the stock based approach which has been determined to be most appropriate for Guyana's national circumstances. This method will be applied given that Guyana is a country that has had and continues to have high forest cover and a low rate of deforestation (HFLD).
- The approach that Guyana envisages to include as part of its REDD+ efforts focuses on reference level setting rather than a reference emissions level approach. Through using this approach, forest carbon financing payments will be based on stocks rather than emissions levels. Given the rather low rate of deforestation in Guyana, the method of establishing the reference level will likely use a future projected approach.
- Data generated from Forest Carbon Monitoring System will be linked to the forest area assessment effort to provide historic emissions (RL) and estimates of annual carbon emissions and removals (MRV)
- Reference scenario would be a combination of historical data and future projections
- Preliminary work has been conducted in the establishment of a historic reference level for Guyana.
- This preliminary work will guide the submission of a Proposal on Reference Level (RL) for REDD+ for Guyana to the UNFCCC in 2014. This proposal will present a diagnostic in context of applicable Reference Level options that are appropriate for Guyana including the Combined RL Approach, RL as a Continuation of the Historical Average and RL Adjusted for National Circumstances among others.
- Prior to the submission of the Proposal on Reference Level for REDD+ for Guyana, a process of independent third party review will be completed by an international expert. A Terms of Reference and Advertisement of the post have been prepared and are currently available on the GFC's website.

8. MRV

- As an initial step to the design of a MRV System for Guyana, a three year road map was designed following a stakeholder participation session.
- Vision: Assessment of forest area change through the use of satellite imagery to estimate forest cover and field research on carbon pools in different forest types as well as through ground truthing and surveys.
- The GCF has established a Steering and Technical Sub Committee for the Monitoring Reporting and Verification System. Meetings of this Steering Committee are ongoing, with summaries of the Minutes of meetings held to date available on the GFC's website.
- Two aspects, among a number of other areas, of the MRVS have commenced, forest area change assessment and assessment of the carbon stock of Guyana's forests.
- Mapping and change assessment in forest and non forest by driver for the periods: 1990 to 2000, 2001 to 2005, 2006 to 2009, and October 1, 2010- December 31, 2011. Work has commenced on mapping and change assessment for the period January 1, 2012-December 31, 2012.
- A number of interim indicators are reported on annually, including gross deforestation rates, and intact forest landscape, which form part of the Guyana Norway MoU.
- For Phase 1 of the Forest Carbon Monitoring aspect, there has been the development of an Implementation of a Plan for a Systematic National Forest Carbon Measurement System with long term monitoring including map/stratification, sampling design and measurement variables and protocols. Sampling design completed, including protocols established for forest carbon stock assessment as well as for carbon stock changes: system of sampling, and approaches to quantify national expansion and conversion factors.

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: GUYANA

Sept 2013

- Over the period 2011- 2012, work on Phase I of the Forest Carbon Monitoring System for Guyana, which focused on the areas regarded as having high potential for threat, was completed.
- Work on Phase II, the medium potential for threat areas has commenced. For 2013, the full Forest Carbon Sample Design and Stratification, field data collection schedule and reporting and Standard Operating Procedures for field data collection and analysis have been developed for Phase 2, having been informed by work completed in Phase 1 (2011-2012).
- Continuation of work on the exploration, for incorporation, of non-carbon ecosystem services into the MRV System.
- In 2013 Guyana will pilot the operationalising of its MRV System, conducting full reporting on emissions and removals as guided by the IPCC.
- Work has commenced on data analysis for the processing of forest cover change, as well as reporting on the Guyana Norway REDD+ Interim Indicators for Year 3 (2012). The findings will be published in October 2013 in the MRVS Interim Measures Report for Year 3. The Year 3 assessment has been completed to date with the use of 5m high resolution RapidEye imagery for the entire country.
- This assessment will also be piloting a new method for Accuracy Assessment which usually accompanies the completion of the MRVS Interim Measures Report. The approach will use national aerial survey coverage (using a series of strips 25 km x 4 km wide) to inform level of accuracy in the reported results for 2012.
- The results of the MRVS Interim Measures Report for Year 3 will be independently verified in November 2013 by a Norwegian based company, Det Norske Veritas.

9. Other

- Through continued collaboration with other partners, Guyana has identified a number of activities to be carried out including: (i) Establish the historic reference level and develop the future projected approach for REDD+; (ii) Building a two-way communication process to channel information to stakeholders on REDD+ implementation; (iii) Continued work on the explore possible co-benefits to be incorporated into the national MRVS in keeping with the principles of efficiency, effectiveness and equity; (iv) Develop a set of national REDD+ Strategy options that will contribute towards the maintenance of Guyana's already low rate of deforestation and forest degradation.
- Work has commenced in seeking support for the preparation of Guyana's Readiness Package (R-Package). Though work has not commenced though the FCPF, Guyana has made significant progress in implementation of a number of key areas of the R-PP, especially in the MRVS and Reference Level components. A Terms of Reference has been prepared, and Guyana is at the stage of signing an agreement for support to this activity.