

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: GUYANA

May 2013

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- Guyana has selected the Inter American Development Bank as Delivery Partner under the Common Approach.
- R-Plan assessed by FCPF PC at PC3 (June 2009), and Readiness Preparation Grant funding authorized by PC.
- Subsequently, Guyana revised the document and formatted to the revised R-PP template.
- WB due diligence came to a halt in 2010 after diverse Bank teams travelled to Guyana in March, July and October 2009, and April 2010 to review progress and provide continued technical assistance on the R-PP, and social and environmental risk management. During these Missions, field visits were made to Moraikobai, Region 5, River's View, Region 7, St. Cuthberts, Region 4, Region 7 (Kamarang including representatives of Waramadong, Chinoweing, Kaikan, Arau, Kako, Jawalla, Warawatta, Paruima); Region 8 (Fairview) and Region 9 (Nappi including representative of MocoMoco, Parishara, Haiwa, St. Ignatius) and Port Kaituma, Region 1. These field visits were attended by Government, FCPF donors, and civil society, and meetings with forest communities.
- Comments were received from a number of stakeholder groups on the April 2010 version of the R-PP; these included a detailed review by the IDB. The R-PP was subsequently revised, with the most recent version being the December 2012 version.
- The FCPF Readiness grant is in preparation. The IDB and the Government of Guyana are engaged in discussions on the way forward with the implementation of the R-PP, and on specific technical and structural aspects related to the results based framework, budget and the TOR's for consultants that will support the R-PP implementation

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- National REDD Working Group to be convened upon receipt by the GFC of FCPF funds – this group will include governmental and non-governmental institutions.
- Guyana Forestry Commission is continuing the process of hiring staff for REDD Secretariat;
- 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 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.

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- 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: 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.

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.

5. Implementation Framework

- Free, prior and informed consent would be operationalized in the development of a benefits sharing mechanism for Amerindian communities.
- Process has commenced to establish a mutually agreeable benefit-/revenue-sharing mechanism from REDD revenue.
- 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.
- SESA would include a participatory review of the legal framework relevant to REDD.
- Validation workshop for SESA TOR to be held upon initial disbursement of the R-PP Implementation Grant.
- TOR have been adjusted to reflect latest developments on mainstreaming SESA with other R-PP activities.
- The SESA will aim to identify and integrate the key environmental, social, legal and policy dimensions into the REDD + Strategy

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

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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
- Low Carbon Development Strategy presents one scenario of possible future deforestation under a national development plan. This will be refined, and other scenarios developed.
- Preliminary work has been conducted in the establishment of a historic reference level for Guyana.

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.
- 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 being reported on annually, commencing in 2010, including gross deforestation rates, and intact forest landscape,
- There has been the 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. 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.
- 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.

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

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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.