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READINESS PREPARATION PROPOSAL (R-PP) ASSESSMENT NOTE

ON THE PROPOSED PROJECT WITH SURINAME
FOR REDD+ READINESS PREPARATION SUPPORT

UNDP REDD+ Team

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

OUTLINE

Country: Suriname

Project Title: Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP)

Project Duration (in months): 60 for the entire RPP, 24 for the FCPF funded project

Expected start month: June 2014

Date of R-PP Formulation Preparatory Grant signature (if applicable): October 2013

Number of FCPF Participants Committee Resolution Approving the R-PP: PC/14/2013/7

COUNTRY PROGRAMMING

	YES	NO
Project within CPAP, UNDAF Action Plan, One UN Plan etc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HACT macro-assessment available:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HACT micro-assessment(s) completed:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

UNDAF Outcome(s):

1. By 2016, most excluded, marginalized groups and vulnerable populations benefit from reinforced social, economic and environmental programmes towards accelerated and equitable MDG progress, meaningful participation and a better quality of life for all beyond the MDG agenda;
2. By 2016, government formulates and implements harmonized, equity focused and gender sensitive MDG-oriented key legislation, policies and budgets in accordance with the Government's commitments to international human rights conventions;
3. By 2016, quality equity focused, rights-based, and gender-sensitive data collection and analysis and harmonized information systems serve the development of informed social, economic, and environmental policies, budgets, legislation, and programmes.

Expected CP Outcome(s):

1. By 2016 public institutions, civil society and the general public are empowered and possess the capacities, competencies and tools for: improved efficiency and accountability in public management; enhanced responsiveness of democratic governance institutions and participation in representative and legislative processes, policymaking and decision-making; and demonstrable improvements in access to justice, citizen security and the promotion and protection of human rights and well-being;
2. By 2016 public institutions are strengthened and possess the capacities, policy frameworks and tools to: target and deliver improved services to identified vulnerable groups, and develop and deliver to identified vulnerable and underserved groups and individuals programmes for income generation and sustainable livelihoods, life and employment skills, social protection, social housing, affordable energy and food security;
3. By 2016 public and relevant national-level institutions are strengthened and possess the institutional capacities, management instruments, policy frameworks and competencies to: promote environmentally sustainable development; adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable; and prepare for and empower vulnerable communities to respond to natural disasters and other anthropogenic-induced hazards.

Project Objective:

The two main objectives of the present project consist in recognizing REDD+ as a strategic lever at the heart of the national development strategy post-2016, and ensuring that Suriname is accompanied through the UNFCCC process and by the end of the project, would have achieved significant milestones as it prepares to undertake results-based actions that can be recognized by the UNFCCC and can therefore attract results-based payments. This objective suggests the following strategic achievements:

- An inspiring and credible national strategy REDD+ in Suriname is embedded in national development strategy, and secured by international finance and support
- At the highest level, political leadership and commitment to REDD+ triggers effective mainstreaming and coordination of public levers of implementation
- Nationally and locally, stakeholders and right holders are committed to support Suriname's vision for REDD+ and have gained capacities, experience and confidence to collectively and efficiently implement the national strategy
- A comprehensive implementation framework and related instruments are operational

Implementing Partner / Executing Entity: NIMOS

Responsible Parties / Implementing Agencies: UNDP, SBB, CCDU, to be determined: academic and training partner, representation platform for indigenous people, representation platform for Maroon people, representation platform for private sector

LINKS TO UN-REDD PROGRAMME

	YES	NO
UN-REDD Programme partner country:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
UN-REDD National Programme (NP):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NP under implementation when the R-PP project is expected to start:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
UN-REDD Targeted Support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PROJECT FINANCING DATA

Total R-PP Resources Available from FCPF: \$ 3.6 million

CONTACTS & CLEARANCES

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACT	Amazon Conservation Team
ACTO	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
ADeK	Anton de Kom University of Suriname
AGB	Above ground biomass
ALCOA	Aluminum Company of America
ANRICA	Austrian Natural Resources and International Cooperation Agency
ASHU	General Suriname Timber Union
ATM	Ministry of Labor, Technological Development and Environment
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BAU	Business as usual
CCDA	Climate Compatible Development Agency
CCDS	Climate Community and Biodiversity Standards
CCDU	Climate Compatible Development Unit, Cabinet of the President
CELOS	Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname
CI	Conservation International
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CPD/CP	Country Programme Document/Country Programme
CSNR	Central Suriname Nature Reserve
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
DC	District Commissioner
DPC	Direct Project Costing
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EDU	Ministry of Education
EEPO	Environmental Education and Public outreach department of NIMOS
ELS	Environmental Legal Services department of NIMOS
EME	Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement department of NIMOS
ESA	Environmental & Social Assessment
ESC	Executive Steering Committee of IIRSA project
ESIA	Environmental and social impact assessments
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ETG	Executive Technical Groups of IIRSA project
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FDC	Forest Dependent Communities
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FCPF PC	FCPF Participants Committee
FGRM	Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism
FNC	First National Communication
FPIC	Free prior informed consent
FTAA	Free Trade Area of the Americas

FTE	Fulltime Equivalent
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GFC	Guyana Forestry Commission
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic information systems
GLIS	Land registration and Land information system
GLOBE	Global Legislators Initiative
GMD	Geological Mining Service
GoS	Government of Suriname
HACT	Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers
HDI	Human Development Index
HFLD	High Forest cover, Low Deforestation rate
HI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IIRSA	Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America
IMAC	Inter-Ministerial Advisory Commission
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
JSOOC	Jan Starke Training and Recreation Centre
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
KKF	Chamber of Commerce and Industry
LBB	Forest Service
LVV	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MGC	Major Groups Collective
Min RO	Ministry of Regional Development
Min RoGB	Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management
MPPR	Mid-year Project Progress Report
MRV	Monitoring, reporting and verification
MUMA	Multiple-use management area
MW	Megawatt
NAMAs	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NB	Nature Conservation Division
NBS	National Biodiversity Strategy
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NGO	Non governmental organization
NH	Ministry of Natural Resources
NIMOS	National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
OD	Development Plan
OIS	Organisation of Indigenous People in Suriname

OP	Development Plan Suriname 2012-2016
OGS	Commission for the Structuring of the Gold Sector
OW	Ministry of Public Works
PB	Project Board
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
PFE	Permanent Forest Estate
PG	Project Group R-PP
PH	Ministry of Public Health
PMT	Project Management Team for R-PP
PMU	Project Management Unit
PRODOC	Project Document
PS	Private Sector
QPR	Quarterly Progress Report
RAC	REDD+ Assistants Collective
REDD+	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
REL/RL	Reference Emission Level/Reference Level
RGM	Rosebel Gold Mines
RO	Ministry of Regional Development
ROGB	Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management
ROM	Coordination Office for Spatial Planning and Environment
RSC	REDD+ Steering Committee
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
RPIN	Readiness Plan Idea Note
RSC	REDD+ Steering Committee
SBAA	Standard Basic Assistance Agreement
SBB	Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control, Min RoGB
SBF	Suriname Business Forum
SCF	Suriname Conservation Foundation
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SIS	Standards Information System
SNC	Second National Communication
SURALCO	Suriname Aluminum Company
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
TBI	Tropenbos International Suriname
TOR	Terms of reference
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
VIDS	The Association of Village Leaders of Suriname
VSB	The Association of Surinamese Companies
VSG	Association of Saamaka Traditional Authorities

I. INTRODUCTION

As part of its responsibilities as a Delivery Partner for the [FCPF](#), [UNDP](#) has been asked to ensure that the FCPF's activities comply with UNDP's policies and procedures, and the [Common Approach](#).

The purpose of this Readiness Preparation Proposal Assessment Note (R-PP Assessment Note) is for UNDP to assess if and how the proposed REDD+ Readiness Support Activity, as presented in the R-PP, complies with the above policies, procedures and approach, discuss the technical quality of the R-PP, record the assistance UNDP has provided to the REDD+ Country Participant in the formulation of its R-PP, and describe the assistance it might potentially provide to the REDD Country Participant in the implementation of its R-PP.

A. COUNTRY CONTEXT

Suriname is a high forest cover (94.7%) and low deforestation country (HFLD), with a very low population density of 2.9hab/km² - 567.000 people on 164.000km². Forest is a central component of its economic, social and cultural life. It is a medium income country in terms of GDP per capita, with medium development rate. The human development index is estimated to be 0.684 for 2012, and has increased for the last decade (0.666 in 2005). However, the situation is heterogeneous with for instance Paramaribo ranking as a high human development district (0.741) and Sipaliwini district ranking as low HDI (0.522). In 2009, the MDG report for Suriname recognized that the country was "on the right track towards achieving the majority of MDGs", with 12 targets being "probably" met and 5 targets being "potentially" met by 2015 out of 18 targets.

Suriname's development plan envisages socio-economic development through increasing natural resources extraction (timber, gold...), increasing energy supply (hydroelectricity...), and connecting the country and its hinterland to the region through roads and large works of infrastructure. Such a development path, translated into a 5-year national development plan (OD2012-2016) is expected to increase substantially deforestation and forest degradation in coming years and decades.

Suriname can build on various strengths to support its development strategy, in particular an effective tax income stream that provides 80% of a balanced national budget, little public debt, energy security, rich natural resources including timbers and minerals, positive trade balance based on mining and targeted agriculture exports, land and freshwater reserves...

On the other hand, Suriname faces shortages in food production, and food security depends on imports. A major part of the country in the hinterland is remote and remains at the periphery of trading, investments and exploitation roads. Suriname also lacks human and financial capacities to take full advantage of its potential of development. Suriname also faced civil unrest and political instability until late 1990s, and the practice of democracy and related principles of participation and transparency still need to be strengthened. The country is highly centralized, and historical distrust between government and indigenous and maroon peoples still needs to be overcome.

The UN, and UNDP in particular, support the Government of Suriname through the UNDAF and CPD for the period 2012-2016, with an emphasis on improving participation and livelihood of most marginalized and vulnerable population including indigenous and maroon peoples; on strengthening national legislation, policy, programmes and budget towards MDG goals and sustainable development objectives through increased capacities of public institutions and empowerment of the civil society and general public; and on enhancing data management and information systems for effective decision-making, planning and implementing processes.

In the meantime, Suriname has re-engaged into a national REDD+ readiness process in 2012, after a first initiative in 2009/2010. It aims at getting ready to possibly enter a future international REDD+ mechanism that would compensate financially for national efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Suriname has formulated a five years plan amounting for an overall US\$ 16.1M to prepare the country for REDD+ (R-PP). In March 2013, Suriname presented its R-PP to the 14th FCPF Participants Committee meeting, and received approval for a US\$3.6M grant to support some preparatory work towards REDD+. Funds will be implemented by UNDP as delivery partner in Suriname, as core funding to the present project document.

REDD+ readiness process offers an opportunity for the GoS to leverage efforts and results towards sustainable development. Learning from past experience, REDD+ already fostered openness, participation and transparency, improved data collection and analysis, national and multi-sectorial dialogue and cooperation... Key factors for REDD+ readiness success are fully consistent with and supportive to the efforts of the GoS and the United Nations strategy to promote more inclusive, fair, well-informed and robust, climate-compatible and sustainable development. There is obvious win-win potential to be tapped in Suriname between REDD+ and the overall development process. Thus, REDD+ can be seen as a tool to support and foster national dialogue with indigenous and maroon peoples, to strengthen its practice of democracy, to improve public effectiveness and accountability, governance, legislation and the business environment, to accelerate decentralization and to enhance regional and international stance, and diplomatic positioning.

B. SECTORAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

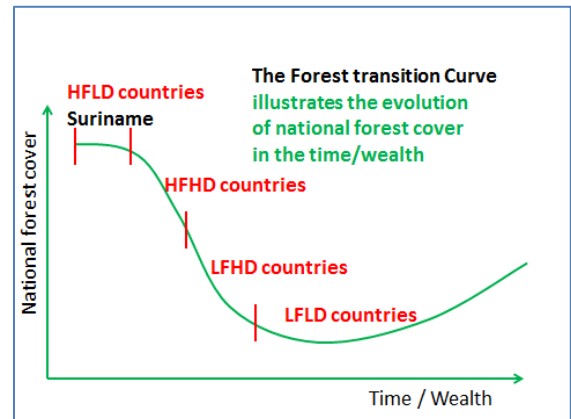
Summary of the sectorial and institutional context:

The Readiness –Preparation Proposal (R-PP) presents a very comprehensive overview of sectorial and institutional context in Suriname. It also provides a detailed analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and it explains how the national REDD+ strategy will be elaborated, taking into account this important preliminary information.

Suriname is in the process of defining how the country can fit REDD+ into its development planning and how it will be implemented. REDD+ is seen as a way of sustainable planning, as part of climate compatible development strategy that Suriname is committed to follow in the years to come. The climate compatible development strategy aims to minimize the impacts of climate change while maximizing opportunities for human development towards a more resilient future. REDD+ can be seen as a pillar of the climate compatible development strategy and will seek out a development path that balances social, economic and environmental issues. It is a tool

to find a sustainable way of protecting the forests without limiting economic and social development.

As Suriname is still in the early stage of the ‘forest transition curve’, as plotted on this diagram, priority will be given to avoiding or redesigning infrastructure developments, resettlements, and other large-scale projects that can accelerate deforestation. In other words, Suriname will focus less on reducing current emissions from deforestation and degradation, and more on limiting the growth-curve and associated emissions.



The country has an ambitious integration vision that will lead to opening up of the interior and create socio-economic benefits for the ten tribes living in the forest. It is in this context that REDD+ will be used as a planning tool for sustainable development where applicable.

The institutions and involved in the readiness process and their respective roles are:

- Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Suriname: The role of the Cabinet of the President is to ensure a coordinated implementation of the R-PP and the REDD+ readiness strategy within the context of the environmental commitments of the Government of Suriname.
- Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forestry (ROGB): The ministry is responsible for adjusting existing laws (Forest Act, Forest Management Act) and establishing new regulations such as for land use change. It will assist in the full implementation of the R-PP and REDD+, taking into consideration the National Forest Policy and other related policies.
- Ministry of Natural Resources (NH): The role of this ministry is to ensure a thorough assessment of existing and future drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, including mining and energy production activities. The development of adequate monitoring systems and/or the upgrading of existing monitoring schemes used in the mining sector will be taken into account. The role of this Ministry is to keep the NIMOS informed of all infrastructural activities regarding the exploration phase, resulting in a plan that minimize clear cutting.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV): The main focus of this ministry is to ensure a thorough assessment of existing and future drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, with due respect for land use changes and (new) agricultural activities, which may have an impact on the implementation of REDD+. The development of adequate monitoring systems and/or the upgrading of existing monitoring schemes used in the agricultural sector will be taken into account.

- Ministry of Regional Development (RO): The Ministry of RO will work in close collaboration with NIMOS regarding consultation and participation. They have the responsibility to inform all relevant forest dependent groups, in particular forest-dependent communities and Indigenous and Maroon communities and ensure they have been effectively consulted regarding the implementation of the R-PP and the REDD+ readiness strategy.
- Ministry of Public Works (OW): The role of this ministry is to keep NIMOS informed of all infrastructural activities that may have an impact on the implementation of the REDD+ readiness strategy, such as the improvement of existing infrastructure, as well as new infrastructural works (roads, bridges, dikes and other infrastructure).
- Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB): SBB will be responsible for mapping land cover, land use and vegetation and calculating a national forest reference level. SBB will manage all technical issues with respect to:
 - Developing a model for Carbon Monitoring and monitoring programs, in collaboration with ACTO;
 - developing a framework for the establishment of reference levels;
 - developing guidelines for MRV mechanism;
 - developing training programs and time schedules for training sessions, meetings and workshops on technical issues regarding the implementation of the MRV;
 - conducting training sessions, meetings and workshops with a focus on capacity building of (governmental) institutions and relevant stakeholders, in collaboration with national and international experts.¹
- Forest sector, comprised of General Suriname Wood Union (Sawmill owners) (Algemene Surinaamse Hout Unie) and the Platform Timber Sector (Platform Hout Sector) and other large private timber companies: Look after the interests of the actors in this sector and ensure that the REDD+ readiness activities follow the Consultation and Participation Plan.
- Mining and Agricultural sectors, comprised of private sector organizations in mining, and of medium-sized and large mining companies and large and medium-sized agricultural companies in the future: Look after the interests of the actors in this sector and ensure that the REDD+ readiness activities follow the Consultation and Participation Plan.
- Civil society and forest-dependent communities: The role of these representatives is to ensure continuous involvement of the communities and ensure feedback from the people whom they represent. Furthermore, their representation ensures that the implementation of the R-PP and REDD+ are in line with the results of the Consultation and Participation activities.
- Academia, research institutes including the Anton de Kom University of Suriname: The role of the above mentioned representatives is to ensure that research activities are

¹ Components 3 and 4 below provide additional details related to the role of SBB.

properly conducted and that, where possible, all research institutions represented are indeed engaged. The representatives will furthermore encourage the inclusion of REDD+ issues in the curricula of academic institutions.

With regard to the coordination of the readiness phase between institutions, stakeholders and right holders, and more specifically the implementation of the RPP, NIMOS, as coordinating entity for REDD+, will be supported by the following structures and institutions:

- The REDD+ Steering Committee (RSC) will advise NIMOS, will disseminate received information to their own target group and will monitor if the R-PP implementation goes as planned. The RSC will emerge from the Project Group established during the R-PP preparation stage. Ministries, private sector, Anton de Kom University, Woman Groups, Youth organizations, NGOs, VSB and forest-dependent communities will all be represented in the RSC. The constitution of a national multi-stakeholder RSC will help foster collaboration among stakeholders having diverse perspectives on REDD+ and forest governance and will help to give stakeholders a voice.

The RSC allows observers at all times during meetings and other activities to increase transparency. The observers are international observers, representing inter alia, World Bank, UNDP, Guyana Shield Facility, UNREDD, UNFCCC, FAO, IADB.

Observers will also collaborate with other relevant institutions and if the need arises, they can provide technical assistance or expertise to the RSC.

- NIMOS will also be advised by a soon-to-be established Major Groups Collective (MGC) which will include representatives of the Major Groups, recognized by the Government (Agenda 21), as was requested during a R-PP Project group meeting by members of the Tribal communities. The Major Groups Collective will provide advice to NIMOS and bring forward any concerns and requests for clarification from their corresponding target group regarding environmental and social issues.
- The REDD+ Assistants Collective (RAC) will be involved for facilitation of the local dialogues, execution of the Consultation and Participation plan and during other future local activities on REDD+.
- The Ministry of Regional Development (Min RO) with its structure of district commissioners and sub regional coordinators will assist and facilitate activities for awareness raising, information sharing and dialogue and the consultations and the participation meetings in the interior.
- The Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management (Min ROGB), together with its technical unit the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB), will support formulation and implementation of the REDD+ strategy options and MRV activities.
- The Forest Dependent Communities (FDC) will participate in decision-making. The principles of free, prior and informed consent will be applied at all stages of future project and all relevant aspects of REDD+ program design (e.g. grievance mechanism and benefit sharing).
- The Private Sector (PS), especially the forestry sector, the mining sector and the agricultural sector will be heavily involved in REDD+ strategy option analysis and in program implementation.

- Civil Society (CS) will be involved to guide the protection of rights of forest-dependent communities, specifically land rights, and to ensure that implementation of R-PP and REDD+ are in line with the results of the Consultation and Participation activities.
- Research institutes (RI) such as AdeKUS, CELOS and Herbarium, will provide capacity building services and will encourage the inclusion of REDD+ issues in the curricula of academic institutions.
- The ‘Bureau Contact with the People’ (BCP) in the President’s Secretariat is responsible for registering concerns of people on Suriname’s territory, and help bringing adequate and sustainable solutions for issues.
- The permanent Parliamentary Commission on Climate Change (PCC) is responsible for advising the Parliament on regulations related to climate change.

Drivers and deforestation and forest degradation:

The Readiness –Preparation Proposal (R-PP) presents a very comprehensive overview of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. This information was developed and compiled during the preparation of the Suriname REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal, with funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the UN-REDD programme and the Guyana Shield Initiative, WWF and CI.

The following direct drivers of deforestation and degradation have been identified and are the following: mining, logging, infrastructure development, agriculture including traditional and modern, energy production and housing development. Alongside the aforementioned anthropogenic sources of deforestation, it has been ascertained from anecdotal sources that higher frequencies of forest fires have developed over the past years. However, there is a need for in-depth assessments to clarify the rate of deforestation and forest degradation. Suriname is in an early stage of the forest transition curve, implying that deforestation and emissions could be expected to rise over time. It is expected that future pressure on forests will be mainly caused by mining, including small, medium and large-scale mining for bauxite, gold, kaolin and hard core, and by logging, infrastructure development, and agriculture expansion. this will have to be taken into account when assessing the REDD+ options and eligible REDD+ activities to be prioritized when elaborating the national REDD+ strategy.

The situation for each of these direct drivers is carefully analyzed in the R-PP, with a detailed description of the current management structures and the underlying factors involved, as well as corresponding existing regulations, and a systematic and detailed analysis of gaps, constraints and barriers. The underlying factors include:

Direct drivers	Underlying factors
Mining:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing gold prices; • Low taxes on gold, stimulating migration from neighboring countries; • Increased immigration, especially from Brazil; • Availability and potential mining of other minerals;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited options for livelihoods for forest dependent communities; • Increasing accessibility of the interior, e.g. due to road building (see discussion of infrastructure below); • Development and accessibility to specialized mining methods; Weak monitoring and enforcement of mining and other related regulations
Logging:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing demand for tropical timber due to population growth and urbanization worldwide; • Low concession fees stimulate local businesses to enter the timber industry; • Low taxes on exports attract foreign investment in the timber industry; • Development of the REDD+ mechanism is driving up prices worldwide and making harvesting in remote areas more lucrative; • Lack of wall to wall MRV capabilities • Weak law enforcement.
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing prices for agricultural products; • Global population growth; • Easily accessible and abundantly available arable land; • Sectoral focus of Government to increase commercial agricultural products; • Limited options for livelihoods for forest dependent communities; • Regional integration into CARICOM; • Weak monitoring and enforcement of chemical use; • Lack of spatial planning; • Worldwide restrictions on gluten, leading to increased demand for alternatives such as cassava.
Energy production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building of gold refinery (construction started in 2012, finished in 2014); • Expansion of IAMGOLD mining operations; • Building and operationalizing of NEWMONT mining operations; • Government housing development of 18,000 homes; • Expansion of State Oil refinery; • Historical organic growth of 6%; • Additional spare capacity for maintenance.
Infrastructural developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased demand for roads to support industrial development and civil transportation in the interior; • Creation of supporting infrastructure for power generation projects; • Increased supporting infrastructure in new and expanding cities

	<p>and villages in the interior;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of spatial planning policy; • Increased regional integration and trade development.
Housing development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population growth; • Current lack of housing; • Lack of spatial planning and zoning policies; • Immigration from neighboring countries; • Migration from rural areas to urban centers.

How the RPP proposes to address these drivers:

Suriname, as a HFLD country, will focus its REDD+ Strategy on attempting to shift Suriname’s ‘forest-transition curve’ s – effectively ‘de-linking’ its economic development from forest loss. A total number of 13 strategy options have been identified during dialogues with stakeholders. These strategic options are:

1. revision of rules for permits and concessions for gold mining and logging;
2. streamlining of concession policies of ministries for gold mining and logging;
3. development of spatial/ land-use planning policies and legislation
4. development of zoning regulations around infrastructural projects;
5. more efficient wood logging procedures with emphasis on wood waste to be used as renewable as biomass;
6. introduction of regulations to limit land degradation and deforestation caused by small- and medium-scale gold mining;
7. promotion of ecotourism;
8. promotion of agroforestry;
9. promotion of NTFP;
10. promotion of medicinal plants;
11. protection of surface water resources,
12. reforestation and protection of mangroves and;
13. protection of genetic resources.

As stated in the R-PP, these 13 options will be further assessed, resulting in selected options to be part of the REDD+ Strategy. A detailed process to run this assessment is clearly detailed in the RPP, with a important reference to the importance for the GoS to generate employment at the local level.

The R-PP provides a detailed assessment of the strategy options according to a series of criteria, such as synergies and/or conflicts between the options and other national development priorities, including assessment of trade-offs across development goals or sectors; sustainability and integration with other sector policies and strategies; and governance aspects: linkages between the identified options and the key governance issues.

The following analytical approaches will be employed to determine the best strategic options for Suriname’s REDD+ strategy during the implementation of the R-PP:

- Cost benefit analysis of REDD+ strategy options, including opportunity costs, investment costs, transaction costs, and abatement costs. (In light of Suriname's proposed REDD+ strategy, the benefits will not necessarily be expressed in emission reduction per option, but an overall contribution to reducing deforestation and degradation).
- Interest group analysis: ways of mitigating conflicts or modifying the options to compensate affected institutions and various stakeholder groups.
- A simple risk analysis framework that summarizes major types of risks, and how significant they are (e.g., low, medium, high) for the major REDD+ strategy activities.
- Feasibility assessment (socioeconomic, political and institutional): Assess the feasibility of the options through analysis of risks, as described in guideline 3 above, and opportunities for the proposed options.
- Assessment of environmental and social risks and of potential impacts (both positive and negative) associated with the REDD+ strategy options, as part of the SESA process.
- Governance Assessments, such as for instance Participatory Assessment approaches and Corruption Risk Analysis

During the preparation of the project document and the discussion with national counterparts, the following process for the assessment of the options and the development of the national REDD+ strategy has been agreed.

The major activity consists in developing REDD+ strategic options, in a very integrated and participatory manner. Practically, a team of international and national technical assistants with robust experience and methodology in SESA, in strategy formulation, and technical expertise in relevant issues will facilitate series of workshops, where small multi-stakeholders expert groups broken down from the Friends of REDD+ strategy group, each dedicated to a specific REDD+ option, will provide ideas, exchange views, and jointly build the various elements of the option analysis.

Step by step, workshops will allow to build the options: scope, activities, location, stakeholders, action plan, targets, costs, budget, typology of investment, feasibility, opportunities, threats, social and environmental risks, other types of risks, multiple benefits, policy, legal and institutional conditions and gaps for each option... Between workshops, participants and consultants will also collect and organize additional data, reports, statistics, to support or challenge qualitative and quantitative assumptions from expert groups. Consultants will also bring technical expertise, for example in the field of legal and institutional analysis, to help securing and refining groups' analysis so to ensure final robustness and consistency of deliverables, or again to translate cost data into a visually attractive abatement cost curve etc.

A public workshop will help framing different visions, for instance "green development", "extraction-based development", "anarchic development under weak governance"... Visions will be refined with support from Friends of REDD+ strategy group, and formulated by NIMOS dedicated staff. Through a series of workshop, a modelling partner will mobilize and collect views and data so to design the technical elements and driving forces to develop the Suriname REDD+ scenario development model. The model will allow to visualize possible economic paths related to REDD+ induced decisions, their social consequences, or reversely the impacts on deforestation from given policy decisions. This instrument will contribute to the elaboration of the reference level under pillar 3 of the project document . Mainly, it will help creating a

credible, tangible and hopefully attractive scenario demonstrating REDD+ compliance and effective results on reducing deforestation and degradation while improving livelihoods and fostering economic and social development in Suriname.

With REDD+ options, the overarching vision and modelised development scenario associated to REDD+ compliance in Suriname, most of the elements will be gathered to draft the national REDD+ strategy. The formulation and validation process encompasses:

- A continuous and underlying process of peer review with international experts
- Technical assistance to facilitate the consolidation of all the elements, including outputs from the pillar III, and the formulation of detailed strategies to bridge policy, legal, practice and institutional gaps.
- A clear roadmap and consultation process throughout 2016, including public consultations through public and national workshops, supported by stakeholders and right holders internal consultation processes nationally and locally.

Eventually, a second draft REDD+ strategy will be formulated by the end of 2016, so to serve as a not definitive but already robust output to feed national and international policy dialogue.

In the meantime, a general information and consultation process will be carried out under activity 2c5. Indeed, once the options are formulated by the end of 2015, information and communication can gain substance and intensify, and the strategic activities under 2c will be regularly reported to the general public. A specific communication campaign will also be organized once the REDD+ vision, modelised scenario and second draft strategy are produced.

II. PROPOSED PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

A. PROPOSED PDO

The project's initial activities relate to strategic planning and preparation for REDD+ FCPF and UN-RED member countries. Specifically, countries prepare for REDD+ by:

- i. assessing the country's situation with respect to deforestation, forest degradation, conservation and sustainable management of forests and relevant governance issues;
- ii. identifying REDD+ strategy options;
- iii. assessing key social and environmental risks and potential impacts associated with REDD+, and developing a management framework to manage these risks and mitigate potential impacts;
- iv. working out a reference level including a particular adjustment factor for its HFLD national circumstance; and
- v. designing a monitoring system to measure, report and verify the effect of the REDD+ strategy on greenhouse gas emissions and other multiple benefits, and to monitor the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, as well as other variables relevant to the implementation of REDD+.

These preparatory activities are referred to as ‘REDD+ Readiness’ and are supported in part by the Readiness Fund of the FCPF, implemented through UNDP in Suriname, as Delivery Partner of the FCPF. This UNDP Project will fund only a portion of the R-PP activities, but will help Suriname towards achieving REDD+ Readiness; it will not finance any implementation of REDD+ activities on the ground (e.g., investments or pilot projects). More specifically, the project intends to achieve two gradual outcomes:

1. By 2016, REDD+ will be recognized as a strategic lever at the heart of the national development strategy post-2016
2. By 2017, Suriname would have achieved significant milestones as it prepares to undertake results-based actions that can be recognized by the UNFCCC and can therefore attract results-based payments.

Suriname has developed and submitted an R-PP, which has been presented during PC14 in March 2013, and endorsed by the FCPF PC. This project will provide additional funding to support the Country in carrying out the activities outlined in its R-PP. The project will fund only a portion of the R-PP activities, but will help Suriname towards achieving REDD+ Readiness, even though Suriname may not reach this stage until well after the project closes. Based on the activities outlined in the R-PP, it is expected that Suriname would be able to participate in REDD+ carbon transactions.

B. KEY RESULTS

The R-PP log frame is organized around 5 components (1, 2, 3, 4 and 6). In the PRODOC, log frame is organized around 3 pillars that are jointly 'necessary and sufficient' to achieve the outcomes as divided between ultimate (2017) and intermediary (2016):

- Pillar I: human capacities and stakeholders engagement correspond to components 1 and 6 of the R-PP
- Pillar II: REDD+ business model and strategy correspond to components 2 and 4b of the R-PP
- Pillar III: implementation frameworks and tools correspond to components 3 and 4a of the R-PP... with some internal transfers...

The following table presents the correspondence between the structure of the prodoc and the structure of the R/PP document.

R-PP components	Prodoc structure
Component 1	1b
1a: Readiness management arrangements	1a,
1b: Early dialogue	1c
1c: Consultation and participation	1c
Component 2	2a: strengthening human capacity
2a .Assessments	2b. Background studies

2b .Strategy options	2c
2c .Implementation framework	3a, 3d, 3fe
2d .SESA	2d
Not mentioned in the RPP	outputs 2e and 2f
Component 3: REL/RL	3b
Component 4	3a
4a: NFMS	3c
4b: SIS	2e
Component 5: Schedule and budget	Resources frameworks and AWP
Component 6: M&E	1d

III. PROJECT CONTEXT

A. CONCEPT

1. Description

This project document explains how the funds provided by FCPF and managed by UNDP as Delivery Partner are going to be used for supporting the REDD+ readiness preparation in Suriname.

The strategy to prioritize the readiness activities, extracted from the RPP approved in March 2013 and to be financed by the FCPF, has been based on a series of considerations, requirements and agreements:

- The agreements between the different stake-holders and right-holders during the elaboration of the R-PP, its presentation during the FCPF PC meeting in March 2013, the elaboration of the project document and the due diligence process of UNDP,
- The requirements agreed under the Common Approach² to Environmental and Social Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners have been taken,
- The strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats identified by the stakeholders and right holders during the elaboration of this project document, as well as their recommendations,
- The overarching framework and sequencing of activities to implement all the REDD+ readiness activities listed in the R-PP, discussed with the main stakeholders and right holders in the country during the elaboration of this project document. This overarching framework has been included as an annex of this project document, so it can be used as a reference in the future to facilitate the coordination and articulation of all the REDD+

²

http://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/forestcarbonpartnership.org/files/Documents/PDF/Nov2011/FCPF%20Readiness%20Fund%20Common%20Approach%20_Final_%2010-Aug-2011_Revised.pdf

readiness activities in the country. The lessons learned by UNDP during the implementation of other REDD+ readiness programs in the world, through the UN-REDD programme or when acting as Delivery Partner of the FCPF,

- The flexibility of the Convention, which allows Suriname to follow a step-wise approach for developing and submitting RELs and a phased approach to identifying and implementing Results-Based Actions and associated safeguards, The need for Suriname to mobilize additional resources before the finalization of this project, in order to finalize its readiness preparation, ensure the sustainability of the results achieved and processes initiated by the present project, and gradually increase the social and political support in favour of REDD+.

An iterative approach has been used during the elaboration of the project document, which resulted in the identification of two major milestones. The long term one consists in making Suriname achieving significant milestones as it prepares to undertake results-based actions that can be recognised by the UNFCCC and can therefore attract results-based payments by the end of 2018. The intermediary objective has been set for the end of 2016, which offers a critical opportunity to strategically position REDD+ into national agenda, and an ideal timing for mid-term target and review of the readiness process. Following the presidential elections in 2015, and the ending of the national development plan 2012-2016 and related UNDAF and CPD, 2016 appears as an opportunity for intense national dialogue on development vision and path for Suriname. The PRODOC aims at providing the country with the relevant tools and conditions for REDD+ to enrich the national debate over sustainable development strategy.

With this in mind, the first variable considered to allocate core funding is the priority to achieve the intermediate objective in 2016. Importantly, such a differentiation does not rank outputs for their priority in itself or in relation to the overall readiness process, but only as far as securing the 2016 intermediate outcome is concerned.

Additionally, the following variables have also been considered to help prioritizing allocation of the PRODOC core funding:

- Can the activity be funded by already existing or reasonably expectable parallel sources?
- Can the activity be more relevantly funded by parallel sources, based on comparative advantage of potential implementing partners to the readiness process?
- At last, it has been considered reasonable that additional co-funding would be secured within the first two years of implementation, so that US\$ 3.6M core funding can be fully allocated to the first 24 months of the PRODOC.

Status of REDD+ Readiness initiatives in Suriname

Suriname's REDD+ readiness planning is supported by the following initiatives as follows:

	Budget	RPP Comp 1	RPP Comp 2	RPP Comp 3	RPP Comp 4	RPP Comp 6
Government	352,350.00	XX	XX	X	X	XX
FCPF	3,600,000.00	XX	XX	X	X	X
UNDP	250,000.00	X		XX	XX	XX
GSF	125,000.00	XX	NA	NA	NA	NA
SBB-Gov Austria-GoS	171,000.00	NA	NA	NA	XX	NA
ACTO1	958,707.00	NA	NA	NA	XX	X
ONF REDD+	160,000.00	NA	NA	NA	XX	NA
CI	400,000.00	XX	X	X	X	X
WWF	72,350.00	XX	XX	X	X	X
VIDS-GSF-SGP	75,000.00	XX	X	X	X	X

XX: principle role

XX: secondary role

UNDP will support NIMOS in coordinating donor assistance to the REDD+ national process. Under the leadership of the GoS, UNDP will facilitate the dialogue among donors on the activities and gaps of the project, and how additional support can be efficiently directed. Whether through this project channel (as co-financing) or through parallel channel, donors will be invited to share information and interest to ensure a comprehensive coordination and monitoring of REDD+ support in Suriname, in the transition period towards a comprehensive national registry.

2. Key Risks and Issues

During the elaboration of the R-PP, and later on the elaboration of the project document, the potential risks and issues have been discussed with the national counterparts, as well as the strengths and opportunities of the readiness process. This information has influenced significantly the strategy of intervention of UNDP and the way the project document and the overall roadmap to REDD+ have been collectively thought. The potential risks of not achieving the expected results are significant given the national context and the challenges ahead, and because it depends directly on a series of institutional changes, a conducive governance environment, and because the pressure of drivers of deforestation is likely to increase in the future as they are the pillars of the economic development of Suriname. A successful REDD+ mechanism involves important changes to the existing institutional framework and touches sensitive issues, such as land tenure rights and revenue distribution across government levels. In addition, the program has high visibility internationally, due to the high stakes of REDD+ for various stakeholders (including vulnerable forest-dependent communities). The main risks and issues are listed on the signed project document.

B. Implementing Agency Assessment

Since NIMOS's mandate comes directly from the President, it is in the correct position to exercise its function in coordinating environmental policies and advising Ministries regarding their sector-specific environmental responsibilities. In this regard, emphasis will be put on

expanding the number of Ministries with whom the NIMOS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed.

NIMOS is in an appropriate institutional position to take on the responsibilities associated with being the coordinator for preparing readiness and implementation of REDD+ policies. NIMOS will be responsible for coordination and overseeing implementation of the R-PP and ultimately for REDD+ implementation. NIMOS will have responsibilities for administrative and technical aspects of REDD+, e.g. project management and reporting. NIMOS will function as the REDD+ coordinating body, involving a wide range of stakeholders in national-level dialogue and seeking to achieve cross-sectoral agreement and collaboration, using IMAC as a coordinating mechanism.

NIMOS is structured around a General Director and nine offices. Currently, the following five offices are staffed and fully operational:

1. Administration
2. Environmental & Social Assessment (ESA)
3. Environmental Monitoring & Enforcement (EME)
4. Environmental Legal Services (ELS)
5. Environmental Education & Public Outreach (EEPO)

In the near future, the following offices will be staffed:

6. Planning
7. Research
8. Financing/ Funding
9. Conflict Resolution

The expansion of NIMOS from 20 to 35-40 staff members is included in the National Development Plan and is scheduled to take place from 2013 onwards. The National Development Plan also includes funding for capacity building and institutional strengthening of the NIMOS.

C. Implementation arrangements

UNDP will act as the FCPF/WB Delivery Partner for this project and as such the responsibility for managing FCPF/WB funds will be administered by UNDP CO. the present project will be implemented under National Implementation Modality. During the first 6 months of the project implementation, NIMOS will carry out the procurement but will request UNDP to make the disbursements (direct payment modality for projects under national implementation). The Country Office will provide accounting and banking services to the implementing partner. Simultaneously, UNDP will gradually strengthen the administrative capacity of NIMOS to be able to switch to a direct cash advances modality. This is based on the results of the HACT micro assessment of 2013. At the end of each three-month period, the PMU will submit a report on activities and a financial report for expenses incurred along with a request for funds for the next period. UNDP will also facilitate communication between the PMU, the Implementing Partner and the FCPF/WB as and if required. UNDP will provide donor reporting, advance of funds, and

monitoring and quality assurance of the project. Other services support that UNDP can offer upon request is outlined in the direct project costing (DPC). DPC agreement template is annex to project document.

By the time of drafting this PRODOC, eight Responsible Parties are tentatively identified:

1. NIMOS, National Environmental and Research Institute in Suriname, Cabinet of the President
2. CCDU, Climate Compatible Development Unit, Cabinet of the President
3. CELOS, AdeKUS or other academia and training partners, to be determined
4. SBB, Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control, Min RoGB
5. IP representation platform, VIDS
6. Samaaka representation platform, VSG
7. Other Indigenous and Maroon representation platform, to be determined
8. Private sector representation platform, to be determined
9. UNDP, United Nations Development Programme

Based on draft HACT assessment report it is anticipated that NIMOS will receive an overall risk rating of 'low to moderate'. This indicates that this partner's system for managing cash transfers is "considered capable of correctly recording all transactions and balances, supports the preparation of regular and reliable financial statements, safeguards the entity's assets, and is subject to acceptable auditing arrangements." The HACT assessment results will have to be included in the prodoc, or as soon as available during the inception phase.

The responsibilities of UNDP during the implementation of this project are described in detail in the Annex 3 of the Delegation of Authority letter, which is attached in Annex VI of this assessment note.

D. Project Stakeholder Assessment

The Government of Suriname initiated a stakeholder engagement assessment for the formulation of the R-PP. Stakeholders were grouped according to broad categories of forest users. This helped clarify their potential contributions to the objectives and goals of the stakeholder engagement process. Stakeholders were then mapped according to their relation to REDD+ and the potential impact of REDD+ on their livelihoods. The main groups are composed by public sector, including ministries and semi-Governmental entities, indigenous and maroon peoples, civil society organizations, including groups representing women and youth, private sector companies, including representatives of the mining, forestry, tourism and other sectors, and academia. The main role and responsibility of these stakeholders has been presented already above, in the section B. Sectorial and Institutional context.

It is important to keep in mind that Suriname has re-engaged into a national REDD+ readiness process to be supported by the FCPF in 2012, after 2 intents in 2009/2010. This first intent has not been successful for different reasons. One of the main issues was related to the insufficient level of engagement with key sectors, stakeholders and right-holders, during the preparation of the RPP document.

Therefore, when Suriname invited UNDP to act as DP, it has been decided to focus much more attention and efforts on engaging meaningfully with the key national stakeholders and right holders concerned by the REDD+ discussions. As a result, preparatory funds from FCPF, UNDP, UN-REDD and CI have been put together into an “initiation project” aiming at fostering the full and effective engagement with projects stakeholders during the preparation of the RPP and its future implementation. The early information and dialogue process that have been undertaken during the R-PP formulation stage were aimed at sharing information about REDD+, conveying the plans of the Government and soliciting suggestions and concerns from stakeholders and right holders.

During the presentation of the R-Pp to the FCPF PC, 4 out of the 7 recommendations issues by the PC were related to engagement with indigenous and tribal people.

- Recommendation # 2: Include, in collaboration with indigenous and tribal peoples representatives, in the work plan in component 1.c of the R-PP a process to identify the need for and to provide capacity building in government institutions with respect to indigenous and tribal peoples issues.
- Recommendation # 3. Revise the R-PP to outline a revised process to collaboratively design, together with indigenous and tribal peoples representatives: (a) a plan for their ongoing consultation and participation ensuring that sufficient budget is allocated for implementation of this plan; and (b) a budget line in the Project Document budget to support activities identified, managed and implemented by indigenous and tribal peoples representatives.
- Recommendation # 4. Revise the R-PP to reflect that the Saramaka Judgment of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and indigenous and tribal peoples rights have implications for REDD+ in Suriname. UNDP, during its due diligence, will commission a review to evaluate these implications, and incorporate its recommendations in the Project Document in collaboration with the government and indigenous and tribal people’s representatives.
- Recommendation # 5. Revise the proposed options for a grievance redress mechanism that includes prompt effective remedies with possibility of appeal, in line with the draft UNDP/WB Guidelines on Grievance Mechanisms. In particular, outline the inclusive process to be undertaken to identify, assess, strengthen and/or establish a grievance mechanism, building on existing systems where feasible.

These recommendations have been addressed by the GoS, as acknowledged by the FMT completeness check issued on June 2013.

In addition, as part of its due diligence process, UNDP has commissioned the review mentioned in recommendation #4 above, and provided guidance on the GRM mentioned in recommendations #5. The main conclusions and recommendations of these analyses are presented in the annexes of this RPP assessment note.

During the project document preparation, discussions took place with the national stakeholders and right holders to capture the key conditions under which REDD+ readiness could be run successfully. They include four necessary levers to be secured, and guiding principles to achieve

the necessary levers, as described in the project document . 3 out of the 4 necessary levers are referring to stakeholder engagement, as well as most of the guiding principles:

Levers related to stakeholder engagement:

- REDD+ needs a credible national business model, economically effective, socially inspiring and environmentally sound,
- REDD+ needs broad engagement and mobilization of stakeholders and right holders, supported by robust understanding and involvement
- REDD+ needs trust among stakeholders and right holders, based on proven willingness to dialogue and build collective solutions

Guiding approaches related to stakeholder engagement:

- Every step of the process must be transparent, inclusive and participative
- Numerous stakeholders need to build capacity so to participate actively to the process, including IP and Maroon peoples, the private sector as well as governmental coordination services
- Time and resources should be allocated to progressively enhance and strengthen the quality of participation
- The indigenous and maroon people's social organization and land rights need to be progressively secured, recognized and respected
- The readiness process must raise awareness and foster collective change. It requires tolerance to promote transformation at a human pace, in a small society caring about "living together"
- REDD+ must be fully embedded in broader dynamics to design framework and tools to help the government, national assembly, private sector, civil society and communities manage their resources sustainably
- REDD+ solutions must be integrated into economic logics, in a way that allows individuals and society both to achieving good standards of living and preserving their environment

IV. OVERALL RISK RATINGS

The REDD+ Readiness process presents a high level of risk, as it depends directly on a series of institutional changes and a conducive governance environment. A successful REDD+ mechanism involves important changes to the existing institutional framework and touches sensitive issues, such as land tenure rights and revenue distribution across government levels. In addition, the program has high visibility internationally, due to the high stakes of REDD+ for various stakeholders (including vulnerable forest-dependent communities). The overall risk ratings of this project is presented in the signed project document.

Beyond the specific mitigation measures identified in the prodoc, these risks will be mitigated through an extensive consultation and participation process and through the SESA process. An extensive consultation and participation plan is a key component of the readiness program

funded by the project, and adequate budgeting has been set aside for this purpose. Through the consultation and outreach process, which includes the SESA, relevant government and non-government stakeholders and right holders will be involved throughout the readiness process. In addition, the SESA will identify institutional gaps and challenges and will formulate policy options. Activities will continue to be consulted with government and other stakeholder and right holders groups to guarantee relevance.

A number of measures to mitigate risks related to procurement and financial management will be put in place. These include the following actions:

- i) The appointment of a financial management consultant or dedicated staff to assist the Project Implementing Unit in handling the financial management aspect of the project.
- ii) The inclusion of the project's activities in the regular audits commissioned by the UNDP Country Office.
- iii) Training by a UNDP Financial Management Specialist on financial management.
- iv) Procurement supervision will be undertaken by UNDP.
- v) The project management unit will prepare a Project Management Manual that includes a Procurement Section, within two months after countersignature of the project document .

In order to make sure that policy recommendations will not affect negatively indigenous peoples and other forest dependent communities, during the participative SESA process, will be assessed these potential impacts, formulate alternatives and mitigation strategies and enhance the decision-making process around the design of the national REDD+ framework. The SESA will be complemented by an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which will provide a guide for potential future investments in REDD+ Demonstration Activities, including pilot projects, toward compliance with UNDP and World Bank safeguards policies. The ESMF recommended safeguard instruments would apply to investments financed by UNDP and by other Donors willing to use the same safeguard policies. On a complementary manner, the SIS will inform how social (and environmental) safeguards, agreed in Suriname in the context of REDD+, will be implemented during the different phases to REDD+

UNDP QUALITY ASSURANCE INPUTS

UNDP staff supported the preparation of the R-PP, which included a comprehensive assessment of REDD+ opportunities and challenges. Multiple UNDP technical support missions took place from 2012 to 2014 with the objective of providing guidance for the preparation of, and subsequent implementation of the R-PP. This included several consultations with stakeholders.

The following are mandatory requirements:

- UN-REDD Programme operational guidance must be applied during the design and implementation of the project
- If changes are made at the output or activity level, they may be agreed by the Steering Committee. Before such changes are contemplated they must be discussed with and approved by the Regional Technical Advisor.

- If changes are proposed at the Outcome level they must be discussed with the UNDP/REDD+ Principal Technical Advisor before being approved by the Regional Technical Advisor
- The project is subject to a midterm review and a final evaluation conducted according to Terms of Reference established by UNDP.
- Funds will be audited in accordance with UNDP Financial Regulations and Rules and audit policies.

Compliance with the FCPFC Common Approach to Environmental and Social Safeguards

Implementation will ensure compliance with the Common Approach to Environmental and Social Safeguards. The United Nations Development Programme's Social and Environmental Policies and Procedures that ensure compliance with the Common Approach include the following elements:

Environmental and Social Screening Procedure (ESSP): The ESSP is a mandatory requirement to undertake an environmental and social screening of UNDP projects (country, regional and global and all thematic areas) with a budget of \$500,000 or more. The screening process results in an outcome which determines if further environmental and social review (e.g. impact assessment) and management measures are required. The results of the screening for the Honduras' R-PP and project document are shown in Annex 6.

UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES): The objectives of the Standards are to: (i) strengthen the social and environmental outcomes of UNDP projects; (ii) avoid adverse impacts to people and the environment affected by projects; (iii) minimize, mitigate, and manage adverse impacts where avoidance is not possible; (iv) strengthen UNDP and partner capacities for managing social and environmental risks; and (v) ensure full and effective stakeholder engagement, including through a mechanism to respond to complaints from project-affected people. For more information, see the [Social and Environmental Standards](#)

UNDP's Social and Environmental Compliance Review: In October 2012 the UNDP Administrator revised the Charter of the Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) to include the mandate to investigate UNDP's compliance with applicable social and environmental policies and procedures. In February 2013 OAI established the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU) to respond to complaints that UNDP may not be meeting its social and environmental commitments during the interim phase. The main purpose of the compliance review will be to investigate alleged violations of UNDP's environmental and social commitments in a project financed, or to be financed, by UNDP or any other project where UNDP policies apply. The compliance review may result in findings of non-compliance, in which case recommendations will be provided to the Administrator about how to bring the Project into compliance and, where appropriate, mitigate any harm resulting from UNDP's failure to follow its policies or procedures. In carrying out its compliance review functions, the compliance unit will need full access to UNDP personnel, policies and records. It will also need the authority to conduct site visits of UNDP-supported projects in order to carry out its fact-

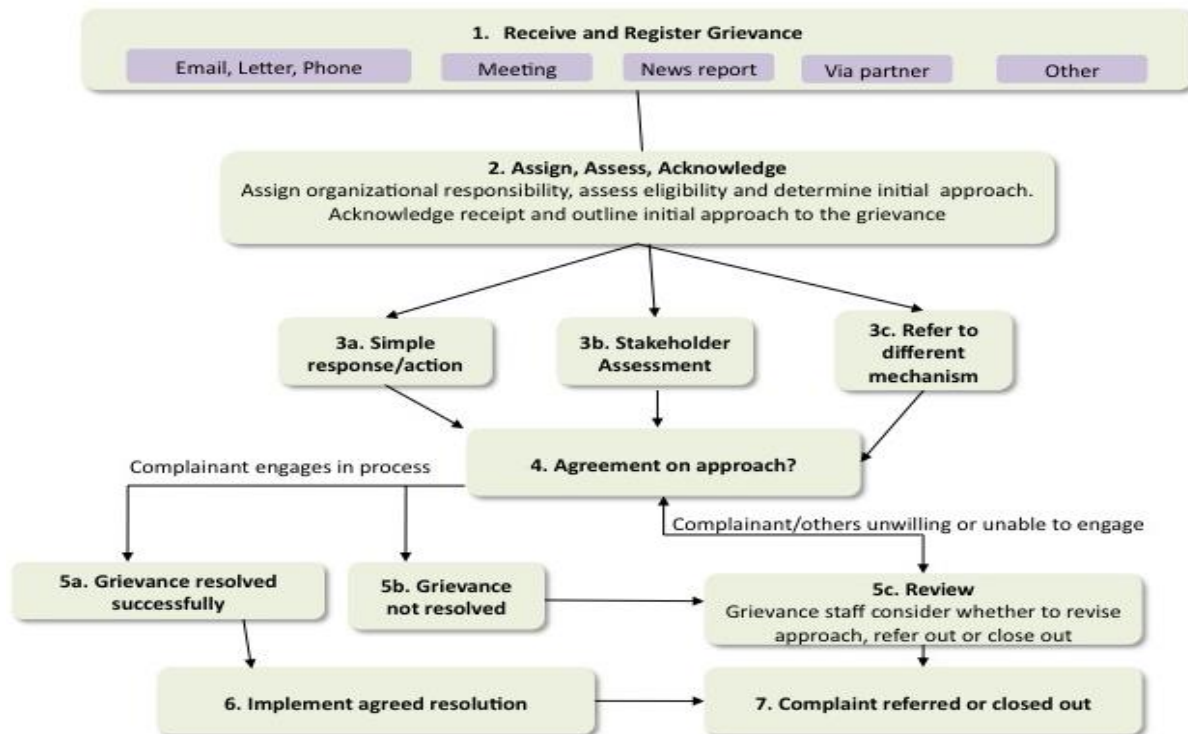
finding function. For more information, see the [Standard Operating Procedures for UNDP's Social and Environmental Compliance Unit](#).

UNDP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM): The SRM provides an additional, formal avenue for stakeholders to engage with UNDP when they believe that a UNDP project may have adverse social or environmental impacts on them; they have raised their concerns with Implementing Partners and/or with UNDP through standard channels for stakeholder consultation and engagement; and they have not been satisfied with the response. The SRM provides a way for UNDP to address these situations systematically, predictably, expeditiously, and transparently. Through the SRM, UNDP Country Offices, Regional Bureaux and Service Centers and Headquarters collaborate in a thorough, good faith effort to resolve outstanding concerns to the satisfaction of all parties, and to document the results to ensure accountability and promote organizational learning. Given their proximity to the project, relationships with relevant actors and understanding of country context, Country Offices are generally best placed to lead in responding to complaints that come through the SRM. It is expected that the Resident Representative will identify a member of the Country Office management team to oversee and manage the SRM on a regular basis. For more information on the SRM, see: [UNDP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism: Overview and Guidance](#).

National-level Grievance Mechanism

In addition to addressing the above institutional requirements, UNDP will be responsible for supporting the partner country to establish a national-level grievance mechanism to address issues related to REDD+.

The mechanism will be responsible for managing a series of steps, as outlined in the flow chart below, including receiving and assessing claims on a range of challenging issues; determining the suitable options for addressing the claims; managing the process to address the claim and ensuring feedback and learning processes are carried out throughout the process.



Most importantly, the mechanism will be required to undertake the above activities while ensuring the below principles are met:

- **Independence:** Independence requires that the mechanism be established and operate without undue influence from the institution’s operational decision-makers, or from any external stakeholders. Those who assess and respond to grievances for the organization should be accountable to the organization for seeking solutions that meet the interests of all affected stakeholders, and not only for meeting the immediate interests of the organization. They should recuse themselves if there is an actual or potential conflict of interest in addressing a particular dispute.
- **Professionalism:** The mechanism’s decision-makers and staff should meet high standards of discretion and professionalism; the mechanism should be able to hire consultants with specific expertise when needed.
- **Fairness:** Fairness and objectivity require the mechanism to give equal weight to the concerns and interests of all stakeholders. The dispute resolution procedures should treat all parties fairly, and fairness should be an expectation of all outcomes.
- **Transparency:** The principle of transparency requires public comment and participation in the design and operation of the mechanism, and clear, demonstrable and publicly available rules of procedure. In addition, the mechanism should publicly and regularly report in a timely fashion on the number of times it has been used during the reporting period, the types of issues it has handled, the number of cases that have been resolved,

are still outstanding, or have moved to other channels for resolution, and any lessons learned that can be used by the organization and/or its external stakeholders to reduce the future frequency, scope and/or intensity of grievances and disputes.

- **Accessibility and Decentralization:** In order to be accessible to affected people, the mechanism should maintain open lines of communications and provide information in languages and formats required to allow the greatest access practicable to affected people. Although mechanisms will benefit from support at the organization's senior/HQ level, the mechanism typically needs to operate as close to the project level and potentially affected citizens, communities and interest groups as possible. Accessibility also requires that no unnecessary barriers impede stakeholder's access to the mechanism; for example, it should be possible for stakeholders to communicate a concern to local project managers and generate an organizational response, rather than having to communicate directly with an office in the capital city where the organization has its headquarters.
- **Effectiveness and Flexibility:** The mechanism should be effective in objectively assessing concerns raised by external stakeholders, in determining the most appropriate process for addressing those concerns, in implementing that process constructively and expeditiously, and in communicating to all stakeholders, including those who raised the grievance, the institution, and the public. The dispute resolution process must allow for flexibility in using different techniques as required in specific cases or contexts. The process should be based on voluntary participation of various stakeholders in a joint problem-solving process, such as negotiation, mediation, conciliation, or facilitation. Even for a single organization, the contexts, stakeholders, specific issues, and motivations for participating in grievance processes can vary greatly. Those responsible for the response must have the resources and the mandate to support a range of techniques with flexible timelines and approaches.

UNDP will support this activity in line with the [FCPF/UN-REDD Guidance Note for REDD+ Countries: Establishing and Strengthening Grievance Redress Mechanisms](#).

Finally, UNDP, to ensure compliance with the Common Approach, will apply the following Guidance:

- FCPF/UN-REDD Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement
- UN-REDD Programme Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

Implications: UNDP will need to strengthen its own institutional capacity as well as the partner country's capacity to receive and address grievances in an independent, transparent, fair and effective manner, which will require delving into often sensitive governance issues.

Conclusion: Both UNDP and Suriname will be opening themselves up to increased feedback, input and in some cases, complaints and conflict. In some cases UNDP could be in a position where it will be accused of not following its own policies and procedures; in other cases UNDP

will need to mediate between stakeholders who have a grievance against their government, UNDP's main client.

Both UNDP and partner countries will have new roles and responsibilities with regard to receiving and addressing these claims and will be increasingly scrutinized with regard to their conduct in addressing these claims by external stakeholders, NGOs and the media.

There is a potential for increased reputational risks associated with receiving high profile and public claims against the organization and the government from potentially impacted stakeholders.

While this new level of accountability will be challenging, if done well, there could also be several benefits, including progress toward meeting the following objectives:

- Identify and resolve implementation problems in a timely and cost-effective manner: As early warning systems, well-functioning grievance mechanisms help identify and address potential problems before they escalate, avoiding more expensive and time consuming disputes.
- Identify systemic issues: Information from grievance mechanism cases may highlight recurring, increasingly frequent or escalating grievances, helping to identify underlying systemic issues related to implementation capacity and processes that need to be addressed.
- Improve REDD+ outcomes: Through timely resolution of issues and problems, grievance mechanisms can contribute to timely achievement of REDD+ objectives.
- Promote accountability: Effective grievance mechanisms promote greater accountability to stakeholders, positively affecting both specific activities and overall REDD+ governance.
- Improve environmental and social outcomes for local communities and other stakeholders affected by UNDP projects;
- Enhance UNDP's ability to manage risks related to its Social and Environmental Standards, in order to avoid or mitigate social and environmental impacts.
- Ensure that UNDP responds to the concerns of project stakeholders (particularly vulnerable groups that are central to UNDP's programmatic work) with regard to social and environmental risks and impacts;

V. PROPOSED TEAM COMPOSITION AND RESOURCES, INCLUDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY UNDP TO DATE

Suriname has anticipated a strong need for institutional capacity building, as part of a general capacity assessment exercise run during the R-PP formulation. This capacity building will mainly translate into staff recruitment. Based on the evaluation of capacity of the main institutions involved, and the anticipated workload within the project document , it has been planned to recruit the following staff to ensure the implementation of the Pillar 1:

- 6 additional staffs at NIMOS,

- 2 communication and logistics officers are recruited for RSC and REDD+ assistants collective
- 2 additional climate finance officers are recruited as CCDU staff
- 20 REDD+ assistants
- 3 staffs for national coordination and engagement with REDD+ with indigenous and maroon peoples
- 3 staffs for support to sub-national coordination with indigenous and maroon peoples

Pillar 2:

- 5 additional staffs are recruited at NIMOS
- 4 additional staffs are recruited within key partner institutions

Pillar 3:

- 7 staffs are recruited at NIMOS
- 8 staffs are recruited at SBB

In addition to this technical team, spread amongst the different institutions in charge of the readiness process, UNDP has been and will keep providing technical assistance. This is materialized by the support given from the different levels of the Organization, including the Country Office, the Regional Service Center based in Panama, and the global experts spread around the world. During the RPP elaboration and its due diligence process, UNDP organized a series of technical missions to facilitate these processes, and address the recommendations provided during the FCPF PC meeting on the RPP of Suriname.

VI. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

A. TECHNICAL

Taking account all the discussions held with the key stakeholders and right holders in the country during the RPP elaboration, the recommendations of the GRM scoping mission and of the review of the implications of the Samaaka judgment, and the implication of the key stakeholders and right holders during the elaboration of the project document, the proposed project is considered technically feasible.

The risk of over-ambitiousness in the results framework has been mitigated through a thorough consultation process which has, for example, cut some proposed activities and sought additional funding sources for those activities. Furthermore, the RSC has proved to be very effective in monitoring the UN-REDD Programme to ensure that available resources match proposed activities, and will serve the same role for the R-PP.

For UNDP it will be important to mitigate the implementation risks from the onset by strengthening implementation capacities during the preparatory phase of REDD+. For this it has been decided to hire a multidisciplinary team to support the REDD+ activities and the adoption of systems for management, planning, fund management, communication and engagement strategies, as well as procurement and contracting. The staff project operative unit team will be integrated in NIMOS and the other responsible parties when needed, as well as within UNDP. The project management unit will need to find the balance between providing support and

ensuring that risks are managed while not “rushing” the project by doing the work of the implementers in their place.

Another critical element to consider is the need to ensure proper coordination among organizations and programs supporting Suriname in its REDD+ readiness process. The project document activities have been defined taking into consideration the on-going REDD+ readiness efforts. Any change in the programming and execution of those on-going activities might pose impacts on the ability to complete or develop the activities of this project. Adaptive management will be necessary to apply during the entire life-cycle of this project.

B. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

UNDP will act as the FCPF/WB Delivery Partner for this project and as such the responsibility for managing FCPF/WB funds will be administered by UNDP CO. Pursuant to the UN General Assembly Resolution 56/201 on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, UNDP adopted a common operational framework for transferring cash to government and non-government Implementing Partners. Its implementation will significantly reduce transaction costs and lessen the burden that the multiplicity of UN procedures and rules creates for its partners.

The project will be executed under the modality of UNDP National Implementation. NIMOS will be the implementing partner responsible to the UNDP for ensuring achievement of the project’s results. If necessary, NIMOS will sign agreements with relevant counterparts to help execute the project’s specific components.

UNDP’s REDD+ Team will be accountable for this project’s effective implementation to the FCPF/WB. As the delivery partner, the UNDP is responsible for providing a number of key general management and specialized technical services. These services are provided through the UNDP REDD+ Team and country and regional units. UNDP will provide support services at the government’s request.

There is a risk that cash transferred to Implementing Partners may not be used or reported in accordance with agreements between UNDP and the Implementing Partner. The level of risk can be different for each Implementing Partner. For each Implementing Partner the Agencies effectively and efficiently manage this risk by: 1) assessing the Implementing Partner's financial management capacity; 2) applying appropriate procedures for the provision of cash transfers to the Implementing Partner; and 3) maintaining adequate awareness of the Implementing Partner's internal controls for cash transfers through assurance activities.

For each Implementing Partner the level of risk may change over time, and this may result in changes in the cash transfer procedures and assurance activities, and possibly in the choice of modality.

During its due diligence process, UNDP assesses the risks associated with transactions to each Implementing Partner, before initiating cash transfers under the harmonized procedures. Two types of assessments are required: a macro assessment and a micro assessment. They serve two objectives:

- *Development objective:* The assessments help UNDP and the Government to identify strengths and weaknesses in the PFM system and the financial management practices of individual Implementing Partners, and identify areas for capacity development.
- *Financial management objective:* The assessments help UNDP identify the most suitable resource transfer modality and procedures, and scale of assurance activities to be used with each Implementing Partner.

By the time of drafting the UNDP-FCPF project document, eight core and co-implementing partners have been identified:

- NIMOS, National Environmental and Research Institute in Suriname, Cabinet of the President
- CCDU, Climate Compatible Development Unit, Cabinet of the President
- AdeKUS or other academia and training partners, to be determined
- SBB, Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control, Min RoGB
- IP representation platform, to be determined
- Maroon representation platform, to be determined
- Private sector representation platform, to be determined
- UNDP, United Nations Development Programme

Specific macro and micro assessments have been conducted and the results have contributed to the definition of the implementation modality to be applied with each implementation partner and the details of the financial management. The results of these assessments are attached as annex to the UNDP-FCPF project document.

UNDP will during first 6 months of the project do payments through the direct payment modality and build capacity within NIMOS to facilitate cash advances. This is based on the results of the HACT micro assessment of 2013. UNDP will utilize the cash advance modality of funds. At the end of each three-month period, the PMU will submit a report on activities and a financial report for expenses incurred along with a request for funds for the next period. UNDP will also facilitate communication between the PMU, the Implementing Partner and the FCPF/WB as and if required. All communication and reporting to the FCPF/WB will be through the UNDP REDD+ Team. As stated in the project document, this project will be audited as following:

- Yearly NIM audit by external auditors
- Mid-term and final audits by UNDP internal services

C. PROCUREMENT

UNDP's procurement rules and processes will apply as long as the project will be implemented directly by UNDP. As per UNDP's Financial Regulations and Rules, the following general principles must be given due consideration while executing procurement on behalf of the organization: Best Value for Money; Fairness, Integrity, Transparency; Effective International Competition; The Interest of UNDP.

A Finance and Procurement Officer will be hired with project funds to ensure efficient and effective implementation of the Suriname REDD+ Programme through the development of effective systems and the building of staff capacity. Specifically the Officer's role will focus on:

- Providing support to Programme Planning and Coordination
- Elaborate/update periodically procurement plans, hand in hand with the Annual Working Plans
- Developing, implementing and improving Accounting and Reporting Procedures
- Ensuring strong financial and operational control
- Conducting Bank reconciliation
- Developing Procurement processes and Inventory Register
- Supporting programme administration
- Providing Oversight and Training to implementing agencies

Once the national implementation modality with transfer of funds is used, the procurement modality of each implementing partner will apply. Procurement processes will be regularly audited throughout the lifetime of the project, by both external and UNDP consultants.

D. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL (INCLUDING CONSULTATION, PARTICIPATION, DISCLOSURE AND SAFEGUARDS)

The project document complies with UNDP social and environmental policies and procedures. This grant will, in part, support the country's activities to identify the potential risks associated with REDD+ and mitigation options. In order to do this, the FCPF is using a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) to integrate key environmental and social considerations into REDD+ Readiness by combining analytical and participatory approaches. The SESA allows: (i) social and environmental considerations to be integrated into the REDD+ Readiness process, in particular the REDD+ strategy; (ii) stakeholder participation in identifying and prioritizing key issues, assessment of policy, institutional and capacity gaps to manage these priorities and recommendations, and disclosure of findings in the REDD+ Country's progress reports on Readiness preparation; and (iii) an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to be put in place to manage environmental and social risks and to mitigate potential adverse impacts.

The national environmental policy of Suriname aims to protect the environment while achieving sustainable development. Although the Environmental Legislative Framework is still in the constitutional process, ESIA guidelines³ have been prepared by NIMOS, the National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname. ESIA are widely used in the logging, mining, energy and agricultural sectors. The RPP indicates that standard ESIA procedures, provided by NIMOS, will serve as the basis to conduct a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA). However, in a letter sent to the FMT of the FCPF on March 2013, the Forest Peoples Programme questions the ESIA.

³ See NIMOS: *Environmental Assessment Guidelines Volume I: Generic, second edition 2009*

During the elaboration of the UNDP-FCPF project document, the realization of the SESA process has been discussed and a couple of clarifications have been provided regarding how the elaboration of the TOR of the SESA will take place, and how this assessment will be realized. The formulation of the SESA in itself will largely result from the outputs of the strategy design and from the all participative process agreed upon stakeholders and right holders in Suriname for the elaboration of the background studies, the identification of the REDD+ options and their potential social and environmental impacts, and the step wise definition of the national REDD+ strategy. This all process is detailed in the project document, and summarized below.

D.1. Social (including Safeguards)

Key assessments of social risks and the Country's capacity to manage these risks will be undertaken by the country through a SESA, which is mainstreamed in the R-PP.

It is also important to note that it was agreed at the UNFCCC Conference in Cancun in 2010 (COP16) that a set of seven safeguards should be promoted and supported when undertaking REDD+ activities. The Cancun Agreements, and the subsequent Durban Agreement, also requested parties implementing REDD+ to provide information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the REDD+ activities.

The project will support analysis and active participation of all stakeholders, to define how the REDD+ safeguards defined in Cancun are to be reflected in the readiness process. The work on UNFCCC safeguards and the SESA will be consistent, and the SIS will capture the safeguards in an integrated set of tools and process. The information resulting from the SIS could be linked to the Forest Monitoring Systems of the country.

The design of REDD+ national safeguards will start with desk review and work: During the first six months, a small multi stakeholder group of experts would convene to drive the elaboration of the safeguards. The group would start with reviewing all relevant material about safeguards, then organise a seminar on several days, including visits and consultations in the interior, and public workshop in Paramaribo with local representatives and a panel of leading international experts or practitioners, so to build capacities and start designing an approach to and a first draft of the safeguards. The draft safeguards will then be consulted, and eventually finalized by mid 2015

Assembling elements to consolidate the SESA: all the elements will then be available to consolidate the SESA report, as directly embedded in the REDD+ options and consolidated with the elements provided by the standards elaboration process. By the end of 2015, the SESA is expected to be drafted by the consultant team as part of the mission to design REDD+ options. The report will be open to public consultations, and validated by the SESA committee, and other relevant review or validation body, by mid-2016.

The Environmental and Social Management Framework: After the SESA is completed the technical assistants will develop an ESMF. This rather technical work will be mainly produced

by the internationally recognized firm, but obviously all the deliverables and the overall architecture will be discussed publicly and validated by the SESA committee. This ESMF encompasses various tools and processes to ensure that REDD+ investments will meet international and national requirements.

D.2. Environmental (including Safeguards)

Key assessments of environmental risks and the Country's capacity to manage these risks would be undertaken by the country through a SESA, as described in the R-PP. The same process as for social risks will be followed (see above section).

D.3. Consultation, Participation and Disclosure

i. Experience to Date

The Government of Suriname initiated a stakeholder engagement process for the formulation of the R-PP. The process involves all direct and indirect forest users in a non-discriminatory and transparent way, ensuring broad participation and aiming to increase ownership of the R-PP. The stakeholder engagement processes adhere to the FCPF and UN-REDD+ joint 'Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement for REDD+ Readiness with a Focus on the Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest-Dependent Communities'.

The Government sees REDD+ as a planning tool for forest lands and therefore intends to build general capacity for dialogues and consultations amongst all stakeholder groups for the longer term. The dialogues held to date therefore only represent the beginning of a long-term process of information exchange, consultation and participation.

The early information and dialogue process that have been undertaken during the R-PP formulation stage were aimed at sharing information about REDD+, conveying the plans of the Government and soliciting suggestions and concerns from stakeholders. As the process moves forward, groups are becoming increasingly engaged. It is hoped and expected that the nature of these exchanges will continue to advance and deepen—moving from simple information sharing in the early stage of the process, to an ever-stronger engagement of the concerned, up to active collaboration and joint decision-making during the REDD+ implementation phase.

Consultation and participation of the people of Suriname are seen as important elements of developing and implementing the R-PP and REDD+ strategy. Governmental structures, civil society structures, as well as traditional structures of the forest-dependent people are being used to achieve active engagement.

Suriname has held large, multiple stakeholder consultations in the past, e.g. during the preparation and formulation of the Multi-annual Development Plan (OP), the National Forest Policy, the National Biodiversity Strategy and the Climate Change Action Plan. Various national, regional, and local workshops, training and seminars have also been conducted. However, indigenous and Maroon organizations have expressed repeated concerns that these

consultation processes have not sufficiently taken into account their traditional methods of meeting or their traditional structures for consultations.

In developing a plan for information sharing and early dialogue, careful account has been taken of the lessons learned from the above-mentioned experiences. Lessons learned have included the need to allow more time for the engagement process and to secure sufficient resources to ensure the thorough involvement of indigenous and Maroon communities in the process. Also drawing on lessons learned from previous consultations, the REDD+ readiness process is being designed to incorporate lessons learned on an ongoing basis, as well as recommendations from previous stakeholder meetings regarding the development of a consultation and participation plan. For example, most meetings in the past have been held only in the city and there has been little or no opportunity to get feedback from the chiefs or communities.

Given the experiences of the information sharing and early dialogue process that took place during the 2009-2010 effort to develop the R-PP, it was considered of great importance to undertake a thorough process this time around. In this light, an intensive series of such events have taken place from October – December 2012. Finally, additional dialogues took place in January and February 2013 prior to the February R-PP submission deadline.

ii. Proposal Going Forward

At local level, especially forest dependent people, lack conceptual understanding of REDD+, as can be concluded from the reports of the Project Group meetings and stakeholder consultations. REDD+ can contribute to community level development, but only if capacities of forest dependent communities are enhanced, to allow them to understand its benefits and implications. Even at higher levels, within governmental institutions and NGO's, personnel in general do not know the basics of REDD+, its political, institutional and methodological aspects. During the R-PP preparation and continuing during the R-PP implementation, groups are becoming increasingly engaged from simple information sharing in the current early stage of the process, to an ever stronger engagement of the concerned up to an active collaboration and joint decision making in the REDD+ implementation phase.

At local level, especially forest dependent people, lack conceptual understanding of REDD+, as can be concluded from the reports of the Project Group meetings and stakeholder consultations. REDD+ can contribute to community level development, but only if capacities of forest dependent communities are enhanced, to allow them to understand its benefits and implications. Even at higher levels, within governmental institutions and NGO's, personnel in general do not know the basics of REDD+, its political, institutional and methodological aspects. During the R-PP preparation and continuing during the R-PP implementation, groups are becoming increasingly engaged from simple information sharing in the current early stage of the process, to an ever stronger engagement of the concerned up to an active collaboration and joint decision making in the REDD+ implementation phase

According to the law, district commissioners must be informed about activities that will take place in the respective districts. The district commissioner governs the district and is assisted by the sub-regional coordinators and administration officers. The district commissioners have the

responsibility to oversee that activities are properly implemented and that all relevant stakeholders, indigenous and Maroon communities are involved and informed. District commissioners, together with the sub-regional coordinators and administrative officers of the districts, will therefore provide assistance in setting up, implementing and facilitating the consultations and participation meetings.

The existing consultations will be broadened during the R-PP implementation phase and lead to an active collaboration, of stakeholders, which in turn will be basis for building a culture of joint decision making on REDD related issues. Planning for an effective REDD+ consultation process in Suriname needs to take into account a number of key elements, which are outlined below.

ANNEX I: OPERATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK (ORAF)

The detailed risk assessment will be provided in the project document, which will be publicly released once signed.

ANNEX II: PREPARATION SCHEDULE AND RESOURCE ESTIMATE

The detailed preparation schedule and resource estimate will be provided in the project document, which will be publicly released once signed.

ANNEX III: R-PP SUBMITTED BY THE REDD COUNTRY PARTICIPANT

The R-PP of Suriname can be downloaded here:

https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2013/june2013/REVISED_Suriname%20R-PP%20finaldraft%2022Juni.pdf

ANNEX IV: DRAFT PROJECT DOCUMENT FOR REDD+ READINESS PREPARATION (IF AVAILABLE)

The project document is not available yet. It will be publicly released once signed by the government and UNDP.

ANNEX V: UNDP ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SCREENING PROCESS

QUESTION 1:

Has a combined environmental and social assessment/review that covers the proposed project already been completed by implementing partners or donor(s)?

Select answer below and follow instructions:

- NO** → Continue to Question 2
- YES** → No further environmental and social review is required if the existing documentation meets UNDP's quality assurance standards, and environmental and social management recommendations are integrated into the project. Therefore, you should undertake the following steps to complete the screening process:
1. Use Table 1.1 to assess existing documentation. (It is recommended that this assessment be undertaken jointly by the Project Developer and other relevant Focal Points in the office or Bureau).
 2. Ensure that the Project Document incorporates the recommendations made in the implementing partner's environmental and social review.
 3. Summarize the relevant information contained in the implementing partner's environmental and social review in Annex A.2 of this Screening Template, selecting Category 1.
 4. Submit Annex A to the PAC, along with other relevant documentation.

QUESTION 2:

Do all outputs and activities described in the Project Document fall within the following categories?

- Procurement (in which case UNDP's [Procurement Ethics](#) and [Environmental Procurement Guide](#) need to be complied with)
- Report preparation
- Training
- Event/workshop/meeting/conference (refer to [Green Meeting Guide](#))
- Communication and dissemination of results

Select answer below and follow instructions:

- NO** → Continue to Question 3
- YES** → No further environmental and social review required. Complete Annex A.2, selecting Category 1, and submit the completed template (Annex A) to the PAC.

QUESTION 3:

Does the proposed project include activities and outputs that support *upstream* planning processes that potentially pose environmental and social impacts or are vulnerable to environmental and social change (refer to Table 3.1 for examples)? (Note that *upstream* planning processes can occur at global, regional, national, local and sectoral levels)

Select the appropriate answer and follow instructions:

NO → Continue to Question 4.

YES → Conduct the following steps to complete the screening process:

1. Adjust the project design as needed to incorporate UNDP support to the country(ies), to ensure that environmental and social issues are appropriately considered during the upstream planning process. Refer to Section 7 of this Guidance for elaboration of environmental and social mainstreaming services, tools, guidance and approaches that may be used.
2. Summarize environmental and social mainstreaming support in Annex A.2, Section C of the Screening Template and select "Category 2".
3. If the proposed project ONLY includes upstream planning processes then screening is complete, and you should submit the completed Environmental and Social Screening Template (Annex A) to the PAC. If downstream implementation activities are also included in the project then continue to Question 4.

TABLE 3.1 EXAMPLES OF UPSTREAM PLANNING PROCESSES WITH POTENTIAL DOWNSTREAM ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS	Check appropriate box(es) below
<p>1. Support for the elaboration or revision of global-level strategies, policies, plans, and programmes.</p> <p><i>For example, capacity development and support related to international negotiations and agreements. Other examples might include a global water governance project or a global MDG project.</i></p>	NO
<p>2. Support for the elaboration or revision of regional-level strategies, policies and plans, and programmes.</p> <p><i>For example, capacity development and support related to transboundary programmes and planning (river basin management, migration, international waters, energy development and access, climate change adaptation etc.).</i></p>	NO

TABLE 3.1 EXAMPLES OF UPSTREAM PLANNING PROCESSES WITH POTENTIAL DOWNSTREAM ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS	Check appropriate box(es) below
3. Support for the elaboration or revision of national-level strategies, policies, plans and programmes. <i>For example, capacity development and support related to national development policies, plans, strategies and budgets, MDG-based plans and strategies (e.g. PRS/PRSPs, NAMAs), sector plans.</i>	YES
4. Support for the elaboration or revision of sub-national/local-level strategies, policies, plans and programmes. <i>For example, capacity development and support for district and local level development plans and regulatory frameworks, urban plans, land use development plans, sector plans, provincial development plans, provision of services, investment funds, technical guidelines and methods, stakeholder engagement.</i>	YES

QUESTION 4:

Does the proposed project include the implementation of downstream activities that potentially pose environmental and social impacts or are vulnerable to environmental and social change?

To answer this question, you should first complete Table 4.1 by selecting appropriate answers. If you answer “No” or “Not Applicable” to all questions in Table 4.1 then the answer to Question 4 is “NO.” If you answer “Yes” to any questions in Table 4.1 (even one “Yes” can indicate a significant issue that needs to be addressed through further review and management) then the answer to Question 4 is “YES”:

- NO** → No further environmental and social review and management required for downstream activities. Complete Annex A.2 by selecting “Category 1”, and submit the Environmental and Social Screening Template to the PAC.
- YES** → Conduct the following steps to complete the screening process:
 1. Consult Section 8 of this Guidance, to determine the extent of further environmental and social review and management that might be required for the project.
 2. Revise the Project Document to incorporate environmental and social management measures. Where further environmental and social review and management activity cannot be undertaken prior to the PAC, a plan for undertaking such review and management activity within an acceptable period of

time, post-PAC approval (e.g. as the first phase of the project) should be outlined in Annex A.2.

3. Select “Category 3” in Annex A.2, and submit the completed Environmental and Social Screening Template (Annex A) and relevant documentation to the PAC.

Environmental and Social Screening Summary

Name of Proposed Project: Implementing Suriname REDD+ Readiness Plan 2014-2018

A. Environmental and Social Screening Outcome

Select from the following:

- Category 1. No further action is needed
- Category 2. Further review and management is needed. There are possible environmental and social benefits, impacts, and/or risks associated with the project (or specific project component), but these are predominantly indirect or very long-term and so extremely difficult or impossible to directly identify and assess.
- Category 3. Further review and management is needed, and it is possible to identify these with a reasonable degree of certainty.

B. Environmental and Social Issues

REDD+ readiness process is mainly dealing with capacity building and policy development. As such, the potential environmental and social impacts or benefits raised below are not direct. They depend on the directions that the national and local dialogues will take, in various technical, political or general spheres. At last, the potential impacts and benefits listed here do not intent to be complete but rather focus on major risks and opportunities. They cannot be considered as “no-go” like thresholds, but should facilitate the implementation of the project by raising attention on key areas of attention.

- Relevant stakeholders: the project may run the risk to empower stakeholders and representatives who are not legitimate. On the other hand, the project offers the opportunity for stakeholders to reinforce their representative structures, governance and accountability.

- Marginalisation: Some stakeholders and rightholders might suffer from lesser access to information and decision, in particular vulnerable and remote communities in the hinterland.

Addressing such an issue might, reversely, increase the capacity of marginalised population to take an active part in national affairs.

- Efficiency: the success of the project depends on its capacity to be managed effectively, which includes transparent and accountable fund and activity management, coordinated actions from partners to support national leadership, respect for the rule of law and justice... Failing to deliver efficiently runs the risk to design tools and policies that are unfair or unsustainable. Reversely, succeeding could help disseminate good practices and increase overall public efficiency throughout the country.
- Protection of rights: REDD+ readiness should support the country with meeting its national and international obligations in terms of respect and protection of stakeholders' rights, particularly for IP and Maroon peoples. The design of the national strategy should fully promote and strengthen these rights on land, territories and resources, as well as traditional knowledge and heritage
- Gender equity and equality: REDD+ offers an opportunity to empower Surinamese women to take a more active role in the sustainable development of the country
- Sustainable development: The way REDD+ strategy is designed and benefits are shared, whether under the form of strategic investments and incentives to targeted stakeholders or compensations, are expected to promote low-carbon sustainable development and reduce poverty. Robust quality standards will need to be met to prevent counter-productive incentives or restrictions. Benefits can be maximised by ensuring equitable benefits sharing with stakeholders and rightholders and valuing economic and social well-being particularly for most vulnerable groups, as well as permanence of environmental benefits in terms of carbon, biodiversity, protection of multiple ecosystem services and valuation of the multiple functions of forests
- Nature of policies and measures promoted: The readiness process will lead to policies, measures and programmes that might eventually have negative social or environmental impacts, like forced resettlement or conversion of natural forests. The related opportunity is to disseminate best practices in terms of social and environmental standards, impacts assessments, thresholds and benefits maximisation to other sectors like mining, infrastructures, agriculture etc.

C. Next Steps

The project includes provisions for a very agile and adaptive mechanism to manage the risks raised above, and maximise potential social and environmental benefits. These include:

- A multi-stakeholders REDD+ Steering Committee
- Transparency, access to information and specific activities to support to stakeholders with fewer capabilities for reaching out to their constituencies
- Respect for self-selection principle when nominating representatives, and support to IP and Maroon peoples for setting up legitimate and accountable platforms of representation
- Coordination of partners in support to national leadership, with the PRODOC as the entry point and coordinated roadmap for all stakeholders and partners.

- Performing fiduciary and fund management procedures for core and co-funding through UNDP, and formalised REDD+ Readiness Coordination Rules and Procedures applying to parallel support
- A feedback grievance and redress mechanism
- Design and implementation of FPIC
- Design and implementation of national standards
- Ambitious capacity building and training efforts for all major stakeholders and rightholders, including at the subnational level
- A strategic environmental and social assessment, with international expert oversight and peer-review, integrated to the process of formulating the national strategy and related policy measures etc.
- A cross-sectoral process, including for the formulation of national strategy, to ensure systemic approach to low-carbon sustainable development

D. Sign Off

Project Manager

Date

PAC

Date

Programme Manager

Date

Annex VI: Development of a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism to Support REDD+ Readiness in Suriname



Development of a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism to Support REDD+ Readiness in Suriname

Consultant's DRAFT Assessment Report

2 December 2013

**Development of a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism
To Support REDD+ Readiness in Suriname
Consultant's DRAFT Assessment Report**

1. ASSESSMENT PURPOSE AND APPROACH

This assessment was commissioned by UNDP Suriname, as a support to the ongoing development of REDD+ Readiness in Suriname. The objectives of the assessment are to:

- review the risks of grievances and disputes that may affect the REDD+ Readiness and/or implementation in Suriname,
- assess existing and proposed REDD+ feedback and grievance redress mechanisms (FGRMs) in light of those risks
- make recommendations on refinement and strengthening of existing and proposed FGRMs to maximize their capacity to manage and resolve grievances and disputes.

The assessment was conducted using a desk review of REDD+ documents and documents on the forest sector, extractive industries, politics, culture and the political economy of natural resources in Suriname; and a one-week field visit to Suriname. During that visit, the UN-REDD and consultant team interviewed representatives of government agencies, indigenous and Maroon tribes, and independent experts with experience in forest management and the social and political aspects of land and forests in Suriname.

The UN-REDD and consultant team have drawn on their own experience and expertise in designing and implementing grievance and dispute resolution systems; on the [*Joint UNDP-WB Guidance Note for REDD+ Countries on Grievance Resolution Mechanisms*](#); on insights offered by interviewees; and on document review for this assessment and as a basis for proposing options for further consideration.⁴

The UN-REDD and consultant team wishes to express its gratitude to all of the REDD+ stakeholders and experts we interviewed, and particularly to UNDP's Suriname Country Office for facilitating meetings and providing support throughout the visit.

2. BACKGROUND ON THE FOREST SECTOR IN SURINAME

Forest cover and demography: Suriname is a high forest, low deforestation (HFLD) country. It has the world's highest national percentage of forest cover: approximately 95% by recent estimates. The deforestation rate is estimated at less than 0.02% per year (Suriname R-PP 2013).

⁴ This Draft Report was prepared by David Fairman, Managing Director, Consensus Building Institute (www.cbuilding.org), for UNDP Suriname.

The country's population (of roughly 500,000), settlements and economic activity are concentrated in the north of the country on the Atlantic coast. The population in the interior is roughly 65,000, settled in more than 200 villages. Population density in the interior is very low. Most residents in the interior are from indigenous and Maroon communities (Suriname R-PP 2013).

Legal Framework: Suriname's legal framework for forest management includes constitutional, legislative and regulatory provisions; a recent legal judgment is also significant. Suriname's constitution establishes national government ownership of all natural resources. The Forest Management Act is the primary legal framework governing forest resources; the Mining Decree is also relevant as it establishes the procedure for mining permits to be issued on forest land. In 2008, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights decided a major land rights case in favor of a Maroon tribe, the Saramaka. The government of Suriname has acceded to the judgment, but significant questions about the judgment's implementation and its precedential impact on claims by other Maroon and indigenous peoples remain unsettled (UNDP 2013).

Economic activity and actors in forest areas: Historically, there has been limited commercial activity in the forested interior of Suriname. The primary resource users in the interior continue to be indigenous and maroon people, whose activities include harvest of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), farming, and small-scale mining.

The logging industry is relatively small, though there was an effort to expand it dramatically in the early 1990s via large-scale concessions. That controversial effort provoked international concern, and ultimately led to new regulations and institutions to ensure that logging would be sustainable and low-impact (Suriname R-PP 2013). According to the Suriname REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) there has been a substantial increase in logging in recent years (Suriname R-PP 2013), but its overall scale, impact on forest cover, and contributions to GDP remain modest.

In the postwar period, the most significant economic activities in the interior have been bauxite mining and aluminum smelting by Suralco in Para district, supported by the construction of the Afabako hydroelectric dam and Brokopondo Lake reservoir in the northeastern part of the country. Bauxite mines in Para district and near the coast are largely depleted. Other possible bauxite mining sites in eastern and western interior have been identified, but mining has not yet expanded to new areas.

There is a long history of small-scale gold mining in the eastern interior. Gold mining has expanded in recent years with the rise in gold prices; small-scale miners from Brazil have joined Surinamese in this activity, which is concentrated in eastern Suriname. Since the early 2000s, large-scale gold mining has also been undertaken at the Rosebel mine in Brokopondo District, currently operated by IAMGOLD. Another large-scale gold mine is under development (Suriname R-PP 2013). To date, the impact of the mining and energy development has been limited to the area of operations and associated infrastructure, and has not led to substantial follow-on deforestation or land conversion.

Roads in the interior: There are very few paved roads in the interior, and the only major north-south road in the interior ends just beyond the southern end of Brokopondo Lake. The absence of roads in the interior has been an important factor limiting in-migration from the coast. However, the government has plans to expand the road network southward from the coast through the interior, as part of a South American regional integration project (IIRSA); east-west roads are

also planned (Suriname R-PP 2013). The development of the road network could increase pressure on adjacent forests, both for settlement and for commercial logging.

3. BACKGROUND ON REDD+ IN SURINAME

Suriname's government seeks to use REDD+ as a tool to conserve Suriname's forests while promoting sustainable development. The stated strategic objective of REDD+ for Suriname is: "limiting the growth in the forest-transition curve and associated emissions, without limiting economic and social development" (Suriname R-PP 2013). The government and other stakeholders involved in the R-PP process in Suriname acknowledge that a substantial amount of institutional capacity development will be necessary to achieve this objective.

In essence, Suriname to date has remained an HFLD country primarily because of limited pressure from economic and demographic drivers of deforestation, rather than through government policy developed and supported with active stakeholder participation. It is likely that the land and resources in Suriname's interior will become increasingly valuable for non-conservation uses over the next generation. Therefore, Suriname and its international partners have a significant but time-limited opportunity to put in place a set of policies, strategies, incentives and practices to achieve the objective of remaining an HFLD country while advancing economic and social development.

The centerpiece of government's current planning efforts is the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP). The R-PP has been under development since 2010, with accelerated effort in 2012-2013. The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) approved Suriname's R-PP in May 2013, on the condition that Suriname and its implementing partner, UNDP, undertake several policy and technical actions (FCPF 2013). The R-PP lays out Suriname's plans to organize and engage stakeholders, develop a full REDD+ strategy and implementation plan, establish a baseline forest inventory, and establish ongoing systems for monitoring and evaluation of physical, environmental and socio-economic indicators relevant to REDD+ planning and implementation.

Effective mechanisms for grievance and dispute resolution are an important component of REDD+ management. The FCPF/UN-REDD R-PP Template calls for all participating countries to develop grievance redress mechanisms (GRMs). The primary purpose of GRMs is to ensure that national stakeholders who wish to raise concerns about actual or potential negative impacts of REDD+ , or who have a dispute with government or other REDD+ stakeholders, have an accessible forum for raising and resolving their concerns and disputes.

Recognizing this need, Suriname's R-PP lays out a plan to develop a national feedback and grievance response mechanism (FGRM) to address concerns, grievances and disputes that might arise in the readiness or implementation phase. In brief, the R-PP proposes to develop an "interim FGRM" with a new, multi-stakeholder Major Groups Collective (MGC) as the first level of grievance receipt and resolution; the Bureau for Contact with the People in the Cabinet of the President as the second level; and the Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change as the highest level body for grievance and dispute resolution.

The primary aim of this assessment is to support the work of Suriname's government and other REDD+ stakeholders to develop an FGRM, by reviewing the issues and stakeholders who are

potential users of an FGRM, assessing the existing institutional capacity to manage and resolve grievances and disputes involving those issues and stakeholders if they arise, and making recommendations on ways to refine the FGRM plan outlined in the R-PP to maximize its effectiveness.

4. POTENTIAL GRIEVANCE/DISPUTE RISKS RELATED TO REDD+

As noted in the background section above, Suriname is an HFLD country. That does not mean, however, that Suriname has no conflict over forest land and resources. Most notably, there are substantial and ongoing land claims disputes between the government and representatives of Maroon and indigenous peoples.

The Saramaka judgment recognizes Maroon and indigenous people's land rights as legitimate. It requires the government to demarcate indigenous and Maroon lands, and to grant collective legal title over those lands and associated resources to Maroon and indigenous groups, in order to ensure their cultural survival.

The court has also established that indigenous and Maroon rights to land are not absolute. The judgment states that those rights may be restricted in the national interest, "where the restrictions are: a) previously established by law, b) necessary, c) proportional, and d) with the aim of achieving a legitimate objective in a democratic society" (UNDP 2013, 7). Therefore, the judgment invites both deliberation and dispute over when and how the government may restrict those collective rights.

In the context of REDD+, unresolved land rights issues may trigger disputes during the readiness phase, as forest conservation and management strategies are developed. There may also be disputes during implementation with regard to forest management, monitoring, and/or benefit sharing.

It is important to note and acknowledge ongoing efforts by the government of Suriname and representatives of Maroon and indigenous peoples to resolve outstanding claims. Those efforts pre-date the Saramaka judgment and are continuing now in light of and in response to the judgment. However, in the absence of an agreed resolution, disputed land rights remain a very significant risk factor for REDD+ in Suriname.

A second type of risk arises from alternative (i.e. non-conservation) uses and users of forest land. The R-PP (Table 11, pp. 63-65) identifies six potential drivers of deforestation linked to alternative land uses:

- Mining
- Logging
- Agriculture
- Energy production
- Infrastructure development
- Housing development

Each of these alternatives may create conflict with REDD+ forest conservation objectives and activities. For example, disputes might also arise over government issuance of mining or logging

concessions, or the construction of roads and other infrastructure, in forest areas that REDD+ stakeholders intended to conserve.

In the recent past, it appears that the risk of grievances and disputes associated with mining and logging may be increasing, though there is no reliable source of data on grievances or disputes. In the mining sector, the increase in gold prices has stimulated the entry of major international mining companies (IAMGOLD, Newmont) and migrant miners from Brazil, and expansion of small-scale mining by Surinamese. The potential opening of new bauxite mines has also been a cause of concern. Though the geographic scope of these activities is limited, there is significant risk that the expansion of roads and increasing access to high-value mining areas could accelerate deforestation.

With regard to logging, large-scale commercial logging concessions have not been issued since the mid-1990s. The fact that reported logging volume has doubled in recent years (Suriname R-PP 2013) raises a question about its future trajectory and about how government policies and regulations in the forest sector will balance conservation, sustainable management and forest land conversion to other uses (e.g. palm oil plantations).

Finally, the potential expansion of north-south roads through the interior as part of the IISA initiative could be a major source of grievances and disputes related to REDD+, if road expansion triggers an influx of migrants to the interior, as it has in other countries (e.g. Brazil's Amazon region). This risk might be heightened if the road network facilitates legal or informal immigration from other countries into Suriname's interior.

Connected to each of these individual risks, the existence of unresolved indigenous and Maroon land issues raises the risk of conflict over any alternative use. First, there is the possibility of disputes over government-sponsored or –authorized activities (e.g. road construction or mining concessions) that affect forests claimed by indigenous or Maroon communities and managed by them to produce REDD+ benefits. Second, there is the possibility of disputes over activities authorized or undertaken by indigenous or Maroon communities (e.g. small-scale mining, land clearance for agriculture) that affect government-designated REDD+ conservation forests.

In short, Suriname has been fortunate to date that most conflicts over forest have been relatively localized, and that pressure on forest land has been low. There is no guarantee that Suriname will be equally fortunate in the future. The set of risk factors identified here suggests the need for a robust feedback and grievance response mechanism (FGRM), and also suggests the potential benefit of proactive dispute prevention strategies and policies.

5. KEY ISSUES IN DESIGN OF AN FGRM

This section briefly reviews existing mechanisms for addressing the most significant grievance/dispute risks, and it reviews the FGRM proposed in the R-PP. It raises several questions about the fit between the proposed FGRM and the set of needs and capacities in Suriname. The next section offers additional options for consideration in the development of a REDD+ FGRM for Suriname.

5.1. EXISTING PROCESSES AND MECHANISMS FOR ADDRESSING DISPUTE/GRIEVANCE RISKS

As noted above, outstanding land rights issues present a major risk of grievance and dispute for REDD+ in Suriname. There are ongoing processes to manage and resolve those issues. The Saramaka tribe's claims have been adjudicated through the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, resulting in a judgment recognizing those rights, also finding that they are not absolute, and directing the government of Suriname to give full legal recognition to those rights and to the juridical personality of indigenous and Maroon tribes. Specifically, the judgment finds that the government should:

- ensure the effective participation of indigenous and tribal peoples in conformity with their customs and traditions in formulating development or investment plans that affect them; and seek their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) prior to authorizing activities that could have major impacts on them;
- enable indigenous and Maroon people to participate fully in environmental and social impact assessment of projects and plans that could affect them
- ensure that indigenous and Maroon people benefit from projects on their lands, particularly when those projects will have negative impacts on them (UNDP 2013, 7-8).

Currently, there are multiple formal and *ad hoc* efforts to address disputes over implementation of the Saramaka Judgment. Those efforts involve Maroon and indigenous leaders and advocates, senior government officials, MPs, and the private sector. The primary institutional mechanism currently being pursued by the government (since mid-2013) is the establishment of a Presidential Land Rights Bureau and appointment of a Commissioner to lead the government's response to the claims and the Saramaka judgment. Prior to that appointment, the government response included several commissions, task forces and conferences, and a "roadmap" that was agreed in principle in 2011 but whose finalization and implementation have stalled.

Importantly, interviewees indicated that most indigenous and Maroon land claims have now been delimited (on maps) and many areas have also been demarcated (on the ground). In order to minimize the risk of disputes and grievances, completing the process of delimitation and demarcation and defining area-specific resource rights will be essential.

On the other hand, the assessment team heard that government's repeated transfer of responsibility for resolving Saramaka implementation issues across ministries and Commissioners has left indigenous and Maroon leaders frustrated. Some of those leaders perceive the transfers as a way of "buying time," or simply putting off a politically contentious issue.

From government's perspective, interviewees indicated that it has sometimes been challenging to work with the collective representation of the Saramaka people via VSG (The Association of Saramaka Authorities) and indigenous representatives via VIDS (The Association of Village Leaders of Suriname). In the view of some government interviewees, the leaders of these associations have not always been able to ensure alignment of their members, raising a question of how best to ensure full and final resolution of land claims by the full range of indigenous and Maroon claimants.

In short, at the national level, there is ongoing claims resolution work, but there are major outstanding issues with regard to representation, mutual commitments, and finality of determinations.

With regard to non-conservation land uses and users in forest areas (mining, logging, infrastructure, conversion to agriculture), there is less clarity about existing mechanisms for grievance and dispute resolution. Based on multiple interviews with a range of government and non-government stakeholders who have been involved in disputes and their resolution, the assessment team has developed the following understanding.

For grievances related to commercial land/resource concessions and public infrastructure, commonly used channels are

a) **Complaints to local police.** The police tend to be involved when local residents believe that commercial mining or logging operations are either illegal or are having clear negative impacts on them; when there are disputes among local forest land users, e.g. about pollution from small scale mining; or when commercial mining or logging companies believe local residents are unlawfully interfering with their operations.

b) **Complaints to local (resort or district) representatives and/or to MPs.** The assessment team heard that local government representatives are generally perceived as ineffective in resolving disputes. However, in particular cases where personal relationships between local representatives and the disputing/ aggrieved parties are strong, or where local representatives are known to have good contacts in national government, they may be helpful. MPs are seen as more influential, particularly with regard to the operation of government-issued concessions, and with regard to plans or proposals for future commercial activity, such as mining, that raises serious concerns for local residents. However, it was also noted that MPs are sometimes interested parties in commercial land transactions, so they are not always motivated to respond fully to residents' concerns.

c) **Petitions to Ministers and the President.** Suriname has the advantage of being a very small country, with relatively accessible senior political leaders who see response to individual constituents as an important part of their work. The assessment team heard several accounts of direct petitions to Ministers and/or to the President leading to successful resolution of grievances and disputes. Several interviewees noted the President's decision to stop a planned river diversion project in response to concerns raised by residents in the interior who would have been adversely affected. However, for residents in the interior, communication with and travel to Paramaribo can be time-consuming and expensive. Moreover, some projects with government support are effectively insulated from local resident appeals and petitions.

There are clear merits to each of these channels, and also clear limitations. For purposes of REDD+, it would be unwise to assume that these relatively informal channels will be sufficient to ensure systematic, effective grievance and dispute resolution. The team that drafted the R-PP has offered several additional mechanisms to increase the likelihood that grievances and disputes will be systematically received, assessed and resolved.

5.2. DISPUTE PREVENTION AND FGRM MECHANISMS OUTLINED IN R-PP

The R-PP includes at least two processes and institutions that are designed primarily for consultation and joint decision making, but may also be useful for both preventing and resolving grievances and disputes.

REDD+ Steering Committee: First, the REDD+ Steering Committee (RSC) is designed to be a multi-stakeholder forum for deliberation and development of REDD+ strategies, and for oversight of implementation. With NIMOS (National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname) as its secretariat and implementing arm, the RSC is designed as “an independent oversight and advisory body” with representation from “governmental institutions, the private sector, indigenous, Maroon and other forest-dependent communities, civil society and academia.” Along with its responsibilities for advice and information sharing among the stakeholders, the RSC “will also serve conduit to bring forward any concerns and requests for clarification from their corresponding constituencies” (Suriname R-PP 2013).

If well designed and managed, the RSC can anticipate and prevent a wide range of potential grievances and disputes, both those related specifically to indigenous and tribal land issues, and those related to government allocation of forest land for non-conservation uses. By bringing together the main government Ministries, private sector mining and logging representatives, indigenous and Maroon peoples, the RSC can identify potential conflicts of interest that proposed REDD+ strategies may raise, and can also identify potential area-specific land use and conservation conflicts.

Though the RSC has high potential for dispute prevention, it will need to develop clear and agreed Terms of Reference and guidelines on representation, decision making and dispute resolution among its members. It will also be very important to clarify whether, when, and how decisions made by the RSC are binding on government Ministries.

Free, Prior, Informed Consent Protocols: Second, the R-PP lays out a plan for consultation with and participation of indigenous and Maroon communities in developing and implementing REDD+ strategies. At the center of the plan are FPIC protocols, to be developed in collaboration with each tribal group (Suriname R-PP 2013). Government, UNDP, indigenous and Maroon representatives jointly developed this plan.

If implemented effectively, the FPIC protocols are likely to be a powerful tool for preventing and resolving grievances and disputes at an early stage. However, in order for the protocols to be effective, the FPIC approach must be accepted and used systematically by Suriname’s government agencies, and procedures for negotiation and dispute resolution among government, indigenous and business actors during the conduct of FPIC processes must be developed. Likewise, indigenous and tribal people must work out their internal procedures for determining whether there is community consent, resolving internal disagreements, and binding the full community to respect consent when it is given.

FGRM for dispute and grievance resolution: The R-PP also proposes a dedicated REDD+ feedback and grievance redress mechanism, with three “tiers” or sequential opportunities for dispute resolution: first, a new Major Groups Collaborative; second, the Bureau for Contact with the People in the Cabinet of the President; and third, the Parliamentary Commission on Climate Change (Suriname R-PP 2013).

The Major Groups Collaborative (MGC) is envisioned to include representatives of the nine “major groups” defined in Agenda 21 and recognized by the government of Suriname: business and industry, children and youth, farmers, indigenous and tribal people, local authorities, NGOs, scientific and technological community, women, workers and trade unions. The R-PP submitted in March 2013 indicated that the MGC had recently been formed; interviewees indicated that as of September 2013, it was still in a formative stage. For purposes of grievance and dispute resolution, the MGC is supposed to act as a two-way channel for stakeholders from these groups to raise concerns and complaints related to REDD+ readiness activities and potential strategies, and for the members of the MGC to address and resolve those concerns where possible.

If the MGC is not successful in resolving a grievance or dispute, it can forward the case to the Bureau for Contact with the People, which is empowered by the Cabinet of the President to assist in resolving disputes and grievances involving the government, somewhat like a national ombudsman office, and empowered by its placement within the highest level government body. Finally, if the Bureau for Contact with the People were unsuccessful in resolving the grievance or dispute, it could forward the case to the Parliamentary Commission on Climate Change, which has an oversight role with regard to REDD+.

The R-PP envisions that whenever the Bureau for Contact with the People or the Parliamentary Commission on Climate Change was involved in a case, proposed resolutions would be reviewed by the MGC before a final decision or resolution.

5.3. ISSUES RELATED TO THE PROPOSED FGRM

In assessing the potential of the proposed three-tier FGRM to resolve disputes, it is useful to note the primary characteristics of effective and legitimate GRMs, as laid out in the Joint UNDP-WB Guidance Note on Grievance Resolution Mechanisms (UNDP-WB 2013, 2-3). That guidance highlights the following key characteristics of effective GRMs:

Legitimate: enabling trust from the stakeholder groups for whose use they are intended, and being accountable for the fair conduct of grievance processes.

Accessible: being known to all stakeholder groups for whose use they are intended, and providing adequate assistance for those who may face particular barriers to access.

Predictable: providing a clear and known procedure with an indicative timeframe for each stage, and clarity on the types of process and outcome available and means of monitoring implementation.

Equitable: seeking to ensure that aggrieved parties have reasonable access to sources of information, advice and expertise necessary to engage in a grievance process on fair, informed and respectful terms.

Transparent: keeping parties to a grievance informed about its progress, and providing sufficient information about the mechanism’s performance to build confidence in its effectiveness and meet any public interest at stake.

Rights compatible: ensuring that outcomes and remedies accord with internationally recognized human rights.

Enabling continuous learning: drawing on relevant measures to identify lessons for improving the mechanism and preventing future grievances and harms.

Based on engagement and dialogue: consulting the stakeholder groups for whose use they are intended on their design and performance, and focusing on dialogue as the means to address and resolve grievances.

In addition, it is very important to assess the institutional capacity of the GRM to manage and resolve grievances and disputes. A mechanism that on paper appears to align well with the characteristics listed above may nonetheless fail in practice, if the human and organizational resources to support it are inadequate or misaligned.

In brief, each tier of the proposed FGRM could do well on many of the characteristics listed above. However, there are significant capacity questions about the MGC, and significant transparency and accessibility questions about both the Bureau for Contact with the People and the Parliamentary Commission on Climate Change. There may also be potential conflicts of interest for the Bureau for Contact with the People and the Parliamentary Commission on Climate Change for some cases, particularly though not exclusively cases involving indigenous and Maroon land rights.

More specifically, the proposed FGRM raises the following issues:

Major Groups Collaborative:

- The MGC would have merit of independence from government, strengthening its legitimacy, and could likely operate with a high degree of transparency and accessibility.
- However, the non-governmental nature of the MGC (with the partial exception of local authorities) may be a major problem in many cases, where governmental decisions and authorities are be involved, and where the MGC would not be empowered to engage government stakeholders on an equal footing with complainants. In particular, it seems unlikely that the MGC would be able to revise or challenge a proposed resolution offered by the Bureau for Contact with the People or by the Parliamentary Commission on Climate Change.
- Its multi-sectoral composition could enable the MGC to create task teams from its membership that are tailored to the issues and stakeholders in particular disputes. However, the MGC's collective capacity to manage and resolve disputes is an open question, given that none of its members is likely to have specialized expertise in this domain, and given that many disputes will be specific to a small subset of the MGC's members (indigenous and Maroon groups, businesses with a focus on natural resource extraction, and perhaps some NGOs).
- There is likely to be significant overlap of MGC membership with RSC membership, and this may also create confusion about roles.

Bureau for Contact with the People (BCP):

- The BCP is little known by stakeholders interviewed. Questions were raised about its lack of transparency, about its perceived legitimacy in the eyes of non-government stakeholders, about its ability to act impartially on issues involving government interests, given its location in cabinet.
- BCP's capacity to act as effective dispute resolution entity is also uncertain. Some government interviewees indicated that they knew of cases where the BCP had successfully facilitated dispute resolution, but the fact that so few stakeholders we interviewed had any awareness of the BCP suggests that its activity and impact to date have been limited.

Parliamentary Commission on Climate Change (PCCC):

- PCCC's representation of political decision makers in Parliament could position it well to address highly polarized disputes with a political dimension.
- However, PCCC's capacity to act cohesively as an impartial dispute resolution body is questionable, given that it is composed of MPs who may have divergent perspectives and interests on issues brought to it.
- Transparency and predictability may be a major challenges for PCCC as well, given that individual MPs may prefer to act "behind the scenes" to minimize the political risks involved in taking on a dispute resolution role.
- Capacity is also a major question for the PCCC, given that it is a group of parliamentarians who have limited time to facilitate dispute resolution given their other commitments.

6. ADDITIONAL FGRM OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The R-PP drafting team and the full complement of REDD+ stakeholders who contributed to the development of the R-PP are to be commended for a creative and thoughtful set of ideas with regard to grievance resolution. Given the issues raised above, the R-PP drafting team and REDD+ stakeholders may wish to consider additional options for refining and strengthening the proposed FRGM. Following are several such options.

6.1. ENSURE THAT THE REDD+ STEERING COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROCEDURES INCLUDE CLEAR GUIDELINES ON REPRESENTATION, DELIBERATION AND DECISION MAKING

As noted above, the RSC has high potential as a dispute and grievance prevention mechanism. Several steps could be taken to help the RSC realize that potential.

- It will be very important for indigenous and Maroon people to clarify how they will be represented in the RSC; the extent of their representatives' authority to speak on behalf of individual tribes and villages; and processes for consultation by their RSC representatives with tribe and village leaders. The goal of those processes should be to ensure that representatives have clear authority, that both indigenous and Maroon communities and other stakeholders understand and respect that authority, and that there is effective consultation between representatives and their constituents before final decisions are made, so that particular groups and leaders do not challenge decisions after they are made.
- By the same token, it will be very important for government to clarify who will coordinate government agency representation and ensure that government can speak with one voice when necessary, while also ensuring that the full range of government interests is represented. In particular, it will be important to clarify whether this inter-ministerial coordination responsibility falls to NIMOS (in its role as Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Advisory Committee), or to another body or level of government.

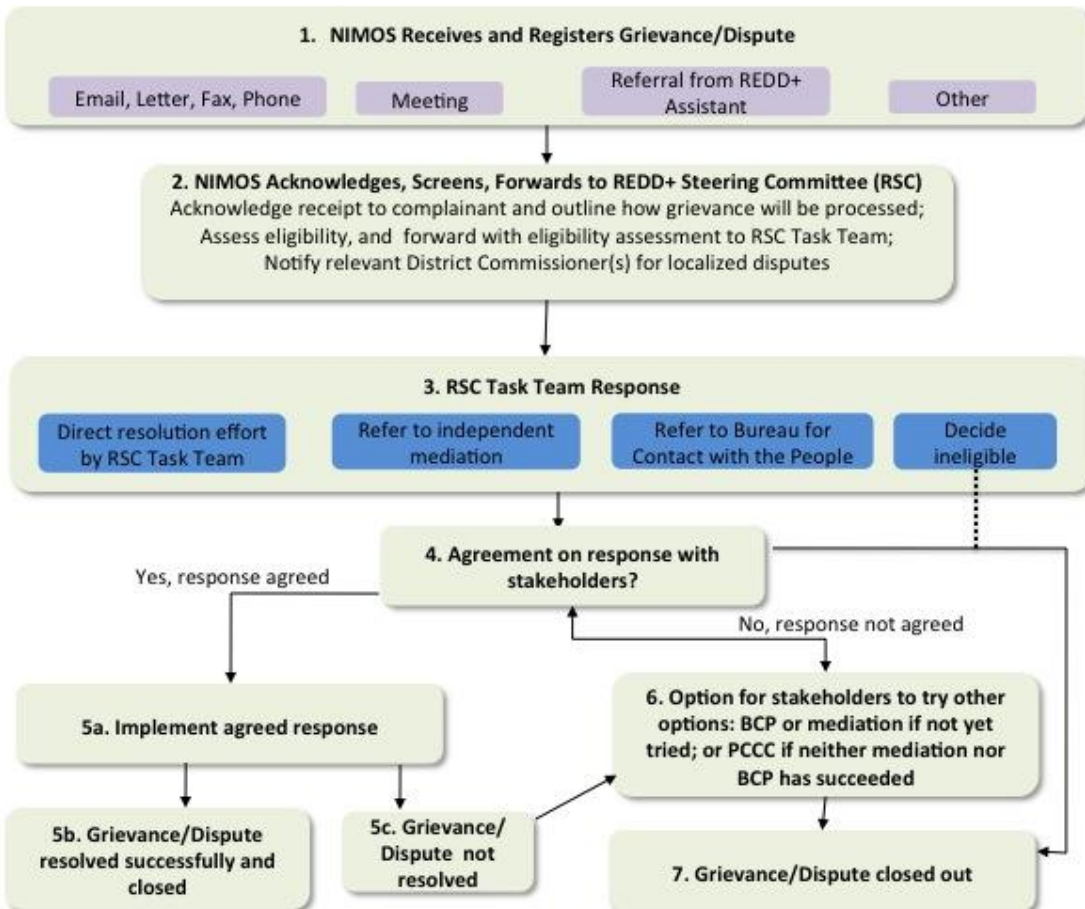
- The RSC will also need clear ground rules on how its meeting agendas are set, how discussion and dialogue proceed at Steering Committee meetings, how points for information, action and decision are recorded, how information should be exchanged and discussion advanced between meetings.
- Most importantly, the RSC will need to specify how it makes decisions (e.g. by seeking consensus with voting as a fallback if consensus cannot be reached, or by some other set of procedures).
- RSC's decision authority (if any) vis. individual government agencies, the Cabinet and Parliament should also be made very clear. Because the Steering Committee is a multi-stakeholder body, it will need to clarify which of its decisions are binding commitments by government and non-government stakeholders participating, and which are agreed recommendations that will require review and decision by government or non-government stakeholders, with final decisions reported back to the Steering Committee.

6.2. CLARIFY THE FUNCTIONING OF THE PROPOSED FGRM ELEMENTS AND HOW THEY INTER-RELATE

In brief, it may be advisable to position the RSC rather than the MGC as the first tier for dispute resolution in the FGRM. NIMOS could support RSC as the secretariat for receipt, logging, acknowledgement and eligibility screening of grievances and disputes. RSC could be the main body responsible for reviewing and responding to disputes. Because RSC may have limited capacity to resolve complex disputes, it may be advisable to establish an independent mediation option that the RSC could offer to stakeholders involved in grievances and disputes. Independent mediation capacity could be developed, using Suriname-based individuals who have skills in dispute resolution, and possibly bringing in other experts from the Caribbean and South America where appropriate.

In this revised version of the FRGM tiers, both the BCP and the PCCC could remain as options (but not requirements) for dispute resolution. The MGC would take responsibility for providing information about the FGRM and how to access it to the constituencies it represents. Finally, the REDD+ Assistants might be used to facilitate communication between local communities and the RSC about grievances and disputes.

On the next page is a diagram laying out the way the FGRM could work, with the revisions suggested above.



Following is a more detailed presentation of options for refining the FRGM along the lines laid out above.

- REDD+ Steering Committee (RSC):** In the consultant’s view, the RSC is more likely than than the MGC to be effective as the “first tier” for reviewing and responding to grievances and disputes. Because the RSC is a multi-stakeholder body that also includes broad and deep government representation, and because it has authority over many aspects of REDD+ strategy development and implementation, it is far more likely than the MGC to have the right combination of capacity, influence and the legitimacy to handle a wide range of grievances and disputes.

If REDD+ stakeholders agree with this assessment of the RSC’s potential, then it would be advisable to Include in the RSC’s ToR an explicit mandate to support dispute resolution. The ToR should clarify how the RSC will organize itself to meet that mandate. For example the ToR could call for a standing FGRM sub-committee to review grievances, and/or for the formation of FGRM Task Teams in response to specific requests for grievance/dispute resolution. Any FGRM sub-committee/Task Team should be balanced in composition (government and non-government), and RSC members with a

direct interest or role in a particular grievance/dispute should act as parties, not as “neutral” dispute resolvers.

In particular cases, the RSC could

- take direct action to resolve the grievance/dispute (e.g. bring the relevant parties together to discuss and resolve the issue themselves with oversight by the RSC);
 - request further information to clarify the issue, and share that information with all relevant parties, or ensure that a government agency represented on the Steering Committee took an appropriate administrative action to deal with a complaint);
 - refer the grievance/dispute to the BCP or to independent mediation (see mediation option below), while maintaining oversight; or
 - determine that the request was outside the scope and mandate of the RSC and refer it elsewhere (e.g. to Ministry of Justice and Police or to the courts).
- **NIMOS:** Given the central coordinating and management role that NIMOS is expected to play, it would be advisable to give NIMOS responsibility to serve as the secretariat for the FGRM. NIMOS could take responsibility for
 - publicizing the existence of the FGRM and the procedure for using it (directly, and by ensuring that RSC and MGC members educate their organizations and constituencies);
 - receiving and log requests for grievance/dispute resolution;
 - acknowledging receipt to the requestor; determining eligibility (using a simple set of eligibility criteria);
 - forwarding eligible requests to the RSC for review and action, and
 - tracking and documenting efforts at grievance/dispute resolution and their outcomes.
 - **MGC:** As noted above, it is the consultant’s view that the RSC is better suited than the MGC to be the “first tier” of the FGRM. If this view is accepted by the REDD+ stakeholders, then they will need to re-consider the role of the MGC. MGC’s highest value may be for social communication and education about REDD+ as an opportunity to support the sustainable development and conservation of Suriname’s extraordinary natural resources. MGC’s outreach and communication could include information about the FGRM and how to use it. Members of the MGC who also sit on the REDD+ Steering Committee could also support dispute resolution in specific cases where engagement of their constituencies would be relevant and helpful.
 - **Bureau for Contact with the People (BCP):** Respecting the view of a number of government stakeholders that the BCP can be a useful mechanism for dispute resolution in some cases, but also recognizing that other stakeholders have real concerns about its legitimacy, transparency and independence, it may be advisable to offer the BCP as an option, *but not as a requirement*, to stakeholders involved in grievances and disputes. The BCP could be an option at two stages in the dispute resolution process: after initial review by the Steering Committee, if the Steering Committee is unable to resolve the dispute and if the stakeholders want to go direct to BCP, rather than using independent mediation (see option for mediation below); or following an effort at mediation, if that

effort fails to resolve the grievance/dispute. If the BCP is to be involved in the REDD+ FGRM, it would be advisable to ensure that

- BCP's Terms of Reference, including its staffing; its relationship to the Cabinet; and any aspects of its structure or procedure that are designed to ensure impartiality and independence from specific government interests; are made public and are available to stakeholders who may wish to consider BCP as an option for resolving grievances and disputes;
 - BCP has clear and transparent procedures for receiving, responding to, and resolving disputes;
 - there is a clear and transparent procedure for BCP to refer unresolved disputes to mediation, to the Parliamentary Commission on Climate Change, or back to the RSC; and
 - BCP has a format and protocol for documenting its work on REDD+ cases and sharing that documentation with the RSC.
- **Parliamentary Commission on Climate Change (PCCC):** It may well be worth experimenting with the PCCC as the final tier of dispute resolution, for stakeholders whose disputes have not been resolved at previous stages (by the RSC, BCP or independent mediation). If the PCCC is to play this role, it will be important to provide the following:
 - Clear PCCC terms of reference and procedures for its dispute resolution role, including definition of conflict of interest, declaration of conflict of interest for each case, and recusal by any member of the PCCC who declares conflict of interest.
 - Clear definition of the types of disputes that can be brought to the PCCC, and the actions that PCCC can take to resolve disputes (such as conciliation/mediation; dialogue with or formal review of relevant government ministries/agencies; providing a binding opinion (only if the stakeholders consent to be bound and have a legally enforceable way of binding themselves); and/or raising the issue for consideration by the full Parliament and the President.
 - Specification of the kinds of disputes that should not be brought to the PCCC (e.g. very local disputes that do not raise significant national policy issues, or disputes that are primarily between a single Ministry and an aggrieved party and which should be resolvable directly by the Ministry, etc.).

6.3. ADD A MEDIATION OPTION TO THE FGRM

As noted above, each of the initial proposed elements of the FGRM structure raises some questions about capacity to facilitate dispute/grievance resolution, and about perceived impartiality. The refinements recommended above can partially, but probably not fully, address these issues of capacity and impartiality.

An independent mediation option would further strengthen the FGRM. Mediation is a voluntary process in which parties to a dispute work with a competent, impartial mediator to explore the issues in the dispute, understand each other's interests and concerns, develop and negotiate options to resolve the dispute, and, if satisfactory options can be developed, resolve the dispute

through a voluntary agreement. The parties, not the mediator, take the lead in developing options, and the parties, not the mediator, decide whether to agree to a particular option.

For the FGRM, this independent mediation option could include:

- a roster/panel of independent mediators (independence meaning that mediators should not be employed by government or any other stakeholder represented on the Steering Committee, should not be highly dependent on any one stakeholder for their livelihood, and should have no conflict of interest on any specific case they would mediate);
- a procedure for the RSC to refer disputes to this panel with the consent of the parties in dispute;
- a set of guidelines for mediation that would be followed by mediators and parties involved in mediation;
- a mechanism to fund the work of mediators on the roster/panel to resolve disputes; and
- a procedure to document the process and outcome of mediation as part of the RSC's tracking of grievance/dispute handling.

Mediators on the roster/panel should have at least the following qualifications:

- professional experience and expertise in impartial mediation;
- knowledge of forest management issues in Suriname and the region, including an understanding of indigenous and tribal culture and practices;
- Dutch language proficiency;
- availability in principle for assignments of up to 20 days; and
- willingness to declare all relationships and interests that may affect their ability to act as impartial mediators in particular cases.

If mediation succeeded in resolving the dispute or grievance, the outcome would be documented by NIMOS and reviewed by the Steering Committee. If it were unsuccessful, stakeholders would have the option to return to the RSC for assistance; use the BCP (if they had not already tried to); or, if both mediation and the BCP had been tried, request that the RSC refer their case to the PCCC.

6.4. USE REDD+ ASSISTANTS TO SUPPORT GRIEVANCE/DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In discussing how local residents in the interior would gain access to the FGRM, some stakeholders raised a significant concern that communities and community members in the interior will find it challenging (in terms of distance, cost, and time) to use an FGRM based in Paramaribo.

One option to facilitate access to the FGRM would be to have the REDD+ Assistants to serve as first point of contact for community members and local business interests who have concerns about REDD+. The REDD+ Assistants are a group of members of indigenous and Maroon communities, selected by their leaders, and trained to understand and be able to explain REDD+ concepts, institutions and procedures to people living in their towns and villages (Suriname R-PP 2013).

The first group of twenty REDD+ Assistants (2 from each of the four indigenous tribes and six Maroon tribes) have already been involved in facilitating outreach and communication about REDD+ in their communities. The same group (and others who may be trained later) could assist in providing information about the FGRM and how to use it; serve as first points of contact within their communities; and also serve as points of contact and information for local authorities (District Commissioner, District Committee, Resort Committee, police) with regard to complaints and concerns related to REDD+ activities.

To build the capacity of REDD+ Assistants to play this role, additional training could be provided, including an overview of the FGRM, its purpose, procedures and options; basic skills in responding to individuals who are involved in disputes and grievances; and clear procedural guidance on the roles that REDD+ Assistants would play in communicating with the RSC and local authorities about grievances and disputes.

6.5. ENSURE THAT DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS ARE INFORMED ABOUT REDD+ FGRM, AND ABOUT DISPUTES AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION EFFORTS IN THEIR DISTRICTS

Over the next several years, as the central government's decentralization initiative continues, it may be possible for REDD+ to link more closely to increasingly empowered local authorities for grievance/dispute resolution. The role of local authorities may be particularly relevant to highly localized disputes, for instance among local forest users involved in REDD+, farmers and small scale miners. However, for the time being the capacity and legitimacy of local authorities remains highly uneven, and their role in grievance and dispute resolution should only grow as and when they have increased authority, capacity and accountability to local residents.

During the Readiness phase, it is important to ensure that District Commissioners are informed about REDD+ overall, and about REDD+ mechanisms to prevent and resolve disputes. They should also be notified of any specific disputes in their districts that have been brought to the RSC, and informed about the process of dispute resolution efforts and their outcomes. NIMOS, potentially supported by the REDD+ assistants, could take the lead on this information sharing. The MGC could also assist, particularly through its local authority representatives.

7. NEXT STEPS

This assessment has presented an overview of the forest sector in Suriname, the likely grievance and dispute risks associated with REDD+, current and proposed mechanisms for preventing and resolving forest-related grievances and disputes, and options for strengthening those mechanisms in order to minimize the number of serious disputes and grievances associated with REDD+ in Suriname.

The assessment team plans the following next steps:

- Invite comment on this draft assessment from REDD+ stakeholders in Suriname
- Incorporate feedback and finalize report
- Brief a consultant who will draft the UNDP project document on this assessment and its implications for UNDP and partners' work in the Readiness phase.

- Work with the consultant to follow up on remaining questions in country; finalize activities and incorporate text and activities into the UNDP project document.

The assessment team again wishes to thank all Suriname REDD+ stakeholders whom we interviewed. We look forward to receiving feedback on this draft report.

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PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Mr. Errol Alibux, Advisor of the President

Ms. Josee Artist, VIDS Bureau Staff

Mr. Lesley Artist, Chairman, VIDS

Mr. Edward Belfort, Minister of Justice and Police

Ms. Lisa Best, Former assistant R-PP project

Mrs. Theresa Castillo and Jacinta Asarfi, National Security Staff, Cabinet of the President

Mrs. Jennifer Geerlings-Simons, Speaker of the Parliament

Mr. John Goedschalk, Director Conservation International Suriname; Government focal point, UNFCCC

Ms. Gina Griffith, NIMOS

Mr. Chris Healy, Director of Amazon Conservation Team Suriname

Mr. Jim Hok, Minister of Natural Resources

Mrs. Inez Huyzen – Sedney, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Police

Mr. Hugo Jabini, Chairman, The Association of Saramaka Authorities

Mr. Ramses Kajoeramare, Member of VIDS

Mr. R. van Kanten, Director, Tropenbos Suriname

Mr. H. Lim A Po, Attorney

Mr. Martin Misidjan, Presidential Commissioner for Land Rights

Mrs. Ellen Naarendorp, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Max Ooft, VIDS Bureau staff

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Annex VI

Agreed Responsibilities for Suriname's UNDP REDD+ Readiness project, DOA letter