



**Inter-American Development
Bank**

Grant Reporting and Monitoring National REDD+ Strategy Guyana

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Guyana's progress in the preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy, can be summarized as follows:

Component 1: Institutional Arrangements and Consultation:

- a. Establishment and operationalization of national readiness management institutions and arrangements:
 - i. Support the establishment of the REDD Secretariat. The REDD Secretariat has been supported with the contracting of 5 staff members. These staff members have been participating in outreach activities, as well as South-South cooperation visits to various countries (Guatemala, Peru and Suriname).
 - ii. Provide institutional strengthening and capacity building for the National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG). The PEU has established a FCFP Project Steering Committee, whose role is to provide oversight and guidance on the FCPF Grant. Representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources, as well as academia, Guyana Forestry Commission and Indigenous organizations are represented. The Steering Committee meets regularly and discusses the implementation of the activities.
 - iii. Development and establishment of a national conflict resolution strategy. A mechanism was developed by mid-2018 after extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders throughout the country.

- b. Stakeholder consultation and participation
 - i. *Development of a communication, outreach and consultation strategy and stakeholder engagement on REDD+ Readiness activities in Guyana and develop an outreach and consultation strategy, and an action plan for REDD+ Strategy Implementation.* A firm was contracted by December 2017 to implement both activities 1b(i) and (ii). So far, a strategy and action plan has been developed, as well as different outreach materials such as videos, radio programmes, brochures, posters and a guide for teachers. The materials have been developed after intensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure local input. For the remainder of 2019, these outreach materials will be further distributed to all the regions in Guyana, and the website and social media channels that have been developed will be utilized to further share information¹.
 - ii. *Implementation of the communication, outreach and consultation strategy and action plan and conduction of consultation activities.* A firm was contracted by December 2017 to implement both activities 1b(i) and (ii).
 - iii. *Disseminate materials for consultations through various media.* The PEU has contracted a PR officer from 2017 who has ensured the dissemination various progress activities

¹ <https://reddplusguyana.org/home>

throughout different media, including TV, radio and newspapers. From December 2017 onwards, a firm was contracted to implement activities 1b (i) and (ii), and they have been working diligently to realize further dissemination of awareness materials and information on the progress of the REDD+ Readiness activities.

Component 2 : REDD+ strategy and Implementation Framework:

- a. *REDD+ Strategy Options developed.* The work of the consultant undertaking the design of the REDD+ Strategy and SESA is ongoing. So far, main deliverables include: the Analysis of Direct and Indirect Drivers of Deforestation based on a Governance Assessment.
- b. *REDD+ Implementation framework:*
 - i. The training on the interpretation and implementation of natural resource legislation including safeguards has not commenced as yet, expected to contract an individual by June 2019
 - ii. Communication link with other countries has been established: South-South cooperation visits have been realized with Guatemala, Peru and Suriname, where not only representatives of the Project Executing Unit participated (PEU) but also representatives of Indigenous organizations.
 - iii. Analyze land tenure and carbon ownership. This consultancy was signed on Feb 2019, and thus so far no significant progress can be reported. The consultant has organized the initial workshop and further engagements and analyses are ongoing.
 - iv. Establish an equitable and mutually agreeable benefit sharing mechanism. This consultancy has been merged with activity 2b (iii).
- c. *Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment (SESA).* This activity has been incorporated under 2(a) ; one firm responsible for both 2(a) and 2(c). Activity 2(c) has delivered so far the following deliverable: "Social and Environmental Considerations in the Design of REDD+ Strategy". No other progress to be reported.

Component 3: Monitoring and Readiness Activities

- i. *Designing a monitoring and evaluation framework.* The framework will be developed in 2019, and needs to be approved by the REDD Secretariat and IDB.
- ii. *Developing progress reports.* Since the start of the project, the PEU has been submitting semi-annual progress reports to the IDB, as well as the annual FCPF reports.

2. DISBURSEMENT SUMMARY

Component	Total Funds per component (US\$)	Allocated Funds (US\$)		Available Funds (US\$)
		Committed	Disbursed	
Component 1: Institutional arrangements and consultations for REDD+	2,136,000	1,616,483	981,795	1,154,205
<i>Subcomponent 1a: Establishment and operationalization of national readiness management institutions and arrangements</i>	1,288,662	848,345	597,726	690,936
<i>Subcomponent 1b: Stakeholder consultation and participation</i>	847,338	768,138	384,069	463,269
Component 2: REDD+ strategy and implementation framework	1,589,000	778,740	353,091	1,235,909
<i>Subcomponent 2a: REDD+ Strategy options developed</i>	910,625	373,497	231,627	678,998
<i>Subcomponent 2b: REDD+ implementation framework</i>	323,700	50,569	50,529	273,171
<i>Subcomponent 2c: SESA</i>	354,675	354,675	70,935	283,740
Component 3: Monitoring and Evaluation of Readiness activities	75,000	60,988	26,221	48,780
TOTAL (US\$)	3,800,000	2,456,212	1,361,107	2,438,893

3. PROGRAM SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

I. Describe progress in how the Grant activities are being coordinated with other REDD+ related initiatives, included those funded by others:

The REDD Secretariat for Guyana was established in 2008, as a unit within the Guyana Forestry Commission. The Secretariat has been receiving funding mainly by the Guyana Forestry Commission, with resources support as well from the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF). Lastly, the FCPF grant also contributed to further financial support of 5 staff for a period of around 2 years.

The Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF) has largely funded the establishment of Guyana's national forest MRV, which is one of the responsibilities of the REDD Secretariat. Hence, under this Grant, there are no assigned activities towards the MRV framework, but work continues to further enhance Guyana's MRV.

Links between FCPF program and complementary programs

There are a number of complementary programs to which the Guyana FCPF program can be linked:

(i) WWF Guyana in collaboration with GFC, Protected Areas Commission and NRDDDB: Creation of a participatory MRV that is replicable, sustainable and manageable by communities. According to the WWF "This project successfully contributed to strengthening Guyana's national MRV system through the inclusion of community participation, and helped clarify what it would take to prepare a community for opt-in – the mechanism that will provide titled indigenous communities the opportunity to participate in, and benefit from REDD+ and the Guyana-Norway Agreement".

(ii) CIFOR Global Comparative Study on REDD+ in collaboration with Iwokrama and GFC. According to CIFOR, "the GCS REDD+ project builds on 21 years of CIFOR efforts to understand the causes of deforestation and forest degradation as well as to elaborate what can be done to reverse those trends in tropical countries". Iwokrama is leading the preparation of Guyana REDD+ country profile.

(iii) NORAD funded MRVS Phase 2 project. In 2017 Guyana received the first tranche of a US\$6.34 million grant from the Kingdom of Norway to finance the second phase of the forest monitoring mechanism. This second phase of the MRV programme is to be seen as a tool for measuring Guyana's forest cover to assist in decision-making for a range of activities. The funds will be dispersed in tranches through CI-G in a multi-year arrangement.

(iv) GGMC land reclamation project. A pilot project was successfully implemented and the MNR intends to mainstream the land conversion activity into other mining operations. This initiative has high potential for enhancement of forest carbon stocks, a key objective of REDD+.

(v) GLSC, in collaboration with FAO "Mainstreaming of sustainable land development and management in Guyana". The GRIF-funded US\$15 million project includes measures for land reclamation and development, and implementation of a land classification system to optimise land use.

(vi) MoIPA, in collaboration with UNDP "Amerindian land titling project". The GRIF-funded US\$10.8 million project is accelerating security of land tenure and natural resources for Amerindian communities and villages.

II. Describe any important changes in the technical design or approach related to the Grant activities:

The PEU has decided to include gender considerations throughout component 1 and 2 activities related to outreach and the preparation of the REDD+ Strategy. A special gender task force was created in 2018, with various outreach activities being organized focusing on the role of women in REDD+ in the forest dependent communities.

III. Describe progress in addressing key capacity issues (implementation, technical, financial management, procurement) related to this Grant

There has been progress in different areas, such as:

- To support the Indigenous Communities in particular, the Grant has supported the National Tashao Council (NTC) of Guyana with office space and furniture, as well as 2 staff positions for a time period of 2 years. Members of the NTC and other Indigenous NGOs receive institutional and capacity building training for a period of 21 months.
- Concerning financial management and procurement, the Project Executing Unit has contracted 2 individuals responsible for respectively Procurement and Financial Operations of the grant. The IDB country office organizes regular fiduciary capacity building opportunities which are attended by the PEU.

IV. Describe progress in addressing social and environmental issues (including safeguards) related to the Grant. Is the SESA conducted in accordance with the Common Approach? Is the ESMF prepared in accordance with the Common Approach?

Guyana has signed the contract for the development of the REDD+ Strategy and SESA on April 11, 2019. So far, the SESA team of the consultancy firm in charge of the REDD+ Strategy and SESA has delivered one output, "Social and Environmental Considerations in the Design of REDD+ Strategy" that is currently being revised and that has been prepared in accordance with the Common Approach.

V. Describe the progress in stakeholder consultation, participation and disclosure related to this grant.

Guyana has progressed well in terms of stakeholder consultation. All of the currently ongoing assignments have a strong stakeholder consultation component that is aligned with FPIC principles and the IDB guidelines on Indigenous Peoples. These are: Development of REDD+ Strategy and SESA, Design and implementation of 4 pilot REDD+ Pilot projects, Institutional strengthening and capacity building of the National Tashao Council, Indigenous NGOs and Forest Dependent Community Organizations and Consultant to analyze land tenure and carbon ownership.

The following assignments have been concluded, and also have completed a stakeholder consultation process: Development of the Grievance Redress Mechanism, baseline National Survey of Perception of REDD+.

Lastly, a 23-month contract was signed in December 2017 with a firm to implement the Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement on REDD+ Readiness Activities in Guyana, collaborating with all the previous mentioned assignments to adhere to the principles of Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness as outlined in the Common Approach. In this regard, a website was developed <https://reddplusguyana.org/home/> for the disclosure of relevant information on the FCPF project activities. Together with the website, social media channels have been established, such as Facebook for further disclosure of information. Some content, such as audio information materials have been translated in different Indigenous languages.

4. LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensuring the involvement of different levels of governance requires collaboration with local government stakeholders. Different support needs to be incorporated in project design, such as in the case of Guyana, compensation of transportation and per diem.
- Managing expectations of stakeholders is important, as well as careful planning to avoid workshop fatigue
- It is important to coordinate with the different REDD+ initiatives of other international donors to optimize financial and technical efforts for the national process, avoid duplication of effort and confusion of stakeholders.
- From the beginning of the process it is important to mainstream gender considerations and REDD+ safeguards into the four components of the strategies and in the three REDD+ phase's preparation, implementation and payments by results.