

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: GUYANA

October 2012

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- Guyana has selected the Interamerican Development Bank as Delivery Partner under the Common Approach.
- R-Plan assessed by FCPF PC at PC3 (June 2009), and Readiness Preparation Grant funding authorized by PC.
- Subsequently, Guyana revised the document and formatted to the revised R-PP template.
- WB due diligence came to a halt in 2010 after diverse Bank teams traveled to Guyana in March, July and October 2009, and April 2010 to review progress and provide continued technical assistance on the R-PP, and social and environmental risk management. During these Missions, field visits were made to Moraikobai, Region 5, River's View, Region 7, St. Cuthberts, Region 4, Region 7 (Kamarang including representatives of Waramadong, Chinoweing, Kaikan, Arau, Kako, Jawalla, Warawatta, Paruima); Region 8 (Fairview) and Region 9 (Nappi including representative of Moco Moco, Parishara, Haiwa, St. Ignatius) and Port Kaituma, Region 1. These field visits were attended by Government, FCPF donors, and civil society, and meetings with forest communities.
- Latest version of R-PP (April 2010) available online (GFC website), completeness check (by FMT) is outstanding and dependent upon completion of R-PP. Due diligence by the Delivery Partner IDB can begin prior to the completeness check.
- Guyana disclosed and sought comment on the R-PP in April 2010. The REDD Secretariat, the unit within the Guyana Forestry Commission that will implement Readiness activities, is currently reviewing, incorporating, and responding to this feedback.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

- National REDD Working Group to be formed upon receipt by the GFC of initial disbursement – this group will include governmental and non-governmental institutions.
- Guyana Forestry Commission has begun hiring some staff for REDD Secretariat; and more would follow with grant disbursement.
- The Guyana Forestry Commission and the National Tshao's Council decided, in 2010, to work together in the execution of activities regarding stakeholder engagement under REDD+ readiness, with NTC dealing with information sharing with Amerindian communities and the GFC implementing more technical aspects of readiness implementation.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

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

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with a variety of stakeholders groups, including Amerindian communities.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

- REDD+ is a pillar of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy.
- A number of alternatives for continuing and improving sound land-use practices are on the table and will be discussed and consulted on as Readiness Preparation continues. These include strengthening sustainable forest management and mining practices, exploring alternative livelihood opportunities to forest-dependent communities, ensuring consistency of land use management (e.g. infrastructure, other land uses) with REDD. The key is in the implementation of activities that will lead to the maintenance of Guyana's already low rate of forest area change.

5. Implementation Framework

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

6. SESA

- ToRs for SESA have been drafted.
- SESA would include a participatory review of the legal framework relevant to REDD.
- Validation workshop for SESA TOR to be held upon initial disbursement of the R-PP Implementation Grant.
- TOR have been adjusted to reflect latest developments on mainstreaming SESA with other R-PP activities.
- The SESA will aim to identify and integrate the key environmental, social, legal and policy dimensions into the REDD + Strategy

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

- Data available: satellite imagery, national forest inventory from '70, '90, '00, and pre-harvest inventories of concessions.
- Reference scenario would be a combination of historical data and future projections
- Low Carbon Development Strategy presents one scenario of possible future deforestation under a national development plan. This will be refined, and other scenarios developed.
- Preliminary work has been conducted in the establishment of a historic reference level for Guyana.

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8. MRV

- Vision: Assessment of forest area change through the use of both satellite imagery to estimate forest cover and field research on carbon pools in different forest types as well as through ground truthing and surveys. .
- MRV Roadmap developed through stakeholder workshops with local and international experts and stakeholders.
- The GCF has established a Steering and Technical Sub Committee for the Monitoring Reporting and Verification System. Two aspects, among a number of other areas, of the MRVS have commenced: (i) historic mapping and change assessment in forest and non forest by driver for the periods: 1990 to 2000, 2001 to 2005 and 2006 to 2009. Two annual assessments for the periods 2010 & 2011. A number of interim indicators are being reported on annually, commencing in 2010, including gross deforestation rates, and intact forest landscape; and (ii) implementation plan for a systematic national forest carbon measurement system with long term monitoring including map/stratification, sampling design and measurement variables and protocols. Sampling design completed, including protocols established for forest carbon stock assessment as well as for carbon stock changes: system of sampling, and approaches to quantify national expansion and conversion factors.
- Commencement of initial work in the incorporation of non-carbon ecosystem services into the MRV System.

9. Other

- Guyana has identified a number of activities to be carried out in other areas, including: (i) explore potential co-benefits and synergies of the carbon measurements with other monitoring needs; (ii) assess the requirements of monitoring carbon variables and relevant information for other ecosystem services; (iii) finalize exploration of REDD + MRV and implementation including broader ecosystem services and environmental accounting procedures and make recommendations; and (iv) approaches for setting reference levels, linking MRV and policy, and MRV co-benefits and synergies are explored and defined.