

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF):
Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) – External Review Form**

Guidelines for Reviewers:

- 1) *This review form is a record of your review, which may be disclosed for transparency. Please bear that in mind when filling it out.*
- 2) *Please summarize your comments-- address whatever you feel is important.*
- 3) *Please evaluate and mark (score) each of the 5 Summary Assessment review criteria from the FCPF Information Memorandum, the Participants Committee Selection Criteria, and the numbered R-PIN major topics, as requested in the right-hand column. Select a mark from the following scale: NA: Not Addressed. 1: Inadequately addresses criterion. 2: Barely addresses criterion. 3: Average, or adequately addresses criterion. 4: Good job of addressing criterion. 5: Excellent job of addressing criterion.*

1) Country submitting the R-PIN:	GUYANA
2) Date of Review:	June 19-25, July 4, 2008
I. Summary Assessment of the Quality and Completeness of the R-PIN: <i>Note with value of 1 – 5</i>	Mark (score):
Criterion (i): Ownership of the proposal by both the government and relevant stakeholders: The government of Guyana is certainly engaged in REDD at the highest political level. Information presented in the R-Pin however suggests that the redaction team did not consult extensively outside and that stakeholders have not been part of the process. With 4 out of 9 members in the redaction team, the role of Conservation International is extremely important.	3
Criterion (ii): Consistency between national and sectoral strategies and proposed REDD Strategy: There appears to be a good coherence at all levels regarding policy measured envisioned. There is also a coherent body of institutions that could implement the REDD Strategy. The proposal asks for funding to better understand and model the “trade-offs,” if any, between REDD activities and other development strategies.	5
Criterion (iii): Completeness of information and data provided: The information provided is generally very good and complete. In some cases, such as indigenous people and forest dwellers, additional knowledge could be provided to help understanding the national circumstances of Guyana.	3
Criterion (iv): Clarity of responsibilities for the execution of REDD activities to be financed: The R-PIN provides a very complete list of activities that would be implemented if financed by FCPF. The role of the Land Use committee (question #6) and of the Guyana Forestry Commission (question #8) is mentioned. However the R-PIN does not provide a clear sense of which institution will undertake the specific actions proposed.	4
Criterion (v): Feasibility of proposal and likelihood of success: The proposal is thorough and solid. In many aspects, it is a very mature proposal. It also raises the important challenge of how to accommodate countries with very low historical deforestation rates.	5
SUMMARY SCORE: add scores above and enter sum into box on right 1- The R-PIN submitted by Guyana is a comprehensive one that provides a clear vision of the challenges faced by this country to detain deforestation. 2- The R-PIN would benefit from additional information on the socio-economic conditions of	SUM: 20

<p>stakeholders, including but not restricted to, indigenous people.</p> <p>3- Because in Guyana REDD is related to the resolution of land use conflict between, in the one hand conservation, and in the other hand mining and logging, and because of its low historical rates of deforestation, working in Guyana would allow to address a series of important issues that have been troublesome in the REDD negotiation process.</p> <p>4- One area of weakness is the apparent discrepancy between the important help received by Guyana on almost all aspects of REDD and the mention in the proposal (in #6.g) that the country has received very little technical assistance for REDD. This is, to say the least, curious given the preeminent role of CI in the process.</p>	
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<p>Improvements the country could make to R-PIN, and any TA needs for it:</p> <p>1- Clarifying the help received by CI and other agencies working in Guyana.</p> <p>2- Providing additional information on the livelihoods of forest dwellers and rural communities.</p> <p>3- More statistics about the spatial distribution of the indigenous population, and more consultation to assure that the indigenous peoples' forest rights are being taken into account.</p>	
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<p align="center">II. Participants Committee Selection Criteria: Information</p> <p>Relevance of country in REDD context: Priority to countries with: (i) substantial forest area and forest carbon stocks; and (ii) relevance of forests in economy, including livelihoods of forest dwellers and Indigenous Peoples:</p> <p>On Indigenous Peoples: Forest is important for Amerindians communities in Guyana but logging and mining activities have been affecting for a long time to the communities. The land titling for Amerindian is a process still going on and need to be supported to make sure the successful of any project. Consultation process is one of the first steps in the communities and the recommendation is to approach Amerindian People Association and the Toshao National Conference to make a proper consultation process with their support.</p>	
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Geographic and biome balance: across the world's main forest biomes.

Variety of approaches: Proposed innovative approaches to tackling deforestation and degradation; methods; testing new mechanisms and distribution of REDD revenues; and/or regionally important leadership.

With existing confusion between natural forest management, illegal logging, deforestation and degradation in general, Guyana could become a needed example for many similar countries. Guyana is already a forest economy. A REDD strategy as proposed is likely to help the consolidation of sustainable forestry management, promote conservation and thus control illegal logging and deforestation. It could become an example of sustainable forest based economy.

“It must be clearly recognized that Guyana took a deliberate decision to practice SFM in the utilization of its forest resources, at considerable expense and foregoing of lucrative economic opportunities.”

“Guyana’s national circumstances are similar to many other countries that have historical low emissions from deforestation and that provide stewardship over 18% of the world’s tropical forest carbon. Guyana is requesting the FCPF to support Guyana to lead global innovations and develop new methodologies that may be replicated by partner countries with similar circumstances.”

<p align="center">III. Detailed Review of R-PIN Responses to Template Questions:</p> <p><i>Please review the R-PIN quality and completeness in terms of addressing the major questions in the FCPF R-PIN template.</i></p>	
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1. Government focal point, and ownership and consultation in producing the R-PIN:

Summary: The Guyana R-PIN is clearly counts with explicit support from the Nation's President. The focal points are the Minister of Agriculture and the Commissioner of Forests. The redaction team was formed of 5 government officials and four members of CI. The civil servants that took part in the redaction are largely coming from the forest or the climate sector. A priori, the consultation process was very limited with a single person the Presidential Advisor on Sustainable development, consulted above and beyond the redaction team. However, the R-PIN also mentions the creation of a National Climate Committee with representatives from multiple government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector. This could prove an effective way of consulting.

Assessment: The R-PIN is rather timid about the consultation that took place, and it doesn't seem to have included indigenous peoples even though they own the forested areas in Guyana. The R-PIN seems to be mainly a process of government officers and environment NGOs. A consultation process with indigenous organizations is highly recommended.

To conclude, it is difficult to know to which extent the proposal is owned by a variety of stakeholders.

(Mark: 2)

2. Identification of institutions responsible for: forest monitoring, law enforcement, conservation, and coordination across forest, agriculture and rural development:

Summary: The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) is responsible for forestry planning, monitoring and enforcement while the Environmental Protection Agency is overseeing biodiversity conservation. The R-PIN mentions several other governmental agencies that would take part in REDD activities. The National Climate Committee, which reports to Government and the Parliament of Guyana, coordinates day to day climate change procedures. The Committee does not include indigenous peoples as members, however, and this issue should be addressed to incorporate a representative from Toshaos.

Assessment: This is a good section. It identifies the relevant institutions and proposes a way forward to allow them to coordinate and implement a REDD strategy. It would have been nice to be given a little more precision on how guidelines could be developed if funding was provided.

(Mark: 4)

3. Current country situation:

Where do deforestation and forest degradation occur, main causes, estimates of greenhouse gas emissions, data available? Key issues in forest law enforcement and forest sector governance?

Where do deforestation and forest degradation occur

Summary: Guyana's forests cover 18 million ha or 85% of the national territory. The C stocks of the Guyana forests are over 5GtCO₂ in above ground biomass. Although the majority of the forests are suitable for timber extraction deforestation rate is low at 0.1% to 0.3%. Deforestation occurs mainly in the State Forest Estate but it is also observed on Amerindian and other private lands.

Main causes

Summary: The drivers of deforestation are: commercial timber extraction of prime species, mining, agriculture and infrastructure development.

Estimates of greenhouse gas emissions

Summary: The R-PIN indicated that the deforestation emissions since 2000 averaged 22.6 million t CO₂e per year. The calculation is however not clear because it appears to be based on the entire forest area of 18.5 million ha.

Data available

Summary: The regional forest inventory was completed in the 1970s and the GFC has archived a large amount of inventory data. Several areas of the country have permanent sampling plots. Scientists have estimated Guyana's forest biomass between 225 and 550 tCO₂ per hectare. Landsat and CBERS data have been acquired and CI has already begun a time series analysis. In addition, RADAR data, from the Japanese-US sensor ALOS, are being acquired and analyzed at Waaginen University and SARvision in the Netherlands.

Key issues in forest law enforcement and forest sector governance

Summary: The existing Forest Law dates back to 1953 and a new Forests Bill, allowing forest conservation for carbon

sequestration, is currently being considered after years of consultation. Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management practices is limited. Insufficient funding is an impediment for both promotion and implementation of some of the guidelines. A Protected Areas Legislation is being drafted to establish the framework for establishment of protected areas as part of the national initiative to maintain carbon reserves in areas of high known biodiversity value.

Assessment: This section is excellent. It provides the reviewer with an understanding of the forest cover and carbon stocks of Guyana. The likely causes of future forest loss and degradation (future deforestation threat) are clearly identified:

“...harvesting of a limited number of...species..., mining...accounted for 2.387 sq. mls in 2007..., much forest suitable for logging and conversion to agriculture..., growing...demand for agricultural products..., access to Guyana’s forests will...significantly increased [by] a major international highway...and...other conservation measures...[have] a high potential for international leakage...into Guyana, via the highway.”

Information on the existing effort to monitor carbon stocks is well presented as well as the limitation of the existing laws and policies in the forest sector.

(Mark: 5)

4. Data available on indigenous peoples and forest dwellers?

Summary: With an overall population of 751,223, the Amerindian population of Guyana comprises 9.2% of the inhabitants and has legal access to titled lands or user rights for approximately 2,406,190 hectares. The GFC established a Community Forestry Program that provided Community Forestry Organizations (CFO’s) with access to State Forest Land and is providing training to CFO’s and Amerindian Communities on Reduced Impact Logging. The R-PIN provides some details on three such community-based initiatives. Furthermore, the Amerindian Act grants indigenous communities the right to manage their titled land including conservation areas. The Guyana Government will further promote CFO’s as a way to involve local community and indigenous people in forests management.

The example of Wai Wai own protected area can not be applied in all Amerindian communities, because the restriction of certain traditional practice can change the culture. The implementation of a REDD program in the communities can not restrict the traditional use of natural resources. More information about this example would be encouraged.

Assessment: This section provides some of the necessary information to understand the situation of indigenous people and forest dwellers. The issue of land tenure is clearly addressed thoroughly as well as government’s initiative. Data on the socio-economic conditions and land use patterns would have been useful.

The “Forest Allocation” as recorded by the Forestry Commission does not include Amerindians forests rights.

More statistics are needed on the spatial distribution of the indigenous population, and more consultation needs to be done to assure that the indigenous peoples’ forest rights are being taken into account. Plan how to incorporate in a more direct way the Amerindian Peoples in a future REDD strategy. For example how to improve their forest rights. Can sustainable forest management be linked to indigenous peoples forest rights via certification?

(Mark: 3)

5. Current strategy in place to address deforestation and forest degradation. What stakeholder process was used to arrive at it?

Summary: Guyana relies on its Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS), launched in 1992, to address deforestation and forest degradation. The first pillar of the strategy is cross-ministerial coordination relying on the Land Use Committee to address issues having a potential to develop into land use conflicts, the National Climate Committee to address the danger of climate change and, in the present context, opportunities of REDD, and the National Climate Unit that is the focal point of UNFCCC. Institutional capabilities are as a second pillar of the SDS, specifically the Guyana Forestry Commission with its programs to implement sustainable forest management and its National Log Tagging and Tracking System. Thirdly, technical programs consisting mainly of forest inventory and concessions for conservation.

It is not clear how traditional knowledge in forest management will be used as a way to maintain local identity and culture. Lastly, Guyana is apparently managing a number of programs aiming at community and Amerindian development. However, little detail is given.

Assessment: Clear explanation of the steps taken to date to avoid deforestation. Description of the governance system is thorough. A bit more information on the National Climate Committee would have been interesting since this organization

plays a critical role.

(Mark: 4)

6. What would be needed to reduce deforestation and forest degradation?

Summary: Guyana's vision on how to reduce deforestation is based on the strategic elements detailed above in #5. The country emphasizes the need to favor economic alternatives since deforestation is driven by competing land uses. The establishment of a national system of protected areas with a supporting trust fund is also a critical element in Guyana's strategy. The country would expand its capacity building efforts for indigenous communities.

Has country considered the potential relationship between REDD strategies and country's broader development agenda?

Summary: REDD strategies are expected to serve in the overall development of key cross-sectors of the country.

IP Reviewer: "To expand the training and now related to REDD the Government of Guyana needs to look at the OP 4.10 policy which would require evidence of free, prior informed consent and a broad community support for the project, which means Government, would need to consult and acquire prior agreement from all the Indigenous Peoples in Guyana."

Has any technical assistance been received, or is planned on REDD?

Summary: Limited help has been received. But support from the German government for protected areas is acknowledged.

Assessment: This section is coherent with the earlier identification of challenges and with the current strategy. Innovative initiatives such as the log tagging and tracking program are presented. The R-Pin is excellent in addressing a variety of drivers of deforestation from mining to illegal logging.

(Mark: 5)

7. What stakeholder consultation process would country use for developing and implementing REDD under FCPF support?

Summary: The R-PIN indicates that all stakeholders (loggers, Indigenous communities, miners) will be consulted and that, although REDD is a new terminology, the concept is not new. Accordingly, the R-PIN claims that much consulting has already been going on. It indicates that many of the organizations on which REDD implementation will rely have built-in consultation processes. In the case of REDD, Guyana indicates that, since 2007, consultations have been held from national to local levels with stakeholders that included national ministries, organizations, NGO's, communities and individuals (at least 23 groups consulted).

IP Reviewer: "The consultation process doesn't include indigenous peoples and they own the forested areas in Guyana. There is a National Toshias Conference every year to coordinate the information sharing for the communities and put in practice the Prior Informed Consent process."

"Regarding the payment for local indigenous knowledge the immediate question is if the Government of Guyana has the framework to protect such knowledge with national legislation. In the international arena the IPs are working to protect their knowledge as first step before sharing to contribute to the society. The Government of Guyana needs to incorporate indigenous representatives at the Special High Level Committee."

"For a consultation process the forest and land owners are the Amerindian communities and the first question is how and why the GoG wants to consult loggers and miners as stakeholders in the same level as the forest owners."

Assessment: While this section acknowledges the importance of consulting and indicates that consultation have been going on and will continue, it provides little tangible information on when and where such consultation were carried out. One is therefore left to believe the assertion rather than being certain about it.

(Mark: 3)

8. Implementing REDD strategies: challenges to introducing effective REDD strategies, and how might they be overcome?

Summary: Guyana identifies several challenges to introducing REDD that range from limited finances to the need for technical capacity building and engagement of the forest industry. The R-PIN further identifies three main challenges: (i) Limited support from some stakeholder groups in implementing REDD activities; (ii) Limited international support for countries with historically low deforestation rates and (iii) Sufficient financial returns from REDD need to be considered as a viable alternative. Guyana hopes that the FCPF will help address these barriers.

Would performance-based payments through REDD be a major incentive for implementing a more coherent strategy to tackle deforestation?

Summary: Guyana acknowledges that payment to reduce degradation and deforestation will facilitate the development of appropriate policies. It could contribute to Guyana's goal to increase the forest sector contribution to GDP and stands to increase this percentage from 4% to 15% in the long term. They do not address however the issue of performance-based payment.

Assessment: A great strength of this section is that after listing a number of challenges that the government would have to face in order to ensure successful implementation of a REDD strategy, it goes one step further and identifies the three main challenges. It is surprising, however, that land use conflict is a concept very prevalent in question #6 but rather absent from #8 giving a sense of slightly incoherence.

(Mark: 4)

9. REDD strategy monitoring and implementation:**How forest cover and land use change are monitored today, and any constraints in this approach?**

Summary: In Guyana forest cover is estimated through forest inventories and mapping based on remote sensing. Currently the main constraints to producing precise estimates are (i) that the last forest inventory dates of 1950 because of financial limitation while (ii) the technical capacity for dealing with remotely sensed information is limited.

Assessment: This section provides appropriate information regarding forest and carbon monitoring. In question #8, Guyana indicated that a key challenge for them would be that methodologies considering national circumstance where countries have low deforestation rate be developed. It is therefore surprising that this issue is not addressed here.

(Mark: 4)

10. Additional benefits of potential REDD strategy, and how to monitor them: biodiversity and rural livelihood?

Summary: Guyana acknowledges the importance of both biodiversity and rural livelihood. The R-PIN indicates the country's willingness to monitor both and refers to the Iwokramara Rainforest Programme for relevant methodologies.

Assessment: In the case of biodiversity monitoring, the R-PIN provides some information on how this could be done but without giving specific ideas of the indicators that would be used. Information is even more scant for rural livelihoods. In both cases, the R-PIN refers to the Iwokramara Rainforest Programme but no precision is given.

(Mark: 2)

11. What assistance is country likely to request from FCPF Readiness Mechanism?

Summary: Guyana is seeking support from FCPF to move forward on REDD with a clear view of their need for a baseline that would take into account their historically low deforestation rates. They proposed to use modeling of future emissions. Their collaboration with CI and with researchers in the Netherlands should allow them to monitor trends in forests cover in the coming years. The R-PIN contains a budget of needs.

There is no capacity building and training activities for Amerindians (indigenous peoples).

Assessment: Very comprehensive section

(Mark: 5)

12. Donors and international partners already cooperating with country on REDD.

Summary: Several donors and international organization are helping Guyana. These include WWF, UNDP, IDB, CI, IUCN Netherlands. In addition, FAO, IDB, CDB and the ITTO may be approached for possible technical and/or financial assistance mainly in the REDD strategy planning process.

Assessment: The answer to question #12 and in general the entire R-PIN suggests that Guyana is receiving a lot of help from NGOs, academic institutions and Annex 1 country government. It is therefore striking that in answer to question #6g the R-PIN said that little help has been received. This inconsistency is troublesome.

(Mark: 2)

13. Country's Potential Next Steps and Schedule:

Summary: Guyana proposes a three-year plan focused on technical strengthening including assessing carbon stock, forest inventory, engaging key stakeholders and garnering a wide cross section of inputs in the planning stage. Annex 3 provides a detailed timeline.

Assessment: The planning of next steps is complete and well thought through.

IP Review: Need to include more information on the engagement with Amerindian organizations and to share information on the Toshao National Conference.

(Mark: 5)

14. Attachments and their usefulness:

Assessment: Excellent attachments, containing the schedule of a REDD readiness plan.

(Mark: 5)