

Mid-Term Progress Reporting

for Country: Guyana

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Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

Readiness Fund

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Note: [FMT Note 2012-7 rev](#) lays out the process for REDD Country Participants to submit, and the Participants Committee (PC) to review, mid-term progress reports and requests for additional funding of up to US\$5 million.

List of acronyms and abbreviations

AFOLU	Agriculture, forestry and Other Land Uses
APA	Amerindian Peoples Association
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CCI	Caribbean Challenge Initiative
CI	Conservation International
CIFOR	Centre for International Forestry Research
CFOs	Community Forestry Organisations
CfRN	Coalition for Rainforest Nations
cMRV	Community Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
COICA	Coordination of Indigenous Organisations of the Amazon River Basin (translated from Spanish)
DoE	Department of Environment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESMF	Environment and Social Management Framework
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FLEGT	Forest Law, Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FPA	Forest Producers Association
FTCI	Forestry Training Centre Incorporated
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GFC	Guyana Forestry Commission
GGDMA	Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association
GGMC	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
GLSC	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission
GMSSC	Green Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee
GOIP	Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous Peoples
GRIF	Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund
GRM	Grievance and Redress Mechanism
GSDS	Green State Development Strategy
GSF	Guiana Shield Facility
GSI	Guiana Shield Initiative
GWMO	Guyana Women Miners Organisation
GYEN	Guyana Youth Environment Network
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IP-NGOs	Indigenous Peoples Non-Governmental Organisations
IUCN NL	International Union for the Conservation of Nature – Netherlands Chapter
Iwokrama	Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development
KfW	German Development Bank (translated from German)
KMCRG	Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoIPA	Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs
MoTP	Ministry of the Presidency

MRVS	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System
MSSC	Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee for the LCDS
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NADF	National Amerindian Development Foundation
NCCC	National Climate Change Committee
NFP	National Forest Plan
NFPS	National Forest Policy Statement
NICFI	Norway International Climate and Forest Initiative
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (translated from Norwegian)
NPDC	North Pakaraimas District Council
NRDDB	North Rupununi District Development Board
NRWG	National REDD+ Working Group
NSCCFO	National Steering Committee of Community Forestry Organisations
NTC	National Toshias Council
OCC	Office of Climate Change
PAC	Public Accounts Committee (of the Parliament of Guyana)
PEU	Project Execution Unit
PMO	Project Management Office
PSC	Project Steering Committee
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
RGDP	REDD+ Governance Development Plan
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
RS	REDD Secretariat
SCPDA	South Central Peoples Development Association
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SLUC	Special Land Use Committee
SRDC	South Rupununi District Council
TAAMOG	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana
TC	Technical Cooperation
TIG	Transparency International Guyana
UG	University of Guyana
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VPA	Voluntary Partners Agreement
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Executive Summary

As a high-forest cover (87%), low deforestation rate (<0.1%) country in the centre of the Guiana Shield - one of three ecoregions of the Amazon biome - the Cooperative Republic of Guyana is well positioned to benefit from its standing forests through its near readiness to implement a REDD+ regime. While it can be argued that Guyana's forests have been protected by default because of their remoteness from population centres and commercial-level productive land use activities, it is equally true that the national policy to conserve forests and to pursue low carbon development has contributed to the present conserve state of the forests.

Mineral mining poses a threat to the pursuit of forest conservation, and although its footprint on deforestation and forest degradation has decreased in the last few years, the lack of equivalent inflows from forest conservation measures leaves economic planners with little choice but to continue allocation of forested land to mining. The ongoing preparation of a modern mineral mining policy framework promises to increase the sustainability of this economic activity. This mining policy framework, coupled with the already released 2018 national forest policy statement, is a key pillar of the emerging Green State Development trajectory to guide Guyana's land-based development over the next decade. There is need to prepare an agricultural policy, particularly given the shift in focus from coastal to hinterland agriculture. In this way, the selection of REDD+ strategy options and the assessment of their risks to the productive sectors may be properly assessed.

The FCPF Readiness Fund is supporting Guyana's readiness process, through development of REDD+ strategies, further development of its monitoring, reporting and verification system, and institutional capacity to manage REDD+, including social and environmental safeguards. Participation in the bilateral REDD+ agreement with Norway has allowed Guyana to compute historical rates of deforestation and forest degradation, to develop a monitoring, reporting and verification system for a performance based forest carbon monitoring system and set-up of the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF).

Guyana's R-PP was approved in 2012 and the Technical Cooperation (TC) agreement with the FCPF Delivery Partner – the IDB – was signed in 2014. While actual implementation of the TC started in 2016, Guyana has been implementing aspects of the R-PP since 2009. This Readiness Assessment at the mid-term of the TC project applies the common framework to measure Guyana's progress on core readiness activities.

Of the 34 progress indicators assessed, three-quarters were found to be progressing well, achieved significant progress or have been completed (see Table 1). With funding from the national budget, the Kingdom of Norway, the European Union and the Government of the Netherlands, Guyana was able to complete activities in Component 3 - Reference emissions level/reference level - and, Component 4 - Monitoring systems for forests and safeguards. This may be attributed to the demands the Guyana-Norway REDD+ agreement placed on Guyana in order to draw down on payments for performance based forest carbon services. Those payments were used to strengthen key REDD+ institutions, secure land tenure and REDD+ compatible productive livelihoods for indigenous peoples'

forest dwelling communities, initiate the process to develop sustainable land management regimes and develop the framework for the [Green State Development Strategy](#) (GSDS).

Table 1. Summary of the level of progress on R-PP indicators.

<i>R-PP progress indicators</i>	<i>Level of progress</i>	<i>Description</i>
Component 1a. National REDD Management Arrangements		
1. Accountability and transparency		Significant progress
2. Operating mandate and budget		Significant progress
3. Multi-sector coordinating mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration		Progressing well, further development required
4. Technical supervision capacity		Significant progress
5. Funds management capacity		Significant progress
6. Feedback and grievance mechanism		Further development required
Component 1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach		
7. Participation and engagement of key stakeholders		Significant progress
8. Consultation processes		Significant progress
9. Information sharing and accessibility of information		Progressing well, further development required
10. Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes		Progressing well, further development required
Component 2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, and Governance		
11. Assessment and analysis		Completed
12. Prioritisation of direct and indirect drivers / barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement		Significant progress
13. Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities		Progressing well, further development required
14. Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance		Progressing well, further development required
15. Implications for forest law and policy		Significant progress
Component 2b. REDD+ Strategy Options		
16. Selection and prioritisation of REDD+ strategy options		Progressing well, further development required
17. Feasibility assessment		Not yet demonstrating progress
18. Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies		Not yet demonstrating progress
Component 2c. REDD+ Implementation Framework		
19. Adoption and implementation of legislation/ regulations		Progressing well, further development required
20. Guidelines for implementation		Progressing well, further development required
21. Benefit sharing mechanism		Progressing well, further development required
22. National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities		Not yet demonstrating progress
Component 2d. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) in the Formulation of the REDD+ Strategy		
23. Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues		Further development required

24. REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts		Further development required
25. Environmental and Social Management Framework		Further development required
Component 3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Level		
26. Demonstration of methodology		Completed
27. Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances		Completed
28. Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines		Completed
Component 4. Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards		
29. Documentation of monitoring approach		Completed
30. Demonstration of early system implementation		Completed
31. Institutional arrangements and capacities		Completed
Component 6: Monitoring and Evaluation of Readiness Activities		
32. Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues		Significant progress
33: Monitoring, reporting and information sharing		Not yet demonstrating progress
34: Institutional arrangements and capacities		Further development required

Some aspects of the progress made with REDD+ readiness appear to have been abandoned due to lack of awareness of the current leaders or a conscious decision was taken to repeat the activities. In this regard, reference is being made to the REDD+ strategy options and cost:benefit analysis of those options carried out in 2013-2014. It is important that the FCPF PEU review this situation as a matter of urgency since the same consultancy firm – Winrock International – is common to both periods and tasks. Water, has been identified as the priority non-carbon benefit of forest management but, Guyana lacks the institutional coordination, monitoring and reporting on its performance.

Enhancement of forest carbon stocks is one of the five activities of REDD+. However, while Guyana does not have forestry plantations, ongoing reclamation of post-mining landscapes using a re-vegetation strategy by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, offers opportunity for measuring and monitoring the value of this activity. The University of Guyana (UG) and Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development (Iwokrama) have contributed inputs from field research on forest carbon sequestration and stocks, but these need to be scaled up for national level reporting.

While several public and private institutions are involved in REDD+ management arrangements, there is a major weakness in the REDD+ implementation framework. The Office of Climate Change (OCC) within the Ministry of the Presidency is responsible for REDD+ within the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), while the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is responsible for forest resources and implementation of the FCPF project. The REDD Secretariat is nested within the MNR and has a single-sector focus when the focus should be on all land use sectors. Other key players are not being engaged, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – the focal point for international engagements. Although the OCC participates in the FCPF Project Steering Committee, which serves the purpose of the National REDD+ Working Group, it is unable to bring all of the key players together to

engage with REDD+ as a cross-cutting issue. As a matter of urgency, a Cabinet-level intervention to secure effective institutional coordination of REDD+ is recommended. The resuscitation of the multi-stakeholder National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) is a step in the right direction. Its mandate is broad enough to include REDD+ coordination.

The REDD+ safeguards in the Common Approach - Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) are now being initiated. Their development is proceeding on parallel track to the prioritisation and assessment of REDD+ strategies. To save time, it is recommended that the REDD+ strategies options developed in 2013-2014 be updated and work on the SESA and ESMF accelerated. In this way, earlier attention can be given to identifying and assessing the candidate pilot projects for the next phase of FCPF funding.

The FCPF project developed a REDD+ grievance and redress mechanism (GRM) but it is yet to be operationalised, although a website was set-up and an online registry created. It is recommended that urgent attention be paid to this objective in light of the land-use conflicts that are common between mineral mining and forestry. The proximal presence of indigenous peoples' forest dependent communities to mineral mining and forestry areas is an added dimension requiring special attention, especially since there is an Amerindian land titling GRM.

The FCPF PEU staff is in place and working in a coordinated way to implement the TC and to advance implementation of the R-PP. It is too soon to measure the impact indicators; 2020 is the recommended new date. More than one-half of the outcome indicators has been achieved. Significant progress has been achieved with outputs for two sub-components (National readiness management arrangements and monitoring and evaluation). Progress towards the other outputs is advancing well and requires further development (Table 2).

Table 2. Summary of the level of progress on outputs under the TC.

Sub-Components and Outputs	Level of progress	Description
Sub-component 1.1: Outputs 1-3		
National readiness management arrangements		Significant progress
Sub-component 1.2: Output 4		
Stakeholder consultation and participation mechanisms		Progressing well, further development required.
Sub-component 2.1: Outputs 5-8		
REDD+ Strategy		Progressing well, further development required.
Sub-component 2.2: Outputs 9-12		
REDD+ implementation of framework activities		Further development required.
Sub-component 2.3: Outputs 13-15		
Strategic social and environmental assessment (SESA)		Further development required.
Sub-component 3: Outputs 16		
Monitoring and evaluation		Significant progress

The MTR did not reveal any operational deficiency or barrier to completion of the remaining activities of the project by its end date. Of major importance is the close and effective management of the ongoing and emerging consultancies to avoid slippages.

In conclusion, the FCPF TC project is on track to achieve the outputs of the TC and most of the objectives of the R-PP. With one year to go, an accelerated approach to project implementation is recommended. An exit strategy should be developed to ensure progressive realisation and sustainability of the REDD+ project activities.

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1. Introduction

The Cooperative Republic of Guyana (hereinafter Guyana) is the only English-speaking country in South America. It is bounded by Suriname to the East, Brazil to the South and South-West, Venezuela to the West, and the Atlantic Ocean to the North. Guyana's total territorial area is 354,240 km², of which the terrestrial area (215,000 km²) accounts for approximately 61% of the total area.

Guyana, an Amerindian word, which means 'land of many waters', is at the centre of the Guiana Shield, one of the three eco-regions of the Amazon biome. There are four natural regions (Figure 1) and five physiographic regions (figure 2). Administratively, the country is divided in three counties, namely, Berbice, Demerara and Essequibo, and 10 Administrative Regions. The counties and regions are delineated by watersheds.

An independent country since 1966, Guyana is a sovereign nation with laws and institutions that promote and support a parliamentary form of democracy. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. The three arms of national government (executive, legislature and judiciary) are augmented by local democratic organs that decentralise the administration of the State and allow for citizen participation in decision making. In 1970, Guyana became a republic. The Executive President is the Head of State and of Government and Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers. The legislature comprises the 65-member National Assembly and the Parliament (when the President sits). The judiciary is made of an Appeals Court, High Courts in each of the three counties and Magistrate Courts in the magisterial districts. The judiciary is headed by a Chancellor, who is assisted by a Chief Justice. The final court of appeal is the Caribbean Court of Justice.

Guyana's terrestrial landmass can be characterised as [high-forest, low deforestation](#) (HFLD) and together with 10 other developing countries harbour about 18% of forest carbon (Fonseca et al. 2007). At the end of 2016, Guyana's verified forest area was 18.452 million hectares¹, a forest cover of approximately 87% of the country (GFC 2017), making Guyana the second greenest country on planet Earth, after neighbouring Suriname. The forest stores over 5GtCO₂ in above ground biomass. Additional stores of carbon are in below ground compartments and these have not been estimated at national scale. The annual rate of deforestation is less than 0.1%.

Through its membership as a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its binding Protocol, Guyana has signaled its commitment to deploying its forest in the fight against climate change and in pursuing low carbon development since 2007 (Government of Guyana 2010).

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is a global partnership focused on the project: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+). The Readiness Fund of the FCPF assists tropical and sub-tropical developing countries to generate the systems and policies in preparation for REDD+. To comply with FCPF requirements, the Government of Guyana prepared a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) that lays out a roadmap of preparation activities needed to be undertaken for Guyana to become REDD+ ready for all State Forests. The R-PP was approved in 2012. Guyana's Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) through its forestry regulatory agency, the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), is responsible for overseeing the national implementation of key technical aspects of REDD+ activities, including REDD+ readiness activities as outlined in Guyana's R-PP.

It is important to note that the in-country situation under which the R-PP is being implemented is not the same one today as when the R-PP was developed. The political opposition then has coalesced into a governing coalition and the policy environment is different. The Green State Development Strategy (GSDS

¹ GFC (2017). MRVS Interim Measures Report. Georgetown, Guyana.

2040) has replaced the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) as the primary development policy framework, under the leadership of the Ministry of Finance, which has responsibility for public budget management and expenditure. The GSDS 2040 is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030). At the coordination level, the MoF is assisted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and Ministry of the Presidency (MoTP) – the latter, through the Department of Environment (DoE) and Office of Climate Change (OCC). The MNR, which superintends the administration and management of the forestry and mining sectors, is overseeing the REDD+ readiness process, to which the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) serves as Guyana's FCPF Delivery Partner. The new institutional arrangements will allow for greater sectoral coordination, including policy formulation and implementation, land use, efficient implementation of projects, cost-sharing and reporting.

The agreement between Guyana and FCPF establishes that a mid-term review of the results achieved so far under the REDD+ readiness phase should be carried out. The implementation of the R-PP is governed by a Technical Cooperation (TC) agreement (GY-T1097) between Guyana and the IDB². The objective of the TC is to assist Guyana in its efforts to establish an enabling framework and build its capacity for REDD+ by providing financial and technical assistance. The logical framework is the FCPF Results Matrix. The execution of the TC was expected to start in December 2013, but this was delayed to 2016. The anticipated end date of the project is February 2020. The national executing agency is the MNR.

² https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2014/May/IDBDOCS-%2338672037-v1-Signed_TC_Agreement_-_Forest_Carbon_Partnership_Fac....pdf

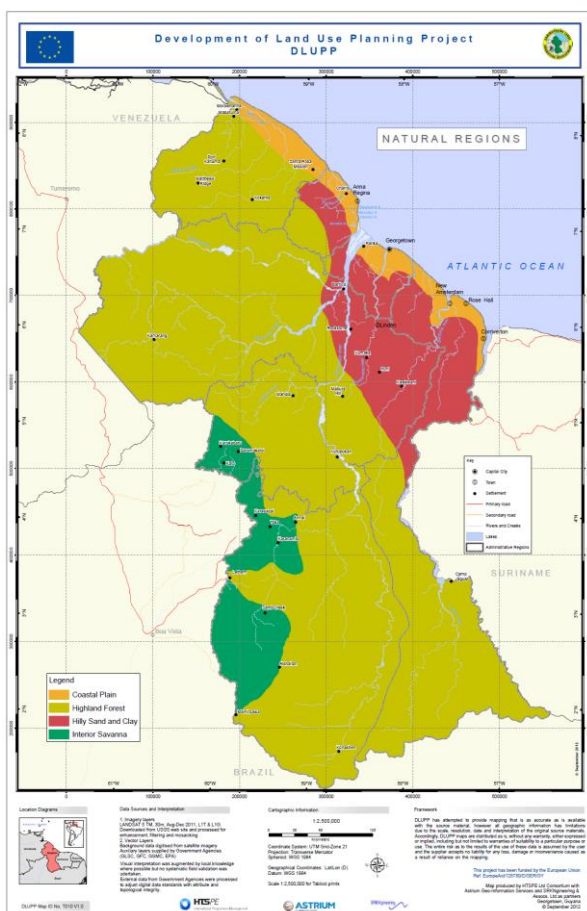


Figure 1. Natural Regions of Guyana

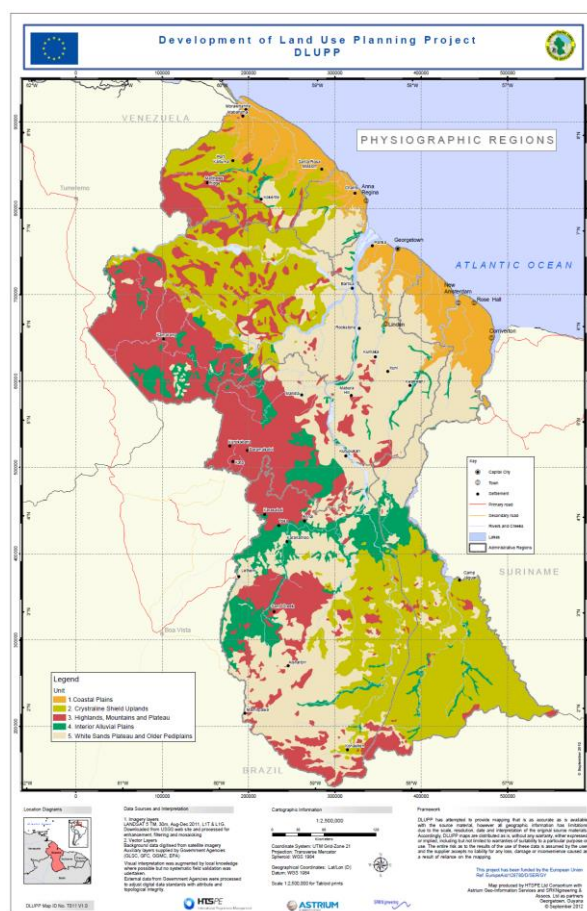


Figure 2. Physiographic Regions of Guyana

Source: GLSC 2013.

2. Methodology

The primary objective of the Consultancy is to carry out a Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Project “Implementation of Guyana’s Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP)”.

The review verifies compliance with the performance indicators and objectives as defined in the R-PP (2012 version) and the TC agreement, and assesses whether they have been met as of the date of the review. The review will also identify major bottlenecks, make recommendation on how to address them, and update the Risk Analysis Matrix (separate document to this report).

The main instrument used for the MTR is the FCPF Assessment Framework Guidelines 2013³. The Readiness Assessment provides a common framework to measure a country’s progress on core readiness activities. At the heart of the Readiness Assessment is a thorough self-examination by REDD country

³ FCPF Assessment Framework Guidelines

stakeholders to take stock of the activities implemented during the REDD+ readiness preparation phase and assess progress on REDD+ readiness.

Several platforms exist for stakeholder participation in the project, including the multi-stakeholder FCPF Project Steering Committee (PSC). The MTR consulted all documents presented to the PSC and took note of the minutes of PSC meetings to develop an understanding of the barriers to project implementation as well as opportunities for achieving progress. The MTR made use of methodologies and techniques as determined by the specific needs for information, the availability of resources and the priorities of main partners. In all cases, the MTR made use of all available information sources that provided evidence on which to base the conclusions and recommendations.

For the preparation of the final report, the following sources were consulted for data collection and analysis:

- review of all relevant documents
 - FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework
 - Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP)
 - TC agreement between Government of Guyana and the IDB
 - FCPF Project Execution Unit (PEU) Semi-annual reports
 - FCPF PEU Contract documents
 - FCPF PEU Consultants' reports on the consultancies implemented to date
- meetings with key stakeholders, partners and project consultants
 - FCPF PEU staff
 - REDD Secretariat
 - Director, Department of Environment, Ministry of the Presidency
 - Head, Office of Climate Change, Ministry of the Presidency
 - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs
 - Senior Technical Director, Conservation International-Guyana
 - Head, Planning and Development, Guyana Forestry Commission
 - President, Forest Producers Association
 - Director, Resource Management and Training, Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development (Iwokrama)
 - Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Guyana (UG)
 - Faculty of Natural Sciences, UG
 - REDD+ Lead, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Guyana
 - Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, National Tshaos Council (NTC)
- triangulation with reported information
 - Online sources (MNR, OCC, FCPF, World Bank, IDB, UNDP, GFC, CIFOR, Winrock International)
 - The Consultant's own knowledge, experience and institutional memory related to REDD+ projects supported by UNDP/Guiana Shield Initiative (GSI) and Guiana Shield Facility (GSF)⁴ and participation as a member of the Guyana delegation to UNFCCC COP 13 (2013) and as a speaker/moderator at the first international HFLD Conference in Suriname (2014)⁵.

⁴ <https://guianashield.org>

⁵ <https://www.surinameredd.org/media/1150/hfld-conference-suriname.pdf>

Evaluation Products and timelines (Deliverables)






- *Work Plan – 20 November 2018 (submitted and approved).*
- *Draft Mid-Term Evaluation Report – 20 December 2018 (the present report).*
- ***Final Mid-Term Evaluation Report*** – 15 January 2019; resubmitted in final revised draft on 31 January 2019, and final report on 12 February 2019.

The key milestones are the deliverables mentioned above, and which form part of the performance contract. The level of effort was 30 days performed over a 90-day period. All of the agreed deliverables were produced during the contract period. The consultant did not encounter any delay in meeting the deadlines for the milestones.

The consultant, Dr. Patrick Chesney, considered all actions on REDD+ that have been carried out by the R-PP project and otherwise in order to establish an ordered arrangement of the components of REDD+ within the context of the various work streams (e.g. FCPF, UNFCCC-OCC, Guyana-Norway bilateral agreement⁶, PMO, REDD Secretariat, Iwokrama-CIFOR, Iwokrama-CI-WWF).

⁶ <https://www.lcds.gov.gy/index.php/guyana-norway-partnership>






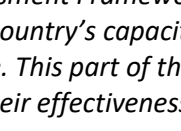
3. An overview of the progress made in the implementation of the R-PP

Assessment rating	Meaning of the assessment rating
	<i>The sub-component has been completed</i>
	<i>Significant progress</i>
	<i>Progressing well, further development required</i>
	<i>Further development required</i>
	<i>Not yet demonstrating progress</i>

3.1 - Readiness Organisation and Consultation

This component corresponds to Component 1 in the R-PP: Institutional arrangements and consultations for REDD+ readiness. Component 1 seeks to strengthen the efficacy, accountability and transparency of the national readiness management and institutional arrangements, and increase stakeholder consultation and participation in REDD+ implementation.

3.1a. National REDD Management Arrangements

<i>R-PP progress indicators</i>	<i>Level of progress</i>	<i>Description</i>
1. Accountability and transparency		<i>Significant progress. REDD+ focal point Ministry is accountable to the National Assembly. Annual forest carbon monitoring system reports are shared with the public for comments.</i>
2. Operating mandate and budget		<i>Significant progress. A REDD secretariat, forest dwelling communities representative group and a NRWG have been set up and are operational.</i>
3. Multi-sector coordinating mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration		<i>Progressing well, further development required to establish an institutional structure to replace the ad-hoc Land Use Committee.</i>
4. Technical supervision capacity		<i>Significant progress achieved through the set-up of a Green Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee</i>
5. Funds management capacity		<i>Significant progress. The existing Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund is a best practice example.</i>
6. Feedback and grievance mechanism		<i>Further development required. Though developed, it is not yet operational.</i>

In accordance with the FCPF Assessment Framework, effective readiness management during the preparation phase is indicative of the country's capacity to manage emission reduction programmes under REDD+ implementation in the future. This part of the Assessment Framework focuses on national REDD+ management arrangements and their effectiveness in fulfilling core functions.

Significant progress has been made to achieve effective readiness management. However, more work is needed to increase multi-sector coordinating mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration if the

gains are to be sustained. It is very important that the grievance redress mechanism is set up in accordance with applicable national laws and policies to avoid conflict.

The MNR, formerly the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE) when the R-PP was approved, is the Ministry responsible for both natural resources management and national REDD management in Guyana. MNR is headed by a Senior Minister, Hon. Raphael Trotman M.P., who is supported by a Junior Minister within the MNR, Hon. Simona Broomes, M.P.; both Cabinet level appointments. The MNR Permanent Secretary, Mr. Joslyn McKenzie, serves as the Administrator/Chief Accounting Officer of the Ministry. Specialised agencies of MNR, established by statute law, regulate the natural resources sector. For example, the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) regulates the forestry sector. The MNR has delegated responsibility for REDD management to the FCPF PEU, which has replaced the GFC in carrying out that responsibility⁷.

The ministerial responsibility for the environment, which was excised from the MNR at the beginning of 2016, is now the responsibility of the DoE within the Ministry of the Presidency (MoTP); the latter was the Office of the President when the R-PP was approved. The ministerial responsibilities for natural resources and the environment devolve to different political parties within the governing coalition.

Other changes have been made since the R-PP was approved. Other than the name changes to the ministries responsible for natural resources and the environment, the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs was renamed the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs (MoIPA). The Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee of the LCDS (MSSC), previously chaired by the President, has not met since 2015. The 2016 coalition government established the Green Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (GMSSC) on 3 May 2017⁸ to be reflective of the new development paradigm of Guyana (Green State Development) whilst allowing for stakeholder engagement on commitments to the Kingdom of Norway. In the latter case, REDD+ matters are discussed. The GMSSC has met twice since inception. However, it remains an advisory and consultative body.

Some government institutional partners carry out related REDD+ work. The OCC, which was established within the MoTP, is the national focal point for the UNFCCC. The OCC manages UNFCCC treaty obligations in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol (to be superseded by the Paris Agreement in 2020). The PMO manages the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF)⁹ and the bilateral payment for carbon services agreement with the Kingdom of Norway within the provisions of the GRIF governance framework. At the national level, OCC has the mandate to lead the development and implementation of national climate change policies and actions, and coordinate efforts across sectors and agencies for the mainstreaming of climate change solutions. This includes delivery of support to the work on climate change mitigation and forest conservation by the REDD Secretariat (RS).

Assessment of progress

Progress indicator 1: Accountability and transparency

⁷ Ref: ATN/FP-14161-GY; Amendment No. 1 to the Technical Cooperation Agreement between Government of Guyana and IDB, dated 25 April 2016.

⁸ <https://motp.gov.gy/index.php/2015-07-20-18-49-38/2015-07-20-18-50-14/2072-green-multi-stakeholder-steering-committee-reactivated-president-granger-says-it-s-a-demonstration-of-government-s-commitment-to-consultation>

⁹ <http://www.guyanareddfund.org/>

At the vertical organisational level of national government, the MNR is accountable to the Cabinet of the Government of Guyana, one of the five organs of democratic power according to the Constitution of Guyana. In keeping with the tenets of Guyana's parliamentary democracy, the MNR is accountable to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the National Assembly for use of public funds. The PAC is chaired by a member from the parliamentary opposition. The annual expenditure statements of the MNR are audited by the Audit Office of Guyana. Upon its completion, the Auditor General tables the audit report for the MNR in the National Assembly. When required, both the Minister and PS-MNR appear before the PAC to answer questions. At the level of the FCPF project, the Project Coordinator reports directly to the PS-MNR, who in turn reports to the subject Minister. Details of FCPF project expenditure are included in the MNR narrative and financial reporting to the Audit Office.

At the horizontal level, the FCPF Project Coordinator is accountable to the PSC, which is the multi-institutional body set up to oversee implementation of the FCPF project. The FCPF PEU provides quarterly updates on R-PP implementation progress to the FCPF PSC, which has been adopted as proxy for the National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG). Eight meetings of the PSC have been held to date; the first meeting was held in January 2017 and the eighth in November 2018. All relevant documents are made available to the PSC, and the Project Coordinator is required to answer questions raised by the PSC. Typically, FCPF PEU staff members attend the PSC meetings to provide support to the Project Coordinator.

The preparation of the periodic Interim Measures Reports by the GFC and their independent verification on how well Guyana is managing deforestation and forest degradation is added evidence that the country's REDD+ programme is operating in an open, accountable and transparent manner.

Progress indicator 2: Operating mandate and budget

Notwithstanding the change in government and transition from the LCDS to GSDS, Guyana has made commendable efforts at re-organising national REDD management arrangements in a relatively short period of time. Three separate bodies have been re-organised to support national REDD implementation. They are: (i) the RS; (ii) the Indigenous Peoples Non-Governmental Organisations (IPNGOs), and (iii) the FCPF PSC, which serves as the NRWG. Figure 3 illustrates the institutional arrangements for national REDD+ management in Guyana.

The RS, established as a unit within the GFC since 2010, coordinates and implements key technical REDD+ activities as detailed in the R-PP, as well as at the level of the LCDS. However, in order for the RS to become the permanent secretariat and administrative body of the NRWG as is envisaged in the R-PP, it is recommended that the RS be delinked from the GFC in order to be independent, and together with the NRWG, become Subsidiary Bodies of MNR, for the generation and provision of technical data and information on REDD+. For the next year, the capacity of these bodies can be further strengthened under the temporary umbrella of the FCPF PSC and the de-linking exercise initiated as part of the exit strategy of the project. The Compliance Unit¹⁰ set up within the MNR is a case in point.

The IP-NGOs group is made up of representatives of Amerindian and non-Amerindian forest dependent communities. There are 10 independent representatives of Amerindian forest dependent communities. They are: (i) the North Pakaraimas Development Council (NPDC), (ii) the South-Central Peoples Development Association (SCPDA), (iii) the South Rupununi District Council (SRDC), (iv) the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB), (v) the Kanuku Mountains Community Resource Group

¹⁰ <https://dpi.gov.gy/corps-of-wardens-establishing-presence-in-mining-districts/>

(KMCRG), (vi) The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG), (vii) the Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous People (GOIP), (viii) the Amerindian Peoples Association (APA), (ix) the National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF) and (x) the National Tshaos Council (NTC). Non-Amerindian forest dependent communities from all 10 Administrative Region are organised into a National Steering Committee for Community Forestry Organisations (NSCCFO); two representatives per region. The GFC maintains a database of these groups. These entities are responsible for their own operations and they generate funding from non-governmental sources, with the exception of the NTC, which receives funding from the national budget through the MoIPA.

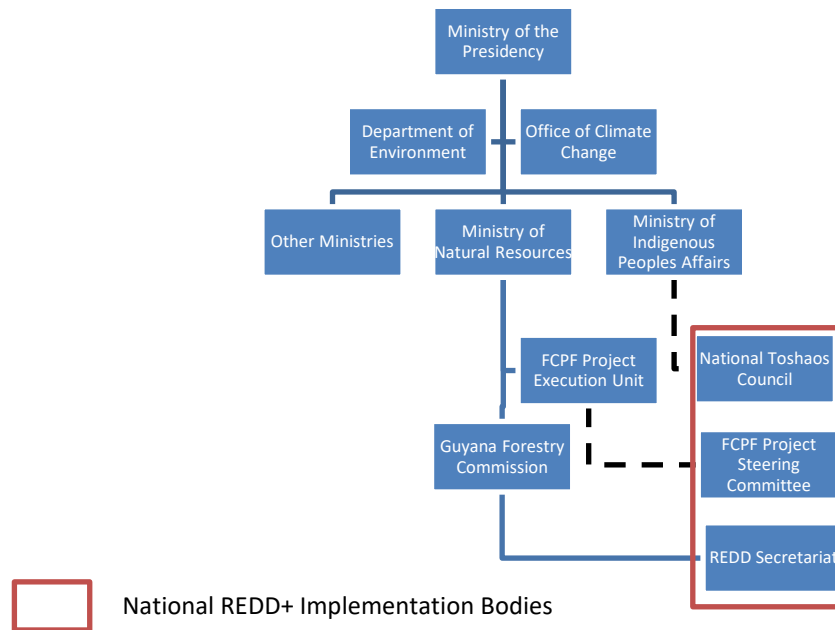


Figure 3. Institutional arrangements for REDD+ implementation in Guyana

The FCPF PEU set up the PSC, which supervises the work of the PEU.

In order to avoid duplication of effort, the FCPF PSC carries out the work that is expected of the NRWG, i.e. overseeing the preparation and implementation of REDD+ activities; specifically, stakeholder engagement and consultation. The membership of the PSC is as follows: (i) FCPF PEU; (ii) NTC; (iii) NRDDDB; (iv) APA; (v) NSCCFO; (vi) UG; (vii) Forest Producers Association (FPA); (viii) GFC; (ix) Guyana Women Miners Organisation (GWMO)¹¹; (x) Guyana Youth Environment Network (GYEN); (xi) OCC; and (xii) Transparency International Guyana (TIG). The R-PP anticipates that the agencies that make up the NRWG would also be part of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS) Steering Committee. However, that is not the case (Table 3)

¹¹ Has replaced the NGO - Red Thread.

Table 3. Comparison of membership on the FCPF Project Steering Committee and the MRVS Steering Committee.

Agency/Body	FCPF Project Steering Committee	MRVS Steering Committee
<i>FCPF Project Execution Unit (PEU)</i>	<i>Represented</i>	<i>Not represented</i>
<i>National Toshias Council (NTC)</i>	<i>Represented</i>	<i>Represented</i>
<i>North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB)</i>	<i>Represented</i>	<i>Not represented</i>
<i>Amerindian Peoples Association (APA)</i>	<i>Represented</i>	<i>Not represented</i>
<i>National Steering Committee for Community Forestry Organisations (NSCCFO)</i>	<i>Represented</i>	<i>Not represented</i>
<i>University of Guyana (UG)</i>	<i>Represented</i>	<i>Represented</i>
<i>Forest Producers Association (FPA)</i>	<i>Represented</i>	<i>Represented</i>
<i>Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)</i>	<i>Represented</i>	<i>Represented</i>
<i>Guyana Women Miners Organisation (GWMO)</i>	<i>Represented</i>	<i>Not represented</i>
<i>Guyana Youth Environment Network (GYEN)</i>	<i>Represented</i>	<i>Not represented</i>
<i>Office of Climate Change (OCC)</i>	<i>Represented</i>	<i>Represented</i>
<i>Transparency International Guyana (TIG)</i>	<i>Represented</i>	<i>Not represented</i>

Members of MRVS Steering Committee not represented on FCPF PSC are: Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC), GGMC, MoIPA, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Guyana Gold & Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA).

A few deviations from the set-up of the NRWG as envisaged in the R-PP were observed: (i) the MoIPA is not actively involved in the consultation process; (ii) Criteria for selection of NRWG members that were not applied to the PSC were: (a) representatives of locally-based international organisations with relevant knowledge and interest in the subject¹²; (b) participating NGOs that have previous involvement in agriculture or other land uses other than forestry and mining, environmental services management and/or previous interaction with Amerindian people involving activities in land tenure and natural resources utilisation; and/or (c) international experience in carbon financing initiatives (including REDD+) to enable the benefits of lessons learnt from previous experience. These anomalies should be corrected or justification for the deviations be documented. However, there is a critical need for MoIPA's participation given its responsibility for 212 IPs forest dependent communities.

Guyana is building capacity of the NTC, IP-NGOs and NSCCFOs to participate effectively in REDD+ management. An independent national consultant, Ms. Vanda Radzik, is implementing a 21-month consultancy (February 2018-October 2019) on institutional strengthening and capacity building support of the NTC, IP-NGOs and NSCCFOs.

The PSC is a creature of the FCPF PEU and does not have adequate, predictable and sustainable budgets to carry out its work. In fact, all current activities are supported from the budget of the FCPF PEU. Some of the institutional members of the PSC – UG, GFC, OCC and NTC are supported from national budget to their institutions, generally, but not REDD+ work specifically. All other PSC members from the private sector (FPA, GWMO) and NGOs (NRDDB, APA, NSCCFO, CYEN, TIG), may rely on own funds to attend meetings or depend on the PEU to meet this need.

Progress indicator 3: Multi-sector coordinating mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration

¹² CI was initially invited to be a member of the PSC but withdrew because of intentions to bid for consultancies; thereby avoiding conflict of interest.

While there is no REDD+ coordinating committee or mechanism, the importance of multi-sector collaboration for coordinated climate change actions was recently recognised.

In August 2018, the OCC re-launched the NCCC¹³. The GFC is a member of the NCCC. According to the Department of Public Information, Ministry of the Presidency, Ms. Janelle Christian, Head of OCC, said that the NCCC will play a crucial role in optimising the efficiency of climate governance. “We are known as a country that has always positioned climate change at the highest level... This has to be complimented by a structure or a system that will support Government agencies as they set policies and establish national priorities. [The NCCC] will... involve those who are responsible for negotiation at the international level... It involves those who are responsible for national planning and [the] national budget... It involves academia for research. It involves those who are responsible for key economic sectors... It is time that the Office of Climate Change [re-establishes] the mechanism that is critical to setting the priorities from the start and also advancing [the] implementation of actions across sectors,” she said. The terms of reference is yet to be finalised and released to the public. However, it is useful to mention the specific functions¹⁴.

The forestry sector is the only productive sector that has an updated sectoral policy and implementation plan¹⁵. These allow the GFC to manage Guyana’s State Forest Estate in a manner that is compatible with the GSDS and REDD+. The forest policy advocates forest conservation through measures such as selective logging (maximum allowable cut of 25 cm³ per ha) and application of reduced impact logging. These measures are strictly enforced by the GFC. The Forestry Training Centre Inc. (FTCI) offers training to forestry operators. The FTCI is headed by an Assistant Commissioner of Forests of the GFC, which allows for greater coordination and compliance with established industry-wide standard operating procedures.

While it is established that mineral mining is the largest driver of deforestation and forest degradation in Guyana (GFC 2017), the mining policy of 1989 is outdated and it is not REDD+ compliant. This situation is about to change. The MNR has commissioned a National Mineral Sector Policy Framework Committee that is charged with drafting the National Mineral Policy. The first public consultation was held in October 2018¹⁶. In addition, the MNR has created a Core of Wardens to strengthen enforcement of mining laws and regulations¹⁷.

The practice of permanent agriculture, the third deforestation driver after mineral mining and forestry, is not guided by a national policy, because none exists. This is ironic since Guyana is the

¹³ <https://motp.gov.gy/index.php/2015-07-20-18-53-36/3125-occ-re-launches-national-climate-change-committee>

¹⁴ Specific functions of the NCCC: a) To provide guidance, technical and/or scientific advice particularly in the formulation and implementation of sector strategies, action plans and awareness raising programmes; b) To coordinate and monitor the development and/or implementation of their sectoral adaptation and mitigation strategies and action plans, with technical and financial support to be provided through the Office of Climate Change, where applicable; c) To mainstream and integrate climate change considerations, *inter alia*, in legislations, regulation, policies, national strategies, sector plans; d) To participate in development of annual workplan and formulate activities for implementation of relevant sections of the National Climate Change Policy of Guyana including creating awareness of such activities. e) To prepare and submit to the NCCC, periodic monitoring reports on their sector strategies and action plans; f) To coordinate information sharing on national, bilateral and/or multilateral initiatives of their respective ministry, department/agency. This will support the cohesiveness of awareness raising programmes and dissemination of information accordingly; g) To establish Task Forces to address issues/activities that are critical to the implementation of climate-related initiatives within sector agencies; h) To participate in national Pre-Conference of Parties (COP) meetings to guide Guyana’s participation at the Intersessional and Annual Meetings of UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement; i) To serve as the National Steering Committee of the Green Climate Fund.

¹⁵ <https://www.forestry.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Guyana-National-Forest-Policy-Statement-2018.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://dpi.gov.gy/engagements-on-national-mineral-sector-policy-begin/>

¹⁷ <https://dpi.gov.gy/corps-of-wardens-establishing-presence-in-mining-districts/>

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) lead for regional agriculture and a regional agricultural policy¹⁸ exists. A National Strategy for Agriculture in Guyana 2013-2020¹⁹, was developed during the previous government. However, this strategy is not being implemented.

When compared in terms of importance to the national economy, coastal agriculture (19%) contributes more to the gross domestic product (GDP) than mineral mining (11%) and forestry (5%) (State Forest areas) combined. However, foreign currency receipts from mineral mining exports (52% of total export value in 2017) far outstrip that contributed from other productive activities (BOG 2018). Mineral mining, therefore, commands greater national attention than the other productive activities of importance to forest and REDD+.

Cross-sector collaboration occurs on an ad-hoc basis, and usually when there are issues related to land-use conflicts, for the most part mining-related. At those times, the ad-hoc Special Land Use Committee comprising the Commissioners of GFC, GGMC and GLSC meet with the ministers responsible for natural resources and the environment to provide technical advice towards the resolution of land use conflicts. In 2010, the SLUC was convened to address concerns of miners with respect to the LCDS²⁰.

The R-PP called for the expansion of the physical and technical capacity of the participating institutions responsible for implementing the R-PP in keeping with internationally acceptable standards and scientifically supported. Some progress has been made towards expansion of the physical and technical capacity of the National REDD+ Implementation Bodies outlined in Figure 3 and described in the text. Since all of the participating institutions have organisational structures, budgets and work programmes, there is opportunity to mainstream and coordinate REDD+ governance activities.

Progress indicator 4: Technical supervision capacity

Since its entry into the REDD+ milieu in 2007 (UNFCCC COP 13), Guyana has been demonstrating capable leadership in technical areas of REDD+, largely through its implementation of interim measures under the Guyana-Norway agreement (2009-present). Currently, the GFC is finalising preparation of the Eighth Interim Measures Report for the Guyana-Norway agreement. The work of the RS is a major contributor to the maintenance of high technical capacity in the area of REDD+. The work of the FCPF PSC ensures that some level of national supervision is provided, while third party verification of the reporting on the interim measures ensures that technical rigour is maintained in the estimation of annual deforestation and forest degradation rates and the contribution of the various drivers. Third party reporting is a requirement of the Guyana-Norway bilateral agreement.

In 2017, the MoTP reconvened the Green Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee (GMSSC), which “treats with all matters that relate to our agreement with the Kingdom of Norway, [and] issues that relate to REDD+ are discussed” (Ndibi Schwiers, personal communication). In practice, the GMSSC is an advisory and consultative body and doesn’t have the authority to ensure technical supervision of REDD+ readiness activities. That responsibility is more closely aligned with the mandate of the OCC, which has prioritized, strong national systems for data management and sharing as well as a framework for addressing such issues as IP rights, policies, free prior and informed consent and gender.

¹⁸ <https://caricom.org/the-common-agriculture-policy>

¹⁹ <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/laws/1291.pdf>

²⁰ <https://www.stabroeknews.com/2010/news/guyana/07/23/miners-still-to-define-position-on-land-use-committee-report/>

Progress indicator 5: Funds management capacity

Guyana, with the support of the Kingdom of Norway, has developed an advance REDD+ fund management mechanism known as the GRIF²¹. The GRIF presupposes that pending the creation of an international REDD+ mechanism, it represents an effort to create an innovative climate finance mechanism which balances national sovereignty over investment priorities with ensuring that REDD+ funds adhere to the Partner Entities' financial, environmental and social safeguards. Partner Entities to the GRIF include the World Bank, IDB and United Nations Group.

The GRIF serves as a pass-through mechanism for REDD+ funds from Norway to the World Bank (fund manager) to Guyana. It funds projects that have been identified in the LCDS. Since its formation, the GRIF has funded Amerindian land titling, Amerindian community development plans, institutional strengthening and the Cunha canal expansion project. Since the GSDS has replaced the LCDS, no new allocation of GRIF funds have been made to development projects identified in the GSDS, even though a number of second generation GRIF development projects have been identified by the PMO. An exception was made based on request from the Government of Guyana, and Norway approved the release of GRIF funds for preparation of the GSDS, ICT and eServices for hinterland, poor and remote communities, and a sustainable land management project in 2017²². It is understood that Norway requires concrete proposals from Guyana on how it intends to safeguard Guyana's rainforest, improve forest governance and support holistic green development, including the transition to green and renewable energy²³.

The PMO has developed capacity in writing proposals for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Under the Project "Capacity Building of National Designated Authority and Preparation of Country Strategic Framework of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana", the objective is to strengthen the capacity of the National Designated Authority, identified as the MoTP, and to prepare a Country Strategic Framework to guide Guyana's engagement with the GCF. To date, GCF Fund can be accessed through an accredited GCF delivery partner such as the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), CI, and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).

Other funds management capacity building initiatives have emerged including the FCPF which is being managed by MNR, through the PEU, and with the support of the IDB. The GFC manages allocations from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) through MoF. The recently passed Natural Resources Fund Bill²⁴ envisages deposit of excess mining and forestry revenues into the Fund. The modalities for this as well as capacity to recognise excess revenues are to be developed.

There is need to encourage other REDD+ donors to Guyana to channel funds through the GRIF as allowed by the flexibility of its governance framework and catered for in the LCDS. However, there may be need to ensure more local control of the Steering Committee and linkages to the national budgetary process to avoid duplication and lack of equity.

Progress indicator 6: Feedback and grievance mechanism

²¹ <http://www.guyanareddfund.org/>

²² <http://guyanachronicle.com/2017/12/08/norway-approves-release-of-funds-for-major-grif-projects>

²³ <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/press-release-guyana-and-norway-agree-on-how-to-take-partnership-dialogue-forward/id2520691/>

²⁴ <https://finance.gov.gy/?p=6254>

A grievance and redress mechanism (GRM) for REDD+ has been developed and a website to disseminate information to the public and to receive and log grievances on land and forestry issues was established²⁵. However, there is no evidence to demonstrate that it is operating in Guyana. It is anticipated that as the country become more REDD+ ready, the GRM will be activated and managed. The 2018 National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS)²⁶ proposes multiple approaches such as the GRM to increase coordination among natural resources agencies.

Under the GRIF Amerindian Land Titling project, a GRM specific to the needs of Amerindian land titling was developed in consultation with applicable national laws such as the Amerindian Act and State Lands Act²⁷. The GLSC supervises the implementation of the GRM by the MoIPA. Currently, there is no effort to harmonise the REDD+ GRM with the Amerindian land titling GRM.

Progress in relation to the priorities and safeguards envisaged in the R-PP is outlined in Chapter 4. Progress towards R-PP outputs can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4. Progress towards R-PP outputs - Component 1a.

Component 1a. National REDD Management Arrangements		
Outputs	Indicative activities	Assessment
Support the establishment of a functional REDD Secretariat	Prepare and implement ongoing capacity building plan for the REDD Secretariat	Components of a REDD Secretariat exist and are enabled by the PEU. However, functional effectiveness requires inter-agency collaboration. This should form part of the project's exit strategy.
Support the operationalisation of the National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG)	Provide institutional strengthening and capacity building of the NRWG, inclusive of the NTC and Amerindian NGOs	This activity is ongoing. The subsidiarity of the PSC/NRWG within MNR's legal framework requires evaluation.
	Support the operationalisation of the NRWG	This activity is ongoing through the FCPF PSC. There is need to harmonise membership with MRVS Steering Committee.
Development and establishment of a national conflict resolution strategy	Development and establishment of a national conflict resolution strategy	A GRM for REDD+ was developed but is yet to be operationalised.

The process of integrating protection and restoration of, and sustainable use of forests into the [GSDS framework](#) is ongoing. However, specific reference to REDD+ is omitted from the GSDS. It is very much part of Guyana's National Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement.

Notwithstanding the progress made, the enabling of institutional arrangements does not provide for effective and efficient coordination and synergies in the development of strategies and government

²⁵ <https://www.guyanagrm.com/>

²⁶ <https://www.forestry.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Guyana-National-Forest-Policy-Statement-2018.pdf>

²⁷ <http://www.gy.undp.org/content/guyana/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/09/07/grievance-redress-mechanism-for-amerindian-land-titling-operationalized.html>

programmes related to REDD+ in Guyana. Inter-agency collaboration is a major requirement for the sustained success of the REDD+ initiative in Guyana.

The R-PP includes the following as a performance indicator “Evaluations will be performance based and in compliance with the Common Approach”. The R-PP envisaged that ‘Agencies and committees that form part of the national REDD+ institutional framework will continue to work in coordination, being guided and informed by strategic national documents as the LCDS, Joint Concept Note, REDD+ Governance Development Plan (RGDP) and R-PP as well as the outcomes of any technical projects and studies that are conducted as a result of these documents’. Notwithstanding admirable efforts made by the FCPF PEU, agencies and committees do not coordinate on REDD+ outside of the PSC. It is expected that as the process matures, the coalescing of work by the various agencies will be achieved.

In addition to the above, and in keeping with the Common Approach (Paragraph 22), “Once the Readiness Preparation grant to support the implementation of the R-PP has been allocated, the Country engages in the analytical and consultative activities that are the hallmark of the full-fledged SESA process”.

3.1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach

The purpose of this activity is to ensure that key stakeholders understand REDD+ and have strong participation in the readiness process and the REDD+ Strategy development.

R-PP progress indicators	Level of progress	Description
7. Participation and engagement of key stakeholders		Significant progress to ensure participation and engagement with IPs and non-IPs forest dwelling communities.
8. Consultation processes		Significant progress in ensure the operating principles for community consultations developed during R-PP preparation are being followed.
9. Information sharing and accessibility of information		Progressing well, further development required to ensure REDD+ information is reaching the common citizen.
10. Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes		Progressing well, further development required to ensure that REDD+ public disclosure is reaching remote and poor communities using culturally appropriate formats.

This part of the FCPF Assessment Framework reviews how consultations with key stakeholders are performed to ensure participation of different social groups, transparency, and accountability of decision-making.

Guyana considers consultation, participation and outreach on REDD+ to be critically important for the success of REDD+. While significant progress has been made with efforts to ensure participation and engagement of key stakeholders as well as with the consultation process, more work is needed to disseminate information and to achieve public disclosure. The demography of Guyana, poor communication infrastructure in the hinterland and the use of local languages there dictate the need to be patient and to use all available means to engage and to ensure the right messages are

communicated, received and followed through into practice. More time is needed to achieve this sub-component.

Assessment of progress

Progress indicator 7: Participation and engagement of key stakeholders

In compliance with the Guyana-Norway agreement, and in keeping with social safeguards, including free, prior informed consent, Guyana learnt important lessons during the process of communicating the LCDS to stakeholders, particularly indigenous peoples' in the forested hinterland during the early days of the LCDS implementation. As a result, operating principles for consultation, participation and outreach were developed and included in the R-PP. They are repeated here for emphasis²⁸.

Indigenous peoples' forest dependent communities are well represented in Guyana; others not so. Indigenous peoples are represented by a specialised Ministry (of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, MoIPA), the NTC (elected Village leaders), area-based representative groups such as NRDDB, and IP-NGOs. Some are members of regional (e.g. COICA) or international (e.g. Forest Peoples' Programme) bodies and are periodically engaging the national authorities and media on matters of importance. By practice, they receive the higher proportion of targeted consultation on REDD+ and other relevant matters.

Non-Indigenous Peoples forest dependent communities receive disproportionately less attention. During the consultations on the LCDS led by the GFC, Amerindian communities and NGOs were almost exclusively the target recipients of the consultations. Only recently, the GFC has begun to include these groups in consultation on REDD+ and other related topics. This present project gives them underserved voice and participation through targeted engagements. According to the FPA, more work needs to be done to make REDD+ more visible so that its members can become more aware of its role in the forestry sector.

Women, youth and other vulnerable groups are not targeted separately from IPs and non-IPs who depend on forest resources for culture, tradition and livelihood. Government and non-Governmental Organisations do carry out stakeholder analyses to ensure the right stakeholders are being targeted. The

²⁸ - Consultation and awareness sessions planned under the R-PP will be executed in collaboration with the Office of Climate Change by the GFC. The NTC and Amerindian NGOs will also liaise closely with the OCC and the GFC in conducting consultations / awareness sessions. Further, the NTC will be provided with technical guidance from both the OCC & GFC on the more technical aspects of REDD+ implementation, prior to their commencement of their series of REDD+ consultations;

- The consultation and participation process will be built upon the principle of: free, prior and informed consent (FPIC); targeted consultations will be held with the relevant stakeholders identified from the stakeholder analysis including Amerindian communities and villages;

- Information materials will be developed in a user friendly format, so that relevant stakeholders, especially the Amerindian villages and communities will be able to fully understand its content and therefore make free, informed decisions on its contents;

- Every effort will be made to send relevant materials to stakeholders at least 30 days before a given, scheduled consultation process is to be held;

- The consultation and outreach programme will be documented and analyzed to determine how stakeholder input will be used, what strategies should be put in place, and which ones should be amended;

- NTC, NGOs and other partners will be engaged to disseminate information amongst stakeholders, so that they fully understand the opportunity and the responsibility of promoting the dialogue within the community, and that the consultations held will indeed represent the understanding and the will of stakeholders affected by REDD+.

- Consultations will be conducted at the village and community, regional and national levels; Reports from consultations will be sent back to stakeholders in a timely manner and feedback will be sought on the content of the reports;

- Consultations will be implemented in a timely manner, with the proper materials, and to achieve pre-determined Objectives / products. Translators will be available during consultations with indigenous communities;

- An appropriate feedback mechanism will be developed to allow for sufficient exchange of views, opinions and recommendations.

MolPA assesses the readiness and capacity of communities to engage for consultations on the Amerindian Act, and Amerindian land titling. This determines the extent to which the principle of free, prior and informed consent is implemented. In its engagements with the North Rupununi communities, Iwokrama reported that when REDD+ was first introduced residents were confused as it related to the role of REDD+ because of the large number of other programmes or initiatives that have similar objectives and the inability to make the connections or linkages. As a consequence, sensitisation sessions and other related discussions were held and the feedback was positive. Communities became more receptive to information on REDD+ and related concepts. Another positive was the manner in which the information was shared in easy-to-read manuals and facilitated training sessions.

In order to ensure full, effective and ongoing participation of IPs, the MolPA serves as the primary recipient of introductory information, and it then notifies communities in writing. Only when acknowledgement of the MolPA's letter and communication of consent to engage is received, can an intervention be taken to the IP community by the interested party. This process requires adequate time and may take months. Often, interpreters from the target community are employed to translate from English to the local language, and community meetings are chaired by the Captain (or Toshao) of the community. To ensure follow up and continuity, a community liaison person is identified by the Village Council and may receive a paid stipend from the interested party.

For non-IP communities, the Ministry of Communities is the focal point government entity working through its regional and local governance organs to organise meetings and to disseminate information. Forest-specific information is communicated directly through the GFC representatives in the field.

Progress indicator 8: Consultation process

Generally, the consultation process on REDD+ follows the operating principles identified during the R-PP preparation process. It is fairly well developed and capable of producing results when done correctly. A joint expert workshop produced a paper on "Practical approaches to ensuring full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in REDD+: assessing experiences and lessons"²⁹. This approach has been used by GFC and Conservation International Guyana in 2015 community based REDD+ work in support of the Year 4 MRVS³⁰.

Notification of community engagement can be public or targeted, followed by actual engagement at an agreed location; usually in the community. Minutes of meetings, including a signed list of participants is usually documented but not always repatriated to the community, except when the next step in the process requires it.

Depending on the community's seasonal calendar and timing of meeting, consecutive meetings in any given community may lack continuity of effort due to the unavailability of those who attended the first meeting. This means that the first set of information has to be communicated at several sessions and understood before the process can advance to the next stage. This often results in delays and increased costs because of the high travel costs away from Georgetown. This has implications for planning community engagement.

²⁹ <https://naturaljustice.org/practical-approaches-to-ensuring-the-full-and-effective-participation-of-indigenous-peoples-in-redd-assessing-experiences-and-lessons-to-date/>

³⁰ <https://www.forestry.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/REDD-Outreach-2015-Final-Report.pdf>

The R-PP envisages that the key to having a strong, respected consultation plan is to develop a draft of a consultation plan with the relevant stakeholders, validate this draft with key stakeholders, finalise the plan and then start the consultation process. It is anticipated that community consultations will intensify in 2019 using culturally appropriate communication materials. This requires that information materials are to be developed in the IP languages, in a user friendly format, so that relevant stakeholders, especially the Amerindian villages and communities will be able to fully understand the content and therefore make free, informed decisions based on content.

Further assessment of this progress indicator is required.

Progress indicator 9: Information sharing and accessibility of information

Several institutions have disseminated information on forest conservation and management, REDD+ nationally and sub-nationally, and MRV for communities. Since 2013, WWF has trained 78 monitors from 36 communities and has provided relevant information on community-based MRV. The MoIPA has disseminated through mass media, information on Amerindian land titling including the steps in the process leading to award of land title. Iwokrama has collaborated with Conservation International - Guyana and the NRDDDB to produce a [“Community Manual and Training Material on Climate Change and the Role of Forests”](#). This manual was shared nationally and with communities.

The FCPF-funded readiness project is strengthening IP-NGOs and CFOs capacities to disseminate information. The MNR contracted GlobalCAD to carry out the assignment “Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement on REDD+ and Readiness Activities in Guyana” over a period of two years (December 2017-December 2019). The MTR consultant found evidence to support the involvement of relevant stakeholders in the stakeholder mapping and baseline survey but no evidence that a validation workshop was held or that the development of the plan was led by the NRWG (FCPF PSC). These activities will be carried out in 2019.

At the national scale, REDD+ information is disseminated through mass media nationally³¹ and internationally³². Remote forest dependent communities do not have reliable internet access and often rely on written materials or radio communication. These realities are being taken into consideration by the Consultancy Firm in the design of communication materials on REDD+.

Progress indicator 10: Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes

Before any intervention can be designed, the results of stakeholder consultation must be taken into account. Implementation of activities in support of public disclosure of consultation outcomes will be carried out in 2019 by a consultancy firm – GlobalCAD – and an individual consultant – Vanda Radzik – during their separate work to build the capacity of the NTC, communities and other stakeholders. There is need for a structured approach to achieving this objective.

Progress towards R-PP outputs can be seen in Table 5.

³¹ <http://guyanachronicle.com/2018/05/20/engagements-start-on-redd-readiness-activities>

³² <https://redd-monitor.org/2018/05/21/redd-in-the-news-14-20-may-2018/>

Table 5. Progress towards R-PP outputs - Component 1b.

Component 1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach		
Outputs	Indicative activities	Assessment
<i>Effective stakeholder consultation and participation</i>	<i>Development of a communication and outreach strategy and action plan</i>	<i>This activity has been completed.</i>
	<i>Development of communication and outreach material and conduct national consultation and outreach activities</i>	<i>This activity is scheduled for 2019. It is recommended that intended beneficiaries be involved at all stages of design and implementation.</i>
	<i>Dissemination of materials for consultations through various media</i>	<i>There is no evidence that this activity has started. However, dissemination of communication materials is scheduled for February 2019</i>

Constraints and gaps related to readiness organisation and consultation

The current REDD+ management framework is not the ideal (Mrs. Janelle Christian, personal communication, 6 February 2019). Given the different ministerial loci for natural resources (technical aspects of REDD+) and the environment (policy and funding aspects of REDD+), coordination of existing REDD+ management may require a ministerial level framework such as a Cabinet Sub-Committee on integrated natural resources management or the recently resuscitated National Climate Change Committee (NCCC)³³. In this way, the work of OCC and RS - the latter has a single sector focus - will be in a common platform in real time. As a cross-cutting issue, REDD+ will be rightly considered and its work coordinated among all land use sectors. In addition, the important role of the MoFA needs to be highlighted, since it is the primary focal point for international engagements on REDD+. At the highest level of public accountability, the Cabinet Sub-Committee or NCCC could act as a direct executive entity to the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources in the legislative branch of government.

However, there is a gap in the involvement of civil society and other stakeholders in developing multi-sector readiness for REDD+. The MSSC, as constituted in 2009 specifically for the LCDS and REDD+, hasn't met since the change in government in 2015. However, its replacement the GMSSC, has met twice since its convening in 2017. This is an area that requires urgent attention to ensure participation of key technical stakeholders and interrogation of technical competence in relation to REDD+.

In terms of accountability and transparency, there is need to ensure that the citizenry is receiving regular updates on REDD+ in a highly digestible manner. The use of websites and mass media (including social media) is highly recommended for those communities that have access to the internet. Reaching indigenous people and local communities in unserved internet areas in the hinterland will require other means of communication at comparatively higher costs due to the remoteness of those areas and lack of communication links. There is opportunity to collaborate with the National Data Management Authority (NDMA), which is implementing the "ICT access and eServices for hinterland, poor and remote communities project"³⁴ to enhance equity in the access to ICT and government services.

³³ See progress indicator 3 for additional information on the NCCC.

³⁴ <https://ndma.gov.gy/projects/ict-access-and-eservices-for-hinterland-poor-and-remote-communities-undp/>

While the implementation of GSDS 2040 - anticipated to start in 2019 - is expected to improve inter-sectoral collaboration, the current reality is silo approach to land use and management. Each productive sector has its own governance arrangement and coordination is not institutionalised. There are no plans to change the ad-hoc nature of SLUC. Two key sectors - mining and agriculture - are either now updating policy (mining) or have none (agriculture). Land use conflicts are the expected results of inadequate multi-sector coordination. The GRM, though developed under the project is yet to be operationalised, an important constraint for REDD+ readiness. There is no timeline for the GRM to be set up

3.2 - REDD+ Strategy Preparation

The objective of Component 2 is to prepare Guyana to implement the REDD+ Strategy to: (i) verify and characterise the key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation identified in the R-PP; and design conservation and sustainable forest management activities that reduce emissions; (ii) identify how current land use, and forest law, policy and governance structures impact on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; and (iii) propose alternatives for mitigating the identified drivers and responding to impacts.

3.2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

R-PP progress indicators	Level of progress	Description
11. Assessment and analysis		Completed during the R-PP preparation.
12. Prioritisation of direct and indirect drivers / barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement		Significant progress made to identify mineral mining, forestry, permanent agriculture, fire and settlements as main drivers.
13. Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities		Progressing well, further development required to establish links with enhancement of forest carbon stocks activities.
14. Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance		Progressing well, further development required to accelerate ongoing processes such as Amerindian land titling and Opt-in Mechanism.
15. Implications for forest law and policy		Significant progress to have Guyana sign on to EU-FLEGT and VPA. National forest policy statement and National Forest Plan were updated in 2018.

This part of the FCPF Readiness Assessment focuses on the causal relationship between the economic, legal, policy setting of the country and associated patterns of land-use change, deforestation and forest degradation. Building a comprehensive understanding at the preparation phase sets a solid foundation for developing an effective REDD+ strategy.

Generally, there is a positive movement towards completing this Component. The summary of the work conducted during R-PP formulation and presentation presents an analysis of historical land-use trends and assessment of recent land tenure and titling, natural resource rights, and livelihoods. However, the systematic links between drivers and barriers to the enhancement of forest carbon stocks require greater recognition in order to inform action plans towards addressing them. Work conducted during R-PP formulation and presentation does have implications for forest law, policy and governance.

Assessment of progress

Progress indicator 11: Assessment and analysis

The R-PP presents an analysis of recent historical (1990-2009) land-use trends and assessment of relevant land tenure and titling, natural resource rights, livelihoods (including traditional/customary), forest law, policy and governance issues. This work was facilitated by the Guyana-Norway agreement and independently reported in the Interim Measures Report (GFC 2012).

Progress indicator 12: Prioritisation of direct and indirect drivers / barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement

The R-PP includes the analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation based on data contained in the Interim Measures Report (GFC 2012). Recently, Winrock International delivered an updated report on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

The total area converted from forest to non-forest between 1990 and 2009 is estimated at 74,917 ha. This is calculated by subtracting the initial 1990 forest area from the 2009 September forest area (~19.8 years). The estimate includes all forest to non-forest change i.e. detected mining, road infrastructure, agricultural conversion and fire events that result in deforestation. It does not include forest degradation caused by selective harvesting, fire or shifting agriculture.

The R-PP includes the following note and next steps:

Note: *The assessment of forest sector and drivers of deforestation will be deepened in the design phase to inform the design of the REDD+ Strategy.*

Next steps: *(i) REDD+ strategies will target key drivers of deforestation and degradation, as identified by the MRV System; (ii) Studies and pilot/demonstration projects will include verifiability and independent monitoring, economic analysis of alternative land uses and drivers of deforestation. Fifteen potential candidate REDD+ activities are included in the R-PP.*

*Forest carbon stock enhancement has received the least attention compared to the other four objectives of the UNFCCC REDD+ regime, in Guyana. It is neither covered in the R-PP nor the GFC reporting on MRVS. However, there is a related national level activity by a sister agency that is relevant. The GGMC is implementing a land reclamation project to rehabilitate post-mining landscapes using a re-vegetation strategy³⁵. Initially, the main species of choice was the fast growing, nitrogen fixing tree species *Acacia mangium*, which is included in the national list of invasive alien species³⁶. Currently, the GGMC is relying more on native tree species, which is encouraging and a step in the right direction. The carbon stock enhancement potential of the rehabilitated post-mining landscapes is still to be assessed.*

Progress indicator 13: Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities

In 2009, Guyana developed a framework for a national MRVS, with the aim to establish a comprehensive, national system to monitor, report and verify forest carbon emissions resulting from

³⁵ <http://ggmc.gov.gy/main/?q=documents/land-reclamation-project>

³⁶ <https://www.cabi.org/Uploads/isc/caribbean-legislation/BEAP-IAS-guyana-national-strategy-nov-2011.pdf>

deforestation and forest degradation in Guyana. The idea is to support Guyana in meeting the evolving international reporting requirements from the UNFCCC, fulfil additional reporting requirements, and further develop forest monitoring as a tool for REDD+ implementation.

The MRVS tracks forest change, both deforestation and degradation, by change driver. Deforestation is tracked through the interpretation of a national coverage of satellite imagery. Degradation estimates will be drawn from the results of the accuracy assessment which involves the interpretation of representative samples using high resolution imagery. This approach provides a robust measure of both deforestation and degradation, and was deemed necessary due to the pursuing of a low or no cost REDD+ implementation option (GFC 2017).

WWF and CI-Guyana trained communities in South Guyana in community-based MRVS (cMRVS). At the moment, WWF is fundraising to train more communities in cMRVS in 2019. However, communities are becoming increasingly frustrated with the lack of implementation of the LCDS Opt-in Mechanism and benefit sharing. However, they have expressed appreciation of the value of cMRVS training in monitoring community development.

Although not captured in national reporting, mineral mining - the main driver of deforestation - has created opportunity for enhancement of forest carbon stocks in the re-vegetated post-mining landscapes under the management of the GGMC. This is an important REDD+ activity given that there are no forest plantations in Guyana. This link and opportunity need to be recognised by national authorities.

Progress indicator 14: Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance

The GLSC, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and with GRIF funding, is carrying out a country-wide mainstreaming of sustainable land development and management in Guyana³⁷. The US\$15 million project includes measures for land reclamation and development, and implementation of a land classification system to optimise land use. The project will support the development of a harmonised national land policy and legislative framework and strengthened capacity of the GLSC, and partner Ministries and agencies through: (i) the design and development of an integrated and robust spatial data infrastructure and open-data geospatial information system to support improved land administration, (ii) enhanced governance of tenure, as well as (iii) improved technical support services and mechanisms to encourage adoption of sustainable and climate-smart land use systems and management practices³⁸. It is anticipated that the information and services will strengthen the application and enforcement of regulations, land use planning, incentive measures, knowledge sharing as well as assessment and monitoring in line with the SDGs. An important prerequisite for the success of the project is effective collaboration across concerned sectors and institutions, and effective and transparent information and communications for multi-sector and multi-stakeholder decision making processes for sustainable land development and management.

In terms of land tenure, and Amerindian land tenure in particular, MoIPA in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and GLSC, and with GRIF funding, is implementing

³⁷ <http://www.guyanareddfund.org/images/stories/ProjectDocuments/SLDM-Project-Documents-v3-for-Submission-to-GRIF-Steering-Committee-29-11-17.pdf>

³⁸ *ibid*

the Amerindian Land Titling³⁹ and Amerindian Development Fund (Phases I&II)⁴⁰ projects. The purpose of the land titling project is to accelerate the titling of Amerindian lands in order that titled Amerindian Villages might participate in the GRIF-funded scheme for forest protection. A total of 68 villages is expected to benefit from the project, when completed, and at a cost of US\$11 million. The purpose of the development fund project is to finance implementation of community development plans that are compatible with REDD+, in 212 communities. The budgetary allocation is US\$8 million.

Progress indicator 15: Implications for forest law and policy

The assessment and other similar measures such as training workshops at national and sub-national levels are having an important impact on REDD+. The NFPS and National Forest Plan (NFP)⁴¹ were updated and Guyana signed an important agreement with the European Union in fulfillment of the Guyana-Norway agreement. (see below). The [Year 7 Interim Measures Report](#) (GFC 2018) reported deforestation as 8,851 ha, equal to an annualised rate of 0.048%, which is lower than the change reported in the previous year (0.050%).

The University of Guyana (Faculties of Natural Sciences and Agriculture and Forestry) have carried out research on forest biology and carbon sequestration and storage in vegetated post-mining landscapes, respectively, and this is contributing to a better understanding of forest policy implementation. Iwokrama, in collaboration with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) is implementing the REDD Global Comparative Study in Guyana. A publication on Guyana REDD+ Profile is expected to be published in 2019.

Progress towards R-PP outputs can be seen in Table 6.

Table 6. Progress towards R-PP outputs - Component 2a.

Component 2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance		
Outputs	Indicative activities	Assessment
Finalise assessment of land use, policy and governance	Updating and finalisation of Quick Assessment Report	The National Land Use Plan was completed in 2013.
Update existing Policy framework	Revising National Forest Policy and Plan	This activity was completed in 2018.

3.2b. REDD+ Strategy Options

R-PP progress indicators	Level of progress	Description
16. Selection and prioritisation of REDD+ strategy options		Progressing well, further development required to prioritise the options.

³⁹ <http://www.guyanareddfund.org/images/stories/Signed%20ALT%20Project%20Document.pdf>

⁴⁰ http://www.guyanareddfund.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=116:moaa-launches-adf-grif-project-phase-ii&catid=46:news&Itemid=127

⁴¹ <https://www.forestry.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Guyana-National-Forest-Plan-2018.pdf>

17. Feasibility assessment		<i>Not yet demonstrating progress. Part of a consultancy to be carried out in 2019.</i>
18. Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies		<i>Not yet demonstrating progress. Part of a consultancy to be carried out in 2019.</i>

The objective of Guyana's REDD+ Strategy is to maintain a low rate of deforestation and forest degradation in Guyana by continuing the development and implementation of related policy, procedures and programmes, as well as by robust monitoring and enforcement.

This part of the FCPF Assessment Framework focuses on the motivation and rationale for countries to have engaged in any or all of the five REDD+ activities, and the strategic options that were identified and analysed during preparation to ascertain that actions taken on REDD+ are beneficial, feasible and cost-effective.

To date, progress on formal REDD+ strategy options lags successful national operational efforts to maintain a low rate of deforestation and forest degradation. While REDD+ drivers have been determined, new REDD+ strategy options are yet to be identified and prioritised, as well as estimation of the emissions reduction potential of the planned interventions. Work is planned in 2019 to complete the assessment of the political feasibility, risks and opportunities and cost:benefit analysis of the REDD+ strategy options. A sensitivity analysis of the implications of the strategy option on existing sectoral policies is not yet demonstrating progress.

Assessment of progress

Progress indicator 16: Selection and prioritisation of REDD+ strategy options

Recently, MNR contracted Winock International, working in collaboration with Conservation International, Climate Law and Policy and Sylvan Acres to carry out a consultancy "ATN/FP-14161-GY Development of a REDD+ Strategy and SESA for Guyana". The duration of the consultancy is 20 months (May 2018 to December 2019).

In preparation for the development of the REDD+ Strategy, the consultant has reviewed the direct drivers for REDD+ Strategy. They are, in order of importance: (i) Mining – responsible for 55% of total emissions; (ii) forestry – responsible for 36% of total emissions; and (iii) agriculture – responsible for 6% of total emissions. Fire, infrastructure, settlements and shifting agriculture⁴² account for the remaining 3% of total emissions. Indirect drivers were assessed to include: (i) inadequate national/subnational land use/zoning plans; (ii) incoherent sectoral policies, laws and regulations and the national development strategy; (iii) land use policies and plans are inconsistent with sectoral goals and priorities; and (iv) inadequate mechanisms within government to address cross-sectoral policy, planning or practice issues.

A similar exercise to prepare REDD+ strategy options was completed by Winrock International on contract to GFC and with funding from the UNDP-Guiana Shield Facility (GSF) project, in 2014⁴³. It appears that the results of that project are not being considered in the design of new REDD+ strategy options.

⁴² Shifting agriculture has been separated from agriculture driver because the methodology to monitor the state of shifting agriculture was developed in 2018 when initial fieldwork and image capture (including airborne) were completed by GFC. Further analysis and reporting are expected in 2019.

⁴³ <https://guianashield.org>

Progress indicator 17: Feasibility assessment

The next step in the recently launched process is to develop REDD+ strategy alternatives to be followed by modelling and review process, to be carried out in 2019. In addition, the consultant – Winrock International - is currently working on the UNFCCC and FCPF safeguards alignment. According to the consultant “..in order to meet its contractual agreement with the FCPF and benefit from the international REDD+ mechanism under the UNFCCC, Guyana must meet both UNFCCC and FCPF requirements, which include requirements on safeguards”. The objective, therefore, is to ensure the social and ecological sustainability of REDD+ in Guyana.

During 2013-2014, a cost-benefit analysis of REDD+ strategy options was carried out by Winrock International and GFC in consultation with technical experts from Guyana⁴⁴. It appears that the results of that analysis are not being considered at this time and the reason(s) is neither clear to the MTR consultant nor the PEU.

Progress indicator 18: Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies

Guyana has not yet reached the stage of being able to determine the implications of REDD+ strategy options on existing sectoral policies. A procurement process is ongoing to prioritise, design and implement four REDD+ pilot projects in the areas of the four principal drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. When the consultancy gets going, it will have the benefit of completed and ongoing work in the productive sectors that impact standing forests.

For the agricultural sector, the absence of a policy document may present some challenges to the conduct of the assessment. In the area of forestry, Iwokrama, CI-Guyana and WWF have strengthened the capacity of communities in Southern Guyana to monitor and report on forest change, and CI-Guyana is continuing to strengthen national MRVS through funding from NORAD. In the mineral sector, a Global Environment Facility-funded medium sized project (2013-2017) helped to mainstream biodiversity conservation in mining and identified biodiversity hotspots in mining districts for implementation of conservation measures.

Progress towards R-PP outputs can be seen in Table 7.

Table 7. Progress towards R-PP outputs - Component 2b.

Component 2b. REDD+ Strategy Options		
Outputs	Indicative activities	Assessment
<i>Identify/design REDD+ Strategy Options</i>	<i>Identify/design REDD+ Strategy Options</i>	<i>Ongoing. Direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation have been documented.</i>
<i>Design and implementation of REDD+ pilot projects</i>	<i>Design and implement REDD+ pilot projects</i>	<i>This activity has not started. A procurement process has been launched for a consultancy on “REDD+ Pilot Projects”.</i>

⁴⁴ *ibid.*

<i>Examine/assess REDD+ Strategy options</i>	<i>Examine/assess REDD+ Strategy options</i>	<i>This activity has not started. A signed contract is in place and execution of this work is expected to commence shortly.</i>
	<i>Conduct specific studies, workshops and study tours, including trade off analysis</i>	<i>This activity has not started. A signed contract is in place and execution of this work is expected to commence shortly.</i>

3.2c. REDD+ Implementation Framework

<i>R-PP progress indicators</i>	<i>Level of progress</i>	<i>Description</i>
19. Adoption and implementation of legislation/ regulations		<i>Progressing well, further development required to implement the National Forest Plan 2018.</i>
20. Guidelines for implementation		<i>Progressing well, further development required to define carbon rights, benefit sharing mechanisms, and REDD+ financing modalities.</i>
21. Benefit sharing mechanism		<i>Progressing well, further development required to implement benefit sharing mechanism in a transparent way.</i>
22. National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities		<i>Not yet demonstrating progress. A national geo-referenced REDD+ information system or registry is not yet operational.</i>

The general objective of this sub-component is to develop the institutional framework that will coordinate the REDD+ programmes and ensure multi-stakeholder participation during the implementation phase.

An effective implementation framework during the preparation phase is indicative of the country's capacity to undertake emission reduction programs in the future.

Inadequate progress has been made towards the set-up of the REDD+ implementation framework. There is no evidence that REDD+ laws and policies related to REDD+ programmes and activities have been adopted or are being implemented. This then means that the issues of carbon rights, benefit sharing mechanisms, and grievance mechanisms are not grounded in a REDD+ implementation framework. REDD+ financing modalities and procedures for official approvals for GRIF funded projects exist.

Assessment of progress

Progress indicator 19: Adoption and implementation of legislation / regulations

Guyana has neither adopted nor implemented REDD+ legislation or regulations related to REDD+ programmes or activities. However, the [2018 NFPS](#), and associated NFP, focus attention on Guyana's forests as a 'cornerstone of the country's national patrimony; providing a host of products and services'. The NFPS proposes that MNR and the Ministry of the Presidency play lead roles in facilitating discussions on implementation arrangements.

The R-PP envisaged that Guyana will formally enter negotiations with the European Union (EU) with the aim of joining a Voluntary Partnership Agreement under the European Union Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. In 2018, Guyana signed the [Voluntary Partnership Agreement](#) (VPA) for Forest Law, Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) with the EU. This is an important development for unlocking Guyana's access to timber and timber-products' markets in the EU.

Progress indicator 20: Guidelines for implementation

A procurement process has been launched for a consultancy on "Land tenure and carbon ownership and benefit sharing mechanism", to be implemented in 2019.

Of the eight key considerations for the planned REDD+ implementation framework as envisaged in the R-PP, only four are currently in process. They are: (i) address the drivers of forest area change (see 2b.); (ii) strengthened monitoring and enforcement within the sectors. MNR has established a Core of Wardens which is responsible for monitoring and enforcement in gold mining areas. During the implementation of the Global Environment Facility Medium-Sized Project on Mainstreaming of biodiversity in the mining sector⁴⁵, the Core of Wardens worked along with officers from GGMC, GFC and EPA to coordinate monitoring and enforcement work in the hinterland of Guyana; (iii) review and address relevant aspects of carbon ownership; (iv) design benefit-sharing mechanism; and (v) stakeholder involvement in relevant aspects of REDD+ readiness implementation.

The current project is not implementing any activity related to REDD+ and future forest activities. However, REDD+ pilot projects will be designed for implementation in the future. Community forestry, sustainable forest management and use of reduced impact logging are activities that come under the purview of the GFC. Also, the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development (Iwokrama) is involved in sustainable logging.

Progress indicator 21: Benefit sharing mechanism

Guyana is yet to establish REDD+ benefit sharing mechanism and therefore it is too early to assess its level of transparency.

Guyana FCPF has established communication links with Guatemala, Suriname⁴⁶ and Peru to enable the sharing of ideas and lessons learnt. There is need to involve the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to better promote the interest of Guyana within the international community.

A procurement process has been launched for a consultancy on "Land tenure and carbon ownership and benefit sharing mechanism".

During 2008-2009, the Guiana Shield Initiative (GSI) Phase II project, in collaboration with the IUCN-Netherlands Committee (IUCN-NL) financially and technically supported Iwokrama to design a benefit sharing mechanism for North Rupununi communities. There are important lessons there for the FCPF project.

The Opt-In Mechanism (OIM) for participation of titled Amerindian (legal name for native indigenous peoples) communities in forest carbon payment scheme was developed during

⁴⁵ <https://www.nre.gov.gy/mainstreaming-biodiversity-in-the-mining-sector-undp/>

⁴⁶ <https://www.forestry.gov.gy/2018/03/28/guyana-suriname-redd-knowledge-sharing-exchange/>

implementation of the LCDS⁴⁷. The stated objective of the OIM is to ensure that those who have been good custodians of the forests and who continue to manage them effectively, can also benefit from any economic transaction affecting these national patrimony. The 2017 advance version of the OIM (first developed in 2015) presents a framework for the operationalisation of the OIM under a performance-based scenarios and a reducing balance scenario, and in keeping with the GSDS framework.

According to the WWF, many of the communities in Southern Guyana that benefited from its cMRV training are frustrated with the lack of progress on implementation of the OIM and benefit sharing. The OCC should update information on status and plans for OIM and benefit sharing.

The OCC is a member of the FCPF PSC and there is opportunity to share experiences for development of a national-scale transparent benefit sharing mechanism for REDD+.

Progress indicator 22: National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities

Other than for the MRVS, there is no national geo-referenced REDD+ information system or registry and system monitoring REDD+ information system.

Guyana has made efforts to ensure public access to REDD+ information. Recently, a national dialogue on gender and inclusion of women and youth in REDD+ readiness was started with the holding of a workshop on “Readying Women for REDD+” drawn from all 10 administrative regions of Guyana⁴⁸.

The following key considerations are excluded from the project, for the moment: (i) inclusion of REDD+ considerations in key policies governing land use and natural resources management in Guyana; (ii) pursue efforts to address land tenure; and (iii) closer collaboration with the private sector. The latter represents a crucial need. Only the Kingdom of Norway has contributed to the GRIF although several donors and international development partners have expressed an interest in supporting Guyana’s REDD+ preparation and related activities. Renewed efforts are needed to target the World Bank, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) – currently supporting community-based MRVS, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), IDB, German Development Bank (KfW), and Conservation International – currently supporting the Protected Areas Trust Fund.

Progress towards R-PP outputs can be seen in Table 8.

Table 8. Progress towards R-PP outputs - Component 2c.

Component 2c. REDD+ Implementation Framework		
Outputs	Indicative activities	Assessment
Examine investment and capacity needs	Assess the investment requirements and develop capacity building plan for institutions	This activity has not started. The FCPF PEU will be submitting the procurement documents to IDB for approval in January 2019. Anticipated activity implementation start date is June 2019.
	Training and education on the interpretation and implementation of natural	This activity has not started. The procurement package to be submitted to IDB for approval in January 2019.

⁴⁷ <https://www.lcds.gov.gy/index.php/opt-in/draft-opt-in-mechanism-package>

⁴⁸ <https://dpi.gov.gy/women-being-educated-on-redd-to-play-a-greater-role/>

	<i>resources legislation, policy and guidelines</i>	<i>Anticipated activity implementation start date is June 2019.</i>
<i>Enable effective communication with other partners</i>	<i>Establish and develop a communication link with other countries (as appropriate) to enable the sharing of ideas and lessons learnt</i>	<i>This activity is ongoing. South-South cooperation engagements were made with Guatemala, Peru and Suriname.</i>
<i>Address matters regarding land tenure</i>	<i>Collaborate with government agencies working on land tenure arrangements as well as examine aspects of carbon ownership across different tenure and management options</i>	<i>This activity has not started. A procurement process has been launched for a consultancy on "Land tenure and carbon ownership and benefit sharing mechanism".</i>
<i>REDD+ further mainstreamed into the national climate agenda</i>	<i>Establishment of an equitable and mutually agreeable benefits sharing mechanism</i>	<i>This activity has not started. A procurement process has been launched for a consultancy on "Land tenure and carbon ownership and benefit sharing mechanism".</i>

3.2d. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) in the formulation of the REDD+ Strategy

<i>R-PP progress indicators</i>	<i>Level of progress</i>	<i>Description</i>
23. Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues		<i>Further development required as part of an ongoing consultancy.</i>
24. REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts		<i>Further development required as part of an ongoing consultancy.</i>
25. Environmental and Social Management Framework		<i>Further development required to prepare the SESA and ESMF as part of an ongoing consultancy.</i>

Work has started towards the identification of applicable social and environmental safeguard issues Progress and the use of these to prioritise REDD+ options. There is no evidence that an ESMF is in place to manage social and environmental risks related to REDD+ activities.

Assessment of progress

Progress indicator 23: Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues

There is no evidence from relevant studies or diagnostics that applicable social and environmental issues relevant to Guyana have been fully identified/analysed. See progress indicator 24.

Progress indicator 24: REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts

Based on lessons learned from other countries, Guyana has taken the decision to merge the identification of REDD+ strategy options and conduct of the SESA into one consultancy. Winrock International is tasked with the responsibility to carry out the SESA. A work plan/inception report for the

technical approach to the SESA (with its direct links to the REDD+ Strategy) has been produced and work has started. It is expected this approach will help integrate into the REDD+ Strategy, the key social, environmental, legal and policy dimensions of REDD+.

Progress indicator 25: Environmental and Social Management Framework

There is no evidence that an ESMA is in place.

The findings of the SESA will provide the basis for drafting and finalising the instruments required under the safeguard policy and outlined in the Common Approach. Winrock International is contracted to also prepare the ESMF.

To date, the forest governance drivers were determined (July 2018), and the UNFCCC and FCPF safeguards were aligned (October 2018). Four cluster workshops were held in Georgetown between May and October 2018. The stakeholder composition comprised representatives from Government, private sectors, IPs and civil society. The report on “Spatial Analysis and activities report addressing geographically explicit analysis and identified activities to tackle drivers (identify REDD+ Strategy) alternatives, was completed.

The preparation of the SESA and ESMF will be completed in 2019. Progress towards R-PP outputs can be seen in Table 9.

Table 9. Progress towards R-PP outputs - Component 2d.

Component 2d. SESA in the formulation of the REDD+ Strategy		
Outputs	Indicative activities	Assessment
<i>Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment</i>	<i>Develop SESA social and environmental studies and reports</i>	<i>This activity has not started. However, the contract for this consultancy has been signed.</i>
	<i>Development of an Environmental and Social Management Framework, including the EA, PF and IPPF</i>	<i>This activity has not started. However, the contract for this consultancy has been signed.</i>
<i>Execution of relevant technical studies and assessments</i>	<i>Develop SESA Summary reports, other studies, assessments, etc.</i>	<i>This activity has not started. However, the contract for this consultancy has been signed.</i>

Constraints and gaps related to REDD+ strategy preparation

The realisation of all five objectives of REDD+ is lagging due to prioritisation of REDD+ work driven by monetary reasons such as the Guyana-Norway bilateral agreement. The lack of reporting on forest carbon stock enhancement by GFC seems to be an issue of the limited reporting format of the Interim Measures Report for the Guyana-Norway agreement. Guyana’s national reporting through the OCC to the UNFCCC is focus more on greenhouse gas inventory, an area of priority to the Coalition of Rainforest Nations (CfRN).

As a result of the above-mentioned prioritisation, there is no REDD+ implementation framework, the issues of carbon rights, benefit sharing mechanisms, REDD+ financing modalities, procedures for

official approvals of pilot projects, and GRM do not have a common platform. These elements as well as the safeguards are expected to be completed in 2019 under the TCA with IDB.

While the operations of the GRIF can provide important lessons for fund management and approvals of projects, there is no other mechanism to support the other implementation actions.

3.3 – Reference Emissions Level/Reference Level

<i>R-PP progress indicators</i>	<i>Level of progress</i>	<i>Description</i>
26. Demonstration of methodology		Completed. National REL/RL data have been clearly presented using clearly documented approach.
27. Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances		Completed. National REL/RL data take into account historical data.
28. Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines		Completed.

Recent UNFCCC decisions request countries to develop a REL/RL as a benchmark for assessing performance in implementing REDD+ activities at a national level, with subnational approaches as interim measures.

Assessment of progress

Progress indicator 26: Demonstration of methodology

During 2013-2014, the UNDP-GSF supported a project titled “Strengthening of Guyana’s technical capacity to implement MRVS and other REDD+ related activities”⁴⁹. The four components of the project were: (i) development of national reference level for REDD+; (ii) Consultations on development of the national MRVS; (iii) Exploration of co-benefits under the MRVS and, (iv) Development of national REDD+ Strategies (options).

Twelve workshops were conducted across the country to address issues and concerns raised by stakeholders (591 persons attended the meetings) on the LCDS, REDD+, FCPF, MRVS and EU-FLEGT VPA⁵⁰. The Guyana Reference Level (RL) was developed in accordance with the UNFCCC guidelines⁵¹. A national technical expert workshop was held on 29 August 2013 to provide stakeholders with an overview of the relevance of Reference Levels for REDD+ and to receive inputs. Guyana’s national RL is based on the historical average of deforestation and the global average deforestation rate, and is used as the basis for compensation as interim measures through its bilateral agreement with Norway. There is no sub-national RL for REDD+.

⁴⁹ <https://bobcatfans.com/index.php/projects-output/guyana/gfc-project-achievements?showall=1&limitstart=>

⁵⁰ *ibid.*

⁵¹ https://redd.unfccc.int/files/guyana_proposal_for_reference_level_for_redd_.pdf

Progress indicator 27: Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances

In fulfilment of the Guyana-Norway agreement, the GFC assessed and updated data on forest area, land cover change and carbon density on an annual basis. The seventh 'Interim Measures' report capture that information as well as the historical trend reference scenario (GFC 2018).

"The Norway-Guyana agreement established the mean of its 2000–2009 deforestation rate and the global average rate as a provisional RL to be used as the basis for compensation under their bilateral agreement. Using this calculation, the interim level of 0.450 percent deforestation annually in the original agreement will be lowered to 0.275 percent based on the most recent (2009–2010 data). If the deforestation rate rises above the 2009–2010 level of 0.056 percent, Guyana will not receive full compensation, and if it rises above 0.100 percent, Guyana will not receive any compensation. The carbon density is assumed to be 100 tons of carbon per hectare, and the compensation level will be US\$5 per ton of CO₂. Both figures are the same as those used in Brazil under the Amazon Fund"⁵².

⁵² <http://www.redd-oar.org/links/REED+RL.pdf>

The Reference Level for Guyana's REDD+ Program



Progress indicator 28: Technical feasibility on the methodological approach, and consistency with the UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines

For the RL, non-carbon benefits and REDD+ Strategy options, the GFC contracted Winrock International in 2013-2014 as the lead independent expert to carry out the studies and produce the

reports. Later, other independent experts from CI reviewed the results of those and related studies. Recent UNFCCC COP decisions⁵³ may necessitate review of the REL/RL. The MTR Consultant strongly recommends this action.

Progress towards R-PP outputs can be seen in Table 10.

Table 10. Progress towards R-PP outputs - Component 3

Component 3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Level		
Outputs	Indicative activities	Assessment
<i>Design reference scenario model in readiness framework</i>	<i>Integration of MRV System data and results into Reference Scenario Modelling</i>	<i>This activity has been completed.</i>
<i>Develop reference models</i>	<i>Historical reference scenario developed, with stakeholders' feedback.</i>	<i>This activity has been completed..</i>
	<i>Reference scenarios projection completed with stakeholders feedback</i>	<i>This activity has been completed.</i>
<i>Conduct independent assessment</i>	<i>Review by independent expert</i>	<i>This activity has been completed.</i>

Constraints and gaps related to REL/RL

While the activities have all been completed, there is no central plan within the government to apply this information until the full REDD+ architecture has been set up. As Guyana plans to present its voluntary national report (NVR) on its nationally determined contributions (NDC) to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2019, it is expected that renewed attention to REL/RL will occur.

3.4 – Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards

This part of the Assessment Framework focuses on progress made in designing and developing operational forest monitoring systems.

3.4a. National Forest Monitoring System

<i>R-PP progress indicators</i>	<i>Level of progress</i>	<i>Description</i>
29. Documentation of monitoring approach		<i>Completed. Selection of remote sensing and ground-truthing based on sound analysis and reviewed by third party technical expert.</i>
30. Demonstration of early system implementation		<i>Completed. Guyana's Forest Carbon Monitoring System has demonstrated capacity to monitor specific REDD+ activities and allows for comparison of changes in forest area and C-content.</i>

⁵³ <https://redd.unfccc.int/fact-sheets/forest-reference-emission-levels.html>

31. Institutional arrangements and capacities		Completed. The GFC has the clear mandate to lead forest monitoring activities and to share annual reports with the public for comments.
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The national forest monitoring system should generate information that allows comparison of changes in forest area and carbon content (and associated greenhouse (GHG) emissions) relative to the baseline estimates used for the REL/RL.

There is a clear rationale and analytical evidence supporting Guyana's selection of forest monitoring methodology (remote sensing combined with ground trothing). The forest monitoring system has been reviewed by international experts and follows UNFCCC and IPCC guidance and guidelines. It has demonstrated high capacity to monitor annual deforestation and forest degradation in different land uses across Guyana. Further work is required to estimate and map deforestation caused by shifting cultivation. There is a clear separation of mandates related to forest inventory, satellite image interpretation and sharing of forest cover change data.

The goal of Guyana's carbon monitoring system is to develop a country specific database of carbon emission factors that can be used with remote sensing activity data to track emission over time, past and future, from change in forest cover.

Assessment of progress

Progress indicator 29: Documentation of monitoring approach

According to GFC (2017), the 'Year 1' map covers the first year after the benchmark map. For this period all forest to non-forest changes from 2009 to 2010 September were mapped spatially and reported. The main dataset used over this period was 30 m Landsat imagery.

For the 2010-11 assessment, higher resolution 5 m imagery was tasked over previously identified change areas. The area covered was 12 million ha which equated to 56% of Guyana's land area. The improved resolution enabled better identification of change boundaries, drivers of change and areas of forest degradation.

From 2012 to 2014 high resolution (5 m) coverage has been acquired over Guyana. This has enabled both change and the forest area to be mapped more accurately. 2014 onwards forest monitoring has been conducted using Landsat 8 and Sentinel 2A. Landsat 8 was used for the 2015 period due to insufficient coverage of Sentinel. Sentinel 2A image collection improved for the 2016 year. This position may change with the recent launch of Sentinel 2B (10 m resolution with an image swath of 280 km), effectively doubling the capture rate of Sentinel data.

This approach to forest monitoring has been technically reviewed by Pöyry⁵⁴, Indufor⁵⁵, NORAD, Conservation International (CI) and Durham University⁵⁶ (for independent accuracy assessment).

According to GFC (2017), improvements to the forest monitoring system are ongoing. These seek to consolidate results of previous efforts to test the use of low and no-cost technology options for the

⁵⁴ <http://www.poyry.com/>

⁵⁵ <https://induforgroup.com/>

⁵⁶ <https://www.dur.ac.uk/>

MRVS, explore new and emerging technology options, including new remote sensing products and Open Source software. The intention is to pilot the implementation of preferred option for new methods in parallel with current system for at least 2 years.

Progress indicator 30: Demonstration of early system implementation

Guyana has developed a world class forest monitoring system that has been independently verified for accuracy by reputable institutions. Consistently, Guyana has produced MRVS Interim Measures reports as part of the Guyana-Norway agreement. The MRVS Steering Committee provides opportunity for national experts to contribute to the process.

Measuring changes in Guyana's forest cover and resultant carbon emissions from Guyana's forests is already covered under the Guyana-Norway agreement and is being further developed for results-based REDD+ compensation in the long-term (see Table 12).

Historic emissions have been estimated by the GFC in collaboration with Winrock International (Table 11)⁵⁷.

Table 11. Total historic emissions from the stock of Guyana's forests (2015).

Drivers	2001-2012	
	tCO₂e	% of total
Forestry infrastructure	12,081,229	9
Agriculture	7,372,920	5
Mining (medium and large scale)	67,610,158	48
Mining infrastructure	6,371,903	5
Infrastructure	2,946,192	2
Timber harvesting	42,886,201	31
Total	139,268,603	100
Annualised	11,605,717	

According to GFC (2017), the methodology to assess carbon emissions is a module in an approved (double verified) set of modules for REDD projects posted on the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) set of methodologies. The reported difference between the annual mean for the observation period 2003-2008 and the assessment year of 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016, is a reduction of carbon by 1,494,407t CO₂, arising from timber harvesting activity.

Progress indicator 31: Institutional arrangements and capacities

Guyana has developed a world class forest monitoring system that has been independently verified by international experts. There is a clear separation of mandate for forest inventory (GFC), satellite data processing (RS plus international consultancy firm such as Indufor), and information sharing (GFC and MRVS Steering Committee). Annually, the draft MRVS Interim Measures Report is widely shared nationally and internationally on the GFC website⁵⁸ for comments and review over a period of one month. Efforts are made to include all comments made under the public review process and

⁵⁷ <http://www.forestry.gov.gy/publications.html>

⁵⁸ <https://forestry.gov.gy/mrvs-year-5-report/>

feedback to each comment, including corresponding revisions to the report to address these comments where these apply⁵⁹.

Resource needs are identified in Table 12.

Table 12. MRVS achievements

MRVS Roadmap	MRVS Achievements 2010 - 2013	MRVS Achievements 2014 - 2017	MRVS Achievements 2018-2020
Objectives	Gather and integrate information & fill data gaps for national REDD opportunities, scoping and REDD+ implementation		
Key results and national capacities developed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comprehensive MRV roadmap developed and national MRV steering body operational 2. Improved national capacities for LCDS, REDD, IPCC-LULUCF, and carbon dynamics 3. Framework and capacities to demonstrate REDD implementation and interim performance 4. All data available and accessible (including acquisition of new forest carbon data) on drivers and processes needed for developing a national REDD policy and interim implementation plan 5. Approaches for setting reference levels, linking MRV and policy, and MRV co-benefits and synergies are explored and defined 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MRVS Roadmap Completed, MRVS Steering Committee formed and meets quarterly. Partnerships established with bodies such as the GSF, WWF, CMRV, etc. 2. Dedicated national focal points for LCDS REDD+ and IPCC and capacity built within each 3. Data collection, analysis and reporting capabilities built in FAA and FCSEA, and interim reporting. SOPs and protocols developed. 4. Data available on forest carbon, forest area, land use and allocation, historic drivers of change and current drivers, location specific details on forest change. Methods and training materials. Satellite imagery. 5. Assessment of historic emissions, two/three annual periods of emission estimates, Proposal for RL for REDD+ for submission to UNFCCC 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitoring of MRVS Roadmap in areas of continuous activities 2. Continued capacity development and continuous improvements; sustain capacities in the long-term 3. Synergies established between national and demonstration initiatives 4. Continued collation of MRVS related data for FAA and FCSEA. Further expand training in new areas of development including monitoring forest degradation. 5. Submit Proposal for RL for REDD+ to UNFCCC by 2020.

⁵⁹ <https://www.lcds.gov.gy/index.php/documents/reports/national/guyana-mrvs-interim-measures-reports-1>

		in last quarter of 2014. Exploring co-benefits and synergies.	
Objectives	Develop capacities, conduct historical monitoring, and implement a (minimum) IPCC Tier 2 national forest carbon monitoring, establish the reference level and report on interim performance		
Key results and national capacities developed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacities in place for consistent and continuous acquisition and analysis of key data for Tier 2 nationally and Tier 3 for demonstration/activity sites including international reporting using IPCC LULUCF; uncertainty assessment MRV improvement plan developed 2. Reference level established based on historical data, and future developments using internationally accepted methods 3. Regular reporting on REDD demonstrations and interim performance 4. Continued engagement with key national stakeholders for REDD implementation and assuring long-term sustainability of MRV capacities (i.e. universities) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key category analysis, wall to wall coverage of AD, Establishment of EF for key categories, AD are combined with other key spatial mgt. data layers, peer review, field sampling designed for long term repeated measurement, commencement of process of validation of allometric equations for Guyana, uncertainty analysis, Long term improvement plan developed 2. Historic RL, expert review, Proposal to UNFCCC under development, stakeholder engagement, Warsaw decisions considered 3. IMR Reporting, CMRV reporting 4. MoU with the University of Guyana, FTCI collaboration, support to partner countries, etc. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitoring forest degradation and impacts on carbon stock: definition of forest degradation, explore drivers of forest degradation - which processes are important, EF(for forest degradation drivers of mining and infrastructure, as well as shifting agriculture), AD, direct monitoring; Accuracy assessment of forest area change; Uncertainty analysis and management: estimate of error due to the use of allometric model, Monte Carlo type error analysis 2. Improve reference level, including assessment of Guyana's Position for RL for REDD+ and submission to UNFCCC, with use of better data and approaches 3. Linking national and sub-national monitoring: reporting and more experiences from demonstration projects 4. Continued engagement with the University of Guyana and other training institutions.
Objectives	Establish consistent and continuous MRV supporting national REDD+ actions and international IPCC GPG-based reporting and verification		
Key results and national	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IPCC key category analysis and assessment for Tier 3 approaches completed and implemented (if desired) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IPCC key category analysis completed, key elements operating at Tier 3 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve emission factors for some specific processes (towards Tier 3):

capacities developed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Independent international review of full MRV system completed Capacity in place and implementation to deliver verification and compliance assessment for REDD results-based compensation National data infrastructure of forest greenhouse gas inventory and assessment in place for regular reporting Implementation plan to use new and proven technologies to reduce uncertainties and increase efficiency of MRV system 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Independent international review of MRVS Reporting Institutional capacity to deliver verified and compliance assessment. Facilitate verification and process involved. National data infrastructure of management data and land cover data established. Central database continually updated. Integration of key aspects of new and improved technologies in areas of accuracy assessment, monitoring of forest degradation, high resolution data coverage, exploration of radar based data usage in Recover Project, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key category analysis – main drivers and contribution Soil carbon (i.e. mining) EF for shifting cultivation Lagged emissions and legacy effects, regrowth <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate experience of current third party verification of MRVS and explore plans for separate process of independent review Support continued capacity building to deliver verified results using IPCC Reporting formats for forest carbon emissions and removals Continuous updating of national land cover database and maintain central storage of information Further explore new technologies (different optical sensors) and results of use of radar based data for forest area monitoring
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Source: GFC (2018)

3.4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance and Safeguards

<i>R-PP progress indicators</i>	<i>Level of progress</i>	<i>Description</i>
32. Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues		<i>Significant progress to identify freshwater as a priority non-carbon benefit for Guyana.</i>
33: Monitoring, reporting and information sharing		<i>Not yet demonstrating progress to develop a monitoring system and safeguards for freshwater.</i>

34: Institutional arrangements and capacities		<i>Further development required to coordinate freshwater management and implement activities under the National Water Council</i>
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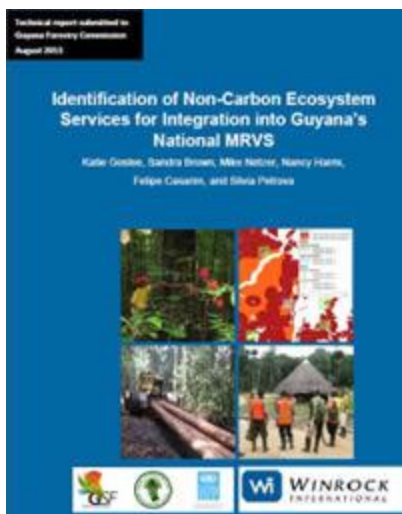
This component specifies the non-carbon aspects prioritised for monitoring by the country.

Significant progress was made during 2013-2014 to identify relevant non-carbon benefits as well as social and environmental issues. Guyana identified water as its non-carbon issue. However, since then, no monitoring, reporting and information sharing on this REDD+ related issue has been undertaken. There are relevant institutional arrangements and capacities to achieve this objective.^{60,61,62}

⁶⁰ <https://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/2015/07/05/national-water-council-national-strategy-on-water-management-must-be-implemented-bulkan/>

⁶¹ <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/public-environment-climate/document/country-environmental-profile-guyana>

⁶² <http://www.epaguyana.org/epa/downloads/epa-reports/category/18-epa-reports>



Assessment of progress

Progress indicator 32: Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues

A technical report on identification of non-carbon ecosystem services for integration into Guyana's national MRVS was compiled by GFC and Winrock International. The report examines the feasibility of the methodologies for establishing baselines and for monitoring of ecosystem services beyond forest carbon. A validation workshop on the environment co-benefit of forest carbon and water quality was held in December 2013 in Georgetown. Widespread support was provided to the identification of water as the main non-carbon aspect to be developed as part of REDD+

It appears that no follow-up work was done following the conclusion of the UNDP-GSF project.

Progress indicator 33: Monitoring, reporting and information sharing

There is no evidence that a transparent system for periodically sharing consistent information on non-carbon aspects and safeguards exist.

Progress indicator 34: Institutional arrangements and capacities

No single national agency has the overall mandate for freshwater management in Guyana. Several government agencies, including the Ministry of Agriculture/Hydrometeorological Department, MNR, Ministry of Communities/Central Housing and Planning Authority and the Guyana Water Inc. share the responsibility for freshwater management. There is political will and legal provisions for the establishment of a National Water Council⁶³, and although budgetary allocations are set aside each year in the national budget since 2016, no action has been taken. The GFC is the national focal point for FCMS. This mandate can be extended to include monitoring of non-carbon services such as freshwater since water is considered a natural resource and falls within the mandate of MNR, the supervisory Ministry for GFC⁶⁴. The MNR has signaled intention of cultivating a culture focused on the conservation and management of Guyana's freshwater resources.

As a consequence of the above, resource needs are yet to be identified.

Progress towards R-PP outputs can be seen in Table 13.

Table 13. Progress towards R-PP - Component 4

Component 4. Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards

⁶³ <https://dpi.gov.gy/tag/national-water-council/>

⁶⁴ <https://nre.gov.gy/2019/02/27/ministry-of-natural-resources-conservation-international-ink-mou/>

<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Indicative activities</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
<i>Establish data and information framework</i>	<i>Gather and integrate information and fill gaps for national REDD+ opportunities, scoping and policy development</i>	<i>This activity has been completed.</i>
<i>Develop key capacities to execute MRV</i>	<i>Develop capacities, conduct historical monitoring and implement a (minimum) IPCC Tier 2 national forest monitoring, establish the reference level and report on interim performance</i>	<i>This activity is ongoing. PEU is strengthening the RS. Annual Interim Measures reports are produced.</i>
<i>Execute MRV</i>	<i>Monitor other benefits</i>	<i>This activity has been completed for water.</i>
	<i>Establish consistent and continuous MRV supporting national REDD+ actions and international IPCC GPG-based reporting and verification</i>	<i>This activity is ongoing. Annual Interim Measures reports are produced.</i>

Constraints and gaps related to monitoring systems for forests and safeguards

While the key activities have been achieved, the lack of attention at the national level to non-carbon benefits is an important gap in valuing the role of forests in the climate change mitigation pathway and to the achievement of the SDGs. The singular focus on MRVS by the RS (forest carbon monitoring) requires the active intervention of the OCC to drive change towards a multi-sector focus for Guyana's monitoring system for forests and application of relevant safeguards.

3.5 – Schedule and budget

No reporting.

3.6 - Monitoring and evaluation of readiness activities

Monitoring and evaluation is a critical component in the implementation of the R-PP. The objective of this component is to monitor performance of projects, introduce corrective measures as needed and distill lessons from project implementation.

A mid-term review is ongoing (this report).

Through a nationally supervised procurement process, the FCPF PEU is able to track progress by using a flow chart, the elements of which are:

- *IDB's no objection to ToR; evaluation grid; contract model*
- *Request CVs*
- *IDB's no objection to evaluation report and recommendation*
- *Contract negotiation (if applicable)*
- *IDB's no objection to negotiated contract*
- *Contract signature*
- *Submission of the signed contract to the IDB*
- *Contract monitoring*

MNR signed a 6-month contract with an independent national consultant, Dr. Patrick Williams, to conduct a pre-project implementation national perception survey on awareness, understanding and attitudes of stakeholders towards REDD+ in Guyana. The pre-implementation survey provided baseline data for future assessments in order to clarify stakeholder understanding of REDD+ and ensure that the expected outcomes of the readiness process would be achieved. Questionnaires were administered and REDD+ Focus Group meetings were held in Regions 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10. The overall conclusion drawn by the Consultant, is that 'for all of the regions stakeholder's responses for attitudes towards REDD+ have been largely positive, indicating a willingness to participate in the REDD process. However, the situation with awareness and understanding revealed wide variation among the parameters. One noticeable aspect, for instance, is the high percentage response rates under the category of neutral and negative. These obviously point to limitations in whatever interventions were undertaken on REDD+ in the regions' to the extent that respondents were unsure of their awareness and understanding of REDD+.

Progress towards R-PP outputs can be seen in Table 14.

Table 14. Progress towards R-PP outputs - Component 6.

Component 6. Monitoring and evaluation of readiness activities		
Outputs	Indicative activities	Assessment
Monitor and evaluate activities	Finalise monitoring framework	A multi-dimensional monitoring framework is in place.
	Monitor and evaluate progress and develop progress reports	The PEU monitors and evaluate progress and develops progress reports for the PSC, the IDB, and the FMT FCPF.
Report on activities progress	Disseminate reports and deliverables	The PEU regularly disseminate reports.
	Develop final M&E Report	This activity has been initiated.
Assemble Guyana's REDD Readiness Package	Develop Package	This activity has been initiated.

4. An analysis of progress achieved in those activities funded by the FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant

The FCPF provided a REDD+ readiness grant to Guyana to implement aspects of the approved R-PP.

The overall objective of the FCPF project in Guyana is to assist the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in their efforts to establish an enabling framework and build their capacity for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) through financial and technical assistance. Specifically, this project supports: (i) improvements in the organisation of the country for REDD+ readiness, including stakeholder consultations; and (ii) the preparation of the Guyana REDD+

Strategy to facilitate Guyana's access to additional funding under performance-based incentives. The project is organised into three components for implementation:

- *Component 1: Institutional arrangements and consultations for REDD+ readiness;*
- *Component 2: REDD+ strategy and implementation framework; and*
- *Component 3: Monitoring and evaluation of readiness activities.*

There was a delay in the start-up to implementation of the R-PP project. The FCPF approval for the R-PP was received on 14 November 2013 and the Technical Cooperation (TC) agreement with the IDB was signed on 7 February 2014. However, GFC did not implement the agreement at that time. It was not until a change in Government in May 2015 that the TC was resuscitated, the PEU set up and first expenditure of funds occurred on 1 September 2016.

The first full year of R-PP project implementation under the TC with the IDB was 2017.

The disbursement deadline for the TC is 7 February 2020 and the project is on track to conclude its implementation of activities by 31 December 2019.

At the organisational level, the FCPF PEU has a leadership and management framework and personnel that contribute to effective implementation of the R-PP. The core team has five positions (corresponding personnel listed) as follows:

- 1) *Project Coordinator (Mr. Clayton Hall)*
- 2) *Project Assistant (Ms. Michelle Astwood)*
- 3) *Administrative/Accounting Officer (Mr. Taleshwar Persaud)*
- 4) *Communications and Gender Relations Officer (Ms. Ravena Gildharie)*
- 5) *Procurement Specialist (Ms. Suzanne McRae)*

All five positions have employment contracts with MNR.

The core team demonstrated knowledge of administrative and procurement procedures, maintains effective networks and is results oriented. For access to technical expertise to achieve the project deliverables, the core team contracts from among national and international sources and implements a well-organised system to efficiently and effectively manage the consultancies. Additional expertise is drawn from the umbrella MNR, its associated agencies (such as GFC), as well as from other governmental (e.g. OCC) and non-governmental agencies (e.g. NTC).

The partnership with the Delivery Partner adds social, environmental and fiduciary safeguards and standards that allow Guyana's FCPF to acquire and maintain international respect as a REDD+ participant.

The Consultant could not identify any deficiency in the technical and administrative management of the project. In spite of the delays, the project has shown sufficient progress and is on track to achieve the deliverables.

At the policy level, the delay in project implementation start-up coincided with the ending of the LCDS in December 2015 (in the context of the Guyana-Norway agreement) and the initiation of the GSDS framework, a broader and deeper development strategy introduced by the coalition government. At that temporal transition, annual measures of deforestation and forest degradation for the years 2015 and 2016 were deferred for lack of funding. However, as the interim measures' reports numbers 6 and 7

show, annual rates of deforestation and forest degradation maintained previously measured low trends of less than 0.1 percent per year. This result points to the existence of strong controls in national regulatory frameworks and enforcement of laws.

A point of caution has to be introduced in the context of the GSDS which makes no specific mention of REDD+. Given Guyana's HFLD status, the strength of its national land, forestry and mineral institutions, the Guyana-Norway agreement, lessons learned from the implementation of the LCDS and the risk of asynchronous development influenced from offshore oil exploitation for profit, there is urgent need to review the GSDS to include a policy statement on the role of forests and REDD+ in the context of international agreements to which Guyana is obligated.

4.1 Progress towards impact

The ex-post impact indicator envisages a target level of US\$50 million to Guyana forest carbon funding mechanism (Table 15). While Guyana has achieved notable success in advancing its REDD+ agenda internationally, (LCDS, Guyana-Norway agreement, UNFCCC, FCPF participant country), there is still need to strategically engage the private sector, Guyanese in the diaspora and non-traditional donors to increase contributions. A special programme should be devised and implemented with a new target date of 2020 – coinciding with the end of the Kyoto Protocol and the start to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Table 15. Update on the progress to achieve the impact indicator for the project.

Impact Indicator (Ex-Post)	Base Level	Target Level	Progress to date
Cumulative level of functional contributions to the Forest Carbon Funding Mechanism	US\$0 (January 2013)	US\$50 million (January 2018)	Too early to assess. The target level should be adjusted to 2020 since the first full year of project implementation was 2017. Additional time is required to demonstrate the benefits of REDD+ to Guyana and to identify opportunities for partnership contributions (e.g. well-designed pilot projects leading to new growth enterprises).

4.2 Progress towards outcomes

At the outcome level, Guyana has achieved 50 percent or more of the targets for Outcomes 1 and 2; and the achievement of Outcome 3 is dependent on the completion of the SESA, which has been initiated as part of the present project (Table 16). The strength of Guyana's REDD+ has long been the MRVS which was set up and progressively strengthened with funding from the Government of Guyana, Government of Norway and UNDP/Guiana Shield Facility (the latter with funding from the European Union and Government of the Netherlands).

Table 12 establishes the progress made in achieving the targets of the sustainability plan up to 2017. Given the current trajectory, the MRVS roadmap for 2018-2020 is on track to being achieved. However, sustainable financing for the RS is required and should be a feature of the national budget. In addition, it is important to continue building the architecture for sub-national (through the Regional Democratic Councils and Neighbourhood Democratic Councils) and community-based MRVS (work carried out by WWF and CI in the North Rupununi and Konashen Amerindian District in Region 9) to achieve buy-in and REDD+ compatible local development initiatives. This requires an adjustment to the design of the present project and an extension of the Target Level to 2020.

The achievement of Outcome 2 has been affected by the late start of the project. Given that the MTR is ongoing and on track to be completed in January 2019, the final evaluation should be scheduled for last quarter 2019. This then means that the Target Level for Outcome 2 should be extended to January 2020.

The achievement of Outcome 3 has been affected by the late start of the project. A consultancy has been signed with an international firm to carry out the SESA. The anticipated timeline for completion of the SESA is 2019. The Target Level requires adjustment to 2019.

Table 16. Update on the progress to achieve the outcome indicators for the project.

Outcome indicators	Base level	Target level	Means of verification	Progress to date
Outcome 1: REDD+ Secretariat targets of the sustainability plan implemented that makes the REDD+ Secretariat capable of implementing REDD+	2012=40%	2017 = 80%	Capacity Needs Assessment and Sustainability Plan for the REDD Secretariat, March 2013. Measure of accomplishment of Tables 3 and 4.	This outcome was partly achieved to 60%. The FCPF funds employment costs for five operational staff: 1. Project Coordinator 2. Field Team Leader 3. Project Officer II – Biomass & Data Management 4. Project Officer I – Biomass Field Data Collection & management 5. Project Officer I – Biomass monitoring & Field Data Management.
Outcome 2: R-PP implementation as documented in R-PP version December 2012 on track and being implemented according to approved schedule of activities. Indicator: Ratio of actual physical advance to planned physical advance	0%	2017 = 100%	Final evaluation of the project	This outcome was partly achieved to 50%. The mid-term evaluation is ongoing. The ratio of actual physical advance to planned physical advance is 1:1 The final evaluation of the project has not

				started. The likely milestone date is 2019.
Outcome 3: SESA management actions being implemented	0%	2017 = 100%	Compared with planned actions of SESA report prepared in year 1	This Outcome has not been achieved. The SESA report will be prepared in year 3 (2019).

4.3 Progress towards outputs

Component 1: Institutional arrangements and consultations for REDD+ readiness

Component 1 seeks to strengthen the efficacy, accountability and transparency of the national readiness management and institutional arrangements, and increase stakeholder consultation and participation in REDD+ implementation.

Sub-component 1.1: Outputs 1-3	Level of progress	Description
National readiness management arrangements		Significant progress. A functional REDD Secretariat, NRW and a ready-for-use grievance and redress mechanism.

Assessment of progress

Output 1: Functioning REDD+ Secretariat established

The FCPF project financially supports employment costs for five RS technical staff – one technical coordinator, three project officers and one lead field officer. In terms of number of posts, this is less than the nine senior staff positions agreed to in the TCA. The Commissioner of Forests (RS Director) and Head of Planning and Development (Programme Coordinator) at GFC oversee the RS and three of the six project officers were hired. The work of the three hired project officers is complimented by other technical staff in the Forest Carbon Monitoring System (FCMS). The FCPF project does not support the employment costs of field assistants; all additional field support staff is provided out of the GFC's establishment and national budget allocation. As are all other costs associated with the RS and associated GFC's technical and administrative support.

The differentiation of work of the five recruited staff is clearly delineated and effectively coordinated by the GFC (Table 17). This has contributed to a functional RS exemplified by the timely annual production of interim measures reports on forest carbon monitoring by the GFC. Table 17. Main duties of the five RS staff recruited under the TCA.

RS staff positions	Main duties related to REDD+ readiness
Technical Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate the functioning of the RS - Coordinate, support and monitor project activities related to Guyana's Forest Carbon Monitoring System (FCMS) - Support implementation of readiness activities as outlined in the R-PP - Assist in planning REDD+ outreach activities
Field Team Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist in the identification and selection of areas for establishment of national biomass monitoring plots for the FCMS - Establish the plots - Train and supervise field teams

Field Officer II – Biomass Monitoring and Data Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain information system from field data and laboratory test results Collect and organise data sheets and samples from team leaders upon completion of field trips - Participate in work on biomass plots establishment, destructive sampling and other field work
Field Officer I – Biomass Field Data Collection and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead the data collection process for the FCMS - Responsible for all maintenance of field gears and equipment - Responsible for all collected data on all carbon pools in the field and for samples storage - Supervision of field data processing - Responsible for quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) procedures are followed during data collection in the field - Assist in updating the Standard Operating Procedures for the FCMS.
Field Officer I – Biomass Monitoring and Field Data Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsible for overall management of all data analysis and processing relating to biomass field data collected - Conducting uncertainty analysis and QA/QC activities for data - Assist in completing IPCC reporting tables for forest carbon emissions and removals reporting. - Supervise the processing of field samples

Guyana, as a member of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN), is participating in the NORAD-funded project “Reporting for Results-based REDD+ (RRR+) 2016-2019. The OCC is Guyana’s focal point for the RRR+ project and works in close collaboration with the RS. Four staff received training in greenhouse gas inventory (GHGI) for agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sectors. The first global conference on RRR+ was held in Milan from 30-31 January 2018⁶⁵.

Output 2: Functional NRWG established and operational

The FCPF PEU has contributed significantly to Guyana having a functioning national REDD+ management framework. The PSC serves as the NRWG, has its own rules and meets regularly – this is a policy decision of the MNR.

To date, eight quarterly PSC meetings have been held. The PEU reports to the PSC on progress made in implementing the project. Minutes of each meeting is prepared and circulated to members (Table 18). In addition, all project documents (including deliverables) are shared with PSC members.

The accountability framework ensures that all reports are submitted to the MNR Permanent Secretary for on-passing to the Minister of Natural Resources. A more robust institutional framework is needed, since there is uncertainty about sustaining this arrangement at the closure of the project. How will the PSC be sustained?

At the moment, national REDD+ Implementation Bodies are not self-financing for REDD+. They depend on the present FCPF project for financial resources. A sustainable source of funding, either

⁶⁵ <https://www.feem.it/en/events/conferences/1st-global-conference-on-reporting-for-results-based-redd-actions/>

through national budgets or proceeds from forest carbon payments (not at this readiness phase) will be required to sustain the governance framework.

Several IP-NGOs have received technical and capacity building assistance from the project to enable them to deliver REDD+ support to forest dependent communities. However while the NTC has achieved its target of annual meetings, more work needs to be done to extend meetings to the communities and to translate English-language REDD+ technical documents into indigenous languages (Table 18). Many words in the REDD+ lexicon are not part of indigenous languages and therefore effective means and modes of communication are recommended.

An independent national consultant, Ms. Vanda Radzik, is implementing a 21-month consultancy (February 2018-October 2019) on institutional strengthening and capacity building support of the NTC, IP-NGOs and NSCCFOs. During the start-up phase, the consultant identified two challenges, as follows: (i) Lack of inclusion of IPs in project design; and (ii) changing of participants due to Toshaos' and Village Councils' elections, which directly affected 75% of the project beneficiary groups. The consultant designed and satisfactorily implemented mitigation measures.

The consultant organised fifteen workshops: 10 in Georgetown (NTC, GOIP, APA, NADF and NSCCFO); two at Annai (NRDDB), Region 9; two at Lethem (KMCRG), Region 9; and one at Chenapou (NPDC), Region 8. The first 13 Workshops were attended by 177 persons, comprising 69 women and 108 men, from 77 villages and communities. The purpose of the Workshops was to assess the current institutional capacity in order to design institutional strengthening and capacity building programmes so that the organisations are able to support consultation on REDD+ with forest-dependent communities and villages. An institutional and needs assessment report has been prepared for APA and NADF. The beneficiary IPNGOs are not yet delivering information and training to their constituents.

In addition, the FCPF Project funds rental of office space for the NTC as a statutory body to meet and conduct their work. The two NTC staff - Executive Administrator and Administrative Assistant - are housed therein. The Project procured office stationery and supplies for the NTC office.

At this stage of the consultancy, NTC, IP-NGOs and NSCCFOs are being engaged to disseminate information amongst stakeholders, so that they fully understand the opportunity and the responsibility of promoting the dialogue within the community, and that the consultations held will indeed represent the understanding and the will of stakeholders affected by REDD+.

Output 3: National conflict resolution strategy developed and established

The Consultancy Group, a local consultancy firm, completed a 6-month consultancy to design and develop a GRM using a consultative process. The outputs include a registry system for the submission and receipt of grievances and reporting on the processes for resolving the grievance. It also includes a detailed operations manual for the GRM. A national workshop on GRM was held in July 2018. It was mandated in the consultancy that the GRM must be based on engagement and dialogue, and must be accessible, transparent, rights compatible, fair, accepted and benefit from continuous learning. In an effort to consult widely, 12 cluster workshops were held in administrative centres in Region 1 Kaituma), Region 2 (Anna Regina), Region 7 (Bartica), Region 8 (Mahdia/Campbelltown), Region 9 (Annai) and Region 10 (Linden). A total of 255 persons attended the workshops. One-half of the total number of

Workshops recorded attendance by gender – 74 females to 59 males. Average attendance per Workshop was 21 participants.

The project has been successful at designing and completing a GRM (Table 18). However, it is strongly recommended that the Minister of Natural Resources seeks cabinet approval for the mechanism and to operationalise it within the context of applicable national laws and customs. This would fulfil one of the pillars of the NFP of increasing collaboration among natural resources management agencies to avoid land use conflict.

The sub-component is on track to being completed but requires additional work involving political will and institutional collaboration, in particular to implement the GRM.

Constraints and gaps related to national readiness management institutions and arrangements

While Guyana has established and operationalised the institutional elements and arrangements for national REDD+ readiness, the sustainability of the present arrangement (the PEU established and supported PSC that serves as the NRWG) for the NRWG is cause for concern. In addition, land use conflicts, especially between mineral mining and forestry, exist. The delay in operationalising the GRM, though not a responsibility of the present project could exacerbate the existing situation and impact REDD+ readiness.

Sub-component 1.2: Output 4	Level of progress	Description
Stakeholder consultation and participation mechanisms		Progressing well, further development required to develop and disseminate culturally appropriate communications materials outlined in the communications and outreach strategy and action plan.

Assessment of progress

Output 4: Communications and outreach action plan developed and participatory mechanism in place and operational

The project made admirable efforts to develop culturally appropriate communications strategy and action plan and is in the process of preparing the communications' materials for dissemination. While the numerical target for indigenous communities' consultations has been exceeded (Table 18), previous experience from the national protected areas system and the LCDS, and more recently with the REDD+ perception survey suggest that outreach must be a continuous undertaking, particularly to remote and unserved communities. The same is true for other key stakeholder groups such as forestry, mining, infrastructure, and land management/agriculture, which require a second round of consultation under the project.

The MNR contracted GlobalCAD to carry out the assignment "Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement on REDD+ and Readiness Activities in Guyana" over a period of two years (December 2017-December 2019). GlobalCAD has assembled its own technical team and was observed not to be carrying out consultation and awareness sessions in collaboration with the OCC as was envisaged in the R-PP. This deviation from the R-PP is not likely to have any negative implication for stakeholder consultation and participation mechanism. The R-PP was developed during the reign of a different political regime and the current OCC has not retained this condition. The OCC sits on the PSC, which reviews all

consultancies' plans and products and through this means can guide GlobalCAD in the conduct of public consultation and awareness.

The first phase of the consultancy completed the gathering of baseline data on stakeholders and developed the Communication Strategy and Action Plan. Since May 2018, a total of eight cluster workshops were held at different locations across Guyana – Georgetown, Region 1 (Moruca), Region 2 (Mainstay), Region 7 (Bartica), Region 8 (Mahdia), Region 9 (Lethem) and Region 10 (Kwakwani). These workshops were used to carry out a stakeholder mapping and baseline survey (Deliverables A and B) in order to draft communication and outreach strategy and action plan (Deliverables C and D). The consultants reported that two-thirds of respondents reported hearing very little or nothing about the programme before taking the survey. The results were lower among non-Amerindian populations and people younger than 25 years.

The R-PP provides operational principles for engaging with communities and these should be strictly observed.

The consultancy firm, GlobalCAD, developed communication and outreach strategy and corresponding action plan. It is anticipated that the dissemination of communication materials will begin in February 2019. The success of the project requires close and effective engagements with stakeholders as collaborators. This is a key lesson noted in the R-PP.

The sub-component is on track to being completed, but strict adherence to operational principles when engaging with IP communities will extend REDD+ benefits beyond the life of the project. Careful planning is recommended to ensure full and effective participation of forest dependent communities and to avoid implementation delays.

Constraints and gaps related to stakeholder consultation and participation mechanisms

The lack of continuity of stakeholder consultations during the gap period from R-PP preparation to R-PP implementation coupled with the high costs of transportation to hard-to-access hinterland areas of Guyana are main constraints.

Component 2: REDD+ strategy and implementation framework

Component 2 is to prepare Guyana to implement the REDD+ strategy to: (i) verify and characterise the key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the R-PP and design conservation and forest management activities that reduce emissions; (ii) identify how current land use, and forest law, policy and government structure impact on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; and (iii) propose alternatives for mitigating the identified drivers and responding to impacts.

Sub-component 2.1: Outputs 5-8	Level of progress	Description
REDD+ Strategy		Progressing well, further development required to design the REDD+ strategy options.

Assessment of progress

Output 5: REDD+ strategy option paper approved by several stakeholders and by relevant Ministries and Commissions

Output 6: Analysis of the investments necessary to implement REDD+ undertaken

MNR contracted Winrock International working in collaboration with Conservation International, Climate Law and Policy and Sylvan Acres to carry out a consultancy “ATN/FP-14161-GY Development of a REDD+ Strategy and SESA for Guyana”. The duration of the consultancy is 20 months (May 2018 to December 2019).

The FCPF PEU made a wise decision to put together a consortium of three respected international organisations (one with a local presence in Guyana) to prepare the REDD+ Strategy. One of the organisations – Winrock International – previously drafted a REDD+ Strategy for the GFC and so armed with that experience, the process to complete the sub-component is expected to be successful.

The REDD+ strategy option paper has been prepared and validated by several stakeholders (Table 17). However, further work is needed to complete actions to achieve the analysis of investments necessary to implement REDD+, to design REDD+ pilot projects, define carbon rights and benefit sharing mechanisms and carry out studies (e.g. trade-off analysis). The completion of this aspect of this task requires Inputs from the consultancy by Cheri Sugal (see Table 19).

Output 7: Number of REDD+ pilot projects designed and implemented

Output 8: Number of studies (including trade-off analysis), workshops and study tours conducted

The implementation of activities to achieve these outputs is scheduled to commence in 2019 pending the conclusion of contract negotiations with the selected firm.

Constraints and gaps related to REDD+ strategy design The short time remaining in the R-PP implementation project could impact the quality of the REDD+ strategy by not allowing adequate time to handle complex issues such as natural resource rights, land tenure, implications for forest law and policy and identifying the systemic links between key drivers and REDD+ activities.

Sub-component 2.2: Outputs 9-12	Level of progress	Description
REDD+ implementation of framework activities		Further development required. Activities are part of a consultancy to be completed in 2019.

Assessment of progress

Output 9: Training sessions performed on the interpretation and implementation of natural resources legislation, policy and guidelines

Implementation of activities to achieve this output is expected to start soon. A procurement process has been launched for a consultancy on “Land tenure and carbon ownership and benefit sharing mechanism”. However, careful management of the procurement process and subsequent work by the Consultant is needed to avoid delays and to ensure completion of the sub-component.

Output 10: Communication link established with other countries to enable the sharing of ideas and lessons learned)

This output has been partly achieved (60%); see Table 18. The FCPF has participated in knowledge sharing visits to Guatemala, Peru and Suriname.

Output 11: Analysis of land tenure and carbon ownership to inform the allocation of benefits and rights

Output 12: Equitable and mutually agreeable benefits sharing mechanisms established for Amerindian communities and other key stakeholder groups

Implementation of activities to achieve these outputs is expected to start soon. A procurement process has been launched for a consultancy on “Land tenure and carbon ownership and benefit sharing mechanism”. However, careful management of the procurement process and subsequent work by the Consultant is needed to avoid delays and to ensure completion of the sub-component.

Constraints and gaps related to REDD+ implementation framework

Almost all of the activities related to REDD+ implementation framework have been programmed for completion in 2019, and so are the activities related to carbon rights and benefit sharing mechanisms and pilots for REDD+ projects. How will the Government ensure that the implementation framework define carbon rights and benefit sharing mechanisms, REDD+ financing modalities, procedures for official approvals and GRM is uncertain since the timelines for the deliverables Table 19) are not synchronised.

Sub-component 2.3: Outputs 13-15	Level of progress	Description
Strategic social and environmental assessment (SESA)		Further development required. Activities are part of a consultancy to be completed in 2019.

Assessment of progress

Output 13: SESA social and environmental studies and reports

Output 14: ESMF developed

Output 15: SESA summary reports and other studies

Outputs 13 and 14 have been partly achieved (Table 18), but output 15 has not been defined. In addition to the responsibility to prepare the REDD+ Strategy, Winrock International is also tasked with conducting a SESA and developing an ESMF. However, careful management of the procurement process and subsequent work by the Consultant is needed to avoid delays and to ensure completion of the sub-component.

Constraints and gaps related to SESA

Time is a serious constraint for the achievement of the SESA and ESMF outputs. These are essential elements of the R-PP implementation project since countries receiving FCPF funding for readiness preparation through the World Bank are required to ensure compliance with the common approach.

Component 3: Monitoring and evaluation of readiness activities

Component 3 is to provide a monitoring and evaluation framework for the implementation of the R-PP project in Guyana by: (i) designing a monitoring and evaluation framework; and (ii) developing progress reports

Sub-component 3: Outputs 16	Level of progress	Description
Monitoring and evaluation		Significant progress. Semi-annual monitoring reports are submitted and a baseline public perception survey on REDD+ has been carried out.

Assessment of progress

Output 16: Finalise monitoring framework Significant progress has been made to complete Component 3 (Table 18). The FCPF PEU has been very diligent in submitting semi-annual monitoring reports (75% achievement) and piloting them through the approval process. In addition, a public perception assessment was undertaken to gauge awareness, comprehension and support of REDD+ in forest dependent Administrative Regions and communities.

Additional work is required to carry out another assessment and to undertake the final evaluation. The MTR prepares the way for a meaningful final evaluation to be carried out

Constraints and gaps related to monitoring and evaluation

No constraint or gap has been identified.

Table 18. Summary of progress achieved in FCPF funded activities

Output Indicators	Baseline (2013)	Target (cumulative - 2017 & 2018)	Progress at December 2018	Target 2019
Component 1: Country organisation and consultations for REDD+ readiness				
Sub-component 1.1: National readiness management arrangements				
Output 1: Functioning REDD+ Secretariat established				
a) Number of REDD Secretariat positions filled	18	23	5 (New positions were added)	5
Output 2: Functional NRWG established and operational				
a) Number of annual NRWG meetings	0	2	8 (Quarterly meetings of the FCPF PSC)	4
b) Number of NTC offices operational with full-time staff	0	1	1	1
c) Number of annual meetings of the NTC	0	2	2	1
d) Number of meetings held by the 4 indigenous NGOs (APA, TAAMOG, NADF, GOIP) with constituents	0	20	Unable to measure. The IP-NGOs have received some capacity building but it unclear how this has been applied to meetings with constituents. The IP-	20

			NGOs do not have constituents – they are not elected bodies.	
e) Number of REDD+ Technical Documents in indigenous languages	0	2	0	2
Output 3: National conflict resolution strategy developed and established				
a) Number of national conflict resolution mechanism developed	0	1	1	0
b) Number of grievance management procedures developed and discussed with key stakeholders (including indigenous people and forest dependent communities)	0	1	1	0
c) Number of registry systems developed for receipt, tracking and reporting of grievances resolution process.	0	1	1	0
Sub-Component 1.2: Stakeholder consultation and participation mechanisms				
Output 4: Communication and outreach action plan developed and participatory mechanism in place and operational				
a) Number of communication and outreach strategies and action plans developed and approved by government	0	2	2 (Developed)	2 (approved by government)
b) Percentage of total population of indigenous people and others affected by REDD+ that have been consulted and informed about REDD+		40%	Less than 1%	40%
c) Number of indigenous communities consulted in a cluster format and by gender	0	150	230 Male (at least 82) Female (at least 65)	At least 150
e) Number of rounds of consultations undertaken with other key stakeholder groups (forestry, mining, infrastructure, land management/agriculture, environment regulators, etc)	0	2	1	1
Component 2: REDD+ Strategy and implementation framework				
Sub-Component 2.1: REDD+ Strategy				
Output 5: REDD+ Strategy option paper approved by several stakeholders and by relevant Ministries and Commissions				
a) Number of REDD+ strategic and operational documents completed		1 (Strategic Option Paper) 1 (Plan of Action)	0 ⁶⁶ 0 ⁶⁷	1 1

⁶⁶ REDD+ Strategy options are currently being prepared.

⁶⁷ REDD+ Strategy options are currently being prepared.

b) Quality control index for the approved REDD+ Strategy	0%	0%	0%	0%
Output 6: Analysis of the investments necessary to implement REDD+ undertaken				
a) Number of documents describing the investments necessary to implement REDD+	0	1	0	1
b) Number of documents signed by the relevant Ministry(ies) indicating agreement with the REDD+ investments described in the REDD+ investment document	0	1	0	1
Output 7: Number of REDD+ pilot projects designed and implemented defining carbon rights, benefit sharing mechanism, financing, procedures for official approvals. RAF 20				
a) Number of REDD+ pilot projects designed		3	0	4
b) Number of REDD+ projects implemented, as measured by completed evaluation reports on each pilot project				
Output 8: Number of studies (including Trade Off Analysis), workshops and study tours conducted				
a) Number of studies conducted		2	0	2
b) Number of workshops conducted				
Sub-Component 2.2: REDD+ implementation of Framework activities				
Output 9: Training sessions performed on the interpretation and implementation of natural resources legislation, policy and guidelines				
a) Number of training sessions on the interpretation and implementation of natural resources legislation, policy and guidelines	0	8	0	8
b) Number of persons trained by gender	0	80	0	80
Output 10: Communication link established with other countries to enable the sharing of ideas and lessons learned				
a) Number of workshops attended or organised with other countries to enable sharing of ideas and lessons learned	0	5	3	2
b) Number of people from government or civil society participating in the learning exchange workshops	0	20	12 ⁶⁸	8
Output 11: Analysis of land tenure and carbon ownership to inform the allocation of benefits and rights				
a) Number of analytic documents produced and approved by the REDD Secretariat	0	1	0	1
Output 12: Equitable and mutually agreeable benefits sharing mechanisms established for Amerindian communities and other key stakeholder groups				
a) Number of benefit sharing mechanisms created	0	0	0	0

⁶⁸ The number represents participants from Guyana. Efforts will be made to document participants from other countries.

b) Number of signed agreements by NTC and with a majority of communities on the benefit sharing scheme that includes performance based and other mechanisms	0	0	0	0
c) Percentage of stakeholder groups – not including Amerindian communities – that have approved the proposed equitable benefits sharing mechanism	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sub-Component 2.3: Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment (SESA)				
Output 13: SESA Social and Environmental Studies and Report				
a) Number of SESA reports developed	0	1	0	1
Output 14: Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) developed				
a) Number of Environmental and Social Management Frameworks (ESMF) designed and approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	0	1	0	1
b) Number of operational guidelines approved by MNRE	0	3	0	3
c) Number of documents describing the institutional implementation structure that has been put in place and detailing the budgetary or third party resources that have been allocated for implementation	0	1	1	0
Output 15: SESA summary reports and other studies				
a) Number of SESA Summary Reports and other studies written and approved by REDD Secretariat				
Component 3: Monitoring and evaluation				
Output 16: Finalise monitoring framework				
a) Number of documents written and approved by the REDD Secretariat and IDB describing the Monitoring Framework	0	1	0	1
b) Number of semi-annual monitoring reports written	0	4	3	1
c) Number of Readiness Packages prepared	0	0	0	0
d) Number of Public Perception Assessment undertaken to gauge awareness, comprehension and support of REDD+	0	1 (Baseline)	1	0
e) Number of final evaluations undertaken	0	0	0	0

In spite of the delayed start to the FCPF-funded readiness project, the overall performance can be described as good. The project remains on track to completing the components by December 2019. The project team is operating in a difficult policy environment where partner institutional roles and responsibilities do not fall within one accounting Ministry.

Significant progress has been made with national readiness management arrangements and monitoring and evaluation owing to previous work under the LCDS with the Kingdom of Norway.

However, further development is required in the following critical areas: i) stakeholder consultation and participation mechanisms; ii) REDD+ strategy; iii) REDD+ implementation activities; and iv) SESA. These critical areas are determinants of the success of Guyana's REDD+ readiness. However, credible consultants are on board or being procured to deliver results. The FCPF PEU must ensure that the procurement process operates efficiently to avoid delays and that the consultants and institutional partners remain fully engaged to keep the activities on track towards timely delivery of results. Table 19 captures the remaining project activities to be carried out by independent consultants.

It is recommended that the FCPF PEU prepares and implements an exit strategy to provide for the progressive realisation and sustainability of the REDD+ initiatives undertaken by the project. As requested by the FPA, the FCPF PEU must undertake efforts to make REDD+ visible.

Table 19. List of pending deliverables by consultancy and linkage to FCPF project outputs

FCPF Outputs	Consultancy to deliver results	Deliverables pending	Due dates (2019)
Outputs 1-3 National readiness management arrangements	Vanda Radzik (Individual)	Periodic reports on activity updates and performance assessment with recommendations covering the period under review:(iii- iv) August 1,2018 to February 28,2019	30 April
	Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Support of the National Tshaos Council, Indigenous NGOs and Forest Dependent Community Organisations	Delivery of Curricula in modular form for capacity building on REDD+ and Governance for:(vi) SRDC, (vii) SCPDA,(viii) NRDDDB,(ix) KMCRG,(x)NPDC, (xi)NSCCFO	30 September
		Periodic report on activity updates and performance assessment with recommendations covering the period under review:(v)March 1 to June 30,2019	30 October
		A Final Report on the compilation of the overall processes, outcomes and recommendations on activities emanating from capacity building sessions. This must include annexes with the names, organizations, job titles, age, gender and contact information of participants who have benefitted from these engagements.	30 October
Output 4 Stakeholder consultations and participation mechanisms	The Centre of Partnerships for Development (CAD) (Firm)	Submission and approval of products	15 April
		An evaluation report of the Stakeholder engagement plan Action plan, presenting on the results with the predetermined indicators until February 2019 and includes minutes of each session/cluster stakeholder engagement workshop describing the topics discussed, materials disseminated, main outcomes; recommendations or next steps; and a signed list of participants including name, community or entity, and gender	
	Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement on REDD+ & Readiness Activities in Guyana	Submission and approval of final version of products	10 November
		A final evaluation report of the Stakeholder engagement plan Action plan, presenting on the results with the predetermined indicators until September 2019 and includes minutes of each session/cluster stakeholder engagement workshop describing the topics discussed, materials disseminated, main outcomes; recommendations or next steps; and a signed list of participants including name, community or entity, and gender	
Outputs 5-8 REDD+ strategy options developed	Winrock International in consortium with CI-G, Climate Law and Policy and Sylvan Acres	Draft 1 of strategy option (review Strategy alternatives with SESA team)	30 January
		Stakeholder consultation report including materials disseminated, main outcomes, recommendations and next steps, a signed list of participants including name, community or entity and gender	
		Draft 2 of strategy option (Public consultation round 1)	30 March

	(Firm) Develop a REDD+ strategy and SESA for Guyana	Stakeholder consultation report including materials disseminated, main outcomes, recommendations and next steps, a signed list of participants including name, community or entity and gender	
		Draft 3 of strategy option (Public consultation round 2)	30 May
		Stakeholder consultation report including materials disseminated, main outcomes, recommendations and next steps, a signed list of participants including name, community or entity and gender	
		MCDA tool developed for strategy alternatives (review of modelling methodology; final model)	30 June
		Stakeholder consultation report including materials disseminated, main outcomes, recommendations and next steps, a signed list of participants including name, community or entity and gender	
		Final strategy report	30 October
	FCG International Ltd in Consortium with Arbonaut Ltd (Firm) Design and implement REDD+ pilot activities for Guyana.	Inception report	18 April
		Prioritization and Selection Criteria for Pilot Projects	7 May
		Three documents describing the REDD+ Pilot Projects, including a description of activities, investment requirements, a description of gender considerations included in the project design, results matrix, implementation arrangements including monitoring and evaluation;	21 June
		Progress monitoring report describing the progress of each pilot project in terms of planned outputs, achievement of milestones and lesson learned, including a section on the community-based MRV (10% per progress monitoring report	16 September
		A document presenting the final evaluation of the three Pilot Projects, including recommendations and an Action Plan for scaling-up of the successful Pilot Project experiences during the implementation of REDD	7 December
Output 9-12 REDD+ implementation framework	Cheri Sugai (Individual)	Report on analysis of the current situation of carbon rights in Guyana. iii. Comparative review of how land tenure, land rights and carbon ownership are recognized in REDD+ countries, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of each	15 April
	Analyse Land Tenure and Carbon Ownership to inform the allocation of	Draft version of the proposed system for the allocation carbon rights and benefits for implementation of REDD+ in Guyana. ii. Culturally-appropriate communication and outreach materials describing the proposed carbon allocation system.	13 May

	Benefits and Rights and the Development of a Benefits Sharing Mechanism for the Implementation of REDD+ in Guyana	Report/s on stakeholder engagements/workshops for the Draft version of the proposed system for the allocation carbon rights and benefits for implementation of REDD+ in Guyana Final version of the proposed system for the allocation carbon rights and benefits for implementation of REDD+ in Guyana	13 July
		Paper on the requirements of international best practices for benefits sharing and the options in the REDD+ context for Guyana Report on examination and assessment of existing international and national benefits sharing mechanisms and identification of models applicable to REDD+ implementation in Guyana	13 September
		Report on Stakeholder Consultation & Engagement Sessions & Feedback Paper identifying any institutional (legal or organizational) changes that may be required to implement the mechanism; and the financing mechanisms that will ensure long term sustainability	30 November
		Design of an equitable benefits sharing mechanism and an action plan to roll out the benefits sharing mechanism for REDD+ in Guyana including a capacity building plan for relevant stakeholders	3 December
Outputs 13-15 Strategic social and environmental assessment	Winrock International in consortium with CI-G, Climate Law and Policy and Sylvan Acres	Specific reports and documents to be incorporated by the REDD+ Strategy Team in the Strategy options and final REDD+ Strategy	30 March
		Stakeholder mapping and consultation report with recommendation during the SESA process and how feedback from stakeholders has been taken into account in finalizing the REDD+ Strategy	30 May
	Develop a REDD+ strategy and SESA for Guyana	Report on relevant conflict resolution & Grievance Redress Mechanisms for implementation of the REDD+ strategy	
		Draft SESA Report: Preliminary identification of social and environmental risks associated with the proposed REDD+ activities	30 June
		Final SESA report	30 August
		Stakeholder consultation report including materials disseminated, main outcomes, recommendations and next steps, a signed list of participants including name, community or entity and gender	
		Draft ESMF	15 October
		Final ESMF	30 November

		Stakeholder consultation report including materials disseminated, main outcomes, recommendations and next steps, a signed list of participants including name, community or entity and gender	
Output 16 Monitoring and evaluation framework	Patrick Williams (individual)	Draft report on findings of the project completion survey with specific emphasis on the extent of the stakeholders, perceptions, awareness, comprehension and support of the REDD+ activities , at a confidence level of 95% plus or minus 5% with completed questionnaire	30 August
	National survey perception of REDD+	Final report on findings of the Project completion survey with specific emphasis on the extent of stakeholders; awareness, comprehension and support of REDD+ activities	15 September

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 communities⁶⁹. 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 GFC⁷⁰. 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 project⁷¹. 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 [Conservation International](#) in a multi-year arrangement.

⁶⁹ http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?289851/Significant-Stories-Empowering-Communities-through-Participatory-MRV-in-Guyana

⁷⁰ <https://www.cifor.org/gcs/>

⁷¹ <https://nre.gov.gy/2017/08/07/phase-two-of-guyanas-monitoring-reporting-and-verification-mrv-project-gets-underway-with-release-of-funds-by-norad-through-ci-guyana-to-the-guyana-forestry-commission-improved-monitoring/>

- (iv) GGMC land reclamation project⁷². 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+.

⁷² <https://dpi.gov.gy/successful-land-reclamation-project-to-set-standard-for-future-practice/>

5. A review of the REDD Country Participant's compliance with the Common Approach

Countries receiving FCPF funding for readiness preparation through the World Bank are required to ensure compliance with the Common Approach. This part of the Assessment Framework focuses on the main findings and results of SESA, including the stand-alone Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). The SESA process and ESMF should create a sustainable institutional structure that ensures effective management of social and environmental issues beyond the readiness phase.

The Delivery Partner's environmental and social safeguards, including the SESA/ESMF, will be observed. The following actions have been taken to comply with the various aspects of the Common Approach (see Table 19):

- A consultancy to elaborate these safeguards using the guidelines and generic terms of reference.
- A consultancy to develop stakeholder engagement mechanisms that follows the guidelines for stakeholder engagement in REDD+ readiness, and
- Grievance and redress mechanism developed using the guidelines.

6. An updated financing plan for the overall Readiness preparation activities, including funds pledged by, and a brief description of activities supported by, other development partners

Uses of Funds (in US\$ thousands) as at 31 December 2018						
R-PP Component	Total needed (A) ⁷³	Funds pledged (B) ⁷⁴	Funds used ⁷⁵		Funds available (= B – C) ⁷⁶	Financing gap (= A – B) ⁷⁷
			Funds Committed (C)	Funds Disbursed		
Component 1a: National readiness management arrangement activities	770	770	1,616.5	981.7	348.5	80
Component 1b: Stakeholder consultation and participation	1,275	1,195				

⁷³ Total needed is the amount of resources necessary to complete a given component. All numbers in this table should be the latest numbers, which may not necessarily match the numbers in the original R-PP that was presented to the PC.

⁷⁴ Funds pledged encompass the amount of funds promised by different donors and / or the national government to fund a specific component and available to the country.

⁷⁵ Funds used refer to the amount of funds committed in signed contracts, and the portion of the funds committed that has already been disbursed.

⁷⁶ Available funds equal pledges minus commitments.

⁷⁷ Financing gap equals total needed minus pledged funds.

Component 2a: Assessment of land use, forest policy and governance	85	85	778.7	353.1	1,583.3	90
Component 2b: REDD+ Strategy	1,437	1,437				
Component 2c: REDD implementation framework	310	220				
Component 2d: Social and environmental impact	620	620				
Component 3: Develop a reference scenario	300	300	0	0	300	0
Component 4: Design a monitoring system	3,710	3,710	0	0	3,710	0
Component 6: Design a programme M&E framework	85	35	61.0	26.2	(26.0)	50
TOTAL	8,592	8,372	2,456.2	1,361.0	5,915.8	220
Sources of Funds (in US\$ thousands)						
	Funds Pledged	Funds Committed	Funds Disbursed	Funds Available		
FCPF Component 1: Institutional arrangements and consultation for REDD+ Component 2: REDD+ Strategy and implementation framework Component 6: Monitoring and evaluation of readiness activities	3,800	1,557.3	1,288.3	2,242.7		
Government Component 1a: National readiness management arrangements Component 2a: Assessment of land use, forest policy and governance Component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Component 4: Design a monitoring system	672	672	0	0		
Other Development Partners (CI, WWF, GFC, GRIF, UNDP-GSF) Component 3: Reference scenario (UNDP-GSF) Component 4: Monitoring system (CI, WWF, GFC, GRIF)	9,400	9,400	3,200	6,200		

TOTAL	13,872	11,629.3	4,488.3	8,442.7
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7. Grant Reporting and Monitoring report (GRM)⁷⁸ (or equivalent Delivery Partner report, as per Delivery Partner's standard operational policies and procedures)

The Grant Reporting and Monitoring report for Guyana is included as Annex 4.

The present MTR report of the FCPF REDD+ readiness project in Guyana will verify compliance with the performance indicators and objectives as defined in the TC agreement have been met as of the date of the evaluation.

8. Conclusions and recommendations

The timing of the MTR is not at the chronological mid-point of the project but at the end of the second full year of project implementation and four years after the TC was signed. This timing is fortuitous as it coincides with the start-up of most of the consultancies required to deliver technical inputs to the project. Other remaining planned consultancies are already moving towards start-up. All consultancies are programmed to deliver outstanding technical inputs by December 2019 and extreme vigilance is required to ensure timely completion of tasks, including approval of reports by the multi-stakeholder PSC.

The R-PP set out an ambitious proposal to bring Guyana to the point of REDD+ readiness. At the time of the preparation of the R-PP and later its approval in 2012, another government was in power and the LCDS was the main national development strategy. The initiation of implementation of the TC in 2016 coincided with the entry into executive political office of a coalition government, the birth of a new national development strategy - the GSDS - and institutional changes that resulted in delinking of responsibility for environment from the MNR and placement under a new Department of the renamed Ministry of the Presidency (formerly, Office of the President), among other changes.

While the national institutional arrangements for REDD+ coordination and management is evolving, it is clear that it cannot be project driven and yet be sustainable. The GSDS makes no direct mention of REDD+, which is different to the presence of REDD+ inclusive statements in the NFPS and NFP of the GFC. The OCC in its reporting to UNFCCC makes mention of REDD+. Notwithstanding the efforts of the FCPF PEU to strengthen national institutional arrangement for REDD+ governance and coordination, a more structural approach is needed to sustain the efforts. This requires a mainstreaming and multi-

⁷⁸ Grant Reporting and Monitoring is the format and system that is used for reporting on FCPF activities where the World Bank is the Delivery Partner.

stakeholder approach within the competent national institutions. The recent re-convening of the NCCC is a step in the right direction. Future functioning of the RS (pillar of the MRVS and performance based payment for forest carbon) and NRWG (functions carried out by the PSC for this project) require a stable and coherent structure and reporting lines.

At the technical level to develop REDD+ strategy, much work has been done dating back to 2013 that appears not to feature in the current workstream. This is unfortunate and an indication of how political processes may result in lack of continuity of effort. REDD+ strategy options have been developed and evaluated. There is no need to repeat the entire exercise; rather, there should be a review of the options, strategic environmental and social risk assessment and development of candidate pilot projects that would achieve synchronous development between REDD+ and the productive sectors that have potential to negatively impact REDD+ objectives. The weak area in this regard is the REDD+ institutional framework. Relevant laws and policies related to REDD+ programmes and activities are required. While the forest sector is REDD+ compatible, work has started to bring the mining sector into alignment, but the same cannot be said for the agricultural sector. Much work remains to be done.

Where Guyana has reached world class level is in the areas of Reference Emission Level and Reference Level as benchmarks for implementing REDD+ activities. Given recent UNFCCC decisions and IPCC guidance and guidelines, there is need to review and possibly update Guyana's REL/RL. There is a highly developed national forest monitoring system, capable of quantifying forest cover changes, identifying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and computing carbon emissions as a result of the forest loss. The Guyana-Norway agreement has had a positive impact on this achievement.

The implementation of the TC has significantly advanced the implementation of Guyana's R-PP and has brought Guyana closer to REDD+ readiness. Although there was a delay to the start-up of the project since the signing of the TC, significant progress has been made to implement the project activities towards achievement of the outputs and outcomes. It will take another two years to have a similar result on the impact. The promulgation of the Natural Resources Fund Bill and the existence of the GRIF, albeit with one significant donor, illustrate the commitment of Guyana to attract and manage revenues for natural resources management, including sustainable forest management. The GSDS requires review to include specific language on REDD+ in support of the nationally determined contributions to climate stabilisation.

The following recommendations are offered (see also Table 20):

1a. National REDD Management Arrangements

Recommendation 1: *Develop and implement a more secure institutional mechanism with funding for national REDD+ coordination in order to sustain the gains made so far.*

Recommendation 2: Create a Cabinet Sub-Committee on integrated natural resources management or task the NCCC with REDD+ coordination among all land use sectors and various sectors of society for more effective management.

Recommendation 3: Operationalise the REDD+ GRM in a suitable institutional host and in consultation with applicable national laws and regulations.

1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach

Recommendation 4: Develop and implement an effective mechanism for reciprocal public disclosure of REDD+ outcomes.

2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, and Governance

Recommendation 5: Identify and prioritise options for enhancement of forest carbon stocks and develop and implement a plan of action to achieve same.

2b. REDD+ strategy options

Recommendation 6: Review the REDD+ strategy options formulated in 2013-2014, complete the feasibility assessment and determine likely impacts on existing sectoral policies.

2c. REDD+ Implementation Framework

Recommendation 7: Review applicable current laws and regulations for REDD+ compatibility and make amendments that would contribute to achieving the five objectives of REDD+, and in particular enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Recommendation 8: Set up a National REDD+ registry and system for monitoring REDD+ activities at national and sub-national levels.

2d. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment

Recommendation 9: Accelerate the process to establish the social and environment safeguards and assessment of risks of REDD+ on the productive and service sectors.

3. Reference Emissions Level / Reference Level

Recommendation 10: Review the 2013-2014 REL/RL proposal and update same based on UNFCCC decisions as well as IPCC guidance and guidelines.

6. Monitoring and evaluation of readiness activities

Recommendation 11: Create a task force to examine the best institutional arrangements for integrating freshwater as a non-carbon aspect into the national REDD+ framework.

FCPF PEU

Recommendation 12: Prepare an exit strategy for the project.

Table 20. List of MTR review recommendations and indicative timeline for their completion

Recommendation	Implementation Lead	Indicative Timeline for Completion
<i>Develop and implement a more secure institutional mechanism with funding for national REDD+ coordination in order to sustain the gains made so far.</i>	Office of Climate Change	July 2019
<i>Create a Cabinet Sub-Committee on integrated natural resources management or task the NCCC with REDD+ coordination among all land use sectors and various sectors of society for more effective management.</i>	Joint - Ministry of the Presidency / Ministry of Natural Resources	July 2019
<i>Operationalise the REDD+ GRM in a suitable institutional host and in consultation with applicable national laws and regulations.</i>	Office of Climate Change	September 2019
<i>Develop and implement an effective mechanism for reciprocal public disclosure of REDD+ outcomes.</i>	Office of Climate Change	October 2019
<i>Identify and prioritise options for enhancement of forest carbon stocks and develop and implement a plan of action to achieve same.</i>	Guyana Forestry Commission	June 2019
<i>Review the REDD+ strategy options formulated in 2013-2014, complete the feasibility assessment and determine likely impacts on existing sectoral policies.</i>	Office of Climate Change	August 2019
<i>Review applicable current laws and regulations for REDD+ compatibility and make amendments that would contribute to achieving the five objectives of REDD+, and in particular enhancement of forest carbon stocks.</i>	Ministry of Natural Resources	November 2019
<i>Set up a National REDD+ registry and system for monitoring REDD+ activities at national and sub-national levels.</i>	Ministry of Natural Resources	December 2019
<i>Accelerate the process to establish the social and environment safeguards and assessment of risks of REDD+ on the productive and service sectors.</i>	FCPF PEU	Immediate
<i>Review the 2013-2014 REL/RL proposal and update same based on UNFCCC decisions as well as IPCC guidance and guidelines.</i>	Office of Climate Change	August 2019
<i>Create a task force to examine the best institutional arrangements for integrating freshwater as a non-carbon aspect into the national REDD+ framework.</i>	Ministry of Natural Resources	July 2019
<i>Prepare an exit strategy for the project</i>	FCPF PEU	Immediate

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Government of Guyana (2010) Low Carbon Development Strategy. Office of the President, Georgetown, Guyana.

Annexes

Annex 1: MTR terms of reference approved



Mid-Term-Evaluation-
TOR-APPROVED-.pdf

Annex 2: Template for MTR Progress Reporting



Template for
Mid-term Progress Re

Annex 3: Common Approach



Common
Approach.pdf

Annex 4: Grant Report Monitoring May 2019



Guyana GRM May
2019.docx