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FCPF project: Readiness support for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Suriname

GRANT MONITORING REPORT

Mid-term Review

Atlas project ID: 00081326

FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project Suriname

GRANT MONITORING REPORT

Purpose

- Review of the progress towards results
- Support to decision-making
- Problem-solving
- Learning
- Beneficiary satisfaction and feedback
- Accountability

A. ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

Framework documentation in place	What to look for	YES/NO	Remarks
Project Document	Is the prodoc signed, attached in Atlas? Is it available on IATI?	Yes	The prodoc was signed by the Implementing Partner and UNDP in May 2014. Uploaded in the UNDP Atlas and is available in IATI.
LOA	Letter of Agreement signed? Implemented?	Yes	Signed LoA as of 2016 with the Office of the President, Coordination Environment and NIMOS
LPAC minutes signed	Attached in Atlas?	Yes	The approved LPAC minutes are available
Minutes of the Project Board	Documented?	Yes	Project board minutes are available. Last PB meeting held Aug 2017. Next PB scheduled for Nov 2017.
Donor Reports	On time?	Yes	Annual FCPF development partner report submitted Aug 2017. Bi-annual FCPF Country Progress report 15 March and 15 August 2017 submitted.
Final Reports	On time?	No	Not due. Project is ongoing.
Finding on Project file	Review the process of procurement and asset inventory	No	Not due. Project is ongoing.

MID TERM PROGRESS (narrative)

This midterm progress report (MTR) highlights overall results achieved in creating the vision and the development of required knowledge, skills and institutional framework to enable Suriname to implement policies and measures to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and ensure improved conservation and divulgence of benefits. Capacities of critical national stakeholders have been built in the core areas of the program; The National REDD+ Strategy (NS), the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS); Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) and Safeguards Information System (SIS). Suriname will be presenting its NFMS and draft REDD+ NS at the UNFCCC conference of Parties in November 2017. The Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) is planned for completion in December 2017 and submission to the UNFCCC in January 2018. Based on the findings of the MTR report and considering the utilization of project funds, UNDP as Delivery partner of the project, qualifies Suriname progress as sufficiently significant.

In relation to governance, environmental and social safeguards, some progress in strengthening of capacities, skills and knowledge of individuals in key institutions such as NIMOS, SBB and PMU has been realized in the readiness phase. Improvement in institutional frameworks for coordination, data collection and analysis in core areas of REDD+ are also noted, however these need further support and organizational embedding, including financial sustainability. This improvement in data collection and analysis capacity will be engendered by recent legislation enacted in Suriname as Sept 2017 on Transparency and Anti-Corruption and general requirement to all state and private sector companies on disclosure and publication of Annual Reports. Suriname participation in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative is an example of this change in policy. Additional capacity strengthening actions identified under the REDD+ corruption risk report is to be undertaken, upon availability of critical resources.

Technical and a national consultation are carried out with all stakeholders, and the legal and institutional framework report in support of policies and measures to realize Suriname REDD+ strategy, including risks and benefits on safeguards will be validated in a National Workshop in November 2017. This legal and institutional work is complementary and integrated with the joint efforts by the Government of Suriname, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples on agreed roadmap, including timelines for the conclusion of the Land rights and Land tenure, ESMF, Grievance and Redress Mechanism for REDD+ implementation.

The National REDD Strategy is close to finalization, with validation and dissemination of final draft for November 2017. The REDD+ strategy is aligned to Suriname development plan 2017 – 2021, INDC and longer term development vision. This will further shape the implementation phase, the most relevant for Suriname, is laying the cornerstone for the establishment of the National REDD+ Trust Fund (NRTF). This is the overarching goal is a means for Suriname to be able to fulfill, through implementation of the Policies and Measures, the National REDD+ Vision conceived. Suriname request for additional funding to complete its readiness phase would be aimed at developing activities for

setting the financial sustainability policy, procedures, and safeguards to build its NRTF with all stakeholders included.

Forest reference emission level (FREL), based on best available data to-date, with a transparent analysis of uncertainty and remaining gaps, the Suriname team has recently completed a first draft of its FREL/FRL. The draft reference level has been shared with all stakeholders before submission, and throughout the process the staff involved with generating the FREL data was offered training to strengthen the technical capacity within the relevant institutions to determine the most suitable modelling tool and software such as GEOSiris, DINAMICA-EGO, TerraSet Geospatial Monitoring and Modelling System based on Suriname's current needs and the availability of information. This evolution will continue with the availability of new information, technology development and transfer and increase in the abilities of staff. The FREL/FRL is scheduled to be submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat for technical assessment in January 2018.

The NFMS Roadmap was produced by December 2016. It included the NFMS methodology design, a baseline study, expert consultation on gaps, validation with stakeholders, and roadmap adjustments. It also sets out the guidelines for how such activities will be continued, improved and institutionalized into a fully functional NFMS in the years to come. The roadmap also describes the institutional arrangements to meet the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and LULUCF reporting requirements under the UNFCCC, initiating the technical development of Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS), and implementing the National Forest Inventory (NFI). Moreover, the roadmap reported the initiation of a NFMS geoportal with the support of the FAO/ UN-REDD remote sensing unit. This has been realized and is already available at: <http://www.gonini.org/portal/>. Critical to the realization of the NFMS roadmap has been the Forest Cover Monitoring Unit, established in 2012 inside the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB – Dutch abbreviation).

The National Institute for Environment and Development (NIMOS) is entrusted with overall coordination of REDD+ programme implementation in Suriname, with critical support by the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB).

The project is implemented under support to NIM modality, with the direct implementation support by UNDP, indicated in letter of agreement between NIMOS/PMU and the UNDP Country Office. Project oversight and monitoring is continuous as part of the delivery partner agreement with the FCPF.

B. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

<p>C.1 Management Arrangements</p> <p><i>Does the project structure exist? Roles clearly defined? Staff is clear about their responsibilities?</i></p>	<p>The project board is established with clear rules and procedures and meets regularly to review Annual Workplans. The PB is chaired by NIMOS.</p> <p>The project management unit is operational and administrates the day to day project management per terms of references. Per Midterm Evaluation report of January 2017, two positions of M&E Officer and Communications Officer are being filled. In support of PMU, regular management meetings are held by Directors of the key institutions of NIMOS, Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB) and UNDP Suriname.</p>
<p>C.2 RRF (AWP) revised? Input: initial RRF</p> <p><i>AWP signed? Implementable? (Delivery rate etc.)</i></p>	<p>The work plans and budgets have been approved by the project Board. As of 30 September 2017, cumulative US\$ 2,245,164.46 has been disbursed and committed. This accounts for 59 per cent of the total FCPF grant of \$3.8 million. Overall project progress is satisfactory. Annex 1 provides the status of funds utilization by component up to 30 September 2017.</p>
<p>C.3 M&E Plan?? Input: initial M&E Plan</p> <p><i>Revisions of the initial M&E framework i.e. M&E Plan prepared? Written track on decisions exist?</i></p>	<p>The original M&E work plan per prodoc is available and still valid. The detailed M&E work plan is prepared by the PMU and will be updated when the replacement M&E officer is onboard.</p> <p>The best practice of reviewing M&E framework during PB meeting will be put forward for consideration to the PB.</p>
<p>C.4 MoV& Indicators exist? Input: Initial M&E plan</p> <p><i>Are they still relevant? Are the indicators easily obtainable and SMART? Will they be monitored further? Is data collected as planned?</i></p>	<p>The means of verification are still relevant, given the Results and Resource Framework remains as original approved. The progress per indicators is recorded and reported to the PB as well as in the country indicative plan of the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (UNMSDF). The progress is also captured in the project management module and in the UNDP corporate monitoring system.</p>
<p>C.5 Assessment dates Input: Initial M&E plan</p> <p><i>Adherence to assessment dates? Assessment results</i></p>	<p>The progress, challenges and delays are reported against workplan at PB meetings and captured in Annual and Bi-annual reporting. Corrective actions are discussed within the management meeting and put forward towards the PMU.</p> <p>Corrective actions as required are taken within UNDP project</p>

<p><i>captured and communicated? Corrective actions taken (if needed)</i></p>	<p>management module by adjustment of AWP based on realization.</p>
<p>C.6 Management of risks <i>Have the foreseen risks</i></p>	<p>Risk and issues logs are updated on annual basis or as required.</p>
<p>C.7 Evaluations <i>Any planned evaluation? ToR developed? Follow up actions defined (Management Responses)? Any delays/overdue actions?</i></p>	<p>Per project plan, an independent midterm evaluation took place in December 2016. The resulting recommendations to realize delayed project outputs and strengthen overall project management and M&E have mostly been accepted and implemented.</p>
<p>C.8 Target Groups <i>Is it clear who they are? Is the feedback regularly collected, stored and used? Data disaggregated?</i></p>	<p>Yes, Feedback from Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITP), REDD+ Assistants Collective, high level government officials, private sector and other stakeholders are regularly collated through the stakeholder engagement</p>
<p>C.9 Capacity Development <i>Any capacity development activities? If yes, individual and institutional changes are observable? How?</i></p>	<p>18 REDD+ Assistants trained, 582 people directly engaged from all indigenous and maroon tribes through the REDD+ Assistants Collective, supported by the PMU. Establishment in 2017 of collaboration on REDD+ with overarching Indigenous and Maroon organizations such as VIDS, KAMPOS, Trio organization, etc. This capacity development has also benefitted from the implementation of the CI WISE REDD project.</p> <p>International and national training, data gathering and analysis in the areas of FREL, NFI, NFMS, CMRV, scenario building and spatial planning to enhance understanding and local capacities in core institutions such as SBB, Planning Office, Mining Department, NIMOS and University of Suriname.</p> <p>In support of conceptualization of National Development strategy based on forest resources, Learning mission to Costa Rica (October 2016) with representatives of different ministries, UNDP, NIMOS (National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname), Tourism Institute, and members of Parliament.</p> <p>Capacities strengthening in Governance and safeguards matters, such as project related, broader land rights and land</p>

	tenure and transparency and anti-corruption. The aforementioned changes continue and will be compiled and reported in 2018.
C.10 Sustainability <i>Transition and phase-out arrangements, including a sustainability plan are in place? National ownership exists? Potentials for scaling up?</i>	
Proposed actions	

C. PROJECT PERFORMANCE-IMPLEMENTATION RISKS AND ISSUES

Table 1 provides information on key risks and issues, including proposed dates of action and responsibilities.

Table 1: Key Risks and Issues

Issues/risks	How to resolve it	Proposed date of action	Responsibility
Communication and visibility is not leading to broad support and leadership from key actors.	Communication needs to be improved for targeted and differentiated and key messages for different target groups with at this stage focus to high-level decision makers.	Ongoing	PMU, NIMOS
The ongoing national economic and fiscal crisis remains the primary focus and driver for government decisions, negatively impacting attention and decisions towards the environment.	NIMOS recognizes this as a risk but also as an opportunity to discuss how the country can use its natural resources including its forest and biodiversity towards sustainable development strategy, and be financially compensated for its efforts.	End 2017	NIMOS

<p>Sustainability of the structures established and capacities built needs to be guaranteed beyond the funding flows from FCPF. For example, to implement the NFMS roadmap, to simply maintain the web portal Gonini will require additional funding beyond those of FCPF.</p>	<p>It is of crucial that the build NFMS and CMRV structures are cost effective and integrated into national monitoring frameworks. Providing for clear and direct link between the REDD+ needs, supporting practitioners and decision makers in their daily activities</p>	<p>End 2018</p>	<p>NIMOS, SBB, Ministries of Natural Resources, ROGB and Finance</p>
<p>The REDD+ Steering Committee as a high-level inter-ministerial policy coordination body responsible for the overall REDD+ related actions is not yet operational.</p>	<p>NIMOS has initiated dialogues with the Cabinet of the President to have the Steering Committee established at the earliest convenience, taking into account national directives to limit the number of government established committees.</p>	<p>end of 2017</p>	<p>NIMOS, Coordination Environment Office of the President</p>
<p>Limited capacities in the operationalization of interim Grievance and Redress Mechanism</p>	<p>Capacity building, proactive stakeholder engagement and dialogue as integral part of interim Grievance and Redress Mechanism as well as participatory development of REDD+ implementation phase GRM.</p>	<p>Ongoing till end 2018</p>	<p>UNDP, PMU, NIMOS, PB</p>

D. LESSONS LEARNED DURING MONITORING SESSIONS

Critical is having adequate local technical, administrative and project management capacity to implement REDD+, with an appropriate system to deliver strong technical and administrative support from the beginning in order to prevent unnecessary delays and slow execution. Options are short term detailed assignments by national or

international experts from countries more advanced or having experienced specific situations.

E. PARTICIPANTS

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References

- Annual Project Reports
- Reports to the Project Board
- Financial Reports
- Audit Reports
- Mainstreaming Environmental Conventions into national development planning project document
- Suriname Development Plan 2017 – 2021

ANNEX 1

FCPF Project Status of Funds Utilization

Component	Approved budget (A)	Cumulative Funds Used (up to 30 September 2017)			Funds available (=A-B)	Delivery rate
		Funds committed	Funds disbursed	Total (B)		
Transition Phase to implement Suriname Readiness Proposal	200,000	0.00	183,746.41	183,746.41	16,253.59	92%
OUTPUT 1 - Human capacities and stakeholder's engagement	1,729,000	16,459	1,205,998.60	1,222,457.60	506,542.40	71%
OUTPUT 2 - REDD+ strategy	1,091,000	699.00	485,351.40	486,050.40	604,949.60	45%
OUTPUT 3 - Implementation Framework and tools	780,000	0.00	352,910.05	352,910.05	427,089.95	45%
Total US\$	3,800,000.00	17,158.00	2,228,006.46	2,245,164.46	1,554,835.55	59%