

# **Annual Report on Progress of Implementing Readiness Activities Guyana**

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

### **Component 1: Institutional Arrangements and Consultation**

- a. *Establishment and operationalization of national readiness management institutions and arrangements:*
  - i. Engagement with national readiness management institutions on the preparation and draft of the R-package. These include the National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG), the Guyana FCPF Project Steering Committee, representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources, as well as academia, Guyana Forestry Commission and Indigenous organizations.
  - ii. *Multi-stakeholder self-assessment.* The Guyana multi-stakeholder self-assessment workshop undertaken with participation from a range of stakeholders involved in REDD+ activities in Guyana.

### **Component 2: REDD+ strategy and Implementation Framework**

- a. *REDD+ Strategy developed.* The work of the consultant undertaking the design of the REDD+ Strategy was completed at the end of 2019 and reviewed for the development of the R-Package in 2020.
- b. *Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment (SESA).* The work of the consultant undertaking the design of the SESA was completed at the end of 2019 and reviewed for the development of the R-Package in 2020.

### **Component 3: Monitoring and Readiness Activities**

- a. *Implementation of final evaluation of project.* The final evaluation of the project was undertaken at the beginning 2020 and completed in May 2020.
- b. *R-Package preparation.* The drafting of the R-Package started in April 2020 and submission to the FCPF FMT took place in October 2020.

## 2. DISBURSEMENT SUMMARY

Component	Total Funds per component (US\$)	Allocated Funds (US\$)		Available Funds (US\$)
		Committed	Disbursed	
Component 1: Institutional arrangements and consultations for REDD+	2136000	0	1944936	191064
Component 2: REDD+ strategy and implementation framework	1,550,824	0	1461583	89241
Component 3: Monitoring and Evaluation of Readiness activities	113,176	0	113176	0
<b>TOTAL (US\$)</b>	<b>3,800,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,519,695</b>	<b>280,305</b>

## 3. PROGRAM SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

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

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

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

#### **Links between FCPF program and complementary programs**

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

(i) WWF Guyana in collaboration with GFC, Protected Areas Commission and NRDDDB: Creation of a participatory MRV that is replicable, sustainable and manageable by communities. According to the WWF "This project successfully contributed to strengthening Guyana's national MRV system through the inclusion of community

participation, and helped clarify what it would take to prepare a community for opt-in – the mechanism that will provide titled indigenous communities the opportunity to participate in, and benefit from REDD+ and the Guyana-Norway Agreement”.

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

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

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

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

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

Yes, SESA and ESMF were conducted and prepared in accordance with the Common Approach. Both the REDD+ Strategy and SESA were completed and incorporated in the preparation of the R-Package.

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

During 2020 the restrictions of COVID-19 limited face-to-face engagement / consultations with stakeholders in the discussions on the development of the R-package.

#### **4. LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- The existence of a highly capable project team ensured that outputs were generated on time.
- The hiring of competent consultants led to the production of high- quality outputs.
- The extensive engagement with stakeholders at national and regional levels increased the quality and relevance of the REDD+ outputs.
- In the development of these strategic documents, it is recommended that the engagement of the entire government or a whole government approach is needed, so as to engage a large body of stakeholders on a large number of issues, in order to achieve consensus.