

Final Report

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Project in Guyana

GY-T1097

(November 2021)

Project Basic Information			
Project number	GY-T1097		
Approval Year	2013	Region	CCB
Approval Number	ATN/FP-14161-GY		
Team Leader	Alleng, Gerard P.	Country	Guyana
Taxonomy	Client Support	Department	CSD
Fund	FCP	Sector	PA-Climate Change Mitigation Policy
Executing Agency	GY-GFCO	Subsector	
Execution Status	Closed		
Operation Objective	Undertake key activities identified in the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) that lays out a roadmap of preparation activities needed to be undertaken for Guyana to become REDD+ ready		

Financial Information		
	Original	Current
Amount Financed	\$3,800,000	\$3,519,695.35
Disbursed Amount	\$3,519,695.35 (93%)	\$3,519,695.35 (100%)
Commitments not yet disbursed Amount	N/A	N/A
Available Amount	\$280,304.65	\$0.00
Final Disbursement Date	Feb 27, 2019	
Final Closing date	June 9, 2021	

Status

Project has financially closed on June 9, 2021 with all final audits completed and accepted. The main deliverable of the project - the R-Package was submitted to the FCPF committee and endorsed on June 23, 2021.

List of acronyms and abbreviations

APA:	Amerindian Peoples Association
BURs:	Biennial Update Reports
CDKN:	Climate and Development Knowledge Network
CfRN:	Coalition for Rainforest Nations
COP:	Conference of the Parties
CYEN:	Red Thread and the Caribbean Youth Environment Network
EPA:	Environmental Protection Agency
ESMF:	Environment and Social Management Framework
FCMS:	Forest Carbon Monitoring System
FCPF:	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FPA:	Forest Producers Association
FRL:	Forest Reference Level
GFC:	Guyana Forestry Commission
GGMC:	Geology and Mines Commission
GHG:	Green House Gas
GLSC:	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission
GRIF:	Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund
GRM:	Grievance and Redress Mechanism
GSDS:	Green State Development Strategy
IDB:	Inter-American Development Bank
IPCC:	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
JCN:	Joint Concept Note
LCDS:	Low Carbon Development Strategy
MNR:	Ministry of Natural Resources
MRVS:	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System
NCCC:	National Climate Change Committee

NFMS:	National Forest Management System
NORAD:	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NRDDB:	North Rupununi District Development Board
NRWG:	National REDD+ Working Group
NSCCFO:	National Steering Committee of Community Forestry Organisations
NTC:	National Toshiacs Council
OCC:	Office of Climate Change
PEU:	Project Executing Unit
PSC:	National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG), represented by the FCPF PEU Steering Committee (PSC)
REDD+:	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
REL:	Reference Emission Level
RL:	Reference Level
R-PIN:	Readiness Plan Idea Note
R-PP:	Readiness Preparation Proposal
RRR+:	Reporting for Results-based REDD+
RS:	REDD Secretariat
SESA:	Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment
SIS:	Safeguard Information System
SOI:	Summary of safeguards information
TUG:	Transparency International Guyana
UG/FEES:	University of Guyana-Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences
UNFCCC:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Background

Within two years following the official launch of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, “REDD+ initiative”, at the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2007 (Bali action Plan Decision 2/CP.13), Guyana joined the World Bank’s [Forest Carbon Partnership Facility](#) (FCPF), and submitted its Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN)¹ in 2008. In 2009, Guyana launched the [Low Carbon Development Strategy \(LCDS\)](#), and signed a 5-year innovative [bilateral REDD+ agreement](#) worth US\$250 million with the Kingdom of Norway. This was the formal beginning of Guyana’s entry into REDD+ readiness preparation.

The Guyana-Norway Joint Concept Note (JCN) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), included provisions for collaboration, knowledge building, and sharing of lessons learned within the field of biodiversity, sustainable, low-carbon development, with REDD+ as the key component, including establishing a framework for financial support from Norway into a [Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund \(GRIF\)](#). In its efforts to meet the requirements set out in the JCN and MOU, Guyana began development of a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) in 2009 by establishing and progressively developing the acclaimed Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS), which has produced eight Interim Measures’ Reports² since 2010. In 2011, Guyana became a United Nations (UN) REDD Partner Country³, and in 2012 submitted its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) to the FCPF. In 2014, Guyana developed and submitted to the UNFCCC its National Forest Reference Level (FRL) for REDD+ and a revised Reference Level (RL) in 2015⁴.

[The Cancun Agreements](#), adopted at COP 16 in 2010, encourage developing countries to contribute to mitigation in the forest sector by undertaking the activities of REDD+, as deemed appropriate by each Party, and in accordance with their respective capabilities and national circumstances. The Cancun Agreements also requests developing countries willing to participate in REDD+ to develop four elements:

- (i) a national strategy or action plan;
- (ii) a national forest reference emission level (REL) and/or forest reference level;
- (iii) a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system; and
- (iv) a system for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected.

The Warsaw Framework for REDD+, adopted at COP 19 in 2013, provides methodological guidance for countries intending to advance toward results-based payments a process based on the implementation of three phases established under The Cancun Agreement

Guyana chose to implement REDD+ in a manner that fitted the country’s circumstances at the time and implemented the phases along parallel tracks under the national strategic framework of the LCDS. In so doing, Guyana was able to implement the first three elements of REDD+ between 2008 and 2015 (the revised REDD+ Strategy and safeguard documents were produced in 2019).

¹ https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/Guyana_R-PIN_Final_2008-7-31.pdf

² <https://forestry.gov.gy/mrvs-interim-measures-reports/>

³ <https://www.unredd.net/announcement-section/1090-guyana/782-guyana-becomes-a-un-redd-partner-country.html>

⁴ <https://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=guy>

A Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Guyana and the World Bank was signed in 2014, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) was chosen by Guyana as its FCPF Delivery Partner. In 2016, Guyana began the implementation of the R-PP financed from the FCPF Readiness Fund to support Guyana's readiness process, through development of REDD+ strategy options, further development of its MRVS, and institutional capacity to manage REDD+, including social and environmental safeguards. The FCPF Project Execution Unit was set up under the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

Objective

The objective of GY-T1097 is to assist the Guyana in its efforts to establish an enabling framework and build its capacity for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) by providing financial and technical assistance. Specifically, the TC will support: (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.

Project Components

Three components were developed for financing as described below:

- **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.

Component 1: Institutional arrangements and consultations for REDD+ readiness.

This component sought to strengthen the efficacy, accountability and transparency of the national readiness management and institutional arrangements, and increase stakeholder consultation and participation in REDD+ implementation. The following activities were supported:

- a. Establishment and operationalisation of national readiness management institutions and arrangements, including the REDD Secretariat (RS), the National Toshias Council (NTC), the National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG), and a national conflict resolution mechanism. Specifically, the financing sought to:
 - (i) Support the establishment of a functional RS: This activity will support the strengthening and capacity-building of the RS. The TC will reinforce the coordination and implementation capabilities as detailed in the R-PP. Recruitments are to include a Director, Program Coordinator, Technical Coordinator, six Project Officers and 14 Field Assistants. The TC will finance workshops and travel expenses for consultants to attend meetings to enhance the coordination of the RS, with REDD+ institutions.
 - (ii) Provide institutional strengthening and capacity building for the NRWG: This activity includes support to the NTC and four Amerindian Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO), and community leaders. It was intended to assess the current institutional capacity of the NTC and provide institutional strengthening and capacity building so it is able to support consultation on REDD+ with forest-dependent Amerindian communities and villages. The TC provided for office space for three permanent consultants and a space for meetings of 20 council members. It included training to NTC and NGO members in REDD+; LCDS; MRVS; and accounting. In order to enable the NTC and Indigenous NGO to effectively participate in NRWG activities, office and communication equipment and materials were to be provided.
 - (iii) Development and establishment of a national conflict resolution strategy: The TC supported the financing of a consultant to design, develop, consult and disseminate information to enable the Government of Guyana and the REDD+ stakeholders to develop a functional and efficient conflict resolution/grievance mechanism for REDD+. It will be based on existing legislations, structures and systems including that provided in the Amerindian Act 2006. An assessment of existing formal and informal feedback and grievance redress mechanisms was to be performed as a basis to define the scope, functions and components. The TC included workshops with stakeholders, and finance for travel arrangements for stakeholders participating in consultations and development, and launching of the mechanism.
- b. Stakeholder consultations and participation. This activity was aimed at ensuring that key stakeholders understand REDD+ and have strong participation in the readiness process and the REDD+ Strategy development. It sought to ensure that consultation processes were: clear, inclusive, transparent and facilitate timely access to information in a culturally-appropriate form. The following activities to be implemented were:
 - (i) Development of a communication, outreach and consultation strategy and action plan. A firm to be hired to conduct consultation and stakeholder engagement on REDD+ readiness activities in Guyana, and develop an outreach and consultation strategy, and an action plan for REDD+ Strategy implementation. The outreach and consultation strategy was to guide the executing of consultations and will cover cost, logistics, culture, language and customs. The plan was to include detailed outlines of sessions to be conducted such as specific agenda, target groups, and specific approach to be used in outreach. It was also meant to formulate a map of stakeholders, and prepare a formative research and communications needs assessment. The TC to finance cluster workshops, travel expenses

for groups to participate, dissemination materials, translation of documents, and preparation of proposals and mechanisms for integration in the REDD+ Strategy.

- (ii) Implementation of the communication, outreach and consultation strategy and action plan and conduction of consultation activities. This activity was to ensure that REDD+ institutions and management arrangements are transparent, consistent, comprehensive and guarantee the timely sharing and disclosure of information related to all Readiness activities. The results of consultations to be integrated in the REDD+ Strategy.
- (iii) Disseminate materials for consultations through various media. The TC was also to support the development of communication and outreach materials and outreach activities. Dissemination to involve urban and rural stakeholders, by distributing information packages (posters, booklets, presentations, newspapers advertisement, newsletters, infomercials, internet outreach, radio, etc.).

Component 2: REDD+ Strategy and implementation framework.

The objective of this Component was to prepare the country 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. Key expected outputs were:

a. REDD+ Strategy options developed.

- (i) **Identify/Design REDD+ Strategy options.** The TC to support the preparation of an assessment of deforestation and forest degradation. It was to identify, design and assess REDD+ Strategy options, support the implementation of REDD+ pilot activities, and design the national REDD+ Strategy
- (ii) Prepare the REDD+ Strategy options papers. This activity was to involve the elaboration of the strategy options and will go beyond the identification and design stage. It includes the integration of a feasibility assessment and a cost benefit analysis.
- (iii) Analyse the investments necessary to implement REDD+. The TC was to finance an assessment of the capacity and financial needs of local REDD+ institutions, and of the investments and tools required to build capacities. It was to be based on the Institutional Capacity Assessment document prepared by Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) for the FCPF on April 2011. It was to assist in this respect the: Guyana Geology & Mines Commission (GGMC), Guyana Lands & Surveys Commission (GL&SC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other relevant authorities, communities and Indigenous People (IP).
- (iv) Design and development of REDD+ pilot projects. The TC was to support the design of at least three small-scale pilot projects in the sectors of: logging, mining and community involvement in REDD+. The pilots were to test options and generate information for the analysis of the alternatives to address each deforestation driver in the three sectors. The pilots were to include the safeguards and, during the design phase, criteria for the selection of pilots, including environmental and social will be identified. Each pilot was to be accompanied by relevant studies and workshops to ensure that lessons learned were appropriated and analysed.
- (v) Conduct studies, workshops and study tours, including trade off analysis. Specific areas of study in implementation of pilots as well as in the design stage were to be conducted. One study to be conducted is the effectiveness of enrichment planting as a way to address forest degradation. Another study to focus on testing the effectiveness and practicality of Reduced Impact Logging in small-scale concessions and indigenous areas. Workshops and study tours may focus on engaging stakeholder to better understand and explore these and other areas.

b. REDD+ implementation framework. This will support the development of the institutional framework that will coordinate the REDD+ programmes and ensure multi-stakeholder participation during the implementation phase.

- (i) Train on the interpretation and implementation of natural resource legislation, policies, and guidelines, including safeguards. This TC to finance the training of government officials and civil society by hiring an international consultant or firm that will assess local institutional capacities and develop a training plan to enable relevant institutions to interpret and implement natural resources legislation, policy and guidelines for REDD+ implementation, including environmental and social safeguards.
- (ii) Establish a communication link with other countries to enable the sharing of ideas and lessons learned. The TC to finance workshops and travel arrangements for REDD+ management units, participants and stakeholders in the REDD+ to participate in international forums, and the exchange of information with peers in other countries.
- (iii) Analyse land tenure and carbon ownership to inform the allocation of benefits and rights. This TC to finance a consultant that will create guidelines for carbon rights, as well as management for the implementation of REDD+ in Guyana, including: (i) defining the nature of carbon rights that apply to the land tenure types and management practices in Guyana's forest lands; (ii) identifying the steps for the establishment of carbon rights allocation; and (iii) identifying land tenure and management linkages for the implementation of REDD+ in Guyana. This activity to be done in conjunction with Component 1b Stakeholder consultations and participation.
- (iv) Establish an equitable and mutually agreeable benefit sharing mechanism. The TC to finance a consultant or firm to: (i) develop a transparent benefits sharing mechanism for REDD+; (ii) design the regulatory and/or incentive

framework and performance-based benefit sharing scheme for Amerindian communities; (iii) define regulatory and/or performance benefit sharing schemes for other key groups of stakeholders (e.g. forestry and mining). The consultant to identify the requirements of international best practices for benefits sharing, including safeguards and opportunities, and challenges for the design of the benefit sharing mechanism. This activity to include travel for consultants and participatory workshops.

- c. Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment (SESA).
 - (i) Develop SESA studies and reports, including the review of the legal and policy framework. The TC to hire a firm to conduct the SESA. The SESA will help to ensure compliance with the applicable safeguards by integrating key environmental and social considerations relevant to REDD+, including all those covered by the applicable safeguards set forth in the document “Common Approach to Environmental and Social Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners” (Resolution PC/9/2011/1). The SESA will help Guyana formulate their REDD+ Strategy in a way that reflects inputs from key stakeholder groups and addresses the main environmental and social issues.
 - (ii) Develop an Environmental Social and Management Framework (ESMF) as a stand-alone document, which will provide a framework for managing and mitigating the potential environmental and social impacts, and risks related to REDD+ activities, investments and carbon finance transactions. The TC to finance workshops and consultations with indigenous groups.

Component 3. Monitoring and evaluation of readiness activities.

The objective of this component was to provide a monitoring and evaluation framework for the implementation of this TC in Guyana by: (i) designing a monitoring and evaluation framework; and (ii) developing progress reports. The TC to finance workshops and travel to support fulfilment of these objectives. The RS to coordinate the preparation of monitoring and progress reports according to the requirements of FCPF. Reports are to be based on the Results Based Framework of this TC and other reporting requirements from the FCPF such as the Mid-Term report.

Project execution arrangements and governance

The Project was executed by the FCPF Project Execution Unit (PEU) of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and under the supervision of the Bank, through its Climate Change and Sustainability Division (CSD/CCS). The PEU installed the capacities to carry out administrative, financial and procurement services. It was housed within the GFC. A Project Steering Committee, made of representatives from key partner agencies provided oversight of the work of the PEU.

The PEU worked in close collaboration with the Office of Climate Change (OCC), GGMC, Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC), EPA, GFC and the REDD Secretariat (RS), which is under the administrative management of the GFC. The RS has been established to oversee the implementation of REDD+ activities in the country.

Project evaluation methodology

The final Project evaluation assesses the success and implementation issues of the “Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Project in Guyana (GY-T1097), according to five evaluation criteria such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and key lessons identified by its direct and indirect stakeholders.

Evaluation criteria	Description
Relevance	The extent to which the objectives of the Project are consistent with beneficiaries’ requirements, country needs, global priorities and partners’ and donors’ policies.
Effectiveness	The extent to which the Project’s objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved, taking into account their relative importance
Efficiency	A measure of how economically resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) were converted to results
Impacts	Positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by the Project, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended
Sustainability	The continuation of benefits from the Project after the development assistance has been completed. The probability of continued long-term benefits

and four key Project evaluation themes

Project Evaluation Areas	Description of Assessment
Project concept and design	The Project activities under the Readiness implementation phase and any report/ recommendations to date are reviewed. Particular attention is to be paid to the logical framework indicators (and to its translation into the IDB Project Monitoring Reporting system).
Project implementation	In cooperation/collaboration with the Guyana FCPF PEU, the overall progress made in the Project execution, and the extent to which the performance indicators have been fulfilled are examined. Compliance with the performance indicators for each year, as per the Programme Results Matrix and the general progress made in programme execution in all components of the programme are verified.
Stakeholder engagement	The communication mechanisms for FCPF REDD+ and Readiness Activities and participation among the different stakeholders (public sector, civil society, indigenous NGOs, academia etc.) involved are assessed and recommendations, where applicable, are made.
Lessons learned	Draw on lessons learned and recommendations for improving future projects.

The final project evaluation identifies key challenges to effective implementation, gathers lessons learned, and provides recommendations for the design of future projects. Key evaluation questions were formulated for each evaluation area

Project relevance, concept and design	What is the extent to which the R-PP was relevant to the emerging national development priorities and agenda?
Project implementation	How relevant was the design of the logical framework for the project in addressing the outcomes/outputs?
	What kind of institutional and risk analysis was done? Was it adequate?
	What were the main challenges to and opportunities in implementation?
	What is the assessment of the capacity and institutional arrangements for the implementation of the project?
	How efficient has been the roles, engagement and coordination among various stakeholders in implementing the project?
Stakeholder engagement	Were there delays? What were the main sources of the delays? To what extent did the delays affect the execution and sustainability of the project?
	<i>What were the main results achieved? Did the projects produce any unexpected outcomes (externalities)?</i>
	What were the underlying factors beyond the project's control that influenced the outputs (including the opportunities and threats affecting the achievement of the outputs)?
Lessons learned	How effective have been the communication mechanisms for the various audiences?
	What are the main lessons that can be learned from the project? What works, what doesn't?

Project consultants' reports

The following lists some of the product/reports generated during the TC time period and were used to obtain information for the evaluation:

Consultant	Title of consultancy	Period of consultancy	Main products
The Consultancy Group Inc.	Development of a Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM) for REDD+ Implementation in Guyana	18 December 2017 to 17 August 2018	i) A framework for implementing the plan for joint organisational and external stakeholder participation and monitoring.
			ii) A registry system for the submission and receipt of grievances and reporting on the processes for resolving the grievance.
			iii) The detailed design and operations manual for the GRM.
The Center of Partnerships for Development	Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement on REDD+ & Readiness Activities in Guyana	18 December, 2017 to 16 December 2019	i) A report presenting the stakeholder analysis and stakeholder map;
			ii) A report presenting the results of the baseline survey of stakeholder awareness, knowledge and attitudes.
			lii) REDD+ communication and outreach strategy

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv) REDD+ communication and outreach action plan v) Development of consultations and stakeholder engagement materials vi) Stakeholder consultation and engagement strategy and action plan
Vanda Radzik	Institutional Strengthening & Capacity Building Support of the NTC, Indigenous & Forest Dependent Community Organisations	21 February 2018 to 30 October 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Institutional and needs assessment report with recommendations of NTC, TAAMOG, APA, GOIP, NADF, SRDC, SCPDA, NRDDDB, KMCRG, NPDC, NSCCFO ii) Development and testing of Curricula and training materials/modules on REDD+ and governance of NTC, TAAMOG, APA, GOIP, NADF iii) Final Report on the compilation of the overall processes, outcomes and recommendations on activities emanating from capacity building sessions.
Patrick Williams	National survey of perception	15 March 2018 to 18 October 2019	i) Report on findings of baseline survey and the report on findings of the project completion survey with specific emphasis on the extent of stakeholders; awareness, comprehension and support of REDD+ activities, at a confidence level of 95%, plus or minus 5%.
Consortium of Winrock International, Conservation International, Climate Law and Policy, Sylvan Acres	Development of a REDD+ Strategy & Develop SESA and Environmental Social and Management Framework (ESMF)	1 April 2018 to 11 December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) REDD+ Strategy, including forest governance, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Guyana, geographically explicit analysis and identified activities to tackle drivers, strategy options reviewed against SESA ii) SESA report, including analyses of legal, institutional & governance capacity to address safeguards in relations to UNFCCC and WB safeguards iii) ESMF report
Patrick Chesney	Mid-Term review	1 November 2018 to 15 June 2019	i) Mid-term review report
Cheri Sugal	Analyse land tenure and carbon ownership to inform the allocation of benefits and rights and the development of a benefit sharing mechanism for the implementation of REDD+ in Guyana	1 February 2019 to 11 December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Proposed system for the allocation carbon rights and benefits for implementation of REDD+ in Guyana. ii) 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
FCG International Ltd in Consortium with Arbonaut Ltd	Design and implement REDD+ pilot activities for Guyana.	27 March 2019 to 15 December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Design of three REDD+ pilot projects, including a description of activities, investment requirements, a description of gender considerations include in the project design, results matrix, implementation arrangements, and monitoring reports describing the progress of each of the three-pilot project in terms of planned outputs, achievement of milestones and lesson learned, including a section on the community-based MRV. ii) 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+.
Patrick Chesney	Readiness Assessment, R-Package and Final Evaluation	29 April 2020 to 31 July 2020	i) Reports on the Readiness Assessment, R-Package and Final Evaluation.

Lessons learned

What worked?

- **Lesson 1:** A highly capable project team ensured that outputs were generated on time. Given the inter-operability of the components, the timeliness of completion of outputs allowed for the flow of sequential actions. For example, the feasibility analysis of REDD+ Strategy options required the completion and application of the SESA.
- **Lesson 2:** The hiring of competent consultants led to the production of high-quality outputs that enabled the PEU to prepare the R-Package as the culmination of REDD+ readiness in Guyana. The work of independent consultants complemented the work of national staff in a seamless way through the oversight role of the PSC.
- **Lesson 3:** Engagement with stakeholders at national and regional levels using visual and other effective communication tools increased the level of participation and the quality and relevance of the REDD+ outputs through the sharing of experiences and ideas and greater appreciation for country context.
- **Lesson 4:** The multi-stakeholder composition of the PSC, MRVS Steering Committee and the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) and the holding of regular meetings of these bodies to discuss progress in REDD+ activities and to resolve bottlenecks contributed to the production of more robust processes and outputs.

What didn't work?

- **Lesson 5:** The lack of permanence of the PSC, which functioned as the NRWG during the implementation of the FCPF Project, is injurious to institutional coordination of REDD+ bodies.
- **Lesson 6:** The pace of approval of key output documents by the executive branch of government did not match the pace of delivery of key outputs such as the GRM and ESMF during the timeline of the FCPF Project. As a result, those outputs have not been operationalized and this might impact access to the Carbon Fund.

Additional learnings of successes

- On Aug 3, 2018, the FCPF Project Executing Unit organized a workshop titled 'Readying women for REDD+'. The workshop was a success, with 59 men and women attending, mainly from the Indigenous villages in the hinterland. The one-day workshop proved to be a useful and vital first step towards developing the agency and amplifying the voices of women living in Indigenous and forest-dependent communities. Ultimately this is one part of ensuring that gender is mainstreamed within REDD+ readiness interventions. It is evident that the women are eager to become active participants of the process. Overall, the workshop received positive reviews, with the majority of participants indicating their desire for similar engagements at the community level. Key next steps include finalising the gender road map and convening the task force.
- Objectives of Gender Inclusion in Guyana's REDD+ Readiness to recognise that women are key stakeholders. To empower, raise awareness and provide resources to ensure that women are active agents in REDD+ readiness
- As part of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Natural Resources Ministry handed over a quantity of furnishings and supplies to the National Tshaos' Council, to enable them to effectively function and perform their role. <https://guyanatimesgy.com/natural-resources-ministry-makes-donation-to-ntc/>
- Provisions for the involvement of women and youths in the protection and preservation of the environment were the main concerns of stakeholders at the hosting of a workshop on Guyana Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Readiness activities. The workshop, geared towards the private sector and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), focused on discussions on the newly-designed REDD+ Communication and outreach strategy and action plan. The primary aim of the consultations is to ensure that key stakeholders understand REDD+ and have strong participation in the readiness process and the REDD+ Strategy development. <http://guyanachronicle.com/2019/03/29/new-redd-strategy-seeks-to-broaden-involvement-of-women-youths>
- Training was provided on financial management to the NTC and indigenous representatives from across Guyana, under the Forest Carbon Partnership
- Facility REDD+ Project. The participants were trained in areas such as simple bookkeeping, budgeting, working capital, cash flow, and financial wealth.

Findings

Project relevance, concept and design

Though there were time gaps between approval of the R-PP (2012), design of the TC (2013) and the commencement of implementation of the FCPF Project (2016) under the TC in Guyana, the objective of the TC to assist Guyana in its efforts to establish an enabling framework and build its capacity for REDD+ is assessed to be relevant. During the period of project implementation, Guyana had expanded the philosophical and strategic scope of its national development strategy beyond forest and climate change (LCDS) to the creation of a Green State, motivated by the quest for social equity and based on the leveraging of Guyana's green wealth (GSDS Vision 2040). Wisely, the Government of Guyana retained the core elements of the LCDS together with the institutional and programmatic support system for the Guyana-Norway JCN/MOU in the GFC, and all of these elements provided the basis for implementation of the FCPF Project.

The provision of financial and technical assistance to support: (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, contributed to REDD+ readiness in an effective and efficient way. These were gap areas not particularly well covered under the Guyana-Norway JCN/MOU as the primary focus there was on the NFMS, and in particular, the

MRVS. The FCPF Project complemented other ongoing forest-based climate change initiatives in Guyana, including the climate change work under the aegis of the OCC.

In its design, the FCPF Project considered two risks with risk mitigation strategies as follows:

Risk 1: Governance elements that may not be fully developed due to the lack of coordination between different institutions and sectors for areas of REDD+, as well as the current positioning of the RS in the political arena. Component 1 was designed to bring together the institutions involved in planning in Guyana in the process of the development of the REDD+ Strategy, in an effort to strengthen the institutional framework for REDD+ implementation.

Evaluation: Issues related to weak institutional coordination remain in spite of the FCPF Project. The initial plan to have the RS, nested with the GFC, to superintend the implementation of the FCPF Project and the NRWG was replaced by the MNR with a more conventional project implementation approach through the set-up of the PEU. The PSC served the role of the NRWG, but because it lacked legal mandate the PSC was unable to achieve institutional and sectoral coordination.

The FCPF Project has impacted significantly the functioning of the national REDD+ management framework for a defined period (2016-2019). Over the life of the project, the PSC served as the NRWG (which was identified in the R-PP and TC document), created its own rules and met regularly. Using the PSC in this way was a policy decision of the MNR⁵. The first meeting of the NRWG was held on 20 April, 2017. It was attended by stakeholders from all sectors, inclusive of the indigenous peoples, academia, civil society, NGOs and the private sector⁶. Thereafter, the PSC held meetings.

The primary function of the PSC was to oversee the development and implementation of REDD+ readiness activities detailed in the TC for the project⁷. The PSC comprised representatives from the PEU, National Toshias Council (NTC), North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB), National Steering Committee of Community Forestry Organisations (NSCCFO), Amerindian Peoples Association (APA), University of Guyana-Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences (UG/FEES), GFC, OCC, Forest Producers Association (FPA), Transparency International Guyana (TUG), Red Thread and the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN). The PSC held its first meeting in January, 2017. In total, 10 PSC meetings were held over the project's life:

- 2017 – 4 meetings (January 19-20; March 3; April 20; October 17)
- 2018 – 4 meetings (January 18; April 5; September 20; November 29)
- 2019 – 2 meetings (April 3; September 26).

The PEU reported to the PSC on progress made in implementing the project. Minutes of each meeting was prepared and circulated to members. In addition, all project documents (including deliverables) were shared with PSC members.

The project close-out stakeholder consultation workshop strongly recommended a 'whole of government' approach towards the strengthening of coordination between the different institutions and sectors for REDD+ governance. National REDD+ Implementation Bodies are not self-financing for REDD+. A sustainable source of funding, either through national budgets or proceeds from forest carbon payments (requires the set-up of a carbon funding mechanism) will be required to sustain the governance framework.

Risk 2: The possible limited participation of certain key stakeholder groups, such as the Amerindian communities or mining communities. To mitigate this risk, the project was designed to invest heavily in public outreach, communication and stakeholder consultation, to involve all sectors, in particular Subcomponent (1)(a)(ii) aims at building the capacity of indigenous NGO and the NTC to support consultation processes and outreach, and support the NRWG where other stakeholders participate. During project execution, careful assessment of the level of representation of different interest groups, in order to achieve their meaningful participation and avoid conflicts and miscommunication regarding the REDD+ Strategy, was planned

Evaluation: There is an abundance of evidence in support of the heavy investments in public outreach, communication and stakeholder consultation by the project.

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 needed to be done to extend meetings to the communities and to translate English-language REDD+ technical documents into indigenous languages. Many words in the REDD+ lexicon are not part of indigenous languages. While the REDD+ communication strategy and action plan catered to this need, there was no field implementation.

The institutional strengthening and capacity building support of Indigenous peoples' organisations (IPOs) and community forestry organisations was completed. The following summarises the achievements:

⁵ Source: SAR report, July 2019, p.11.

⁶ Source: REDD+ annual country progress reporting (with semi-annual update, January to July, 2017, p1.

⁷ Source : REDD + annual country progress reporting (with semi-annual update) January to July, 2017, p4.

- 11 organisations benefitted (NTC Executive Committee; NSCCFO; APA; Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous Peoples (GOIP); National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF); NRDDDB; Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group (KMCRG); South Central Peoples Development Association (SCPDA); South Rupununi District Council (SRDC); North Pakaraimas District Council (NPDC); The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG);
- From March 2018 to September 2019, 28 engagement sessions with 10 organisations (2 umbrella groups; 4 NGOs; 4 District Councils) were held. Total number of participants was 667 (women: 308 (46%); men: 368 (55%). Age Range: 16 – 77. Geographical Reach: 152 Communities in all 10 Administrative Regions;
- REDD+ knowledge building covered the following topics: Know your REDD+ Rights; Climate Change, REDD+ and the Role of Forests; REDD+ Opportunities/Benefits – Risks/Threats & Safeguards; UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN DRIP); Free, Prior & Informed Consent (FPIC); Gender Equality/Equity and Women’s Participation; Community Loggers & SFM as Contribution to REDD+; REDD+ Benefit-Sharing Examples & Ideas;

In addition, the FCPF Project funded the rental of office space for the NTC as a statutory body to meet and conduct their work. This financial support allowed two NTC staff - Executive Administrator and Administrative Assistant – to support the NTC implementation agenda. In addition, the Project procured office stationery and supplies for the NTC office and nine other IPOs.

Notwithstanding, stakeholder engagement was not institutionalised, a desirable result recommended by stakeholders at the project close-out workshop.

Assessment: Satisfactory.

The sustainability element of REDD+ governance should continue to be monitored. The governance arrangement made during the project will need to be sustained with dedicated funding and coordination.

Project implementation

At the organisational level, the FCPF PEU leadership and management framework and personnel contributed to effective and efficient implementation of the R-PP. The core team comprised seven 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) Procurement Specialist (Ms. Suzanne McRae)
- 5) Communications and Gender Relations Officer (Ms. Ravena Gildharie)
- 6) Community Liaison Officer (Mr. Autry Haynes)
- 7) Logistical & Support Services Officer (Ms. Sheron Lee-Griffith)

The core team demonstrated knowledge of administrative and procurement procedures, maintained effective networks and were results oriented. The PEU gained access to high-level technical expertise to achieve the project deliverables, through the procurement of national and international consultancy services. Additional expertise was 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 added social, environmental and fiduciary safeguards and standards that allowed Guyana’s FCPF REDD+ readiness efforts to acquire and maintain international respect as a REDD+ participant. Stakeholders at the project close-out workshop attested to the effectiveness and efficiency of the PEU in carrying out its work.

The FCPF project financially supported employment costs for five RS technical staff during the period March 2018 to December 2019⁸:

- (i) 1 Programme Coordinator;
- (ii) 1 Field Team Leader; and
- (iii) 3 Project Officers.

In terms of the number of posts were supported, this is less than the nine senior staff positions envisaged in the TC. The Commissioner of Forests (RS Director) and Head of Planning and Development (Programme Coordinator) at the GFC oversaw the work of the RS. The work of the three hired project officers was complemented by other technical staff in the Forest Carbon Monitoring System (FCMS) unit. The FCPF project did not support the employment costs of field assistants; all additional field support staff was provided out of the GFC’s establishment and national budget allocation, as were all other costs associated with the operation of the RS and associated GFC’s technical and administrative support.

The differentiation of work of the five recruited staff was clearly delineated and effectively coordinated by the GFC (Table 1). The RS staff mainly participated under the project by observing consultants in field outreach activities, and providing technical inputs on consultant’s reports. One RS staff (Mr. Dwayne Griffith) was a member of the PSC. This contributed to a functional RS exemplified by the timely annual production of interim measures reports on forest carbon monitoring by the GFC.

⁸ Source: Readiness Fund REDD+ Country Participants Progress Report Guyana, June 2018,p12.

Table 1. Main duties of the five RS staff recruited under the TC.

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 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 competing Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (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), participated in the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)-funded project “Reporting for Results-based REDD+ (RRR+) 2016-2019”⁹. The OCC is Guyana’s focal point for the RRR+ project and works in close collaboration with the RS. The RRR+ project is a three-year project to build capacity for measuring reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and enhancement of carbon stocks in agriculture, forest and other land use in 21 tropical and subtropical forest countries. The RRR project is a joint initiative of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN) and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN). The first global conference on RRR+ was held in Milan from 30-31 January 2018¹⁰.

The OCC arranged for four staff members from various sector agencies to receive training in greenhouse gas inventory (GHG-I) for agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sectors. Guyana is expected to enhance its technical and institutional capability to prepare and submit its GHG-I to the UNFCCC via National Communications and/or Biennial Update Reports (BURs); that are transparent, complete, consistent, comparable, and accurate, as required by the IPCC.

The PEU ably managed 11 consultants, comprising seven firms and four individual consultants. Four of the seven firms were organised into a consortium (Winrock International, CI, Climate Law and Policy and Sylvan Acres) that carried out important tasks to produce the REDD+ Strategy (options and feasibility assessment), SESA and ESMF. That was an important decision that brought together service providers that complemented each other to produce high-quality products for the project. The REDD+ Strategy options, SESA and ESMF had to be done in consonance with each other to meet the criteria of a safeguards- and environment-proof REDD+ Strategy. There was a good mixture of national and international consultants, and the role of the PSC in reviewing all consultants’ products before their finalisation was a key quality assurance measure. The latter also allowed members of the PSC drawn from various national agencies to receive and to interrogate technical materials on REDD+.

There were two key challenges to implementation: (i) start-up delay, and (ii) lack of success with the forest carbon funding mechanism.

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 Green State Development Strategy (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. The delay was due to the fact that the GFC, CI and NORAD were in discussions and finalisation of project documents for a multi-year agreement for delivery of support to the MRVS for the period 2016-2020. 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 impact of the existence of strong controls in national regulatory frameworks and enforcement of laws.

The ex-post impact indicator for a target level of US\$50 million to Guyana forest carbon funding mechanism has not performed to expectation. There is no evidence of a sustainable financing mechanism other than the GRIF and the **Natural Resources Fund**. However, through the other achievements of the project, the pre-conditions for accessing carbon funding have largely been met. Guyana is capable of accounting for all forest-related emissions by sources and removals resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities, and their monitoring, reporting and verification in accordance with UNFCCC guidance. A summary of safeguards information (SOI) has been prepared by the GFC and shared with the OCC for submission to the UNFCCC. The SOI details the SIS.

Achievement of Outcomes and Outputs

Outcome level results: The outcomes of the project were achieved (Table 2).

Table 2. Summary of achievements for outcome level results

Indicative Results Matrix			
Outcomes/Results	Indicator	Means of Verification	Achievement
Outcome 1: RS targets of the sustainability plan implemented that makes the RS capable of implementing REDD+.	2013 = 40% 2017 = 80%	Capacity needs assessment and sustainability plan for the RS, March 2013. Measure of accomplishment on the key evaluation criteria and key Project evaluation themes	80% The RS conducted monitoring activities for REDD+, developed and implemented a national MRVS, achieved full staffing complement, and acquired technical sustainability in accordance with the key evaluation criteria and key Project evaluation themes of the sustainability plan ¹¹ .
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	2013 = 0% 2020 = 100%	Final evaluation of the project.	100%
Outcome 3: ESMF actions being implemented.	2013 = 0% 2020 = 100%	Compared with planned actions	50% ESMF has been designed but is not yet in implementation.

Output level results: at final of TC activities most of the revised targets were achieved, a detail of each component and indicator is presented in Annex 1.

The design of the components was relevant, and the project effectively and efficiently achieved most of the outputs and activities of the project within budget (Table 3). About 93% of the advance from the IDB FCPF was expended to achieve the results of the project.

Assessment: Highly satisfactory

Guyana is at the readiness phase and the existing GRIF and NRF are adequate to meet the immediate fund management needs. Other arrangements would become necessary once Guyana enters the REDD+ implementation phase and starts to receive financing outside of the pilot Guyana-Norway bilateral REDD+ agreement.

⁹ <https://climatechange.gov.gy/en/index.php/projects/65-reporting-for-results-based-redd-actions-rrr-project>

¹⁰ <https://www.feem.it/en/events/conferences/1st-global-conference-on-reporting-for-results-based-redd-actions/>

¹¹ <http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getDocument.aspx?DOCNUM=38243828>

Table 3. Expenditure over budget for the FCPF Project in Guyana as at its financial closure

Indicative Budget and Actual Expenditure				
Components	Description	IDB/FCPF Budget (US\$)	IDB/FCPF Revised Budget (US\$)	IDB/FCPF Expenditure (US\$)
Component 1	Institutional arrangements and consultation for REDD+ Readiness	2,136,000	2,136,000	1,944,936
Component 2	REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework	1,589,000	1,550,824	1,461,583
Component 3	Monitoring and Evaluation of Readiness Activities	75,000	113,176	113,176
Total		3,800,000	3,800,000	3,519,695

The PEU applied for, and received no objection from the IDB for restructuring the budget to facilitate the consultancy for the provision of FCPF Readiness Assessment, R-Package and Final Evaluation, under Component 3. There were insufficient funds under Component 3, thus, funds were transferred from Component 2 to facilitate the expenditure.

Stakeholder engagement

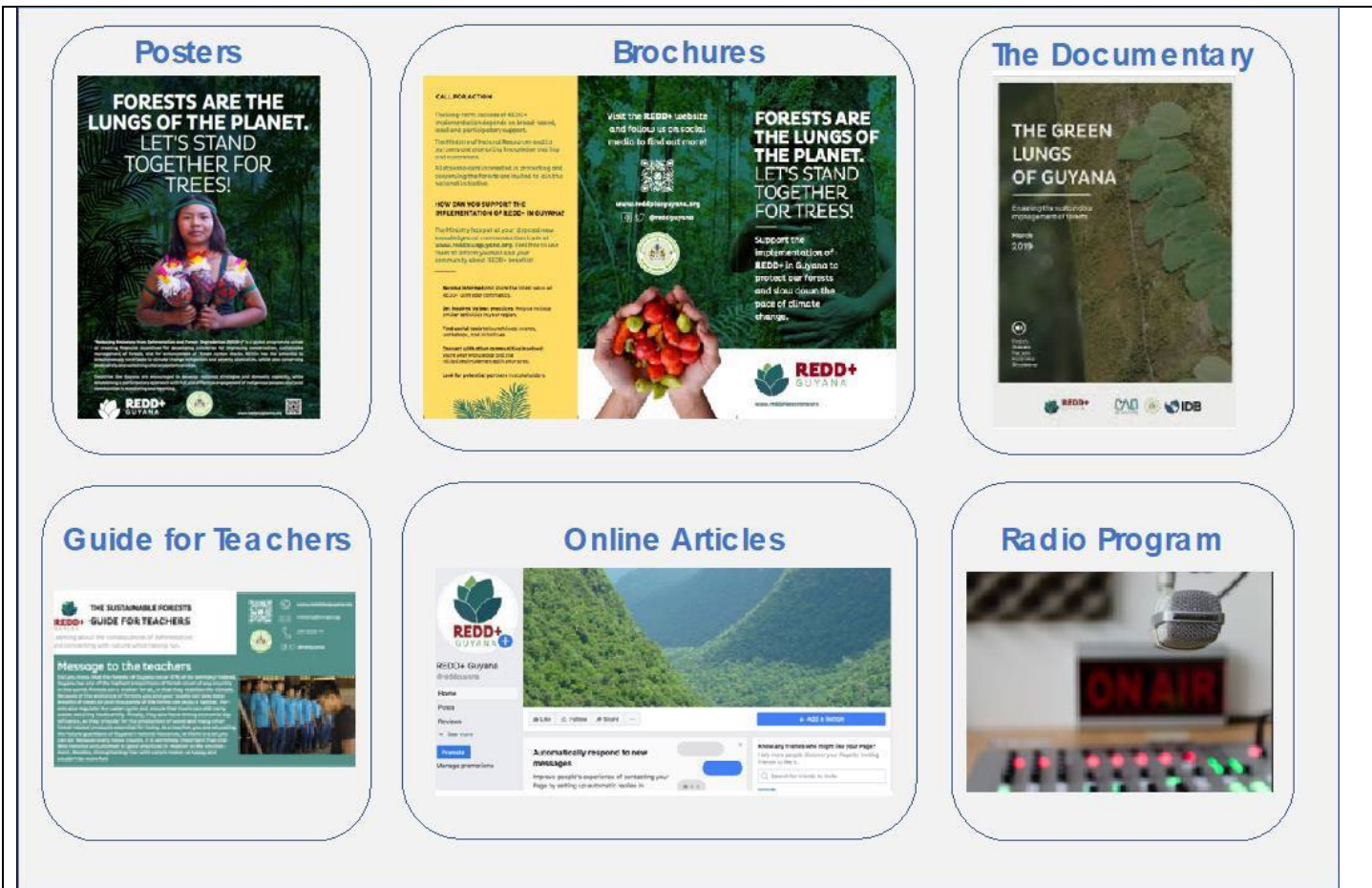
The project made admirable efforts to develop culturally appropriate communications strategy and action plan and communications' materials (videos, radio slots, brochures, posters, online communication campaigns, kit for school campaign)¹² for dissemination. While the numerical target for indigenous communities' consultations has been exceeded, 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.

The project achieved the following:

- Outreach through 23 workshops in six clusters (640 participants, representing 155 indigenous and forest-dependent communities and over 50 organisations) in seven Administrative Regions: 1,2,4,7,8,9, and 10;
- Development of a website <https://reddplusguyana.org/>, along with 2 videos in 5 languages (English, Akawaio, Macushi, Patamona and Wapishana), 3 radio programmes in 5 languages (English, Akawaio, Macushi, Patamona and Wapishana), 3 posters, 3 brochures focused on three different targets (enablers; strategic implementing partners; and supporting Organisations and general Public), 1 guide for teachers, 5 banners for use on social media channels, 3 online articles, and 4 text messages.
- Distribution of 430 posters, 1,264 brochures (print) 27,236 brochures (online), 29,757 online videos, 426 REDD+ Guide for Teachers, 352 USB keys and 24,413 text messages sent to IP and forest dwelling communities;
- Knowledge of concerns raised by communities included the following: (Illegal use of forest and lack of law enforcement; irresponsible crop cycle practices using fire to burn and renege the forest; deforestation, pollution, contamination and social issues caused by mining activities; water pollution; domestic waste (i.e. dumping and burning garbage); lack of opportunities for youth; lack of access to / information on finance for alternative community-based business; lack of skills for alternative income sources; depletion of hunting stock and legal rights to title land.
- Knowledge Communication Products (KCPs) were prepared for dissemination to various stakeholder groups. These included: videos (2), radio slots (3 versions), brochures (3 versions), posters (3 versions), text messages (4 produced) online communication campaigns (website¹³, Facebook, twitter,) and a guide for school campaign. Materials were developed in English and English language videos were translated into four (4) indigenous languages; Macushi, Patamona, Akawaio and Wapishana.

¹² Communications tools website link: <https://reddplusguyana.org/>

¹³ <https://reddplusguyana.org/>



Snapshot of communication materials developed by the FCPF Project and uploaded to the website <https://reddplusguyana.org>

Assessment: Satisfactory.

As mentioned above, there is need to institutionalise stakeholder engagement in Guyana. The consultation process undertaken in the context of the preparation of the ESMF has flagged the importance for improved cross-sectoral coordination and stakeholder engagement in the definition and operation of Guyana’s institutional arrangements for the implementation of REDD+ actions, and which takes into account existing institutional mandates, roles and responsibilities so to avoid overlapping or duplications of roles.

Lessons learned

What worked?

- **Lesson 1:** A highly capable project team ensured that outputs were generated on time. Given the inter-operability of the components, the timeliness of completion of outputs allowed for the flow of sequential actions. For example, the feasibility analysis of REDD+ Strategy options required the completion and application of the SESA.
- **Lesson 2:** The hiring of competent consultants led to the production of high-quality outputs that enabled the PEU to prepare the R-Package as the culmination of REDD+ readiness in Guyana. The work of independent consultants complemented the work of national staff in a seamless way through the oversight role of the PSC.
- **Lesson 3:** Engagement with stakeholders at national and regional levels using visual and other effective communication tools increased the level of participation and the quality and relevance of the REDD+ outputs through the sharing of experiences and ideas and greater appreciation for country context.
- **Lesson 4:** The multi-stakeholder composition of the PSC, MRVS Steering Committee and the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) and the holding of regular meetings of these bodies to discuss progress in REDD+ activities and to resolve bottlenecks contributed to the production of more robust processes and outputs.

What didn't work?

- **Lesson 5:** The lack of permanence of the PSC, which functioned as the NRWG during the implementation of the FCPF Project, is injurious to institutional coordination of REDD+ bodies.
- **Lesson 6:** The pace of approval of key output documents by the executive branch of government did not match the pace of delivery of key outputs such as the GRM and ESMF during the timeline of the FCPF Project. As a result, those outputs have not been operationalised and this might impact access to the Carbon Fund.

Additional learnings of successes

- On Aug 3, 2018, the FCPF Project Executing Unit organized a workshop titled 'Readying women for REDD+'. The workshop was a success, with 59 men and women attending, mainly from the Indigenous villages in the hinterland. The one-day workshop proved to be a useful and vital first step towards developing the agency and amplifying the voices of women living in Indigenous and forest-dependent communities. Ultimately this is one part of ensuring that gender is mainstreamed within REDD+ readiness interventions. It is evident that the women are eager to become active participants of the process. Overall, the workshop received positive reviews, with the majority of participants indicating their desire for similar engagements at the community level. Key next steps include finalising the gender road map and convening the task force.
- Objectives of Gender Inclusion in Guyana's REDD+ Readiness to recognise that women are key stakeholders. To empower, raise awareness and provide resources to ensure that women are active agents in REDD+ readiness
- As part of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Natural Resources Ministry handed over a quantity of furnishings and supplies to the National Tshaos' Council, to enable them to effectively function and perform their role. <https://guyanatimesgy.com/natural-resources-ministry-makes-donation-to-ntc/>
- Provisions for the involvement of women and youths in the protection and preservation of the environment were the main concerns of stakeholders at the hosting of a workshop on Guyana Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Readiness activities. The workshop, geared towards the private sector and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), focused on discussions on the newly-designed REDD+ Communication and outreach strategy and action plan. The primary aim of the consultations is to ensure that key stakeholders understand REDD+ and have strong participation in the readiness process and the REDD+ Strategy development. <http://guyanachronicle.com/2019/03/29/new-redd-strategy-seeks-to-broaden-involvement-of-women-youths>
- Training was provided on financial management to the NTC and indigenous representatives from across Guyana, under the Forest Carbon Partnership
- Facility REDD+ Project. The participants were trained in areas such as simple bookkeeping, budgeting, working capital, cash flow, and financial wealth.

Conclusion and recommendations

The overall execution of the FCPF Project was satisfactory. Below is the overall impression and comments for each of the parameters used for the evaluation of the project:

Parameters	Overall impression	Evaluation comments
Project relevance, concept and design	Satisfactory	High relevance to project. This is indicative of the value of good project concept and design based on the R-PP. The implementation of the activities of the TC across all three components significantly contributed to Guyana's REDD+ readiness.
Project implementation	Highly satisfactory	Very capable staff and solid institutional arrangements. While it was a good decision to expand the scope of R-PP implementation beyond the RS (GFC) to a specialised PEU, the weak institutional collaboration mechanism has to be strengthened to sustain the gains made during the project. A highly efficient project measured by the 93% of expenditure over budget to achieve almost all of the outputs.
Stakeholder engagement	Satisfactory	The project effectively engaged stakeholders to produce the REDD Strategy, SESA, ESMF, stakeholder consultation and communications strategy and action plan, GRM and capacity development results. Competent PEU staff, effective coordination (PEU Head) and effective oversight (PS MNR; PSC, Delivery Partner) contributed to high impact. Gap remains with respect to outreach to remote communities because of lack of connectivity and language barriers.

Component 1: Institutional arrangements and consultations for REDD+ readiness.

The project established the PSC to serve the purpose of the NRWG. However, this arrangement is not sustainable because the PSC cannot continue beyond the end of development assistance due to the lack of legal mandate and financial sustainability. Financial support through the project was provided to the RS, and the NTC. A national conflict resolution mechanism (GRM) was created, and is awaiting Cabinet approval for implementation.

Heavy investments were directed towards stakeholder consultations and participation. Key stakeholders from various sectors and geography were successfully targeted for enhanced understanding of REDD+, participation in the readiness process and the REDD+

Strategy development. IPLCs were engaged in a culturally-appropriate form, but community outreach on REDD+ needs to be sustained for longer and higher impact. In addition, the decentralisation of REDD+ governance to regional and community organs could increase local impact.

Notwithstanding the issues highlighted, this component achieved the objective to strengthen the efficacy, accountability and transparency of the national readiness management and institutional arrangements, and increase stakeholder consultation and participation in REDD+ implementation.

Component 2: REDD+ Strategy and implementation framework.

Through the delivery of financial and technical support from the project, Guyana was able to develop, prioritise and model various REDD+ Strategy options based on national circumstances. The identification of a land use based option as the top priority for the national REDD+ Strategy was consistent with the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as well as indicative of the large body of land laws that contribute to land use conflicts and lack of clarity with respect to carbon rights and benefit sharing.

The project strengthened elements of the REDD+ implementation framework to contribute to the coordination of REDD+ programmes and to ensure multi-stakeholder participation during the implementation phase. In that regard, the safeguards developed (SESA and ESMF) need to be approved at the policy level and made available to a wide cross-section of decision makers and users of natural resources.

This Component prepared Guyana to implement the REDD+ Strategy through the verification and characterisation of the key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation identified in the R-PP, and the design of conservation and sustainable forest management activities that reduce emissions (pilot projects). Further, this Component resulted in the identification of how current land use, and forest law, policy and governance structures impact on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; and by proposing alternatives for mitigating the identified drivers and responding to impacts.

Component 3. Monitoring and evaluation of readiness activities.

The delivery of support through this Component established the baseline for perception about REDD+ at the community level. The administration of a follow up survey nearing the end of project implementation recorded the statistical changes in perception. This Component supported the development and submission of progress reports based on the Results Based Framework of the TC, a mid-term review of progress and a final evaluation. A key highlight was the gender workshop and South-South Cooperation with a number of FCPF Participant Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean financed through the TC.

The following **recommendations** are presented for consideration:

Recommendation 1: Implement community stakeholder engagements on REDD+ through IPOs rather than through independent consultants to increase the likelihood of effective communication, higher reception of messages and change in behaviour. Gains made this way stand a higher chance of lasting beyond the project and impacting decisions on land use in favour of REDD+ objectives.

Recommendation 2: Take into consideration the length of time and costs of engagement and communications with forest dwelling communities when designing REDD+ interventions.

Recommendation 3: Take into consideration the role of policy makers in decision making and allocate resources targeting that role when designing REDD+ interventions so that project outputs such as the GRM and ESMF might be presented and approved in a timely manner.

Recommendation 4: Promote and support a 'whole of government' approach to institutional coordination and decision making across natural resources and land management sectors to reduce land use conflicts and to harmonise existing policies, laws, regulations, and strategic plans.

Recommendation 5: Promote the PEU approach with multi-level oversight to project implementation as a best practice when vertical integration of decision making exists.

Recommendation 6: In preparing a FCPF Participant Country for REDD+ readiness, ensure that the project design and implementation schedule includes an exit strategy that would lead the country from REDD+ readiness to REDD+ implementation with capacity to access the Carbon Fund and other REDD+ funds.

Recommendation 7: Develop a project implementation document for a Phase II REDD+ Project.

Annex 1

Achievement of Outcomes and Outputs

1. COUNTRY ORGANISATION AND CONSULTATIONS FOR REDD+ READINESS

Component Cost: \$1,314,485

Output Indicator	Indicator Detail	Unit Of Measure	Baseline	Baseline Year	Means Of Verification	Theme	Category	Physical Progress							
								2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	EOP 2020
1.1 Number of REDD Secretariat positions filled		# positions	0.00	2014	Project report		P	0	0	0	0	5	0		5
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	5	0		5
							A	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
1.2 Number of annual NRWG meetings	FCP	# meetings	0.00	2014	Project report	Climate Change	P	0	1	1	0	0	1		3
							P(a)	0	0	0	1	1	1		3
							A	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	4
1.3 Number of NTC offices operational with full-time staff	FCP	# offices				Climate Change	P	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	1	0		1
							A	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
1.4 Workshops organized	Number of annual meetings of the NTC (FCP)	Workshops (#)				Gender and Diversity	P	1	1	1	0	0	0		3
							P(a)	0	0	0	1	1	1		3
							A	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
1.5 Workshops organized	Number of meetings held by the 4 Indigenous NGOs (APA, Taamog, NADF, GOIP) with constituents (FCP)	Workshops (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	10	10	10	0	10	20		60
							P(a)	0	0	0	10	15	15		18
							A	0	0	0	0	3	2	15	20
1.6 Discussion papers developed	Number of REDD+ Technical Documents in indigenous languages (FCP)	Papers (#)				Gender and Diversity	P	1	1	0	0	0	0		2
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	1	1		1
							A	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
1.7 Governance models designed/ implemented	Number of National Conflict Resolution Mechanism developed (FCP)	Models (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	0	1	0	0	0			1
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	1			1
							A	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Output Indicator	Indicator Detail	Unit Of Measure	Baseline	Baseline Year	Means Of Verification	Theme	Category	Physical Progress							
								2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	EOP 2020
1.8 Governance models designed/ implemented	Number of Grievance Management Procedures developed and discussed with key stakeholders (including indigenous people and forest dependent communities). (FCP)	Models (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	0	1	0	0	0			1
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	1			1
							A	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
1.9 Pilot interventions implemented	Number of registry systems developed for receipt, tracking and reporting of grievances resolution process. (FCP)	Pilots (#)				Social Development	P	0	1	0	0	0			1
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	1			1
							A	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
1.10 Methodologies designed/ strengthened	Number of Communication and Outreach Strategies and Action Plans developed and approved by government (FCP)	Methodologies (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	0	2	0	0	0	0		2
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	2	0		2
							A	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	4
1.11 Participants attending events	Percentage of total population of indigenous people and others affected by REDD+ that have been consulted and informed about REDD+, (FCP)	Individuals (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	0.2	0.2	0.3	0	0	0		0.7
							P(a)	0	0	0	0.2	0.2	0.4		0.4
							A	0	0	0	0	0	0.7	0	0.7

Output Indicator	Indicator Detail	Unit Of Measure	Baseline	Baseline Year	Means Of Verification	Theme	Category	Physical Progress							
								2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	EOP 2020
1.12 Participants attending events	Number of indigenous communities consulted in a cluster format and by gender (FCP)	Individuals (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	150	150	150	0	0	0		450
							P(a)	0	0	0	150	150	150		368
							A	0	0	0	218	0	155	0	373
1.13 Awareness raising campaigns designed/ implemented	Number of rounds of consultations undertaken with other key stakeholder groups (forestry, mining, infrastructure, land management/ agriculture, environmental regulators, etc.)(FCP)	Campaigns (#)				Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation	P	1	1	1	0	0	0		3
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	1	2		2
							A	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2

2. REDD+ STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK
Component Cost: \$914,020

Output Indicator	Indicator Detail	Unit Of Measure	Baseline	Baseline Year	Means Of Verification	Theme	Category	Physical Progress							
								2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	EOP 2020
2.1 Strategies designed	Number of REDD+ strategic and operational documents completed. (FCP)	Strategies (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	1	1	0	0	0	0		2
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	2		2
							A	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
2.2 Non-experimental impact evaluation (ex-ante or ex-post) performed	b) Quality control index for the approved REDD+ Strategy (FCP)	Evaluation Final Report (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	0	0	1	0	0	0		1
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
							A	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
2.3 Feasibility study completed	Number of documents describing the investments necessary to implement REDD+. (FCP)	Studies (#)				Climate Change	P	10	0	0	0	0	0		10
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
							A	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2.4 Budgetary reform processes implemented) Number of documents, signed by the relevant Ministry (ies) indicating agreement with the REDD+ investments described the REDD+ investment document. (FCP)	Processes (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	0	1	0	0	0	0		1
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
							A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.5 Pilot interventions designed	Number of REDD+ pilot projects designed (FCP)	Pilots (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	3	0	0	0	0	0		3
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	3		3
							A	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
2.6 Pilot interventions implemented	Number of REDD+ projects implemented, as measured by completed evaluation reports on each pilot project (FCP)	Pilots (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	0	0	3	0	0	0		3
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	3		3
							A	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3

Output Indicator	Indicator Detail	Unit Of Measure	Baseline	Baseline Year	Means Of Verification	Theme	Category	Physical Progress							
								2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	EOP 2020
2.7 Mitigation study completed	Number of Studies conducted (FCP)	Studies (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	0	1	1	0	0	0		2
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	1	1		1
							A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.8 Workshops organized) Number workshops conducted (FCP)	Workshops (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	0	0	3	0	0	0		3
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	3		3
							A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.9 Participants in intraregional exchange receiving advisory services	Number of Study Tours conducted (FCP)	Individuals (#)				Climate Change	P	0	0	1	0	0	0		1
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
							A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.10 Training workshops delivered	Number of training sessions on the interpretation and implementation of natural resources legislation, policy and guidelines (FCP)	Workshops (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	4	4	4	0	0	0		12
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	12		12
							A	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
2.11 Individuals Trained	Number of persons trained by gender (FCP)	Individuals (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	40	40	40	0	0	0		120
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	120		120
							A	0	0	0	0	0	41	0	41
2.12 Training workshops delivered	Number of workshops attended or organized with other countries to enable sharing of ideas and lesson learned (FCP)	Workshops (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	0	5	5	0	0	0		10
							P(a)	0	0	0	1	4	5		8
							A	0	0	0	1	2	3	0	6
2.13 Individuals Trained	Number of people from government or civil society participating in the learning exchange workshops (FCP)	Individuals (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	0	20	20	0	0	0		40
							P(a)	0	0	0	2	20	18		30
							A	0	0	0	4	8	12	0	24

Output Indicator	Indicator Detail	Unit Of Measure	Baseline	Baseline Year	Means Of Verification	Theme	Category	Physical Progress							
								2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	EOP 2020
2.14 Working Papers prepared	Number of analytic documents produced and approved by the REDD Secretariat (FCP)	Papers (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
							A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.15 Governance models designed/ implemented	Number of benefit sharing mechanisms created (FCP)	Models (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	0	0	1	0	0	0		1
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
							A	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2.16 Governance models designed/ implemented	Number of signed agreements by NTC and with a majority of communities on the benefit sharing scheme that includes performance based and other mechanisms. (FCP)	Models (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	0	0	1	0	0	0		1
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
							A	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2.17 Governance models designed/ implemented	Percentage of stakeholder groups – not including Amerindian Communities -- that have approved the proposed equitable benefits sharing mechanism (FCP)	Models (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	0	0	0.5	0	0	0		0.5
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.5		0.5
							A	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	0	0.5
2.18 Diagnostics and assessments completed	Number of SESA reports developed (FCP)	Diagnostics (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
							A	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

Output Indicator	Indicator Detail	Unit Of Measure	Baseline	Baseline Year	Means Of Verification	Theme	Category	Physical Progress							
								2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	EOP 2020
2.19 Action plans designed	Number of Environmental and Social Management Frameworks (ESMF) designed and approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (FCP)	Action Plans (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
							A	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2.20 Action plans implemented	Number of operational guidelines approved by MNRE (FCP)	Action Plans (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	1	2	1	0	0	0		4
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	4		4
							A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.21 Working Papers prepared	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 (FCP)	Papers (#)				Sustainable Energy and Climate Change	P	1	0	0	0	0	0		1
							P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
							A	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
2.22 Working	Number of SESA	Papers (#)				Sustainable	P	0	0	2	0	0	0		2
Papers prepared	Summary Reports and other studies written and approved by REDD Secretariat (FCP)	Papers (#)				Energy and Climate Change	P(a)	0	0	0	0	0	2		2
							A	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2

