



Guyana REDD+ Readiness Package (R-Package)

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HELP PROTECT THE PLANET FROM THE EFFECTS OF DEFORESTATION

Deforestation is the long-term or permanent conversion of land from forest use to other non-forest uses. The practice has a devastating impact on the environment by destroying the homes of millions of species, and also threatens the native communities' livelihoods and ancestral traditions. It is also considered one of the contributing factors in global climate change, soil erosion, and flooding.

"Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)" is a global programme aimed at providing solutions to deforestation. REDD+ creates financial incentives for developing countries for improving conservation, sustainable management of forests, and for enhancement of forest carbon stocks.



REDD+
GUYANA



www.reddplusguyana.org



List of acronyms and abbreviations

CIFOR:	International Centre for Forestry Research
COP:	Conference of the Parties
EPA:	Environmental Protection Agency
ER:	Emissions Reduction
ESMF:	Environment and Social Management Framework
FCMS:	Forest Carbon Monitoring System
FCPF:	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FRL:	Forest Reference Level
GCF:	Green Climate Fund
GFC:	Guyana Forestry Commission
GHG:	Green House Gas
GLSC:	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission
GPC/LULUCF:	Good Practice Guidance/Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry
GRIF:	Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund
GRM:	Grievance and Redress Mechanism
GSDS:	Green State Development Strategy
HFLD:	High Forest Low Deforestation (country)
IDB:	Inter-American Development Bank
IPCC::	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Iwokrama:	Iwokrama International Centre for Rain forest Conservation and Development
JCN:	Joint Concept Note
LCDS:	Low Carbon Development Strategy
MNR:	Ministry of Natural Resources
MoA:	Ministry of Agriculture
MoF:	Ministry of Finance
MoIPA:	Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs
MRVS:	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System
MSSC:	Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee
NCCC:	National Climate Change Committee
NDC:	National Determined Contributions

NFMS:	National Forest Management System
NREAC:	Natural Resources and Environment Advisory Committee
NSCCFO:	National Steering Committee of Community Forest Organisations
NTC:	National Toshaos Council
OCC:	Office of Climate Change
PEU:	Project Executing Unit
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
RS:	REDD Secretariat
SESA:	Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment
SIDS:	Small Island and Low-lying Coastal Developing States
SIS:	Safeguard Information System
SLUC:	Special Land Use Committee
SOI:	Summary of Safeguards Information
TAP:	Technical Advisory Panel
UG:	University of Guyana
UNFCCC:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Contents

List of acronyms and abbreviations	3
List of Tables	7
List of Figures	7
Executive summary	8
The early beginnings of REDD+ in Guyana	8
Guyana's REDD+ readiness process 2009-2015	9
Guyana REDD+ readiness process post 2015	10
Performance of FCPF progress indicators	10
Component 1: Readiness organisation and consultation	10
Component 2: REDD+ strategy preparation	13
Component 3: Reference Emission Level/Reference Level	15
Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	16
Introduction	18
The REDD+ regime	20
Why is REDD+ important to Guyana?	20
The Phases of REDD+	20
What is the FCPF?	20
Guyana's REDD+ readiness preparation process	21
The early beginnings of REDD+ in Guyana	21
International guidance on REDD+	22
Guyana's REDD+ readiness process 2009-2015	23
Guyana REDD+ readiness process post 2015	24
Objectives and scope of the evaluation	25
Objective and outputs	25
Methodology	26

Readiness assessment	29
Evaluation of the REDD+ readiness phase	29
Component 1: Readiness organisation and consultation	30
Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ management arrangements	30
Sub-component 1b: Consultation, participation and outreach	46
Component 2: REDD+ strategy preparation	60
Subcomponent 2a: Assessment of land use, land use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance	60
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy options	74
Subcomponent 2c: Implementation framework	82
Sub-component 2d: Social and environmental impacts	90
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	95
Component 4: Monitoring systems for Forests, and Safeguards	100
Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System	100
Sub-component 4b: Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards	107
Conclusions and recommendations	112
Annexes	115

List of Tables

<i>Table 1. Performance of REDD+ progress indicators for the periods 2013-2018 and 2019-2020 in Guyana.</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Table 2. Comparison between the visual scales used for the mid-term review and the R-Package self-assessment to facilitate like-for-like comparison of the performance of indicators.....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Table 3. Performance of progress indicators during the mid-term review and the R-Package self-assessment for Guyana.</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Table 4. Summary of selected MRVS Steering Committee meetings</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>Table 5. Allocation of donor funds to REDD+ projects in Guyana 2010-2022.</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Table 6. Types and numbers of REDD+ communication materials produced and distributed.</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>Table 7. Guyana land use classes.</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>Table 8. Summary of assessment of critical issues related to land and forest management in Guyana.....</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>Table 9. The major barriers to forest carbon stock enhancements and response actions for each REDD+ Strategy option.</i>	<i>67</i>
<i>Table 10. A summary of implications for forest and other relevant laws and policy in the long-term in Guyana.</i>	<i>72</i>
<i>Table 11. List of all direct drivers of deforestation and degradation (D&D) and other causes of forest loss in Guyana, with annual area of change and the percent that each driver contributes to the total change (Netzer et al 2018).....</i>	<i>74</i>
<i>Table 12. REDD+ Strategy Options, their policy specifications and measures for Guyana.</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>Table 13. Assessed risks with REDD+ Strategy Options for Guyana.....</i>	<i>78</i>
<i>Table 14. Change in annual revenue from mining or forestry harvests in the Guyana Geology and Mining Commission and The Guyana Forestry Commission.</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>Table 15. Total historical emissions from deforestation and timber harvesting 2001-2012.</i>	<i>97</i>
<i>Table 16. Guyana MRVS roadmap and achievements 2013-2020.</i>	<i>101</i>

List of Figures

<i>Figure 1: Guyana REDD+ readiness preparation activities, other complementary activities and timescales (2008-2020).....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Figure 2. Natural Regions of Guyana</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Figure 3. Physiographic Regions of Guyana</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Figure 4: Institutional architecture and arrangements for REDD+ implementation in Guyana</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Figure 5: Proposed GRM Procedure Overview: Grievance Uptake to Referral</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>Figure 6: Proposed GRM Procedure Overview: Development of Grievance Response to Close-Out</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>Figure 7: Section of the audience at the FCPF-REDD+ women and gender workshop held in 2018 in Georgetown.</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>Figure 8: Mapping of stakeholders by level of knowledge and alignment with REDD+</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>Figure 9. Example of brochure on REDD+ produced under the TCA.</i>	<i>56</i>
<i>Figure 10: Schematic showing the development of the REDD+ Strategy Options and SESA/ESMF</i>	<i>77</i>

Executive summary

The early beginnings of REDD+ in Guyana

The Co-operative Republic of Guyana (commonly known as Guyana) became a State Party to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#) on 29 August 1994, and has actively participated in the Kyoto Protocol. Guyana is internationally recognised for its role in the fight by Small Island and Low-lying Coastal Developing States (SIDS) and [High-Forest Low-Deforestation rate \(HFLD\) countries](#) to curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions even though it is a net sink for carbon dioxide (CO₂) and contributes about 0.01 percent of global GHG emissions. The Guyana Second National Communication to the UNFCCC¹ (Articles 4.1 and 12.1) reported that CO₂ emissions derived mainly from the energy sector and produced mainly from the energy generation and transport sub-sectors. Further, CO₂ emissions (reference) range between 1,246 Gg (1992) and 1,813 Gg (1998), whereas GHG removals (forestry) vary between -60,818 Gg (1990-1993) and -62,468 Gg (2001). Clean energy and forest conservation are therefore the key focus of Guyana's nationally determined contributions.

Twice, Guyana has used the strategic platform offered by the Commonwealth to make visionary offers of its extensive and intact rain forests as global commons. At the October 1989 Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Kuala Lumpur, President Desmond Hoyte offered to set aside a large part of Guyana's forest, under Commonwealth auspices, for developing and demonstrating methods of sustainable management of tropical rain forests and of conserving biological diversity.² This offer gave rise to the [Iwokrama Rain Forest Programme](#), which remains to today. In October 2007 at the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting in Georgetown, President Bharrat Jagdeo offered to deploy the country's entire rain forest in the global warming battle.³ This second offer heralded an acceleration of activities in the country to prepare for a Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+)⁴ regime.

Within two years following the official launch of the REDD+ initiative at the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the 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)⁵ 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 (See Figure 1).

¹ <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/guync2.pdf>

² <https://www.jstor.org/stable/42606970?seq=1>

³ <https://www.stabroeknews.com/2007/10/16/news/guyana/offer-of-entire-forest-in-climate-fight-stands-jagdeo-tells-commonwealth-meet/>

⁴ The five activities are: (i) reducing emissions from deforestation; (ii) reducing emissions from forest degradation; (iii) conservation of forest carbon stocks; (iv) sustainable management of forests; and (v) enhancement of forest carbon stocks

⁵ https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/Guyana_R-PIN_Final_2008-7-31.pdf

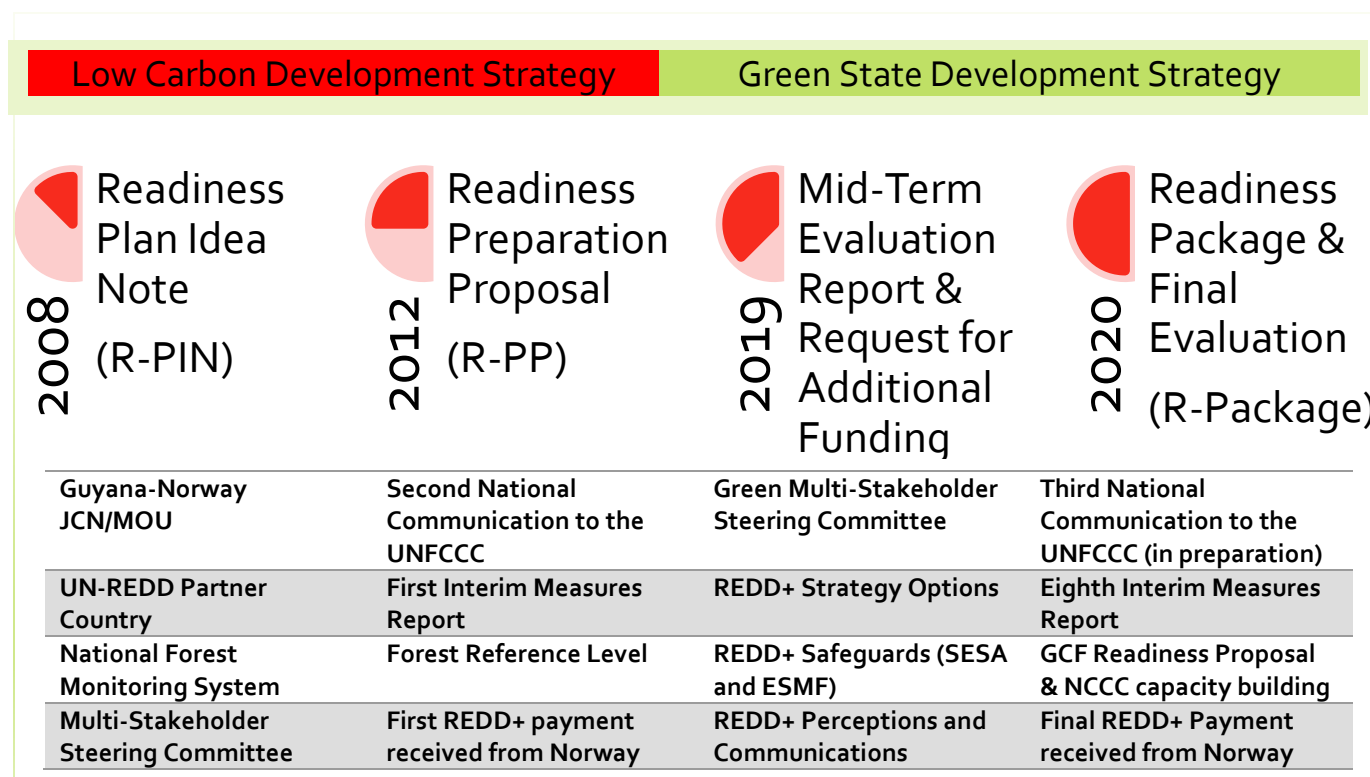


Figure 1: Guyana REDD+ readiness preparation activities, other complementary activities and timescales (2008-2020).

Guyana's REDD+ readiness process 2009-2015

With the Guyana-Norway agreement providing the impetus and extra-budgetary resources through performance-based payments, 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).

Guyana developed emissions estimates from deforestation and forest degradation by activity, across the country, for historical, current, and future emissions. The set-up of the National Forest Management System (NFMS) allowed Guyana to develop the Forest Reference Level (FRL) and Reference Level (RL). The activities addressed by the FRL are deforestation from conversion to agriculture, mining, and infrastructure expansion, and forest degradation from timber harvest. The FRL was developed using a Combined Reference Level Approach, in which the average rate of global tropical forest carbon emissions (0.435% yr⁻¹) is combined with the rate of annual emissions from forests in Guyana (2001-2012, 0.049% yr⁻¹) to obtain a reference level of 0.242%, that results in emissions of 46,301,251 tCO₂ yr⁻¹.⁶ An updated and revised reference level is currently under development and is expected to be completed in 2020.

⁶ *ibid.*

Guyana REDD+ readiness process post 2015

In 2016, Guyana began the implementation of the R-PP financed from the FCPF Readiness Fund⁷ to support the country'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 (PEU) was set up under the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), a major shift from the 2009-2015 period when the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) was the primary agency responsible for REDD+ readiness preparation through its operational arm, the REDD Secretariat (RS). The preparation of the R-Package (this document) culminates the final delivery of the FCPF REDD+ readiness support to Guyana.

Performance of FCPF progress indicators

In the preparation of the R-Package, the 34 progress indicators detailed in the Guide to the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework⁸, were assessed. Almost all (91%) of the indicators assessed were found to have achieved significant progress or have progressed well but require further development (Table 1). Guyana has made significant progress in Components 3 (Reference Emission Level / Reference Level) and 4 (Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards) prior to implementation of the FCPF Technical Cooperation Agreement (TCA). These two elements of REDD+ readiness preparation, were prioritised during 2009-2015, and benefited from multi-partner funding from the national budget, Norway, the European Union and the Government of the Netherlands.

The performance of progress indicators for the other Components 1 (Readiness organisation and consultation arrangements, 2 (REDD+ strategy preparation) and 6 (Monitoring and evaluation of readiness activities) was mixed.

Component 1: Readiness organisation and consultation

The REDD+ Governance Development Plan (RGDP)⁹, first prepared in 2009, guided the development of the following institutional capabilities to ensure successful execution of the LCDS and the R-PP:

- 1) An Office of Climate Change (OCC) to coordinate Guyana's climate change initiatives;
- 2) A Project Management Office to drive key projects as part of the LCDS; and

⁷ The Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Guyana and the World Bank was signed in 2014, and the IDB was chosen by Guyana as its FCPF Delivery Partner.

⁸ <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2013/june2013/FCPF%20R-Package%20User%20Guide%20ENG%206-18-13%20web.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.lcds.gov.gy/index.php/documents/reports/national/redd-governance-development-plan/82-redd-governance-development-plan/file>

- 3) The RS within the GFC as the implementing entity for “REDD readiness” activities, including the development and implementation of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS).

Table 1. Performance of REDD+ progress indicators for the periods 2013-2018 and 2019-2020 in Guyana.

Key to the indicators:

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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<i>R-PP progress indicators</i>	<i>R-Package Self-assessment 2019-2020</i>
Component 1a. National REDD Management Arrangements	
1. Accountability and transparency	
2. Operating mandate and budget	
3. Multi-sector coordinating mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration	
4. Technical supervision capacity	
5. Funds management capacity	
6. Feedback and grievance mechanism	
Component 1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach	
7. Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	
8. Consultation processes	
9. Information sharing and accessibility of information	
10. Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	
Component 2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, and Governance	
11. Assessment and analysis	
12. Prioritisation of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement	
13. Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities	
14. Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance	
15. Implications for forest law and policy	
Component 2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	
16. Selection and prioritisation of REDD+ strategy options	
17. Feasibility assessment	
18. Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies	
Component 2c. REDD+ Implementation Framework	
19. Adoption and implementation of legislation/ regulations	
20. Guidelines for implementation	
21. Benefit sharing mechanism	
22. National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities	
Component 2d. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) in the Formulation of the REDD+ Strategy	
23. Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues	
24. REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts	
25. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)	
Component 3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Level	
26. Demonstration of methodology	
27. Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances	
28. Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines	
Component 4a. National Forest Monitoring System	
29. Documentation of monitoring approach	
30. Demonstration of early system implementation	
31. Institutional arrangements and capacities	
Component 4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	
32. Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues	
33. Monitoring, reporting and information sharing	
34. Institutional arrangements and capacities	

However, several other institutions, including the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (renamed the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs (MoIPA) from 2015-2020), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) and the University of Guyana (UG), each with its own legal arrangement and governance structure, performed separate but related functions. They were supported by four advisory bodies led by the Natural Resources and Environment Advisory Committee (NREAC), a sub-Committee of the Cabinet of the Government of Guyana and chaired by the Prime Minister; the National Climate Committee (later relaunched as the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) in 2018); the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC); and the MRVS Steering Committee. Notwithstanding, a fragmented approach to land use and environmental governance persisted, and remains a threat to REDD+ readiness management.

The components and architecture of the Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM) were designed and its functions determined in consultation with stakeholders, under the FCPF Project. Consultations on the safeguarding of environmental integrity, protecting biodiversity, and ensuring continual improvements in forest governance have been demonstrated. The OCC coordinated participation from the concerned government agencies and supporting partners. The MoIPA managed Amerindian land rights issues through facilitated community consultations and awareness activities and supported the development of an opt-in mechanism for the sharing of REDD+ benefits with communities.

While information sharing and accessibility of information as well as implementation of public disclosure of consultation outcomes require further development, national REDD+ institutions and management arrangements are on track to demonstrate fully transparent, consistent, comprehensive and timely sharing and disclosure of information (related to all readiness activities, including the development of REDD+ strategy, reference levels, and monitoring systems) in a culturally appropriate form.

Component 2: REDD+ strategy preparation

While significant progress was made in identifying and prioritising deforestation and forest degradation drivers and barriers to the enhancement of forest carbon stocks, the links between the drivers and REDD+ activities and action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance require further development. The assessment revealed evidence of significant progress identifying implications for forest and other relevant law and policy in the long-term.

The proposed REDD+ Strategy presents Guyana's progress to date in developing the elements and requirements established under the [Warsaw Framework for REDD+](#), as the overarching set of decisions setting the stage for REDD+ results-based implementation and finance. The proposed strategy addressed the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation identified in the assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance, including drivers linked to other sectors competing for the same land resources, in the context of the national priorities for sustainable

development. The proposed REDD+ Strategy is in line with the aim of Guyana's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of avoiding emissions in the amount of 48.7 MtCO₂e annually.

The rate of and location of deforestation was established using the GFC GIS layer called "All Change," which maps deforestation by driver across Guyana every year¹⁰. Using GIS to overlay the GFC land cover change dataset from 2001 to 2016 with the land classification boundaries, the results show concession land made up the largest area of land in Guyana (40%), and predictably has the highest rate of deforestation (0.3%.yr⁻¹). A review of the deforestation and forest degradation drivers informed preparation of the REDD+ Strategy. Direct drivers and percent of total emissions, in order of importance, are: (i) Mining – 55%; (ii) forestry – 36%; and (iii) agriculture – 6%. Fire, infrastructure, settlements and shifting agriculture account for the remaining 3%. Mineral mining, forestry and agriculture (not including shifting agriculture) make up 97% of Guyana's GHG emission from the land use sector. Indirect drivers were assessed to include: (i) inadequate national/subnational land use/zoning plans; (ii) incoherent sectoral policies, laws and regulations and the national development strategy; (iii) land use policies and plans are inconsistent with sectoral goals and priorities; and (iv) inadequate mechanisms within government to address cross-sectoral policy, planning or practice issues. Mining, forestry and agriculture could be influenced by well-designed government REDD+ strategies. For these reasons, the proposed Guyana REDD+ Strategy focuses on these three drivers.

The proposed National REDD+ Strategy focuses on five options with different but complementary actions:

- 1) ***Strengthen policy, legal and institutional framework.*** Improvements to the legal, policy and institutional framework are intended to create more consistency and coherence among sectors and levels of implementation to give support, and correct incentives, to activities aimed at sustainable development.
- 2) ***Direct actions in mining and forestry sectors*** to slow deforestation and forest degradation to ensure the productive practices (mining, logging, agriculture) cause minimal or no harm to forest ecosystems, while working to improve economic returns over the long term.
- 3) ***National land use planning and implementation,*** to ensure several objectives: a) coherent land use across the country, b) effective monitoring and compliance, c) promoting mining, agricultural and forestry operations with reduced impact to forest ecosystems.
- 4) ***Actions to improve and maintain forests' capacity to store carbon.*** Actions should be undertaken to maintain current forests, and to increase their capacity to store carbon. This should include both well-preserved and degraded forests, and potentially even non-forest lands that could be returned to forest cover.
- 5) ***Encourage sustainable economic alternatives to mining.*** As mining is an important income source for many people in the country, promoting economic alternatives could enable some reduction in mining while not disrupting the economy.

¹⁰ Idem.

Scenario modelling revealed that weak implementation of the scenarios has modest impacts on deforestation. Strong implementation of Strategy Option 3 – National Land Use Planning and Implementation - has the largest effect on deforestation rates of all the options, which remains under 0.08% for the entire projection period up to 2046.

There is no evidence that Guyana has either adopted or implemented specific legislations and/or regulations related to REDD+ programmes and activities. The Government has proposed to build on existing institutions and their mandates to address potential challenges associated with REDD+ implementation. These are expected to consider the arrangements proposed in the R-PP, and issues that are relevant to implementing the GRM for REDD+. Other than for the MRVS, there is no national geo-referenced REDD+ information system or registry and system monitoring REDD+ information activities. There is evidence of information on the location, ownership, carbon accounting and financial flows for the Guyana-Norway national REDD+ programme.

There is evidence that a draft Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) has been developed in a consultative, transparent and participatory manner appropriate to the country context, including through a series of stakeholder consultation workshops leading to broad community support. The consultative process has been informed by, and built upon, the national readiness process, including the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments (SESA), and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), both undertaken in conformity with the Common Approach under the FCPF.

Guyana has taken steps to define how the [Cancun REDD+ safeguards](#) will be implemented, and to ensure compliance with the safeguards throughout the implementation of REDD+ activities. The SESA has allowed Guyana to identify and prioritise potential risks associated to the REDD+ Strategy Options. While the ESMF has been designed, it not yet guiding the management of environmental and social risks and potential impacts related to REDD+ activities. There are a number of existing REDD+ non-specific laws and regulations, and recent policy instruments and programmes related to REDD+, which provide a foundation for determining the carbon rights and ownership in Guyana. They include the National Forest Policy Statement 2018 (requires the GFC to consider carbon credits as part of a payment / incentive system for stakeholders to reduce deforestation), and the Amerindian Act 2006 (creates a clear framework for Amerindian rights to resources on their land). However, further development in national laws on carbon rights and ownership, is required.

All forest-related emissions by sources and removals resulting from the implementation of LCDS REDD+ activities are monitored, reported and verified in accordance with UNFCCC guidance. Guyana has prepared its first Summary of Safeguards Information (SOI) in which it proposed a REDD+ Coordination office to be charge of operational implementation of all elements and systems under the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, including the Safeguard Information System (SIS).

Component 3: Reference Emission Level/Reference Level

Guyana has developed and submitted to the UNFCCC its National FRL for REDD+ in December 2014 and a revised RL in September 2015. The activities addressed by the FRL are deforestation from conversion to agriculture, mining, and infrastructure expansion, and forest degradation from timber harvest. The Guyana REL/RL is consistent with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance. The IPCC 2003 IPCC Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-use Change, and Forestry (GPG-LULUCF) and the IPCC 2006 Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventories in Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) were developed for use in preparing a national GHG inventory.

Guyana is operating at IPCC Tier 2 (intermediate) and Tier 3 (the most demanding in terms of complexity and data requirements) primarily because it allows for wall-to-wall coverage of satellite imagery is used to obtain the activity data related to conversion of forest lands to other uses.

Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards

Guyana has developed a world-class forest monitoring system that has been independently verified for accuracy by reputable institutions. Consistently, Guyana has produced eight annual MRVS Interim Measures reports. Although the MRVS was initially set up based on the interim indicators agreed to in the Guyana-Norway agreement, the MRVS has been developed based on international guidance and best practice and can be applied to any REDD+ payment scheme. For Year 8 (2018), the MRVS conducted full emission reporting based on country specific emission factors, moving away from using the interim indicators for the first time. The MRVS Steering Committee provides opportunity for national experts to contribute to the process.¹¹

During preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy, the following other environmental benefits were identified: water quality, air quality and biodiversity conservation. Guyana's vision for REDD+ has adopted the principle of promoting biodiversity conservation and enhancement, taking into consideration REDD+ interventions will not lead to the conversion of natural forests. A technical report on identification of non-carbon ecosystem services for integration into Guyana's national MRVS has been compiled by GFC with the technical support of Winrock International.¹²

There is limited evidence of a transparent system for periodically sharing consistent information on non-carbon aspects and safeguards. There is some information on: key quantitative and qualitative variables about impacts on rural livelihoods, conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services provision, key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD+ preparations, and the implementation of safeguards, paying attention to the specific provisions included in the ESMF.

In conclusion, Guyana has satisfied the REDD+ readiness assessment. Wise use of the TCA resources has helped Guyana to significantly progress its REDD+ Readiness to the R-Package stage. Key recommendations include the adoption of a 'whole of government' approach to the coordination of

¹¹ Idem.

¹² <https://guyanachronicle.com/2012/03/15/workshop-explores-payment-for-ecosystem-services/>

governance for REDD+, the institutionalisation of stakeholder engagement and increasing public access to information on REDD+, and the identification, empowering and deployment of REDD+ champions.

Introduction

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

Guyana, an Amerindian word, which means 'land of many waters', is at the centre of the Guiana Shield, one of the three eco-regions of the Amazon biome. There are four natural regions (Figure 2) and five physiographic regions (Figure 3). Administratively, the country is divided in three counties, namely, Berbice, Demerara and Essequibo, and 10 Administrative Regions. The counties and regions are delineated by watersheds.

Guyana's terrestrial landmass can be characterised as high-forest, low deforestation (HFLD) and together with 10 other developing countries harbour about 18% of forest carbon (Fonseca et al. 2007). At the end of 2016, Guyana's verified forest area was 18.452 million hectares¹³, a forest cover of approximately 87% of the country (GFC 2017), making Guyana the second greenest country on planet Earth, after neighbouring Suriname. The forest stores over 5GtCO₂ in above ground biomass. Additional stores of carbon are in below ground compartments and these have not been estimated at national scale. The annual rate of deforestation is less than 0.1%.

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

Through its membership as a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its binding Protocol, Guyana has signaled its commitment to deploying its forest in the fight against climate change and in pursuing low carbon development since 2007. The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is a global partnership focused on the project: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+). The Readiness Fund of the FCPF assists tropical and sub-tropical developing countries to generate the systems and policies in preparation for REDD+. The Government of Guyana prepared a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) that lays out a roadmap of activities for REDD+ readiness. The R-PP was approved in 2012. Guyana's Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) through its forestry regulatory agency, the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), is responsible

¹³ GFC (2017). MRVS Interim Measures Report. Georgetown, Guyana.

for overseeing the national implementation of key technical aspects of REDD+ activities, including REDD+ readiness activities as outlined in the R-PP.

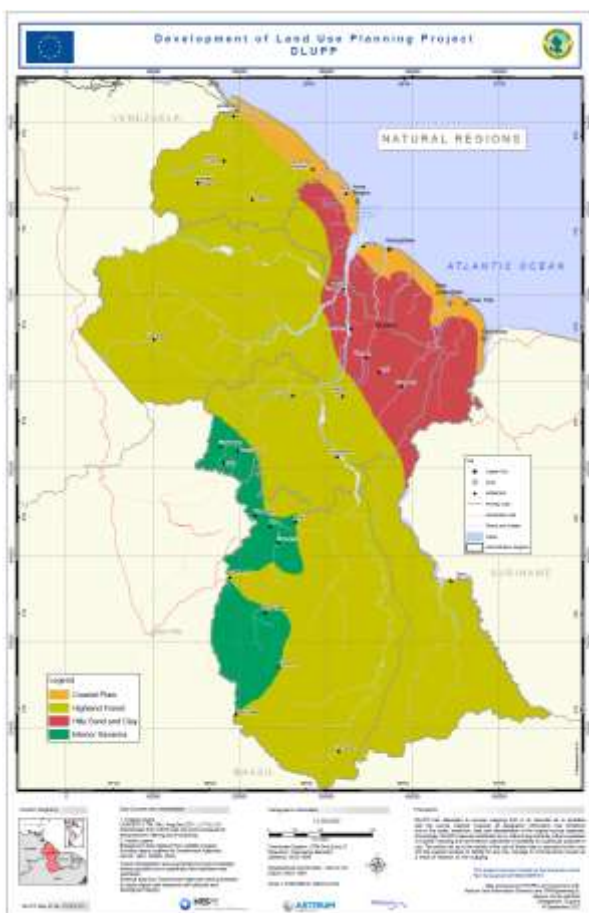


Figure 2. Natural Regions of Guyana

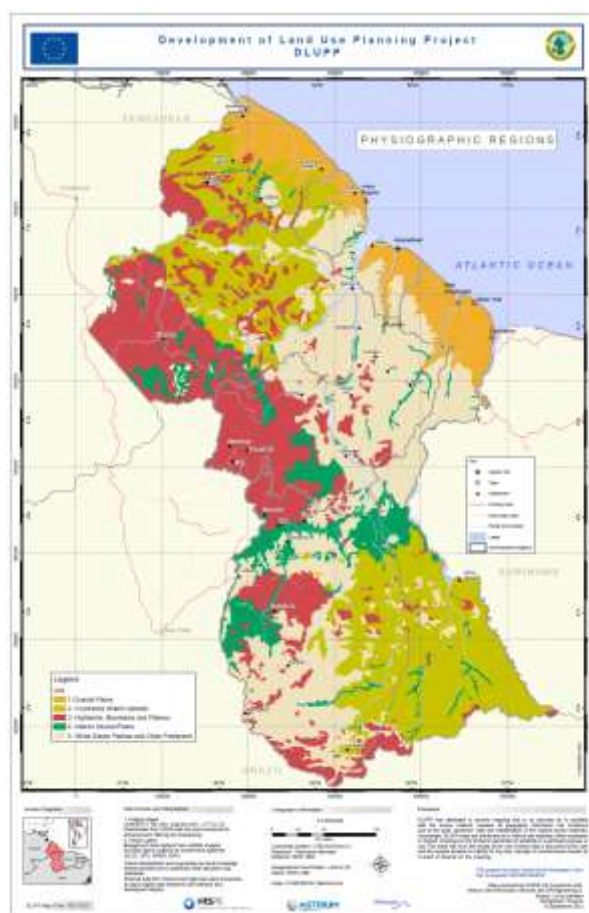


Figure 3. Physiographic Regions of Guyana

Source: GLSC 2013.

The MNR is overseeing the REDD+ readiness process, to which the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) serves as Guyana's FCPF Delivery Partner. The implementation of the R-PP is governed by a Technical Cooperation (TC) agreement (GY-T1097) between Guyana and the IDB¹⁴. The objective is to assist Guyana to establish an enabling framework and build its capacity for REDD+. As Guyana approaches the end of the Readiness Phase, it seeks to conduct a Readiness Assessment and develop a Readiness Package (R-Package) to demonstrate national commitment to REDD+, to display transparency in readiness preparations, and to assure national and international stakeholders that potential social and environmental risks are being addressed.

¹⁴ https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2014/May/IDBDOCS-%2338672037-v1-Signed_TC_Agreement_-_Forest_Carbon_Partnership_Fac....pdf

The REDD+ regime

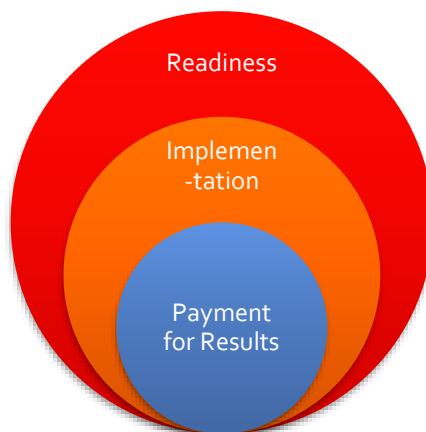
Why is REDD+ important to Guyana?

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiated REDD+ as a financing model to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

Guyana's economy is dependent on mineral mining, logging, and agriculture. These three productive activities, along with human settlements, transportation networks and fire are main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. A REDD+ regime offers Guyana a development trajectory away from forest conversion activities to a forest conserving regime.

The Phases of REDD+

REDD+ implementation follows a phased approach to enhance chances of success. During the first phase, countries prepare REDD+ strategies at the national level and initiate processes to ensure social and environmental soundness (including reference levels, safeguards, an implementation framework) - the readiness phase. The second phase is a period when REDD countries begin the implementation of strategies and enabling processes, as well as undertake policy and legal reforms and the execution of demonstration activities. These two phases, taken together, ensure that REDD countries are ready to receive performance-based payments - the third phase.



What is the FCPF?

Since the UNFCCC Conference of Parties 13 in Bali, several initiatives were initiated to assist developing countries to prepare for REDD+. One such initiative is the FCPF, which is described as a global partnership of governments, businesses, civil society, and Indigenous focused on the five objectives of REDD+: (i) reducing emissions from deforestation; (ii) reducing forest degradation; (iii) conservation of forest carbon stock; (iv) sustainable management of forest, and (v) the enhancement of forest carbon stock in developing countries.

Under the Readiness Fund, the World Bank, IDB and the United Nations Delivery Programme are Delivery Partners. To ensure a uniform set of safeguard standards, the Common Approach to Environmental and Social Safeguards for Multiple Delivery Partners was approved at the ninth FCPF PC meeting. The Common Approach is designed to provide the World Bank and the Multiple Delivery Partners with a common platform for risk management and quality assurance in the REDD+ Readiness Preparation process.

PHASES OF REDD+

- Readiness
 - national REDD+ strategy or action plan;
 - national forest reference emission level;
 - robust and transparent national forest monitoring system; and
 - safeguards information system.
- implementation
 - national policies and measures, and
 - national strategies or action plans.
- payment for results
 - Performance (or results) based payments.

Shortly after submission of the R-PIN as part of the Readiness phase, Guyana commenced work on the Monitoring Reporting and Verification System (MRVS), set up the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund and started receiving forest carbon performance based payments from Norway. In a sense, Guyana has pursued all three phases of REDD+ concurrently.

The Readiness package (or R-Package) is produced by countries at the end of the first phase, and is a collection of documents required by the FCPF at the end of the readiness phase. The development of the R-Package is in fact a critical moment to build confidence in the process, as countries will need to have their R-Packages reviewed if they want to submit emissions reductions programmes to the FCPF Carbon Fund. The R-Package consists of 5 core elements: 1) a REDD strategy; 2) an Implementation framework; a MRV system; 4) a Reference Level scenario; and 5) safeguards. (Source: FCPF website <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/>, and FCPF User Guide 2013).

Guyana's REDD+ readiness preparation process

The early beginnings of REDD+ in Guyana

The Co-operative Republic of Guyana (commonly known as Guyana) became a Non-Annex I and Non-Annex II State Party to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#) on 29 August 1994, and has actively participated in the Kyoto Protocol. Guyana is internationally recognised for its role in the fight by Small Island and Low-lying Coastal Developing States (SIDS) and [High-Forest Low-Deforestation rate \(HFLD\) countries](#) to curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions even though it is a net sink for carbon dioxide (CO₂) and contributes about 0.01 percent of global GHG emissions. The Second National Communication to the UNFCCC (Articles 4.1 and 12.1) reported that CO₂ emissions derived mainly from the energy sector and produced mainly from the energy generation and transport sub-sectors. Further, CO₂ emissions (reference) range between 1,246 Gg (1992) and 1,813 Gg (1998), whereas GHG removals (forestry) vary between -60,818 Gg (1990-1993) and -62,468 Gg (2001). Clean energy and forest conservation are therefore the key focus of Guyana's nationally determined contributions.

Twice, Guyana has used the strategic platform offered by the Commonwealth to make visionary offers of its extensive and intact rain forests as global commons. At the October 1989 Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Kuala Lumpur, President Desmond Hoyte offered to set aside a large part of Guyana's forest, under Commonwealth auspices, for developing and demonstrating methods of sustainable management of tropical rain forests and of conserving biological diversity¹⁵. This offer gave rise to the [Iwokrama Rain Forest Programme](#), which remains to today. In October 2007 at the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting in Georgetown, President Bharrat Jagdeo offered to deploy the country's entire rain forest in the global warming battle¹⁶. This second offer heralded an acceleration of activities in the country to prepare for a Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+)¹⁷ regime.

Within two years following the official launch of the REDD+ initiative at the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the 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)¹⁸ 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 (See Figure 1).

¹⁵ Op. cit.

¹⁶ Op. cit.

¹⁷ The five activities are: (i) reducing emissions from deforestation; (ii) reducing emissions from forest degradation; (iii) conservation of forest carbon stocks; (iv) sustainable management of forests; and (v) enhancement of forest carbon stocks

¹⁸ https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/Guyana_R-PIN_Final_2008-7-31.pdf

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' Reports¹⁹ since 2010. In 2011, Guyana became a United Nations (UN) REDD Partner Country²⁰, 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 for REDD+ (FRL) and a revised Reference Level (RL) in 2015²¹. See Figure 1 for a snapshot of the REDD+ readiness activities and timescales.

International guidance on REDD+

The JCN recognised that “all aspects of Guyana’s planned efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, including forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (“REDD+”), are being developed in a consistent manner, through an internationally recognised framework for developing a REDD+ programme, and will continue to evolve over time. Currently, the UN REDD Programme and the FCPF are two examples of this; the latter constitutes the framework under which Guyana is developing its REDD+ efforts”.

The UNFCCC COP 15 held in December 2009 produced the “[Copenhagen Accord](#)”, which highlights the importance of creating incentives for REDD+ as a mechanism for mitigating climate change. Guyana has followed the internationally determined guidance on REDD+ as laid out in the UNFCCC COP 16 decisions (Decision 1/CP.16), adopted at COP 16 in 2010. Known as [The Cancun Agreements](#), the decisions 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:

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

¹⁹ <https://forestry.gov.gy/mrvs-interim-measures-reports/>

²⁰ <https://www.unredd.net/announcement-section/1090-guyana/782-guyana-becomes-a-un-redd-partner-country.html>

²¹ <https://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=guy>

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, as follows:

- **Phase I:** development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building,
- **Phase II:** implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans that could involve further capacity-building, technology development and transfer, and
- **Phase III:** results-based demonstration activities, and evolving into results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified.

Guyana's REDD+ readiness process 2009-2015

Guyana did not follow the recommended phased approach, *sensu stricto*. With the Guyana-Norway JCN and MOU providing the impetus and extra-budgetary resources through performance-based payments, 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).

The LCDS made two bold predictions on how Guyana will be able to invest in creating a low deforestation, low carbon, climate resilient economy providing that Parties to the UNFCCC are able to properly design and resource REDD+:

- Guyana can avoid cumulative forest-based emissions of 1.5 gigatons of CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent, which includes other greenhouse gases) by 2020 that would have been produced by an otherwise economically rational development path; and
- REDD+ payments can enable Guyana's economy to be realigned on to a low-carbon development trajectory. Guyana can generate economic growth at or in excess of projected Latin American growth rates over the coming decade, while simultaneously eliminating approximately 30 percent of non-forestry emissions through the use of clean energy.

In keeping with the JCN REDD+ Performance Indicators to keep deforestation below an agreed reference level of 0.275% per year, as well as avoiding increased forest degradation, the NFMS includes five major components:

- The MRVS Roadmap, Phases 1 developed in 2009 and Phase 2 developed in 2014;
- Annual reporting on forest change, providing activity data, through the MRVS Interim Measures Reports, from Years 1 in 2010-2011;
- Accuracy assessments of the Interim Measures Reports;
- The Forest Carbon Monitoring System (FCMS), which includes the sample design and implementation framework and development of emission factors; and

- Independent, third party verification.

These components allowed Guyana to develop emissions estimates from deforestation and forest degradation by activity, across the country, for historical, current, and future emissions. The set-up of the NFMS allowed Guyana to develop the FRL and RL. The activities addressed by the FRL are deforestation from conversion to agriculture, mining, and infrastructure expansion, and forest degradation from timber harvest. The FRL was developed using a Combined Reference Level Approach, in which the average rate of global tropical forest carbon emissions (0.435% yr⁻¹) is combined with the rate of annual emissions from forests in Guyana (2001-2012, 0.049% yr⁻¹) to obtain a reference level of 0.242%, that results in emissions of 46,301,251 tCO₂.yr⁻¹.²² An updated and revised reference level is currently under development and is expected to be completed in 2021. It will be updated to include data collected up to 2019 - this includes activity data, field data as well as updated emission factors.

Guyana REDD+ readiness process post 2015

National elections in May 2015 resulted in a change in government and a concomitant change in the strategic development trajectory of Guyana. With funding from the GRIF, the Government of Guyana collaborated with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to develop the [Green State Development Strategy \(GSDS\) Vision 2040](#), a 20-year development framework document that is aligned with Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, and is broader in scope than the LCDS. The central objective of the GSDS is development that provides a better quality of life for all Guyanese derived from the country's natural wealth - its diversity of people and abundant natural resources. The main thesis of the LCDS is the Economic Value to the Nation of standing forests.²³

In 2016, Guyana began the implementation of the R-PP financed from the FCPF Readiness Fund²⁴ 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 MNR, a major shift from the 2009-2015 period when the GFC was the agency responsible for REDD+ readiness preparation through its operational arm, the REDD Secretariat (RS). In 2020, Norway made the final performance based payment to Guyana (US\$50 million)²⁵ from the 2010-2015 funding envelope. The preparation of the R-Package (this document) culminates the FCPF REDD+ readiness support to Guyana.

²² Idem.

²³ Idem.

²⁴ The Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Guyana and the World Bank was signed in 2014, and the IDB was chosen by Guyana as its FCPF Delivery Partner.

²⁵ <https://www.embassyofguyana.be/index.php/2019/09/25/norway-releases-us50m-in-forest-funds-to-guyana/#:~:text=Norway%20has%20agreed%20to%20pay,for%20Climate%20and%20Environment%2C%20Mr.>

Objectives and scope of the evaluation

Objective and outputs

The objective of the evaluation of REDD+ readiness is to conduct a Readiness Assessment and prepare an R-Package.

The Readiness Assessment is a thorough self-examination by REDD country stakeholders to take stock of the activities implemented during the REDD+ readiness preparation phase and assess progress on REDD+ readiness. The results of the Readiness Assessment are compiled in an R-Package, which documents the country's progress, captures lessons learned, assesses remaining gaps, and identifies activities for the way forward to transitioning to the implementation of performance-based activities.

The Readiness Assessment and R-Package are developed following the directives of the **R-Package User Guide**²⁶.

The outputs of the **Readiness Assessment** are as follows:

1. A visual synthesis of overall achievement by sub-component using progress indicators: Green "significant progress" Yellow "progressing well, further development required", Orange "Further development required", and Red "not yet demonstrating progress", created;
2. Significant achievements and areas requiring further development related to the corresponding 34 assessment criteria (as identified in '**A Guide to the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework**'), described;
3. Actions that address 'identified areas' for further work, identified.

The outputs of the R-Package include:

1. A summary of the readiness preparation process, provided;
2. A report of the multi-stakeholder self-assessment process/methodology, prepared;
3. The assessment results of the national multi-stakeholder assessment, developed;
4. Key outputs of the readiness preparation process (i.e., the REDD+ Strategy, Reference Emission Levels/Reference Levels, etc.) are referenced.

The draft findings are presented in the Stakeholder Validation Workshop, and the feedback used to finalise the report. It identifies and reports on project results and specifies critical actions that need to be considered in order to guarantee the sustainability of the project outputs, outcomes and future possible impacts initiated by the project that are generating the expected benefits. Key managerial, technical and administrative staff responsible for the project in the PEU, as well as staff and authorities

²⁶ <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/sites/fcp/files/2013/june2013/FCPF%20R-Package%20User%20Guide%20ENG%206-18-13%20web.pdf>

from stakeholder institutions and representatives of the project target beneficiaries, who may influence the institutionalisation and future sustainability of the activities initiated by the project are key stakeholders for the validation process.

Methodology

Readiness Assessment and R-Package

The FCPF framework recommends a two-stage assessment process, as follows:

Stage 1: a national multi-stakeholder self-assessment (resulting in the R-Package) – this present document; and,

Stage 2: an assessment of the R-Package by the Participants Committee (PC) with input from the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), the Delivery Partner (IDB), and others.

Multi-stakeholder self-assessment: The Guyana multi-stakeholder self-assessment was a participatory and inclusive process - encompassing the perspectives and experiences of a range of stakeholders created for REDD+ by the FCPF PEU. The self-assessment included the following steps:

1. Review of secondary information;
2. Interviews with selected stakeholders, including representatives from the Guyana FCPF Project Steering Committee;
3. Preparation of the consultation document, to be made available to the stakeholders at least two weeks in advance of the self-assessment workshop;
4. Self-assessment workshop;
5. Preparation of the final report.

This report builds on a previous attempt by the GFC in June 2015 to prepare the R-Package.²⁷ For that process, engagement of stakeholders was in part achieved through the administering of a survey that sought to gain feedback from a broad range of stakeholders, including government, non-government, civil society, Indigenous NGOs and private sector groups. The GFC reported that the response rate to the survey was 'good' and the feedback provided proved useful and instrumental in informing the second version of the R-Package. The second version of the R-Package was internally reviewed by the GFC, updated and further circulated for inputs from key stakeholders involved in REDD+ Readiness implementation. A third version of the R-Package was prepared for submission to the IDB.

All inputs to the present assessment process were compiled and disseminated for the consultation. These include:

²⁷ <https://forestry.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/FCPF-Guyanas-Readiness-Package-June-2015.pdf>

- preparing background materials (e.g., a description of the self-assessment, a brief account of the legal and institutional context, the assessment criteria, and the assessment methodology);
- collating relevant documents or outputs of readiness preparation process (the national REDD+ strategy; information on the REL/RL, MRVS, safeguards (including the Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment (SESA));
- A preliminary evaluation of the results for each indicator using the colour scores described below.

The multi-stakeholder self-assessment report summarises the multi-stakeholder process and discussions; and include:

- the assessment results as progress indicators (colour scores: Green “significant progress” Yellow “progressing well, further development required”, Orange “Further development required”, and Red “not yet demonstrating progress”) for the nine subcomponents related to the corresponding 34 assessment criteria; and

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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- actions that address identified areas for further work.

Further, the assessment results of the national multi-stakeholder assessment were developed, and references to key outputs of the readiness preparation process (i.e., the REDD+ Strategy, REL/RL, etc.) were made.

The nine sub-components and corresponding indicators for the assessment framework are as follows:

Component	Sub-Component	Indicators
1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation	1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements	1. Accountability and transparency
		2. Operating mandate and budget
		3. Multi-sector coordinating mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration
		4. Technical supervision capacity
		5. Funds management capacity
	1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach	6. Feedback and grievance redress mechanism
		7. Participation and engagement of key stakeholders
		8. Consultation process
		9. Information sharing and accessibility of information
		10. Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes
2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use	11. Assessment and analysis
		12. Prioritisation of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement

	Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	13. Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities
		14. Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance
		15. Implications for forest law and policy
	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	16. Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options
		17. Feasibility assessment
		18. Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies
	2c. Implementation Framework	19. Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations
		20. Guidelines for implementation
		21. Benefit sharing mechanism
		22. National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	23. Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues
		24. REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts
25. Environmental and social management framework		
3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels		26. Demonstration of methodology
		27. Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances
		28. Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines
4: Monitoring Systems for Forests, and Safeguards	4a. National Forest Monitoring System	29. Documentation of monitoring approach
		30. Demonstration of early system implementation
		31. Institutional arrangements and capacities
	4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	32. Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues
		33. Monitoring, reporting and information sharing
		34. Institutional arrangements and capacities

Stakeholder validation workshop: The Consultant, Dr. Patrick Chesney, in consultation with the PEU, convened and moderated a stakeholder validation workshop in Georgetown on 14 July 2020 to receive feedback on the multi-stakeholder self-assessment report (Annex 1). A total of 18 stakeholders attended out of the 51 stakeholders who were invited. The attendees represented: government (13), FCPF delivery partner (3), civil society (1), indigenous peoples (1). The draft R-Package was uploaded to the MNR website for public comment and return of said comments to the MNR. While not explicitly mentioned by any of them, the take away for the consultant was that civil society felt that they had contributed at an optimal level to the REDD+ process and had nothing new to add. Plus, it is highly likely that COVID-19 might have had an effect on participation. See Annex 1 for additional information.

Readiness assessment

Evaluation of the REDD+ readiness phase

A summary of results of the current self-assessment in relation to the indicators of the FCPF's REDD+ Readiness Assessment Framework is presented in this section. To facilitate a like-for-like comparison of the performance indicators between the mid-term review and the R-Package self-assessment, the 5-point visual scale used for the mid-term review was reduced to the 4-point visual scale applied to the self-assessment. This is visually presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Comparison between the visual scales used for the mid-term review and the R-Package self-assessment to facilitate like-for-like comparison of the performance of indicators

5-point scale used for mid-term review		4-point scale used for R-Package self assessment	
Assessment rating	Meaning of the assessment rating	Assessment rating	Meaning of the assessment rating
	The sub-component has been completed		Significant progress
	Significant progress		
	Progressing well, further development required		Progressing well, further development required
	Further development required		Further development required
	Not yet demonstrating progress		Not yet demonstrating progress

The performance of each progress indicator for the R-Package self-assessment is presented in Table 3, following by discussion.

Table 3. Performance of progress indicators during the mid-term review and the R-Package self-assessment for Guyana.

<i>R-PP progress indicators</i>	<i>Mid-term Review 2013-2018</i>	<i>R-Package Self-assessment 2019-2020</i>
Component 1a. National REDD Management Arrangements		
1. Accountability and transparency		
2. Operating mandate and budget		
3. Multi-sector coordinating mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration		
4. Technical supervision capacity		
5. Funds management capacity		
6. Feedback and grievance mechanism		
Component 1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach		
7. Participation and engagement of key stakeholders		
8. Consultation processes		
9. Information sharing and accessibility of information		
10. Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes		
Component 2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, and Governance		
11. Assessment and analysis		
12. Prioritisation of direct and indirect drivers / barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement		

13. Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities		
14. Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance		
15. Implications for forest law and policy		
Component 2b. REDD+ Strategy Options		
16. Selection and prioritisation of REDD+ strategy options		
17. Feasibility assessment		
18. Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies		
Component 2c. REDD+ Implementation Framework		
19. Adoption and implementation of legislation/ regulations		
20. Guidelines for implementation		
21. Benefit sharing mechanism		
22. National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities		
Component 2d. Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) in the Formulation of the REDD+ Strategy		
23. Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues		
24. REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts		
25. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)		
Component 3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Level		
26. Demonstration of methodology		
27. Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances		
28. Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines		
Component 4a. National Forest Monitoring System		
29. Documentation of monitoring approach		
30. Demonstration of early system implementation		
31. Institutional arrangements and capacities		
Component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards		
32. Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues		
33. Monitoring, reporting and information sharing		
34. Institutional arrangements and capacities		

Component 1: Readiness organisation and consultation

Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ management arrangements

This part of the Assessment Framework focuses on national REDD+ management arrangements and their effectiveness in fulfilling core functions.

Indicator 1: Accountability and transparency

How are national REDD+ institutions and management arrangements demonstrating they are operating in an open, accountable and transparent manner?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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National REDD+ institutions and management arrangements have demonstrated they are operating in an open, accountable and transparent manner.

The Government of Guyana has demonstrated the highest level of national commitment to manage climate change and REDD+ processes by creating the supporting a diverse institutional architecture and processes to plan, formulate, and implement climate change policies, regulations, strategies and plans (Figure 4).

The Ministry of the Presidency (MoTP) has provided oversight and coordination functions for agencies responsible for climate change coordination (Office of Climate Change, OCC), environmental coordination (Department of Environment, DoE), environmental protection (Environmental Protection Agency, EPA), protected areas (Protected Areas Commission (PAC) and Protected Areas Trust Fund, (PATF)), and land use planning and coordination (Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission, GLSC).

The OCC supported work on climate change adaptation, mitigation and related forest conservation, in keeping with its overall responsibility for coordinating and aligning the efforts of various government agencies around the issue of climate change. The OCC is the National Focal Point for climate change and to the UNFCCC and therefore has a core responsibility to co-ordinate Guyana's international engagements with the UNFCCC and other climate change processes.

The MNR, which has oversight and coordination functions for agencies responsible for forestry (GFC) and mining (Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, GGMC), was designated the agency responsible for the implementation of technical aspects of REDD+, including the development and implementation of the National Forest Management System (NFMS), Forest Carbon Management System (FCMS), Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS), and implementation of other activities outlined in the R-PP, through the REDD Secretariat (RS). The FCPF Project Execution Unit (PEU) performed the latter role during 2016-2020.

In addition to these Ministries and Agencies, the following key State and non-State actors and Committees supported REDD+ implementation:

- National Toshaos Council (NTC)
- Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs (MoIPA)
- Amerindian and Civil Society Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- Private Sector Agencies such as the Forest Producers Association (FPA) and the Guyana Gold & Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA)
- Academia, including the University of Guyana (UG)
- Green Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (of the GSDS).
- National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG), represented by the FCPF PEU Steering Committee (PSC)
- MRVS Steering Committee
- Land Reclamation Committee (LRC)
- National Climate Change Committee (NCCC)

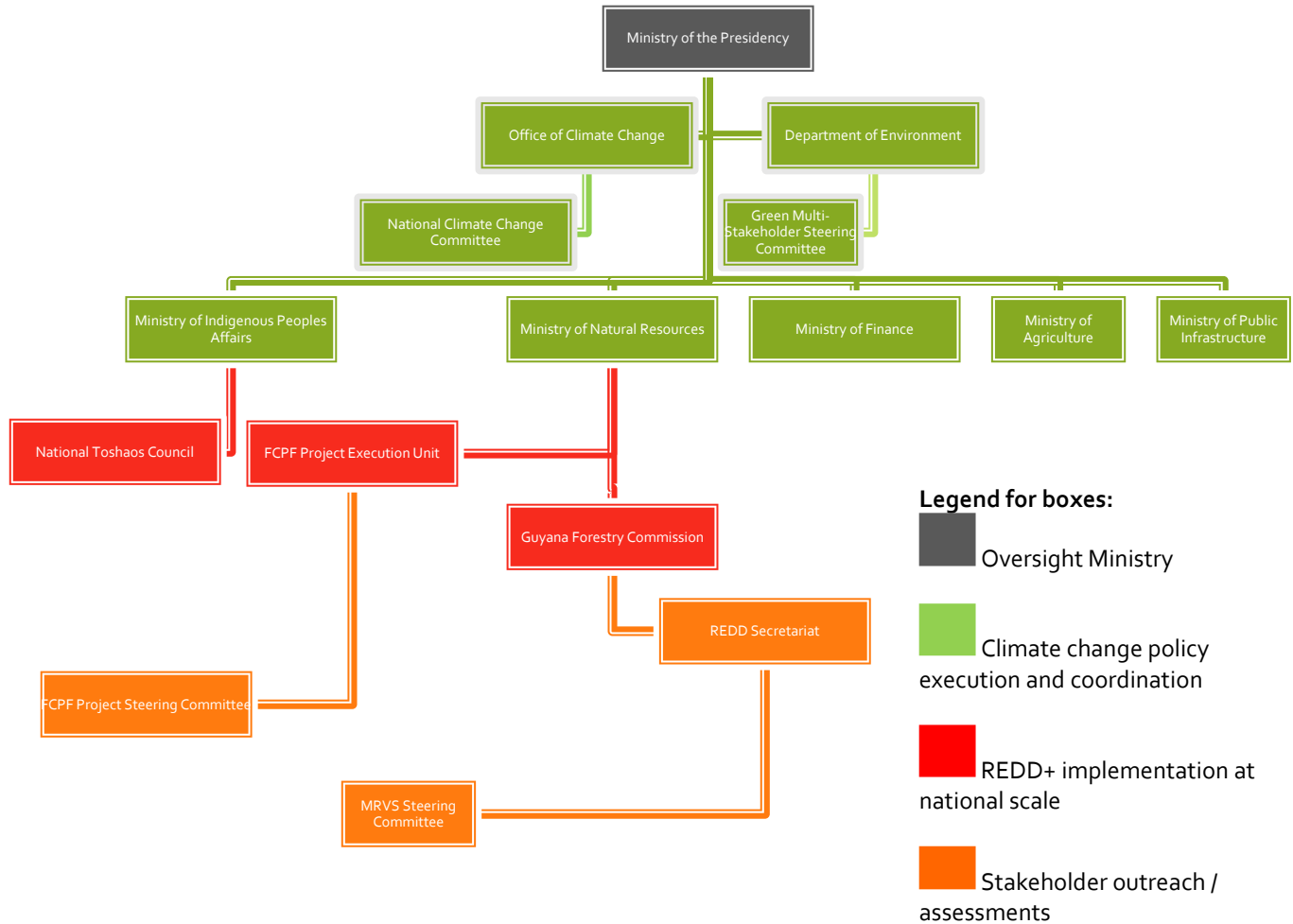


Figure 4: Institutional architecture and arrangements for REDD+ implementation in Guyana

The Constitution of Guyana guarantees the rights of indigenous peoples and other Guyanese to participation, engagement and decision making in all matters affecting their well-being. The Guyana-Norway REDD+ agreement and other REDD+ actions respect and protect these rights. The NTC is a semi-autonomous body comprising all Tshaos (elected Amerindian community leader) in Guyana. It has an executive committee including one Tshao from each of the 10 Administrative Regions of Guyana. The NTC is an integral part of the REDD+ architecture and represents forest dwelling communities.

In an effort to be open, accountable and transparent, in 2018, the OCC re-launched²⁸ a 32-member multi-stakeholder NCCC to support the realisation of its mandate by providing support to the

²⁸ A National Climate Committee existed before the OCC, which was established around 2009, and served the Unit (Hydrometeorological Service) responsible for Climate Change within the Ministry of Agriculture. Originally conceived primarily to support the preparation and implementation of the Low Carbon Development Strategy in 2009 the OCC is expanding its role to lead Guyana's national climate change efforts.

mainstreaming of climate change considerations into relevant policies, strategies and/or plans. In addition, the NCCC provides guidance and support to the implementation of all levels of sectoral initiatives with respect to climate change. Further, with a grant from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Proposal (RP) envelope²⁹, the OCC, in partnership with the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) - Guyana's GCF Delivery Partner - is building the capacity of the NCCC to become the national consultative body in support of the OCC's operational mandate³⁰.

The OCC accessed all relevant data and information to input into National Communications to the UNFCCC - the Third National Communication is in preparation - and has contributed to the first Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2019.³¹

On 25 September 2019, the Government of Norway released the final payment of forest climate funds to Guyana.³² At a meeting in New York, the Norway's Minister for Climate and Environment, Mr. Ola Elvestuen, said that 'Norway is most impressed with the continued low deforestation rates in Guyana over many years, and also with the substantive progress made on forest governance. The world looks to Guyana for what sustainable development in forest rich countries can be'. Under the Guyana Norway agreement, a transparent, rules-based, inclusive forest governance, accountability and enforcement system for forest governance in Guyana has been progressively strengthened, in accordance with Guyana's outline RGDP.³³ This is added evidence that the country's REDD+ programme is operating in an open, accountable and transparent manner.

Key achievements and progress towards openness, transparency and accountability were evident in the following ways:

- Clear mandates available for all institutions and oversight committees;
- Work of agencies subject to independent third party audits, including verification of progress for the Guyana-Norway Agreement such as the periodic Interim Measures Reports;³⁴
- Findings of audits and verifications made available to the public through the reports of the National Assembly and public consultations;
- Minutes of GMSSC, MRVS Steering Committee and FCPF PSC (NRWG) are made available to the public on the LCDS sectoral agencies' websites.

Notwithstanding the evidence of openness, transparency and accountability in REDD+ processes, there remain challenges in land administration in the absence of a comprehensive land use policy. In 2010,

²⁹ <https://climatechange.gov.gy/en/index.php/resources/documents/84-gcf-readiness-proposal-agriculture-guyana>

³⁰ <https://www.doe.gov.gy/published-content-details/National-Climate-Change-Committee-hosts-first-Workshop/5b9184779d5c62369db51dbd>

³¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/guyana>

³² [https://www.embassyofguyana.be/index.php/2019/09/25/norway-releases-us\\$om-in-forest-funds-to-guyana/](https://www.embassyofguyana.be/index.php/2019/09/25/norway-releases-us$om-in-forest-funds-to-guyana/)

³³ Idem.

³⁴ Op. cit.

the Cabinet of the Government of Guyana had set up a Special Land Use Committee (SLUC)³⁵ to look into mining issues after an outcry and protests by miners fearing that the LCDS would affect their operation and livelihoods.

In 2018, at the public launch of the Sustainable Land Development and Management Project³⁶, the Commissioner of the GLSC, commented: “In recent years, Guyana experienced an expansion of land-based investment across the country, forestry, agriculture and mining, to name a few, on public lands, but these investments have been plagued with a number of issues including overlapping responsibilities and conflicting[sic] resulting there from”. There are 34 different pieces of legislation that speak to land – a situation that has caused issues such as overlapping responsibilities. It is anticipated that the Sustainable Land Development and Management Project, funded by the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF)³⁷, will generate a land use policy to guide more sustainable management of Guyana’s land-based natural capital.

Further, recommendations on how to ensure a timely information and communication sharing across the various agencies that manage the REDD+ programme have been made³⁸. They include:

- Hiring of a team of local consultants to work from the MNR and that will be in charge of maintaining the communication activities between the end of the current assignment and the endorsement of the Guyana REDD+ Strategy;
- Adapting and integrating the communication and outreach strategy into the new National Guyana REDD+ Strategy;
- Creation of a dedicated national REDD+ communication unit within the MNR or other suitable agencies;
- Creating a national partnership for raising awareness on and engaging into REDD+ communication integrating both local and national actors; and
- Developing a nation-wide capacity building programme in order to leverage the results of the communication and outreach strategy and foster broad engagement into REDD+.

Indicator 2: Operating mandate and budget

How is it shown that national REDD+ institutions operate under clear mutually supportive mandates with adequate, predictable and sustainable budgets?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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³⁵ <https://www.stabroeknews.com/2012/02/26/news/guyana/special-land-use-committee-report-miners-waiting-to-hear-from-government/>

³⁶ http://un.org.gy/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=502:national-land-policy-closer&Itemid=739

³⁷ <http://www.guyanareddfund.org/>

³⁸ GlobalCAD Final Evaluation Report of Stakeholder Engagement, 2019, Ministry of Natural Resources, Guyana.

National REDD+ institutions operate under clear mutually supportive mandates with adequate, predictable and sustainable budgets. Key achievements and progress have been made in the following areas:

- Clearly defined mandates for agencies involved in REDD+ implementation;
- Funding for some REDD+ activities implemented to date, and channelled through the GRIF;
- Institutions involved in development of Guyana's REDD+ readiness activities work in an organised and efficient manner, guided by processes such as LCDS, Guyana-Norway Joint Concept Note (JCN), R-PP, GSDS and outcomes of technical projects and studies.

The mandates for the main parties involved in REDD+ implementation are as follows:

- The OCC plays a leading role in the engagement and dialogue with multilateral agencies on behalf of the government, to establish partnerships and facilitate access to technical and financial support for low carbon initiatives and climate change mitigation and adaptation, in furtherance of national development thrust. The OCC has drafted a National Climate Change Policy and Action Plan (NCCPAP) 2020-2030 in keeping the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement frameworks. It is a cross-sectoral expression of the climate change resilience aspirations of the GSDS, including forest conservation.
- The MNR has responsibility for facilitating strengthened coordination and collaboration amongst the natural resources management agencies involved in REDD+ implementation, including the execution of the REDD+ readiness activities.
- The GFC has responsibility for coordination of key technical aspects of REDD+, including implementation of the MRVS.
- Amerindian groups, including the NTC and Civil Society NGOs, are expected to provide input and feedback into the development of REDD+, and specifically its components such as the MRVS and Community MRV (cMRV) project. They are also expected to be actively involved in the development and execution of the REDD+ consultation and outreach.
- The GMSSC of the GSDS is responsible for providing input and guidance to the DoE for planning and execution of aspects of the GSDS, including LCDS financed projects on institutional strengthening and establishment of a biodiversity centre.
- The MRVS Steering Committee is responsible for overseeing the development of the MRVS, consolidating the MRVS datasets and reviewing progress in key areas of technical work.

Some of the funding for REDD+ activities implemented to date has been channelled through the GRIF (see Table 5). The GRIF provides for financing for projects identified in the LCDS. The World Bank (WB) operates as the Trustee for the GRIF. Specific REDD+ activities which the GRIF has funded have included the MRVS development and strengthening of institutional arrangements.

One of the key institutions involved in REDD+ is the GFC through the RS. The GFC considers the long-term sustainability of the RS on how effectively it is able to perform its required role and to coexist

within national structures. From the outset, the RS was nested within the structure of the GFC, to allow technical, administrative and budgetary support to be provided. Since the establishment of the RS in 2008, the staffing resources have been financed largely by the Government of Guyana central budgeting process through the GFC, and recently through grants from the FCPF and NORAD. With arrangements more formalised, the RS operates on an annual budget within the GFC, based on annual operational work plan. All government agencies are subject to the national planning and financial accounting and audit systems of the Government of Guyana.

The challenge facing REDD+ in Guyana is sustaining the gains made and supporting the institutions in the implementation of sector strategies and plans. Only Norway has contributed to the GRIF for financing of 10 activities identified under the LCDS. However, Guyana has set up a Natural Resources Fund (NRF)³⁹ to manage the natural resource wealth of Guyana for the present and future benefit of the people and for the sustainable development of the country. One of the aims of the NRF is “to finance national development activities, including any initiative aimed at realising an inclusive green economy”.

Another effort is the NCCPAP 2020-2030, which when implemented will serve as the conduit for identifying priority REDD+ activities for funding to the Ministry of Finance through the annual budgeting process. Under its objective 8.1: Increase national domestic budget allocations for climate change programming, the NCCPAP aspires to:

1. Revisit the overall national fiscal policy framework with an eye to bringing public sources of climate change finance into the national planning and budgeting system and aligning private sources with the overall framework;
2. Approve a comprehensive climate change financing framework for planning and costing climate change response actions in the medium and longer term with a whole-of-government approach that mobilizes, manages, and targets domestic finance resources;
3. Leverage the existing budget process to guide the government at all levels to better manage public spending and investments that are climate sensitive, and climate policy intent to action through innovative finance tools; and
4. Work with ministries and agencies to translate their climate change mandates into budgeted programmes that include defining climate change relevant expenditures for budget reviews by the Ministry of Finance.

Indicator 3: Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration

How are national REDD+ institutions and management arrangements ensuring REDD+ activities are coordinated, integrated into and influencing the broader national or sector policy frameworks (e.g., agriculture, environment, natural resources management, infrastructure development and land-use planning)?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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³⁹ <https://finance.gov.gy/publications/natural-resource-fund-act-2019/>

Key achievements and progress have been recorded in the following areas:

- OCC coordinates implementation of climate change work in Guyana;
- GMSSC facilitates multi-sector and cross-sector exchange and collaboration for GSDS;
- MRVS Steering Committee ensures multi-sector and cross- sector collaboration and exchange, inclusive of use of data derived from MRVS reporting;
- Coordination provided by MNR allowed REDD+ efforts to be integrated within mandates of natural resources management agencies;
- LRC has the overarching objective of coordinating national level efforts for the reclamation of mined-out lands.

The FCPF Readiness Grant supported the establishment of the PSC (NRWG), and functioning of the RS by strengthening their organisation and their capacity building, as well as working with the NTC and Amerindian NGOs. The PSC provided oversight of the coordination and collaboration required for implementation of the Readiness activities.

The MRVS Steering Committee of the GFC/RS, which comprised government and non-government bodies, ensured multi-sector and cross- sector collaboration and exchange, inclusive of the use of data derived from the MRVS reporting. See Table 4 for summary of MRVS Steering Committee meetings.⁴⁰ In 2014, the MNR launched the new Geographic Information Management Unit (GIMU) to use GIS and information derived from the MRVS to track changes in deforestation, legal and illegal mining, silting of conservancies, breaches and other illegal activities in relation to Guyana's natural resources.

Table 4. Summary of selected MRVS Steering Committee meetings

Meeting number and date	Key results
25th meeting 10 August, 2017	Phase 2 of the MRVS: Support to Years 6-9 of the MRVS was reviewed and approved by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), allowing for the continued operation and development of the MRVS over the period 2015 to 2020. CI is the Delivery Partner.
23rd meeting 6 December 2016	Members of the MRVS Steering Committee participated in activities under the evaluation of the Institutional Strengthening Project (ISP).
22nd meeting 30 May 2016	Members of the MRVS Steering Committee have decided to acquire a Government licence from the provider of RapidEye imagery, rather than the five (5) agency licences that have been procured annually.
21st meeting 31 March 2016	Year 5 forest area change assessment. Total deforestation 0.065%, compared to 0.056%, 0.054%, 0.079%, and 0.068% for years 1 to 4, respectively. Accuracy assessment by Durham University. Independent third party verification by Det Norske Veritas.
17th meeting 14 May 2014	Planning for a series of stakeholder engagement sessions for Regions 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9 in the following areas: LCDS, REDD+ implementation in Guyana, the components and findings of the MRVS, and Guyana's participation in the FCPF.
15th meeting	Aerial surveys were incorporated as a method to provide a dynamic dataset for

⁴⁰ <https://forestry.gov.gy/mrvs-steering-committee-meetings/>

25 September 2013	accuracy assessment of changes in Guyana's forest area. GFC partnered with GeoVantage, Indufor and the University of Durham. A national assessment of watershed services as a co-benefit of REDD+ has started.
14th meeting 12 August 2013	Guyana acquired wall to wall 5m high resolution RapidEye imagery for the entire country for the year 3 forest area change assessment.
9th meeting 9 August 2011	Through support from KfW and CI, the GFC to conduct an assessment of forest degradation, monitoring requirements for ecosystem services and exploring methods for establishing reference levels.
7th meeting 30 March 2011	Assessment of forest area change for Year 1 completed, including the development of benchmark forest map for 2009 using historical data in archives (Landsat-type data), and guidance for methods from the GOFC-GOLD Sourcebook.
6th meeting 18 November 2010	Guyana MRVS Interim Measures Report 2010, prepared by Pöyry, has been released for public review. Three licenses for IDRISI software were obtained for the GFC and subsequently Installed. Work on the development of the Forest Carbon Assessment and Monitoring System commenced with the training of GFC staff in assessing forest biomass, the impact of logging activities on forest carbon stocks, conducting data collection and QA/QC procedures, and use of the IDRISI software.
2nd meeting 24 February 2010	The roles and responsibilities of the MRVS Technical Subcommittee were discussed, specifically regarding the function of the MRVS Steering Committee and the Technical SubCommittee.
1st meeting Circa 2009	A Technical Subcommittee established comprising technical persons from the GL&SC, GGMC, GFC and EPA to implement work on the technical aspects of the MRVS. MRVS road map developed, as an outcome of a MRV Workshop held in October 2009.

The MRVS Interim Measures Reports⁴¹ produced annually by the GFC, indicated that a number of sectors/drivers (mining, forestry, agriculture, settlements, transport) cause deforestation and forest degradation. The sectors are regulated by sectoral statute laws (e.g. Mining Act and Forest Act) and have their own governance arrangements (e.g. GFC and its Board of Directors; GGMC and its Board of Directors). Notwithstanding the relaunch of the NCCC, it is a challenge to effectively coordinate REDD+ activities. The NCCC lacks legal mandate and the implementation of actions across sectors is highly variable. The OCC has identified five priority sectors for building climate change resilience: agriculture, forestry, energy, water and transport. Under the GCF RP, OCC will contribute to the capacity strengthening of NCCC as a consultative body on climate change processes.

Notwithstanding the above, cross-sector collaboration can best be described as ad-hoc basis, and issues driven, especially when those issues are related to land-use conflicts, and for the most part mining-related. At those times, the ad-hoc Special Land Use Committee (SLUC) comprising the Commissioners of GFC, GGMC and GLSC meet with the ministers responsible for natural resources and the environment to provide technical advice towards the resolution of land use conflicts. Based on an SLUC recommendation in the context of land degradation from extractive activities, the LRC was formed in 2012 to coordinate national level reclamation efforts. The LRC is a multi-agency representative body drawn from the following public agencies: GGMC, GGDMA, GFC, Forest Producers Association (FPA),

⁴¹ Op. cit.

UG, OCC, DoE, EPA, and the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI). In 2016, the GGMC established the Land Reclamation Project (LRP)⁴². The LRP also fulfils a specific requirement under the Guyana-Norway bilateral partnership on REDD+.

The Guyana National Forest Policy Statement 2018 commits to the pursuit of "...appropriate bilateral and multilateral compensation mechanisms for ecosystem services (e.g. REDD+). Emphasis will be placed on mitigating deforestation and forest degradation, protecting vulnerable forest types (e.g., savannah woodland, forested wetlands, etc.), managing the increasing threat of wildfires, and increased earnings from environmental services schemes." While the NFMS is dedicated to servicing all forests in Guyana, the bilateral Guyana-Norway agreement remains the only compensation mechanism for forest ecosystem services. The GSDS, LCDS, JCN, R-PP, and the outcomes of technical projects and studies all serve to provide guidance to multi-sector coordination.

Further development is required within national REDD+ institutions and management arrangements towards ensuring REDD+ activities are coordinated, integrated into and influencing the broader national or sector policy frameworks, especially in agriculture and natural resources management. This is especially needed in the agricultural sector, which lacks a comprehensive policy to guide the activities of the sector. There is hope that this situation may change. Recent statements by the Ministry of Agriculture speak to avoiding the clearing of forests for sustainable food and agriculture in the hinterland.⁴³

Indicator 4: Technical supervision capacity

How effectively and efficiently are national REDD+ institutions and management arrangements leading and supervising multi-sector readiness activities, including the regular supervision of technical preparations?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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Guyana has consistently demonstrated capable leadership in technical areas of REDD+, largely through its implementation of interim measures under the Guyana-Norway agreement (2009-present). Key lead entities were the OCC and GFC.

In 2017, the Government of Guyana commissioned the GMSSC to serve as an integral stakeholder mechanism for the elaboration and monitoring of the GSDS while addressing matters related to the agreement between Norway and Guyana⁴⁴. In practice, however, the GMSSC is an advisory and consultative body and doesn't have the authority to ensure technical supervision of REDD+ readiness activities. That responsibility is more closely aligned with the mandate of the OCC, which has prioritised, strong national systems for data management and sharing as well as a framework for

⁴² <https://dpi.gov.gy/ggmc-to-enforce-land-reclamation/>
⁴³ <http://agriculture.gov.gy/2017/10/01/hinterland-region-the-next-frontier-for-nations-agricultural-development-min-holder/>
⁴⁴ <https://dpi.gov.gy/green-multi-stakeholder-steering-committee-set-to-meet-on-may-3/>

addressing such issues as indigenous peoples' rights, policies, free prior and informed consent and gender. The OCC provides secretariat support for the work of the GMSSC.

The OCC regularly supervises technical preparations for reporting to the UNFCCC and GCF through the NCCC. While there is some overlap in membership on both the MRVS Steering Committee and the NCCC, the role of the MRVS Steering Committee is specific to the oversight of the MRVS. The OCC has access to three expert reviewers for GHG inventory (GHG-I), who are part of the UNFCCC qualified pool. The expert reviewers are placed at Guyana Power and Light (GPL), Guyana Energy Agency (GEA), and GFC. Other sectors - agriculture, transport, and solid waste - have received training. The second round of GHG-I training aims to build capacity on how to read and analyse technical documents on climate change as well as to provide input on a national and international level. The OCC intends to build capacity on two tracks: (i) to build the capacity of NCCC to review technical documents, and (ii) have a cadre of individuals to provide specialised inputs across all of the sectors (Janelle Christian, pers. comm., 2020).

The work of the GFC/RS is a major contributor to the maintenance of high technical capacity in the area of REDD+. It facilitates third party verification of the reporting on the interim measures ensuring that technical rigour is maintained in the estimation of annual deforestation and forest degradation rates, disaggregated by drivers. Third party reporting is a requirement of the Guyana-Norway bilateral agreement.

Since 2009, GFC has been responsible for the implementation of key technical aspects of REDD+ including development and implementation of MRVS. The GFC also facilitates the building of capacities of other sector agencies in the use of the MRVS data; notable examples are the PAC and EPA. This has been an ongoing process, whereby the agencies build capacities through interaction with technical experts. Agencies incrementally develop technical and administrative capacities, with skills in finances, information technology, forest and land use, climate change and adaptation, environmental economics, public education, and communications. Through the MRVS Steering Committee, the GFC supervises multi-sector REDD+ readiness activities that specifically relates to the MRVS and technical aspects of REDD+.

In 2019, the GFC finalised preparation of the Year 8 (1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018) Interim Measures Report⁴⁵. For this period, the methods and results of the assessment were subject to independent third-party verification. The review steps were as follows:

- Step 1: Version 1 of the Report was released for public review for a 6-week period for feedback.
- Step 2: Version 2 of the Report includes all comments made under the public review process and feedback to each comment, including corresponding revisions to the report to address these comments where these apply. This version is subject to independent third-party verification.

⁴⁵ <https://forestry.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Guyana-MRVS-Year-8-Report-Version-1.pdf>

- Step 3: Version 3 (the final version of the Report) includes all elements of Version 2, and additionally, integrates the findings of the verification process, and will be made public via the GFC website.

Indicator 5: Fund management capacity

How are institutions and arrangements demonstrating effective, efficient and transparent fiscal management, including coordination with other development partner-funded activities?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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Guyana has advanced institutional arrangements that demonstrate effective, efficient and transparent fund management, including coordination with other development partner-funded activities. Key achievements and progress has been made in the following areas:

- Funds channelled through GRIF administered by partner entities same as funds managed by their institutions, including application of safeguards.
- Guyana's Ministry of Finance is focal agency for oversight of administration of GRIF funds and oversight of the utilisation of funds for the FCPF REDD+ Readiness activities.
- In conceptualisation of projects, various agencies involved in REDD+ readiness develop the budget and manage allocation.
- Agencies conduct regular technical, financial and procurement reporting, at frequency stipulated by project agreements. External financial audit procedures are executed following completion of the project.

The GRIF is a multi-contributor fund designed to support global efforts to devise a UNFCCC REDD+ mechanism. It is intended to be a model for REDD+ payments, and to learn lessons about the nature of REDD+ finance, to support the development of a UNFCCC REDD+ mechanism and, as part of this effort, to ensure adherence to internationally accepted fiduciary, social and environmental standards. The GRIF presupposes that pending the creation of an international REDD+ mechanism, it represents an effort to create an innovative climate finance mechanism which balances national sovereignty over investment priorities with ensuring that REDD+ funds adhere to the Partner Entities' financial, environmental and social safeguards. Partner Entities to the GRIF include the World Bank, IDB and the United Nations Group. Operationally, the GRIF serves as a pass-through mechanism for REDD+ funds from Norway to the World Bank (fund manager) to Guyana.

Guyana is setting in place the architecture to manage other climate funds such as the GCF. Presently, Guyana accesses funds from the GCF through accredited GCF delivery partners such as the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), CI, and the FAO. The process to accredit the Ministry of Finance to the Adaptation Fund (AF) is well advanced. A GCF funded project "Capacity Building of National Designated Authority and Country Strategic Framework of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana", seeks to strengthen the capacity of the National Designated Authority (NDA) - Minister of

State -, and to prepare a Country Strategic Framework (CSF) to guide Guyana's future engagement with the GCF.

Other funds management capacity building initiatives have emerged including the FCPF support to the MNR. The GFC manages allocations from NORAD through CI and not central government. The NRF⁴⁶ is a depository for excess revenues from the natural resources sector, including mining and forestry. The modalities for this as well as capacity to recognise excess revenues are to be developed. Since the signing of a pact between MoF and the Bank of Guyana to bring closer the operationalisation of the NRF, it has been set up at the New York Federal Reserve Bank, and oil revenues from the first two shipments of offshore oil from the Liza 1 well by Exxon Mobil were deposited to it.

The total amount of financing for REDD+ and other forest-based initiatives available to Guyana was estimated to be US\$120.4 million of which US\$66 million (55%) is financing current projects to be implemented through 2022 (Table 5).

Table 5. Allocation of donor funds to REDD+ projects in Guyana 2010-2022.

Nº	Name of Project	Donor/Implementer(s)	Budget (US\$ millions)	Period
Completed projects				
01	Guyana Green State Development Strategy	GRIF/UNEP, DoE	1.5	2017-2019
02	Guyana MRVS support – MRVS 1	NORAD/CI, GFC	5.0	2015-2019
03	Cunha canal rehabilitation	GRIF/WB/MoA	3.0	2015-2018
04	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility	RF-FCPF/IDB, MNR	3.8	2013-2020
05	Amerindian land titling	GRIF/UNDP, MoIPA	10.7	2013-2018
06	Monitoring forest cover in the Amazon region	AF/ACTO, GFC-plus	11.8	2013-2018
07	Micro and small enterprise development	GRIF/MoB	5.0	2013-2016
08	Amerindian development fund Phases 1&2	GRIF/UNDP, MoIPA	8.1	2012-2017
09	Institutional strengthening Phase 1	GRIF/IDB, OCC, GFC	5.0	2011-2013
10	Community-based monitoring	NORAD/GCP/NRddb	0.57	2011-2013
11	Enhancing the capacity of the wood processing sector	ITTO/GFC	0.35	2010-2012
Ongoing projects				
12	ICT access and e-services for hinterland poor and remote communities	GRIF/UNDP/MoPT	17.0	2017-2022
13	Institutional strengthening Phase 2	GRIF/IDB/DoE	22.0	2017-2022
14	Sustainable land management and development	GRIF/FAO/GLSC	14.8	2017-2021
15	Transforming forest management - MRVS 2	NORAD/CI, GFC	6.3	2017-2021
16	Addressing the drivers of deforestation	NORAD/CI, GGDMA	3.2	2016-2020
17	Protecting forests through protecting rights	NORAD/APA-plus	~1.0	2016-2020
18	Opt-in readiness	NORAD/WWF, NRddb	1.27	2016-2020

There is need to encourage other REDD+ donors to Guyana to channel funds through the GRIF as allowed by the flexibility of its governance framework and catered for in the LCDS. However, there may

⁴⁶ <https://www.stabroeknews.com/2019/12/11/news/guyana/ministry-central-bank-sign-pact-on-oil-revenues-fund/>

be need to ensure more local control of the Steering Committee and linkages to the national budgetary process to avoid duplication and lack of equity. Attracting global REDD+ funds may not be possible, largely because they have not emerged⁴⁷, making it pellucid that the emergence of REDD+ in Guyana as a market-based scheme⁴⁸, should be accelerated. In preparation for such a shift in focus away from the 'fund approach' to the 'market-based approach' institutional capacity strengthening at all levels is needed.

⁴⁷ https://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/articles/AAngelsen1701.pdf

⁴⁸ <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Following-REDD%2B%3A-Elite-agendas%2C-political-and-the-Hook/05c3317b19c50784e4679ba339630d733b86984a>

Indicator 6: Feedback and grievance mechanism

What evidence is there to demonstrate the mechanism is operating at the national, subnational and local levels, is transparent, impartial, has a clearly defined mandate, and adequate expertise and resources?

What evidence is there that potentially impacted communities are aware of, have access to, and the mechanism is responsive to feedback and grievances?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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Guyana has achieved the development of a grievance and redress mechanism (GRM) for REDD+ to facilitate the dissemination of information to the public and to receive and log grievances on land and forestry issues (Figures 5 and 6). In July 2018, the GRM was designed in keeping with international standards. Annex 2 contains the suite of products developed and the consultations that were held to validate those products.

Potentially impacted communities are aware of the development of the GRM for REDD+. A representative from the NSCCFO acknowledged that while the development of the GRM was completed, stakeholders in his area still lacked a full understanding of REDD+. The need for more communication on REDD+ was stated. Another emphasised the need for simple concepts that could be easily translated in native languages, and to ensure REDD+ awareness is 'well-spread' within the communities.⁴⁹ Guyana prepared videos, radio programmes, brochures and posters in four local Indigenous languages (Akawaio, Patamona, Makushi and Wapishan) and in English.⁵⁰ However, the need for key REDD+ documents to be simplified/summarised and converted into local Indigenous languages as well, is being addressed. An independent consultant did recommend the hiring of a technical advisor to help the APA and other indigenous groups understand the technical issues with regards to REDD+. ⁵¹

Indigenous peoples' communities have access to a GRM for Amerindian land titling that was developed for the MoIPA by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and with funding from the GRIF. The GRM for Amerindian land titling was developed in consultation with applicable national laws such as the Amerindian Act and State Lands Act and operationalized in 2017.⁵² The GLSC supervises the implementation of the GRM by the MoIPA. There is no existing plan or effort to harmonise the two subsisting GRMs.

There is the view that effectively implementing the REDD+ GRM Operation Manual and the GRM procedures is unlikely to be successful without the establishment, staffing and resourcing of the

⁴⁹ Seventh PSC Meeting Minutes, p.3.

⁵⁰ Link to the radio broadcasts and videos in indigenous languages: <https://reddplusguyana.org/audiovisual-resources/>

⁵¹ Op. cit.

⁵² <https://www.gy.undp.org/content/guyana/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/09/07/grievance-redress-mechanism-for-amerindian-land-titling-operationalized.html>

proposed GRM secretariat. The National Forest Policy Statement 2018 proposes multiple approaches such as the GRM to increase coordination among natural resources agencies.

Further development is required for the GRM for REDD+ to operate at the national, subnational and local levels. There are provisions for the GRM for REDD+ to be transparent, impartial, have a clearly defined mandate, and adequate expertise. It remains unclear how the operation of the GRM for REDD+ is to be resourced.

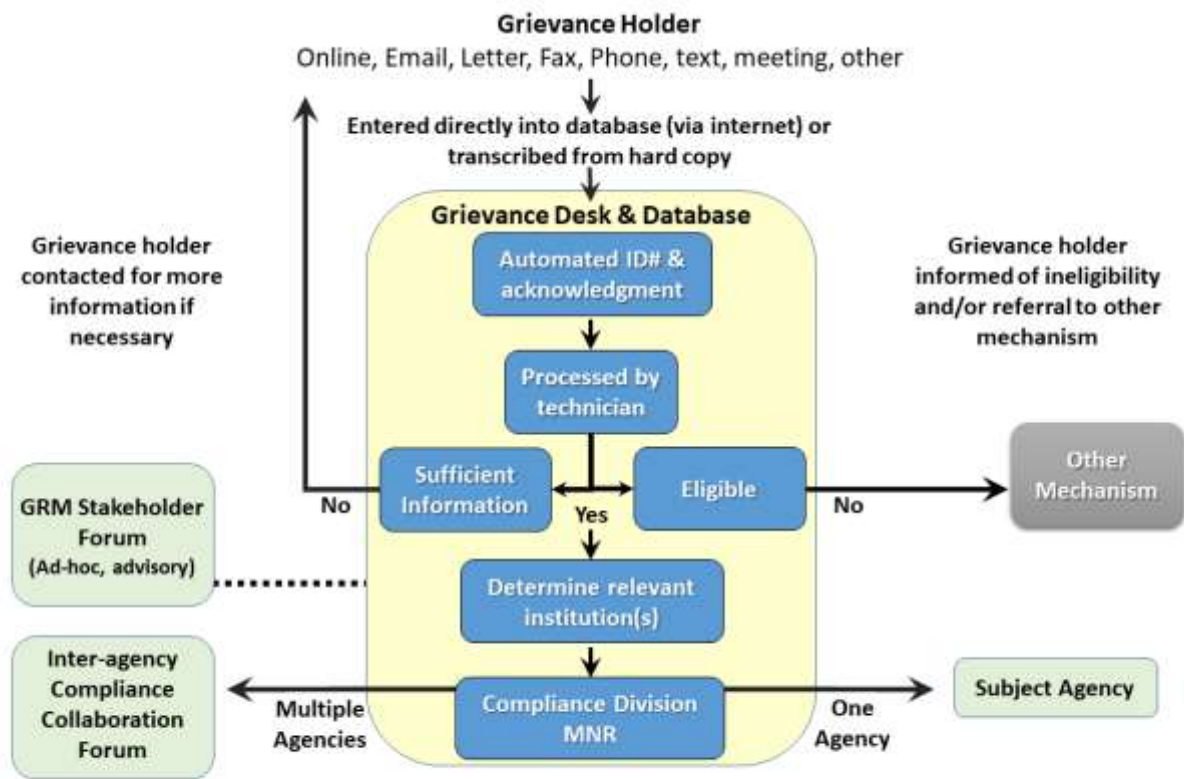


Figure 5: Proposed GRM Procedure Overview: Grievance Uptake to Referral

Going forward, the MNR intends to establish a Grievance and Redress Secretariat to address the increasing number of concerns and complaints that stakeholders are experiencing in the natural resources sector. The MNR recognises this as a safeguard mechanism to protect its stakeholders from unintended consequences. In doing so, the Secretariat will provide clarity and predictability on how complaints will be received, assessed, sorted, resolved, and monitored. The mechanism will allow government agencies, particularly those under the purview of the MNR – the GGMC, the GFC, and the Guyana Gold Board (GGB) to respond to issues of concern from stakeholders which impact their policies, programmes and operations. This mechanism is intended to form a national structured procedure to investigate complaints and to engage and promote dialogue, and mediation between affected parties or communities.

Although the platform will not be restricted to the MNR's agencies and departments, it will also promote an inter-agency collaborative approach with other external ministries and sector agencies which will capture and report data relating to investigations, dialogue, and resolutions. As the platform evolves, it will also provide vital support services related to communication, capacity building stakeholder engagement and, monitoring and evaluation.

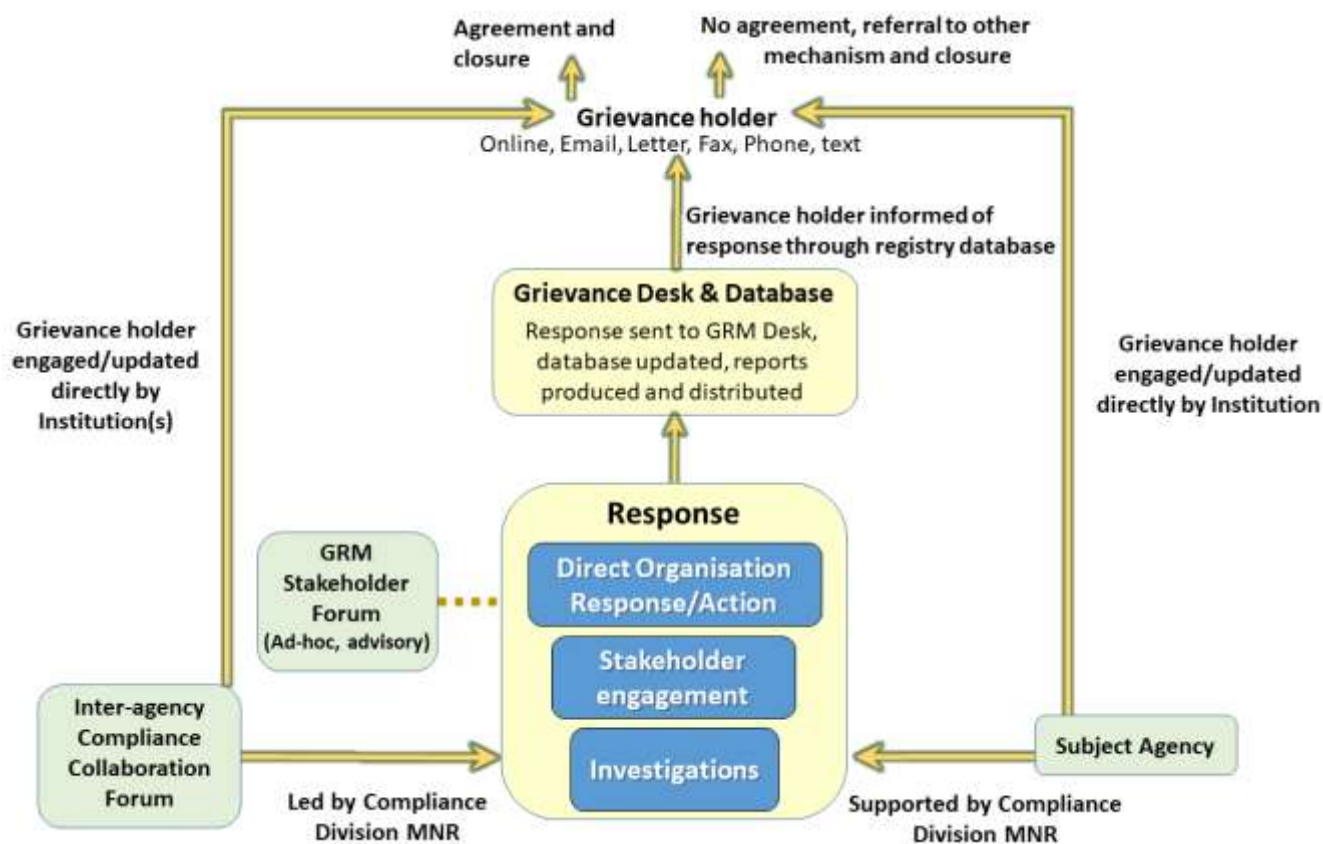


Figure 6: Proposed GRM Procedure Overview: Development of Grievance Response to Close-Out

Sub-component 1b: Consultation, participation and outreach

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

Indicator 7: Participation and engagement of key stakeholders

How is the full, effective and on-going participation of key stakeholders demonstrated through institutional mechanisms (including extra efforts to engage marginalised groups such as forest-dependent women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities)?

What are the participatory mechanisms being used to ensure that Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent communities have the capacity to effectively participate in REDD+ readiness and implementation?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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Guyana considers consultation, participation and outreach on REDD+ to be critically important for the success of REDD+. The demography of Guyana (90 percent of the population lives on the low coastal plain and hilly sand and clay natural regions), poor communication infrastructure in the hinterland and the use of local languages there dictate the need to be patient and to use all available means to engage and to ensure the right messages are communicated, received and followed through into practice.

The recommended participatory mechanisms to apply to engagements with Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent communities in order to ensure the effective participation in REDD+ readiness and implementation in Guyana, are two-fold:

- Engaging representative groups in stakeholder engagement exercises to identify attitudes, strengths and weaknesses to REDD+ and mitigation strategies;
- Targeting representative groups with capacity strengthening interventions.

In order to ensure full, effective and ongoing participation of IPs, the MoIPA serves as the primary recipient of introductory information, and it then notifies communities in writing. Only when acknowledgement of the MoIPAs letter and communication of consent to engage is received, can an interested third party take an intervention to the IP community. This process requires adequate time and may take months. Often, interpreters from the target community are employed to translate from English to the local language, and community meetings are chaired by the Captain (or Toshao) of the community. To ensure follow up and continuity, a community liaison person is identified by the Village Council and may receive a paid stipend from the interested third party. For non-IP communities, the Ministry of Communities is the focal point government entity working through its regional and local governance organs to organise meetings and to disseminate information. Forest-specific information is communicated directly through the GFC representatives in the field.

Guyana has carried out a large number of consultations on REDD+ between 2009 and 2019, as follows (see also Annex 3 for additional information):⁵³

- 2019: 13 workshops and 4 cluster meetings with 373 participants from 76 indigenous and forest-dependent communities of Regions 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9 and over 50 organisations in Georgetown (FCPF project).⁵⁴
- 2015: 10 community cluster meetings at 76 locations across 6 administrative regions. A total of 250 persons.

⁵³ GFC supported consultations up to 2015. <https://forestry.gov.gy/stakeholder-outreach-reports/>

⁵⁴ Sources of information consultations undertaken during implementation of the FCPF project: https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/FCPF_Participants%20Progress%20Report_Guyana_2019.pdf; https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/Guyana%202020%20-%20FCPF%20RF%20REDD%20%20Country%20Participants%20Progress%20Report_Final.pdf

- 2014: 10 workshop clusters held in Regions 1, 2, 5, 7, 8 and 9 for communities and regional stakeholders. A total of 352 persons representing 72 communities, 5 associations, and 5 regional bodies attended.
- 2013: 12 cluster workshop held in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 9 and 10. A total of 90 communities and associations, 10 NGOs and 12 government agencies, totalling 356 individuals attended these workshops.
- 2012: workshops targeted 42 forest communities and associations; 20 stakeholder sessions conducted involving 124 communities/associations and 50 regional stakeholders involving 564 individuals in Regions 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.
- 2009, 15 sub-national consultations held across Guyana, targeted 222 communities and 3,285 persons; 20 engagement sessions in Regions 1,2,3,4,6,7,8 and 10 targeted 1,043 stakeholders.

Key achievements:

- Key stakeholder groups include communities, forest associations, miners, NGOs, government agencies, women, and youth groups.
- Indigenous peoples' representatives are members of main coordinating committees involved in various aspects of GSDS and REDD+. This allows for direct influence on the design and implementation of related activities.
- Direct support is given to communities and villages to build capacity areas of governance such as in decision making, project execution, financial management and reporting, and project management
- The Government of Guyana has conducted ongoing stakeholder outreach activities on the LCDS, GSDS and related REDD+ areas. Along with REDD+ areas, the MNR has sought to build capacities in related areas including, LCDS, GSDS, Guyana's engagement with the EU FLEGT, FCPF, and MRVS for REDD+.

Indigenous peoples' forest dependent communities are well represented in Guyana because of special constitutional and other State protections. Indigenous peoples are represented by a specialised Ministry (MolPA), the NTC, area-based representative groups, such as the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB), and indigenous peoples non-governmental organisations, such as the APA. Some are members of regional (e.g. [COICA](#)) or international (e.g. [Forest Peoples Programme](#)) bodies and are periodically engaging the national authorities and media on matters of importance. By practice, they receive the higher proportion of targeted consultation on REDD+ and other relevant matters. In contrast, non-Indigenous Peoples forest dependent communities receive disproportionately less attention. Recognising that more work needed to be done to make REDD+ more visible and accessible so that members of REDD+ under-served communities could become more aware of their role in forest conservation, the MNR supported stakeholder engagements and training on REDD+ (See details in Annex 4).

Under the FCPF project, women and youth were targeted separately from IPs and non-IPs who depend on forest resources for culture, tradition and livelihood. Government and non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) do carry out stakeholder analyses to ensure the right stakeholders are being targeted. The MoIPA assesses the readiness and capacity of communities to engage for consultations on the Amerindian Act, and Amerindian land titling. This determines the extent to which the principle of free, prior and informed consent is implemented.

An important FCPF-REDD+ women and gender workshop that was held in August 2018 (see Figure 7) produced the following spin-offs⁵⁵:

- Targeted approach with gender considerations in REDD+ engagements: Stakeholders recommended a targeted approach to REDD+ engagements with gender considerations and which specifically addressed the communities' concerns on REDD+ and related issues. This resulted in several community-based workshops with indigenous and forest-dependent stakeholders at Mainstay (June 2019) and Anna Regina (February 2020) in Region 2, and Linden (January 2020) in Region 10.
- REDD+ in schools: One of the women and gender considerations of the FCPF-REDD+ Project to include school-age children in the REDD+ readiness process saw a partnership with the Ministry of Education to host the 2019 JOF Haynes Debating Competition. The final round in November 2019 saw the finalists of McKenzie High School (Region 10) and Anna Regina Multilateral School (Region 2) debating the moot: "Is Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation important to the development of Guyana's economy?"
- Further, in the North Rupununi (Region 9), the FCPF-REDD+ through its women and gender component established a partnership with the Bina Hill Institute that saw REDD+ capacity building sessions with indigenous students of mainly Regions 8 & 9.
- Also, through a partnership with the OCC, the FCPF-REDD+ Project conducted REDD+ awareness sessions in several primary schools.

In its initial engagements on REDD+ with the North Rupununi communities (Region 9), Iwokrama reported that residents were confused about the role of REDD+ because of the large number of other programmes or initiatives with similar objectives, and the communities' inability to make the connections or linkages between the concepts. As a consequence, Iwokrama adopted sensitisation sessions and other related discussions to which the feedback was positive. With this approach, communities became more receptive to information on REDD+ and related concepts. Another positive was the manner in which the information was shared in easy-to-read manuals and facilitated training sessions⁵⁶.

⁵⁵ <https://dpi.gov.gy/women-being-educated-on-redd-to-play-a-greater-role/>

⁵⁶ <https://www.unredd.net/documents/redd-papers-and-publications-90/other-sources-redd-papers-and-publications/understanding-redd-climate-change-840/climate-change-850/2956-climate-change-the-role-of-forests-a->

In addition, consultations at the level of the PSC⁵⁷ revealed the following: (i) that the FCPF process, a continuation of the LCDS (a national initiative), was primarily focused on indigenous peoples; (ii) that there was lack of trust among all stakeholder groups; (iii) that some suggested tying the FCPF process with finding resolution of indigenous land tenure, and exclusive rights to natural resource use; and, (iv) that expectations were that available REDD+ funds would be exclusively for the benefit of Indigenous communities. Additional consultations in 2019 during the development of the communications strategy and action plan revealed the following key challenges:

- Low perception of the benefits from the REDD+ for the communities and particularly for indigenous people and forest dependent communities;
- Low perception of representation of the interests of the forest dependent communities by REDD+;
- Superficial knowledge about the consequences of deforestation and forest degradation;
- Superficial knowledge about the REDD+ (activities, objectives, organisations, potential);
- Low perception of the contribution of REDD+ to improving the land tenure situation for Amerindian people;
- Skeptical or indifferent feelings towards REDD+ among key sectors (forestry and mining).

community-manual-2010-2956.html?path=redd-papers-and-publications-90/other-sources-redd-papers-and-publications/understanding-redd-climate-change-840/climate-change-850

⁵⁷ Minutes of PSC Meetings 2018 and 2019 (various).



Figure 7: Section of the audience at the FCPF-REDD+ women and gender workshop held in 2018 in Georgetown⁵⁸.

The strategy mapped stakeholders and distinguished four target groups (Figure 8). R-PP project interventions targeted representatives of indigenous peoples and community forest organisations. Capacity building impacts were strongest with the NTC and the National Steering Committee of Community Forest Organisations (NSCCFO) since both of these were national umbrella organisations and both were relatively weak at the onset. By the end of the project, they were both considerably stronger.

NTC: Especially strengthened was the NTC Executive Committee with the temporary establishment of its Secretariat and Staff. It has emerged and is emerging as a stronger, more independent and autonomous organisation with greater networking and partnerships established with other national/international organisations and with project partners e.g. FAO, Canada, and UNESCO. Importantly, the NTC has improved its outreach to District Councils, though the resource deficit to meet the high costs of travel in the interior where the NTC constituencies are located continues to be a major challenge. At the Government level, the NTC established an MOU with the MNR in February 2019⁵⁹, a

⁵⁸

https://www.google.com/search?q=redd%2B+fcfp+gender+workshop+guyana+pegasus&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi-nebozD-tAhUyTjABHfDTCqEQ_AUoAXoECAYQAw&biw=1024&bih=417#imgsrc=igtxoikVG-CzL4M

⁵⁹ <https://guyanachronicle.com/2019/02/07/wwf-ntc-sign-mous-with-natural-resources-ministry/>

major milestone that provides a more direct interaction with the Minster regarding NTC's advocacy and concerns/complaints of gold mining infractions and the continuing high level of pollution of waterways, rivers, mountains and lands.

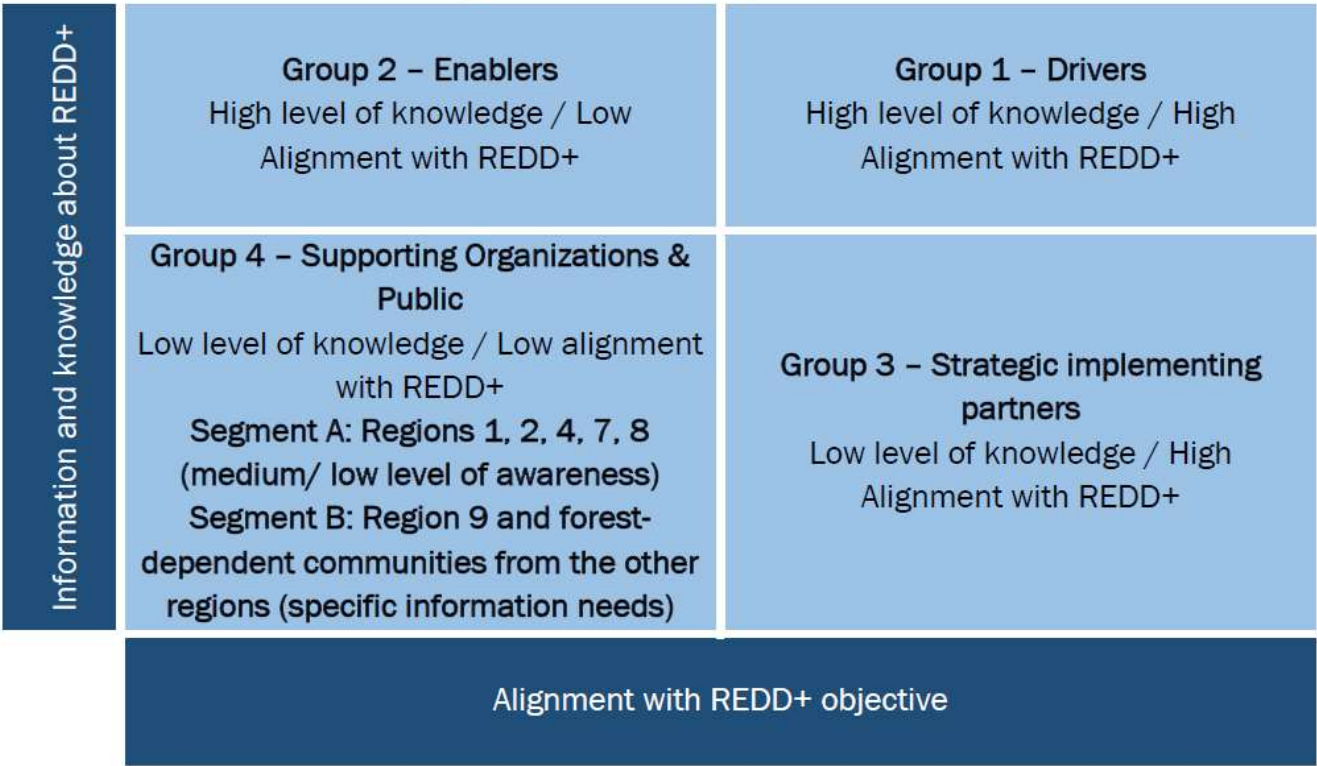


Figure 8: Mapping of stakeholders by level of knowledge and alignment with REDD+

NSCCFO: Considerably strengthened as a result of the FCPF and its knowledge of climate change, REDD+ and improved forest management (IFM) and/or sustainable forest management (SFM) as part of a REDD+ scheme has definitively advanced. As a result of the increased capacity, Siriki Sands in Region 2 was selected as a REDD+ demonstration project site (see Final Evaluation Report). Details about the responses to the stakeholders’ perspectives are captured in the Guyana Country Participants Progress Reports.⁶⁰ They reflect how stakeholder participation was key to the FCPF process in the following ways: (i) the need for a clear communications strategy and the dissemination of information; (ii) ensuring that all forest dependent communities take ownership of the FCPF process for its success; (iii) the importance of human capacity building to ensure the sustaining of community development activities beyond the life of the project; and, (iv) the need to ensure the integration of the FCPF outcomes into Guyana’s green economic policies.

Further, in the development of cMRV, GFC worked closely with the NRDDDB on the piloting testing of methodologies and adoption of standard operating procedures that were developed for national level

⁶⁰ https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/Guyana%202020%20-%20FCPF%20RF%20REDD%20%20Country%20Participants%20Progress%20Report_Final.pdf

for use. In commencement of activities, the NRDDDB integrated the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) into the decision-making of the cMRV project. This drew on and credited the established governance and decision-making structure already established within the NRDDDB. The cMRV project worked within this system with the Project Management Team, PMT, (all local) hired by the NRDDDB and reporting to it. The local monitors were all selected by their respective Village Councils and reported back to the Village Councils and at Village General Meetings as well as at a number of “outreach” meetings organised by the PMT and Village Councils. These meetings facilitated discussions and reviews of community maps, areas and resources to be monitored, information sharing and validation of information.

Indicator 8: Consultation processes

What evidence demonstrates that consultation processes at the national and local levels are clear, inclusive, transparent, and facilitate timely access to information in a culturally appropriate form?

What evidence is there that the country has used a self-selection process to identify rights holders and stakeholders during consultations?

What evidence is there that Indigenous Peoples institutions and decision-making processes are utilised to enhance consultations and engagement?

What evidence is there that consultation processes are gender sensitive and inclusive?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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The Government of Guyana has conducted REDD+ information, sensitisation, and awareness sessions from 2008 to 2012 with 27 community groups, villages and communities across Guyana, targeting forest-dependent groups, women groups, loggers, miners, NGOs, Government agencies, and the public. Feedback from the attendees was gathered and incorporated in the 2012 version of the R-PP. The implications of REDD+ were also discussed through the LCDS consultation processes in 2009, which are publicly available on the LCDS website⁶¹. In 2009, the GFC hosted 20 engagement sessions across Regions 1,2,3,4,6,7,8 and 10 that involved 1,043 stakeholders. APA recommended that consultations be planned with participants inRegions 4, 5, 7 and 8. However, the FCPF team defended its choice of regions because they were the regions with the highest impact for the targeted stakeholders (Indigenous Peoples and Forest-Dependent Communities).⁶² The main topic of discussion during these sessions was that of Guyana’s engagement with the FCPF and the process to be undertaken.

During the FCPF R-PP implementation (2016-2020), 10 consultation workshops were held throughout Guyana to:

- understand the perceptions of the stakeholders about deforestation and degradation of forests,

⁶¹ <https://www.lcds.gov.gy/>

⁶² See Third PSC Meeting Minutes, p.3.

- accommodate and integrate the participants' needs and expectations from the project,
- find their commitment and readiness to participate,
- look for possible solutions and opportunities to communicate within the community,
- provide information, create awareness and give opportunities for discussion, and
- obtain feedback on issues related to REDD+ in Guyana.

Stakeholders highlighted the following concerns: (i) legal use of forest and lack of law enforcement; (ii) irresponsible crop cycle practices using fire to burn and renegade the forest; (iii) deforestation, pollution, contamination and social issues caused by mining activities; (iv) water pollution; (v) domestic waste (i.e. dumping and burning garbage); (vi) lack of opportunities for youth; (vii) lack of access to / information, on finance for alternative community-based business; (viii) lack of skills for alternative income sources; (ix) depletion of hunting stocks; and, (x) legal rights to titled land. An independent consultant recommended that consideration be given to: (a) land rehabilitation and restoration; (b) improvement of the use of forest for agricultural purposes, including the rotation of land use; (c) improvement of mining practices; (d) technical support for the creation of economic alternatives such as: ecotourism, aquaculture, use forest for craft, biomedicine, cosmetics, etc.; (e) foster access to finance to create alternative livelihoods; (f) provide resources to facilitate the diffusion of information on REDD+ awareness (e.g. screening tools); (g) reclaiming land for use of specific activities related to tourism sports, housing, etc.; (h) delays in approving land tenure extension requests that would allow for the promotion of indigenous cultures, Indigenous Peoples' involvement in decision-making, the introduction of renewable energy, and the introduction of cMRV skills training and programme. Most of these initiatives are already ongoing in the country.

The purpose of the R-PP implementation project was to effectively support continuous REDD+ consultation and engagement activities in accordance with the principles of civic engagement and community empowerment. The project seeks to support institutional strengthening of the identified organisations and to build capacities in knowledge, understanding and application of REDD+.

Communication materials on REDD+ (see Figure 9 for an example in English) in English including, several episodes of radio broadcasts and videos with voice over in Akawaio, Wapishana, Makushi and Patamona, aided the consultation processes.⁶³ Other materials were produced and distributed during community consultations and engagements (Table 6).

Table 6. Types and numbers of REDD+ communication materials produced and distributed.

Type of communication material	Communication materials produced and distributed		
	Produced	Prints distributed / broadcasted	Digital distributed
Videos	2	124 (USB)	
Radio slots	3	0	
Brochures	3	638	372

⁶³ Op. cit.

Posters	3	218	
Newspapers ad	1		
Online articles	2		
Text messages	4		
Banner fb	4		
Banner twitter	1		
Banner website	1		
Guide school campaign	600	210	124

Specific assessment indicators for enabling activities relating to safeguards for the Guyana-Norway JCN, includes “...continuous multi-stakeholder consultation process; governance; and the rights of indigenous peoples and other local forest communities as regards REDD-plus.” The safeguard further stipulates that “There shall be a mechanism to enable the effective participation of indigenous peoples and other local forest communities in planning and implementation of REDD-plus strategy and activities.”⁶⁴

The APA, in collaboration with the Forest Peoples Programme, recommended that the GFC and IDB need to ensure that consultation approaches and official information materials on REDD are fair, balanced and transparent, with full information on risks, disadvantages and potential costs of REDD for communities (not just potential benefits and possible advantages).⁶⁵

In response, in 2015, the Government of Guyana, in collaboration with CI, convened a joint expert workshop that produced a paper on “Practical approaches to ensuring full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in REDD+: assessing experiences and lessons”. This approach has since been adopted and demonstrates that consultation processes at the national and local levels are clear, inclusive, transparent, and facilitate timely access to information in a culturally appropriate form.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ Op. cit.

⁶⁵ file:///C:/Users/User/Documents/Consultancies/MNR_R%20Package%20and%20Final%20Eval/Guyana-Indigenous-Rights-and-Climate-Policies.pdf

⁶⁶ <https://www.forestry.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/REDD-Outreach-2015-Final-Report.pdf>

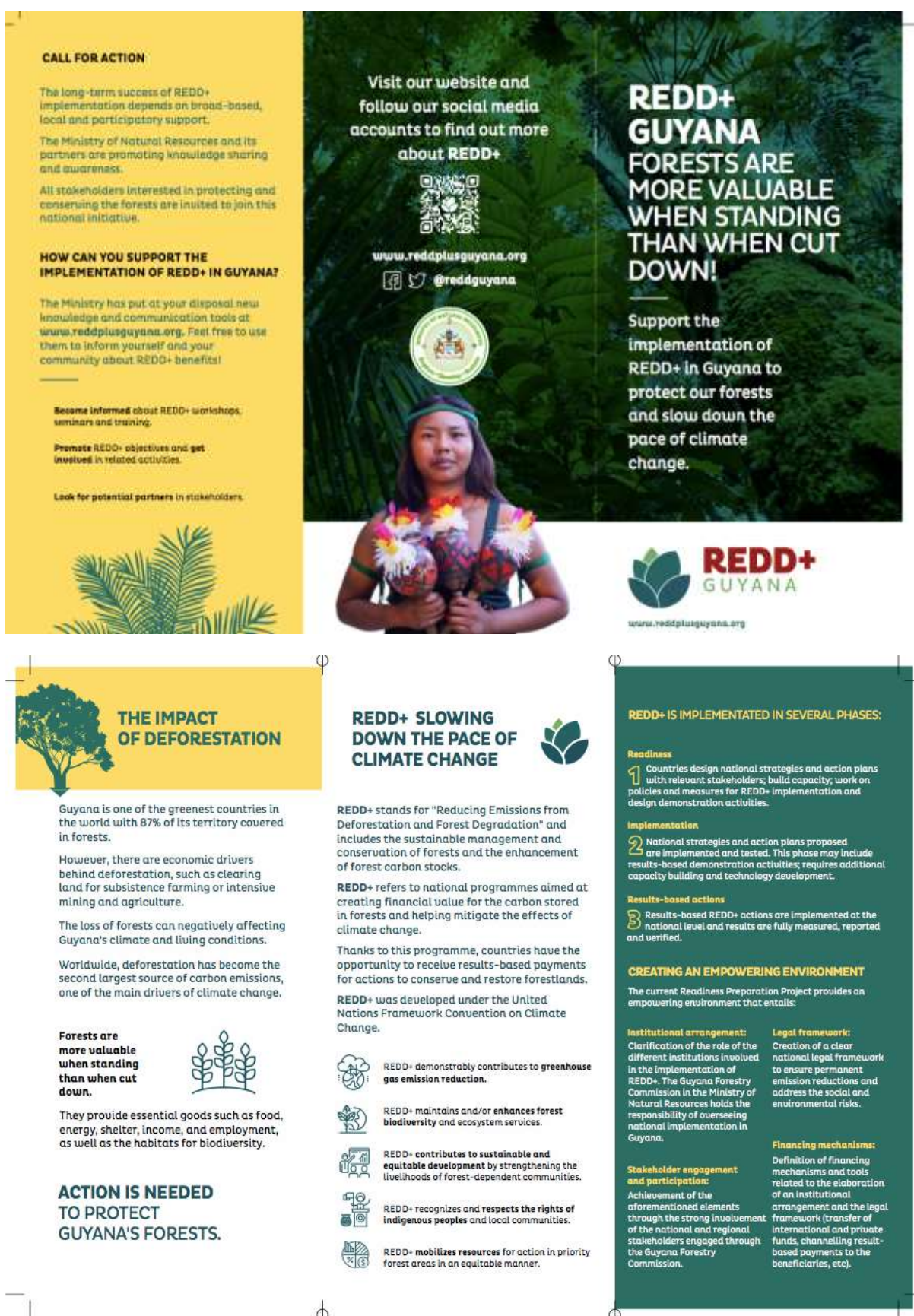


Figure 9. Example of brochure on REDD+ produced under the TCA.

This is clear evidence that Guyana follows a self-selection process to identify rights holders and stakeholders during consultations and that IPs institutions and decision-making processes are utilised to enhance consultations and engagement. Guyana is encouraged to retain a full rights-based REDD+ approach during the REDD+ implementation phase. This REDD+ readiness phase has demonstrated the utility of having a transparent plan and processes for local stakeholder engagement and consultation on REDD+.

Indicator 9: Information sharing and accessibility of information

How have national REDD+ institutions and management arrangements demonstrated transparent, consistent, comprehensive and timely sharing and disclosure of information (related to all readiness activities, including the development of REDD+ strategy, reference levels, and monitoring systems) in a culturally appropriate form?

What evidence is there that information is accessible to stakeholders (e.g., in a format and language understandable to them) and is being received?

What channels of communications are being used to ensure that stakeholders are well informed, especially those that have limited or no access to relevant information?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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Generally, information on REDD+ is accessible to stakeholders and is being received, but not always in a format and language understandable to them. The channels of communications that are being used to ensure that stakeholders are well informed, especially those who have limited or no access to relevant information, are the mass media nationally and regionally, such as radio, newspapers and infomercials. Some remote forest dependent communities do not have reliable internet access and often rely on written materials or radio communication.

During the 2019 consultation workshops, the government discovered that the majority of stakeholders were unaware that Guyana had started the implementation of REDD+ and they were anxious to see tangible benefits from the implementation process. An independent consultant had recommended that the government takes advantage of existing community groups (e.g. church group, women group, youth group), reactivate Community Wildlife Clubs or establish new community groups with the purpose of disseminating information on REDD+ and knowledge on measures to protect the forest. Other recommendations included: (i) Integrating REDD+ on the agenda of village council meetings, organising specific community meetings on REDD+, training of trainers and education for youth (e.g. train Toshaos and integrate REDD+ in school curricula, organise primary school assemblies, work with elders to educate youth, use interactive sessions such as role plays to reinforce learning and introduce key concepts to educate the community; and, (ii) conduct outreach activities such as diffusion of REDD+ radio slots and creation of new slots for diffusion in local radios, organising video screenings to the community, raising awareness on eco-lodges and to tourists in general. Most of these

recommendations are in various stages of implementation. There is evidence that the recommendations were implemented.

Following the national launch of the LCDS on June 8, 2009, a series of 15 “sub-national consultations” were held in all 10 regions of the country. These were also followed by a series of workshops in the three counties: Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice. These sessions sought to cover the more strategic areas of the LCDS and the Guyana-Norway Agreement.

Further, since 2012, the GFC has been engaging stakeholders on the technical aspects of REDD+ implementation inclusive of the MRVS, Sustainable Forest Management in Guyana, the National Forest Policy Statement, the revised National Forest Plan; Codes of Practice, EU FLEGT and FCPF. Annually, sessions were held that targeted a wide range of stakeholders across Guyana, building the capacities of stakeholders in the technical aspects of REDD+ implementation for which the GFC is responsible.

National REDD+ institutions have disseminated information on forest conservation and management, REDD+, and MRV for communities. Since 2013, WWF has supported Guyana in the delivery of training to 78 monitors from 36 communities and has provided relevant information on cMRV. The MoIPA has disseminated through mass media, information on Amerindian land titling including the steps in the process leading to award of land title. Iwokrama has collaborated with CI-Guyana and the NRDDDB to produce a “Community Manual and Training Material on Climate Change and the Role of Forests”⁶⁷. This manual was shared nationally and with communities.

After all of the effort of government and its partners, some indigenous peoples’ communities have indicated that they were not consulted in the design of REDD+ project and strategy and there is need to simplify language on REDD+. The APA has recommended that more time must be allowed for effective consultation processes, which adhere to international standards, including the provision of material in local languages, and in an appropriate and accessible format. Also, consultation has to allow adequate time for due respect for local internal systems of decision-making within and between Amerindian Villages, and caution must be taken not to overburden the NTC with ‘consultation’ duties⁶⁸.

The NTC protocol/guidelines for FPIC mandates that the information being communicated must be clear, in plain English, whether it is spoken or written and “it should be up to us to say when we think we have had enough information and consultation”. “To ensure that we make our decision freely and fully informed, we should at any time during the consultation process be entitled to independent legal or technical advice of our own choosing”. The Project proponents must bear the costs of this independent legal or technical advice. Consultations must be held and FPIC obtained from the village in relation to any proposed activity, decision, project, legislation, policy and research that may affect our rights,

⁶⁷ <https://www.unredd.net/documents/redd-papers-and-publications-90/other-sources-redd-papers-and-publications/understanding-redd-climate-change-840/climate-change-850/2956-climate-change-the-role-of-forests-a-community-manual-2010-2956.html?path=redd-papers-and-publications-90/other-sources-redd-papers-and-publications/understanding-redd-climate-change-840/climate-change-850>

⁶⁸ Op. cit.

interests, lands territories, resources and livelihoods. This includes activities that may not take place directly on our lands, but that could have an indirect impact on the village immediately or in the future. Examples are: roads and forest concessions or mining concessions close to lands or rivers that are used or near the source of the rivers on which we depend. Any potential agreement is only valid if the collective consultation process agreed upon is followed in signing it.

Further development is required to ensure that national REDD+ institutions and management arrangements are able to continually demonstrate transparent, consistent, comprehensive and timely sharing and disclosure of information (related to all readiness activities, including the development of REDD+ strategy, reference levels, and monitoring systems) in a culturally appropriate form.

Indicator 10: Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes

How are the outcomes of consultations integrated (fed into, disseminated, publicly disclosed and taken into account) in management arrangements, strategy development and technical activities related to reference level and monitoring and information systems development?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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In Guyana, the outcomes of public consultations are usually taken into account in the design and development of forest management and REDD+ policy and management arrangements. However, there is inadequate public disclosure of consultation outcomes related to technical activities such as reference level, monitoring and information systems development, and national land use planning.

An IP Caucus emerged in December 2016 out of a two-day consensus-building workshop with the objective of selecting three IP representatives to serve on the Project Steering Committee of the FCPF R-PP project. The NTC reconvened the Caucus for a follow-up Consolidation Workshop⁶⁹ on July 26 - 27, 2019 with an expanded membership of 15 IPs civil society organisations. The Workshop recommitted to the need of an inclusive IP Caucus Guyana and its consolidation and formalisation. It is envisioned that the role of the Caucus will be to formulate and enable a common platform for representation of issues and rights of IPs. The Caucus comprises 15 IPOs⁷⁰: Priority issues for the Caucus are: land rights; governance and leadership; right to FPIC of IPs in the developmental framework of Guyana, and enhancing Indigenous women and youth rights, and representation and participation in national decision-making.

⁶⁹ <https://www.stabroeknews.com/2019/07/30/news/guyana/caucus-of-indigenous-peoples-formed/>
⁷⁰ National Toshias Council (NTC); Amerindian Peoples Association (APA); Guyanese Organization of Indigenous Peoples (GOIP); Moruca Sub Regional District Council (MSRDC); Upper Mazaruni District Council (UMDC); North Pakaraimas District Council (NPDC); Region 10 Regional Council; North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB); Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group (KMCRG); South Communities Peoples Development Association (SCPDA); South Rupununi District Council (SRDC); National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF); Indigenous Cultural Movement of Guyana (ICMOG); The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG); proposed is the Indigenous Peoples Commission (IPC) (ex officio).

The NTC gender policy states that “As Indigenous Peoples we are committed to advancing gender equality through partnerships, livelihood programmes and upholding of national gender-equality laws and international conventions”. The roles and responsibility of Indigenous women must be recognised and safeguarded against discrimination. Full participation in decision making must be appreciated at all times. Indigenous women must be empowered and equally recognised with men for their contributions and achievements. According to the CAD Consultancy Report filed with the FCPF PEU, the critical issue regarding awareness is the knowledge regarding the existence of REDD+, with two thirds of respondents having heard very little of even nothing at all about the programme at the beginning of the consultations. These results were lower among non-Amerindian population and people younger than 25 years. There were not significant differences related to gender regarding REDD+ awareness. There are safeguards for gender sensitive and inclusive consultation process and to include the participation of women in all FPIC consultations and to ensure that their perspectives are taken on board.

MRVS development and improvement allows a public release period of the reports outlining the approach and results of annual MRVS assessments. Public comments and responses are included in revised version of the report and are published.

Component 2: REDD+ strategy preparation

Subcomponent 2a: Assessment of land use, land use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance

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

Indicator 11: Assessment and analysis

Does the summary of the work conducted during R-PP formulation and preparation present an analysis of recent historical land-use trends (including traditional) and assessment of relevant land tenure and titling, natural resource rights, livelihoods (including traditional/customary), forest law, policy and governance issues?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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The summary of the work conducted during R-PP formulation and preparation presents an analysis of recent historical land-use trends (including traditional) and assessment of relevant land tenure and titling, natural resource rights, livelihoods (including traditional/customary), forest law, policy and

governance issues. This work was facilitated by the Guyana-Norway Agreement and independently reported in the Interim Measures Report (GFC 2012)⁷¹, and replicated here, in part.

Establishing forested area: Land classified as forest follows the definition as outlined in the Marrakech Accords. In accordance with the [Marrakech Accords](#), Guyana has elected to classify land as forest if it meets the following criteria:

- Tree cover of minimum 30%
- At a minimum height of 5 m
- Over a minimum area of 1 ha.

In accordance with the JCN, the national forest cover as at 1990 based on this definition is used as a start point. The land use classes are shown in Table 7.

Historical analysis: As at September 2009, Guyana had 87% of its land area covered by forests, approximately 18.5 million ha. Historically, relatively low deforestation rates of between 0.1% to 0.3%, have been reported for Guyana. The historical analysis indicates that the total area converted from forest to non-forest between 1990 and 2009 was 74,917 ha. This was calculated by subtracting the initial 1990 forest area as mapped in the GIS from the 2009 September forest area (~19.75 years). This estimate included all forest to non-forest change i.e. detected mining, road infrastructure, agricultural conversion and fire events that result in deforestation. It does not include forest degradation caused by selective harvesting, fire or shifting agriculture. In the State Forest Area (SFA), the total area converted from forest to non-forest during the corresponding period was estimated at 63 646 ha. Overall, the SFA accounted for 85% of all deforestation for the benchmark period.

The datasets used for the change analysis have evolved over time. Initially, the historical change analysis from 1990 to 2009 was conducted using Landsat imagery. From 2010, a combination of Disaster Monitoring Constellation (DMC) and Landsat was used and from 2011 onwards, these datasets were superseded with high-resolution images from RapidEye. This progression is outlined as follows;

- 1990 to 2000 – Landsat 30 m
- 2001 to 2005 – Landsat 30 m
- 2006 to 2009 September - Landsat 30 m
- 2009 – 2010 October (Year 1) - Landsat 30 m and DMC (22 & 32 m)
- 2010- 2011 December (Year 2) Landsat 30 m and RapidEye 5 m
- 2012 December (Year 3) RapidEye 5 m supplemented as necessary by Landsat 5 & 7
- 2013 December (Year 4) RapidEye 5 m supplemented as necessary by Landsat 8

Several Government agencies that are involved in the management and allocation of land resources in Guyana hold spatial datasets. Since 2010, GFC has coordinated the storage of these datasets. To date, interim datasets have been provided by GFC, GGMC, GL&SC and PAC. With the creation of PAC in 2012

⁷¹ <https://forestry.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Guyana-MRVS-Interim-Measures-Report-Year-2-V3.pdf>

(Protected Areas Act 2011), a new spatial dataset delineating all legally Protected Areas was developed. The spatial dataset is progressively updated, as necessary.

Table 7. Guyana land use classes.

Forest landuse	Land use type	Non-forested landuse	Land use type
Forest land	Mixed forest	Grassland	Savannah <30% cover
	Wallaba/Dakama/Muri Shrub forest		Grassland
	Swamp/Marsh forest	Cropland	Cropland
	Mangrove		Shifting cultivation
	Savannah >30% cover	Wetland	Wetland open water
	Montane and steep forests		Herbaceous wetland
	Plantations	Settlements	Settlements
		Other land	Other land

Source: Guyana Forestry Commission, Interim Measures Report 2010.

A summary of assessment of relevant land tenure and titling, natural resource rights, livelihoods (including traditional/customary), forest law, policy and governance issues is captured in Table 8. This work was independently carried out on behalf of the MNR, and proposes possible solutions to the issues raised.

Table 8. Summary of assessment of critical issues related to land and forest management in Guyana.

Description	Issue identified	Possible solution recommended
Carbon ownership and financial mechanism	Limited understanding of the financial mechanism and who will be the rightful owners of carbon in Guyana.	Carbon ownership: It is important to define the level of authority that each entity would have to conduct transactions, and the level of liability in the case of non-compliance. Financial mechanism: The benefit sharing mechanism proposed (called the “Multi-Stakeholder Sellers’ Entity, or MSE) has a specific mandate to fund national REDD+ program activities that have been proposed in the National REDD+ Strategy.
Land Tenure and titling	Expedite procedures to achieving land tenure clarity and security, especially for Amerindian communities.	Laws and policies governing land tenure in Guyana must explicitly recognise and protect the inherent and preexisting rights of indigenous peoples to their customary lands and resources, particularly those living on untitled customary lands, by bringing them in line with the country’s constitution

Policy and governance issues- Strengthen policy, legal and institutional framework	The inclusion of the carbon ownership in the Amerindian Act.	The Amerindian Act 2006 does not address Carbon Ownership and would need to be revised to include this. There needs to be a full legal recognition of existing customary land tenure systems, Amerindian and local communities. In its current state, the Amerindian Act creates risk for Amerindian villages, with regards to their ability to achieve Emissions Reductions on their titled Amerindian lands.
		Even though Guyana has policies and regulations to promote conservation, sustainable use of forest, and sustainable practices in or around forests, it has been identified that, in some cases, there are some conflicts in legislation namely (Amerindian Act, Mining Act and Forestry Act) and a need to improve enforcement.
Inter-Agency Coordination & REDD+	There is a lack of interagency coordination and cooperation among the government agencies and departments.	Legal instruments through the various agencies can be interpreted to give legal mandate as it relates to REDD+. The EU-funded mangrove protection and restoration project ⁷² offers important lessons for the development of a similar process for REDD+ in the future.
IPs rights and Livelihood	The strengthening of the legal framework revolving around land use could result in limitation of IP's current use of forests and other natural resources for their livelihood and wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The effects on IP's rights and livelihoods would have to include in public policies and through legislation. - The limitation of indigenous people's traditional use of the forests and land would be detrimental to their livelihood.
	Inconsistent and conflicting maps and boundary descriptions. A serious problem faced by many Amerindian villages relates to major inconsistencies and discrepancies between different maps used by government agencies, the title maps and descriptions held by villages, and demarcation exercises	

⁷² <https://www.gcca.eu/programmes/sustainable-coastal-zone-protection-through-mangrove-management-guyana>

	carried out on the ground. The incorrect naming of creeks and mountains in government and title maps often lead to flaws in title descriptions and demarcations. As a result, forestry and mining concessions are allowed to take over community lands.	
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Indicator 12: Prioritisation of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement

How was the analysis used to prioritise key direct and indirect drivers to be addressed by the programmes and policies included in the REDD+ strategy?

Did the analysis consider the major barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement activities (if appropriate) to be addressed by the programmes and policies included in the REDD+ strategy?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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In Guyana it has been determined that the five historic anthropogenic change drivers that lead to deforestation include:

- Forestry (clearance activities such as roads and log landings)
- Mining (ground excavation associated with small, medium and large scale mining)
- Infrastructure such as roads (included are forestry and mining roads)
- Agricultural conversion
- Fire (all considered anthropogenic and depending on intensity and frequency can lead to deforestation).

In Year 4, a new driver 'settlements' has been added to the deforestation drivers matrix, and it allows the description of human settlement driven change such as new housing developments.

The main historic sources of degradation were:

- Selective and illegal harvesting of timber (not reported spatially in the current MRVS)
- Shifting cultivation (prototype method developed in 2012)
- Fire
- Associated with mining sites and road infrastructure

The R-PP includes the analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and reports the total area converted from forest to non-forest between 1990 and 2009 as 74,917 ha. This was calculated

by subtracting the initial 1990 forest area from the 2009 September forest area (~19.8 years). The estimate includes all forest to non-forest change i.e. detected mining, road infrastructure, agricultural conversion and fire events that result in deforestation. It does not include forest degradation caused by selective harvesting, fire or shifting agriculture. However, historical rates of deforestation are low, ranging from 0.02% to 0.079% per year (MRVS Year 7 Version 1).

In 2019, Guyana assessed the historical rate of deforestation for 2001 to 2012, which is in line with the adjusted Guyana's REDD+ historical RL. The rate of and location of deforestation was established using the GFC GIS layer called "All Change," which maps deforestation by driver across Guyana every year⁷³. Results of the analysis show that mining, forestry and agriculture (not including shifting agriculture) make up 97% of Guyana's GHG emission from the land use sector, and infrastructure is largely driven by expansion of these industries. These three primary drivers of deforestation and degradation are largely occurring in legally-designated concession areas. On average 95% of all deforestation is from mining, logging and agriculture.

The indirect drivers were identified as: high international price for gold; insufficient methods and techniques; lack of geological data can lead to unnecessary clearing of forests; lack of monitoring and enforcement; varying conditions for granting forestry concessions; lack of a land policy; and shifting cultivation (not a major driver of deforestation).

Thus, the historical analysis was effective in prioritising key direct and indirect drivers to be addressed by the programmes and policies included in the REDD+ strategy. One of the scenarios for the REDD+ Strategy focuses more intensively on regeneration of forests after mining activity, and other actions that will enhance forest carbon stocks. The National Mineral Sector Policy Framework and Actions 2019-2029⁷⁴ considers a key intervention for compliance by miners should encompass environmental protection and land rehabilitation.

For the five REDD+ Strategy Options identified during stakeholder consultation, a number of actions were identified to create the enabling conditions for their implementation (Table 9). For the top priority "National land use planning and implementation", the actions were as follows:

- Comprehensive (cross-sectoral and multilevel) land use planning in order to efficiently manage and rationally-use natural resources, either by ensuring and/or modifying current national land use plans and its proper adoption by law.
- Strengthen management plans and guidelines for development of infrastructural planning and implementation to ensure low environmental impact practices, mainly in road construction, and to improve efficiency
- Increase administrative and other costs for road-building.

⁷³ The All Change layer is used by Guyana for its MRVS, and therefore in its annual MRVS reporting (GFC 2017).

⁷⁴ <https://dpi.gov.gy/draft-national-mineral-sector-policy-framework-and-plan-2019-2029-available-for-public-review-and-comment/#gsc.tab=0>

- Incorporate new areas to the National Protected Area System.
- Enhance mineral mapping combined with and reducing lands available for mining and forest concessions.
- Implement common property resource systems on suitable lands.
- Encourage communities' involvement in managing protected areas.
- Allow for monitoring within project and activity budgets, to ensure implementation.

Some aspects of land management are common to all of the REDD+ Strategy Options.

Indicator 13: Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities

What evidence demonstrates that systematic links between key drivers, and/or barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement activities (as appropriate), and REDD+ activities were identified?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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The Warsaw Framework for REDD+ adopted at COP 19 in 2013, provides methodological guidance for countries intending to advance toward results-based payments. Furthermore, in order to access to results-based payments countries should provide, *inter-alia*, a technical report detailing that anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities are fully measured, reported and verified in accordance with UNFCCC guidance. Guyana has carried out these measurements since 2009 as part of the Guyana-Norway agreement.

Table 9. The major barriers to forest carbon stock enhancements and response actions for each REDD+ Strategy option.

Strategic Option	Action identified to create enabling conditions
1. Strengthen policy, legal and institutional framework.	Increase communication and cross-agency reporting, including instituting quarterly or annual meetings of key leaders and joint reporting.
	Require cross-agency approval of the largest mining and forestry concessions.
	Require cross-agency approval of road-building within concessions.
	Increase budgets and efforts to ensure compliance with existing regulations in all sectors (mining, forestry, and agriculture), including employing more updated technologies, and collaboration with Amerindian and local communities, including the Guyana Timber Legality Assurance System (GTLAS).
	Update legal framework to create more consistency and coherence among sectors and to give support to and correct incentives for activities aimed at sustainable development.
	Expedite procedures to achieving land tenure clarity and security, especially for Amerindian communities.
2. Direct actions in mining and forestry sectors to slow deforestation and forest degradation	Develop regulations, codes of practice, and guidelines that require use of best management practices and practices that increase efficiency, with effective monitoring and verification.
	Develop subsidy mechanisms for mining operations to implement best management practices or new measures to increase efficiency in mining operation (measured in terms of reductions in deforestation).
	Develop toolkits and educational programs, along with implementation plans, to increase efficiency in mining operations (measured in terms of reductions in deforestation).
	Develop a mechanism for real-time monitoring of forest cover to support law enforcement actions.
	Encourage certification (FSC or other) on all forest concessions.
	Develop subsidies to encourage certification for forest concessions.
	Strengthen existing toolkits and educational programs and develop new ones as necessary to increase efficiency and reduce impact in forestry operations
3. National land use planning and implementation	Comprehensive (cross-sectoral and multilevel) land use planning in order to efficiently manage and rationally-use natural resources, either by ensuring and/or modifying current national land use plans and its proper adoption by law.
	Strengthen management plans and guidelines for development of infrastructural planning and implementation to ensure low environmental impact practices, mainly in road construction, and to improve efficiency
	Increase administrative and other costs for road-building.
	Incorporate new areas to the National Protected Area System.
	Enhance mineral mapping combined with and reducing lands available for mining and forest concessions.
	Implement common property resource systems on suitable lands.
	Encourage communities' involvement in managing protected areas.
	Allow for monitoring within project and activity budgets, to ensure implementation.

4. Actions to preserve and improve forests' capacity to store carbon	Development of instruments or mechanisms to finance and encourage replanting and regenerating forests after mining activities (including mine tailings).
	Regulations/subsidies to improve efficiency in the forestry sector by reducing waste and forest degradation (e.g., reduced impact logging).
	Promote agroforestry via regulations or subsidies
	Implement more holistic and integrated approach on managing forest fires, including communities.
	Promote community-based forest management and monitoring.
	Develop PES system to pay for avoided deforestation or other environmental services.
	Develop a national system to offset carbon emissions through a cap on energy generation emissions or a carbon tax
	Direct promotion of mangrove systems to protect the coast as well as associated carbon stocks
5. Encourage sustainable economic alternatives to mining	Develop income-generating activities in low-lands and coastal zones (non-forested areas) to reduce migration and reduce reliance on extractive industries.
	Increase production of value-added products in the agricultural and forestry sectors
	Increase use of wood products in building materials.
	Increase productivity of agriculture in coastal areas
	Build capacity in population to engage in non-extractive industries
	Promotion of productivity and value-added in coastland agriculture
	Development of suitable infrastructure (telecommunications, renewable power, etc.) to promote development in non-extractive sectors
	Use of finance from oil income to promote economic development in non-extractive sectors
	Retraining opportunities for those engaged in extractive industries
	Financial incentives for those engaged in extractive industries to invest in non-extractive industries

The development of a framework for a national MRVS, demonstrates that systematic links exist between key drivers and/or barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement activities and REDD+ activities. The MRVS tracks forest change, both deforestation and degradation, by change driver. Deforestation is tracked through the interpretation of a national coverage of satellite imagery. Degradation estimates will be drawn from the results of the accuracy assessment, which involves the interpretation of representative samples using high resolution imagery. This approach provides a robust measure of both deforestation and degradation, and was deemed necessary due to the pursuing of a low or no cost REDD+ implementation option – arguably, a policy position of the government to streamline REDD+ implementation to reduce costs to the national treasury. The implementation of the Guyana-Norway Agreement is one such option.

Harvesting of timber and illegal logging have been determined to be drivers of forest degradation in Guyana. The majority of degradation in Guyana is the result of selective logging, both legal and illegal.

Image evidence and fieldwork have shown that each of these drivers produce a significantly different type of forest degradation. Forest harvest operations are temporally persistent.

Selective logging is also the driver that has the most well-established methods for quantifying emissions. The majority of illegal logging in Guyana is the result of legal concessions extracting more than the allowable cut specified by the GFC. As a result, no additional infrastructure, such as skid trails, are developed for illegal logging, and the methods of harvesting are the same as those for legal logging. In addition, the volume of logs harvested illegally is reported as a percentage of annual production of timber in Guyana.

Forest management and illegal logging are monitored through the Gain-Loss Method. This approach should be seen as highly conservative as it assumes there is zero regrowth which is very unlikely. Similarly, spatial change as a result of forestry (primarily forest infrastructure) are reported separately as deforestation activities.

Assessment of drivers revealed that mining, forestry and agriculture (not including shifting agriculture) make up 97% of Guyana's GHG emission from the land use sector, and infrastructure that is largely driven by expansion of these industries. These three primary drivers of deforestation and degradation are largely occurring in legally-designated concession areas. There was an enquiry as to what extent is oil and gas development in different areas of the country addressed in the REDD+ Strategy? The data that was used for the scenario modelling and spatial analysis did not cover oil and gas. It was instead based on MRVS data, which included the drivers presented in the Strategy.⁷⁵

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

Forestry is the second largest contributor to the enhancement of forest carbon stock which is a result of degradation and deforestation. Timber harvest and extraction typically causes forest degradation and is mainly conducted within designated concessions, with an established annual allowable cut and a mandate for sustainable forest management.

Agriculture is the third largest contributor to the enhancement of carbon stock with an emission rate of 6.5%. Agricultural leases in Guyana have been largely stable over the last few decades but have been expanding mainly in Regions 1 and 2, and the interior locations. Shifting agriculture is a main contributor to deforestation caused by agriculture. It is practiced mainly among Indigenous people, mainly at the subsistence level and to support the local markets. However, its overall contribution to total

⁷⁵ Ninth PSC Meeting Minutes, p.6.

deforestation is quite small. Assessments by the GFC have shown that shifting cultivation contributes to a small percentage of Guyana’s overall land use change, contributing to less than 1% of total deforestation. Nonetheless, Guyana considers it important to have complete accounting of GHG emissions from land use and land use change.

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

Do action plans to make progress in the short-, medium- and long-term towards addressing relevant, land-use, land tenure and titling, natural resource rights, livelihoods, and governance issues in priority regions related to specific REDD+ programmes, outline further steps and identify required resources?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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Over the last decade, a wide range of development policies and planning instruments that are relevant to REDD+ have been drafted towards addressing relevant, land-use, land tenure and titling, natural resource rights, livelihoods, and governance issues in priority regions related to specific REDD+ programmes, outline further steps and identify required resources, with a broad range of potential REDD+ activities emerging from the plans, recommendations and activities. Although there is a great diversity across these plans some key themes emerge:

- Improving coordination across natural resource management agencies;
- Improving efficiency within extractive industries;
- Improving planning and zoning, inclusive of improved information on the resources;
- Increasing value-added within the forestry sector;
- Developing mechanisms to distribute and allocate the benefits associated with REDD+ or forest management more generally.

In terms of land tenure, and Amerindian land tenure in particular, MoIPA in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and GLSC, and with GRIF funding, implemented the Amerindian Land Titling (ALT) and Amerindian Development Fund (ADF) (Phases I&II) projects. The purpose of the land titling project was to accelerate the titling of Amerindian lands in order that titled Amerindian Villages might participate in the GRIF-funded scheme for forest protection. A total of 68 villages were expected to benefit from the project, when completed, and at a cost of US\$11 million. The purpose of the ADF project was to finance implementation of community development plans that are compatible with REDD+, in 212 communities. The total budgetary allocation was US\$8 million.

The GRIF-funded Sustainable Land Development and Management project includes measures for land reclamation and development, and implementation of a land classification system to optimise land use. The project will support the development of a harmonised national land policy and legislative framework and strengthened capacity of the GLSC, and partner Ministries and agencies through:

- the design and development of an integrated and robust spatial data infrastructure and open-data geospatial information system to support improved land administration,
- enhanced governance of tenure, as well as

- improved technical support services and mechanisms to encourage adoption of sustainable and climate-smart land use systems and management practices. It is anticipated that the information and services will strengthen the application and enforcement of regulations, land use planning, incentive measures, knowledge sharing as well as assessment and monitoring in line with the SDGs.

An important prerequisite for the success of the Sustainable Land Development and Management project is effective collaboration across concerned sectors and institutions, and effective and transparent information and communications for multi-sector and multi-stakeholder decision making processes for sustainable land development and management. During the REDD+ Legal Capacity Building Workshops in 2019, a GLSC representative asked when there are reclamation activities, whether the communities or other beneficiaries will be compensated additionally? It is envisaged that carbon benefits would be based on measurements of both reductions in deforestation/emissions as well as increase in carbon stocks due to reforestation and afforestation activities.

Although these project based activities have addressed relevant, land-use, land tenure and titling, natural resource rights, livelihoods, and governance issues in priority regions of the country, they have not adequately addressed natural resource rights and participatory governance. Resource exploitation for rent receipts outperforms financial gains from REDD+ type activities in the country.

Indicator 15: Implications for forest law and policy

Does the assessment identify implications for forest or other relevant law and policy in the long-term?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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A summary of key laws and regulations that govern forests in Guyana,⁷⁶ are as follows:

- National Forest Policy Statement 2018
- National Forest Plan 2018
- Forest Regulations 2018
- Code of Practice for Forest Operations 2018
- Forest Act 2009
- Guyana Forestry Commission Act 2007

The assessment and other similar measures such as training workshops at national and sub-national levels are having an important impact on REDD+. Both the National Forest Policy Statement and National Forest Plan were updated in 2018, and Guyana signed an important agreement with the European Union (EU). In 2018, Guyana entered into the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)⁷⁷ following negotiations started in 2012. That

⁷⁶ <https://forestry.gov.gy/>

⁷⁷ <http://www.euflegt.efi.int/guyana>

was in fulfillment of the Guyana-Norway agreement. Under the VPA, Guyana will develop a timber legality assurance system so it can issue FLEGT licences to verified legal timber products. Once Guyana begins FLEGT licensing, the products covered by the VPA will only be exported to the EU accompanied by FLEGT licences attesting to their legality⁷⁸.

Revisions of the National Forest Policy in 2011 and 2018 have added areas of forest monitoring and management. Similarly, revisions to the National Forest Plan have clarified objectives and activities, for national planning, forest resource management, forest industry, research and information, education, and training and social development. Implications for forest or other relevant laws and policy in the long-term are captured in Figure 10.

Table 10. A summary of implications for forest and other relevant laws and policy in the long-term in Guyana.

Law or policy	Possible Implication for relevant laws in long term	Legal foundation
Guyana Lands & Surveys Commission Act	A review of this law would have to consider GL&SC providing technical support including proposal development, monitoring etc. for the allocation of Payments for Environmental Services (PES) to untitled communities in non-forested areas.	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission Act of 1999. Provides for the establishment and functions of the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission. The functions of the Commission include to "have charge of and act as guardian over all public lands, rivers, and creeks of Guyana.
Guyana National Land Use Plan	Guyana lacks a land policy or an operational national, regional and local land use plan. The Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) is currently leading an effort to develop a National Land Policy and revise the National Land Use Plan with the aim of incorporating an integrated approach. In revision of the policy, it needs to include the 'development of a national inter-sectoral land use planning system' which is a legal requirement under the memorandum of understanding for REDD+ between the governments of Guyana and Norway.	Guyana National Land Use Plan (2013): The NLUP provide a strategic framework to guide land development in Guyana.

⁷⁸ Idem.

Guyana Forestry Commission Act	As it pertains to REDD+, GFC would be providing technical support including proposal development, monitoring etc., for the allocation of Payments for Environmental Services (PES) to untitled communities in forested areas and large-forestry concessionaires.	Guyana Forestry Commission Act of 2009. Repeals and replaces the Guyana Forestry Commission Act of 1979, reestablishes the Guyana Forest Commission and provides for incidental matters. The Act establishes the functions of the Commission including to develop, advise the Minister on, and carry out forestry policy
Amerindian Act	Amerindian Act would have to be revised to include Carbon rights and ownership. The current version of the Amerindian Act creates risk for Amerindian villages, with regards to their ability to achieve Emissions Reductions on their titled Amerindian lands. That is, Section 50 (1) provides that if a Village Council refuses to consent to large-scale mining: "a miner may carry out mining activities if (a) The Minister with responsibility for mining and the Minister declare that the mining activities are in the public interest" The result of this could be significant losses in carbon revenue for Amerindian communities where mineral interests of the state take precedent.	Amerindian Act 2006- Amerindian Lands, as provided for in the areas that are titled to Amerindian villages. Section 51 of the Amerindian Act makes provision for the payment of fees, tribute and royalties for the benefit of Amerindian Villages so affected by large-scale mining.

In addition to the regulatory measures, the University of Guyana (Faculties of Natural Sciences and Agriculture and Forestry) has carried out research in forest biology and carbon sequestration and storage in vegetated post-mining landscapes, respectively, and this is contributing to a better understanding of what forest policy interventions are needed to achieve the objectives of REDD+. The Iwokrama International Centre has collaborated with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) to implement the REDD Global Comparative Study in Guyana. A publication on "The context of REDD+ in Guyana: Drivers, agents and institutions" has been published online⁷⁹. Among the 13 GCS-REDD+ case studies, Guyana is one of the most advanced REDD+ countries, and the Guyana-Norway bilateral agreement is the world's second largest national-level REDD+ scheme.

⁷⁹ <https://www.cifor.org/knowledge/publication/7627/>

Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy options

The REDD+ strategy forms the basis for the development of a set of policies and programmes to reduce emissions from deforestation and/or forest degradation and enhancing carbon uptake from other REDD+ activities.

Indicator 16: Selection and prioritisation of REDD+ strategy options

Were REDD+ strategy options (prioritised based on comprehensive assessment of direct and indirect drivers of deforestation, barriers to forest enhancement activities and/or informed by other factors, as appropriate) selected via a transparent and participatory process?

Were the expected emissions reduction potentials of interventions estimated, where possible, and how did they inform the design of the REDD+ strategy?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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Direct drivers: In preparation for the development of the REDD+ Strategy, Guyana reviewed the direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. They are, in order of importance: (i) Mining – responsible for 55% of total emissions; (ii) forestry – 36%; and (iii) agriculture –6%. Fire, infrastructure, settlements and shifting agriculture account for the remaining 3% of total emissions (Table 11). Results show that mining, forestry and permanent agriculture make up 97% of Guyana’s GHG emissions from the land use sector. These three primary drivers of deforestation and degradation are largely occurring in legally-designated concession areas, indicating that Guyana, unlike many other developing countries, does maintain regulation over these institutions, and deforestation from illegal activity appears to be minimal. It is also important to consider that Guyana has large areas with very low population density, and relatively low pressure over the ecosystems. Therefore, mining, forestry and agriculture could be influenced by well-designed government REDD+ strategies. For these reasons the Guyana REDD+ Strategy focuses on these three drivers.

Table 11. List of all direct drivers of deforestation and degradation (D&D) and other causes of forest loss in Guyana, with annual area of change and the percent that each driver contributes to the total change (Netzer et al 2018)⁸⁰

Cause of forest change	Average annual deforestation 2001-2016	Percent of total deforestation	Average annual emission 2001-2016	Percent of total emissions
	Area in ha		Emissions in t.CO ₂ .yr ⁻¹	
Mining (deforestation)	5,793	78.8	5,680,423	55.2
Forestry/logging (degradation)	NR ^z	NR ^z	3,673,362	35.7
Forestry roads (deforestation)	283	3.8		
Agriculture (deforestation)	520	7.1	668,115	6.5
Infrastructure (deforestation)	330	4.5	168,921	1.6

⁸⁰ Netzer, M., Pearson, T., Goslee, K. Cort, K. and Bernard, C. 2018. Analysis of Direct Drivers of Deforestation for Guyana. Development of a REDD+ Strategy and SESA for Guyana. Winrock International, Conservation International, and Climate Law and Policy.

Fire (deforestation)	341	4.6	92,815	0.9
Settlements	57	0.8	6,298	0.1
Pioneer shifting agriculture (deforestation)	32	0.4	ND ^Y	ND ^Y

^Z Not Reported; ^Y No data.

Indirect drivers: These were assessed to include: (i) inadequate national/subnational land use/zoning plans; (ii) incoherent sectoral policies, laws and regulations and the national development strategy; (iii) land use policies and plans are inconsistent with sectoral goals and priorities; and (iv) inadequate mechanisms within government to address cross-sectoral policy, planning or practice issues.

Through the process outlined in Figure 10, Guyana selected five REDD+ Strategy Options. These options and their specifications are included in Table 12.

Table 12. REDD+ Strategy Options, their policy specifications and measures for Guyana.

REDD+ Strategy Options	Policy Specifications and Measures
Reform and strengthen policy, legal and institutional framework.	Increase communication and cross-agency reporting, including instituting quarterly or annual meetings of key leaders and joint reporting. This includes meetings and communication with higher level policy makers.
	Require cross-agency approval of mining and forestry concessions
	Require cross-agency approval of roadbuilding within concessions.
	Increase budgets and efforts to ensure compliance with existing regulations in all sectors (mining, forestry, and agriculture)
Direct actions in mining and forestry sectors to slow deforestation and forest degradation.	Develop toolkits and educational programs to increase efficiency in mining operations, where efficiency improvements are measured in terms of reductions in deforestation per unit of gold output.
	Provide subsidies to mining operators to implement best management practices or new measures to increase efficiency in mining operations
	Develop regulations that require use of best management practices and practices that increase efficiency, with effective monitoring and verification
	Develop Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) system to pay for avoided deforestation.
	Encourage certification for sustainable forest management (Forest Stewardship Council, or any other available).
National Land Use Planning and Implementation.	Strengthen management plans and guidelines for development of infrastructural planning and implementation to ensure low environmental impact practices, mainly in road construction, and to improve efficiency.
	Increase administrative and other costs for road-building.
	Incorporate new areas to the National Protected Area System.
	Enhance mineral mapping combined with and reducing lands available for mining and forest concessions, by limiting permits.

Improve forests' capacity to store carbon.	Regulations/subsidies/carbon markets/direct government action for replanting and regenerating forests after road building, forestry harvests and mining activities.
	Regulations/subsidies/direct government action to promote increased forest recovery in the mining sector, including recovery from mine tailings.
	Regulations/subsidies to improve efficiency in the forestry sector by reducing waste and forest degradation (e.g., reduced impact logging).
	Promote agroforestry via regulations or subsidies.
	Implement more holistic and integrated approach on managing forest fires.
	Direct promotion of mangrove systems ¹² to protect the coast as well as associated carbon stocks
Encourage sustainable economic alternatives to mining.	Increase productivity of agriculture in coastal areas
	Increase production of value-added products in the agricultural and forestry sectors, including subsidies for investments in new technologies or improved production processes.
	Develop income generating activities in low-lands and coastal zones (non-forested areas) to reduce migration and reduce reliance on extractive industries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity in population to engage in non-extractive industries • Promotion of productivity and value-added in coastland agriculture • Development of suitable infrastructure (telecommunications, renewable power, etc.) to promote development in non-extractive sectors • Use of finance from oil income to promote economic development in non-extractive sectors • Retraining opportunities for those engaged in extractive industries • Financial incentives for those engaged in extractive industries to invest in non-extractive industries

Of five proposed strategic options (SOs) in which Guyana's National REDD+ Strategy can focus, ***National land use planning and implementation*** was evaluated as the best (Figure 10 shows the development process). To explore the effect of implementing the five SOs presented in the REDD+ Strategy, five Scenarios were modeled based on a set of possible actions (both weak and strong) to achieve targeted rates of deforestation and degradation. The modeling was based on economic analyses to project the impact of the policies and measures, and spatial analysis to project the geographic location of the impact. Additionally, a Business as Usual (BAU) case was modeled to project the extent of deforestation and degradation in the absence of implementation of any REDD+ Strategy. Annex 3 of the REDD+ Strategy provides a description of the modeling of each of the scenarios and the resulting projections. The five scenarios are then compared to the BAU to assess the impact that each scenario would have on deforestation projected from 2016 to 2026, 2036 and 2046 (30 years).

While Guyana has developed a national land use plan⁸¹ it is important to revisit the scale of implementation nationally in order to increase carbon storage, and to revisit efforts to plan

⁸¹ <https://glsc.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Summary-Booklet-of-the-National-Land-Use-Plan.pdf>

development of infrastructure related to mining and forestry, including road building to ensure several objectives: a) coherent land use across the country, b) effective monitoring and compliance, c) promoting mining, agricultural and forestry operations with reduced impact to forest ecosystems. This will impact the following *policies and measures*:

- Comprehensive (cross-sectoral and multilevel) land use planning in order to efficiently manage and rationally-use natural resources, either by ensuring and/or modifying current national land use plans and its proper adoption by law
- Strengthen management plans and guidelines for development of infrastructural planning and implementation to ensure low environmental impact practices, mainly in road construction, and to improve efficiency.
- Increase administrative and other costs for road-building
- Incorporate new areas to the National Protected Area System.
- Enhance mineral mapping combined with and reducing lands available for mining and forest concessions, by limiting permits.

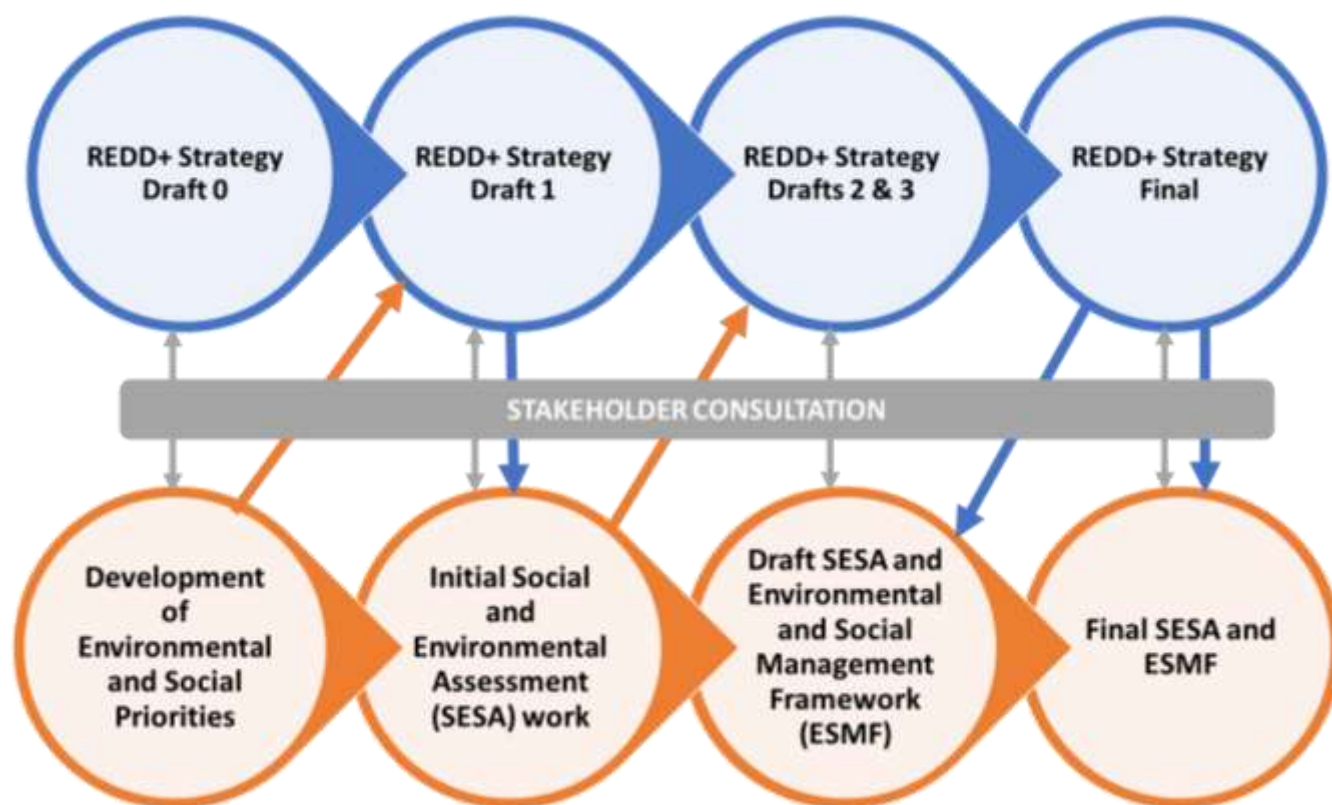


Figure 10: Schematic showing the development of the REDD+ Strategy Options and SESA/ESMF

Guyana is developing in-country technical capacity to quantify the emission reductions (ER) potential for all REDD+ activities. The multi-criteria analysis applied during the assessment of REDD+ Strategy Options included ER potential, but this process was facilitated by an international consultant. It is anticipated that the measures identified above will lead to emission reductions when implemented by trained Guyanese scientists.

Indicator 17: Feasibility assessment

Were REDD+ strategy options assessed and prioritised for their social, environmental and political feasibility, risks and opportunities, and analysis of costs and benefits?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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Guyana's proposed REDD+ strategy options were assessed and prioritised for their social, environmental and political feasibility, risks and opportunities, and analysis of costs and benefits. In fact, Winrock International and others (2019) utilised a multi-criteria analysis in place of the cost-benefit analysis⁸² to overcome the difficulty to incorporate uncertainties (for example those involved with climate change) and to account for factors that are not usually given a market value, such as social and cultural values and impacts on environmental services beyond greenhouse gas emissions.

The assessed risks for the REDD+ Strategy Options are captured below in Table 13.

Table 13. Assessed risks with REDD+ Strategy Options for Guyana.

Strategy Options	Identified Risks
Strengthen policy, legal and institutional framework.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Limitation of indigenous traditional conceptions of land demarcation. 2.Limitation of indigenous people's traditional use of the forests and land in detriment of their livelihood. 3.Limitation of indigenous people's involvement in decision making if the strengthening of institutions is translated into their exclusion in the decision making processes.
Direct actions in mining and forestry sectors to slow deforestation and forest degradation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Potential reduction of household income due to a decrease in mining and logging activities. 2.Reduction of infrastructure associated to mining and logging. 3.Reduction national income due to decrease in GDP and diminish in tax collection.
National land use planning and implementation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Indigenous peoples may be excluded from the land use planning process at the national level, which could result in the rezoning of land with cultural and spiritual value and the exclusion of indigenous people from the decision making process regarding they land they currently occupy. 2.Land use planning and implementation may not properly respond to land demand at the community level due to demographic pressure.

⁸² During 2013-2014, a cost-benefit analysis of REDD+ strategy options was carried out by Winrock International and GFC in consultation with technical experts from Guyana.

	<p>3.Land use planning and implementation at the national level may result in land planning and delimitation contradictions if the maps used at the national level are not aligned with those at the local level, or when they do not correspond with the traditional use of the land.</p> <p>4.Rezoning could result in the loss of biodiversity and forest coverage if land is re allocated to be used for mining and forestry purposes. Nonetheless, if mining and forestry are restricted via land use planning, this could result</p>
Actions to improve and maintain forests' capacity to store carbon.	<p>1.Loss of the current livelihoods linked to the mining and logging industries. Uncertainty revolving around whether alternative livelihoods will be able to cover the needs of the communities. Potential of alternative livelihoods to fail if mechanisms are not put in place to build capacity and to breach the inequality gap in terms of access to infrastructure and other resources to tap into new industries.</p> <p>2.Regeneration activities and the implementation of agroforestry activities can have negative consequences in the environment if not conducted properly. The insertion of new species could result in soil erosion and could threaten native ecosystems.</p> <p>3.An increase in the forest surface could also fuel future forest fires that will have a direct impact on the wildlife and biodiversity and that will affect infrastructures and waterways and will cause pollution.</p> <p>4.Loss of current livelihoods may translate into population migration, and loss of culture and identity as loggers move.</p> <p>5.The country's revenue based on taxes from mining and logging will decline.</p>
Encourage sustainable economic alternatives to mining	<p>1.Alternative livelihoods can result in further environmental damage and can be as or more damaging to the environment. Pollution and land erosion could be the main factors.</p> <p>2.New proposed livelihoods may not be enough to cover the job demand at the community level.</p> <p>3.Loss of current livelihoods may translate into population migration and increasing crime rates.</p>

The change in revenue due to the scenarios that would be collected by GGMC and GFC is presented in Table 14. These changes reflect the effect of reductions in mining and timber harvesting activity on commissions and royalties. They are not necessarily reflective of changes in annual budgets associated with the two Commissions because carbon revenues, if they are sufficient to cover the average costs, would more than make up for these losses.

The economic benefits of each scenario, from a REDD+ perspective, are a factor of the gains in carbon that result from scenario implementation and the price of carbon. The gain in carbon is measured as the stock of carbon in forests under the scenario minus the stock of carbon in forests in the baseline. Because changes in carbon fluctuate over time, the gain in carbon over a 30-year period is used to estimate the average annual gain in carbon.

The costs of each scenario are comprised of two components, the implementation costs and the opportunity costs to those engaged in the sector, i.e., the mining companies and the timber companies. Average costs are determined as the sum of the implementation and opportunity costs, divided by the gain in carbon. If the price of carbon is above the average total cost, then the benefits outweigh the costs. These cost estimates include gross revenue changes and net returns in mining and forestry using data from the Bank of Guyana and the World Bank. Net returns represent opportunity costs associated with changes in economic activity when the scenarios are implemented.

The change in revenue due to the scenarios that would be collected by the GGMC and the GFC is what is presented in Table 14. These changes reflect the effect of reductions in mining and timber harvesting activity on commissions and royalties. They are not necessarily reflective of changes in annual budgets associated with the two Commissions because carbon revenues, if they are sufficient to cover the average costs, would more than make up for these losses.

The projected extent of deforestation is quite sensitive to assumptions about economic growth and in particular to assumptions about shifts in global gold prices. The upper limit business as usual (BAU) case, as discussed above, increases deforestation significantly. This can have potentially important impacts on the area deforested throughout the country, with the exception of the eastern border area with Suriname (East Berbice) and several of the districts along the coast. The impact on deforestation is most obvious in the central and northwestern parts of the country.

Table 14. Change in annual revenue from mining or forestry harvests in the Guyana Geology and Mining Commission and The Guyana Forestry Commission.

REDD+ Strategy Options (SO) and Scenarios (S)	GGMC	GFC	Total
	US\$ millions / year		
SO1: Reform and strengthen policy, legal and institutional framework – S1 strong	-4.75	-0.32	-5.06
SO2: Direct actions in mining and forestry sectors to slow deforestation and forest degradation - S2 strong	-4.75	-0.38	-5.12
SO3: National Land Use Planning and Implementation – S3 strong	-14.24	-0.63	-14.87
SO4: Improve forests' capacity to store carbon – S4 strong	-4.75	-1.26	-6.01
SO5: Encourage sustainable economic alternatives to mining - S5 strong	-4.75	-0.32	-5.06

Under the BAU upper limit case, deforestation rates rise to nearly 0.20% by 2046. The scenario analysis assumes the same proportional impacts of the five scenarios on deforestation rates; given this assumption, over the projection period from 2016-2046 none of the scenarios maintain deforestation rates below 0.10%. These results suggest that under a high mining growth scenario, deforestation rates could be substantial in Guyana.

Indicator 18: Implications of strategy options

Have major inconsistencies between the priority REDD+ strategy options and policies or programmes in other sectors related to the forest sector (e.g., transport, agriculture) been identified?

Is an agreed timeline and process in place to resolve inconsistencies and integrate REDD+ strategy options with relevant development policies?

Are they supportive of broader development objectives and have broad community support?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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The potential impact of the proposed REDD+ strategy options on deforestation rates has been identified. However, additional work is required to agree timeline and process to resolve inconsistencies and integrate REDD+ strategy options with relevant development policies. Generally, the options are supportive of broader development objectives but are yet to have broad community support.

The modeling of REDD+ Strategy Options included a weak and a strong implementation approach for each of them. However, in all of the scenarios, the weak implementation approaches have only modest impacts on deforestation rates. The strong implementation scenarios, however, have more widespread and substantial impacts. The strong implementation of Strategy Option 3 “National Land Use Planning and Implementation” has the largest effect on deforestation rates of all the scenarios, which remains under 0.08% for the entire projection period up to 2046. This option involves national land use planning and implementation of the planning to reduce deforestation. The strong implementation of Strategy Option 1 “Reform and strengthen policy, legal and institutional framework” and Strategy Option 4 “Improve forests’ capacity to store carbon” could maintain deforestation rates below 0.10% over the entire projection period. The latter option focused on a variety of instruments and policies to reduce deforestation, from PES to cap and trade. Strategy Option 5 “Encourage sustainable economic alternatives to mining”, which focused on encouraging economic alternatives to mining, does not end up having strong enough effects to keep rates below the 0.10% threshold for the entire projection period to 2046.

Looking at timber harvests, the largest impact on cubic meters of timber harvested is from Strategy Option 4, which focused on actions to improve the capacity of forests to store carbon. Strategy Option 3 has the next largest impact. In terms of total GHG emissions, from both deforestation and degradation

from timber harvest, Strategy Option O3 had the most substantial impact, while Strategy Option 4 had the next highest. Spatially, the largest area of deforestation under the baseline occurred in the northwestern region and the middle of the country. This result is not surprising, given current deforestation due to mining and other activities. The strong implementation of Strategy Option 3 has important implications for the spatial distribution of deforestation, reducing it to fairly modest levels in all but the northwestern most region of Guyana. All of the scenarios reduce deforestation in the southern part of the country to low levels.

The OCC with direction from the Office of the Vice President is currently undertaking an inventory of all climate change related projects (including closed, in progress and pipeline projects) within the past five (5) years) in the thematic areas of forestry, mining, land management and biodiversity. This activity is to support the creation of a project inventory that will be used to align with the policy and strategic directions of the next phase of LCDS design and implementation. This review will provide opportunity to integrate the REDD+ Strategy Options.

Subcomponent 2c: Implementation framework

The implementation framework defines institutional, economic, legal and governance arrangements necessary to implement REDD+ strategy options.

Indicator 19: Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations

Have legislation and/or regulations related to REDD+ programmes and activities been adopted?

What evidence is there that these relevant REDD+ laws and policies are being implemented?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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REDD+, as a multi-sectoral effort to contribute to Guyana’s sustainable development, requires coordination and specific institutional arrangements to ensure drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and barriers for more sustainable land uses are fully and effectively addressed, taking into account the interdependencies among them. To fully address the strategic and operational challenges that effective REDD+ implementation poses for the country, there is the need to strengthen the existent institutional arrangements to enable REDD+ implementation. Doing so will ensure meaningful and effective coordination and collaboration among Government institutions as well as with civil society, the private sector, and Amerindian villages and communities.

The R-PP established the need for “high level of political commitment and involvement of multiple sectors and Government institutions”. The Guyana-Norway MOU also requires the continuous building of institutional capacity, including arrangements for implementation. Some of the capacity building efforts were crystalised in the creation of the MNR, which currently oversees the GFC, GGMC, and the

Gold Board. Additional relevant government institutions lie outside of MNR, including GLSC, OCC, DoE, EPA and MoIPA.

The National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS)⁸³, and associated National Forest Plan (NFP)⁸⁴, reflect Guyana's movement away from valuing forests simply for their wood, and instead treat them as a cornerstone of the country's national patrimony; providing a host of products and services necessary to achieving the good life. Of course, an NFPS that goes beyond the timber industry can only be effectively implemented by multiple actors, across different sectors and institutional scales. Considering the arrangements proposed in the R-PP and the findings from the readiness process, including those relevant to Guyana's GRM for REDD+, and the preliminary results from the R-PP process, the following institutional arrangements are proposed, some of which are already in place.

- **REDD+ Executive Board (New):** Strategic coordination among Ministries (including but not limited to MoTP, MNR, MoF, MoA, MoIPA) and respective Technical Offices, with an executive decision-making role and led by the OCC. Includes inter-agency and cross-sectoral coordination role to receive and process multi-sector grievances, determine issues which require joint/inter-agency actions, and provide advice on grievance response.
- **Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC) (Already in place).** Overall supervision of REDD+ implementation, including all elements and systems under the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and Guyana's National REDD+ Strategy, conformed by representatives from Ministries, civil society, Amerindian villages and communities, and private sector. In order to ensure REDD+ SOs are implemented in a robust and environmentally and socially sound manner, and in accordance to applicable safeguards. The following roles for the MSSC have been identified:
 - Provide strategic guidance and oversee implementation and strategic guidance to REDD+ policies and measures.
 - Provide strategic guidance and oversee activities related to forest monitoring and MRV.
 - Provide strategic guidance and oversee activities related to applicable safeguards implementation and monitoring;
 - Oversight on reports generated by the GRM Desk. On a quarterly basis, address urgent cases, review reports generated by the GRM Desk, evaluate GRM performance, and advise on implementation challenges arising in this new GRM system.
 - Reviews and validates national reports on REDD+ compliance (MRV, safeguards, implementation, financing), prepared by REDD+ coordination office/secretariat.
- **REDD+ Coordination Office/Secretariat (Partly New).** In charge of operational implementation of all elements and systems under the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ including Guyana's National REDD+ Strategy, dependent to the MNR, and reporting directly to REDD+ Executive Board. The role of Coordination Office/ Secretariat:

⁸³ <https://forestry.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Guyana-National-Forest-Policy-Statement-2018.pdf>

⁸⁴ <https://forestry.gov.gy/notional-forest-plan/>

- Overseeing implementation of Executive Board and MSSC Decisions, and serves as the Secretariat for both institutional arrangements;
- Coordination and execution of REDD+ activities, including the day to day requirements for implementation; preparing results reports;
- Overseeing and coordination of the GRM Desk, under the MNR's Compliance Division, including overall coordination and oversight of dedicated grievance officers appointed to relevant sectoral agencies.
- Coordination and strategic support to the MSE, and MRV and Safeguards Steering Committees.

Currently, within the GFC, the RS has been established to oversee the implementation of REDD+ activities in the country. The RS is responsible for the coordination of all national technical REDD+ activities, and for overseeing the implementation of all technical REDD+ activities under the LCDS framework. In addition, the OCC is undergoing restructuring under the guidance of the Office of Vice-President of the Government of Guyana. Once this has been finalised, the organisational modality for the management of REDD+ will be determined, including elements of the proposed actions outlined above.

- ***Grievance Redress Desk (New)***. Dedicated staff in charge of managing the grievance redress process (GRM Desk), dependent of the Compliance Division of the MNR. The GRM Desk will assign grievances to agencies for investigation, liaise between complainants and agencies, provide feedback on progress, verify the outcomes with the complainant after corrective action is complete, report on the performance of grievance redress mechanisms, and promote understanding of the mechanism at the local level.
- ***Multi-stakeholder seller's entity (MSE) (New)***. Comprised of representatives from all types of forest owners, including in particular District Councils. Overseen by the MoF and in coordination with the REDD+ Executive Board, the MSE will have the authority to transact carbon on behalf of forest owners. MRVS Committee. Oversee activities related to forest monitoring and MRV. The MRVS Steering Committee is overseen by the GFC, through the RS, and report to the MSSC. Comprised of technical representatives from across Ministries. The Committee is responsible mainly to:
 - Oversee the implementation of all forest monitoring and MRVS activities;
 - Provide technical assistance to the REDD+ Office/Secretariat when required;
 - Ensuring that monitoring and MRV scope aligns with the agreed requirements for REDD+ actions under the REDD+ Strategy;
 - Provide advice and technical input for the MSSC on progress in the development of the MRVS.
- ***Safeguards Committee (New)***. Oversees issues related to safeguards implementation and reporting. Dependent of the GFC, through the REDD+ Coordination Office/Secretariat, and reports to the MSSC. Comprised by technical representatives from Ministries:

- Guiding and developing technical recommendations to guide implementation of REDD+ activities in accordance with applicable safeguards;
- Provide technical advice and inputs to the dedicated staff under the REDD+ Coordination Office/Secretariat, including regarding the collection of information concerning REDD+ safeguards compliance.

Indicator 20: Guidelines for implementation

What evidence is there that the implementation framework defines carbon rights, benefit sharing mechanisms, REDD+ financing modalities, procedures for official approvals (e.g., for pilots or REDD+ projects), and grievance mechanisms?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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Guyana has taken steps to define how the Cancun REDD+ safeguards will be implemented, and to ensure compliance with the safeguards throughout the implementation of REDD+ activities. As a basis for reporting on how Cancun Safeguards have been addressed and respected in the context of REDD+ implementation, the country has initiated the clarification of Cancun REDD+ safeguards within the Guyanese context.

Similarly, and in consideration of relevant safeguards requirements stated under diverse entities providing financial resources to support REDD+ readiness, implementation and results-based actions, Guyana has conducted a Social and Environmental Strategic Assessment (SESA) and designed an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) in conformance with the Common Approach under the FCPF. The SESA has allowed Guyana to identify and prioritise potential risks associated to the REDD+ Strategy Scenarios (see above). Accordingly, the ESMF lays out applicable safeguards policies and procedures that Guyana will have to put in place in order to assess, manage and mitigate potential environmental and social risks associated to the yet-to-be-determined site-specific REDD+ policies and measures and/or actions that may occur in the future. The ESMF thus largely provides a framework to address environmental and social issues when implementing activities in the REDD+ Strategy.

Related to carbon rights, the proposed REDD+ Strategy highlights the issue of land rights as one of “critical concern” and the importance of resolving “existing land issues relating to extension, titling and demarcation”. The Strategy envisages an enabling intervention which requires achieving land tenure clarity and security where REDD+ interventions are to take place. The strengthening of policy, legal and institutional frameworks are enabling conditions for REDD+.

The determination of carbon rights according to each land tenure category requires addressing two different issues: ownership and benefits. With respect to carbon ownership, it is also important to define the level of authority that each entity would have to conduct transactions, and the level of liability in

the case of non-compliance. Guyana has developed a proposal for the allocation of carbon rights, which includes development of the MSE, an outline of the carbon rights, responsibility and liability by ownership, as follows:

For State lands, each of the following agencies would have full carbon ownership, responsibility for non-compliance, and representation in the MSE:

- GLSC has jurisdictional authority over all state lands except municipalities, protected areas (PAs), and the state forest estate. Their authority includes agricultural lands and the ability to allocate carbon benefits to untitled indigenous communities in non-forested areas.
- Municipal Councils have jurisdictional authority over municipalities and would have representation on the MSE through the National Body of Municipal Councils.
- The PAC has jurisdictional authority over PAs.
- The GFC has jurisdictional authority over the state forest estate and the ability to allocate carbon benefits to large concessionaires and untitled indigenous communities in forested areas.

Titled Amerindian villages and private landowners would also have full carbon ownership and representation on the MSE. For the compliance market, they would transfer ERs to the MSE to sell on their behalf; however, for the private sector (voluntary marketplace), they could sell ERs directly, provided there is a supporting entity involved in the transaction. In the case of non-compliance, titled villages and private landowners would submit grievances to the GRM including in cases where there are overlapping mining concessions potentially responsible for carbon losses in REDD+ areas.

In the South Rupununi District (Region 9), for both titled and untitled communities, the South Rupununi District Council (SRDC) will act as an umbrella organisation for the 21 village allocating benefits to both through a PES programme. This is a unique case because the SRDC is the only legally gazetted district council in the county. In this sense, the SRDC will play the role that GFC and GLSC will be playing in other parts of the country with regards to untitled communities. As other District Councils become legally gazetted they could follow a similar community-led PES programme model.

Large forestry concessions and untitled communities would not have full carbon ownership but would be entitled to carbon benefits provided they are engaged in projects to produce ERs and/or increase carbon stocks in their areas. Payments to untitled communities would be provided through a PES Programme of the Government - either the GFC for forested areas or GLSC for non-forested areas. Any liabilities for non-compliance would be subject to review under the GRM.

Land tenure is a starting point for determining carbon rights; they are inter-related. The planned opt-in mechanism is the legal/administrative path to carbon rights for titled Amerindian villages. There remain a number of issues related to Amerindian land rights. Specifically, there remain conflicts between extractive industries and indigenous communities, some due to discrepancies in maps used by different government agencies. These errors have resulted in disputes with loggers and miners as to the precise location of land title boundaries between villages and between Amerindian titled villages and

State/government lands. There have also been disputes related to the ability of newly titled Amerindian villages to remove miners from their territory. In 2013, the High Court upheld a claim by miners to remain on land, where the village had tried to remove them⁸⁵. The work of Amerindian land titling is still ongoing, and it was reported that “some technical and political issues within some communities have stalled the progress of the project.”⁸⁶

There are a number of existing laws and regulations, and recent policy instruments and programmes related to REDD+, which provide a foundation (although do not go far enough) for determining the carbon rights and ownership in Guyana. They include the National Forest Policy Statement 2018 (requires the GFC to consider carbon credits as part of a payment / incentive system for stakeholders to reduce deforestation), and the Amerindian Act 2006 (creates a clear framework for Amerindian rights to resources on their land). During the REDD+ Legal Capacity Building Workshops in 2019⁸⁷, an IP participant asked whether a village like Masakenari (Kanashen District)⁸⁸ could sell credits directly to a foreign country? In Guyana, titled Amerindian villages will have a certain allocation of carbon credits and like all jurisdictional entities, they would transfer these credits to the proposed MSE to sell into the compliance market on their behalf. However, for the voluntary market (like all Amerindian communities) the Benefit Sharing Plan provides the option that individual communities can do transactions directly with private companies. The PAC enquired whether urban areas can be part of the REDD+ programme because the PAC is responsible for urban parks, which have tree cover including the Botanical Gardens, the National Park and Joe Vieira Park. There are no areas of the country that have been excluded from the National REDD+ Programme. However, for carbon benefit, the sufficiency of the size of the forested area would have to be determined.

Given the importance of the REDD+ Strategy as a guiding document for implementation of the National REDD+ Programme, it will be critical that the recommendations, including suggested changes to Guyana’s legal framework to allow for clear carbon rights and ownership, be reflected in the REDD+ Strategy. Also, the REDD+ Strategy can motivate land tenure clarification, which will have implications for clarification over carbon rights and ownership.

Indicator 21: Benefit sharing mechanism

What evidence is there to demonstrate benefit sharing mechanisms are transparent?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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⁸⁵ <https://www.stabroeknews.com/2013/03/23/news/guyana/un-committee-writes-guyana-over-mining-on-amerindian-land/>
⁸⁶ <https://dpi.gov.gy/pres-granger-to-address-amerindian-land-titling-issues/#gsc.tab=0>
⁸⁷ https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/FCPF_Participants%20Progress%20Report_Guyana_2019.pdf
⁸⁸ The first titled Amerindian community declared a protected area under the Guyana Protected Areas Act in 2017. <https://www.stabroeknews.com/2017/07/13/news/guyana/konashen-to-be-declared-a-national-protected-area/>

The proposed BSP has been developed in a consultative, transparent and participatory manner appropriate to the country context, including through a series of stakeholder consultation workshops leading to broad community support. The consultative process has been informed by and built upon the national readiness process, including the SESA and the ESMF.

The proposed financial mechanism for administering the proposed Guyana REDD+ Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) is the MSE. This proposed new entity will (1) sell ERs to international buyers on behalf of all carbon owners in Guyana; and (2) disburse payments (net operating costs and the performance buffer) to carbon owners and beneficiaries to support implementation of Guyana's National REDD+ Programme. The MSE will have a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from each of the public and private entities that are carbon owners responsible for implementation of the National REDD+ Programme. The MSE will act as the recipient and administrator of funds received for REDD+ implementation in Guyana. It will serve the role as the central operator of the BSP, and through its Steering Committee, review and approve funding allocations to all carbon owners and beneficiaries. The transaction structure (flow of funds) demonstrates that funds from the sale of ERs will come into the country via the MoF, which will have final approval over all carbon transactions with international buyers. The MoF will register funds and transfer them to the new MSE to distribute to beneficiaries.

The BSP was developed in alignment with the FCPF and [BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes](#). The type of benefits that will be shared with the beneficiaries, will be both monetary (cash) and non-monetary (e.g. investments in programmes that reduce deforestation) benefits, and are considered net benefits; determined once operational costs and a performance buffer have been deducted from gross payments received from the sale of ERs. Operational costs will be determined during implementation of the BSP. The performance buffer is a mechanism through 5% of the gross ER payments is automatically set aside in a buffer account to cover potential underperformance of the ER programme in a given reporting period.

The Opt-In Mechanism (OIM)⁸⁹ for participation of titled Amerindian villages in any forest carbon payment schemes was first developed during implementation of the LCDS, and it is yet to be finalised. The stated objective of the OIM is to ensure that those who have been good custodians of the forests and who continue to manage them effectively, can also benefit from any economic transaction affecting national patrimony. The latest version of the OIM presents a framework for its operationalisation under a performance-based scenario and a reducing balance scenario, and in keeping with the GSDS framework.

⁸⁹ <https://dpi.gov.gy/national-opt-in-mechanism-being-finalised/#gsc.tab=0>

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

Indicator 22: National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities

Is a national geo-referenced REDD+ information system or registry operational, comprehensive of all relevant information (e.g., information on the location, ownership, carbon accounting and financial flows for sub-national and national REDD+ programs and projects), and does it ensure public access to REDD+ information?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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Other than for the MRVS, there is no national geo-referenced REDD+ information system or registry and system monitoring REDD+ information activities. Engagements under the UNFCCC and any payments for results based payments in the future will require a National Registry. Currently, Guyana is restructuring the OCC, which will determine the way forward as it relates to a National REDD Registry. The recently developed [Carbon Assets Tracking System \(CATS\)](#) offers an opportunity to Guyana to model its issuance and transactions of ER units in the development of the national REDD+ registry.

There is information on the location, ownership, carbon accounting and financial flows for the Guyana-Norway national REDD+ programme. In 2017, Guyana developed a Timber Legality Assurance System⁹⁰ that will be the basis of engaging with relevant partners as the country advances the efforts in exploring the possibility of being part of international system(s) of legality and verification.

The Guyana - EU VPA was initialed on the 23rd November, 2018 in Brussels. The Initialing signaled the commencement of the Pre- Implementation period of the VPA process. The first activity under the Pre- Implementation phase was the development of the Joint Implementation Framework (JIF) which was completed in August of 2019. The JIF was developed in a consultative manner and contained all the activities which need to be completed in prior to the VPA being fully operational. The JIF is a “live” document and is therefore subject to amendments.

The National Implementation Working Group (NIWG) - the Steering Committee tasked with overseeing the implementation of the VPA - was also set up in 2019. Funding was received from the Department for International Development (DfID) for a number of JIF activities to be completed. In 2020 the MNR with the support of the Office of the Attorney General began the process of reviewing the initialed VPA for the purpose of highlighting and or removing any potentially actionable language (legal scrubbing). The presentation of the VPA between the European Union and Guyana before the National Assembly

⁹⁰ <https://forestry.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Annex-5.pdf>
Page 89 of 139

is expected in 2021. The GFC will continue to implement Guyana's TLAS which is required for the Implementation Phase of the VPA.

This is additional evidence that the NFMS continues to be maintained and improved.

Sub-component 2d: Social and environmental impacts

This part of the Assessment Framework focuses on the main findings and results of SESA, including the stand-alone ESMF.

Indicator 23: Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues

What evidence is there that applicable social and environmental safeguard issues relevant to the country context have been fully identified/analysed via relevant studies or diagnostics and in consultation processes?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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Guyana, as a State Party to the UNFCCC, and through the REDD+ mechanism, is expected to meet the following REDD+ requirements⁹¹.

- Requirement 1: Implement REDD+ activities in a manner consistent with the Cancun safeguards. Source: UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16 paragraph 69, Decision 2/CP.17, Paragraph 63;
- Requirement 2: Establish a system to provide information on how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected. Source: UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16 Paragraph 71(d);
- Requirement 3: Provide a summary of information (SOI) on how the Cancun Safeguards are being addressed and respected. Source: UNFCCC Decision 9/CP, Paragraph 4, UNFCCC Decision 2/CP.17, op cit, Paragraph 63 and 64.

Specifically, for safeguards and in order to access results based payments, Guyana must address and respect the Cancun safeguards (UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16 Appendix 1 paragraph 2), have a Safeguard Information System (SIS) in place (UNFCCC Decision 12/CP.17), and submit their SOI to the UNFCCC. Guyana is currently in Readiness (Phase I) and working to address these requirements. A first SOI has been prepared by the GFC for submission to the UNFCCC through the OCC. Guyana's SIS is expected to have a REDD+ Coordination office to be in charge of operational implementation of all elements and systems under the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (UNFCCC Decisions 9/CP.19; 10/CP.19; 11/CP.19; 12/CP.19; 13/CP.19; 14CP.19 and 15/CP.19), including the SIS. The REDD+ Coordination office will be supported by a Safeguards Committee, which will provide technical advice and inputs to the dedicated staff under the REDD+ Coordination office, including regarding the collection of information concerning REDD+ safeguards compliance.

The development of the SESA was guided by the 'assessment of historical, social and environmental issues in land use and forest sector in Guyana relevant to REDD+' and an 'analyses of legal, institutional

⁹¹ <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a01.pdf>
Page 90 of 139

& governance capacity to address safeguards in relation to UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards’ as well as drawing on and with due consideration of the REDD+ strategy options proposed to date.⁹² Most importantly, the SESA was guided by inputs and feedback received from a series of stakeholder workshops held in (4 places) representative of regions and populations that would be most impacted by REDD+. The workshops were held in June 2019, in conformance with the Common Approach under the FCPF.

The process to develop the SESA has allowed Guyana to identify and prioritise potential risks associated to the REDD+ Strategy Scenarios (see above). Accordingly, the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) lays out applicable safeguards policies and procedures that Guyana will have to put in place in order to assess, manage and mitigate potential environmental and social risks associated to the yet-to-be-determined site-specific REDD+ policies and measures and/or actions that may occur in the future. The ESMF thus largely provides a framework to address environmental and social issues when implementing activities in the REDD+ Strategy (see Figure 10).

Further analysis of the social and environmental safeguard issues may be required during the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy.

Indicator 24: REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts

How were SESA results and the identification of social and environmental impacts (both positive and negative) used for prioritising and designing REDD+ strategy options?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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The REDD+ Strategy development and the SESA processes were conducted in an inclusive, participatory and transparent manner, ensuring multiple opportunities for learning about and influencing the REDD+ strategy design for all affected or interested stakeholder groups. Ensuring informed participation and consultations, creating an atmosphere for open dialogue and discourse, ensuring the vulnerable are empowered and facilitated to participate and transparency are the principles in which our approach to stakeholder engagement is anchored.

In June 2019, four one-day workshops were held in Administrative Regions 1, 7, 8 and 10. The workshops convened stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society and indigenous peoples. In addition, a Core Group meeting was convened. Both stakeholder engagements reviewed the potential social and environmental impacts of implementation of REDD+ strategy options, and possible response

⁹² The assessment and analyses were carried out during the SESA consultancy and drew also from The Context of REDD+ in Guyana https://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/OccPapers/OP-201.pdf, Guyana Proposed REDD+ Strategy <https://reddplusguyana.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Draft-3-Guyana-REDD-Strategy.pdf>, and Guyana’s R-PP https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/Guyana_Readiness_Preparation_Proposal_April_2010_Revised.pdf

measures or potential mitigation actions. Those meetings were followed by a workshop on the Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) tool to assess the different strategy scenarios proposed for the Guyana in September 2019. The workshop was held with the Core Group and the FCPF Project Steering Committee members. Finally, in October 2019, engagements on risk management of a National REDD+ Strategy was held.

For the prioritised REDD+ Strategy Option 3 “National Land Use planning and implementation”, the prioritised impacts identified were:

1. Indigenous peoples may be excluded from the land use planning process at the national level, which could result in the re-zoning of land with cultural and spiritual value and the exclusion of indigenous people from the decision making process regarding they land they currently occupy.
2. Land use planning and implementation may not properly respond to land demand at the community level due to demographic pressure.
3. Land use planning and implementation at the national level may result in land planning and delimitation contradictions if the maps used at the national level are not aligned with those at the local level, or when they do not correspond with the traditional use of the land.
4. Re-zoning could result in the loss of biodiversity and forest coverage if land is reallocated to be used for mining and forestry purposes. Nonetheless, if mining and forestry are restricted via land use planning, this could result in a reduction of deforestation and forest degradation.

The risks associated with the other REDD+ Strategy Options have been articulated and reported on in this document.

Indicator 25: Environmental and Social Management Framework

What evidence is there that the ESMF is in place and managing environmental and social risks / potential impacts related to REDD+ activities?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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The ESMF is in place but it not yet managing environmental and social risks/potential impacts related to REDD+ activities⁹³. Further development of this indicator is required.

For the development of the ESMF, three one-day workshops were conducted for the four key categories of stakeholders (IPs, Private Sector, Civil Society and Government) to provide an opportunity to express their ideas on the development of the ESMF and provide any additional input to the process. Specifically, the workshops’ objectives were to have participants:

- Understand REDD+ safeguards for the Guyana National REDD+ strategy;
- Review and gather feedback on indicators for reporting on REDD+ safeguard performance.

The consultation process undertaken in the context of the preparation of this ESMF had flagged the

⁹³ <https://dpi.gov.gy/first-draft-of-guyanas-redd-strategy-ready-for-national-consultations/#gsc.tab=0>

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. In such context, a key issue raised for consideration in Guyana's National REDD+ Strategy and overall REDD+ implementation, is:

- the need for other relevant governmental institutions to have a role in addition to the MoTP and MNR. For example, the DoE or GLSC to be part of decision-making bodies such as the REDD+ Executive Board or the MSSC.

The UNFCCC recognises that safeguards are a key part of REDD+ implementation and links their compliance to results-based payments, requiring that countries demonstrate how they have addressed and respected throughout the implementation of their REDD+ activities. In order for countries to access results based finance, all forest-related emissions by sources and removals resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities must be fully MRV in accordance with UNFCCC guidance. With regards to safeguards, Guyana must still set-up of a SIS and submit a SOI in order to access results based finance. The SOI has been finalised and is currently awaiting policy guidance before submission to the UNFCCC.

According to the UNFCCC guidelines, the SIS should:⁹⁴

- Be consistent with guidance in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, paragraph 1⁹⁵;
- Provide transparent and consistent information that is accessible by all relevant stakeholders and updated on a regular basis;
- Be transparent and flexible to allow for improvements over time;
- Provide information on how all of the safeguards are being addressed and respected; Be country-driven and implemented at the national level;
- Build upon existing systems, as appropriate.

A description of each safeguard in accordance with national circumstances can be achieved by identifying the various rights and obligations that are embodied in the Cancun safeguards, and examining how these are reflected in the specific country context in the country's legal framework. Drawing on an analysis of the country's legal framework, Guyana has described each Cancun safeguard in accordance with national circumstances, which includes a narrative description and breakdown of the core elements of such description/clarification. During preparation of the ESMF, the relevant aspects of

⁹⁴ UNFCCC Decision 12/CP.17 Paragraph 2

⁹⁵ Which states that REDD+ activities should: (a) Contribute to the achievement of the objective set out in Article 2 of the Convention; (b) Contribute to the fulfilment of the commitments set out in Article 4, paragraph 3, of the Convention; (c) Be country-driven and be considered options available to Parties; (d) Be consistent with the objective of environmental integrity and take into account the multiple functions of forests and other ecosystems; (e) Be undertaken in accordance with national development priorities, objectives and circumstances and capabilities and should respect sovereignty; (f) Be consistent with Parties' national sustainable development needs and goals; (g) Be implemented in the context of sustainable development and reducing poverty, while responding to climate change; (h) Be consistent with the adaptation needs of the country; (i) Be supported by adequate and predictable financial and technology support, including support for capacity-building; (j) Be results-based; (k) Promote sustainable management of forests

Guyana's legal framework that protect and regulate the rights and obligations set out in the Cancun safeguards, were documented, as well as, those aspects of the legal framework that ensure the Cancun safeguards.

Further, to access results based finance, all forest-related emissions by sources and removals resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities must be fully MRV in accordance with UNFCCC guidance. Guyana must still set-up a SIS and submit a SOI in order to access results based finance. Now that the current financing window under the FCPF Carbon Fund is closed, the GCF is the operating entity of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC, and has windows to finance Phases II and Phase III of REDD+. The safeguards requirements of the GCF are the REDD+ safeguards requirements of the UNFCCC, specifically requiring the country demonstrates compliance with the Cancun safeguards, demonstrate they have a SIS in place and submission of SOI. GCF own safeguards will only be applicable to 'use of proceeds', and how these safeguards will be applied will need to be outlined in the respective funding proposals for the activities to be financed with the use of proceeds.

Guyana is exploring other financial options for securing finance for Phase II and III of REDD+. Guyana is accelerating direct access through its National Designated Authority (NDA) to develop work programmes, project concept notes, full funding proposals, and requests to bolster institutional and project development capacities. The Guyana GCF RP has available resources for technical assistance and capacity-building to help direct access entities (e.g. Ministry of Finance) work through the accreditation process.⁹⁶ In the ESMF, a proposed budget (US\$1,393,830) for its implementation over a five-year period has been crafted. This includes strengthening the state's institutional capacity to implement the ESMF, and building relevant actor's capacity through training. Guyana has completed Phase I (Readiness) and is moving towards Phase II (Implementation) and Phase III (Results-based action). The implementation of the REDD+ strategy and the application of safeguards will be done under Phases II and III of REDD+. Outstanding work on the SIS and SOI is anticipated in early 2021.

⁹⁶ <https://www.greenclimate.fund/accreditation/documents>

Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels

Recent UNFCCC decisions request countries to develop a REL/RL as a benchmark for assessing performance in implementing REDD+ activities at a national level, with subnational approaches as interim measures. The REL/RL should be established transparently taking into account historical data, and can be adjusted for national circumstances as appropriate.

Indicator 26: Demonstration of methodology

Is the preliminary sub-national or national forest REL or RL presented (as part of the R-Package) using a clearly documented methodology, based on a step-wise approach, as appropriate?

Are plans for additional steps and data needs provided, and is the relationship between the sub-national and the evolving national reference level demonstrated (as appropriate)?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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Although Guyana is a HFLD country, the economic and social incentives to allow significant increases in deforestation are strong and growing. The economic value they create can drive Guyana’s poverty alleviation and economic development objectives – however, they could also lead to increased deforestation. Therefore, Guyana proposed a reference level, which enables the country to maintain very low levels of deforestation, while at the same time earning money from the global benefits provided by Guyana’s forests – and using this money to invest in a new low carbon economy. Guyana proposed the use of the Combined Reference Level Approach that reports on percent of emissions per year. A simplified version of this has been used as part of the Guyana-Norway partnership from 2009-2015.

The use of the combined reference level was determined to be the most appropriate method for Guyana because it allows for the broadly accepted objective within the UNFCCC negotiations to be fulfilled. This objective expresses general agreement that a REDD-mechanism must provide genuine incentives for forest conservation in low deforestation countries, as well as ensure global additionality. Guyana has followed a step-wise approach that enables Parties to improve the FRL by incorporating better data, improved methodologies and, where appropriate, additional pools. Forest RLs are expressed in units of tons of CO₂ equivalent per year and must maintain consistency with a country’s greenhouse gas inventory (according to 12/CP.17, Paragraph 8).

The “combined reference level” methodology provides incentives for all categories of forest countries, and ensures that emissions from deforestation and forest degradation are reduced cumulatively at a global level. The application of this method takes an advanced step to that which is applied in the Guyana-Norway agreement by using a scientifically established historic carbon emissions level, country informed forest carbon stocks and storage ratios, and includes both deforestation and forest

degradation impacts. Additionally, the global level to which the national reporting results are proposed to be compared to, is an emissions total rather than a deforestation rate previously utilised.

Guyana developed and submitted to the UNFCCC its National FRL in December 2014⁹⁷ and submitted a revised RL in September 2015⁹⁸. In both submissions, the historic period selected is 2001 to 2012. However, the combined average of the global and historic annual average emissions percent differs in the periods from 0.25% (2014) to 0.242% (2015) and consequently, the average carbon stock for the country. The FRL uses a Combined Reference Level Approach, in which the average rate of global tropical forest carbon emissions (0.435% yr⁻¹) is combined with the rate of annual emissions from forests in Guyana (2001-2012, 0.049% yr⁻¹) to obtain a reference level of 0.242%, that results in emissions of 46,301,251 tCO₂ yr⁻¹. The activities addressed by the FRL are deforestation from conversion to agriculture, mining, and infrastructure expansion, and forest degradation from timber harvest.

For the development of the first FRL/RL, a project based approach was used. During 2013-2014, the UNDP-GSF supported a project titled "Strengthening of Guyana's technical capacity to implement MRVS and other REDD+ related activities". The four components of the project were: (i) development of national reference level for REDD+; (ii) Consultations on development of the national MRVS; (iii) Exploration of co-benefits under the MRVS and, (iv) Development of national REDD+ Strategies (options)⁹⁹. Twelve workshops were conducted across the country to address issues and concerns raised by stakeholders (591 persons attended the meetings) on the LCDS, REDD+, FCPF, MRVS and EU-FLEGT VPA. The Guyana RL was developed in accordance with the UNFCCC guidelines. A national technical expert workshop was held on 29 August 2013 to provide stakeholders with an overview of the relevance of Reference Levels for REDD+ and to receive inputs. Guyana's national RL is based on the historical average of deforestation and the global average deforestation rate, and is used as the basis for compensation as interim measures through its bilateral agreement with Norway.

There is no sub-national RL for REDD+ in Guyana. An updated and revised RL is currently under development. During the Guyana REDD+ Legal Capacity Building Workshop in 2019¹⁰⁰, it was revealed that the revised FRL would probably not be negotiated in the near future because it had already gone through technical review and was approved.

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

How does the establishment of the REL/RL take into account historical data, and if adjusted for national circumstance, what is the rationale and supportive data that demonstrate that proposed adjustments are credible and defensible?

⁹⁷ https://redd.unfccc.int/files/guyana_proposal_for_reference_level_for_redd_.pdf

⁹⁸ <https://forestry.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Guyanas-Proposal-for-Reference-Level-for-REDD-Final-Sept-20151.pdf>

⁹⁹ Op. cit.

¹⁰⁰ Op. cit.

Is sufficient data and documentation provided in a transparent fashion to allow for the reconstruction or independent cross-checking of the REL/RL?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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In fulfilment of the Guyana-Norway agreement, the GFC assessed and updated data on forest area, land cover change and carbon density on an annual basis. The seventh 'Interim Measures' report capture that information as well as the historical trend reference scenario.¹⁰¹

Historic emissions were estimated over the period 2001 to 2012, a twelve-year period. Combining the historical emissions from deforestation with those from degradation from timber harvest gives a total emission estimate of 140.0 million tCO₂ for the period 2001-2012 (Table 15). Using the error propagation method proposed by IPCC (2003 GPG), the 95% CI is ± 9.6 million tCO₂ or $\pm 7\%$ of the mean.

Table 15. Total historical emissions from deforestation and timber harvesting 2001-2012.

Drivers of deforestation	Historical emissions 2001-2012	
	tCO ₂ e	Per cent of total
Forestry infrastructure	12,631,213	9
Agriculture	7,727,589	6
Mining (medium and large scale)	66,03,751	48
Mining infrastructure	6,608,576	5
Infrastructure	3,078,549	2
Fire-Biomass burning	276,929	0
Timber harvesting	42,886,201	31
Total	140,012,808	
Annualised	11,667,734	

Mining, and associated roads, is the largest emission source during the period 2001 to 2012, accounting for 53% of the total emissions, followed by timber harvesting activities (if infrastructure created to allow for forestry operations, such as roads and decks are taken into account), accounting for another 40% of the total. Thus, mining and timber harvesting together account for 93% of the total emissions. Conversion to agriculture and other infrastructure account for about 8% of the total. Emissions from fire are insignificant, and indicate that emissions from degradation due to fire will be even less so as less biomass will be burned.

Guyana's NFMS, which is composed of Forest Area Assessment System (FAAS) and the FCMS, has been developed for data and information collection, such as information on historical forest cover changes and emission factors, to inform the assessment of national forest RELs. In this way, the MRVS forms the link between historical assessments and current/future assessments, enabling consistency in the data and information to support the implementation of REDD+ activities. The MRVS details the

¹⁰¹ Op. cit.

methods required to quantify the changes in forest cover and changes in forest carbon stocks in Guyana, develop driver-specific emission factors by forest strata, and monitor emissions from land cover/land use change over time based on a range of management activities.

The activity data and emission factors generated from the MRVS for key categories are combined to estimate total CO₂ emissions by source or driver under Guyana’s REDD+ programme. The current development of the third RL has followed the modalities agreed by the COP, existing IPCC guidance and guidelines for the estimation of emissions and emissions factors.

MRVS forms the link between historical assessments and current/future assessments, enabling consistency in the data and information to support the implementation of REDD+ activities. It details the methods required to quantify changes in forest cover and changes in forest carbon stocks in Guyana, develop driver-specific emission factors by forest strata, and monitor emissions from land cover/land use change over time based on a range of management activities. Activity data and emission factors generated from MRVS for key categories are combined to estimate total CO₂ emissions by source or driver under Guyana’s REDD+ programme. It is credible and defensible.

Indicator 28: Technical feasibility of the methodological approach and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines

Is the REL/RL (presented as part of the R-Package) based on transparent, complete and accurate information, consistent with UNFCCC guidance and the most recent IPCC guidance and guidelines, and allowing for technical assessment of the data sets, approaches, methods, models (if applicable) and assumptions used in the construction of the REL/RL?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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The Guyana REL/RL is consistent with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines. The 2003 IPCC Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-use Change, and Forestry (GPG-LULUCF) and the IPCC 2006 Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land use (AFOLU) were developed for use in preparing a national GHG inventory. No guidance has been made with respect to preparing and reporting on REDD+ related activities although in 2011 the UNFCCC CoP agreed that the Biennial Update Reports for non-Annex 1 Parties (i.e. developing countries) should be based on the 2003 GPG. However, Decision 12/CP.17 Annex states that information used to develop a RL should be guided by the most recent IPCC guidance and guidelines; thus Guyana refers to both IPCC reports (GPG and AFOLU).

Guyana has applied good practice guidance (contain neither over- nor under-estimates as far as can be judged, and in which uncertainties are reduced as far as practicable) to all its data collection and analyses efforts by:

- Building local capacity in all aspects of data collection and analyses
- Developing and implementing a QA/QC plan, including steps for checking internal self-consistency, checking against other independent estimates, standard operating procedures (SOPs) for field data collection, data analysis, processing remote sensing imagery, and data archiving
- Establishing and achieving accuracy targets for interpretation of remote sensing imagery used to estimate rates of forest loss (activity data-AD)
- Establishing and achieving accuracy and precision targets for field data collection and analyses for estimating emission factors (EFs).
- All documents and data bases are available for inspection

A system of tiers has been developed by the IPCC to represent different levels of methodological complexity. Tier 1 is the basic method, Tier 2 is intermediate and Tier 3 is the most demanding in terms of complexity and data requirements. Guyana is operating at Tier 2 to 3 levels for the following reasons:

- Wall-to-wall coverage of satellite imagery is used to obtain the AD related to conversion of forest lands to other uses. For the period 1990 to 2010 Guyana used primarily Landsat imagery with a variety of other sensors. Post-2010 AD is based on practically wall to wall monitoring using high resolution RapidEye imagery.
- All AD are disaggregated by the strata used for the field sampling design for EF estimation (e.g. threat for land use change, accessibility), and by the drivers (e.g. mining, infrastructure, converted to cropland, converted to settlements).
- All AD data are combined and co-registered with other key spatial data bases in a GIS such as roads, rivers, settlements, vegetation class, location of logging concessions, location of mining concessions, topography, etc.
- A comprehensive, peer-reviewed, field sampling system was designed to attain a required precision target (95% confidence interval of $\pm 15\%$ of the mean carbon stock of forests) and implemented. The location of each sample plot was selected statistically through a series of steps in a GIS¹⁰².
- A field sampling plan has been designed for long-term, repeated measurements of the forest carbon stocks and ongoing monitoring of forest cover change.
- The allometric model of Chave et al. (2014)¹⁰³ was validated for use in Guyana forests.

According to Decision 12/CP.17 II. Paragraph 9, countries can submit information and rationale on the development of forest RLs, including details of national circumstances and if adjusted include details on how the national circumstances were considered. Being a country with high forest cover and low

¹⁰² http://www.forestry.gov.gy/Downloads/Guyana's_National_Forest_Plan_2011.pdf.

¹⁰³ http://www.forestry.gov.gy/Downloads/Guyana_MRVS_Roadmap_Phase_2_September_2014.pdf

deforestation, Guyana proposes to make adjustments to allow for national circumstances to take into account:

- Likely future emissions are not well captured by historical ones.
- Mining is a major driver of deforestation and rising mineral prices could create incentives that significantly impact rates of forest cover change caused by this driver.
- Logging is a cause of forest degradation and changes in timber demand and prices could create incentives that significantly impact emissions caused by this driver.
- Need for broad participation by Parties and to assure equity across countries.

Component 4: Monitoring systems for Forests, and Safeguards

Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System

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

Indicator 29: Documentation of monitoring approach

Is there clear rationale or analytic evidence supporting the selection of the used or proposed methodology (combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approaches, systems resolution, coverage, accuracy, inclusions of carbon pools and gases) and improvement over time?

Has the system been technically reviewed and nationally approved, and is it consistent with national and international existing and emerging guidance?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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Guyana began development of the NFMS in 2009 by establishing an internationally recognised MRVS and has steadily improved on it in the last 10 years (Table 16). The NFMS includes five major components:

- The MRVS Roadmap, Phases 1 – national strategy formulation, developed in 2009; Phase 2 – country readiness phase, in 2014, and Phase 3 –implementation phase, in 2017;
- Annual reporting on forest change, providing activity data, through the MRVS Interim Measures Reports, with Years 1-8 completed, covering 2011 through 2018;
- Accuracy assessments of the Interim Measures Reports;
- The FCMS, which includes the sample design and implementation framework and development of emission factors; and
- Independent, third party verification.

These components allow Guyana to develop emissions estimates from deforestation and forest degradation by activity, across the country, for historical, current, and future emissions.

Over the years, there have been improvements in technologies used for conducting the forest area change assessment. One such improvement has been in the use of high level 5 m resolution imagery. Previously, Landsat 30 m resolution imagery was used to map and measure forest area change for Guyana. In Phase 2 of implementation of the MRVS, the GFC moved from tasking and paying for 5 m resolution RapidEye imagery, to the use of freely available 10 m resolution imagery, supplemented by Landsat 7 and 8 (30 m resolution). This move was part of a plan to improve the sustainability of the MRVS. The GFC continues to use this approach. The improved resolution enabled better identification of change boundaries, drivers of change and areas of forest degradation. In its third party review, Det Norske Veritas (DNV) observed that “spatial accuracy and co-registration of Sentinel-2 imagery is considered very good, and was found to be better and more consistent than RapidEye. Additionally, Landsat-7 and Landsat-8 imagery (30m resolution) was used, to fill in for persistent cloud areas in the Sentinel-2 imagery, and to more precisely pinpoint the time of change for deforestation events. For the 2010-11 assessment, higher resolution 5 m imagery was tasked over previously identified change areas. The area covered was 12 million ha which equated to 56% of Guyana’s land area. The improved resolution enabled better identification of change boundaries, drivers of change and areas of forest degradation”.¹⁰⁴

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

Table 16. Guyana MRVS roadmap and achievements 2013-2020.

MRVS Roadmap	MRVS Achievements 2010 - 2013	MRVS Achievements 2014 - 2017	MRVS Achievements 2018-2020
Objectives	Gather and integrate information & fill data gaps for national REDD opportunities, scoping and REDD+ implementation		
Key results and national capacities developed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comprehensive MRV roadmap developed and national MRV steering body operational 2. Improved national capacities for LCDS, REDD, 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MRVS Roadmap Completed, MRVS Steering Committee formed and meets quarterly. Partnerships established with bodies such as the GSF, WWF, CMRV, etc. 2. Dedicated national focal points for LCDS REDD+ 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitoring of MRVS Roadmap in areas of continuous activities 2. Continued capacity development and

¹⁰⁴ DNV-GL, Verification of Interim REDD+ Performance indicators under the Guyana-Norway REDD+ partnership (Year 6) Ministry of Environment– Government of Norway, <https://forestry.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/MRVS-Year-6-Independent-Verification-Report.pdf>, 20 April, 2018

	<p>IPCC-LULUCF, and carbon dynamics</p> <p>3. Framework and capacities to demonstrate REDD implementation and interim performance</p> <p>4. All data available and accessible (including acquisition of new forest carbon data) on drivers and processes needed for developing a national REDD policy and interim implementation plan</p> <p>5. Approaches for setting reference levels, linking MRV and policy, and MRV co-benefits and synergies are explored and defined</p>	<p>and IPCC and capacity built within each.</p> <p>3. Data collection, analysis and reporting capabilities built in FAA and FCSA, and interim reporting. SOPs and protocols developed.</p> <p>4. Data available on forest carbon, forest area, land use and allocation, historic drivers of change and current drivers, location specific details on forest change. Methods, and training materials. Satellite imagery.</p> <p>5. Assessment of historic emissions, two/three annual periods of emission estimates, Proposal for RL for REDD+ for submission to UNFCCC in December 2014 covering the historic period 2001-2012¹⁰⁵. Exploring co-benefits and synergies.</p>	<p>continuous improvements; sustain capacities in the long-term</p> <p>3. Synergies established between national and demonstration initiatives.</p> <p>4. Continued collation of MRVS related data for FAA and FCSA. Further expand training in new areas of development including monitoring forest degradation.</p> <p>5. Submit revised proposal for RL for REDD+ to UNFCCC in September 2015 covering the historic period 2001-2012¹⁰⁶. A third update RL is being developed and is expected to be completed in 2020. Historic period covered: 2009-2019.</p>
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The MRVS Interim Measures reports subject to public release for stakeholder feedback, review and comments. All stakeholder inputs and feedback to stakeholders are collated, documented, and incorporated within the Interim Measures Report.

This approach to forest monitoring has been technically reviewed by Pöyry, Indufor, NORAD, CI and Durham University. Norway hires an independent firm to carry out Third Party Verification of the GFC and MRVS. This verification involves an audit of the MRVS Report, results, overall MRVS execution, and stakeholder engagement process. Verification procedures include a desk review, field audit, interviewing staff and stakeholders and further follow-up.

¹⁰⁵ https://redd.unfccc.int/files/guyana_proposal_for_reference_level_for_redd_.pdf

¹⁰⁶ <https://forestry.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Guyanas-Proposal-for-Reference-Level-for-REDD-Final-Sept-20151.pdf>

According to GFC, improvements to the forest monitoring system are ongoing. These seek to consolidate results of previous efforts to test the use of low and no-cost technology options for the MRVS, explore new and emerging technology options, including new remote sensing products and Open Source software. The intention is to pilot the implementation of preferred option for new methods in parallel with current system for at least 2 years.

During the REDD+ Legal Capacity Building Workshops in 2019, the GLSC enquired whether the current MRV system would have to be adjusted for the REDD+ programme based on the different scenarios? The proposed BSP envisions allocating the FRL, based on the different scenarios, to each jurisdictional unit. The MRVS system is currently not designed to measure deforestation/emissions according to each unit. However, the GFC considers the MRVS capable of being adjusted to this objective.

Indicator 30: Demonstration of early system implementation

What evidence is there that the system has the capacity to monitor the specific REDD+ activities prioritised in the country's REDD+ strategy?

How does the system identify and assess displacement of emissions (leakage), and what are the early results (if any)?

How are key stakeholders involved (participating/consulted) in the development and/or early implementation of the system, including data collection and any potential verification of its results?

What evidence is there that the system allows for comparison of changes in forest area and carbon content (and associated GHG emissions) relative to the baseline estimates used for the REL/RL?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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Guyana has developed a world class forest monitoring system that has been independently verified for accuracy by reputable institutions. Consistently, Guyana has produced eight annual MRVS Interim Measures reports as part of the Guyana-Norway agreement. The MRVS Steering Committee provides opportunity for national experts to contribute to the process.

Guyana started the development of a national MRVS through a multi-stakeholder process in 2009 guided by the MRVS Roadmap, which identified a stepwise development of the system. Guyana developed a national framework that outlines the steps to follow over a 3-year period, including the requirements of the system and capacity building (GFC and Wageningen University, 2009¹⁰⁷, GoG, 2012)¹⁰⁸ for the full MTVS to be implemented. The aim of the MRVS is to establish a comprehensive, national system to monitor report and verify forest carbon emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation in Guyana. The first year of the roadmap commencement was 2010 which required

¹⁰⁷ http://www.forestry.gov.gy/Downloads/Guyana_MRV_workshop_report_Nov09.pdf.
¹⁰⁸ Government of Guyana. 2012a. Guyana's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP). December 2012. 128 p.

several initial reporting activities to commence. These were designed to assist in shaping the next steps planned for the following years. In 2014, a Phase 2 Roadmap was developed for the MRVS. The overall objective of the Roadmap Phase 2 was to consolidate and expand capacities for national REDD+ monitoring and MRV. With the completion of these phases, it has supported Guyana in meeting the international reporting requirements from the UNFCCC and the IPCC guidelines.

A historical assessment of Guyana's forest cover (as at 1990) was completed for the Guyana-Norway JCN's interim/intermediate indicators. These indicators specify how emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by driver are to be reported (Interim Measures reports). The basis for comparison of the area-based interim measures is the 30 September 2009 Benchmark Map. The first reporting period (termed Year 1) was from 01 October 2009 to 30 September 2010 with second reporting period (Year 2) covering the period 01 October 2010 to 31 December 2011, a 15-month period. Year 3 (2012) spanned a 12-month period from 1 January to 31 December 2012.

Measuring changes in Guyana's forest cover and resultant carbon emissions from Guyana's forests is being further developed for results-based REDD+ compensation in the long-term. GFC assesses carbon emissions using a module in an approved (double verified) set of modules for REDD projects posted on the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) set of methodologies¹⁰⁹. The reported difference between the annual mean for the observation period 2003-2008 and the assessment year of 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016, is a reduction of carbon by 1,494,407 tCO₂, arising from timber harvesting activity.

Key results of early implementation:

- The MRVS has developed methods suited measure key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Guyana.
- Leakage is addressed in the MRVS by virtue that Guyana is monitored at the national-level using high-resolution satellite imagery. Currently any evidence of degradation surrounding the deforested area is also investigated.
- Stakeholder involvement in the MRVS encouraged during its design for both phases 1 and 2 and included all levels of stakeholders.
- cMRV has been carried out as part of the LCDS with the intention of integrating efforts within the national framework, and local capacity building. The GFC continues to support cMRV activities through building technical capacities of communities to undertake cMRV activities, specifically as they relate to monitoring and reporting on forest cover change. It is anticipated that cMRV activities and related payments will be guided by the development and implementation of a benefits sharing mechanism. In 2019, 23 indigenous communities across

¹⁰⁹ <https://verra.org/project/vcs-program/>

Guyana received cMRV training. The sessions sought to enhance cMRV capabilities based on the general needs of the communities.

- In 2013, cMRV training was carried out in the Wai Wai Konashen Community Owned Conservation Area (COCA). This area was selected as the model site because of its important role as the largest indigenous territory in Guyana and first to seek protected area status. The COCA sits on Guyana's south-western border with Brazil and covers over 6,250 km² (2.9% of Guyana's total land area). It is home to 249 members of the Wai Wai community and is a titled indigenous territory under Guyanese law. The Wai Wai have full rights to decide how their lands are used.
- The first recorded work on cMRV dates back to 2011 in 16 villages of the North Rupununi under a NORAD funded project that was implemented by the Global Canopy Programme. Through consultation and FPIC, the communities agreed the Annai Village would serve as the demonstration site. The information from this pilot includes data on biomass, traditional farming dynamics, drivers of deforestation/degradation and the views of the communities on recommendations for traditional farming.
- A key area of focus in the GFC's interactions with the cMRV projects has been that of improving pathways for integrating community data into national forest monitoring systems. The involvement of locals from indigenous communities in the MRV of carbon stocks, verification of mapped sites and other forest-related attributes has many national and community level benefits. Nationally, it is a cost-effective method and it allows REDD+ activities to benefit from the diverse skills and experience of the locals. At the community level, the locals can benefit from the REDD+ programme and in this way, the paybacks are better distributed among the population. Moreover, cMRV practices can allow for a feedback loop that will support the current mapping system undertaken by the GFC. This would essentially involve the verification and validation of the data generated by the GFC via a cMRV system. In addition to this approach adding integrity to the GFC's mapping process, it will also create a platform for REDD+ benefits sharing to Indigenous communities. See Annex 5 for additional reporting on cMRV.

Progress indicator 31: Institutional arrangements and capacities

Are mandates to perform tasks related to forest monitoring clearly defined (e.g., satellite data processing, forest inventory, information sharing)?

What evidence is there that a transparent means of publicly sharing forest and emissions data are presented and are in at least an early operational stage?

Have associated resource needs been identified and estimated (e.g., required capacities, training, hardware/software, and budget)?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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REDD+, as a multisectoral effort to contribute to Guyana's sustainable development, requires coordination and specific institutional arrangements to ensure drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and barriers for more sustainable land uses are fully and effectively addressed, taking into account the interdependencies among them.

Guyana's GIS-based monitoring system is designed to map change events in the year of their occurrence and then monitor any changes that occur over that area each year. The GFC coordinates this activity in collaboration with other land management institutions such as GLSC, GGMC and PAC. Where an area (polygon) remains constant, the land use class and change driver are updated to remain consistent with the previous analysis. Where there is a change in the land cover of an area, this is recorded using the appropriate driver. In the past, deforestation was mapped manually using a combination of repeat coverage Landsat and Sentinel 2 images. In 2018, further revisions of the forest degradation monitoring approach have been undertaken. This has involved a shift away from manual mapping for forest degradation events around areas to deforestation to the use of a sampling-based approach. Standard Operating Procedures (incl. independent QA/QC checks) have been developed that allow the GFC team to undertake this assessment. National estimates of degradation are estimated by repeat interpretation of series of linear randomly located samples.

From the initiation of the MRVS Roadmap, a capacity gap assessment¹¹⁰ was conducted, identifying key areas where capacity building and institutional strengthening would be required. Initially the key focus was on the assessment of forest area change and monitoring and forest carbon stock measurement and monitoring. In March 2013, a Capacity Needs Assessment and Sustainability Plan for the RS¹¹¹, including the GIS Mapping Unit, was conducted. This exercise took stock of the capacity that had been built to date, and areas where further strengthening was required.

GFC staff have received training and have been directly working in the sampling and collection of data for the estimation of emission factors. Similarly, the staff has been trained to assess forest area change on an ongoing annual basis. In both cases, for carbon and forest area assessments, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were developed to ensure a consistent application of processes and methodologies. The R-PP outlines further resource needs as well as a capacity gap assessment.

GFC continues to build the capacity of the staff involved in REDD+, to the point that all routine aspects of work of the MRVS are carried out by the GFC, with consultants involved only in new development areas. GFC considers capacity building is integral to the successful implementation and sustainability of the MRVS. Also, GFC builds the capacity of stakeholders, through processes such as:

¹¹⁰ http://www.forestry.gov.gy/Downloads/Guyana_MRVS_workshop_report_Nov09.pdf.

¹¹¹ <http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getDocument.aspx?DOCNUM=38243828>

- Preparation for implementation of cMRV projects. Staff have been conducting training of community members involved in the cMRV activities in both forest carbon and forest area change assessment.
- Capacity building of national stakeholders in MRVS through outreach sessions.
- Bilateral cooperation between Guyana and Suriname in areas of REDD+.¹¹²

To fully address the strategic and operational challenges that effective REDD+ implementation poses for the country, there is the need to strengthen the existent institutional arrangements to enable REDD+ implementation. Doing so will ensure meaningful and effective coordination and collaboration among Government institutions as well as with civil society, the private sector, and Amerindian villages and communities.

Sub-component 4b: Information system for multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards

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

How have relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental safeguard issues of REDD+ preparations been identified? Are there any capacity building recommendations associated with these?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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During preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy, the following other environmental benefits were identified: water quality, air quality and biodiversity conservation. Guyana's vision for REDD+ has adopted the principle of promoting biodiversity conservation and enhancement, taking into consideration REDD+ interventions will not lead to the conversion of natural forests. Specific work done, includes:

- Three studies undertaken to explore the role of different ecosystem services, such as water and biodiversity, as well as PES Schemes, with support from international partners
 - Bynoe, P., D. De Souza and J. Agard. 2011. Report on Requirements Necessary for Guyana to Access Identified Payments for Ecosystems Services Markets. Strengthening Guyana's Capacity to manage Forests Resources and Environmental Services through Resources Assessment and Monitoring Changes in Deforestation and Degradation. 19 August 2011. 81 p.
 - Guyana Forestry Commission & International Tropical Timber Organisation. 2011. Guyana's Forest Resources and Environmental Services. Prepared by: Paulette Bynoe and Denise de Souza. In association with: Prof. John Agard. March 2011.

¹¹² <https://guyana.hoop.la/topic/other-countries-see-guyanas-help-guidance-on-redd>

- 23. Guyana Forestry Commission & International Tropical Timber Organisation. 2011. REDDES Monitoring - Guyana's National Forest Estate Model. August 2011. Prepared by Pöyry Management Consulting (NZ) Limited. 59 p.
- Development of a project to prioritise ecosystem services in discussion with national stakeholders, and to evaluate the requirements for integrating the monitoring system (2014).
- Guyana was able to build on the previously completed work on the exploration of co-benefits for Guyana (Netzer et al., 2014)¹¹³. The report examines the feasibility of the methodologies for establishing baselines and for monitoring of ecosystem services beyond forest carbon. A validation workshop on the environment co-benefit of forest carbon and water quality was held in December 2013 in Georgetown. Widespread support was provided to the identification of water as the main non-carbon aspect to be developed as part of REDD+.

In the 2011 study by Bynoe et al.,¹¹⁴ stakeholders identified the following needs:

- Analysis of human capacity needs.
- Examination of policy and legal framework needs
- Create the legislative framework for forest preservation and PES and for a low carbon economy (LCE).
- Involve, educate, and build capacity among our hinterland communities/farmers to access the
- PES market. Teach them to calculate values for services/establish a valuation system.
- Expand the OCC to include communities and other stakeholders; regional offices.
- Establish a central verification system or a registration body for PES.
- Establish a National Biodiversity Institute to act as a clearing house for selling biodiversity services.
- Prepare a marketing plan for PES.
- Adopt a market based approach for PES, biodiversity and conservation.
- Create an investment specific PES guide as a strategic tool to attract investors.
- Take definitive positions as outcomes of the international negotiations.
- Continue to build human and technical capacity.
- Consider best practice case studies BUT DO NOT simple transfer experience. Any experience transferred should be adaptable to the context of Guyana (which has many unique aspects) so care should be exercised here.
- Focus attention on building (PES) constituencies locally, nationally, and regionally. Once this research is conducted and the results are peer reviewed, then the next stage could be public consultations to inform a governmental policy decision.

Indicator 33: Monitoring, reporting and information sharing

¹¹³ Netzer, M., R. Srinivasan, N. Harris, K. Goslee and S. Brown. 2014. Incorporating Water Quality as a Co-benefit of Guyana's REDD+ Framework.. Report Submitted by Winrock International to the Guyana Forestry Commission.

¹¹⁴

http://www.itto.int/files/user/pdf/PROJECT_REPORTS/Exploring%20Payments%20for%20Ecosystem%20Services%20in%20Guyana.pdf

What evidence is there that a transparent system for periodically sharing consistent information on non-carbon aspects and safeguards has been presented and is in at least an early operational stage?

How is the following information being made available: key quantitative and qualitative variables about impacts on rural livelihoods, conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services provision, key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD+ preparations, and the implementation of safeguards, paying attention to the specific provisions included in the ESMF?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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In order to have ER programmes considered by the Carbon Fund, Guyana must ensure it generates substantial non-carbon benefit. There is limited evidence of a transparent system for periodically sharing consistent information on non-carbon aspects and safeguards. There is some information being made on: key quantitative and qualitative variables about impacts on rural livelihoods, conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services provision, key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD+ preparations, and the implementation of safeguards, paying attention to the specific provisions included in the ESMF.

Stakeholder participation in the exploration of co-benefits and non-carbon schemes has been encouraged through training sessions and workshops. The development of information sharing processes on the impact of REDD+ on rural livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, provision of non-carbon ecosystem services, and key governance factors is recommended.

Further development is required to develop a comprehensive national strategy that provides an integrated framework for, the conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services provision, key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD+ preparations, and the implementation of safeguards, paying attention to the specific provisions included in the ESMF. This is likely to be addressed in the restructuring of the OCC.

Indicator 34: Institutional arrangements and capacities

Are mandates to perform tasks related to non-carbon aspects and safeguards clearly defined?

Have associated resource needs been identified and estimated (e.g., required capacities, training, hardware/software, and budget)?

Significant progress	Progressing well, further development required	Further development required	Not yet demonstrating progress
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The EPA has lead responsibility for the conservation of biodiversity, air and water quality. It shares the responsibility for biodiversity with the PAC and the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission, and together they implement Guyana’s obligations to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its binding protocols. In terms of fresh water management, no single national agency has the overall mandate for this resource in Guyana. Several government agencies, including the

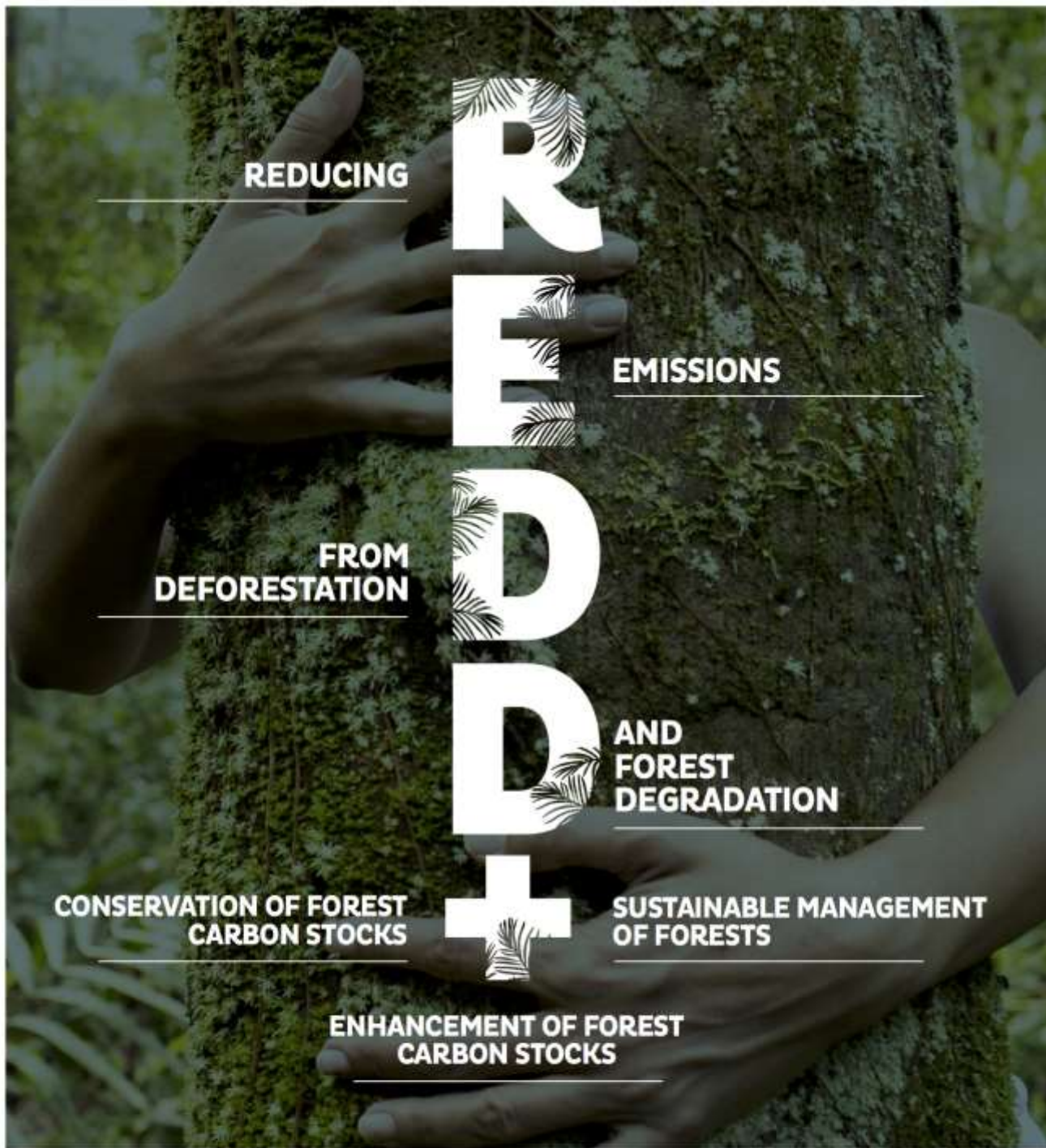
MoA/Hydrometeorological Service, MNR, Ministry of Communities/Central Housing and Planning Authority and the Guyana Water Inc. share the responsibility for freshwater management. There is political will and legal provisions for the establishment of a National Water Council, and although budgetary allocations are set aside each year in the national budget since 2016, no action has been taken.

The GFC is the national focal point for NFMS. This mandate can be extended to include monitoring of non-carbon services such as freshwater since water is considered a natural resource and falls within the mandate of MNR, the supervisory Ministry for GFC. The MNR has signaled intention of cultivating a culture focused on the conservation and management of Guyana's freshwater resources.

To guide the work that Guyana intends to undertake on PES, a Roadmap has been developed. Similar to the MRVS Roadmap, the purpose is to provide a clear and agreed sense of direction and to establish synergies between various REDD + initiatives in Guyana. Based on the feedback received from stakeholders the following strategic areas will inform the various domains that will be targeted.

- REDD + policy, legislative and accounting frameworks;
- International financing and seed funding;
- Standards and guidelines;
- Market information;
- Public education and participation;
- Human resource capacity building;
- Technical assistance and scientific research;
- Property rights; and
- Inter-agency coordination.

Further work is needed to identify and estimate the associated resource needs, including the required capacities, training, hardware/software, and budget for REDD+ implementation.



Indigenous peoples are guardians of the forests who foster conservation and sustainable management of the environment and natural resources.

REDD+, as a programme providing solutions to deforestation, has the potential to create opportunities for indigenous peoples. It does so by increasing their contribution to mitigation and adaptation measures, improving their livelihoods and sustaining favorable socio-economic conditions for future generations.



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Conclusions and recommendations

Wise use of the TCA resources has helped Guyana to significantly progress its REDD+ Readiness to the R-Package stage under the coordination of the MNR. The journey started in 2009 with the preparation of the LCDS and the successful negotiation of the ground-breaking Guyana-Norway JCN and MOU, both serving as impetus to deliver on the opportunity for forest-rich countries created by the Bali Action Plan. Both Guyana and Norway invested heavily in building the capacities of national institutional and human resources that have resulted in significant development of the elements of Components 3 (Reference Emission Levels/Reference Level) and 4 (National Monitoring System for Forests and Safeguards) to enable payments for forest carbon services through the specialised GRIF mechanism. The NFMS progressively realised the MRVS under the able coordination of the RS, and the groundwork was laid for the development of the other Components. These early efforts were guided by the rapidly developed international guidance through UNFCCC.

During 2016-2019, the other Components of REDD+ Readiness (1 - Readiness organisation and consultation arrangements; 2 - REDD+ strategy preparation; and, 6 - Monitoring and evaluation of readiness activities) received targeted support through the TCA inspired efforts of the MNR/FCPF/PEU. As a result, further development of the communications strategy and action plan, REDD+ governance framework, national REDD+ Strategy and Safeguards (SESA and ESMF) was realised. Notwithstanding, several issues remain and require urgent attention towards consolidating the gains made so far:

1. A permanent system of coordination of REDD+ activities at national and sub-national scales requires further development. Since 2012 when the R-PP was submitted, the NRWG was advanced as the coordinating mechanism. However, under the TCA, the PSC performed this role, which was limited to oversight and not coordination.
2. The natural resources sector specific laws and regulations are not harmonised and there are no specific laws to govern REDD+ activities. As a result, REDD+ specific issues are conflated with other land-based issues, and the conflicts that arise often require the intervention of the State and competent Courts of Law. While the SLUC was convened as a temporary measure and the GRM architecture and functions were designed, no conflict resolution mechanism for REDD+ is in operation and no REDD+ registry exists. Recognising this, national stakeholders have endorsed a coordinated national land use approach as the top REDD+ Strategy option for Guyana. A related issue is the lack of clarity on land ownership and carbon rights, which impact the ease with which benefit sharing instruments can be designed.

3. Many forest dependent IPLCs dot the forested hinterland of Guyana and are recognised as important stewards of biodiversity rich forests and ecosystems. While there has been numerous community and other stakeholders' consultations and outreach since 2009, access to information on REDD+ require further development. Several efforts at coordinating public information flow and participation in decision making have not been sustained and embedded in local governance structures.
4. While Guyana and Norway have contributed immeasurably to advancing REDD+ technical aspects through the MNR/GFC, the mobilising of sustainable financing through contributions to the GRIF and by accessing other multilateral funds is ongoing, but not in a satisfactory manner. A large part of the problem is the spatial and temporal gap (lag) between a high-performing and high-achieving national technical collective and the policy decision makers resulting in lack of sustained representation in international negotiations and limited flow of international finance to REDD+ activities in Guyana.
5. Finally, several critical instruments for REDD+ operationalisation are queued for executive level approval by central government. These include: GRM, REDD+ Strategy, SESA and ESMF. While Guyana has prepared its first SOI for submission to the UNFCCC, the lack of movement on the foregoing stymies access to carbon funding and forest-based PES.

The following recommendations were validated at the Stakeholder Validation Workshop and are offered for active consideration:

Recommendation 1: A 'whole of government' approach to the coordination of governance for REDD+ is predicated on experiences with the revision of the National Forest Policy Statement and Action Plan and the development of the EU-FLEGT. The Ministry of Finance, which coordinates national budgeting and financial accounting could play a lead role jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The NRWG requires a legal and accounting mandate, as do the other components of the proposed REDD+ governance architecture.

Recommendation 2: The institutionalisation of stakeholder engagement and increasing public access to information on REDD+ and participation in decision making on REDD+ is a priority. There is need to decentralise public information sources and embed them in sub-national (regional and local) governance mechanisms. National, regional and local conversations about REDD+ needs to happen regularly and in culturally appropriate ways.

Recommendation 3: Identification, empowering and deployment of REDD+ champions at multiple scales to raise awareness, negotiate international agreements and mobilise sustainable

financial resources. REDD+ champions could help release the queued REDD+ instruments and bridge political transitions.

Recommendation 4: Position REDD+ as a central pillar of the 'green state' that is being created during the decade of development (2020-2029) under the aegis of the GSDS Vision 2040. Unless forest conservation revenues outstrip revenues from mineral mining, forest and permanent agriculture, they will continue to undermine REDD+ efforts. The solution lies in the policy and legal arms of the State.

Recommendation 5: Ensure submission of Guyana's first SOI to the UNFCCC and institutionalisation of the SIS while ensuring public access and feedback. Place equal, if not greater, emphasis on meeting local needs for REDD+ information and safeguards as obtains for meeting the obligations of State Parties to international treaties. The SIS and SOI will help to unlock access to carbon funds.

Annexes

Annex 1: Stakeholder Validation Workshop Report

The preparation of the R-Package was based upon a progressive realisation of progress with respect to REDD+ readiness. The consultant saw strong evidence of numerous efforts on the part of government to engage stakeholders. The APA recommendation was made during efforts to consult stakeholders earlier in the process and the CAD consultancy (Stakeholder engagement and participation consultancy), in particular, took heed of that recommendation in its strategic consultations with IPs.

The report was posted online on the MNR website for public comments and it was shared with stakeholders ahead of the workshop. The stakeholder workshop validated the readiness scores in the draft report.

Stakeholder Validation Workshop (Virtual)

Date: Tuesday, 14 July 2020

Start time: 10:00 hours

End time: 12:00 hours

Consultant: Dr. Patrick Chesney.

Antecedent

The preparation of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Package (R-Package) requires that the findings from the draft Readiness Assessment be presented in a Stakeholder Validation Workshop, and the feedback used to prepare the R-Package - this document.

Notification to stakeholders

On 4 July 2020, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) posted the draft FCPF report for public review on its website. [Here](#) is the link¹¹⁵. On 6 July 2020, the Consultant sent a notification email to stakeholders (see Appendix 1 for the list) with link to the report, and inviting them to review and provide feedback on same by Friday, 10 July 2020 at 15:00 hours, as follows:

- “Implementation of Guyana’s Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP): Draft FCPF Readiness Assessment & R-Package”.

https://nre.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Draft-Readiness-Assessment_R-Package_2-July-2020.pdf

In the same email, the stakeholders were invited to participate in an online Stakeholder Validation Workshop via Zoom on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 from 10:00hrs to 12:00hrs. Joining instructions were communicated on July 13, 2020, with the following details:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85087104682?pwd=UDVWL3ljUnhPZFYwbmYralROc1U3QT09>

Meeting ID: 850 8710 4682

Password: 362308

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,85087104682#,,,0#,,362308# US (New York)

+13017158592,,85087104682#,,,0#,,362308# US (Germantown)

¹¹⁵ <https://nre.gov.gy/2020/07/04/forest-carbon-partnership-facility-redd-project-reports/>

Dial by your location

- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 850 8710 4682

Password: 362308

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdD5fdCWKq>

Some Technical Pointers:

- Please ensure your Zoom Screen Name reflects your name (rather than a nickname) so we know who is in the room.
- We would like to ask you to keep yourself on mute unless you will take the floor to speak.
- If you would like to make an intervention, you can do that using the chat function, indicating your name and your organisation acronym.
- You will be called on in the order in which the requests came in.
- When you hear your name and are given the floor, please take yourself off of mute to speak. Also, remember to keep your intervention as brief as possible.

Please feel free to contact me via email pcw.rose2017@gmail.com if you require further information or you have any questions. We look forward to your cooperation and participation.

The Stakeholder Validation Workshop

Introductions:

- The Consultant introduced the Agenda (Appendix 2) and invited all participating stakeholders to introduce themselves, mentioning their name and affiliation;
- 18 stakeholders attended (see Appendix 3 for list).

Agenda Item 1: Opening remarks, brief background and context of the Project

Mr. Clayton Hall – Coordinator FCPF PEU, and representing the MNR – delivered the opening remarks, a brief background and context of the project.

On behalf of the MNR and FCPF PEU, I would like to recognise Mr. Allan Mentis and our team leader Mr. Gerard Alleng from the IDB, and all colleagues, who have supported the project over last 3-plus years. The project was crafted in 2008 under the previous government. In 2014, the Technical Cooperation Agreement (TCA) was signed with the IDB, for the execution of the project. However, but it was implemented in the late 2016. Our present government and the PEU held sacred to the project design. The PEU implemented the project with minor changes to the definition of ‘Forest Stakeholders’ to include the ‘Forest Dependent Communities’ and not only the Indigenous Peoples’ groups. The project as set out and as defined in the TCA has been adhered to, and implemented over the last 3 years. Thanks to all and especially Messrs. Alleng and Mentis for the unstinted support, and thanks to the IDB as facilitator and local donor partner for enabling execution of the project by the MNR PEU. I look forward to a constructive and very engaging session. We meet in a virtual meeting room, unique to what is happening throughout the world at this time. I look forward to full participation, and at the end of session we would all have benefitted from the outcomes of a successful project and lay the groundwork for a second phase that is to follow.

Agenda items 2 and 3: Overview of the draft Readiness Assessment and R-Package and draft Final Evaluation

The Consultant outlined the expected outcomes of the Workshop, as follows:

1. Verifying the accuracy of the data and information in the two documents;
 2. Selection of the progress indicators based on analysis of the data and information;
 3. Expression of inaccuracy so that it can be corrected;
 4. identifying omissions observed in the draft documents;
 5. Looking at linkages to other REDD+ activities that are occurring in the country that might not have been contextualized in the reports;
 6. Looking at the specific role of the various stakeholders in the project implementation and in REDD+ generally.
- A PowerPoint presentation of the draft Readiness Assessment and R-Package, was delivered by the Consultant (Appendix 4).

Agenda Item 4: Moderated discussions on the draft documents

Remarks by Mr. Clayton Hall, FCPF PEU

- We need to recognise that this is the readiness phase of what is to come under REDD+.
- Listening to the presentation by the Consultant, I wish to say that we have done well.
- I compliment all stakeholders and all the support received from all parties, including the Ministry of Finance (MoF), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ministry of the Presidency (MoTP), including Ms. Janelle Christian, Head of the Office of Climate Change and Ms. Adiola Walcott. Thanks to the Commissioner and staff of the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), and REDD for technical and other support, to the PEU and PSC during this readiness phase.
- Make your contributions and be critical as we move to the preparatory work for the next phase.

Remarks by Mr. Gerard Alleng, IDB

- IDB has been involved with three REDD+ projects in LAC, including Peru and Guatemala.
- The PEU did an excellent job; targets were met under the project. Some highlights are the engagement work done with indigenous groups and the workshop on gender was significant. Some things were missed, and there is need to tighten up on some. However, the review process iterative and rigorous; it is not the end. I look forward to the ongoing engagement and process.

Remarks and question from Mr. Adrian Flores Aguilar, IDB

- I acknowledge the great work done by Guyana. We at the IDB are really happy. I am in Guyana for a few months and now getting familiar with some aspects of the project.

For the **progress indicators**, the best category is green – significant progress. For activities that have been completed, why wasn't the blue category not included in the final report document, since it is a good category to include? The blue category indicates more than significant progress.

Responses:

- **Consultant:** The blue category was included in the mid-term report, but it was morphed with the green category for the final report. based on the methodology, predefined, and in keeping the FCPF guidelines.
- **Mr. Clayton Hall:** The mid-term report showed significant development progress activities and, yes, the two progress categories were morphed for the final report. As the team leader said, this is a continuing process. Both documents (mid-term and final reports) need to be read in conjunction with each other to establish the extent to which progress that have been made and the next step we need to take as we move forward.
- **Ms. Michelle Astwood:** For the development of the R-Package, the Consultant was guided by the FCPF Guide for the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework. Within that guide, the traffic indicators to be used

for the Readiness Assessment consolidated the blue indicator with the green for demonstrating significant progress, thus reducing the number of indicators from five (mid-term) to four (final).

Remarks by Dwayne Griffith, GFC

- Sustainability of the National REDD Working Group (NRWG) is a concern. With the NRWG in place, there will be better and more fostering of relationships with tremendous benefits that can cause harmonisation of more stakeholders, especially those that are considered the very grassroots whereby ideas and concerns can be addressed and demonstrated. We will see the importance of a bottom up integration.

Remarks by Ms. Adiola Walcott, OCC:

- The final assessment is timely. As we move towards implementation, some gap areas such as the REDD+ registry would have to be addressed.
- In terms of the **international negotiation** process, as it relates to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Article 6 on corporate market approach, this needs to be accounted for. It speaks to double counting and to other processes such as the nationally determined contributions (NDC). This assessment process provides comprehensive areas for improvement and adjustments, and the coordination among stakeholders is critical.
- I acknowledge the work of PEU for a successful project and thank the Consultant for a comprehensive presentation.

Remarks by Ms. Janelle Christian, OCC

- Lots of things have been initiated through discrete projects. We have to transition to an operational mode and strengthen existing coordinating mechanism to maximize synergies among the different initiatives.
- This has implications for market opportunities and the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) could play an important role.
- As the PSC will be dissolved at the end of the project, we would need a mechanism to continue engagement and take advantage of emerging market opportunities.
- On the question of sustainability and financing, NORAD would have recently completed an assessment of the MRVS. Is there a plan and how will the work of the REDD Secretariat and MRVS continue under country ownership until we get to the next funded phase? There is need for conversation in this regard. Some suggestions:
 - o Start with core agencies if we cannot get all the agencies to the table;
 - o Have to get our representatives back into the negotiating process to focus on the things that are critical for Guyana. The highest level of representation needs to be included into the negotiation process as we move into REDD+ implementation. We currently don't have representatives at the highest level from the forestry sector involved in the negotiation phase at the global level, so as to ensure our country's position is adequately represented. There needs to be in our policy discussions, a single country focus and representatives of the highest level at the negotiating table.
- There are other parallel process unfolding. Let us not roll back the gains, and work together to advance the REDD+ agenda.

Remarks by Mr. Lawrence Latchmansingh, EU FLEGT

- Compliments to the MNR PEU for their professionalism, timeliness and technical competence.
- How do we strengthen and move on? I offer three suggestions:
 - o The 'whole of government' approach. There is a need for a national approach if forest and forest-based agendas such as REDD+ are to be successful. My own experience with the revised National Forest Policy Statement (2018) process supports that view;
 - o We need platforms for the key actors to come together routinely and not driven by projects. Other than through a steering committee and keeping information accessible and available, it is sometimes tough to find things especially for those in communities. There is need for the institutionalising of stakeholder engagements and involvement;

- The issue of political transition is important. For the long-term agenda, what are opportunities for the new government to commit to downstream actions and structures without delay and to identify new champions for REDD+?

Remarks by Ms. Adiola Walcott, OCC

- I endorse the importance of institutionalisation of stakeholder engagements and sustainability of REDD+.
- For international processes such as REDD+, some countries are more advanced in some areas and we could learn from the examples of Africa. The use of diverse opportunities and approaches to advance MRVS work is encouraged.

Question from Ms. Janelle Christian, OCC

- On the basis of lessons learned for the PSC, whether we could have an exercise of sharing with other countries in positioning the conversation within the global framework. We could benefit from some context in that regard. This is a request based on in-house capacity.
- Could the IDB facilitate a forum to hear what other REDD+ advanced countries are doing as it relates to implementation, and position the conversation around the global context (e.g. UNFCCC Article 6), including opportunities available through other existing mechanism such as the Green Climate Fund.

Responses:

- **Ms. Michelle Astwood:** The project implemented South-South knowledge sharing experiences with countries that are ahead with REDD+ readiness and implementation: Guatemala and Peru. At the last FCPF Participants Committee meeting, Peru presented their R-Package and the PEU was able to benefit from the knowledge shared through their experience.
- **Mr. Clayton Hall:** We have benefitted from exchanges with other countries. Two approaches going forward are: group ourselves with other countries according to stages of development as we move forward with REDD+, and (ii) work with countries like Suriname and collectively with the regional system to advance REDD+ activities. The idea is to promote collective development under REDD+ at the next FCPF meeting in October 2020.
- **Mr. Adrian Flores:** Definitely, a good idea to leverage experiences from other REDD+ countries. We are looking towards collaboration in the future. Actually, in the case of Suriname, we are engaging in conversations with NGOs (private sector, civil society) to develop schemes to support REDD+ implementation there.

Remarks by Onika Stellingburg, DoE

- Compliments to the presenter and fellow participants for the feedback which has been very enlightening thus far.
- Originally, I was a member of the PSC as the Guyana Youth and Environment Network representative. At that time, I participated in the South-South training in Guatemala.
- For future learning/sharing, it is important to get an understanding of where are other counties in their REDD+ development process, and how are we in line with similar countries? We need to learning how they are mastering what they are doing.
- If we need assistance with financing, make connections based on thematic areas to make learning targeted and specific. For example, with UNFCCC Article 6, which has ramifications for REDD+, have conversations with OCC, and position REDD+ in a space so that we do not lose out.

Agenda Item 5: Summary of key points and next steps

- For the purpose of the Readiness assessment, R-Package and final evaluation of the project, we need to recognise we are still in the readiness phase of REDD+.
- As we move towards REDD+ implementation, there is need to look at sustainability elements, including sustainable financing for a more permanent national REDD+ working group/platform. Sustainable financing for continuing the work of the REDD Secretariat and the MRVW as we engage at the level of country ownership of the REDD+ processes.

- Recognising the role of Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in their role of mobilising sustainable financing.
- Promoting South-South cooperation with other FCPF participating countries such as Guatemala, Peru and Suriname where we can learn important lessons.
- Implementing the ‘Whole of Government’ approach to engage a large body of stakeholders on a large number of issues in order to achieve consensus.
- Need for more stakeholder engagement platforms especially for remote communities, to identify, locate, and access critical REDD+ data and information in the country.
- Ensuring continuity across political administrations – incoming administrations being able to continue the good work that would have been undertaken, prior.

Agenda Item 5: Next steps

- Information from review process of the documents posted online, and from the stakeholder workshop will be incorporated into the final revised documents for submission within one week to the PEU, for consideration.
- Further work to be done to obtain endorsement for the R- Package leading to Guyana’s eligibility for accessing the Carbon Fund and other such funds to support national REDD+ processes.

Agenda Item 6: Closing remarks

Mr. Clayton Hall, MNR

I thank all for their support, and the erudite presentation and high standard of work presented by the Consultant. Over the last 3-plus years, I stood in awe at the level of progress we have made and level of evaluation. I recognise the work and support of the PEU team and all stakeholders towards the successful implementation of the FCPF Readiness phase: GFC, OCC, PSC (which included representatives from NTC, NGOs, EPA, DoE and other agencies), and Mr. Ashton Simon. Greetings to IP and forest dependent communities who kept us on our toes, contributed, participated and ensured the PEU did its work in an efficient and effective manner. This has brought us to a milestone towards achieving REDD+ readiness in Guyana. I look forward to continuing support from all stakeholders. On the question of political transition, successive government have initiated or ensured the project has been implemented and reached this stage. There is total national and political commitment. Donor support permitting, and under the guidance of the MoTP, the next phase of the project will be implemented and Guyana will benefit from REDD+. Thank you all.

End of meeting.

Appendix 1

List of Stakeholders sent notification of the stakeholder consultation:

No.	Agency	Address	Name	Title	Contact #	Email
1	Amerindian Peoples Association	200 Charlotte Street, Bourda, Georgetown	Jean La Rose	Amerindian Peoples Association	6242992	jean.larose@apaguyana.com
2			Laura George	Rights Coordinator	227-0275, 697-3093	kukuigok@yahoo.com
3	Caribbean Youth Environment Network		Godfrey Scott		625-3411	g.scott.mnre@gmail.com
4			Onika Stellingburg		630-8066	ostellie@gmail.com
5	Department of Environment	68 High Street Kingston Georgetown	Alvin Doris		223-6313	alvindoris@yahoo.com
6			Ms. Ndibi Schwiers	Director of Department of Environment	223-6313- 4	ddoe.motp@gmail.com
7	Environmental Protection Agency	Ganges Street, Georgetown	Alba Gittens		225-5471	alagittens@gmail.com
8			Lauren Sampson		225-5471	lbn.sam91@gmail.com
9			Surjpaul Singh	Environmental Officer II	619-9886	surjpaulsingh@gmail.com
10			Vidyannand Mohabir		225-5471	vvmohabir@gmail.com
11			Karishma Misir	Project Officer	225-5471	karishma005@hotmail.com
12	Forest Producers Association		Mona Bynoe		226-9848	monabynoe@hotmail.com
13			Deonarine Ramsaroop		619-4712/226-9848	ricbow1@yahoo.ca
14			Mr. Khalawan		226-9848	fpasect@sdp.org.gy

15	Guyana Forestry Commission	17 Access Road Kingston, Georgetown	Dwayne Griffith	Project Officer	656-0421	dwaynegriff@yahoo.com
16			Jeremy Singh	Project Officer	6573329	jeremy_singh45@yahoo.com
17			Uma Madray			umamadray@yahoo.com
18	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission	Upper Brickdam, Georgetown	Shaka Lewis	EO	608-7617	lechricch@gmail.com
19			Ashelle Ramnarine		225-2862	akeshiaramnarine@gmail.com
20	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission	22 Upper Hadfield St. D'Urban Backlands	Chetwynd Osborne		226-6490	cosborne@glsc.gov.gy
21			Joel Trotman		226-6490	jtrotman@glsc.gov.gy
22	Guyana Manufacturers and Services Association	157 Waterloo St., North Cummingsburg, Georgetown	Clement Duncan		223-7405	clementduncan41@gmail.com
23	Guyana Women Miners Organisation	57 Robb and Oronque Street, Georgetown	Candace Charles		223-6978/686-4207/641-4878	guyanawomenminers@yahoo.com
24			Emilia Maslen		223-6978/686-4207/641-4878/655-8190	guyanawomenminers@yahoo.com , emiliamarslen@gmail.com
25	Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous Peoples	11 Camp Street, Cummingsburg, Georgetown	Colin Klauky		677-4275	goip2000@yahoo.com
26	Indigenous Peoples Commission	66 Peter Rose & Anira Streets, Queenstown, Georgetown	Yvonne Pearson		639-8339	tokoche54@yahoo.com

27	Inter-American Development Bank	47 High Street, Kingston, Georgetown	Alan Mentis	Senior Operations Analyst	600-5252	amentis@iadb.org
28	Kanuku Mountain Community Rep Group	Region 9	Russian Dorrick		6453982	russian.dorrick@gmail.com
29	Ministry of Finance	49 Main & Urquhart Streets, Georgetown, Guyana	Nicofi Hodge	Economic and Financial Analyst	689-2397	nhodge@finance.gov.gy
30			Dale Browne	Deputy Finance Secretary	227-3992	dbrowne@finance.gov.gy
31			Michael B. Joseph	Finance Secretary		mjoseph@finance.gov.gy
32	Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs	251-252 Quamina & Thomas Sts., South Cummingsburg, Georgetown,	Martin Cheong	Ministerial Advisor	623-1282	tomartinac@yahoo.com
33			Antonio George		668 6771	antoniocontana@gmail.com
34	Ministry of Natural Resources	96 Duke Street, Kingston, Georgetown	Joslyn McKenzie	Permanent Secretary		jmckenzie@nre.gov.gy
35	Ministry of Natural Resources, PEU	17 Access Road Kingston, Georgetown	Clayton A. Hall	Project Coordinator-FCPF- MNR	624-7782	chall@nre.gov.gy
36	National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)		Beverly Roberts	Executive Director	677-9454	beverlyroberts58@yahoo.com
37			Aston Simon		600-7229	ashtonsimon@yahoo.com
38	National Steering Committee of Community		Kaydar Persaud		655-9568	beenapersaud40@gmail.com

39	Forestry Organisations		Vanessa D' Aguair	Chairman	6828312/6785317	vlowe592@gmail.com
40	National Tshaos Council Secretariat (NTC)	62 Hadfield Street Georgetown, Guyana	Jude DaSilva			silvajude@hotmail.com
41			Nicholas Fredericks	Chairman	6043548	nicholaskokoifredericks@gmail.com
42	North Pakaraimas District Council	North Pakaraimas	Sherry Balkaran		692-7258 (contact via whts app)	sherry.balkaran@yahoo.com
43	North Rupununi District Development Board	Annai, North Rupununi, Region 9, Guyana	Michael Williams	Chairman	615-7299	michaelhealis@gmail.com
44	Office of Climate Change	Shiv Chanderpaul Drive, Georgetown	Adiola Walcott	Technical Officer-Mitigation	226- 2896	adiola.walcott.occ@motp.gov.gy ; anessah21@gmail.com
45	Policy Forum Guyana		Gomin Camacho			gomincamachocandy@gmail.com
46	Protected Areas Commission	National Park, Thomas Lands, Georgetown	Denise Fraser	Commissioner	227-2265	denisef.pac@gmail.com
47			Denise Bentinck	Administrative Director	227-2265	dbentinck.pac@gmail.com
48			Odacy Davis	Deputy Commissioner	227-2265	odavis.pac@gmail.com
49	South Rupununi District Development Council (SRDC)	South Rupununi, Region 9, Guyana	Goretti Lewis		668-4276	
50	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG)		Mr. Peter Persaud		692-6301/227-1303	taamog@yahoo.com

51	Transparency Institute Guyana Incorporated	157 Waterloo St, Georgetown	Calvin Bernard/Dr. Troy Thomas		623- 4288/617- 4288	infotransparencygy@gmail.com , calvin.bernard@uog.edu.gy
52	University of Guyana – Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences (FEES)	The University of Guyana, Turkeyen Campus, Greater Georgetown	Dr. Paulette Bynoe	Director	222-4180	paulette.bynoe@uog.edu.gy

Appendix 2

AGENDA

Implementation of the Guyana Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP): Readiness Assessment, R-Package

Stakeholder Workshop (Virtual)

Tuesday, 14 July 2020

10:00 - 12:00 hours

Principal Attendees:

MNR: Mr. Joslyn McKenzie, Permanent Secretary & other team member(s)

MNR/FCPF PEU: Mr. Clayton Hall, Project Coordinator & Ms. Michelle Astwood, Project Assistant

Individual Consultant: Patrick Chesney

Please
read: [Draft Readiness Assessment and R-Package report.](#)

10:00 – 10:10	Introductions/Opening remarks	MNR
10:10 – 10:15	Item #1 Background, context	MNR/FCPF-PEU
10:15 – 10:25	Item #2 Expected outcomes	Consultant
10:25 – 10:45	Item #3 Overview of the draft Readiness Assessment and R-Package	Consultant
10:45 – 11:45	Item #4 Moderated discussion of the draft documents	Moderator: Consultant, All
11:45 – 11:55	Item #5 Summary of key points and next steps	Consultant
11:55 – 12:00	Item #6 Closure	MNR/FCPF-PEU

Appendix 3:

List of Participants to the Stakeholder Workshop (Virtual)

No.	Name of Participant	Designation	Organisation
1	Adiola Walcott	Technical Officer- Mitigation	Office of Climate Change (OCC), Ministry of the Presidency (MoTP)
2	Adrian Flores Aguilar	IDB Climate Change Consultant	Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
3	Alan Mentis	Senior Operations Analyst	IDB
4	Ashelle Ramnarine		Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)
5	Aston Simon	President	National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
6	Chetwynd Osborne		Guyana Lands & Survey Commission (GLSC)
7	Clayton Hall	Project Coordinator	Project Execution Unit/FCPF, Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)
8	Dwayne Griffith	Project Officer	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
9	Gerard Alleng	Climate Change Snr. Specialist	IDB
10	Janelle Christian	Head of the OCC	OCC/MoTP
11	Lauren Sampson		Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
12	Lawrence Latchmansingh	FLEGT Facilitator	EU FLEGT Facility
13	Michelle Astwood	Project Assistant	PEU/FCPF, MNR
14	Nkofi Hodge	Economic and Financial Analyst	Ministry of Finance (MoF)
15	Omali Dare	Environmental Officer	MNR
16	Onika Stellingburg	Stakeholder Management Coordinator	Department of Environment, MoTP
17	Ravena Gildharie	Communications and Gender Relations Officer	PEU/FCPF, MNR
18	Surjpaal Singh	Environmental Office II	EPA

Appendix 4: PowerPoint Presentation



**Draft Guyana FCPF
Readiness Assessment**

Annex 2: Suite of GRM products that were developed and consultations with stakeholders that were held during the REDD+ readiness phase in Guyana.

The development of a Grievance and Redress Mechanism for REDD+ implementation in Guyana was finalised in July 2018. Products developed under this consultancy (December 2017 to July 2018) are seen below. This process was multi-sectoral and involved stakeholders from academia, private sector, public sector, civil society and indigenous communities and NGOs.

1. Guyana GRM website - <https://www.guyanagrm.com/> (website currently down for maintenance)
2. Deliverables 1&2: Grievance analysis assessment of mechanisms
3. Deliverable 3&4: Joint Action Plan and Implementation framework
4. Deliverable 5: Operations manual
5. Deliverable 6: Database user manual and Grievance registry <http://grievance.saminfosystems.com> (website currently down as discussion within the Ministry determine where the portal will reside within MNR)
6. Deliverables 7&8: Plan for consultation and information sharing and posters for education and awareness

Location	Date	Male	Female	Total
Linden	14th April, 2018	N/A	N/A	17
Port Kaituma	17th April, 2018	N/A	N/A	19
Bartica	20th April, 2018	N/A	N/A	7
Mahdia/Campbelltown	22nd April, 2018	N/A	N/A	26
Anna Regina	24th April, 2018	N/A	N/A	21
Annai	27th April, 2018	N/A	N/A	32
Mahdia/Campbelltown	3rd June, 2018	9	11	20
Linden	5th June, 2018	11	23	34
Port Kaituma	6th June, 2018	10	15	25
Bartica	8th June, 2018	12	6	18
Lethem	12th June, 2018	11	15	26
Anna Regina	15th June, 2018	6	4	10
TOTAL		59	74	255

The final GRM wrap-up workshop was held within the reporting period and details are provided below.

Location	Date	Male	Female	Total
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Georgetown	25 th July, 2018	14	22	36
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Eighteen attendees were from Government Agencies, five from the Private Sector, two from Indigenous Representative groups, two from Non-Governmental Organizations, six from Civil Society and three from the Diplomatic community. The objectives of this gathering were to:

- To present and discuss the work completed on the development of a Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM) for REDD+ Implementation, including an online registry system capable of receiving REDD+ related grievances
- Gather feedback on the materials/tools prepared
- Determine next steps

Next steps resulted in the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) utilising the developed GRM to create a concept note for its implementation within the natural resources sector. This is currently under review for approval along with the associated budgetary allocation. The yellow indicator (progressing well, further development required) is demonstrative of the initial work done in the Readiness Phase to ensure the GRM has been developed and will guide the implementation at the sector level within MNR. The Ministry continues to work towards the full implementation of the GRM and will continue to learn from the iterative process as we develop further.

The Ministry intends to establish a Grievance and Redress Secretariat to address the increasing number of concerns and complaints that stakeholders are experiencing in the natural resources sector. MNR recognises this as a safeguard mechanism to protect its stakeholders from unintended consequences. In doing so, the Secretariat will provide clarity and predictability on how complaints will be received, assessed, sorted, resolved, and monitored.

The mechanism will allow government agencies, particularly those under the purview of the MNR – the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) and the Guyana Gold Board (GGB) to respond to issues of concern from stakeholders which impact their policies, programmes and operations. This mechanism is intended to form a national structured procedure to investigate complaints and to engage and promote dialogue, and mediation between affected parties or communities.

Although the platform will not be restricted to the MNR's agencies and departments, it will also promote an inter-agency collaborative approach with other external ministries and sector agencies which will capture and report data relating to investigations, dialogue, and resolutions. As the platform evolves, it will also provide vital support services related to communication, capacity building, stakeholder engagement and, monitoring and evaluation.

GRM News Links

<https://dpi.gov.gy/guyana-closer-to-developing-grievance-and-redress-mechanism-for-fcpf-project/>

<https://guyanatimesgy.com/consultation-starts-for-redd-grm-mechanism/>

<https://guyanachronicle.com/2018/04/23/communities-being-consulted-to-develop-redd-grm>

Annex 3: Additional information on REDD+ consultations that were held in Guyana during the REDD+ readiness phase

Extensive national consultations were conducted to determine key stakeholders’ groups and share REDD+ information. The Ministry recognizes that both Indigenous people and Forest dependent communities (non-indigenous communities who also rely of forests and forests products) play a key role in the sustainable management of forests, as such these groups were actively involved throughout the Readiness Phase. This is clearly seen through the various stakeholder engagement exercises highlighted below.

A Project Steering Committee was created to guide the work of the Readiness Phase. It comprised representatives from Ministry of Natural Resources, **National Toshihaos Council, North Rupununi District Development Board, National Steering Committee of Community Forestry Organizations, Amerindian Peoples Association**, Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences-University of Guyana, Guyana Forestry Commission, Office of Climate Change, Forest Producers Association, Transparency International Guyana, Guyana Women Miners Organisation and Guyana Youth Environment Network. Strong Indigenous (**National Toshihaos Council, North Rupununi District Development Board and Amerindian Peoples Association**) and Forest Dependent community (**National Steering Committee of Community Forestry Organizations**) participation was a key pillar supporting the success of the Project.

Further to the selection of the Indigenous groups for the Project Steering Committee the IDB and PEU supported a workshop called the Indigenous Caucus. The objective of the two-day session was to support the indigenous community in finding consensus among themselves on:

- I. the criteria for selection to the FCPF steering committee,
- II. to agree on a process to select indigenous representatives for the steering committee, and
- III. the selection of indigenous representatives to represent the indigenous community on the FCPF steering committee.

This led to the following declaration;

2

DECLARATION OF RESULTS of IP REPRESENTATIVES for FCPF Steering Committee

National Representative Bodies
Main Representative: **Lenox Shuman** (National Toshihaos Council – NTC)
Alternate: **Yvonne Pearson** (Indigenous Peoples Commission – IPC)

National NGO Representatives
Main Representative: **Laura George** (Amerindian Peoples Association – APA)
Alternate: **Peter Persaud** (The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana – TAAMOG)

Regionally-based Local District Councils
Main Representative: **Mike Williams** (North Rupununi District Development Board – NRDDB)
Alternate: **Sherry Balkaran** (North Pakaraimas District Council – NPDC)

The above-mentioned were fully endorsed by the Indigenous Caucus as the inaugural representatives of the Indigenous Peoples of Guyana on the Steering Committee of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).

Consultations and Stakeholder Engagements on REDD+

The consultancy for the development of a Communication Strategy and Action Plan along with communication and outreach materials started in December, 2017. The objective was to ensure that key stakeholders understand REDD+ and have strong participation in the readiness process and the REDD+ Strategy development ensuring the consultation

processes are: clear, inclusive, transparent and facilitate timely access to information in a culturally-appropriate form. Products under this consultancy for the period are seen below along with the stakeholder engagement activities.

Baseline Survey of Stakeholder Awareness, Knowledge and Attitudes

Final Report approved in July 2019. The specific objectives pursued were:

- a) To conduct an analysis of stakeholders and develop a stakeholder map in order to identify stakeholders at the national and subnational levels, and stakeholder groups that are likely to be affected by the implementation of REDD+.
- b) To undertake a Baseline Survey of Stakeholder Awareness, Knowledge and Attitudes to determine the baseline perceptions, level of awareness, and knowledge of and attitudes towards REDD+. The baseline survey provides baseline data for future comparison, which will be used to determine the extent to which the expected outcomes defined in the Communication and Outreach Strategy have been achieved.

The stakeholder consultations for this report were documented in the June 2018-June 2018 Country Report, with approximately 230 stakeholders participating.

Location	Date	Male	Female	Total
Georgetown	7th May, 2018	7	13	20
Mainstay	9th May, 2018	21	22	43
Moruca	11th May, 2018	N/A	N/A	45
Kwakwani	14th May, 2018	N/A	N/A	38
Georgetown	16th May, 2018	13	10	23
Bartica	18th May, 2018	5	8	13
Mahdia	21st May, 2018	18	7	25
Lethem	28th May, 2018	N/A	N/A	23
TOTAL		64	60	230

REDD+ Communication and Outreach Strategy and Action Plan

The major outcome was the identification of three (3) overall strategic objectives that would form the basis of the Communication Strategy.

- Objective 1: Improve access and sharing of information about the REDD+ related topics and its Consequences

- Objective 2: Increase the perception of the benefits of the REDD+ for the communities and particularly for indigenous people and forest-dependent communities
- Objective 3: Widen understanding about REDD+ strategies, plans and programs

As a result, a comprehensive kit of Knowledge Communication Products (KCPs) were prepared for dissemination to various stakeholder groups. Inclusive of Videos, radio slots (3 versions), brochures (3 versions), posters (3 versions), online communication campaigns (website, facebook, twitter, email campaign etc) and a guide for school campaign. **Materials were developed in culturally appropriate forms, inclusive of five (5) languages. These are English and four (4) indigenous languages; Macushi, Patamona, Akawaio and Wapishana. All FCPF materials developed are available on the website <https://reddplusguyana.org/>.**

The development of the REDD+ Communication and Outreach Strategy and Action Plan and Knowledge Communication Products (KCPs) was guided by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Project Steering Committee members.

Implementation of Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Phase 1 of this process unfolded in March 2019. Stakeholders participated in workshops/clusters which focused on;

- 1) Updating communities and organisations on work of readiness preparation under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, focusing on Guyana's REDD+ communication strategy and products, and dissemination possibilities and actions;
- 2) Introducing the range of communication products elaborated by the consultants and
- 3) Engaging communities and organisations into informing their peers about REDD+ and actively participating into the ongoing readiness process.

Below provides a breakdown of these engagements and the communities/stakeholder groups involved.

Location	Number and name of communities	Date	Male	Female	Total
Region 9 - Bina Hill, Annai	6: Surama, Wowetta, Kwatamang, Anna, Reupertee, Aranaputa	4 th March, 2019	16	8	24
Region 9 - Bina Hill, Annai	7: Apotery, Rewa, Crashwater, Yakarinta, Massara, Quimatta, Kawatamang	5 th March, 2019	13	3	16
Region 9 - Yupukari	6: Yupukari, Katoka, Fly Hill, Quatata, Semonie, Kaicumbay	6 th March, 2019	15	16	31
Region 9 - Karasabai	8: Rukumata, Karasabai, Yurong Paru, Tipuru, Tiger Pond, Kakshibai, Taushida, Pai Pang	7 th March, 2019	25	3	28
Region 8 - Mahdia	5: Mahdia, Campbelltown, El Paso, Brian Sucre Junction, Micobie	12 th March, 2019	11	9	20

Region 8 – Mahdia/Cluster	6: Mahdia, Campbelltown, El Paso, Brian Sucre Junction, Micobie, Tumatumari	12 th March, 2019	11	13	24
Region 8 - Paramaktoi	3: Paramakatoi, Yawong, Mountain Foot	14 th March, 2019	19	15	34
Region 7 - Bartica	8: Bartica, Kartabo, Dagg Point, Fall Mouth/ River's View, River's View, Potaro Esseg, Batavia, Agatash	18 th March, 2019	10	12	22
Region 7 – Bartica/Cluster	10: Bartica, Kartabo, Dagg Point, Fall Mouth/ River's View, River's View, Potaro Esseg, Batavia, Agatash, Mazaruni, Paauna	18 th March, 2019	15	15	30
Region 7 - Mainstay	5: Whayaka, Bethany, Capoey, Mashabo, St. Denys	19 th March, 2019	15	5	20
Region 7 – Mainstay/Cluster	6: Whayaka, Bethany, Capoey, Mashabo, St. Denys, Red Rock	19 th March, 2019	19	10	29
Region 1 - Charity	6: Akawini, Wakapoa, St. Monica, Karawab, Pomeroon, Kabakaburi	21 st March, 2019	19	7	26
Region 1 - Moruca	18: Assakata, St. Cruz, Warapoka, Manowarin, Kokerite, Parakeese, Kwebanna, Waramuri, Haimapacrabra, Karaburi, Wallaba, Cabrora, Kamwatta, Ko.Ko, Rincon, St. Rosa, Mora, Kumaka	22 nd March, 2019	30	14	44
Region 1 – Moruca/Cluster	18: Assakata, St. Cruz, Warapoka, Manowarin, Kokerite, Parakeese, Kwebanna, Waramuri, Haimapacrabra, Karaburi, Wallaba, Cabrora, Kamwatta, Ko.Ko, Rincon, St. Rosa, Mora, Kumaka	22 nd March, 2019	31	19	50
Region 4 - Public sector and Academia	Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Climate Change, Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission, Ministry of the Presidency (Department of Environment), National Centre for Educational Resource Development (Ministry of Education), Guyana School of Agriculture, United Nations Development Programme, University of Guyana (Ecotrust Society),	25 th March, 2019	24	9	33

	Department of Public Information, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Forestry Training Centre Incorporated, European Union, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, Guyana Forestry Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, Guyana Energy Agency, GSDS Coordination Office/ UN Environment, Ministry of Finance, University of Guyana (department of Natural Science), Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Inter-American Development Bank				
Region 4 - Ministry of Communities	Various employees of the Ministry of Communities, including Regional Democratic Council from the hinterland regions	25 th March, 2019	19	2	21
Region 4 - Private sector & CSO	A, Mazaharally & Sons Limited, Caribbean Youth Environment Network Guyana, National Amerindian Development Foundation, Guyana Human Rights Association (Policy Forum Guyana), CI Guyana, Women and Gender Equality Commission, Exxon Mobil, Guyana National Youth Council, Caribbean Youth Environment Network Guyana, Iwokrama, Kurunduni Logging & Development Incorporated, Willems Timber, The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG), Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association, Guyana National Newspaper Limited (Chronicle), Amerindian Peoples Association, Guyana Information Agency (GINA) Ministry of Natural Resources, Women Across Difference (WAD), Merundoi Incorporated, A. Mazaharally & Sons Limited	26 th March, 2019	8	18	26
Region 4 – Press conference	Representatives from Media houses and the Ministry of Natural Resources	28 th March, 2019	12	3	15

TOTAL			
	312	181	493

Phase 2 implementation unfolded in June 2019 – August 2019. Stakeholders participated in workshops/clusters which focused on;

- 1) Updating communities and organisations on work of readiness preparation under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, focusing on Guyana's REDD+ communication strategy and products, and dissemination possibilities and actions;
- 2) Introducing the range of communication products elaborated by the consultants and
- 3) Engaging communities and organisations into informing their peers about REDD+ and actively participating into the ongoing readiness process.

Below provides a breakdown of these engagements and the communities/stakeholder groups involved.

Location	Number and name of communities	Date	Male	Female	Total
Region 4 - Georgetown	14: Baramita, Bumbury Hill, Wakapoa, Capoey, St Cuthbert's, Moraikobai, Orealla, Tassarene, Kako, Kanapang, Shulinab, Yupukari, Muritaro, Kimbia	6 th June, 2019	-	-	14
Region 10 - Linden	10: Hururu, Dallawalla, Linden, Coomacka, Sand Hills, Kimbia, Coomacka Mines, Hururu Mission, Calcuni, Rockstone	16 th July, 2019	-	-	20
Region 10 - Linden	2: Ituni and Aroaima	17 th July, 2019	-	-	21
Region 10 - Kwakwani	Kwakwani	18 th July, 2019	-	-	18
Region 10 – Kwakwani Cluster	Kwakwani Cluster	18 th July, 2019	-	-	18
Region 9 – Lethem	12: Lethem, Nappi, Tabatinga, Kaicumbay, Moco-Moco, Farmer's group Settlement, St. Ignatius, Maruranau, Kuma, Cracrana and, Sand Creek, Karasabai	22 nd July, 2019	-	-	33
Region 9 – Lethem Cluster	12: Lethem, Nappi, Tabatinga, Kaicumbay, Moco-Moco, Farmer's group Settlement, St. Ignatius, Maruranau, Kuma, Cracrana and, Sand Creek, Karasabai	22 nd July, 2019	-	-	33

Region 9 - Shulinab	12: Shulinab, Sand Creek, Meriwau, Rupunau, Potarinau, Katu'ur, Katoonarib, Rider Hill, Sawariwau, Shiriri, Baitoon, Quiko	23 rd July, 2019	-	-	46
Region 9 - Aishalton	9: Achawib, Awarewaunau, Para Bora, Churikadnao, Karaudarnau, Shea, Marurunau, Aishalton, Bashaizon	24 th July, 2019	-	-	33
Region 1 - Mabaruma	12: Yarakita, Thomas Hill Community, Mabaruma Settlement, Hobodeia, Hosororo, Tobago, Kumaka, Red Hill, Arukama, Kariabo Arukamai, Santa Rosa Reservation, White Water	29 th July, 2019	-	-	20
Region 7 – Kamarang	18: Emoikeng, Jawalla, Chinoweing, Wax Creek, Warawatta, Baitoo, Waramadong, Amokokopai, Abau, Phillipai, Kamarang, Klaimalu, Paruima, Kako, Imb./ Kambaru, Quebanang, Iwaricqumu, Wayalayeng	2 nd August, 2019	-	-	36
TOTAL			-	-	292

FCPF PEU and Indigenous NGOs – (APA, GOIP & NADF). Support for Stakeholder Engagement on REDD+

Stemming from the assessment of the institutional capacities of Indigenous NGOs, the FCPF PEU began a programme in January 2019 of engaging on their role in the REDD+ Readiness process. The Indigenous NGO's proposed to broaden and strengthen participation by indigenous peoples through involvement of other representative bodies and to build capacity for engagement among a broad cross section of indigenous organizations in the REDD+ consultation process by holding one (1) national training workshop for indigenous resources persons, including Guyanese Organization of Indigenous Peoples (GOIP), National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF), Amerindian Peoples Association (APA), National Tshaos Council (NTC), North Pakaraima District Council (NPDC), Upper Mazaruni District Council (UMDC), South Rupununi District Council (SRDC), North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB), Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group (KMCRG), Moruca District Council organizations, among others, that would cover the following issues:

- General orientation to REDD+
- Introduction to draft national REDD+ strategy
- Introduction to social and environmental safeguards, including SESA and ESMF
- Discussion of key issues including land tenure, FPIC, equitable benefit sharing, carbon rights and others

Resource persons would have two primary functions: 1) to participate in government sponsored consultation workshops on the REDD+ strategy, SESA, ESMF; and 2) carry out further village level educational, awareness raising, gather of inputs and consultation activities within their constituencies.

The PEU supported the Indigenous NGOs in their “National Training of Indigenous Support Persons for REDD+ Consultation Process in Guyana” workshop and was planning to continue collaboration on the sharing of FCPF REDD+ information at the village level in 2020. Details are provided below;

Location	Date	Male	Female	Total
Georgetown, Region 4	24 th – 26 th June, 2019	N/A	N/A	40
Total				40

FCPF Gender Inclusion in REDD+

When the FCPF Project Execution Unit (PEU) commenced its work in September 2016, it was recognized that initial project activities lacked consideration of gender issues. Further arising from observations at engagements with stakeholders, gender considerations in the FCPF Project was identified as a major shortcoming that could seriously affect outcomes of readiness and future REDD+ activities in Guyana. Against this background, the FCPF has committed to a REDD+ readiness process that nurtures awareness on the importance of gender to the success of REDD+ activities in Guyana; where men, women, youth, boys and girls are recognized as key REDD+ stakeholders; and that they have equal opportunities to access, participate and make inputs to relevant REDD+ framework being developed in the current readiness phase. These gender considerations in the FCPF understands that in local communities, REDD+ is mostly perceived as targeting merely men due to the focus on forestry and mining activities, as two main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. However, women and youth are also users of Guyana’s forests, though their activities, role and knowledge may differ from men.

On the 3rd August, 2018 the first of a series of Gender Workshop was held under the theme “Readying Women for REDD+”. The workshop had the specific goals to raise awareness around the gender issues in forest management and conservation, and to make the first step of establishing the Women’s Task Force. The workshop was well attended with 59 participants, and covered areas related to the REDD+ readiness process and activities in Guyana, gender mainstreaming, and examining the needs of women in IFDCs. The women were representatives of the 10 administrative regions of Guyana who work in the natural resource sector and/or have support the governance village lands.

Spin-offs from August 2018 FCPF-REDD+ women and gender workshop: -

Targeted approach with gender considerations in REDD+ engagements: Stakeholders recommended a targeted approach to REDD+ engagements with gender considerations and which specifically addressed the communities’ concerns on REDD+ and related issues. This resulted in several community-based workshops with indigenous and forest-dependent stakeholders at Mainstay (June 2019), Anna Regina (February 2020) and Linden (January 2020).

REDD+ in schools: One of the women and gender considerations of the FCPF-REDD+ Project to include school-age children in the REDD+ readiness process saw a partnership with the Ministry of Education to host the 2019 JOF Haynes Debating Competition. The final round in November 2019 saw the finalists of McKenzie High School and Anna Regina Multilateral debating the moot: “Is Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation important to the development of Guyana’s economy?”

Further, in the North Rupununi, the FCPF-REDD+ through its women and gender component established a partnership with the Bina Hill Institute that saw REDD+ capacity building sessions with indigenous students of mainly Regions 8 & 9.

Also, through partnership with the Office of Climate Change, the FCPF-REDD+ Project conducted REDD+ awareness sessions in a number of primary schools.

News articles

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

<https://guyanatimesgy.com/govt-reintegrates-women-into-redd-plus-readiness/>

<http://demerarawaves.com/2018/08/03/guyana-taps-into-womens-knowledge-in-forest-management-to-combat-climate-change/>

<https://www.stabroeknews.com/2018/news/guyana/08/04/women-enlisted-in-battle-to-conserve-forests/>

<http://www.ncnguyana.com/11/index.php/news/1180-readying-guyanese-women-for-redd>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nea4cc6J8_A

<https://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/2018/08/05/women-from-10-regions-being-educated-on-redd/>

Sustainable livelihood initiatives

Under its women and gender component, the FCPF-REDD+ Project also established a REDD+ community-based livelihood initiative at Rockstone Village, Region 10, in collaboration with the Village Council and for the benefit of the Rockstone Women's Group. Solar-powered cold storage facilities were procured and installed for the women to store fish, meats, fruits and vegetables, which they use to prepare hot meals for the village's school children.

At Parikwarinau, in the South Rupununi, the FCPF-REDD+ supported a renewable energy project that supplies solar power to the primary school and teachers' quarter in the predominantly Wapishan-based community. The initiative also saw the nursery school equipped with beds and retractor fans.

Also, in the South Rupununi, the FCPF-REDD+ Project in December 2019 partnered and supported the South Rupununi District Development Council (SRDC) annual youth congress, which targeted the empowerment, capacity building and sharing of traditional indigenous knowledge to Makushi and Wapishan youth.

News articles

<http://guyanachronicle.com/2020/02/02/rockstone-womens-group-receives-timely-boost-for-community-initiatives>

<https://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/2020/02/02/rockstone-womens-group-receives-cold-storage-facilities/>

<https://dpi.gov.gy/rockstone-womens-group-receives-cold-storage-facilities-through-ministrys-fcpf-redd-project/>

<http://guyanachronicle.com/2020/02/28/solar-energy-project-commissioned-in-region-nine>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apCoaYJOB3c&feature=youtu.be>

<http://guyanachronicle.com/2019/12/04/forest-carbon-partnership-facility>

<https://guyanachronicle.com/2019/11/09/mackenzie-high-takes-coveted-title>

The FCPF Guyana Project applied for an extension for the period February 8, 2020 to December 31, 2020 through the Ministry of Finance to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) our delivery partner. However this extension was

not approved and the Project has ended. Activities that would have been supported for the new reporting period would have included;

1. Support for Indigenous NGOs for REDD+ Information Sharing Workshops. This would have been Phase 2 of the **“FCPF PEU and Indigenous NGOs – (APA, GOIP & NADF). Support for Stakeholder Engagement on REDD+”** where persons from each organisation trained would begin to have workshops in Indigenous communities sharing REDD+ Information.
2. Translation of REDD+ materials into Indigenous Languages. Key technical documents (REDD+ Strategy, Benefits Sharing Mechanism and GRM) were to be translated using Indigenous Translators with REDD+ knowledge.
3. Sustainable livelihood initiatives – under it’s women and gender component, the FCPF-REDD+ Project planned to continue its REDD+ community-based livelihood initiative supporting communities with REDD+ Projects ad continuing to support the REDD+ Pilot Projects in Muritaro, Shullinab and New Haven/Siriki.

News articles

https://issuu.com/guyanachroniclee-paper/docs/guyana_chronicle_e-paper_03-30-2019

<http://guyanachronicle.com/2019/03/29/new-redd-strategy-seeks-to-broaden-involvement-of-women-youths>