***1.4 Summary of conclusions, recommendations and lessons***

**1.4.1 Conclusions**

The Suriname GCCA+ Project was highly relevant for the country. Suriname is severely affected

by Climate Change and trends show that the situation can be exacerbate in the future. The

project also responds to the lack of skills and resources in such specific area, present in the

national stakeholders.

The Project was, overall, able to achieve the completion of several products and to generate a

certain level of engagement from relevant stakeholders. This engagement dealt with the need

for coastal protected areas management instruments that take into account the multiple roles

and uses that these systems play in the development of Suriname and its sustainable use of

natural resources to face the Climate Change (CC) effects.

The project succeeded in contributing to the achievement of its specific objectives namely:

To reduce Suriname’s vulnerability to negative effects of climate change,

To enhance Suriname’s capacity for developing and undertaking appropriate and

effective measures to adapt to climate change effects.

It was also able to achieve its main proposed outputs.

The capacity at the national meteorological service has been strengthened and new stations

installed.

New opportunities and technologies to reduce the vulnerability of the agricultural sector to

climate change have been created and disseminated.

A National Mangrove Strategy has been produced and the existing management plans of 3

coastal MUMAs have been updated and implemented.

The patrolling and enforcement activities have been improved and public and community

awareness campaigns have been adequately designed and implemented.

Clear positive impacts have been generated by the Project. They refer to national and ministerial

climate policies and objectives, as well as to local economic and social activities, and to

ecological elements (water, soil, forests, mangroves, etc).

The projects’ outputs can be considered as sustainable, they will be useful for future activities

implemented by stakeholder including for local beneficiaries.

However, not all the expected outputs have been achieved (see section 4.1.3).

The project’s intended targets were overestimated given the duration of the project and the

number of different activities included in the project design. The lack of proper resources

(personnel, equipment, monetary ones) to achieve the stated objectives, shown by some of the

stakeholders had also a negative impact. External factors, such as the economic crises and changes within the government, were other causes for delays. All these issues resulted in the

recommendation and request for extension, but despite this, the failure to achieve some

expected targets is evident.

The new “phase 2” approved by the EU may allow to achieve what was not possible in the first

project and will extend and enlarge its outputs and impacts.

Phase 2 provides opportunity to build on results phase 1, realizing relevant outstanding targets

and outputs from “phase 1” and its impact.

**1.4.2 Lessons learnt**

The main lessons learnt from the project can be summarized as follow:

Climate Change includes different subjects and has to be managed through a pluri and

cross sectoral approach.

It is not easy to find local and international experts to manage and implement CC

activities and projects;

Climate activities in Suriname involve different ministries and local authorities. Clear

definition of roles and responsibilities at the project design stage is needed;

Involvement and support of different district and regional organizations is needed;

Good stakeholder engagement is also a key for a successful implementation;

Continuous communication with government partners is needed. Regular interdepartmental

consultation/discussion at policy level and technical level could result in

improved coordination of CC Adaptation initiatives at a national level;

Efficient use of funds enhances collaboration and participation amongst government

partners in benefit of the project objective;

Sharing of knowledge and experience between Caribbean countries can support the

projects objectives and impacts;

When working with international consultants a national counterpart is fundamental;

Implementation of pilot projects within the required time was very challenging;

Data standardization is needed to make them usable and sustainable;

In order to seek results, a project such as GCCA+ needs to interweave results-based

approach and management from the very beginning;

Projects need constant monitoring by all parties involved (implementing and

executing agencies, project governance bodies);

Adaptive management and modifications when issues arise are imperative to achieve

results;

The capacity of the implementing partner for the GCCA+ project requests to be

assessed from project inception / design onward;

Gender mainstream has to be clearly imbedded from project design onward, in order

for mainstreaming to be achieved within project’s ambits;

There is a geographic issue that can act as a barrier in communications between the

central government and indigenous communities. Coordination with NGOs and CSOs

is vital to address this barrier.

The evaluation methodology is objective from the assessment of the project’s results

and decreases the subjective opinions. It can be successfully used in other spheres of

the environmental activity.

**1.4.3 Recommendations**

Since this is a terminal evaluation and the Project has concluded, nearly all

recommendations are for future programming in particular phase 2.

They are divided into 2 categories: project design, project management and implementation.

**Project design**

Start the design of phase 2 as soon as possible in order to prevent difficulties and

potential delays due to the next year elections and potential changes in the government

objectives and structure;

Set targets coherent with timeframe and local conditions;

Define clear roles and responsibilities among government and implementing partners;

Allocate resources for maintenance of instrumental equipment;

Include more gender indicators for the outputs in the Logical Framework;

Provide support to ensure the implementation of the IWRM, including establishment of

national water authority;

Private sector should be more involved in the implementation of phase 2;

Foreseen protection from vandalism for instruments;

Allocate resources for translation in Dutch but also in local languages for villages.

**Project management and implementation**

Future projects need to be closely monitored by all parties involved (implementing and

executing partners, project governance bodies) in order to establish if they are meeting

with expected outputs and products;

Take into account the difficulty to find local skilled experts, as well as international ones,

on Climate Change issues for the tendering procedures;

Ensure proper data collection and sharing in usable formats;

Ensure PMU will be fully operative at the beginning of phase 2;

Independent evaluations are extremely valuable for course correction and catalyzing

improvements. New evaluation, particularly at their mid-term, should be scheduled in

due time in order to be carried out and provide recommendations to be adopted during

the project implementation.

When working with communities, underline the importance of economic benefits and/or

create incentives for the communities and its members to incorporate sustainable

management practices in their productive patterns.