

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT



Project:

**Strengthening National
Capacities of Suriname
for the Elaboration of the
National REDD+ Strategy
and the Design of its
Implementation Framework**

Phase I and II

Funded by: FCPF

Delivery partner: UNDP

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Dominiek Plouvier, International Consultant

Sharon Legiman, National Consultant

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Abbreviations

ACT	Amazon Conservation Team
ACTO	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
ART	Architecture for REDD+ Transactions
ASHU	Association of Timber Enterprises Suriname
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BSM	Benefits Sharing Mechanism
CCDA	Climate Compatible Development Agency, Suriname
CCDU	Climate Compatible Development Unit, Office of the President
CELOS	Center for Agricultural Research in Suriname
CfRN	Coalition for Rainforest Nations
CI	Conservation International
CIU	Carbon Intelligence Unit
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DDFDB+	Drivers of Deforestation, Forest Degradation and Barriers to REDD+
DNA	National Parliament of Suriname
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ER	Emissions Reductions
ERPA	Emissions Reductions Purchase Agreement
ERPD	Emissions Reductions Purchase Document
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCM	Forest Cover Monitoring
FCMU	Forest Cover Monitoring Unit
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FGRM	Feedback and Grievance and Redress Mechanism
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FREL	Forest Reference Emissions Level
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRM	Grievance and Redress Mechanism
GRO	Grievance and Redress Organization
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers
HDI	Human Development Index
HFLD	High Forest cover and Low Deforestation
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IEO	Innovative Economic Opportunities
IMAC	Inter-Ministerial Advisory Commission
ICCA	Indigenous Community Conserved Area
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ITPs	Indigenous and Tribal Peoples

KAMPOS	Platform for the Tribal communities in Suriname
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy, Guyana
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LEAF	Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance
LT/LR	Land Tenure / Land Rights
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MGC	Major Groups Collective
Min GBB	Ministry of Land and Forests
Min ROM	Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment
Min RO	Ministry of Regional Development
Min RGB	Ministry of Spatial Planning, Land and Forest Management
MOP	Multi Annual Development Plan
MPR	Mid-term Progress Report
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
MTR	Mid Term Review
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIMOS	National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname
NMA	National Environment Authority
NRS	National REDD+ Strategy
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
OIS	Organization of Indigenous peoples in Suriname
PAMs	Policies and Measures
PB	Project Board
PC	Project Coordinator
PHS	Platform Timber Sector Suriname
PLR	Policies, Laws and Regulations
PMU	Project Management Unit
PRODOC	Project Document
QPR	Quarterly Progress Report
RAC	REDD+ Assistants Collective
RBP	Results Based Payments
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
R-PIN	Readiness Project Idea Note
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
RS	REDD+ Strategy
RSC	REDD+ Steering Committee
SBB	Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control
SC	Steering Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SFISS	Sustainable Forestry Information System Suriname

SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SIDS	Small Islands Developing States
SIS	REDD+ Safeguards Information System
TBI	Tropenbos International
TREES	The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UN REDD	United Nations REDD+ Programme
VIDS	Association of Indigenous Villages Leaders in Suriname
VSB	Association of Surinamese Businesses
VSG	Association of Saamaka Traditional Authorities
WB	World Bank
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Executive Summary

1. Suriname is a relatively small country in South America with a forest cover of 93%. It is considered the most forested country in the world. With a small population living mainly in the coastal area, a historical low deforestation rate (oscillating between 0.02 and 0.07% annually) and a promising upcoming oil and gas industry, the country holds potential for REDD+ to contribute to Suriname's sustainable and green development.
2. The UNDP project "Strengthening national capacities of Suriname for the elaboration of the National REDD+ Strategy and the design of its implementation framework" is the result of Suriname's REDD+ Readiness Preparation efforts back in 2012-2013. After some failed attempts, Suriname succeeded in drafting a solid Readiness Preparation Proposal or R-PP including a broad consultation process. The R-PP was approved in June 2013 and led to funding of the REDD+ Readiness project by FCPF, with UNDP as the delivery partner.
3. Whilst the project was initially designed for a 3 years duration, the MTR did recommend a second phase, which led to a total duration of 7.5 years of the REDD+ Readiness project. NIMOS was assigned as the national institute to carry out the project, whilst SBB was the technical partner institute for certain outputs. After a difficult start in 2014-2015, the project took off and has been able to deliver many outputs that are key for an eventual REDD+ Implementation Phase.
4. This final evaluation is meant to describe the state of Suriname after more than 7 years of investment in REDD+ Readiness. Many milestones have been achieved, such as a solid MRV and NFMS system (housed in SBB), a comprehensive REDD+ Strategy and the design of a Safeguards Information System (SIS). However, there are some remaining gaps as to REDD+ Implementation, such as the need to install a sound REDD+ institutional framework and a lack of in-country capacity for attracting REDD+ Funding. Apart from these two issues, much more needs to be done with the indigenous and tribal peoples (ITP) organizations to get them on board for REDD+.
5. The main factor that affected project implementation was the lack of high-level political support for REDD+ as a tool for a green and sustainable development. Whilst pledges for preserving a 93% Forest Cover have been done at international level (including demands for payments for the standing carbon and other ecosystem services), there has been no long-term development vision that limits forest destruction and forest degradation as such. Whilst the national development plan (MOP) 2017-2021 still mentioned REDD+ as a tool for sustainable development, the word REDD+ is absent in the recently approved MOP 2022-2026.
6. In such a context, the development of a National REDD+ Strategy and REDD+ Financial Strategy including all stakeholders is possible but its implementation is complicated. High level political support for REDD+ was largely absent during the entire project period and hampered REDD+ readiness preparation. Many key technical documents have been worked out, and different tools were developed as required in the R-PP. However, it has not been possible to work out

all the necessary legislative reforms nor build an accompanying institutional implementation framework for REDD+ at national scale.

7. The project did a sound effort over the years regarding stakeholder engagement and public outreach at all levels of the society, in order to raise awareness on the importance of the forests and climate change. Stakeholder engagement started with the R-PP, and was taken up again by the project from 2016 onwards. Annual engagement and communication plans were developed and executed. As a result, many stakeholders both in the coastal area and the hinterland are now more aware of Climate Change and REDD+.
8. Involvement of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples has been done in a respectful way, given the complexity and tension within Suriname because of unresolved land rights issues. NIMOS/PMU mostly involved ITP's through the REDD+ assistants in order to share information on REDD+ and/or when ITP's were needed for consultation on products such as the REDD+ NS or the SIS. When ITP's in the hinterland were consulted, they were subsequently asked to validate several documents.
9. Better communication and coordination with ITP organizations (VIDS, KAMPOS) during the project would have led to more project results as to FPIC, local development plans based on REDD+ and C-MRV. Both at the level of the ITP organizations, RAC and the ITP in general, there is a growing frustration about REDD+, as ITPs are still awaiting REDD+ funding for local development more than 10 years later after the launch of the REDD+ message.
10. Institutional strengthening and capacity building all have happened during the project life, especially at the level of SBB, within the Forest Cover Monitoring Unit and beyond. SBB was particularly well organized to use REDD+ project funding to attract international consultants only when needed, and to rather use funding for building internal capacity through trainings of local staff in-country and abroad. Institutional strengthening in NIMOS has happened as well, but to a much lesser extent; the division PMU and NIMOS as separate Units did not seem to be a good choice given the fact that PMU staff (trained in REDD+) will now take on other jobs.
11. A National REDD+ Strategy was developed during 2017 after a sound analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, including barriers towards REDD+ implementation. The NRS was compiled after a long and tedious process of consultation, particularly with the ITP's of the hinterland. Whilst the NRS is a holistic document which gives 4 strategic lines and a comprehensive wish-list of relevant policies and measures (PAM's) to implement REDD+, it does not identify which policies and measures have the lowest risks to be implemented, and where the low-hanging fruits are. In other words, there is no clear agreed timeline and process in place to resolve inconsistencies and integrate REDD+ strategy options with relevant development policies.
12. The approval of the second phase REDD+ readiness project took far too long (more than 2 years) and created confusion. As the REDD+ Strategy was finalized, it was time for implementation, and not for another readiness phase (despite elements lacking for REDD+ implementation). Project document Phase II of REDD+ Readiness included some elements of a REDD+ Business strategy and some activities towards REDD+ Implementation. The project was

successful in organizing a high-level HFLD conference in 2019, but since then, it was unable to build further on this, partly because of the elections and the new Government to be installed. The COVID pandemic that started in April 2020 was not helpful in this respect either.

13. Still, due to the investments in the REDD+ readiness phase, Suriname now has a strong MRV system for monitoring deforestation and forest degradation, housed in the NFMS Unit at SBB. This unit is now equipped by several local staff with a sound knowledge of GIS and remote sensing, coupled with local knowledge on land use and forestry. The NFMS system that was gradually built up is now equipped with a SFISS and other key tools for monitoring logging in the country. SBB was also capable with technical and financial support from the project to submit two FREL reports which were both approved by the UNFCCC.
14. At the level of NIMOS, several technical processes and documents have been developed that are key for REDD+ Implementation such as a comprehensive REDD+ Strategy, a Safeguards SOI and SIS portal, as well as a very sound ESMF framework. However, they all need institutional embedding in the new NMA. Some elements of the REDD+ Readiness have not been developed such as the Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM), a mechanism that needs strong ITP organizations as counterpart to the governmental institutes, in order to come to long term agreements on benefit sharing of REDD+ projects.
15. A transition from REDD+ Readiness to REDD+ Implementation at national level is possible depending on some milestones to be achieved. However, it is above all a political choice that goes beyond NIMOS/SBB (and UNDP). Clear commitment is needed at the highest political level in order to couple REDD+ with a Green Development, looking for investments that keep the Forest at 93%, and not short-term investments that will definitely lead to more deforestation and forest degradation. This requires -amongst other measures- Long term Development Planning coupled with a National Land Use Planning (Spatial Planning), including the demarcation of Indigenous and Tribal lands.
16. More specifically, the evaluation team recommends that:
 1. At the highest level of the Government, actions are undertaken to develop a Green Development Vision and Action Plan to keep the Forest Cover at 93% and hence obtain considerable REDD+ Funding. This requires a strategic long-term development plan that refrains from large scale deforestation for cattle ranching, oil palm or other development programs except in the deforested areas of the coastal zone.
 2. Green Development and Climate Change funding gets a special place at the highest political level, which is the Cabinet of the President, or at a Special Ministry for Development Planning, LUP, Climate, Environment and Forests, given the uniqueness of the country and its potential.
 3. Long term Planning of Development (MOP) is coupled with Spatial Planning (Land use planning - LUP or Ruimtelijke Ordening in Dutch) at a National Scale (entire country). This will minimize ad hoc development, provide clarity on concessions (logging/mining), protected areas and land rights.
 4. The relationship between the Government and the ITP organizations is strengthened by supporting their legitimate organizations and build ITP capacity beyond this project.

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5. The Government of Suriname invests in work on Land Rights as a Cornerstone for future development (and spatial development) of the Interior with full respect of FPIC and in agreement with the ITPs.
 6. The Government invests more in Climate Finance expertise, especially REDD+ Finance expertise, and allies with similar countries such as Guyana, Gabon and with international efforts such as the Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN) and the Forest for Life Partnership, in order to share information and submit joint proposals for funding.
 7. NMA gets the correct funding and correct staffing, following the approved Environment Act with a mandate that is limited to the needs of the law: application of a strict Environmental Framework for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA's) and Environmental Management Plans (including REDD+ Projects), as well as pollution regulation and control. Carbon Finance expertise (and carbon credits coupled with NDC) should be placed at a higher level than NMA.
 8. The Government further strengthens the MRV capacity built up during this REDD+ Readiness project within the NFMS Unit at SBB. Internal capacity for MRV is now built in Suriname and should not get lost: it is one of the most important needed tools for any payment of carbon credits in the future, so maintenance is key. It is equally recommended that the Gonini geoportal be further developed as a national tool for transparency in concession allocation, and as a starting point for a coherent national land use planning process that goes beyond the mandate of SBB.
 9. UNDP, IDB and other donors go beyond short term project investments but invest in a long-term support to the Government of Suriname for designing a Green Development Vision coupled with maintaining 93% Forest Cover.
17. It is to be hoped that this long-term development vision will be developed and implemented soon, as Suriname has some unique characteristics to implement REDD+. Few countries in the world have this potential: low population, high forest cover, low annual deforestation. Support from the international community is now needed more than ever, to keep the forests of Suriname healthy and prosperous, for the benefit of the ITPs, the Surinamese people as well as the entire world.

Chapter 1: Context

1.1. Suriname: a HFLD country

18. The Republic of Suriname lies on the north-eastern Atlantic coast of South America, bordering with Guyana to the West, French Guiana to the East, and Brazil to the South. It has an area of 163,820 km². Suriname is an ethnically diverse nation and a multilingual society, reflecting its history. The official language is Dutch. The country has a population of about 583,400 people (mid-year population 2017). More than half of the population lives in and around Paramaribo, both district and capital. The interior is sparsely inhabited. Suriname is home to four distinct Indigenous Peoples and six Tribal communities (known as Maroons).
19. Suriname is a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), joined the ranks of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in 1981 and aligns itself with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Suriname is considered an upper-middle income economy with a high human development index score. Suriname's economy heavily depends on the primary sector: mining and agriculture. The contributions to GDP from the primary subsectors show gold and oil contributing some 30% and agriculture 12%. The tertiary or services sector, contributing 55% to the GDP, is led by trade and transport activities that are closely linked to the commodities industry (UNDP 2018).
20. Suriname is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The country's small population, major economic activities, and infrastructure are concentrated along the low-lying coastal zone. It has already experienced extensive coastal erosion, and has suffered damages from heavy rainfall, flooding, higher temperatures during dry seasons, and high winds.
21. On the other hand, Suriname is the most forested country in the world, with a Forest Cover of 15.2 million hectares (93%) storing at least 11.9 Gigaton of CO₂. Suriname's forests act as a carbon sink of global significance, making it a carbon-negative country. Intact tropical forests, free from substantial anthropogenic influence, store and sequester large amounts of atmospheric carbon. Suriname's primary old-growth tropical forests are of global importance, not only in terms of forest carbon, but also because of the interconnectedness of biodiversity, forest conservation and climate change. The indigenous peoples and tribal communities play an important role in the sustainable management and maintenance of the integrity of these forests.
22. As a High Forest Cover, Low Deforestation (HFLD) country, Suriname remains committed to maintaining its 93% forest cover. Suriname is unique as a HFLD country, as key drivers of large-scale deforestation - prominent in Brazil, Colombia and many other forest-rich nations- such as cattle ranching, soy cultivation, and palm oil plantations have been absent till today, for many reasons: historic, cultural, socio-economic, isolation. Mining counts for more than 70% of the deforestation; whilst the pollution with mercury is rampant, and the freshwaters get more and more contaminated, the total area of deforestation of mining is small. Till today, the annual deforestation rate is low, as it oscillates between 0.02 and 0.07%.

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23. This can change quickly if the commitment of keeping the forest cover at 93% is not coupled with a long-term vision for sustainable development of the country and the interior. The combination of these unique factors (high forest cover, small population living in the coastal zone, low annual deforestation rate) provides an opportunity for dialogue with stakeholders on both envisioning a green economy and building REDD+ as a tool for sustainable development.

1.2. REDD+ as part of UNFCCC

24. 15 years after the 1992 Rio UNCED conference, forests were finally recognized as being part of the international UNFCCC agenda on global carbon emissions. At COP 13 in Bali in 2007, Parties to the UNFCCC developed a policy mechanism to contribute to the reduction of global carbon emissions from deforestation and to enhance the resilience of forests by providing financial incentives, in the form of ‘results-based payments’, to developing countries that successfully slow or reverse forest loss. This mechanism is known as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD), and conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (+).
25. Meanwhile, the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) has articulated five REDD+ activities that developing countries can implement to be eligible to receive these payments:
- Reducing emissions from deforestation;
 - Reducing emissions from forest degradation;
 - Sustainable management of forests;
 - Conservation of forest carbon stocks; and
 - Enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
26. After several years of negotiations and discussions at the international level, the UNFCCC COP adopted the ‘Warsaw Framework for REDD+’ at its 19th meeting in December 2013. This officially anchored REDD+ to the UNFCCC regime. The Warsaw Framework builds on previous COP decisions and clarifies and consolidates the requirements and methodological guidance that countries must meet in order to access results-based finance. According to the Warsaw Framework, developing country Parties aiming to receive results-based finance for REDD+ must:
- Ensure that the anthropogenic forest-related emissions, by sources and removals resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities, are fully measured, reported and verified (MRV) in accordance with UNFCCC guidance;
 - Have in place 1) a national strategy or action plan; 2) a national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level; 3) a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of REDD+ activities, and 4) a system for providing information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected (SIS).
 - Ensure that REDD+ activities, regardless of the source and type of funding, are implemented in a manner consistent with the seven UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards.
 - Provide a regular summary of information on how all the UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards have been addressed and respected before results-based payments.
27. Due to the significant time-frame between REDD+’s introduction as a UNFCCC negotiation topic at COP 13 in Bali 2007 and its finalization at COP 19 in Warsaw 2013, several multilateral institutions and bilateral

agreements were established to fund initial REDD+ readiness activities, including the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), which was set up in 2010 "to assist eligible REDD+ countries in their efforts to achieve emission reductions from deforestation and/or forest degradation by providing them with financial and technical assistance in building their capacity to benefit from possible future systems of positive incentives for REDD+."

1.3. The REDD+ trajectory in Suriname

28. Since 1997, the Government of Suriname is a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In meeting its reporting obligations under the UNFCCC, Suriname prepared a First (2005) and Second National Communication (2016). Both documents contain greenhouse gas inventories (for 2003 and 2008 respectively). A Third National Communication (TNC) is currently being prepared, with a more detailed prospection and analysis of GHG emissions per sector, and a clearly defined strategy for climate change mitigation and adaptation at a national level.
29. In preparation for the Paris UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, Suriname submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) in 2015. A second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) was submitted to UNFCCC in 2020. Through unconditional and conditional measures, Suriname stated its commitment to maintaining its forest coverage, increasing the share of renewable energy in the national energy mix, and to enhance climate resilience. Suriname's NDC was prepared drawing on the National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan for Suriname (NCCPSAP) (2014-2021). The Plan presents a climate-compatible development roadmap.
30. Since 2013, Suriname has become a Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) REDD+ partner country. The objective of REDD+ is to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation as well as the conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. However, before REDD+ participant countries can be eligible for results-based payments for verifiable reduced emissions and/or enhanced carbon stocks, they need to be REDD+ Ready. This assumes the development of an implementation framework for REDD+, including a national REDD+ strategy, a national forest reference emission level (FREL), a national forest monitoring system (NFMS) and a safeguards information system (SIS). They also need to build up capacities and develop the necessary REDD+ institutional framework for REDD+ Implementation.
31. Back in 2008, the Government of Suriname had an opportunity to sign a bilateral agreement with the Kingdom of Norway to prepare itself for REDD+, and get funding for supporting a Green Development Strategy at a national scale. Whilst neighboring country Guyana signed a historic agreement for 250 million USD in 2009 to support its Low Carbon Development Strategy (Joint Agreement Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Guyana, 2009), a similar agreement between Norway and Suriname was refused by the Government of Suriname, at the level of the President and Cabinet (personal communication, Honorary Consul of Norway in Suriname, 2009).
32. However, at the level of the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Land and Forest Management (ROGB), a first attempt to enter the FCPF REDD+ readiness phase started in 2009. The initiative was led by the Ministry with support from the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB), Conservation International (CI) Suriname, Tropenbos International (TBI) Suriname and other partners. This process did

not reach maturity nor approval from FCPF. In 2010 a new Government was installed and a new attempt to prepare and submit a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) to FCPF was started.

33. R-PP preparation and subsequent approval proved to be a long and tedious process. It was led by the Climate Compatible Development Agency (CCDA, now dissolved) with UNDP support. In the period 2012-2013, a lot of stakeholders were contacted by the CCDA team, both in Paramaribo, the coastal zone and the interior. Several visits were paid and meetings held with indigenous and tribal representatives, with support from the Cabinet of the President, Ministry of Regional Development (RO) and District Commissioners. During more than half a year (September 2012 till March 2013), a solid R-PP was written, communicated and validated at different levels of society. It was then presented at a meeting in June 2013 at the FCPF/World Bank, and finally approved after negotiations with the representatives of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITP's) in Suriname (through their representative organisations VIDS and VSG).
34. As a result, Suriname received a US\$ 3,800,000 grant from the FCPF to support the REDD+ readiness phase. An amount of US\$ 200,000 was budgeted for the transition phase (July 2013-May 2014) with co-funding from the Guiana Shield Facility (GSF), whilst US\$ 3,600,000 went to the project "Strengthening national capacities of Suriname for the elaboration of the National REDD+ strategy and the design of its implementation framework". The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was requested as the Delivery Partner.

1.4 The FCPF funded project Phase I and II

35. Beginning of 2014, a Project Document (Prodoc I) was written by an international consultant, according to the FCPF and UNDP guidelines. This project document (Prodoc I) was signed between the Government of Suriname and UNDP Suriname in May 2014. During the 1-year transition period from R-PP approval to Prodoc I signing, it has to be acknowledged that quite some momentum was lost that had been built up in 2012-2013 for the preparation of the R-PP. Some key staff of CCDA went looking for other jobs and could not be hired for execution of the FCPF project by the National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname (NIMOS), the delivery partner for UNDP. It took considerable time to build up new technical and strategic REDD+ capacity again at the level of the Cabinet of the President and subsequently in NIMOS.
36. The signed REDD+ Readiness Project had a time-span of 3 years (July 2014-June 2017) and structured the project around three pillars: (i) human capacities and stakeholders' engagement; (ii) REDD+ strategy; and, (iii) implementation framework and tools. The project was implemented by NIMOS that -till today- serves as the Government's REDD+ technical focal point, while the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB) was responsible for specific outputs, related to the establishment of a solid Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system, National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) reporting. The political focal point for REDD+ resided at the level of the Cabinet of the President – Environment Section, but moved -with the installation of the new Government- in 2020 to the new Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (ROM).
37. Whilst NIMOS had to recruit new personnel for the REDD+ Readiness Project, SBB was already in the preparation of a National Forest Monitoring System thanks to on-going funding from the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) during the period 2010-2015. This regional Amazon-wide ACTO

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- project aimed to build institutional capacity in all Amazon countries in Forest Cover Monitoring. In Suriname, the ACTO funding and capacity building led to the installation of a Forest Cover Monitoring Unit (FCMU) within SBB. This FCMU was further supported by the FCPF REDD+ readiness funding, and will from 2022 get new funding from CI Suriname for another 3 years. During the lifespan of the project, there was little change of personnel in SBB, which proved to be beneficial for the project outputs.
38. At the level of NIMOS, there has been adjustment to change of key project management personnel. At the start of the project, there was a general lack of understanding of the main issues in the Project Management Unit (PMU). The implementation of the project within NIMOS started hence quite slowly. A Project Coordinator was only recruited in mid-2015 (1 year after signing the project document), and the required staff was progressively put in place in the PMU. During the mid-term evaluation (MTR), carried out in October 2016, it proved that only 25% of the financial means were utilized and little outputs were realized. The MTR team recommended a second phase of the REDD+ Readiness program for another 2 years.
 39. The request for project extension to the FCPF Readiness Fund required several procedural steps, and hence the necessary time for approval. A Mid Term Progress Report following the FCPF standards was written in October 2017, followed by an approval for additional funding of 2.65 million USD by the FCPF Project Board. The second project was finally signed with a slightly modified Project Document (Prodoc II) in January 2019. It had an initial duration of 2.5 years until June 2021 but was extended till 31 December 2021.
 40. Since the project was poorly managed during Phase I, NIMOS decided to end the contract of the PMU Project Coordinator by the end of 2016. A Senior Project Advisor from NIMOS was appointed as an interim Project Coordinator (November 2016-2017). After a careful selection procedure, a new and more qualified Project Coordinator was selected, who took up the assignment in August 2017. Gradually a solid project team was built at the level of PMU-NIMOS, consisting of Project Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, Community Liaison Officer, REDD+ Assistants Liaison, Communications Officer and Technical Assistant.
 41. As to Technical support, the project was supported by a Technical Officer who was based in SBB, but worked part-time for NIMOS as well from January 2017 to December 2018. An international Chief Technical Advisor supported from a distance. When vacancies occurred, there was no new recruitment within PMU/NIMOS of senior technical staff with broad knowledge of the forest issues in Suriname (and their relationships with ITPs, Land Use Planning, Private Sector). Forest knowledge was available in SBB, but their task remained limited to the NFMS and FREL. As to the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Officer, the position was filled for a year (Mid 2016-mid 2017), but when that person left, the position was not filled in anymore. Steering of the project was left in the hands of the Project Board (PB), which met at least twice a year until 2018. Then upon suggestion of the midterm review, recurrent Management Meetings and Technical Meetings were introduced as additional steering between PB meetings to support the PMU.
 42. At the end of the project, NIMOS (and PMU) decided not to execute an FCPF REDD+ Readiness self-assessment according to the FCPF Guidelines (it was not mentioned as an activity in Prodoc II) and submit an entire R-package. An approved R-Package by the FCPF Board is a requirement to be eligible for funding from the FCPF Carbon Fund. The preparation of the R-Package is a beneficial step for any REDD+ country

that has advanced in REDD+ readiness as it serves multiple purposes. It provides a country with the opportunity to:

- Demonstrate national commitment to REDD+ (also to other donors besides FCPF);
 - Display transparency in readiness preparations;
 - Receive international recognition for early REDD+ activities;
 - Receive valuable feedback and technical guidance through a two-step assessment process;
 - Potentially attract additional funds from external sources for scaling up activities.
43. The REDD+ Readiness assessment helps countries to identify remaining gaps and further needs and generates feedback and guidance to countries from multiple stakeholders and the FCPF Participants Committee (PC). The scope of the R-Package and its assessment is national and encompasses all core readiness activities (regardless if financed by the FCPF or other development partners) including REDD+ organization, consultation and strategy preparation, design of reference levels and monitoring systems, as well as cross-cutting issues such as governance, and environmental and social safeguards. As such, the R-Package captures the important relationships among different Readiness preparation activities and helps to ensure consistency across components.
44. The decision not to submit an R-Package was taken by NIMOS and the Government of Suriname in the light of a multitude of reasons:
- the COVID-19 pandemic which hampered travel and consultation;
 - the change of Government in 2020, which provoked uncertainty about new vision;
 - the approved Environment Act and the transition of NIMOS to a National Environment Authority (NMA) which involved a new workload.
45. Perhaps the single most important factor that led to non-submission of an R-Package for Suriname, might have been the mere fact that by 2020 only limited to no funding was available in the FCPF Carbon Fund. An empty fund is certainly not an incentive to go to the next step; especially not for small countries with limited technical capacity like Suriname.
46. However, submitting an R-Package would have led to a better self-assessment and introspection of Suriname's REDD+ Readiness by the executing partners themselves (in first instance NIMOS and Ministry of ROM), and hence the identification of gaps and problems to be addressed for funding from other potential donors. It would also have led to a wider recognition of Suriname's efforts among donors who may want to invest in REDD+ activities.

Chapter 2: Methodology

2.1 Objectives of the final evaluation

47. The objective of the final evaluation is to undertake a final review of the support of the FCPF funding through UNDP Suriname in order for Suriname to become REDD+ ready. The mandate is to evaluate the progress of REDD+ readiness activities in Suriname since 2012 to December 2021, whilst taking full

account of the UNDP Midterm evaluation, inclusive of Management Response and FCPF Midterm Progress Report.

48. The final evaluation hence focuses on achievements within the four main components of the R-PP, their respective subcomponents and the realization of 3 outputs under the current REDD+ project against the original project. Specifically, on the following:

R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organization and Consultation

1.a National REDD+ Management Arrangements

1.b Consultation, Participation and Outreach

R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

2.a Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

2.b REDD+ Strategy Options

2.c Implementation Framework

2.d Social and Environmental Impacts

R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels

3.a Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels

R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards

4.a Develop national forest monitoring system

4.b Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards.

49. Whilst the main focus of the final evaluation is on the realization of the R-PP Outputs, a transversal final evaluation of the achievements of the project in both Phase I and Phase II has been done as well, with a specific emphasis on the last 3 years of Phase II (January 2019-December 2021).

2.2 Methodological approach

50. The methodology for the final evaluation consists of different steps, using the most effective methods to reach the above-mentioned objectives and ensuring constant and high-level quality standards throughout. The final evaluation uses a combination of standard UNDP and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) project and program evaluation criteria (relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability), with specific evaluation questions under each criterion related to this assignment (see Terms of reference in Annex 1).
51. Simultaneously, the FCPF Preparation Guidelines for the Assessment Framework were consulted. This is a series of evaluation questions specifically related to FCPF REDD+ Readiness Assessment. The Readiness Assessment provides a common framework to measure a country's progress on REDD+ readiness activities. It consists of 34 indicators covering the 9 components and sub-components of the R-PP. See Annex 2 for more details and the FCPF website: A Guide to the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework (forestcarbonpartnership.org).
52. Findings have been based on facts, sound evidence and analysis. They were crosschecked and evidence was clearly documented in the final report. Analysis leading to judgments were reasoned. In attempting to attribute any outcomes and impacts to the program, the difference between what has happened with and what would have happened without the program, has been considered.

- 53. The evaluation primarily addresses the outcome, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the program as a whole with a specific focus on the last 3 years of investment. The project has been considered as one program, running from 2012 till 2021; hence no separate analysis of the outcomes and outputs in project document 1 and 2 has been done. A separate analysis as per outcomes and outputs of Phase II would be confusing as many outputs in Project Document II were not always concordant with R-PP. Also, the nature of REDD+ readiness development is complex as it encompasses a lot of sectors of the economy, with many actors involved, both at governmental level, civil society and ITPs.
- 54. The methodology utilized analyzes the level of progress to date in the 4 components of the R-PP and its subcomponents. Specific analysis of progress in the R-PP components is treated in Chapter 3.2 related to the Effectiveness of the Program. Following criteria for progress were used:

Relevance/Coherence	Relevant/coherent
	Not relevant/coherent
Effectiveness	Highly satisfactory
	Satisfactory
	Moderately satisfactory
	Moderately unsatisfactory
	Unsatisfactory
	Highly unsatisfactory
Efficiency	Highly satisfactory
	Satisfactory
	Moderately satisfactory
	Moderately unsatisfactory
	Unsatisfactory
	Highly unsatisfactory
Sustainability	Probable
	Moderately probable
	Moderately improbable
	Improbable

- 55. During the final evaluation, specific barriers and limitations to the implementation of REDD+ in Suriname were analyzed, both at the domestic and international level (see Chapter 3.5 and 3.6). The program and related investments were analyzed in the light of the overall development goals of the country, the UNDP Strategic Plan and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

2.3. Sequence of activities

- 56. The international consultant started his work during the first week of November 2021, with an original end date of 31 December 2021. Given the nature and complexity of the project, coupled with the limited time available, the time for the delivery of a final report of the consultancy was extended till the end of January 2022. At the time of the call for proposals and request for quotation for the final evaluation, the international consultant happened to be in Suriname for another assignment. His stay was extended

through the facilitation of UNDP Suriname. This saved valuable time, and increased the possibility to have more in-country meetings and obtaining additional information. The international consultant remained in Suriname till the end of the mission.

57. The consultant worked under the supervision of the UNDP Suriname Specialist in Energy and Environment, assisted by the UNDP REDD+ program Regional Technical Advisor and the Chief Technical Advisor for the project. The Project Coordinator within the PMU/NIMOS was the main operational counterpart. In addition to these, the NIMOS Director and representatives from SBB were also closely associated to the review.
58. From the very beginning, full support of the PMU/NIMOS was received in order to obtain the needed information as well as all technical documents. Necessary support for logistics and appointments was provided in an accurate and timely manner. During the month November and first week of December 2021, a series of interviews were made with key stakeholders. A list of people contacted can be found in Annex 3. Most of the interviews served to gather information and perceptions; questions were centered on the role of the stakeholder in the REDD+ readiness process, and their perceptions on achievements and failures of the REDD+ Readiness project. Most of the stakeholders were contacted either at their offices in Paramaribo, or in the NIMOS/PMU building; some people were also interviewed virtually via zoom or other means available.
59. Concurrent with the interviews, a desk review of all relevant background documentation was done. For a list of documents and websites consulted, please see Annex 4.
60. At the end of November 2021, UNDP Suriname was able to identify a local consultant. This was quite late in the process of the final evaluation, as most of the information gathering and interviews were already finalized at that time. Hence, the local consultant concentrated her work on the analysis of financial data and issues related to human rights and gender.
61. Given the international consultant's long background in forest related matters and familiarity with the forest in Suriname, he decided not to spend his limited time on field visits. Only one field visit was done, to a tribal village where a REDD+ ground truth project was executed (Marchallkreek). The REDD+ funded agroforestry ground truth project was visited, as well as the neighboring community forest. Discussions were held with the villagers and the Stichting Masosi. A second field visit to the indigenous village of Bigi Poika was scheduled, but could not be materialized given conflicting time schedules with SBB staff.
62. Representatives of the Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS), the Organisation of Indigenous Peoples in Suriname (OIS) and the Tribal Peoples of Kwinti, Aluku, Matawai, Paamaka, Okanisi and Saamaka (KAMPOS) were met separately in order to receive their perceptions as organizations representing indigenous and tribal peoples. A full day was spent with the REDD+ Assistants Collective, in order to hear their perceptions.
63. Preliminary findings, lessons learnt and recommendations were presented in a virtual meeting of the REDD+ Project Board on 7 December 2021.

Chapter 3: Evaluation

3.1. Relevance and coherence

Relevance and Coherence	Relevant/coherent
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3.1.1 Relevance

- 64. The FCPF funded REDD+ readiness project is relevant from the perspective of Suriname’s national development priorities and its climate change and forest agenda. Moreover, REDD+ activities are not only related to forest management, but also to other activities that are fundamental for the country’s development, including land use, land use planning, land rights, mining and other hinterland activities. Suriname has repeatedly announced its wish to diversify its economy in order to reach a more sustainable development path. The REDD+ Readiness project can support this process by proposing the role that forests can play in the country’s future, and how Suriname can develop sustainably without jeopardizing its forests and related ecosystem services for the people, the country and the entire planet.
- 65. The Project design has been sound and is fully aligned with Suriname’s national development priorities described in the different Multi Annual Development Plans (MOP’s) launched by the Government over the years. It also supports UNDP’s Strategic Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s), more specifically SDG 5, 8, 13, and 15. Over the years, the Government of Suriname has pledged in several international fora including many COP meetings of the UNFCCC that it is highly committed to keep its Forest at 93% of the total land surface, and that the implementation of a REDD+ Strategy is a supporting tool to guide the country towards a sustainable and inclusive development.

3.1.2 Coherence between REDD+ and National Development Strategy

- 66. The REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) was written back in 2012-2013. It was locally embedded and got some support from the highest political level at the Cabinet of the President at that time. Within the R-PP, the overall vision was that REDD+ was a tool for Suriname to execute a Sustainable, Low-Carbon and Green Development. In order to achieve this tool, Suriname needed to be made REDD+ Ready for national REDD+ Implementation according to FCPF Guidelines. This was the ultimate goal of the R-PP, and funding was obtained for this in June 2013.
- 67. Unfortunately, coherence between Sustainable Green Development (or Low Carbon Development Strategy, LCDS) and REDD+ Readiness gradually got lost during project execution. This happened because of a combination of factors: a weak (or absent) high-level political commitment for REDD+ and LCDS, no high-level REDD+ Steering Committee (RSC) to steer the REDD+ and LCDS vision, too long periods for approval of project funding (causing loss of momentum and key people leaving), technically too complex UNDP project documents, little technical capacity in-country, change of Government in 2020 and the COVID 19 pandemic.

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68. All these factors combined played a role in the loss of relationship and linkage between Green Sustainable Development and REDD+ readiness. If ever this vision was somehow present during R-PP, it gradually got less visible and general coherence got lost. Overall, the REDD+ Readiness process in Suriname has dealt with a lack of high-level political commitment.
 69. However, after long preparation and sound procurement, a comprehensive REDD+ Strategy was developed in 2017, and validated in 2019 by the Head of the Environment Department at the Cabinet of the President. This happened shortly after Suriname had brought together countries with High Forest cover and Low Deforestation (HFLD) by hosting the first-ever HFLD Conference on Climate Finance Mobilization and presented another momentum of a certain political support. The REDD+ Strategy development in 2017 absorbed a lot of financial and technical means and was done in a participatory, inclusive and respectful way, using the necessary UNDP and FCPF guidelines as to ITP and gender approach. However, a REDD+ Strategy needs to be coupled with a Green Development Strategy, in order to be relevant and coherent.
 70. The REDD+ Readiness project and NIMOS/PMU lacked a high-level mandate to work on Green Development at the national level, nor had they the mandate to engage with the ITPs and the hinterland on local (green-sustainable) development and associated matters such as land rights, land use planning, concession policy, etc. Whilst the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and the development of the REDD+ Strategy and Safeguards Information System (SIS) highlighted most of the issues ITP's face in their development, NIMOS and PMU could only write down these issues in documents and continuously refer to the REDD+ implementation phase where all these issues could/would be addressed. No mandate nor means was given to them to tackle these local development issues of the ITP's.

3.1.3 Coherence during implementation of the project

71. At the start of the project, NIMOS (and UNDP) could have considered better project preparation to address the identified risks in 2014, among those a closer support in the initial years of the project implementation in order to provide the corrective measures necessary to avoid delays. The main issues with the start of the project implementation in 2014-2015 were the lack of management, procurement and administrative skills of the hired personnel and the lack of technical and management support from NIMOS.
72. Corrective measures from NIMOS came at a late stage of implementation, but did address improvement in both procurement and technical skills. After a new Project Coordinator was hired mid-2017, the project was capable of delivering most of the outputs as defined in Project Document I and II. A lot of technical documents were produced for REDD+ readiness such as the REDD+ Strategy, the SIS, the NFMS roadmap and the FREL. Some of these documents have been approved by the UNFCCC, others have been integrated within the UNFCCC system for Suriname.
73. However, despite several actions of the PMU and NIMOS to get high-level support for the REDD+ work, this could hardly be obtained. As a result, NIMOS/PMU stucked to the delivery of technical outputs (mostly written by international consultants) set out in Project document II. Unfortunately, Project document II

has not been written with a clear Suriname perspective and is not a “down to earth” project proposal. The link with a green/sustainable development strategy which was present in the R-PP and Project Document I was largely lost. Too little emphasis was laid in Project Document II on building of national capacity on Climate Finance and REDD+ Funding, which is key for REDD+ implementation.

74. As a result of the lack of political support and the long procedures, complex project documents and delivery outputs, NIMOS and the PMU have concentrated on the deliverance of products for specific outcomes and outputs, instead of on processes. It has to be mentioned that UNDP Suriname has been aware of these risks and limitations, and did somehow “flexible” management where possible. NIMOS and PMU did engage politically during 2017-2020 when a serious effort was done with the Environment Division at the Cabinet of the President. Not only a high level HFLD conference was held in 2019, but NIMOS/PMU also succeeded to get the REDD+ Strategy (long consulted and validated with the stakeholders in the interior) signed by the Government at the end of 2019.
75. At the end of the project, the PMU has been less active with engaging with the new Government, more specifically with the new Ministry of ROM, now the political focal point for Climate Change and REDD+. All this was left in the hands of the NIMOS Director, who had to deal with a multitude of issues with the change of Management Structure (under Min of ROM), and the new Environment Act, approved in March 2020. Whilst coherence got lost, the produced technical documents, the excellent REDD+ website, the numerous consultation processes, the well-organized communication strategy and public outreach all have got their impact. Sustainability of these investments is now largely in the hands of the new Government and its Development Strategy.

3.2. Effectiveness

76. The project had a slow start in 2014-2015, but later on, from 2016-2017 onwards, the project was considerably well managed and was relatively successful in many ways, especially in the delivery of a sound REDD+ National Strategy, an accompanying Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and a solid evaluation of compliance towards the Cancun Safeguards (SIS). Despite the pandemic that started in March 2020 in Suriname, most of the outcomes and outputs have been realized at the technical level (with some exceptions such as the Environment Fund, the Benefit Sharing Mechanism and some others). However, the change of Government in May 2020, coupled with the COVID-19 lockdowns, did not lead to the expected effectiveness at the political and institutional level. The new Government and the Ministry of ROM are still in a learning curve on how to continue the REDD+ agenda in Suriname. Few outputs were realized with the ITP organizations, except for the preparation of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) draft protocols.
77. The Environment Act was finally approved in Parliament in April 2020; NIMOS is now in a transition phase to turn into the National Environment Authority (NMA), with new legislation to be approved, new staffing, org chart, etc. It has been decided that the NMA will fall under the new Ministry of ROM, which leads to some new changes needed in the legislative framework. Important legislation as to collective rights for the ITPs is under progress, and a new framework law on Collective Rights will go to Parliament in 2022. However, there is no progress in drafting a legislation for a National Land Use Planning, in order to have more clarity about land use in the country, especially in the vast hinterland.

78. Effectiveness of the REDD+ Readiness Phase has been evaluated over the entire period of the project and against the original four R-PP deliverables:

R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation

- 1.a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements
- 1.b. Consultation, Participation and Outreach

R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

- 2.a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance
- 2.b. REDD+ Strategy Options
- 2.c. Implementation Framework
- 2.d. Social and Environmental Impacts

R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels

- 3.a. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels

R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards

- 4.a. Develop national forest monitoring system
- 4.b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards.

79. The evaluation used the methodological framework presented in Chapter 2.2, and did an analysis according the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework by using the 34 FCPF indicators and questions related to the original R-PP (see Annex 2).

80. The following table summarizes the effectiveness valorization of the REDD+ Readiness project components:

R-PP Component:	Effectiveness valorization:
Overall project	Satisfactory
Component 1	Moderately satisfactory
Component 1a	Moderately unsatisfactory
Component 1b	Satisfactory
Component 2	Moderately satisfactory
Component 2a	Highly satisfactory
Component 2b	Moderately satisfactory
Component 2c	Unsatisfactory
Component 2d	Satisfactory
Component 3	Highly satisfactory
Component 4	Satisfactory
Component 4a	Highly satisfactory
Component 4b	Moderately satisfactory

3.2.1. R-PP Component 1: Readiness organization and consultation

COMPONENT 1A: REDD+ MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

81. *Rationale (according to FCPF): National REDD+ management has five main functions: (1) manage implementation of REDD+ funding, including the FCPF grant, (2) co-ordinate REDD+ activities, (3) integrate REDD+ into broader national or sector strategies (e.g., national development plan, low-carbon development strategies), (4) manage inquiries, complaints and potentially grievances by stakeholders that may arise during the preparation and implementation of activities, and (5) organize information sharing and stakeholder consultation and participation.*
82. REDD+ (and climate change in general) needs to be addressed through policy, legislation and action programs. The Government of Suriname prepared a National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan (NCCPSAP) for the period 2014 – 2021. This national climate change policy is being updated to be more aligned with the recently approved Multi Annual Development Plan (MOP) 2022-2026.
83. In the R-PP document of Suriname (2013), the envisaged preparatory activities were described that would be executed by Suriname in order to be able to implement REDD+. These were worked out in the different UNDP/FCPF project documents (PRODOC I and II). REDD+ Readiness (and subsequent implementation) was to be done by the Environment Department within the Cabinet of the President of Suriname as the political focal point, whereas NIMOS was the technical focal point. On a second level, most of the Ministries needed to be involved due to their sector-specific environmental responsibilities. New entities such as the REDD+ Steering Committee, Major Groups Collective and REDD+ Assistants Collective were to be created or strengthened. The functions of all these were described in the R-PP.
84. Ten years later, at the beginning of 2022, and with financial support from the REDD+ Readiness Fund of FCPF, some of these institutions have been strengthened, others not. It was expected that -at the end of the REDD+ readiness phase- executing institutions would be fully capable to implement REDD+ activities. However, this is not the case, partly because key institutions (and their mandates and personnel) were changed with the venue of the new Government in 2020.
85. Component 1a is certainly one of the weaker parts in the project's effectiveness, due to several factors where the PMU and NIMOS could not have overall control. Indeed, decision making happens at a much higher level than NIMOS/PMU, not only regarding the climate change strategy as such, but at the level of which kind of development Suriname wants to take (whether this is part of the MOP or not). REDD+ implementation and conservation of 93% Forest cover implies a green and sustainable development where deforestation and degradation need to be closely monitored (far beyond the Forest Cover Monitoring Unit (FCMU) of SBB). The coherence between REDD+ readiness and Green development was not strong from the very beginning of the project (and still is not).
86. Preparation of the REDD+ Strategy finally started at the end of 2016 and the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS) was validated by most of the stakeholders in 2017. However, overall political commitment to Green development and REDD+ was low. The PMU tried hard to get the REDD+ Strategy approved and recognized at the level of the Cabinet of the President (political REDD+ focal point). The National REDD+

Strategy was finally approved and signed by the Head of the Environment Department within the Cabinet of the President by the end of 2019.

87. With the election of a new Government in 2020, NIMOS/PMU had to convince the Government again of the importance of REDD+ and green development. The current Minister of the new Ministry of ROM (now the REDD+ Political focal point) pledges to invest more in REDD+ institutional arrangements, but progress is slow. The Minister of ROM puts a lot of emphasis on the signed oil related agreement with TotalEnergies, but the content is still not clear to the different stakeholders. New investments and new institutional capacity building will be needed within the new NMA (to be set up in 2022). By that time, the PMU will be dissolved and the project staff will have gone to other jobs.
88. The technical REDD+ Focal point was -and still is- within NIMOS, the National Institute of Environment and Development. When the FCPF funded project started in 2014, through support of UNDP Suriname, the first grant was signed between UNDP and both the Cabinet of the President and NIMOS. The second grant in January 2019 was only signed between UNDP and NIMOS. A strengthened NIMOS was seen in the R-PP as the key institute for leading the REDD+ process, but -as stated above- NIMOS needs political backing for implementation of REDD+ (readiness), as REDD+ goes hand in hand with a sustainable development of Suriname and the hinterland. This connection was never strongly present during the entire project period.
89. From the project start, NIMOS and UNDP chose to set up a separate Unit (PMU) to lead REDD+ Readiness. The idea behind the PMU was to hire personnel with no political background, but with senior technical experience. This did not work well, as the senior technical people were not found. In 2017, this changed with a new Project Coordinator, but a full team was never recruited. During the 7 years REDD+ Readiness project the PMU delivered many outcomes and technical documents, a strong communication towards the general public and many consultations with the IPTs were done during the entire project period. However, a separate Unit in NIMOS (the PMU) did not lead (yet) to institutional sustainability, as the majority of the PMU staff will not transition to NIMOS (partly because of differences in salaries).
90. The R-PP emphasized the important role of the REDD+ Steering Committee (RSC), a role which was supported by both Prodoc I, II and the national REDD+ Strategy. The RSC was seen as the national platform of the Government of Suriname for REDD+ development, in order to bring REDD+ into the national development strategy. The RSC needed to provide guidance and vision from the Office of the President, National Planning Office, and Inter-Ministerial interactions to ensure direction and deliberation in compliance with the REDD+ Strategy.
91. As the project started, NIMOS set up a Project Board (PB) and it was decided that the PB would consist of representatives of key Ministries, NIMOS, SBB, Private Sector, NGOs, Women & Youth Organizations, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (selected by their own institutions) and the UNDP. The PB was responsible for the achievement of the results expected from the REDD+ project. The reason for this heavy Board was to be found in the process of the R-PP. However, a 30-people PB was not very effective nor efficient.
92. An RSC was not set up anymore, as NIMOS argued it would be consisting of the same people as the Project Board. Despite recommendations by the Mid Term Review (MTR) and external consultants, an RSC never materialized. However, a high-level RSC would have been needed to go beyond the project, make the link between REDD+ and a Green Development Strategy throughout the REDD+ Readiness phase, and to

support this at the highest political level. At the end of the REDD+ Readiness project, it is not clear if the PB will be dissolved or will transition into a REDD+ SC, in order to support the REDD+ program within ROM and/or to implement the NRS.

93. Another key institution in the REDD+ process has been SBB. Whilst SBB was a partner institution and has the technical capacity in forest related matters and GIS/remote sensing, its role was largely confined to delivering key products such as the NFMS and FREL. As a follow up of the ACTO funding, the REDD+ project funding for SBB led to sustainability of the FCM Unit. The project supported SBB FCMU in collecting, processing and analyzing forest-related data. Through the geo-portal www.gonini.org and other tools available in the NFMS, data were made available for public disclosure not only to the forestry sector but also to other sectors. At the same time the information can now be used to formulate, implement and monitor national policy, programs and projects relevant for Suriname.
94. SBB through their Forest Cover Monitoring Unit (FCMU) has employed well trained staff capable of applying cutting edge geospatial technology like remote sensing data processing, GIS technology, and coding. Furthermore, SBB has developed a comprehensive computerized log tracking system, from the forest cutting license up till the export of logs or processing in sawmills, the so-called SFISS system. This system has proven to be a solid tool to promote sustainable utilization and management of the country's productive forest resources. Together with the private sector, SBB has implemented training programs for forest workers for the public and private sector in Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) techniques, use of GPS and in tree spotting.

COMPONENT 1B: CONSULTATION, PARTICIPATION AND OUTREACH

95. *Rationale according to FCPF: The national body responsible for leading the REDD+ process regularly engages, as appropriate, with key stakeholders and facilitates their participation in the readiness preparation process, including activities related to national REDD+ strategy, reference levels, and monitoring systems. Consultation and participation of key stakeholders builds on early dialogues during the formulation of the R-PP, and the plan for consultation, participation, and outreach that was undertaken as part of the SESA. This process results in a sustainable institutional structure that ensures meaningful participation in decision-making concerning REDD+ strategies and activities beyond the readiness phase.*

ENGAGEMENT

96. REDD+ stakeholders engagement started effectively in the field back in 2012 with the preparation of the REDD+ readiness proposal (R-PP). After this proposal was approved in 2013, there was a gap in planned stakeholders' engagement until a REDD+ Strategy for Stakeholder engagement was written by the Engagement expert (who was involved in the R-PP). The objective of this stakeholder engagement plan was to ensure acceptable and effective inclusion of groups that have a stake, interest or right in the forest and those that would be affected positively or negatively by the REDD+ projects. The Stakeholder Engagement Strategy was finalized by the end of 2016 and contributed to the elaboration of the national REDD+ Strategy. It was also a key document for the Project's Annual Work Plans for public outreach, communication and consultation.

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97. The Stakeholder Engagement Strategy gave special attention to the most vulnerable groups, the forest-dependent indigenous and tribal peoples. Three levels of engagement were outlined in the plan: information sharing, consultation and joint decision making.

INFORMATION SHARING

98. Information sharing, communication and public outreach enabled the identified stakeholders to get acquainted with and stay informed about the different components of the REDD+ readiness. During the entire life-span of the project, the project did a remarkable job to spread the message: the project invested a lot in information sharing and public outreach by using different means: awareness meetings, media campaigns (TV, radio, pamphlets), local theatre, social media, walk-in schools, presentations at stakeholder locations, websites, etc.
99. A national slogan 'Wi na busi' ('We are the Forest') was promoted in order to raise awareness about the forests of Suriname: their value as to ecosystem services, biodiversity, and the link with climate and livelihoods. Many documentaries were realized on the forests of the interior, biodiversity, sustainable forest management, climate change as well as local development and livelihoods of the people in the interior. Newspapers, radio and TV were utilized to spread the message in Dutch, Sranan tongo and many of the indigenous and tribal languages. Events were held at international days of the environment/forests/biodiversity.
100. Information sharing was also populated based on an interactive and intuitive gateway for public dissemination developed by NIMOS-PMU through the REDD+ project website, <http://www.surinameredd.org/en/> available in Dutch and English. This website offers overall REDD+ context as well as details about the entire REDD+ process in Suriname. The portal has also extended information about project related news and events from 2014 to 2021. Moreover, the site has a library with documents for download, videos, newsletters, radio podcasts, and a photo gallery related to REDD+ pillars, the REDD+ preparation phases, monitoring reports for donors, PMU, PB meeting minutes and other project-related activities. The project has also its social media outreach through a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/reddplussuriname/>. This social venue includes project related information and an instant messaging capability for response to users.
101. SBB-FCMU developed a special geo-portal (<http://www.gonini.org/portal/>), creating transparency by giving information to the general public on forestry concessions, mining concessions, tourism facilities and many more. This geoportal not only provides key information to the general public, but has enhanced also inter-ministerial cooperation on many subjects such as land use, land policy, concession policy and other subjects.

CONSULTATION

102. Consultation was done at various stages and in various processes led by the REDD+ Project Management Unit (PMU). Consultation happened linked to the development of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, the study on Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the Barriers to REDD+ Activities (DDFDB+), the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), the development of the REDD+ Strategy, the SIS process and for the establishment of Forest Reference Levels (FRL/FREL) and a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS).

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103. It has to be mentioned that -parallel to the REDD+ Readiness Project executed by NIMOS- large NGO's also received donor funding to implement REDD+ readiness activities in Suriname during the period 2012-2022. CI Suriname developed a project on Stakeholder Engagement for REDD+ (WISE REDD+) whilst TBI Suriname developed projects of participatory mapping and traditional knowledge related to livelihoods development. This sometimes led to confusion and/or an overkill of information/consultation on REDD+ for the hinterland people.
104. Consultation was mostly done when international consultants were hired: for the study on Drivers of Deforestation, for the REDD+ Strategy and for the Safeguards Information System. During all these consultation (and validation) processes, international standards were respected as to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), gender and vulnerable groups. A fair care was applied in capturing the gender specific perspectives about REDD+.
105. From February till August 2017, TBI Suriname was engaged to do the consultations in 10 villages country-wide in preparation for the SESA and REDD+ National Strategy. Whilst participation was positive and dutiful respect was given during these consultations, indigenous and tribal peoples complain at the end of the project of REDD+ readiness that REDD+ still remains a vague concept to them without clear benefits. Furthermore, they complain that too much validation was needed from the ITPs for strategies and documents without tangible benefits.

ENGAGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL PEOPLES IN REDD+ READINESS

106. ITP's and their representative organizations (VIDS and VSG at that time) were fundamental in the approval of the R-PP by the FCPF/World Bank in 2013. In Project Document I and II (component 1b), specific outputs were formulated regarding ITP's engagement and budgets were allocated.
107. The outputs related to ITP's were:
- strengthening of their respective organizations (VIDS and KAMPOS)
 - development of FPIC Protocols
 - support joint mapping processes and local development plans
 - training and capacity building on REDD+ and MRV
108. At the end of the project few of these outputs are realized, for a multitude of reasons, such as:
- weak internal organization within VIDS and KAMPOS coupled with low capacity to write project proposals and come to a constructive dialogue with NIMOS/PMU;
 - dissatisfaction from VIDS/KAMPOS with general progress on land rights at a national level leading to disinterest in REDD+;
 - too little attention from NIMOS/PMU towards this crucial aspect of REDD+ Readiness;
 - lack of understanding of what exactly needed to happen during REDD+ Readiness; and
 - too much reliance by PMU/NIMOS on the REDD+ Assistants to represent the ITP's.
109. Scattered programs were set up to strengthen both VIDS and KAMPOS during 2018 and 2019. At the level of capacity building, some training sessions were supported by the project. SBB, Ministry of RO and Ministry of H&I did several trainings in several villages.

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110. However, more could have been done on specific field and policy related issues of relevance to ITPs and their livelihoods. Training for ITP's happened too much on "What is REDD+" instead of practical trainings on community forestry, responsible mining, new legislation on land rights, new environmental legislation, etc. COVID-19 also strongly affected the project's outputs on these matters as hardly any activities could be deployed in the hinterland during the last 2 years.
 111. For many project activities in the interior, the project built on the REDD+ Assistants Collective (RAC), which was set up during R-PP formulation in 2012. The 15+ REDD+ Assistants were all selected by their own communities. Their role was multiple: to raise awareness about REDD+ in the villages, to organize and facilitate meetings for NIMOS/PMU/SBB, to gather information necessary for studies. The REDD+ Assistants were trained at several occasions during the life-span of the project and proved to be fundamental in the consultation process for the SESA, NRS and SIS, given their knowledge of the land, the forests, cultures, and the respective languages. The RAC assistants received annual contracts and were supported by the community liaison officer and REDD+ assistants' liaison within PMU/NIMOS.
 112. Relationships between the RAC and NIMOS/PMU did not always go smooth; their functions were not always clear and the RAC nor the PMU could come up with clear and tangible benefits of REDD+. During consultation processes, local development issues and problems in the villages came up and were discussed in depth. However, the project could not address these problems in this Readiness Phase. NIMOS/PMU nor the RAC had any authority nor mandate to resolve these problems. As a result, the interest of the villagers gradually decreased in REDD+. The limited ground-truth projects during Phase II could not change this.
 113. For future REDD+ Implementation, this general fatigue with REDD+ (too much consultation/validation) will be difficult to change, as long as REDD+ offers no tangible benefits to ITPs. In the same token, the REDD+ Assistants themselves got a certain fatigue as well, since it is unclear what REDD+ will bring to the villages.
 114. Whilst the RAC was certainly useful in spreading the message, NIMOS/PMU has relied too much on the RAC to involve the ITP's. Joint work with the organizations representing the indigenous (VIDS, OIS) and the tribal peoples (VSG, KAMPOS) has not been sufficient and has not led to the desired outputs at the end of the project. The project had a role to strengthen the ITP organizations; this hardly happened during the 7-year project period, partly because VIDS and KAMPOS were incapable of submitting decent project proposals according to the UNDP and PMU rules.
 115. It was only in 2020 that the PMU finally decided to hire an external consultant to write a project proposal for KAMPOS/VIDS, in order to develop FPIC protocols, do joint mapping processes in several villages, and design local management plans. This proved to be fairly late, and will not lead to solid results in such a short timeframe. NIMOS is now looking with UNDP how to continue this project with VIDS and KAMPOS beyond 2021.

TRAINING OF KEYSTONE REDD+ ORGANIZATIONS

116. As the technical and overall capacity within several REDD+ coordinating bodies was low to execute high-quality engagement, several trainings were held during the entire project period for NIMOS/PMU, SBB, Ministry of Regional Development, Project Board and RAC. Within NIMOS it was largely the Acting Director

and the PMU staff who benefitted from training sessions. Trainings were held on the content of REDD+, UNFCCC, NDC, the Paris Agreement, the Cancun Safeguards as well as on many other REDD+ related topics such as gender, communication, FPIC, management and many more. Trainings were also held by the international and local consultants for the DDFDB+ study, as well as the National REDD+ Strategy and Financial Strategy in 2017. In 2019, more trainings were organized by the consultants responsible for design of a Safeguards Information System and for the ESMF.

117. Within SBB, mainly the staff of the SBB Department of Research and Development and the FCMU were trained on a number of topics related to Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Satellite Image Processing, Google Earth etc. SBB team members participated in training and webinars abroad on several occasions in order to build capacity in several topics such as geoportals, geo-server management and control, carbon credit markets, forest and transparency under the Paris Agreement, and many more subjects over the last ten years. Training and capacity building of the personnel in SBB funded by the project, resulted in a positive and solid institutional strengthening beyond the project.
118. South-South knowledge exchange across Ministries was held at some occasions. In 2016, a trip was organized for key Government staff, UNDP, ITP representatives and Parliamentarians to Costa Rica, in order to learn from their experience as to REDD+ preparation. Other exchanges happened with the Guyana REDD+ team, who shared their knowledge whilst on visit in Suriname.

3.2.2. R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

COMPONENT 2.A ASSESSMENT OF LAND USE, LAND USE CHANGE DRIVERS, FOREST LAW, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

119. Rationale according to FCPF Guidelines: The purpose of the assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, forest law, policy and governance is to identify key drivers of deforestation and/ or forest degradation, as well as activities concerning conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. The assessment should address how shortcomings in current land use, and forest law, policy and governance contribute to the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and developed potential solutions.

120. This component of the R-PP focuses on the causal relationship between the economic, legal, institutional and 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.
121. Following UNDP procurement rules and regulations, the project hired an international consultant - UNIQUE Forestry- back in 2016 to conduct a study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The study was executed combining a technical approach (with satellite imagery) and a multi-stakeholder analysis of perspectives regarding historical deforestation. This 1-year work resulted in the DDFDB+ study “Multi-perspective analysis of drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and barriers to REDD+ activities“.

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122. This study was realized in close cooperation with the SBB and its FCMU. Young professionals in SBB were already trained by a previous ACTO-funded program. Since 2016, the FCMU continued to monitor deforestation and forest degradation with funding from the project. FCMU was able to produce updated Land Cover Maps on an annual basis.
 123. The DDFDB+ study not only analyzed findings (historical trends) but also analyzed the causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Suriname. Based on these causes, the study provided conclusions and recommendations to keep Suriname' forest area at 93%. This excellent analysis proved to be fundamental for the development of the REDD+ Strategy in 2017.
 124. The study states that the deforestation rate increased from roughly 0.02% in the 2000-2009 period to 0.05% in the 2010-2015 period. The majority (more than 70%) of this deforestation was due to mining, especially small- and medium-scale gold mining. Whilst direct drivers were analyzed and quantified as to surface area and carbon emissions, the study also identified indirect drivers and underlying causes.
 125. The DDFDB+ Study states amongst many other things that “one of the main underlying factors identified is the lack of land use planning that combines the development priorities of all relevant sectors“. The study also highlights the lack of inter-institutional cooperation as to land use, concession policy and land allocation, as well as the weakness of legislation enforcement. One of the main issues for the future is the legal recognition for collective land rights, which is seen as a barrier to sustainable land and forest management.
 126. Five years later, in 2022, this analysis is still valid, and no fundamental change is seen in order to address the issues of national land use planning, ad-hoc concession allocations and weak enforcement of mining and forestry rules. However, there is progress as to the approval of the Environment Act and a draft concept law as to Collective Rights for ITP's might go to Parliament in 2022.
 127. The study also provides an excellent overview of the institutional and policy framework regarding land use and forests. A summary of all legislations and policy documents regarding forests, land use, nature conservation, mining and other relevant sectors is presented, their application (or lack of) in the field, and recommendations for follow up.
 128. As a conclusion, the DDFDB+ study highlights the unique situation of Suriname, as one of the few HFLD countries in the world, with a low deforestation rate, and unique opportunities to continue this status given the low population expansion rate and -still- limited drivers of deforestation, compared to the majority of countries in the tropics. However, the DDFDB+ study equally states that with current development plans for engagement of investors in the extractive industries, promoting large scale agriculture and more infrastructure development in the interior, this unique situation will be lost soon as deforestation and forest degradation will increase substantially in the coming decades.

COMPONENT 2B: REDD+ STRATEGY OPTIONS

129. *Rationale: The REDD+ strategy forms the basis for the development of a set of policies and programs to reduce emissions from deforestation and/or forest degradation and enhancing carbon uptake from other REDD+ activities. The national strategy should support national priorities for sustainable development, be*

informed by SESA, ESMF and safeguard issues (see subcomponent 2d), and be consistent with relevant UNFCCC guidance. An explicit assessment of risks, feasibility, cross-sector inconsistencies of REDD+ strategy options should have been undertaken and a timeline and process to integrate strategy options with broader development policies been identified.

THE NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY

130. After a procurement process that started by the end of 2016, an international consultancy firm -AAE Consultancies- was hired in 2017 to support the drafting of the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS), in close cooperation with NIMOS/PMU, SBB and all relevant stakeholders. Previous and parallel stakeholder engagement activities provided valuable information to design the NRS participatory process. Community consultations and surveys were conducted by TBI Suriname including all the Indigenous and Tribal communities between May and August 2017 (10 different locations in the interior, involving all tribes). Follow-up consultations with different stakeholders were held between August and September 2017. A National workshop involving representatives from all the relevant stakeholders was held in May 2017.
131. After consolidating the inputs received from related studies, the participatory process and the SESA process, a draft of the Suriname National REDD+ Strategy was compiled by September 2017. The National REDD+ Strategy was also based on input received from the DDFDB+, FREL, NFMS, and from the National Plan for Forest Cover Monitoring development process. A nationwide process for further consultation was further undertaken by the Project Management Unit; in total more than 650 persons were involved, including representatives from all indigenous and tribal peoples, using a gender-specific approach. A last validation workshop was held in February 2019, and then sent to the head of the Environment Department of the Cabinet of the President, who signed the NRS in October 2019.
132. The NRS presents a vision and four Strategic lines with their corresponding Policies and Measures (PAM's). The NRS vision highlights a commitment of Suriname with global sustainability efforts and local community development through sustainable forest management, efficient resources utilization and biodiversity conservation.
133. The four strategic PAM's or strategic lines of the REDD+ NS are:
 - To maintain the HFLD status of Suriname and receive compensation for economic transition
 - To improve forest governance to achieve sustainable forest management
 - To improve land use planning
 - Conservation of forests, reforestation and research.
134. The NRS also describes the institutional framework to implement the REDD+ NS (within NIMOS). A financial strategy to implement the PAM's over the next 10 years was written as well. Regarding the costs of implementing the prioritized Policy and Measures (PAMs), the strategy indicates that a National REDD+ Trust Fund (NRTF) is expected to receive resources from different sources, including international and national investment and potentially results-based payments in the future. The REDD+ Financial Strategy estimates a total budget of 288.5 million USD over the next 10 years to implement all the PAM's.
135. Whilst the National REDD+ Strategy is a holistic document which gives 4 strategic lines and a comprehensive wish-list of policies and measures (PAM's) to implement REDD+ (all relevant), it fails to identify which policies and measures have the highest risks not to be implemented, and where the low-

hanging fruits are. In other words, there is no clear agreed timeline and process in place to resolve inconsistencies and integrate REDD+ strategy options with relevant development policies.

136. Different scenarios of deforestation were outlined using a land use change model DINAMICA-EGO; probable deforestation areas in the near future were identified and it was stipulated that these areas (100,000 hectares in the Greenstone Belt) needed to be targeted with REDD+ Funding. However, at a national scale, there was no prioritization done of the PAM's, just a comprehensive list of PAM's.

REDD+ BUSINESS MODEL

137. The REDD+ strategy was finalized in 2018, and validated by the Cabinet of the President at the end of 2019. At that time, REDD+ stakeholders were expecting REDD+ implementation of the NRS, and funding for projects. However, NIMOS/PMU just signed for another Phase II of REDD+ Readiness, due to the long preparation of project documents for the Phase II REDD+ Readiness, and the mere fact that some elements for REDD+ Implementation (at a national scale) were not ready. This was difficult to understand for the stakeholders; it also created confusion and frustration during implementation of Phase II of the REDD+ Readiness Phase.
138. With a REDD+ Strategy finalized, the Phase II Project Document introduced a separate Pillar II: REDD+ Strategy and Business Model. The project document stipulates some REDD+ Strategy activities to be implemented and some REDD+ ground truth projects to be done:
- Studies to encourage economic co-benefits;
 - Design of a Results Based Payment system for REDD+;
 - Secure international support for REDD+;
 - Design and implement a National REDD+ Fund.

SUB-OUTPUTS OF FCPF PHASE II PRODOC

139. As some of the activities in the Phase II Project Document are not specifically related to the structure of the R-PP and the REDD+ Readiness preparation, but still fits best under component 2B of the R-PP since they are related to the REDD+ strategy options and its business model, they will be evaluated here:
- Secure international support for REDD+ Implementation
 - Ground truth projects and studies to encourage economic co-benefits.

SECURE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION (OUTPUT 2C OF PHASE II PRODOC)

Three activities were planned in Project Document Phase II output 2c:

- HFLD Climate Finance Mobilization Conference and follow up
 - Seeking financial and technical support from international partners
 - Five-year REDD+ Investment Plan.
140. From February 12-14, 2019, the “High Forest cover, Low Deforestation Conference on Climate Finance Mobilization” was held in Suriname, hosted by the Government of Suriname and co-funded by the REDD+ project. The overall aim was to strengthen the collaboration of HFLD countries in maintaining their forest cover with adequate support from the global donor community. The conference offered opportunities for

participating HFLD countries, REDD+ donor countries and international agencies to meet, share information and experiences, and form partnerships for a forested future. A tangible output of the conference was a “Paramaribo Declaration” on sustaining HFLD countries. The conference led to an important political momentum in Suriname to support REDD+ and the HFLD status of the country.

141. However, with the pandemic starting in Q2 2020, and the change of the Government during 2020, NIMOS and the REDD+ project invested little time nor effort for securing international climate funding for a next REDD+ Implementation Phase. Firstly, they wanted to see the position of the new Government as to REDD+ and Green Development. Climate Change and REDD+ were moved from the Cabinet of the President to a new Ministry of ROM. NIMOS and PMU participated on some occasions at the request of the Minister of ROM in the preparation of the agreement with TotalEnergies, signed in November 2021.

GROUND TRUTH PROJECTS AND STUDIES TO ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC CO-BENEFITS (2B PHASE II PRODOC)

142. As part of Phase II, the project invested considerable time and resources to select 4 ground-truth projects for REDD+. A call for proposals was launched in 2019. At the deadline of the call in July 2019, the PMU had received 38 project proposals from NGO’s, CBO’s and research institutes from all over the country: this demonstrated the enormous interest in funding for implementation of REDD+ in the hinterland. In December 2019, only four projects could be selected as “REDD+ Ground-truth projects”, given the available budget. The main objectives of the ground-truth projects were: strengthening and fine-tuning the policies and measures (PAMs) of the National REDD+ Strategy, make the potential results of REDD+ more tangible, show more concretely what REDD+ can mean to stakeholders regarding capacity building, and prepare (potential) partner’s on implementing activities on the ground.
143. Execution of the projects was hampered by the COVID-19 crisis starting April 2020. During various periods of several months, the hinterland was inaccessible. Still, the projects were executed successfully, showing the need for funding for alternative income projects in the hinterland, and the capacity of several NGOs to deliver.
144. Unfortunately, PMU/NIMOS failed to make a synthesis report, with recommendations for the future: how can communities benefit the best from REDD+ funding, based on these first 4 projects, and what are lessons learnt for the implementation of the REDD+ Strategy. One of the reasons was certainly the lack of a Chief Technical Officer within the PMU.

COMPONENT 2C: REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

145. *Rationale: The implementation framework defines institutional, economic, legal and governance arrangements necessary to implement REDD+ strategy options. The implementation of REDD+ strategy options is specific to a given country’s land uses and legal and social circumstances, and countries have flexibility to tailor their REDD+ interventions to their socio-economic conditions, drivers of deforestation, and development objectives. Country-specific solutions need to define the role of government, landowners, and other participants in REDD+ transactions, to share and deliver REDD+ benefits (e.g., to local communities), to respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent communities, to clarify land tenure to the extent possible and mediate associated conflicts, and to manage carbon transactions*

through a transparent process. An effective implementation framework during the preparation phase is indicative of the country's capacity to undertake emission reduction programs in the future.

DESIGN A CARBON INTELLIGENCE UNIT (OUTPUT 2B IN PRODOC II)

146. One of the outputs of Project Phase II was to set up a Carbon Intelligence Unit (CIU) under the leadership of NIMOS. The CIU ensures sufficient focus on international forest carbon market analysis coupled with ensuring further national and international support and funding. A CIU has the task to support the efforts leading towards a Results-Based Payment system and the establishment of a National REDD+ Fund.
147. It was also intended that this Carbon Intelligence Unit builds the bridge between the REDD+ readiness phase and the next phase of REDD+ in Suriname, by making sure that funds are available to continue after this project and that the government can take wise decisions linked to their forest related carbon credits and financial partnerships. The CIU should provide market insights by using data science, stats, indicators, scorecards, etc., and then generate intelligence on the likelihood of replenishment at the FCPF Carbon Fund, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance (LEAF) Coalition and Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) – The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES), as well as other potential funding mechanisms as described in the National REDD+ Financial Strategy.
148. By the end of the project, only the Terms of Reference for a Carbon Intelligence Unit were drafted. NIMOS relied on PMU to do the work of the CIU in the meantime, but PMU did not see this as a core business of the Readiness Phase. According to the Acting Director of NIMOS, this Unit will be installed and staffed when NIMOS will transition to NMA, following the approval of the Environment Act in April 2020.
149. Since this did not happen yet, and PMU will be dismantled, there might be a knowledge gap in this field for the coming period within NIMOS. Current funding for REDD+ continuation is limited to the agreement between the Ministry of ROM and TotalEnergies, signed in November 2021. It is also questionable if such a Unit belongs in the new NMA: Redd+ funding is coupled with green development and hence at a higher level than NMA.

BENEFIT SHARING MECHANISM (OUTPUT 2B IN PRODOC II)

150. REDD+ implementation is meant to bring monetary and non-monetary benefits to Suriname. These benefits need to be shared amongst all rights holders and stakeholders in an effective, efficient, transparent and equitable manner, and in a way that fully reflects national and international requirements.
151. Project Document Phase II emphasized the importance of designing a pro-poor REDD+ Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM) that fits in the national context of Suriname. The BSM should be built upon and integrated into existing systems and other systems under development, to promote environment-climate-poverty mainstreaming in policies and plans.
152. Upon request of NIMOS, the designing of a BSM needed to be coordinated by the UNDP Country Office in Suriname. Despite several procurement rounds (since mid-2019) to contract a consultancy team for developing the BSM, no suitable consultancy team could be identified by UNDP Suriname. Given the challenges to recruit a consultancy team and the lack of sufficient time to complete the development of

the BSM at the end of the project, it was agreed to re-design this activity, and make a report drawing on experiences from countries that have developed a BSM. However, this did not happen either.

REDD+ FUND/ENVIRONMENT FUND (OUTPUT 2D IN PRODOC II)

153. The REDD+ Financial Strategy stated the need for installing a REDD+ Fund as part of the Environment Fund to be installed within the NMA. The REDD+ Fund is expected to receive funding from international and national donors and potentially results-based payments in the future.
154. The activity related to this under Project Phase II, was to perform a National REDD+ Fiduciary Trust Fund (NRFTF) or SNEA assessment, develop a framework for the Fund, and seek validation amongst stakeholders. As this was very vaguely defined in the Project Document II and left open for various interpretations, not much was done under this activity by the project; it was delayed until a general Environment Fund would be set up in the new NMA, following the promulgation of the new Environment Act.

NATIONAL REDD+ REGISTRY (OUTPUT 3A IN PRODOC II)

155. The REDD+ Strategy states the need for a REDD+ registry that maintains updated information related to the 5 REDD+ activities to be monitored. It was intended for this Registry to be functional under the authority of NIMOS, whilst MRV responsibilities would be with SBB/FCMU.
156. Project document Phase II earmarked a specific activity and a budget line for the set-up of a National REDD+ Registry. The REDD+ Registry is the port of entry when carbon units are being paid by any carbon buyer (i.e. issuances and removals). This serialized system uses the FREL baseline data to officially keep emission reductions (ER) checks and balances through a blockchain ledger to issue and remove carbon units. This system, fully interoperable, will activate subsystems downstream such as MRV, SIS, and others.
157. NIMOS/PMU was not able to start the design of this REDD+ Registry during the project, nor develop the necessary software, partly because of a number of uncertainties and the technical and inter-institutional complexity.

ADOPTION OF LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS TO BE READY FOR REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION (OUTPUT 1D IN PRODOC)

158. The National REDD+ strategy indicates all necessary legal reforms needed in order to be able to have a holistic approach regarding forests, land use, land tenure and national development (revision of Forest Act, Mining Decree, Environmental Act as well as new legislations on Land Rights and Land Use Planning). Project Document Phase II recognizes the fact that all this legislative work cannot be done during 2-3 more years of Project Readiness Preparation. However, it mentions certain activities to be done as to building capacities with the legislative branch, co-supporting land rights initiatives, and drafting of legal reforms. Some work has been done during the Phase II Project implementation.
159. Related to forest management, the National Forestry Policy (NFP), existing since 2005, sets the basis for the economic use of forestry resources while using wisely biodiversity. However, policy is not yet reflected

on laws and regulations to ensure the objectives are met. The main existing law for the forestry sector is the Forest Management Act (1992), but it is more related to forest economic sustainable logging.

160. In April 2020, the Environment Act was finally approved by Parliament, which is a milestone for the country: finally, there is a legislation which give NIMOS -to be reformed in NMA- the mandate to require Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) and control Environmental Management Plans for major investments in the country regarding oil and gas, mining, etc. NIMOS/NMA will also get a clear mandate regarding pollution rules and regulations, mitigation and control.
161. Regarding conservation, the National Biodiversity Strategy 2006-2020 (NBS) supports the biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of resources. Nevertheless, the NBS lacks its supportive legal framework. The main existing conservation laws are the Nature Conservation Act (1954) and the Game Act (1954), which refer to the establishment of protected areas and need to be updated. A new and modern nature conservation law was drafted but still needs approval by the National Assembly (DNA).
162. Of more concern regarding eventual REDD+ Implementation, is the lack of legislation regarding collective rights for ITP's. Progress was made by the Ministry of RO during the previous Government (independent from project funding). A new framework legislation regarding collective rights for ITP's was drafted in 2019-2020 following a long consultation process with the ITP's; the draft framework law is now under scrutiny by the Presidential Commission set up under the current Government. If this framework law is approved in 2022, Suriname finally demonstrates a first important step for resolving this complex issue, which is a key element to become REDD+ ready and start REDD+ Implementation at a national scale.
163. Regarding land use planning legislation, there is no progress during the entire project period. In spite of the relevance of land use planning recognized as an element of development by the Planning Act of 1973, Suriname lacks land use planning procedures with wide participation of all stakeholders. The lack of a national land use planning system results in continuous conversion of forests into mining, infrastructure or agriculture, as well as overlap of mining and forestry concessions. Different Ministries have the authority to issue land permits for different purposes and there is no central system to register all these land uses.
164. As to Land Use Planning, it has to be mentioned that SBB – as part of the project – established in 2016 the Gonini Portal with geographical forest and land information. However, SBB has no authority regarding land use: a national land use geoportal should be managed by the relevant authority for Land Use. Spatial or Land Use Planning and Development Planning are now in 2 separate Ministries: the Ministry of Finance (Planning Office) and Ministry of ROM, with few to no inter-ministerial coordination. However, ROM has mandated the preparation of a new Law on Spatial Planning.

COMPONENT 2.D. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

165. *Rationale: Countries receiving FCPF funding for readiness preparation through the World Bank are required to ensure compliance with the Common Approach. This part of the Assessment Framework focuses on the main findings and results of SESA, including the stand-alone ESMF. (Note: the SESA is reflected in the R-Package components in an integrated way, including the REDD+ strategy and consultation, participation outreach). The SESA process and ESMF should create a sustainable institutional*

structure that ensures effective management of social and environmental issues beyond the readiness phase.

166. As part of the development of Suriname's National REDD+ Strategy, a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) was conducted during 2017, involving over 800 REDD+ stakeholders, most of which Indigenous and Tribal Peoples inhabiting the vast forest areas of the country. Based on the findings and conclusions from the SESA process, an ESMF for REDD+ project implementation was designed in 2020-2021 with the following overall objective: To enhance success and sustainability of implementing Suriname's National REDD+ Strategy by presenting a framework whose implementation will promote social and environmental REDD+ benefits and avoid or minimize and manage REDD+ risks.
167. Whilst the SESA itself is a very comprehensive document, the SESA Action Matrix is the main output of the SESA process. The actions included are derived from the findings of the SESA's participatory and analytical elements, especially the first national workshop in 2017, the community consultations, the assessment of existing Policies, Laws and Regulations against REDD+ benefits and risks identified by stakeholders and the requirements of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES). The SESA actions are spread across six priorities, under which different priority reform areas are addressed. For each priority reform area, short-, medium- and long-term actions are suggested, together with outcomes that can be monitored. The 6 priority areas for action requests are:
- Clarification of topics currently unclear and causing mistrust or confusion (concession policy, FPIC, land rights, etc.);
 - Resolution of existing conflicts over land use and concessions (overlapping of concessions and traditional lands, encroachment, etc.);
 - Institutional and governance strengthening;
 - Strengthening of gender inclusive REDD+ implementation;
 - Local-level empowerment for REDD+ implementation;
 - Additional measures to enhance benefits and reduce risks from REDD+ implementation.
168. Addressing these priority actions of the SESA will help increase REDD+ inclusiveness and trust in the REDD+ mechanism amongst stakeholders, and thus their willingness to support and engage. It will improve the country's position and its credibility in obtaining funding for REDD+ Implementation.
169. The ESMF was developed at a later stage within the project, equally with external international support from AAE Consultancies. The ESMF document was only released in November 2021 by NIMOS/PMU. The ESMF suggests a two-pronged approach for the management of REDD+ benefits and risks and achievement of the overall objective: 1) the implementation of the SESA Action Matrix to enhance enabling conditions for REDD+ implementation in country and further strengthen Suriname's National REDD+ Strategy; 2) a framework for implementation of the Policies and Measures (PAMs) included in the National REDD+ Strategy, to ensure that potential benefits and risks are considered throughout the process of REDD+ (sub-) project implementation.
170. The framework for implementing PAMs complements the SESA Action Matrix by providing guidance to REDD+ (sub-) project developers and evaluators to ensure that potential social and environmental REDD+ benefits and risks are considered throughout the process of REDD+ implementation. In preparing the framework, the existing NIMOS guidelines on Environmental and Social Impact Assessment have been used and the suggested process is, to the extent possible, aligned with these guidelines.

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171. For the proposal preparation stage (of any REDD+ project), important topics to be covered in the proposal are described, including initial information of relevance for identification of potential REDD+ benefits and risks. The proposal preparation stage is followed by a screening stage (applying the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), in which a set of screening questions should be used to identify whether the (sub-) project in focus may trigger any of the relevant safeguards (specifically the UNDP SES. At the scoping stage and based on the screening results, Terms of Reference for Environmental and Social Assessment are produced for (sub-) projects that likely have more than minor impacts on people and/or the environment. In line with respective Terms of Reference, REDD+ project developers in the next stage need to conduct the particular Environmental and Social Assessments that are required for the respective low, moderate to high categories given to the potential risks identified during the SESP. They then produce an Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework (ESMP/F), and various constituent management plans that may be indicated by the assessments.
172. Each REDD+ project in the course of the described stages needs to address certain additional topics, namely ways to promote benefits, mitigation measures, monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement and dispute resolution at a level of detail that is proportionate to the (sub-) project. The outputs of this process should be publicly disclosed and a final decision be taken under consideration of stakeholder input. Gender sensitivity and cultural appropriateness of REDD+ (sub-) projects are addressed in different stages of the process.
173. Implementation of the ESMF at institutional level requires an extension or redistribution of responsibilities and may require additional staff. Once REDD+ implementation starts, it is likely that the number of projects that will have to be accompanied through the above described process will increase. It will also be important to maintain consultation with stakeholders and continue to disclose certain information for public information. The ESMF deals in separate chapters with these topics and includes general remarks regarding budget requirements for ESMF implementation based on all of the above.
174. Both the SESA and the ESMF technical documents are very comprehensive in their approach. They identified the key issues related to risks and benefits of the REDD+ Implementation Phase, based on thorough information gathering, feedback, consultation and validation processes. The ESMF document discusses obvious synergies between the SESA process, the ESMF and Suriname's need to develop a Safeguard Information System (SIS). Topics included in the safeguards of relevance for REDD+ implementation in Suriname have been considered throughout the SESA process and in the ESMF. Information produced during the SESA process presented valuable input into the development of the SIS. Moreover, provisions regarding proposal development, screening, scoping and monitoring for REDD+ (sub-) project implementation directly fed into Suriname's SIS. The SESA and ESMF have thus been thoroughly considered in the process of developing the SIS for the Republic of Suriname.
175. Whilst the technical documents are strong and coherent, their institutional embedding within NIMOS still needs to happen, in a transition phase towards NMA and with some personnel of PMU leaving to other projects.

3.2.3. R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels

COMPONENT 3A. FOREST REFERENCE EMISSIONS LEVEL

176. Rationale: Estimates of changes in forest area and carbon content over time and the corresponding emissions to and uptake from the atmosphere are used to measure the performance of REDD+ policy interventions relative to a forest REL/RL. 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.

177. Technical development of the FREL/FRL for Suriname has been the responsibility of the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB). Formal submission has been done through the Cabinet of the President as the National Focal Point for UNFCCC, via the National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname (NIMOS) as national technical focal point for REDD+.

178. In order to be able to submit these reports, SBB did a remarkable job during the project period to work out several technically complex products and processes. At several occasions this happened without external consultants, saving financial resources and leading to the improvement of internal capacity and overall institutional sustainability within SBB. FREL delivery went hand in hand with the NFMS Roadmap (also led by SBB). Internal capacity was improved in many technical areas such as Satellite Land Monitoring Systems (SLMS), Emissions calculations, Tracking of logs (SFISS), building on the National Forest Inventory (NFI) and Near Real Time Monitoring (see chapter 3.2.4.)

179. The preparation of the first FREL report took several years before SBB had well understood the issues, gathered all data and developed the needed technical capacity. Following is an overview of the activities within SBB (and beyond) to build internal capacity and submit two subsequent versions of FREL Suriname, which have been approved by UNFCCC.

GATHERING AND ANALYZING HISTORICAL DEFORESTATION DATA

180. A forest cover map for 2000 was used as the benchmark map to assess historical deforestation for the first FREL/FRL. This map was produced using semi-automatic classification procedures on Landsat 5 and 7 images. The final check of the land use/land cover classes was done manually in Terra Amazon, a tool that was available within the ACTO project. Later, in 2018, SBB developed internal capacity to use an open source GIS system (Q-GIS) to develop annual deforestation and forest cover maps. With improving satellite imagery available at low cost, the SBB staff switched from using not only Landsat but also SENTINEL (accuracy of up to 10m).

181. Historical deforestation was estimated based on the forest base-map of 2000 and the historical assessment of the deforestation for the periods 2000-2009, 2009-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. These maps were developed by SBB Forest Cover Monitoring Unit through the support of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) project "Monitoring the Forest Cover of the Amazon region" in collaboration with international experts (INPE, UN-REDD, ONFI, CI) and national stakeholders. For the

years 2009, 2013 and 2015, the deforestation analysis was further disintegrated by drivers in a multisectoral collaboration approach.

GATHERING AND ANALYZING DATA ON EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION

182. Back in 2010-2011, SBB took the first actions to start gathering data on carbon sequestration and emissions due to deforestation and forest degradation.
183. Data was collected in 2011 for the publication 'Towards a carbon balance for forests in Suriname'. This publication supported the development and implementation of an adequate MRV system for forest carbon in Suriname. The project had contributors from Alterra, Wageningen University and Research (WUR), Center for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS), TBI, SBB as well as the National Herbarium of Suriname (BBS). Data were also collected during 2013-2014 within a pilot project for a National Forest Inventory for Suriname, in collaboration with the Austrian consortium ANRICA and with financial support from CI and WWF-Guianas.
184. SBB hired the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) in 2016 to produce a joint report on "Best estimates for emission factors and carbon stocks for Suriname", bringing all data from the above-mentioned projects together and providing the best estimate based on existing data. This report was a joint collaboration between CATIE, SBB, CELOS and the National Zoological Collection of Suriname (NZCS); it analyzed all historical forest inventory data, as well as historical timber production data. It had a strong capacity building component and included a mission from Suriname experts to Costa Rica.

SUBMISSION OF FREL 1 AND FREL 2

185. During the total duration of the project, Suriname has submitted a Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) report to UNFCCC in 2018 and another one in 2021. The first FREL for Suriname was submitted in January 2018. This first FREL was based on historical data for the period 2000-2015, with a future reference period of 5 years. The adjustment for national circumstances was made in agreement with the scenario modeling done for the national REDD+ strategy. The FREL calculations only considered deforestation and forest degradation due to logging. Only CO₂ was calculated, and the pools included were aboveground and belowground biomass, as well as standing and lying dead wood. After a thorough revision of the UNFCCC Technical Assessment (TA) team during Q1 and Q2 of 2018, it was approved in July 2018, with a set of recommendations.
186. In the second FREL the scope was increased. This FREL was projected for 2020-2024 using the historical period 2000-2019. The REDD+ activities that were considered were deforestation and forest degradation. For deforestation, the activity data (AD) consisting the conversion of forest and shifting cultivation to non-forest, were used. Regarding the AD of forest degradation, logging (roundwood and fuelwood production) and the conversion of forest to shifting cultivation were used. Besides CO₂, non-CO₂ greenhouse gases were estimated for those activities where forest fires occurred. The second FREL for Suriname was submitted in January 2021. The version went through a technical assessment process of the UNFCCC, where Suriname was given the opportunity to analyze the feedback and submit an improved FREL at the end of June 2021. The FREL 2 was finally approved by the UNFCCC Technical Assessment Team at the end of 2021.

3.2.4. R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards

SUBCOMPONENT 4.A DEVELOP NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING SYSTEM

- 187. Rationale: The national forest monitoring system should generate information that allows comparison of changes in forest area and carbon content (and associated greenhouse (GHG) emissions) relative to the baseline estimates used for the FREL. A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system can contribute to strengthen forest governance and to further consider counter measures to deforestation and forest degradation. The development of an operational forest monitoring system is a long-term effort, generally serves multiple purposes (e.g., natural resource management more generally), and commonly entails a combination of remote sensing and field-based data collection from the national forest inventory or other sources. A national forest monitoring system assimilates data collected nationally and locally (e.g., through sampling in community-managed forests), helps build trust among local constituencies via a participatory approach, and contributes to the national GHG inventory that countries report to UNFCCC in their National Communications and Biennial Update Reports.*
188. Development of a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) was assigned to the SBB in the R-PP and the subsequent UNDP Project Documents I and II. Throughout the REDD+ readiness project, SBB has been a technically sound and important partner to NIMOS for delivery of many outputs and processes, such as the NFMS.
189. In the period 2012-2014, SBB started to improve their GIS and Remote sensing internal capacities with the technical and financial support of the ACTO project “Monitoring the forest cover in the Amazon”. As a result, an internal Forest Cover Monitoring Unit (FCMU) was set up, which gradually became stronger and stronger over the years. The Unit is now staffed with several national GIS and remote sensing experts, partly trained in Brazil and Costa Rica.
190. It should be noted that when the R-PP was formulated, there were few experts in the country in Remote Sensing, Biometry, GIS, etc. Nowadays, this capacity is built and housed within SBB. For future REDD+ implementation, as well as reporting requirements, a solid MRV system as to forest cover change is present, and can be delivered by the FCMU (now called NFMS Unit) of SBB. Technical cooperation during the years was realized with CATIE, FAO, IRD and other international forestry organizations.
191. When the ACTO project stopped in 2017, the REDD+ Readiness project took over the funding of the staff of the FCMU of SBB. This guaranteed institutional continuity and local embedding which was needed to obtain project outputs. SBB continuously trained new staff in GIS and remote sensing on the job. Several exchanges took place and trainings were followed in many countries including Brazil, Guyana, Costa Rica, Japan, France, etc.
192. A milestone in providing the necessary elements for a decent NFMS, was the realization of the NFMS roadmap, finalized in 2017. The NFMS roadmap was made by local experts from SBB, but with technical feedback from the international forestry institutes such as FAO and others.

193. The NFMS is perceived as a multi-purpose system, inherently including the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system. Its main components are : the Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS) providing estimates of the activity data related to deforestation and forest degradation; the National Forest Inventory (NFI) providing estimates on carbon stocks; the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) monitoring component providing data on emission factors related to logging, timber production and the areas harvested; the Near Real Time Monitoring (NRTM) system that can provide timely alerts on unplanned changes in the forest, allowing for immediate action in the field; and Community-based monitoring, reporting and verification (C-MRV). REDD+ Project funding was key for SBB to bring all pieces together and design the full system.

194. Following sub-components of the NFMS were worked out by SBB and partners:

- Satellite land monitoring system (SLMS)
- Near Real Time Monitoring (NRTM)
- SFM and Sustainable Forestry Information System (SFISS)
- National Forest Inventory (NFI)
- Community MRV (C-MRV)
- Reporting.

SATELLITE LAND MONITORING SYSTEM (SLMS)

195. Based on a reference map of 2000, deforestation was monitored over the first period 2000-2009, later on for the period 2010-2014. From that time onwards, annual deforestation maps were produced by SBB, given the increase of available in-house knowledge and available data. A technical report on the deforestation and land use/land cover for the monitoring period 2000-2015 was produced as well.

196. Land Use Land Cover Maps were produced for the base year 2000 and for 2015. An inter-sectoral technical platform has been established, bringing together the relevant ministries and institutions to correlate historic socio-economic events with deforestation rates and land use dynamics. The production of these maps was done by SBB in close collaboration with different Ministries. Validation was done during workshops with key Ministries, districts and other stakeholders. Lots of ground-truthing work had to be done, some of it with the use of drones.

197. A major milestone was the launch of the National Land Monitoring System “Gonini” for public dissemination (www.gonini.org) in December 2016. Gonini is updated on a regular basis by the national SBB / REDD+ team. At regular intervals, new versions of the geoportal are launched with new layers of information at a national scale. Within the operations of the SLMS, an informal network of multidisciplinary experts from the different national institutions is consulted on a regular basis, and actively involved in the production of these maps and products.

198. In March 2019 a statistic portal named Kopi was launched, providing statistical information on the forest sector. This is another element of the NFMS platform which increases transparency and data sharing. It has to be noted that similar platforms for the mining sector do not exist at the level of the Geological Mining Service (GMD) in Suriname, where much less transparency is available.

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199. Within all SLMS related activities, the expertise of the NFMS unit was built. Besides this also remote sensing and GIS-capacity from other institutions and ministries was built; BSc. and MSc. students have been graduated within SLMS (and broader the NFMS) related subjects, and many scientific articles and reports were published. This capacity and technical platform has been the basis for the scenario modelling exercise. It can also be the basis for dealing with Land Use Planning (LUP) in the future.

NEAR REAL TIME MONITORING (NRTM)

200. After Sentinel-2 satellite images with a 10m- spatial resolution became freely available, the NRTM-system to detect 'unplanned'-logging was established. Since then, a daily checking of Sentinel-2 satellite images on logging activities outside of areas with permission for logging is done. When new unplanned activities are detected, a field crew goes to the field to stop the activities.
201. Technically this system could be easily expanded at low costs to detect unplanned mining activities, encroachment into protected areas, the mangrove forest and the border areas of the country. However, this is beyond the mandate of SBB.

SFM AND SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INFORMATION SYSTEM (SFIS)

202. Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is the key mandate of SBB, and many outputs have been realized as to the improvement towards SFM implementation during the last decades. As logging is also the key driver of forest degradation in Suriname, the REDD+ project has funded capacity building within SBB on improved and sustainable logging as well. Whilst this is an investment in REDD+ readiness, it is key for REDD+ Implementation as well.
203. Baseline studies have been carried out in different locations to assess the carbon impact of logging activities in Suriname. Through a co-funding opportunity within another regional project managed by IDB/CATIE, SBB was able to upgrade its whole control system and related technology in 2016-2017. SBB gradually moved from an outdated log-tracking system to a new and modern system called SFIS.
204. The establishment of the SFIS system for improved log tracking was a major output of SBB as part of the project. This was done by providing an update of the existing log tracking system using new technology, parallel with a number of capacity building activities. SFIS was launched in July 2019 and was established as a participative tool, useful for the private and public sector and for communities with a community forest license.
205. In general, SFIS has made the registration of forestry operations more transparent for the public as well as the private sector. The main improvements of SFIS are: improved services for the private sector, indicators for sustainable forest management (SFM) included and used as a tool to measure carbon emissions related to logging during operational checks and as a tool to promote SFM, and improved detection and registration of illegal logging activities.
206. SFIS has also been a useful starting point to discuss all internal procedures at the SBB. Manuals have been produced for the external users. All documentation can be found through: <https://sbbsur.com/sfiss/>. SFIS will strengthen the institutional framework for the implementation of REDD+ in Suriname and support the forest sector on a long run to implement SFM and the National REDD+ Strategy.

NATIONAL FOREST INVENTORY

207. A database was established back in 2015 bringing data together from 349 field plots. This database was used for a first estimation of carbon stock estimates, tree species distributions and timber stocks (see chapter 3.2.3. FREL).
208. A pilot NFI project was carried out in collaboration with the Austrian consortium ANRICA back in 2011. During the development of the NFMS roadmap in 2017, preparation work was done to implement a multi-purpose and participatory NFI. A geomorphologic stratification was prepared as one of the base elements of a NFI design. SBB participated in regional initiatives to harmonize the implementation of a NFI within the Amazon region and the Guiana Shield.
209. In the end, SBB decided not to invest in a full National Forest Inventory. It was analyzed and decided that carrying out a NFI would absorb too much internal resources of staff, especially when SBB staff was needed to control the logging operations which had tripled since 2018-2019. SBB staff was strongly needed to control logging activities. This proved to be a very sound decision, as executing an NFI is costly and absorbs time and people. Even without an NFI, both FREL reports were approved by UNFCCC and were all based on extrapolating historical inventory data.
210. Only one forest type (mangrove) was inventoried more in detail. The NFI project within the mangrove forest was carried out in 2017-2018 with co-funding from the UNDP / GCCA+-project. In total 11 Permanent Sampling Units were established in the mangrove forest. Data was collected not only on aboveground and soil organic carbon but also on biodiversity (trees, plants, birds and mammals).
211. The assessment of the different pan-tropical allometric equations was done by CELOS. Data was collected to validate the pantropical allometric equations. In total 31 trees were harvested and weighted from different regions and with different diameters, and a technical report was written. This project with CELOS helped in a better estimation of tree density and overall form, and hence better estimates of carbon stockage in the different forest types.

COMMUNITY MRV (C-MRV)

212. C-MRV is an important component of a NFMS in order to encourage an active role for forest- dependent communities. Depending on the specific drivers in the region and the needs of the communities, the C-MRV is designed to support local and national forest monitoring, while at the same time enabling monitoring of other issues relevant to the communities.
213. Several SBB training sessions were held for the capacity building of the REDD+ assistants. A pilot project was developed with the Amazon Conservation Team (ACT) in the Matawai community forest in the area of Pusugrunu.
214. During 2019, SBB organized specific SFISS trainings to the communities, making it a tool for community-based monitoring in the community forest areas. Using FAO funding, a SFISS framework was implemented in 44 communities. In each community, 2 people were assigned -following traditional authorities' rules- to get training on SFISS and community forestry. After the training, an exchange workshop was organized

in collaboration with the Ministry of Regional Development (RO). The theme of the workshop was "Sustainable forest management within community forests". About 100 representatives (M/F: 80/20) from the communities were present.

REPORTING

215. SBB has been regularly supporting the different National Communications of Suriname to the UNFCCC as well as both NDC reports (2015 and 2020). SBB was responsible for the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory and land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) reporting.
216. Suriname is currently developing the Third National Communication for UNFCCC. This will be coordinated by the National Environmental Authority (NMA), but the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector will be coordinated by the NFMS team and will be prepared in parallel with the next versions of the FREL.
217. Additionally, SBB provides input for the reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Environmental Statistics, Reporting on Land Degradation, and the yearly forest sector analysis as part of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reporting.

SUBCOMPONENT 4.B INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR MULTIPLE BENEFITS, OTHER IMPACTS, GOVERNANCE, AND SAFEGUARDS

218. Rationale: This component specifies the non-carbon aspects prioritized for monitoring by the country (e.g., key quantitative or qualitative variables representing rural livelihoods enhancement, conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services provision, key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD+ implementation in the country, and the impacts of the REDD+ strategy on the forest sector). The system should be capable, or at least in an early operational stage, of reporting how safeguards are being addressed and respected during the implementation of REDD+ preparation activities, with due attention to the specific monitoring provisions included in the country.

219. The development process of the Safeguards Information System (SIS) for Suriname started in November 2018. The mandate to develop the SIS was awarded to the same consultancy firm AAE that developed the SESA and NRS. To ensure inclusive engagement of all relevant stakeholders, different groups of stakeholders were identified and have all been involved in different ways in the development of the SIS. Consultations with ITPs were held in the interior of the country, reaching out to all ten ITP communities over the period from April to September 2019, reaching more than 300 participants.
220. The SIS Counterpart Group, a group of national technical experts with various relevant backgrounds, provided input during the different steps of the SIS development. In November 2019, the SIS validation workshop took place and served to discuss the results of the SIS process, including the final interpretations of safeguards, the indicators and information sources and the SIS online portal. In preparation of both workshops, a pre-meeting was held with ITP representatives to ensure they were familiar with the topics of the workshop and felt enabled to engage.

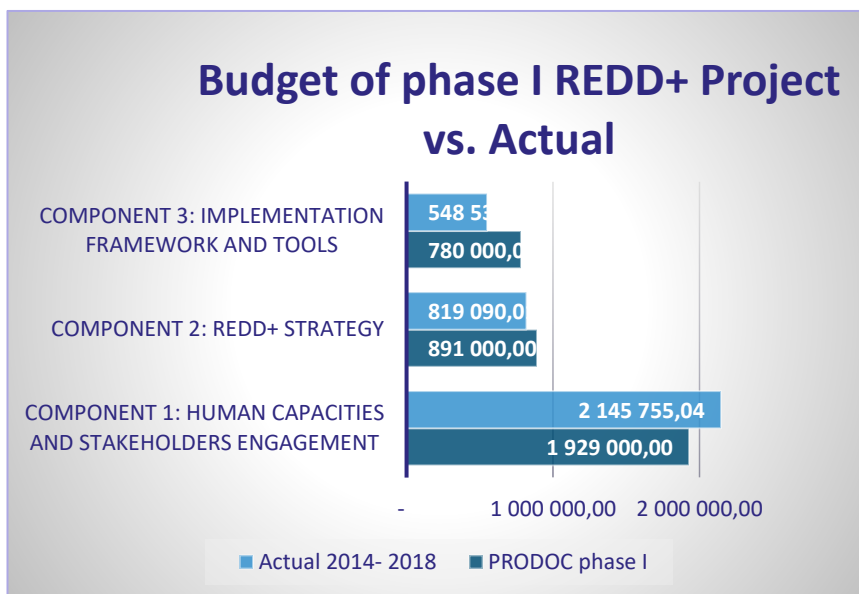
221. Safeguards Information System (SIS) and Summary of Information (SOI) trainings were held at the end of the SIS development process by the external consultants, to hand over the management and maintenance of the SIS portal and discuss the aspects of importance for producing and updating the Summary of Information (SOI) required by UNFCCC. Trainings were attended by participants who will be responsible for the SIS and SOI in the future.
222. The Suriname SIS Report, containing information on the development, content and management of Suriname’s REDD+ Safeguards Information System (SIS), is available on: <http://www.sis.surinameredd.org/media/1060/sis-report.pdf>. All information channeled into the SIS is available on an online portal, available at www.sis.surinameredd.com where information can be accessed on how safeguards are addressed and respected at both national and project scale of REDD+ implementation. The first Summary of Information (SOI) in REDD+ Safeguards of Suriname submitted to UNFCCC in June 2020 is available on the [UNFCCC website](#).
223. SIS and the SOI are technically sound documents, developed by international consultants of high quality and with PMU as a counterpart. They are not fully embedded in the NIMOS Institute. As many other outputs of the REDD+ project, deliverance was done by the PMU supported by international consultants. With a dissolved PMU by the end of 2021, it will take time to re-integrate this expertise in the new NMA that will be established during 2022.

3.3. Efficiency

Efficiency	Satisfactory
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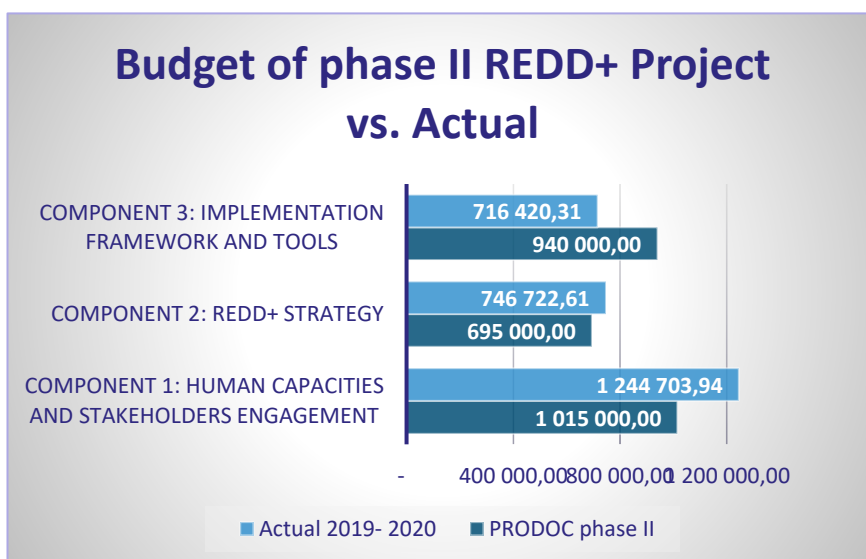
224. The UNDP project “Strengthening National Capacities of Suriname for the Elaboration of the National REDD+ Strategy and the Design of its Implementation Framework” was signed in May 2014 for a period of 3 years. The project had a very slow start and little spendings were done during the initial 2 years. The MTR report of October 2016 mentioned a low project efficiency, as only 25% of the financial means were spent at that time. The MTR recommended a second phase of the REDD+ Readiness project.
225. As a consequence of the MTR, NIMOS took action and hired a new Project Coordinator who came in place by Mid-2017. The new PC did a remarkable job in assembling a solid project team within NIMOS and putting the project back on track, despite the different impediments such as lack of political interest for REDD+, difficult relationships with the ITPs and a general lack of technical capacity in-country.
226. The preparation of the Mid Term Progress Report took quite some time, as well as the approval by the FCPF Board. After the approval, an international consultant was hired to draft a project document for Phase II of the REDD+ Readiness. This project document Phase II was signed in January 2019. The allocated funds for Phase I were used until December 2018, which meant that in practice project execution of Phase I took more than 4.5 years.
227. The total allocated funds for the Phase I project were US\$ 3,600,000. The total expenditure in the period of 2014 to 2018 is given in below figure compared to the budget indicated in the project document of the phase I REDD+ project (initially foreseen for 3 years). All figures have been extracted from the annual

Combined Delivery Reports (CDR) available at the UNDP Suriname office, as well as the annual reports to FCPF.



228. As mentioned above, the Mid Term Progress Report for the project was submitted to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in November 2017. After this assessment it was recommended that additional funds of US\$ 2,650,000 were needed to allow full execution of the REDD+ Readiness activities. In 2018 this request was approved and the project document of phase 1 was revised to be completed in June 2021 (later on extended to December 2021).

229. The allocated funds for the phase II project were US\$ 2,650,000 bringing the total resources required for Phases I and II to US\$ 6,250,000. In below figure, the total expenditure of the phase II REDD+ is given in the period of January 2019- December 2021.



230. In the table below an overview is given of the total funds allocated for the total execution of phase I and II compared to the actuals and percentage of the total expenditures (source: UNDP):

	Budget Phase I & II	Total Actuals	Executed Budget % of total
Component 1: Human Capacities and Stakeholders Engagement	2,944,000.00	3,390,458.98	54.50
Component 2: REDD+ Strategy	1,586,000.00	1,565,812.62	25.17
Component 3: Implementation Framework and Tools	1,720,000.00	1,264,952.49	20.33
Totals	6,250,000.00	6,221,224.09	99.54

231. It is to be noted that during the total duration of the project (7.5 years), more than 99% of the financial means have been spent.
232. Component 1, being 54.5% of the total spendings, includes the training of key stakeholders and institutional strengthening. The execution of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Communication Strategy was also part of these spendings. Payment of resources for the PMU, rent of office space and infrastructure were key monthly expenditures during the whole execution period of the project.
233. With 25.17% of the total spendings, component 2 consists entirely of finalizing and validating the REDD+ Strategy in Suriname. The completion of Safeguard Information System (SIS) and the Summary of Information (SOI) was part of Component 2 as well.
234. Component 3 contributed with 20.33% of the expenditure budget which included the development of the FREL I and II, the design of the NFMS, as well as other studies such as the development and implementation of a Grievance and Redress Mechanism (FGRM).

3.4. Sustainability

Sustainability	Moderately probable
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235. In terms of sustainability it is still possible -but moderately probable- that the investments of Suriname in REDD+ readiness through UNDP are sustainable if a political will exists to value these investments by supporting a green development economy coupled with a strategy to keep deforestation and forest degradation at acceptable levels. Many milestones of REDD+ readiness have been achieved during this project, such as a solid MRV system, a coherent REDD+ Strategy, a Safeguards Information System and related outputs. However, more investment is needed in a high-level development vision for a low carbon economy (with many elements of the NRS), coupled with a national development that keeps deforestation within acceptable limits.

3.4.1 Financial sustainability

236. Financial sustainability after the current phase of FCPF funding for REDD+ readiness through UNDP is not assured. The country is now in an economic and financial crisis and highly indebted to foreign nations and private banks. The new Government has announced several times that the first priority is to have the economy back on track and to create jobs for its people; investors have been welcomed during Presidential visits abroad and at several international fora. Meanwhile, the Government tries to build up an image of credibility worldwide to attract the needed investments. If safeguards are not put in place, there is a high risk that new investments will lead to more deforestation and forest degradation. However, this path does not need to be followed.
237. Since new off-shore oil and gas deposits were discovered in 2020 and 2021, major oil companies have come to the country. Total Energies has sought contact with the new Minister of ROM, now responsible for climate change and environment, to invest in REDD+ and Forest Conservation. An MOU has been signed between the Minister and TOTAL, for a total amount of 50 million USD, with a 5 million USD as first tranche. The aim of the Total Energies funding would be to upgrade REDD+ readiness of the institutions in Suriname. The consultants were not able to receive more details about this MoU and its practical implications for NIMOS/NMA, SBB and other REDD+ institutions.
238. In contrast to other high forest cover nations, Suriname (by the Ministry of ROM as the responsible authority for REDD+) has not allied yet to the LEAF Coalition. Nor have they submitted a first TREES Concept note to the ART Secretariat. Whilst some calls for proposals were launched during 2021, information at the level of ART Secretariat revealed that submission of a TREES Concept note can be done at any moment by any jurisdiction that is interested to receive carbon credits from ART. Many other countries like Guyana, Ecuador, Ghana, and the Brazilian States of Amazonas, Acre and Amapá all have submitted a proposal for carbon credits to the ART Secretariat and many jurisdictions have been approved since then.
239. At the level of the donor community, IDB is funding Climate Finance support to the Ministry of ROM, both for adaptation and mitigation. The IDB consultant for Climate Finance was contacted: he will release his final report by the end of January 2022.
240. The Government is currently preparing a Sustainable Financing Roadmap under the SDG Joint Programme (JP) with the UN in Suriname. The aim is to develop a National Roadmap for a Sustainable Financing to reorient the flow of international and local resources toward more inclusive and gender responsive sustainable actions (i.e. banking, public and private sector investments) in the Republic of Suriname. The results of the work under the REDD+ Project will be submitted for incorporation in that process.

3.4.2 Institutional and technical sustainability

241. A major achievement of the REDD+ Readiness project has been the institutional support to SBB and its FCMU or NFMS Unit. As a result, Suriname now disposes of a solid and reliable MRV system, that can monitor deforestation and forest degradation changes at a national scale and on an annual basis. The NFMS Unit has almost ten local staff that have been trained in GIS and many other forest monitoring tools. Apart from monitoring deforestation, the Unit is also capable of delivering regular technical updates of

the FREL reports of Suriname, based on the most accurate estimates of CO₂ emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

242. As the prime mandate of SBB is to control logging operations in the country, the NFMS unit is a major achievement of the project within SBB; however, FCMU has never been funded internally from the royalties and retributions obtained from logging. It has been almost entirely dependent on donor funding, of which an important part has come from the REDD+ Readiness project. Fortunately, an upcoming project of CI Suriname on Climate Smart Forestry in 2022 will further support the FCMU, but it is to be hoped the Government takes over this funding.
243. NIMOS is in a transition to NMA following the approval of the Environment ACT in April 2020. Technical people from the PMU have left NIMOS or were moved to other UNDP projects executed by NIMOS. As a result, valuable knowledge on certain important REDD+ Readiness achievements such as the NRS, SESA and SIS might get lost. With the financial crisis the Government is coping with, the transition from NIMOS to NMA might take longer, as well as the needed funding for additional staff, including international expertise on carbon finance.
244. Additional technical, legal and institutional elements for REDD+ Implementation need to get priority once the Government decides it will move forward with REDD+. Above all, much more investments are needed to strengthen the ITP organizations, and certain key outputs related to FPIC and local development planning. An approval of the draft legislation on collective rights including land rights will be key for the sustainability of the investments in REDD+ Implementation. Once the process of ITP rights recognition gets started, and their organizations strengthened, more concrete work can be done as to land demarcation, and benefit sharing mechanisms. At the same token, investors in REDD+ projects will get more confidence.

3.5. Gender

245. During design, planning and implementation of REDD+ it is important to address gender concerns that potentially can have an effect on social groups, especially forest dependent communities, women, youth and children. Adequate involvement of these groups during the implementation of the REDD+ framework is essential for the results to be achieved.
246. In the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), it was stipulated that NIMOS oversees all gender concerns for all aspects of R-PP implementation. During consultation meetings of the R-PP, the dialogues regarding gender were regarding key gender concerns including potential gender- based risks and unequal benefits that can hamper the welfare of different social groups.
247. Gender issues were also taken into consideration throughout the participatory elements of Suriname's Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) accompanying the development of the National REDD+ Strategy of the Republic of Suriname. During the assessment two surveys were conducted (Asesoramiento Ambiental Estrategico (AAE) and Tropenbos International Suriname, 2017) namely:
- Gender baseline survey conducted at the first national workshop:
The survey provided some useful insights for the further development of REDD+ gender approaches in the ESMF and National REDD+ Strategy for Suriname.

- Community survey regarding gender:

The results of the community gender surveys did not give a big difference compared to the results of survey conducted during the first national workshop.

248. The following table summarizes the results from the gender baseline survey conducted at the first national workshop:

Topic	Result
General	Cohort: 103 Women = 55.8% Men = 42.3%
Gender Knowledge/ Capacity	58% of participants has never participated in a entraining/workshop on gender equality, gender mainstreaming and/or women's empowerment. Of the 39% that have received training, there were twice as many women as men.
	Half of the women trained were from government institutions. Traditional Authorities (all men), REDD+ Assistants and ITP related expert groups were the most likely, besides government participants, to have received some kind of gender training
	More than 50 percent of participants felt that they have a fair to good level of understanding on gender equality and women's empowerment
	A majority understands that gender roles change over time and vary according to regions and cultures (W:M ratio=2:1)
REDD+ Gender	About 40 percent of participants was of the opinion that they have a fair to good understanding on how to concretely integrate gender considerations and
	women's empowerment principles into REDD+ activities. Of these, women comprise 62% compared to men (38%)
	Almost two-thirds of participants are unsure whether Suriname's REDD+ National Program contains gender considerations and of this group the W/M ratio is 3:2
	Almost 50 percent think that REDD+ action <u>cannot</u> be effective and sustainable without addressing gender inequalities.
Equality and Participation	Almost two-thirds of participants feel that women and men do not participate in equal numbers in decision-making processes in the country
	Almost half of participants (3x more women) are unsure whether men and women participate in equal numbers in REDD+ planning processes. 40 percent said yes (2x more men)
	About 65% participants believe that all phases of a project should take gender considerations into account. Over 90% believes it is most important in the planning/design phase
Equal Access	-- Education and health services scored highest (resp. 74% and 73%) -- Equal Access to timber scored lowest with 22% -- 57 percent believe there is equal access to land, while 25 percent believe men have more access. Similar percentages for agricultural resources -- About one-third of respondents believe men have more access to credit, capital and employment -- Non-timber forest products scored highest for more women's access

249. Summary results from the community survey regarding gender:

Topic	Result
General	Cohort: 219 W=51% M=49%
	The mean age distribution for all communities shows the largest group to be in the 31-50 age range (48%), while one-third is in the 51-60+ age range (31%) and only a mere 21% in the younger age group 20-30 years
	Education: In 5 of the 12 communities, a significant number of respondents had no formal schooling, varying from 30 to 60 percent. Four of these are Maroon communities and overall 76% are women. Nine communities had between 33-75% with primary schooling, well below the national average. Women equaled or outnumbered men in primary education in eight villages. Only two communities had a significant number of secondary/high school educated respondents; of these women comprised respectively 59% and 80%.
REDD+ knowledge	In 9 of the 12 communities, 50% or more of respondents had heard about REDD+. In 7 communities, more men had knowledge about REDD+. Only in 2 communities slightly more women than men heard about REDD+ and in 2 other communities women had no knowledge of REDD+
Main problems	Overall, lack of employment was considered to be one of the three main problems, as well as electricity and water (pollution, sanitation, access to clean water). Both women and men are also concerned about health care and lack of education opportunities. Women also have specific concerns regarding their means of income and food provision.
Effects of deforestation	The main effect of deforestation as perceived by both women and men, is the threat to income generation of mostly traditional forest use of agriculture, hunting, and cultural use. Conversely, women expressed positive effects of easier agriculture and creation of job opportunities. The effect of migration was more often mentioned by men.
Effects of degradation	In the communities where effects of degradation were considered an issue (4 communities did not perceive any effects because of their distance or containment of activities), the most outstanding factor by both women and men is again considered to be the threat to income generation, while water quality is also often mentioned. Again, migration is mostly mentioned by men, possibly because there is more outmigration by men than by women.
Barriers to REDD+ activities	In terms of the barriers to REDD+ activities, both women and men most often consider lack of control and enforcement to be a major barrier. Lack of knowledge and high corruption risk are also considered major barriers by both. Some women mentioned the lack of sustainable income opportunities. 3 communities perceived no barriers.
Enabling conditions	Women and men mentioned information/education on sustainable forest use as an enabling condition. Women also specifically responded with enabling conditions such as reforestation, protection of forests and conservation. Land rights, FPIC and company arrangements were also named in the responses.

Traditional forest use	In all communities, attending agriculture plots seems to be a major traditional use of forest land by both women and men. This is possibly linked to its food and income importance, especially in those communities which have a market link across the border or to areas where there is significant gold mining activity. Obtaining medicinal plants, harvesting wild fruits, collecting firewood and even harvesting timber are activities conducted by women as well as men. Only fishing and hunting seem to remain dominantly in the activity domain of men.
Source of income	Women and men both often mentioned "Other" as a source of income. As explained in the Tropenbos reports, this often has to do with the fact that many villages sell produce across the border and/or conduct other economic activities. A surprising number of respondents is also dependent on government jobs, pensions, social support, possibly due to the lack of employment opportunities in most of these areas. Where there are opportunities in the tourism or gold mining sector, it is mostly the men who formally work in these sectors. There is no mention of women's contribution to the tourist sector, although anecdotal evidence indicates their involvement, through cooking, cleaning and entertainment in the least.
Access	In most of the 12 communities, there is nearly equal access to most ecosystem services, except for gold mining/minerals, where there is a dominance by men.

250. The SESA report also mentions the importance of gender sensitive approaches in REDD+ implementation. The conclusions from the findings of the SESA identified actions that were included in the SESA Action Matrix. Implementation of these action items would help to further strengthen enabling conditions in the country to increase the level of support of the REDD+ mechanism amongst stakeholders in Suriname, and to overall reduce potential REDD+ risks and favor benefits (Asesoramiento Ambiental Estrategico (AAE) and Tropenbos International Suriname, 2017). These actions were spread across six priorities, whereas "Strengthening of gender inclusive REDD+ implementation" was one of them.
251. Suriname ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and is signatory to the Cancun Declaration, as well as the SDG's and the Beijing Platform for Action. As a result, back in 2019 a Gender Policy was developed under the Ministry of Home Affairs. This policy was formulated, coordinated and evaluated by the Bureau Gender Affairs (BGA) within the Ministry. The policy is developed to establish partnerships, analyzing available data, drafting and modifying laws and regulations on the launching and raising of gender awareness.
252. During most of the REDD+ activities regarding community participation, information sharing and consultation and validation workshops, PMU paid particular attention to an equal balance between men and women so that there was no over-representation of one group, particularly men, in the decision-making process. Special attention was given during info- sharing sessions in the interior, walk-in-school sessions and consultations made in the context of REDD+ studies. The National REDD+ Strategy of Suriname (Government of Suriname, 2019) does not explicitly mention gender related concerns but refers to the findings of the SESA report in which these are taken into consideration.

3.6. Factors that affected project implementation

LACK OF HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR GREEN DEVELOPMENT AND REDD+

253. A high-level long-term vision (as in the neighboring Republic of Guyana) to implement an overall and holistic Green or Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) in Suriname, supported by a REDD+ program, has never been developed by any Government in Suriname. Some political support for a LCDS and REDD+ was present during the R-PP development in 2012-2013, and when the HFLD conference was held in 2019. High level support for REDD+ was largely absent during the entire project period and hampered REDD+ readiness preparation. As a result, it was not possible to set up the necessary legislative and institutional implementation framework for REDD+ implementation at national scale.
254. Whilst pledges for preserving a 93% Forest Cover have been done by Suriname at international level in different UN conferences (including demands for payments for the standing carbon and other ecosystem services), there has been no long term development vision that limits forest destruction and forest degradation as such. In such a context, the development of a REDD+ National Strategy and REDD+ Financial Strategy including all stakeholders is possible, but the implementation of the same is complicated. It is probable that REDD+ NS becomes another technical document that might not be implemented. Political will and long-term vision will be needed to effectively implement the REDD+ NS.
255. COVID-19 and the change of Government in 2020 certainly did not help. The new Government inherited a difficult financial situation, and is highly focused on attracting foreign investments to get the Surinamese economy back on track, in order to provide employment and bring in the needed foreign currency for economic recovery and poverty alleviation. Coupled with a continuing pandemic situation, it is not likely this highly-needed development for Suriname will be a Green Development. It is not reflected as such in the recently approved Multi-Annual Development Plan (MOP) 2022-2026 (the word REDD+ is not mentioned).

LONG, UNCERTAIN AND TECHNICALLY DEMANDING FCPF PATH OF REDD+ READINESS

256. The path towards REDD+ Funding is a long, technically complex but also an uncertain path as to eventual funding for REDD+ Implementation. Lots of pledges and promises of important REDD+ funding are made at the level of the international community; few pledges are materialized as funding is still limited globally per 2022. The mere fact that the Carbon Fund of FCPF is not accessible at the end of the long road to become FCPF REDD+ Ready was not encouraging for NIMOS and the Government of Suriname to submit an R-Package, and progressing towards the next phase of Emission Reduction Funding. At the same time, new initiatives pop up such as the LEAF Coalition -with the ART TREES standard-, as well as other international funding mechanisms or initiatives such as the Forests for Life Partnership. All these initiatives need to be studied, analyzed and evaluated by a CIU or Climate Unit, whether they are interesting for Suriname to adhere to. With limited technical capacity in-country, REDD+ readiness is difficult to obtain in an overall climate of uncertainty on international payments.
257. Fatigue towards REDD+ is even higher at the level of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples who got engaged in REDD+ since the preparation of the R-PP. Whilst stakeholder engagement has been done during the UNDP/FCPF project in a respectful way -according to FCPF and UNDP rules and regulations-, the fact that

there is still no funding for REDD+ Implementation in Suriname, has led to a lot of suspicion and frustration in the interior towards the Government, NIMOS and the REDD+ agenda. Some communities do not want to hear any more about workshops on REDD+. They want the promised REDD+ financial resources to become available, instead of more validation workshops of documents like the NRS or SIS. REDD+ readiness preparation has led to REDD+ fatigue in the interior, as there is hardly any financial support for them 10 years later coming from REDD+.

LACK OF TECHNICAL CAPACITY COUPLED WITH A COMPLEX AND EVOLVING REDD+ TERMINOLOGY

258. Suriname is a country with a small population; as a result, there are not many local experts, certainly not in issues related to forests, land rights, land use planning, climate change. For many key activities such as the REDD+ Strategy, SESA, SIS, etc., the project had to hire international consultants -after long procurement processes. This was inevitable but these consultants need to rely heavily on the support of limited staff/local consultants as they do not speak the language nor do they know/understand the peculiarities of the local context of Suriname. These consultants prove to be fluent in FCPF and REDD+ terminology, but lack country insights. As a result, the project ends up with complex technical documents with too little local steering and content.
259. Whilst SBB used the international consultants to further develop in-house capacity, this was not done at the same level/pace within NIMOS, partly because of the separation between PMU and NIMOS. As a result, limited in-house capacity within NIMOS on REDD+ is built after this project is finished. The project would have benefitted from a Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) or Senior Technical Officer within NIMOS, with a solid knowledge of Suriname's forests and related issues as to forestry, mining, land use and land rights. A strong CTA could have chosen a more locally embedded direction for all the complex outputs as formulated by the international consultants in both Project document I and II.

UNRESOLVED LAND RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

260. The extremely complex situation of collective rights (including land rights) in Suriname has not favored project implementation. For decades, there is a lack of trust between the indigenous and tribal peoples on the one hand, and the government (based in Paramaribo) on the other hand.
261. NIMOS/PMU tried to establish contacts with the indigenous and tribal peoples through the RAC. This helped in the needed communication in the interior during many information and training sessions, as well as for the needed consultation and validation of documents. However, it was insufficient to get the ITP's on board for REDD+ readiness preparation and implementation.
262. The slow process from the Government to resolve the land rights issue (despite several condemnations by the Inter American Court), coupled with a concession policy favoring foreign companies or political elites, did not provoke the needed trust and cooperation towards NIMOS and the PMU to get the ITP's on board for REDD+ Readiness.

3.7. Monitoring and evaluation

263. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is a key component in all projects; M&E is especially important for complex projects such as developing REDD+ readiness at a national scale. REDD+ Readiness does not only relate to the forestry sector but involves many stakeholders beyond the forest sector, including many Ministries, civil society and the ITP's. In the R-PP, M&E was treated in a separate chapter: Component 6. M&E is also part of UNDP rules and is described in Project document I and II as a special output (1c) with specific budgets attached.
264. An M&E internal local officer within the PMU/NIMOS was hired in 2016, but the person worked only for a short period of 8 months and then left. PMU/NIMOS decided not to hire a new person for continuous internal monitoring and evaluation of annual outputs according to the annual work plans. It was agreed between UNDP and NIMOS that an overall M&E officer would be hired for all UNDP projects executed by NIMOS. Terms of Reference were drafted, but NIMOS did not manage to get a qualified person recruited.
265. As delivery partner of FCPF, the UNDP had an important role to monitor overall project progress. UNDP also did support NIMOS in specific elements of project execution, as per assignment in the Project Documents I and II. At regular intervals, UNDP Suriname executed both technical as well as financial control of the project. UNDP Suriname was supported by UNDP Regional Technical Advisors on REDD+, to give the necessary feedback to NIMOS/PMU and to follow up on REDD+ Readiness progress. Specific studies were ordered by UNDP such as the Corruption Risk Assessment, whilst support to the Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM), SESA and ESMF were given by UNDP as well. UNDP equally supported the Government and NIMOS in the organization of the HFLD conference and institutional capacity-building trips abroad (Brazil, Costa Rica and others).
266. Annual progress reports (using FCPF template) were submitted to UNDP and the Project Board (PB), and feedback was integrated by the PMU. NIMOS, as the technical focal point for REDD+ Suriname, subsequently submitted the annual reports to FCPF. Project activities were planned annually according to the outputs and sub-outputs formulated in Project Document I and II, with respect to budgets attached per activity. The Annual Work Plans (AWP's) were verified by the Project Board and UNDP. UNDP and the PB gave regular feedback on annual work plans, which was integrated by the PMU/NIMOS. SBB was involved as well in submitting regular reports on NFMS, FREL and other parts of project execution as per request of the PMU.
267. At the end of the project, NIMOS decided not to submit an R-Package in order to demonstrate REDD+ Readiness; hence, no feedback on this from FCPF could be received. This is to be regretted, as the R-Package evaluates progress against the original R-PP following the FCPF Guidelines for Readiness Assessment (see annex 2).
268. Given the long project duration, and technically complex project documents I and II, the connection with the original R-PP partly got lost. PMU/NIMOS (and SBB) delivered on the 2 project's logical frameworks, following the clear outputs of the Project Document I and II. PMU/NIMOS did not regularly consult the original R-PP, in order not to lose track on the real process for REDD+ Readiness. A regular self-assessment using the FCPF indicators of progress (34) could have strengthened project deliverance.

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269. External evaluation was prepared by UNDP and took place at Mid Term of Project Phase I (October 2016). The Mid Term Review (MTR) report indicated several flaws in project execution and required for a further investment of FCPF in REDD+ Readiness. Following FCPF guidelines, the MTR was followed by a Mid-Term Progress report (MPR) to FCP in 2017. A project document Phase II was then written in 2018, which needed to be approved by the FCPF PB. Phase II started by January 2019 for the duration of 3 years until the end of 2021.
270. By the end of 2021, UNDP demanded a final evaluation of the project. For almost 5 years, there was no external review (nor internal review) of the project progress against the original R-PP until the final evaluation by the end of 2021. Except at MTR and MPR, no clear progress against the original R-PP was measured until the final evaluation (except for the brief summary of progress in the annual FCPF reporting). This is to be regretted, as continuous monitoring of outputs beyond the Project Documents could have led to identify gaps at an earlier stage and start with the needed corrective measures, especially regarding the gaps in legislation, FPIC rules and elements of the implementation framework.

Chapter 4: Conclusions and recommendations

4.1. Conclusions

271. The UNDP project “Strengthening national capacities of Suriname for the elaboration of the National REDD+ Strategy and the design of its implementation framework” is the result of Suriname’s REDD+ Readiness Preparation efforts back in 2012-2013. After some failed attempts, Suriname succeeded in drafting a solid Readiness Preparation Proposal or R-PP including a broad consultation process. The R-PP was approved in June 2013 and led to funding of the REDD+ Readiness by FCPF, with UNDP as the delivery partner.
272. NIMOS was assigned as the National Institute to carry out the FCPF funded project, whilst SBB was the technical partner institute for certain outputs. After a difficult start in 2014-2015, the project took off and has been able to deliver many outputs that are key for an eventual REDD+ Implementation Phase, such as: a National REDD+ Strategy, SESA and SIS, a clear and reliable MRV system (NFMS) as well as two iterations of FREL, that were technically assessed and approved by UNFCCC.
273. This final evaluation is meant to describe the state of Suriname after more than 7 years of investment in REDD+ Readiness. Many milestones have been achieved, as described above, but some remaining gaps are still there as to the institutional framework and in-country capacity as well as to REDD+ Funding. Apart from these two issues, more work needs to be done with the ITP organizations to get them on board.
274. The project did a sound effort over the years as to stakeholder engagement and public outreach at all levels of the society, in order to raise awareness on the importance of the forest and climate change.

Stakeholder engagement started with the R-PP, and was taken up again by the project from 2016 onwards. Annual engagement and communication plans were developed and executed. As a result, many stakeholders both in the coastal area and the hinterland are now more aware of Climate Change and REDD+.

275. Involvement of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples has been done at a respectful way, given the complexity and tension within Suriname because of unresolved land issues. NIMOS/PMU mostly involved ITP's through the REDD+ assistants in order to share information on REDD+ and/or when ITP's were needed for consultation on products such as the REDD+ NS or the SIS. When ITP's in the hinterland were consulted, they were subsequently asked to validate several documents. Apart from the trainings by SBB on community forestry, SFISS and other themes, few other trainings for ITPs were done by NIMOS (apart from information sharing, consultation and validation).
276. Better communication and coordination with ITP organizations (VIDS, KAMPOS) during the project life would have led to more project results as to FPIC, local development plans based on REDD+ and C-MRV. Both at the level of the ITP organizations, RAC and the ITP in general, there is a growing frustration about REDD+, as ITPs are still awaiting REDD+ funding for local development. Despite all the project efforts, REDD+ is perceived as one of the many other Top Down measures from Paramaribo, as till today no REDD+ funding for their local development has come to them, and there are no prospects these might come in the coming years 2022-2023, apart from some GEF funded projects through UNDP and local initiatives from NGO's.
277. Institutional strengthening and capacity building all have happened during the project life, especially at the level of SBB, within the Forest Cover Monitoring Unit and beyond. SBB was particularly well organized to use REDD+ project funding to attract international consultants only when needed and to use funding for building internal capacity through trainings of local staff abroad and in-country. Institutional strengthening in NIMOS has happened as well, but to a much lesser extent; the division PMU and NIMOS as separate Units did not seem to be a good choice given the fact that PMU staff (trained in REDD+) will now take on other jobs.
278. A National REDD+ Strategy was developed during 2017 after a sound analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, including barriers towards REDD+ implementation. The NRS was compiled after a long and tedious process of consultation, particularly with the ITP's of the hinterland. Whilst the NRS is a holistic document which gives 4 strategic lines and a comprehensive wish-list of policies and measures (PAM's) to implement REDD+ (all relevant), it does not identify which policies and measures have the highest risks not to be implemented, and where the low-hanging fruits are. In other words, there is no clear agreed timeline and process in place to resolve inconsistencies and integrate REDD+ strategy options with relevant development policies.
279. After a Mid Term Review of the project in 2016, a second phase of REDD+ readiness with FCPF funding was recommended. It took quite some time (more than 2 years) before a Project Document Phase II was approved in January 2019, long after the finalization of the REDD+ Strategy. Project document Phase II inserted certain -not always coherent- elements for a REDD+ Business model to be developed. In this regard, the project was successful in organizing a high-level HFLD conference in 2019 that attracted both other HFLD countries, potential donors and international NGOs. Whilst this was a political momentum for REDD+ in Suriname, the project was not able to build further on this, partly because of the elections and

the new Government to be installed. The COVID pandemic that started in April 2020 was not helpful in this respect either.

280. The approval of the Environment Act in 2020 will certainly be a step forward as to environmental compliance of investors, including REDD+ projects. However, with a long transition from NIMOS to NMA, a lot of elements of the REDD+ Implementation Framework such as the GRO, the CIU and the Environment/REDD+ Fund now all await implementation.
281. Due to the investments in the REDD+ readiness phase, Suriname now has a strong MRV system for monitoring deforestation and forest degradation, housed in the NFMS Unit at SBB. This unit is now equipped by several local staff with a sound knowledge of GIS and remote sensing, coupled with local knowledge on land use and forestry. The NFMS system that was gradually built up is now equipped with a SFISS and other key tools for monitoring logging in the country. SBB was also capable with technical and financial support from the project to submit two FREL reports which were both approved by the UNFCCC.
282. The project has supported the realization of the Gonini Land Use Geoportal that has generated a lot of Inter-Ministerial Cooperation (at technical executing level) and with NGOs. The development of the NRS, SIS and other project outputs have also generated a better understanding of NIMOS, SBB and NGOs of the needs of the ITPs and the issues they are confronted with: both goldmining and logging are activities which provide employment and income for many ITPs in the interior. Where rules and regulations in the mining sector are largely absent for artisanal miners, SBB has clear rules for logging in community forests; this gives rise to tensions with certain ITP groups in the hinterland.
283. At the level of NIMOS, several technical processes and documents have been developed that are key for REDD+ Implementation such as a comprehensive REDD+ Strategy, a SIS and SIS portal as well as a very sound ESMF framework. However, they all need institutional embedding in the new NMA. Some elements of the REDD+ Readiness have not been developed, such as the Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM), a mechanism that needs strong ITP organizations as counterpart to the governmental institutes, in order to come to long term agreements on benefit sharing of REDD+ projects, and even far beyond this level.
284. A transition from REDD+ Readiness to REDD+ Implementation at national level is a political choice that goes beyond NIMOS/SBB. Clear commitment is needed at the highest political level in order to couple REDD+ with a Green and Sustainable Development, looking for investments that keep the Forest at 93%, and not short-term investments that will definitely lead to more deforestation and forest degradation. This requires -amongst other measures- Long term Development Planning coupled with a National Land Use Planning (Spatial Planning), including the demarcation of Indigenous and Tribal lands.

4.2. Lessons learnt

285. When the concept of REDD+ originated at the COP in Bali back in 2007, there were many expectations from forest-rich nations and international NGOs, that this was a potential tool to save the world's forests: it was expected that carbon stock and stockage of tropical forests would be the first global ecosystem service to be paid for. FCPF and other mechanisms were set up to make the countries REDD+ ready. However, 15 years later, carbon funding available for tropical forests remains low, especially from the

- private sector. Apart from bilateral funding from the Kingdom of Norway and some project related funding (voluntary market), substantial funding from the international community (multilateral, bilateral and private funding) is still not available. The compliance market for carbon funding still has no internationally agreed upon standards.
286. For a young nation like Suriname with a low population and little technical capacity, understanding and following the ever-evolving concepts on climate change and REDD+ globally (COP decisions in Cancun, Warsaw, Paris agreement, etc.) requires additional staff and expertise that is not available. FCPF helped with project funding for over 7 years to make the country REDD+ ready. However, FCPF and donors might introduce more flexibility and consider different sets of requirements for smaller nations with little staff, in order to be competitive towards other larger nations that can access funding. Every market, including the carbon market, is competitive. Too complex rules and regulations can drive countries away from large donor funding for forest conservation, and make them decide for quick and easy money of natural resource extraction, leading to more forest destruction.
287. REDD+ is not a stand-alone concept, but needs to be coupled with a clear vision and strategy for long term development of the country and the interior, as development generally equals deforestation, especially in forest-rich nations such as Suriname. Designing a Green development both at national, regional and local scale whilst keeping Suriname's forest area at 93%, by using REDD+ funding (and other funding), requires political commitment at the highest level. A project to support REDD+ readiness needs this political support for its effectiveness.
288. A REDD+ Message and Strategy needs to be coupled with a Green Development Strategy or Sustainable Development Strategy for the country as a whole and the interior in specific. How to develop the country (and the interior) whilst keeping a 93% forest coverage? This is also more understandable for all Surinamese, and especially for the people in the interior: local development/sustainable development instead of REDD+ message only: in the end, it is all part of the same. Local, National, Sustainable Development are tangible concepts, that have the potential to be embraced by the people, REDD+ is not. Sustainable Development is a holistic concept that includes land use planning, land rights, zonation of mining, logging, protected areas and indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) at a national, regional and local level. Much clearer to understand. However, the project did not have this mandate.
289. In the same sense, spreading a REDD+ message to the people in the interior, needs to be coupled with a local development message, developing a local development plan and implementing it. Too much investments were done by the project in spreading the message of REDD+, as well as information, consultation and validation workshops for the ITPs. Since REDD+ implementation investments are not there, nor any other tangible results of the REDD+ readiness project that will change their situation and livelihoods, the REDD+ message has created a certain fatigue towards REDD+. More local development plans (and implementation) with REDD+ funding from the long readiness phase would have resulted in some local models, instead of dispersed ground truth projects.
290. Many key aspects related to REDD+ such as Land tenure and Land rights, Land Use Planning, Responsible Mining and Sustainable Forest Management and Use, have been dealt with in the REDD+ Strategy. The REDD+ Readiness project has done one of the most extensive information and consultation efforts with the ITPs in Suriname's history, but as REDD+ is -still- not tangible, the ITPs gradually got frustrated with the REDD+ project and the concept. Many of the issues treated (land rights, concessions, development)

are under the mandate of different Ministries and could not be addressed by the project/NIMOS (nor the Ministry of ROM).

291. UNDP project documents are complex documents, mostly written by international consultants that have no familiarity with the country. As a result, they are often not well embedded in the Suriname context. Project Document II assigned too many complex outputs to NIMOS, some of them redundant. Fundamental sustainability issues such as: raising high-level political commitment for Green Development and REDD+, coupling development and local development with REDD+ and investment in carbon intelligence to assure REDD+ Implementation, etc., all got lost in a multitude of other outputs in the Project document. Coherence was gradually lost. An exit strategy was not well formulated: it was assumed that while strengthening NIMOS (and SBB), sufficient sustainability was created.

4.3. Recommendations

292. With a small population residing in the coastal area, a low deforestation rate, and a promising upcoming oil and gas industry, Suriname should be capable of developing a long-term sustainable development, whilst remaining the most forested country in the world. Together with few other countries, Suriname is unique in this sense. Most other countries do not have this potential due to overpopulation, quick population increases, historic deforestation patterns and only scattered areas of forests under threat.
293. The project has achieved a level of REDD+ readiness, but needs further strengthening with the following recommendations:
294. It is recommended that at the Highest Level of the Government, actions are undertaken to develop a Green Development Vision and Action Plan to keep the Forest Cover at 93% and hence obtain considerable REDD+ Funding. This requires clear options for development priorities that do not need large scale deforestation: no cattle ranching and no-large scale agriculture development except in the deforested and degraded areas in the coastal zone. Careful planning of roads and/or hydro-dams in the hinterland will be necessary to avoid large scale forest destruction. This Green Development deserves a special place at the highest political level, which is the Cabinet of the President, or at a Special Ministry for Development Planning, LUP, Climate, Environment and Forests, given the uniqueness of the country and its potential.
295. It is recommended to harmonize Planning of Development (MOP) with Spatial Planning (Land use planning – LUP, or Ruimtelijke Ordening in Dutch) at a National Scale (entire country). This will minimize ad hoc development, provide clarity on concessions (logging/mining), protected areas and land rights. The Planwet 1973 gives this mandate to Planburo, now under Ministry of Finance, whilst LUP is now in ROM (transferred from ROGB in 2020). National LUP has never received the importance it deserves in Suriname, as a key component of long-term development planning instead of short-term ad-hoc proliferation of logging and mining concessions in the interior.
296. It is recommended to strengthen the relationship between the Government and the ITP organizations by supporting their legitimate organizations and build ITP capacity beyond this project. Re-evaluate the need for the REDD+ Assistants (if any) through a full and new process with the indigenous and tribal authorities,

as part of an overall long-term development plan for the interior (including REDD+). This mandate goes far beyond the responsibilities of NMA.

297. It is recommended to invest in work on Land Rights as a Cornerstone for future development (and spatial development) of the Interior with full respect of FPIC and in agreement with the ITPs. A separate Ministry of Indigenous and Tribal Affairs can be considered as a viable option, instead of being part of Min RO. It will require clear demarcation of territories belonging to the ITPs. Once this process is started, donor confidence for substantial REDD+ investment will increase.
298. It is recommended that Suriname continues to invest in Climate Finance expertise, especially REDD+ Finance expertise, and ally with similar countries such as Guyana, Gabon and with international efforts such as the CfRN and the Forest for Life Partnership, in order to share information and submit joint proposals for funding if possible. It is equally recommended that Suriname takes inspiration from the LCDS in Guyana and key development vision (coupled with forest conservation and carbon funding) in countries like Guyana, Gabon, Costa Rica and others.
299. It is recommended that NMA gets the correct funding and correct staffing, following the approved Environment Act with a mandate that is limited to the needs of the law: application of a strict Environmental Framework for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA's) and Environmental Management Plans (including REDD+ Projects), as well as pollution regulation and control. Carbon Finance expertise (and carbon credits coupled with NDC) should be placed at a higher level than NMA.
300. It is recommended to further strengthen the MRV capacity built during this REDD+ Readiness project within the NFMS Unit at SBB. Internal capacity for MRV is now built in Suriname and should not get lost: it is one of the most important needed tools for any payment of carbon credits in the future, so maintenance is key. It is equally recommended that the Gonini geoportal be further developed as a national tool for transparency in concession allocation, and as a starting point for a coherent national land use planning process that goes beyond the mandate of SBB.
301. Given the financial crisis which the Government has to cope with, it is recommended that UNDP, IDB and other donors go beyond project investments but invest in a long-term strategy for the country to help the Government in their quest for a LCDS or Green Development, that guarantees achievement of the SDGs, support for the rights of the ITPs and keep Suriname's forests at 93% for the benefit of its people and the entire globe.

Annexes

Annex 1: Terms of Reference

1. Assignment Information

Assignment Title: Consultant to undertake Final Evaluation of the Strengthening national capacities of Suriname for the elaboration of the national REDD+ strategy and the design of its implementation framework – Phase I and II (REDD+) project

Post Level: International Consultant

Contract Type: Individual Contractor

Duty Station: Home-based, and possibility of travel (Suriname), COVID-19 situation permitted

Expected Places of Travel: Paramaribo and Up to 3 selected villages/interior locations in Suriname

Contract Duration: 25 days. From 11 October 2021 to 31 December 2021

2. Background and context

The Government of Suriname is a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and is a Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) REDD+ partner country. The objective of REDD+ is to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. REDD+ participant countries shall be eligible for results-based payments for verifiable emissions and/or enhanced carbon stocks.

Suriname is a High Forest cover (93%) and Low Deforestation (HFLD) country, with a very low population density of 3.6hab/km² - 590.000 people on 164.000km². Forest and mining are central parts of Suriname natural resource dependency. Suriname as a high middle-income country, despite its climate vulnerabilities and deprivations for key demographic in remote interior regions, has limited access to concessional loans and grants funding. The Government of Suriname (GoS) envisions REDD+ as a tool to continue its practice of sustainable use and conservation of the forest resources and for sustainable development.

Suriname in 2012 decided to join the World Bank FCPF programme with UNDP delivery partner support. Subsequent to the UNDP Midterm evaluation and FCPF MidTerm Review Suriname received additional funding of 2.65 Mln USD additional funding on top of earlier received FCPF funds of 3.8 mln USD. The project document for this additional funding was signed in January 2019 and additional funds received in Q2, 2019.

Project Timeline			
FCPF PC Resolution Approving R-PP	PC/14/2013/7	Transfer of Funds to Country Office	\$200,000 22 Oct 2013 \$3,600,000 21 Aug 2014 \$2,650,000 May 2019
Preparatory Grant	17 October 2013	Inception Workshop	9 -10 December 2014
Project Appraisal Committee	21 May 2014	Mid-term Review	Oct – Dec 2016
Project Signature	31 May 2014 (ceremony 11 June 2014)	No-Cost Extension: New End Date:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

	Revised project document incorporating additional funds: 4 Jan 2019		Original end date 31 December 2018 revised end date 15 December 2021 (Operational Closure under Additional Funds)
Duration of Project	7 years		

This project is coming to completion at the end of 2021, and as such the final evaluation is commissioned with following objective as stated in Scope of Work for this assignment.

3. Evaluation purpose, scope and objectives

The objectives of the assignment are to:

Undertake a final review of progress of REDD+ readiness activities since 2012 to December 2021, whilst taking full account of the UNDP Midterm evaluation, inclusive of Management Response and FCPF Midterm Review. Provide specific emphasis on the period 2018 to current.

The Final evaluation will focus on achievement of the four main components of the Readiness Programme, their respective subcomponents and realization of 3 outputs under current REDD+ project against the original project. Specifically, on the following:

1. R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation
 - 1.a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements
 - 1.b Consultation, Participation and Outreach
2. RPP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation
 - 2.a Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance
 - 2.b REDD+ Strategy Options, this was discontinued as part of project TOC
 - 2.c Implementation Framework
 - 2.d Social and Environmental Impacts
3. R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels
 3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels
4. R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards
 - 4.a Develop national forest monitoring system
 - 4.b Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

A review and analysis of progress achieved in the activities under the 3 Pillars of the REDD+ phase II, inclusive of sustainability of results:

1. Human capacities, consultation and stakeholder engagement of the FCPF grant; Output 1: Suriname leaders, stakeholders and rightsholders understand the REDD+ potential for development, are engaged in the consultation process and have the human capacities to implement REDD+.
2. REDD+ Strategy and Business Model; Output 2: REDD+ strategy and business model is implemented with active support from major national stakeholders and rightsholders in Suriname.
3. Development of Decision Support Tools; Output 3: A comprehensive set of tools are built to support REDD+

Based on assessment of realization of the FCPF requirement and Phase II activities prepare final evaluation report, inclusive of key findings, lessons learned and recommendations.

4. Evaluation criteria and key guiding questions

Project evaluation sample questions:

Relevance/ Coherence

- To what extent was the project in line with national development priorities, country programme outputs and outcomes, the UNDP Strategic Plan, and the SDGs?
- To what extent does the project contribute to the theory of change for the relevant country programme outcome?
- To what extent were lessons learned from other relevant projects considered in the design?
- To what extent were perspectives of men and women who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the attainment of stated results, taken into account during project design processes?
- To what extent does the project contribute to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights-based approach?
- To what extent has the project been appropriately responsive to political, legal, economic, institutional, etc., changes in the country?

Effectiveness

- To what extent did the project contribute to the country programme outcomes and outputs, the SDGs, the UNDP Strategic Plan, and national development priorities?
- To what extent were the project outputs achieved, considering men, women, and vulnerable groups?
- What factors have contributed to achieving, or not, intended country programme outputs and outcomes?
- What factors contributed to effectiveness or ineffectiveness?
- In which areas does the project have the greatest achievements? Why and what have been the supporting factors? How can the project build on or expand these achievements?
- In which areas does the project have the fewest achievements? What have been the constraining factors and why? How can or could they be overcome?
- What, if any, alternative strategies would have been more effective in achieving the project objectives?
- Are the project objectives and outputs clear, practical and feasible within its frame? Do they clearly address women, men and vulnerable groups?
- To what extent have different stakeholders been involved in project implementation?
- To what extent are project management and implementation participatory, and is this participation of men, women and vulnerable groups contributing towards achievement of the project objectives?
- To what extent has the project been appropriately responsive to the needs of the national constituents (men, women, other groups) and changing partner priorities?
- To what extent has the project contributed to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the realization of human rights?

Efficiency

- To what extent was the project management structure as outlined in the project document efficient in generating the expected results?
- To what extent were resources used to address inequalities in general, and gender issues in particular?

- To what extent have the UNDP project implementation strategy and execution been efficient and cost-effective?
- To what extent has there been an economical use of financial and human resources? Have resources (funds, male and female staff, time, expertise, etc.) been allocated strategically to achieve outcomes?
- To what extent have resources been used efficiently? Have activities supporting the strategy been cost-effective?
- To what extent have project funds and activities been delivered in a timely manner?
- To what extent do the M&E systems utilized by UNDP ensure effective and efficient project management?

Sustainability

- Are there any financial risks that may jeopardize the sustainability of project outputs affecting women, men and vulnerable groups?
- To what extent will targeted men, women and vulnerable people benefit from the project interventions in the long-term?
- To what extent will financial and economic resources be available to sustain the benefits achieved by the project?
- Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outputs and the project contributions to country programme outputs and outcomes?
- project operates pose risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project benefits?
- To what extent did UNDP actions pose an environmental threat to the sustainability of project outputs, possibly affecting project beneficiaries (men and women) in a negative way? What is the chance that the level of stakeholder ownership will be sufficient to allow for the project benefits to be sustained?
- To what extent do mechanisms, procedures and policies exist to allow primary stakeholders to carry forward the results attained on gender equality, empowerment of women, human rights and human development?
- To what extent do stakeholders (men, women, vulnerable groups) support the project's long-term objectives?
- To what extent are lessons learned documented by the project team on a continual basis and shared with appropriate parties who could learn from the project?
- To what extent do UNDP interventions have well-designed and well-planned exit strategies which include a gender dimension?
- What could be done to strengthen exit strategies and sustainability in order to support female and male project beneficiaries as well as marginalized groups?

Sample evaluation questions on cross-cutting issues

Human rights

- To what extent have poor, indigenous and physically challenged, women, men and other disadvantaged and marginalized groups benefited from the work of UNDP in the country?

Gender equality

All evaluation criteria and evaluation questions applied need to be checked to see if there are any further gender dimensions attached to them, in addition to the stated gender equality questions.

- To what extent have gender equality and the empowerment of women been addressed in the design, implementation and monitoring of the project?
- Is the gender marker assigned to this project representative of reality?

-
- To what extent has the project promoted positive changes in gender equality and the empowerment of women? Did any unintended effects emerge for women, men or vulnerable groups?

Disability

- Were persons with disabilities consulted and meaningfully involved in programme planning and implementation?
- What barriers did persons with disabilities face?
- Was a twin-track approach adopted?

5. Tasks

The Independent consultant, supported by local consultant, will perform the following Tasks:

Produce an Inception Report

- Produce an Inception Report, inclusive of work plan that outlines methodology and approach, timeline and deliverables

Organize individual interviews and focus group meetings

- Organize individual interviews with key informants and stakeholder representatives; organize focus group meetings with women, vulnerable, Indigenous Peoples and other stakeholders

Produce a Final Evaluation Report

- Produce a final evaluation report of between 40 to 60 pages including executive summary that will focus on achievement in the four main components and three outputs of the REDD+ phase II, inclusive of sustainability of results; the four main FCPF components and three outputs of the REDD+ phase II are not mutually exclusive, rather highly aligned.

Organize presentation on key findings

- Organize and make a presentation on key findings of assignment
- Finalize the deliverables incorporating comments received.

6. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

- Inception Report of the assignment
- Individual meetings, focus group meetings; field visits to two selected locations
- First draft of final evaluation report
- Presentation on key findings
- Final draft of final evaluation report incorporating comments received

7. Evaluation ethics

This evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation'. The consultant must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees, and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The consultant must also ensure security of collected information before and after the evaluation and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information knowledge and data gathered in the evaluation process must also be solely used for the evaluation and not for other uses with the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

Annex 2: Questions for the FCPF REDD+ Readiness Assessment Framework

R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation

1.a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements

Accountability and transparency:

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

Operating mandate and budget:

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

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)?

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?

Funds management capacity:

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

Feedback and grievance redress 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?

1.b Consultation, Participation and Outreach

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?

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 marginalized 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?

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 utilized to enhance consultations and engagement?
- What evidence is there that consultation processes are gender sensitive and inclusive?

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?

R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

2.a Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

Assessment and analysis:

- Does the work conducted as part of project evaluation include 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?

Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement:

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

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?

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

2.b REDD+ Strategy Options

Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options:

- Were REDD+ strategy options (prioritized 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?

Feasibility assessment:

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

Implications of strategy options on existing sectorial policies:

- Have major inconsistencies between the priority REDD+ strategy options and policies or programs 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?

2.c Implementation Framework

Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations:

- Have legislation and/or regulations related to REDD+ programs and activities been adopted?
- What evidence is there that these relevant REDD+ laws and policies are being implemented?

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?

Benefit sharing mechanism:

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

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?

2.d Social and Environmental Impacts

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/ analyzed via relevant studies or diagnostics and in consultation processes?

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 prioritizing and designing REDD+ strategy options?

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?

R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels

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)?

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

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?

R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards

4.a Develop national forest monitoring system

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?
- Are potential sources of uncertainties identified to the extent possible?

Demonstration of early system implementation:

- What evidence is there that the system has the capacity to monitor the specific REDD+ activities prioritized 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?

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)?

4.b Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

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?

Monitoring, reporting and information sharing:

- 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?

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)?

Annex 3: List of people interviewed for final evaluation

Date	Person	Title/Organisation
<i>Week 1</i>		
27 October	Sandra Bihari	Director, PMU/NIMOS
28 October	REDD+ Retreat	Project Management meeting
29 October	Bryan Drakenstein	UNDP Suriname,
	Anuradha Khoenkhoen	UNDP Suriname
<i>Week 2</i>		
3 November	Cindy Kansanpawiro	Head FCMU Unit, SBB
5 November	Rene Somopawiro	Director Research and Planning, SBB
	Sarah Crabbe	Deputy Director, R&P SBB
<i>Week 3</i>		
8 November	Sandra Bihari	PMU/NIMOS
12 November	Cedric Nelom	Acting Director NIMOS
	Hicham Daoudi	REDD+ Consultant, DRC
<i>Week 4</i>		
13 November	August Lila	Director, Stichting Masosi
	Villagers	Field visit, Marchalkreek
17 November	Jose Arturo Santos	UNDP RTA Panama
	Wahida Sah	UNDP REDD+ Geneva
	Anuradha Khoenkhoen	UNDP Suriname
18 November	Gwendolyn Emmanuels	Consultant Green Growth
	Santhusha Mahabier	Technical Assistant PMU
<i>Week 5</i>		
22 November	Jupta Itoewaki	Wayana Indigenous Person
	Nancy Pierau-Riedewald	Communications Officer PMU
	Gina Griffith	NIMOS, Legal Affairs
23 November	Jose Artist	VIDS, Consultant
	Loreen Jubitana	VIDS, ex Director
	Marie Calmel	REDD+ Consultant, France
	Pradeepa Bholanath	LCDS, Office of the President, Guyana
24 November	Nancy del Prado	Consultant
26 November	Jerrel Pinas	ACT Suriname, ex PMU
<i>Week 6</i>		
29 November	Sarah Crabbe	SBB, Deputy Director R&P
	Michelle Astwood	REDD+ Focal Point, Min of NR, Guyana
	Ritesh Sardjoe	Min of ROM, Director Environment
30 November	Rudi van Kanten	Tropenbos Suriname, Director
	John Goedschalk	CI Suriname, Director
2 December	Renate Simson	KAMPOS, Director
	Heer Kadirbaks	Min of ROM, Director Land Use Planning
	David Singh	CEO, WWF Guianas
	Farzia Hausil	Legal, WWF Guianas, ex NIMOS
3 December	Clarence Sairas	Min of Finance, Planning Unit
	Other staff	Min of Finance, Planning Unit
<i>Week 7</i>		
7 December	Project Board meeting	Presentation preliminary findings
8 December	RAC meeting	

	Redd+ Assistants	Separate meeting with REDD+ Assistants
10 December	Ivette Patterzon	Min of ROM, GEF Focal Point
	Anuradha Khoenkhoen	UNDP Suriname
	Sara Svensson	Consultant, ex SBB, ex PMU
<i>Week 8</i>		
13 December	Sandra Bihari	PMU/NIMOS, Director
	Minu Parahoe	ACY Suriname, Director
14 December	Aaron Silva	IDB Suriname Consultant Climate Finance
	Francine Vauron	IDB Suriname Climate Change Specialist
15 December	Charlene Sanches	Min of ROM - Total
16 December	Margaret Jones Williams	UNDP Suriname, Deputy Resident Representative

Annex 4: List of documents and websites

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FCPF: [Forest Carbon Partnership Facility](http://forestcarbonpartnership.org)

Forests for Life: [Climate Finance Solutions — Forests for Life \(forests-for-life.org\)](http://forests-for-life.org)

LCDS Guyana: [LCDS](http://lcds.org)

NIMOS: [NIMOS — Suriname](http://nimos-suriname.org)

REDD+ Suriname: [REDD+ Suriname | REDD+ \(surinameredd.org\)](http://surinameredd.org)

SBB Gonini Geoportal: [SLMS Geoportal \(gonini.org\)](http://gonini.org)

SIS Suriname: [SIS — English \(surinameredd.org\)](http://surinameredd.org)

UNDP Suriname: [UNDP in Suriname](http://undp.org)

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UNFCCC REDD+: [REDD+ Methodological guidance | UNFCCC](http://unfccc.org)

UNFCCC info REDD+: [Info Hub — REDD+ \(unfccc.int\)](http://unfccc.int)