

## TC ABSTRACT

### I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	SURINAME/CCB - Caribbean Group
▪ TC Name:	Support to the Policing of Environmental Crimes in Suriname
▪ TC Number:	SU-T1186
▪ Team Leader/Members:	WILKS, JASON MALCOLM (IFD/ICS) Team Leader; JACKSON, MORENO RANDAL (CCB/CSU); JIMENEZ MOSQUERA, JAVIER I. (LEG/SGO); BUENO LONDONO DANIELA (IFD/ICS); GONZALEZ CHACON MARIANNA JOSE (IFD/ICS)
▪ Taxonomy:	Client Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	N/A
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	10 July 2024
▪ Beneficiary:	Government of the Republic of Suriname
▪ Executing Agency:	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (SU-JUSPOL-MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND POLICE)
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$125,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals
▪ Prepared by Unit:	IFD/ICS - Innovation in Citizen Services Division
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CCB/CSU - Country Office Suriname
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	Yes
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	Yes
▪ Alignment to the Institutional Strategy: Transforming for Scale and Impact (CA-631):	Institutional capacity and rule of law; Indigenous People; Environmental sustainability; Diversity

### II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The objective of this Technical Cooperation (TC) is to support the Ministry of Justice and Police in developing effective policy and operational responses to environmental crimes perpetrated by transnational criminal organizations against the environment and vulnerable communities.
- 2.2 Almost 95% of the Republic of Suriname is covered by rainforest, earning it the informal title of greenest country on earth. However, the country's deforestation rate is increasing due in large part to the illicit outflows of natural resources through activities such as illegal logging and informal gold mining using labor-intensive, low-technology techniques called Artisanal and Small-scale goldmining (ASM). ASM has become a major source of income for Surinamese particularly in the remote hinterland regions of the country, and, according to the Extractive Industry Transparency initiative Suriname Report released in 2022, the gold exports from artisanal and small-scale mining has at times exceeded exports from large-scale mining. One of the main problems related to ASM is the illegal importation and use of mercury, which is a key chemical used by miners in the processing of their gold. This practice of using mercury, when left unrecovered, leads to the salinization of rivers and creeks, impacting not only the environment but also the health of nearby communities. The illegal trade of mercury and gold has also created favorable conditions for organized crime groups to engage in smuggling and the bribing of public sector officials to facilitate the movement of mercury into the country and the exporting of gold through formal and informal trade routes. These groups are also known to bring gold to Suriname that is sourced from

other Amazonian countries to be laundered and included in Suriname’s official tallies for export.

- 2.3 Over the past six years, the Government of the Republic of Suriname initiated a series of reforms to regularize ASM and minimize its harmful socio-environmental impacts. Reform activities under the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) such as the Gold+ Project of the United Nations Development Programme seeks to detect where illicit activities occur, map the supply chain for illegal gold to international markets and identify the concomitant financial flows towards reducing the appeal and profitability of illicit trafficking of state resources. Additionally, the government has attempted to work with the ASM miners, under the condition that no weapons or mercury be used, and no poaching take place. However, these measures have been ineffective due to two related factors: (i) the limited supply of law enforcement capacity to address environmental crimes; and (ii) the weak demand among key stakeholders for the rule of law to be applied in the environmental sector.

### III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component 1. Strengthen state capacity to detect and interdict environmental crimes.** Seeks to foster a partnership between JUSPOL and DPF to share satellite resources for combating various crimes. This Component includes advisory and capacity building services related to: (i) developing the appropriate operational management and coordination mechanisms within JUSPOL to facilitate partnership with the DPF; and (ii) delivering a series of customized training sessions to JUSPOL personnel to adapt and utilize the satellite data for law enforcement intelligence and investigations.
- 3.2 **Component 2. Develop methodologies to sensitize key stakeholders on environmental crimes.** Aims to finance the following: (i) design of communication strategies for at least three (3) transparency and integrity agencies for improved sharing of information and enlisting cooperation among key stakeholders; and (ii) conduct of an evaluation study to understand the impact of training and sensitization on compliance with income and asset declaration requirements among senior government officials.

### IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Total Funding
Strengthen state capacity to detect and interdict environmental crimes	US\$55,000	US\$55,000
Develop methodologies to sensitize key stakeholders on environmental crimes	US\$70,000	US\$70,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$125,000</b>	<b>US\$125,000</b>

### V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 As requested by the Government of the Republic of Suriname, the Executing Agency will be the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through the Innovation in Citizen Services Division (IFD/ICS), in accordance with the guidelines and requirements established in the Technical Cooperation Policy (GN-2470-2) and the TC Operational Guides (GN-2629 Guidelines-Annex 10, Section 2 (d)). The project team is led by Jason Wilks (IFD/ICS), Senior Public Management Sector Specialist with responsibility for IFD/ICS projects in Suriname, who will supervise the overall TC components. The monitoring and supervision activities of this project will be the responsibility of the project team leader, who will implement, due to the nature of the proposed activities

and objectives, a monitoring scheme for the execution of the TC, in accordance with the methodology for monitoring TCs under execution established in the document The Technical Cooperation Monitoring and Reporting System (OP-1385-4). Operational support will be provided by colleagues from the CCB/CSU Country Office.

- 5.2 Owing to the involvement of state and non-state actors in the planning and oversight and recent experience executing initiatives to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement to safeguard natural resources in Suriname and the wider Amazon region, IFD/ICS is best equipped to manage this operation and assure the coordination needed. The IDB will be supporting Suriname contributing to improve the knowledge base on environmental monitoring in the Amazon region, situated at the nexus of key regional issues such as climate change, digital transformation and the fight against transnational crime.

## **VI. Project Risks and Issues**

- 6.1 The Bank will implement strategic measures to address two moderate risks. The first risk relates to technological dependence under Component 1, whereby the differences in maturity levels between the digital architecture in Brazil and Suriname may result in a reliance in the established systems and methodologies, resulting in asymmetries in information sharing. To address this risk, IDB will ensure that capacity building activities for JUSPOL personnel are structured to promote active engagement and synthesis of knowledge products, which result from the bi-directional flow of capacity and intelligence between the two countries. The second risk relates to both Components 1 and 2 - the possibility of limited stakeholder engagement arising from public concerns with the credibility of state actions to improve transparency. This risk will be mitigated through the development of comprehensive stakeholder engagement plans for key anti-corruption agencies involving government agencies, local communities, NGOs, and international partners, fostering open communication and proactive addressing of concerns with the public.

## **VII. Environmental and Social Aspects**

- 7.1 This TC does not have applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).