

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic project data

▪ Country/Region:	Guyana
▪ TC Name:	Support for REDD+ readiness process in Guyana (FCPF project)
▪ TC Number:	GY-T1097
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Axelle Boulay (INE/CCS) and David Corderí (INE/RND), co-team leaders; Hanna Uusimaa, Juan Chang and Gloria Visconti (INE/CCS); Marisol Inurritegui (RND/CGY); Graham Watkins and Maria Da Cunha (VPS/ESG).
▪ Indicate if: Operational Support, Client Support, or Research & Dissemination.	Client support
▪ Reference to Request ¹ : (IDB docs #)	
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	
▪ Beneficiary (countries or entities which are the recipient of the technical assistance):	Government of Guyana (GoG)
▪ Executing Agency and contact name	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
▪ IDB Funding Requested:	US\$ 3.8 million
▪ Local counterpart funding, if any:	
▪ Disbursement period (which includes execution period):	4 years
▪ Required start date:	January 1, 2013
▪ Types of consultants (firm or individual consultants):	
▪ Prepared by Unit:	Climate Change and Sustainability Division (INE/CCS)
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	Climate Change and Sustainability Division (INE/CCS)
▪ Included in Country Strategy (y/n);	Y
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	Y
▪ GCI-9 Sector Priority:	Priority area 5

II. Objective and Justification

Guyana has approximately 87% of its land area, 18.5 million hectares, covered by forests. Guyana has relatively low historical rates of deforestation, but if incentives are not directed to controlling deforestation and degradation, the deforestation rate and its associated emissions may significantly increase. Much of the forested area suitable for logging and conversion to agriculture remain intact, and there is growing demand globally for mineral resources such as gold, and nationally and regionally for agricultural products and tropical timber. Furthermore, access to Guyana's forests may increase significantly in the coming years, as a major international highway from Brazil through southern Guyana to the north coast may be built.

¹ A copy of the Letter of Request, Programming/Portfolio Review Mission Aide Memoire or Report requesting the TC should be submitted with the Abstract.

The FCPF is a global partnership focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). Readiness Fund of the FCPF assists tropical and sub-tropical developing countries in developing the systems and policies in preparation for REDD+. To comply with FCPF requirements, the Government of Guyana (GoG) prepared a Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) that lays out a roadmap of preparation activities needed to be undertaken for Guyana to become REDD+ ready. This project is funded by the FCPF for Guyana to undertake key activities identified in the R-PP. In parallel, GoG launched in June 2009 its “Low Carbon Development Strategy” (LCDS).² R-PP activities are in full support of Guyana’s LCDS.

The project supports the GCI-9 priority area 5 (Protect the environment, responding to climate change, renewable energy, and enhancing food security) as it enhances institutional capacity for the development and implementation of a strategy aimed to avoid the future increase in deforestation. The project complements other investments supporting the LCDS and REDD+ in Guyana, such as GY-G1002, funded by the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF) and two technical cooperations “Supporting Guyana’s LCDS” (GY-T1068; ATN/SF-11788-GY) and “Developing Capacities in Implementing REDD+” (GY-T1076; ATN/SF-12553-GY). The project is fully aligned with the Country Strategy (CS 2008-2012), in which mitigation of the effects of Climate Change is part of the ongoing efforts in the pillar “enhanced competitiveness” and risk mitigation.

III. Description of activities and outputs

The project activities are grouped into 2 components:

Component 1: REDD+ Readiness Management Arrangements consists of the following activities:

1.1. Establishment/operationalization of REDD+ Implementation Arrangements, including the REDD Secretariat (RS), the National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG) and a national conflict resolution strategy for REDD+.

1.2. Design and implementation of a Consultation and Participation strategy and action plan, to ensure that key stakeholders understand REDD+ and have strong participation in the readiness process and the REDD+ strategy development

Expected result: Readiness Management Arrangements established through effective Organization and Consultation

Component 2: REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework consists of the following activities:

2.1. Development of Guyana’s REDD+ Strategy: The expected output is a REDD+ strategy that is informed by a number of studies, consultations, demonstration projects and discussions on the existing and potential drivers of deforestation, and the design of an equitable benefit sharing mechanism.

2.2. Implementation Framework: The component will assess current capacity of implementing agencies and key partners, and identify capacity building activities and develop a road map for their implementation; enable effective communication with other partners, address matters regarding land tenure, and incorporate REDD+ into both the national climate change agenda as well as the national forest policies.

2.3. Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment (SESA): The activities under this component include the development and implementation of the SESA, execution of relevant technical studies and

² <http://www.lcds.gov.gy/images/stories/Documents/Low%20Carbon%20Development%20Strategy%20-%20May%202010.pdf>

assessments, as well as developing a relevant environmental and social management framework (ESMF) that will guide the implementation of the strategy and the application of safeguards in the implementation phase of the R-PP is developed. The key potential environmental and social impacts as well as the legal and policy implications of the proposed REDD+ strategy are identified and integrated into the final design of the Guyana REDD+ strategy.

2.4. Monitoring and evaluation of REDD+ activities: The expected output is a robust Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for REDD+ activities necessary to introduce corrective measures as needed, and distil lessons from project implementation.

Expected result: REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework established, and all REDD+ activities in Guyana are monitored and reported on effectively

IV. Budget

Component	Activities	Budget (US\$)
1: REDD+ Readiness Management Arrangements	1.1. REDD+ Implementation Arrangements	746,000
	1.2. Consultation and Participation	1,130,000
	Total Outcome 1	2,026,000
2: REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework	2.1. REDD+ Strategy	809,000
	2.2. Implementation Framework	260,000
	2.3. SESA	670,000
	2.4. Monitor and evaluate REDD+ activities	35,000
	Total Outcome 2	1,774,000
	TOTAL BUDGET	3,800,000

V. Executing agency and execution structure

The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) is responsible for the management and regulation of Guyana’s State Forest Estate and overseeing the implementation of key technical aspects of REDD+ activities in Guyana. The REDD Secretariat (RS) has been established as a part of the GFC. RS will be responsible for the coordination of all national technical REDD+ activities, and for overseeing the implementation of all technical REDD+ activities under the LCDS framework. In executing this function, the RS will also work in close collaboration with the Multi Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC) of the LCDS and the NRWG. The Secretariat will report directly to the GFC as well as the NRWG. While the REDD+ Secretariat is under the administrative management of the GFC, it will operate in close partnership with other sector agencies within the national framework.

The National Toshias Council (NTC) is the democratically elected representative of Amerindian Villages and Communities. The GoG has engaged the NTC in execution of activities under the LCDS overall and the REDD+ pillar in particular. The NTC will conduct consultation and outreach activities on REDD+ in the Amerindian communities, together with the Amerindian NGOs. Further, the NTC will be integrally involved in all aspects of REDD+ implementation, including being a member of the MSSC of the LCDS as well as a member of the MRVS Steering Committee.

VI. Project Risks and issues

The project risks arise mainly from the fact that REDD+ Readiness work is broad-based, cutting across several sectors of the economy and involving a wide range of stakeholders. National REDD+ policies have to deal with land administration, nationwide land-use planning, forest management, extractive industries, and infrastructure, among other sectors. The Guyana REDD+ strategy will need to achieve sufficient political momentum in order to influence the cross-sectoral, local and national planning processes. This requires certain governance elements that may not be fully developed, due to the lack of coordination between different institutions and sectors, as well as the relatively weak positioning of the RS in the political arena. To mitigate these risks, it is essential to involve all sectors, as well as the institutions involved in planning in Guyana, in the process of the development of the REDD+ strategy.

Another risk is the possibly limited participation of certain key stakeholder groups, such as the Amerindian communities or mining communities. To mitigate these risks, the REDD+ strategy development has to carefully assess the level of representation of different interest groups, in order to ensure a meaningful participation and avoid conflicts and miscommunication regarding the REDD+ strategy development.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

This project has been classified as a Category A because of the potential for significant social risks associated inherent in the design of a national REDD program in countries with a large percentage of indigenous people. The specific risks include the need to fully involve all potentially affected parties in consultations, ensure that a full evaluation has been completed to determine the seriousness of potential adverse impacts on physical and food security, lands, territories, resources, society, rights, the traditional economy, way of life and identity or cultural integrity of indigenous peoples, and, in the case of adverse impacts being identified, establish agreement with affected indigenous peoples through good faith negotiations to address adverse impacts.

The funds from this technical cooperation will support consultation processes with affected parties and support the completion of a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment and development of an agreed Environmental and Social Management Framework that will address these risks.