Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Project title Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management
GCP /GUY/11338/GFF
February 2025

Project document and environmental and social safeguards annexes

gef

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS

Acronym	Description
AWP/B	Annual work-plan and budget
ARR	Afforestation Reforestation and Revegetation
ASL2	Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program Phase 2
ASL3	Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program Phase 3
AWP/B	Annual work-plan and budget
B2B	Business-to-Business
BH	Budget Holder
CSO	Civil society organization
DOECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change
DSS	Decision Support System
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESS	Environmental and Social Standards
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLO	Funding Liaison Officer
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FPMIS	Field Program Management Information System
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFC	Guyana Forestry Commission
GGDMA	Guyana Gold Diamond Miners Association
GGMC	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLSC	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission
GTO	FAO GEF Technical Officer
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres; 0.01 square kilometre)
IA	Implementing Agency
IPLCs	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
KMPA	Kanuku Mountains Protected Area
KNP	Kaieteur National Park
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy
LTO	Lead Technical Officer
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
MRVS	Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification System
MTR	Mid-term Review
NAREI	National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NTC	National Tashoas Council

NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
OP	Operational Partner
OPA	Operational Partnership Agreement
OPIM	Operational Partnership Implementation Modality
PA	Protected Area
PAC	Protected Areas Commission
PDD	Project Design Document
PMU	Project Management Unit
PIR	Project Implementation Report
PPR	Project Progress Report
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PTF	Project Task Force
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFL	Sustainable Forest Livelihoods
tCO2eq	Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent
VCM	Voluntary Carbon Market
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management		
Parent Program (if IP):	Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program Phase 3		
Region:	Latin America and the Caribbean	**GEF Project ID:**	11338
Country(ies):	Guyana	**Type of Project**	**Full-sized Project**
Lead Agency:	FAO		
Lead Agency Project ID (FAO entity number):	748087	**FAO Project Symbol:**	GCP /GUY/11338/GFF
Other GEF Agency(ies):	**(select) (select) (select)**	**Other GEF Agency(ies) ID:**	
Project Executing Entity(s) and type:	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	**GOVERNMENT**	
		(choose executing agency type)	
GEF Focal Area(s):	**Multi Focal Area**	**Type of Trust Fund:**	**GEFTF**
Implementation start (Expected EOD):	**June 2025**	**Implementation end (Expected NTE)**	July 2029
Project duration (*Months*):	48 months		
GEF Project Grant: (a)	**3,519,722.00**	**Agency Fee(s) Grant: (b)**	316,774.00
PPG Amount: (c)	150,000.00	**PPG Agency Fee(s): (d)**	13,500.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	3,999,996.00	**Total Co-financing:**	20,804,659.10
Total GEF resources *(including cofinancing)*	24,804,655.10		
Project Tags:	☐CBIT ☐NGI ☐ SGP ☐ Innovation		
Project Sector (CCM only)	**(select)**		
Rio Markers			
- Climate Change Mitigation	☐No Contribution (0) ☐Significant Objective (1) ☒Principal Objective (2)		
- Climate Change Adaptation	☐No Contribution (0) ☒Significant Objective (1) ☐Principal Objective (2)		
- Biodiversity	☐No Contribution (0) ☐Significant Objective (1) ☒Principal Objective (2)		
- Land Degradation	☐No Contribution (0) ☐Significant Objective (1) ☒Principal Objective (2)		
Environmental and Social Risk Classification:	Low risk ☐ Moderate risk ☒ High risk ☐		
Gender Marker	GM 0 ☐ GM 1 ☒ GM 2 ☐		
Contribution to FAO's Strategic Framework:	a. Programme Priority Area(s) (PPA/s): BE3 - Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture b. SDG target(s): 1.5, 5.5, 8.3, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2, 15.2, 15.3, 15.5, 15.9, 15.a and 15.b c. Country Outcome(s): MSDCF Outcome 5: Caribbean people, communities, and institutions enhance their adaptive capacity for inclusive, gender responsive DRM		

	and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Output 5.1.1: National agencies, hinterland and rural organizations including women and youth have improved capacities for sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries, hinterland, and rural development and to effectively respond to and increase resilience against future disasters, emergencies, and climate change. MSDCF Outcome 6: Caribbean countries manage natural resources and ecosystems to strengthen their resilience and enhance the resilience and prosperity of the people and communities that depend on them. d. Country Programming Framework(s) Output(s): Output 6.1.1: Indigenous and rural communities, smallholder foresters, and logging communities are equipped with capacities, information and tools needed to sustainably utilize ecosystems services for the improved livelihood of forest dwellers and for the resilience of traditional livelihoods. Regional Initiative/Priority Area: RI3 - Sustainable use of natural resources, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management.

Project Summary

Guyana, with 84% forest cover, has maintained deforestation rates below 0.1% for two (2) decades, preserving vast intact tropical forests. Its' Protected Areas System, established in 2011, covers 8.4% of the land (1.8 million hectares [ha]) and is managed by the Protected Areas Commission (PAC). Since 2010, Guyana has lost 133,210 ha of forest[1], primarily due to mining (75%) and fires (15%). Mine-site reclamation remains lacking due to low environmental bonds compared to high reclamation cost, while traditional farming practices, including fire use, harm biodiversity. Meanwhile, the PAC remains underfunded. These financial challenges underscore the need to re-evaluate funding mechanisms and strategies to effectively support sustainable land management and mine-site rehabilitation efforts.

The project aims to enhance forest management in Guyana's Amazon landscape, focusing on innovative financing mechanisms, restoration, and participatory governance to support indigenous communities in Region 9. Structured around three (3) components, it aligns with the GEF-8 Integrated Program for Critical Forest Biomes:

- *Component 1* focuses on innovative financing and governance mechanisms, such as a biodiversity credits or similar mechanism to improve the management and protection of protected areas (PAs).
- *Component 2* promotes sustainable forest-based value chains and addresses land degradation caused by gold mining and wildfires. It involves capacity-building for sustainable production, restoration efforts, and participatory management of PAs.
- *Component 3* emphasizes strategic communication and knowledge management, with monitoring, evaluation, and dissemination of best practices. It also fosters knowledge exchange within the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program Phase 3 (ASL3).

The project aims to generate significant global environmental benefits, including:

- **1,444,735 ha of protected terrestrial areas** under improved management (Core Indicator 1)
- **423.5 ha of forest degraded** by mining and fire restored (Core Indicator 3), with 15 ha reforested mining site, 50 ha of (community-based as well as government-led) assisted natural regeneration at mining sites, and 358.5 ha of (community-based as well as government-led) restoration in wildfire-affected forests
- **4,359.6 ha of landscapes** with improved practices outside PAs (Core Indicator 4)
- **Reduction of 2,878,794 tCO2-e** in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (Core Indicator 6)
- At least **32,800 direct beneficiaries**, including 9,690 women (Core Indicator 11)

The project aligns with the ASL3 program in its aim to ensure that key habitats remain connected, biodiversity is conserved, tipping points are avoided; GHG emissions are reduced; and people in the Amazon increase their wellbeing via jobs, increases in income, livelihood security, capacity building and voice in key decision-making spaces. In particular, this project contributes to the following aspects of the ASL3:

- **Component 1** aligns with "Strengthening conservation under different protection regimes," as well as "Supporting governance, incentives, and policy transformations," focusing on improved governance, management, and financing of PAs

[1] Guyana Forestry Commission (2024) Guyana REDD+ Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) System Report, Year 2023

- **Component 2** aligns with "Enhancing sustainable production and landscape restoration," targeting restoration within and outside PAs and promoting sustainable alternative livelihoods. It also supports "Supporting governance, incentives, and policy transformations" through geographical information system (GIS)-based decision support systems (DSS), a land degradation response plan, participatory land-use planning, and inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and women.
- **Component 3** is closely linked to "Promoting Capacity Building, Communications, and Regional Cooperation (knowledge management)," emphasizing community and institutional capacity building at subnational, national, and regional levels, knowledge exchange, protection of traditional knowledge systems, research collaboration, communication and awareness initiatives, and fostering cooperation with other Amazonian countries.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective: To improve Forest management in the Amazon forest landscape of Guyana through enhancement of funding, restoration and participatory governance (Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] 1.5, 5.5, 8.3, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2, 15.2, 15.3, 15.5, 15.9, 15.a and 15.b)						
Project Components *(and indicator targets)*	**Component Type**	**Project Outcomes**	**Project Outputs**	**Trust Fund**	**GEF Project Financing (USD)**	**Co-financing (USD)**
Component 1: Maintenance of intact forest landscapes	**TA**	**Outcome 1.1:** **Areas under legal protection with strengthened/improved management, financing and governance mechanisms** *100% of PAs with updated financial mechanisms for sustainable management* *50% increased revenue generation for PAs* *Three (3) PAs under inclusive governance frameworks with clear roles, responsibilities of stakeholders, and mechanisms for decision-making* *GEF-8 Core Indicator 1.2: 1,441,557 ha of terrestrial PAs under improved management effectiveness* *GEF-8 Core Indicator 6: 1,705,308 tCO2e (from outscaling)*	Output 1.1.1: Biodiversity credits mechanism and other financing mechanisms designed to support sustainable management and restoration in the PAs and elsewhere, inclusive of improved governance structures that engage IPLCs Output.1.1.2 Resource Assessments across the forest landscape conducted inclusive of an assessment of biodiversity and biodiversity loss Output.1.1.3 Financing mechanism established to support sustainable management and restoration in the PAs and elsewhere inclusive of improved governance structures that engage IPLCs Output.1.1.4	GEF TF	702,400.00	8,796,233

			Voluntary carbon market (VCM) mechanism designed to financially support mine-site restoration (Afforestation Reforestation and Revegetation [ARR])			
Component 2: Engagement of stakeholders in sustainable production and landscape restoration	**TA**	**<u>Outcome 2.1:</u> Increased stakeholder capacity for and participation in sustainable value chains based on standing forests** *Three (3) sustainable, gender-sensitive value chains strengthened and operated by IPLCs* *GEF-8 Core Indicator 11: 500 beneficiaries of strengthened value chains, disaggregated by sex and age (at least 30% are women and 40% are under 35)* *20% increase in women that participate and speak in stakeholder engagement and decision-making meetings*	<u>Output 2.1.1:</u> Capacity development program on sustainable extraction, production, and marketing of traditional, artisanal, small scale, non-timber forest products (NTFP) and services implemented	GEF TF	2,184,847.00	6,151,298
		Outcome 2.2: Increased area of land and ecosystems undergoing restoration and sustainably managed *GEF-8 Core Indicator 3.2: 423.5 ha of forest and forest land under restoration* *GEF-8 Core Indicator 1.2: 3,178 ha of PAs under*	Output 2.2.1: Techniques/methods developed and implemented to restore degraded forest Output 2.2.2: Agreements established with IPLCs for participatory forest management			

		Improved management (Parishara/Nappi) *GEF-8 Core Indicator 4.1: 4,359.6 ha outside PAs under improved management (Shulinab + monitoring)* *GEF-8 Core Indicator 6: 1,173,486 tCO2e: 307,606 tCO2e from restoration, and 865,880 tCO2e from improved fire management (496,200 tCO2e Shulinab + 369,680 tCO2e Parishara)* *GEF-8 Core indicator 11: 7,400 beneficiaries (2,220 women)*				
Component 3: Effective strategic communication and knowledge management	**TA**	**Outcome 3.2: Knowledge shared and stakeholder awareness increased** *At least two (2) forums established to improve the exchange of knowledge and improve coordination among stakeholders* *Six (6) lessons learned documented and shared*	Output 3.2.1: Engagement and Dissemination Strategy of best practices and lessons learned, as well as dissemination of knowledge products <u>Output 3.2.2:</u> Project results, progresses, and lessons learned systematized, knowledge shared with other countries of the ASL3 Integrated Program and opportunities for complementarity identified	GEF TF	323,595.00	2,716,490
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)		**<u>Outcome 3.1:</u> Project implementation based on improved protected area management**	<u>Output 3.1.1:</u> M&E of the project developed to provide systematized information on measurable, verifiable progress <u>Output 3.1.2:</u>	GEF TF	**141,275.00**	**0**

		100% of the total project activities executed as per the workplan *100% of project actions that actively seek women participation* *100% of project outputs with proven IPLC engagement* *12 reports showing data on social and environmental safeguards monitoring, disaggregated by sex and age*	Mid-term review and final evaluation to inform adaptive management			
				Subtotal	**3,352,117.00**	**17,664,020**
Project Management Cost (PMC) *(if this is an MTF project, please report separate PMC lines for each TF).* *If amount requested is above limits, a pop-up menu should open for the Agency to provide an explanation*				GEF TF	167,605	3,140,639
				Total Project Cost	**3,519,722.00**	**20,804,659**

Justification for higher PMC

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Guyana, its forests, Protected Areas and deforestation

Guyana, South America's only English-speaking country, is on the northeastern coast of the subcontinent, bordered by Venezuela, Brazil, Suriname, and the Atlantic Ocean. Covering a land area of 21.11 million ha, Guyana has a coastline of about 434 km and a cultivated coastal plain varying in width between 5 and 40 km. The country is in the neo-tropical region of northeastern South America and is part of the Guiana Shield within the Amazon Biome. This biome, covering 6.7 million km², is the largest remaining tropical rainforest in the world and harbours at least 10% of global biodiversity.

Guyana is one of the world's most forested countries, with 84% (17.82 million ha)[2] of its land covered in forests. Deforestation rates have stayed below 1% (0.02% to 0.079%) over the last two (2) decades, preserving one of the largest intact tropical forests globally. Rainforests and montane forests cover most of this area, while coastal mangroves make up around 1%.

Despite high forest cover, forest clearing has continued at about 0.056% per year since 2010[3], with 133,210 ha lost since then. Mining is the primary driver, accounting for 85% of deforestation from 2001-2012 and 75% from 2013-2023. Other contributors include agriculture, roadbuilding, mining infrastructure, forestry, and fires. Since 2013, fires have become the second largest factor, causing 15% of deforestation, with agriculture following at 5%. Recently, fire impacts matched mining's share in 2019.

Guyana has five (5) PAs, including Kaieteur National Park (KNP), Iwokrama Rainforest, Shell Beach, Kanuku Mountains (KMPA) and Kanashen Amerindian PA. It also features urban parks like the National Park and the Botanical Gardens. Overall, these PAs cover about 8.4% of the country's landmass, totaling 1.1 million ha[4]. Guyana's National PAs System was created in 2011 when the PAs Act was passed. The PAC manages the national PAs.

Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation

Environmental degradation in and around PAs in Guyana is primarily driven by unsustainable (traditional) fire-hazardous farming practices and environmentally harmful gold mining practices. Although mine-site reclamation is legally mandated for mining operations of all types[5], mined-out sites remain unrestored. Currently, approximately 200,000 ha[6] of forest land are available for rehabilitation and reforestation.

Farming and the use of fire for land clearing are traditional practices among indigenous communities. In the PAs, these activities are allowed as part of their subsistence farming, where land is farmed briefly, then left to recover as new plots are cleared. This method involves clearing and burning forests to enrich the soil with nutrients to promote crop growth. Fires set for farming outside the PAs occasionally spread into

[2] Guyana Forestry Commission (2024) Guyana REDD+ Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) System Report, Year 2023
[3] Guyana Forestry Commission (2024) Guyana REDD+ Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) System Report, Year 2023
[4] Protected Areas Trust. (n.d.). Protected Areas. Retrieved from https://protectedareastrust.org.gy/protected-areas/
[5] Mines in Guyana are classified as small (artisanal), medium or large-scale based on daily production. Often medium scale mines are simply a collection of small-scale operations with the same approaches and strategies and application of technology
[6] Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030 (2021); https://lcds.gov.gy/

the PAs, causing significant harm to biodiversity. In 2020, a fire likely set for farming near the northern KMPA boundary burned approximately 367 ha[7] (PAC, 2020).

Regarding environmentally harmful farming practices among indigenous communities near PAs, three (3) key challenges stand out: a) the PAC lacks the necessary funding to facilitate the transformation of farming methods; b) there is limited community awareness of the environmental degradation resulting from these practices; and c) there is a lack of skills and knowledge to support the development of alternative, more sustainable livelihoods.

Gold mining, vital to Guyana's economy, is a leading cause of deforestation, forest degradation, and biodiversity loss. Gold mining surged after the 2008 financial crisis, peaking in 2012 with 13,664 ha[8] cleared, though this dropped to 5,264 ha by 2022[9]. Forest degradation, particularly in and around mining sites, remains a critical issue, causing extensive harm to the bio-physical environment and undermining ecosystem health. Even small-scale gold mining in Guyana causes serious environmental harm. It leads to deforestation and soil degradation, resulting in erosion and increased river turbidity. Additionally, mining destroys habitats, reducing plant and animal biodiversity and hindering forest regeneration due to the loss of vegetation and topsoil. Mining also happens in the buffer zones or even inside PAs, putting biodiversity and ecosystem services at risk. For instance, there is growing mining activity in KNP and Iwokrama Rainforest.

The current environmental bonds, meant to ensure mining companies restore sites after operations, are substantially lower than the actual restoration costs, creating little financial incentive for mining companies to engage in restoration efforts. While the Ministry of Natural Resources has launched a G$300 million (approximately US$1.44 million) *National Forest Restoration Initiative*[10] to rehabilitate mined-out, degraded, and deforested lands, several challenges persist. In particular, the high costs of land reclamation—especially the need to use heavy machinery for landscape reclamation—can amount to as much as US$60,000 per hectare. This financial challenge adds further complexity to the restoration process, underscoring the need to re-evaluate funding mechanisms and strategies to effectively support sustainable land management and mine-site rehabilitation efforts.

The environmental challenges of mining partly arise from high poverty and unemployment, which drive individuals to gold mining in remote areas without fully understanding the associated risks. Other issues include unregulated and illegal mining, conflicts with local communities, unclear licensing processes, and a lack of awareness about environmental impacts among miners. Furthermore, there has been increased pressure from illegal miners coming from Brazil.

Barriers to enhance PAs management, protection and restoration.

Challenges are being encountered that hinder Guyana's efforts towards the improved management and protection of the PAs and the restoration of mining sites and forests degraded due to uncontrolled wildfires. The following key barriers to effective management have been identified:

1. Inadequate sustainable funding for biodiversity conservation and forest restoration:

[7] PAC (2020) Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) assessment report for the KNPA
[8] Guyana Forestry Commission (2024) Guyana REDD+ Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) System Report, Year 2023
[9] *Ibid.*
[10] The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) and the Environmental Division of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) are leading this initiative, with the involvement of mining companies

a. PA management by the PAC relies heavily on limited government funding and grants. The Protected Areas Trust currently holds an $8.5 million endowment, far below the $65 million goal, restricting the financial capacity for biodiversity conservation.
b. Environmental bonds for mining site restoration are significantly lower than actual reclamation costs, discouraging miners from undertaking proper site rehabilitation and shifting the financial burden to others.

2. Limited baseline data on biodiversity and land degradation due to mining and wildfires:
   a. There are limited baseline data and inconsistent monitoring protocols for assessing the impacts of mining and wildfires on biodiversity, making it challenging to inform policies and evaluate land degradation accurately.

3. Insufficient promotion of alternative livelihoods and fire management:
   a. Uncontrolled fires from slash-and-burn agriculture frequently spread into adjacent ecosystems, while local communities increasingly engage in unsustainable artisanal gold mining. Meanwhile, sustainable land use alternatives, such as eco-tourism, are underpromoted, while stakeholders lack the capacity to develop sustainable forest-based value chains, including the production, design, and marketing of NTFPs.
   b. The loss of traditional ecological and fire management knowledge, driven by generational gaps and migration, threatens sustainable resource management and undermines conservation efforts in areas like the KMPA.

4. Limited participatory and inclusive governance of the PAs and surrounding landscape:
   a. PAs and the surrounding landscape lack cohesive governance plans for resource management and monitoring. The Conservation Roundtable in Region 9 includes indigenous stakeholders but does not address broader land degradation challenges.
   b. The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) focuses on enforcement against illegal mining but do not actively engage in or promote restoration activities within PAs.

5. Limited technical capacity and practical restoration guidelines to achieve restoration of mined-out sites:
   a. Small-scale mining permits do not require Environmental and Social Impact Assessments, leaving many areas underregulated. Additionally, miners often exploit multiple small claims to avoid Environmental and Social Impact Assessments obligations.
   b. Artisanal mining practices achieve only ~30% gold recovery, leading to frequent re-mining of old sites, which hampers ecosystem recovery and restoration efforts.
   c. Existing mining Codes of Practice, while providing useful guidelines, are not legally binding and lack hands-on restoration techniques, limiting their effectiveness in promoting sustainable mining and rehabilitation.

In the absence of this project, the stakeholders will remain with **limited capacity to restore degraded lands** and promote adequate management of PAs, and the continuation of **business-as-usual operations will result in increased forest loss** through mining and agriculture-related wildfires, **with subsequent biodiversity reduction.**

Building on and collaborating with ongoing initiatives, this **GEF project incremental support** will result in better managed PAs, enabling their **improved governance;** increased capacity for restoration, by

catalyzing funding mobilization for environmental protection and restoration; and sustainably used forests, by **enhancing engagement** from communities and private stakeholders in biodiversity-friendly practices through **diversification of forest-based sustainable livelihoods**. By the end of the project, **degraded forest areas will be reduced**, **restoration efforts accelerated, and biodiversity protection enhanced**, with increased **community resilience to external impacts**, including climate, in the long term.

Current landscape of baseline and ongoing initiatives

The PAC, with funding from Germany's KfW, recently implemented the *Guyana Protected Areas System - Phase III* (2018-2023 - EUR 1.1 million) aimed at supporting the development of critical infrastructure and capacity building in the PAs System. Specifically, the project includes the construction of new ranger stations and guest houses at key sites like KMPA, Shell Beach PA, and KNP, as well as enhancing management capacity through training and community development initiatives. Building on this, the proposed project can further enhance these efforts by introducing new financing and governance mechanisms like biodiversity credits, which will expand these activities.

The *Frankfurt Zoological Society* (FZS) (new MoU 12/2022) supports the PAC by training rangers, overseeing the construction of field posts, organizing patrols, and using satellite data for detecting illegal activities in the KMPA. The proposed project could expand on this by providing advanced training in new technologies like GIS tools and expanding the use of satellite data to enhance decision-making and monitoring efforts.

The PAC is piloting the use of an app named *Satellites on Fire*. The *Satellites on Fire* app combines artificial intelligence and satellite data to detect, monitor, and alert wildfire risks in near real-time, updating every 20 minutes. It uses artificial intelligence to analyze current data against historical imagery, enabling early detection of small fires for quicker response. Designed for wildfire management, the app provides alerts with details on location, size, and intensity, integrating local weather and infrastructure data to support decision-making. The proposed project will assess integrating this technology into fire management planning and fire brigade training.

Conservation International – Guyana is implementing the 5-year '*Community-smart Consultation and Consent*' project, funded by the BHP Foundation, to address the global 'implementation gap' in natural resource governance by improving community consultation and consent practices. The proposed project can enhance this effort by scaling community engagement and operationalizing governance frameworks within the context of biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihood.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the GFC REDD+ Secretariat have contributed to Guyana's first forest carbon stock assessment and implemented the *Community Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification* system with indigenous communities. This system, which is part of the national REDD+ Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification System (MRVS), helps communities participate in REDD+ and advocate for their rights in natural resource governance. In 2019, 23 indigenous communities received community monitoring, reporting, and verification training. The proposed project can build on this by enhancing capacity-building, supporting the integration of community data into biodiversity monitoring systems, and strengthening community advocacy for sustainable land management and conservation.

The *Securing a Living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Southern Guyana Project*, launched in April 2024 under the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program Phase 2 (ASL2) - GEF 7 (USD 5.2 million), run by Guyana's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), aims to protect and enhance biodiversity through

improved landscape connectivity in the southern regions of Guyana, with a focus on strengthening the management of PAs. The proposed project can build synergies, particularly in integrating community-led monitoring systems and enhancing data sharing for biodiversity conservation.

The *Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Development and Management Project* funded by the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (2017 —2025; USD 14.8 million), focuses on strengthening the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) in land governance, planning, and restoration. Its' key objectives include enhancing geospatial systems, land administration, and sustainable land management through community-driven land use planning and pilot reclamation measures. The proposed project will build on these efforts by collaborating with GLSC to enhance land monitoring systems and implementing participatory land management approaches, especially through the GIS-based DSS.

The *Sustainable Forest Livelihoods (SFL) for Communities in Guyana and Suriname* programme (2023-2027; EUR 10 million), funded by the European Union and executed by WWF Guianas, promotes sustainable and equitable income-generating activities and financial mechanisms in Guyana's Regions 2, 9, and 10. The proposed project can complement the SFL programme by enhancing capacity-building for sustainable forest-based value chains that are not considered in the SFL programme, integrating advanced geospatial tools for land-use planning and monitoring, and supporting financial mechanisms for conservation and livelihoods through the proposed biodiversity credit or other financial mechanism.

The *Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme* (2017–2024; EUR 45 million) is a European Union-funded initiative co-financed by French Facility for Global Environment and French Development Agency, implemented by FAO, CIRAD, Center for International Forestry Research, and Wildlife Conservation Society. It aims to conserve wildlife, protect ecosystems, and enhance food security and livelihoods across 15 Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States countries. In Guyana, coordinated by the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission and Center for International Forestry Research, the project supports community-driven tourism initiatives, conducts baseline studies on hunting and wildlife use, and promotes sustainable livelihoods. The proposed project can build on these efforts by integrating geospatial tools for land-use planning, incorporating sustainable wildlife management baseline data into biodiversity assessments, and advancing eco-tourism management, financing, and forest-based livelihood strategies.

To address broader natural resource issues, including mining, the Ministry of Natural Resources established an *inter-agency forum* with key organizations: the EPA, GFC, GGMC, GLSC, PAC, and Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission. The forum's agencies, such as the GFC, GGMC, and EPA, play central roles in the proposed project's activities, including geospatial land monitoring, participatory land-use planning, and the implementation of conservation measures. By working through this inter-agency platform, proposed project can strengthen integration among stakeholders, align its interventions with national priorities, and ensure effective implementation of its objectives in areas like reclamation, protected area management, and community engagement.

Aligned with Guyana's low-carbon and REDD+ goals, the GFC uses its' *MRVS*, to track deforestation and forest degradation annually, collaborating with GGMC to address illegal mining. The proposed project can build on the annual deforestation monitoring conducted by: 1) Integrating MRVS data into geospatial tools for land-use planning, restoration, and conservation; 2) Supporting capacity building for local stakeholders and indigenous communities using GFC's monitoring expertise; and 3) Leveraging MRVS data to establish biodiversity baselines.

The "*Strengthening the Enabling Framework for Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Mercury Reduction*" project (GEF-6; 2021-2027; USD 4.5 million) focuses on reducing mercury pollution from small- and medium-scale gold mining while protecting biodiversity and improving livelihoods. Key outcomes include strengthening regulatory frameworks, improving institutional capacity, adopting environmentally responsible mining practices, and facilitating knowledge-sharing. Specific achievements include improved forest management in mining districts, reduced mercury use, and restoration of degraded lands. The proposed project can build on baseline data from the GEF-6 project on forest restoration and expand on the GEF-6 project's efforts by developing practical guidelines for mine site restoration.

The GGMC Environmental Division launched the *Land Reclamation Project* in 2014 to promote sustainable reclamation practices for small- and medium-scale gold mining, establishing demonstration sites in Regions 7 (Olive Creek, Puruni Landing) and 10 (Dakoura). The project generated valuable insights that informed national reforestation and reclamation policies while strengthening the GGMC's capacity for earthworks and site assessments. In 2023, the Ministry of Natural Resources expanded the initiative with the G$300 million *National Forest Restoration Initiative*, focusing on reforesting degraded lands. Achievements include planting over 2,500 native trees across 23.3 ha at Dakoura, setting up seedling stations at Yarrowkabra (Region 4) and Wismar (Region 10), and training local youth in seedling care and monitoring. The next phase extends to St. Elisabeth near Mahdia (Region 8). However, limited resources are hindering expansion into other regions.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

THEORY OF CHANGE AND DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT COMPONENTS

The project's Theory of Change is as follows (see Figure 1. Theory of Change for Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management project):

IF: innovative financing and governance mechanisms are in place; the capacity and engagement of stakeholders in sustainable, forest-based value chains is strengthened; the area of forests under restoration increases; there is a higher awareness and knowledge on forest value and the benefits of strategies for forest conservation are perceived,

***THEN* PAs protection and management is enhanced**.

ASSUMING that there is sustained high-level commitment towards forest conservation; that stakeholders see benefits in sustainable forest use and management; that investments that incentivize sustainable forest use continue over time; and that policy and normative environments enable improved governance and management,

***THEN* Guyana's forests are conserved and sustainably managed in the long run** contributing to SDGs 15.2 and 15.3, with communities that use forest sustainably and are more resilient to climate and other external impacts and poverty reduced, contributing to SDGs 1.5, 5.5, 8.3, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2, 15.5, 15.9, 15.a and 15.b.

The baseline scenario presented in Section 1.5 has been considered in the project design to bring additional 2,878,794 tCO2e of GHG emissions reduced; 1,444,735 ha of PAs and 4,359.6 ha of forests outside PAs under improved management; 423.5 ha of forests restored; and 32,800 (at least 9,690 women) direct beneficiaries. The increased capacity for adoption and implementation of sustainable forest management at all stakeholder levels and the improved financial environment will enable the project's approaches to be scaled out and up. Together with increased awareness, knowledge and coordination of actions, the project actions promote durable and sustainable results.

The project's vision will be materialized by the following Causal Pathways, which address the five (5) barriers identified in the previous section:

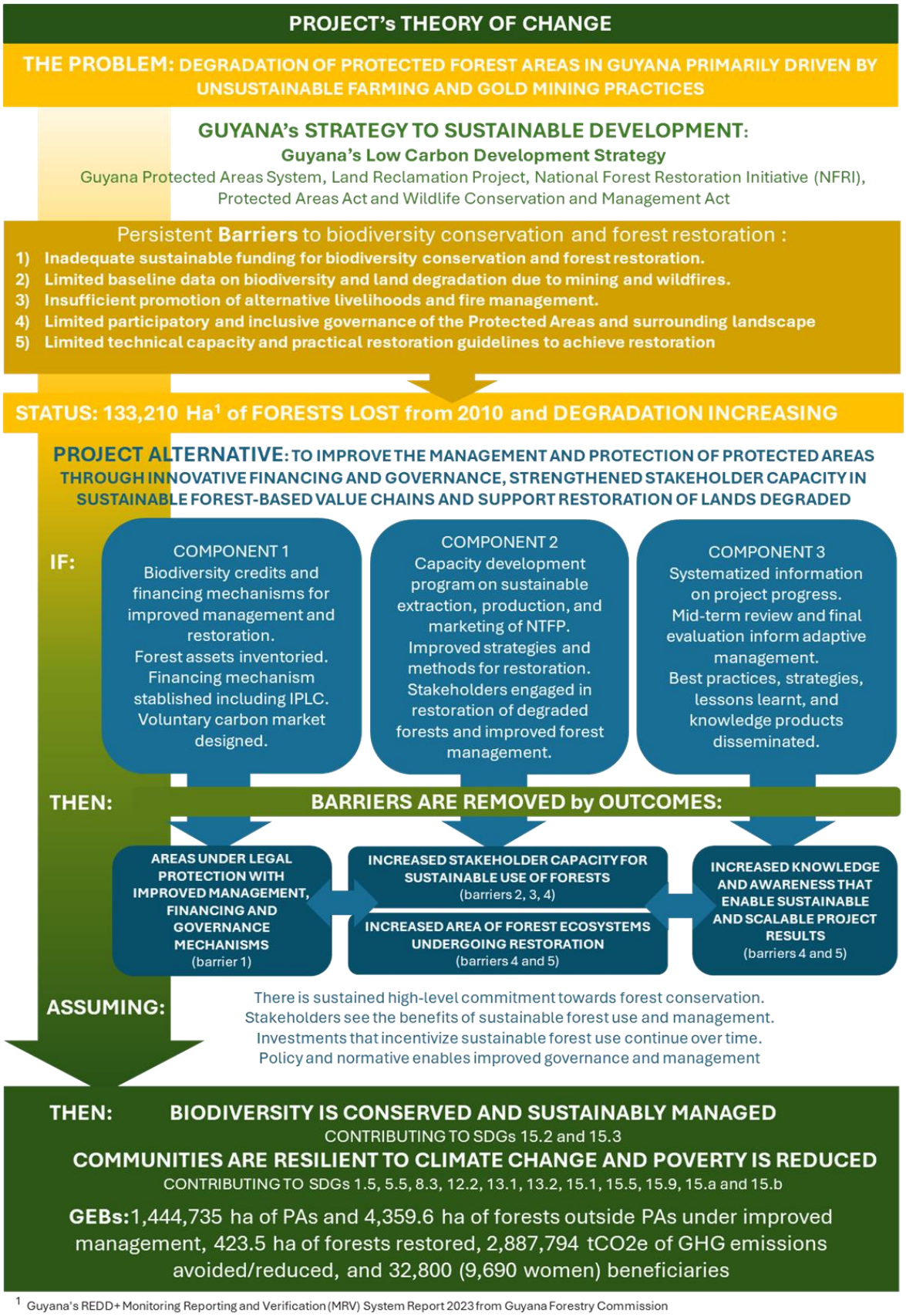
Causal Pathway 1: Innovative financing mechanisms (e.g. Biodiversity Credit Mechanism) will provide a sustainable funding source for conservation and restoration activities within PAs, leading to enhanced biodiversity conservation and better management of those areas.

Causal Pathway 2: Systematic data gathering and monitoring of the activities and their impacts together with a sound data and knowledge management strategy will provide the basis for improved decision-making, thus creating the grounds for long term PAs preservation.

Causal Pathway 3: Improving local stakeholder capacity for managing sustainable forest-based value chains and for product design and marketing will support local livelihood diversification and promote sustainable economic activities that will reduce deforestation and forest degradation

Causal Pathway 4: Involving IPLCs in management and strengthening the PAC will promote inclusive governance and ensure the sustainability of conservation efforts.

Causal Pathway 5: Increased technical and institutional capacity for forest restoration activities will accelerate the restoration of degraded forest areas, with a direct positive impact on ecosystem recovery, carbon sequestration, and the overall health of the land.



[1] Guyana's REDD+ Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) System Report 2023 from Guyana Forestry Commission

Figure 1. Theory of Change for Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management project

The project is structured into three (3) components in line with three (3) interventions of the Integrated Program for Critical Forest Biomes – Amazon of GEF-8 (ASL3):

1. *Maintenance of intact forest landscapes*: The project seeks to improve the management and protection of PAs by implementing innovative financing mechanisms for improved forest management and governance structures that build on and expand the advances achieved under the ASL2 in partnership and capacity building for enhanced biodiversity and forest conservation, sustainable land use, and community development in Guyana. Central to this effort is the participatory development, led by the EPA, of a Biodiversity Credits Mechanism designed to fund restoration and sustainable management of PAs in collaboration with IPLCs. To support this, the project will assess existing biodiversity evaluations and conduct new assessments where necessary, followed by the creation of a comprehensive Biodiversity MRVS that complements existing MRV systems. Additionally, the project will investigate the potential of a project-based VCM mechanism as a supplementary financial resource for supporting restoration activities. This component addresses barrier 1 and seeks transformational change through financial and governance and policies levers, thus contributing to outcome 1.2.: *Areas under legal protection with strengthened/improved management, financing and governance mechanisms;* and outcome 3.5. *Innovative financial incentives and mechanisms implemented for conservation and nature-positive investment* of the ASL3 program.

2. *Engagement of stakeholders in sustainable production and landscape restoration*: The project seeks to strengthen stakeholder capacity and engagement in sustainable, forest-based value chains, with a focus on gender-specific impacts. It will enhance artisanal and small-scale NTFP value chains by improving design, marketing, and export skills to support local livelihoods while reducing deforestation. Additionally, the project will promote the restoration of lands degraded by artisanal gold mining and wildfire. By complementing current efforts to strengthen the PAC, the project will engage nearby IPLCs in participatory management of PAs and guide them towards sustainable livelihoods through value chains. For mine-site restoration, the project will support the *National Forest Restoration Initiative* by increasing the GGMC Reclamation Unit's capacity for reclamation activities and assisting the GGMC and GFC in scaling up restoration efforts. The activities under this component address barriers 2, 3 4 and 5 by applying the multistakeholder dialogue and innovation and learning transformational levers to contribute to all the three (3) outcomes of the ASL3 Program component 2: 2.1 *Increased area of forests and watersheds brought under sustainable land and water management practices*; 2.2 *Increased stakeholder capacity for and participation in sustainable value chains based on standing forests and free flowing rivers (disaggregated by gender)*, 2.3 *Increased area of land and ecosystems undergoing restoration*; as well as to outcome 3.3 *Increased participation of civil society, including IPLC and women, in decision-making fora, land-use planning, project implementation and monitoring fostered at multiple administrative levels.*

3. *Effective strategic communication and knowledge management*: This component includes M&E, communication efforts, and collaboration within the ASL3 Program. It will focus on an Engagement and Dissemination Strategy to share best practices, insights, and knowledge products. The project will also facilitate knowledge exchange with other countries in the ASL3 Program and identify opportunities for complementary initiatives. This component addresses barriers 4 and 5 by employing the innovation and learning and multistakeholder dialogues levers to trigger

transformational change towards increased awareness, implementation capacity and multisectoral coordination. As a result of the planned activities, the project will contribute to outcome 4.1 *Enhanced knowledge and institutional implementation capacity among national and regional project stakeholders*

Their implementation will be based on the coordinated delivery of the outcomes, outputs and activities described below:

Outcome: 1.1. Areas under legal protection with strengthened/improved management, financing and governance mechanisms

Output 1.1.1 Biodiversity credits mechanism and other financing mechanisms designed to support sustainable management and restoration in the PAs and elsewhere, inclusive of improved governance structures that engage IPLCs

The PAC faces several challenges in managing and protecting Guyana's PAs. One major issue is limited funding, as most of the financial support comes from government contributions and a small endowment from the Protected Areas Trust, which restricts available resources. Additionally, there is insufficient promotion of sustainable forest management, while indigenous communities around the areas face challenges in balancing traditional practices with conservation goals. The absence of formal agreements, zoning plans, and a cohesive governance structure for managing land degradation adds to these challenges. Furthermore, traditional knowledge that helps communities manage their resources is fading, partly due to less interest from younger generations and migration, impacting biodiversity conservation.

Guyana's LCDS has proven to be a success story, driven by effective forest conservation initiatives and strong partnerships with international organizations. As one of the first countries to develop a national REDD+ strategy, Guyana issued the world's first jurisdictional carbon credits under the ART-TREES standard, securing a record US$750 million in VCM sales through 2030. While these funds help address some challenges faced by the PAC, they are insufficient to fully engage indigenous communities in the management and protection of Guyana's PAs. Alternative funding mechanisms need to be explored to enhance these efforts.

Biodiversity credit mechanisms have emerged as a financial tool to support conservation and sustainable land management. Similar to carbon credits, they allow businesses or governments to invest in biodiversity by purchasing credits that fund initiatives like habitat restoration and species protection. These credits help incentivize private sector involvement and generate revenue for large-scale ecosystem restoration.

To achieve this output, the viability of a Biodiversity Credit Mechanism and other financing mechanisms will be assessed through four (4) key steps, as outlined below:

i. A primary concern in establishing a biodiversity credit scheme within an existing jurisdictional carbon credit framework is the risk of double counting, as both schemes may issue credits for similar conservation activities, resulting in overlapping claims. Therefore, it will be essential to assess whether any double counting occurs between the proposed biodiversity credit scheme and the existing jurisdictional REDD+ carbon credit framework.

ii. Determine costs and funding requirements: estimate the overall costs for project implementation and long-term management to identify funding needs and explore potential financial support sources, including biodiversity credits.

iii. Assess potential risks and challenges: identify possible obstacles, risks, and challenges—environmental, social, and economic—that may impact the project's success. This assessment will enable the development of mitigation strategies to address concerns such as credibility and transparency, overvaluation of conservation efforts, and conflicts of interest among stakeholders.

iv. Identify stakeholder engagement opportunities by determining key stakeholders—such as local communities, Indigenous peoples, government agencies, and conservation organizations—along with assessing their interests and potential contributions and establishing plans for ongoing involvement and communication.

Output 1.1.2 Resource assessments across the forest landscape inclusive of an assessment of biodiversity and biodiversity loss

Conducting baseline assessments and establishing a biodiversity MRVS is essential for sustainable management of forests and conservation. These components are critical for tracking ecological changes, informing adaptive management, and fulfilling standards from established biodiversity frameworks.

To achieve this output, baseline assessments and a Biodiversity MRVS are addressed through two (2) distinct activities, as outlined below.

Activity 1.1.2.1. Determine elements of a Guyana biodiversity MRVS based on existing biodiversity standards (e.g. Plan Vivo, Verra's Nature Framework. Gold Standard & Organization for Biodiversity Certificates, rePLANET, South Pole)

Aligning biodiversity MRVS with established standards enhances project credibility, attracts funding, and supports adaptive management. Certified biodiversity improvements appeal to investors interested in measurable co-benefits, while regular monitoring enables continuous refinement of strategies. Involving indigenous communities and other stakeholders fosters local support and ensures long-term sustainability. By closely aligning the MRVS with established standards, projects can demonstrate a measurable impact on biodiversity, achieve certification, and strengthen stakeholder trust, leading to improved ecological outcomes and potential funding avenues.

The project will align the biodiversity MRVS with established standards by first reviewing and selecting those that best fit the project objectives and stakeholder expectations. Comprehensive baseline assessments will be conducted to capture current biodiversity levels, including species populations and habitat conditions. Indicators will be used that are specified by the chosen standard (e.g., Verra's ecosystem health metrics or Plan Vivo's community co-benefits), data consistency will need to be ensured throughout the project. Based on these elements a structured MRVS will be developed, setting precise monitoring protocols, establishing reporting frequencies, and aligning reporting formats with the templates of the selected standard.

Activity 1.1.2.2. Conduct biodiversity baseline assessments for Region 9

The baseline assessments will involve analyzing current biodiversity levels, land use, and ecosystem health; identifying biodiversity threats and assessing local socio-economic conditions; and documenting previous land management practices and their impacts on biodiversity. As a final step, the project will conduct a biodiversity credit assessment, evaluating the potential credits generated from its activities, ensuring compliance with the chosen standard for credit issuance, and developing a monitoring plan to track biodiversity outcomes and maintain transparency.

In summary, the following four (4) sub-activities are identified:

a) Analyze current biodiversity levels, land use, and ecosystem health
b) Identify threats to biodiversity
c) Document past land management practices and their impact on biodiversity
d) Assess the potential biodiversity credits that could be generated from the project's activities

Output 1.1.3 Financing mechanism established to support sustainable management and restoration in the PAs and elsewhere inclusive of improved governance structures that engage IPLCs

Establishment of the financing mechanism will be addressed through three (3) distinct activities, as outlined below.

Activity 1.1.3.1. Determine institutional mechanism and administrative arrangements for operationalization

To determine the institutional mechanism and administrative arrangements for operationalization of the Financing Mechanism, the project will follow these steps:

i. Define the lead agency - key institution or government body that will serve as the focal point for managing the mechanism. The lead agency should have the necessary authority, resources, and capacity to oversee the mechanism.

ii. Create a governance framework for the Biodiversity Credit Mechanism that includes decision-making processes, roles, and responsibilities. This will involve setting up a steering committee and/or advisory board with representatives from key stakeholders, including government bodies, non-government organisations (NGOs), conservation organizations, local communities, and the private sector.

iii. Stakeholders will be engaged early in the process to ensure transparency, inclusion, and effective management. This will include consultations with indigenous communities, local populations, conservation groups, and industry representatives who may be involved in or impacted by biodiversity credit generation.

iv. Outline responsibilities and roles of each stakeholder and agency involved in the mechanism. The lead agency will be responsible for oversight and compliance, but other agencies may focus on MRVS activities, credit issuance, and sales.

v. Define how funds will be managed and invested, how credits will be sold or traded, and the distribution of proceeds. This includes creating operational guidelines for credit issuance, verification procedures, and revenue allocation to the support of sustainable forest management, including capacity development, forest monitoring and enforcement of codes of practices and regulations, along with the continual improvement of the existing plans and forestry related codes of practices and restoration of degraded areas.

vi. Monitor the improvements in management according to the IUCN's Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), and revise investments accordingly.

Output 1.1.4 VCM mechanism explored to financially support mine-site restoration (ARR)

Traditional methods for financing mining site restoration (e.g. government grants, donations, or one-time mining company contributions) often provide limited or short-term resources. ARR carbon credits, however, offer a long-term, recurring revenue stream that can support both initial and ongoing restoration efforts. However, Guyana already has a jurisdictional REDD+ carbon credit framework.

Guyana's jurisdictional REDD+ carbon credit arrangement under ART-TREES reflects its commitment to forest conservation and climate action. ART-TREES, an international standard for jurisdictional emissions reductions, allows Guyana to receive certified carbon credits for emissions reduction across its entire forest area. In 2022, Guyana became the first country to issue ART-TREES-certified credits at the jurisdictional level, positioning it in the global carbon market with high-quality credits that attract buyers interested in verified, large-scale offsets with environmental and social co-benefits.

Carbon credit prices vary: REDD+ credits typically range from US$5-20 per ton of CO_2 (averaging US$8), while ARR credits are usually higher, averaging US$14 but ranging from US$8-30. Market integrity remains a concern, especially after a recent investigation indicated that 90% of Verra's REDD+ credits might not represent genuine reductions, causing an 85% price drop (Carbon Pulse 2023)[11]. ARR credits, however, generally face fewer questions around validity, making them a strong option for financing mining restoration projects.

The LCDS framework suggests potential nesting of project-based REDD+ projects within the national system is allowed. The question is whether this applies to ARR projects as well and, if so, how they can be integrated into the jurisdictional REDD+ framework. Nesting voluntary ARR projects under Guyana's ART-TREES jurisdictional REDD+ framework could enhance credibility, market access, and alignment with national climate goals but would require careful coordination to ensure consistency in MRVS, benefit sharing, and regulatory compliance.

This output will be achieved through the following four (4) activities:

i. Explore options for implementing Voluntary Carbon Market ARR, either by nesting within the existing jurisdictional REDD+ mechanism or through a project-based approach (e.g. private-public partnership).

ii. Conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the ARR project's viability, identify potential risks and challenges, estimate carbon sequestration potential, and ensure alignment with certification standards.

iii. Select a VCM ARR standard and prepare a Project Design Document for the ARR project

iv. Obtain certification through a selected VCM ARR standard.

Outcome: 2.1. Increased stakeholder capacity for and participation in sustainable value chains based on standing forests

Output 2.1.1 Capacity development program on sustainable extraction, production, and marketing of traditional, artisanal, small-scale, NTFP and services implemented.

[11] Carbon Pulse (2023): VCM Report: REDD+ prices claw background, but large gap remains between standard and OTC credits, https://carbon-pulse.com/191565/

The project seeks to reduce deforestation and forest degradation by strengthening value chains for NTFPs, enhancing skills in design, marketing, and exports to promote sustainable livelihoods for indigenous peoples.

NTFPs encompass all forest-derived biological materials, except timber, used by humans, such as fruits, nuts, medicinal plants, resins, and fibers like bamboo and rattan[12]. Developing NTFPs offers communities a pathway to enhance livelihoods through local and export markets with value-added products.

In a preparatory study, five (5) NTFP commodities—honey, peanuts, cassareep[13], cashew, and crabwood oil[14]—were evaluated using a scoring matrix based on criteria such as economic potential, market demand, recent production, and support from government and private sector agencies. Honey and peanuts scored highest, driven by strong market demand and existing government support. While honey is a true NTFP, crabwood oil is the only other true forest-based product, with peanuts, cassareep, and cashew being farmed crops. Crabwood oil scored lowest but holds potential due to its seasonal, forest-based collection, with opportunities for increased market demand.

The following activities are planned to achieve the output:

Activity 2.1.1.1. Conduct climate resilience and disaster risk analysis for gender sensitive value chains[15] for NTFPs. These commodities will include but not be limited to honey, peanuts, crab oil, cassareep and cashew in Region 9:

Climate resilience and disaster risk analysis for gender-sensitive value chains focus on understanding the factors contributing to gender-differentiated vulnerability to climate change and crises. It identifies strategies to enhance adaptive capacity by recognizing gendered roles in agricultural value chains. A key tool for this is the value chain map, which visually represents the flow of products and processes through production to distribution. A gender-sensitive map highlights the division of labour between men and women at each node and identifies barriers that limit women's roles and access to resources. This mapping also makes women's contributions more visible and can inform targeted interventions.

FAO's guidance note[16] on climate resilience and disaster risk analysis for gender-sensitive value chains, along with its Toolkit[17] for integrating climate resilience and gender responsiveness into value chain analysis and market development, will be applied to the five (5) selected commodities in Region 9. The application of these tools will aim to enhance climate resilience while addressing gender disparities in value chains.

[12] Gbedomon, R.C., Aoudji, A., & Vodouhe, F. (2020). A hand note for value chains analysis of Non-Timber Forest Products, in Hand Note for NTFPs scientists: *Approaches and Methods for Monitoring, Assessment and Conservation*; pp 29-41

[13] Cassareep is a thick, dark liquid made from the juice of the bitter cassava *Manihot esculenta* root, often enhanced with spices. It is commonly used as a base for sauces, particularly in the traditional Guyanese dish, pepperpot. In addition to its role as a flavoring and browning agent, cassareep is also valued as a natural preservative. Most cassareep is exported from Guyana and is available in bottled form on the U.S. market

[14] Crabwood oil, also known as crab, carap, or Andiroba oil, is extracted from the seeds of *Carapa guianensis* and is prized for its anti-inflammatory properties, benefiting conditions like eczema and psoriasis. It deeply moisturizes, making it ideal for massage, skincare formulations, and as a carrier oil. The oil, which is light yellow and bitter, is commonly found in informal markets in Guyana and is widely used in Brazil.

[15] Safa Barraza, A. and Berthelin, L. 2022. *Climate resilience and disaster risk analysis for gender-sensitive value chains: A guidance note*. Rome, FAO.

[16] https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc0051en

[17] https://www.fao.org/3/cb0699en/CB0699EN.pdf

Activity 2.1.1.2. Improve the tourism product in Region 9 to increase revenue flows to local communities in Region 9 through promoting the use of locally produced food and handicraft etc.:

To improve tourism and increase local revenue in Region 9, Guyana, FAO's farm-to-table approach can be leveraged by promoting locally sourced food and handicrafts. The model encourages sourcing ingredients and products directly from local farmers and artisans, allowing tourists to experience authentic, regional offerings. For example, integrating traditional dishes made from local produce into eco-tourism tours or creating farm-to-table restaurants can provide farmers with direct economic benefits. Similarly, promoting locally crafted items like pottery and woven goods in tourist shops or as part of cultural experiences can generate sustainable income for artisans. Offering workshops, cooking classes, or farm tours where visitors interact directly with producers can enrich the tourist experience while expanding market opportunities for local goods. Additionally, training local communities in sustainable tourism and marketing practices will help ensure a consistent flow of products to meet tourist demand.

Activity 2.1.1.3. Conduct general capacity building sessions on design, marketing and export of traditional, artisanal, small-scale NTFPs:

These sessions will focus on teaching sustainable practices for the extraction and processing of forest and agricultural products. By improving production and marketing skills, this activity helps local producers increase their competitiveness and reduce environmental impact.

Activity 2.1.1.4. Host national business-to-business (B2B) fora for producer organizations, buyers, and financial institutions:

Organizing B2B forums will facilitate direct connections between local producers and potential buyers or investors, fostering partnerships and access to markets and finance. These forums will focus on traditional, artisanal, and small-scale NTFP producers, enabling them to scale their operations sustainably. Hoteliers (e.g. Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana), supermarket owners and traders, tour operators and travel agents, will be invited to support marketing of sustainably produced NTFPs and tourism products.

Outcome: 2.2. Increased area of land and ecosystems undergoing restoration and sustainably managed

Output 2.2.1 Techniques/methods developed and implemented to restore degraded forest.

Land reclamation and restoration of mined and fire damaged areas are key to Guyana's LCDS 2030. In 2023, the Ministry of Natural Resources launched the *National Forest Restoration Initiative* to restore mined-out, degraded and deforested lands using native tree species. The GFC and the GGMC Environmental Division are jointly leading the initiative with support from a mining company. Mine-site reclamation and closure are legal requirements for all mining operations and are critical to ecosystem restoration or re-establishment. To date, approximately 200,000 ha of forest are available for rehabilitation/reforestation. Mine-site restoration techniques have been piloted since early 2009. Significant progress has been made in land reclamation, with the GGMC developing strong expertise in landscape restoration. The GFC has conducted trials with various tree species and planting methods, including exploring different fertilization techniques.

The primary cost drivers for demonstration sites include site assessments and earthworks for reclamation activities, with preparatory work costing approximately G$5 million per acre (~US$60,000 per km²). External project-based support would greatly enhance the GGMC-GFC's restoration site development

efforts. Additionally, there is a need for dedicated vehicles to transport seedlings between forest locations, seedling stations, and demonstration sites. Community involvement in maintaining tree crops for at least two (2) years post-planting is also crucial for successful stand development.

Fire plays a central role in local livelihoods, culture, and ecosystems, especially in fire-adapted regions like savannas. In the Rupununi, indigenous communities use fire for subsistence farming and cattle grazing, employing controlled patch burning to create natural firebreaks that limit wildfire spread. However, traditional fire management is declining due to shifts in land use, governance, and climate unpredictability, leading to more uncontrolled fires that harm habitats and property.

Fire regimes are changing due to factors such as population growth, permanent settlement patterns, cultural shifts, changes in livelihood practices (e.g. cattle grazing, farming), inappropriate policies, and climate change. The region is experiencing more dry season fires without sufficient late rainy season burns, leading to negative impacts like repeated fires on mountain slopes, forest-to-savannah conversion, degradation of groves near communities, and a decline in local wildlife.

Regional recommendations from the 2017 Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment include providing training in basic fire prevention strategies at both the regional and community levels, equipping communities with firefighting resources and equipment to address regional threats and improving infrastructure and transportation for more effective fire response. In 2019, the REDD+ Integrated Fire Management project in Shulinab focused on prescribed burning and established a fire committee, which received training from Brazilian firefighters. Three (3) fire management workshops were held in the Rupununi in 2023 that provided valuable opportunities for indigenous leaders from the Rupununi, as well as regional and national stakeholders, to share diverse perspectives and experiences on fire management in Guyana.

The following activities are planned to achieve restoration of former mine-sites:

Activity 2.2.1.1. Participatory development of options to subsidise restoration of mined sites informed by desk studies of approaches in the region which utilize conservation funds, green taxes and exploring the potential for private sector engagement through corporate social responsibility.

Participatory development of restoration subsidy options will involve studying regional best practices in using conservation funds, green taxes, and private sector partnerships through corporate social responsibility initiatives. Based on these studies, the project will explore financial mechanisms to subsidize land restoration activities, particularly in mined areas, while engaging stakeholders such as government agencies, communities, and businesses.

Activity 2.2.1.2. Develop Fire Management Plans covering communities in Region 9

Community-led fire management plans play a crucial role in identifying critical and vulnerable areas for intervention, designating zones where controlled burning or fire lines are necessary and areas that should remain untouched. Two (2) areas have been identified; one east of Parishara (3,178 ha of burned and cleared forest) and another west of Shulinab (4,320 ha of forest with slash-and-burn farms and burned areas), totalling 7,498 ha. These plans will outline the optimal timing and seasons for controlled burns, ensuring fires are conducted safely and strategically. They will also include measures for fire prevention, controlled burning, and fire suppression. Building on experience from Shulinab's successful community fire management plan, developed in 2019 under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ project,

these new plans will integrate best practices and community insights to enhance local fire management capacity.

Activity 2.2.1.3. Train and implement Fire Management Plans in Region 9

Wildfire combat in Guyana is new, with not much prior experience. Drip torches and backpack pumps are necessary tools to combat wildfires, while fire monitoring equipment and training of fire brigades are also needed. As part of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ project, a fire brigade was trained in Shulinab by qualified trainers from Mato Grosso State in Brazil. Boa Vista Fire Brigade in Brazil also rendered support. The 2019 training consisted of three (3) days of theory and two (2) days of practical exercises, including casualty salvage, with a strong emphasis on safety, discipline, and clear role assignments within the brigade. Initial timidity transformed into confidence, particularly after receiving personal protection equipment and successfully extinguishing a challenging fire, both of which boosted motivation significantly. A similar training program will be organized for this project, with support from the Boa Vista Fire Brigade and the Forestry Training Center. The decline of traditional fire management, due to factors such as youth disinterest, migration, and the lack of knowledge transfer, will also be addressed as part of this activity.

Activity 2.2.1.4. Restore not less than 358.5 ha of fire damaged, degraded forests with assisted regeneration within Regions 6 and 9:

In fire-prone areas of Regions 6 and 9, efforts will focus on restoring fire-damaged and degraded forests. While natural regeneration typically occurs after a wildfire, some forest species may not regenerate well and could be replaced by invasive grasses. To address this, seedlings of native forest species will be grown or collected locally and nurtured in nurseries before planting. In areas where regeneration is obstructed by invasive vegetation, weeding will be carried out to promote the growth of native species. In Region 9, restoration will take place in two (2) community-based areas totalling 222 ha, located east of the indigenous village of Nappi, near the boundary of the KMPA. In Region 6, the GFC will restore a 136.5-hectare burned forest area called 'Bissaruni River'.

Activity 2.2.1.5. Develop methodologies for the restoration of mined areas informed by reviewing previous trials and best available science:

The GGMC and the University of Guyana have extensive experience in mine-site restoration, particularly through the Land Reclamation Project (2014–2019), which focused on sites like St. Elisabeth (Region 8), Olive Creek and Puruni Landing (Region 7), and Dakoura (Region 10). GGMC has developed expertise in land reclamation, including pond depth determination and basic biological assessments, but comprehensive restoration requires improving soil health by addressing heavy metal contamination, enhancing soil structure, and returning removed topsoil or redistributing fertile soil layers. The GFC has built expertise in species selection, planting techniques, and fertilizer application, though there is room to integrate non-tree crops, grasses, and agroforestry practices. Incorporating these approaches would improve soil quality and resilience, ensuring sustainable outcomes. While detailed records are not fully accessible, valuable insights exist within the three (3) institutions. This project will consolidate this knowledge, refine methodologies, introduce innovative techniques focused on improving soil quality and health to inform future restoration efforts, and monitor vegetation and soil quality recovery in recently restored sites at Olive Creek, Puruni Landing and Dakoura (39.6 ha).

Activity 2.2.1.6. Develop a guideline for the restoration of mined sites and train stakeholders:

A guideline for restoring mined sites will be developed by analyzing best practices from regional and international examples, engaging stakeholders (e.g. mining companies, government agencies, and indigenous communities), and detailing restoration techniques, regulatory compliance, monitoring, and the integration of indigenous knowledge. Stakeholders will be trained through workshops, tailored modules, demonstration sites, and knowledge-sharing platforms to enhance their capacity for effective land restoration and sustainable management.

Activity 2.2.1.7. Restoration of approximately 65 ha of mined areas in KNP, Madhia and Matthews Ridge:

Restoration activities will be implemented based on the strategies outlined in 2.2.1.5 and 2.2.1.6. The GGMC will reclaim 65 ha at St. Elisabeth near Madhia (Region 8), of which 15 ha will be replanted collaboratively by the GFC and local community youth. Four (4) restoration approaches will be tested: replanting with native species, *Acacia* sp., agroforestry with intercropping, and introducing grasses or similar crops. In the KNP (Region 7), a restoration plan will be developed in collaboration with the neighbouring Patimona communities of Chenapau, Karisparu, and Campbell Town. The plan will focus on assisted natural regeneration, aiming to restore the vegetation and provide goods and services that benefit these communities. The total area amounts to 40 ha, of which 25 ha will be restored during the project. In Matthews Ridge (Region 1), the GFC will develop a restoration plan for 40 ha of gold and manganese mining sites, with 25 ha restored over the next four (4) years. The project will provide crucial external support to expand seedling stations, improve transport logistics, and ensure community involvement for the successful development of tree crops.

Output 2.2.2 Agreements established with IPLCs for participatory forest management

Guyana's National Protected Areas System, managed by the PAC, faces challenges due to the lack of formal resource use agreements with IPLCs, especially in Regions 8 and 9. While there are some informal agreements, they are limited in scope and focus mainly on specific subsistence practices rather than comprehensive frameworks for resource use, conservation, and community management. This lack of formal agreements leads to unclear land-use rights, limited collaboration, and potential resource conflicts within protected areas like KNP and Iwokrama Rainforest.

IPLCs depend on these areas for livelihoods, including fishing, hunting, small-scale farming, and NTFP harvesting, yet the absence of clear agreements may result in misunderstandings regarding allowable activities. Formal agreements would clarify roles and responsibilities, establish sustainable resource practices, and support joint decision-making and monitoring. Such agreements could foster better biodiversity stewardship, while balancing PAC’s conservation goals with IPLCs cultural and economic needs, promoting trust and cooperation for more effective protected area management.

The following activities are planned to foster agreements with IPLCs for participatory management:

Activity 2.2.2.1. Identify regional actors for implementation and an entity for management and monitoring to support sustainability of action:

To identify regional actors and establish a sustainable, participatory management and monitoring entity for protected areas, the following steps will be taken:

- Identify and engage IPLCs, regional government agencies, environmental NGOs, and research institutions with existing local influence or expertise in resource management and conservation.

- Form an inclusive group involving representatives from IPLCs, the PAC, regional councils, and local organizations. This entity would oversee participatory planning and decision-making to integrate local needs and conservation goals.
- Develop formalized agreements outlining each stakeholder's roles, rights, and responsibilities to ensure clarity in resource use, conservation practices, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- Implement systems for community-based monitoring and data collection to track ecological health, using IPLC knowledge and regular reporting to support adaptive management.
- Provide training and resources for IPLCs and local organizations in conservation and sustainable resource use, enhancing local skills and increasing the initiative's sustainability.

Activity 2.2.2.2. Develop GIS-based DSS (mapping past and present protection and restoration initiatives):

Effective management of Region 9 and protection of the KMPA urgently requires updated data, real-time monitoring, a comprehensive land degradation and fire management plan, and inclusive governance structures. Without these measures, resource use will remain ad hoc, heightening risks of unsustainable practices and fire hazards that could compromise the region's long-term ecological integrity. FAO's GIS-based DSS uses spatial data to map and analyze degraded areas, identifying key interventions for restoration. Providing training on using this GIS tool for monitoring and planning will educate local communities and authorities on sustainable land management practices and restoration techniques.

Activity 2.2.2.3. Establish sub working committee within the Regional Democratic Council on land degradation under the Conservation Roundtable

The Conservation Roundtable in the Rupununi serves as a collaborative platform dedicated to promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management in the region. It brings together local indigenous communities, government agencies, and NGOs to address shared environmental challenges. Establishing a Land Degradation Sub-Committee within the Roundtable will greatly enhance efforts to monitor, prevent, and restore degraded forests and lands. This dedicated sub-committee will prioritize land degradation issues, foster stronger collaboration among stakeholders, and streamline targeted actions for sustainable land management and restoration.

Activity 2.2.2.4. Develop land degradation response plan for Region 9 communities in the Kanuku Mountain Range.

Despite the Rupununi's significant ecosystem services and productive value, as well as the presence of a Conservation Roundtable that includes indigenous communities in Region 9, there is a notable gap in a cohesive and comprehensive land degradation response plan. The Land Degradation Response Plan will involve engaging local communities and stakeholders to gather knowledge on land degradation, while using FAO's GIS DDS to collect baseline data and identify degradation hotspots. The plan will set measurable restoration goals, select appropriate techniques, and prioritize interventions based on GIS data. The implementation plan will outline roles, resource needs, and timelines, while monitoring progress through GIS tools and community involvement.

Outcome: 3.1 Project implementation based on improved PA management

Output 3.1.1 M&E of the project developed to provide systematized information on measurable, verifiable progress

Activity 3.1.1.1**.** Design and implement the M&E plan (inclusive of agreements reached in Free, Prior and Informed Consent [FPIC] process)

Output 3.1.2 Mid-term review and final evaluation to inform adaptive management

Activity 3.1.2.1. Conduct mid-term review and final evaluation

Outcome: 3.2. Knowledge shared and stakeholder awareness increased

Output 3.2.1 Engagement and Dissemination Strategy of best practices and lessons learned, as well as dissemination of knowledge products.

Activity 3.2.1.1 Communications and awareness raising strategy, including a campaign to increase public knowledge on the impact of wildfires and gold mining on the forest landscape and livelihoods of surrounding communities (PAC to lead with Regional Democratic Council) and to promote awareness and interest from policy makers on financing needs for restoration

This output emphasizes knowledge management to capture and share vital information. It involves empowering local actors, public and private sector representatives, and communities through continuous training and active participation. An Engagement and Dissemination Plan will be developed to identify target audiences and the most effective communication channels, including (local) radio, TV, podcasts, webinars, and websites, to promote conservation achievements and combat illegal activities. Policy briefs will be prepared to inform policymakers about potential strategies, restoration opportunities, and financing needs.

Activity 3.2.1.2. Translate all output documents into not less than three (3) local languages:

To ensure effective knowledge management, lessons learned, management plans, and other key documents will be translated into Wapichan, Makushi, and Patamona languages. Additionally, traditional Wapichan and Makushi fire management system concepts and procedures will be translated into English to enhance broader understanding and application across different stakeholders.

Output 3.2.2. Project results, progresses, and lessons learned systematized, knowledge shared with other countries of the ASL3 Integrated Program and opportunities for complementarity identified.

Activity 3.2.2.1. Participation of personnel from the government in the ASL3 Integrated Program on lessons learned forums:

Knowledge-sharing sessions and exchange visits to neighboring countries will foster regional cooperation. Successful business models with IPLCs will be prioritized for dissemination, along with lessons learned and recommendations for overcoming challenges. Partnerships with the private sector will also be documented, and a manual will be created to facilitate the adoption of best practices. Regional exchanges and cooperation will be encouraged through the GEF-8 Critical Forest Biomes Program and other platforms, including REDPARQUES, to share lessons and identify complementary interventions across Amazonian countries.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Table 1 below summarizes how **key stakeholders** will contribute to implementing the project, their respective roles and how they will benefit from the project to ensure that the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits will be enduring.

Table 1. Summary of the project's key stakeholders contributions and expected benefits

Name of institution	Role in project	Expected benefits
EPA	• Executing Agency • Chair of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) • Project co-financier	• Gain additional skills in managing climate financed projects (Core Indicator 11) • Extended network to support conservation of forests (nationally and regionally) (Core Indicator 11)
GGMC	• Provides technical advice and basic information • Member of the PSC • Project co-financier	• Gain additional skills in restoration and reclamation of mined out areas (Core Indicators 1, 3, 4 and 6) • Extended network to support conservation of mined out areas (Core Indicator 11)
PAC	• Provides technical advice and basic information • Member of the PSC • Project co-financier	• Gain additional skills in PAs management (Core Indicators 1, 3, 4 and 6) • Extended network to support PAs management (Core Indicator 11)
National Tashaos Council (NTC)	• Member of the PSC • Chair of the Region 9 Subcommittee • Provides technical advice and basic information	• Gain additional skills in fire management and value chain development (Core Indicators 1, 3, 4, 6 and 11) • Extended network to support fire management and value chain development (Core Indicator 11) • Gain additional skills in managing climate financed projects (Core Indicator 11)
GFC	• Member of the PSC • Provides technical advice and basic information • Project co-financier	• Gain additional skills reafforestation (Core Indicators 1, 3, 4 and 6) • Extended network to support reafforestation (Core Indicator 11)
Department of Environment and Climate Change (DOECC), Office of the President	• Provides technical advice and basic information on the biodiversity trading mechanism	• Gain additional options for financing conservation (Core Indicator 1) • Feedback on operational procedures supporting financing mechanisms (Core Indicator 11) • Extended network to support options for financing conservation (Core Indicator 11)

Name of institution	Role in project	Expected benefits
Guyana Gold Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA)	• Engagement for the development of guidelines for the restoration of mined out areas, under component 2	• Gain additional skills and expertise for options on restoration of mined out areas (Core Indicators 1, 3, 4, 6 and 11) • Extended network to support options for the restoration mined out areas (Core Indicator 11)

PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

Table 2 below summarises how **Private Sector** will be engaged to transform the markets and economic systems required to tackle the key drivers of environmental degradation and to reverse unsustainable trends.

Table 2. Summary of the expected provate sector engagement for the project

Name of institution	Expected engagement
GGDMA	Will be included in the teams to implement restoration and reclamation of mined out areas so that the lessons learnt can be adopted into day-to-day operations of miners.
Forestry Product Development and Marketing Council Incorporated	Invited to participate in value chain development activities under the project, to encourage the adoption of sustainable practices among forest users.
Hoteliers (e.g. Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana), supermarket owners and traders	Invited to attend the B2B forum to support marketing of sustainably produces NTFP and tourism products
Co-operatives and credit unions	Invited to work with the project team to build capacity in IPLCs to improve access to finance to support sustainable practices in the forest, specifically to encourage record keeping and establishment of credit history among users of forest resources.
Tour operators and travel agents	Engaged to promote tours that seek to preserve the culture of the IPLCs and support sustainable forest management

INNOVATION & TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, POLICY COHERENCE AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Innovation & transformative change

The project aims to drive transformative change by introducing integrated approaches to biodiversity conservation, land restoration, and sustainable livelihoods. Scaling up can be achieved by demonstrating successful practices, such as fire management plans, community-driven restoration models, and

innovative financing mechanisms (e.g. conservation funds or green taxes). These models can then be replicated or adapted across other regions in Guyana, leveraging regional platforms like the Conservation Roundtable to share results and mobilize partnerships. The use of geospatial technologies such as a GIS-based DSS and real-time monitoring tools, like the "Satellites on Fire" app, ensures that innovative methods become institutionalized within government agencies and communities, supporting long-term sustainability.

Knowledge management

The project will build on existing knowledge by utilizing baseline data, tools, and practices from previous and ongoing initiatives such as the previous GGMC-led Land Reclamation Project, the present GGMC/GFC National Forest Restoration Initiative, the WWF-GEF Securing a living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Southern Guyana project, the Strengthening the Enabling Framework for Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Mercury Reduction Project (GEF-6), the government-led Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Development and Management Project, the FAO-GEF Caribbean SIDS Multicountry Soil Management Initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and Climate-Resilient Food Systems project, and the European Union-funded Sustainable Forest Livelihoods for Communities in Guyana and Suriname programme and Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme implemented across 15 countries of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States. New knowledge will be generated through geospatial mapping, biodiversity assessments, and community-based and government-led restoration efforts. This knowledge will be captured through databases, interactive GIS platforms, and periodic reports. The project will share knowledge with stakeholders through workshops, training programs, and online platforms, ensuring accessibility for future projects. An effective Engagement and Dissemination Strategy to share best practices, insights, and knowledge products and knowledge exchange with other countries in the ASL3 Integrated Program will enhance dissemination, scaling the lessons learned and best practices to other regions of Guyana and beyond.

Policy coherence

The project will strengthen national policies by aligning conservation and mining policies to promote sustainable land use and biodiversity protection. For instance, it will support the development of practical guidelines for mined-site restoration and integrate fire management into broader land-use plans. By working with agencies like GGMC, GFC, PAC and NTC, the project will encourage policy alignment across sectors, creating a coherent framework for sustainable development. These efforts will also contribute to Guyana's international commitments, including REDD+ goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Capacity development

The project's success depends heavily on strengthening the capacities of local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders. Through innovative financing mechanisms, GEF and co-financing, the project will deliver targeted training in areas such as sustainable land-use planning, fire prevention and suppression, mine-site restoration techniques, and geospatial tool use. Capacity-building efforts will include practical workshops, demonstration sites, and tailored modules for IPLCs. Institutional capacities will be enhanced by supporting agencies like the PAC, GGMC, and GFC with the resources and technical expertise needed for former mine and fire degraded site restoration, effective governance and monitoring. These efforts ensure long-term sustainability and scalability of project outcomes.

B1. Institutional Arrangement and coordination with other initiatives and projects

The Environmental Protection Agency- Guyana (EPA) will act as the lead executing agency and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement (OPA) signed with FAO[18]. As Operational Partnership (OP) of the project, the EPA is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements.

The project organization structure is as follows:

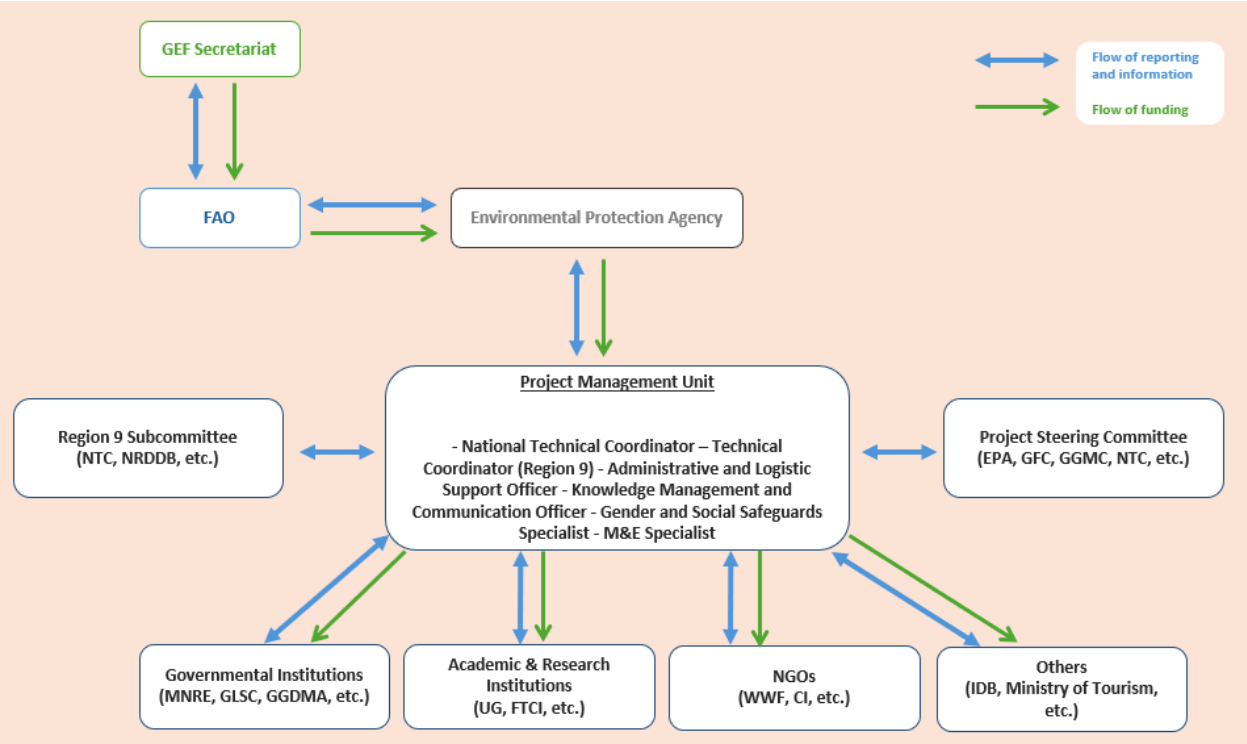


Figure 2: Organizational chart of the Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management Project

The EPA will house the Project Management Unit (PMU) and will chair the PSC which will be the main governing body of the project. The PSC will approve Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWP/B) on a yearly basis and will provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Team and to all executing partners.

The PSC will be comprised of representatives from EPA, GGMC, NTC, GFC and FAO. The members of the PSC will each assume the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. Hence, the project will have a Focal Point in each concerned institution. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will: (i) technically oversee activities in their sector; (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and links

[18] *It should be noted that the identified Operational Partner(s) may change due to FAO internal due diligence and agreement procedures if not yet been concluded at the time of submission of the CEO Endorsement Request*

between the project activities and the work plan of their agency; and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project. The work of the PSC will be supported by a Region 9 Subcommittee to contribute to effective implementation and will be constituted of representatives IPLCs and other Partners involved in implementing projects in Region 9 where synergies can lead to greater positive impacts.

The FAO will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy three (3) different actors within the organization to support the project (see Annex M for details):

- The Budget Holder (BH), which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day-to-day project execution
- The Lead Technical Officer(s) (LTO), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the PSC
- The Funding Liaison Officer(s) (FLO) and the GEF Technical Officers (GTO) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being designed and carried out in accordance with FAO and GEF minimum fiduciary and technical standards.

FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, will include:

- Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO
- Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, OPA(s) and other rules and procedures of FAO
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned
- Conduct at least one (1) supervision mission per year
- Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress
- Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

Will the GEF Implementing Agency play an execution role on this project?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

The investment of 181,900 USD will enable capacity building using specific tools and approaches on value chain development, wildfire management and the development of a GIS-based DSS. This project will benefit from the expertise and lessons learned with the assistance of the FAO. The FAO has developed a sustainable food value chain framework and associated tools and guidelines for integrating climate resilience and gender responsiveness into value chain analysis and market development. FAO has long had a focus on wildfire management and been one of the international organizations facilitating the development of a comprehensive approach for integrated fire management. In the Caribbean FAO has worked for over 30 years to improve wildfire management through regional forums and has been able to incorporate contextual issues into guidance to beneficiary countries. Finally, FAO is one (1) of the key partners and serves on the Steering Committee of the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies and has implemented the DSS in different countries to support them in informed decision-making.

Cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects

The project will collaborate with several ongoing national, regional and global GEF and non-GEF initiatives, building on their achievements and ownership:

- WWF-GEF **Securing a living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Southern Guyana** project, launched in April 2024 under the ASL2 – GEF-7 (USD 5.2 million) and run by the EPA, aims to protect and enhance biodiversity through improved landscape connectivity in the southern regions of Guyana, with a focus on strengthening the management of PAs. The proposed project will build upon the advances achieved by the ASL2, particularly by enhancing financing towards the out scaling of sustainable management and improved governance of PA's, integrating community-led monitoring systems and enhancing data sharing for biodiversity conservation.
- The government-led **Strengthening the Enabling Framework for Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Mercury Reduction Project** (GEF-6; 2021-2027; USD 4.5 million), focuses on reducing mercury pollution from small- and medium-scale gold mining while protecting biodiversity and improving livelihoods. Key outcomes include strengthening regulatory frameworks, improving institutional capacity, adopting environmentally responsible mining practices, and facilitating knowledge-sharing. Specific achievements include improved forest management in mining districts, reduced mercury use, and restoration of degraded lands. The proposed project can build on baseline data from the GEF-6 project on forest restoration and expand on the GEF-6 project's efforts by developing practical guidelines for mine site restoration.
- The government-led **Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Development and Management Project**, funded by the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (2018-2025; USD 14.8 million), focuses on strengthening the GLSC in land governance, planning, and restoration. Its key objectives include enhancing geospatial systems, land administration, and sustainable land management through community-driven land use planning and pilot reclamation measures. The proposed project will build on these efforts by collaborating with GLSC to enhance land monitoring

systems and implementing participatory land management approaches, especially through the GIS-based DSS.

- The **Frankfurt Zoological Society** (via a Memorandum of Understanding 12/2022) supports the PAC by training rangers, overseeing the construction of field posts, organizing patrols, and using satellite data for detecting illegal activities in the Kanuku Mountains. The proposed project could expand on this by providing advanced training in new technologies like GIS tools and expanding the use of satellite data to enhance decision-making and monitoring efforts.
- The PAC is piloting the use of an app named **Satellites on Fire**. The Satellites on Fire app combines artifical intelligence and satellite data to detect, monitor, and alert wildfire risks in near real-time, updating every 20 minutes. It uses artifical intelligence to analyze current data against historical imagery, enabling early detection of small fires for quicker response. Designed for wildfire management, the app provides alerts with details on location, size, and intensity, integrating local weather and infrastructure data to support decision-making. The proposed project will assess integrating this technology into wildfire management planning and fire brigade training.
- The **Sustainable Forest Livelihoods for Communities in Guyana and Suriname programme** (2023-2027; EUR 10 million), funded by the European Union and executed by WWF Guianas, promotes sustainable and equitable income-generating activities and financial mechanisms in Guyana's Regions 2, 9, and 10. The proposed project can complement the EU programme by enhancing capacity-building for sustainable forest-based value chains that are not considered in the EU programme, integrating advanced geospatial tools for land-use planning and monitoring, and supporting financial mechanisms for conservation and livelihoods through the proposed biodiversity credit or other financial mechanism.

B.2 Table on Core Indicators

Core Indicators	Expected at CEO endorsement
Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (ha)	3,178 ha with improved management strategies scaled out to additional 1,441,557 ha
Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management (ha)	
Indicator 3 Area of **land and ecosystems under restoration** (hectare)	423.5 ha
Indicator 4 Area of **landscapes under improved practices** (ha; excluding protected areas	4,359.6 ha
Indicator 5 Area of **marine habitat under improved practices** (ha, excluding protected areas)	
Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric ton of CO_2e)	2,878,794 tCO2e
Indicator 7 Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management (count)	
Indicator 8 Globally over-exploited **marine fisheries** moved to more sustainable levels (metric tons)	
Indicator 9 Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (metric ton of toxic chemicals reduced)	
Indicator 10 Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (gram of toxic equivalent gTEQ)	

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments **disaggregated by sex** (count)	32,800 beneficiaries: 23,110 men, 9,690 women

Core Indicator 1: the project will directly improve management of 3,178 ha of PAs and foresees specific mechanisms to enable the out scaling of the improved management strategies to an additional 1,441,557 ha, to cover the whole extension of the PAs considered under the project (1,444,735 ha). Such mechanisms consist of the innovative financial mechanisms under component 1, the sustainable livelihood strategies enabled by component 2 and the increased engagement and knowledge provided by component 3. The current Core Indicator 1 figure is lower than the one endorsed at PIF stage (1,816,932 ha), as a result of the exclusion of the Iwokrama Forest PA from this project, because it will be considered under a different funding window.

Core Indicator 3: a total 423.5 ha will be directly restored by the project activities in Mahdia (15 ha will be reclaimed, soils improved and replanted), Kaieteur National Park (25 ha under community-based assisted natural regeneration), Bissaruni (136.5 ha through assisted natural regeneration), Matthews Ridge (25 ha with soil improvement practices and replanting) and Parishara/Nappi (222 ha, through assisted natural regeneration). This is a reduction of 276.5 ha compared to PIF's 700 ha, which was decided after a more in depth assessment of the execution capacity of the OP in relation to the project duration and to be realistically adjusted to the available budget for restoration activities. Further, restoration plans will be prepared for additional 40 ha (15 ha in Kaieteur, 10 ha in Mahdia, and 15 ha in Matthew's Ridge) although they have not been accounted for in Core Indicator 3 calculations, because the plans are expected to be implemented after the project end date.

Core Indicator 4: a total of 4,359.6 ha of forests outside of PAs will be under improved management. This large increase in area compared to the PIF expectations responds to the nature of the activities that will be implemented, which include a fire management plan in 4,320 ha in the Shulinab area where forest is currently being used for agriculture (including slash and burn practices). An additional 39.6 ha are included in Core Indicator 4, corresponding to previously restored areas that will be subject to monitoring in Dakoura, Olive Creek and Puruni Landing.

Core Indicator 6: the restoration of 423.5 ha of forests (from Core Indicator 3) is expected to sequester 307,606 tCO2e, while improved management of 3,178 ha of PAs (Core Indicator 1) and 4,320 ha outside of PAs (Core Indicator 4 minus 39.6 ha where only monitoring activities will be done) are expected to result in a reduction of 369,680 and 496,200 tCO2e, respectively, 30 years after the start of the project (NEXT-tool time series). By the end of the project in 2030, 97,021 tCO2 of emissions will have been reduced/avoided, and a total of 2,878,794 tCO2e by the end of the 20-year accounting period in 2044. This represents an increase compared to the PIF-stage estimate of 2,182,841 tCO2e, primarily due to the larger area now considered for fire management plans in and outside PAs (Core Indicators 1 and 4). Of the total GHG emissions avoided/reduced, 939,420 tCO2e is attributed to direct project actions, while 1,939,374 tCO2e is due to indirect effects. The indirect effects were calculated conservatively, considering only biomass regrowth in currently degraded areas. Potential reduction in deforestation as a result of improved management of 1,444,735 ha of PAs after the project end date is not accounted for. At a deforestation rate of 0.05 percent, consistent with Guyana's 2010-2023 average deforestation rate, an estimated 18,586 ha of forests could be lost in PAs in the period 2030-2055, without the project, translating into an additional 8.2 million tCO2e that the project could help to avoid. These potential gains are not included in Core Indicator 6 calculations, indicating that the presented carbon balance represents the lower limit of the project's climate change mitigation potential.

Core indicator 11: At least 32,800 individuals (9,690 women) will be directly benefited from project activities through capacity development actions (all project components), through the impacts of improved management and enhanced ecosystem services as a result of restoration activities (component 2), and by diversified and more resilient livelihoods (component 2).

GEF8_Core_Indicator_ worksheet_ASL3-GUY.:	LDCF_SCCF Core Indicators_SubIndic:	GEF7-BD-TrackingTo ol-Protected%20Area‘

B.3 Key Risks

Risk management is a coordinated set of activities to direct and control an organization with regard to risk. It comprises a structured, methodical approach to identifying and managing risks for the achievement of objectives. The project risk log will support monitoring risks and risk mitigation actions throughout implementation. It focuses on both external risks to the project and on the identified environmental and social standards (ESS) from the project. ESS specific risks are elaborated in further detail in Annex F.

Risk Categories	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate[19]	Moderate	At country level, observed climate hazards in the present are likely to intensify and gain in frequency into the future under a high emission scenario. As a result, Guyana and vulnerable socioeconomic groups therein are expected to be adversely exposed and affected by increasing extreme weather events. The average daily minimum temperature showed a maximum increase of about 0.84°C in the southern area of Region 9 and the lowest increase of about 0.54°C in the northern area of Region 8, from a baseline of 22.2°C, during the 1979-2019 period. The average daily maximum temperatures increased by a maximum of 0.70°C in the central area of Region 9 and by a minimum of 0.51°C in the northern area of Region 8 from a baseline of 31.5°C during the 1979-2019 period. The project design will ensure that these factors are considered in the scheduling of project activities under component 2, to reduce exposure to heat, and the selection of practices will include the minimization of vulnerability to site-specific climate risk. Further, closer engagement with local stakeholders will be promoted to increase preparedness. The activities under component 2 will benefit from increased engagement with civil society organisations (CSOs), academia and government institutions to ensure that projects and value chain improvement activities consider climate risk and incorporate

[19] Climate Risk Toolbox. Guiding material for climate risk screening.

Risk Categories	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
		adaptation and mitigation measures according to their specificities. Finally, Component 1 explores options to provide financing for restoration which would fund individuals and/or communities to undertake actions to increase the provision of ecosystem services. There are multiple adaptation and mitigation benefits from these financing mechanisms including: promoting carbon sequestration and limiting GHG emissions; preserving natural resources, wildlife, and biodiversity; reducing soil erosion; generating income from both the profit for the environmental services and the market of the final products; regulating climate and improving water quality; reducing risk of fire; and generating employment.
Environment and Social[20]	Moderate	Marginalized groups, including the elderly, women, children, and remote farming communities, are typically the most vulnerable groups to climate-related hazards in Guyana. The country ranked 122 out of 160 in the United Nations Development Program's Gender Inequality Index in 2017, in comparison, Belize and Suriname are ranked at 89 and 99 respectively on this index. Approximately 28% of households in Guyana are headed by women, placing them at greater risk of disaster impacts. Women also make up over 50% of the agricultural workforce, meaning their incomes, livelihoods, and food security are particularly vulnerable to floods and droughts. Indigenous women face even greater challenges due to their strong dependence on natural resources for both reproductive and productive tasks, such as securing water, food, and fuel, coupled with limited mobility. Poverty, which is worsened by disasters, disproportionately affects women—especially in the indigenous communities. Key factors accounting for the differences between women's and men's vulnerability to climate change risks include gender-based differences in time use, access to assets and credit, treatment by formal institutions, which can constrain women's opportunities, limited access to policy discussions and decision making, and a lack of sex-disaggregated data for policy change. The Environmental and Social Safeguard Plan and the Gender Action Plan for the project were developed during the project design stage which sought to identify gaps in on going activities and proposed activities. Special attention will be paid to ensuring that social and cultural barriers do not prevent women and vulnerable groups from effectively participating in the project. The representation of women, youth and other vulnerable groups will be emphasized when selecting participants in project activities and training and capacity development strategies will be specifically designed to enable and facilitate women, youth and other vulnerable groups engagement.

[20] As per the Environmental and Social Risk screening checklist in FPMIS

Risk Categories	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
Political and Governance	Low	General elections are due in Guyana by November 2025. Although the declaration of the 2020 elections was protracted and included several court decisions, the transition of power was peaceful. However, changes in government priorities are possible and this may impact support for the project and the adoption of the procedures and policies. The project's mitigation strategy consists of an increased engagement with the political sector throughout project formulation and execution phases, fostering dialogue and consensus, and advocating for project goals to maintain priority status and mitigate the impact of potential political transitions on project continuity and effectiveness.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	Guyana's LCDS 2030 emphasizes sustainable, low-carbon development, leveraging the country's natural wealth, including its biodiversity, forests, minerals, and water resources, to improve the quality of life for all Guyanese. The strategy promotes efficient resource use, resilience, and low-carbon economic growth. In the mining sector, the LCDS 2030 objective is to promote greener, safer mining practices that minimize environmental and social impacts, reduce waste, and ensure timely rehabilitation of degraded sites for productive or recreational purposes. The scope of the project has been aligned with this policy and has been agreed with the relevant stakeholders. It focuses on a selected number of barriers to achieve results without putting undue pressure on the existing government institutions and IPLCs. The approach contributes to the sustainability of project results by building on ongoing and planned interventions of key stakeholders and improving expertise and skills of key stakeholders.
Technological	Low	The project has a strong technical focus, investing in establishing financing mechanisms and strengthening knowledge and skills for restoration and fire management. There is the potential risk of user resistance and low buy-in for the implementation of new technical solutions. These risks are not novel when it comes to the introduction of new technical solutions. To mitigate these risks, the project will leverage the technical expertise of the FAO and best practices from existing and past projects and encourage adoption through the project's communication strategy.
Financial and Business Model	Low	Macroeconomic risks such as inflation may impact the cost of the project during implementation. To mitigate this risk, the FAO has a competent financial management and procurement system that is guided by the FAO regulations and built on the principles of "best value for money, fairness, transparency, economy and effectiveness." As such, inflationary pressures will be managed via this system to ensure that the best value

Risk Categories	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
		is sought for goods and services and that compliance is maintained.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	Guyana has an extensive history of forest conservation and has technical expertise and experience in the management of the forest landscape. Technicians and IPLCs have indicated a willingness to develop additional capacities. The established framework is challenged to manage the present emerging issues. The project allocates a considerable portion of the budget to building capacity through several approaches. These include presenting feasible options for funding for restoration, developing livelihood opportunities, increasing skills and knowledge in sustainable extraction, improving production and marketing of commodities and strengthening institutional networks to support restoration.
Fiduciary	Low	While there is significant capacity in Guyana, the project team will conduct a fiduciary assessment of the project executing entity in line with FAO's due diligence.
Stakeholder Engagement	Low	The Government of Guyana's LCDS 2030 was formulated through an extensive consultative process strengthening the precedence for stakeholder engagement in achieving national development goals. In line with this approach, the project includes actions to empower government entities to better undertake their mandates and collaborate with IPLCs, NGOs, private sector and community groups to participate in the sustainable management of the forest landscape Governmental stakeholders buy-in will be maintained through strategic and periodic awareness-raising and communication to key decision-makers including parliamentarians, and through carefully crafted messages to targeted audiences at the national level. In terms of engagement, the FAO has extensive experience in working with many of the main government partners, including in other ongoing FAO-GEF initiatives, which will facilitate continued political and institutional engagement in the project during implementation. The establishment of the PSC during the project inception phase will also ensure participation, ownership and engagement of key partners and maintain attention on the project. Key stakeholders will actively support the project activities through the establishment and maintenance of partnerships managed by the PMU. A project stakeholder engagement plan developed during the project design stage will be implemented to ensure effective, coherent and equitable stakeholder coordination. Addressing the issues of particular concern to stakeholders and demonstrating the socio-economic benefits will generate collective engagement among key stakeholders. The establishment of a PSC during the

Risk Categories	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
		inception phase will also support coordination and continued participation of the key partners. An effective Engagement and Dissemination Strategy will also support stakeholder engagement and coordination.
Other	< Select rating >	
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The *Context Risk Dimension* is the most significant dimension of the project. This proposal is designed to be executed in an area with acute climate risk and project design elements have been included to mitigate the impacts on project activities and subsequent project results. In addition, marginalized groups, including the elderly, women, children, and remote farming communities, are typically the most vulnerable groups to climate-related hazards in Guyana. Cultural norms of IPLCs and rural communities also require attention. A ESMP plan has been drafted to ensure that vulnerable groups and individuals are safeguarded from project-related environmental and social impacts. The remaining dimensions – Innovation and Execution are low. However, all aspects will be re-evaluated during project mobilization and monitored during the life of the project.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

The "Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management" project aligns fully with the **GEF-8 Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program** in its aim to maintain the integrity of globally important and critical tropical primary forests, which will also maximize multiple global environment benefits, notably related to carbon and biodiversity. The project will improve the management and protection of PAs by implementing innovative financing and governance mechanisms such as a Biodiversity Credits Mechanism, which is designed to fund restoration and conservation initiatives in collaboration with IPLCs (component 1). The project will also enhance artisanal and small-scale NTFP value chains by improving design, marketing, and export skills to support local livelihoods while reducing deforestation and promote the restoration of approximately 7,921.5 ha of lands degraded by artisanal gold mining and wildfires (component 2). Component 3 of the project will focus on an engagement and dissemination strategy to share best practices, insights, and knowledge products. The project will also facilitate knowledge exchange with other countries in the ASL3 Integrated Program and identify opportunities for complementary initiatives.

Guyana's LCDS 2030 promotes efficient resource use, resilience, and low-carbon economic growth. In the mining sector, the LCDS 2030 objective is to promote greener, safer mining practices that minimize environmental and social impacts, reduce waste, and ensure timely rehabilitation of degraded sites for productive or recreational purposes. The scope of the project has been aligned with this strategy and focuses on a selected number of barriers to achieve results without putting undue pressure on the existing government institutions and IPLCs. Further, the project can build on the annual deforestation and forest degradation monitoring being conducted towards Guyana's low-carbon and REDD+ goals by: 1) Integrating MRVS data into geospatial tools for land-use planning, restoration, and conservation; 2) Supporting capacity building for local stakeholders and Indigenous communities using GFC's monitoring expertise; and 3) Leveraging MRVS data to establish biodiversity baselines.

The project outcomes will make progress towards other policies/laws, including the LCDS 2030, Revised National Forest Policy Statement 2018, National Action Plan to Combat Land Degradation, Guyana's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, National Forest Plan 2018, Guyana's Revised Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, Forests Act 2009 (No. 6 of 2009), Protected Areas Act 2011 (No. 14 of 2011), Environmental Protection Act (Chapter 20:05) and Equal Rights Act No. 19 of 1990

At the international level, Guyana has ratified several international Multilateral Environmental Agreements, which the proposed project will make progress towards the relevant commitments and responsibilities, including but not limited to, the Convention on Biological Diversity, Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity framework: contributing to targets 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 11, 20, 21, 22 and 23, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: commitment to sustainable forest management; strengthen its support for indigenous communities as they continue the stewardship of their lands and inter alia the benefits that accrue from any REDD+ activities from these lands; implement policies measures, and incentive programmes, to engender broader participation of civil society and the private sector in actions to avoid deforestation and forest degradation and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification: National Land Degradation Neutrality Targets to have 80,000 ha under sustainable forest management and restoration and 500,000 ha of land under improved land productivity goals, by 2030.

Alignment to FAO Strategic framework, SDGs and Country Programming Framework

The project is aligned to SDGs targets:

- 1.5 - By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
- 5.5 - Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- 8.3 - Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
- 12.2 - By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- 13.1 - Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- 13.2 - Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- 15.2 - By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- 15.3 - By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
- 15.5 – Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
- 15.9 – By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
- 15.a – Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
- 15.b - Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

The proposed project aligns well with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, and is consistent with the following Programme Priority Areas:

- Organizational Outcome BE1: Climate change mitigating and adapted agri-food systems
- Organizational Outcome BE 2: Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture
- Organizational Outcome BE 3: Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture

The project is consistent also with MSDCF Outcome 6: Caribbean countries manage natural resources and ecosystems to strengthen their resilience and enhance the resilience and prosperity of the people and communities that depend on them and CPF Output 5.1.1: National agencies, hinterland and rural organizations including women and youth have improved capacities for sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries, hinterland and rural development and to effectively respond to and increase resilience against future disasters, emergencies, and climate change.

The project also aligns with Regional Priorities: RP 3: Sustainable management of natural resources and adaptation to climate change.

Lessons learned from past projects

The FAO Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Programme phase III (GCP /GLO/397/EC), supported governments and local stakeholders in various countries including Guyana to implement projects that improve forest governance, clarified legality of timber trade and support increased participation from private sector organizations. The project closed in 2022 and provided valuable lessons on stakeholder engagement.

The project increased the capacity of the private sector to participate in the production, marketing and trade of legal timber. The project findings revealed that transparency and government accountability had slightly or moderately improved in Guyana since the voluntary partnership agreement implementation and that the voluntary partnership agreement had slightly to moderately improved the technical capacities of micro, small and medium enterprises and forest operators to comply with the law and regulations in Guyana. This was largely attributed to the special attention paid to developing and maintaining a long-term, comprehensive and holistic "ecosystem of support" by engaging government, private sector and CSOs partners in micro, small and medium enterprises support.

Another lesson learnt from the project was that the development and management of timber legality verification systems require the establishment of multistakeholder and multisectoral structures or platforms. These longer-term institutional arrangements can be instrumental in initiating or maintaining progress towards more fundamental legal reform. Their institutionalized nature also allows them to take advantage of "windows of opportunity" in government regulatory reform. To ensure that these structures can meaningfully contribute to legal reform processes, there is a need to strengthen the technical capacity and legal knowledge of all stakeholders. The lessons learnt showed that ensuring the broad and equal participation of marginalized stakeholders, or those most likely to be affected by changes to the legal framework in capacity building targeted at increasing knowledge and skills, improves the enabling environment for changes in policy and practice.

The project findings also showed that the voluntary partnership agreement improved stakeholder dialogue and greater consultation among the different actors involved in the voluntary partnership agreement process. This highlighted that effective stakeholder consultation, based on thorough stakeholder mapping, helps to ensure broader understanding and support, thereby strengthening and establishing networks to support positive change.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

☒Yes

☐No (*If –and only if— NO is selected, a pop-up field should open for the Agency to provide an explanation*)

1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?

☐Yes ☒ No

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

☐ Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources.
☒ Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or
☒ Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

2) Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

☒Yes ☐ No ☐ To be determined

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes have been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement.

☒Yes ☐ No

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

☐ Consulted only;

☐ Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

☒ Co-financier;

☒ Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;

☐ Executor or co-executor;

☐ Other (Please explain)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

☒Yes ☐ No

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B “project description”?

☒Yes ☐ No

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

E.1 Knowledge management and Communication[21]

Please confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided. This includes budget for linking with and participation in knowledge exchange activities organized through the coordination platform.

☒Yes ☐ No

Knowledge management is a dynamic and collaborative process that involves various stakeholders, taking into account the unique complexity of the Amazon region, where the aim is to balance economic development with environmental preservation and respect for indigenous communities. Key approaches to consider are: incorporating indigenous knowledge, recognizing and respecting the traditional knowledge of IPLCs, establishing mechanisms to incorporate indigenous wisdom in decision-making and project planning, considering interdisciplinary collaboration, fostering effective communication among experts from different fields to improve comprehensive understanding of challenges and solutions, creating communication and collaboration platforms for continuous learning, understanding, and respecting the cultural diversity of the region. Additionally, the use of advanced technologies (data analysis and remote sensing), participatory environmental monitoring, resilience and planning should be considered, taking into account long-term scenarios and developing strategies that promote resilience to potential environmental and social changes in the region.

The global platform and regional interactions within the framework of the Parent Program strategy (ASL3) will include activities such as: information exchange, sharing progress and lessons learned, capacity building, planning, and prioritizing joint actions. These activities will be conducted at the Annual Conference with Amazonian countries, and other activities such as plenary meetings, working groups, prioritization exercises, and field visits will also be considered within the framework of the ASL3 program.

The project will apply FAO's Knowledge Management strategy, promoting continuous learning, documentation and information generation, systematization, best practices, and lessons learned as a way to support the sustainability and scaling up of results, as well as visibility strategies for capacity development and local and regional policy advocacy (Table 3).

Table 3. Schedule and budget for the knowledge management and communication activities

Activity	Description	Time (years)				Estimated budget (USD)
		1	2	3	4	
Outcome 3.2: Improved coordination and synergies among	Knowledge Management and Communication Officer					14,400
	Communicating and promoting financial mechanisms					50,000

[21] Please see GEF/C.48/07/Rev.01, GEF Knowledge Management Approach, June 2015, for guidance on what this should include

Activity	Description	Time (years) 1	2	3	4	Estimated budget (USD)
development partners and other stakeholders to achieve sustainability and scalability of project results Output 3.2.1: Engagement and Dissemination Strategy of best practices and lessons learned, as well as dissemination of knowledge products	Communication and Awareness Strategy campaign					50,000
	Technical Coordinator (Region 9)					32,000
	Translator (co-financing contribution by PAC)					100,000
	M&E Specialist					15,625
	Local travel					4,995
	Participation of personnel in ASL3 IP on lessons learned forums (international travel)					48,800
	Publications					10,000
Total budget (USD)						**325,820**
Key deliverables						
1. *M&E (M&E) Plan (inclusive of agreements reached in FPIC process)* This M&E Plan will guide tracking and assessing the results of interventions throughout the life of the project. Key Performance Indicators will be selected via a participatory process and will include elements for changes in knowledge, practices, gender sensitization and FPIC. Dissemination reports on knowledge products, evaluation reports on activities, PPRs and field visits conducted by FAO will inform adaptive management.						
2. *Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) Report* KAP surveys will be conducted for target audiences to inform the design of capacity building and awareness raising for financing mechanisms, restoration and reclamation and value chain development. The selection of stakeholders will be informed through stakeholder identification and analysis building on the initial analysis conducted through project design. Surveys will be repeated through project closure to document the effect of implemented actions.						
3. *Engagement and Dissemination strategy* Informed by the KAP survey, the Strategy will include products and pathways to influence behavior change. Translation of selected products will be done with the PAC to tribal languages.						

Activity	Description	Time (years)				Estimated budget (USD)
		1	2	3	4	
4. *Knowledge products (guidelines, policy briefs, WhatsApp blast, radio advertisements, flyers and newsletters)*						

E.2 Socio-economic Benefits and Decent Rural Employment[22]

In the project intervention area, entrepreneurial activities will be supported, focusing on agricultural, forestry, ecotourism, and artisanal activities. Capacity development will be promoted through technical assistance services to implement value chain development, sustainable forest management, and good agricultural practices. These initiatives will enable the processes of obtaining timber and NTFP and improve and rehabilitate deforested lands in the project intervention area.

In this context, the IPLCs engage in productive work, generating fair income and providing security to their households. This leads to better development prospects and social integration with the creation of decent and accessible jobs in indigenous communities.

In this way, the project supports the four (4) pillars of decent work (standards and rights at work; employment creation and enterprise development; social protection; governance and social dialogue) by: training to improve the productive sustainability of NTFPs, enhancing conditions for entrepreneurship and job creation, promoting associativity and social protection with the inclusion of women and youth, diversifying the livelihoods of small-scale women and men, supporting market access and value chains, agribusinesses for sustainable products and services, rural participation and governance in development, forest protection, and value chains and local market negotiations. All of the above translates into socioeconomic benefits driven by the project's implementation in the intervention areas at the local and regional levels, producing an impact at the national and global levels.

[22] Specific guidance on how FAO can promote the Four Pillars of Decent Work in rural areas is provided in the Quick reference for addressing decent rural employment (as well as in the full corresponding Guidance document). For more information on FAO's work on decent rural employment and related guidance materials please consult the FAO thematic website at: http://www.fao.org/rural-employment/en/.

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

Annex%20A%20-%20Financing%20Table

ANNEX B: Record of endorsement of GEF operational focal point (s) on behalf of the Government(s)

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Annex%20C%20-%20Project%20Results%

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

ANNEX E: Project Map and Coordinates

ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

FAO Framework for Environmental and Social Management (FESM) establishes environmental and social performance requirements for FAO programming and implementation.

Overall Project/Programme Environmental and Social Risk Category (as per FPMIS):

Moderate

Introduction

The Guyana ASL3 project entitled "Advancing Guyana's Development through Improved Forest Management," to be implemented by the EPA, is a Child Project of the Integrated Program for Critical Forest Biomes – Amazon Integrated Program. The objective of the project is *to improve integrated landscape management and conservation of ecosystems in targeted areas in the Amazon region*. The project has been structured into three (3) components in line with three (3) interventions of the Integrated Program for Critical Forest Biomes – Amazon of GEF-8, these are:

- **Component 1. Maintenance of intact forest landscapes:** Seeks to improve the management and protection of PAs by implementing innovative financing mechanisms for improved forest management and governance structures that build on and expand the advances achieved under the ASL Program Phase 2 in partnership and capacity building for enhanced biodiversity and forest conservation, sustainable land use, and community development in Guyana. Central to this effort is the participatory development, led by the EPA, of a Biodiversity Credits Mechanism designed to fund restoration and sustainable management of PAs in collaboration with IPLCs. To support this, the project will assess existing biodiversity evaluations and conduct new assessments where necessary, followed by the creation of a comprehensive Biodiversity MRVS that complements existing MRV systems. Additionally, the project will investigate the potential of a project-based VCM mechanism as a supplementary financial resource for supporting restoration activities. Activities will be focused on the focus on the Iwokrama Forest, Kaieteur National Park, Kanashen Amerindian Protected Area, Kanuku Mountains Protected Area, and Shell Beach Protected Area.

- **Component 2. Engagement of stakeholders in sustainable production and landscape restoration:** Seeks to strengthen stakeholder capacity and engagement in sustainable, forest-based value chains, with a focus on gender-specific impacts. It will enhance artisanal and small-scale NTFP value chains by improving design, marketing, and export skills to support local livelihoods while reducing deforestation. Additionally, the project will promote the restoration of lands degraded by artisanal gold mining and wildfire. By complementing current efforts to strengthen the PAC, the project will engage nearby IPLCs in participatory management of PAs and guide them towards sustainable livelihoods through value chains. For mine-site restoration, the project will support the *National Forest Restoration Initiative* by increasing the GGMC Reclamation Unit's capacity for reclamation activities and assisting the GGMC and GFC in scaling up restoration efforts.

- **Component 3. Effective strategic communication and knowledge management:** Includes M&E, communication efforts, and collaboration within the ASL3 Program. It will focus on an Engagement and Dissemination Strategy to share best practices, insights, and knowledge products. The project will also facilitate knowledge exchange with other countries in the ASL3 Program and identify opportunities for complementary initiatives.

This ESMP aims to identify and minimize the potential risks related to environmental or social impacts of the project. Generally, the project components and its activities are designed to have a positive impact on biodiversity, habitats, IPLCs (specifically in regions 1, 8 and 9), the vulnerability of communities to climate change, incidences and spread of forest fires, incidences of erosion at mines sites, benefits from NTFPs and agriculture.

These positive impacts will be accomplished, under component 2 of the project, through the restoration of mined out and fire damaged sites in forest plantations and agroforestry within the PAs System of Guyana and encouragement of the use of traditional farming techniques. However, the proposed activities might lead to the proliferation of invasive species, overuse of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, over extraction of NTFPs, opportunities for slash and burn, pollution of waterways, interaction with waste material and soil erosion.

Component 1 of the project will involve the conduct of a feasibility study and surveys which will require employing enumerators and labourers for forest restoration activities, recruited among IPLCs. This may involve crime-related hazards and hazards related to the natural environmental and requires monitoring of the share of women and youth in all benefits. Further, component 2 of the project involves the increase of revenue flows to local communities and the promotion of the commercial use of NTFPs used by IPLCs. This may create opportunities for conflicts with IPLCs and involve habitat destruction and disruption due to large influxes of visitors and the removal of artifacts/flora/fauna from sites, as souvenirs.

Gender-based violence is not openly discussed but it is known to occur among indigenous communities and exacerbated by economic challenges. The government agencies involved in the implementation of project don't have sectoral gender policies, staff trained in gender mainstreaming and don't collect disaggregated data systematically. Further, conventional communication channels might not allow for understanding the root causes and identify solutions.

For each type of risk identified, the ESMP describes the appropriate measures likely to mitigate them, the responsibilities for the mitigation activities, the timeline and the resources needed, see Table 4. ESMP matrix.

Policy, legal and institutional framework

Promoting the sustainable use and protection of flora, fauna, water and other natural resources are embedded in Guyana's Constitution. Guyanese citizens have a duty to participate in activities designed to improve the environment. To strengthen this commitment, successive governments have passed legislation and designed policies and strategies to achieve these objectives.

- The **National Development Strategy**, 1997, has a section addressing specifically the challenges faced by the Amerindian population, summarized as follows:
    - The formulation and development of policy, and the design of programmes, must be participatory, inclusive and empowering to Amerindians communities.
    - The strengths of individuals and communities must be advanced over historical and current weaknesses
    - Action must address needs in ways that ensure the empowerment of these communities and the improvement of their well-being
    - An understanding and appreciation of the complex and delicate social and cultural dimensions of the Amerindian question in Guyana must inform our national development policies.

- A major reference is the revised **LCDS** which pursues four (4) objectives to be attained by 2030:

    - Value Ecosystem Services
    - Invest in Clean Energy and Stimulate Low Carbon Growth
    - Protect Against Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss
    - Align with Global Climate and Biodiversity Goals

    The LCDS translates Guyana's vision for sustainable development with specific consideration for climate change and economic development. The LCDS should allow Guyana to protect its forest, contributing to reducing global carbon emissions. The LCDS should also attract resources via the REDD+ mechanism which compensates for avoided deforestation.

- The **Green State Development Strategy, Vision 2040** (2019) aims at improving the quality of life of Guyanese citizens by promoting three (3) key messages:

    - Manage natural resource wealth
    - Support economic resilience
    - Build human capital and institutional capacity

    The Strategy sets as a development objective "to implement provisions under the Amerindian Act 2006 that mandate Amerindian village councils to manage forest resources."

- At the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, Guyana joined political leaders from 96 countries and the European Union for the **Leader's Pledge for Nature**, 2021, which is committed to urgent collective action to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. The pledge is a major commitment of the Government of Guyana that sets the legal framework for the "Advancing Guyana's Development through Improved Forest Management" project.

- In terms of the governance and management of protected areas in Guyana, the following major laws are also relevant to the implementation of the project:

    - The Kaieteur National Park Act, passed in 1929 with amendments in 1972, 1997 and 2000, to ensure the control of the park and the preservation of the natural scenery, fauna and flora.
    - The Iwokrama Act 1996 to legislate the mission entrusted to Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development to promote the conservation and the sustainable and equitable use of tropical rain forests in a manner that will lead to lasting ecological, economic and social benefits to the people of Guyana and to the world in general.
    - The Environmental Protection Act 1996 which provides for the protection, conservation and management of natural resources and the environment.
    - The Forests Act 2009 which promotes the sustainable management of forests, and the National Forest Plan and Policy 2018.
    - The Protected Areas Act 2011 (revision of this Act is a component of ASL2) related to the creation, management, and financing of the National Protected Areas System allows village councils to apply to the PAC for village lands or any part thereof to be recognized as an Amerindian protected area provides for National Protected Areas System to comprise of approved privately managed protected areas.

The National Protected Areas System, which currently comprises of approximately 8.4% of Guyana's landmass, includes:

- Iwokrama Forest (established by separate legislation, the Iwokrama Act 1996, and a joint mandate from the Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat)
- Kaieteur National Park
- Kanashen Amerindian PA
- Kanuku Mountains PA
- Shell Beach PA
- Urban Parks: National Park, Botanical Gardens, Zoological Park, and Joe Vieira Park

- The Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2016 related to the protection, conservation, management, sustainable use, internal and external trade of Guyana's wildlife.
- The Amerindian Act 2006 related to conservation and resource management in indigenous territories and the exercise of traditional user rights over resources.

- In addition to the above-mentioned Acts passed by the Parliament, Guyana is bound by the UN SDGs. Six (6) SDGs are relevant to the implementation of the project, namely SDGs 1, 5, 13, 15 and 17.

  - SDG 1 "End poverty in all its forms everywhere"
  - SDG 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" is the point of reference for gender-related activities of the project. The FAO, one of the UN agencies accountable for SDG 5, uses two (2) indicators to monitor progress:
    - 5.a.1 (a) Percentage of people with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land (out of total agricultural population), by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or right bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure.
    - 5.a.2 Percentage of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.
  - SDG 8 "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all"
  - SDG 12 "Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns"
  - SDG 13 "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"
  - SDG 15 "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss"

- Guyana is also signatory to numerous International Conventions among which are the following:

  - United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol
  - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement
  - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
  - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
  - Escazu Agreement, Aichi Target 5 (By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced), and Aichi Target 11 (By 2020,

at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, are conserved…)
    - Global Biodiversity framework, Target 3 (protection and conservation of at least 30 percent of the planet by 2030 – or 30x30).

- The legal framework directly related to the Indigenous Peoples of Guyana includes:
    - The Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana - Article 142
    - Amerindian Act 2006 (passed February 2006 and accented March 14th, 2006)
    - National Development Strategy - Chapter 24
    - Amerindian Land Tenure Policy 1995
    - LCDS Amerindian Development Fund
    - Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework - Revised July 2015
    - Amerindian Peoples Plan - Guyana Early Childhood Education Project 2014
    - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
    - International Labour Organisation Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, 1989 (No. 169)
    - Convention on Biological Diversity of 1992.

Environmental and social baseline

Physical environment

At 83,000 square miles, Guyana is the third smallest independent state on the mainland of South America. The country lies on the northern coast of South America. Its 285-mile coastline extends from Punta Playa (near the mouth of the Orinoco River) in the northwest to the Corentyne River in the east.

Guyana can be divided into four (4) natural regions: a narrow and fertile marshy plain along the Atlantic coast (low coastal plain) where most of the population lives; a white sand belt more inland (hilly sand and clay region), containing most of Guyana's mineral deposits; the dense rain forests (forested highland region) in the middle of the country; the grassy flat savanna in the south; and the larger interior highlands interior savannah, consisting mostly of mountains that gradually rise to the Brazilian border.

The low-lying coastland is a flat, often swampy strip of silt and clay about 5.5 feet below sea level at high tide. Man-made concrete walls and earthen barriers keep the ocean back and prevent floods. Canals with sluice gates permit drainage to the rivers, and at low tide, to the sea. Most of the country's population and agricultural activity are concentrated in this narrow coastal strip between the Pomeroon and Corentyne Rivers.

The mountain region includes the Pakaraima Range, which lies along the western boundary between the Waini and Rupununi Rivers; a sandstone plateau 22 miles long and more than 9,000 feet above sea level; and the Kanaku Mountains, which lie on both sides of the Rupununi River near the Brazilian border.

The intermediate region, to the east and south of the coastal and mountain regions, is the largest region. It is mainly tropical forest and jungle, except for the Rupununi savanna on the southwestern border with Brazil. Large rivers and their tributaries form a vast network of waterways. Rapids and falls hinder navigation and development along the larger rivers. The principal rivers are the Essequibo, Demerara, Berbice, and Corentyne. The Cuyuni, Mazaruni, and Rupununi are major tributaries of the Essequibo River.

Biological environment

Approximately 85% of the total land area of Guyana is covered by forest[23] (18.5 million ha). In 2012, Guyana recorded a deforestation rate of less than 1%. Forests in Guyana can be classified as rainforest (36%), montane forest (35%), swamp and marsh (15%), dry evergreen (7%), seasonal forest (6%), and mangrove forest (1%). The state of the country's biodiversity is considered, for the most part, intact but understudied.

Guyana's floral diversity is estimated to include over 8,000 species, with approximately 6,500 of these species having been identified, and 50% considered endemic. There are approximately 1,815 known species of fishes, amphibians, birds, reptiles and mammals. Fishes are very diverse, with 352 species of freshwater bony fishes and 501 species of marine fishes. Limited studies were conducted in the field of genetic diversity and mostly restricted to the agriculture sector. The percentage of cultivated land is approximately 2.37% (4,666 km^2).

Guyana is one of the eight (8) member countries of the Treaty of Amazonian Cooperation, thereby contributing to the vast biodiversity of the Amazon region which has the largest area of tropical rainforest in the world.

Socio-economic and cultural environment

General information

Guyana's estimated population[24] in 2021 is 772,975 inhabitants, of which 385,608 are males and 387,367 females, with a population growth rate of 0.6% as of 2023[25] and average life expectancy of 66 years (as of 2022)[26]. Despite being identified as the country with the fastest growth rate in the world in 2023 (at 16.79 US billion[27]) because of its booming oil sector, the unemployment rate was 12.4% as of 2023 and poverty in Guyana remains particularly severe in rural and hinterland areas where the ASL3 project will be implemented. Residents of regions 1, 8 & 9 have limited access to economic opportunities, healthcare, and essential public services.

The digital coverage of the country has drastically improved: in 2021, 84.8% of the population had an internet connection, representing a considerable increase from 2000, when 0.6% of the population had an internet connection.

Regarding public education[28], in 2021, for nursery education, the total number of schools was 512, the total number of teachers was 2205. For primary education, the total number of schools was 443, the total number of teachers was 4778. For secondary education, the total number of schools was 208, the total number of teachers was 257. Tertiary Education is offered by two (2) public institutions, the Cyril Potter College of Education and the University of Guyana. Private education exists for all levels. Between 2002 and 2019, the average number of years of schooling in Guyana increased by 39.8%, reaching an average of 8.6 years in the latest year for which information is available. The literacy rate was 97.9% in 2022. In men, this figure was 98.2%; in women, 97.6%.

The education sector in Guyana is currently undergoing significant transformation, supported by substantial investments aimed at achieving universal access to quality education at all levels. In the 2024 national budget, the government allocated GYD 135.2 billion ($648 million) to education, a

[23] Source : Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) country profiles
[24] Publications of the Guyana Bureau of Statistics. https://statisticsguyana.gov.gy/subjects/demography-vital-and-social-statistics/year-end-and-mid-year-population-estimates-by-sex-guyana-1992-to-2021/
[25] World Bank Group Data. Guyana. https://data.worldbank.org/country/guyana. Accessed 19 November 2024
[26] ibid
[27] World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files, https://data.worldbank.org/country/guyana Accessed 19 November 2024
[28] Source: Education Statistical Digest 2020-2021, Ministry of Education of Guyana

notable increase from previous years, driven largely by revenues from the country's burgeoning oil and gas sector. Over GYD 28.7 billion is designated for building and rehabilitating schools, including primary, secondary, and nursery levels. New schools are being constructed nationwide to ensure universal access to primary and secondary education. A notable initiative is the introduction of smart classrooms, which integrate technology to enhance the learning experience. This transformation is supported by investments from both the government and international partners.

Recognizing the need for skilled labor in a rapidly developing economy, GYD 2.3 billion will fund technical and vocational education initiatives. A new technical training college will open to provide skills needed in the oil and gas industry.

Despite these advancements, challenges persist, including addressing disparities in rural education access, teacher shortages, and the evolving needs of a dynamic economy.

Regarding health, the Pan American Health Organization health factsheet for Guyana indicates that in 2024 people over 65 years of age accounted for 6.7% of the total population, an increase of 2.9% points compared to the year 2000. In 2024, there were 105.4 women per 100 men and 23.1 older people (65 years or older) per 100 children under 15 years of age. Life expectancy at birth in 2024 was 70.3 years, lower than the average for the Region of the Americas and 6.2 years higher that in 2000 (64.1).

In 2021, public expenditure on health accounted for 3.34% of gross domestic product and 12.85% of total public expenditure, while out-of-pocket spending on health accounted for 28.72% of total health expenditure.

The maternal mortality ratio in 2020 was estimated at 111.9 deaths per 100,000 live births, representing a 41.1% reduction compared to the estimated value in 2000. In 2000 infant mortality in Guyana was 21.9 per 1,000 live births.

In order to collect more specific information on the regions where the project will be implemented, we extracted facts from various sources including the State of Food and Agriculture study for region 1 realized by FAO at the request of the Hinterland Environmentally Sustainable Agricultural Development/International Fund for Agricultural Development in 2021[29] , the Hinterland Environmentally Sustainable Agricultural Development baseline study for region 9,[30] interviews with the main community based organizations identified during the stakeholders engagement process (Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group, North Rupununi District Development Board, North Pakaraima District Development Board, members of Campbelltown, Sand Creek, Shulinab and Annai communities).

Region 1

The population of region 1, Barima Waini, is approximately 22,140, 80 % of which is Amerindian, 52% women of reproductive age, 17.1% youth (18–25 years of age). Most of the common difficulties observed in Guyana's hinterland are present in the region, but for women and youth of region 1, they are compounded by the extreme conditions of the zone. The key agencies of the government in charge of forestry activities do not have sufficient human resources to respond to the needs of communities, especially those scattered across the remote hinterland.

[29] FAO, State of Food and Agriculture in the Barima Waini region of Guyana – Using an agri-food system framework to understand challenges and opportunities- 2021

[30] Triple C Consultancy - Improving livelihood resilience through income generation, access to assets, improved nutrition and adaptation to climate variability. Hinterland Environmentally Sustainable Agricultural Development (HESAD) Project Baseline Survey – Region 9 Final Report – September 2019

In addition to the insufficient numbers of trained staff, the basic knowledge necessary to plan and provide technical support in a gender sensitive manner is often non-existent. The EPA, PAC and GFC does not have gender mainstreaming embedded in their programs and projects.

The State of Food and Agriculture study confirms that indigenous communities, operate in a challenging and traditional environment, where the roles of men, women, youth, and children are culturally prescribed as a social norm in most cases, which often undermine the preponderant roles that women and youth may have in the society. Any project operating in region 1 should pay particular attention to strengthening of local organizations, projects, NGOs and other players involved in the empowerment and economic development of women and youth.

Region 8

The population of region 8 is 10,892 people, comprised of 54.5% male and 45.5% female inhabitants. Gold and diamond mining, male dominated sectors, are the main economic activities. Region 8, Potaro-Siparuni, is particularly endowed with natural resources and is home to the world-renowned Kaieteur Falls and Iwokrama Rainforest. The rich biodiversity and vast forests, offers several forestry activities that are essential to the local economy and environmental conservation with critical support from the Iwokrama International Center. The main forestry activities in the region combine traditional knowledge with new forestry practices and include sustainable logging (use of techniques of Reduced Impact Logging) selective logging, minimizing environmental impact, sustainable forest management balancing exploitation and conservation, collection of NTFP like resins and gum and medicinal plants, ecotourism, participation in reforestation projects and awareness programs about the importance of forest conservation and beekeeping.

Cultural activities are given particular attention in order to preserve traditions. Women play a key role in the transmission of traditions through music, dance and cuisine. They also participate in festivals that highlight the heritage of indigenous peoples.

Region 9

The population of region 9, Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo) is 23,660, comprised of 51.6% male and 48.4% female inhabitants, 685 female-headed households, of which 13% are headed by women in the age group of 15 to 24 years of age.

The Guyana Hinterland Environmentally Sustainable Agricultural Development baseline survey concludes that women largely have access to land (the critical production resource) and are involved in decision-making. However, they lag far behind men in their access to finance (use of mainstream financial institutions products), collaterals, market and representation in professional groups. The Hinterland Environmentally Sustainable Agricultural Development project identified existing initiatives where possible in region 9 to implement its activities. The membership of the organizations participating in the initiatives was on average 74% males. For that reason, it was advised that any new project should plan for a strong communication element reaching out to women with the aim of including them.

Collaboration between governmental, non-governmental organisations and IPLCs

GFC, PAC, EPA, Iwokrama, Conservation International and WWF are among the institutions with a long record of collaboration with the communities living in the project implementation areas. Building trust between institutions and the local communities is a condition sine qua non for the success of projects/programs and an ownership by the local communities.

In the past communities considered the activities with projects/program as a benefit, a means of improving their living conditions. Nowadays, the expectation is to be paid (fairly) for their efforts and recognition of the skills they acquired with the exposure to projects. Once the satisfaction of expectations is considered as a normal part of the goals of projects, it becomes crucial to target the correct section of the population to involve in the activities and for an appropriate duration.

Over the years, the traditional conservation practices of the communities have changed, because of the influence of NGOs and government institutions. The changes can be observed on cash flow, new economic opportunities, improvement of livelihoods and communication. No study to assess the changes in the socio-environmental ecosystem has been conducted, but changes can be acknowledged.

The NGOs and government agencies have also developed engagements strategies requiring cultural shifts. Strategies include: the recruitment of staff who are members of the local communities (at least one [1] out of each community, where possible) in collaboration with the leaders of the communities, establishment of branches as close as possible to the locations where the communities live, ensuring consistency of approach from the different branches of the same institution, promoting an open door policy, accessibility, facilitation of communication systems, support to transportation arrangements, support to supply of essential goods, etc. These relations have progressively facilitated the establishment of trust relations, allowing the signature of "binding" documents like Memoranda of Understanding or collaborative management agreements, clearly identifying roles and responsibilities in all activities implemented in the PA.

Using a participatory approach and developing guides for stakeholder engagement is the key to retain activities the communities consider relevant to their specific needs and guaranty chances of success.
This choice is reflected in the consultation steps preceding any identification of projects and programs, and the respect of the customs still regulating the live of the communities such as, seeking permission from the local authority before visiting the villages, acceptance of the format and timing of the gatherings and the choice of participants, presentation of documents in a format accessible to communities, recording of meetings, systematic restitutions of synthesis of meetings.

A very important element of the collaboration with the local communities is the implementation of a carefully designed communication strategy. The privileged communication channels are reach out missions, official letters (sent by WhatsApp), the radio (various radio stations depending on their coverage, radio station owned by the community in some cases) but more and more the mobile phone, the internet (emails) and social media. The recent progresses in the connectivity of the hinterland have significantly improved the quality and the instantaneous characteristic of the exchanges between the institutions and the communities.

The issue of language barrier remains a handicap in the communication and is addressed by the institutions using strategies including recruitment of translators, encouragement of research in the languages of the communities. The role of the local staff in the success of the communication strategies is pivotal. Their position allows them to use informal communication channels which often reveal the real story. The communication network of the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and regional offices are used by some institutions to facilitate the dissemination of their messages.

Risk classification and management

The proposed project was assigned a rating of moderate risk category during environmental and social screening processes.

Potential environmental and social risks, impacts and mitigation measures

RISKS	IMPACT	PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES
ESS 1. Biodiversity conservation, and sustainable management of natural resources Could the project positively or negatively affect biodiversity or habitats (water or land), through activities or policy?	The project will have a positive impact on biodiversity and habitat.	N/A
ESS 1.1 Could the project lead to conversion, or land use change, or fragmentation, or degradation of natural habitats, modified habitats or critical natural habitats (water and/or land)?	The proposed restoration of mine and fired damaged sites (Output 2.2.1) will improve natural habitats by improving biodiversity.	N/A
ESS 1.3 Could the project include any activity on the ground related to agroforestry, forest plantation, harvesting, or management of forest resources (native or planted) for timber and non-timber forest products uses (e.g. seeds collection, spices, honey, mushrooms, bush meat)?	Restoration of mine areas (Output 2.2.1) will include forest plantations and agroforestry. It will also enhance multiple benefits from NTFPs and support agriculture. These activities might lead to the proliferation of invasive species, overuse of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, over extraction of NTFPs or opportunities for slash and burn.	• Improve the capacity of stakeholders to harvest and propagate wildings of native species for revegetation activities • Build skills and knowledge in sustainable use of NTFPs • Limit the use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers in operations and promote nature-based approaches on project sites • Surveillance and awareness building on wildfires to avoid slash and burn in the forested areas • All the project activities will be executed as part of the GFC's Community Forestry programme and lessons learned and experiences will be incorporated into the Programme.
ESS 1.8 Could the project use genetic resources for research or (commercial) development - including	The project intends to promote the commercial use of NTFPs used by IPLCs which may result in over-	• Training in sustainable harvesting and promotion of sustainable harvesting techniques and the

RISKS	IMPACT	PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES
from IPLCs, and/or associated traditional knowledge - for which prior informed consent/mutually agreed terms are required?	harvesting and environmental degradation.	detrimental effects of overharvesting to livelihoods. • FPIC consultations were conducted in five (5) communities and will continue through project implementation • Agreement with IPLCs for suitable compensation • Implementation of Indigenous Peoples Plan – See annex F-2)
ESS 2 Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management Could the project positively or negatively affect soil and water resources, or water-related ecosystems, through activities or policy (e.g. through pollutants, pesticides, fertilizers, hazardous materials or waste)?	Component 2 of the project will involve the restoration of mine sites aiming to improve soil care and soil health through use of appropriate techniques. The activities may involve use of heavy machinery with usual associated risks (e.g. oil, waste). Fertilizers will also be necessary for replanting and potentially may pollute water ways and affect human health. Hazardous waste material may also be found in mined locations.	• Implementation of operational procedures for handling and disposal of oil will be implemented consistent with Guyana's occupational health and safety standards. • Guidance will be provided on the application of fertilizers to mitigate impact on health to workers and contamination of water ways from run off • Soil sampling will be conducted to determine high risk areas, and these will be excised from the workplan
ESS 2.1 Could the project lead to significant consumption/extraction of raw materials, surface or ground water and/or energy (e.g.: water extraction is above sustainable levels or recharge capacities)?	Under the project, GGMC is responsible for earthworks and this project will address restoration activities thereafter. However, it is foreseeable that scaling-up activities after the life of the project will involve significant movement of soil. Potential impacts of the movement of soil include erosion and increased turbidity of waterways.	• Site specific plans will be drafted during project startup to mitigate the impact of the movement of soil (i.e. the implementation of terracing, retention ponds, etc.).
ESS 2.2 Could the project implement irrigation activities?	Part of the sustainable land management practices will involve the	• Site specific plans will be drafted during project startup (i.e. the

RISKS	IMPACT	PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES
AND/OR: Potentially lead to wastewater or runoff of contaminated water? AND/OR: restrict or alter riverine systems (e.g. dams, reservoirs, river basin development, significant water diversion or withdrawals)?	management of runoff from project sites.	implementation of terracing, retention ponds, etc.).
ESS 2.3 Could the project implement activities on, or potentially lead to, degraded, depleted or polluted soil?	The project will refine methodologies, introduce innovative techniques focused on improving soil quality and health to inform future restoration efforts, and monitor vegetation and soil quality at selected sites.	N/A
ESS 3 Climate change and disaster risk reduction - Could the project positively or negatively affect people's vulnerability to climate change?	The project will have a positive effect on the vulnerability of communities to climate change by restoring sites and contributing to sequestration of CO^2	N/A
ESS 4.1 Could the project lead to work-related training, cash for work, or will the project employ people?	Component 1 of the project will involve the conduct of a feasibility study and surveys which will require employing enumerators recruited among IPLCs. This may involve crime-related hazards and hazards related to the natural environmental (e.g. heat). Component 2 will employ labourers for forest restoration activities. This may involve the inequitable sharing of benefits for women and youth.	• Close consultations with community leaders will be organized to ensure the inclusion of women and youth among the beneficiaries of work opportunities created by the project • Personnel will go out in groups at specified times and will largely involve people from the local communities • Activities will be conducted at times to reduce in the impact of heat. • Personnel will be provided with protective wear and an adequate supply of water against heat and rain.

RISKS	IMPACT	PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES
		• The share of women and youth in all benefits to be monitored. • All work will comply with regulatory requirements and decent work standards.
ESS 4.4 Could the project: (a) operate in a sector, area or value chain where producers and other agricultural workers are typically exposed to significant occupational and safety risks, and/or (b) promote or use technologies or practices that pose occupational safety and health (OSH) risks to farmers, other rural workers or rural populations in general?	The project involves forest restoration of degraded mined areas. There is a minor risk to workers from contaminated chemical residues from past mining activities, use of heavy machinery and safety for workers during restoration activities.	• Soil sampling will be conducted to determine high risk areas, and these will be excised from the workplan • Personnel will be provided with personal protective equipment and respiratory protection to minimize contaminated media • First aid training will be provided to respond to incidents of exposure • Implementation of strict operation procedures while using heavy machinery
ESS 5 Community Health, Safety and Security Could the project positively or negatively affect health, safety and livelihoods of communities (including women, men, youth, as well as marginalized, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups)?	Component 2 of the project seeks to strengthen stakeholder capacity and engagement in sustainable, forest-based value chains, with a focus on gender-specific impacts. It will enhance artisanal and small-scale NTFP value chains by improving design, marketing, and export skills to support local livelihoods while reducing deforestation. Additionally, the project will promote the restoration of lands degraded by artisanal gold mining and wildfire. By complementing current efforts to strengthen the PAC, the project will engage nearby IPLCs in participatory management of PAs and guide them	• Training for better control of forest fires will reduce their negative impact on the health of the communities. • Ensuring that the project aligns with health and education projects implemented by other stakeholders (e.g. Iwokrama, Conservation International, etc.) • The share women, men, youth, as well as marginalized, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in all benefits will be monitored.

RISKS	IMPACT	PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES
	towards sustainable livelihoods through value chains.	
ESS 5.3 Could the project expose communities to hazardous materials or equipment e.g. agricultural machinery accessible to the community, design or construction of new infrastructure, changes to existing infrastructure, transportation, or storage?	There is a minor possibility of increase in turbidity of water ways if there are torrential showers during restoration works which may affect communities downstream.	• Soil tests performed as part of restoration activities will identify any levels of pollutants that are harmful to human health. These areas will not be included in restoration activities and will be referred to the relevant authorities for treatment. • The project will conduct earthworks in the dry season (as far as possible) and cover the ground with textiles to avoid erosion.
ESS 5.4 Could the project lead to an influx of project workers?	Given these are remote locations, there is little likelihood of this occurring.	• IPLCs in the area will be engaged to provide the required labour.
ESS 6.1 Could the project lead to increased gender-based discrimination or inequalities?	The government agencies involved in the implementation of project don't have sectoral gender policies, staff trained in gender mainstreaming and don't collect disaggregated data systematically. These gaps can lead to incidents of gender-based discrimination or inequalities.	• Implementing the Gender Action Plan (see Annex K) allowing to identify gaps in the gender balance in on going activities • Choice of activities and participants aiming at correcting the imbalance • Training of field staff and beneficiaries in basic gender principles • Support to improvement of gender mainstreaming in the institutions involved in the implementation of the project • Use of a gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation system • Use of informal communication channels to identify gender-based violence cases • Use of locally accepted mediation systems to tackle them
ESS 6.2 Could this project operate in a context with	Gender-based violence is not openly discussed in the	• Implementing the Gender Action Plan (see Annex K)

RISKS	IMPACT	PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES
high risks of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls, such as in conflicts situation, camps or shelters, areas where women's mobility is restricted, or with high numbers of poor female-headed households or unaccompanied minors?	context of engagements related to a forestry project but it is known to occur among indigenous communities exacerbated by economic challenges. Conventional communication channels might not allow to understand the root causes and identify solutions.	allowing to identify gaps in the gender balance in on going activities • Choice of activities and participants aiming at correcting the imbalance • Training of field staff and beneficiaries in basic gender principles • Support to improvement of gender mainstreaming in the institutions involved in the implementation of the project • Use of a gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation system • Use of informal communication channels to identify gender-based violence cases • Use of locally accepted mediation systems to tackle them
ESS 8 Indigenous Peoples ESS 8.1 Could the project be located on or near lands and territories owned or claimed by Indigenous Peoples?	The beneficiaries of project will be IPLCs in Regions 1, 8 and 9. All activities of the project are designed to impact positively on the IPLCs. The National Toshaos Council has been identified as an important stakeholder the project concept phase. The issue of land titles, claims, returns from carbon credits were on the agenda of the National Toshaos Council Conference (August 2024).	The project designed Indigenous Peoples Plan (F-2) will guide project implementation and seek to mitigate negative impacts. Further, the FPIC process commenced during project design and will continue during project implementation. The topic of carbon credits may trigger important questions about their rights and clear explanations on what the project can do and what it cannot do will be provided.
ESS 8.2 Could the project potentially negatively affect Indigenous Peoples, through its activities or policy advice - e.g. effects on their human rights, lands, natural	There is lack of formal resource use agreements with IPLCs and other marginalized/vulnerable groups, in the project area, that can lead to conflict and physical displacement.	The Amerindian Act of 2006 details interactions with IPLCs in Guyana. The Indigenous Peoples Plan (Annex F-2) would contribute to supporting efforts to respect, include and promote

RISKS	IMPACT	PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES
resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods?		indigenous peoples' issues during project implementation.
ESS 8.3 Could the project use genetic resources or associated knowledge from Indigenous Peoples for research or commercial purposes?	Component 2 of the project seeks to strengthen stakeholder capacity and engagement in sustainable, forest-based value chains, with a focus on gender-specific impacts. It will enhance artisanal and small-scale NTFP value chains by improving design, marketing, and export skills to support local livelihoods while reducing deforestation.	The FPIC process commenced during development and will be further refined during project mobilisation with the assistance of requisite expertise.
ESS 9 Cultural Heritage Could the project positively or negatively affect tangible or intangible cultural heritage, through activities or policy?	The development of the tourism product under Component 2 could support the research, documentation and sharing of cultural practices.	N/A
ESS 9.1 Could the project through activities or policy advice negatively affect places, objects, values or knowledge and practices of cultural importance to communities?	The tourism aspects will be designed to preserve natural cultural heritage. The activities could involve large influxes of visitors which may destroy the habitats and cause fauna to seek alternative habitats with less human interaction.	As part of the development of training exercises, operational procedures and standards for tourism visits will be discussed and agreed on to limit visitor numbers and activities at specific tourism assets.
ESS 9.3 Could the project lead to the use of tangible and/or intangible forms (e.g. collections, areas, practices, traditional knowledge) of cultural heritage for commercial or other purposes?	Tourism assets will be developed that support the preservation of cultural and traditional practices of IPLCs. Visitors to the site may remove artifacts/flora/fauna from sites, as souvenirs.	As part of the development of training exercises, operational procedures and standards for tourism visits will be discussed and agreed on to limit visitor numbers and activities at specific tourism assets.

Institutional and implementation arrangements, and estimated costs
See ESMP Matrix, Table 4

Monitoring arrangements
See ESMP Matrix, Table 4

Stakeholder engagement
Throughout project design, approximately 40 stakeholder organisations were engaged during the period of April to November 2024. The stakeholders' profiles include government, international organization, NGOs, civil society organisation, academia, private sector and village Governance. Annex J - Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Grievance Redress Mechanism provides a detailed account of the stakeholders engaged, dates of engagement, type of engagement, key findings and identifies how key findings were incorporated into project design.

In summary, the key findings of the stakeholder engagements include:

- Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process
- Increased awareness of the GEF co-financing requirements, which facilitated the provision of co-financing letters
- Provision of firsthand information and analysis on the socio-environmental challenges and gender relations
- Identification of practical issues (choice of species, cost, site features, etc) regarding landscape restoration
- Provision of valuable information on production, import and export data for value added (agro-processed) products
- Information gathering and discussions on stakeholder perspectives on project elements
- Identification of achievements, challenges, current work/research activities being conducted, technical assistance being provided and possibilities of collaboration by various organisations in the regions where the project will be implemented
- Sharing of information on relevant resource persons, proposed plans and key documents produced by organisations related to gender and forestry
- Provision of up-to-date information on the implementation of the National Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy (2018) and on research on Gender based Violence
- Provision of a briefing session on LCDS 2030 and biodiversity credits
- Discussions on the design and implementation of a tailormade gender course for technical field staff and beneficiaries at the community level
- Discussions on environmental issues including wildfires in South Rupununi District, Region 9

Grievance Redress Mechanism
Refer to Annex J – Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Grievance Redress Mechanism

Information disclosure
Disclosure of programme and project information supports stakeholders' ability to effectively participate in project consultations. FAO strives for project information to be relevant, understandable, accessible, and considered culturally appropriate by stakeholders. Due attention will be dedicated to specific needs in the community groups affected by project implementation. This document will be publicly disclosed on FAO's disclosure portal from NTE as well as through the following channels, email and website

Table 4: Environmental and Social Management Plan Matrix

Activities	Potential environmental and social risks and impacts	ESS triggered	Mitigation Measures	Implementation Arrangements[1]	Monitoring Arrangements[2]	Timeline	Estimated costs to implement the mitigation measures
Restoration of 358.5 ha of fire damaged, degraded forests with assisted regeneration within Regions 6 and 9 (2.2.1.4) and 65 ha of mined areas in Kaieteur National Park, Madhia and Matthews Ridge (2.2.1.7). The activities will also enhance multiple benefits from NTFPs and support agriculture.	These activities might lead to the proliferation of invasive species, overuse of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, over extraction of NTFPs or opportunities for slash and burn. These risks can exacerbate degradation of the PAs.	ESS 1	• Improve the capacity of stakeholders to harvest and propagate wildings of native species for revegetation activities • Build skills and knowledge in sustainable use of NTFPs • Limit the use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers in operations and promote nature-based approaches on project sites • Surveillance and awareness building on wildfires to avoid slash and burn in the forested areas	Site specific risk logs will be established during project mobilisation and reviewed and updated as needed during project implementation. All the project activities will be executed as part of the GFC's Community Forestry programme and lessons learned and experiences will be incorporated into the Programme.	The Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist and the M&E Specialist of the PMU will draft a detailed M&E plan. GGMC and the Project Coordinator will work with the Specialist to monitor guided by the M&E plan.	EOD-NTE	Included in the budget allocation under project management cost
Improve the tourism product in Region 9 to increase revenue flows to local communities in Region 9 through promoting the use of locally produced food and handicraft etc. (2.1.1.2) and the conduct of capacity building sessions on design, marketing and export of traditional, artisanal, small-scale NTFPs (2.1.1.3)	The project intends to promote the commercial use of NTFPs used by IPLCs. This may create opportunities for conflicts with IPLCs.	ESS 1	• FPIC consultations were conducted in five (5) communities and will continue through project implementation • Agreement with IPLCs for suitable compensation • Implementation of Indigenous Peoples Plan – See annex F-2)	Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist with the M&E Specialist and EPA to manage the FPIC process during project implementation. FPIC consultations to continue through project mobilisation and implementation. Implementation of the IPP to commence from project mobilisation.	The PMU in collaboration with the requisite expertise will ensure that the mitigation measures are implemented and reported on.	EOD-NTE	Included in the budget allocation for the component

Activities	Potential environmental and social risks and impacts	ESS triggered	Mitigation Measures	Implementation Arrangements[1]	Monitoring Arrangements[2]	Timeline	Estimated costs to implement the mitigation measures
	The tourism aspects will be designed to preserve natural cultural heritage: - The activities could involve large influxes of visitors which may destroy the habitats and cause fauna to seek alternative habitats with less human interaction. Tourism assets will be developed that support the preservation of cultural and traditional practices of IPLCs. - Visitors to the site may remove artifacts/flora/fauna from sites, as souvenirs.	ESS 9	As part of the development of training exercises, operational procedures and standards for tourism visits will be discussed and agreed on to limit visitor numbers and activities at specific tourism assets.	Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist with the M&E Specialist and EPA to manage the process of developing the operational procedures and standards during project implementation.	The PMU in collaboration with the requisite expertise will ensure that the mitigation measure is implemented and reported on.	Yr 1-4	Included in the budget allocation for the component
Restoration of mine sites aiming to improve soil care and soil health through use of appropriate techniques (2.2.1.5)	The activities may involve the use of heavy machinery with usual associated risks (e.g. oil, waste), fertilizers for replanting and potential exposure to hazardous waste material from mined locations	ESS 2	• Implementation of operational procedures for handling and disposal of oil will be implemented consistent with Guyana's occupational health and safety standards. • Guidance will be provided on the application of	Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist with the M&E Specialist, GGMC and EPA to manage occupational health and safety standards at project sites. Site specific risk logs will be established during project mobilisation and reviewed and updated	The PMU in collaboration with the GGMC will incorporate the risks and mitigation measures as part of the site management plan.	Yr 2-4	Included in the budget allocation for the component

Activities	Potential environmental and social risks and impacts	ESS triggered	Mitigation Measures	Implementation Arrangements[1]	Monitoring Arrangements[2]	Timeline	Estimated costs to implement the mitigation measures
			fertilizers to mitigate impact on health to workers and contamination of water ways from runoff • Soil sampling will be conducted to determine high risk areas, and these will be excised from the workplan	as needed during project implementation			
Restoration of degraded areas and actions to improve management of protected terrestrial areas (activities 2.2.1.1 – 2.2.1.7)	Part of the sustainable land management practices will involve the management of runoff from project sites. If not addressed, would result in continued degradation of forest areas.	ESS 2	• Site specific plans will be drafted during project startup (i.e. the implementation of terracing, retention ponds, etc.).	Development of the site management plans will occur during site mobilisation activities	Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist with the M&E Specialist, GGMC and EPA to manage project site operations. The PMU in collaboration with the GGMC will incorporate the risks and mitigation measures as part of the site management plan.	Yr 2-4	Included in the budget allocation for the component
Conduct of a feasibility study on biodiversity credit and other financing mechanisms (1.1.1) and restoration activities (2.2.1.4 and 2.2.1.7)	The conduct of a feasibility study and surveys will require employing enumerators recruited among IPLCs. This may involve crime-related hazards and hazards related natural environmental (e.g. heat).	ESS 4	• Close consultations with community leaders will be organized to ensure the inclusion of women and youth among the beneficiaries of work opportunities created by the project	Risks to be incorporated in site specific risk log during start-up of site activities and mitigation measures to be implemented during project implementation.	Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist with the M&E Specialist, PAC and EPA to manage risk associated with these activities. The PMU in collaboration with the requisite expertise will ensure that the	Yr 1- 4	Included in the budget allocation for the component

Activities	Potential environmental and social risks and impacts	ESS triggered	Mitigation Measures	Implementation Arrangements[1]	Monitoring Arrangements[2]	Timeline	Estimated costs to implement the mitigation measures
	The conduct of forest restoration activities will employ labourers. This may involve the inequitable sharing of benefits for women and youth.		• Personnel to go out in groups at specified times and will largely involve people from the community • Activities will be conducted at times to reduce in the impact of heat. • Personnel will be provided with protective wear and an adequate supply of water against heat and rain. • The share of women and youth in all benefits to be monitored. • All work will comply with regulatory requirements and decent work standards.		mitigation measure is established during project start up and implemented.		
Restoration of 65 ha of mined areas in Kaieteur National Park, Madhia and Matthews Ridge (2.2.1.7).	There is a minor risk to workers from contaminated chemical residues from past mining activities, use of heavy machinery and safety for workers during restoration activities.	ESS 4	• Soil sampling will be conducted to determine high risk areas, and these will be excised from the workplan • Personnel will be provided with personal protective equipment and respiratory protection to minimize contaminated media	Development of the site management plans will occur during site mobilisation activities. Site specific assessments will be conducted during project mobilisation and mitigation measures to be implemented during project implementation.	Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist with the M&E Specialist, GGMC and EPA to manage project site operations. The PMU in collaboration with the GGMC will incorporate the risks and mitigation measures as part of	Yr 1- 4	Included in the budget allocation for the component

Activities	Potential environmental and social risks and impacts	ESS triggered	Mitigation Measures	Implementation Arrangements[1]	Monitoring Arrangements[2]	Timeline	Estimated costs to implement the mitigation measures
			• First aid training will be provided to respond to incidents of exposure • Implementation of strict operation procedures while using heavy machinery		the site management plan.		
Restoration of lands degraded by artisanal gold mining and wildfire (2.2.1.4 and 2.2.1.7)	There is a minor possibility of increase in turbidity of water ways if there are torrential showers during restoration works which may affect communities downstream.	ESS 5	• Soil tests performed as part of restoration activities will identify any levels of pollutants that are harmful to human health. These areas will not be included in restoration activities and will be referred to the relevant authorities for treatment. • The project will conduct earthworks in the dry season (as far as possible) and cover the ground with textiles to avoid erosion.	Development of the site management plans will occur during site mobilisation activities. Site specific soil tests will be conducted and results considered during project mobilisation. Mitigation measures to be implemented during project implementation.	Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist with the M&E Specialist, GGMC and EPA to manage project site operations. The PMU in collaboration with the GGMC will incorporate the risks and mitigation measures as part of the site management plan	Yr 1- 4	Included in the budget allocation for the component
All activities	The government agencies involved in the implementation of the project don't have sectoral gender policies, staff trained in gender mainstreaming and don't collect	ESS 6	• Implementing the Gender Action Plan (see Annex K) allowing to identify gaps in the gender balance in on going activities • Choice of activities and participants aiming at correcting the imbalance	Risks to be addressed during project start-up and mitigation measures to be implemented during project implementation.	Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist with the M&E Specialist and EPA to manage the implementation of the Gender Action Plan. The PMU will ensure that the mitigation	EOD-NTE	Included in the budget allocation across all components

Activities	Potential environmental and social risks and impacts	ESS triggered	Mitigation Measures	Implementation Arrangements[1]	Monitoring Arrangements[2]	Timeline	Estimated costs to implement the mitigation measures
	disaggregated data systematically. Gender-based violence is not openly discussed in the context of engagements related to a forestry project but it is known to occur among indigenous communities exacerbated by economic challenges. Conventional communication channels might not allow to understand the root causes and identify solutions Close attention must be paid to gender balance in the sharing of all benefits and ensure equity among men, women and youth.		• Training of field staff and beneficiaries in basic gender principles • Support to improvement of gender mainstreaming in the institutions involved in the implementation of the project • Use of a gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation system • Use of informal communication channels to identify gender-based violence cases • Use of locally accepted mediation systems to tackle them.		measures is established during project start up and implemented and monitored during project execution.		
All activities	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) risks	ESS 6	• Ensure all project staff complete the mandatory FAO course on SEA before starting their work. • Sensitize project staff working on stakeholder engagement (in particular at	Risks to be addressed during project start-up and mitigation measures to be implemented during project implementation.	Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist with the M&E Specialist and EPA to manage the implementation of the Gender Action Plan. The PMU will ensure that the mitigation	EOD-NTE	Included in the budget allocation for the component

Activities	Potential environmental and social risks and impacts	ESS triggered	Mitigation Measures	Implementation Arrangements[1]	Monitoring Arrangements[2]	Timeline	Estimated costs to implement the mitigation measures
			community level) on how to communicate effectively on SEA (i.e. language and means of communication) • Make use of inter-agency/joint Community Based Complaint Mechanism and SEA referral pathways (when applicable).		measures is established during project start up and implemented and monitored during project execution.		
All activities	There is lack of formal resource use agreements with IPLCs and other marginalized/vulnerable groups, in the project area, that can lead to conflicts with IPLCs in Regions 1,8 and 9 regarding the issue of human rights, land titles, claims, territories, traditional livelihoods and returns from carbon credits.	ESS 8	• The Indigenous Peoples Plan (Annex F-2) will guide project implementation and seek to mitigate negative impacts. Further, the FPIC process commenced during project design and will continue during project implementation. The topic of carbon credits may trigger important questions about their rights and clear explanations on what the project can do and what it cannot do will be provided.	Risks to be addressed during project start-up and mitigation measures to be implemented during project implementation.	Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist with the M&E Specialist and EPA to manage the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Plan. The PMU will ensure that the mitigation measures is established during project start up and implemented and monitored during project execution.	EOD-NTE	Included in the budget allocation for the component

[1] This can be presented in this table or as a separate section. If the latter, indicate the activities and mitigation measures that the arrangements refer to.
[2] This can also be presented in this table or as a separate section. If the latter, indicate the activities and mitigation measures that the arrangements refer to.

1. **Annexes**

    - **Completed environmental and social screening checklist**

ANNEX F-1: Full Environmental and Social risk screening checklist from FPMIS

Full ES Risk Screening checklist for project 748087
Project Title: Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management

The proposed project is classified as: Moderate risk

Annex%20F-1%20Full%20ES%20Risk%2

Disclosure

The project will ensure transparency in the preparation, conduct, reporting and evaluation of its activities. This includes full disclosure of all non-confidential information, and consultation with major groups and representatives of local communities. The disclosure of information shall be ensured through posting on websites and dissemination of findings through knowledge products and events. Project reports will be broadly and freely shared, and findings and lessons learned made available.

Disclosure of programme and project information helps stakeholders to participate effectively in project consultations. This information should be relevant, understandable, and accessible and considered culturally appropriate by the stakeholders. Due attention will be dedicated to the specific needs (e.g. literacy, gender, disabilities, differences in language, accessibility of technical information or connectivity) of every person, irrespective of gender in the community groups affected by project implementation.

FAO projects must disclose information related to environmental and social risks and impacts through FAO disclosure portal. In any case, national or local legislation may specify disclosure requirements that should be complied with.

ANNEX F-2: Indigenous people plan

Annex%20F-2%20-%20Indigenous%20I

ANNEX G - 1: BUDGET TABLE AND WORK PLAN

Annex%20G%20-%2
0Budget%20Table%

ANNEX H: SUSTAINABILITY AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Annex%20H%20-%20Sustainability%20a

ANNEX I: Responses to Project Reviews

Annex%20I%20-%20
Responses%20to%2

ANNEX J: Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Grievance Redress Mechanism

Introduction

This **Stakeholder Engagement Plan** forms part of the project document for the Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management project. The project, which is funded by the GEF and is a Child Project of the Integrated Program for Critical Forest Biomes – Amazon Integrated Program, is being implemented by the FAO (**GEF Implementing Agency**) and executed by EPA (**Executing Agency**).

The objective of the project is to improve integrated landscape management and conservation of ecosystems in targeted areas in the Amazon region. The project has three (3) interconnected components:

- **Component 1** - Maintenance of intact forest landscapes
- **Component 2** - Engagement of stakeholders in sustainable production and landscape restoration
- **Component 3** - Effective strategic communication and knowledge management

Purpose

This plan outlines the methods to engage with the various stakeholders who hold interest in the Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management project. It identifies project stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels; how they are likely to be involved in implementation of the project (based on an analysis of their interests, responsibilities and mandates); and the means by which they will be engaged during the lifecycle of the project. The key objectives of stakeholder engagement under the project are to:

- Ensure inclusive and meaningful consultation and participation of stakeholders in the project, including vulnerable and marginalised (because of gender, age, poverty, literacy, legal status etc.) groups
- Facilitate collaboration and formation of stronger partnerships and relationships among stakeholders. This includes creating synergies with other similar initiatives
- Harness the knowledge and expertise of stakeholders
- Build buy-in and ownership of the project and its results among a range of stakeholders

Definitions

The stakeholder engagement plan embraces the definitions of 'stakeholder' and 'stakeholder engagement' in the GEF Policy on Stakeholder Engagement[31]:

Stakeholder means an individual or group that has an interest in the outcome of a GEF-financed activity or is likely to be affected by it, such as IPLCs, CSOs, and private sector entities, comprising women, men, girls and boys.

Stakeholder engagement means a process involving stakeholder identification and analysis, planning of stakeholder engagement, disclosure of information, consultation and participation, monitoring, evaluation and learning throughout the project cycle, addressing grievances, and on-going reporting to stakeholders.

How this plan should be used

This plan should be used by the Executing Agency during project implementation, including for monitoring and reporting. It should be treated as a **'living document'** that is consulted and refined regularly throughout the project's implementation cycle to ensure that all the relevant project stakeholders are identified and categorised appropriately and that the proposed engagement strategies are appropriate and effectively meeting their

[31] GEF Policy of Stakeholder Engagement https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Stakeholder_Engagement_Policy_0.pdf

objectives. This plan can also be used to inform the development of a detailed communication strategy for the project which should define desired outcomes and key messages for targeted communication with various stakeholder groups.

Stakeholder identification and analysis

The project will involve the participation of multiple stakeholders at the national and local levels, thus requiring the identification of competencies and roles within the system for the execution of intervention strategies and the achievement of intended outcomes. Using the category descriptions in **Table J-1**, the main project stakeholders, their interest/power/authority and roles are presented in Appendix 1. Note: Other key actors will be confirmed during project mobilization).

Appendix 2 presents the likely stakeholders that are expected to be involved in the project, past and foreseen dates of consultation and a summary of main findings and how these were incorporated into the project and Appendix 3 provides a detailed stakeholder engagement matrix for the project preparation grant phase of the project.

Table J-1. Categories of project stakeholders

Category	Description
Category 1 – Stakeholders who will directly use the outputs of the project to improve management and policy-related decision-making in the target sectors.	This category of stakeholders has a high interest in the project and will need to be significantly involved in the delivery of the project's outputs; especially any policies, plans or similar instruments developed under the project to ensure successful and sustainable outcomes e.g. EPA, GGMC and GFC.
Category 2 – Stakeholders who will be expected to adopt new practices, behaviours or ways of doing business to support improved sustainability in the target sectors.	This category of stakeholders also has a high interest in the project and includes vulnerable and marginalised groups. They will need to be regularly consulted and engaged in participatory approaches to understand and determine solutions to any potential undesirable impacts on their operations, livelihoods and/or income earning capacity arising from the adoption of new practices, behaviours or ways of doing business promoted by the project. Getting their buy-in is significant to ensure sustainability e.g. miners, traditional, artisanal, small scale, NTFP producers. In cases where these stakeholders are organised, they may be engaged via the associations that represent their interests e.g. NTC and GGDMA.
Category 3 –Stakeholders who do not fall directly into Categories 1 and 2 but who, given their interests/mandates/responsibilities, can contribute to the project's success either through research, technical advice, advocacy or capacity building.	This category of stakeholders includes CSOs (including community-based organisationss) and academic and research institutes with an interest in sustainable natural resource management, sustainable nature-based livelihoods, community development, etc. It also includes government agencies whose mandates are linked to addressing other aspects of the project such as gender equality, rural development and enterprise development.
Category 4 – Stakeholders that have the power to directly influence or decide on project implementation/execution.	These stakeholders have the highest influence on the implementation and execution of the project. They are responsible for providing the needed financial resources and technical and administrative oversight for the implementation of the project to ensure that it achieves its intended results

	within budget and on time. This category includes the project's Donor, BH, the GEF Implementing Agency and PSC.

Methods to consult and engage each stakeholder groups

In general, stakeholder Categories 1, 3 and 4 consist of national government bodies, academic institutions, CSOs and intergovernmental agencies. Stakeholder Category 2 generally consists of private sector actors such as traditional, artisanal, small scale, NTFP producers and their organisations and miners. Methods to engage with target project stakeholder groups are outlined in Table J-2.

Table J-2: Methods to engage with target project stakeholder groups

Stakeholder	Engagement purpose	Engagement method	Frequency
Category 1	Participate in joint planning and collaboration for delivery of project outputs Participate in the review and validation of technical reports Champion the project in national, regional and global technical advisory and decision-making fora Co-execute project activities Provide technical and scientific advice Keep updated on project implementation and status Participate in project monitoring and learning Participate in project evaluation Submit and receive feedback on grievances	Direct emails Meetings One-on-one interviews Workshops/webinars Technical review committees Project working groups/committees Targeted communication products Project webpage Social media Traditional media Listservs Surveys	Direct emails and one-on-one meetings and interviews on a continuous basis Workshops/webinars or project working group meetings at least quarterly Targeted communication products on a continuous basis Project webpage and social media on a continuous basis Traditional media as needed List servs on a continuous basis Project Mid-Term Review at end of Year 2 Project evaluation at end of Year 4 Submit and receive feedback on grievances on an as needed basis
Category 2	Share local and sector-specific knowledge Participate in project activities Champion project among target private sector actors	Direct emails Meetings One-on-one interviews Small focus groups in target communities	Direct emails and one-on-one meetings and interviews on a continuous basis Workshops/webinars, trainings and/or project working group meetings at least quarterly

	Promote adoption of new measures and practices among private sector Assist with mobilisation of private sector stakeholders Keep updated on project implementation and status Participate in project monitoring and learning Participate in project evaluation Submit and receive feedback on grievances	Workshops/webinars Trainings Project working groups/committees Project webpage Social media Traditional media Targeted communication products	Small focus groups in the communities as needed Targeted communication products on a continuous basis Project webpage, social media and WhatsApp on a continuous basis Traditional media as needed Project Mid-Term Review at end of Year 2 Project evaluation at end of Year 4 Submit and receive feedback on grievances on an as needed basis
Category 3	Provide local knowledge and technical guidance and research on specific topics relevant to the project Participate in the review and validation of technical reports Assist with mobilisation of local/community stakeholders Execute/co-execute capacity building activities Produce/co-produce research studies and knowledge products Keep updated on project implementation and status Participate in project monitoring and learning Submit and receive feedback on grievances	Direct emails Meetings One-on-one interviews Workshops/ webinars Project working groups/committees Technical review committees Targeted communication products Project webpage Social media Trainings Listservs Surveys	Direct emails and one-on-one meetings and interviews on a continuous basis Workshops/webinars, trainings, project working group meetings at least quarterly Technical review committees on an as needed basis Targeted communication products on a continuous basis Project webpage and social media on a continuous basis Traditional media as needed Submit and receive feedback on grievances on an as needed basis

Category 4 **PSC**	Approve annual project work plans and budgets Provide technical oversight and guidance on project implementation to ensure that project is achieving the intended results Keep updated on project implementation and status	PSC meetings Written progress reports Official emails Official letters	PSC meetings semi-annually Written progress reports quarterly Official emails on an ongoing basis Official letters as needed
GEF Implementing Agency/Budget Holder	Provide oversight and technical guidance on project implementation to ensure timely completion of the project within budget and in accordance with GEF fiduciary and technical standards Approve requests for disbursement of funds Keep updated on project implementation and status Facilitate conflict resolution	PSC meetings Direct emails Meetings Written progress reports (including financial reports) Formal disbursement requests Mid-term review report Final evaluation report	PSC meetings semi-annually Direct emails and meetings on a continuous basis Written progress reports quarterly Requests for disbursement of funds submitted annually Project Mid-Term Review at end of Year 2 Project evaluation at end of Year 4

Engagement of vulnerable stakeholder groups

IPLCs and rural communities including local farmers and traditional, artisanal, small scale, NTFP producers are anticipated to be the stakeholder group most vulnerable to exclusion from the project. This vulnerability arises from a range of factors, including their remoteness, socio-economic status, limited or inadequate access to ICT and limited organisation into cooperatives and associations. Within IPLCs and rural communities, women (who dedicate comparatively more time to household chores and childcare) and unemployed young people are considered especially vulnerable.

Special considerations, based on their needs, will therefore have to be made to avoid exclusion and facilitate effective and meaningful engagement of these important stakeholder groups in project implementation. Ensuring this can help increase trust and contribute to successful outcomes at the local level.

The specific IPLCs and rural communities that will be engaged under Component 2 of the project will be identified in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders and confirmed during project inception. Once confirmed, the

Executing Agency and relevant Executing Partners[32] should identify the vulnerable groups within these communities and consult them, as well as key informants (e.g. government officials, issue/sectoral experts, CSOs, IPLC/community leaders) to understand what specific barriers that would constrain their engagement in the project and what actions can be taken by the project to overcome these barriers. Some common barriers to engagement of vulnerable groups and possible actions that can be taken are identified in Table J-3.

Table J-3: Actions to be taken to reduce barriers to engagement of vulnerable groups

Vulnerable stakeholder group	Barriers to engagement	Actions to be taken to reduce barriers to engagement
IPLCs and rural communities	Some parts of the community may be very remote with limited or unreliable access to transport to attend in-person meetings; transport may be very costly. Limited access to internet-enabled devices for virtual meetings. May be less comfortable in very formal and unfamiliar settings.	Choose convenient locations for consultations. Provide support for transportation, meals and accommodation (where applicable). Provide support for internet connectivity e.g. cover the cost for mobile data. Hold meetings/workshops in community settings.
Smallholder NTFP producers	May be unwilling to give up time from harvesting, crafting or marketing to attend meetings or other project activities due to high reliance on manufacturing products for household income and food security. May be less comfortable in very formal and unfamiliar settings.	Plan meetings or trainings outside of key harvesting periods. Provide support for transportation, meals and accommodation (where applicable) to attend meetings. Hold meetings/workshops in community settings.
Rural women[33]	May not be able to attend whole-day meetings/trainings due to time spent on household and childcare commitments. In some cases, traditional gender roles limit women's participation in decision-making processes and leadership roles.	Deliver training workshops in shorter sessions spread out over a longer period, rather consecutive whole-day sessions over a shorter period (*consult with rural women to see what works best for them*). Frequent visits to communities, including remote areas, coupled with use of formal and informal communication channels to encourage discussion and participation of both men and women in project activities. Highlight the importance of participation of more women and youth in the decision-making processes.

[32] Executing Partners support delivery of the project during execution (e.g. NGO's/CSO's, partner government ministries and departments, etc.). Executing Partners receive subgrants from the Operational Partner for the implementation of specific activities.

[33] Please also refer to the Gender Action Plan for the project which sets out specific activities to encourage the engagement of women and youth in project implementation.

		Advise of meetings/consultations well in advance so that arrangements for childcare can be made, if necessary. Hold meetings/trainings in community settings.
Unemployed people, including young people	May be unable to cover the cost of transport to attend in-person meetings. Limited access to internet-enabled devices for virtual meetings. Some persons may have low literacy. May be uncomfortable in very formal and unfamiliar settings.	Provide support for transportation, meals, accommodation (where applicable). Choose convenient locations for consultations. Frequent visits to communities, including remote areas, coupled with use of formal and informal communication channels to encourage discussion and participation of both men and women in project activities. Highlight the importance of participation of more women and youth in the decision-making processes. Offer cash stipends or honoraria for volunteer work. Provide support for internet connectivity e.g. cover the cost for mobile data. Communicate using simple, non-technical language and graphic illustrations. Provide interactive facilitation and explain complex issues and terminology. Hold meetings/workshops in community settings.

Monitoring and reporting on stakeholder engagement

To ensure that the project is meeting its stakeholder engagement objectives, the project team will be required to monitor and report stakeholder engagement activities listed. Stakeholder engagement should be monitored and reported by the project team throughout the entire life cycle of the project, which will involve:

- Updates of the stakeholder list
- Keeping records of all stakeholder engagement events (including attendance registers)
- Keeping records of all grievances received and addressed.

Additionally, information on the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement should be sought from the project's stakeholders by:

- Seeking their feedback throughout project implementation through regular virtual and in-person meetings, direct emails, social media, feedback forms from all training sessions, webinars and workshops, etc.

- Seeking their feedback during the Mid-Term Review of the project, including lessons learned and recommendations.
- Seeking their feedback during the final evaluation of the project, including on lessons learned and recommendations
- Monitoring complaints received through the project's Grievance Redress Mechanism

The indicators in Table J-4 can be used to monitor and report on stakeholder engagement during project implementation. The project team may refine or add to these indicators as appropriate.

Table J-4: Indicators to monitor and report on stakeholder engagement

No.	Indicator	Monitoring and reporting responsibility	Reporting frequency
1.	Number of government agencies, IPLCs, CSOs, private sector, and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase	EPA Executing Partners PMU	Annually
2.	Number of vulnerable stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase	EPA Executing Partners PMU	Annually
3.	Number of persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in the project implementation phase	EPA Executing Partners PMU	Annually
4.	Number of engagement events (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase	EPA Executing Partners PMU	Annually
5.	Percentage of stakeholders who rate as satisfactory the level at which their views and concerns are taken into account by the project	EPA Executing Partners PMU	Annually
6.	Number of grievances received and resolved	EPA Executing Partners PMU	Annually
7.	Percentage of stakeholders who rate as satisfactory the level at which their grievances were addressed	EPA Executing Partners PMU	Annually
8.	Number of new partnerships or mechanisms to facilitate collaboration established during project implementation	EPA Executing Partners PMU	Annually

Engagement with other Child Projects and Global Coordination Project of the ASL3

Regional exchanges and cooperation will be encouraged through the GEF-8 Critical Forest Biomes Program and other platforms, including REDPARQUES[34], to share lessons and identify complementary interventions across Amazonian countries.

"Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management" is one of eight (8) Child Projects under the ASL3 program. The World Bank, serving as Lead Agency, coordinates activities with ongoing GEF projects and other donor-supported initiatives. The regional project will enhance collaboration and facilitate

[34] a Latin American network of public and private institutions focused on Protected Areas (PAs), that has played a pivotal role in enhancing the institutional capacities of PA agencies and staff, fostering regional strategies to strengthen PA management and conservation

knowledge exchange among participating countries, particularly where regional and global efforts complement national investments.

A program-level M&E system, implemented by the regional project, tracking progress, informing decisions, and supporting adaptive management. This system aggregates results using GEF core indicators, development objective indicators, and qualitative data from annual and quarterly project reports, surveys, and stakeholder inputs. The regional project also monitors indicators for coordination, knowledge sharing, and learning, beyond GEF metrics, including satisfaction with regional activities. Program-level results and national achievements are shared through annual reports, newsletters, and web platforms.

In addition to national-level coordination, regional partnerships are established during both project design and implementation. Preliminary non-GEF initiatives identified for collaboration include the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation's Amazon Andes Initiative, Inter-American Development Bank's Amazon Initiative, WWF Amazon regional projects, The Nature Conservancy Amazon projects, Amazon Network of Georeferenced Socio-Environmental Information, Andes Amazon Monitoring Project, United States Agency for International Development's Amazon Regional Environment Program, Wildlife Conservation Society Amazon Waters Initiative, Nia Tero's Amazonia program, the Amazon Regional Alliance's efforts against illegal gold mining, and projects within the North Amazon Alliance.

The expanded PSC, chaired by the World Bank, includes representatives from the executive agencies of each national child project and their respective GEF Agencies (Conservation International, FAO, United Nations Development Programme, WWF-US, World Bank), along with the GEF Secretariat. External participants, such as donors or Indigenous representatives, may be invited as needed. The PSC will serve as an advisory body to enhance synergies and ensure effective program design and implementation. It meets quarterly, with one annual in-person meeting at project sites to foster lesson-sharing and collaboration. Thematic working groups, including PSC members and relevant experts, will focus on priority topics, developing proposals for knowledge-sharing events or partnerships to be reviewed and advanced by the PSC.

Resources needed to facilitate stakeholder engagement

- Budget allocation for rental of venues to host in-person meetings, workshops and trainings
- Budget allocation for workshop training meals and refreshments
- Budget allocation for transport and accommodation for stakeholders, in particular vulnerable groups
- Budget allocation for production, graphic design, printing and dissemination of targeted communication products.

The required budget to support the activities set out in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the project is covered under the budget allocations to support activities under Components 1-2 (e.g. costs for rental of workshop venues, transport and accommodation for stakeholders to attend meetings, development of relevant communication products) and under Component 3 which addresses activities related to supporting knowledge management, outreach and lesson learning (e.g. costs for project webpage, social media , mid-term and final project evaluations).

Grievance Redress Mechanism

Part A (for external distribution/ disclosure)

1. Main contact details

Do you have a grievance or suggestion about the project *Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management*?

You can use any of the below channels free of charge to contact us. Your grievance will be handled confidentially by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Phone:	+592 227 3149
Email:	FAO-GY@fao.org
WhatsApp (including voice messages):	+592 620 0523
Suggestion box address:	East Coast Demerara, LA BONNE INTENTION, GUYSUCO COMPOUND

2. Purpose of GRM and guiding principles

This is the Grievance Mechanism for the office The FAO Representation for Guyana/project Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management, implemented by the FAO and Government of Guyana between 2026 and 2031 at field level to file grievances related to the project. Contact information and information on the process to file a grievance will be disclosed in all meetings, workshops, and other related events throughout the duration of the project. In addition, it is expected that all communication and awareness raising material to be distributed will include the necessary information regarding the contacts and the process for filing grievances.

The project/FAO will also be responsible for documenting and reporting as part of the safeguards performance monitoring on any grievances received and how they were addressed.

FAO is committed to ensuring that its projects and programs are implemented in accordance with the Organization's environmental and social obligations. Concerns of non-compliance must be addressed at the closest appropriate level, i.e., at the project management/technical level, and if necessary, at the FAO Country Office or Regional Office level. If a concern or grievance cannot be resolved through consultations and measures at the project management/technical level, a grievance requesting a Compliance Review may be filed with the FAO Office of the Inspector General in accordance with the Guidelines for Compliance Reviews Following Grievances Related to the Organization's Environmental and Social Standards[35]. Project Managers will have the responsibility to address concerns brought to the attention of the officially designated project grievance focal point.

The **principles** to be followed during the grievance resolution process include confidentiality, impartiality, respect for human rights, including those pertaining to indigenous peoples, compliance of national norms, coherence with the norms, equality, transparency, honesty, and mutual respect.

3. Who can file a grievance and how

Anyone can file a grievance or make a suggestion related to the project/office. Your grievance will be handled confidentially.

[35] https://www.fao.org/3/i4439e/i4439e.pdf

To facilitate our comprehension of your grievance, please include as much information as possible. For example: what happened, who was involved, when did it happen...

4. From grievance to resolution

The mechanism includes the following stages:

1. In the instance in which the individual or group have the means to directly file the grievance, he/she has the right to do so, presenting through the indicated channels of the project/office (i.e.: email, mailbox, phone, etc.). The process of filing a grievance will duly consider confidentiality, and if requested by the individual or group bringing the grievance, anonymity as well as any existing traditional or indigenous dispute resolution mechanisms and it will not interfere with the community's self-governance system.
2. The individual or group bringing the grievance files a grievance through one of the channels of the grievance mechanism. This will be sent to the Project or FAO Decentralized/Country Office Grievance focal point to acknowledge and log the grievance, assess whether it is eligible and determine responsibility for attempting to resolve the grievance in line with the processes agreed for the project. The confidentiality of the grievance must be preserved during the process. For every grievance received by the project grievance focal point, written proof will be sent within ten (10) working days; afterwards, a resolution proposal will be made within thirty (30) working days.
   The Grievance focal point will also be responsible for recording the grievance and how it has been addressed if a resolution was agreed.
3. If the situation is too complex, or the individual or group bringing the grievance does not accept the proposed resolution, the Grievance focal point must be informed and they must send the grievance to the next highest level, until a solution or acceptance is reached.
4. In compliance with the resolution, the person in charge of dealing with the grievance may interact with the individual or group bringing the grievance, or may call for interviews and meetings, to better understand the reasons.

Resolution

Upon acceptance of a solution by the individual or group bringing the grievance, a confidential record will be maintained.

Review Level	Contact Details
Project Level (utilizing country GRM)	Project Manager
Next level	Gillian Smith FAO Representative East Coast Demerara, LA BONNE INTENTION, GUYSUCO COMPOUND Mailing Address: P.O. Box 10167 Georgetown Telephone: +592 227 3149 E-mail: FAO-GY@fao.org
Higher level (only if it's strictly necessary to include a third level)	Mr. Mario Lubetkin Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean Address: Dag Hammarskjold 3241 SANTIAGO, Chile Phone number: +56-2-29232100
Office of the Inspector General (OIG)	Contact FAO's independent Office of the Inspector General: - To report non-compliance with FAO's environmental and social management guidelines in case your grievance could not be resolved through the previously mentioned channels;

	- To report non-compliance with FAO's environmental and social management guidelines in case you have a good reason for not approaching the project management (e.g., fears about your safety); - To report possible **fraud and other corrupt practices, as well as other misconduct such as sexual exploitation and abuse.** By confidential hotline (online form & by free-of-charge worldwide phone numbers with interpreters available 24 hours/day): fao.ethicspoint.com By e-mail: Investigations-hotline@fao.org or inspector-general-office@fao.org By mail: Office of the Inspector General Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, Italy

Appendix 1: Interest/Power/Authority and roles of the main project stakeholders

Key actor	Interest/Power/Authority	Role of key actor	***Category(ies)*** *Refer to Table J-1 for category descriptions*
EPA	Legal authority for environmental management	• Executing Agency • Chair of the PSC • Project co-financier	1
GGMC	Recognized repository of all information on Guyana's mineral resources (empowered under the Mining Act, 1989)	• Provides technical advice and basic information • Member of the PSC • Project co-financier	1
PAC	In 2011 the Protected Areas Act was made law and provided for the protection and conservation of Guyana's natural heritage and natural capital, the creation, management and financing of a national system of protected areas and the maintenance of ecosystem services of national and global importance including climate regulation.	• Provides technical advice and basic information • Member of the PSC • Project co-financier	1
NTC	• Competent body in indigenous peoples' rights. • Integral development of indigenous peoples and communities. • Facilitate the implementation of socio-productive proposals in collaboration with communities. • Land demarcation and titling of lands and habitats of indigenous peoples and communities.	• Member of the PSC • Chair of the Region 9 Subcommittee • Provides technical advice and basic information	2
GFC	Authority under the GFC Act no. 20, 2007 to: • Develop and monitor standards for forest sector operations • Develop and implement forest protection and conservation strategies, oversees forest research • Provide support and guidance to forest education and training	• Member of the PSC • Provides technical advice and basic information • Project co-financier	1
DOECC	Supports work on climate change adaptation, mitigation and forest conservation and is	• Provides technical advice and basic information on	2

Key actor	Interest/Power/Authority	Role of key actor	***Category(ies)*** *Refer to Table J-1 for category descriptions*
	the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change focal point for Guyana.	the biodiversity trading mechanism	
GGDMA	The Association's purpose is to defend the rights of miners, bargain on behalf of the mining community, and promote the growth and development of the industry.	• Engagement for the development of guidelines for the restoration of mined out areas, under component 2	3

Appendix J-2: Likely key stakeholders, past and foreseen dates of consultation and a summary of main findings and how these were incorporated into the project

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Stakeholder engagement methodology	Consultation Findings (past consultations)	How the findings were incorporated into the project	Expected timing (future consultations)
GFC	Direct beneficiary	National Government Institution body	Consultations	Consulted on 13 May, 28 June, 02 and 04 July, 09 August, 03 September and 21 November 2024 Findings: • Practical issues (choice of species, cost, site features, etc.) on landscape restoration provided. • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Useful inputs from the Community Development Department • Provided information on socio-environmental and gender aspects from the organisation perspective • Increased knowledge of GEF co-financing requirements - Co-financing letter provided • Visited nursery facilities and restoration sites	• Building on planned and present initiatives for re-afforestation and restoration • Information on socio-environmental and gender incorporated into the Annex K - Gender Action Plan (GAP)	To be consulted during project mobilization to validate, as necessary
EPA	Partner	National Government Institution body	Consultations	Consulted on 16 May, 27 June, 04 July, 28 August, 15 and 21 November 2024 Findings: • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Increased knowledge of GEF co-financing requirements - Co-financing letter provided • Shared background documents to inform the drafting of the project document • Provided endorsement of draft project document	• Capacity assessment will be used to design a risk mitigation plan to ensure fiduciary compliance	Throughout project life as the Executing Agency

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Stakeholder engagement methodology	Consultation Findings (past consultations)	How the findings were incorporated into the project	Expected timing (future consultations)
DOECC	Partner	National Government Institution body	Consultations	Consulted on 04 July, 28 August and 21 November 2024 Findings: • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Sharing of information on relevant resource persons • Provided background information on the Norway Agreement, the ART-TREES carbon certification and provided information on the institutional arrangements with the government for the carbon and biodiversity trading mechanism	• Incorporated into the design of component 1	To be engaged during project mobilization and will be one (1) of the key stakeholders consulted on the design of the financing mechanism
PAC	Partner	National Government Institution body	Consultations	Consulted on 28 June, 04 July, 09 and 23 August and 21 November 2024 Findings: • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Information about the challenges of PAC's field work • Increased knowledge of the GEF co-financing requirements - Co-financing letter provided • Provided information on socio-environmental and gender aspects from the organisation perspective • Provided information on fire management around the protected areas • Provided information on lessons learnt whilst engaging IPLCs	• Incorporated into the design of components 2 and 3 • Information on socio-environmental and gender incorporated into the Annex K - GAP	To lead on the implementation of the fire management strategy and communication with IPLCs

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Stakeholder engagement methodology	Consultation Findings (past consultations)	How the findings were incorporated into the project	Expected timing (future consultations)
GLSC	Partner	National Government Institution body	Consultations	Consulted 04 July and 21 November 2024 Findings: • Increased awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Provided information as the focal point for a complementary project (CSDIDS-SOILCARE Phase 1)	Incorporated into the design of component 2	To coordinate complementarity with CSIDS-SOILCARE Phase 1 during project mobilisation
GGMC	Partner	National Government Institution body	Consultations	Consulted 08 October and 21 November 2024 Findings: • Increased awareness of the project and co-financing requirements • Co-financing letter provided • Provided useful information on the historical and technical expertise on reclamation of mined out areas	Incorporated into component 2 Building on planned and present initiatives for reclamation of mined out areas	Key partners in the restoration of lands Contacted during mobilization
Ministry of Natural Resources	Partner	National Government Institution body	Consultations	Consulted 03 and 04 July and 13 August 2024 Findings: • Increased awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Briefing session on LCDS 2030 and biodiversity credits. • Introduction to the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Increased knowledge of the GEF co-financing requirements - Co-financing letter provided	• Information on government policy and programme incorporated throughout the document	Will be consulted to ensure that the project is in line with government policy and programme
Conservation International	Partner	Non-Gonvernmental Organization	Consultations	Consulted 22 May, 04 July, 30 August and 04 October 2024 Findings: • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process.	• Used for project design to reduce duplication of efforts and promote synergies • Information on socio-environmental and gender	To be engaged during project mobilisation to coordinate activities under component 2, specifically value chain development

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Stakeholder engagement methodology	Consultation Findings (past consultations)	How the findings were incorporated into the project	Expected timing (future consultations)
				• Identification of CI's achievements and possibilities of collaboration • Provided information on socio-environmental and gender aspects from the organisation perspective • Increased knowledge of GEF co-financing requirements	incorporated into the Annex K - GAP	
WWF-Guianas	Partner	Non-Gonvernmental Organization	Consultations	Consulted 28 May, 04 July, 26 September and 21 November 2024 Findings: • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process • Identification of WWF's achievements and possibilities of collaboration	• Used for project design to reduce duplication of efforts and promote synergies	To be engaged during project mobilisation to coordinate activities under component 2, specifically value chain development
University of Guyana	Direct beneficiary	Academia	Consultations	Consulted 04 July and 01 October 2024 Findings: • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Increased knowledge of GEF co-financing requirements • Shared lessons learnt on the use of biochar for re-afforestation activities	• Incorporated under component 2 for re-afforestation and restoration activities	To be engaged during project mobilisation to coordinate activities under component 2
Iwokrama International Centre	Partner	Non-Gonvernmental Organization	Consultations	Consulted 13 May, 04 July, 21 October and 21 November 2024 Findings: • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Provided information on socio-environmental and gender aspects from the organisation perspective	• Information provided incorporated under component 2	• To be engaged during project mobilisation to coordinate activities under component 2 • Proposed member of the Region 9 subcommittee

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Stakeholder engagement methodology	Consultation Findings (past consultations)	How the findings were incorporated into the project	Expected timing (future consultations)
				• Provided information on marketing and design of tourism products • Identification of IWOKRAMA's achievements and possibilities of collaboration		
North Rupununi District Development Board	Direct beneficiary	Civil Society Organization	Consultations	Consulted 04 July and 30 September 2024 Findings: • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Increased knowledge of GEF co-financing requirements • Provided information on previous and on-going activities for fire management and value chain development	• Information provided incorporated under component 2	Proposed member of the Region 9 subcommittee
Guyana Tourism Authority	Partner	National Government Institution body	Consultations	Consulted on 21 November 2024 Findings: • Provided information on tourism products in Region 9	• Information provided incorporated under component 2	To be engaged for the development of the tourism product under component 2, in alignment with government policy and programme
Ministry of Agriculture	Partner	National Government Institution body	Consultations	Consulted 04 July 2024 Findings: • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Useful input including sharing documents produced by the Guyana Gender and Forestry Group	• Information incorporated throughout the design of the project document	To be engaged as it relates to value chain development under component 2
NAREI	Partner	National Government Institution body	Consultations	Consulted 30 June and 20 September 2024 Findings:	• Information incorporated throughout the design of the project document	Proposed member of the Region 9 subcommittee

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Stakeholder engagement methodology	Consultation Findings (past consultations)	How the findings were incorporated into the project	Expected timing (future consultations)
				• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Discussion on environmental issues including wildfires in South Rupununi District, Region 9. • NAREI's current work in the hinterland regions was outlined. • Executor of soil sampling field work under CSIDS SOILCARE Phase 1		
Regional Democratic council Region 9	Partner	National Government Institution body	Select a methodology	Consulted on 30 June 2024 Findings: • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Provided regional perspectives on project elements	• Information provided incorporated under component 2	Proposed member of the Region 9 subcommittee
South Rupununi District Council	Partner Direct beneficiary	Civil Society Organization	Consultations	Consulted on 30 June 2024 Findings: • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Provided regional perspectives on project elements.	• Information provided incorporated under component 2	Proposed member of the Region 9 subcommittee
Forestry Training Centre Inc.	Partner	National Government Institution body	Consultations	Consulted on 04 July and 21 November 2024 Findings: • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process • Provided information on re-afforestation and restoration activities	• Incorporated under component 2 for re-afforestation and restoration activities	To be engaged during project mobilisation to coordinate activities under component 2

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Stakeholder engagement methodology	Consultation Findings (past consultations)	How the findings were incorporated into the project	Expected timing (future consultations)
GGDMA	Direct beneficiary	Civil Society Organization	Consultations	Consulted on 04 July and 21 November 2024 Findings: • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Provided information on past initiatives	• Incorporated under component 2	To be engaged for the development of guidelines for the restoration of mined out areas, under component 2
NTC	Partner	Civil Society Organization	Consultations	Consulted on 02 and 04 July, 30 October and 19 November 2024 Findings: • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process • Provided information on past and on-going initiatives • Assisted with stakeholder identification	• Information used to develop the Indigenous Peoples Plan (see Annex F) and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan	To be engaged throughout the project as the Chair of the Region 9 Subcommittee
Forestry Product Development and Marketing Council Incorporated	Partner	Private Sector	Consultations	Consulted on 19 November 2024 Findings: • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process • Provided information on activities	• Incorporated under component 2	To be engaged for the value chain development activities under the component 2 of the project, towards the production of sustainable products and services

Appendix J-3: Detailed stakeholder engagement matrix for the project preparation grant phase of the project
Stakeholder engagement for the period April – November 2024

#	Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder Profile	Consultation Methodology and Date of Consultation	Consultation Findings
1.	GFC	Resource partner	Government	• Bilateral Meeting - 13 May • Bilateral Meeting - 28 June • Bilateral Meetings - 02 July • Inception Workshop - 04 July • Co-financing engagement - 09 Aug • Interview with socio-environmental and gender expert - 03 September • Validation Workshop - 21 November	• Practical issues (choice of species, cost, site features, etc) on landscape restoration. • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Useful inputs from the Community Development Department • Provided information on socio-environmental and gender aspects from the organisation perspective • Increased knowledge of GEF co-financing requirements - Co-financing letter provided • Visited nursery facilities and restoration sites
2.	WWF-Guianas	Resource partner	International organisation/non-government	• Bilateral Meeting - 28 May • Inception Workshop - 04 July • Co-financing engagement - 26 September • Validation Workshop - 21 November	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process • Identification of WWF's achievements and possibilities of collaboration

#	Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder Profile	Consultation Methodology and Date of Consultation	Consultation Findings
3.	Conservation International	Resource partner	International organisation/non-government	• Bilateral Meeting - 22 May • Inception Workshop - 04 July • Team Interview with socio environmental and gender expert - 30 August • Virtual co-financing engagement 04 October	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Identification of Conservation International's achievements and possibilities of collaboration • Provided information on socio-environmental and gender aspects from the organisation perspective • Increased knowledge of GEF co-financing requirements
4.	Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nation Guyana	Resource partner	International organisation /non-government	• Bilateral Meeting - 27 June • Inception Workshop - 04 July • Validation Workshop - 21 November	• Briefing session and updates on the ASL3 project. • Information gathering on Stakeholders perspective on the project.
5.	EPA	Resource partner	Government	• Bilateral Meeting - 16 May • Bilateral Meeting - 27 June • Inception Workshop - 04 July • Virtual co-financing engagement - 28 August	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Increased knowledge of GEF co-financing requirements - Co-financing letter provided

#	Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder Profile	Consultation Methodology and Date of Consultation	Consultation Findings
				• Bilateral Meeting – 15 November • Validation Workshop - 21 November	
6.	Regional Democratic council Region 9	Resource partner	Government	• Bilateral Meeting - 30 June	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Regional perspectives on project elements
7.	South Rupununi District Council	Resource partner Direct beneficiary	Non-government/Civil Society	• Bilateral Meeting - 30 June	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Regional perspectives on project elements.
8.	KMCRG	Resource partner Direct beneficiary	Non-government/Civil Society	• Bilateral Meeting - 30 June • Virtual Inception Workshop - 04 July • Virtual co-financing engagement - 01 October	• Regional perspectives on project elements. • Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Increased knowledge of the GEF co-financing requirements - Co-financing letter provided
9.	Forestry Training Centre Inc.	Resource partner	Government	• Inception Workshop - 04 July • Validation Workshop - 21 November	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process.
10.	Ministry of Natural Resources	Resource partner	Government	• Bilateral Meeting - 03 July	• Briefing session on LCDS 2030 and biodiversity credits.

#	Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder Profile	Consultation Methodology and Date of Consultation	Consultation Findings
				• Inception Workshop - 04 July • Virtual co-financing engagement - 13 August	• Increased awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process • Increased knowledge of the GEF co-financing requirements - Co-financing letter provided
11.	GLSC	Resource partner	Government	• Inception Workshop - 04 July • Validation Workshop - 21 November	• Increased awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Provided information as the focal point for a complementary project (CSIDS-SOILCARE Phase 1
12.	PAC	Resource partner	Government	• Bilateral Meeting - 28 June • Inception Workshop - 04 July • Co-financing engagement - 09 August • Interview with socio environmental and gender expert - 23 August • Validation Workshop - 21 November	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Information about the challenges of PAC's field work • Increased knowledge of the GEF co-financing requirements - Co-financing letter provided • Provided information on socio-environmental and gender aspects from the organisation perspective • Provided information on fire management around the protected areas

#	Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder Profile	Consultation Methodology and Date of Consultation	Consultation Findings
					• Provided information on lessons learnt whilst engaging IPLCs
13.	Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences - University of Guyana	Direct beneficiary	Academia	• Inception Workshop - 04 July • Virtual co-financing engagement - 01 October	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Increased knowledge of GEF co-financing requirements.
14.	DOECC	Resource partner	Government	• Inception Workshop - 04 July • Phone Interview - August 28	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Sharing of information on relevant resource persons • Provided background information on the Norway Agreement, the ART-TREES carbon certification and provided information on the institutional arrangements with the government for the carbon and biodiversity trading mechanism
15.	GGDMA	Direct beneficiary	Non-government/Civil Society	• Inception Workshop - 04 July • Engaged regarding co-financing - 26 September, 08 and 18 October • Validation Workshop - 21 November	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Provided information on past initiatives

#	Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder Profile	Consultation Methodology and Date of Consultation	Consultation Findings
16.	Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry – University of Guyana	Direct beneficiary	Academia	• Inception Workshop - 04 July • Virtual co-financing engagement - 01 October	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Increased knowledge of GEF co-financing requirements • Shared lessons learnt on the use of biochar for re-afforestation activities
17.	IWOKRAMA	Resource partner Direct beneficiary	International organisation/non-government	• Bilateral Meeting - 13 May • Inception Workshop - 04 July • Team Interview with socio environmental and gender expert - 21 August	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Provided information on socio-environmental and gender aspects from the organisation perspective • Provided information on marketing and design of tourism products • Identification of IWOKRAMA's achievements and possibilities of collaboration
18.	Ministry of Agriculture	Resource partner	Government	• Inception Workshop - 04 July	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Useful input including sharing documents produced by the Guyana Gender and Forestry Group

#	Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder Profile	Consultation Methodology and Date of Consultation	Consultation Findings
19.	NTC	Resource partner	Non-government/Civil Society	• Bilateral Meeting – 02 July • Inception Workshop - 04 July • FPIC Consultation – 30 October • Validation Workshop – 19 November	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process • Provided information on past and on-going initiatives • Assisted with stakeholder identification
20.	South Rupununi Conversation Society	Direct beneficiary	Non-government/Civil Society	• Bilateral Meeting - 30 June	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process.
21.	NAREI - Head Office (Mon Repos)	Resource partner	Government	• Bilateral Meeting - 30 June • Meeting held with the Hinterland Coordinator at Mon Repos - 20 September	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Discussion on environmental issues including wildfires in South Rupununi District, Region 9. • NAREI's current work in the hinterland regions was outlined. • Executor of soil sampling field work under CSIDS SOILCARE Phase 1
22.	North Rupununi District Development Board - Region 9 Lethem Office	Direct beneficiary	Non-government/Civil Society	• Inception Workshop (virtual) - 04 July • Engagement on co-financing - 30 September	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Increased knowledge of GEF co-financing requirements.

#	Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder Profile	Consultation Methodology and Date of Consultation	Consultation Findings
					• Provided information on previous and on-going activities for fire management and value chain development.
23.	Guyana Livestock Development Authority	Resource Partner	Government	• Meeting was held with Beekeeping Consultant team - 04 September	• Discussions focused on the authority's research work that has been and is being done on bees. Additionally, the technical assistance being provided for beekeepers and other stakeholders were discussed.
24.	Guyana Marketing Corporation	Resource Partner	Government	• Held brief bilateral meeting - 26 August	• Information on technical and other assistance that are currently provided for Agro-processors was highlighted. Additional information was received via email.
25.	Bureau of Statistics	Resource Partner	Government	• Held brief bilateral meeting - 26 August	• Formal request was made for production, import and export data for value added (agro-processed) products
26.	Hinterland Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Development	Resource Partner	Government	• Held brief bilateral meeting on - 26 August	• Work done in region 9 was highlighted, the baseline survey was received via email. Agro-processing report is expected.
27.	Bureau of Gender Affairs	Resource Partner	Government	• Team Interview - 06 September	• Up-to-date information on the implementation of the National Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy (NGESI), (2018) and on research on Gender based Violence

#	Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder Profile	Consultation Methodology and Date of Consultation	Consultation Findings
28.	Maria Elisabeth/Three friends Small loggers and Farmers Association	Resource Partner	Private sector	• Interview with socio environmental and gender expert - 06 September	• Firsthand information and analysis on the socio-environmental challenges and gender relations
29.	Institute of Gender Studies (University of Guyana)	Resource Partner	Academia	• Meeting to discuss gender training offer – 26 September	• IGS prepared to design a tailormade gender course for technical field staff and beneficiaries at the community level
30.	Lethem Business Incubator Centre	Resource Partner	Government	• Bilateral meeting was held with the manager of LBIC – 26 September	• Areas where Agro-processors within the region are benefitting from the use of the incubator were highlighted. Plans to expand the use of the facility was also explained.
31.	Rupununi Livestock Producer Association	Resource Partner	Private Sector	• Bilateral Meeting was held with personnel from the Association - 09 September	• Areas where technical assistance was provided for beekeepers in the region was highlighted.
32.	GGMC	Resource Partner	Government	• Virtual co-financing engagement – 08 October	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process. • Increased knowledge of GEF co-financing requirements - Co-financing letter provided
33.	Inter-American Development Bank Country Office	Resource Partner	Private Sector	• Virtual co-financing engagement – 23 October	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process.

#	Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder Profile	Consultation Methodology and Date of Consultation	Consultation Findings
					• Increased knowledge of GEF co-financing requirements - Co-financing letter provided
34.	Guyana School of Agriculture	Resource partner	Academia	Email exchange - 7 November	• Request for information on designing and implementing tailor made gender training for government agencies staff and local communities in regions 1,7, 8 and 9
35.	European Union	Resource Partner	International Organization	Virtual Co-Financing engagement – 15 October	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process
36.	Forestry Product Development and Marketing Council Incorporated	Resource Partner	Private Sector	PPG Validation Workshop – 19 November	• Increase in awareness of the substantiative elements of the project document preparation process
37.	Karrau Village Council	Resource Partner	Village Governance	FPIC Consultation	• Project activities presented to the community and feedback obtained • Agreement with project activities • Validated the approaches (see details in Annex F-2)
38.	Campbelltown Village Council	Resource Partner	Village Governance	FPIC Consultation	• Project activities presented to the community and feedback obtained • Agreement with project activities • Validated the approaches

#	Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder Profile	Consultation Methodology and Date of Consultation	Consultation Findings
					(see details in Annex F-2)
39.	Sand Creek Village Council	Resource Partner	Village Governance	FPIC Consultation	• Project activities presented to the community and feedback obtained • Agreement with project activities • Validated the approaches (see details in Annex F-2)
40.	Shulinab Village Council	Resource Partner	Village Governance	FPIC Consultation	• Project activities presented to the community and feedback obtained • Agreement with project activities • Validated the approaches (see details in Annex F-2)
41.	Annai Village Council	Resource Partner	Village Governance	FPIC Consultation	• Project activities presented to the community and feedback obtained • Agreement with project activities • Validated the approaches (see details in Annex F-2)

ANNEX K: Gender analysis and action plan

The objectives of gender mainstreaming in FAO (extract from FAO's Policy on Gender Equality 2020-2030):

- Promoting women and girls' participation and leadership in local institutions and rural organizations, which are an important vehicle for informed decision-making.
- Making sure that both women and men are provided with equal access to and control over key agricultural and natural resources (e.g., land, water, livestock, equipment, seeds and fertilizers). As with men, women who work as agricultural producers, entrepreneurs and value chain actors depend on these resources to increase their productivity and to reap the benefits of their work.
- Ensuring equal access to agricultural support services (i.e., advisory, financial or business development services) to overcome the existing 'gender gap', and facilitate women's equal uptake of technologies and practices.
- Providing equal access to markets and decent employment opportunities both on and off the farm to assure income opportunities for all and preserve individual rights to fair treatment.
- Avoiding or minimizing the risk that an intervention inadvertently increases women's work burden and time poverty as these affect women's freedom of choice and well-being.
- Avoiding or minimizing the risk to build on or reinforce discriminatory social norms and attitudes that undermine women's position and decision-making power from the household to the institutional level.
- Strengthening the capacities to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV and abuse that may occur in connection with any of FAO supported activities.
- Preventing and minimizing unintended negative effects that can increase vulnerability and exposure to GBV, and heighten tension between the sexes, as well as ensure the proper and timely referral to relevant services of cases of disclosure of GBV and other abuse including sexual exploitation and abuse that may occur in connection with any of FAO supported activities.

GENDER ACTION PLAN AND BUDGET

Risk assumptions and mitigation measures

Introduction

The Guyana ASL3 project entitled "Advancing Guyana's Development through Improved Forest Management," is a Child Project of the Integrated Program for Critical Forest Biomes – Amazon Integrated Program. The objective of the project is *to improve integrated landscape management and conservation of ecosystems in targeted areas in the Amazon region*. The project has been structured into three (3) components in line with three (3) interventions of the Integrated Program for Critical Forest Biomes – Amazon of GEF-8 (ASL3), these are:

- **Component 1. Maintenance of intact forest landscapes:** Seeks to improve the management and protection of PAs by implementing innovative financing and governance mechanisms. Central to this effort is the development of a Biodiversity Credits Mechanism designed to fund restoration and conservation initiatives in collaboration with IPLCs. To support this, the project will assess existing biodiversity evaluations and conduct new assessments where necessary, followed by the creation of a

comprehensive Biodiversity MRVS. Additionally, the project will investigate the potential of a project-based VCM mechanism as a supplementary financial resource for supporting restoration activities. Activities will be focused on the focus on the Iwokrama Forest, Kaieteur National Park, Kanashen Amerindian Protected Area, Kanuku Mountains Protected Area, and Shell Beach Protected Area.

- **Component 2. Engagement of stakeholders in sustainable production and landscape restoration:** Seeks to strengthen stakeholder capacity and engagement in sustainable, forest-based value chains, with a focus on gender-specific impacts. It will enhance artisanal and small-scale NTFP value chains by improving design, marketing, and export skills to support local livelihoods while reducing deforestation. Additionally, the project will promote the restoration of lands degraded by artisanal gold mining and wildfire. By complementing current efforts to strengthen the PAC, the project will engage nearby IPLCs in participatory management of PAs and guide them towards sustainable livelihoods through value chains. For mine-site restoration, the project will support the *National Forest Restoration Initiative* by increasing the GGMC Reclamation Unit's capacity for reclamation activities and assisting the GGMC and GFC in scaling up restoration efforts.

- **Component 3. Effective strategic communication and knowledge management:** Includes M&E, communication efforts, and collaboration within the ASL3 Program. It will focus on an Engagement and Dissemination Strategy to share best practices, insights, and knowledge products. The project will also facilitate knowledge exchange with other countries in the ASL3 Program and identify opportunities for complementary initiatives.

The gender analysis and the engagements with local communities conducted during the preparation of the project document didn't reveal risks of creating or exacerbating existing gender inequalities. However, taking into consideration the key findings detailed in the gender focused contextual overview provided in the section below, making an impact on gender mainstreaming at the end of the project will require:

- A better understanding and more systematic inclusion of gender principles in programs and projects by the agencies involved in the implementation of the proposed project
- Gender training for the staff of the agencies
- A better understanding of the power relationships at the level of the IPLCs where more women and youth are in key positions in the local organizations (finance and administration are acknowledged as women's strength) and they can voice their preoccupations. However, the leadership positions are still kept by men
- An acknowledgement that the participation of women is subject to identifying and implementing practical solutions to the problems they might face because of family responsibilities
- Gender based violence is not taboo anymore, but it is part of the private sphere and the conventional communication channels might not allow to understand the root causes and identify solutions.

1-Gender-focused contextual overview

1-1 General profile

Guyana's estimated population[36] in 2021 is 772,975 inhabitants, of which 385,608 are males and 387,367 females, with a population growth rate of 0.6% as of 2023[37] and average life expectancy of 66 years (as of 2022)[38]. In the regions where the proposed project will be implemented, Region 1 has a population with a majority of females (52%), whilst 8 and 9 have more male than female inhabitants[39], 54.5% and 51.6%, respectively. Despite being identified as the country with the fastest growth rate in the world in 2023 (at 16.79 US billion[40]) because of its booming oil sector, the unemployment rate was 12.4% as of 2023 and poverty in Guyana remains particularly severe in rural and hinterland areas where the proposed project will be implemented. Residents of regions 1, 7, 8 & 9 have limited access to economic opportunities, healthcare, and essential public services. Information on the education sector of Guyana reveals that girls are generally performing better than boys. This trend is observed in the regions where the proposed project will be implemented resulting in women handling administrative and financial tasks in local organizations. The Borgen Project[41] includes in the key facts on girl's education in Guyana that "Too often, girls are not able to reveal their full potential in improving Guyana's economy due to discriminatory social norms, incentives and legal institutions. Girls often tend to be overworked, underpaid and sexual harassed in the workplace."

Income of the households seems to still be controlled by men in most cases and the decision-making positions are dominated by men. However, progress is noted (20-30%) with women becoming leaders and in decision-making positions. Women's empowerment seems better accepted in the communities, especially for teaching and health related activities. However, cases of men's feeling of emasculation as a result of projects giving women economic power were mentioned in discussions with various stakeholders.

1-2 Legal status of women in Guyana

The rights of women in Guyana, as committed to by the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, are outlined in three (3) main laws and policies, among 20, adopted or amended since 1980[42]:

- The Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, 1980 and amendments, prohibits all forms of discrimination against women on the basis of gender or sex. Article 29 stipulates: (1) Women and men have equal rights and the same legal status in all spheres of political, economic and social life. All forms of discrimination against women on the basis of their sex are illegal and (2) The exercise of women's rights is ensured by according women equal access with men to academic, vocational, and professional training; equal opportunities in employment, remuneration, and promotion; and in social, political, and cultural activity, by special labor and health protection measures for women, by providing conditions enabling mothers to work, and by legal protection and material and moral support for mothers and children, including paid leave and other benefits for mothers and expectant mothers." In a concerted effort to achieve the targets set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995, the constitution was amended in 2001 to mandate that 33% of national and local government election lists must be women. Guyana's parliament currently comprises about 40% of women Members of Parliament (MPs)[43].

[36] Publications of the Guyana Bureau of Statistics. https://statisticsguyana.gov.gy/subjects/demography-vital-and-social-statistics/year-end-and-mid-year-population-estimates-by-sex-guyana-1992-to-2021/
[37] World Bank Group Data. Guyana. https://data.worldbank.org/country/guyana. Accessed 19 November 2024
[38] ibid
[39] Guyana Fact page, Publication of Guyana Land and Surveys Commission
[40] World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files, https://data.worldbank.org/country/guyana Accessed 19 November 2024
[41] https://borgenproject.org/10-facts-about-girls-education-in-guyana/
[42] Source: National Gender and Social Inclusion Policy document, NGESI
[43] Source: Department of Public Information, Government of Guyana

- Women and Gender Equality Commission, 2010, promotes the national recognition and acceptance that women's rights are human rights and that the attainment of gender equality is to be respected and protected. The communication material disseminated by the Women and Gender Equality Commission emphasizes active promotion of campaigns against gender-based violence and support to women in the agricultural sector.
- The National Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy, 2018, seeks to "Promote sustainable forest management, sustainable productive practices, forest conservation and recovery of degraded areas with small producers, especially women, especially to recover mining and forest areas." Regarding access to credit, the Policy acknowledges the challenges faced by indigenous women, who do not have assets (such as land), whose collateral for credit are supported by community support or other mechanisms that are not considered by private banks and requests promoting sustainable credit plans for productive projects. Credit plans for the acquisition of land that support production and internal commerce amongst indigenous women is also among the recommendations of the Policy. An important strategic area identified by the Policy is climate change and disaster risk, with an emphasis on building on the traditional knowledge of the Amerindian communities and reinforcing it with appropriate training and effective early warning systems; it is acknowledged that women are particularly successful in the implementation of conservation programs.

1-3 Current situation, beliefs, perceptions, and stereotypes regarding gender in the Forestry sector

Guyana has a Anglo-Protestant colonialists legacy ideology which views femininity and masculinity as the woman being the caregiver with primary responsibility in the home and the man as the natural authority and breadwinner.[44,45] There have been gains in women's public life and the promulgation of feminist perspectives.[46] However, the 2024 report of the World Economic Forum, which covers 146 economies, indicates that Guyana ranks at the 35th place with an index of 76.5%. The gender-gap score is the highest that Guyana has obtained.

Forestry activities are at the heart of the livelihoods of communities living the four (4) regions where the proposed project will be implemented. Economic, social, religious and cultural daily activities are organized in close relation with the forest on lands owned by IPLCs or claim titles on. The forestry sector of Guyana has a reputation of being male dominated, with a predominance of large-scale operators with few women involved. The United Nations system in Guyana (United Nations Development Programme, UNWOMEN and FAO) is an important supporter of all initiatives in favor of women in forestry. The United Nations Development Prpgramme Representative used the occasion of the launch of the Guyana Forestry Revolving Fund Facility[47] in 2023 to advocate for support to women-owned enterprises that face huge challenges in access to finance. Special efforts are being made by the Facility to facilitate their access to funds.

In 2020, while acknowledging the scarcity of research and reliable data on gender and forestry, an informal group composed of 10 senior level practitioners launched the Gender and Forests Group. With support from the UK's Forest Governance, Markets and Climate Programme and FAO Guyana, the Gender and Forests Group

[44] Das, Maitreyi Bordia, "Women's Autonomy and Politics of Gender in Guyana," *Economic and Political Weekly*, 35(23) (June 2000):1944-1948, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/262120494_Women's_Autonomy_and_Politics_of_Gender_in_Guyana

[45] Jeffrey Stern, ed. *Guyana Women's Health and Life Experiences Survey Report* (UN Women 2018)

[46] World Wide Fund for Nature. Gender Action Plan. Securing a Living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Southern Guyana (GEF ID: 10288)

[47] The Guyana Forestry Revolving Fund Facility (FRF) is a public-private partnership providing low-cost financing of as much as $30M to start forestry-related businesses, aid production, enhance operations, start-up value-adding ventures, and expand sawmills, kilns, and logging operations

undertook a desk review and field research in four communities.[48] The report constitute a valuable source of information to better understand "the roles and responsibilities of men and women and their influence on forest operations throughout Guyana's timber supply chain. Important lessons from the desk review can be summarized as follows:

- Men are more likely to have access to forest resources
- Men are the primary decision-makers at the community and national levels
- Men are more likely to control the incomes generated from forest-related enterprises

It is believed that women make good decision-makers for community matters, which is supported by the fact that many women hold leadership positions in the community, such as the Toshao,[49] as well in chairpersons of organisations involved in forestry and agriculture. The gender experts of the GFG also concluded that it is evident that more women in the communities where the research was conducted are interested in opportunities in the forestry sector. Access to training for safety and business opportunities, access to equipment, facilitation of economic diversification into agriculture or tourism, basic infrastructure, facilitation of legal land titling in view of access to finances for expansion of operations, are among the requirements for the success of more women in the forestry sector.

During the negotiation between Guyana and the European Union for the Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance, and Trade, Jocelyne Dow, Chairwoman of the Board of the GFC, highlighted that: women make up 40% of the GFC staff and 45% of those employed in community forestry; half a million ha of forest have been allocated to community forestry initiatives that are predominantly under the leadership of women loggers. Currently, a businesswoman in the forestry sector, over half of Ms. Dow's employees are women who perform all tasks including those perceived as suited to male workers. Ms. Dow would like to be a role model for women in the sector through the facilitation of a career path enables women's access to decision-making positions.

Gender violence is part of the culture in all communities in Guyana, but it is exacerbated among indigenous communities by economic challenges. A UNICEF survey[50] reveals that almost 44% of the households in the regions where the proposed project will be implemented do not have electricity. At the national level, the rate is 13% and it falls at 6% in the urban areas. Solar energy is used to compensate for the deficit of power.

The survey indicates that indigenous communities in the Amazon experience poverty at twice the rate and sometimes even five (5) times more than non-indigenous populations. The 2011-2015 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper mentions that "the Indigenous [Peoples] continued to exhibit the highest poverty level in Guyana". The paper shows that in 2006 Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9 had the highest poverty rate, two to three times higher than the national average. The poverty rates for those regions in 2006 were 80%, 61%, 94% and 74%, respectively. Analysis from the 2014 UNICEF Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys shows similar results. Despite not calculating poverty rates, the MICS shows that most of the populations living in the hinterlands (Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9) are in the poorest quintile, and live in a more vulnerable situation than the other regions.

[48] Gender and Forest Group. 2023. *Gender and Forests in Guyana: A Study of Four Communities*. FAO: Georgetown, Guyana.
[49] Gender and Forest Group. 2023. *Gender and Forests in Guyana: A Study of Four Communities*. FAO: Georgetown, Guyana.
[50] UNICEF, Study on Indigenous Women & Children in Guyana, Report, September 2017
,

The stress on men caused by increased cash needs to ensure the well-being of their families seems to encourage gender-based violence. Abuse of alcohol and drugs aggravate the situation. It is also important to mention that, although less frequent, men also can be the victims of gender-based violence. The Gender Affairs Bureau consider that as a sign of the "appetite for change" which can be attributed to the various initiatives by NGOs and Government's agencies. This effort to open a dialogue on such a sensitive subject can help men and women to discuss openly the root causes of the problem. In November 2023, the NTC, through the project "Empowering Men to be Agents of Change to Fight Violence against Women and Girls," convened a Men's Training Workshop. The objective of this first of its kind event was to obtain the commitment from participants to address and end gender-based violence in their respective villages and communities. Nonetheless, an increase of reported cases of violences has been observed. It is not certain whether there have been more cases than in the past, or that smart phones and social media make it easier to report and document the cases.

1-4 Proposed roles of women and men in the proposed project and potential constraints

Some activities proposed by the proposed project, e.g. logging, mapping, managing forest fires, remain mostly what is considered 'men's business.' Based on the study conducted by the GFG, forest work is believed to be dangerous for everyone, but even more for women, although it doesn't mean that women would not be able to handle forest work.

It is acknowledged that women play an important role in sustainable forest management and domains considered crucial to the communities, such as the fight against malaria and sexual violence. Women are regarded as the custodians of preservation and intergenerational transmission of traditional ecological knowledge. They advise on when and where to harvest certain plants, on rotational farming techniques, and knowledge of biodiversity conservation such as which trees to select for harvest and how to protect forest biodiversity for long-term sustainability. Women are promoting NTFP are also responsible for agroforestry and processing activities, particularly the transformation of cassava into very popular products like cassareep, farine and bread. These skills will be an asset for the success of the proposed project, which will be bolstered by training proposed under the project in sustainable forestry practices and business development.

Some constraints (social, cultural, economic, political) exist that can restrict women's active participation in the proposed project activities, including:

- Limited access to resources and land ownership.
- Inadequate infrastructure and market access to sell products in significant quantities, especially NTFP and crafts, limiting the economic benefits women can gain.
- Lack of access to transportation, logistical challenges or domestic responsibilities, in more remote areas, may inhibit persons from participating in training opportunities in sustainable forestry practices and business development.
- In some cases, traditional gender roles limit women's participation in decision-making processes and leadership roles. For the most part, there is a balance for decision-making and priority setting where the focus is on the business and its best interest, where men and women share responsibilities.[51]

In the case of tourism, engagements with the communities revealed that they lack skills for the management of tourist-related infrastructure and activities (e.g. birds viewing, boat tours, etc.), offer of a traditional menu adapted to tourists' expectations, publicity, etc. The support will be through capacity-building in all these aspects.

[51] Gender and Forest Group. 2023. *Gender and Forests in Guyana: A Study of Four Communities*. FAO: Georgetown, Guyana.

In this context, mainstreaming gender will require important time investment to build (or consolidate) trust vis a vis the IPLCs and to ensure that services and technologies to be provided by the proposed project are equally accessible to women and men. The implementation of gender-related activities will require frequent visits coupled with use of formal and informal communication channels. To ensure full participation of women in meetings or workshop, particular attention should be given to preliminary discussions with men, the choice of participants, the timing, the structure of the meeting, the provision of baby-sitting services and a takeaway meal at the end of the session. The Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist for the proposed project will plan and implement consultations with the village leaders to prepare the participant's list for capacity-building sessions and ensure that the desired number of women and youth are selected. The ICT hubs installed in the villages in regions 1, 7, 8 and 9 and the ownership of mobile phones by women and young people will be used to combine face-to-face capacity-building sessions with online exchanges, including discussion groups for follow-up.

The technical experts delivering the capacity-building sessions will establish a mechanism to ensure that women and youth apply the solutions to the problems identified by them and implement innovative business management plans drawn from the capacity-building sessions. They will identify possible shortfalls and propose corrective measures.

The Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist for the proposed project will also use the stakeholder engagement plan to establish alliances with organizations active in the advancement of women's rights and other relevant CSOs.

1.5 Overview of the main stakeholders and their gender capacity in the proposed project's implementation zone

The GFC, Ministry of Natural Resources, PAC, EPA, Iwokrama, Conservation International and WWF are among the institutions with a long record of collaboration with the communities in and around the PAs in Guyana. The following indicators were examined during stakeholder engagements to capture a picture of the gender institutional capacity of the key institutions:

- The gender composition of the staff - The composition of the field staff
- The gender balance at decision-making level
- The existence of gender policy of the institution and budget allocated to gender activities
- The presence of gender specialist(s) among the staff
- The exposure of staff to gender training
- The use of a monitoring system with disaggregated data.

Generally, all of the key institutions employ more women than men, at the middle management level in a mix of technical, expert, administrative and field staff positions. For women in field staff positions, family obligations may lead women to limit their field work. In some cases, more men are found in decision-making positions in the headquarters of an organisation with a few women situated in strategic innovation and technology positions (remote sensing, GIS, and mapping) or are advisers for the management team.

Of the seven (7) key institutions, one (1) governmental organisation and two (2) NGOs indicated the presence of gender experts/specialists among their staff. The other institutions do not have a Gender policy but described that gender sensitive practices are implemented in all projects. It was noted that the annual budget of government's institutions doesn't include a line for gender activities.

Only one (1) key institution, Conservation International, indicated that gender-related activities and procedures are guided by a detailed Gender Action Plan, which was prepared in May 2021. Details about its implementation, in the various regions covered by Conservation International, will be a valuable reference to fine tune the baseline for the proposed project's gender activities. There is a Women's Group at the EPA, comprised of a total membership of about 30 young professionals with degrees in forestry and/or environmental science, who interface with the public on a regular basis. The members of the Women's Group have not been exposed to gender mainstreaming basic notions, but they acknowledge the specific needs of the female clients of the EPA and try to satisfy them. All key institutions indicated that some middle management staff have benefited from gender courses.

Based on requests from technical and financial partners, the government's institutions provide data disaggregated by sex or by age. However, priority in at least one (1) institution has been placed on the improvement of basic services (health, education) before gender mainstreaming.

2-Description of key potential risks, mitigation measures and monitoring arrangements

The potential risks that triggered ESS 6, and the respective mitigation measures, related to the proposed project are summarized in the table below:

RISKS	PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES
Women have limited access to resources and land ownership.	Frequent visits to communities, including remote areas, coupled with use of formal and informal communication channels to encourage discussion and participation of both men and women in project activities
Women have inadequate infrastructure and market access to sell products in significant quantities, especially non-timber forest products and crafts, limiting the economic benefits women can gain.	Support to priority value-chains through capacity building in production, processing, packaging, labeling, marketing; provision of equipment,
Lack of access to transportation, logistical challenges or domestic responsibilities, in more remote areas, which may inhibit persons from participating in training opportunities in sustainable forestry practices and business development.	To ensure full participation of women in meetings or workshops, particular attention will be given to preliminary discussions with men, the choice of participants, the timing, the structure of the meeting, the provision of baby-sitting services and a takeaway meal at the end of the session.
In some cases, traditional gender roles limit women's participation in decision-making processes and leadership roles. For the most part, there is a balance for decision-making and priority setting where the focus is on the business and its best interest, where men and women share responsibilities.	• Frequent visits to communities, including remote areas, coupled with use of formal and informal communication channels to encourage discussion and participation of both men and women in project activities. Highlight the importance of participation of more women and youth in the decision-making processes. • Training in gender mainstreaming basic principles

The government agencies involved in the implementation of the proposed project don't have sectoral gender policies, staff trained in gender mainstreaming and don't collect disaggregated data systematically.	• Support to improvement of gender mainstreaming in the institutions involved in the implementation of the project (translation of the National Gender and Social Inclusion into a sectorial gender plan, training of staff in basic gender principles • Encouragement of the use of a gender sensitive M&E system
Gender violence is part of the culture in all communities in Guyana, but it is exacerbated among indigenous communities by economic challenges. Although less frequent, men also can be the victims of gender-based violence.	• Use of informal communication channels to identify gender-based violence cases. • Provide information about locally accepted institutions (e.g. NTC) offering mediation systems to address cases.

3-Mainstreaming Gender transformative actions into the project implementation strategy.

The proposed project's gender action plan identifies outputs and activities having a risk of gender inequalities from the three (3) components of the logframe and proposes measures to eliminate or minimize them.

Project staff will comply with the six (6) core principles of FAO Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, PSEA Policy listed below:

1. SEA constitutes acts of gross misconduct and are therefore grounds for termination of employment.
2. Sexual activity with children (under the age of 18) is prohibited regardless of the age of local age of consent. Mistaken belief of the age of a child is not a defence.
3. Exchange of money, employment, services or goods for sex is prohibited, including hiring prostitutes.
4. Any sexual relationship with beneficiaries that involves improper use of position is prohibited.
5. Any concerns regarding SEA by fellow workers or partners must be reported via established mechanisms.

All personnel are obligated to create and maintain an environment that prevents SEA. Managers have a particular responsibility for this.

Component 1: Maintenance of intact forest landscapes

Key finding from the gender analysis: Few women in leadership positions in the participatory management of PAs

Project activities to respond to the identified gaps	Indicators and Targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Budget
Output 1.1.4: VCM mechanism designed to financially support mine-site restoration (ARR)				
Conduct a feasibility study to: assess the viability of the proposed ARR project, identify risks and challenges, estimate the carbon sequestration potential and ensure alignment with certification standards	*Indicators*: - Gender analysis conducted as part of the feasibility study - Challenges faced by women involved in the participatory management of PAs identified and addressed - Gender training included in the requirements for a successful participatory management of PAs *Targets:* - At least one (1) gender analysis conducted as of the feasibility study	**By project Year 1**	**EPA**	**Included in project budget**

Component 2: Engagement of stakeholders in sustainable production and landscape restoration

Key findings from the gender analysis:

1. The sharing of roles and responsibilities of men and women in the most important NTFP value chains is well defined
2. Control over income remains a subject not easily discussed
3. Participation of women and youth in training and capacity building sessions needs to be closely monitored
4. Specific requirements to facilitate women's participation must be satisfied

Project activities to respond to the identified gaps	Indicators and Targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Budget

Output 2.1.1: Capacity development program on sustainable extraction, production, and marketing of traditional, artisanal, small-scale, NTFP and services implemented				
Activity 2.1.1.1: Conduct climate resilience and disaster risk analysis for gender sensitive value chains for NTFPs. These commodities will include but not be limited to honey, peanuts, crab oil, cassareep and cashew in Region 9	NB: The analysis will be developed in accordance with the guidelines of FAO's Developing Gender-Sensitive Value Chains *Indicators:* - Gender analysis conducted for each value chain - Report on engagements with IPLCs precising the respective commitments of the communities and the project - % of informants are women - % of informants are under 35 *Targets*: - At least one (1) gender analysis of value chains - At least 1 report on engagements with IPLCs - At least 50% of informants are women - At least 40% of informants are under 35	**By project Year 1**	**EPA**	**Included in project budget**
Activity 2.1.1.2: Improve the tourism product in Region 9 to increase revenue flows to local communities in Region 9 through promoting the use of locally produced food and handicraft etc.	*Indicators*: - % of beneficiaries are women - % of beneficiaries are under 35 *Targets*: - At least 50% of beneficiaries are women - At least 40% of beneficiaries are under 35	**By year 1 of the project**	**EPA**	**Included in project budget**
Activity 2.1.1.3: Conduct general capacity building sessions on design, marketing and export of traditional, artisanal, small-scale NTFPs	*Indicators*: - % of participants are women - % of participants are under 35 *Targets*: - At least 40% of the participants are women	**Refer to annual working plans of the project**	**EPA**	**Included in project budget**

	- At least 40% of the participants are below 35			
Output 2.2.2: Agreements established with IPLCs for participatory forest management				
Activity 2.2.2.4: Develop land degradation response plan for Region 9 communities in the Kanuku Mountain Range	*Indicators*: - % of participants are women - % of participants are youth *Targets*: - At least 40% of participants are women - At least 40% of participants are youth	**Refer to annual working plans of the project**	**EPA**	**Included in project budget**

Component 3: Effective strategic communication and knowledge management

Key finding from the gender analysis:

1. The agencies involved in the implementation of the proposed project don't provide data disaggregated by sex systematically
2. This essential aspect of gender sensitive M&E is satisfied only when technical or financial partners request it
3. Some stakeholders (Iwokrama, Conservation International, Sustainable Wildlife Management) have relevant material on the role of women in participatory management of forests

Project activities to respond to the identified gaps	**Indicators and Targets**	**Timeline**	**Responsibilities**	**Budget**
Output 3.1.1: M&E of the project developed to provide systematized information on measurable, verifiable progress.				
Activity 3.1.1.1 Design and implement the M&E plan (inclusive of agreements reached in FPIC process)	*Indicators*: - Project monitoring and evaluation system collects sex disaggregated data - M&E report including a section on progress in gender mainstreaming - Number of gender awareness trainings held with project staff - % of project staff trained on gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation	**By project Year 1**	**Project Management Unit**	**Included in project budget,** **Fees and DSA for a gender consultant and gender training budget (see below)**

	Targets: - At least one (1) gender awareness training conducted with project staff - At least three (3) members of staff of the agencies involved in the implementation of the proposed project trained in gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation			
Output 3.1.2: Mid-term review and final evaluation to inform adaptive management				
Activity 3.1.2.1: Conduct mid-term review and final evaluation	*Indicator*: - Mid-Term and Final Reports include gender-sensitive considerations and a specific evaluation component on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan based on disaggregated data	**By year 2 and year 4 of the project**	**Project Management Unit**	**Included in project budget**
Output 3.2.1: Engagement and Dissemination Strategy of best practices and lessons learned, as well as dissemination of knowledge products				
Activity 3.2.1.1: Communications and awareness raising strategy, including a campaign to increase public knowledge on the impact of wildfires and gold mining on the forest landscape and livelihoods of surrounding communities (PAC to lead with RDC) and to promote awareness and interest from policy makers on financing needs for restoration	*Indicators*: - Number of communication channels used to document project's experiences and lessons learned with women and youth in participatory management - % of communication strategy related to the role, responsibilities, challenges and successes of women and youth *Targets*: - At least 30% of the content of the communication strategy is related to the role, responsibilities, challenges and successes of women and youth - At least three (3) communication channels used to document project's experiences and	**By year 4 of the project**	**Project Management Unit**	**Included in project budget**

	lessons learned with women and youth in participatory management			
Output 3.2.2: Project results, progresses, and lessons learned systematized, knowledge shared with other countries of the ASL3 Integrated Program and opportunities for complementarity identified.				
Activity 3.2.2.1: Participation of personnel from the government in the ASL3 IP on lesson learned forums	*Indicators*: - Number of government personnel participating in ASL3 IP forums - Results of the implementation of the Gender action plan of the proposed project included in the presentations of personnel participating in lesson learned forums *Targets*: - At least one (1) government personnel participating in ASL3 IP forums - At least one (1) section of the presentations shared by the proposed project emphasizes the successes and challenges in the implementation of the Gender action plan	**End of the project**	**EPA, PAC**	**Included in project budget**

All components: Capacity building in gender mainstreaming for the staff of the institutions involved in the implementation of the project and capacity-building in gender mainstreaming for the beneficiaries of the project at the community level

Key finding from the gender analysis:

1. The National Gender and Social Inclusion, has not yet been translated into a sectoral gender action plan by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment and its agencies
2. The gender institutional capacity of the agencies involved in the implementation of the proposed project needs improvement - Few staff of the agencies involved in the implementation of proposed project have benefited from gender training
3. Few or no training sessions in gender equality organized in the selected communities

Project activities to respond to the identified gaps	**Indicators and Targets**	**Timeline**	**Responsibilities**	**Budget**

All outputs selected from components 1, 2 and 3				
All activities selected from components 1, 2 and 3	*Indicators*: - Number of trainings conducted, per year, in gender mainstreaming for staff of key institutions and communities - Number of staff from key institutions trained in gender mainstreaming - Number of beneficiaries, per community, participating in gender and leadership training - Feedback on the quality of the training, acquisition of new tools and ability to use them in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan *Targets*: - At least one (1) training in gender mainstreaming conducted per year in key institutions and communities - At least four (4) members of staff from key institutions trained in gender mainstreaming - At least two (2) beneficiaries, per community, benefit from gender and leadership training	**By year 2 of the project**	**Project Management Unit**	**$60,000**

ANNEX L: TERMS OF REFERENCE OF PROJECT CORE STAFF

National Technical Coordinator

The project "Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management" is a four-year project, funded by the GEF, implemented by the FAO, and executed by the EPA. The project's objective is "**To improve Forest management in the Amazon forest landscape of Guyana through enhancement of funding, restoration and participatory governance**." The project has been structured into three (3) components in line with three (3) interventions of the Integrated Program for Critical Forest Biomes – Amazon of GEF-8, these are:

Component 1: Maintenance of intact forest landscapes
Component 2: Engagement of stakeholders in sustainable production and landscape restoration
Component 3: Effective strategic communication and knowledge management

The institutional arrangements for the project identify the need for a **National Technical Coordinator** with direct responsibility for the overall day-to-day operations and management of the project.

Tasks
Under the direct supervision of the project steering committee (PSC) and the EPA, the National Technical Coordinator will lead on providing technical oversight to partners, project planning, programming, execution, monitoring, and evaluation, in accordance with the approved workplan(s), procurement plan(s) and budget(s). The National Technical Coordinator will also provide quality control to ensure that the project objectives are met and within timeframes set.

The incumbent will carry out the following functions:

- Under Component 1: Assist with exploring biodiversity credits mechanism and other financing mechanisms to fund restoration and conservation efforts in protected areas and beyond; provide oversight for the resource assessments to be conducted and land management practices to be documented; support the establishment of financing mechanism established for restoration and conservation activities in PAs; ensure the active engagement of IPLCs; secure funding for and assist with initiating three (3) restoration and conservation projects; provide technical support and assess the outputs of national consultants, as well as the products generated in the implementation of the project.
- Under Component 2: Support the execution of gender-sensitive capacity-building sessions on extraction, production, processing, marketing and tourism; assist with ensuring that select value added products/market ready packaged products access the local retail market; ensure that gender-sensitive targets are incorporated into activities; enhance and promote a select tourism product/service; assist

with the development of techniques/methods to restore select degraded areas; conduct a stakeholder identification and analysis; assist with the development of a land degradation response plan; provide technical support and assess the outputs of national consultants, as well as the products generated in the implementation of the project.

- Under Component 3: Assist with the conduct of a KAP survey and development of an engagement and dissemination strategy; ensure active participation in ASL3 conferences, regional events, international exchanges; ensure that there is gender balance within the scope of the project, that appropriate target beneficiaries are the subject of interventions, that data is not being lost, that results are relevant, that activities are appropriate for delivering the types of results required, that resources are used efficiently and effectively, that interventions are not duplicated and there is effective collaboration with other initiatives; assist with organizing and participation in mid-term and terminal evaluations in close coordination with the FAO BH and the independent FAO OED.

Other Activities:

- Assist with the organization of the Project Inception Workshop, combined with the 1st PSC meeting, within three (3) months of project launch. Ensure the Inception Report is submitted to the FAO, immediately after the workshop
- Field missions:
  - Lead the missions, if necessary, to engage local stakeholders and communities in the areas of incidence of the project
  - Ensure local stakeholder needs and priorities are included in the design of project activities and that these are reflected in the AWP/B
  - Design and implement international technical missions as needed, as well as FAO supervisory missions in order to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of the project.
- Reporting:
  - Responsible for preparing and submitting the six-monthly PPRs with the AWP/B to the PSC and FAO
  - Responsible for preparing the annual PIR
  - Responsible for preparing and submitting the OP six-monthly technical and financial reports to FAO and facilitate information exchange between the OP and FAO when needed.
- Responsible for the overall delivery of project results, outcomes, and indicators
- Observe project management procedures to facilitate project implementation and ensure delivery of high-quality outcomes
- In consultation with local partners, prepare the project's annual work plans and budget allocations
- Facilitate communications and linkages at the national and local levels
- Direct supervision of the experts/contract institutions, as required, to undertake tasks and to ensure delivery of all project outcomes and outputs
- Coordinate committed in-kind and in-cash contributions for the project
- Supervise the management of the project budget in accordance with the agreed work plan and approved disbursal of project funds

- Maintain good communications with project partners and others

Minimum Requirements

Education:
- Professional with an advanced degree in Natural Resource Management, Environmental Management or similar field, with experience in Project Management, Business Administration, Development Management or similar field
- A good understanding of protected areas management, forest management, climate and environment financing mechanisms, value chains development, monitoring and evaluation

General Technical Skills and Experience:
- At least seven (7) years professional experience in natural resource management, environmental management or a similar field
- At least five (5) years' experience in management of development projects
- Extensive knowledge of the national context
- Good knowledge of and dealings with national institutions
- Experience in preparation and/or implementation of projects with international organizations
- Experience in workshop facilitation and coordination of multidisciplinary teams
- Writing technical reports according to UN quality standards
- At least 2-3 years of experience supervising and motivating others including multi-disciplinary teams, staff and consultants
- Experience with working with senior government officials, NGOs and IPLCs
- Strong communication and presentation skills in English, and an ability to prepare appropriate and timely reports to multiple audiences including donors, government, community and private sector
- Good understanding of environmental and social safeguards and gender issues.

Other skills:
- **Planning and organizing**: Ability to establish a coherent course of action to achieve goals, ability to translate plans into actions, organize work, monitor & review outcomes, and communicate the results clearly both orally and in writing
- **Teamwork**: Ability to build trust and respect among fellow team members and contribute to the resolution of workplace conflict
- **Communications and interpersonal skills**: Ability to expresses thoughts clearly, accurately and succinctly in verbal and in writing to different audiences, and ability to relate well with others and to maintain relations with cordiality and diplomacy
- **Ability to work in a multi-cultural setting and under pressure**: Ability to interact effectively with people from different cultures, ability to multi-task and remain efficient and productive under pressure
- **Effective problem-solving skills**: Ability to use sound judgment and initiative, develop options and achieve outcomes

- **Organizational awareness**: Ability to align thinking and actions to organizational values
- **Flexibility and adaptability**: Ability to respond positively to change and new organizational practices, structures, procedures and technology
- **Personal credibility**: Has high regards for self-discipline, good attendance record, respect punctuality and set example to others, show consistency in words and actions, has high integrity and is conscientious.

Location: Guyana

Duration: 48 months

Cost: 48 months x US$3,300 = $158,400

Technical Coordinator (Region 9)

The project "Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management" is a four-year project, funded by the GEF, implemented by the FAO, and executed by the EPA. The project's objective is "**To improve Forest management in the Amazon forest landscape of Guyana through enhancement of funding, restoration and participatory governance**." The project has been structured into three (3) components in line with three (3) interventions of the Integrated Program for Critical Forest Biomes – Amazon of GEF-8, these are:

Component 1: Maintenance of intact forest landscapes
Component 2: Engagement of stakeholders in sustainable production and landscape restoration
Component 3: Effective strategic communication and knowledge management

The institutional arrangements for the project identify the need for a **Technical Coordinator (Region 9)** to provide technical oversight and monitoring for all activities being conducted in Region 9.

Tasks
Under the direct supervision of the National Technical Coordinator, the Technical Coordinator (Region 9) will provide technical oversight and support collaboration with project partners and beneficiaries, including attending and reporting on meetings, undertaking follow-up actions on decisions, in Region 9. The Technical Coordinator (Region 9) will facilitate the coordination of day-to-day activities in Region 9, ensuring compliance with work plans budgets (AWP/B) and procurement plans, and will provide quality control to ensure that the project objectives are met and within timeframes set.

The incumbent will carry out the following functions:

- Under Component 1: Provide oversight for the biodiversity baseline assessments to be conducted for Region 9; ensure the active engagement of IPLCs in the development and implementation of the financing mechanism established to support restoration and conservation activities; support the conduct of climate resilience and disaster risk analysis for gender sensitive value chains in Region 9; assist with improving the tourism product and increase local revenue flows in Region 9; provide technical support and assess the outputs of national consultants, as well as the products generated in the implementation of the project.
- Under Component 2: Support the development and implementation of wildfire management plans and land degradation response plans covering communities in Region 9; support liaising with stakeholders in Region 9 for; support the development of restoration plans and liaising with stakeholders to ensure participation in training sessions; lead on the identification of key actors with existing local influence or expertise in resource management and conservation and assist with the establishment of a sustainable, participatory management and

monitoring entity for protected areas; support the development of a GIS-based decision support system for Region 9; provide technical support and assess the outputs of national consultants, as well as the products generated in the implementation of the project.

- Under Component 3: Assist development of an engagement and dissemination strategy; ensure that there is gender balance within the scope of the project, that appropriate target beneficiaries are the subject of interventions, that data is not being lost, that results are relevant, that activities are appropriate for delivering the types of results required, that resources are used efficiently and effectively, that interventions are not duplicated and there is effective collaboration with other initiatives; assist with organizing and participation in mid-term and terminal evaluations in close coordination with the FAO BH and the independent FAO OED.

Other Activities:

- Assist with the organization of the Project Inception Workshop, combined with the 1st PSC meeting, within three (3) months of project launch. Ensure the Inception Report is submitted to the FAO, immediately after the workshop
- Field missions:
  - Lead the missions, if necessary, to engage local stakeholders and communities in the areas of incidence of the project
  - Ensure local stakeholder needs and priorities are included in the design of project activities and that these are reflected in the AWP/B
  - Design and implement international technical missions as needed, as well as FAO supervisory missions in order to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of the project.
- Reporting:
  - Responsible for preparing and submitting the six-monthly PPRs with the AWP/B to the PSC and FAO
  - Responsible for preparing the annual PIR
  - Responsible for preparing and submitting the OP six-monthly technical and financial reports to FAO and facilitate information exchange between the OP and FAO when needed.
- Responsible for the overall delivery of project results, outcomes, and indicators
- Observe project management procedures to facilitate project implementation and ensure delivery of high-quality outcomes
- In consultation with local partners, prepare the project's annual work plans and budget allocations
- Facilitate communications and linkages at the national and local levels
- Direct supervision of the experts/contract institutions, as required, to undertake tasks and to ensure delivery of all project outcomes and outputs
- Coordinate committed in-kind and in-cash contributions for the project
- Supervise the management of the project budget in accordance with the agreed work plan and approved disbursal of project funds
- Maintain good communications with project partners and others

Minimum Requirements

Education:

- Professional with an advanced degree in Natural Resource Management, Environmental Management or similar field, with experience in Project Management, Business Administration, Development Management or similar field
- A good understanding of protected areas management, forest management, climate and environment financing mechanisms, value chains development, monitoring and evaluation

General Technical Skills and Experience:

- At least five (5) years professional experience in natural resource management, environmental management or a similar field
- At least five (5) years' experience in management of development projects
- Extensive knowledge of the national and local (Region 9) context
- Good knowledge of and dealings with national institutions
- Experience in preparation and/or implementation of projects with international organizations
- Experience in workshop facilitation and coordination of multidisciplinary teams
- Writing technical reports according to UN quality standards
- At least 2-3 years of experience supervising and motivating others including multi-disciplinary teams, staff and consultants
- Experience with working with senior government officials, NGOs and IPLCs
- Strong communication and presentation skills in English, and an ability to prepare appropriate and timely reports to multiple audiences including donors, government, community and private sector
- Good understanding of environmental and social safeguards and gender issues.

Other skills:

- **Planning and organizing**: Ability to establish a coherent course of action to achieve goals, ability to translate plans into actions, organize work, monitor & review outcomes, and communicate the results clearly both orally and in writing
- **Teamwork**: Ability to build trust and respect among fellow team members and contribute to the resolution of workplace conflict
- **Communications and interpersonal skills**: Ability to expresses thoughts clearly, accurately and succinctly in verbal and in writing to different audiences, and ability to relate well with others and to maintain relations with cordiality and diplomacy
- **Ability to work in a multi-cultural setting and under pressure**: Ability to interact effectively with people from different cultures, ability to multi-task and remain efficient and productive under pressure
- **Effective problem-solving skills**: Ability to use sound judgment and initiative, develop options and achieve outcomes
- **Organizational awareness**: Ability to align thinking and actions to organizational values

- **Flexibility and adaptability**: Ability to respond positively to change and new organizational practices, structures, procedures and technology
- **Personal credibility**: Has high regards for self-discipline, good attendance record, respect punctuality and set example to others, show consistency in words and actions, has high integrity and is conscientious.

Location: Guyana

Duration: 48 months

Cost: 48 months x US$2,000 = $96,000

Administrative and Logistic Support Officer

The project "Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management" is a four-year project, funded by the GEF, implemented by the FAO, and executed by the EPA. The project's objective is "**To improve Forest management in the Amazon forest landscape of Guyana through enhancement of funding, restoration and participatory governance**." The project has been structured into three (3) components in line with three (3) interventions of the Integrated Program for Critical Forest Biomes – Amazon of GEF-8, these are:

Component 1: Maintenance of intact forest landscapes
Component 2: Engagement of stakeholders in sustainable production and landscape restoration
Component 3: Effective strategic communication and knowledge management

The **Administrative and Logistic Support Officer** will coordinate and perform the full range of office management support and administrative tasks for the smooth and efficient running of the PMU. The incumbent will ensure quality and consistency of the flow of office work and information in the work unit.

Tasks
Under the direct supervision of the National Technical Coordinator and the EPA, the Administrative and Logistic Support Officer will support the PMU with office management; facilitating meeting arrangements and other events of the project; support with writing of reports/reports presentations handle incoming and outgoing communication working closely with the National Technical Coordinator to ensure quality reporting and document control. The incumbent will provide administrative/management/monitoring support to:

- Prepare/type documents (progress reports, work plans, ToRs and other materials and correspondence) and facilitate meeting arrangements and other events of the project
- Review outgoing correspondence and documentation for correct format, grammar, spelling and conformance with FAO Style and country policies and procedures, attach necessary background information and maintain a follow-up system
- Ensure that ToRs and contracts for project personnel and/or partners are published, selection processes are completed, and contracts are issued on-time, based on the approved annual work plans and budget (AWP/B)
- Follow-up with Operational Partnership Implementation Modality (OPIM) partners on the timely submission of requests for funds, financial and progress reports to FAO as per OPIM reporting requirements
- Review requests from OPIM partners for provision of financial resources
- Ensure that payments are made according to the agreed schedule
- Maintain documentation and evidence that describes the appropriate and prudent use of project resources, making it available to FAO and designated auditors upon request

- Maintain a filing system of administrative and financial documents
- Select a variety of information from various sources (e.g. Intra-/Internet, office files, FAO information and documentation) as required to support the work of the PMU
- Follow-up on deadlines for the PMU and other project personnel
- Compile background information and reference material as appropriate to support the National Technical Coordinator
- Lead on logistics and the planning of project activities (meetings, workshops, travel, etc.) and mobilize required resources to ensure optimal time management and realization of the project's outcomes
- Maintain detailed records of budget estimates, obligations and available balances; participate in the consolidation of budget proposals; monitor project budgets to ensure accuracy of financial reports, budget estimates and financial planning; report variations from budgets
- Support the streamlining of procedures and practices and the introduction of new information technologies to the PMU
- Support the administration of personnel and equipment
- Perform other related duties as required

Minimum requirements

Education: Secondary School Education

General technical skills and experience:

- Minimum of four (4) years of administrative and office management experience
- Proven capacity to work well within a team with good communication and interpersonal skills
- Very good knowledge of communication and documentation standards
- Very good knowledge of corporate computerized financial/travel/Human Resources systems and administrative procedures and policies
- Very good knowledge of the organizational structure
- Experience in preparing project technical and financial reports
- Working knowledge of English
- Very good knowledge of MS Office applications, Internet and office technology equipment

Other Skills:

- **Communications and interpersonal skills**: Ability to expresses thoughts clearly, accurately and succinctly in verbal and in writing to different audiences, and ability to relate well with others and to maintain relations with cordiality and diplomacy
- **Ability to work in a multi-cultural setting and under pressure**: Ability to interact effectively with people from different cultures, ability to multi-task and remain efficient and productive under pressure
- **Effective problem-solving skills**: Ability to use sound judgment and initiative, develop options and achieve outcomes

Location: Guyana

Duration: 48 months

Cost: 48 months x US$1,600 = $76,800

Knowledge Management and Communication Officer

The project "Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management" is a four-year project, funded by the GEF, implemented by the FAO, and executed by the EPA. The project's objective is "**To improve Forest management in the Amazon forest landscape of Guyana through enhancement of funding, restoration and participatory governance**." The project has been structured into three (3) components in line with three (3) interventions of the Integrated Program for Critical Forest Biomes – Amazon of GEF-8, these are:

Component 1: Maintenance of intact forest landscapes
Component 2: Engagement of stakeholders in sustainable production and landscape restoration
Component 3: Effective strategic communication and knowledge management

The **Knowledge Management and Communication Officer** will be responsible for developing, supporting and facilitating knowledge and information management related to implementation of the project, including documentation of all key activities and learning points and producing knowledge products accordingly in order to facilitate replication of good practices and learning**.** The incumbent will also develop an Engagement and Dissemination Strategy, to identify target audiences and the most effective communication channels, including (local) radio, TV, podcasts, webinars, and websites, to promote conservation achievements and combat illegal activities, and public awareness campaigns and activities together with indicative schedules and support the implementation of all plans and campaigns.

Tasks
Under the direct supervision of the National Technical Coordinator, the Knowledge Management and Communication Officer will carry out the following functions:

- Lead the implementation of the Engagement and Dissemination Strategy, ensuring that knowledge products are translated and reaches the specific target groups, personnel, interest groups, and the development of work plans for the public awareness campaigns
- Participate in preparing, processing, documenting and disseminating information and communication products, including outreach and awareness-raising materials, through available channels
- Assist project staff and partners and provide guidance in the preparation of reports and information materials to ensure overall quality, accuracy and clarity of material and project documents and ensure common format is followed and provide proofreading and final language editing before finalization for distribution
- Liaise with project partners and stakeholders to monitor use of project products and information
- Provide/Arrange media coverage of project's main activities and events: photography, social media and online coverage, filming, other media support

- Familiarize himself/herself with FAO's reporting, rules and writing style, for drafting and/or editing press articles, and other project circulars and reports; draft content and communication kits/packages, as necessary
- Develop/write media articles, press notes, press releases
- Document lessons learned through the implementation of the project
- Perform other duties as required

The Knowledge Management and Communication Officer will carefully review the project document and other background information to become familiar with the project design and project context. Further, the incumbent will identify, discuss and agree with the project team and beneficiaries' areas that can benefit from the incumbent's expertise in regard to sharing of project information and facilitating knowledge transfer. The incumbent will support implementation of the following indicative Outputs:

Output. 1.1.2 Resource assessments across the forest landscape, inclusive of an assessment of biodiversity and biodiversity loss.

- Documentation of previous land management practices and their impacts on biodiversity
- Guideline for conducting biodiversity baseline assessments in Guyana

Output. 1.1.3 Financing mechanism established to support sustainable management and restoration in the PAs and elsewhere inclusive of improved governance structures that engage IPLCs.

- Procedures for IPLC participation formally documented
- Data collection and reporting on the percentage of IPLCs in Region 9 actively engaged in the design and implementation of the financing mechanism

Output 2.1.1 Capacity development program on sustainable extraction, production, and marketing of traditional, artisanal, small-scale, NTFP and services implemented

- Capacity building sessions held on extraction, production, processing, marketing and tourism
- Data collection and reporting on the percentage of women and under 35 participants in capacity building sessions
- Promotion of tourism product/service

Output 2.2.1 Techniques/methods developed to restore degraded forest (ASL3 Outcomes 2.1, 2.3)

- Capacity building sessions on fire management planning (prevention, suppression and fire brigades)

- Guidance Handbook on Mining Reclamation
- Draft paper on financing options to subsidize restoration and improved management
- Assist with developing documents and technical guidelines on restoration of mining and burnt areas

Output 2.2.2 Agreements established with IPLCs for participatory forest management (ASL3 Outcomes 3.3)

- Stakeholder identification and analysis
- Stakeholder engagement

Output 3.2.1 Engagement and Dissemination Strategy of best practices and lessons learned, as well as dissemination of knowledge products

- KAP surveys conducted
- Engagement and Dissemination Strategy developed to identify target audiences and the most effective communication channels, including (local) radio, TV, podcasts, webinars, and websites, to promote conservation achievements and combat illegal activities
- Data collection and reporting on the percentage of the content of knowledge products highlighting the successes and challenges of women and youth
- Data collection and reporting on the number of knowledge products (guidelines, policy briefs and newsletters) produced and disseminated
- Ensure that all output documents are translated into not less than three (3) local languages to ensure effective knowledge management, lessons learned, management plans, and other key documents

Output 3.2.2 Project results, progresses, and lessons learned systematized, knowledge shared with other countries of the ASL3 Integrated Program and opportunities for complementarity identified

- Partnerships with the private sector will be documented, and a manual will be created to facilitate the adoption of best practices.

Minimum requirements

Education: Degree in knowledge management, information management, communications, journalism, public awareness, public relations or related field.

General technical skills and experience:

- At least four (4) years of appropriate experience knowledge management, capacity development and working with strategic communications, preferably within a government or other national organization
- At least four (4) years of appropriate experience working in the environmental field or forestry sector

- Excellent writing skills and use of MS Office (word, excel, PowerPoint), strong networking and relationship building skills, excellent communication and negotiation skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English
- Experience in preparing communication plans and communication materials, including social media
- Experience in training and/or mentoring of stakeholder groups in effective communications/outreach skills
- Experience in working with/or in government departments, national and international NGOs and other UN agencies is highly desirable
- Excellent knowledge and networks with local media and press
- Proven capacity to work and establish working relationships with medium to high-level government and non-government representatives
- Ability to work in an international environment with various partners (including donors), as a member of a team
- Strong networking and relationship building skills, excellent communication and negotiation skills

Other Skills:

- **Planning and organising**: Ability to establish a coherent course of action to achieve goals, ability to translate plans into actions, organise work, monitor & review outcomes, and communicate the results clearly both orally and in writing
- **Teamwork**: Ability to build trust and respect among fellow team members and contribute to the resolution of workplace conflict
- **Communications and interpersonal skills**: Ability to expresses thoughts clearly, accurately and succinctly in verbal and in writing to different audiences, and ability to relate well with others and to maintain relations with cordiality and diplomacy
- **Ability to work in a multi-cultural setting and under pressure**: Ability to interact effectively with people from different cultures, ability to multi-task and remain efficient and productive under pressure
- **Effective problem-solving skills**: Ability to use sound judgment and initiative, develop options and achieve outcomes
- **Organisational awareness**: Ability to align thinking and actions to organisational values
- **Flexibility and adaptability**: Ability to respond positively to change and new organisational practices, structures, procedures and technology
- **Personal credibility**: Has high regard for self-discipline, good attendance record, respect punctuality and set example to others, show consistency in words and actions, has high integrity and is conscientious

Location: Guyana

Duration: 80 days

Cost: 80 x US$180 = $14,400

Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist

The project "Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management" is a four-year project, funded by the GEF, implemented by the FAO, and executed by the EPA. The project's objective is "**To improve Forest management in the Amazon forest landscape of Guyana through enhancement of funding, restoration and participatory governance**." The project has been structured into three (3) components in line with three (3) interventions of the Integrated Program for Critical Forest Biomes – Amazon of GEF-8, these are:

Component 1: Maintenance of intact forest landscapes
Component 2: Engagement of stakeholders in sustainable production and landscape restoration
Component 3: Effective strategic communication and knowledge management

The **Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist** will review the objectives, outcomes and outputs, and activities of the project in terms of how these will contribute to addressing the needs of women and men, considering existing social and gender inequalities. The incumbent will confirm the methodology for capturing the gender dimensions of the programme. Gender sensitive indicators will be used to measure how programme outputs have affected women and men; how women and men have contributed to addressing the issues and achieving the expected outcomes; and to what extent the programme has equitably addressed both women and men's needs. The incumbent will liaise with the M&E Specialist.

Tasks
Under the direct supervision of National Technical Coordinator, the Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist will be responsible for providing relevant technical guidance and support to ensure that women, men and youth are adequately engaged in the implementation of the project. In particular, the incumbent will perform the following main tasks:

- Ensure implementation and monitoring of the Gender Action Plan for the project
- Ensure proactive measures are taken to overcome barriers to participation and access to benefits
- Obtain sex and age disaggregated data to identify women and youth farmers who are involved in the extraction, production, processing, marketing of NTFP or who may be residents in targeted areas
- Advise on strategies and ensure women and youth are beneficiaries from any community level incentive plans developed by the project and participate in public awareness initiatives
- Involve women and youth in the participatory process and in community meetings/Ensure women are members on multi-stakeholder committees
- Identify strong partnerships with gender-sensitive organizations to support the implementation of activities
- Support inputs into Terms of References for implementing staff
- Participate in PSC meetings and provide updates on the engagement of women, men and youth in the project, as required

- Participate in the terminal evaluation of the project, including assisting with compiling relevant gender disaggregated data and information on the performance of the project regarding gender mainstreaming to input into the terminal evaluation report
- Provide relevant technical guidance to the project as required

The Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist will contribute to, or be fully responsible for specific activities under the following outputs:

Output.1.1.3 Financing mechanism established to support sustainable management and restoration in the PAs and elsewhere inclusive of improved governance structures that engage IPLCs

- Data collection and reporting on the percentage of IPLCs in Region 9 actively engaged in the development and implementation of the financing mechanism

Output 2.1.1 Capacity development program on sustainable extraction, production, and marketing of traditional, artisanal, small-scale, NTFP and services implemented

- Data collection and reporting on the percentage of women and under 35 participants in capacity building sessions held on extraction, processing, marketing and tourism
- Data collection and reporting on the percentage of women and under 35 participants in B2B fora held to connect producers with the market

Output 2.2.1 Techniques/methods developed and implemented to restore degraded forest (ASL3 Outcomes 2.1, 2.3)

- Training content taking into consideration the roles and responsibilities of men, women and youth

Output 2.2.2 Agreements established with IPLCs for participatory forest management (ASL3 Outcomes 3.3)

- Conduct of a gender analysis
- Land degradation response plan, including identification of responsibilities for implementation and taking into consideration the findings of the gender analysis

Output 3.1.1 M&E of the project developed to provide systematized information on measurable, verifiable progress

- Number of stakeholders involved in monitoring and evaluation processes

Output 3.2.1 Engagement and Dissemination Strategy of best practices and lessons learned, as well as dissemination of knowledge products

- Data collection and reporting on the percentage of the content of knowledge products highlighting the successes and challenges of women and youth
- Data collection and reporting on the percentage increase in knowledge (fire management, restoration, participatory management etc.) of target audience (from KAP)

Output 3.2.2 Project results, progresses, and lessons learned systematized, knowledge shared with other countries of the ASL3 Integrated Program and opportunities for complementarity identified

- Inclusion of the results of the implementation of ASL 3 gender plan in the presentation of Guyana

Minimum Requirements

Education:
Advanced University Degree (Masters or equivalent) in gender studies, development studies, social sciences, or any disciplines related to the Project (Environmental Management, Natural Resource Management, and Environment and Sustainability). A postgraduate qualification related to these areas would be highly desirable.

General technical skills and experience:
- Minimum eight (8) years of relevant professional experience in preparing and implementing gender assessments and action plans
- Strong analytical skills and the ability to communicate complex issues to various audiences
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English. Knowledge of the other UN official working language is an asset
- Demonstrated ability to work with national and international organizations, Government authorities, academia, technical experts, field workers and civil society organizations
- Good command of MS Office tools and use of on-line information systems

Other skills:
- **Planning and organising:** Ability to establish a coherent course of action to achieve goals, ability to translate plans into actions, organise work, monitor & review outcomes, and communicate the results clearly both orally and in writing
- **Teamwork**: Ability to build trust and respect among fellow team members and contribute to the resolution of workplace conflict

- **Communications and interpersonal skills**: Ability to expresses thoughts clearly, accurately and succinctly in verbal and in writing to different audiences, and ability to relate well with others and to maintain relations with cordiality and diplomacy
- **Ability to work in a multi-cultural setting and under pressure:** Ability to interact effectively with people from different cultures, ability to multi-task and remain efficient and productive under pressure
- **Effective problem-solving skills**: Ability to use sound judgment and initiative, develop options and achieve outcomes
- **Organisational awareness**: Ability to align thinking and actions to organisational values
- **Flexibility and adaptability:** Ability to respond positively to change and new organisational practices, structures, procedures and technology
- **Personal credibility:** Has high regard for self-discipline, good attendance record, respect punctuality and set example to others, show consistency in words and actions, has high integrity and is conscientious.

Location: Guyana

Duration: 80 days

Cost: 80 x US$230 = US$18,400

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist

The project "Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management" is a four-year project, funded by the GEF, implemented by the FAO, and executed by the EPA. The project's objective is "**To improve Forest management in the Amazon forest landscape of Guyana through enhancement of funding, restoration and participatory governance**." The project has been structured into three (3) components in line with three (3) interventions of the Integrated Program for Critical Forest Biomes – Amazon of GEF-8, these are:

Component 1: Maintenance of intact forest landscapes
Component 2: Engagement of stakeholders in sustainable production and landscape restoration
Component 3: Effective strategic communication and knowledge management

The **M&E Specialist** (part-time) will provide support in designing a system for monitoring and evaluating the Project; develop data collection and assessment methodologies for all relevant elements in the monitoring and evaluation system. The incumbent will specify data collection and assessment tools to be used by PMU members, external execution partners, and other relevant stakeholders.

Tasks
Under the direct supervision of the National Technical Coordinator, the M&E Specialist will carefully review the project document and other background information to become familiar with the project design and project context. Further, the incumbent will identify, discuss and agree with the project team and beneficiaries' areas that can benefit from the incumbent's expertise in regard to improving monitoring and facilitating improvements with project execution. The incumbent will support with the following:

- Lead the development and implementation of comprehensive and realistic monitoring and evaluation plans and strategies with appropriate data sources, collection methods, analysis plans, quality controls and resource requirements, with specific responsibility for the operationalization and implementation of the Project's M&E Plan
- Coordinate and contributes to the collection and compilation of technical information related to the progress towards project outcomes and outputs
- Provide technical backstopping to the different project activities on M&E issues, as required, through technical oversight, capacity building, mentoring and support to ensure the quality of M&E related activities performed by national and international consultants and partner co-executing organizations
- Develop/Identify data collection and assessment tools to be used by the Project, government and other relevant stakeholders that take part in project implementation and evaluation and coordinate training on the use of the tools for project staff including the National Technical Project Coordinator and with relevant executing partners, as needed

- Support the National Technical Project Coordinator during the project Inception Phase to review the project's work plan and the project's procurement plans, as necessary, and preparing the annual PIR to be submitted to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for clearance (which subsequently submits it to GEF)
- Prepare M&E related documentation for the PSC, Project Task Force (PTF), and the FAO-GEF Unit; Ensure that M&E findings are analysed and disseminated on a timely basis to all project staff and all relevant stakeholders to ensure fine-tuning of project implementation
- Support the organization of the final evaluation in close coordination with the National Technical Project Coordinator, FAO Budget Holder (BH) and the FAO Independent Office of Evaluation (OED), and preparing and submitting the six-monthly Project Progress Reports (PPRs) with the annual work plan and budget (AWP/B) to the Implementing Agency
- Review the Risk Plan of the project and ensure incorporation the project's M&E system. (Facilitating continuous review)
- Periodically review, identify any adjustments that may be needed to the Project's Logical framework indicators
- Working alongside the Knowledge Management and Communications Officer, promote knowledge sharing and best practices internally and at national and international meetings and conferences
- Participate in project workshops, meetings, and trainings and ensure transfer of technologies/knowledge where necessary to stakeholder groups; Represent the project in external events
- Perform any other duties as required.

Minimum Requirements

Education: Degree in Social Sciences, Economics, Statistics or related field.

General technical skills and experience:

- At least five (5) years progressively responsible experience in project planning and management of quantitative and qualitative data collection, processing and analysis
- Proven experience in developing and implementing Monitoring and Evaluation Systems and knowledge of appropriate data collection methodologies
- Evidence of strong research, data collection and analytical skills
- Experience developing, implementing and maintaining databases
- Advanced computer literacy including the use of statistical packages as statistical analysis in social science and STATA, Microsoft Office Suite, and/or GIS packages, and in MS Office (word, excel, PowerPoint)
- Strong writing and reporting skills including experience in preparing progress and monitoring reports
- Experience in working with/or in government departments, national and international NGOs and multiple stakeholder groups is highly desirable
- Experience and/or knowledge of environmental management, agriculture, and land use management will be an asset

- Fluency in written and spoken and English is required

Other skills:

- **Planning and organising:** Ability to establish a coherent course of action to achieve goals, ability to translate plans into actions, organise work, monitor & review outcomes, and communicate the results clearly both orally and in writing
- **Teamwork**: Ability to build trust and respect among fellow team members and contribute to the resolution of workplace conflict
- **Communications and interpersonal skills**: Ability to expresses thoughts clearly, accurately and succinctly in verbal and in writing to different audiences, and ability to relate well with others and to maintain relations with cordiality and diplomacy
- **Ability to work in a multi-cultural setting and under pressure:** Ability to interact effectively with people from different cultures, ability to multi-task and remain efficient and productive under pressure
- **Effective problem-solving skills**: Ability to use sound judgment and initiative, develop options and achieve outcomes
- **Organisational awareness**: Ability to align thinking and actions to organisational values
- **Flexibility and adaptability:** Ability to respond positively to change and new organisational practices, structures, procedures and technology
- **Personal credibility:** Has high regard for self-discipline, good attendance record, respect punctuality and set example to others, show consistency in words and actions, has high integrity and is conscientious

Location: Guyana

Duration: 125 days

Cost: 125 x US$125 = US$15,625

ANNEX M: MONITORING & EVALUATION, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND FAO OVERSIGHT

G.1 PROVISIONS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The project results, as outlined in the project results framework (Annex C), will be monitored regularly, reported annually and assessed during project implementation to ensure the project effectively achieves these results. M&E activities will follow FAO and GEF's policies and guidelines for monitoring and evaluation. The M&E system will also facilitate learning, replication of the project's results and lessons which will feed the project's knowledge management strategy.

Monitoring Arrangements

Project oversight and supervision will be carried out by the PSC and the BH with the support of the PTF members (LTO and FLO, GTO and relevant technical units in FAO headquarters). Oversight will ensure that: (i) project outputs are produced in accordance with the project results framework and leading to the achievement of project outcomes; (ii) project outcomes are leading to the achievement of the project objective; (iii) identified, as well as unidentified, risks are continuously monitored and appropriate mitigation strategies are applied; and (iv) agreed project global environmental benefits are being delivered.

The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit and HQ Technical units will provide oversight of GEF financed activities, outputs and outcomes largely through the annual PIRs, periodic backstopping and supervision missions.

Day-to-day project monitoring will be carried out by the PMU. Project performance will be monitored using the project results matrix, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. At inception phase, the results matrix will be reviewed to finalize the identification of i) outputs ii) indicators iii) targets and iv) any missing baseline information

A detailed M&E plan, which builds on the results matrix and defines specific requirements for each indicator (data collection methods, frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc.) will also be developed during project inception by the PMU M&E Specialist.

Table M-1. M&E activities, responsible parties, budget and timeframe.

GEF requirements in the M&E plan	Responsible parties	Estimated cost (USD) attributable to GEF funds	Timeframe
Inception workshop (combined with 1st PSC meeting)	National Technical Coordinator, Technical Coordinator (Region 9), M&E Specialist, PSC, EPA with the support of the FAO LTO and FAO-GEF Coordinating Unit	M&E Specialist – USD 3,500	Within two (2) months of CEO approval

GEF requirements in the M&E plan	Responsible parties	Estimated cost (USD) attributable to GEF funds	Timeframe
Project inception report (to include M&E Plan-Gender, ESS strategies, Stakeholder Engagement)	National Technical Coordinator, Technical Coordinator (Region 9) M&E Specialist, PSC with the approval of the LTO and FAO BH	Time of M&E Specialist, NTC, and FAO Technical Units	Within 120 days of CEO endorsement of this project
M&E planning	M&E Specialist, National Technical Coordinator, Technical Coordinator (Region 9), EPA, relevant FAO technical units, beneficiaries	M&E Specialist – USD 12,125 Time of M&E Specialist, Gender and Social Safeguards Expert, Technical Coordinator (Region 9) and FAO Technical Units, and EPA and National Technical Coordinator inputs (as needed) covered by in-kind co-financing	During the first six months of project implementation
Build the capacity of the identified beneficiaries in terms of skills, knowledge, and experience of M&E	M&E Specialist, National Technical Coordinator, Technical Coordinator (Region 9), beneficiaries	Time of M&E Specialist, National Technical Coordinator, Technical Coordinator (Region 9); and time of FAO Technical Units (principally FAO-GEF Coordination Unit M&R team) as in-kind co-financing	Throughout project implementation
Monitoring of project's core indicators and results framework indicators (outcome, progress and performance indicators, GEF-7 core indicators) including baseline data	M&E Specialist, National Technical Coordinator, Technical Coordinator (Region 9), Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist, project partners, local organizations	Time of M&E Specialist, National Technical Coordinator, Technical Coordinator (Region 9), Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist, with input of participating stakeholders covered by co-financing.	Ongoing, with at least one (1) quarterly review by M&E Specialist

GEF requirements in the M&E plan	Responsible parties	Estimated cost (USD) attributable to GEF funds	Timeframe
collection where needed and monitoring of socio-environmental and gender related risks			
Collecting and analysing data on project delivery, performance, and implementation	M&E Specialist, National Technical Coordinator, Technical Coordinator (Region 9)	Time of M&E Specialist, National Technical Coordinator, Technical Coordinator (Region 9)	Twice during the project lifetime (in PY2 and PY4)
Project Progress Reports (PPR)	National Technical Coordinator, Technical Coordinator (Region 9), M&E Specialist, with input from stakeholders and other participating institutions	Time of M&E Specialist, National Technical Coordinator, Technical Coordinator (Region 9) and FAO Technical Units	Biannual
Annual PIR Reports	Prepared by National Technical Coordinator and Technical Coordinator (Region 9) with support of M&E Specialist, FAO LTO and FAO BH. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit clears and submits the PIR to the GEF Secretariat.	FAO staff time funded by agency fee, National Technical Coordinator, Technical Coordinator (Region 9) and M&E Specialist through PMU duties, and EPA inputs (as needed) covered by in-kind co-financing	Annually, typically between June and July
Independent MTR and management response	Independent evaluation consultants	USD 35,000	Midterm

GEF requirements in the M&E plan	Responsible parties	Estimated cost (USD) attributable to GEF funds	Timeframe
OPIM Audit	Independent Auditing Firm	USD 28,000	Annually
Spot checks for OP	Independent Auditing Firm	USD 16,000	Annually
Terminal Evaluation	FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) and Independent Evaluation Consultants. The M&E Specialist will manage the decentralized independent TE of this project under the guidance and support of the OED.	External consultancy, including travel costs = USD 40,000. FAO staff time (including OED with FAO-GEF Coordination Unit input) and travel costs will be financed from GEF fees	To be launched six (6) months before final review meeting
Terminal report	National Technical Coordinator., Technical Coordinator (Region 9), FAOGY as BH (with the support of the FAO LTO and the FAO-GEF Unit); M&E Specialist, with inputs from EPA	National Technical Coordinator, Technical Coordinator (Region 9) and FAO staff time, with EPA as in-kind co-financing. USD 6,650	Two (2) months before the project completion date
TOTAL COST		USD 141,275	

Monitoring and Reporting

In compliance with FAO and GEF M&E policies and requirements and in consultation with the PSC and PTF, the PMU will prepare the following i) Project inception report; (ii) AWP/B; (iii) PPRs; (iv) annual Project Implementation Review; (v) Technical Reports; (vi) co-financing reports; and

(vii) Terminal Report. In addition, the Core Indicators included in *indicate annex* will be used to monitor global environmental benefits and updated regularly by the PMU.

Project Inception Report. A project inception workshop will be held within three (3) months of project start date and signature of relevant agreements with partners. During this workshop the following will be reviewed and agreed:

- the proposed implementation arrangement, the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder and project partners
- an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation
- the results framework, the SMART indicators and targets, the means of verification, and monitoring plan
- the responsibilities for monitoring the various project plans and strategies, including the risk matrix, the Environmental and Social safeguards and the Environmental and Social Management Plans, the gender strategy, the knowledge management strategy, and other relevant strategies
- finalize the preparation of the first year AWP/B, the financial reporting and audit procedures
- schedule the PSC meetings
- prepare a detailed first year AWP/B

The PMU will draft the inception report based on the agreement reached during the workshop and circulate among PSC members, BH, LTO, GTO and FLO for review within one (1) month. The final report will be cleared by the FAO BH, LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit and uploaded in FAO's Field Program Management Information System (FPMIS) by the BH.

Results-based AWP/B.

The PMU will submit to the BH AWPs/Bs that are divided into monthly timeframes detailing the activities and progress indicators that would guide implementation during the year of the project. Each AWP/B will be drafted by the PM, will be submitted for PTF review and approval by the PSC. Necessary changes to the AWP/B - as recommended by the PSC - will be made by the PM prior to implementation of the AWP/B. The first AWP/B will be drafted during the project's Inception Phase and presented at the project Inception Workshop. As part of the AWP/B, a detailed project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year should be included together with all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year. The inputs of the Inception Workshop will be incorporated and the PM will submit a final draft AWP/B within two (2) weeks of the workshop to the BH. For subsequent AWP/B, the PM will organize PSC meetings for its review. Once comments have been incorporated, the BH will circulate the AWP/B to the LTO and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for comments/clearance prior to uploading in FPMIS by the BH. The AWP/B must be linked to the Project's Results Framework indicators so that the Project's work is contributing to the achievement of the indicators.

Project Progress Reports (PPR):

After FAO approval of the project and signature of the execution agreement, PPRs will be prepared based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the Project Results Framework *indicate annex number*, AWP/B, M&E Plan and safeguards. Each semester the Project Coordinator (PC) will prepare a draft PPR, will collect and consolidate any comments from the FAO PTF. The *PC / PM* will submit the final PPRs to the FAO Representation in Guyana every six months, prior to 31 July (covering the period between January and June) and before 31 January (covering the period between July and December). The July-December report should be accompanied by the updated AWP/B for the following Project Year (PY) for review and no-objection by the FAO PTF. The Budget Holder has the responsibility to coordinate the preparation and finalization of the PPR, in consultation with the PMU, LTO, GTO and the FLO. After LTO, BH and GTO clearance, the FLO will ensure that project progress reports are uploaded in FPMIS in a timely manner.

Project Implementation Report (PIR):
The annual PIR, required by the GEF, will be used to assess progress toward achieving the project objective and implementation progress and challenges, risks and mitigation measures. The Project Coordinator / Project Manager will prepare a consolidated annual PIR report covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) for each year of implementation, in collaboration with national project partners (including the GEF OFP), the Lead Technical Officer, and the GTO/FLO. The Budget Holder will ensure that the PC/PM will monitor and report on the progress of project results framework, the status of the implementation of safeguards. the FAO-GEF Coordination unit will submit the final and cleared version of the report to the GEF Secretariat and Upload it under the relevant section in FPMIS.

Technical Reports:

Technical reports will be prepared as part of project outputs, including safeguards, and to document and share project outcomes and lessons learned. The LTO will be responsible for ensuring appropriate technical review and clearance of technical reports. Copies of the technical reports will be distributed to project partners and the PSC as appropriate.

Co-financing Reports:

The PMU will be responsible for tracking co-financing materialized against the confirmed amounts at project approval and reporting. The co-financing report, which covers the GEF fiscal year 1 July through 30 June, is to be submitted on or before 31 July and will be incorporated into the annual PIR. The co-financing report needs to include the activities that were financed by the contribution of the partners.

Tracking and reporting on results across the GEF 8 core indicators and sub-indicators:

The GEF Core Indicators provided under Section B.2 of this project document will be used to monitor global environmental benefits. Throughout the implementation period of the project, the PMU, is required to track the project's progress in achieving these results across applicable core indicators and sub-indicators. Before the project mid-term and project completion stage, the project team in consultation with the PTF and the FAO-GEF CU are required to report achieved results against the core indicators and sub-indicators used at CEO Endorsement/ Approval.

Terminal Report:
The PM will prepare the Terminal Report. Three (3) months before the actual end date of the project (NTE) – and prior to the completion of the Final Evaluation exercise – the PMU will submit to the BH and LTO a draft Terminal Report. The main purpose of the Terminal Report is to give guidance at ministerial or senior government level on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the project, and to provide the donor with information on how the funds were utilized. The Terminal Report is accordingly a concise account of the main products, results, conclusions and recommendations of the project. The target readership consists of persons who are not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the policy implications of technical findings and needs for insuring sustainability of project results.

Evaluations

Mid-Term Review

The Budget Holder is responsible for the conduct of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the project in consultation with the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit halfway through implementation. He/she will contact the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit about 3 months before the project half-point (within three [3] years of project CEO Endorsement) to initiate the MTR exercise.

The Mid-Term review will (i) assess the progress made towards achievement of planned results, including implementation of safeguards; (ii) identify problems and make recommendations to redress the project (iii) highlight good practices, lessons learned and areas with the potential for upscaling.

To support the planning and conduct of the MTR, the FAO GEF CU has developed a guidance document "**The Guide for planning and conducting Mid-Term Reviews of FAO-GEF projects and programmes"**. The FAO-GEF CU will appoint an MTR focal point who will provide guidance on GEF specific requirements, quality assurance on the review process and overall backstopping support for the effective management of the exercise and for timely the submission of the MTR report to the GEF Secretariat.

After the completion of the Mid-Term Review, the BH will be responsible for the distribution of the MTR report at country level (including to the GEF OFP) and for the preparation of the **Management Response** within four (4) weeks and share it with national partners, GEF OFP and the FAO-

GEF CU. The BH will also send the updated core indicators used during the MTR to the FAO-GEF CU for their submission to the GEF Secretariat. Upload the MTR report under the relevant section in FPMIS documents.

Terminal Evaluation

FAO will conduct the terminal evaluation of this project. An allocation of USD 40,000 has been set aside to cover evaluation costs. At a minimum, the independent Office of Evaluation will validate the evaluation report in compliance with GEF requirements.

G.2 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Financial management in relation to the GEF resources directly managed by FAO will be carried out in accordance with FAO's rules and procedures as outlined below. The OP is accountable to FAO for achieving the agreed project results and for the effective use of resources made available by FAO. Financial management and reporting for the funds transferred to the OP will be done by the OP in accordance with terms, conditions, formats and requirements of FAO and the provisions of the signed OPA. The administration by the OP of the funds received from FAO shall be carried out under its own financial regulations, rules and procedures, which shall provide adequate controls to ensure that the funds received, are properly administered and expended. The Operational Partner shall maintain the account in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards.

Financial Records. FAO shall maintain a separate account in United States dollars for the project's GEF resources showing all income and expenditures. FAO shall administer the project in accordance with its regulations, rules and directives. The OP shall maintain books and records that are accurate, complete and up to date. The OP's books and records will clearly identify all Fund Transfers received by the OP as well as disbursements made by the OP under the OPA, including the amount of any unspent funds and interest accrued.

Financial Reports. The BH shall prepare quarterly (or at least six-months) project expenditure accounts and final accounts for the project, showing amount budgeted for the year, amount expended since the beginning of the year, and separately, the un-liquidated obligations as follows: i) Details of project expenditures on outcome-by-outcome basis, reported in line with Project Budget as at 30 June and 31 December each year; ii) Final accounts on completion of the Project on a component-by-component and outcome-by-outcome basis, reported in line with the Project Budget; iii) A final statement of account reflecting actual final expenditures under the Project, when all obligations have been liquidated.

The OP will prepare the financial reports in accordance with terms, conditions, formats and requirements of FAO and the provisions of the signed OPA. The BH will review and approve request for funds and financial reports of the OP. The subsequent instalments can be released only based

on the BH confirmation that all expenditures are eligible and all OPA requirements are fulfilled to the satisfaction of FAO. The BH will withhold any payment due to the OP in case of non-compliance with the reporting obligations detailed in the OPA.

Financial reports for submission to the donor (GEF) will include both FAO- and OP-managed resources, will be prepared in accordance with the provisions in the GEF Financial Procedures Agreement and submitted by the FAO Finance Division.

Responsibility for Cost Overruns. As regards resources directly managed by FAO, the BH shall utilize the GEF project funds in strict compliance with the Project Budget (Appendix A2) and the approved AWP/Bs. The BH can make variations provided that the total allocated for each budgeted project component is not exceeded and the reallocation of funds does not impact the achievement of any project output as per the project Results Framework (Appendix A1). At least once a year, the BH will submit a budget revision for approval of the LTO and the FAO/GEF Coordination Unit. Cost overruns shall be the sole responsibility of the BH.

As regards resources managed by the OP, the OP shall utilize the funds received from FAO in strict compliance with provisions of the signed OPA and its Annexes, including approved work plan and budget. The OP can make variations not exceeding 10% on any budget heading. Any variations above 10% on any budget heading that may be necessary will be subject to prior consultations with and approval by FAO.

Under no circumstances can expenditures exceed the approved total project budget or be approved beyond the NTE date of the OPA and/or the project. Any over-expenditure is the responsibility of the BH.

Audit. The project shall be subject to the internal and external auditing procedures provided for in FAO financial regulations, rules and directives and in keeping with the Financial Procedures Agreement between the GEF Trustee and FAO.

The audit regime at FAO consists of an external audit provided by the Auditor-General (or persons exercising an equivalent function) of a member nation appointed by the Governing Bodies of the Organization and reporting directly to them, and an internal audit function headed by the FAO Inspector-General who reports directly to the Director-General. This function operates as an integral part of the Organization under policies established by senior management, and furthermore has a reporting line to the governing bodies. Both functions are required under the Basic Texts of FAO which establish a framework for the terms of reference of each. Internal audits of accounts, records, bank reconciliation and asset verification take place at FAO field and liaison offices on a cyclical basis.

Specific provisions for auditing the OP managed funds are included in the signed OPA. During implementation, assurance activities are organized by FAO to determine whether the progress has been made and whether funds transferred to OPs were used for their intended purpose, in accordance with the work plan and relevant rules and regulations. This may include, but is not limited to, monitoring missions, spot checks, quarterly progress and annual implementation reviews, and audits on the resources received from FAO.

Procurement. Careful procurement planning is necessary for securing goods, services and works in a timely manner, on a "Best Value for Money" basis. It requires analysis of needs and constraints, including forecast of the reasonable timeframe required to execute the procurement process.

Procurement will follow OP rules and regulations for the procurement of supplies, equipment and services. The OP will draw up a procurement plan as part of the supporting documentation to each request for funds submitted to FAO. The plan will include a description of the goods, works, or services to be procured, estimated budget and source of funding, schedule of procurement activities and proposed method of procurement. In situations where exact information is not yet available, the procurement plan should at least contain reasonable projections that will be corrected as information becomes available.

The procurement plan shall be updated at least twice per year and submitted to FAO BH and LTO for clearance.

G3. FAO's OVERSIGHT

FAO will be the GEF Implementing Agency of the project. As such, FAO has the project assurance role and will supervise and provide technical guidance for the overall implementation of the project, including:

a) Assess OP's technical supports needs and fiduciary standards
b) Monitor and oversee OP's compliance with the OPA and project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers and the rules and procedures of FAO and GEF
c) Commence and completing the responsibilities allocated to it in the Project Document in a timely manner, provided that all necessary reports and other documents are available
d) Making transfers of funds, as applicable, in accordance with the provisions of the OPA
e) Administrate the portion of project GEF funds that has been agreed with the OP to remain for FAO direct administration. These funds will be managed in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO
f) Organizing and completing monitoring, assessment, assurance activities and evaluation of the Project
g) Review, discuss with the OP, and approve the project progress and financial reports, as detailed in the OPA and its annexes, undertaking and completing monitoring, assessment, assurance activities, evaluation and oversight of the project
h) Liaising on an ongoing basis, as needed, with the Government (as applicable), other members of the United Nations Country Team, Resource Partner, and other stakeholders

i) Providing overall guidance, oversight, technical assistance and leadership, as appropriate, for the Project

j) Provide financial and audit services to the project including budget release, budget revisions and administration of funds from GEF in accordance with rules and procedures of FAO

k) Oversee financial expenditures against project budgets

l) Ensure that all activities, including procurement and financial services are carried out in strict compliance with FAO and GEF relevant procedures and agreements

m) Initiate joint review meetings with the OP to agree on the resolution of findings and to document the lessons learned

n) Report to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, on project progress and provide consolidated financial reports to the GEF Trustee

o) Conduct at least one (1) supervision mission per year

p) Lead the Mid-Term Review and Final Evaluation

q) Monitor implementation of the plan for social and environmental safeguards, in accordance with the FAO Environmental and Social Safeguards

r) Trigger additional reviews, audits and/or evaluations, as necessary.

In collaboration with the PMU and under the overall guidance of the PSC, FAO will participate in the planning of contracting and technical selection processes. FAO will process fund transfers to the OP as per provisions, terms and conditions of the signed OPA.

The FAO Representative in Guyana will be the BH and will be responsible for timely operational, and financial management of GEF resources implemented -. The BH will be also responsible for i) managing OPIM for results, including monitoring of risks and overall compliance with the OPA provisions; ii)review and clear financial and progress reports received from the OP and certify request for funds iii) review and clear budget revisions and AWP/B; iv) ensure implementation of the Risk Mitigation and Assurance Plan v) follow up and ensure that the OP implements all actions and recommendations agreed upon during Assurance Activities.

As a first step in the implementation of the project, the FAO Representation will establish an interdisciplinary PTF within FAO, to guide the implementation of the project. The PTF is a management and consultative body that integrate the necessary technical qualifications from the FAO relevant units to support the project. The PTF is composed of a BH, a LTO, the FLO and one or more technical officers based on FAO Headquarters (HQ Technical Officer).

The FAO Representative, in accordance with the PTF, will give its non-objection to the AWP/Bs submitted by the PMU as well as the PPRs. PPRs may be commented by the PTF and should be approved by the LTO before being uploaded by the BH in FPMIS.

The Lead Technical Officer (LTO) for the project will be located in Subregional Office for the Caribbean. The role of the LTO is central to FAO's comparative advantage for projects. The LTO will oversee and carry out technical backstopping to the project implementation. The LTO will support the BH in the implementation and monitoring of the AWP/Bs, including work plan and budget revisions. The LTO is responsible and accountable for providing or obtaining technical clearance of technical inputs and services procured by the Organization.

In addition, the LTO will provide technical backstopping to the PMU to ensure the delivery of quality technical outputs. The LTO will coordinate the provision of appropriate technical support from PTF to respond to requests from the PSC. The LTO will be responsible for the following:

a) Assess the technical expertise required for project implementation and identify the need for technical support and capacity development of the OP

b) Provide technical guidance to the OP on technical aspects and implementation

c) Review and give no-objection to TORs for consultancies and contracts to be performed under the project, and to CVs and technical proposals short-listed by the PMU for key project positions and services to be financed by GEF resources

d) Review and give clearance for the OP's procurement plans

e) Supported by the FAO Representation, review and clear final technical products delivered by consultants and contract holders financed by GEF resources

f) Assist with review and provision of technical comments to draft technical products/reports during project implementation

g) Review and approve project progress reports submitted by the National Technical Coordinator, in cooperation with the BH

h) Support the FAO Representative in examining, reviewing and giving no-objection to AWP/B submitted by the National Technical Coordinator, for their approval by the PSC

i) Ensure the technical quality of the six-monthly PPRs. The PPRs will be prepared by the National Technical Coordinator, with inputs from the PMU. The BH will submit the PPR to the FAO/GEF Coordination Unit for comments, and the LTO for technical clearance. The PPRs will be submitted to the PSC for approval twice a year. The FLO will upload the approved PPR to FPMIS.

j) Supervise the preparation and ensure the technical quality of the annual PIR. The PIR will be drafted by the National Technical Coordinator, with inputs from the PT. The PIR will be submitted to the BH and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for approval and finalization. The FAO/GEF Coordination Unit will submit the PIRs to the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Evaluation Office, as part of the Annual Monitoring Review

report of the FAO-GEF portfolio. The LTO must ensure that the National Technical Coordinator and the PMU have provided information on the co-financing provided during the year for inclusion in the PIR

k) Conduct annual supervision missions

l) Provide comments to the TORs for the mid-term and final evaluation; provide information and share all relevant background documentation with the evaluation team; participate in the mid-term workshop with all key project stakeholders, development of an eventual agreed adjustment plan in project execution approach, and supervise its implementation; participate in the final workshop with all key project stakeholders, as relevant. Contribute to the follow-up to recommendations on how to insure sustainability of project outputs and results after the end of the project.

m) Monitor implementation of the Risk Mitigation Plan, in accordance with the FAO Environmental and Social Safeguards.

The **HQ Technical Officer** is a member of the PTF, as a mandatory requirement of the FAO Guide to the Project Cycle. The HQ Technical Officer has most relevant technical expertise - within FAO technical departments - related to the thematic of the project. The HQ Technical Officer will provide effective functional advice to the LTO to ensure adherence to FAO corporate technical standards during project implementation, in particular:

a) Supports the LTO in monitoring and reporting on implementation of environmental and social commitment plans for moderate risk projects. In this project, the HQ officer will support the LTO in monitoring and reporting the identified risks and mitigation measures (Appendix H2) in close coordination with the OP.

b) Provides technical backstopping for the project work plan.

c) Clears technical reports, contributes to and oversees the quality of PPRs.

d) May be requested to support the LTO and PTF for implementation and monitoring.

e) Contribute to the overall ToR of the Mid-term and Final Evaluation, review the composition of the evaluation team and support the evaluation function.

The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will provides FLO functions and GEF-specific technical advisory services across the entire project cycle from A to Z. The FAO/GEF Coordination Unit will review and provide a rating in the annual PIR(s) and will undertake supervision missions as necessary in coordination with the rest of the PTF. The PIRs will be included in the FAO GEF Annual Monitoring Review submitted to GEF by the FAO GEF Coordination Unit. The FAO GEF Coordination Unit may also participate or lead the mid-term evaluation, and in the development of corrective

actions in the project implementation strategy if needed to mitigate eventual risks affecting the timely and effective implementation of the project. The FAO GEF Coordination Unit will in collaboration with the FAO Finance Division to request transfer of project funds from the GEF Trustee based on six-monthly projections of funds needed.

The FAO Financial Division will provide annual Financial Reports to the GEF Trustee and, in collaboration with the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, request project funds on a six-monthly basis to the GEF Trustee.

ANNEX N: FAO AND GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS

(a) This Annex sets out the basic conditions under which FAO will assist the Government in the implementation of the Project described in the attached Project Document.
(b) The achievement of the objectives set by the Project shall be the joint responsibility of the Government and FAO.

FAO OBLIGATIONS

1. FAO will be responsible for the provision, with due diligence and efficiency, of assistance as provided in the Project Document. FAO and the Government will consult closely with respect to all aspects of the Project.

2. Assistance under the Project will be made available to the Government, or to such entity as provided in the Project, and will be furnished and received (i) in accordance with relevant decisions of the Governing Bodies of FAO, and with its constitutional and budgetary provisions, and (ii) subject to the receipt by FAO of the necessary contribution from the Resource Partner. FAO will disburse the funds received from the Resource Partner in accordance with its regulations, rules and policies. All financial accounts and statements will be expressed in United States Dollars and will be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the financial regulations, rules and directives of FAO.

3. FAO's responsibilities regarding financial management and execution of the Project will be as stipulated in the Project Document. FAO may, in consultation with the Government, implement Project components through partners identified in accordance with FAO procedures. Such partners will have primary responsibility for delivering specific project outputs and activities to the Project in accordance with the partner's rules and regulations, and subject to monitoring and oversight, including audit, by FAO.

4. Assistance under the Project provided directly by FAO, including technical assistance services and/or oversight and monitoring services, will be carried out in accordance with FAO regulations, rules and policies, including on recruitment, travel, salaries, and emoluments of national and international personnel recruited by FAO, procurement of services, supplies and equipment, and subcontracting. The candidacies of senior international technical staff for recruitment by FAO will be submitted to the Government for clearance following FAO procedures.

5. Equipment procured by FAO will remain the property of FAO for the duration of the Project. The Government will provide safe custody of such equipment, which is entrusted to it prior to the end of the Project. The ultimate destination of equipment procured under this Project will be decided by FAO in consultation with the Government and the Resource Partner.

GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS

6. With a view to the rapid and efficient execution of the Project, the Government shall grant to FAO, its staff, and all other persons performing services on behalf of FAO, the necessary facilities including:

i) the prompt issuance, free of charge, of any visas or permits required;

ii) any permits necessary for the importation and, where appropriate, the subsequent exportation, of equipment, materials and supplies required for use in connection with the Project and exemption from the payment of all customs duties or other levies or charges relating to such importation or exportation;

iii) exemption from the payment of any sales or other tax on local purchases of equipment, materials and supplies for use in connection with the project;

iv) any permits necessary for the importation of property belonging to and intended for the personal use of FAO staff or of other persons performing services on behalf of FAO, and for the subsequent exportation of such property;

v) prompt customs clearance of the equipment, materials, supplies and property referred to in subparagraphs (ii) and (iv) above.

7. The Government will apply to FAO, its property, funds and assets, its officials and all the persons performing services on its behalf in connection with the Project: (i) the provisions of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies; and (ii) the United Nations currency exchange rate. The persons performing services on behalf of FAO will include any organization, firm or other entity, which FAO may designate to take part in the execution of the Project.

8. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims which may be brought by third parties against FAO, its personnel or other persons performing services on its behalf, in connection with the Project, and will hold them harmless in respect to any claim or liability arising in connection with the Project, except when it is agreed by FAO and the Government that such claims arise from gross negligence or wilful misconduct of such persons.

9. The Government will be responsible for the recruitment, salaries, emoluments and social security measures of its own national staff assigned to the project. The Government will also provide, as and when required for the Project, the facilities and supplies indicated in the Project Document. The Government will grant FAO staff, the Resource Partner and persons acting on their behalf, access to the Project offices and sites and to any material or documentation relating to the Project, and will provide any relevant information to such staff or persons.

REPORTING AND EVALUATION

10. FAO will report to the Government (and to the Resource Partner) as scheduled in the Project Document.

11. The Government will agree to the dissemination by FAO of information such as Project descriptions and objectives and results, for the purpose of informing or educating the public. Patent rights, copyright, and any other intellectual property rights over any material or discoveries resulting from FAO assistance under this Project will belong to FAO. FAO hereby grants to the Government a non-exclusive royalty-free license to use, publish, translate and distribute, privately or publicly, any such material or discoveries within the country for non-commercial purposes. In accordance with requirements of some Resource Partners, FAO reserves the right to place information and reports in the public domain.

12. The Project will be subject to independent evaluation according to the arrangements agreed between the Government, the Resource Partner and FAO. The evaluation report will be publicly accessible, in accordance with the applicable policies, along with the Management Response. FAO is authorized to prepare a brief summary of the report for the purpose of broad dissemination of its main findings, issues, lessons and recommendations as well as to make judicious use of the report as an input to evaluation synthesis studies.

FINAL PROVISIONS

13. Any dispute or controversy arising out of or in connection with the Project or this Agreement will be amicably settled through consultations, or through such other means as agreed between the Government and FAO.

14. Nothing in or related to any provision in this Agreement or document or activity of the Project shall be deemed (i) a waiver of the privileges and immunities of FAO; (ii) the acceptance by FAO of the applicability of the laws of any country to FAO, and: (iii) the acceptance by FAO of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising from assistance activities under the Project.

15. This Agreement may be amended or terminated by mutual written consent. Termination will take effect sixty days after receipt by either party of written notice from the other party. In the event of termination, the obligations assumed by the parties under this Agreement will survive its termination to the extent necessary to permit the orderly conclusion of activities, and the withdrawal of personnel, funds and property of FAO.

16. This Agreement will enter into force upon signature by the duly authorized representatives of both parties.