

## **Review of R-PP of *Suriname***

PC Summary review

Evan Notman, Mathew Ogonowski

Date of review: March 2013

### **Standards to be Met by R-PP Components**

*(From Program Document FMT 2009-1, Rev. 6:)*

#### **Component 1. Organize and Consult**

##### **Standard 1a: National Readiness Management Arrangements:**

The cross-cutting nature of the design and workings of the national readiness management arrangements on REDD, in terms of including relevant stakeholders and key government agencies beyond the forestry department, commitment of other sectors in planning and implementation of REDD readiness. Capacity building activities are included in the work plan for each component where significant external technical expertise has been used in the R-PP development process, and mechanisms for addressing grievances regarding consultation and participation in the REDD-plus process, and for conflict resolution and redress of grievances.

##### **Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:**

###### **Standard: Met**

Overall National arrangements for readiness management appear to be well thought out and described in appropriate detail. NIMOS role as the primary coordinating entity for REDD+ appears to be appropriate, although there appear to be additional work to establish further clarity between NIMOS and a number of other Ministries. Additionally the mechanism for ministries to provide input into REDD+ via the RSC seems to clearly established, but it is less clear how the RSC will function to actively inform ministries about how to incorporate REDD+ into their planning process.

The role of the sub-national (District) level governments was also not well articulated. Further clarity on how district level officials are included in relevant decision making process in general and their expected role in REDD+ arrangements would be useful.

##### **Standard 1b: Information Sharing and Early Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups:**

The R-PP presents evidence of the government having undertaken an exercise to identify key stakeholders for REDD-plus, and commenced a credible national-scale information sharing and awareness raising campaign for key relevant stakeholders. The campaign's major objective is to establish an early dialogue on the REDD-plus concept and R-PP development process that sets the stage for the later consultation process during the implementation of the R-PP work plan. This effort needs to reach out, to the extent feasible at this stage, to networks and representatives of forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers and forest dependent communities, both at national and local level. The R-PP contains evidence that a reasonably broad range of key stakeholders has been identified, voices of vulnerable groups are beginning to be heard, and that a reasonable amount of time and effort has been invested to raise general awareness of the basic concepts and process of REDD-plus including the SESA.

**Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:**

**Standard: Met**

Suriname appears to have addressed previous questions and concerns raised and has done a good job explaining what the goal of its more recent information sharing and early dialogue has been and how it has worked to address previous deficiencies.

no additional comments on this standard.

**Standard 1c: Consultation and Participation Process**

Ownership, transparency, and dissemination of the R-PP by the government and relevant stakeholders, and inclusiveness of effective and informed consultation and participation by relevant stakeholders, will be assessed by whether proposals and/ or documentation on the following are included in the R-PP (i) the consultation and participation process for R-PP development thus far<sup>3</sup> (ii) the extent of ownership within government and national stakeholder community; (iii) the Consultation and Participation Plan for the R-PP implementation phase (iv) concerns expressed and recommendations of relevant stakeholders, and a process for their consideration, and/or expressions of their support for the R-PP.

**Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:**

**Standard: Largely Met**

There seems to be a comprehensive approach to working with all relevant stakeholder, but it is still unclear what the process for consultation and transparent decision making will be. This may be particularly challenging given the current lack of clear legislation or regulation to guide the EISA and/or an Environment act.

Likewise the specific information on how feedback will be incorporated into the REDD+ readiness process is still undefined. The RPP mentions incorporating information on risks, which is very important, but does not include incorporation of information of implementation options which also should be considered.

Further information on these processes should be provided.

**Component 2. Prepare the REDD-plus Strategy**

---

<sup>3</sup> Did the R-PP development, in particular the development of the ToR for the strategic environmental and social assessment and the Consultation and Participation Plan, include civil society, including forest dwellers and Indigenous Peoples representation? In this context the representative(s) will be determined in one of the following ways: (i) self-determined representative(s) meeting the following requirements: (a) selected through a participatory, consultative process; (b) having national coverage or networks; (c) previous experience working with the Government and UN system; (d) demonstrated experience serving as a representative, receiving input from, consulting with, and providing feedback to, a wide scope of civil society including Indigenous Peoples organizations; or (ii) Individual(s) recognized as legitimate representative(s) of a national network of civil society and/or Indigenous Peoples organizations (e.g., the GEF Small Grants National Steering Committee or National Forest Program Steering Committee).

**Standard 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy, and Governance:**

A completed assessment is presented that: identifies major land use trends; assesses direct and indirect deforestation and degradation drivers in the most relevant sectors in the context of REDD-plus; recognizes major land tenure and natural resource rights and relevant governance issues; documents past successes and failures in implementing policies or measures for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; identifies significant gaps, challenges, and opportunities to address REDD; and sets the stage for development of the country's REDD strategy to directly address key land use change drivers.

**Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:**

**Standard Largely Met:**

The RPP has done a good job laying out the overall information on the drivers of deforestation and challenges to addressing them, but does not provide sufficient information about how policies and plans impacting these drivers will impact REDD.

The R-PP also does not provide clear information about forest degradation. The R-PP does not distinguish between deforestation and degradation, and which drivers are currently causing one versus the other, and as noted by the TAP does not include information about the potential impact on carbon stocks and emissions.

On Page 45 the R\_PP states that Suriname is a net carbon sink based on data from the Second National Communication, but the principle sources of sequestration are not included in the RPP and it is not clear how recent increases in logging may have changed this.

The R-PP notes that sustainable forest management has been made a key focus of forestry in Suriname. The list of policy interventions and rules for SFM (Box 4) is impressive, but it is not clear to what degree these efforts have led to reduction in deforestation or emissions. For example, the rules call for logging to take place under a reduced impact logging system (RIL), the R-PP would be improved if it included discussion of the history of logging methods and technologies in the country, and how these have changed or will be improved as a result of the policy interventions for REDD+.

Additional information on the expected impact of legal logging on deforestation and potential risks to renewal of illegal logging activities would also be useful. As would additional information on domestic versus international demand for timber.

The R-PP provides a good overview of mining as a driver. However the policy options to address deforestation from large- vs. small-scale mining and their implications should be better elaborated.

The role of land tenure policy is also not discussed in the context of drivers of deforestation. This is potentially a very important factor influencing natural resource management decisions, as well potentially important for indigenous groups in Suriname. Although analysis of status of land tenure rights is included in the activities and budget table (Table 12), no additional information on this potentially important issue is included in this section - although the issue of land rights is discussed in section 2c, REDD+ Implementation Framework the lack of information on how land tenure might impact the drivers of deforestation here makes it difficult to gauge the potential significance of policies in this area.

**Standard 2.b: REDD-plus strategy Options:**

The R-PP should include: an alignment of the proposed REDD-plus strategy with the identified drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and with existing national and sectoral strategies, and a summary of the emerging REDD-plus strategy to the extent known presently, and of proposed analytic work (and, optionally, ToR) for assessment of the various REDD-plus strategy options. This summary should state: how the country proposes to address deforestation and degradation drivers in the design of its REDD-plus strategy; a plan of how to estimate cost and benefits of the emerging REDD-plus strategy, including benefits in terms of rural livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and other developmental aspects; socioeconomic, political and institutional feasibility of the emerging REDD-plus strategy; consideration of environmental and social issues; major potential synergies or inconsistencies of country sector strategies in the forest, agriculture, transport, or other sectors with the envisioned REDD-plus strategy; and a plan of how to assess the risk of domestic leakage of greenhouse benefits. The assessments included in the R-PP eventually should result in an elaboration of a fuller, more complete and adequately vetted REDD-plus strategy over time.

**Reviewer’s assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:**

**Standard: Met**

Table 13 provides a very useful list of potential options for addressing drivers of deforestation, including information on how policy and regulations can be adjusted to address current patterns of deforestation, and Table 14 helps to highlight some of the potential challenges and synergies that implementation of different options could involve. The R-PP does not provide much information on how further analysis of these strategy options will take place or the potential feasibility of the options described. Of particular importance will be developing clearer links to current economic development plans and process of cost benefit analysis of these options.

The policy options on agriculture in particular do not appear to address the potential for significant expansion of commercial agriculture identified in the drivers of deforestation section.

This section would also benefit from a more detailed discussion of deforestation versus degradation and the potential impact on emissions reductions. Currently many of the identified options may primarily address drivers of degradation.

Land tenure was also not included in the discussion of strategy options and may be a potentially important policy issue.

**Standard 2.c: REDD-plus implementation framework:**

Describes activities (and optionally provides ToR in an annex) and a work plan to further elaborate institutional arrangements and issues relevant to REDD-plus in the country setting. Identifies key issues involved in REDD-plus implementation, and explores potential arrangements to address them; offers a work plan that seems likely to allow their full evaluation and adequate incorporation into the eventual Readiness Package. Key issues are likely to include: assessing land ownership and carbon rights for potential REDD-plus strategy activities and lands; addressing key governance concerns related to REDD-plus; and institutional arrangements needed to engage in and track REDD-plus activities and transactions.

**Reviewer’s assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:**

**Standard: MET**

Previous comments have been largely addressed.

Significant information has been provided regarding land rights which help to clarify how this important issue will be addressed in REDD+ implementation, information about how implementation of the Presidential Decree PB 28/2000 will be carried out in the context of REDD+ has also been included, although a number of important details must still be decided.

Information about sub-national implementation with District governments is still very limited.

**Standard 2.d: Social and Environmental Impacts during Readiness Preparation and REDD-plus Implementation:**

The proposal includes a program of work for due diligence in the form of an assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts as part of the SESA process. It also provides a description of safeguard issues that are relevant to the country's readiness preparation efforts. For FCPF countries, a simple work plan is presented for conducting the SESA process, cross referencing other components of the R-PP as appropriate, , and for preparing the ESMF.

**Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:**

**Standard: Met**

The R-PP includes a reasonable plan for an assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts as part of the SESA process. Additional reference to how the SESA process will be carried out in relation to the REDD+ implementation information on stakeholder consultation would be useful.

The lack of a finalized Environmental Legislative Framework will make the implementation of this program of work more difficult, and could make enforcement difficult.

**Component 3. Develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level**

**Standard 3: a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or a Forest Reference Level**

Present work plan for how the reference level for deforestation, forest degradation (if desired), conservation, sustainable management of forest, and enhancement of carbon stocks will be developed. Include early ideas on a process for determining which approach and methods to use (e.g., forest cover change and GHG emissions based on historical trends, and/or projections into the future of historical trend data; combination of inventory and/or remote sensing, and/or GIS or modeling), major data requirements, and current capacity and capacity requirements. Assess linkages to components 2a (assessment of deforestation drivers), 2b (REDD-plus strategy activities), and 4 (monitoring system design).

(FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a stepwise approach may be useful. This component states what early activities are proposed.)

**Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:**

**Standard: Met**

Previous comments including on forest definition have been adequately addressed

Information on current data availability and use of recent data sets is well documented.

An approach based on three modeling scenarios to take into account Suriname's low historical deforestation is reasonable, however little information was provided on how Suriname intends to address and project forest degradation.

Additional consideration of how Suriname intends to address forest degradation in its RL and REL will be important.

**Component 4. Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards**

**Standard 4a: National Forest Monitoring System:**

The R-PP provides a proposal and workplan for the initial design, on a stepwise basis, of an integrated monitoring system of measurement, reporting and verification of changes in deforestation and/or forest degradation, and forest enhancement activities. The system design should include early ideas on enhancing country capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities) to monitor emissions reductions and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, and to assess the impacts of the REDD-plus strategy in the forest sector.

The R-PP should describe major data requirements, capacity requirements, how transparency of the monitoring system and data will be addressed, early ideas on which methods to use, and how the system would engage participatory approaches to monitoring by forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers. It should also address independent monitoring and review, involving civil society and other stakeholders, and how findings would be fed back to improve REDD-plus implementation. The proposal should present early ideas on how the system could evolve into a mature REDD-plus monitoring system with the full set of capabilities.

(FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a staged approach may be useful. The R-PP states what early activities are proposed.

**Reviewer's assessment of how well R-Plan meets this standard, and recommendations:**

***[add space as needed]***

Standard: MET

In general key requirements for developing a national forest monitoring system and an initial workplan have been provided.

Overall the capacity building plans and needs are adequate for initial implementation, but need significantly more detail, including a clearer assessment of each organizations role. Further assessment of the potential role of indigenous communities and their capacity building needs

would be particularly useful.

Major data requirements and needs are generally identified.

Key institutions to be involved in the design and implementation of the national forest monitoring system have been identified, but there is not much information on how these institutions will work together or share relevant data.

Information on how the monitoring system will be integrated with reporting on overall GHG inventories is also not provided.

**Standard 4b: Designing an Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards :**

The R-PP provides a proposal for the initial design and a workplan, including early ideas on capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities), for an integrated monitoring system that includes addressing other multiple benefits, impacts, and governance. Such benefits may include, e.g., rural livelihoods, conservation of biodiversity, key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD-plus implementation in the country.

(The FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a staged approach may be useful. The R-PP states what early activities are proposed.)

**Reviewer's assessment of how well R-Plan meets this standard, and recommendations:**

**Standard: MET**

Information has been provided on the main components of both multiple benefits and impacts that should be included in an Information system.

Primary stakeholder and some information on the existing relevant information systems has also been provided.

Information on how this information system could be integrated in to the development of the forest monitoring system and provide information to multiple stakeholders would be useful and should be considered.

The goal of developing monitoring systems that will be operated jointly by key stakeholders is well articulated, although information on how this might occur and the capacity building needs are lacking.

**Component 5. Schedule and Budget**

**Standard 5: Completeness of information and resource requirements**

The R-PP proposes a full suite of activities to achieve REDD readiness, and identifies capacity building and financial resources needed to accomplish these activities. A budget and schedule for funding and technical support requested from the FCPF and/or UN-REDD, as well as from other international sources (e.g., bilateral assistance), are summarized by year and by potential donor. The information presented reflects the priorities in the R-PP, and is sufficient to meet the costs associated with REDD-plus readiness activities identified in the R-PP. Any gaps in funding, or sources of funding, are clearly noted.

**Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:**

*[add space as needed]*

**Standard: Met**

Previous comments have been addressed.

Additional information on budget priorities and potential gaps and where additional sources of funding will be focused, would help give a more comprehensive picture, and would help prioritize addressing potentially unmet needs.

**Component 6. Design a Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**

**Standard 6:** The R-PP adequately describes the indicators that will be used to monitor program performance of the Readiness process and R-PP activities, and to identify in a timely manner any shortfalls in performance timing or quality. The R-PP demonstrates that the framework will assist in transparent management of financial and other resources, to meet the activity schedule.

**Reviewer's assessment of how well R-PP meets this standard, and recommendations:**

**Standard: Met**

*No additional comments.*