

Criteria and administrative procedure for selection of REDD+ Ground-truth Projects

Background

These criteria are intended to provide an overview of the types of projects that are eligible for implementation as “ground-truth projects on sustainable economic development opportunities for national rights holders and stakeholders” as mentioned under activity 2b2 of the Multi-Year Work Plan of the REDD+ Project Document 2019.

As such, these criteria will guide the proposers in their submission of the projects, as well as guide the project evaluation commission in the evaluation process towards selection of eligible projects for implementation.

The criteria also provide a brief overview of the administrative arrangements that will be established to review the proposals and select the ground-truth projects to be implemented.

Currently, Suriname is in the REDD+ Readiness phase which aims at getting ready to possibly enter a future international REDD+ mechanism that will provide incentives for national efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon stocks by various activities. The Government of Suriname (GoS) envisions REDD+ as a tool for national sustainable development. The REDD+ readiness process offers an opportunity for the GoS to leverage efforts and results towards sustainable development. REDD+ can be seen as a tool to support and foster national dialogue with indigenous and tribal peoples, to strengthen its practice of democracy, to improve public effectiveness and accountability, governance, legislation and the business environment, to accelerate decentralization and to enhance regional and international stance, and diplomatic positioning.

The project ‘Strengthening national capacities of Suriname for the elaboration of the national REDD+ strategy and the design of its implementation framework’ is currently being implemented based on the signed Project Document, including the Multi-Year Work Plan for the period Jan. 2019 – June 2020 (ending project date). The current REDD+ Project consists of three pillars: 1) Human capacities, consultation and stakeholder engagement 2) REDD+ Strategy and Business Model and 3) Development of Decision Support Tools.

The National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname (NIMOS), on behalf of the GoS, is the National Technical Focal Point and coordinating body of the Suriname REDD+ Project. For the day-to-day coordination of the REDD+ Project the NIMOS has established a Project Management Unit (PMU). The PMU works in close collaboration with the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB) as implementing partner and the UNDP as delivery partner in Suriname.

Suriname aims to be “REDD+ Ready” by 2020. Four elements need to be established in the REDD+ readiness phase before a country can be eligible to move forward to REDD+ implementation: (1) a REDD+ National Strategy (NS) or Action Plan, (2) a Forest Reference (Emission) Level (FREL), (3) a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), and (4) a Safeguards Information System (SIS).

The National REDD+ Strategy of Suriname is developed and validated by national stakeholders and right holders. Suriname’s first Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) was formally submitted to the UNFCCC in 2018. A National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) is up and running and constantly being improved. The Safeguards Information System for Suriname is in the process of development and will be finalized by October 2019.

Once a country is REDD+ Ready it can enter the REDD+ Implementation phase. In the Implementation phase the following activities, among others, will be carried out: execution of the National REDD+ Strategy of Suriname, implementation of pilot projects, further capacity building.

Selection criteria

1. Objectives

The project makes a concrete contribution to the objectives for “Designing and implementing ground-truth projects on sustainable economic development opportunities for national rights holders and stakeholders”, which are as follows:

- Strengthening and fine-tuning the Policies and Measures (PAMs) of the National REDD+ Strategy of Suriname in order to make potential results of REDD+ more tangible and shows more concretely what REDD+ can mean to ITP communities, the private sector and other rights holders and stakeholders;
- Capacity building of and preparing (potential) partners in implementing activities on the ground, which will be crucial in the REDD+ implementation phase;
- Broadening the institutionalization of REDD+ as a long-term process/program in support of sustainable development in Suriname;
- Creating and showcasing synergies and more national and local level buy-in for REDD+ by creating linkages between the REDD+ Program and other ongoing projects and programs.

2. Activities¹

- Activities can be related to (planning and execution of activities, consultation, communication and awareness raising, capacity building of):
 - Community Forest Management (beheer van gemeenschapsbos) (focusing on e.g. sustainable forest management in community forests, processing of wood from community forests into end products);
 - Promotion of nature- and ecotourism, agro-forestry, medicinal plants, Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), and other sectors with a view to providing alternative livelihoods to forest dependent communities and aid in the diversification of the economy;
 - Promotion of activities related to innovative and alternative economic development in sectors such as forestry and agriculture, with a view to achieving a national sustainable socio-economic development;
 - Building capacity of or providing training programs to rights holders and stakeholders, including, among others, the Private sector, Government and Semi-Government institutions, ITPs;
 - Promotion of (applied) scientific research and education on forest management, including, among others, capacity building and strengthening of research and education institutions.
- Activities can be related to monetary, non-monetary and non-carbon benefits.
- Activities conducted in a partnership between Civil Society, Government, Private Sector and ITPs will have an advantage.

3. Target group(s)

The application must regard the following target groups:

- Private sector: (for example but not limited to forestry, alternative economic opportunities such as NTFPs, nature- and ecotourism, agro-forestry, medicinal plants)
- Government/ Semi-Governmental Organizations
- Research and Education Institutions
- Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs)
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

¹ For further information see Annex I: Background Document

NIMOS (National Technical Focal Point of the Suriname REDD+ Project) and SBB (REDD+ implementing partner) are **NOT** eligible to submit project proposals on their own or in partnership with other institutions.

4. Requested funding amount

- Per proposal, the funding request from the REDD+ Project should be between: US\$ 30,000 – US\$ 80,000.
- Funding requests of 10% higher than the maximum amount (US\$ 80,000) or 10% lower than the minimum amount (US\$ 30,000) is permitted.
- The budget line "miscellaneous" needs to be justified and may not exceed a maximum of 5% of the total budget.
- Project coordination costs may not exceed a maximum of 15% of the total budget.
- Proposer's contribution is not necessary, but will be considered as an asset.
- Proposals for co-funding of a project to be implemented (or which is already in the implementation phase) is an option, in which case partners who will be engaged within the project, and their quantitative contribution in this project, should be indicated in the project proposal.

5. Project duration

The project start date should be October 01, 2019 and it should be fully completed by May 31, 2020.

6. Other relevant criteria

- The applicant should be a Suriname based organization/ legal entity according to Surinamese law eventually partnering with international NGOs/ Institutions.
- National Institutions should have the lead in case the project will be conducted in partnership with International NGOs/ Institutions.
- The project proposal must be written in English and be valid for a starting date within a period of one (1) month minimum or, if applicable, currently being implemented.
- The applicant must be active for at least one year at the time of submission of the project proposal.
- Financial reports must show that the applicant can handle the financial management of a project. If the organization does not have financial or annual reports, project reports are sufficient.
- Organizations that are a registered political party or a sub-organization of a registered political party are NOT eligible.

- More than one project proposal per organization is NOT allowed. However, member(s) of an organization can be part of other organizations submitting another proposal.

Submission and selection procedure

Only applications completed according to the “REDD+ Project Proposal Template” will be considered.

Submitted project proposals will be reviewed and short listed within 4 weeks after receiving the proposals by an **Evaluation Commission**, comprising of representatives from the REDD+ Project Management Unit (PMU), Cabinet of the President/ Coordination Environment, SBB, UNDP, and -depending on the project proposal- sector related experts.

The Evaluation Commission will prepare its recommendations and present this to the **“Decision Board”** consisting of a representative of the Cabinet of the President/ Coordination Environment, the Director of NIMOS/ appointed representative, the Director of SBB/ appointed representative, and a representative of the UNDP Country Office.

Members of the Evaluation Commission are not allowed to be represented in the “Decision Board” or the other way around.

The REDD+ Project Coordinator will attend the meetings of the “Decision Board” to provide administrative support, technical input, and where necessary, guide the selection process.

Within a period of 2 weeks after receiving the advice from the evaluation commission, the “Decision Board” will determine which project proposal(s) are approved. Members of the “Decision Board” may meet face-to-face or virtual.

The REDD+ PMU will notify organizations within 6 weeks after the submission deadline whether their proposal has been approved or not.

Applicants will submit completed and signed project proposal templates in soft copy through email to: redprojects@nimos.org together with the following documents, if applicable:

- Statutes of organization
- Photo identification of three board members
- Copy of registration in the Foundation Register (KKF)
- In case of partner organization(s): letter(s) of cooperation

ANNEX I: BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

Further information on the activities related to REDD+ Project Proposals

The activities can be related to (planning and execution of activities, consultation, communication and awareness raising, capacity building of):

- **Community Forest Management (beheer van gemeenschapsbos) (focusing on e.g. sustainable forest management in community forests, processing of wood from community forests into end products).**
 - Sustainable forest management in community forests, whereby the resources of the community forests are extracted in a sustainable manner.
 - Capacity building of forest dependent communities in forest monitoring/management through e.g. training.
 - Sustainable harvesting and processing of wood from community forests into end products (e.g. furniture).

- **Promotion of nature- and ecotourism, agro-forestry, medicinal plants, Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), and other sectors with a view to providing alternative livelihoods to forest dependent communities and aid in the diversification of the economy.**
 - Sustainable harvesting and processing of NTFPs, which are any product or service other than timber that is produced in forests, in order to avoid overexploitation and to secure long-term income. Capacity building of forest dependent communities and setting up infrastructure, such as processing facilities. Create access to markets in order to secure income from alternative livelihoods.
 - Promotion of nature- and ecotourism through training of local communities, regulation and certification of nature- and ecotourism operators.
 - Create market demand and ensure support in marketing and small business development to attain sustainability in the creation of livelihoods based on the usage of medicinal plant based products. Capacity building of communities to produce medicinal plant products that meet standards for being sold, infrastructure, such as processing facilities.
 - Improve the sustainability of small and subsistence farming by promoting more efficient soil conserving agricultural and agroforestry techniques. As a result, increasing the length of cultivation periods in shifting cultivation, itself an agroforestry system, and lowering the pressures of agriculture on forests, while providing alternative livelihoods for forest dependent communities. Institutional and individual capacity building to promote agroforestry practices in the form of training, equipment, financing and materials.

- **Promotion of activities related to innovative and alternative economic development in sectors such as forestry and agriculture, with a view to achieving a national sustainable socio-economic development.**
 - Since 1950s mining (bauxite, gold, oil) has been the most important source of income for Suriname. The mineral sector accounts for over 80% of the total export revenue from goods. Supporting the development and implementation of

sustainable practices in other land use sectors, such as forestry and agriculture has the potential to diversify the national economy in favor of achieving a national sustainable socio-economic development.

- **Building capacity of or providing training programs to rights holders and stakeholders, including, among others, the Private sector, Government and Semi-Government institutions, ITPs.**
 - Capacity building of or providing training programs to rights holders and stakeholders on various topics: alternative livelihoods; sustainable forest management; forest governance; forest monitoring, control and protection; entrepreneurship and business planning; etc.

- **Promotion of (applied) scientific research and education on forest management, including, among others, capacity building and strengthening of research and education institutions.**
 - Promotion of scientific research to improve forest use. Research on governance and options for better forest management, including strengthening or establishing academic programs relevant for supporting the REDD+ implementation.
 - Strengthen human capacities in order to create an enabling environment for forest management to match the capacity needs at different levels in the forest sector for both forest use and forest management. This through stimulating interest and awareness of the sector, adapting the curricula at different levels of the educational system, and training of officers and operators.

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