

GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION

GUYANA'S Emission Reduction Program Idea Note

Submitted to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's Carbon Fund

Summary
September, 2015

A. Background

Guyana is a REDD+ country with a low rate of deforestation and forest degradation. Even with a low rate of deforestation and forest degradation there have been drivers of forest change that are impacting on forest cover, and specific drivers of which have shown increases over the past 4 years. Guyana's Emission Reduction Program Idea Note (ERPIN) proposes to maintain a low rate of forest change and at the same time, lower emissions where possible where such reductions can be attained through improved practices and enhanced efficiencies.

The proposed nation-wide ER-Program intends to avoid 27.98 MtCO₂e/year¹ from 2018 to 2028 through implementing activities and interventions preliminarily selected based on the impacts of the drivers defined by Guyana's Measurement Reporting Verification System (MRVS). From the results of the MRVS, it is clear that mining, and associated roads, is the largest emission source during the period 2001 to 2012, followed by timber harvesting activities (if infrastructure created to allow for forestry operations, such as roads and decks are taken into account). National policies and interventions within the ER Programme have been tailored to address same. The general objective of the program is to promote sustainable natural resources and environmental management by facilitating coordinated remedial land reclamation interventions, aimed towards managing and combatting land and forest degradation from the activities within Guyana's extractive sectors.

B. Priority Areas

Sustainable Mining (Annual avoided emissions: 2 M tCO₂e)

Under a programme of effective implementation of emissions reductions areas, positive market forces (increase in demand and world market prices) prevailing will still see successful reductions in emissions, and maintained low levels, as higher efficiency practice will be more cost effective for miners than the alternative. These cost savings may see themselves in less infrastructure cost, lower relocation of camp costs, a reduced level of transportation, administrative and logistical expenses, etc.

This Emissions Reductions Programme Area will include:

- The improvement of technology and mining practices will:
 - (1) shift miners away from the use of mercury and
 - (2) improve the recovery efficiency of mining operations. New technologies such as centrifuge systems can increase recovery rates in mines from 30% to 80% compared to traditional practices. This means that a mine need only be worked once, after which it can be closed and the forest restored.
- Guyana has prioritized sustainable practices such as land reclamation within the extractive sectors that will provide an effective and replicable solution for increasing forest biomass and carbon stocks, while ensuring sustainable resource consumption.

Sustainable Forestry (Annual avoided emissions: 1.2 M tCO₂e)

This Emissions Reductions Programme Area will include:

¹ Computed based on Reference Level of 31.18MtCO₂e/yr subtracting reductions of 2MtCO₂e/yr and 1.2MtCO₂e/yr from mining and forestry sectors respectively. 31.18MtCO₂e/yr is computed based on historic emissions of 11.67MtCO₂e/yr plus 0.1% of carbon stocks preliminarily identified and totaling a value of 19.51MtCO₂e/yr. As such ER Programme is: (11.67MtCO₂e + 19.51MtCO₂e) – (2MtCO₂e + 1.2MtCO₂e) = 27.98MtCO₂e/yr.

- Emphasis ranging from the development of the timber potential of the forests to management of the multiple goods and services (including ecosystem services) for the national benefit remain pivotal to the mandate of the GFC.
- Improve added value activities locally. This will assist in creating a higher potential for carbon storage in long term wood products.

Further, a key priority for the forest sector is the implementation of sustainable forest management methods of which Reduce Impact Logging (RIL) is a key aspect. RIL, among other advantages, is intended to lower collateral and incidental damage associated with logging including tree damage from tree felling and logging infrastructure impacts, such as skid trails. Strengthening forest governance is also a high priority for Guyana. The continued implementation of the National Log Tracking System and chain of custody programme, both of which are aspects of Guyana's current negotiation process with the EU on a FLEGT VPA (Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade, Voluntary Partnership Agreement).

Sustainable Community Forestry

This Emissions Reductions Programme Area will include:

- An emphasis on maintaining a low rate of deforestation and forest degradation on community owned and managed areas through working with local stakeholders.
- These partnerships will assist in creating opportunities for a broader range of livelihood options thereby reducing pressure on forest and encouraging multiple use of forest resources, include non-timber forest good and services.
- Developing capacities of communities to monitor and manage impacts on forests.

C. Financing Plan

The ER PIN proposed a total Carbon Fund investment of US\$56M for a programme. The programme has a total cost of US\$61.1M. There is no financing gap as the private sector support of US\$19M along with potential FIP financing of US\$20 will fulfill the full programme cost.

The main private sector body in the forestry sector is the Forest Products Association (FPA). The FPA will be engaged in the developing of the Project Activities and will involve the specific identification of areas of support that will be contributed by the private sector. In the plan, so far, the contributions by the private sector will cover areas of infrastructure development and creating access to project site, use of private sector human resources in capacity building for project implementation, and use of capital equipment and physical resources.

D. ER PIN Advancing Guyana's national Strategy for a Green Economy and Low Carbon Development

The ER PIN builds on the pillars set for Guyana's national development under the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). The ER PIN emphasizes the priority areas of development advanced by the new Government which situates the building of a green economy at the center of Guyana's economic, social and environmental development plans.

The ER-PIN will also build on the FCPF Readiness work that the Guyana Forestry Commission and the Inter-American Development (IDB), the Delivery Partner for the Readiness work, are currently implementing. IDB and the Guyana Forestry Commission will review existing elements of the REDD+ strategy aiming to define a road map based on identified gaps and expectations. This may include strengthening consultation and participation; undertaking the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA); and developing a Feedback Redress Grievance Mechanism, among others. All these elements will comprise the Readiness-Package, which is expected to be presented to the FCPF Participant Committee by April 2018, previous to submitting the first draft ER-Program Document on October 2018 to the Carbon Fund Participants.

E. ER PIN fosters protection of Indigenous Peoples Rights, Land Tenure and Governance

The ER PIN prioritises the protection of indigenous peoples' rights, land tenure and governance matters. The ER PIN expresses that cognizance must be given to an outstanding land claim issue regarding six Amerindian Villages and the Government of Guyana. Specific emphasis is placed on safeguards and commits to activities to be undertaken in areas of analysing of land tenure and carbon ownership to inform the allocation of Benefits and Rights. In this regard, safeguards will be examined on the range of land and resource tenure rights and how rights to territories and land and mitigation benefits from REDD+ are reflected in traditional practices and codified in legal and/or regulatory frameworks.

The ER PIN will further advance the development of land tenure and carbon ownership in Guyana with special emphasis on indigenous peoples. This activity will be linked to the work on safeguards under REDD+ readiness, which seeks to address issues relating to land/resource tenure. The objectives is provide information and recommendations related to carbon ownership and the allocation of benefits and rights related to carbon offset payments. These activities will seek to inform issues related to land and resource tenure regimes to ensure the successful implementation of the ER Program.

Through the implementation of the ER Programme, Guyana seeks to in improving economic and social policies and programmes to enable to creation of a climate resilient economy. In doing so, the expected social and environmental benefits include: Improve knowledge and awareness of vulnerable groups such as women and indigenous groups on areas of natural resources management, sustainable forest management and REDD+ implementation, to allow for empowerment and more informed decision making and management. The long-term success of national implementation of REDD+, will be best supported by broad-based, inclusive domestic support and participation. In this regard, the citizens, especially vulnerable groups such as women and indigenous groups will continue to be engaged for participation in discussions on key areas such as natural resources management, sustainable forest management and REDD+ implementation.