REDD+ STORY
Suriname
04.10.2023

Introduction

Suriname submitted its 1st forest reference emission level (FREL) in 2018 and 2nd FREL in 2021. As of May 2023, Suriname is in the technical analysis process for the REDD+ results against both FRELs. Suriname has already established its 1st National Strategy in 2019 and its 1st Safeguard Information Summary in 2020. Therefore, once the technical analysis process is completed, Suriname will enter the Info Hub and be eligible to seek and obtain results-based payments. Last year, in 2022, Suriname successfully completed the technical assessment process for its 2nd FREL. This article describes Suriname's REDD+ success story.

Suriname provided the information in this article to the secretariat, as a snapshot of REDD+ implementation in the country for the celebration of the 10-years anniversary of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+.

REDD+ history in Suriname

Readiness phase (2008–2021)

As a High Forest cover, Low Deforestation (HFLD) country, REDD+ in Suriname was implicitly initiated even before the role of forests was emphasized at COP13 in Bali. In 2008, Suriname officially started REDD+ preparation under the Warsaw Framework by submitting a Readiness Plan Idea Note under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

In accordance with Suriname's national policy, strategy and planning, the national team started REDD+ in Suriname from scratch and built capacity through consultation with external experts. This increased the national team's ownership of the REDD+ process.

The REDD+ readiness phase in Suriname was completed in 2021. During this phase, Suriname established two forest reference emission levels (FRELs, see Table 1), a National REDD+ Strategy, a Safeguard Information Summary and a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS).

Table 1 Suriname's forest reference emission levels

1st FREL (reference period 2000–2015)				
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
14,627,465	15,591,284	16,555,103	17,518,922	18,482,741
2nd FREL (reference period 2000–2019)				
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
14,008,882	14,612,231	15,215,572	15,818,913	16,422,255

National Forest Monitoring System

The NFMS in Suriname which was developed based on the existing system provided a large amount of data including statistics regarding forest cover and the drivers of deforestation.

These data are transparent and publicly available.[1]

Next phase

Suriname is currently moving towards receiving carbon credits through sustainable forest management via an ongoing project "Climate Smart Forestry" aiming to manage forests to reduce GHG emissions from logging activities and enhance forest carbon stocks. Although Suriname encounters financial difficulties due to lack of investment, this project is incentivizing forest concessionaires and communities with community forest to implement "Reduced Impact Logging for Carbon" practices.

Within the REDD+ National Strategy of Suriname, there are several Policies and Measures (PAMs), which have been summarized in six concrete PAMs. These PAMs should lead to the sustainability of nature and forest. Discussions about the 6 PAMs [2] are underway between the government and relevant stakeholders.
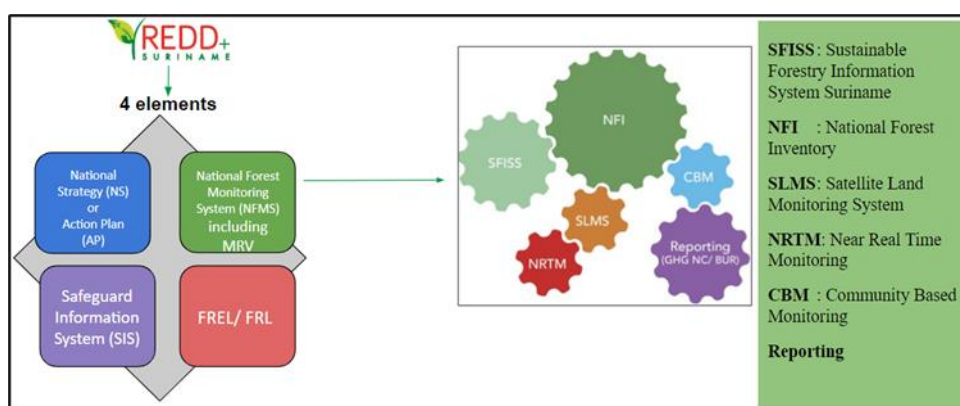

Figure 1 Overview of the 4 elements to be developed within the REDD+ preparation phase (provided by Suriname government)

Main challenges

Continuous political commitments

In Suriname, elections are every 5 years. It is important to maintain and strengthen the political commitments and priorities even if the government changes because the process to receive results-based payments takes time and is complex.

In addition, the recent economic crisis added insult to injury. A priority was placed on stabilizing the economic situation in response to the crisis. It is quite a challenge for policymakers to focus on REDD+. Nevertheless, the opportunities that REDD+ provides can still be seen as a mechanism to help Suriname out of the crisis.

Increasing awareness among policymakers and incorporating the achievements by REDD+ activities into other programmes supported maintaining the government's commitment to REDD+.

HFLD country

As a HFLD country, Suriname deals with a limitation on the implementation of REDD+ activities. The country already has a high forest cover and historical data shows that there is little risk of large-scale deforestation. This means that Suriname needs to include forest conservation as one of the REDD+ activities in the next reference level submission in order to

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[1] The data can be accessed from www.gonini.org and www.kopi.sbb.sr.
[2] Available at https://redd.unfccc.int/files/national_redd__strategy_of_suriname_en_web.pdf.

keep our forests standing in the context of climate change.

Limited human resources

In order to address a lack of human resources which most developing countries may face, Suriname took an approach of strengthening national capacity and collaboration with international institutions instead of hiring external consultants. Suriname's active efforts greatly contributed to progress in REDD+, in particular the implementation of NFMS and having a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system in place.

There are still areas of improvement, such as complying with UNFCCC reporting requirements and applying IPCC guidelines. Suriname follows stepwise approach and continues to improve its REDD+ activities considering the national circumstances.

Key stakeholders

Within the REDD+ readiness phase, all vulnerable groups were involved. There was a Major Groups Collective that consisted of Children & Youth, Farmers, Workers & Trade Unions, NGO's, local authorities, Indigenous & Tribal Peoples, Women, Business & Industry and the Science and Technology Community. All these different groups were getting informed about REDD+. As Suriname is now in the implementation phase, there are specific groups involved in different projects. As for the Climate Smart Forestry Program (CSF-P), the local communities with community forest and forestry concessionaires are identified as the key stakeholders.

With regards to the generation of the land use and land cover dataset for Suriname, this was done in collaboration with all relevant institutes including the government institutions. Workshops and validation sessions were held, and training sessions provided. This process has established a technical platform with representatives of different institutions,

strengthening collaboration and creating opportunities for capacity strengthening.

A lot of forest-related data is available on the Gonini geoportal via www.gonini.org. Trainings were also provided to stakeholders in the use of the geoportal. Furthermore, any stakeholder can use this geoportal to share relevant data with a broader public. [1]

Figure 2 Workshop on land use land cover map with stakeholders

Figure 3 Training on the Gonini geoportal (provided by Suriname government)

Annex 1 of the 1st FREL [3] and 2nd FREL [4] reports provide a list of contributors who were engaged in the implementation of REDD+ in Suriname.

Support received

Forest monitoring

In 2012, Suriname participated in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) project "Monitoring the forest cover of the

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[3] Available at https://redd.unfccc.int/files/frel_suriname_modified_20180528.pdf#page=64.
[4] Available at https://redd.unfccc.int/files/frel2021_modified_resubmitted_20220215_clean.pdf#page=99.

Amazon region", together with other countries in the Amazon region. This project gave Suriname an opportunity to share knowledge and built its national capacity to monitor deforestation. This project was the starting point for the Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS) in Suriname, which is part of the NFMS.

Uncertainty estimate

As part of FAO's support, national capacity in calculating uncertainty of deforestation maps was developed.

REDD+ results

Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN) provided a lot of support in producing two REDD+ Technical Annexes, where the REDD+ results[5] are presented. Furthermore, CfRN is supporting the transition of the methodology for producing land use land cover data from wall-to-wall mapping to a systematic sampling approach.

Other supports

In 2013, Suriname also joined a regional project by the National Forest Office of French Guyana (ONF), named "REDD+ for the Guiana Shield" together with French Guiana, Guyana and Amapá in Brazil.[6] This project contributed to strengthening national capacity in technology and methods.

In order to improve national capacity for adaptation and resilience to climate change, Suriname entered into a partnership with the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+). Among the activities in this project, Suriname established the National Forest Inventory for mangrove in 2019 and established new plots in 2022 and re-assessed the older plots.

Figure 4 Research on mangrove forests using terrestrial lidar (provided by Suriname government)

Figure 5 Training session on sustainable forest management (provided by Suriname government)

Links to other reports

As described above, Suriname could improve national capacity and gain valuable experiences (e.g., identifying data gaps and keeping consistency between reports) through the REDD+ activities. In particular, the NFMS data and information were greatly improved. Suriname is sure that the NFMS will contribute to the improvement of the other reports to the UNFCCC.

Suriname has submitted its 3rd National Communication to the UNFCCC. In this report, Suriname aimed to achieve consistency between the GHG inventory of the AFOLU sector and its FREL as much as possible.

In its NDC [7], Suriname is focusing on maintaining the forest cover on 93% of its land. In order to achieve this goal, Suriname welcomes financial and technical support from

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[5] Two REDD+ results of Suriname are available from https://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=sur.
[6] https://reddguianashield.wordpress.com/.
[7] Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Suriname%20Second%20NDC.pdf.

all climate change initiatives to overcome the challenges mentioned above.

Suriname completed the readiness phase and is now ready to move to the implementation phase in order to receive results-based payments.

For more information, see [Suriname's country page](#) on the REDD+ Web Platform.