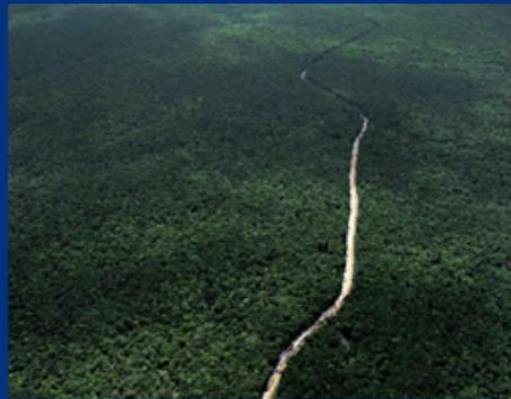




GUYANA

Safeguard Information System

Framework Document



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Introduction

The objective of this document is to outline the framework for the Safeguard Information System (SIS) of the Government of Guyana (GoG). This document outlines the objectives, functions, and institutional arrangements of the SIS.

The design draws on relevant analysis carried out and, on the inputs, gathered through consultations with relevant stakeholders.

The document is structured as follows:

- **Section I** presents the context, by outlining the applicable international safeguards commitments that inform the design of the GoG's SIS;
- **Section II** presents the SIS design framework, which encompasses the objectives, indicators, functions, and institutional arrangements of the SIS, along with the appropriate technological systems for the design and set-up of the SIS online portal;
- **Section III** presents the human resources and associated costs for outlay and operational running of the SIS; and
- **Section IV** determines the capacity strengthening measures required to set-up and maintain the SIS over time.
- **Annexes:**
 - **Annex I** presents the content and structure for the summary of information (SOI), and
 - **Annex II** presents the SIS database structure.

I. Context

Commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted the Warsaw framework for REDD+ (WFR) in 2013, which sets out all the methodological guidance and requirements for the implementation of Jurisdictional REDD+ programs. In order to obtain and receive results-based finance¹, the WFR stipulates that jurisdictional REDD+ programs must have “in place”² all of the following elements:

1. A National REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan

The REDD+ Strategy is a component of Guyana’s Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). The LCDS is however broader than the REDD+ Strategy component and includes low carbon development areas in the energy sector, the low carbon sectors such as agriculture, as well as areas of health and education.

Guyana’s [LCDS was first formulated in 2008](#) and aimed to support the country in the pursuit of a ‘resilient, low-carbon, socially-inclusive economy’, paving the way for national efforts to reduce emissions in the forest and land use sector.

The LCDS sets out a vision through which economic development and climate change mitigation will be reconciled through the generation of payments for “forest climate services” in a mechanism of sustainable utilization and development (i.e. REDD+). The result is intended to be the transformation of Guyana’s economy whilst combating climate change. Guyana’s LCDS was updated in 2011 and 2013, and expanded in 2021, when a draft LCDS 2030 was launched for national consultation. After seven months of national consultation, overseen by a Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC), the [LCDS 2030](#) was finalised in July 2022. As part of the closing stages of the national consultation, the LCDS 2030 was endorsed by the National Toshias Council (consisting of elected indigenous leaders) and the National Assembly (Parliament of Guyana).

2. A National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or Forest Reference Level (FREL)³

Guyana’s proposed forest reference emission level (FREL) has gone through technical assessment (TA) in the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the document has been made available for public in UNFCCC REDD+ Web Platform. The FREL report can be found [here](#).

The UNFCCC TA report can be found [here](#). The assessment team notes that the data and information used by Guyana in constructing its FREL are transparent and complete and are in overall accordance with the guidelines for submissions of information on FRELs (as contained in the annex to Decision 12/CP.17).

The Government of Guyana aims to submit an updated FREL to the UNFCCC in 2024.

¹ Decision 9/CP.19, supra note 1, at para. 3

² Those contained in Decision 1/CP.16 paragraph 71

³ Each national submission of a proposed FREL/FRL, in the context of RBPs, is subject to a technical assessment. Each submission is technically assessed by an assessment team in accordance with the procedures and time frames established by the COP.

3. A National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)

The national scale [Forest Carbon Monitoring System](#) (FCMS) is fully operational and a critical element of the Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification System (MRVS) as it provides details of the methods required to provide statistically robust estimates of the Emission Factors (EFs) –the EFs are used with activity data to estimate carbon emissions from changes in forest cover in Guyana.

During the period 2009 to 2015, the Governments of Guyana and the Kingdom of Norway, collaborated on a bilateral cooperation agreement on climate and forests. This agreement saw Guyana earning approximately US\$224M for keeping deforestation rates low along with other agreed performance measures. Building on Guyana’s reporting commitments under the Guyana Norway Bilateral Agreement to measure and report on the country’s performance against the REDD+ Performance Indicators, the country is committed to continuing to develop and maintain the MRVS as a platform through which the country can report on forest change and associated emissions.

Today the system has matured to report annual forest carbon emissions and removals by activities caused by deforestation and forest degradation. The results generated from the MRV system have potential applications to a range of functions relating to policy setting and decision making within the natural resources sector, particularly forest management. Over the past decade, Guyana’s MRV system has generated a wealth of data that can be used to understand the multiple uses of forests. To date, twelve national assessments (2010 to 2022) have been conducted, including the latest [MRVS Report – Assessment Year 2022](#).

4. A Safeguard Information System (SIS)

This document sets out all aspects of the GoG’s SIS, including its objectives, scope, indicators, functions and institutional arrangements.

Additionally, the WFR requires that jurisdictional REDD+ programs have submitted their ‘most recent summary of safeguard information’ (SOI) on how all of the safeguards have been addressed and respected before they can access results-based payments⁴.

To date, the GoG has submitted two SOIs to the UNFCCC. These can be accessed [here](#).

The Government of Guyana seeks to submit its Third Summary of Information Report on REDD+ Safeguards in 2024 to the UNFCCC.

⁴ Decision 9/CP.19, supra note 1, para. 4.

Commitments with the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions

On December 18, 2020, a concept note was submitted to the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) Secretariat by the GoG to become an entity eligible for the issuance of jurisdictional scale TREES credits under the scheme. The GoG's entry into ART is under the High Forest Low Deforestation Module developed to be integrated under The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) 2.0. The GoG identified two crediting periods, 2016- 2020 and 2021 to 2025 for payments.

Following this submission, Guyana underwent the independent Validation and Verification as required by ART, which audited Guyana's REDD+ results for conformance with both the carbon accounting requirements and the rigorous social and environmental safeguards of TREES. The results of which were presented to and approved by the ART Board of Directors.

On December 1, 2022, it was announced that ART issued the world's first TREES credits to the GoG. ART issued 33.47 million TREES credits to the GoG for the five-year period from 2016 to 2020. These serialized credits, are available to buyers on the global carbon market, including for use by airlines for compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organization's global emission reduction program, CORSIA, as well as for use toward voluntary corporate climate commitments.

Following the completion of the validation and verification process for 2021, on February 28, 2024, ART announced the issuance of the world's first carbon credits that are eligible for use by airlines in Phase 1 of CORSIA – the United Nations' International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)'s global emissions reduction programme. The credits issued are for Guyana's 2021 performance for which a total of 7.14 million credits were issued.

All submissions by the GoG to ART can be accessed [here](#).

Notably and of relevance to the SIS, the GoG is required to meet the following TREES safeguard related requirements:

- **Demonstrate that the implementation of REDD+ actions is conformant with the Cancun Safeguards, ensuring activities do no harm⁵.** To demonstrate such conformance, in [TREES's section 12](#), the Cancun safeguards are broken down into 16 thematic topics and under each theme, there are three types of indicators:
 - **Structural Indicators:** *demonstrate that relevant governance arrangements (e.g., policies, laws, and institutional arrangements) are in place in the country or applicable jurisdiction(s) to ensure that design and implementation of REDD+ actions is done in line with relevant safeguards theme. These arrangements may be part of the national or subnational legal framework or may be REDD+ specific arrangements.⁶*
 - **Process Indicators:** *demonstrate that appropriate processes, procedures or mechanisms are in place to enact and enforce the arrangements outlined in the Structural indicator.⁷*
 - **Outcome Indicators:** *demonstrate implementation outcomes for each theme are being monitored. For the outcome indicator for all themes, Participants will need to identify and describe the selected monitoring parameters including how a successful outcome is defined, monitoring methods to be used and a*

⁵ <https://www.artredd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/TREES-ESG-Safeguards-Guidance-Document-Aug-2021.pdf>

⁶ [Ibid](#)

⁷ [Ibid](#)

*summary of collected data. If the data analysis does not indicate a successful outcome, a description of how the governance arrangements or supporting processes, procedures or mechanisms (structure or process indicators) will be modified should be included.*⁸

- **Have a SIS in place**⁹. TREES's section 3.1.2, mentions that *Participants must have either a digital or analogue system for providing information on safeguards, and that if the Participant is a subnational government, it must have safeguards tracking and/or monitoring tools that are consistent with national tracking or tools, in particular with the national system for providing information on safeguards when available*¹⁰.
- **Have submitted the most recent Summary of Information (SOI)**¹¹ to the UNFCCC for any year where RBPs under TREES are sought¹².

UNFCCC Guidance for the SIS

As noted above, the development of a SIS is one of the three safeguard-related requirements¹³ outlined by the UNFCCC and is linked to the delivery of results-based payments¹⁴ from REDD+ Actions.

Although there are no official guidelines on how countries are supposed to set up a system for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected, Parties to the UNFCCC have agreed on some broad guidance on the characteristics of a SIS.¹⁵ Namely, it should:

- Provide transparent and consistent information that is accessible by all relevant stakeholders and updated on a regular basis;
- Be transparent and flexible to allow for improvements over time;
- Provide information on how all the safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are being addressed and respected (hereinafter referred to as 'Cancun safeguards');
- Be country-driven and implemented at the national level; and
- Build upon existing systems, as appropriate.

The SIS should be designed and developed according to each country's national circumstances and be built upon existing national information systems and sources. The SIS does not necessarily require the establishment of novel and tailored information systems, but rather requires decisions to be made on how to utilise existing information systems and sources.

In the absence of more specific guidelines regarding the SIS, the system can be broadly understood as the domestic institutional arrangements - and associated processes - in place for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected in a

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ <https://www.artredd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/TREES-2.0-August-2021-Clean.pdf> - p.22

¹¹ UNFCCC Decision 9/CP, Paragraph 4; Decision 2/CP.17, op cit, Paragraph 63 and 64; Decision 12/CP.17 para 3 and 4.

¹² <https://www.artredd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/TREES-ESG-Safeguards-Guidance-Document-Aug-2021.pdf>, Box 1

¹³ The other two being: 1) ensuring consistency of the REDD+ PAMs with the Cancun safeguards throughout the implementation of REDD+, and 2) the provision of a summary of information demonstrating how the safeguards have been addressed and respected to the UNFCCC.

¹⁴ Decision 2/CP. 17, paragraph 64

¹⁵ UNFCCC Decision 12/CP.17 paragraph 2

country throughout the implementation of its proposed REDD+ actions.¹⁶ The main element that may need to be put in place is an institutional arrangement for collecting, compiling, aggregating and analysing relevant information as well as preparing and disseminating it to meet the different reporting needs of the relevant national and international stakeholders. The development of the SIS, therefore, involves a process of examination, assessment and tailoring of existing information systems and sources to meet the various safeguard reporting needs of the country.

¹⁶UN REDD Programme (2016) REDD+ Safeguard Information Systems: Practical Design Considerations. Technical Resource Series. Safeguards Edition 1

II. SIS Design Framework

The GoG has put in place a SIS, which is understood to be a domestic institutional arrangement responsible for providing information as to how the safeguards are being addressed and respected in the context of the implementation of the REDD+ actions.

While a SIS is intended to demonstrate how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected, it is merely an institutional framework for collecting, managing and disseminating information. It is important to note that a SIS on its *own* is not expected to – nor is it intended to – ensure that REDD+ actions are *implemented* in a manner that is consistent with the Cancun safeguards, although it may contribute to doing so.

The framework of the GoG's SIS is composed of the following elements, all of which are examined in the following sections:

- Principles of the SIS;
- Objectives of the SIS;
- Scope of the SIS;
- Description of each Cancun safeguard;
- Indicators of the SIS;
- Functions and institutional arrangements of the SIS; and
- SIS's technological systems requirements.

Principles of the SIS

Although there are no official guidelines on how countries are supposed to set up a system for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected, Parties to the UNFCCC have agreed on some broad guidance on the characteristics of a SIS¹⁷. In alignment with such guidance, Guyana's SIS is guided by the following principles:

1. **Transparency:** the SIS will provide transparent information on a regular basis.¹⁸
2. **Accessibility:** the SIS will provide information that is accessible by all stakeholders through its dedicated webpage.¹⁹
3. **Flexibility:** the SIS is designed to allow for improvements over time in recognition of the stepwise approach to producing safeguards information. Guyana's SIS will provide information appropriate to the stage of design and implementation of its REDD+ actions. Such a stepwise approach with periodic dissemination of information will create a narrative that provides the "positive direction of travel" in safeguards implementation.²⁰
4. **Completeness:** the SIS will provide information on how all the safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are being addressed and respected, and in correlation to the nature, scope and stage of design and implementation of the REDD+ actions.²¹
5. **Country-driven:** the SIS is consistent with national sovereignty, national legislation and national circumstances, including building upon relevant systems and institutional

¹⁷ UNFCCC, Decision 12/CP.17

¹⁸ UNFCCC, Decision 12/CP.17, paragraph 2 (letter 'b')

¹⁹ UNFCCC, Decision 12/CP.17, paragraph 2 (letter 'b')

²⁰ UNFCCC, Decision 12/CP.17, paragraph 1 and 2 (letter 'c')

²¹ UNFCCC, Decision 12/CP.17, paragraph 1 and 2 (letter 'd')

arrangements²².

Objectives of the SIS

The primary objective of the GoG's SIS is to provide transparent and consistent information that is accessible on a regular basis by all relevant stakeholders over how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the REDD+ actions. As such, the SIS will be used to:

- a. Provide information that is accessible by all domestic stakeholders over how the seven Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the REDD+ actions;
- b. Provide the required information to ART over how TREES safeguard requirements (in particular, the structural, process and outcome safeguards indicators) are being met;
- c. Provide the required information to the UNFCCC (through the most recent summary of information) over how all the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected²³.

Scope of the SIS

The scope of the GoG's SIS is linked to the scope of safeguards application. The default UNFCCC requirement is to apply the Cancun safeguards to all REDD+ actions to be implemented under the National Strategy.²⁴ However, as the GoG has embedded REDD+ into broader low-carbon development, this narrow safeguard application is difficult to implement and introduces unnecessary complications. Therefore, the GoG has taken a more strategic and practical approach in applying the Cancun safeguards more broadly to its Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS).

Recognizing the SIS must allow for improvements over time; the GoG will progressively report more specifically on Direct REDD+ actions²⁵ under the implementation for each specific results period (see Table 1). For example, for the 2022 results period, will report more specifically on two Direct REDD+ actions under implementation: the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) and the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) or Forest Certification System (FCS).

Table 1: The LCDS strategic areas and interventions for 2022 and 2023

LCDS Strategic Areas and planned interventions	Direct REDD+ actions	Enabling REDD+ action	Implementation in 2022	Implementation in 2023
Guyana – EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Process		X	X	X

²² UNFCCC, Decision 12/CP.17, preamble and paragraph 2 (letter 'e' and 'f')

²³ Decision 12/CP.17, paragraph 3 and Decision 9/CP.19, paragraph 4

²⁴ Decision 2/CP. 17 paragraph 63

²⁵ **Direct REDD+ actions** are understood to be those that seek to achieve results in terms of emissions reductions and/or enhanced removals. Examples include reforestation, fire prevention or energy switching programmes. Enabling REDD+ actions: aim to create an appropriate environment for effective and efficient interventions, often targeting indirect drivers or barriers to the 'plus' activities. **Enabling REDD+ actions** may include capacity building, land-use planning, clarification of tenure frameworks and measures aimed at improving governance, such as transparency in resource and land allocation. While essential to the success of REDD+, their carbon potential may be difficult or impossible to quantify.

Development and implementation of codes of practice to inform effective forest resources management in forest harvesting activities to maintain low rates of deforestation and forest degradation	X		X	X
Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS)	X		X	X
Advance the promotion of value added initiatives within the sector to assist in creating higher potential for carbon storage in long term wood products		X	X	X
Strengthen its support for indigenous communities	X	X	X	X
Continued Support to Guyana's National Protected Area System	X		X	X
Promote use of Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) through training and industry development to contribute to avoided deforestation	X		X	X

Description of the Cancun safeguards

Parties to the UNFCCC agreed to a set of seven safeguards (broad principles) that are expected to be applied in accordance with national context and circumstances when undertaking REDD+ activities (see Box 1- referred to as 'Cancun safeguard'). Accordingly, and to respond to UNFCCC guidance and requirements (see Box 2), the GoG has adopted a description of the Cancun Safeguards.

It must be noted that the description of each Cancun safeguard to the GoG's context serves to specify how the objectives encompassed in the broad language of the Cancun safeguards translate into concrete principles and objectives that are to be followed in the context of the implementation of REDD+ Actions in Guyana, and which are anchored in the GoG's Policies Laws and Regulations (PLRs). Hence, the GoG's description of the Cancun Safeguards informs the SIS scope, in particular the SIS's indicators (See section below).

Box 1: The Cancun safeguards²⁶

When undertaking the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision, the following safeguards should be promoted and supported:

- a) That actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements;
- b) Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into account national legislation and sovereignty;

²⁶ UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16 Appendix 1 paragraph 2

- c) Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- d) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in the actions referred to in paragraphs 70 and 72 of this decision;
- e) That actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity, ensuring that the actions referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision are not used for the conversion of natural forests, but are instead used to incentivize the protection and conservation of natural forests and their ecosystem services, and to enhance other social and environmental benefits;²⁷
- f) Actions to address the risks of reversals;
- g) Actions to reduce displacement of emissions

Box 2: UNFCCC guidance for summaries of information

In the final series of decisions on REDD+, agreed in Paris at COP 21, Parties to the UNFCCC developed some further guidance “on ensuring transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness when informing on how all the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, are being addressed and respected.”²⁸ As part of this guidance, the COP “strongly encourages” developing country Parties, when providing the summary of information on how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected, to include, inter alia, “[a] description of each safeguard in accordance with national circumstances.”²⁹

Indicators of the SIS

A key SIS design consideration countries have identified is determining ‘what type’ of information is needed to demonstrate whether the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected. This is usually referred to as the SIS indicators.

The GoG will provide information on *how* the seven Cancun safeguards have been “addressed” and “respected” throughout the implementation of the REDD+ Actions³⁰, and in accordance with the GoG’s description of the Cancun safeguards. **It should be noted the indicators serve as a measurement or value to determine the extent to which the description of the Cancun safeguards are being met.**

In alignment with applicable commitments outlined in section I, the GoG has adopted three types of indicators (structural, process, and outcome), which will be linked and tailored to the specific nature of the Direct REDD+ Actions to ensure clear and specific reporting (see Section on Scope above and see Annex II- SIS database structure).

In accordance with best practices³¹, the GoG understands that ‘structural’ and ‘process’ indicators are linked to the UNFCCC reference of ‘addressing’ the Cancun safeguards. These indicators would be used to measure the extent to which the GoG’s governance arrangements guarantee the implementation of the Cancun safeguards. Regarding ‘outcome’ indicators, the

²⁷Taking into account the need for sustainable livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities and their interdependence on forests in most countries, reflected in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as International Mother Earth Day.

²⁸ UNFCCC Decision 17/CP.21, see also UN-REDD [brief on summaries of information](#)

²⁹ Ibid, paragraph 5(b) see also UN-REDD [brief on summaries of information for further analysis](#)

³⁰ UNFCCC Decision 12/CP.17 paragraph 3

³¹ Braña Varela, J., Lee, D., Rey Christen, D., and Swan, S. 2014. “REDD+ Safeguards: Practical Considerations for Developing a Summary of Information.” Prepared with support from the Government of Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative. Available at www.merid.org/reddsafeguards

GoG understands these are linked to the UNFCCC reference of ‘respecting’ the Cancun safeguards. These indicators would be used to measure the extent of conformance with the Cancun safeguards when designing and implementing REDD+ actions, including any actions, taken to improve implementation over time.

Functions and institutional arrangements of the SIS

This design element involves determining ‘who’ will be involved in the operation of the SIS.

This section presents the proposed institutional arrangements for the SIS, which are linked to the overall institutional arrangements set out for the implementation of the Low Carbon Development Strategy. See Figure 1 for an overview of the functions and institutional arrangements of GoG’s SIS and see Figure 2 for an overview of the SIS functioning process. Each function and associated institutional arrangement are further explained and presented below.

Figure 1: SIS’s functions and associated institutional arrangements.

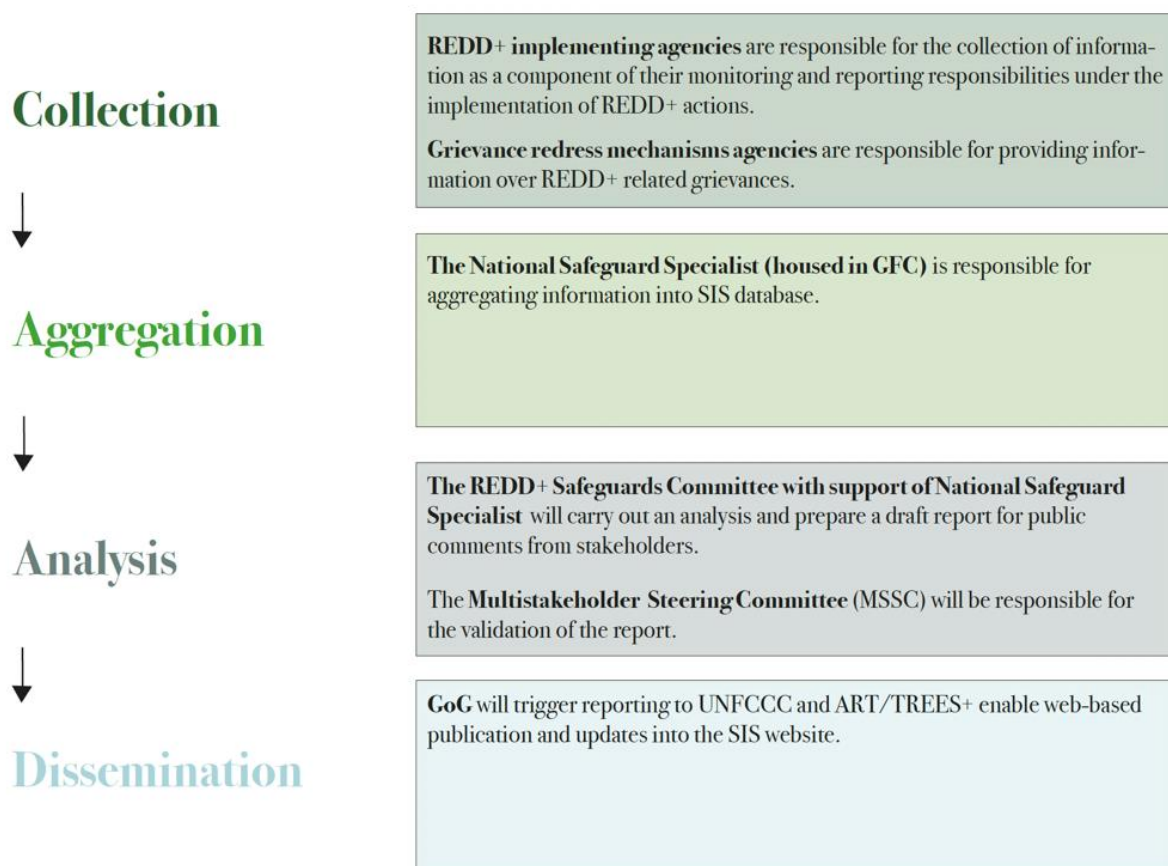
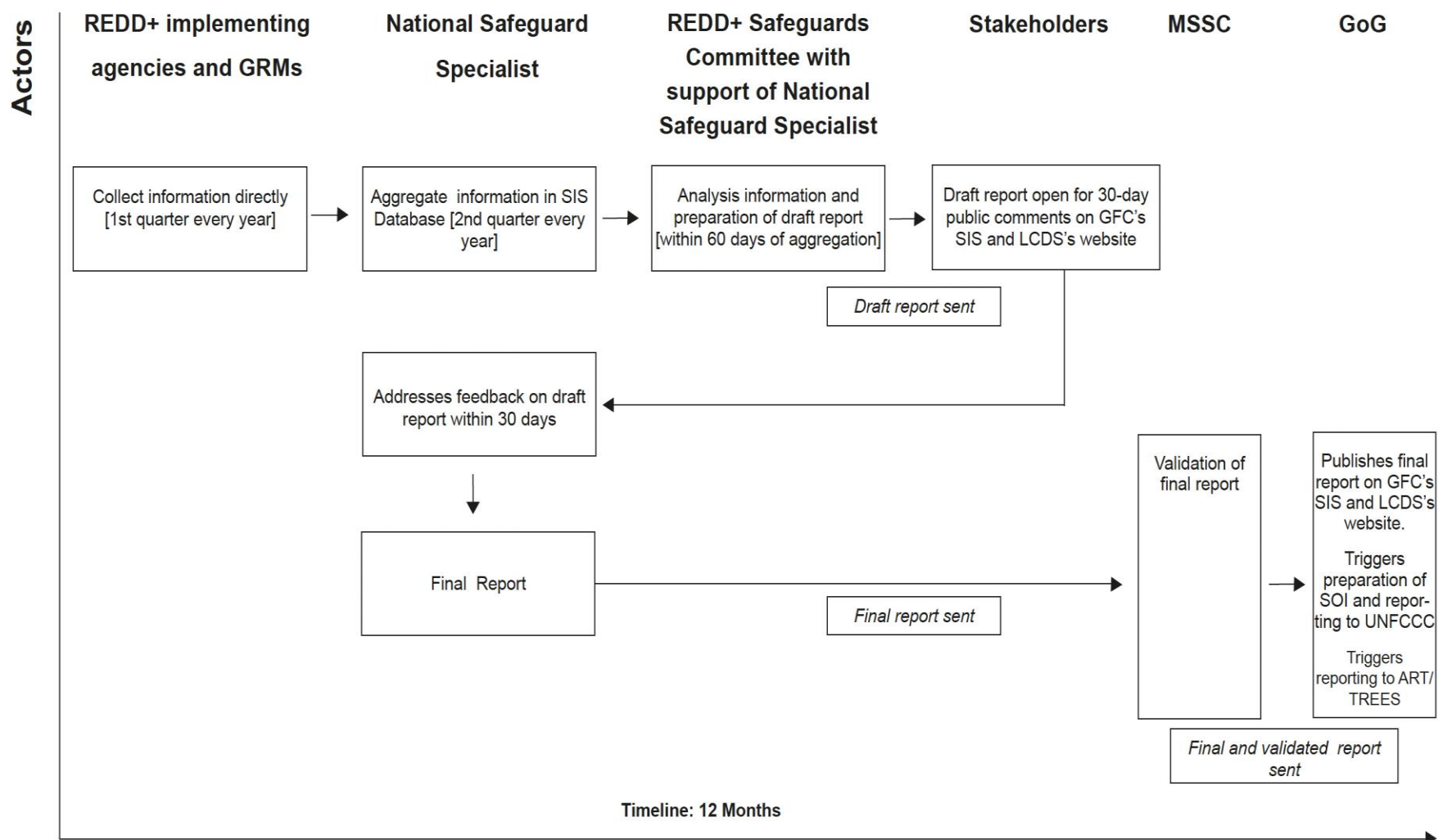


Figure 2: Overview of SIS's functioning process



Function 1: Collection of information

This function refers to the process of collecting information in correlation to the SIS's indicators. Information will be collected the first quarter of each calendar year.

The collection of information is to be carried out primarily by the REDD+ Implementing agencies (i.e. those agencies with institutional responsibility and mandate over the implementation of the REDD+ Actions) as a component of their monitoring and reporting responsibilities.

Additionally, and to complement the information gathered by REDD+ Implementing agencies, the relevant grievance redress mechanisms (GRM) agencies will also be responsible for the collection of information. Table 2 identifies the specific GRMs that will be responsible for providing information.

Table 2: Available GRMs and responsible agencies

Level	Legislation	Institution	
<i>National Law Courts</i>	Summary Jurisdiction Act	Magistrate's Court	
	High Court Act	High Courts	
	Court of Appeal Act	Court of Appeal	
	Caribbean Court of Justice Act	Caribbean Court of Justice	
<i>Special Purpose Forums</i>	Land Registry Act	Land Court	
	Arbitration Act	Arbitrators	
	Constitution, Ombudsman Act	Ombudsman	
	GLSC Act, State Lands Act, State Lands Resumption Act, Public Lands Act,	Guyana Lands and Survey Commission	
	GGMC Act, Mining Act, Mining and Petroleum Act	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission	
	GFC Act, Forests Act	Guyana Forestry Commission	
	Amerindian Act	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs Amerindian Land Titling Project GRM	
	<i>Sector Specific Mechanisms</i>	Environmental Protection Act	Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Assessment Board
			Environmental Appeals Tribunal
		Protected Areas Act	Protected Areas Commission
Wildlife Conservation and Management Act		Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission	
Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest, Land and Trade with the European Union		EU-FLEGT GRM	
<i>Local community mechanisms</i>	Amerindian Act 2006	Amerindian Village and Community Councils	

Both REDD+ Implementing agencies and GRM agencies will be primarily responsible for collecting information in relation to REDD+ Direct Action's specific indicators, including the means by which the actions have been addressed. To be able to collect the necessary information, specific template reports will be utilized³².

³² Templates are available in the standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the safeguard information system.

Function 2: Aggregation of information

This function refers to the process of aggregating all the requested information, with the aim of understanding the level of conformance with the SIS's indicators for each REDD+ Action. The aggregation of information will take place the second quarter of each calendar year.

The National Safeguard Specialist (housed at the Guyana Forestry Commission) will be responsible for the aggregation of the information. A SIS database will be used to aggregate and analyse the information of how the safeguards are being addressed and respected (see Annex II -SIS database structure).

Function 3: Analysis of information

The analysis function aims to provide an analysis of the level conformance with the SIS's indicators for each REDD+ Action.

The REDD+ Safeguards Committee with the support of the National Safeguard Specialist will analyse the information and prepare a draft report. This will take place within 60 days of the aggregation of information. It should be noted that the members of the REDD+ Safeguards Committee will be responsible for consulting with their own constituencies in this process, to gather their respective views and perspectives.

The draft report will be posted on the LCDS and GFC's SIS webpages, and the public will have 30 working days to submit any written comments to the GFC.

The GFC will address feedback received within 30 days of finalizing the public comment period and prepare a final report. Based on comments received, the office will issue a responsiveness summary that summarizes all comments and responses to each and will submit the final report for validation and endorsement.

The final report will be sent to the Multi Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC) for its validation.

Function 4: Dissemination of information

This function refers to the process of disseminating the information produced by the SIS.

The final validated report will be published every year by the GFC in the LCDS and GFC's SIS webpage. This same report will be shared with the UNFCCC focal point to trigger its submission to the UNFCCC.

The GFC will also utilize the final national report to trigger the preparation of the monitoring reports for ART/TREES. It is important to note that the monitoring reports will be based entirely on the final validated reports, which is why no additional public consultation process is considered.

The SIS dedicated webpage

The SIS dedicated webpage will be a tool to enable the dissemination of information to all stakeholders, and hosted in the GFC's website. Table 3 below illustrates the scope of the dedicated webpage.

Table 3: Scope of the SIS webpage

Main tabs	Scope/content
Home	Provides an overview of UNFCCC REDD+ requirements
What is the safeguard information system?	Describes what is a SIS
	Outlines the objectives of the SIS
	Outlines the functions and the institutional arrangements of the SIS + the functioning process (diagram to included)
What are safeguards?	Briefly explains what the Cancun safeguards encompass, and that these are the set of safeguards the country has committed to ensuring its application in alignment with UNFCCC
	Provides the description/unpacking of the Cancun safeguards to the country's context.
	Explains how Guyana ensures the application of the safeguards.
How does Guyana report on the safeguard's application?	Presents the scope of reporting and associated timeframes.
	Provides access to the SOIs and TREES Monitoring reports.

III. SIS establishment and operational costs

This section specifies what are the human resources and associated costs for outlay and operational running of the SIS.

Human Resources

As minimum a National Safeguards Specialist needs to be considered to support the SIS functioning. In particular, the National Safeguards Specialist would be responsible for:

Overall Coordination

- Lead and update SIS webpage and database,
- Lead and coordinate the aggregation of information in SIS database/ data management system,
- Lead analysis of information and prepare draft reports, and
- Lead and facilitate as needed liaison and contact with relevant government agencies and non-governmental stakeholders, including coordinating responses to feedback and complaints.

Capacity Building

- Lead, identify, assess, and monitor overall capacity building needs within the relevant government agencies (e.g. REDD+ implementing agencies),
- Lead, develop and administer as needed technical assistance and other training programs for capacity building, and
- Lead in providing safeguard training and prepare and administer relevant capacity development programs.

Financial Resources

With regards to financial resources, it will be necessary to consider the following when preparing a dedicated budget for the operationalization of the SIS:

a) Human resources

The SIS budget will need to consider costs associated for staffing a dedicated National Safeguards Specialist in the GFC.

b) Capacity building

The SIS budget will need to consider costs associated with capacity building activities and training. The scope of this budget will depend on the capacity building activities determined/informed by the needs of the REDD+ Safeguards Committee, REDD+ implementing agencies, agencies responsible for relevant GRMs, and the National Safeguards Specialist (See Section IV below).

c) Web page, database and general IT

The SIS budget will need to consider costs associated with upkeep of the SIS webpage and database, as well as dedicated email and phone number. It might be necessary to budget for a server for data storage or to rent space in a secure server in another place. The images and text files should be stored in this safe place.

d) Transportation and other per diem

Budget will need to be considered for transport and per diems for the National Safeguards Specialist to travel to provinces in connection to his/her role and responsibilities.

IV. SIS Capacity Strengthening

Capacity building should be viewed as more than training. It is human resource development and includes the process of equipping individuals with the understanding, skills and access to information, knowledge and training that enables them to perform effectively. It also involves organizational development, the elaboration of relevant management structures, processes, and procedures, not only within organizations but also the management of relationships between the different organizations and sectors (public, private and community).

Two key steps are considered for strengthening capacities for the SIS:

1. Capacity building needs assessment

The first step in pursuing capacity building will be to identify the capacity needs of the various stakeholders involved in the functioning of the SIS. These include the REDD+ implementing agencies, agencies responsible for relevant GRMs, and the REDD+ safeguards committee.

2. Capacity Building- Tailored training

Once the capacity needs have been identified, tailored training and capacity building measures should be provided in response to the identified needs.

The following training programmes are considered and can be tailored to the identified capacity needs.

Training Program 1: The functioning of the SIS

Content:

- Understanding the overall SIS functioning (functions and processes- application of the standard operating procedures of the SIS).
- Understanding your role and responsibilities in the SIS functioning.

Recommended Audience: REDD+ implementing agencies, REDD+ Safeguards Committee members, agencies responsible for the GRMs.

Training program 2: Collection of information for the SIS

Content

- Understanding the SIS indicators (e.g. what information is expected to be provided in relation to each indicator, verifiers, etc.).
- Understanding how best to collect information (e.g. how to complete the template reports).

Recommended Audience: REDD+ implementing agencies and agencies responsible for the GRMs.

Training program 3: Analysis of information for the SIS

Content

- Understanding the SIS indicators and how to measure performance.
- Understanding how best to analyze the information and complete the national report.

Recommended Audience: REDD+ Safeguards Committee members and National Safeguards Specialist.

Annex 1- Guyana's Safeguard Information System: Standard Operating Procedures

Introduction

The objective of this document is to provide step by step instructions for the execution of the functions of the Government of Guyana (GoG)'s Safeguard Information System (SIS) and preparation of Summaries of Information (SOIs). This document should be read alongside report titled '*Guyana's Safeguard Information System: Framework Document*', which details the GoG's SIS design.

The document is structured in seven sections. The table below identifies the applicability of certain sections in correlation to the roles and responsibilities allocated for the operation of the SIS:

Section	Specifically applicable to
Section I: Provides the context, which informs the use of this standard operating procedures (SOPs)	All
Section II: Provides instructions for the collection of information using the SIS's template reports	REDD+ implementers ³³ , and relevant grievance redress mechanisms (GRM) agencies The National Safeguard Specialist
Section III: Provides instructions for how to aggregate information	The REDD+ Safeguards Committee with the support of the National Safeguard Specialist
Section IV: Provides instructions for how to analyse the information	The REDD+ Safeguards Committee with the support of the National Safeguard Specialist
Section V: Provides instructions for the preparation of the SOI	The REDD+ Safeguards Committee with the support of the National Safeguard Specialist
Section VI: Provides instructions for the consultation and validation of the SOI	The REDD+ Safeguards Committee with the support of the National Safeguard Specialist
Section VII: Provides instructions for how to disseminate the SOI	The REDD+ Safeguards Committee with the support of the National Safeguard Specialist
Annex I: Template for preparation of the SOI	The REDD+ Safeguards Committee with the support of the National Safeguard Specialist
Annex II: Template for Collecting Information by REDD+ implementers (to be adapted)	REDD+ implementers
Annex III: Template for Collecting Information on the Voluntary Partnership Agreement	The Guyana Forestry Commission
Annex IV: Template for Collecting Information on the Forest Certification Scheme	The Guyana Forestry Commission
Annex V: Template for Collecting Information by relevant GRM agencies	GRM agencies

³³ Those agencies with institutional responsibility and mandate over the implementation of the REDD+ actions, as a component of their monitoring and reporting responsibilities.

Section I: Context

This section provides a brief overview of the main design elements of the GoG's SIS, which informs the use of this SOPs. For all details, please refer to document titled "*Guyana's Safeguard Information System: Framework Document*".

What is a Safeguard Information System?

The GoG has put in place a SIS, which is understood to be a domestic institutional arrangement responsible for providing information as to how the safeguards are being addressed and respected in the context of the implementation of the REDD+ actions. The (forthcoming) SIS webpage can be accessed here: <https://forestry.gov.gy/>

The objectives of the GoG's SIS is to provide transparent and consistent information that is accessible in a regular basis by all relevant stakeholders over how the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the REDD+ actions. As such, the SIS will be used to:

- d. Provide information that is accessible by all domestic stakeholders over how the seven Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the REDD+ actions;
- e. Provide the required information to ART over how TREES safeguard requirements (in particular, the structural, process and outcome safeguards indicators) are being met;
- f. Provide the required information to the UNFCCC (through the most recent summary of information) over how all the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected³⁴.

The main functions and institutional arrangements of the SIS are outlined in Figure 1. Figure 2 provides an overview of the SIS's process for the execution of its functions.

Figure 3: SIS's functions and associated institutional arrangements.

³⁴ Decision 12/CP.17, paragraph 3 and Decision 9/CP.19, paragraph 4

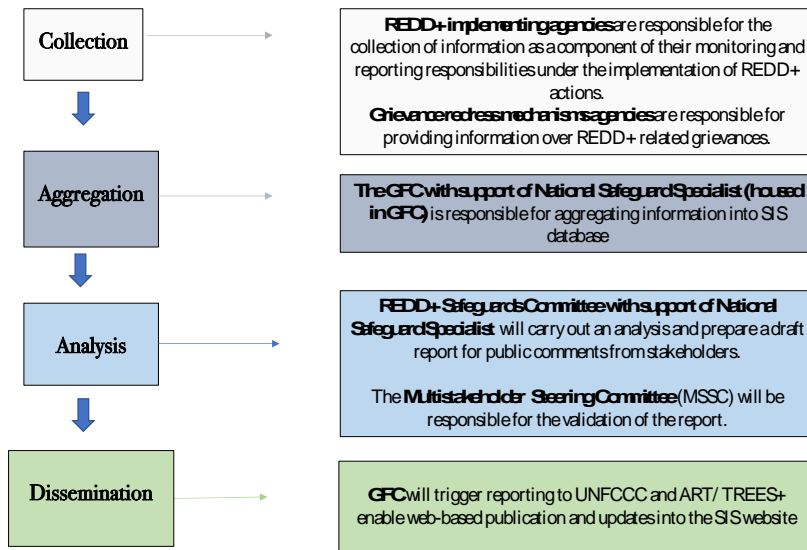
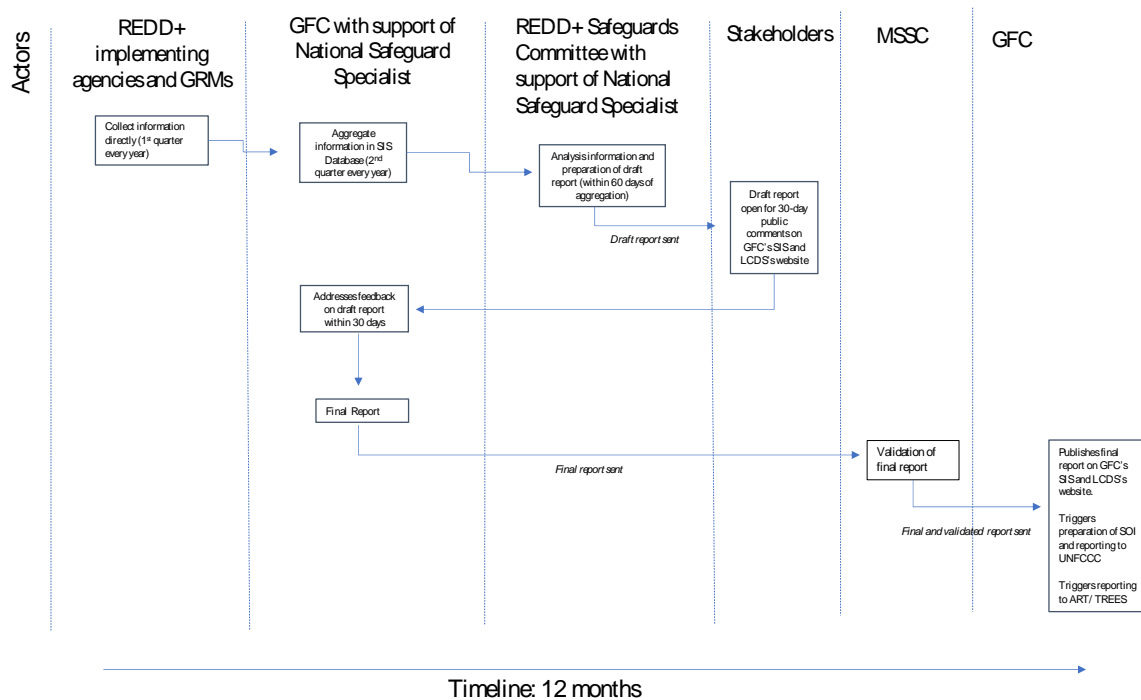


Figure 4: Overview of SIS's functioning process



What are the Cancun safeguards?

Parties to the UNFCCC agreed to a set of seven safeguards (broad principles) that are expected to be applied in accordance with national context and circumstances when undertaking REDD+ activities. The REDD+ activities (and actions) are articulated in the GoG's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS).

Annex II presents the GoG's description of the Cancun Safeguards to respond to UNFCCC

guidance and requirements. It must be noted that the description of each Cancun safeguard to the GoG’s context serves to specify how the objectives encompassed in the broad language of the Cancun safeguards translate into concrete principles and objectives that are to be followed in the context of the implementation of REDD+ Actions in Guyana, and which are anchored in the GoG’s Policies Laws and Regulations (PLRs).

The GoG will provide information on *how* the seven Cancun safeguards have been “addressed” and “respected” throughout the implementation of the REDD+ activities³⁵, in accordance with the GoG’s description of the Cancun safeguards (See Table 3 below).

What is the scope of the SIS?

The scope of the GoG’s SIS is linked to the scope of safeguards application. The default UNFCCC requirement is to apply the Cancun safeguards to all REDD+ actions to be implemented under the National Strategy.³⁶ However, as the GoG has embedded REDD+ into broader low-carbon development, this narrow safeguard application is difficult to implement and introduces unnecessary complications. Therefore, the GoG has taken a more strategic and practical approach in applying the Cancun safeguards more broadly to its LCDS.

Recognizing the SIS must allow for improvements over time; the GoG will progressively report more specifically on Direct REDD+ actions³⁷ under the implementation for each specific results period (see Table 1). For example for the 2022 results period, the GoG will report more specifically on two Direct REDD+ actions under implementation: the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) and the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and Forest Certification Scheme (FCS).

Table 4: The LCDS strategic areas and interventions for 2022 and 2023

LCDS Strategic Areas and planned interventions	Direct REDD+ actions	Enabling REDD+ action	Implementation in 2022	Implementation in 2023
Enhancing the Guyana Forestry Commission and Guyana Geology and Mines Commission Codes of Practice		X		X
Finalising and implementing the VPA under EU-FLEGT	X		X	X
Implementation of PEFC- Forest Certification Scheme	X		X	x
Improving added-value activities for forest products locally		X		X
Mineral Mapping		X		
Expansion and restoration of Guyana’s mangrove forests and ecosystems	X			X
Maintenance of intact forest landscapes and Protected Areas	X		X	x

³⁵ UNFCCC Decision 12/CP.17 paragraph 3

³⁶ Decision 2/CP. 17 paragraph 63

³⁷ **Direct REDD+ actions** are understood to be those that seek to achieve results in terms of emissions reductions and/or enhanced removals. Examples include reforestation, fire prevention or energy switching programmes. **Enabling REDD+ actions:** aim to create an appropriate environment for effective and efficient interventions, often targeting indirect drivers or barriers to the ‘plus’ activities. **Enabling REDD+ actions** may include capacity building, land-use planning, clarification of tenure frameworks and measures aimed at improving governance, such as transparency in resource and land allocation. While essential to the success of REDD+, their carbon potential may be difficult or impossible to quantify.

Restoration projects (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 hectares of forest areas are available for rehabilitation/reforestation)	X			X
Amerindian Land Titling Project		X	X	X

Section II: Instructions for the Collection of Information

Who is responsible?

The collection of information is to be carried out by:

1. The **REDD+ Implementing agencies** (i.e. those agencies with institutional responsibility and mandate over the implementation of the REDD+ Actions) as a component of their monitoring and reporting responsibilities. Table 1 (above) identifies the REDD+ actions under the LCDS.
2. The **relevant grievance redress mechanisms (GRM) agencies** will also be responsible for the collection of information. Table 2 identifies the specific GRMs that will be responsible for providing information.

How to collect the information?

The **overall coordination for the collection of information will be the responsibility of the National Safeguard Specialist** (housed at the Guyana Forestry Commission). In this regard, the National Safeguard Specialist will be responsible of:

- a. Identifying the Direct REDD+ actions under implementation for the respective reporting period and who are REDD+ Implementing agencies with institutional responsibility and mandate over the implementation of these REDD+ Actions. Table 1 above identifies the Direct REDD+ actions under the LCDS, which are to be the focus of the SIS's reporting and hence the collection of information.
- b. Formulation of specific templates for the collection of information for each Direct REDD+ action under implementation in the reporting period. The National Safeguard Specialist will consider that:
 - o Annex II provides a general template for collecting information by REDD+ implementers, which will need to be adapted to the specific scope and nature of the REDD+ action- when subject to the respective reporting period. For example, many REDD+ actions do not have an associated benefit sharing plan/arrangements (e.g. VPA), and this should be considered in adapting the indicators.
 - o Annex III and IV provides specific reporting templates for the REDD+ actions under implementation for 2022 period (VPA and the FCS). These templates can and should be utilized for future reporting periods (e.g. 2023, 2024, etc.), but adjustments should be considered in light of any lessons acquired during each reporting period.
- c. Requesting relevant REDD+ Implementing agencies and GRM agencies to commence with the collection of information, following their respective templates for collection of information (as per letter 'b' above, and noting Annex V provides a template for GRM agencies).

Table 5: Available GRMs and responsible agencies

Level	Legislation	Institution
Local community mechanisms	Amerindian Act 2006	Amerindian Village and Community Councils
Sector Specific Mechanisms	GLSC Act, State Lands Act, State Lands Resumption Act, Public Lands Act,	Guyana Lands and Survey Commission
	GGMC Act, Mining Act, Mining and Petroleum Act	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
	GFC Act, Forests Act	Guyana Forestry Commission
	Amerindian Act	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
		Amerindian Land Titling Project GRM
	Environmental Protection Act	Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Assessment Board Environmental Appeals Tribunal
	Protected Areas Act	Protected Areas Commission
	Wildlife Conservation and Management Act	Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission
	Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest, Land and Trade with the European Union	EU-FLEGT GRM
National Law Courts	Summary Jurisdiction Act	Magistrate's Court
	High Court Act	High Courts
	Court of Appeal Act	Court of Appeal
	Caribbean Court of Justice Act	Caribbean Court of Justice
Special Purpose Forums	Land Registry Act	Land Court
Purpose Forums	Arbitration Act	Arbitrators
	Constitution, Ombudsman Act	Ombudsman

What are the timelines for the collection of information?

The collection of information will be done during the first quarter of every year, and the specific timelines are:

1. **By 30th of January each year**, the National Safeguard Specialist will request relevant REDD+ Implementing agencies and GRM agencies to commence with the collection of information, following their respective templates for collection of information.
2. **By 15th of April each year**, the REDD+ Implementing agencies and relevant GRM agencies will submit their completed template reports to the National Safeguard Specialist

Section III: Instructions for how the aggregation of the information

Who is responsible?

The National Safeguard Specialist will be responsible for the aggregation of the information. A SIS database (under development) will be used to aggregate the information compiled through REDD+ Implementing agencies and GRM agencies.

How to aggregate the information?

In alignment with the SIS database, information must be aggregated in correlation to Guyana’s description of each Cancun safeguard and following the specific reporting themes of the SOI (See Table 3 below).

The National Safeguard Specialist will be responsible for preparing a technical report (‘Technical Report: aggregation of information for results period xx’), which will be utilized for the function of analysis of information (See section IV).

In preparing the technical report, the National Safeguard Specialist must cover three key components (legal framework, institutional framework, and outcomes) in correlation to each of the safeguard reporting themes (See Box 1 below).

Table 6: Reporting themes for the aggregation of information

Guyana’s description of Cancun Safeguards	Safeguard Reporting Themes
Safeguard A “The REDD+ activities must be implemented in compliance with the objectives of national forest programmes, and consistent to the provisions of the relevant treaties and international conventions Guyana is Party to.”	THEME A.1 Consistency with the objectives of national forest programs THEME A.2 Consistency with the objectives of relevant international conventions and agreements
Safeguard B: “The rights of access to information, accountability, justice, gender equality, land tenure and fair distribution of benefits will be respected and promoted in the scope of the application of the REDD+ activities”	THEME B.1 Respect, protect, and fulfil the right of access to information THEME B.2: Promote transparency and prevention of corruption, including the promotion of anti-corruption measures THEME B.3 Respect, protect, and fulfil land tenure rights THEME B.4 Respect, protect, and fulfil access to justice
Safeguard C: “The REDD+ activities will be implemented in accordance and with respect to the rights of recognition of, and respect for the	THEME C.1 Identify indigenous peoples and local communities, or equivalent THEME C.2 Respect and protect traditional knowledge

rights of Amerindian peoples and local communities; including the rights to non-discrimination, traditional knowledge and culture, self-determination, benefit sharing and land tenure rights.”	THEME C.3 Respect, protect, and fulfil rights of indigenous peoples and/or local communities, or equivalent
Cancun Safeguard D: “The right to participate, in particular for relevant Indigenous peoples and local communities, is recognized and are to be promoted under the implementation of the REDD+ activities.”	THEME D.1 Respect, protect, and fulfil the right of all relevant stakeholders to participate fully and effectively in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions THEME D.2 Promote adequate participatory procedures for the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, or equivalent
Safeguard E: “The REDD+ activities will promote the conservation of natural forests and biodiversity, the enhancement of social and environmental benefits, and will not result in the conversion of natural forests.”	THEME E.1 Non-conversion of natural forests and other natural ecosystems. THEME E.2 Protect natural forests, biological diversity, and ecosystem services THEME E.3 Enhancement of social and environmental benefits
Safeguard F: “Risks of reversals and displacement of emissions of the REDD+ activities are addressed through the MRVS and national forest monitoring system.”	THEME F.1 The risk of reversals is integrated in the design, prioritization, implementation, and periodic assessments of REDD+ policies and measures
Safeguard G: “Risks of reversals and displacement of emissions of the REDD+ activities are addressed through the MRVS and national forest monitoring system.”	THEME G.1 The risk of displacement of emissions is integrated in the design, prioritization, implementation, and periodic assessments of REDD+ policies and measures.

Box 3: Components under each safeguard reporting theme

Legal Framework

Under this component, the National Safeguard Specialist will:

- Utilize the most recent SOI and TREES monitoring report, to provide/update the description of the overarching legal arrangements that guarantee the implementation of this safeguard theme. For example, under ‘THEME B.1 Respect, protect, and fulfil the right of access to information’, information should be provided about the overarching legal arrangements to guarantee access to information, which apply to the implementation of the LCDS.
- For each Direct REDD+ action under implementation for the reporting period, utilize the completed template reports by the REDD+ implementing agencies to provide a description of the particular legal arrangements of the REDD+ action that guarantee the implementation of this safeguard theme.

Institutional Framework

Under this component, the National Safeguard Specialist will:

- Utilize the most recent SOI and TREES monitoring report, to provide/update the description of the overarching institutional arrangements (i.e. processes and procedures) that guarantee the implementation of this safeguard theme. For example, under ‘THEME B.1 Respect, protect, and fulfil the right of access to information’,

information should be provided about the overarching procedures to provide and guarantee access to information, which apply to the implementation of the LCDS.

- For each Direct REDD+ action under implementation for the reporting period, utilize the completed template reports by the REDD+ implementing agencies to provide a description of the particular institutional arrangements of the REDD+ action that guarantee the implementation of this safeguard theme.

Outcomes

Under this component, the National Safeguard Specialist will:

- Provide information concerning the application of the GoG' legal and institutional arrangements under this theme and in correlation to the implementation of the LCDS. For example, under 'THEME B.2: Promote transparency and prevention of corruption, including the promotion of anti-corruption measures' the National Safeguard Specialist will provide information concerning the functioning and outcomes of the revenue/benefit distribution system.
- For each Direct REDD+ action under implementation for the reporting period, utilize the completed template reports by the REDD+ implementing agencies to provide a description of the particular outcomes of REDD+ actions in correlation to this safeguards theme.

What are the timelines for the aggregation of information?

The aggregation of information will take place the second quarter of each calendar year.

Section IV: Instructions for the analysis of information

Who is responsible?

The REDD+ Safeguards Committee with the support of the National Safeguard Specialist will analyse the information. Should be noted that the members of the REDD+ Safeguards Committee will be responsible for consulting with its own constituencies in this process, to gather their respective views and perspectives.

How to analyse the information?

The process and methods for the analysis of information are the following:

1. The National Safeguard Specialist will schedule a meeting of the REDD+ Safeguards Committee.

This will be a (1) day meeting with the specific objective of analysing how the safeguards have been addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the REDD+ activities.

General applicable guidelines for this meeting are:

- a. The National Safeguard Specialist will prepare the necessary documentation for this meeting and circulate it to the REDD+ Safeguards Committee at least 2 weeks in advance of the meeting. The necessary documentation the National Safeguard Specialist will circulate is the technical report prepared under Section III (Technical Report: aggregation of information for results period xx) and any additional supporting documents that are deemed relevant (e.g. completed template reports from REDD+ implementing agencies and GRM agencies).
- b. In the one-day meeting, the participants should:
 - Dedicate ½ day to discuss and review the 'legal and institutional framework components' under each safeguard reporting theme. In this session the REDD+ Safeguards Committee should focus on validating this information, as well as identifying any gaps of information.
 - Dedicate ½ day to discuss and review the 'outcome component' under each safeguard reporting theme. In this session the REDD+ Safeguards Committee should focus on providing an overall assessment of conformance with the 'outcome component' under each safeguard reporting theme, including identifying any challenges in implementing the safeguard (by REDD+ action- as needed/relevant). If challenges are identified, the REDD+ Safeguards Committee section will also identify potential measures for improvement.
2. The outputs of the meeting should be:
 - a. Validated Technical Report ('Validated Technical Report: aggregated and analysed information for results period x) with the additions/rectifications provided by the REDD+ Safeguards Committee.
 - c. For each meeting, meeting notes should be taken and documented, including the list of participants.

What are the timelines for the analysis of information?

The analysis will take place within 60 days of the aggregation of information.

Section V: Instructions for the preparation of the draft summary of information

Who is responsible?

The National Safeguard Specialist will lead the preparation of the draft SOI (see template in Annex I).

How to prepare the draft summary of information?

The preparation of the SOI will draw on the output (Validated Technical Report) prepared under section IV above.

Important considerations:

- a. The National Safeguard Specialist will follow the template for the preparation of the draft SOI.
- b. As noted in the template, Part III (Conformance with REDD+ safeguards) is expected to draw on the Validated Technical Report prepared under section IV above.
- c. As noted in the template, Part IV (Challenges and potential measures for improvement) is also expected to draw on the Validated Technical Report prepared under section IV above. If no challenges were identified, this should be noted in this section.
- d. As noted in the template, Part VI (Stakeholder engagement) should include information about the stakeholder engagement process conducted both through the REDD+ Safeguards Committee, and the public consultation process. Noting the draft will be subject to a public consultation process, this section should make a note that this information will be completed once the public consultation is completed and the summary finalized.

What are the timelines for the preparation of the draft summary of information?

Within 30 days after the REDD+ Safeguards Committee meeting, the National Safeguard Specialist will prepare a draft report, and proceed to the consultation stage (see Section VI below).

Section VI: Instructions for the consultation and validation of the summary of information

Who is responsible?

The National Safeguard Specialist will lead the consultation and validation process with stakeholders/civil society.

How to conduct the consultation and validation process?

The process and methods for the consultation and validation process are the following:

- a. The National Safeguard Specialist will post the draft report on the LCDS and GFC's SIS webpages, and the public will have at least 20 working days to submit any written comments. A specific template report may be provided for stakeholders to submit their comments/feedback.
- b. The National Safeguard Specialist will compile all the feedback provided and create a response matrix within at least 20 days of finalizing the public comment period.
- c. Based on comments received, the REDD+ Safeguards Specialist will issue a response matrix that summarizes all comments and responses to each, address any changes and prepare the final report. The entire consultation process (including attaching the response matrix) will be integrated into Part VI (Stakeholder engagement) of the summary of information.
- d. The National Safeguard Specialist will submit the final report to the Multi Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC) for final validation and endorsement.
- e. Once the MSSC endorses the final report, the GFC will publish it as a final version on the LCDS and GFC's SIS webpages.
- f. This same report will be shared with the UNFCCC focal point to trigger its submission to the UNFCCC.
- g. The GFC will also utilize the final national report to trigger the preparation of the monitoring reports for ART/TREES. It is important to note that the monitoring reports will be based entirely on the final summaries of information, which is why no additional public consultation process is considered.

What are the timelines for the consultation and validation of the summary of information?

- Once the draft SOI is posted on the GFC and LCDS webpages, the public will have at least 20 working days to submit any written comments.

- The National Safeguard Specialist will have at least 20 days to issue a response matrix that summarizes all comments and responses to each, address any changes and prepare a final report.

Annex 2 - SIS Database Structure

NOTE: information presented below is intended to provide a clear understanding of the scope and potential structure for the database, including that each REDD+ action has specific indicators and verifiers.

Scope of SIS database

The database (online/excel) would include, as a minimum the following:

- **Section to select the REDD+ Action:** (to be selected from menu).
- **Section to select the Results period:** (year to be selected from drop down menu, e.g. 2022)
- **Section for reporting on each safeguard (see table below)**

The section would be structured in relation to each Cancun safeguard, followed by the specific safeguard reporting theme, to allow for a more detailed breakdown of the specific safeguards themes considered.

The section would also present:

- the REDD+ Action's specific indicators, categorized under structural, process and outcome indicators.
- the 'verifiers' associated with each indicator, which aim to provide guidance on the data that would need to be reported, as well as the means of verification that would need to be provided.

Safeguard A			
<u>Description by Guyana</u>			
“The REDD+ activities must be implemented in compliance with the objectives of national forest programmes, and consistent to the provisions of the relevant treaties and international conventions Guyana is Party to.”			
Verifiers	Data entry	Attachments/Hyperlinks	
THEME A.1 Consistency with the objectives of national forest programs			
Structural Indicator:	Data entry required:		
	Means of verification:		
Process Indicator:	Data entry required:		
	Means of verification:		
Outcome Indicator:	Data entry required:		
	Means of verification:		
THEME A.2 Consistency with the objectives of relevant international conventions and agreements			
Structural Indicator:	Data entry required:		
	Means of verification:		

Process Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		
Outcome Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		

<p>Safeguard B</p> <p><u>Description by Guyana</u></p> <p>“The rights of access to information, accountability, justice, gender equality, land tenure and fair distribution of benefits will be respected and promoted in the scope of the application of the REDD+ activities”</p>	<p>Verifiers</p>	<p>Data entry</p>	<p>Attachments</p>
<p>THEME B.1 Respect, protect, and fulfill the right of access to information</p>			
<p>Structural Indicator:</p>	<p>Data entry required:</p> <p>Means of verification:</p>		
<p>Process Indicator:</p>	<p>Data entry required:</p> <p>Means of verification:</p>		
<p>Outcome Indicator:</p>	<p>Data entry required:</p> <p>Means of verification:</p>		
<p>THEME B.2: Promote transparency and prevention of corruption, including the promotion of anti-corruption measures</p>			
<p>Structural Indicator:</p>	<p>Data entry required:</p> <p>Means of verification:</p>		

Process Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		
Outcome Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		
THEME B.3 Respect, protect, and fulfil land tenure rights			
Structural Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		
Process Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		
Outcome Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		
THEME B.4 Respect, protect, and fulfil access to justice			
Structural Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		
Process Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		

Outcome Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		

Safeguard C			
<u>Description by Guyana</u>			
<p>“The REDD+ activities will be implemented in accordance and with respect to the rights of recognition of, and respect for the rights of Amerindian peoples and local communities; including the rights to non-discrimination, traditional knowledge and culture, self-determination, benefit sharing and land tenure rights.”</p>			
Verifiers		Data entry	
Attachments			
THEME C.1 Identify indigenous peoples and local communities, or equivalent			
Structural Indicator:	Data entry required:		
	Means of verification:		
Process Indicator:	Data entry required:		
	Means of verification:		
Outcome Indicator:	Data entry required:		

	Means of verification:		
THEME C.2 Respect and protect traditional knowledge			
Structural Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		
Process Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		
Outcome Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		
THEME C.3 Respect, protect, and fulfill rights of indigenous peoples and/or local communities, or equivalent			
Structural Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		
Process Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		

Outcome Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		

<p align="center">Safeguard D</p> <p align="center"><u>Description by Guyana</u></p> <p align="center">“The right to participate, in particular for relevant Indigenous peoples and local communities, is recognized and are to be promoted under the implementation of the REDD+ activities.”</p>		<p>Verifiers</p>	<p>Data entry</p>	<p>Attachments</p>
<p>THEME D.1 Respect, protect, and fulfill the right of all relevant stakeholders to participate fully and effectively in the design and implementation of REDD+ actions</p>				
<p>Structural Indicator:</p>	<p>Data entry required:</p> <p>Means of verification:</p>			
<p>Process Indicator:</p>	<p>Data entry required:</p> <p>Means of verification:</p>			
<p>Outcome Indicator:</p>	<p>Data entry required:</p> <p>Means of verification:</p>			

THEME D.2 Promote adequate participatory procedures for the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, or equivalent.

<p>Structural Indicator:</p>	<p>Data entry required:</p>		
	<p>Means of verification:</p>		
<p>Process Indicator:</p>	<p>Data entry required:</p>		
	<p>Means of verification:</p>		
<p>Outcome Indicator:</p>	<p>Data entry required:</p>		
	<p>Means of verification:</p>		

Safeguard E			
<u>Description by Guyana</u>			
<p>“The REDD+ activities will promote the conservation of natural forests and biodiversity, the enhancement of social and environmental benefits, and will not result in the conversion of natural forests.”</p>			
Verifiers		Data entry	
Attachments			
THEME E.1 Non-conversion of natural forests and other natural ecosystems.			
Structural Indicator:	Data entry required:		
	Means of verification:		
Process Indicator:	Data entry required:		
	Means of verification:		
Outcome Indicator:	Data entry required:		
	Means of verification:		
THEME E.2 Protect natural forests, biological diversity, and ecosystem services			

Structural Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		
Process Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification: -		
Outcome Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		
THEME E.3 Enhancement of social and environmental benefits			
Structural Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		
Process Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		
Outcome Indicator:	Data entry required: Means of verification:		

<p align="center">Safeguard F</p> <p><u>Description by Guyana</u></p> <p>“Risks of reversals and displacement of emissions of the REDD+ activities are addressed through the MRVS and national forest monitoring system.”</p>	<p align="center">Verifiers</p>	<p align="center">Data entry</p>	<p align="center">Attachments</p>
<p>THEME F.1 The risk of reversals is integrated in the design, prioritization, implementation, and periodic assessments of REDD+ polices and measures</p>			
<p>Process Indicator:</p>	<p>Data entry required:</p> <p>Means of verification:</p> <p align="center">-</p>		

<p align="center">Safeguard G</p> <p align="center"><u>Description by Guyana</u></p> <p align="center">“Risks of reversals and displacement of emissions of the REDD+ activities are addressed through the MRVS and national forest monitoring system.”</p>	<p align="center">Verifiers</p>	<p align="center">Data entry</p>	<p align="center">Attachments</p>
<p>THEME G.1 The risk of displacement of emissions is integrated in the design, prioritization, implementation, and periodic assessments of REDD+ policies and measures.</p>			
<p>Process Indicator:</p>	<p>Data entry required:</p> <p>Means of verification:</p>		

