GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title	
Strengthening land use planning for sustainable land management	
Region	GEF Project ID
Latin America and the Caribbean	12302
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Guyana	MSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
CI	
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Multi Focal Area	3/10/2026
Project Sector (CCM Only)	
AFOLU	
Taxonomy	
Focal Areas, Climate Change, Land Degradation, Climate Change Adaptation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Sustainable Land Management, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Capacity Development, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Awareness Raising, Climate Change Mitigation, Sustainable Agriculture, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Land Cover and Land cover change, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Climate information, Climate resilience, Disaster risk management, Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries	
Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
MTF	48
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
884,099.00	442,049.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
79,568.00	39,784.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
1,445,500.00	13,680,672.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
50,000.00	4,500.00

PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)
54,500.00	1,500,000.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”.(max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Guyana is located on the northeastern coast of South America, bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the north, Venezuela to the west, Suriname to the east, and Brazil to the South and West. Climate change effects in the country are since the 1960s. The increases in temperature and sea level rise, and changes in precipitation trends have resulted in several climate-related disasters, such as flooding and drought, as well as increased saltwater intrusion, all directly affecting agriculture, an important economic sector and critical to safeguarding local food security and nutrition for the Guyanese. Climate change projections anticipate the inundation of wetlands and lowland areas, an increase in coastal erosion and flooding, degradation of coastal structures, elevated water tables and increased saline intrusion. Poor land use planning, which has resulted in land degradation from unsustainable natural resource utilization, specifically in the farming, forestry, mining and the developing oil and gas sectors; uncontrolled urban sprawl; and saltwater intrusion along the developed but vulnerable coastline, exacerbates the impacts of climate change. This project will build on several foundational achievements of the SLDM project. The SLDM initiative has made significant progress in strengthening the geospatial capacities of the GLSC, including the establishment of an enterprise geodatabase, digitization of key land records, and implementation of GIS infrastructure. This improved infrastructure has enabled the centralization of spatial data to support land administration activities and provides a solid foundation for coordinated land use planning. Building on these developments, the project will focus on expanding participatory and integrated land use planning that incorporates environmental considerations such as flood risk and climate projections. The SLDM project has also supported institutional capacity building within the GLSC through the development of standardized workflows and procedures for land administration, supporting both land monitoring and sustainable land use practices. These advances, together with the establishment of the Next Generation Lease Management System (NGLMS) to improve data integration, provide a strong basis for further modernization of land tenure information and comprehensive land use policies under the new project.

To ensure sustainable economic, environmental and social development of the country and the well-being of its citizens now and in the future, there is a need to address the country’s resilience to climate change and improve land management. As such, the project's objective is to build resilience to climate change and address land degradation by strengthening land use planning in support of sustainable land management (SLM) in Guyana. The project will achieve the objective by: (1) Improving the enabling environment for climate adaptation and mitigation and land degradation neutrality –responsive integrated land use planning; and (2) Strengthening climate adaptation and mitigation and land degradation neutrality – responsive integrated land use planning. These combined activities will be transformative for the country through improved capacity, resilience and infrastructure to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change, promoting achievements towards a low carbon pathway of development, enhanced decision-making as it relates to land use and will assist with implementing the low carbon development strategy.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To build resilience to climate change and address land degradation by strengthening land use planning in support of sustainable land management in Guyana

Project Components

Component 1. Improving the enabling environment for climate adaptation and mitigation and land degradation neutrality responsive integrated land use planning

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	SCCF-A
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
737,420.00	7,607,297.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1: Updated land use planning policy prepared in coordination with relevant sectors addressing land degradation neutrality and climate change adaptation/mitigation.

Indicator: Number of key sectors engaged to integrate climate adaptation, mitigation and land degradation neutrality into the national land use plan

Target: 6 key sectors are engaged in the development of a national land use plan, that integrates land use plans with climate change and land degradation

Output:

Output 1.1. Spatial Data Infrastructure is strengthened to support land use planning at multiple scale (local, regional and national) and data - interoperability with relevant sectors is reinforced

Output 1.2. The SLDM multi-stakeholder group is facilitated to ensure review of the national land use plan to allow contribution from relevant actors with equitable participation from men and women.

Output 1.3. A policy option paper for the updated plan on land use is prepared, including a gender-responsive approach.

Output 1.4. Updated National Land Use Plan supporting effective management of development activities formulated

Component 2. Strengthening climate adaptation and mitigation and land degradation neutrality responsive integrated land use planning

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
401,864.00	4,145,658.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1. Capacities enhanced to produce climate adaptation and mitigation responsive integrated land use planning.

Indicators:

Area (ha) of land covered in integrated climate resilience and land degradation neutrality sensitive land use plans.

Target: 598,700 hectares of land covered under new sub-national land use plans.

Indicators:

Percentage of women, small land users and other vulnerable groups adequately represented in land use planning consultations.

Target: 100% of vulnerable groups adequately represented in land use planning consultations.

Indicator:

Percentage of personnel from key agencies that benefit from training and materials produced.

Target: 90% of personnel (at least 40% being women) from key agencies participate in training and receive manuals or other training materials.

Indicator: Percentage of engaged sectors adopting practices promoted under the project.

Target: 100% of sectors adopt practices promoted by the project.

Output:

Output 2.1 Capacity needs assessment conducted and enhanced capacities for land use planning, ensuring specific attention to equitable opportunities for men and women.

Output 2.2 A manual for participatory planning processes developed and applied, providing standardized guidance for integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation, and land degradation neutrality (LDN) into land use planning.

Output 2.3 Outreach plans developed and implemented, ensuring attention to the needs of different social groups, to support national and regional land use planning processes

Output 2.4 Updated national land use plan, and regional land use plans developed and updated, ensuring participation of women, small land users and other vulnerable groups

Output 2.5. Establish a Pilot SLM site to demonstrate practices aligned with the national and regional land use plans.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	SCCF-A
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
66,307.00	684,030.00

Outcome:

Project monitoring system established for tracking progress and performance reporting

Indicator: Timely completion of project reports.

Target: All project reports completed as required

Indicators:
Number of knowledge products produced documenting adoption and adherence to practices promoted under the project

Target: 10 knowledge products produced.

Output:

Output 3.1. Nationwide monitoring of Integrated Land Use Planning implementation enabled, including adoption and adherence to practices and systems established under the project.

Output 3.2. Knowledge management system, with gender responsive features, developed to disseminates good practices and lessons learned on land use planning neutrality.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Component 1. Improving the enabling environment for climate adaptation and mitigation and land degradation neutrality responsive integrated land use planning	737,420.00	7,607,297.00
Component 2. Strengthening climate adaptation and mitigation and land degradation neutrality responsive integrated land use planning	401,864.00	4,145,658.00
M&E	66,307.00	684,030.00
Subtotal	**1,205,591.00**	**12,436,985.00**
Project Management Cost	40,185.00	414,563.00
Project Management Cost	80,372.00	829,124.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**1,326,148.00**	**13,680,672.00**

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

PROJECT RATIONALE

Global environmental significance of the project

Current situation

Climate change is being observed in Guyana, since the 1960s (Government of Guyana, 2024). The mean annual temperature in the country has risen by 0.3°C (at an average rate of 0.07°C per decade), the mean annual precipitation has increased at an average rate of 4.8 mm per month (2.7% per decade) and sea level rise has increased at a rate more than 10 mm/year (2 – 5 times faster than the global estimate) (Government of Guyana, 2024 and McSweeney, New and Lizcano, 2017). The increases in temperature and sea level rise, and changes in precipitation trends have resulted in several climate-related disasters, such as flooding and drought, as well as increased saltwater intrusion, all directly affecting agriculture, an important economic sector and critical to safeguarding local food security and nutrition for the Guyanese (Government of Guyana, 2012, 2015 and 2024). Guyana has been described as 'particularly vulnerable' to climate change because of high levels of exposure and sensitivity to climate risks and limited capacity to adapt (Government of Guyana, 2015).

Climate hazards such as longer and more intense droughts, heavier rainfall leading to floods and landslides, and more frequent and intense tropical storms decrease the productivity and complexity of soils and land affecting ecosystem services and human well-being. These hazards are being further exacerbated by agricultural expansion and deforestation. Integrated land use planning is needed to ensure sustainable soil and land management and as a measure to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Figure 1 depicts the impact of climate change on ecosystem services.

Climate drivers and unsustainable land use reinforce each other, accelerating land degradation and climate vulnerability. Rising temperatures and erratic rainfall reduce soil moisture and increase erosion, while sea level rise causes coastal salinization and productivity losses. At the same time, agricultural expansion, deforestation, and mining reduce vegetation, destabilize soils, and disrupt water systems. Together, these pressures degrade ecosystem services—crop productivity, water regulation, carbon storage, and soil fertility—undermining livelihoods, food security, and key economic sectors.

This project responds by integrating climate-informed land use planning with Sustainable Land Management (SLM). Land use planning will guide development based on land capability, climate risk, and ecosystem sensitivity, limiting expansion into vulnerable areas. SLM practices—such as agroforestry, soil and water conservation, land restoration,

and improved vegetation management—will enhance soil health, water retention, and landscape stability. These measures help break degradation cycles, restore ecosystem functions, and strengthen resilience.

Aligned with GEF Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and SCCF-A adaptation goals, the project embeds climate risk into planning and delivers on-the-ground adaptation through SLM. A demonstration in Region 10 will showcase climate-resilient practices to reduce drought and flood impacts.

SCCF-A adaptation logic:

Problem: Climate hazards (rainfall variability, droughts, intense storms) increase erosion, moisture stress, and productivity loss, especially in rainfed hinterland systems.

Vulnerability: Rural and hinterland communities face reduced yields, vegetation loss, and limited food access.

Interventions: Climate-informed land use plans; SLM practices; drought management in savannahs; Region 10 demonstration; capacity building and decision support.

Results: Reduced vulnerability, improved soil moisture and productivity, less erosion, stronger adaptive capacity, and enhanced food security.

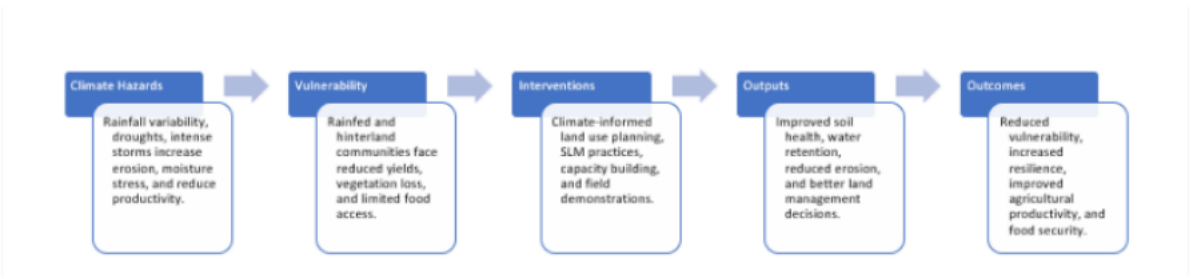


Figure 1: Project adaptation logic

By restoring and managing key ecosystem services—especially water regulation, soil stability, and carbon sequestration—the project will reduce degradation from mining, land clearance, infrastructure, and climate-related hazards (e.g., floods, droughts, wildfires). Integrating planning with SLM will restore ecosystem integrity, improve soil and hydrological functions, and deliver both global environmental benefits and stronger climate resilience.

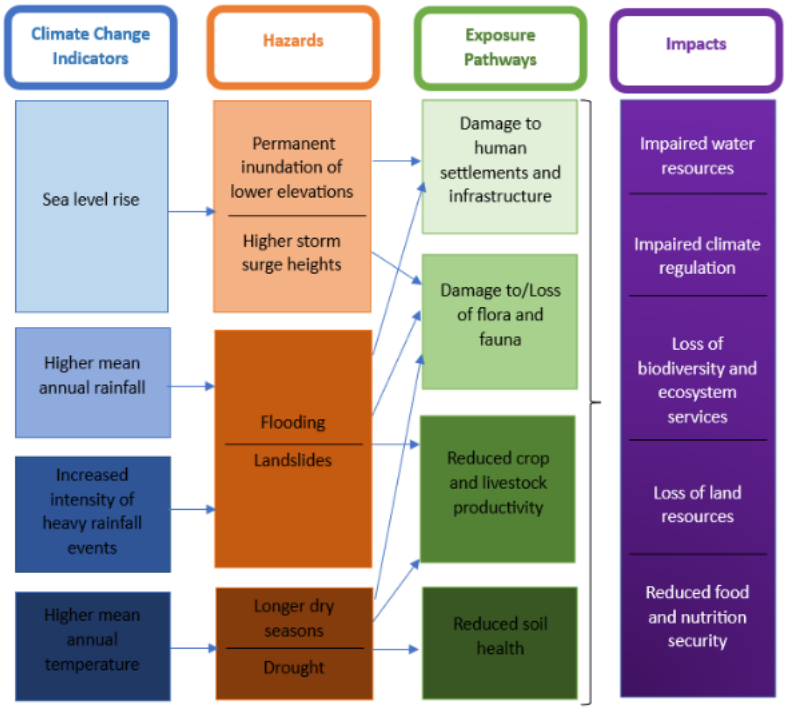


Figure 2: Climate impact chain

Projections

The probability of occurrence and extent of natural hazards such as droughts, floods and sea level rise in Guyana is projected to increase significantly in the future due to climate change (ECA Working Group, 2009 and Government of Guyana, 2015). Based on outputs from several General Circulation Models (GCMs), future climate projections indicate that: the mean annual temperatures are likely to increase by 0.4°C to 2°C in the 2030s to 1.4°C to 5.0°C between the 2070s to 2100s; a decrease of annual rainfall is projected from the 2040s onwards with, but with an increase in heavy precipitation events; sea level is projected to rise by up to 0.26 m by the 2030s, 0.43 m between the 2040 s and 2060s, and 0.51 m between the 2070 and 2100s; and an increase in storm surge heights from 3 m to 6 m by the 2100s (see Table 1: Summary of climate change scenarios for Guyana for the 2030s, 2040s-2060s and 2070s-2100s, below). (Government of Guyana, 2015 and 2024).

Table 1: Summary of climate change scenarios for Guyana (Adapted from the Government of Guyana, 2015])

Climate variable	2030s	2040s to 2060s	2070s to 2100s
Mean annual temperature	↑ 0.4°C to 2.0°C	↑ 0.9°C to 3.3°C	↑ 1.4°C to 5.0°C
Mean annual rainfall	Median: 0% to -4% Min-Max: -29% to +14%	Median: -4% to -8% Min-Max: -41% to +13%	Median: -40% to -5% Min-Max: -63% to +20%
Proportion of total rainfall that falls in heavy events	No data	Median: ↑ 1-2% Min-max: -3% to +10%+	Median: ↑ 2-3% Min-max: -8% to +12%+
Sea level rise	↑ 0.14 m to 0.26 m	↑ 0.21 m to 0.43 m	↑ 0.25 m to 0.51 m
Storm surge heights	↑ 2.94 m to 5.94 m	No data	↑ 2.93 m to 6.19 m

Under the maximum storm surge scenario, at least 139,000 ha of land may be at risk of flooding by the 2030s (Government of Guyana, 2024).

Social-ecological systems description

LAND MANAGEMENT: CURRENT SITUATION AND IMPACTS

Land degradation has been accelerating in Guyana, since the 1990s (Government of Guyana, 2017). Guyana has a total land mass of 21.5 million hectares, divided into 10 administrative regions with a total population of approximately 808,000. The coastal zone, which is 1.4 meters below the mean high tide level, is occupied with approximately 90% of the total population (Government of Guyana, 2017). The country is considered a highly forested one, with around 85% forest cover (17.84 million hectares), the second highest in the world (Government of Guyana, 2024). Guyana's socioeconomic development has traditionally depended on a strong agricultural base (rice and sugar predominantly) along with natural resource utilisation mostly within the forestry and mining sectors (Government of Guyana, 2017). However, there has been a rapid upsurge in economic activity, such as agriculture, mining, logging, and the developing oil and gas sector, which resulted in an expansion in state land leases for different uses (Government of Guyana, 2017).

Land degradation in Guyana is caused by natural resource utilization and natural disasters in sporadic areas (Seelall, 2021). According to the Government of Guyana (2017), national land degradation ranges were 150,000 to 160,000 hectares per year but were projected to increase to 200,000 to 250,000 hectares per year by 2022 due to:

Mining activities are a driver for deforestation (91% of total deforestation), predominately in the inland areas, has expanded over the last ten (10) years. Most of the impacts (85%) are observed in the State Forest Areas, and as a result causes forest and land degradation, increased GHG emissions, alteration of hydrology patterns, and contamination of land and water resources by chemicals. Damage from industrial mining and infrastructure development is increasing with technology advances allowing greater geographical reach and operations area, as well as destructive practices due to uncontrolled and poorly planned interventions;

Unsustainable harvesting of timber and other forest products is resulting in accelerated deforestation and forest degradation with loss of vegetation cover affecting soil and water resources and the microclimate. In commercial forestry, land degradation results from logging using poor harvesting techniques and inadequate mechanization. Small-scale farmers and urban dwellers also encroach into forests for clearing new lands, access to fuelwood and other products and charcoal manufacture;

The effects of agriculture on land degradation in Guyana are caused mostly in cropping systems through nutrient mining or excessive use of agro-chemicals, erosion of topsoil, soil compaction by heavy vehicles and salinization due to inadequate drainage in irrigated systems. Based on land use estimates some 70 - 80% of lands used for cultivation are subject to some degree of degradation;

The developing oil and gas sector has led to an increased risk of oil spills near to coastal and marine resources, an increased demand for land, and landscape changes are evident, particularly in the capital city and coastal Administrative Regions of 3 and 4 (see Annex C – Figure 3: Map of Region 3 [Essequibo Islands-West Demerara] and Figure 4: Map of Region 4 [Demerara-Mahaica]). However, the development occurring in the two (2) regions is being done in the absence of land use plans resulting in an increase in land pressure, land clearance and demand for land with infrastructure are the same issues experienced in both regions.

The Government of Guyana recognizes that the land degradation trends, due to recent rates of exploitation, unsustainable land management practices and weak regulatory controls, are increasingly threatening natural resources and can exacerbate the impacts of climate change, if not addressed, will seriously impact on ecosystem services and functions and hence future economic growth (Government of Guyana, 2017).

Government initiatives

The Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) has a legal mandate of custodian of all public lands, rivers and creeks, in addition to the development of a national spatial data infrastructure, to advise on policy and to prepare land use plans. In terms of managing and planning for land use, the Government of Guyana has conducted a number of initiatives:

Table: Summary of the Government of Guyana's main government initiatives on land management

Initiative	Year	Executing Organization	Description
Action Plan of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)	2019	Geospatial Advisory Committee (GLSC, Lead Agency for the NSDI coordination)	The NSDI is a digital and open-data geospatial information system which facilitates communications among different sectors and enhances decision-making processes. The action plan sets out the priorities for improving cooperation in data and information management.
Enhancing Biodiversity Protection through Strengthened Monitoring, Enforcement and Uptake of Environmental Regulations in Guyana's Gold Mining Sector Terminal Evaluation	2014-2017	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the Ministry of Natural Resources	The project's objective was to strengthen monitoring and implementation of biodiversity-friendly practices in Guyana's gold mining sector to reduce biodiversity loss and maintain ecosystem functionality for the benefit of all Guyanese.
National Action Plan (NAP) to Combat Land Degradation (2008-2018)	2015	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission	The NAP, which is aligned to the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme, aimed to ensure that the agricultural, pasture, mining, forest, coastal and other land uses and resources are managed as sustainable, productive systems that maintain ecosystem productivity and ecological functions while contributing directly to the environmental protection, economic growth and social livelihood of the people of the country.
National Land Use Plan (NLUP)	2013	Government of Guyana, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	The plan was developed to strategically guide national land development. The NLUP included a spatial database of national datasets linking the information to a spatial framework
Low-carbon Development Strategy 2030 (LCDS)	2013	Office of the President	Focuses on harnessing Guyana's unique advantages to create a new low-carbon

			economy, built on the platform provided by the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS) and other areas of enhanced capacity in Guyana
Regional land use plan developed for Regions 1, 2, 6, 9 and 10	2004-2013	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission	Land use plans were prepared to create the conditions required to achieve types of land use which are sustainable, socially and environmentally compatible, socially desirable and environmentally sound. It sets in motion decision-making processes concerning the use and protection of natural resources; decisions which have been arrived at by participation and consensus rather than being imposed. Goals of the land use plan are to improve the livelihoods of all residents of the planning area by: Fostering income generation by optimal allocation and development of physical resources, Providing wider employment opportunities for the Regions' population.
Guyana Land Administration Support Programme (GLASP)	1997-2004	Department of International Development	Implemented to alleviate poverty by increasing the agricultural potential of land through the improvement of the drainage and irrigation and provision of secure tenure, led by GLSC.

An updated national land use plan is fundamental to implementing global agreements and commitments at a national level. The emergence of the oil and gas sector in addition to the natural resources sector requires safeguarding forested and areas of high value biodiversity, mangrove protection and conservation areas. Countries utilize land use policies and plans to reduce and combat land degradation and prepare for climate resilience and adaptation. The threat of land degradation and climate change requires rational land use planning. Land use planning provides options to mitigate or reduce risks particularly in the agriculture sector which exists extensively on the coast, land capability information relative to agriculture productivity, and options for other areas. It plays a key role in conservation of forests for watershed protection.

The Government of Guyana is committed to addressing climate change, which is perceived as an existential threat and adaptation is a matter of survival for the country. Since Guyana ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in 1994, it has actively developed strategies, policies and plans to comply with its commitments to UNFCCC (see Table 2: Summary of the Government of Guyana's main government initiatives on climate change). Guyana's long-term vision for a green and climate resilient economy is guided by the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 and significant progress has been made in the policy and regulatory frameworks of the most vulnerable sectors, including agriculture.

Table: Summary of the Government of Guyana's main government initiatives on climate change

Title	Year	Executing Organization	Description
Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030	2022	Office of the President	Low Carbon Implementation at the National Level establishes Priorities under the vision of Creating New Incentives for a Low-Carbon Economy, Protection against Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss, Alignment with Global climate and Biodiversity Goals, and Stimulation of Future Growth: Clean Energy and Low Carbon Development.
Guyana First Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the UNFCCC	2022	Office of the President	The objectives of the NDCs were to: outline Guyana's conditional and unconditional contributions to the UNFCCC's Paris Climate Agreement and to provide the basis for climate change mitigation actions in the energy and forestry sectors. The priorities outlined in the document include: develop and implement strategies to meet the specified mitigation targets and enhance resilience and adaptive capacity to address the impacts of climate change.
Green State Development Strategy	2019	Ministry of the Presidency - Department of Environment	Policy recommendations, financial mechanism and implementation for a diversified, resilient, low carbon and people-centered development in Guyana.
Technology Needs Assessment Report (TNA)	2018	UNEP – DTU - Office of Climate Change (Presidency)	Mitigation and Adaptation Technologies reports that are implemented and those that can be implemented in the context of climate change in Guyana.
Framework of the Guyana Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) and Financing Mechanisms	2017	Office of Climate Change (Presidency)	The objective of the framework is to reorient and diversify Guyana's economy, on sustainable, productive, climate-resilient and diversified agriculture and emphasizing five (5) core strategic areas.
Analysis of Agricultural Policies in Guyana	2017	IDB	A comprehensive analysis of the public policy framework's effect on the agricultural sector in Guyana using OECD's Producer Support Estimate (PSE) methodology.
TNA Report	2016	UNEP – DTU - Office of Climate Change (Presidency)	Mitigation and Adaptation Technologies reports that are implemented and those that can be implemented in the context of climate change in Guyana.
Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan for Guyana (CRSAP)	2015	Ministry of the Presidency (2015)	Roadmap to address climate risk and resilience actions across 15 key sectors, including capacity building actions and finance strategy.
National Integrated Disaster Risk Management Plan and Implementation Strategy for Guyana	2013	Civil Defence Commission	Identifies keys disaster risks in agriculture; Suggests strategies to strengthen institutions and stakeholders.

Guyana's Second National Communication (SNC) to the UNFCCC	2012	Office of the President	This SNC is important as a capacity building and institutional strengthening process for national climate information and understanding. The SNC comprise of seven (7) main components/chapters: National Circumstances of the country; Greenhouse Gas Inventory from base year 2000; Measures to facilitate Adaptation to climate change; Measures to Mitigate climate change; Research & Systematic Observation Systems including a Technology Needs Assessment; Public Education & Capacity Building; and identification of gaps & constraints related to financial, technical and capacity needs.
Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS)	2009-2013	Office of the President	In 2009, the first LCDS was launched which set out a vision for inclusive, sustainable development, while simultaneously maintaining the country's forests, about 85% of the country's territory, to help meet some of the most urgent challenges the world faces. The LCDS fostered low carbon and climate resilient development. The Strategy highlighted the importance of adaptation and building resilience and identified thematic priorities such as upgrading infrastructure to protect against flooding, hinterland adaptation, among others.
National Adaptation Strategy to Address Climate Change in the Agriculture Sector of Guyana (2009-2018)	2009	Ministry of Agriculture	A report that considers the impact of climate change on agricultural production, food security, exports and trade, government programs and policies and consumers.
Guyana's Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC	2012	Office of the President	The Initial National Communication highlighted recommendations for sustainable development and for response to climate change issues. Recommendations included: Establishment of a Climate Change Unit; Boosting the use of renewable energy; Development of a programme for climate protection; Accelerate the development of a policy on the implementation of Geographical Information System and training, etc.
Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Implementation Plan	2001	National Ozone Action Unit/Hydromet Service	It complements the Climate Change Action Plan with a more detailed focus on coastal low lands.
Climate Change Action Plan	2001	Office of the President	The action plan identified adaptation as one of nine (9) program areas. It links Climate Change with the National Development Agenda.

At the regional level, the project aligns with Caribbean priorities on climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable natural resource management. It builds on regional adaptation initiatives, including the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC) and the Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) programmes, thereby ensuring complementarity and avoiding duplication of efforts.

Key System Drivers

Historical climate impacts

Guyana has been impacted by several climate-related disasters in recent decades, which can be attributed to a range of factors including heavy rainfall, sea state and tidal conditions, and inadequate or poorly maintained drainage and sea defense infrastructure (Government of Guyana, 2015 and 2024). The IDB Disaster Exposure Index (DEI) identifies Guyana as the 4th most exposed country, 0.60 on a scale of 1.00, in the Latin American and Caribbean region to natural disasters (Garlati, 2013). The climate-related events have resulted in major economic losses and infrastructural damages (CARICOF, 2023; Government of Guyana, 2012 and 2024):

High-intensity rainfall events and tidal action have resulted in approximately nine (9) major flooding events during the period of 2005-2021. In the 2005 event, an estimated $52.6 million USD worth of damages was felt by Guyana's agriculture sector, impacting 69,560 thousand mainly rural households. The country-wide damages from the same event amounted to $465 million USD, or 60% of the GDP. The 2021 event caused catastrophic flooding which impacted large parts of the population, over 29,900 hectares of farmlands and over 20,000 farmers;

Drought, which occurs in all administrative regions of Guyana, but particularly in the savannahs in Regions 1 and 9 (see Annex C – Figure 3: Map of Guyana's Administrative Regions, have become more pronounced in recent years and resulted in reduced crop and livestock productivity. Events occurred in 1997-1998, 2009-2010, 2015-2016 and 2023. The 2010 drought caused severe losses and damage to the agricultural sector, estimated at US$14.7 million and over 4,050 hectares in assets lost. In the 2023 event, Guyana experienced low rainfall during the two (2) wet seasons;

Farmer's current drainage infrastructure and water management practices are inadequate to adapt to increasingly extreme climate events. Increased flooding has been especially acute in regions 4, 5 and 6 (see Annex C – Figure 2: Map of Guyana's Administrative Regions).

Identifying, addressing and removing structural, institutional, and planning barriers that currently prevent sustainable land use outcomes.

Guyana's rapidly expanding economy—particularly with the emergence of the oil and gas sector—has increased demand for land to support infrastructure, housing, industrial development, extractive activities, and agriculture. While these developments present significant economic opportunities, they also intensify environmental pressures, including mining expansion, forest degradation, unplanned land clearance, land conversion, and increased exposure to climate risks.

The Project responds directly to barriers by strengthening national and regional land use planning systems. Through integrated, science-based spatial planning, land use planning frameworks, and measurable sustainability targets, the Project provides the tools necessary to guide development while safeguarding forests, biodiversity, agricultural lands, and ecosystem services.

Main area	Barrier / Pressure	What is happening (Symptoms)	Why it matters (Impacts)	Project response (How it addresses the issue)
Land use	Unmanaged mining and extractive expansion	Mining expands without spatial guidance; sensitive areas and watersheds affected	Deforestation, land degradation, water contamination, loss of ecosystems	Establishing land use options and recommendations to identify areas suitable for mining, conservation, agriculture, and settlement. Integrating environmental sensitivity and high carbon stock mapping to avoid ecologically critical areas. Promoting land rehabilitation and restoration of mined-out lands. Strengthening coordination among regulatory agencies to ensure environmental safeguards are applied consistently This structured planning approach reduces uncontrolled expansion of extractive activities and ensures that mining occurs within environmentally appropriate zones.
Land use	Pressure on forests and carbon stocks	Forest fragmentation from logging, mining, and infrastructure development	Loss of carbon stocks, biodiversity degradation, reduced climate mitigation potential	Designating conservation zones and ecological corridors to maintain forest connectivity. Protecting high carbon stock forests and intact ecosystems from incompatible development.

				Promoting sustainable forest management within production landscapes. Aligning land allocation decisions with climate mitigation and Land Degradation Neutrality targets. By institutionalizing forest protection within spatial planning frameworks, the Project helps maintain Guyana's status as a net carbon sink while supporting biodiversity conservation.
Land use	Rapid infrastructure and urban expansion	Sprawl of ports, roads, housing, and industrial zones, especially in coastal areas	Inefficient land use, loss of ecosystems and agricultural land, increased disaster risk	Applying land capability and suitability assessments to guide infrastructure and settlement expansion. Establishing density thresholds and mixed-use development principles to optimize serviced lands. Aligning land consumption rates with population growth trends. Preventing incompatible land uses, such as industrial facilities near sensitive ecosystems or prime agricultural soils. This proactive planning reduces fragmentation, minimizes unnecessary land clearance, and promotes efficient spatial development.
Land use	Conversion of prime agricultural land	Industrial and residential expansion encroaches on fertile coastal soils	Permanent loss of food-producing land; threats to food security and rural livelihoods	Prevent net loss of high-quality agricultural lands. Safeguard agricultural lands critical for domestic and export food production. Promote integrated land and water management in low-lying coastal zones vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise. This ensures that economic diversification

				does not undermine long-term food security and rural livelihoods.
Land use	Unplanned land clearance and degradation	Clearing for agriculture, settlements, and infrastructure without suitability screening	Soil degradation, biodiversity loss, increased GHG emissions	Promotes evidence-based land allocation integrates LDN principles; prioritizes restoration of degraded and cleared lands
Environmental	High climate and disaster risk exposure (coastal zones)	Development proceeds in flood- and sea-level-rise-prone areas	Increased vulnerability of communities, infrastructure, and livelihoods	Limit new development in high-risk flood and wildfire-prone areas. Increase land permeability and green infrastructure. Promote nature-based solutions, including mangrove protection and restoration. Safeguard major public and private investments from long-term climate impacts. In the context of rapid economic transformation driven by oil and gas development and continued extractive activities, comprehensive land use planning is essential to balance growth with environmental sustainability.
Institutional limitation	Weak and outdated land use policy, legal, and planning framework	Land use policies and plans are more than 10 years old and do not reflect oil and gas development, current land demand, climate risks, or LDN objectives	Land use decisions are misaligned with current development pressures, leading to conflicts, inefficient land allocation, and reduced climate resilience	Updates and strengthens land use planning plan at the national and regional level to reflect current development trends, climate risks, and sustainable land management priorities
Institutional limitation	Weak land information systems and decision support data as well as limited capacity	Land use, land cover, land degradation, tenure, and planning data are incomplete, outdated, fragmented, and not easily accessible. Also there is a lack of advanced knowledge of the functionaries on these areas	Evidence-based decision-making is constrained; land suitability, trend analysis, and monitoring of SLM and climate adaptation are weak	Improves land information systems, spatial data availability, and data integration The latter will support land suitability analysis, planning, and monitoring Builds institutional and technical capacity in

				geospatial analysis, land use planning methodologies, and use of planning and legal instruments
Institutional limitation	Limited capacity to integrate climate risk information and scale climate-smart and SLM practices	Climate risk data and climate-smart practices are not widely used; adoption remains limited to isolated efforts	Unsustainable land management practices persist, increasing vulnerability of livelihoods, agriculture, and infrastructure to climate impacts	Integrates climate risk information into planning and advisory services Project supports scaling up of climate-smart agriculture and SLM practices

The Project provides an integrated land governance framework that combines spatial and non-spatial information for land use planning, environmental safeguards, restoration strategies, density controls, agricultural protection, and resilience planning. By addressing mining expansion, forest conservation, land clearance, land conversion, and infrastructure growth within a unified system, the Project tackles the underlying drivers of land degradation and ecosystem loss.

This approach ensures that economic growth supports long-term sustainable development, climate mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and resilient livelihoods—delivering significant national and global environmental benefits.

The Project addresses key environmental drivers by guiding national land use policy to ensure that the utilization of natural resources and the development of lands are undertaken in a strategic, sustainable, and coordinated manner. It promotes the safeguarding of forests, biodiversity, agricultural lands, and essential ecosystem services, while balancing economic growth and infrastructure expansion.

The Project will strengthen national and regional land use planning to ensure that land development is organized, evidence-based, and aligned with environmental sustainability principles.

By directing land use options and providing clear spatial recommendations, areas identified for conservation and preservation will be formally designated and excluded from incompatible land uses. This reduces fragmentation of critical habitats and supports long-term land degradation neutrality and climate mitigation objectives.

Infrastructure development is a land use scenario within the preparation of land use plans. Proposed infrastructure investments will be integrated into spatial plans to ensure that new development is aligned with transport networks, utilities, and public services. This coordinated approach enhances efficiency, minimizes environmental impacts, and promotes resilient and inclusive growth.

In particular, the Project will:

Protect natural resources: Safeguard land, water, forests, and ecosystems from overuse, degradation, and unplanned expansion.

Guide investment: Support government and private sector decision-making by identifying priority areas for development that deliver long-term social, economic, and environmental value.

Prevent land conflicts: Prepare updated national and reginal and use plans, clarify land use policies, thereby reducing disputes among communities, authorities, and private sector actors.

Baseline understanding and projects

Several approaches could be considered to address land degradation and climate vulnerability in Guyana, including sector-specific regulations, isolated Sustainable Land Management (SLM) interventions.

Sector-specific regulations, for example, focus on enforcing standards in forestry, environment or mining but often operate in isolation, creating fragmented outcomes and failing to account for cross-sectoral trade-offs or cumulative impacts on landscapes and ecosystem services.

As countries and cities face rapid urbanization, climate change, and increasing land pressures, effective land use planning builds resilience and structure into future growth. It links national policy goals with on-the-ground implementation, ensuring that infrastructure and development occur efficiently, transparently, and sustainably, while generating measurable environmental and global benefits.

Similarly, isolated SLM interventions—while beneficial at the plot level—may not achieve landscape-scale impact or contribute to strategic national priorities such as Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) or climate resilience. Land use planning is a preferred intervention because it provides a spatially coherent, multi-sectoral strategic framework that aligns land allocation, administration and management decisions with soil types, land capability, climate risks, and ecosystem service priorities. Land use planning enables the identification of high-risk and high-value areas, integrates sectoral objectives, and facilitates coordinated implementation of SLM practices across landscapes.
Land use planning ensures that interventions are field-based, context-specific, and participatory, this enables the active inclusion of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities in decision-making. The planning process requires initial consultation with entities and communities, and a second phase of consultation on the draft plan. By linking planning with SLM interventions, land use planning can deliver measurable outcomes in LDN, soil and water conservation, carbon sequestration, and climate adaptation, providing both national and global environmental benefits in a manner that may not be achievable from alternative, single-sector approaches.
Baseline projects
The proposed project will support national and regional strategies such as Guyana's Nationally Determined Contributions (2023) – national actions for the period of 2021 - 2027 to mitigate climate change and global warming with the conservation of forests – and Vision 25 by 2025 – a policy by the CARICOM Heads of Government to reduce the Caribbean region's food import bill by 25% by 2025. At the international level, the proposed project will support Guyana's commitments to various multilateral environmental agreements and other agreements, such as: Sustainable Land Management (SLM) as part of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), maintenance of low rates of deforestation and forest degradation in Guyana as part of a Low Carbon Development Strategy 2009 (LCDS), and the soon-to-be proposed contributions for the forestry and energy sector as part of LCDS 2030 for the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Development and Management (SLDM) Project, a GEF project implemented by the FAO in collaboration with the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC), aims to establish an enabling environment for promoting sustainable and climate-resilient land development, management, and reclamation in support of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). The project focuses on: (i) streamlining policy, regulation, and governance; (ii) developing institutional and human capacities;

and (iii) strengthening local governance in Regions 4, 7, and 10. The SLDM project, which commenced in 2018, is conducting several activities to improve the GLSC's capacity and workflows for land administration and land use planning, including land monitoring, surveying, valuation, and mapping. Project outcomes seek to mainstream sustainable land development and management (SLDM) within policy, institutional, and governance mechanisms to prevent land degradation and restore degraded lands, and to strengthen Guyana's institutional and human capacity for participatory and cohesive SLDM implementation. The project also targets improved local governance in three regions to support the implementation and scaling up of sustainable land management (SLM) interventions. The project is expected to close in 2025. This project aims to consolidate and expand upon SLDM's achievements by addressing broader policy issues related to climate resilience and land degradation. Leveraging progress in local governance and participatory SLM approaches, the project will support the scaling up of these practices across multiple regions, the refinement of policies to support sustainable agricultural systems, and the integration of climate mitigation strategies into land management. These efforts will strengthen Guyana's capacity to prevent land degradation and adapt to climate change impacts. The FAO-GEF Caribbean Small Island Developing States Multicountry Soil Management Initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and Climate-Resilient Food Systems (SOILCARE) project, of which Guyana is a beneficiary country, seeks to create an enabling environment to establish, implement, monitor, and report on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets. SOILCARE includes several implementation sites where sustainable soil management practices and approaches are being tested. This project will build on lessons learned from these interventions and incorporate their results into integrated land use planning processes. A national soil survey conducted under SOILCARE has updated soil information for Guyana at the national scale. Digital soil maps of soil properties, including soil organic carbon, nutrients, and physical characteristics related to hydrological regulation capacity, have been developed and will provide critical inputs for land suitability assessments. Guyana also participates in the Caribbean Soil Information System and related decision support tools, which support data management related to LDN, climate risk, and biodiversity planning and will be accessible to this project. Phase 2 of the SOILCARE project will expand initial efforts, with a focus on drought and flood risk management, which is also relevant to this project integrated approach. Implementation plans under SOILCARE Phase 2 will be assessed during the project preparation grant (PPG) phase and project implementation to ensure cost-efficiency and sustainability of outcomes. The project will also seek synergies with the approved GEF-7 child project, Securing a Living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Southern Guyana, under ASL-2. This project aims to strengthen landscape connectivity through improved management of the Kanuku Mountains Protected Area and the North Rupununi Wetlands. Sustainable land and water management interventions will help maintain ecological and hydrological connectivity, support ecosystem services, and improve planning decisions to avoid habitat fragmentation. Finally, the GEF-8 project Advancing Guyana's Development through Improved Forest Management, currently under development, will provide additional opportunities for coordinated action. This initiative aims to strengthen protected area management through the establishment of a biodiversity credit mechanism to support participatory management by Indigenous communities. The project will promote national development by improving conservation of Guyana's Amazon forests and supporting sustainable value chains, building on community-based monitoring and sustainable forest management experience.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

The project has been designed as an integrated, policy-to-practice intervention that addresses systemic barriers to climate-responsive and inclusion of land degradation neutrality to land use planning while delivering measurable global environmental benefits. The design reflects principles of strategic alignment, stakeholder inclusiveness, gender responsiveness, private sector engagement, and adaptive learning

The objective is to strengthen integrated land use planning and sustainable land management (SLM) in priority regions of Guyana—particularly the coastal and near-interior zones most vulnerable to land degradation and climate risks—across key sectors including agriculture, forestry, and infrastructure development. The project aims to achieve measurable progress toward land degradation neutrality through the restoration and sustainable use of degraded lands, while simultaneously enhancing climate resilience by reducing vulnerability to climate-induced hazards such as flooding, soil erosion, and salinization.

1. Integrated and Systems-Based Approach

The project recognizes that land degradation, climate vulnerability, and unsustainable land allocation stem from interconnected policy, institutional, technical, and information gaps. Accordingly, the design addresses these constraints simultaneously through three mutually reinforcing outcomes:

- **Policy update (Outcome 1)** to establish a modern, climate-responsive national and regional land use plans.
- **Institutional and technical capacity strengthening (Outcome 2)** to generate and apply high-quality spatial data.
- **Monitoring and adaptive management systems (Outcome 3)** to institutionalize evidence-based decision-making and reporting.

This integrated design ensures that policy reforms are supported by technical capability, and that improved capacity is sustained through institutionalized monitoring systems. By linking enabling environment reforms with practical tools and applied capacity, the project avoids isolated interventions and instead strengthens the entire land governance system.

2. Alignment with National Priorities and Global Commitments

The project directly supports national development priorities in the context of rapid land use change driven by oil and gas expansion, infrastructure development, mining, agriculture, and settlement growth. It strengthens Guyana's capacity to meet obligations under the Rio Conventions by:

- Advancing **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)** targets.

Supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives.

Support for the reporting of UNCCD indicators (land cover, productivity, and soil organic carbon)

This alignment ensures national ownership and long-term sustainability of project outcomes.

3. Gender Responsiveness

Consistent with GEF Gender Policy requirements, the project integrates gender considerations across policy reform, capacity building, and monitoring activities.

Key design features include:

Gender-responsive stakeholder consultations during policy revision processes.

Targeted inclusion of both men and women in technical training on GIS, climate information use, and SLM practices.

Identification of gender-differentiated vulnerabilities to climate change and land degradation, particularly in agriculture and rural land use.

Collection of sex-disaggregated data where feasible within monitoring systems.

By strengthening both men's and women's access to land information, climate risk data, and decision-making processes, the project contributes to equitable participation in land governance and enhances the resilience of vulnerable groups.

4. Stakeholder Engagement and Participation

The project adopts a highly inclusive, participatory, and multi-sectoral approach to land use planning reform and implementation. Engagements will go beyond consultation towards enabling co-creation, joint decision-making, and shared ownership of outputs, particularly national and regional land use plans and SLM interventions. The project will apply principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), gender equality, social inclusion, and transparency to ensure meaningful participation of all stakeholder groups. The project will employ a range of participatory tools and methodologies, such as Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Participatory GIS (PGIS) and Mapping, and Multi-stakeholder Platforms (MSPs), to ensure stakeholders are actively engaged throughout planning, implementation, and monitoring.

Project stakeholders include:

- Government ministries and land management agencies.
- Regional and local authorities.
- Indigenous and local communities.
- Civil society organizations.
- Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Academic and technical institutions.
- Private sector actors
- Farmers

- Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

It is expected that farmers participate in consultations, stakeholder meetings, and participatory planning exercises to inform the national and regional land use plans. Also, they will provide local and traditional knowledge on land use and restoration practices, challenges and limitations of land and soil, and adaptation and mitigation measures. They will also support the land use planning process particularly participatory mapping, land resource assessments, and planning outputs, and will participate in training and awareness programmes on land use planning, climate-resilient agriculture and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices. In addition, they will support the intervention site and showcase climate-resilient farming techniques, and assist with the implementation, maintenance, and monitoring of SLM measures and restoration activities at the community level.

With the CBOs, it is expected that they support intervention sites and restoration measures of the land users and agencies and facilitate outreach and communication efforts for awareness and engagement in land use planning processes. Also, that they represent the specific community's interests and priorities of small farmers, women, youth, Indigenous peoples, and vulnerable groups in decision-making processes, and support the documentation of project reports and interventions. CBOs will be key to promoting community ownership and stewardship for long-term sustainability of project inputs and resources, and facilitate coordination between communities, regional and national institutions for effective management of project's outputs. It is also expected that they encourage collective action and community mobilization activities for land use planning, sustainable land management, and resilience building.

For the other stakeholders, stakeholder engagement mechanisms include structured consultations, technical working groups, validation workshops, and feedback loops during policy drafting and system design. This inclusive approach enhances transparency, strengthens legitimacy, and increases the likelihood of policy adoption and sustained implementation.

5. Private Sector Engagement

Given the increasing role of oil and gas, mining, agriculture, and infrastructure investments in driving land use change, the project integrates private sector engagement as a strategic component rather than a peripheral activity.

The design:

Incorporates private sector actors in policy and planning dialogue processes.

Promotes access to improved land suitability land use options and recommendations to guide responsible investments.

Encourages climate risk-informed decision-making in infrastructure and agricultural development.

Facilitates the use of spatial planning tools to reduce environmental and social risks associated with land conversion.

By aligning sustainable land use planning with investment decision-making, the project fosters shared value creation and reduces long-term environmental liabilities.

6. Knowledge Management and Learning

Knowledge generation, management, and dissemination are embedded throughout the project design. Key elements include:

Development of digitized land information systems and geospatial databases.

Production of climate risk maps and land suitability analyses.

Documentation of best practices in climate-smart agriculture and SLM.

Institutionalization of monitoring systems to generate continuous data for adaptive management.

Structured learning exchanges across agencies and regions.

Lessons learned will be captured and shared through technical briefs, policy notes, training materials, and reporting platforms. The monitoring system under Outcome 3 ensures that data generated during implementation informs ongoing planning processes and future investment decisions.

This learning-oriented approach strengthens institutional memory, reduces reliance on individual expertise, and enhances long-term sustainability.

7. Sustainability and Replicability

Sustainability is embedded through:

Institutionalization of updated policy frameworks.

Capacity building within existing government agencies rather than parallel structures.

Formalization of data management and reporting protocols.

Integration of project outputs into national reporting obligations.

The systems-based approach and digital infrastructure established under the project provide a replicable model for regional application and future scaling.

Considering the ongoing and expected impacts of climate change and its potential to exacerbate land degradation issues and taking into consideration the efforts made through the abovementioned government initiatives and projects, this proposal is designed to address specific barriers to climate resilient landscape management. These barriers were identified through an analysis of Guyana's agricultural sector and consultations at different levels with the range of stakeholders.

The objective of the project is to build resilience to climate change and address land degradation by strengthening land use planning in support of sustainable land management (SLM) in Guyana. The land resources need to be managed sustainably ensuring economic and social development with environmental protection and conservation of natural resources. Global environmental benefits arising from the conservation of forests also require economic growth to be sourced from agricultural production and sustainable use of natural resources. The project will produce an updated national land use plan prepared in coordination with relevant sectors to address land degradation neutrality and climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives. The project will enhance capacities to produce participatory and integrated land use planning that integrates flood, drought, sea level and climate projections while avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation. These combined activities will improve capacity, resilience and infrastructure to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change, promote achievements towards a low carbon pathway of development, enhance decision-making as it relates to land use and will assist with implementing the low carbon development strategy.

Key stakeholders consulted

ORGANISATION	***CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROJECT***
Guyana Lands & Surveys Commission (GLSC)	*Implementing Agency*
Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC)	*Endorsement of SCCF, Guidance on CC targets, complementary projects*
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	*Guidance on targets of areas cross-cutting biodiversity (23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how) and complementary projects for cofinancing*
Food and Agriculture Organisation (Guyana)	*Guidance to co-financing, complementary projects*
University of Guyana (UG)	*Research/ Academic for Guidance*
Guyana Livestock Development Authority	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects*
Guyana Forestry Commission	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects*
Guyana Geology and Mines Commission	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects*
National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects*
Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary Agricultural Development Authority (MMA-ADA)	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects*
Ministry of Agriculture	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects*
Ministry of Housing & Water	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects*
Central Housing and Planning Authority	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects*
Ministry of Local Government	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects*
Ministry of Natural Resources	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects*
Guyana Energy Agency	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects*

Wildlife Management Authority	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects*
Protected Areas Commission	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects*
National Toshau Council	*Represents indigenous communities nationwide, review of components, project outputs & activities*
Private Sector Commission	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on private sector interests*
Women Across Differences	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on civil society and gender support*
Conservation International	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on regional and national research programmes and projects*
World Wildlife Fund	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on regional and national research programmes and projects*
Iwokrama Rainforest Programme	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects*
Civil Defense Commission	*Review of components, project outputs & activities based on disaster risk preparedness and response*

Baseline futures

Without the intervention of the project, the future of Guyana's land resources can be characterized by, (1) mismanagement of lands based on land capability and lack of land use options to guide development and conservation (2) increased development pressures and land use conflicts from a lack of analysis of potential and constraints, and land use options (3) deterioration, damage and loss of coastal resources and infrastructure, after natural disasters and/or due to impacts of climate change.

Theory of Change

Guyana is experiencing unprecedented demand for land and rapid infrastructure expansion, driven by the growth of the oil and gas sector and its related industries, alongside increased mining, housing, and agricultural development. These pressures are further intensified by significant investments in land and water transportation infrastructure, resulting in accelerating land use change and competition for land resources. The lack of an updated national and regional land use plans is further exacerbated by the following constraints:-

• Human, technological and policy constraints foster a limited enabling environment to support climate resilience and sustainable land management:

There is no updated national land use policy

Land Use Documents prepared more than ten (10) years ago do not consider the new oil and gas sector, current development and demand for specific land uses to support the sector. The plans have become outdated. There are new regions experiencing a high demand for land.

There is a lack of advanced skills in information system programming to enable a better understanding of land cover/use, land use planning, legal mandates and instruments and areas of jurisdiction. Limited digitized systems are in place for generating and managing information, accessing records, and updating information on land tenure.

• There is limited data and information management, access and use, which impedes evidence-based decision making to support climate adaptation and sustainable land management at the landscape and community level. Lack of land use (type, change, pressures) and planning data to inform land suitability and enable land use trend analysis and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices to be assessed and mapped for monitoring and evaluation.

No land use planning regulation in place: Lack of current legislation and formal framework for national and regional land use planning which would provide information and data on the current situation of land, potential and constraints and land use options for utilisation by government agencies and investors.

• Limited knowledge and capability in climate-smart approaches and SLM practices, which can drive unsustainable land management practices that reduce climate resilience. Limited availability of climate related information products, and there is no integration of land degradation neutrality in the land use planning process

Lack of capacity by land management decision-makers and other key stakeholders to access, understand, and/or act on climate related information products. Lack of efforts for scaling up improved agricultural systems and use of crop varieties that are tolerant to flooding, drought and salinity which would reduce the vulnerability of farmers to climate change. and achieving the intended global environmental benefits.

Assumptions and Impact Drivers

The achievement of the project's three (3) outcomes is contingent on several key assumptions as provided in the Theory of Change and are expected throughout implementation. In addition, broader impact drivers will facilitate progress along the causal chain toward long-term environmental benefits, including land degradation neutrality (LDN), and resilience to climate change.

Outcome 1

Updated land use plan and guidance on policy considering all relevant sectors addressing land degradation neutrality and climate change adaptation/mitigation.

Key Assumptions

Continued high-level political commitment to land governance reform and inter-sectoral coordination.

Willingness of relevant ministries and agencies (e.g., land, agriculture, environment, natural resources, oil and gas) to support policy guidance.

Availability of adequate technical expertise to integrate LDN and climate mitigation/adaptation considerations into updated policy

Stakeholders, including private sector actors, recognize the value of integrated land use planning, climate change and sustainable land management.

Impact Drivers

National commitments under the Rio Conventions (particularly SDG 15.3 UNCCD) and Sustainable Development Goals.

Expanding oil and gas sector and other related sectors, increasing agricultural, energy, mining, housing sectors requiring modern spatial planning frameworks.

Increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related hazards (floods, drought, saltwater intrusion) driving urgency for proactive responses.

International financing and technical support reinforcing evidence-based policy development.

Outcome 2

Capacities enhanced to produce climate adaptation and mitigation-responsive integrated land use planning.

Key Assumptions

Trained technical staff remain within participating institutions (limited turnover).

Agencies allocate sufficient time and operational resources for staff to apply new skills.

Digital infrastructure (hardware, software, connectivity) remains functional and maintained.

Inter-agency data sharing agreements are operationalized.

Local stakeholders are receptive to climate-smart and SLM practices.

Impact Drivers

Rapid advancements in geospatial technologies and climate data tools.

Growing demand for spatial information to guide public and private investments.

Increased awareness among communities of climate risks and land degradation impacts.

Regional and international knowledge exchange platforms supporting SLM and climate-smart agriculture.

Outcome 3

Project monitoring system established for tracking progress and performance reporting.

Key Assumptions

Institutional mandate is clearly assigned for long-term management of the monitoring system.

Agencies commit to regular data collection, updating, and reporting.

Adequate budgetary provisions are made for system maintenance beyond the project lifespan.

Data standards and interoperability protocols are agreed and adopted across institutions.

Impact Drivers

National reporting obligations to the UNCCD.

Increasing global emphasis on transparency, accountability, and results-based management.

Availability of satellite data and open-source geospatial platforms.

Digital transformation initiatives within government institutions.

Cross-Cutting Assumptions Across All Outcomes

Stable macroeconomic and political environment.

Continued stakeholder engagement and coordination mechanisms.

No major natural disasters that significantly divert institutional resources away from reform efforts.

Sustained collaboration with development partners and technical agencies.

The theory of change shows how the proposed combination of interventions overcomes barriers to strengthen land use planning and leads to sustainable land management throughout Guyana. The goal statement summarizes the approach to improved enabling environment, capacity and infrastructure to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change, and enhanced decision-making as it relates to sustainable land management: **IF** land use planning, in Guyana, is strengthened in support of sustainable land management (SLM) by developing climate informed,

participatory land use and landscape management plans and the national and subnational entities are trained to operationalize these plan, **THEN** the country's land degradation issues and resilience to climate risks will be strengthened **BECAUSE** of improved enabling environment, capacity and infrastructure to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change and enhanced decision-making as it relates to sustainable land management.

The land use plans are designed to support decision-making at multiple levels, influencing both on-the-ground development and broader regional and national planning. Developed through a multi-agency process, these plans integrate spatial data, technical analyses, and stakeholder input to guide informed decisions on land allocation and management. They are based on assessments of land capability, natural resource availability, and socio-economic feasibility, enabling the designation of areas for agriculture, conservation, restoration, and other appropriate uses.

A Planning Steering Committee, comprising key land sector agencies, oversees the preparation, validation, approval, and adoption of the land use plans. Once approved, the plans will be institutionalized by the sectoral agencies involved in their development. Their effective implementation—and the achievement of intended outcomes—will be supported through the following mechanisms:

Evidence-based land use decisions: Key recommendations will guide decisions on optimal land uses (e.g., agriculture, mining, forestry), ensuring that approvals align with land capability and suitability.

Integrated planning support: Sectoral agencies will use the plans as a central resource for land allocation and development, drawing on consolidated data, technical analyses, feasibility studies, strategies, and inputs from relevant programs and projects.

Compliance and enforcement: Monitoring and compliance mechanisms will support oversight of land allocation processes and enable on-the-ground enforcement. The plans will also help prevent land use conflicts by identifying potential issues prior to implementation.

Environmental protection and sustainability: The plans will strengthen the protection of conservation areas and environmentally sensitive zones, reduce the use of degraded or unsuitable land, and promote Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices in priority areas.

By embedding land use plans within institutional decision-making processes, the project ensures that planning outputs translate into measurable improvements in land management, ecosystem health, and community resilience.

The project aligns strongly with Guyana's key policy frameworks, including the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) commitments under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Operational Linkages

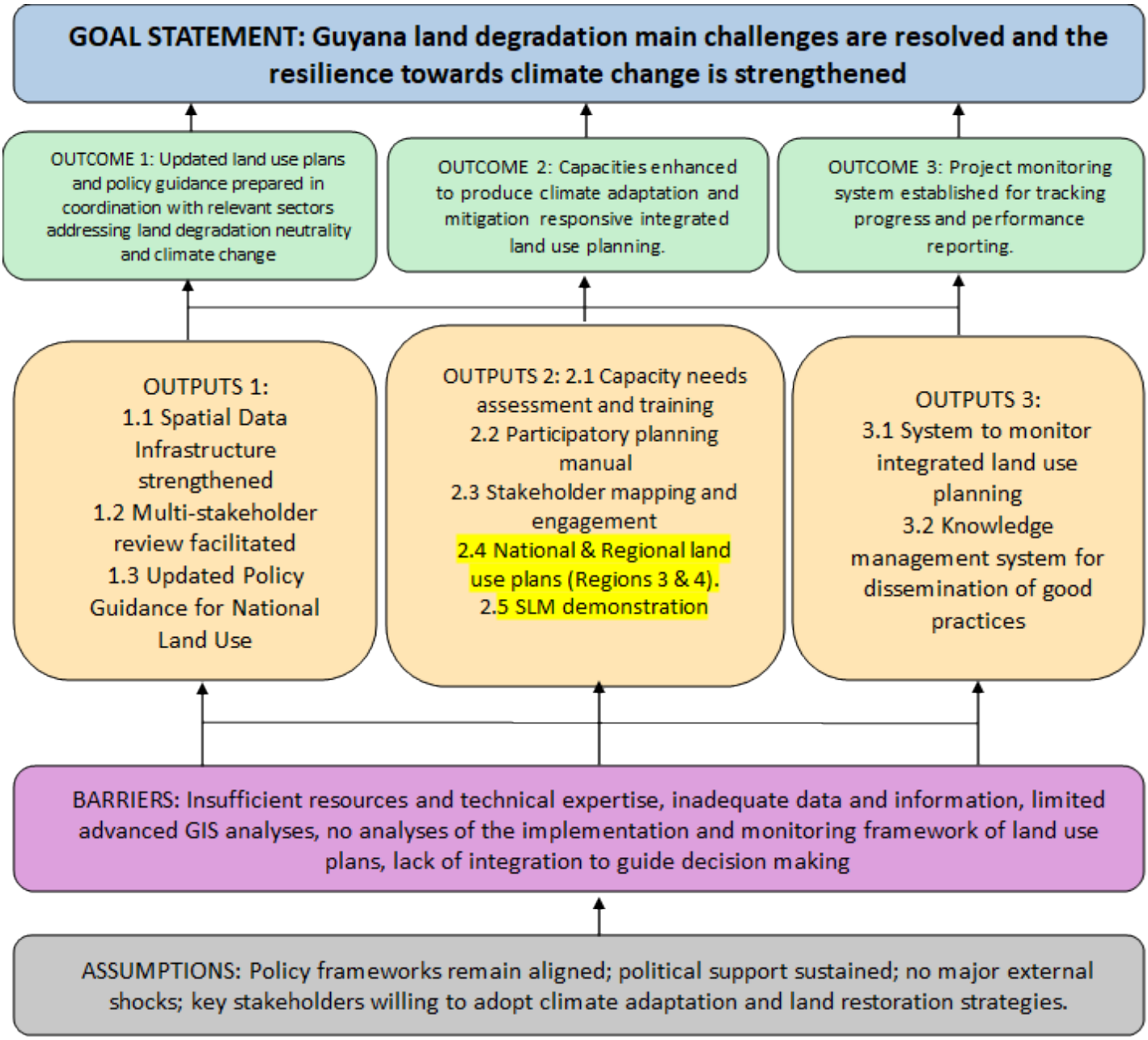
LCDS 2030: The project contributes to sustainable land management, forest conservation, and climate-resilient development by strengthening land use planning systems that guide low-carbon and climate-resilient investments.

NDC: The integration of climate risk screening and adaptation-focused land allocation supports national adaptation priorities, particularly in vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, and coastal management.

UNCCD / LDN Targets: The project advances land degradation neutrality by improving land management practices, restoring degraded areas, and preventing further degradation.

Institutional Integration

National and regional land use plans will inform future decision-making and policy development, including national adaptation planning. This integration ensures that project outputs are embedded within existing policy and planning frameworks, supporting long-term sustainability and impact.



Project Components

The project interventions are grouped into three (3) components with associated outputs:

Component 1: Improving the enabling environment for climate adaptation and mitigation and land degradation neutrality responsive integrated land use planning. This component seeks to prepare an updated national land use plan in coordination with relevant sectors to address land degradation neutrality and climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives.

Outcome 1: Updated land use planning policy prepared in coordination with relevant sectors addressing land degradation neutrality and climate change adaptation/mitigation.

Output 1.1. Spatial Data Infrastructure is strengthened to support land use planning at multiple scales (local, regional and national) and data - interoperability and accessibility with relevant sectors is reinforced;

Output 1.2. The SLDM multi-stakeholder group is facilitated to ensure review of the updated the land use plan to allow contribution from relevant actors with equitable participation from men and women;

Output 1.3. A policy option paper for updating the land use plans is prepared including a gender-responsive approach;

Output 1.4. Updated National Land Use Plan supporting effective management of development activities is formulated.

This first outcome aims at improving policy coordination mechanisms both through a multi-stakeholder platform (output 1.2) and through strengthened spatial data infrastructure and data- interoperability and accessibility (output 1.1). These two (2) outputs are the backbones to enable the development of an updated National Land Use Plan that will benefit multiple sectors and stakeholders, and that will benefit from improved access to relevant data from various sector. The policy options paper presenting the for discussion and inputs from the various stakeholders in order to produce a final draft of the updated plan.

Through this component the project aims to integrate climate change adaptation and resilience and land degradation neutrality into the land use planning methodology. This fully supports the implementation of the Low Carbon Development Strategy and aligns to conform with the Rio Agreements, and sustainable development of the country. Climate resilience will be systematically integrated into the land use plans to protect people, resources and the environment from the negative impacts of climate change.

Climate Risk Screening. A key part of the land use plans would include climate change projections such as sea level rise, climate variability and hazard datasets (flooding, coastal erosion, drought), where applicable to the geographic area and projected impacts and vulnerabilities. Vulnerability maps would guide decision makers and sectors on the recommended land uses in the respective planning areas, and promoting climate resilience for moderate and low-risk areas.

The completion of the National Land Use Plan allows for scaling to the regional land use plans. The same methodology is used for the preparation of both national and regional plans, in addition to the spatial datasets ensuring conformity and integration of development and mapping outputs. The preparation of the first batch of land use plans ensures replication and progressive expansion for other land use plans during and post-project.

The creation of an extensive spatial dataset as part of a national spatial data infrastructure for the land use plans would facilitate data operability and integration with other spatial data for further spatial analysis.

The capacity developed, spatial data infrastructure and analysis, and resources would be institutionalized and scaled appropriately.

Component 2 - Strengthening climate adaptation and mitigation and land degradation neutrality responsive, integrated land use planning. This component seeks to enhance capacities to produce participatory and integrated land use planning that integrates flood, drought, sea level and climate projections while avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation.

Outcome 2. Capacities enhanced to produce climate adaptation and mitigation responsive integrated land use planning.

Output 2.1 . Capacity needs assessment conducted and enhanced capacities for land use planning, ensuring specific attention to equitable opportunities for men and women. The Capacity needs assessment will be coducted in line with the with the updating of the national and regional land use plans. Project will ensure equitable opportunities for men and women to participate in the assesment and in the enhanced capacities activities. .

Output 2.2. A manual for participatory planning processes developed and applied, providing standardized guidance for integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation, and land degradation neutrality (LDN) into land use planning.

Output 2.3. Outreach plans developed and implemented, ensuring attention to the needs of different social groups, to support national and regional land use planning processes. This output will ensure structured mechanisms for continuous engagement of land users.

Output 2.4. Updated national land use plan, and regional land use plans developed and updated, ensuring participation of women, small land users and other vulnerable groups . The regional land use plans developed would be for Regions 3 and 4, and updates made to plans for Regions 1, 2, 6, 9 (sub-region 1), 10, the Linden–Lethem Road Corridor and Soesdyke- Linden Highway.

Output 2.5. Establish a Pilot SLM site to demonstrate practices aligned with the national and regional land use plans

This second outcome will support the operationalization of the updated national land use plan, new regional plans for regions 3 and 4 by producing updated regional land use plans through a participatory and integrated approach to collect good SLM practices approach, formulate and validate the land use plans. This component will also support building the necessary methodologies and capacities to ensure replicability in the other regions and include the establishment of a pilot climate-resilient Sustainable Land Management (SLM) measures in farming areas. The

demonstration site will pilot SLM measures to reduce vulnerability to climate-induced land degradation, enhance ecosystem stability, and strengthen communities' adaptive capacity. In doing so, it will deliver key adaptation benefits, including improved food security and more sustainable livelihoods. In the pilot area farmers, other land users and CBOs will provide traditional and local knowledge and insights on land use practices, soil conditions, climate variability, ecosystem services, and locally adapted restoration techniques. Practices to be examined for demonstration will include cultivation of improved and climate-resilient crops and varieties suited to Guyana's conditions, eg. dragon fruit; organic amendments (compost, manure, green manure); minimum tillage; and rotational grazing.
This component will also serve feeding the component 1 by testing the policy and land use options (output 1.3).

Component 3 – Knowledge management and communication.
This component seeks to ensure that information is effectively captured and shared and provides for the monitoring and evaluation of outcomes/impact:

OUTCOME 3: PROJECT MONITORING SYSTEM ESTABLISHED FOR TRACKING PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING.

Output 3.1 . Nationwide monitoring of Integrated Land Use Planning implementation enabled, including adoption and adherence to practices and systems established under the project.

Output 3.2. Knowledge management system, with gender responsive features, developed to disseminates good practices and lessons learned on land use planning neutrality.

This third outcome will provide Guyana with a system to monitor the integrated land use planning implementation and its responsiveness to land degradation neutrality and climate change adaptation and mitigation. The output 3.1. will be linked to and built on the efforts towards a strengthened national spatial data infrastructure and data inter – operability (see output 1.1.). The project will ensure targeted efforts to lasting knowledge management through the production and dissemination of multiple material (handbook, videos...) to the destination of different type of audience (decision makers, experts, wider audience). Under this component, the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) would provide a standardized method to document the implementation on sustainable land management practices achieved under the project. WOCAT would provide the knowledge sharing for enhancing capacities and imparting details of the approaches and/ or technologies utilised, valuable for replication and scaling up projects.

The causal connections of expected mid- and long-term project results would affect the status and trends of land degradation and preparedness of the sectors for climate change would be achieved through the combined effect of the project outputs.

Causal Pathway 1

Strengthening the spatial data infrastructure and updating the draft national land use plan is expected to strategically provide the framework for decision making regarding land resources, implementation of SLM, mitigating and reducing the effects of climate change, and improving resilience for particularly short-term impacts arising from droughts and floods in the agriculture sector, and the development of new regional land use plans (which is associated with causal pathway 2). The updating of the draft national land use plan and development of new regional land use plans along with strengthening the data inter-operabilities provides an opportunity for different sectors to work in a coordinated manner on the adaptation to climate change and on addressing land degradation neutrality. The development of the land use plan and, subsequently, of the regional plans in a participatory, gender

sensitive and inclusive manner through the multi-stakeholder committee at national and regional level in addition to the use of updated land use data would provide for informed decision making on SLM and are expected to diminish land use conflicts.

Causal Pathway 2

This component seeks to enhance capacities to produce participatory and integrated land use planning that integrates flood, drought, sea level and climate projections while avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation. There is insufficient application of sustainable land management by land users, particularly in the agriculture sector. For instance, the extensive use of fertilisers in Guyana combined with burning of farmlands for improved productivity indicate the need for training of farmers on the improving soil management and land fertility. Working with communities during the participatory land planning process will serve to identify SLM good practices and to promote their diffusion. Also working with multiple sectors through the planning process will help to build a culture of climate change and LDN responsiveness amongst decision makers in view of ensuring the implementation of the land use plans by all relevant sectors. Capacity building programme and improvement in technical capacities to understand and address CC and LDN would address the barrier of limited knowledge in planning a. The outputs developed in causal pathway 2 will be disseminated in casual pathway 3.

Causal Pathway 3

This component seeks to establish a project monitoring system for tracking progress and performance reporting. There is a lack of consistent information on land use and skills by Ministry staff to derive datasets from satellite images on land cover/use, to understand land use planning, legal mandates and instruments and areas of jurisdiction. The outputs of the activities seek to facilitate project monitoring as well as build a nationwide results framework for monitoring and to generate knowledge for continuous learning. The land use plan and the regional plans produced under component 1 & 2 will serve as basis and first set of data to work on the architecture of this nationwide land use planning monitoring information system.

Global Environmental Benefits

Global benefits of the project

Global Environmental Benefits of the Project (GEF) Land-use planning, as defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), is a systematic assessment of a country's land, water, and other natural resources, together with socio-economic conditions, to identify and adopt the most sustainable land-use options. Grounded in this approach, the Project will develop national and regional land-use plans that integrate climate change mitigation measures and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets to deliver significant global environmental benefits.

Guyana is recognized as a net carbon sink, with approximately 85% of its territory covered by forests that store an estimated 5.4 gigatons of carbon and sequester roughly 40 $MtCO_2e$ annually—offsetting domestic emissions. Through strategic land-use planning, the Project will help maintain and enhance this carbon stock by safeguarding forest landscapes, promoting sustainable forest management, and preventing further land degradation. These actions directly contribute to global climate change mitigation by sustaining and increasing carbon sequestration while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Project will also generate biodiversity conservation benefits by protecting critical ecosystems and habitats across forested, extractive (mining and timber), and productive landscapes. Conservation measures will strengthen ecological integrity within working landscapes, including forest concessions and reserves, thereby contributing to the protection of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystem services.

In alignment with Guyana's Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme, the Project will advance the restoration of degraded lands and the sustainable management of natural resources. This includes implementing tangible interventions to reverse land degradation trends, enhance soil health, and improve land productivity—contributing to improved ecosystem resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

Given that much of Guyana's coastal zone lies below 1.5 meters above sea level and is vulnerable to sea level rise and abnormal high tides, climate-resilient land-use planning is essential. The coastal belt contains fertile agricultural soils that underpin national food security and contribute to export production. By strengthening ecosystem resilience and integrating climate adaptation considerations into land-use frameworks, the Project will help safeguard food systems and rural livelihoods against the adverse impacts of climate change.

Overall, the Project will deliver global environmental benefits through land use planning for the following areas of sustainable land management

- Sustained carbon sequestration;
- Conservation of resources including biodiversity and critical habitats;
- Restoration of degraded lands;
- Strengthened ecosystem resilience; and
- Improved food security and climate resilience.

By embedding sustainability, environmental protection, and intergenerational resource stewardship into national and regional land-use planning, the Project supports global efforts to mitigate climate change, combat land degradation, and conserve biodiversity, while advancing Guyana's long-term sustainable development objectives.

Innovation and Transformational Change in Land Use Planning

The Strengthening land use planning for sustainable land management Project would generate both transformative and innovative achievements.

Transformational change in this project would be attributed from the use of geo-spatial technologies and spatial analysis toward a data driven system useful for decision making at the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission.

Land use planning is entering a new phase globally—driven by digital transformation, climate imperatives, and rising expectations for transparency and efficiency. This Project positions Guyana at the forefront of that shift by embedding technology, integrated governance, and sustainability objectives into a modernized land management framework.

The Project is both **innovative** and **transformative** because it moves land use planning beyond static land use planning maps toward a dynamic, data-driven system that guides national development in a rapidly evolving oil- and resource-based economy.

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What Is Innovative About the Project?

1. Digital Transformation of Planning

The Project introduces advanced geospatial tools and digital platforms that fundamentally change how land use decisions are made.

Innovations include:

Modern GIS-based national and regional land suitability mapping.

Integration of monitoring of deforestation, mining expansion, and land conversion.

Development of shared digital spatial data platforms for inter-agency coordination.

Example: Before approving a new industrial zone, planners can simulate impacts on flood risk, agricultural land loss, and infrastructure demand—ensuring evidence-based decisions rather than reactive approvals.

Transformational Impact: Planning becomes predictive rather than reactive, reducing environmental degradation and improving investment efficiency.

2. Data-Driven and Collaborative Governance

The Project establishes open, shared planning systems across agencies responsible for forestry, mining, agriculture, housing, infrastructure, and environment.

Innovations include:

Harmonized land allocation data across institutions.

Cloud-based platforms enabling shared access to updated spatial information.

Transparent mapping tools that allow stakeholders to see designated land uses and constraints.

Example: Mining, forestry, and conservation authorities access the same spatial layers to prevent overlapping concessions or encroachment into protected areas.

Transformational Impact: This reduces institutional silos, improves coordination among agencies and reduce land use conflicts.

3. Climate-Responsive and Resilient Planning

Climate adaptation and mitigation are embedded directly into land use strategies.

Innovations include:

Integration of flood risk and sea level rise modelling into land use planning recommendations

Designation of mangrove buffers and inclusion, where possible protective infrastructure.

Density targets and compact development strategies to reduce carbon emissions and land consumption.

Example: Coastal development proposals are screened against hazard maps before approval, reducing long-term public expenditure on disaster recovery.

Transformational Impact: Climate risk management becomes a planning criterion rather than an afterthought.

4. Integrated Land and Infrastructure Planning

The Project coordinates spatial planning with transportation networks, utilities, housing expansion, and public assets.

Innovations include:

Aligning land use plans with infrastructure investment plans.

Linking land allocation to service delivery capacity.

Establishing land consumption efficiency to population growth.

Example: New housing schemes are prioritized within already serviced areas to reduce costly infrastructure extensions and limit agricultural land conversion.

Transformational Impact: Every land use decision supports long-term fiscal sustainability and service efficiency.

5. Nature-Based and Low-Carbon Solutions

The Project integrates ecosystem-based approaches into spatial development frameworks.

Innovations include:

Preservation and restoration of wetlands and mangroves as natural flood defences.

Protection of high carbon stock forests.

Example: Rather than relying solely on engineered drainage systems, land use plans identify where possible naturally managed drainage systems.

Transformational Impact: Environmental protection becomes infrastructure, delivering both climate and biodiversity benefits.

6. Policy and Regulatory Innovation

The Project strengthens the institutional foundation of spatial planning.

Innovation include:

Adoption of national and regional land use plans with recommendations

Example: Large-scale development is verified for alignment with approved land use plans during land administration process

Transformational Impact: Planning shifts from advisory guidance to approvals based on land use plans.

How Transformational Change Will Be Achieved

Transformational change will occur through:

Institutionalization: Embedding digital spatial planning systems into national governance structures and legislation.

Capacity Development: Equipping planners with advanced GIS, scenario modelling, and project management skills.

Behavioral Change: Shifting public and private sector practices toward compliance with spatial plans and environmental safeguards.

Scaling Nationally: Replicating digital planning systems and regional land use plans across all administrative regions.

Mainstreaming into Investment Decisions: Making alignment with land use plans a prerequisite for infrastructure, mining, forestry, and oil-related development approvals.

Pathway for Scaling Up

Scaling up will be achieved by:

Expanding the digital land information system nationwide.

Integrating planning data with reporting and monitoring systems.

Land use plans

Conclusion

This Project is transformative because it redefines land use planning as a strategic, technology-enabled governance system that shapes economic growth, protects forests and biodiversity, reduces land degradation, and strengthens climate resilience.

By combining digital innovation, institutional reform, policy modernization, and ecosystem-based approaches, the Project creates a scalable model for sustainable land governance in a rapidly developing economy. It ensures that growth—particularly in the context of oil and gas expansion—is smarter, more resilient, and aligned with national and global environmental objectives.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

Project institutional arrangements:

	Stakeholders	In-country Stakeholder Organization	Contributions to the Project
1	National Focal Point to UNCCD	Guyana Lands & Surveys Commission (GLSC)	Implementing Agency
2	National Focal Point to UNFCCC	Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC)	Endorsement of SCCF, Guidance on CC targets, complementary projects
3	National Focal Point to UNCBD	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Guidance on targets of areas cross-cutting biodiversity (23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how) and complementary projects for cofinancing
	Representative	Food and Agriculture Organisation (Guyana)	Guidance to co-financing, complementary projects
4	Representative Faculty	University of Guyana (UG)	Research/ Academic for Guidance
5	Representative	Guyana Livestock Development Authority	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects

6	Representative	Guyana Forestry Commission	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
7	Representative	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
8	Representative	National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
9	Representative	Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary Agricultural Development Authority (MMA-ADA)	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
10	Representative	Ministry of Agriculture	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
11	Representative	Ministry of Housing & Water	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
12	Representative	Central Housing and Planning Authority	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
13	Representative	Ministry of Local Government	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
14	Representative	Ministry of Natural Resources	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
15	Representative	Guyana Energy Agency	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
16	Representative	Wildlife Management Authority	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects

17	Representative	Protected Areas Commission	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
18	Representative	National Toshau Council	Represents indigenous communities nationwide, review of components, project outputs & activities
19	Representative	Private Sector Commission	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on private sector interests
20	Representative	Women Across Differences	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on civil society and gender support
21	Representative	Conservation International	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on regional and national research programmes and projects
22	Representative	World Wildlife Fund	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on regional and national research programmes and projects
23	Representative	Iwokrama Rainforest Programme	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
24	Representative	Civil Defense Commission	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on disaster risk preparedness and response

Core Indicators

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
598700	0	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
538,700.00			

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
60,000.00			

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	420			
Male	630			
Total	**1050**	**0**	0	**0**

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Direct beneficiaries will be personnel within GLSC and key agencies such as the EPA. The area managed for climate resilience will be Administrative Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9 and 10, and the Linden Lethem Road Corridor and Soesdyke-Linden Corridor, as they will have regional land use plans addressing land degradation neutrality, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Awareness raising activities will be targeted to stakeholders in all Regions.

Core Indicator 4: A total of 60,000 ha of land will be under improved management through direct actions of the project in a demonstration site (GEF core indicator 4.3). Additionally, a further 538,700 ha of land will be under improved management indirectly through the implementation of the land use plans developed for regions 3 and 4 (GEF core indicator 4.1). Indirect impact will also be realized through the implementation of updated land use plans for Regions 2, 6, 9, and 10 and two (2) corridors (Linden Lethem Road and Soesdyke-Linden). The areas will have regional land use plans addressing land degradation neutrality and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Core indicator 11: At least 1,050 individuals (420 women) will directly benefit from project activities through capacity development and awareness raising actions (all project components) and through the impacts of strengthened climate adaptation and mitigation and land degradation neutrality in land use planning (components 1 and 2).

META INFORMATION – SCCF

LDCF **false**	SCCF-B (Window B) on technology transfer **false**	SCCF-A (Window-A) on climate Change adaptation **true**

Is this project LDCF SCCF challenge program? **false**
This Project involves at least one small island developing State(SIDS). **false**
This Project involves at least one fragile and conflict affected state. **false**
This Project will provide direct adaptation benefits to the private sector. **false**
This Project is explicitly related to the formulation and/or implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs). **false**
This project will collaborate with activities begin supported by other adaptation funds. If yes, please select below

Green Climate Fund **false**	Adaptation Fund **false**	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) **false**

This Project has an urban focus. **false**
This project will directly engage local communities in project design and implementation **false**
This project will support South-South knowledge exchange **false**

This Project covers the following sector(s)[the total should be 100%]: *	
Agriculture	50.00%
Nature-based management	50.00%
Climate information services	0.00%
Coastal zone management	0.00%
Water resources management	0.00%
Disaster risk management	0.00%
Other infrastructure	0.00%
Tourism	0.00%
Health	0.00%
Other (Please specify comments)	0.00%
Total	100.00%
This Project targets the following Climate change Exacerbated/introduced challenges:*	

Sea level rise **false**	Change in mean temperature **false**	Increased climatic variability **true**	Natural hazards **false**
Land degradation **true**	Coastal and/or Coral reef degradation **false**	Groundwater quality/quantity **false**	

CORE INDICATORS – SCCF

	Total	Male	Female	% for Women
CORE INDICATOR 1 Total number of direct beneficiaries	491,643	243,675.00	247,968.00	50.44%
CORE INDICATOR 2 (a) Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha) (b) Coastal and marine area managed for climate resilience (ha)	598,700.00 0.00			
CORE INDICATOR 3 Number of policies/plans/ frameworks/institutions for to strengthen climate adaptation	6.00			
CORE INDICATOR 4 Number of people trained or with awareness raised	1000	500.00	500.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 5 Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience	0.00			

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Like other countries in the Caribbean, Guyana is subject to adverse effects of climate variability and climate-driven changes and natural disasters. The project design will ensure that these factors are considered in the scheduling of project activities to reduce participants to harm.
Environmental and Social	Low	Women may be less able to participate and benefit from the project due to their generally greater child-care, family responsibilities and issues related to land tenure compared with men. Social and environmental safeguards plans with clear timelines and budgets, including a Gender Action

		Plan, will be developed during the project design stage. These plans will aim to mitigate the negative social and environmental impacts of the project, including promoting gender equality and mitigating disparities among beneficiaries. In project staffing, a gender sensitive approach will be adopted by the project throughout its life cycle. The project will focus on promoting participation of women, empowering them to engage in planning and decision-making within the project sphere (and also encouraging them to do so outside of the project). Participation of women, but also of youth, will be promoted through multi-stakeholder workshops, consultation and validation processes used in project activities. The project will carry out a structured Knowledge Management programme and targeted awareness-raising campaign to increase public understanding and awareness of integrated land use planning benefits which will have a particularly high profile at the local level.
Political and Governance	Moderate	Changes in government priorities due to executie elections. The declaration of the 2020 elections was protracted and included several court decisions, the eventual transition of power was peaceful. The declaration of the 2025 elections results was quick and despite minor challenges were widely accepted. Elections are not due until 2030. In this regard, changes in government priorities are unlikely but possible. This may impact support for the project and the adoption of the procedures and policies. The project's mitigation strategy consists of an consistent engagement with the political sector throughout project formulation and execution phases, fostering dialogue and consensus, and advocating for project goals to maintain priority status and mitigate the impact of potential political transitions on project continuity and effectiveness
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	Legislative Support: lack of legal enforcement and land use plans are non-prescriptive, and no approved updated policy on land use. Also, lack of implementing framework for monitoring and reporting on the status of implementation using a phased approach. Insufficient resources to monitor implementation and enforcement of recommendations. This could result in an implementation and uptake risk as agencies change their sector strategies and plans and programmes, requiring updating of the plans. Sector agencies do not integrate the land use recommendations based on the plans, and land issuance, thereby reducing the proposed effectiveness. The project will seek to mitigate this risk by ensuring strengthening technical capacities and building support for implementation within the relevant agencies. Increased capacities and the participatory methodology for the preparation of the plans would also increase stakeholders' knowledge and ownership of the process, preparation and implementation requirements. The representation of academia on the planning committee promotes continuous capacity development and further research and studies in the area of land use planning, urban and rural planning. The key land agencies of the inter-sectoral committee would be a fundamental part of the coordination, enforcement, and implementation for an integrated, data-driven,

		and participatory land governance that is necessary for rational land use planning in Guyana
Technological	Low	The project has a strong technical focus, investing on establishing integrated land use planning replete with climate change considerations. There is the potential risk, albeit low, of user resistance and buy-in for the implementation of new technical solutions. These risks are not novel when it comes to the introduction of new technical solutions. To mitigate these risks, the project will leverage the technical expertise of the FAO and best practices from existing and past projects such as SLDM and SOILCARE Phase 1. The project's communication strategy will help establish confidence and support for these new technical solutions.
Financial and Business Model		NA
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	The scope of the project has been agreed with the relevant stakeholders and by focusing on a selected number of issues it will be possible to achieve results without putting undue pressure on the existing government institutions. The project also seeks to build on and coordinate with established mechanisms (e.g. The SLDM multi-stakeholder group') and utilise existing information management systems rather than introduce new institutional structures which could present future capacity constraints.
Fiduciary	Low	While there is significant capacity in Guyana, the project team will conduct a fiduciary assessment of the project executing entity in line with FAO's due diligence.
Stakeholder	Moderate	The project has been designed to respond to national priorities. These include actions to empower government entities to better undertake their mandates and collaborate with non-governmental organisations, private sector and community groups to encourage integrated land use planning that integrates flood, drought, sea level and climate projections while avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation Governmental stakeholders buy-in will be maintained through strategic and periodic awareness-raising and communication to key decision-makers including parliamentarians, and through carefully crafted messages to targeted audiences at the national level. In terms of engagement, the FAO has extensive experience in working with many of the main government partners, including in other ongoing FAO-GEF initiatives, which will facilitate continued political and institutional engagement in the project during implementation. The establishment of the PSC during the project inception phase will also ensure participation, ownership and engagement of key partners and maintain attention on the project. Key stakeholders will actively support the project activities through the establishment and maintenance of partnerships managed by the PMU. A project stakeholder engagement plan will be developed during the project design stage to ensure effective, coherent and equitable stakeholder coordination. Addressing the issues of particular concern to stakeholders and demonstrating

		the socio-economic benefits will generate collective engagement among key stakeholders. The establishment of a PSC during the inception phase will also support coordination and continued participation of the key partners. An effective Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy will also support stakeholder engagement and coordination.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	While several risk categories—including Climate; Environmental and Social; Political and Governance; Macro-economic; and Stakeholder Engagement—are rated Moderate, these risks are well understood and there are practical mitigation strategies in the project design. Key risk drivers such as climate variability, potential political transitions, macroeconomic fluctuations, and stakeholder coordination, and gender participation challenges are specific to national circumstances in Guyana. These risks would be addressed during project implementation since there are not systemic or unmanageable. For Climate risks, adaptive scheduling and integration of resilience are major considerations For Environmental and social risks, inclusive participation and awareness of constraints relating to availability, particularly during the consultation processes, would be addressed by planning and implementation consultations based on availability. Political and governance risks will be managed through continuous engagement with policymakers, by sharing project updates, presentations, sharing of project's outputs and consultations. Macroeconomic risks will be mitigated through CI's robust fiduciary systems and adaptive financial planning. • Stakeholder engagement risks will be reduced through structured coordination mechanisms, establishment of a Project Steering Committee (PSC).

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The proposed project operates at the confluence of the GEF-8 climate change and land degradation focal areas and addresses their key objectives within the programming strategy. Activities under component 3 are aligned to pillar I of the climate change focal area "Promote innovation, technology development and transfer, and enabling policies for mitigation options with systemic impacts" via the establishment of systems, policy and regulatory support, and best practices that support country-driven strategies towards mitigating climate change impacts. As it relates the land degradation focal area, the activities under all three (3) components of the project are aligned to "Objective 1. Avoid and reduce land degradation through sustainable land management (SLM)" and "Objective 4. Improve the enabling policy, planning and institutional framework for LDN."
At the national level, project outcomes will make progress towards the following policies/laws:

- LCDS 2030 - with objectives on value ecosystem services mainly focusing on forest climate services and protecting against climate change and biodiversity loss;
- Guyana's National Drought Mitigation and Adaptation Plan - Ffacilitates proactive, coordinated, and effective planning, preparedness, mitigation, adaptation, response, and recovery activities in Guyana in response to drought risks and impacts;
- Strategic Plan Capacity Building of the National Climate Change Committee for Guyana - Aims to enhance the capacity of the National Climate Change Committee for the effective and efficient management of Guyana's climate change processes by providing scientific, technical and institutional guidance and support on international, regional, national and sub-national climate change processes to the Office of Climate Change. Measures will be taken to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and to ensure increase in carbon sequestration and storage;
- Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 - The vision of the 'green agenda' is centered on principles of a green economy defined by sustainable, low-carbon and resilient development that uses its resources (land, water, forests, mineral and aggregates, biodiversity) efficiently, and sustained over generations.
- Revised National Forest Policy Statement 2018: The Policy's overall objective is the conservation, protection, and utilization of the state's forest, by ensuring it's social, economic, and environmental attributes and benefits are sustained and enhanced for the benefit of current and future generations of Guyanese, whilst fulfilling Guyana's commitments under international agreements and conventions.
- Framework of the Guyana Green State Development Strategy and Financing Mechanisms: The strategy will identify and prioritize public interventions to diversify agricultural production, increase productivity and reduce negative environmental impacts and underscores that the sustainability of logging practices can contribute to increasing forest biomass and carbon stocks, whether directly or indirectly.
- NAP to Combat Land Degradation: which proposes, inter alia, mainstreaming of sustainable land management (SLM) within educational establishments and the enhancement of the knowledge and capacity of land users to perform ecologically appropriate land restoration, to address key land degradation issues.
- Guyana's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2012-2020): Highlights Guyana's forest resources are its principal natural asset for obtaining revenue needed for the growth and development. Guyana's biodiversity in forestry provides an important basis for climate regulation, poverty reduction in areas such as payment for forest climate services, community-based economies, particularly in hinterland communities and biodiversity-related education and scientific research.
- Disaster Risk Management Policy: The purpose of this policy is to ensure a protected, safe, secure and disaster resilient Guyana through efficient and effective disaster risk management with a proactive, holistic, multi-stakeholder, multi-disciplinary, multi-hazard oriented and technology driven approach.
- National Forest Plan 2018: with four (4) specific objectives that include (i) deriving development benefits from the forest (Economics), (ii) conserving, protecting and sustaining the forest (Conservation), (iii) governing the forest to ensure current and future benefits (Governance); and (iv) building human and institutional capacity for management of activities in the forest (Capacity)
- Guyana's Revised INDC: Overarching contribution goal is to achieve a Green Economy via a low-emission economic-development pathway. The GFC committing 50% of its staff to field monitoring from its 54 forest monitoring stations countrywide and strengthen its support for indigenous communities as they continue the stewardship of their lands and inter alia the benefits that accrue from any REDD+ activities from these lands.
- Forests Act 2009 (No. 6 of 2009): The Act provides for the protection and conservation of forests, including measures to: (a) conserve biological diversity; (b) protect specific trees and plants; (c) conserve soil and water resources; and (d) protect forests against degradation, fires, pests, and diseases. The act declares of public order any species of tree or plant that occurs in forests to be a protected tree or plant and any forest on private land to be a forest conservation area.
- Forests Regulations 2018 (Regulations Made under The Forests Act (No. 6 of 2009): The Regulations also provide forest conservation by formulating fire protection plans, the management

of programs for protected species, and the management plans for specially protected areas with a particular focus on biodiversity.

- Guyana Forestry Commission Act 2007: This Act provides for the establishment of the Guyana Forestry Commission as a body corporate which is mandated to encourage the development and growth of forestry in Guyana on a sustainable basis.
- Protected Areas Act 2011 (No. 14 of 2011): mandates the preparation of a national protected areas system plan with objectives that include ensuring Guyana's existing forests are maintained and protected from degradation and their ecosystem functions are safeguarded and promoting the restoration and expansion of Guyana's natural forest cover.
- Guyana Forestry Commission Act 2007: The Commission shall, among other things: develop a forestry policy; provide an inspection, certification and accreditation service for quality control of forest produce; and administer the Forests Act 2007.
- Code of Practice for forest operations for state forest authorizations: timber sales agreements, wood cutting license holders, state forest exploratory permits, state forest permissions, community forestry management agreements: Outlines a range of standards, guidelines and rules to ensure sustainable use and management of forests and forest products, promote ecofriendly harvesting practices, reduce environmental impacts, conserve biodiversity, forest regeneration and wildlife protection, improve the ecological, socio-economic, and socio-cultural contributions of forestry as a component of sustainable development, and strengthen cooperation between logging companies and local communities.
- Environmental Protection Act (Cap. 20:05): An Act to provide for the management, conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, the prevention or control of pollution, the assessment of the impact of economic development on the environment and the sustainable use of resources.
- Equal Rights Act No. 19 of 1990: prohibits all forms of discrimination against women and men on the basis of their sex or marital status and in respect of any employment; and penalty for any person who contravenes the provisions of this Act.

At the international level, Guyana has ratified several international Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), which the proposed project will make progress towards the relevant commitments and responsibilities, including but not limited to:

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity framework: contributing to targets 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12,14,20,21,22 and 23;
- The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing;
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC): commitment to sustainable forest management; compliance with the various Codes of Practice that govern the timber industry using local resources; strengthen its support for indigenous communities as they continue the stewardship of their lands and inter alia the benefits that accrue from any REDD+ activities from these lands; implement policies measures, and incentive programmes, to engender broader participation of civil society and the private sector in actions to avoid deforestation and forest degradation;
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD): goals by 2030 to have 80,000 ha under sustainable forest management, 2,000,000 ha under protection and conservation, 200 ha of coastal mangrove under rehabilitation and restoration and 500,000 ha of land under improved land productivity.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

Stakeholder engagement- Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

NAME	POSITION	ORGANISATION	ROLE IN PROJECT
Mr. Enrique Monize	Chief Executive Officer/Commissioner	GLSC	Executing Agency
Roland Austin	Senior Land Use Planner	GLSC	
Andrea Mahammad	Head, and Use Policy, Planning and Projects Division	GLSC	
Nadia Nasir	GIS Officer	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Provision of guidance on targets of areas cross-cutting biodiversity (23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how) and complementary projects for cofinancing
Surjpaul Singh	Head - Investigations & Enforcement Department	EPA	
Rhea Kanhai	Senior Environmental Officer II	EPA	
Neila Bobb-Prescott	Climate and Environment Finance Specialist	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Provision of guidance on co-financing and complementary projects
Gillian Smith	FAO Representative in Guyana (*ad interim for Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname*)	FAO	

Aurelie Bres	Regional Land Tenure and Natural Resources Officer	FAO	
Ahmed Jan	SLDM Project Manager (Guyana)	FAO	
Gitangali Chandarpaul	Assistant FAO Representative (Programme)	FAO	
Fazlay Arafat	SLM Specialist	FAO	
Christopher Ross	M&E Officer	FAO	
Rawle Edinboro	Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences	University of Guyana (UG)	Provision of guidance on research/academic activities
Patrick Williams	Department of Geography, Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences	UG	
Donnica Thornhill - Gillis	G.I.S Analyst	Guyana Forestry Commission	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
Donnette Ritchie	Planner	Ministry of Agriculture	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
Coleen Fletcher Paul	Statistical Officer	Guyana Energy Agency	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
Mahendra Sharma	Chief Executive Officer	Guyana Energy Agency	
Rosshanda Bagot	Economist, Energy and Energy Statistics	Guyana Energy Agency	
Shevon Wood	Head, Energy and Energy Statistics Division	Guyana Energy Agency	

Ms. Ananda Persaud	Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator	Guyana Rice Development Board	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
Mr. Dahasrat Narain	Crop Extension Officer/Regional Superintendent	Guyana Rice Development Board	
Ghansham Payman	Agronomist	Guyana Rice Development Board	
Karamchand Bramdeo	Manager	Guyana Sugar Corporation	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects
Ronald Sampson		Ministry of Public Works	Review of components, project outputs & activities based on research programmes and projects

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Women may be less able to participate and benefit from the project due to their generally greater child-care, family responsibilities and issues related to land tenure compared with men.

A Gender Action Plan will be developed during the project design stage to promote gender equality and guide project actions to mitigate disparities among beneficiaries.

In project staffing, a gender sensitive approach will be adopted by the project throughout its life cycle. The project will focus on promoting participation of women, empowering them to engage in planning and decision-making within the project sphere (and also encouraging them to do so outside of the project). Participation of women, but also of youth, will be promoted through multi-stakeholder workshops, consultation and validation processes used in project activities.

The project will carry out a structured Knowledge Management programme and targeted awareness-raising campaign to increase public understanding and awareness of integrated land use planning benefits which will have a particularly high profile at the local level.

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
CI	GET	Guyana	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-4	Non-Grant	442,049.00	39,784.00	481,833.00
CI	SCCF-A	Guyana	Land Degradation	NA	Grant	884,099.00	79,568.00	963,667.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**1,326,148.00**	**119,352.00**	**1,445,500.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

50000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

4500

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
CI	GET	Guyana	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-4	Grant	16,667.00	1,500.00	18,167.00
CI	SCCF-A	Guyana	Multi Focal Area	NA	Grant	33,333.00	3,000.00	36,333.00
Total PPG Amount ($)						**50,000.00**	**4,500.00**	**54,500.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
CI	GET	Guyana	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	500,000.00
Total GEF Resources					**500,000.00**

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
LD-4	GET	442,049.00	4560221
CCA-2-1	SCCF-A	884,099.00	9120451
Total Project Cost		**1,326,148.00**	**13,680,672.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Others	Amerindian Land Titling - Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	13293453
Recipient Country Government	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	187634
GEF Agency	Conservation International	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	199585

Total Co-financing				**13,680,672.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Not Applicable

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Orissa Samaroo				osamaroo@conservation.org
Project Coordinator	Daniela Carrion				dcarrion@conservation.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Kemraj Parsram	Executive Director and GEF focal point	Environmental projection Agency	1/29/2026

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Figure 2: Map of Guyana's Administrative Regions

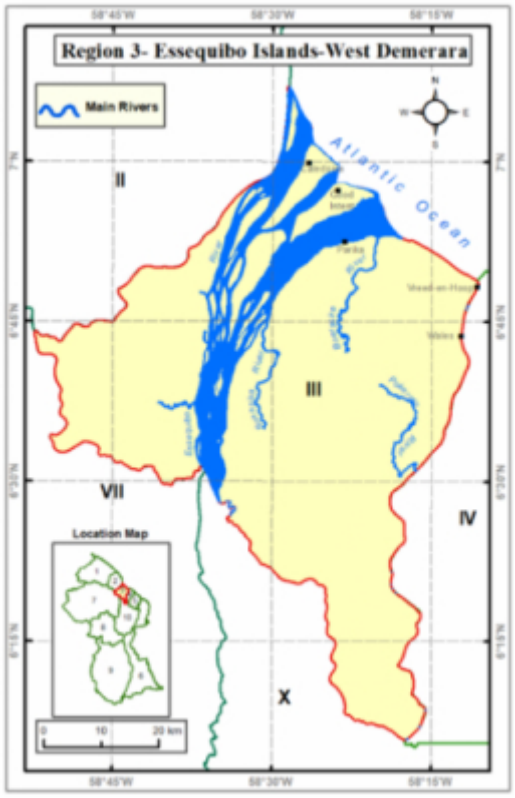


Figure 3: Map of Region 3 (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara)

Figure 4: Map of Region 4 (Demerara-Mahaica)

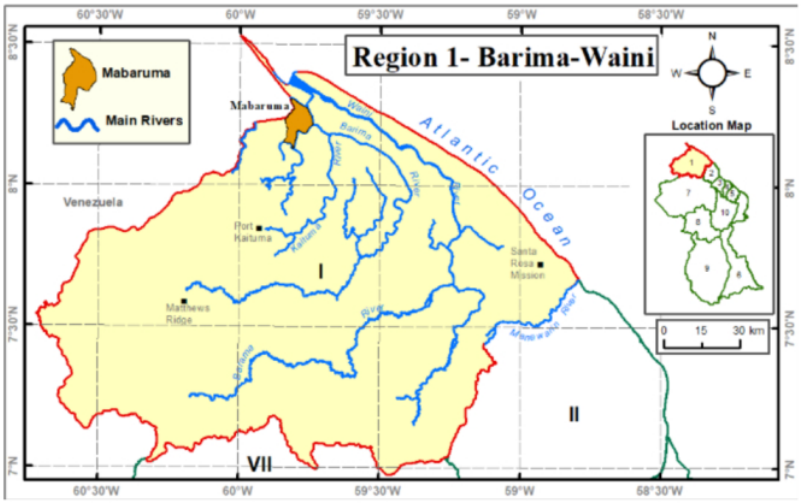
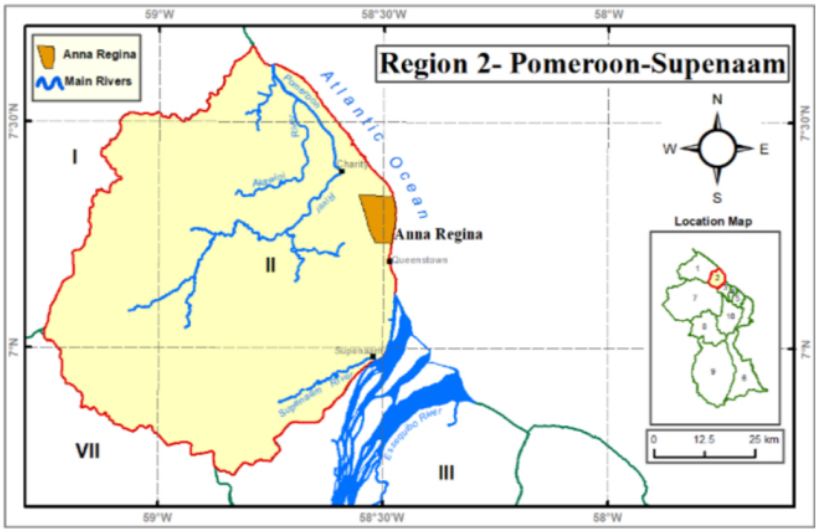


Figure 5: Map of Region 1 (Barima-Waini)



ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title

20260504 Preliminary ESS Screening Report land use Guyana

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing Models	Transform policy and regulatory environments		

	Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
Stakeholders	Beneficiaries		
	Local Communities		
	Type of Engagement	Information Dissemination	
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Capacity Development		
Gender Equality	Gender Mainstreaming	Beneficiaries	
	Gender results areas	Capacity Development Access to benefits and services Participation and leadership Awareness Raising	
Focal Area/Theme	Land Degradation	Sustainable Land Management	Sustainable Agriculture Community-Based Natural Resource Management Sustainable Livelihoods
		Land Degradation Neutrality	Land Cover and Land cover change
	Climate Change	Climate Change Mitigation	Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use
		Climate Change Adaptation	Climate information Climate resilience Disaster risk management Livelihoods Small Island Developing States Least Developed Countries