



Sustainable and Inclusive Development of West Suriname (SID-WS)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11205

Countries

Suriname

Project Name

Sustainable and Inclusive Development of West Suriname (SID-WS)

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

6/28/2024

Review completed by PM

7/17/2024

Program Manager

Celine Augereau ep Coisy

Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Project Type

CEO

Part I - General Project Information

1. a) Is the Project Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

a) Yes cleared

Agency Response

b) Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

b) yes cleared

Agency Response

2. Project Summary.

a) Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected outcomes?

b) Does the summary capture the essence of the project and is it within the max. of 250 words?

c) [If a child project under a program] Does the project summary include adequate and substantive link with the parent program goal and approach?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

The description of the baseline is quite complete and well written. The description of the project components and actual activities is poor and needs significantly more clarity and details. The co-financing is very low.

a) Partially. We learn about the threats and drivers, but not about the barriers. Please summarize also the barriers that need to be tackled to address the problems of primary forest loss and degradation.

b) Yes cleared

c) No, the link is missing. Please explain in which way this child project is consistent with the ASL 3 program, and how it will work with the regional Coordination Platform and other countries participating in the program, in particular Brasil who share the same forest.

October 30th 2024

a) Yes cleared

c) Yes cleared

Agency Response

a) Partially. We learn about the threats and drivers, but not about the barriers. Please summarize also the barriers that need to be tackled to address the problems of primary forest loss and degradation.

UNDP Response 21Oct24:

Response: A summary of the barriers that need to be tackled to address the problems of primary forest loss and degradation has been added to the Project Summary as indicated.

c) No, the link is missing. Please explain in which way this child project is consistent with the ASL 3 program, and how it will work with the regional Coordination Platform and other countries participating in the program, in particular Brasil who share the same forest.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: the link between the Child Project and the ASL3 Program has been included in the Project Summary as indicated as well as reference to work with the regional Coordination Platform.

3. Project Description Overview

a) Is the project objective statement concise, clear and measurable?

b) [If a child project under a program] Is there a project Theory of Change that is aligned and consistent with the overall program goal and approach?

c) Are the components, outcomes, and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?

d) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the project components and budgeted for?

e) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?

f) Is the PMC equal to or below 10% (for MSP) or 5% (for FSP)? If above, is the justification acceptable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

a) The objective is clear but please complete the sentence with the strategy to achieve the objective so that we can assess its success.

b) Yes but the quality of the document is bad and not completely readable. Please provide a new document of the ToC.

c) All the components only include only one outcome and the ?outputs? are actually formulated as outcomes (?implemented?, ?strengthened?, ?reinforced?, ?). As a result, the actual outputs are unclear, and the overall architecture of the project are unclear. For a better clarity, please consider using the current ?outputs? as outcomes and complete the table with the actual outputs contributing to the achievements of the outcomes.

c1. Components : the components are appropriated to achieve the objective of the project.

Component 1 : please precise if the new PAs created are OECMs or other types of protection to be consistent with the core indicators.

Component 3 : please precise the coherence with other policies and ministries to be achieved at the level component.

Component 4 : please provide 2 other outcomes for communication and cooperation

c2 . Outcome

Outcome 1.1 : This outcome is measured by change in management effectiveness of the Central Suriname Nature Reserve only while other PAs are programmed in the project. Please add in measurement the new PAs created outside of the CSNR.

Outcome 2.1 : Please precise the role of youth and ITPs in the productions initiatives measurements.

Outcome 3.1 : Incentives are only planned in output 3.1.2 for different stakeholders, in particular logging companies. Could you precise the other beneficiaries and the kind of incentives targeted, particularly in agriculture, urban sector, in ITPs... ? Could you precise the role of private sector in governance and incentives for sustainable development and conservation ?

c3. Outputs

Output 1.1.1 : it is not clear as it is not sure new PAs will be designated while in the core indicator table there is a target of 78,000 ha for the core indicator 1.1. Please clarify this output. Precise if other new PA different from Kaboeri Creek, Mac Clemen, and Snake Creek are created

Output 1.1.2 : please precise the contribution and role played by youth, women and ITPs in the participatory updating of CSNR management

Output 1.1.3 : please precise the contribution and role played by youth, women and ITPs in the participatory monitoring program

Output 3.1.1 : Please precise and separate the different scales of governance, plannings, and strategies expected (national, regional, local)

Core indicators : The project of new protected areas should be reported differently whether it is OECMs or other kind of protection. Please clarify for the 3 concerned areas : Mac Clemen (6,000 ha), Snake Creek (4,000 ha), and Kaboeri creek (68,000 ha).

Indicator 1.1 : Please precise the IUCN category for the 3 PAs newly created . If the new protection is OECMs it is suppose to be reported in indicator 4.

Indicator 4.5 : Please precise Total Ha expected to be supported in OECMs and adjust indicator 4 consequently. These OECMs Ha must also be reported in sub-core indicators 4.1/4.2/4.3 or 4.4.

d) The gender consideration is poorly reflected in the Project Description Overview (only as a target under the outcome 2.1 and through the implementation of the GAP in general). Please reflect better the gender consideration in all relevant outcomes/outputs. Please precise how the gender dimensions are taken into account and evaluated and the way they are consistent with the regional program. Please, precise the dedicated budget.

e) Yes cleared

f) Yes cleared

October 30th 2024

a) Cleared

b) Cleared

c)

c1)

- All the components only include only one outcome

Cleared

- Component 1: please precise if the new PAs created are OECMs or other types of protection to be consistent with the core indicators.

Cleared

- Component 3: please precise the coherence with other policies and ministries to be achieved at the level component.

Cleared

- Component 4: please provide 2 other outcomes for communication and cooperation

Cleared

c2)

- Outcome 1.1: This outcome is measured by change in management effectiveness of the Central Suriname Nature Reserve only while other PAs are programmed in the project. Please add in measurement the new PAs created outside of the CSNR.

Cleared

- Outcome 2.1: Please precise the role of youth and ITPs in the productions initiatives measurements.

Cleared

- Outcome 3.1: Incentives are only planned in output 3.1.2 for different stakeholders, in particular logging companies. Could you precise the other beneficiaries and the kind of incentives targeted, particularly in agriculture, urban sector, in ITPs...? Could you precise the role of private sector in governance and incentives for sustainable development and conservation?

Cleared

c3)

- Output 1.1.1: it is not clear as it is not sure new PAs will be designated while in the core indicator table there is a target of 78,000 ha for the core indicator 1.1. Please clarify this output. Precise if other new PA different from Kaboeri Creek, Mac Clemen, and Snake Creek are created

Cleared

- Output 1.1.2: please precise the contribution and role-played by youth, women and ITPs in the participatory updating of CSNR management.

Cleared

- Output 1.1.3: please precise the contribution and role played by youth, women and ITPs in the participatory monitoring program :

Cleared

Output 3.1.1 : Please precise and separate the different scales of governance, plannings, and strategies expected (national, regional, local)

Cleared

Core indicators : The project of new protected areas should be reported differently whether it is OECMs or other kind of protection. Please clarify for the 3 concerned areas : Mac Clemen (6,000 ha), Snake Creek (4,000 ha), and Kaboeri creek (68,000 ha).

Cleared

Indicator 1.1 : Please precise the IUCN category for the 3 PAs newly created . If the new protection is OECMs it is suppose to be reported in indicator 4.

Cleared

Indicator 4.5 : Please precise Total Ha expected to be supported in OECMs and adjust indicator 4 consequently. These OECMs Ha must also be reported in sub-core indicators 4.1/4.2/4.3 or 4.4.

Cleared

d)

Cleared

Agency Response

a) The objective is clear but please complete the sentence with the strategy to achieve the objective so that we can assess its success.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: the objective was completed as follows in the Child Project Description Overview: ?To strengthen integrated landscape conservation and sustainable management in the Western Suriname through effectively conserved and managed intact forests, a sustainable inclusive nature-based economy, enhance governance and landscape planning, and knowledge management and regional collaboration?

b) Yes but the quality of the document is bad and not completely readable. Please provide a new document of the ToC.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: As suggested, a new and readable version of the ToC has been provided and included in the RoadMap as a separate file.

c) All the components only include only one outcome and the 'outputs' are actually formulated as outcomes ('implemented?', 'strengthened?', 'reinforced?', ?). As a result, the actual outputs are unclear, and the overall architecture of the project are unclear. For a better clarity, please consider using the current outputs as outcomes and complete the table with the actual outputs contributing to the achievements of the outcomes. c1. Components: the components are appropriated to achieve the objective of the project.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response:

The architecture of the project adheres to the outcomes and outputs framework that was previously approved by the GEF during the concept note stage. The current outputs have been carefully designed to contribute directly to the achievement of the specified outcomes, which encapsulate the expected impacts of the project. As such, the outputs are both appropriate and sufficient to deliver the desired results.

To enhance clarity, we have refined the wording of the outputs in the Child Project Description Overview and other relevant sections of the CEO Endorsement Request without altering the overall structure of the project. This ensures consistency with the approved concept while providing a clearer articulation of the project's intended outputs and their role in achieving the outcomes.

Component 1: please precise if the new PAs created are OECMs or other types of protection to be consistent with the core indicators.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: Mac Clemen and Snake Kreek will be created as PAs with IUCN Category VI, and Kaboeri Creek will be registered as an OECM; Output 1.1.1 was updated to reflect this as follows: 'New PAs (Mac Clemen and Snake Creek) with IUCN Category VI, and OECMs (Kaboeri Creek) with management plans developed together with local stakeholders including men, women and youth, ensuring gender-balanced participation and PA governance.' The Child Project Description Overview, the core indicators table, and the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Worksheet have been updated accordingly.

Component 3: please precise the coherence with other policies and ministries to be achieved at the level component.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: Outcome 3.1 was updated in the Child Project Description Overview to reflect policy coherence as follows: 'Governance, landscape planning, and incentives for conservation and

sustainable development enhanced, building coherence with other policies and ministries and with a focus on gender and youth inclusion.?

In addition, the following text was added as part of the description of Component 3 in Section B: Child Project Description of the CEO Endorsement Request (paragraph 53).

Component 3 of the SID-WS project will build coherence between national policies and different ministries objectives and will be aligned with policies that will contribute to the durability of GEBs, including: a) Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment: Alignment with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and alignment with Suriname Aligned National Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation (2023-2030) (NAP) goals, integrating biodiversity and land degradation considerations into national spatial planning and governance frameworks; Component 3 includes activities regarding land-use and planning at local and subnational levels that will incorporate biodiversity conservation and reduction of land degradation objectives; b) Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries: this Ministry promotes sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices that are aligned with national food security and environmental conservation goals; Component 3 is aligned with this objective by supporting land-use planning at local and subnational levels that considers climate change mitigation and that will guide the implementation through Component 2 of related nature-based solutions (low-impact agriculture, agroforestry, and NTFP); c) Ministry of Regional Development and Sport: This Ministry promotes the involvement of ITPs in governance, ensuring that their rights and traditional knowledge are respected and integrated into land-use planning; Component 3 will support the development and/or update of the environmental components of District/Ressort development plans and village land use plans and will enhance the enforcement of regulations and strengthening of monitoring capacities of institutions and ITPs, which will contribute to aligning subnational and local planning with environmental objectives and to supporting governance structures as an integral part of governance coherence; c) Ministry of Natural Resources: This Ministry promotes responsible resource extraction, including the development of Responsible Mining Strategy and Action Plans (RMSAP); Component 3 supports the drafting of the RMSAP for the aggregate mining sector in West Suriname ensuring that forest and biodiversity conservation considerations are fully integrated and aligning its investments coherently with environmental outcomes; and d) Ministry of Land Policy and Forest Management: This Ministry is responsible for promoting sustainable forest management (implemented through the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB); Component 3 includes activities to support the implementation of best practices including advocating for updating regulatory frameworks and the implementation of the code of conduct for sustainable forest management, which will strength forestry policy coherence and contribute to aligning the investments of the forestry sector coherently with environmental outcomes.

Component 4: please provide 2 other outcomes for communication and cooperation

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: As suggested, the following two outcomes for communication and cooperation were added in the Child Project Description Overview and other related sections of the CEO Endorsement Request: 4.2. Enhanced local and national communication raises awareness about the importance of

the Amazon intact forest and critical regional issues?; and ?4.3. Strengthened dialogue for effective regional cooperation on conservation and management of Amazon IFL.?

c2. Outcome

Outcome 1.1: This outcome is measured by change in management effectiveness of the Central Suriname Nature Reserve only while other PAs are programmed in the project. Please add in measurement the new PAs created outside of the CSNR.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: Please note that the only PA created to date in West Suriname is the Central Suriname Nature Reserve; since Mac Clemen and Snake Creek have not yet been officially created as PAs, METT scores are not reported as these areas are not managed and have no management structure. This is in line with the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Worksheet that only requires the reporting of METT scores for terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness (Core Indicator 1.2).

Outcome 2.1: Please precise the role of youth and ITPs in the productions initiatives measurements.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The production initiatives measurements (indicators) were updated in the Child Project Description Overview (and in other related sections of the CEO Endorsement Request) to highlight the role of the youth and ITPs as follows: ?a) 150 nature-based production initiatives supported locally that benefit ITPs, including 50% women-based initiatives?; and ?b) 10 nature-based production initiatives with increased ITPs and other local communities participation, including 50% women and youth participation, in value chains.?

Outcome 3.1: Incentives are only planned in output 3.1.2 for different stakeholders, in particular logging companies. Could you precise the other beneficiaries and the kind of incentives targeted, particularly in agriculture, urban sector, in ITPs...? Could you precise the role of private sector in governance and incentives for sustainable development and conservation?

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The incentives for stakeholders in the Sustainable and Inclusive Development of West Suriname (SID-WS) project are mostly targeted at logging companies, because a large part of the targeted project landscape consists of logging concessions. However, the other beneficiaries entail Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs) and other local communities engaged in small scale and subsistence agriculture; the project landscape is remote (locally know as the ?interior?) with no urban development. The nature of incentives targeted to ITPs and other local communities are considered in Component 2.

Role of Private Sector in Governance and Incentives: The private sector, especially logging and mining companies, plays an important role in governance and incentives for sustainable development and conservation. These companies invest in endeavors that promote sustainable land use and

resource extraction, typically within a public-private partnership framework (included in paragraph 22). The project's governance framework will involve the private sector in: a) Environmental Management/sustainability plans: Encouraging adherence to sustainable practices and regulations; b) Financial Contributions: The private sector will be encouraged to invest in and support conservation initiatives, such as payments to conserve biodiversity or ecosystem services; and to establish partnerships with ITPs to create markets for NTFPs and women-led ecotourism, and private/public sectors partnerships; and c) Collaborative Governance: sector planning and implementation of responsible practices that will reduce the impact of private sector operations (especially mining and forestry) on intact forests and biodiversity; and participation in a Targeted Scenario Analysis (TSA) for integrated water use management and integrated land use planning that will benefit the agricultural sector. The inclusion of the private sector in this approach aims to align economic interests with environmental sustainability to ensure that responsible business practices will support conservation efforts in the project landscape. The role that the private sector will play has been further specified in the description of the project components (B. Child Project Description).

c3. Outputs

Output 1.1.1: it is not clear as it is not sure new PAs will be designated while in the core indicator table there is a target of 78,000 ha for the core indicator 1.1. Please clarify this output. Precise if other new PA different from Kaboeri Creek, Mac Clemen, and Snake Creek are created

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: For clarification, Output 1.1.1 was updated in the Project Description Overview as follows ?New PAs (Mac Clemen and Snake Creek) with IUCN category VI, and OECMs (Kaboeri Creek) with management plans developed together with local stakeholders including men, women and youth, ensuring gender-balanced participation and PA governance.? No other new PAs apart from Mac Clemen and Snake Creek will be created, and Kaboeri Creek will be the only OECM to be registered.

Output 1.1.2: please precise the contribution and role-played by youth, women and ITPs in the participatory updating of CSNR management.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: Output 1.1.2 was updated in the Project Description Overview as follows: ?Effective management of the Central Suriname Nature Reserve, including the participation of ITPs, women, and the youth in updating of CSNR management and designation of ITPs as park rangers and monitoring, law enforcement, and sustainable funding for new PAs and OECMs.?

Output 1.1.3: please precise the contribution and role played by youth, women and ITPs in the participatory monitoring program

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: Output 1.1.3 was updated in the Project Description Overview as follows: ?Gender and youth-balanced participatory monitoring program for key species and their habitat in PAs, OECMs, and surrounding landscapes (e.g., jaguar, parrots, and giant otters).?

Output 3.1.1: Please precise and separate the different scales of governance, plannings, and strategies expected (national, regional, local)

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: Output 3.1.1 was updated in the Project Description Overview as follows: 3.1.1. Inclusive/ multi-stakeholder integrated land-use and planning in West Suriname, including capacity-building for women and youth and their participation in leadership roles, includes: a) Scoped Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for project related upstream actions, *vis a vis* related current policies, plans, and activities; b) Targeted Scenario Analysis (TSA) of the benefits of Freshwater Ecosystem Services to the Agricultural sector; c) Indigenous Peoples traditional land use practices and stakeholder mapping; d) Biodiversity mainstreaming into the Responsible Mining Strategy and Action Plan (RMSAP) for West Suriname (aggregate mine planning); and e) Environmental sections of sector plans for West Suriname (e.g. mining and forestry), regional plans (Districts and Ressorts Development Plans), and local village plans.?

Core indicators: The project of new protected areas should be reported differently whether it is OECMs or other kind of protection. Please clarify for the 3 concerned areas: Mac Clemen (6,000 ha), Snake Creek (4,000 ha), and Kaboeri creek (68,000 ha).

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The GEF Core Indicators were updated in the corresponding table (see page 42 of the CEO Endorsement Request) for clarification for the 3 concerned areas as follows:

Project Core Indicators		Expected at CEO Endorsement
1	Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (hectare)	148,386
4	Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectare)	168,000

Indicator 1: Sum of the following areas: a) creation of Mac Clemen (6,000 ha) and Snake Creek (4,000 ha) as PAs with an IUCN Category VI with clear Indigenous peoples and tribal (ITP)-led management if a proposed law allows ITPs to manage PAs; and b) improved management effectiveness of the Central Suriname Nature Reserve (138,386 ha; the area overlapping with the target geography).

Indicator 4: Landscape with community-based management initiatives in community forestry, NTFP use, ecotourism, agroforestry, low environmental impact agriculture and wildlife-based value chains, and land use planning (100,000 ha), and registration of and Kaboeri Creek (68,000 ha) as an OECM

Indicator 1.1: Please precise the IUCN category for the 3 PAs newly created. If the new protection is OECMs it is suppose to be reported in indicator 4.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The two PAs newly created (Mac Clemen and Snake Creek) will be IUCN Category VI - Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources. Kaboeri Creek will be registered as an OECM and is now reported under Indicator 4.

Indicator 4.5: Please precise Total Ha expected to be supported in OECMs and adjust indicator 4 consequently. The OECMs Ha must also be reported in sub-core indicators 4.1/4.2/4.3 or 4.4.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The total number of hectares expected to be supported in OECMs (Kaboeri Creek, 68,000 ha) is now reported in Indicator 4.5; in addition, it is also reported in sub-core indicator 4.1.

d) The gender consideration is poorly reflected in the Project Description Overview (only as a target under the outcome 2.1 and through the implementation of the GAP in general). Please reflect better the gender consideration in all relevant outcomes/outputs. Please precise how the gender dimensions are taken into account and evaluated the way they are consistent with the regional program. Please, precise the dedicated budget.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: As indicated, the Project Description Overview was revised and updated to better reflect gender considerations in all relevant outcomes/outputs. The gender considerations are consistent with the regional program to the extent that the Child project will mainstream gender in all project components in line with the regional program's component structure, which the Child Project follows closely. In addition, the dedicated budget for the project's gender dimension is USD 350,000 as indicated in the Gender Action Plan, which was updated to reflect this total.

4. Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

- a) Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and adequately addressed by the project design?
- b) Have the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and/or adaptation benefits and other project outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?
- c) If this is an NGI project, is there a description of how the project and its financial structure are addressing financial barriers?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

A

a)

a1. No please provide more details about the global assets of the Suriname and the project area, demonstrating the ability of delivering GEBs ; providing not only number of species but also

explaining the local environmental situation of the project areas in regards of the regional context and international issues.

a2. The threats and environmental degradation are well identified but it is unclear to which extent this is happening in the project area in particular (as compared to country or other areas) and what were the selection criteria used for this area. Please clarify elaborate further on these aspects.

a3. Please could you provide more contextual information on the current state of the landscape in the project area, close to the primary forest : ecological corridors, types of forests. Please provide a map if possible.

a4 . Please provide context details about the borders issues in terms of illegal mining, hunting and wildlife trade, which could affect the project.

b) No please provide more informations on the role played by the private sector, in particular agriculture, mining and logging companies, in terms of governance, decision making, financing ?

c) N/A

November 6th 2024

a)

a1) Cleared

a2) Cleared

a3) Cleared

a4) Cleared

b) Cleared

Agency Response

a1. No please provide more details about the global assets of the Suriname and the project area, demonstrating the ability of delivering GEBs; providing not only number of species but also explaining the local environmental situation of the project areas in regards of the regional context and international issues.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The following information has been added as part of the Project Rational (paragraphs 1 to 6 of the CEO Endorsement Request) to further highlight the global assets of Suriname and the project area:

Suriname is part of the Amazon biome, which is shared with Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Venezuela. Large areas of Suriname are characterized by primary tropical rainforests that support high floristic and faunal biodiversity, containing numerous endemic and threatened species. The forests in Suriname have an important part in global carbon cycling that goes on since they act as large carbon sinks. Its multiple intact rivers are an important part of the global water cycle and for maintaining ecological balance in the region. To the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs), the forests are very important since they provide a connection to their cultural and spiritual values and the livelihoods of the ITPs depend on healthy forest and rivers. Compared to other Amazon countries, particularly those in the Southern Amazon and Andean Amazon, Suriname has very limited deforestation with approximately 93% tropical forest cover.

West Suriname is part of the Guiana Shield, among the richest and most ecologically important regions in the world. West Suriname region is rich in diverse plant species, including many rare and endemic varieties, particularly within its rainforests and savanna forests. The rainforests feature towering canopies up to 50 meters high, providing habitats for numerous orchids and tree species, while the savanna forests, with trees reaching up to 30 meters, have more modest species diversity. Areas such as Mac Clemen, Snake Creek, and Kabori Creek are among those of highest importance for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem service provision. Kabori Kreek, proposed as a protected area, is noted for its high plant diversity due to its ecosystems of the Old Coastal Plain and Savanna Belt, unlike the less diverse Mac Clemen area. The Central Suriname Nature Reserve (CSNR) showcases exceptional plant diversity, with areas like Raleighvallen/Voltzberg, Tafelberg, and the Wilhelmina Mountains hosting numerous specimens and rare and endemic species.

The targeted project landscape mainly consists of pristine forest, with some deforestation around the villages and the area around the village Apoera, where there are economic activities, such as agriculture, gravel mining, and logging.

The protection of West Suriname's forests contributes to the overall regional conservation efforts of the Amazon, which is crucial for global biodiversity and climate regulation.

a2. The threats and environmental degradation are well identified but it is unclear to which extent this is happening in the project area in particular (as compared to country or other areas) and what were the selection criteria used for this area. Please clarify elaborate further on these aspects.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

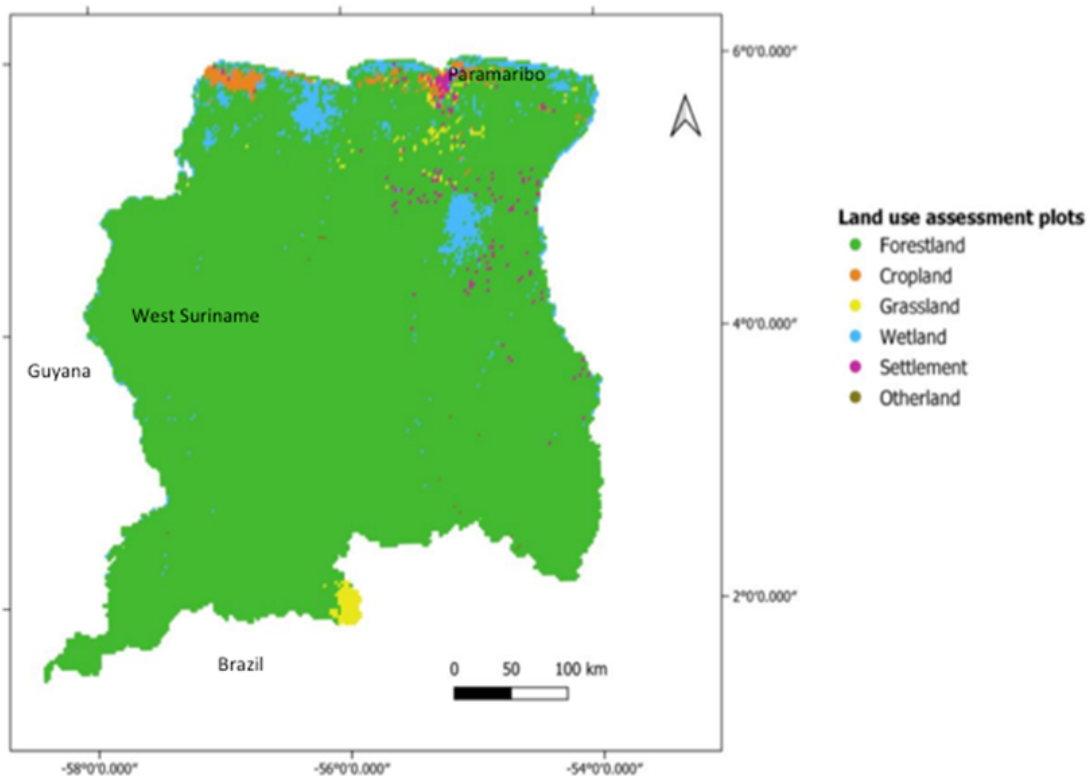
Response: Compared to other regions in Suriname, the project landscape is one of the most biodiverse yet vulnerable areas due to its rich ecosystems and relatively limited human presence historically. Other areas in Suriname, like the coastal plains, face similar threats but may have more infrastructure and human activity, leading to different types and higher levels of environmental impact. Central and eastern regions of Suriname are partly situated in the Greenstone Belt and uncontrolled (artisanal) gold mining activities have caused deforestation and polluted numerous rivers and creeks with sediments and mercury; uncontrolled gold mining can potentially become a threat in West Suriname. The selection of the project area for the SID-WS project is based on its high biodiversity value, significant environmental threats, potential for conservation impact, socio-

economic importance, alignment with national and international goals, and existing investments and stakeholder engagement. In addition, the central and eastern regions of Suriname are already benefiting from the GEF ASL 2 project. (Paragraph 8 of the CEO Endorsement Request)

a3. Please could you provide more contextual information on the current state of the landscape in the project area, close to the primary forest: ecological corridors, types of forests. Please provide a map if possible.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: West Suriname is covered in its entirety by continuous primary tropical forest (both montane and lowland primary tropical forest including sections of the Guyana Highlands) (see map below). It includes the part of the Central Suriname Nature Reserve that was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000 for its pristine tropical rainforest ecosystem. There are also areas of swamp forest and savannah. While large parts of the Guiana Shield and Amazon regions are rapidly being transformed by logging, hunting, mining and settlement, the Central Suriname Nature Reserve and other parts of West Suriname can still be characterized as an intact forest of a large scale. (Paragraph 6 of the CEO Endorsement Request).



Land Use Assessment plots for 2021 representing IPCC classes (Source: Government of Suriname. (2024). Forest Reference Level of Suriname: 2022-2030. Paramaribo, Suriname).

a4 . Please provide context details about the borders issues in terms of illegal mining, hunting and wildlife trade, which could affect the project.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response:

The specific border issues at the boundary with Guyana, the only country with which the project landscape shares a border, include: a) Illegal Mining/Gold Mining: The border region with Guyana, particularly along the Corantijn River, could be heavily impacted by illegal gold mining once it becomes clear that gold is found in the area; b) Resource Exploitation: The porous border allows for the uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources. The potential influx of miners from Guyana will increase the impact of gold mining once the activities start in the border areas; c) Cross-border Wildlife Trade: The border with Guyana is one of the routes for the illegal trade of wildlife. Animals and animal parts, such as jaguar skins and other high-value species (songbirds), are trafficked across the border. The demand for these species in international markets drives illegal hunting, threatening local wildlife populations; d) Bush meat trade: The ease of crossing the border also facilitates the illegal bush meat trade; hunters from Guyana may enter Suriname to hunt and transport wildlife back across the border for sale; e) Deforestation: Illegal logging activities are occurring in the border region; trees are cut down and transported across the border, contributing to habitat loss and biodiversity decline. The lack of effective border control makes it difficult to monitor and prevent these activities, the remote and difficult-to-access border regions pose challenges for law enforcement agencies; in addition, limited resources and personnel make it hard to monitor and control illegal activities effectively. Continuous illegal activities could lead to habitat fragmentation, affecting the ecological integrity of the region. The fragmented landscapes will disrupt wildlife corridors and the ability of species to move freely across their natural range. The presence of illegal miners and hunters could lead to conflicts with ITPs who depend on the forest for their livelihoods. Illegal mining, logging and hunting operations often bring with them social issues, including health and safety risks for local communities. The use of mercury in gold mining, for instance, poses significant health risks to nearby populations through contamination of water sources (Paragraph 13 of the CEO Endorsement Request).

b) No please provide more information on the role played by the private sector, in particular agriculture, mining and logging companies, in terms of governance, decision making, financing?

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The role of the private sector has been updated in the stakeholder description table (page 34-36 of the CEO Endorsement Request) as follows: Most of the agriculture activities in the project landscape are community-based and traditional methods are used (slash-and-burn method). Currently, local communities want to expand the size of their plots to have more food security and more surpluses that can be sold (increased financial income). There are no large agricultural companies

operating in West Suriname that could produce on a larger scale; if there were interest on their part, these would be required to comply with national regulations and environmental standards set by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries (LVV, acronym in Dutch) and National Institute for Environment and Development (NIMOS, acronym in Dutch). These regulations govern land use, pesticide application, and water management to minimize environmental impact. The agriculture sector (i.e., small-scale farmers practicing slash-and-burn agriculture) is seen mainly as a stakeholder.

Regarding the mining sector, aggregate mining is happening in the project landscape with at least two gravel mines in operation in the West Suriname: one near the village of Apoera and one in the Kabalebo River area (the gravel company Baitali N.V. conducts both operations). Regarding gold mining and according to evidence collected during the PPG, there is only evidence of two small-scale operations within the project landscape. In March 2024, a commission of the cabinet of the president visited the villages of Apoera, Section, and Washabo to ask if they are interested in having a gold mining company in the area that will explore and exploit gold; however, no evidence was obtained regarding this intent moving forward. In April 2023, the Surinamese government approved a plan to invite developers for the bauxite deposits in the "Bakhuis" area of West Suriname and a "Presidential Commission West Suriname Bakhuis Development" was established to oversee this initiative. The commission has since gathered all relevant data on the region's bauxite resources, hydroelectric potential, and infrastructure, and has been focused on creating a process to identify and attract potential investors for the project. Mining companies must conduct EIAs and obtain environmental approval from the National Institute for Environment and Development (NIMOS) before starting operations; these assessments evaluate the potential environmental and social impacts of mining activities. Mining companies could engage with local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and government agencies to address concerns and ensure that mining activities do not have negative impacts on local populations and ecosystems. At this point, mining companies are seen mainly as stakeholders and not as financiers.

Logging companies have a large presence in the project landscape through forest concessions; approximately 40% of the Forestry Belt is situated in the project landscape. Logging companies are required to adhere to sustainable forest management practices as stipulated by the Ministry of Land Policy and Forest Management (GBB, acronym in Dutch). This includes following guidelines on selective logging, reforestation, and maintaining biodiversity. These companies, in addition to being a stakeholder, could also be financiers, as funds generated from logging activities could be reinvested in sustainable forestry initiatives, such as forest conservation projects, and research on sustainable logging practices.

5 B. Project Description

5.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (narrative and an optional schematic) that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements are contributing to the objective, the identified causal pathways, the focus and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust approach? Are underlying key assumptions listed?

- b) [If a child project under a program] Is the Theory of change aligned with and consistent with the overall program goal and approach?**
- c) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region? [If a child project under a program] Does the description include how the alternative aligns with and contributes to the overall program goal and approach?**
- d) Are the project components (interventions and activities) described and proposed solutions and critical assumptions and risks properly justified? Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?**
- e) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12? Has the baseline scenario and/or associated baseline projects been described? Is the project incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)? Are the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits identified?**
- f) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project at the national and local levels sufficiently described?**
- g) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives? Are items charged to the PMC reasonable according to the GEF guidelines?**
- h) How does the project design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and adaptive management needs and options (as applicable for this FSP/MSP)?**
- i) Are the relevant stakeholders (including women, private sector, CSO, e.g.) and their roles adequately described within the components?**
- j) Gender: Does the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities and have these been taken up in component design and description/s?**
- k) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?**
- l) Policy Coherence: Have any policies, regulations or subsidies been identified that could counteract the intended project outcomes and how will that be addressed?**
- m) Transformation and/or innovation: Is the project going to be transformative or innovative? [If a child project under an integrated program] Are the specific levers of transformation identified and described? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

- a) Yes but the quality of the schematic document is bad and not completely readable in the portal entry. Please provide a new readable document of the ToC also upload it as a separate document in the document tab of the Portal so that we can read it.
- b) The project does not show how it will improve the land tenure rights and policies, notably the customary rights of IPLCs, which is an important target of the ASL3 IP. The current situation is that Suriname has not enacted a specific law recognizing the rights of ITPs (p.11). Please explain in component 3 how the project will help IPLCs rights recognition and how this can enhance their implication in policies and management of primary forest.

c) Yes cleared about the way the project will build on other projects. Except for component 4, no information is given about the way the project will contribute to the overall program and approach. Please explain how the project will contribute to ASL3 IP in the different components.

d) The description of the components is not well structured, and the concrete activities being supported are not always clear. Please structure this section identifying clear names for components/outcomes/outputs and identifying and describing clearly the relevant activities under each output. Also, please ensure the description of the component is consistent with the Project Description Overview.

Components :

Component 1 : Please clarify if the objective is to create new PAs and/or OECMs which are different concept regarding the WDPA. Please clarify the role played by ITPs in decision making and management of PAs, except monitoring, and within their place in the governance.

The outcome 1.1 includes new funding mobilized to support intact forest conservation. Nevertheless, in the component description the activities allowing the mobilization of new funds are not presented. Please elaborate on these activities.

Related to the above, please note that Suriname has still access to \$3 million from the GEF SCCF. We recommend assessing this possibility of funding.

Component 3 : most of the Suriname legislations are very old : mining law, agriculture law, planning law, forest management... Please precise how the project will help the updating of these different laws and to build a better policy coherence between conservation and other policies.

Clarify the governance bodies and concertation comities that will be implemented to involve multiple stakeholders, and the role of each one of the stakeholders in these bodies : government, private companies, ITPs...

The output 3.1.1 will strengthen Inclusive/multi-stakeholder integrated land-use and planning. To enhance policy coherence, please clarify whether all the authorities representing relevant sectors involved in forest loss and degradation will be included in the proposed approach (not only mining and forestry industries).

Component 4 : Please clarify the actions implemented at the national level and their contribution to the regional project. Some activities are supposed to be implemented by the RCP and not at the national level.

There is an explanation why this alternative project has been selected over other scenarios.

The key risks analysis p.28 is missing. Please complete

e) The incremental cost reasoning is missing. Please complete.

The GEBs are identified

- f) The other benefits are not well described. Please explain and describe how they will be monitored.
- g) Please adjust financing tables once a full project description has been provided.
- h) The description doesn't clearly explain how the project design ensure resilience to future changes. Please elaborate on this aspect.
- i) Not cleared as the project is not fully described. Please explain the role of the various stakeholders in the description of the project at the outcome and output level.
- j) A Gender Action Analysis and Plan is uploaded but the gender consideration is very limited in the component description. In the requested more detailed description of the components, please ensure adequate consideration of gender issues in relevant activities/outputs based on the Gender Action Analysis and Plan.
- k) The component 4 include the communication aspect but nothing is described in outcome. It should appears as an outcome 4.2. Once the description will be fully completed describe the communication action plan.
- l) No please, precise these aspects of policy coherence between the different ministries.
- m) The project is expected to be transformative through improved governance, planning and productive policies. Cleared

November 6th 2024

- a) Cleared
- b) Cleared
- c) Cleared
- d) Cleared
- e) Cleared
- f) Cleared
- g) Cleared
- h) Cleared
- i) Cleared

j) Cleared

k) Cleared

l) Cleared

Agency Response

a) Yes but the quality of the schematic document is bad and not completely readable in the portal entry. Please provide a new readable document of the ToC also upload it as a separate document in the document tab of the Portal so that we can read it.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: As suggested, a new document of the ToC has been provided/uploaded to the Portal.

b) The project does not show how it will improve the land tenure rights and policies, notably the customary rights of IPLCs, which is an important target of the ASL3 IP. The current situation is that Suriname has not enacted a specific law recognizing the rights of ITPs (p.11). Please explain in component 3 how the project will help IPLCs rights recognition and how this can enhance their implication in policies and management of primary forest.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: the project will not directly address land tenure rights and policies, as currently there are no political conditions that would be conducive to successfully address land tenure rights and policies in West Suriname. It was decided that this project will not work directly on updating the different laws, because of time constraints and a strong dependency on political will, it was also assumed that this was not feasible within the scope of the project. However and regarding the creation of new PAs and the registration of OECMs, the project design has taken into account the fact that ITPs oppose the creation of PA under strict management categories that do not allow the sustainable use of natural resources; accordingly, the proposed PAs (Mac Clemen and Snake Creek) will be established as IUCN Category VI and in the case of Kaboeri Creek this area will be registered as an OECM as per the preference of ITPs.

c) Yes cleared about the way the project will build on other projects. Except for component 4, no information is given about the way the project will contribute to the overall program and approach. Please explain how the project will contribute to ASL3 IP in the different components.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The project will contribute to the ASL3 IP in the different components as these are aligned with the ASL3 Program Framework Document (PFD) including its Project Results Framework and Theory of Change. More specifically through Component 1, the project will contribute to the ASL3

IP goal of establishing a representative, effective, connected and climatically resilient network of Amazon areas under different protection regimes, and with activities on the ground at subnational, national, and regional levels by increasing the area of globally significant forest under legal protection through the creation of new terrestrial protected areas or OECMs; to strengthened/improved management of areas through improved governance and financial sustainability; and to maintain existing ecological connectivity through enhanced monitoring and control. Through Component 2, the project will contribute to the ASL3 IP goal of promoting and scaling up sustainable management practices and strengthening value chains for socio-biodiversity products by increasing the area under sustainable land and water management by promoting best production practices among ITPs and other local stakeholders; and will increase the capacity and participation of ITPs and other local stakeholders in sustainable value chains (low environmental impact agriculture and wildlife-based value chains) based on standing forest. In line with the ASL3 IP, Component 3 will support the implementation of both Component 1 and Component 2 and will contribute to strengthening institutional and community governance and overall, promoting an enabling multisectoral environment for sustainable land and natural resource conservation and use at local, subnational, and national levels. This will be achieved by mainstreaming environmental criteria into land use planning and into the Responsible Mining Strategy and Action Plan (RMSAP) for aggregate mine planning in for West Suriname, and by developing or updating environmental sections of sector plans, regional plans, and village plans in the same region. In addition, the project will strengthen the capacity to implement and enforce policy and regulatory frameworks by assisting the implementation of code of conduct for forest concessions to ensure the conservation of biodiversity, and by strengthening and enforcing wildlife and forest conservation regulations with ITPs involvement; it will increase IPLC and women participation in decision-making and land use planning through the mapping of traditional land use practices with ITPs and other stakeholders so that this information is used to support the creation and management of PAs and allocating logging concessions; and finally, the project will implement financial incentives especially for logging companies to adopt best practices and that may include potential tax breaks, subsidies, or enhanced market access for compliance. The description of the project components in the CEO Endorsement Request (pages 20 to 33) was updated with this information.

d) The description of the components is not well structured, and the concrete activities being supported are not always clear. Please structure this section identifying clear names for components/outcomes/outputs and identifying and describing clearly the relevant activities under each output. Also, please ensure the description of the component is consistent with the Project Description Overview.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: A description of the project components, outcomes and activities has been provided as indicated. Please refer to this section in the updated CEO Endorsement Request (pages 20 to 33).

Components:

Component 1: Please clarify if the objective is to create new PAs and/or OECMs which are different concept regarding the WDPA. Please clarify the role played by ITPs in decision making and management of PAs, except monitoring, and within their place in the governance.

The outcome 1.1 includes new funding mobilized to support intact forest conservation. Nevertheless, in the component description the activities allowing the mobilization of new funds are not presented. Please elaborate on these activities.

Related to the above, please note that Suriname has still access to \$3 million from the GEF SCCF. We recommend assessing this possibility of funding.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: As part of Component 1 the objective is to create Mac Clemen and Snake Kreek as new PAs with IUCN Category VI, and Kaboeri Creek will be registered as an OECM. ITPs (including men, women and youth) will participate in the development of the PAs management plans and potentially in co-management strategies dependent on the approval of the Sustainable Nature Management Act that is currently is being proposed with support from the GEF-7 ASL2 project *Strengthening management of protected and productive landscapes in the Surinamese Amazon* (GEF Project ID 10252).

Regarding new financing mobilized to support intact forest conservation, Activity 1.1.2.8 (Output 1.1.2; paragraph 49) will develop and implement sustainable funding mechanisms for PA management (especially control and patrolling) and species monitoring, including development of an Action Plan/Business Plan (e.g., ecotourism/public-private partnerships for both the CSNR and potential OECMs, including agrotourism; fees from forestry concessions; increasing Government budget allocation to PA management through biodiversity credits; and environment fund through the oil/gas industry, among others). On the other hand, UNDP spoke with the GEF OFP and PS Environment in Suriname and they are aware of SCCF funding and are already programming resources for another intervention.

Component 3: most of the Suriname legislations are very old: mining law, agriculture law, planning law, forest management... Please precise how the project will help the updating of these different laws and to build a better policy coherence between conservation and other policies.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: It was decided that this project will not work directly on updating the different laws, because of time constraints and a strong dependency on political will; it was also assumed that this was not feasible within the scope of the project.

Clarify the governance bodies and concertation comities that will be implemented to involve multiple stakeholders, and the role of each one of the stakeholders in these bodies: government, private companies, ITPs...

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: Component 3 (pages 24 to 29 of the CEO Endorsement Request) was updated to indicate that the following concertation committees will be established; 1) Local community concertation committees with ITPs representatives (village leaders, community-based organizations) for indigenous peoples traditional land use practices and stakeholder mapping; 2) concertation committee

(representatives from key ministries, district commissioners, local council members, and aggregate mining representatives) for mainstreaming biodiversity into the RMSAP/ aggregate mine planning for West Suriname; 3) a concertation committee (representatives from key ministries, district commissioners, local council members, and private representatives) for reviewing and updating environmental sections of sector plans and 4) a concertation committee district commissioners, local council members, private representatives; ITPs representatives, and representatives of NGOs and community-based organizations) for reviewing and updating environmental sections of two District/Ressort Development Plans.

In addition, the project will establish a Technical Working Group / Advisory Committee that will voluntarily provide technical support and advisory services to the PMU for the execution of specific activities. The Technical Working Group will be established during the initiation phase of the project with the participation of a least: National Institute for Environment and Development (NIMOS); Ministry of Land Policy and Forest Management (MLPFM); Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR); Foundation for Forest Management and Forest Control (SBB, Dutch acronym); NGO representatives; Indigenous Peoples' Associations (e.g., VIDS); Maroon Associations (e.g., KAMPOS); Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS); and logging and mining companies (updated in the section of Institutional Arrangements and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project of the CEO Endorsement Request; paragraph 102 of the CEO Endorsement Request).

The output 3.1.1 will strengthen Inclusive/multi-stakeholder integrated land-use and planning. To enhance policy coherence, please clarify whether all the authorities representing relevant sectors involved in forest loss and degradation will be included in the proposed approach (not only mining and forestry industries).

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: Although forestry and mining are the primary sectors involved in forest loss and degradation, the project will also engage the tourism, agriculture, and infrastructure development (roads) sectors to address their impacts on the environment; specific companies from all these sectors will be identified during project implementation (refer to Output 3.1.1.e. in the updated description of Componente 3, paragraph 61 of the CEO Endorsement Request).

Component 4: Please clarify the actions implemented at the national level and their contribution to the regional project. Some activities are supposed to be implemented by the RCP and not at the national level.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: Actions under component 4 that will be implemented at the national level have been described as part of the reorganization of this component, which now includes three outcomes and six outputs (refer to pages 29 to 32 of the CEO Endorsement Request). This description also highlights the involvement of key stakeholders in the ASL Program Knowledge Management Platform, specifically, through participation in the ASL Annual Conference which is organized by the ASL Regional Team. Additionally, stakeholders will be engaged in up to three topic-specific events per

year, also coordinated by the ASL Regional Team. This information was included and budgeted as part of the Child Project at the request of the World Bank (lead agency of the ASL3 Program) as these actions are to be covered by the national projects.

There is an explanation why this alternative project has been selected over other scenarios.

The key risks analysis p.28 is missing. Please complete

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: the key risks analysis has been completed in the GEF Platform as indicated.

e) The incremental cost reasoning is missing. Please complete.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: the incremental cost reasoning was updated as follows (paragraphs 77-81 in the CEO Endorsement Request):

The proposed project will build on important baseline projects and programs to deliver GEBs. However, under the business-as-usual scenario for Component 1, efforts to protect biodiversity and IFLs through PAs and other area-based conservation measures will remain limited. Baseline investments will total \$6,238,460 and will include investments from the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (\$1,000,000 for environmental protection and improvement and biodiversity conservation; National Multi Annual Development Plan and NBSAP), the Ministry of Public Works (\$4,000,000 for infrastructure maintenance and weather prediction; National Multi Annual Development Plan), Wildlife & People Suriname (\$72,000 for species monitoring in the CSNR); and the ASL2 GEF project (\$1,166,460 for biodiversity conservation). The GEF alternative (\$12,518,138; baseline plus \$1,539,798 of GEF-8 funding plus \$4,739,880 of cofinancing) will allow the creation of additional PAs, the registration of OECMs, and improving the management of the CSNR, with the active participation of ITPs and other local communities, which will boost national efforts to protect West Suriname's Amazon biome.

Under the business-as-usual scenario in Component 2, there will be limited opportunities to promote sustainable production and to improve local livelihoods. Baseline investments will total \$6,719,924 and will include investments from the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (\$815,500 for environmental protection and sustainable production; National Multi Annual Development Plan and NBSAP), the Ministry of Natural Resources (\$2,000,000 for sustainable production; National Multi Annual Development Plan), UNDP/Ministry of Natural Resources (\$2,863,014 for improvement environmental health; Improving Environmental Management in the Mining Sector of Suriname Project); and the ASL2 GEF project (\$1,041,410 for biodiversity conservation and sustainable production). Under the GEF alternative (\$10,739,034; baseline plus \$985,500 of GEF-8 funding plus \$3,033,610 of cofinancing), ITPs and other local communities will receive multiple monetary (access to capital, small grants, better access to markets, improve value chains), and non-monetary incentives (training, technical support, awareness raising) for the sustainable harvesting of NTFP, ecotourism,

community forestry, and the implementation of biodiversity-friendly agriculture that will provide local benefits (food security and stable incomes).

Under Component 3, without the GEF alternative, efforts to strengthen territorial governance and land use planning in West Suriname would continue to be incomplete. Baseline investments will total \$4,338,379 and will include investments from the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (\$500,000 for environmental protection and sustainable production; National Multi Annual Development Plan), the Ministry of Public Works (\$100,000 for infrastructure maintenance and weather prediction; National Multi Annual Development Plan), the Ministry of Natural Resources (\$1,500,000 for sustainable production; National Multi Annual Development Plan), and the ASL2 GEF project (\$2,238,379 for biodiversity conservation and sustainable production). Under the GEF alternative (\$9,922,919; baseline plus \$1,369,350 of GEF-8 funding plus \$4,215,190 of cofinancing) Inclusive/multi-stakeholder integrated land-use and planning (including mapping ITPs traditional land use practices) will be strengthened and sustainable forestry for concession holders and community forestry activities will be promoted, including the development of strategies to promote responsible mining, forestry, and agricultural practices. In addition, wildlife and forest conservation regulations will be strengthened, in particular hunting regulations, and enforcement with ITPs involvement will be enhanced.

Under Component 4 the business-as-usual scenario, knowledge generation and regional cooperation between key stakeholders will have a limited impact on promoting sustainable and inclusive development of West Suriname. Baseline investments will total \$1,772,930 and will include investments from the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (\$300,000 for environmental protection and institutional capacity; National Multi Annual Development Plan), the Ministry of Natural Resources (\$1,000,000 for institutional capacity and knowledge management; National Multi Annual Development Plan), and the ASL2 GEF project (\$472,930 for knowledge management and ITP engagement). The GEF alternative (\$3,451,130; baseline plus \$411,500 of GEF-8 funding plus \$1,266,700 of cofinancing) will favor capacity building, communications, and regional cooperation within the framework of the ASL3 IP. The project will actively engage with the GEF-8 ASL Program on regional coordination and knowledge management and will take advantage of ASL-sponsored knowledge management activities to promote information sharing and learning and to promote regional collaboration and South-South dialogue for intact forest and biodiversity conservation.

M&E will include a total investment of \$1,306,301, including \$445,959 from the baseline, \$210,960 of GEF-8 funding, and \$649,382 of cofinancing. Finally, the UNDP Country Office will provide \$62,734 in cofinancing to provide financial and operational support services to the Implementing Partner (i.e. Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment). In summary, the total GEF alternative amounts to \$38,000,256.

The GEBs are identified

f) The other benefits are not well described. Please explain and describe how they will be monitored.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: the description of benefits other than the GEBs resulting from the project at the national and local levels is provided as part of updated description of the project components, outcomes and activities. In summary, the following are the other main benefits from the project and included in paragraphs 82 and 83 of the CEO Endorsement Request: a) Sustainable livelihoods for ITPs and other local communities through the use of non-timber forest products (NTFPs); women-led ecotourism, and low environmental impact agriculture and wildlife-based value chains; b) community empowerment (including women and the youth) by strengthening community involvement in biodiversity conservation and monitoring and in land use/IFL governance and planning; c) institutional capacity strengthening through enhanced wildlife and forest conservation regulations enforcement with ITPs involvement, training, and cross-sectoral participation in environmental protection; and d) awareness raising of the private sector and the public for biodiversity and intact forest conservation, and climate change mitigation in West Suriname.

These benefits will be monitored through the project's monitoring plan. This plan will ensure that project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets outlined in the project results framework are monitored annually by the Project Management Unit. Results will be reported in the GEF PIR each year and evaluated periodically during project implementation. In addition, project benefits will also be monitored as part of the implementation of the Gender Action Plans, which includes specific indicators to assess how women will benefit from the project.

g) Please adjust financing tables once a full project description has been provided.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: the financial tables have been adjusted based on the updates to the project description and new cofinancing.

h) The description doesn't clearly explain how the project design ensures resilience to future changes. Please elaborate on this aspect.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The project has been designed to ensure resilience to future changes by addressing drivers of biodiversity loss, deforestation, and forest degradation in particular to a large and small-scale logging, mining of aggregates and potentially bauxite and gold, illegal trade of wildlife and overhunting, lack of land use planning, and climate change. The project design considers different future scenarios with changes in climate change and changes in demand for forest and other related resources. The future with accelerated climate change is likely to see a significant increase in flooding during the raining season and drought and forest fires during the dry season. These changes could undermine government planning and investment capacity in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and sustainable land management efforts. A future with slower demand for forest resources and services (e.g., NTFP and ecotourism) will lead to uncertain livelihoods for ITPs, increasing pressure on intact forest (for example, increase in agriculture production) and limited interest in the creation of new PAs as local communities seek alternative and rapid economic solutions. This scenario could also result in heightened social conflict over access to forest resources and land, in particularly as land rights for ITPs in West Suriname are yet to be recognized. A future

with slower climate change and higher demand for forest resources will lead to economic growth and will create opportunities to enhance ecosystem resilience through increased investment in strengthening PAs, OECMs, and connectivity, along with incentives to promote sustainable production and higher participation of communities in value chains of local importance. In addition, there will be opportunities for increased multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral dialogues for effective IFL governance, land use planning, and participatory monitoring facilitating adaptation to changing conditions and ensuring enduring outcomes (paragraph 46 in the CEO Endorsement Request).

i) Not cleared as the project is not fully described. Please explain the role of the various stakeholders in the description of the project at the outcome and output level.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The roles of various stakeholders have been incorporated into the updated description of the project components, outcomes, outputs, and activities at both the outcome and output levels; please refer to Section B ? Project Description in the updated CEO Endorsement Request (pages 20 to 33).

j) A Gender Action Analysis and Plan is uploaded but the gender consideration is very limited in the component description. In the requested more detailed description of the components, please ensure adequate consideration of gender issues in relevant activities/outputs based on the Gender Action Analysis and Plan.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: the gender considerations in the component description have been updated; please refer to Section B ? Project Description in the updated CEO Endorsement Request (pages 20 to 33).

k) Component 4 include the communication aspect but nothing is described in outcome. It should appear as an outcome 4.2. Once the description will be fully completed describe the communication action plan.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The communication aspect of Component 4 has been included as Outcome 4.2 as indicated including a description of the communication action plan as follows: a) define target audiences (e.g., government agency staff, private sector companies, and IPLC leaders, including women leaders); b) define key messages for specific audiences to promote project's activities and increase information dissemination; c) document and communicate lessons learned; d) disseminate general project documentation; e) engage ?community champions? at the local level as an effective way for communicating project related information and promote behavioral change (e.g., reduction of threats, adoption of sustainable production practices); and f) strengthen internal project communication (Project Management Unit [PMU]) for improving and facilitating the exchange of information and coordination among project staff (paragraph 71 of the CEO Endorsement Request).

l) No please, precise these aspects of policy coherence between the different ministries.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: Aspects of policy coherence between the different ministries are described above in response to comments to Section 3. Project Description Overview: c) Are the components, outcomes, and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?

5.2 Institutional Arrangements and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project

- a) Are the institutional arrangements, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has an organogram and/or funds flow diagram been included?
- b) Comment on proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception). Is GEF in support of the request?
- c) Is there a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed projects/programs (such as government and/or other bilateral/multilateral supported initiatives in the project area, e.g.).
- d) [If a child project under an integrated program] Does the framework for coordination and collaboration demonstrate consistency with overall ambition of the program for transformative change?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

- a) At this stage of the project, the implementing and executive partners should be precise. Please complete the organogram with the partners implicated at the national and local levels.
- b) UNDP is considering playing an executive role at the request of the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment of Suriname. We note the uploaded support letter from the Government justifying the request. Nevertheless, according to this note, UNDP would charge US\$62,734 to the project budget for these services. Please note that this expense is not eligible in addition to the PMC. We encourage UNDP to explore co-financing to cover this expense and not charge it to the project GEF funding.
- c) Yes cleared
- d) Yes cleared

November 6th 2024

- a) Cleared
- b) Cleared

Agency Response

a) At this stage of the project, the implementing and executive partners should be precise. Please complete the organogram with the partners implicated at the national and local levels.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The organigram has been updated indicating that this project will not have Responsible Parties for its implementation (Section B. Child Project Description - Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project/Project governance structure; page 40).

b) UNDP is considering playing an executive role at the request of the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment of Suriname. We note the uploaded support letter from the Government justifying the request. Nevertheless, according to this note, UNDP would charge US\$62,734 to the project budget for these services. Please note that this expense is not eligible in addition to the PMC. We encourage UNDP to explore co-financing to cover this expense and not charge it to the project GEF funding.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: Thank you for your comment. The budget has been amended accordingly and the fee (cost of support services to the Project Executing Entity) is not included as an expense in the budget table; the UNDP Country Office in Suriname will cover these costs through co-financing.

5.3 Core indicators

- a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology and adhering to the overarching principles included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01)? [If a child project under a program] Is the choice of core indicators consistent with those prioritized under the parent program?
- b) Are the project's targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators and additional listed outcome indicators) /adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable? Are the GEF Climate Change adaptation indicators and sub-indicators for LDCF and SCCF properly documented?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

a) Under core indicator 1.2, the METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement) is missing. Please complete.

No please clarify if the areas created are PA or OECMs and correct indicator for OECMs created consistently with previous comments in indicator 4. The sub-indicator 4.5 (OECMs) is contextual and needs to be also reported in another sub-indicator under the core indicator 4 so that it can be actually accounted in the GEF Portal. Please add the total OMECs area under either core indicator 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 or 4.4 where it is best relevant. Complete indicator 4.5 total ha expected and WDPA ID for the 2 OECMs areas supported.

b) The core indicator 6 is adequately reported and the detailed calculation is provided in the uploaded Prodoc. Please confirm additional mitigation is not expected outside the AFOLU sector (such as in the mining sector).

The indicators are consistent with the parent program.

November 6th 2024

a) Cleared

b) Cleared. As this comment is not critical for the continuation of the project, and as the timing is short to avoid cancellation of the project, please ask ITS to remove expected results in the table for indicator 6.2 if no additional mitigation is expected outside the AFOLU sector to be consistent.

Agency Response

a) Under core indicator 1.2, the METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement) is missing. Please complete.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement) for the Central Suriname Nature Reserve has been included in indicator 1.2 as indicated.

No please clarify if the areas created are PA or OECMs and correct indicator for OECMs created consistently with previous comments in indicator 4. The sub-indicator 4.5 (OMECS) is contextual and needs to be also reported in another sub-indicator under the core indicator 4 so that it can be actually accounted in the GEF Portal. Please add the total OMECS area under either core indicator 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 or 4.4 where it is best relevant. Complete indicator 4.5 total ha expected and WDPA ID for the 2 OECMs areas supported.

Response:

The indicators are consistent with the parent program.

b) The core indicator 6 is adequately reported and the detailed calculation is provided in the uploaded Prodoc. Please confirm additional mitigation is not expected outside the AFOLU sector (such as in the mining sector).

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: We are confirming that additional mitigation is not expected outside the AFOLU sector (such as in the mining sector).

5.4 Risks

- a) **Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk to outcomes and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category? Are mitigation measures clearly identified and realistic? Is there any omission?**
- b) **Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?**
- c) **Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately assessed and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

- a) The key risks are identified. Environmental and social risks and fiduciary risks are considered substantial. Mitigation measures proposed seem relevant. Cleared
- b) The residual risk is substantial. Cleared
- c) Yes cleared.

Agency Response

5.5 For NGI Only: Is there a justification of the financial structure and of the use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities

- 6.1 a) Is the project adequately aligned with Focal Area objectives, and/or the LDCF/SCCF strategy?**
- b) [If a child project under an integrated program] Is the project adequately aligned with the program objective in the GEF-8 programming directions?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

- a) The project is aligned with the GEF-8 Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy, more specifically with Objective 1: To improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems. At this stage of the project the description is insufficient. Please describe in the correspondant component the actions planned to restore natural ecosystems.

The project is also aligned with the GEF-8 Climate Change Focal Area Strategy, more specifically with Objective 1.4: Promote Nature-based Solutions. At this stage of the project the description is insufficient. Please describe in the correspondant component the NBs implemented.

b) The description of the alignment with the GEF-8 Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program is very succinct. The project seems to be aligned with ASL3 program except on the question of improvement of land tenure rights and recognition of customary rights and tenure security for IPLCs. Please complete the project to explain how it will improve the current situation and thus, be consistent with the program. Elaborate further on how this child project aligns with the program including the main elements of its TOC and its key interventions.

November 6th 2024

a) Cleared

b) Cleared

Agency Response

a) The project is aligned with the GEF-8 Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy, more specifically with Objective 1: To improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems. At this stage of the project the description is insufficient. Please describe in the correspondent component the actions planned to restore natural ecosystems.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: the project does not include restoration activities; thus, this aspect of Objective 1 of GEF-8 Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy will not be addressed.

The project is also aligned with the GEF-8 Climate Change Focal Area Strategy, more specifically with Objective 1.4: Promote Nature-based Solutions. At this stage of the project the description is insufficient. Please describe in the correspondent component the NbS implemented.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The project will implement NbS, including the sustainable harvesting and production of NTFPs, community forestry, women-led ecotourism, and agroforestry through Component 2 (Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2). This has been specified in the description of the component in Section B. Child Project Description of the CEO Endorsement Request (pages 22 and 23).

b) The description of the alignment with the GEF-8 Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program is very succinct. The project seems to be aligned with ASL3 program except on the question of improvement of land tenure rights and recognition of customary rights and tenure security for IPLCs. Please complete the project to explain how it will improve the current situation and thus, be consistent with the program. Elaborate further on how this child project aligns with the program including the main elements of its TOC and its key interventions.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: the project will not address land tenure rights and policies, as currently there are no political conditions that will be conducive to successfully address land tenure rights and policies in West Suriname. However, it is worth noting that currently there is a Draft Law on Collective Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples that is under consideration by the National Parliament. However, for the creation of new protected areas, special consideration will be given to a management category (IUCN Category VI) that will allow IPLCs to continue living on the lands that they have traditionally occupied and the sustainable use of the natural resources. In addition, the project will include principles of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) as per UNDP SES guidelines in the implementation of any project activities involving IPLCs and the lands they occupy.

6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors).

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

The alignment with the UNFCCC and UNCCD are very succinct and needs to be strengthened. Please precise the targets and elaborate further indicating how the project aligns with these 2 Conventions.

p.31 it is written that country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have not been identified. Please identify policies that are not aligned with the project to ensure project success.

November 6th 2024

Cleared

Agency Response

The alignment with the UNFCCC and UNCCD are very succinct and needs to be strengthened. Please precise the targets and elaborate further indicating how the project aligns with these 2 Conventions.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The Republic of Suriname is committed to the full, effective, and transparent implementation of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC and has deposited its instrument of ratification to the Paris agreement on 13 February 2019. As part of its nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement for the period 2020 ? 2030, Suriname has outline a cost-effective pathway to decarbonization of sustainable economic development, maintaining the integrity of natural forest acting as a carbon sink, and strengthening resilience so as to enable adaptation and mitigation action. Accordingly, Suriname maintains its contribution as a high forest cover and low

deforestation (HFLD) country committed to maintaining 93% forest cover; the project fully aligns with this goal and will contribute to the protection and conservation of IFL in West Suriname.

A considerable percentage of the total landmass of Suriname is susceptible to land degradation that could result from eventual mining, forest exploitation and within the limits of shifting cultivation (slash and burn). Among Suriname's national voluntary LDN targets and measures under the UNCCD and directly related to West Suriname, the country is committed to maintaining the percentage of the land cover category of forest cover from 2015 by 2030. The country is also committed to reducing the conversion of forested areas to other land use classes by improving land use planning practices, particularly within the mining/extractive sectors. This includes enforcing existing land management legislation, updating and formulating land use policies, and enhancing inter-agency cooperation. The project will contribute to these goals by preserving the forest cover in West Suriname and supporting low-impact agriculture (mostly slash and burn). It will also enhance the enforcement of forestry regulations and monitoring capacities of institutions and ITPs. Additionally, the project will promote biodiversity mainstreaming into the Responsible Mining Strategy and Action Plan (RMSAP) for aggregate mine planning, as well as review and update private sector plans, focusing on their environmental components to minimize impacts on intact forest (updated in paragraphs 112 and 113 of the CEO Endorsement Request).

p.31 it is written that country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have not been identified. Please identify policies that are not aligned with the project to ensure project success.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: Information regarding contradictory policies with expected outcomes was updated as follows (paragraph 115 in the CEO Endorsement Request): There is outdated legislation that limits integrated sustainable development in Suriname; in addition, the country lacks land tenure rights and policies of ITPs in West Suriname or elsewhere in the country although currently there is a Draft Law on Collective Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples that is under consideration by the National Parliament. These gaps may limit the project's impact. However, the project will advocate for the development and formalization of supportive policies from government, including updating regulatory frameworks to facilitate effective implementation of the code of conduct for forest concessions to ensure the conservation of biodiversity and to make it mandatory for all logging activities to promote SFM and the use of the CELOS Management System (CMS) for harvesting tropical rainforests which aims to cause minimal disturbance to the ecosystem while also providing economic return. In addition, the project will review hunting/trapping seasons and bag limits/trapping quotas and will develop a proposal in coordination with the Ministry of Land Policy and Forest Management (GMB, Dutch acronym) for the updating the Hunting Decree of 1954/2002. On the other hand and although the project will not directly address land tenure rights and policies for ITPs, the project design has taken into account the fact that ITPs oppose the creation of PA under strict management categories that do not allow the sustainable use of natural resources in the proposed new PAs (Mac Clemen and Snake Creek); thus, these areas will be as IUCN Category VI, and in the case of Kaboeri Creek this area will be registered as an OECM as per the preference of ITPs.

6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

Target 14 : the question of policy coherence is not well describe in the project. Please elaborate on this aspect in the document.

Target 19 : The project design is supposed to mobilize new funding from different sources (national and local government, international cooperation, the private sector, etc.) to support PA management. In addition, it will make available monetary incentives available to ITPs and other local communities to promote biodiversity-friendly production practices. Please describe in the dedicated component what types of funding and incentives will be implemented.

November 6th 2024

Target 14 : Cleared

Target 19 : Cleared

Agency Response

Target 14: the question of policy coherence is not well described in the project. Please elaborate on this aspect in the document.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: Aspects of policy coherence between the different ministries are described above in response to comments to Section 3. Project Description Overview: c) Are the components, outcomes, and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change? In addition, it has been incorporated in the description of Component 3 in Section B. Child Project Description of the CEO Endorsement Request.

Target 19: The project design is supposed to mobilize new funding from different sources (national and local government, international cooperation, the private sector, etc.) to support PA management. In addition, it will make available monetary incentives available to ITPs and other local communities to promote biodiversity-friendlily production practices. Please describe in the dedicated component what types of funding and incentives will be implemented.

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The description of Component 1 (Output 1.1.1; Section B. Child Project Description of the CEO Endorsement Request) includes an activity (paragraph 49) to develop and implement sustainable funding mechanisms for PA management including development of an Action

Plan/Business Plan (e.g., ecotourism/public-private partnerships for both the CSNR and potential OECMs, including agrotourism; fees from forestry concessions; increasing Government budget allocation to PA management through biodiversity credits; and environment fund through the oil/gas industry, among others). In addition, the end of project target of Indicator 6: New funding mobilized to support intact forest conservation and management by source, in the Project Results Framework (Annex E) has been updated as follows: National government: \$4,000,000/year; International cooperation: \$2,500,000; and Private sector: \$1,000,000.

Regarding the incentives for ITPs, these will include Grameen banking (micro-financing), low-value grants and support to access other small grants options and funding, mobile banking solutions to provide financial services in remote areas and particularly for women, partnerships with private sectors to create markets for NTFPs and women-led ecotourism, access to crowdfunding, increased participation in selected value chains, training and technical support as described in Component 2 (Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2) in Section B. Child Project Description of the CEO Endorsement Request (pages 22 to 24).

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

yes cleared

Agency Response

7.2 Is the Gender Action Plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

yes cleared

Agency Response

7.3 Is the stakeholder engagement plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

yes cleared

Agency Response

7.4 Have the required applicable safeguards documents been uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

yes cleared

Agency Response

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

8.1 GEF Financing Table and Focal Area Elements: Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

STAR allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

The co-financing is very low with a ratio of 1:1.5 compared to GEF funding. Please consider increasing the co-financing to reflect a better buy-in, ambition and articulation with existing processes.

November 6th 2024

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: New cofinancing commitments were secured as follows: a) Ministry of Regional Development and Sports: \$3,500,000; b) Ministry of Public Works: \$4,100,000; and c) UNDP Country Office in Suriname: \$62,734. Accordingly, the co-financing has increased to 14,662,734 with a ratio of 1:3.1 compared to GEF funding. The cofinancing letters have been unloaded to the GEF Portal.

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

yes cleared

Agency Response

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

8.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

a) Is the use of PPG attached in Annex: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) properly itemized according to the guidelines?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

No, Please provide details according to the guidelines.

November 6th 2024

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: As suggested, the status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) has been updated so that it is properly itemized according to the guidelines.

8.3 Source of Funds

Does the sources of funds table match with the amounts in the OFP's LOE?

Note: the table only captures sources of funds from the country's STAR allocation

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

No, the table funds indicates USD\$ 5,333,329.00 and the OFP's LOE indicates USD\$5,333,333. Please make the correction.

November 6th 2024

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: the OFP's LOE was corrected and it now indicates: USD\$ 5,333,329.00

8.4 Confirmed co-financing for the project, by name and type: Are the amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

e.g. Have letters of co-finance been submitted, correctly classified as investment mobilized or in-kind/recurring expenditures? If investment mobilized: is there an explanation below the table to describe the nature of co-finance? If letters are not in English, is a translation provided?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

Yes, cleared. The amounts and types of co-financing are adequately documented.

Agency Response

Annex B: Endorsements

8.5 a) If ? and only if - this is a global or regional project for which not all country-based interventions were known at PIF stage and, therefore, not all LOEs provided:

Has the project been endorsed by the GEF OFP/s of all GEF eligible participating countries and has the OFP name and position been checked against the GEF database at the time of submission?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

b) Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

yes cleared

Agency Response

c) Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

No, the table funds in the portal indicates USD\$ 5,333,329.00 and the OFP's LOE indicates USD\$5,333,333. Please make the correction.

November 6th 2024

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: the OFP's LOE was corrected and it now indicates USD\$ 5,333,329.00.

Annex C: Project Results Framework

8.6 a) Have the GEF core indicators been included?

b) Have SMART indicators been used; are means of verification well thought out; do the targets correspond/are appropriate in view of total project financing (too high? Too low?)

c) Are all relevant indicators sex disaggregated?

d) Is the Project Results Framework included in the Project Document pasted in the Template?

e)[If a regional/global coordination child project under an integrated program] Does the results framework reflect the program-wide result framework, inclusive of results from child projects and specific to the regional/global coordination child project? [If a country child project under an integrated program] Is the child project result framework inclusive of program-wide metrics monitored across child project by the Regional/Global Child project?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

a. yes cleared

b. yes cleared

c. No, except for the Indicator 7: Number of nature-based production initiatives, there are no sex disaggregated indicators. Please complete where relevant.

d. yes cleared

e. yes cleared

November 6th 2024

c. Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: The Project Results Framework has been updated to further include gender-based indicators. Please refer to Annex C of the CEO Endorsement Request: indicators 8, 9, 13, 14, and 15.

Annex E: Project map and coordinates

8.7 Have geographic coordinates of project locations been entered in the dedicated table? Are relevant illustrative maps included?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

No, the map does not show the same names of locations than the ones given for geographical locations. Please provide a map consistent with the locations of the project and which shows clearly the project interventions.

November 6th 2024

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: the map was updated to show the same names of locations as the ones given for geographical locations. Please refer to Annex E in the CEO Endorsement Request.

Annex F: Environmental and Social Safeguards Documentation and Rating

8.8 Have the relevant safeguard documents been uploaded to the GEF Portal? Has the safeguards rating been provided and filled out in the ER field below the risk table?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

Yes the document is uploaded and filled but the signatures are missing.

November 6th 2024

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: Digitally signed SES version is now duly uploaded in the RoadMap as a separate file.

Annex G: GEF Budget template

8.9 a) Is the GEF budget template attached and appropriately filled out incl. items such as the executing partner for each budget line?

b) Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?

c) Are TORs for key project staff funded by GEF grant and/or co-finance attached?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 10th 2024

a. yes cleared

b. yes cleared

c . No please provide TORs for project staff.

November 6th 2024

c. Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP response 21Oct24:

Response: TORs for project staff have been included in the CEO Endorsement and as a separate file in the GEFPortal RoadMap.

Annex H: NGI Relevant Annexes

8.10 a) Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to assess the following criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.

b) Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments.

c) Is the Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Additional Annexes

9. GEFSEC DECISION

9.1. GEFSEC Recommendation

Is the project recommended for approval

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

November 6th 2024

As all the comments have been addressed, the project is ready for CEO endorsement.

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency during the inception and implementation phase

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

9.3 Review Dates

	CEO Approval	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	7/12/2024	10/21/2024
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/6/2024	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

**CEO
Approval**

**Response to Secretariat
comments**

**Additional Review (as
necessary)**