

GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO CHILD ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Child Project Information

Child Project Title

Advancing Guyana's Development through Improved Forest Management

Region Guyana	GEF Project ID 11338
Country(ies) Guyana	Type of Project FSP
GEF Agency(ies) World Bank FAO	GEF Agency Project ID
Project Executing Entity(s) Environmental Protection Agency	Project Executing Type Government
GEF Focal Area (s) Multi Focal Area	Submission Date 2/7/2025
Type of Trust Fund GET	Project Duration (Months) 60
GEF Project Grant: (a) 3,519,722.00	Agency Fee(s) Grant: (b) 316,774.00
PPG Amount: (c) 150,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (d) 13,500.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 3999996	Total Co-financing 20,804,659.00

Project Sector (CCM Only)

AFOLU

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Principal Objective 2

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, to offer a snapshot of what is being proposed. The summary should include: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? ii) as a child project under a program, explain how the description fits in the broader context of the specific program; (iii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative,

how will this be achieved? and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Guyana, with 84% forest cover, has maintained deforestation rates below 0.1% for two (2) decades, preserving vast intact tropical forests. Its Protected Areas System, established in 2011, covers 8.4% of the land (1.8 million hectares [ha]) and is managed by the Protected Areas Commission (PAC). Since 2010, Guyana has lost 133,210 ha of forest^[1], primarily due to mining (75%) and fires (15%). Mine-site reclamation remains lacking due to low environmental bonds compared to high reclamation cost, while traditional farming practices, including fire use, harm biodiversity. Meanwhile, the PAC remains underfunded. These financial challenges underscore the need to re-evaluate funding mechanisms and strategies to effectively support sustainable land management and mine-site rehabilitation efforts.

The project aims to enhance forest management in Guyana's Amazon landscape, focusing on innovative financing mechanisms, restoration, and participatory governance to support indigenous communities. Structured around three (3) components, it aligns with the GEF-8 Integrated Program for Critical Forest Biomes. *Component 1* focuses on innovative financing and governance mechanisms, such as biodiversity credits or similar mechanisms to improve the management and protection of protected areas (PAs). *Component 2* promotes sustainable forest-based value chains and addresses land degradation caused by gold mining and wildfires. It involves capacity-building for sustainable production, restoration efforts, and participatory management of PAs. *Component 3* emphasizes strategic communication and knowledge management, with dissemination of best practices and leveraging knowledge exchanges within the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program Phase 3 (ASL3) countries and at the regional level through participation in the different activities of the ASL Regional Coordination Project.

The project aims to generate significant global environmental benefits, including: **1,444,735 ha of protected terrestrial areas** under improved management (Core Indicator 1); **423.5 ha of forest degraded** by mining and fire restored (Core Indicator 3), with 15 ha reforested mining site, 50 ha of (community-based as well as government-led) assisted natural regeneration at mining sites, and 358.5 ha of (community-based as well as government-led) restoration in wildfire-affected forests; **4,359.6 ha of landscapes** with improved practices outside PAs (Core Indicator 4); **reduction of 2,878,794 tCO₂-e** in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (Core Indicator 6); at least **32,800 direct beneficiaries**, including 13,120 women (Core Indicator 11).

The project aligns with the ASL3 program and the Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program (CFB-IP) in its aim to ensure the conservation of Intact Forest Landscapes, and that key habitats remain connected, biodiversity is conserved, tipping points are avoided, GHG emissions are reduced, and people in the Amazon increase their wellbeing via jobs, increases in income, livelihood security, capacity building and voice in key decision-making spaces. The roles and empowerment of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as marginalized groups including women, will be central, consistently with the approach of the CFB-IP.

[1] Guyana Forestry Commission (2024) Guyana REDD+ Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) System Report, Year 2023

Child Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To improve forest conservation, sustainable use and management in the Amazon forest landscape of Guyana through enhancement of funding, restoration and participatory governance

Project Components

Component 1: Enabling maintenance of intact forest landscapes through improved finances and governance

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
702,400.00	8,796,232.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1. Sustainable management of PAs enabled through improved financial environment and governance

100% of PAs with updated financial mechanisms for sustainable management

50% increased revenue generation for PAs

Three (3) PAs under inclusive governance frameworks with clear roles, responsibilities of stakeholders, and mechanisms for decision-making

GEF-8 Core Indicator 1.2: 1,441,557 ha of terrestrial PAs under improved management effectiveness

GEF-8 Core Indicator 6.1: 1,705,308 tCO₂e of emission mitigated in the AFOLU sector (from outscaling)

GEF-8 Core indicator 11: 24,900 direct beneficiaries (40% women)

Output:

Output 1.1.1. Financing mechanisms inclusive of improved governance structures that engage IPLCs designed to support sustainable management and restoration

Output 1.1.2.: Resource Assessments across the forest landscape conducted inclusive of an assessment of biodiversity and biodiversity loss

Output 1.1.3.: Financing mechanism established to support sustainable management and restoration in the PAs and elsewhere inclusive of improved governance structures that engage IPLCs

Output 1.1.4.: Gender and age sensitive voluntary carbon market (VCM) mechanism designed to financially support mine-site restoration (Afforestation Reforestation and Revegetation [ARR])

Component 2: Increasing restoration and sustainable forest management with improved engagement of stakeholders in NTFP value chains

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)

2,172,847.00

6,151,298.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1. Increased stakeholder capacity for and participation in sustainable value chains based on standing forests

Three (3) sustainable, gender-sensitive value chains strengthened and operated by IPLCs

GEF-8 Core Indicator 11: 500 direct beneficiaries of strengthened value chains, disaggregated by sex and age (at least 40% are women and 40% are under 35)

20% increase in women that participate and speak in stakeholder engagement and decision-making meetings

Outcome 2.2. Increased area of land and ecosystems undergoing restoration and sustainably managed

GEF-8 Core Indicator 3.2: 423.5 ha of forest and forest land under restoration

GEF-8 Core Indicator 1.2: 3,178 ha of terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness (Parishara/Nappi)

GEF-8 Core Indicator 4.1: 4,359.6 ha outside PAs under improved management (Shulinab + monitoring)

GEF-8 Core Indicator 6: 1,173,486 tCO₂e of emission mitigated in the AFOLU sector: 307,606 tCO₂e from restoration, and 865,880 tCO₂e from improved fire management (496,200 tCO₂e Shulinab + 369,680 tCO₂e Parishara)

GEF-8 Core indicator 11: 7,400 direct beneficiaries (40% women)

Output:

Output 2.1.1. Gender and age sensitive capacity development program on sustainable extraction, production, and marketing of traditional, artisanal, small scale, non-timber forest products (NTFP) and services implemented

Output 2.2.1. Techniques/methods developed and implemented to restore degraded forest and towards improved management

Output 2.2.2. Agreements established with IPLCs, considering gender and age inclusivity, for participatory forest management

Component 3: Effective strategic communication and knowledge management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
335,595.00	2,716,490.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1. Knowledge shared and stakeholder awareness increased

At least two (2) forums established to improve the exchange of knowledge and improve coordination among stakeholders

Six (6) lessons learned documented and shared

Output:

Output 3.1.1. Engagement and knowledge dissemination strategy implemented

Output 3.1.2. Regional-scale learning and cooperation

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
141,275.00	

Outcome:

Outcome M&E-1.1. Project implementation based on improved protected area management

100% of the total project activities executed as per the workplan

100% of project actions that actively seek women participation

100% of project outputs with proven IPLC engagement

12 reports showing data on social and environmental safeguards monitoring, disaggregated by sex and age

Output:

Output M&E 1.1.1. M&E of the project developed to provide systematized information on measurable, verifiable progress

Output M&E 1.1.2. Mid-term review and final evaluation to inform adaptive management

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: Enabling maintenance of intact forest landscapes through improved finances and governance	702,400.00	8,796,232.00
Component 2: Increasing restoration and sustainable forest management with improved engagement of stakeholders in NTFP value chains	2,172,847.00	6,151,298.00
Component 3: Effective strategic communication and knowledge management	335,595.00	2,716,490.00
M&E	141,275.00	
Subtotal	3,352,117.00	17,664,020.00
Project Management Cost	167,605.00	3,140,639.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	3,519,722.00	20,804,659.00

Please provide Justification

CHILD PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Since this is a child project under a program, please include an explanation of how the context fits within the specific program agenda.

Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Guyana, its forests, Protected Areas and deforestation

Guyana, South America's only English-speaking country, is on the northeastern coast of the subcontinent, bordered by Venezuela, Brazil, Suriname, and the Atlantic Ocean. Covering a land area of 21.11 million ha, Guyana has a coastline of about 434 km and a cultivated coastal plain varying in width between 5 and 40 km. The country is in the neo-tropical region of northeastern South America and is part of the Guiana Shield within the Amazon Biome. This biome, covering 6.7 million km², is the largest remaining tropical rainforest in the world and harbours at least 10% of global biodiversity.

Guyana is one of the world's most forested countries, with 84% (17.82 million ha)^{1,2} of its land covered in forests. Deforestation rates have stayed below 1% (0.02% to 0.079%) over the last two (2) decades, preserving

one of the largest intact tropical forests globally. Rainforests and montane forests cover most of area, while coastal mangroves make up around 1%.

Despite high forest cover, forest clearing has continued at about 0.056% per year since 2010^[23], with 133,210 ha lost since then. Mining is the primary driver, accounting for 85% of deforestation from 2001-2012 and 75% from 2013-2023. Other contributors include agriculture, roadbuilding, mining infrastructure, forestry, and fires. Since 2013, fires have become the second largest factor, causing 15% of deforestation, with agriculture following at 5%. Recently, fire impacts matched mining's share in 2019.

Guyana has five (5) PAs which occupy part of 3 of the 10 administrative regions of the country (see additional information on Guyana's administrative regions in Annex F-2): the Kaieteur National Park (KNP) and Iwokrama Rainforest are in Region 8 (Potaro-Siparuni), Shell Beach is in Region 1 (Barima-Waini), and Kanuku Mountains (KMPA) and the Kanashen Amerindian PA (KAPA) are located in Region 9 (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo) (see Annex E for further information). Overall, these PAs cover about 8.4% of the country's landmass, totaling 1.1 million ha^[34]. Guyana's National PAs System was created in 2011 when the PAs Act was passed. The PAC manages the national PAs.

Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation

Environmental degradation in and around PAs in Guyana is primarily driven by unsustainable (traditional) fire-hazardous farming practices and environmentally harmful gold mining practices. Although mine-site reclamation is legally mandated for mining operations of all types^[45], mined-out sites remain unrestored. Currently, approximately 200,000 ha^[56] of forest land are available for rehabilitation and reforestation.

Farming and the use of fire for land clearing are traditional practices among indigenous communities. In the PAs, these activities are allowed as part of their subsistence farming, where land is farmed briefly, then left to recover as new plots are cleared. This method involves clearing and burning forests to enrich the soil with nutrients to promote crop growth. Fires set for farming outside the PAs occasionally spread into the PAs, causing significant harm to biodiversity. In 2020, a fire likely set for farming near the northern KMPA boundary burned approximately 367 ha^[67].

Regarding environmentally harmful farming practices among indigenous communities near PAs, three (3) key challenges stand out: a) the PAC lacks the necessary funding to facilitate the transformation of farming methods; b) there is limited community awareness of the environmental degradation resulting from these practices; and c) there is a lack of skills and knowledge to support the development of alternative, more sustainable livelihoods.

Gold mining, vital to Guyana's economy, is a leading cause of deforestation, forest degradation, and biodiversity loss. Gold mining surged after the 2008 financial crisis, peaking in 2012 with 13,664 ha^{[7]8} cleared, though this dropped to 5,264 ha by 2022^{[8]9}. Forest degradation, particularly in and around mining sites, remains a critical issue, causing extensive harm to the bio-physical environment and undermining ecosystem health. Even small-scale gold mining in Guyana causes serious environmental harm. It leads to deforestation and soil degradation, resulting in erosion and increased river turbidity. Additionally, mining destroys habitats, reducing plant and animal biodiversity and hindering forest regeneration due to the loss of vegetation and topsoil. Mining also happens in the buffer zones or even inside PAs, putting biodiversity and ecosystem services at risk. For instance, there is growing mining activity in KNP and Iwokrama Rainforest.

The current environmental bonds, meant to ensure mining companies restore sites after operations, are substantially lower than the actual restoration costs, creating little financial incentive for mining companies to engage in restoration efforts. While the Ministry of Natural Resources has launched a G\$300 million (approximately US\$1.44 million) *National Forest Restoration Initiative*^{[9]10} to rehabilitate mined-out, degraded, and deforested lands, several challenges persist. In particular, the high costs of land reclamation—especially the need to use heavy machinery for landscape reclamation—can amount to as much as US\$60,000 per hectare. This financial challenge adds further complexity to the restoration process, underscoring the need to re-evaluate funding mechanisms and strategies to effectively support sustainable land management and mine-site rehabilitation efforts.

The environmental challenges of mining partly arise from high poverty and unemployment, which drive individuals to gold mining in remote areas without fully understanding the associated risks. Other issues include unregulated and illegal mining, conflicts with local communities, unclear licensing processes, and a lack of awareness about environmental impacts among miners. Furthermore, there has been increased pressure from illegal miners coming from Brazil.

Barriers to enhance PAs management, protection and restoration

Challenges are being encountered that hinder Guyana's efforts towards the improved management and protection of the PAs and the restoration of mining sites and forests degraded due to uncontrolled wildfires. The following key barriers to effective management have been identified:

1. Inadequate sustainable funding for biodiversity conservation and forest restoration:
 - a. PA management by the PAC relies heavily on limited government funding and grants. The Protected Areas Trust currently holds an \$8.5 million endowment, far below the \$65 million goal, restricting the financial capacity for biodiversity conservation.

in increased forest loss through mining and agriculture-related wildfires, with subsequent biodiversity reduction.

Building on and collaborating with ongoing initiatives, this **GEF project incremental support** will result in better managed PAs, enabling their **improved governance**; increased capacity for restoration, by **catalyzing funding mobilization** for environmental protection and restoration; and sustainably used forests, by **enhancing engagement** from communities and private stakeholders in biodiversity-friendly practices through **diversification of forest-based sustainable livelihoods**. By the end of the project, **degraded forest areas will be reduced, restoration efforts accelerated, and biodiversity protection enhanced**, with increased **community resilience to external impacts**, including climate, in the long term.

Current landscape of baseline and ongoing initiatives

The PAC, with funding from Germany's KfW, recently implemented the *Guyana Protected Areas System - Phase III* (2018-2023 - EUR 1.3 million) aimed at supporting the development of critical infrastructure and capacity building in the PAs System. Specifically, the project includes the construction of new ranger stations and guest houses at key sites like KMPA, Shell Beach PA, and KNP, as well as enhancing management capacity through training and community development initiatives. Building on this, the proposed project will further enhance these efforts by introducing new financing and governance mechanisms like biodiversity credits, which will expand these activities.

The *Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS)* (new MoU 12/2022) supports the PAC by training rangers, organizing patrols, and using satellite data for detecting illegal activities in the KMPA. The proposed project will expand on this by providing advanced training in new technologies like GIS tools and expanding the use of satellite data to enhance decision-making and monitoring efforts.

The PAC is piloting the use of an app named *Satellites on Fire*. The *Satellites on Fire* app combines artificial intelligence and satellite data to detect, monitor, and alert wildfire risks in near real-time, updating every 20 minutes. It uses artificial intelligence to analyze current data against historical imagery, enabling early detection of small fires for quicker response. Designed for wildfire management, the app provides alerts with details on location, size, and intensity, integrating local weather and infrastructure data to support decision-making. The proposed project will assess integrating this technology into fire management planning and fire brigade training.

Conservation International – Guyana is implementing the 5-year '*Community-smart Consultation and Consent*' project, funded by the BHP Foundation, to address the global 'implementation gap' in natural resource governance by improving community consultation and consent practices. The proposed project will enhance this effort by scaling community engagement and operationalizing governance frameworks within the context of biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihood.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the GFC REDD+ Secretariat have contributed to Guyana's first forest carbon stock assessment and implemented the *Community Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification* system with indigenous communities. This system, which is part of the national REDD+ Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification System (MRVS), helps communities participate in REDD+ and advocate for their rights in natural resource governance. In 2019, 23 indigenous communities received community monitoring, reporting, and verification training. The proposed project will build on this by enhancing capacity-building, supporting the integration of community data into biodiversity monitoring systems, and strengthening community advocacy for sustainable land management and conservation.

The *Securing a Living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Southern Guyana Project*, launched in April 2024 under the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program Phase 2 (ASL2) - GEF 7 (USD 5.2 million), executed by Guyana's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), aims to protect and enhance biodiversity through improved landscape connectivity in the southern regions of Guyana, with a focus on strengthening the management of PAs. This project will build synergies, particularly in integrating community-led monitoring systems and enhancing data sharing for biodiversity conservation.

The *Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Development and Management Project* funded by the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (2017 —2025; USD 14.8 million), focuses on strengthening the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) in land governance, planning, and restoration. Its' key objectives include enhancing geospatial systems, land administration, and sustainable land management through community-driven land use planning and pilot reclamation measures. The proposed project will build on these efforts by collaborating with GLSC to enhance land monitoring systems and implementing participatory land management approaches, especially through the GIS-based DSS.

The *Sustainable Forest Livelihoods (SFL) for Communities in Guyana and Suriname* programme (2023-2027; EUR 10 million), funded by the European Union and executed by WWF Guianas, promotes sustainable and equitable income-generating activities and financial mechanisms in Guyana's Regions 2, 9, and 10. The proposed project will complement the SFL programme by enhancing capacity-building for sustainable forest-based value chains that are not considered in the SFL programme, integrating advanced geospatial tools for land-use planning and monitoring, and supporting financial mechanisms for conservation and livelihoods through the proposed biodiversity credit or other financial mechanism.

The *Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme* (2017–2024; EUR 45 million) is a European Union-funded initiative co-financed by French Facility for Global Environment and French Development Agency, implemented by FAO, CIRAD, Center for International Forestry Research, and Wildlife Conservation Society. It aims to conserve wildlife, protect ecosystems, and enhance food security and livelihoods across 15 Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States countries. In Guyana, coordinated by the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission and Center for International Forestry Research, the project supports community-driven tourism initiatives, conducts baseline studies on hunting and wildlife use, and promotes sustainable livelihoods. The project will build on these efforts by integrating geospatial tools for land-use planning, incorporating sustainable wildlife management baseline data into biodiversity assessments, and advancing eco-tourism management, financing, and forest-based livelihood strategies.

To address broader natural resource issues, including mining, the Ministry of Natural Resources established an *inter-agency forum* with key organizations: the EPA, GFC, GGMC, GLSC, PAC, and Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission. The forum's agencies, such as the GFC, GGMC, and EPA, play central roles in the proposed project's activities, including geospatial land monitoring, participatory land-use planning, and the implementation of conservation measures. By working through this inter-agency platform, the project will strengthen integration among stakeholders, align its interventions with national priorities, and ensure effective implementation of its objectives in areas like reclamation, protected area management, and community engagement.

Aligned with Guyana's low-carbon and REDD+ goals, the GFC uses its' *MRVS*, to track deforestation and forest degradation annually, collaborating with GGMC to address illegal mining. This project will build on the annual deforestation monitoring conducted by: 1) Integrating MRVS data into geospatial tools for land-use planning, restoration, and conservation; 2) Supporting capacity building for local stakeholders and indigenous

communities using GFC’s monitoring expertise; and 3) Leveraging MRVS data to establish biodiversity baselines.

The 'Strengthening the Enabling Framework for Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Mercury Reduction' project (GEF-6; 2021-2027; USD 4.5 million) focuses on reducing mercury pollution from small- and medium-scale gold mining while protecting biodiversity and improving livelihoods. Key outcomes include strengthening regulatory frameworks, improving institutional capacity, adopting environmentally responsible mining practices, and facilitating knowledge-sharing. Specific achievements include improved forest management in mining districts, reduced mercury use, and restoration of degraded lands. The proposed project will build on baseline data from the GEF-6 project on forest restoration and expand on the GEF-6 project's efforts by developing practical guidelines for mine site restoration.

The GGMC Environmental Division launched the *Land Reclamation Project* in 2014 to promote sustainable reclamation practices for small- and medium-scale gold mining, establishing demonstration sites in Regions 7 (Olive Creek, Puruni Landing) and 10 (Dakoura). The project generated valuable insights that informed national reforestation and reclamation policies while strengthening the GGMC’s capacity for earthworks and site assessments. In 2023, the Ministry of Natural Resources expanded the initiative with the G\$300 million *National Forest Restoration Initiative*, focusing on reforesting degraded lands. Achievements include planting over 2,500 native trees across 23.3 ha at Dakoura, setting up seedling stations at Yarrowkabra (Region 4) and Wismar (Region 10), and training local youth in seedling care and monitoring. The next phase extends to St. Elisabeth near Mahdia (Region 8). However, limited resources are hindering expansion into other regions.

[1] Guyana Forestry Commission (2024) Guyana REDD+ Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) System Report, Year 2023

[2] Guyana Forestry Commission (2024) Guyana REDD+ Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) System Report, Year 2023

[3] Protected Areas Trust. (n.d.). Protected Areas. Retrieved from <https://protectedareatrust.org.gy/protected-areas/>

[4] Mines in Guyana are classified as small (artisanal), medium or large-scale based on daily production. Often medium scale mines are simply a collection of small-scale operations with the same approaches and strategies and application of technology

[5] Guyana’s Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030 (2021); <https://lcds.gov.gy/>

[6] PAC (2020) Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) assessment report for the KNPA

[7] Guyana Forestry Commission (2024) Guyana REDD+ Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) System Report, Year 2023

[8] *Ibid.*

[9] The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) and the Environmental Division of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) are leading this initiative, with the involvement of mining companies

B. CHILD PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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

Theory of change and detailed description of project components

The project's Theory of Change is as follows (see Figure 1. Theory of Change for Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management project):

IF: innovative financing and inclusive governance mechanisms are in place; the capacity and engagement of stakeholders in sustainable, forest-based value chains is strengthened; the area of forests under restoration increases; there is a higher awareness and knowledge on forest value and the benefits of strategies for forest conservation are perceived,

THEN forests protection and sustainable management are enhanced.

ASSUMING that there is sustained high-level commitment towards forest conservation; that stakeholders see benefits in sustainable forest use and management; that investments that incentivize sustainable forest use continue over time; and that policy and normative environments enable improved governance and management,

THEN Guyana's forests are conserved and sustainably managed in the long run contributing to SDGs 15.2 and 15.3, with communities that use forest sustainably and are more resilient to climate and other external impacts and poverty reduced, contributing to SDGs 1.5, 5.5, 8.3, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2, 15.5, 15.9, 15.a and 15.b.

The baseline scenario presented in Section 1.5 has been considered in the project design to bring additional 2,878,794 tCO₂e of GHG emissions reduced; 1,444,735 ha of PAs and 4,359.6 ha of forests outside PAs under improved management; 423.5 ha of forests restored; and 32,800 (at least 13,120 women) direct beneficiaries. The increased capacity for adoption and implementation of sustainable forest management at all stakeholder levels and the improved financial environment will enable the project's approaches to be scaled out and up. Together with increased awareness, knowledge and coordination of actions, the project actions promote durable and sustainable results.

The project's vision will be materialized by the following Causal Pathways, which address the five (5) barriers identified in the previous section:

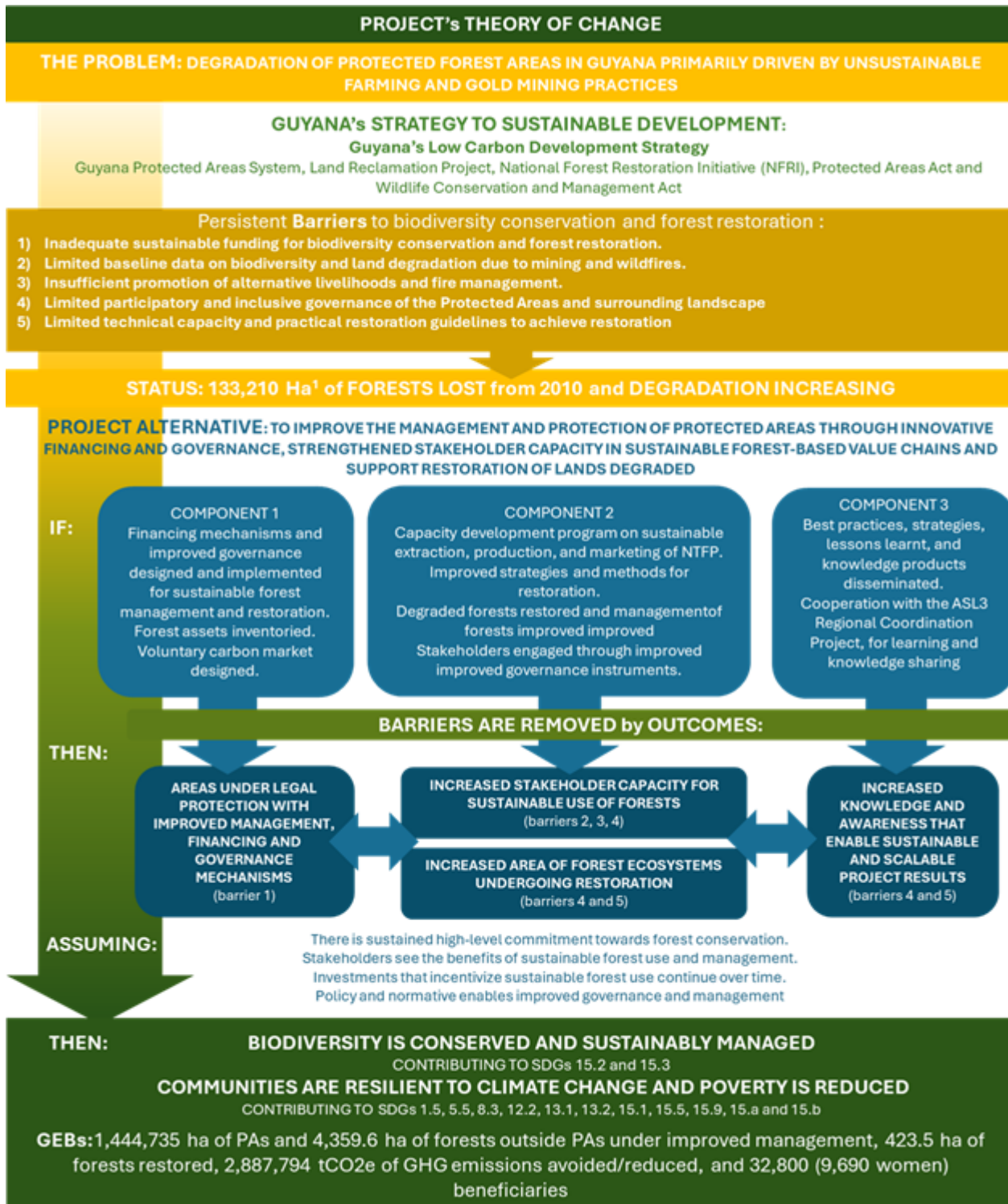
Causal Pathway 1: Innovative financing mechanisms (e.g. Biodiversity Credit Mechanism) with inclusive governance will provide a sustainable funding source for conservation and restoration activities within PAs, leading to enhanced biodiversity conservation and better management of those areas.

Causal Pathway 2: Systematic data gathering and monitoring of the activities and their impacts together with a sound data and knowledge management strategy will provide the basis for improved decision-making, thus creating the grounds for long term PAs preservation.

Causal Pathway 3: Improving local stakeholder capacity for managing sustainable forest-based value chains and for product design and marketing will support local livelihood diversification and promote sustainable economic activities that will reduce deforestation and forest degradation

Causal Pathway 4: Involving IPLCs in management and strengthening the PAC will promote inclusive governance and ensure the sustainability of conservation efforts.

Causal Pathway 5: Increased technical and institutional capacity for forest restoration activities will accelerate the restoration of degraded forest areas, with a direct positive impact on ecosystem recovery, carbon sequestration, and the overall health of the land.



¹ Guyana's REDD+ Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) System Report 2023 from Guyana Forestry Commission

Figure 1. Theory of Change for Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management project

The project is structured into three (3) components in line with three (3) interventions of the Integrated Program for Critical Forest Biomes – Amazon of GEF-8 (ASL3), that will be implemented in specific locations of Region 1, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of Guyana (see details in Annex E), as follows:

Component 1. Enabling maintenance of intact forest landscapes through improved finances and governance

The project seeks to enable the improved management and protection of PAs by implementing innovative financing mechanisms for improved forest management and governance structures that build on and expand the advances achieved under the ASL2 in policy development, partnership and capacity building for enhanced biodiversity and forest conservation, sustainable land use, and community development in Guyana. Central to this effort is the participatory development, led by the EPA, of a Biodiversity Credits Mechanism designed to fund restoration and sustainable management of PAs in collaboration with IPLCs. To support this, the project will assess existing biodiversity evaluations and conduct new assessments where necessary, followed by the creation of a comprehensive Biodiversity MRVS that complements existing MRV systems. Additionally, the project will investigate the potential of a project-based VCM mechanism as a supplementary financial resource for supporting restoration activities. This component addresses barrier 1 and seeks transformational change through financial and governance and policy levers, thus contributing to the ASL3 program outcome 1.2.: *Areas under legal protection with strengthened/improved management, financing and governance mechanisms*; and outcome 3.5. *Innovative financial incentives and mechanisms implemented for conservation and nature-positive investment*.

Outcome: 1.1. Sustainable management of PAs enabled through improved financial environment and governance

Within ASL2 project, under its Component 3, the Protected Area Act 2011 was reviewed, and recommendations were provided for improved governance inclusive of issues of coordination, and law enforcement. However, the PAC still faces several challenges in managing and protecting Guyana's PAs. One major issue is limited funding, as most of the financial support comes from government contributions and a small endowment from the Protected Areas Trust, which restricts available resources. Furthermore, traditional knowledge that helps communities manage their resources is fading, partly due to less interest from younger generations and migration, impacting biodiversity conservation, weakening governance frameworks and decreasing the engagement of local communities in decision making.

On the other hand, as one of the first countries to develop a national REDD+ strategy, Guyana issued the world's first jurisdictional carbon credits under the ART-TREES standard, securing a record US\$750 million in VCM sales through 2030. While these funds help address some challenges faced by the PAC, they are insufficient to fully engage indigenous communities in the management and protection of Guyana's PAs. Alternative funding mechanisms need to be explored to enhance these efforts.

The project will address this situation through the following actions:

Output 1.1.1 Financing mechanisms inclusive of improved governance structures that engage IPLCs designed to support sustainable management and restoration.

Biodiversity credit mechanisms have emerged as a financial tool to support conservation and sustainable land management. Similar to carbon credits, they allow businesses or governments to invest in biodiversity by purchasing credits that fund initiatives like habitat restoration and species protection. These credits help incentivize private sector involvement and generate revenue for large-scale ecosystem restoration.

To achieve this output, the viability of a Biodiversity Credit Mechanism and other financing mechanisms will be assessed through four (4) key steps, as outlined below:

- i. A primary concern in establishing a biodiversity credit scheme within an existing jurisdictional carbon credit framework is the risk of double counting, as both schemes may issue credits for similar conservation activities, resulting in overlapping claims. Therefore, it will be essential to assess whether any double counting occurs between the proposed biodiversity credit scheme and the existing jurisdictional REDD+ carbon credit framework.
- ii. Determine costs and funding requirements: estimate the overall costs for project implementation and long-term management to identify funding needs and explore potential financial support sources, including biodiversity credits.
- iii. Assess potential risks and challenges: identify possible obstacles, risks, and challenges—environmental, social, and economic—that may impact the project's success. This assessment will enable the development of mitigation strategies to address concerns such as credibility and transparency, overvaluation of conservation efforts, and conflicts of interest among stakeholders.
- iv. Identify stakeholder engagement opportunities by determining key stakeholders—such as local communities, Indigenous peoples, government agencies, and conservation organizations—along with assessing their interests and potential contributions and establishing plans for ongoing involvement and communication.

Output 1.1.2 Resource assessments across the forest landscape inclusive of an assessment of biodiversity and biodiversity loss

Conducting baseline assessments and establishing a biodiversity MRVS, currently non-existent, is essential for sustainable management of forests and conservation. These components are critical for tracking ecological changes, informing adaptive management, and fulfilling standards from established biodiversity frameworks.

To achieve this output, the scientific community and academia as well as IPLCs and other stakeholders will be engaged to produce baseline assessments and a Biodiversity MRVS through two (2) distinct activities, as outlined below.

Activity 1.1.2.1. Determine elements of a Guyana biodiversity MRVS based on existing biodiversity standards (e.g. Plan Vivo, Verra's Nature Framework. Gold Standard & Organization for Biodiversity Certificates, rePLANET, South Pole)

Aligning biodiversity MRVS with established standards enhances project credibility, attracts funding, and supports adaptive management. Certified biodiversity improvements appeal to investors interested in measurable co-benefits, while regular monitoring enables continuous refinement of strategies. Involving indigenous communities and other stakeholders fosters local support and ensures long-term sustainability. By closely aligning the MRVS with established standards, future projects will demonstrate a measurable impact on biodiversity, achieve certification, and strengthen stakeholder trust, leading to improved ecological outcomes and potential funding avenues.

The project will align the biodiversity MRVS with established standards by first reviewing and selecting those that best fit the project objectives and stakeholder expectations. Indicators will be selected that are specified by the chosen standard (e.g., Verra's ecosystem health metrics or Plan Vivo's community co-

benefits), to ensure data consistency throughout the project. Based on these elements, the project will engage with the scientific community to develop a structured MRVS, setting precise monitoring protocols, establishing reporting frequencies, and aligning reporting formats with the templates of the selected standard.

Activity 1.1.2.2. Conduct biodiversity baseline assessments for Region 9

The baseline assessments will build on and expand the biodiversity assessments performed under the ASL 2 to analyze current biodiversity levels, including species populations and habitat conditions, land use, and ecosystem health; identifying biodiversity threats and assessing local socio-economic conditions; and documenting previous land management practices and their impacts on biodiversity. For this, scientific institutions and IPLCs will be engaged, to take advantage of their knowledge and expertise on biodiversity assessment and conservation, including traditional and indigenous knowledge. As a final step, the project will conduct a biodiversity credit assessment, evaluating the potential credits generated from its activities, ensuring compliance with the chosen standard for credit issuance, and developing a monitoring plan to track biodiversity outcomes and maintain transparency.

In summary, the following four (4) sub-activities are identified:

- a) Analyze current biodiversity levels, land use, and ecosystem health
- b) Identify threats to biodiversity
- c) Document past land management practices and their impact on biodiversity
- d) Assess the potential biodiversity credits that can be generated from the project's activities

Output 1.1.3 Financing mechanism established to support sustainable management and restoration in the PAs and elsewhere inclusive of improved governance structures that engage IPLCs

Establishment of the financing mechanism will be addressed through:

Activity 1.1.3.1. Determine institutional mechanism and administrative arrangements for operationalization, including the following steps:

- i. Define the lead agency - key institution or government body that will serve as the focal point for managing the mechanism. The lead agency should have the necessary authority, resources, and capacity to oversee the mechanism.
- ii. Create a governance framework for the Biodiversity Credit Mechanism that includes decision-making processes, roles, and responsibilities. This will involve setting up a steering committee and/or advisory board with representatives from key stakeholders, including government bodies, non-government organisations (NGOs), conservation organizations, local communities, and the private sector.
- iii. Stakeholders will be engaged early in the process to ensure transparency, inclusion, and effective management. This will include consultations with indigenous communities, local populations, conservation groups, and industry representatives who may be involved in or impacted by biodiversity credit generation.

- iv. **Outline responsibilities and roles of each stakeholder and agency involved in the mechanism. The lead agency will be responsible for oversight and compliance, but other agencies may focus on MRVS activities, credit issuance, and sales.**
- v. **Define how funds will be managed and invested, how credits will be sold or traded, and the distribution of proceeds. This includes creating operational guidelines, through participatory processes aimed at increasing ownership and improving governance, for credit issuance, verification procedures, and revenue allocation to the support of sustainable forest management, including capacity development, forest monitoring and enforcement of codes of practices and regulations, along with the continual improvement of the existing plans and forestry related codes of practices and restoration of degraded areas.**
- vi. **Monitor the improvements in management according to the IUCN’s Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), and revise investments accordingly.**

Output 1.1.4 Gender and age sensitive VCM mechanism explored to financially support mine-site restoration (ARR)

Traditional methods for financing mining site restoration (e.g. government grants, donations, or one-time mining company contributions) often provide limited or short-term resources. ARR carbon credits, however, offer a long-term, recurring revenue stream that will support both initial and ongoing restoration efforts. However, Guyana already has a jurisdictional REDD+ carbon credit framework.

Guyana’s jurisdictional REDD+ carbon credit arrangement under ART-TREES reflects its commitment to forest conservation and climate action. ART-TREES, an international standard for jurisdictional emissions reductions, allows Guyana to receive certified carbon credits for emissions reduction across its entire forest area. In 2022, Guyana became the first country to issue ART-TREES-certified credits at the jurisdictional level, positioning it in the global carbon market with high-quality credits that attract buyers interested in verified, large-scale offsets with environmental and social co-benefits.

The LCDS framework allows for nesting of project-based REDD+ within the national system. Nesting voluntary ARR projects under Guyana’s ART-TREES jurisdictional REDD+ framework will enhance credibility, market access, and alignment with national climate goals but would require careful coordination to ensure consistency in MRVS, benefit sharing, and regulatory compliance.

This output will thus implement the following four (4) activities:

- i. **Explore options for implementing Voluntary Carbon Market ARR, either by nesting within the existing jurisdictional REDD+ mechanism or through a project-based approach (e.g. private-public partnership).**
- ii. **Conduct a feasibility study, including a gender analysis, to evaluate the ARR project’s viability, identify potential risks and challenges, estimate carbon sequestration potential, and ensure alignment with certification standards.**
- iii. **Select a VCM ARR standard and prepare a Project Design Document for the ARR project**
- iv. **Obtain certification through a selected VCM ARR standard.**

COMPONENT 2: Increased restoration and sustainable forest management with improved engagement of stakeholders in NTFP value chains

Building on the advances in policy development and update by the ASL2 child project in Guyana, this project seeks to strengthen stakeholder capacity and engagement in sustainable, forest-based value chains, with a focus on gender-specific impacts. It will enhance artisanal and small-scale NTFP value chains by improving design, marketing, and export skills to support local livelihoods while reducing deforestation. Additionally, the project will promote the restoration of lands degraded by artisanal gold mining and wildfire (post-mining remediation not included). By complementing current efforts to strengthen the PAC, the project will engage nearby IPLCs in participatory management of PAs and guide them towards sustainable livelihoods through value chains. For mine-site restoration, the project will support the *National Forest Restoration Initiative* by increasing the GGMC Reclamation Unit's capacity for reclamation activities and assisting the GGMC and GFC in scaling up restoration efforts. The activities under this component address barriers 2, 3 4 and 5 by applying the multistakeholder dialogue and innovation and learning transformational levers to contribute to all the three (3) outcomes of the ASL3 Program component 2: 2.1 *Increased area of forests and watersheds brought under sustainable land and water management practices*; 2.2 *Increased stakeholder capacity for and participation in sustainable value chains based on standing forests and free flowing rivers (disaggregated by gender)*, 2.3 *Increased area of land and ecosystems undergoing restoration*; as well as to outcome 3.3 *Increased participation of civil society, including IPLC and women, in decision-making fora, land-use planning, project implementation and monitoring fostered at multiple administrative levels*.

Outcome: 2.1. Increased stakeholder capacity for and participation in sustainable value chains based on standing forests

There is insufficient promotion of sustainable forest management, while indigenous communities around the areas face challenges in balancing traditional practices with conservation goals. The project will provide support to reduce deforestation and forest degradation by strengthening value chains for NTFPs, enhancing skills in design, marketing, and exports to promote sustainable livelihoods for indigenous peoples. NTFPs encompass all forest-derived biological materials, except timber, used by humans, such as fruits, nuts, medicinal plants, resins, and fibers like bamboo and rattan^[11]. Developing NTFPs offers communities a pathway to enhance livelihoods through local and export markets with value-added products, while avoiding deforestation.

The project will implement the following actions:

Output 2.1.1 Gender and age sensitive capacity development program on sustainable extraction, production, and marketing of traditional, artisanal, small-scale, NTFP and services implemented.

In a preparatory study, five (5) NTFP commodities—honey, peanuts, cassareep^[12], cashew, and crabwood oil^[13]—were evaluated using a scoring matrix based on criteria such as economic potential, market demand, recent production, and support from government and private sector agencies. Honey and peanuts scored highest, driven by strong market demand and existing government support. While honey is a true NTFP, crabwood oil is the only other true forest-based product, with peanuts, cassareep, and cashew being

farmed crops. Crabwood oil scored lowest but holds potential due to its seasonal, forest-based collection, with opportunities for increased market demand.

The following activities are planned to achieve the output:

Activity 2.1.1.1. Conduct climate resilience and disaster risk analysis for gender sensitive value chains^{[4]14} for NTFPs. These commodities will include but not be limited to honey, peanuts, crab oil, cassareep and cashew in Region 9:

Climate resilience and disaster risk analysis for gender-sensitive value chains focus on understanding the factors contributing to gender-differentiated vulnerability to climate change and crises. It identifies strategies to enhance adaptive capacity by recognizing gendered roles in agricultural value chains. A key tool for this is the value chain map, which visually represents the flow of products and processes through production to distribution. A gender-sensitive map highlights the division of labour between men and women at each node and identifies barriers that limit women's roles and access to resources. This mapping also makes women's contributions more visible and will inform targeted interventions.

FAO's guidance note^{[5]15} on climate resilience and disaster risk analysis for gender-sensitive value chains, along with its Toolkit^{[6]16} for integrating climate resilience and gender responsiveness into value chain analysis and market development, will be applied to the five (5) selected commodities in Region 9. The application of these tools will aim to enhance climate resilience while addressing gender disparities in value chains.

Activity 2.1.1.2. Improve the tourism product in Region 9 to increase revenue flows to local communities through promoting the use of locally produced food and handicraft etc.:

To improve tourism and increase local revenue in Region 9, Guyana, FAO's farm-to-table approach will be leveraged by promoting locally sourced food and handicrafts. The model encourages sourcing ingredients and products directly from local farmers and artisans, allowing tourists to experience authentic, regional offerings. For example, integrating traditional dishes made from local produce into eco-tourism tours or creating farm-to-table restaurants will provide farmers with direct economic benefits. Similarly, promoting locally crafted items like pottery and woven goods in tourist shops or as part of cultural experiences will generate sustainable income for artisans. Offering workshops, cooking classes, or farm tours where visitors interact directly with producers will enrich the tourist experience while expanding market opportunities for local goods. Additionally, training local communities in sustainable tourism and marketing practices will help ensure a consistent flow of products to meet tourist demand.

Activity 2.1.1.3. Conduct general capacity building sessions on design, marketing and export of traditional, artisanal, small-scale NTFPs:

These sessions will focus on teaching sustainable practices for the extraction and processing of forest and agricultural products. By improving production and marketing skills, this activity will help local producers increase their competitiveness and reduce environmental impact.

Activity 2.1.1.4. Host national business-to-business (B2B) fora for producer organizations, buyers, and financial institutions:

Organizing B2B forums will facilitate direct connections between local producers and potential buyers or investors, fostering partnerships and access to markets and finance. These forums will focus on traditional, artisanal, and small-scale NTFP producers, enabling them to scale their operations sustainably. Hoteliers (e.g. Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana), supermarket owners and traders, tour operators and travel agents, will be invited to support marketing of sustainably produced NTFPs and tourism products.

Outcome: 2.2. Increased area of land and ecosystems undergoing restoration and sustainably managed

Land reclamation and restoration of mined and fire damaged areas are key to Guyana's LCDS 2030. In 2023, the Ministry of Natural Resources launched the *National Forest Restoration Initiative* to restore mined-out, degraded and deforested lands using native tree species. The GFC and the GGMC Environmental Division are jointly leading the initiative with support from a mining company. Mine-site reclamation and closure are legal requirements for all mining operations and are critical to ecosystem restoration or re-establishment.

The primary cost drivers for demonstration sites include site assessments and earthworks for reclamation activities, with preparatory work costing approximately G\$5 million per acre (~US\$60,000 per km²). External project-based support will greatly enhance the GGMC-GFC's restoration efforts. Additionally, there is a need for dedicated vehicles to transport seedlings between forest locations, seedling stations, and demonstration sites. Community involvement in maintaining tree crops for at least two (2) years post-planting is also crucial for successful stand development.

Fire is also an important deforestation driver. It plays a central role in local livelihoods, culture, and ecosystems, especially in fire-adapted regions like savannas. In the Rupununi, indigenous communities use fire for subsistence farming and cattle grazing, employing controlled patch burning to create natural firebreaks that limit wildfire spread. However, traditional fire management is declining due to shifts in land use, governance, and climate unpredictability, leading to more uncontrolled fires that harm habitats and property.

Further, fire regimes are changing due to factors such as population growth, permanent settlement patterns, cultural shifts, changes in livelihood practices, inappropriate policies, and climate change. The region is experiencing more dry season fires without sufficient late rainy season burns, leading to negative impacts like repeated fires on mountain slopes, forest-to-savannah conversion, degradation of groves near communities, and a decline in local wildlife.

Support to capacity development, planning and restoration will be provided by this component as follows:

Output 2.2.1 Techniques/methods developed and implemented to restore degraded forest and towards improved management.

Approximately 200,000 ha of forest are currently available for rehabilitation/reforestation. Mine-site restoration techniques have been piloted since early 2009. Significant progress has been made in land reclamation, with the GGMC developing strong expertise in that field. The GFC has conducted trials with various tree species and planting methods, including exploring different fertilization techniques.

Regarding fire, recommendations from the 2017 Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment at the regional level include providing training in basic fire prevention strategies at both the regional and community levels,

equipping communities with firefighting resources and equipment to address regional threats and improving infrastructure and transportation for more effective fire response. In 2019, the REDD+ Integrated Fire Management project in the area of Shulinab focused on prescribed burning and established a fire committee, which received training from Brazilian firefighters. Three (3) fire management workshops were held in the Rupununi in 2023 that provided valuable opportunities for indigenous leaders from the Rupununi, as well as regional and national stakeholders, to share diverse perspectives and experiences on fire management in Guyana.

The following activities are planned to achieve restoration of former mine-sites and fire affected areas under this project and to foster improved management:

Activity 2.2.1.1. Participatory development of options to subsidise restoration of mined sites informed by desk studies of approaches in the region which utilize conservation funds, green taxes and exploring the potential for private sector engagement through corporate social responsibility.

Participatory development of restoration subsidy options will involve studying regional best practices in using conservation funds, green taxes, and private sector partnerships through corporate social responsibility initiatives. Based on these studies, the project will explore financial mechanisms to subsidize land restoration activities, particularly in mined areas, while engaging stakeholders such as government agencies, communities, and businesses.

Activity 2.2.1.2. Develop Fire Management Plans covering communities in Region 9

Community-led fire management plans play a crucial role in identifying critical and vulnerable areas for intervention, designating zones where controlled burning or fire lines are necessary and areas that should remain untouched. Two (2) areas have been prioritized; one east of Parishara (3,178 ha of burned and cleared forest) and another west of Shulinab (4,320 ha of forest with slash-and-burn farms and burned areas), totalling 7,498 ha. The fire management plans will outline the optimal timing and seasons for controlled burns, ensuring fires are conducted safely and strategically, and will consider traditional and indigenous knowledge. They will also include measures for wildfire prevention, controlled burning, and fire suppression. Building on experience from Shulinab's successful community fire management plan, developed in 2019 under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ project, these new plans will integrate best practices and community insights to enhance local fire management capacity.

Activity 2.2.1.3. Train and implement Fire Management Plans in Region 9

Wildfire combat in Guyana is new, with not much prior experience. Drip torches and backpack pumps are necessary tools to combat wildfires, while fire monitoring equipment and training of fire brigades are also needed. As part of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ project, a fire brigade was trained in Shulinab by qualified trainers from Mato Grosso State in Brazil. Boa Vista Fire Brigade in Brazil also rendered support. The 2019 training consisted of three (3) days of theory and two (2) days of practical exercises, including casualty salvage, with a strong emphasis on safety, discipline, and clear role assignments within the brigade. Initial timidity transformed into confidence, particularly after receiving personal protection equipment and successfully extinguishing a challenging fire, both of which boosted motivation significantly. A similar training program will be organized for this project, with support from the Boa Vista Fire Brigade and the Forestry Training Center. The decline of traditional fire management, due to factors such as youth disinterest, migration, and the lack of knowledge transfer, will also be addressed as part of this activity.

Activity 2.2.1.4. Restore not less than 358.5 ha of fire damaged, degraded forests with assisted regeneration within Regions 6 and 9:

In fire-prone areas of Regions 6 and 9, efforts will focus on restoring fire-damaged and degraded forests. While natural regeneration typically occurs after a wildfire, some forest species may not regenerate well and could be replaced by invasive grasses. To address this, the project will improve the capacity of stakeholders to harvest and propagate seedlings of native species for revegetation activities. Nurseries will be strengthened and upgraded to grow seedlings of native forest species before planting. In areas where regeneration is obstructed by invasive vegetation, weeding will be carried out to promote the growth of native species. The species used in revegetation efforts will be assessed in terms of biodiversity, water efficiency, local needs, survival rates, and other criteria. It will be ensured that only compatible and non-invasive seeds are planted, encouraging the use of native species where possible. All the activities will be executed as part of the Guyana Forest Commission's Community Forestry programme and lessons learned and experiences will be shared through the Regional Coordination Project as part of component 3 activities. In Region 9, restoration will take place in two (2) community-based areas totaling 222 ha, located east of the indigenous village of Nappi, near the boundary of the KMPA. In Region 6, the GFC will restore a 136.5-hectare burned forest area called 'Bissaruni' through assisted natural revegetation.

Activity 2.2.1.5. Consolidate existing technical knowledge for the restoration of mined areas, from previous trials and best available science:

The GGMC and the University of Guyana have extensive experience in mine-site restoration, particularly through the Land Reclamation Project (2014–2019), which focused on sites like St. Elisabeth (Region 8), Olive Creek and Puruni Landing (Region 7), and Dakoura (Region 10). GGMC has developed expertise in land reclamation, including pond depth determination and basic biological assessments. The GFC has built expertise in species selection, planting techniques, and fertilizer application, though there is room to integrate non-tree crops, grasses, and agroforestry practices, and to strengthen overall soil health within reforestation efforts. Incorporating these approaches would improve soil quality and resilience, increasing survival rates and ensuring sustainable outcomes. While detailed records are not fully accessible, valuable insights exist within the three (3) institutions. This project will consolidate this knowledge, refine methodologies, and introduce innovative techniques that consider soil health to inform future reforestation efforts, and monitor vegetation and soil biodiversity recovery in recently restored sites at Olive Creek, Puruni Landing and Dakoura (39.6 ha).

Activity 2.2.1.6. Develop a guideline for the restoration of mined sites and train stakeholders:

A guideline for restoring mined sites will be developed by analyzing best practices from regional and international examples, engaging stakeholders (e.g. mining companies, government agencies, and indigenous communities), and detailing restoration techniques, regulatory compliance, monitoring, and the integration of indigenous knowledge. Stakeholders will be trained through workshops, tailored modules, demonstration sites, and knowledge-sharing platforms to enhance their capacity for effective land restoration and sustainable management.

Activity 2.2.1.7. Restoration of approximately 65 ha of artisanal mining sites in KNP, Madhia and Matthews Ridge:

Restoration activities will be implemented based on the strategies outlined in 2.2.1.5 and 2.2.1.6. Fifteen ha will be replanted collaboratively by the GFC and local community youth after reclamation by the GGMC

at St. Elisabeth near Madhia (Region 8). Four (4) restoration approaches will be tested: replanting with native species, *Acacia* sp., agroforestry with intercropping, and introducing grasses or similar crops. In the KNP (Region 8), a restoration plan will be developed in collaboration with the neighbouring Patimona communities of Chenapau, Karisparu, and Campbell Town. The plan will focus on assisted natural regeneration, aiming to restore the vegetation and provide goods and services that benefit these communities. The total area amounts to 40 ha, of which 25 ha will be restored during the project. In Matthews Ridge (Region 1), the GFC will develop a restoration plan for 40 ha of gold and manganese mining sites, with 25 ha restored over the next four (4) years. The project will provide crucial external support to expand seedling stations, improve transport logistics, and ensure community involvement for the successful development of tree crops. Remediation activities will not be supported by the project.

Output 2.2.2 Agreements established with IPLCs, considering gender and age inclusivity, for improved governance and participatory forest management

Guyana's National Protected Areas System, managed by the PAC, faces challenges due to, in addition to financial needs, the lack of cohesive governance structures and formal resource use agreements with IPLCs, especially in Regions 8 and 9. IPLCs depend on PAs for livelihoods, including fishing, hunting, small-scale farming, and NTFP harvesting, yet the absence of clear instruments that regulate resource use results in misunderstandings regarding allowable activities, limited collaboration, and potential resource conflicts within protected areas like KNP and Iwokrama Rainforest.

While there are some informal arrangements, they are limited in scope and focus mainly on specific subsistence practices rather than on comprehensive frameworks for resource use, conservation, and community management. Formal agreements will clarify roles and responsibilities, establish sustainable resource practices, and support joint decision-making and monitoring. Such instruments will foster better biodiversity stewardship, while balancing PAC's conservation goals with IPLCs cultural and economic needs, promoting trust and cooperation for more effective protected area management.

The following activities are planned to foster agreements with IPLCs for participatory management:

Activity 2.2.2.1. Identify regional actors, considering gender and age inclusivity, for implementation and an entity for management and monitoring to support sustainability of action:

To identify regional actors and establish a sustainable, participatory management and monitoring entity for protected areas, the following steps will be taken:

- Identify and engage IPLCs, regional government agencies, environmental NGOs, and research institutions with existing local influence or expertise in resource management and conservation.
- Form an inclusive group involving representatives from IPLCs, the PAC, regional councils, and local organizations. This entity would oversee participatory planning and decision-making to integrate local needs and conservation goals.
- Develop formalized agreements outlining each stakeholder's roles, rights, and responsibilities to ensure clarity in resource use, conservation practices, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- Implement systems for community-based monitoring and data collection to track ecological health, using IPLC knowledge and regular reporting to support adaptive management.

- Provide training and resources for IPLCs and local organizations in conservation and sustainable resource use, enhancing local skills and increasing the initiative's sustainability.

Activity 2.2.2.2. Develop GIS-based DSS (mapping past and present protection and restoration initiatives):

Effective management of Region 9 and protection of the KMPA urgently requires updated data, real-time monitoring, a comprehensive land degradation and fire management plan, and inclusive governance structures. Without these measures, resource use will remain ad hoc, heightening risks of unsustainable practices and fire hazards that could compromise the region's long-term ecological integrity. FAO's GIS-based DSS uses spatial data to map and analyze degraded areas, identifying key interventions for restoration. Providing training on using this GIS tool for monitoring and planning will educate local communities and authorities on sustainable land management practices and restoration techniques.

Activity 2.2.2.3. Establish sub working committee within the Regional Democratic Council on land degradation under the Conservation Roundtable

The Conservation Roundtable in the Rupununi serves as a collaborative platform dedicated to promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management in the region. It brings together local indigenous communities, government agencies, and NGOs to address shared environmental challenges. Establishing a Land Degradation Sub-Committee within the Roundtable will greatly enhance efforts to monitor, prevent, and restore degraded forests and lands. This dedicated sub-committee will prioritize land degradation issues, foster stronger collaboration among stakeholders, and streamline targeted actions for sustainable land management and restoration.

Activity 2.2.2.4. Develop land degradation response plan for Region 9 communities in the Kanuku Mountain Range.

Despite the Rupununi's significant ecosystem services and productive value, as well as the presence of a Conservation Roundtable that includes indigenous communities in Region 9, there is a notable gap in a cohesive and comprehensive land degradation response plan. The Land Degradation Response Plan will involve engaging local communities and stakeholders to gather knowledge on land degradation, while using FAO's GIS DDS to collect baseline data and identify degradation hotspots. The plan will set measurable restoration goals, select appropriate techniques, and prioritize interventions based on GIS data. The implementation plan will outline roles, resource needs, and timelines, while monitoring progress through GIS tools and community involvement.

COMPONENT 3 Effective strategic communication and knowledge management

This component includes communication and knowledge sharing efforts, including collaboration within the ASL3 Regional Coordination Project. It will focus on an Engagement and Dissemination Strategy to share best practices, insights, and knowledge products. The project will also facilitate knowledge exchange with other countries in the ASL3 Program and identify opportunities for complementary initiatives. This component addresses barriers 4 and 5 by employing the innovation and learning and multistakeholder dialogues levers to trigger transformational change towards increased awareness, implementation capacity and multisectoral coordination. As a result of the planned activities, the project will contribute to ASL3 Program outcome 4.1 *Enhanced knowledge and institutional implementation capacity among national and regional project stakeholders.*

Outcome: 3.1. Knowledge shared and stakeholder awareness increased

Output 3.1.1 Engagement and knowledge dissemination strategy implemented

Activity 3.1.1.1 Communications and awareness raising strategy, including a campaign to increase public knowledge on the impact of wildfires and gold mining on the forest landscape and livelihoods of surrounding communities (PAC to lead with Regional Democratic Council) and to promote awareness and interest from policy makers on financing needs for restoration.

This output emphasizes knowledge management to capture and share vital information. It is expected to result in the empowerment of local actors, public and private sector representatives, and communities through continuous training and active participation. An Engagement and Dissemination Plan will be developed to identify target audiences and the most effective communication channels, including (local) radio, TV, podcasts, webinars, and websites, to promote conservation achievements and combat illegal activities. Successful business models with IPLCs will be prioritized for dissemination, along with lessons learned and recommendations for overcoming challenges. Partnerships with the private sector will also be documented, and a manual will be created to facilitate the adoption of best practices. A gender sensitive perspective will be embedded into communication and knowledge management strategies, with communication actions specifically addressed to women and youth, and with knowledge products highlighting gender aspects of implementation developed and published.

This output is also inclusive of the preparation of policy briefs to inform policymakers about potential strategies, restoration opportunities, and financing needs, and of the publication and dissemination of the technical documents, monitoring protocols and restoration guidelines developed under components 1 and 2, which will count with the input and validation of research and academic institutions.

Activity 3.1.1.2. Translate all output documents into not less than three (3) local languages:

To ensure effective knowledge management, lessons learned, management plans, and other key documents will be translated into Wapichan, Makushi, and Patamona languages. Additionally, traditional Wapichan and Makushi fire management system concepts and procedures will be translated into English to enhance broader understanding and application across different stakeholders.

Output 3.1.2. Regional-scale learning and cooperation.

Activity 3.1.2.1. Participation of project personnel and staff from the government in the ASL3 Regional Coordination Project:

Knowledge-sharing sessions and exchange visits to neighboring countries, and attendance to the ASL Annual Conference will be supported to foster regional cooperation under the Regional Coordination Project. Knowledge exchanges and cooperation will be encouraged through the CFB-IP and other platforms, including REDPARQUES, to share lessons and identify complementary interventions across Amazonian countries. The project will also leverage the ASL webinar program and join its Community of Practice in order to share and discuss experiences and best-practices.

M&E-1.1 Project implementation based on improved PA management

Output M&E-1.1.1. M&E of the project developed to provide systematized information on measurable, verifiable progress

Activity M&E-1.1.1.1. Design and implement the M&E plan (inclusive of agreements reached in Free, Prior and Informed Consent [FPIC] process)

Output M&E-1.1.2. Mid-term review and final evaluation to inform adaptive management

Activity M&E-1.1.2.1. Conduct mid-term review and final evaluation

Stakeholder engagement

117. The project relies on the collaboration of diverse stakeholders whose roles span policy leadership, technical expertise, community mobilization, and private sector innovation. Table 1 below summarizes how key stakeholders will contribute to implementing the project, their respective roles and how they will benefit from the project to ensure that the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits will be enduring. Their sustained participation and engagement, including after the project end date, will be based on the integration of stakeholders in improved value chains, which will provide alternative livelihoods that enhance revenues and demonstrate the benefits of sustainable forest management. The incorporation of indigenous and traditional practices into forest use and management strategies will ensure that cultural aspects are considered. The activities will be supported by participatory processes to promote ownership and empowerment. All that, together with capacity development and awareness raising actions, will lead to increased adoption and reduced disadoption in the long run.

Table 1. Summary of the project's key stakeholders contributions and expected benefits

Name of institution	Role in project	Expected benefits
EPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executing Agency • Chair of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) • Project co-financier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain additional skills in managing climate financed projects (Core Indicator 11) • Extended network to support conservation of forests (nationally and regionally) (Core Indicator 11)
GGMC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides technical advice and basic information • Member of the PSC • Project co-financier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain additional skills in restoration and reclamation of mined out areas (Core Indicators 1, 3, 4 and 6) • Extended network to support conservation of mined out areas (Core Indicator 11)
PAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides technical advice and basic information • Member of the PSC • Project co-financier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain additional skills in PAs management (Core Indicators 1, 3, 4 and 6) • Extended network to support PAs management (Core Indicator 11)

Name of institution	Role in project	Expected benefits
National Tashaos Council (NTC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Member of the PSC ● Chair of the Region 9 Subcommittee ● Provides technical advice and basic information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gain additional skills in fire management and value chain development (Core Indicators 1, 3, 4, 6 and 11) ● Extended network to support fire management and value chain development (Core Indicator 11) ● Gain additional skills in managing climate financed projects (Core Indicator 11)
GFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Member of the PSC ● Provides technical advice and basic information ● Project co-financier 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gain additional skills reforestation (Core Indicators 1, 3, 4 and 6) ● Extended network to support reforestation (Core Indicator 11)
Department of Environment and Climate Change (DOECC), Office of the President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provides technical advice and basic information on the biodiversity trading mechanism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gain additional options for financing conservation (Core Indicator 1) ● Feedback on operational procedures supporting financing mechanisms (Core Indicator 11) ● Extended network to support options for financing conservation (Core Indicator 11)
Guyana Gold Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engagement for the development of guidelines for the restoration of mined out areas, under component 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gain additional skills and expertise for options on restoration of mined out areas (Core Indicators 1, 3, 4, 6 and 11) ● Extended network to support options for the restoration mined out areas (Core Indicator 11)

Private sector involvement

Table 2 Below summarizes how the Private Sector will be engaged to transform the markets and economic systems required to tackle the key drivers of environmental degradation and to reverse unsustainable trends.

Table 2. Summary of the expected private sector engagement for the project

Name of institution	Expected engagement
GGDMA	Will be included in the teams to implement restoration and reclamation of mined out areas so that the lessons learnt will be adopted into day-to-day operations of miners.
Forestry Product Development and Marketing Council Incorporated	Invited to participate in value chain development activities under the project, to encourage the adoption of sustainable practices among forest users.
Hoteliers (e.g. Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana), supermarket owners and traders	Invited to attend the B2B forum to support marketing of sustainably produced NTFP and tourism products
Co-operatives and credit unions	Invited to work with the project team to build capacity in IPLCs to improve access to finance to support sustainable practices in the forest, specifically to encourage record keeping and establishment of credit history among users of forest resources.
Tour operators and travel agents	Engaged to promote tours that seek to preserve the culture of the IPLCs and support sustainable forest management

Innovation & Transformative Change, Knowledge management, Policy coherence and Capacity development

Innovation & transformative change

The project aims to drive transformative change by introducing integrated approaches to biodiversity conservation, land restoration, and sustainable livelihoods. Scaling up is expected to be achieved by demonstrating successful practices, such as fire management plans, community-driven restoration models, and innovative financing mechanisms (e.g. conservation funds or green taxes). These models will then be replicated or adapted across other regions in Guyana, leveraging regional platforms like the Conservation Roundtable to share results and mobilize partnerships. The use of geospatial technologies such as a GIS-based DSS and real-time monitoring tools, like the “Satellites on Fire” app, ensures that innovative methods become institutionalized within government agencies and communities, supporting long-term sustainability.

Knowledge management

The project will build on existing knowledge by utilizing baseline data, tools, and practices from previous and ongoing initiatives such as the previous GGMC-led Land Reclamation Project, the present GGMC/GFC National Forest Restoration Initiative, the WWF-GEF Securing a living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Southern Guyana project, the Strengthening the Enabling Framework for Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Mercury Reduction Project (GEF-6), the government-led Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Development and Management Project, the FAO-GEF Caribbean SIDS Multicountry Soil Management Initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and Climate-Resilient Food Systems project, and the European Union-funded Sustainable Forest Livelihoods for Communities in Guyana and Suriname programme and Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme implemented across 15 countries of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States. New knowledge will be generated through geospatial mapping, biodiversity assessments, and community-based and government-led restoration efforts. This knowledge will be captured through databases, interactive GIS platforms, and periodic reports. The project will share knowledge with stakeholders through workshops, training programs, and online platforms, ensuring accessibility for future projects. An effective Engagement and Dissemination Strategy to share best practices, insights, and knowledge products and knowledge exchange with other countries in the ASL3

Integrated Program, through the ASL3 Regional Coordination Project, will enhance dissemination, scaling the lessons learned and best practices to other regions of Guyana and beyond.

Policy coherence

Building on recent policy developments by the ASL2 child project in Guyana, this project will support the coordinated implementation of national policies through development of practical guidelines for mined-site restoration that cover all the restoration steps, activities (excluding remediation) and stakeholders, and develop fire management plans that will be integrated into broader land-use plans to promote sustainable land use and biodiversity protection. Efforts to improve forest governance and through EPA's coordinated work with agencies like GGMC, GFC, PAC and NTC, and with IPLCs, the project will encourage institutional coordination across sectors and through all stakeholder and administration levels, contributing to create an enabling framework for sustainable development. These efforts will also contribute to Guyana's international commitments, including REDD+ goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Capacity development

The project's success relies heavily on strengthening the capacities of local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders. Through innovative financing mechanisms, GEF and co-financing, the project will deliver targeted training in areas such as sustainable land-use planning, fire prevention and suppression, mine-site restoration techniques, and geospatial tool use. Capacity-building efforts will include practical workshops, demonstration sites, and tailored modules for IPLCs. Institutional capacities will be enhanced by supporting agencies like the PAC, GGMC, and GFC with the resources and technical expertise needed for former mine and fire degraded site restoration, effective governance and monitoring. These efforts ensure long-term sustainability and scalability of project outcomes.

[1] Gbedomon, R.C., Aoudji, A., & Vodouhe, F. (2020). A hand note for value chains analysis of Non-Timber Forest Products, in Hand Note for NTFPs scientists: *Approaches and Methods for Monitoring, Assessment and Conservation*; pp 29-41

[2] Cassareep is a thick, dark liquid made from the juice of the bitter cassava *Manihot esculenta* root, often enhanced with spices. It is commonly used as a base for sauces, particularly in the traditional Guyanese dish, pepperpot. In addition to its role as a flavoring and browning agent, cassareep is also valued as a natural preservative. Most cassareep is exported from Guyana and is available in bottled form on the U.S. market

[3] Crabwood oil, also known as crab, carap, or Andiroba oil, is extracted from the seeds of *Carapa guianensis* and is prized for its anti-inflammatory properties, benefiting conditions like eczema and psoriasis. It deeply moisturizes, making it ideal for massage, skincare formulations, and as a carrier oil. The oil, which is light yellow and bitter, is commonly found in informal markets in Guyana and is widely used in Brazil.

[4] Safa Barraza, A. and Berthelin, L. 2022. *Climate resilience and disaster risk analysis for gender-sensitive value chains: A guidance note*. Rome, FAO.

[5] <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc0051en>

[6] <https://www.fao.org/3/cb0699en/CB0699EN.pdf>

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this child project, including framework and mechanisms for coordination, governance, financial management and procurement. This should include consideration for linking with other relevant initiatives at country-level (if a country child project) or regional/global level (for coordination platform child project). If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

- The EPA will act as the lead executing agency and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement (OPA) signed with FAO^[17]. As Operational Partnership (OP) of the project, the EPA is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements.

The project organization structure is as follows:

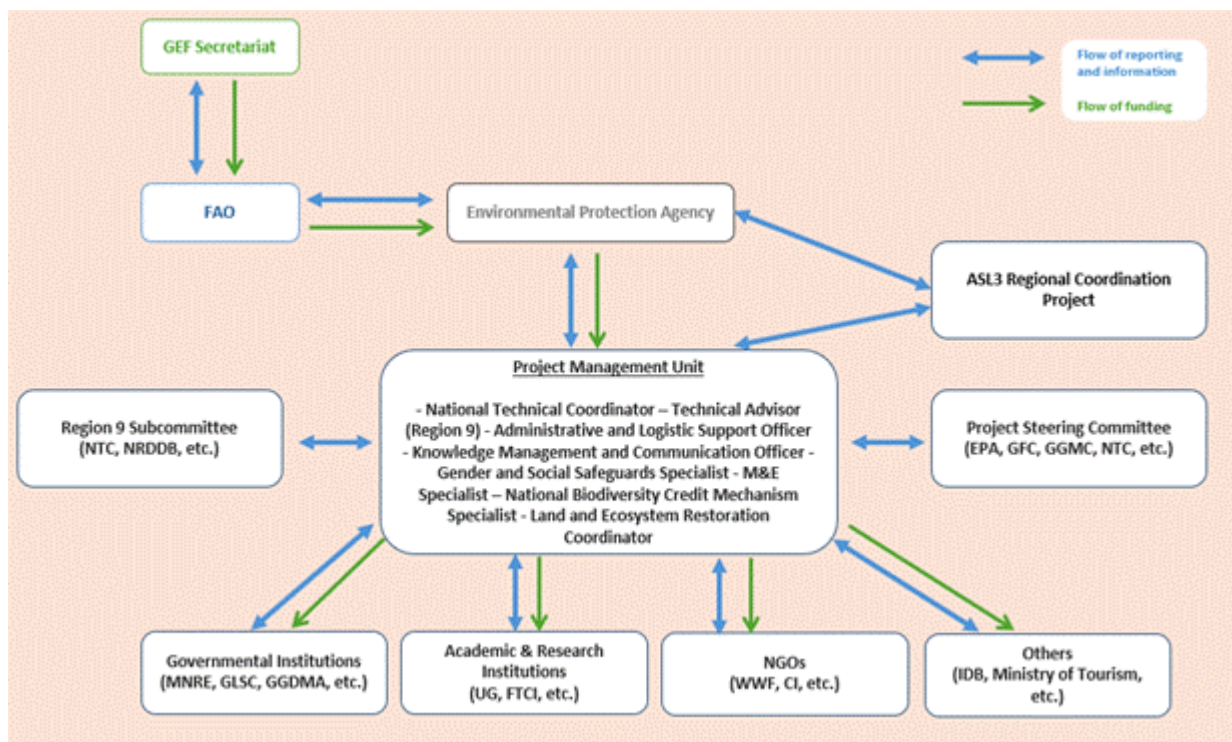


Figure 2: Organizational chart of the Advancing Guyana's National Development through Improved Forest Management Project

The EPA will house the Project Management Unit (PMU) and will chair the PSC which will be the main governing body of the project. The PSC will approve Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWP/B) on a

yearly basis and will provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Team and to all executing partners.

The PSC will be comprised of representatives from EPA, PAC, GGMC, NTC, GFC, Ministry of Finance and FAO. The members of the PSC will each assume the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. Hence, the project will have a Focal Point in each concerned institution. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will: (i) technically oversee activities in their sector; (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency; and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project. The work of the PSC will be supported by a Region 9 Subcommittee to contribute to effective implementation and will be constituted of representatives IPLCs and other Partners involved in implementing projects in Region 9 where synergies will lead to greater positive impacts. Other Implementing Partners, from governmental institutions, NGOs and academic and research institutions, will be engaged to provide technical support towards the execution of project initiatives dependent on their areas of expertise e.g. biodiversity assessment and conservation, including traditional and indigenous knowledge. In particular, the University of Guyana will be contracted to further explore natural assisted revegetation and soil restoration. The project will collaborate with the ASL3 Regional Coordination Project to share lessons learned and best practices, via knowledge-sharing sessions, exchange visits to neighboring countries and attendance at conferences, to foster regional cooperation under the ASL3 Regional Coordination Project.

The FAO will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy three (3) different actors within the organization to support the project (see Annex M for details):

- The Budget Holder (BH), which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day-to-day project execution
- The Lead Technical Officer(s) (LTO), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the PSC
- The Funding Liaison Officer(s) (FLO) and the GEF Technical Officers (GTO) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being designed and carried out in accordance with FAO and GEF minimum fiduciary and technical standards.

FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, will include:

- Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO
- Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, OPA(s) and other rules and procedures of FAO
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned
- Conduct at least one (1) supervision mission per year
- Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress

Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

[1] It should be noted that the identified Operational Partner(s) may change due to FAO internal due diligence and agreement procedures if not yet been concluded at the time of submission of the CEO Endorsement Request

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this child project? Yes

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

The investment of 181,900 USD will enable capacity building using specific tools and approaches on value chain development, wildfire management and the development of a GIS-based DSS. This project will benefit from the expertise and lessons learned with the assistance of the FAO. The FAO has developed a sustainable food value chain framework and associated tools and guidelines for integrating climate resilience and gender responsiveness into value chain analysis and market development. FAO has long had a focus on wildfire management and has been one of the international organizations facilitating the development of a comprehensive approach for integrated fire management. In the Caribbean FAO has worked for over 30 years to improve wildfire management through regional forums and has been able to incorporate contextual issues into guidance to beneficiary countries. Finally, FAO is one (1) of the key partners and serves on the Steering Committee of the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies and has implemented the DSS in different countries to support them in informed decision-making.

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project will collaborate with several ongoing national, regional and global GEF and non-GEF initiatives, building on their achievements and ownership:

- **WWF-GEF Securing a living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Southern Guyana** project, launched in April 2024 under the ASL2 – GEF-7 (USD 5.2 million) and run by the EPA, aims to protect and enhance biodiversity through improved landscape connectivity in the southern regions of Guyana, with a focus on strengthening the management of PAs. The proposed project will build upon the advances achieved by the ASL2, particularly by enhancing financing towards the out scaling of

sustainable management and improved governance of PA's, integrating community-led monitoring systems and enhancing data sharing for biodiversity conservation.

- The government-led **Strengthening the Enabling Framework for Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Mercury Reduction Project** (GEF-6; 2021-2027; USD 4.5 million), focuses on reducing mercury pollution from small- and medium-scale gold mining while protecting biodiversity and improving livelihoods. Key outcomes include strengthening regulatory frameworks, improving institutional capacity, adopting environmentally responsible mining practices, and facilitating knowledge-sharing. Specific achievements include improved forest management in mining districts, reduced mercury use, and restoration of degraded lands. The proposed project will build on baseline data from the GEF-6 project on forest restoration and expand on the GEF-6 project's efforts by developing practical guidelines for mine site restoration.
- The government-led **Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Development and Management Project**, funded by the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (2018-2025; USD 14.8 million), focuses on strengthening the GLSC in land governance, planning, and restoration. Its key objectives include enhancing geospatial systems, land administration, and sustainable land management through community-driven land use planning and pilot reclamation measures. The proposed project will build on these efforts by collaborating with GLSC to enhance land monitoring systems and implementing participatory land management approaches, especially through the GIS-based DSS.
- The **Frankfurt Zoological Society** (via a Memorandum of Understanding 12/2022) supports the PAC by training rangers, organizing patrols, and using satellite data for detecting illegal activities in the Kanuku Mountains. The proposed project will expand on this by providing advanced training in new technologies like GIS tools and expanding the use of satellite data to enhance decision-making and monitoring efforts.
- The PAC is piloting the use of an app named **Satellites on Fire**. The Satellites on Fire app combines artificial intelligence and satellite data to detect, monitor, and alert wildfire risks in near real-time, updating every 20 minutes. It uses artificial intelligence to analyze current data against historical imagery, enabling early detection of small fires for quicker response. Designed for wildfire management, the app provides alerts with details on location, size, and intensity, integrating local weather and infrastructure data to support decision-making. The proposed project will assess integrating this technology into wildfire management planning and fire brigade training.
- The **Sustainable Forest Livelihoods for Communities in Guyana and Suriname programme** (2023-2027; EUR 10 million), funded by the European Union and executed by WWF Guianas, promotes sustainable and equitable income-generating activities and financial mechanisms in Guyana's Regions 2, 9, and 10. The proposed project will complement the EU programme by enhancing capacity-building for sustainable forest-based value chains that are not considered in the EU programme, integrating advanced geospatial tools for land-use planning and monitoring, and supporting financial mechanisms for conservation and livelihoods through the proposed biodiversity credit or other financial mechanism.

Table On Core Indicators

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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1816932	1444735	0	0
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Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
1816932	1444735	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Iwokrama International Center	116298	Others	371,610.00						
Kaieteur National Park	198	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	62,700.00	62,680.00			59.00		
Kaneshen Amerindian Protected Area	41053	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	648,567.00	648,000.00			63.00		
Kanuku Mountains Protected Area	41049	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	611,000.00	611,000.00			56.00		
Shell Beach Protected Area	41057	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	123,055.00	123,055.00			49.00		

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
500	423.5	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
500.00	423.50		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	4359.6	0	0

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	4,359.60		

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	2182841	939420	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	0	1939374	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	2,182,841	939,420		
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)		1,939,374		
Anticipated start year of accounting	2025	2025		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	3,000	13,120		

Male	7,000	19,680		
Total	10,000	32,800	0	0

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

Core Indicator 1: the project will improve the management of 1,444,735 ha of Protected Areas through innovative financial mechanisms (component 1), the sustainable livelihood strategies and fire management plan (component 2) and the increased engagement and knowledge provided (component 3).

Core Indicator 3: a total 423.5 ha will be directly restored by the project activities in Mahdia (15 ha will be reclaimed, soils improved and replanted), Kaieteur National Park (25 ha under community-based assisted natural regeneration), Bissaruni (136.5 ha through assisted natural regeneration), Matthews Ridge (25 ha with soil improvement practices and replanting) and Parishara/Nappi (222 ha, through assisted natural regeneration). This is a reduction of 276.5 ha compared to PIF's 700 ha, which was decided after a more in-depth assessment of the execution capacity of the OP in relation to the project duration and to be realistically adjusted to the available budget for restoration activities. Further, restoration plans will be prepared for additional 40 ha (15 ha in Kaieteur, 10 ha in Mahdia, and 15 ha in Matthew's Ridge) although they have not been accounted for in Core Indicator 3 calculations, because the plans are expected to be implemented after the project end date.

Core Indicator 4: a total of 4,359.6 ha of forests outside of PAs will be under improved management. This large increase in area compared to the PIF expectations responds to the nature of the activities that will be implemented, which include a fire management plan in 4,320 ha in the Shulinab area where forest is currently being used for agriculture (including slash and burn practices). An additional 39.6 ha are included in Core Indicator 4, corresponding to previously restored areas that will be subject to monitoring in Dakoura, Olive Creek and Puruni Landing.

Core Indicator 6: the restoration of 423.5 ha of forests (from Core Indicator 3) is expected to sequester 307,606 tCO₂e, while improved management of 3,178 ha of PAs (Core Indicator 1) and 4,320 ha outside of PAs (Core Indicator 4 minus 39.6 ha where only monitoring activities will be done) are expected to result in a reduction of 369,680 and 496,200 tCO₂e, respectively, 30 years after the start of the project (NEXT-tool time series). By the end of the project in 2030, 97,021 tCO₂ of emissions will have been reduced/avoided, and a total of 2,878,794 tCO₂e by the end of the 20-year accounting period in 2044. This represents an increase compared to the PIF-stage estimate of 2,182,841 tCO₂e, primarily due to the larger area now considered for fire management plans in and outside PAs (Core Indicators 1 and 4). Of the total GHG emissions avoided/reduced, 939,420 tCO₂e is attributed to direct project actions, while 1,939,374 tCO₂e is due to indirect effects from replication of the improved management experiences implemented under component 2, facilitated by the improved financial environment from component 1, and the strengthened capacities and the adoption of the technical guidelines developed under component 2. Indirect effects thus relate to the carbon stored due to areas reported under core indicator 1.2. The indirect effects were calculated conservatively, considering only biomass regrowth in currently degraded areas. Potential reduction in deforestation as a result of improved management of 1,444,735 ha of PAs after the project end date is not accounted for. At a deforestation rate of 0.05 percent, consistent with Guyana's 2010-2023 average deforestation rate, an estimated 18,586 ha of forests could be lost in PAs in the period 2030-2055, without the project, translating into an additional 8.2 million tCO₂e that the project will help to avoid. These potential gains are not included in Core Indicator 6 calculations, indicating that the presented carbon balance represents the lower limit of the project's climate change mitigation potential.

Core indicator 11: At least 32,800 individuals (13,120 women) will be directly benefited from project activities through capacity development actions (all project components), through the impacts of improved management and enhanced ecosystem services as a result of restoration activities (component 2), and by diversified and more resilient livelihoods (component 2).

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	<p>At country level, observed climate hazards in the present are likely to intensify and gain in frequency into the future under a high emission scenario. As a result, Guyana and vulnerable socioeconomic groups therein are expected to be adversely exposed and affected by increasing extreme weather events. The average daily minimum temperature showed a maximum increase of about 0.84°C in the southern area of Region 9 and the lowest increase of about 0.54°C in the northern area of Region 8, from a baseline of 22.2°C, during the 1979-2019 period. The average daily maximum temperatures increased by a maximum of 0.70°C in the central area of Region 9 and by a minimum of 0.51°C in the northern area of Region 8 from a baseline of 31.5°C during the 1979-2019 period. The project design will ensure that these factors are considered in the scheduling of project activities under component 2, to reduce exposure to heat, and the selection of practices will include the minimization of vulnerability to site-specific climate risk. Further, closer engagement with local stakeholders will be promoted to increase preparedness. The activities under component 2 will benefit from increased engagement with civil society organisations (CSOs), academia and government institutions to ensure that projects and value chain improvement activities consider climate risk and incorporate adaptation and mitigation measures according to their specificities. Finally, Component 1 explores options to provide financing for restoration which would fund individuals and/or communities to undertake actions to increase the provision of ecosystem services. There are multiple adaptation and mitigation benefits from these financing mechanisms including: promoting carbon sequestration and limiting GHG emissions; preserving natural resources, wildlife, and biodiversity; reducing soil erosion; generating income from both the profit for the environmental services and the market of the final products; regulating climate and improving water quality; reducing risk of fire; and generating employment.</p>
Environmental and Social	Moderate	<p>Marginalized groups, including the elderly, women, children, and remote farming communities, are typically the most vulnerable groups to climate-related hazards in Guyana. The country ranked 122 out of 160 in the United Nations Development Program's Gender Inequality Index in 2017, in comparison, Belize and Suriname are ranked at 89 and 99 respectively on this index. Approximately 28% of households in Guyana are headed by women, placing them at greater risk of disaster impacts. Women also make up over 50% of the agricultural workforce, meaning their incomes, livelihoods, and</p>

		<p>food security are particularly vulnerable to floods and droughts. Indigenous women face even greater challenges due to their strong dependence on natural resources for both reproductive and productive tasks, such as securing water, food, and fuel, coupled with limited mobility. Poverty, which is worsened by disasters, disproportionately affects women—especially in the indigenous communities. Key factors accounting for the differences between women’s and men’s vulnerability to climate change risks include gender-based differences in time use, access to assets and credit, treatment by formal institutions, which can constrain women’s opportunities, limited access to policy discussions and decision making, and a lack of sex-disaggregated data for policy change. The Environmental and Social Safeguard Plan and the Gender Action Plan for the project were developed during the project design stage which sought to identify gaps in on going activities and proposed activities. Special attention will be paid to ensuring that social and cultural barriers do not prevent women and vulnerable groups from effectively participating in the project. The representation of women, youth and other vulnerable groups will be emphasized when selecting participants in project activities and training and capacity development strategies will be specifically designed to enable and facilitate women, youth and other vulnerable groups engagement.</p>
Political and Governance	Low	<p>General elections are due in Guyana by November 2025. Although the declaration of the 2020 elections was protracted and included several court decisions, the transition of power was peaceful. However, changes in government priorities are possible and this may impact support for the project and the adoption of the procedures and policies. The project’s mitigation strategy consists of an increased engagement with the political sector throughout project formulation and execution phases, fostering dialogue and consensus, and advocating for project goals to maintain priority status and mitigate the impact of potential political transitions on project continuity and effectiveness.</p>
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	<p>Guyana’s LCDS 2030 emphasizes sustainable, low-carbon development, leveraging the country’s natural wealth, including its biodiversity, forests, minerals, and water resources, to improve the quality of life for all Guyanese. The strategy promotes efficient resource use, resilience, and low-carbon economic growth. In the mining sector, the LCDS 2030 objective is to promote greener, safer mining practices that minimize environmental and social impacts, reduce waste, and ensure timely rehabilitation of degraded sites for productive or recreational purposes. The scope of the project has been aligned with this policy and has been agreed with the relevant stakeholders. It focuses on a selected number of barriers to achieve results without putting undue pressure on the existing government institutions and IPLCs. The approach contributes to the sustainability of project results by building on ongoing and planned interventions of key stakeholders and improving expertise and skills of key stakeholders.</p>

Technological	Low	The project has a strong technical focus, investing in establishing financing mechanisms and strengthening knowledge and skills for restoration and fire management. There is the potential risk of user resistance and low buy-in for the implementation of new technical solutions. These risks are not novel when it comes to the introduction of new technical solutions. To mitigate these risks, the project will leverage the technical expertise of the FAO and best practices from existing and past projects and encourage adoption through the project's communication strategy
Financial and Business Model	Low	Macroeconomic risks such as inflation may impact the cost of the project during implementation. To mitigate this risk, the FAO has a competent financial management and procurement system that is guided by the FAO regulations and built on the principles of "best value for money, fairness, transparency, economy and effectiveness." As such, inflationary pressures will be managed via this system to ensure that the best value is sought for goods and services and that compliance is maintained.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	Guyana has an extensive history of forest conservation and has technical expertise and experience in the management of the forest landscape. Technicians and IPLCs have indicated a willingness to develop additional capacities. The established framework is challenged to manage the present emerging issues. The project allocates a considerable portion of the budget to building capacity through several approaches. These include presenting feasible options for funding for restoration, developing livelihood opportunities, increasing skills and knowledge in sustainable extraction, improving production and marketing of commodities and strengthening institutional networks to support restoration.
Fiduciary	Low	While there is significant capacity in Guyana, the project team will conduct a fiduciary assessment of the project executing entity in line with FAO's due diligence
Stakeholder	Low	The Government of Guyana's LCDS 2030 was formulated through an extensive consultative process strengthening the precedence for stakeholder engagement in achieving national development goals. In line with this approach, the project includes actions to empower government entities to better undertake their mandates and collaborate with IPLCs, NGOs, private sector and community groups to participate in the sustainable management of the forest landscape Governmental stakeholders buy-in will be maintained through strategic and periodic awareness-raising and communication to key decision-makers including parliamentarians, and through carefully crafted messages to targeted audiences at the national level. In terms of engagement, the FAO has extensive experience in working with many of the main government partners, including in other ongoing FAO-GEF initiatives, which will facilitate continued political and institutional engagement in the project during implementation. The establishment of the PSC during the project inception phase will also ensure participation, ownership and engagement of

		key partners and maintain attention on the project. Key stakeholders will actively support the project activities through the establishment and maintenance of partnerships managed by the PMU. A project stakeholder engagement plan developed during the project design stage will be implemented to ensure effective, coherent and equitable stakeholder coordination. Addressing the issues of particular concern to stakeholders and demonstrating the socio-economic benefits will generate collective engagement among key stakeholders. The establishment of a PSC during the inception phase will also support coordination and continued participation of the key partners. An effective Engagement and Dissemination Strategy will also support stakeholder engagement and coordination.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The Context Risk Dimension is the most significant dimension of the project. This proposal is designed to be executed in an area with acute climate risk and project design elements have been included to mitigate the impacts on project activities and subsequent project results. In addition, marginalized groups, including the elderly, women, children, and remote farming communities, are typically the most vulnerable groups to climate-related hazards in Guyana. Cultural norms of IPLCs and rural communities also require attention. A ESMP plan has been drafted to ensure that vulnerable groups and individuals are safeguarded from project-related environmental and social impacts. The remaining dimensions – Innovation and Execution are low. However, all aspects will be re-evaluated during project mobilization and monitored during the life of the project.

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

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies, including the specific integrated program priorities, and country and regional priorities, Describe how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements, such as through NDCs, NBSAPs, etc.

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

(max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The “Advancing Guyana’s National Development through Improved Forest Management” project aligns fully with the **GEF-8 Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program** in its aim to maintain the integrity of globally important and critical tropical primary forests, which will also maximize multiple global environment benefits, notably related to carbon and biodiversity. The project will improve the management and protection of PAs by implementing innovative financing and governance mechanisms such as a Biodiversity Credits Mechanism, which is designed to fund restoration and improved management initiatives in 1,441,557 ha of PAs in collaboration with IPLCs (component 1). The project will also enhance artisanal and small-scale NTFP value chains by improving design, marketing, and export skills to support local livelihoods, while reducing deforestation through improved management of 7.537,6 ha (including PA and other lands) and promote the

reforestation of 423.5 ha of lands degraded by artisanal gold mining and wildfires (component 2). Component 3 of the project will focus on an engagement and dissemination strategy to share best practices, insights, and knowledge products. The project will also facilitate knowledge exchange with other countries in the ASL3 Integrated Program and identify opportunities for complementary initiatives.

Guyana's LCDS 2030 promotes efficient resource use, resilience, and low-carbon economic growth. In the mining sector, the LCDS 2030 objective is to promote greener, safer mining practices that minimize environmental and social impacts, reduce waste, and ensure timely rehabilitation of degraded sites for productive or recreational purposes. The scope of the project has been aligned with this strategy and focuses on a selected number of barriers to achieve results without putting undue pressure on the existing government institutions and IPLCs. Further, the project will build on the annual deforestation and forest degradation monitoring being conducted towards Guyana's low-carbon and REDD+ goals by: 1) Integrating MRVS data into geospatial tools for land-use planning, restoration, and conservation; 2) Supporting capacity building for local stakeholders and Indigenous communities using GFC's monitoring expertise; and 3) Leveraging MRVS data to establish biodiversity baselines.

The project outcomes will make progress towards other policies/laws, including the LCDS 2030, Revised National Forest Policy Statement 2018, National Action Plan to Combat Land Degradation, Guyana's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, National Forest Plan 2018, Guyana's Revised Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, Forests Act 2009 (No. 6 of 2009), Protected Areas Act 2011 (No. 14 of 2011), Environmental Protection Act (Chapter 20:05) and Equal Rights Act No. 19 of 1990

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

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

Yes

1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?

Yes

If the child project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Yes

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

2) Does the child project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier; **Yes**

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body ; **Yes**

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the Child project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed child project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided. This includes budget for linking with and participation in knowledge exchange activities organized through the coordination platform.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the child project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

In the project intervention area, entrepreneurial activities will be supported, focusing on agricultural, forestry, ecotourism, and artisanal activities. Capacity development will be promoted through technical assistance services to implement value chain development, sustainable forest management, and good agricultural practices. These initiatives will enable the processes of obtaining NTFP and improve and rehabilitate deforested lands in the project intervention area.

In this context, the IPLCs engage in productive work, generating fair income and providing security to their households. This leads to better development prospects and social integration with the creation of decent and accessible jobs in indigenous communities.

In this way, the project supports the four (4) pillars of decent work (standards and rights at work; employment creation and enterprise development; social protection; governance and social dialogue) by: training to improve the productive sustainability of NTFPs, enhancing conditions for entrepreneurship and job creation, promoting associativity and social protection with the inclusion of women and youth, diversifying the livelihoods of small-scale women and men, supporting market access and value chains, agribusinesses for sustainable products and services, rural participation and governance in development, forest protection, and value chains and local market negotiations. All of the above translates into socioeconomic benefits driven by the project's implementation in the intervention areas at the local and regional levels, producing an impact at the national and global levels.

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
FAO	GET	Guyana	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	1,319,896.00	118,791.00	1,438,687.00
FAO	GET	Guyana	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	1,319,896.00	118,791.00	1,438,687.00
FAO	GET	Guyana	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	439,965.00	39,596.00	479,561.00
FAO	GET	Guyana	Climate Change	CC IP Matching Incentives	Grant	439,965.00	39,596.00	479,561.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						3,519,722.00	316,774.00	3,836,496.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested? true

PPG Amount (\$) 150000

PPG Agency Fee (\$) 13500

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
FAO	GET	Guyana	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	56,250.00	5,063.00	61,313.00
FAO	GET	Guyana	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: IPs	56,250.00	5,063.00	61,313.00
FAO	GET	Guyana	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	18,750.00	1,687.00	20,437.00
FAO	GET	Guyana	Climate Change	CC IP Matching Incentives	18,750.00	1,687.00	20,437.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)					150,000.00	13,500.00	163,500.00

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
FAO	GET	Guyana	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,500,000.00
FAO	GET	Guyana	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	1,500,000.00
Total GEF Resources					3,000,000.00

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
CFB Amazon IP	GET	3,519,722.00	20804659
Total Project Cost		3,519,722.00	20,804,659.00

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Government	Country Ministry of Natural Resources	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500000
Recipient Government	Country Environmental Protection Agency	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4408685
Recipient Government	Country Protected Areas Commission	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2397500
Recipient Government	Country Protected Areas Commission	Grant	Investment mobilized	2750000
Civil Society Organization	Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	31405
Donor Agency	Inter-American Development Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	1283200
Donor Agency	Inter-American Development Bank	Loans	Investment mobilized	500000
Donor Agency	Inter-American Development Bank	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	316800

Recipient Government	Country	Guyana Forestry Commission	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200000
Recipient Government	Country	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	8188269
GEF Agency		FAO	Grant	Investment mobilized	200000
GEF Agency		FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	28800
Total Co-financing					20,804,659.00

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

The investment mobilized portion of the co-financing will be through the following projects from:

- PAC:
 - o Protected Areas Trust Fund/Grants
 - o FZS support
 - o WWF support
- FAO:
 - o GCP /GUY/003/GRI - Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Development and Management
- IDB through activities being conducted by the:
 - o Guyana Marine Conservation Society
 - o Economic Development Fund
 - o Securing the Future of the Barima Mora Passage Mangrove Ecosystem and its Peoples (2022-2026)
 - o Guyana's Women Entrepreneur (2023-2026)

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENT

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Coordinator	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	2/7/2025	Jeffrey Griffin		jeffrey.griffin@fao.org
Project Coordinator	2/7/2025	Lorenzo Campos		lorenzo.camposaguirre@fao.org

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

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

Kemraj Parsram	Executive Director	Environmental Protection Agency	
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ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document. For the Integrated Programs' global/regional coordination child project, please include the program-wide results framework, inclusive of results specific to the coordination child project. For any country child project, please ensure that relevant program level indicators are included.

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p>Project Objective and indicators targets: To improve forest conservation, sustainable use and management in the Amazon forest landscape of Guyana through enhancement of funding, restoration and participatory governance (SDGs 1.5, 5.5, 8.3, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2, 15.2, 15.3, 15.5, 15.9, 15.a and 15.b).</p>							
<p>Component 1: Enabling maintenance of intact forest landscapes through improved finances and governance</p>							
<p><u>Outcome 1.1:</u></p> <p>Sustainable management of PAs enabled through improved financial environment and governance (ASL3 Outcomes 1.2 and 3.5)</p>	<p>% of PAs (excluding Iwokrama) with updated financial mechanisms for sustainable management</p> <p>% increased revenue generation for PAs</p> <p># of PAs under inclusive governance frameworks with clear roles, responsibilities of stakeholders, and mechanisms for decision-making</p> <p>GEF-8 Core Indicator 1.2: ha of terrestrial PAs under improved</p>	<p>Management plans are being developed to align with conservation goals but funds not enough to ensure full implementation and enforcement</p> <p>PAC's funding comes from government and PAs Trust. KAPA and KMPA have an inclusive governance framework but gender equality is not fully considered</p> <p>0 ha</p> <p>METT scores:</p>	<p>50% of PAs have updated financial plans towards improved management</p> <p>At least a 20% increase compared to baseline</p> <p>One (1) PA with inclusive governance frameworks</p>	<p>100% of PAs have updated financial plans towards improved management</p> <p>50% increase compared to baseline</p> <p>Three (3) PAs with inclusive governance frameworks</p> <p>1,441,557 ha (total of PAs minus</p>	<p>Copies of updated and approved PA management and financial plans</p> <p>Financial reports from PAC/ Annual financial statements of PAs</p> <p>Paperwork on partnership agreements or co-management frameworks</p> <p>Updated management plans and instruments for each PA</p>	<p>Government agencies (e.g. PAC) are willing to update management plans and implement financing and governance frameworks</p> <p>IPLCs and other stakeholders actively participate in governance and decision-making processes</p> <p>Relevant institutions have or will develop technical expertise for management, monitoring, and stakeholder engagement</p> <p>Potential risks like land tenure disputes or resource conflicts are managed with effective</p>	<p>PMU, PAC, DOECC, GFC, NTC</p>

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	management effectiveness	Kaieteur: 59 Kanuku: 56 Kanashen: 63 Shell Beach: 49	611,000 ha (KMPA)	Parishara/Nappi)		mitigation strategies	
	GEF-8 Core Indicator 6.1: tCO ₂ e sequestered or emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use	0	0	20% increase in METT score for all areas	National MRV data		
	GEF-8 Core indicator 11: # of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (40% women)	0	0	1,705,308 tCO ₂ e (indirect from outscaling)	List of identified stakeholders		
	ASL3 indicator: Number of civil society and IPLC organizations participating in decision-making fora and land-use planning	0	At least 5,000 (1,500 women)	24,900 (people living/using the PAs minus CI11 in Outcome 2.1 and 2.2) (40% women)			
	ASL3 indicator: Monitoring frameworks, systems, and tools implemented/strengthened	0	20	100			

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
		0	One (1) (biodiversity monitoring method)	Two (2) (mid-term + VCM methods)			
<u>Output 1.1.1:</u> Financing mechanisms inclusive of improved governance structures that engage IPLCs designed to support sustainable management and restoration.	# of different mechanisms for which preliminary suitability assessments have been done # of documents, instruments, or technical guidelines developed to evaluate costs and funding requirements and potential risks and challenges of setting up credit mechanisms # of potential stakeholders and engagement opportunities identified and considered into the mechanism design	No mechanism exists	Three (3) One (1) document of costs, funding and risks requirements of setting up for the selected mechanism 20 stakeholders and 10 engagement opportunities	Four (4) Mid-term target + 1 technical guidelines for implementation 100 stakeholders and 20 engagement opportunities	Feasibility study on biodiversity credit and other financing mechanisms Financial plan outlining setup costs and risk assessment report or matrix and mitigation strategies List of identified stakeholders with engagement opportunities	The Government of Guyana is committed to evaluating Biodiversity Credits and alternative financing mechanisms and ready to allocate resources for their operationalization IPLCs and other stakeholders are willing to participate	PMU, DOECC, GFC, EPA
<u>Output 1.1.2</u> Resource assessments across the forest landscape, inclusive of an assessment of biodiversity and	% of forests in PAs for which biodiversity land use, and ecosystem health baselines have been produced # of previous land management	Limited biodiversity surveys and monitoring being conducted by the PAC Kanuku Mountains PA); the Sustainable	30%	100%	GIS maps showing baseline data and spatial analysis	The Government of Guyana is committed to biodiversity MRVS development Stakeholders have the capacity to	PMU, PAC, EPA, Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission, GFC, NTC

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
biodiversity loss	practices for which their impacts on biodiversity have been assessed and documented # of technical documents and guidelines on biodiversity baseline assessments in Guyana	Wildlife Management; the National Biodiversity Action Plan; and the GFC (under REDD+)	Three (3) previous land management practices and their impacts on biodiversity documented One (1) guideline drafted and one (1) training manual	Eight (8) previous land management practices and their impacts on biodiversity documented One (1) guideline completed and four (4) training manuals	Reports from historical land use analyses or ecological studies and records of interviews or surveys capturing traditional knowledge Guideline and training manuals documents	implement, monitor and document Data are/become available IPLCs and stakeholders willing to engage in biodiversity baseline assessments	
<u>Output.1.1.3</u> Financing mechanism established to support sustainable management and restoration in the PAs and elsewhere inclusive of improved governance structures that engage IPLCs	% of stakeholders (IPLC) involved in the development of financing mechanism # of stakeholder meetings/workshops for improved governance involving local communities, IPLCs, and others # of restoration and conservation projects identified that can be funded under the mechanism # of restoration and conservation projects for which funding is secured	No financing mechanism currently exists to fully support restoration, conservation in PAs, or the implementation of OECMs	50% of IPLCs in Region 9 actively engaged in the development and implementation of the financing mechanism Eight (8)	80% of IPLCs in Region 9 actively engaged in the design and implementation of the financing mechanism 20 Pipeline of 10 eligible projects	Surveys or attendance lists indicating IPLC involvement Reports outlining the financing mechanism's implementation and operational status Funding agreements from financial institutions or credit buyers confirming the amount of secured funding	Relevant national and local institutions have the necessary capacity to manage and implement mechanism	PMU, DOECC, GFC, NTC

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	# of PAs with improved financial mechanisms		One (1) under consideration	Three (3)	Documentation of funding agreements or mechanisms		
			One (1) PA	Four (4) PAs			
Output.1.1.4 Gender and age sensitive VCM mechanism designed to financially support mine-site restoration (ARR)	# of options and standards for VCM ARR evaluated for implementation through nesting in a jurisdictional REDD+ mechanism or a project-based approach # of legal instruments, regulations with proposed updates, and technical guidelines developed to support the improved management of PAs through VCM implementation Ha included in ARR VCM project	Guyana's jurisdictional REDD+ framework, established under the Guyana-Norway partnership and ART-TREES, serves as the primary mechanism for payments based on verified carbon emission reductions This jurisdictional approach may limit the integration of project-based initiatives, potentially excluding smaller-scale efforts from participating in carbon credit markets	Four (4) options evaluated One (1) document developed and validated, detailing scope, methodology, and ARR standard alignment 0 ha	Four (4) options evaluated Mid-term target + one (1) technical guidelines for implementation and one (1) policy option for improved VCM framework 70 ha	Report on feasibility assessment, including gender analysis, with documented findings on nesting options (REDD+ vs project-based) Documentation of agreements or approvals from relevant authorities or stakeholders Expert validation or review confirming the project's viability and alignment with the chosen ARR standard Approved project design document document. Official certification documentation or approval from a recognized VCM certification body	National policies are aligned with the goals of the ARR project Relevant institutions have the capacity to manage, monitor, and verify the ARR project under the REDD+ framework Reliable baseline data is available, and strong stakeholder cooperation exists Sustained demand for carbon credits in the VCM. Potential risks, such as land tenure or environmental degradation, are addressed with mitigation strategies and safeguards	PMU, DOECC, GFC
COMPONENT 2: Increasing restoration and sustainable forest management with improved engagement of stakeholders in NTFP value chains							
Outcome 2.1:	# of sustainable, gender-sensitive value chains	Some immature forest-based	One (1) sustainable, gender-	Three (3) sustainable, gender-	Trade figures	IPLCs willing and available to engage in sessions	PMU

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Increased stakeholder capacity for and participation in sustainable value chains based on standing forests (ASL3 Outcome 2.2)	strengthened and operated by IPLCs GEF-8 Core Indicator 11: # of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (from strengthened value chains, disaggregated by sex and age) % increase in women that participate and speak in stakeholder engagement and decision-making meetings ASL3 indicator: number of civil society and IPLC organizations participating in decision-making fora and land-use planning	and agriculture crops value chains and tourism products exist. Little interest from the youth for existing value chains 0 %	sensitive value chain 100 beneficiaries (at least 40% are women and 40% are under 35) 10%	sensitive value chains 500 beneficiaries (at least 40% are women and 40% are under 35) 20%	Reports from project field teams Meeting minutes		
<u>Output 2.1.1:</u> Gender and age sensitive capacity development program on sustainable extraction, production, and marketing of traditional, artisanal, small-scale, NTFP and services implemented	# of commodity level or value chain level assessments completed # of business plans (commodities and services) produced # of capacity building sessions on	IPLCs engage in unsustainable farming practices IPLCs face a lack of profitable economic opportunities to support sustainable livelihoods Tourism promotion	One (1) value chain assessed Three (3) business plans	Three (3) value chains assessed including gaps and recommendations Five (5) business plans	Commodity level or value chain level assessments reports Training reports B2B fora proceedings/ minutes	The market is interested in sustainable products, increasing their demand	PMU

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	<p>extraction, processing, marketing and tourism and B2B events to connect producers with the market held</p> <p># of products/services with increased value added</p> <p># of reports on engagements with IPLCs precising the respective commitments of the communities and the project, inclusive of sex and age disaggregated data</p>	<p>is minimal with a limited tourism product</p> <p>Minimal representation of women and youth in artisanal, small-scale, NTFP and services.</p>	<p>Five (5) capacity building sessions and 1 B2B forum</p> <p>One (1) value added/market ready packaged product and one (1) tourism product/service</p> <p>At least one (1) report on engagements with IPLCs</p> <p>At least 25% of informants are women</p> <p>At least 20% of informants are under 35</p>	<p>10 capacity building sessions and three (3) B2B fora</p> <p>Three (3) value added /market ready packaged products and two (2) tourism products/services</p> <p>At least three (3) reports</p> <p>At least 50% of informants are women</p> <p>At least 40% of informants are under 35</p>			
<p>Outcome 2.2:</p> <p>Increased area of land and ecosystems undergoing restoration and sustainably managed</p>	<p>GEF-8 Core Indicator 3.2: Ha of forest and forest land restored</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>32.5 ha (mine site); 100 ha (fire damaged sites) initiated</p> <p>Fire management</p>	<p>423.5 ha</p>	<p>Reports from GGMC, GFC, EPA, MRV data</p>	<p>IPLCs willing to participate in fire management and land degradation planning</p> <p>Mine sites permanently closed and no longer subject to</p>	<p>PMU, NTC, GGMC, GFC and PAC</p>

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
(ASL3 Outcomes 2.1, 2.3 and 3.3)	GEF-8 Core Indicator 1.2: Ha of terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness	0 ha	t plan developed	3,178 ha (plan implemented)	Reports from GFC, EPA, MRV data	potential re-mining	
	GEF-8 Core Indicator 4.1: Ha of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (qualitative assessment, non-certified)	0 ha	39.6 ha monitored. Fire management plan developed	4,359.6 ha (monitoring and fire management plan implemented)	Reports from GFC, EPA, MRV data	The Government of Guyana is committed to continuing and expanding the National Forest Restoration Initiative, through collaboration between GGMC and GFC	
	GEF-8 Core Indicator 6.1: tCO2e sequestered or emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use	0 ha	46,728 tCO2e	1,173,486 tCO2e from restoration (307,606 tCO2e) and improved management (496,200 tCO2e Shulinab + 369,680 Parishara) for a 20-year accounting period (97,021 tCO2e at the end of the project)	Reports from GFC, EPA, MRV data		
	GEF-8 Core indicator 11: # of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (40% women)			7,400 beneficiaries (40% women) (people living in fire management and			
	ASL3 indicator: Monitoring frameworks, systems, and tools implemented/strengthened						

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
		0	1,000 beneficiaries (300 women)	restoration areas) One (1) monitoring system implemented	Reports from meetings/workshops/participatory sessions		
		0	One (1) monitoring system designed		Technical documents		

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p>Output 2.2.1:</p> <p>Techniques/methods developed and implemented to restore degraded forest and towards improved management. (ASL3 Outcomes 2.1, 2.3)</p>	<p># of financing options studied to subsidize continued implementation of fire management plans and restoration</p> <p># of multistakeholder meetings for elaboration of fire management plans</p> <p># of capacity building sessions on fire management planning (prevention, suppression and fire brigades)</p> <p># of documents and technical guidelines on restoration of mining and burnt areas produced</p>	<p>Several technical documents and guidelines are available on different aspects of mining operations. However, their implementation is hindered by financial barriers and there is no agreed set of actual on-the-ground practices for reclamation</p>	<p>One (1) option assessed</p> <p>Six (6) meetings</p> <p>Four (4) sessions</p> <p>Two (2) technical documents (Mahdia and Bissaruni)</p>	<p>Three (3) options assessed</p> <p>12 meetings</p> <p>Eight (8) sessions</p> <p>Four (4) technical documents (Kaieteur, Mahdia, Matthew's Ridge and Bissaruni) and 1 guideline</p>	<p>Paper drafted and validated on financing options to subsidize restoration and improved management</p> <p>Minutes of stakeholder meetings on fire management</p> <p>Attendance list on fire drills and workshops</p> <p>Site restoration plans</p> <p>Agreed layout for guidelines for restoration of mined sites</p>	<p>IPLCs willing to participate in fire management</p> <p>Gold mining sites remain permanently closed and no longer subject to potential re-mining</p> <p>The Government of Guyana remains committed to continuing and expanding the National Forest Restoration Initiative.</p>	<p>PMU, PAC, NTC, GGMC, GFC, South Rupununi District Council and Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group</p>
<p>Output 2.2.2:</p> <p>Agreements established with IPLCs, considering gender and age inclusivity, for participatory forest management (ASL3 Outcomes 3.3)</p>	<p># of stakeholder (IPLC and others) identified and engaged considering gender and age inclusiveness</p> <p># of land-based indicators and associated metrics identified through participatory processes, and assessed and selected for forest</p>	<p>No working group on forest degradation exists for Regional Democratic Council under the Conservation Roundtable; Although the Kanuku Mountains PA has a management</p>	<p>20 stakeholders (Village Councils Kanuku area)</p>	<p>50 stakeholders (Village Councils for all 4 PAs)</p> <p>10 potential indicators assessed, and five (5)</p>	<p>Agreed Terms of reference for the sub working committee within the Regional Democratic Council on land degradation under the Conservation Roundtable</p>	<p>IPLCs willing to participate in land degradation planning</p> <p>Development partners are willing to share their programmes of work</p>	<p>PMU, NTC, PAC, South Rupununi District Council, Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group, Conservation International</p>

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	ASL3 indicator: extent of learning with and from among actors (and satisfaction on relevance, applicability, clarity) – % increase in KAP score	0%	5%	10%			
Output 3.1.1: Engagement and knowledge dissemination strategy implemented.	<p># of KAP surveys conducted</p> <p># of knowledge products (guidelines, policy briefs and newsletters) disseminated</p> <p># of communication channels used to document project's experiences and lessons learned</p> <p># of communication and knowledge management actions specifically addressed to women and youth</p> <p># of knowledge products on gender aspects of implementation produced and published</p>	Not applicable	<p>Two (2) KAP surveys conducted</p> <p>Five (5) knowledge products</p> <p>At least three (3) communication channels</p> <p>At least three (3)</p> <p>At least one (1)</p>	<p>Three (3) KAP surveys conducted</p> <p>15 knowledge products</p> <p>At least six (6) communication channels</p> <p>At least six (6)</p> <p>At least two (2)</p>	<p>Reports on the KAP surveys</p> <p>Reports on the selected dissemination indicators</p> <p>Media clippings, headings, articles</p> <p>Media clippings, headings, articles</p> <p>Documents and reports</p>	Stakeholders are engaged and willing to share their experiences, including customs and traditions.	PMU
<u>Output 3.1.2:</u> Regional-scale learning and cooperation	# of regional events involving country participation for experience-sharing in project management under ASL3	Not applicable	At least two (2) annual ASL3 conferences or other relevant regional events	At least five (5) annual ASL3 conferences or other relevant regional events	Event exchange summaries and reports.	Not applicable	PMU

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	# of presentations of the Guyana team on gender aspects of implementation and challenges and results of gender action plan		At least one (1) international exchange	At least three (3) international exchanges	Presentations, recordings, minutes and reports		
Monitoring and Evaluation							
<u>Outcome M&E-1.1:</u> Project implementation based on improved PA management	% of the total project activities executed as per the workplan % of project actions that actively seek women participation % of project outputs with proven IPLC engagement # of project reports showing data on social and environmental safeguards monitoring, disaggregated by sex and age	No project management system exists	100% of the activities that correspond to the period 100% 100% of outputs delivered at mid-term Six (6) progress reports (four [4] PPR and two [2] PIR) including systematic collection of data disaggregated by sex and age	100% 100% 100% of project outputs 12 progress reports (eight [8] PPR and four [4] PIR), including systematic collection of data disaggregated by sex and age	Periodic reports from the monitoring tool, integrating elements of gender, indigenous peoples, and social and environmental safeguards plans. PIR, PPR documents. Reports and maps generated from the GIS tool for the project (monitoring and tracking surface variables and other spatial variables)	Stakeholders provide data timely	PMU, FAO, EPA
<u>Output M&E-1.1.1:</u> M&E of the project developed to provide systematized information on	# of key performance indicators (KPI) tracked and updated	Not applicable	KPI established and metrics selected as per the monitoring plan in year 1	Established KPIs tracked, updated regularly, and aligned with project goals	Approved M&E plan outlining KPIs, monitored activities and evaluation criteria	Key stakeholders, including PMU staff, institutional partners, and local communities, are committed to participating in M&E	PMU

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
measurable, verifiable progress	<p># of stakeholders involved in M&E processes</p> <p># of gender awareness trainings held with project staff</p> <p># of project staff trained and involved in on gender sensitive M&E</p>		<p>Seven (7) key project stakeholders actively involved in M&E processes</p> <p>Two (2) trainings (at project inception and in year 2)</p> <p>At least three (3) members of key stakeholders trained in gender sensitive M&E</p>	<p>15 key project stakeholders actively involved in M&E processes</p> <p>Three (3) trainings (at project inception, in year 2 and after MTR)</p> <p>At least six (6) members of key stakeholders trained in gender sensitive M&E</p>	<p>M&E reports and logs showing monitored and evaluated activities</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement records, meeting minutes, or participation logs</p> <p>Action plans, follow-up reports, or management meeting minutes confirming recommendations' implementation.</p>	PMU members and stakeholders have the skills to implement effective M&E activities	
<p><u>Output M&E-1.1.2:</u></p> <p>Mid-term review and final evaluation to inform adaptive management</p>	# of reviews/evaluations conducted during the project that include gender-specific considerations and evaluate the implementation of the Gender Action Plan	Not applicable	One (1) Mid-Term Review	One (1) Mid-Term Review and one (1) Final evaluation	<p>Mid-Term Review Report</p> <p>Final Evaluation Report</p>	Not applicable	PMU, FAO

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed

Activity 1. Data analysis and drafting - Consultants (GEF Project Design Expert, Socio-environmental Safeguards and Gender Expert, Marketing and Value Chain Specialist, PPG Coordinator, National Administrative Assistant)	97,800.00	75,950.00	21,850.00
Activity 1. Data analysis and drafting - Travel	5,000.00	1,407.00	3,593.00
Activity 2. Meetings and consultations - Workshops (Inception and Validation) *For rapporteur services, venue rentals, stationery, refreshments	10,000.00	4,623.00	5,377.00
Activity 2. Meetings and consultations - Consultations (Local)	22,000.00	924.00	21,076.00
Activity 2. Meetings and consultations - Travel	10,700.00	8,855.00	1,845.00
Activity 3. Operational Partner capacity assessment	4,500.00	4,144.00	356.00
Total	150,000.00	95,903.00	54,097.00

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kaieteur National Park	-59.484444	5.173333	

Location Description:

Region 8 - Gold mining site

Activity Description:

Community-based assisted natural regeneration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Dakoura Creek	-58.3205556	5.9838889	

Location Description:

Region 10 - Bauxite mine overburden

Activity Description:

Monitoring previous restoration (2013-2023)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Olive Creek	-59.3347222	6.2966667	

Location Description:

Region 7 - Gold mining site

Activity Description:

Monitoring previous reclamation (2013)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Puruni landing	-59.368056	6.263333	

Location Description:

Region 7 - Gold mining site

Activity Description:

monitoring previous reclamation (2013)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bissaruni River	-58.040278	4.968611	

Location Description:

Region 6 - Burned forest

Activity Description:

Restore by assisted natural regeneration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Matthews Ridge	-60.167500	7.486944	

Location Description:

Region 1 - Mn and gold mining site

Activity Description:

To restore by assisted natural regeneration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
St. Elisabeth (Mahdia)	-59.138889	5.284444	

Location Description:

Region 8 - Gold mining site

Activity Description:

Reclamation and restoration (replanting)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Parishara restoration I	-59.538586	3.429933	

Location Description:

Region 9 - Burned and cleared forest patches

Activity Description:

Community-based assisted natural regeneration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Parishara restoration II	-59.528486	3.395061	

Location Description:

Region 9 - Burned and cleared forest patches

Activity Description:

Community-based assisted natural regeneration

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Shulinab	-59.817708	3.080892	

Location Description:

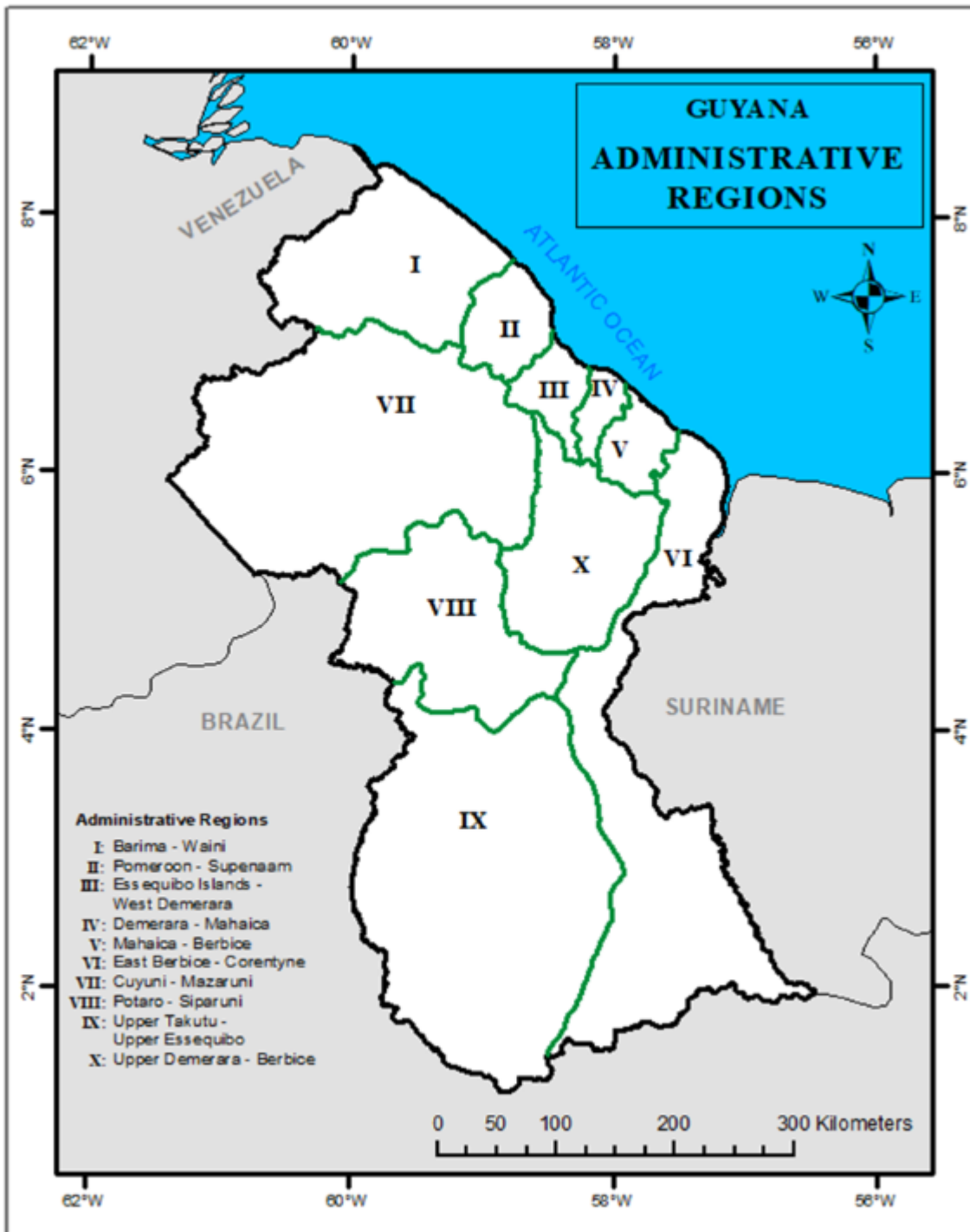
Region 9 - Burned and cleared forest patches and intact forest

Activity Description:

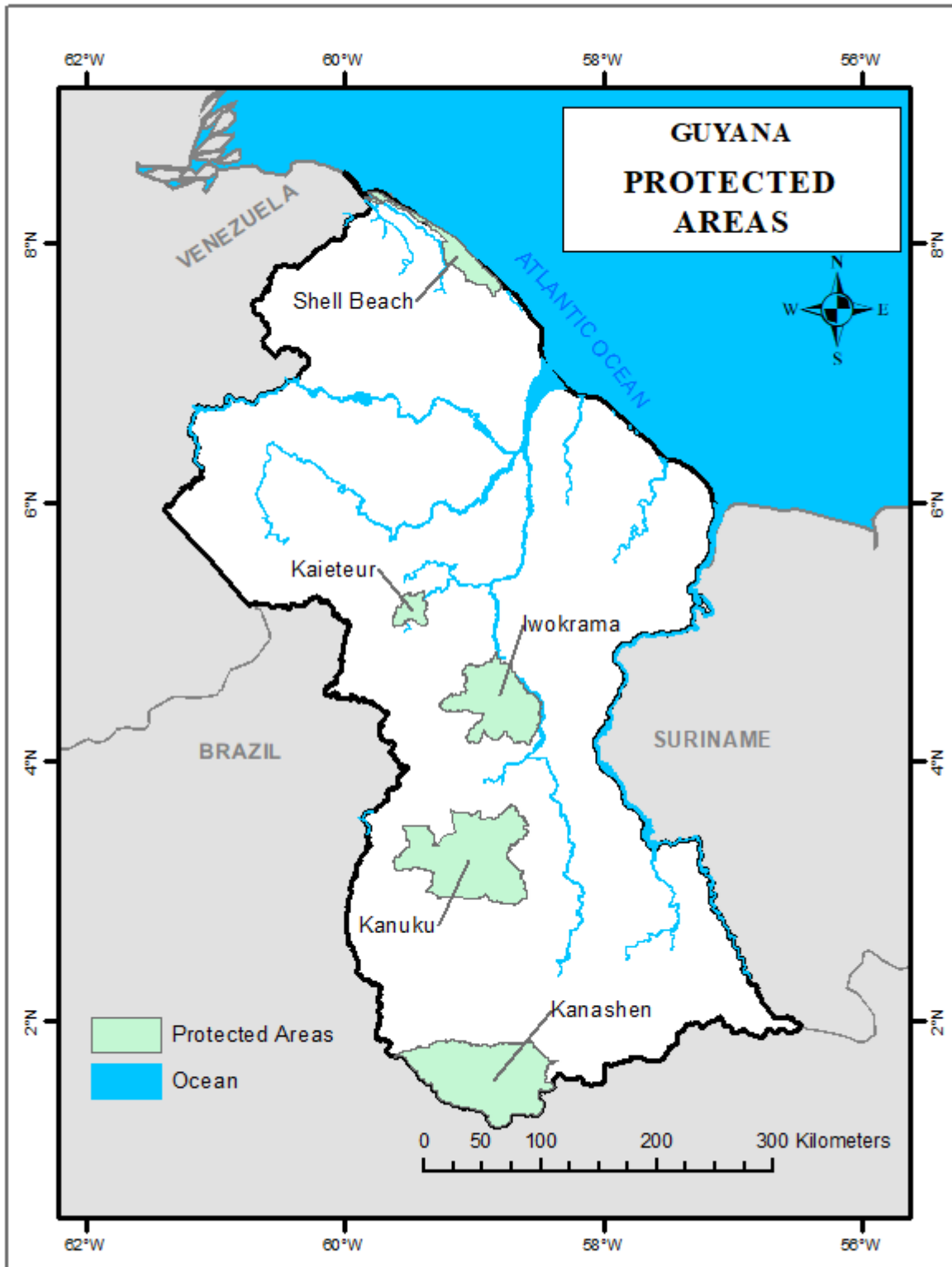
Fire management plan

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.

Due to size limits in the portal, Maps are also uploaded as Annex E 'Project Map and Coordinates' of the Agency Project Document



1 Administrative regions in Guyana. Source: Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GGMC)



2: Protected Areas in Guyana



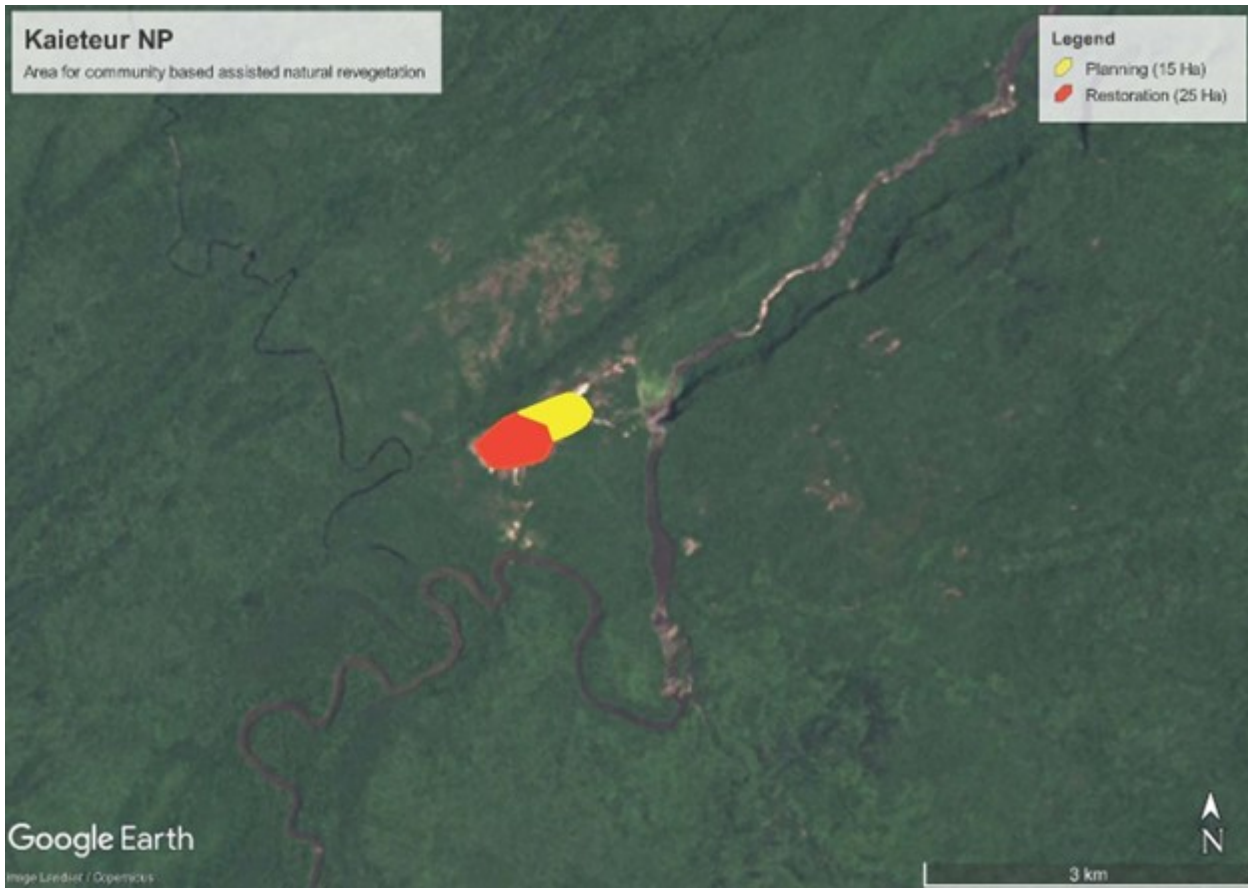
3: Project sites



4: Bissaruni project site



5: Dakoura project site



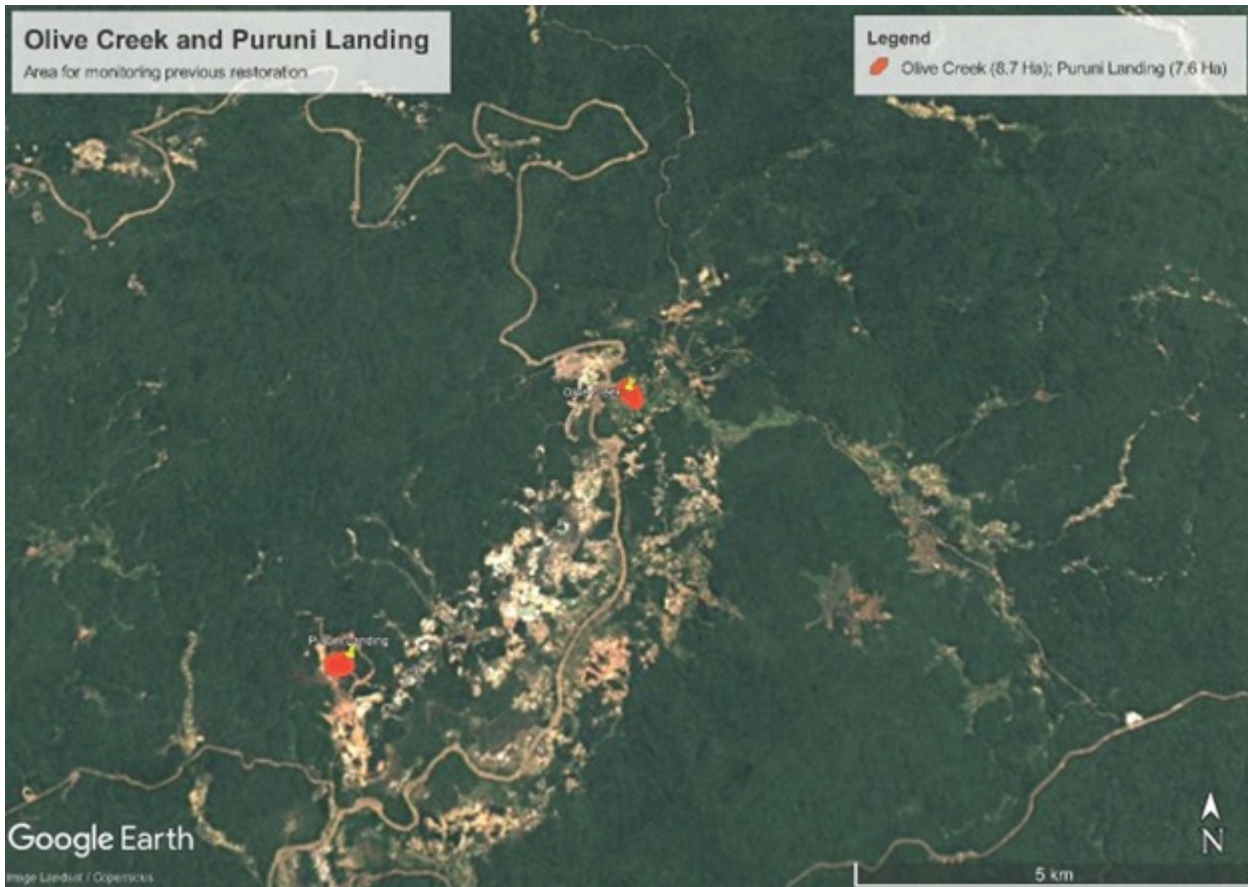
6: Kaieteur National Park project site



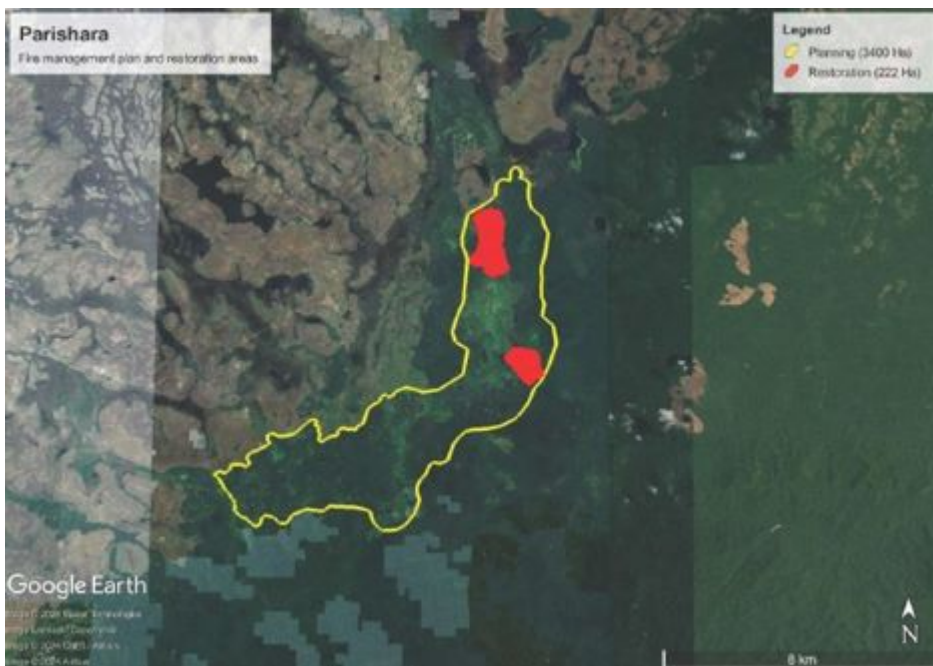
7: Mahdia project site



8: Matthews Ridge project site



9: Olive Creek and Puruni Landing project sites



10: Parishara (Nappi) project site



11: Shulinab project site

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

-
- AnnexJ_StakeholderEngagementPlan
 - Annex F-2 - Indigenous People Plan_12Dec2024
 - Annex F-1 Full ES Risk Screening checklist for project 748087_21Jan2025
 - Annex F - Guyana climate risk screening - FAO Risks Team
 - Annex F - Environmental and Social Safeguards_28Jan2025
-

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

FAO Cost Categories	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Total Component 1	Total Component 2	Total Component 3	M&E	PMC	Total	Responsible Entity Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency
5013 Consultants										
MRV Specialist	days	100	600.00	55,000.00	0	5,000	0	0	60,000	The Environmental Protection Agency-Guyana (EPA)
Biodiversity Specialist	days	100	500.00	45,000.00	0	5,000	0	0	50,000	EPA
Biodiversity Credit Mechanism Specialist	days	60	600.00	30,000.00	0	6,000	0	0	36,000	EPA
Voluntary Carbon Market Specialist	days	60	600.00	30,000.00	0	6,000	0	0	36,000	EPA
Site Restoration Specialist	days	60	500.00	0	30,000	0	0	0	30,000	EPA
Value Chain Specialist	days	120	600.00	0.00	72,000	0	0	0	72,000	FAO
Forest Fire Management Specialist	days	50	500.00	0	25,000	0	0	0	25,000	FAO
Sub-total international Consultants				160,000.00	127,000.00	22,000	0	0	309,000	
National Technical Coordinator	Mth	48	3,300.00	8,000.00	39,347.00	32,000.00	0	79,053	158,400	EPA
Technical Advisor (Region 9)	Mth	48	2,000.00	2,000.00	62,000.00	32,000.00	0	0	96,000	EPA
Administrative and Logistic Support Officer	Mth	48	1,600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	76,800	76,800	EPA
Knowledge Management and Communication Officer	days	80	180.00	1,000.00	2,600.00	2,800.00	0	8,000	14,400	EPA
Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist	days	80	230.00	2,400.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	0	0	18,400	EPA
Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (part-time)	days	125	125.00	0.00	-	-	15,625.00	0	15,625	EPA
National Biodiversity Credit Mechanism Specialist	Mth	48	3,000.00	144,000.00	0	0	0	0	144,000	EPA
Land and Ecosystem Restoration Coordinator	Mth	48	3,000.00	0	144,000.00	0	0	0	144,000	EPA
Capacity-building Facilitator (Sustainable extraction and production)	Days	100	350.00	0	35,000.00	0	0	0	35,000	EPA
Land Degradation Response Plan Specialist	Days	100	350.00	0	35,000.00	0	0	0	35,000	EPA
Sub-total national Consultants				157,400.00	325,947.00	74,800.00	15,625.00	163,853.00	737,625.00	
5013 Sub-total consultants				317,400.00	452,947.00	96,800.00	15,625.00	163,853.00	1,046,625.00	
5650 Contracts										

Supporting the determination of elements of a Guyana biodiversity MRVS	lumpsum	1	50,000	50,000.00	0	0	0	0	50,000	EPA
Supporting the determination biodiversity baselines and biodiversity loss over at least previous 10 years	lumpsum	1	250,000	250,000.00	0	0	0	0	250,000	EPA
Communicating and promoting the financial mechanisms	lumpsum	1	50,000	0.00	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	EPA
Participatory development of options to subsidise restoration of mined sites	lumpsum	1	40,000	40,000.00	0	0	0	0	40,000	EPA
Restoration of 200 ha fire damaged areas	lumpsum	1	1,318,500.00	0	1,288,500.00	30,000	0	0	1,318,500	EPA
Development of a GIS-based decision support system	lumpsum	1	30,000.00	0	30,000.00	0	0	0	30,000	FAO
Communication and Awareness Strategy campaign	lumpsum	1	50,000.00	0	0	50,000.00	0	0	50,000	EPA
Gender sensitisation for stakeholders	lumpsum	1	15,000.00			15,000.00			15,000	EPA
Mid-term Review	lumpsum	1	35,000.00	0	0	0	35,000.00	0	35,000	FAO
Terminal Evaluation	lumpsum	1	40,000.00	0	0	0	40,000.00	0	40,000	FAO
Terminal Report	lumpsum	1	6,650.00	0	0	0	6,650.00	0	6,650	FAO
OPIM Audit	lumpsum	4	7,000.00	0	0	0	28,000.00	0	28,000	FAO
OPIM Spot Check	lumpsum	4	4,000.00	0	0	0	16,000.00	0	16,000	FAO
5650 Sub-total Contracts				340,000.00	1,318,500.00	145,000.00	125,650.00	0	1,929,150.00	
5021 Travel										
Value Chain Specialist (international travel)	trips	4	6,100.00	0	24,400.00	0	0	0	24,400	FAO
Forest Fire International Specialist (international travel)	trips	4	6,100.00	0	24,400.00	0	0	0	24,400	FAO
Participation of personnel from the government in the ASL3 IP on lesson learned forums (international travel)	trips	8	6,100.00	0	0	48,800.00	0	0	48,800	EPA
GIS-based decision support system development (international travel)	trips	1	6,100.00	0	6,100	0.00	0	0	6,100	FAO
Value Chain Development (local travel)	lumpsum	1	30,000.00	0	30,000.00	0	0	0	30,000	EPA
Capacity development session (local travel)	lumpsum	1	4,995.00	0	0.00	4,995	0	0	4,995	EPA
Fire plan development (local travel)	lumpsum	1	10,000.00	0	10,000.00	0	0	0	10,000	EPA
Restoration plan execution (local travel)	lumpsum	1	10,000.00	0	10,000.00	0	0	0	10,000	EPA
5021 Sub-total travel				0	104,900.00	53,795.00	0	0	158,695.00	
5023 Training										
Workshops supporting resource assessments and review of national inventories	lumpsum	1	45,000.00	45,000	0	0	0	0	45,000	EPA

Meetings supporting value chain development	lumpsum	1	30,000.00	0	30,000.00	0	0	0	30,000	EPA
Host national B2B fora for producer organizations, buyers and financial institutions to support the development of traditional, artisanal, small scale, non-timber products producers	lumpsum	1	60,000.00	0	60,000.00	0	0	0	60,000	EPA
Community fire training	lumpsum	1	50,000.00	0	50,000.00	0	0	0	50,000	EPA
General capacity building sessions to sustainable extraction, improve production and marketing of commodities	lumpsum	1	30,000.00	0	0.00	30,000	0	0	30,000	EPA
Fire management plan development workshops	lumpsum	1	30,000.00	0	30,000.00	0	0	0	30,000	EPA
Restoration plan development workshop	lumpsum	1	30,000.00	0	30,000.00	0	0	0	30,000	EPA
Land degradation response plan workshops	lumpsum	1	30,000.00	0	30,000.00	0	0	0	30,000	EPA
5023 Sub-total training				45,000.00	230,000.00	30,000	0	0	305,000.00	
5024 Expendable procurement										
Materials for VC development	lumpsum	1	5,000.000	0	5,000.00	0	0	0	5,000.00	EPA
Drone software	lumpsum	1	1,500.000		1,500.00				1,500.00	EPA
Publications	lumpsum	1	10,000.000			10,000			10,000.00	EPA
5024 Sub-total expendable procurement				0	6,500	10,000	0	0	16,500.00	
6100 Non-expendable procurement										
Pick up truck for transportation of materials to restoration sites and monitoring	lumpsum	1	60,000	0	60,000	0	0	0	60,000.00	EPA
6100 Sub-total non-expendable procurement				0	60,000	0	0	0	60,000.00	
5028 GOE budget										
Telephone cost and other operating costs	lumpsum	1	2,102	0	0	0	0	2,102.00	2,102.00	EPA
Office supplies	lumpsum	1	1,650	0	0	0	0	1,650.00	1,650.00	EPA
6300 Sub-total GOE budget				0	0	0	0	3,752.00	3,752.00	
TOTAL				702,400	2,172,847	335,595	141,275	167,605	3,519,722	

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

The extent of the areas to be restored in regions 6 and 9, in collaboration with the GFC and GGMC, is large (358.5 ha) and isolated. The road networks in Guyana are largely characterized by a significant portion of unsurfaced, rustic roads, often used for access to mining, forestry, and energy sectors. An offroad sturdy vehicle is needed to access the project sites to deliver materials, equipment and workers. Further, the GFC, GGMC and EPA have confirmed that there are a limited number of vehicles available for the conduct of regular day-to-day activities and currently there are no resources available for the purchase of a vehicle for the execution of project activities. The activities proposed under the project cannot be serviced with the current fleet and thus a sturdy, offroad vehicle is being requested.

Market survey, for an off road pick up vehicle to access the remote restoration sites, from rental companies in Guyana have revealed that on average the cost is USD 93, 000 for 3.5 years. Given this estimate it is more prudent to purchase a vehicle. Hence, the budget includes a vehicle for USD 60,000.

ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

From GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF.

GEF Council Comment	Agency response
<p>Denmark/Norway Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential program synergies and stakeholder engagement: FAO Guyana have since 2018 received funding from the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF) to implement the “Sustainable Land Management and Development (SLDM)-project” in coordination with Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC). The SLDM-project is due to end in July 2024. We’d encourage the implementing partner FAO to consider how to take advantage of and/or build on work done in the SLDM- project for the ASL-program in Guyana. • Stakeholder engagement: Other GEF Agencies listed are UNDP, WWF-US and CI, in addition to FAO. These organizations have local chapters in Guyana too, and we strongly encourage a stakeholder engagement plan to include meetings with these actors with the aim to identify potential synergies with other programs/projects. • Similarly, further details on how Guyana’s EPA as the executing entity will engage other relevant government stakeholders would be beneficial. We note that the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission is not referred to among the sources of co-financing and wonder whether this entity’s potential role in the project has been considered. • Set-up of biodiversity credits: For this workstream we’d strongly support the analysis of lessons learned from Guyana’s work with the benefit-sharing mechanism for carbon credits described in the country’s LCDS. We encourage the implementing partner to pay special attention to considerations and risks regarding indigenous people’s rights and the importance of FPIC in the policy-elaboration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The design of this project considers the activities and results of the “Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management and Development (SLDM)-project”, specifically, as explained in section B1, regarding the collaboration with GLSC to enhance land monitoring systems and implementing participatory land management approaches, especially through the GIS-based DSS. Knowledge management strategies and activities will also build on the SLDM project knowledge structures by utilizing baseline data, tools, and practices from previous and ongoing initiatives, as detailed in page 35 of this document. • Collaboration with the mentioned agencies is included in the project’s design and specific actions are foreseen for engagement and coordinated activity as per the project stakeholder engagement plan. Representatives from those agencies will be included in the expanded PSC. The relevant projects led by those agencies and their results are considered in the project baseline. • Collaboration with the GLSC will be actively sought in order to build synergies with the SLDM project. The GLSC will be engaged through frequent meetings with the PMU throughout project implementation as a category 3 stakeholder (as per the stakeholder engagement plan). • The risks of the biodiversity credits mechanism for indigenous populations and other vulnerable groups have been preliminary considered in project design and will be further assessed and taken into account within the design of the mechanism itself, as per the actions explained in component 1 of the project. FPIC will be sought for all actions involving IPLCs and integrated within the mechanism itself.

GEF Council Comment	Agency response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk analysis: The outlined risks to program outcomes refer to the program at a regional level. As such, country-specific risks are not assessed, but several of the identified risks seem relevant to Guyana. It would be worth paying particular attention to the social risks related to the biodiversity credits, assessment of required FPIC processes (differing views between CSO/indigenous organizations and the government), and partnerships with non-governmental organizations. • Other project components: It is unclear what the “regional collaboration”- component of the ASL-program objective entails. (This might be further described in Annex H “Child project information” but this and other annexes were not available for review). • It would be desirable to include a definition of “sustainable land and water management”- practices and “sustainable production” to be implemented, to compare working definitions and focus with those of other projects/programs, like the SLDM- project (ref. above) and EU-led programs in the field. • We encourage the implementing partner to pay attention to the set-up of the Project Management Unit and secure proper staffing “in-house” to avoid depending to extensively on external consultants. It could be worth considering including representatives from other relevant government agencies in the PMU or in the project steering committee to promote greater cross-sectorial collaboration, ownership to ASL and synergies to other projects. • We support the suggestions of the revised STAP screening from June 2023 to reflect relevant aspects of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An account national level external risks to the project and on the identified environmental and social standards (ESS) from the project is provided in section B3 and ESS specific risks are elaborated in further detail in Annex F. Social risks in relation to the biodiversity credits mechanism have been included in the assessment. • “Regional collaboration” referred in PIF to the coordinated activity with the ASL program as well as links and synergies with other regional initiatives (such as the CSIDS-SOILCARE project Phase 1 and 2). Specific actions are now detailed in component 3 and considered throughout the project design. • The terms “sustainable land and water management”- practices and “sustainable production” are adopted as per their meaning in the ASL3 Program component 2: <i>Enhancing sustainable production and landscape restoration and Outcome 2.1 Increased area of forests and watersheds brought under sustainable land and water management practices.</i> • The PSC will include the relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies (please see the Institutional Arrangements section). Capacity building is one of the main objectives of the project, and “in-house” human resources will be incorporated to the project implementation process as much as possible. • See below
STAP Comment (PFD)	
Several activities in the PFD have the potential for broader uptake in the GEF and to better support aspects of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. These include exploring the development	The loss of indigenous ecological and fire management knowledge, driven by generational gaps and migration, is considered as a barrier that threatens sustainable resource management and undermines conservation

GEF Council Comment	Agency response
<p>of OECMs on indigenous lands, integration of scientific and indigenous knowledge systems, and the development and testing of indicators for transformative change across the four levers set out in the GEF-8 programming document. It will be important to design the Regional Coordination project and other child projects in such a way that these aspects feed into other GEF-wide initiatives and ensure that effective solutions are identified as early as possible during project implementation and then shared more broadly in the GEF.</p>	<p>efforts PAs. Actions have been included in the project design to halt that barrier, as well as to integrate scientific knowledge into traditional fire management.</p> <p>The four (4) GEF-8 transformational levers have been incorporated into project design as outlined in the project's Theory of Change and indicators in that regard included in its results framework.</p> <p>Component 3 of the project guarantees that learnings are continuously fed into the Regional Programme so they are available to other ASL3 countries and the wider GEF-8</p>