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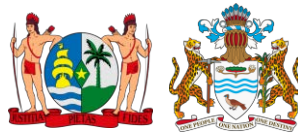


Report of the Inception Phase for the GEF IW-6 NBS ICM Mangrove Project

[PMF 1001253]

“Setting the foundations for zero net loss of the mangroves that underpin human wellbeing in the North Brazil Shelf LME – 9949”





Acronyms

CELOS	Centre for Agricultural Research (Suriname)
CI	Conservation International
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NAREI	National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute of Guyana
PMU – REDD+	Project Management Unit - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Program
RGB	Ministerie van Ruimtelijke Ordening, Grond-En Bosbeheer (Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management (Suriname))
SBB	Stichting voor Bosbeheer en Bostoezicht (Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (Suriname))
UNDP – GCCA+	United Nations Development Program - Global Climate Change Alliance+ Project

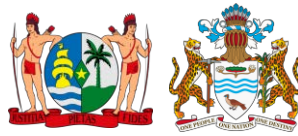
Introduction

The project “Setting the foundations for zero net loss of the mangroves that underpin human wellbeing in the North Brazil Shelf LME” is focused on generating necessary baseline knowledge and technical assessments as inputs towards a collaborative vision and coordinated well informed management of North Brazil Shelf (NBS) mangrove systems, with emphasis upon the information needs of countries Guyana and Suriname.

The project also seeks to increase the interaction level with Brazil and French Guiana. One of the challenges here will be the legal framework. The second challenge is to develop and explore a potential transboundary coordination mechanism between the countries of Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana and Brazil. He mentioned to explore a regional knowledge sharing platform where challenges can be brought together and resolved in a coordinated way.

In that context a first inception phase has occurred through the preparation of the following activities:

- 1- Development of working arrangements for the Project Management Unit between IUCN-Sur and the Conservation International Programs associated with the Project (CI-Guyana, CI-Suriname national offices and the Americas Field Division Program).
- 2- Preparation and signing of contracts with IUCN-South America and Conservation International.
- 3- Preparation of TORs for the initial base-line study in Suriname and Guyana and consultancies in place
- 4- An Inception Meeting (the minutes of the Meeting are found in Annex1 of this report).



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5- Project Steering Committee established.

The following report focuses in the main results of the Inception Meeting undertaken in June 2018.

Dates and Venues of the Inception Meeting

- Date: June 28th, 2018 Time: 10.00am – 15.30pm
- Location: Royal Torarica hotel, meeting room

Objectives of the Inception Meeting

The GEF IW-6 NBS ICM Mangrove Project Inception Meeting responds to the need to operationalize the governance and advance the agenda for planned project activities. Specifically, to:

- Establish working arrangements for the Project Steering Committee.
- Discuss project planning steps based upon the approved Work Plan between the Project Management Unit (PMU) and NBS country GEF operational focal points, as part of the first Project Steering Committee meeting.
- Present project actors, socialize and review state of understanding and updated government information needs for improved mangrove conservation measures and integrated coastal management for the countries of Guyana and Suriname.
- Discuss options, interest, challenges, strategy, and potential commitment for an inter-regional ICM working group with the aim of strengthening mangrove conservation and improving coastal resilience across the NBS geographies (including French Guiana and Brazil) via technical coordination and shared best practice.

Participants

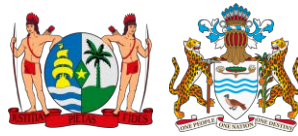
Participants (on-site)		Title, Organization
1.	Dr. Alvaro Vallejo	IUCN-Sur Regional Director.
2.	Sheila Marhe	CI-Suriname Policy & Science Director
3.	Nesseley Louiseville	RGB
4.	Eunike Misiekaba	CI-Suriname Project manager
5.	Virginia Wortel	CELOS



6.	Ans Soetosenojo	CELOS
7.	Hanneke van Lavieren	WWF
8.	Haydi Malone	UNDP GCCA+
9.	Priscilla Karijodrono	UNDP GCCA+
10.	Adley Breeveld	UNDP GCCA+
11.	Valentien Moe Soen	SBB
12.	Giannie Wip	SBB
13.	Feyen Jasper	SBB
14.	Joey Zaalman	SBB
15.	Santusha Mahabier	PMU-REDD+
	Participants (video conference)	Title, Organization
16.	Daniela Carrion	CI GEF Agency
17.	Arturo Mora	IUCN-Sur
18.	Cesar Viteri	CI Americas Senior Economist
19.	Stuart Banks	CI Americas Field Division Project Development
20.	Christian Lavoie	CI Americas Field Division Project Development
21.	Kerry-Anne Cort	CI-Guyana
22.	Curtis Bernard	CI-Guyana
23.	Kene Moseley	NAREI

Inception Meeting Agenda

- Opening and Welcome
- Introduction of participants and review of meeting objectives



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- General overview of the NBS Mangrove project
- Presentation of Project Steering Committee members (PSC) and adoption of PSC Terms of References
- Overview of the GEF-International Waters Program.
- Country presentation Guyana
- Country presentation Suriname
- Work Plan overview
- Discussion: Project Strategy and Development
- Meeting closure and field visit (Paramaribo Sediment Trapping Unit project).

The full meeting agenda is provided in Appendix 1 and detailed meeting minutes in Appendix 2.

Project Steering Committee

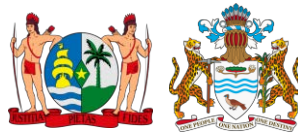
The TORs of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) were presented in the Meeting and approved by the Partners through e-mail (the TORs are found in Annex 2 of this Report).

The objectives of the PSC are:

1. To provide guidance, responsibility and backstopping on project implementation issues.
2. To ensure that the project aligns with national and stakeholder requirements in partner countries.
3. Furthermore to ensure effort and expenditure are appropriate to partner and stakeholder expectations.
4. To ensure strategies to address potential threats to project success are identified, ratified and regularly assessed. This to ensure that they will meet the project goals.
5. To address any issues with major implications for the project and ensure focus during adaptive project management. They have set a desired strategy on how they want to reach these objectives.
6. Reconcile any differences in opinion and help resolve any potential disputes.

PREPARATORY WORK PLAN MEETINGS

The project work plan was developed between project partners IUCN-Sur and CI as part of a process in which the country offices of Suriname and Guyana consulted their national agency and NGO partners through a series of pre-meetings and communications. One of the early challenges for the project is to help construct a discussion space and technical forum to help promote coordination in base-line information and further research necessary for the implementation of the Project.



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COUNTRY OWNERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT WITH OFPs

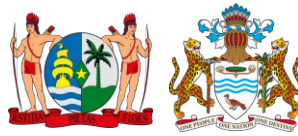
The project is represented by the principal environmental agencies (SBB and NAREI) of the two NBS project countries Suriname and Guyana in the Project Steering Committee (as a result of existing relationships with CI-country offices and the PMU stakeholder process) as well as key partners collaborating in the region (e.g. UNDP-GCCA+ project, WWF-Guianas etc.). The principal country Operational Focal Points being the President's Cabinet in Suriname and Government of Guyana are engaged through e-mail exchange with the country CI offices (Given travel to the GEF-7 meetings in Vietnam in the same dates as the June 2018 inception workshop they were unable to attend the first on-site inception meeting).

National offices will continue to provide information and updates on project progress to the project operational (political) and technical (agency) focal points and welcome all feedback as the project develops.

Next Steps

Given feedback between partners during the inception meeting discussion as well as subsequent planning meetings during the start-up phase, a series of steps were suggested to advance the project:

1. A regional technical group was convened as a result of the inception meeting, being in principal a platform to develop a shared knowledge-based mangrove conservation agenda between the two countries of Suriname and Guyana as well as potentially Brazil and French Guiana for the NBS region. Project offices will help consolidate that working group and help systematize the diverse work undertaken between partners in the region to help prioritize research, actions and generate a workable and relevant community of mangrove conservation practice.
2. The PMU has canvassed the recruiting pool for the two countries with limited success for the early project technical consultancies. These look to synthesis existing base-line information and respond to the knowledge gaps identified in the pre-project phase. As a result, the PMU proposes contract of an in-country research assistant in each country (Guyana and Suriname) to coordinate with an international wetlands specialist group. This approach supports national capacity building, training, data mining of local grey literature on-site and encourages longer-term technical continuity. ToRs are being developed to that effect.
3. The project recognizes the need to include French Guiana and Brazil (Amapá State) in the next round of technical discussions and has identified key contact points for follow up.
4. A stakeholder workshop will be held in the first half of September 2018 in Paramaribo, Suriname in which early base-line synthesis results will be shared. This serves to ensure



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wider participation and representation in the current initiative, including that of Indigenous Peoples communities. This event invites the participation of regional actors UNEP (sub-regional CLME+ project addressing fisheries and pollution) and the CLME+ project as well as relevant agencies from Brazil and French Guiana.

5. The two technical workshops (Open Standards Conservation Planning and Mangrove Habitat Ecosystem Red-Listing) will be combined as complementary events in October 2018 in Georgetown, Guyana given compatible goals and to facilitate cost -effective attendance of experts.
6. A simple Google Drive platform for document sharing and calendar planning was set up by the PMU as a short-term step to coordinate and align work between partners and country agendas. Further discussions needed with CLME+ project and partners concerning viability of an NBS or national data clearing house(s) with quality standards.
7. The current NBS-mangrove project will continue to coordinate with the CLME+ project to provide relevant information for the regional “State of Marine Ecosystems and Associated Economies” (SOMEE) report for 2018.

APPENDIXES

Appendix 1 – Inception meeting detailed agenda, meeting registry and media.

Appendix 2 - Inception Meeting Minutes

Appendix 3 – TORs for the Steering Committee