

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1. The project works to enable a more integrated and transboundary treatment of coastal zone and integrated management influencing an estimated 250,000 – 300,000 ha of mangrove ecosystem within the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (NBS-LME or NBS). Situated along the north eastern coast of South America the NBS-LME spans ~1.1 million km² over six countries, being bordered by the Caribbean Sea in Central America and extending south to the Atlantic Parnaiba River delta along the margin of Maranhão and Piauí States in Brazil (Ekau & Knoppers, 2003). It is a region that retains and supports great natural richness and cultural diversity, yet is also subject to increasing development pressures, potentially game-changing inchoate industries (such as offshore oil extraction) and subject to high flooding risk for the largely coastal population given IPCC climate scenarios.
2. It is a one year project that aims to generate 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. Although the project collaborates with Brazil and French Guiana, the two countries of Guyana and Suriname were identified during the planning phase (as part of a participatory multi-government workshop held in Suriname June 2017) as being the most relevant beneficiaries for a one year investment to provide a balanced representation of information, organization and capacity necessary to further a shared transboundary ICZM agenda for the region.
3. Building on initial assessments initiated in the pre-project phase, this is to be achieved through participatory knowledge gap analysis organized between project partners, targeted support to monitoring, mapping and research in the two countries, updated threat assessments (applying Ecosystem Red Listing expertise with IUCN) and knowledge sharing for decision making. This is in coordination with complementary actions underway and planned for November 2017 onwards as

part of the GEF/ UNDP CLME+ sub-regional NBS project (that includes the NBS countries as part of the recently developed transboundary Strategic Action Program (SAP) ratified by CLME+ (including NBS) countries into 2017-2021).

4. Strengthening the knowledge base to achieve a more comparable level between NBS countries supports development of a transboundary coordination mechanism(s) between the countries of Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana and Brazil (Amapá). The overall expected outcome is an improved integrated coastal management of the extensive, ecologically connected yet vulnerable mangrove habitat of the North Brazil Shelf (NBS) region. This catalyst project over one year is intended to support the aforementioned CLME+ SAP implementation and actions within the NBS-LME region.

2. POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS.

5. This plan is intended to fulfill the CI-GEF agency Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Policy 9 on the processes of informing and engaging the partners and stakeholders in the project. The CI-GEF Project Agency oversees the Executing Entity involving all stakeholders as early as possible in the preparation process and makes sure that their views and concerns are taken into account. The CI-GEF Project Agency team will further ensure that the Executing Entity will continue to hold consultations throughout the project as described in this plan. To address this requirement and respond to the design of the project, the stakeholder engagement plan is organized to best achieve its two principal Outcomes – (1) development and sharing of the knowledge base for mangrove conservation in the region and (2) multi-actor construction of a technical and governance process for a transboundary ICZM in the NBS region.
6. Although only a one year project, stakeholder feedback is also an important part of adaptive management of the project given that it is intended as a planning and staging process for continued ICZM developments.

3. SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DURING PROJECT DEVELOPMENT.

7. The project development team (represented by IUCN, CI-Americas Field Division (AFD), CI-Suriname and CI-Guyana country offices) has engaged in a series of information sharing and consultation activities with a range of project stakeholders throughout the project development phase. Those consultations that took place from late 2016 and the stakeholders involved are summarized below.
8. During 18th-28th February 2016 CI conducted a first rapid marine assessment with a representative selection of stakeholders in Suriname. A small task group of marine experts focusing in fisheries, climate, ecology and marine protected design, social and economic conditions met with the productive sector (aquaculture, tuna fishers and processing facility, inshore fishing cooperatives, honey producers), government agencies, local community leaders, congress representatives, local NGOs, WWF-Guianas as well as the academic sector piloting green-grey coastal defense infrastructure work.
9. This generated a first marine strategy for CI based conservation work in Suriname with partners. The early review received perspectives from stakeholder groups and recommended a regional coordination between NBS countries for effective mangrove conservation in the region. The need to consolidate conservation measures for the near pristine nature of much of Suriname's coastline was

recognized given the interest of government counterparts and probability of rapid development in the near future.

10. Following these consultations, the project design team based in CI received the support of IUCN-Sur in coordination with IUCN-Brazil who would act as Executing Agency for the project. CI proceeded to develop a desktop review of the current state of mangrove knowledge for the NBS region following a thematic structure developed during the formative steps of a new Global Mangrove Alliance between CI, IUCN, WWF and TNC during 2016. This involved a series of consultations with country CI-Guyana and CI-Suriname programs that liaised directly with government, CSO and academia in the region.
11. A series of over 30 follow-up meetings were held between stakeholders (government, NGO, academia and local private sector) during the pre-project phase in the countries of Guyana and Suriname from May-September culminated in a workshop 14th-15th June 2017 with the definitive objective to discuss and agree with NFPs and stakeholders the results based framework for the GEF-IW MSP submission. This also reviewed the preliminary state of mangrove developments and knowledge as base-line for a possible GEF-IW investment. A breakdown of the meetings socializing and discussing the project (stakeholders, objectives, agreed actions etc.) is available from CI upon request.
12. Subsequent meetings and correspondence for project development with government agency counterparts and project partners included coordination with the GEF UNDP CLME+ project (Project Manager Patrick Debels) and UNEP (Christopher Corbin) to identify synergies and possible planning steps between the presented project and the CLME+ sub-regional NBS project. Similar exchanges were undertaken with the UNDP GCCA+ program and the WWF-Guianas program which are undertaking relevant and complementary initiatives in the region. A formalized agreement with government of Brazil as partners, participants and in-kind supporters of the proposed work for the northerly Amapá and Para provinces was coordinated directly through the IUCN-Brazil and CI-Brazil offices.
13. Project document revisions were circulated by the development team to the governments of Guyana, Suriname and Brazil and received endorsement as documented in Annex J.

4. PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS.

14. The goal of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan is to involve all project stakeholders, including government NFPs, national protected areas agency staff, NGO staff, community representatives and the scientific community as early as possible in the implementation process and throughout the process, to make sure their views and input are received and taken into consideration. The plan will help the project establish effective lines of communication and working relationships. This also includes involving public as a means of engendering ownership of an eventual ICZM process and as integral proponents of problem solving and solutions for coastal sustainability in the region. Table 1 provides the list of stakeholders and their relationship to the project.
15. We will continue to engage national protected areas agency staff, local communities and the academic community through the local CI-Suriname and CI-Guyana offices in coordination with the GEF National Focal Points and with support of IUCN-Brazil and the CI Americas Field Division. Most engagement will be managed by the CI-Suriname Field Manager between field offices. Wider outreach will be coordinated with the CLME+ program for the region.

5. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM.

16. Key stakeholders and stakeholder engagement methods are summarized in Table 1. It is expected that consultations will be in the format of structured meetings and interviews throughout the project given the nature of the project. Research concerning community value of mangroves is expected to involve questionnaires and opinion polls with focus groups.
17. The stakeholder engagement program will be implemented in conjunction with the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan thus ensuring that gender equity is maintained throughout project interactions with stakeholders. It also intends to provide due notice of project activities to local communities where relevant through internet placements and where access is limiting, community bulletin boards, SMS etc. and public fora.
18. In the case of indigenous people's communities, consultation with the CI-GEF safeguard expert will determine appropriate engagement protocol, following the CI-GEF ESMF Policy 4 and existing national guidelines and also taking into consideration traditional mechanisms for consultations and decision making.

Table 1: Project Stakeholders.

Stakeholder	Interests in the Project	Project Effect(s) on Stakeholder	Engagement During Project Implementation
Government of Guyana.			
National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI).	The former Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project (GMRP) is now a Mangrove Unit based and financed in NAREI and principal technical wetlands agency for GoG.	Support for mangrove restoration practice, research and education at the national scale in Guyana. Involvement in all regional networking and planning discussions.	NAREI is the principal national agency and contact point for development of research activities, consolidation of a national mangrove working group and development of an ICZM road map in Guyana and coordinates directly with the CI-Guyana office.
Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC).	National sustainable forestry.	Inputs towards EGS valuation and Integrated Coastal Zone Management.	The GFC and DoF will be invited to contribute to all relevant project technical meetings
Department of Fisheries (DoF – Guyana)	National sustainable fisheries.	Inputs towards EGS valuation and Integrated Coastal Zone Management.	
Cabinet of the President (KabPres)	Oversight and development of national participation in regional initiatives.	National representation in regional coordination and ICZM developments.	CI-Suriname will directly advise KabPres concerning project developments throughout the project.

Stakeholder	Interests in the Project	Project Effect(s) on Stakeholder	Engagement During Project Implementation
Government of Suriname (GoS)			
<p>Nature Conservation Division of the Suriname Forest Service. (Min. of ROGB in Dutch).</p> <p>Department of Fisheries in the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.</p> <p>Maritime Authority Suriname</p>	<p>Principal technical counterparts for GoS for the project. Through the ICZM planning process, lessons learnt and benefits can be multiplied beyond the scope of the original project</p>	<p>Support for mangrove conservation planning, regional networking and synthesis of baseline knowledge.</p>	<p>ROGB and SBB are the principal national agencies and contact point for development of research activities, consolidation of the national mangrove working group, formation of a regional mangrove action committee and development of an ICZM road map in Guyana and coordinates directly with the CI-Suriname office.</p>
<p>Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (known as SBB in Dutch)</p>	<p>Sustainable forestry and rational resource use.</p>	<p>Inputs towards mangrove cover estimations and monitoring, EGS valuation and Integrated Coastal Zone Management.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p><u>Local communities.</u></p> <p>(Includes community groups such as the Victoria Guyana Village Mangrove Action Committee)</p>	<p>Principal resource users in the coastal zone and interested community groups.</p>	<p>Beneficiaries of mid-long term coastal management outcomes.</p>	<p>Community mangrove groups will receive information concerning the project during inception and be invited to participate in both the ecosystem valuation studies (EGS) and local planning workshops (to be defined as part of the ICZM planning strategy). IN all cases study results will be presented where feasible to the community for early feedback and validation.</p>
<p>Private sector (fishers, tourism developers, upstream industry).</p>	<p>Sustainable production in the NBS region.</p>	<p>Sustainable outcomes for local industry.</p>	
<p>NBS country research institutions and universities and international academic community.</p>	<p>Local mangrove researchers (in particular those based in University of Guyana, Anton de Kom University, University of Suriname) and</p>	<p>Will provide an opportunity for networking and improved research opportunities as well as synthesis in fields of interest relevant</p>	<p>Local universities will be supported for mangrove characterization, biophysical research and synthesis of restoration options under the project. Interactions will be</p>

Stakeholder	Interests in the Project	Project Effect(s) on Stakeholder	Engagement During Project Implementation
	<p>international experts will make key technical contributions to the project. This also includes links to regional research agencies including FURG (Brazil) and Brazil Federal & State Universities (Amapá) and research entities in French Guiana.</p>	<p>to mangrove conservation and applied actions based on the information base in the region.</p>	<p>directly with the country CI and IUCN field offices in Suriname, Guyana and Brazil building on existing relationships. Where appropriate and indicated the PMU will also contact the international research community to help consolidate and review the research components of the project. Academia is expected to participate in both national and regional mangrove working groups.</p>
<p>NGOs WWF-Guianas Wetlands International Suriname Radio and Television Foundation (SORTS) Green Heritage Fund Suriname (GHFS). Guyana Marine Conservation Society (GMCS)</p>	<p><u>WWF-Guianas</u> has a long standing program in the Guianas region and is a partner for transboundary mapping of ecosystem services and ICZM development for the region. <u>Wetlands International</u> has expertise between global programs looking for “building with nature” coastal defense options and conservation incentives in wetland communities in collaboration with AdeKUS and CI in Suriname. <u>SORTS</u> is a local Suriname NGO working in awareness for mangrove conservation with institutions and communities. <u>GHFS / GMCS</u> work in local wildlife conservation and research.</p>	<p>Synergies between complementary projects provide opportunity for collaboration, coordinated efforts and a multi-actor agenda to better address the various challenges behind achieving NBS sustainable development goals.</p>	<p>During the project inception period the IUCN and CI field offices will coordinate with local NGOs to identify shared discussion, actionable items and project development lines. This includes those already providing in-kind co-financing support to the project (e.g. WWF-Guianas) as well as potential new opportunities that may arise.</p>
<p><u>Multilateral and bilateral development programs</u> (UNDP, UNEP, US-AID, EU-11th EDF)</p>	<p><u>UNDP</u> - is leading the Global Climate Change Alliance + (GCCA+) project in the NBS. <u>UNDP/ UNEP</u> – leads the NBS GEF-CLME+ based</p>	<p>Complementary actions should improve the effectiveness of individual initiatives through coordination</p>	<p>The PMU will coordinate at regular intervals with the other development programs underway in the region.</p>

Stakeholder	Interests in the Project	Project Effect(s) on Stakeholder	Engagement During Project Implementation
	sub-project. <u>US-AID</u> – is supporting Caribbean Climate Adaptation Project work in the region in 2018.	and contributions towards under a joint ICZM transboundary planning process.	
<u>Indigenous Peoples communities.</u>	13 IP communities live adjacent to mangrove areas in the two project countries.	IP communities as with local communities involved in knowledge review, threat assessment, EGS evaluation and any future ICZM planning.	As communities influenced by a potential ICZM planning process, the project will fully respect IP stakeholder rights and process. This will follow international CI-GEF and WB standards and approaches with due deference and consideration of national IP guidelines. An appropriate mechanism for engagement as part of the ICZM planning process will be determined in consultation with NFPs in each country.

6. METHODS USED FOR CONSULTATION.

21. The CI and IUCN field offices in the NBS region will coordinate consultation with stakeholder groups throughout the project having an established working history and peer network relevant to the situational context of the proposed work. This will follow the project work plan developed during project inception, in accordance with, and where appropriate facilitated by National Focal Points (NFPs).
22. We will also build engagement and consultation of NFPs, NGOs and development agencies into the ICZM strategy planning exercise during the project inception meeting where representation of stakeholder groups for an ICZM process will be determined. Part of that process will be determination of the decision making mechanic.
23. To ensure wide dissemination, all project data, decision-support tools and training materials will be made available through a web platform with the CLME+ project to provide where possible a single go-to reference point for an ICZM process. In addition, we will provide links to relevant websites through the IUCN and Conservation International websites.
24. The project aims to support mechanisms for national mangrove technical groups and a regional mangrove action committee. The latter will establish operational guidelines to help facilitate the adequate representation of stakeholders' perspectives and interests. It is encouraged that the flow of technical information to stakeholders be regular, accessible, well considered, transparent, centralized and agile as a basis for well informed decision making. This is an expected requisite for an ICZM development phase and part of project development. International NGOs will be engaged through the executing agency and through the project's international advisors.

25. The national mangrove working groups will be logical contributors to national mangrove threat assessments and the IUCN ecosystem level regional assessment. They will also provide a platform for discussion and validation of project technical results as well as the design of responses to impacts identified in the regional assessments as part of the ICZM planning agenda.
26. Where appropriate the project will engage the international scientific and development community through participation and presentations at conferences, including learning exchange opportunities such as the CI-GEF IW-Learn exchange organized for FY18 in Quito, Ecuador.

7. TIMETABLE.

27. Estimated schedule for engagements by stakeholder group:

Project Stakeholders	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Government of Guyana, Suriname.				
Local communities.				
Private sector				
NGOs				
Multilateral and bilateral development programs				
Indigenous Peoples communities.				

8. RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

28. IUCN-Sur is responsible for project execution and for ensuring implementation of the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) at the whole-project level. The Regional Leads based in IUCN-Brazil, CI-Suriname and CI-Guyana will be responsible for ensuring that the SEP is implemented at the level of country. This is also supported by established standards for engagement with stakeholders applied by IUCN and CI for each project geography.

9. ACCOUNTABILITY AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISM.

29. The PSC will set up a process at the project inception meeting for resolving any and all grievances within and without the project. Instructions are provided on the IUCN and CI websites with contact information and grievance procedures. This will include contact information for PSC members and CI-GEF project agency staff.
30. The primary point of contact is IUCN-Sur who will respond to all grievances in writing within 15 working days of receipt, and can also be received at any of the CI country offices. Any grievances recorded will be entered into the project monitoring framework and responses sent to the claimant recorded. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response, the grievance may be submitted directly to the CI-GEF Project Agency.
31. In the event that this process does not resolve the grievance, the grievant may file a claim with the CI Director of Compliance (DOC) who can be reached at:

Electronic email: GEFAccountability@conservation.org
Mailing address: Direction of Compliance
 Conservation International
 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500
 Arlington, VA 22202, USA.

32. The accountability and grievance mechanism used in this project is that generated by the CI-GEF Project Agency. It is documented as a Project Resource and on-line [available here](#) .

10. MONITORING AND REPORTING.

33. SEP specific indicators are proposed as part of Monitoring and Evaluation to help monitor the level of engagement during the project:

Indicator SEP 1:	Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis
Indicator SEP 2:	Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis)
Indicator SEP 3:	Number of engagements (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)
Indicator SEP 4:	Percentage of stakeholders who rate as satisfactory the level at which their views and concerns are taken into account by the project (undertaken by independent terminal evaluation consultancy at end of project).