



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# Suriname

# REDD+ Project

# Board Meeting

Friday 27 November 2015

Torarica – Royal Ballroom

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## **PREFACE**

In May 2014 the Government of Suriname and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) gave their commitment to the project on “Strengthening national capacities of Suriname for the elaboration of the National REDD+ strategy and the design of its implementation framework.

This project has three (3) components, namely:

1. Strengthening human capacity and stakeholder involvement
2. REDD+ business model and strategy
3. REDD+ implementation framework and aid.

In July 2015, the first Suriname REDD+ project board meeting was held. The second of its kind was scheduled for November 27, 2015. Invitations were extended to members of REDD+ project board. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project board to new board members, bring members up to date with the progress made thus far in 2015 and to discuss and finalize the 2016 Work Plan.

The Project Board Members hope to have more regular and scheduled meetings with the project board.

## ATTENDANCE LIST:

NO.	ORGANISATION	NAME
1	PMU – REDD+	Madhawi Ramdin
2	PMU – REDD+	Sirto-Yaba Aloema
3	PMU – REDD+	Karwofodi Silvia
4	PMU – REDD+	Santusha Mahabier
5	SBB	Sarah Crabbe
6	SBB	Priscilla Miranda
7	SBB	Rene Somopawiro
8	SBB	Panka Seth
9	NIMOS	Cedric Nelom
10	UNDP	Alexis Armstrong
11	UNDP	Anuraha Khoenkhoen
12	UNDP	Brain Drakenstein
13	UN-REDD	Pierre-Yves Guedez
14	UN-REDD	Danae Maniatis
15	Workers Union	Eric Feller
16	NGO	John G.
17	Local Authorities (DS & DC)	Wirjotaroeno Ch.
18	Women Groups	Marion Stekkel
19	Business & Industries	M. Poetisi
20	Scientist / Researcher	Kimberley Fung-loy
21	REDD+ Assistant (Trio's)	Pildus Tawadi
22	REDD+ Assistant (Wajana's)	A. Arupa
23	REDD+ Assistant (Caraiben)	Irvin Pistie
24	REDD+ Assistant (Saramaccaner's)	N. Adose
25	REDD+ Assistant (Aucaners)	Wabe Alida
26	REDD+ Assistant (Matuariers)	Willems W.F.
27	Min. Agriculture, Fisheries & Livestock	Sebitadebie Gopal
28	Min. Regional Development	W. Finisie
29	Min. Spatial Planning, Land and Forest Management	P. Podeon
30	Min. Education, Science and Culture	E. Baam
31	Min. Regional Development	Androme Sudo
32	Min. Spatial Planning, Land and Forest Management	Kaminie Tajib
33	Gr. Kwamala	Koepoeroe

The total of 33 participants consisted of 18 males and 15 females. Also from the list of participants only 20 were project board members.

## AGENDA

### Programme Project Board Meeting

For

Friday - November 27, 2015

Date: Friday November 27, 2015

Location: Torarica – Royal Ballroom

Time: 08:00 – 12:00 h

08:00 – 08:30	Registration and breakfast
08:30 – 08:40	Welcome – Rene Somopawiro
08:40 – 09:00	Functioning Project Board
09:00 – 09:45	Achieved REDD+ Milestones
09:45 – 10:45	Objectives / Goals Work plan 2016
10:45 – 11:00	Conclusion
11:00 – 12:00	Lunch

## PROCEEDINGS

### INTRODUCTION

Mr. Rene Somopawiro welcomed the audience and gave a brief overview of the objectives of the meeting. These objectives were as follows:

- Review of 2015 work plan and accomplishments thus far.
- Review of the work content of the draft annual work plan for 2016.
- Note the need for adjustments based on the critical comments coming from the review of Annual Work Plan 2016.

The meeting was then chaired by Mr. Cedric Nelom, General Director of the NIMOS. It was mentioned that this was the second board meeting, the first was held in July 2015. Since that time new board members were added, therefore, they were asked to introduce themselves. Hard copies of the Draft Work Plan Suriname REDD+ 2016 were available for each member. Members were to review the work plan and submit comments two weeks later.

The proceedings were then handed over to Ms Madhawi Ramdin, who presented the following by means of a PowerPoint presentation\*:

- General Introduction (Summary of REDD+)
- REDD+ in Suriname
- Results
- Way forward.

\*This presentation is available at the REDD+ office.

Before proceeding to the results section of the presentation the participants were given an opportunity to ask questions.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### 1. Q: Which Government Ministries are included in REDD+ Suriname?

A: REDD+ Suriname works with the Ministry of Agriculture, fisheries and livestock, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Education Science and Culture, Ministry of Spatial Planning, Land Management and Forestry, Ministry of Public Works and Ministry of Trade and Industry.

#### 2. Q: Why the Ministry of labor is not included?

A: REDD+ works with organizations directly involved with forest issues, hence the overarching Labour Union is a part of the Board rather than the Ministry of Labour.

#### 3. Q: Explain or define the difference between *people who work in the forest* and *people living in the forest*?

A: The Indigenous and Maroons can be defined as both since they live in and use the forest. On the other hand persons who reside temporarily and whose sole purpose for being in the forest is to work can be defined as those who work the forest.

- 4. Q: There is a conflict with the Government, because REDD+ teaches conservation and preservation of the forest, but at the same time concessions are given for mining and other things which destroys the forest. What really is the message?**

A: The statement is true and it can result in distrust. However, the REDD+ initiative although being part of the government, has as intent to combine both parties so that comments and issues are clarified. Laws, regulations and compensations need to be put in place to protect forest communities.

- 5. Q: The Wajana people want to create a balance between preservation of natural resources and at the same time receive an income. The Ministries of Agriculture and Regional Development are already on board to help with projects relating to Ecotourism, Agriculture and Culture. What support can REDD+ offer?**

A: REDD+ has limited finances but there may be other ways in which help can be provided and this can be discussed after the meeting.

- 6. Q: Concessions continue to be given even though REDD+ exist. Where is the control mechanism; who will monitor and control? Especially since expertise is limited in the villages.**

A: There are various organizations within the board e.g. SBB that deal with such matters. However, there may be a need to optimize their functions. SBB plans in the future to set up a Forest Monitoring System Project where communities would be involved in the process.

It was also made clear that REDD+ is still in its readiness phase, therefore, patience is needed. REDD+ will work at empowering people to do the work.

- 7. Q: Clarify how we can preserve and receive an income forest?**

A: It may seem contradictory but a balance between the two is needed.

- 8. Q: What was done from July 2015?**

A: REDD+ showed a slide consisting of a number of activities that was scheduled for July – December 2015.

- 9. Q: Why PMU staff needs to be increased, are there increased activities?**

A: In order to strengthen the unit one more permanent staff is needed.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Need for clarity on the roles and rules for the Project Board Members. Originally in the REDD+ Project Document it was stated the Project Board Members would consist of representatives from NIMOS, UNDP, SBB, the indigenous and logging communities, and other additional members. These additional members were to be observers but at this meeting they were very much involved which is good. In the REDD+ Project Document mention was made of REDD+ National Steering Committee. Clarification to be made as to the relationship between this Committee and the Project Board, and how the decision making process will work for the project board.
- Documents, meetings, fliers, posters etc., need to be reader friendly. To accomplish this it must be in a language that speaks to people's heart.
- Have the Ministry of Labour included as a board member.
- Midterm Evaluation was recommended to be postponed until next year. It is best not to do so since the evaluation will provide insight into the way forward. No need for further delay since it is overdue. No decision was taken regarding the request to postpone, or not the midterm review.
- Presentation slides with too much information should be discussed immediately before going forward.
- The slide regarding sourcing of expertise, it was suggested that a combination of both international and national experts be the third option.
- For future meetings, the focus should *not* be on problems and solutions but mention should be made of what they were and what solutions were used to solve the problems.
- There should be an establishment of a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit to keep track of the progress or failure of planned activities.
- REDD+ should not promote itself as a government based organization but as a partnership with the government especially when doing outreach programs in route areas.
- Budget and challenges should be included in the work plan for 2016 before feedback can be given by some organizations (e.g. NGO'S).
- The meeting was not easily followed by all, thus for future meetings, members should be well informed and the meeting should follow the set agenda.

## COMMENDATIONS

- REDD+ Suriname was commended for training provided to the Indigenous and Maroons community. The training was very effective and efficient, because the trainers spoke Sranan Tongo (local language) and broke down science related and climate change information in simple terms that was easily to understand. They were also taught how to teach the theories learnt to others.



## **COMMENTS:**

- The Work Plan for 2016 seems very ambitious. It needs to be analyzed to see if it is realistic.
- Progress achieved to date must be considered in relation to budget and activities should also be reported.
- 18 months has elapsed since the inception phase and Suriname is lagging behind. What are the challenges (Human capacity, clarity of the terms of reference of colleagues, strategic partnerships etc.)? These need to be analyzed so that we can progress.
- REDD+ is ready to provide training but a clear plan related to capacity building is needed first. Training per se is not an objective so all communities can extend an invitation based on their schedules and possibilities.

## **CHALLENGES / ROOT CAUSES DELAYS:**

- 2015 was election year in Suriname
- New PMU
- PMU not fully staffed yet
- Need clarification on TOR of individuals within PMU and of Project Board

## **FOLLOW UP:**

### **TASK OF THE REDD+ PROJECT:**

- Distribution of power point presentation to all Project Board members.
- Ensure that all members fully understand the 2016 Work Plan. This would include translating to Dutch and Sranan Tongo.
- Preparing six (6) draft documents by mid-December, finalized for the next Project Board meeting. These are as follows:
  1. Update on what was done in the last 18 months by the PMU regarding the 16 activities agreed upon in July 2015
  2. Update what was done by other initiatives since signature, related to the different activities originally included in the signed project document, such as for instance the different ongoing works on FPIC protocols, the decentralized mechanisms related to grievance and redress mechanism, etc. as this will impact the AWP2016.
  3. Analysis of the challenges and solutions to problems affecting the progress of the Project.
  4. A narrative behind the 2016 work plan matrix and the elaboration of the national strategy.
  5. Prepare a realistic AWP 2016, solving inconsistencies so there are no hiccups to implementation of the AWP 2016; supported by a procurement plan and monitoring framework document.

6. Create a Project Board Document. This document can be one or two pages long. It should explain how the project board works (e.g. how decisions will be made, how frequent project board meetings will be held etc.).

All tasks mentioned above should be completed before next Project Board meeting, to be held in January 2016. It was suggested that a calendar be made streamlining the tasks and output time.

All members must be well informed as to the plan of action for 2016 before the next Project Board meeting scheduled for January 2016.

## CONCLUSION

The meeting was then adjourned and all present were invited to have lunch.

Photos of the Project Board Meeting 27 November 2015



