

Indicator	Conclusion of assessment
Indicator 1: <i>Continue with the process to apply to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).</i>	Indicator met
Indicator 2: <i>Advance Guyana's policy of enabling Amerindian communities to "opt in" to REDD+ payments.</i>	Indicator met
Indicator 3: <i>Improve REDD+ and LCDS-related Communications in Hinterland Communities</i>	Indicator met

Indicator 1: *Continue with the process to apply to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).*

- a) By the end of November 2014, the inception report from the EITI Scoping Study will be published, and**

Norway's Climate and Forest Initiative received the draft EITI Scoping Study on April 16th.

- b) Guyana will be listed as an "interested country" on the EITI Website.**

Guyana is listed as a country intending to implement the EITI on the official EITI website: <https://eiti.org/countries/other>.

Conclusion: Indicator met

Indicator 1a) is referring to the inception report of the EITI Scoping Study. Instead of the inception report Guyana has submitted the draft EITI scoping study. The draft is well developed and gives an overview of the extractive industries in Guyana, a cost and benefit analysis, a roadmap for the adaptation of EITI and an EITI implementation work plan. This is an important step forward for the implementation of EITI in Guyana and exceeds the progress indicated by an inception report and also explain the delay relative to the agreed timeline. Indicator 1b) is unambiguously met.

Indicator 2: Advance Guyana's policy of enabling Amerindian communities to "opt in" to REDD+ payments.

- a) By the end of November 2014, the Government of Guyana will publish the draft opt-in strategy, which will be submitted to the National Toshias Council and the Multi Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC) for review.**

A draft Opt-in strategy was circulated to the National Toshias Council and the MSSC on October 24th 2014. The draft document is publically available on <http://www.lcds.gov.gy/index.php/documents>.

- b) The Government of Guyana will also request the NTC to select – by December 2014 - a pilot community from the candidate communities identified by the NTC in 2013.**

A letter to the NTC was sent from the Office of Climate Change on October 24th 2014 requesting the council to select a village for the Opt-In Mechanism pilot. The letter referred to the villages Warapoka and Muritaro as candidates proposed by the NTC in 2013. The OCC received a response from NTC on December 15th 2014 identifying the village Muritaro as selected for the pilot.

- c) Furthermore, the Government of Guyana is planning to hire a consultancy to assist with the further development of the opt-in strategy. The Terms of Reference for this consultancy will be submitted to the IDB by the end of November 2014 and subsequently be made publically available through an international competitive procurement process.**

The Terms of Reference of the consultancy was sent to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on January 7th, 2015. It was an attachment to a letter requesting no-objection from the IDB for single sourcing the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) as the consultant developing and implementing the pilot. In a letter dated January 27th the IDB agrees to proceed with the single sourcing of WWF for the Opt-In pilot, financed by the IDB-project "Institutional Strengthening in support of Guyana's LCDS".

Conclusion: Indicator met

Indicators 2a) and b) are unambiguously met. However it should be noted that for indicator 2b) the Multi Stakeholder Steering Committee has enquired about the criteria used for selecting the pilot. Indicator 2c) has been delayed relative to the agreed timeline. Furthermore, the consultancy has not gone through an international, competitive procurement process as agreed

but rather been single sourced to the WWF. Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) understands that this was done to (i) be able to start implementing the Opt-in pilot at an earlier stage and (ii) because WWF, Guianas is through extensive REDD+ and community MRV experience in Guyana a highly qualified candidate for the work. NICFI therefore considers indicator 2c) as met, expecting the public release of the ToR for the consultancy when the procurement process has been completed and WWF signs their contract. Special communications will be made on the arrangement to the NTC, MSSC and Amerindian civil society organizations.

Recommendation:

- i) Full disclosure of the selection criteria for the pilot village of the Opt-in mechanism is recommended, at the discretion of the NTC.
- ii) Comments on the draft opt-in strategy have been received from the MSSC (compiled on November 17 2014). To ensure that indigenous peoples are able to make decisions according to their customary systems of decision making, no deadline was given for feedback from the NTC. This is a commendable approach; however it is highly recommended that the Government of Guyana continues to encourage and facilitate for Amerindian villages to efficiently contribute to the strategy. The opt-in mechanism has been the subject to stakeholder consultations for many years. However at this point, there is a quite detailed draft strategy document with several technical aspects. To ensure informed Amerindian contribution to the strategy paper we recommend that translation into local languages and assistance with the technical aspects is considered. The opt-in pilot might prove as an excellent opportunity for investigating how the villages can contribute to the strategy and understanding what knowledge, institutions and equipment they might need to do so. Furthermore, inclusion of the NTC, all Indigenous Peoples' organizations and the direct involvement of the opt-in pilot village will be important when further developing the opt-in strategy and mechanism. A process such as this needs time to evolve. However, it should be understood by all stakeholders that a very lengthy preparation process could mean the loss of opportunity

Indicator 3: Improve REDD+ and LCDS-related Communications in Hinterland Communities

- a) **Continued efforts have been extended over the past year to further enhance outreach and awareness on the LCDS. The Government of Guyana will provide a publicly available overview of these activities, including, but not limited to outreach and awareness sessions to hinterland regions, and development and dissemination of information to Amerindian communities through various**

channels, such as Indigenous NGO's of the LCDS Multi Stakeholder Steering Committee.

An overview over the LCDS related activities that took place in 2013/14 is publicly available on the LCDS website. Ten awareness sessions were conducted in regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 in the reporting period, all coordinated by the OCC and led by Minister of Amerindian Affairs Pauline Sukhai or Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Leslie Ramsammy. Representatives of central government agencies and in some cases the chair of the National Toshihos Council were part of the visiting team as well. Detailed reports from these sessions are available on the LCDS webpage.

The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) has produced several power point presentations on the negotiations with the European Union on a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) under the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) programme. The GFC conducted 12 workshops in 2013 and seven in 2014 on LCDS, REDD+, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), FLEGT and Guyana's Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS). The workshops were held for indigenous peoples and local communities in regions 1,2,3, 4,6,7, 9 and 10. In 2014 additional 10 workshops were held in regions 1,2,5,7,8 and 9 focusing primarily on REDD+ and MRVS.

More than 50 awareness sessions in the hinterland have been held by members of the Multi Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC) acting as facilitators. NICFI has reviewed written reports from these sessions.

- b) The Government of Guyana, with the support of Conservation International, is about to start implementing an LCDS outreach project which will among other things focus on the tailored needs for information in the hinterland communities. The project is somewhat delayed, but the signed contract and Terms of Reference for the collaboration between the Government of Guyana and Conservation International are available on the GRIF web site. The Government of Guyana will by the end of November 2014 publish an outline and indicative timeline for the main deliverables of this project.**

An indicative timeline for the main deliverables of the Information and Outreach project is available on the LCDS website.

Conclusion: Indicator met

Indicator 3a) specifies that there will be a publicly available overview of the outreach activities. An overview is available but focusing solely on the high-level awareness sessions conducted by the Office of Climate Change. While there is evidence of presentation of materials to stakeholders the question and answer periods did not always show that participants in the sessions were actually discussing the issues raised. This might be because they felt that they had more important issues to discuss or because potentially they had difficulty relating to the material presented.

The extensive activities conducted by the Guyana Forestry Commission or by the MSSC facilitators are not included. Obviously the fact that the outreach is taking place more important than that it is all comprehensively reported in an overview document. For this reason the indicator is considered met. For Indicator 3b) the timeline for the Information and Outreach project was published March 2015, a delay relative to the agreed deadline of November 2014.

However the project implementation has been delayed and the timeline currently available gives up to date information on the progress of the project.

Recommendations:

- i) A compilation of the feedback and questions received at the outreach sessions would be useful. This information could be used for establishing a baseline for the communities' knowledge and awareness of the LCDS. This could be used to ensure that increased awareness has resulted from the consultations, by showing that the feedback and questions are evolving over time. In this way the Government of Guyana can make sure that the consultations are truly further enhancing the awareness of the LCDS. We recommend that this process be considered in the monitoring and evaluation in the LCDS Communications project currently underway.
- ii) Guyana Forestry Commission has successfully used independent facilitators in their consultations and outreach work. The teams doing these consultations often spend longer periods in the hinterland allowing for deeper engagements with the communities. It is recommended that this approach is integrated in Guyana's overall approach to consultation and outreach sessions.
- iii) There has been extensive awareness sessions conducted by MSSC-facilitators in the hinterland communities on the LCDS and related issues. These visits seem to be appreciated by the villagers and the need for information seems high, as one common question is when the facilitator will return with more information. Other common questions are related to the progress of the LCDS projects and the details of the opt-in mechanism. The outreach and awareness sessions would benefit from coherent training of the facilitators with the aim of streamlining responses to the villages. It would be valuable if the facilitator reports were compiled to give an overview of the sessions and include the questions and comments, as well as the answers.