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ANNEX

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the support measure in favour of Suriname for 2022

Action Document for Suriname Forest Partnership – Support Measures

SUPPORT MEASURES

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and measures in the sense of Article 24(2) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	“Suriname Forest Partnership – Support Measures” CRIS number: NDICI/2022/043-728 OPSYS number: ACT-61308 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporting (inter alia) TEI.
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Suriname
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 for Suriname ¹
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Link with Support Measures from the MIP including Measures in favour of Civil Society Organisations and Cooperation Facility. Specific Objective 3 of the priority area (Forest Partnership) on increasing access to payment for ecosystem services (PES)/carbon finance will be addressed by the Cooperation Facility.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Not applicable
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: SDG 8.3.: “Strengthening the intrinsic motivation for forest protection and restoration by strengthening forest value chains based on sustainable management, for creation of decent jobs and income”. Other significant SDGs: SDG 13.b: “Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small

¹ C(2021) 9113

	island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities”; SDG 15.2: “Promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally”; SDG 17: “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development”.			
8 a) DAC code(s)	DAC code 312 – Forestry DAC code 43010 – Multi-sector DAC code 150 – Government & Civil Society			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Channel 1: Central Government – 11001 Channel 2: Non-Governmental Organisations (ONG) and Civil Society – 20000 Channel 3: International NGO – 21000 Channel 4: Private sector – 60000 Channel 5: Other multilateral institution – 47000			
9. Involvement of multilateral partners	No			
10. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
11. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective

12. Internal markers and Tags:	Digitalisation digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
13. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s): 14.020141 Total estimated cost: EUR 1,300,000.00 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 1,300,000.00 This action is not co-financed Indicatively EUR 30,000,000 from AFD in loan contributing to the Team Europe Initiative.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
14. Type of financing	Direct management through procurement.			
15. Type of measure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cooperation facility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measures in favour of Civil Society			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The Support Measures for Suriname aim to ensure continued build-up and impact all along the implementation of the Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) for Suriname 2021-2027 and the Guyana-Suriname Team Europe Initiative (TEI). This Action is an opportunity to strengthen the EU's position as a credible and solid partner by facilitating dialogue with all stakeholders in Suriname, from civil society to the Government and public authorities, but also private sector, as well as beneficiaries and the general public. On a demand-driven basis, the Support Measures will contribute to the implementation of the MIP and beyond, in a complementary and flexible fashion, based on the facility approach, adapting to the Surinamese context and needs. The main components are:

- **Strengthening the capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the context of the Forest Partnership** (EUR 400,000 indicative maximum amount). Complementarily to existent

and future support to CSOs foreseen under the MIP's specific objectives and fulfilled in the frame of the Amazon Basin Team Europe Initiative, as well as HRD and CSO programmes. The support to CSOs will focus on bridging the gap in relations to advocacy and capacity building initiatives of indigenous and tribal communities relevant to the priority area of the MIP.

- **Enhancing policy dialogue and government capacity** (*EUR 630,000 indicative maximum amount*), through the Cooperation Facility, which will provide technical assistance with the aim to increase access to Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and forest carbon finance, which corresponds to SO3 of the MIP, as well as government capacity building. **Additionally**, if formulated by the government on the demand-driven principle, other areas of economic or political **governance** and common interest may be supported.
- **Improving communication and public diplomacy** (*EUR 170,000 indicative maximum amount*) to promote the EU's cooperation with Suriname in a coherent manner and reinforce the image and perception of the EU and its Member States and other Team Europe actors working together in a Team Europe spirit as credible, reliable and solid partners of all stakeholders in the country. The action presents an opportunity to enhance awareness, understanding and visibility of EU Member States support provided in a Team Europe approach in Suriname, including of the Amazon Basin and Guyana-Suriname TEI.

Direct management is the proposed implementation modality, as it will guarantee leadership of the EU Delegation over the entire action and process.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Suriname is an upper middle-income country. It is the smallest country in South America and the only Dutch speaking member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Once a constituent country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Suriname gained its independence in 1975 and has a population of approximately 573,000 with a very diverse ethnic heritage. Suriname is one of the greenest countries in the world with approximately 93% of the land surface covered by forest (forest cover of 15.2 million ha) and a historical deforestation degree lower than 0.1%. The goal of the government is to preserve this status and to increase the contribution of the forests to the economy and the welfare of this and future generations.

The national policy of Suriname, the National Determined Contribution for 2030 (NDC), maintains Suriname's commitment to keep its high forest cover and low deforestation rate by practising sustainable forest management, in line with the Paris Agreement. In 2019, Suriname presented its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to address climate-related challenges in the pursuit of sustainable development. The NAP requires the intensification of efforts and multi-level action among cross-cutting sectors, such as environment, disaster risk reduction and spatial planning. The National Policy Development Plan (NPDP 2017-2021), which covers the sustainable use of Suriname's forest, is being updated for the period 2022-2026.

Since 2016, Suriname has been in an economic crisis triggered by a significant trade shock and exacerbated by insufficient buffers and policy response. As a result of the economic mismanagement over the years Suriname faces systemic fiscal and external imbalances. This combined with the COVID-19 pandemic have caused substantial fiscal and external account deficits, unsustainable public debt, low reserves and high inflation. In order to address this imbalance, the Government, which came into power in 2020, embarked on a comprehensive economic reform programme to tighten fiscal policy. Its main objective is to restore macroeconomic stability and confidence, and to pave the way to economic recovery, while protecting the most vulnerable sections of the population. To achieve debt sustainability, the authorities are negotiating debt relief from private and official creditors.

In December 2021, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board approved a 36-month arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility in an amount equivalent to SRD 472.8 million. The IMF financial arrangement will support Suriname's economic reform programme and is also intended to help bring public debt down to sustainable levels, upgrade the monetary and exchange rate policy framework, stabilise the financial system and strengthen institutional capacity to tackle corruption, money laundering and improve governance. These reforms will be supported by technical assistance from development partners including the IMF, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank Group.

The Netherlands embarked on a technical assistance programme with Suriname, called 'Makandra' ('together' in Surinamese), which was launched in 2021 for a 4-year period. It is funded by EUR 6 million for four years and is a Government-to-Government technical assistance scheme. It builds up capacity of the Ministries of Justice and Police, Finance, Education and Health, as well as the Central Bank and creates a level playing field for entrepreneurs. The executing agency is the Dutch RVO (Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland, Netherlands Enterprise Agency), with a steering committee comprising the Surinamese Ministry of Finance, Foreign Affairs and the Dutch embassy. Short and long-term experts from the Netherlands are coming to Suriname to carry out the activities of various time range. The EU Delegation is being kept informed about Makandra in order to explore synergies between interventions of the Netherlands and the EU.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

The importance and relevance of the EU-Suriname Forest Partnership as a priority area of the MIP is supported and heightened by the country's geographical specificities, which include an at-risk coastline and a densely forested hinterland, the need for sustainable economic diversification, and the sustained political will towards maintaining forest cover, which represents an opportunity and entry point for the EU to implement its Green Deal priorities and objectives.

Strengthening the capacity of civil society:

Improving forest governance implies strengthening of counter veiling powers in CSOs to promote balanced policy dialogue between government and civil society. Surinamese civil society plays a key role in enhancing governance and transparency through advocacy and maintaining an enabling environment for the implementation of the EU-Suriname Forest Partnership. Needs and gaps need to be addressed by strengthening community based organisations, indigenous organisations, as well as forest products associations/trade unions and weak environmental community-based CSOs.

Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and tribal peoples are dominating populations in the interior (hinterland) of Suriname, representing respectively 4% and 21% of the total population. Their livelihoods largely depend on the natural resources including forests, making them key stakeholders and partners in the decision making and management of the forest resources. Both groups are organised in associations or umbrella organisations. Speaking more distinctly about indigenous people, the Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS) focuses on recognition in Suriname of indigenous people's rights in particular land rights, and on strengthening the indigenous traditional authorities.

The commitment of indigenous peoples to conservation also materialised in the establishment of the Indigenous Declaration for the Protection of 7.2 million hectares of rain forest in South Suriname. The declaration was signed in March 2015 by eight parties, including the Organization of Indigenous in Suriname (OIS), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Amazon Conservation Team (ACT), Conservation International Suriname, the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning, Land and Forest Management

(ROGB), The National Herbarium of Suriname (BBS), the Indigenous platform in Unity and Solidarity in Alliance and Progress (ESAV) and the foundation Kuluwajak.

As most of international support to CSOs focuses on areas situated in the upper Suriname river, mainly benefitting tribal communities, the population located in the deep south, mostly indigenous peoples, could be reached out to in priority. Those communities are rather remotely located and scattered in the southern hinterland of Suriname, hence resulting in difficulties in terms of access. The support measures in favour of civil society could complement programmes supporting tribal people, including the EU Contribution agreement with Agence Française de Développement (AFD) of EUR 5 million of the Amazon Basin Team Europe Initiative that will focus on livelihoods of tribal people, while leaving no one behind. As umbrella organisations, VIDS and OIS could be potential beneficiaries.

Enhance policy dialogue and government capacity:

- Increase access to payment for ecosystem services (PES)/carbon finance:

Suriname is a highly forested country (93% forest cover) with low deforestation rates (less than 0.1% annually). However, maintenance and protection of forests come at a cost. Because forests are under pressure, their economic value as a land use system needs to be strengthened. This can be done by attributing value not only to products, but also to services, such that a price can be attached to the service for which a market party or public actor wants to pay. PES can be defined as voluntary transactions, between service users and service providers that are conditional on agreed rules of natural resource management, for generating off-site services.

Examples of such ecosystem services are water catchment and conservation (water buffer), soil stabilisation, habitat for biodiversity conservation, carbon stock and sequestration. “Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation” (REDD+)² is one of the mechanisms that aims to pay countries and landscape managers for the service of maintaining carbon stock, and/or avoiding expected carbon loss. Suriname is expecting REDD+ funding to come through in the coming years, after many years of preparations. Unfortunately, over 10 years’ time worldwide the examples of REDD+ payments effectuated are still scarce. To date it is technically and procedurally complicated, and very limited revenue has been generated by forest managers and communities. Other climate finance opportunities could be explored including participation of the private sector.

- Flexible support to different areas of governance:

By facilitating short- and long-term Technical Assistance (TA) and studies, on a demand-driven basis, the Cooperation Facility (CF) will be a flexible instrument that will strengthen capacities in the relevant Government ministries, while also responding quickly to technical needs as they arise during project implementation. It is expected that the CF will be used to address capacity issues in institutional, economic, social and environmental dimensions of national development, particularly those that relate to the priority area and crosscutting issues. Different areas of governance may be supported according to the needs.

In the context of the Forest Partnership, not only the Ministry of Finance, but also the newly established Ministry of Environment and Spatial planning along with the Ministry of Forest Land and Forest Management will be important stakeholders the EU-Suriname cooperation. As a result, there is a need to indirectly reinforce the capacity of these entities in order to help them fulfil their mandate successfully.

² A United Nations-backed framework that aims to curb climate change by stopping the destruction of forests.

Another important component is the engagement of short to medium-term consultants to assist in the main stages of the project cycle to ensure the effective implementation of the MIP and other EU funded programmes in favour of the country's development strategy. The CF will fund technical and financial audits and evaluations of other programmes/projects whenever these cannot be financed from the programme/project or where it is convenient or efficient to combine a number of audits/evaluations of related interventions.

Support EU strategic communication and public diplomacy

Due to the location of the EU Delegation for Suriname in Guyana and the travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, visibility operations and public diplomacy events were limited during the last programming period. The budget available for strategic communication in the 11th EDF cooperation facility was thus not fully used. As a result strategic communication and public diplomacy need to be specifically supported and further developed. Communication and visibility plans of the geographical and thematic programmes should be integrated in a long-term strategy. Resources should be allocated to plan long term public diplomacy initiatives engaging with a selection of local target audiences, influencers and multipliers. The EU Delegation will take advantage of the Team Europe initiative to coordinate communication activities in Suriname with the Members States and other partners.

The Forest Partnership should be used as an opportunity to revitalise the EU's image in Suriname as a major partner in the fight against climate change and promote EU cooperation and policies.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

In terms of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), main stakeholders are:

- Relevant CSOs such as the Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS) and the Organisation of Indigenous in Suriname (OIS).
- Relevant community based organisations.
- Forest product organisations.

In terms of Government and public institutions, main stakeholders are:

- Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Environment (ROM)
- Ministry of Land Use and Forestry (GBB)
- Ministry of National Resources
- Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB)
- Ministry of Finance
- Relevant government agencies

In terms of EU strategic communication and public diplomacy, main stakeholders are:

- Youth and Civil Society
- Policy think tanks and academic representatives
- Multipliers and influencers
- Media
- Members States, especially the Netherlands and France.
- Partners: such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), AFD and the World Bank

- Private sector and unions
- General public

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to contribute to building a diversified Surinamese economy, which is competitive in the global market, has significantly more sustainable development, generates employment and equality, and keeps the environment liveable as described in the National Policy Development Plan (NPDP 2017-2021).

The Specific(s) Objective(s) (Outcomes) of this action are to:

1. Strengthen the dialogue and capacity of Surinamese civil society.
2. Enhance policy dialogue and government capacity, especially, but not only, when it comes to increase access to PES and carbon finance or other area of common interest identified by the government.
3. Improve communication and visibility of the EU in Suriname through strategic communication and public diplomacy.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:

- 1.1 contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1) CSOs capacities to participate in policy making, oversight and watchdog role are strengthened, as well as their capacity to engage in a structured dialogue in public policies in the frame of the EU areas of cooperation.
- 2.1 contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2) The Surinamese Government is supported to determine the real potential PES/carbon finance mechanisms and a pipeline of potential options is developed.
- 2.2 contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2) The capacities of the Surinamese governmental institutions are strengthened.
- 2.3 contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2) Design and Implementation of EU cooperation and joint programming is supported.
- 3.1 contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3) Visibility of Suriname-EU cooperation actions and EU's presence in Suriname is improved.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1

- Technical assistance (TA) to support capacity building of indigenous and tribal CSOs in specific skills and knowledge relevant to EU-Suriname Forest Partnership, with emphasis on strengthening of the institutional and/or legal framework to facilitate and ease indigenous CSOs operations; (e.g.: terms of reference, dialogue, oversight, advocacy, negotiation skills, conflict resolutions, communication and networking).
- Technical and logistical coordination of events, workshops, and meetings related to the objectives of participation and dialogue of indigenous and tribal CSOs in the priority sectors of the MIP, the CSO Roadmap or other area of EU intervention in the country.

- Support and follow-up to the action plan of the Roadmap for the EU's Engagement with CSOs 2021-2027.

Activities related to Output 2.1

- TA for increasing access to PES/carbon finance such as (indicatively): studies, terms of reference, mapping of the suite of opportunities; assess gaps in public entities, support capacity development and proposal development; needs assessment, skills trainings, facilitation of exchanges with relevant stakeholders, sector bodies, and support with communication.

Activities related to Output 2.2

- TA in specific areas of interest for Suriname in the fields of economic or political governance.
- Support to policy dialogues: Events, conferences, studies, fellowships, exchange platforms to support sector dialogues leading to policy reforms and engagement with governments and other.

Activities related to Output 2.3

- TA for formulation, implementation and evaluation of EU cooperation.
- TA for financial audits and evaluations of other programmes/projects whenever these cannot be financed from the programme/project or where it is convenient or efficient to combine a number of audits/evaluations of related interventions.
- Thematic areas such as gender, children and other vulnerable minorities, can also be given more attention through dedicated TA.
- Capacity development and institutional building, including through technical assistance and exchange of public expertise, such as TAIEX and Twinning.
- TA to guide and support early-stage project preparations for EFSD+ interventions by eligible DFIs, including the EIB such as: studies, including pre-feasibility studies and environmental and social impact assessments.

Activities related to Output 3.1

- Design and roll out at national level of (a) major public campaign(s) aimed at ordinary citizens, with the objective of measurably increasing the profile, awareness, understanding and approval of the EU's partnership with Suriname.
- Promote understanding and awareness of the Union's values, interests and specific policies, including human rights, foreign and security policy, science and research, gender equality, visibility of the EU and its Member States acting in a Team Europe approach, fight against disinformation, as well its multilateral agenda.
- Create initiatives allowing to connect and leverage existing EU programmes and initiatives for Public Diplomacy purposes (e.g. Erasmus+, Jean Monnet Actions, Creative Europe).
- Strengthen networks and long-term relationships with key target audiences and partners (e.g. youth, students, academics, think tanks, CSOs, business, creative industries), including leveraging existing EU programmes, in order to facilitate future cooperation across policy areas.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Cross cutting issues were identified as poverty reduction, climate change, good governance, gender, environment, and health. Activities funded under the Support Measures will include matters concerning

environmental sustainability, gender equality, good governance and human rights as appropriate. Where relevant, studies will assess the social and environmental impacts of future development programmes. In particular, climate change, disaster risk reduction and resilience issues will be taken into account. The activities contribute to sustainable development, by making meaningful contributions to capacity building at various levels in the private and public sector, which assists the government in meeting its social development and poverty reduction goals. Additionally, to ensure the sustainable management and exploitation of forest resources in view of minimising the impact on biodiversity and the environment, conservation organisations (such as Conservation International, WWF) will be duly consulted and may be invited to multi-stakeholder coordination activities. Their role in safeguarding and monitoring the environment (wildlife and biodiversity in general) can be crucial in this forest partnership.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening

By accompanying actions of the Forest Partnership priority area, the action will contribute to EU objectives in terms of support for biodiversity and/or climate change policies. The EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening is therefore category C (no need for further assessment).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action has no or low risk (no need for further assessment)

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes, identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. Support measures in favour of the civil society will ensure that a rights-based approach is streamlined in the Action, given that these organisations integrate important cross-cutting issues, such as human rights and the empowerment of at-risk groups such as women, youth and forest peoples. Particular emphasis will be placed on implementing the GAP III Country Level Implementation Plan for Suriname and mainstreaming gender and youth participation.

Human Rights

Human rights protection and promotion (which comprises gender equality, indigenous rights, persons with disabilities, etc.) will be mainstreamed throughout the different activities whether through the Measures in favour of Civil Society or the Cooperation Facility. Several EU documents will help to incorporate a rights-based approach in future cooperation activities.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0.

Democracy

Through the Support Measures in favour of Civil Society, the Action aims to strengthen participatory and inclusive democracy in Suriname by increasing CSO's capacity to engage in the policymaking processes at all levels linked to sustainable development and active citizenship participation. In addition, the Cooperation Facility will support government institutions by providing support to different areas of governance and common interest. Finally, democracy will be mainstreamed into strategic communication and public diplomacy through the promotion EU's values, interests, policies and impact in the country.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Not applicable.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Not applicable.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Risks related to the external environment (outside the European Commission)	Lack or changing of policy and strategic direction by the government of Suriname which may hamper the formulation of EU actions.	Medium	High	The EU Delegation will continue its positive and continuous dialogue with the Government of Suriname to support the design and implementation of EU actions.
Risks related to the external environment (outside the European Commission)	Risks related to the Covid-19 pandemic.	Low	Low	Covid-19 restrictions are currently lifted in Suriname.
Risks related to planning, processes and systems	Insufficient and uncoordinated communication about the EU in Suriname and specifically about EU cooperation.	High	Medium	The EU Delegation will work closely with all relevant stakeholders, especially implementing partners to materialise the initiatives under the Cooperation Facility
Risks related to planning, processes and systems	Insufficient flexibility in administration to adapt EU action to changing context and needs.	Low	High	Need for an approach which engenders coherence between donor interventions guided by evolving country priorities.

Lessons Learnt:

Under the previous Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) with the Government under the 11th EDF, funds have not been utilised to their full potential for the support and capacity building of the relevant ministries. This underspending resulted in a partial decommitment of funds.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is to support the EU-Suriname partnership and it is based on the general assumptions that:

- The EU Delegation will work closely with all relevant stakeholders, especially CSOs to make the most of the Support Measures for Suriname.
- The EU Delegation will continue its positive and continuous dialogue with the Surinamese Government and Technical Assistance will support the design and implementation of national policies.
- The EU Delegation will establish a solid, coherent, and sustained strategy for communication, visibility, and public diplomacy.

The intervention logic is based on the fact that by:

- Identifying and addressing the gaps and needs in terms of advocacy and capacity building of CSOs supporting indigenous communities.
- Providing long and short-term Technical Assistance and studies and implementing a continuous policy dialogue from the start of the implementation, in flexible, result-oriented, and concerted manner with the Government and other key stakeholders.
- Articulating the EU Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy within the EU Delegation (Cooperation Section and Political, Information and Press Section) and outside (Implementing Partners and Member States) on a long-term strategic horizon.

Then:

- The Civil Society will be strengthened by improving the enabling environment for CSOs, increasing indigenous CSOs capacity to access and engage in policy dialogue and oversight processes at all levels, especially in the field of forest governance.
- The action will contribute to enhance policy dialogue and strengthened the public sector capacity allowing a more effective and efficient implementation of public policies in the different areas of governance, especially, but not exclusively, the ones related the EU-Suriname Forest Partnership.
- The role of the EU and its Member States acting in a Team Europe spirit as key cooperation partners and interlocutors on policy and political aspects for authorities and Civil Society in Suriname will be durably consolidated and revitalised in the context of the 2021-2027 MIP.

Thus:

The action will enable the EU to reach the expected outcomes of the MIP and to contribute to the national objective of building a diversified Surinamese economy, which is competitive in the global market, has significantly more sustainable development, generates employment and equality, and keeps the environment liveable as described in the National Policy Development Plan (NPDP 2017-2021).

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

Given the nature of this action a Logical Framework Matrix is not required at Action level.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a Financing Agreement with the Government of Suriname.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 48 months from entry into force of the Financing Agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures³.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

For the Measures in favour of Civil Society, framework contracts will be launched in 2023 to identify the best service provider. By making Technical Assistance available on a running basis, the contracts will contribute to strengthening the capacity of indigenous and tribal CSOs in the context of the Forest Partnership, while bridging the gap as it related to advocacy and capacity building initiatives of indigenous and tribal communities.

For the Cooperation Facility, framework contracts will be launched on a demand driven principle. Through Technical Assistance, this will contribute to enhancing policy dialogue and government capacity when it comes to access to PES/carbon finance and other areas of governance.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Procurement (direct management) - cf. section 4.3.1	1,300,000
Support Measures in favour of Civil Society	<i>400,000</i>
Cooperation Facility	<i>630,000</i>
Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy	<i>170,000</i>
Audits and Evaluation	<i>100,000</i>
Totals	1,300,000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

For the Support Measures in favour of Civil Society:

In order to coordinate the technical assistance for CSOs, a Technical Working Group (TWG) led by the EU Delegation (Head of Cooperation and Programme Manager) will gather representatives of relevant CSOs and TA experts. The most relevant CSOs would be umbrella associations such as the Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS) and Organisation of Indigenous in Suriname (OIS). In a first phase, the TWG will establish a needs assessment. In a second phase, the TWG will be used to follow up the implementation of the technical assistance and cater for new needs. While Measures in favour of Civil Society may be channelled directly through the EUD, the Ministry of Finance will be informed of any such request.

For the Cooperation Facility:

As the Cooperation Facility will be operating on a demand-driven basis, the EU Delegation will engage in direct discussions with line ministries and other governmental bodies, while keeping the Ministry of Finance informed of ongoing discussions. Official requests for assistance to governmental bodies will be coordinated by the Ministry of Finance. All terms of reference (ToR) for technical assistance will be shared with the Ministry of Finance for endorsement before procuring services.

For Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy, the EU Delegation through coordination between the cooperation and the political, information and press sections will guarantee the implementation of the strategic communication and public diplomacy plan. If relevant, ToR for communication and visibility contracts will be shared with the Ministry of Finance.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that support measures are a key instrument to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and alignment of EU operations.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 6 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination⁴. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

Evaluation services may be contracted under a framework contract.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

⁴ See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

All strategic communication and public diplomacy activities designed to promote the EU's values, interests, policies and impact in the country will be based on the Joint Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy Plan 2022-2024/2025-2027 of the EU Delegation in Guyana. Communications efforts will involve a wide array of activities aimed at increasing awareness on key topics for the EU, such as the preservation of forests (including mangroves), sustainable development, climate change, human right and the fight against genderbased violence.

Communication efforts under other EU programmes under the MIP will complement existing Climate Change Diplomacy activities and high-level policy dialogue on climate issues. The focus will be on tangible impacts of EU support, showing the possibilities and benefits of a green and just recovery, and placing the EU as reference partner for climate change cooperation.

Target audiences will be the general public, as well as policy makers, relevant stakeholders/partners and final beneficiaries.

In the area of public diplomacy, activities will focus on building and strengthening long-term networks with key stakeholders.

The implementing modality will be in direct Management. As a result, it is envisaged that a contract for Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy, included in the procurement of visibility may be contracted under a framework contract.