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**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**ANNEX**

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Suriname for 2023

**Action Document for Suriname Forest Partnership – Protection and restoration of mangrove forest**

**ANNUAL PLAN**

This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

## 1 SYNOPSIS

### 1.1 Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	Protection and restoration of mangrove forest. OPSYS number: ACT-61791 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	Yes The “Joint Guyana-Suriname Forest Partnership TEI” for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of Guyana’s and Suriname’s rainforests, savannahs and mangroves.
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out in The Republic of Suriname
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 for Suriname –“An EU – Suriname Forest Partnership.”
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	<b>This action is contributing to specific objective 4 of the MIP</b> - <b>Specific Objective 4:</b> Mangrove forests protected and restored
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	<b>Priority Area:</b> “An EU-Suriname Forest Partnership for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of Suriname’s rainforests and mangroves.
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG (1 only): Other significant SDGs 5,8,13, 16, 17
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	DAC code 312 Forestry, 45% DAC code 160 Other Social Infrastructure & Services” (“Employment creation”), 10% DAC code 410 General Environment Protection, 45%
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	41000: United Nations agency, fund or commission (UN)

<b>9. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>10. Markers</b>  <b>(from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>11. Internal markers and Tags</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Digitalisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
	Connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity energy transport health	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/

	education and research			
	Migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line(s): 14.020141 Total estimated cost: EUR 3 060 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 3 060 000			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Indirect management</b> with the entrusted entity to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

Capitalising on ongoing EU support, such as the Global Climate Change Alliance+ (GCCA+) to protect and restore mangrove management in Suriname, this action will support climate change adaptation and coastal protection by protecting and restoring the mangrove ecosystem in Suriname. Intervention areas are: improvements in integrated coastal zone and water management, governance and land use regulations, stakeholders who contribute to its protection and management, and by developing sustainable mangrove-based value chain (e.g. honey, shellfish, charcoal and eco-tourism). Given the potential for carbon sequestration in mangroves, forest carbon may represent an additional revenue.

This mangrove action will mainly benefit the coastal zone of Suriname. Institutional and policy support, as well as activities at a national level will take place.

This action will contribute to the following Specific Objectives of the MIP:

SO 4: Mangrove forest protected and restored, with the following expected results:

- Mangrove national strategy integrated in a regional approach for integrated coastal zone management, water management and coastal defence.
- Capacity enhanced of community organisations on sustainable mangrove forest management.
- Income generating value chains (e.g. honey, shellfish, charcoal and eco-tourism) improved for community producers.

Additionally, this action will commit to SDG1 “No poverty”, SDG5 “Gender equality and women empowerment”, SDG8 “Decent work and economic growth”, SDG13 “Climate action”, SDG 15 “Life on land” and SDG17 “Partnership for the goals”.

Furthermore, the action links up with the proposal under the Global Gateway Investment Agenda (GGIA), where Suriname has identified, in coordination with the EU, the rehabilitation of Panamaribo's historic centre and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, which is being implemented by IDB. The programme is focused on the reinforcement of natural and man-made climate change protection barriers (incl. mangroves). As such this programme links up with the EUs ambition to mobilise a Team Europe approach to advocate for EU technical expertise and know-how in the world.

<sup>1</sup> Article 27 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

The Republic of Suriname is an upper middle-income country, 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 has the second largest border with the EU (with neighbouring French Guiana) outside of the European continent, after Brazil. This gives to the country an added ‘para-neighbourhood’ specific dimension and strengthens its political ties with its European neighbour.

Given the troubled financial situation in Suriname, the current government will, as part of its IMF programme, have the responsibility of implementing financial decisions in order to stabilise the economy – decisions that have led to social unrest. General elections are scheduled for 2025. The main challenges Suriname is faced with are (i) the stabilisation of its macroeconomic framework, (ii) bringing back growth and investment, (iii) fight against (the widespread) corruption, (iv) reducing social disparities and in particular (v) ensuring a proper management of the wealth that oil and gas are expected to bring in the next five years. With regard to the macro-economic stability, several years of economic mismanagement and the Covid-19 pandemic make this illusive for now, creating high inflation and a strong devaluation of the currency. Under these circumstances the actual capacity of the country to embark on large public investment plans that could be supported by our Global Gateway is limited.

As one the greenest countries in the world with approximately 93% of the land surface covered by forest (forest cover 15.2 million ha) and a historical deforestation degree lower than 0.1%, the goal of the government is to maintain this status and to increase the contribution of the forest to the economy and the welfare of this and future generations<sup>2</sup>. That would imply to bring the increased export of round wood to Southeast Asia (China) under control and instead, increase domestic value adding processing.

Coastal protection, in which mangroves play a key role, is a high priority for Suriname given the concentration of population, economic activity in the capital (Paramaribo) which is in a narrow coastal belt below sea level. Consequently, this action will focus on the protection and restoration of mangrove forest, supporting capacity building needs of communities and private sector for the implementation and management of mangroves and for development of a zoning system for specific user groups (possible through community and/or private concessions), as well as generation of income through sustainable mangrove based value chains. This action will further support the existing National Mangrove Strategy, and at the same time this action will operate within a broader regional TEI approach for integrated coastal zone management/coastal defence.

In line with the Paris Agreement, in its Second National Determined Contribution (NDC) 2020, together with its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2019-2029, Suriname has included sustainable forest management and maintaining its high forest cover, and 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 prioritised economic sectors under the NAP include productive sectors such as Water Resources, Sustainable Forestry, Energy and Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. Through its REDD+ strategy extensive attention to environment and protection of forest in light of climate change through sustainable partnership is prioritised. The strategy provides for the sustainable management of forests as a solution for the issue of land rights by taking into account the interests and views of the indigenous communities and tribal peoples, and simultaneously increasing the contribution of the forest to the economy and strengthening of forest institutions.

Environmental and climate change activities have been incorporated in the Gender Vision – Policy Document 2021 – 2035 and Gender Action Plan 2019 – 2020. The strategic goal of this priority area is to get all women actively involved in decision-making by 2035, and to integrate gender issues and gender perspectives into policy measures

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<sup>2</sup> Multi-Annual Development Plan 2022-2026

and programs for sustainable development. In addition, the goal also focusses on the establishment of mechanisms at the national level to take gender-related policy effects into account<sup>3</sup>.

The Action will contribute to the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III)<sup>4</sup> and its thematic area of engagement “Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation”.

Efforts to restore its mangrove forest through reforestation and conservation with the objective to transform current initiatives of mangrove planting into expansion and sustainable management of healthy mangrove eco-systems is a priority of the government. More than two thirds of Suriname’s mangroves are either located in nature reserves or in Multiple –use Mangement Areas (MUMAS) which lies in the coastal zone. The establishment of the MUMAS was urgent due to increased threats which impacted the optimal functioning and survival of mangrove forest.

In 2019, the National Mangrove Strategy was endorsed and aims to provide the Government of Suriname with technical advice for the sustainable management and conservation of mangroves. This strategy promotes the strengthening of the legal framework (including enforcement) and introduces adaptation technologies (e.g. coastal embankment and controlled sedimentation) to support the sustainable and effective management and monitoiring of mangrove ecosystems. To further protect, preserve, rehabilitate and expand the mangrove ecosystem in Suriname so that sustainable use can be made of the services and goods that this ecosystem provides, the Mangrove Forum Suriname (MAFOSUR) was established.

The Action will build on the achievements and lessons learned from two EU-financed GCCA+ mangrove related programmes, results achieved and outstanding results, and identified needs. GCCA+ phase one (March 2016-August 2019; Total cost € 3,405,000), while GCCA+ phase 2 (2020- 2023) is still ongoing. The results delivered and activities still ongoing (phase 2) are presented in the table below, as well as gaps/needs for the following phase (last column).

<b>Intervention area</b>	<b>Results GCCA+ phase 1</b>	<b>Results / on-going act GCCA+ Phase 2</b>	<b>Partly/not accomplished/ needs</b>
<b>Monitoring and data collection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National Mangrove Biodiversity Monitoring System in place</li> <li>- National Mangrove Forest Cover Map established (visit: <a href="https://gonini.org/">https://gonini.org/</a> )</li> <li>- Research on potential changes of the biodiversity in the Bigi Pan Lagoon</li> </ul>	Collaboration with SBB <sup>5</sup> on expanding (and strengthening) the Mangrove Monitoring System 2021 mangrove forest cover map published on Gonini platform, GIS files downloadable.	Tbd
<b>Governance, policy development and legal framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National Mangrove Strategy (NMS) developed (incl. recommended legal framework for protection of mangroves in Suriname) and formally presented to Ministry of Spatial Planning and Land and Forest management on October 17th, 2019</li> <li>- Legal establishment Mangrove Forum Suriname (MAFOSUR)</li> </ul>	NMS mentioned in policy documents and processes, like the BUR report <sup>6</sup> and FREL <sup>7</sup> reports to UNFCCC, and getting support from stakeholders Positive: more draft laws in Parliament with regard to the environment and nature conservation. Downside: not a single	Gaps: Adoption of legislative proposals related to strengthening coastal protection, mangrove and environmental protection Fiscal and other finance mechanisms for protection and

<sup>3</sup> [Republic of Suriname Third National Communication to the UNFCCC](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Gender Action Plan III – a priority of EU external action \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control - SBB is the National Authority for Sustainable Forestry Management in Suriname

<sup>6</sup> Biennal Update Report - <https://unfccc.int/biennial-update-reports>

<sup>7</sup> Forest reference emission level - <https://redd.unfccc.int/fact-sheets/forest-reference-emission-levels.html>

		legislative product related to strengthening the environment, nature management or natural resource management has been approved since June 2020.	sustainable mangrove management
<b>Coastal management and ecosystem resilience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Three sediment trapping units established in Beringhole, Nickerie</li> <li>- Three Management Plans of MUMAs updated</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing collaboration with AdeKUS on mangrove restoration efforts in Nickerie &amp; Coronie</p> <p>Training of beekeepers in mangrove districts of Nickerie &amp; Coronie (IICA)</p> <p>Collaboration with NB regarding MUMA management, incl setting up of Management Commissions for Bigi Pan &amp; Noord Coronie MUMA's</p>	<p>Gap: Value chains analyses and upgrading strategies, based on market and production opportunities, competitiveness.</p> <p>Finalisation of an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) Situation Analysis and Action Plan (under development), and support to strategically implement these plans.</p>
<b>Education and awareness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upgraded the Mangrove educational center in Coronie including curriculum endorsed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture</li> <li>- Awareness material produced</li> <li>- Information disseminated to 1827 community members (in Paramaribo, Commewijne, Coronie, Nickerie)</li> </ul>	<p>On-going education Program-competitions (by UNDP, GHF, ..)</p> <p>Many actors, including youth more informed and involved, e.g. through mangrove planting. Also engaged are: IADB, EU, Civil Society (Lions and Jaycees, AdeKUS, Deltares, GHFS and SCF.</p> <p>High level attention for mangrove from: President, Ministers ROM and OW, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, UN Secretary-General</p>	<p>Gap: nationwide education and awareness of costs and benefits of mangrove forests for coastal zone protection. Need to strengthen sense of urgency of coastal and mangrove protection for the people and the economy</p>

Source: F4 Consultants- March 2023, based on GCCA+ documents and UNDP presentation (Sept 2022), email exchanges with UNDP

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

### Short problem analysis:

The Republic of Suriname is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Suriname is particularly vulnerable to sea level rise, due to the narrow coastal belt lying at and below sea level with the concentration of population (>80%), economic activity and the capital (Paramaribo – an UNESCO World Heritage site). Incidences of extreme weather, flooding and salt water intrusion in the coastal belt tend to become more frequent and serious. This vulnerability to sea level rise is not only because of the low-lying topography of the coastal area, but also because of the degradation of as the coastal mangrove forests that act as a green protective line of defence of the coast: mangrove forests can trap sediments and this can raise the coast line, and at the same time mangrove forests can absorb the impact of waves in cases of storms and thus prevent coastal erosion.

Further, women, especially indigenous and tribal peoples populating Suriname’s forest, are often confined to domestic roles such as collecting water, gathering and producing food, harvesting crops and producing non-timber forest products (NTFP). This is why they are particularly affected by the impact of climate change, in addition to extreme poverty. Yet, it is also because of their close involvement in essential tasks necessary for the subsistence of their communities that they have the knowledge and understanding required to adapt to climate change and provide valuable input for mitigation processes and solutions. This rationale will help to guide gender mainstreaming in the Suriname forest partnership cooperation.<sup>8</sup>

Notwithstanding the various functions and services mangroves provides to the nation, they are under increasing pressure. The continued loss and degradation of Suriname’s mangrove forests is due to a mix of natural processes and human interference. The natural processes consist of pressure on the coastal area which results in mangrove degradation as well as the impact of climate change such as increase sea-level rise whereas the human pressures occur when mangroves are converted for house development, farms, infrastructure, or unsustainable wood harvesting.

The underlying factors include, amongst others, the absence of an up-to-date comprehensive coastal zone management strategy and legal framework, disturbance of natural (freshwater) processes due to grey infrastructure, The following issues merit to be addressed by the Action:

- Insufficient synthesis of existing knowledge of anthropogenic and natural influence on mangrove ecosystem and regeneration, and of the connectivity and interaction between Coastal mangrove ecosystem and large swamps (for e.g. Coronie swamp), leading to intervention strategies;
- Lack of clear and detailed guidelines for economic extraction and use of natural resources in coastal areas in support of ecological balance of mangrove protected areas (MUMA’s and nature reserves);
- Lack of a finance strategy for spatial planning and management of mangrove and coastal zone, that may include public private partnerships and civil society involvement;
- Limited inter-ministerial coordination and regional exchanges and collaboration for mangrove conservation and coastal management;
- Insufficient incentives and awareness to transition from current approach to innovative climate-resilient and sustainable blue economies such as fisheries, tourism, and promote product diversification;
- Improved management of its protected areas to increase protection (e.g. wetlands, mangrove forests, nearshore areas and Ramsar sites), mitigation, and reparation in case of damage, removal of mangroves or spill disaster.

The economy with high reliance on imports and extractive industries (gold, wood) without a lot of value adding makes the country vulnerable to fluctuations of prices of primary goods at international markets, disruption of supply chains, financial crisis and pandemics. Most mangrove dependent value chains are little developed or organised, lack enabling support from government, provide products with limited added value, and lack protection or sustainable harvesting guidance, leading to overharvesting and depletion of the resource (e.g. wood for fish gear and smoking, charcoal, crabs). An exception is probably the industrial fishing industry (fish and shrimps) with exports which seem to be better regulated and implemented, and honey (that stimulates fruiting and seeding of (black) mangrove trees). For fisheries, whether deep sea, coastal, brackish water or freshwater fisheries, and whether artisanal or industrial, a concern is whether the catch is sustainable, so without depletion of fish stocks.

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

Main stakeholder	Institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action
Government top level (for a)  and	The political will and involvement of the government up to Presidential level will be key in: (a) strengthening mangrove governance and inter-ministerial coordination, and  (b) engaging with the neighbours French Guiana and Guyana to promote technical, scientific and institutional exchanges on mangrove and coastal zone

<sup>8</sup> [Country Level Implementation Plan \(CLIP\) - Suriname](#)

Main stakeholder	Institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action
Min of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation (for b)	management strategies. Issues are the sensitive relationship with Guyana (Tigri border conflict, and fisheries issue) and the language barrier with French Guiana). The action will promote (capacity building for) a regular regional exchange mechanism, inter-ministrial coordination and the designation of a lead ministry.
Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (ROM)	Mandated to regulate and monitor spatial planning, protection and sustainable use of ecosystems such as mangrove and the MUMAs, including enforcement of regulations. Issue: lack of capacities and budget to properly fulfil their duties, especially to carry out field activities at district level.
Nature Conservation Division (LBB/NB) of the Ministry of Land Policy and Forest management (GBB), and its Local Nature Conservation Division.	Responsible for establishing and managing Consultative commission (OLC)- and management structures /committees in each MUMA, with representation of various stakeholders. Issue: how to ensure that the management structure will be effective, and have means of operation. And that members have the skills and means to represent, inform and consult their group/jurisdiction.
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry (LVV)	Mandated to regulate the fisheries sector, its code of conduct, issuance of licenses, and its monitoring.
District commissioners (under the Min. of Regional Development and Sports)	They need to be consistent especially in land use planning and implementation. Do they have the capacities and means to properly fulfil their duties.
Ministry of Natural Resources	Regulates mineral exploitation and extraction. Current and planned oil and gas exploitation and transport and related infrastructure (plans for 2 deep sea ports) offshore and onshore pose a threat to mangrove ecosystems.
Ministry of Finance	Entry point of the EU to the government as it relates to EU development cooperation. Role in development of a finance strategy for coastal zone and mangrove management (which could include fiscal measures).
Bureau Gender Affairs (Ministry of Home Affairs)	Responsible of coordinating the implementations of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the regional gender policy programs of the Organization of American States (OAS), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Action program of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Union of South American Nations (USAN/UNASUR). <sup>9</sup>
Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB)/ CELOS	Monitoring of mangrove ecosystem (land coverage, vitality/ degradation, biodiversity, carbon, )
Research and education (CELOS, ADEKUS, ....)	Role in building and disseminating the know-how, e.g. in (gender inclusive) mangrove management, protection, restoration, biodiversity conservation, processing technologies and product development. Curricula development in support of the sector (mangrove management, value chain analysis and sustainable upgrading, value adding (processing))
Associations of indigenous peoples, local communities, entrepreneurs, women and youth. Such as the association of indigenous village leaders in Suriname (VIDS), Indigenous	Fundamental role in awareness raising, capacity building and hosting of multi stakeholder platforms (develop a vision and upgrade strategy for the sector). The expertise of civil society lies particularly in the areas of advocacy for human rights, land rights gender equality, transparency and good governance.

<sup>9</sup> [Republic of Suriname Third National Communication to the UNFCCC](#)

Main stakeholder	Institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action
platform in Unity and Solidarity in Alliance and Progress (ESAV)	
NGOs (international and national)	Role in awareness raising, bringing stakeholders together, critical watchdog role, ensuring transparency, access to information for all, and linkages with international knowledge and expertise
Village-based fishermen, farmers, beekeepers, and tour operators depending on mangrove forests	Need skills and capacity (incentives) to participate in mangrove (and coastal zone) management and protection. And support to upgrade their access to land, markets, finance, to add value, and apply sustainable harvesting and catch techniques. Honey, (shell)fish, wood and tourism value chains can have major impacts on job creation and income. With sustainable value chains, they will have an interest to contribute to protect and restore mangrove forests.
Private sector stakeholders in coastal /marine zone	Large companies (fishery, oil and gas exploration, tourism, insurance, ..) have a vested interest to maintain the mangrove ecosystem, e.g. as a coastal defense to protect their investments in infrastructure, housing and fisheries. They should contribute to a finance mechanism for the mangrove management and need to work closely with villages and establish fair business relationships e.g. local leaders (m/f), fisherfolk, or other forms of cooperation in line with the “do no harm approach” and minimum standards. They should employ staff from local communities, train them, and off take local products to support the local economy.

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** of this action is to reduce risk of and vulnerability to climate change in Suriname by protecting and restoring the mangrove ecosystem in Suriname through integrated coastal zone and water management, improved governance and land use regulations, and engagement of stakeholders in protection, management and development of sustainable mangrove-based value chains (e.g. honey, (shell)fish, eco-tourism).

Restoration of mangroves will create larger carbon storage and thus contribute to climate mitigation targets, as presented in [Suriname’s 2020 NDCs](#).

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

1. Strengthen legal and strategic frameworks ministerialfor integrated coastal zone management, water management, coastal defense and governance.
2. Strengthen effectiveness of participation of local communities in co-management of mangrove forests and MUMAs .
3. Increase income generation with focus on women and youth, from sustainable mangrove-based value chains such as honey, fisheries and eco-tourism.

The **Outputs** to be delivered by this action are:

- 1.1 Enhanced coordination, enforcement and policy development capacity of Government in the areas of coastal zone management,
- 1.2 Strengthened awareness about the functions and value of mangrove ecosystems for resilience to climate change, and the costs of erosion and degradation at all levels of society
- 2.1 Increased capacities of local communities to participate in an effective and transparent management of mangrove and MUMAs.
- 3.1 Increased availability of inclusive value chain strategies based on participatory gender and youth sensitive analysis of honey, fisheries and eco-tourism value chains.

3.2 Enhanced availability of guidelines for sustainable extraction and use of natural resources in coastal areas, in respect of the biodiversity and ecological values of the mangrove ecosystem, especially in protected areas (MUMAs and nature reserves).

3.3. Increased skills and knowledge of local populations, especially women and youth, on sustainable value chain development, value adding, cost-benefit analysis and organisational development

## 3.2 Indicative Activities

### Activities relating to Output 1.1

- Policy dialogue with the government and civil society, in particular on inter-ministerial coordination, on legal reforms in coastal zone and mangrove management and spatial planning, law enforcement, and the importance of mangrove forests in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and for conservation of biological diversity.
- Further development of the Mangrove Monitoring System (National Forest Monitoring Systems including deforestation monitoring)
- Technical assistance to finalise relevant legislation and regulations and to decide on clear mandates of ministries.
- Organise 3 or 6-monthly coordination meetings with key ministries, EUD and other stakeholders.
- Support the organisation of bi-annual stakeholder meetings at strategic and implementation level.

### Activities relating to Output 1.2

- Support awareness raising campaigns engaging media and well known persons as role models, building on existing buy-in by government, youth, celebrities, and international visitors.
- Support exchange trips between ministries and scientist/students, the cooperation among research agencies, e.g. via summer schools, and formulation of commons research proposals

### Activities relating to Output 2.1

- Support the capacity building of members (stakeholder representatives) of MUMA management structures for Bigi Pan, North Coronie, and Sarramacca.
- Explore the options for managing and developing and strategies and protecting the coastal area North of Paramaribo, including the Weg naar Zee area up to Wayambo.
- Support a review of national taxation regimes on natural resources which shall support environmental objectives.

### Activities relating to Output 3.1

- Support analysis and development of upgrading strategies for the value chains of honey, fisheries and eco-tourism, in a gender and youth sensitive and participatory manner.
- Assessment of constraints in the mangrove-based value chains of honey, fisheries and eco-tourism

### Activities relating to Output 3.2

- Support the development of tenure rights model for mangrove-based economic activities
- Development of detailed guidelines for economic extraction and use of natural resources in coastal areas, while maintaining the ecological values of mangrove ecosystem, especially in protected areas (in MUMAs and nature reserves).
- Ensure that mangrove-based economic activities are legal and sustainable.

### Activities relating to Output 3.3

- Training of skills and knowledge among actors on value chain development, value adding, costs benefit analysis and the benefits of organisational development, among (especially) women and youth.

The joint Guyana-Suriname TEI on Forest Partnership was developed taking into consideration the geographic similarities between the two countries.

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiative to which this action refers, will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe members. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective member's meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the TEIs and/or these contributions do not materialise, the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

#### **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

**Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening** (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

Environmental protection: The main objective of the Action is to protect and restore mangrove forests and safeguard its ecosystem that renders many services and products to the nation and the globe (as listed in previous sections).

In supporting co-management schemes and mangrove-based value chains there can be risks of (over-)harvesting (as occurs currently) leading to mangrove degradation. The project aims to contribute to developing, training in and application of sustainable harvesting /production standards (Fisheries, honey, wood), and promotion of eco-tourism which does not damage to the ecosystem and its biodiversity. Its monitoring is essential. The project is expected to have appositve impact on the resilience of mangroves and the cmilate change resilience of the coastline.

**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 is at no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

Climate risks and disaster risk reduction: Suriname is specifically vulnerable to sea level rise, the Second National Communication assuming sea level rise of 1 m by 2100, which forms a significant threat for the health and intactness of mangrove ecosystems, hard and soft infrastructure and quality of living of communities, over 80% of the population and infrastructure located along the coast. Generally the mangrove ecosystem is considered a Nature Based Solution to protect coastal areas, and reduce risk and damage caused by sea level rise, and extreme weather such as increased precipitation and also droughts. Its protection and sustainable use ths contributes to climate resilience. This project will also compliment actions that would address this particular group by way of HR&D and CSO thematics.

#### **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that Gender Equality is a significant objective of the Action and that the action will take into account the EU Gender Acton Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III),the (GAP III) Country Implementation Plan, the National Gender Profile and the National Development Plan 2017-2021, which confirmed that gender equality and women's empowerment are pre conditions in achieving national development. Gender equality will be promoted in all components of the action, in the policies and legal framework (e.g. equal access to resources) by the political and policy dialogues, in the capacity building

need assessment and support, and in dialogues and platforms where men and women can interact, exchange and collaborate, both at local and higher levels. Key is promoting women's active participation in the decision-making processes and decision-making bodies, and equal access to the use of natural resources. In the value chain analysis and upgrading strategies, the role and empowerment of women and youth will be the focus.

The programme will use the [Quick tips on Gender and Forests](#), developed by the Forests for the Future Facility, published on March, 8th 2023. Tips include: ensuring (a) Expertise throughout the project and institutionally in key positions of power, (b) Time for analysis and from people to invest in the task, and (c) Budget earmarked to gender mainstreaming activities, (d) Gender sensitive analysis, data, and project implementation.

According to UN Women (2020 data) for Suriname there is a considerable gender data gap: as of December 2020, only 31.2% of indicators needed to monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective were available. Many areas – such as gender and poverty, physical and sexual harassment, women's access to assets (including land), and gender and the environment – lack comparable methodologies for regular monitoring.

### **Human Rights**

The Action will adhere to the full implementation of the human rights-based approach to development by promoting the respect, protection and the fulfilment of human rights. Human rights and environmental protection are inextricably linked and it is essential for the promotion of human rights that the environment and notably the coastal zone and mangroves are protected and managed sustainably, which is one of the outputs of the Action. This is taking into account that human activities are often the root cause of mangrove degradation, and can lead to human rights violations, especially for the most vulnerable members of society, indigenous people, youth and women. The project will also compliment actions that would address this particular group by way of HR&D and CSO thematics. Importantly, the inclusion and contribution of CSOs in the action is also vital for the attainment of human rights, their contributions are important as actors of good governance. The Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy 2021-2024 has Gender equality and women's rights as the No. 2 priority.

### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that the action is not considered relevant for inclusion of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities are recognised as being at increased risk from climate change effects, yet very little is known about how persons with disabilities and their representative organisations have been engaged in climate change adaptation and mitigation measures to date. Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) requires governments to include persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in policy planning.<sup>10</sup> The Action will be in line with the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, and the EU Guidance Note Disability inclusion in EU external action.

### **Reduction of inequalities**

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1.

This programme will continue to promote gender equality in the sea and river defence sector through increased participation and decision power, in alignment with GAP III.

### **Democracy**

N/A

### **Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

Inclusion of the CSOs and community groups would be vital for conflict prevention, resilience, peace and security and also for risk reduction. They will be engaged in capacity building (of themselves and of other actors).

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<sup>10</sup> [EU Guidance Note Disability inclusion in EU external action](#).

## **Disaster Risk Reduction**

See above under: **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

### 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

<b>Category</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Likelihood</b> (High/ Medium/ Low)	<b>Impact</b> (High/ Medium/ Low)	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
External environment	Political risks due to the economic crisis, the strict measures to reform public finance (required by IMF) or changes at management level especially within ministries involved.	Medium	Medium	Besides the government, non-public institutions will also be partners in the programme, e.g. as implementers and subgrantees. This will reduce the impact of political crisis or instability.
Legality and regularity aspects	Resistance to improve governance due to economic interests and political interference	High	High	The Action, complemented by MIP Support measures and Technical Cooperation Facility will increase the policy/political dialogue and promote the mobilisation and lobby by civil society and community based organisations through dedicated information sharing platforms at central and local level
People and the organisation	Capacity gaps and low absorption levels at central and local government (due to limited technical and management capacity and a multitude of projects)	Medium	Medium	Political dialogue and support to a mangrove finance strategy and local management structures are expected to strengthen the capacity of staff and means of operation.
People and the organisation	Weak coordination amongst state institutions	High	Medium	Exchange and coordination will be promoted at all levels, and will be facilitated by technical assistance, and promoting a platform
Legality and regularity aspects	Insufficient government budgeting, the sustainability of the Action might be at risk	High	Medium	Sensitize the Ministry of Finance, as well as other line ministries involved in the Action for planning and budgeting exercises. This resilience contract shall particularly foster through policy dialogue better spending in PFM.
External environment	Due to increases of sea level and wave dynamics beyond the prediction of current models, the natural regeneration and current good practices for successful mangrove restoration might lose their adequacy.	Medium	High	If the situation occurs, enhanced use will be made of infrastructure for sediment trapping and wave attenuation, and – in collaboration with neighbouring countries- additional strategies will be explored to enhance natural regeneration.

**Lessons Learnt:**

- The implementation of the action will be informed by experiences from previous interventions which focused on climate change adaptation and mitigating and environmental projects, and widely accepted good practices in value chain development. The EU has particularly supported mangrove restoration and conservation in Suriname through the GCCA+ Phase 1 “Contributing towards the provision of new climate information and institutional governance to help support sustainable agriculture productivity and mangrove protection” (2016-2019) and the GCCA+ Phase 2 “Resilience building through integrated water resource management, sustainable use of coastal ecosystem management” 2020-2023) Some of the lessons learnt from these interventions include: While several relevant new laws were drafted in the last 5-10 years scarcely any law relevant to coastal zone and mangrove management was adopted and/or implemented. Moreover, if adopted these are not followed by effective and timely implementation or enforcement.
- Planning, monitoring and coordination at sector and sub-sector level is weak and deserves special attention in policy and technical dialogue. Key constraints (such as inconsistent mandates, lack of political will, gaps in lead agency attribution) for effective and coordinated policy implementation need to be carefully assessed.
- With a weak law enforcement capacity at central level, local stakeholders and communities must be involved in participatory monitoring to achieve environmental protection.
- Livelihood support activities should be closely connected with potential or existing value chains and market outlets.
- To ensure the reduction of inequalities and empowerment of population in vulnerable situation (such as women, youth, indigenous groups), the programme should apply a gender, youth and indigenous lens from the very start of programme, as from identification, context analysis and design. This also applies when analysing the value chains and developing the upgrading strategy.
- Transparency and control on revenues from the use of natural resources (fee, royalties, concession, taxes, etc.) should be enhanced, involving all stakeholders, including the beneficiary local communities.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that:

**IF**

- The urgency of mangrove and coastal zone management is recognised at all levels and serves as a leveraging tool,
- Policy dialogues allow the commitment and follow up of national and sector development plan ambitions,
- Technical Assistance supports the political and legal reform processes and the development of a Coastal zone/ Mangrove finance strategy/mechanism.

**AND IF**

- Participatory local mangrove management and value chain upgrading plans are established, which are sustainable and environmental friendly,
- Local authorities and MUMA management structures have capacity and financial means for service delivery/implementation,
- Sustainable /alternative income opportunities are created.

**THEN**

Central government:

- Has more fiscal space to support coastal and mangrove management and protection and to support the populations in most vulnerable situation in society,
- Will improve domestic resource mobilisation and credible budget implementation,
- Will improve service delivery at national and local level.

#### Local and traditional authorities

- Monitor the mangrove ecosystem in their districts and deliver social services (roads, culverts, water management, land leases and other support to entrepreneurs) in line with local development needs

#### The local population and SMEs

- Can generate income while adhering to environmental friendly harvesting/collection practices and help to monitor and protect nature reserves and multiple use management areas (MUMA's) located in the coastal zone

#### **BECAUSE**

The local population and other beneficiaries of mangrove resources realise the benefits of mangrove (environmental) protection, since they find income opportunities and receive social and supporting services. Mangrove is revalued, it provides sustainable income and services, mangrove forests flourish as natural coastal protection and provider of products and services.

### 3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result) * Indicators from MIP ** Indicators from GERF	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
<b>Impact</b>	To support Suriname in adapting to climate change, by protecting and restoring the mangrove ecosystem in Suriname through improvements in integrated coastal zone and water management, improved governance and land use regulations, and engagement of stakeholders in protection, management, and development of sustainable mangrove-based value chains (e.g. honey, (shell)fish, eco-tourism).	1/** Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under a) protection b) sustainable management with EU support (km <sup>2</sup> ) (GERF 2.9 )	1 TBD in the inception phase	1 TBD in the inception phase	1 Annual reports of ROM and SBB (National Forest monitoring system)	<i>Not applicable</i>
<b>Outcome 1</b>	1. Strengthen existing legal and strategic ministerial frameworks for integrated coastal zone management, water management, coastal defense and governance.	1.1/** Number of countries and cities with climate change and/or disaster risk reduction strategies: (a) developed with EU support [GERF 2.5a]  /** Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under b) sustainable management with EU support (km <sup>2</sup> ) (GERF 2.9b)	1.1 a) 0 (2022) b) 0 (2022)	1.1 a) 1 (2026) b) 1 (2026)		Support and commitment of the government to strengthen its long-term vision and strategy of conservation and protection of its mangrove forest.

		1.2 Number of countries and cities with climate change and/or disaster risk reduction strategies under implementation with EU support [GERF 2.5]	1.2. TBD in the inception phase	1.2. TBD in the inception phase	1.2. TBD in the inception phase	
<b>Outcome 2</b>	2. Strengthen effectiveness of participation of local communities in co-management of mangrove forests and MUMAs .	2.1** Number of people who have benefited from institution or workplace based VET/skills development interventions supported by the EU: (a) all VET/skills development, (b) only VET/skills development for digitalisation [GERF 2.14] (disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and whenever possible disability)	2.1 0 (2022)	2.1 1000 (2026)	2.1 (TBD during inception phase)	
		2.2 IMET Score	2.2 TBD	2.2 TBD	2.2 IMET score ( <a href="#">Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool</a> )	
<b>Outcome 3</b>	3. Increase income generation with focus on women and youth, from sustainable mangrove-based value chains such as honey, fisheries and eco-tourism	3.2** Number of (a) jobs supported/sustained by the EU [GERF 2.13a] (, ethnicity and whenever possible disabilitydisaggregated by sex)  ** Number of (b) green jobs supported/sustained by the EU [GERF 2.13b] (disaggregated by sex)	3.2 0 (2022)	3.2 300 (2026)	3.2 TBD	Increased incomes will trigger participation and contributing to improved mangrove governance and management

<b>Output 1 relating to Outcome 1</b>	1.1 Enhanced coordination, enforcement and policy development capacity of Government in the areas of coastal zone management,	1.1.1 Status of adoption of law covering integrated coastal management adopted	1.1.1 0 (2022)	1.1.1 1 (2025)	1.1.1	Reforms will be acted upon (enactment of legal framework)
<b>Output 2 relating to Outcome 1</b>	1.2 Strengthened awareness about the functions and value of mangrove ecosystems for resilience to climate change, and the costs of erosion and degradation at all levels of society	1.2.1 Number of people with increased awareness on functions and value of mangrove ecosystems, and the costs of erosion and degradation, disaggregated by sex	1.2.1 TBD	1.2.1 TBD	1.2.1	Increased awareness will motivate and trigger political will and action
<b>Output 1 relating to Outcome 2</b>	2.1 Increased capacities of local communities to participate in an effective and transparent management of mangrove and MUMAs.	2.1.1 Number of trainings	2.1.1 TBD	2.1.1 TBD	2.1.1	Increased capacities and trainings will mobilise increased involvement and benefit.
		2.1.2 Number of (m/f, ethnicity) community members and whenever possible disabilityxxx trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on co-management of mangrove and MUMAs, disaggregated by sex	2.1.2 0	2.1.2	2.1.2 Pre- and post-training test reports	
<b>Output 1 relating to Outcome 3</b>	3.1 Increased availability of inclusive value chain strategies based on participatory gender and youth sensitive analysis of honey, fisheries and eco-tourism value chains.	3.1.1 Number of upgrading strategies developed based on the value chain analysis, with participation of VC actors	3.1.1 0 (2022)	3.1.1 3 (2024)	3.1.1	
<b>Output 2 relating to Outcome 3</b>	3.2 Enhanced availability of guidelines for sustainable extraction and use of natural resources in coastal areas, in respect of the biodiversity and	3.2.1 Number of guidelines for sustainable extraction/ production/ services (honey, fish, wood,	3.2.1 0 (2022)	3.2.1 4 (2025)	3.2.1	

	ecological values of the mangrove ecosystem, especially in protected areas (MUMAs and nature reserves).	tourism) developed with support of the EU-funded intervention				
<b>Output 3 relating to Outcome 3</b>	3.3. Increased skills and knowledge of local populations, especially women and youth, on sustainable value chain development, value adding, cost-benefit analysis and organisational development	3.3.1 Number of people trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on sustainable value chain development, value adding, cost-benefit analysis and the benefits of organisational development, disaggregated by sex, age, indigenous people	3.3.1 0 (2022)	3.3.1 1000 (2026)	3.3.1 Pre- and post-training test reports	

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

### 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 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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 measures<sup>11</sup>.

#### 4.3.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with an entrusted entity, which will be selected by the Commission's service using the following criteria:

- Experiencing in managing EU-funded project and acquainted with EU procedures;
- Technical expertise in forest and environment related projects;
- Has a physical presence in Paramaribo;
- Experience in working with the government, public institutions, community and civil society organisations;
- Able to mobilize a multidisciplinary team of experts related to environment and forest related topics and cross cutting areas such as gender.

The entity will be responsible for the overall coordination and technical & administrative backstopping of the action, including all management tasks such as procurement, monitoring, reporting, and providing secretariat services to the steering committee.

### 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 duly

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<sup>2</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://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.

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

<b>Indicative Budget components</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.3	
Indirect management with an entrusted entity- cf. section 4.3.1	3 060 000
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2 <b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision
<b>Totals</b>	3 060 000

#### 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 and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

The overall coordination of this Action will be done by the EU Delegation in Guyana and the implementing partner. The implementing partner will set up a Project Management Unit (PMU), for the day to day management, overall coordination and implementation of the action, including all management task such as procurement, monitoring, reporting and providing secretariat services to the Project Steering Committee.

A Project Steering Committee will be established to oversee and to provide overall guidance to the implementation of the action. The Committee will comprise representatives of the EU Delegation, the Ministry of Finance (National Authorising Officer – NAO), Ministry of National Resources, Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Regional Development Ministry of Land Policy and Forest Management, District Commissioners, SBB, CELOS, AdeKUS, NIMOS, and UNDP Suriname. The PMU will provide secretariat services to the Steering Committee (SC) and convene meetings at least 2 times per year, with the possibility to organise additional ad-hoc SC meetings whenever there is a need or a request.

Periodic reports on implementation and joint supervision missions will be the key mechanisms of the monitoring process. In the context of strengthening the sector dialogue and to adhere to national procedures as much as possible, regular technical meetings and an annual joint review will provide for monitoring arrangements.

### 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, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

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).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

- The EU Delegation and the implementing partner will have the overall oversight and monitoring role;
- The implementing partner will be in charge of identifying the baselines and monitoring the achievements of the indicators falling under their responsibility;
- The implementing partner is in charge of compiling data collected through national statistics.

All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach, and rights of persons with disabilities including inclusion and diversity. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex.

## 5.2 Evaluation

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

The final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the main area (CC) that is addressed by the action is of high political importance for Suriname as well as for the EU.

All evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment and disability inclusion. Expertise on human rights, disability and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 30 days in advance of the dates foreseen 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 dissemination<sup>12</sup>. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

## 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.

## 6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant

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<sup>12</sup> See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, duty bearers, grant rights holders or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.