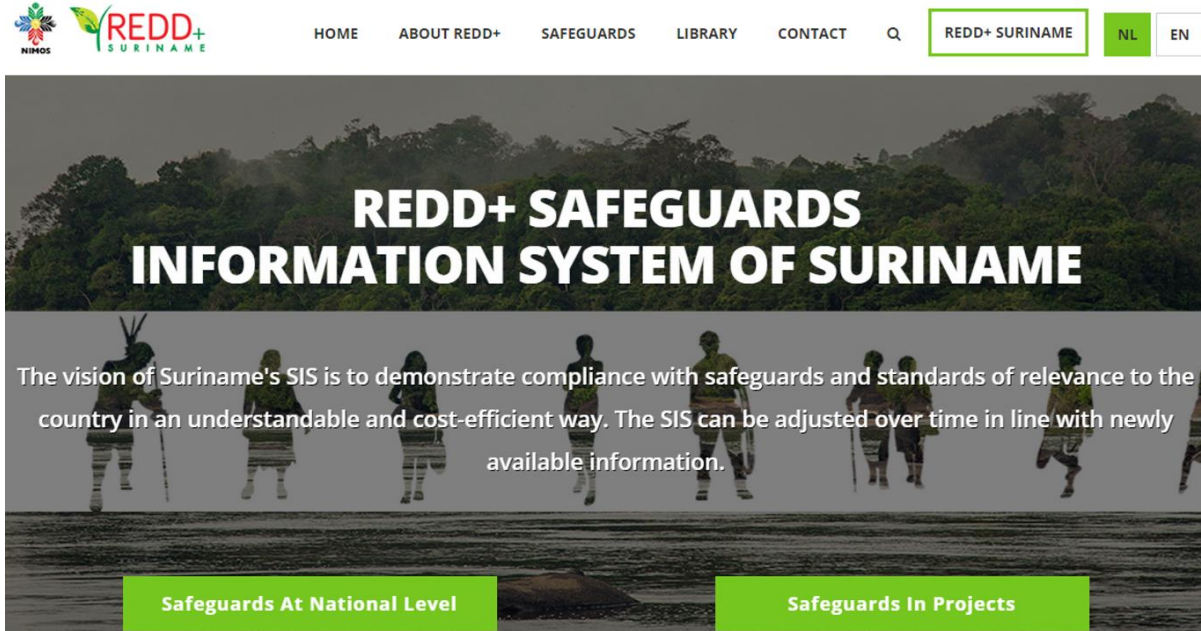


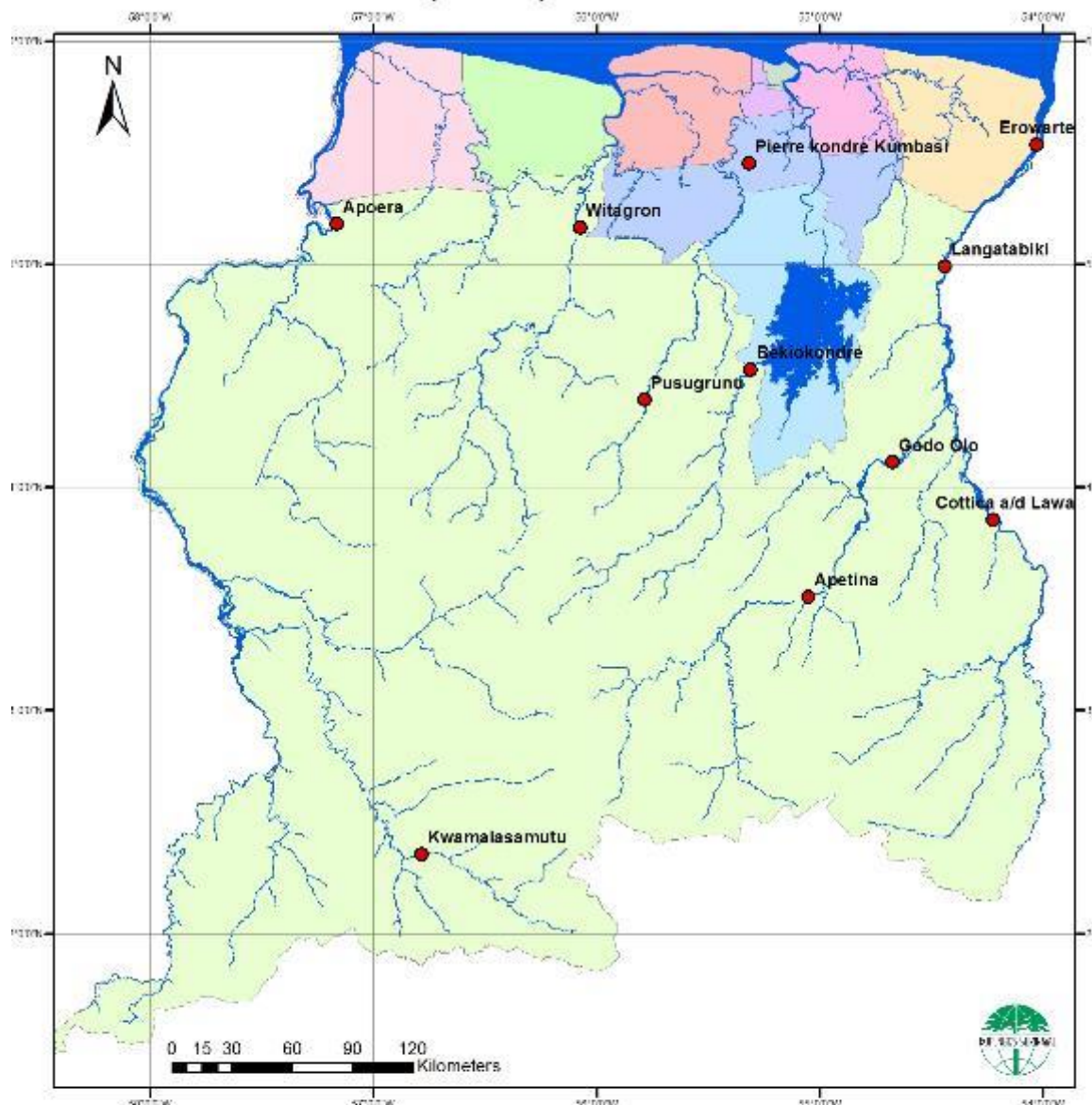
Suriname's journey towards developing its REDD+ Safeguards Information System



Snapshot of Suriname's Safeguards Information System portal

Suriname is approaching completion of its REDD+ readiness phase. An important milestone in the process was the launch of Suriname's [REDD+ Safeguards Information System \(SIS\)](#) in December 2019. A highly participatory process led to the development of an information system, which will allow the government to follow up and report on how REDD+ safeguards are being addressed and respected at the national and sub-national level.

The Republic of Suriname is a High Forest cover Low Deforestation (HFLD) country at the north eastern Atlantic coast of South America. It has the highest percentage forest cover in the world, with forest covering 93% of land area in the country. The country's forests are inhabited by over 60.000 members of ten different indigenous and tribal peoples (ITPs) communities. During the formulation of the SIS for Suriname, all of the ITP communities were consulted with regards to the national interpretation of the Cancun Safeguards and the identification of potential information and indicators for the SIS.



Legende

- Lokaties SIS Consultaties
- Rivieren
- Brskopondo
- Commewijne
- Coronie
- Marowijne
- Nickerion
- Para
- Paramaribo
- Saramacca
- Sipaliwini
- Wanica

Deze kaart geeft de lokaties weer waar er consultaties met inheemse en tribale gemeenschappen hebben plaatsgevonden in het kader van het ontwikkelen van een Safeguard Informatie Systeem. De kaart toont niet alle dorpen waarvan bewoners hebben deelgenomen in de consultaties.

Location of community consultations in the interior of the country

In addition to the consultations in the interior of the country, stakeholders were also engaged at the national level. The National SIS Roadmap workshop took place on 1 March 2019 in Paramaribo. This marked the beginning of the process for the formulation of the SIS and was attended by stakeholders from both national and local level.

Also, a technical SIS Counterpart Group consisting of government officials from several departments and representatives of ITP organizations covering a variety of safeguards-relevant backgrounds met several times throughout the year to discuss specific topics. Finally, stakeholders gathered for a National Validation Workshop at the end of the month of November 2019.



Group photo from the National SIS Validation Workshop in Paramaribo, November 2019

The development of Suriname's SIS followed the UN-REDD Programme's guidance on Country Approach to Safeguards in order to help meet the UNFCCC safeguards' requirements with consideration for country-specific needs and context. Work was carried out with the involvement, throughout the entire process, of an international consortium that worked closely with the National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname (NIMOS), as the National Technical Focal Point and coordinating body of the Suriname REDD+ Programme. The consortium was led by Asesoramiento Ambiental Estratégico (AAE) and included Tropenbos Suriname, UNEP-WCMC and Adept.

The country advanced in key safeguards activities that contributed to the development of the SIS, namely:

- Identification of **SIS objectives and functions** was undertaken in a participatory manner to decide what national and international policy goals the system would contribute to and what the system needed to do to meet these objectives. For example, it was established that one objective should be to "promote support of REDD+ at the national level and ensure local community ownership and engagement." Therefore, one of the functions had to be to "provide access to updated information on the social and environmental benefits of REDD+."
- **Interpretation of the Cancun safeguards** in the national context of Suriname was done in a stepwise approach:

- A preliminary interpretation was drafted based on input from the National SIS Roadmap Workshop in March, an in-depth analysis of safeguards-relevant Policies, Laws and Regulations and background knowledge on Suriname's context.
- The resulting draft interpretation was further refined with the SIS Counterpart Group and using the insights obtained during the local community consultations in the interior.
- Approval of the interpretation was obtained during the SIS Validation Workshop in November 2019.
- Alongside the evolving final interpretation of the safeguards, suitable **indicators and information sources** were compiled. The resulting SIS is composed of several qualitative and quantitative indicators designed to provide information at the national and sub-national level. This includes information on whether the safeguards are addressed and respected.
- The **SIS online portal** containing this information, also developed during the past year, can be accessed at <http://www.sis.surinamredd.org>, is available in Dutch and English, and expected to be ready in Sranan Tongo soon.

Once REDD+ project implementation starts on the ground, the portal will also turn into a source of information on safeguards at the project level. The portal will provide donors and investors with a trustful source of information to ensure their investments in REDD+ are not harming the environment and communities, but are instead promoting environmental and social benefits at the local level. At the same time, accessing project-level information will also be of interest to the ITP communities.

With this new milestone, Suriname has now a National REDD+ Strategy in place, a functional National Forest Monitoring System, a Forest Reference Emissions Level and a Safeguards Information System, thus meeting the minimum requirements defined in the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for the completion of the REDD+ Readiness phase.

Currently, the first Summary of Information (SOI) is being developed and Suriname plans to submit it to the UNFCCC by mid-2020.

Authors:

Project Management Unit of the Suriname REDD+ Program and Strategic Environmental Advice (AAE - *Asesoramiento Ambiental Estratégico*)