



REDD+ FOR THE GUIANA SHIELD

**Third Steering Committee Report
2-3 June 2014 – Cayenne, French Guiana**

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Third Steering Committee

Context

The Guiana Shield is one of the largest blocks of primary tropical forest worldwide. Covered with around 90% of intact rainforest, it plays a critical role in mitigating climate change and in water regulation of Amazon and Orinoco basins. This eco-region also has very high biodiversity levels. Until a decade ago, the Guiana Shield forests were under little threat in comparison with tropical forests in other locations. However, countries in the region are burgeoning economically and demographically, leading to increasing pressures on natural ecosystems. These governments are keen to drive their development in a sustainable manner and in that perspective, they have shown strong interest in REDD+ as a mechanism that would enable to financially value their efforts through carbon revenues.

The project **REDD+ for the Guiana Shield** was initiated by Guyana, Suriname and France, at the occasion of the UNFCCC's fourteenth Conference of Parties, held in 2008 in Poznan. Shortly afterwards the state of Amapá in Brazil joined. The project aims at providing information and tools to be used by countries to establish sound science-based policies and measures to tackle deforestation and degradation, in the framework of REDD+ mechanism.

Cooperation is a key and strategic component of the project. While in the same eco-region, Guiana Shield countries have different histories and developed their own priorities. There are therefore significant opportunities to share information and good practices in the region. The project will encourage cooperation between neighboring countries on REDD+, thanks to a **technical and regional platform** that will focus on inventory of the resources (carbon stocks and forest cover), improvement of the quantified understanding of drivers of deforestation and degradation, as well as on modeling of forest cover evolution.

REDD+ for the Guiana Shield is funded by the Regional Development European Fund (FEDER) through the Interreg IV Caraïbes program (1.26 M€), the French Global Environmental Facility (FFEM – 1 M€), the French Guiana Region (90 000 €), as well as by the project partners own contributions. Financing Agreements with donors have been signed late 2012 and the project officially started in January 2013.

Objectives

The Third Steering Committee Meeting took place at the facilities of the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) in Cayenne, French Guiana, on June the 2nd and the 3rd, 2014. On the 1st of June there was field visit to a Reduced Impact Logging plot. The event was organized by the project team with the support of the Office National des Forêts Guyane (ONF-G).

On June 2nd, the Steering Committee (SC) members had the opportunity to discuss regional approaches for REDD+ in the Guiana Shield and the project's Technical Working Groups. On June 3rd, the SC members focused the discussion on the following topics within the frame of the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project: «à la carte» national support; training and technology transfer; regional dialogue on REDD+; and project management.

The main objective of the Third Steering Committee Meeting was to provide a forum for all SC members to be informed on the project's progress since the last meeting and for discussing the orientation of future work of the project. Specific objectives were:

- To present and validate the progress done by the project team since the last SC;
- To reaffirm the alignment between the project objectives and the expectations of the partners towards the project;
- To present, discuss and validate the detailed activities and budget to be committed until the next SC;

- To strengthen the regional perspective amongst the countries/states involved and increase sharing of information.

Agenda

June 2nd, 2014

8:45	Meeting in the hotel lobby to leave for the meeting venue
9:00 – 9:30	Welcoming breakfast
9:30 – 10:00	Welcoming remarks
SESSION 1 – REGIONAL APPROACH FOR REDD+ IN THE GUIANA SHIELD	
10:00 – 10:15	Introduction to the session
10:15 – 11:15	Short presentations of countries position, institutional arrangement and developments in terms of REDD+ Readiness
11:15 – 11:35	Presentation of the REDD+ for the Guiana Shield project
11:35 – 11:55	Presentation of WWF Guianas activities related to REDD+
11:55 – 12:15	Presentation of CI activities related to REDD+ in the Guiana Shield
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch
13:15 – 13:35	Presentation of Guiana Shield Facility activities
13:35 – 13:55	Presentation of the Tropical Managed Forest Observatory (CIRAD)
13:55 – 14:30	Panel discussion
SESSION 2 – TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS	
14:30 – 14:45	Introduction to the session
14:45 – 15:15	Presentations of Working Group Meetings 2 & 3 and discussions on Working Group Meeting 4
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 – 16:15	Budget and agenda situation - Discussions
16:30 – 17:00	Press conference
17:00	Transportation to the hotel
20:00	Social dinner

June 3rd, 2014

8:00	Meeting in the hotel lobby to leave for the meeting venue
8:30 – 8:45	Introduction to Day 2 discussions
SESSION 3 – « À LA CARTE » NATIONAL SUPPORT	
8:45 – 9:00	Introduction to the session
9:00 – 9:35	Presentation of Surinamese outputs from "À la carte" support
9:35 – 10:00	Update on « À la carte » support to Guyane, Amapá, Guyana

10:00 – 10:30	Budget and calendar situation
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break
SESSION 4 – TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER	
10:45 – 11:00	Introduction to the session
11:00 – 11:30	Presentation of a 6 month plan for Training and Technology Transfer – Budget and scheduled activities
11:30 – 12:00	Discussion
12:00 – 12:45	Lunch
SESSION 5 – REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON REDD+	
12:45 – 13:00	Introduction to the session
13:00 – 13:45	Development of Future Deforestation Models to feed regional dialogue – presentation of PhD projects and discussion
13:45 – 14:15	Regional studies – presentation and discussion
14:15 – 14:45	Regional GIS database – presentation and discussion
14:45 – 15:15	Data sharing tools and policy – presentation and discussion
SESSION 6 – CONCLUSION REMARKS	
15:15 – 15:30	Global budget situation
15:30 – 15:45	Information on the Human Resources situation
15:45 – 16:00	Next Steering Committee Meeting (date and location)
16:00 – 16:15	Closing remarks
16:15 – 17:00	Closing coffee

Participants

Steering Committee Active Members

Name	Position	Organization
Pearl JULES	Director Research and Development	SBB, Suriname
Haidy LEPELBLAD	REDD+ Project Coordinator	NIMOS, Suriname
Karlon WARDE	Project Officer	GFC, Guyana
Lana OLIVEIRA	Manager Environmental Services	IEF, Amapá (Brazil)
Claudia FUNI	Coordinator Geoprocessing Unit	State Secretariat for Environment (SEMA), Amapá (Brazil)
Nicolas KARR	Chief Executive Officer Project Manager for ONF	ONF-Guyane, France
Hélène SIRDER	Vice-President	Région Guyane, France – DONOR
Ludovic COCOGNE	Director for French Guiana	AFD / FFEM – DONOR
Laura MIRÉ	Project Manager	STC / INTERREG – DONOR

Steering Committee Observers

Name	Position	Organization
Sofie RUYSSCHAERT	Biodiversity Officer	WWF Guianas
Dianne BALRAJ	Policy Coordinator	Conservation International Guyana
Patrick CHESNEY	Chief Technical Advisor	Guiana Shield Facility

Organizing Team

Name	Position	Organization
Marie CALMEL	Project Manager	ONF International
Sérgio MILHEIRAS	Amapá Project Focal Point	ONF International
Sara SVENSSON	Suriname Project Focal Point	ONF International
Sabá LOFTUS	Guyana Project Focal Point	ONF International
Rachida LE JEANNIC	Assistant to the Project Manager	ONF International

Additional Participants from Steering Committee Member Institutions

Name	Organization
Rene SOMOPAWIRO	SBB, Suriname
Arno AMATKASANPAWIRO	SBB, Suriname
Martin PERRIER	ONFI, France
Caroline ABT	AFD / FFEM, France
Romy HENTINGER	AFD / FFEM, France
Benjamin OUILIAC	Région Guyane, France
Bruno HERAULT	CIRAD, France
Jean-Luc SIBILLE	ONF-Guyane, France
Laurent DESCROIX	ONF-Guyane, France
Khadija MUSA	UNDP, Guyana
Camille DEZECACHE	CIRAD, France

Access to Steering Committee materials

All presentations made during the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting can be downloaded, together with other relevant materials, at:

- <http://reddguianashield.com/steering-committee/third-steering-committee-meeting/>

Sessions Summary and Outcomes

June 1st, 2014

A field visit for Steering Committee members was organized by ONF-G/ONFI on the 1st of June in partnership with the forestry firm Société Forestière Amazonia. This visit gave the opportunity to better explain to the partners what are ONF forestry management practices in French Guiana by visiting a Reduced Impact Logging plot.

June 2nd, 2014

Introduction

The event started with welcoming words by H el ene Sirder, Vice-President of R egion Guyane. She made reference to the importance of dealing with climate change issues in the region and the potential of the project to contribute to that. It was followed by introductory remarks by Ludovic Cocogne, Director of AFD for French Guiana, where he highlighted how climate change is part of AFD strategy, with several projects being supported in Latin America, and reinforced the importance of the experience sharing that the project promotes. Finally, Nicolas Karr, Director of ONF Guyane, also welcomed all participants and highlighted the importance of the Steering Committee meetings in the context of the project, with this one being particularly relevant due to the presence of representatives from all donors.

Session 1 – Regional Approach for REDD+ in the Guiana Shield

The session began with an introductory presentation from the representatives of each country involved on the countries' position, institutional arrangement and developments in terms of REDD+ Readiness.

Haidy Lepelblad, NIMOS, started by sharing information on NIMOS REDD+ transition project. It has a duration of 9 months, finishing in a few months, with a budget of 490 000 USD donated by UN REDD, UNDP, GSF, WWF Guianas, FCPF, CI Suriname. The goal is to build capacity within NIMOS, engage with stakeholders, raise public awareness (including in different local languages), set a fundraising plan and contribute to R-PP implementation. Until now several different events and trainings related with REDD+ were organized. The project also enabled tv and radio spots on the topic and the development of a REDD+ website. NIMOS staff has also been reinforced with new additions to the team and through training.

Lana Oliveira, IEF, indicated that a working group for climate change and ecosystem services was created in 2012. Its objective was to develop a state legal framework for climate change and ecosystem services. That process led to a final document in the end of 2013 and since then has been awaiting ratification by the state government. This law institutionalizes climate change and ecosystem services in the state that includes its management entities, economic incentive tools, planning tools, and others. In the meanwhile, other projects have contributed to value carbon stocks and other forest products within the state, such as Carbono Cajari that mapped and assessed the carbon stocks of 70 000 brazil nut trees, or Proextrativismo that builds the capacity of local producers for sustainable practices. The next steps should be to incorporate ecosystem services in public programmes through a jurisdictional approach, monitor carbon stocks in the state forest Flota, and publish a reference level of the state through the update of the PPCD-AP policy. Different states have similar initiatives on REDD+ implementation but there is not a national framework at the moment.

Benjamin Ouiliac, Région Guyane, started by stressing the unique situation that French Guiana has in South America, as it is the only territory in the region that is part of annex 1 of the Kyoto Protocol and therefore does not have access to REDD+ benefits. It represents around 1/3 of the forest area in France and most its CO2 emissions come from land use change due to increasing pressures to the forest. As a HFLD territory, there is a real REDD+ issue in French Guiana despite being an administrative impossibility. Which is why the "À la carte" support for French Guiana will aim to adapt the REDD+ process to the specific French Guiana local context while learning from amazonian partners' experiences, by proposing a specific tool for the French administrative context that is similar to the Kyoto Protocol flexibility mechanisms and takes advantage of the next programme of EU funds.

Karlon Warde, GFC, updated the participants on the progress thus far on REDD+ in Guyana. The latest version of the R-PP was released December 2012 and is available online. The government has shown a pro-REDD+ posture and the country just started the implementation of the FCPF through the IDB. The forestry sector represented 3.86 of the national GDP in 2007. Mining is by far the driver responsible for a higher amount of deforestation in the country. Gold mining sector has been playing an increasingly important role in the national development of Guyana, with production reaching unprecedented levels in 2012, which amounted to 10.6% of the nation's annual GDP. The Guyanese government has set different initiatives to monitor and minimize impacts related with mining, including: a Strategic Framework Document and Strategic Plan for the period 2013-2018 to address environmental and natural resource issues within the framework of Guyana's LCDS; a committee established in 2009 provided recommendations to Cabinet on the management of land use conflicts and issues, including addressing key mining issues under broad themes; development and implementation of Codes of Practice on Mining; the establishment of a mining school in 2012. An MRVS has been in place since 2010 and continues to be improved. The focal institution for climate change is the Office of Climate Change within the Office of the President, while the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) (and a REDD+ secretariat) is the body responsible for management of the State Forest and implementation of technical aspects of REDD+. The MRVS Steering Committee (constituted by different stakeholders) has an overall oversight and coordinating function for the development and implementation of the MRVS. As a result of an agreement with Norway, the government receives money based on how good the indicators are, Guyana doesn't necessarily have to keep deforestation from mining below a particular level, only the overall rate is relevant.

Next Nicolas Karr, ONF Guyane, continued with a short presentation about the project REDD+ for the Guiana Shield. The project directly involves 8 organization in 4 partner countries, plus different observers and donors, with implementation planning to continue until 2015. All partners are inserted in the same regional context of the Guiana Shield ecoregion, yet each country involve also has its own specificities, including in terms of level of advancement on REDD+. Therefore:

- The project aims to capitalize on each country strength and facilitate experience, data and knowledge sharing in order to mutually reinforce countries and to encourage a regional dialogue on reducing deforestation and planning land-use.
- In order to achieve that, the project focuses on 3 components, each of them with specific objectives:
 - Evaluation and monitoring of forest cover and carbon stocks
 - Evaluation and monitoring of drivers of deforestation
 - Modeling of future deforestation to aid decision-making
- These 3 components are implemented through a working approach that was adapted to meet national and regional contexts, namely by working through 4 different channels:
 - "À la carte" Country Level Support
 - Regional Tools and Dialogue
 - Technical Working Groups
 - Training and Technology Transfer
- ONF Guyane is the leader of this project, while ONFI is its implementation partner. ONFI has the project manager based in Cayenne, plus focal points based in Amapá, Suriname, and Guyana. The total funding available for the project is € 2 739 000.

Following the agenda, the meeting continued with a presentation from Sofie Ruyschaert, which presented WWF Guianas' regional REDD+ related activities.

- The region has high biodiversity levels, is a large carbon sink and a large source of freshwater. Gold mining and development of roads and dams are two of the challenging pressures on Guianas' forest capital.
- In general WWF Guianas aim in their activities to strengthen governance and control; increase number protected areas on land and sea; better planning of gold mining + ban on mercury use; mitigate infrastructural impacts; better control hunting and poaching; incentives for sustainable and responsible production; achieve low footprint lifestyles.
- For Suriname they have been promoting REDD+ as a tool for sustainable land use planning and management of protected areas through different initiatives, such as, supporting the stakeholder national consultation process, the collection of baseline information during pilot project National Forest Inventory of SBB, and development of a roadmap for sound land use practices, amongst others.
- For Guyana, an indigenous community MRV project was supported, as well as the measurement of progress by GFC of REDD+ readiness implementation under Guyana/Norway agreement and research on biomass/carbon recovery within selectively logged forests, amongst other measures.
- As for French Guiana, WWF Guianas participated in the research on carbon stocks in Trésor nature reserve and in the development of an educational tool on forest carbon and of a trail that exemplifies on-site the forest carbon dynamics.
- WWF Guianas focuses on gold mining as a regional threat to the forests. Therefore it has worked with governments to support the ban on mercury through the Minamata convention and to find alternatives to illegal gold mining and alternative mercury free techniques. It has also monitored the regional impacts of gold mining. It could be relevant to discuss on how this monitoring can be incorporated in the context of the project REDD+ for the Guiana Shield.

Subsequently, Dianne Balraj presented the activities of CI Guyana - another of the observers of REDD+ for the Guiana Shield - in the context of REDD+.

- An essential document to CI Guyana's work is the low-carbon development strategy document "Transforming Guyana's economy while combating climate change" from 2009, which integrates economic development, a national REDD+ plan and a MRV system.
- CI Guyana's work included: reform of legislation, enabling financing for public investments, promoting regional collaboration, providing "Thought Leadership" through consultancies and relevant technical papers, promoting green development through sustainable land use. Its work plan priorities are the extractive sector, the sustainable land use and integrated natural resources management, and the support for REDD+ activities.
- On mining CI understands that it is an important sector to Guyana and its largest contributor to GDP. Nevertheless it is necessary to move from GDP as the only indicator of human well being, the sector needs to contribute to total wealth. Extraction reduces natural capital and has social impacts. It is important to guarantee that revenue is reinvested in the community and human capital, to empower the government to effectively supervise the sector and empower miner to follow best practices. From a regional perspective, there is limited collaboration and weak governance, but also opportunities for unified policies and financing.
- At regional level, CI Guyana has been involved in two main initiatives: "Avoided deforestation project", with the KfW, which promoted regional technical exchange, facilitation of regional participation in high level meetings and regional scenarios modelling; and "Widening informed stakeholder engagement for REDD+", with the US Department of State, with aims to broaden and strengthen inform stakeholder engagement in national REDD+ readiness programs.

Next, it was Patrick Chesney's turn to present the activities related with REDD+ being carried by the Guiana Shield Facility (GSF).

- The Guiana Shield is an area of 2.7 million km² with low population but rich cultural diversity. It has the largest complex of uninterrupted primary tropical forests with high biodiversity values, 10-15% of world's freshwater and significant carbon sequestration at around 500 million t/year.

- At national or local scale, GSF is supporting different projects that are having an impact in the region:
 - Technical Support for Incorporating Environmental Services into State-level programs in Amapá, Brazil
 - Digital hydro-geomorphological mapping of the Guiana Shield – outputs for management of natural resources
 - Diagnóstico da produção alimentar e criação de banco de sementes e viveiro de árvores nativas para uso alimentar e medicinal junto às comunidades indígenas em São Gabriel da Cachoeira – Amazonas – Brasil
 - Fortalecimiento de la Gobernanza de las comunidades indígenas de la Selva de Matavén para tomar decisiones participativas orientadas a la conservación del medio ambiente y la biodiversidad (Colombia)
 - Strengthening of Guyana’s Technical Capacity to Implement MRVS and Other REDD+ Related Activities
 - Community Concepts & Communications for Understanding REDD+ and MRV in Guyana
 - National support for REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) in Suriname
 - Elaborating on the increased awareness and involvement of stakeholders in REDD+, building capacity within the Technical Focal Point (namely NIMOS) and other entities such as the REDD+ Assistants and the Major Groups Collective
 - Cultural Sensitive toolkit for Indigenous Peoples in Suriname
 - Development of a culturally appropriate manual on REDD+ for indigenous and tribal communities in Suriname, using horizontal cooperation techniques
- In total the allocation of grants to country projects amounted to USD 1,801,163, with an average of USD 450,000 per country. French Guiana is not eligible to GSF funds while no grants were allocated to Venezuela neither.
- GSF has also supported initiatives and studies at ecoregional scale, namely:
 - International Congress on Biodiversity, Guiana Shield Foundation for Biodiversity, International Society of Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield
 - A functional interdisciplinary database (Guiana Shield Atlas) that links information on biodiversity, conservation initiatives, socioeconomics, natural resources, development, etc., for the Guiana Shield
 - Study on Small-Scale Gold Mining Assessment
 - Study on Conservation Priority Setting Update
 - Study on Gender and Biodiversity Assessments
- In the meanwhile, many different partnerships and initiatives with a variety of institutions in the region were created and sustained to promote advocacy, knowledge building and transboundary collaboration. It includes 3 recent initiatives: FORESEEN (Forestry and Remote Sensing Exchange Network), WAVINGS (Water Views and Information Network of the Guiana Shield), and Guiana Shield Biodiversity Corridors.

Bruno Herault, CIRAD, then gave a presentation about the Tropical managed Forests Observatory (TmFO), a new research tool to address the future of logged forests.

- While most of our knowledge on tropical forests comes from studies carried out in primary forests, managed (logged + silviculture) and disturbed tropical forests cover larger areas than primary ones, which until now did not have any regional network dedicated to them.
- Selective logging in the tropics counts on forest natural regeneration, focuses on timber exclusively, often with little planning and high damage, and it is based on the simple rule of only exploiting the trees with diameters at chest level above a certain level, with a rotation cycle of 35 to 60 years. Logged forests might still harbor high carbon stocks and biodiversity. After exploitation the timber resources take a long time to recover, since the trees with more commercial interest have a very slow growth rate. The two alternatives are to either recover those individuals removed or to change to other commercial species.
- TmFO is a pan tropical network that started in mid 2012 and includes 3 continents, 9 countries¹ 17 research institutions, 40 researchers. 24 experimental sites and 490 plots. It has an annual budget of USD 150 000. Focusing in the Amazon, 245 plots are being studied.

- Data sharing and flow follows a participatory protocol, in order to avoid problems of previous network efforts that centralized their data. In TmFO the data stays with the organization that did them and for each question there is a group of researchers analyzing it. When results are obtained (metadata), they share it with the rest of the network (participative research – all people in the team participate at some point in the work).
- Therefore, TmFO aims to develop new silvicultural practices based on our knowledge of managed forest functioning, it consolidates long-term historical partnerships and addresses key questions on forest functioning, degradation and management practices.

Discussion on the relevance of regional approaches in the Guiana Shield

The session ended with a debate on the regional approach moderated by Martin Perrier, ONFI. The goals of the project rely on a regional approach and this debate has continued since its start, which allowed to make some re-adaptations to the project. The objective of the project is to have a non intrusive approach to strengthen the conditions in the region and feed the discussion on REDD+ so that forest services can better position themselves in the climate debate/work. It is important to share our perspectives on regional tools and dialogue. ONFI has been involved in that work in other locations as well. The Mediterranean basin, for example, has a analogous situation with different non annex 1 countries and Turkey with a particular situation. There countries were not debating the issue and ONFI's work help to integrate efforts. Another example is the Congo basin, where ONFI gave support to the negotiators with funds from GEF for the implementation of scenarios for emission and allometric equations. The possibility to do this at a regional scale convinced funders to support the project. In Latin America similar collaborative measures can be useful, on the classification of land use, for example. How do the partners react to the presentations until now? What do partners consider the benefits of the regional scale, focussing specifically on the construction of common tools?

Nicolas Karr, ONF-G, started by saying that the Kyoto Protocol gives a framework to discuss the topic, what ONF-G is interested in is to share forestry practices and REDD+ methodologies. Karlon Warde, GFC, mentioned the relevance of Norway's support to Guyana on REDD+ and GFC can also benefit from forestry technologies from neighbouring partners, mining for example is not a national issue but a regional one. Lana Oliveira, IEF, pointed that since the field trip the day before the group has been benefiting from knowledge sharing, focusing on French Guiana in this case, this knowledge can be put to use to implement sustainable forestry in Amapá. As for Pearl Jules, SBB, he stressed that the technical assistance provided within this project has been essential. Patrick Chesney, GSF, added that one opportunity is to build on the event organized by Suriname on impacts of REDD+ in HFLD and prepare of a synthesis document that resumes all the tools provided until now, to reflect that the Guiana Shield needs a special consideration in the REDD+ context and to present a well reasoned argument for maintaining the forests. This document would be too late for Lima but in time for Paris. Benjamin Ouiliac, Région Guyane, indicated that French Guiana did a working group on how the Région should position itself for the next COP and share information about current initiatives to reduce deforestation and to increase biomass energy. Additionally French Guiana will have a privileged channel to COP21 which can be used for example to transmit a white paper.

Following those interventions, Martin Perrier, ONFI, continued by asking if a HFLD regional political positioning would be supported by the national governments. For COP21 France will have a neutral position as the host, but can still push its own agenda. Haidy Lepelblad, NIMOS, clarified that the participants cannot make a commitment in name of their governments, but as national institutions they work with REDD+ and are involved in the process. Karlon Warde, GFC, also stated that from a political point of view he cannot give a position, however it is possible that a position common to the region would be useful. Lana Oliveira, IEF, said it is complicated for Amapá to talk about that because it is one of several Brazilian Amazon states. Amapá has been working through the GCF Task Force to strengthen the Brazilian position. Lana added that she will bring back to Amapá the proposal to have an agreement at Guiana Shield level. Khadija Musa, UNDP, advised that although the idea is good it is not going

anywhere unless there are negotiators with the state. Dianne Balraj, CI, suggested that a policy meeting can be organized to discuss the issue in detail and reach agreement. Patrick Chesney, GSF, endorsed the idea and reminded that there is already a lot of accumulated data that can be used to support the process. Martin Perrier, ONFI, ended saying that the idea of this discussion was to start the engagement with the political level on the issue. IT is encouraging that there was no marked opposition by the participants on this, so the discussion will continue within the frame of the project, including on Session 5 of this event when presenting the regional tools.

Session 2 – Technical Working Groups

The second session focused on Technical Working Groups, which is one of the four activity channels central to the REDD+ for the Guiana Shield project. Sérgio Milheiras, ONFI, presented that the Technical Working Groups intend to serve as a platform for regional technical exchange on forest cover monitoring, carbon stocks assessment and drivers of deforestation in the Guiana Shield. Working Group meetings are meant to build the capacity of targeted countries through sharing of good practices and lessons learnt, as well as through the interventions of invited external experts. Working Group participants are expected to identify needs in the region in terms of capacity building and technology transfer, including in the perspective of developing joint efforts on REDD+ and Land-Use Planning through the creation of regional tools. The targeted participants and audience are technical experts and managers from the project partner institutions.

Three WG meetings have been organized so far:

WG1: Georgetown, 5-6 December 2013: *REDD+ MRV implementation and drivers of deforestation.*

WG2: Paramaribo, 27-28 February 2014: *Mapping for REDD+: tools and classification methods for forest cover monitoring.*

WG3: Cayenne, 28-29 April 2014: *Design of a multipurpose National Forest Inventory.*

The first WG meeting was presented in the SC meeting in December since it took place right before. All presentations and the report of this meeting are available on the following link: <http://reddguianashield.com/working-groups/working-group-1/>

WG2 composed two days of work that were divided into four sessions, each focusing on a specific sub-topic: 1) Use of optical imagery for MRV, 2) Use of radar imagery for MRV, 3) Defining classes of land use, 4) Dealing with shifting cultivation in forest monitoring. Four experts were invited to contribute to the discussions. Two came from ONFI's headquarters in Paris, namely Geomatic unit manager Anne-Cécile Capel and Forestry and geomatic expert Anoumou Kemavo. The other two were Anwar Helstone and Maureen Playfair from CELOS in Suriname. The Working Group meeting had 28 participants. All presentations and the WG2 report can be downloaded at <http://reddguianashield.com/working-groups/working-group-2/>.

WG3 also took place during two days that were divided into four sessions on the following sub-topics: 1) Introduction to National Forest Inventory (NFI) and its implementation in the Guiana Shield, 2) Designing a NFI for REDD+ purposes, 3) Use of NFI for carbon stocks assessment purposes (including discussion on the selection of allometric equations, emission factor) in the Guiana Shield, 4) Linking results from the national forest inventory with MRV reporting and GHG inventories. Two external experts invited to contribute to the discussions were Matieu Henry from FAO/UN-REDD as well as Etienne Mathias from CITEPA (Interprofessional Technical Centre for Studies on Air Pollution) in France. This time the meeting had 17 participants. All presentations and the WG report can be downloaded at <http://reddguianashield.com/working-groups/working-group-3/>.

Since the last SC meeting in December 2013, Terms of Reference for the Technical Working Groups have been developed and shared, based on feedback from SC members. A list of priority topics for forthcoming meetings has also been shared with participants based on input from SC and WG members. WG meetings have been useful for strengthening a network of experts in the region since a large share of the participants have attended more than one WG meeting. Discussions have been held on possible formats and participation in forthcoming regional

collaboration opportunities. The WG meetings have identified capacity building needs in the region that will feed the Training and Technology Transfer plan so that future project activities can be designed for optimal benefit. In terms of concrete outputs of the Technical Working Groups so far, a detailed report per meeting documents the discussions and exchanges. Presentations from experts are publicly available at the projects website, as well as documents that participants want to share with others. Three step-by-step protocols were developed and made available to the forestry services as a result of WG2: 1) Unsupervised classification with OTB in the QGIS interface, 2) Supervised classification with OTB in the QGIS interface, 3) Basic processing of PALSAR images.

▪ **Predicted calendar**

Project Manager Marie Calmel, ONFI, provided the future perspective for Technical Working Groups by explaining that six WG meetings were originally budgeted to take place within the project. It was planned that all those meetings would take place before the end of 2014, so that other channels of the project scheduled for later (such as Training and Technology Transfer) could be informed by the WG meetings. The calendar below shows when the first three meetings took place, and provides an indicative schedule for the three remaining:

		Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14
WGM1	<i>Georgetown</i>													
WGM2	<i>Paramaribo</i>													
WGM3	<i>Cayenne</i>													
WGM4	<i>Macapa</i>													
WGM5	?													
WGM6	?													

As agreed in WG3, the 4th WG meeting will take place in Macapá, Amapá in July or August 2014. Two alternative topics for the meeting have been suggested, namely "Slash and burn agriculture and forest degradation" or "Drivers of deforestation". The two alternatives were presented to SC members and they were asked to select the preferred theme.

A WG meeting on slash and burn agriculture could discuss methodologies to assess carbon fluxes in selective cutting concessions, monitoring options for forest degradation, definition of slash and burn agriculture as forest or non forest, carbon stocks and losses and how to discriminate it through remote sensing, as well as opportunities for carbon stock enhancement in such areas. A tropical agronomist and a specialist of carbon stock assessment could be invited as speakers.

Alternatively, a WG meeting on drivers of deforestation could improve the skills for quantifying the impacts of drivers of deforestation in the Guiana Shield and assess the current situation, needs and challenges. It could discuss how to assess and monitor drivers of deforestation in the REDD+ context, how to anticipate drivers of deforestation/degradation evolution, and how this anticipation can feed a RL/REL. Insights could be gained on how knowledge and understanding of drivers of deforestation could be used to improve land-use planning, and examples of activities to address drivers of deforestation could be presented. Relevant expert speakers to invite could be an environmental economist and specialist of REL/RL and a land-use planning expert. SC members expressed interest in both these topics. After a discussion, the SC meeting decided that WG4 will focus on drivers of deforestation.

- **Budget situation**

In terms of budget, the Project Manager explained that even though 50% of the anticipated meetings (3 of 6) have taken place already, only 20% of the budget has been used. For several reasons the meetings had been less expensive than expected to organize. About 50 000€ have been saved compared to the scheduled budget.

		TOTAL available budget for 6 WGM	Spent budget for 3 WGM		Remaining budget
2.a	Supporting expertise	36 120	6 840	19%	29 280
2.b	Logistics for WGM	194 952	40 194	21%	154 758
		231 072	47 034	20%	184 038

The SC members were asked to make a decision on the allocation of the saved resources. The following alternatives were suggested by the Project Team as possible options:

- 1) Organize longer or other types of working group meetings, e.g. including field work – NB: to be put in perspective with the Training and Technology Transfer plan.
- 2) Organize two additional WG meetings, in total eight meetings.
- 3) Organize discussion meetings - not necessarily in the WG format, but start discussing beyond the initial purpose of WG meetings.
- 4) Develop additional tools to support the technical discussions - such as production of studies and/or regional data.

A discussion took place in which SC members expressed some ideas and suggestions in respond to this. One participant proposed that budget could be used for producing outreach and education materials for local communities, and/or to disseminate the scientific information gathered through the project to the general public in the Guiana Shield countries. The project manager responded by suggesting an additional WG meeting to share experiences on successful methodologies for multi-stakeholder engagement and public participation in REDD+. Another participant indicated that it might be recommendable to organize longer meetings rather than additional meetings, since it takes a lot of work for the Project Team to organize the logistics of bringing everybody to the same location. No decision was made in this session regarding the budget allocation, since SC members preferred to have a better overview of the full project budget and other suggested activities (notably the TTT component) before making that decision.

Closing of Day 1

Day 1 of the 3rd SC meeting ended with closing remarks to summarize and wrap up the day, followed by a press conference to give an opportunity to journalists in French Guiana to ask questions about the REDD+ for the Guiana Shield project. Nicolas Karr of ONF started off by presenting the project and the floor was then open for remarks from a panel of donors, project owners and partners. The press conference was held in French without translation. A joint dinner was organized in Restaurant Paris-Cayenne, during which Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed to formalize collaboration with the with the forestry service of Suriname (MoU between ONFI-ONF-SBB) as well as with the Guiana Shield Facility (MoU between ONFI-ONF-GSF) through the REDD+ for the Guiana Shield project.

June 3rd, 2014

Session 3 – «À la Carte» National Support

The session started with an introduction by Sara Svensson, ONFI, that framed the "à la carte" national support within the project context and activities. The project has 3 components that are being implemented through different channels, one of them is the "à la carte" national support. This channel was created to provide opportunities for implementation of the project at national, instead of regional, level while maintaining the same goals. It was considered necessary to accommodate specific needs of each country, to contribute to better integration at regional level. The "à la carte" national support will be delivered in the form of technical expert support (if possible with experts from ONFI which have diverse expertise) and counts with a total budget of €70 000. Focal points are expected to contribute, facilitate and actively participate in the "à la carte" support. For receiving à la carte support, partners had to follow 5 steps: (1) provide a wish-list based on their needs; (2) validation of «à la carte» activities by the project team; (3) develop Terms of Reference in collaboration with ONFI; (4) implementation of technical support; (5) sharing of outputs valuable to the regional level.

Next Rene Somopawiro from SBB provided details of how the "à la carte" support was implemented in Suriname until now.

- The SC has seen each country is different and that in order to participate well in this project the SC had to look beyond regional and incorporate national aspects as well. SBB identified 3 actions that could be supported through the "à la carte" channel: the R-PP, the National Plan to Monitor Forest Cover, the National Forest Inventory pilot project.
- Subsequently 3 activities were identified to be provided by ONFI experts: support accuracy assessment of maps with participatory development of QA/QC protocol; QGIS training; and production of comparative table of satellite imagery. There was an international mission in March 2014 from an expert from ONFI and technical discussions with other ONFI experts to reach those results. 12.5 consultant man-days were spent so far.
- For the QGIS training, done in March 2014, the trainer was Aimé Kemavo from ONFI (Paris) and Nicolas Degarne from ONF-Guyane also participated and provided support. The participants were from SBB and 2 GIS analysts from CELOS NARENA. The advantage of QGIS is that it is open-source software and has many different tools available. As a result, SBB is now using QGIS much more than before and progressively learning more about it.
- For the QA/QC protocol, the objective was to support the validation of the basemap 2000 and deforestation map 2000-2009. The participants of the activity were SBB and CELOS NARENA. The protocol was developed in March 2014, its refined for implementation by SBB and once that is done ONFI will validate it. The final results are to be published by the end of 2014. It is important to highlight that SBB wanted to be taught how to create a protocol rather than have one made for us and this is what happened.
- The objective of the comparative table of satellite imagery was to study alternatives to the current methodology SBB's Forest Cover Monitoring Unit is using. Anne-Cécile Capel from ONFI supported the development of that table including information about sensors, resolution, number of bands, cost, etc. That information was shared with the project partners during WG2 in Paramaribo.
- With the 7.5 man-days still available, SBB is considering in collaboration with ONFI to use that time in one of the following activities: to check the QA/QC quality after local protocol implementation; to keep supporting the design and preparation for REDD+ MRV; to support forest cover monitoring and carbon stocks assessment.
- In addition to the «à la carte" support, Suriname has received support from ONFI in the formulation of the National Plan for Forest Cover Monitoring, done through a parallel contract in the context of a different project, ACTO's "Monitoring of forest cover in the Amazon region".

Following that presentation, an update was given on the progress of the "à la carte" national support in each of the other partner countries/states:

- The first update was on Amapá. The main objective set in collaboration between SEMA, IEF and ONFI was to focus on the reinforcement of the capacities of local geoprocessing technicians on assessing and monitoring deforestation and degradation through remote sensing analysis. The capacity building work will focus on 3 topics: QA/QC of a LULC map for Amapá; improved field-based identification of different LULC changes; detection and monitoring of forest degradation. Local consultants will be contracted due to the requirement to speak Portuguese fluently. Proposals to the launched ToR are currently under review and implementation is expected to start by July. The expected outputs consist of capacity sessions and locally adapted protocols/field manuals for: office-based QA/QC methods; field-based QA/QC methods; identification of land-use and land-cover changes in the field. These can be shared at regional level, if appropriate. Claudia Funi, SEMA, added that this work will improve the monitoring capacities in Amapá, provide better results to have a more efficient policy against deforestation.
- For Guyana, activities have not started yet but the ToR was already developed by GFC and is under review by ONFI. It is directed towards the development of the Forest Carbon Monitoring component of Guyana's Monitoring Reporting & Verification System for REDD+ by providing expertise to support GFC establishing Emission Factors for degradation, specific to degradation around mining sites. The consultant would be expected to conduct field work and write a final report on emissions factor. Mining is the biggest driver in Guyana so to reinforce the monitoring of degradation around mining sites is very relevant. Plus the emission factor can be useful at regional level. For the moment reforestation is not being included, but analysis of regeneration of mining sites is being considered.
- The French Guiana is in the particular situation of not being eligible to the REDD+ mechanism, despite having an environmental and socio-economical context close to an non-annex 1 country. Therefore, the objective of the "à la carte" support is to analyze through a comparative study the options for the development of an adapted REDD+ type mechanism for the specific context of French Guiana and what would be the potential impacts for French reporting to the UNFCCC, specifically for Kyoto Protocol LULUCF. The ToRs were prepared and will be discussed with Région Guyane for final validation. The comparative study should be completed by mid-October 2014.

Before the end of the session, Marie Calmel, ONFI, indicated the current budget situation and the predicted calendar for this activity within the project. The activity is being implemented and can create synergies with other activities. 21% of the budget has been used and 16.5 man-days, mainly for Suriname, which also had an international mission. The rest of funds expected to be spent before end of 2014. Amapá predicts to start implementation phase in July; while French Guiana in the end of August or early September. The outputs of this activity will be on the project website, which might be in the country's language. Translation is possible when requested by the partners.

■ **Budget situation**

		TOTAL available budget for 6 WGM	Spent budget for 3 WGM		Remaining budget
1.a	Supporting expertise	64 000	13 200	21%	50 800
1.b	International missions	10 704	1 554	15%	9 150
		74 704	14 754	20%	59 950

- **Predicted calendar**

Activités	2014											
	janv-14	févr-14	mars-14	avr-14	mai-14	juin-14	juil-14	août-14	sept-14	oct-14	nov-14	déc-14
Composante 1 - Appui à la carte aux pays												
Appui à la carte au Suriname												
Appui à la carte à l'état de l'Amapa												
Appui à la carte au Guyana												
Appui à la carte à la Guyane française												

Session 4 – Training and Technology Transfer

Sérgio Milheiras, ONFI, introduced the session dedicated to the Training and Technology Transfer opportunities within the project framework.

- The dedicated budget for this activity is € 216 000 for Training and € 180 000 for Technology Transfer. Its objective is to provide a defined space within the project for developing countries' technical capacities on the project 3 components, including the promotion of technology transfer and the reinforcement of the regional dialogue.
- At the last Steering Committee, SC members decided that the TTT plan would be developed in a phased 6-month approach based on partners' feedback and the consolidated TTT plan was to be presented in the SC3 meeting. In order to achieve that TTT plan, information was collected from different sources, mainly through the "à la carte" activities, Working Group meetings, missions to the countries/states and discussion with the partners, and information gathered by the focal points.
- The 6-month TTT plan presented here is open to discussion and to the accommodation of other proposals from the SC members. These inputs can also be sent to the project team throughout the implementation of the plan. They will be analyzed by the project manager, subjected to SC member validation, and, if feasible, integrated in the activities. An update will be provided during the next SC meeting.
- Therefore, the suggested 6-month TTT plan was developed based on feedback about the topics that should be covered and the appropriate format to follow. On the topics, the main suggestions were training on RADAR, on cloud filling methodologies, LULC classification system diversity; and regional cooperation on tree species identification, on allometric equations, on emission factors. On the format to adopt, the focus was on training sessions, regional collaboration, scholarships, and technology transfer.

The presentation continued with Marie Calmel, ONFI, with further details on the proposed 6-month TTT plan. The implementation of different activities should be as much as possible at regional level, to reach the same level in each country/state/region. Processing data at regional level is challenging, for example due to language issues, but very relevant. The project should try to gather and manipulate as much data as possible while each country is working in their own territories, in order to get an overview on Guiana Shield. During the presentation SC members were also asked to intervene and share their thoughts on each of the activities proposed.

- **Proposed activities for Training Sessions:**
 - Training session on RADAR imagery (data collection, data interpretation, tools and applications)
 - Regional training session on tree species identification (including preparation of a field manual and field work)

Marie Calmel, ONFI, indicated that the common need for a training session on RADAR was identified and requested by the participants of WG2 in Suriname. It is important to consider different opportunities based on cost, time, etc, and the interest on specific types of technology that may be a priority for the training in order to integrate it into current processes and complement the optical work already being done. To start with RADAR training a clear calendar and definition of what the training will focus on is required. There are opportunities to consider, for example, 60m SRTM is available in most countries except French Guiana that has a special agreement for 30m SRTM. We can analyze what is behind these agreements.

Karlon Warde, GFC, informed that Guyana has not used radar yet, but there are plans to use it from next year as start to implement the MRVS. The creation of a set of indicators to measure technology transfer within the project could be interesting.

For Amapá, Claudia Funi, SEMA, confirmed that RADAR imagery is really necessary, due to the recurrence of high cloud cover in the optical images. The most recent optical images the state had access to only covered 20% of the area without cloud cover. The state has contracted the acquisition of RADAR images this year to provide a base line of monitoring. Additional resources would be appreciated, including training to interpret the images. Maybe a option to also consider is the use of a drone because it can fly lower at cheaper costs and can be used to improve the images. LiDAR is very good product but very expensive, it would have cost 250 million Reais in the state, while the option selected cost only 25 million Reais. During the process, SEMA considered and contacted different companies that do RADAR and some had interest in also doing capacitation.

Rene Somopawiro, SBB, added that during the last WG meeting it was discussed the importance of using RADAR imagery and we have to keep it as a priority, specially training on the topic. SBB only has one RADAR specialist, that capacity should be increased. NASA have provided some images to SBB. One thing that we learnt from the WG2 is that there are many opportunities to create synergies.

For the tree species identification, Marie Calmel, ONFI, emphasized that different aspects can be approached to improve the botanical expertise to identify species on the ground. One issue is making the correct association between local and scientific names of trees. An option would be to have a group of 12 to 15 people from the region working together on this aspect building on existing field protocols, with help from experts, to ensure that field protocols are improved and available for everyone. Important to capitalize on what is already existing in the different countries. Field work could be included. ONF Guyane has worked on this and can be involved as well.

SBB considered the identification of tree species an important topic to their work. After the training is done the knowledge will continue to be passed on to reach more people. GFC indicated that within their MRVS 300 species of trees were identified with density volumes. The identification experts work with 2 field teams and are very experienced, one of them is soon to retire. New expertise needs to be developed, in collaboration with the forestry sector, GFC is trying to build capacity locally. There are existing manuals (e.g. a WWF manual) that can be adapted. ONF-Guyane clarified that they created a database to link between the scientific and the local names, which is being published. All prospectors to this work were from local communities.

■ **Proposed activities for Regional Support:**

- Regional support to create a database of available allometric equations and propose a program to develop new ones
- Regional support to develop a common classification system for the region, based on best practices

On the allometric equations database, Marie Calmel, ONFI, explained that currently in the region either more general (e.g. Chave et al., 2005) or more specific equations (e.g. those developed for Amapá) are used. All countries face the same process so the idea is that, instead of every partner working independently, to do it together accompanied with a expert. Both a database on allometric equations and also a decision tree or protocol to select the appropriate allometric equation to be developed at a regional level involving all the partners. While for the classification systems, the topic is taking advantage of the problem countries are facing nationally. Different

classification systems and products are being used in the region, which are hard to compare between each other. Therefore, the region would benefit from a process to look at different systems and create common ground between them, with the involvement of all the different forestry services.

From Karlon Warde, GFC, perspective developing allometric equations is very important. GFC was hoping to further its allometric equation in early 2014, as for now Chave et al. 2005 and Botani 2006 are being used for above ground biomass. Destructive sampling of 7 trees was performed recently (with more 6 predicted for this year and 4 for the next one) and for the remainder of year work will be centered on further developing an allometric equation. Capacity was built in destructive sampling, with a team that came last year from a university in the Netherlands. GFC was looking at using a new method of measuring tree biomass that uses the core rather than the whole tree, which is faster but the level of accuracy not as high. This is done by GFC in collaboration with Winrock.

Lana Oliveira, IEF, mentioned that Amapá is working with allometric equations since 2010, with different equations for AGB, BGB, and total biomass. IEF can give support to the other countries if needed because it is something already being done. There was an organization that helped IEF with this work and they can also be involved, IEF is at the disposition to help. IEF is in agreement with this thematic within the TTT plan. The ideal would be to have an allometric equation at regional level. Today the quantification in Amapá is different to the carbon stocks in other regions of the Amazon, with Amapá's being higher, which is being confirmed by the data.

Rene Somopawiro, SBB, also validated the activity reminding that the proposal came from them. SBB uses Brown et al. 1997 and Chave et al. 2005 as its carbon assessment equation for biomass and wants to confirm if its applicable for Suriname. We can make adjustments and modifications on the equation. So far it seems very accurate. No destructive sampling yet.

Martin Perrier, ONFI, said this topic was a good illustration of what this project can allow. Most countries working with the Chave and Brown equations, it is a common issue and the network associated with the project can help bring together all these experiences to increase accuracy. Allometric equation is a fundamental question at the MRV level. ONFI is conducting a project to develop 6 new allometric equations in the Congo basin in collaboration with a Belgium university. What is already happening in other locations is a valuable experience and can be addressed in a program of work.

When asked if the partner countries have universities have people working on allometric equations, GFC clarified that there was a 2008 study but most of the work done for AGB was with Winrock international based on the fact that many field work was done under their training and advice. GFC has identified that the academic schedule does not allow forest students to participate in research. When implementing aspects of MRVS, there is will be an effort to adapt the syllabus to be more interactive and give credits from doing that kind of research. In Suriname the research centre CELOS has done studies on allometric equations in the last 10 years. As for Amapá, local universities have not worked on it, but EMBRAPA and INPA have. Plus, the State of Amazonas already has an historical with this work, including the university, an expertise that IEF benefited from.

■ **Proposed activities for Scholarships:**

- To open and provide scholarship to support 3 students (one per country) participation to the Master 2 (1 year program) on Ecology of Tropical Forests (EcoFoG - AgroParisTech, Université des Antilles et de la Guyane, plus others)
- To financially support the participation of 3 forestry services civil servants to the 1-month Tropical Humid Forest course in French Guiana (provided by EcoFoG – Ecologie des Forêts de Guyane, Unité Mixte de Recherche)

The third format for TTT is the scholarships, a need that was raised repeatedly at different occasions, mentioned Marie Calmel, ONFI. It also responds to the project objective to encourage academic cooperation in region. For now opportunities in French Guiana are indicated, although there are certainly others as well. This suggested opportunity would provide scholarships to 3 students (one per country) to participate in a 1-year Masters degree in French Guiana, with 6 months for courses and the rest for an internship at a forestry service. The scholarship

consists of 700 euro per month to cover living costs, flight tickets and university application fees. Language barrier is important to take into consideration. An alternative option is for forestry services to send staff to do a 1-month course to review tropical forestry management. It would allow 3 civil servants from the partners to meet foresters from different countries.

Caroline Abt, FFEM, informed that in the first outline of the project it was planned to support scientific collaboration between the different partner countries. FFEM and the project has been considering to provide Masters opportunities. FFEM would like feedback from other countries about possibilities to make a link with French Guiana universities to make it more balanced.

Rene Somopawiro, SBB, pointed that feedback from the Surinamese university is needed first. There is a Masters course in natural resource management. It might be possible to support some students on this. Haidy Lepelblad, NIMOS, added that for Suriname the language barrier will be very strong because no one speaks French and it should be taken into account that cost of living in French Guiana is high.

For Amapá, Claudia Funi, SEMA, mentioned that it is an interesting possibility, there are also universities in the state and the dialogue would need to be initiated.

Karlon Warde, GFC, said that improving capacity to implement the MRVS is included in the R-PP. GFC will discuss what it can do to help with this scholarship opportunity. Maybe a previous training in introductory French course would be beneficial for the students. Language barrier is something we all know we have to deal with in the region, but it should not prevent these opportunities from happening. And it is good to avoid only participants from each country to their own universities to encourage different types of exchanges.

- For **Technology Transfer**, discussions are on-going to provide satellite SPOT Images through the project, although not possible to confirm it yet so expectations should be refrained. Options will be presented to SC members as soon as possible. In the meanwhile, for the next 6 months the transfer of technology budget will be used in case it will be needed to achieve the aforementioned training activities, with as much flexibility as possible.

Before the end of the session, Marie Calmel, ONFI, indicated the current budget situation and the predicted calendar for this activity within the project. Based on the SC meeting feedback the TTT 6-month plan will be reviewed and sent to SC members for validation.

▪ **Budget situation**

Activity 3		Available budget	Estimated budget (6 months plan)	To be spent Semester 2 2014		Remaining budget
3.a	Supporting expertise	8 000	3 200	3 200	40%	8 000
3.b	Technology transfer	180 000	15 000	15 000	8%	180 000
3.c	Training	216 000	174 000	109 000	50%	107 000
	<i>RADAR</i>		60 000	15 000		
	<i>Tree species identification</i>		30 000	30 000		
	<i>Allometric equation</i>		25 000	25 000		
	<i>Classification systems</i>		25 000	25 000		
	<i>Scholarship</i>		30 000	10 000		
	<i>FTH Module</i>		4 000	4 000		
TOTAL		404 000	192 200	127 200	31%	295 000

▪ **Predicted calendar**

	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	
Training session on RADAR																					
Training session on tree species identification																					
Regional support on allometric equations																					
Regional support on classification system using LCCS																					
Scholarship option for a 1 year Master degree in Kourou																					
Support for 3 forest services staff to participate to FTH Module																					

Session 5 – Regional Dialogue on REDD+

Marie Calmel, ONFI, introduced session 5, focused on regional tools and dialogue, which are supported by the Guiana Shield regional REDD+ collaboration platform. These tools include the regional studies, GIS database, deforestation models, discussion forum, online library, website, and data sharing policy, as seen in the figure below.

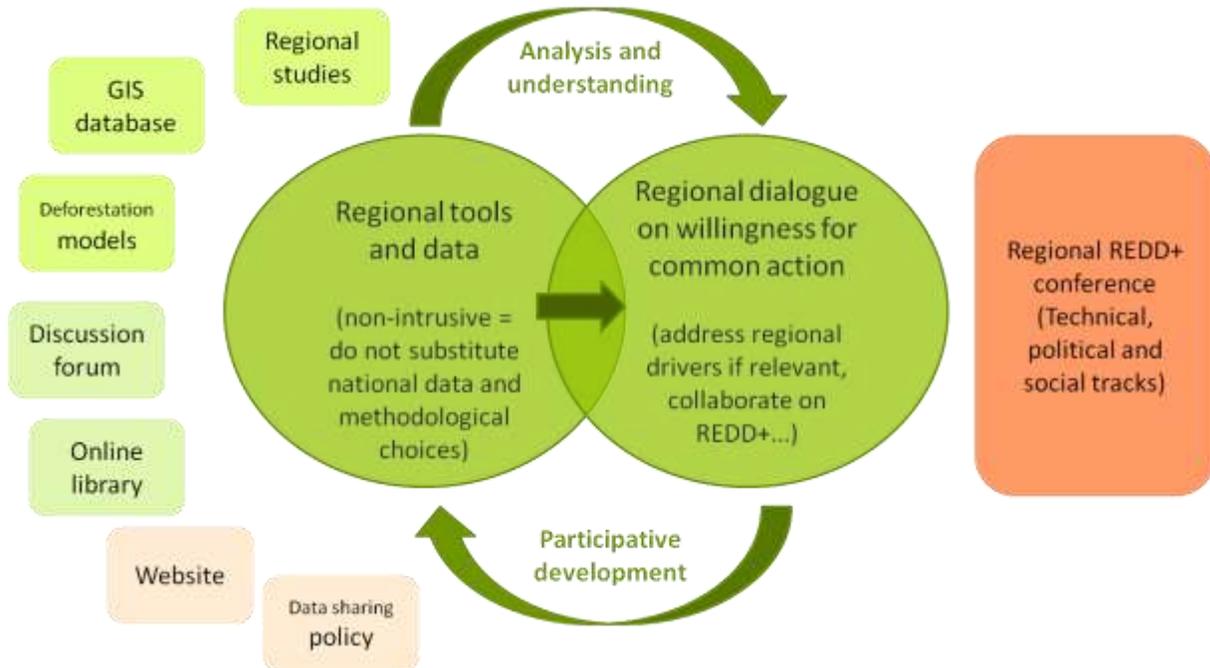


Fig. 1 - The regional tools supported within the frame of the Guiana Shield regional REDD+ collaboration platform.

- **Development of future deforestation models to feed regional dialogue**

On the development of future deforestation models to feed regional dialogue Marie gave more details mentioning that it will be achieved through the hosting of 1-2 PhD students with participative research processes (see figure below). The initial context of the PhD predicted within the project was to develop a model at the Guiana Shield scale, which would reinforce capacities on future modelling, support the decision making process, encourage discussions on transnational deforestation and degradation threats, and encourage academic cooperation. Between SC1 and SC2 the project team saw that there was another PhD starting in French Guiana with similar objectives, based on that a discussion was initiated on how to integrate that PhD in the project. The ToRs were shared with SC members in January 2014 and the working approach adapted to answer countries concerns (importance of participatory process and appropriateness, capacity building, access to results).

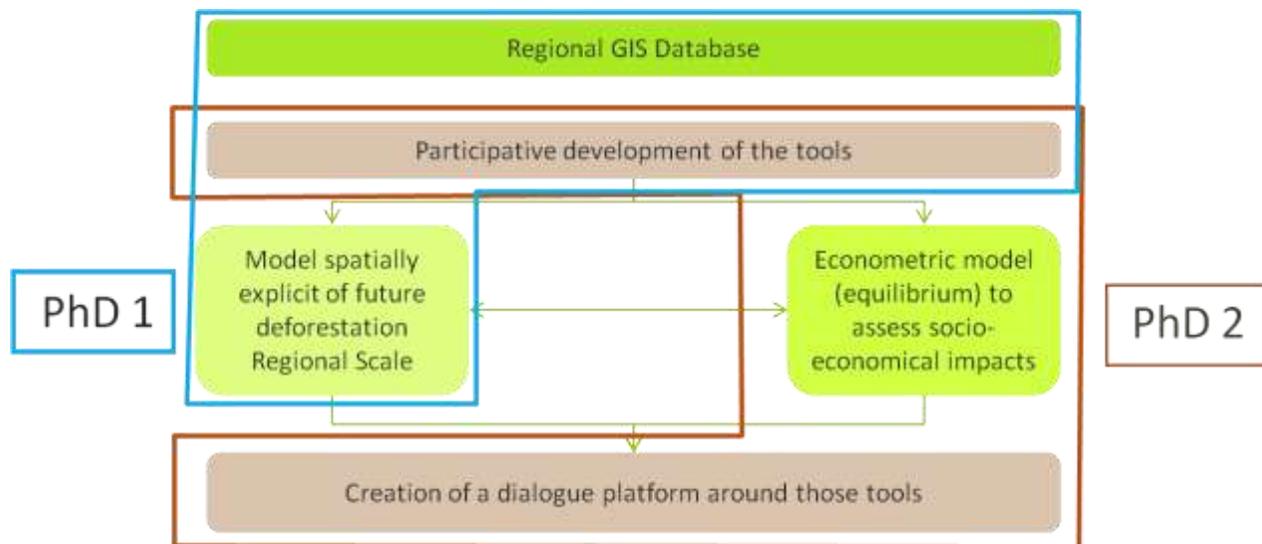


Fig.2 – Main elements of the two PhD studies initially included within the frame of the project.

Next, Camille Dezechache, PhD student at CIRAD, presented his current work:

- His studies started in October 2013 and will go until October 2016. His supervisors are Bruno Héroult (CIRAD) and Jean-Michel Salles (CNRS). The PhD already was predicted before the project, afterwards ONF and ONFI provided additional funding.
- It aims to model future deforestation and forest degradation in the Guiana Shield in function of different political and socio-economic scenarios, which will allow to produce better understanding of the drivers of deforestation, model future deforestation, and consider different socio-economic scenarios.
- The outputs of the PhD for the project go beyond the original objectives of the thesis, through a spatio-temporal deforestation model and deforestation maps publicly available; linking people from different countries and institution during the investigation process; capacity building concerning modeling and statistical tools like R.
- The deforestation data used is from Hansen et al 2014 because it gives a good spatial resolution, although quality of data still not assessed. R software will be used, which is free and open source, but requires programming knowledge. The first step was to use data from French Guiana to test the methodological choices but the work will be extended to the other partner countries. The process is at a phase where it needs to regionalize because otherwise there is the risk that it does not apply to other countries. The objective is to work at regional level.
- To feed this work, it requires local expertise on deforestation maps, drivers, and future trends, and local data. Regarding the next steps, it is first important to validate the model structure with data from countries besides French Guiana (including roads, rivers, protected areas, soil maps) and then to visit each country to discuss the results and work with local experts. Cooperation is necessary to guarantee the correct interpretation of drivers of deforestation as well as for an effective capacity building in each country.

After that there was discussion on this topic between the SC members:

- Caroline Abt, FFEM, asked how will the meetings done with each country be connected and integrated in the project's work, to which Marie Calmel, ONFI, replied that there is a willingness for this to be useful as possible to the project, to use data from the forest services and support them at the same time. Another phase arriving is the collection of data for the database. The work should address the needs of the forest services in order to address them, with a series of trips to the counties and support from the focal points.
- Claudia Funi, SEMA, stated that models are important to orientate public policies and asked if there will be any capacity building for data provision or is secondary data used. On the choice of parameters, SEMA did

a less elaborated study with secondary data. There was a training session for that from the University of Brasilia, to see what variables are more connected with deforestation. Now SEMA is going to tune the weight of each variable. The process is at its beginning, where SEMA advanced was in the selection of variables and collection of secondary data.

- Rene Somopawiro, SBB, emphasized that SBB started with a small group experimenting on modelling. And there is a PhD student in Paramaribo doing modelling at small scale. This work within the project needs to take into account that they are at the initial levels of development on this, so reinforcement of capacities is required.
- Karlon Warde, GFC, mentioned a study from the University of Maryland and asked if this study will use the same medium resolution or higher, to which Camille responded that the objective is not to produce new data, available data will be used, plus due to the scale of Guiana Shield manipulating the data at the high resolution is not practical. To produce new data would be too expensive and take too much time.

Marie Calmel, ONFI, explained that beyond Camille's PhD on modelling of future deforestation, the initial PhD with budget mainly by CIFRE remains available. It is relevant to consider if that should be maintained in the project and what are the alternatives. It would complement the work done by Camille and contribute to the achievement of the initial objectives, however the results will not be available in the project timeframe. Without this PhD the CIFRE funding will be lost (€70k), but the remaining budget will still be available (€42k). This budget could be used to mobilize expertise from an environmental economist in order to build upon ongoing work, which could: highlight the specificities of HFLD countries for modeling future deforestation changes; perform macro-level economical analysis and study the linkages/leakages effects; build capacity.

FFEM confirmed that the date of funding can be prolonged if that is important for SC members. The cooperation triggered by the process of implementing the PhD can be as relevant as the results. SEMA stated that for this regional predictive model it would be interesting if there was capacity building on how to adapt it. To do the model for all countries the variables need to be common, but it would be important if there is freedom to manipulate the model and add other variables. ONF-G reminded that if a second PhD is to be included, the project needs to start now, even if FFEM can give more time. The choice is not between doing a 2nd PhD or using those resources to add more detail to the model. SBB indicated that based on the results of this first PhD it would be easier to decide, the project should focus on the outcome of the 1st PhD and on capacity building. Marie Calmel summed up saying that there is not a final decision for now, but the issue will remain relevant in a few months. For now the project will insist on the capacity building and Camille will continue his work.

- **Regional studies**

Sabá Loftus, ONFI, continued the meeting by introducing the next topic on the agenda, the regional studies:

- The project budget includes 81 000 Euro for preparing regional studies, most of it still to spend. Two regional studies have been started: a comparative study of MRV situation in the Guiana Shield countries; and a comparative study of tools to model future deforestation. An additional study will be prepared based on data that will be collected for the GIS database on drivers of deforestation.
- In terms of results until now, the project is developing a "Synopsis Report on Methodologies and Approaches of conducted MRV for REDD+ in Project Countries". This regional synopsis guide aims to provide a quick overview of the methodological aspects of each country, which can be used as resource for forestry services. Since data is constantly changing, the idea is to create a dynamic document with evolving categories, updatable and visible as a resource to anyone who is interested.
- This dynamic document responds to a demand from the partners of a synopsis table with consolidated information because it is sometimes difficult to understand what the other countries are doing. It can be accessed at the project's website, where specific users from the forestry services and the focal points will have an edit option and therefore can input updated data directly through google docs. Those changes become immediately visible on the website. Partners should inform the project in case of data not to be shared. It can be accessed at <http://reddguianashield.com/studies/>

Participants then contributed to the discussion on this tool:

- Marie Calmel, ONFI, mentioned that the budget already allocated is to analyse the data in the table and shared that WWF proposed to update their mining and monitoring report if SC members consider it relevant. On the priorities for the remaining budget it was suggested the digitization of data at regional scale at different dates or to study the impact of main drivers of deforestation/degradation, but it is open to other options.
- On the collaboration with WWF, Rene Somopawiro, SBB, asked if the project partners would be able to do it on their own. Marie replied that the idea only started being discussed now, but potentially the tools and channels of the project could be benefited by combining the results and have a discussion at the regional level. The project team will analyze this option and then consult the SC members. Sofie Ruysschaert, WWF Guianas, also clarified that the goal would be to work at regional level, not everyone with their own methodology. And it could involve capacity building to make it an annual output.
- Continuing on the collaboration with WWF, Claudia Funi, SEMA, asked if the information on mining that WWF can generate from satellite images that are freely available or if it has aggregated information. Nicolas Karr, ONF-G, pointed that maps shown by Sofie Ruysschaert the day before had SPOT images from 2008 and were analyzed by ONF-G. There is the possibility to have SPOT images for the Guiana Shield, but it is complicated, only Region Guyane has the power to decide on this. The regional map would be an useful tool.

- **Regional GIS database**

Next the agenda moved on to the presentation, by Sérgio Milheiras, ONFI, on the regional GIS database of drivers of deforestation and degradation in the Guiana Shield.

- The objectives of this tool are to improve understanding of the spatial distribution and impact of the drivers of deforestation/degradation at the regional level; improve understanding of the availability of data; and feed a spatially explicit model of future deforestation.
- The PhD project of Camille Dézecache will contribute to the establishment of the database. The desired data correspond to all the variables that might explain deforestation and that could be correlated with historical maps of deforestation. To the extent possible, this data should be available for each time point a map of deforestation exists.
- The database will be developed in QGIS. ONF Guyane will propose a structure for the database that must be validated by the project team. While the data will be collected under the supervision of PhD student Camille Dézecache. ONF-Guyane will also be in charge of managing the database and ensuring its operation, adding and processing of data. ONFI will create an online portal to host it. During the data collection, special attention will be given to the policy of sharing information.

After the presentation Marie Calmel, ONFI, invited SC members to provide feedback on the ToR that were developed for the regional GIS database, as improvements can be integrated if required. Marie also mentioned that in GSF presentation the day before there was a project of monitoring forest and one idea was to provide regional GIS data, therefore it is important to seek synergies and avoid gathering data that is already available. On that, Patrick Chesney, GSF, replied that the database being considered would have a larger regional reach, but there are opportunities for cooperation.

- Predicted calendar for the regional GIS database activity

	En charge	mai-14	juin-14	juil-14	août-14	sept-14	oct-14	nov-14	déc-14	janv-15	févr-15	mars-15	avr-15	mai-15	juin-15	juil-15	août-15	sept-15	oct-15	nov-15	déc-15	
Conception de la Base de données	ONFG/ CIRAD/ONFI																					
Collecte de données	CIRAD/ONFI																					
Homogénéisation et administration de la Base de données	ONFG																					
Mise en ligne	ONFI																					

- **Data sharing tools and policy**

Sabá Loftus, ONFI, presented the data sharing tools and policy set within the framework of the project.

- There are two levels of information within the project, confidential and non-confidential. The forestry services decide on what information they would like to share. This was discussed in the previous SC meeting.
- On data sharing tools, the most prominent channel is the website of the project, at reddguianashield.com, which consolidates and centralizes project information. It is a basic website with a low maintenance cost that can continue after the project ends. Since the regional tools will be consolidated onto the project website, should all information be publicly available within the website or should some information be protected by a password? The project can adapt to the requests of the SC members.
- Giving the MRV regional comparison as an example, the overview of all data is available in the website using only publicly accessible information so far. SBB suggested that all information developed in the framework of the project, or that partner organizations would like to share with others, could be gathered in an online resource library. This could include regional information produced by the project or other partners. Discussion forum is an additional tool being considered that would enable technical experts to initiate or continue similar discussions than the one they have during Working Group meetings. The GIS database will be integrated in the website as well. Again, to all these tools, it is relevant to reflect if information produced should be available to all or just for the project partner organizations.
- Regarding the data sharing policy, the drafting process raised some questions for consideration of the SC, namely how to guarantee that data ownership is respected and that confidential data is not shared? What level of publicity do the Steering Committee members want for the data sharing tools? The draft data sharing policy covers: project deliverables, academic aspects, WG, TTT, publications and dissemination. The project team will send the data sharing policy draft so SC members can share feedback on that.

Marie Calmel, ONFI, added that it is difficult to make general decisions on data sharing policy, as it depends on the specific data. Nevertheless it is an issue that needs to be considered and taken into consideration. More than defining what the data should be, the most important is to guarantee that shared data will not be used beyond its intended use and ownership. SC members are invited to visit and use the project's website and at any time contribute to its development.

Dianne Balraj, CI Guiana, inquired if at the end of the project there are intentions to have a meeting broader than only forestry services, reaching out to technicians from other sectors such as mining, etc. Marie Calmel, ONFI, replied that presenting the results to a broader audience is a possibility that can be considered. As for now the project is not in direct contact with additional sectors, only indirectly. Patrick Chesney, GSF, asked if the discussion forum would be open-ended or lead to the development of products, to which Sabá Loftus, ONFI, explained that what has been requested is a tool for regional dialogue rather than concrete outputs, the initial step is to have a network.

- **Budget situation**

Activity 4 - Development of a regional dialogue		434 879
4.a	Supporting expertise	16 000
4.b	Regional studies	81 000
4.c	Deforestation models	169 308
4.d	Regional GIS database	46 068
4.e	Tools for internet platform	32 520
4.f	Regional dialogue meetings	64 983
4.g	Carbone compensation	25 000

Discussion on conception of a white paper as an contribution for international climate negotiations

Although it was not in the meeting's agenda, the project team considered important to add some minutes to discuss the development of a 'white paper' at regional level within the countries/states/regions represented in the project to contribute to the international climate negotiations.

Nicolas Karr, ONF-G, started by saying that if any outcome is to be reached SC members would need to start now. But how to approach this? Should the white paper be started by ONF and then sent to partners or involve partners more directly in the conception of the paper? Plus, since this is also a political issue, which level of decision makers should be included in the discussion? And should the white paper be opened up to additional institutions? It is important to hear the views of SC members on all this. The objective of the white paper would be to show the specificity of forests in the Guiana Shield for COP20/COP21, by achieving a common position on issues that are relevant within the REDD+ framework.

Rene Somopawiro, SBB, mentioned that the weight of each country is becoming smaller and smaller in the context of international negotiations. Having a white paper is important to strengthen the position of countries like Suriname and turn that trend of becoming less important at UNFCCC negotiations. Suriname needs to submit a reference level and it is still discussing what type of information can be used. The SC should think about the white paper, it can start with a small group drafting the text and then circulate it to all members. The paper can show that the region is already actively collaborating to take advantage of opportunities and overcome regional threats and challenges.

Haidy Lepelblad, NIMOS, pondered about the strategy to adopt. It should mention all the specific characteristics of the region and their relevance. The Guiana Shield represents ¼ of the forests in the world, with low levels of deforestation. But maintaining this situation comes with an opportunity cost to the countries. Each country should identify specific needs. The white paper should be used to support our demands for special consideration for the Guiana Shield. Including the network of NGOs with a regional scope in Guiana Shield can also improve the process.

Marie Calmel, ONFI, declared that this discussion would need to be taken to a higher political level for legitimacy. The SC members need to believe that there is something that can be done by working together and that the joint position would be a relevant contribution. All partners share the condition of HFLD. The first step is to make an

analysis on the specificities that need to be appropriated considered by the different countries. This can be done by a small group with people from each country. It is important to move fast on this issue.

From Amapá side, Claudia Funi, SEMA, agreed with previous interventions and said that the important is to define what message the group wants to send to COP, the strengths and weaknesses of the region, then the group can start working on content. ONFI seems in the best place to coordinate that. On a side note, Lana Oliveira, IEF, added that it would be relevant to go beyond strictly technical issues in the project besides for the white paper, a Working Group that focus on socio-economical issues, for example.

Karlon Warde, GFC, declared that seeking to lobby in international negotiations as a region is an interesting proposal that needs to involve OCC, as only they have the competencies to identify areas for collaboration on this.

Nicolas Karr, ONF-G, then highlighted that the first step is for each country to ask their institution to agree with idea of the white paper. In the coming months each forestry service should ask their political decision makers on this. Marie Calmel, ONFI, added that in the meanwhile ONFI will keep track of this discussion, gather technical material to include in the process and will also be in contact with the observers of the SC.

Session 6 – Conclusion Remarks

Before the closure of the meeting, Marie Calmel, ONFI, dedicated some time to give a quick overview of the budget considering the activities in the past 6 months (and past year) as well as future activities suggested in the 2 days of the meeting. By end of 2013 the project had used 19% of the budget and at the moment it is reaching 24% of spent budget. With what is scheduled for the next months, some goals very feasible, others quite ambitious, the budget should reach a level of 52% in the next 6 months. That will be challenging to achieve, so it is important that all SC members are active in interacting with the project team, by suggesting some opportunities to scholarship, etc. Marie added that the project is happy to provide more details about the budget to anyone interested. For donors these numbers are reported with a different format. FFEM stated that the changes are quite relevant in relation to what had been planned previously. It needs to be analyzed in detail and cannot be considered closed. INTERREG declared that it was updated about the budget being presented per activity, so no surprises.

Another update on project management is regarding human resources, with some changes predicted. The project manager is expecting and will be in maternity leave for 4 months, starting end of August until November/December. Measures will be applied to prevent the project from being affected. Martin Perrier added that ONFI is in the process of recruiting a new staff member who will be in charge of Guyana and already in the process of assuring capacity to manage the project during that period. This period does have to be taken into account for studies and support needed.

Regarding the focal points, Marie Calmel remembered that they are all reaching the end of their contracts at end of June. Sara Svensson will be continuing for an additional year, Sérgio Milheiras is leaving in the end of September to start a PhD, and Sabá Loftus is leaving end of June to seize an job opportunity in New York. The project is in the process of hiring a new focal point for Amapá and will arrive as soon as possible to train with Sérgio. As for Guyana, following discussions with GFC it was decided to move the focal point to Cayenne, which will maintain frequent missions to Guyana, the hiring of that person also in process.

Finally, the SC members discussed the location and date of the next SC meeting. The previous were in Paramaribo, Macapá and now Cayenne. GFC stated that it is considering to host the 4th SC meeting and will inform the project team about this soon. The project manager agreed to wait for GFC reply and if not possible other options will be considered.

The last moments of SC3 were to thank all participants for the fruitful discussions during the two days of the meeting.

▪ **Budget overview**

Activities	TOTAL BUDGET	Spent budget			Projected		
		In 2013	January-April 2014	TOTAL	Budget May-December	TOTAL budget consumption at the end of 2014*	Expected consumption end of 2014
Activity 1 - "À la carte" Country Support	74 704	-	14 754	14 754	59 950	74 704	100%
Activity 2 - Technical Working Groups	231 070	4 902	42 132	47 034	115 536	162 570	70%
Activity 3 - Training and Technology Transfer	404 000			-	127 200	127 200	31%
Activity 4 - Development of a regional dialogue	434 879			-	110 362	110 362	25%
Activity 5 - Project Management	1 485 047	485 871	104 391	590 262	340 386	930 648	63%
Activity 6 - Monitoring and evaluation	98 000	16 667		16 667	13 993	30 660	31%
Unforeseen	11 320			-	5 660	5 660	50%
TOTAL	2 739 020	507 440	161 277	668 717	767 427	1 436 144	52%
Budget consumption		19%	6%	24%	28%	52%	
							<i>*including previous years</i>