

Closure of the CI Guiana Shield Avoided Deforestation Program

Project goals & targets

The CI Guiana Shield Avoided Deforestation Program, supported by the German development bank, KfW, has been supporting REDD+ Readiness, and protected areas management across the Guiana Shield since 2010. The overall goal of the project, ending in December 2014, is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and secure natural habitats by preserving pristine tropical forests across the Guianan region. The project, has supported the development of an integrated region-wide vision for the creation and management of a network of conservation areas across the Guianan Region (ranging across Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, and Northeastern Brazil) that conserves standing forests and biodiversity, mitigates climate change, protects intact freshwater systems, and contributes to improving local livelihoods. The project provided key and timely technical and financial resources to conserve and manage vast tracts of tropical forests in protected areas in Brazil, and developmental REDD+ programs and MRVS systems in Suriname and Guyana.

The project also provided a forum through which the governments of Guyana, Suriname, and the northern Brazilian states of Amapá and Pará were able to exchange technical expertise, lessons learned, and international policy insights. Together the countries collectively promoted REDD+, the use of avoided carbon emissions in regulated or voluntary markets, and supported the creation of international climate finance mechanisms, as a means for economic growth and improved livelihoods.

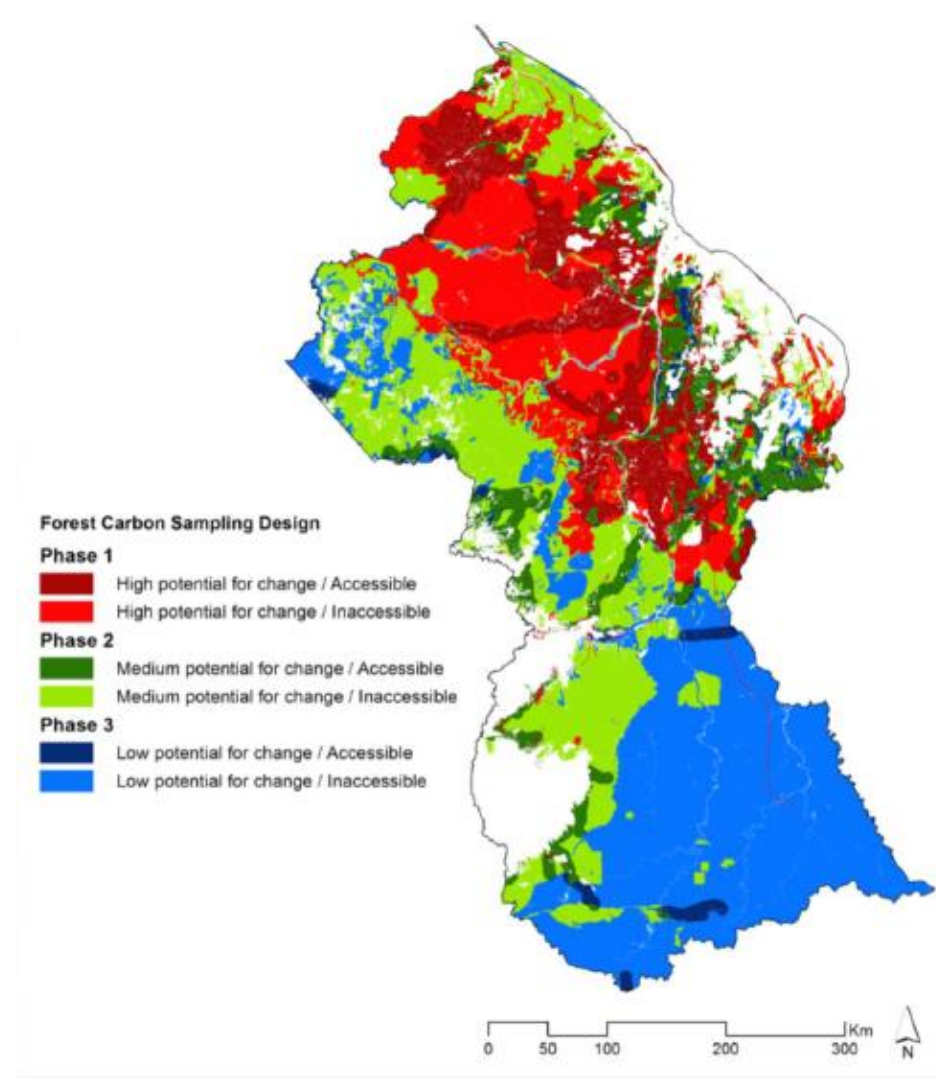
KfW Products & Impacts

The project employs context-specific mechanisms for each country in the Guianan region (Brazil, Suriname and Guyana) to avoid emissions from deforestation and conserve their forests. Development of incentives (REDD+) to maintain low deforestation rates will allow the region to play a major role in reducing global emissions through avoided deforestation and improved forest conservation.

Guyana

The project advanced the national MRVS Roadmap by supporting key elements, such as the completion of baseline biomass estimates and forest cover, assessment of drivers of degradation, exploration of methods for establishing reference levels, exploration of methods of integrating ecosystem services into the MRVS, and efforts to enhance the sustainability of the MRVS. Guyana now has a robust and independent means of monitoring, verifying, and reporting on deforestation and forest degradation. As a result of this early action on developing the MRVS, REDD+ Readiness was advanced by enabling verification of performance and accessing of payments for ecosystem services under the Guyana-Norway Agreement. Furthermore, as a result of KfW's early financing, Guyana has been able to benefit other countries at varying REDD+ readiness stages as well as access further support for collaboration and sharing via the Guiana Shield Facility and UN-FAO facilitated Space Data Management

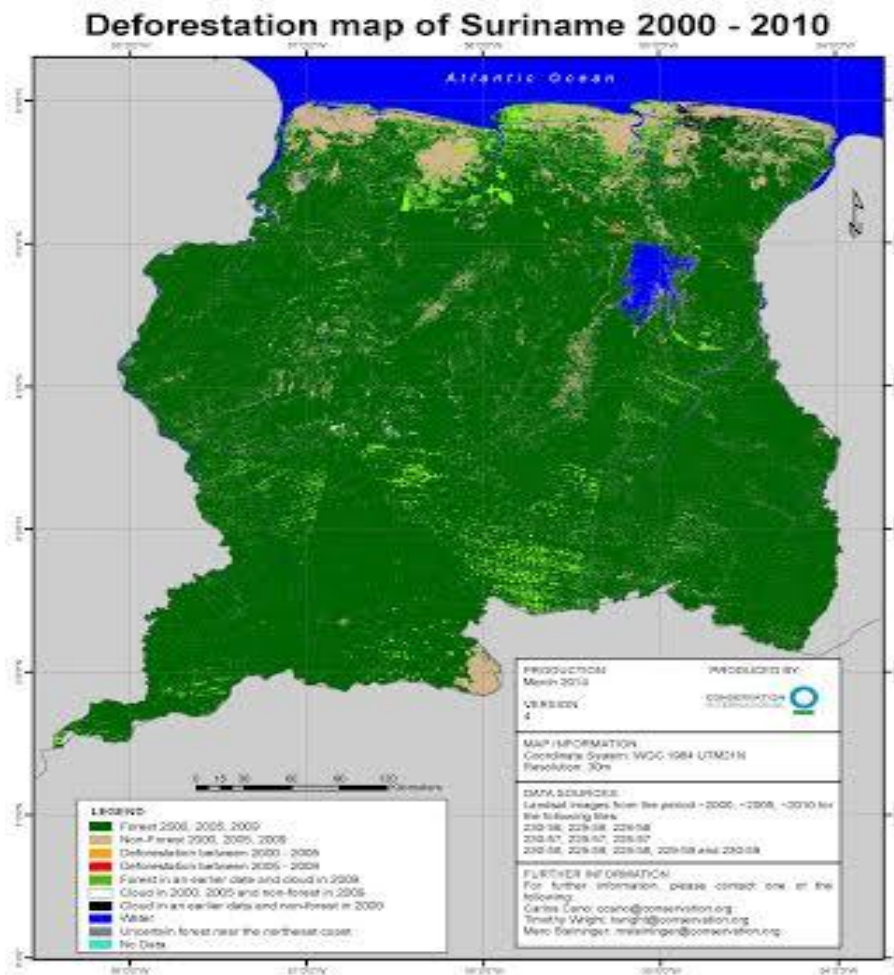
System (SDMS). The Guyana Forestry Commission has also produced a series of publications in order to share its REDD+ and MRVS experiences."



Map showing stratification of Guyana's forest by potential for future change used in the design of forest carbon sampling.

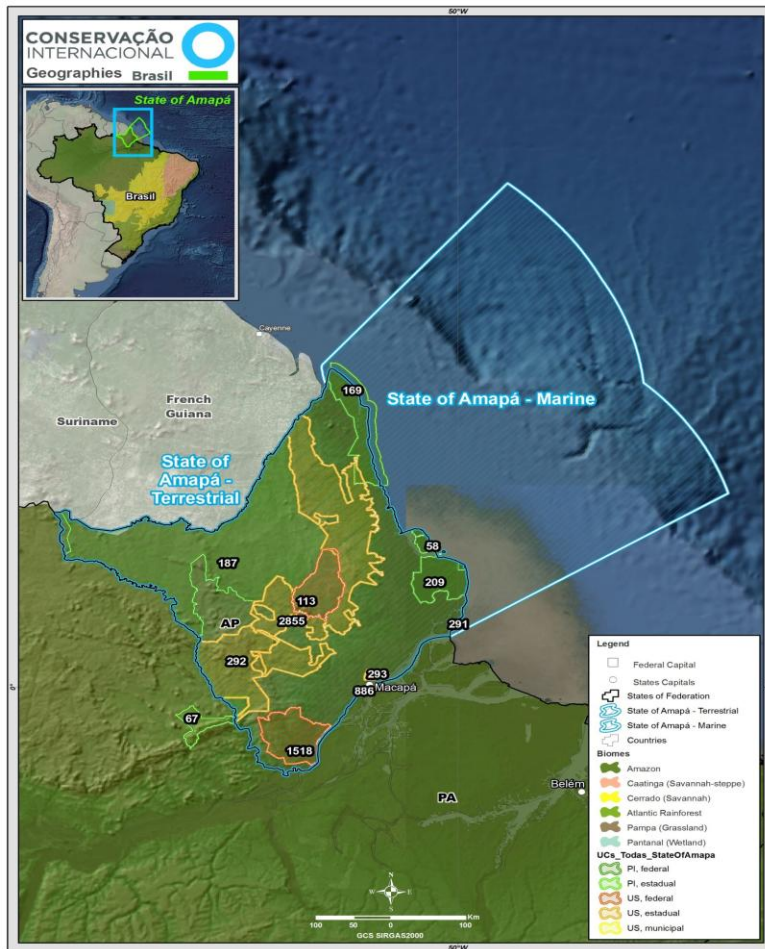
Suriname:

The project has helped Suriname on the path towards the full realization of a national scale REDD+ program by completing the important elements such as a National Forest Cover and a Deforestation map, the creation of a National Spatial Planning Group for biomass inventory and development of RPP and the completion of a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification roadmap. The project has catalyzed the development of Suriname's Readiness process by providing baseline data for the completion of the RPP, enabling Suriname to knowledgeably presenting its case to the FCPF program releasing US\$ 3.8 million for its implementation. Policy makers in Suriname are now able to make better decisions regarding land – use changes with support of the spatial planning group developed by the project. The Forest cover and historic deforestation maps, can now be utilized for development decisions, scientific research, and for environmental monitoring and Protected Area management in Suriname



Brazil:

In the Brazilian states of Amapá and Para, the project is helping to conserve over 31 million ha of pristine rainforest through protected areas management planning and implementation for the Amapá National Forest and Amapá State forest, and seven protected areas north of the Amazon River (Calha Norte). The project supported the development of sound management plans for all seven protected areas, as well as strengthened local governance systems. Furthermore, the project is creating a model for green development in Amapa by developing new and promising sustainable economic chains such as non-timber forest based economic opportunities for local communities living in and around the State and National Forests and protected areas.



Amapa biodiversity corridor and Protected Areas

Regional

Regional collaboration between Suriname, Guyana and Brazil developed a common vision for REDD Readiness and avoided deforestation through protected areas design and management, promotion of carbon markets and climate change financial mechanisms, exchange of technical expertise in MRVS design, and identification of transboundary drivers of deforestation including infrastructure, and extractive industry (timber, mining and oil). The project contributes to International Climate Initiative's goal of "conservation, sustainable use and rehabilitation of globally important carbon sinks, habitats and climate-relevant biodiversity" by promoting and providing support for the conservation of the Guiana Shield, the largest tract of intact tropical forest left on Earth. The project also provided valuable experience in best practices in sustainable land-use planning, stakeholder engagement, development of multi-stakeholder management committees, community-based institutional development, government relationships, and sustainable ecological monitoring. All of these activities serve as models in Brazil and across the Guiana Shield.

Final note

And it will be good to close with appreciation of the ONFI project in terms of leveraging funds by collaborating on the December 2013 Technical Exchange. CI will continue to support the ONFI project since we consider it to contribute to the sustainability of the KfW project.
