

Terms of Reference

REDD+ FOR THE GUIANA SHIELD REGIONAL DIALOGUE

REDD+ for the Guiana Shield
regional technical collaboration project



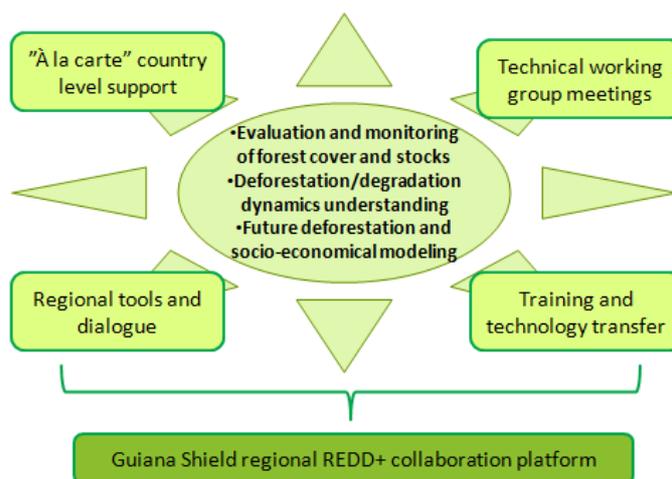
Context

In the Guiana Shield eco-region, ancient biodiversity-rich forests cover a plateau of Precambrian rock with a geological history and ecosystem context unique in the world. The region has a high forest cover and historically low deforestation rate and the human population is small, but a modern situation of growing demographic pressure and economic interests in resource extraction threaten the forested area to shrink. This affects the whole region where mining and other forest destructing phenomena occur across administrative borders. Collaboration between neighbouring countries can be very useful in such situations, but in a region that constitutes different types of political territories with their own histories, languages and sovereign priorities, there are also numerous challenges linked to such collaboration. Any type of regional collaboration, technical as well as political, needs to be carefully balanced and non-intrusive.

REDD+ for the Guiana Shield project is an initiative that aims to increase regional technical collaboration on forest related issues between four territories in the Guiana Shield, all with different circumstances and interests in REDD+, namely the two independent countries Suriname and Guyana, the sub-national state of Amapá in Brazil, and the French overseas department French Guiana. The project is owned by the French forestry service ONF¹ and implementation is coordinated by its subsidiary ONF International, with funding (2.7 M€) from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)² through its Interreg IV Caraïbes program (1.26 M€), the French Fund for Global Environment³ (1 M€), ONF Guyane (200k€) and the Regional Council of French Guiana (90 000 €) as well as own contributions from the partners in each country. The project is governed by a Steering Committee that meets twice a year and includes the project donors, representatives of two institutions from each project country, and three observer organizations with long experience of environmental regional collaboration in the Guiana Shield.

Designed as a purely technical project, *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project activities aim to improve technical skills needed for implementation of REDD+, such as forest cover monitoring through remote sensing, forest inventory and carbon stock assessment, understanding of the complex drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the region, and modelling of future deforestation scenarios. The four activity channels supporting these skills to be built are:

- regional technical working group meetings,
- training and technology transfer,
- targeted "à la carte" expert support on the country level and
- development of regional tools and dialogue.



Objectives of these ToR

These Terms of Reference (ToR) fall under the fourth activity channel of *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield*, "Regional tools and dialogue". They target the existing budget line for "Regional dialogue meetings" (about 65k€).

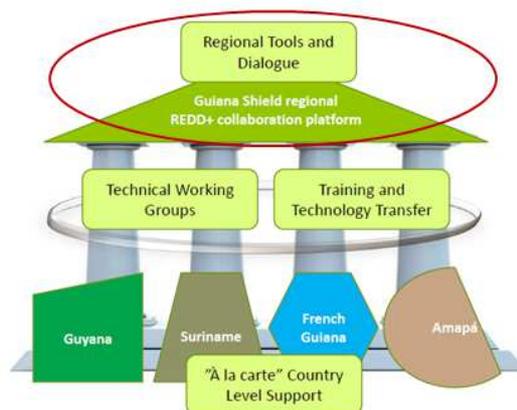
¹ Office National des Forêts (ONF)

² Fonds Européen de Développement Régional (FEDER)

³ Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM)

As shown by the picture to the right, the above mentioned activity channel is most directly linked to the overall project objective of creating a Guiana Shield regional REDD+ collaboration platform.

In January 2015, the Steering Committee in its 4th meeting discussed how well this project objective and related sub-objectives have been reached so far. Members recognized that most of the objectives have already been met or are on the way to be answered through activities that are planned or ongoing. Still the coming year will be crucial for establishing the regional platform robustly enough for its sustainability to be guaranteed beyond the project's lifetime.



Development of Regional Tools and Dialogue first aims at providing non-intrusive tools and data set at regional level in order to give a shared understanding of past and future deforestation and related emissions over the four territories. Included in this component are the *Regional Participative Study on Gold Mining Impact on Forest and Waterways in the Guiana Shield*⁴, the ongoing studies on analysing and modelling deforestation, the under-development model of future deforestation in the Guiana Shield⁵, as well as supporting tools such as the regional GIS database, the website forum, etc.

As a second step, budget (about 65k€) is dedicated to Regional Dialogue Meetings, during which developed tools and data will be discussed in order to encourage regional dialogue on REDD+ related issues.

It is those ToRs objective to cover this second step, i.e. to define how the regional dialogue will be shaped throughout the remaining time of the project and spread to decision-makers in the end.

Based on fourth Steering Committee meeting discussions, four specific objectives have been identified and are described in one section each below:

1. Set up a focus group for regional dialogue within the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project;
2. Organize a regional dialogue meeting in Paramaribo, Suriname in June 2015, in the margins of the 5th Steering Committee meeting;
3. Consider options to continue technical collaboration in the future, after the end of the project;
4. Consider the possibility to share the regional dialogue outcomes to a wider audience in December 2015, if relevant in the framework of the UNFCCC CPO 21 to be held in Paris.

1. Focus group for regional dialogue

Based on discussions held in the 4th Steering Committee meeting, a focus group will be established and tasked to move the regional dialogue forward throughout 2015. This group will compose 2 representatives from each project country and 1 per observer organization. Donors are also invited to participate. The project team will be available as a secretariat to facilitate and support the focus group interactions. In order to make the process easier, project team may suggest options to the Focus Group consideration.

Mandate and profile of focus group members

The focus group will be mandated to do the following:

- Take stock at the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project achievements to identify the most remarkable results and conclusions of the project;
- Review, comment and make any proposal to the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* regional dialogue meeting agenda that will be submitted by the project team;
- Identify opportunities for sharing the regional dialogue outcomes to relevant audiences beyond the project and work towards making that happen (including to prepare a proposal for a technical side event in the UNFCCC COP21 - see below);

⁴ Co-funded by WWF-Guianas.

⁵ By CIRAD student.

- Discuss a strategy to encourage willingness for common action to avoid unplanned deforestation in the Guiana Shield;
- Strive to sustain a Guiana Shield regional REDD+ collaboration platform beyond the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project lifetime (may include fundraising for post-2015 activities).

Required competencies of the focus group members

In order to contribute effectively to the focus group, the selected members need to have a good understanding of the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project, preferably through active involvement in previous technical project activities and/or Steering Committee meetings and by having an overview of project objectives, results to date and ongoing activities. Focus group members also need a good understanding of technical needs for REDD+ preparation and implementation (tools for MRV and REL/RL, remote sensing, forest cover monitoring, national forest inventories, drivers, modelling...) as well as the political landscape and institutional framework in their own countries, the Guiana Shield and the UNFCCC context. They need to be available to commit time to actively and constructively contribute to the work of the focus group, sharing ideas and being responsive in the process that will take place mainly online. Communication will be in English as far as possible so it would be better if members feel comfortable with that. Each member needs to take joint responsibility for the full group to meet its objectives.

Nomination of focus group members

Selection and nomination of two focus group members per project country will be done by the Steering Committee members from the same country. The focal points from ONFI are available to facilitate this process for their respective countries if needed. Donors and observer organizations are invited to nominate one representative each. There is no strict deadline for nominations to be submitted, but it is in the interest of countries/institutions to complete their internal selection process as early as possible to be part of the regional discussions from the start. Discussions may be initiated before all members are identified, but the process will intensify when the focus group is complete. As soon as the decision has been made, the names, short biographies and contact details of the representatives should be provided to the project team through an official nomination e-mail to marie.calmel@onfinternational.com and sara.svensson@onfinternational.org.

Focus group deliverables

Concretely, the focus group will be expected to deliver:

- An agenda for the regional dialogue meeting to be held in June 2015, or at least guidance to the project team for preparation of this agenda;
- A background document to share with participants in the regional dialogue meeting, consolidating project achievements according to the focus group and stimulating discussion on the way forward;
- A proposal for a technical side event that may be submitted to UNFCCC to possibly be held at COP21;
- Alternative proposal for sharing of regional dialogue outcomes if a COP21 side event cannot be held;
- Content plan, think-piece and/or presentations for the sharing of regional dialogue outcome;
- Input to potential funding proposals in case there is willingness to continue regional collaboration after the closure of *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield*.

2. Regional dialogue meeting in June 2015

REDD+ for the Guiana Shield regional dialogue meeting is scheduled to take place in Paramaribo, Suriname in the second half of June 2015, back-to-back with the 5th Steering Committee meeting (exact dates to be confirmed). The meeting should last 1-2 days and participation will be open to focus group members, Steering Committee members and – in the budget limits - allows, potentially others that the focus group suggests relevant to invite.

The focus of the regional dialogue meeting should be to identify the willingness for common action in the Guiana Shield region in the framework of the project and beyond. Discussions will explore how a Guiana Shield regional REDD+ collaboration platform can remain relevant and sustained beyond 2015 when existing project funding will be finished. Outcomes of the discussions may highlight opportunities for political or technical collaboration in the Guiana Shield eco-region in terms of REDD+, land-use planning, combating deforestation and forest degradation or related topics. Discussions should keep in mind not only the regional dynamics but also the global

context of UNFCCC negotiations, with COP21 in Paris 2015 as a possible arena for intervention. As part of the agenda, the focus group will present their proposal for a possible technical side event at COP21. This proposal may be fine-tuned in the regional dialogue meeting for formal approval by the 5th Steering Committee meeting.

Some details about the more exact content and format of the regional dialogue meeting will be provided later to the Focus Group for review and discussion. A meeting report with detailed summaries of discussions will be produced and could be used afterwards.

3. Consider options to continue technical collaboration after the end of the project;

It has already been expressed by project partners that while regional technical cooperation has been successfully initiated by the project, efforts should be pursued in order to ensure sustainability to this collaboration. Based on lessons learnt during the project and considering partners needs and interests on some activities, with the support of the project team (including with some proposal), the focus group will consider options to sustain a Guiana Shield regional REDD+ collaboration platform beyond the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project lifetime. This may include fundraising for post-2015 activities.

In the perspective of an event to share regional dialogue outcomes (see below), the announcement of a new project could be considered.

4. Sharing of regional dialogue outcomes in December 2015

In the end of the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project, regional dialogue outcomes and project results (including possible continuation or new announcement) are intended to be shared to an external public beyond the direct project partners. Such sharing could take place in many different contexts and proposals for both content and occasions will be prepared by the focus group. It would be relevant to organize an event open to the public in conjunction with the 6th and Closing Steering Committee Meeting in December 2015.

A possibility discussed in the 4th Steering Committee meeting is that a regional side event could be arranged at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP21 that will be held in Paris 30 November to 11 December 2015. In addition to the official intergovernmental negotiations, the conference will serve as a meeting point for a large number of climate change experts and stakeholders from all over the world. For the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project, COP21 could be an opportunity to leverage its impact by being present to showcase its achievements in a high-level forum of global significance. Well-promoted side events at COP meetings may attract an audience of highly qualified delegates and media producers that it would be very difficult and expensive to bring together in another setting.

There is still need to define what a *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* side event at COP21 could have as specific objectives, content and promotion strategy. The focus group is expected to develop a complete side event proposal. Side event proposals are to be submitted to the UNFCCC through an official online system that opens on 30 June and closes on 3 July 2015. A description of how to submit the proposal and what it should include is available here: <https://seors.unfccc.int/seors>.

Budget and calendar

The overall project budget has a line for "Regional dialogue meetings" with 64,984 Euro remaining. This budget will be used for a regional dialogue meeting to be held back-to-back with the 5th Steering Committee Meeting in Paramaribo, Suriname in June 2015 (about 30k€) and a concluding meeting to present the results of the

regional dialogue in December 2015. Additional external funds would be needed if the idea is pursued to organize the concluding meeting in Paris in conjunction with COP21 (still to be sought if this remains a priority).

No budget is planned to be spent between the physical dialogue meetings. If several members of the focus group would happen to participate in an already planned project activity, they could take advantage of being in the same location to hold a focus group meeting in the margins of the main event. Otherwise they will need to rely exclusively on online communication tools that are available free of charge. There is no possibility to remunerate focus group members for their work.

Calendar

Activity	April			May			June			July			August		
ToR shared with Steering Committee (SC)															
Validation of ToR by Steering Committee															
Nomination and constitution of focus group															
Focus group discussion process online															
Drafting regional dialogue meeting agenda															
Drafting side event proposal for COP21															
Preparing presentations for June meeting															
Regional dialogue meeting in Paramaribo															
5th Steering Committee adopting proposals															
Side event proposal submitted to UNFCCC															

Activity	September			October			November			December		
Focus group discussion online												
Future strategy and fundraising												
Prepare external results sharing												
Sharing results of regional dialogue												
Closing Steering Committee meeting												
COP21 in Paris (30/11 - 11/12)												
Summarize project and next steps												