



Terms of Reference

WORKING GROUP MEETING 6: COMMUNITY-BASED MRV SYSTEMS IN THE GUIANA SHIELD

REDD+ for the Guiana Shield

Regional Technical Collaboration Project



1. CONTEXT AND GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

REDD+ for the Guiana Shield – a technical regional platform for REDD+ development in the Guiana Shield – is a regional project funded at the level of € 2.7 million by the European Regional Development Fund (FEDER), the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) and the local government of French Guiana (Région Guyane). It targets Guyana, Suriname, Brazilian State of Amapá and French Guiana.

Cooperation and capacity building are key and strategic components of the project and Regional Working Group Meetings are one of the channels used to reinforce capacities and cooperation within the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project framework. Aims of those Working Group Meetings are to promote tools, technologies and methodologies under development or implementation within or outside the region. Each meeting provides opportunities for experts from the region to discuss specific technical topics in order to enhance a common understanding and identify opportunities for training and technology transfer.

Specific objectives include:

- Initiate regional dialogue to identify gaps (data and methodologies) at national and regional level (i.e. in the perspective of a common view of REDD+ MRV related needs, tools and methodologies);
- Build capacity (through lessons learnt and sharing of good practices);
- Discuss the development of a Regional cooperation platform;
- Prepare technical input and feed into Steering Committee decision making.

The objective of these Terms of Reference is to further detail the content of the 6th Working Group Meeting (WGM6) on Community-based Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (C-MRV) systems in the Guiana Shield.

Would you have any comments, suggestion or feedback about this ToR, please contact Christelle Ndagijimana (christelle.ndagijimana@onfinternational.com) as soon as possible, so it may be included in the document.

2. RATIONALE OF WORKING GROUP MEETING 6 ON C-MRV

The inclusion of Indigenous peoples and Local communities (IPLC) has become a major issue in the international community when talking about REDD+ mechanism, because more than being a stock of carbon or have a monetary value, forests also carry the cultural and social heritage of these communities. One example of the increasing interest on this issue was when, in 2010 in Cancun, the 16th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP16) brought attention to the need of including social and biodiversity aspects to the mechanism with the Cancun Agreements on REDD+ Safeguards¹.

¹ <http://reddplussafeguards.com> and <http://cancun.unfccc.int/>

The implication of IPLC makes complete sense in the Guiana Shield region where forest-based communities are important actors in the history of the region and in the forest governance. Relations with local and national governments can be a sensitive issue, but our partners also recognize the necessity to consider these voices and involve them when talking about the future of forests of the region².

So far, the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project mainly focused on activities related to the elaboration of MRV systems in the partners countries, dealing with technical aspects that are not easily combined with a real implication of forest-based communities. But methodologies and tools adapted or specifically developed for this purpose exist, allowing communities to be involved, together with forestry services or environmental technicians, in the elaboration of MRV systems. These tools and methodologies have been used in various countries and have proven to be efficient and helpful to improve community knowledge and empowerment on REDD+ related issues.

Now is a good time for the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project to address Community-based MRV (C-MRV) topic, in a Working Group meeting as a first step to understand the importance and challenges of C-MRV, and having in mind future possible collaboration that could aim at developing regional MRV tools.

When talking about Indigenous peoples and local communities, very different realities exist in the Guiana Shield, in terms of demography, internal and external governance, land tenure and rights, relation with the governments, etc. The participation of different communities to one of the project's regional meeting, sharing experiences on their participation to MRV building process can be a goal that we set for future collaboration in the region. However, the WGM6 is the first project event on the topic, and taking into account the different national situations, different languages, and logistical question that this participation implies, it is up to each partner to decide whether they see the participation to WGM6 appropriate for the communities of their own territory. People representing one or more communities from Guyana (North Rupununi) are very likely to be present at this Working Group meeting 6.

Taking into account all these differences, there are no ready-to-use solutions or methodology to integrate C-MRV in the national MRV systems. The main objective of this WGM6 on C-MRV is to share experiences and approaches that have been developed in the region, to look at what is done in other regions, and to encourage dialogue in the perspective of developing regional MRV tools, focusing on these specific objectives:

- **"Break the ice" on C-MRV**, sharing first understandings of this topic:
 - What does including a community-based dimension to the MRV systems imply for forestry services?
 - How can communities benefit from the collaboration with national MRV system?

² During the 5th Steering Committee meeting, Indigenous people and local communities were identified as essential key partners when thinking about future collaboration in the region.

- **Initiate discussions and experience sharing on C-MRV** within the region, by giving to participants a theoretical basis on the subject (i.e. a brief review of the existing literature, main principles of C-MRV, etc.);
- **Provide an overview of the C-MRV projects that are being implemented in the Guiana Shield region and worldwide**, and analyse them in the perspective of learning lessons;
- **Explore and present possibilities that can support the inclusion of C-MRV in national MRV systems, using new technologies** (i.e. participative mapping or joint monitoring of the forest cover).

3. CREATING SYNERGIES WITH OTHER INITIATIVES IN THE REGION

For the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project, WGM6 will be the first activity focusing on how to include participation of forest-based communities in the MRV systems of our partner countries. Outside of the project, various activities and programs are already developed in the Guiana Shield region in collaboration with forest-based communities.

Among those initiatives, WWF Guianas and the Global Canopy Program (GCP) have been working with governmental agencies and local communities in Guyana in developing successful C-MRV projects in the country, such as the project conducted with the 16 communities of the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) and the Iwokrama International Center, or the ongoing project with the Wai-Wai community of Kanashen³.

While they are now in the process of sharing lessons from Guyana's experience on C-MRV, discussing opportunities and barriers to integrate C-MRV in national MRV systems and encouraging dialogue and consensus around a REDD+ Opt-in mechanism and C-MRV component in Guyana, it seemed relevant to look for their support. Organizing an event with their expertise will allow participants of the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield project* Working Group Meeting to benefit from these regional partners' experiences. A draft agenda has been developed jointly (see below **5. Preliminary Agenda**).

4. PARTICIPANTS AND TARGETED AUDIENCE

Like the other Working Group Meetings, WGM6 will last a maximum of 4 days and will gather up to 4 experts from each country, to discuss C-MRV principles and applications and will include working sessions.

The project partners will have to identify up to 4 participants per country, choosing relevant people to attend this meeting, preferably with a basic knowledge of REDD+ related issues and the willingness to work in a constructive and collaborative way with other participants.

³ Know more about these projects on WWF Guianas Website : <http://www.wwfguianas.org/our-work/payment-for-ecosystem-services/redd/redd-in-guyana/cmv-in-guyana/>

Would project partners like to invite representatives of forest-based communities to this meeting, the project team can help elaborating short and simplified documents presenting the project and objectives of this Working Group Meeting, to support initial contact and preparation process needed before attending the event.

As far as possible, some practical exercises and a field trip will be included in the agenda, to present and use tools that have been tested in the Guiana Shield region and/or in other regions. More information on the training requirements (material, equipment, preliminary preparation of data, etc) will be shared with the participants when available.

Participants will be asked to prepare a 15 min country presentation of the situation of C-MRV in their territories. To guide this preparation, questions among, but not limited to, those listed below, could be addressed:

- Who are your forest-based communities? Describe the demographic distribution, indigenous groups, other forest based groups, their local governance structures, land rights, etc.
- What initiatives or projects with communities exist in your territory?
- Is community forest management mentioned in your national R-PP (or other document that defines the national MRV system)?
- Are there laws that determine participation and/or rights of the forest based communities in your country?

5. PRELIMINARY AGENDA

This preliminary agenda has been built in collaboration with WWF–Guianas, WWF-Forest and Climate Program (http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/forest_climate2/about/) and Global Canopy Program (<http://www.globalcanopy.org/>). It might be slightly modified, including to take into consideration comments from the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* Steering Committee members.

The Working Group Meeting will start on Monday 24th afternoon (2pm, still to be confirmed) and last until Thursday 27th after lunch (2pm, tbc).

Venue: Arrowpoint Resort facilities (<http://www.roraimairways.com/wp/resorts/arrowpoint-nature-resort/>)

Monday 24th August

Lunch – Arrowpoint facilities

Session 1 - Introduction to CMRV and its status in the participating countries (1 day)

Afternoon

Welcoming remarks - Program and objectives of WGM6

Introduction to CMRV

What is CMRV and where is it happening?

CMRV in the national or regional REDD+ agenda

CMRV contributions to international agreements (CBD, REDD+, FLEGT)

Legal framework for CMRV-NMRV integration Land tenure and CMRV

Co-Benefits and linkages with REDD+ Safeguards (social), biodiversity, etc

Tuesday 25th August

Country presentations

Suriname, French Guiana and Amapá have 15-20 minutes each to present the status of CMRV and NMRV or forest monitoring systems in their country

Morning

Roundtable

Discussion, questions and answers.

Lunch

Session 2 - Impact and results of CMRV initiatives and their inclusion in NMRV - Case studies (1 day)

Case study – Guyana

Afternoon

Case study Beyond the Guiana Shield
(Acre (Brasil)/RDC/Indonesia/Papua New Guinea/Vietnam)
Sharing lessons learned

Wednesday 26th August

Session 2 - Impact and results of CMRV initiatives and their inclusion in NMRV (cont.)

How can we integrate local initiatives of CMRV in the National MRV System? Small working groups: What have been the main challenges, achievements and significant lessons learned?

Morning

Roundtable

Discussion, questions and answers

Session 3 - Using Technology to support the inclusion of CMRV in NMRV system (1 day)

Afternoon

Introduction to the session
Existing tools and methods (for literate and non-literate users)
When to use technology? (benefits and challenges)
Sharing lessons learned from practice

Roundtable

Discussion, questions and answers.

Thursday, 27th August

Session 3 - Using Technology to support the inclusion of CMRV in NMRV system (cont.)

Morning

Practical exercise
ODK tools

Concluding roundtable

Discussion, Q&A, Lessons learned

Evaluation of the WGM

Lunch and departure

6. BUDGET & CALENDAR

The total budget available for WMG6 is 25,000k€.

Would more budget be needed (still under estimates), information will be shared and non-objection will be requested by Steering Committee members.

Please find below the proposed calendar to implement the 6th Working Group Meeting.

Activity	May			June			July			August		
WGM6 ToRs shared with the Steering Committee (SC)												
Validation and choice of the WGM6 topic												
Drafting detailed ToRs on the chosen topic												
Steering committee in Paramaribo												
Detailed ToRs shared with the SC for the chosen topic												
Validation by the SC of the WGM6 final ToRs												
Organization of the logistics of WGM6												
WGM6												x