

# REDD+ FOR THE GUIANA SHIELD

**Project Delegation in Paris During COP21  
4-10 December 2015 - Paris, France**

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# REDD+ for the Guiana Shield Project Delegation in Paris during COP21

## Introduction

In December 2015, the global climate community turned its attention to Paris. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) convened the world's governments in the French capital for the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) from 30 November, ending on 12 December 2015 with the milestone adoption of the Paris Agreement, meant to keep global temperature rise below 2°C and closer to 1.5°C.

About a year before the conference, the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* Steering Committee started to discuss whether it would be useful for the project to be present in Paris in the same period as COP21. *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* is a 3-years project bringing together Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana and the Brazilian state of Amapá in forest related technical collaboration, funded mainly by FEDER, FFEM, ONF-Guyane and Région Guyane. Scheduled to end officially on 31 December 2015, the timing of the final project activities would coincide well with COP21. Since thousands of climate professionals from around the world were expected to travel to Paris for COP21 and related activities, it seemed like a useful context for presenting project results and reaching out to new potential collaborators/supporters of a 2nd project phase. While arguments could also be found for staying in the Guiana Shield region and reach more people there, Paris seemed like a relevant location also because of some main project donors, the project owner (ONF) and the implementing organization (ONFI) being French.

Concrete preparations for the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* presence in COP21 took place during the Regional Dialogue Meeting held in Paramaribo, Suriname in June 2015. Participants worked on a proposal for a side event about the project to be held if possible in the official conference venue of COP21. Unfortunately it could not be submitted to UNFCCC due to strict application rules and accreditation criteria, so the project team looked for a plan B of hosting a side event outside of the closed negotiations zone. It was still not possible to book a slot for one side event fully dedicated to the project, but several opportunities were identified for giving presentations of the project in venues hosted by project partners and collaborators. This alternative was explained to the Steering Committee for taking a decision on whether or not it was still worthwhile to go to Paris. It was decided to accept all speaking slot offers from partners and to also hold the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* 6th and Closing Steering Committee meeting in Paris during COP21.

## Objectives of going to Paris

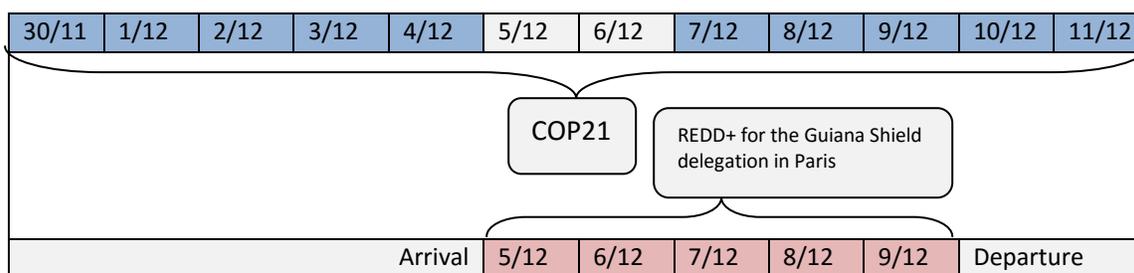
The main objective for *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* to be in Paris during COP21 was to increase the impact of the project in its final phase, by sharing project results with an international audience and to seek wider support for continuation of similar collaborative work in the Guiana Shield region in the future.

The following specific objectives were identified:

- Hold the 6th and Closing Steering Committee meeting of *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* in Paris on 8 December, with donors and international observers around the table;
- Showcase the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project in side events/exhibitions hosted by donors and partners in Paris;
- Share the story of REDD+ collaboration in the Guiana Shield with relevant international audiences, to increase the awareness of the project and the specific situation for HFLD countries in the REDD+ mechanism, inspiring others to collaborate in similar ways;
- Build a network outside the Guiana Shield region to generate international support (funding, expertise, ideas...) for a future project in the region;
- Expand perspectives of project partners by placing the Guiana Shield collaboration in a global context, giving project partners the opportunity to interact with relevant actors from around the world presenting their work in Paris.

## Project Delegation and Activities

COP21 took place in the period of 30 November to 12 December 2015. *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project activities were concentrated to a shorter period during the COP:



In the week that the project delegation spent in Paris, the delegation participated in different activities spread as followed between the days:

Activity	4/12	5/12	6/12	7/12	8/12	9/12	10/12
Arrival in Paris							
Attending Global Landscapes Forum							
Presentations of the project							
Steering Committee meeting							
Official departure day							

*REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* partner institutions (members of the Steering Committee) were invited to nominate one representative each to join the project delegation to Paris. This means that the delegation could have composed 12 people: 2 from Suriname (SBB and NIMOS), 2 from Guyana (GFC and OCC), 2 from Amapá (IEF and SEMA) and up to 2 from French Guiana + 4 from ONFI project team. Not all seats were filled however, so the delegation had the following 8 members attending all the time:

Name	Position	Institution
Priscilla Miranda	Senior Forest Research and Development officer	SBB
Claudia Funi	Geoprocessing specialist	SEMA
Thiago Zampiva	Environmental engineer	IEF
Jean-Luc Sibille	Head of the Land-Use Planning Department	ONF Guyane
Marie Calmel	Project Manager	ONF International
Christelle Ndagijimana	Amapá Focal Point	ONF International
Mathieu Rahm	Guyana Focal Point / Project Officer	ONF International
Sara Svensson	Suriname Focal Point	ONF International

Other project partners who were already in Paris joined specific activities when they found time, notably David Singh from Conservation International in Guyana who carried official messages from GFC.

When selecting their representatives, the project partner institutions used the following criteria:

- Steering Committee representatives, since SCM6 is part of the program (if some SC members are already in Paris through other funding, they were of course most welcome to attend SCM6 as well);
- Availability to contribute actively and constructively in the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* delegation as main priority in Paris, including strong networking skills, presentation skills and experiences with media interviews;
- Previous active involvement in the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project through participation in technical project activities and/or Steering Committee meetings;
- Understanding of the UNFCCC context or other big international conferences, the REDD+ mechanism, technical topics and project results.

The project team assisted with logistical preparations for the delegation, coordinated the work, prepared presentations for showcase opportunities, facilitated the contribution of other delegation members through guiding questions and translation, organized SCM6, etc. All delegation members acted as ambassadors of the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project in Paris when explaining to others where they came from and what they were doing. They contributed to project presentations and distributed communications material about the Guiana Shield region and project to people who seemed interested.

## Communications Material and Outreach

Before going to Paris, the project team prepared some communications material to bring, supported by an external graphic designer coordinated by the ONFI headquarters in Paris.

A 4-page folder introduced the Guiana Shield as a valuable high forest cover and low deforestation (HFLD) eco-region, explained how it is increasingly threatened, and presented the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project as a positive initiative providing parts of the solution. The project's progressive collaborative approach was explained, followed by a call for future collaboration and partnerships in the region. This folder was printed in 200 copies and is also available in electronic version possible to use any time also after COP21.

Link to folder: [https://reddguianashield.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/a4-plateau\\_guyanes0425.pdf](https://reddguianashield.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/a4-plateau_guyanes0425.pdf)

Specific for the COP21 period, a programme of project activities in Paris was also printed, including a short description of each activity and a map how to get there. This was printed in 150 copies and used to

encourage an audience to join the various presentations. The project delegation received some copies each and spread to interested encounters in Paris. Electronic copies were also sent via e-mail to relevant contacts and e-mail listserves, including forests-l@lists.iisd.ca and law-for-redd-plus@dgroups.org. A link to the programme was included on the UN-REDD website about REDD+ related side events in COP21 and project partners were encouraged to disseminate it further.

Link to programme: [https://reddguianashield.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/cop21\\_programme.pdf](https://reddguianashield.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/cop21_programme.pdf)

In addition, 200 copies of the collaborative study on *Monitoring the impact of gold mining on the forest cover and freshwater in the Guiana Shield* were printed in English and French and distributed to those who were interested, since scientific publications are often quite popular and useful to share.

Published report: <http://reddguianashield.com/studies/gold-mining-impact-monitoring-at-the-guiana-shield-regional-scale/final-report/>

A poster presenting the gold mining study, its methodology and results was printed in A0 format for display during presentations.

Poster: [https://reddguianashield.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/poster\\_gold-mining\\_vfinale.pdf](https://reddguianashield.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/poster_gold-mining_vfinale.pdf)

## Participation in the Global Landscapes Forum

After the project delegation's arrival in Paris, the first activity was to attend the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) for two days in the weekend 5-6 December. The GLF gathered around 3200 participants interested in sustainable land use, including forests. For *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* it provided a useful context for networking and making new contacts with others working on related topics. The project provided tickets to the GLF to the delegation members and they were free to attend the sessions that they wanted. Most members were there both days and joined different discussion forums, plenary sessions, visited the landscape laboratories, thematic pavilions and booths.

More information and outcomes of the Global Landscapes Forum 2015 can be found online on this link: <http://www.landscapes.org/glf-2015/>



## Steering Committee Meeting

On Tuesday 8 December, the COP21 delegation attended the 6th and Closing Steering Committee Meeting of the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project. This meeting took place in the Pavilion Indochine in Jardin Tropical, next to the ONFI headquarters in Nogent-sur-Marne just outside Paris. The objective of the 6th SCM was to review implementation of activities that took place since the 5th Steering Committee

in June and throughout the project as a whole. An evaluative discussion was held on whether the project objectives of *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* had been met and how partners would like to collaborate in the future.

While the objectives of going to Paris imagined a Steering Committee meeting with international observers and donors around the table, the project donors did not attend the meeting. The group of attendees was quite small in the end, limited to the delegation members and ONFI staff. It was still useful for some Paris based staff of ONF International to have the opportunity to attend the SCM, to gain better insights in the project and discuss future opportunities of working in the Guiana Shield region.

A more comprehensive report of the Closing Steering Committee Meeting is on the project website: <http://reddguianashield.com/steering-committee/6th-steering-committee-meeting/>

## Presentations of the project in Paris

Four presentations of *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* were held in different locations in Paris on 5th, 7th and 9th of December. Each presentation had a slightly different angle, depending on the venue, context and expected audience. Some presentations were given in French and others in English, with or without translation. In each case someone from the project team gave the presentation, most of the time followed by additional input, reflections and perspectives from delegation members from different countries.

### 1) REDD+ for the Guiana Shield as an example of decentralized cooperation - Grand Palais

On Saturday 5 December, Marie Calmel gave a presentation about the project in the Grand Palais in central Paris, where an event called SolutionsCOP21 took place in parallel with COP21. There were several exhibitions, companies and institutions showcasing their initiatives. The project presentation took place in the framework of a larger side event organized by the Association of Local Authorities in France, giving examples of their decentralized cooperation. In the section of the event focusing on French Guiana, *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* was highlighted. Meanwhile, most of the project delegation was attending the Global Landscapes Forum, so Marie Calmel was the only representant of the project, giving the presentation and replying to questions.

The presentation was given in French and the powerpoint is available here: [https://reddguianashield.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/2015-12-4\\_solutions-cop21\\_reddpdg.pdf](https://reddguianashield.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/2015-12-4_solutions-cop21_reddpdg.pdf)

### 2) Building knowledge to preserve an eco-region - Climate Generations Areas, Le Bourget

On Monday 7 December, the full project delegation went to Le Bourget where COP21 took place. While they did not have access to enter the so-called 'blue zone' where negotiations were taking place, a building just next door was open for the public, called the *Climate Generations Areas*. In this venue, presentations were taking place in several pavilions and booths. *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* had been given a



speaking slot in the *Nature Solutions Pavilion*, hosted by IUCN and others.

The presentation entitled *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield - Building knowledge to preserve an eco-region* introduced the Guiana Shield and its specific context, focusing mainly on the collaborative gold-mining study as a positive example of the type of collaboration and useful results that the project managed to achieve. Mathieu Rahm from the project team gave the presentation, followed by interventions by Claudia Funi from Amapá, Priscilla Miranda from Suriname and Jean-Luc Sibille from French Guiana about how useful the study and its process had been to their organizations. This was followed by quite a lively and interesting discussion, since the audience included people very interested in the topic. The printed gold mining study was distributed and the poster displayed during the presentation.

The presentation is available here:

<https://reddguianashield.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/gold-mining-study-presentation-cop21.pdf>

### 3) Prospects for future collaboration in the Guiana Shield - Région Guyane booth, Le Bourget

Before lunch on 9 December, the whole project delegation joined forces in a session focused on *Prospects for future collaboration in the Guiana Shield* held in the French Guiana Region booth in the Climate Generations Areas.

Marie Calmel gave a presentation while others in the project team talked to people passing by and encouraged them to join the audience. Two members of Suriname's government delegation joined the crowd as well as Brazilian representatives, including the Director of SEMA in Amapá who gave an intervention about the usefulness of the project. David Singh from Conservation International in Guyana joined with an intervention as well, publicly sharing a message from the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) that they would be very interested in a future collaboration project in the region, following *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield*. Priscilla Miranda from SBB in Suriname said that a momentum has been reached through the current project, creating a culture of working together that is worth building further upon.



Notably all speakers from the project countries mentioned that while *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* was a technical project fostering collaboration for information sharing and production of joint data, it would be most useful if the next project could go a step further to make a difference also on the policy level. Technical results produced through the regional collaboration should be shared with policy-makers to enable coordinated regional action against unplanned deforestation. In the beginning of the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project, that kind of statement would not be heard. Partners didn't know each other well in the beginning and were careful about mentioning political collaboration since it could be sensitive and difficult. This shows how the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* has been helping to change a discourse.

The presentation is online here: <https://reddguianashield.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/redd-for-the-guiana-shield-prospects-fo-future-cooperation.pdf>

### 4) REDD+ for the Guiana Shield presentation - ONF/ONFI side event, Le Bourget

In the afternoon of 9 December, from 14:45 to 18:45, ONF and ONF International co-hosted a side event in a big room with 200 seats, presenting French forestry from different aspects and how it helps to provide both adaptation and mitigation solutions to climate change. The event was in French but simultaneous translation into English was provided.

For the project delegation it was interesting to attend the full event to have the opportunity to learn more about ONF's work and other projects by ONF International, in addition to presenting their own work. A presentation about *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* showcasing a positive example of collaboration between forestry services was given by Marie Calmel. She took time to explain in depth the challenging context of working in the region trying to preserve its forests for the future. The project's structure and the possibility to continue strengthening links and join together in regional forest monitoring was highlighted.

Questions from the audience encouraged an intervention also from Priscilla Miranda from SBB who gave examples of how the project has been useful for Suriname. She talked about the way the project has built capacity in the countries, empowering them to produce their own data about their territory, bringing it together to compare with others in the region and discussing common problems that are made visible.

You can find the presentation here:

<https://reddguianashield.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/onf-onfi-side-event.pdf>



## Conclusion

The main objective for *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* to be in Paris during COP21 was to increase the impact of the project in its final phase, by sharing project results with an international audience and to seek wider support for continuation of similar collaborative work in the Guiana Shield region in the future. All members of the project delegation were committed to work hard to reach those objectives by using their networking skills, contributing to public outreach activities and discuss with various actors in Paris.

It could have been useful for the *REDD+ for the Guiana Shield* project to have a dedicated side event or its own permanent booth in Paris, and for sure it would have been easier to meet with decision-makers and network with negotiators if the delegation members would have had accreditation to access the 'blue zone' in Le Bourget. This was not possible due to external factors, and given the circumstances the best possible was done to still be present in a useful way.

When talking about the Guiana Shield with external actors it was clear that many people still don't know the region and where its countries are located. It will be important to profile the eco-region internationally and make more people aware of the existence of this unique HFLD region with all its value. Being present at COP21 in Paris helped for strengthening the network of contacts outside the Guiana Shield which might prove very useful in the future when collaboration hopefully continues.