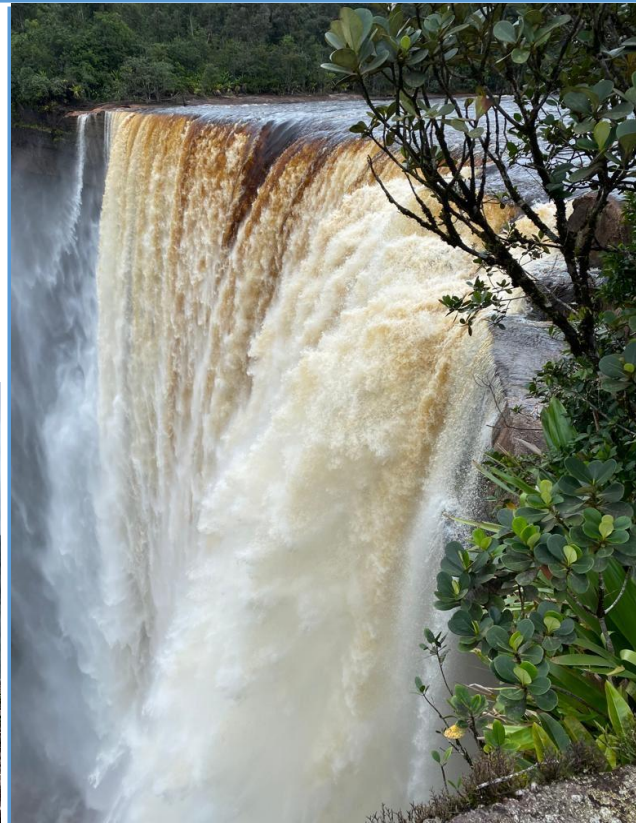




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Development and Management (SLDM) Project



Annual Project
Report 2021

CONTENTS

1. OVERVIEW	2
2. PROJECT PROFILE	3
3. FINANCIAL DATA	4
4. TECHNICAL PROGRESS STATUS	4
5. OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS FOR 2021	5
6. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2021	6
7. ONGOING WORK FOR DELIVERY IN 2022-2023	10
8. BUDGET STATUS	14

1. OVERVIEW

The Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Development and Management (SLDM) Project is oriented towards the achievement of three (3) main outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** - Sustainable Land Development and Management Mainstreamed in Policy, Institutional and Governance Mechanisms to Prevent Degradation and Restore Degraded Lands.
- **Outcome 2:** - Strengthened Institutional and Human Capacity for Participatory and Integrated SLDM.
- **Outcome 3:** - Local Governance Strengthened in 3 Regions for Implementing SLDM.

Additionally, the operations of Project management and monitoring and evaluation are achieved under **Outcome 4** – Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Communication Strategy to ensure that results are delivered in a timely manner and experiences shared.

Guyana's Context – The Project's implementation strategy addresses key issues that affect Sustainable Land Management in Guyana, including:

- **Increased demand for land and need for strengthening of capacities of the GLSC in key technical areas:** The expansion of land-based investment over the years and housing/urbanisation in the coastal plain, in addition to the recent influence from the oil-related sector, have increased the demand for land.
- **Fragmented Governance:** The multiple institutions dealing with land create various issues. These include legal gaps, overlapping of acts and mandates and the lack of comprehensive legal and monitoring frameworks with a shared vision as well as duplication of information such as maps and address database.

About SLDM Project:

- SLDM Project support will strengthen the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission's (GLSC's) mandate over public lands and its function as the National Focal Point for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- The Project developed a National Land Use Policy Paper and will support actions for Sustainable Land Management among agencies.
- SLDM Project supported the establishment of a draft five-year Strategic Plan and a Business Plan for the GLSC, which provides the agency with a new strategic framework for finalisation by GLSC that outlines a clear plan of strategic objectives and actions. Additionally, the strategic planning process will inform the renewal of GLSC's annual work programmes with greater focus on strategic objectives based on its mandate and stakeholder consultations and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) role.
- SLDM Project has and will continue to provide technical expertise to assess systems, methods, equipment, technology and improved and increased institutional and human capacity to enable staff to perform their duties and improve the functions of the Commission to meet national and UNCCD international obligations.

2. PROJECT PROFILE

Country	Guyana	
Project Symbol	GCP /GUY/003/GRI	
Project Title	Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Development and Management	
Resource Partner	Guyana Redd Investment Fund (GRIF)	
Reporting Period	January to December 2021	
Actual EOD	11th April 2018	
Actual NTE	30th April 2023	
Budget Holder (name)	Dr. Gillian Smith	
Lead Technical Officer (name)	Mr. Vladimir Evtimov	
Chief Technical Advisor (name)	Mr. Javier Prieto	
Participating Organizations	The Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC)	
Implementing Partners (List):		
Name	Type (NGO/CBO/Gov.)	Total Funds Transferred
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Guyana Representation	Intergovernmental	USD 300,000 In kind
Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF)	Governmental	USD 14,792,277
Contribution to Programmatic Framework		
Organizational Outcome(s)	SO2 (Making agriculture, fisheries and forestry more sustainable and productive) and contribute to SO5 (Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and	

	crises) and SO1 (Help eliminate food insecurity and malnutrition).
Regional Priorities / Regional Initiative(s)	R13 Sustainable use of natural resources, adaptation to climate change and disaster risk management
UNDAF Outcome(s) (or those from an equivalent UN common country programme document) if applicable	N/A
CPF Output(s)	Outcome 2: Sustainable management and use of natural resources, climate change & resilience of livelihoods to disasters: Output 2.1 National capacities strengthened for sustainable management and use of natural resources. Output 2.2. National governance frameworks that foster sustainable NRM strengthened; and Outcome 3: Agriculture, forestry, fisheries, hinterland and rural development. Output 3.2 Capacity building provided to improve crop, livestock, forestry and fisheries production and productivity and their uptake facilitated as well as the promotion of integrated farming systems.

3. FINANCIAL DATA

Budget:	USD 14,792,277
Expenditure* (Actual + Committed):	USD 8,854,209
Delivery:	60%
*as at 31st December 2021	

4. TECHNICAL PROGRESS STATUS

Overall Technical Progress:	58%
Outcome 1:	86%
Outcome 2:	52%
Outcome 3:	16%
Outcome 4:	78%

5. OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS FOR 2021

The year 2021 has been a pivotal year for the SLDM Project. There has been strong reengagement with national counterparts which has facilitated better alignment of the project with the Government of Guyana's new strategic direction, vision, and the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). This strong partnership has helped to revise and refocus the project and informed several critical adjustments to project objectives and activities under a project restructuring exercise. This was done collaboratively between GLSC and FAO and produced a clear implementation plan and strategy for the rest of the project, taking into consideration, revisions to project objectives and a no-cost extension period of eighteen (18) months.

With the efforts from the Project Steering Committee (PSC) co-chairs and members, the PSC was re-convened on the 27th of August, 2021, and the project budget and work-plan, and changes were endorsed. This was the first PSC meeting after two (2) years, and it was agreed that regular meetings will be held over the remaining implementation period. This will greatly benefit the project as different agencies with institutional mandates, responsibilities and interests in promoting sustainable land management will work collaboratively in service of project goals.

Following the PSC's endorsement, the request for the no-cost extension was submitted to GRIF for consideration. The approval decision from the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF) Steering Committee was provided on the 22nd of November 2021. During this period, the project also received a commitment of increased coordination and partnership from GRIF and Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).

In line with the revised project timeline, several key results were achieved, including completing the National Land Use Policy Paper, Strategic and Business Plan, deployment of drones and other equipment, procurement of GIS software and training and capacity building. However, project implementation progress was affected by the disruptions caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, resulting in delays to regional field activities and the deployment of international staff and consultants.

6. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2021

Outcome 1: Sustainable Land Development and Management (SLDM) Mainstreamed in Policy, Institutional and Governance Mechanisms to Prevent Degradation and Restore Degraded Lands

Main Expected Results

This outcome will strengthen Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) services to carrying out its mandated responsibilities and enhance institutional collaboration across sectors, levels and all agencies dealing with land. This outcome will support the development and mainstreaming of national strategies and frameworks on sustainable land management (e.g., land use policy, spatial data infrastructure, etc.).

Key Achievements

The main achievements under this outcome in 2021 are detailed by outputs.

Output 1.1 Harmonized land policies developed and submitted for adoption and institutional capacities in place for mainstreaming responsible governance of tenure and SLDM.

a) Draft National Land Use Policy Paper completed

This process was completed in August 2021 and the National Land Use Policy Paper handed over to the Government of Guyana. The team has been advised that the country will incorporate it into the development of the National Land Use Policy led by the Government (GLSC, Ministry of Legal Affairs, and Office of the President).

The Policy Paper received direction to provide content on policy, legal and institutional framework of laws, policies and strategies that relate to land and relates to the international conventions related to land. A section on land use and land tenure systems in Guyana provided information on land tenure systems and levels of tenure security. The issues underlying the Land Use Policy consisted of content on Land as a foundation for Guyana's development, and related key land uses issues and historical background of land tenure in Guyana..

Output 1.2 Enhanced land governance through regulatory and financial systems, spatial data information management and enhanced institutional capacities.

a) Strategic and Business Plan for GLSC

A five (5) year draft Strategic and Business Plan, and an Annual Business Plan was developed and handed over for approval and implementation by the Guyana Lands and Surveys

Commission (GLSC). The consultancy was undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers and all deliverables were finalized in October 2021. The S&B Plan analysed GLSC's internal and external environment, enhanced the vision with associated goals, action plans with performance indicators, financial models, monitoring and reporting, and provided best practices from other land agencies as well as new and innovative products for the GLSC to pursue its strategic objectives and financial self-sustainability. Strategic actions for a 5 year period have been reviewed and approved by GLSC.

Outcome 2: Strengthened Institutional and Human Capacity for Participatory and Integrated Sustainable Land Development and Management

Main Expected Results

This outcome will lead to strengthened capacities of GLSC in information management, planning, land information system, geodesy, cadastre development, land degradation assessment and monitoring, and land governance for SLDM and reclamation, as a basis for meeting national and international priorities. It will build capacities in integrated geospatial information systems, land administration, governance of tenure, planning, assessment and monitoring.

Implementation Status

The overall focus of this outcome relates to strengthening the institutional and human capacity. To support the development of human capacity, to date a number of training and capacity building initiatives in several thematic areas of the Project were undertaken: Land Administration (including Land Valuation), Geospatial Information, Land Surveys, and Land Desertification. Furthermore, to support strengthening the institutional capacity, the PwC developed a five (5)-year Strategic Plan and two (2) year Business Plan for GLSC, see Outcome 1 above for more details. Additionally, activities under this outcome focused on the improvement of Land Administration in Guyana.

Key Achievements

The main achievements under this outcome in 2021 are detailed by outputs.

Output 2.1 Strengthened human capabilities for sustainable land development and management

a) Capacity Development

As part of the strengthening of land management and administration services being offered by GLSC, several capacity building programmes were carried out to upskill staff. These capacity development initiatives are critical to the planned revamping and modernizing of land management, administration and surveys in Guyana.

Under the land Valuation Diploma programme at the University of Guyana, twenty-eight (28) staff have been trained in various areas of land administration, such as land valuation operations, assessment and monitoring inclusive of a practical use of a range of land valuation, land assessment and monitoring tools and indicators in support of national reporting compliance for SLDM and tracking contributions of SLDM to SDGs. An additional twenty (20) staff received online training on the use of Drones/ Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). This will enhance the mapping methodologies being utilized by GLSC, thus significantly improving the efficiency of land surveys, mapping, and monitoring of public lands in Guyana.



Drone testing being carried out at GLSC HQ

Output 2.3 Enhanced physical capacity (knowledge, systems, infrastructure, and processes) for sustainable land development and management.

a) Specialised Software

GLSC received a specialized Geographic Information System (GIS) under the Land Administration Modernization Program (LAMP) of Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) which will boost the GIS services and products of GLSC. This is an enterprise system for the processing of geographic data, with software, hardware, and communication capabilities for increased data storage, dissemination, extraction of derivatives from LiDAR for updating of topographic and thematic maps, and preparation of specialized geospatial information products.

This is an agreement for four (4) years. The software would support the improvement of the management of tenure data with capabilities to manage more data (vector, survey, attributes, and imagery) and connectivity with regional offices. The provision of perpetual 50 licenses, extensions, server software, and enterprise for 50-200 users.

Outcome 3: Local Governance Strengthened in 3 Regions for Implementing SLDM

Main Expected Results

Outcome 3 focuses on mainstreaming SLDM in the targeted regions with emphasis on institutional strengthening and governance in these regions. It will enhance regional capacity in areas of land governance, land planning, land management and land restoration and monitoring. Particularly, it supports the development and implementation of land use plans with service providers and land users/local communities for piloting improved SLM, management practices and reclamation measures.

Implementation Status

Preparatory works were developed and are ongoing including the procurement of necessary equipment which will be instrumental in the implementation of planned activities. (See additional details in the following section)

Outcome 4: Project Management Structures and Mechanisms Including M&E Framework Strengthened

Main Expected Results

This outcome will ensure effective Project management and monitoring. It also supports work planning and budget allocations for efficient implementation and communication among partners and key stakeholders.

Key Achievements

Output 4: Project staff hired and management structures in place, for effective partnerships, stakeholder engagement, communications, procurement and monitoring and evaluation.

a) Monitoring and Evaluation

M&E mechanisms have been developed to allow for Monthly – Quarterly and Annual Reporting. Progress on Project indicators are updated periodically into the Results Framework and shared with the PMU to inform corrective actions and work planning.

b) Mid-Term Evaluation

In accordance with the project design, a Mid Term Review (MTR) was undertaken in mid-2021. The MTR found that the relevance for the project remains very high, considering that it is planned to provide crucial information, technical capacities, and capabilities for improved land information, administration, and development. Nine concrete recommendations resulted from this process, seven of which were already incorporated into project implementation. The remaining two will be implemented by June 2022.

7. ONGOING WORK FOR DELIVERY IN 2022-2023

Considering the time remaining to implement the project, the core aspects of sustainable land management and administration, such as enhancing the Geodetic Infrastructure, developing high accuracy base maps of 7 regions using LIDAR technology, Mainstreaming Land Administration, and Strengthening Sustainable Land Management in 3 target regions have been planned for implementation through to project completion. The section below provides details of all actions to be completed and current status.

a) Updating Base maps in Guyana using Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR)

The updating of the base maps in the country will allow for real time identification of land parcels and provide an inventory of territories, including digital elevation model (DEM) to allow for accurate geographical and physical mapping. The base maps, which will be updated using LIDAR, will be a central source of information that integrates existing and future leases and other relevant data from agencies, facilitates planning and benefits areas including transport, infrastructure, investment, land territory management and the agriculture and natural resources and environment sectors.

GLSC as the national mapping and surveying agency has responsibility over the updating of imagery and re-mapping of developed areas. Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) would achieve the updating of the national coverage of 1:50,000 topographic map sheets. The LiDAR Invitation for Bids for imagery for towns and specific areas located in Administrative Regions 1,3,4,5,6,8,9 and 10, and capacity building was launched in October 2021 for the procurement of this service. The procurement process is expected to be finalized by the end of January 2022 to allow for the commencement of the mapping exercise in February 2022 (This is dependent on weather conditions). GLSC has obtained cabinet approval and based on the contracted party would obtain other relevant clearances.

b) Improving Infrastructural Capacity of GLSC

The project will undertake Construction and renovation to expand its services in Regions 1, 6 and 7. These works were drafted with standardised designs and estimated costs for four (4) of GLSC's sub-regional offices in order to address the continuously increasing demand for decentralized land administration services, to establish permanence and to increase efficiency of GLSC's operations. The renovation works will be undertaken in Region 1 (Mabaruma) sub-regional office and accommodation while a new sub-regional office would be built in Port Kaituma, and a sub-regional office would be rebuilt in Region 6 (Black Bush Polder). Additionally, a new sub-regional office with accommodation would be constructed in Region 7 (Bartica).

The SLDM Project has contracted a design architect to provide the building site designs, design specifications, scope of works, assessment of existing structures, and spaces, and engineers' estimates for four (4) new regional office buildings and accommodation spaces, and one (1) renovation of a regional office. This work is expected to be finalized by the end of February 2022, thereafter, the ITB will be launched for the construction phase in early March 2022.

c) Improving Physical Capacity of GLSC

The project has initiated the procurement of land surveying equipment, vehicles and computers that will improve GLSC's transportation, surveying capabilities, networking infrastructure, data use and management, field activity mobility and build internal capacities to utilize new and emerging technologies.

The changes in GLSC priorities have resulted in adjustments to the technical specifications for the equipment and other services to be procured by the project. Several invitations to bid (ITBs) were relaunched in 2021 for the procurement of specialised land surveying and information, communication and technology (ICT) equipment. Purchase orders totalling approximately USD110,000 for Land surveying equipment and three (3) new Toyota Hilux double cab vehicles were issued for 2021 and are awaiting delivery.

Commercial evaluations for 2 high-value equipment ITBs are ongoing, which are estimated to cost approximately US\$1,100,000 when the purchase orders are issued.

One re-tender is planned for two (2) boats and two (2) engines to support more field activities in riverain areas which would support land administration needs such as land inspections, monitoring, and cadastral surveys.

d) Improving Geodetic Network and its Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS)

The improvement of the Geodetic Network and its CORS will allow for increased accuracy in cadastral surveys, mapping of varying scales and their harmonization, linkage and continuity with the rest of the mapping and geographical information in the country to the benefit of all related agencies and private surveyors.

The project will undertake activities to assess current situation for an improved geodetic network and infrastructure, development of capacities to increase accuracy using the network/CORS and support integration of Guyana to the Geocentric Reference System for the

Americas (Sistema de Referencia Geocentrico para Las Americas) SIRGAS and International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF).

The service provider is expected to supervise the densification of CORS and support horizontal and vertical controls for increased accuracy in surveying operations. Additionally, Cadastral Development would entail processes and procedures to support the transformation of historical cadastral data into data of GLSC meeting the Land Administration Domain Model (LADM) to be adopted and the new Guyana centric coordinate system. This would strengthen the office to field to office procedures to collect control information to support a higher accuracy transformation and transformation of CAD data to geospatial data. Training for the maintenance of CORS, geodetic transformation and cadastre would strengthen sustainability of the systems developed and operationalized.

e) Improving Land Administration and GIS Services

The Land Administration and GIS Services for a Land Information System is expected to meet the standard of the Land Administration Domain Model (LADM) to enable GLSC to align spatial data such as land parcel, surveying information, geometry and topology, and establish a descriptive standard for information on land tenure. The project will take an integrated approach to combine land use, legal, cadastre and land administration data for a land information system. It is expected to commence after approval of a proposal from a University which will support knowledge transfer and human capacity building through direct supervision of core components for the long-term growth and development of GLSC.

f) Improving Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Practices and Rehabilitation in three (3) regions

The improvement of sustainable land management practices under Outcome 3 of the project will contribute towards Guyana's achievement of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Targets in its agreement with UNCCD as well as its monitoring of the environment aligned to the LCDS as monitoring of land, particularly forests is critical since they are the world's largest carbon sink and contribute significantly to reduced CO2 emission.

An internationally recognized system will be provided to GLSC, which as the UNCCD focal point, is responsible for national reporting. This will build on existing reporting systems to better meet international obligations and improve monitoring.

Under Outcome 3, the project would proceed towards meeting the international obligations under UNCCD and SDG 15.3.1 and the activities will be conducted in 3 target regions for land degradation and all the processes including land reclamation. Institutional strengthening for SLM through local governance. Among others, consultations would be conducted to identify

barriers and recommend suitable solutions or measures related to land restoration and reclamation. Additionally, capacity will be strengthened for stakeholders and service providers to adapt and promote resilient SLM. This will include private sector and civil society, who will be taken into account under future land policies and governance mechanisms.

A consultant will be hired to manage the completion of this output with technical support services from FAO's Land and Water Division. A training package will be implemented to support GLSC in the fulfilment of its mandate as the focal point for several international obligations to monitor the environment (e.g., United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), Land use mapping, Land Cover etc.). This Technical training on the "Use of SEPAL platform for assessment and monitoring of land degradation and restoration activities" will be carried out in January 2022 and will support land monitoring and identify areas for reclamation.

g) Land Administration and Management Diploma Programme

This course would upskill staff with the knowledge and technical capabilities needed to improve work performance of land agencies and GLSC for improved operations in land administration and management. The tertiary level training will be conducted through a Letter of Agreement with the University of Guyana for a period of 18 months in 2022.

h) Land Surveys Scholarship Programme

A scholarship programme has been created for ten (10) students to complete the Diploma in Land Surveys at the Government Technical Institute (GTI), Georgetown. The Two-Year Land Surveying Diploma Programme aims to provide surveyors with the capacity to prepare precise descriptions (surveys and maps) of surface features, conduct boundary surveys, topographic mapping and construction staking. Funded students would sign a long-term agreement with GLSC to strengthen its surveying capacity. The programme will be managed by GLSC through a Service Contract which has already been issued.

8. BUDGET STATUS

Overview of Budget delivery status: As at the 31st of December 2021, **USD 8,854,209** was expended; this represents approx. 60% of the project budget of USD 14,792,277. Of the USD 8,854,209, approx. 47% represents committed funds for activities such as the procurement of land surveys and IT equipment, vehicles, and Lidar Mapping Services. The available budget for the forthcoming implementation period is USD 5,938,068.