

**Proposal Submission in response to Call for Proposals (CFP) issued by
LEAF Coalition on April 22, 2021**

Dated: August 2, 2021

Your use and review of this proposal submission (Submission) is subject to the following conditions.

1. **Authorized party.** You represent and warrant that you are an authorized representative of the company that employs you and which is a participant in the LEAF Coalition (Company) and, in that capacity, can bind Company to the terms herein.
2. **Confidentiality.** Except as otherwise agreed by you and Emergent, you understand that the information contained herein is confidential (hereinafter “Information”). You will:
 - a. Use your best efforts to keep the Information confidential;
 - b. Not reveal such Information to parties other than those: (i) which are Emergent-named individuals that represent companies that are members of the LEAF Coalition; and (ii) employees, agents, partners, shareholders, officers, directors or other representatives of Company (collectively, “Representatives”) who have an actual need for such Information to further Company discussions that may result in purchase of emission reduction credits (“Activities”);
 - c. Advise in writing Representatives receiving the Information of its confidential nature;
 - d. Direct such Representatives to treat the Information confidentially, not to use it except in connection with the Activities, and not disclose it to any third person that is not authorized to receive such Confidential Information.
3. **Disclaimer.** This Submission is the ‘raw’ submission of a jurisdiction in repose to the CFP. Neither Emergent nor any party of the LEAF Coalition have conducted any verification of claims made in this Submission or made any edits. This disclaimer applies to all sections of the Submission, including claims made around projected emission reductions (ERs).

By accessing this Submission, to protect and further the interests of the LEAF Coalition, if you intend to negotiate an ER transaction contemplated by this Submission within the next twelve months, you agree to work in good faith to reach mutually agreeable terms to transact under the LEAF Coalition, and agree to be transparent about and seek to resolve any complicating issues with the LEAF Coalition. If complications cannot be resolved after good faith efforts, you agree for the next six months to provide prior written notice to Emergent and members of the LEAF Core Advisory Group before you initiate discussions directly or indirectly with the Host Jurisdiction responsible for this Submission with respect to a potential emission reduction transaction contemplated by this Submission outside of the LEAF Coalition.

If you are unwilling or unable to comply with this obligation, please destroy this document immediately and notify Emergent accordingly.

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Government of Guyana

July 2021

GUYANA PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

THE LEAF COALITION



2022-2026

The LEAF Coalition

Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest finance

Jurisdictions are invited to provide a cover letter template in their proposal submission.

Please note that in signing this form, you recognize that at a future stage, we will negotiate in good faith with a view to mutually fair and acceptable terms of a transaction through an Emissions Reduction Purchase Agreement (ERPA) with the LEAF Coalition participants via Emergent, acting as coordinator of Coalition.

Please note that the terms of the LEAF Call for Proposals (CFP) does not include removals due to the fact that ART/TREES 2.0 has not been finalized yet. Once the final version is published, all provisions therein will apply, and thus removals are expected to be eligible, and corresponding information will be requested of interested jurisdictions.

At this stage, jurisdictions are encouraged to provide succinct and clear responses with relevant links to this template. The LEAF Coalition participants recognize that the timeline for submission is short and as such does not expect complete and thorough explanations. Rather, we seek indication of willingness and ability to provide emission reductions to LEAF Coalition contributors according to the terms specified in the CFP. Please note that these answers are considered preliminary. If selected, Emergent will follow-up with further questions on a case-by- case basis.

Proposal submitted by (Name of Jurisdiction) (referred to as "Supplier" in this document)

Guyana

Institution name: **Guyana Forestry Commission**

Country: **Guyana**

Focal point's name, title:

[REDACTED]

Mailing Address:

[REDACTED]

Email address:

[REDACTED]

Telephone:

[REDACTED]

Brief description of legal authority to represent country or jurisdiction:

Forests in Guyana are managed and administered under the Guyana Forestry Commission Act 2007 and the Forest Act 2009. These two national legislations outline the national ownership and mandate of forest areas in Guyana and include forest goods and services including forest carbon services. This is further supported by Guyana's National Forest Policy and Plan.

[Letter of Submission from National Authority - Guyana](#)

Please check applicable category that best defines your institution:

- National government**
- Sub-national government(s)(please specify applicable administrative level of government. If more than one subnational jurisdiction, please specify)

Please confirm that:

- The boundaries of a subnational accounting area correspond with the entire area of one or several administrative jurisdictions no more than one level down from national level and one or several recognized indigenous territories;
 - Total forest area of at least 2.5 million hectares;
 - The national government will provide the participant with a letter from the relevant national entity authorizing the Participant's application to and participation in ART.
-
- Recognized indigenous communities (TBC – depending on inclusion under the finalized ART TREES 2.0)¹

Please confirm that:

- The boundaries of a subnational accounting area correspond with the entire area of the territory/ territories;
- Participating territories must be comprised of a total area (forest and non-forest) of at least 2.5 million hectares;
- The national government will provide the participant with a letter from the relevant national entity authorizing the Participant's application to and participation in ART.

Expression of Consent

- The Supplier, by checking the box, agrees to negotiate in good faith towards entering into an Emission Reductions Purchasing Agreement (ERPA) with interested LEAF Coalition participants if the proposal is assessed as eligible.

Please note: if a proposal overlaps geographically with another proposal, the LEAF Coalition will require a plan for how the two potential Suppliers will distribute benefits amongst themselves as well as the Supplier Country's authorization in the form of a letter, in accordance with ART/TREES.

¹ Under the proposed draft of TREES 2.0, "Participants shall be national governments (i.e., the highest level of government that exists in the country), subnational governments no more than one level down from national level, or recognized indigenous communities provided the requirements in section 3.1.1 are met." The ultimate eligibility of Indigenous communities' jurisdictions will depend on the definition of jurisdiction under the finalized ART TREES 2.0.

Date of submission: **26 July 2021**

Name of authorized representative:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Signature:

[REDACTED]

.....

General:

1. Forest Emission Reduction Targets (500 words excluding links and appendices)

Please provide a narrative and applicable links, outlining Supplier's forest goals related to emission reductions from REDD+², for example, 2030 zero deforestation goals.

Guyana is a high forest cover low emission/deforestation rate (HFLE/D) country, with forests covering approximately 85% of the country, approximately 18 million ha. These forests contain an estimated 19.5 billion tons (or Gt) of CO₂ in live and dead biomass pools (GoG, 2014) and remain largely intact. Over the past 30 years, the rate of forest loss (0.02% to 0.070% yr⁻¹) has been extremely low.

Once economically feasible, Guyana is willing to pledge its entire forest area to the global REDD+ Programme as its contribution to meet global targets and goals as set out by the Paris Agreement. Guyana commits to maintaining 99% of its forest, which will store the vast majority of the 19.5 GT CO₂. This will also conserve globally significant biodiversity, water management and ecosystem services – Guyana is part of the Guiana Shield which stores c. 18% of the world's tropical forest carbon and 20% of the world's fresh water.

The HFLD ART-TREES methodology converts Guyana's commitment into credits for reducing and avoiding emissions amounting - to an average of 15,000,000 to 17,000,000 t CO₂ annually for the period 2022 to 2026 through maintaining low rates of deforestation and forest degradation, and emissions reduction. As well as committing to maintaining 99% of its forest, Guyana commits to fulfilling its Nationally Determined Contributions outlined for the forest sector and continue to align implementation of these targets to SDG goals 13 and 15.

The journal of [Nature Communications](#) reports that worldwide anthropogenic modification of forests means only 40% of remaining forests have high ecosystem integrity. Guyana is an essential part of the Amazon biome - one of the world's four largest remaining standing tropical rainforests. Guyana is one of a few countries with a high proportion of untouched intact forests with high ecosystem integrity. With this in mind, Guyana commits to maintaining this forest cover and supporting the global ambition of set out under the Paris Agreement.

Guyana's national forest monitoring system, established in 2009, reports forest loss and emissions on an annual basis. Details of Guyana's historical and annually reported performance measures are detailed in the Reference Level for REDD+ documentation submitted in 2014 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and subsequent report prepared after UNFCCC's review.

[Guyana proposal for forest reference emission level for REDD](#)
[UNFCCC technical review of forest reference emission level](#)

Guyana continues to monitor annual forest loss and maintain low rates of deforestation. For reference, links to the 2019 and 2020 reports are provided below.

[Guyana MRVS 2020 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2019 Report](#)

Guyana's Commitments to the Paris Agreement

Guyana's NDC recognizes the land use and forest sector as a key sector for its unconditional and conditional commitments, together with the energy sector. In this regard, Guyana's contribution to the Paris Agreement draws on its national Strategy – the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), and early REDD+ efforts to continue promoting a combination of conservation and sustainable management practices, as key climate change mitigation measures.

2. Progress towards, or readiness to meet (non-safeguards elements of) ART/TREES requirements (500 words excluding links and appendices)

Please provide a summary of the Supplier's progress towards preparing/submitting a concept note, and/or registration document for ART, including expected timelines for submission (e.g. estimated date by which a registration document might be submitted). Please include links to any relevant documentation that has already been submitted to the ART secretariat, if applicable.

Please provide an overview of the steps taken to align with non-safeguards requirements of ART/TREES, and Supplier's ability to meet such requirements. If this proposal is selected by the Coalition participants, this information will be accepted as indication of commitment towards meeting ART/TREES requirements.

Guyana submitted its Concept Note to ART in December 2020 and was approved by the ART Secretariat. Guyana's TREES Concept has been officially referenced in the ART Registry as **Listed**.

All documents submitted to the ART Secretariat by Guyana are available online see [ART Registration Profile](#). In this submission, Guyana signalled a desire for its first crediting period to be 2016 to 2020.

Guyana plans to submit its first monitoring and registration document within a month of finalising the High Forest Low Deforestation (HFLD) module and approval of the ART Board. The preparation of these documents is quite advanced and is only awaiting this module's finalising to inform the appropriate crediting level.

Further, Guyana is prepared to apply for verification and validation shortly after the approval of the TREES Registration and Monitoring Reports.

Guyana has revised its national Low Carbon Development Strategy 2021 (See: [Guyana LCDS Summary](#)

[2021](#)) and has submitted its First Summary of Information on REDD+ Safeguards to the UNFCCC ([REDD UNFCCC - Guyana safeguards report](#)).

Guyana's Alignment with Non-Safeguards Aspects of ART Requirements

Guyana's REDD+ MRV systems align with ART TREES requirements. A robust Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) system at a national scale has been developed in Guyana since 2010 ([Guyana's forest change monitoring system](#)).

It provides wall to wall coverage of all drivers of deforestation in all forest areas. A national Forest Carbon Monitoring System has been developed to complement the annual assessment of activity data. Both measures are collated and reported annually. A key aspect is that area changes are tracked spatially and attributed to the relevant reporting period. This multi-layer system across each year and area monitored are every year with new areas of change mapped and monitored for emission impact by the driver. This reporting is independently accuracy assessed, and independently verified by a third-party peer reviewer.

[Guyana MRVS 2020 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2019 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2018 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2017 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2015-2016 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2014 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2013 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2012 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2011 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2010 Report](#)

Guyana's MRV System has undergone numerous reviews, including the UNFCCC, through its Reference Level Submission process and audited by the Norwegian appointed consultants as part of their mid-term review. All have found the systems used to report forest loss and emissions to be robust, a sentiment endorsed by the 2020 Mid-Term review team:

"The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) has built tremendous skills over the years with capacity improving year on year. The GFC team had already attained a high level of competence over the first phase of the project (Years 1-5) and have consolidated their skills in the second phase (Years 6-9). The GFC has a very strong internal team and they continue to evolve against the moving background of other evolution inside Guyana".

For reference, these Reports are available at:

[Guyana proposal for forest reference emission level for REDD](#)

[UNFCCC technical review of forest reference emission level](#)

[Guyana-MRVS Mid-Term Evaluation \(2020\)](#)

3. Capacity building/technical assistance needs (500 words excluding links and appendices)

If applicable, please summarize the capacity gaps and needs for support identified as necessary to meet ART/TREES requirements, and plans to address these gaps before submitting validation/verification documents to ART. This information will be critical for planning purposes.

Guyana's systems are well advanced in meeting ART TREES requirements. The REDD+ Secretariat at the GFC is well resourced and continues to benefit from support from GFC's technical partners. Guyana envisages that as new technologies and processes are developed, the current monitoring system will continue to be improved and extended. A short video presentation provides a helpful summary of the monitoring team's accomplishments and intended future directions. [Guyana's MRVS an overview](#)

Particular areas of assistance, though these will be needed more in the medium term, include: Support on reporting on Safeguard Information System, the introduction of decision support systems to assist forest compliance monitoring, adaptation/improvement of information relay to remote locations, coordination of data collection and reporting systems to support more real-time monitoring, routine training in Monte Carlo Simulations and development, and management of a Carbon Registry system. Existing capacities and structures in Guyana, in each of these areas will be sufficient to meet ART requirements, and strengthening of these areas are more aligned to meeting medium term needs under ART.

4. High Forest Low/Deforestation (HFLD) (if applicable, 500 words excluding links and appendices)

Please indicate whether the Supplier expects to qualify as HFLD according to the criteria in the draft TREES 2.0 and whether the Supplier proposes to make available emission reductions under LEAF according to a future, approved HFLD -methodology in TREES. Please note that expressing expectation to do so is not binding.

Guyana plans to participate in ART TREES under the approved HFLD methodology. Guyana meets the HFLD score required to qualify as an HFLD participant: Guyana has a forest cover of 18,001,790 ha (2020), representing 83.7% of the national land area. The average rate of deforestation between 2016 and 2020 was 0.060% (average of 0.050%, 0.054%, 0.055%, 0.080%, 0.060%). Entering these numbers into Equation 7 in TREES v2 gives an HFLD score of 0.84. As this score is more than 0.5, Guyana qualifies as HFLD. Further, Guyana supports the revised methodology for HFLD application.

Based on the methodology under this module (in particular, the crediting of one/thousandth of the 19.5 Gt of stored carbon pledged by Guyana), Guyana will be able to offer an average of 17,000,000 tCO² annually under the Programme.

5. Estimate of ART/TREES crediting level (non-binding)

Please provide an estimate of the ART/TREES crediting level, including annual estimates used to develop the crediting level, and links to further methodological descriptions of these estimates. We understand that these estimates are based on assumptions and will not be final.

Please indicate a tentative selection of baseline years, consistent with the ART-TREES standard.

Please indicate the assumptions made in the emission reduction volume calculations.

Please provide a link to relevant public documentation or reporting (e.g. National Communications, REDD+ strategy/action plan).

The LEAF crediting period of 2022-2026 will span two ART crediting periods for Guyana – Guyana’s second and third crediting periods. Guyana’s first crediting period takes advantage of the “look-back” option. It runs from 2016-2020, the second crediting period for which Guyana is currently submitting a registration document will run from 2021 to 2025. Thus, a third period will run from 2026-2030.

The reference period for the 2021 – 2025 crediting period has the following emissions:

Drivers	units	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Forestry infrastructure	tCO ₂	329,066	304,491	392,891	240,708	205,521
Agriculture		420,840	616,226	625,244	506,802	542,943
Mining (medium and large scale)		7,130,111	8,770,701	8,511,775	6,800,336	6,783,276
Infrastructure		228,138	187,900	154,348	62,016	107,744
Settlements		8,411	21,554	8,466	31,728	62,971
Fire-Biomass Burning		1,575,896	577,083	866,669	7,100,443	3,063,029
Shifting Cultivation			541,930	478,496	473,192	608,345
Deforestation		9,692,461	11,019,885	11,037,888	15,215,226	11,373,829
Logging	tCO ₂	2,987,896	3,180,717	3,259,093	3,109,512	3,253,797
Illegal logging		11,958	14,389	19,771	11,425	6,809
Mining and Infrastructure		295,623	257,481	227,362	185,756	183,877
Degradation		3,295,477	3,452,587	3,506,226	3,306,693	3,444,483
TOTAL		12,987,938	14,472,471	14,544,114	18,521,918	14,818,312

The crediting level is calculated here based on the approach given in TREES 2.0. Given Guyana’s status as an HFLD country (see section 4 above), the calculation uses the May 2021 revised HFLD approach.

The average of historical emissions between 2016 and 2020 (CL_1) is: 15,068,951 t CO₂/yr

Guyana’s HFLD score in 2020 (see Section 4 above) is: 0.84

Guyana’s carbon stock in 2020 is: 1213.7 t CO₂/ha * 18,001,790 ha = 21,849,168,186 t CO₂

0.1% of this number = 21,849,168 t CO₂

The HFLD crediting level ($HFLDCL_n$) is equal to $CL_1 + (HFLD \text{ Score} * 0.1\% \text{ of carbon stock}) = 33,350,018$ t CO₂/yr

Thus, the crediting level for the LEAF period will be:

Year	CREDITING LEVEL
2022	33,350,018 t CO ₂ e
2023	33,350,018 t CO ₂ e
2024	33,350,018 t CO ₂ e
2025	33,350,018 t CO ₂ e
2026	To be determined based on emissions between 2021 and 2025

See attached Worksheet. [Guyana ART WorkBook - Trees V2.1](#)

Supporting documents, including methodological applications and Standard Operating Procedures, are available at:

[Standard Operating Procedures for Guyana's Forest Carbon Monitoring System](#)

[Standard Operating Procedures for Guyana's Forest Area Assessment Programme](#)

[Guyana's Report on Emission Factors](#)

[Publication on Methods for Monitoring Mining Degradation in Guyana](#)

The main assumptions made in the emissions reduction volume calculations are:

- Guyana will be approved for all three mitigating factors for reversal buffers
- Guyana's emissions do not deviate significantly from the historical average
- The uncertainty deduction is 10.6%

Please see the link below for a summary of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy 2021:

[Guyana LCDS Summary 2021](#)

Guyana's MRVS Reports, which provide reported results and independent accuracy assessment reports, are available from the period 2010 to 2020 at:

[Guyana MRVS 2020 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2019 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2018 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2017 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2015-2016 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2014 Report](#)

[Guyana MRVS 2013 Report](#)
[Guyana MRVS 2012 Report](#)
[Guyana MRVS 2011 Report](#)
[Guyana MRVS 2010 Report](#)

Additionally, Guyana’s Reference Level for REDD+ submitted to the UNFCCC and accompanying Technical Assessment Review are available at:

[Guyana proposal for forest reference emission level for REDD](#)
[UNFCCC technical review of forest reference emission level](#)

6. Annual target ERs³ (non-binding)

Please provide an estimate of the ART /TREES expected volumes of ERs that may be delivered annually in the 2022-2026 period. We understand that these estimates are based on assumptions, and will not be final.

Delivery by the end of (year)	Quantity(range, in metric tonnes CO2 equivalent)	Crediting year (please specify in brackets if emissions from forests are accounted for according to timelines that deviate from calendar years (e.g. Aug 1 st –July 31 st))
2022	17,000,000	January to December 2022
2023	17,000,000	January to December 2023
2024	17,000,000	January to December 2024
2025	17,000,000	January to December 2025
2026	17,000,000	January to December 2026

³ Please note that this is an initial estimate. LEAF Coalition participants do not expect this to be accurate at this stage.

7. Policies and Measures (500 words excluding links and appendices)

Please provide a summary of existing policy measures, regulations, enforcement and public finance instruments (taxes, transfers, subsidies) the Supplier determines are adequate to achieve the ERs, and a reference to where this information is publicly provided. If applicable, please describe other interventions (beyond policies and measures) Supplier has taken, or will take, to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, and enhance sequestration in order to provide ERs under LEAF (e.g. forest fire prevention). If the interventions are not yet operational, please provide a timeline with milestones.

In order to provide a pathfinder towards policies and measures to advance the REDD+ agenda, in 2009, Guyana and Norway agreed to work together to create a model for REDD+ . The two countries signed an agreement where Norway would provide Guyana with result-based payments for forest climate services, alongside co-operation between the countries in the fight against climate change, the protection of biodiversity and the enhancement of sustainable development.

The implementation of activities encompassed in the 2009 Agreement with Norway to date has provided Guyana relevant insights on the economic feasibility of REDD+ results-based pathway. This agreement has equipped Guyana with tools that support sustainable management, conservation and protection of forests. From a planning and policy perspective, several documents support these intentions, i.e. as stated in the country's NDC ([Guyana's revised NDC - Final.pdf \(unfccc.int\)](#)), [Guyana's LCDS Summary 2021](#), and National Forest Policy ([Guyana's National Forest Policy Statement \(2018\)](#)) and [Guyana's National Forest Plan \(GFC 2018\)](#).

Guyana's institutional and legal framework supports REDD+ implementation. This includes the enactment of forest regulations under the Parliament that aim to ensure the continued low deforestation and forest degradation rates, including the provision of necessary platforms for the promulgation of forest legislation updates. It provides a comprehensive suite of laws governing conservation and biodiversity protection consistent with national forest programmes that apply to the REDD+ Implementation Plan. The National Forest Policy Statement 2018 (NFPS) and National Forest Plan 2018 (NFP) have been developed within the framework of the Guyana Constitution¹.

This REDD+ policy framework has resulted in greater sectoral coordination and more efficient policy formulation and implementation. Guyana has aligned efforts to develop REDD+ actions further and has strengthened its institutional capacities to facilitate REDD+ implementation. The activities are all in progress.

In addition, Guyana has committed to applying relevant policies and safeguards in the context of

¹ The Constitution of Guyana 1980 – Principles and Bases of the Political, Economic and Social System recognises by virtue of section 36- the wellbeing of the nation requires inter alia the preservation of the rich diversity of plants and eco-systems. This is a general aspiration of the nation expressed by the drafters of the Constitution and represent the broad objectives which can be viewed as the foundation for all the subordinate legislation, regulations and policies.

activities to be financed by Guyana's REDD+ financing. All of the above have been established as activities enabling Guyana's performance to be consistent with the Cancun safeguards.

REDD+ Actions in Guyana continue to be consistent with our commitments to the UNFCCC, and other international obligations (including EU FLEGT and EITI) and importantly, national policies, including the National Forest Policy and Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). All are underscored in Guyana's NDC and are currently being actioned.

Guyana's LCDS sets out a vision through which economic development and climate change mitigation are reconciled through the generation of payments for forest services in a mechanism of sustainable utilization and development (i.e. REDD+). The aim is to support the transformation of Guyana's economy whilst combating climate change.

8. Use of Proceeds *(1000 words excluding links and appendices)*

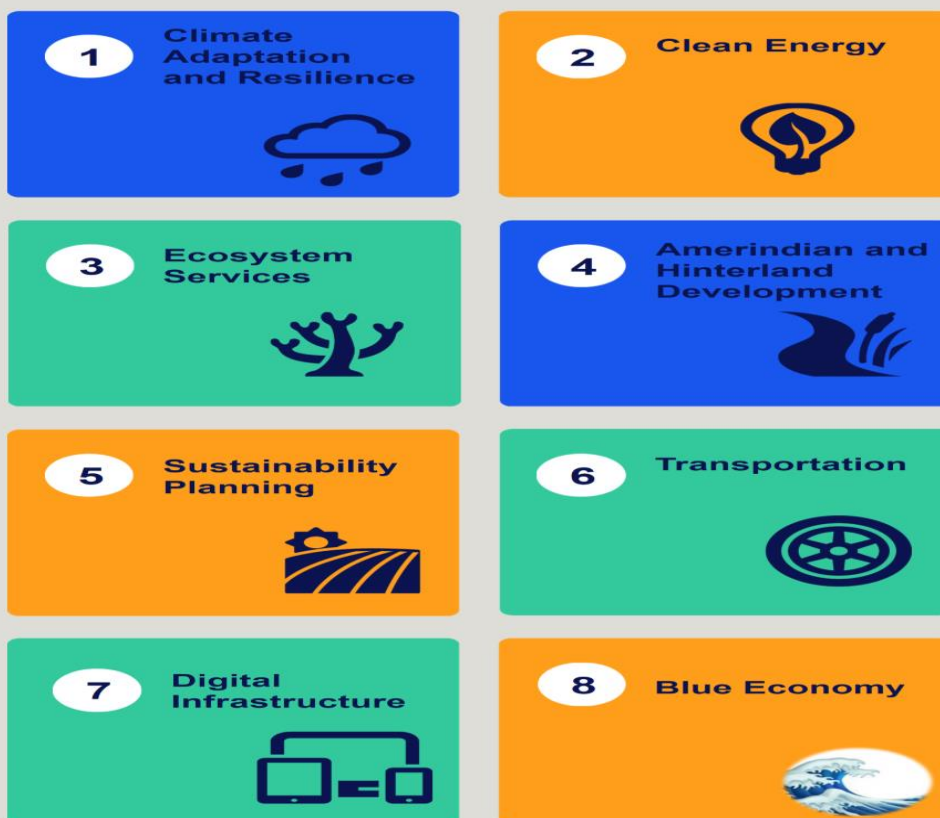
Please acknowledge the eligible uses of proceeds as established in the CFP, and provide initial thinking on the focus of a high-level investment framework describing the plans or arrangements in place for investing the proceeds of a transaction with LEAF Coalition contributors. This plan should be consistent with achieving the Supplier Country's NDC and sustainable economic development with a priority for forest protection and forest restoration, including its REDD+ strategy/action plan. The plan must also explain how benefits from such a transaction will be distributed to stakeholders. This plan should demonstrate equity, inclusivity, and transparency, and it should reach local communities and support wider climate goals. Suppliers may indicate whether future payments will be used to leverage up-front investments, if applicable. In other words, proceeds may be used to repay bonds or loans that were used specifically to finance activities that are consistent with the guidance on use of proceeds.

The following programmes will be advanced under LEAF and will build in many cases on already commenced actions, aimed at achieving climate goals. Guyana's national development thrust is guided by the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). Guyana's previous LCDS commenced in 2009 and a revised LCDS has been developed. Based on the new opportunities provided by ecosystem services, the new LCDS 2030 will focus on accelerating the creation of a new low carbon economy in Guyana by 2030. It will advance eight themes, which will be further developed as part of the LCDS National Consultation:

- *From 2021:* Climate Adaptation and Resilience, Clean Energy, Ecosystem Services and Amerindian and Hinterland Development
- *From 2022:* Sustainability Planning, Transportation, Digital Infrastructure, and building a Blue Economy.



Towards 2030: Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy



CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION

In 2021, work will start to plan the implementation of Guyana's Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan. This will build from the analysis, including a summary of the most significant climate risks and required resilience actions across 15 key sectors, as well as a five-year plan to design new interventions and a pipeline of projects. Immediately, 4 priority programs will be mobilized to begin implementation in 2022:

- *Sea Defense Enhancement and Maintenance*
- *Drainage and Irrigation (D & I) Systems*

- *Building Climate-Resilient Agriculture Systems*
- *Public Health Adaptation to Climate Change*

CLEAN ENERGY

If the electricity supply mix stays as it is today, consumer costs will not reduce significantly, while greenhouse gas emissions will increase significantly. The Government intends to implement a strategy of de-coupling economic growth from using fossil fuels for electricity by developing low carbon energy resources (Solar, Hydro, Wind, Biomass, and Natural Gas) to meet rapidly rising demand and keep greenhouse gas emissions low.

AN ECOSYSTEMS APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLY GROWING THE EXTRACTIVE AND FORESTRY SECTORS

The management of Guyana’s ecosystem services is vital to both the country and the world – and achieving the right balance between potentially competing developmental models is one of the core challenges faced by the country. Guyana will work to address this challenge through three strands of activities, including

- (i) sustainable mining and forestry to enhance employment and income generation opportunities through domestic regulation and linking with global market standards such as PEFC;
- (ii) forest climate services – as the first capability for Guyana’s ecosystem services, work will be deepened to underpin the Monitoring Reporting and Verification System (MRVS) and Safeguard Information System (SOI) that underpin REDD+ and ART-TREES, while also creating the right legal and policy frameworks for individual projects, including restoration and reclamation in mined out areas.
- (iii) Work will also advance to integrate Guyana’s next generation of ecosystem services for the national and global good. This may entail enabling local communities to join with local business, the government and international partners to create new pathfinding models for valuing the ecosystems found in Guyana, and exploring its potential for water management, biodiversity protection and addressing climate, sustainability and health challenges. The National Protected Areas System currently comprises approximately 8.4% of Guyana’s landmass, or 1.76 million hectares, and includes:
 - [Iwokrama Forest](#)
 - [Kaieteur National Park](#);
 - [Kanashen Amerindian Protected Area](#);
 - [Kanuku Mountains Protected Area](#);
 - [Shell Beach Protected Area](#);

Expanding and further supporting existing protected areas to maintain and protect forest and ecosystem services, including biodiversity, will be central to a new programme that will utilise new forest carbon financing resources.

AMERINDIAN AND HINTERLAND DEVELOPMENT

Support for Amerindian and other hinterland communities and villages has been at the core of the LCDS since 2009, including the Amerindian Land Titling (ALT) project, and the Amerindian Development Fund (ADF).

From 2021 onwards, support will continue through a number of pillars to be determined in consultation with communities but which will likely include:

- **Advance current phase of the Amerindian Land Titling (ALT) project by 2025**
- **Phase 3 of the Amerindian Development Fund:** Under Phase 1 and 2, funding and technical support were provided to 178 communities and villages for implementation of their Community Development Plans (CDPs). A third phase of the ADF project is contemplated to further bolster the socio-economic development of Amerindian communities and villages.
- **Strengthen Indigenous Peoples/Amerindian Participation in REDD+ and implement the Opt-In Mechanism** REDD+ and ART-TREES implementation has the potential to reduce Amerindian vulnerability to climate change. Improving the sustainability of extractive economic activities and identifying alternative economic activities has the potential to result in additional employment opportunities and improving Amerindian people's livelihoods.

Sustainability Planning

As Guyana develops, the country's cities and towns will need to overcome several existing and new challenges. Livable cities and towns will need modern transportation networks, affordable housing, infrastructure to support the digital economy and a network of facilities to enhance Guyana's offering to both businesses and tourists.

Long Distance and Hinterland Transportation

The Urban Development plans described above will include a focus on integrated and affordable urban transportation systems. In parallel, the Long Distance and Hinterland Transportation Strategy will look at ways to accelerate all other forms of transportation in a way that balances the country's urgent transportation needs with a long-distance vision for low carbon transportation.

Digital Infrastructure

In 2022, work will start to identify these opportunities and to determine how Guyana can take advantage of global trends in way that benefits Guyanese citizens of all ages and from all parts of the country, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups and remote communities who might otherwise be excluded.

Developing a Sustainable Blue Economy

Guyana will undertake a very proactive and sustainable approach to developing its ocean resources. Developing the blue economy is a huge opportunity for Guyana for boosting economic growth in a way that maintains the integrity of the ocean resources. Developing a sustainable blue economy is crucial for Guyana as it manages their rich ocean resources, growing commercial fishing sector, emerging shipping and logistics industry, and ecotourism programmes.

9. NDC Alignment (500 words excluding links and appendices)

Please explain how payments received under LEAF would contribute to achieving the targets established in the Supplier Country's NDC. Please also indicate how it is envisioned that the payments will contribute to raising the level of NDC ambition over time. Please note that it is not expected that potential Supplier Countries will be able to commit to increasing ambitions by the July 30th deadline. Rather, a simple narrative about how this is envisioned is welcomed.

In 2016, Guyana submitted its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC. Guyana has identified a set of strategic options that aim to maintain low deforestation rates, reduce emissions where that is possible and advance development of renewable energy. Three sectors are included in the NDC: forestry sector, mining sector and energy sector. Payments from LEAF will be used to support Guyana's achievement of the following NDC commitments, and in doing so, align closely to these ambitions:

Development and implementation of codes of practice to inform effective forest resources management in forest harvesting activities to maintain low rates of deforestation and forest degradation. Guyana's forests have multiple uses, with forest harvesting representing a single aspect of the economic activities undertaken. To this end, sustainable forest management and the accompanying codes of practices are essential to ensure efficient management of the resources, resulting in maintained low rates of forest carbon emissions from the forest sector.

Implementation of forest monitoring activities to ensure conformance with sustainable forest management (SFM) guidelines and EU FLEGT requirements- Legality and the activities that support these requirements are critical to achieving good governance in the forest sector. Essentially the principles of sustainable forest management as well as activities under a REDD+ agenda are intrinsically linked to the SFM guidelines and EU FLEGT requirements.

Promote use of Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) through training and industry development to contribute to avoided deforestation as part of Guyana's emission reduction programme - Guyana's NDC has committed to addressing the impacts of logging with the use of Reduced Impact Logging

(RIL) as part of an Emissions Reduction Programme. RIL is expected to reduce annual emissions by 13.5%, or a reduction of about 430,000 tCO₂ per year.

Continued operation and development of the Monitoring Reporting and Verification System (MRVS) for REDD+- The MRVS seeks to provide the basis for measuring verifiable changes in Guyana's forest cover and resultant carbon emissions from Guyana's forests. The system underpins results-based REDD+ compensation in the long-term, based on international guidance and best practice. In particular, further efforts will provide actionable alerts that lead to improved monitoring and compliance activities across Guyana's agencies. The aim is to enhance monitoring outcomes through data through coordination and information sharing.

Implementation of Reduced Impact Mining Practices – the following commitments will be advanced:

- i. Implement education and incentives for integrated planning and management of the mining and forest sectors.
- ii. Improved planning and recovery in mining areas.
- iii. Explore options for land reclamation and reforestation of mined areas.

Renewable Energy - Guyana's NDC outlines efforts on advancing the use of renewable energy and technical work is proceeding to revise Guyana's NDC. It is expected that the renewable energy targets will set out a pathway for energy supply to be delivered through a combination of natural gas, hydro, wind and solar. As of July 2021, it seems likely that this can be done by decoupling demand from fossil fuels, and despite an increase in electricity supply, emissions will decrease.

10. Nesting (500 words excluding links and appendices)

If applicable, please describe Supplier's initial approach for how double counting from relevant activities with overlapping geographical scope will be avoided. This should include Supplier's approach to accounting for incorporation of activities either crediting, or seeking results-based payments for emission reductions from forests in the same geographical area (e.g. emission reduction or sequestration projects).

To address double issuance, Guyana will track all emission credits that are attributed to every accounting period, which will be deducted from the TREES issuance volume. A digitized system will be developed to conduct this process at the national level, allowing for annual monitoring of crediting levels and emissions levels as these are accredited and verified. This system will link to managing credits through the ART registry. As credits are issued, these will be identified. Provisions will also be made for reversal buffers. The system will identify any case of duplicate registration under other programs (including project-based initiatives). These will be registered and disclosed, and any units cancelled will be reflected in all relevant registries.

To prevent double use, Guyana will develop a system to document proof of ownership of emission credits upon registration, tracking the ownership of credits within the registry by serial number and account, and conduct an annual verification of ownership and use.

To safeguard against double claiming, Guyana will maintain a system that documents, in such cases, the transfer and sale of emissions credits, whether for third party NDC commitments or trading schemes. If credits were to be used for reporting on Guyana's NDC commitments, these would also be documented and treated as required by the ART TREES standard.

11. Transfer of Title (500 words excluding links and appendices)

Some buyers will seek transfer of title of ERs on the ART registry, while others will allow the Supplier to retire ERs on the ART registry. Please indicate the Supplier's preference and expectations regarding transfer of title. Please refer to CFP document term "nature of transactions" for a detailed explanation of options under CFP related to transfer of title. Note that jurisdictions may choose to pursue multiple options.

Guyana is open to all four pathways for transfer of titles in its participation under the LEAF Coalition and is open to considering multiple options.

12. Corresponding Adjustments (500 words excluding links and appendices)

Please indicate Supplier's willingness to consider ERs with corresponding adjustments, per pathway #4 outlined in the terms of the CFP.

If applicable, please indicate the portion of total ERs (if any) for which the Supplier proposes to make a corresponding adjustment to the national account.

Please refer to CFP document term "nature of transactions" for detailed explanation of options under CFP related to corresponding adjustments.

Guyana is willing to committing up to 50% of its ER to Pathway 4. With this option, private sector buyers may take title to ERs, including for use towards compliance targets, for which Guyana is willing to make a corresponding adjustment. Under this option, Guyana will transfer the ERs to the buyer on the ART registry, and Guyana will apply corresponding adjustments for the underlying mitigation in accounting for its NDC.

Guyana will describe how payments received will be used to enhance the ambition of their country's current and/or subsequent NDC, and how Guyana's future NDC ambition level will build on the level of mitigation and actions taken as a result of LEAF.

13. Environmental, Social and Governance Safeguards (1000 words excluding links and appendices)

Please provide a brief description of the steps taken to assess safeguards requirements of ART/ TREES and Supplier's ability to meet such requirements. The Supplier should outline how all the TREES safeguards (Section 12 of the standard) will be addressed and respected, and how a national system for providing information on safeguards, or subnational equivalent, will inform TREES safeguards conformity.

Your response should include an outline of key current gaps in TREES safeguards conformance and plans for gap-filling actions. Subnational Suppliers should outline how safeguards tracking and/or monitoring tools are consistent with national tracking or tools, in particular with the national system for providing information on safeguards.

Please provide links to relevant publicly available information (e.g. summaries of information on safeguards as submitted to the UNFCCC and/or provide a link to, or describe, the either digital or analog system for providing information on safeguards).

Guyana has submitted its first Summary of Information on REDD+ Safeguards to the UNFCCC in April 2021, and it is available at:

[REDD UNFCCC - Guyana safeguards report](#)

Assessing Safeguards Requirement and Ability to Meet Requirements of ART TREES

Guyana's SOI provides information on the following main areas:

- Part I: National Circumstances for Addressing and Respecting Safeguards in Guyana
- Part II: Country's safeguards approach
- Part III: How safeguards have been addressed in Guyana
- Part IV: How safeguards have been respected in Guyana
- Part VI: Operational mechanism to receive and address complaints
- Part VII: Stakeholder engagement

Addressing and Respecting Safeguards

Guyana's Partnership with the Kingdom of Norway represented the world's first national-scale agreement for payments-for-performance for issues related to climate change mitigation. It intended to establish a framework for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD-plus) protect biodiversity, and enhancing sustainable, low carbon development. Guyana's agreement with Norway for early REDD+ implementation triggered a

diversity of technical and policy processes, several of which would establish the foundations that have ensured Guyana's approach is consistent with the Cancun Safeguards².

Amongst the methodological and institutional conditions agreed with Norway was determining the level of financial support to be received by Guyana in return for meeting emissions targets. This prompted the establishment of institutional arrangements, including a Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee for oversight of implementation of the LCDS.

In addition to the above, Guyana committed to applying relevant policies and safeguards in the context of activities to be financed by the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF). All of the above have been established as *enabling activity* indicators to assess Guyana's performance, some of them relevant in the context of REDD+ consistency with Cancun safeguards, are as follows:

- Continuous multi-stakeholder consultation process: *Institutionalized, systematic and transparent process of multi-stakeholder consultation*. Aims to ensure complete and effective participation, particularly of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities. Indigenous peoples can 'choose whether and how to opt-in to' the REDD+ or the LCDS processes; if so, free, prior, and informed consent according to Guyana's legislation applies.
- Governance: Guyana is committed to promoting the continued development of a 'transparent, rules-based, inclusive forest governance, accountability and enforcement system' in accordance with relevant legislation and independent assessment of forest governance and logging practices. The EU FLEGT and EITI Programmes are examples of this.
- Rights of indigenous peoples and other local forest communities regarding REDD+: In accordance with Guyana's Constitution, the *rights of indigenous peoples and other Guyanese to participation, engagement and decision making* are guaranteed regarding matters that affect their well-being. Such rights will be *respected and protected* throughout Guyana's REDD+ and LCDS's efforts.

The policy framework developed for REDD+ implementation in Guyana has resulted in greater levels of sectoral coordination, and more efficient policy formulation and implementation. Guyana has been able to align efforts to further develop its MRVS and strengthen its institutional capacities for REDD+ implementation. Regarding the methodological framework for REDD+ results-based implementation as agreed under the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, Guyana has developed a National Forest Monitoring System (referred to as the national MRVS), providing data on deforestation and forest degradation at the national scale. Likewise, Guyana has established its proposed Reference Level on emissions from deforestation from all causes, and for degradation associated with timber harvesting, for the national level, and for which UNFCCC has completed technical review and assessment.

Overview on a Safeguard's Information System for Guyana

The UNFCCC provides guidance that Safeguards Information System are to 'provide transparent and consistent information' on how all the Cancun safeguards are being addressed and respected 'that is accessible by all relevant stakeholders and updated on a regular basis'. The functions of the SIS are

² UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.16 Appendix 1 paragraph 2

closely linked to the institutional arrangements for REDD+, which is why the following core functions for the SIS are considered in Guyana:

- *Collection*: the process of collecting raw data through appropriate means (e.g. information systems and sources). This function refers to the process of collecting information on the ground and is linked to the monitoring and reporting responsibilities under the implementation of REDD+ activities. The data collection process is currently completed at the agency levels and compiled jointly by the Ministry of Natural Resources agencies and the Department of Environment and Climate Change for reporting.
- *Aggregation*: the process of aggregating the information provided by the relevant sources and systems for the purpose of analysis. Data on REDD+ Safeguards are aggregated at the sector level.
- *Analysis*: the process of assessing the information to determine to what extent the safeguards are being addressed and respected. This analysis will be first performed at the Agency level to identify actions required to address outstanding matters.
- *Dissemination of information*: the process of disseminating, both internally (national level) and externally (international reporting), through appropriate means (e.g. website, reports, meetings with relevant stakeholders, etc.). Information on REDD+ Safeguard areas are provided in Annual Reports at the Agency level and then collated at the national level.

Main Gaps

It is recognised that there is a need to streamline the reporting of REDD+ Safeguards and make these reports publicly available on an annual basis, as has been done at the sector/agency level.

Further, more capacity is required at the agency and sector levels to perform analysis on compliance of REDD+ safeguards and options for addressing grievances that may arise.

Capacity building and institutional strengthening to support reporting on REDD+ Safeguards are also areas identified as requiring further strengthening.

14. Financial Intermediary (FI)

Before an ERPA can be finalized, an accredited FI must be identified as a channel for disbursement of funds. FIs will ensure that robust monitoring and reporting procedures on the use of proceeds are in place⁴. If available, please provide the name of the proposed institution(s). Please note there may be multiple candidate institutions.

Guyana has engaged a team of advisors from a global auditing firm to help identify the FI, which will be a GCF accredited institution. They are currently creating a short-list based on a set of criteria for discussion, and a decision on the proposed FI is expected within three months

⁴ FI's may be selected from the list of institutions accredited by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) or the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Additional FIs may be assessed for eligibility following a process published on the Emergent website.

15. Contacts and Implementation Arrangements

Please describe the key jurisdictional contacts and government entities managing the jurisdictional program and indicate preferences for how subsequent correspondence with your jurisdictions should be handled.

The primary administrative contact for this engagement will be the Guyana Forestry Commission (www.forestry.gov.gy), under the Ministry of Natural Resources. The contacts are listed below. All queries and communications should be sent to the emails outlined below.

[REDACTED]
Guyana Forestry Commission

[REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]
Tele: [REDACTED]

The Guyana Forestry Commission will lead the implementation of the programme under the stewardship of the (MNR) Ministry of Natural Resources with the policy guidance and support of the Department of Environment and Climate Change under the Office of the President.