Our Future Forests-Amazonia Verde

Environmental and Social Management Plan

Conservation International

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1. INTRODUCTION

For Our Future Forests – Amazonia Verde project has organized the safeguards in four (4) templates that apply to all activities and will guide the design, implementation and monitoring of those activities. These include:

- Environmental and Social Risk Management Plan (ESMP).

- Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

- Gender Action Plan

- Accountability and Grievance Mechanism.

Environmental and Social Risk Management Framework[1]
The purpose of Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is to provide a broad blueprint for guiding the project to fully consider all relevant safeguards policies and processes. The ESMF explains how each of the safeguards can be put into practice by Project teams, how specific safeguard plans can be designed and how safeguard performance can be monitored.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this ESMP is to:
a) identify specific environmental and social risks for country level activities;
b) to design appropriate mitigation measures; and
c) to develop steps to respond to and manage, monitor and report on project-specific environment and social (E&S) impacts.

In consultation with the (Project Delivery Management) PDM ESA Team, some additional Environmental & Social (E&S) assessment may be needed to confirm the initially determined positive and negative E&S impacts of the project. The ESMP informs and guides activity design, stakeholder engagement and adaptive management decisions, suggesting possible modifications in the project design to avoid risks/impacts.

[1] For guidance provided on the ESMF and Gender Assessment, see

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3. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

3.1 PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Our Future Forest- Amazonia Verde	**Country**: Guyana

Project Location (w/map if possible**): Rupununi (Administrative Region 9, Upper Takutu- Upper Essequibo)**
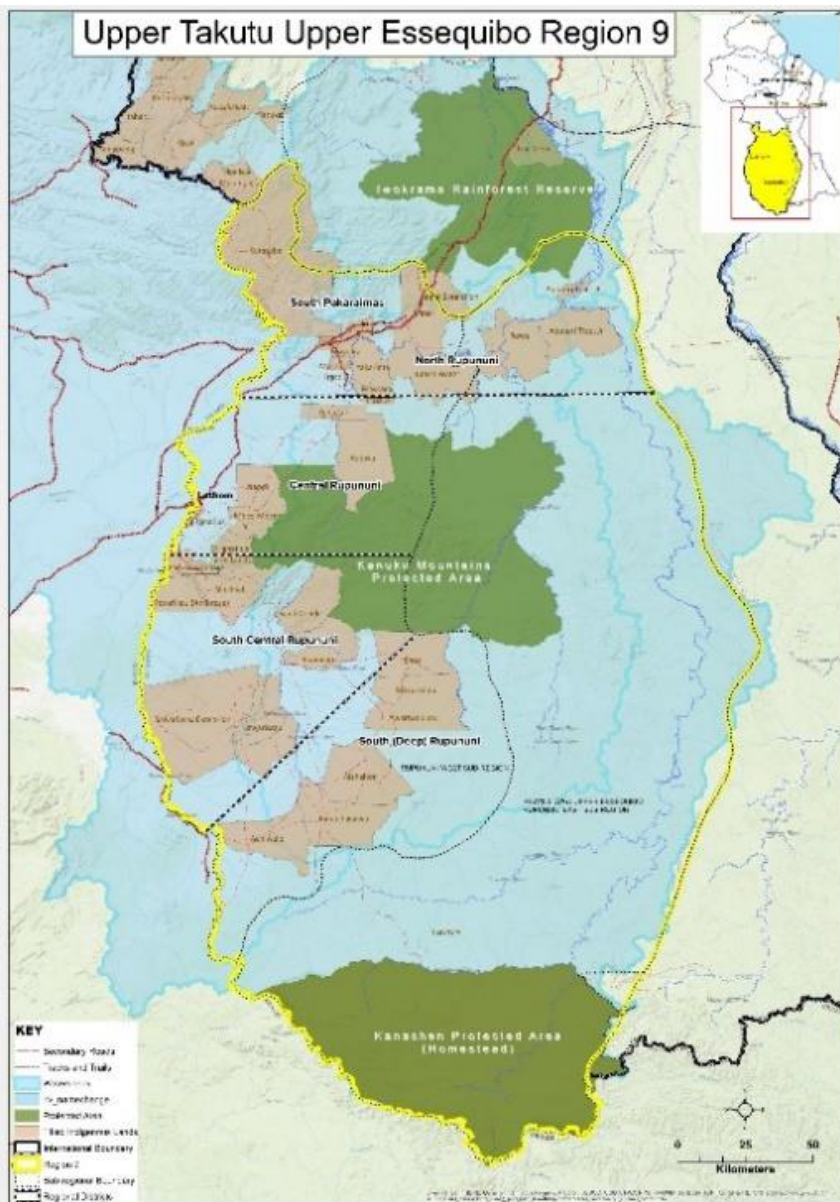
Project Components and Main Activities Proposed: *(short, bulleted list)*

Outcome 1 activities

- Develop village improvement plans
- Develop baselines for socio-economic, biodiversity and ecosystem indicators for the Rupununi

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- Identify critical natural habitat areas for the Rupununi
- Establish a geo-spatial database for the Rupununi

Outcome 2 activities

- Conflict resolution training
- Management training
- Identify and work with selected national and regional IPLC groups to develop and implement fundraising strategies including a fund raising training programme.
- Basic computer, accounting, administration training
- Regional working group facilitates coordination of IPLC training modules and shares information and materials across region and designs pre and post training surveys to monitor training impact.
- Work with three Indigenous governing bodies in the Rupununi region.

Outcome 3 activities:

- Assess existing financial mechanisms (e.g. trust funds) and their institutional arrangements in each country.
- Support the development of a financial mechanism and seed fund it to support conservation and the implementation of indigenous Village Improvement Plans (life plans).

Associated Facilities (access roads or trails, water transport structures, transmission, pipelines, or utilities, storage or logistics structures, etc.**)[2]**

Not applicable

(However, it should be noted the project area contains the Georgetown to Lethem transport corridor which would connect Brazil to the Atlantic coast. The road is currently unpaved from Linden to Lethem and certain parts tend to become inaccessible for periods of time during the rainy season. The road also cuts through the North Rupununi Wetlands. The ecological significance of the wetlands is explained further in the document.)

Implementing Partner (s), if any

ESMP Form Completed by: Marcelle Chan-A-Sue	**Date**: 5th March, 2021
Safeguard Screening Form Reviewed by: Vince McElhinny	**Date:21 March, 2021**

==ESA Comments:== **Overall, the ESMP identifies well the key risks and mitigation options.   Additional detail is needed in a few areas highlighted below. It is understood that CI lacks detail in some areas due to the engagement challenges caused by the pandemic, and the ESMP will be updated as needed during project implementation. Based on this assessment, the environmental and social risk classification of the project is Moderate Risk.**

Further guidance is forthcoming from CI to help complete the section on grievance redress mechanism.

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[2] An **associated facility** (not funded as part of the project, but is a) directly and significantly related to the project, b) carried out or planned at the same time with the project, and c) is necessary for the project to be viable and would not have been constructed, expanded or conducted if the project did not exist.

Upon completion of the ESMP, copies should be made available to the primary partner representative organizations.

The ESMP describes well how the project is expected to have mostly positive social and environmental impacts, since proposed activities will promote greater indigenous control over sustainable management of natural resources, including forests in areas where local communities depend on these resources to sustain these livelihoods. However, several medium risks and mitigation actions were identified and will be reported in semi-annual monitoring.

1. **COVID – health and safety risks –** Conservation International (CI) will follow country level and local partner safety protocols, with careful monitoring and coordination with local health authorities.
2. **Benefit sharing equity for conservation agreements** – Potential risks associated with any access restrictions and benefit sharing equity will be mitigated by actions highlighted in the stakeholder engagement plan (SEP), gender action plan and the grievance and redress mechanism (GRM);
3. **Land tenure boundary conflicts** – with a focus on conflict resolution and negotiations training, CI will pursue a proactive engagement of potential land use conflicts;
4. **Risks of safeguard dilution/alignment** as investments are pooled through established Funding Mechanism (FI) – The design of the finance mechanism will contemplate the safeguard benchmarking of future investments to ensure compliance with CI's ESMF.

Some recommendations and questions for completing the ESMP.

Several other issues to consider adding to the risk identification and mitigation Tables 1 & 2.

GBV and Working Conditions. The participation of women in the implementation of project activities is central to the project objectives and indicators. The noted risks of GBV based on the cited reports suggests that this represents a very serious issue and any potential for this project to increase levels of GBV should be addressed with evidence that this can be avoided entirely.   Appropriate measures to protect, assist and address vulnerabilities of women participants in project supported activities will be ensured. This includes the promotion of gender empowerment as called for under the gender action plan, provision of gender training as needed on equal opportunity provision of a GRM that is designed for receiving complaints from women, which is made known to all project stakeholders.

Child labor. CI excludes any activity that involves the participation of children (5-14 years) in project supported productive activities. There is a high prevalence of child involvement in most productive activities taking place in IPLCs, particularly those related to agriculture. Risks for child labor must be managed in a culturally appropriate way given the focus on Indigenous Peoples. This responds to socio-cultural norms and customs where children are expected to accompany their parents and learn simple tasks at a very young age. Child involvement in agricultural or livestock tasks, then, is only considered as learning part of customary traditions. However, in accordance with relevant local labor laws, the project would not support children under 14 that would be directly engaged or contracted in project work. Children between 14 to 18, as permitted by local law, can be engaged in **non-harmful** child labor in certain traditional and culturally related activities, based on authorization to work from the Ministry of Labor. The Projects will screen and monitoring project activities to prevent child labor.

Community Workers. Project activities may employ IPLC community members as **community workers by implementing partner organizations** or by the **directly by the PMU**, which typically involves a voluntary agreement between the community and the Project, but not individual labor contracts. If so, the scope and nature of the risks associated with the work conditions will be assessed and managed. For example, IPLC members may be involved in the patrolling of territory boundaries, management of forests, planting of trees, and other small-scale natural resources management activities supported by the project which may include risks such as exposure to safety and security risks, pesticides, unfamiliar equipment, and potential accidents among others. For these activities the project would adopt safety measures, which may include proper management of pesticides, use of personal protective equipment (PPEs), training for wildfires, and proper disposal of solid and liquid wastes.

Pesticides: Through the implementation of Life Plans, will the project support use of pesticides or agrochemicals related to agricultural activities? If agrochemical or pesticides will be used for project activities, guidance will be provided on measures for the adequate management of agrochemicals/pesticides and other hazardous materials to prevent soil/water contamination and reduce H&S risks.

Cultural Heritage (Physical and Cultural Resources): Although this risk is rated low and good information about knowledge of culture heritage is provided, given the participatory approach of the project, it is understood that any activities involving cultural heritage (e.g. ecotourism) will be carried out at the initiative and for the benefit of IP communities, and any activity will be screened to determine whether they propose the commercial use of cultural heritage and, if so, to ensure such activities: (a) carry out meaningful consultation; (b) include provisions for fair and equitable sharing of benefits, consistent with customs and traditions of any affected parties; and that (c) proper assess and mitigate any negative impacts.

Access Restrictions in the context of Conservation Agreements or other Finance Mechanism grants. The project will not engage in land acquisition nor is expected to lead to involuntary resettlement or physical displacement. Any activity that might lead to community/voluntary enforcement of existing restrictions of access to protected areas and natural resources, the ESMP will describe a Process Framework (PF) (e.g. Conservation Agreement Procedures) which will establish the processes by which potentially affected communities participate in determining the measures necessary to mitigate these risks. 'Voluntary' depends on whether all affected stakeholders had the right of refusal at the time of establishment of the agreement.

The project would not support initiatives that directly seek changes in land use or impose additional restrictions, other than those already in place. In case that the project selects to finance an activity that results in enforcement of existing restrictions, the PF will explain the measures will be taken to ensure that this does not result in the loss of livelihoods to members of the community. Community or household dependency on the natural resources in question is also relevant in determining the risk of loss of livelihoods. The Project Team will also provide guidelines for dispute resolution mechanisms to address disputes on land use or access to resources that result from voluntary/community enforced restrictions.

Project Safeguard Risk Category:

☐ low risk <mark>X moderate risk</mark> ☐ high risk

Summary of Safeguards Triggered:

> *4.1.1 Environmental and Social Assessment*
> *4.1.2 Labor & Working Conditions*
> *4.1.3 Voluntary Resettlement*
> *4.1.4 Natural Habitats and Biodiversity*
> *4.1.5 Indigenous Peoples*
> *4.1.6 Physical Cultural Resources*
> *4.1.7 Community Health and Safety*
> *4.1.8 Climate Change, Resource Efficiency & Pest Management safeguard* (?)
> *4.1.9 Financial Intermediaries and Private investment safeguard*
> 4.1.10 *Gender Equity*
> 4.1.11 *Stakeholder Engagement*
> 4.1.12 *Grievance Redress* Mechanism

Planned Assessments or Tools:

- **Stakeholder Engagement**
- **Gender**
- **Grievance mechanism**

3.2 PROJECT CONTEXT

Project Location and Scope

- Describe the size and scope of the proposed activities (target area of influence).

The CI- Guyana work programme has key activities under outcomes 1 (Newly secured protection and improved management on IPLC lands), 2 (Indigenous leaders empowered and community capacity needs met) and 3 (Sustainable value chains and financial mechanisms identified and implemented) of the project. The project will work with 4 Indigenous Peoples' organisations to strengthen their capacity to effectively and efficiently support the communities they represent. Three of the IPOs, the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB), the Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group (KMCRG) and the South Rupununi District Council (SRDC) are based in the Rupununi and strengthening their capacities will directly help to improve the abilities of their Wapichan and Macushi communities to sustainably manage their natural resources and achieve conservation outcomes outlined in their community development plans. The project is also working with the National Toshaos' Council. By strengthening this particular organisation's capacity, the influence of the project will be national as the NTC lobbies and advocates for the interests of Indigenous communities across Guyana. The functions of the NTC include, but are not limited to, promoting good governance in villages and preparing strategies and plans for the protection, conservation and sustainable management of village lands and natural resources.

The project also aims to establish a financing mechanism for conservation and livelihood activities important to Indigenous and local communities. This financing mechanism will provide access to climate and conservation funding through agreements between IPLCs across Guyana and the mechanism. Initially, the pilot agreements will be tested in the Rupununi.

The proposed activities under outcomes one (1)

- Develop village improvement plans
- Develop baselines for socio-economic, biodiversity and ecosystem indicators for the Rupununi
- Identify critical natural habitat areas for the Rupununi
- Establish a geo-spatial database for the Rupununi

The proposed activities under outcome two (2) of the project are:

- Conflict resolution training
- Management training
- Identify and work with selected national and regional IPLC groups to develop and implement fundraising strategies including a fund-raising training programme.
- Basic computer, accounting, administration training
- Regional working group facilitates coordination of IPLC training modules and shares information and materials across region and designs pre and post training surveys to monitor training impact.
- Work with three Indigenous governing bodies in the Rupununi region.

The proposed activities under outcome three (3), are:

- Assess existing financial mechanisms (e.g. trust funds) and their institutional arrangements in each country.

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- Support the development of a financial mechanism and seed fund it to support conservation and the implementation of indigenous Village Improvement Plans (life plans).

Describe where the project will take place showing the project areas, towns/communities/indigenous territories, protected areas, and main rivers/watersheds).

The Amazonia Verde's target area of influence is the Rupununi which is located between the eastern and western Guiana Shield in Southern Guyana. Its official name in Guyana is Upper Takutu- Upper Essequibo Region (Region 9). It is the largest of ten (10) Administrative Regions in Guyana, covering 5.5M hectares (26% of the land mass of the country), has approximately 58.5 million tons of carbon stored and has one of the last remaining intact savannahs in the Amazon Basin. It is Guyana's principal border with the Brazilian State of Roraima and is also part of the last ecologically intact frontier between northern Brazil. CI- Guyana considers the Geographic scope of the Rupununi to include the Iwokrama Rainforest protected area in Region 8 due to cultural and historical links with IPLCs in Region 9.

The management of the Rupununi is overseen by the Regional Democratic Council (RDC). For administrative purposes, the Rupununi is divided into five (5) sub- districts: the South Pakaraimas, the North Rupununi, Central Rupununi, South Central Rupununi and Deep South Rupununi. The region contains one Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC), namely Ireng-Sawariwau –a local government organization with responsibility for the management and administration of areas within its boundaries. It also contains a town, Lethem, that has mixed population of from Indigenous and local communities and the coastland. The Rupununi is home to three (3) Indigenous groups: the Wai-Wai, the Macushi and the Wapishanna. It also contains three protected areas: The Iwokrama Forest Reserve, the Kanuku Mountains Protected Areas and the Kanashen Commmunity Owned Conservation Area (K- COCA).

See map under 'Project Location' that shows the jurisdictional boundary of Region 9, and the location of Indigenous communities, sub- districts, protected areas, town, rivers and watersheds.

Physical and Biological Environment

Biological Context of Project Area	Yes	No
Indicate global significance (e.g., biodiversity hotspot, Ramsar site, Key Biodiversity Area, irrecoverable carbon) of the project area (*Please identify any fragile or critical natural habitat[3] that may be affected by project activities and needing specific consideration in the area (wetlands, mangroves, estuaries, etc.*) The Rupununi is considered one of the most biodiverse areas on the planet. The Rupununi is located on the Guiana Shield (the smaller, northern subunit of the Amazon Platform) and is named after the Rupununi river that flows through the region and is a major tributary of the Essequibo river. It is Guyana's principal border with the Brazilian State of Roraima and is also part of the last ecologically intact frontier between northern Brazil and the northern Atlantic Coast. It is estimated that the Rupununi stores 58.5 million tonnes of carbon. The Rupununi is this biodiversity hot- spot partly because of the seasonal connection between the Amazon river and the Essequibo river systems- two of South America's largest watersheds. There are two key portals in the north and south Rupununi that serve as these connectivity corridors between the Amazon Basin and the Guiana Shield or on a smaller scale, between the	☒	☐

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[3] Critical habitats are any area of the planet with high biodiversity value, including (i) habitat of significant importance to Critically Endangered and/or Endangered species; (ii) habitat of significant importance to endemic and/or restricted-range species; (iii) habitat supporting globally significant concentrations of migratory species and/or congregatory species; (iv) highly threatened and/or unique ecosystems; and/or (v) areas associated with key evolutionary processes.

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lavrado in the state of Roraima and the Rupununi savannahs. The Rupununi also hosts a high rate of freshwater fish endemism. For instance, research on the taxonomy of the Arapaima – the largest freshwater fish – suggests that the population found in the Rupununi may be a unique species and, as such, endemic to the region. Further research into the region's biodiversity will most certainly reveal many other important species.

Identify endemic and IUCN Red Listed species (Please list any endangered or critically endangered flora /fauna species found in the Project area based on national and international (*IUCN Red List or similar*) standards:

Among the species found in the Rupununi are several that are considered either threatened by the IUCN or endemic to the Guiana Shield, Guyana or the Rupununi. Amongst the threatened species found in the Region are the Red Siskin, Rio Branco Ant Bird, Giant River Otter, and Bush Dog. Below is a list of the near threatened (NT), endangered (EN), vulnerable (VU), critically endangered (CR) and species as classified by the IUCN.

Scientific name	Common name	IUCN	CITES
Harpia harpyia	Harpy Eagle	NT	I
Morphnus guianensis	Crested eagle	NT	II
Rupicols rupicola	Guianan cock of the rock	NT	II
Spinus cucullata	Red Siskin	EN	I
Crax alector	Black curassow	VU	-
Mitu tomentosum	Crestless curassow	NT	-
Synallaxis kollari	Hoary-throated spinetail	CR	
Cercomacra carbonaria	Rio Branco antbird	CR	
Myrmotherula surinamensis	Guianan streaked antwren	VU	
Polystictus pectoralis	Bearded tachuri	NT	
Agamia agamia	Agami heron	VU	
Ramphastos tucanus	Red-billed toucan	VU	II
Ramphastos vitellinus	Channel-billed toucan	VU	II
Amazona festiva	Festive parrot	NT	II
Amazona dufresniana	Blue- cheeked parrot	NT	II
Amazona farinosa	Mealy parrot	NT	II
Aratinga solstitialis	Sun Parakeet	EN	II
Touit huetii	Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet	VU	II
Ateles paniscus	Red-faced black spider monkey	VU	II
Priodontes maximus	Giant Armadillo	VU	I
Myrmecophaga tridactyla	Giant Anteater	VU	II
Leopardus tigrinus	Oncilla	VU	I
Leopardus wiedii	Margay	NT	I
Panthera Onca	Jaguar	NT	I
Speothos venaticus	Bush Dog	NT	I
Pteronura brasiliensis	Giant otter	EN	I
Lontra longicaudis	Neotropical river otter	NT	I
Tapirus terrestris	Brazilian Tapir	VU	II
Tayassu pecari	White-lipped peccary	VU	II
Melanosachus niger	Black caiman	CD	I/II
Podocnemis expansa	Giant river turtle	CD	II

☒   ☐

Podocnemis unifilis	Yellow-spotted river turtle	VU	II		
Chelonoidis denticulata	Yellow-footed tortoise	VU	II		

Current or planned indigenous/local community conservation/protected territories (or other types of protected areas) There are three protected areas within the scope CI- Guyana considers to be the Rupununi Landscape. These are: 1. The Iwokrama Forest Reserve 2. The Kanuku Mountains Protected Area 3. The Kanashen Community Owned Conservation Area (K-COCA)	☒	☐
Current or planned buffer zones No information	☐	☐

Major ecosystem types (*check all that apply*): Forest ☒, grassland ☒, desert ☐, tundra ☐, freshwater ☒, marine ☐
Key natural and other landscape features (*check all that apply*): major rivers ☒, mangroves ☐, large scale agriculture ☒, tourism areas ☒, major transport infrastructure ☒, wind or renewable energy ☐, oil/gas or gold mining ☒
Deforestation rate (local or regional est. if possible) ha/yr (*within the indigenous territory or the most relevant local or regional area*): The 2019 deforestation rate for Region is 0.052%.	
Targeted Indigenous or Community Conservation Territory (or protected area) (ha): The targeted Indigenous communities are the Wapishana and the Macushi.	
Temperature range (min, max): Ambient temperatures are consistently high throughout the year, being seldom above 35˚C and below 24˚C. The average monthly temperatures is 31˚C.	
Precipitation (ave per year, mm): The Rupununi experiences a dry season of approximately 7 months and a wet season of five months. The average precipitation is approximately 161 mm.	
Socio-economic Context of Project Area	
Estimated affected population (people) Total population of the Rupununi is approximately 24,000 people (Census, 2012)	
Direct beneficiaries targeted (people) Direct beneficiaries will be 15,000 people (Our Future Forests, Amazonia Verde Project document)	
Number of villages or communities targeted Forty- eight (48) villages (including satellites)	
Estimated poverty rate (% of hh, based on national poverty line) According to the World Bank, Region 9 was the second poorest Region among all the Regions in 2002[4]. The 2014 Multi Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) came to a similar conclusion; 93.1%	

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[4] Emmanuel Skoufias, The World Bank (September 26, 2005) A poverty map for Guyana; based on the 2002 Population and housing Census.

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of the population fell into poverty quintiles as compared to 20% of national average. An Economic baseline survey report indicated that 60% household earns less than US$2 a day in this Region[5].		
Total land area (ha) – *affected by the Project* Direct – 2,018,234 ha		
Number of indigenous groups (*please list*): National Toshaos' Council, North Rupununi District Development Board, Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group, South Rupununi District Council		
Describe the project area:	**Yes**	**No**
Places of spiritual, social, cultural, religious or historical/archaeological interest (*please identify with appropriate attention to any protections of traditional knowledge*) There are approximately 61 spiritual sites that include rivers, lakes, ponds, mountains and rocks that were identified by a study[6]. The study found that there are clusters around communities in the foothills of the Kanuku Mountains, as well as the Pakraima mountains and their foothills. There are many more spiritual or cultural sites that communities consider sacred. For instance in the Wapichan Territorial Management Plan various spiritual and sacred sites are described for the south Rupununi.	☒	☐
Does the community have access to electricity? The Lethem Power Company (LPC) is capable of providing electricity to the township of Lethem and two communities surrounding the Kanuku Mountains Protected Area (KMPA), Moco- Moco village and St. Ignatius village. Generally, communities will rely on solar panels and generators as their source of electricity. The current Government of Guyana, in their 2021 budget, has identified Rupununi communities a beneficiaries of solar projects.	☒	☐
Access to health care services? All communities have access to health care services; however, quality will vary across the sub-districts. There are two district hospitals- Annai hospital that serves communities in the North Rupununi and the South Pakaraimas sub- districts and the Aishalton hospital that serves communities in the South Rupununi. The Lethem Regional Hospital is the main hospital for the Rupununi. The individual communities are usually equipped with a Health Post or a Health Centre staffed with a Community Health worker.	☒	☐
Access to education services? Communities do have access to education services, however there are severe challenges in the deliverance of quality education to the Region. While most of the villages have complete levels of nursery and primary school education, there are a handful of secondary schools (Annai, Sand Creek, Aishalton & St. Ignatius) where students can complete their Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC). There is also the Bina Hill Institute (Youth Leaning Centre) which focuses on training youth in natural resource management, forestry, wildlife management, tourism, life skills, traditional skills etc.	☒	☐
Access to water and sanitation services? Communities have access to water via rivers, creeks and hand- dug wells. There have been several initiatives in the Region for improving access to potable water. The Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI) has drilled several wells and installed a complementary distribution system which aims to provide 24hr access to water to residents' homes.	☒	☐

[5]CI -Guyana,(2015) The Rupununi Economic and Environment Baseline Report
[6] Read, J.M. (2010). Space, Place, and Hunting Patterns among Indigenous Peoples of the Guyanese Rupununi Region. *Journal of Latin American Geography, 9(3*), 213-243

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Indigenous communities do not have access to sanitation services and would individually burn or bury their garbage.		
Are there legacy issues of conflict? There are legacy issues of conflict between Indigenous communities and mining communities, and protected areas establishment.	☒	☐
In last 5 years, has there been any natural disasters (flood, drought, winds, earthquake, wildfire, volcanic event, etc)? **Drought:** There have been several droughts, especially during the El Niño weather phenomenon which drastically increases water scarcity. The most recent prolonged drought occurred in 2014-2016. **Flood:** There have also been several floods which directly affected households by damaging property and cutting off access to certain areas. The most recent flooding events occurred in May-June 2020 when the Deep South experienced flooding that prompted responses from the Regional Democratic Council and the Civil Defence Commission. In June 2018, the region also experienced severe flooding that affected many residents, especially in Lethem. **Earthquake:** Very recently, 31st January 2021, Guyana was shaken by 1 quake of magnitude 5.6, 5 quakes between 4.0 and 5.0, 11 quakes between 3.0 and 4.0, and 5 quakes between 2.0 and 3.0. There were also 2 quakes below magnitude 2.0 which people don't normally feel. This is considered to be a rare event. **Fire:** The 2020 fire season was not too destructive as there were sporadic showers during the 'dry season' earlier in the year and the pattern may continue into the upcoming one. There were very destructive fires in 2019 that burned several parts of the savannah including bush islands.	☒	☐
Have there been any COVID-19 related deaths in the communities? There have been four COVID-19 related deaths confirmed in the Rupununi as of December 2020 *(Regional Health Officer via Region 9 COVID-19 whatsapp group).*	☒	☐
Main livelihood activities (*check all that apply*): Logging/Forestry ☒, Agriculture ☒, Livestock ☒, Hunting ☒, Fishing ☒, NFTP collection ☒, Small business ☒, Other ☒ __gold mining _____		
Land uses (*check all that apply*): Residential ☒, Agriculture/pasture (individual) ☒, Agriculture/pasture (collective) ☒, Conservation ☒, Reduced Impact Logging/Forestry ☒, Industrial ☒, Other ☒ describe: gold mining concessions_____		
Land ownership (check all that apply): Individual -private ☒, Collective/communal ☒, State/public land ☒, informal, customary ownership ☒, Other ☐ describe:_____		
Describe how men and women access, use, manage and govern the natural resources that the project seeks to focus on. Also describe the level of gender-based violence in the project site or region. Indigenous women and men in the Rupununi use natural resources for various livelihood activities which include farming, tourism, fishing, gathering and hunting. For the main livelihood activity, farming, communities have reported that both men and women contribute equally to the overall activity, but women have more responsibility for managing the farms. Women also play a key role in managing tourism activities, including managing project activities that contribute to conservation efforts of the community. Men are generally involved in more of the field- based activities in tourism e.g. boat captain, tour- guides, monitors. Women and girls are vulnerable to gender-based violence. In terms of domestic violence, although not always reported, records maintained at the Lethem Police Station indicate that, out of all the reported criminal cases		

in 2017, 50% were related to rape. In the Region, the number of women aged 15-49 who state that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife (in specific circumstances) stands at 27.4%, while 31.5% of men of the same age held similar views. For both genders, these figures are the highest in the country, and significantly higher than the national average[7].

For any planned or existing relevant land agreements (related to conservation agreements, carbon agreements, private or public land donations, contracts with private landowners, informal ownership rights), **please identify and document any recent or planned land acquisition or restrictions to natural resource access rights**:

No information.

Describe any additional information on economic, social, and cultural context of indigenous peoples or local communities living in, the area of the proposed project (*for example, any disadvantaged/vulnerable/disabled groups, human rights issues, conflicts, presence of illegal activities, etc***.)**

Region 9 has the second highest population (24, 212 persons) of the hinterland regions (1, 7, 8, 9) with the fastest growth rate of 2.5% per annum (Census, 2012). Region 9 also exhibits a high sex ratio with 51.3% of the population recorded as male and 48.7% as female. Region 9 also has an average household size of 4.9 persons.

Households in Indigenous communities in the Rupununi are engaged in several natural resource-based activities to support their livelihoods which include subsistence activities (farming, hunting, gathering etc.), wage labour or self-employed cash-based activities, logging, mining, craft-making, eco-tourism, livestock rearing etc. (SOFA, 2014). Generating income via these activities becomes important as the need for cash increases. For instance, parents need cash to adequately equip their children for school.
Youths in the Rupununi are tending to move away from subsistence activities to seek earning income outside of their villages. This creates skill gaps, and possibly a deficiency in leadership roles in villages. However, when some youths return to their villages, they bring new skills and ideas which can help to develop their villages.

An economic survey report shows that women control only 25% of household economy against the 75% controlled by men in this Region[8]. According to the Rupununi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), 47.4% percent of businesses registered with the RCCI are owned by females[9].

Women occupy disproportionately few leadership positions in the Region; 33 % of the Regional Council and women, and only 8.8% of Village Leaders are women. Women are often reluctant to speak in the public, for lack of confidence and cultural reasons.

Findings from (Conservation International, 2014) suggest female-headed households are more likely in sub-regions with close proximity to the main Georgetown-Lethem roads. In the North and Central Rupununi, women head 38% and 35% of households respectively, followed by South Central Rupununi (30%), South Pakaraimas (23%) and the Deep South (8%).

The increasing population and the influx of coastal and Brazilian settlers impact public security in the Region. There is the belief that personal safety is compromised with increased crime and other social ills as persons entering the region sometimes have different values to that traditionally held in Rupununi. Access to security services is often a worry, as the security forces, social service providers, and general government services are not adequate for the population and geographic scope of the region.

Institutional Capacity	Yes	No
Respect for the rights of indigenous peoples (*knowledge, recognition, respect and proactive protection of indigenous rights by all relevant parties*)	☒	☐

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[7] MICS 2014
[8] CI-Guyana(2015) The Rupununi Economic and Environment Baseline Report
[9] Rupununi Chamber of Commerce and Industries (August 2018)

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Strong local governance (*no incidence of corruption, transparent, representative and accountable decision-making bodies, effective resolution of disputes*)	☐	☒
Secure land rights (*no outstanding land tenure or land rights conflicts*)	☒	☐
Satisfaction with existing land use agreements (*including any concession, lease, or conservation agreements*) – Not applicable	☐	☐
No incidence of violence /discrimination toward women or marginalized groups	☐	☒
Does the project team have experience in in implementing safeguards, gender, and stakeholder engagement? *Please describe briefly:* • CI- Guyana has always followed the necessary RBA policies and safeguards for projects. • Stakeholder engagement following the principles FPIC have been 'formally' applied to projects during a FPIC pilot integration project. • The team also has experience in developing a GEF Gender Mainstreaming Plan and integrating gender into Norad and IDB funded projects.	☒	☐
Do the implementing partners have experience in in implementing safeguards, gender, and stakeholder engagement[10] (please describe briefly): • The IPOs and communities receiving grants under the project have always advocated for their right to FPIC and appropriate stakeholder engagement processes. These IPOs and communities have experience in developing their own stakeholder engagement guidelines. • More recently, the IPOs have started to conduct gender trainings. One notable example is the Wapichan Women's Movement (an arm of the South Rupununi District Council) that focuses on addressing gender issues in south Rupununi communities. • Under Outcome 2 of the project, a capacity building assessment will be done for the 4 IPOs to determine capacity needs gaps and develop a capacity building plan based on work done by the Shared Resources, Joint Solutions (SRJS) project implemented by WWF- Guianas. • As part of the IPOs' granting process, the CI- Guyana operations team will also conduct due diligence on the grantees' financial and operational systems. CI-Guyana will provide support to build their capacities in managing the grant. • During development and implementation of the grant proposals, the IPOs will be responsible for stakeholder engagement with their communities, ensure that gender is considered in project activities, and provide input on the development of the grievance mechanism, specifically on local resolution processes. • The IPOs will also have to agree to following CI's SEAH Policy.	☒	☐
Please list any other projects (by the government, national or international NGOs or companies) that could either influence this project, be influenced by this project or lead to similar impacts on project stakeholders. • IFAD funded "Hinterland Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Development" project		

Source Documentation – *please describe any sources for information provided in the ESMP*	Yes	No
Site visit(s) – please provide date(s), places, persons visited	☐	☒
Technical documents • Conservation International Socio- Economic Baseline Report • The State of Food and Agriculture in the Rupununi • Wa Wii Wa Kaduzu & Thinking together for those coming behind us (Wapishana territorial management plan) • Region 9's Plan of Action for Regional Development (2019)	☒	☐

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[10] Additional due diligence may be necessary for financial intermediaries or large subgrantees that are funded by the project.

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• Conservation International- Guyana (2020). Rupununi Sustainable Landscape Strategy. • Panthera for Conservation International- Guyana. (2017). Wildlife Management Assessment, Region 9: Upper Takutu- Upper Essequibo, Guyana. (draft report, not published) • De Souza, L.S., Armbruster, and J.W., Werneke, D.C. (2012). The influence of the Rupununi portal on distribution of freshwater fish in the Rupununi district, Guyana. *Cybium*, *36(1),* 31-43. • Lemopoulos, A. and Covain, R. (2019). Biogeography of the freshwater fishes of the Guianas using a partitioned parsimony analysis of endemicity with reappraisal of ecoregional boundaries. *Cladistics*, 35, 106-124. • Read, J.M. *et al*. (2010). Space, Place, and Hunting Patterns among Indigenous Peoples of the Guyanese Rupununi Region. *Journal of Latin American Geography, 9(3*), 213-243 • Amerindian Act (2006)		
Publicly available source of information, including media reports, please describe or provide links: • Chabrol, D. (2020, June 18). Lethem, other Rupununi areas severely flooded. *Demerara Waves.* Retrieved from https://demerarawaves.com/2020/06/18/lethem-other-rupununi-areas-severely-flooded/ • (2020, May 30). More flooding in Deep South Rupununi. *Kaieteur Newspaper*. Retrieved from https://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/2020/05/30/more-flooding-in-region-nine/ • (2021, March 2). Latest Earthquakes in Guyana. *Volcano Discovery*. Retrieved from https://www.volcanodiscovery.com/earthquakes/guyana.html	☒	☐
Consultation with key informants	☐	☐
Biophysical sample analysis	☐	☒
Professional judgement by Project team members	☒	☐

4. RISK ASSESSMENT & MITIGATION PLANNING

a. Safeguard Standards for Environmental & Social Assessment

The project will follow CI's Rights-based Approach (RbA)[11] and related tools and guidance. In addition, the project will strive to adhere to the safeguard policy framework of the CI GEF/GCF ESMF (v.7),[12] which outlines more clearly detailed requirements for identifying and managing environmental and social risks and impacts in 12 possible areas. The E&S assessment should focus on the issues that are most important for design, decision-making and stakeholder interests. E&S risks and impacts that need to be further assessed in this report have been identified during the screening and categorization exercise. ***For background detail of the content and procedure for any safeguard, see GEF/GCF ESMF***.

As applicable, the safeguard areas that may require E&S assessment are as follows:

> *4.1.1 Environmental and Social Assessment safeguard* outlines steps to categorize, assess risk, to define appropriate mitigation measures, to ensure adequate implementation and to monitor and report on

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[11] CI's Rights-based Approach (RBA) consists of eight (8) guiding principles and institutional policies that ensure human rights are protected in our work. See CI RBA Sharepoint site. https://conservation.sharepoint.com/sites/RBASafeguards/SitePages/RBA-Policies.aspx

[12] CI GEF Project Agency – Environmental and Social Management Framework, 2020, v7. Updated Version 7 forthcoming. https://www.conservation.org/docs/default-source/gcf/ci_gef_gcf-esmf-version-7.pdf?sfvrsn=a788de43_4

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results. For example, how the project will avoid the expansion of the agricultural frontier boundary in order to avoid deforestation.

4.1.2 Labor & Working Conditions safeguard outlines steps to adhere to the ILO core labor standards, including prohibition of child labor or forced labor. Project activities that employ subcontractors or community labor, may involve the establishment of labor management procedures.

4.1.3 Voluntary Resettlement safeguard outlines steps to assess risks of economic displacement associated with access restrictions, use of compensatory measures, and reaching agreements in a transparent, accountable manner (prohibiting involuntary resettlement).

4.1.4 Natural Habitats and Biodiversity Safeguard – outlines steps for identifying and managing risks to biodiversity and habitat, including any use of offsets.

4.1.5 Indigenous Peoples safeguard (including Free Prior Informed Consent (*FPIC).* CI was founded on the understanding that successful conservation requires respect for human rights and the full and effective participation of IPLCs whose livelihoods depend on natural resources. CI has in place several institutional policies that all staff must adhere to that uphold a respect for Indigenous People's rights and processes that respect Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC). CI has accepted that policies alone are insufficient for creating lasting change and created "Guidelines for applying FPIC: A Manual for Conservation international."[13] Each component of the guidelines was designed to assist CI staff in implementing a fair and effective FPIC process. FPIC is not simply a decision-making process or a veto mechanism for the community, but a tool to ensure that outside people and organizations engage IPLCs in a culturally appropriate way. While an FPIC process was not possible during the design stage of the project, this safeguard supports documentation of consultation processes that were conducted and plans for continued consultation during project implementation.

4.1.6 Physical Cultural Resources safeguard – outlines steps to identify and manage risks for tangible (*physical*) and intangible (*traditional knowledge*) forms of cultural heritage.

4.1.7 Community Health and Safety safeguard – outlines types of risks associated with the collective health and safety of communities, including public health (pandemic), use of private security forces or community patrols, incidence of social conflict, or emergency preparedness for natural disasters.

4.1.8 Climate Change, Resource Efficiency & Pest Management safeguard – outlines steps to identify and manage risks associated with climate change, and to promote appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures (including sustainable use of pesticides and scarce resources such as water).

4.1.9 Financial Intermediaries and Private investment safeguard – outlines steps to identify and manage risks associated with use of intermediary bodies to provide subgrants or pool investment for funding project activities.

4.1.10 *Gender Equity safeguard* – outlines steps to identify and manage risks of gender exclusion or potential gender-based violence, as well as to promote gender equality in access to project opportunities or benefits.

4.1.11 *Stakeholder Engagement* – outlines steps to identify and analyze project stakeholders and design and implement a stakeholder engagement plan.

4.1.12 *Grievance Redress* – outlines principles and steps to design and operate a suitable mechanism for receiving and responding to project complaints.

4.2 National Permitting

Project activities will comply with relevant national laws, policies, and procedures. Any necessary approval of permits, licenses or authorizations required under national law or policy will be secured prior to initiating implementation of any activity posing risks to people or the environment. Proper coordination with national oversight bodies to plan, carry out and supervise the work will be ensured.

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[13] See FPIC guidelines here https://www.conservation.org/docs/default-source/publication-pdfs/ci_fpic-guidelines-english.pdf?sfvrsn=16b53100_2

Permit / Document	Status	Actions
Biodiversity Research Permit form the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Grant proposal for the South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS) will require a biodiversity research permit. The proposal has not yet been approved.	Coordinating with the South Rupununi Conservation Society to determine if a waiver in fees can be granted from the EPA.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RISK MITIGATION MEASURES

5.1 Prediction and Assessment of Risks and Impacts from Project Activities

Based on preliminary screening assessment of E&S risks related to planned activities that is summarized in **Section 4.1 and 4.2 of the Project ESMF**, the most significant, highest potential risks related to planned activities in the country work plan are identified below. This assessment defines the risk categorization (**A – high risk, B – medium risk, or C -low risk**) for the Project, based on the highest risk activities. Risk category is a professional judgement based on several factors:

- the significance of the predicted impacts (affects how many people or size of footprint)

- likelihood of occurrence (high, low),

- reversibility of the impact (can the impact be mitigated?)

- the sensitivity, value and/or importance of the affected resource or people.

- Consider also the exclusion list (**ESMF Section 4.4**).

Risk category may also be related to the capacity of the implementation partner to manage CI safeguard requirements. An unprecedented risk that may be new for the project team might be considered a higher-level risk until the team becomes more familiar with managing this risk.

Table 1. Project Activity Risk Categorization

Project Activity	Type of social or environmental risk or impact (or N/A)	Risk Category (Low, Medium, High)
1. Context Risk – Weak Governance	Threats to indigenous rights, poor recognition of land rights or exclusion of indigenous peoples due to weak governance	Medium
2. Context Risk – COVID-19	Health, safety, and security risks for community partners and for CI staff related to how COVID-19 infections limit the ability to conduct field work.	High
3. Land use management plans/Life Plans	Conflict risks related to specific land use pressures on Indigenous lands or resources	
	Risks to Natural Habitats, protected area, endangered species, or ecosystems	Medium

4. Land titling or tenure security improvements	Land tenure, boundary demarcation related conflicts	Medium
5. Training, fellowships, business plan development	Exclusion of project affected people from benefit sharing contributing to internal conflict	Medium
	Gender related exclusion from decision making and benefit sharing	Medium
	Pollution, waste, chemical, pesticide risks from agricultural or agro-processing activities	Medium
	Risks to tangible, intangible cultural heritage, particularly if ecotourism intends to commercialize cultural heritage	Medium
6. Conservation Agreement - access restrictions to resources or lands	Conflict related to benefit sharing equity	Medium
	Risks to livelihoods when access to natural resources is restricted, particularly when affected peoples are dependent on natural resources.	Low
7. All activities	Sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment of women (SEAH) or children	Low
8. Financing mechanism, co-financing	the possible dilution of the project ESMF requirements when investor funding requirements set a lower standard, the reputational risk to the project from financial partners that may not uphold equally high standards in their wider operations or portfolio, and finally, greater operational risk through dependence on subgrantees to implement activities	Medium

5.2 Risk Mitigation Measures

Table 2 identifies appropriate and justified measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate potential negative impacts and enhance positive impacts. Due diligence for implementing partners is also considered. Project staff will assess the safeguard capacity of any implementing partner, including Indigenous Peoples Organizations as a need and identify appropriate training measures to ensure ESMF requirements are met (as outlined in a subgrant contract). Safeguard training will be made available as needed to partner organizations, particularly those that are implementing project activities.

Please note that all risk identified in these matrixes need to be reported in the semestral report on section IX. RISK MONITORING.

Table 2. Project Activity - Risk Mitigation Measures

Project Activity -Risk (*Please add the high and medium risks after the previous table is completed, See ESMF section 4.5 for options*)	Planned risk mitigation measure or action *(some examples highlighted for consideration)*	Person responsible in your team	Est. budget from the project to solve the risk	Residual impact (Y/N)

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1. Context Risk – Weak Governance	• Targeted engagement strategy for key government counterparts as part of the stakeholder engagement plan; • Disclosure and communication about project objectives including as appropriate, defined exit strategy. • Grievance mechanism • Capacity Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan	• Project Manager		Y
2. Context Risk – COVID-19	• Follow CI's safety and security protocol. • Report on the AV project's COVID-19 Monitoring Tool • Follow Indigenous communities' engagement protocols for COVID-19	• Operations Director • Project Manager	5,000	Y
3. Land use management plans/Life Plans	• Stakeholder engagement plan • Gender action plan • Grievance Mechanism	• Project Manager	20,000	Y
4. Land titling or tenure security improvements	NA	NA	NA	NA
5. Training, fellowships, business plan development	• Stakeholder engagement plan, including FPIC guidelines • Gender action plan • Technical support for sustainable business plan development • Grievance mechanism	• Project Manager	15,000	N
6. Conservation Agreement - access restrictions to resources or lands	• Robust feasibility assessment • FPIC process • Transparent and effective communications • Negotiation training • Conflict resolution training • Grievance mechanism	• Project Manager • Policy Manager		Y

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7. All activities	• Gender action plan implementation • Capacity building on SEAH • training with grantees • Accountability and Grievance mechanism	• Project Manager • Policy Manager	30,000	Y
8. Financing mechanism, co-financing	• Due diligence process to assess ESMP or safeguard requirements of any FI or co-financing partner. • Grievance mechanism	• Project Manager • Policy Manager	80,000	Y
9. Other				

6 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND GRIEVANCE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

This section summarizes the key contents of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the project and elaborate on how engagement has been undertaken so far and will be undertaken during project implementation. Stakeholder engagement indicators will be reported in the semester report.

See Annex 1.

7 MANAGEMENT & MONITORING

Describe here how the ESMP will be implemented.

7.1 Roles & Responsibilities

Table 3: Responsibilities of the project team

Position	Responsibilities
Project Manager	Overall implementation and monitoring of the ESMP.
Policy Manager	Ensures CI's project activities comply with CI's Rights Based Approach and safeguards.
Community Development Associate	Key support in the implementation of engagement strategies and liaising with communities to ensure compliance with CI's RBA and safeguards.
Biodiversity Management Coordinator	Key support in the implementation of engagement strategies, ensuring that communities are provided with the information to make informed decisions for natural resource and land management.
Sustainable Enterprise Coordinator	Key support in the implementation of engagement strategies, ensuring that communities are provided with information that helps to develop sustainable enterprises whose benefits are inclusive.

Director, Field Implementation	Overall responsibility for overseeing implementation of field strategic landscape level activities. Provide guidance on implementation of the activities and liaise with Georgetown based stakeholders and policy makers.

7.2 Monitoring Plan

Safeguard monitoring will be part of the Project Monitoring Template to be prepared by the project lead in each country office and sent to the M&E manager of the project

Dates:

o The first monitoring plan is due in late February 2021
o An updated monitoring plan is due in late December 2021.

7.3 Capacity Building

Table 4. Safeguard Training Plan

Safeguard Training Type	Dates	Description	Target Audience	Training Lead	Cost (USD)	Associated Project Activity
Grievance Mechanism	May 2021	Preparation to use local dispute resolution practices within Project, including the development of communications tools.	Designated Point persons in Partner community or organization	PMU/ PDM unit	$5, 000	all activities
Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment	TBD	Policy that defines CI's guiding principles with respect to Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment.	CI- Guyana staff and grantees/ project partners	PMU/ consultant	$3, 000	all activities
Conflict resolution	June/July 2021	Communities face conflict with various actors in the landscape and require an informal or formal process to find a peaceful solution to their disputes.	Grantees/ Indigenous communities and organisations	Consultant	$15, 000	2.1.2
Negotiations training	September 2021	Indigenous negotiations	Grantees/ Indigenous communities	Consultant/ CI staff	$15,000	2.2.4

			and organisations			
Gender training (Action Plan)	May 2021	Training on gender and how integration is being done in the project.	Grantees/ Indigenous communities and organisations	Project lead	$5, 000	1.1.1,1.1.2, 2.1.2, 2.1.4, 2.2.4, 2.2.8, 3.2.6

7.4 Budget and Schedule

Table 5. ESMP Budget

Safeguard Mitigation Action	Description	Associated Project Activity	Additional Costs		Start dates
			Staff or consultant time	Activity costs	
Stakeholder Engagement Plan	See SEP Annex 1	2.1, 2.2, 3.2			July, 2020
Gender action plan	See GAP	2.1, 2.2, 3.2			January, 2021
Grievance Mechanism	Preparation to use local dispute resolution practices within Project	2.1, 2.2, 3.2		3,000	

ANNEX I. Stakeholder engagement plan

1.   PURPOSE

1.1   Brief Description of the Project

The Amazonia Verde Project was created to support the implementation of the Leticia Pact and to build on the priorities set by President Macron in New York. Conservation International proposes to conserve 72.5 million hectares (24.6 million ha directly and 48 million ha indirectly) by 2025 by empowering Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and pioneering new financial mechanisms to advance conservation investments and incentives. The long-term conservation of the Amazon rainforest requires capacities of IPLCs to lead on their own and give them the tools to access the funding they need to carry out their own initiatives to conserve forests and support livelihoods. To do this CI proposes to focus on four key areas of intervention:

1. Secure the protection of new areas and improve the management of existing protected areas on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) lands;
2. Empower Indigenous leaders and capacitate communities to meet their needs;
3. Identify and implement sustainable value chains and financial mechanisms; and
4. Strengthen Indigenous knowledge management and support Amazon advocacy.

Objective of the project:

To support IPLCs as stewards of the Amazon Rainforest- providing them with the tools, training and the financing needed to manage their lands and support overall conservation of the Amazon.

In Guyana, the project has proposed to work with three of the country's Indigenous Peoples Organisations (the North Rupununi District Development Board, the Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group, and the South Rupununi District Council) and the National Toshaos' Council (the national statutory Indigenous representative body) to empower and capacitate them and the communities they represent.

1.2   Social Context

Region 9 has the second highest population (24, 212 persons) of the hinterland regions (1, 7, 8, 9) with the fastest growth rate of 2.5% per annum (Census, 2012). Region 9 also exhibits a high sex ratio with 51.3% of the population recorded as male and 48.7% as female. Region 9 also has an average household size of 4.9 persons.

Households in Indigenous communities in the Rupununi are engaged in several natural resource-based activities to support their livelihoods which include subsistence activities (farming, hunting, gathering etc.), wage labour or self-employed cash-based activities, logging, mining, craft-making, eco-tourism, livestock rearing etc. (SOFA, 2014). Generating income via these activities becomes important as the need for cash increases. For instance, parents need cash to adequately equip their children for school. Youths in the Rupununi are tending to move away from subsistence activities to seek earning income outside of their villages. This creates skill gaps, and possibly a deficiency in leadership roles in villages. However, when some youths return to their villages, they bring new skills and ideas which can help to develop their villages.

The increasing population and the influx of coastal and Brazilian settlers impact public security in the Region. There is the belief that personal safety is compromised with increased crime and other social ills as persons entering the region sometimes have different values to that traditionally held in Rupununi. Access to security services is often a worry, as the security forces, social service providers, and general government services are not adequate for the population and geographic scope of the region.

In addition to public security issues, there are also issues of food insecurity in the Region. The *SOFA- Rupununi Report (2014)* identified that "the main public health problem is the increasing prevalence of diabetes and hypertension among the adult population, caused mainly by inappropriate diets." With the changing economic system, comes more reliance on cheap, cash-bought processed foods, which endangers health. This preference of store- bought food and products in the Rupununi, devalues locally produced food (SOFA 2014). There is, however, still a fairly good level of food security and vulnerability in the Rupununi, measured by concern over availability of food and actual foregoing of meals.

Vulnerability to food insecurity derives mainly from seasonality (established dry/drought and wet/flood seasons), shocks (environmental-related such as the effects of climate change), and socio-economic factors (out-migration of youths, lack of financial capital to purchase food, markets, training and related inputs to create enterprises or expand agricultural-based activities). Poor infrastructure (roads, bridges) and absence of a well-developed marketing network constrain livelihood activities. When faced with food challenges, households resort to several coping mechanisms such as intensifying certain resources use activities such as hunting or fishing, and sometimes wildlife trapping to earn income.

There are three main hospitals in the Rupununi, two district hospitals – one each in Annai and Aishalton – and one regional hospital in Lethem. Most villages have a Health Post or Centre staffed with a Community Health Worker (CHW) who helps to diagnose and treat basic health problems in the villages. There is also a Remote Area Medical service which provides transport for patients in emergencies. However, access adequate health care can sometimes be challenging for residents of the Rupununi, especially those in remote communities. This, coupled with issues of diet, have had a negative effect on the health of the people of the Rupununi.

Other health issues in the Rupununi include mental health, suicide, sexually transmitted diseases and infections, domestic violence, and substance abuse. There are currently little to no social or health programmes to address these issues to ensure a healthy sustainable Rupununi.

Waste management and pest control are also very important factors affecting health and well-being in the Rupununi, particularly in Lethem but also increasingly in more remote communities. Inadequate waste disposal and solid waste management systems contributes significantly to the prevalence of communicable diseases, such as malaria, typhoid, dengue and other vector-borne diseases, in the Rupununi. Options for waste disposal include garbage collection services and landfill in Lethem, burning, burying or dumping on land.

2   NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Guyana is a signatory to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), therefore "Indigenous peoples have the right to provide (or withhold) their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) as recognized under Article 19". Regarding the scope of this project, the most applicable piece of legislation that applies to consultation or stakeholder engagement would be the Amerindian Act (2006). Under the Act, Indigenous Village Councils and community members can make decisions on developmental projects and activities at public of village general meetings.

The specific section of the Amerindian Act (2006) that must be considered is:
Village General Meeting [section 34]
(1) Except as delegated to a Village Council under this Act, the collective rights and powers of a Village are exercised by the Village.
(2) All decisions required to be made by a village under this Act shall be made in a Village General Meeting.

(3) A Village Council shall call a Village general meeting ever quarter and if the Village Council fails to call a Village general meeting within four months of the previous Village general meeting then not less than ten residents who are eligible to vote at the Village general meeting may call the meeting instead.

(4) The notice period for a Village general meeting is at least fourteen days.

(5) A VC may call a meeting in less than 14 days notice if the VC considers that situation amounts to an emergency and requires an immediate response and - ...

(6) The Village general meeting shall act by consensus but if consensus cannot be achieved a vote may be taken and a decision made on the basis of the majority of votes cast unless this Act specifies otherwise.

(7) All residents are entitled to attend a Village General meeting.

(8) The quorum, entitlement to vote and voting procedures shall be in accordance with the rules made by the Village Council.

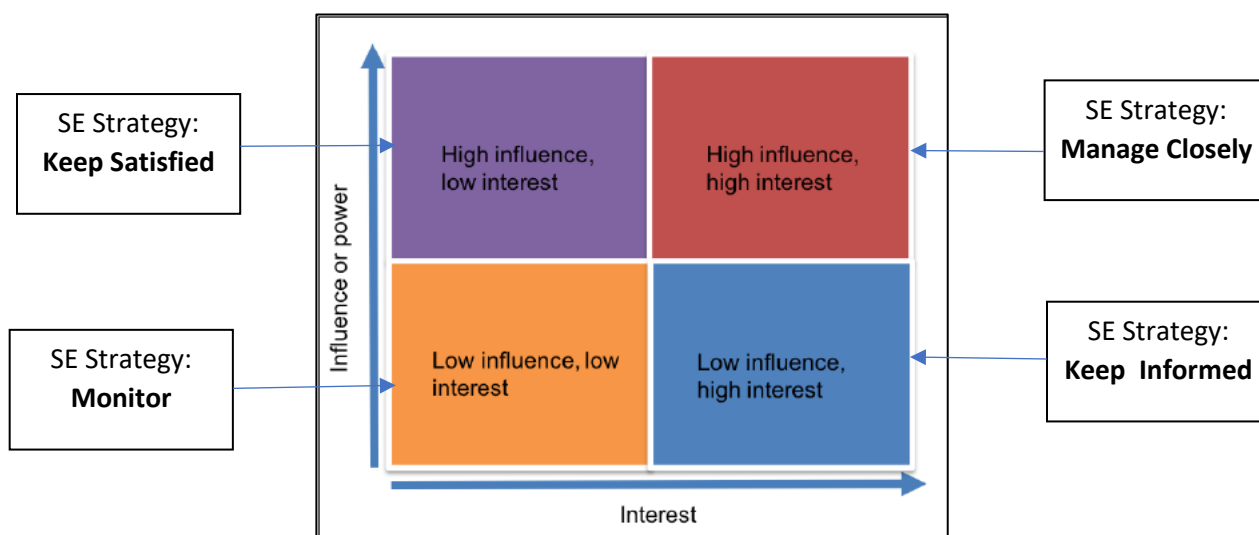## 3   IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF STAKEHOLDERS

Figure 1. Generic Stakeholder Map used for Stakeholder Analysis

This stakeholder engagement strategy is closely linked to the overall stakeholder engagement strategy for CI-Guyana's work in the Rupununi. Successful implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will depend on how well the CI- Guyana team can effectively manage appropriate engagement activities with a variety of stakeholders. The general aim of the SEP is to appropriately involve key stakeholders throughout the project to ensure their views and inputs are heard, received and taken into consideration during design, planning and implementation of the project. The plan is intended to help the project establish effective lines of communication and working relationships with stakeholders through various forms of engagement.

A first step is to conduct a stakeholder mapping exercise. CI defines stakeholder mapping is process of systematically listing and analysing information to determine which groups have an interest in a project, which groups are typically included or excluded, whether each group is relevant to include, whether the groups support or oppose the project, or will the groups benefit or be harmed by it. *(CI SEP- Stakeholder Mapping Guide, 2014)*

CI- Guyana initially used the Stakeholder Salience Model to categorise stakeholders in order to determine their levels of power, urgency and legitimacy in the Rupununi landscape as it relates to CI projects. The methodology of the Stakeholder Salience Model does have some connections to stakeholder mapping process described in Figure 2.

Therefore, the results of the stakeholder salience model can be used to inform the Amazonia Verde SEP. Below is the stakeholder mapping table specific to the Guyana component of the Amazonia Verde project.

Key Stakeholder	Influence of Power	Level of Interest	Engagement Strategies
Government			
Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	High	High	Manage closely • Meeting to update the Minster on CI- Guyana's work- programme in the Rupununi including the Our Future Forests- Amazonia Verde project. • Regular check-ins with the Project Management Unit of the MoAA, specifically the Management Development Officer with responsibility for Region 9. • Provide project updates to the Community Development Officers in the Rupununi, and include them in the Village Improvement Planning work.
Ministry of Natural Resources	High	High	Manage closely • Meeting to update the ministry on CI- Guyana's work programme has been completed. • Share key information
Ministry of Public Works	Low	Low	Monitor • Formal and informal sessions/meeting to share information and updates.
Ministry of Finance	High	High	Manage closely • Meetings with the Ministry to discuss the climate financing mechanism work. • Regular check-in with key resources persons within the Ministry e.g. the Budget Director.
Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce	High	Low	Keep satisfied • Meetings with the Guyana Tourism Authority to inform on how the Project can support community- based tourism and the work of the GTA. Visit Rupununi and the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG) will be included in the discussions.
Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development	High	High	Manage closely • Meeting with the Ministry to provide and update on CI- Guyana's work. • Key/periodic meetings with the Regional Chairman, Regional Executive Officer, Standing Committees, planning unit, programme leads etc. to support the Regional Plan and show how the project can help to achieve the Region's vision.
Regional Democratic Council # 9	High	High	Manage closely • CI meets with the Regional Chairman at least twice per quarter to update him on the work programme.
Protected Areas Commission	High	Low	Keep satisfied • PAC will be interested in the SRCS project to map the Important Bird Area along the Ireng river.

			• CI and SRCS will meet with the RDC and PAC to inform the organizations about the project.
Environmental Protection Agency	Low	Low	Monitor • Follow the EPA's biodiversity research permitting process. • Submit all required documents to the EPA.
Guyana Wildlife and Management Commission	Low	High	Keep informed • Meetings to present on the project activities related to wildlife. • Share project results related to wildlife habitat mapping.
Indigenous Peoples (including organisations, and local communities)			
National Toshaos' Council	High	High	Manage closely • Regular meetings to check-in on proposal development and implementation of activities under their grant. • Attend the Executive Meetings and provide information as requested • Follow the communities' stakeholder and COVID-19 engagement protocols. • Work plan activities are designed to advance opportunity to work with the NTC to strengthen its institutional capacity (resource governance reporting system, financial systems, tax and insurance compliance systems etc.).
North Rupununi District Development Board	High	High	Manage closely • Regular meetings to check-in on proposal development and implementation of activities under their grant. • Attend the Executive Meetings and provide information as requested • Follow the communities' stakeholder and COVID-19 engagement protocols. • Work plan activities are designed to advance opportunity to work with the NRDDB to strengthen its institutional capacity (resource governance reporting system, financial systems, tax and insurance compliance systems etc.).
Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group	High	High	Manage closely • Regular meetings to check-in on proposal development and implementation of activities under their grant. • Attend the Executive Meetings and provide information as requested • Follow the communities' stakeholder and COVID-19 engagement protocols. • Work plan activities are designed to advance opportunity to work with the KMCRG to strengthen its institutional capacity (resource governance

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			reporting system, financial systems, tax and insurance compliance systems etc.).
South Rupununi District Council	High	High	Manage closely • Regular meetings to check-in on proposal development and implementation of activities under their grant. • Attend the Executive Meetings and provide information as requested • Follow the communities' stakeholder and COVID-19 engagement protocols. • Work plan activities are designed to advance opportunity to work with the SRDC to strengthen its institutional capacity (resource governance reporting system, financial systems, tax and insurance compliance systems etc.).
Villages (Surama, Yupukari, Rewa etc.)	High	High	Manage closely • Regular meetings/ site visits to check-in on proposal development and implementation of activities under their grant. • Follow the communities' stakeholder and COVID-19 engagement protocols. • Workplan activities are designed to support capacity building for the eco-lodges.
Amerindian Peoples' Association	Low	High	Keep informed: • Meetings to provide updates on the capacity building activities for Indigenous communities, particularly the Indigenous negotiations training.
Private Sector			
Visit Rupununi	High	High	Manage Closely • Regular meetings with VR to assess institutional priorities and areas for support • Regular meetings/ site visits to check-in on proposal development and implementation of activities under their grant. • Work plan activities are designed to advance opportunity to work with the VR to strengthen its institutional capacity (financial systems, etc.).
Non- Governmental Organisation			
World Wildlife Fund	High	High	Manage Closely • Joint working sessions (currently on a weekly basis) to provide updates on project implementation. • Developing a joint work programme to ensure complementarity during execution of projects.
Chicago Field Museum	Low	High	Keep Informed • Weekly meetings to discuss how funding from both organisations could be used to benefit communities in the areas or tourism and biodiversity monitoring.

			• Developing a Memorandum of Understanding to formalise working relationship between the two organisations. • Coordinate activities on the ground with communities.
South Rupununi Conservation Society	Low	High	Monitor • Regular meetings/ site visits to check-in on proposal development and implementation of activities under their grant. • Work plan activities are designed to advance opportunity to work with the SRCS to strengthen its institutional capacity (financial systems, etc.)

4   INFORMED CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION

The Stakeholder Engagement Strategy will meet the principles of FPIC in the following ways:
- Follow required legislation (Amerindian Act (2006)) and allow for the time needed by communities to make decisions. Avoid rushing their decision- making processes.
- Follow the Design, Inform, Decide, Act (DIDA) guidelines for engagement with Rupununi communities developed by the district IPOs (i.e. the NRDDB, the KMCRG, the SRDC).
- Grantees, who have the right to self- determination, are given the opportunity to include their priority activities in their grant proposal design (in-line with Our Future Forests- Amazonia Verde's objective).
- Include key resource persons in surrounding communities in capacity building trainings being conducted with the district IPOS, including persons interested in leadership positions.
- Project activities under the project are designed in such a way that the views of men, women, youth, and elders are considered in the design or development of life plans, conservation agreements etc.
- Working together with communities and partners to document agreements and consent given throughout the project.

5   VULNERABLE GROUPS[14]

6   STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM
6.1   Stakeholder activities already undertaken

Table 6: Key Stakeholder engagement activities already undertaken

Date	Stakeholder	Meeting description
4th November, 2020	South Rupununi District Council	• Project introduction meeting: Presented the project to the SRDC Executive.

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[14] including but not limited to women, children, migrants, elderly, minorities, displaced, and persons with disabilities;

		• There were also several calls and quick check-ins to arrange the meeting.
17th February, 2021	South Rupununi District Council	• Due diligence for implementing partners: SRDC Executive Meeting to discuss the process for grant on-boarding.
13th January, 2021	Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group	• Due diligence for implementing partners: Meeting to discuss the process for grant on-boarding.
5th October, 2020	Regional Democratic Council	• Meeting to update the Regional Chairman's office on CI- Guyana's work- plan after the conclusion of the national & regional elections. • There have been several subsequent calls/ check-ins with the RDC.
21st July, 2020	North Rupununi District Development Board	• This meeting was primarily to discuss another project, but the Our Future Forests- Amazonia Verde project was introduced.
9th December, 2020	North Rupununi District Development Board	• Meeting to discuss the process for grant on-boarding.
11th February, 2021	North Rupununi District Development Board	• Working session to develop the grant proposal and budget.
• 13th January, 2021 • 18th February, 2021 • 24th February, 2021 • 3rd March, 2021	World Wildlife Fund- Guianas	• Working sessions to develop joint Rupununi Sustainable Landscape work- plan.
3rd March, 2021	Surama Village (Surama Amerindian Trust Fund)	• Due diligence for implementing partner: Meeting to discuss the process for grant on-boarding. • Prior engagement with the village has been mainly via email
23rd March, 2021	Yupukari Village (Caiman House)	• Due diligence for implementing partner: Meeting to discuss the process for grant on-boarding.

		• Prior engagement with the village has been mainly via email and Whatsapp.
NA	Rewa Village (Rewa Eco-lodge)	• Engagement with the village has been mainly via e-mail.

6.2 Planned engagement activities

Types of Engagement Processes	**Types of Engagement Activities**
• *Project Design* • *E&S Risk Assessment* • *Project Awareness or Socialization* • *Consultation or consent* • *Training/Capacity Building* • *Network or Alliance Building* • *Advocacy* • *Project Governance* • *Research & Analysis* • *Monitoring & Evaluation*	• *Design workshops* • *Environmental and social assessment* • *Due diligence of implementing partners* • *Project kick-off meetings* • *Consultation workshops/meetings* • *Negotiation workshops and meetings* • *Focus groups (youth, women, migrants, etc.)* • *Multi-stakeholder groups* • *Independent expert panels* • *Formation of advisory or steering committees* • *Beneficiary exchanges* • *Project or Sector specific training activities* • *Monitoring & feedback activities* • *Evaluation activities*

6.2 Planned Stakeholder Engagement and Disclosure

Table 7. Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Process/Activity	**Target Stakeholder**	**Stakeholder Interests in the project**	**Description (including stage of project cycle)**	**Timing**
Training/ Capacity Building	Indigenous Peoples (organisations and communities)	• Institutional strengthening • Support for COVID-19 recovery activities		Start April/ May 2021
Consultation and consent	Indigenous Peoples (organisations and communities)	• Support for capacity		Continuous
	Civil society organisations	• Support key priority areas related to		Continuous

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Activity	Target Stakeholder	Stakeholder Interests	Description (including stage of project cycle)	Timing
		conservation and livelihoods		
	Government ministries	• IPLC financing and community development		Continuous
Environmental and social assessments	Indigenous Peoples (organisations and communities)	• Biodiversity and natural resource management		Start May/ June 2021
Due diligence of implementing partners	Indigenous Peoples (organisations and communities)	• Grant to support priority projects		January-April 2021
	Civil society organisations	• Grant to support priority projects		
Activity	**Target Stakeholder**	**Stakeholder Interests**	**Description (including stage of project cycle)**	**Timing**
CI- Guyana work	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	• Community development planning	Since the change in government in 2020, CI-Guyana has not been able to meet with this key Ministry. Meeting will focus on the Sustainable Villages programme which involves the development and implementation of VIPs.	June 2021
Consultations on IPLC Finance Mechanism	Government Ministries, RDC	• Implementation of communities' projects • Community development • Measuring the impact of investment in IPLCs	The upcoming scoping assessment for the IPLC Finance Mechanism will involve extensive consultations with government.	June-Sept 2021
Gender Training	Grantees	• Support implementation of their priority projects related to conservation and livelihoods.	Ensure partners are aware of and understand CI's gender policy.	Jun-Jul 2021
Sharing of SEP and project documents (e.g. project overview, presentations)	All stakeholders	• Various interests indicated above.	• This has been done to some extent with grantees. • This will be done during grant on-boarding process with the grantees.	Continuous
Document minutes of key meetings/ consultations	All stakeholders	• Various interests indicated above.	• Meetings notes will be stored on the Project's Sharepoint/ Teams site	Continuous

8   GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE -   See Summary of Accountability and Grievance Mechanism Procedure above

The Accountability and Grievance Mechanism (AGM) procedure for Our Future Forests- Amazonia Verde will guide the design and implementation of the handling and management of any received grievances. The full Accountability and Grievance Mechanism procedure, which may involve implementing partners as focal points in specific countries, will be followed consistently in all of the seven project countries. The full procedure can be found in the Project Document Folder[15], and is summarized here. The full procedure seeks to ensure consistency in how complaints are treated.

AGM Contacts (with email, telephone, whatsapp, etc.)

In CI-Guyana, Ms. Marcelle Chan-A-Sue will be the primary contact for the AGM.

For NTC – the AGM Focal Point is

For NRDDB - the AGM Focal Point is

For SRDC, the AGM Focal Point is

Based on an assessment of the partner organization capacity, the CI-Guyana project team will rely on the four indigenous implementing partner organizations to utilize their own traditional dispute resolution practices as the first level of the AGM procedure for receiving and managing any low-risk grievance that is received. **CI-G will endeavor to understand and document as an Appendix to this ESMP how these traditional practices for addressing a grievance operates.** CI-G will ensure appropriate coordination between the traditional dispute resolution practices of the indigenous partner organization by explaining the requirements of the Project AGM procedure that any implementing partner will need to comply with. CI-Guyana will ensure any project related grievance that is handled by an indigenous partner organization meets the following requirements:

- The partner can assess whether reported grievances are eligible or not (e.g., related to the project)
- The partner reports any grievance related to the project, along with appropriate level of detail to CI-Guyana in a timely way;
- Based on the CI risk rating scale, the partner can assess whether the grievance is low or high risk, and;
- If the submitted grievance is high risk, reports the situation to CI-Guyana immediately;
- The partner will seek to address the grievance in a timely manner, consistent with the principles of the project AGM procedure;
- The partner will report to CI-Guyana the result of the process to address the grievance;
- The partner will provide updates on any grievance process at periodic monitoring activities;

Any project stakeholder can submit a grievance directly to the CI-Guyana Project AGM primary contact, or to the PMU contact, M&E Manager, Carlos Montenegro, or alternatively directly to CI EthicsPoint. Written material describing the project AGM will provide full contact information for each option.

The CI-G AGM Primary Contact will:

o Maintain an updated **written record** of all complaints received, with appropriate protections for privacy and confidentiality (*see sample log in AGM procedure*);
o Report in semi-annual monitoring reports an updated list of received grievances and their status;
o Proactively communicate, **raise awareness and provide written information** to all project stakeholders about how the AGM process works, including options for where to submit a grievance (*see sample brochures and posters*);

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[15] The Accountability and Grievance Mechanism Procedure can be found here.

- o **Provide training** as needed for stakeholders to be able to effectively access and use the AGM;
- o **Take immediate action** to define the issues and resolve the grievance or complaint or refer to the next level of authority for resolution if necessary;
  Immediate actions include:
    - Classify the risk of any complaint;
    - Assess eligibility of a complaint;
    - Determine what Tier of the AGM should handle the complaint and make contact with that responsible party;
    - Consider the appropriate time limits for handling and addressing the complaint;
    - Ensure confidentiality of the complainant (if requested);
- o **Register the grievance** immediately with the PMU (M&E Manager) and inform the Country program lead;
- o **Publicly report** on complaints received and actions taken on each complaint (*in semi-annual monitoring reports*);
- o Ensure that a **transparent, timely and fair process** is adopted to address each complaint;

The AGM procedure provides a three-tier structure to address grievances (***see Figure 1 below***)

- **For Tier 1 at the Community/Country level there are two options:**
    - o **Option A. The AGM site-level procedure requirements are managed by indigenous implementing partners where appropriate and decided by CI country office.**
        - CI-B due diligence of local practice for dispute resolution is necessary before deciding to incorporate this practice into the Project AGM;
        - Thematic meeting between CI-B and Indigenous implementing partner to evaluate the project, identify risk potential and clarify how to make a complaint. Done by the coordinator;
        - In - situ workshops or training will be needed to explain and then to co-create the Tier 1 mechanism procedure that is customized to the cultural aspects of the subregion and organizational requirements of the indigenous partner organization;
        - A dedicated focal point will be identified as the responsible party for any low risk grievance that is addressed at the community level;
        - The partner focal point will be responsible for coordinating with CI–B AGM contact and carrying out the duties indicated above.
        - Identify appropriate communication channels on how to submit a complaint (in - person, email, telephone, SMS Text, WhatsApp, evaluate with external grants);
        - Raise awareness with stakeholders about the AGM (poster, video for dissemination via WhatsApp, dissemination on the CI-B website and the external grant, among others);
        - Create a requirement within external grants to report and monitor complaints.
    - o **Option B. The AGM procedure requirements are managed by the designated CI Project Team AGM primary contact.**
        - The Project Team AGM Primary Contact will follow the grievance handling procedure for any received grievances, as summarized above.
        - If eligible grievances cannot be resolved at the country level, the grievant will be informed of the right to appeal the grievance to the PMU level (Tier 2).
        - Upon request, the grievance will be escalated to Tier 2.

- **For Tier 2 - Project Management Unit (PMU) level**
    - o Project M&E Manager will coordinate all grievance handing processes according to the AGM procedure and summarized above;
    - o The Project M&E Manager will establish and maintain communication with the grievant regarding the process for addressing the complaint;
    - o The M&E manager will coordinate appropriately with the Country Program and partner;

- o The M&E manager will coordinate with the CI Grievance Subcommittee as appropriate for any grievances that present risks that require external advice;
- o If eligible grievances cannot be resolved at the PMU level, the grievant will be informed of the right to appeal the grievance to the CI Grievance Subcommittee level (Tier 3).
- o Upon request, the grievance will be escalated to Tier 2.

- **For Tier 3 – CI Grievance Subcommittee level**
  - o Any high-risk grievances will be escalated automatically to the CI Grievance Subcommittee, chaired by CI General Counsel Office (GCO);
  - o Eligible grievances that are not resolved at the country/community or PMU levels may also be escalated to the Subcommittee level;
  - o The CI Grievance Subcommitee will follow the procedure described in the Project Accountability and Grievance Mechanism Procedure.

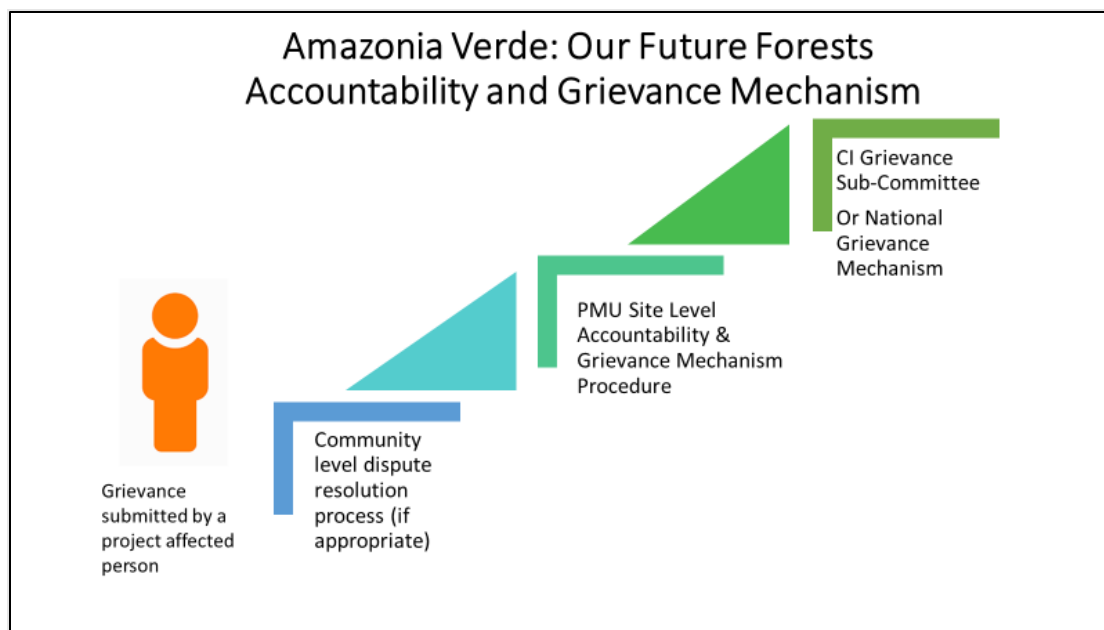| Complaint Risk Level	Description	Responsible for resolving the complaint	Maximum time period for addressing grievance
1 (low)	The complaint is straightforward, the issue is clear, and the solution is obvious, and resolutions can be developed and provided immediately. This may include cases where the grievance is: • addressed by sharing available information; • addressed by a straightforward decision/action; • already being investigated; or • in the process of being resolved.	Point person for Tier 1 (if community level AGM is used), or PMU M&E Manager (AGM Coordinator)	TBD
2 (medium)	The complaint lacks full necessary information and • needs to be investigated for further information and may involve engagement with multiple stakeholders; or • the resolution of the grievance involves action from a particular stakeholder.		
3 (high)	Grievances with, or with the potential to have, a significant adverse impact on, and interaction with, stakeholders. These may include: • repeated grievances; • clear/strong evidence of (threatened) violence in all its forms including SEAH ; or • clear/strong evidence of illegal activity, victimization, or corruption, etc. • Reputational (to CI or donor)		

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Figure 2. Generic design for a three tier project grievance mechanism

9   STAKEHOLDER REGISTER FOR FPIC and PRIMARY CONSULTATION MEETINGs

Stakeholder (group or individual)	Contact details	Date of meeting	Location of meeting	Summary / Issues raised	Follow up Actions	Status (closed / Open)

10 RECORDING, MONITORING and REPORTING

Monitoring of stakeholder engagements will be performed as a part of overall project monitoring, based on defined performance indicators. Monitoring reports will be prepared by the project lead in each country office and sent to the M&E manager of the project. The M&E manager will make comments and send it back to the project lead. The reviewed version will be considered as the final version.

        Dates: Report due end of February 2021

        Updated: Update report December 2021

The reporting for these formats should be conducted yearly until the end of the project.

Documents used to provide evidence of monitoring results will include meeting minutes, lists of participants of stakeholder meetings (can be combined with photographs) and Grievance Log. This evidence also will be used for the semester report.   Monitoring reports, in line with the overall Project reporting, should be made available to affected communities concerning ongoing risks, impacts and mitigation measures.

The Country technical team will update the SEP through the lifetime of the project, in particular whenever there have been changes to the project or additional stakeholder activities or when particular milestones (agreements with communities) have been reached. Learning from Project assessments should be incorporated in SEP updates.

11 ANNEX I: TEMPLATE FOR STAKEHOLDER LIST

Group	Stakeholder	Contact details
Project Developers/Private Sector		
	Organization / Name	Address Email
	Organization / Name	Address Email
National Government Authorities		
	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	Address: 251-251 Thomas & Quamina Streets, South Cummingsburg, Georgetown, Guyana Email: amerindianaffairsgy@gmail.com
	Ministry of Natural Resources	Address: 96 Duke Street, Kingston, Georgetown, Guyana Email: publicaffairsunit@nre.gov.gy
	Ministry of Finance	Address: 49 Main & Urquhart Streets, Georgetown, Guyana Email:
	Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce	Address: 229 South Road, Georgetown, Guyana
	Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development	Address: De Winkle Building, Fort Street, Georgetown, Guyana Number: 592 227 3548
	Ministry of Public Works	Address: Wright's Lane, Kingston, Georgetown Email: minister@publicinfrastructure.gov.gy
District Level Government Authorities		
	Organization / Name	Address Email
	Organization / Name	Address Email
Local Level Government Authorities		
	Regional Democratic Council	Address: Lethem, Region 9 Email: rcofficeregion9@gmail.com
	Organization / Name	Address Email

NGOs/CSOs/IPOs		
	South Rupununi Conservation Society	Address: Wichabai Ranch, Deep South Rupununi, Region 9 Email:srcs.rupununi@gmail.com
	Visit Rupununi	Address: Lethem, Region 9 Email: visitrupununi@gmail.com
	Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group	Address: 164 Lethem, Region 9 Email: kmcrg.rupununi@gmail.com
	North Rupununi District Development Board	Address: Annai, North Rupununi, Region 9 Email: northdevboard@gmail.com
	South Rupununi District Council	Address: Aishalton, Deep South Rupununi Email: southrupununidistrictcouncil@gmail.com
	National Toshaos Council	Address: 62 Hadfield Street, Georgetown, Guyana Email: ntoshaoscouncil@yahoo.com
	WWF- Guianas	Address: 285 Irving Street, Queenstown, Georgetown, Guyana Email: Aiesha Williams awilliams@wwf.gy

ANNEX II: FREE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC) PROCESS
Describe Plan for any required FPIC Process, using the template in Table 8.

Table 8. FPIC Process Log

Country	IP partner	Completed or Planned consultation or consent related activities toward FPIC with primary Indigenous partner organizations	In case of modifications proposed by IPOs to the original work plan, what qualifications, if any, were agreed to?	Gaps with respect to national or CI FPIC standards	CI Plans to address FPIC gaps.
Guyana	**National Toshao's Council**	• The NTC and CI have a good working relationship. CI- Guyana has provided a grant to the NTC for institutional strengthening under the Norad funded 'Addressing Drivers of Deforestation' project. • The NTC is a body corporate that comprises all Toshaos in Guyana (which will include executive members of the IPOs in the Rupununi) whose functions include promoting good governance in Indigenous village.	**No recommendations for modification were made.**		

		• Given the need for further capacity building/ institutional strengthening, the NTC was identified as a key grantee under the project. • During several meetings with the NTC, project updates and information were shared in the form of presentations and project documents. The application for the Indigenous Women's Fellow was also shared. Required documentation for the granting process was also shared. • NTC has submitted a letter of conditional consent/ agreement to participate in the project. • NTC's grant proposal (and other documentation) have been submitted. The grant proposal has been approved.			
	North Rupununi District Development Board	• CI- Guyana and the NRDDB have a very close work relationship. CI-Guyana has supported the NRDDB and its communities for many years. Support has included grants, capacity building and trainings, community- based tourism development etc. CI-Guyana has also supported the NRDDB's Executive meetings by providing fuel or funding for meals.	**No recommendations for modification were made.**	**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the NRDDB was not able to hold village consultation meetings to validate the DIDA guidelines for engaging with Rupununi communities.**	**Our Future Forests-Amazonia Verde can help to support the validation and finalization of the DIDA guidelines through the grant.**

		• During meetings with the NRDDB, project updates and information were shared in the form of presentations and project documents. The application for the Indigenous Women's Fellow was also shared. Required documentation for the granting process was also shared. • NRDDB has submitted a letter of conditional consent/ agreement to participate in the project.			
	Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group	• CI- Guyana and the KMCRG have a very close work relationship. • During meetings with the NRDDB, project updates and information were shared in the form of presentations and project documents. The application for the Indigenous Women's Fellow was also shared. Required documentation for the granting process was also shared. • KMCRG has submitted a letter of conditional consent/ agreement to participate in the project. • KMCRG's grant proposal (and other documentation) have been submitted. The grant proposal has been approved.	**No recommendations for modification were made.**	**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the KMCRG was not able to hold village consultation meetings to validate the DIDA guidelines for engaging with Rupununi communities.**	**Our Future Forests-Amazonia Verde can help to support the validation and finalization of the DIDA guidelines through the grant.**
	South Rupununi District Council	• CI- Guyana and the SRDC have a good work relationship. • During meetings with the SRDC, project updates and information	**No recommendations for modification were made.**	**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the SRDC was not able to hold village consultation meetings to validate the DIDA**	**Our Future Forests-Amazonia Verde can help to support the validation and**

		were shared in the form of presentations and project documents. The application for the Indigenous Women's Fellow was also shared. Required documentation for the granting process was also shared. • The SRDC has shared their financial/ operational manuals and policies. • SRDC has submitted a letter of conditional consent/ agreement to participate in the project.		**guidelines for engaging with Rupununi communities.**	**finalization of the DIDA guidelines through the grant.**

Country Gender Action Plan (GAP)
Guyana
May 2021

Country program teams should complete the following Gender Action Plan to ensure proactive and thoughtful integration of gender considerations, as well as identify gaps or needs that should be addressed. These GAPs will be updated on an annual basis.

1. **Who is the designated person(s) with responsibility for implementing and monitoring this GAP?**
   *The Project Lead, **Marcelle Chan-A-Sue** will be responsible for implementing and monitoring the Gender Action Plan.*

2. **Project partner organizations + level of skill/experience with respect to gender. What training will be needed?**

Partner Organisation	Skill/ Experience in Gender	Training needed
National Toshaos' Council	Low	• Gender integration into projects and organizational policy • SEAH Policy
Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group	Low	• Gender integration into projects and organizational policy • SEAH Policy
North Rupununi District Development Board	Low	• Gender integration into projects and organizational policy • SEAH Policy
South Rupununi District Council	Medium (since they have been able to organize the Wapichan Women's Movement that tackles GBV issues etc.)	• Gender integration into projects and organizational policy • SEAH Policy

3. **Reflecting on the gender issues identified in the regional gender action plan, and the specific activities that your country component will undertake, explain what steps will need to be taken to ensure gender equity and promote women's leadership in the table below:**

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	In which activities might gender considerations be important?	What specific steps are needed to ensure gender equity and promote women's leadership? Have they been budgeted?
Outcome 1: Newly secured protection and improved management of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) lands		
Gender Outcome: increased access and control of natural resources for women		
Output 1.1 Support IPLCs to manage and monitor their land using traditional knowledge and new technology.	*Sub-activity 1.1.1.1 Implement training for sustainable community development planning and implementation of community plans.*	*Rupununi communities have been the first nationwide to develop and implement 10-year Village Improvement Plans. The VIP planning process has been designed to include specific input from men, women, the elderly and youth. Men and women facilitators have to be trained in order to facilitate the various break-out men's and women's groups to capture their unique perspectives.* *Specific steps include:* • *Identifying 1 male and 1 female facilitator that can be trained from each IPO. Letter to the IPO should include a profile/ criteria of the person suitable for the training can help the organisations/ communities make a better decision on who should be selected.* • *Ensuring that the female trainers can actively participate by covering child care costs, transportation, meals etc.* • *Ensuring that the dates and times of the training are suitable for both men and women to participate.* • *Workshops will use registration/ sign-in sheets that capture gender disaggregated data. The template has been provided by the Project Management Unit.*

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| | Sub- activity 1.1.1.2 Village Improvement Planning workshops | These workshops comprise 4 sessions with the Village Council and key resource persons in the wider village. Usually there are between 30-40 participants during these workshops. Given COVID-19 protocols the number of participants may have to be reduced. From past experience, these workshops are mostly attended by women, but they are often times not as vocal and could be easily dominated by the men who attend. There is also the added dynamic of older women and men drowning out the voices of youth.

To ensure effective participation from both men, women and youth, specific steps include:

• Writing a letter to the Village Council requesting that a good ratio of the following groups attend e.g. men, women, youth, elderly, differently-abled.
• Working with the Village Council to ensure timings for the workshops are suitable for both men and women to participate.
• Providing a comfortable space for all participants e.g. comfortable seating for pregnant women, the elderly etc. Facilitators will need to ensure women and youth are actively participating and contributing to the village development discussions. This can be done through focus group discussions by splitting the larger group into smaller groups that would be more comfortable sharing information and ideas among themselves e.g. specific women, men and youth group.
• Providing any other support women, vulnerable groups etc. may need to be able to effectively participate and provide their input |

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		into their village plan e.g. covering child care costs (transportation, meals etc.) • *Workshops will use registration/ sign-in sheets that capture gender disaggregated data. The template has been provided by the Project Management Unit.* *Key follow-up actions after the workshops have been completed over the course of 3-4 days:* • *Providing the space for men and women to give feedback on the planning process and Village Improvement Plan by communicating it in an easily understandable and culturally appropriate way. This can include working with the Village Council to reach out to households that have difficulty attending village meetings.* • *Implement the use of a household tracker (a monitoring tool used to determine which households are participating in the village planning workshops). This will help to identify the households that should be targeted by the Village Council for sharing information on the village plan, and personally inviting them to the workshops.*
	Sub- Activity 1.1.2.2 Implement community grants for livelihood projects linked to conservation.	*The project will be disbursing grants to Indigenous communities and organisations for various projects linked to their village improvement plans and strategic priorities, as well as local grass roots organisations. To ensure gender considerations are incorporated in the grant proposals and the execution of the projects, the specific steps include:* • *The grant on-boarding process grantees understand the proposals have to mention*

		how men, women and youth will benefit from and be involved in the projects.
		• *The grantees will receive trainings on gender, the grievance mechanism and the sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment policy as outlined in the Project's Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP).*
		• *To the extent possible, grantees receive the required trainings to help, especially Indigenous women, build their capacities to effectively execute the activities. This can help to build women's confidence and they can be empowered to take on leading roles within the villages.*
Outcome 2: Indigenous Leaders empowered and community capacity needs met		
Gender outcome: improve women's participation and decision-making in natural resource management		
Output 2.1 Strengthen capacity of IPLC organizations	*Sub- activity 2.1.2.4 Deliver conflict resolution capacity building sessions, and Sub- activity 2.2.4.3 Implement Indigenous negotiations training for Indigenous negotiators* *Conflict resolution and negotiations training (training will be based on programme from the SIF funded Indigenous Negotiations project)*	*Indigenous communities in the Rupununi are constantly grappling with the consequences of development interventions/ issues including major infrastructure development (e.g. roads and reservoirs), large scale agriculture investments, gold mining etc. As such, they need to be able to effectively represent their interests and ensure that they can maximise the benefits of any development activity occurring in and around their ancestral lands while reducing negative impacts on their natural resources and livelihoods. Building the IPOs skill to negotiate (which includes conflict resolution) is key to successful benefit sharing agreements.* *Specific steps include:* • *Sending invitation letters to the IPOs to nominate participants requiring that they each nominate 2 men and 2 women to be*

		trained. Including a profile/ criteria of the person suitable for the training can help the organisations/ communities make a better decision on who should be selected.
		• Identifying two trainers from previous group trained– a male and a female- who will co-lead the training and who have experience facilitating in mixed groups.
		• Ensuring that the female trainers and trainees can actively participate by covering child care costs etc.
		• Ensuring that the dates and times of the training are suitable for both men and women to participate.
		• Setting ground rules at the beginning of the training for participation and listening that create a safe and equal space where everyone feels comfortable. Participants, especially women should be comfortable enough to provide recommendations/ suggestions on how to encourage the emergence of strong Indigenous women negotiators.
		• Using workshop registration/ sign-in sheets that capture gender disaggregated data. The template has been provided by the Project Management Unit.
		• Conducting focus group discussions with men and women separately to evaluate the workshop. The feedback can be used to inform the refinement of training delivery.
	Sub- activity 2.1.4.2 Support institutional capacity development – strategic and action planning, staff	Indigenous Peoples' Representative Organisations in the Rupununi have core executives that make decisions on behalf of the communities (following

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	positions, training e.g. financial management and systems *Management training (including strategic planning, project management, fund raising, financial administration etc.) for the Indigenous Peoples' Organisations e.g. the NRDDB, the NTC, the SRDC, the*	*FPIC principles) and which work along with a small staff complement to execute the mandate of the Organsiations.* *Specific steps include:* • *Extending training opportunities for women Toshaos, Senior Councillors or other interested women who work in similar capacities or are interested in working directly for the organisations in the future. There will also be scope to include Regional Councillors who sit on the Gender Affairs Committee of the Regional Democratic Council to participate. Building up their capacity is key to implementing key gender initiatives highlighted in the Regional Development Plan.* • *Consulting with both men and women to agree on training dates and times that are suitable for all.* • *Supporting women to participate by covering their costs e.g. for child care, for their partner's travel in **very** special cases etc.* • *Ensuring the delivery style and content of the training is appropriate for Indigenous women and men to feel comfortable enough to participate. This will include meetings with the trainers to ensure they understand the cultural context in which the trainings will be delivered.* • *Including aspects of gender integration for projects in the proposal development and project management training.*

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Output 2.2: Train the IPLC leaders of tomorrow – enabling emerging leaders (men and women) to address development pressures	*Sub- activity 2.2.4.1 Collaborate with Community Based Organisations to develop a plan for supporting community leadership, especially in women and youth*	*Governance and leadership training is a priority need for Indigenous communities in the Rupununi. The majority of these communities have clearly stated this in their Village Improvement Plans. In addition, women in the Rupununi had their first Indigenous Women's Conference in January 2020. This is an event that promoted networking among strong Indigenous women across the Rupununi and provided some capacity building in leadership skills.* *Specific steps include:* • *Ensuring community leadership plan benefits from both Indigenous men's and women's perspectives and that priorities for improving women's and youth's leadership roles are clearly articulated. Facilitators/ consultants developing the plan will need to ensure that the activities can bring out the views (e.g. development issues within communities & solutions) of these groups. This can be done through well designed focus group discussions or other specially- designed activities.* • *IPOs to identify strong Indigenous leaders within their organizations ensuring a good ratio of men and women to support the implementation of the plan.* • *Ensuring men and women benefit equally from the activities identified in the community leadership plan.*
	Activity 2.2.8 Create Fellowship programme for 5 female Indigenous leaders	*The Indigenous Women's Fellowship programme was opened to Indigenous women from the Amazon who are spearheading initiatives and projects aimed at conserving their territories, adapting to climate change, and strengthening their communities through*

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		ancestral knowledge. Even though the project's geographic scope for Guyana is the Rupununi region, CI- Guyana made the decision to open the call nationally to give all Indigenous women leaders the opportunity to benefit from the programme. Originally, the project intended to support 2 women, however it was required from the COICA's (Cooridnadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica) Women's Council, who was part of the application evaluation process, that the top 3 applicants be submitted. Further in the evaluation process, it was suggested that more women be supported under the IWF programme and the top 5 applicants were submitted. Guyana had only received 5 applications, therefore, all applicants were given the opportunity to move ahead with their proposals based on refinement of workplan and budget. *The women's proposals have elements of working with women and youth groups to empower them and ensure that traditional knowledge and practices (including language) is passed down through the generations. Specific steps to support these women include:* • *Developing an appropriate Terms of Reference for a mentor to support the women to implement their projects.* • *Using CI-Guyana's network to bring in additional support (e.g. advising on project activities) for the women if needed.* • *CI-Guyana's team working closely with the women to ensure they are able to manage their grants.*

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Outcome 3: Sustainable value chains and financial mechanisms identified and implemented		
Gender outcome: generate socioeconomic benefits and services for women		
Output 3.2 Facilitate access to climate and conservation finance and develop innovative finance opportunities	*Activity 3.2.6 In Guyana, support the development of a financial mechanism and seed fund it to support conservation and the implementation of Indigenous village development plans (life plans)*	*Indigenous communities in the Rupununi are finding it challenging to implement conservation and livelihood projects outlined in their long-term Village Improvement Plans. This alternative mechanism will be able to fill this significant funding gap.* *Specific steps include:* • *Including Indigenous men and women from the IPOs in the design of the mechanism through a stakeholder engagement process to ensure that it's operational structure is culturally appropriate. This means that Indigenous men and women will be able to easily access the fund, and project execution and reporting take into account their local governance systems.* • *During negotiations we will ensure that women and men are both able to fully and effectively engage in design and negotiation of the agreement to access the funds from the mechanism. Benefits that target men or women must be identified as priority to them and clearly offset any costs they may see. In order to ensure this, we will follow CSP's conservation agreement field guide.*

4. **In accordance with the project's overall M&E framework, this GAP will report on the following indicators:**

Gender outcome: increased access and control of natural resources for women
Measured by: % of VIPs that include proactive measures to support and increase women's participation and influence in natural resource planning and management. Baseline: 50%, TARGET: 80%

Gender outcome: improve women's participation and decision-making in natural resource management
Measured by:
- % of m/f direct beneficiaries receiving training within the 50 IPLC organizations. Baseline: 4 IPLC organisations for Guyana, x% men and women TARGET: 50% men/women

- # IPLCs M/F leaders trained (disaggregated by sex, age, indigenous group) Target: 30 (15 women / 15 men)

- # of M/F IPLCs moving into leadership roles Target: 10 (5 women / 5 men)

Gender outcome: generate socioeconomic benefits and services for women
Measured by:
- % of conservation agreements (or similar) that are designed and implemented in a gender-responsive manner. Baseline: 0%, TARGET: 100%
- % of project-supported businesses and livelihoods that directly benefit women. Baseline: 4 project- supported businesses, TARGET: 50%