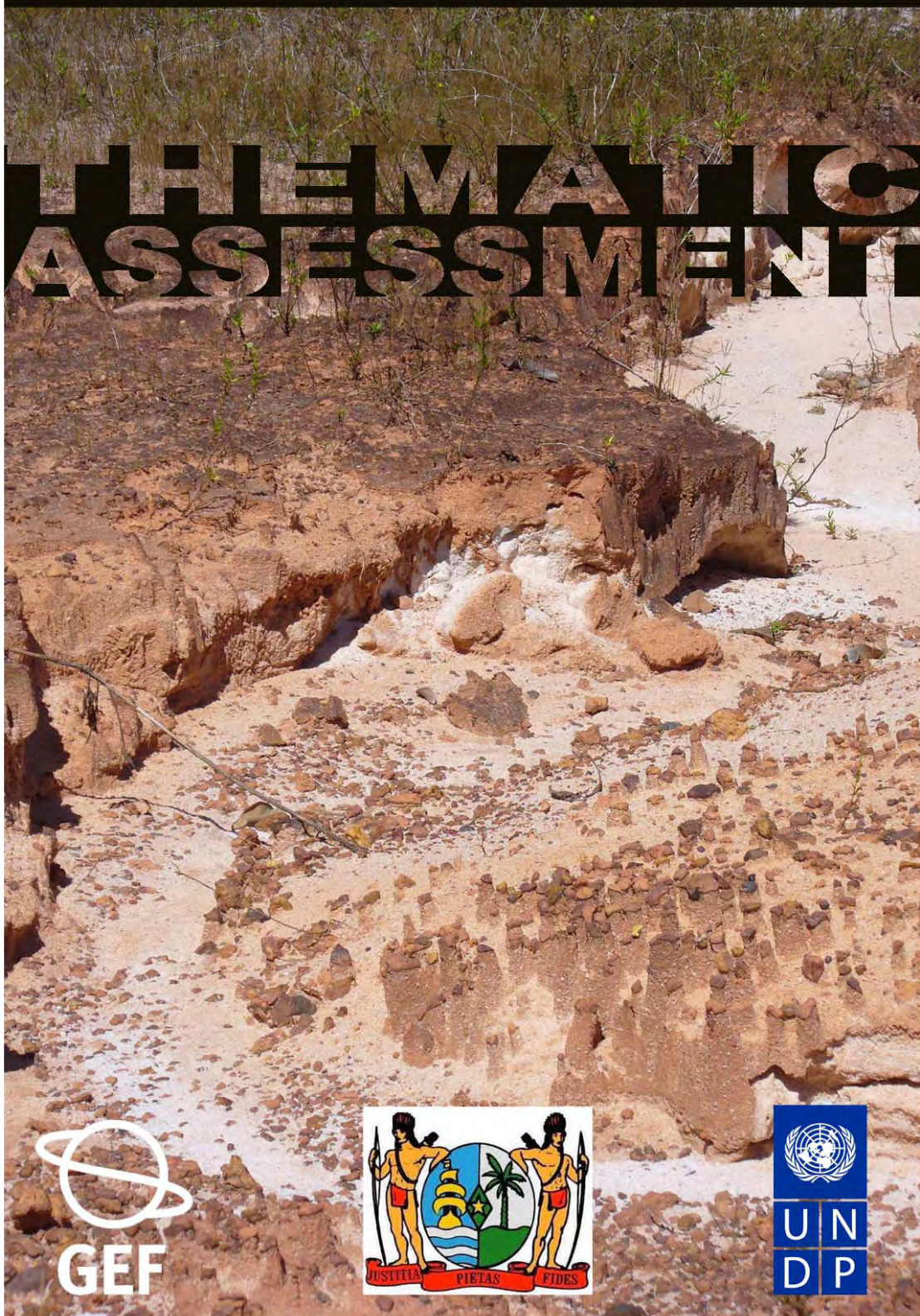


**National Capacity Self-Assessment
in relation to the
United Nations Convention
to Combat Desertification
(UNCCD)**



**Prepared for the Ministry of Labour, Technological
Development and Environment in Suriname**

**Sheila Bhairo, AP&G
August 2008**

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United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
(UNCCD)

THEMATIC ASSESSMENT

Final version
August 22, 2008

Prepared for the Ministry of Labour,
Technological Development and Environment



Prepared by AP&G
Sheila Bhairo
Paramaribo, Suriname



The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, including UNDP, or their Member States.



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Acronyms

Acronym	Dutch	English
AdeKUS	Anton de Kom Universiteit van Suriname	Anton de Kom University of Suriname
ATM	Ministerie van Arbeid, Technologische Ontwikkeling en Milieu	Ministry of Labour, Technological Development and Environment
CBO		Community based Organisation
CI		Conservation International
COP		Conference of Parties
E(S)IA		Environmental (& Social) Impact Assessment
GEF		Global Environment Facility
GLIS	Grondregistratie en Landinformatie Systeem	Land Registration and Information System
GoS	Overheid van Suriname	Government of Suriname
LVV	Ministerie van Landbouw, Veeteelt en Visserij	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
MDG		Millenium Development Goals
MDS	Meteorologische Dienst Suriname	Meteorological Service Suriname
MFin	Ministerie van Financiën	Ministry of Finance
MOP	Meerjaren Ontwikkelings Plan	Multi-annual National Development Plan
NAP		National Action Plan
NCB		National Coordinating Body
NCSA		National Capacity Self-Assessment
NFP		National Focal Point
NGO		Non-governmental Organisation
NH	Ministerie van Natuurlijke Hulpbronnen	Ministry of Natural Resources
NIMOS	Nationaal Instituut voor Milieu en Ontwikkeling in Suriname	National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname
NMR	Nationale Milieu Raad	National Council for the Environment
NPO	Stichting Planburo Suriname	Foundation National Planning Office
NVB	Stichting Nationale Vrouwen beweging	Foundation National Women Movement
OW	Ministerie van Openbare Werken	Ministry of Public Works
PHS	Platform Houtsector Suriname	Timber Business Association
PLOS	Ministerie van Planning en Ontwikkelings Samenwerking	Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation
POPs		Persistent Organic Pollutants
RO	Ministerie van Regionale Ontwikkeling	Ministry of Regional Development
ROGB	Ministerie van Ruimtelijke Ordening, Grond- en Bosbeheer	Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management
SBB	Stichting Bosbeheer en Bostoezicht	Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control

Acronym	Dutch	English
SC		Steering Committee
SCF		Suriname Conservation Foundation
SGP		Small Grants Program
SLM		Sustainable Land Management
SNAP		Suriname National Action Plan
SWM	Surinaamse Waterleiding Maatschappij	Suriname Water Company
TAG		Technical Advisory Group for SLM project
TOR		Terms of Reference
UNCBD		United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD		United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDAF		United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP		United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC		United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VIDS	Vereniging van Inheemse Dorpshoofden in Suriname	Assembly of Indigenous Chiefs in Suriname
WWF		World Wildlife Fund

Executive Summary

OBJECTIVE AND APPROACH

The principal objective of the study has been to conduct a capacity self assessment with regard to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). During the study Suriname's national capacity needs, priorities, constraints and opportunities in meeting the obligations of UNCCD have been analyzed.

The study provides a profile of the thematic area along with (a) a **Stocktaking** of previous assessment studies, reports, and existing capacity building programs, (b) a **Gap Analysis** describing the status of Suriname's current activities with regard to the implementation of the UNCCD and (c) a **Thematic Assessment** identifying and reviewing priority issues, capacity constraints and opportunities at the individual, institutional and systemic levels.

The methodology for the study involved (1) desktop review of existing literature and (2) stakeholder analysis and interviews. After delivery of the draft report, a validation session took place to present the main findings of the study as well as to get feedback from key stakeholders.

UNCCD AND SURINAME

The phenomenon of desertification is not considered as an immediate issue of concern in Suriname, however the less severe form, land degradation, is clearly becoming increasingly problematic. Since ratification of the UNCCD in 2000, land degradation is gradually being recognized as an issue that requires immediate and decisive political action. In the coastal area, encroaching land degradation is primarily the result of environmentally inappropriate economic activities, in particular agricultural farming practices, oil exploitation, and mining of sand and shells. In the hinterland, land degradation is mainly the result of bauxite exploitation and gold mining.

Suriname demonstrates little progress on meeting obligations of the Convention since the ratification. The National Focal Point (NFP) has been identified (initially NIMOS, which was subsequently handed over to the Environmental Section of the Ministry of Labor, Technological Development and Environment), the first National Report was completed in May 2002, the third National Report is currently in a preliminary draft stage. Suriname hosted several awareness sessions, participated in COP 7 of the UNCCD and attended several regional meetings. A 'Working draft for the National Action Program concerning the UNCCD for the Republic of Suriname' has been formulated. A medium-size project proposal on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) has been formulated and approved early 2008. This SLM project is expected to provide the framework for Suriname to meet its UNCCD obligations, as it will contribute to:

- capacity building to combat land degradation
- increased awareness on SLM
- establishment of a National Land Information data bank
- completion of the Suriname National Action Plan (SNAP)

Based on the progress to date regarding UNCCD, and meetings and discussions with the NFP and other stakeholders, the following key priority issues were identified regarding Suriname's efforts towards meeting its obligations under UNCCD.

KEY PRIORITY ISSUES

1. Installation of a proactive Steering Committee for the medium-size SLM project.
2. Implementation of the **medium-size SLM project** as soon as possible.
3. Completion of the **SNAP** and its approval through broad based stakeholder participation.
4. Gathering of **data** on a structural basis and **expanding research** on processes leading to land degradation.
5. **Capacity building and institutional strengthening** of the NFP and related Agencies for sustainable land management and to meet UNCCD obligations.
6. **Mobilizing funds** by the NFP and Governmental Agencies in order to implement the obligations under the UNCCD, perhaps through developing a **financing strategy** to profit from regional and international mechanisms.
7. **Improvement** of the current low level of **awareness and knowledge** of UNCCD and land degradation in related Agencies, Government Institutions and society at large.
8. Formulation of a **Land Use Policy and Strategy** to set the overarching framework for sustainable land management. The Strategy should identify guidelines for land use as well as criteria for multiple land uses.
9. **Improvement of institutional cooperation** for sustainable land management.
10. **Harmonization of legislation and institutional framework** for sustainable land management and land use planning. Also need for revision of outdated and inconsistent legislations and provisions.

CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

The capacity assessment at the individual, institutional and systemic level for Suriname revealed a number of constraints. These are summarized in the table below.

Capacity constraints related to priority issues

Priority issues	Individual capacity constraints	Institutional capacity constraints	Systemic capacity constraints
Installation of a pro-active Steering Committee for SLM project as a supporting mechanism to monitor rapid implementation of the SLM project	Lack of skilled persons, with knowledge of land related environmental problems.	More or less the same persons are member of other committees or Steering Groups. There is interference with other duties which are granted greater priority than the work of the UNCCD.	Low priority given to UNCCD in relation to UNFCCC and UNCBD.
Implementation of SLM project.	Lack of sufficient persons with an understanding of UNCCD, the obligations and issues of desertification and land degradation.	Insufficient human resources to timely implement project activities.	No priority given to UNCCD. No clear system of accountability within Government to ensure that Suriname meets its obligations towards UNCCD. No system to ensure that reports and other relevant informations are disseminated in a timely manner.
Completion and approval of SNAP.	The NFP appears to be the only person concerned with the activities of the UNCCD, resulting in little being achieved when her other duties interfere.	There is no structural replacement mechanism for the NFP.	No system to ensure that the SNAP, once completed, will be incorporated into work programs and policy plans of implementing organizations.
Data collection, research, assessment of current land uses and factors contributing to land degradation.	Lack of professionals with research abilities.	Lack of funds to attract researchers, and to facilitate data collection.	Low priority given to land degradation and drought related issues.
Capacity building and institutional strengthening of Governmental Agencies for sustainable land management and to meet UNCCD obligations.	Lack of periodic re-training reduces the effects of existing capacity building initiatives.	Due to lack of human resource capacity there is no structural replacement mechanism to sustain trained abilities. No substitute system within institutions. Once the key person is trained, the information is not shared.	The political system sometimes works contra-productive within the Government: there are situations where skilled persons are marginalized because of their affiliation with a political party; or that capacity development does not have lasting effects when outflow of trained people occurs after election time.

Priority issues	Individual capacity constraints	Institutional capacity constraints	Systemic capacity constraints
Mobilizing funds, in order to be able to implement the obligations under UNCCD.	Lack of persons trained in project and financial management. Limited knowledge on GEF financing structures.		
Improve awareness level.		Lack of financial and human resources to initiate awareness campaigns.	
Formulation of a Land Use Policy and Strategy.	Lack of skilled professionals.	Lack of financial and human resources.	Overlapping mandates of Ministries.
Improvement of institutional cooperation and collaboration for sustainable land management.			Willingness of the Ministries to accept and respect each other's mandate and expertise.
Harmonization of legislation and institutional framework for SLM and land use planning.	Lack of skilled professionals with knowledge to revise existing laws.	Lack of enforcement capacity.	

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The NCSA thematic assessment exercise has provided an update on the progress of Suriname in relation to UNCCD, along with present policies, planning, institutional and legislative framework for meeting the obligations of the Convention. In recognition of the present status and the current challenges in relation to capacity, the following conclusions can be made:

Individual level

It is evident that for the implementation of the UNCCD in Suriname specialized skills are necessary. There are different capacity needs:

- **Research skills:** the amount of students, the level of training and research need to be enhanced. There is a very low percentage of students graduating at AdeKUS.
- **Management skills:** for the management of projects, writing of proposals.
- **Social skills:** working with communities in the interior requires social skills and persuading capabilities to transform environmentally devastating practices into sustainable practices.
- **Technical skills:** among others for the revision of legal framework.

Institutional level

There is a clear need for human and financial resources to adequately implement UNCCD. An example is the insufficient capacity to adequately perform enforcement duties necessary to control forestry and mining processes.

There is no substantial budgetary allocation made by the Government of Suriname for specific UNCCD activities. To comply with the obligations of the UNCCD, donor aid is needed now and will be needed in the future.

Systemic level

- The absence of a clear system of accountability within the machinery of the Government with respect to meeting the obligations of the UNCCD. The responsibility appears to lie almost completely at the NFP who, although very dedicated, has to divide her time between several other duties within the Ministry.
- The political system in Suriname hampers effective use of capacity.

OPPORTUNITIES

The capacity assessment revealed a number of constraints but also opportunities which could be translated into short term actions in order to speed up the implementation of UNCCD obligations:

On the individual level:

- Acknowledgement of the importance of the role of the NFP. The NFP should be made available to really pull the process towards implementation of the SLM project.
- Establishment of tandem constructions for key personnel, especially for the NFP, thereby creating continuity in necessary activities. This should be done by sharing information on a structural basis.

On the institutional level:

- Development of an appropriate system of accountability for the Convention within the system of the Government. This system (most probably for the time being the Steering Committee for the SLM project) should be responsible for ensuring that the country not only meets its obligations as a party of the UNCCD, but benefits fairly from its participation as a Party. Taken into account the insufficient human and financial resources, it is crucial to establish a coordinating mechanism.

On the systemic level:

- Establishment and formalization of a proactive Steering Committee for the SLM project, which can act as a catalyst for the development of the SNAP, as well as contribute to awareness and capacity building, research and resource mobilization.
- Continued support to the GLIS project. GLIS provides basic data for land use planning, contributing to optimal use of land resources based on characteristics.
- Formulation of the Environmental Sector Plan. This Plan should have the overarching vision, overseeing environmental management, including land management, and should provide the institutional framework.
- Review of legislation in relation to natural resources management and land use planning and management. This should be a precursor to the harmonizing of such legislation.

- Prompt and timely dissemination of relevant information to the key implementation agencies, such as reports of COPs and other activities associated with the UNCCD.
- Development of methods and protocols to measure and collect data related to land degradation and drought.
- Comprehensive assessment of the factors that cause land degradation and drought, the mapping of drought and/or degraded areas as the basis for the prompt development of the SNAP.
- Introduction of effective systems for the forecasting of drought periods and development of effective early warning and forecasting systems, which will include development of drought indices.
- Development of an effective and comprehensive public education program which targets not only the wider public but which will ensure that personnel in key implementing agencies are informed of Suriname's obligations in the UNCCD and the role they are expected to play in meeting these obligations.
- Enforcement and strengthening of laws related to illicit mining of gold, sand, other minerals and the restoration of mined out bauxite lands, in short activities which contribute significantly to land degradation as well as the destruction of aquifers.

1 Introduction to the Convention Thematic Area

Suriname's total land mass is 16.4 million hectares and is covered by more than 90% with natural forests, including 80% of pristine forest. A high percentage of the total land mass is susceptible to land degradation that could result from eventual excessive forest exploitation, shifting cultivation (slash and burn), and mining. Due to low population density, however, land degradation has been limited.

Hydropower development, mining of gold, bauxite and oil exploitation activities, sand digging and shifting cultivation have resulted in forest conversion. This conversion of natural forest lands has led to loss of wildlife habitat as well as land degradation, caused by a 1560 square kilometers lake used for hydro-electricity, approximately 100 square kilometers of out-mined areas, and 1200 square kilometers of agricultural land, in total 2860 square kilometers or 1.8 percent of total lands. Threats to loss of wildlife habitat and land degradation still come from mining and shifting cultivation on vulnerable soils in the interior. Fortunately, timber logging is largely sustainable, with an annual allowable harvestation of 10 -15 m³ roundwood /ha not being realized.

The phenomenon of desertification is not considered as an immediate issue of concern in Suriname, although the less severe form, land degradation, is clearly becoming increasingly problematic. Years of inappropriate land-use and inappropriate land-use management practices have caused land degradation. This is particularly evident in the coastal zone where soil erosion caused by decades of unsound agricultural practices is wreaking havoc to large tracks of land.

With the ratification of the UNCCD in June 2000, Suriname has joined the ranks of countries in the world that are obliged to pursue policies which will lead towards a more sustainable path for future development.

The principal objective of this study has been to conduct a capacity assessment with regard to the UNCCD. During the study Suriname's national capacity needs, priorities, constraints and opportunities in meeting the obligations of the UNCCD have been analyzed.

The study provides a profile of the thematic area along with:

1. Literature review of previous reports, assessment studies and existing capacity building programs
2. Gap analysis to determine the status of Suriname's current programs with regard to the implementation of the UNCCD.
3. Thematic assessment on Drought and Land Degradation:
 - a. Identifying and reviewing priority issues for implementing the UNCCD,
 - b. Identifying capacity constraints for implementing the priority issues and analyzing their causes,
 - c. Assessing the constraints at the individual, institutional and systemic levels.

2 Methodology

The UNCCD Thematic Assessment for Suriname was conducted in accordance with the following:

1. Consultant Terms of Reference (**Appendix A**)
2. National Capacity Self Assessment Resource Kit, GEF Global Support Program, September 2005
3. Training by Teresa Bosques, NCSA specialist, recruited by UNDP.

Based on these guidance the following approach was adopted:

2.1 Completion of Existing Stocktaking Exercise

Together with the Ministry of Labor, Technological Development, and Environment (ATM) and the Project Coordinator of the National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) project, the listing of relevant documents was completed. ATM provided the documents, including a summary of all activities which have been undertaken by ATM to date with regard to the implementation of UNCCD.

2.2 Elaboration of the Thematic Assessment

The assessment started with a desktop review of existing literature. Also, the identification of the stakeholders initiated at the launching workshop of the NCSA project (May 11, 2007), was completed during the thematic assessment, by identifying key stakeholders according to the obligations under the UNCCD. The result of the stakeholder analysis is attached in **Appendix B**.

After the desktop study and the stakeholder analysis a combination of structured and semi-structured interviews were done with the National Focal Point (NFP) and some of the key stakeholders identified above.

Questionnaires are attached in **Appendix C**.

The assessment evolved into the following process:

1. Situation Description

Based on the information collected, the current national situation with regard to the implementation of the UNCCD has been described. The national obligations under the UNCCD, progress to date, the National Reports and current policies, plans and programs, including legislation, were assessed.

2. Gap Analysis

The Gap Analysis outlined specific formal obligations of UNCCD and the assessment of major gaps and opportunities in planning, coordinating and implementing the UNCCD obligations. Opportunities to increase efficiencies in government processes have been examined.

An output of the Gap Analysis has been the ranking of the gaps in terms of priority issues and key areas for skills and capacity development in order for Suriname to meet its UNCCD obligations.

Finally the assessment addressed capacity constraints of priority issues, needs and opportunities at all three levels of capacity:

- - systemic level
- - institutional level
- - individual level

3. Conclusions and recommendations

Based on the results of the gap analysis general conclusions and recommendations were presented.

2.3 Validation (of thematic Assessment by Key Stakeholders)

After completion of the draft report, a validation session took place with key stakeholders. The findings of the study were presented and discussed. The comments of the key stakeholders have been processed in the final report.

3 Study Area

3.1 Background Information of Suriname

Understanding of the complexity of the phenomenon of desertification and land degradation has evolved significantly at the national level since Suriname ratified the UNCCD in 2000, and land degradation is gradually being recognized as an issue that requires immediate and decisive political action.

Suriname completed its first National Report on the Implementation of UNCCD in May 2002. The report provided a summary of the measures taken by Suriname to implement the UNCCD. The preparation of the report was done through a consultative process, which culminated in a special workshop to discuss the contents of the National Report.

The third National Report is at this moment being prepared and is already in a preliminary draft stage.

The achievements of Suriname as a party of the UNCCD are summarized below:

1. 2000, Republic of Suriname ratifies UNCCD
2. NIMOS was initially identified as the NFP. This was subsequently handed over to the Environmental Section of ATM
3. 2002, Submission of first National Report by NIMOS
4. 2003, Hosting of a National Workshop on awareness-raising regarding land degradation by NIMOS
5. 2004, Implementation of GLIS
6. 2005, Participation in COP 7 and attendance at UNCCD regional meetings
7. 2005, Hosting of National Information Sessions on UNCCD
8. 2006, Hosting of a Workshop for stakeholders on completion of the 'Working draft for the National Action Program concerning the UNCCD' and the initiation of the portfolio project on Sustainable Land Management (SLM)
9. 2006, Formulation of the 'Working draft for the National Action Program concerning the UNCCD for the Republic of Suriname'
10. 2007, Participation in UNCCD regional meetings
11. 2007, Medium-size project proposal on Sustainable Land Management formulated and approved in 2008
12. 2008, Formulation of third National Report, in process
13. 2008, Installation of a Steering Committee for the SLM project, in process.

The formulation and approval of the medium-size SLM project is one of the most important achievements to date. Activities initiated by the SLM project will create the basis for Suriname to meet its obligations towards UNCCD. With the implementation of the SLM project (duration 4 years) it is expected that Suriname will:

1. strengthen its systemic, institutional and human resource capacity to implement SLM,
2. mainstream policies to support SLM into national development plans,
3. mobilize resources for the financing of SLM,
4. create adaptive management through participatory processes and dissemination of lessons learned.

The medium-size SLM project will contribute to:

- Capacity building to combat land degradation
- Increased awareness on SLM
- The establishment of a national Land Information data bank
- The completion of the Suriname National Action Plan (SNAP)
- Improved institutional harmonization and cooperation in the implementation of SLM
- A mid-term financial plan to finance SNAP actions.

In **Appendix D** the goals, outcomes and outputs of the SLM project are summarized.

3.2 Policy and Legal Background for UNCCD

National context for UNCCD

The government's development policy is based on an integrated approach towards economic, social and environmental sustainability. Every five years a Multi-annual National Development Plan (MOP) is prepared, which outlines a 5-year plan with respect to development issues. The Millennium Development Goals and Suriname's Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan are technically integrated into the MOP.

The government's MOP for the period 2006 - 2011 describes the need for a land management system in order to create a basis for sustainable economic and social development. It describes the ongoing activity of the establishment of a Land Registration and Land Information System (GLIS), with a focus on data compilation, data processing, manufacturing of maps and research. In the environmental paragraph of the MOP the establishment of a policy for sustainable land management is mentioned, together with strategic actions such as: the use of sustainable agriculture practices, land use planning, formulation of an action plan for land degradation, revision of the legal framework for SLM and measures against contamination of soil and water resources.

The constitution of the Republic of Suriname provides a legal basis for national environmental policy. Article 6 of the Constitution states that "the social objective of the state is directed towards the creation and stimulation of conditions, necessary for the protection of nature and the maintenance of ecological balance".

For the formulation and implementation of efficient environmental policy, ATM and NIMOS are involved.

The Policy document of ATM 2006 - 2010 states the following goals:

- The establishment of an effective and efficient environmental management structure
- The formulation of a national environmental policy
- The establishment of effective enforcement mechanisms
- Promotion of environmental awareness
- Formulation of laws and regulations as well as the incorporation of international and regional aspects of ratified international environmental conventions and agreements

To effectively address environmental issues and to respond to changes in socio-economic and ecological parameters, a draft Environmental Framework Law has been prepared by NIMOS and submitted to the Minister of ATM and subsequently to the Council of Ministers for their approval. After careful consideration, ATM has been advised to revise the Law. Once the revision is finalized the Minister of ATM will submit the Law again to the Council of Ministers, for further submission to the State Council and Parliament.

Elements in this framework Law are:

- institutional arrangements for environmental management
- duties and competences of the coordinating body and its relation to the other bodies and institutions
- principles for long-term environmental policy and planning
- principles for public participation
- liability systems
- environmental impact assessments and inspections
- financial regimes
- control mechanisms e.g. sanctions and penalties
- procedures for settlement of disputes.

Suriname lacks an action plan as a framework for combating drought, desertification and underlying processes. A Working draft for the National Action Program concerning the UNCCD has been formulated, but it needs further elaboration. The working draft identifies some measures to strengthen the institutional framework but falls short on clear roles and responsibilities among the institutes.

With regard to land degradation relevant national policies and laws are attached in **Appendix E.**

Regional context for UNCCD

In the regional and sub-regional context, Suriname is a member of the Treaty of Amazon Cooperation (OTCA), signed in Brasilia in 1978, and participates in the Special Commission of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty. Suriname is a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and participates actively in various programs organized by CARICOM, including those on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation. Suriname is also member of Small Islands Development States (SIDS) and participates in the implementation of the Barbados Action Plan.

Suriname is member of the Guiana Shield Initiative (GSI), a long-term eco-regional partnership for the sustainable financing of conservation and sustainable development of the unique intact ecosystems of the Guiana Shield. A key premise of the GSI is that, following the leading conventions, the international community should work with local, national and regional stakeholders to compensate the countries of the Guiana Shield for supplying the valuable environmental goods and services provided by their ecosystems, such as the regulation of hydrological cycles, climate and biological diversity.

Global context for UNCCD

With regard to the global context, Suriname is party to a number of international environmental conventions and other legal agreements, including the UNCBD and UNFCCC.

3.3 Institutional Arrangements

The responsible agency for the coordination of activities related to national environmental management and the environmental conventions which Suriname has ratified is the Ministry of ATM, supported by NIMOS. The Ministry is also responsible for the development of an overall environmental policy and the coordination and monitoring of all activities regarding environmental policy. This is done in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental bodies and institutions.

ATM has established the Environmental Section which serves as NFP for the UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD, POP's and the Montreal Protocol. The NFP heads the National Coordinating Bodies (NCB) for these conventions, except for the UNCCD that does not have a NCB. For UNCCD a Steering Committee for the SLM project is in the making, which will serve as a NCB-substitute, for the time being. Participating organizations will include among others, representatives of key ministries and national NGO's associated with SLM.

Other responsibilities of ATM regarding environmental management are:

- Establishment of a National Environment Act to be approved by Parliament
- Developing coordinating mechanisms and partnerships
- Identifying and preparing educational-, training-, and information programs
- Promoting implementation of the environmental conventions signed by the Government of Suriname (GoS)
- Promoting adequate involvement of the community to effectively attack environmental abuse
- Control of the use of materials and technologies harmful to the environment, in collaboration with other Ministries
- Stimulating the use of environmentally sound technologies
- Promoting and maintaining contacts with relevant national and international organizations concerned with environmental aspects
- Implementation of and adherence to International Environmental Conventions.

Furthermore the Ministry is the GEF Operational Focal Point. The Ministry also represents the Government in the GEF/SGP National Steering Committee.

The Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management (ROGB) is responsible for physical land-use planning. Planning is to be implemented in collaboration with the Ministries of Regional Development (RO), Public Works (OW), Planning and Development Cooperation (PLOS), and Natural Resources (NH). In theory, land-related policies and planning could be effectively coordinated by ROGB. Unfortunately, the legal framework with regard to land use planning creates confusing institutional roles and responsibilities.

The Planning Act of 1973 (mandatory to PLOS and its affiliated Foundation National Planning Office) and the Urban Development Act of 1972 (mandatory to OW), restrict the effectiveness of ROGB with overlapping authorities. According to the Planning Act the Foundation National Planning Office is the legal authority to formulate macro planning and regional planning for the country. According to the Urban Development Act the Ministry of Public Works is mandated to develop spatial planning for urban areas.

Other Ministries and their related parastatal bodies and state owned enterprises to which specific global environmental management tasks are mandated are listed in the stakeholders analysis (**Appendix B**).

3.4 Stakeholders

The launching workshop of the NCSA project (on May 11th, 2007) introduced a wide stakeholder audience (Ministries and Governmental Agencies, research and scientific community, private sector and NGO's) to the NCSA project, the Rio Conventions and the role of key stakeholders in the project. During the Work Group Session of the workshop stakeholders involved in addressing the obligations under the UNCCD were identified. During the thematic assessment this stakeholder list was completed and key stakeholders were identified.

With regard to UNCCD the stakeholders identified were:

- The Ministry of Labor, Technological Development and Environment
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Ministry of Natural Resources
- The Ministry of Regional Development
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
- The Ministry of Education
- The Ministry of Public Works
- The Ministry of Finance
- The Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation
- The Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management
- The Foundation National Planning Office (NPO)
- NIMOS
- GLIS
- Bauxite Institute
- Geological Mining Service
- The Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS) and its research institutes (CMO, CELOS, NARENA)
- Meteorological Service (MDS)
- Mining companies
- NGO's and CBO's:
 - a. Bureau Forum NGO's
 - b. Foundation Clean Suriname (Stichting Schoon Suriname)
 - c. Network of Maroon Women
 - d. Sanomaro Esa and VIDS

- e. Foundation National Women Movement (NVB)
- f. Pater Albrinck Stichting (PAS)
- International donor community supporting national stakeholders:
 - a. Conservation International Suriname (CIS)
 - b. Amazon Conservation Team Suriname (ACTS)
 - c. UNDP
 - d. PAHO
 - e. IICA
 - f. WWF

A listing of key stakeholders and their role with regard to UNCCD obligations is attached in **Appendix B**.

A listing of the stakeholders interviewed for the present study is attached in **Appendix F**. Several attempts were made to interview mining multinationals Suralco and BHP Billiton, but due to their rigid management and public relation procedures, it was not possible to get information from them within the timeframe of this study.

4 Gap analysis

4.1 Convention Commitments Review

4.1.1 Current Situation Towards Environmental & Capacity Issues of UNCCD

In **table 1** relevant articles of UNCCD for Suriname are listed, together with an overview of Suriname's progress towards meeting the obligations of the Convention. This listing shows which obligations have been planned for or have been implemented either fully or partially. It also identifies the barriers and the challenges for the implementation of national actions.

It should be noticed that by approving, signing and co-financing the GEF-funded medium-size SLM project, GoS showed a clear commitment to address issues related to sustainable land management.

The rapid implementation of the medium-size SLM project is critical to the implementation of obligations under the UNCCD, as it sets out a suitable framework for capacity building, awareness and institutional structures for land management issues, contributing to efficiency in governmental processes. It is an essential initiative, since it is the only land degradation combating initiative of a considerable scale.

For the implementation of the SLM project an Implementing Committee will be installed, a so-called Steering Committee. The Steering Committee (SC) will consist of members of the relevant Ministries involved in land degradation. In the absence of a NCB this SC should be keen on determining synergies between activities within the UNCCD theme.

If needed, a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will provide technical support to the project. Representatives of NIMOS, AdeKUS, the foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB) and GLIS will be members of the TAG.

Complying with the obligations under UNCCD requires an integrated approach, taking into consideration the cross-sectoral nature of land management issues. In general, Suriname has developed a number of policy documents, actions and projects which address national priorities and the country's obligations to the UNCCD. A review of the *implementation* of these plans, projects and activities which would fulfill the country's obligations under the UNCCD however, demonstrates that little has been achieved in that regard.

The presence of the policy framework has not been sufficient to accelerate practices, among others the formulation and implementation of the SNAP. The effectiveness of the policy framework is reduced mostly by the lack of human resource capacity, the lack of coordinating and networking systems and the lack of awareness of the impacts of land degradation. Overlapping mandates hampers institutional accountability for the implementation of projects and activities.

Aspects of existing legislation could create a suitable framework for the implementation of the Convention. But the effectiveness of that framework is reduced by outdated legislation and lack of enforcement capacity.

The absence of a formal land use planning and land management plan, the absence of institutional accountability for the implementation, the absence of a NCB and the absence of any mechanism for monitoring progress, seems to be related to the relatively low awareness level on the impacts of land degradation. The low level of awareness results in low priority given to this thematic area.

Although financial resources are a limiting factor, it is remarkable that some of these resources remain untapped because of what appears to be the priority which is given to this thematic area. For example an IDB funded program on SLM was cancelled due to the long processing time before it could go into implementation.

Table 1 Progress update on Suriname's efforts to meet UNCCD Obligations

Requirement (Convention)	National Initiative to address (Plans, Strategies, Activities)	Progress (How well the requirement is being addressed)	Constraints preventing compliance
Article 5 - Obligations of Affected Country Parties (a) Give due priority to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, and allocate adequate resources in accordance with their circumstances and capabilities; (b) Establish strategies and priorities, within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies, to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;	<p>A GEF-funded medium-size SLM project is formulated. One of the outcomes is resource mobilization to support SLM.</p> <p>The objective of the SLM project is to reduce land degradation trends by creating an enabling environment through capacity development and mainstreaming of SLM. One of the sub-goals of the MOP is to establish an adequate policy for sustainable land management. It emphasizes the monitoring and evaluation of mining plans. With regard to the agricultural development of the interior the focus is on the reduction of degradation of forest land and deforestation through information sharing and education.</p> <p>The Agricultural Sector Plan describes the establishment of district water boards and the increase of efficiency of agriculture in rural areas prone to soil erosion. In the final draft of the Climate Change Action Plan measures against the negative effects of climate change (including drought) are formulated. In the National Forest Policy optimal land use is integrated.</p>	<p>No early warning system. No formalized land-use planning. Establishment of a SC for SLM project in process.</p> <p>Implementation of SLM project has to start.</p>	<p>Absence of proper environmental protective legislation and enforcement. Insufficient financial and human resources at the MDS for establishing an early warning system. Overlapping mandates on agricultural practices in the interior between the Ministries LVV and RO. Overlapping mandates on land-use planning between the Ministries ROGB, OW and PLOS/NPO.</p> <p>Inadequate institutional and human capacity for the implementation of policies and plans. Absence of a monitoring mechanism for the MOP, there is no adequate annual review. Insufficient data on drought phenomenon in the interior. Absence of an environmental plan.</p>

Requirement (Convention)	National Initiative to address (Plans, Strategies, Activities)	Progress (How well the requirement is being addressed)	Constraints preventing compliance
c) Address the underlying causes of desertification and pay special attention to the socio- economic factors contributing to desertification processes;	Is integrated in the 'Working draft for the National Action Program concerning the UNCCD' and in the project document for SLM. Is partially integrated in the final draft Climate Change Action Plan. There is a research program between AdeKUS and University of Leuven (Belgium), aimed at research for coastal management.	Implementation of SLM project has to start.	Inadequate coordination between relevant institutions for addressing land management issues. Insufficient data on drought phenomenon. No procedures for collection of data.
(d) Promote awareness and facilitate the participation of local populations, particularly women and youth, with the support of nongovernmental organizations, in efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;	Meetings on awareness raising in May 2003 (NIMOS), June 2005 (ATM). Workshop held on completion of the 'Working draft for the National Action Program concerning the UNCCD' and the initiation of the medium-size SLM project proposal, January 2006 (ATM). The Decentralization and Local Government Strengthening Program established intergovernmental reforms and capacity building that includes governing and planning as well and stakeholders participation. The draft Framework Environmental Act elaborates on public participation systems and coordinating bodies.	The draft Framework Environmental Law being revised.	Insufficient environmental awareness programs. Low level of awareness among policy makers.
(e) Provide an enabling environment by strengthening, as appropriate, relevant existing legislation and, where they do not exist, enacting new laws and establishing long-term policies and action programs.	There are several relevant policies and laws, but most of the laws are outdated and in need for revision (see Appendix E). Recently two concept laws regarding protection of groundwater resources and extraction of groundwater were submitted to the Council of Ministers, for approval. One of the outcomes of the SLM project is that SLM principles and the national action plan will be integrated into national development plans and sector strategies, thereby creating a framework for SLM that will result in mainstreaming of policies, planning and an administrative structure to manage the many dimensions of land degradation.	Implementation of SLM project has to start.	Insufficient institutional and individual capacity. Insufficient human capacity with technical skills to revise existing laws and formulate new laws. Financial resources to attract technical capacity are limited. Overlapping mandates on agricultural practices in the interior between the Ministries LVV and RO. Overlapping mandates on land-use planning between the Ministries ROGB, OW and PLOS/NPO.

Requirement (Convention)	National Initiative to address (Plans, Strategies, Activities)	Progress (How well the requirement is being addressed)	Constraints preventing compliance
Article 8 - Relationship with other conventions	The Environmental Section of ATM serves as NFP for the UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD, Montreal Protocol and Stockholm Convention on POPs. The NFP heads the national coordinating bodies for these conventions. The NCB facilitates a coordinated and collaborative relation with other Convention commitments.	Absence of a NCB for UNCCD. SC for SLM, as a substitute for a NCB, needs to be established.	Insufficient human capacity and financial resources to establish a separate NCB for UNCCD.
Article 9 - Basic Approach (1) Prepare, make public and implement a NAP, utilizing and building on existing relevant successful plans and programs, and sub-regional and regional action programs as the central element of the strategy to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.	The 'Working draft for the National Action Program concerning the UNCCD' was completed in 2006, but was not according to the expectations of the UNCCD. The SLM project provides a budget for completion of the SNAP.	SLM project is approved in 2008, completion of SNAP is scheduled by the end of 2008.	The 'Working draft for the National Action Program concerning the UNCCD' was not according to the expectations of the UNCCD. Lack of data, and funding in order to have broader stakeholder participation, have been the principal constraints.
Article 10 – National Action Program and Plan (1) Purpose of the NAP is identification of the factors contributing to desertification and practical measures necessary to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.	With the implementation of the SLM project the SNAP will be completed by the end of 2008 and approved by the end of 2009. Also the enabling environment for the implementation of the SNAP will be enhanced.	Implementation of SLM project has to start.	
Article 16 - Information collection, analysis and exchange (a) Facilitate and strengthen the functioning of the global network of institutions and facilities for the collection, analysis and exchange of information.	No initiative undertaken. The status of information and data is fragmented. LVV has insight in areas susceptible to drought. MDS operates a website with rainfall data. GLIS provides the basis for the integrated data bank.	Continuation of GLIS. Implementation of medium-size SLM project has to start.	MDS lacks financial and human resources to collect more data (especially in the hinterland) and analyze these data. No unequivocal procedures available for data collection.

Requirement (Convention)	National Initiative to address (Plans, Strategies, Activities)	Progress (How well the requirement is being addressed)	Constraints preventing compliance
<p>(b) Ensure that the collection, analysis and exchange of information address the needs of local communities and those of decision makers, with a view to resolving specific problems, and that local communities are involved in these activities.</p> <p>(d) Make full use of the expertise of competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly to disseminate relevant information and experiences among target groups in different regions.</p> <p>(g) Subject to their respective national legislation and/or policies, exchange information on local and traditional knowledge, ensuring adequate protection for it and providing appropriate return from the benefits derived from it, on a equitable basis and on mutually agreed terms, to the local people concerned.</p>	<p>The SLM project envisages the establishment and functioning of an integrated information data bank, including the protocols for information sharing between Ministries and Governmental Agencies.</p> <p>The research program 'Development of Sustainable Agroforestry Systems based on Indigenous and Maroon knowledge in the Guiana Shield Region (GUYAGROFOR)' will contribute to obtaining knowledge to promote SLM and empower beneficial groups. It is a regional program funded by the EU.</p>		<p>No coordinating institute, institutes are not involved in each other's activities.</p> <p>Inadequate coordination between relevant institutions for addressing land management issues.</p>
<p>Article 17 - Research and development</p> <p>(1) Support research activities that:</p> <p>(a) Contribute to increased knowledge of the processes leading to desertification and drought;</p>	<p>No initiative undertaken</p>		<p>Overall lack of skilled research capacity and funds for research.</p>

Requirement (Convention)	National Initiative to address (Plans, Strategies, Activities)	Progress (How well the requirement is being addressed)	Constraints preventing compliance
<p>(b) Respond to well defined objectives, address the specific needs of local populations and lead to the identification and implementation of solutions that improve the living standards of people in affected areas;</p> <p>(c) Protect, integrate, enhance and validate traditional and local knowledge, know-how and practices.</p>	<p>LVV has a workplan to introduce a more sustainable type of agriculture to communities living in the interior.</p> <p>Traditional knowledge and practices are commonly considered in LVV approach.</p>	<p>Workplan LVV is ready to start.</p>	<p>No dialogue between LVV and RO to cooperate on land management.</p>
<p>Article 19 – Capacity building, education and public awareness</p> <p>The Parties recognize the significance of capacity building - that is to say, institution building, training and development of relevant local and national capacities - in efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. They shall promote, as appropriate, capacity building:</p> <p>(a) Through the full participation at all levels of local people, particularly at the local level, especially women and youth, with the cooperation of non-governmental and local organizations;</p> <p>(b) By strengthening training and research capacity at the national level in the field of desertification and drought;</p>	<p>LVV works with local communities and has the intention to cooperate with agricultural NGO's like NVB and Forum NGO's. AdeKUS has partnerships with VLIR and the University of Leuven for master's training in urban planning & management and management of natural resources. The SLM project has a capacity building component.</p>	<p>Implementation of SLM project has to start.</p>	<p>Insufficient capacity building programs to increase research capacity.</p>

Requirement (Convention)	National Initiative to address (Plans, Strategies, Activities)	Progress (How well the requirement is being addressed)	Constraints preventing compliance
(c) By establishing and/or strengthening support and extension services to disseminate relevant technology methods and techniques more effectively, and by training participatory approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;	LVV provides training of 'Good Agricultural Practices' to farmers and will start to introduce more sustainable agricultural practices.		
(d) By fostering the use and dissemination of the knowledge, know-how and practices of local people in technical cooperation program, wherever possible;	The research program 'Development of Sustainable Agroforestry Systems based on Indigenous and Maroon knowledge in the Guiana Shield Region (GUYAGROFOR)' will contribute to obtaining knowledge to promote SLM and empower beneficial groups. It is a regional program funded by the EU.		No coordinating institute for dissemination of knowledge.
(e) By adapting, where necessary, relevant environmentally sound technology and traditional methods of agriculture and pastoralism to modern socioeconomic conditions;	LVV provides training of 'Good Agricultural Practices' to farmers and will start to introduce more sustainable agricultural practices.		
(g) Through cooperation, as mutually agreed, to strengthen the capacity of affected developing country Parties to develop and implement programs in the field of collection, analysis and exchange of information pursuant to article 16;	The SLM project envisages the establishment and functioning of an integrated information data bank, including the protocols for information sharing between Ministries and Institutions.	Implementation of SLM project has to start.	
(h) Through innovative ways of promoting alternative livelihoods, including training in new skills;	No initiative undertaken.		There is no 'responsible' organization, no accountability.

Requirement (Convention)	National Initiative to address (Plans, Strategies, Activities)	Progress (How well the requirement is being addressed)	Constraints preventing compliance
<p>(i) By training of decision makers, managers, and personnel who are responsible for the collection and analysis of data for the dissemination and use of early warning information on drought conditions and for food production;</p> <p>(j) Through more effective operation of existing national institutions and legal frameworks and, where necessary, creation of new ones, along with strengthening of strategic planning and management; and</p> <p>(k) By means of exchange visitor program to enhance capacity building in affected country Parties through a long-term, interactive process of learning and study.</p> <p>2. Affected developing country Parties shall conduct, in cooperation with other Parties and competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, an interdisciplinary review of available capacity and facilities at the local and national levels, and the potential for strengthening them.</p>	<p>The SLM project has a capacity building component, in which trainings in technical GIS and land-use planning skills are incorporated.</p> <p>The SLM project will have a positive contribution on the effective operation of national institutes and legal frameworks.</p> <p>No initiative undertaken.</p> <p>Integrated in the NCSA project.</p>	<p>NCSA project will provide insight in which capacities are needed in order to have a more effective operation.</p> <p>Thematic assessment of UNCCD is on-going.</p>	<p>Lack of awareness among policymakers.</p> <p>Insufficient training programs to increase individual capacity. Inadequate institutional and human capacity for planning and management.</p>

Requirement (Convention)	National Initiative to address (Plans, Strategies, Activities)	Progress (How well the requirement is being addressed)	Constraints preventing compliance
<p>3. The Parties shall cooperate with each other and through competent intergovernmental organizations, as well as with non-governmental organizations, in undertaking and supporting public awareness and educational program in both affected and, where relevant, unaffected country Parties to promote understanding of the causes and effects of desertification and drought and of the importance of meeting the objective of this Convention. To that end, they shall:</p> <p>(a) Organize awareness campaigns for the general public;</p> <p>b) Promote, on a permanent basis, access by the public to relevant information, and wide public participation in education and awareness activities;</p> <p>(c) Encourage the establishment of associations that contribute to public awareness;</p> <p>(d) Develop and exchange educational and public awareness material, where possible in local languages, exchange and second experts to train personnel of affected developing country Parties in carrying out relevant education and awareness programs, and fully utilize relevant educational material available in competent international bodies;</p>	<p>Local workshops were held in 2005 and 2006. The SLM project will contribute to increased national awareness.</p> <p>No initiative undertaken.</p> <p>No initiative undertaken.</p> <p>No initiative undertaken.</p>	<p>Implementation of SLM project has to start.</p>	<p>Limited funds for awareness campaigns.</p> <p>Funding is the main limiting factor to start awareness efforts.</p>

Requirement (Convention)	National Initiative to address (Plans, Strategies, Activities)	Progress (How well the requirement is being addressed)	Constraints preventing compliance
<p>(e) Assess educational needs in affected areas, elaborate appropriate school curricula and expand, as needed, educational and adult literacy programs and opportunities for all, in particular for girls and women, on the identification, conservation and sustainable use and management of the natural resources of affected areas; and</p> <p>(f) Develop interdisciplinary participatory programs integrating desertification and drought awareness into educational systems and in non-formal, adult, distance and practical educational programs.</p>	<p>No initiative undertaken.</p> <p>No initiative undertaken.</p>		<p>Lack of awareness among policymakers on the importance of conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Lack of funds to expand existing curricula with environmental information.</p> <p>There is no 'responsible' organization, no accountability.</p>
<p>Article 20 Financial resources</p> <p>3. Affected developing country Parties, taking into account their capabilities, undertake to mobilize adequate financial resources for the implementation of their national action programs.</p>	<p>The SLM project has a component on mobilizing financial resources to support SLM.</p>	<p>Implementation of SLM project has to start.</p>	<p>Lack of skills at the individual level and lack of structures within the Government system to apply for and manage externally funded projects.</p>
<p>Article 26 Communication of information</p> <p>1. Each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its ordinary sessions, through the Permanent Secretariat, reports on the measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention. The Conference of the Parties shall determine the timetable for submission and the format of such reports.</p>	<p>First National Report in May 2002, at the moment Third National Report in draft.</p>		<p>Limited individual and institutional capacity to timely complete National reports. Information is dispersed.</p>

Requirement (Convention)	National Initiative to address (Plans, Strategies, Activities)	Progress (How well the requirement is being addressed)	Constraints preventing compliance
<p>2. Affected country Parties shall provide a description of the strategies established pursuant to article 5 and of any relevant information on their implementation.</p> <p>3. Affected country Parties which implement action program pursuant to articles 9 to 15 shall provide a detailed description of the programs and of their implementation.</p>	<p>Is formulated in draft third National Report.</p> <p>No SNAP yet.</p>		<p>The 'Working draft for the National Action Program concerning the UNCCD' was not according to the expectations of the UNCCD. Lack of data, and funding in order to have broader stakeholder participation, have been the principal constraints.</p>

4.1.2 Gaps

Considering the obligations of the UNCCD and Suriname's progress to meeting these obligations, several gaps are noticeable (**table 1**):

1. There is insufficient financial and human capacity to comply with the obligations of the UNCCD.

There is a lack of financial and human capacity to:

- revise existing laws and formulate new laws
- enforce existing laws
- establish a separate NCB for UNCCD
- formulate proper project proposals and demonstrate proper and timely project management
- initiate research and collect data on drought phenomenon in the interior
- initiate awareness activities
- establish an early warning system on drought

Few persons have the skills and understanding of UNCCD obligations and issues at the national level. There are a few capacity building initiatives such as from the AdeKUS implementing training programs, and NGO's such as WWF and other foreign donors contributing to capacity building through the financing of forestry programs. However, training programs and human resource development, in particular as they relate to land degradation, are insufficient to develop enough skilled people at all levels to provide the full range of skills needed.

The capacity to establish the framework for combating land degradation, or financing for the actions needed is both low and dispersed among multiple institutions.

2. Overlapping mandates of institutes, for example:

- on agricultural practices in the interior between LVV and RO
- on land-use planning between ROGB, RO, OW and PLOS/NPO

The responsibility for land management is fragmented, distributed across multiple Ministries and Governmental Agencies with overlapping mandates and policies. This contributes to the absence of a formal system of accountability for combating land degradation within the system of the Government. The 'Working draft for the National Action Program concerning the UNCCD' recognizes the need for clarity of roles, but it does not firmly establish the overall roles and responsibilities for the other major stakeholder groups (NGOs, producers, mining companies etc.).

3. The absence of proper environmental protective legislation.

The legislative and regulatory framework for implementation of the SNAP and the country meeting its other obligations as party of the UNCCD exists although there is need for some new regulations especially concerning effective land use. Previous studies on environmental management in Suriname have indicated that existing laws are insufficient to regulate environmental management. Existing environmental legislation is highly fragmented and dispersed among various sectors. A further obstacle is that most regulations are out of date and therefore lack an effective monitoring system and the appropriate and proportionate penalties for environmental law violations.

4. The lack of structural dialogue between authorities and cooperation on land management.

Key institutions are not always familiar with what each of them is doing. There are no effective coordination mechanisms for dissemination of information sharing, benefits, and lessons learned. This leads to overlap and duplication of costs without improving the efficiency of synergies, incentives, and services at all levels.

5. The lack of awareness and knowledge of the impacts of land degradation among policy makers, Ministries and society at large.

Public education and awareness of both UNCCD and the factors that contribute to land degradation, and therefore the effective management of land degradation are either very low or non-existent. During the National Information Sessions on UNCCD in 2005 it was concluded that policy makers demonstrate lack of awareness of the severity of land degradation and desertification processes and how these affect the local and national economy. This ultimately affects how policies are developed and how financial resources are allocated. Low levels of awareness contribute to low level of priority given to the implementation of UNCCD. The low level of awareness at senior levels in key Implementing agencies and Ministries is of particular concern. Increasing awareness of land degradation, its consequences and the importance and advantages generated by SLM is needed at all levels. The SLM project addresses the issue of awareness raising.

4.2 Identification of Key issues

Based on the progress to date regarding UNCCD and discussions with representatives of the private sector, the several Ministries and other governmental organizations, the following key priority issues were identified regarding Suriname's efforts towards meeting its obligations under UNCCD.

1. **Installation of a proactive Steering Committee** for the medium-size SLM project.
2. Implementation of the **medium-size SLM project** as soon as possible.
3. Completion of the **SNAP** and its approval through broad based stakeholder participation.
4. Gathering of **data** on a structural basis and **expanding research** on processes leading to land degradation. As well, there is need to develop early and forecasting warning systems for droughts and floods.
5. Formulation of a **Land Use Policy and Strategy** to set the overarching framework for sustainable land management. The Strategy should identify guidelines for land use as well as criteria for multiple land uses.
6. **Capacity building and institutional strengthening** of the National Focal Point and related Agencies for sustainable land management and to meet UNCCD obligations.
7. **Mobilizing funds** by NFP and Governmental Agencies in order to implement the obligations under the UNCCD, perhaps through developing a **financing strategy** to profit regional and international mechanisms.
8. **Improvement** of the current low level **of awareness and knowledge** of UNCCD and land degradation in related Agencies, Government Institutions and society at large.

9. **Harmonization of legislation and institutional framework** for sustainable land management and land use planning. Also need for revision of outdated and inconsistent legislations and provisions.
10. **Improvement of institutional cooperation.** While there exists an institutional framework, there is need for institutional cooperation and collaboration for sustainable land management.

4.3 Prioritization

Table 2 outlines the key priority issues along with a ranking of priority based on the extent of the scale of the issue (local, national, regional) and the level of concern.

Table 2 Key Priority issues and their ranking

Priority issue	Scale of issue [*]	Level of concern ^{**}	Priority ranking (1-4) ^{***}
1 Installation of proactive SC for the SLM project	national	high	1
2 Implementation of medium-size SLM project	national	high	1
3 Completion and approval of the SNAP	national	high	1
4 Data collection, research, assessment of current land uses and factors contributing to land degradation	national	high	1
5 Capacity building and institutional strengthening of Governmental Agencies for sustainable land management and to meet UNCCD obligations	national	high	1
6 Mobilizing funds, in order to be able to implement the obligations under UNCCD	national	medium	2
7 Improve awareness level	national	medium	2
8 Formulation of a Land Use Policy and Strategy	national	medium	3
9 Improvement of institutional cooperation and collaboration for sustainable land management	national	medium	3
10 Harmonization of legislation and institutional framework for sustainable land management and land use planning. Revision of outdated legislation.	national	medium	4

^{*} Local, national or regional

^{**} Low, medium or high

^{***} Relative ranking of the issues from 1-4 with 1 = most important, requiring immediate action, 2 = important, 3 = important but action needed after establishing certain conditions, 4 = important but not requiring immediate action.

Criteria used for prioritization: the sequence of activities.

At first a SC has to be formalized in order to get the SLM project moving. The SLM project provides the basic conditions for:

- establishment of a land information data bank
- finalization of the SNAP

- political and participatory support for mainstreaming sustainable land management into national development strategies and policies
- multilevel capacity building

Once data is collected and analyzed, awareness campaigns can be more targeted. Once the awareness level is raised, the need for a land use policy, institutional cooperation and harmonization of the legal framework will become more evident among policymakers.

4.4 Capacity Constraints of the Key Issues at the 3 Levels

In **table 2** the areas of action have been summarized and rated according to priorities. In **table 3** the priority areas are elaborated in terms of capacity issues at the individual, institutional and systemic levels.

The capacity assessment was conducted with a focus on the institutional and systemic level and with the following tools used:

- **Individual level** – drawing on the responses from institutional representatives. Capacity at individual level refers to the process of changing attitudes and behaviors, developing knowledge and skills.
- **Institutional level** - drawing on interviews with the FP and institutional representatives. Capacity at the institutional level focuses on the overall organization performance and functioning capabilities, as well as the ability of an organization to adapt to change.
- **Systemic level** - drawing on the responses from institutional representatives and conducting a review of the enabling environment (policy, planning, institutional and legislative framework) for UNCCD (**Appendix E**). Capacity at the systemic level emphasizes on the overall policy framework in which individuals and organizations operate and interact with the external environment, as well as the formal and informal relationships of institutions.

Table 3 Capacity constraints related to priority issues

Priority issues	Individual capacity constraints	Institutional capacity constraints	Systemic capacity constraints
Installation of a pro-active SC for SLM project as a supporting mechanism to monitor rapid implementation of the SLM project	Lack of skilled persons, with knowledge of land related environmental problems.	More or less the same persons are member of other committees or Steering Groups. There is interference with other duties which are granted greater priority than the work of the UNCCD.	Low priority given to UNCCD in relation to UNFCCC and UNCBD.
Implementation of SLM project.	Lack of sufficient persons with an understanding of UNCCD, the obligations and issues of desertification and land degradation.	Insufficient human resources to timely implement project activities.	No priority given to UNCCD. No clear system of accountability within GoS to ensure that Suriname meets its obligations of UNCCD. No system to ensure that reports and other

Priority issues	Individual capacity constraints	Institutional capacity constraints	Systemic capacity constraints
			relevant information are disseminated in a timely manner.
Completion and approval of SNAP.	The NFP appears to be the only person concerned with the activities of the UNCCD, resulting in little being achieved when her other duties interfere.	There is no structural replacement mechanism for the NFP.	No system to ensure that the SNAP, when completed, is incorporated into work programs and policy plans of implementing organizations.
Data collection, research, assessment of current land uses and factors contributing to land degradation.	Lack of professionals with research abilities.	Lack of funds to attract researchers, and to facilitate data collection.	Low priority given to land degradation and drought related issues.
Capacity building and institutional strengthening of Governmental Agencies for sustainable land management and to meet UNCCD obligations.	Lack of periodic re-training reduces the effects of existing capacity building initiatives.	Due to lack of human resource capacity there is no structural replacement mechanism to preserve trained abilities. No substitute system within institutions. Once the key person is trained, the information is not shared.	The political system sometimes works contra-productive within the Government: there are situations where skilled persons are marginalized because of their affiliation with a political party; or that capacity development does not have lasting effects when outflow of trained persons occur after election time.
Mobilizing funds, in order to be able to implement the obligations under UNCCD.	Lack of persons trained in project and financial management. Limited knowledge on GEF financing structures.		
Improve awareness level.		Lack of financial and human resources to initiate awareness campaigns.	
Formulation of a Land Use Policy and Strategy.	Lack of skilled professionals.	Lack of financial and human resources.	Overlapping mandates of Ministries.
Improvement of institutional cooperation and collaboration for sustainable land management.			Willingness of the Ministries to accept and respect each other's mandate and expertise.
Harmonization of legislation and institutional framework for SLM and land use planning.	Lack of skilled professionals with knowledge to revise existing laws.	Lack of enforcement capacity.	

4.5 General Conclusion

For the thematic assessment it was agreed with ATM that the main focus should be on the institutional and systemic level. Still some conclusions can be made at the **individual level**.

It is evident that for the implementation of the UNCCD in Suriname specialized skills are necessary. There are different capacity needs:

- **Research skills:** the amount of students, the level of training and research need to be enhanced. There is a very low percentage of students graduating at AdeKUS. The Forestry stream within the Faculty of Technological Sciences is producing, on average, one graduate per year. Efforts should be made to attract more students. The Environmental Sciences stream within the Faculty of Technological Sciences does deliver a number of graduates per year, but the graduates need to be trained in complementary skills and they need extra guidance once in a working environment. The Faculty should try to attract more experienced researchers to its staff.
- **Management skills:** for the management of projects, writing of proposals.
- **Social skills:** working with communities in the interior requires social skills and persuading capabilities to transform environmentally devastating practices into sustainable practices.
- **Technical skills:** among others for the revision of legal framework.

Capacity at the **institutional level** focuses on the overall organization performance and functioning capabilities, as well as the ability of an organization to adapt to change.

Conclusions are:

- General lack of financial and human resources. There is a clear need for human and financial resources to adequately implement the Convention. An example is the insufficient capacity to adequately perform enforcement duties necessary to control forestry and mining processes.
There is no substantial budgetary allocation by GoS for UNCCD activities. To comply with the obligations of the UNCCD, donor aid is needed now and will be needed in the future. Even for the medium-size SLM project, for which co-financing by GoS was necessary, the majority of the GoS contribution was in kind: namely the GLIS project, which is being financed by Dutch Treaty Funds.

Capacity at the **systemic level** emphasizes on the overall policy framework in which individuals and organizations operate and interact with the external environment, as well as the formal and informal relationships of institutions.

Conclusions are:

- The absence of a clear system of accountability within the machinery of the Government with respect to meeting the obligations of the UNCCD. The responsibility appears to lie almost completely at the NFP who, although very dedicated, has to divide her time between several other duties within ATM.
- The political system in Suriname hampers effective use of capacity.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Cross-Cutting Issues and Synergies

Goals and objectives of the three conventions (UNCBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD) come together in efforts to combat deforestation, maintain biological habitat, protecting the soil and keep its fertility, safe guard the water resources, and enhance proper land-use and land-use management in order to ensure the sustainable use and rehabilitation of soil, especially when exploring industrial activities.

Within the three UN Conventions there are components that show linkages/overlap. These are:

- Public awareness and education
- Research, data gathering, inventories and establishing an information system
- Training and capacity building

Synergies (positive impacts) can be created with initiatives on the components mentioned above. For example, increase of the level of public awareness and education on land degradation creates understanding of the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Establishing an information system can contribute to land use planning and land zoning, thereby preventing expansion of, for example, agriculture into inappropriate areas, protecting watersheds, forests and other relevant areas. Data gathering (with GLIS) can update the inventory and description of forest lands, inventories of non-timber resources and forest biodiversity.

Upgrading technical skills and training in project management, training in formulation of GEF funded projects will result in sustainable management and monitoring of land degradation and biodiversity. Using environmental sound technology for mining and agriculture will not only have positive impacts on land degradation, but will also conserve biodiversity and will maintain soil organic carbon and above-ground vegetation as carbon sink and carbon reservoir.

Synergies can also be created on activity level, for example integrated coastal zone and riverbasin management leads to positive impacts as less saltwater intrusion, less erosion, less sedimentation of rivers, less turbidity of waters. Integrated coastal zone and riverbasin management thus enhance aquatic biota and shore protection, making the coastal area less vulnerable to sea level rise.

5.2 Opportunities for Thematic Capacity Building

The capacity assessment at the individual, institutional and systemic level for Suriname revealed a number of constraints but also opportunities. These opportunities could be translated into short term actions in order to speed up the implementation of UNCCD obligations.

On the individual level:

- Acknowledgement of the importance of the role of the NFP. The NFP should be made available to really pull the process towards implementation of the SLM project. From the stated achievements of Suriname as a Party of the UNCCD it appears that there has been limited movement.
- Establishment of tandem constructions for key personnel, especially for the NFP, thereby creating continuity in necessary activities. This should be done by sharing information on a structural basis.

On the institutional level:

- Development of an appropriate system of accountability for the Convention within the system of the Government. This system (most probably for the time being the SC for SLM) should be responsible for ensuring that the country not only meets its obligations as a party of the UNCCD, but benefits fairly from its participation as a Party. Taken into account the insufficient human and financial resources, it is crucial to establish a coordinating mechanism.

On the systemic level:

- Establishment and formalization of a proactive SC for the SLM project, which can act as a catalyst for the development of the SNAP, as well as contribute to awareness and capacity building, research and resource mobilization.
- Continued support of the GLIS project. GLIS provides basic data for land use planning, contributing to optimal use of land resources based on characteristics. With visual information on impacts of land degradation, provided by GLIS, awareness programs can be more effective and targeted.
- Formulation of the Environmental Sector Plan. This Plan should have the overarching vision, overseeing environmental management, including land management, and should provide the institutional framework.
- Review of legislation in relation to natural resources management and land use planning and management. This should be a precursor to the harmonizing of such legislation.
- Prompt and timely dissemination of relevant information to the key implementation agencies, such as reports of COPs and other activities associated with the UNCCD.
- Development of unequivocal methods and protocols to measure and collect data related to land degradation and drought.
- Comprehensive assessment of the factors that cause land degradation and drought, the mapping of drought and/or degraded areas as the basis for the prompt development of the SNAP.
- Introduction of effective systems for the forecasting of drought periods and development of effective early warning and forecasting systems, which will include development of drought indices.
- Development of an effective and comprehensive public education program which targets not only the wider public but which will ensure that personnel in key implementing agencies are informed of Suriname's obligations in the UNCCD and the role they are expected to play in meeting these obligations.
- Enforcement and strengthening of laws related to illicit mining of gold, sand, other minerals and the restoration of mined out bauxite lands, in short activities which can contribute significantly to land degradation as well as the destruction of aquifers.

Appendix A Terms of Reference



“National Capacity Self – Assessment for Global Environmental Management” (Suriname NCSA)

TERMS OF REFERENCE Uitvoeren Capacity Assessment

Poistie:	Lokale Consultant
Duur:	20 werkdagen
Plaats:	Paramaribo, Suriname
Start datum:	29 november 2007

Achtergrond

Het National Capacity Self-Assessment project (NCSA) heeft tot doel op nationaal niveau behoeften en prioriteiten voor capaciteitsversterking te identificeren en daar een actieplan voor op te zetten, zodat mondiale milieu problemen op een gecoördineerde wijze kunnen worden aangepakt. Hierbij dient nagegaan te worden wat de aanwezige capaciteit is van de verschillende actoren die direct dan wel indirect betrokken zijn bij de implementatie van de drie grote milieu verdragen te weten, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) en United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Deze verdragen zijn allen door Suriname geratificeerd.

De assessment moet resulteren in inzicht in de behoeften aan capaciteit op alle niveaus, een gap analyse en een “Capacity Development Plan”. Voor de uitvoering van deze Capacity Assessment heeft het Ministerie van ATM in samenwerking met het UNDP, het consultancy bureau Symbiont Consulting als projectcoördinator gecontracteerd. Symbiont Consulting heeft een projectwerkplan opgesteld onder andere op basis van de methodiek van de UNDP zoals beschreven in de “NCSA Resource Kit”.

Het project wordt uitgevoerd als UNDP project. UNDP heeft ter financiering hiervan de fondsen ontvangen van de Global Environment Facility (GEF), een onafhankelijke internationale financieringsorganisatie. UNDP heeft een breed omvattende

(comprehensive) benadering geformuleerd om op nationaal niveau de capaciteit van de verschillende landen te versterken. Het is een brede aanpak welke moet leiden tot strategische programmatische benadering van het capaciteitsprobleem, geïntegreerd in het nationale planningsproces.

Doel van de consultancy opdracht

Het NCSA project is opgedeeld in 4 fasen, elk met specifieke deliverables. Deze fasen (processtappen) in hoofdlijnen voor de uitvoering van het project zijn:

1. Stocktaking (inventarisatie)
2. Thematic assessment. Assessment of capacity constraints to implement Conventions for Biodiversity, Land degradation and Climate change.
3. Assessment of the existing and potential synergies between the three Conventions and report on existing and potential synergies between the three Conventions
4. Strategy and Action Plan for the development of capacity with respect to the implementation of the three Conventions Strategy and Action Plan

De stocktaking is reeds uitgevoerd. De resultaten van de stocktaking zijn vastgelegd en kunnen als een basis dienen voor de tweede fase, de Thematic Assessment.

Doelstelling Thematic Assessments:

1. Ontwikkelen van een duidelijk beeld van de capaciteitsbehoeften voor elke conventie; (wie zijn de verschillende actoren binnen elk thematisch gebied, wat zijn de capaciteitsbehoeften op de verschillende niveaus (organisaties, instituten, groepen en individuen) kortom, inzicht verschaffen in waar wij als land staan op het gebied van de 3 conventies;
2. Inventariseren wat er reeds gedaan is in Suriname om aan de verplichtingen van de conventie te kunnen voldoen;
3. Inzichtelijk maken van Suriname's sterkten en zwakten bij de aanpak van de activiteiten om aan de conventies te voldoen (vanaf het beleid tot aan de uitvoering);
4. Identificeren van de prioriteitsgebieden voor capaciteitsontwikkeling en de kansen voor verdere ontwikkeling van capaciteiten voor elk thematisch gebied, op de verschillende niveaus (organisaties, instituten, groepen en individuen);
5. Identificeren van de noodzakelijke communicatie structuren nodig voor de naleving van de conventies.

Voor de uitvoering van de Thematic Assessment zullen **3** deskundige consultants worden ingezet, voor elk thematisch gebied, één (1) consultant. Van de consultant wordt gevraagd volgens een systematische methodiek, de capacity assessment voor één van de specifieke gebieden (Biodiversity, Land degradation and Climate change) uit te voeren en daarbij aan de bovengenoemde doelstellingen van de capacity assessment te voldoen en dit vast te leggen in een verslag.

Gewenst resultaat

De Consultant zal volgens een systematische methodiek de capacity assessment uitvoeren en zal de resultaten vastleggen in een document. De capaciteitsbehoeften zijn vastgelegd zowel het niveau van instituten, organisaties, groepen en individuen als op het beleids- als uitvoeringsniveau. Duidelijk is aangegeven wat er op

beleidsniveau en op uitvoeren niveau nodig is voor de naleving van de specifieke conventie. Specifieke activiteiten:

- Vaststellen van de scope van het onderzoek (vaststellen van de betrokken stakeholders, te bestuderen documenten,
- Volgens een systematische methodiek, interviews houden en onderzoek doen om inzicht te krijgen in de capaciteiten van de betreffende stakeholder
- Houden van een workshop en de resultaten van de verschillende interviews en onderzoeken te bespreken met de stakeholders en bij te stellen / aanvullen waar nodig.
- Vastleggen van de resultaten van de workshop.
- Verwerken resultaten in het assesement report.

Methodologie, aanpak

Voor de uitvoering van de thematic assessment zullen drie lokale consultants worden aangetrokken met kennis van de conventies en of de specifieke gebieden (biodiversiteit, landdegradatie, klimaatverandering). De consultant zal voorafgaand aan de assessment zich verder verdiepen in de conventies en de verplichtingen die daaraan gekoppeld zijn en de documenten betreffende de NCSA (o.a. NCSA Resource Kit, Stocktaking Report etc.) doornemen. Voorafgaand aan de assessment zal er een training worden verzorgd (door een ervaren International Consultant) die ook door de consultant zal worden bijgewoond. Tijdens de training zal er een methodiek worden aangereikt en waar mogelijk (met input van de lokale consultant) worden aangescherpt.

De beschikbare documenten zullen beschikbaar worden gesteld aan de consultant.

De consultancy opdracht zal als volgt worden uitgevoerd:

- 3 dagen voor de training (waaronder actief bijdragen aan de verdere ontwikkeling van een methodiek voor de uitvoering van de thematic assessment.
- 2 dagen voor de voorbereidende activiteiten (doornemen van documenten, maken van afspraken met stakeholders etc.)
- 5 dagen voor de interviews en detail assessment
- 2 dagen voor de integrale meeting met de stakeholders (voorbereiding, uitvoering en verwerking van de resultaten)
- 5 dagen voor de verwerking van de resultaten in een draft report.
- 3 dagen voor de verwerking van de aanpassingen en het opstellen van het final report.

Totaal 20 dagen

Kwalificaties consultant

- Ervaring in het uitvoeren van capacity assessments;
- Goed zicht op de milieusector in Suriname en de spelers daarbinnen;
- Goede communicatie eigenschappen en uitstekende rapportage vaardigheden;
- Minimaal 3 jaar ervaring binnen de milieusector (biodiversiteit, landdegradatie, klimaatverandering).)

Het eindrapport moet in de engelse taal worden opgesteld.

PROCEDURE:

Verzend uw voorstel, bestaande uit een korte uiteenzetting van uw werkplan)en curriculum vitae per fax of email, uiterlijk 19 november 2007 naar:

Mrs. Henna Uiterloo NCSA Project Manager Suriname en Mrs. J. den Hartog-Parisius Project Coördinator

Tel/Fax: (597) - 475368/ (597) 420960

Email: iparisius@symbiontconsulting.net en milieu_atm@yahoo.com
(milieu_atm@yahoo.com)

Appendix B Stakeholder Analysis with regard to UNCCD

Stakeholder name WHO	Stakeholder Interests, Position & Official Mandate WHAT	Reason for inclusion WHY	Possible Role HOW
Ministry of Labor, Technological Development and Environment <i>Environmental Section</i>	Responsible for the development of an overall environmental policy, environmental legislation and coordination and monitoring of all activities regarding the environmental policy.	GEF Focal Point of UNCCD. Chair of SC of SLM project.	Stimulate use of environmentally sound technology. Cooperate with research institutes. Implement awareness initiatives. Promote and maintain contacts with national and international organizations. Monitor implementation of environmental activities.
Ministry of Physical Planning, Land & Forest Management <i>Soil Mapping Service (Dienst Bodemkartering)</i>	Responsible for policy and implementation of land and forest management. Legally mandated for the formulation of national physical planning.	Beneficiary in SLM project.	Recipient of training and awareness building.
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries	Responsible for policy on agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries, including food security.	Has network among farmers, provides training on Good Agriculture Practices. Registers data on areas prone to drought. Beneficiary in SLM project and member of SC.	Provide awareness programs, training and education on use of chemicals/pesticides and environmentally sound methods of agriculture. Exchange knowledge, data.

Stakeholder name WHO	Stakeholder Interests, Position & Official Mandate WHAT	Reason for inclusion WHY	Possible Role HOW
Ministry of Natural Resources <i>Suriname Water Company (SWM)</i> <i>Bauxite Institution (BIS)</i> <i>Geological Mining Institution (GMD)</i>	Responsible for policy on natural resources, water management and water and energy supply.	Provides control of the exploitation and management of minerals, water sources and energy. Beneficiary in SLM project.	Use of database & GIS systems in drought management, salinization of drinking water sources and other UNCCD related activities. Provide technical inputs on policy, regulation and legislation for mineral resources and water sources, training and awareness building. Enforces sustainable mining practices. Exchange knowledge, data.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs		Political focal point of international conventions and agreements.	Maintain contacts with international organizations and foreign countries.
Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation <i>Foundation National Policy Office with its subdirectorate Environment and Spatial Planning</i>	Responsible for national development planning, coordination and monitoring. Formulates MOP, regional plans and land-use plans.	Allocates and implement donor financed programs.	Planning of measures to combat land degradation. Provide technical inputs on national development. Keep records of geophysical data and data relating to ground and soil, natural resources, existing infrastructure and land allocation. Integration of sustainable land management in national policy.
Ministry of Finance	Responsible for financial planning and financing of national development.	Member of SC of SLM project.	Provide financial sources for measures to combat land degradation.
Ministry of Education	Responsible for national education.		Contribute to awareness building.
Ministry of Public Works	Responsible for physical infrastructure, urban planning, water drainage. Collection and disposal of waste in Paramaribo.	Beneficiary in SLM project and member of SC.	Provide technical inputs on water management.

Stakeholder name WHO	Stakeholder Interests, Position & Official Mandate WHAT	Reason for inclusion WHY	Possible Role HOW
Ministry of Regional Development	Responsible for development of Suriname's 8 rural districts, coordinating development activities and governance. Responsible for improvement of the quality of life of people living in the interior. Responsible for agricultural practices and waste collection in the interior.	Administers the rural districts and coordinates development activities and governance in these areas. Beneficiary in SLM project and member of SC.	Provide technical inputs on regional and local developments. Recipient of targeted training and awareness building.
National Council for the Environment (NMR)	Advisory body to Government.	Advises GoS on national environmental policy and its implementation.	
National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname (NIMOS)	Technical arm of Ministry of ATM, responsible for development of national legal instruments. Responsible for preparing and implementing measures with regard to the protection of the environment, control and coordination of measures.	Implementing agency of environmental policy. TAG member of SLM project.	Gather and disseminate relevant data on land use and management. Perform awareness building programs. Enforce sustainable mining practices.
Foundation of Forest Management and Production Control (SBB)	Responsible for forest control and enforcement.	TAG member of SLM project.	Promote sustainable use of the forests, monitor and enforce sustainable forest exploitation.
Meteorological Service Suriname (MDS)	Registers meteorological data.		Exchange knowledge, data.
AdeKUS, Faculty of Technological Sciences and its research institutes CMO, CELOS and NARENA	Research and education institutes.	Research and education in the fields of agriculture production and environmental sciences. TAG member of SLM project.	Technical inputs on targeted training and relevant scientific information or data. Identifying/reviewing and assisting in creating relevant legislation.

Stakeholder name WHO	Stakeholder Interests, Position & Official Mandate WHAT	Reason for inclusion WHY	Possible Role HOW
Geographical Land Information System project (GLIS)	Establish a digital cadastre and land information system.	Project partner in SLM project and TAG member	Technical inputs on land development and land use planning.
Mining Companies: Suralco, Staatsolie, BHP Billiton, IAMGOLD	Exploitation of natural resources		Rehabilitation of degraded areas.
Stichting Schoon Suriname	Local environmental NGO		Provide awareness building activities.
NGO's and CBO's for example: Network of Maroon Women Sanomaro Esa and VIDS National Women Movement	Local NGO of women living in the interior Local NGO of indigenous people Local NGO of woman's rights	Beneficiary in SLM project.	Disseminate lessons learned; recipient of training and awareness building; information exchange.

Appendix C Questionnaires

NATIONAL FOCAL POINT – UNCCD

1. Since when did Suriname participate in COPs and regional meetings?
2. Of the three Conventions, this one seemed to have progressed the least, what were the main reasons for this?
3. Has the National Focal Point benefited from any assistance from GEF or the Convention Secretariat? If Yes, please elaborate, if No, please state the reasons for this.
4. What is the status of the medium-size SLM project? What hampers implementation?
5. Is there a Time Frame for the developing of a National Action Program?
6. Where will the resources for the implementation of the SNAP come from? Are resources already reserved?
7. Does ATM have sufficient capacity and resources as National Focal Point? If Yes, elaborate, If No, identify which areas of assistance are needed and likely sources of obtaining assistance.
8. At the individual level, how would you describe the available human resources in terms of skills, knowledge, attitudes and availability for UNCCD implementation?
9. Are there any specific training programs, capacity building initiatives for UNCCD?
10. Can you elaborate on the issue of information collection and dissemination between individuals and organizations in the relevant subject areas related to UNCCD?
11. Are there procedures within the organization to consult stakeholders on a regular basis, to analyze issues before policy decisions are made?
12. Are there incentives in place whereby individuals can gain new skills and technical abilities?
13. How would you describe the role and function of Government Agencies in UNCCD?
14. Is the National Environmental Council still active? If so, can you state the names of the persons appointed?
15. What is the status of technical infrastructure (scientific community, research institutions, academic) to support UNCCD?
16. What role has been played by the Private Sector and NGOs in UNCCD? What role is envisaged?
17. How would you describe the policy framework as it regards UNCCD?
18. How would you describe the regulatory framework?
19. What has been the experience with regard to the processes and relationships between institutions?
20. What is the status of the installation of the National Coordinating Body for UNCCD? Why hasn't it been established yet? To what extent are NGOs and Private Sector represented in this Body and will this be given consideration in the future?
21. What has been the main challenges regarding the development of a National Land Use Policy and Plan?
22. How close are we to having a National Land Use Plan?

23. What are the principal challenges facing land management in Suriname?
24. What is the status of institutional collaboration for land management in Suriname (between the Ministries and Governmental Agencies)?
25. Are there any specific national initiatives to address issues of desertification and drought?
26. Has Suriname identified a strategy to develop an early warning system for drought?
27. Has Suriname identified the areas most likely to be affected by desertification and drought?
28. What are the principal challenges to national awareness of land degradation?
29. Does Suriname have financial obligations to UNCCD, is there a time frame for payment?
30. Has Suriname ever been consulted to participate in a regional action plan (ref. annex III UNCCD)?
31. What is the status of the draft Framework Environmental Law?
32. What is the status of the Climate Change Action Plan?
33. Is there a National Disaster Plan? Does it address extreme drought?
34. Are there training programs ref. art. 19 UNCCD?
35. Who will be the executing agency for SNAP once it is developed?
36. Is there an information database regarding info relevant to UNCCD?
37. Is there any fund directly budgeted by the National Focal Point for UNCCD activities?
38. Do you have a clearly defined capacity need. Can you say something about the work load. Is replacement assured, allowing space to attend meetings abroad? Or tandem arrangements?

KEY INSTITUTIONS

1. How familiar are you with UNCCD and Suriname's obligations?
2. Of the three Conventions, this one seemed to have progressed the least, what were the main reasons for this? Is there a low level of political support?
3. How would you describe the present framework for land planning and management?
4. What would be considered as the priority issues and challenges for land planning and management?
5. What is the status of institutional collaboration for land management in Suriname?
6. Are there adequate synergies between the various Strategies and Plans to effect rationale land use planning and management? Please elaborate.
7. Does the National Focal Point have sufficient capacity and resources for meeting UNCCD obligations? If Yes, elaborate, If No, identify which areas of assistance are needed and likely sources of obtaining assistance.
8. At the individual level, how would you describe the available human resources in terms of skills, knowledge, attitudes and availability for UNCCD implementation, within your organization?
9. Is your organization involved in any specific training program, capacity building initiatives for UNCCD? Programs could be in efforts to mitigate the

effects of drought, land degradation, or adapting environmentally sound technology and traditional methods of agriculture to modern conditions.

10. Are NGO's involved in these programs? If Yes, elaborate.
11. What role do you see your organization playing in land management as well as in helping Suriname meet its obligations under UNCCD?
12. What challenges do you face in terms of capacity for participating in UNCCD activities?
13. Do you have a clearly defined capacity need?
14. Are causes of land degradation and drought being examined? Does this research lead to measures for local communities?
15. Is traditional and local knowledge used, protected and enhanced?

AdeKUS:

17. Can you elaborate on the project Coastal Zone Management Research (Protection of Coastline) 2004-2009. AdeKUS + University of Leuven.
18. Does the CMO (Centre for Environmental Research) have a role in land degradation? Is it well-equipped to fulfill this role?

Meteorological Service:

16. Is there a system to initiate early warning for drought? Which data is being measured?
17. Are drought periods systematically mapped, evaluated and related to effects on areas (susceptible areas).

Suriname Water Company:

16. Are areas which are susceptible to drought being mapped?
17. Is there a drought mitigation policy such as more ground water sources in areas which are severely affected by drought?
18. Is there a Water policy plan? Does it contain the following elements (If so then it is UNCCD-compatible):
 - water resources regulations and management
 - water supply and storage
 - irrigation

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries:

16. Are areas which are susceptible to drought being mapped?
17. Is there any information on areas contaminated with pesticides? Perhaps from CENSUS results?
18. Is there a land use policy or a policy on sustainable land management?
19. Does water storage take place for agricultural purposes?
20. Is the Pesticide Law GB 1972 no. 151 still effective? Need for revision?
21. Are measures against contamination of water and soil integrated in some policy?

Mining sector:

16. Are regulations implemented, like EIA guidelines from NIMOS, evaluation of mining Plans? Elaborate on the enforcement of these guidelines.
17. What is the status of the revision of the Mining Law?
18. Does information sharing take place between mining companies?
19. Do you think that the structures to minimize/prevent land degradation are in place in Suriname?

Foundation National Planning Office:

16. Is the Planning Law of 1973 no 89 still effective?
17. Are there any reports on areas which are degraded?
18. Is there a formal land use policy?

Appendix D Medium-size Sustainable Land Management Project

Project goal:

To maintain and improve ecosystem stability, integrity, functions and ecosystem services that contribute to global benefits and support sustainable livelihoods in Suriname.

Project objective:

To reduce land degradation trends by creating an enabling environment for responses to land degradation through capacity development and mainstreaming of sustainable land management amongst key stakeholders.

The 4 project outcomes and their outputs:

Outcome 1: System, Institutional and Individual capacities to implement SLM at the national level increased.

Outputs:

- Technical GIS and land-use planning skills in 8 ministries, 3 key institutes, private companies and NGO's increased
- Information, access, and sharing of land use information to support SLM decision-making increased
- Awareness of land degradation and SLM issues and impacts increased among public and private sector actors

Outcome 2: SLM principles and SNAP-framework integrated into national development plans and sector strategies.

Outputs:

- SLM principles and SNAP framework integrated into national development plans and sector strategies
- Structure for coordinating Land Degradation policy and SLM efforts established
- A consolidated and improved institutional structure to support integrated and sustainable land management and planning
- SNAP framework enhanced
- SNAP mainstreamed into the Environmental Sector Plan

Outcome 3: Resource mobilization to support SLM effected.

Outputs:

- Strategic funding needs for further targeted capacity development and on-the-ground investments developed
- Medium Term Investment Plan developed

Outcome 4: Effective project management through learning, evaluation and adaptive management

Appendix E Legislation and policies with regard to land degradation

Legislation dealing with land and land related issues (Source: NIMOS and medium-size SLM project document)

Wet	Law	Importance for land related issues	Implementing agency
Grondwet van de Republiek van Suriname 1987	Constitution of the Republic of Suriname	Several articles stipulate the function and rights on property as well as the basic policy.	The President
Decreten Landhervorming (L-decreten 1-8) 1982	Decrees on Land Reform (L-decrees 1-8) 1982	Regulates domain issues: the legal position of land issues, control of land use, clearing of land, illegal occupation, transfer of property and illegal parcelling.	Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management
Grond Taxatie Besluit (SB 1982 no 13)	Decree on Land Valuation	To establish uniformity and transparency in valuation of domain land for transfer.	Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management
Onteigeningswet (GB 1904 no 37 e.v.)	Expropriation Act	To allow for expropriation of land in the public interest.	Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management
Natuurbeschermingswet (GB 1954 no 26 e.v.)	Nature Protection Law	To put in place arrangements for the protection and maintenance of nature monuments.	Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management
Natuurbeschermingsbesluit 1998 (S.B. 1998 no. 65)	Government Decree 1998 on Nature Protection	To establish the Central Suriname Nature Reserve.	Ministry of Natural Resources
Brokopondo Overeenkomst G.B. 1958 no. 4, 7, 8, 9 en 10	Brokopondo Agreement	Agreement between the Government of Suriname and Suralco L.L.C. concerning the development of the hydro power potentials (there are no provisions with regard to environmental protection).	Ministry of Natural Resources
Decreet Mijnbouw (SB 1986 no.28)	Mining Decree	To provide a framework for the exploration and exploitation of minerals.	Ministry of Natural Resources
Petroleumwet (SB 1991 no 70)	Petroleum Law	To provide provisions for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons.	Ministry of Natural Resources
Boswet (SB 1992 no 80)	Forest Management Law	To provide a framework for forest management, and sustainable utilization of the forest resources.	Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management
Gross Rosebel Overeenkomst (S.B.1994 no 22)	Gross Rosebel Agreement	Agreement between the Government of Suriname, Grassalco N.V. and Golden Star Resources Limited for the exploration and exploitation of Minerals. EIA is a requirement.	Ministry of Natural Resources
Stedebouwkundige Wet (GB 1972 no 96 e.v.)	Urban Planning Law	Provide provisions on urban development.	Ministry of Public Works
Bouw wet (G.B.1956 no. 30 e.v.)	Building Act	Requirements for construction of buildings.	Ministry of Public Works

Wet	Law	Importance for land related issues	Implementing agency
Wet op Regionale Organen (SB 1989 no 44)	Decree on Regional Bodies	To provide for the democratic process and decentralized government.	Ministry of Regional Development
Waterschapswet (G.B 1932 no. 32 as amended)	Water Board Law	To establish water boards which are in charge of maintenance of waterways and waterworks within designated areas.	Ministry of Regional Development
Planwet (GB 1973 no 89)	National Planning Law 1973 G.B. 1973 no. 89	Provide provisions for national and regional planning e.g. land-use policy issues (implementation has been hampered).	Ministry of Planning and Development Corporation
Wetboek van Strafrecht (G.B. 1915 no. 77 e.v.)	Police Criminal Law	Penalizes a.o. disposal of waste on public land.	Ministry of Justice and Police
Burgerlijk Wetboek (GB 1860 no.4 e.v.)	Civil Code	Provisions on unmanaged properties.	Ministry of Justice and Police
Hinderwet (GB 1930 no 64 e.v.)	Hindrance Law	Provides provisions with regard to the establishment of enterprises which can cause danger, damage or hindrance. The District Commissioner permits the establishment of enterprises.	Joint Ministries of Justice and Police, Regional Development
Balata Wet (G.B.1914 no. 51)	Balata Law	Provides provisions for the exploitation of balata on state and/or private land.	The President and Administrator of Finance
Waterleidingsbesluit (G.B. 1938 no. 33)	Water Supply Law	Set out prohibitions with respect to water wells holes, tanks, and barrels which actually serve as water supply sources.	Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Public Health
Decreet Multi-Purpose Corantijn Project (S.B. 1984 no. 14)	Decree Multi-Purpose Corantijn Project	To supervise the water management system and to develop, stimulate and manage agricultural activities in the northwest of Suriname.	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry Livestock and Fisheries
Ecologische omstandigheden in woongebieden (S.B. 1980 no. 68)	Law on Ecological Circumstances in Residential Areas	To improve the ecological circumstances in residential areas.	The District Commissioner
Haven Decreet (SB 1984 no 86)	Harbours Decree 1981	Provides provisions for harbour activities. Prohibits discharge of waste, oil, and oil-contaminated water a.o.	Ministry of Transport, Communication and Tourism
Bestrijdingsmiddelenwet (G.B. 1972 no. 151)	Pesticide Law	To regulate the trade and the use of agrochemicals.	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Public Health
Bestrijdingsmiddelenbesluit (G.B. 1974 no. 89)	Government Decree on Pesticides	To implement article 13 of the Pesticide Law.	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

Policies and plans dealing with land and land related issues (Source: medium-size SLM project document)

Policies/Plans	Date/Status	Status of SLM Concerns/Constraints
Suriname Multi-annual Development Plan 2006-2011	2006-2010 Approved as law by Parliament and implementation by sector ministries.	<p>Sustainable Land management not fully integrated in the Multi Annual Plan but included in the chapters on the land management and the environment.</p> <p>General objective: creating conditions to use the natural resource land efficiently and effectively as basis for sustainable economic and social development as well as for the benefit of environmental protection.</p> <p>Sub-objective: Modernization of the policy of granting land and the zoning policy</p> <p>1.1 Land Registration and Land Information System (GLIS) operational</p> <p>1.2 Implementation of the "Suriname Land Management Project"(SLMP)</p> <p>1.3 Establishment assessor's training</p> <p>1.4 Adoption and promulgation of legal products in stages as of mid-2006</p> <p>1.5 Formulation of land rights</p> <p>1.6 Efficient land use, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stimulating land titles - Study of tax on land and structures - Prevent unproductive lands <p>General objective: conservation and sustainable use of the environment as well as the quality thereof.</p> <p>Realization of an adequate policy for sustainable land management included as sub objective I to reach and includes the following measures: The formulation of a national action plan to prevent land degradation and amendments to the legal framework for sustainable land management (SLM). Limiting and preventing soil pollution.</p>
National Poverty Reduction Strategy	November 2001 Approved but not in the Implementation.	<p>Poverty reduction not integrated in the overall policy. In the Multi Annual Development Plan 2006 – 2011 the goal is defined as to reduce poverty by 4.4% per annum (overall reduction of at least 22% by 2011). More specifically, the aim is to reduce levels of stunting amongst children by 80%, reduce unemployment by 1.5%, increase the participation ratio of women in the labour force by 8% and substantially reduce the number of boys dropping out of schools by 50%.</p>

Policies/Plans	Date/Status	Status of SLM Concerns/Constraints
National report on the Implementation of UNCCD.	Submitted in 2002: overall status report to the UNCCD.	Focus on soil erosion in the coastal zone caused by decades of unsound agricultural and practices of small-scale gold mining and timber logging.
National Environmental Action Plan	1996; Has not been accepted as policy paper and has the status of a draft.	In the Multi Annual Plan, Environment is considered as crosscutting policy area. An Environment Sector plan is in preparation.
National Biodiversity strategy	Completed and submitted for UNCBD in March 2006.	Concerns regarding land degradation are an integral part of the strategy.
Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan, MUMA's	Several preparatory studies have been prepared.	Strong link with SLM because of elaborate information on practices that cause land degradation. Recommends entire coastline to have the status of special management zones.
Agriculture Sector Plan 2004 - 2008	Approved and in implementation.	SLM issues addressed in policy aiming at sustainability and awareness programs for farmers on the correct use of pesticides.
National Forestry policy	Approved in 2005.	Land management concerns have been addressed.
Action Program Development Forestry Sector	Formulation Phase.	Sustainable land management concerns will be mainstreamed in the form of protection of ecosystem services, natural regeneration and expansion of forests and reforestation.
Mineral production and processing	No explicit policy on sustainable land management , legal framework outdated.	SLM issues not properly addressed.
National Implementation Plan focused on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	In preparation, to be completed in 2009.	SLM issues to be addressed in relation to waste management.

Appendix F List of Persons Interviewed

MINISTRIES:

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

Name: I. Raghoe

Ministry of Labor, Technological Development and Environment

Name: H. Aroma (National Focal Point)

GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS AND PARASTATALS:

Anton de Kom University of Suriname

Name: C. Partoredjo and S. Carillho

Geographical and Land Information System

Name: Mr. Struiken

Grassalco

Name: Mr. Gemerts

Meteorological Service

Name: Ms. Sallons

National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname

Name: Mr. C. Nelom

National Planning Office

Name: Mr. Lont and Mr. Loe a Njoe

Suriname Water Company

Name: Mr. Linger