



Suriname: The NDC We Want

On December 9, 2019, Suriname became the second nation to submit an enhanced NDC to the UNFCCC.

Suriname is a “high forest cover and low deforestation (HFLD)” country that accounts for 0.01% of global GHG emissions. It is considered a carbon negative country, as its abundant forests absorb more GHG emissions than the country emits. It is also highly vulnerable, with its small population and economic activities concentrated along the low-lying coastal zone.

Although Suriname did not set an overall emissions reduction target, the country presents targets and measures for its most carbon-intensive sectors, as well as adaptation goals connected to their NAP, clear conditional targets and a strong focus on nature-based solutions (maintaining their forest cover). The NDC also contributes strongly to sustainable development as it is aligned both with national priorities and the SDGs.

According to the *Checklist for the NDCs We Want* and taking into account Suriname’s unique features and very low responsibility, we conclude that the country has performed well in improving its 2015 NDC. We therefore consider Suriname’s 2020 NDC an **NDC We Want**.

Advances

The 2020 NDC presents an expansion of sectoral coverage, moving from forests and renewable energy only to covering the sectors of Forests, Energy, Agriculture, and Transport, which represent 70% of the country’s emissions.

Clear conditional targets are presented in the sectors of forests, electricity and transport, with an estimation of costs and implementation details, including duration and location of the projects/measures to be taken, objectives and type of finance expected. Support from the international community in areas such as adaptation, technology transfer, renewable energy, and capacity building is expected.

Suriname has included adaptation in the NDC. It considers the NDC as a strategic guidance document for the Government, while the 2019 National Adaptation Plan (NAP) is a building block within the climate strategy that details how commitments are going to be achieved.

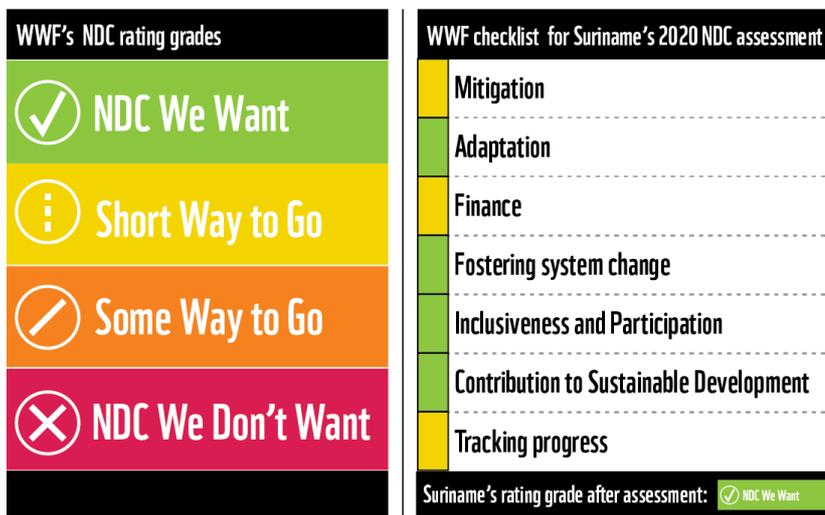
Regarding nature-based solutions, the commitment of maintaining 93% of Suriname’s forests, although explicitly conditional on international support, is a great advance as Suriname’s forests are not only important from a climate perspective (as a carbon sink of 13.1 Gt CO₂) but also as a biodiversity hotspot.

The NDC is aligned both with Suriname’s development priorities, defined in their Policy Development Plan 207-2021, and the SDGs, creating positive synergies and avoiding conflicting policy signals. It states that “delivering on the NDC will help Suriname achieve the SDGs; and achieving the SDGs will facilitate Suriname’s efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change”.

Inclusiveness and participation are key points in the Suriname NDC. A careful process of stakeholder engagement took place, with three rounds of expert and stakeholder dialogues. The written input by stakeholders was summarized and addressed in the NDC.

Gaps

The main gaps are the absence of a top-line emissions reduction target, the lack of an economy-wide target and the strong need of capacity building and international financial support for implementation of the NDC. While quantitative targets are presented for the forest and energy sectors, for the new sectors only measures are presented.



For more information

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