

Summary of Joint Concept Note

The Joint Concept Note (JCN) published today provides an update of the over-arching framework for taking the Guyana-Norway co-operation forward. The JCN sets out how Norway is providing, and will continue to provide, financial support to Guyana, and how Guyana and Norway are seeking to create a global model for the intermediation of this financial support through the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF)

Receiving Payments.

Guyana is being paid for its performance through an incentive structure that rewards keeping deforestation below an agreed reference level, as well as avoiding increased forest degradation.

The Governments of Guyana and Norway strongly endorse the establishment of such an incentive structure under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). To help facilitate such an agreement, the Governments have decided to pilot an incentive structure. Once an international regime is in place, the Guyana-Norway partnership will be adjusted accordingly. Until then, payments are calculated based on Guyana's delivery of results as measured, and independently verified, against two sets of indicators:

(i) Indicators of Enabling Activities: A set of policies and safeguards to ensure that REDD-plus contributes to the achievement of the goals set out in Paragraph 2(c) of the MoU signed between Guyana and Norway on November 9th, 2009. The way these indicators will be used in 2011 are set out in Table 1 of the JCN, and informed by the draft REDD+ Governance Plan (RGDP) which will be finalized in 2011. For the period to September 30, 2010, the independent assessment of Guyana's progress on enabling activities was carried out by Rainforest Alliance, following an international tender process in accordance with Norwegian procurement regulations.

(ii) REDD-plus Performance Indicators: A set of forest-based greenhouse gas emissions-related indicators. These indicators are set out in Table 2 of the JCN, and will gradually be substituted as an IPCC-compliant system for monitoring, reporting and verifying (MRV) emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Guyana is established. For the period to September 30, 2010, the initial measurement of progress was carried out by Poyry on behalf of the Guyana Forestry Commission, and independent verification was carried out by DNV. DNV was selected on the basis of an international tender process in accordance with Norwegian procurement regulations.

The payments due to Guyana for a given year are paid post facto.

Investing Payments

The Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF) is channeling REDD-plus financial support from Norway and other potential contributors to the implementation of Guyana's LCDS.

The support is financing two sets of activities:

- The implementation of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS)
- Guyana's efforts in building capacity to improve overall REDD+ and LCDS efforts.

Pending the creation of an international REDD+ mechanism, the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF) represents an effort to create an innovative climate finance mechanism which balances national sovereignty over investment priorities with ensuring that REDD+ funds adhere to globally accepted financial, environmental and social safeguards. Table 1 of the JCN sets out plans to improve the operation of the GRIF in 2011.