### Country: Suriname

### **COUNTRY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

### Reporting period: 2012-2016

### **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

 Fourteen years after the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, Suriname can boast of significant strides made across its national development spectrum. Economic growth has more than doubled with GDP rising from $2.8B in 2005 to $6.7B in 2012. GDP per capita has grown from$3,799.00 in 2002 to $9,775.00 in 2013. The economy has transitioned from its traditional agriculture base and is now led by the mineral sector which accounts for approximately 30% of GDP and 90% of exports. The country has surmounted a difficult period of macroeconomic instability during the 1990s and has grown steadily over the last decade. Suriname’s challenge has been to transfer its economic gains into improvements in human and social development. Although the 2014 MDG Progress Report revealed that there has been a reduction of Infant Mortality from twenty per thousand in 2005 to 17.9 per thousand in 2008 and further to 14.6 per thousand in 2012 and a marginal increase in HDI Raking from 101 in 2012 to 100

in 2013, achievements in human development continue to be slow. The Suriname 2014 MDG progress report revealed that MDGs can only be reported on as having the potential or likelihood of being achieved. The report indicates that despite the tremendous achievements, much is left to be done to achieve the results anticipated in 2000.

In 2014, the government of Suriname had to stave off declining commodity prices by introducing a number of fiscal tightening measures. The IMF’s Article IV Consultation Report for 2014 revealed that since January 2014, the GoS has strengthened its expenditure control and tax collection efforts. In 2014 the Wage bill declined relative to 2013 when a 10% retroactive wage agreement had to be disbursed. During the second half of 2014, GoS introduced revenue measures including increased royalty rates on small scale gold miners, higher taxation on logging concessions and sales of government land to leaseholders. In keeping with its National Development Plan to expand the mineral sector, a new Gold mine operated by a multi-national company with 25% government shares, opened in December 2014 and is expected to contribute to improved economic performance, employment and development of critical infrastructure in the vicinity of the mine.

UNDP interventions in the economic sector has been minimal, but in collaboration with key government ministries, the CO has undertaken interventions that have a direct focus on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized. Our success in resource mobilization for interventions in the environment sector have freed up government resources for investments in other sectors of the local economy.

The CO has done significant work in MDG monitoring, social statistics and capacity building for the delivery of social programmes. In the social development sector, Suriname’s challenge has been to transform its economic gains into improvements in human and social development. With technical assistance from UNDP, a review of the social policy of Suriname over the period 2005-2010, and drafting of a new Policy Framework 2010-2015 was undertaken in 2010-2011. The findings of the review were accepted by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Housing. Delays however occurred as there was a change of government in 2010, and the new government opted for a recalibration of its social agenda.

That notwithstanding, the GoS took a number of positive steps to address human development imperatives. The 2014 MDG report provided a brief account of the number of social sector legislations, policies and initiatives that have been introduced and can potentially reconfigure the development paradigm of Suriname. These include; - Legislation on social security system including the minimum wage law, old age pension law and the basic health insurance law all adopted in 2014 by the National Assembly. -Increase in Old Age Pension benefits - Provision of financial assistance to persons with disabilities - Free medical care for children aged 0 – 16 years - Adoption of the Housing Plan by the National Assembly - Removal of the annual school enrollment fee up to secondary school level. These social security interventions have been introduced in parallel with a tax reform initiative designed to secure funding and sustainability of social programmes. The strides made by government are being obviated by the plunge in commodity prices and funding and continuity of the social security intervention are now under strain.

Despite the positive changes at the macro level, there are a number of situations that presented development challenges for the country.

The configuration of the National Assembly does not provide any side with a quorum. Throughout 2014 the National Assembly faced many crises with aborted meetings due to lack of a quorum. This was compounded by the fracturing of the ruling coalition in Parliament when, in September 2014, one of the main factions of the ruling coalition was forced out of the alliance thereby reducing the majority enjoyed by the governing coalition from 31 to 19. The current balance is 26 to 25.

The Surinamese authorities have put forward an ambitious reform program to stabilize Suriname’s economy and set the stage for its recovery. Fiscal consolidation is a clear and critical ingredient of the program to restore fiscal and external current account stability. The authorities’ program also includes reforms to the exchange rate and monetary policy framework, to enhance Suriname’s resilience to the current and to possible future shocks, and allow a steady rebuilding of foreign reserves. Requests for assistance are extended to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). The IMF team has reached a staff-level agreement with the Surinamese authorities on the key elements of an economic program that could be supported by a two-year Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) in the amount of approximately US$478 million (SDR 342 million or 265 percent of quota). Subject to the timely completion of prior actions by the Surinamese government and obtaining necessary financing assurances, the IMF’s Executive Board could consider the proposed financing arrangement in early May.

2014 was a transitional year for the UNDP in Suriname. Faced with new leadership, low resource mobilization and slow uptake in services offered, the Country Office had to devise a strategy to reach out to both government and donor community. In his October 1 speech to Parliament, the President of Suriname admonished the parliament to face the reality that "Dutch development aid has come to a definite end". The environment portfolio which accounts for approximately 90% of Office programming, faced the greatest challenge. With government embarking on a structural reform of the environment sector, UNDP was advised that issues of environment in Suriname would be treated as a critical pillar for development and would be transitioned from being a sectoral issue managed by a Ministry to a wider development pillar, managed by the Office of the President. Our traditional delivery partners viz. The Ministry of Labour, Technological Development and Environment, was therefore to relinquish its responsibility for environment. The period of transition resulted in slow uptake and low levels of delivery.

Considering its status as a middle income country and with international concern over governance in Suriname, particularly related to the 2012 amendment of the 1992 Amnesty Law which now grants immunity to the President and concern over drug trafficking convictions in the Netherlands, donor support for Suriname has dwindled. Notwithstanding these concerns, the outreach strategy has resulted in resources mobilized, partnerships created across the donor community and requests from the government for UNDP to serve as its sole implementer of GEF STAR Allocations for Suriname. As governance and democracy continue to evolve, UNDP’s contribution is increasing in importance. In 2014, UNDP supported a Department of Political Affairs Electoral Needs Assessment which resulted in a project to support the 2015 national elections in Suriname. The recognition of the low levels of female representation in the National Assembly has been the basis of a growing partnership with the National Parliament with interventions designed to promote women in Politics.

Throughout 2014, UNDP reached out to Political Parties with seats in the National Parliament and invited them to identify women who would be trained for future roles in national politics. A group of approximately 35 women have undergone training and are being supported in the quest to be placed on their party list for the 2015 elections. The month of November is dedicated as Democracy Month in Suriname. Led by civil society and the academic community, the occasion is designed to build public awareness on matters of democracy. With UNDP’s support, the 2014 events were more elaborate and reached many more people than in previous years. In addition to national media coverage, newsletters and other publications were circulated and reached approximately 10,000 people.

The first Human Development Atlas for Suriname was published in collaboration with the General Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Finance in 2013. It superimposes relevant data of population distribution, health, education, income MDG achievement and social statistics such as crime and violence unto map of Suriname and pictorially presents data by district. This innovative publication has built awareness on the importance of data and captures for the first time in Suriname, geographically disaggregated trends of MDGs and Human Development for the period of 2004, 2006 and 2010. The information and analysis captured in the Atlas were regarded as a stepping stone for the production of the 2014 MDG report, which was developed through a broad-based consultative process, where the UNDP CO played a lead role in mobilizing various social sector Ministries of government and other development stakeholders to collate, analyze and present data.

UNDP has made tremendous strides in collaborating with government to improve development effectiveness. This was evidenced in 2014 through the publication of the National MDG Progress Report, the SIDS reporting and preparation for the 3rd International SIDS Conference in Samoa and support to Indigenous Peoples to participate in a number of regional and international fora. Quite significantly, UNDP spearheaded efforts to address data challenges in Suriname and supported the publication of a number of national reports including the National Census Report and Environment Statistics of Suriname. Policy formulation, decision making and programming have all benefited as evidence based decision making has been enhanced through the publication of these reports. The data captured in the respective reports is also transforming how human and social development is being addressed. Through the launch of DevInfo and SuriInfo the public now has access to a previously unavailable interactive platform to utilize data for decision making.

The Sustainable Development Goals have begun to shape a new development debate in Suriname. UNDP embarked upon an awareness building initiative to promote the SDGs. This has resulted in a series of SDG symposia including a special session with the National Assembly, a symposium on SDGs with the National University of Suriname, a special training workshop on SDGs with the Suriname National Youth Parliament and a media workshop on SDGs and Suriname’s path to national development. Significantly, the Ministry of Regional Development was the recipient of a new initiative to localize the SDGs. So far a series of workshops on localizing SDGs have been held and promotional material including jingles, bumper stickers, a card game and embroidered cultural scarfs have been produced. A presentation of the initiative was given by the respective minister in Bolivia upon invitation.

In the area of ***Energy and environment*** the UNDP has made substantial contribution in finalization of key Climate Change policy documents such as INDC, SNC and R-PP. providing instrumental guidance and support in coastal area management, resulting in implementation and updating of management plans thereby positioning UNDP to support access by the government of Suriname for EU funded Climate Change Adaptation funding. In conjunction, chemical management plans and policy measures have been formulated to reduce pressures on the natural environment. These enabling environment actions have on very limited scale been supported with agronomic research on Biofuels, education and awareness, civil society Plastic waste recycling action.

### **II: Country Programme Performance Summary**

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| **Country information** |  |
| **Country name: Suriname**  |
| **Current country programme period: 2012-2016**  |
| **Outcomes** | **Total Expenditure 2012-2016** | **Key Indicators of outcome**  | **Progress made against key indicators** |
| **1. By 2016 Government will have strengthened public institutions, established policy frameworks, delivery mechanisms and tools to improve services to identified vulnerable groups.** | US$107,013 | 1. *Capacity-strengthening programme implemented*
 | * Critical work in MDG monitoring, social statistics and capacity building for the delivery of social programmes
* Review and drafting of social policy
* Mapping of key human development variables in Suriname
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| **UNDP Contribution:** The CO has done critical work in MDG monitoring, social statistics and capacity building for the delivery of social programmes. **Output:**MDG acceleration strategy, particularly for lagging MDGs, the Human Development Atlas. **Progress and Achievements:**With technical assistance from UNDP a review took place in 2010-2011 of the social policy of Suriname over the period 2005-2010 and drafting of a new Policy Framework 2010-2015, which has been accepted by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Housing.The first Human Development Atlas for Suriname was published in collaboration with the General Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Finance in 2013. This innovative publication has built awareness on the importance of data and captures for the first time in Suriname, geographically disaggregated trends of MDGs and Human Development for the period of 2004, 2006 and 2010. The information and analysis captured in the Atlas were regarded as a stepping stone for the production of the 2014 MDG report, which was developed through a broad-based consultative process, where the UNDP CO played a lead role in mobilizing various social sector Ministries of government and other development stakeholders to collate, analyze and present data.UNDP has made tremendous strides in collaborating with government to improve development effectiveness. This was evidenced in 2014 through the publication of the National MDG Progress Report, the SIDS reporting and preparation for the 3rd International SIDS Conference in Samoa and support to Indigenous Peoples to participate in a number of regional and international fora. UNDP embarked upon an awareness building initiative to promote the SDGs. This has resulted in a series of SDG symposia including a special session with the National Assembly, a symposium on SDGs with the National University of Suriname, a special training workshop on SDGs with the Suriname National Youth Parliament and a media workshop on SDGs and Suriname’s path to national development.  |
| **2.** **By 2016 the Government will put in place institutional capacity and policy frameworks for enhanced participation of stakeholders in the design and implementation of policies for a more rights-based society.** | USD 873,855 | 1. Existence of institutional capacities, policy frameworks and competencies to enhance democratic governance in line with national development priorities
2. Critical mass ofnon-governmental agencies involved in the design and implementation of policies for transparency, access to justice, citizen security, human rights, public management and legislative processes
 | 1. Throughout the CPD period, some progress has been made to strengthen institutional capacities and competencies and to ensure that policy is based on pillars of democratic governance.
2. The CO has been successful in engaging some non-governmental agencies in the design and implementation of policies for transparency, human rights, election support and gender equality. While a number of NGOs were strengthened, much more work is yet to be done to ensure inclusion of a greater cross-section of NGOs in policy planning, design and implementation.
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| **UNDP Contribution:**Modest financial assistance and provision of technical assistance to design policies, training programmes and advocacy activities.CP OutputsThe indicative outputs identified in the CP were: strengthen Institutional capacities, competencies and tools for: (a) improved efficiency and accountability in public management; (b) enhanced responsiveness of democratic governance institutions and participation in representative and legislative processes, policy and decision-making; and (c) demonstrated improvements in the promotion and protection of human rights and well-being.Progress and Achievements:Our work in Elections Support, Human Rights training, Access to Justice, Support to Parliament, and Use of ICTs to deliver information and services in the interior, has resulted in reinforcing the adherence to good governance including respect for human rights and the role of Parliament. The CO has always been very committed to supporting the Government in preparing for elections. UNDP supported training of over 600 local elections observers in 2010 and 2015 who were deployed to polling stations across Suriname. During both elections the CO supported the Independent Electoral Bureau to ensure that elections were free and fair. In 2015, UNDP collaborated with NGOs (the Democracy Unit and Projekta) in an effort to educate the general public on the basics of democracy and the importance of “letting your voice be heard”. In a first for UNDP, a cooperation agreement was signed with Care for You, an NGO, to ensure that crucial election information was translated for people with a hearing and visual disability. During this CPD period, human rights training was provided to over 200 participants from the NGOs and CBOs, religious organizations, government officials and the media in various training courses. An administrative review was undertaken of the Legal Aid Bureau and the recommendations will be used to strengthen its capacity to provide services especially to poor, vulnerable and low-income clients. While the work with the Ministry of Justice and Police didn't result in the establishment of a Human Rights institute (due to lengthy discussions on its mandate), UNDP assistance did result in capacity strengthening on human rights for the personnel of the Human Rights Bureau. The Government was supported in ensuring that reporting requirements on various Human Rights Conventions and the Universal Periodic Review were met (in 2011 and 2016). Since 2013 the Country Office has led efforts on advocacy and public awareness to commemorate Human Rights Day.The cooperation with the National Assembly (the Parliament) offered the CO the opportunity to work directly with Parliamentarians on issues of national interest. Three of the most noteworthy achievements under this CPD have certainly been the work done with the Parliament to sensitize the MPs and the population on the dangers of tobacco use and the subsequent passing of the anti-tobacco legislation in 2013. Secondly, the CO collaborated with the National Assembly to raise awareness on the importance of women’s participation in politics. In 2015 with general elections coming up, the CO together with the Parliament, the Ministry of Home Affairs and other stakeholders implemented a year-long programme to increase the number of women on the ballot, to make these women more visible for voters and finally to get more women voted into Parliament. The concerted efforts paid off, as the percentage of women increased from 9 to 26%. Thirdly, UNDP with the assistance from AGORA implemented a very strong training programme for 52 persons (MPs and legislators at line ministries) on legislative drafting. Community radio is one of the major avenues of engaging hinterland villages that are ordinarily hard to reach. In 2013, UNDP undertook two training workshops for 16 village radio broadcasters, representing approximately 90% of community radio stations broadcasting to villages in the interior of Suriname. The workshops exposed participants to responsible broadcasting and how to design a radio programme, advocacy and information dissemination regarding Climate Change. The opportunity was also taken to educate interior populations on the 2013 anti-tobacco legislation and the benefits of healthy living and healthy diets (NCD's). The training, advocacy and awareness building that accompanied these interventions have contributed to improved awareness of the hinterland communities and behavior changes towards sustainable use of the environment, healthy nutritional choices and familiarity with government services have begun to show signs of improvement. Through an initiative to use information and communications technologies (ICTs), UNDP delivered information and services to a wide cross section of citizens in interior districts and communities of Suriname. One major output of the intervention was a spatial map of Suriname’s hinterland which identified areas where e-governance services could be best located for optimal public access.In the CPD it was indicated that the Government would be supported in its efforts to streamline and professionalize the public sector, however the period immediately following the approval of the CPD was marked by the new government settling into its role after taking office in 2010. Some of the interventions agreed upon were reprioritized and despite our promotion of the contents of the CPD, government has not yet expressed any real desire to work with UNDP on streamlining and professionalizing the public sector.  |
| **3. By 2016, Government will put in place capacities and policy frameworks for participatory, environmentally sustainable production systems and empower communities to respond to natural disasters and hazards.**  | USD 11,278,000 | 1. Existence of institutional capacities, policy frameworks and competencies to promote environmentally sustainable production
2. % of targets in national biodiversity and climate change and sound chemical-management plans that are achieved.
3. % of targets in policies and action plans promoting stronger, more resilient hinterland and coastal communities.
 | 1. *Limited but critical Progress in building institutional capacities, policy frameworks and competencies to promote environmentally sustainable production; (see cluster evaluation, project evaluations SLM, SCPAM)*
2. *A number of targets in national biodiversity and climate change and sound chemical-management plans have been achieved; (see NBSAP/draft NCCPSAP)*
3. *Substantial improvements in the number of targets in policies and action plans promoting stronger, more resilient hinterland and coastal communities. (See INDC and SNC)*
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| **UNDP Contribution:**Support preparation of gender-sensitive action plans and programmes; and capacity building for sustainable development and external negotiations on climate change and financing.CP Outputs:The indicative output(s) identified in the CP were: strengthen Institutional capacities, policy frameworks and competencies to (a) promote environmentally sustainable development; (b) adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change; and (c) respond to natural disasters and hazards. Progress and Achievements:As a result of the technical guidance and financial support provided to local counterparts, UNDP contributed to the finalization and submission of Suriname Indented Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), Suriname Second National Communication to the UNFCCC as well as finalization and accessing World Bank/Forest Carbon Partnership Facility funding for Suriname Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP). UNDP engagement has resulted in three updated draft Multiple-Use Area Management Plans for ecologically sensitive coastal areas in Suriname, implementation of education and awareness, research, and monitoring and accessing additional resources for the further implementation of these plans. In 2014 we financed a Civil Society Organizations to conduct research in an adjacent marine area as a way of amassing relevant baseline data on Marine Mammals and monitoring schemes. As a result of our technical and financial support to Civil Society and Ministry of Forest Management, efforts to establish the Coronie Swamp wetlands Protected Area are still underway. This initiative is building partnerships with local communities and NGO’s to strengthen and expand the system of terrestrial (currently at 13%) and marine (currently at 0%) protected areas to meet the Convention on Biological Diversity established Aichi targets of 17% Terrestrial and inland waters and 10% Coastal and Marine protected areas. These results at the subnational and national levels are critical parts in the implementation of Suriname’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. These all contribute to progress on a major outcome of an environmental policy framework which provides Suriname with essential management and planning instruments for more inclusive and effective environmental custodianship. With consistent decision-making from government regards institutional governance, the plans provide an opportunity for catalytic changes in the policy framework for the management of protected areas and ensuring ecosystem services the natural environment provides.Targeted support in the policies for sound chemical management resulted in the preparation of a draft National Chemical Action plan (2014) this based on Suriname’s Chemical situation Analysis Report (2014). Afore mentioned is additional to the earlier prepared Persistent Organic Pollutants National Implementation Plan (2012) and Chemical Profile update (2012). UNDP continues to work in building the knowledge base, competences and supportive Monitoring and Evaluation evidence architecture of the environment sector through structured stakeholder analysis and discussions on the appropriate governance mechanism and its sustainable financing. With the UNDP’s support in the preparation of these chemical management plans, Suriname has an updated and advanced chemical management planning instruments awaiting implementation. This is being complemented with the holistic rollout of support towards building of capacity to monitor and manage the small scale Goldmining and the use and subsequent phase out of Mercury in Suriname through the Minamata Initial Assessment, National Action Plan on Artisanal and small scale Gold mining in Suriname. Progress in UNDP engagement and support in building capacity for disaster preparedness and response and early recovery was limited, however there is an increasing understanding of the opportunity to utilize the environment portfolio for this support. Support on sustainable energy policy has been focused in Biofuels policy with small research project on Biofuels in mined out Bauxite areas as well as first steps with a strategy for Biofuels framework. The restructuring of the institutional governance architecture in Suriname for general Environment and Climate Change Policy together with the absence of an integrated environmental management and climate change policy has influenced the coherent progress in this area.Support to access multilateral trust funds such as those connected with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), SAICM, E.U., REDD-plus proved critical for the institutions responsible for overall environmental and climate change policy and management in Suriname. |

III. Country Programme Resources

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| **Focus Area** | **Programme Expenditure ($) 2012 – 2016** | **% of Total** |
|  | Regular (TRAC) | Other | Total |  |
|  Democratic Governance **Outcome Area 1** | 73,485 | 149,193 | 222,678 | 5% |
| Poverty reduction and Social Development **Outcome Area 2** | 173,983 | 3,143,336 | 3,317,319 | 76% |
| Energy and Environment **Outcome Area 3** | 333,545 | 472,227 | 805,772 | 19% |
| Total | 581013 | 3,764,756 | 4,345,769 | 100% |

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| **Data sources: (please indicate the main sources from which data were obtained for this report.)**  |
| 1. Suriname OP (Development Plan) 2012 - 2016
2. UNDAF Evaluation Report 2012-2016” Stuart Black, February 2015,
3. Suriname Budget Presentations October 2015
4. UNDP Suriname, **Office Programme Documents**:
5. Country Programme Document for Suriname 2012-2015
6. Country UNDP Suriname and Tobago – Integrated Work Plan 2013
7. UNDP Suriname – Integrated Work Plan 2015
8. UNDP Suriname ROAR 2011
9. UNDP Suriname ROAR 2012
10. UNDP Suriname ROAR 2013
11. UNDP Suriname ROAR 2014
12. **UNDP Suriname Energy and Environment cluster evaluation, Richard Chiwara, March 2013**
 |