Template for report and accounts for organisations under the Climate and Forest Initiative funding scheme for civil society

This template for reports and accounts is to be used by organisations with agreements with Norad under the Climate and Forest Initiative funding scheme for civil society.
With reference to the signed agreement, the templates are to be used for presenting **progress and achieved results of the project** for the previous calendar year. It should also be used as a template for the final report after the agreement period has ended.

The report must include, as attachments, an audited account and audit report for the last calendar year. The report shall be according to approved project document.

The progress report for the first two years (2013 and 2014) should be approximately ten (10) pages, and give a short and concise update. Where possible it should include results on outcome level and show effects on target groups. However, for many of the new projects it will only be possible to report on products/outputs after one or two years. In those cases, a short analysis of the likelihood that the outputs will lead to the expected outcomes should be included.

The deadline for delivering the report is 1 May, unless your contract says otherwise, electronically to postmottak@norad.no.

Final report for the whole agreement period (2013-2015) should include results on a higher level in the results chain (see figure below). The final report should give a description of outcomes in terms of effects on target groups, and explain how these outcomes are expected to contribute to the intended impact. In cases where outcome cannot be documented by the end of the agreement period, substantial evidence of outputs should be presented with an explanation on how these will lead to the desired outcome and when. Deadline for submitting the final report is 1 June 2016, electronically to postmottak@norad.no.

1. General Project Information:

1.1 Name of recipient organisation: Global Canopy Programme (GCP)

1.2 Reporting year: Final report (2013-2016, including 6-month no-cost extension)

1.3 Agreement Number: QZA-13/0559

1.4 Name of project: 'REDD COMPASS: Community Powered Assessments of Ecosystem Services and Safeguards'

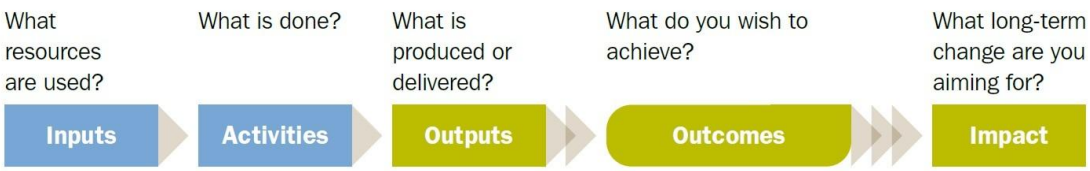
1.5 Country and/ or region: North Rupununi, Guyana; Acre, Brazil; Global.

1.6 Financial support to the project from Norad: 9,000,000 NOK (866,119 GBP)

1.7 Thematic area: (3) Analysis, concept and methodology development that contribute to planning and implementation of REDD+

2 Describe the project's progress for previous calendar year:

Result chain:



With reference to the Result Chain as illustrated above, Norad requires feedback mainly on products/ services (outputs) and end effect on target groups (outcomes) in the progress report.

2.1 Give a short description of the **project's target group(s)** and what the baseline for the target group was at the start of the project (from the approved project document).

The two main target groups of the project are: (Group 1) forest-dependent communities; and (Group 2) policy makers and civil society forest monitoring practitioners who can scale-up the adoption of community-collected information within the national and international arena.

Group 1: We worked closely with Makushi indigenous peoples from North Rupununi, Guyana, and forest extractivist communities from the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve in Acre, Brazil. In Guyana, these include the project team (5 project management staff and 32 community monitors), village council members and local leaders (*Toshaos*) from sixteen Amerindian communities. In Brazil, these include 40 community monitors, local community organizations and representatives from 5 workers' associations in the municipalities that overlap with the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve in Acre.

More broadly the project indirectly targeted an estimated 6,000 indigenous families living in the North Rupununi region in Guyana and almost 2,000 extractivist families living in the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve in Acre, Brazil.

To facilitate these relationships and implement ground activities, the project had sub-grant agreements with the following local organizations: the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) and Iwokrama International Centre for Research and Development (Iwokrama) in Guyana, and the Centre for Amazon Workers (CTA) in Acre.

Group 2: The project worked closely with national and sub-national governmental institutions and local civil society organizations implementing similar initiatives. In Guyana, these include the Guyana Forestry Commission, the Office of Climate Change, and the Multi- Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC) of the Low Carbon Development Strategy, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, National Toshaos Council, Amerindian Peoples Association, among others. In Acre, there was heavy involvement from the state's Climate Change Institute (IMC) and the federal institute for protected areas management - the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio).

The project also worked closely with a network of international NGO's in particular WWF (Guyana, DRC and Brazil offices; the Climate and Forest Programme), IGES, Tebtebba, REDD+ SES, UNAM, among others. This network was fundamental in building momentum behind the integration of CMRV within policy frameworks.

2.2 Please repeat the project's **desired impact** (from the approved project document).

Community monitoring, reporting and verification (CMRV) is recognised by national and international policy makers as an integral source of information for accurately and cost-effectively monitoring REDD+ activities and safeguards;

Tropical forest communities understand the benefits and risks of REDD+ and have the knowledge and tools to take informed decisions and play a proactive and independent role in making REDD work in their territories.

2.3 Is the project still relevant for the desired impact? (Yes/No) If No, please give a short explanation.

Yes.

2.4 Please repeat the project's outcome(s) (effect on project´s target group(s), counterpart(s), beneficiary (-ies)) (from the approved project document).

Main outcomes:

1. The Makushi people in North Rupununi are able to independently collect and analyse data to support informed decision-making on territory management and engagement in REDD+ activities and National REDD+ strategy;

2. The Government of Guyana and civil society stakeholders in the national MRVS Committee are well informed about community-based monitoring approaches and take a decision on how it could be incorporated into National MRVS;
3. Emerging methods and tools for CMRV are replicated in the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve in Acre, Brazil, allowing broader application and improvement of methods; monitoring informs rubber tappers' decision making on territory management and engagement on REDD+, as well as MRV policy within Acre State's REDD+ Programme about the potential incorporation of community based monitoring;
4. Policy makers at national and international levels are informed of the CMRV potential to address REDD+ safeguards; communities and REDD+ stakeholders have access to best practices and methods on CMRV organised and provided by CMRV practitioners knowledge sharing network.

2.5 Are there any internal and/ or external factors that have affected the project in any significant way?

a) Specify deviations from plans.

Internal factors:

Staff changes within GCP in between 2013-2015 affected the project in the capacity to engage with key government stakeholders.

External factors:

The political context in Guyana and subsequent elections undermined our efforts to advocate and push for CMRV uptake at a national level. There have been significant and ongoing delays and uncertainties with proposed government commitments to address community participation in REDD+ (the "Opt-in" mechanism), which have consequently impacted on the progress of CMRV integration into the national monitoring system. Throughout the project period, Amerindian participation in the REDD+ opt-in mechanism remained uncertain even while efforts were made to engage with the different government entities on the design of this mechanism.

At the local level, our partner NRDDB undertook additional contracts with WWF and UNDP that put pressure on their capacity, hindering progress in some monitoring and engagement activities.

In Acre, Brazil, outreach activities and key management meetings were also impacted and delayed by extreme weather conditions (devastating flooding) and strikes within the government institutions responsible for overseeing the overall management of the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve (ICMBio). In addition, elections in 2014 and the transitioning government were also factors in delaying our planned government engagement in Acre.

Globally, our originally proposal work with the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) had to be changed due to other priorities by JGI.

Furthermore, through consultations with different practitioners and communities, it became clear that the focus on REDD+ was somewhat problematic when engaging communities due to issues of past engagement not meeting expectations. It was therefore decided to change the name of the project to Forest Compass from REDD Compass.

The project also suffered from foreign exchange losses, which hampered the scope of our outreach activities.

b) Give a short risk assessment

The lack of available and sustainable income streams from REDD+ for community-based monitoring activities ultimately threatens the sustainability of local monitoring activities, the long-term impact and the capacity built on the ground. Strong engagement with other NGOs in both regions who are continuing to engage on community monitoring and continued commitment from the governments to community monitoring mitigates this risk to some extent.

Data and sensitive information generated by CMRV activities reaches unintended external audiences and other actors that might use this information to exploit resources or undermine communal relations e.g. the location of valuable timber species.

Infrastructural developments in both Acre State and Guyana bring new waves of migrants and unregulated agricultural and extractive activities that could severely impact livelihood decision-making and traditional activities. This might pose a threat to community participation in REDD+, support for sustainable management locally and ultimately to the community monitoring initiatives.

Results:

Reporting of results must at least be at the output level (above the activity level). In addition, outcome must be stated where possible (see result chain above). Where it is too early to document outcome, please explain why.

2.6 Main outputs and outcome(s).

a) Report on the main products/services (outputs) the project has delivered to achieve the planned outcomes.

OUTCOME 1*: A local project team has the capacity to independently manage all components of a community based monitoring project; Monitoring results on wellbeing, natural resource use and forest change, strengthen and inform local institutions and decision-making on territorial resource management and engagement in REDD+ activities and National REDD+ strategy.*

Outputs

- In total, considering the previous phase 1 Norad-funded grant for CMRV activities in Guyana, the communities were involved in almost four years of training (delivered through numerous workshops led by GCP and partners) which generated skills, experience and monitoring capacity among the local project team.
- The process of developing a comprehensive monitoring framework and related indicators based on community interests and needs were key in generating buy-in and greater impact of the results in local decision making.
- The community-collected and managed database with information on forest change, resource use and wellbeing, informed decision-making for all 16 villages during their village council meetings and a common community development pathway for the region under the mandate of the NRDDB. This was facilitated by individual (village) and aggregated (North Rupununi), accessible and co-produced reports on monitoring results.

- This information (e.g. carbon stocks, deforestation drivers, wellbeing) was used further as a basis to inform multiple community discussions (meetings, workshops) on REDD+ and related components (e.g. Opt-in mechanism, MRV, FPIC, safeguards) with the national government over the course of the project and after informing continued discussions on the Opt-in mechanism in particular.
- In addition, community leaders undertook a training programme on key aspects of REDD+/LCDS in particular on free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), which allowed them to identify, in conjunction with the monitoring results, some of the risk and benefits from this mechanism and other policies on their territories.
- This community-based monitoring model went beyond the 16 villages initially involved. Community monitors and local project management trained Wai Wai communities in the Konashen Community Owned Conservation Area in southern Guyana, demonstrating their knowledge of monitoring tools and methodologies and ability to independently manage the community-based monitoring project. This was also a clear output that helped achieve outcome 2.

OUTCOME 2: The Government of Guyana (GFC) and civil society stakeholders in the national MRVS Committee are well informed about community-based monitoring approaches, results and replication; Decisions are taken in how CMRV can be adopted and incorporated as a cost-effective option for monitoring and contributing to REDD+ activities under Guyana's National MRVS for the LCDS/REDD+ programme.

Outputs

- Multiple datasets and reports on local drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, ground-truthing and above-ground carbon measurements were produced by community members with the support of implementing partners, and submitted to the GFC as part the GFC/NRDDB Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC).
- Bottom-up discussions took place during national stakeholder engagement workshops organised with government bodies (National Toshao Council, OCC, GFC, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and Environmental Protection Agency) and other civil society representatives (Amerindian Peoples Association, WWF, CI, etc.). These were important in increasing consensus on how communities could participate in the REDD+ process in Guyana.
- The National Toshao Council, the key decision-making body of the REDD+ Amerindian 'Opt-in mechanism' supported the use and adoption the CMRV model as a basis of Amerindian participation in REDD+. Furthermore, the LCDS Stakeholder Advisory Committee also acknowledged the value of including community data within the LCDS process, in particular on baseline datasets for the development of REDD+ safeguards and for decision making on infrastructure development such as the Lethem – Linden highway.
- The Government of Guyana through the Guyana Forestry Commission established the means and intention to integrate CMRV in its National Monitoring MRV System Roadmap 1 and 2.
- The capacity built within the project management team and community monitors in NRDDB was harnessed to provide training for Wai-Wai community members in Southern Guyana (see here). This locally led training by the project members with other communities demonstrated to the government the knowledge and abilities acquired by communities throughout the project and the potential of local monitoring systems for REDD+ in Guyana. This community-to-community training model has been used by the government as way to allow the replication and application nationally of CMRV and to help develop the framework for the Amerindian Opt-in mechanism. At present it is the model being used to train other communities and share lessons on CMRV as part of the 'Opt-in Mechanisms' in Guyana. This ultimately, evidences that CMRV that is recognised by nationally as an integral source of information REDD+ activities and safeguards;
- Greater alignment, on which tools and approaches are relevant for community monitoring, was further achieved during two international workshops in Guyana in 2014 and 2015. During these workshops, government institutions, civil society and community practitioners discussed and

addressed in-depth some of the existing impediments for scaling-up such initiatives (e.g. standardizing methodologies, costs, capacity-building, etc.) and technological tools being utilised in participatory monitoring models.
    - South-South workshop http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?228395/International-Community-Measurement-Reporting-and-Verification-workshop-in-Guyana-provides-valuable-capacity-building-opportunity
    - CMRV Guyana Shield: https://reddguianashield.com/working-groups/community-based-mrv-systems-in-the-guiana-shield/
- Further opportunities and challenges for integrating CMRV models at a national level were summarised in a paper for an open-access scientific journal (http://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/6/1/133) and a report/manual summarising the development of the project to share lessons with other initiatives: http://forestcompass.org/how/resources/community-monitoring-reporting-andverification-redd-lessons-and-experiences-pilot

OUTCOME 3: A CMRV system is implemented in the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve (RESEX) in Acre, Brazil, and provides insight on best-practice, improves natural resource management and contributes to Acre's state REDD+ (SISA) MRV programme and related safeguards.

Outputs:
- Forty community monitors within the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve were trained in the use of smartphones to gather data. This was achieved through 11 training/capacity building workshops undertaken between 2014-2015. The established monitoring system covered almost 1 million hectares, reaching 50% of resident families per month. An average of 700 questionnaires have been collected per month on themes related to natural resources, livelihoods, wellbeing and the effectiveness of management and environmental policies within the reserve. This data was then analysed and visualised through posters, presentations, videos and workshops in a participatory way.
- With these locally-adapted products, communities across the reserve were engaged and informed of monitoring results through outreach activities undertaken in by community monitors and implementing partners (CTA). Target groups for the outreach were: local family units, community assemblies, associations and the reserve management council. These results and consequent discussions were incorporated into local management activities and plans.
- The co-developed monitoring framework, agreed with the input and participation from local community leaders, community members, CTA, civil society stakeholders and state government institutions (IMC, ICMBio), has been fundamental in embedding the project within the existing management structure of the reserve (admistered by ICMBio) and in Acre State's System of Incentives for Environmental Services (SISA).
- Reports were produced that contained evaluations of key environmental policies and local participation within these. These reports were presented to Acre and federal government ministries (IMC, CDSA, SEMA) in multiple workshops and meetings.
- The government has recognised the CMRV system as a critical model and tool for evaluating policy impacts and interventions on the ground. This is demonstrated through ongoing (post-project) funding from IMC as part of KfW's Early REDD+ Early Movers (REM) finance and the continuation of monitoring activities and capacity building with communities in the reserve.
- CMRV lessons were exchanged and adopted by the project team through the aforementioned workshop in Guyana, as well as an international workshop held in Rio Branco, Acre with forest communities from numerous Amazonian countries.
- The project team also participated in the Brazilian Scientific Society SBPC and the Governor's Climate Fund annual meeting in Rio Branco, where the results and impacts of the project were communicated to a wider audience undertaking sustainable conservation models.

Further experiences and impacts of this CMRV pilot in Acre were shared in reports and briefs and news articles.

OUTCOME 4: Community-based forest monitoring (CBFM) stakeholders worldwide share knowledge and develop tools and best practices, and are able to set up monitoring activities more efficiently and with greater impact through an active network and platform. Policy makers at national and international levels are informed of the CMRV potential to address REDD+ requirements.

Outputs:

- The Forest Compass web platform was developed in 2014 drawing on user stories (specific needs and requirements) of our two key audiences of policy makers and community practitioners who influence or undertake community-based forest monitoring. In December 2014, the platform was launched at the UNFCCC CoP 20 in Lima, in a side-event attended by a mixture of community members, policy makers and scientists around the world.
- Forestcompass.org has been developed as a unique platform that brings together the the largest collection of experiences and resources on CBFM, with 22 original CBMF case studies from 19 countries, 101 CBMF actor profiles and 149 supporting materials.
- A periodic newsletter was also circulated as part of efforts to share the latest news, events and resource that had been produced or shared by network members.
- To advocate for community-based forest monitoring and to gather resources, user stories, video testimonials and case studies, the network organised and attended numerous events in across Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe.
- Civil society and government representatives attended Forest COMPASS workshops at international events such as COP21 and the World Forest Congress, which contributed towards the replication of the model in DRC, and moved discussions on best practice, methodological barriers and scaling up.
- The added value and impact of community-based monitoring models, the use of technology and ways to scale up the model were discussed in workshops held in Guyana and Brazil (under outcomes 2 and 3), as well as side-events at international gatherings. The project attended the UNFCCC and CBD CoPs and UNFCCC SBSTA 2014; COP 21 and the World Forestry Congress in Durban in 2015.
- Strategic partnerships were developed with WWF, Tebtebba, IGES, SilvaCarbon, UNORCID and the National Autonomous University of Mexico to augment the advocacy capacity of the project and to generate new insights. These partnerships can also add to the longevity of the impact of the project beyond the end of its funding;

b) Report on all outcomes from the project document where possible:

1. What changes have been achieved with reference to the baseline?

Outcome 1: The Makushi people in North Rupununi are able to independently collect and analyse data to support informed decision-making on territorial management and engagement in REDD+ activities and national strategies.

Changes achieved:

- A second round of comprehensive and appropriate village reports on community natural resource change and wellbeing indicators for sixteen communities were produced;
- A regional summary report for the NRDDB board was made available with highlighted key areas for action and decision making;
- Local decisions on resource use and wellbeing (e.g. fishing and hunting regulations; alcohol bans, etc.) were taken as a result of the CMRV data;

- Quarterly discussions are now held on the REDD+ opt-in mechanism at regional and national level informed by the project data;
- Four PMT-led training courses were held with community monitors on new monitoring themes;
- The PMT were trained in the use of other monitoring technology and non-internet based systems.

Outcome 2: The Government of Guyana and civil society stakeholders in the national MRVS Committee are well informed about community-based monitoring approaches and take decisions on how it could be incorporated into National MRVS.

Changes achieved:

- There is now buy-in and interest from the National Toshao Council in using and adopting the CMRV approach to address Amerindian participation in REDD+ discussions;
- A technical report on deforestation and forest degradation exists from the Annai Demonstration Site based on monitoring data and community consultations.
- Insights into key requirements and impediments for scaling-up the community-based monitoring model exist and are highlighted in workshops reports and scientific papers in the *Forests* open access journal;
- CMRV is now included as a key component within discussion of Opt-in mechanism and Guyana MRVS planning.

Outcome 3: Emerging methods and tools for CMRV are replicated in the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve (RESEX) in Acre, Brazil, allowing broader application and improvement of methods; informing rubber tappers' decision making on territory management and engagement on REDD+, as well as informing the MRV policy in Acre State's REDD+ Programme about the potential incorporation of community-based monitoring.

Changes achieved:

- Existing census from 2008 (carried out by ICMBio) has been updated and significantly complimented with in-depth and geo-referenced knowledge collected by the CMRV monitoring system;
- Updated and new geo-referenced datasets were collected on forest and agricultural production systems, local infrastructure, health and education;
- Ten detailed monitoring reports are available covering local livelihoods and wellbeing, participation in public policies;
- Summary document of experiences, lessons learnt and impacts/results is available.
- The management and utilization plan is reviewed based on monitoring report findings, and discussed during meetings held with associations and reserve management council.
- Acre government through IMC include CMRV model as part of the jurisdictional REDD+ policy; this is demonstrated through ongoing (post-project) funding from IMC as part of KfW's Early REDD+ Early Movers (REM) finance and the continuation of monitoring activities and capacity building with communities in the reserve.
- This project has effectively integrated a CBFM model into the state of Acre's SISA (System of Incentives for Environmental Services) programme. This model will be used to evaluate the impact of KfW early movers funding and monitor REDD+ safeguard indicators. The state of Acre has adopted this model as a way of increasing participation and transparency in REDD+, and attracting further financing. (Sabogal et al, 2015)
- The Acre government is undertaking a community outreach programme based on the monitoring findings from the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve, of low levels (below 80%) of awareness and participation in REDD+-related programmes (Sabogal et al, 2015).

- Beyond monitoring carbon stocks and deforestation, the project has demonstrated alternative pathways to scaling up CBFM by monitoring performance and safeguard indicators (e.g. access to basic services or supply chain incentives).
- There has been a community-to-community training programme among fishing communities in Feijo, Acre - Brazil.

Outcome 4: Policy makers at national and international levels are informed of the CMRV potential to address REDD+ safeguards, as well as communities and REDD+ stakeholders have access to best practices and methods on CMRV provided by CMRV practitioners knowledge sharing network/platform.

Changes achieved

- A needs-driven web platform (Forest Compass), linked closely with existing databases (e.g. REDDdesk), was developed through consultations with target audiences;
- Working in collaboration with WWF's REDDcommunity.org we created synergies, spaces for exchanges and insights into community-based forest monitoring for REDD+;
- Articles, social media, blogs, newsletters and events have generated interest and concrete ideas on how community-based forest monitoring can be integrated into national frameworks
- Knowledge transfer has been undertaken through project presentations, infographics and videos featured in partner organisations training materials and events.
- To date, the Forest Compass platform shares lessons learned from community-based forest monitoring worldwide through, 24 in-depth case studies, over one hundred resources (videos, reports and digital technology files). It is the largest repository of experiences on CMRV.

2. Report on the key indicators used to document that the desired change has occurred.

Outcome 1 indicators:

1.1 Four training courses with community monitors (CREW) and PMT;
1.2 A CMRV curriculum developed with PMT;
1.3 Data reports, maps and visual information produced, compiled and presented by local project team to sixteen villages;
1.4 A series of village council and NRDDB meetings held (three separate workshops held) to discuss actions and regulations to manage resources among 16 communities of the North Rupununi based on monitoring data;
1.5 Discussions held with NRDDB and NTC on the status of REDD+ scheme for Amerindian communities in Guyana under the national LCDS programme.

Outcome 2 indicators:

2.1 Two workshops (March & September) held between project partners (NRDDB, Iwokrama and GCP) and national government representatives to inform and share results of pilot project and discuss pathways for CMRV integration in national forest monitoring system;
2.2 Workshop and technical report on local drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and deforestation undertaken for government;
2.3 International workshop (August) held to discuss challenges and opportunities for scaling-up the CMRV model;
2.4 Publications (article in Forests) and press articles produced to inform national audiences of the CMRV model and potential;

Outcome 3 indicators:

3.1 Approved CMRV monitoring framework based on demands/needs of local communities and national stakeholders;
3.2 Ten training workshops held with community monitors;
3.3 Evaluation report produced on the community monitoring team members;
3.4 Reports and maps produced and stored in a database managed by local partners CTA, with government support;
3.5 Quarterly meetings held with Steering Committee to discuss the incorporation of community-monitoring into Acre's state REDD+ programme for monitoring impact and results of REDD+ related activities, and for improving the effectiveness of the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve.

Outcome 4 indicators:

4.1 Over twenty international meetings held on community-based forest monitoring, from which new partnerships and interest was generated in the forestcompass.org work;
4.2 A Web platform with the capacity to host multiple resources, case studies and tools for our users was created and within 2 weeks the platform had 580 sessions, over 25% of those in non Annex 1 countries, demonstrating that the platform is useful for Forest countries as well as donor countries.

Are the outcomes expected to be sustainable?

The sustainability of the expected outcomes on the ground are closely linked to national level decisions and strategies taken in Guyana and Brazil for incorporating and addressing indigenous participation in REDD+ activities and related environmental policy, laws and regulations. The expected revenue streams from a REDD+ mechanism (or from related climate mitigation finance through other projects and forest-related investments) will be fundamental in guaranteeing the sustainability of community monitoring systems in both case-study regions. In order to inform this process and the development of national REDD+ programmes, the project has engaged very closely with all relevant stakeholder and push for the role of community-based monitoring as a key contribution of any national REDD+ agenda, which we contributed to successfully in Guyana, as mentioned above under Outcome 2.

In the international arena, the incorporation of community monitoring within REDD+ is being discussed and will depend largely on countries reaching an agreement on REDD+ MRV and SIS.

Using evidence from our case-studies and other existing initiatives worldwide that highlight its cost-effectiveness and accuracy, we have encouraged discussion and informed the adoption of community-based monitoring in REDD+ policy and conservation activities.

2.7 **Cross cutting concerns.** Report on whether the project has contributed to

a) Reduced corruption

Supporting local and indigenous communities in monitoring their own lands and advocating for their rights and needs at higher levels, can reduce the lack of transparency and information, which currently allows corruption to persist. This community-based monitoring project has an indirect role in providing information on how village leadership is addressing these issues and can make benefit (from PES or natural resources) distribution more transparent.

Monitoring can become a tool to generate transparency in benefit-sharing, and to tackle corruption across different levels of governance. This is evidenced by the work undertaken in Acre, Brazil whereby community member reported on participation (e.g. access to payments and follow-up) from

ongoing forest-based economic incentives and programmes.

b) Gender equality

The project has focused on including all members of the community, including women. When providing employment opportunities for community data monitors and roles in the local project management team gender balance was encouraged. In Guyana, the recruitment process was run in partnership with the Village Councils to give it local credence, and female applicants were encouraged to apply. Out of the 32 community monitors more than half have been women and one of the five project management team members is female in Guyana.

In Acre, Brazil, local partners along with community management council set criteria for those who wanted to apply, including willingness to walk long distances alone to survey the forest. Such factors limited the participation of more women. Nevertheless 15 out of 40 monitors were women. The same salary was paid to all monitors in both project sites.

Community monitors have a prominent role in project outreach through data collection and in sharing results with their wider communities. This, and the skills gained through intensive training and capacity building, has empowered women at the village level. While the impacts are hard to measure, it can be argued that the project has contributed at some level to gender equality across these communities.

For further reflections please visit: http://forestcompass.org/latest/blogs/women-forest-monitoring-and-redd-why-did-forest-compass-projects-have-different-levels

c) Respect for human rights

The C-MRV model, in recognising and reinforcing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities over their lands, promotes local decision-making and provides a channel for their rights and needs to be advocated at higher levels. CMRV can also be a vital tool in addressing international concerns over safeguards for REDD+ and it can raise the profile of indigenous and local peoples' human rights and needs at national and international levels.

The transparent approach and inclusive opportunities offered across all social strata have helped promote community rights, ownership and participation.

The respect for cultural identity and local social norms does however pose contradiction with gender equality rights, which need to be balanced and accounted for. It is not as clear cut since imposing gender equality can be inappropriate and unwelcomed.

2.8 **Lessons learned**. Give a short description of lessons learned during the year in question. For final report, please summarize lessons learned for the whole agreement period.

Technical

- Communities in North Rupununi are able to collect, and train other communities to collect, information on forest change, wellbeing and resource use that is useful for both local and national stakeholders.
- Communities were able to carry out data analysis, which is usually carried out by external experts. However, some ongoing technical support is still needed in data reporting; rigorous data analysis and reporting to other stakeholders require considerable time and effort, which can become a bottleneck for achieving regular and efficient use of information.

- The use of technology in CMRV allows for more precise and rapid data gathering, analysis and sharing, and enable quick feedback to community members on monitoring progress and preliminary results.
- Offline local data management software (Smap) was instrumental in facilitating the collection of a variety of georeferenced data (e.g. text, audio and photographs).
- While using smartphone technology and the internet brought benefits (e.g. accuracy and speed), it also introduced challenges in training and data analysis, and represented significant costs. The trade-offs in using technology for community based monitoring should be further explored prior to pursuing similar initiatives.
- In sparsely populated areas like this reserve, community members should undertake monitoring close to their homes to decrease the costs and logistical challenges in accessing remote and uninhabited areas.
- Building local data management capacity and developing a data sharing protocol were important for establishing clear principles on data ownership and security.
- Data sharing protocols need to be updated and revised periodically as data sensitivities, classifications, and relevance change over time.
- The principles of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) need to be followed to guarantee that local data ownership rights are respected.

Monitoring impacts/integration

- Low social cohesion and contested resource use in the project area have presented challenges for collecting data, especially on deforestation drivers and land-use change.
- Sensitivities with monitoring, where such activities are typically associated with law enforcement, pose challenges to integration.
- Maintaining local monitoring, training and institutional capacity will require long-term funding, which REDD+ financing could help meet.
- CMRV fosters dialogue and greater participation in decision-making within local management structures.
- Community-led impact assessments and monitoring of performance indicators should be promoted, to incentivise further participation and transparent benefit-sharing in REDD+.
- There are proven pathways in integrating community collected data on carbon stocks and drivers of forest change into national forest monitoring efforts.
- Community-based forest monitoring can increase understanding of the impact and effectiveness of REDD+ related activities in priority forest areas, including ways to address socio-environmental safeguards – evidenced by the incorporation of the mode into the REDD+ safeguards system for Acre State.
- Balancing community and external information needs and priorities is essential to ensure that the monitoring system is relevant to local and government stakeholders, and that both groups are interested in the results, and ultimately to the sustainability of these monitoring initiatives.
- The absence of clear institutional mandates for assimilating locally-generated data hinder the transfer and use of data across scales.
- Standardising methodologies, by establishing minimum standards and guidelines on best practices is the best way to promote comparability and replication at scale but will require further engagement and consensus among practitioners and governments worldwide; Coordination and data sharing protocols across different scales are also needed to foster integration.
- Participatory workshops and events proved to be the most effective way of sharing information and building capacity, especially through joint events with partners, and practical hands on sessions.

3 Case/success story

3.1 Please give a short description of a positive result (at any level of the results chain) which the project has achieved the last year. The case should include a short description of the activity, a description of what was achieved and how this relates to the planned outcomes. The case may be shown on norad.no or other public Norwegian website.

The Norwegian Climate and Forest funding to civil society - Key results 2013 – 2015 published our story.

https://www.norad.no/en/toolspublications/publications/2016/the-norwegian-climate-and-forest-funding-to-civil-society---key-results-2013--2015/

4 Project's accounts for last year:

4.1 The accounts must relate to the approved budget for the year in question. All deviations (positive and/ or negative) must be clearly shown and explained.

Attachment: Audited accounts and completed form from the accountant for last year's accounts.
Only after a contract expires should unspent funds be returned to Norad.

Date – 29th September 2016

Signature 

Helen Bellfield
Director of Programmes

Attachments:
None