

Suriname EITI Annual Progress Report 2018

Foreword on EITI implementation in Suriname

Please find, the 2018 Annual Progress Report for the Suriname Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (SEITI). The report provides a snapshot of the activities of our Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) and EITI Secretariat in 2018.

I accepted the role of MSG Chair for a period of 2 years ending in December 2018. During the year we experienced delays in the execution of the work plan, caused by revisions to the original work plan, procurement issues for contracting a chairperson for the MSG and decisions on Financing.

I take this opportunity to thank the MSG representatives for their efforts to ensure ongoing implementation of the Work Plan as well as the initiation process of the first EITI report for Suriname.

Mr. drs.Dave Abeleven Chair of the Suriname EITI Multi Stakeholder Group

1. General assessment of year's performance

For the year 2018, 14 regular MSG meetings were conducted and the main agenda points were about initiate, plan and work towards the completion of the EITI report 2016.

The highlights were:

The selection and contracting of the Independent Administrator (IA) and the Communication Firm.

A special MSG session with the EITI International Secretariat (Mr. F. Paris & Ms. G. Granada)

There was a long period of absence of the national coordinator and the outflow of persons at the secretariat. This resulted in low performance of the secretariat at Bauxite Institute for 2018.

Another factor affecting the performance level was the delay in the approval and operationalization of the EGPS Grant; the designated funds only became available in August 2018. Even after that, the Secretariat was not able to hire a financial / procurement officer that year.

2. Assessment of performance against targets and activities set out in the work plan

Objective / Activities planned for 2018	Status as of December 31 st , 2018
Objective 1: Complete the required steps for EITI Candidacy by the end of 2016	Completed. Suriname achieved Candidacy status as of 24th May 2017.
No activities planned for 2018	
Objective 2: Prepare, complete and validate the EITI Reconciliation report	The IA started to work on the EITI report 2016
Conduct a series of meetings with stakeholders to discuss and determine the level of materiality	Monthly meetings were conducted with stakeholders in the MSG
Prepare, implement and monitor a roadmap for disclosure of beneficial ownership information	The roadmap was completed in October 2017. However, no activities for implementation were undertaken in 2018.
Design and implement studies and formulate recommendations on key issues	No activities
Procure technical assistance in the drafting of templates and data collection and reporting mechanisms	This was included in the ToR for the Independent Administrator (IA). These activities were completed in June 2018.
Facilitate a series of MSG meetings to discuss and approve templates and mechanisms	This was included in the ToR for the Independent Administrator (IA). These activities were completed in June 2018.
Assess and strengthen capacity of government and companies to use templates and mechanisms	This was included in the ToR for the Independent Administrator (IA). These activities were completed in June 2018.

Prepare ToR for the Independent Administrator (IA)	The ToR was finalized in November 2017
Select IA	The IA was selected and work started on the EITI report 2016
Appoint IA	IA was contracted in June 2018
Objective 3: Share information about SEITI implementation in a timely and easily accessible manner with various stakeholders groups.	Work started on the EITI report 2016, information sharing on EITI implementation was limited to the MSG
Contracting of consultant / communications specialist to design a communications and outreach strategy	Contract signed in August 2018. The communications firm did not deliver the communications & outreach strategy in 2018.
The Ministry of Natural Resources will include a new, separate section in its website, where all initial documents are available	This was included in the TOR of the communication specialist. The website was only launched in May 2019.
Conduct workshops and training sessions for media workers on SEITI implementation and other issues	Was included in the TOR of the communication specialist; these activities were not implemented in 2018.
Objective 4: Realize conditions for sustainable EITI implementation	Initiation of a world bank loan including EITI implementation
Review legal and regulatory framework to identify potential obstacles to SEITI implementation and draft recommendations for new / amended policy, laws and regulations	As part of the Initiation phase of the World Bank loan a legal and institutional quick scan was done. This concluded to revise relevant legislation and regulations and the establish a Minerals Institute for Suriname.
Draft, discuss, and finalize elaborated recommendations to Min NR	No activities
Draft and submit proposal to the World Bank and/or EITI Multi-Donor Trust Fund	The grant agreement was signed in December 2017 and became operational in August 2018.
Draft and submit financing proposals to other potential funding partners (IADB, UNDP, DFID)	- No activities. However, the Ministry of Natural Resources represented by the National coordinator, Champion of EITI and chair of the MSG included support of EITI in the intuition process of a loan agreement in 2018.
Define and approve roles and responsibilities SEITI Secretariat (Head and staff)	TOR for the secretariat was completed in 2017 - BIS-personnel divided some tasks between themselves, none of the positions were filled in formally.
Capacity assessment of SEITI Secretariat	Completed in 2017 as it relates to the financial and administrative capacity of BIS as the PIU for the EGPS Grant; no activities planned in 2018.

Formally appoint after MSG approval the SEITI Secretariat head and staff	BIS-personnel that functioned as the Secretariat had a provisional division of tasks amongst themselves, but at the end of December 2018 the outflow of personal was high as many persons left for another job. There was no process of recruitment, MSG selection & hiring of head or staff.
Capacity building SEITI Secretariat to effectively support the MSG and SEITI implementation process	No activities
Procure equipment and facilities	Procurement of equipment was conducted (office equipment).
Manage and operate the SEITI Secretariat	BIS-personnel that functioned as the Secretariat had a provisional division of tasks amongst themselves, but at the end of December 2018 the outflow of personal was high as many persons left for another job. There was no process of recruitment, MSG selection & hiring of head or staff.
Recruit and support Chair for the MSG	There was a recruitment and selection process for an external chair, but this process failed to result in a unanimous MSG-decision on the selection of a candidate. After long deliberations among MSG members it was decided to: keep the role of the chair within the group; apply a rotation mechanism starting with MNR as the chair, with the condition that the staffing and strengthening of the Secretariat would receive full priority. The term of the chair is set for a maximum of 4-4.5 years, considering the term of a government in office.

3. Assessment of performance against EITI requirements

Requirements	Progress
EITI requires effective oversight by the multi-stakeholder group.	MSG conducted regular meetings, approximately every two weeks. Most decisions were taken unanimously.
EITI requires timely publication of EITI Report	Suriname made a request for extension of the deadline for publishing its first report. This request was not granted. As a result, Suriname was suspended for not publishing the first EITI report on the deadline of 24 November 2018. Thereafter, a new deadline was provided to Suriname to publish its report.
The EITI requires EITI Reports that include contextual information about extractive industries	Not applicable for 2018. This information is included in the work on the EITI report 2016, published in May 2019.

The EITI requires the production of comprehensive EITI Reports that include full government disclosure of extractive industry revenues and disclosure of all material payments to government by oil, gas and mining companies.	Not applicable for 2018. This information is included in the work on the EITI report 2016, published in May 2019.
The EITI requires a credible assurance process applying international standards.	Not applicable for 2018. This information is included in the work on the EITI report 2016, published in May 2019. BDO applied rigorous standards of assurance.
The EITI requires Reports that are comprehensible, activity promoted, publicly accessible, and contribute to public debate.	Not applicable for 2018. The 2016 report is publicly accessible through the EITI-website since May 2019. There are improvements to be made regarding comprehensibility. The active promotion and public debate is planned for 2019.
The EITI requires the multi-stakeholder group to take steps to act on the lessons learnt and to review the outcomes and impact of EITI implementation.	Not applicable for 2018; planned for 2019.

4. Overview of the multi-stakeholder group's responses to the recommendations from reconciliation and Validation, if applicable

Not applicable for Suriname (no reconciliation or validation as yet)

5. Any specific strengths or weaknesses identified in the EITI process

There was a long period of absence of the national coordinator and the outflow of persons at the secretariat in 2018. This resulted in low performance of the secretariat at the Bauxite Institute for 2018. As was the case in 2017, the MSG undertook numerous tasks of the Secretariat, in the form of sub-groups. The failure to reach an agreement to hire an external Chair had a negative impact on the Capacity of the MSG to implement even these tasks, let alone to expand on them and start new processes other than the contracting of the IA.

Another factor affecting the performance level was the delay in the approval and operationalization of the EGPS Grant; the designated funds only became available in August 2018. Even after that, the Secretariat was not able to hire a financial / procurement officer that year.

6. Implementation of beneficial ownership disclosure plans

Reporting on BO from reporting companies was requested for the EITI 2016 report on a voluntary basis. The Beneficial Ownership roadmap was completed in October 2017, but no further steps were taken.

7. Total costs of implementation

The multi-stakeholder group may wish to include information about costs of implementation. This could include a comparison of outturn costs with the work plan costs, broken down by contributor and budget lines. It could also include information about the number of staff in the national secretariat.

Finance

In August 2018, part of the grant (USD 142,100) was received. For the year 2018 USD 7000 was paid to BDO (Independent Administrator) and an amount of USD 4000 was spent on the Operational cost of the SEITI Secretariat.

In-kind: The government of Suriname makes an in-kind contribution in form of providing a building, utilities and staff.

Allowance MSG

As of December 2016, the MSG has been installed for 2 years.

The Chairman is entitled to receive a monthly allowance of SRD 1250,- and all other 17 members are entitled to receive a monthly allowance of SRD 1000,-. Due to the company policy of 3 members, they have requested not to receive the monthly allowance.

Staffing SEITI Secretariat

In 2018, 4 persons employed by the Bauxite Institute of Suriname (BIS) were responsible for the duties of the Secretariat:

- Mrs. R. Vaseur- Madhoeban (Coordinator)
- Mrs. N. Accord-Liu (Communication Officer)
- Mr. F. Bondhla (Financial Officer)
- Ms. V. Sabajo (Technical Officer)

As of August 2017, Mrs. Vaseur was on sick leave but came back in Office May 2018 but due to illness could not take her task fully. As of May 2018, Mrs. N. Accord- Liu left BIS and was no longer part of the Secretariat and the position of Communication officer is vacant.

8. Any additional comments

none

9. Has this activity report been discussed beyond the MSG?

While the MSG has involved stakeholders in various ways during 2018, this annual report itself has not been widely discussed as it entails the first year of preparing for EITI implementation in Suriname. We will set out the communications strategy and increase engagement in 2019.

10. Details of membership of the MSG during the period

Attendance 2018

There have been 14 regular SEITI meetings for 2018 and 3 special sessions, 1 special sessions with the EITI International Secretariat (Mr. F. Paris & Ms. G. Granado), 1 session with the Independent Administrator (IA) and 1 session with the Communication Firm

In total 17 meetings (regular EITI meeting and special sessions)

Special sessions:

- Special Session with the Independent Administrator (IA): 28 March 2018
- Special Session with the Communication Firm: 14 Juni 2018
- Special Session with the International EITI Secretariat: 5 & 6 July 2018

Attendance Regular EITI meetings including Special Sessions

Government

Dave Abeleven (Ministry of Natural Resources) 15/17

Valerie Lalji (Ministry of Natural Resources) 5/17

Joy ten Berge (Ministry of Finance) 6/17

Joan Veldhuizen (Ministry of Finance) 3/17

Henk Deel (Ministry of Regional Development) 13/17

Aroen Jadoenathmisier (Ministry of Trade and Industry) 4/17

Civil Society

Rayah Bhattacharji (Stichting Projekta) 12/17

Monique Essed-Fernandes (Stichting Projekta) 5/17 (absent for some months due to illness)

Rene Artist (VIDS) 13/17

Erna Aviankoi (VSG & 12 Lo's) 2/17

Roy Caupain (SWOS) 8/17

Lisa Best (Tropenbos Suriname) 7/17

Companies

Vandana Gangaram Panday (VG) 6/17

Tom Fauria (TF) 7/17

Sharmila Jadnanansing (SJ) 8/17

Albert Ramdin (AR) 2/17

Tedy Jbara (TJ) 15/17

Michael Naarendorp 10/17

Approved by MSG:

Date: 17 February 2020
