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MULTILATERAL INVESTMENT FUND IDB LAB

GUYANA

**SECURING THE FUTURE OF THE BARIMA MORA PASSAGE MANGROVE
ECOSYSTEMS AND ITS PEOPLES**

(GY-T1181)

DONORS MEMORANDUM

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PROJECT SUMMARY

GUYANA

SECURING THE FUTURE OF THE BARIMA MORA PASSAGE MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM AND ITS PEOPLES

GY-T1181

The Barima Mora passage is located on Guyana's Region 1 coastline, close to the Venezuelan border, and hosts the country's most intact and mature mangrove ecosystem. This ecosystem provides a unique habitat for a range of flora, fish and fauna including endangered species and six species [red listed](#) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and comprises mud flats, coastal mangroves, sea, and fresh water. The Barima Mora Passage sequesters substantial amounts of greenhouse emissions, and provides sustainable ecosystem services such as sea defense, which are estimated at a value of US \$8 billion, as well as other unexplored livelihood benefits, with an estimated value of US \$120 million.

The Barima Mora Passage ecosystem is a remote location, accessible by boat or light airplane and is inhabited by the Warrau peoples, including inflows of Warrau migrants from Venezuela, which has increased the local population of this area from 1,100 to 2,000. Given the isolation of these communities and lack of easy access to more urbanized areas, opportunities for education and formal jobs are extremely limited and poverty rates are high. Over the years, due in part to increased population, low awareness of the ecosystem's value and lack of access to sustainable livelihoods, the Barima Mora Passage region has been impacted by the local communities increased engagement in unsustainable practices in clearing of land for additional housing and subsistence agriculture, increased hunting, and fishing. The ecosystem has also been affected by extreme weather associated with climate change, and faces external risks associated with Guyana's accelerating marine based oil production, as well as the absence of a regional land management plan which can result in clearing of adjacent lands for development of shore bases and commercial agriculture.

To address these challenges and to catalyze more sustainable opportunities and conservation of the Barima Mora Passage ecosystem, the solution presented by this project comprises three key interlocking elements to implement community led engagement and active involvement in conservation and protection. In this regard, the first element of the project will be a long-term program to sensitize and train community members on the value of the ecosystem, current and potential risks, as well as sustainable practices and actions required to catalyze community led and managed conservation and sustainable management. The second element of the model will deliver training, technical and financial support for local communities to engage in sustainable livelihoods that support conservation, including: technology driven surveillance and data gathering on ecosystem health; technical and hospitality services to support and develop nascent research tourism in the area, honey production and small-scale manufacture and sale of branded products derived from honey. The third element of the model will focus on the collaborative development and roll out of ecosystem monitoring and surveillance systems that will provide a basis for longer term plans to secure global recognition and formal protected area status, for preservation and protection of the Barima Mora Passage and its valuable ecosystems. The project can be categorized as innovative in the context of Guyana, as the intervention is focused on direct engagement, involvement, and empowerment of local indigenous communities, to secure and lead sustainable management and custodianship of one of Guyana's most valuable natural capital assets, securing a future for generations of Warrau peoples in the future.

The key targeted outcomes include: (i) establishment of an ecosystem co-management program directly involving local communities, (ii) development of a plan to advance formal protection and recognition of the Barima Mora Passage; (iii) engagement of at least 200 persons in new green livelihoods; and (iv) engagement of 2,000 community members in project activities, of which 80% will be indigenous people, 75% will be female and 70% will be youth. The project is framed within the IDB Group's current Country Strategy with the Cooperative Republic of Guyana 2017-2021¹, specifically in the cross-cutting areas of Climate Change and Gender and is directly aligned with the Government of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030.

¹ The IDB Group Country Strategy with the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (Country Strategy) covering the period from 2022 onwards has not yet been approved, approval by the Board of Directors is planned for September 12, 2022. The Country Strategy 2017-2021 is within the transition period until November 2022 (according to the guidelines) since it was approved in November 2017.

ANNEXES

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Draft Resolution

AVAILABLE IN THE TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS SECTION OF MIF PROJECT INFORMATION SYSTEM

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CCB	Caribbean Country Department
CGY	Country Office Guyana
CI	Conservation International
DICI	Assessment of Integrity and Institutional Capacity
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FFI	Fauna and Flora International
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GFC	Guyana Forestry Commission
GMCS	Guyana Marine Conservation Society
GMTCS	Guyana Marine Turtle Conservation Society
GPS	Global Positioning System
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDB Lab	Multilateral Investment Fund
IDBG/IDB Group	Inter-American Development Bank Group
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System for Greenhouse Gas Emissions
NAREI	National Agricultural Research Extension Institute
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PSR	Project Status Reporting System
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SRCS	South Rupununi Conservation Society
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

PROJECT INFORMATION
GUYANA
SECURING THE FUTURE OF THE BARIMA MORA PASSAGE MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM AND ITS PEOPLES

(GY-T1181)

Country and Geographic Location:	Guyana, Region 1, Barima Mora Passage		
Executing Agency:	Guyana Marine Conservation Society (GMCS)		
Focus Area:	Agriculture and Natural Capital and Climate Crisis		
Coordination with Other Donors/Bank Operations:	Supplemental project financing is being sought from the Amazon Initiative which if approved will increase the project budget.		
Project Beneficiaries:	The project will deliver benefits to an estimated 2,000 members of 4 targeted communities within the Barima Mora Passage, of which 80% will be indigenous people, 75% will be female and 70% will be youth.		
Financing:	Technical Cooperation:	US\$ 1,400,000	45.28%
	TOTAL IDB Lab FUNDING:	US\$ 1,400,000	45.28%
	Counterpart:	US\$ 1,692,000	54.72%
	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:	US\$ 3,092,000	100%
Execution and Disbursement Period:	48 months of execution and 52 months of disbursement.		
Special Contractual Conditions:	Special conditions precedent to first disbursement will be: (i) Formation and Convening of a multi stakeholder Project Steering Committee and (ii) MOUs signed between the Executing Agency and key project partners, Conservation International Guyana, the University of Florida, the South Rupununi Conservation Society and Iwokrama, outlining support to be provided for project implementation		
Environmental and Social Impact Review	This operation was screened and classified as required by the IDB's safeguard policy (OP-703) on September 9, 2021. Given that the project is expected to generate minimal environmental and social impacts, the proposed category for the project is C		
Unit responsible for disbursements	CCB/CGY		

I. The Problem

A. Problem Description

- 1.1 “Mangrove habitats globally are considered a natural sea defense for coastal zones and provide a multitude of ecosystem services to society. The challenge is in alleviating the potential climate and man-made threats to mangroves to maintain the stock of ecosystem services they provide.”² The Barima Mora Passage located on Guyana’s Region 1 coastline, close to the Venezuelan border hosts the most intact and mature mangrove eco system in the country. This area is a truly unique habitat for a range of flora, fish and fauna, it includes mud flats, coastal mangroves, sea and fresh water, and hosts communities of indigenous Warrau peoples, as well as endangered species and six species [red listed](#) by the International Union for Conservation of Nature ([IUCN](#))³. Additionally, this mangrove system provides important hydrology and sea defense capabilities, the latter being of particular importance as Guyana’s coast lies at 1.4 meters below mean high tide level of the Atlantic Ocean and, as such, is vulnerable to flooding from the ocean and precipitation, erosion, and salinization. This vulnerability becomes more evident with the rising effects of climate change, storms, and more torrential downpours as well as the extreme flooding that Guyana has experienced in recent years.
- 1.2 This ecosystem also sequesters substantial amounts of greenhouse emissions, provides sustainable ecosystem services and other unexplored livelihood benefits for present and future generations. A recent rapid biodiversity assessment has reaffirmed its importance to be declared as a Special Mangrove Protected Area and His Excellency President Ali has committed to supporting its candidacy for UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere World Heritage designation. The economic valuation of this natural capital asset, which was assessed using a rapid methodology in 2020, can be categorized as use values, which are the values of services directly needed to earn a livelihood (such as fishing, agriculture, hunting and ecotourism), and nonuse values which are services that indirectly affect the welfare of society (such as coastal defense, carbon sequestration, water filtration and wildlife habitats)⁴. Using this methodology, **the non-use value of the Barima Mora passage has been estimated at US \$8 billion with potential use values estimated at US 120 million**⁵.
- 1.3 Guyana, over the past few years due to the discovery of vast oil assets, is at an important transition or inflexion point in its development trajectory, and is required to manage the dynamic tension between the need for expanding infrastructure, particularly on its coastline to service offshore (marine) oil production, and its commitment to an expanded [Low Carbon Development Strategy](#) which will include biodiversity, watersheds, and the blue economy. These dynamic tensions in

² Mangrove Forest Reserves of Guyana – the Barima Mora Passage and West Berbice Mangrove System – Economic Assessment Report January 2020 - Stephen Moonsammy

³ The IUNC is the world’s most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of biological species.

⁴ Mangrove Forest Reserves of Guyana – the Barima Mora Passage and West Berbice Mangrove System – Economic Assessment Report January 2020 - Stephen Moonsammy

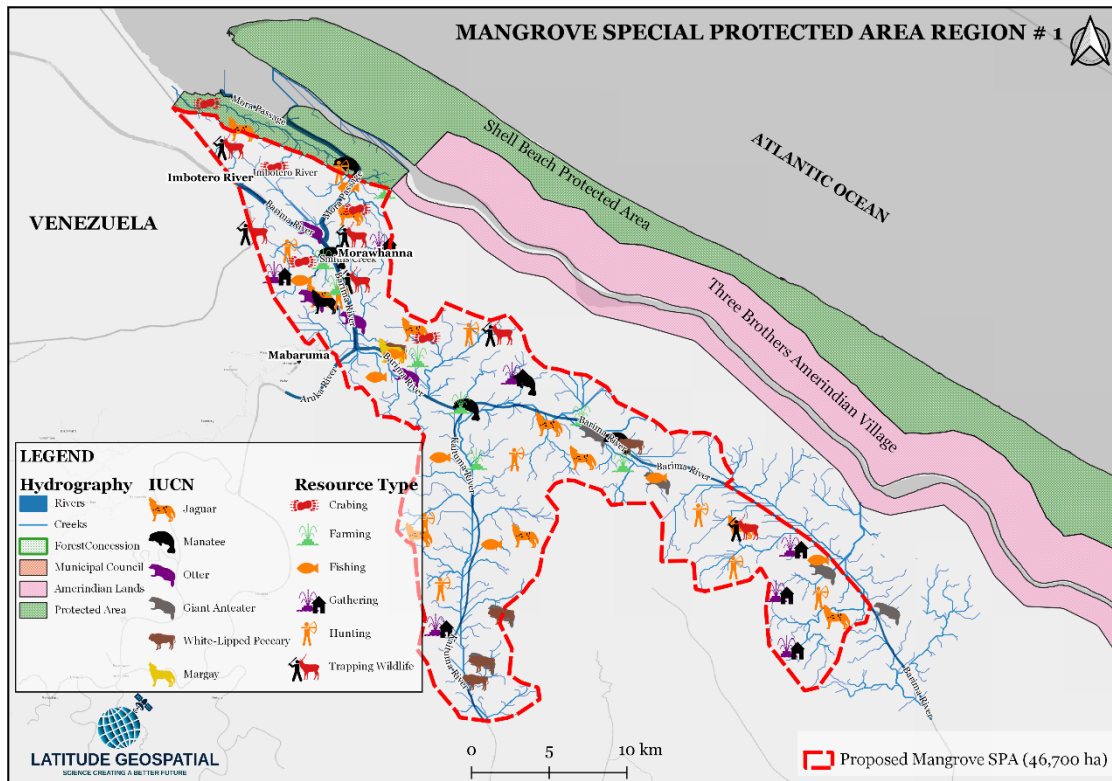
⁵ Ibid

coastal areas are exacerbated as Guyana lies below sea level and coastal communities, key infrastructure, property, and livelihoods such as farming, are threatened by sea level rise and other related climate risks, risks that the coastal mangrove ecosystems play a critical role in mitigating.

- 1.4 The Barima Mora Passage in Region 1 of Guyana is an area where mangroves are at risk due to a range of natural, human and industrial factors – (i) natural extreme climate events including sea level rise; (ii) unplanned/ ad hoc clearing of mangroves by Warrau and other Venezuelan migrants for settlements and food security; (iii) direct loss of mangrove habitat as a result of land development for housing, tourism and urban development, agriculture and infrastructure development; (iv) unsustainable resource extraction by residents in the face of economic hardship exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; (v) potential threat of contamination by oil spills from extensive offshore hydrocarbon production in the adjacent Atlantic Ocean and mercury from artisanal gold mining in the Kaituma River; and (vi) lack of either a regional development or land use plan and (vii) difficulty of local surveillance due to logistics challenges and lack of presence of responsible agencies. These real time and potential developments pose additional challenges for conservation of the Barima Mora passage ecosystem.⁶
- 1.5 Along with the title of being the only country in Latin America and Caribbean to project positive growth for 2021 due to the [emerging oil and gas sector](#)⁷, Guyana's energy production is also poised to transition Guyana from a carbon sink to a carbon emitter. Therefore, Guyana has a particular challenge, to maintain a balance between conservation and development, given its accelerating trajectory in energy exploration and production. Although, the Government of Guyana wishes to reassert world leadership in conservation, low carbon development strategy and green growth, the reality of balancing energy economy with sustainable natural capital management and reaching the country's goal of net zero emissions, where its carbon sinks offset the emissions generated by oil production, presents a complex challenge that requires an innovative approach combining executive leadership, engagement of key stakeholders, financial contribution and action by both public and private sector, as well as the active involvement of communities that live in or in close proximity to high value ecosystems.
- 1.6 The map below (Figure 1) and this link to a short locally produced video [Barima Mora Passage video](#) provide a direct visual of Barima Mora Passage and the challenges facing this valuable ecosystem.

⁶ By way of example, a recent visit by the Guyana Marine Conservation Society revealed clearance of approx. 60 acres of mangrove for rice cultivation.

⁷ Guyana's reserves are currently estimated 9 billion barrels second only to Venezuela in Latin America and the Caribbean see <https://oilnow.gy/featured/worlds-largest-oil-reserves-by-country/>



- 1.7 The Barima Mora Passage presents a unique opportunity to support the sustainability of Guyana's natural capital assets, including its blue carbon resources. In recent times, activities, and practices of the indigenous communities as well as actors operating in adjacent areas have exerted pressure on the environment and species that are hosted in this habitat. Inbound migration by Warrau people from neighboring Venezuela has resulted in increased clearing of land for shelter and subsistence farming and has also contributed to increased trapping of wildlife. Also, for Guyanese Warrau peoples, the need to generate livelihoods in the absence of sustainable opportunities has also increased incursion and negative effects on the ecosystem. At the same time, privately held adjacent lands are under threat of clearing to install shore bases as well as large scale agriculture for export, all of which pose significant risks to sustainability of this valuable asset.
- 1.8 The Barima Mora Passage is home to Guyana's Warrau peoples who first settled in this region over eleven thousand years ago. Today the stakeholder communities are comprised of Morawhanna, Smiths Creek, Arouca Mouth and Imbotero which have a combined population of 1,157 persons. However, the increasing number of migrants from neighboring Venezuela in recent years have increased the local population over 2,000 persons.
- 1.9 The principal livelihood opportunities within the Barima Mora Passage are fishing, crab catching, subsistence farming and harvesting of non-timber forest products

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such as medicinal bush honey, crabwood seeds and heart of palm. Handicraft production includes items such as baskets, handbags and tibisiri hammocks which are primarily used by the Warraus. While men and boys may find seasonal work in crab catching, fishing, goldmining and forestry, the young girls and women in local communities have no such opportunities and represent the most impoverished and vulnerable segment of the local population.

- 1.10 Given the isolation of these communities and lack of easy access to more urbanized areas, access to education and job opportunities are extremely limited and poverty rates are high, despite Guyana's significant growth in GDP fueled by revenues from the energy sector⁸. The national poverty rate reported in 2017 was 41.2% and over 50% in rural areas.⁹ According to the Global Data Lab 2012 report, 84% of households in Guyana's region 1 are categorized as poor, with only 28.5% of women in the region engaged in paid employment. Although this information is dated, the trends appear to hold as the Guyana Labor Force Survey Bulletin for the first quarter of 2021 estimates youth unemployment in rural areas at 30.89% with the unemployment rate for women in rural areas at 41.9%. Additionally, the percentage of youth aged 15-24 in rural areas categorized as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) is reported as 38.74% with the NEET rate for women in this age bracket reported at 45.63%. This data demonstrates a trend of high levels of poverty and unemployment in rural communities of Guyana, with women and youth disproportionately affected. The situation is exacerbated in small, isolated communities such as those communities located within the Barima Mora Passage.
- 1.11 Additionally, communities in the Barima Mora Passage given the isolated location lack reliable access to telecommunications and internet access. To arrive at this location from nearby or further townships requires transportation by boat or light aircraft which are expensive, so that communities have had to be self-reliant in terms of food production, housing and engage primarily in subsistence level livelihoods to generate financial resources for goods and services needed to sustain households. Given the limited local opportunities for youth, there is a trend of migration particularly of young men outside of traditional communities to seek employment and higher education. Options for women and girls that remain in the communities are limited to subsistence agriculture for food.
- 1.12 The proposed intervention recognizes that community engagement and involvement in building awareness of the need for conservation and environmental protection as well as creating and supporting sustainable livelihood opportunities, particularly for women and girls in the communities within the Barima Mora Passage, is critical to management and conservation of the important ecosystem that they call home.

⁸ In 2020 Guyana's GDP growth was 43.5%, estimated growth for 2021 was 19.9% based on World Bank data (Macro Poverty Outlook for Guyana: April 2022 Data Sheet)

⁹ The Borgen Project: 5 Facts about poverty in Guyana; September 2020

II. The Innovation Proposal

A. Project Description

- 2.1 The objective of this project is to support the sustainable management of the Barima Mora Passage through a community support model to safeguard and protect mangrove ecosystems within this region and surrounding areas in Guyana's Region 1, through community engagement in awareness, and delivery of training and support for transitioning to sustainable green livelihood practices and conservation of the mangrove forest. The project focuses on building enabling conditions for indigenous communities to govern and sustain the resilience of the ecosystem services in the Barima-Mora Passage mangrove wetlands and peatlands, in collaboration with public and private agencies responsible for their protection. The project aims to empower indigenous communities to sustain natural capital resources, by playing a primary role in their management, and to improve access to sustainable livelihoods from ecosystem services.
- 2.2 The proposed solution will deliver benefits to an estimated 2,000 beneficiaries within the targeted communities, of which 80% will be indigenous people, 75% will be female and 70% will be youth. In addition, given the Barima Mora Passage's proximity to and access from Warrau settlements in neighboring Venezuela, the project will also deliver benefits to migrant populations in the area. Over two thousand beneficiaries will be empowered to conserve, manage, and sustain the resilience of these critical ecosystems which are essential for their survival. Whilst the primary beneficiaries will be the local Warrau communities and will comprise 70% of total beneficiaries, secondary beneficiaries of 30% will be comprised of Warrau migrants from Venezuela who are seeking refuge in the region.
- 2.3 The intervention model addresses three key interlocking elements to implement community engagement and active involvement in conservation of Guyana's Barima Mora Passage ecosystem. The first element of the project will be to implement a long-term program to sensitize and train community members on the value of the ecosystem in terms of the suite of services delivered, the risks and threats both current and future, and strategies and action required to embark on community led and managed conservation and sustainable management. As the area is very remote and the communities use indigenous languages, this element of the program will focus on localized delivery respecting cultural norms and emphasizing inclusion. The idea is to inspire and support local environmental action by the communities within the ecosystem. The second element of the model is to provide training, technical and where needed, financial support for local communities, and particularly women and girls to engage in sustainable livelihoods that support conservation, including: technology driven surveillance and data gathering on ecosystem health that can be purchased by responsible public agencies that have no presence in the area, launch of services including technical and hospitality services to support and develop nascent research tourism in the area, honey production, small scale manufacture and sale of branded products derived from honey. The third element of the model will focus on the collaborative development and roll out of ecosystem monitoring and surveillance systems that will provide a basis for longer term plans to secure global recognition and formal

protected area status for preservation and protection of the Barima Mora Passage and its valuable ecosystems.

- 2.4 **Innovation.** The project can be categorized as innovative in the context of Guyana as the intervention is focused on direct engagement, involvement and empowerment of local indigenous communities, and particularly women and girls, to secure and lead sustainable management and custodianship of one of Guyana's most pristine and valuable natural capital assets, the Barima Mora Passage ecosystem, securing a future for generations of Warrau peoples in the future, and supporting a new generation of environmental activists.
- 2.5 **Component I: Community and Stakeholder Sensitization and Engagement (Total: US\$501,600, IDB Lab: US\$501,600)** The objective of this component is to initiate sensitization and the engagement of community members in the Barima Mora Passage, as well as other key stakeholders in Guyana and in the international community, on the value of the Barima Mora ecosystem and in sustainable practices that will conserve the ecosystem services and natural capital assets of this region for future generations.
- 2.6 To achieve this objective, the project will fund the following activities to be implemented by the Executing Agency: development of a range of communication materials including materials in local language(s) and execution of on site, in person activities within the Barima Mora Passage throughout the duration of the project to sensitize communities and build awareness and engagement in sustainable practices for conservation of the mangrove ecosystem within the Barima Mora Passage and surrounding areas. The education/sensitization campaign outcome will focus on youths as well as hunters, fishers and other persons involved in subsistence livelihood activities within the ecosystem on how their actions can support sustainability of the Barima Mora ecosystem to protect lives, property, and livelihoods for current and future generations. Additionally, the Executing Agency will engage the local, regional, and international stakeholder organizations through a range of communication and knowledge sharing forums, to create advocacy and build awareness of, and further support for the importance of the mangrove and broader ecosystem conservation. This component will also focus on empowering youths within the targeted area by creating a Youth Environmental Local Content Brigade which will support development of the next generation of conservationists, advocates and environmental scientists originating from the region.
- 2.7 The key results of this component will include: (i) development and roll out of a communication strategy; (ii) development of multimedia communication tools; (iii) roll out at least 98 sensitization campaigns at the community level over the life of the project; (iv) conduct of at least 7 forums to engage active support of local, regional, and international organizations in the conservation of the Barima Mora Passage; and (v) establishment of a youth environmental local content brigade.
- 2.8 **Component II: Training and Support for Green Enterprise Development and Green Jobs (Total: US\$852,600, IDB Lab: US\$512,600, Counterpart: \$340,000)** The objective of this component is to connect persons in the Barima Mora Passage, and particularly women and girls, with skills development as well as the resources to facilitate their transition from subsistence or no livelihood

activities, to sustainable and green entrepreneurship and jobs that are directly connected to conservation and sustainable management of the mangrove ecosystem. During the design workshop sessions for the Barima Mora project, it was established that the central problems faced by residents and communities of the Barima Mora Passage are the “lack of economic opportunities for local indigenous communities, coupled with a dynamic tension between unplanned land development resulting in degradation of the local ecosystem.” The causes of these problems stem from a range of factors such as: remoteness of the area, lack of education opportunities especially for youths, lack of local conservation support from government, economic pressure from the influx of migrants from Venezuela, unsustainable and illegal hunting practice. To address these problems, activities set out in component 2 are designed to create greater awareness of sustainable alternatives, whilst providing training and support to enable alternative livelihoods from the abundant natural resources and economic empowerment of the stakeholder communities.

- 2.9 The key areas that this component will initially focus on are as follows: (i) honey production and small scale manufacture of derived products as the mangroves are a natural habitat for bees and the Executing Agency has local experience and branding for development of microenterprises in this area that can be leveraged; (ii) hospitality and technical services for research tourism in the Barima Mora Passage, leveraging existing partnerships and interest by foreign universities in field research in subjects such as ethnography, biodiversity and climate change; and (iii) surveillance and monitoring of ecosystem health utilizing drone technology in partnership with public and private agencies.
- 2.10 This component will also support the development of a research tourism plan for the community of Imbotero. The South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS) will provide capacity building in the field of camera trapping for the youths in Region 1 and will also supervise the setting up of the cameras in the Barima Mora Passage and the retrieval of data. The University of Florida which has collaborated in an earlier camera trapping initiative, has also committed to incorporate a study abroad program into their curriculum in 2023. Such collaboration will promote the Barima Mora Passage as an ideal research tourism destination and will open economic opportunities for residents who will provide necessary services such as transportation, accommodation, meals, local guides, and rental of canoes.
- 2.11 This component will also support development of basic accommodation and community connectivity to accommodate research tourism. Capacity building and provision of enabling infrastructure to develop green livelihoods, research tourism, and bee keeping can change the prospects for Warrau youths and women in particular, bridging the gap of economic opportunities whilst improving standard of living. In addition, the Executing Agency in collaboration with Iwokrama, the country's most established and globally recognized research station, will provide support and training for use of drone technology for mangrove ecosystem surveillance and data collection and analysis. Young women who are the most vulnerable and impoverished group, will be targeted for the marrying of traditional knowledge with technology such as drones which will enable them to monetize the data which will be collected, and will support building of co management relationships between the local communities and the relevant agencies such as the Guyana Forestry Commission, the National Agricultural Research and

Extension Institute, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Civil Defense Commission, which rely heavily on real time information for monitoring and decision making but which have no local presence within the Barima Mora Passage.

- 2.12 The key results of this component will include: (i) development and implementation of a research tourism plan; (ii) upgrades of basic research tourism accommodation; (iii) training and livelihood support in hospitality and research tourism; (iv) training and livelihood support in bee keeping, honey and associated product development; (v) implementation of a training and livelihood support programme in ecosystem surveillance and monitoring; (vi) 30 percent of participating trainees engage in green livelihood activities; (vii) roll out of a system to measure income generation from supported livelihood training at the community level; and (viii) 70 percent of trainees identified as women and or youth.
- 2.13 **Component III: Development of ecosystem management and monitoring systems (Total: US\$932,000 IDB Lab: US\$107,000, Counterpart: US \$825,000)**
The objective of this component is to develop and catalyze a plan for sustaining and scaling up conservation and management of the Barima Mora Passage ecosystem, which involves direct participation of communities in collaboration with relevant local and international agencies, civil society organizations and donors. The development of an ecosystem management and monitoring mechanism under this component covers a broad range of activities to better understand the potential of the untapped economic activities that can be generated from the Barima Mora Passage and surrounding communities.
- 2.14 This component activities to be implemented by the Executing Agency will include conducting a baseline study of the wetland and peatland ecosystems in the area. In a time of existential climate crises, the Barima Mangrove ecosystem is an important blue carbon sink and provides valuable ecosystem services such as purification of air and water, coastland defense system, pollination and important for biodiversity. Initially valued at US\$8 billion¹⁰, there is an exciting opportunity to develop a financial and governance framework for a blue carbon compensation mechanism, targeting regional and international corporates, which can finance community level activities in eco services conservation, monitoring, and sustainable management of the ecosystem at the community level. In addition, a plan to secure Protected Area status and recognition of the Barima Mora Passage will be developed.
- 2.15 The expected results of this component will include: (i) establishment of a blue carbon baseline for the Barima Mora Passage; (ii) designing and piloting an MRV system in the area; (iii) development a sustainable financial management system for blue carbon/ natural capital inflows; (iv) development of community co-management plan for the ecosystem; and (v) and capacity building program to manage and invest inflows of carbon credit and other funding from public and private, national, and international organizations.

¹⁰ Mangrove Forest Reserves of Guyana – the Barima Mora Passage and West Berbice Mangrove System – Economic Assessment Report January 2020 - Stephen Moonsammy

B. Project Results, Measurement, Monitoring and Evaluation

- 2.16 The key outcomes targeted for this project are as follows: (i) establishment of an ecosystem co-management program directly involving local communities is implemented covering 47,000 hectares within the Barima Mora Passage; (ii) development of plan to advance formal protection and recognition of the Barima Mora Passage which is presented to key stakeholders; (iii) At least 10% of the local population are engaged in new green livelihoods; (iv) 2,000 members of the targeted communities are engaged¹¹ in project activities, of which 80% are indigenous people, 75% are female and 70% are youth.
- 2.17 In accordance with IDB Lab requirements, the Executing Agency will periodically track and collate data on progress against the specific results, as outlined in the project's results matrix, and will report on project results every six months via the IDB Lab's Project Status Reporting (PSR) system. The Executing Agency will also complete a final Project Status Report on conclusion of the project. Sources of information/ data required to conduct these monitoring activities are defined in the project's result matrix. Monitoring will be conducted in timely manner and will be used to determine if the project is on track to meet its development objectives, or whether corrective action is needed at any point during execution. Costs associated with monitoring the project are covered within the project budget.
- 2.18 The project will also be subject to a final evaluation, which will be conducted by an independent consultant contracted by the Executing Agency, upon completion of the project execution period. The objectives of this evaluation will be to: (i) assess the results of the intervention; (ii) identify areas for strengthening; and (iii) provide value added input for the plan to strengthen, sustain and scale this model in Guyana. This evaluation will rely on, but will not be limited to, information and data collected in the PSRs. Any additional data needed to complete the evaluation will be defined ex-ante. The evaluation will also contribute to IDB Lab's knowledge on community driven climate change and natural capital management, as well as generating relevant knowledge for scaling and/or replication.

III. Alignment with IDB Group, Scalability, and Risks

A. Alignment with IDB Group

- 3.1 The project is consistent with the IDBG's Second Update to the Institutional Strategy (AB-3190-2), and is strategically aligned with the cross-cutting issue of climate change and environmental sustainability, as well as the promotion of gender equality, inclusion, and diversity, by piloting an innovative model to change behaviors and catalyze community led sustainable management and conservation

¹¹ In this context, the engagement of 2,000 beneficiaries refers to participants in awareness building and sustainable practices to conserve and protect the ecosystem, participants in new green jobs and livelihood training, participants engaging in new green jobs and livelihoods as well as participants benefitting from implementation of local co-management plans for sustainability of the Barima Mora Passage and its ecosystems.

of a critical ecosystem within the Amazon region, preserving and leveraging its value for future generations,

- 3.2 This project is aligned with the Inter-American Development Bank Group (IDB Group) Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025 (Action Plan). Actions in the project constitute a step forward by the IDB Group in supporting countries to establish effective policies for climate action and promoting policies that provide incentives for green innovation and sustainable investments and aim to achieve multiplier. The project is expected to support stakeholders in the Barima Mora Passage to mitigate climate change by increasing climate sinks, especially those from wetlands (which is aligned with the Action Plan building block: Mitigation and Temperature Goals); and will support communities in adapting to and enhancing resilience to climate change, especially via transition to sustainable livelihoods and practices, (which is aligned with the Action Plan building block: Adaptation and Climate Resilience).
- 3.3 The project is also aligned with the IDB Group's Critical Results Framework 2020-2023 in the following areas: Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability indicators 1.12 (CO₂ emissions from fuel combustion), 1.13 (forest area as a proportion of total land area), and the following indicators under Level 2 IDB Group Contributions to Development Results: Social Inclusion and Equality 1.6 (beneficiaries of initiatives that support migrants and their host communities), Gender Equality and Diversity, 4.16 (women beneficiaries of economic empowerment initiatives), Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability 5.20 (beneficiaries of enhanced disaster and climate change resilience), and 5.21 (habitat that is sustainably managed applying ecosystem-based approaches).
- 3.4 The project is framed within the IDB Group's current Country Strategy (Country Strategy) with the Cooperative Republic of Guyana 2017-2021¹², specifically in the cross-cutting areas of Climate Change and Gender and Diversity. The Country Strategy notes the need for support in Guyana's Green Growth and makes specific reference to the need for mitigation of erosion due to sea level rise and the preservation of Guyana's forest cover. In this context, the project is focused on preservation of Guyana's mangrove ecosystem in the Barima Mora Passage which provides critical ecosystem services in sea defense and hydrology. Additionally, the Country Strategy notes the importance of actions to promote gender and diversity, with explicit reference to Guyana's indigenous peoples, both of which are specifically targeted in the project.
- 3.5 In terms of IDB Lab, the project is directly aligned with the IDB Lab's vertical in Agriculture and Natural Capital and with the Cross Cutting areas of Climate Crisis and Gender and Diversity. The project also directly contributes to IDB Lab's operational delivery and results targets for programming in Small and Island

¹² The IDB Group Country Strategy with the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (Country Strategy) covering the period from 2022 onwards has not yet been approved, approval by the Board of Directors is planned for September 12, 2022. The Country Strategy 2017-2021 The Country Strategy 2017-2021 is within the transition period until November 2022 (according to the guidelines) since it was approved in November 2017.

Economies, Climate Finance, projects supporting climate change mitigation, projects supporting gender equality, and projects supporting diversity.

- 3.6 Additionally, the project's objectives and outcomes are aligned with the Country Department Caribbean (CCB)'s Build Forward initiative. Build Forward is a delivery-oriented initiative aimed at helping Caribbean countries define sustainable development pathways for their transformation, in a smart and resilient manner. It is a sub-regional strategy to guide programming for Caribbean member countries of the IDB Group, which emphasizes the application of innovative and green solutions to help these countries build resilience and recover from disasters, including the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.7 The project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals: **5 Gender Equality**, specifically target 5.b: enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women, **13 Climate Action**, specifically targets 13.3: improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning, and 13.b: promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities; **14 Life Below Water**, specifically target 14.2: by 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans; **15 Life on Land**, specifically 15.1: by 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements, and 15.5: take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.
- 3.8 80% of the total IDB funding for this project is invested in climate change mitigation and adaptation activities according to the joint MDB approach on climate finance tracking. This contributes to the IDB Group's goal of increasing the financing of projects related to climate change to 30% of total approvals.

B. Scalability

- 3.9 Catalyzing a transition to sustainable conservation and co-management of a remote and valuable ecosystem, which is populated primarily by traditional indigenous communities is a complex undertaking. The project seeks to initiate change in attitudes, beliefs, and practices, to create and support new livelihood opportunities that are linked to sustainable stewardship, and to define a path to scaling of this approach. The end objective is the designation of the Barima Mora Passage a special protected area, the second in Guyana, and the sustainability and scaling of this approach within and outside of Guyana.
- 3.10 The path to scale will require government agencies, environmental and climate stakeholders, and private and public climate fund managers to work together to

sustain and scale impact in the medium to long term. In this regard, Guyana's commitment to balancing its non-renewable energy resources with carbon reduction, is aligned with conservation of critical and valuable carbon sinks such as the Barima Mora passage, as evidenced by the national Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030¹³ that has been presented as a central element of Guyana's energy policy. The Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030 outlines four key elements with which the project is aligned: Create New Incentives for a Low Carbon Economy, Protect Against Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss, Stimulate Future Growth and Low Carbon Development and Align with Global Climate and Biodiversity Goals. Additionally, in the international and regional communities there are resources directed to Climate Adaptation and Mitigation, which Guyana as part of the Guiana Shield¹⁴, with 18 billion hectares of forest providing 18% of the world's forest cover and 20% of the world's freshwater can secure. Two keys to sustainability and scaling of the project in this context are: (i) engagement of public sector and other key stakeholders, to promote the project as a concrete community led intervention, that directly contributes to Guyana's LCDS 2030 goals, and (ii) engagement of donors that can contribute to drive the project forward, and can facilitate replication in other communities, in Guyana as well as other jurisdictions within the region, or the wider world.

- 3.11 In this regard, the project is structured and resourced to include the following activities that have been identified to support sustainability and scaling: (i) early engagement of public and private sector actors from design through implementation, led by the Executing Agency's founder on behalf of the organization and the project. To date, results have included securing partnerships with key public leaders responsible for environmental protection, with Conservation International, Iwokrama and other local organizations involved directly in environmental conservation; (ii) Quarterly knowledge sharing forums with public sector and other key organizations to secure active engagement and support; (iii) involvement of key stakeholders in the Project Steering Committee; (iv) an extensive communications program and (v) participation to showcase the project in national, regional and international forums on climate action and environmental conservation.
- 3.12 In addition, the project team, together with the Executing Agency are seeking additional financing for the project from the Amazon Initiative. This funding if secured, will augment the project budget with cash co-financing, and will expand and advance activities under Component 3 to sustain and scale the model, including but not limited to technical support to achieve Special Protected Area Status, and other relevant international recognitions of the Barima Mora Passage as a unique and high value ecosystem, as well as the roll out of co-management of the ecosystem and resources provided for its conservation.

¹³ <https://lcds.gov.gy/>

¹⁴ [About the Guiana Shield](#)

- 3.13 In addition, and further building the case for scalability, the project approach is supported by a range of national policy enablers¹⁵ and Guyana's international commitments to several international conventions that influence marine and coastal biodiversity protection and management.

C. Project and Institutional Risks

- 3.14 The project risk level is assessed as Medium. Key exogenous and technical risks that have been analyzed and which contribute to this assessment include the following:
- 3.15 **Health Risk:** (i) If there is a massive COVID outbreak in Guyana, that places residents and communities at risk, Guyana's COVID Task force may restrict in person interaction which will have a significant negative impact on the delivery of proposed face to face services within the Barima Mora Passage, which will also negatively affect the achievement of project scope and objectives. There is little that can be done through the project to mitigate this risk, but to advocate for increase in vaccination in targeted communities. This risk will have to be accepted and monitored.
- 3.16 **Social Risks:** (i) If the ongoing migration of Warrau peoples from Venezuela to the Barima Mora Passage accelerates, this will create significant pressure on the stakeholder communities, as well as the natural resources of the Barima Mora Passage, and may significantly impact project achievement of targeted results. Mitigation of this risk is beyond scope of the project and will have to be accepted and monitored. (ii) If unsustainable harvesting of crabs in the mangrove forest continues, this will compromise the main source of protein of the Warrau communities and wildlife such as crab dogs, ibises, flamingoes, roseate spoonbills, and hawks, which would negatively impact the communities' food security and the region's biodiversity and may negatively impact achievement of project objectives. To mitigate this risk, the Executing Agency will collaborate with the Department of Fisheries to lobby against large scale harvesting, conduct research to determine the present level of harvesting by indigenous communities and via surveillance activities that will be conducted by members of the communities (as outlined in Component II), will monitor and secure government support and intervention to avert any large-scale crab harvesting by external parties.
- 3.17 **Environmental/Climate Risks:** (i) During 2021, Guyana experienced severe flooding in areas not usually affected by heavy rainfall and watercourse overflow. If this trend continues, it is possible that the level of success of the green livelihood initiatives, and well as the vulnerability of the landscape and seascape will be negatively affected, thus impacting the likelihood of project objectives being achieved. There is nothing that the Executing Agency can do to mitigate this risk, which will be monitored and accepted. However, the Executing Agency as part of Components 1 and 3 will support partner agencies and communities within the

¹⁵ These include Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan and the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan 2000

Barima Mora passage, in conducting risk assessments and disaster management planning to best protect, lives livelihoods and the health of the ecosystem in the event of extreme weather events; (ii) If unregulated land development in lands adjacent or within the Barima Mora Passage continues by key government agencies and private developers, this would compromise the integrity of the mangrove ecosystem which in turn would impact the level of its protection areas designation, and significantly affect achievement of project activities and targeted results, as well as the achievement of overarching project objectives. To mitigate this risk, the Executing Agency will actively engage the relevant public agencies committed to conservation and other key stakeholders as part of the Project Steering Committee, as well as through quarterly meetings with regional and national public agencies and will, as part of these activities, advocate for and support development and adoption of a regional development and land use planning program, as well as village improvement plans for stakeholder communities.

- 3.18 **Financial Risk:** (i) The current war between Russia and Ukraine is generating global economic pressures, scarcities, and supply chain disruptions, resulting in an escalation in prices of consumer and other basic commodities such as food and fuel across the world. If the global fuel crisis continues and local fuel prices increase in Guyana, this will result in higher than budgeted costs for air, river, and road transportation to the Barima Mora Passage, which in turn, will significantly impact planned local communication, training, and other green livelihood support activities, which are critical in securing community engagement, local leadership of conservation and transition to more sustainable practices and green livelihoods. This risk will be monitored and at the same time, the Executing Agency will seek to consolidate river and other transportation logistics to manage costs and facilitate multi stakeholder consultations and activities in each visit to the Barima Mora Passage.
- 3.19 The Institutional Risk according to the Assessment of Integrity and Institutional Capacity (DICI), is rated as Low.

IV. Instrument and Budget Proposal

- 4.1 The project has a total cost of US \$3,092,000 of which US \$1,400,000 (45.28%) will be provided as a non-reimbursable technical cooperation by the IDB Lab, and US \$1,692,000 (54.72%) by the counterpart. Counterpart financing will include cash and in-kind resources from the project partners, as well as administrative and management support from the Executing Agency. Partner agencies, such as Conservation International Guyana, Guyana Tourism Authority and Iwokrama have committed to provision of cash and in-kind support. Additionally, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme, will provide US \$70,000 in counterpart cash resources for execution of the project. The instrument to be used is a non-reimbursable technical cooperation.

4.2 The project budget is summarized in the following table:

Project Components	IDB Lab	Counterpart Cash and In- Kind	Total
COMPONENT I: Community Stakeholder Sensitization and Engagement	\$501,600	-	\$501,600
COMPONENT II: Training and Support for Green Enterprise Development and Green Jobs	\$512,600	\$340,000	\$852,600
COMPONENT III: Development of ecosystem management and monitoring systems	\$107,000	\$825,000	\$932,000
Project Administration	\$244,800	\$436,000	\$680,800
Monitoring and Evaluation		\$50,000	\$50,000
Contingencies	\$34,000	\$41,000	\$75,000
Grand Total	\$1,400,000	\$1,692,000	\$3,092,000
% of Financing	45.28%	54.72%	100%

4.3 In parallel with approval of this operation by the IDB Lab Donors Committee, additional financing to expand the budget for Component 3 is being sought from the Amazon Bioeconomy Fund: Unlocking Private Capital by Valuing Bioeconomy Products and Services with Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Results in the Amazon. If successful funds will be used to increase the project budget after approval.

V. Agency (EA) and Implementation Structure

A. Executing Agency(s) Description

5.1 The Guyana Marine Conservation Society (GMCS) will be the Executing Agency of this project and will sign the agreement with the Bank. The GMCS is Guyana's oldest and only marine conservation non-government organization (NGO), comprised of a team of committed experts from academia, government, private sector, and indigenous backgrounds, working passionately to advocate for protection, conservation, management and support of Guyana's marine and coastal biodiversity, in partnership with the coastal communities. The GMCS envisions a future where diverse marine populations in Guyana are secure and thriving, sustained by healthy habitats which are co-managed by coastal communities.

5.2 Originally registered under the Friendly Society Act in 2000, as the Guyana Marine Turtle Conservation Society (GMTCS), the organization's initial mandate was to ensure the protection of the four species of marine turtles that nest along Guyana's 100km Shell Beach while simultaneously addressing alternative livelihoods for indigenous communities, which were the traditional users of sea turtle meat and eggs. Within two years of its establishment, GMTCS was appointed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to lead the process of having Guyana's 100 km Shell Beach declared as a National Protected Area. With support from World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), KfW

Development Bank, IWOKRAMA, and Conservation International Guyana, GMTCS spearheaded efforts which included extensive stakeholder engagements with indigenous villages and other stakeholders in Region 1, whilst conducting biodiversity baseline assessments to support the process. Partnering with the EPA, Iwokrama and Conservation International Guyana, GMTCS executed its mandate as lead agency and the Shell Beach Protected Area (SBPA) was declared in 2011 and remains Guyana's first and only coastal protected area to date.

- 5.3 In 2014, the organization broadened its mandate to include the conservation and management of Guyana's coastal and marine ecosystems and its name was amended to the Guyana Marine Conservation Society (GMCS). Its President sits on the Council of the Private Sector Commission, served as Chair of both the national Environmental and Agricultural Sub Committees within the Private Sector Commission, and has wide networks amongst Guyana's private sector, public agencies, and policy makers. The organization's successful public awareness and education program from 2010 to 2014 on the value of coastal ecosystems was reaffirmed years later when the removal of 60 acres of mangroves along the West Bank of the Demerara River in 2020 for the development of a shore base, resulted in massive public outcry and a pledge by the Government to significantly increase the country's mangrove restoration program.
- 5.4 Supporting the GMCS in execution of the project with financial and technical resources are the following organizations:
- 5.5 **Conservation International Guyana (CI):** Since 1989, CI has been working in Guyana focusing on species conservation and supporting efforts to establish a national system of protected areas, as part of its broader mission to protect nature for the benefit of all. Globally, CI works at every level, from villages to presidents and heads of corporations to find solutions and support the move towards a healthier, more sustainable development path. Through science, policy, and partnerships with countries, communities and companies, CI, over the years, has helped support 1,200 protected areas and interventions across 77 countries, safeguarding more than 601 million hectares of land, marine and coastal areas. CI is collaborating with GMCS, as an integral partner for project implementation of critical components pertaining to securing the high valued ecosystem in the space around the Barima Mora Passage, building on the organization's capacity and decades work in the region.
- 5.6 The **South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS)** is one of the leading grassroots conservation NGOs in Guyana, with 20 years of experience in community-based conservation, research, and environmental education. Over the past two decades, SRCS has built the capacity of residents of the Rupununi in Guyana's remote Region 9, to be able to better manage their local wildlife and natural resources through multiple projects. As part of the projects, these SRCS "rangers" have become proficient in key conservation skills including camera trapping, bird identification, bird banding, GPS use and transect monitoring. SRCS has now used the experience and knowledge of their rangers to collaborate with the local Indigenous communities of the South Rupununi to create "Community Conservation Zones" to protect threatened wildlife and to preserve the environment and its resources. SRCS has recently partnered with the Guyana

Marine Conservation Society (GMCS) to share its experience and knowledge on natural resource management with stakeholder communities within the Barima Mora Passage, and will support the project with training, capacity building and knowledge sharing in community conservation, and in catalyzing and building out research tourism.

- 5.7 **The University of Florida**, will assist in catalyzing and building out research tourism in the Barima Mora Passage, and will include the area in its “Study Abroad” research program. The University of Florida will anchor research tourism within the initial stages of the project and has already commenced in planning with the GMCS to initiate field research in the Barima Mora area, supported by local communities in 2022.
- 5.8 **Iwokrama** has pioneered research tourism in Guyana over several decades and has a strong institutional network with international universities who are presently their clients. Iwokrama will support the development of research tourism and has already signed an MOU with the Executing Agency to undertake knowledge transfer and exchanges, as well as field training around research tourism and surveillance.
- 5.9 The **National Agricultural Research Extension Institute (NAREI)** is the focal agency for Guyana’s national mangrove program but does not have a presence in Region 1 and has committed to partner with the Executing Agency to purchase the surveillance data from communities in the Barima Mora Passage to enhance its national database and inform national, as well as local monitoring and support for conservation.
- 5.10 **The Guyana Civil Defense Commission**, is the national agency, tasked with Disaster Risk Response and Mitigation as well as Oil Spill Response and has also indicated its willingness to purchase surveillance data from the community monitors to enhance monitoring and inform decision making.

B. Implementation Structure and Mechanism

- 5.11 The Executing Agency will establish an executing unit comprised of personnel with requisite technical expertise and experience. The Executing Agency’s founder will provide technical direction and management, supported by a project coordinator and by four community-based officers who will manage implementation of day-to-day activities. The Executing Agency will also set up an operations subcommittee which will meet monthly will provide quarterly progress reports on project implementation. Fiduciary support will be provided by Executing Agency’s in house team, and the organization’s Board of Directors will provide governance, oversight, and advisory support for project implementation.
- 5.12 Governance support will comprise of a Project Oversight Steering Committee which will be chaired by Conservation International Guyana. It will include representatives from the board of the Executing Agency and public agencies whose mandate includes climate change, such as the Protected Areas Commission and Office of Climate Change, as well as other key stakeholder

organizations. The Steering Committee will hold quarterly meetings to review project implementation, monitor and mitigate potential risks, and ensure effective use of resources to achieve project objectives, as well as further fund raising.

- 5.13 In addition, to facilitate engagement of a broader range of stakeholders, the Executing Agency to convene quarterly meetings with relevant public agencies, civil society, and private sector organizations as well as donors, to broaden the coalition of support for the community driven approach to conservation and to coordinate additional technical and financial resources for the project.

VI. Compliance with Milestones and Special Fiduciary Arrangements

- 6.1 **Disbursement by Results, Fiduciary Arrangements.** The Executing Agency will adhere to the standard IDB Lab disbursement by results, IDB procurement policy¹⁶ and financial management¹⁷ arrangements as specified in Annex V and VI.
- 6.2 **Results Based Disbursement.** The project will be monitored by the IDB's Country Office in Guyana. Monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with the performance and risk management policies (fulfilment of milestones), as established by the IDB Lab. Project disbursements will be contingent upon verification of the achievement of milestones (pre-determined outputs critical to achievement of the development objectives). Achievement of milestones does not exempt the Executing Agency from the responsibility of reaching the results matrix indicators and project's objectives.
- 6.3 **Financial Management and Supervision.** The Executing Agency will establish and be responsible for maintaining adequate accounts of its finances, internal controls, and project files according to the financial management policy of the IDB Lab. For the procurement of other goods and contracting of consulting services, the Executing Agency will adopt the principles of IDB Policies (GN-2349-15 and GN-2350-15).

VII. Information Disclosure and Intellectual Property

- 7.1 **Information Disclosure.** This document will be disclosed and made available to the public upon approval.
- 7.2 **Intellectual Property.** The Executing Agency shall own the intellectual property rights to all works produced or results obtained under the project, and will grant the IDB an irrevocable, worldwide, perpetual, royalty-free, and non-exclusive license to use, copy, distribute, reproduce, publicly display, and perform all Executing Agency intellectual property derived from execution of the project, as well as to create derivative works.

¹⁶ Link to the Policy: [Procurement of Works and Goods Policy](#)

¹⁷ Link to the document [Operational Guidelines for Management of Milestones and Financial Supervision for MIF and SEP Technical Cooperation Projects](#)