



Country Paper
Republic of Suriname



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General

Since its existence, the SAI of Suriname has not conducted any environment audit.

SAIs challenges in conducting audit of environment

Although there are several environmental aspects in Suriname the SAI does not conduct any environmental audits as yet. The reasons for not conducting environment audit can be described as following.

- In neither the Constitution of Suriname (1987) nor the Audit Act (1953) it is mentioned explicitly that the SAI will conduct environment audit.
- One of the challenges for the SAI of Suriname is to set up an environmental audit department.
- There is a lack of environmental auditors
- There is no audit manual on Environment Audit as yet

In our current Audit Act dated from 1953 there are no provisions regarding the cooperation with international institutions and working with international standards. However, in the draft revised Audit Act a provision concerning international organizations is taken into account. The revised Audit Act states that the Head of SAI, in particular, is responsible for the proper implementation of the Audit Act and other relevant laws and regulations set by Government. Likewise, the Head of SAI must ensure that the SAI meets the international guidelines established for SAIs applicable for Suriname

As a member of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and the Caribbean Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (CAROSAI), SAI Suriname is committed to implement the International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) in the near future.

1. Environmental assessments

The SAI of Suriname has not conducted any environmental assessments since its existence.

2. How to improve the quality and impact of the environmental audits

Not applicable

3. Renewable energy

The SAI of Suriname has not conducted any audits on renewable energy as yet.

4. Energy savings

The SAI of Suriname has not conducted any audits on energy savings as yet.

5. Updating guidance “towards Auditing waste management”

Not applicable

6. Market- based instruments

The SAI of Suriname has not conducted any audits on energy savings.

7. Government responses to Marine environment affected by climate change and ocean

At the United Nations Climate Change Summit 2014, Suriname has pledged that 1) it would continue embracing its green policies and 2) join the battle against global warming. “Suriname is reaffirming its commitment to the world today to keep absorbing more carbon than we generate,” said Suriname’s former Minister of Public Works at the Summit held in the Halls of the United Nations. Organized to galvanize initiatives against climate change, the summit gave Suriname an opportunity to showcase its green policies and, more importantly, to issue a sober warning about the potentially calamitous impact of climate change. It was attended by USA President Obama

and more than 100 Heads of State (<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/oct/9/suriname-calls-for-action-at-un-climate-summit/#ixzz3RLqgr9lf>)

Situated on the northeast coast of South America, Suriname is covered with vast and pristine rain- forests and rivers. Their protection is a national priority. Thanks to these forests, Suriname absorbs more carbon than it produces from burning fossil fuels; and so it plays an important role in combating global warming.

Referring to the worst climate-change scenario for Suriname, the former Minister explained that, “The current atmospheric levels of carbon - at more than 400 parts per million - have placed Suriname squarely on the path to climate departure by the year 2028.” The consequences, he explained, would produce rising sea levels, setting off calamities that would include:

- Rising sea-water flooding into Suriname’s capital, Paramaribo, where about half of the population lives;
- Sea-water damaging or destroying more than 80 percent of homes;
- Coastal ecosystems, including the majority our Suriname’s arable land, suffering damage or being destroyed, and
- The loss of 40 percent of Suriname’s GDP.

President D. Bouterse addressed the issue of climate change and rising sea levels during his annual address to Parliament on October 1, 2014. “We are in the top seven of most threatened countries worldwide,” he warned. Suriname’s government, meanwhile, is studying the alternatives for adaptation, fearing it would be flooded by the Suriname River as sea levels rise. River embankments already have been built to protect the city. Dikes have been built in the coastal area.

In an innovative experiment, Suriname planted additional mangrove trees along parts of its coastline, a technique developed by Professor Sieuwnath Naipal, a member of Suriname’s Climate Change Expert Group. “By growing mangroves and replanting them on the coastline, we are using nature to rebuild its own original coastline to fight the ever advancing sea,” he explained. A pilot project was successful. In Coronie, a coastal district west of the capital,

mangroves transplanted along the coast held back and dispersed surging seawater and kept it from flooding over a recently constructed dike, thereby reducing the dike's maintenance costs.



Mangrove

(Read more: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/oct/9/suriname-calls-for-action-at-un-climate-summit/#ixzz3RLqgr9lf>)

Forests play an important role in climate change which is caused by the release of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the air. Trees take carbon dioxide on for growth, but when trees are cut or rot, CO₂ is released again. The climate system reaches out of balance with all its consequences. The international community has created REDD+¹ in order to combat deforestation and degradation.

Suriname wants to use REDD+ as a tool for sustainable forest use in the framework of sustainable development. To realize this, several groups of the society are needed: farmers, the private sector, indigenous and maroon community, scientists and women organizations, NGOs, the youth en kids and local authorities (REDD+ brochure, 2014).

8. Greening the SAI

The SAI of Suriname has taken the following measures for greening the workplace:

- Turn off task lighting and overhead lights when staff and personnel leave the office.

¹ REDD+ stands for countries' efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

- **Cut down on paper use.**

We try to eliminate as much as paper use from our office as possible.

Future actions of SAI Suriname

Nowadays the awareness of mercury problem increases in Suriname. Mercury is being used in the illegal gold mining industry in the interior which will be harmful for local citizens, flora and fauna. That is why the SAI of Suriname wishes to start a pilot environmental audit in the near future (2017-2018). At the moment we do not have the capacity and equipment to do such an audit. To conduct this audit we need technical assistance from experts in mercury environmental audit.