

EITI SURINAME ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2024



Approved by the MSG September 3rd, 2025

Acronyms

APR	Annual Progress Report
BO	Beneficial Ownership
CS(O)	Civil Society (Organization)
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
FY	Fiscal Year
SRD	Surinamese Dollar
USD	United States Dollar
EITISR	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Suriname
IA	IA
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources
MSG	Multi Stakeholder Group
NC	National Coordinator
NS	National Secretariat
SCSD	Suriname Competitiveness and Sector Diversification Project
WP	Work Plan
WB	World Bank

Acknowledgment

The Multi-Stakeholder Group Suriname (MSG) acknowledges the support of key stakeholders involved in promoting accountability and transparency regarding Suriname's extractive resources. The collective goal is to ensure that the resources are used to improve the lives of the country's citizens. With the abovementioned, we have to evaluate the progress with EITI implementation in Suriname for FY 2024 through the Annual Progress Report.

We would like to recognize the role of the Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. D. Abiamfo, the Champion of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Suriname (EITISR) Suriname, and the Directorate of Mining in providing operational and budget support to the National Secretariat (NS). In April 2023 a full time National Coordinator and an Administrative Assistant were appointed. This resulted in a significant positive change in the administration and office operations and support to the MSG because for years EITI Suriname was struggling with having timely documentation of meetings. In February 2024 a Technical Assistant was appointed to decrease the workload on the Secretariat staff.

The consistent concerns of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as a key constituency have contributed to monitoring and recommendation support along the way. Furthermore, for EITI implementation to work, companies and the government have provided data to the Independent Administrator (IA) to produce our reports. Since the IA was contracted in October 2024, the companies and the government ministries/ agencies did not provide yet for data yet for fiscal years 2021/2022. The data for the 4th report will be gathered in 2025 to produce the EITI report 2021/2022.

We want to note the constant support from the International Secretariat Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) team in understanding key provisions of the 2023 EITI Standard. We acknowledge the continuous support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) motivational support to especially the NS.

Our collective goal is to ensure that the resources are used to improve the lives of the country's citizens, that transparency improves significantly, and that corruption in the extractive sector is minimized through routine EITI disclosures. .

1. Background Information on EITI Suriname

Suriname joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in 2017 to advance and promote transparency and accountability in managing oil, gas, minerals, and other natural resources. To date, Suriname has published three EITI reports covering the fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018 to 2020.

Suriname has faced challenges in EITI implementation. The country was suspended in March 2024 by the EITI Board for failing to publish its 2021 EITI report by the December 31, 2023 deadline. The suspension is still in effect.

The procurement of the IA is done through the Suriname Competitiveness and Sector Diversification Project (SCSD). The Ministry of Natural Resources funds this project through a loan from the World Bank. Significant delays in recruiting the IA resulted to an unpublished EITI report 2021/2022. To avoid future delays, Suriname EITI began revising the 2023 TOR in December 2024. The goal is to approve and send the TOR to SCSD by February 2025 to initiate the IA procurement process. Suriname earned

a “Fairly Low” (58.5/100) score on its 2023 Validation. Twenty-three remedial actions were identified, see link:

<https://eiti.org/sites/default/files/2024-05/EITI%20Validation%20of%20Suriname%202023%20-%20Final%20Validation%20report.pdf>

Every stakeholder needs to prioritize addressing these remedial actions to ensure EITI implementation is strengthened in Suriname.

Under Requirement 1.5.b, implementing countries are required to undertake an annual review of their work plan , considering progress and challenges towards implementation. The 2024 Annual Progress Report (APR) outlines planned activities, fully and partially executed activities, and activities not undertaken. The document also provides the reasons for not implementing some of these activities. The APR contains information on the MSG during FY 2024 and a summary of the implementation costs.

Progress and Challenges

Challenges

- Internet: EITISR website was suspended for most of FY 2024 due to overdue payment to the webhost. Consequently, there were no updates nor information published on the website in FY 2024. In December 2024, the Government of Suriname assumed ownership of the website (<https://eitipuriname.gov.sr/>) to ensure uninterrupted public access. While the site is now accessible, it cannot be updated due to backend restrictions.
- Procurement: The process to recruit the IA spanned over twenty-one months, starting in January 2023 and finalizing in October 2024. The contract with the IA was signed late October 2024.
- Finances :
 - Overdue payments of EITI subscriptions
 - Untimely approval of finances
 - No finances to finance the workplan activities

Progress:

- Grassalco, the State Owned Enterprise (SOE) in the mining sector, officially joined the MSG in February 2024.
- Capacity-building sessions for the Secretariat and MSG members were implemented.
- 2 validation workshops were held to discuss the EITISR validation recommendations.
- The validation assessment discussions on the EITI report 2018-2020 were held.
- Suriname EITI Open Data Policy was approved. (See Annex)
- The first APR 2023 was drafted and approved
- EITI Suriname participated on a panel at the Suriname Energy Oil and Gas Summit and Exhibition (SEOGS).

With feedback from each constituency, the MSG approved the 2024/2025 Workplan on June 28th 2024. It highlights key activities to strengthen EITI implementation. The work plan includes addressing the corrective measures from the 2021 validation.

Other legacy challenges continued to hinder data collection and reporting. A significant portion of revenue coverage from the mining sector remains aggregated. Technical capacity challenges undermined the MSG's productivity. Reports and other deliverables, including outreach activities, are consequently delayed.

Activities from 2024/ 2025 Work Plan

The 2023/2024 Work Plan (WP) was revised and approved on February 7th, 2024. It has been updated to cover activities for 2024/2025. Due to funding constraints, some activities could not be carried out in 2024 and will now be postponed to the next work plan.

Open Data Policy

- Suriname EITI Open Data Policy was approved in the fiscal year under review.
- A ToR for communication was approved by the MSG in 2023 and sent to the SCSD PIU for the financing of 100,000.00 USD. Several inquiries were made to SCSD PIU in 2024, but Suriname EITI did not get an update on the status of this project.

Capacity Building in 2024

The MSG and Secretariat benefited from three (3) in-person capacity building sessions:

- ❖ From June 16th – June 19th the National Coordinator participated in the National Coordinators meeting in Switzerland, Geneva. The National Coordinators meeting in Geneva focused on:
 - Good practices and challenges the EITI implementing countries are facing
 - Peer Learning between National Coordinators.
 - The new EITI ToR for EITI reporting was discussed, but there were so many questions that the International Secretariat (IS) decided to work on a revised ToR, which will be shared with the National Coordinators.
 - Furthermore, the World Bank will keep supporting implementing countries, but it will be part of a bigger project, not just to support EITI reporting.
 - One of the best practices for countries to ensure sustainability is the effective MSG oversight by having, among other things, regular dialogue, cooperation, a robust framework, and truly focus on the critical role of the MSG to oversee the implementation of the EITI Standard.

Also there was a lot of focus on strengthening Civil Society participation in the EITI.

Some factors hindering the timely publication of EITI reports are:

- Procurement delays of an Independent Administrator
- Challenges in transparency and fairness of procurement processes for the Independent Administrator.
- Inefficient time planning and lack of flexibility in the data collection and reporting process
- Administrative burdens arising from the need to comply with the public procurement code
- Limited time resources are also on the part of MSG members
- Slow responses from government, companies, and other stakeholders
- Political will/lack of governmental support
- Inadequate capacity and resources for civil society

Some of the key country achievements from EITI implementation are improved governance, multistakeholder policy dialogue, beneficial ownership disclosure, contract transparency, increased transparency on sector management, and trust building. These are just some of the benefits when countries implement the EITI Standard.

- ❖ From July 2nd to July 4th, 2024, EITISR MSG members from Civil Society, the State-Owned Company Grassalco, and the National Coordinator participated in the EITI International Regional in-person training and workshop “Strengthening SOEs Governance and Responsible Commodity Trading in Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the energy transition.”

During this event, participants from CS, state-owned companies, the government, and the National Coordination shared great experiences on how to promote transparency and cope with energy transition processes.

- ❖ From November 4th to November 7th, 2024, four MSG members and two National Secretariat Staff participated in the Regional Knowledge Exchange event "EITI Implementation for Impact: Data Use, Public Discourse, and Enhanced Transparency in the Caribbean", which was held in Port of Spain. The focus of the knowledge exchange was to enhance the institutional responses of Caribbean extractive industry actors to achieve global standards in transparency by building a sub-regional community of practice among government officials and key stakeholders within the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) framework.
- On day one of this exchange, government representative Permanent Secretary Mining of the Ministry of Natural Resources Suriname and the private sector representative Staatsolie participated in a panel discussion, during which they discussed topics related to EITI as a catalyst for change: addressing corruption in extractives and state-owned enterprises, their responsibility.

- On the second day, gave a thorough recap of day one. Day two started with a National Coordinators session in which the challenges of implementing EITI in Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, and the Dominican Republic were addressed. In the last panel of the day, Civil Society representative addressed data use from a civil society perspective.
- Day three focused mainly on assessing the environmental impact of the extractive sector and the race to renewable energy.
- On the last day of the knowledge exchange, participants had a field visit to the National Quarries Company Limited. National Quarries Company Limited is a fully state-owned company and is a profitable, market-driven producer of quality aggregate, operating safely and effectively while managing the environment. Two active mining sites, some abandoned sites, and a rehabilitation site were visited. The field visit provided valuable insights into operations and environmental management.

➤ **EITI participation at the Suriname Energy Oil and Gas Summit**

The topic “Finding the balance between transparency and natural resource management requires establishing transparent governance structures, promoting access to information, engaging stakeholders, building capacity, resolving conflicts, embracing adaptive management, adhering to international standards, and promoting public awareness and education”.

The participants discussed the following:

What benefit does increased transparency bring to the challenge of balancing the contending interests of governments and regulators, companies, and civil society stakeholders involved in Natural resource management?





The EITI is a global initiative with the aim of promoting transparency and accountability in the extractive sector. This initiative aims to eradicate corruption, transforms economies, reduce poverty and improve lives in natural resource rich countries. Suriname joined this initiative in May 2017 and has produced 3 revenue reconciliation reports to date covering the years 2016 - 2020. Suriname’s fourth EITI report covering 2021-2022, should be published at the end of 2024. Implementing the EITI plays a crucial role in promoting transparent governance structures and building trust among all the stakeholders.

To achieve this, the EITI uses a Multi-Stakeholders Group (MSG) consultative approach. Implementing countries are required to form an MSG consisting of government, civil society, and the private sector representatives. The MSG collectively decides on the approach to achieving a set of prescribed requirements outlined in the EITI Standard or rule book all aimed at enhancing transparency around a range of key natural resource management issues such as independent accounting for extractive industry revenues, environmental monitoring and reporting, the publication of the full contents of extractive contracts and establishment of public registers of the beneficial owners of extractive

licenses. Implementing countries are required to self-assess their performance against the Standard annually and are in turn, independently validated or assessed by a team assigned by the global EITI Secretariat. Failure to achieving a passing grade on validation is one of the handful of ways that a country can have its membership in the golden standard for natural resource revenue transparency and governance. The need for the various stakeholder groups to agree a path to achieving the EITI's varying reporting requirements, helps to build understanding, confidence and increases direct communication among the stakeholders. The EITI's independent auditing of the payment and receipt of extractive revenues, also benefits the various organizations involved in natural resource governance by identifying gaps or recommending policy changes. For example, in Suriname, Civil Society Organizations and companies in the MSG have provided comments and suggestions to the new mining law to address particular needs in Suriname.

Successful EITI implementation requires collaboration among governments, private sector and civil society to enhance transparency and accountability in the extractive sector. If all the stakeholders take their responsibility as part of this initiative, we can successfully implement EITI in Suriname.

Some specific benefits of EITI implementation that were mentioned are:

-  **Multi-Stakeholder Approach:** "A country cannot be considered an implementing country unless its Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) includes the three key stakeholders: government, civil society, and the private sector. This group is responsible for overseeing EITI implementation, setting objectives, and monitoring data disclosure in accordance with the EITI Standard. Their inclusion ensures a more transparent and inclusive decision-making process, where every voice is given equal weight."
-  **Promoting Transparency and Accountability:** EITI requires the disclosure of information along the entire extractive industry value chain, from licensing/contracts to revenue flow. This transparency fosters accountability by allowing stakeholders to track how revenue benefits the economy and society.
-  **The EITI promotes Public Debate and Reform.** The EITI MSG ensures that reliable data and analysis from EITI reporting contribute to public debate, inform decision-making, and support reforms in natural resource governance.
-  **Engagement with the general public:** The EITI provides a framework for obtaining crucial feedback on extractive sector governance, ensuring that local voices are heard.

In summary, EITI's multi-stakeholder approach, transparency requirements, and focus on public debate contribute to establishing governance structures that foster trust and cooperation among stakeholders and promote responsible management of natural resources. EITI not only promotes transparency and good governance in the extractive sector but also provides tangible benefits for companies in terms of reputation, access to finance, and industry leadership.

➤ **Engagement with Nook representative**

In Trinidad & Tobago, the Suriname delegation met with Mrs. Mel Flanagan from Nook. Following the event, she visited Suriname and met with VIDS and the National Secretariat to explore ways to make the EITI website more user-friendly, incorporating graphics and other features, while also effectively communicating the EITI message to indigenous communities. One of the VIDS villages will serve as a pilot for this project, which will likely be funded by the IDB. Further details will be discussed next year, as the project still requires additional funding to be implemented.

➤ **Participation in Projekta presentation “Gaps in Capaciteit en wettelijk kader voor Offshore Olie & Gas”.**

Elaboration on the two studies:

- Key aspects of the sustainable management of natural resources; Safeguarding the environment and exploiting oil, gas, and gold were:

Legal framework, gaps for offshore and gas; analysis of mining decree, petroleum contracts, environmental council law

Neither the Petroleum Act nor the Mining Act has obligations to publish contracts.

No official local content policy: Staatsolie has provisions in PSC's on preferential services to local vendors

Weakness in current safety laws

Financial gaps: in procurement laws, there is a need for the private sector to adhere to the law on annual accounts.

- Key aspects of the Protection of Human Rights :
Collective Rights Indigenous and tribal Peoples
Operationalization of the Human Rights Institute with a broader mandate
There are basic laws, but no implementing decrees
There is a need for strong institutions with capacity for development, monitoring, & Evaluation
Need for a national Climate Plan and framework for collecting carbon credits
Suriname has ratified over 30 environmental treaties
Government institutes are in survival mode; master plan capacity building is needed
The gap increases despite assistance from international organizations.

➤ **Engagement in the mining impacts calculator session**

EITI Suriname participated in the workshop on the mining impacts calculator. The mining impact tool is an economic tool that measures the economic impact of the social and environmental damage caused by gold mining. The objective was to introduce this tool to key stakeholders in Suriname, raise awareness and encourage its adaptation to the Surinamese context, also to gather information and comments for its possible application, and enhance collaborative efforts to address the primary challenges related to artisanal and small-scale mining operations. The participants did exercises

in groups on how the gold mining depends on and/or impacts, for example, the water quality or water quantity, timber production, and non-timber forest products, and practiced a bit in the mining calculator. Suriname does not have the tool yet, but it is in the planning.

➤ **Participation in Newmont business engagement**

EITI Suriname received an invitation from Newmont to a “business engagement.” During this session, Newmont presented a substantial amount of disaggregated data, which could serve as a model for other companies. Several members expressed appreciation for the invitation, noting that EITI can gain valuable insights from Newmont’s environmental practices and community engagement strategies. They also emphasized the need for increased collaboration with Newmont, particularly to learn from their approach to reporting and presenting information.

➤ **MSG Meetings in 2024**

The MSG conducted both statutory meetings and special sessions to address specific issues requiring urgent and focused attention. A total of ten (10) statutory meetings were held, along with two (2) special meetings (workshops) to discuss the recommendations from the 2023 validation and to define the materiality threshold for the EITI Suriname Report 2021/2022. As all statutory meetings were held online, member attendance was accurately recorded.

2. Assessment of performance against targets and activities set out in the work plan 2024/2025

Activities planned for 2024/2025	Status December 31 st 2024	Outcomes and impacts
Validation assessment workshop	Discussion on validation outcomes was held in workshops and regular MSG meetings. Action: Review assessment workshop outcomes and draft a clear plan for activities.	Revised work plan for implementation of Validation Recommendations
National Secretariat Funding	The budget of SRD 1.300.000 was approved for EITI activities The annual overdue payment of 2022/2023 of USD 10.000 per year was approved. Payment was made in February 2025. A request for approval of the Annual payment of USD 10.000 for 2024 was sent to the Council of Ministers. NS received: From Shell : 2 refurbished laptops From Staatsolie: 1 laptop / 1 tablet / 1 printer/ 1 binding machine/ 1 writing board.	- Approval of the council of ministers for the EITI annual payment of USD 20,000.00 for the years 2022 and 2023. - Improved technical equipment for National Secretariat
Establishing accountability	This is remarked in the revised ToR MSG 2023 in section 6. In practice this does not always works. Action: This should be one of the primary actions in 2025 so it can work not only on paper but also in practice.	No outcomes
National Secretariat Capacity building	Shell companies has donated a sum of USD 5,450 for the financing of the training sessions Finance management, project writing and project management. The payment of the contribution were made by Shell directly to the vendors. Status: These training sessions started in January 2024 and were completed in April 2024. Guidance from the EITI LAC team, especially to NS, continued in 2024.	- Improved capacity of NS - Secretariat assisted in drafting a project proposal on further improving capacity building with the following components: data management, communication, capacity building (general) for the US Embassy.

MSG is required to have a functional workplan fully costed, aligned with EITI implementation objectives.	<p>MSG updated the 2023/2024 Work Plan to 2024/2025 Work Plan and it aligns with the EITI implementation objectives.</p> <p>Action: A proposal was written and sent to the US Embassy. Since the USAID project is on hold, we should seek funding at the World Bank or other organizations for the activities in the Work Plan 2025/2026</p>	There is a Work Plan, although not fully costed. Partial funding available from budget of Ministry of NR
Procurement of an IA for the EITI report 2021/2022	<p>The contract with the IA was signed in October 2024. Stakeholder meetings and capacity-building workshops started in December 2024.</p> <p>In Progress. Report 2021/2022 due June 30th, 2025</p>	Procurement completed (contract signature), and report is in progress as of December 31st, 2024.
Procurement of a Communication Specialist firm	<p>The contracting of a local media firm to develop and implement a public education campaign encouraging public debate and understanding about the benefits of systematic disclosure. To outsource a local media firm to develop a strategy. The ToR was sent to the Procurement Officer of the SCSD project, and the National Secretariat awaits the outcome. Pending: SCSD PIU to give an update on the hiring of the Communication Specialist Firm.</p>	<p>An engagement presentation was drafted which will be used in engagement activities with stakeholders.</p> <p>No outcomes</p>
Define the scope of what should be disclosed from the contracts and license documents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree upon what to publish from contracts and licenses because Suriname must disclose any contracts and licenses that are granted, entered or amended from January 2021. - Agree upon which types of contracts to prioritize, i.e., new contracts, currently existing contracts, etc. - Agree upon systems to protect the privacy of companies - Agree upon an online platform to host this information. - Workshop with stakeholders about the gathering of information and privacy queries <p>Action points:</p>	No outcomes

	<p>Private companies are to share/disclose this information on their websites. EITI Suriname can share information (a link to the companies' websites)</p> <p>Staatsolie will share what can be disclosed from production sharing contracts.</p> <p>Organize workshops with stakeholders</p>	
Contract an EITI consultant to develop systematic disclosure road maps.	<p>The MSG is to hire an international EITI consultant or specialist to review the EITI disclosure system and any potential barriers within the local legal framework.</p> <p>This will be discussed in 2024.</p> <p>Action points: *Through IDB or another organization, seek a grant to fund this activity</p>	No outcomes
Assemble and publish information online publicly	<p>They must create a group to oversee these activities: (The group has not been created yet)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information is updated constantly - Information is kept under strict privacy protection - Before publication, all companies need to be notified of the decision to disclose information on licenses and contracts. - Provide companies with enough time to raise any questions before publishing. <p>Action points: This group will oversee the publication of information online, on time, and provide the companies with all information concerning this topic.</p>	No outcomes (see description in other sections)
Define the modes or means of public access (the platform in which contracts will be disclosed)	<p>Structure the online platform in a concise and simple way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contract disclosures - Licenses bidding rounds information - List of bidders - Details of the selection processes - Allocation details 	No outcomes (to be part of the Minerals Authority Suriname, which is still to be established by the State, pending approval of new Mining legislation).

	<p>These activities will be discussed in 2025</p> <p>Ongoing: Project implementation is in progress via SCSD with World Bank funding.</p>	
Maximizing public education and outreach	<p>MSG should work on a communication process of training the public on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical information and plain language explanation of contracts to avoid misinterpretation - A link between contract disclosures and terms and other EITI data, i.e., to understand license allocation, to understand revenue flow, and PSC contracts, etc. - Linkages to license allocation. It is important to know the licensee, but it is also important to understand that the bidding process was transparent. <p>Pending: A Communication Specialist firm to assist in this matter.</p> <p>Action point A list of outreach to specific stakeholders was prepared</p>	No outcomes
Status of the modernization of the cadaster.	<p>The Director of Mining of the Government constituency has shed some light on this in the meeting of November 15th, 2023: Within the SCSD project with the World Bank, the GMD and other departments will be transformed into the Mineral Authority Suriname (Delfstoffen Autoriteit Suriname/DAS), in which the database and the mining cadaster are revised and will be operational, and the process is in an advanced phase. The information in the database and the mining cadaster will be available, consultants have been to Suriname and are working on transparency of the data to the public. People who have applied for a mining permit should be able to track the process of the requested permit. The development of a website to publicly host the information of the cadaster.</p> <p>These activities will be covered in the SCSD project with the World Bank.</p>	No outcomes (to be part of the Minerals Authority Suriname, which is still to be established by the State, pending approval of new Mining legislation).

	<p>Pending: In this, the role of GLIS must come in. MI GLIS to be contacted on this matter. *The Director of Mining will give an update on the launch of the website and other updates from the Ministry.</p>	
Re-engage in the conversations for the definition of beneficial owner and political exposed person	<p>These activities will be discussed in 2025</p> <p>Action point: To be discussed further. When, what, where, and who?</p>	No outcomes (pending further discussions on Draft Mining Law)
Public disclosure of information	IDB has the investment map tool to encourage systematic disclosure in Suriname. The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Natural Resources already participate in meetings to initiate this initiative, which will continue in 2025.	No outcomes
<p>Social and environmental expenditures by extractive companies.</p> <p>Workshops</p>	<p>If such expenditures are mandated by law, the MSG is encouraged to disclose this information and agree on a reporting process.</p> <p>MSG is required to develop a reporting process for the SOEs public social expenditure such as (payments for social services, public infrastructure, fuel subsidies, and national debt servicing.</p> <p>Pending: Notifications to NIMOS, yearly reports, and social and environmental expenditures must be disclosed. This should be included in companies' yearly reports. This should be included in the annual EITI reports. This will be discussed with the IA. A two-part workshop to be organized: -First is Internal, to improve the understanding of the MSG</p>	No outcomes (is included in the ToR for the IA)

	<p>members of this requirement, and its specific implementation conditions.</p> <p>- The second phase is about educating the main stakeholders over this requirement, their role, and responsibilities.</p> <p>Pending: Organize these workshops (internal/external)</p> <p>Action to be taken after the workshops. A pilot study of Social and Environmental reporting by a small subset of companies utilizing a special reporting template.</p>	
EITI Annual Report 2023	<p>Planning of the report 2023 ToR IA approval ± February 2025 Start the procurement process. Deadline for the report is December 2025.</p> <p>Actions: Instructions from EITI International on the new ToR on EITI reporting. Review, revise, and approve ToR 2023 Sent ToR 2023 to SCSD PIU</p>	ToR is in final stages of preparation.
Progress Report 2024	<p>Review the progress report 2023 Start progress report 2024</p> <p>Pending: Finish the progress report 2024 by March 2025.</p>	2023 Progress Report completed and approved.

**** The activities in the workplan 2025/2026 will be discussed by the MSG in the coming meeting(s) in 2025. The MSG will decide which activities will take place in 2025 and which will be postponed to 2026 due to the coming elections in Suriname on May 25th 2025.**

3. Assessment of performance against EITI requirements

Areas of recommendation	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government entities should address inefficient and opaque gold royalty payment processes in both the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) sector and the mining state-owned enterprise (SOE), Grassalco. Inclusion of gold houses in EITI reporting would address unclear royalty rates paid by ASM miners while the Central Bank's membership in the MSG would improve understanding around how royalty payments flow from Rosebel Gold Mines to the Central Bank and whether they first are paid to Grassalco, as well as to strengthen an overview on export data, in particular of gold. Momentum to maintain an up-to-date license register in the mining sector has waned, with the existing register no longer in use. Efforts, both within the MSG and via broader government, to create a replacement have not yet yielded a working product. While EITI reporting helps to fill the gap, government entities should redouble efforts to establish a publicly accessible license register in the mining sector to enable the public to easily understand who owns mining rights in Suriname. Ongoing debate to reform the Mining Law should include provisions to establish a beneficial ownership register with an appropriate legal and regulatory framework for collection and disclosure. In establishing these registers, Suriname is encouraged to link beneficial ownership and license registers to aid public understanding of the full ownership chain of extractive contracts and licenses. <p>Invitation to participate in the MSG should be extended to government entities such as the Central Bank, the Bauxite Institute and the Bureau of Statistics of Suriname, given their historical and current engagement in the extractive sector and amid prospects for new mining projects in the context of the energy transition that could bring renewed interest to commodities currently thought to be economically unviable. Likewise, Grassalco should be included in the MSG to improve governance and encourage the disclosure of financial data. This is of particular importance given that Grassalco has decision-making power on the board of SEMiF, which receives in-kind gold and silver royalty payments.</p>	<p>No actions</p> <p>No outcomes. (to be part of the Minerals Authority Suriname, which is still to be established by the State, pending approval of new Mining legislation).</p> <p>Letters drafted for participation from these entities mentioned. MSG to discuss the ToR MSG and decide which organizations to invite to participate in the MSG. This needs to be discussed thoroughly first.</p>

2. Outcomes and Impact	
New corrective actions and recommendations	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 1.5, Suriname should ensure that the current work plan is fully costed. Suriname must ensure that the work plan is the results of consultation with key stakeholders. The MSG is encouraged to include in the work plan innovative and cost-effective dissemination activities that facilitate interaction between stakeholders and systematic disclosure on key extractive sector issues. Suriname must ensure that the MSG work plan is reviewed and updated annually. In reviewing the work plan, the multi-stakeholder group should consider extending the detail and scope of EITI implementation. Identify major action WP and specific ask. WP working group overview and dev. Action plan In accordance with Requirement 7.1, Suriname must ensure that the information disclosed by EITI Suriname is widely accessible and distributed to key audiences, including civil society, the media and the communities where extractive activities take place. The multi-stakeholder group is encouraged to make EITI information more understandable and relevant to citizens through thematic reports and other mediums and make these available online. Suriname must also ensure that EITI disclosures are available in appropriate languages, specifically Dutch, and consider access challenges and information needs of different genders and local mining communities. Suriname may wish to consider innovative ways to strengthen the EITI's contribution to public debate and the production of summary reports focused on key national priorities. To strengthen EITI Implementation, Suriname may wish to consider undertaking capacity building efforts to improve understanding reports and online disclosures. In accordance with Requirement 7.2 a) and 7.2 b), Suriname must agree on a clear open data policy on the access, release and re-use of EITI data. To strengthen EITI Implementation, Suriname EITI is encouraged to make systematically disclosed data machine readable and interoperable, and to code or tag EITI disclosures and other data files so that the information can be compared with other publicly available data. In accordance with Requirement 7.3 Suriname must act upon lessons learned, particularly by strengthening procedures to analyse and follow up on recommendations resulting from EITI implementation with a view to strengthening the impact of EITI in the extractive sector governance and transparency. In accordance with Requirement 7.4 the MSG should publish an annual progress report, or any other document agreed by the MSG that identifies, investigates and addresses the causes of any information gaps and discrepancies and to include an assessment of progress towards achieving the objectives stated 	<p>Provision in the budget of min NR Project drafted and submitted and to be funded by US Aid.</p> <p>Company Group to provide guidance on further engagement. All Reports are published on EITI website</p> <p>Open data policy drafted and approved by the MSG.</p> <p>(Think about a set up monitor mechanism.)</p> <p>Validation workshops held in April and December 2024, to discuss procedures on follow up on recommendations. Min fin agreed to work with format of consultant recommend and is using this on daily basis.</p>

in Suriname's 2023-2024 work plan. The MSG is encouraged to take gender considerations and inclusiveness into account. The MSG should also include an assessment of progress for the recommendations from the previous Validation and the reconciliation process.	In progress
3. Stakeholders engagement	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with Requirement 1.1, the government should ensure that senior government officials and government entities are fully, actively and effectively engaged in the EITI process through attendance to MSG meetings, outreach to stakeholders that are not members of the MSG and use of EITI data to promote public debate. • In accordance with Requirement 1.2, oil, gas and mining companies should ensure full, active and effective engagement in the EITI. The SHMR should ensure systematic participation in the MSG's work and provision of data for EITI reporting. Oil and gas companies should ensure comprehensive reporting of EITI data. • To strengthen implementation of Requirement 1.3, umbrella organisations that represent the interests of individual CSOs should establish formalised communication channels to ensure regular and comprehensive dissemination of data. Given concerns about self-censorship raised by independent third parties and some civil society members, the MSG is encouraged to closely monitor future allegations of self-censorship and possible limitations of press freedom. • To strengthen implementation of Requirement 1.4, the MSG and national secretariat should ensure that comments and issues tabled by each constituency are reflected in final documents and given adequate time for discussion during MSG meetings. The MSG should consider expanding to include other key stakeholders from government, such as the Central Bank and Bauxite Institute to improve information sharing and oversight. 	<p>Attendance reports at MSG meeting and evaluate and improve. More engagement NR Gov. make more use of EITI data Key stakeholders were identified and listed</p> <p>Encourage part. SHMR group. A lot of confidentiality issues. Note: have complete listing of oil, gas, mining companies. Discussed in MSG with rep. of SHMR, to be executed for next report</p> <p>Req 1.3 and 1.4 have to be discussed with the International Secretariat LAC team</p>
4. Transparency	

New corrective actions and recommendations	actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 3.1, Suriname should disclose an overview of the extractive industries, including any significant exploration activities and comprehensive disclosure of recent, ongoing and planned significant exploration activities. Third-party ASM estimates should be referenced through EITI reporting, especially when drawn from government sources. In accordance with Requirement 6.3, Suriname should provide estimates of informal extractive activities, including artisanal and small-scale mining, for the fiscal year(s) under review. The MSG is also encouraged to strengthen its efforts aimed at systematic disclosure of information on the contribution of the extractive industries to the economy, including companies that are not included in the scope of EITI reporting. 	<p>To request gov (min. of NR) for this data info. Small scale mining data. Michiel can provide us of report from RGM done by a consultant. SSM baseline study</p> <p>Registration of royalty payments must be transparent. Ask gov to keep it transparent. Msg must encourage the companies that are not listed. MSG requested a list of exploration license holders MSG to discuss this further.</p> <p>No actions taken</p>
5. Legal environment and fiscal regime	
New corrective actions and recommendations	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To strengthen implementation of Requirement 2.1, Suriname is encouraged to strengthen systematic disclosure of information about the legal framework and fiscal regime to enhance the public understanding of all aspects of the regulatory framework for the extractive industries, including the legal framework, fiscal regime, roles of government entities and reforms. In accordance with Requirement 2.4, Suriname should document the government's policy on disclosure of contracts and licenses that govern the exploration and exploitation of oil, gas and minerals, and disclose in full all contracts and licenses that are granted, entered into or amended from 1 January 2021. The MSG is expected to agree and publish a plan for disclosing contracts with a clear time frame for implementation and addressing any barriers to comprehensive disclosure. To strengthen implementation of Requirement 6.4, Suriname is encouraged to disclose comprehensive information on the practice associated with management and monitoring of the environmental impact of the extractive industries outside of the publication of EIAs and to continue the process of the establishment of the NMA and the fleshing out of the Environmental Framework Act. 	<p>List of documentation legal framework. Small team (with legal background) must draft of document framework legal. No actions.</p> <p>Discuss the deadline</p> <p>The gov must provide draft policy on contracts and barriers on disclosure</p> <p>No actions</p> <p>NMA established, may 1st 2024</p>

6. Licenses and property rights	
New corrective actions and recommendations	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 2.2, Suriname should comprehensively disclose the rules and practices related to the allocation and transfer process, including the technical and financial criteria assessed, and any non-trivial deviations from statutory procedures in practice. Where licenses or contracts are awarded through a bidding process, Suriname is required to disclose the list of applicants and the bid criteria. The MSG is encouraged to assess the efficiency of the license and contract allocation procedure and consider approaches to strengthening systematic disclosure of relevant information. In accordance with Requirement 2.3, Suriname should maintain a publicly available register or cadastre system with timely and comprehensive information on all mining, oil and gas licenses, including coordinates, type of commodity produced, date of application, date of award, duration of the license, and the name of the license holder. In establishing the license register. Suriname is encouraged to link license and beneficial ownership registers to aid public understanding of the full ownership chain of extractive contracts and licenses. 	<p>Enquire the info from MI GLIS system.</p> <p>No action taken</p>
7. Beneficial ownership	
New corrective actions and recommendations	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 2.5, Suriname is required to disclose the beneficial owners and politically exposed persons of all companies holding or applying for extractive licenses. To ensure public disclosure of this information going forward, Suriname should undertake the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure there is a legal and regulatory framework in place to ensure the collection and public disclosure of beneficial ownership information on all companies holding or applying for extractive licenses. Request all companies holding oil, gas and mining licenses to disclose beneficial ownership information and provide adequate assurances for data reliability. 	<p>BO work group. How to make agreement with KKF. Get info . No actions taken</p> <p>In the context of AML/CFT, legislation is being developed to make UBO (Ultimate Beneficial Owner) information publicly accessible. This legislation is crucial to prevent the country from being blacklisted.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Require all applicants of oil, gas and mining licenses and contracts to disclose their beneficial owners at the application stage. An assessment of the comprehensiveness and reliability of this information should be undertaken by the MSG. ○ Develop a strategy aimed to increase information-sharing among government entities that maintain beneficial ownership registers, with an eventual goal of unifying these various processes into one central public beneficial ownership register that is also linked to Suriname's license register. ○ Publicly identify any entities that failed to disclose their beneficial ownership. <p>Ensure public disclosure of legal owners of all companies holding or applying for extractive licenses.</p>	
8. State Participation	
New corrective actions and recommendations	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with Requirement 2.6, Suriname should ensure that a comprehensive overview of Grassalco is publicly disclosed, including an explanation of the prevailing rules and practices related to Grassalco's retained earnings, reinvestment and third-party funding. To strengthen implementation of Requirement 2.6, the MSG is encouraged to publish the rules and practices related to SOEs' operating and capital expenditures. • In accordance with Requirement 4.2, the MSG should provide information on in-kind volumes or values sold, revenues transferred to government and materiality determinations. Volumes sold and revenues received should be disaggregated by individual buying company and to levels commensurate with the reporting of other payments and revenue streams. The MSG should include buying companies in the scope of reporting, as was indicated in the previous assessment, to allow for reconciliation of these payments as opposed to unilateral reporting by government entities. • In accordance with Requirement 4.5, Suriname should clarify the procedure used in the transfer of mineral royalties from Rosebel Gold Mines, either to Grassalco or directly transferred to the Central Bank. This clarification would include a decree establishing the transfer procedure, whether royalties are paid in cash or in kind, and in the case of the latter, relevant information about the sale of these in-kind royalties, including buying companies. Government stakeholders should also clarify whether these royalty payments are being used to repay the Government of Suriname loans. 	<p>Invitation letter send to Grassalco, 2 MSG members added from Grassalco</p> <p>No actions</p> <p>No actions</p> <p>Discussed by MSG, Staatsolie and Grassalco to provide info.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 6.2, Suriname should undertake a comprehensive review of all expenditures undertaken by extractive SOEs that could be considered quasi-fiscal expenditures, such as the provision of oil for electricity generation by Staatsolie in return for a reduction in dividend payments. If these or other expenditures are deemed to be quasi-fiscal, Suriname should develop a reporting process to achieve a level of transparency commensurate with other payments and revenue streams, and the MSG should discuss them and include them in its EITI reporting processes. 	
9. Production and exports	
New corrective actions and recommendations	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 3.2, Suriname is required to disclose timely production data. Including production volumes and values by commodity. Suriname is encouraged to disaggregate production volumes and values by region, company or project, and include sources and the methods for calculating production volumes and values. The MSG is encouraged to provide their opinion on the reliability of production data and consider providing an estimate of ASM production. To strengthen implementation of Requirement 3.3, Suriname is encouraged to disaggregate export volumes and values by region, company or project, and include sources and the methods for calculating export volumes and values. The MSG is encouraged to provide their opinion on the reliability of export data and consider providing an estimate of ASM exports. 	<p>MSG to put on the agenda for further discussion. No action</p> <p>This is for NR, MSG to put on the agenda for further discussion.</p>
10. Revenue collection	
New corrective actions and recommendations	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 4.1. a) Suriname should demonstrate progress in addressing the corrective action from the previous Validation by ensuring that all material payments and revenues are comprehensively disclosed by government entities and extractive companies. In addition, Suriname must assess the relevance of disclosing data from the medium-scale mining companies. When disclosing this information, Suriname should consider routine government and corporate reporting. To improve the comprehensiveness of information and in accordance with Requirement 4.1. b), Suriname must ensure that all government entities receiving material revenues from oil, gas and mining companies and extractive sector companies making material payments to the government are required to comprehensively disclose these revenues in accordance with the agreed scope and in accordance with level of disaggregation described in Requirement 4.7. Suriname should ensure that its materiality decisions related to selecting 	<p>Ask International Secretariat : comprehensive disclosure?? further discussion in group MSG</p> <p>No actions</p>

<p>companies and revenue streams for reconciliation are followed in practice without significant deviations from the standard procedures. In addressing this Requirement, the MSG might wish to clarify the fiscal obligations and the payments received by the medium and small-scale sector. In addition, Suriname should disclose a description of each revenue flow that could allow citizens to identify and understand the contribution of the extractive industries to government revenues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with Requirement 4.7 and to improve the EITI data's contribution to public debate, Suriname is required to revise its project-level reporting definition for all payments and revenues levied on a per-project basis for EITI reporting. • In accordance with Requirement 4.8, Suriname must improve on the timeliness of EITI data disclosures, by strengthening existing systematic disclosures by companies and government. The MSG is encouraged to revise legal and administrative barriers that could delay the implementation of EITI activities such as the EITI Report. • In accordance with Requirement 4.9.a, Suriname is required to address the gaps described in the assessment made by the Independent Administrator and secure that payments and revenues are subject to credible, independent audit, applying international auditing standards. In fulfilling this Requirement, Suriname is encouraged to involve the high auditing agency in this process. To improve the reliability of information and in accordance with requirement 4.9.b., the MSG and the Independent Administrator should guarantee that the auditing and assurance procedures in companies and government entities participating in the EITI reporting process are credible. The Independent Administrator team should exercise professional judgement and apply appropriate international procedures to determine the extent to which reliance can be placed on the existing controls and audit frameworks. The MSG is required to apply the standard procedure agreed with the Independent Administrator without any material deviations. 	<p>No actions</p> <p>Late reporting of EITI report, agenda point for MSG</p> <p>Discuss in MSG. No action</p>
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11. Revenue management	
New corrective actions and recommendations	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with Requirement 5.1, Suriname should provide a clear explanation as to which extractive revenues are recorded in the national budget and which are not. These explanations should be published on the Central Bank or MoFP websites with EITI Reports used to document and reference where this information is disclosed systematically. For extractive revenues that are retained by SOEs or allocated outside of the national budget, Suriname should ensure that there are financial reports associated with these SOEs and funds that publicly indicate how these revenues are allocated. To strengthen implementation of Requirement 5.3, the government is encouraged to disclose mineral and petroleum revenue forecasts and the assumptions underlying different scenarios. The MSG is encouraged to publicize information related to revenue projections and plans for their management to improve public comprehension. The MSG is also encouraged to engage in overseeing the management of the Suriname Savings and Stabilization Fund as the fund begins to receive extractive revenue allocations. 	<p>Response needed from min of fin./ CBvS/ Staatsolie and Grassalco Discussed within the MSG, relevant stakeholders to provide further feedback</p> <p>Discussed in MSG, gov and petroleum sector to provide feedback</p>
12. subnational contribution	
New corrective actions and recommendations	Actions
<p>In accordance with Requirement 6.1, Suriname should disclose whether any mandatory social expenditures by mining companies are undertaken in cash or in kind and disclose beneficiaries, when those are not government entities. The MSG should review whether small and medium-scale mining companies are obliged to undertake mandatory and voluntary social expenditures. Mandatory oil and gas social expenditures should be disaggregated by payment type, between cash or in-kind and whether they are made to non-government beneficiaries. Suriname EITI should ensure that EITI reporting clearly states materiality decisions concerning mandatory environmental payments to government. The MSG should agree on a procedure to address data quality and assurance of information on social and environmental expenditures, in accordance with Requirement 4.9.</p>	<p>Info on oil and gas, Daniela? Rosebel/ involve NIMOS.</p> <p>Discussed within MSG, entities req to provide data for EITI reporting Mining companies voluntarily disclose social expenditures.</p>

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

The MSG reviewed and discussed previous recommendations and held at least 2 workshops on this topic. The previous recommendations were also discussed in at least 1 regular MSG meeting. The recommendations show that commitment from various stakeholders, including the Central Government, is crucial to promote transparency and to continue reducing corruption in the extractive sector. The government is responsible for having adequate and updated legislation and to provide the means to EITI Suriname in order to achieve the goals set in the Work Plans. The companies, especially the state-owned, should be an example to other companies in the extractive sector. The Civil Society needs more empowerment in executing activities in especially the remote areas.

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

Weaknesses:

- Production of Tor's for EITI reporting;
- Lack of technical capacity to produce and review documents;
- Lack of funding;
- Lack of full participation in EITI activities.

Strengths:

- Commitment of at least 3 members from all constituencies
- A mix of skills, expertise, and experiences to effectively address challenges.
- Smaller teams focus on specific topics in detail, enabling quicker decision-making and action.

6. Implementation of beneficial ownership disclosure plans

The approved definition by the MSG was proposed to be included in the new mining and extractive industry legislation during consultation workshops. The MSG will seek guidance from the International Secretariat on how to address this topic further. Plan at least 1 meeting with the International Secretariat LAC team.

7. Total costs of implementation

Finance

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

The National Secretariat included a budget in the National Budget under EITI Suriname, and the amount given by the Ministry of Natural Resources is SRD 1,300,000.00, which was available since the budget was discussed and approved in Parliament on January 25th, 2024. The budget was allocated for paying off the International Contribution for the years 2022/2023, an amount of USD 20,000.00. The amount of SRD 683,400.00 and swift cost of SRD 3,437.00 was paid for International Contribution. The request for an amount of USD 10,000.00 (SRD 341,700.00 + swift 3,437.00) for year 2024 was sent to the council of ministers in October 2024. In 2024 there were no payments made to the Independent Administrator.

No.	Expenditure Items	Total amount SRD	Description
1.	National Coordinators meeting	25,625.00	Paid
2.	Regional Training Colombia	44,568.00	Not paid yet
3.	Training China	25,818.90	Not paid yet
4.	Regional Knowledge Exchange Trinidad & Tobago	39,375.00	Not paid yet
5.	Contribution EITI Int'l FY 2022/2023	683,400.00	Paid
6.	Contribution EITI Int'l FY 22/23 Swift costs	3,437.00	Paid
7.	AabeCe Graphics promo items SEOGS 2024	48,525.00	Paid
8.	Spice Quest	47,600.00	Paid
9.	Contribution EITI Int'l FY 2024	341,700.00	Not approved yet
10.	Contribution EITI Int'l FY 2024 Swift costs	3,437.00	Not approved yet
	Total amount	<u>1,263,786.05</u>	<u>36,213.00 (rest)</u>

****Not paid yet means that the participants have not received the payments by the government yet. Rent space at Spice Quest was reserved for a presentation by an international consultant but did not take place. Planning of this event moved to 2025.**

MSG allowances

As of December 2016, the MSG was established by approval of the council of ministers for two years <https://eitipuriname.gov.sr/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/RvM-537538.pdf> and was extended for one year <https://eitipuriname.gov.sr/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Missive-418-RvM-SEITI-leden.jpg>.

The Chairman is entitled to receive a monthly allowance of SRD 1,250.00 and all other 17 members are entitled to receive a monthly allowance of SRD 1,000.00. Due to the company policy of some members, they have requested not to receive the monthly allowance. Since January 2020 the allowance of the members was not paid. The Secretariat has sent the proposal for re-established of the MSG to the Council of ministers but until now no approval was granted.

Staffing SEITI Secretariat

3 Persons are responsible for the duties of the Secretariat:

- Mrs. Novella Alcantra - Majana (National Coordinator)
- Ms. Jenusah Sanné (Administrative Officer)
- Mrs. Varsha Jaghroe (Technical Officer as of February 26th, 2024)

8. Any additional comments

The MSG has been without an appointed Chairman since August 2020. In the absence of a substantive Chairman, the MSG adopted an informal rotating Chairmanship process between the companies and Civil Society constituencies. The year has passed and still no chairman has been appointed. This topic will be discussed again in 2025.

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

This annual report has not been discussed beyond the MSG yet but will after being approved by the MSG, and will be the leading document when talking to stakeholders about the EITI progress in Suriname and will also be published on the website.

10. Details of membership of the MSG during year 2024

Attendance 9 Regular EITI meetings in 2024

Preciosa Simons (Ministry of Natural Resources)	2/10
Rachele van de Scheur- Rijker (appointed as of September 2024)	2/2
Vikaash Soerdjbalisingh (Ministry of Natural Resources, started August 2023)	2/5
<i>replaced as of September 2024 by Rachele van de Scheur – Rijker.</i>	
Georgetine Tjalim (Ministry of Finance)	9/10
Sagita Jaggan (Ministry of Finance)	4/10
Henk Deel (Ministry of Regional Development)	7/10
Suraksha Hirasingh (appointed September 27 th , 2023)	0
<i>replaced by Rafiq Ilahi.</i>	
Rafiq Ilahi (appointed November 2024)	1/1

Civil Society

Rayah Bhattacharji (Stichting Projekta)	8/10
Monique Essed-Fernandes (Stichting Projekta)	7/10
Rene Artist (VIDS)	5/10
Tosca Pinas (KAMPOS)	2/10
Roy Caupain (SWOS)	2/10

Companies

Michiel Raafenberg (Zijin Company)	6/10
Daniela Herkul (Staatsolie)	5/10
Bernadette Sabajo Cederboom (Newmont)	10/10

Annex 1

EITI Suriname activities 2024

Month 2024	Description
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ MSG meeting 1 January 24th 2024 ✚ Minutes December 6th approved ✚ Year 2023 evaluated with the emphasis on achieving goals by sticking to set goals. ✚ January 23rd Participation in a presentation of the outcome of mapping studies. An examination of the gaps in Suriname's legal framework and an investigation into the gaps in capacity building programs of the government and other institutes organized by Stg. Projekta. ✚ Start NS training sessions Finance and Project writing donated by Shell. ✚ January 26th Acquaintance meeting with Economic Officer, Chris Valdes from the US Embassy discussing US State Department's Annual Fiscal Transparency Report 2023.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ MSG meeting 2 February 7th 2024 ✚ February 19th 1st National Coordinators meeting: Key points discussed: Contribution of implementing countries; New ToR on EITI reporting; ✚ Discussion and approval of workplan 2024/2025 ✚ Discussion on APR 2023 ✚ Meeting with IDB preparing us for a presentation on the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (GPSDD) about tracking mining data Suriname. ✚ Private Sector shared rotation schedule ✚ Proposal EITI report 2021/2022 to be submitted by BDO the latest March 8th.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ MSG meeting 3 March 6th 2024 ✚ MSG meeting 4 March 21st 2024 ✚ Minutes January 24th approved ✚ Minutes February 7th approved ✚ Minutes March 6th approved ✚ 2 members of Grassalco officially admitted. ✚ Suspension letter received from EITI for not reaching deadline of publishing report 2021. ✚ Invoice received for contribution FY 2024. ✚ Varsha officially introduced. ✚ Discussion Validation outcomes and workshop ✚ Presentation draft open data policy ✚ March 26th Validation session with IS LAC team ✚ March 14th Participation in session: "Implementing the EITI standard 2023 in the workplan"

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Validation assessment EITI report 2018-2020 ✚ March 26th Introduction of Jessica Sanchez as country lead Suriname ✚ March 28th deadline submissions of comments on draft validation report. ✚ Organize validation assessment workshop
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ MSG meeting 5 April 3rd 2024 ✚ MSG Special meeting (validation workshop) April 24th ✚ Approved minutes March 6th ✚ Approved minutes March 21st ✚ NS submits comments on draft validation report to Validation team ✚ Evaluation BDO proposal by the technical team ✚ April 11th Participation in LAC Anticorruption session ✚ 24th Validation assessment workshop held ✚ Presentation draft open data policy ✚ Discussion draft APR 2023
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ MSG meeting 6 May 8th 2024 ✚ Approved minutes April 3rd ✚ May 3rd Presentation by NC to the IMF. IMF delegation was mostly interested in the provisions in the new mining law concerning EITI and when the Beneficial ownership register will be implemented. ✚ May 9th Participation in LAC Beneficial Ownership session ✚ NS received 2 refurbished laptops from Shell ✚ ToR on communication for an amount of USD 100,000.00 was once again shared with SCSD PIU. ✚ Discussion draft APR 2023 ✚ Letter to BDO concerning discussed points in the technical committee meeting was sent to SCSD PIU ✚ Discussion on draft open data policy ✚ Update on recruitment IA ✚ Official Announcement of Mike leaving the MSG at the end of June.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ MSG meeting 7 June 13th 2024 ✚ June 5th – June 7th participation in Suriname Energy, Oil & Gas Summit. EITI Suriname participating in panel ✚ June 6th Participation in LAC Environmental disclosure session, an overview of the new social and environmental provisions of the EITI standard 2023 ✚ June 10th NC meets with Procurement Specialist SCSD PIU emphasizing the need of contract signing with BDO as soon as possible. ✚ Meeting with Mr. D. Abiamfofo Minister of Natural Resources addressing the challenges to implement EITI especially procurement of the IA via the SCSD project, equipment of the NS and clarity on funds through SCSD for EITI.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Discussion on the draft APR 2024 ✚ June 16th -June 19th Participation in the in-person NC meeting in Geneva ✚ June 24th Participation of the NC in the Dutch MSG meeting ✚ June 27th negotiation meeting with BDO voicing the comments made by the technical team ✚ Update recruitment IA ✚ Update on meeting with minister D.Abiamofo ✚ Update on meeting US delegates
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ July 1st – July 6th Participation in LAC regional training
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ MSG meeting 8 August 14th 2024 ✚ Approved minutes May 8th (email approval) ✚ Approved APR 2023 (email approval) ✚ Approved Open Data Policy (email approval) ✚ August 8th Participation in LAC Energy transition session focused on the role of the EITI in energy transition which is to provide data and dialogue to shed light on how the energy transition is impacting the extractive sector and to strengthen governance in the changing industry. ✚ Present in the meeting Jessica LAC country lead ✚ Update recruitment IA ✚ Validation assessment workshop outcome
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ MSG meeting October 9th 2024 ✚ Relocation of the NS to the GMD building ✚ Stipend status. Still not approved by the council of Ministers ✚ Update recruitment IA. The IA has signed. PS of Mining still has to sign. ✚ Proper introduction of Rachele to the MSG ✚ Status procurement of communication specialist firm not clear. SCSD PIU to still give an update. ✚ New ToR for EITI reporting shared with the MSG ✚ Presentation concerning the Sovereign Wealth Fund by Carl Eckhorst (IMF negotiator)
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ November 4th – 7th Participation in Regional Knowledge exchange Trinidad & Tobago ✚ November 26th Kick Off meeting reporting years 2021/2022
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ MSG meeting December 11th 2024 ✚ MSG special meeting (workshop defining materiality) December 18th ✚ Approved minutes June 13th ✚ Approved minutes August 14th ✚ Approved minutes October 9th on December 18th ✚ December 12th Participation in LAC consultation validation model on validation process

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ December 2nd Capacity Building session 1 concerning reporting years 2021/2022 ✚ Draft proposal for funding of WP activities through FTIF sent to the US Embassy ✚ Extension letter FY2021/2022 drafted, signed and sent to IS ✚ Mark officially announcing his stepping down from the MSG and introducing Andrew Hepburn, who will start from January 1st 2025 ✚ Start Stakeholder meetings with BDO concerning report 2021/2022 ✚ MSG members express concerned about BDO not wanting to involve CS in scoping/inception report 2021/2022. ✚ Discussions on draft ToR for EITI reporting ✚ Evaluation year 2024
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Suriname EITI Open Data Policy

Context

Article 41 of the Constitution of the Republic of Suriname, which reads as follows: “Natural resources and resources are the property of the nation and should be used in economic, social and cultural development. The nation has the inalienable right to take full possession of its natural resources for the purpose of utilizing them for the economic, social and cultural development of Suriname”, enshrines the sovereign rights and use of the country’s natural resources for the development of the nation and its people. As the custodians of the nation’s patrimony, it is incumbent on the government to provide citizens with transparent, easily accessible information/data on the extraction, monetization and management of these non-renewable resources.

In its Policy Note for the period 2020 – 2025 the Ministry of Natural Resources identifies Transparency, (along with innovation, inclusion and sustainability) as one of its priority policy focus areas for the 5 year period up to 2025, to convert the country’s wealth potential from available natural resources to visible sustainable economic development and production, benefiting society to the greatest extent possible. In the specific area of transparency, the government identified the enhancement of systems and processes for public access to data on the management of the extractive industries.

Open data policies play a crucial role in promoting transparency, innovation, and collaboration. Open data policies also typically adhere to principles such as making government data publicly accessible, ensuring data quality, and encouraging its use for various purposes.

There is consensus amongst all stakeholder groups, that EITI implementation in Suriname has improved the availability and accessibility of data on, as well as dialogue between, stakeholders involved in the management of the country’s extractives sector. Access to EITI data adds value by increasing transparency and public awareness on extractive industry revenue and the use of this revenue for sustainable, effective development projects. Open access to extractive sector data also benefits Government, with respect to the formulation of policies to better manage the extractive sectors. This in turn, positively influences the investment climate of the country.

The Government of Suriname has undertaken several initiatives related to statistical data and governance. That notwithstanding, Suriname does not currently have an overarching specific National Data Policy. Whilst efforts have been made in the recent past by both the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance to publish data on the extractive sector in Excel spreadsheet format, access to data on the revenues generated from Suriname’s extractive sector are largely aggregated with data from other revenue flows and integrated into the national budget, with little or no focus paid to how benefits from the sector are being distributed at the national and regional levels.

EITI Reports are the only place to publicly disclose data that is not systematically disclosed on government or company websites, about key aspects of the management of extractive industries and the revenues derived therefrom, such as in-kind payments and the distribution of extractive revenues across the economy.

Suriname can therefore use EITI reporting as an annual diagnostic to strengthen implementation of legal reforms, raise awareness of issues among community and industry stakeholders, as well as deviations from the fiscal frameworks governing oil, gas and mining agreements.

Policy requirements

Requirement 7.2 A – B of the EITI Standard 2023, requires the Multi-Stakeholder Group of EITI “Implementing countries....to ensure that EITI disclosures are made publicly accessible...[by]:

- i. [Agreeing] a clear open data policy on the access, release and re-use of EITI data...[and]
- ii. Mak[ing] the data... [from EITI Reports] available in an open data format online and publicize its availability. Open data format means that data is made accessible in CSV or Excel format and contain all data of tables, charts and figures from EITI Reports.”

“Implementing countries are [also] encouraged to make systematically disclosed data machine-readable and inter-operable, and to structure EITI disclosures and other data files so that the information can be compared with other publicly available data.”

Policy context

In the absence of specific open data policies or frameworks within the government of Suriname, this EITISR Open Data Policy builds upon international definitions and best practice on this matter.

Definition

The Open Data Charter <http://opendatacharter.net/>, an international Open Data NGO, defines Open Data as “...data that is made available with the technical and legal characteristics necessary for it to be freely used, reused, and redistributed by anyone, anytime, anywhere.” In keeping with this definition, the EITISR Multi-Stakeholder Group at its xx meeting discussed and adopted the following definition for “Open data”.

“Data that is in the public domain or ought to be in the public domain that is accessible, can be freely used, re-used, built upon and redistributed anywhere, by anyone, at no cost, for any purpose without restrictions due to copyright, patent or other legal or treaty rights or obligations other than those expressly excluded by the provisions of the laws of the Republic of Suriname.”

Guiding Principles and Objectives

The EITISR Open Data policy is built on the following guiding principles and objectives derived from the Open Data Charter as follows:

Principles

The EITISR Open Data policy will be guided by the following principles viz all reporting data must be:

- a. Open by default;
- b. Timely and comprehensive;
- c. Accessible and usable;
- d. Comparable and interoperability;
- e. Improved governance and citizens engagement; and,
- f. Inclusive development and innovation.

Objectives:

The key objectives of the EITISR Open Data policy shall be to, inter alia:

1. **Enhance** of the transparency of government and business activities
2. **Increase** civil society's knowledge and awareness of how the country's natural resources are used and how extractives revenues are levied and spent, as a check against misuse/misappropriation of those funds
3. **Promote** accountability and good governance, by providing free access to, and subsequent re-use of, open data
4. **Improve** government policy making and sector management, enhance public debate by empowering civil society and help to combat corruption.

Access

The systematic disclosure of extractive industry data in Open Data forms is now in a formative stage in key Suriname Government agencies such as the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank and the National Statistical Bureau of Suriname. At the time of the adoption of this policy these agencies have published Open Data sets in Microsoft Excel (XLS) format.

The EITISR MSG has, as a matter of practice, published all its EITISR Reports and associated data on the [EITISR website](#) in Portable Document Format (PDF). With effect from its 4th reconciliation report covering fiscal years 2021 and 2022, the MSG will ensure that all EITISR data, be they in text or narrative or numerical data formats are published in a standardized, open format, that can be accessed by all from the eitisuriname.org website.

Where datasets have been developed for the purpose of the EITISR Report e.g. reconciliation numerical data and contextual text/narrative data, these will be made available on the eitisuriname.org website. To the extent possible, these datasets will be published simultaneously with the EITISR Report. Where possible, the contextual data published on <https://eitisuriname.gov.sr/> will also include a longer time set than the version published in the EITISR Report.

In general, tabulated data will be made available in XLS (Microsoft Excel) and CSV (Comma Separated Values) formats and the MSG will, when appropriate consider options to move to publishing linkable and linked data (<http://linkeddata.org/>). Excel/CSV data will be presented in such a way that calculations/ analysis can be easily made from the data (i.e. no special formatting, merged cells, headers etc.)

The EITISR MSG agreed at its Meeting on April 3rd , 2024, to the adoption of a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Public Domain License for accessing EITISR data. Adoption of a Public Domain license regime will ensure the user free access to and subsequent re-use of data by granting such user a worldwide, royalty-free, non-sublicensable, non-exclusive, irrevocable license to reproduce and share the licensed material, in whole or in part; and produce, reproduce, and share adapted material with the requirement that users provide attribution to the EITISR whenever our data is used and shared.

Comment 1: specify that narrative/text data should also be in an open format, such as Word, in such a way that it can be copied.

Comment 2: specify that Excel/CSV data should be presented in such a way that calculations/analysis can be easily made from the data (i.e. no special formatting, merged cells, headers etc.)

Approved by the MSG August 14th 2024