

SESA Executive Summary

PROJECT CONTEXT

RINA Consulting, Inc. conducted a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) of Suriname's mining sector, focusing on gold and bauxite mining. The SESA aims to ensure sustainable mining development aligned with international standards and the country's long-term sustainability goals.

SESA OBJECTIVES

The SESA aims to improve environmental protection, ensure local well-being, and clarify institutional responsibilities in Suriname's mining sector. It will also contribute to a more transparent understanding of environmental and social regulations.

SESA METHODOLOGY

The SESA methodology, informed by stakeholder interaction and best practices, aims to strengthen institutional capacity and integrate environmental and social concerns into the mining sector. This approach prioritizes consultation and participation, upholding Indigenous and Maroon Peoples' rights.

The SESA process involves six stages, including scoping, impact analysis, mitigation planning, and final approval. A concurrent stage focuses on capacity building for the government to effectively regulate and monitor the mining sector.

KEY FINDINGS

The key findings of the SESA can be summarized as follows:

1. The mining sector lacks clearly defined roles and responsibilities for monitoring social and environmental impacts. Institutional capacity assessments reveal weaknesses in the regulatory framework's implementation and insufficient resources for monitoring and evaluation.
2. Suriname's mining sector lacks a specific legal and regulatory framework, leading to environmental and social issues. The government needs to address these issues, including formalizing informal miners and implementing international human rights legislation.
3. Suriname lacks a national emergency response capacity and discharge standards. While NIMOS administers environmental impact assessments, the transition to NMA is ongoing, and waste management systems are unstructured.

4. Communities lack information about mining projects and are not involved in decision-making. There is a need for increased information sharing, capacity-building, and benefit-sharing mechanisms to address environmental and social concerns.

SESA ACTION PLAN AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Strategic recommendations, prioritized by timeframe, are proposed for implementation to comply with SESA recommendations. Further activities and capacity building will be identified during implementation.

Strengthening regulatory institutions, legal frameworks, and enforcement mechanisms is a top priority. This includes improving mining act clarity, standardizing contracts, and enhancing public consultation and stakeholder engagement.

Medium-term recommendations include strengthening monitoring, establishing environmental agencies, and prioritizing environmental protection. Other recommendations focus on mining accident prevention, liability provisions, and community well-being.

Long-term action recommendations include phasing out of toxic mining substances, formalizing artisanal mining, and promoting a circular economy.