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# THE NATIONAL MANGROVE STRATEGY SURINAME (NMS)



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**List of Abbreviations**

ABS	General Bureau of Statistics
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GCCA+	Global Climate Change Alliance+
GoS	Government of Suriname
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MAFOSUR	Mangrove Forum Suriname
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MUMA	Multiple Use Management Area
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCCPSAP	National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NMS	National Mangrove Strategy
NR	Nature Reserves
OP	Policy Development Plan 2017-2021
REDD+	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
RGB	Ministry of Spatial Planning, Land and Forest Management
SCPAM	Suriname Coastal Protected Area Management
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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## FOREWORD

Mangrove covers only a 0.5% of Suriname's land surface but plays an enormous role in the existence of the country's benefit. Amongst the number of goods and services the mangrove ecosystem provides, security is the most important value at present for the coastal communities and that of the country in general, through the generation of food, conservation of water resources and protection of goods and other economic values. Furthermore, it provides shelter for fish juveniles, birds and room for a wide variety of biodiversity. Mangrove are crucial for Suriname in respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation because they form a natural sea barrier in the low-lying coastline. Because of the fertile soils and abundance in natural resources, including hydrocarbons, these areas are attractive for agricultural production, establishment of new settlements, infrastructure and economic developments. The mangrove ecosystem sequesters much more carbon compared to other tropical forest types, whilst also demonstrating the ability to adapt current trends of sea-level rise. In this context, the mangrove ecosystem also offers good perspectives to the generations to come.

However, notwithstanding the various services and goods provided by mangrove ecosystem to the nation, the region and the world, it is under a tremendous pressure. In the absence of an up-to-date comprehensive coastal zone management strategy up to now, the government of Suriname has chosen to construct dams, dykes and sea walls against the risk of flooding and economic damage caused by persistent erosion and saltwater intrusion which can be exacerbated soon by the uncontrolled sea level rise. If this trend continues, which is likely, under the present rate of the sea level rise, construction of grey infrastructures, such as seawall, dams and dykes, will end up in loss and deterioration of mangrove ecosystem services, increasing thereby the vulnerability of the coastal communities and that of the people living and working in the low lying coastal area. Moreover, this approach will only fuel climate change impact further. Nevertheless, the government is intended to construct a new sea dyke projected in the north of the districts Wanica and Paramaribo in addition to the existing 22 km of seawall and dykes in the western districts Nickerie, and Coronie. In the first stage the new dyke may have a length of 8 km, but may extend up to 20 km.

As a low-lying coastal country, Suriname will be better off with actions that enhance the protection, conservation and expansion of the mangrove ecosystem. It should be noted that mangrove is one of the few ecosystems worldwide, which can adapt to the impacts of the increasing global temperature, if kept below the two degrees as indicated in the Paris Agreement.

Mangrove Forum Suriname (MAFOSUR) is a forum of people and organizations who are advocates for mangrove conservation in the country. MAFOSUR is of the opinion that loss of mangrove should be halted and where possible rehabilitated through the implementation of clean technologies and capacity building, among others. MAFOSUR is also in favor of sustainable use of the ecosystem goods and services. In this respect, the MAFOSUR is proud























































