GREEN
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
2025 - 2050

MINISTERIE VAN
RUIMTELIJKE ORDENING
EN MILIEU

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

UNDP

Preface

As we stand on the brink of a new era, Suriname finds itself at the forefront of its most significant oil and gas development in history. The offshore discoveries promise to transform our economy and unlock vast new revenues that can propel our nation forward. This is an exciting and unprecedented moment for our country. However, as we embark on this journey of rapid growth, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to sustainable development. While these new resources offer immense opportunities, they also bring responsibility. We owe it to ourselves and future generations to ensure that these windfalls are harnessed wisely.

Our vision must extend beyond short-term gains; it should be one that spans at least the next 25 years. This document presents a strategic roadmap that will guide Suriname through the complexities of balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship and social well-being. As we experience fast economic growth, it is crucial that we maintain a clear-eyed focus on long-term sustainability. Suriname is blessed with not mineral resources but also one of the most valuable natural resources in the world—our natural forests, which cover close to 93% of our land. These forests are not just a source of natural wealth but also a critical part of the global fight against climate change.

The core of our Green Development Strategy is finding the right balance between economic growth and diversification, social inclusivity, and environmental protection. We are committed to ensuring that the benefits of our natural resources contribute to the well-being of all citizens, while also safeguarding our environment. As we move forward, we must ensure that our development efforts do not come at the cost of our precious ecosystems.

The four pillars of this strategy—sustainable economic diversification and growth, environmental protection and climate resilience, social inclusivity and equity, and good governance and institutional strengthening—are designed to work in harmony. By implementing practices that tie these pillars together, we aim to build a resilient future for all Surinamese. A future where our children and (great)grandchildren can thrive in a society that is not only economically prosperous but also environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive.

This document is a call to action. It serves as both a guide and a promise: a guide to achieving sustainable development and a promise to future generations that we will not be short-sighted in managing our nation's vast resources. It is our responsibility, today and every day forward, to protect and enhance the natural beauty and wealth we have inherited, for the benefit of all. Together, we can build a future that respects our rich heritage while boldly embracing the opportunities of tomorrow.

Let us, therefore, commit to this vision and strategy with the same energy and passion that have brought us to this pivotal moment in our nation's history.

H.E. Chandrikapersad Santokhi

President of the Republic of Suriname

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List of Abbreviations

AML	Anti-Money Laundering
ARIS	Authority for Spatial Planning in Suriname (Autoriteit voor Ruimtelijke Inrichting in Suriname)
ASGM	Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBvS	Centrale Bank van Suriname.
CFT	Countering Financing of Terrorism
CLEWS	Climate, Land, Energy, and Water Systems
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
CPF	Countering Proliferation Financing
CPI	Corruption Perception Index
DLGP	Decentralization and Local Government Strengthening Program
DSMI	Development Strategy Monitoring Institute
DWCP	Decent Work Country Programme
EITI	Extractive Industry Transperancy Initiative
EMSAGS	Environmental Management in the Mining Sector of Suriname, with Emphasis on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM)
EPHF	Essential Public Health Functions
EPI	Environmental Performance Index
ESG	Environmental, Social, and Governance
ESP	Electricity Sector Plan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCCA	Global Climate Change Alliance
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GDS	Green Development Strategy
GMD	Geological Mining Service
HDI	Human Development Index
HFLD	High Forest Cover Low Deforestation
HFO	Heavy Fuel Oil
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank.

IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISF	Integrated Sustainability Framework
ISWMP	Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan
ITMO	Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes
ITP	Indigenous and Tribal People
LBO	Lager Beroepsonderwijs
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
MOP	Meerjaren Ontwikkelings Plan (Multi-Annual Development Plan)
MSG	Multi-Stakeholder Group
MULO	Meer Uitgebreid Lager Onderwijs
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCD	Non-Communable Diseases
ND-GAIN	Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NMA	Nationale Milieu Autoriteit (National Environmental Authority)
NMPI	National Multidimensional Poverty Index
OIC	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
ROM	Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (Ministerie van Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieu)
SAM	Social Accounting Matrix
SDC	Suriname Development Council
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEOB	Suriname Economic Oversight Board
SDIM	Sustainable Development Investment Model
SIDS	Small Island Developing States.
SRD	Surinamese Dollar
STEM	Science, Technological, Engineering and Mathematics
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
WRO	Spatial Planning Act (Wet Ruimtelijke Ordening)

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Executive Summary

Suriname: A Nation at a Crossroads

Suriname, a country rich in natural resources, faces critical economic, environmental, and social challenges. Despite being one of the world's most forested nations, with 93% forest cover, environmental threats such as deforestation from artisanal gold mining and urban expansion put its role as a global carbon sink at risk. Climate change further exacerbates these vulnerabilities, particularly in coastal areas, necessitating urgent adaptation and mitigation measures.

The economy remains heavily dependent on extractive industries, particularly gold and oil. While recent offshore oil discoveries offer promising economic prospects, this reliance exposes the country to volatility in global commodity prices. High public debt, currently at 136.8% of GDP, along with persistent inflation, underscores ongoing fiscal instability. Social inequalities persist, with 17.5% of the population living below the poverty line, and rural and Indigenous communities continuing to face limited access to quality healthcare and education. Governance inefficiencies, a declining Corruption Perception Index (CPI), and fragmented institutional mandates further hinder sustainable development, highlighting the need for systemic reform.

The Need for a Long-Term Strategy

Suriname's history of short-term economic planning has left it vulnerable to financial shocks and environmental degradation. The Green Development Strategy (GDS) addresses these challenges by outlining a long-term vision for the period 2025–2050, focusing on sustainable economic diversification, environmental conservation, and social equity. Unlike past approaches that treated these aspects separately, the GDS integrates economic, environmental, and social goals within a unified framework. To ensure stability and continuity across political cycles, it will be institutionalized through a GDS Act, preventing short-term policy shifts from undermining long-term development.

Rationale for the Green Development Strategy

The GDS provides a comprehensive framework to navigate Suriname's future by integrating key pillars of sustainable development. Economic diversification and growth are at the core of the strategy, aiming to reduce dependency on extractive industries by fostering sectors such as eco-tourism, renewable energy, financial services, and agro-processing. At the same time, environmental protection and climate resilience remain critical, ensuring that Suriname maintains its status as a global carbon sink through conservation policies, pollution control, and sustainable land management. Social progress is another key focus, with inclusive development ensuring that marginalized communities, including Indigenous groups and low-income populations, benefit from economic advancements. Strengthening governance and institutions is fundamental, as transparency, accountability, and public participation are essential for ensuring stability and effective policy implementation.

The GDS aligns with Suriname's national frameworks, such as the Constitution and the Planning Act, while also meeting international commitments like the Paris Agreement, Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs), and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). By shifting from resource dependency to a diversified, climate-resilient economy, Suriname aims to maintain its carbon-negative status while ensuring inclusive growth for all citizens.

Methodology and Stakeholder Engagement

The GDS has been developed through a structured three-phase methodology. First, a comprehensive assessment analyzed economic, environmental, social, and governance challenges. Second, a shared long-term vision was created through extensive consultations with key stakeholders, including government, the private sector, and civil society, ensuring that development goals align with sustainability principles. Finally, a strategy development phase used scenario modeling to identify policy priorities and establish performance indicators. This participatory approach ensures broad ownership of the GDS and enhances policy coherence across sectors.

Framework of the GDS

The GDS is built on four strategic pillars, each with sector-specific strategies. Economic diversification and growth focus on expanding industries such as agriculture, forestry, eco-tourism, financial services, ICT, and renewable energy, reducing reliance on extractive industries. Environmental protection and climate resilience emphasize biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, sustainable land and water management, and pollution control. Social inclusivity and equity aim to improve education, labor market participation, gender equality, Indigenous rights, and healthcare access. Governance and institutional strengthening focus on improving transparency, stakeholder engagement, and institutional capacity to drive long-term development.

Scenario Analysis and the Best Way Forward

To determine the most viable development path, four potential scenarios were analyzed. A Business-as-Usual (BAU) approach, where Suriname continues to rely on extractive industries, would likely lead to economic stagnation, worsening inequality, and environmental degradation. An agriculture-focused model could boost employment but risks increasing deforestation. A strategy centered on industrialization would bring economic benefits but carry moderate environmental risks. Meanwhile, a services-led growth approach, focused on ICT, finance, and tourism, presents the best balance, allowing for sustainable diversification with minimal environmental trade-offs. The analysis recommends a blended approach, emphasizing industrial and service sector expansion while preserving Suriname's environmental assets.

Expected Outcomes by 2050

By implementing the GDS, Suriname aims to achieve significant economic and social progress by 2050. GDP per capita is projected to reach at least USD 40,000, driven by diversified growth. The country will maintain its carbon-negative status, with 93% forest cover intact. Income inequality will decrease, with a Gini index below 0.30, and the Human Development Index (HDI) will exceed 0.85, reflecting improvements in education, healthcare, and living standards. Additionally, transparent governance structures will ensure long-term growth and social stability.

Implementation and Institutional Arrangements

To facilitate effective implementation, the GDS establishes new institutions. The Suriname Development Council (SDC) will oversee execution and ensure coordination among stakeholders. The Development Strategy Monitoring Institute (DSMI) will provide technical guidance and track performance. A GDS Act will guarantee legal continuity and policy stability across successive governments. Planning instruments such as spatial planning, multi-annual development plans (MOPs), and sectoral plans will translate the long-term strategy into actionable policies.

Resource Mobilization and Investment

The estimated investment required for GDS implementation is USD 72.5 billion between 2025 and 2050. This funding will be distributed across key areas: USD 25.39 billion (35%) for economic diversification, USD 21.76 billion (30%) for environmental protection, USD 18.14 billion (25%) for social inclusivity, and USD 7.25 billion (10%) for governance and institutional strengthening.

The financing strategy incorporates both traditional sources, such as government budgets and Official Development Assistance (ODA), and innovative mechanisms, including carbon markets, green bonds, REDD+, and international climate finance. Suriname's participation in Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) under the Paris Agreement will further mobilize resources for conservation and sustainable development.

A Sustainable Future for Suriname

The Green Development Strategy presents a transformative roadmap for Suriname's transition to a diversified, sustainable, and climate-resilient economy. By integrating economic growth with environmental protection and social inclusion, the GDS ensures that the country's natural wealth benefits all citizens. Institutionalized through a legal framework and backed by a comprehensive financing strategy, the GDS provides a clear path toward prosperity, equity, and resilience by 2050.

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background and Context

Suriname, a small yet resource-rich nation, is embarking on a transformative journey towards sustainable development. With a land area of approximately 163,820 square kilometers, the country is endowed with vast natural wealth, including an extensive tropical rainforest covering nearly 93% of its territory. This makes Suriname one of the most forested nations globally, playing a critical role in global carbon sequestration and climate regulation. Its abundant water resources, biodiversity, and mineral wealth—including gold, oil, and bauxite—position the country as an emerging economic player in the region.

However, Suriname faces significant structural challenges that have hindered long-term development. The economy remains heavily reliant on extractive industries, particularly gold mining and oil, making it highly susceptible to commodity price fluctuations and external economic shocks. Public debt reached 136.8% of GDP in 2024, reflecting fiscal vulnerabilities and governance inefficiencies. Additionally, despite economic potential, high inflation, low levels of economic diversification, and a fragile investment climate have constrained inclusive growth. The country's financial sector requires stronger regulatory frameworks and institutional reforms to support sustainable economic expansion.

Socially, Suriname grapples with multidimensional poverty and inequality, with 17.5% of its population living below the poverty line. Indigenous and tribal communities, primarily residing in the interior, experience the highest levels of deprivation due to limited access to quality healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. The national Human Development Index (HDI) declined from 0.738 in 2021 to 0.690 in 2022, reflecting persistent gaps in healthcare, education, and labor market access. The GINI coefficient, measuring income inequality, remains high at 39.2, signaling disparities in wealth distribution. Addressing these social challenges requires targeted interventions that enhance human capital development, labor market participation, and access to essential services.

Environmentally, Suriname faces pressing climate-related threats, including rising sea levels, deforestation from artisanal gold mining, and pollution. Despite its High Forest Cover and Low Deforestation (HFLD) status, unregulated resource extraction and urban expansion pose risks to biodiversity and natural ecosystems. The country has committed to maintaining its carbon-negative status under international agreements such as the Paris Agreement and REDD+ but requires stronger regulatory enforcement to curb illegal mining and land degradation. Additionally, weak spatial planning policies have led to unregulated urban growth, exacerbating socio-economic and environmental vulnerabilities.

Recognizing these challenges, the **Green Development Strategy (GDS) 2025-2050** has been formulated as a long-term policy framework to transition Suriname toward a sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient economy. The GDS is designed to integrate economic diversification, environmental stewardship, social equity, and good governance within a structured, long-term development approach. Unlike past sectoral strategies, which often lacked

coherence and institutional continuity, the GDS will be anchored in a legislative framework to ensure policy stability across successive governments.

By adopting this integrated and forward-looking approach, Suriname aims to establish a resilient, diversified, and sustainable development trajectory that safeguards its natural heritage while fostering equitable economic growth. The GDS represents a commitment to long-term prosperity, ensuring that future generations inherit a nation that is both environmentally sustainable and economically inclusive.

1.2 Outline of This Document

The document presents a comprehensive vision for Suriname's sustainable future, balancing economic growth, environmental stewardship, social inclusivity, and good governance.

Chapter 1 (Introduction) provides the background and rationale for this report, emphasizing Suriname's abundant natural resources and historical dependence on extractive industries, which have led to economic volatility. It establishes the need for a structured, long-term planning approach to ensure sustainable growth while addressing governance inefficiencies, social inequalities, and environmental risks.

Chapter 2 (Situational Analysis) offers a comprehensive overview of Suriname's current economic, environmental, social, and governance contexts. The Economic Context section discusses the country's heavy reliance on extractive industries, high public debt, inflation, and the need for economic diversification into sustainable sectors like tourism, agriculture, financial services, and ICT. The Environmental Context highlights Suriname's role as a global carbon sink, the threats posed by deforestation, climate change vulnerabilities, and the importance of biodiversity conservation, pollution control, and sustainable land-use management. The Social Context examines multidimensional poverty, inequality, labor market challenges, gender disparities, and the need for inclusive education, healthcare, and employment policies. The Governance Context analyzes transparency issues, institutional weaknesses, and the need for policy coherence and capacity building.

Chapter 3 (Rationale for the Green Development Strategy) explains why Suriname needs a sustainable long-term framework, structured around four key pillars: sustainable economic diversification and growth, environmental protection and climate resilience, social inclusivity and equity, and good governance and institutional strengthening. It describes the necessity of an integrated planning framework, and the methodologies used to develop the GDS, including stakeholder engagement and alignment with international agreements like the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Chapter 4 (Modeling and Scenario Analyses) presents different development pathways for Suriname's future, modeled on the basis of scenarios resulting in different outcomes for GDP growth, environmental impact, and income inequality. Three main scenarios are analyzed, ultimately recommending a balanced strategy that integrates industrialization and service sector expansion while preserving the country's environmental assets.

Chapter 5 (Framework of the GDS) sets out the guiding principles, vision, and planning framework for Suriname's sustainable development, detailing strategic directions and expected outcomes.

Chapter 6 (**GDS Implementation)** outlines the institutional structures, roles, and financial mechanisms needed to execute the GDS. It details investment needs, projected at USD 72.5 billion, distributed across the four pillars. Financing sources include public funding, international climate finance, and private sector investment through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and carbon markets.

The report ends with **Conclusions and Recommendations**, reaffirming Suriname's commitment to long-term sustainability, economic diversification, and social progress. It emphasizes the importance of institutional reforms, stakeholder engagement, and innovative financing mechanisms to ensure the success of the Green Development Strategy. The Reference List provides sources and citations supporting the report's findings and policy recommendations.

Annex 1 (Sectoral Strategies) outlines specific interventions for different sectors. The Economic Diversification and Growth section covers agriculture, forestry, mining, tourism, energy, ICT, and financial services. The Environmental Protection and Climate Resilience section details policies for biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, pollution control, and sustainable infrastructure. The Social Inclusivity and Equity section prioritizes gender equality, education, indigenous and tribal peoples' rights, labor and employment, and health and well-being. The Governance and Institutional Strengthening section focuses on enhancing transparency, accountability, capacity building, and security.

Chapter 2: Situational Analysis

Suriname's current context is defined by its rich environmental assets, economic dependency on the extractive sector, and ongoing efforts to diversify its economy and enhance social equity. To establish a strong foundation for the GDS, this chapter presents a comprehensive baseline analysis, examining the environmental, economic, social, and governance dimensions of the country. By exploring these interconnected contexts, the analysis will provide a broad and well-defined understanding of Suriname's current state, highlighting both challenges and opportunities. This baseline will serve as a critical reference point for crafting effective and contextually relevant strategies under the GDS framework.

2.1 Overview of Suriname

This chapter highlights the unique characteristics of Suriname, showcasing its geographical diversity, cultural richness, and commitment to preserving its natural heritage in the face of global challenges such as climate change.

Geography

Suriname, a country in the northeastern region of South America, spans approximately 163,820 square kilometers. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the north, French Guiana to the east, Brazil to the south, and Guyana to the west. Paramaribo, the capital, is located along the coast and serves as the largest urban center. Suriname's landscape is diverse, ranging from a flat coastal plain in the north to rolling hills and savannas further inland, and mountainous regions in the south, where peaks such as Tafelberg and Juliana Top can be found. The country is administratively divided into ten districts: Marowijne, Commewijne, Wanica, Paramaribo, Para, Brokopondo, Sipaliwini, Saramacca, Coronie, and Nickerie.

Population

Suriname's population, estimated at approximately 616,500 in July 2021[1], is concentrated primarily along the coastal areas, where about 66% reside. The country's population is very diverse, reflecting its rich cultural heritage. Major ethnic groups include Hindustani (27.4%), Maroons (21.7%), Creole (15.7%), Javanese (13.7%), mixed ethnicity (13.4%), Indigenous peoples (3.8%), and others. Dutch is the official language, a legacy of its colonial past, and Sranan Tongo is widely spoken as a lingua franca. Indigenous communities, such as the Kaliña, Lokono, Trio, and Wayana, and Maroon groups, including the Aucaner, Saramaka, and others, play significant roles in the nation's cultural landscape.

[1] Demographic Data 2018-2021 Report, published by the General Bureau of Statistics, February 2023, page 3

Table 1: Population, Population Density and Population Growth by Area

Area	Population				Population growth		Surface	Density	
	Total	%	Total	%	Number	%	Km^2	%	%
	2004		2012		2004-2012		2012	2004	2012
Urban	328,932	66.7	359,146	66.3	30,214	9.2	625	526.3	574.6
Rural	98,904	20.0	111,224	20.5	12,320	12.5	20,637	4.8	5.4
Interior	64,993	13.2	71,268	13.1	6,275	9.7	142,558	0.5	0.5
Total	492,829	100	541,638	100	48,809	9.9	163,820	3.0	3.3

Source: General Bureau of Statistics (Census 2004 & 2012 data)

History

Suriname's history is deeply rooted in its colonial past, beginning with Indigenous habitation before the Dutch established control in the 17th century. The Dutch introduced plantation agriculture, heavily reliant on African slave labor. Following the abolition of slavery in 1863, laborers from India, Indonesia, and China were brought in, adding to the country's ethnic diversity. Suriname gained independence from the Netherlands in 1975, and this complex history has shaped the nation's cultural and social fabric.

Culture

Suriname's culture is a rich tapestry woven from its diverse ethnic groups, which is evident in its festivals, cuisine, music, and religious practices. Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Indigenous spiritual traditions coexist, each contributing to the nation's cultural celebrations, such as Diwali, Eid, Christmas, and Indigenous Peoples' Day. This multiculturalism is also reflected in Surinamese art and literature, which draw from African, Asian, and European influences.

Climate

Suriname experiences a tropical climate characterized by high humidity, uniform temperatures, and significant rainfall. The country has two rainy seasons (May to July and November to January) and two dry seasons (February to April and August to October). Average temperatures range from 24°C to 31°C, and annual rainfall averages around 2,190 mm. Suriname's climate is heavily influenced by the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), which dictates its wet and dry seasons. The country faces significant challenges due to climate change, including rising temperatures and altered precipitation patterns, which pose existential threats, particularly to its low-lying coastal areas.

Nature

Suriname is renowned for its vast and largely unspoiled natural landscapes, with approximately 93% of the country covered by forests. This makes Suriname one of the most forested nations globally, home to a wealth of biodiversity, including many endemic species. Key protected areas include the Central Suriname Nature Reserve and Brownsberg Nature Park. The country's rivers, such as the Suriname and Marowijne Rivers, are crucial for biodiversity and the livelihoods of local communities. Suriname's commitment to environmental preservation is reflected in its policies and participation in international environmental agreements. The government's "Green

Suriname" initiative is aimed at balancing economic development with environmental conservation, ensuring that the exploitation of natural resources is done sustainably.

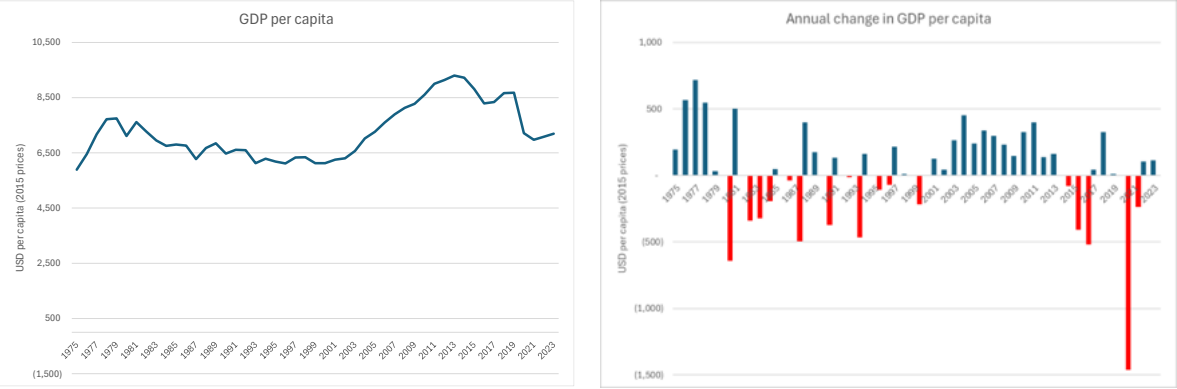
Suriname stands out as one of the few countries with a carbon-negative status, significantly contributing to global climate change mitigation efforts. However, the country remains vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, particularly due to its extensive low-lying coastal areas, where most of the population resides. This vulnerability underscores the importance of the country's continued commitment to sustainable development and environmental conservation. The government's strategic focus on climate action, sustainable livelihoods, human capital development, and partnerships aligns with its broader vision of ensuring a just and sustainable future for all its citizens.

2.2 Economic Context

Historical trends

Suriname has faced a complex economic journey since gaining independence in 1975. In the early years, from the 1960s to the late 1970s, Suriname experienced steady economic growth, with a sharp increase in GDP per capita in the early 1970s. This period of expansion was largely driven by the exploitation of natural resources, particularly bauxite, which contributed significantly to the country's economic development. However, this upward trend did not last, as the economy entered a period of decline in the early 1980s.

Figure 1: Historical trend in GDP per capita and annual change in GDP.



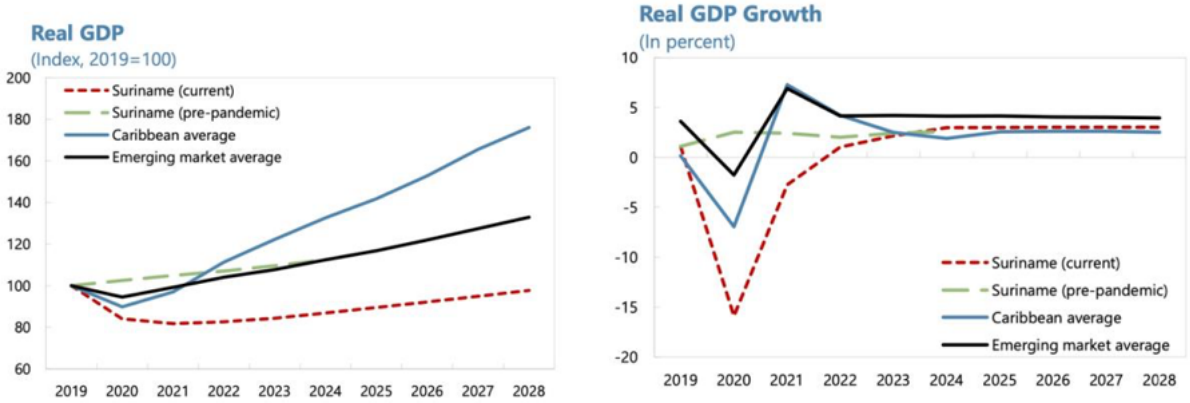
Source: World Bank

The sharp drop in GDP per capita during this time was a result of economic mismanagement, political instability, and external shocks such as falling commodity prices. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the economy remained volatile, experiencing fluctuations without sustained growth, which reflects Suriname's continued vulnerability to external factors.

In the 2000s, the economy began to recover, entering a period of significant expansion. This growth phase was driven largely by increased revenues from gold and oil, which provided a boost to the country's economic output. GDP per capita peaked around 2015. However, following this peak, the economy once again entered a downturn. The decline from the mid-2010s onward reflects a combination of external and internal challenges, including falling commodity prices, economic mismanagement, and global economic shocks, such as those caused by the COVID-

19 pandemic. Over the period since independence until 2023, Suriname's GDP per capita in real terms has grown at an average rate of just 0.4% per year. This represents a very weak economic performance, particularly in comparison to other economies in the region that have achieved significantly higher growth rates. In 2023, Suriname's GDP per capita stood at 7,195 USD, which is strikingly similar to its level in 2005 when it was recorded at 7,022 USD. This means that after 18 years, the economy has effectively returned to where it was nearly two decades ago.

Figure 2: Recent GDP per Capita Changes and Real GDP Growth compared to region



Source: General Bureau for Statistics and IMF Staff estimates

Factors explaining the cyclical nature of the economy

This stagnation highlights the fundamental issue of Suriname's cyclical economic pattern. Breaking this pattern first requires a thorough understanding of its underlying causes. An analysis of Suriname's economic history reveals that two primary factors have contributed to this persistent cycle: the country's heavy reliance on income from natural resources and the impact of economic policy.

The first factor, natural resource dependence, has shaped Suriname's economy for decades. The country's economic fortunes have been closely tied to global commodity price fluctuations, making growth periods unsustainable and leading to frequent downturns when prices decline.

For much of the 20th century, bauxite was the backbone of Suriname's economy, driving exports and generating significant government revenues. However, the global decline in bauxite prices, along with the eventual cessation of mining operations in 2015, marked the end of this era. As bauxite declined, gold emerged as the primary economic driver, with large-scale mining operations contributing up to 17% of Suriname's total exports by the 2010s. In parallel, oil exploration, spearheaded by Staatsolie since the 1980s, provided another avenue for resource-driven growth, further embedding the economy's reliance on extractive industries.

Despite this pattern of shifting reliance on different natural resources, the fundamental economic challenge has remained unchanged. While different resources—bauxite, gold, and oil—have dominated at various times, Suriname's continued dependence on natural resource revenues makes the economy exposed to boom-and-bust cycles.

The second factor is economic policy, which has often been influenced by political cycles. Historically, periods of economic expansion have been followed by phases of mismanagement, excessive public spending, and unsustainable fiscal policies. Political transitions frequently lead to shifts in economic strategy, sometimes undoing previous progress or exacerbating existing

vulnerabilities. When combined with external shocks, such as declining commodity prices, these policy inconsistencies have contributed to economic instability and long-term stagnation.

Current economic situation

Suriname's economy has been in a recovery phase following years of economic mismanagement and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Supported by the IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF), the country has been working towards restoring fiscal sustainability and economic stability. The Surinamese government has embarked on a series of fiscal reforms aimed at addressing fiscal imbalances. Key measures include the elimination of inefficient electricity subsidies, the introduction of a Value-Added Tax (VAT), and improvements in tax collection and public expenditure management. These reforms are part of a broader effort to achieve fiscal consolidation, with a target of reducing the fiscal deficit by 10% of GDP between 2021 and 2024. Additionally, the Central Bank of Suriname has adopted a market-determined exchange rate to enhance economic resilience and rebuild foreign reserves, which reached USD 1.33 billion in February 2024.

Suriname's public debt remains a significant challenge, with the debt-to-GDP ratio reported at 136.8% in early 2024. The government's efforts to secure debt relief from private and official creditors are crucial to reducing this burden and creating fiscal space for essential public investments and social programs. Debt restructuring is seen as essential to bringing the public debt to sustainable levels, allowing for more effective governance and economic planning.

Figure 3: Inflation and exchange rate changes

Source: SEOB October 2024 report

Economic Outlook

Suriname's recent economic landscape is characterized by ongoing efforts to stabilize the economy and restore fiscal health. The implementation of reforms and policy measures provides a foundation for further economic recovery and growth. However, given the country's historical economic patterns, there is no guarantee that these efforts alone will ensure a sustainable development path. Suriname's past has demonstrated that economic booms driven by natural resources have often been followed by sharp downturns, underscoring the need for a more strategic approach to long-term economic stability.

A key development shaping Suriname's future economic prospects is the recent offshore oil discoveries, with the first offshore project, Granmorgu, now officially announced. The oil and gas sector presents a potential avenue for economic improvement, offering the prospect of increased government revenues and investment inflows. However, this opportunity is also fraught with risks. If not managed effectively, offshore oil revenues could merely reinforce and even exacerbate Suriname's existing dependency on natural resources, rather than breaking the cycle of economic volatility.

To avoid falling into this pattern, it is crucial that the wealth generated from offshore oil and gas is used in a way that promotes sustainable economic development. This means that revenues should not be directed toward excessive consumption or short-term spending but rather invested in areas that foster long-term, non-extractive economic growth. Investments should prioritize infrastructure, education, innovation, and sectors that enhance productivity and human capital, ensuring that future growth is driven not by finite natural resources but by the ingenuity and capabilities of the Surinamese people themselves.

To truly capitalize on its offshore oil potential, the country must adopt policies that channel resource wealth into long-term development, ensuring that economic prosperity extends beyond the lifespan of its natural reserves. This indeed is a fundamental pillar of the Green Development Strategy.

2.3 Environmental Context

Suriname, one of the most densely forested nations globally, boasts approximately 93% forest cover, maintaining its status as a HFLD country. This position has earned international recognition for its crucial role in global carbon sequestration, storing an estimated 12,200 million tonnes of CO2 and significantly contributing to climate regulation. However, despite these advantages, Suriname faces challenges in sustaining this environmental leadership.

Environmental Policy

Suriname, endowed with exceptional natural resources, stands at a critical development juncture. While heavily reliant on the extractive sector, a transition toward sustainable, inclusive development is essential to protect its environment and ensure long-term prosperity. The Nationaal Milieubeleidsplan 2024-2028 outlines seven strategic components for achieving environmental goals:

1. **Enforcement of Laws and Regulations**

   Suriname has a legal framework for environmental protection, anchored by the Environmental Framework Law (2020, amended 2024), establishing the National Environmental Authority (NMA). Other key laws include the Criminal Code, Nuisance Act, and Economic Offenses Act, enforced by agencies such as the NMA, police, Public Health Bureau (BOG), and District Commissioners. Challenges remain in coordination, capacity, and resource allocation.

2. **Institutional Strengthening**

   Government institutions like the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (ROM) and the NMA play a vital role in environmental governance but face understaffing, limited

funds, and resource shortages. Strengthening expertise, financial capital, and infrastructure is crucial for effective policy implementation.

3. **Environmental Awareness and Education**

   Public awareness of environmental challenges is growing, with government policies, NGOs, and educational programs promoting conservation. However, rural areas remain less engaged, and illegal activities like mining and overfishing persist. Strengthening enforcement and alternative livelihoods will help bridge the gap between awareness and action.

4. **Partnerships**

   Environmental challenges require national and international cooperation. Suriname engages in agreements like the Paris Agreement and partners with organizations such as UNDP, FAO, and IDB. However, fragmented environmental management limits effectiveness, necessitating better coordination among stakeholders.

5. **Data Management**

   Effective environmental policy relies on robust data collection from institutions like the NMA, SBB, and Meteorological Service (MDS). Challenges include gaps in historical data, data quality, and accessibility. The DONDRU website is a step toward better data transparency, but further investment is needed.

6. **Capital Mobilization**

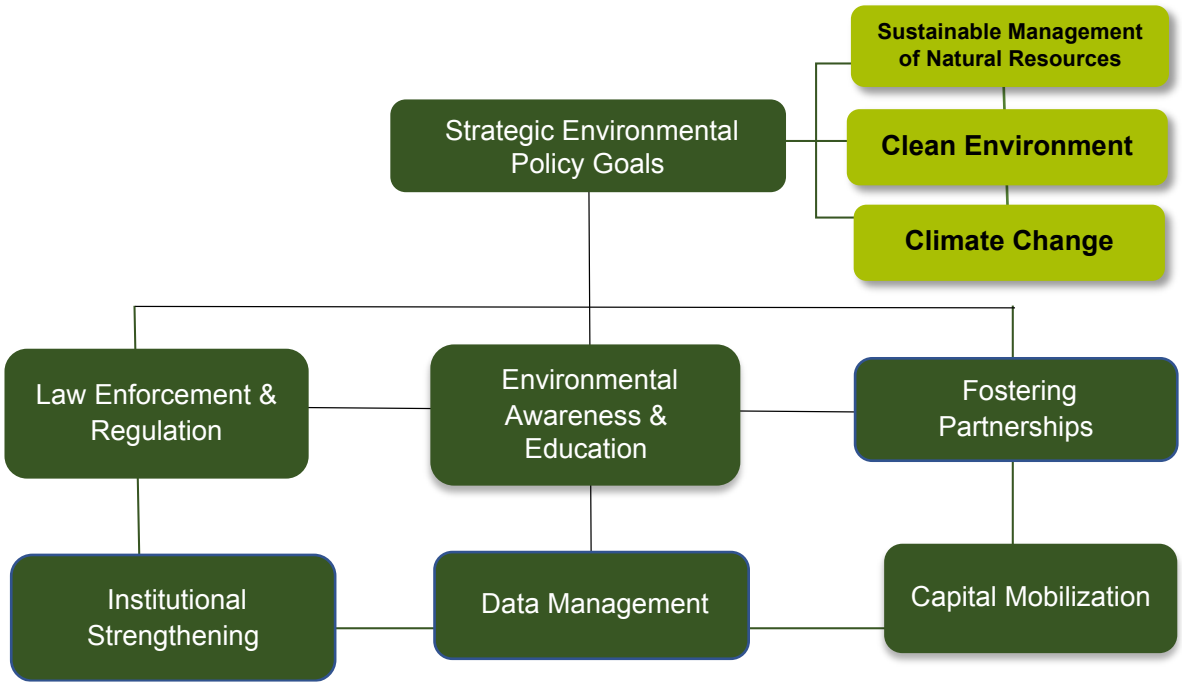
   Environmental financing requires diverse funding sources, including the Environmental Fund, private sector investments (e.g., NDCs), and international climate funds like the Green Climate Fund. A transparent financial accounting system is crucial to track investments and enhance accountability.

7. **Environmental Thematic Focus Areas**

   - Sustainable Resource Management – Protecting biodiversity, forests, and ecosystems.
   - Clean Environment – Addressing water and air quality, waste management, and pollution control.
   - Climate Change – Maintaining Suriname's carbon-negative status, boosting renewable energy, and strengthening climate resilience.

By strengthening legal enforcement, institutions, awareness, partnerships, data management, and financial mechanisms, Suriname can successfully transition toward a sustainable and resilient environmental future.

Figure 4: Strategic Environmental Policy Framework for Suriname



Current Status of the Environment

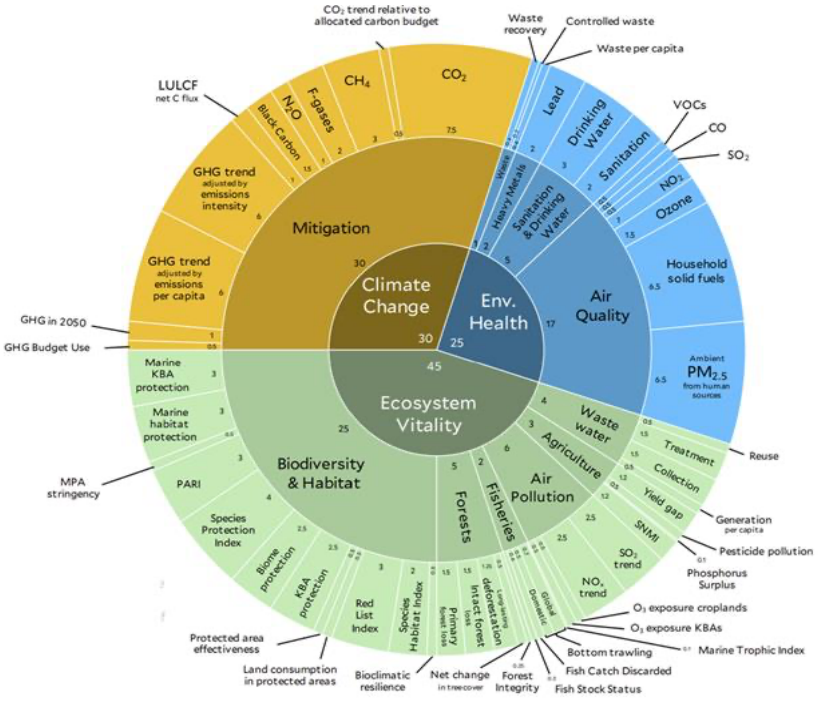
Article 16 of Suriname's Environmental Framework Act mandates the NMA to publish a scientific report every four years, assessing the environmental status and outlining a ten-year development plan. This report will serve as the foundation for the National Environmental Policy Plan. However, the NMA has yet to produce this document, leaving a significant gap in assessing Suriname's environmental performance and sustainability progress. In the absence of national data, alternative metrics such as the EPI and the ND-GAIN Index[2] are used to evaluate Suriname's environmental status and climate resilience.

The EPI, developed by the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy, measures a country's environmental performance based on 40 indicators across 11 categories, grouped under three policy objectives:

1. Environmental Health
2. Ecosystem Vitality
3. Climate Change Mitigation

[2] https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/

Figure 5: The 2024 EPI Framework (organizing 58 indicators into 11 issue categories and 3 policy objectives)



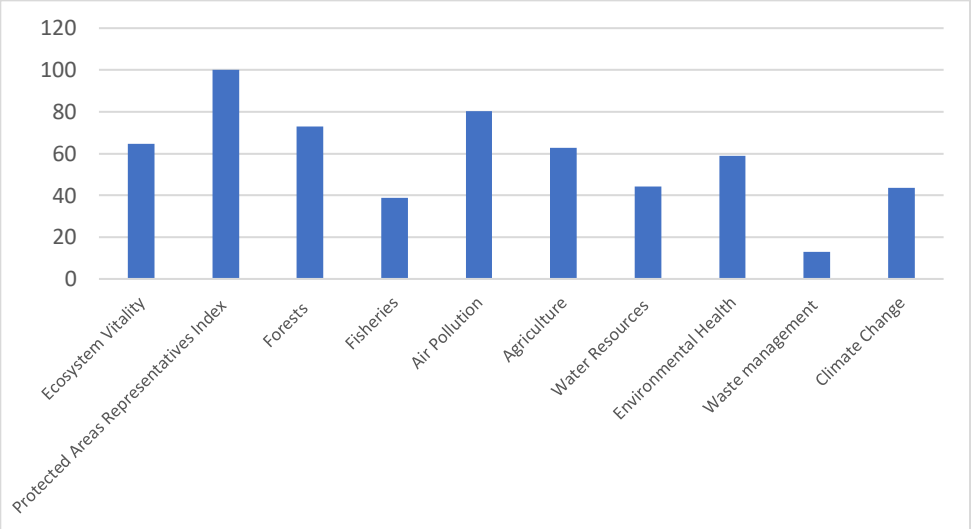
The EPI provides a comprehensive view of environmental performance, guiding policymakers in identifying strengths and areas needing improvement. However, it does not include indicators for climate change adaptation.

The ND-GAIN Index assesses a country's vulnerability to climate change and its readiness to adapt. It evaluates six sectors—water, food, health, ecosystem services, human habitat, and infrastructure—based on 50 indicators. Countries with low readiness but manageable vulnerability, like Suriname, require strategic investments to improve resilience.

Suriname's Environmental Performance

Suriname's EPI score is 56.9, ranking 36th out of 180 countries, indicating moderate environmental sustainability.

Figure 6: Suriname EPI Score Assessment (2024)



Although Suriname's score on a global scale is relatively good, individual category assessments reveal both strengths and weaknesses:

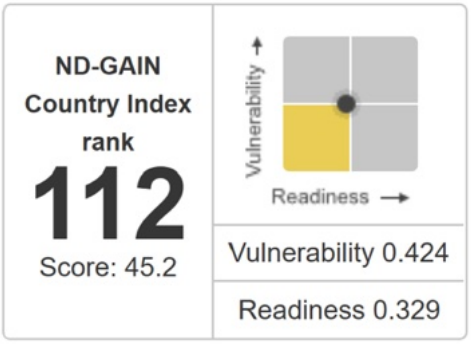
- *Biodiversity and Habitat (Rank: 33rd):* Suriname excels due to its vast forest cover, low deforestation rates, and conservation efforts. It's rich biodiversity includes endangered species such as the jaguar, giant anteater, and harpy eagle.
- *Marine Protection (Rank: 1st):* Strong conservation policies, marine protected areas, and fishing restrictions place Suriname as a global leader in this category.
- *Air Pollution (Mixed Performance):* While ozone exposure levels are managed well, the country struggles with emissions of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide.
- *Agriculture (Rank: 56th, but Pesticide Pollution Rank: 170th):* Sustainable farming practices exist, but weak pesticide regulations, outdated methods, and inadequate waste management contribute to pollution risks.
- *Water Resources (Rank: 72nd):* Major concerns include insufficient wastewater treatment and reuse, leading to pollution of surface and groundwater.
- *Environmental Health (Rank: 42nd):* While air quality and sanitation are relatively strong, mercury contamination from artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) poses significant risks. Efforts such as the National Action Plan[3] (ASGM-NAP) aim to reduce mercury use by 30% over a decade but face implementation challenges.
- *Waste Management (Rank: 173rd):* A critical weakness due to high waste generation, poor collection services, landfill mismanagement, and inadequate recycling infrastructure. The ISWMP of Suriname highlights several key issues:
    - Waste Collection and Disposal: Incomplete collection services result in plastic waste accumulating in oceans.
    - Landfill Management: The Ornamibo landfill is overburdened, receiving hazardous waste without proper segregation.
    - Recycling: With less than 5% of waste being recycled, valuable resources are lost.
    - Hazardous Waste: Lack of specialized disposal facilities leads to illegal dumping.
    - Public Awareness: Limited education on responsible waste management hinders improvements.
- *Climate Change Mitigation (Rank: 79th):* Despite Suriname's extensive forest cover, emissions have increased[4], particularly from the energy sector. The country's commitment to its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) faces financial and institutional hurdles.

Climate Resilience and Adaptation

Suriname ranks 112th out of 182 countries on the ND-GAIN Index, placing it in the lower-left quadrant of the vulnerability-readiness matrix.

[3] First National Action Plan on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining in Suriname
[4] Suriname's Third National Communication (NC3) to the UNFCCC, officially published on April 27, 2023.

Figure 7: Suriname's ND-GAIN index



The Vulnerability Score (0.424) reflects a moderate vulnerability due to risks in multiple sectors[5]:

- Water: Changing precipitation patterns and sea level rise threaten supply and quality.
- Agriculture: Susceptible to shifting rainfall, saltwater intrusion, and extreme weather.
- Forestry: Climate change contributes to biodiversity loss and increased wildfire risks.
- Energy: Hydropower reliability is impacted by changing water availability.
- Infrastructure: The coastal zone is at high risk of flooding and extreme weather events.
- Health: Increased risks from vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue.
- Tourism: Ecotourism is threatened by ecosystem degradation.

The Readiness Score (0.329) is relatively low due to:

- Financial and Technological Constraints: Limited resources[6] for adaptation initiatives.
- Institutional Capacity: Weak governance structures for climate adaptation.
- Public Awareness: Insufficient engagement in climate resilience strategies.

Suriname has initiated adaptation planning, technology assessments, and capacity-building efforts, but further action is needed to enhance institutional coordination, mobilize funding, and raise awareness to achieve long-term climate resilience.

Suriname's environmental performance presents a mixed picture. While excelling in biodiversity conservation and marine protection, the country faces critical challenges in waste management, water treatment, and climate change mitigation. The lack of national environmental reporting necessitates reliance on alternative indices, underscoring the need for improved data collection and governance. Strengthening climate adaptation measures, enhancing waste management infrastructure, and enforcing environmental policies will be crucial to Suriname's sustainability goals and long-term resilience.

[5] National Adaptation Plan of Suriname (October 2020), State of the Climate Report of Suriname (July 2021) and Suriname Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Report (2018)
[6] Technology Needs Assessment Report Suriname (published in 2018)

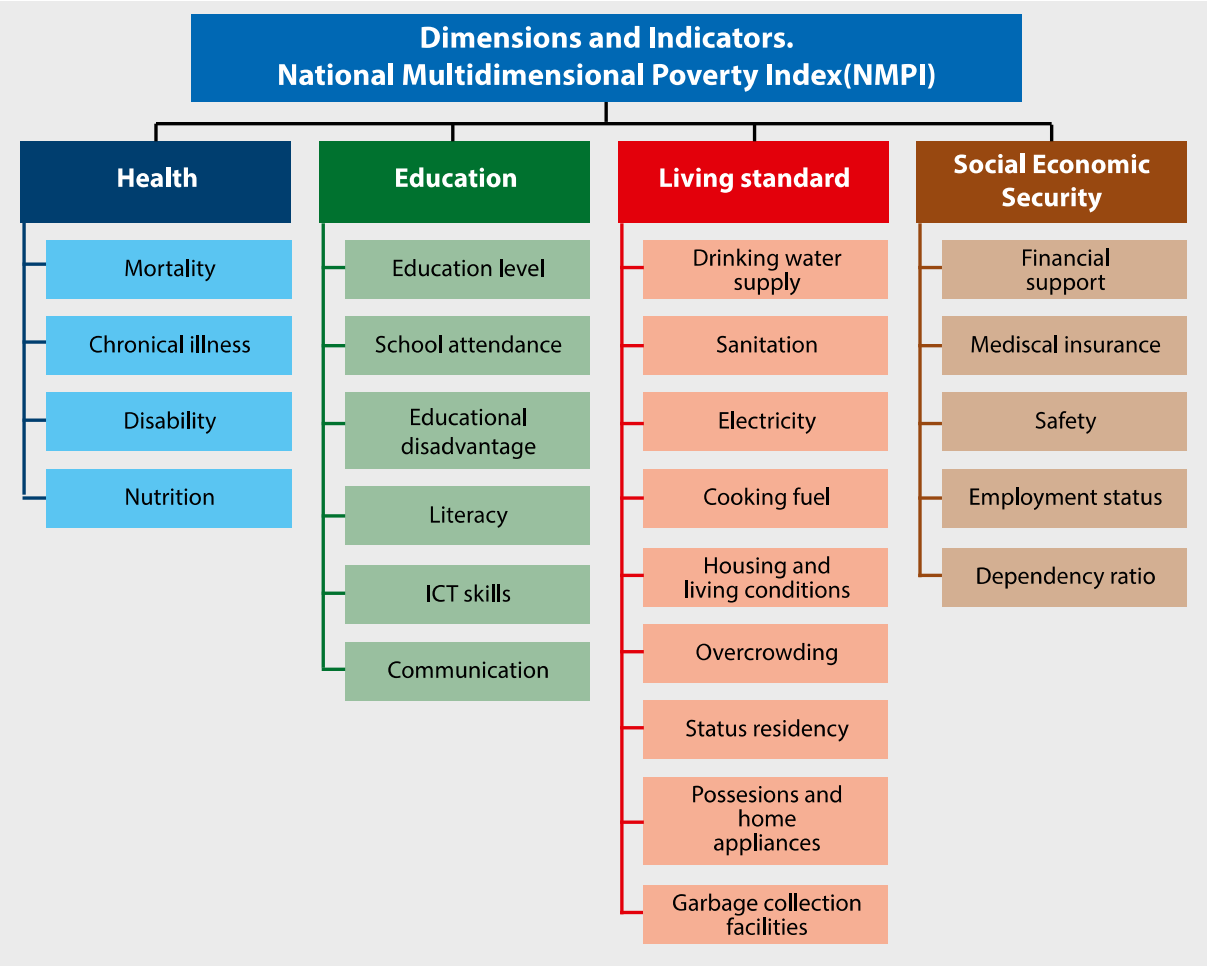
2.4 Social Context

Suriname's social context is shaped by the interplay of poverty, education, healthcare, labor market dynamics, and housing challenges. While efforts are being made to promote economic development and sustainability, persistent structural inequalities hinder inclusive progress. The National Multidimensional Poverty Index (NMPI), an internationally recognized measure aligned with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), provides critical insights into the depth and intensity of poverty in the country.

Multidimensional Poverty: A Systemic Challenge

Unlike traditional income-based poverty assessments, Suriname's NMPI reflects deprivation across multiple dimensions, including health, education, living standards, and socio-economic security. The latest NMPI results, derived from the 2018 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), indicate that 17.4% of individuals in Suriname are multidimensionally poor, with an average intensity of poverty of 44.9%, meaning that poor individuals suffer nearly half of all possible deprivations.

Figure 8: Dimensions and Indicators of the National MPI



Source: Methods and Techniques to Determine and Combat Poverty in Suriname report, July 2023

The disparities are starkly regional. In the interior, 50.3% of the population is multidimensionally poor, compared to 21.3% in rural areas and 12.6% in urban centers. The district of Sipaliwini

reports the highest multidimensional poverty rate (56.0%), followed by Brokopondo (44.3%) and Marowijne (30.7%), where limited infrastructure and access to basic services further exacerbate deprivation. In contrast, Paramaribo, Wanica, and Commewijne show significantly lower NMPI levels, reflecting their relatively better access to services and economic opportunities. These figures place Suriname among the more challenged economies in Latin America regarding multidimensional poverty. While countries such as Chile and Uruguay report multidimensional poverty rates below 5%, Suriname's levels are comparable to those of Bolivia and Nicaragua, highlighting the need for targeted social interventions.

The Education-Poverty Nexus

Education is a key determinant of multidimensional poverty in Suriname. 39.6% of individuals with no formal education are multidimensionally poor, compared to only 6.1% among those with higher education. The absence of adequate educational infrastructure, especially in remote areas, continues to perpetuate intergenerational poverty.

High dropout rates, skill mismatches, and limited vocational training opportunities further constrain social mobility. Although the Sectorplan Education 2017–2030 aims to modernize curricula and align education with labor market needs, challenges remain in ensuring equitable access to quality education nationwide.

Healthcare and Socio-Economic Vulnerability

Suriname's NMPI findings confirm that poor health indicators significantly contribute to multidimensional poverty. 8.3% of children under five suffer from stunting, and 21% of women of reproductive age experience anemia, particularly in low-income households. Limited healthcare infrastructure in the interior further exacerbates disparities, as many communities lack access to clean water, sanitation, and essential medical services.

According to the Global Nutrition Report, Suriname is on track to meet just one global nutrition target, with substantial setbacks persisting. Anaemia affects 21% of women of reproductive age, and 14.7% of infants are born underweight. Although some progress has been seen in exclusive breastfeeding, stunting impacts 8.3% of children under five, and wasting affects 5.5%, exceeding regional averages.

Obesity is a growing concern. The prevalence among adults rose significantly from 1995 to 2015, and by 2025, it is predicted that 26% of men and 40.2% of women will be obese.[7] Childhood obesity is also expected to reach 18.3% by 2025. Suriname is unlikely to meet the UN adult obesity targets, with men having just a 1% chance and women a 2% chance of achieving these goals. Factors contributing to this include socioeconomic disparities and increasing reliance on unhealthy diets.

Healthcare infrastructure in Suriname faces significant challenges, particularly in rural areas. Many communities lack integrated healthcare facilities offering essential services like dental care, maternity services, and addiction support. In December 2022, reports highlighted shortages of essential medicines in remote areas, impacting quality of life and contributing to preventable deaths. Healthcare worker shortages, exacerbated by "brain drain", threaten the

[7] Obesity: Missing the 2025 Global Targets report, published by World Obesity, 2023, page 206

system's stability. The departure of specialists from critical departments like intensive care and radiotherapy is an ongoing issue. The government has introduced measures such as recruitment and retention bonuses, but the long-term success of these initiatives remains uncertain. The National Plan for Health System Renewal seeks to improve healthcare financing and universal access, but effective implementation will require enhanced rural healthcare provision and community-based health initiatives.

Labor Market Challenges and Economic Inclusion

Suriname's labor market is characterized by high youth unemployment, gender disparities, and skill shortages. Labor force participation is 54%, with a notable gender gap as only 43% of women are active.[8] The economy's reliance on primary sectors—gold, oil, and timber—leaves the workforce vulnerable to external shocks, impeding diversification. Poverty affects 17.5% of the population, particularly in rural areas, driven by skill gaps, low returns on education, and income inequality.[9] Women, despite constituting nearly half the population, represent only 43% of the labor force, and their employment is often concentrated in lower-paying sectors. The Decent Work Country Program (DWCP) 2023–2026 seeks to address these gaps by promoting job creation and skills development.

The transition to a green economy presents an opportunity to integrate sustainable jobs into Suriname's labor strategy. Expanding renewable energy, eco-tourism, and sustainable agriculture could create new employment avenues while reducing dependency on extractive industries such as gold and oil.

Housing and Infrastructure: The Intersection of Poverty and Development

Housing remains a key dimension of poverty in Suriname. The NMPI analysis highlights severe deprivation in living conditions, particularly in informal settlements and interior districts. Lack of proper sanitation, overcrowded living spaces, and inadequate waste management contribute to poor health outcomes and limit educational attainment.

The Affordable Housing Project (AHP) and urban development initiatives aim to address these challenges, but land tenure issues and high construction costs remain barriers to providing adequate housing for low-income families.

Youth and Sustainable Development

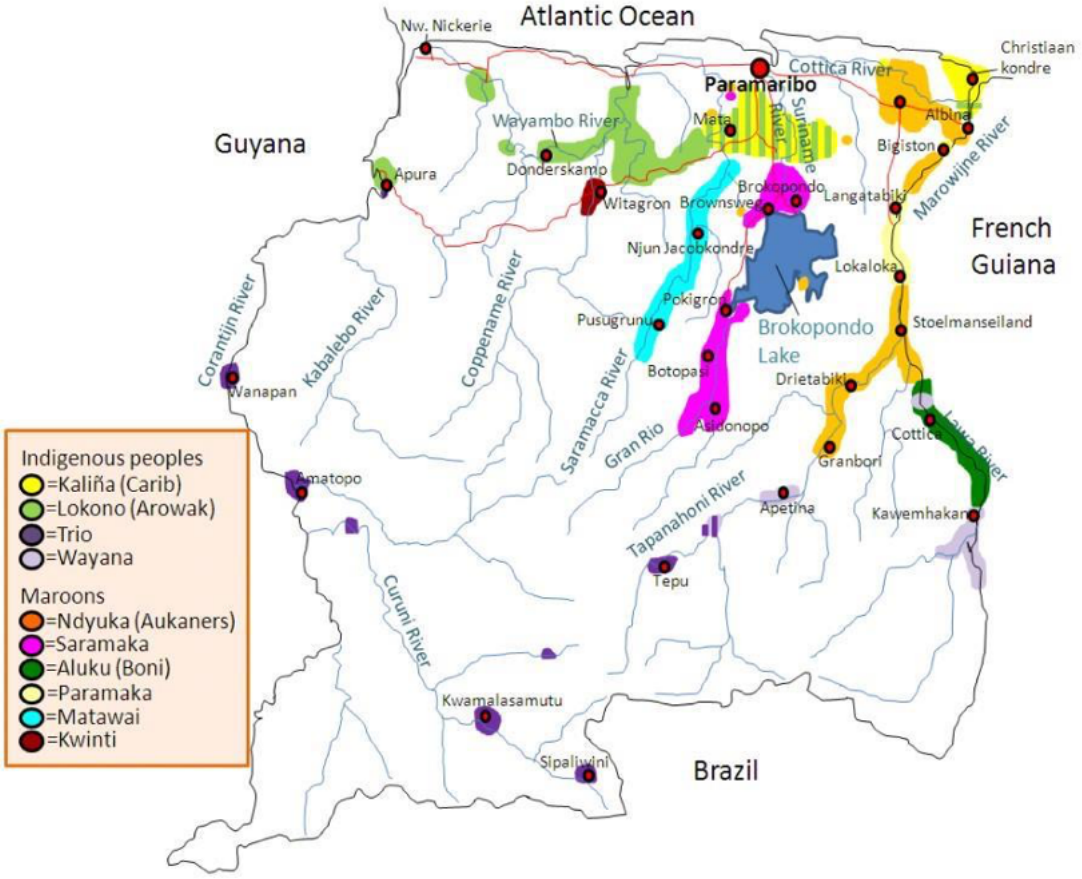
Suriname's youth represent a crucial demographic for future development. However, high unemployment rates and limited access to career pathways hinder their potential contribution to economic growth. In response, Suriname has signed the Intergovernmental Declaration on Children, Youth, and Climate Action (2023), committing to policies that integrate youth perspectives into education, employment, and environmental sustainability strategies. Investing in youth entrepreneurship, digital skills, and green job initiatives will be key to fostering a more inclusive and resilient economy.

[8] Decent Work Country Programme 2023-2026, Suriname, published by the GoS and ILO, February 2023, page 17
[9] Suriname Poverty and Equity Assessment Report published by World Bank and IDB, July 2024, page 15

Indigenous and Maroon Communities: The Most Affected Groups

The NMPI findings confirm that Indigenous and Maroon communities are disproportionately affected by multidimensional poverty. Many live in remote areas with limited access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. Structural inequalities, compounded by historical marginalization, have resulted in poverty rates that are significantly higher than the national average.

Figure 9: Tribal Communities in Suriname



Source: Conservation International 2010

Policy efforts should prioritize the formal recognition of land rights, culturally appropriate education programs, and sustainable economic initiatives that empower these communities while preserving their traditions.

GINI Coefficient

Suriname's GINI score improved from 57.9 in 1999 to 39.2[10] in 2022, indicating progress in income equality. The GINI index (0-100) measures inequality, with lower scores reflecting more equitable distribution. Despite economic downturns, social and economic policies have had a positive impact. However, inflation, driven by fuel and utility costs, has strained household budgets, particularly for low- and middle-income groups, posing risks to income equality. Sustained

[10] https://countryeconomy.com/demography/gini-index/suriname

efforts in inclusive growth and financial resilience remain crucial, especially with anticipated offshore oil and gas revenues.

Human Development Index

Suriname's HDI dropped from 0.738 in 2021 to 0.690 in 2022, ranking 124th globally. This decline reflects challenges in health, education, and the economy. Compared to more developed Caribbean nations, Suriname needs policy reforms and investments in social and educational services. Economic issues like inflation and employment shifts highlight the need for stronger vocational programs to boost skills and reduce youth unemployment.

Towards an Inclusive and Sustainable Future

Suriname's social landscape, as reflected in the NMPI, reveals deeply embedded structural inequalities. Addressing multidimensional poverty requires a holistic approach—integrating education, healthcare, labor market reforms, and housing policies to create equitable opportunities for all.

Aligning with international best practices—such as the Alkire-Foster methodology used by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—Suriname must strengthen its data-driven policy frameworks to target interventions effectively and measure progress towards poverty reduction. By leveraging sustainable development strategies, Suriname has the potential to transform its socio-economic landscape, ensuring that progress benefits all segments of society—from urban centers to remote Indigenous and Maroon communities. The GDS must incorporate evidence-based solutions that address the root causes of poverty, fostering long-term resilience and inclusive growth.

2.5 Governance Context

Suriname's governance landscape is shaped by efforts to modernize institutions, combat corruption, and enhance transparency. Despite democratic stability, institutional inefficiencies, corruption, and weak policy implementation undermine governance and economic progress. The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) underscores these challenges, reflecting deteriorating institutional integrity and public distrust.

Governance Challenges and Institutional Weaknesses

Suriname's democracy, though stable, faces significant governance deficiencies. Electoral reforms, including the Constitutional Court's ruling on proportional representation, mark progress. However, corruption and party-based policymaking erode public trust. Government agencies suffer from inefficiencies, overlapping mandates, and weak policy execution. The large but ineffective bureaucracy contributes to low productivity and inconsistent multi-annual development planning.

Despite these issues, governance reforms show promise. Initiatives such as the Decent Work Country Program (DWCP) 2023-2026 align national priorities with global frameworks like the

SDGs, emphasizing sustainable growth and institutional capacity building. However, governance improvements require sustained transparency, accountability, and policy coherence.

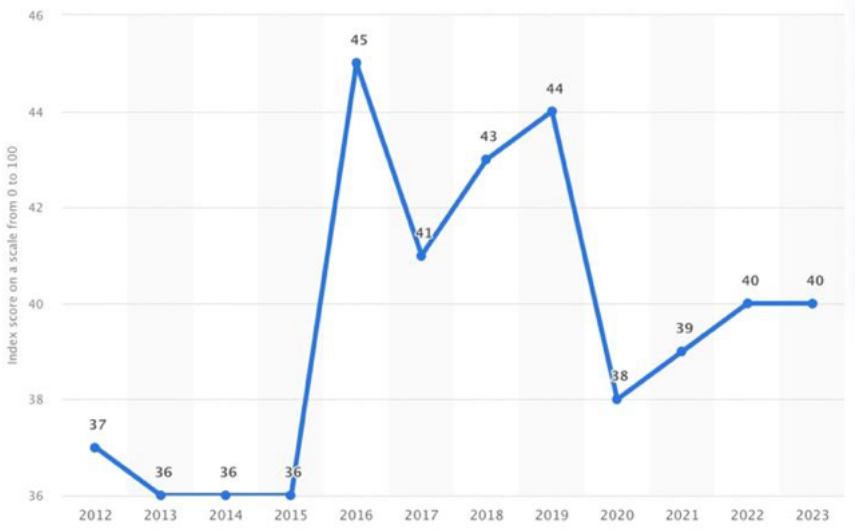
While recent reforms and strategic initiatives show promise, sustained efforts to enhance transparency, institutional capacity, and policy coherence are crucial for long-term stability and development. These changes require not only political will but also active engagement from all sectors of society to ensure that governance reforms translate into tangible benefits for the Surinamese people.

Corruption and the Corruption Perception Index (CPI)

Corruption remains a significant obstacle to governance effectiveness. Suriname's CPI score has declined from 44 in 2019 to 40 in 2023, reflecting persistent corruption in public procurement, embezzlement, and weak enforcement of anti-corruption measures. This decline highlights:

- Weak institutional integrity: Ineffective enforcement of anti-corruption laws.
- Eroding public trust: Reduced confidence in government institutions.
- Economic risks: A deteriorating investment climate amid fiscal challenges.

Figure 10: Corruption Perception Index score for Suriname



Source: Statista 2024 website (www.statista.com)

The worsening CPI score underscores systemic issues that require urgent attention:

1. Strengthening Enforcement Mechanisms: Improve the capacity of anti-corruption agencies to investigate and prosecute corruption effectively.
2. Increasing Transparency: Public access to information regarding state contracts, licenses, and procurement processes is critical.
3. Capacity Building: Training for public officials and collaboration with civil society to promote ethical governance practices.
4. Policy Reform: Fully implement the AML/CFT/CPF strategy and align policies with international anti-corruption standards.

Anti-corruption initiatives, such as the National AML/CFT/CPF Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and recommendations from EITI, emphasize transparency in resource management. However, enforcement remains weak. Key priorities for reversing Suriname's CPI decline include strengthening anti-corruption agencies, increasing public transparency, and implementing robust policy reforms aligned with international standards.

Without decisive action, corruption may continue to undermine Suriname's developmental goals, including economic diversification and poverty reduction. The implementation of anti-corruption strategies, transparent resource management, and stakeholder engagement will be vital to improving Suriname's governance.

Transparency and Accountability Measures

Efforts to improve transparency include the National Procurement Law (2024), which introduces standardized protocols for state procurement, ensuring fair competition and oversight by an independent authority. Similarly, Suriname's EITI membership mandates revenue disclosure from extractive industries. However, EITI's recent suspension of Suriname for failing to meet reporting deadlines highlights ongoing challenges in governance compliance.

Fiscal governance reforms show progress, with increased budget transparency under IMF and World Bank oversight. However, challenges such as misclassified loans and delayed financial reports persist. The IDB's $150 million loan aims to improve public management and fiscal transparency, essential for investor confidence and resource allocation.

Despite these reforms, Suriname remains under global scrutiny regarding transparency. Key measures needed include:

1. Strengthening enforcement mechanisms to enhance prosecution of corruption cases.
2. Expanding access to information on state contracts and procurement processes.
3. Building institutional capacity through training and collaboration with civil society.
4. Implementing policy reforms aligned with international anti-corruption standards.

Population, Migration, and Workforce Development

Suriname's demographic landscape is evolving, with internal migration from rural areas to Paramaribo shaping urbanization trends. However, educational gaps hinder workforce readiness, with only 8% of the population classified as highly educated. As the country prepares for an economic shift driven by offshore oil and gas, the forthcoming National Migration Policy aims to attract skilled labor while integrating migrants into Surinamese society. Suriname's National Population Policy 2021-2040 integrates demographic considerations into economic planning. However, with only 8% of the population classified as highly educated, workforce readiness remains a major challenge, particularly for emerging industries like offshore oil and gas. Internal migration trends show urbanization in Paramaribo and suburban expansion in Wanica, reflecting shifts in housing and employment opportunities.

Urbanization patterns reflect a growing demand for infrastructure and services in suburban districts. Paramaribo attracts individuals seeking better education, healthcare, and employment, driving population growth and urban expansion. Between 2009 and 2012, Paramaribo remained

the most densely populated district.[11] Meanwhile, counter-urbanization trends in Para and Brokopondo indicate shifting economic opportunities. Migration policies must balance economic growth with social integration, ensuring that labor shortages in key industries do not exacerbate inequality. A National Migration Policy is in development to address these labor shortages while ensuring sustainable migration management. This strategy prioritizes integrating skilled migrants and upskilling the local workforce to meet industry demands.

E-Governance and Digitalization

Suriname is advancing its digital infrastructure under the National Digital Strategy (NDS) 2023-2030, emphasizing e-governance to modernize public services. Progress includes digitizing government registries, launching e-education and public safety initiatives, and expanding online administrative services. Although progress has been made, Suriname's digital infrastructure remains underdeveloped by global standards, with the UN e-Government Survey 2022 rating Suriname 0.34 on the Online Service Index.[12] The government seeks to improve interoperability, user experience, and adoption of digital services while securing sustainable funding for expansion.

The digital strategy focuses on six key areas: infrastructure, internet accessibility, digital identity, digital literacy, enhanced government services, and widespread digitalization. International partnerships with UNDP and IDB support these objectives, aiming to bridge the country's IT expertise gap and drive sustainable digital progress.

Crime, Security, and Law Enforcement

Crime rates in Suriname have surged since 2023, with increasing incidents of robbery, assault, and sexual violence. Law enforcement remains hindered by corruption within the police force, undermining public trust and judicial effectiveness. Cross-border crimes, including money laundering and human trafficking, persist despite government initiatives to address them.

Although Suriname has maintained a Tier 1 status in anti-trafficking efforts, gaps in victim support and enforcement remain. Police corruption, coupled with judicial inefficiencies, hampers crime prevention. Government initiatives, including enhanced inter-agency cooperation and security reforms, aim to restore trust. Community policing strategies and anti-corruption measures within law enforcement are crucial for long-term security improvements.

Strategic Vision for Governance Improvement

Suriname's governance challenges—corruption, institutional weaknesses, and security concerns—underscore the urgent need for sustained reforms. The government's commitment to transparency through procurement reforms, fiscal governance improvements, and anti-corruption measures is a step forward. However, effective enforcement, stakeholder engagement, and alignment with international governance standards will determine the long-term success of these initiatives.

[11] Structure Analysis 2009 – 2013, published by Suriname Planning office, December 2014, page D-3

[12] Suriname National Digital Strategy 2023-2030, published by the GoS with support from the UNDP, page 10

Chapter 3: Rationale for a Green Development Strategy

3.1 Importance and Rationale for a Green Development Strategy

The formulation and implementation of a long-term development strategy are essential for Suriname to effectively address the challenges of sustainable development. The Green Development Strategy provides a comprehensive framework to balance economic growth, environmental protection, and social inclusivity. Given Suriname's unique environmental assets and socio-economic challenges, the GDS aims to protect and enhance natural resources while fostering inclusive economic growth and improving the well-being of its citizens. Through strategic planning, robust governance, and international cooperation, Suriname can set a precedent for sustainable development in the region. Several factors underscore the necessity of establishing a GDS for the country.

1. Need for a Nationally Shared Long-term Vision and Strategy

Suriname's Multi-annual Development Plans (MOPs) are intended to provide structured national development planning. However, these five-year plans have consistently fallen short of their objectives. The lack of a shared long-term vision has resulted in fragmented and reactive development efforts, where successive plans lack coherence and fail to build upon past progress. Political shifts further exacerbate this issue, as each administration introduces new priorities, disrupting policy continuity. A robust long-term vision, embedded within the GDS, is necessary to provide stability and direction, ensuring that short-term actions align with sustainable long-term objectives.

2. Strengthening Government Capacity and Commitment

The limited capacity and commitment of government institutions have significantly hindered the effectiveness of past development plans. Several challenges contribute to this issue:

- **Institutional Weaknesses:** Planning institutions are under-resourced and lack technical expertise, leading to poor execution and ineffective monitoring.
- **Human Resource Constraints:** A shortage of skilled professionals in key government agencies hampers the formulation and implementation of comprehensive strategies.
- **Inadequate Monitoring and Evaluation:** Weak evaluation mechanisms prevent effective assessment and adaptation of development initiatives.
- **Lack of Political Will:** Development planning is often deprioritized in favor of immediate political concerns, leading to inconsistent implementation and policy discontinuity.

Addressing these structural weaknesses through enhanced institutional capacity, improved accountability, and stronger political commitment is essential for the success of the GDS.

3. Enhancing Development Outputs and Overcoming Structural Challenges

Past MOPs have yielded minimal output due to several structural challenges:

- **Misalignment with Long-term Goals:** The absence of a guiding strategy has resulted in projects that do not contribute meaningfully to sustainable development.
- **Resource Constraints:** Limited government revenues, coupled with economic instability, restrict the availability of funds for development initiatives.
- **Sectoral Imbalances:** Over-reliance on extractive industries has hindered economic diversification, limiting opportunities for growth in emerging sectors like small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

A well-structured GDS can help address these challenges by promoting strategic investments, optimizing resource allocation, and ensuring alignment with long-term sustainability goals.

3.2 Necessity for a Revised Integrated Planning Framework

A comprehensive and integrated planning framework, anchored in a 25-year vision, is essential to overcome historical development challenges and align national priorities with sustainable development principles. Lessons from past initiatives, such as the "Mobilization of the Country's Own" plan introduced in 1973, underscore the need for resilience, stakeholder engagement, and institutional continuity in planning efforts.

Suriname faces critical challenges, including economic dependency on extractive industries, climate change vulnerability, and growing inequality. GDS aims to provide a long-term development framework that integrates environmental sustainability, economic diversification, and social inclusivity. Four strategic pillars underpin the GDS:

Pillar 1: Sustainable Economic Diversification and Growth

To reduce dependence on extractive industries, Suriname must diversify into sustainable sectors such as eco-tourism, renewable energy, and knowledge-based industries. By adopting a circular economy model, Suriname can enhance resource efficiency, minimize waste, and create long-term economic resilience.

Pillar 2: Environmental Protection and Climate Resilience

As a country with vast natural resources, Suriname must prioritize environmental conservation. Sustainable land management, biodiversity protection, and investment in renewable energy are key components of the GDS. Strengthening climate adaptation measures, such as resilient infrastructure and climate-smart agriculture, will further enhance the country’s sustainability efforts.

Pillar 3: Social Inclusivity and Equity

Ensuring equal access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities is critical for inclusive development. Targeted social safety nets, gender equality initiatives, and indigenous rights protection will help create a more equitable society. Promoting youth engagement and skills development is also essential for fostering long-term human capital growth.

Pillar 4: Good Governance and Institutional Strengthening

Effective governance is fundamental to the success of the GDS. Strengthening government institutions, improving transparency, and fostering civic engagement are necessary for policy implementation. International cooperation will also be crucial in accessing technical expertise, financial resources, and best practices for sustainable development.

A revised integrated planning framework, embedded in the GDS, will provide a stable and coherent approach to sustainable development. This planning framework will operate across three levels:

- **Strategic Layer:** A 25-year vision with periodic milestones to guide national priorities in economic growth, renewable energy, and biodiversity conservation.
- **Tactical Layer:** Sector-specific strategies, such as services, agro-industrial development and digital transformation, to translate strategic objectives into actionable plans.
- **Operational Layer:** Localized initiatives to ensure alignment with overarching sustainability goals.

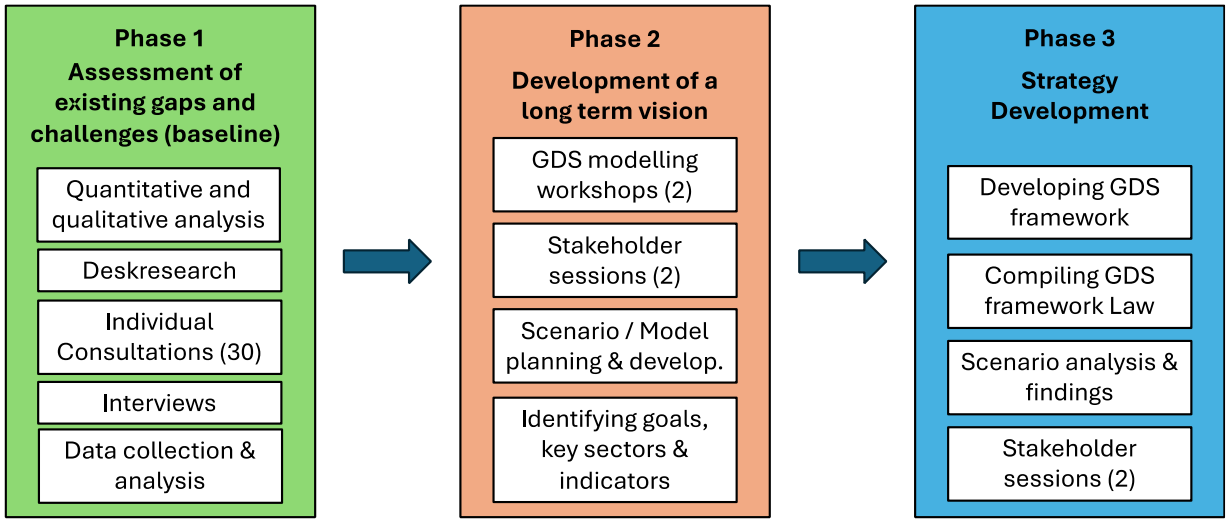
By addressing governance challenges, promoting economic diversification, and prioritizing environmental conservation, Suriname can achieve long-term resilience and prosperity.

3.3 Methodology and Stakeholder Engagement

The Green Development Strategy for Suriname was formulated through a structured, multi-phased methodology that emphasized comprehensive stakeholder engagement. The process ensured inclusivity, enabling diverse perspectives to shape a robust and sustainable strategy aligned with national and international development objectives.

The development of the GDS followed a three-phased approach, incorporating comprehensive assessment, vision formulation, and strategy development.

Figure 11: GDS Framework Development Phases



Source: GDS Commission

Phase 1: Comprehensive Assessment

The initial phase focused on a thorough evaluation of Suriname's economic, social, environmental, and governance conditions. This assessment identified key challenges and opportunities for green development by analyzing existing policies, institutional frameworks, and regulatory landscapes. Special attention was given to Suriname's strengths, such as high forest cover and carbon-negative status, while also addressing vulnerabilities related to climate change impacts on coastal areas.

Phase 2: Vision Development

A shared long-term vision for Suriname's sustainable future was developed through extensive consultations and workshops. This phase defines ambitious yet achievable goals in economic growth, environmental conservation, social inclusivity, and technological innovation. The vision was guided by five core principles:

- **Sustainable economic diversification** – Reducing dependence on extractive industries by promoting agriculture, eco-tourism, and ICT sectors.
- **Environmental conservation** – Strengthening Suriname's leadership in biodiversity preservation.
- **Social inclusivity** – Ensuring equitable participation and benefits for all communities.
- **Good governance** – Enhancing transparency and accountability in policy implementation.
- **Climate resilience** – Integrating mitigation and adaptation strategies into national planning.

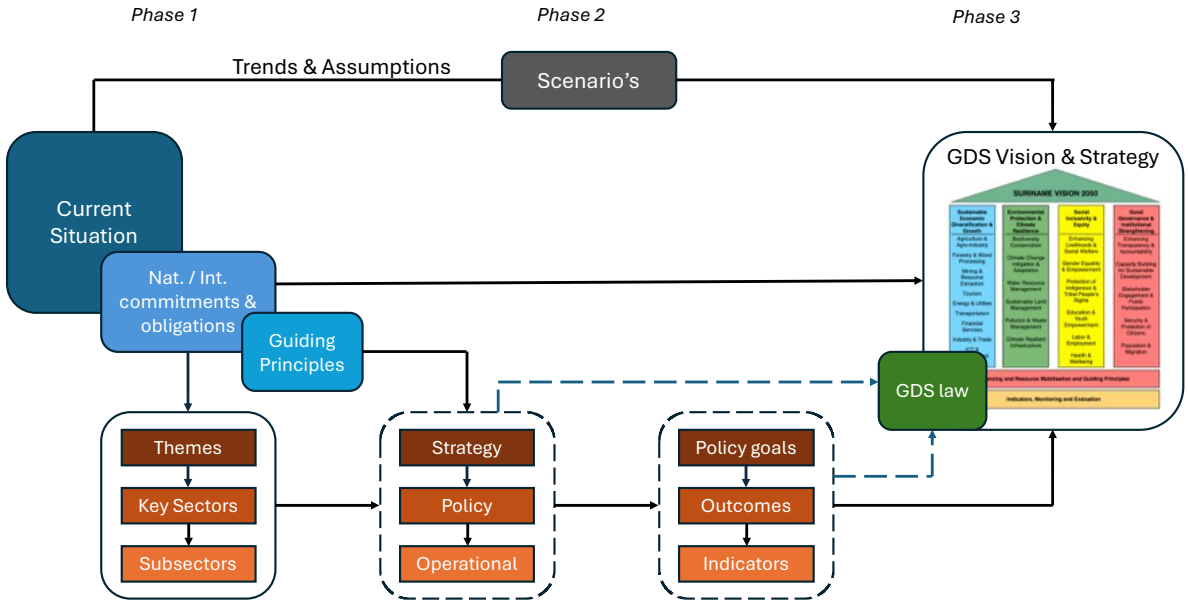
Phase 3: Strategy Development

The final phase entailed developing actionable strategies with clear priorities, targets, and indicators for measuring progress. The GDS included:

- **Sector-Specific Policies**: Identifying key sectors such as energy, forestry, agriculture, and ICT for sustainable growth.
- **Scenario-Based Planning**: Utilizing data modeling to analyze potential development scenarios, including Business-as-Usual, Agriculture Focus, Industrial Focus, and Services Focus.
- **Legal and Institutional Framework**: Establishing legislative support for policy continuity and implementation.
- **Operationalization and Monitoring**: Setting up a National Development Council to oversee implementation, with key performance indicators (KPIs) to track progress.

The GDS methodology employed a structured, data-driven approach across the three phases to align national priorities with international commitments, encompassing five key components:

Figure 12: GDS Methodology



Source: GDS Commission

1. Baseline Analysis (phase 1)

The process began with a comprehensive assessment of Suriname's current environmental, economic, and social conditions. This phase involved:

- Identifying national and international commitments, including the Paris Climate Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Assessing sectoral performance and challenges using existing frameworks like the National Adaptation Plan and REDD+ initiatives.
- Recognizing key strengths (e.g., high forest cover, carbon-negative status) and vulnerabilities (e.g., climate change impacts on coastal areas).

2. Guiding Principles and Core Themes (phase 2)

From the baseline analysis, core guiding principles were established to shape the GDS strategy:

- Sustainable economic diversification – Shift away from extractive industries toward agriculture, eco-tourism, and ICT.
- Environmental conservation – Preserve Suriname's forests and biodiversity.
- Social inclusivity – Ensure equitable benefits for all communities.
- Good governance – Strengthen transparency, accountability, and stakeholder participation.
- Climate resilience – Embed adaptation and mitigation measures into development policies.

These principles align with national and international frameworks and serve as the foundation for defining key sectors and strategies.

3. Strategy Development (phase 3)

The strategy formulation process focused on:

- Translating commitments into sector-specific themes (e.g., energy, forestry, ICT, and agriculture).
- Establishing long-term policy objectives with measurable outcomes and indicators.
- Creating a legal framework to formalize sustainability practices through the GDS Act, ensuring policy continuity.

4. Scenario Development and Modeling (phase 2 and 3)

Managing uncertainties, scenario analysis and modeling help define the best pathways for sustainable development by 2050. Four scenarios were evaluated:

- Business-as-Usual (BAU) – Limited policy intervention.
- Industrial Focus – Emphasizing manufacturing and resource processing.
- Services Focus – Prioritizing ICT, tourism, and financial services.
- Agriculture Focus – Expanding agricultural activities.

Using quantitative modeling tools, these scenarios assess economic growth, carbon emissions, and social equity, highlighting the need for balanced development strategies.

5. Operationalization and Implementation (phase 3)

The strategy was put into action by:

- Defining sector-specific goals and implementation strategies.
- Establishing KPIs for monitoring progress.
- Creating an institutional framework led by a National Development Council.

This ensures that the Green Development Vision is effectively embedded in Suriname's broader development agenda.

Stakeholder Engagement

A fundamental component of the GDS was an inclusive and participatory stakeholder engagement process. The approach ensured that various societal groups contributed to the strategy's formulation, enhancing its relevance and effectiveness, consisting of the following elements:

1. **Stakeholder Identification** – Relevant groups, including public institutions, private sector representatives, labor unions, academia, NGOs, and international partners, were involved.

2. **Scenario Planning Exercises** – Stakeholders participated in workshops to evaluate different development pathways and their potential outcomes.
3. **Qualitative Analysis** – Stakeholder input was systematically analyzed to integrate feedback into the final strategy.
4. **Communication Strategy** – A structured communication plan, including branding, public relations efforts, and digital outreach, ensured continuous stakeholder involvement.
5. **Consultations and Feedback Mechanisms** – Ongoing consultations provided a platform for iterative improvements and refinements to the strategy.

Meetings and Consultations

Four major stakeholder consultation meetings were conducted, engaging over 50 stakeholder groups. These meetings facilitated knowledge-sharing, consensus-building, and scenario analysis, ensuring the strategy reflected collective aspirations for a green and resilient Suriname.

Public Awareness Campaign

A nationwide public relations campaign has been planned to complement the engagement process, increasing awareness about the GDS. This campaign will focus on employment of social media, public forums, and direct community outreach to foster broad support for the strategy.

3.4 Alignment with National and International Commitments

The GDS is influenced by key agreements such as the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Planning Act, and other environmental frameworks that shape Suriname's long-term development vision.

Constitution and Planning Act

Suriname's Constitution and Planning Act provide the legal foundation for sustainable development by emphasizing responsible resource management and long-term planning. The GDS operates within this legislative framework, ensuring that all development plans align with national sustainability objectives. The Planning Act's emphasis on balancing economic growth with environmental protection is reflected in the GDS's strategic focus on sustainable economic diversification, climate adaptation, and environmental conservation.

Alignment with the SDGs

The GDS plays a critical role in supporting Suriname's commitment to the SDGs, integrating multiple goals to foster a holistic development approach.

Figure 13: Suriname's Multi-annual Development Plan 2022-2026 policy areas in relation to the SDGs

Source: Suriname First Voluntary National Review 2022 of the SDG's

Key areas of alignment include:

- **Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth (SDG 1 & 8):** Promoting sustainable economic activities such as eco-tourism and green agriculture to create stable employment opportunities.
- **Food Security (SDG 2):** Encouraging climate-resilient agricultural practices to enhance food production and distribution.
- **Environmental and Health Sustainability (SDG 3, 6 & 7):** Implementing clean water initiatives, sustainable urban planning, and transitioning to renewable energy sources.
- **Education and Gender Equality (SDG 4 & 5):** Advancing environmental education and ensuring equal opportunities for all social groups, including women and Indigenous communities.
- **Infrastructure and Innovation (SDG 9 & 11):** Investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, sustainable urban development, and green technology.
- **Climate Action and Biodiversity Conservation (SDG 13, 14 & 15):** Maintaining Suriname's carbon-negative status and protecting terrestrial and marine ecosystems.
- **Good Governance and International Collaboration (SDG 16 & 17):** Strengthening institutions, fostering transparent governance, and engaging in global partnerships for sustainable development.

Paris Agreement and Climate Commitments

As one of the few carbon-negative nations, Suriname has a pivotal role in global climate action. The GDS is designed to support the goals of the Paris Agreement by:

- Maintaining Suriname's carbon-negative status through sustainable land use and forest conservation.
- Implementing low-carbon economic strategies to balance economic development with environmental integrity.
- Enhancing climate resilience through adaptation measures and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Integration with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Suriname's Second NDC under the Paris Agreement outlines specific targets for emissions reduction and climate resilience from 2020 to 2030. The GDS integrates these targets into national policies, particularly in sectors such as energy, forestry, and agriculture. The strategy supports achieving a 35% renewable energy share in electricity generation by 2030 and strengthens Suriname's status as a High Forest Cover, Low Deforestation (HFLD) nation.

Alignment with REDD+ and Global Climate Finance Mechanisms

The GDS aligns with the National REDD+ Strategy, which aims to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation while integrating Suriname into global carbon markets. This alignment allows the country to access international funding for sustainable development projects, further reinforcing climate resilience.

Chapter 4: Modeling and Scenario Analyses

4.1 Introduction

Modeling and scenario development are crucial for shaping Suriname's GDS. As one of the few carbon-negative countries with high forest cover—the highest globally relative to its size—Suriname faces unique opportunities and challenges in achieving sustainable development. A customized modeling framework, combined with qualitative analysis, ensures alignment with global green economy standards and reinforces Suriname's leadership in climate change mitigation.

Importance of Modeling and Scenario Development

Given the dynamic global environmental and economic landscape, modeling helps Suriname anticipate various outcomes by analyzing economic, environmental, and social interactions. Scenario development allows policymakers to evaluate policy choices, technological shifts, and external shocks, facilitating informed decision-making. These tools support economic diversification, forest preservation, emissions reduction, and social inclusion while aligning with global frameworks like the Paris Agreement, SDGs, and CARICOM's climate initiatives.

A Tailored Approach for Suriname

While global green development models provide insights, Suriname's unique position as a heavily forested, carbon-negative nation necessitates a customized approach. Standard metrics—such as emissions and industrial output—must be adapted to reflect Suriname's priorities. The GDS integrates internationally recognized models, including CLEWS and SAM, modified to account for the country's extensive forest resources, emissions trading, and international carbon credits. This tailored strategy ensures a balance between economic growth and environmental commitments.

4.2 Scenario Development

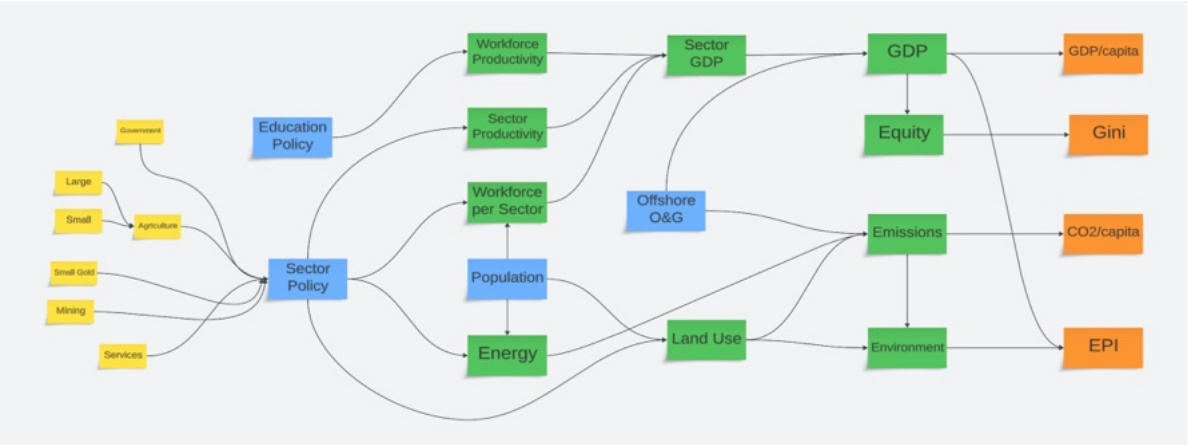
Validated Base Data

Accurate data is crucial for scenario modeling. The GDS model integrates reliable sources (e.g., IMF, IDB, Suriname's Central Bank) covering population, education, emissions, and economic indicators. Cross-referencing data ensures realistic projections, informed decision-making, and effective policy recommendations.

Modelling framework

The custom-made GDS model for Suriname, developed in Excel, integrates key metrics, validated data, trends, and ambition levels to create a structured modeling framework. The modeling framework is represented in the following figure. This figure illustrates the interconnected relationships between economic and sector policies and their impact on Suriname's economic, social, and environmental outcomes.

Figure 14: GDS Modeling Framework



At the core of the model is sector policy, which determines the development of various industries, including agriculture, mining, services, and government sectors. These policies influence how resources are allocated, which industries receive investment, and how workforce distribution takes place across different sectors.

Population dynamics and energy needs also play a role, affecting workforce availability and energy consumption patterns. The model also incorporates the role of education policy, which directly impacts workforce productivity and sector productivity. Economic growth in this model also explicitly takes into account offshore oil and gas development, which will serve as a major driver of revenues for the coming years.

The ultimate outcomes are measured across the following three main pillars:

- **Economy**
    - **GDP per Capita** – Reflects economic health and capacity for sustainability investments.
- **Social**
    - **Gini Coefficient** – Measures income inequality, informing equitable policies.
- **Environmental**
    - **Emissions** – Tracks greenhouse gas output to guide decarbonization efforts.
    - **Forest coverage** – The presence of forest as a percentage of total land area
    - **EPI** – Assesses environmental management and global standing.

These indicators provide a holistic foundation for balancing economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social equity.

Economic Scenarios

The GDS modeling framework uses datasets to develop various future-oriented scenarios. In doing so, different ambition levels for GDP growth and education—categorized as low, base, and high— have been considered in the subsequent scenario analysis.

Under a **low ambition scenario**, limited investment in economic diversification and education would result in minimal improvements. GDP growth would remain sluggish, continuing the historical trend of cyclical volatility and resource dependency. Education outcomes would see only marginal progress, failing to equip the workforce with the necessary skills for a modern, knowledge-based economy. This scenario risks prolonging Suriname's economic stagnation and increasing vulnerability to external shocks.

The **base ambition scenario** represents a moderate level of ambition, where strategic but measured investments are made in key economic sectors and educational infrastructure. GDP growth under this scenario would be steady but not transformative, with incremental improvements in human capital and industrial diversification. Education reforms would enhance literacy and technical skills, leading to a more competitive workforce capable of contributing to economic growth beyond resource extraction. While this scenario offers stability, it may not be sufficient to break Suriname's historical boom-and-bust cycle entirely.

The **high ambition scenario** reflects an ambitious approach where significant investments are made in economic diversification and education. This level of commitment would drive substantial GDP growth by fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and high-value industries beyond natural resource extraction. Education policies would focus on modernizing curricula, expanding access to higher education, and strengthening vocational training programs, ultimately creating a highly skilled workforce. Such an approach would enable Suriname to transition towards a knowledge-based economy, ensuring long-term sustainability and resilience.

Sector Scenarios

Different sectors in the economy have been modeled to take into account their contribution to the economy. In doing so, the projected workforce allocations per sector have been considered as well as the constraints put by each sector on land use and emission levels. The following sectors have been considered

- **Services:** Focuses on expanding tourism, ICT, healthcare, and financial services, requiring significant educational improvements. Aims to diversify the economy beyond extractive industries.
- **Industrial:** Emphasizes manufacturing and value-added industries, shifting employment from government and services to industrial sectors. Success depends on investments in skills training and technology.
- **Agriculture:** Prioritizes large-scale farming and agro-processing to enhance food security, reduce imports, and boost rural employment. Workforce shifts toward both commercial and small-scale farming, minimizing environmental impact.

Overview of scenarios

Based on the modeling framework outlined above, several scenarios have been analyzed. The next sections present the results of the three main scenarios:

1. **Business-as-Usual Scenario:** This scenario assumes a continuation of historical economic growth trends without significant policy changes. It reflects a trajectory based on past patterns without major interventions.
2. **Sustainable Economy Scenario:** This scenario focuses on reducing dependence on extractive industries while fostering a diversified economy. It emphasizes sustainable development and investment in sectors beyond oil and gas to ensure long-term economic stability.
3. **Sustainable Economy with Large-Scale Agriculture Scenario:** Building upon the Sustainable Economy Scenario, this scenario incorporates extensive agricultural developments as an additional driver of economic growth, further enhancing diversification.

Each scenario considers the time period 2024 (as the base year) till 2050. In all scenarios, the projected developments in the offshore oil and gas industry have been factored in, as their commencement is now a certainty.

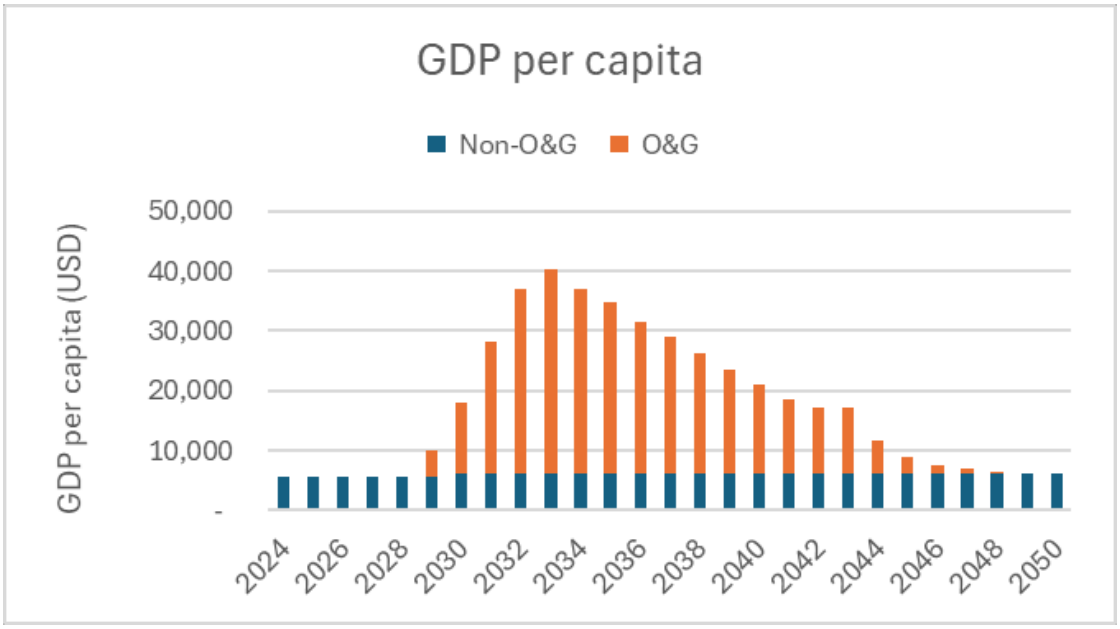
4.3 Scenario 1: Business-as-Usual

The Business-as-Usual scenario for Suriname presents a projection of the country's economic, environmental, and social trajectory without significant policy changes. In the analysis, a distinction has been made between oil and gas development, and non-oil and gas development. With regard to the former, under this scenario, an historical trend is projected. On top of this, then, the expected oil and gas impact has been modeled.

Education remains at historical levels under the Business-as-Usual scenario. The low educational level of the workforce remains at current levels - 33% have only a primary education, and 18% have no education at all. This lack of educational attainment limits opportunities for economic mobility and exacerbates unemployment, particularly among youth and women. This scenario foresees little improvement in education outcomes without targeted investments, which will further hinder the country's ability to diversify its economy and reduce poverty.

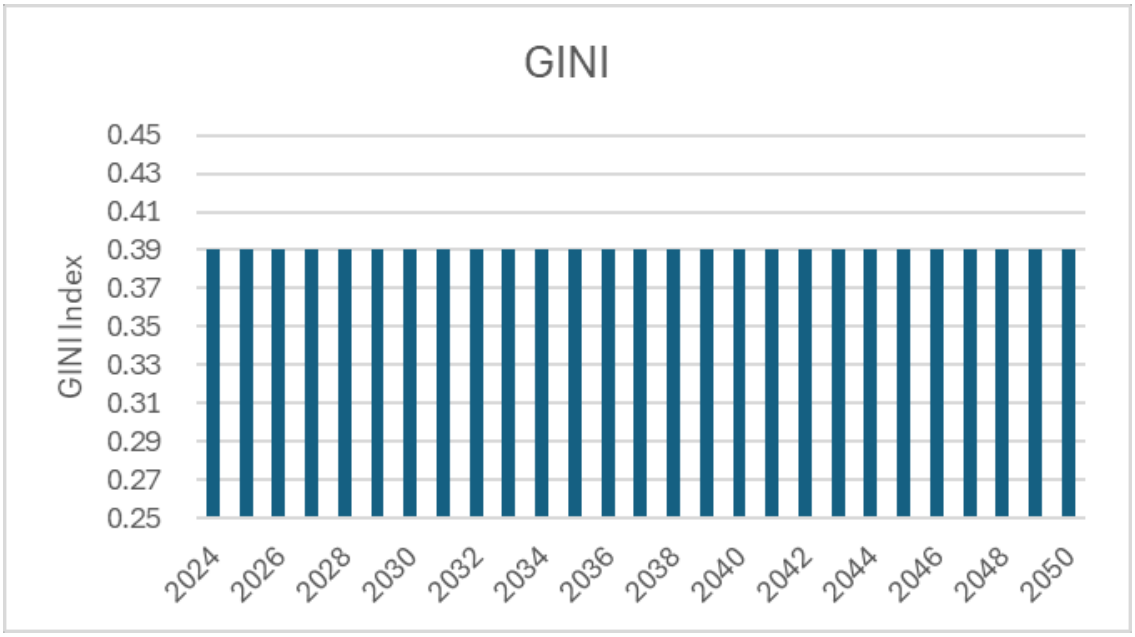
Total GDP per capita is projected to rise gradually, beginning in 2029, peaking in 2033, but then returning to pre-2029 levels. This reflects the expected boom from offshore oil production in the late 2020s, but without significant diversification, the economy is anticipated to revert to a low-growth trajectory.

Figure 15: Business-as-Usual Scenario: GDP per Capita



The GINI index, which measures income inequality, remains under the Business-as-Usual scenario at around 0.39. The expected influx of oil revenue may exacerbate this issue, as wealth is likely to concentrate among those connected to the extractive industries while broader economic growth remains constrained.

Figure 16: Business-as-Usual Scenario: GINI



Environmental degradation is a major concern under the BAU scenario, with deforestation rates projected to increase due to particularly the expansion of artisanal and small-scale gold mining and agricultural activities. Historically, deforestation has been minimal, with an annual rate of 0.05%, but this is expected to rise significantly in the coming decades. The GDS model projects a stark increase in deforestation by 2040 if current trends continue, leading to a reduction in forest

cover from 93% to much lower levels (below 90%). Consequently Suriname would loose its carbon-negative status.

Figure 17: Business-as-Usual Scenario: Forest Cover

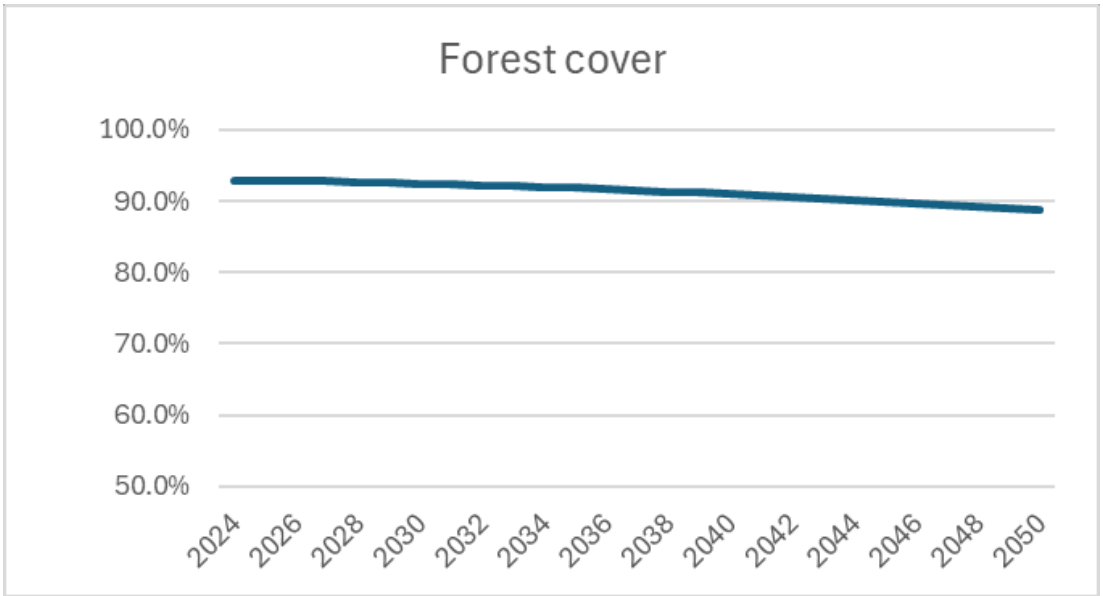
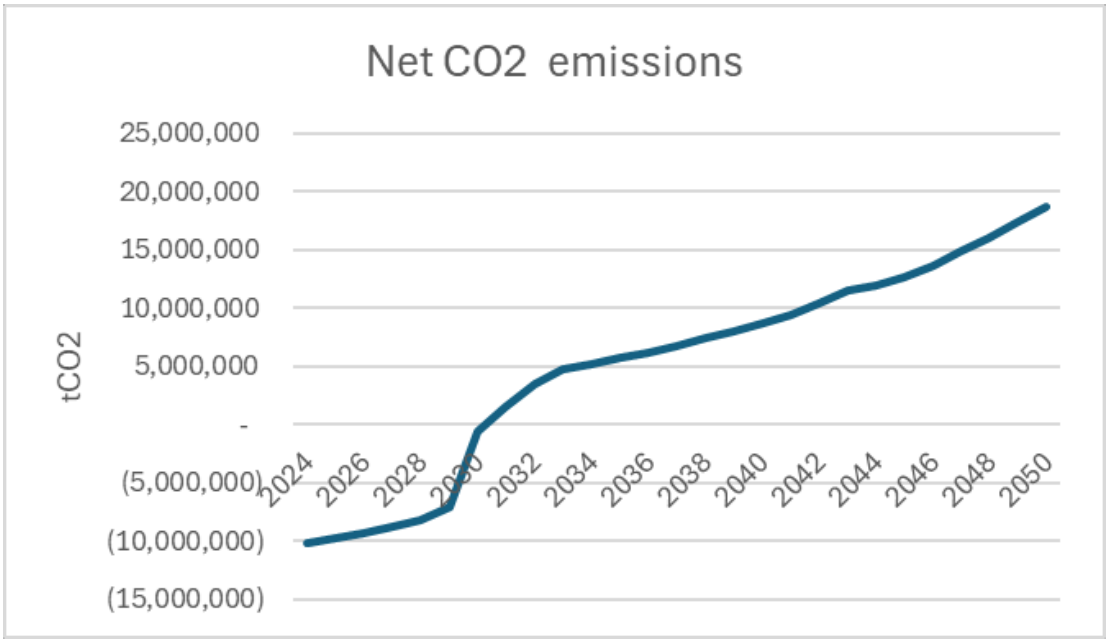
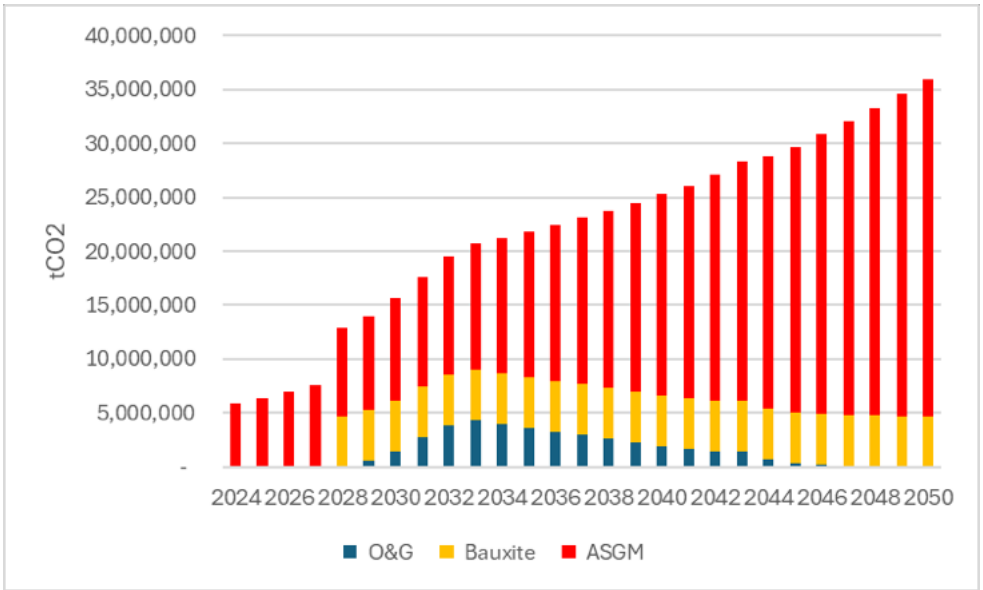


Figure 18: Business-as-Usual Scenario: Net CO2 Emissions



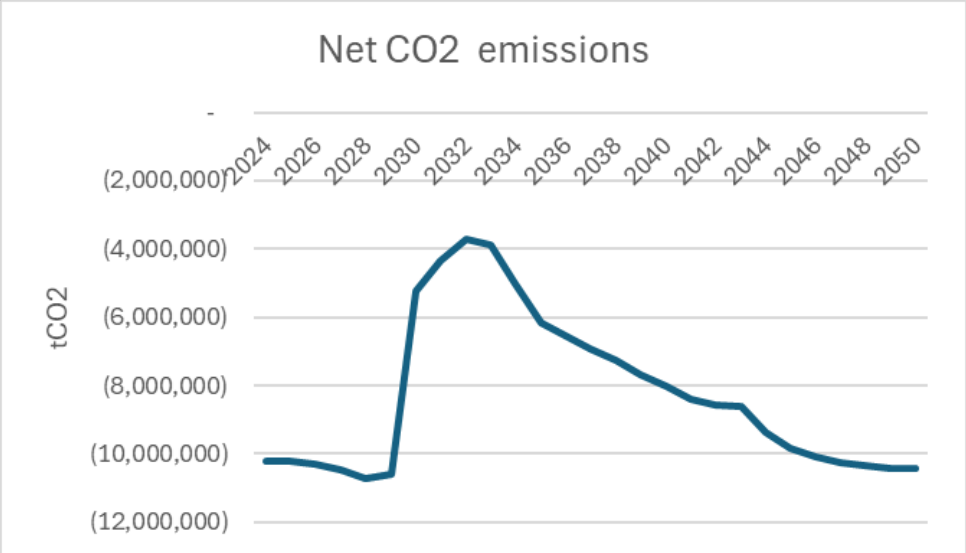
The primary sources of emissions in Suriname are the oil and gas sector, bauxite production, and Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM), with illegal mining activities being particularly significant contributors. Illegal gold mining is one of the leading drivers of deforestation in the country, and under a Business-as-Usual scenario, its unchecked expansion poses a severe threat to forest cover and biodiversity. If not properly regulated, ASGM will not only increase CO_2 emissions but also lead to the degradation of critical ecosystems. The destruction of these ecosystems carries profound consequences, affecting biodiversity and disrupting the livelihoods of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples who depend on forest resources for their survival.

Figure 19: Business-as-Usual Scenario: Main contributors to CO2 Emissions



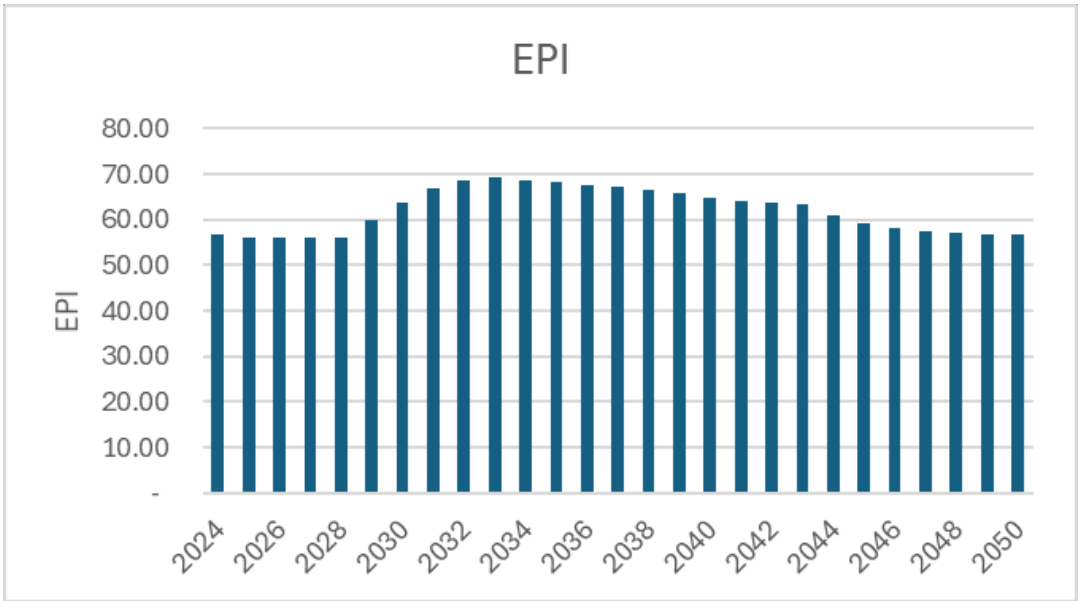
A simulation of a gradual phase-out of ASGM by the year 2035 suggests that Suriname could narrowly avoid transitioning to a net-positive emitter. This outcome highlights the urgent need for effective policies to regulate and ultimately reduce ASGM activities. Without decisive action, Suriname risks losing its carbon-negative status, making it essential to implement sustainable strategies that balance economic interests with environmental conservation. In the further scenarios, therefore, it has been assumed that illegal AGSM will be terminated by the year 2035 as this is an imperative action to achieve a net negative status.

Figure 20: Business-as-Usual Scenario: Net CO2 Emissions, but assuming termination of illegal ASGM by the year 2035



The EPI for Suriname remains relatively low compared to global benchmarks). Without stronger environmental governance and sustainable land use practices, this scenario predicts only marginal improvements in EPI scores. This will have significant consequences for biodiversity conservation and the preservation of natural habitats, further exacerbating the impact of deforestation and resource extraction.

Figure 21: Business-as-Usual Scenario: EPI index



4.4 Scenario 2: Sustainable Economy

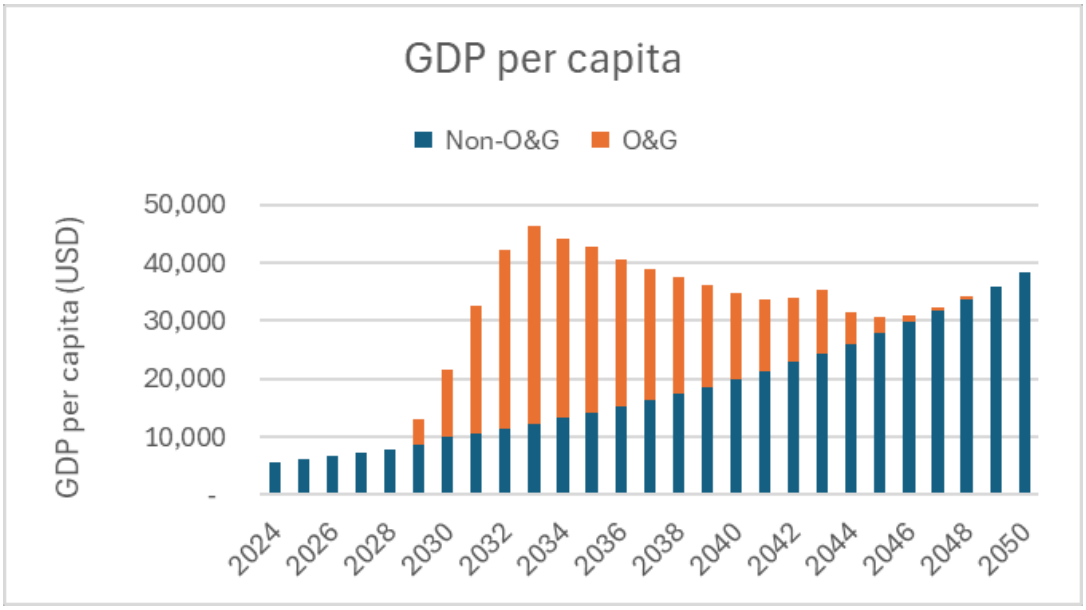
The second scenario envisions a future where revenue from oil and gas developments is strategically reinvested to drive sustainable development. Rather than merely consuming these earnings, the focus is on channeling them into key areas, particularly education and workforce development, to significantly enhance labor productivity. The core principle is to utilize oil and gas proceeds primarily for this purpose, ensuring long-term economic resilience.

Under this high-ambition scenario, aggressive investments are made towards a more diversified and sustainable economy, reducing dependence on natural resource extraction while fostering innovation and competitiveness in non-extractive industries. This scenario emphasizes investment in the services and industrial sectors to ensure that the anticipated decline in oil and gas revenues over time is offset by growth in these alternative sectors.

The key objective of this scenario is to shift Suriname's economic dependency away from natural resources and toward its most valuable asset—its people. By investing in education and skill development, the scenario fosters a highly productive workforce capable of sustaining and expanding the economy beyond oil and gas. This transition ensures long-term resilience by equipping the population with the knowledge and expertise necessary to thrive in a diversified economy.

A fundamental assumption is that at least 70% of the workforce will attain a high school education, while 35% will achieve higher education. This marks a significant improvement compared to the Business-as-Usual scenario, where currently only 24% of the population completes high school or higher education.

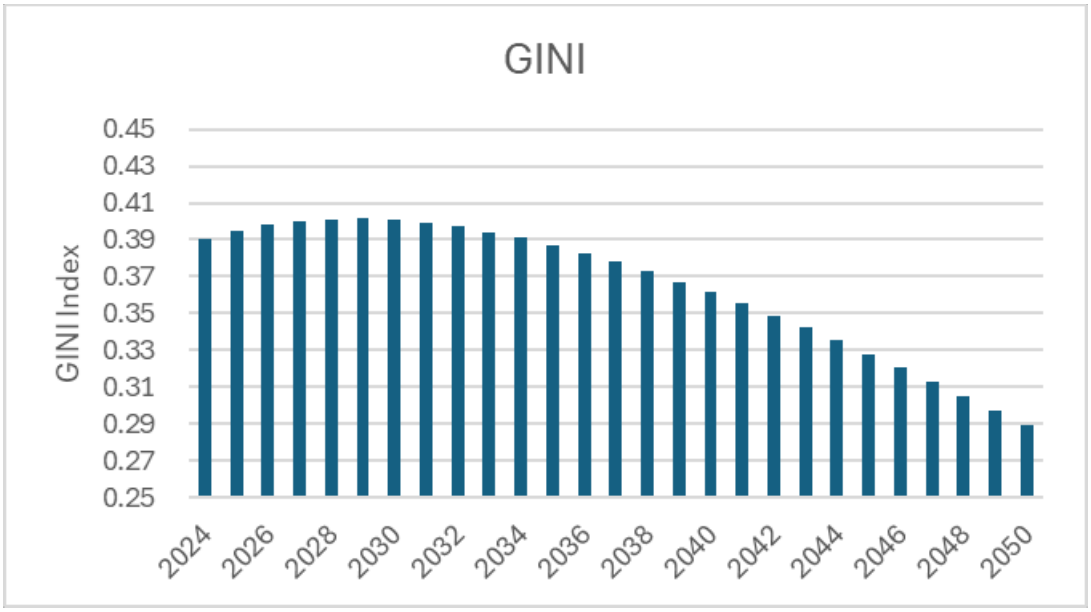
Figure 22: Sustainable Economy Scenario: GDP per Capita



Economic projections show that by 2045, the oil and gas sector will be diminished to nearly zero, with the economy becoming predominantly driven by sustainable industries, marking a transition away from reliance on natural resource extraction.

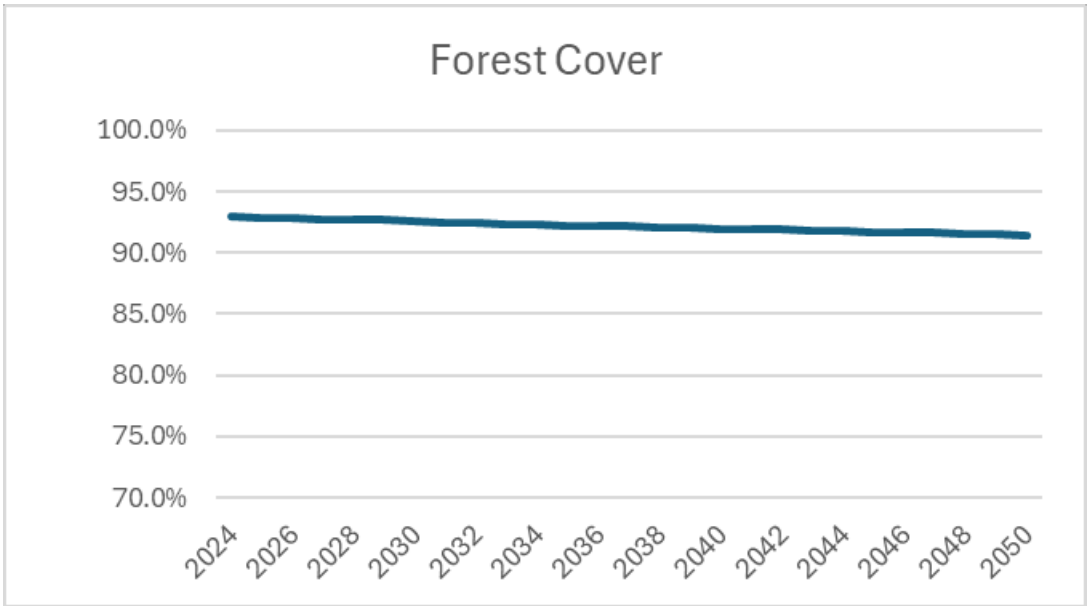
The GINI index indicates progress in reducing inequality. Suriname's scores in this scenario show a downward trend, suggesting that inequality will improve significantly by 2050 with a score of around 0.29. Lower GINI levels would result from better income distribution, largely driven by industrial and service sector jobs coupled with inclusive social policies.

Figure 23: Sustainable Economy Scenario: GINI



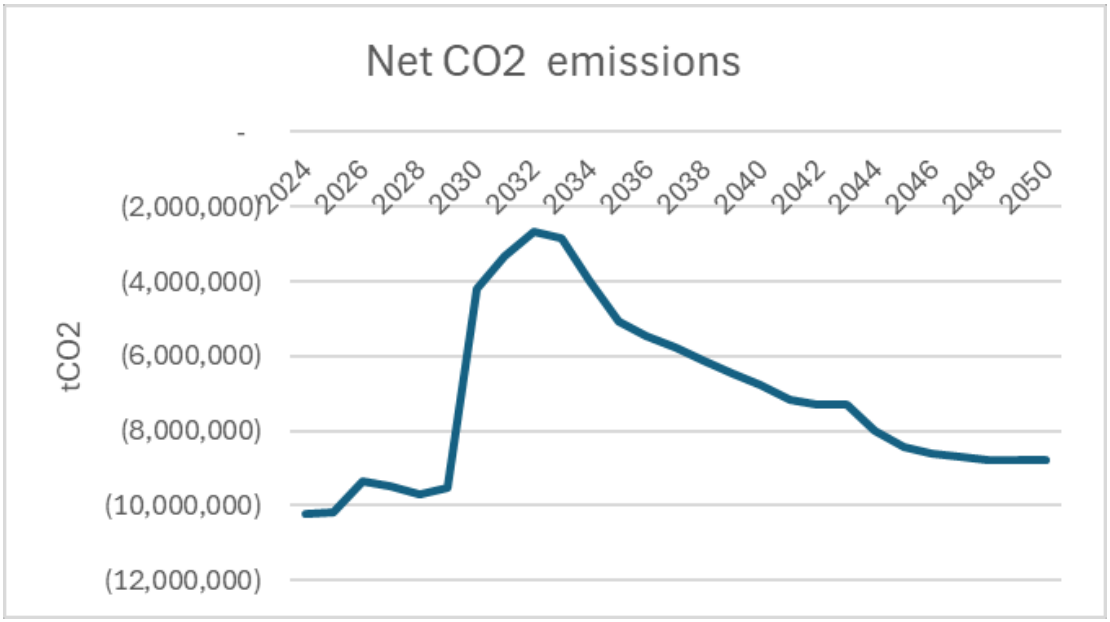
Forest cover is expected to decrease slightly to around 92%, a modest reduction compared to current levels. As mentioned before, it is however imperative for a planned phase-out of artisanal small-scale gold mining, combined with enhanced forest management and reforestation efforts.

Figure 24: Sustainable Economy Scenario: Forest Cover



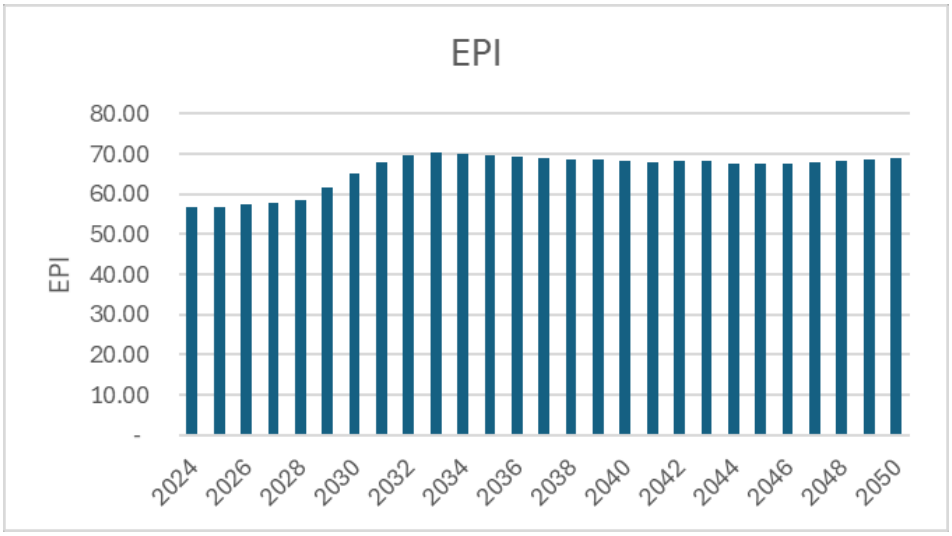
Suriname's net CO2 emissions are projected to rise due to oil and gas exploitation. Nonetheless, the planned elimination of ASGM by 2040 is expected to help maintain negative net emissions, provided deforestation linked to ASGM is minimized and continually reduced. If these efforts succeed, Suriname can retain its carbon-negative status and solidify its positionas a global environmental leader.

Figure 25: Sustainable Economy Scenario: Net CO2 Emissions



The EPI is projected to rise, reaching just below 70, comparable to the Netherlands. This reflects expected improvements in environmental regulations, biodiversity protection, and forest management.

Figure 26: Sustainable Economy Scenario: EPI



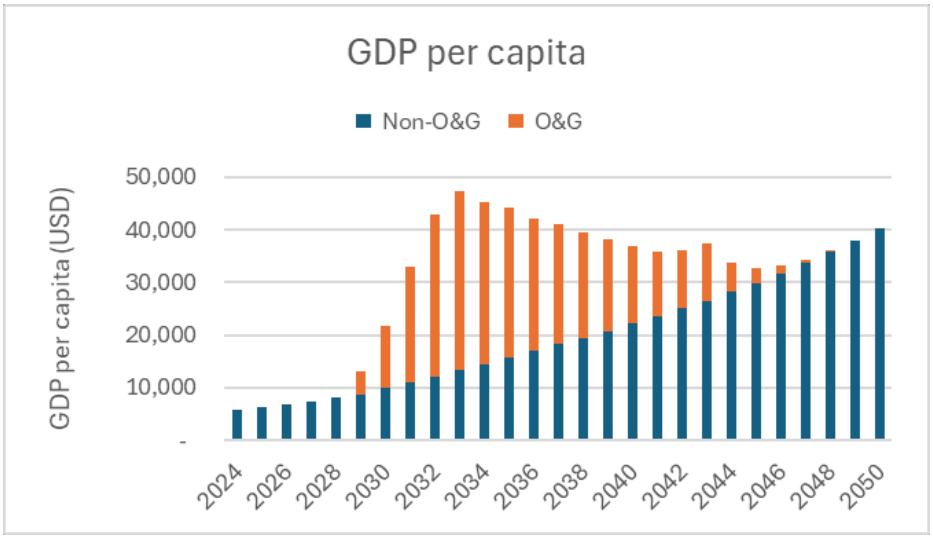
4.3 Scenario 3: Large-Scale Agriculture

The third scenario builds upon the Sustainable Economy Scenario, but with large-scale agricultural development taking center stage in Suriname's economic transformation. This scenario envisions Suriname leveraging its agricultural potential to become a key food supplier for the Caribbean, positioning the sector as a primary driver of economic growth.

A significant shift in employment is expected, with 30% of the workforce engaged in agriculture. To support this expansion, substantial amounts of land are converted into agricultural use, enabling large-scale food production and exports. This strategy not only enhances food security but also creates new economic opportunities, ensuring a more diversified and resilient economy.

By integrating agriculture alongside investments in education and industry, this scenario promotes a balanced economic model that utilizes Suriname's land resources to drive development beyond just the service and industrial sectors. Additionally, a core policy objective is to reduce dependence on extractive industries, particularly oil and gas, fostering long-term sustainability and economic stability.

Figure 27: Large-Scale Agriculture Scenario: GDP per Capita

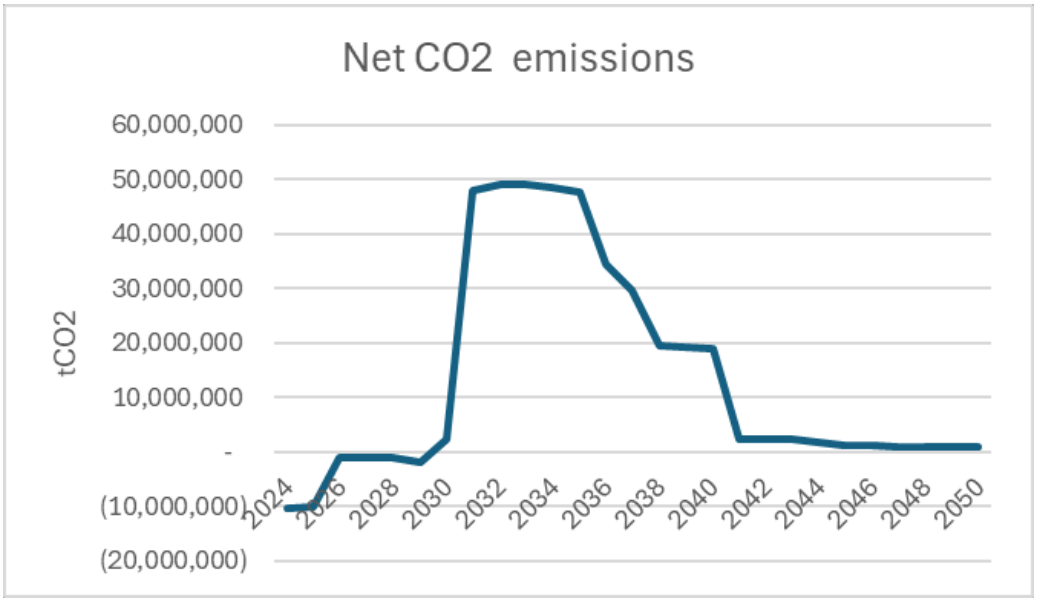


The GINI score in this scenario remains comparable to that in the Sustainable Economy Scenario and are therefore not separately presented. Instead, the focus is placed on analyzing the environmental impacts of the policies implemented under this scenario.

Under this scenario, emissions increase substantially, primarily due to the conversion of forested land into agricultural use. The large-scale clearing of forests for farming leads to an initial surge in CO_2 emissions, as carbon stored in vegetation and soil is released into the atmosphere. Even after this land-use conversion is completed, CO_2 levels remain structurally high, as ongoing agricultural activities—such as soil disturbance, fertilizer use, and methane emissions from livestock—continue to contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

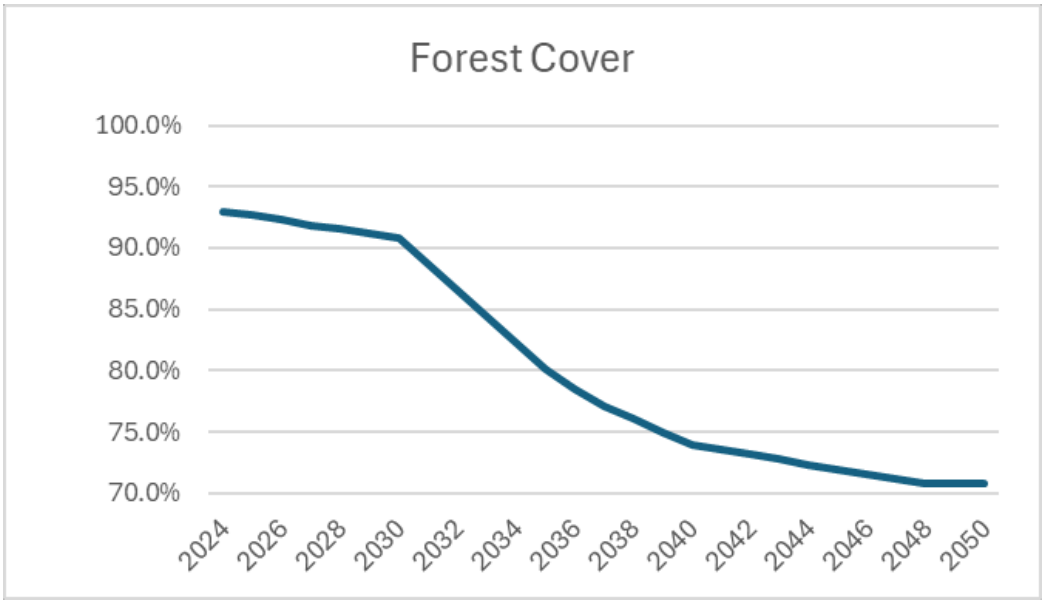
It is clear that under this scenario, Suriname is projected to lose its carbon-negative status and transition into a carbon-positive country. It is important to note that this analysis assumes that illegal (AGSM) will be fully phased out by 2035. While this reduction in mining-related emissions contributes positively to environmental goals, the increase in agricultural deforestation is expected to outweigh these gains.

Figure 28: Large-Scale Agriculture Scenario: Net CO2 Emissions



The deforestation rate driven by agricultural expansion in this scenario will be substantial enough to compromise Suriname's carbon sink capacity. As a result, forest cover levels will decline rapidly, eventually stabilizing at approximately 70%, a significant reduction from current levels. This shift represents a major departure from Suriname's traditionally high forest cover and low deforestation (HFLD) status, which has historically positioned the country as a global leader in forest conservation and carbon sequestration. The scale of deforestation in this scenario is expected to be large enough to jeopardize Suriname's HFLD classification, potentially affecting international climate commitments, conservation funding, and global recognition as a carbon-negative country.

Figure 29: Large-Scale Agriculture Scenario: Forest Cover



4.4 Comparison and Policy Implications

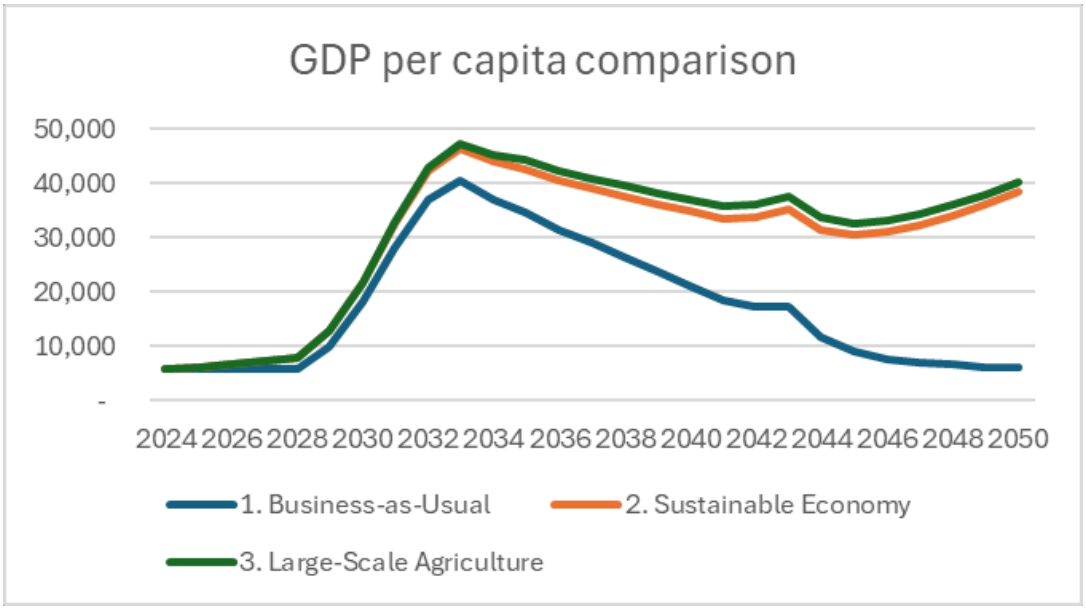
The modeling analysis aimed to quantify the impact of different policy directions for Suriname across three key dimensions: the economy, the environment, and social equity. One of the most significant conclusions from this analysis is that the Business-as-Usual scenario is highly undesirable. Under this approach, the economy would experience rapid growth in the early years due to oil and gas developments. However, over time, the contribution of this sector to the economy would decline, leading to a gradual economic slowdown. By 2050, Suriname's economic position would be only marginally better than current levels. In essence, this scenario offers a few years of prosperity, followed by a return to the familiar cycle of stagnation and volatility.

Another significant drawback of the Business-as-Usual scenario is that the continued expansion of illegal ASGM activities would cause Suriname to become a net positive emitter within a relatively short period. This means that, regardless of the chosen development path, Suriname cannot maintain its carbon-negative status unless decisive action is taken to address illegal ASGM. Without intervention, the environmental damage caused by uncontrolled mining will undermine all efforts toward sustainability, making it impossible for the country to uphold its role as a global carbon sink. Addressing this issue is therefore not optional but essential to any long-term strategy for economic and environmental stability.

The Sustainable Economy scenario presents a strong case for sustainable economic growth. Wisely investing the oil and gas revenues in industrial and service sectors with a specific aim at developing the capabilities of the human factor and workforce would generate significant economic expansion while creating long-term stability.

The Large-Scale Agricultural Scenario builds upon the Sustainable Economy Scenario but shifts the focus towards extensive agricultural development as a primary economic driver. This strategic emphasis on agriculture leads to an even higher level of economic growth, as reflected in a higher GDP per capita compared to the Sustainable Economy Scenario.

Figure 30: Scenario comparisons: GDP per capita



However, this accelerated economic development comes with significant environmental trade-offs, particularly in terms of forest degradation and carbon emissions. The large-scale expansion of agricultural land results in substantial deforestation, reducing Suriname's forest cover to approximately 70% and severely impacting its role as a carbon sink. A key consequence of this scenario is that Suriname loses its net-negative carbon status, even if illegal ASGM activities are fully phased out. The scale of deforestation and ongoing agricultural emissions outweigh any reductions from ending illegal mining, pushing Suriname into a carbon-positive position.

Figure 31: Scenario comparisons: Emissions

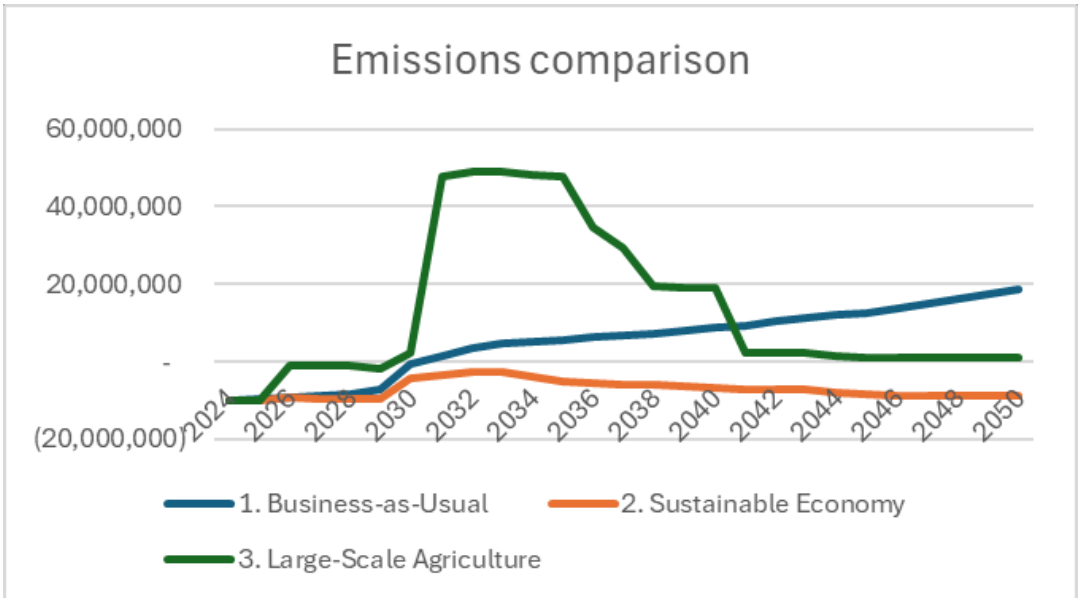
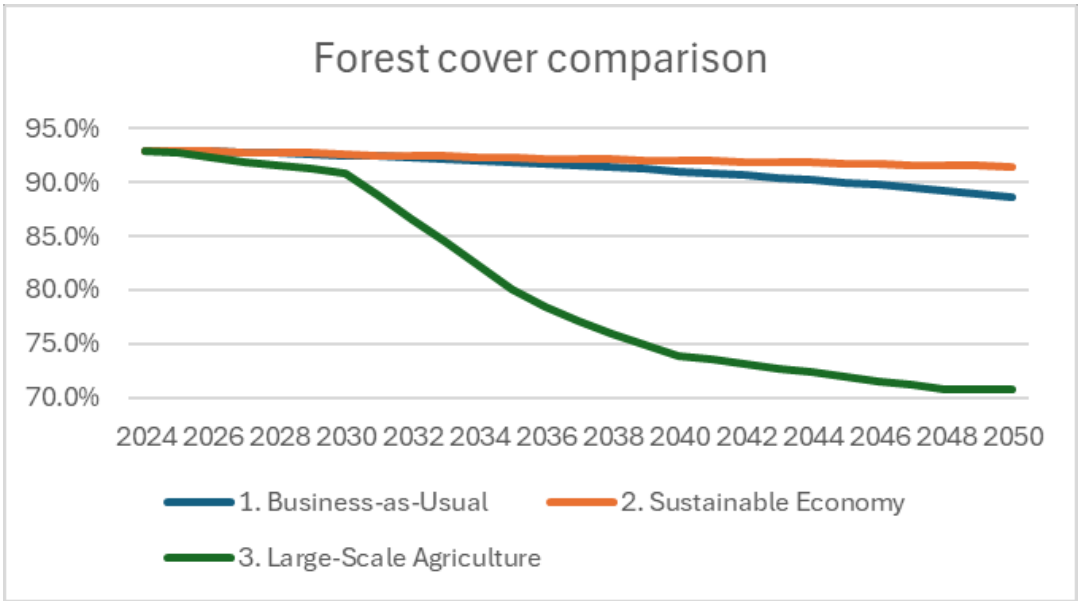


Figure 32: Scenario comparisons: Forest cover



Overall, the analysis indicates that a transition toward a service- and industry-oriented economy offers the best balance between economic development and environmental sustainability. This pathway supports strong economic growth while aligning with social and environmental objectives, ensuring long-term resilience without excessive ecological trade-offs.

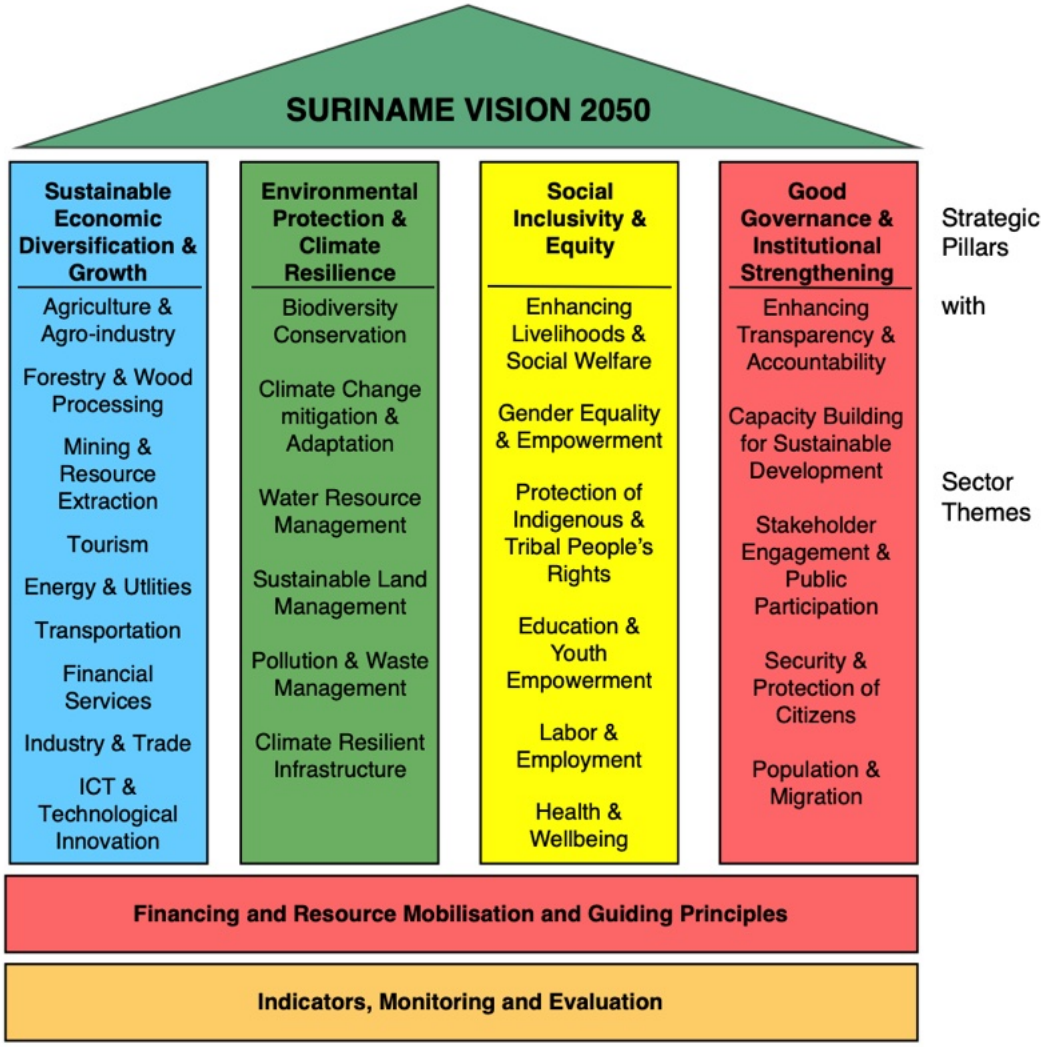
Importantly, this does not exclude agricultural activities altogether. Instead, the key takeaway is that the service and industrial sectors alone provide a sufficient foundation for economic progress without necessitating large-scale deforestation and carbon emissions. By maintaining a more moderate approach to agriculture, Suriname can still benefit from the sector while avoiding the environmental degradation associated with extensive land conversion.

Chapter 5: Framework of the GDS

5.1 Structure of the GDS

The GDS framework provides a structured pathway for Suriname's sustainable development by integrating economic, social, environmental, and governance objectives. It is designed to be adaptable and responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities. The framework is built on several key components that ensure long-term sustainability and resilience.

Figure 33: GDS Framework Structure



The key Elements of the GDS Framework in Suriname are:

1. **Structure of the GDS**: The GDS framework harmonizes Suriname's development needs with sustainable practices. It offers a holistic approach that balances economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. Its adaptability allows for periodic revisions in response to changing conditions (Refer to Chapter 6 for further details).
2. **Scenario Analysis and Modeling:** A core feature of the GDS is its scenario modeling approach, which facilitates continuous updates based on new data. This ensures that the

strategy remains relevant and aligned with both national and international sustainability commitments. The framework provides a structured roadmap for current actions and future adjustments, enhancing Suriname's ability to address environmental challenges effectively.

3. **Guiding Principles**: The GDS framework is anchored in several fundamental principles:
    - *Sustainable Economic Diversification* – Reducing reliance on extractive industries and promoting growth in sustainable sectors such as services, agriculture, forestry, and ecotourism.
    - *Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use* – Preserving Suriname's biodiversity and maintaining its high forest cover and low deforestation rates.
    - *Climate Resilience and Adaptation* – Strengthening resilience to climate change impacts, particularly for vulnerable communities.

    A complete list of guiding principles is presented in paragraph 5.2.
4. **Strategic Directions and Expected Outcomes**: The GDS focuses on strategic directions, including sustainable economic growth, environmental protection, social inclusivity, and governance improvements. Expected outcomes include carbon neutrality, enhanced environmental performance, and improved human development indicators (Chapter 3).
5. **Implementation Conditions and Elements**: For successful execution, the GDS requires:
    - *Political will and governance* – Strong leadership and regulatory frameworks.
    - *Capacity and resources* – Institutional and human capital development.
    - *Public awareness and engagement* – Community involvement in sustainable initiatives.
    - *Financial mechanisms* – Secure funding through designated resources.
    - *Policy coherence* – Integration across sectors and alignment with sustainability goals.

    SMART Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) ensure that efforts are effectively monitored and aligned with overarching objectives.
6. **GDS Act**: A crucial component of the framework is the establishment of a GDS Act, embedding the strategy within national legal and policy structures. This law guarantees continuity and enforcement of green development policies across different political administrations.
7. **Monitoring and Evaluation**: A robust M&E system is integral to the GDS framework. It systematically tracks progress, evaluates impact, and ensures accountability. Continuous assessment facilitates learning, adaptation, and strategic refinement to enhance sustainability outcomes.

The GDS framework serves as a comprehensive roadmap for Suriname's transition toward a green economy. By integrating economic, environmental, and social objectives, it positions the

country to meet its national and international commitments while promoting resilience, sustainability, and inclusivity for all citizens.

5.2 Guiding Principles

Suriname's GDS is built upon key guiding principles that promote sustainable economic growth while ensuring environmental conservation, social equity, and good governance. These principles align with Suriname's unique ecological and economic context, reinforcing its commitment to international sustainability frameworks:

1. **Sustainable Economic Diversification:** Suriname aims to reduce its reliance on extractive industries by fostering sustainable sectors such as agriculture, forestry, ecotourism, and services. This diversification will strengthen economic resilience while promoting green technology and innovation, including investments in renewable energy sources such as hydro, solar, and wind.
2. **Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources:** To maintain its carbon-negative status, Suriname prioritizes the conservation of its forests, marine ecosystems, and biodiversity. Sustainable forest management, expansion of protected areas, and responsible extraction of non-timber forest products are key strategies to balance development with environmental preservation.
3. **Climate Resilience and Adaptation:** As a low-lying coastal nation, Suriname faces significant climate risks, including sea-level rise and extreme weather events. The GDS focuses on strengthening coastal protection, climate-resilient agriculture, and adaptive infrastructure. Special attention is given to financing adaptation efforts and integrating Indigenous and Tribal Peoplesinto decision-making.
4. **Social Inclusivity and Human Development:** Sustainable development must be inclusive, ensuring all communities, particularly marginalized groups, benefit from green growth. Key initiatives include:
    a. Education and capacity-building for green jobs.
    b. Youth skills development to strengthen the labor market.
    c. Respect for Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' rights and active participation in development.
    d. Gender equality and social equity reduce disparities in opportunities and decision-making.
5. **Good Governance and Institutional Strengthening:** A strong governance framework is critical for successful implementation of the GDS. Suriname seeks to enhance transparency, accountability, and stakeholder participation through:
    a. Strengthened regulations and enforcement mechanisms aligned with global standards.
    b. Increased institutional capacity to monitor economic, environmental, and social compliance.

c. Encouraging public participation and social dialogue in decision-making.

6. **Commitment to International Climate Change Frameworks:** Suriname remains committed to global climate goals, particularly through the Paris Agreement and High Forest, Low Deforestation (HFLD) initiatives. Strategies include:
    a. Implementing and monitoring Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
    b. Leveraging international climate finance (e.g., REDD+, Green Climate Fund).
    c. Advocating for HFLD countries' recognition in global climate negotiations.
7. **Integration with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The GDS is fully aligned with Suriname's national development policies, ensuring coherence with the SDGs and Decent Work Country Program. Cross-sectoral policies will be developed to balance economic, social, and environmental objectives, with regular updates to address emerging challenges.

The abovementioned principles provide a comprehensive framework to balance economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental sustainability. By integrating international commitments and national priorities, Suriname is positioned to lead a green and inclusive development pathway.

5.3 Vision Statement for Suriname's Green Development

Suriname's Green Development Strategy informs a comprehensive roadmap designed to foster sustainable and inclusive growth. By focusing on economic diversification, environmental protection, social inclusivity, and good governance, Suriname will pave the way for a resilient and prosperous future, ensuring that development benefits all citizens while preserving the country's natural heritage for generations to come.

Vision Statement:

"By 2050, Suriname aspires to be a leading example of sustainable development, characterized by a diversified, resilient, and inclusive economy that ensures the well-being of its citizens while preserving its rich natural heritage. Through committed environmental protection, comprehensive social inclusivity, and exemplary governance, Suriname will harness its unique biodiversity and cultural wealth to foster innovation, green growth, and sustainable prosperity for all."

Economic Transformation and Sustainable Growth

Suriname aims to transition from its dependency on extractive industries to a diversified, green economy. Investments in renewable energy, eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture, and the circular economy will drive economic transformation, create jobs, and support small and medium-sized enterprises. Key initiatives are:

- **Renewable Energy Development:** Expanding solar, wind, and hydropower in the national energy mix.

- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Implementing climate-smart practices to enhance soil health and water conservation.
- **Eco-Tourism:** Leveraging biodiversity to develop sustainable tourism benefiting local communities.
- **Circular Economy:** Promoting resource efficiency, waste reduction, and recycling.

Environmental Protection and Climate Resilience

Suriname, one of the most forested countries globally, prioritizes the preservation of its natural resources while enhancing climate resilience. Key initiatives are:

- **Forest Conservation:** Strengthening sustainable forest management to maintain biodiversity.
- **Biodiversity Protection:** Implementing conservation measures for critical ecosystems such as wetlands and coastal zones.
- **Pollution Control:** Enhancing regulations to minimize environmental degradation and promote sustainable waste management.
- **Climate Adaptation & Mitigation:** Developing resilient infrastructure and addressing climate change challenges like sea-level rise.
- **Sustainable Land Management:** Balancing ecological conservation with urban and rural development needs.

Social Inclusivity and Equity

The GDS emphasizes inclusive development, ensuring that all citizens benefit from economic progress, particularly marginalized communities. Key initiatives are:

- **Education & Healthcare:** Expanding access to quality education and healthcare services.
- **Poverty Reduction:** Implementing targeted social safety nets to reduce income inequality.
- **Skills Development & Employability:** Equipping the workforce with competencies to support a green economy.
- **Gender Equality:** Promoting equal opportunities for women and girls in education and employment.
- **Indigenous & Tribal Rights:** Protecting the rights and traditional knowledge of Indigenous communities.

Governance and Policy Framework

Effective governance is essential for the successful execution of the GDS. Transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement will be prioritized. Key initiatives are:

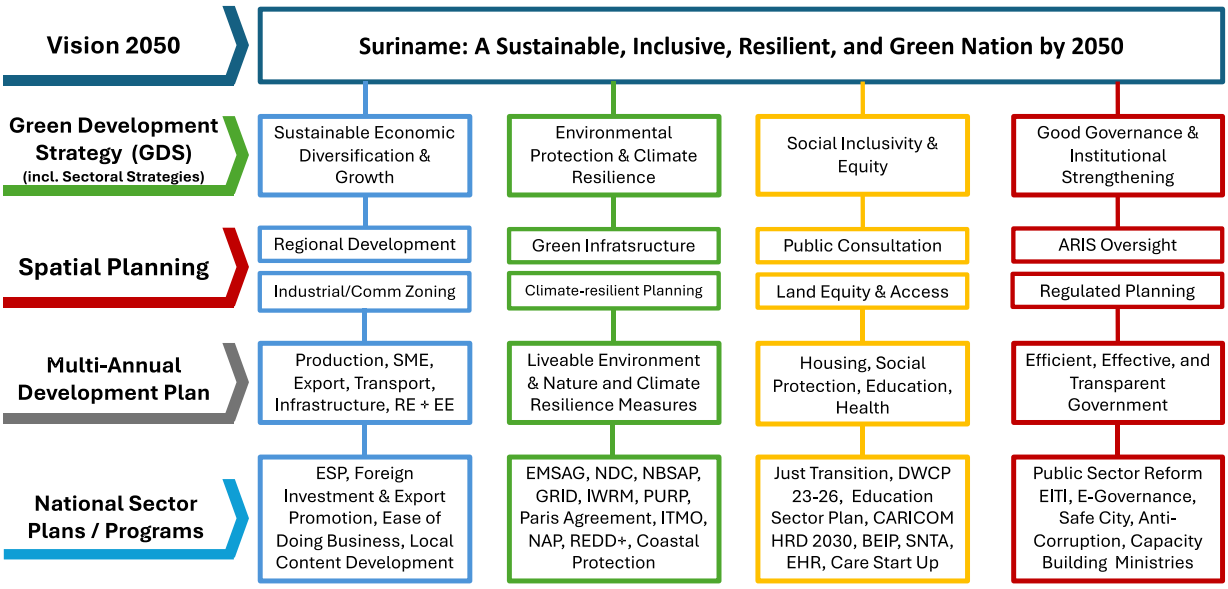
- **Institutional Strengthening:** Enhancing government capacity to implement sustainable policies.
- **Transparency & Accountability:** Ensuring clear decision-making processes and responsible governance.
- **Public Participation:** Involving citizens and stakeholders in development initiatives.
- **International Cooperation:** Engaging with global partners for expertise, funding, and knowledge exchange.

Through these four pillars, Suriname's GDS aims to foster a green, inclusive, and resilient economy, ensuring long-term prosperity for all its citizens while protecting the country's rich natural heritage.

5.4 Revised Planning Framework for Suriname

The GDS is a key element in Suriname's revised planning framework, addressing legislative gaps and promoting sustainable development. Aligned with "Vision 2050," it fosters a resilient, green economy by balancing growth, environmental care, and social equity. It integrates spatial planning, MOPs, and sector strategies into a cohesive framework linking high-level goals to sector actions.

Figure 34: Overview of the New Planning Framework of Suriname



Source: GDS Commission

The revised planning framework for Suriname is structured across multiple layers, each translating the high-level strategic objectives of the GDS into actionable policies and plans. This structured approach ensures coherence between long-term sustainability goals and immediate development actions.

1. Strategic Layer: The GDS serves as the overarching national strategy, aligning Suriname's development goals with international commitments, such as the Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. It provides a long-term vision structured around four key pillars:

- Sustainable Economic Diversification and Growth
- Environmental Protection and Climate Resilience
- Social Inclusivity and Equity
- Good Governance and Institutional Strengthening

The GDS acts as the foundational framework, guiding national policies and ensuring that development remains sustainable, inclusive, and resilient. To institutionalize its role, a **GDS Act** is proposed to integrate sustainability principles into national legislation and ensure continuity across administrations.

2. Tactical Layer (Spatial Planning and Multi-Annual Development Plans (MOPs)): This layer translates the GDS vision into regional and sector-specific policy plans.

a. Spatial Planning
    a. Spatial planning is a tactical tool that organizes land use, zoning, and infrastructure distribution to align with GDS objectives. It:
    b. Defines industrial, residential, agricultural, and conservation zones.
    c. Promotes sustainable land management to prevent deforestation and encourage eco-friendly practices.
    d. Ensures balanced regional development while respecting environmental constraints.

b. Multi-Annual Development Plans (MOPs)
    a. MOPs provide structured five-year plans that operationalize the GDS by:
    b. Setting sectoral targets and milestones in areas like infrastructure, agriculture, and energy.
    c. Addressing socio-economic priorities such as employment, poverty reduction, and climate resilience.
    d. Incorporating periodic evaluations to track progress and adapt strategies as needed.

3. Operational Layer (National Sector Plans/Programs):

At the most detailed level, sector-specific plans and programs define actionable initiatives that directly contribute to the GDS and MOPs. These plans and programs:

- Outline initiatives, resources, and timelines for sectors like energy, education, and governance.
- Support sustainability goals, such as renewable energy adoption and efficiency improvements.
- Ensure sectoral coordination and policy alignment with national development objectives.

The revised framework creates a well-structured hierarchy where:

- The **GDS** provides the vision.
- **Spatial planning** organizes land use.
- **MOPs** set medium-term development pathways.
- **Sector plans** implement detailed actions.

This integration ensures that development policies remain cohesive, adaptable, and resilient against fragmentation. With Suriname's emerging offshore oil sector, the GDS serves as a safeguard against economic instability by embedding sustainability into national planning. Institutionalizing the GDS through legislation will solidify its role as a guiding principle for future development strategies, ensuring Suriname's long-term economic and environmental sustainability.

5.5 Strategic Directions and Expected Outcomes

Suriname's GDS outlines a long-term vision for achieving a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable nation by 2050. The strategy integrates economic diversification, environmental stewardship, social equity, and governance reforms to foster a low-carbon, knowledge-based economy.

A. Strategic Directions

The GDS sets four key strategic directions to ensure a holistic approach to sustainable development:

1. Sustainable Economic Diversification and Growth
    - Reduce reliance on extractive industries and promote eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture, and knowledge-based industries.
    - Invest in resilient infrastructure and adopt circular economy principles to enhance resource efficiency and minimize waste.
2. Environmental Protection and Climate Resilience
    - Preserve Suriname's 93% forest coverage through conservation efforts, biodiversity protection, and pollution control.
    - Transition to renewable energy sources such as solar, hydro, and wind to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Social Inclusivity and Equity
    - Improve access to quality education, healthcare, and skill development programs, particularly for vulnerable and Indigenous communities.
    - Implement poverty reduction programs and promote gender equality to ensure fair economic and social opportunities for all.
4. Good Governance and Institutional Strengthening

- Enhance transparency, accountability, and public participation in decision-making processes.
- Strengthening institutions, improve policy implementation, and foster international cooperation to secure financial and technical support.

Each of the above-mentioned pillars consists of identified key sectors, for which the sectoral strategies are outlined in Annex 1.

B. Expected Outcomes and Long-Term Goals (by 2050)

To measure progress and ensure sustainable development, the GDS establishes key long-term goals across economic, environmental, and social dimensions:

1. Economic Growth
    - Target GDP per capita of at least **USD 40,000** by 2050, driven by non-extractive industries.
2. Environmental Performance
    - Improve the **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) score** from 57 to 70, reinforcing Suriname's status as a HFLD country.
3. Social Development
    - Reduce the **GINI coefficient** to 0.30 or lower, ensuring greater income equality.
    - Increase the **Human Development Index (HDI)** to 0.85+ by enhancing education, healthcare, and overall quality of life.
4. Carbon Neutrality
    - Maintain **Suriname's carbon-negative status** by balancing economic growth with climate commitments through sustainable land use and forest conservation strategies.

Achieving these objectives requires strong institutions, inclusive stakeholder participation, and international collaboration. By implementing precise modeling, scenario analysis, and strategic investments, Suriname can effectively navigate its path toward a greener, more resilient, and prosperous future by 2050.

Chapter 6: GDS Implementation

6.1 Adoption of the GDS Act

Purpose of the GDS Act

The implementation guidelines for Suriname's GDS defines the essential conditions, institutional arrangements, and actions needed for its effective execution, drawing on lessons from comparable contexts. It is grounded in comprehensive legislation to ensure sustainability and continuity across government administrations. The framework focuses on fostering a resilient legal and policy environment to support green development. Key elements include an integrated institutional structure, strong legal and regulatory foundations, strategic planning, and continuous monitoring and adaptation. This holistic approach ensures the strategy remains effective and adaptable, enabling long-term green growth.

To ensure successful implementation, the following is required:

1. **Political Will and Governance:** Strong leadership and commitment are essential, alongside transparent and inclusive governance that engages all stakeholders, including marginalized communities.
2. **Capacity and Resources:** Institutional capacity building through training, technical support, and knowledge-sharing programs is necessary. Financial resources should be secured through domestic, international, and private-sector investments.
3. **Public Awareness and Engagement:** Public awareness campaigns and active stakeholder involvement are crucial for broad-based support and participatory decision-making.
4. **Policy Coherence and Integration:** All government policies and strategies must align with the GDS objectives to ensure synergy and avoid contradictions.

To achieve these objectives, it is crucial to establish a new entity responsible for the central oversight and monitoring of the GDS. This requirement aligns with Article 72(f) of Suriname's Constitution, which mandates the creation of a state entity for national development ("Nationaal Ontwikkelingsorgaan"). This "National Development Council" must, as per the constitutional requirement, be established through law.

The GDS initiative presents the opportunity to fulfill this constitutional obligation and establish the National Development Council as well as the institutional arrangements that will drive sustainable national development through the effective implementation of policies. The new GDS Act will enshrine the core principles of the GDS, providing a solid legal foundation that ensures long-term commitment to sustainable development, regardless of government transitions. Such legal stability fosters investment, strengthens regulatory frameworks, and enhances confidence in sustainability efforts.

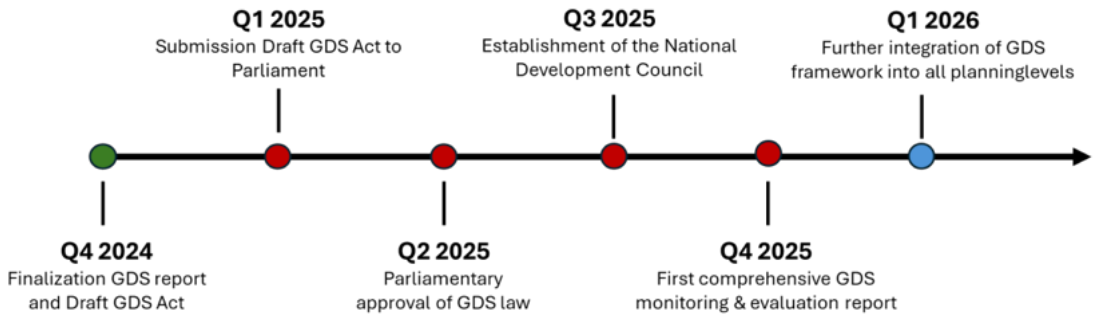
The draft GDS Act has been developed alongside this strategic document and will be submitted to the Government for further processing. The GDS Act consists of the following main elements:

1. **National Mandate:** The GDS Act establishes the National Development Council as a key entity with a broad national mandate. The council is composed of representatives from diverse groups across the country, including the public and private sectors, indigenous and tribal communities, civil society, youth, and women. By ensuring inclusive representation, the council fosters a participatory approach to national development, integrating diverse perspectives and promoting transparency, accountability, and shared responsibility in decision-making processes.
2. **Vision and Objectives:** The GDS Act establishes a clear framework for sustainable development, balancing economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social inclusivity. Goals include preserving Suriname's carbon-negative status and maintaining its High Forest, Low Deforestation (HFLD) classification.
3. **Policy Restrictions:** The law will prohibit unsustainable resource extraction and ensure that revenues from natural resource exploitation contribute to long-term investments rather than short-term consumption.
4. **Policy Alignment:** All Government entities, from the President to District Administrations, will have the obligation to align their policies with the GDS. The National Development Council will review the extent by which government entities have incorporated GDS in their policies and are acting in line with this. Government entities must submit (draft) policies for review. Transparent methodologies will guide evaluations, and deviations from recommended guidelines must be justified.
5. **Monitoring and Transparency:** The National Development Council will establish key performance indicators (KPIs) to track progress in reaching the GDS objectives. This will include periodic assessments and publication of reports to maintain transparency and accountability.

Implementation Timeline

The GDS implementation follows a structured timeline.

Figure 35: GDS Framework and Law Implementation Timeline



The key milestones are as follows:

1. **Q4 2024:** Completion of GDS Act drafting, incorporating stakeholder consultations.
2. **Q1 2025:** Submission of the law to Parliament for review and approval, accompanied by advocacy efforts.

3. **Q2 2025:** Enactment of the law following parliamentary approval and presidential assent.
4. **Q3 2025:** Establishment of the **National Development Council** and initiation of capacity-building programs.
5. **Q3 2025 Onward:** Integration of GDS principles into national and regional planning processes.
6. **Q4 2025:** Publication of the first monitoring and evaluation report assessing the initial implementation phase.

6.2 Required Investments

Estimation of investment cost

To estimate investment costs for Suriname's sustainable development across the GDS pillars—economic, social, environmental, and governance—a customized Sustainable Development Investment Model (SDIM) was applied. Based on a refined Integrated Sustainability Framework (ISF), which builds on UNESCAP's sustainability model, it emphasizes systems thinking and the interconnectedness of natural, human, social, and manufactured capital.

The ISF integrates qualitative scenario-building with quantitative input-output analysis, following ESCAP guidelines. Used by organizations like UNDP and the World Bank in regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, it incorporates macroeconomic indicators like GDP per capita and economic growth while balancing sustainability trade-offs.

To ensure empirical rigor, Lifecycle Cost Analysis (LCA) and Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) assessed financial viability alongside environmental and social impacts. Input-output analysis quantified indirect effects, offering a holistic view of investment outcomes. By aligning with international frameworks, this approach supports Suriname's policy dialogue and investment strategy in line with global best practices and the UN's 2030 Agenda.

To estimate total investment costs for sustainable development over the next 25 years, key assumptions from Chapter 4 were applied. These align with an industrialized and service-driven economy, reducing reliance on extractive industries. The calculations consider:

1. *Population Growth* – Projected demographic changes and resource demands.
2. *GDP Per Capita Growth* – Projections based on both oil and non-oil sectors.
3. *Total GDP Growth* – Annual estimates guiding investment allocations.

Key features guiding cost estimation include:

- **Baseline Assessment** – Evaluates GDP per capita, population size, and current government spending, identifying financing gaps using international benchmarks.
- **Population & Economic Growth Dynamics** – Adjusts projections for demographic changes and urbanization, influencing investment priorities.
- **Sectoral Analysis** – Estimates costs across education, healthcare, energy, and infrastructure, aligned with SDG targets.

- **Time Horizon Flexibility** – Adapts to a 25-year outlook, considering inflation and global economic shifts.
- **Sensitivity Analysis** – Accounts for external shocks like climate events, commodity price fluctuations, and policy shifts.

This methodology ensures strategic resource allocation, promoting long-term economic resilience and inclusiveness.

Suriname's GDP allocation for sustainable development was benchmarked using World Bank data, which shows that low-income countries allocate 4.5%-8.2%[13], while high-income countries, like the Netherlands (20.09%), allocate up to 20%[14].

According to the IMF, Suriname's capital expenditure is projected at 3.5% of GDP in 2024[15]. Over the next 25 years, allocations will adjust based on economic recovery and long-term priorities:

- **2025-2030**: Starts at 5% of GDP, rising to 8% as economic recovery progresses.
- **2031-2040**: Increases to 10%-20%, driven by peak oil and gas revenues and diversification.
- **2041-2050**: Stabilizes at 7.5%-10% as the economy becomes more resilient.

Table 2: Annual projection of Sustainable Development Investment Costs

Year	Population	GDP per Capita (USD)	Total GDP (mln USD)	Annual Investment (mln USD)
2025	637,118	6,171	3,932	216
2026	642,582	6,704	4,308	323
2027	647,931	7,273	4,712	353
2028	653,201	7,879	5,147	386
2029	658,363	12,851	8,460	677
2030	663,224	21,577	14,310	1,145
2031	668,079	32,659	21,819	2,182
2032	672,764	42,589	28,652	4,298
2033	677,385	47,190	31,966	6,393
2034	681,752	45,019	30,692	6,138
2035	686,073	43,984	30,176	6,035
2036	690,308	41,916	28,935	4,340

[13] Understanding the Cost of Achieving the SDG report, Published by the Wolrd Bank Group, February 2020, page 5
[14] World Bank Data Bank, Cross Capital formation (% of GDP), https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/
[15] Sixth Review Under the Extended Fund Facility-Press Release, published by IMF, July 31st, 2024, page 9

2037	694,387	40,605	28,196	4,229
2038	698,036	39,166	27,339	4,101
2039	701,788	37,824	26,544	3,982
2040	705,355	36,591	25,810	3,871
2041	708,965	35,354	25,065	2,506
2042	712,281	35,570	25,336	2,534
2043	715,528	37,053	26,513	2,651
2044	718,476	33,191	23,847	1,789
2045	721,376	32,195	23,224	1,742
2046	724,137	32,685	23,669	1,775
2047	726,508	33,982	24,688	1,852
2048	728,960	35,744	26,056	2,606
2049	731,121	37,645	27,523	2,752
2050	732,936	40,026	29,337	3,667
Total investment (mln USD)				**72,543**

Investment per key GDS pillar

Over the next 25 years, Suriname will require a total investment of **USD 72.5 billion** for sustainable development, factoring in GDP growth, population trends, and sectoral needs. This will be allocated based on priority within the Integrated Sustainable Framework:

- Sustainable Economic Diversification & Growth: 35% (USD 25.4 billion)
- Environmental Protection & Climate Mitigation: 30% (USD 21.8 billion)
- Social Inclusivity & Equity: 25% (USD 18.1 billion)
- Good Governance & Institutional Strengthening: 10% (USD 7.1 billion)

The steady growth across all metrics underscores the need for sustained policy focus on economic diversification, labor productivity, and equitable growth. The allocation across the four strategic pillars is as follows.

Table 3: Estimated Sustainable Development Investment Costs per pillar

Key Sector	Proportion of subtotal	Investment (mln USD)
Economic Diversification and Growth		
Agriculture and Agro-Industry	15%	3,809
Forestry and Wood Processing	10%	2,539
Mining and Resource Extraction	10%	2,539
Tourism	5%	1,270
Energy and Utilities	15%	3,809
Transportation	10%	2,539
Financial Services	5%	1,270
Industry and Trade	25%	6,348
ICT and Technological Innovation	5%	1,270
Subtotal		**25,390**
Environmental Protection and Climate Resilience		
Biodiversity Conservation	10%	2,176
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	45%	9,793
Water Resource Management	5%	1,088
Sustainable Land Management	15%	3,264
Pollution and Waste Management	5%	1,088
Climate Resilient Infrastructure	20%	4,353
Subtotal		**21,763**
Social Inclusivity and Equity		
Enhancing Livelihoods and Social Welfare	25%	4,534
Gender Equality and Empowerment	2.50%	453
Protection of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' Rights	10%	1,814
Education and Youth Empowerment	30%	5,441
Labor and Employment	7.50%	1,360
Health and Wellbeing	25%	4,534
Subtotal		**18,136**
Good Governance and Institutional Strengthening		
Enhancing Transparency and Accountability	10%	725
Capacity Building and Sustainable Development	30%	2,176
Stakeholder Engagement and Public Participation	10%	725
Security and Protection of Citizens	40%	2,902
Population and Migration	10%	725
Subtotal		**7,254**
GRAND Total		**72,543**

6.3 Financing Mechanisms

Suriname has long relied on a few export commodities, but this model is no longer effective. The country must develop new urban centers, boost entrepreneurship, and invest in ICT and tourism. Economic diversification requires major investments in infrastructure, education, legislation, and marketing, with funding dependent on collaboration between the government, private sector, NGOs, and international partners like the IDB and World Bank.

A sustainable financing strategy should include carbon markets, green bonds, PES, and REDD+, with the National Designated Authority (NDA) under the Ministry of Finance ensuring transparency. Participation in global agreements, like the Paris Agreement, provides access to climate finance, including Article 6 markets. Strengthening institutions and partnerships with development banks, donors, and the private sector is crucial.

By combining domestic initiatives with international funding, Suriname can maximize revenue from forests through carbon credits, sustainable timber, and non-timber products. A transparent, coordinated approach will enhance financing and benefit citizens, particularly Indigenous and Tribal communities. With innovative mechanisms and strong policies, Suriname can successfully achieve its GDS goals.

To finance the estimated USD 72.5 billion sustainable development investment costs for Suriname, a strategic distribution among Public Funding, International Climate Finance, and Private Sector Investment is essential. The identified financing mechanisms are expected to provide the necessary capital to meet the GDS objectives.

Table 4: Investment requirement and financing sources

Investment	**mln USD**
Economic Diversification and Growth	25,390
Environmental Protection and Climate Resilience	21,763
Social Inclusivity and Equity	18,136
Good Governance and Institutional Strengthening	7,254
Total	**72,543**
Financing	**mln USD**
Public Funding (65%)	47,153
International Climate Finance (20%)	14,509
Private Sector Investments (15%)	10,881
Total	**72,543**

Public Funding

With substantial offshore oil and gas revenues anticipated from 2028 onward, Suriname has a unique opportunity to invest in the GDS and shape a sustainable future. The responsible exploitation of these resources can provide critical funding for infrastructure, education, and governance, while also fostering the growth of non-extractive industries and supporting climate-resilient development. To maximize long-term benefits, it is essential that the government strategically allocates a significant portion of the oil and gas revenues toward sustainable investments, in alignment with the principles set forth by the GDS.

Approximately **USD 47.2 billion** (65%) is anticipated to be sourced from government, in particular revenues generated from offshore oil and gas exploitation.

International Climate Finance

The fight against climate change relies on innovative financing, especially for resource-rich nations like Suriname. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement offers market and non-market tools to support green initiatives, aligning with Suriname's GDS:

1. **Green Bonds**: Attracting environmentally conscious investors for conservation and water management projects.
2. **National Green Investment Fund**: Pooling public-private resources to finance renewable energy, infrastructure, and agriculture.
3. **Carbon Markets and REDD+**: Monetizing forest conservation through carbon credit programs.
4. **Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)**: Generating revenue from water regulation and biodiversity conservation.
5. **Blended Finance & Climate Funds**: Accessing Green Climate Fund (GCF) and similar mechanisms to amplify investment.

International partnerships and climate funds, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), are anticipated to be essential for financing large-scale climate adaptation projects, especially coastal protection. Suriname is also leveraging its carbon-negative status through mechanisms like the REDD+ program to attract international financing. Suriname's carbon credits will also generate revenue streams for further investments in green development. These carbon credits can be sold to countries or corporations aiming to offset their emissions.

International climate finance could provide around **USD 14.5 billion (20%)**, in total focusing on infrastructure and biodiversity conservation. The carbon credit market is projected to provide USD 3.5 billion of this amount over the next 25 years.

Private Sector Investments

Public-Private Partnership strategically mobilize resources and expertise for large-scale green projects, balancing risks between public and private sectors. They attract private investment, bridging financing gaps and accelerating sustainable development—especially crucial given

Suriname's budget constraints. As a best-practice model for multi-sectoral investments, PPPs can drive:

- **Economic Projects**: Private investment in renewable energy and ecotourism lowers public costs while generating revenue.
- **Social Investments**: Private sector support for healthcare and education, backed by tax incentives or service fees.
- **Environmental & Governance Initiatives**: Carbon credits and green bonds help investors monetize environmental benefits under public oversight.

Private sector engagement is crucial, especially in sectors such as renewable energy, eco-tourism, and sustainable agriculture. Green bonds and loans tied to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria will encourage private sector investment in the green economy.

Private sector investments are expected to contribute around **USD 10.9 billion (15%)**, particularly in industries, services, and agriculture.

Chapter 7: Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

Suriname's sustainable development hinges on a fundamental transformation from an extractive-based economy to a diversified, industrialized, and service-oriented model. The GDS underscores this transition as essential for achieving economic stability, environmental conservation, and social inclusiveness. Key conclusions include:

1. **Economic Transformation and Diversification**: Suriname's reliance on volatile extractive industries necessitates a shift toward industrialization and the development of high-value service sectors such as ICT, finance, and tourism. This approach aims to stabilize the economy, foster resilience against external shocks, and create sustainable growth opportunities.
2. **Climate Vulnerability and Resilience**: Coastal and forested regions are particularly susceptible to climate change impacts, emphasizing the need for robust adaptation strategies. The GDS advocates renewable energy adoption, sustainable land management, and resilient infrastructure to mitigate these vulnerabilities and safeguard both human and natural ecosystems.
3. **Educational and Workforce Development**: An underdeveloped education system is a significant barrier to transitioning to a knowledge-based economy. Enhancing educational outcomes and investing in skills development are critical for preparing the workforce to support innovation-driven sectors and sustainable industries.
4. **Balanced Environmental Stewardship**: Economic growth must align with environmental integrity. The GDS prioritizes maintaining Suriname's status as a carbon-negative nation through biodiversity conservation, forest management, and a phased elimination of environmentally damaging practices such as artisanal gold mining.
5. **Social Equity and Inclusivity**: Achieving inclusive development requires addressing social inequalities, especially among marginalized communities. Strengthening education, healthcare, and social protection systems ensures that the benefits of green growth are equitably distributed across all societal groups.
6. **Global Leadership in Sustainability**: By aligning with international commitments such as the Paris Agreement and leveraging its HFLD status, Suriname can maintain its leadership role in global environmental sustainability while exploring innovative financing mechanisms like carbon credits to support its green transition. The phase-out of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) by 2040 is a key priority to preserve environmental sustainability and reduce deforestation rates.
7. **Governance and Institutional Strengthening**: Effective governance, transparency, and institutional capacity are essential for implementing the GDS. Building a framework for public participation and stakeholder engagement ensures accountability and inclusivity in policy execution.

Suriname's GDS represents a comprehensive roadmap for sustainable development, balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship and social progress. Its successful implementation can establish the country as a global model for integrated and inclusive green development.

Recommendations

To ensure a successful transition to sustainability, the following strategic interventions are essential:

1. **Education and Skills Development:**
    - Expand access to higher education with a goal of 35% of the workforce achieving tertiary education by 2050.
    - Develop educational programs focusing on ICT, and technical skills to meet the demands of a green and diversified economy.
    - Strengthen TVET to equip youth with practical skills for emerging sectors like green technologies and eco-tourism.
2. **Economic Diversification towards a Service-oriented economy**:
    - Prioritize sectors such as manufacturing, ICT, green technologies, tourism, and services while gradually reducing dependency on extractive industries.
    - Leverage revenues from the offshore oil and gas sector to fund infrastructure, education, and green economy initiatives.
    - Promote climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices, transitioning from raw material exports to value-added processing industries.
3. **Environmental Sustainability:**
    - Scale up reforestation projects and sustainable forest management to maintain Suriname's carbon-negative status.
    - Implement stricter regulations and support mechanisms to phase out environmentally harmful practices like ASGM.
    - Expand renewable energy capacity, focusing on hydropower and solar energy.
4. **Social Inclusivity and Equity:**
    - Strengthen social welfare systems and implement poverty reduction programs targeting vulnerable groups, including Indigenous and tribal peoples.
    - Enhance gender equity through policies that ensure equal access to education, employment, and leadership opportunities for women.
    - Protect Indigenous land rights and integrate their traditional knowledge into sustainable development strategies.
5. **Governance and Institutional Strengthening:**

- Establish a National Development Council to oversee GDS implementation, coordinate across sectors, and ensure alignment with international sustainability commitments.
- Increase transparency and accountability through public monitoring frameworks and dashboards to track GDS progress.
- Strengthen institutional capacity to enforce environmental regulations and manage risks effectively.

6. **International Cooperation and Climate Finance:**
    - Actively pursuing innovative financing tools like green bonds, carbon credits, and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to fund sustainability initiatives.
    - Strengthen participation in global carbon markets and leverage mechanisms like ITMOs to finance conservation and resilience projects.

By focusing on these strategic areas, Suriname can achieve a sustainable, diversified economy that promotes long-term environmental resilience, social inclusivity, and economic growth. These recommendations align with both national development priorities and global sustainability goals, ensuring a balanced and forward-looking pathway for the nation.

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Annex 1: Sectoral Strategies

The GDS for Suriname outlines a comprehensive framework aimed at fostering sustainable and inclusive growth through sectoral strategies. This chapter delves into the strategic context of each strategic pillar and key sector of the GDS, focusing on sustainable economic diversification, environmental protection, social inclusivity, and good governance. Each pillar is supported by sectoral strategies aligned with the 2050 development vision (see Chapter 5). The GDS emphasizes institutional frameworks and stakeholder engagement to navigate challenges and opportunities in global sustainability efforts. This chapter serves as a roadmap for implementation, ensuring economic growth, environmental conservation, and social equity work together toward long-term goals.

1. Sustainable Economic Diversification and Growth

This pillar aims to transition Suriname's economy from dependence on extractive industries to a more diversified and sustainable model. Key sectors include agriculture, eco-tourism, renewable energy, and ICT, promoting resilience and inclusiveness. The following SDGs are linked to this strategic pillar:

- **SDG 1: No Poverty –** Supports vulnerable populations through sustainable agriculture and eco-tourism.
- **SDG 2: Zero Hunger –** Advances food security via sustainable farming.
- **SDG 7:** Affordable and Clean Energy – Promotes renewable energy for accessible, clean power.
- **SDG 8:** Decent Work and Economic Growth – Encourages green jobs and sustainable industries.
- **SDG 9:** Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure – Invests in sustainable infrastructure and innovation.
- **SDG 12:** Responsible Consumption and Production – Enhances resource efficiency and waste reduction.

GDS envisions a sustainable, diversified economy by 2050, prioritizing agriculture, agro-industry, forestry, mining, tourism, energy, transport, finance, industry, and ICT. These sectors drive growth, reduce reliance on extractive industries, and enhance resilience. Mining and resource extraction remain crucial, with offshore oil and gas playing a key role in the coming decades. While Suriname will stay resource-dependent, the GDS promotes a transition to sustainable practices alongside economic diversification. This balanced approach ensures a sustainable and resilient economic future.

1.1 Agriculture and Agro-Industry

Resilient, Sustainable Agriculture for A Green Future

The agriculture and agro-industry strategy are vital to Suriname's economic diversification, climate resilience, and sustainability. While not the main economic driver, modernizing agriculture ensures food security and rural livelihoods.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Agriculture will transition towards sustainability by integrating modern practices and addressing climate vulnerabilities. Key objectives are:

1. *Sustainable Agricultural Productivity:* Boost yields using modern, sustainable techniques to enhance food security while reducing environmental harm.
2. *Climate Resilience and Adaptation:* Implement climate-adaptive practices, such as efficient irrigation and flood-resistant crops, to counter climate change.
3. *Agro-Industry Development:* Grow the value-added agricultural sector to ensure food security for the population and to increase competitiveness, jobs, and revenue.
4. *Institutional Capacity and Knowledge Transfer:* Strengthen institutions to support sustainable practices, innovation, and resilience.

Opportunities and Challenges

Advancements in precision agriculture, agroforestry, and value-chain improvements will modernize the sector while reducing environmental impact. Investments in finance accessibility and infrastructure are critical. However, challenges include climate change threats, financial constraints for smallholders, and capacity limitations. Opportunities lie in Suriname's biodiversity, growing global demand for sustainable products, and supportive policies under the GDS.

1.2 Forestry and Wood Processing

Green Growth Through Sustainable Forestry

Suriname's vast forests offer significant potential for sustainable forestry, balancing conservation with economic benefits. The strategy focuses on responsible forest management and strengthening value-added processing.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Sustainable forestry aims to reduce reliance on extractive industries, preserve biodiversity, and promote equitable economic opportunities. Key objectives:

1. Reducing reliance on extractive industries by expanding the wood processing sector, promoting sustainable timber, and developing non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

2. Preserving biodiversity, combating deforestation, and supporting climate mitigation through sustainable forest practices, including REDD+ participation and ecosystem services markets.
3. Ensuring equitable distribution of forestry benefits, particularly for indigenous and rural
4. communities, while creating jobs and integrating traditional knowledge.
5. Enhancing resource efficiency by improving timber extraction practices and use of wood-waste.

Opportunities and Challenges

Sustainable forest management, value-chain enhancements, and research will drive growth. Challenges include regulatory limitations, transitioning from extraction-based industries, and market access. Opportunities exist in global sustainable forestry leadership, community empowerment, and international investment in green initiatives.

1.3 Mining and Resource Extraction

Transitioning Mining to Be More Sustainable and Biodiverse

Suriname aims to phase out artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) by 2040, ensuring environmental sustainability while diversifying the economy.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Historically significant but environmentally damaging, mining must transition to minimal impact and align with sustainability goals. Key objectives:

1. *Ban on (illegal) ASGM:* Gradual elimination of (illegal) ASGM by 2040 through stricter enforcement and compliance measures.
2. *Economic Diversification:* Reducing reliance on mining by promoting green industries.
3. *Sustainable Mining:* Ensuring legal mining meets strict environmental standards, including reducing mercury use.
4. *Deforestation Reduction:* Strengthening regulations to limit deforestation from mining.
5. *Social Inclusivity:* Involving local communities in decision-making and ensuring their economic benefits.

Opportunities and Challenges

Phasing out ASGM requires legal reforms, land rehabilitation, and alternative livelihoods. Sustainable mining must integrate cleaner technologies. Challenges include economic dependence on mining and deforestation risks, while green financing, technology, and global cooperation offer transition opportunities.

1.4 Tourism

Tourism for Sustainable Growth and Cultural Preservation

Tourism is central to Suriname's economic diversification and green growth, promoting sustainability while preserving natural and cultural heritage.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Tourism is a key driver of jobs and development, requiring responsible expansion. Key objectives:

1. *Economic Diversification:* Reducing dependence on extractive industries through tourism.
2. *Environmental Sustainability:* Preserving Suriname's rainforests and biodiversity.
3. *Cultural Inclusivity:* Involving local communities and promoting cultural heritage.
4. *Capacity Building:* Enhancing skills, innovation, and sustainability in the tourism sector.

Opportunities and Challenges

Eco-tourism, community-based tourism, and sustainable infrastructure will drive growth. Challenges include infrastructure gaps, environmental risks, and funding needs, but Suriname's biodiversity and global partnerships provide strong opportunities.

1.5 Energy and Utilities

Renewable Energy and Efficiency for a Sustainable and Green Future

The energy transition is crucial for Suriname's sustainability, focusing on renewables, efficiency, and resilient infrastructure.

Strategic Context and Objectives

The strategy prioritizes reducing fossil fuel reliance while meeting growing energy needs. Key objectives:

1. *Energy Mix Diversification:* Increase solar, wind, and other renewables.
2. *Energy Efficiency:* Implement measures to reduce consumption and losses.
3. *Infrastructure Development:* Upgrade energy infrastructure to meet future demand.
4. *Regulatory Strengthening:* Develop a robust regulatory framework for effective energy governance.

Opportunities and Challenges

Expansion of solar, wind, and hydro energy, grid modernization, and policy reforms will drive sector growth. Financial constraints, regulatory hurdles, and capacity gaps remain challenges, while international investments and technological advances present key opportunities.

1.6 Transportation

Eco-Friendly Transport for Sustainable Growth

A sustainable transportation strategy is essential for reducing emissions, improving connectivity, and supporting economic growth.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Transportation must modernize while minimizing environmental impact. Key objectives are:

1. *Reduce Carbon Emissions:* Transition to energy-efficient transport, focusing on electric vehicles (EVs), improved public transit, and infrastructure for non-motorized transport.
2. *Enhance Connectivity:* Improve infrastructure, especially in rural areas, to boost economic inclusion through better access to markets, healthcare, and education.
3. *Promote Economic Growth:* Modernize transportation to support key sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and trade, enhancing international competitiveness.
4. *Improve Public Health and Safety:* Reduce pollution and accidents through safer, well-planned systems, and improved road safety.

Key Strategy Components and Challenges

EV adoption, sustainable public transport, and infrastructure modernization are central. Financial constraints, technology access, and public resistance are key hurdles, but partnerships, green innovation, and environmental benefits offer significant potential.

1.7 Financial Services

Empowering Sustainable Growth Through Financial Innovation

Suriname's financial sector will drive economic diversification by supporting knowledge-based and green industries.

Strategic Context and Objectives

A strong financial system is essential for innovation and entrepreneurship. Key objectives are:

1. Building financial infrastructure to support digital services, tourism, and technology sectors, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.
2. Supporting knowledge-based industries like ICT and R&D to diversify the economy and create skilled employment.
3. Integrating sustainability into financial services, financing green projects, and embedding ESG principles.
4. Supporting SMEs in sectors such as digital services, tourism, and eco-friendly technologies.
5. Developing a regulatory framework to support service-sector growth, including inclusive and sustainable finance and investment incentives.

Key Strategy Components and Challenges

Investment funds, fintech services, public-private partnerships, and financial literacy initiatives will fuel growth. Challenges include limited financial infrastructure, but digital solutions and international funding create strong opportunities.

1.8 Industry and Trade

Green Industrial Growth for Sustainable Economic Diversification

The strategy focuses on green industrialization, reducing dependence on extractive industries and expanding sustainable trade.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Developing green industries will enhance economic stability and global competitiveness. Key objectives:

1. *Economic Diversification:* Shift from extractive industries to renewable energy, eco-friendly industrial sectors, manufacturing and digital services.
2. *Sustainable Industrial Practices:* Promote resource-efficient production, emissions reduction, and energy optimization.
3. *Enhanced Trade Competitiveness:* Leverage environmental assets to lead in green products and services in global markets.
4. *Inclusive Economic Growth:* Create equitable job opportunities while preserving the environment.
5. *Strengthening Business Environment:* This requires institutional reforms in judiciary, property rights, land allocation, administrative efficiency, and financial access to promote foreign investment, competitiveness, and sustainable growth.

Opportunities and Challenges

Green industry development, innovation, and regulatory reforms will drive progress. Challenges include high investment costs and market competition, but Suriname's natural resources and global green trends present strong growth potential.

1.9 ICT and Technological Innovation

Driving Sustainable Growth through Digital Innovation and Inclusivity

Digital transformation is central to Suriname's shift toward a knowledge-driven, resilient economy.

Strategic Context and Objectives

ICT will enable sustainable growth, economic diversification, and improved governance. Key objectives:

1. *Promoting Digital Inclusivity:* Ensuring equal access to digital technologies for all, especially in bridging the urban-rural divide.
2. *Economic Diversification:* Fostering innovation in sectors like digital finance, sustainable energy, and e-governance to reduce reliance on extractive industries.
3. *Enhancing Public Governance:* Modernizing public services through ICT for greater efficiency and transparency.
4. *Environmental Sustainability:* Using digital tools for environmental monitoring and resource management, supporting climate commitments.

Opportunities and Challenges

Expanding digital infrastructure, education, e-government services, and fostering innovation are priorities. Infrastructure gaps and regulatory barriers present challenges, but AI, international collaboration, and public-private partnerships create opportunities for a strong digital economy.

2. Environmental Protection and Climate Resilience

This pillar aims to preserve and enhance Suriname's vast forests and rich biodiversity through conservation and climate resilience initiatives. Key SDGs include:

- **SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation):** Strengthening water resource management to ensure clean water access, particularly in rural areas.
- **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** Maintaining carbon negativity and enhancing climate resilience.
- **SDG 14 & SDG 15 (Life Below Water & Life on Land):** Protecting marine and terrestrial ecosystems to sustain biodiversity.

With 93% forest cover, Suriname holds both an opportunity and responsibility in sustainable development. The GDS seeks to balance economic growth, social equity, and ecological preservation, aligning with global commitments like the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement. Expanding protected areas, promoting sustainable land management, and involving tribal communities are key strategies to safeguard ecosystems that support agriculture, water resources, and tourism.

The GDS also prioritizes climate resilience, tackling climate change impacts through renewable energy, climate-resilient agriculture, and carbon credit mechanisms. Integrated water management, pollution control, and sustainable land use are central to protecting vulnerable communities and natural resources. Through initiatives like waste-to-energy and resilient infrastructure, Suriname reinforces its role as a global environmental leader.

2.1 Biodiversity Conservation

Safeguarding Biodiversity for a Green and Sustainable Suriname

Suriname, one of the world's most biodiverse countries, integrates conservation efforts into its GDS through the updated NBSAP 2024–2035. This approach ensures sustainable resource management, aligning with global commitments such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

Strategic Context and Objectives

Suriname's biodiversity strategy aims to balance economic growth and sustainability through key objectives:

1. Protect ecosystem-related sectors such as agriculture, water resources, and tourism.
2. Promote sustainable use of natural resources for enduring economic resilience.
3. Meet international obligations, including commitments under the Paris Agreement and the GBF.
4. Involve local communities, particularly Indigenous and tribal peoples, in biodiversity conservation.
5. Build resilience in biodiversity to withstand climate change impacts.

Opportunities and Challenges

The NBSAP prioritizes expanding protected areas, integrating biodiversity into key sectors, promoting sustainable forestry, and enhancing environmental awareness. Challenges include economic pressures, limited resources, and climate change threats, while opportunities lie in eco-tourism, international funding, and community engagement. Strengthening governance and innovative financing will be crucial in ensuring long-term conservation success.

2.2 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Balancing Growth and Resilience through Climate Action

Suriname, with vast natural resources, seeks to integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into national planning. The strategy leverages carbon credits and ITMOs to balance economic development with sustainability.

Strategic Context and Objectives

To address climate vulnerabilities, Suriname aims to:

1. *Reducing Emissions:* Promote renewable energy, enhance energy efficiency, and leverage carbon credits and ITMOs to lower emissions while sustaining economic growth.
2. *Building Resilience:* Strengthen infrastructure, disaster preparedness, and sustainable practices in agriculture and forestry to protect communities.

3. *Institutional Integration:* Embed climate strategies into national policies, ensuring all sectors align with climate goals.

Opportunities and Challenges

The strategy focuses on expanding renewable energy, promoting climate-smart agriculture, and enhancing disaster resilience. Challenges include financial constraints and institutional capacity, while international collaboration, private sector engagement, and ITMOs present growth opportunities. Strengthening policies and leveraging global financing will help Suriname advance its climate goals.

2.3 Water Resource Management

Resilient Water Management for Sustainable Growth

Water management is critical for Suriname's sustainability, ensuring accessibility, quality, and resilience against climate change.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Key objectives include:

1. Sustainable use of water resources for current and future needs.
2. Equitable access to clean water for all, including marginalized communities.
3. Protecting water ecosystems by preventing pollution and degradation.
4. Building climate resilience in water resources.
5. Strengthening national institutions for better governance and regulation.

Opportunities and Challenges

The strategy promotes integrated water resource management, infrastructure improvements, and community engagement. Challenges include financial and institutional limitations, while opportunities exist in leveraging Suriname's abundant water resources for sustainable growth, international partnerships, and climate resilience.

2.4 Sustainable Land Management

Adaptive and Resilient Land Management for Sustainable Growth

Balancing development with ecosystem conservation, Suriname's land management strategy ensures sustainable resource use and resilience.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Key objectives focus on:

1. Establish sustainable land use integrating environmental, social, and economic factors.

2. Preserve ecosystems, biodiversity, and climate resilience through stronger land management.
3. Implement a regulatory framework focused on climate-resilient spatial planning and land management.
4. Enhance climate adaptation for coastal protection.
5. Promote inclusive land use for all communities, including indigenous groups.
6. Implement GIS systems for spatial data, zoning, and environmental monitoring.

Opportunities and Challenges

The strategy integrates land and biodiversity management, advances GIS-based planning, and strengthens climate-resilient policies. Key challenges include coastal vulnerability, governance coordination, and deforestation. Opportunities lie in eco-tourism, renewable energy, and technological advancements, reinforcing Suriname's commitment to sustainable land use.

2.5 Pollution and Waste Management

Integrated Pollution Control and Sustainable Waste Management

Suriname's waste management strategy aims to reduce pollution, modernize waste disposal, and promote circular economy solutions aligned with global environmental commitments.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Key objectives include:

1. *Reducing Mercury Use in Mining:* Limit mercury emissions from artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) by adopting eco-friendly practices per the Minamata Convention.
2. *Waste Processing Initiatives:* Establish waste processing facilities to recycle waste materials, contributing to a sustainable circular economy.
3. *Landfill Modernization:* Shift from open dumps to sanitary landfills to minimize environmental impact and enhance public health.
4. *Agricultural Waste Management:* Develop systems for safe disposal and energy conversion of agricultural by-products, supporting a circular economy.
5. *International Standards Compliance:* Enhance regulatory frameworks to meet global commitments for sustainable pollution and waste management.

Opportunities and Challenges

The approach includes transitioning to mercury-free mining, developing waste-to-energy projects, and enforcing stricter pollution regulations. Challenges include reliance on open dumps, hazardous waste infrastructure gaps, and funding constraints. However, opportunities exist in international partnerships, regulatory reforms, and expanding circular economy initiatives.

2.6 Climate Resilient Infrastructure

Coastal Resilience and Sustainable Infrastructure

Suriname prioritizes climate-resilient infrastructure to support economic growth, spatial planning, and environmental sustainability.

Strategic Context and Objectives

The strategy aims to:

1. Build resilient infrastructure in vulnerable coastal areas.
2. Support balanced urban and rural development through spatial planning.
3. Implement sustainable practices to reduce emissions and protect biodiversity.
4. Enable economic diversification through efficient, accessible infrastructure.

Opportunities and Challenges

Key components include coastal protection, sustainable transport, green building standards, and renewable energy expansion. Challenges involve climate risks, high costs, and coordination gaps. Opportunities lie in green investments, improved quality of life, environmental protection, and access to global climate financing, securing long-term resilience.

3. Social Inclusivity and Equity

This strategic pillar ensures equitable benefits from green development initiatives across all segments of Surinamese society, prioritizing vulnerable groups such as Indigenous communities, women, and low-income households. It aligns with national priorities on poverty reduction, income distribution, and social welfare, reinforcing Suriname's constitutional objectives. Key SDGs include:

- **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being** – Expanding healthcare access and improving health outcomes for all, particularly vulnerable communities.
- **SDG 4: Quality Education** – Emphasizing sustainability and climate awareness in education.
- **SDG 5: Gender Equality** – Promoting equal access to education, employment, and decision-making.
- **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** – Creating green jobs and ensuring productive, inclusive employment.

- **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities** – Enhancing resource access for marginalized groups, including Indigenous communities.
- **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities** – Advancing sustainable urban development.

As a cornerstone of Suriname's GDS, this pillar fosters economic resilience, social well-being, and environmental sustainability. It addresses socio-economic disparities through policies that enhance labor market participation, education access, and income support. Government initiatives, such as vocational training and entrepreneurship support, aim to transition individuals from dependency to self-sufficiency. By expanding healthcare, social services, and infrastructure, it aims to uplift marginalized communities, particularly in rural areas. Additionally, labor protection policies and fair employment standards promote inclusive economic growth. With a long-term vision toward 2050, the Social Inclusivity and Equity pillar ensures green development is both environmentally sustainable and socially just, creating opportunities for all citizens to thrive.

3.1 Enhancing Livelihoods and Social Welfare

Building Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable Communities

The GDS aims to improve livelihoods and social welfare in Suriname by enhancing access to essential services, promoting sustainable employment, and ensuring inclusivity. This strategy aligns with global sustainability goals to foster a resilient and equitable society.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Suriname faces socio-economic challenges such as financial instability, dependence on extractive industries, and social inequality. The GDS addresses these through targeted interventions to reduce poverty, improve housing, promote gender equality, and create employment while balancing economic growth with environmental stewardship. Key objectives are the following:

1. *Social Inclusion and Welfare:* Emphasizes stakeholder participation, including tribal communities, and ensures equal opportunities for men and women.
2. *Improving Social Services and Infrastructure:* Focuses on healthcare, and social infrastructure like housing and sanitation to improve living standards.
3. *Community Development:* Prioritizes community-led initiatives, land rights, and governance, particularly for indigenous and tribal populations, to foster social cohesion.
4. *Capacity Building:* Promotes training programs in public health and sustainability to develop a skilled workforce that supports the green economy.
5. *Youth and Child Welfare:* Focuses on enhancing access to quality nutrition, education, and child protection services in rural areas to improve children's health and development through strengthened social services and infrastructure.

Opportunities and challenges

This strategy focuses on inclusive policy frameworks, investment in social services, and community-driven development. Challenges include financial constraints and social barriers such as gender inequality. However, opportunities arise from regional partnerships, international cooperation, and leveraging local knowledge to create sustainable solutions.

3.2 Gender Equality and Empowerment

Empowering Gender Equity for Inclusive Green Growth

Achieving gender equality is essential for Suriname's sustainable development. The GDS integrates gender perspectives into economic and environmental policies, ensuring equal participation in key sectors and aligning with CARICOM's regional commitments.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Gender disparities limit economic efficiency and social equity. The strategy promotes equal opportunities in sectors such as renewable energy, agriculture, and environmental management. Key objectives are:

1. *Enhancing Women's Economic Participation*: Increases women's involvement in green sectors through training and support.
2. *Promoting Gender-Responsive Policies*: Develops policies addressing women's specific needs in economic sectors.
3. *Strengthening Institutional Frameworks*: Builds institutional capacity for implementing gender-responsive strategies.

Opportunities and Challenges

The strategy includes gender-responsive education, policy reforms, financial support for women entrepreneurs, and gender-sensitive data collection. Challenges such as cultural norms, institutional limitations, and data gaps persist. However, opportunities lie in leveraging international support, growing advocacy efforts, and aligning gender policies with broader development goals.

3.3 Protection of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' Rights

Empowering Indigenous and Tribal Rights for Sustainable, Inclusive Growth

Protecting Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' rights is central to Suriname's GDS, promoting social justice, sustainable resource management, and economic diversification.

Strategic Context and Objectives

The strategy aims to secure land rights, empower Indigenous governance, and promote sustainable development initiatives in line with global agreements such as the Paris Agreement and SDGs. Key objectives are**:**

1. *Legal Protection:* Strengthen legal frameworks to protect land rights and access to resources.
2. *Sustainable Livelihoods:* Promote eco-tourism, sustainable forestry, and non-timber forest products.
3. *Inclusive Governance:* Ensure Indigenous participation in governance and decision-making.
4. *Cultural Preservation:* Protect traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.
5. *Climate Resilience:* Strengthen community resilience to climate change, aligning with REDD+ strategies.

Opportunities and Challenges

The strategy includes legal reforms, community-led resource management, and capacity-building programs. Challenges involve legal barriers, resource constraints, and cultural resistance. However, opportunities include international climate agreements, enhanced community resilience, and sustainable economic opportunities.

3.4 Education and Youth Empowerment

Empowering Sustainable Growth through Education and Skills

Education is a key driver of Suriname's transition from an extractive to a knowledge-based economy. Strengthening technical and vocational training and expanding access to higher education are priorities.

Strategic Context and Objectives

To achieve a 35% higher education rate, Suriname must address tuition barriers, invest in TVET and STEM programs, and enhance education infrastructure. Key objectives are:

1. *Increasing Educational Attainment:* The goal is to achieve a 35% higher education rate, up from 8-10%. To achieve this, Suriname must make substantial investments in education by addressing obstacles such as tuition fees and improving quality standards across all levels of the educational system.
2. *Investment in Education:* Suriname needs to allocate 4-6% of its GDP to education, focusing on equitable access, teacher and curriculum development, and infrastructure.
3. *Technical and Vocational Education:* Emphasizing TVET and STEM programs are essential for transitioning to an industry and service-based economy, preparing a skilled workforce for sectors like ICT, renewable energy, and green technologies.

Opportunities and Challenges

Key strategies include curriculum reforms, financial aid expansion, digital learning integration, and teacher training. Challenges include resource constraints and digital divides, while opportunities arise from international support and alignment with labor market needs.

3.5 Labor and Employment

Building a Fair, Inclusive, Green Workforce for Suriname

The GDS integrates the Decent Work Country Program (DWCP) 2023-2026 prioritizing fair economic growth, green jobs, and social protection to support Suriname's workforce.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Suriname's labor strategy promotes sustainable employment, social protection, and workforce inclusion. Key objectives are**:**

1. *Job Creation and Economic Diversification:* Promote green jobs and reduce reliance on extractive industries.
2. *Social Protection and Worker Rights:* Support vulnerable workers impacted by shifts in traditional industries.
3. *Skills Development and Training:* Align educational programs with future labor demands, especially for green skills.
4. *Gender and Social Inclusion:* Ensure all demographics, including women, youth, and indigenous groups, benefit from employment growth.

Opportunities and Challenges

Strategies include promoting green jobs, supporting affected workers, and improving labor standards. Challenges include dependence on extractive industries and skill gaps, while opportunities exist in green sector growth and international investment.

3.6 Health and Wellbeing

Sustainable Health and Wellbeing for Equitable and Resilient Development

Suriname's health strategy focuses on expanding healthcare access, addressing workforce shortages, and modernizing infrastructure to ensure equitable health services.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Key priorities include universal healthcare, professional retention, infrastructure modernization, and disease prevention. Key objectives are:

1. Expanding healthcare access in rural and interior regions through health centers and mobile clinics, including child-focused health services such as vaccinations, nutrition programs and maternal care.
2. Retaining and training healthcare professionals to counteract "brain drain".
3. Modernizing healthcare infrastructure and leveraging technology.
4. Reducing preventable diseases through education and health promotion.
5. Achieving universal health coverage with equitable services.

6. Encouraging healthy lifestyles to reduce non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Opportunities and Challenges

Strategies include strengthening rural healthcare, upgrading digital health systems, and launching public health campaigns. Challenges include geographic barriers and resource limitations, while opportunities arise from international partnerships and advancements in telemedicine.

4. Good Governance and Institutional Strengthening

The **Good Governance and Institutional Strengthening** pillar is essential for implementing the GDS by enhancing transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making. It aligns with key SDGs, including:

- **SDG 11**: Strengthening urban governance for sustainable communities.
- **SDG 16**: Improving transparency, accountability, and institutional effectiveness.
- **SDG 17**: Fostering international cooperation for sustainable development.

This pillar tackles systemic issues like weak governance, resource mismanagement, and limited enforcement. Prioritizing governance reforms fosters trust, policy coherence, and alignment with global standards. Strategies include anti-corruption measures, better governance data access, and adherence to international frameworks like EITI. A well-managed Sovereign Wealth Fund is key for stabilizing natural resource revenues.

Institutional capacity-building is crucial for green development, achieved through training, legal reforms, and inter-agency coordination. Inclusive governance integrates indigenous communities, women, and youth into decision-making, leveraging traditional knowledge for sustainability. Strengthening law enforcement, cybersecurity, and disaster risk management enhances resilience against socio-economic and environmental threats.

Good governance underpins all GDS initiatives, ensuring efficient resource use, investor confidence, and strong international partnerships. By addressing historical governance challenges and leveraging technology, Suriname can build a resilient institutional framework aligned with global commitments like the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, securing the sustainability of its green development strategy.

4.1 Enhancing Transparency and Accountability

Transparent Governance for Equitable Green Development

Suriname's GDS prioritizes transparency, policy coherence, and accountability in governance to foster trust, ensure responsible resource management, and promote inclusive decision-making. Strengthening governance structures is critical to sustainable development, with a focus on institutional frameworks, data accessibility, and financial governance.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Transparent, accountable, and participatory governance is crucial for managing natural resources, combating corruption, and ensuring fair distribution of green development benefits. The key objectives are:

1. Strengthening institutional frameworks for better governance and transparency.
2. Enhancing data accessibility and public awareness for informed decision-making.
3. Establishing a transparent, secure, and prudently governed Sovereign Wealth Fund and subsequent finance governance regulations.

Opportunities and Challenges

Strengthening institutions, enforcing regulations, and implementing anti-corruption measures are central to governance reforms. Enhanced audits, digital technologies like GIS, and adherence to international protocols improve transparency. Public participation mechanisms, including community monitoring and environmental reporting, ensure inclusivity. Financial governance reforms support sustainable resource management and economic stability. Challenges include limited enforcement capacity, legal inconsistencies, resistance to change, and data quality issues. However, leveraging existing legislation, fostering civil society partnerships, and embracing technological innovations create opportunities for strengthening governance and ensuring long-term sustainability.

4.2 Capacity Building for Sustainable Development

Strengthening Governance for Sustainable and Inclusive Development

Suriname's GDS emphasizes capacity building to improve governance, enhance institutional efficiency, and promote inter-agency coordination. Aligning national strategies with regional frameworks, such as CARICOM, ensures policy coherence and supports sustainable development efforts.

Strategic Context and Objectives

The GDS seeks to strengthen institutional frameworks, enhance public sector efficiency, and ensure effective stakeholder participation. The key objectives are:

1. *Institutional Strengthening and Legal Reforms:* Enhancing governmental capacities for policy design, implementation, and monitoring, along with legal reforms to address regulatory gaps, is critical to achieving sustainability. A review of laws related to land use and resource management is essential for supporting sustainable practices.
2. *Capacity Building and Education:* The strategy emphasizes comprehensive training for public officials and community leaders, equipping them with the skills needed for

effective governance. Public education on sustainability also fosters environmental awareness.

3. *Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Exchange:* Engaging in regional frameworks like CARICOM allows Suriname to benefit from shared knowledge, best practices, and resources, promoting a coordinated approach to sustainable development.

Opportunities and Challenges

Institutional reforms focus on enhancing policy design, monitoring, and legal frameworks, particularly in land use and resource management. Training programs equip public officials and community leaders with governance skills. Regional cooperation fosters knowledge exchange and best practices. Challenges include institutional weaknesses, regulatory inconsistencies, and limited stakeholder engagement. Opportunities lie in leveraging regional initiatives, attracting international support, and improving policy coherence.

4.3 Stakeholder Engagement and Public Participation

Empowering Inclusive Governance for Suriname's Green Transition

Stakeholder engagement is integral to Suriname's GDS, ensuring inclusivity, transparency, and accountability in sustainable development. The strategy aligns with global frameworks, such as the SDGs and Paris Agreement, to facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Suriname's GDS aligns with international commitments, such as the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. The main objectives of stakeholder engagement are:

1. *Enhance Inclusivity and Representation:* Involve diverse groups, in society and in the labor market, including the private sector, indigenous and tribal peoples, women, and youth, in decision-making to ensure equity and justice.
2. *Facilitate Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building:* Empower stakeholders with education to foster a collective understanding of sustainable development challenges and opportunities.

Opportunities and Challenges

Multi-level consultations integrate local and indigenous knowledge into governance. Participatory planning ensures decisions reflect collective interests, supported by communication strategies to raise awareness. Monitoring mechanisms allow continuous feedback and adaptation. Challenges include limited awareness and ensuring equity for marginalized groups. Opportunities exist in leveraging legal frameworks, fostering community ownership, and using digital tools to enhance outreach and participation.

4.4 Security and Protection of Citizens

Integrated Security for a Sustainable Green Future

Suriname's security strategy addresses socio-economic and environmental challenges, ensuring safety through governance, technology, and community resilience. The approach integrates law enforcement, cybersecurity, environmental risk management, and social inclusion.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Suriname's focus on Security and Citizen Protection arises from socio-economic, and environmental challenges, including reliance on extractive industries, environmental vulnerabilities, and socio-political issues. The strategy encompasses law enforcement, environmental hazards, cyber security, and social resilience. Key objectives are:

1. Strengthening physical security through improved law enforcement and emergency response.
2. Enhance cybersecurity and online safety with digital infrastructure and policies.
3. Protect communities from environmental risks with sustainable land use and disaster management.
4. Support social resilience through community engagement and education.

Opportunities and Challenges

Enhanced law enforcement, AI-driven surveillance, and cybersecurity strengthen national security. Disaster risk management integrates early warnings and sustainable urban planning, while legal reforms ensure global compliance. Challenges include limited capacity, resource constraints, and evolving technological threats. Opportunities lie in regional collaboration, technological progress, community engagement, and regulatory updates.

4.5 Population and Migration

Demographic Governance for Inclusive and Sustainable Development

With ongoing economic transformations, including offshore oil and gas developments, Suriname's population and migration policies focus on labor market needs, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability to support economic growth and demographic stability.

Strategic Context and Objectives

Suriname's population and migration strategy aligns with national goals and international commitments like the SDGs. The strategy focuses on leveraging demographic trends for growth, sustainability, and social equity through the following key objectives:

- *Economic Growth*: Address labor shortages in key sectors such as offshore oil, gas, and renewable energy.
- *Social Inclusion*: Ensure equitable resource access for all, including migrants and vulnerable groups.
- *Governance*: Establish transparent, rights-based migration governance.
- Environmental Sustainability: Balance urbanization with environmental conservation.

Opportunities and Challenges

Data-driven policies support demographic planning, while a national migration policy facilitates skilled labor entry and integration. Economic initiatives encourage migrant entrepreneurship, and urban planning aligns with sustainable development goals. Challenges include balancing foreign labor needs with domestic workforce development, maintaining social cohesion, and managing urban growth. Opportunities exist in addressing labor shortages, fostering cultural diversity, and positioning Suriname as a model for sustainable migration governance.