



# Country Snapshot

## Suriname



### About the CCDRMF

The Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Fund (CCDRMF) is one component of Global Affairs Canada's<sup>1</sup> (GAC) larger regional Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Program. The CCDRMF is a competitive fund which is designed to support community-driven projects that seek to enhance the resilience of communities and reduce risks from natural hazards (e.g. floods, droughts, tropical storms, hurricanes) and climate change.

Established in 2008 as a CAD \$3.0 M small grant facility, the CCDRMF finances projects ranging from CAD \$25,000 to CAD \$75,000, and up to CAD \$100,000 in exceptional cases. The targeted audience is community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil-society organisations, and government agencies wishing to undertake community projects in the following beneficiary countries<sup>2</sup>: *Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.*

For the purposes of the CCDRMF, a 'community' is defined as '*a group of people living in the same geographical area (such as a neighbourhood, district, city or town)*' or '*a group of people with similar interests (such as youth and women) or livelihoods (such as farmers or fishers)*'.

To date, the Fund has supported twenty-nine (29) community sub-projects totalling CAD \$1,770,517.11, of which twenty-three (23) are completed and six (6) are on-going. The Fund has also provisionally allocated CAD \$1,017,338.66<sup>3</sup> to eleven (11) projects that are under consideration for execution during the period 2017 to 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> Previously the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)

<sup>2</sup> In addition, one small community project was approved for the British Virgin Islands

<sup>3</sup> Subject to amendment



# CANADA CARIBBEAN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FUND

## Country Overview

Suriname is located on the northeast coast of South America. Covering an area of 163,820 km<sup>2</sup>, it is bordered by Guyana to the west, Brazil to the south, and French Guiana to the east. The land area of Suriname is generally divided into five (5) geographic regions from north to south as follows: 1) the Near-coastal zone and the Coastline; 2) the Young Coastal Plain; 3) the Old Coastal Plain; 4) the Savannah belt; and 5) the Interior Uplands. The highest point on the country is Juliana Top, rising 1,230 m.

Suriname has a tropical climate with abundant rainfall, uniform temperature (average daily in the coastal region is 27.4 °C), and high humidity. Precipitation amounts vary across the country. On average, Paramaribo, the capital, receives 2,210 mm of rainfall annually. The variation in monthly rainfall results in two wet and two dry seasons for the northern part of Suriname; and one wet and one dry season in the south. Seven main rivers originate in the interior of the country; and tropical rain forest with a great diversity of flora and fauna cover almost 88% of Suriname.

The population currently stands at about 585,824 (50.35% male, 49.65% female) (July 2016 estimate); majority of which resides along the coastal strip. The economy is dominated by the mining industry, with exports of oil, gold, and alumina accounting for almost all exports. In terms of sectoral contribution to gross domestic product (GDP), in 2015 Industry contributed 49.9%, Services 43.7%, and Agriculture 6.4% (CIA, 2016).

Compared to the other countries in the region, Suriname has experienced relatively few natural disasters in the past. It was only within the last decade with the floods of 2006 that the country's exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards became increasingly recognised. In the last week of April and the first week of May 2006, heavy and sustained rainfall resulted in wide-spread flooding in the interior. Rivers carried three times more water than the maximum volume recorded in 25 years, and water levels in some places rose 5 m to 7 m above normal high levels and around 12 m above standard. Around 48,351 persons were affected by the floods, including 200 villages of indigenous and Maroon communities and their agricultural lands. The high-water levels on the land for a protracted period of time destroyed and damaged a significant proportion of the country's crops (in particular cassava the main staple), much of which was ready for harvest. Overall, the floods caused damages and losses valued at SRD \$111 million (US \$41 million). Prior to these floods, the last major flooding had occurred in 1946 and was not as severe. As such, many persons and even some experts believed that there were unlikely to be other major floods in the near future. However, in 2007 large urban and peri-urban areas were flooded after excessive rainfall; and again in 2008 the rainy season caused major flooding in the interior which destroyed homes and crops.

Since the historic floods of 2006 and 2008, Surinamese have also become more conscious of the potential impact of climate change on the country. A drought in the interior in 2007 was also considered unusual and the number and intensity of gust winds are thought to be increasing. It is also projected that water resources in Suriname may experience stress as a result of climate change, since the combined effects of evapo-transpiration and prolonged dry periods will exert additional pressure on existing water resources in the country.



## CANADA CARIBBEAN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FUND

### CCDRMF Projects in Suriname

The CCDRMF is a competitive small grant facility and between 2008 and 2015, there have been nine (9) Calls for Proposals. In total, the Fund received 212 project applications but only forty-three (43) projects, 20%, from thirteen (13) countries met the criteria and were deemed eligible for consideration.

From Suriname, the CCDRMF has received five (5) project applications. Of these, three (3) community-based projects were approved. These projects support disaster risk management through flood mitigation, a safer houses programme, and mangrove rehabilitation. A brief overview of the completed and on-going projects can be found in the table below.

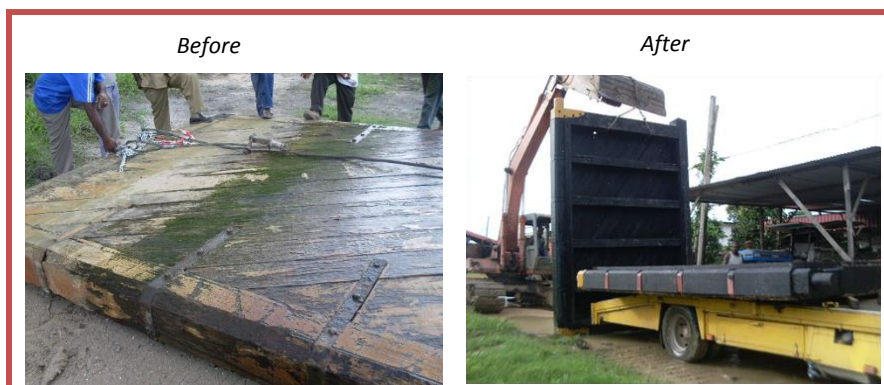


Figure 1: Sluice gate, Suriname Red Cross Project

Project	Organisation	Objective(s)	Project Period	GAC Contribution (CAD\$)	Total Project Cost (CAD\$)
<b>Sluice Gate for the Sanica Sluice, Wageningen</b>	Suriname Red Cross	To protect 100 households in low-lying areas of the village of Wageningen from annual floods associated with seasonal rains and changes in the level of the Nickerie River by constructing and installing a new sluice gate.	2009-2010	\$ 59,104.00	\$ 67,144.00
<b>Introducing 'Safer houses' Program to Increase Awareness in Disaster Prepared Communities in Suriname</b>	Suriname Red Cross	To reduce the vulnerabilities of the communities <sup>4</sup> to flooding and severe winds by making their homes more resilient through a safer housing programme.	2014-2017	\$67,726.29	\$96,577.29
<b>Mangrove Rehabilitation Project at 'Weg naar Zee' through</b>	Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS)	To mitigate coastal erosion through application of wave breaking and sediment trapping techniques and the	2017-2018	\$96,206.00	\$109,678.59

<sup>4</sup> Para (Wit Santie, Hollandse Kamp, Vierkinderen), Commewijne (Marienburg, NieuwAmsterdam) and Marowijne (Albina, Marjike Dorp, Alfonsdorp)



## CANADA CARIBBEAN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FUND

Project	Organisation	Objective(s)	Project Period	GAC Contribution (CAD\$)	Total Project Cost (CAD\$)
Sediment Trapping Technique		rehabilitation of mangrove communities.			
				\$223,036.29	\$273,399.88

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### References

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