



*SEITI SECRETARIAAT*

*ZONNEBLOEMSTRAAT # 68 HK. JOHANBODEGRAVENLAAN*

*PARAMARIBO, SURINAME*

*Phone: (597) 499852 / 499834 / 499835*

*FAX: (597)499852*

*E-MAIL: [info.seiti.2017@gamil.com](mailto:info.seiti.2017@gamil.com)*

# Suriname EITI Annual Progress Report 2017

---



SEITI SECRETARIAAT  
ZONNEBLOEMSTRAAT # 68 HK. JOHANBODEGRAVENLAAN  
PARAMARIBO, SURINAME  
Phone: (597) 499852 / 499834 / 499835  
FAX: (597)499852  
E-MAIL: info.seiti.2017@gamil.com

## **Foreword on EITI implementation in Suriname**

Welcome to the 2017 Annual Progress Report for the Suriname Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (SEITI). The report provides a snapshot of the activities of our Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) and EITI Secretariat in 2017. I took up the role of Chair of the MSG for a period of 2 years ending in December 2018. The year saw some delay in the execution of the work plan, partly a result of amendments in the original work plan, not able to procure a chairperson for the MSG and decisions on Financing. Nevertheless for the preparation of the first report to be published in 2018, significant groundwork and research was carried out in 2017 by the various subgroups made up of industry, civil society and government officials.

I would also like to thank the MSG representatives who devoted a great amount of time and energy to ensure ongoing implementation of the Work Plan and preparation and publication of the first report. We will be looking at ways to make better use of digital formats when publishing that next report and reviewing the scope to 'mainstream' more of the data in future years. The MSG looks forward to engaging with that process and demonstrating the significant progress made since the group first convened just over a year ago.

Dave Abeleven

Chair of the Suriname EITI Multi Stakeholder Group

## 1. General assessment of year's performance

The year 2017 was a start-up year for EITI Suriname, as we only achieved candidacy status in May 2017. Much of the year was spent in preparing for implementation: negotiations and procedural steps to be taken in securing the EGPS Grant (managed by the World Bank), designing a structure and job profiles for the Secretariat, discussions for hiring a chair for the MSG, and drafting the Terms of Reference for the Independent Administrator.

## 2. Assessment of performance against targets and activities set out in the work plan

Objective / Activities planned for 2017	Status as of December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2017
<b>Objective 1: Complete the required steps for EITI Candidacy by the end of 2016</b>	<b>Completed. Suriname achieved Candidacy status as of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017.</b>
- Finalize the Work Plan	The Work Plan was finalized in April 2017 (based on comments during the candidature phase).
- Submit formal application for candidacy to EITI International Secretariat	The application was submitted in March 2017.
<b>Objective 2: Prepare, complete and validate the EITI Reconciliation report</b>	
Conduct a series of meetings with stakeholders to discuss and determine the level of materiality	Preparatory scoping work (mapping of revenue streams, etc) was done by the MSG in the first half of 2017. It was finally decided to include the actual determination of the materiality level in the ToR for the Independent Administrator (IA).
Prepare, implement and monitor a roadmap for disclosure of beneficial ownership information	The roadmap was developed and approved by the MSG in October 2017. No activities for implementation were undertaken in 2017.
Design and implement studies and formulate recommendations on key issues	No activities undertaken.
Procure technical assistance in the drafting of templates and data collection and reporting mechanisms	This was finally included in the ToR for the Independent Administrator (IA).
Facilitate a series of MSG meetings to discuss and approve templates and mechanisms	This was finally included in the ToR for the Independent Administrator (IA).
Assess and strengthen capacity of government and companies to use templates and mechanisms	This was finally included in the ToR for the Independent Administrator (IA).
Prepare ToR for the Independent Administrator	The ToR was finalized in November 2017, and submitted for the World Bank for 'no objection'
Select IA	Awaiting the finalization of the EGPS funding, in November 2017, a request for expression of interest was

	sent to a number of accountants firms; the Eol's were received in December 2017, and the Secretariat was still in the process of first analysis on December 31 <sup>st</sup> .
Appoint IA	No activities.
<b>Objective 3: Share information about SEITI implementation in a timely and easily accessible manner with various stakeholders groups.</b>	
Contracting of consultant / communications specialist to design a communications and outreach strategy	No activities (awaiting finalization of EGPS Funding).
The Ministry of Natural Resources will include a new, separate section in its website, where all initial documents, e.g. this work plan can be published before the end of May 2017. The MSG will also create a Facebook page to keep the general public informed.	The SEITI Secretariat created a Facebook Page to post updates about the SEITI implementation. It was not updated as frequently as hoped, due to time and capacity constraints.
Conduct workshops and training sessions for media workers on SEITI implementation and other issues	No activities (awaiting finalization of EGPS Funding). It was finally decided to include this in the ToR for the communications specialist.
<b>Objective 4: Realize conditions for sustainable EITI implementation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beneficial Ownership Roadmap: A beneficial ownership roadmap was produced, but no steps of implementation were yet taken. During the EITI International workshop, guidelines were held up to the members regarding BO implementation</li> <li>A mechanism has been established for funding of EITI implementation: No yet implemented</li> <li>The SEITI Secretariat has been established and is operational, but needs more personnel. A procurement specialist is needed as well as a Coordinator.</li> </ul>
Review legal and regulatory framework to identify potential obstacles to SEITI implementation and draft recommendations for new / amended policy, laws and regulations	No activities; discussions on the content and funding ongoing with the World Bank.
Draft, discuss, and finalize elaborated recommendations to Min NR	NA
Draft and submit proposal to the World Bank and/or EITI Multi-Donor Trust Fund	In process; a project operating manual, subsidiary agreement and procurement plan were drafted and submitted to the World Bank in November 2017. The Draft Agreement has been drawn up, and approval / signing is expected in the beginning of 2018.
Draft and submit financing proposals to other potential funding partners (IADB, UNDP, DFID)	No activities

Define and approve roles and responsibilities SEITI Secretariat ( Head and staff)	In the first half of 2017, the MSG designed an organizational structure, and job profiles / descriptions for the Seiti Secretariat. These were approved in October 2017.
Capacity assessment of SEITI Secretariat	The World Bank conducted an assessment of the financial and procurement functions of the Secretariat. No other formal capacity assessment was performed.
Formally appoint after MSG approval the SEITI Secretariat head and staff	No activities; moved to 2018.
Capacity building SEITI Secretariat to effectively support the MSG and SEITI implementation process	There were various technical support missions by the World Bank.
Procure equipment and facilities	NA
Manage and operate the SEITI Secretariat	Ongoing
Organize information exchange events between the MSG and countries similar to Suriname successfully implementing the EITI	NA (later removed from the Work Plan). Secretariat personnel and MSG members did participate in a regional EITI Training Programme in November 2017.
Recruit and support Chair for the MSG	A Terms of Reference was drafted and hiring process undertaken. However, the MSG could not reach a unanimous decision on the selection of a candidate.

### 3. Assessment of performance against EITI requirements

Requirements	Progress
EITI requires effective oversight by the multi-stakeholder group.	These requirements have been met. MSG has had regular meetings and made important decisions relating to the financial year for SEITI's first report. The appointment of the Secretariat, facilitation of preliminary scoping study that was completed and finalized in 2018. In addition discussions on procurement of an Independent Administrator for the report and the review of its Work Plan.
EITI requires timely publication of EITI Report	SEITI is on track to publishing its first EITI Report in November 2018 covering the FY2016. FY 2015 has been discussed and MSG decided that information of 2015 should be collected and disclosed, where possible validated otherwise unilateral disclosure.
The EITI requires EITI Reports that include contextual information about extractive industries	As part of EITI Standard, these will be covered in the first report. The beneficial ownership issue has been discussed by the MSG; where public information is available data will be included, with future reports to push for increased disclosure. For the first report, Companies will be encouraged but not required to disclose contracts. Any contracts disclosed will be included as an annex to the first report
The EITI requires the production of comprehensive EITI Reports that include full government disclosure of extractive industry revenues and disclosure of all material payments to government by oil, gas and	The MSG agreed for these requirements to be included in the report, payments to the sub-national governments will be included.

mining companies.	
The EITI requires a credible assurance process applying international standards.	The MSG started the preliminary assessment of recruiting an Independent Administrator (IA). Terms of Reference were discussed and should be approved in 2018 by the MSG and expressions of interest should be called for submissions in .....2018. An IA expected to commence March 2018.
The EITI requires Reports that are comprehensible, activity promoted, publicly accessible, and contribute to public debate.	SEITI will ensure these requirements are met.
The EITI requires the multi-stakeholder group to take steps to act on the lessons learnt and to review the outcomes and impact of EITI implementation.	SEITI will ensure these requirements are met.

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

Not applicable for Suriname (no reconciliation or validation as yet)

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

Although 2017 was more of a preparatory year in terms of EITI implementation, the MSG made some important progress on expanding the scope of the EITI Reporting and highlighting of certain issues, such as mapping the revenue streams from small- and medium-sized gold mining companies for possible inclusion in the final scope.

The discussion at the MSG has improved engagement and information sharing between the three stakeholders. The EITI has also improved communication and information sharing between Government agencies.

During the preliminary scoping study it was noted that some of the sources of information were difficult to access. There were several information gaps. From this early assessment, there is a critical need for information to be kept electronically rather than manually and for annual reporting to be completed in a timely and comprehensive manner. This will improve information and data accuracy and contribute to improved regulatory management by the Government.

Moreover, the MSG experienced the need to have a full time chair and dedicated SEITI Secretariat, equipped and trained to assist on technical issues to ensure compliance on a timely manner of all EITI components.

#### 6. Implementation of beneficial ownership disclosure plans

The Beneficial Ownership roadmap was developed and approved by the MSG in October 2017. No further activities for implementation were undertaken in 2017.

## 7. Total costs of implementation

The multi-stakeholder group may wish to include information about costs of implementation. This could include a comparison of outturn costs with the work plan costs, broken down by contributor and budget lines. It could also include information about the number of staff in the national secretariat.

### Finance

Up to this moment, only the funding of SEMIF (USD 14.500) was used for the EITI implementation. The grant of USD 350,000.00 is not yet received.

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

### Allowance MSG

As of December 2016, the MSG has been installed for 2 years.

The Chairman is entitled to receive a monthly allowance of 1250,- SRD and all other 17 members are entitled to receive a monthly allowance of SRD 1000,-. Due to the company policy of 2 members, they have requested not to receive the monthly allowance.

### Staffing SEITI Secretariat

In 2017, 4 persons employed by the Bauxite Institute of Suriname (BIS) were part-time responsible for the duties of the Secretariat:

- Mrs. R. Vaseur- Madhoeban (Coordinator)
- Mrs. N. Accord-Liu (Communication Officer)
- Mr. F. Bondhla (Financial Officer)
- Ms. V. Sabajo (Technical/Administrative Officer)

As of August 2017, Mrs. Vaseur was on sick leave but came back in Office May 2018 and of May 2018, Mrs. N. Accord- Liu left BIS and was no longer part of the Secretariat and the position of Communication officer is vacant.

## 8. Any additional comments

none

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

While the MSG has involved stakeholders in various ways during 2017, this annual report itself has not been widely discussed as it entails the first year of preparing for EITI implementation in Suriname. We will set out the communications strategy and increase engagement in 2018.

## 10. Details of membership of the MSG during the period

### Attendance 2017

There have been 20 regular SEITI meetings for 2017 and 5 special sessions, 3 special sessions with the WB, 1 session with IMF and 1 info session with the Independent Administrator (IA).

In total 30 meetings (regular EITI meeting and special sessions)

Special sessions:

WB Session 1: 17-19 May 2017



SEITI SECRETARIAAT  
ZONNEBLOEMSTRAAT # 68 HK. JOHANBODEGRAVENLAAN  
PARAMARIBO, SURINAME  
Phone: (597) 499852 / 499834 / 499835  
FAX: (597)499852  
E-MAIL: info.seiti.2017@gamil.com

IMF meeting: 26 May 2017

WB Session 2: 3-6 July 2017 (including session with EITI International)

WB Session 3: 20 Oct 2017

Info session Independent Administrator: 1 Nov 2017

**Attendance Regular EITI meetings including Special Sessions:**

**Government**

Dave Abeleven (Ministry of Natural Resources) 26/30

Valerie Lalji (Ministry of Natural Resources) 8/30

Joy ten Berge (Ministry of Finance) 16/30

Joan Veldhuizen (Ministry of Finance) 7/30

Henk Deel (Ministry of Regional Development) 24/30

Aroen Jadoenathmisier (Ministry of Trade and Industry) 4/30

**Civil Society**

Rayah Bhattacharji (Stichting Projekta) 21/30

Monique Essed-Fernandes<sup>1</sup> (Stichting Projekta) 11/30

Rene Artist (VIDS) 22/30

Erna Aviankoi (VSG & 12 Lo's) 4/30

Roy Caupain (SWOS) 19/30

Dimitri Tjon Sie Fat<sup>2</sup> (Green Heritage Fund) 17/30

Lisa Best<sup>3</sup> (Tropenbos Suriname) 2/30

**Companies**

Vandana Gangaram Panday (VG) 15/30

Tom Fauria (TF) 17/30

Sharmila Jadnanansing (SJ) 11/30

Albert Ramdin (AR) 3/30

Tedy Jbara (TJ) 26/30

Michael Naarendorp 16/30

**Approved by MSG:**

**Date: September 2018**

---

---

<sup>1</sup> Monique Essed-Fernandes was on sick-leave during the last month of 2017

<sup>2</sup> As of October 2017, Mr. D. Tjon Sie Fat is not part of the MSG anymore due to studies abroad

<sup>3</sup> As of October 2017, Mrs. L. Best is part of the MSG.