



National
Toshias
Council



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & GENDER MAINSTREAMING PLANS

Village Sustainability Planning (VSP)
Programme

2026



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Project Summary



The **Support to Village Planning and Implementation Project** is part of **Guyana's REDD+ Programme**. It aims to support Indigenous villages and communities across Guyana to develop and implement **Village Sustainability Plans (VSPs)** that reflect local priorities, strengthen governance, and promote long-term sustainable development. The project runs from **January 2024 to December 2026**.

Purpose of the Project

The project supports Indigenous villages to prepare **10-year Village Sustainability Plans** through a community-led process grounded in **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)**. These plans will help communities identify their development priorities, manage natural resources responsibly, and strengthen sustainable livelihoods.



The project contributes to the goals of **Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030**, while helping maintain Guyana's status as a **High Forest Low Deforestation (HFLD)** country. It also supports biodiversity protection, water resource management, and stronger community governance.



National Reach

The initiative will engage approximately **254 villages, satellite communities, and Community Development Councils (CDCs)** across the country.

Communities will participate in the preparation of their VSPs through **consultations, workshops, surveys, focus groups, and village meetings**. Local people will identify priorities, review draft plans, and approve final plans before implementation begins.

Why Village Sustainability Plans Matter

Under **Guyana's national REDD+ framework**, villages can access benefits from the national carbon financing mechanism after they complete village-led planning processes in accordance with the **Amerindian Act (2006)** and the **LCDS 2030**.

Village priorities must be discussed openly and approved through a majority vote at a **Village General Meeting**. This helps ensure that development priorities reflect the views and needs of the wider community.

Inclusive & Community-Driven Participation



The project places strong emphasis on **inclusive participation, which aligns with FPIC guidelines**. Engagement activities are designed to ensure that:



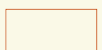
01

Women and men participate meaningfully in decision-making.



02

Youth are involved as future leaders and stewards of community development.



03

Elders, persons with disabilities, and remote communities are supported so they can participate fully.



04

Engagements are carried out in **culturally appropriate ways**, including use of Indigenous languages and translators where needed.

Approach

All facilitators, National Toshihos Council (NTC) representatives, and other personnel engaged under the Village Sustainability Plan (VSP) Project **must** conduct community engagements using a **rights-based approach** and a **strict Code of Conduct** that **promotes respect, inclusion, confidentiality, and meaningful participation**.

Interactive Sessions

Sessions **must** use **interactive methods** such as: role plays, group discussions, icebreakers, and participatory activities to **encourage feedback** from all community members.

Equitable Participation

To support equitable participation, **practical measures** will be provided as needed, including extra meals, child-friendly play areas, comfortable seating for pregnant women, elderly persons, and those with mobility challenges, and other adaptations to ensure all **stakeholders** can **participate meaningfully**.

Gender Inclusion

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan includes a gender-responsive approach. A gender analysis across Regions 1–10 found that women, youth, and minority groups often face barriers such as:

unequal access to decision-making;



limited land ownership;



gender-based violence;



restricted employment and livelihood opportunities;



unequal access to health, education, and social services.



Gender Inclusion

To address these challenges, the project will promote:

leadership training for women;



support for youth participation;



improved access to vocational and technical training;



stronger referral pathways for gender-based violence support;



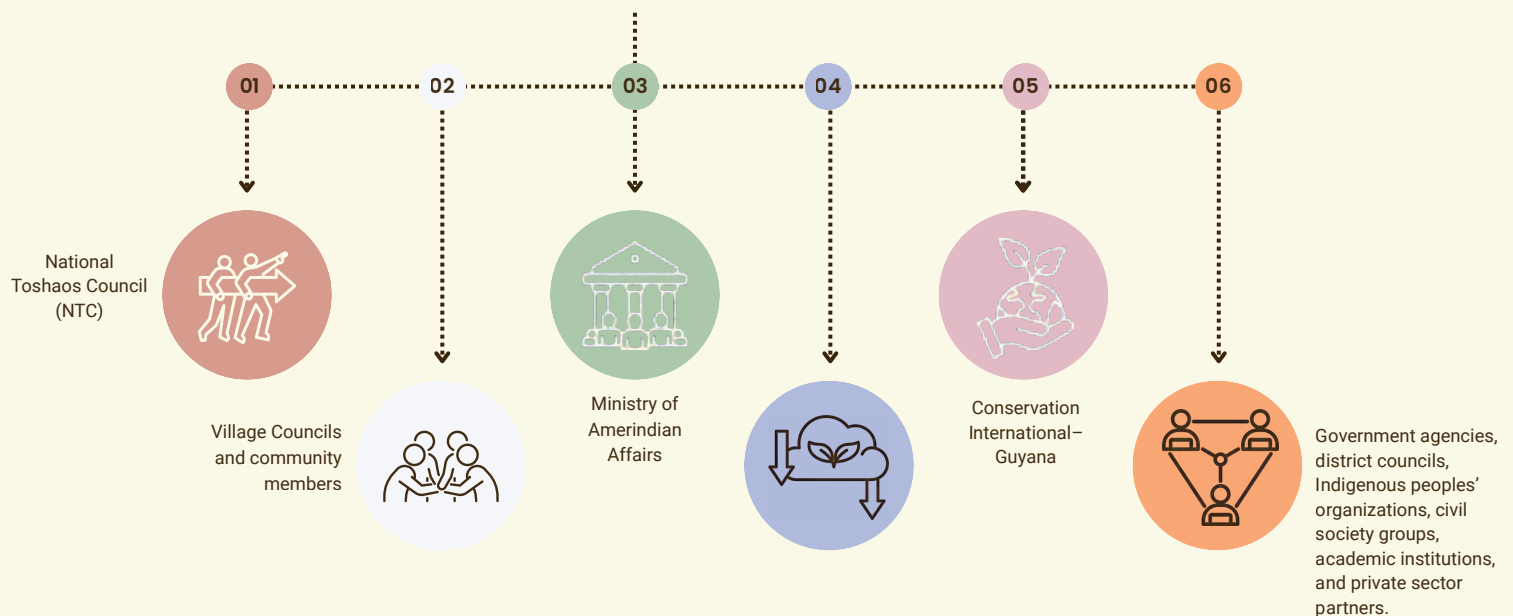
monitoring of women's participation in governance and community planning.





Key Stakeholders

The project brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including:



These stakeholders provide technical support, coordination, policy alignment, and assistance with implementation.

Previous Engagement

The project builds on earlier consultations and planning efforts that took place over several years. These included:

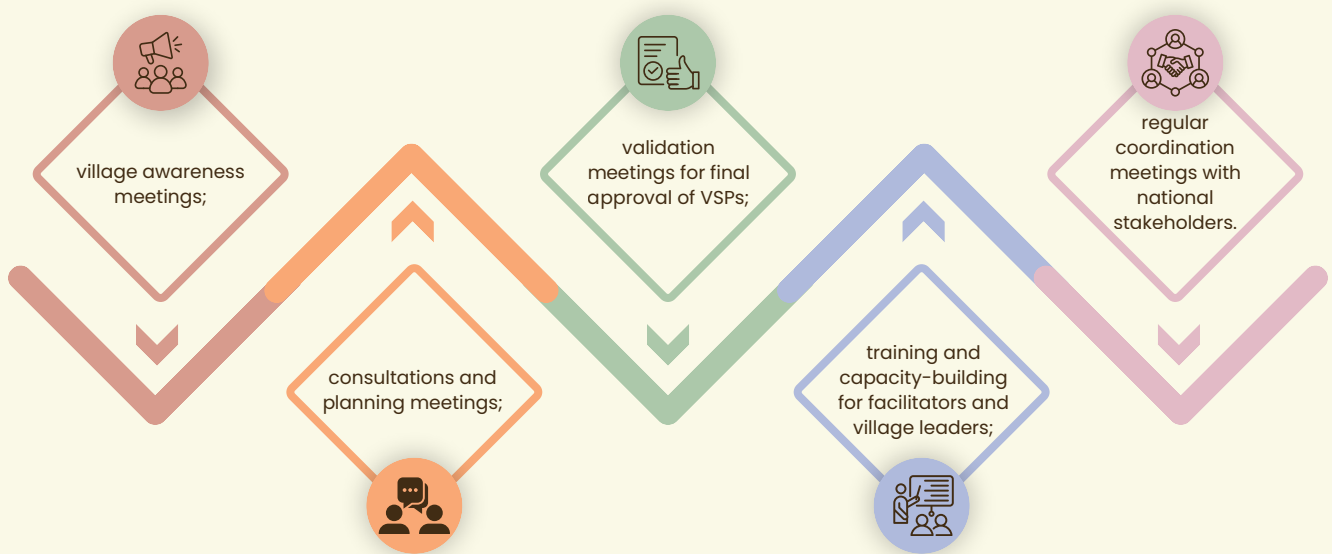
- 🌀 ongoing community engagements, especially in Region 9;
- 🌀 **consultations** with Toshaos in 2022 and 2023;
- 🌀 project design discussions with the **NTC Executive Body**;
- 🌀 engagement with the **Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, LCDS Secretariat**, and other development partners;
- 🌀 training for **facilitators** supporting village planning.

These earlier engagements helped shape the project design and highlighted the need for **long-term village planning, stronger local ownership, and broader stakeholder collaboration.**



Community Engagement During Implementation

These earlier engagements helped shape the project design and highlighted the need for **long-term village planning, stronger local ownership, and broader stakeholder collaboration.**



The project recognizes that stakeholder engagement is not a one-time activity. Communities will continue to provide feedback throughout implementation.



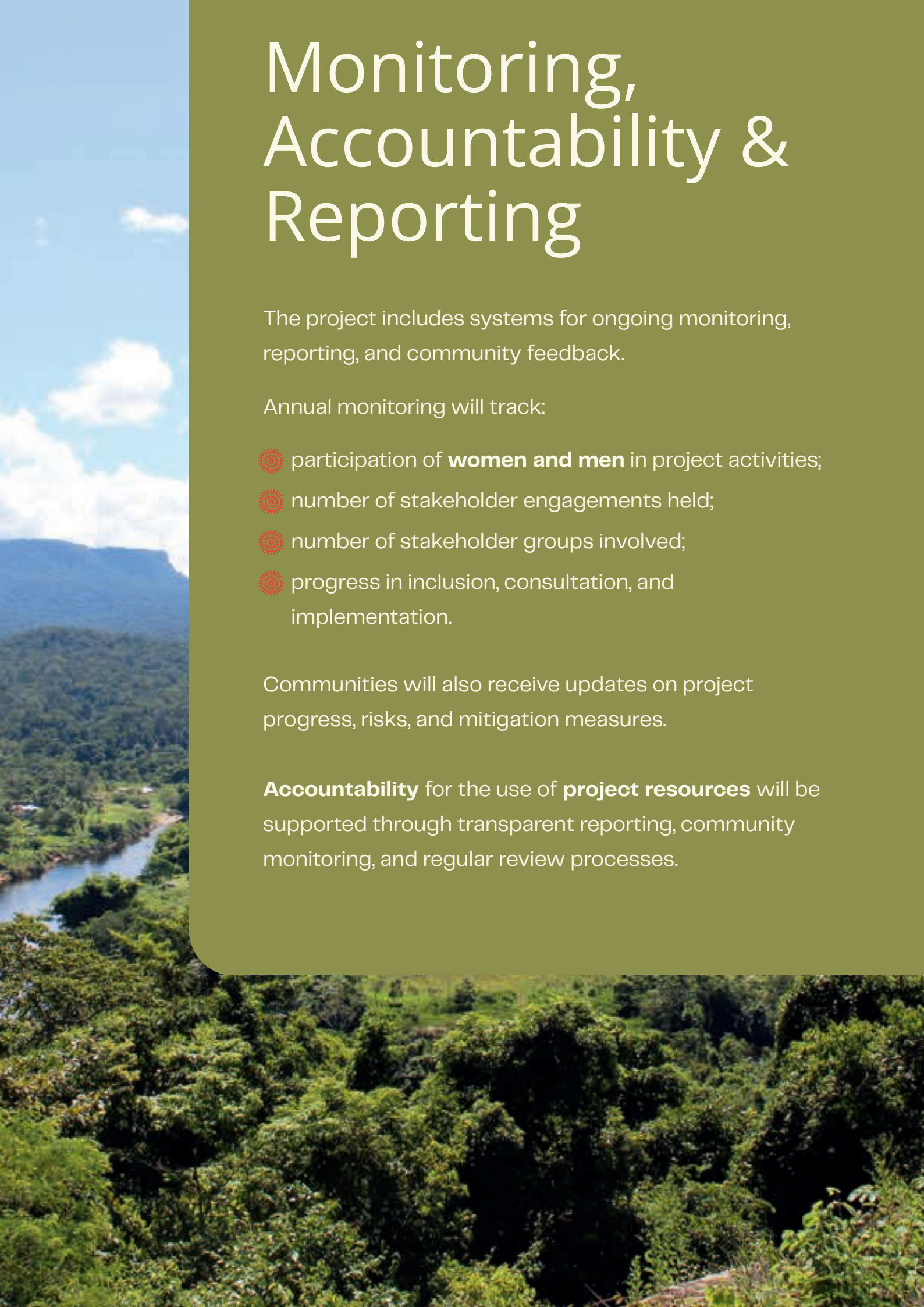


Information Sharing & Public Disclosure

Project information will be made available through:

- 👤 the NTC website;
- 👤 Conservation International's website;
- 👤 printed materials such as brochures, flyers, and posters;
- 👤 social media;
- 👤 videos;
- 👤 SMS and WhatsApp communication;
- 👤 SMS and public meetings and presentations.

Where necessary, information will be **translated so communities** can **access** and **understand** it.



Monitoring, Accountability & Reporting

The project includes systems for ongoing monitoring, reporting, and community feedback.

Annual monitoring will track:

- ③ participation of **women and men** in project activities;
- ③ number of stakeholder engagements held;
- ③ number of stakeholder groups involved;
- ③ progress in inclusion, consultation, and implementation.

Communities will also receive updates on project progress, risks, and mitigation measures.

Accountability for the use of **project resources** will be supported through transparent reporting, community monitoring, and regular review processes.

What This Means for Communities



This project is intended to help communities define their own **long-term** development priorities and strengthen their ability to manage development in ways that are **sustainable, inclusive, and locally driven**.

By supporting **village-led planning**, the project seeks to ensure that communities can access **development opportunities** while **protecting** their **lands, cultures, livelihoods, and natural resources** for future generations.



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