

Member Country Profile – Suriname

Organisations:	National Institute for Environment and Development in Suriname (NIMOS)
Country Representatives:	Cedric Nelom – General Director
Contact:	cnelom@nimos.org
<p>Regime Scope:</p> <p>NIMOS was established on March 15, 1998 by <i>Presidential Decree no.7483/98</i>, as semi-governmental Institute mandated with the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • realize national environmental legislation in the widest sense; • prepare and realize regulations with regard to protection of the environment; and • coordinate and supervise the observance of those regulations. <p>In this regard, NIMOS was able to establish an Environmental Monitoring & Enforcement system as well as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system of which both being used until to date by the public and private sector in the Republic of Suriname.</p>	
<p>Administering Agency/Arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situated in the Office of the President of the Republic of Suriname, but currently reporting to the Minister of Spatial Planning and Environment 	
<p>Legislation Type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental Framework Act S.B. 2020 no97</i> approved by our Parliament in March 2020, and subsequently published in the Official Gazette in May 2020 	
<p>Links to Relevant Legislation:</p> <p>NIMOS – Suriname</p>	
<p>Extent of Government Approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with the Environmental Framework Act, the National Environment Authority is authorized to claim an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for activities that may have adverse effects on the environment. The government body that grants authorization under the statutory regulation for engaging in activities as referred to in sentence above, shall, after receipt of the permit application, inform the NMA of this in writing, in order to determine the need to conduct an EIA. Notwithstanding the provision in the previous sentence, a copy of aforementioned permit application is also sent to the NMA. 	
<p>Nature of Duties Imposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervise and guide the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) System • Monitor and enforce regulations related to the EIA system 	
<p>Physical Objects in the Regime:</p> <p>Currently, only reconnaissance and exploratory activities taken place. Therefore, in some cases drilling platforms are present.</p>	

Assurance Mechanisms:

NIMOS requires a Table of Commitment in the EIA report that states that the permit holder is liable and responsible for the implementation of the Environmental Monitoring & Management Report that is an integral part of the EIA report. Furthermore, one of the key principles on which the Environmental Framework Act S.B. 2020 no.97 is based and stated in the Act is the 'Polluter-pays Principle'. This, also entails compensation to affected parties for loss or damage to the environment that is attributable to a Project in, among others, the Oil & Gas Industry.

Financial Basis:

Currently, NIMOS collects some fees for EIA Studies being carried out. Operators in Oil & Gas industry are required to bare the costs of conducting the EIA including assessment, monitoring, publication of notices, public scoping and disclosure meetings as well as administrative support.

Environmental Regulation Responsibilities:

NIMOS was established on March 15, 1998 by *Presidential Decree no.7483/98*, as semi-governmental Institute mandated with the following tasks:

- realize national environmental legislation in the widest sense;
- prepare and realize regulations regarding protection of the environment; and
- coordinate and supervise the observance of those regulations.

Currently, NIMOS is transitioning into the National Environment Authority [*Nationale Milieu Autoriteit (NMA)*] as mandated by the Environmental Framework Law S.B. 2020 no97. This transitioning should be completed in Q2 2022. The main duties of the NMA are:

- support & advise the Minister of Spatial Planning & Environment in conducting structural policy consultation with the ministries, other government bodies and private persons and legal entities in the context of an effective and efficient coordination of the national environmental policy;
- develop & implement the EIA System;
- formulate national environmental quality requirements and standards and monitor the application thereof;
- in collaboration with ministries, other government authorities and bodies, natural and legal persons exercise control over economic activities regarding their environmental pollution;
- promote public awareness & participation in the tasks of the NMA together with the various ministries, the other government bodies, natural and legal persons; and
- ensure that the FPIC principle is applied in decision-making processes related to communities of the indigenous and tribal peoples.

Oil Spill Response:

Suriname has a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) dated 2016 that will be updated. Stated in this Plan is that NIMOS works with departments within the Suriname Government, international regional associations such as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Regional Association of Oil, Gas and Biofuels Sector Companies in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARPEL), and industry partners in Suriname to examine and address issues of environmental and social protection and conservation within Suriname.

Working with industry in the region, NIMOS will offer advice relating to oil spill preparedness on topics such as the identification of environmentally sensitive areas within Suriname, response strategy selection and its environmental and social effects.

Following guidance detailed in the Caribbean Island OPRC Plan (Section 10.2.3), NIMOS will pre-approve the use of certain types of dispersants as part of a Tier 1 equipment stockpile. In the event of an incident requiring the continued use of dispersants and the establishment of a Unified

Command, NIMOS would form part of the Environmental Group who, working together with HSE staff from the responsible party, and would follow the process for approving the longer-term use of dispersant in a response operation, detailed in Section 5.4 of this NOSCP.

Transparency:

Three moments are of great importance during the process of public participation in our EIA Process, namely:

- during **the Scoping phase**: this is where the public can express its opinion/concerns about what may be important for the preparation of the ToR for the EIA Study;
- during **the Analysis phase**: when researching social matters in the field, the input of local communities is important and they can also provide important information in other areas of research; and
- during **the Assessment Phase**: it is important that the public is aware of the results in the Environmental Impact Assessment report, so that they can also express their views on this.

Profile Date:

November 2021