

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The country is divided into 10 districts. The districts including Paramaribo are further subdivided into 63 subdistricts. In each district, a District Commissioner is appointed by the government and is head of the government administration in the district, but both the district and subdistrict councils are elected every five years at the country's general elections.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Suriname's **Multi-annual Development Plan 2022- 2026** is aligned with the SDGs. Based on the principle of 'Leaving no one behind', it includes prioritized policy areas with short and long-term goals and serves as the building block for the 2050 Vision for Suriname.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The government established the **National SDG Committee** and the **National SDG Public-Private Platform** to coordinate SDG implementation. The National SDG Committee is chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation and includes representatives from all line ministries, the Parliament, the National Planning Office, and the General Bureau of Statistics (GBS). The SDG Public-Private Platform serves as a link between the government, the private sector and civil society organizations. However, the 2022 VNR process brought to light various challenges related to the institutional and human capacities to effectively coordinate and implement the SDGs across all sectors.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A **technical committee** was established to facilitate the 2022 VNR process. It was chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation, and was composed of representatives from the ministries of Education, Science and Culture; Spatial Planning and Environment; Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation; and Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs, as well as key institutions such as the National Planning Office and the GBS. Several virtual **consultations** were organized with representatives from the government, civil society, academia, the private sector, UN agencies and other stakeholders. **Interviews** were also conducted with selected stakeholders.

1.3 MONITORING

The **National Planning Office** and the **General Bureau of Statistics (GBS)** used the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) core SDG indicators as a baseline to develop a SDG indicators list for the country. The online database recently developed by the National Planning Office and the system within the GBS are important mechanisms to monitor SDG implementation. The GBS, in collaboration with line ministries and agencies, is working to improve the availability and quality of data related to the SDGs.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

In the period 2016-2018, the government collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme and conducted the '**Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals**' awareness campaign. The aim was to share information about the SDGs and gather views of local authorities and communities on their role in achieving the SDGs. Information and awareness sessions with local authorities, community representatives, school youth, and non-governmental organizations were held in some

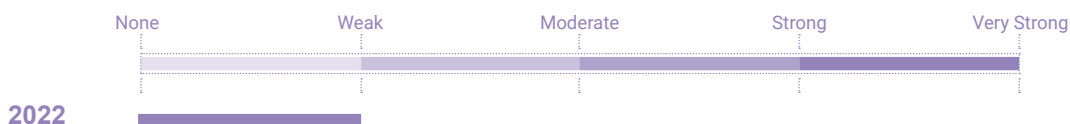
1. See: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Suriname/Government-and-society>; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resorts_of_Suriname
2. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Suriname%20Report.pdf> (2022)

urban, rural and interior areas. The offices of the District Commissioners prepare annual district plans that are tailored to the needs of local communities and provide an effective mechanism for the government to pursue the commitment of 'Leaving no one behind'.

However, there is no evidence of any LRG involvement in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation. There was no direct LRG participation in the 2022 VNR, but reports of prior engagements and consultations with local communities, under the 'Localizing the SDGs' initiative, enabled the incorporation of their perceptions into the VNR.

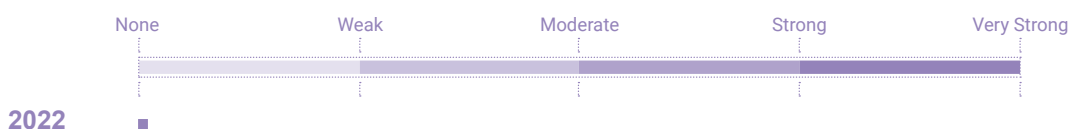
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: There was no direct LRG participation in the 2022 VNR, but reports of prior engagements and consultations with local communities in certain urban, rural and interior areas have been taken into account.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There is no LRG involvement in national coordination mechanisms.

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There are some references to districts in the 2022 VNR, but no example of locally-led initiatives for SDG implementation. The report states that "the effective implementation of a whole-of-society approach which includes the local communities in the remote rural and interior areas" is still a challenge, and that additional efforts are needed to improve institutional and human resources capacities in the districts (see VNR, 2022, p. 107).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Financing for the implementation of the SDGs is a key challenge in Suriname. The 2022 VNR highlights that "encouraging and attracting adequate investments, affordable funding and technical assistance to fast track actions towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda will be the highest priority of the government" (see VNR, 2022, p. 110).

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The offices of the District Commissioners implement **local disaster risk reduction strategies** in all districts, which are in line with the national disaster risk reduction strategy. National Disaster Response Teams at the district level were established to cope with disasters and guarantee a decentralized approach in managing risks.

Suriname is one of the few carbon-negative rating countries in the world and significantly contributes to the mitigation of the effects of climate change. The country has experienced a major breakthrough in 2020 and 2021 with the offshore oil and gas discoveries that represent an opportunity to reboot its economy, while taking into account its commitment towards green economic development.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

No reference.

3.2 COVID 19

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 VNR only mentions measures taken by the government to contain the spreading of the pandemic and tackle it. The report states that in the aftermath of COVID-19, “there is a strong need for a transformative recovery towards inclusive and equal prosperity, protection and security for all, including those living in the remote rural and interior areas, thus leaving no one behind” (see VNR, 2022, p. 110).

4. SDG INDICATORS³

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		33.1 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	63 (2020)
	Rural	41 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	21 (2020)
	Rural	34 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		5.9 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		-
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		26.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

3. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/>