

Introduction

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https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3646063/84380343/591039619/84380343_tfafgrantprogramexpressionofinterest_submission_guyana.pdf

1 - Background and Rationale

1.1 - Clearly explain how the proposed activity will improve your capacity to / facilitate access to funding to / prepare the ground to implement Category C commitments notified under the TFA

As it stands, Guyana has some TFA implementation needs designated under category C that we have not yet identified development partners to assist with. These needs were circulated in an expression of interest for a TFAF grant, but no donors or development partners signalled that they were ready and able to assist with implementation in the highlighted articles. Assistance in the form of a project preparation grant from TFAF will support Guyana by framing our remaining unmet needs including all relevant technical details in a format that can be used to communicate with development partners to seek their assistance including from a TFAF project implementation grant. Assistance to further communicate with development partners in Georgetown to better understand the available assistance and their relevant programs and timetables for TFA-related assistance would also support the NTFC to plan its implementation activities for the future.

1.2 - Please describe the key TFA implementation barriers and/or opportunities to be addressed, including their relevance for market access and poverty reduction

Art. 1.3 - Enquiry Points

The provision applies to Enquiry Point at the Regional (CARICOM) Level, this measure was notified with an extended timeline of 2027, since implementation will also depend on actions taken at the regional level.

Art. 3 - Advance Rulings

Implemented by Guyana Revenue Authority Harmonized System Classification Committee (HSCC), Technical Committee on Customs Valuation (TCCV), and origin committees, needs to be mainstreamed. Training staff and adoption of international best practices as increased institutional capacity in Classification, Valuation and Rules of Origin will be needed.

Art. 5.3 - Test Procedures

Initiatives are ongoing, A National Quality Infrastructure Project is being implemented by the Guyana National Bureau of Standards to enable the development of quality management systems, in order to obtain accreditation to international standards.

TACB support needs include:

- Training staff and adoption of international best practices.
- Development of appropriate legislation to ensure compliance with current standards and coordination with the relevant competent authorities such as the Government Analyst, Food and Drug Department and the Guyana National Standards Bureau.
- Develop in-house testing capability.

Art. 7.3 - Separation of Release

TACB support needs include:

- Procurement of appropriate software and any necessary hardware.
- Training of IT staff and users of the system once procured.

Art. 7.5 - Post-Clearance Audit

WCO already conducted a diagnostic mission. A WCO-led workshop was held in October 2019.

Technical Assistance needs remain relevant especially in the area of Training.

TACB support needs include:

- Additional staffing with audit skills related to valuation, classification, accounting, and procurement of information digitally.
- Customs laws have been amended to accept electronic and paper based submissions. Criteria for Trusted Traders has been developed and published since 2018. Electronic filing and processing implementation at land borders would be dependent upon availability of infrastructure and connectivity.

Art. 7.7 - Authorized Operators

Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:

There is a Trusted Trader Programme currently in place. This programme is a variant of the Authorized Economic Operators Programme. However, The Customs Authority is working towards having the AEO implemented at the earliest.

TACB support needs include:

- Training staff and users of the service as it evolves.
- Procure and develop an automated processing system to monitor same. Consideration of integration into ASYCUDA once this is implemented.

Art. 7.9 - Perishable goods

Partially implemented by the Guyana Revenue Authority through ASYCUDA , assistance is sought to fully mainstream.

Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:

There is the IMD7 established in the ASYCUDA platform which facilitates immediate delivery of perishable goods.

TACB support needs include:

- Training and development of procedures consistent with best practices.
- Procurement of tracking software.

Art. 8 - Border Agency Cooperation

Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:

Article 8.2 (b -e) was given an extended timeline of 2027, since full implementation is not feasible in the short term and would require procedural and legal changes.

8.2 b - TACB support needs include:

- Enactment of relevant border procedures regulations to guide operations between bordering countries.

8.2 c - TACB support needs include:

- Drafting of legislation to allow for the acceptance of results of cross border testing and common standards.
- Training and development of testing facilities.

8.2 d - TACB support needs include:

- Development of IT system to capture all the required information and data at the borders.

8.2 e - TACB support needs include:

- Enactment of the relevant procedures regulations to guide operations.
- Increased institutional capacity, infrastructure, and equipment.
- Harmonisation of different systems between bordering countries.
- Training for staff of the various regulatory agencies at the border.

Progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support:

Art.10.4 - Single Window

Initiatives on track with the targeted timeline. However due to COVID-19 measures, there is a delay and consultations are expected to resume later in the year for revised timelines. Full implementation of SW is expected within a few years.

Some needs in the area remains relevant especially as it relates to training IT staff and users of the new ASYCUDA World programme.

TACB needs include:

- Procurement of software and any necessary hardware for the ESW
- Training IT staff and users of the new ESW system.

1.3 - Has a TF-related needs assessment been carried out in your country / territory? Yes

Relevant issues and priorities

Guyana was subject to a TFA needs assessment in 2013. The needs articulated in this application were identified during that process, or have been subsequently added during review.

1.5 - Please clarify linkages, if any, between the main TFA implementation issue(s) identified and national poverty reduction strategies, relevant sectoral development policies/strategies, etc. For Least Developed Countries (LDCs), reference should be made to relevant issues identified in the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) carried out under the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), if such a study exists. Please upload the relevant documents here and highlight the main linkages between them and the proposed PPG activity in the box below

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3646063/84380350/591039619/GreenStateDevelopmentStrategyVision2040.pdf>

Highlight main linkages

Guyana's national development strategy, "Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040" explicitly identifies the need to implement the TFA as a strategic objective. Development Objective F: Trade, Investment and International Cooperation includes the need for reform of customs procedures as a necessary step to developing trade as a means towards a more diversified economy and to sustainable economic growth.

The needs identified in this application can therefore be seen to be a coherent element of Guyana's national development strategy and any actions undertaken in this regard will contribute towards its realisation.

The needs identified, when taken together mean that accessing information for traders is not as simple and straightforward as it could be, therefore some potential traders are excluded limiting economic growth and employment growth. Guyana's border procedures could be simplified if the above issues were addressed and cross-border goods traffic would therefore take less time and have lower costs associated. These time and cost savings could bring additional goods and traders into the market resulting in economic growth and employment growth.

1.7 - Please explain any linkages between the PPG and other relevant, completed, ongoing and/or planned national programs and/or donor-supported projects. This should also describe any related requests for assistance, that were not already included in the expression of interest process. Upload relevant documents below

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3646063/84380354/591039619/20190926_TFRoadMap_GuyanaClean.pdf

Kindly elaborate on the above

In March 2019, Guyana's National Trade Facilitation Committee received support from UNCTAD under its Empowerment Program. In the process, they drafted Guyana's Trade Facilitation Roadmap 2019-2024.

The roadmap seeks to provide a common vision to make sure that trade facilitation stakeholders (including public and private agencies) are all moving in the same direction. It also provides continuity to public agencies responsible for implementing reforms, shielding the reform programme from changes political leadership and government. Moreover, international donors can use a trade facilitation roadmap as a basis to provide financial and/or technical assistance to the different trade facilitation projects planned. All of the needs expressed in this application are identified within the roadmap and therefore their implementation can be fully aligned with other projects to ensure complementarity and avoid overlap or duplication.

Guyana's National Trade Facilitation Roadmap highlights Guyana Trade Facilitation priorities and provides a framework for continuous TF reforms throughout 2019-2024. The needs identified in this application will primarily contribute to the achievement of the roadmap's single vision i.e to reduce processing time by 50% and related transaction by 30% by the end of 2024. This vision is supported by eight (8) goals and thirty-four (34) activities.

The goals of the roadmap include:

- Goal 1: Improve Guyana's legal framework by aligning with the international best practices for trade facilitation by 2021.
- Goal 2: Fully implement the Single Window system for trade by 2024.
- Goal 3: Reduce the complexity of customs operations for conducting trade in Guyana by 2020.
- Goal 4: Increase and strengthen private sector participation in trade reforms by improving Public Private Partnership (PPP).
- Goal 5: Strengthen the capacity of the National Committee to facilitate implementation of the TFA.
- Goal 6: Strengthen collaboration and cooperation among border agencies in accordance with Article 8 of TFA for the alignment of procedures and formalities by 2022.
- Goal 7: Establish monitoring and evaluation framework for trade facilitation reforms
- Goal 8: Reduce trade processing time by 50% and transaction costs by 30% by 2024 improving the position of its World Bank's trading across border position, which in turn would contribute toward enhancing Guyana's

ease of doing business.

1.8 - Please confirm that cross-cutting issues related to gender and the environment, including climate change are considered in this PPG application and explain how they will be addressed

Gender
The environment
Climate change

How will the above issues be addressed?

National Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy (NGESIP) 2018 - 2023 has as its 4th objective Promotion of Economic Development and Inclusion as a positive route towards supporting increased gender equality, any activities proposed in this Project Preparation Grant should be designed in the context of this action plan and should identify positive contributions to it where possible.

Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan for Guyana identifies diversified trade as a means to mitigate the risks from climate change. As the national development strategy already identifies the needs in this application as a means to a more diversified trading base, these actions can also be seen to complement the efforts foreseen under the Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan. Any activities proposed in this Project Preparation Grant should therefore be designed in the context of this action plan and should identify positive contributions to it where possible.

Transparency requirements will be revised to ensure access to all regardless of gender.

Border procedures will be simplified and made more efficient saving time and fuel costs which will have positive impacts on the environment and on Guyana's contribution to fighting climate change.

Guyana's draft National Trade Strategy identifies one as its core objectives is to "improve import export procedures", the activities identified in the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap and this application are aligned with this objective.

2 - Description

2.1 - Please give a brief description of the activities, in terms of what will be studied or analysed during implementation of the PPG

During the implementation of the PPG, the following activities should be carried out:

- Guyana's TFA implementation needs, as expressed in response to earlier questions, should be further explored to ensure that they are fully identified and explained so that any implementation solutions can be comprehensive.
- On this basis a report should be produced that fully articulates the needs in depth, including technical requirements, capacity required to implement, an estimated budget, a draft timeline for reforms and expected outcomes.
- This report should be presented locally to donor representatives and development partners to understand how they could assist in its implementation
- This report should be presented to Guyana's national trade facilitation committee to ensure that it is fully understood and reflects the local context, drawing on the various documents and reports cited in this application as well as other relevant strategic documents as proposed by Guyana's NTFC.
- For any remaining unmet needs following the discussions with donors and development partners, a fully developed application for a TFAF project implementation grant should be completed.
- The biggest risks to the project are consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to mitigate the immediate health-related consequences, the delivery of this project will have to be undertaken remotely, using technological solutions to allow meetings and interviews to take place. In addition, the contractor must include a section in the project report with a mitigating strategy for this and other risks identified.

3 - Budget

Information relating to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the TFA.

Please upload any files which give some detail on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted trade and the implementation of the TFA in your territory.

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3646063/101247427/591039619/i.Covid19measuresbyGuyana.docx>

Please provide any additional details or explanation on this subject here:

Please see attached document for description of the impact of C19, specifically in the context of customs issues.
