

Country Assessment Report

Country/Region name:

Suriname is situated at the northern coast of South-America, bordered by Guyana, French-Guyana and Brazil. It has a population of about 600 thousand and a GDP worth of US\$ 2.9 Billion growing at a rate of -2.7 % (reported in 2021).

Generation and demand:

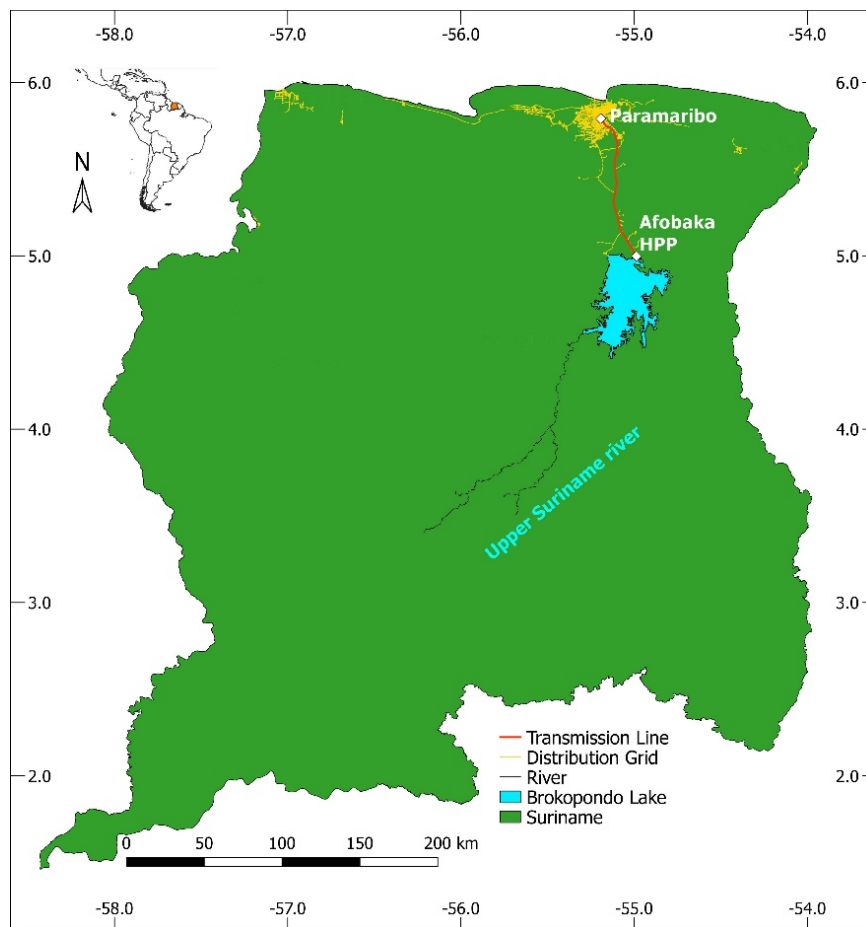
Installed generation capacity:

Hydro: 189 MW (Afobaka hydropower plant), Thermal: about 300 MW, Solar: about 8 MW.

The national power supply constitutes mainly of hydro (about 45%) and thermal power generation (about 54%), and solar (about 1%), serving a peak-load of about 250 MW, supplying about 1750 GWh of energy demand annually.

Electrical Interconnection and import/export:

The following figure highlights the major elements the power system of Suriname.



RE Market Potential:

In terms of NDCs, Suriname aims to keep RE potential at 35% or greater towards 2030. Currently the electricity law is the only (high-level) legislative framework which could sustain RE policy. However, adequate policy has yet to be developed to facilitate further RE development (especially intermittent

RE, such as solar and wind). Apart from utility scale solar projects (a major hurdle is land use), recent wind assessments and studies have shown that Suriname has potential for at least 20% up to 30% wind contribution in the energy matrix, thus potentially replacing thermal generation to equal extent.

Electricity market structure:

The government of Suriname, through the Ministry of Natural Resources (NH), plays a very prominent role in the power sector, in the policy, planning and regulatory areas. The National Power Utility, N.V. Energiebedrijven Suriname (EBS) is a public entity, and is the sole concession holder for power distribution and retail, and operates all transmission and distribution grids. Power generation capacity expansion is being regulated by the Energy Authority of Suriname (EAS), through the electricity law (issued by the government in 2016), and allows only public entities, i.e., the EBS and the State Oil Company of Suriname (the latter operates the Afobaka hydropower plant), to invest in major capacity expansion (hydro and thermal power). Intermittent RE investments by independent power producers (IPPs), considering utility scale, requires policy (yet to be developed) regarding planning and investments, and grid-connection (e.g. a distribution code). Distributed generation (e.g. residential PV systems) is allowed at the end-user level, considering a net-billing approach.

Existing/Planned energy legislation: (is there a CPO)

- The electricity law (issued by the government in 2016).
- Distributed Code for connection of Distributed Generation.

Existing/Planned energy certificate systems: (purpose, extent)

Currently there is no certificate system in Suriname. The I-REC standard will be adopted without regulatory restrictions. The Suriname Energy Chamber (SEC) is the proposed entity to act as the I-RECs local issuer. The SEC currently established a basis, in collaboration with the EBS (public-private initiative), to promote Energy Management at the end-user level, especially considering the commercial and Industrial end-users (key-accounts), through the implementation of Energy Management Systems (e.g. following the ISO 50001 principles), thus including monitoring systems for power balance assessments. This would serve as a vehicle for eligibility for “green funding” for RE investments, and green certification. Thus, information to verify registration, installed RE capacity and generated RE volumes of RE installations will be made publicly available on annual basis through energy balance assessments (energy monitoring and management).

Extent of engagement with government:

The idea of implementing the I-REC Standard is already discussed and supported by the EAS.

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