

Landscape of Opportunities

# SURINAME

**BID**economics



**IDB Group**

## Acknowledgements

This BIDeconomics presents a landscape of opportunities, offering specific recommendations bolstered by international best practices and the IDB Group's experience. Our efforts are dedicated to promoting inclusive and sustainable development in Suriname. We extend our gratitude to everyone who made this possible, with special thanks to:

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# Landscape of Opportunities **SURINAME**

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## Introduction Breakthrough Opportunity

Suriname is at a crossroads. Recent offshore oil and gas discoveries, and the prospect of large revenues from 2028 onward, signal a new era for the country’s development outlook, with significant potential to support growth and improve quality of life in one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the region. Its small population (over 635,000 people), vast forest cover (93% of the land area), and carbon-negative status shape a unique socioeconomic context and set of challenges.

This moment represents a critical juncture that calls for responsible, strategic management and a holistic, forward-looking approach to avoid repeating past pitfalls. Suriname’s historical heavy reliance on natural resource extraction has increased the country’s exposure to global commodity price fluctuations and external disturbances. In fact, the economy has been recovering from various shocks, with average annual GDP growth of around 3% projected for 2024–2025.

At the same time, persistent patterns of non-inclusive development and geographic, ethnic, and gender disparities have entrenched cycles of deprivation and exclusion. Some of the solutions require a regional approach, as outlined in the [ONE Caribbean](#) and [Amazonia Forever](#) initiatives. Currently, 17.5% of Surinamese people live in poverty, while multidimensional poverty affects 46% of the population, with Maroon and Indigenous communities experiencing the highest levels of deprivation.

With sound governance and a long-term vision, oil and gas resources can support sustainable and inclusive growth over time. Recent reforms have begun to lay the foundation for progress in that direction. Suriname has implemented a broad set of macroeconomic and institutional measures.

These efforts have included a comprehensive IMF-supported adjustment program, fiscal reforms that reduced the deficit from 12% of GDP in 2020 to 2.4% in 2024, and amendments to fiscal rules and the Savings and Stabilization Fund (SSF), the latter two undertaken in coordination with the IDB, to reduce macroeconomic volatility. In addition, a restructuring process significantly reduced the debt-to-GDP ratio from 146% in 2020 to 87% in 2024, and it is projected to decline to 34% by 2030. International reserves increased by 300% in just four years.

Evidence suggests that Suriname’s core challenge is not a lack of resources or potential, but rather insufficient institutional grounding to ensure that growth is resilient, diversified, and broadly shared. IDB Group analysis identified the major binding constraints that, if resolved, could yield the greatest positive impact on development outcomes. Addressing these challenges as early as possible is crucial, particularly considering the narrow window of opportunity created by prospective oil revenues.

Strategic actions are organized around the following three dimensions:

- **Institutional capacity** aimed at strengthening governance, regulatory frameworks, the business environment, and the justice system. Key priorities include maintaining fiscal discipline and reducing vulnerability associated with dependence on extractive sectors, while using export proceeds to boost promising industries such as agribusiness and tourism.
- **Social reforms** focused on improving basic health services and education quality, as well as addressing acute misalignments between workforce skills and the needs of productive industries. Through more effective social

protection and early childhood development, this dimension seeks to tackle socioeconomic disparities and gender-based violence that lead to exclusion from basic services and opportunities, thus perpetuating poverty and inequality.

- **Sustainable infrastructure**, which emphasizes the closure of gaps in service delivery in key areas such as transport, energy, water and sanitation, and digital connectivity. It highlights the need to advance spatial planning and environmental stewardship to curb unplanned urban expansion, reduce exposure to climate risks, and protect natural capital.

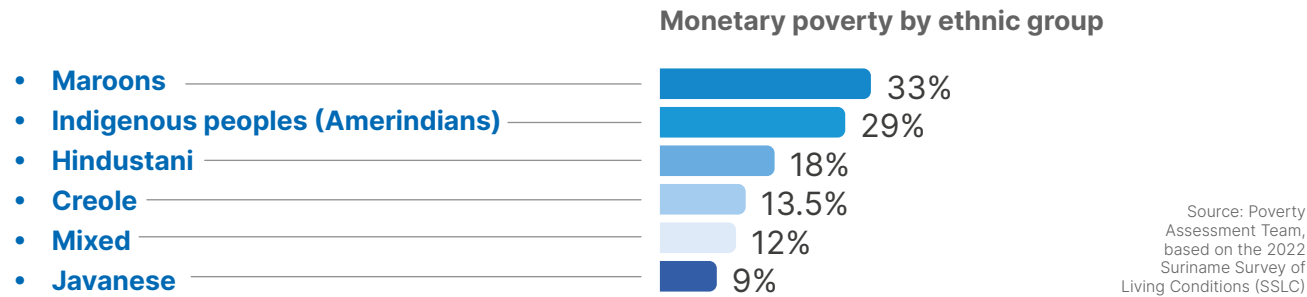
Together, these three areas respond to Suriname's most pressing challenges. By acting decisively and collectively, the country can leverage its natural resource endowment to build institutional capacity, invest in people, and foster a more diversified, inclusive, and resilient economy that delivers sustained prosperity beyond the extractive cycle.



# Suriname Overview

One of the most **ethnically diverse** countries in the world relative to its size, yet characterized by significant inequality

- The **population is a rich mosaic of diverse communities**, including:
- However, **some communities are disproportionately affected** by limited access to opportunities



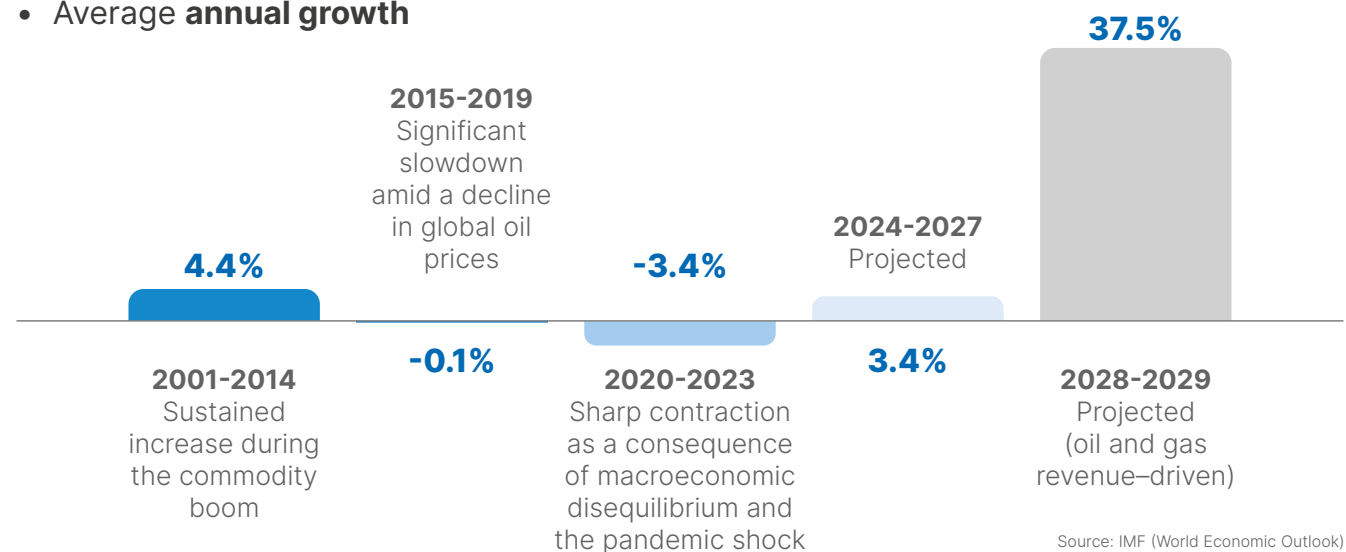
**Multidimensional poverty** affects nearly half of the Surinamese population **46%**



Source: Beuermann et al., 2024

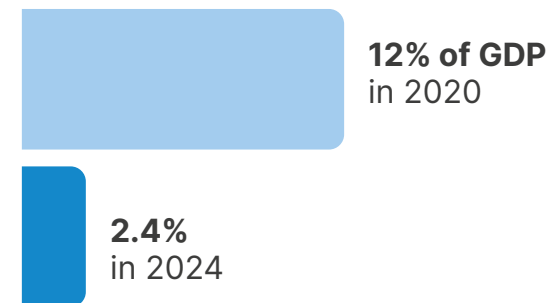
High dependence on natural resources has contributed to **economic volatility**

- Average **annual growth**

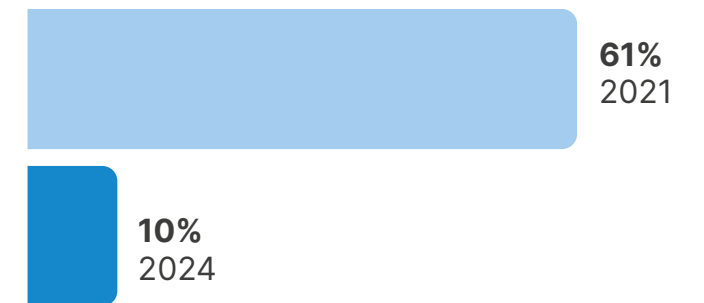


Thanks to ongoing reforms, the economy has stabilized in recent years

- **Fiscal reforms** helped reduce the fiscal deficit



- **Inflation fell markedly** thanks to monetary and exchange rate policies

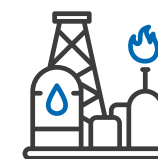


- **The reformed Savings and Stabilization Fund (SSF)** mitigates economic volatility, allowing the management of commodity revenues in a countercyclical manner:

→ **Saving** when prices and inflows are high

→ **Drawing down resources** during economic slowdowns

## At a crossroads



- Recent offshore **oil and gas discoveries** are expected to generate **substantial revenues** starting in 2028

Valued at **4 to 5 times** current estimated GDP

Source: IMF (World Economic Outlook)

# 3 Priority Areas for Policy Action



## 1. Institutional Capacity

- › Public Sector Performance
- › Productive Transformation



Photo: Clock Tower, Ministry of Finance, Paramaribo / Rafael Jantz



## 2. Social Reforms

- › Education and Health
- › Inclusion of Vulnerable Populations



Photo: Rafael Jantz



## 3. Sustainable Infrastructure

- › Essential Public Services
- › Territorial and Environmental Management



Photo: Atjoni Solar Plant / Harvey Lisse



## 1. Institutional Capacity

**Sustained progress requires fiscal discipline, sound public finances, and policy instruments to allocate resources effectively, reduce vulnerabilities, and support long-term growth.** Reliance on natural resource export revenues increases exposure to shocks, so strengthening governmental capacity and fiscal frameworks is critical for coping with those risks, improving economic outcomes and unlocking new opportunities. The following two areas represent the main priorities for reform within the institutional capacity dimension:

- › **Public Sector Performance**
- › **Productive Transformation**



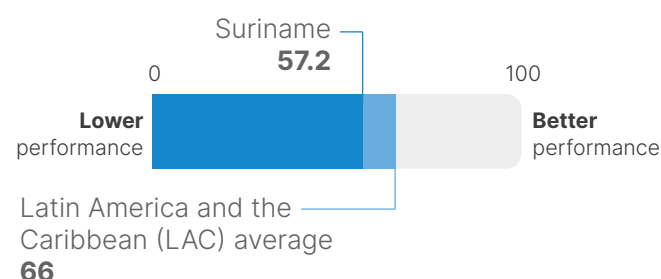


## Public Sector Performance

**Governance** gaps and limited public capacity constrain development.

**Shortages of reliable data** hinder evidence-based policymaking

Statistical Performance Indicator (SPI)\*



\*Assesses countries' statistical capacity  
Source: World Bank, 2023

**Government digitization** remains insufficient

E-Government Development Index\*\*

**106th**  
out of 193 countries

\*\*Measures the extent to which governments use digital technologies to deliver public services and engage with citizens  
Source: World Bank, 2023

**Business** bottlenecks persist as a drag on progress.

**Entrepreneurs face daunting regulatory barriers**



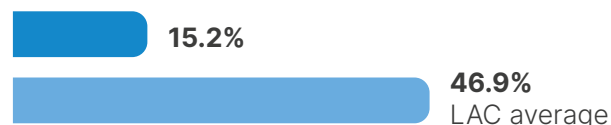
**Up to 66 days**  
to start a business

**Up to 3 months**  
to secure licenses

Source: B-Ready Index, 2024

**Access to finance lags well below regional benchmarks**

Domestic credit (share of GDP, 2024)



**Less than half of Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) can obtain credit**

**Fewer than 20% of small-scale farmers can secure formal loans**

Source: World Bank, 2020; IDB, 2025

Deficiencies in the **rule of law** enable organized crime and environmental degradation:

**Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI), 2024**

Government Effectiveness: **42.51/100** | Control of Corruption: **39th percentile out of 192 countries**  
Source: World Bank

- **Fragmentation** among enforcement agencies
- **Police and courts** are underfunded and still paper-based
- **Indigenous and Maroon communities** face higher risks of displacement
- **Illicit activities** in rural regions undermine biodiversity

**Over 21,000 hectares**

of primary forest were lost to illegal mining in 2023



## Recommendations

### Financial Management

- **Integrate strategic planning, budgeting, and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems across ministries** to improve state effectiveness by aligning resources with strategic goals.
  - » **Advancing data-driven decision-making** helps optimize resource allocation.
  - » **Project management capacity** can be built through targeted technical training supported by international technical assistance.

### Private Sector Ecosystem

- **Create a one-stop shop to enhance business registration, reduce procedural barriers, and update obsolete laws** to lower operating costs and simplify compliance for firms.
- **Modernize financial regulations, expand digital transactions, and launch innovative funding tools** (including grants, angel investments, and credit guarantees) to increase MSME access to finance and build broader economic inclusion.
- **Provide business development services** to promote MSME competitiveness, bolster diversification, improve technology adoption, and introduce new products and services.
- **Bolster the Suriname Investment and Trade Agency (SITA)**, the national investment and export promotion agency, to facilitate export growth and attract foreign direct investment.

### Security and Justice System

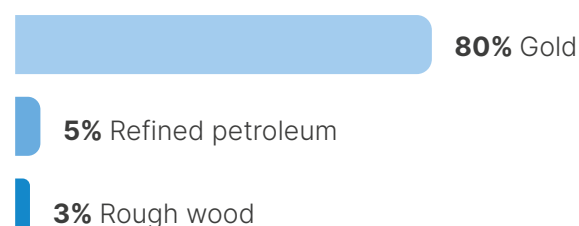
- **Invest in law enforcement and the judicial system**, particularly in the underserved interior of the country, to strengthen domestic crime prevention. This includes stronger inter-agency coordination, upgraded policing technologies (e.g., satellite monitoring and drones), enhanced investigative capacity, and integrated crime data systems.
- **Implement local economic development programs in border communities** to reduce criminal influence.
- **Strengthen regional cooperation** to counter transnational criminal networks linked to drug trafficking and environmental crimes, such as illegal gold mining, logging, illegal fishing, and wildlife poaching.
- **Strengthen anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism laws, along with more suspicious transaction reporting, to boost government resources.** This also requires strict compliance from high-risk businesses such as real estate and casinos.
- **Improve oversight of high-risk sectors (such as gold mining, logging, and cross-border trade)** through robust monitoring and the use of digital technologies.



## Productive Transformation

**Economic diversification** is limited and growth remains concentrated in **extractive industries**, making the country highly vulnerable to commodity price fluctuations.

### Export concentration (2023)

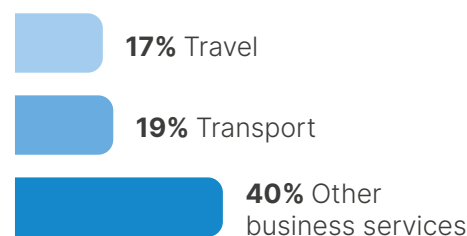


**78%** of total exports went to **Switzerland** and the **United Arab Emirates**

Source: Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC)

### Tourism plays a secondary role

#### Composition of service exports (2024)



Source: Central Bank of Suriname

**Heavy reliance on fossil fuels and energy subsidies:**



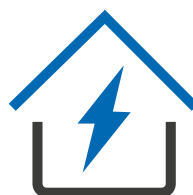
**50.4%** of electricity generation comes from thermal sources  
2.3% of GDP spent on fuel subsidies

Source: OLADE, 2024; IMF, 2026

**10%** electric grid losses and frequent outages affect productivity

Source: Suriname Energy Report, 2023

Around **20,000** rural households still lack reliable electricity, often relying on costly diesel generators



**Public enterprises and the tax administration** require reforms.



State-owned enterprises (SOEs) have an oversized economic footprint in the economy, yet many are **financially inefficient**

- Employ 30% of public sector workers
- Generate nearly 20% of GDP

## Recommendations

### Resource Revenues for Economic Diversification

- **Effectively implementing the Sovereign Saving Fund (SSF)** would allow countercyclical investment of oil revenues to mitigate volatility.
  - » **The SSF could invest in foreign currency instruments** outside Suriname.
- **Facilitate private participation in renewable energy** to support economic diversification and reduce exposure to fossil fuel price fluctuations.
  - » **Leveraging the Electricity Act (2016)** will enable consumers to install solar panels for self-sufficiency in consumption.
  - » **Expanding hydropower, wind, and solar capacity** can enhance energy access in remote areas, while upgrading the transmission network would increase system reliability.
  - » **Revamping the electricity tariff structure** could encourage energy efficiency, infrastructure upgrades, and investment in distributed generation.

### Boost Export Revenues

- **Advance a collective land rights law that addresses tenure insecurity**, strengthens the agribusiness sector, and unlocks agricultural export potential.
- **Foster the adoption of innovative technologies**, particularly in crop production, fisheries, and forestry, to raise productivity.
- **Accelerate digital solutions such as the Electronic Single Window (ESW)** and expand the Authorized Economic Operator program to streamline customs procedures and facilitate trade.
- **Enact robust PPP legislation and establish a dedicated implementing agency** to help close the infrastructure gap.
- **Showcase the country's biodiversity and unique heritage**, and improve sector data, to attract investment and better guide tourism development.
  - » **Establish a clear vision for the Paramaribo World Heritage Site (PWHS)** and restore and revitalize historic landmarks.
  - » **Build infrastructure for new eco-tourism and cultural experiences**, harnessing a major opportunity to unlock the sector's potential in the Amazon region.

### Economic Governance

- **Reform State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs)** to enhance transparency as the oil and gas sector grows.
- **Modernize tax administration through value-added taxes**, updated payment systems, and stronger audit processes to address inefficiencies.



## 2. Social Reforms

Gaps in education, health, and social protection constrain people's well-being, the development of a skilled and capable workforce, and perpetuate generational inequalities, particularly among underserved communities. In addition, current targeting in social safety net programs hinders upward mobility and social cohesion. These challenges require a comprehensive approach built around:

- › **Education and Health**
- › **Inclusion of Vulnerable Populations**





## Education and Health

The **education** system faces coverage and quality issues, while also falling short in preparing students for labor market demands.

### Access to education services is markedly unequal

**62 out of 100 children** from the poorest households finish primary school



**98 out of 100** do so in the richest group



Source: UNICEF, 2019



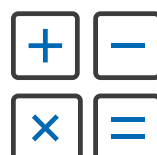
## Only 40%

of students graduate at the secondary level

70% LAC average

Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Section of Research and Planning, 2020

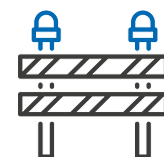
Among those who do finish, **only 51%** achieve **proficiency in math**



Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Section of Research and Planning, 2020

### In interior regions, significant inclusion barriers persist

- Over 91% of students speak a language other than Dutch at home
- 4.1 years of schooling (average) 8.4 nationally



Source: UNICEF, 2019

**Less than 9%** of students enroll at the tertiary level  
45% LAC

Source: World Bank, 2021

**75%** of employers struggle to find workers with the right skills

Source: ILO - EESE, 2020

**Health** sector reforms are needed to address inequities in access and quality, driven by fragmented data and alarming shortages of health professionals.

**1.7 physicians and 3.2 nurses per 1,000 people**, well below WHO recommendations



**40% of facilities** lack reliable power

Source: Ministry of Health, 2024

**Barely 12% of facilities** are accessible to people with disabilities

Source: IDB/UNFPA, 2023

**79%** of deaths are due to non-communicable diseases

Source: WHO, 2025

**62%** of households have a chronically ill member

Source: SSLC, 2022

## Recommendations

### Quality, Inclusive Education and Skills for Innovation

- **Invest in teacher training, curriculum updates, and the use of digital infrastructure** to improve learning achievements.
  - » **Expanding intercultural bilingual education** requires teachers with competencies in second-language instruction. It also depends on providing learning materials adapted to students' native languages to serve remote areas where Indigenous and Maroon populations are concentrated.
- **Deploy Education Management and Information Systems (EMIS)** to streamline data management and help reduce inequalities.
- **Retain at-risk students through economic incentives (such as scholarships and cash transfers)**, family support, and information on graduation benefits to address gender gaps.
  - » **Effective strategies include early-warning systems to identify dropout risk** and engaging, career-relevant curricula.
- **Update workforce readiness training and improve labor supply-demand matching systems** that are critical for aligning labor market needs with advanced technical skills, especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.
  - » **It is necessary to leverage collaboration with employers**, invest in modern labor market information systems, and expand public employment services using digital tools.
  - » **Partnerships with universities and the creation of innovation centers** can build critical skills, while initiatives like technology vouchers and incubators can boost product development and raise global competitiveness.

### Health Equity and Access to Primary Health Care

- **Implement robust data systems for tracking noncommunicable diseases** to enable evidence-driven policymaking and more effective allocation of resources.
- **Increase public investment in health and multisectoral coordination** to ensure sustainability and equity in service delivery, particularly in underserved regions.
- **Link conditional cash transfers to participation in nutrition services** and strengthen digital health records for targeted interventions.
  - » **Address the high rates of malnutrition and anemia among vulnerable groups**, particularly Indigenous and Maroon children, by adopting a community-based approach focused on early detection, prevention, and maternal education.
  - » **Key interventions include monthly growth monitoring**, the distribution of micronutrient supplements and fortified foods, and culturally tailored maternal nutrition education disseminated through local media.



## Inclusion of Vulnerable Populations

Multidimensional poverty remains high.

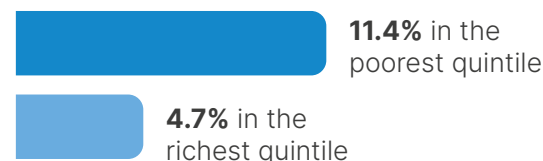
# 46%

of the population faces social hardships along many dimensions, particularly in health, education, and living conditions

Source: Beuermann et al., 2024



Stunting in children under five is significantly higher among the most vulnerable groups



Source: UNICEF MICS, 2019

The current social safety net system lacks effective targeting mechanisms

57% of people in the lowest income group receive transfers

45% of the wealthiest households receive assistance intended for low-income populations

Source: Beuermann et al., 2024

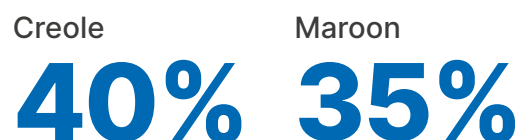
Suriname exhibits one of the highest levels of gender-based violence in the Caribbean.

# Over 32%

of ever-partnered women have experienced physical or sexual violence

26% is the global average

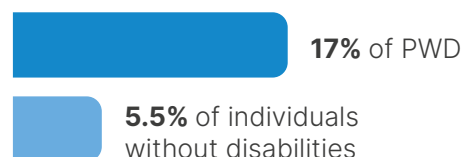
Afro-descendant women are the most affected



Source: IDB, 2019

People with disabilities (PWD) face exclusion driven by systemic and institutional barriers.

Share of population without formal education



Source: ILO, 2020

# 58%

unemployment rate among PWD

Source: IDB (SCL/GDI), 2025

Up to 50% higher living costs are associated with severe disability

Source: Mitra et al., 2017



## Recommendations

### Break the Cycle of Poverty

- **Close education and health gaps** as a critical first step in addressing the main drivers of multidimensional poverty identified by SSLC (2022).
  - » **A Family Support Program** could condition benefits on children's education and health outcomes, with social workers coordinating individualized case management.
- **Improve eligibility reviews and targeted cash transfer programs** to design more effective and equitable policies for poor families with children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, especially in rural and marginalized communities.
  - » **An enrollment strategy** must prioritize vulnerable households in rural and interior regions.
- **Implement a centralized, accessible data platform** to enhance transparency. A Proxy Means Test (PMT) and an institutionalized recertification protocol could ensure periodic eligibility updates.

### Gender- and Culture-Sensitive Violence Prevention and Response

- **Reduce violence against women and Indigenous peoples** through legal reforms and awareness campaigns. Also, deploy a decentralized model with mobile justice and health units in remote areas to ensure integrated access to legal, psychosocial, and economic assistance.
  - » **Promote the active participation of women and Indigenous peoples, including youth, in policymaking** to drive more effective and inclusive solutions.
  - » **Develop culturally tailored strategies, aligned with one-stop service centers for women**, to better address the needs of diverse communities and help overcome geographic and social barriers.
  - » **Train local service providers and establish specialized sexual and gender-based violence units**, which can enhance support for survivors.

### Meaningful Socioeconomic Integration of People With Disabilities (PWD)

- **Strengthen disability identification and certification systems** (drawing on best practices in the region) to improve access and coordination of essential services, such as social protection, healthcare, and employment assistance.
- **Mainstream disability** through three complementary channels:
  - » **Inclusive education** supported by teacher training and adapted learning materials.
  - » **Labor market integration** via skills development, employer incentives, and workplace accessibility.
  - » **Accessible infrastructure** to enforce universal design standards across physical and digital environments, while including the private sector.



### 3. Sustainable Infrastructure

**Uneven access to basic and critical infrastructure such as transport, water, sanitation, and digital connectivity undermines living standards and hampers economic integration.** Weak land use management and fragmented development patterns further amplify exposure to climate hazards, environmental degradation, and service disruptions. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated action focused on:

- › **Essential Public Services**
- › **Territorial and Environmental Management**



Photo: Amazon rainforest / Rafael Jantz



## Essential Public Services

Land, air, and sea **transport** face challenges

The country has the **lowest road density in the Caribbean**



**Only 0.03 km** of road per square kilometer  
**50.1% of roads** remain unpaved

Source: IDB, 2023



**153rd out of 219** in the Air Connectivity Index\* (2019)

\*Measures the degree to which air transport connections support a country's economic development



**Paramaribo ranks 231st out of 405 ports** in the Container Port Performance Index\*\* (2023)

\*\*Measures the operational efficiency of container ports worldwide, based on vessel time spent in port

**Water management and sanitation** services are inadequate.

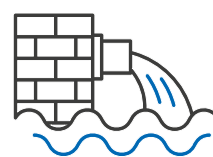
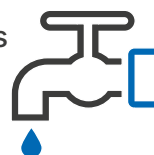
**Only 56%** of the population use safely managed water services nationwide (2022)

- 63% in urban areas
- 41% in rural areas

Source: WHO/UNICEF, 2022

**Pesticide contamination is increasingly problematic**

Agricultural runoff drains into rivers and drainage systems, threatening drinking water and ecosystems, particularly in Paramaribo



**Most wastewater is untreated before being discharged, negatively impacting public health**

**3 out of 10 households**

had moderate to high E. coli levels in their main water source in 2018 (an indicator of fecal contamination linked to diarrheal disease and other waterborne illnesses)

Source: Republic of Suriname NDC3.0, 2023

**Digital infrastructure** needs to be expanded.

**Only 20%** fixed broadband penetration

Source: Zaballos et al., 2024

**86% of the telecommunications market** is run by a single company, limiting competition and innovation

Source: Internet Health Report, 2025

**Just 11.28 Mbps** (megabits per second) is the average broadband speed

↓ Downloading a 1 GB (gigabyte) file takes nearly 12 minutes

**120.72 Mbps is the OECD average**

↓ Downloading a 1 GB file takes about 1 minute

Source: Zaballos et al., 2024

## Recommendations

### Transport Sector Modernization

- **Upgrade roads, ports, and airstrips** to reduce the cost of doing business, boost efficiency, and connect remote communities to services and markets. It is key to link productive regions with Paramaribo, logistics hubs, and export processing centers.
- **Establish a centralized public transport authority** to facilitate clear operational standards (such as improved routes and schedules, rehabilitated bus stops and terminals, and new digital ticketing systems), thereby enhancing accessibility and affordability.
- **Grant operational autonomy and financial independence to the Civil Aviation Department (CADSUR)** to improve connectivity, trade, and tourism. Enabling the direct reinvestment of aviation-generated revenues will improve Suriname's strategic position.
  - » **Revamping civil aviation safety standards and the regulatory framework** to accelerate removal from the EU Air Safety List.

### Water and Sanitation Resilience

- **Formulate a sector financing strategy** that includes public funds, tariff rates that ensure cost recovery, and international aid to ensure sustainable infrastructure development.
- **Modernize water treatment facilities** by upgrading infrastructure with climate-resilient technologies.
- **Promote regular septic tank maintenance** through the installation of real-time water quality sensors and the fostering of community-managed systems to improve wastewater management and treatment.
- **Phase out harmful chemicals and enforce tighter regulations** to reduce pesticide contamination.
  - » **Investing in green infrastructure to filter stormwater runoff** can mitigate toxic risks for vulnerable communities living near small-scale farms.
  - » **Upgrading drainage with climate-resilient materials** and using nature-based solutions can help prevent flooding.

### Telecommunications and Digital Connectivity

- **Develop a digital infrastructure investment roadmap focused on broadband expansion in remote areas** and modernize government IT systems to attract private sector participation and increase digital services and connectivity.
  - » **Targeted digital skills training, including for vulnerable and rural communities**, will be fundamental to ensure that all citizens can benefit from an inclusive and connected digital future.



## Territorial and Environmental Management

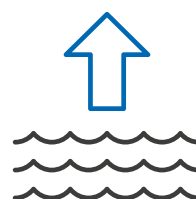
Extreme **weather** events undermine social development.

**The country ranks among the 10 most vulnerable to sea-level rise**

With just a one-meter increase, Suriname could lose:

**6.4%** of GDP

**7%** of the population



Source: MOP, 2022–2026

Unplanned **urban expansion** has led to significant air pollution.

**56%** population growth over 24 years

1990 **405,930** inhabitants

2024 **634,431**

Source: General Bureau of Statistics; World Bank

**Vehicle emissions are high**, given the advanced age of the fleet and inadequate maintenance

Source: World Bank, 2024

- Over 60% of Paramaribo’s residents rely on private cars, reflecting limited public transport coverage and a lack of walkable spaces

Source: IDB, 2019

**Natural capital** is being destroyed.

**Artisanal and small-scale gold mining** has damaging effects on the environment:

**50 tons** of mercury are released annually by mining, exceeding global safety thresholds

Source: Environmental Justice Atlas, 2023

**Mining caused over 15,000 hectares of forest loss** in 2024 and is the primary driver of deforestation

Source: Finer, 2025

**2.7% of GDP** comes from fisheries, yet the sector faces critical overexploitation

- Key fish stocks like corvina and acoupa weakfish are being depleted

Source: Phang et al., 2023; CeDePesca, 2024

- High levels of bycatch in trawl fisheries threaten marine biodiversity

Source: FAO, 2021; WWF Guianas, n.d.

Suriname is among the top three source countries in Latin America **for illicit wildlife shipments destined for Europe (IFAW, 2025)**

- At least 50 jaguar poaching incidents were recorded between 2017 and 2019

Source: IUCN, 2018

- Just 40 inspectors staff the Forest Service nationwide, limiting enforcement capacity

Source: IUCN NL, 2018

## Recommendations

### Climate Governance

- **Establish a national climate coordination body** to consolidate fragmented efforts, boost cooperation across sectors, and help secure investments and international funding.
  - » **Adopt a comprehensive national disaster risk management policy.** Its strategies and plans can be developed jointly with vulnerable communities.

### Breathable Urban Environments

- **Prioritize pollution mitigation and walkability** by installing fixed air quality monitoring stations and discouraging the use of high-emission vehicles. Developing walkways and public green spaces is critical to promote healthier urban living.
- **Implement advanced traffic management** (including adaptive traffic signals, real-time monitoring, and dynamic parking policies) to ease congestion in Paramaribo.

### Biodiversity Protection

- **Fully implement Suriname’s 2023 ASGM (Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining) National Action Plan** by providing affordable credit for mercury-free mining equipment, including through a dedicated financing facility managed by the IDB.
  - » **Fiscal incentives** must align with sustainable practices.
  - » **Establishing a simple legal and registration framework for small-scale miners** will encourage formalization.
- **Consolidate the execution of the Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) 2021–2025 and promote by-catch reduction** (i.e., lowering the incidental capture of non-target species) to address the unsustainable exploitation of marine ecosystems.
  - » **Targeted financial and technical assistance** should be provided to the Fisheries Directorate, prioritizing surveillance capabilities.
- **Build human capacity to improve forest monitoring** within the Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control and the National Institute for Environment and Development.
- **Provide technical assistance and funding to train customs officials, wildlife inspectors, police, and prosecutors** to strengthen law enforcement and the judicial process.
  - » **Partnerships with specialized bodies** like the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) can contribute to building expertise.



**Abstract:** Suriname's economy is recovering from recent shocks but continues to face persistent, overlapping geographic, ethnic, and gender disparities that have entrenched exclusion and deprivation. At the same time, the expected start of oil and gas revenues in 2028 marks a potential turning point for the country's socioeconomic trajectory. If managed responsibly, these resources could support sustainable and inclusive long-term growth. As highlighted in this publication, sustained efforts to enhance institutional capacity, social reforms, and sustainable infrastructure are essential, together shaping a powerful foundation for inclusive growth and long-term development.

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**Key words:** oil and gas boom, natural resources, institutional capacity, social progress, sustainable infrastructure, poverty, inequality, fiscal discipline, governance, digitalization, private sector, security, justice system, diversification, education, health, inclusion, vulnerable population, gender, gender-based violence, people with disabilities, skills, labor market, innovation, water, sanitation, digital connectivity, telecommunications, transport, public services, natural capital, gold mining, climate hazards, environmental degradation, territorial and environmental management, climate governance, biodiversity, urban environments.

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