The Minister of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management, Simon Martosatiman, the Minister of ATM and Minister (ad interim) of Foreign Affairs, Ginmardo Kromosoeto, and UNDP Country Director, Thomas Gittens, signed an agreement to help protect and preserve the Surinamese coastal area.

The project responds to the need identified by the Ministry of RGB that to maintain the natural and productive systems of the coastal area, Suriname needs to enhance its management for the most harmonious use of the land on a long term basis. Rice cultivation, tourism, infrastructure, oil extraction, will need to be managed from a sustainable perspective to guarantee the development and maintain the benefits of this area.

‘This project we are signing today is yet another initiative to investigate and demonstrate how managing multiple use areas can be both financially sustainable and also contribute to harmonious utilization of the ecological and other resources in these areas notwithstanding possible conflicting uses and claimants on these resources”, highlighted Gittens during the signing ceremony of the agreement.

The Medium-Size Suriname Coastal Protected Area Management project will be developed through a partnership between the Government of Suriname and the UNDP with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The GEF is supporting this project with 965,556 USD. Other organizations for e.g. WWF-Guyana’s, the State Oil Company and the Capacity Fund for Forest and Nature are also partnering and supporting this project through the alignment of their program activities and provision of technical information and other support.