

Suriname

Western Hemisphere / **South America**

CAPITAL Paramaribo	TERRITORY 156,000 km ²	POPULATION (2020) 586,634.00	GDP TOTAL (2020) \$3.808B USD	GDP PER CAPITA (2020) \$6,491.13 USD	INCOME GROUP Upper middle income
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Convention Implementation

31.7

Core-deficient

30th of 31 western hemisphere
12th of 12 South American countries

Prevention

22.2

Core-deficient

Criminalization and law enforcement

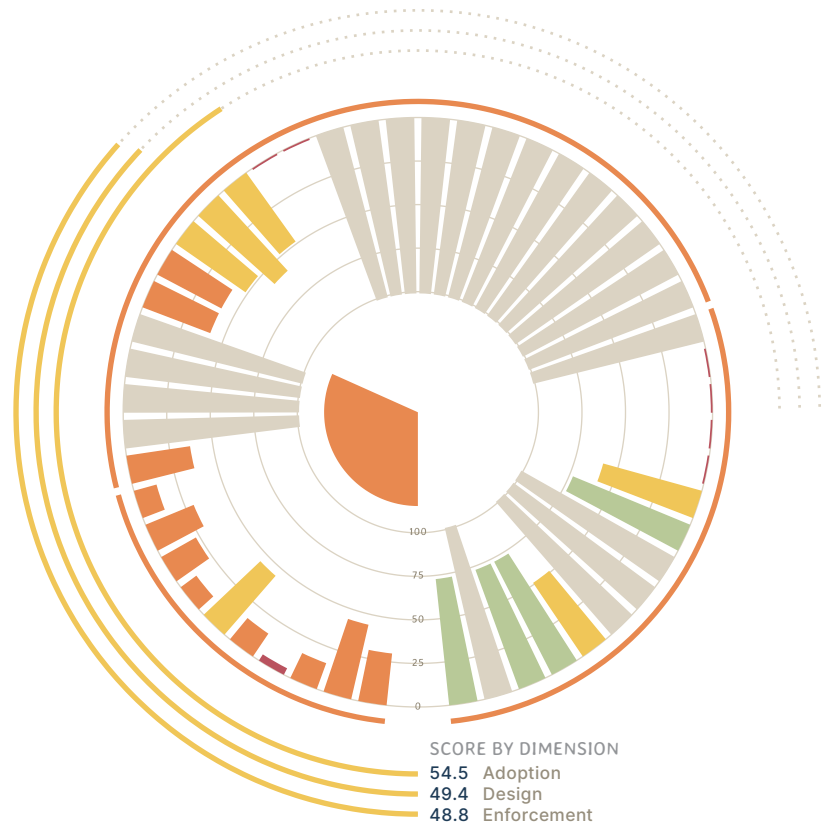
33.8

Core-deficient

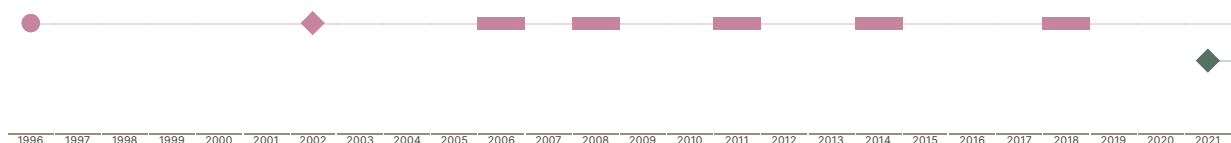
International cooperation

39.5

Core-deficient



Anti-corruption conventions timeline



CONVENTIONS

- IACAC - Inter-American Convention Against Corruption
- UNCAC - United Nations Convention against Corruption
- OECD Anti-Bribery Convention

KEY EVENTS

- Signed
- Ratified/acceded
- Review rounds

Prevention

Core-deficient

22.2

✓ Adoption 52.5 ✎ Design 36.7 ⌛ Enforcement 38.3

Standards of Conduct Core-deficient 28.9 ✓ 50.0 ✎ 50.0 ⌛ 50.0	Enforcement of Standards of Conduct Core-deficient 43.0 ✓ 50.0 ✎ 83.3 ⌛ 50.0	Training of Public Officials Core-deficient 14.8 ✓ 50.0 ✎ 16.7 ⌛ 50.0	Asset and Conflicts of Interests Declarations No implementation 3.1 ✓ 25.0 ✎ 0.0 ⌛ 0.0	Transparency in Government Contracting Core-deficient 14.8 ✓ 50.0 ✎ 16.7 ⌛ 50.0
Elimination of Favorable Tax Treatment Core-deficient 43.8 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 66.7 ⌛ 50.0	Oversight Bodies Core-deficient 10.2 ✓ 50.0 ✎ 16.7 ⌛ 16.7	Measures to Deter Domestic and Foreign Bribery Core-deficient 21.9 ✓ 50.0 ✎ 33.3 ⌛ 50.0	Encouraging Participation by Civil Society Core-deficient 28.9 ✓ 50.0 ✎ 50.0 ⌛ 50.0	Study of Other Preventive Measures Core-deficient 12.5 ✓ 50.0 ✎ 33.3 ⌛ 16.7

Criminalization and law enforcement

Core-deficient

33.8

✓ Adoption 56.3 ✎ Design 58.3 ⌛ Enforcement 45.8

Protection of Those who Report Acts of Corruption Core-deficient 35.9 ✓ 50.0 ✎ 66.7 ⌛ 50.0	Scope Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A	Jurisdiction: Offense-in-Territory Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A	Jurisdiction: Offense-by-National Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A	Jurisdiction: Offender-in-Territory Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A
Passive Public Bribery Core-deficient 40.6 ✓ 75.0 ✎ 66.7 ⌛ 50.0	Active Public Bribery Core-deficient 40.6 ✓ 75.0 ✎ 66.7 ⌛ 50.0	Abuse of Functions In progress 47.7 ✓ 75.0 ✎ 83.3 ⌛ 50.0	Money Laundering In progress 57.8 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⌛ 50.0	Participation and Attempt In progress 47.7 ✓ 75.0 ✎ 83.3 ⌛ 50.0
Active Foreign Bribery No implementation 0.0 ✓ 0.0 ✎ 0.0 ⌛ 16.7	Illicit Enrichment No implementation 0.0 ✓ 0.0 ✎ 0.0 ⌛ 50.0	Use of State Property Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A	Illicit Acquisition of a Benefit Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A	Public Embezzlement Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A
Passive Foreign Bribery Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A	Private Bribery Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A	Private Embezzlement Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A	Obstruction of Justice Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A	Liability of Legal Persons Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A
Statute of Limitations Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A	Prosecution, Adjudication and Sanctions Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A	Consequences and Compensation Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A	Cooperation With Law Enforcement Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A	Asset Recovery Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⌛ N/A

International cooperation

Core-deficient

39.5

✓ Adoption 55.0 ✎ Design 55.0 ⚙ Enforcement 61.7

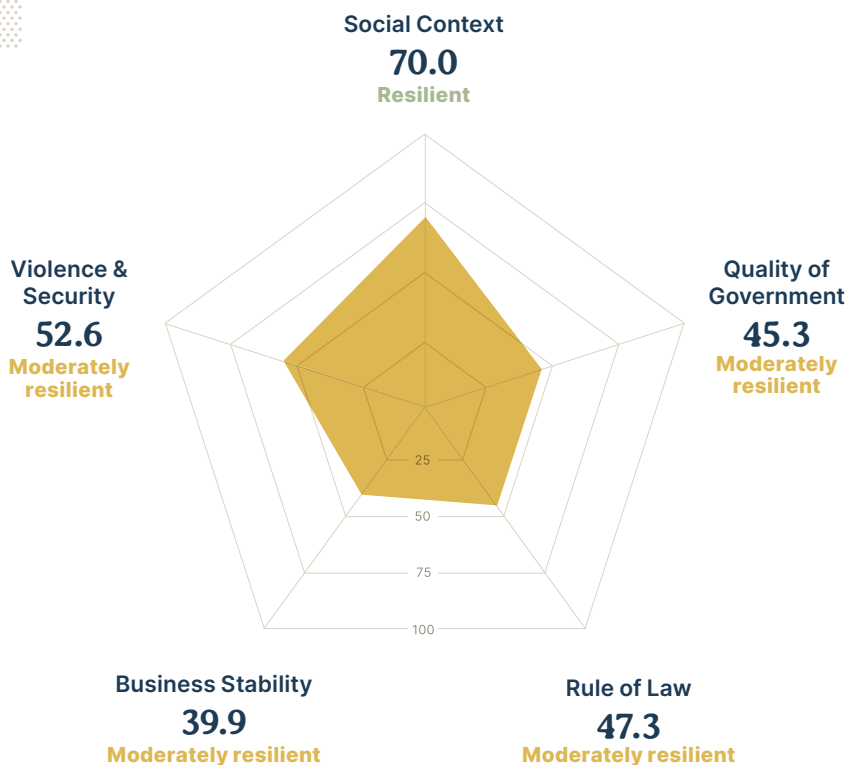
Assistance Without Criminalization Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⚙ N/A	Inclusion in Extradition Treaties No implementation 0.0 ✓ 0.0 ✎ 0.0 ⚙ 50.0	Convention as Legal Basis for Extradition No implementation 0.0 ✓ 0.0 ✎ 0.0 ⚙ 50.0	Automatic Application Without Treaty No implementation 0.0 ✓ 0.0 ✎ 0.0 ⚙ 50.0	Prosecution Without Extradition No implementation 0.0 ✓ 0.0 ✎ 0.0 ⚙ 50.0
Custody In progress 57.8 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⚙ 50.0	Assistance In progress 71.9 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⚙ 66.7	Impossibility of Claiming Bank Secrecy Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⚙ N/A	Limited Use of Information Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⚙ N/A	Nature of Act Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⚙ N/A
Designate Central Authorities In progress 50.0 ✓ 50.0 ✎ 50.0 ⚙ 100.0	Responsibilities of Central Authorities In progress 71.9 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⚙ 66.7	Communication Between Central Authorities In progress 71.9 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⚙ 66.7	Special Investigative Techniques Not applicable... ✓ N/A ✎ N/A ⚙ N/A	Technical Cooperation In progress 71.9 ✓ 100.0 ✎ 100.0 ⚙ 66.7

Corruption Resilience

51.0

Moderately resilient

23rd of 31 western hemisphere
10th of 12 South American countries



Analysis

Convention Implementation

Suriname signed the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (IACAC) on March 29, 1996, and ratified it on March 27, 2002. It is a State Party to the Follow-Up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) since June 4, 2002. Accordingly, Suriname has undergone five rounds of review under MESICIC.

Suriname's record in implementing its commitments to UNCAC exhibits a large number of failures and no successes. With an overall score of 31.7, the measures adopted place the country towards the bottom level of compliance with international norms, second only to Saint Lucia (30.9) and behind Dominica (38.4) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (46.7). While implementation efforts may be said to be well distributed among the three sections—although leaning towards criminalization and international cooperation rather than prevention, as is the case throughout the region—the lack of meaningful progress on any preventive measure and the unimplemented state of almost half of all measures related to international cooperation reflect the general deficit of anti-corruption efforts in the country.

The prevention of corruption is mostly lacking, classified as “core-deficient” by its average score and with only two measures reaching a score above 30—the enforcement of standards of conduct (43.0) and the elimination of favorable tax treatment for corrupt expenditure (43.8). The country has not implemented systems for registering asset and conflict of interests' declarations. Concerning these, MESICIC reports in its first round of review that “there are no provisions in force which require the filing of statutory declarations of income, assets and liabilities”, a matter that remained unaddressed by the fourth round of review. Above this measure, the country also shows a deficient implementation of its commitments concerning the state of oversight bodies (102.2), the training of public officials (14.8), transparency in government contracting (14.8), initiatives to encourage the participation of civil society (28.9), and others.

In terms of criminalization and law enforcement, Suriname also shows poor results, with roughly two thirds of all measures within this section classified as core-deficient or unimplemented. The criminalization of active bribery of foreign officials and illicit enrichment remain fully unimplemented, while three measures are found deficient at core—the protection of those who report acts of corruption (i.e., whistleblower protection), and the criminalization

of active and passive bribery in the public sector. Regarding whistleblower protection in Suriname, MESICIC reports in its second round of review that “there is no specific legislation related to systems for protecting public servants and private citizens who, in good faith, report acts of corruption.” Following up on this issue, the report of the fifth round (adopted in 2018) acknowledges some progress but finds that the country remains deficient: “[t]he lack of active monitoring and absence of whistleblower law which enable people to report misbehaviors of civil servants without fear for repercussions are major weaknesses.” On the other hand, some degree of progress is found concerning the criminalization of the abuse of functions (47.7), extended forms of involvement in the commission of corruption offenses such as participation and attempt (47.7), and money laundering (57.8).

Suriname's efforts in promoting and engaging with international cooperation are also considered to be largely lacking, receiving an average section score of 39.5 and a “core-deficient” classification. The most prominent issue in this section is the total lack of efforts to support extradition. The report of the third round of review of MESICIC (adopted in 2011) finds that “[w]hile Articles 10 and 11 of the Extradition Act can serve as a legal basis to grant extradition to those countries with which [Suriname] has an extradition treaty, the Committee notes that Suriname does not have extradition treaties with any of the OAS Member States. As such, it leaves out the States Parties to the Convention and thus in those cases, there is no legal basis to be found in the country under review to grant an extradition request.” The situation is aggravated by the fact that “the Extradition Act does not establish the obligation of the country under review to submit the case to its competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution when a request for extradition... is refused solely on the basis of the nationality of the person sought, or because the Requested State deems that it has jurisdiction over the offense, and neither is there a requirement to report the final outcome to [the] Requesting State.”

Finally, the review of implementation and/or enforcement activities pertaining to the measures contained in this report could not be elaborated on due to the absence of information. Suriname is cited by MESICIC as providing no statistical information to assess the level of implementation of legally adopted measures. While lack of monitoring and data collection mechanisms is not solely found here, the issue is pervasive in Suriname and thus worth emphasizing in order to support a more detailed and effective assessment.

Corruption Resilience

Suriname's social context indicator score for 2020 declined by 0.8 points from the previous year. The country's indicator score falls within the top percentile and is a top performer for Western Hemisphere and South American regions. The Western Hemisphere 2020 average for the indicator is 64.9, and the country is above the average by 5.1 points. Throughout the decade, Suriname's indicator score varies, where it achieved the highest score in 2010 with 77.5, and its lowest score of 70.0 in 2020. The country's decade range is 7.5 points. Suriname's social context indicator for 2020 is mainly because civil liberties and political rights are respected. The constitution guarantees freedom of the media; however, there have been minor incidences of self-censorship.

Suriname's quality of government score in 2020 declined by 1.2 points from the previous year. The country's score was below the Western Hemisphere average for 2020 by 5.3 points, and Suriname's indicator score fell within the bottom percentile. Since 2010, the country's score has varied, wherein in 2011, the country achieved its highest indicator score of 54.0, and in 2018 it achieved its lowest indicator score of 42.6. The quality of government indicator for Suriname's is primarily because of lack of control of corruption and ineffective bureaucratic and institutions.

In 2020, Suriname had a marginal decrease in the rule of law indicator score by 0.4 points, 3.8 points lower than the average of 51.1 for the Western Hemisphere. Suriname's rule of law indicator in 2020 was within the 50th percentile of the distribution for the Western Hemisphere region. Over a decade, the country's rule of law has varied, wherein in 2014, it attained the highest indicator score of 61.7, and in 2020, it attained the lowest score, with a range of 14.4 points. Suriname's rule of law indicator score is primarily because of the lack of independent judiciary and due process in civil and criminal cases.

Suriname's business stability indicator for 2020 declined by 1.9 points from the previous year. The country's indicator score fell below the Western Hemisphere country average of 50.5 by 10.6 points. Suriname's indicators score in 2020 fell within the bottom percentile. Suriname's business stability indicator score is primarily because of ineffective regulation that impacts the private business sector.

The violence and stability indicator for 2020 decreased by 12.8 points from the previous year, and the country's score was below the Western Hemisphere average for 2020 by 2.4 points. Since 2010 the country's indicator score has varied, where it achieved its highest indicator score in 2015 with 77.4, and its lowest indicator score in 2020, with a range of 24.8 points. Suriname's indicator score is mainly because of the serious problem of organized crime and drug trafficking, which have increased under the previous administration.