



MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2012



Guyana Forestry
Commission



Guyana Geology &
Mines Commission



Guyana Gold Board



Guyana Lands & Surveys
Commission



Environmental Protection
Agency



Guyana Wildlife
Division



National Parks
Commission



Protected Areas
Commission

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Guyana's principal wealth is its natural resources, both inland and offshore, along with its forest and their many valuable assets. The Government of Guyana has been able to sustainably manage our forests to derive economic benefits for the economy and create livelihood opportunities for our people while at the same time maintaining one of the lowest rates of deforestation in the world.

The Government will continue to focus on expanding and diversifying the economy on the basis of the rationale use of Guyana's natural resources. The Natural Resources and Environmental Governance sub-programme of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment has focused on strengthening national, regional and local environmental governance to address agreed environmental priorities. The resource efficiency sub-programme focuses on reducing the adverse environmental impacts of producing, processing and using goods and services, while also meeting human needs and improving the well-being of our people.

Over the past decade, the natural resources sector has contributed between 13% and 15% of Guyana's GDP and has proven to be vital for our economic and social growth and development.

The natural resource sector in Guyana facilitates the production of a wide range of products, which includes gold, diamond, bauxite, sand, loam, stone, logs and lumber. The production of logs, lumber, gold and many other products has increased significantly over the past decade.

Additional opportunities for investment in the sector include the production of rare earth elements, uranium, iron ore and manganese.

In order to provide incentives for investment in the forestry and mining sectors, the Government of Guyana has facilitated the provision of duty free and tax exemptions on a range of items and 0% Export Commission on Value Added products.

In general, therefore, our Natural Resources sector continues to provide national economic development for the country as a whole and rewarding livelihood for a considerable segment of our population, with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment providing pivotal oversight and management to ensure sustainable development with environmental safeguards.

Hon. Robert M. Persaud MBA, MP
Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE) was established on December 17, 2011. This represented a significant and far-reaching institutional change in Guyana's natural resource management sector. Many of the challenges facing natural resources and environmental management stem from weak linkages between key sector agencies and the governance approach. The Ministry's primary focus is therefore harmonizing policy and management in the Natural resources-based sectors, and better mainstreaming of conservation and environmental management.

MNRE Mission Statement: To facilitate the effective management and development of Guyana's natural resources, through improved policy making, inter-agency coordination and administration, and based on the principles of environmental, economic and social sustainability, for the ultimate benefit of Guyana and all the global community.

Agencies under the purview of the Ministry: The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment is responsible for the coordination among eight natural resources and environment agencies:

- Guyana Forestry Commission
- Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
- Guyana Gold Board
- Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Guyana Wildlife Division
- National Parks Commission
- Protected Areas Commission

MINISTRY'S PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

The three main programmatic areas of the Ministry are **Strategic Planning and Administration; Natural Resources Management; and Environmental Management**. The activities conducted under these areas will fulfill the mandate of the Ministry. The work of the eight natural resources and environment Agencies contribute to the implementation of activities under these programmatic areas.

STRATEGIC PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION has two sub-programmes: **Policy Development and Administration**.

The main objectives of the Strategic Planning and Administration programmatic area are:-

- To develop and implement policies related to natural resources and the environment, to coordinate the network of implementing agencies under the purview of MNRE;
- To monitor and evaluate the country's programmes in the areas of natural resources and the environment.

Policy Development: A number of policies were developed and submitted in 2012 and are in various stages of ratification. These include:-

- ***Draft Environmental Regulations (Litter Enforcement) 2012***
- ***Wildlife Import and Export Bill***
- ***Wildlife Management and Conservation Regulations***
- ***Land Surveyors Act and Regulations***
- ***Code of Practice for Processing Operations***
- ***National Log Export Policy***
- ***Biosafety/Biotechnology Management Bill***
- ***Amendments and New Mining Regulations including Occupation and Health safety Regulations for Mining***
- ***Occupation Safety and Health Regulations for the Mining Sector***

Administration: Audited Financial Statements were submitted to the Auditor General by the eight natural resource agencies. A series of procurement and capital works were also undertaken by these agencies during 2012. With regards to staffing, The Ministry, inclusive of all agencies started 2012 with 1,068 employees and concluded the year with 1158 employees which represented an overall employment increase of 8.4%.

Local Training and Capacity Building as well as international training occurred in the major agencies including the Ministry itself. Some of the important areas covered included Environmental Management, Forestry Management, Sustainable Mining and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment has also assisted the Agencies in the preparation of Cabinet Memos, preparation of positions prior to attending international meetings, and provided support to the delegations while overseas in the form of guidance and information.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT has three sub-programmes:- **Geology and Mining; Forestry Management and Land Management.**

The main objectives of the Natural Resources Management programmatic area are:

- To contribute to the expansion and diversification of the economy on the basis of rational use of Guyana's natural resources.
- To ensure the effective management of natural resources in order to promote, regulate, coordinate and have oversight of key entities / activities in the sector.

Geology and Mining

GGMC continued its monitoring and enforcement activities in the field to ensure compliance with current mining and environmental regulations. Over 1,644 dredges were inspected for compliance with these various regulations. Gold Smith premises were also inspected and certifications confirmed. Over two thousand four hundred and forty-six (2,446) Prospecting Permits Medium Scale properties were renewed and rentals were paid on five hundred Mining Permit properties. The Guyana Gold Board licensed four (4) Dealers in addition to the renewals of seven (7) existing ones.

In terms of Research and Development, GGMC embarked on several projects to improve performance within the mining sector. Some of these projects include the Mercury Abatement Project, Tailings Management Project, Floatation Technology, Cyanidation Technology Project and Gravity Recovery project.

Marketing and Promotion saw the development of “The Guyana Mining Toolkit” which was an adaptation of the Canadian developed ‘Mining Information Kit for Aboriginal Communities’ and a “New Entrants Seminar” into the field of mining was implemented in the latter part of 2012. The Guyana Mining School and Training Centre Inc. continues to be a major initiative in this area and was designed to function under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources & the Environment through the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission.

Forestry Management

The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) continued to advance its programme of work on implementing National Level Independent Forest Monitoring (IFM). This initiative allows for transparent, independent, third party verification of legal compliance, and observation of forest law enforcement systems.

GFC allocated approximately eighty-nine (89) new State Forest Permits during 2012 with extensive collaboration with the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission. Concession Level Monitoring continued during 2012 on a routine and impromptu basis to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting.

The **Second Interim Measures Report on REDD+ Interim Indicators** was completed and gross deforestation for the 2011 period was reported. Forest change, of forest to non-forest excluding degradation between October 2010 and December 2011 (15 months) was estimated at 9,796 hectares (0.054%).

The GFC continued with Stakeholder Engagement in the forestry sector during 2012 with specific attention being placed on technical matters, training and other areas such as the National Log Export Policy, the Code of Practice for Processing, the revision of the National Forest Plan and Policy Statement, as well as development of new Codes of Practice.

Land Management

The **Development of Land Use Planning Project** (DLUPP) is an EU supported project which is executed by the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GL&SC). The project covers three main areas: (a) Enhanced capacity in GLSC in regional planning, mapping and land information systems; (b) Improved interaction and linkages between GLSC and external agencies and stakeholders; and (c) Groundwork for harmonisation of planning legislation.

National Geographic Information Systems datasets have been completed with topology and using satellite imagery to update the data and improve the analytical outputs for land use options and recommendations. In addition, some datasets were acquired from other Agencies like the Guyana Forestry Commission, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Guyana Energy Agency.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT has three sub-programmes: **Environmental Protection and Conservation; Environmental Restoration;** and **Environmental Research**

The main objectives of the Environmental Management programmatic area are:

- To ensure the protection, conservation and restoration of the natural environment through the integration of appropriate environmental safeguards into development planning.
- To contribute to economic growth along a low-carbon development path through the effective management of the environment.

Environmental Protection and Conservation: The Environmental Protection Agency issued 216 Environmental Authorizations in 2012, from the 381 applications received. Ninety-one Environmental Audits were conducted, representing almost 8% increase from 2011. One thousand one hundred and seventeen CITES permits and non-CITES export/import permits (for wildlife) were issued in 2012. Forty-one wildlife holding premises were also inspected.

In 2012, with the focus on the achievement of a “green economy” and the need to involve and educate stakeholders, there was greater emphasis on environmental Education. International Day of Biological Diversity (IBD) was celebrated under the theme “Marine Biodiversity”, and art competitions and Youth Fora were executed in Region 2. World Environment Day (WED) was celebrated under the theme, “Green Economy: does it include you?” The Annual Green Walk saw the participation of President Donald Ramotar, and over 800 participants. Over 250 persons participated at the International Coastal Clean Up Day near the seawall in 2012.

Environmental Restoration: The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment is coordinating with several Agencies such as NAREI, EPA, GFC, GGDMA, FPA, UG and GGMC to rehabilitate/ restore areas degraded by mining activities. The focus of this sub-programme area was the establishment of co-ordination mechanisms for environmental restoration activities.

In the latter half of 2012, three (3) Sub-Committees were formed to focus on the identification of potential sites for rehabilitation/restoration; the preparation of a list of species that can be used by soil type based on soil characterization; the determination of the methodology for the planting of each, and the associated costs involved; and the identification of different sources of financing for the implementation of the programme. This work will continue apace in 2013.

Environmental Research; Twenty-two (22) research applications were received; 28 research permits were issued; 15 exports permits were issued and a total of US\$10,500 was generated.

The Wildlife Division is preparing a survey of highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza (HPNAI), or bird flu, in commercial (broiler and layer birds) and back-yard poultry (chickens & turkeys). The field aspect of the bird flu survey has been completed in 2012, and the survey results will be submitted to the World Organization for Animal Health to demonstrate that Guyana does not have a history of highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza, having never experienced an occurrence of the disease.

THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT (MNRE) STRATEGIC FOCUS

MNRE has identified seven (7) Strategic Focus Areas for the sustainable use and management of Guyana's Natural Resources and Environment. These are:-

- **Strategic Area 1:** Harmonizing/consolidating the policy, legal, regulatory, and administrative frameworks in Guyana that will support the sustainable use, protection and management of the country's natural resources
- **Strategic Area 2:** Strengthening of institutional structures for effective management of Guyana's Natural Resources, including optimum human resources deployment and management
- **Strategic Area 3:** Improving national implementation, monitoring and reporting for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other bilateral commitments
- **Strategic Area 4:** Strengthen land-use planning and sustainable land management, with particular focus on extractive sectors
- **Strategic Area 5:** Developing an Integrated Information & Communication (IIC) System for Natural Resources and the execution of an Education and Awareness Programme to support the sustainable use, protection and management of Guyana's natural resources.
- **Strategic Area 6:** Improving natural resources and environmental monitoring at a national level, and within various sectors.
- **Strategic Area 7:** Institutional strengthening of the Indigenous sector to manage, regulate, and execute programmes to support the sustainable use of Guyana's natural resources

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, with financial and technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has started the process of preparation of a Strategic Plan for Natural Resources and the Environment in Guyana. The Project and the Plan to be developed is intended to contribute to the harmonization of policy and management in the forestry, mining and other natural resources-based sectors, and better mainstreaming of conservation and environmental management.

GLOSSARY

AOP	Annual Operational Plans
BDU	Bauxite Development Unit
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CTVET	Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU FLEGT	European Union Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
BCH	Biosafety Clearing House
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FPA	Forest Producers Association
FPDMC	Forest Products Development and Marketing Council
FMD	Forest Monitoring Division
FRMD	Forest Resource Management Division
GFC	Guyana Forestry Commission
GGB	Guyana Gold Board
GGDMA	Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association
GGMC	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLSC	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission
GoG	Government of Guyana
GPAS	Guyana Protected Areas System
GWMO	Guyana Women Miners Organization
GWD	Guyana Wildlife Division
HIC	Hinterland Infrastructure Committee
IFM	Independent Forest Monitoring
KfW	German Development Bank
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment
MRVS	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System for REDD+
NPAS	National Protected Areas System
NPC	National Parks Commission
PAC	Protected Areas Commission
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradations Plus
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
UG	University of Guyana
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
WMA	Wildlife Management Authority

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MoNRE) was established on December 17, 2011. This represented a significant and far-reaching institutional change in Guyana's natural resource management sector. Many of the challenges facing natural resources and environmental management today stem from weak linkages between key sector agencies and a somewhat fragmented governance approach. The Ministry's primary focus is therefore harmonizing policy and management in the Forestry, Mining and other natural resources-based sectors, and better mainstreaming of conservation and environmental management.

Vision

Improving the quality of life in Guyana through effective environmental management and the sustainable development of Guyana's natural resources.

Mission Statement

To facilitate the effective management and development of Guyana's natural resources, through improved policy making, inter-agency coordination and administration, and based on the principles of environmental, economic and social sustainability, for the ultimate benefit of Guyana and all the global community.

Core Functions

The Ministry's core functions are to:

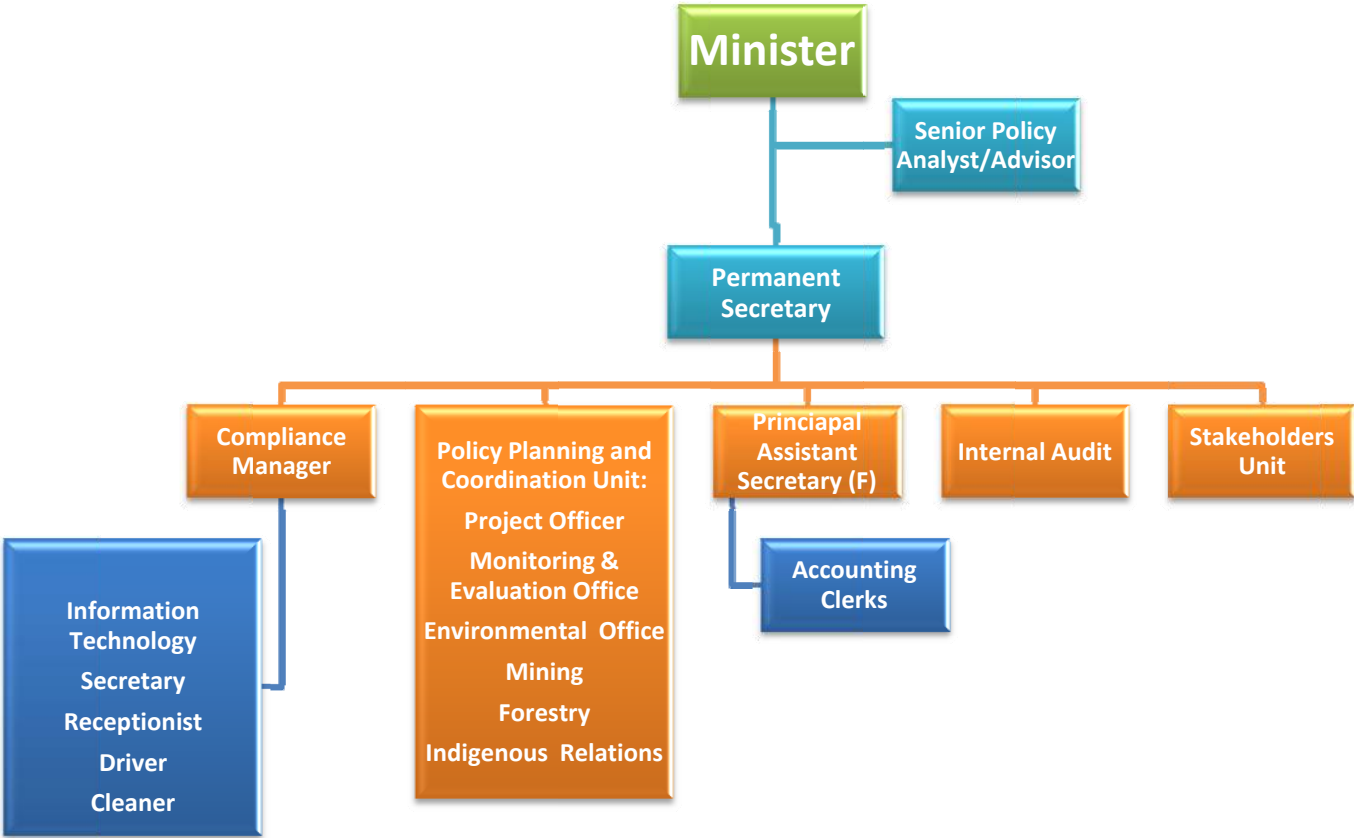
- Coordinate, promote and monitor environmental and natural resources activities
- Provide informed guidance on sustainable management, utilization, and conservation of the environment and natural resources.
- Promote capacity building to ensure that all MNRE agencies and the sectors are well resourced;
- Upgrade the capacity for unified and enhanced environmental data, its analysis and information coverage and application;
- Develop a policy framework to harmonize environmental-related laws and institutions, and promote the capacity for collective enforcement of environmental standards; and promote the effective implementation of same;
- Promote the capacity for collective monitoring and enforcement of environmental standards;
- Strengthen multi-sectoral planning and strengthen linkages between institutions of planning and environmental and natural resources management;
- Establish a baseline on the state of the environment for future environmental planning;

- Establish a mechanism for information sharing among natural resources agencies;
- Strengthen negotiating capabilities through top talent development and compliance with Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs).

Organizational Structure

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment had, at the end of 2012, a total Staff complement of 24 Members of Staff. The organizational structure is detailed in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Organogram of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment



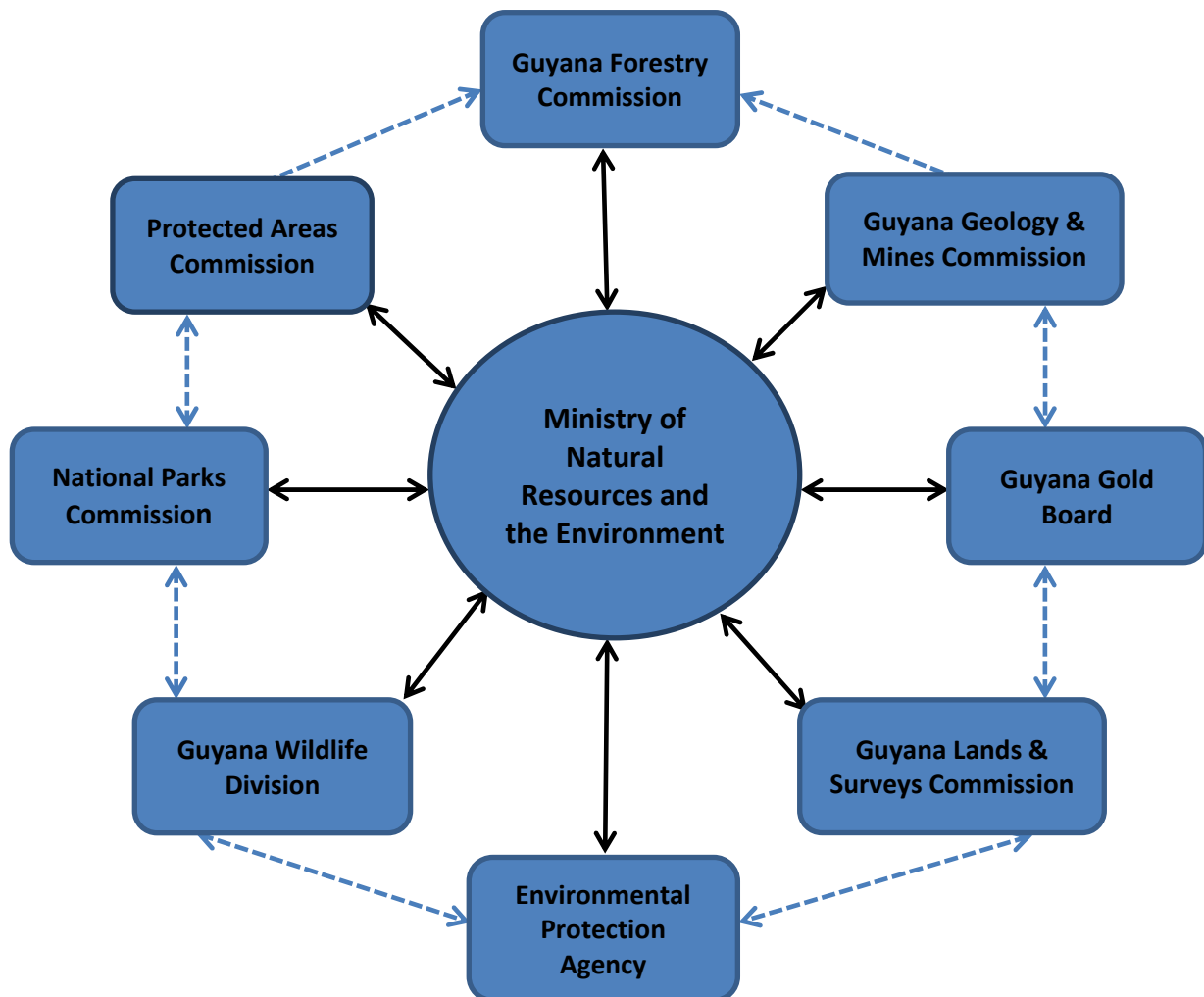
Agencies under the purview of the Ministry

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment is responsible for the coordination among eight natural resources and environment agencies:

- Guyana Forestry Commission
- Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
- Guyana Gold Board
- Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Guyana Wildlife Division
- National Parks Commission
- Protected Areas Commission

One of the underlying principles of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment is free sharing of information and collaboration between itself and the Agencies, which is displayed in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Coordination among Agencies and the Ministry



AGENCIES' MANDATES

Guyana Forestry Commission: To provide excellence in forest resource planning, management and utilization through good governance; the enforcement of relevant guidelines and the promotion of social and economic benefits.

Guyana Geology and Mines Commission: By ourselves, and in partnership with others, finding, inventorying and producing minerals, mineral commodities and petroleum in accordance with acceptable international standards, for the earning of revenue and other benefits for the citizens of Guyana.

Guyana Gold Board: To provide for the establishment, constitution, and functions of the Guyana Gold Board and for matters connected therewith.

Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission: To effectively and efficiently administer lands for the benefit of our clients and National Development.

Environmental Protected Agency: To provide for the management, conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, the prevention or control of pollution, the assessment of the impact of economic development on the environment, the sustainable use of the natural resources and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

Guyana Wildlife Division: To ensure the regulation of the international trade in wildlife, to assess the level of trade and to devise measures to effectively manage the trade in a sustainable manner.

National Parks Commission: To manage the natural and cultural resources of the national parks on behalf the people of Guyana through conservation, education and awareness, while affording the opportunity for open air recreation for future generations.

Protected Areas Commission:To establish, manage, maintain, promote and expand the National Protected Areas System (NPAS).

MINISTRY'S PROGRAMMATIC AREAS

The three main programmatic areas of the Ministry are **Strategic Planning and Administration; Natural Resources Management; and Environmental Management**. The activities conducted under these areas fulfill the mandate of the Ministry and the work of the eight natural resources and environment agencies contribute to the implementation of activities under these programmatic areas.

STRATEGIC PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION

The main objectives of the Strategic Planning and Administration programmatic area are:

- To develop and implement policies related to natural resources and the environment, to coordinate the network of implementing agencies under the purview of MNRE.
- To monitor and evaluate the country's programmes in the areas of natural resources and the environment

Sub-programme 1: Policy Development

A number of policies were developed and submitted to Cabinet in 2012:

Draft Environmental Regulations (Litter Enforcement) 2012



The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment recognized the need to address the issue of littering in Guyana, which is a national problem. Apart from public awareness activities to change attitudes of persons towards littering, stricter enforcement must be employed to arrest the current situation of littering in Guyana. A draft Environmental Regulations (Litter Enforcement) 2012 has been formulated to provide support for stricter enforcement. The main objective of

the regulation is to provide the legal framework and optimum utilization of persons in enforcement against littering and discharge of waste. Draft Litter legislation has been crafted and is currently being reviewed by Stakeholders.



Wildlife Import and Export Bill

The Wildlife Import and Export Bill was prepared for submission to Cabinet. It is intended to replace the Species Protection Regulations (1999).

Wildlife Management and Conservation Regulations

The Wildlife Management and Conservation Regulations were prepared for submission to Cabinet. This will make provisions for domestic trade issues.

Land Surveyors Act and Regulations

The Land Surveyors Act, Land Surveyors Regulations and the Land Surveyors Profession Act were drafted in 2007 by the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) to revise and introduce legislation relating to Land Surveying and Land Surveyors. The current Land Surveyors Act, Chapter 91:01 last revised in 1973, was found to be inadequate in addressing current technology, such as, Global Positioning System and electronic distance measurements.

The Act itself is not in keeping with surveying requirements in other CARICOM countries. The purpose of the Land Surveyors Bill is to reform the law relating to Land Surveying, hitherto part of the subject matter of the Land Surveyors Act, Chapter 97:01 and to make provision, for the first time, the use of GPS technology in this field in Guyana. These legislations were prepared and submitted to Cabinet for its approval and to be gazetted.

Forests Act (2009)

Consultations were held in several forestry districts to increase awareness and solicit comments on the Act. Additionally, Staff members from the Guyana Forestry Commission were trained to interpret the Act.

Code of Practice for Processing Operations

The Code of Practice for processing operations (Sawmill and Lumberyards) and an accompanying Training Manual were developed to increase productivity and efficiency at the processing stage. These documents form a significant step towards standardising timber products within the industry.

National Log Export Policy



This policy targets the increase in local added value production in the forest sector as well as job creation, and increased export revenue. It was approved and implemented in 2012 and covers a 3 year period. The policy was approved after consultations with a wide cross section of stakeholders within the Forestry sector.

Biosafety/Biotechnology Management Bill

Guyana has started the implementation of the Caribbean Regional Biosafety Project. One main activity is the finalization of a Biosafety/Biotechnology Bill. This Bill is expected to be completed by the end of 2013.

Mining Regulations

1. Amendments: Dredge Tracking Regulations
Final submissions of the Guyana Gold & Diamond Miners' Association, is awaited.
2. New Mining Regulations (draft)
Specific parts are being selected for presentation to Chief Parliamentary Counsel for review. The comprehensive set of mining regulations was presented to GGDMA in April, 2012.
3. Amendments to Mining Act
Proposed amendments to the Mining Act were also submitted to GGDMA.
4. Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Regulations for Mining
The draft regulations were provided to the Ministry of Labour for review and promulgation.

Sub-programme 2: Administration

- Agencies under the purview of the Ministry have submitted timely financial statements (audited report) to the Ministry in 2012 for the previous years whilst we are working with the Auditor General to have all reports brought up to date.
- The first audit of the MNRE is scheduled for early 2013, and as such no audit queries were forwarded to the Ministry.
- The Agencies of the Ministry continue to submit data on key sector indicators developed by the MNRE in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance. An inter-Agency Working Group was established to discuss and refine the indicators. However, trend establishment and analysis will be conducted in 2013, when the vacant position for a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer within the MNRE is filled and period of analysis is sufficient.

Capital Works

- The improvement of conditions at the National Park and Zoo, through revetment works and the re-design and/or enrichment of the snake, kinkajou, primates, and puma exhibits to emulate a more natural environment. The standard of management of wildlife holding stations was also greatly improved during the year resulting in an improvement in station appearance and hygiene, and animal welfare matters.

DIVISION	ESTIMATE						
	CAPITAL ('000)			CURRENT ('000)			Total
	Specific	Local	Total	Subvention	Other	Total	
241 - Ministry Administration (Furniture & Equipment/Land Transport)		\$27,720	\$ 27,720	\$ 32,500		\$ 32,500	\$ 60,220
242 - Natural Resource Mng		\$ 24,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 72,187		\$ 72,187	\$ 96,187
GGMC		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
GGB		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
GFC		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
GLSC		\$ 24,000	\$24,000	\$ 72,187		\$72,187	\$ 96,187
243 - Environmental Mng		\$ 23,035	\$ 23,035	\$ 230,665		\$230,665	\$ 253,700
Environmental Protection Agency		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$107,280		\$ 107,280	\$ 112,280
National Parks Commission		\$ 17,801	\$ 17,801	\$ 98,385		\$ 98,385	\$116,186
Protected Areas Commission		\$ 234	\$ 234	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000	\$ 25,234
Guyana Wildlife Division		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ -	\$121,790	\$121,790	\$ 638,204	\$ -	\$638,204	\$ 759,994
				Subvention			\$ 638,204
				GOG			\$ -
				Recurrent Budget			\$ 638,204
				Capital			\$ 121,790
				Total Budget			\$ 759,994
				Other Revenue			\$ -
				Total Revenue / Exp.			\$ 759,994

Procurement

- The security at the Zoological Park has also been improved with the installation of CCTV cameras, parameter beams and motion lights. The calibration of an SKC Environmental Particulate Air Monitor was completed and pilot testing was conducted at Cane Grove during October 2012.

- The Special Projects Unit of GGMC facilitated the disbursement of contracts for the construction and rehabilitation of roads, aerodromes and airstrips, bridges and culverts within the mining districts.
- The Guyana Gold Board (GGB) established a GGB Office in the Charity area. This location will provide the necessary services for Pomeroon and to a lesser extent North West District miners using the water ways to transport their production.
- The Protected Areas Act had established the Protected Areas Commission in 2010. In 2012, an office was established at the National Parks Commission Building and five (5) members of Staff were hired.

Human Resources

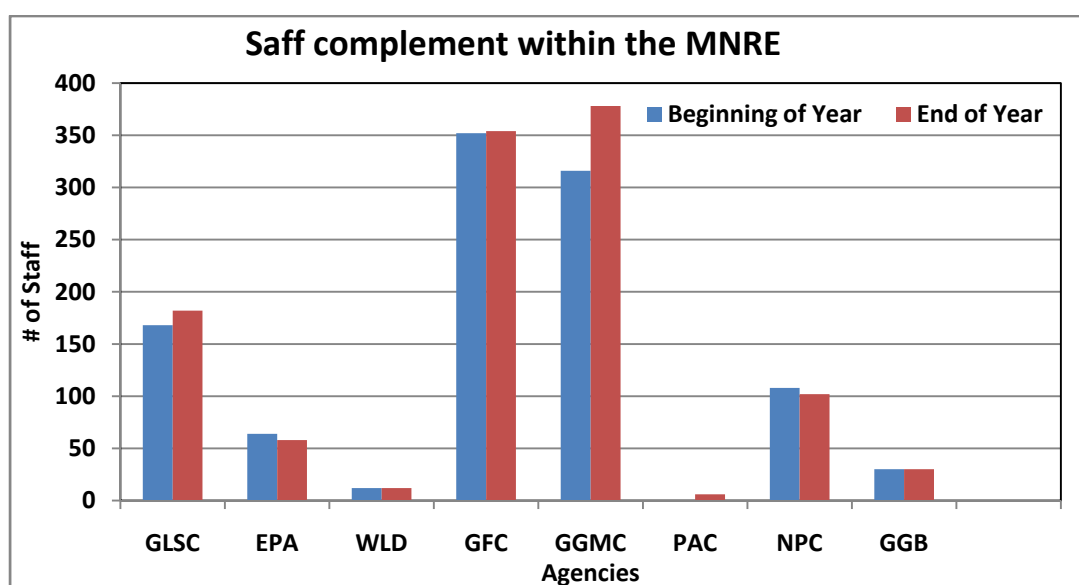


Figure 3: Staff Complement within the MNRE

The Ministry, inclusive of all agencies started 2012 with 1068 employees and concluded the year with 1158 employees which represented an overall employment increase of 8.4%.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment has assisted the Agencies in the preparation of Cabinet Memos, preparation of positions prior to attending international meetings, and provided support to the delegations while overseas in the form of guidance and information. The capacity building section of this report highlights the various environment and MEAs workshops, all of which the Ministry has actively supported.

The staff of the Ministry and sub-agencies attended several international conferences and capacity development training in the following areas: mining, hydrocarbon, environmental management, forestry, and administration.

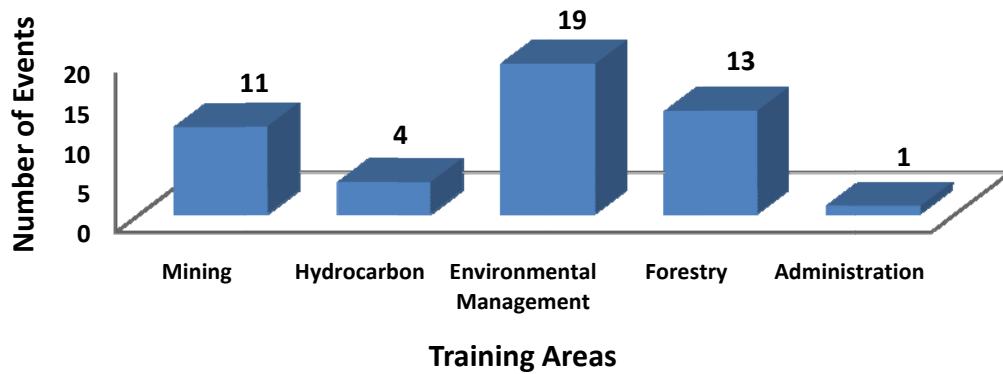


Figure 4: Capacity building programmes attended by the staff of the Ministry and Sub Agencies

International Training and Capacity Building

Nineteen (19) forums on **environmental management** were attended by employees from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Guyana Forestry Commission, the Wildlife Division and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. The workshops/seminars helped to build capacity in the identification and understanding of major issues under negotiation in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).



Thirteen (13) workshops on issues of **forest management** were attended by employees from the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), and the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE). The themes of the workshops/seminars held resonated around Guyana’s bid to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) and to achieve the objectives of the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). Each forum introduced proponents to issues relating to “Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)”, the framework and tools available for mainstreaming adaption climate change through the LCDS, and skills required for improving Guyana’s capacity to implement an internationally recognized Monitoring Reporting and Verification System (MRVS).

Eight (8) international conferences were held to facilitate capacity building in Guyana’s **mining** industry. These included the Annual General Meeting of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF), the Fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC4) to prepare a legally binding instrument on mercury and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) National Coordinators Meeting.



Forums held for the **hydrocarbon industry** included the Oil and Gas Seminar that was held in Uruguay, the “Open Government and Transparency in Extractive Industries in Latin America and the Caribbean” conference that was held in Lima and the “US Model for Managing Offshore Oil and Gas Resources”. The workshops aimed to balance revenue streams while maximizing reservoir potential in developing countries by facilitating improvements in regulatory framework and institutional capacity, preparation and response to oil discovery, improved revenue management, improved reservoir management, and unitization and trans-boundary issues.

One (1) workshop provided **administrative** training on the legal issues within the natural resources sector. Specifically, the workshop on the UK Bribery Act 2010 gave information about international mechanisms that are in place to deal with the issue of bribery.

Local Training and Capacity Building



Forestry Training Centre Incorporated (FTCI) continued to provide training in reduced impact logging (RIL) to persons from academic institutions, GFC staff and 28 persons from Suriname and the Guyana’s forest industry. The FTCI has commenced the development of the following three Training Manuals: Manual on Management Level Inventories, Introduction to Wood Technology, and Introduction to Forest

Nurseries for Communities.

- Other training programmes such as **Tree and Wood Identification Training** and conflict management training were conducted by GFC. Approximately 300 persons visited the Yarrowkabra Training Center (YTC) during 2012. The “**Home Owners/Builders Handbook**” was launched during 2012 to promote the use of Lesser Utilised Species (LUS) for different types of building application.
- The Guyana Lands and Survey Commission continued to provide training in the areas of **Geographic Information Systems**, Procurement procedures for Government Agencies and generic training for new staff to undertake technical and administrative work.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The main objectives of the Natural Resources Management programmatic area are:

- To contribute to the expansion and diversification of the economy on the basis of rational use of Guyana's natural resources.
- To ensure the effective management of natural resources in order to promote, regulate, coordinate and have oversight of key entities / activities in the sector.

The Natural Resources Management Programme Area recorded several institutional and technical achievements in 2012:

Sub-programme 1: Geology and Mining



Regulation

➤ Routine and impromptu compliance monitoring and enforcement focused on practices in keeping with the Mining (Amendment) Environmental Regulation 2005, safety management, reclamation and other parameters such as dredges operating, forest clearance, tailings management, retorts, garbage pits, adequacy of clearance around camps and work grounds as well as safety of pit slopes for operating mines. Water quality monitoring was also conducted throughout the year to assess the turbidity, dissolved oxygen, pH and Total Dissolved Solids.



➤ Monitoring of Gold Smith premises, Business Permissions, Residential Permissions and Trading Licenses were also conducted.



➤ The dredges located in the Mining Districts of Guyana were targeted, monitored and inspected during the year, amounting to a total of over 1,644 dredges. The Commission has conducted a full evaluation of dredges in relation to licensing, registration, environmental compliance and health and safety and enforcing the environmental regulations in Guyana.



➤ Over two thousand four hundred and forty-six (2,446) Prospecting Permits Medium Scale properties were renewed and rentals were paid on five hundred Mining Permit properties. In addition, approximately two hundred and sixty (260) Small, Medium and Large Scale Miners were in receipt of fiscal concessions and there were ten (10) publications of the Official Gazette.

➤ The Guyana Gold Board licensed four (4) Dealers in addition to the renewals of seven (7) existing ones.

Exploration

➤ GGMC conducted several regional, multiple element geochemical sampling and rocks outcrop examination which would help to evaluate the host rock mineralization and geochemistry, and improve the geological knowledge / information of the area examined.

Research and Development

➤ GGMC embarked on several projects to improve performance within the mining sector. Some of these projects include the **Mercury Abatement Project, Tailings Management Project, Floatation Technology, Cyanidation Technology Project and Gravity Recovery project**. Each project is comprised of activities that will continue in 2013 before final results are achieved.

Marketing and Promotion

- The **Guyana Mining Toolkit** is an adaptation of the Canadian developed 'Mining Information Kit for Aboriginal Communities'. This was sponsored and produced by the High Commission of Canada to Guyana. It generally addresses Mineral Exploration, Mine Development, Mine Operation and Mine closure.
- The **New Entrants Seminar** was implemented in the latter part of 2012. It focused on addressing and informing persons who wished to join the mining industry.
- The **Guyana Mining School and Training Centre Inc.** was designed to function under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources & the Environment through the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission. The School will offer a diploma award and a title of Exploration Technologist which will focus on geology, mining methods, exploration technology, surveying, and computer applications for mining operations and mineral explorations. Students learn hands-on science and engineering skills, and complete an industry-standard report during the second year of the full-time program.

Sub-programme 2: Forestry Management



Regulation

- GFC continued to advance its programme of work on implementing **National Level Independent Forest Monitoring (IFM)**. This initiative allows for **transparent, independent, third party verification of legal compliance, and observation of forest law enforcement systems, based on a list of agreed principles, criteria and indicators**. The full scoping report has been published on the GFC's website (www.forestry.gov.gy).
- GFC allocated approximately eighty-nine (89) new **State Forest Permits** during 2012 and extensive collaboration with the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GL&SC) rectified boundary overlaps which existed between forestry concessions and titled Amerindian areas.
- **Concession Level Monitoring** continued during 2012 on a routine and impromptu basis to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting.

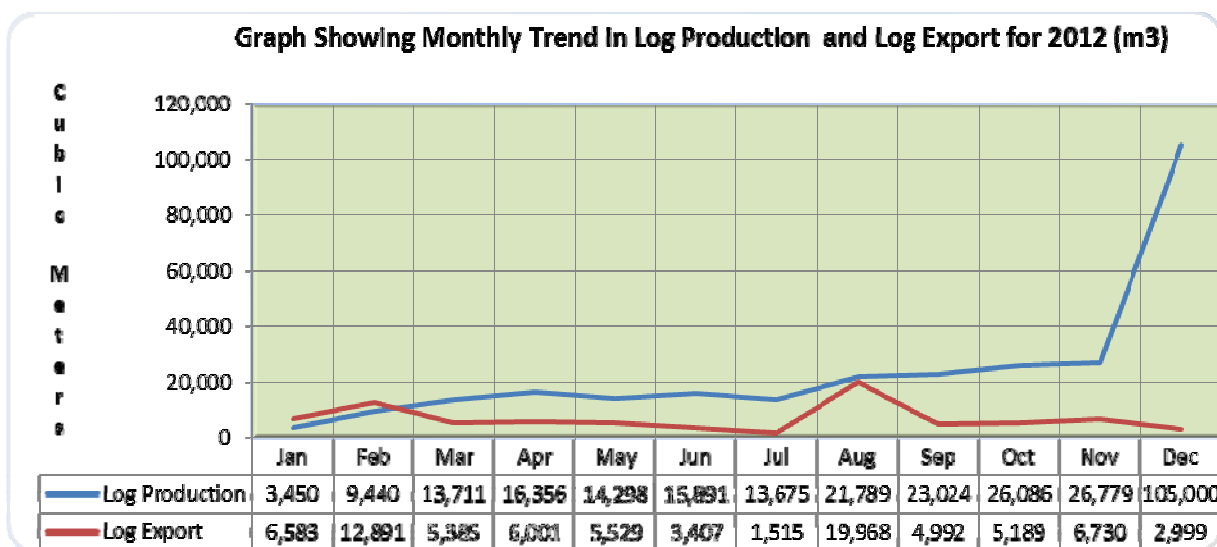


Figure 5: Graph showing monthly trend in Log Production and Log Export for 2012 (m3)

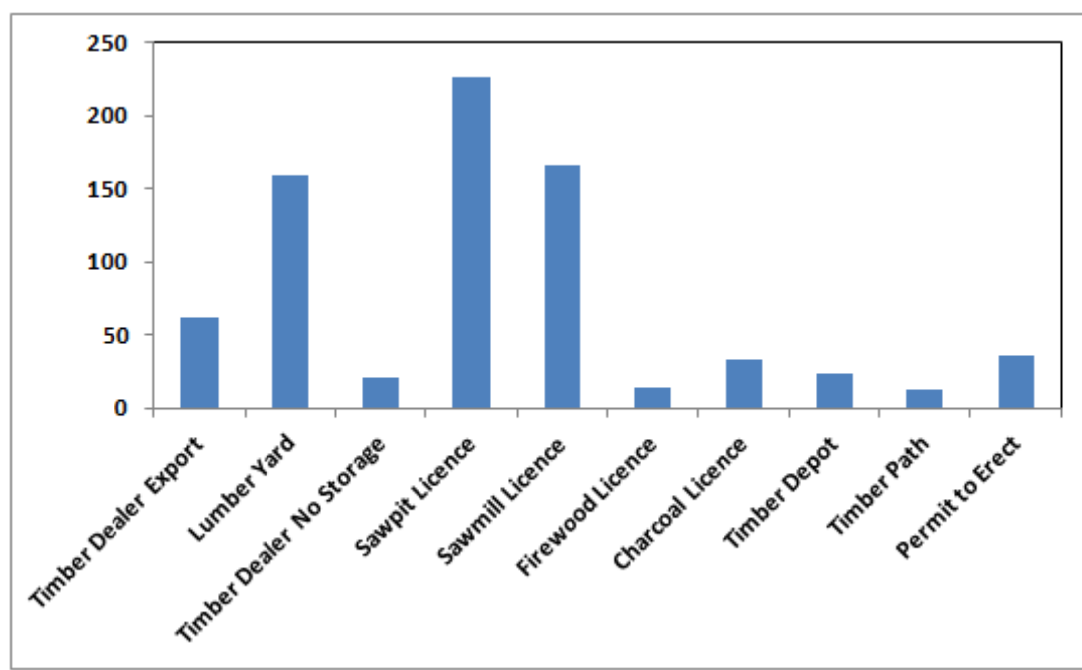


Figure 6: Graph showing Licenses that were issued by GFC

Exploration

➤ The Commission verified and approved for harvesting a total of 535 out of 756 pre-harvest blocks for medium and large concessions, based on inventories conducted by Concessionaires.

Research and Development

➤ The **Second Interim Measures Report on REDD+ Interim Indicators** was completed and gross deforestation for the 2011 period was reported. Forest change, of forest to non-forest excluding degradation between October 2010 and December 2011 (15 months) was estimated at 9,796 hectares (0.054%). One major improvement in this reporting period is the use of 5M RapidEye imagery instead of Satellite Imagery at 20-30m resolution. This has allowed for more detailed and precise mapping of forest area change.

Marketing and Promoting

➤ The GFC continued with **Stakeholder Engagement** in the forestry sector during 2012 with specific attention being placed on technical matters, training and other areas such as the National Log Export Policy, the Code of Practice for Processing, the revision of the National Forest Plan and Policy Statement, as well as development of new Codes of Practice.

➤ The Commission placed increased focus on GFC's **Community Forestry Programme** due to the extensive benefits that community forestry brings to stakeholders. Within the programme, there are approximately 2,000 members within 65 registered associations. Eleven (11) community forest associations were granted concession in 2012 which provided a total of 94 concessions accounting for 368,916 hectares issued to Associations.

Sub-programme 3: Land Management

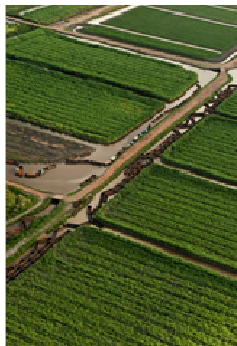


Photo by Pete Oxford

Land Administration

➤ The **Development of Land Use Planning Project (DLUPP)** is an EU Funded project which is executed by the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GL&SC). The project covers three main areas:

- i. Enhanced capacity in GLSC in regional planning, mapping and land information systems;
- ii. Improved interaction and linkages between GLSC and external agencies and stakeholders;
- iii. Groundwork for harmonisation of planning legislation.

➤ The **Capacity Development and Mainstreaming for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Project** completed three (3) Studies on the resources required for investment in Sustainable Land Management and provided recommended areas for SLM policy development.

Land Information

➤ **National Geographic Information Systems datasets** have been completed with topology and using satellite imagery to update the data and improve the analytical outputs for land use options and recommendations. In addition, some datasets were acquired from other Agencies like the Guyana Forestry Commission, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Guyana Energy Agency.

➤ GGMC conducted 221 routine surveys, entered 2,274 plans into database and prepared

9 grants title and plans for approval. The Commission also entered 2,274 plans into the database, detached 589 Leases and conducted one (1) field inventory in West Coast Demerara and one (1) Precise Leveling exercise from Mahaica to Foulis.

Constraints experienced in the implementation of the work Natural Resources Management Work Programme in 2012:

- Declaration of Gold: the parallel market and the jewelers are responsible for a significant quantity of gold not being declared into the legal stream.
- GGB: Office space for staff members, both in Georgetown and in Bartica for handling the increased production.
- Inability to Collect Revenue- The law is not being imposed on defaulters; hence, they do not fulfill their obligation to pay.
- Low Rates – Rental plus rates have not been reviewed since the GLSC Commission commenced operation in 2001. As such, cost is escalating and the revenue collected is not realistic and thus resulting in the Commission finding it difficult to meet its obligations and to achieve financial sustainability.
- Timely Disbursement from GRIF for commencement of work on the MRVS
- Availability of local expertise on technical areas of Forestry and REDD+
- High cost of transportation to engage as much as we would like in some hinterland Regions
- Increasing and expanding requirements for reporting and management with existing resource (human and physical); often time not being an issue of numbers but skill sets.

Projections for 2013



- Surpass 2012 gold declarations in 2013 of which 310,000 ounces will be traded by the Guyana Gold Board.
- Establish additional remote Guyana Gold Board Offices- Port Kaituma and Lethem.
- Consider any interest for the establishment of a Gold Refinery in Guyana
- GGMC intends to establish comprehensive compliance monitoring programmes, recruit and train staff and implement wide-ranging education and awareness programmes.
- GGMC plans to implement activities in order to assess miners' awareness of the mining act and regulations in the six (6) mining districts of Guyana.
- The finalization of the GLSC's Strategic Plan
- Increased capacity to undertake Regional Land Use Planning and provide updated analysis for land use data to stakeholders
- Increased awareness and capacity building of professionals in the field of Sustainable Land Management using the Commission's website
- Two Land Registration Areas surveys for poverty reduction
- Resumption of Border Surveys and completion of Amaila Falls surveys
- Execution of surveys for Amerindian Land Titling Programme
- Increase GIS Training Programme

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The main objectives of the Environmental Management programmatic area are:

- To ensure the protection, conservation and restoration of the natural environment through the integration of appropriate environmental safeguards into development planning.
- To contribute to economic growth along a low-carbon development path through the effective management of the environment.

The environmental management programme area recorded several institutional and technical achievements in 2012:

Sub-programme 1: Environmental Protection and Conservation

Regulation

- Two hundred and sixteen (216) Environmental Authorizations were issued in 2012, from the 381 applications received. These permits represented 88 for new projects, 44 for existing, 73 for renewals, 1 for transfer, and 10 for variance. However, some developers had incomplete applications with outstanding documents which slowed the authorization process. 165 short term noise permits were also issued. Overall the Environmental Protection Agency recorded a 7% increase in efficiency.
- Ninety-one (91) Environmental Audits were conducted, also representing almost 8% increase from 2011.
- One thousand one hundred and seventeen (1,117) CITES permits and non-CITES export/import permits were issued in 2012. Forty-one (41) wildlife holding premises were inspected.

Enforcement

- Of the 326 environmental complaints received in 2012, one hundred and twenty (120) were inspected, 10 were referred to the relevant sector Agencies and three (4) were resolved and closed.

Operations

- In 2012, with the focus on the achievement of a “green economy” and the need to involve and educate stakeholders, there was greater emphasis on environmental Education. International Day of Biological Diversity (IBD) was celebrated under the theme “Marine Biodiversity”, and art competitions and Youth Fora were executed in Region 2. World Environment Day (WED) was celebrated under the theme, “Green Economy: does it include you?” The Annual Green Walk saw the participation of President Donald Ramotar, and over 800 participants. Over 250 persons participated at the International Coastal Clean Up Day near the seawall in 2012.
- More than twelve hundred (1200) Grade 6 students from twenty (20) Primary Schools participated in a total of twenty-four (24) interactive sessions to learn about Climate Change using a Climate Change Workbook developed by the EPA.
- The EPA conducted thirty-two (32) interactive sessions reaching over six hundred and sixty (660) students from sixteen (16) schools in collaboration with the Nature School of

the Guyana Zoo and Botanical Gardens.

Over fifty (50) presentations and learning tools such as posters, games and brochures were created during the year for the outreach. There was a stronger regional outreach in 2012, with a focus on Regions 2, 4, 5 and 10.

Conservation Management



➤ **Guyana Protected Areas System Project**

The German Development Bank (KfW) Small-Grants Component of the GPAS Project (Phase I) officially concluded. The GoG and KfW furthered their cooperation in supporting the conservation of tropical forests with the signing of a financing agreement for € 5.15M to support a second phase of the GPAS Project, which will build on the outcomes of Phase I. Approximately € 1.15M of GPAS Phase II funds will be spent for infrastructure measures for the Protected Areas Commission, the development of a management plan for the Shell Beach Protected Area, and follow-up support for community livelihood projects developed under GPAS Phase I. The remaining € 4M will be used as an endowment to the National Protected Areas Trust Fund (NPATF), to support a sustainable and long-term financing mechanism for the NPAS. An additional € 4.3M has since been committed by the German Government for GPAS Phase III, which aims to support the effective management of the National Protected Areas System, improve livelihoods and resource management capacities in local communities, and improve capabilities of key sector agencies – the Environmental Protection Agency and Guyana Forestry Commission.

➤ **Biosafety Clearing House (BCH)**

Fifty (50) persons were trained in the use of the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) during the three workshops and 6 stakeholder agencies have been designated Competent National Authorities.

➤ **The Regional Project on Biosafety**

This project seeks to implement effective and sustainable National Biosafety Frameworks which cater for national and regional needs and are compliant with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The country budget and activities were approved and an initial disbursement of US \$18,000 was received. The National Steering Committee was convened. Key activities for 2013 include the commencement of the revision of the Draft Biosafety Policy and drafting of the Biosafety Legislation.

➤ **Biosafety Clearing House (BCH Phase II)**

Guyana received US\$10,000 for the execution of 3 training workshops aimed at enlightening

users on the modalities in place for use and contribution to the BCH. Fifty (50) persons were trained during the three workshops and six (6) stakeholder agencies have been designated Competent National Authorities.

➤ ***Support to Guyana for the Revision of the NBSAPs and Development of Fifth National Report to the CBD***

This project is in the inception stage. The first disbursement of US\$50,000 was received and steps are currently being taken to establish a Project Management Unit. Activities for 2013 include an assessment and stocktaking of relevant plans, policies and reports; determination of targets and priorities for biodiversity and drafting of the NBSAP report.

➤ A long-term action plan for the implementation of the UNCBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas was completed and submitted to the Secretariat of the UNCBD. It would contribute to the implementation of the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Sub-programme 2: Environmental Restoration

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment is coordinating with several Agencies such as NAREI, EPA, GFC, GGDMA, FPA, UG and GGMC to rehabilitate/ restore areas degraded by mining activities. The focus of this sub-programme area was the establishment of co-ordination mechanisms for environmental restoration activities.

In the latter half of 2012, three (3) Sub-Committees were formed to focus on the identification of potential sites for rehabilitation/restoration; the preparation of a list of species that can be used by soil type based on soil characterization; the determination of the methodology for the planting of each, and the associated costs involved; and the identification of different sources of financing for the implementation of the programme.

For the first quarter of 2013, the Committee plans to facilitate the selection of sites for rehabilitation, the establishment of a proposal (including a budget) to be presented to stakeholders, and the preparation of specific sites for reclamation (soils stabilization, runoff control and erosion prevention and actual reclaiming by planting or seeding).

Operations

Public Awareness and Outreach

- In 2012, with the stronger focus on the achievement of a “green economy” and the need to involve and educate stakeholders, there was a stronger focus on environmental Education. International Day of Biological Diversity (IBD) was celebrated under the theme “Marine Biodiversity”, and art competitions and Youth Fora were executed in Region 2. World Environment Day (WED) was celebrated under the theme, “Green Economy: does it include you?” The Annual Green Walk saw the participation of President Donald Ramotar, and over 800 participants. Over 250 persons participated at the International Coastal Clean Up Day near the seawall in 2012.
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- The EPA conducted some thirty-two (32) interactive sessions reaching over six hundred and sixty (660) students from sixteen (16) schools in collaboration with the Nature School of the Guyana Zoo and Botanical Gardens.
 - Over fifty (50) presentations and learning tools such as posters, games and brochures were created during the year for the outreach. There was a stronger regional outreach in 2012, with a focus on Regions 2, 4, 5 and 10.
 - Five Working Group meetings were held in 2012 in preparation for the CITES Conference of Parties meeting in 2013. The Working Group consisted of members of both Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations.

Sub-programme 3: Environmental Research

- Twenty-two (22) research applications were received; 28 research permits were issued; 15 exports permits were issued and a total of US\$10,500 was generated.
- The Wildlife Division is preparing a survey of highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza (HPNAI), or bird flu, in commercial (broiler and layer birds) and back-yard poultry (chickens & turkeys). The field aspect of the bird flu survey has been completed in 2012, and the survey results will be submitted to the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) to demonstrate that Guyana does not have a history of highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza, having never experienced an occurrence of the disease.
- The closed season for wild birds has been amended to incorporate ecological considerations. This was done after extensive consultations with the wildlife traders and other stakeholders.

Major Constraints

Despite the major achievements in 2012, there were a number of constraints which hindered the effective accomplishment of targets set in 2012. Some of these were:

- Lack of full Staff complement.
- Limited access to resources to implement necessary, but capital consuming projects.
- No holding facility currently in place to accommodate confiscated wildlife.
- Pending approval of some pieces of legislation (which were on the legislative Agenda for 2012), not being tabled in Parliament.
- High erosion in the Parks which consumed substantial amount of resources to address.
- Inadequate field allowances and remuneration to retain staff.
- Constant high staff turn-over resulting in loss of institutional memory.
- Limited human and financial resources for monitoring and auditing.
- Outdated and non-functional monitoring equipment and vehicles.
- Inefficient databases for information management.
- Limited legal framework for the execution of enforcement actions.
- Limited technical specialization in the areas of air quality, noise management, waste management, and environmental monitoring and auditing.

Outlook for 2013

In order to address the constraints experienced in the implementation of the 2012 work programme in environmental management, the following outlook is foreseen for 2013:

Institutional Reform

- The administrative structure of the National Parks Commission will be streamlined with the Protected Areas Commission.
- The structure of the Environmental Protection Agency will be reviewed to enable more effective implementation of the environmental work programme. The establishment of a Water Quality Management Unit within the Environmental Protection Agency to focus on the implementation of the Environmental Protection (Water Quality Management) Regulations 2000, Wastewater Management and the Cartagena Convention will be pursued.

Legislation

- The development of Enforcement Regulations under the EPA Act of 1996, Biosafety Bill, and Regulations under the Protected Areas Act will be pursued.
- Sections of the Wild Birds Protection Act relating to open and closed seasons will be repealed/amended, as well as review and recommend amendments to the SPR 1999.
- Enactment of Category I legislation for CITES permitting will be pursued.

Research and Project Development

- New species for export by the WSA as requested by exporters will be evaluated
- A value chain assessment of caiman trade will be conducted
- A proposal will be prepared for scarlet macaw survey, with a view to having this species down listed to Appendix II, for export.

Permitting, Monitoring, and Compliance

- Inspection & licensing of holding stations will be conducted
- Continue to enhance security in the “Three Parks” under the Safe Parks Initiative started in 2012

Capital Works and Procurement

- Implementation of the Three Parks Initiative, focusing on the re-landscaping and development of the Zoological Park, Botanical Gardens and the National Park.
- Construction of a Petting Zoo in an unutilized section of the Guyana Zoo
- Maintenance and extension of zoo area and improvement of surroundings in Parks.
- Increase revenue generation by expanding nursery services and spot rentals

Public Awareness and Capacity Development

- Training workshop for holding station attendants will be held and a training manual will be prepared and presented.
- There will be an even stronger focus on public awareness, especially as it relates to solid waste management
- A comprehensive waste management programme will be developed for the Botanic Gardens
- The number of species of plants in the Gardens collection will be increased

Improve Collaboration

- Development of a closer relationship between the Botanic Gardens and environmental clubs, schools and NGO's to foster greater development.

MINISTRY'S STRATEGIC FOCUS

Strategic Area 1: Harmonizing/consolidating the policy, legal, regulatory, and administrative frameworks in Guyana that will support the sustainable use, protection and management of the country's natural resources

Figure 7: The table gives a comprehensive overview of the Ministry's Legislative Agenda for 2012.

No	Agency	Legislation	Focus of Legislation	Status
1	Wildlife Management Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife Import and Export Bill 	The regulation of import and export of wildlife.	Cabinet Memo Submitted
2	Guyana Lands and Survey Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Surveyors Act Land Surveyors Regulations Land Surveyors Profession Act 	To revise and introduce legislation relating to Land Surveying and Land Surveyors	Cabinet Memo Submitted
3	Guyana Forestry Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GFC Act 2009 Forest Act 2012 	The sustainable management of Guyana's forest. Both were passed by Parliament however since that time, there have been a number of developments that needs to be integrated.	Both were enacted. Further consultations on the Regulations for the Forest Act 2012 are being conducted.
4	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining Act - Mining (Amendment) Bill 2012 	The sustainable management of Guyana's mineral resources.	Consultations On-going

No	Agency	Legislation	Focus of Legislation	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining Regulations 	Regulation of mining in Guyana.	Draft Regulation has been circulated to GGDMA and other relevant stakeholders for review and comments.
5	Environmental Protection Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife Management and Conservation Regulation 	Monitoring domestic movement and bush-meat trade in Guyana.	Cabinet Memo Submitted
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing Regulations 	Regulation of access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing in Guyana.	Submitted to the Office of the President (HPS)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosafety/Biotechnology Management Bill 	Management of biosafety/biotechnology activities in Guyana	Interviews were conducted to hire the Consultant.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Protection Act 1996 	Updating enforcement regulations	In progress
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Protection (Air Quality, Water Quality, Noise Management, Hazardous Wastes Management) Regulations 2000 	Outlining of standards for air quality, water quality, noise, and hazardous wastes in Guyana; and the regulation of these standards.	Amendments in Progress

No	Agency	Legislation	Focus of Legislation	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulations of the Import/Export of Hazardous Wastes 	Regulation of import and export of hazardous waste.	New: draft to be revised
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species Protection Regulation 	Monitoring of trade of wildlife.	To be repealed by Wildlife Import and Export Bill.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulations for Compliance and Enforcement 	Strengthening environmental compliance and enforcement in Guyana	Consultants are revising the document.
6	Protected Areas Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulations under the Protected Areas Act 2011 		Legislation to be drafted.

Strategic Area 2: Strengthening of institutional structures for effective management of Guyana's Natural Resources, including optimum human resources deployment and management

The Ministry conducted institutional reviews of the agencies under its purview and recommended the need for institutional reform in some of the agencies. These recommendations were further emphasised by other projects conducted by the agencies.

Two institutional changes were the restructuring of the management structure of the GLSC and the GGMC to include two new positions. These positions are the Deputy Commissioner of Technical Operations and Deputy Commissioner Administration. These positions will focus on strategic planning for the divisions as well as the results based approach which the agencies will adopt for the coming years. Training within the agencies will be required on issues of role, powers, functions and structure of regional offices and the extent to which functions can be decentralised.

Strategic Planning for Natural Resources and the Environment

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, with financial and technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has started the process of preparation of a Strategic Plan for Natural Resources and the Environment in Guyana. The

Project and the Plan to be developed is intended to contribute to the harmonization of policy and management in the forestry, mining and other natural resources-based sectors, and better mainstreaming of conservation and environmental management.

The Project consists of two outputs: i) Preparation of a Strategic Planning Framework for Natural Resources and the Environment; and ii) Preparation of a costed Strategic Plan for the MNRE which promotes sustainable development and integration of environmental and natural resources considerations in economic development planning.

In December, 2012, thirty two (32) members of Staff from all Agencies under the ambit of MNRE, and including representatives from the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) and Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) were trained in Strategic Planning.

A Corporate Social Responsibility Seminar was held in October, 2012 which attracted 153 participants from private, finance, social, environment, and extractive sectors, as well as a large group of UNDP and other international resource experts. Strategic Environmental Advice, a Consultancy Firm was hired to produce the costed Strategic Plan. The Firm conducted its first Mission in December 2012, where Stakeholders were consulted and a Strategic Planning Framework has since been prepared and submitted.

The final plan is expected to be completed in April, 2013 through a highly consultative process.

Guyana Mining School and Training Centre Inc.

The Guyana Mining School and Training Centre Inc. was established in December 2012 to provide training in specific skill areas in the mining sector determined through a “Skills Need Survey”.

The main objectives of the Guyana Mining School and Training Centre Inc. are:

- To create a process to qualify Guyanese personnel in the fields of Mineral Exploration and Development for the ultimate benefit of the Guyanese nation and its economy.
- To rapidly generate a new and valuable work force capable of serving the present and future natural resources industries of Guyana.

The Guyana Mining School and Training Centre Inc. will be located in Linden and Bartica. The School will offer a diploma award which will focus on geology, mining methods, exploration technology, surveying, and computer applications for mining operations and mineral explorations. Students will learn hands-on science and engineering skills, and complete an industry-standard report during the second year of the full-time program.

Strategic Area 3: Improving national implementation, monitoring and reporting for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other bilateral commitments

Preparation for Rio +20 Workshop

June 2012 was a historic month, as it represented 20 years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Guyana, in preparation for its participation at the Rio + 20 Conference in June, obtained financial support from the United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs to prepare a National Rio+20 Report which highlighted Guyana's achievements in striving for sustainable development over the past 20 years, as well as some challenges in achieving these targets. A Consultant was hired for the preparation of the Plan, and two multi-stakeholder workshops were conducted to capture the views of Guyanese on the achievement of sustainable development in Guyana.

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

The EITI is a globally developed standard that promotes revenue transparency at the local level. The Government of Guyana (GoG), in an effort to increase transparency within the extractive sectors has engaged the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) to become a Candidature Country. As a result, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2012 was signed between the GoG and EITI Secretariat to establish collaborative efforts in the preparation of Guyana's Candidacy for EITI. Representatives from Guyana attended meetings in Zambia and Trinidad in October and November 2012 respectively.

Currently GoG is also working with the World Bank and the IDB on preparation tasks for a scoping study on Guyana for EITI candidacy which will be facilitated by the IDB. A multi-stakeholder group will be established early 2013 to solicit inputs from other stakeholders towards the implementation of the process. The GoG will then submit a formal "application" to the EITI requesting its support to implement the initiative.

EU FLEGT

In March 2012, the Government of Guyana announced its decision to commence formal dialogue with the European Union under the **EU- FLEGT Action Plan**, with a view to forming a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). The announcement was made after extensive stakeholder engagement at the national, regional and local levels. This project is a step in the right direction as it relates to forest legality and the broader objective of sustainable forest management. These have been core aspects of Guyana's development priority.

Preparation of a Workplan on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

The Ministry compiled a list of all MEAs to which Guyana is party and falls under the purview of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. A list of major Environment Days has also been compiled, which assisted the MNRE in carrying out necessary public awareness activities, through joint efforts with the various Agencies. In order to facilitate the coordination of participation at technical and Conference of Parties (COPs) meetings related to the MEAs and the implementation of Guyana's obligations, the Ministry is continuously collaborating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to send copies of notifications to MNRE. This has enabled the Ministry to coordinate among the various Agencies to ensure that the best possible representation of Guyana is achieved. An introductory meeting was held with the Agencies to familiarize technical officers of the Agencies on the various MEAs, and to discuss opportunities for synergies and areas of conflicts. However, the preparation of the workplan would require a highly consultative process with several meetings.

Strategic Area 4: Strengthen land-use planning and sustainable land management, with particular focus on extractive sectors

Sustainable Land Management in the Mining and Forestry Sector

This project is expected to achieve effective coordination of resource utilization in areas of multiple-use, particularly forestry and mining. The committee has developed a framework which illustrates the channels and time taken to resolve conflicts that occur in areas of multiple-use from the mining and forestry sector. The next step is to identify conflict areas and implement the framework within the first half of 2013.

The need for properly functional hinterland infrastructure particularly arterial roads to access hinterland communities and mining districts is of paramount importance. The Hinterland Infrastructure Committee (HIC) was established to align the policy direction for infrastructural development in the forestry and mining sector with the Government's strategic vision for hinterland development.

HIC provides a forum for the relevant agencies (Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, GFC, GGMC, GGDMA and the Ministry of Public Works) to meet and develop strategies to strengthen land-use planning and coordination among agencies in relation to upgrading and effectively managing roads and related infrastructure within the hinterland.

To date the committee has successfully coordinated the rehabilitation of roads within Itaballi to Pappyshou, Mahdia and Port Kaituma Internal Roads, UNAMCO Road etc. Emergency works were also conducted to several other roads and bridges that became impassable due to heavy rains or floods. The committee is currently compiling a list of priority roads for rehabilitation in 2013.

Strategic Area 5: Developing an Integrated Information & Communication (IIC) System for Natural Resources and the execution of an Education and Awareness Programme to support the sustainable use, protection and management of Guyana's natural resources.

Inter-Agency Data Sharing

The MNRE aims to improve the communication and information-sharing among the various Natural Resources and Environment Agencies. The Ministry has therefore applied for technical support from the Guyana-Brazil Technical Cooperation Programme for a GIS information sharing database.

The Ministry reviewed the check list for field inspections of three Agencies in an effort to seek standardized data collection of all Agencies which would contribute towards a reliable pool of data to inform decision-making. However, it was recognized that due to the various mandates of the Agencies, one standard field inspection sheet would not be possible. The MNRE will continue in 2013 to work with the Agencies in order to identify important data that could be collected during field exercises and shared by all relevant Agencies.

National Policy on GIS

The Ministry revised the GIS Policy and hosted an inception meeting which focused on updating of the policy, identifying core datasets and projection standards. The meeting was viewed as the first step towards implementing the National Policy on Geographic Information which is essential for developing countries in a technological era. Additionally, the policy can lead towards the development of an integrated system to inform decision making, monitoring and planning processes related to natural resources management, health services, infrastructural development and disaster management.

The final product of this project will be the establishment of an integrated online database platform which will allow users from the different natural resources agencies to access updated geographic information for decision making. The Ministry's GIS committee has commenced several activities towards the achievement of the final product. Some of these activities include:

- Completion of a gap analysis of geographic information within the agencies;
- Engaged international donors for technical and financial assistance: World Bank was approached and their willingness to implement "Geonode" as the platform for creating an enterprise database was agreed.
- The Geographic Information Policy of 2000 was reviewed and updated. The updated version (August, 2012) is available on the Ministry's website.
- Circulation of updated Geographic Information Policy to natural resources agencies, Ministries, NGO's and other GIS related stakeholders.
- Conducted an inception meeting to discuss the updated Geographic Information Policy in November, 2012.

Biodiversity Database

The Ministry has worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) towards the finalization of the concept note for mainstreaming biodiversity into key natural resource economic sectors. One major activity of this Project, if approved, will be the establishment of a centralized information-sharing database which will compose of biodiversity and other key data, extrapolated from all natural resources and environment research in Guyana. This will ultimately assist Guyana in decision-making for natural resources and the environment.

Pick it up Guyana

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment has undertaken a campaign to “clean up” the garbage evident in all parts of the country, promote awareness and foster sound environmental values among citizens. Titled “Pick it Up Guyana”, the operation is being executed with support from the private and public sectors. It involves businesses, government offices and citizens from all walks of life working together to clean up the environment. Emphasis is being placed on the adoption of environmentally sound practices, enforcement and deliberate actions to rid the environment of garbage. The main elements of the operation include the following:

- Enforcing littering fines
- Enforcing standards within Governmental and private institutions
- Clean-up drives
- Dealing with plastics and recycling

To date, the support of stakeholders has been secured and work has started both in the interior with the mining communities and on the coastland with several community groups and business organizations undertaking clean up and enhancement exercises. In the interior locations, environmental enhancement activities were undertaken at Port Kaituma, Mahdia and Itaballi in collaboration with the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC).

The public awareness component of the programme has seen the creation and erection of billboards, scrolls, posters, newspaper features, television programmes and a number of public service announcements (PSAs). A jingle/video aimed at influencing behavioral change towards environmentally friendly practices in relation to waste management was also produced and is currently being broadcast.

Environmental Volunteer Programme

An Environmental Volunteer Programme intended to mobilize and equip citizens from all walks of life to undertake environmental enhancement activities within their communities and influence behavioral change towards sound environmental practices was launched. An advertisement encouraging participation in this programme was produced and this is currently being broadcast via radio and television. Empowerment sessions for Volunteers have also been conducted.

STAND Initiative



In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Pick It Up Guyana launched an initiative – Schools Taking Action With New Dedication (STAND). Intended for implementation within schools countrywide, STAND is currently being undertaken in six (6) pilot schools: Redeemer, Rama Krishna and Eccles Primary Schools, and New Campbellville and Lodge Secondary Schools and St Joseph High School. These schools are engaged in separation of plastics and aluminum cans for recycling. Information sessions on waste management and composting were also conducted within these schools.

Data Collection

Preparation for the collection of data to guide policy decision in relation to the use of plastics is currently being done. A Questionnaire for administration to Supermarkets was created and this project will be undertaken shortly.

Strategic Area 6: Improving natural resources and environmental monitoring at a national level, and within various sectors.

Memorandums of Understanding

In the implementation of this output, it was recognized that several Agencies already have existing and/or draft MOUs with each other. However, after compiling and examining these MOUs, it was recognized that many of the MOUs have been outdated or have become irrelevant. The MNRE will therefore continue to work with the Agencies to identify key areas of conflict and overlaps with a view to improving existing MOUs or creating new MOUs to ensure the maximum use of resources. These will be examined with a view to facilitating greater collaboration on natural resource and environmental monitoring.

Strategic Area 7: Institutional strengthening of the Indigenous sector to manage, regulate, and execute programmes to support the sustainable use of Guyana's natural resources

During 2012, the Ministry of Natural Resources & the Environment focused on the following issues:

Mining Royalties: A cheque for forty nine (49) million GD was handed over to the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MoAA) as Royalties from gold mining activities for the period 2006-2011.

Mining Issues: Sixteen (16) mining issues attracted the attention of the Ministry of Natural Resources & the Environment during 2012. These issues were addressed individually and

communally by relevant agencies.

Land Issues: Communities of Manawarin and Wakapau of Regions 1 and 2 had boundary demarcation and forestry related issues which were resolved by a joint initiative between the Ministry of Natural Resources & the Environment, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MoAA), National Toshias Council (NTC), Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) and the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC).

Legislation: In February, 2012 a Special Mining Committee was established to pilot a policy for a 'Special Mining Permit' aimed at regularising Mining in Amerindian Lands and proposed extensions. The 'Special Mining Permit' process is still engaging the attention of the Attorney General.

Trafficking In Persons: The MNRE participated in two investigations regarding Trafficking in Persons (TIP), which were organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Low Carbon Development Strategy related Issues: Awareness Sessions in support of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy and REDD+ were done in nine Amerindian communities.



Environmental Issues: Several instances of water pollution and land degradation due to mining were brought to the attention of the MNRE which were resolved.

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