

## **A LOOK BACK AT 2022**

Thank you for joining us once again as we count the days into the year 2023.

The Environmental Protection Agency takes this opportunity to reflect on some of its major accomplishments during what can be deemed as rewarding 365 days in 2022; despite some challenges we have seen great improvements. From major developments to its monitoring capabilities such as the use of equipment and online tools, to the reintroduction of the “Green Walk” in celebration of World Environment Day, the Agency has much to be proud of.

Let’s reflect on some of those key events:

### **EPA’s Executive Director participates in HSE Panel Discussion**

The Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, Mr. Kemraj Parsram, participated in a panel discussion on Health, Security, and Environment (HSE), which was organized as part of the Guyana International Energy Conference, held in Guyana from February 15-18, 2022.

During this discussion, Mr. Parsram reminded the audience that the environment is as important as health and safety and therefore warrants the same attention. He also pointed out that while the EPA is improving its capabilities to monitor development and respond in the event of environmental emergencies, operators are likewise expected to ensure that their staff are trained and have the necessary equipment and skills to adequately respond to any emergency.

### **EPA Monitoring Air Quality**

In February 2022, the Agency received five (5) Air Visual outdoor sensors from IQAir with capability to measure the presence of fine particles present in the air. The equipment is being used to monitor ambient air quality by continuously monitoring Particulate Matter (PM) - PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>1</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, and Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

Each sensor unit has the ability to cover a radius of 20-25km and has a performance accuracy of 82%. The sensors indicate Air Quality Index (AQI) in the following categories: Good, Moderate, Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups, Unhealthy, Very Unhealthy, and Hazardous.

Particulate Matter of a certain size e.g. PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> are of primary concern to health; the smaller the particle, the greater its potential impact on health. The five sensors have been installed at locations in Central Georgetown, East Bank Demerara, Corentyne; Berbice, Linden and at Region Two.

Since installation, readings for PM<sub>2.5</sub> have so far been below that of the WHO Guidelines for air quality. Data on air quality allows the Agency to understand contaminants of concern, possible sources of contaminants as well as proposed appropriate mitigation action to reduce emissions of harmful air contaminants.

### **The Guyana Police Force and EPA sign MoA to tackle noise nuisance**

The Agency on April 13, 2022, met with the Commissioner of Police (ag), Mr. Clifton Hickens to discuss a strategy for sustained noise management in Guyana in collaboration with the Guyana Police Force (GPF). The team would have discussed matters such as the response to noise complaints from bars and music sets, training of Police Officers in noise management, more collaborative enforcement efforts; and mechanisms for information sharing and reporting. The discussion resulted in the two authorities signing a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) cementing the partnership to effectively manage noise in Guyana, and the formation of the Technical Task force between the Agency to address key problematic issues that warrant urgent attention by both Agencies.

### **EPA's Legal Department delivers a public lecture to the University of Guyana**

The Legal Department of the Agency on May 31, 2022, delivered a public lecture to the University of Guyana, Department of Biology students, on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in Guyana. The lecture covered areas, which includes:

- The purpose of the EIA;
- The legislative background; and
- The procedure for their conduct in Guyana.

Through this engagement, the Legal Department and by extension the EPA were able to promote and encourage a better understanding and appreciation of the Regulations that guide the Agency's mandate to protect the natural environment.

### **Green Walk and Exhibition**

A Green Walk and Exhibition was organized in celebration of World Environment Day (WED) on June 05, 2022. The Walk commenced at the Umana Yana and concluded at the National Park. This activity attracted participation of approximately 2000 persons from various strata of society, including Government Agencies, Schools, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Civil Society. At the end of the walk participants were treated to a WED ceremony at which remarks were delivered by Ministers of Government and members of Diplomatic Corp. The feature address was delivered by HE. Dr. Mohamed

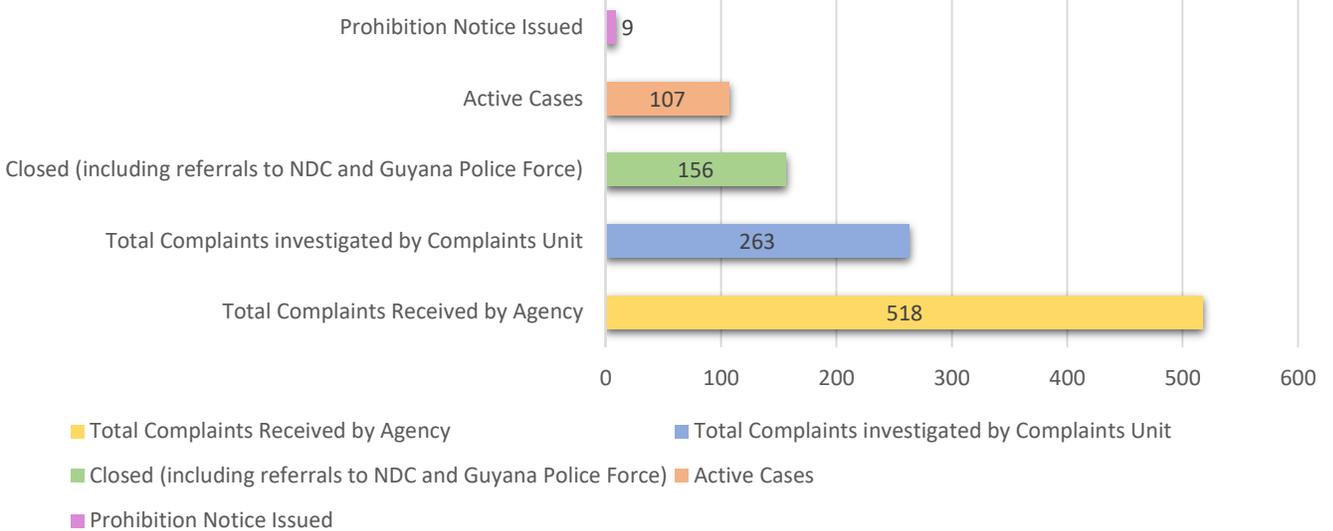
Irfaan Alli, President, Cooperative Republic of Guyana. Following the featured address, the Agency also collaborated with the United Nations Office to launch a Wall Art in the National Park.

## Complaints management

Whether authorized or unauthorized, operations during its process will release unwanted materials into the environment. It is the EPA's duty to take a number of steps to control pollution within the environment, including *conducting investigations and inspections to ensure compliance* with the Environmental Protection Act and regulations. The Complaints Unit along with the Communications Department at the EPA provides information and education to the public regarding the needs for and methods of protection of the environment. During the year 2022 the following statistics provides an image of the work produced by the Agency's complaint department.

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Total Complaints Received by Agency	518
Total Complaints Received by Complaints Unit	366
Total Complaints Received at Regional Offices	108
Total Complaints Received by respective sectors	44
Total Complaints investigated by Complaints Unit	263
Closed (including referrals to NDC and Guyana Police Force)	156
Active Cases	107
Prohibition Notice Issued	9

## Particulars for 2022 complaint data



These are just a few of our major achievements during the past year; we encourage you to continue to be engaged with the Agency through our media programs to learn more about the work of the EPA.

***You can share your ideas and questions by sending letters to: “Our Earth, Our Environment”, C/O Communications Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Ganges Street, Sophia, GEORGETOWN, or email us at: [eit.epaguyana@gmail.com](mailto:eit.epaguyana@gmail.com). Follow us on Facebook and Instagram and subscribe to our YouTube channel.***