

ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

 225-5467-9/225-1218

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OUR MANDATE

The Environmental Protection Act mandates the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to “take measures necessary for effective protection and management of the natural environment, coordination of conservation programmes, sustainable use of natural resources, assessment of the impact of development activities on the environment and the integration of appropriate environmental provisions into development planning”.

OUR VISION

A healthy environment and economic development that supports a livable, prosperous and a Green State Guyana.

OUR COMMITMENT

We are passionately committed to protecting Guyana’s environment towards meeting the needs of current and future generations.

OUR ROLE

We are an effective regulator and influential authority on environmental impacts, management and governance.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT- Overview

The performance of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2017, was stymied in the first quarter by a rigorous restructuring process. This process aimed to better align the Agency to fulfill its mandate. Additionally, repositioning the Agency to function congruent with Guyana's draft Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) Framework is imperative to meeting the needs of national development. The report will reflect the achievements, challenges and projections of the 11 programmatic areas, as well as, how the operational procedures were transformed to support this thrust.

The major achievements for the year include;

- **Improving organisational and Administrative capacity through:**
 - Reorganisation of the Agency's structure and the establishment of Programmatic areas;
 - Commencement of construction of a new central building;
 - Decentralisation of operations
 - Commenced the development of a laboratory for the new central Office;
 - Annual leave, staff promotion and study leave policies developed; and increased focus on developing staff capacity;
 - Improved HR and financial management procedures;
 - Field Ready and Functioning Fleet - Overhauled Field Vehicles;
 - Strategic Planning- commenced preparation of strategic Agenda 2018-2023; and
 - Cost recovery - developed cost recovery options - increasing permit fees and other means of moving EPA to financial self-sufficiency.

- **Improved confidence in EPA as the primary environmental regulator and Improve the experience people have of EPA -** We sought to improve the experience of people who interact with EPA by focusing on outcomes and timeliness.
 - Fast track authorisation process for low risk projects
 - Referral of complaints to other relevant authorities.
 - Improving communications with public and regulated Community.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT- Overview

- Efforts at improving Information management system for authorisation and complaints.
- GIS and science based decision-making - Acquired Drone technology, tablet and internet system for field monitoring.

- **Effective protection and management**

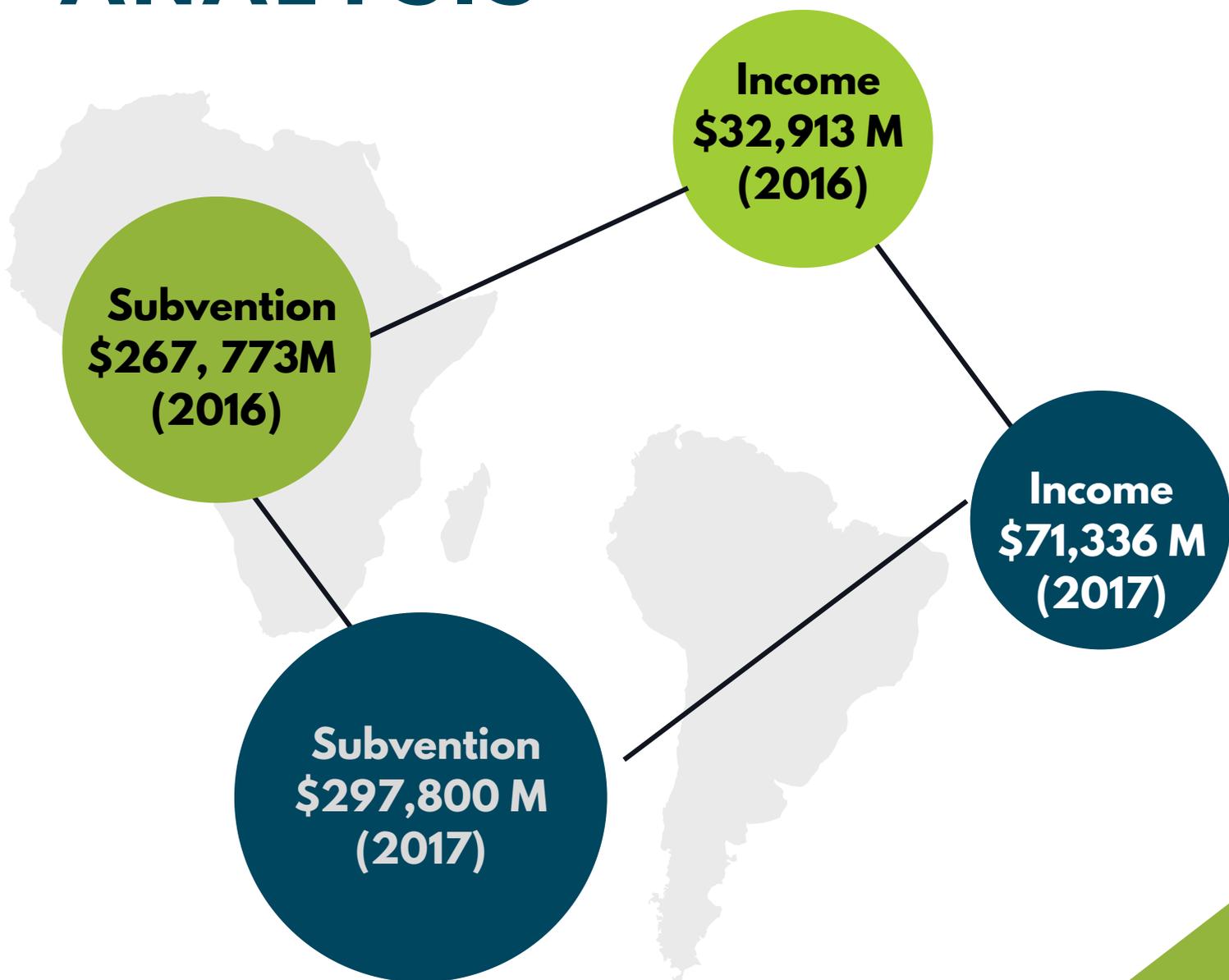
The Agency sought to re-align and improve its effectiveness of regulatory functions through:

- Developing State of the Environment Reports;
- Robust Environmental Authorisation Process re-aligned to EP Act; and
- Adopted a Risk-Based Approach to compliance and enforcement.

Over the year, delivering on its mandate, the Agency processed five hundred ninety-four (594) Environmental Authorisations. Further, the EPA increased its presence in monitoring of mining hotspots in Regions 1, 7, 8, and 9; ninety nine (99) dredges inspected, twenty seven (27) Cease Orders were granted in collaboration with the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC). Additionally, the Agency inspected two hundred fifteen (215) lumber yards and sawmills and delivered one hundred twenty five (125) compliance notices to lumber yards and saw mills. Further, Environmental Permits (EIAs) were granted for Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Limited (EEPGL) Liza Phase 1, two (2) large forestry projects and one (1) large scale mining operation. Moreover, one hundred twenty one (121) Litter cases were investigated and the Agency commenced addressing coconut husk issue in Pomeroon River. One hundred twenty three (123) representatives from Regional Democratic Councils (RDCs)/Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC) were trained through the Agency's Honorary Litter Prevention Warden Training program, including twenty-five (25) participants (Mabaruma and Port Kaituma). Seventy (73) Air/Noise Emissions Complaints investigated.

The Agency also established partnership with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which facilitated an evaluation of the national regulatory infrastructure for radiation safety in Guyana. Additionally, in an effort to provide evidence-based decision-making, the Agency developed a Concept Note for establishment of the Guyana Environmental Protection Agency Laboratory (GEPAL).

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS



Work Programme Summary

Authorisations

The year began with 866 Applications in the system to be processed due to a considerable backlog of applications. For the reporting period this year, an additional two hundred and nine (209) applications entered the system.

Five hundred ninety-four (594) Environmental Authorisations for projects were issued for the reporting period. This included three hundred and sixty-five (365) Noise Permits which were granted for the reporting period.

Site visits were conducted for a new projects for the purpose of Authorisation. Additionally, the Agency conducted sixty-four (64) preliminary assessment of potential for environmental and human health risks.

Public Notices

approximately ten (10) Public Notices were published to inform the Public of the Agency's decisions regarding projects for which it had received an application for Environmental Authorization.

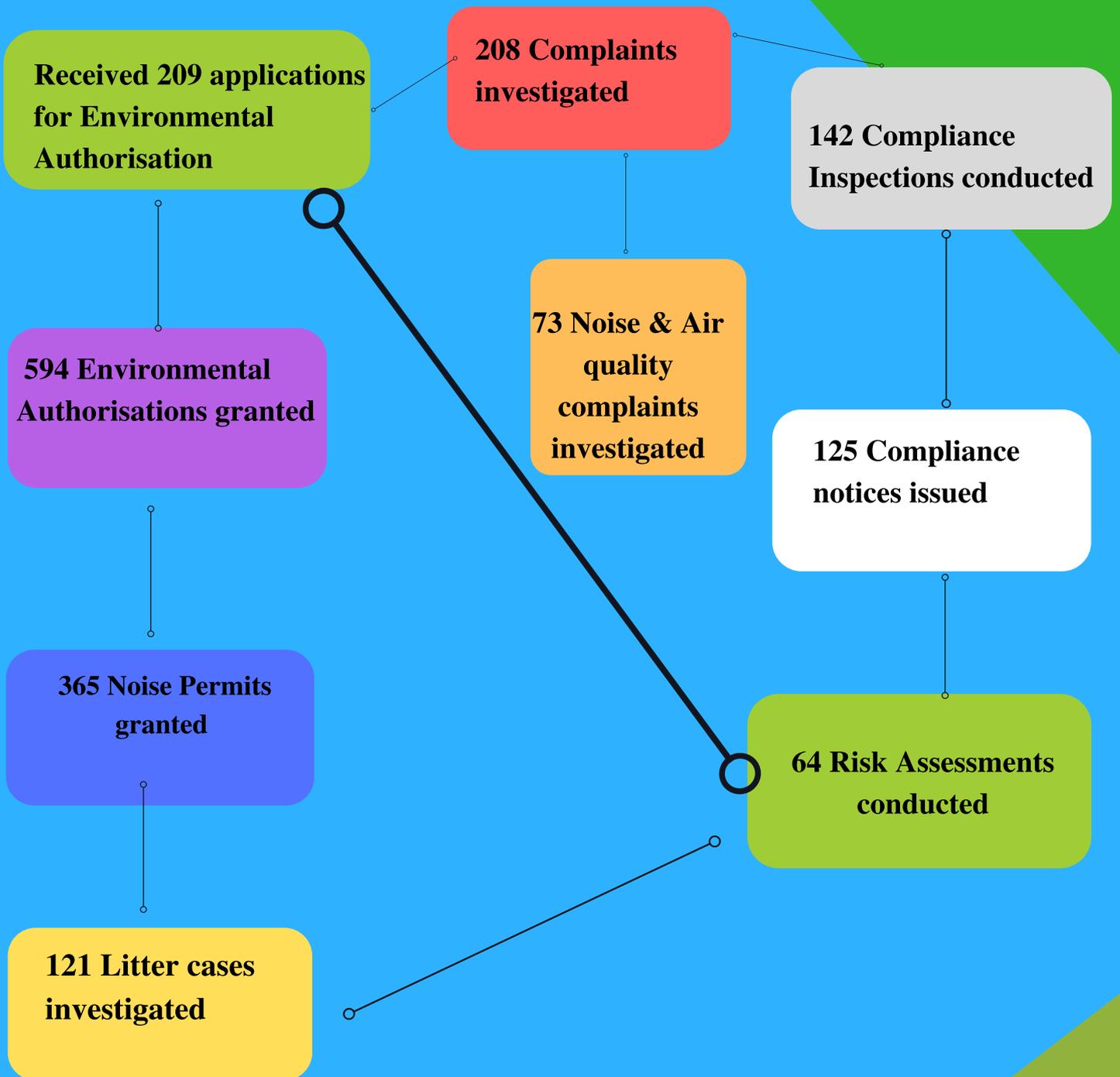
Compliance

One hundred forty-two (142) compliance inspections were conducted in the different administrative regions of the country and one hundred twenty five (125) compliance noticed issued. Compliance monitoring increased by 45% when compared with 2016.

Complaints Management

Two hundred eight (208) complaints were investiaged for the reporting period related to; dust, noise, fumes, smoke, solid waste, oily waste, animal nuisance and fish kills. The number of complaints increased by 3.5% when compared with 2016.

Work Programme Summary



Highlights - Technical Secretariat

This Programme is an arm of the Executive Director's Office which performs a coordinating role for the Agency's Authorisation and Compliance and Enforcement mandate. It is also responsible for ensuring the Agency fulfills its obligations under the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that the Agency is focal point.

In 2017, the Agency saw a 3% increase in the number of Environmental Authorisation granted when compared with 2016. This was due mainly to down time during the restructuring process.

Nine (9) projects were subjected to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

1. Sun and Sand Mining and Minerals Resource (UK) Ltd. Gold Mine Project - Large Scale Gold Mine.
2. Variety Woods -Logging and Sawmilling
3. Rong An-Inc.- Logging and Sawmilling
4. Flat Rock quarry
5. Romanex
6. Tumatumari -Rehabilitation of Hydroelectric Power Generation – Tumatumari Falls, Tumatumari, Potaro River.
7. Toolsie Persaud Timber Traders Inc.
8. Johil Green Farm Inc.
9. Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Limited (EEPGL)

APPLICATIONS FOR 2017



209

**NUMBER OF NEW
APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED**

594

**OF NUMBER OF
PERMITS
GRANTED**



**365 NOISE
PERMITS
GRANTED**

9 PROJECTS WERE SUBJECTED TO THE EIA PROCESS: SUN AND SAND; VARIETY WOODS; RONG-AN-INC; FLAT ROCK; ROMANEX; TUMATUMARI; TOOLSIE PERSAUD TIMBER TRADERS INC.; AND JOHIL

**08 NEW COMPLAINTS WERE RECEIVED FOR
2017**



INSPECTIONS
PLANNED



REFERRALS



COMPLIANCE
NOTICES



COMPLIANCE
MONITORING



CLOSED

Other Major Projects

The following projects are actively involved in Environmental Authorisation process at various stages;

1. **Ancient County Investment Inc. (Rice Mill)**
 2. **Bounty Farm Limited (Integrated Farm & Processing Plant)**
 3. **The Sweetwater Aqua Farm Inc. –Aquaculture Farm**
 4. **Julio Pereira and Ryan Pereira – Sheep and Aquaculture Operation**
-

Active projects requiring EMPs

The Agency had requested Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) be submitted for the following projects;

- i. **Sustainable Forest Products (Guyana Underwater Forest Products).**
- ii. **Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Limited (EEPGL) -Multi-well Programme: Drilling of six (6) Exploratory Wells – Well six (6): Payara 2 Well - Stabroek Block, Offshore, Guyana.**
- iii. **V.P Baichan & Sons Sawmill, Logging and Stone Investment – Stone Quarry.**
- iv. **Sterling Products Limited – Manufacturing Facility.**
- v. **Dr. Balwant Singh Hospital Inc.**
- vi. **East Demerara Water Conservancy**
- vii. **Innovative Mining Inc.**
- viii. **Hertz Inc.**

Highlights -Water Quality Management

The Programme area increased its presence and monitoring of Mining Hotspots in Regions 1, 7, 8, and 9 to address water pollution issues. To this end, ninety nine (99) dredges were inspected and twenty seven (27) Cease orders were issued in collaboration with the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC).

The Water Quality Permit conditions for the Energy and Industrial Sectors were revised to provide better protection of human health and the environment. Seven (7) Environmental Authorisations specific to water quality were processed. Further, compliance monitoring of waste haulers were frequent and consistent to prevent improper disposal of sewage. Please refer to pie chart below for distribution of Environmental Authorisations processed.

Authorisations Processed by WQMP

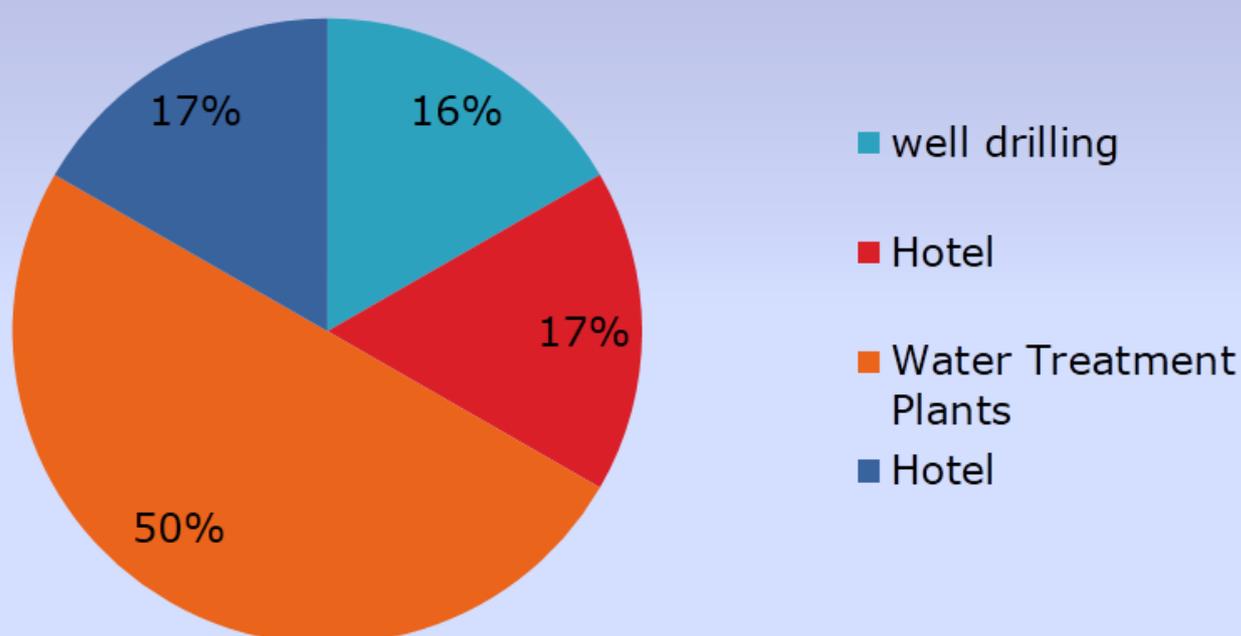


Figure 1: Categories of Environmental Authorisations processed by the Water Quality Management Programme Area

Highlights - Land Resources Management

The Programme area processed two hundred thirty five (235) applications for Environmental Authorisation for land related projects. Projects were related to Forestry, Mining, Energy and infrastructural development. One hundred percent (100%) of Lumber yards and sawmills on the coastland were authorised by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during 2017.



235 APPLICATIONS ASSESSED AND INSPECTED FOR PROJECTS RELATED TO FORESTRY, MINING, ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

100% AUTHORISATION OF LUMBER YARDS AND SAWMILLS ON THE COASTLAND.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the EPA and the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) drafted

50% OF SFEPS WERE AUTHORISED IN COLLABORATION WITH GFC.

Highlights -Waste Management

The Programme area processed one hundred seventeen (117) projects for Environmental Authorisation. The largest number of applications were received from Region 4 while Region 7 recorded the lowest. The largest portion of the application process were for Poultry rearing operations, followed by Forestry-related operations.

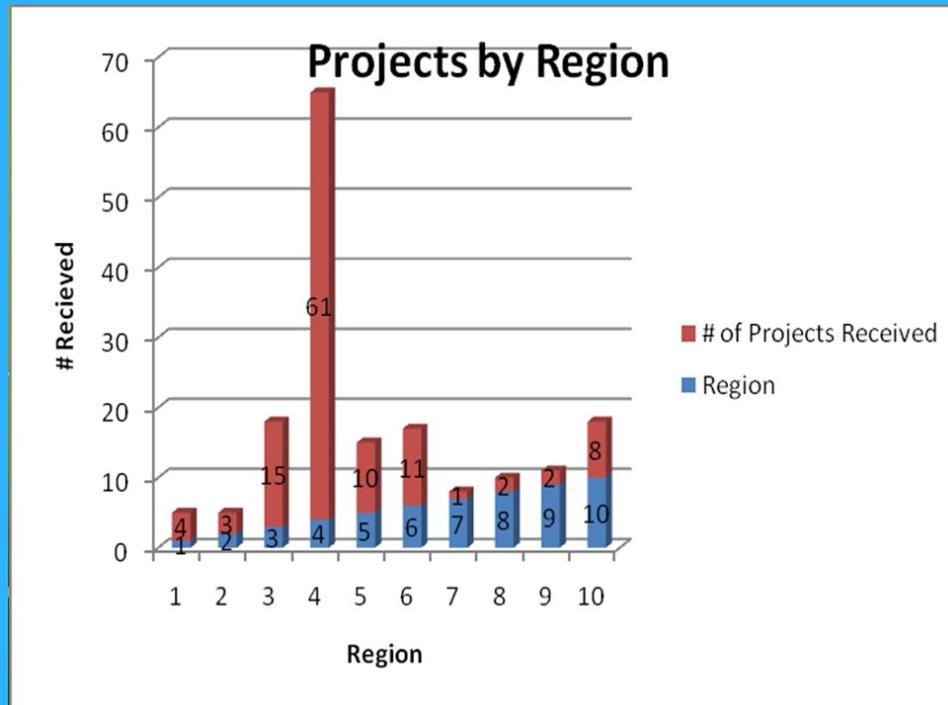


Figure 2: Projects received by Programme Area according to Administrative Region

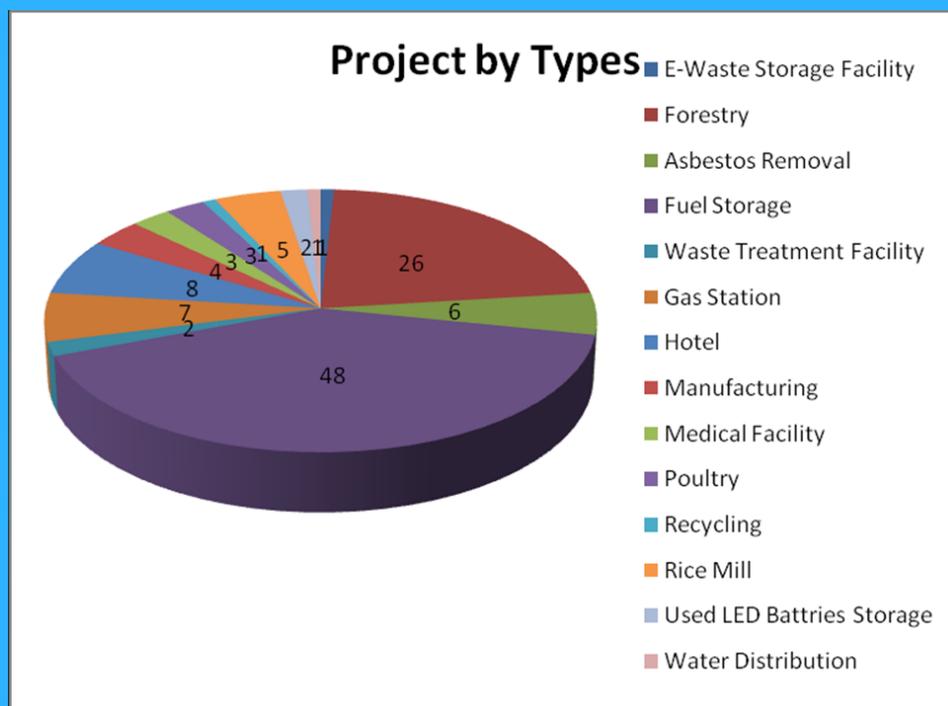


Figure 3: Category of Projects received by Programme Area

Highlights -Air Quality and Noise Management

- 97.8 percent of applications received were processed. The Programme Area processed three hundred sixty-five (365) Noise Permits. During the reporting period, one hundred thirty five (135) noise-related complaints were received and seventy-three (73) complaints were investigated.
- The Programme Area also developed a sector-specific checklist for the assessment of air and noise quality.
- Conducted air quality and noise assessments to ensure compliance with Air Quality and Noise Regulations (2000).
- The Agency hosted three expert Missions from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as highlighted below.
 1. An evaluation of the national regulatory infrastructure for radiation safety.
 2. Emergency Preparedness and Response to Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies.
 3. National Radioactive Inventory to strengthen cradle-to-Grave Control of Radioactive Sources.
- The EPA also hosted a technical meeting on air pollution in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).

Air Quality Monitoring

The EPA prepared a proposal for funding to conduct a Baseline Study. Titled Implementation of the Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000 - Conduct of Air Quality Baseline Assessment. A matrix was prepared to enable analysis of comments received from air quality experts on the Linden Air Quality Monitoring Protocol which was used by the Agency to conduct Air Quality Monitoring in Linden and data collected were presented in a report.

365 Noise permits granted

135 complaints received

73 complaints investigated

Highlights - Ecological and Human Health Risk

Sixty four (64) Risk Assessments were conducted towards Environmental Authorisation of projects within nine (9) sectors. The Forestry sector accounted for large number of Risk Assessments conducted (34%), this was followed by the projects relative to infrastructure which recorded 23%. The smallest number of Risk Assessments were conducted for the tourism sector.

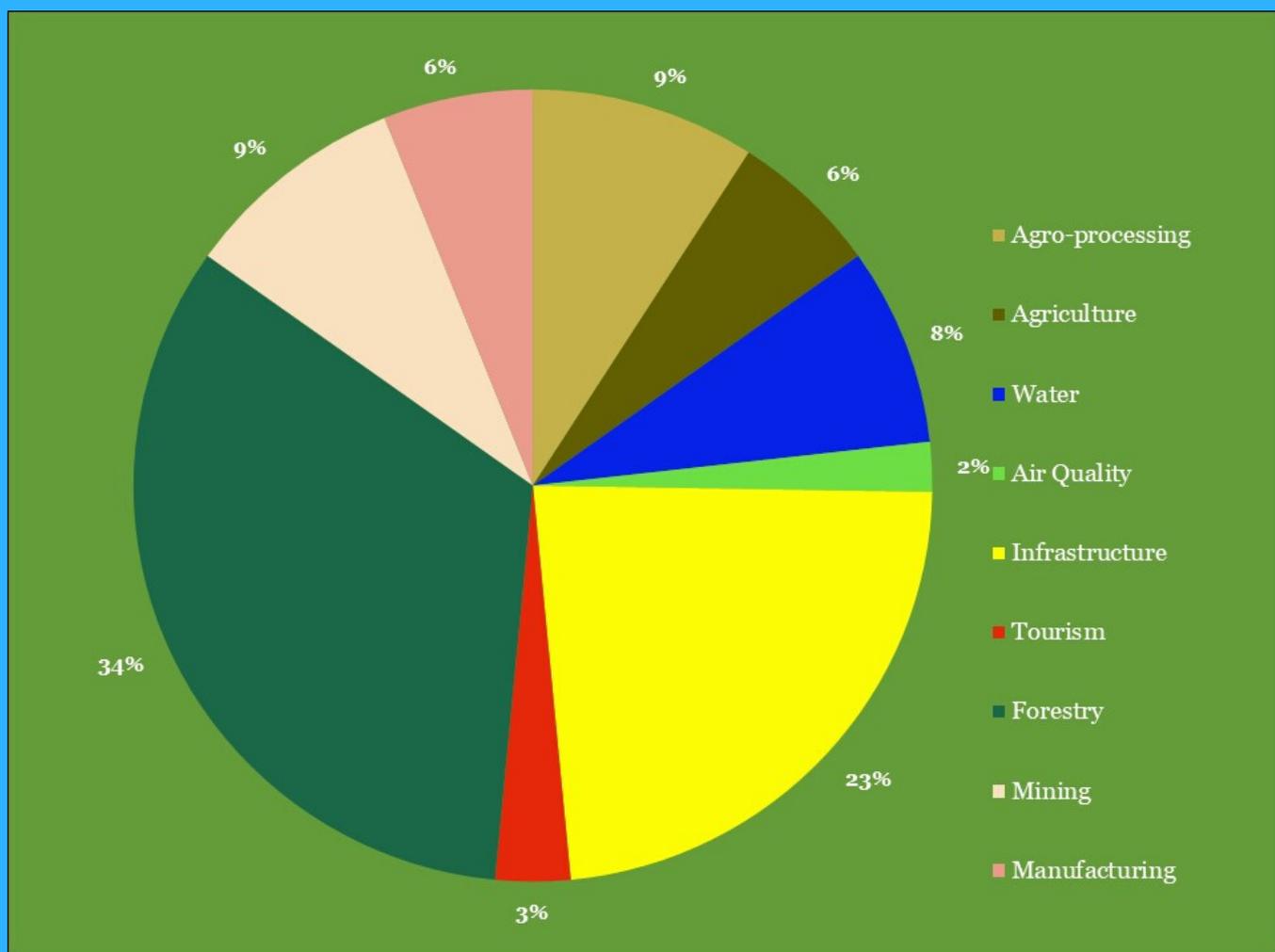


Figure 4: Risk Assessments conducted towards Environmental Authorisations by sector.

Highlights - Biological Resources Management

- **"Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the Mining Sector" project**

The Agency completed "Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the Mining Sector" project. Four administrative regions (1, 7, 8 and 9) were targeted; 99 dredges were inspected for environmental breaches or compliance. Under the project, equipment were procured for all project beneficiaries/partner for improved monitoring of the mining sector.

- **"Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS)" project**

Project activities completed for Caribbean Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS)" project:

- i. revision of draft ABS regulation;
- ii. modification of the NBRIS; and
- iii. capacity building in areas related to ABS.

- **National Biodiversity Research Information System (NBRIS)**

The Agency also commenced, "Enhancing Guyana's National Biodiversity Research Information System (NBRIS)" and "Preparation of Interim National Report to the Nagoya Protocol on ABS" project.

- **Wildlife Conservation & Management**

The Agency responded to complaint about nuisance caused by monkeys in the Hadfield Street, Georgetown area. As such, the EPA liaised with the Wildlife Management Authority to find a solution to the issue by engaging a private trapper to trap and remove the monkeys.

A proposal was approved to conduct public awareness on Jaguar conservation (*Panthera onca*) in five (5) communities in Essequibo, Region No.2. However the proposal was handed over to the Education, Information and Training Programme in view of the Agency's re-organization process. This was subsequently put on hold, given the Agency's transient responsibility with regards to wildlife management.

The Agency continued to address pertinent Wild Management matters and developed education materials to raise awareness.

Highlights- Multilateral Environmental Agreements

- **GEF Rio Conventions Cross Cutting Capacity Development Project**
Implementation of the “Strategic Action Programme for an Integrated and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the Amazon River Basin Considering Climate Variability and Change”.
- **Basel Convention**
The Agency participated in a presentation via Skype during the 5th Annual Steering Committee Meeting of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean). The focus of the presentation was on Guyana’s needs with regards to Chemical and Waste Management and implementation of the Basel Convention.
- **United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)**
The UNCBD conducted a Needs Assessment of Guyana with regards to incorporating climate change into biodiversity related activities; this information aimed towards helping the Secretariat of the CBD to deliver practical capacity building to the Caribbean Region.
- **Implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)**
The small scale funding agreement was revised based upon the advice from UNEP. Funding amount was US \$20, 000 over a period of 3.5 months.
- **Sustainable Use of Biodiversity**
 - i. The 3rd National Report to the UNCBD was printed and distributed.
 - ii. The co-financing report for 2017 for the Regional ABS Project was prepared.
 - iii. The EPA participated in the 2nd PSC virtual meeting.
- **Implement Policy on Access and Benefit Sharing**
Eight (8) applications were received; two (2) Research Permits granted; one (1) application was cancelled; one (1) application was reviewed and one extension to research period was granted; one (1) application did not require Research Permit.
- **The fourth quarter co-financing report for 2016 was prepared and submitted to the Regional Project Coordinator.**

Highlights- Multilateral Environmental Agreements

- **Regional Biosafety Project**

- i. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was drafted between the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the National Agriculture Research Institute (NAREI).
- ii. A Mock exercise to test national biosafety systems in project countries was conducted; the Agency has outlined the authorisation process according to the Bill. The system set up to process the mock exercise was conducted internally.

- **Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the Mining Sector**

Review of the Legislative Framework, Institutional Mandate, Roles and Responsibility for Biodiversity Monitoring' along with corresponding progress report were completed.

- **Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in the Caribbean sub-region Project**

- i. The Agency participated in the 2nd Steering Committee meeting under the project, via Skype with the regional project coordinator and country representatives.
- ii. Support was provided to the Project Consultant, Dr. Richards, who visited Guyana during April 06-13, 2017 to conduct an assessment on bio-prospecting activities, and common biological resources and traditional knowledge. The Consultant, with a team from the EPA, visited the Santa Mission Amerindian Communities on April 12, 2017, to discuss traditional knowledge in the community.

- **"Finalisation of the ABS Regulations" was facilitated by the Agency.**

- **Third National Biosafety Report to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was submitted.**

- **Enhancing Guyana's National Biodiversity Information System (NBRIS) Database**

The Project contract was signed on May 2, 2017 and the first disbursement of eleven thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven (\$11, 977) euros was received on May 29, 2017.

- **The EPA attended the Regional Workshop on Enhanced Access to Information and Data relating to the Biodiversity of the Caribbean, during the period June 22 to 23, 2017, at the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago.**

Highlights -Environmental Compliance Management and Enforcement

The Agency conducted one hundred forty-two (142) compliance inspections and investigated two hundred eight (208) complains various administrative regions of the country.

These inspections were related to fuel storage/distribution, woodworking operations and Asphalt Plants, wash bays, poultry operations and furniture workshops among others.

Three (3) compliance reports were prepared for Iwokrama as follow:

- Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development;
- Iwokrama Sustainable Timber Incorporated (ISTI), Sustainable Utilisation Area of the Iwokrama Forest, Kurpukari Region 8; and
- Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development, Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre, Iwokrama Forest, Kurupukari, Region 8.

A compliance inspection was conducted on the Stena Carron for Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Ltd. (EEPGL) Liza – 4 well Environmental Permit.

Visits were also conducted in collaboration with the Guyana Forestry Commission to sawmills, lumber yards and wood processing facilities along the Linden Soesdyke Highway.

The Agency received fifteen (15) compliance and ten (10) self-monitoring reports.

Environmental Compliance Management and Enforcement

- Two hundred and eight (208) complaints were received for the reporting period relative to dust and noise, fumes or smoke, solid and oily waste, littering, animal nuisance and fish kills.
- The majority of the complaints were related to dust, noise, fumes and odour either associated with sawmills or operation of generators. Most of the complaints emanated from within Region 4.

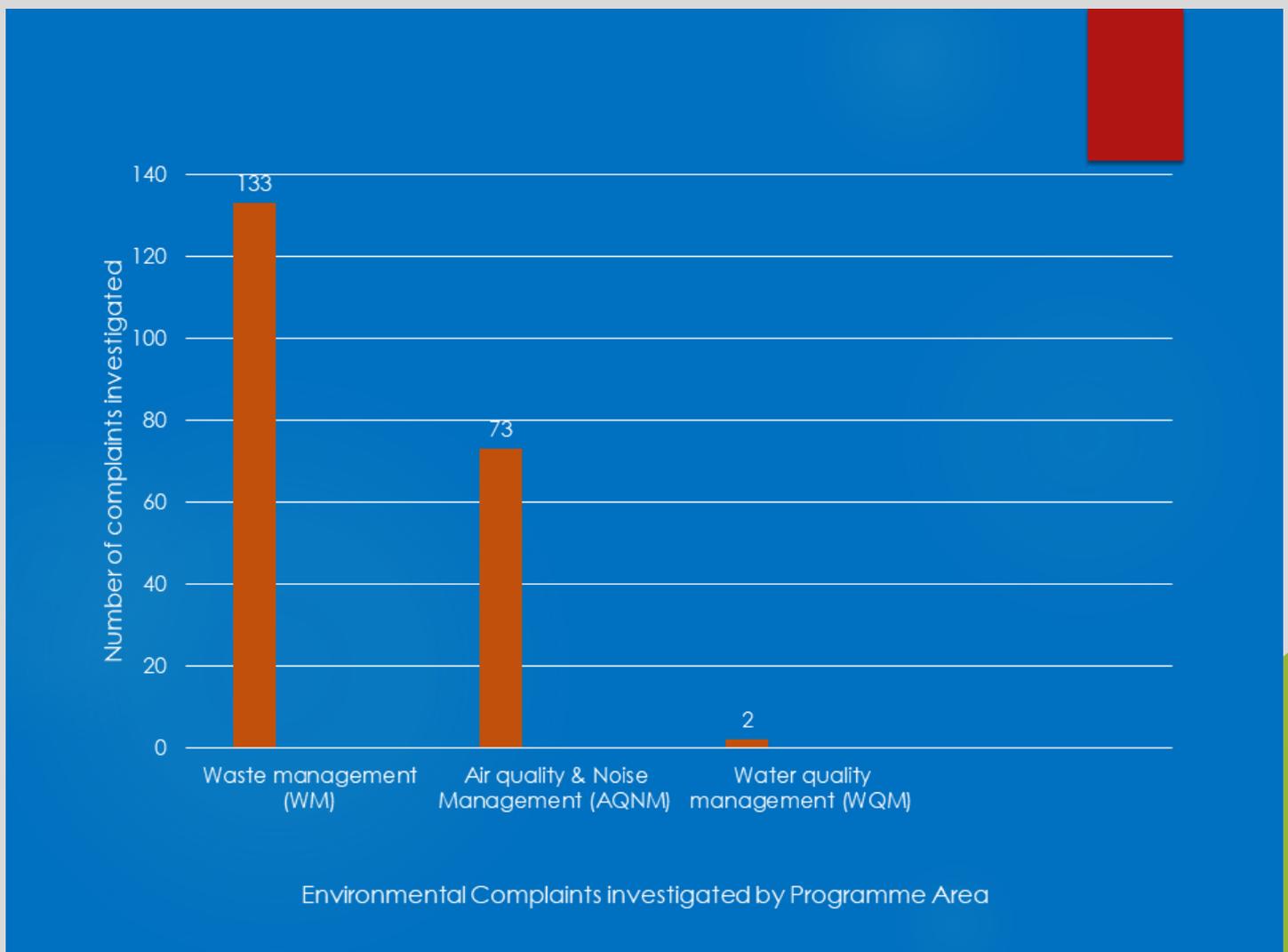


Figure 5: Complaints investigated by Programme Areas

Environmental Compliance by Programme Area

Waste Management

One hundred twenty-one (121) complaint cases were investigated while 8 cases were referred to the Local Authority for action. 128 cases were closed.

Thirty nine (39) citation orders (Clean-up and Litter Removal Order) were issued within Regions 3, 4 and 5 with the majority issued within Region four (4) including Georgetown. A compliance rate of 100% was recorded for issued citation orders, whereby 37 offenders complied with issued orders and two (2) were achieved through the court where the Agency secured successful prosecution against offenders.

The following enforcement actions were specifically issued to litter offenders, livestock operations that were unsightly and contributed to environmental degradation were also issued with Citation Orders.

Citations, Fixed Penalty and Notice to Attend Court

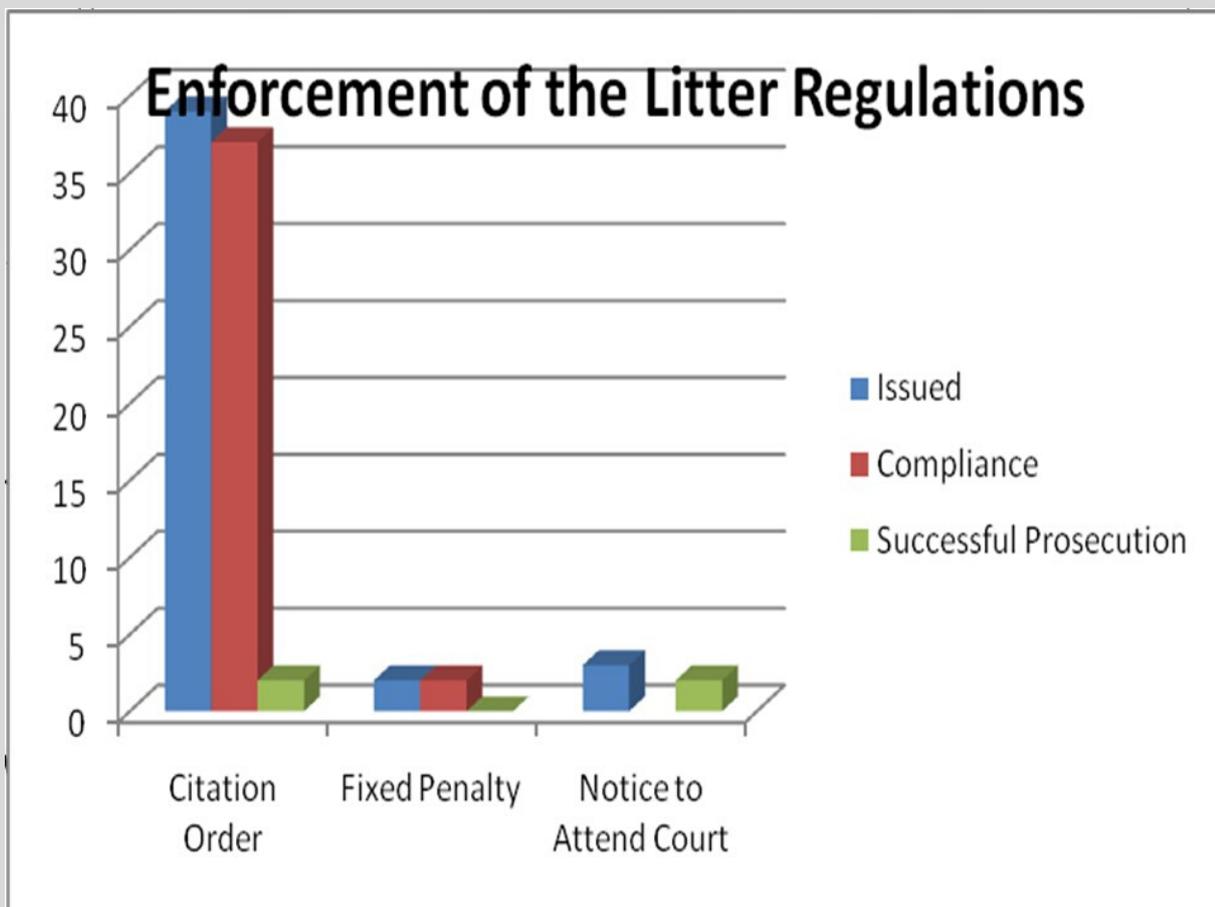


Figure 6: Enforcement analysis of the Litter Enforcement Regulations (2013)

Environmental Complaints

A total of 133 complaints were received by the Waste Management Program Area during the year 2017. The majority of complaints were received from Regions 3 and 4 with 26% and 71% respectively. The other 3% were received from Regions 2 and 6 with 2 complaints each. Of the total received, 74% (98) were related to Littering Offences, while odour nuisance as a result of improper waste management by Livestock operations accounted for 26%.

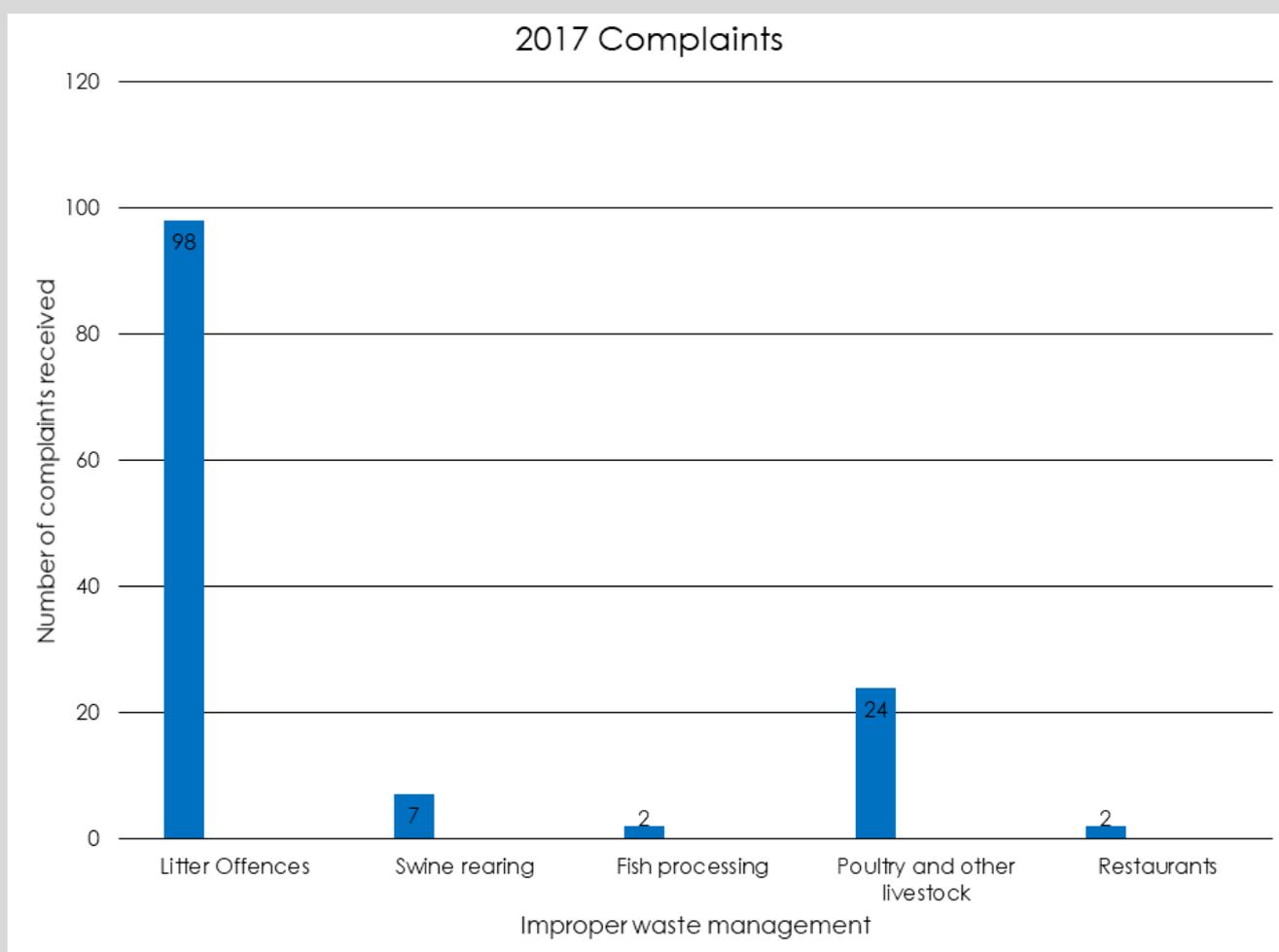


Figure 7: 2017 Complaints relative to Litter Offences and Waste Management

Environmental Complaints

Air Quality and Noise Management

One hundred thirty-five (135) complaints were managed by the Programme Area and seventy-three (73) were investigated.

Ecological and Human Health Risk

Ten Risk Assessments were conducted in response to complaints within six (6) sectors.

- Ten Risk Assessments have been completed in response to complaints within six sectors.

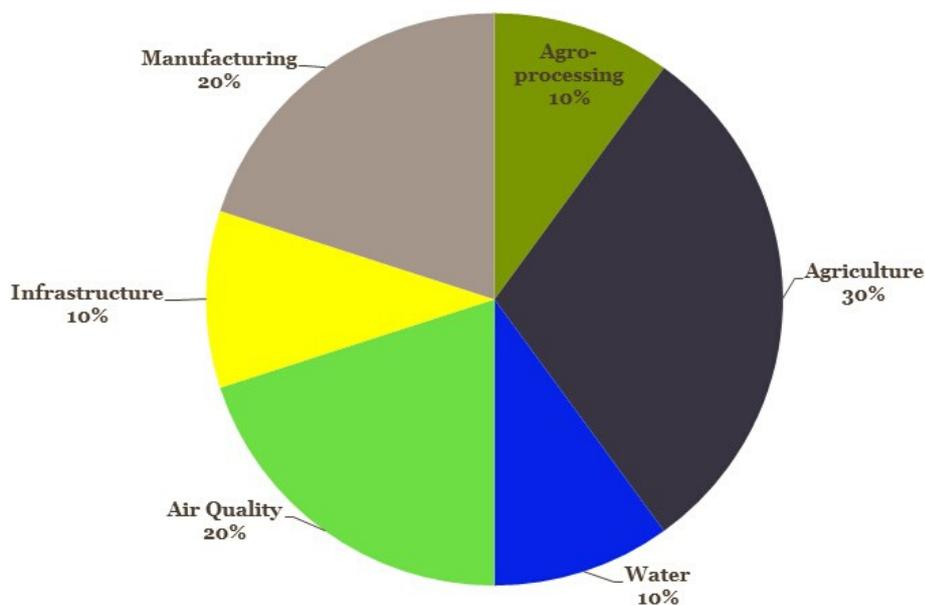


Figure 8: Risk Assessments relative to complaints.

Highlights - Legal Services

- Successfully prosecuted seven (7) cases related to littering in public places under the Litter Enforcement Regulations (2013).
 - Initiated the process for the establishment of an Environmental Appeals Tribunal.
 - Finalised the Access to Benefits Sharing (ABS) Regulations in order to fulfil Guyana's obligations of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their utilisation.
 - Amended the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Go-Invest.
 - Amended Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and Ministry of Agriculture.
 - Reviewed the MOU between the EPA and Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC).
 - Provided Legal support for all programme areas.
-

Highlights - Analytical Services

- Concept Note for Establishment of the Guyana Environmental Protection Agency Laboratory (GEPAL), completed and approved. A proposal for funding GEPAL was completed. □
- Preparatory works for the drafting of the main Proposal for the establishment of the Guyana Environmental Protection Agency Laboratory completed. □
- Two Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) developed. One for laboratory sub-contracting for analysis of environmental samples and the second for Analytical Services coordination and collaboration with the technical programmes as it relates to environmental monitoring.
- Staff participated in two (2) short courses hosted by GNBS covering the local standard GYS 170:2009 and ISO 17025:2005 for competency for testing and calibration laboratories, which will be used to develop the Quality Management System.
□
- Surveyed laboratories to identify and confirm potential laboratory sub-contractors and gather information for the Proposal. □
- Provided technical and field support to other programmes in guiding decision-making.
- A preliminary list of the requirements for the Quality Management System was completed. An inventory of equipment held by the Agency has been completed.
□
- Relevant EPA legislations were reviewed to identify and fine-tune the scope of the Analytical Services programme, and a few gaps identified, such as need for legislation for laboratory development and legislation relevant to land management and/or soil quality.

Environmental Communication, Education and Awareness Programme

• The programme area in 2017 focused on more community interventions, capacity building, heighten media awareness, strategy for dealing with environmental clubs and publicising the work of the Agency. The reason for the change is to better align the education and awareness programme to be in tandem with the Agency's restructuring and the draft Green State Development Strategy.

In this regard some of the materials developed include:

- The monthly Eco Echo news bulletin;
- Composting bingo;
- Bumper stickers for vehicles (3 sets);
- Case studies; and
- Materials for 'Technical writing workshop'.

In addition to the signature programmes and activities conducted, other activities included:

- Water and Sanitation Community Training in collaboration with Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF);
- Solid Waste Management Training - forty-eight students (48) from Tutorial Academy, New Amsterdam, Berbice;
- Environmental Jeopardy – Three preliminary rounds were held with a total of nine (9) schools in Regions 10, 3 and 4 respectively, with 3 schools participating in each Region.
- International Day for Biological Diversity 2017 - Awareness sessions were conducted in 17 schools across regions 3, 4 and 5 in addition to the Youth Forum and Elocution Competition;
- Honorary Litter Warden Training: The ECEAP collaborated with the Waste Management Programme to execute Honourary Litter Prevention Wardens.

Education & Awareness

Environmental Communication, Education and Awareness Programme

Some of the signature programmes and activities for the year 2017 were:

- o Composting training
- o Climate change workshop for youths
- o Climate change awareness sessions
- o Environmental Jeopardy – Three rounds
- o Launch of the Guyana State of the Environment report
- o World Environment Day, Green Business Forum
- o Biodiversity Youth Forum
- o Biodiversity, Jazz and Poetry spoken word training
- o Environmental clubs

NEW OUTREACH & TRAINING MATERIALS

These focused on composting, waste management, technical writing etc.

71

Materials included banners, posters, brochures, booklets, manuals, flyers etc.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentations focused on water and sanitation, climate change, experiential learning, eco-friendly communities etc.

66

Presentations were delivered to diverse target audiences from various regions

OUTREACHES

Focused on areas such as water and sanitation, climate change, waste management, biodiversity conservation & management, environmental education.

76

Outreaches targeted communities, youths, teachers, schools. The Agency participated in 10 exhibitions.

MEDIA

3 Television and 1 radio Ad developed; 44 articles were published in the Guyana Chronicle and Guyana Times

22

72 social media post were made, 22 radio and TV interviews



Research and Development

- **Standard Operating Procedures** - were developed for Use of Multi Rae Pro, Processing of Notification Documents and Issuance of Movement Document for the Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Waste.
- **Waste/Used Oil Guidelines** were developed.
- **Environmental Protection (Air Quality) Regulations, 2000** - proposal was prepared to seek support for its implementation.
- **The Draft Environmental Protection (Transit and Export of Hazardous Wastes) Regulation, 2015** was reviewed.
- **Air Quality Monitoring** - The EPA submitted Air Emissions data to the Guyana National Bureau of Standards to inform the development of standards. The Agency also identified air pollutant standards based on countries with industries and operations similar to Guyana.
- **Linden Air Quality Monitoring Protocol** - A matrix was prepared to enable analysis of comments.
- **Noise and Air quality monitoring** - Work was undertaken on a field checklist to conduct air and noise quality monitoring of specific sectors and potential air parameters to be monitored.

Research and Development

- **Environmental Guidelines for Water Quality Management in the Tourism Sector** was amended.
- Environmental Guidelines for the Estimating Damage Caused by Accidental Discharge.
- Environmental Guidelines for the Treatment of Wastewater.
- **Sampling Protocol:** The document was submitted for internal review.
- Guidelines for the Implementation of the Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000.
- Environmental Guidelines for Water Quality Management in the Mining Sector.
- Environmental Guidelines for Water Quality Management in the Forestry Sector.
- Environmental Guidelines for Water Quality Management in the Agricultural Sector.
- Environmental Guideline for the Treatment of Wastewater.
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Authorisation and Complaints process for Water Quality related Projects.
- Guideline and Form for the submission of water quality data.
- General conditions and procedures to determine the input of the WQMP on site visits for projects.
- A Compliance checklist for water related projects.
- Repository of Water Quality Permit Conditions for the various Sectors.

Committees

- **Water Fillers Code of Practice** - The Committee reviewed comments received during the public consultations on the Draft Standards and submitted an amended document for final edits prior to the publication by the Bureau of Standards.
- **National Technology Needs Assessment Committee** -The Committee discussed the Draft Barrier Analysis and Enabling Framework Reports for Mitigation and Adaption prepared by the Consultants; the finalised Reports would be submitted to UNEP-DTU. The Draft Methodology for the development of the Technology Action Plans were also discussed.
- **Radiation Technical Committee** - The Agency established a technical committee comprising key stakeholders to work towards the goal of Radiation Management in Guyana.
- **Coastal and Marine Resources Management Committee**
Consultations were conducted with key stakeholders involved in the management of coastal and marine resources for the re-establishment of the coastal and marine resources management committee.

Financial Management

For the period January 1, to December 31, 2017, G\$297,800 M was received as Subvention. Revenue generated by the Agency was G\$71,336 M. See details below of Subvention received and revenue collected on a monthly basis.

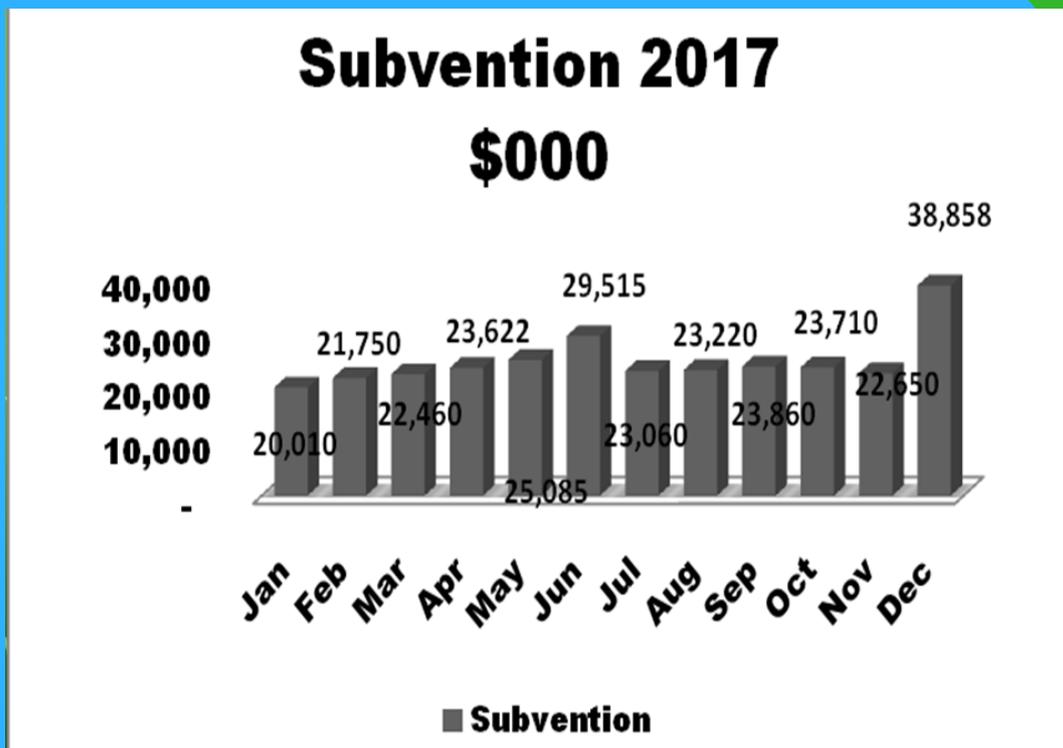


Figure 9: EPA's 2017 subvention

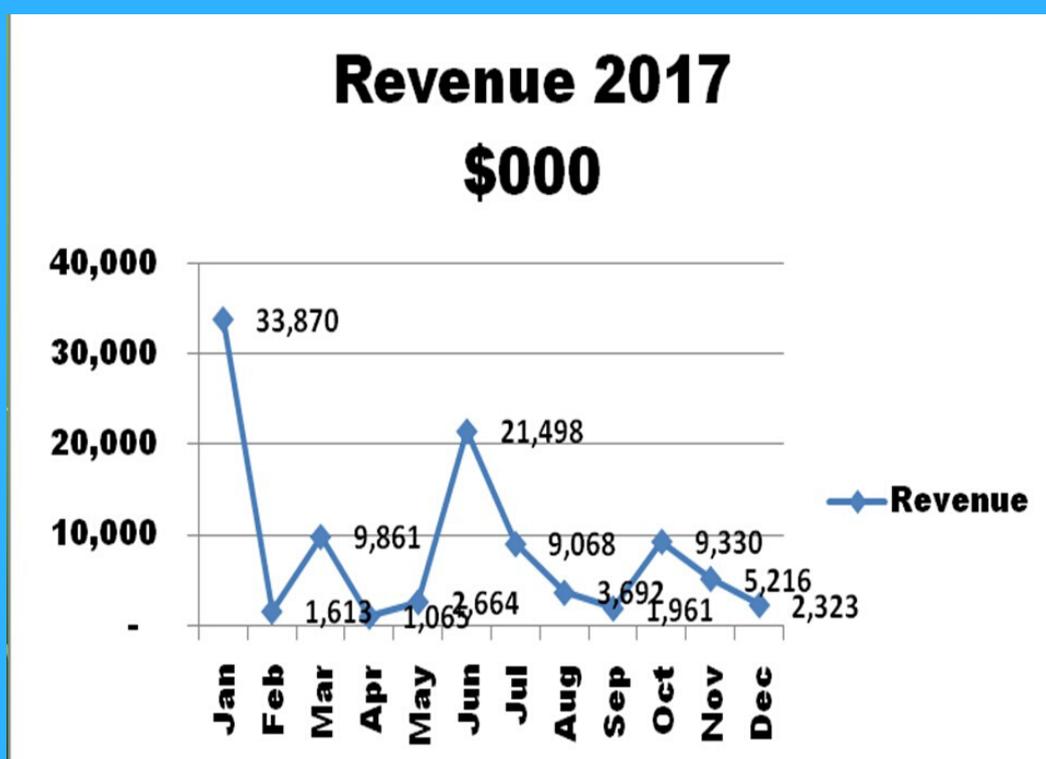


Figure 10: EPA's 2017 revenue

OPERATIONAL SUMMARY 2017

Reorganisation of the EPA

Structure and programmatic areas – During first quarter of 2017, the Agency, in a effort to improve its effectiveness and align itself with the Green State Development Framework, re-organised its Technical programmes. These were developed through critical analysis of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05. The restructuring was necessary not only to improving the processes and procedures of the Agency but to position the Agency to utilise its enforcement powers, provided in the Act. Additionally the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the National Regulatory body is integral to Guyana's Green Development trajectory. The following programmatic areas were established:

- Management Information System (MIS)
- Environmental Communication, Education and Awareness (ECEAP)
- Legal Services (LS)
- Air Quality and Noise Management (AQNM)
- Analytical Services (AS)
- Waste Management (WM)
- Water Quality Management (WQM)
- Ecological and Human Health Risk (EHHR)
- Land Resources Management (LRM)
- Biological Resources Management (BRM)
- Technical Secretariat - (TS)

Function of Programme Areas

- 1. Technical Secretariat (TS)** – screens and manages the Authorisation process, as well as, fulfilling obligations under the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to which the Agency is the Focal Point. **Compliance and Enforcement (C&E)** – an arm of TS which ensures projects' compliance with permit conditions and manages the complaints response process.
- 2 Ecological and Human Health Risk (EHHR)** – manages risks to ecosystems and human health and safety by identifying, assessing, monitoring and managing the adverse effects of contaminants and effluents on the health of ecosystems and human health in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act.
- 3. Land Resources Management (LRM)** – develops standards that seek to restore and reclaim mined out and other degraded lands, prevent release to land and to conserve and manage land based resources.
- 4. Biological Resources Management (BRM)** – protection and conservation of Biological Resources; and promotes sustainable development in Guyana.
- 5 Water Quality Management (WQM)** – manages water pollution by developing and enforcing permit conditions in keeping with the Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000. Defines the types and amounts of contaminants that fresh and coastal waters can experience without compromising value.
- 6. Waste Management (WM)** – develops guidelines and standards for the disposal of waste into the environment to manage pollution.
- 7. Environmental Analytical Services (EAS)** – oversees the development and operation of EPA's first independent Environmental Analytical Laboratory. Provides science-based evidence in support of the Agency's decision-making process.
- 8. Air Quality and Noise Management (AQNM)** – promotes a successful air quality regime through the development of standards, permitting facilities, monitoring and enforcement of the requisite legislation.
- 9. Research and Development (RD)** – provides sound scientific basis to inform decision-making on the state of the environment.
- 10. Legal Services (LS)** – ensures compliance with the Environmental Protection Act and Environmental Protection Regulations.
- 11. Environmental Communication, Education and Awareness Programme (ECEAP)** – raises awareness about environmental issues and the work of the Agency to ensure public participation in environmental decision making.
- 12. Management Information Systems (MIS)** – assists in environmental management by providing technical support to manage information systems.

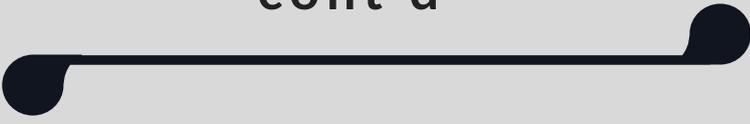
Operational summary 2017 cont'd

- **Re-aligned and improved effectiveness of Regulatory functions.**

The following highlights some strategic approaches adopted to improve the Agency's Regulatory functions.

1. Publishing of the State of the Environment Report.
2. Robust Authorisation process re-aligned with EP Act
3. Adopted a Risk-based approach to Compliance and Enforcement.
4. Focused efforts on risk and where they are able to provide the greatest benefits to Guyanese and the environment.
5. Risk-based screening for Authorisations and Complaints.
6. Environmental and Human Health Risk Assessments
7. Developed key strategic objectives based on the state of the environment.
8. Ensuring clean air through air quality monitoring.
9. Reduced impacts of mining and other developmental activities on our waters/rivers.
10. Improved waste management and promotion of resource efficiency and recovery in industry.
11. Protection and Conservation of our Biological Resources - ecosystem - based approach to managing coastal and marine resources.

Operational summary 2017 cont'd



b) New Board of Directors and the Environmental Assessment Board

The Agency's through the diligent efforts of its new Board of Directors made several strides to create a comfortable and productive work environment.

c) New Office & Decentralization – commenced construction of a new central office building as well as, establishment of decentralised Offices in Lethem, Region 9 and Whim, Region 6.

d) Strategic Planning - commenced the preparation of a new strategic Agenda (2018-2023). Staff Retreat and strategic planning sessions were conducted and a draft strategic plan developed.

e) Cost Recovery - Develop cost recovery options - increasing permit fees and other means of moving EPA to financial self sufficiency.

f) Administration – Staff promotion and Study Leave Policies developed and increased focus on strengthening of staff capacity through specialised targeted training, recruitment and election of a staff representative.

g) Training - Focused on establishing a dedicated training arm for the Agency.

h) Financial Policy - Improved financial management procedures through draft financial policy manual.

i) Field Ready and functioning fleet - Overhauled Field Vehicles
Commenced building of new office building with laboratory.

Human Resources Management

The Human Resources Unit, under the supervision of the Administrative Director, is responsible for recruitment of skilled and competent workers to conduct the work of the Agency. The Unit works towards building a team of professionals who are empowered by knowledge and skills to perform competently and with excellence.

Staffing

At the end of 2017 there were 93 staff members on the Agency's Staff Establishment, 87 full-time employees and three (3) seconded staff and three (3) temporary staff.

Volunteers, Work Study, Secondment

The Agency accommodated the following volunteers:

- Ms. Katherine Hunter – Peace Corps, attached to Environmental Education, Communication & Awareness Programme Area
- Mr. Daniel Rubenstein – CUSO International, assisted with the development of Agency's Strategic Plan.

Persons were seconded to the EPA during the period for the following positions:

1. Technical Officer; and
2. Legal Assistant.

One Officer from the EPA was seconded to the Department of the Environment

Vacancies, Appointments, Resignations

Throughout the year, the Agency was on an employment freeze, as such, no recruitment was done. However, approval was granted for the appointment of a Legal Assistant. In addition to the previous pending vacancies, further vacancies were created during the period under review because of resignations. The table below highlights the resignations for the year 2017.

Resignations (12)	Senior Environmental Officer (1); Environmental Officers (5); Driver (1); Accounts Clerk (1); Cleaner (1); Field and Data Technician (1); Office Assistants (2)	Confirmations (4)	Finance (1) Human Resources (1) Land Resources Management (1) Ecological & Human Health Risk (1)
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Organisational Structure

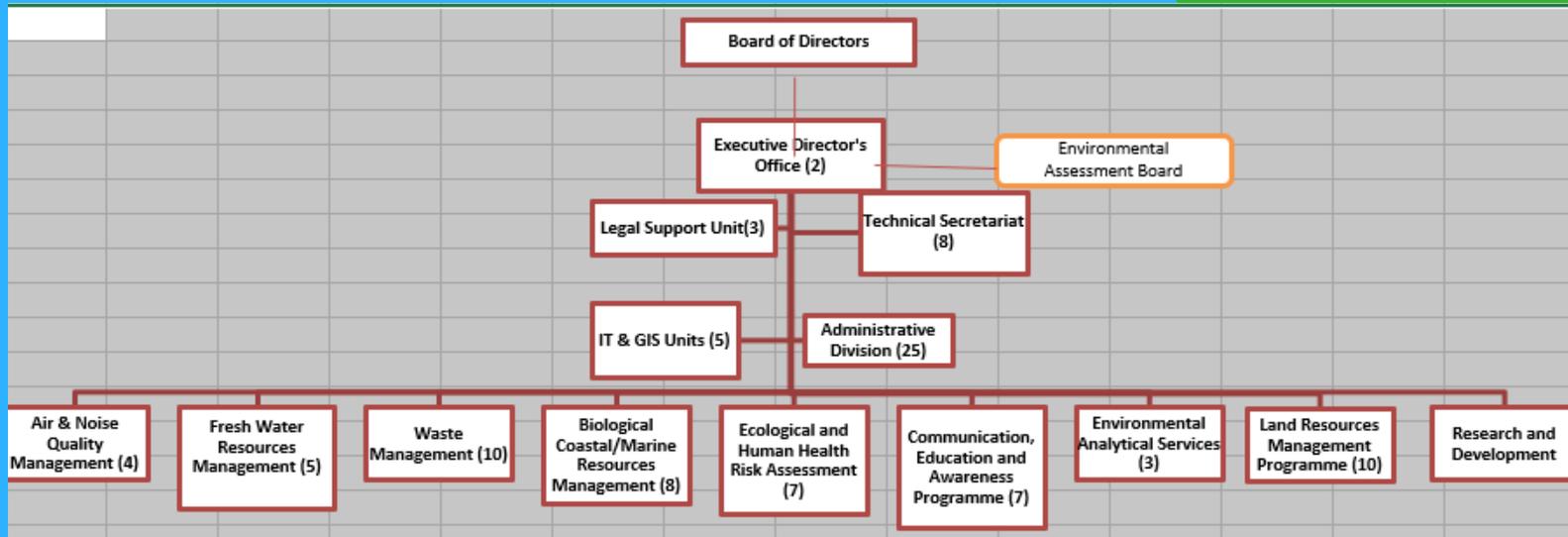
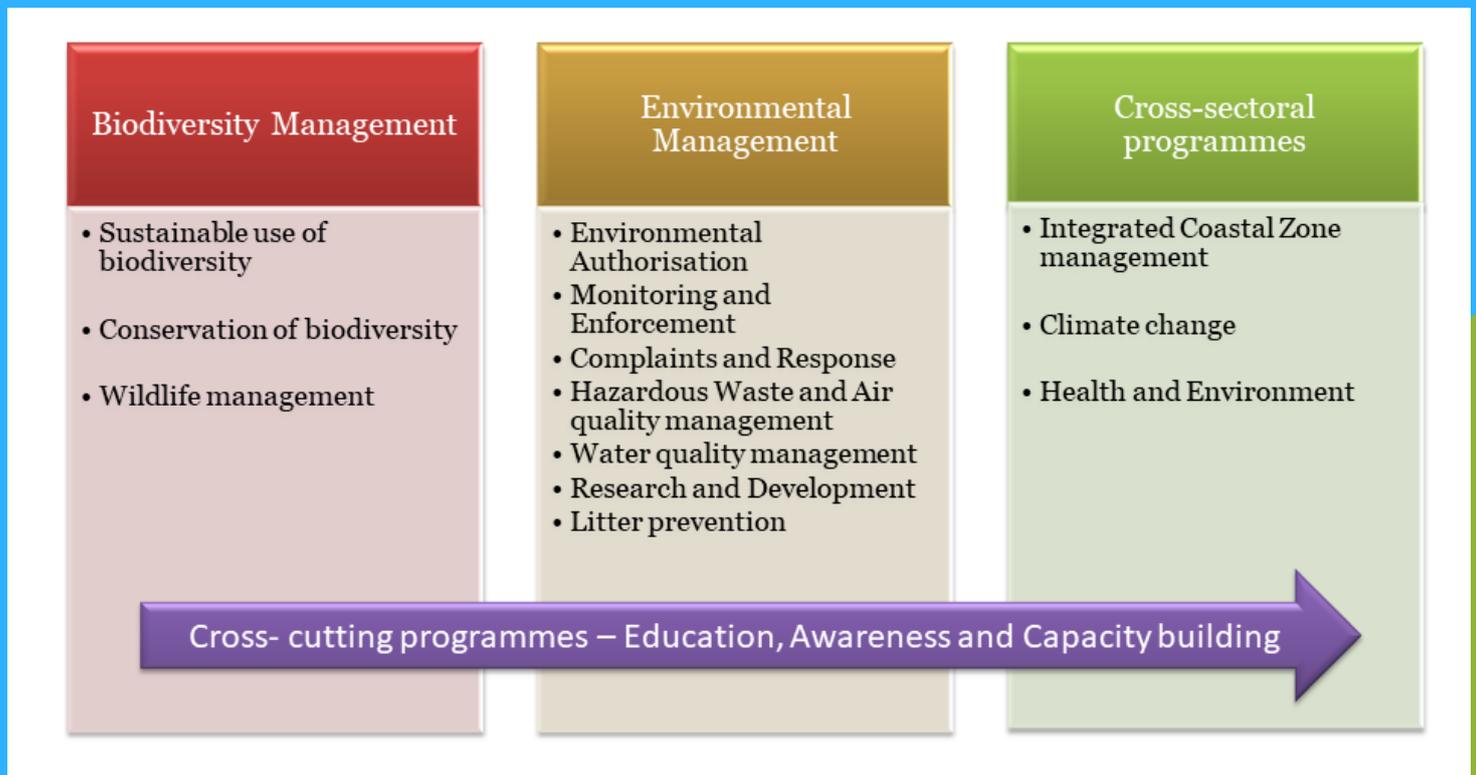


Figure 11: Organisational structure



Management Information Systems (MIS)

During the year Management Information Systems (MIS) provided services to staff of the Agency in keeping with the needs of the Agency. Among the services provided were:

- updating and maintenance of the Complaints and Permits Database. The SQL backend of the database was backed up and also maintained;
- upgrade to asset management software to include multi-user mode and additional functions;
- new documents, downloads and vacancies were uploaded to www.epaguyana.org website. The GEFGUYANA.ORG country website was also updated and maintained;
- reconstruction of the Agency's website and upgraded to Joomla 3.7 to support the new organisational structure of the Agency. This continues to be updated with relevant news and downloads;
- technical support was given to the People Pay HRMIS;
- the NBRIS internal web module was supported; and

Network Support and Administration

- The Local Area Network was expanded to accommodate new staff.
- Complete networking and installation was done for the newly renovated eastern wing.
- The Agency's received a DJI Phantom IV drone.
- Security Groups and Data Shares were created to accommodate the changes to the structure of the Technical Divisions.
- Both Dell T710 servers were diagnosed with multiple hardware failures and cannot be repaired.

PC Support

- Complete computer systems were deployed to all new staff entering the Agency.

Management Information System cont'd

Geographic Information Systems

- GPS coordinates from site visits and environmental inspections were plotted and maps prepared.
- GPS coordinates were plotted and boundaries and sail lines were digitized for: ION/GX Technology 2D Marine Seismic Survey, TGS 2D Seismic Survey, TGS Multibeam Survey, PGS Exploration, Repsol Exploration Guyana Kanuku 3D and Ration Guyana/Ratio Energy Ltd; and prepared maps overlaying the boundaries for these companies.
- A Geo-database was created and updated for Compliance Inspections.
- The Geo-database with Project Research Areas Permitted (2000-2012) was updated – this is an ongoing project.
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- Maps to show the locations of NDC's in Regions 3 and 4.
- The proposed areas for Coastal Resources Assessment for Region 2, Supenaam to Charity and Region 4 – Ogle to Mahaica were outlined
- Mainstreaming Biodiversity Project - Plotted GPS points of Dredge locations for area monitored by Omai in Mining District No.2 and for Water Sample Collected with the Essequibo, Potaro, Konowaruk and Mowasi Rivers.
- Plotted GPS points of Proposed Landfill sites for Mabaruma and Port Kaituma i

APPENDIX I: EPA STAFF LIST AT THE END OF DECEMBER, 2017

	NAME OF OFFICER	DESIGNATION
1.	Kemraj Parsram	Executive Director (Ag)
2.	Kerean Geer	Executive Assistant to ED
3.	Mr. Ravi Sasenarine	Driver to ED
4.	Dhanraj Persaud	Administrative Director (AD)
5.	Fameeza Alli	Executive Assistant to AD
6.	Ryan Tiwari	IT Specialist
7.	Antonio Valenzeola	Network Administrator
8.	Bharat Sasenarine	Technical Support Officer
9.	Sherry Ferrell	Human Resources Officer
10.	Radhika Ramphal	Human Resources Assistant
11.	Surendra Boodhoo	Finance Officer
12.	Tarmattie Lall	Senior Accounts Clerk
13.	Colita Mohamed	Senior Accounts Clerk
14.	Charlotte Elliot	Senior Accounts Clerk
15.	Dadre Bayley	Accounts Clerk
16.	Vanshanie Ramlall	Accounts Clerk
17.	Joshua Muridall	Administrative Officer
18.	Niketa Chintaman	Administrative Assistant
19.	Eric Hinds	Driver
20.	Kamal Ramdayal	Driver
21.	Shem Sham	Driver
22.	Joel Williams	Driver
23.	Kevin Jones	Driver
24.	Kumardev Samaroo	Office Assistant
25.	Winifred Perreira	Cleaner
26.	Kevin Durant	Handyman
27.	Aminah McPherson - Damon	Legal Officer
28.	Lauren Sampson	Legal Assistant
29.	Dr. Hansranie Seebaran	Director
30.	Urmila Singh	Executive Assistant
31.	Ruth Trotman	Filing Clerk
32.	Somia Gumbs-Luke	Senior Environmental Officer
33.	Karen Alleyne	Senior Environmental Officer
34.	Camille Adams	Senior Environmental Officer
35.	Makini Hackett	Environmental Officer II
36.	Ronn Sullivan	Environmental Officer II
37.	Savitri Tiwari	Environmental Officer II
38.	Dulcie Abrahams	Environmental Officer II
39.	Gregoria Vaughn	Environmental Officer II
40.	Junior Toney	Environmental Officer II
41.	Khadija Ali	Environmental Officer II
42.	Malicia Hall	Environmental Officer II
43.	Sharmin Joseph	Environmental Officer II
44.	Sandia Sadloo	Environmental Officer II

APPENDIX I: EPA STAFF LIST AT THE END OF DECEMBER, 2017 cont'd

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APPENDIX 2: STAFF APPOINTMENTS

NO.	NAME	POSITION	DATE OF APPOINTMENT
1.	Lauren Sampson	Legal Assistant	April 24, 2017

APPENDIX 3: Local training/Capacity building

Name of Training/Workshop/Meeting	Date	No. of EPA Staff Participating
CIVIL PROCEDURE RULES (CPR) 2016 orientation programme	January 4, 2017	1
Biological Waste Water Treatment and Managed Aquifer Recharge for Water and Waste Water Treatment	January 9-13, 2017	1
Public Procurement Modernization & Financial Management Strengthening – UNDP/CIPS Certificate Course Level 2 in Public Procurement	January 16 – 19, 2017	1
FURGO training on issues relating to the oil and gas sector.	January 17, 2017	15
Oil Response Training	February 6, 2017	5
Capacity Building Workshop for the Technology Needs Assessment for Climate Change in Guyana	February 14, 2017	1
First Webinar - Caribbean Climate Smart Agriculture Forum for Innovative Coordination.	February 14, 2017	1
Workshop to develop ecological and threat monitoring protocols for National Protected Areas System (NPAS).	February 28, 2017	2
Sensitization and Validation workshop of Sustainable Land Management and Development Project Concept.	March 2, 2017	1
RRR+ Workshop on Greenhouse Gas Inventories	March 7, 2017	2
Doing Business Workshop under the area of “Legal Reform – Business Startup and Trade”	March 7, 2017	1
ISO /TC 28-Petroleum and related products, fuels and lubricants from natural or synthetic sources meeting	March 10, 2017	1
Workshop on the implementation of the Sustainable Agriculture Development Programme	March 29 – 31, 2017	1
Workshop on Promoting Integrated Ocean and Participatory Governance in Guyana	March 29 – 31, 2017	2

and Suriname: the Eastern Gate to the Caribbean		
ACTO course in Sampling and Preservation of Water Sediment Sample under the Programme "Regional Actions in Water Resources	April 24-28, 2017	1
Name of Training/Workshop/Meeting	Date	No. of EPA Staff Participating
Occupational Safety & Health Symposium	April 20, 2017	1
Surveillance System and Food Safety and Certification and Environmental Sanitation Training Workshop	April 26 -28, 2017	7
Emergency CPR and First Aid Training	April 20-21, 2017	22
Oil Spill Response plan for the Liza Phase I Development Project	April 26 – 27, 2017	10
Public consultation on the Draft National Action Plan (NAP) on Mercury use Reduction/Elimination	May 22, 2017	2
Seminar in Development of an OPT-In Package	May 29, 2017	1
Climate Change and Health: National Action Plan Guyana Inter – Agency Seminar	June 5-6, 2017	2
National Work Group: <u>Minimal</u> Implementation	June 6, 2017	1
Meeting to share information on the EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement process, discuss the expectations of the field testing and to address possible questions regarding the process	June 6, 2017	7
IAEA Advisory Mission at assist in establishing the national regulation of radiation sources	June 9-12, 2017	4
Technology Action Plan for Adaptation	June 15, 2017	3
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Training Programme for Government Entities	June 22, 2017	2
Occupational Safety and Health Workshop	June 19-21, 2017	1
Environmental and Social Management Plan for <u>GoG</u> Housing Scheme Meeting	June 21, 2017	1

Seminar on preparing for First Oil: Managing Resources	June 21, 2017	1
meeting for Consultation on National Action Plans for Antimicrobial Resistance	June 27, 2017	1
Information and Communications Technology Training Courses	July 17-21, 2017	1
Integrated Solid Waste Management workshop	July 19-20, 2017	4
Marine Spatial Planning Project Launch Workshop	July 27-28, 2017	1
Consultation for the Development and Implementation of a Communications Strategy on Climate Change	July 26, 2017	1
Name of Training/Workshop/Meeting	Date	No. of EPA Staff Participating
Workshop for Chemical Management and Emergencies Prevention and Control in Guyana	August 24-25, 2017	1
Workshop a Integrated Atomic Energy (IAEA) Mission to Guyana on Emergency preparedness and Response to Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies	August 7-11, 2017	7
National Training Workshop on Climate Change Impacts Models and Tools for Decision Making	September 20-22, 2017 & September 25-27, 2017	1
Workshop on Forestry and Mining Issues which was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.	September 6, 2017	1
Stakeholder consultation meeting on the local policy framework	September 6, 2017	4
Meeting on the National Integrated Solid Waste Management Strategy Shareholders Consolation	September 6, 2017	1
Environmental Information Monitoring and Management System Seminar	September 12, 2017	1
Kick-Off Meeting for the Project, "Strengthening technical Capacities to Mainstream and Monitor Rio Convention Implementation through Policy Coordination"	September 27, 2017	1
Workshop: "Live2Lead"	October 6, 2017	1

Fourth Webinar – Caribbean Climate Smart Agriculture Forum for Innovative Coordination	October 17, 2017	1
Workshop on ILO Mine Safety Inspectors Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice (KAP) surveys for Shell Beach Protected Area in Kumaka Village, Santa Rosa	October 23-27, 2017	5
Workshop on “Compliance Assessment and Gap Analysis for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)”	October 16-24, 2017	1
University of Spill Management (UoSM) training	October 24, 2017	1
“Regional Technical Exchange Meeting: Community Protocols and Access and Benefit - sharing related to Traditional Knowledge Protection”	October 24-26, 2017	6
	November 2-3, 2017	1
Name of Training/Workshop/Meeting	Date	No. of EPA Staff Participating
One Day Professional Staff Development workshop	November 9, 2017	4
Records and Registry Management training	November 13-17, 2017	2
Consultation on National Action Plans for Antimicrobial Resistance	November 10, 2017	1
Workshop: Planning Positive Transformation in the Oil and Gas Sector; Developing a SEA Process	November 27-28, 2017	1
Integrated Solid Waste Management Training Workshop	November 27-28, 2017	3
Stakeholder Meeting: Preparing its Strategic Plan for 2018-2023	December 4, 2017	1
Workshop “Collaborating with key stakeholders to enable Safe Drone Operations.”	December 7, 2017	1

APPENDIX 4: Overseas training/conferences

Meeting Name	Location	Date	No. of Staff Participating
Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292: Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction	New York	March 27 – April 7, 2017	1
Course of Monitoring and Diagnosis of Water Quality	Sao Paulo, Brazil	May 22-26, 2017	1
Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Caribbean Constituency Meeting and GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop	Grenada	May 15 – 19, 2017	3
International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC)	Long Beach, California	May 15 -19, 2017	1
Annual General Meeting of International Offshore Petroleum Environmental Regulation (IOPER)	Santa Barbara, California	May 22 -25, 2017	1
meeting of officials of Guyana and Suriname to Address Areas of Cooperation on the Environment and Climate Change	Nickerie Suriname	June 22, 2017	1
GBIF Capacity Enhancement Workshop and Regional Meeting	Trinidad & Tobago	June 19-23, 2017	2
IDB, Division of Environment and Safeguards Regional Policy dialogue on Environmental Licensing and Enforcement	Trinidad & Tobago	June 27 -30, 2017	1

Regional Mangrove Meeting hosted by the Government of the Republic of Suriname (Coordination of Environment within the Cabinet of the President) and Conservation International-Suriname	Suriname	June 13-14, 2017	1
Meeting Name	Location	Date	No. of Staff Participating
Regional Dialogue with Co-chairs and Authors of the Regional Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service (IPDES Americas Assessment)	Cartagena, Columbia	August 3-4, 2017	1
Regional Training Course on Authorization and Inspection of Radiation Sources	Ottawa, Canada	September 11- October 6, 2017	1
Marine Spatial Planning Project Launch Workshop	Suriname	July 24-26, 2017	1
Protected Species Observer Training	Trinidad & Tobago	September 11-15, 2017	2
IDB, Division of Environment and Safeguards Regional Policy Dialogue on Environmental Licensing and Enforcement	Trinidad & Tobago	September 19-22, 2017	2
Workshop for small island developing states of the Caribbean Region towards achieving aichi biodiversity target 9 on invasive alien species	Jamaica	September 18-22, 2017	1
Second Regional Steering Committee Meeting for the Project "Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in Countries of the Caribbean Region"	Antigua & Barbuda	October 22-24, 2017	1
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO): Ecosystem –based Climate Change Adaptation –EBA Training Course	Brasilia, Brazi	October 4-6, 2017	1
"Regional Workshop on basic drafting for access and benefit sharing (abs) template agreements and follow-up meeting on the access and benefit sharing clearing house mechanism"	Grenada	November 27-29, 2017	2