



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Environmental Protection
Agency Guyana



Table of Contents

| | |
|--|--------------|
| About the EPA | 3 |
| Organisational Chart | 4 |
| Environmental Authorisation of Developmental Activities | 5 |
| Environmental Monitoring and Research | 10 |
| Compliance Monitoring, Investigation & Enforcement | 15 |
| Compliance Assistance and Sectoral Support | 18 |
| Public Awareness, Education and Community Engagement | 19 |
| Institutional Strengthening and Technology | 20 |
| Financial Summary / Audited Financial Statement | 21-37 |

ABOUT THE EPA

MANDATE

The Environmental Protection Act gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the mandate to, *inter alia*, take necessary steps for the effective management of the natural environment for its sustainable use; assess the impact of development activities; and ensure that appropriate provisions are integrated into development planning.

VISION

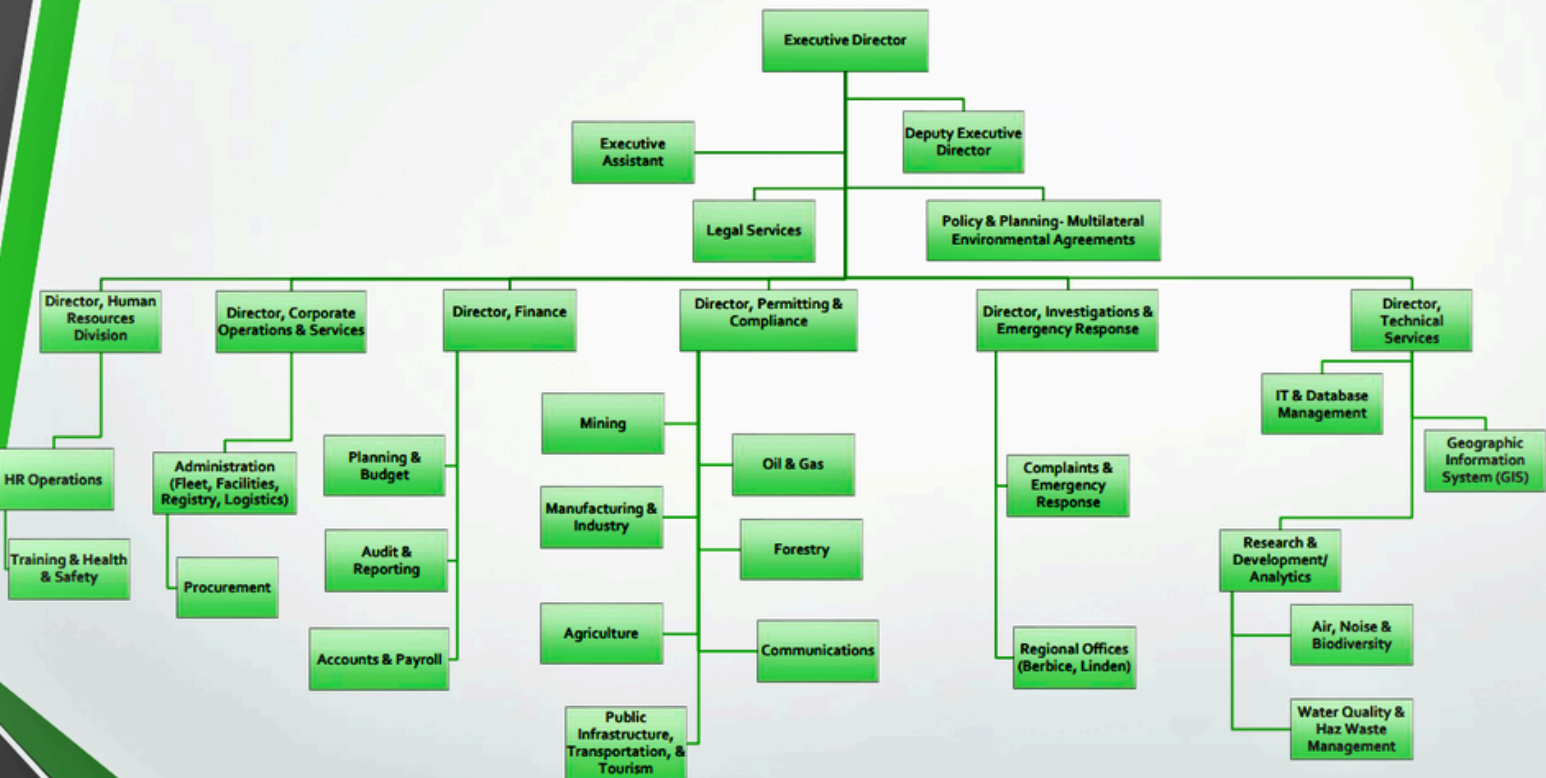
A safe and healthy environment where economic development supports a livable, prosperous, and Green State.

ROLE

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

ORGANISATIONAL CHART

EPA Organisational Structure



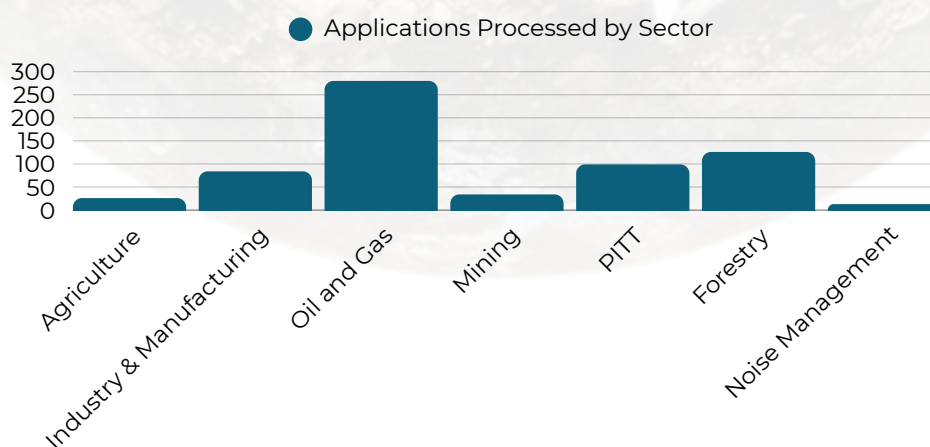


Environmental Authorisation of Developmental Activities

The EPA is empowered by the Environmental Protection Act (1996), to *inter alia*, take the necessary steps to manage the environment, for its conservation, protection and sustainable use. This entails the control and prevent pollution, and assessment of the environmental impact economic development activities among other measures.

Environmental Authorisation is a key aspect of the Agency's work and is facilitated through an established process. New and existing projects are required to apply to the EPA for an Environmental Authorisation as the first development consent. The process of environmental authorisation ensures that environmental safeguards are integrated into the design and operation of a project.

In 2023, the EPA received six hundred and forty-six (646) applications for environmental authorisation for projects in various sectors as follows: Agriculture (26); Industry and Manufacturing (84); Public Infrastructure, Transportation and Tourism (98), Oil and Gas (280); Forestry 124, Mining (34).





Environmental Authorisation of Developmental Activities

Agriculture Sector

For the year under review, twenty-six (26) applications were received for projects in the Agriculture Sector, comprising twenty (20) new applications and six (6) applications for renewal of environmental authorisation.

The new applications were for projects, such as, milk production, poultry-rearing and processing, meat processing and packaging, fish processing, seafood processing, livestock rearing, livestock and cash crop farming, crop farms (corn and soya bean), and hydroponics.

In 2023, five (5) of the new applications were finalised, while fifteen (15) applications were incomplete and awaiting submission of outstanding documents. For this year, twelve (12) environmental authorisations were issued for projects, such as rice mills, agro-processing facilities, poultry rearing, seafood/freshwater processing, abattoirs, butcheries, and wildlife holding stations.



Environmental Authorisation of Developmental Activities

Industry and Manufacturing

This year, forty-eight (48) applications were received for projects in the Industry and Manufacturing (I&M) Sector. Of these applications, twenty-four (24) were for new projects, five (5) for existing projects, ten (10) for renewal, and nine (9) for variance or transfer.

Eighty-four (84) applications were processed for the year for projects in the Sector, and twenty-five (25) Environmental Authorisations were issued.

The Agency managed two hundred and ten (210) permitted projects in the I&M sector, including projects handling oil and gas chemicals and wastes; cement batching; large-scale manufacturing, and mechanical workshops



Environmental Authorisation of Developmental Activities

Public Infrastructure, Transportation and Tourism

For the year, the Agency received ninety-eight (98) applications for environmental authorisations in the public infrastructure, transportation, and tourism (PITT) sectors. Among them, sixty-nine (69) were for new projects, twenty-six (26) for renewal, and four (4) for variance.

Major projects permitted in the PITT sectors included:

- **Guyana Water Inc. (GWI)** – five (5) water treatment plants in Regions 2, 3, 5, and 6.
- **Gas-to-Energy Project** – construction and operation of a 300 MW natural gas-fired power plant in Region 3.
- **Eight (8) solar farms under the Guyana Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic Program.**
- **Tourism facilities** – eco-lodges, hotels, and resorts across the country.
- **Joe Vieira Park Project** – upgrading of green space under the Protected Areas Commission.

Oil and Gas

In 2023, the Agency processed the following Applications for Environmental Authorisation:

- 65 applications for renewal: 17 bunkering, 17 fuel storage, and 25 gas stations.
- 12 applications for existing projects: 1 bunkering, 8 fuel storage, and 3 gas stations
- 29 New Applications: 14 bunkering, 5 fuel storage, and 10 gas stations.
- 141 application for the Transport of Crude.
- 1 application for a Geotechnical Survey.
- 1 application for a Geographical Survey.

This year, the EPA did not receive any applications for upstream petroleum activities, such as exploration drilling or petroleum production.

The Agency commenced the Ecosystem Reference Survey Program stemming from the Yellowtail Development Project Permit. This initiative is intended to establish baseline environmental conditions and monitor offshore petroleum development activities.





Environmental Authorisation of Developmental Activities

Forestry

Projects involved in the harvesting and utilization of forest resources are required to apply for an environmental permit.

For the year, one hundred and twenty-six (124) applications were screened across various project categories, including logging, logging and sawmilling, charcoal production, and lumberyards.

The Terms of Reference were completed for the Environmental Impact Assessment of two (2) logging projects in Regions 6 and 7.

Mining

Thirty-four (34) applications, were received for projects in the mining sector, all of which were processed. In 2023, the Agency issued twenty-five (25) Environmental Authorisations: six (6) for sand mining, one (1) for loam mining, and seventeen (17) for quarrying operations.



Environmental Monitoring and Research

Environmental monitoring is central to the EPA's mandate. In 2023, the Agency advanced monitoring of multiple environmental media, supported by the acquisition of new equipment, real-time tracking technology, and the integration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Air Quality Monitoring:

In 2023, annual air quality monitoring indicated that the annual average for PM_{2.5} was 20.80 µg/m³ compared to the good air quality threshold of 15 µg/m³. Only three of the ten monitored months recorded good air quality, with September registering the poorest air (35.59 µg/m³) and June the best (7.4 µg/m³). For PM₁₀, data were available for eight months, with an annual average of 32.3 µg/m³. Three months showed high readings for PM 10 with September showing the highest.

Air Quality Index (AQI)

The annual AQI average was 44.50, within the acceptable threshold of 51-100. Data were collected from several monitoring stations, resulting in a combined total of 1,820 monitoring days for the year. Of these, 459 days were rated 'Good,' 499 'Moderate,' and 52 'Unhealthy' or 'Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups.' Approximately 810 monitoring days produced no data due to equipment malfunctions."

Monthly Air Quality Index



Radiation Monitoring:

The Agency issued **1,402** short-term noise permits across six regions and **9** long-term noise permits. Radiation monitoring continued to be a focus with **203** sources recorded on the RAIS database. **Ten** applications for new radioactive source use were processed, and **two** permits were issued following stringent compliance checks.



1,402

Short-term noise permits issued



9

Long Term Noise Permits



203

Authorised Radiation Sources



Environmental Monitoring and Research

Biodiversity Research and ABS Compliance

The EPA continued to advance biodiversity monitoring and access and benefits sharing (ABS) compliance in 2023. A total of **18 applications for biodiversity research** were received, and **26 permits were issued**.

The Agency also conducted a compliance audit of Aurora Gold Mines to verify biodiversity data collection and management.

The national biodiversity database was updated with **112 new fauna sightings**, strengthening the scientific data for decision-making. Additionally, **26 permits** were uploaded to the **ABS Clearing House**, resulting in the issuance of Internationally Recognised Certificates of Compliance under the Nagoya Protocol. This reinforced Guyana's commitment to meeting its international reporting obligations on the use of genetic resources.

Flagship Research: Turtle Telemetry Project

The Turtle Telemetry Project continued at Shell Beach, Region 1. During the 2023 nesting season, seven turtles were tagged, including five leatherbacks, one green turtle, and one hawksbill. Satellite tracking data revealed that the turtles migrated to feeding grounds in Trinidad and Brazil, underscoring the transboundary nature of marine biodiversity conservation.





Environmental Monitoring and Research

Policy and International Collaboration

In 2023, the EPA advanced its work on strengthening the policy and legislative framework for environmental governance while deepening Guyana's engagement with regional and international partners.

At the national level, the Agency drafted proposed amendments to Section 11 of the Environmental Protection Act, which governs the Environmental Authorisation process. These proposed amendments are intended to improve transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the permitting process, in line with modern environmental standards. Parallel to this, a review of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Regulations was undertaken to align Guyana's legislation with its obligations under the Nagoya Protocol, thereby strengthening the legal framework for the equitable use of genetic resources and the sharing of benefits derived from them.

Guyana also reaffirmed its commitment to environmental democracy through participation in the Second Conference of the Parties (COP 2) to the Escazú Agreement in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The Agreement, which promotes access to environmental information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice, is central to enhancing transparency and building public trust in environmental governance. EPA's participation demonstrated Guyana's leadership in advancing rights-based environmental management across Latin America and the Caribbean.

On the international front, the Agency contributed to several multilateral environmental projects that support national priorities while reinforcing Guyana's role as a responsible steward of biodiversity and natural resources:

- **Amazon Sustainable Landscapes II (ASL II):** This project aims to support ecosystem connectivity and conservation planning in the Kanuku Mountains and North Rupununi wetlands, areas of global biodiversity importance. By promoting integrated landscape management, ASL II will help to protect critical habitats while ensuring sustainable livelihoods for local communities.



Environmental Monitoring and Research

Policy and International Collaboration

PROMAR Project: Through this regional initiative, the EPA collaborated with Caribbean partners to address the pressing challenge of marine litter. Activities focused on strengthening monitoring, awareness, and policy frameworks to reduce pollution entering the marine environment, thereby protecting coastal ecosystems and safeguarding the fishing and tourism sectors.

Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Mining (MBIM Phase II): EPA played a key role in building national capacity to reduce the environmental impacts of mining. The project focused on reducing mercury use in small and medium-scale gold mining operations and enhancing biodiversity protection through improved management practices. This work directly supports Guyana's commitments under the Minamata Convention and contributes to more sustainable mining practices.

Together, these policy reforms and international partnerships represent a significant step forward in aligning Guyana's environmental governance with international best practices, while also ensuring that national development remains sustainable and inclusive.



Compliance Monitoring



EPA's compliance programme ensures that permitted facilities adhere to the conditions of their Environmental Authorisations, thereby reducing risks to human health, communities, and ecosystems. In 2023, the Agency executed inspections, audits, complaint investigations, enforcement actions, emergency preparedness activities, and training initiatives under this mandate.

Sectoral Compliance Monitoring

Compliance monitoring is conducted during the life of a valid environmental permit. For the year, four hundred and seven (407) compliance inspections were conducted across priority sectors:

- **Agriculture:** Fifty-four (54) inspections were carried out, with the focus being primarily on rice mills, poultry, and livestock operations.
- **Forestry:** Ninety-three (93) inspections were conducted, covering sawmilling operations, logging concessions, and lumberyards.
- **Mining:** Forty-one (41) inspections were completed, including for large-scale operations such as BOSAI, Guyana Manganese Inc. (GMI), Aurora Gold Mines (AGM), and Guyana Industrial Minerals (GINMIN).
- **Industry and Manufacturing:** Thirty-three (33) compliance inspections were conducted targeting high-risk projects, including cement batching plants, food and beverage manufacturing, and fuel storage depots.
- **Public Infrastructure:** Forty (40) inspections were undertaken, with a focus on asphalt plants, bridges, and road development projects.

Oil and Gas: 10 compliance inspections were completed, in addition to 2 environmental audits and 3 investigations of offshore and support facilities.

407

Compliance Inspection

308

Complaints Investigated

81

Resolved Complaints

Complaints Investigation & Enforcement



Complaints Management and Enforcement Actions

- The Agency received four-hundred and twenty (420) complaint matters, for fume and noise nuisance from spray-painting, mechanic and furniture workshops, odour nuisance from poultry-rearing and livestock operations, among others. Of these, three hundred and eight (308) matters were investigated and given recommendations, eighty-one (81) were closed due to cessation of activity, and 18 were referred to the various NDCs.
- Several night club owners and operators in Regions 3 and 4 were visited and sensitized about noise nuisance, and were provided with measures to prevent or reduce the issue. A noise management sensitization session was also held with the police and owners of bars/nightclubs in Region 5.
- Twenty-three (23) bars engaged with the Guyana Police Force for the year with active follow-ups and monitoring done throughout the year to become compliant with the Noise Regulations (2000).
- Eleven (11) Prohibition Notices were served for the year and two (2) matters, are engaging the Court's attention. The majority of complaints the year were from within Region 3 and 4.

407

Compliance Inspection

308

COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED

81

Resolved Complaints



Complaints Investigation & Enforcement



Litigation

EPA v. Radesh Williams

The operator repeatedly failed to comply with conditions of an Environmental Authorisation, ignoring corrective measures issued by EPA. Legal proceedings were initiated to compel compliance and penalise the breach. The defendant was fined \$300,000 by the court. The ruling sent a strong message that non-compliance carries financial and reputational consequences.

The EPA v Lakhram Jagjit

The Agency in accordance with section 47(1) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05, Laws of Guyana, filed an application at the High Court for an injunction to compel Mr. Jagjit to refrain from rearing livestock at lots 185, 186 and 187 Clifton Settlement, Corentyne, Berbice as a result of his continued breach of provisions of the EP Act and the Prohibition Notice Issued.

Ronald Percival v. EPA et al.

Ronald Percival v the EPA et al. 2020-HC-DEM-CIV-SOC 117: This matter concluded on January 23, 2023. The Environmental Protection Agency was successful and Ronald Percival was ordered to pay costs.

Collins & Whyte v. EPA

These proceedings were filed on September 13, 2022. The claim is that EPA has failed to cancel the Environmental Permit (Renewed) Reference Number 20160705-EEDPF even though Esso Exploration Production Guyana Limited breached it by failing to submit their Insurance or signed the Guarantee Agreement. By way of its Affidavit in Defence filed on November 16, 2022, the EPA refuted these claims and contended that the EPA is not required to cancel any Permit for breach and beyond that, the Applicants have not proven that EEPGL is in breach of any Permit.

On November 22, at 15:30hrs, the EPA attended a hearing of the case where Kisson J scheduled the filing of submissions for January 7, 2023, and the making of oral submissions for January 9, 2023. On January 7, 2023, the EPA filed submissions. Following this, on January 16, 2023, Kisson J ordered the EPA to file a supplemental affidavit disclosing the relevant documents demonstrating whether Esso Exploration Guyana Limited complied with the Insurance Conditions of Environmental Permit (Renewed)-

Compliance Assistance and Sectoral Support

The Agency continued to support key economic sectors in improving compliance with environmental requirements.

MINING

In the **mining sector**, activities included collaboration under the **Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Mining (MBIM) Phase II** project. The EPA conducted outreach in **Karrau Village, Region 7**, where miners and community members received training in environmental monitoring and mercury reduction practices.

FORESTRY

The EPA participated in workshops and consultations under the **EU FLEGT VPA** process, ensuring that operators were informed about environmental authorisation requirements.

The EPA also forged a collaboration with the Mayor and City Council (M&CC) to address waste management challenges, including disposal of wood waste at identified dumpsites in Linden.

INDUSTRY & MANUFACTURING

The Agency contributed to projects under the Basel Convention, focusing on e-waste and hazardous waste management. These initiatives, supported by partners such as the GEF, IDB, and FAO, aimed to strengthen national capacity for managing hazardous materials.

OIL AND GAS

The Agency collaborated with the **Guyana Energy Agency (GEA)**, **MARAD**, and the **Guyana Fire Service (GFS)** to deliver outreach activities in **Mabaruma and Port Kaituma, Region 1**. These sessions targeted bunkering and fuel storage operators and resulted in the submission of **12 new applications** for Environmental Authorisation. Additional workshops were conducted in Region 5 to build capacity for compliance among gas station and fuel storage operators.





Public Awareness, Education and Community Engagement

During the year, the Agency actively addressed environmental complaints through compliance assistance, education, and awareness initiatives. Complaint hotspots were identified and targeted interventions implemented in partnership with the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana Energy Agency.

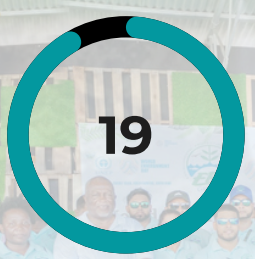
These interventions included capacity building for operators, engagement with local government bodies, community outreach programs, surveys, and media awareness campaigns. For the year, eleven (11) capacity-building sessions and nineteen (19) public engagement sessions were conducted across Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

The EPA's efforts to combat noise pollution continued through stakeholder engagement, particularly with the Guyana Police Force with eighty-four (84) officers from Regions 1,2,4 and 6 receiving specialized training.

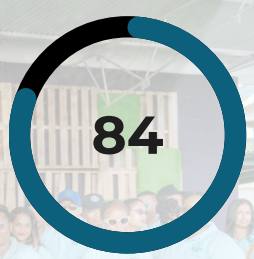
Additionally, in collaboration with sister agencies the EPA coordinated activities to mark eight major United Nations Environmental Observances, including the Agency's flagship annual event—World Environment Day (WED).



Capacity Building Sessions



Public Engagements



GPF Officers Trained in enforcement of the Noise Management Regulation



Institutional Strengthening and Technology

In 2023, the Agency prioritised institutional strengthening to improve efficiency and service delivery.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

The Agency increased its staff complement from **153 to 172 in 2023**, reflecting a **12%** growth. Recruitment focused on technical areas to enhance the Agency’s monitoring and regulatory functions.

Staff participated in a range of training activities, including **oil spill response, shoreline clean-up assessment techniques (SCAT), data science, and leadership development.**

The Agency also implemented a revised salary structure and updated its performance management system.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT):

The EPA enhanced its technical capacity with the acquisition of a **Matrice 300 RTK drone**, eight laptops, and upgrades to its networking systems.

The Agency also launched a redesigned website, installed a **PBX system**, and underwent a **cybersecurity audit.**

In collaboration with the **National Data Management Authority (NDMA)**, work began on digitising the complaints and permitting systems to improve efficiency and accessibility.



Institutional Strengthening and Technology

CORPORATE OPERATIONS AND SERVICES

The Corporate Operations and Services Division (COSD) provided essential administrative, logistical, and resource management support across the Agency.

- **Procurement & Inventory:** All programme areas were supported with timely procurement of goods and services. An asset disposal exercise was conducted with the Audit Office of Guyana, improving space and financial accountability.
- **Transport & Fleet:** The Agency maintained eleven (11) operational vehicles (including a newly acquired Nissan Hilux). Three unserviceable vehicles were auctioned, and all field vehicles were upgraded with tyres, suspension, and headlights. No major accidents were recorded in 2023.
- **Building & Facilities:** The headquarters building was repainted, electrical and plumbing assessments were completed, and corrective works began. The relocation of the Technical Services Division to the annex was completed to improve workspace use. Upgrades included water supply improvements, reception renovations, registry shelving, and compound maintenance.
- **Public Engagement Support:** The Reception/Information Desk was installed and continued to serve as the bridge between the Agency and the public to access service and guidance. COSD also delivered logistical support for major events including the Green Walk, Building Expo, GuyExpo, Annual Dinner and Awards, and other national environmental observances.

FINANCE

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In 2023, the Finance Department advanced its mandate by strengthening financial management, enhancing accountability, and supporting the Agency's operations.

- **Revenue & Subvention:** The Agency collected G\$345.793M in revenues, comprising G\$10.426M in application fees and G\$335.367M in permit fees. In addition, the Agency received a Government subvention of G\$712.675M to cover recurrent costs.
- **Capital Investments:** A total of G\$12.330M was received for capital expenditure, which facilitated the acquisition of heavy-duty printers, air-conditioning units, a laboratory water purification system, a peristaltic pump, and office furniture.
- **Audit & Reporting:** All statutory reports and payroll were prepared and submitted within the stipulated deadlines, ensuring compliance with the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act (FMAA 2003).
- **Expenditure & Procurement Oversight:** Payments and procurement processes were managed in alignment with the Procurement Act, ensuring timely settlement of obligations and accountability in the use of public funds.
- **Financial Governance:** Asset verification and reconciliation exercises were conducted, and digitisation of records advanced, improving transparency and operational efficiency.

Overall, the Department's performance reinforced financial discipline, supported service delivery, and positioned the Agency on a stronger footing for operational expansion.



FINANCE

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2023**

**AUDITORS: THE AUDIT OFFICE OF GUYANA
63 HIGH STREET
KINGSTON
GEORGETOWN
GUYANA**



FINANCE

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|---|-------------|
| 1. TRANSMITTAL LETTER..... | 1 |
| 2. AUDITOR’S OPINION ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS..... | 2 |
| 3. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS..... | 5 |



FINANCE

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT



Audit Office of Guyana

*P.O. Box 1002, 63 High Street, Kingston, Georgetown, Guyana
Tel: 592-225-7592, Fax: 592-226-7257, <http://www.audit.org.gy>*

193/SL:46/2/2026

1 April 2026

Mr. Kemraj Parsram
Executive Director
Environmental Protection Agency
Ganges Street
Sophia
Greater Georgetown.

Dear Mr. Parsram,

**AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Please find attached two copies of the audited financial statements together with the report of the Auditor General thereon.

Should you need any further explanation, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,


Ms. K. Jaikaran
Audit Manager
for Auditor General

cc. Ms. Abena Moore, A.A.
Head of Budget Agency
Office of the President

FINANCE

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT



Audit Office of Guyana

*P.O. Box 1002, 63 High Street, Kingston, Georgetown, Guyana
Tel: 592-225-7592, Fax: 592-226-7257, <http://www.audit.org.gy>*

AG:81/2026

1 April 2026

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Environmental Protection Agency, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the statement of income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Environmental Protection Agency as at 31 December 2023, its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) and the Audit Act 2004. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Guyana, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

FINANCE

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BRIDGE

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the IFRSs, and the Environmental Protection Agency Act Chapter 20:05 of the Laws of Guyana, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Agency's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Agency or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Agency's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs and ISSAIs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of my audit in accordance with ISAs and ISSAIs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

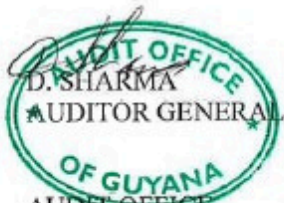
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Agency's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

FINANCE

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Agency's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Agency to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



AUDIT OFFICE
63 HIGH STREET
KINGSTON
GEORGETOWN
GUYANA



FINANCE

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BUDGET

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2023

| | Note | G\$ | 2023 G\$ | 2022 G\$ |
|-----------------------------------|------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Non Current Asset | | | | |
| Tangible Fixed Assets | 17 | | 441,435,860 | 469,596,756 |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Receivables | 18 | 5,398,795 | | 7,997,500 |
| Cash at Bank | 16 | 3,733,236,145 | | 3,620,541,346 |
| Cash in Hand | | 4,096,498 | | 467,100 |
| | | | <u>3,742,731,438</u> | <u>3,629,005,946</u> |
| Total Assets | | | <u>4,184,167,298</u> | <u>4,098,602,702</u> |
| Equity | | | | |
| Capital Revenue | | 449,886,355 | | 456,819,081 |
| Misc Inc/Donations | | 4,717,833 | | 4,717,833 |
| Accumulated Surplus | | 3,666,683,695 | | 3,593,607,315 |
| | | | <u>4,121,287,883</u> | <u>4,055,144,229</u> |
| Current Liability | | | | |
| Payables | 19 | | <u>62,879,415</u> | <u>43,458,473</u> |
| Total Equity and Liability | | | <u>4,184,167,298</u> | <u>4,098,602,702</u> |

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Directors on March 25th 2024 and signed on its behalf:

[Signature]
Executive Director

[Signature]
Chairman

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these Financial Statements

FINANCE

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BUDGET

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY STATEMENT OF INCOME AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2023

| | Note | 2023 G\$ | 2022 G\$ |
|-------------------------------------|------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Income: | | | |
| Government Subvention | | 712,675,380 | 668,535,000 |
| Revenue from Operations | 5 | 345,793,468 | 315,614,129 |
| Other Income | 5 | 15,397,063 | 1,785,000,953 |
| Total Income | | <u>1,073,865,911</u> | <u>2,769,150,082</u> |
| Less Expenses: | | | |
| Employment Costs | 6 | 628,455,315 | 492,411,817 |
| Materials, Equipment & Supplies | 7 | 68,313,784 | 53,161,676 |
| Fuel & Lubricants | 8 | 11,833,685 | 10,406,650 |
| Maintenance of Building | 9 | 23,814,279 | 21,433,836 |
| Maintenance of Other Infrastructure | 10 | 4,264,250 | 1,235,209 |
| Transport, Travel & Postage | 11 | 59,509,461 | 45,404,788 |
| Utility Charges | 12 | 22,451,433 | 21,162,220 |
| Other Goods & Services Purchased | 13 | 80,403,454 | 50,294,232 |
| Other Operating Expenses | 14 | 49,080,729 | 37,460,936 |
| Training (including Scholarship) | 15 | 2,728,175 | 6,893,075 |
| Prior Year Adjustments | | (180,662) | - |
| Trust Fund Expenditures | | 945,381 | 388,280 |
| Depreciation | | 49,170,246 | 37,135,709 |
| Total Expenses | | <u>1,000,789,530</u> | <u>777,388,428</u> |
| Surplus | | <u>73,076,381</u> | <u>1,991,761,654</u> |
| Withholding Tax | | - | - |
| Net Surplus for the Year | | <u>73,076,380</u> | <u>1,991,761,654</u> |



FINANCE

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BUDGET

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2023

| | Government Contribution G\$ | Donations G\$ | Accumulated Surplus G\$ | Total G\$ |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Balance at January 01, 2022 | 360,225,228 | 4,717,833 | 1,601,845,661 | 1,966,788,722 |
| Surplus for the year | 96,593,853 | - | 1,991,761,654 | 2,088,355,507 |
| Balance at December 31, 2022 | 456,819,081 | 4,717,833 | 3,593,607,315 | 4,055,144,229 |
| | | | | |
| Balance at January 01, 2023 | 456,819,081 | 4,717,833 | 3,593,607,315 | 4,055,144,229 |
| Surplus for the year | (6,932,726) | - | 73,076,380 | 66,143,654 |
| Balance at December 31, 2023 | 449,886,355 | 4,717,833 | 3,666,683,695 | 4,121,287,883 |

FINANCE

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2023**

| | 2023 G\$ | 2022 G\$ |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Operating Surplus before Tax | 73,076,380 | 1,991,761,654 |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Depreciation | 49,170,246 | 37,135,709 |
| Receivables | 2,598,705 | (2,858,647) |
| Payables | 19,420,942 | 3,492,439 |
| | <u>144,266,273</u> | <u>2,029,531,155</u> |
| Cash Flow From Investing Activity | | |
| Purchase of Tangible Fixed Asset | (21,009,350) | (82,264,170) |
| Cash Flow From Financing Activity | | |
| Capital contribution from Government | (6,932,726) | 96,593,853 |
| Net Increase in Cash & Cash Equivalents | 116,324,197 | 2,043,860,838 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents - January 01 | 3,621,008,446 | 1,577,147,608 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents - December 31 | <u><u>3,737,332,643</u></u> | <u><u>3,621,008,446</u></u> |
| Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents - December 31 | | |
| Cash at Bank | 3,733,236,145 | 3,620,541,346 |
| Cash in Hand | 4,096,498 | 467,100 |
| | <u><u>3,737,332,643</u></u> | <u><u>3,621,008,446</u></u> |

FINANCE

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

1 Incorporation and Principal Activities

- a) The Environmental Protection Agency was incorporated as a Agency under the Environmental Protection Act Chapter 20:05 on 5th June, 1996.
- b) The primary activities of the Environmental Protection Agency is 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 natural resources and for the matters incidental or connected therewith.

Summary of significant accounting policies

a) Accounting Conventions:

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost conventions and International Financial Reporting Standards as modified by the revaluation of fixed assets.

b) Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is computed on a straight line basis at the following rates:

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Building | 2% |
| Furniture and Fixtures | 12.5% |
| Office Equipment | 20% |
| Motor Vehicles | 12.5% |

2 Government Subvention

The Agency received subventions from the Government of Guyana for the year ended December 31, 2023 totalling G\$712,675,380 .

3 Application and Permit Fees

For the year ended December 31, 2023, revenue received from environmental authorisations and permits issued to Developers amounted to G\$361,190,530 .

4 Currency

Application and Permit Fees that are collected in US\$ and deposited into Bank of Nova Scotia G\$ Account #578-10. The Bank of Nova Scotia uses its daily buying rate to convert currency from US\$ to G\$ and the Agency uses the converted amount to record transactions in the receipt cash book.

FINANCE

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

| | | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------|--|--------------------|----------------------|
| | | G\$ | G\$ |
| 5 | Schedule of Income | | |
| | <u>Revenue from Operations</u> | | |
| | Application Fees | 10,426,294 | 9,086,694 |
| | Permit Fees | 335,367,174 | 306,523,145 |
| | Registration of EIA Consultants | - | 4,290 |
| | | 345,793,468 | 315,614,129 |
| | <u>Other Income</u> | | |
| | Sale of Tender Documents | 410,500 | 248,000 |
| | Others (Penalty and Fines) | 6,556,823 | 1,784,752,953 |
| | Others (Sale of Vehicles) | 4,150,100 | - |
| | Others (Photocopy and Court Cases) | 4,279,640 | - |
| | | 15,397,063 | 1,785,000,953 |
| 6 | Employment Costs | | |
| | Temporary Employees | 860,044 | - |
| | Contracted Employees | 627,595,271 | 492,411,817 |
| | | 628,455,315 | 492,411,817 |
| 7 | Materials, Equipment and Supplies | | |
| | Drugs & Medical Supplies | 276,546 | 439,081 |
| | Field Materials & Supplies | 19,293,558 | 18,385,233 |
| | Office Materials & Supplies | 10,667,468 | 12,206,843 |
| | Print & Non Print Materials | 38,076,212 | 22,130,519 |
| | | 68,313,784 | 53,161,676 |
| 8 | Fuel and Lubricants | | |
| | Fuel and Lubricants | 11,833,685 | 10,406,650 |
| | | 11,833,685 | 10,406,650 |
| 9 | Maintenance of Building | | |
| | Rental of Building | 600,000 | 600,000 |
| | Maintenance of Building | 18,488,490 | 17,268,711 |
| | Janitorial & Cleaning Supplies | 4,725,789 | 3,565,125 |
| | | 23,814,279 | 21,433,836 |
| 10 | Maintenance of Infrastructure | | |
| | Maintenance of Other Infrastructure | 4,264,250 | 1,235,209 |
| | | 4,264,250 | 1,235,209 |



BUDGET

FINANCE

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| | G\$ | G\$ |
| 11 Transport, Travel and Postage | | |
| Local Travel & Subsistence | 30,649,468 | 27,659,082 |
| Overseas Conference & Official Visits | 190,019 | 516,634 |
| Postage, Telex & Cablegrams | 355,119 | 553,111 |
| Vehicle Spares & Services | 22,621,855 | 15,760,761 |
| Other Transport, Travel & Postage | 5,693,000 | 915,200 |
| | <u>59,509,461</u> | <u>45,404,788</u> |
| 12 Utility Charges | | |
| Telephone Charges | 3,297,775 | 3,877,300 |
| Electricity Charges | 18,929,978 | 17,061,240 |
| Water Charges | 223,680 | 223,680 |
| | <u>22,451,433</u> | <u>21,162,220</u> |
| 13 Other Goods and Services Purchased | | |
| Security Services | 18,958,975 | 10,286,949 |
| Equipment Maintenance | 20,215,272 | 25,364,393 |
| Cleaning & Exterminating Services | 3,536,560 | 2,075,906 |
| Other Services Purchased | 37,692,647 | 12,566,984 |
| | <u>80,403,454</u> | <u>50,294,232</u> |
| 14 Other Operating Expenses | | |
| National & Other events | 35,416,787 | 15,262,103 |
| Refreshment & Meals | 5,794,252 | 4,281,486 |
| Other | 7,869,690 | 17,917,347 |
| | <u>49,080,729</u> | <u>37,460,936</u> |
| 15 Education, Sub & Training | | |
| Training (including Scholarship) | 2,728,175 | 6,893,075 |
| | <u>2,728,175</u> | <u>6,893,075</u> |
| 16 Bank Balances | | |
| Bank of Nova Scotia Account #578-10 | 24,953,008 | 15,745,778 |
| Bank of Guyana Account # 16200405003 | 3,572,247,549 | 3,284,803,166 |
| Bank of Guyana Account # 16200405004 | 85,416,638 | 35,434,704 |
| Citizens Bank Inc | 50,618,950 | 284,557,698 |
| | <u>3,733,236,145</u> | <u>3,620,541,346</u> |

FINANCE

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

Tangible Fixed Assets

| | Buildings G\$ | Motor Vehicles G\$ | Equipment G\$ | Fixtures and Fittings G\$ | Total G\$ |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Cost | | | | | |
| January 01, 2023 | 312,797,340 | 97,518,471 | 215,290,735 | 53,713,963 | 679,320,509 |
| Additions in 2023 | 989,971 | - | 35,757,295 | 3,498,784 | 40,246,050 |
| Disposal in 2023 | (19,236,700) | - | - | - | (19,236,700) |
| December 31, 2023 | <u>294,550,611</u> | <u>97,518,471</u> | <u>251,048,030</u> | <u>57,212,747</u> | <u>700,329,859</u> |
| Depreciation | | | | | |
| January 01, 2023 | 21,707,862 | 42,806,897 | 120,493,217 | 24,715,777 | 209,723,753 |
| Disposal | (1,378,718) | - | - | - | (1,378,718) |
| Charged for the Year | 5,887,029 | 10,756,525 | 28,378,569 | 5,526,841 | 50,548,964 |
| December 2023 | <u>26,216,173</u> | <u>53,563,422</u> | <u>148,871,786</u> | <u>30,242,618</u> | <u>258,893,999</u> |
| Net Book Values | | | | | |
| Dec 31, 2023 | <u>268,334,438</u> | <u>43,955,049</u> | <u>102,176,244</u> | <u>26,970,129</u> | <u>441,435,860</u> |
| Net Book Value | | | | | |
| Dec 31, 2022 | <u>291,089,478</u> | <u>54,711,574</u> | <u>94,797,518</u> | <u>28,998,186</u> | <u>469,596,756</u> |



BUDGET

FINANCE

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | G\$ | G\$ |
| 18 Receivables | | |
| Wildlife Management Authority | 585,345 | 278,334 |
| Ministry of Public Infrastructure | 70,680 | 70,680 |
| Office of the President | 1,237,862 | 7,156,967 |
| Other receivables | 3,504,908 | 491,519 |
| | <u>5,398,795</u> | <u>7,997,500</u> |
| | | |
| 19 Payables | | |
| Accountant General | 22,056,549 | 2,793,823 |
| Unpresented Cheques | 1,720,380 | 1,720,380 |
| Projects | 2,348,110 | 2,348,110 |
| Other payables | 36,754,376 | 36,596,160 |
| | <u>62,879,415</u> | <u>43,458,473</u> |



For More Information Contact Us

PHONE :

227-5471
Whim:337:2201
Linden: 444:2313

WEBSITE :

www.epaguyana.com

EMAIL :

epa@epaguyana.org

ADDRESS :

Ganges Street Head Office

