

GREEN LEAF

Litter Enforcement Regulations 2013

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Litter abounds across our country. Persons appear to litter with little or no regard for the environment and the critical services it provides for us. This callous behavior has led to a very disturbing situation in many of the areas of the country, especially the capital city which is plagued with garbage. Judging from the extent of the garbage situation, it is realistic to assume that a wide range of persons and entities are contributing to it by littering.

This unsavoury litter situation prompted the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE) to action. Under its leadership, Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations were passed in November, 2013. This Regulation falls under the Environmental Protection Act (1996), which provides for measures including regulations, to be put in place for effective environmental management.



The Litter Enforcement Regulations now gives the EPA the requisite powers to enforce against littering. This is especially necessary as the litter that pervades our society threatens our health, biodiversity, water resources and economy.

Implementation of the Litter Enforcement Regulations has commenced. An extensive education and public awareness campaign is already underway through radio, television and newspaper. Litter Wardens have also been hired and will soon undergo an intensive training process before they begin tackling littering in the city. Through consultations, collaborative efforts are being worked out with relevant authorities that can be instrumental in enforcement.

In its implementation plan, the EPA has adopted a strategic approach which will see enforcement commencing in Georgetown and being filtered to the other parts of the country.

The Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations (2013) make provision for several sources of littering which include:

Editorial Note

Under the Environmental Protection Act, 1996, the Environmental Protection Agency is mandated to put measures in place for effective environmental management which includes the development of Regulations to address various issues. Against this background, the implementation of two important Regulations commenced during the first quarter of 2014 thereby boosting the Agency's ability to address two key environmental issues.

With the advent of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE), the Agency has received much needed impetus to further boost its work. The enforcement of the Environmental Protection (Litter Enforcement) Regulations 2013 and Wildlife Management and Conservation Regulations 2013, will contribute even further to this. These two Regulations will provide for the effective management of persons' actions as it relates to solid waste management and wildlife, ensuring Guyana continues its forward movement in terms of environmental conservation and management.

Litter Enforcement Regulations 2013

- Littering in a public place;
- Litter from a motor vehicle or trailer in motion;
- Littering on a private premises;
- Power of local authority and litter prevention warden;
- Removal of derelict vehicle;
- Garbage receptacles in public transportation; and
- Interfering with receptacles for litter.



The fines for persons found guilty of an offence under the Litter Prevention Regulations range from fifteen thousand (\$15,000) to one hundred thousand (\$100,000). Persons can also be imprisoned for 3-6 months for some offences.

The public awareness campaign is ongoing using the various media of television, radio, newspaper and face to face interaction. This is necessary to ensure that persons at all levels acquire the relevant information to inform decision-making and actions.

The EPA and Pick-it-Up Guyana also engaged local authorities on their roles in litter enforcement. Key commercial areas have been earmarked and over the past few weeks, rigorous enforcement efforts have commenced.

Implementation of the Litter Regulations has begun in Georgetown and will be extended to all Regions of Guyana. The initial stages of the implementation saw most persons being very receptive and welcomed the initiative.

The Agency calls on all Guyanese to join with us in promoting and sustaining a clean and healthy environment. Remember, your environment reflects you! Do the right thing!

UG Career Fair, a highly anticipated event

At the annual University of Guyana (UG) Career Fair on February 14, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency, a regular participant, celebrated with UG under the theme "Honouring the Past, Moulding the Present, Transforming the Future".

EPA used this opportunity to share with teachers, students and members of the public pertinent information on our environment. This event also created a platform for introducing the new Litter Prevention Regulations to visitors at the booth.



Officers interacting with students

Visitors who flocked to the Agency's booth were engaged in two major activities: an environmental trivia game which featured questions and answers in relation to water, climate change, waste management and Small Island Developing States (SIDS); and, a career tree depicting the responsibilities of various Divisions within the Agency and the different units within

those Divisions. Persons were asked to match the unit to the relevant job description. This activity created awareness on the work of the Agency by actively engaging visitors. To add interest and motivation, persons were rewarded for their efforts with attractive and appropriate prizes including key rings, geometry sets, ruler sets, calculators, staple machine or diary books.



Visitors partaking in activities at the Agency's booth

As teachers, students and members of the public visited the booth bookmarks, booklets, brochures and posters on the various environmental issues were collected.

The Agency thanks the University for providing the opportunity to spread environmental awareness and looks forward to continued collaboration in the future.

Wetlands and Agriculture: Partners for Growth

World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually on February 02. This Day marks the date the international community accepted the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to vow to



Students of Craig Primary during an EPA conducted session at the Nature School

use the resources within their wetlands wisely. Even though Guyana has not yet signed on to the Convention, our wetlands play an important role in our country, therefore, to celebrate the observance this year, the EPA conducted a number of activities. As is customary, a weeklong outreach was conducted with Primary schools visiting the Nature

School in the Zoological Park during February 03 – 07. A total of 156 students from three schools benefited from this exercise. The theme for World Wetlands Day this year, 'Wetlands and Agriculture: Partners for Growth', was the focus of an interactive session, during which students learned about the characteristics of wetlands, how wetlands contribute to agriculture, the impacts agriculture has on

wetlands and most importantly how agriculture can be managed to ensure the resources of wetlands can be preserved. At the end of the session, students were engaged in a question and answer segment. The students of the Environmental Club of Redeemer Primary were also engaged in a similar session.

Students of GSA during the seminar



Considering the theme, the EPA also executed a seminar at the Guyana School of Agriculture, Mon Repos, where students of the institution were able to make the link between wetlands and agriculture. The students were very interactive and displayed enthusiasm at gaining information relevant to their course of study. They vowed to make full use of the knowledge they gained and integrate environmental protection into their future careers. In addition, the Agency distributed 25 informational packages to Environmental Clubs in support of their Wetland Day activities.

EPA takes Climate Change Education to Region 2

In order to ensure that Guyanese at all levels are aware of the implications of the Climate Change phenomenon on their lives and livelihood and reiterate the call for action; the EPA took its Climate Change outreach to Region 2. Climate Change outreach was conducted in ten (10) Primary Schools using an Activity Booklet developed by the EPA. The outreach targeted Grade 6 students, since the topic forms a critical part of the curriculum at that level.

Schools which capitalised on the opportunity were: Good Hope Primary; Aurora Primary; Huist T'Dieren Primary; Riverstown Primary; Queenstown Primary; Capoey Primary; Taymouth Manor Primary; CV Nunes Primary; Lima Sands Primary; and, Sparta Primary.

A total of two hundred and sixty-six (266) students benefited from this activity. The students were engaged in interactive sessions to give them a comprehensive knowledge of the issue of Climate Change in a simplified way. Lessons included causes, effects, Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and actions

individuals even at their level can take to help fight climate change. Students participated in puzzles, word search, mazes, etc. The Agency collaborated with the Office of Climate Change in this venture and distributed updated materials to the schools and local organisations



Students participating in one of the Climate Change sessions in Region 2

in Region 2 on Guyana's present position in relation to the LCDS and REDD+. The students as well as teachers expressed their appreciation for the very vital information and pledged to do their part to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all through responsible actions. The Agency hopes that the knowledge resonates with participants and inspires them to take action. The Agency intends to continue the outreach to ensure all ten Administrative Regions benefit.

Wildlife Management to be improved through Wildlife Regulations

Guyana is well known for its unique wildlife species and over the years, has experienced significant growth in the eco-tourism industry. The country continues to attract a large number of visitors, especially to the interior regions to observe the pristine environment and its scenery, particularly the unique wildlife, both flora and fauna, which can be found there. However, wildlife also provides lots of other avenues for income generation for locals. To that extent, the bushmeat trade, use of medicinal plants, and ornamental craft can all be deemed part of the wildlife extractive industry.

Though Guyana prides itself on its relatively undisturbed rainforest and many rivers, there have been growing concerns about how we have been exploiting our resources. Overhunting, illegal hunting, and trading of wildlife continue to be challenges. In recognising the urgency to protect and sustainably manage Guyana's wildlife, the Ministry of the Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE), through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has moved swiftly to enact the Wildlife Management and Conservation Regulations, 2013. This legislation provides the Agency with a legal framework to better facilitate the management and conservation of our local wildlife species thereby advancing the Agency's mandate to facilitate the protection and sustainable use of our natural resources.

Licensing Wildlife Trade

In order to regulate the use of wildlife (both animals and plants), a licensing process is to be established to manage all wildlife-related activities as follows:

A **Wildlife Collecting Licence** would permit the holder to collect or be a member of a group collecting wildlife. This

licence is related to direct hunting of wildlife, whether for recreational purpose, bushmeat supply, or trapping of wildlife for the pet trade. **The Commercial Licence** is for any person, who intends to buy, sell, farm or ranch, or otherwise deal in wildlife on a local, commercial basis.

Captive Wildlife Licences provides for a person who is keeping or confining any wildlife in captivity. This licence is required if a person has more than eight different species and more than two of each.

Cruelty to Wildlife

The Regulations also addresses acts of cruelty to wildlife. It states that "any person who mutilates, kicks, beats, nails or otherwise impales, stabs, burns, stones, crushes, drowns, drags or asphyxiates any animal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering" upon conviction will be liable to a fine. However, the Regulations stipulates that under circumstances of 'nuisance and threats from wildlife', it may not be unlawful for an individual to wound or kill any wild animal in self defense if needed.



Join the fight

The protection of wildlife can be perceived as the responsibility of every Guyanese. As such, showing support for the Wildlife Management Conservation Regulations in part, ensures that a rich legacy of these resources can be accessed and enjoyed by generations to come.

Region 10 schools benefit from World Water Day outreach



Students participating in an activity during the session

World Water Day is observed annually on March 22 to focus on the importance of freshwater and promote the wise use of our freshwater resources. The theme for this year's observance was 'Water and Energy,' seeking to raise awareness on the linkages between water and energy.

The EPA conducted interactive presentations on the theme at two Primary schools in Region 10: Bamia New Hope Primary and Coomacka Primary. Students were informed that water and energy go hand-in-hand, since water helps to provide energy in different ways, while energy helps to provide water

for our homes, industries and businesses. Throughout the presentations, students were fascinated to find out about the interconnectivity between water and energy. They were especially thrilled to know that they can play a part in saving our water resources. In fact, students of both schools pointed out that they have been performing such action as turning off the tap while brushing their teeth, turning off taps properly after use and ensuring it is not dripping and safely collecting rain water for use. They were further encouraged to do things such as:

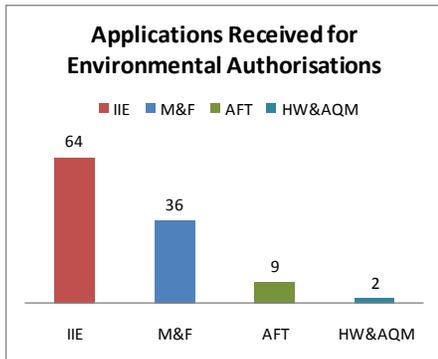
- Watering plants early in the morning or late in the afternoon so that the plant will retain most of the moisture as opposed to watering plants when the sun is high; and
- Disposing of all wastes in a proper manner so that our waterways will not be polluted.

Environmental Authorisations

The Environmental Management Permitting Division (EMPD) grants Environmental Authorisations for various projects submitted to the Agency. This is done after a site visit is conducted to assess the potential or current environmental impact of the project. Large projects are usually required to submit an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Consultancy were processed and finalised by the Division.

The Division conducted eight (8) site visits for new projects and four (4) site visits for existing operations. Compliance/renewal audits were also conducted for one (1) operation that was issued with an Environmental Authorisation.

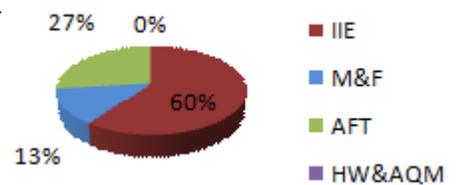


A total of one hundred and eleven (111) applications for Environmental Authorisation were received for the period January to March, 2014. Twenty-three (23) of these applications were for new projects, nine (9) for existing projects,

thirty-seven (37) for renewal and two (2) for variance of Environmental Authorisation. Thirty-seven (37) applications for short-term noise permits was received and issued for this period. Three (3) applications for long-term noise permits were received. Additionally, nine (9) applications for

The Agency granted sixty-seven (67) Environmental Authorisations during this period. Thirteen (13) Environmental Permits; six (6) Operation Permits for existing projects and eleven (11) renewal of environmental permit were granted. A total of thirty-seven (37) short-term noise permits were issued by the division. The Division continues

Environmental Authorisations Issued by Sectors



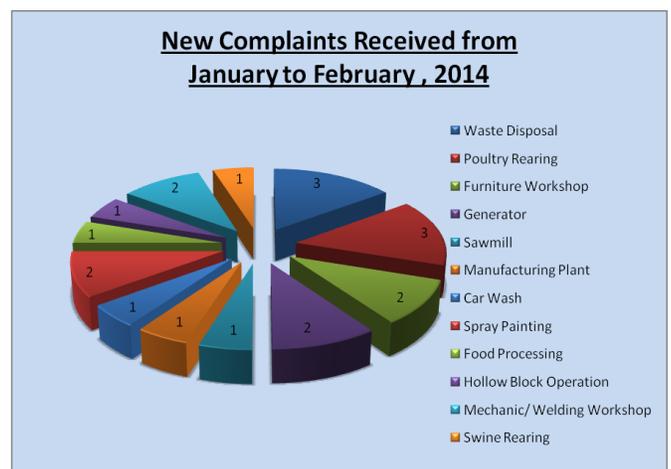
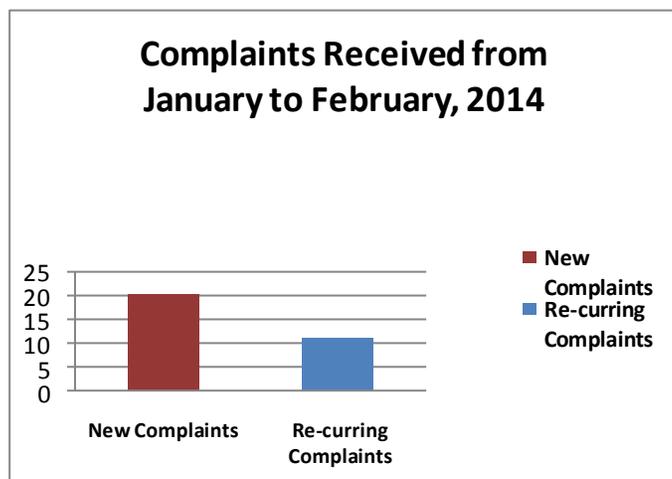
to process the other applications received during this period to determine whether these projects will be required to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or prepare an Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Complaints and Response Management

The Environmental Management Compliance Division (EMCD) undertakes monitoring of projects to ensure that they are compliant with the environmental regulations. This is conducted through compliance inspections and response to complaints. For the first quarter, the Division was able to increase air and water quality monitoring. The EMCD also completed a Compliance Schedule that will be used to monitor projects in high priority areas.

During the period January to February, 2014, the EMCD received a total of twenty (20) new complaints and eleven (11) recurring complaints. The Division conducted twenty-four (24) complaint investigations and eleven (11) follow-up compliant inspections. Ten (10) compliant cases were closed for the period.

Meanwhile, in an effort to expedite the process of



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Upcoming Activities



The EPA initiates and undertakes activities on a continuous basis to ensure that the concept of environmental stewardship reaches across Guyana. Having successfully achieved the set goals for the first quarter of the year in this regard, planning and coordination have already begun to guarantee a varied and participatory approach to events planned for the next quarter.

The interesting mix of activities planned for April - June, 2014, includes the following:

Activity	Theme	Target Group	Date
Earth Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Camp • Newspaper Quiz 	Green Cities	Secondary Schools and Youth Groups	April 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 15 - 17
International Day for Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Forum • Panel Discussion • Documentary Night • Exhibition • Art Competition 	Island Biodiversity	General public, Primary schools and Environmental Clubs	May 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 16 • May 22 • May 22 • May 19 - 23 • April 22 - May 22
World Environment Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Walk • Rides for the Environment (Linden, Essequibo, Berbice) • Panel Discussion 	Small Island Developing States	General public and Environmental clubs	June 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 1 • TBD • June 5

Complaints and Response Management

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addressing complaints and associated environmental concerns, the Agency has commenced the first of a series of Regional Outreach Clinics. The Outreach Clinics commenced in Corentyne, Region 6 during March 25-28, 2014. This initiative was very successful with monitoring being done on fifteen (15) facilities including gas stations, poultry rearing, swine rearing and sawmilling operations. The areas were selected based on analysis of EPA's Complaints database which identified hotspots.

The outreach team provided scope for public discourse on issues affecting residents and recommendations to improve the Agency's service to the area. The outreach was a collaboration between the EPA and the NDCs and is a model which will be applied to address other complaint hotspots in the country.



WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT

Did you know?

The Red Rumped Agouti (*Dasyprocta leporine*)

Red rumped agoutis are also known as Brazilian agoutis or commonly referred to as Akuri (Creole name). They belong to the rodent family in the genus *Dasyprocta*.

Appearance



Akuris weigh about 3 to 6 kilograms (6.6 to 13.2 lb). They are about 19 to 25 inches (48 to 64 cm) long. In this species, the females are larger than males but otherwise they look similar. They are brownish with darker spots on the upper body and have a patch of reddish orange hairs or fur on the rump area. Small round ears and short peg-like tails are bare. The front feet have 4 toes and the hind feet have 3. The front legs are shorter than the hind legs. They can be distinguished from other agoutis by their distinct colouring.

Habitat

They occupy a wide variety of habitats like primary or secondary forest and occur throughout the forest, although they are most common in areas of dense brush or undergrowth, and near streams or swamps. This species of agoutis is native to northeastern South America, and found in Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, northeastern Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago and Lesser Antilles. It has also been introduced to the Virgin Islands.

Diet

The main foods in the red rumped agouti's diet are seeds and fruits but they do consume leaves, insects, and plant parts as well when seeds and fruits are hard to come by. Agoutis bury the foods in caches in the event of food shortage and play a large role in seed dispersal. They eat, resting on their large hind feet, and hold food in their forepaws.



Reproduction and nesting

These animals have no distinct breeding season, and females generally have about 1 to 3 young. The gestation period is 104 to 120 days. On average, it takes 20 weeks for the young to be weaned. They live in pairs or family groups of the parents and little ones. They need large areas for food, breeding, and territory. It is hard to keep the animal in captivity for that reason. Most animals in the family Dasyproctidae, mate once or twice, and this is presumed to be true for this species as well. This species can live 15-20 yrs in captivity. The male's life expectancy is lower than the females in the wild.

Facts

- Diurnal (most active in early morning or late afternoon), terrestrial.
- They usually have territories of about 30,000 m² to 85,000 m².
- Calls include barks, grunts, and squeals, and they may drum their hind feet on the ground in alarm.
- They are very nervous and wary and always on the lookout for danger.
- Not listed in the IUCN list of threatened species, even though they are commonly hunted for their meat.

About Our Logo...

Our logo is the Passion Fruit leaf. Yellow Passion Fruit (*Passiflora edulis flavicarpa*) is native to the Amazon. The passion fruit plant produces beautiful flowers and a sweet - tart fruit. It was named by the Spanish missionaries in South America. Passion Fruit is widely grown throughout the tropics and subtropics. The leaves are used in traditional medicine to settle edgy nerves. They are also used for colic, diarrhea, dysentery and insomnia.

THE GREEN LEAF

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