

# GREEN LEAF

## Youths engaged at Environmental Camp 2013

### Inside this issue:

Youths engaged at Environmental Camp 2013	1
EPA participates in Mining Week 2013	2
<i>“A healthy atmosphere, the future we want”</i>	2
Protected Areas Commission gets continued support	3
Waste management the focus of Taxidermy and Zoo Camps	3
<i>“Fighting for trash free seas”</i>	4
EPA facilitates internship programme	4
Kids Corner	5
Environmental Authorisations	6
Equipping Staff for excellence	6
Upcoming Activities	7
Wildlife Spotlight	8

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) culminated its World Environment Day (WED) 2013 celebrations with its Annual Environmental Camp. The Camp attracted a total of forty (40) participants aged 9-12 from both Primary and Secondary Schools in Regions 3, 4 and 5. This event was held during July 15-18, 2013 at Camp Somerville on the Linden/Soesdyke Highway. The focus of this year’s camp was the theme for World Environment Day 2013: “Think. Eat. Save -Reduce your footprint”.

During the camp, participants were exposed to activities and presentations which focused on the relationship between water, climate change, food waste, and waste management through various activities. The methodologies used were diverse and action oriented, and included stories, food waste audit, games, videos, scavenger hunt, nature walk, camp craft and other outdoor activities. Activities were all geared towards stimulating the mind and influencing positive environmental attitudes and actions, and building skills for informed decision-making.



Participants prior to departure from campsite.

Participants were very interactive and enthusiastically took part in the informative yet fun sessions. Their investigative, analytical and communication skills were all put to the test throughout the camp. Since campers had to work in units to complete tasks, team work was also an important feature.



Participants engaged in an activity during the camp.

### Editorial Note

The third quarter of the year was a very productive one for the Agency. Several significant activities were conducted including the execution of International Coastal Cleanup in four Administrative Regions across the country. The activities though executed yearly, held an even more special meaning with this year being the ‘International Year for Water Cooperation’, and the world being enlightened about the importance of coming together to care for and protect our water resources. The Agency also successfully executed and participated in several camps during the July-August vacation period. In an effort to increase public awareness and education of various stakeholders, the Agency effectively participated in several exhibitions during the third quarter.

As the Agency continues to work assiduously to fulfill its mandate, strides have been made in boosting the Environmental Authorisation and Compliance processes. Many staff were better equipped with knowledge and skills to propel the work of the Agency through continuous training and capacity building. As we enter the final quarter, the EPA can boast of significant accomplishments, however, we still have a far way to go as we seek to promote a clean and healthy environment for all Guyanese, where resources are effectively managed and sustainably utilized.

On the final night, campers took part in a campfire at which folk songs were sung and participants displayed their various talents such as poetry, dancing and singing. At the end of the camp, all participants received a certificate of participation and expressed satisfaction at attending, and pledged to be environmental activists in their respective spheres. They all made a commitment to reduce food waste through responsible actions.

# EPA participates in Mining Week 2013

On August 25, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission officially launched its Mining Week activities with a Mining Walk, which commenced at the Bank of Guyana and ended at the Guyana Girl Guides pavilion. The week was intended to be a public awareness venture to inform the general public on issues in the extractive sector, and the work of the stakeholders to provide practical solutions to solving these issues.

This year's Mining Week was held under the theme "Green, Clean and Responsible: Securing the future of mining". In addition to the Walk, there was an official launching ceremony and exhibition. At the three day exhibition, held at the Guyana International Conference Centre, Liliendaal, various stakeholders from the mining industry, both private and public, were present to highlight their role in the industry.



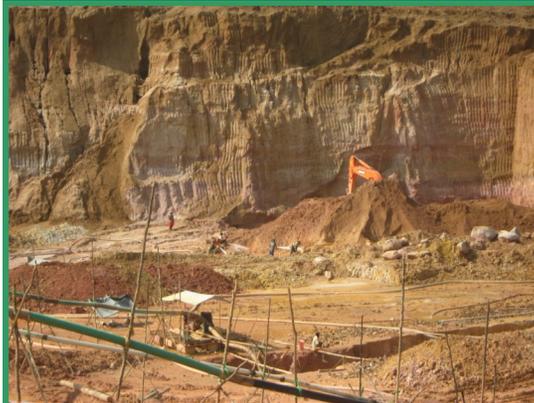
The Agency's displays included fun, interactive, games that sought to educate visitors on the importance of mining to Guyana and highlight various aspects of responsible mining.

On August 28, education sessions were held for small-scale miners as well as discussions on social and other challenges related to mining, and the way forward for the sector.

A tour of a medium-scale mining operation at Frenchman, Region 8, was facilitated by the GGMC. Participants were afforded the opportunity to see a mining operation in its entirety, engage in discussions with the miners, and collect rock

samples.

Mining Week 2013 came to an exciting conclusion with the hosting of Pork Knocker Day held at the Golden Beach Pavilion in Bartica.



Attendees were treated to a number of activities such as sand shoveling and bat telling competitions and the Washiri race.

Left: Visitors at EPA booth  
Top: Hydraulicing at the mining operation  
Bottom: Competitions at Pork-Knocker Day



## "A healthy atmosphere, the future we want"

The Environmental Protection Agency reiterated the importance of a healthy atmosphere during three (3) half-day workshops held during September 16-18, 2013, Region 5. These workshops were held in observance of International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, and targeted twenty (20) primary and seven (7) secondary schools in West Berbice area. Given the expanse of the target area, the students were captured in three (3) clusters at Mahaicony Primary, Bath Primary and Belladrum Secondary schools, respectively. A total of one hundred and ninety-four (194) students and twenty-seven (27) teachers benefited from these interactive and informative sessions. The sessions focused on the 2013 Ozone Day theme: **"A healthy atmosphere, the future we want"**.

The participants were enlightened on the purpose and significance of the ozone layer; its destruction and implications for us as well as progress towards its restoration. The facilitators used various tools and methodologies to engage participants

within the various age ranges. These included videos, games, puzzles, small group sessions and creative arts.

In addition, participants were tasked with finding creative ways to ensure a healthy atmosphere for us as well as future generations. Each group was required to present its creative piece at the end of the workshop. The students and teachers alike were enthused to do their part in ensuring a clean and healthy environment.



Students participating in a group activity

## Protected Areas Commission gets continued support

The Protected Areas Commission (PAC) was established following the enactment of the Protected Areas Act in 2011, to provide protection and conservation of Guyana's natural heritage and natural capital through the coordination and management of the National Protected Areas System (NPAS).

Through phase two of the Guyana Protected Areas System (GPAS) Project, funds were allocated to support the establishment and infrastructural development of the PAC. Under the project, the building at Thomas Lands which currently houses the National Parks Commission (NPC), will be extended and upgraded to accommodate the PAC's Head Office. Under the Protected Areas Act, 2011, the NPC will eventually cease to be independent, and instead it will fall under the PAC.

The contracts for the construction and supervision components of the Protected Areas Commission were awarded to Satar Mohamed and Sons Hardware Supplies and Innovative Engineering Consultancy Services, respectively. Both contracts were signed on August 12, 2013.

The construction of the PAC Head Office is being funded by the German Government through the German Development Bank, KfW. The Project is being implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, under the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment. The EPA is being assisted with implementation of the GPAS Project, by GFA Consulting Group.

In addition, two motor vehicles (one Toyota Pick-up and one SUV-Double Cab 4 Door) were procured for the PAC under the GPAS Phase II Project. The vehicles were presented to the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, the Honourable Mr. Robert Persaud, in the presence of the Commissioner of the PAC, Mr. Damian Fernandes, and Team Leader of the KfW Mission, Dr. Josef Haider, at the National Parks Commission, Thomas Lands, Georgetown on June 25, 2013.



Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, Mr. Robert Persaud receiving the keys for the two vehicles.

## Waste management - the focus at Taxidermy and Zoo Camps

The August holiday is a time when youths are out of school and parents seek to effectively engage them. In order to gainfully occupy their time during this period, numerous activities are organised by various organisations. One such activity is the Annual Zoo Camp coordinated by the National Parks Commission. The Zoo Camp provides children with a unique opportunity to learn about the environment through educational, stimulating and fun-filled activities. Children aged 6-13 were targeted during the four week duration of the camp.

This year, the EPA made a profound impact at the camp, conducting three (3) sessions that benefitted sixty-six (66) children. These sessions focused on Waste Management. The sessions taught the children about the effects of littering on the environment, the importance of proper waste disposal, the 3 R's and composting. The children were very enthusiastic to learn about how they can make our environment better through interactive presentations, videos and activities such as word searches.

In addition, the Guyana National Museum conducted its annual Taxidermy Camp. The EPA, along with Pick it up Guyana, delivered presentations to forty-four (44) participants on

'Pollution and Waste Management'. They were also engaged with games and other interactive activities centered on the topic. At the end of both presentations, students were given the task of sharing information about the harmful effects of improper waste disposal and were charged to be positive agents of change within their schools and communities.



Top: Participants at Zoo Camp

Bottom: Participants during an activity at Taxidermy Camp.

## Fighting for trash free seas

No one can deny that one of the biggest environmental problems that we face in Guyana is solid waste management. Pieces of paper, plastics, styrofoam and other materials are strewn all over. While this is usually observed on land, garbage has far-reaching effects, compromising the health of humans and animals that depend on a healthy ocean, threatening tourism and recreation and impacting the economy because it costs a lot of money to retrieve and remove.

In an effort to protect the world's oceans and the people and animals



Participants at the Region 10 cleanup.

that depend on them for survival, the **International Coastal Cleanup** is organised all across the globe. Held under the theme **“Fighting for trash free seas”** this year, the activity saw persons from all walks of life come out to clean up the environment,

especially along the coast. Traditionally, cleanups have only taken place along the coast, however, this year, the activity spread to inland regions, seeking to stop the flow of garbage from the source: before it even has a chance to reach the ocean to endanger aquatic life, and ruin our beaches.

The Environmental Protection Agency teamed up with the Caribbean Youth Environment Network, Guyana (CYEN) and the Pick it Up Guyana (PIUG) Initiative to organise cleanups in different Regions

across Guyana. Cleanup activities took place in Region 6 (Rose Hall Beach), Region 4 (along the Kingston seawall), Region 10 (Linden) and Region 3 (along the Uitvlugt seawall), on September 15, 21, 28 and 29, respectively.



Participants came out in their numbers at the Region 4 cleanup.

A total of 283 volunteers representing schools, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other volunteer groups came out in support of these activities. Participants of the different cleanups worked in small groups, recording every piece of trash that was picked up. This was an important aspect of the cleanup since data collection allows scientists to understand what is out there, and therefore measures can be put in place to prevent these harmful items from entering our coastal environment.

It was noted that the most prevalent items found were plastic bottles, glass bottles, beverage cans and plastic bags. Some of the most unusual items included refrigerator parts, footwear and a wheelchair wheel.

Approximately 220 garbage bags were filled, indicating the hard working spirit of the volunteers.

## EPA facilitates Internship Programme

The Environmental Protection Agency continues to facilitate the development of the nation's capacity in Environmental Management by partnering with the University of Guyana's Internship Programme. During the period June 10-August 16, the Agency provided three individuals the opportunity to apply what they would have been learning in the classroom to real life situations. These individuals were:

- Mr. Mark December, a first year Environmental Studies student, who was attached to the Mining and Forestry Unit (M&F) in the Environmental Management Permitting Division.
- Mr. Mahendra Doraisami, a second year Biology student, who was attached to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Tourism Unit (AFT) in the Environmental Management Permitting Division; and

- Ms. Leanna Kallicharran, a fourth year Biology student, who was attached to the Natural Resources Management Division.

During their period of internship, the interns were afforded opportunities to gain practical experiences by performing day-to-day tasks such as assisting in logistical preparation for visits, conducting site, verification and follow-up compliance visits, filing reports, reviewing project documents and preparing correspondences to alleged polluters and complainants.

Although it was a new experience for them, they were willing to perform tasks assigned to them and all acquitted themselves well with the work of the Agency, working diligently and displaying great potential.

The Agency wishes them well in their future endeavours.

## Kids Corner

### Save Our Oceans!

#### 5 Things We Can Do

1. **Don't be a litterbug** - When paying the ocean a visit, don't leave anything behind. This includes food, toys, containers, paper goods, or clothing. Pack your food in reusable containers, and dine with washable utensils and cloth napkins. Reusing items is the best way to learn about sustainability.
2. **Wear waterproof sunscreen** - Don't be a one-kid oil spill. Greasy, oily sunscreen leaves a residue on everything, including the ocean. This is especially important if you love being in and out of the water and need sunscreen reapplied throughout the day.
3. **Protect wildlife** - Sure, sea stars are beautiful, but they belong to the sea. Curb the desire to bring home souvenirs such as marine life, shells, seaweed, or driftwood. Never chase or feed coastal wildlife.

*"A healthy atmosphere;  
the future we want"*



Venus is called Earth's twin as both planets have similar features. It does not have a protective covering like us, so ultra violet rays from the sun go directly into its atmosphere. Fortunately, we have got the ozone layer that protects us from these harmful UV rays.

#### BE OZONE SMART



- Wear sunscreen when going out-side on hot days
- Cover your arms and legs to prevent sun burn
- Encourage your parents to buy ozone friendly products

#### HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

Match the image on the left to the time it takes to decompose on the right. Try to group the items into biodegradable and non-biodegradable.



undetermined



2-5 months



2-10 days



10-20 years

4. **Stay on the path** - Sliding or jumping down sand dunes may be fun for kids, but it's not fun for the little creatures and plants who call these environments "home." Walk on the established paths and elevated walkways.

5. **It's okay to be a snitch** - Good stewardship is all about awareness. If you see someone destroying beach property, marine animal habitats, or dishonoring the environment, report the sighting to local authorities.

**"It's the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there'll be any fruit. But that doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result."** — Mahatma Gandhi

## 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). Noise permits for various events and operations are also granted by the Agency.

During the period July to September 2013, the Agency received a total of one hundred and fourteen (114) applications for Environmental Authorisation. Thirty-four (34) of the Applications were for new projects, eleven (11) for existing projects, ten (10) for renewal of Environmental Authorisations, and three (3) for the variance of Environmental Authorisation.

Fifty-six (56) applications for noise permits were received for this period.

The Agency granted sixty-nine (69) Environmental Authorisations during this period. Seven (7) Environmental Permits for New Projects, and two (2) Operation Permits for New Projects; three (3) for an Existing operation; one (1) Construction Permit and fifty-six (56) Noise Permits were granted.

The Division continues 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).



## Equipping Staff for Excellence

The EPA continually seeks to build the capacity by enhancing the technical skills of staff. During the third quarter, officers of the Agency benefitted from a number of workshops as follows:

- Dr. Indarjit Ramdass, Executive Director and Ms. Juliana Persaud, SEO, attended the *GEF Expanded Caribbean Constituency Workshop*, held in the Dominican Republic.
- Mr. Colis Primo, SEO, EMCD, attended a workshop on the *Specification and Labeling of Commodities pt. 10*.
- Ms. Geeta Singh, Director, EMPD, attended a two (2) days *Disaster Risk Management Bill Workshop*, which was organised by the Civil Defence Commission.
- Ms. Teijvarti Persaud, SEO, EMPD, attended a workshop organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) at Cara Lodge.
- Mr. Colis Primo, Ms. Latoya Farinha, EO II, EMPD, and Ms. Aretha Forde, EO II, EITD attended a two (2) weeks programme on *Water Resources Management* at the University of Guyana.
- Mr. Deuel Hughes, EO II, EITD, Ms. Malicia Hall, EOII, EMPD, Ms. Melinda Franklin, EO I, EMPD, Ms. Sharmin Joseph, EO I, EMPD, and Ms. Monique Williams, EO I, EMPD, attended a five day (5) *Sector Skills Training Workshop on Safety* organised by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission at the Guyana Forestry Commission Multiplex.
- Ms. Anastasia Chandra, EO I, EMCD, Ms. Diana Fernandes, EO II, NRMD, Mr. Andrew Gupta, EO I, EMPD, Ms. Sonia Gumbs-Luke, SEO, EMPD, and Mr. Deuel Hughes attended a two (2) weeks programme on *Disaster Risk Management* in the Caribbean at the University of Guyana.
- Ms. Sharifah Razack, Director, EITD, Ms. Geeta Singh, Ms. Teijvarti Persaud, and Ms. Aretha Forde attended a two (2) day *National Mining and Quarrying Conference* held at Guyana International Conference Centre, Liliendaal.
- Mr. Lancelot France Cummings, Finance Officer, Ms. Debbie Wilkinson, Senior Accounts Clerk, and Ms. Fiona Marshall, Senior Accounts Clerk, attended a one (1) day workshop on *New Accounting Practice Issues*.
- Mrs. Candacie Brower-Thompson, SEO, EITD, Ms. Felicia Adams, SEO, EMCD, Ms. Shivon Caesar, Administrative Officer, Ms. Divinjali Bailey, Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Sonia Gumbs-Luke, Ms. Teijvarti Persaud, Ms. Debbie Wilkinson, Ms. Sharifah Razack, Mr. Colis Primo, attended a two (2) day workshop on *Creative Problem Solving and Analytical Thinking* organised by Arthur Lok Jack.
- Mr. Dhanraj Persaud, Administrative Director, Mr. Ronley Kendall, Human Resources Officer, Mr. Kemraj Parsram, Director, EMCD, and Ms. Sharifah Razack, Ms. Geeta Singh, attended a two (2) day *Communications Training* organised by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment.

## 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 third 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 October - December 2013 includes the following:

Activity	Theme	Target Group	Date
<b>Teachers Training Workshop</b>	“Learning about the environment through English Language, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science”	Trainee teachers - CPCE (Turkeyen)	<b>October 24-27</b>
<b>Viewing of ‘Trashed’ documentary</b>		Secondary schools and Environmental groups in Regions 6, 10 and 4, respectively.	<b>October 23-25</b>
<b>Kwakwani Day Exhibition</b>		Kwakwani community	<b>November 02</b>
<b>Youth Festival</b>	“Fusion of our strengths- celebrating what is right with our diversity”	Youths	<b>October 23-26</b>
<b>Climate Change outreach</b>		Grade six students in Region 2	<b>December 02-03</b>



# WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT

## Did you know?

### *The Southern Crested Caracara (Caracara plancus)*



#### Description

- Bird of prey often referred to as the 'Mexican Eagle'.
- Belongs to the family **Falconidae**.
- They are part of a group collectively referred to as **caracaras**.
- Is the most terrestrial bird in the falcon group.

#### Appearance

- Broad winged and long tailed.
- Has long legs and frequently walks and runs on the ground.
- The adult has a black body, wings, crest and crown.

- The neck, rump, and tail are white, with the tail having a black barring and a broad terminal band.
- The breast is white, finely barred with black.
- This bird of prey has a length of 49-58 cm (19-23 in), a wingspan of 107-130 cm (42-51 in), and weighs 800-1,300 g (1.8-2.9 lb).

#### Habitat

- Found throughout a large part of the Americas mainly the Southern United States to Mexico, Central America, and northern South America.
- Northern Caracaras inhabit various types of open and semi-open country.
- They typically live in lowlands but can live to mid-elevation in the Northern Andes.

#### Diet

- The Crested Caracara is a carnivorous scavenger that mainly feeds on carrion.
- The live prey they do catch is usually immobile, injured, incapacitated or young including small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, crabs, insects, their larvae, earthworms, shellfish and young birds.
- In addition to hunting its own food on the ground, the Northern Caracara will steal from other birds, including vultures, pelicans, ibises and spoonbills.



#### Reproduction and nesting

- This species can usually be spotted either alone, in pairs or family parties of 3-5 birds.
- Occasionally roosts may contain more than a dozen caracaras and abundant food sources can cause more than 75 to gather.
- The nesting season is from December to May and is a bit earlier the closer the birds live to the tropics.
- The nests are bulky and untidy, 60-100 cm (24-39 in) wide and 15-40 cm (5.9-16 in) deep, often made of grasses, sticks and hay, spotted with much animal matter.
- It lays 2-3 pinkish-brown eggs with darker blotches, which are incubated for 28-32 days.
- The young require up to 3 months before they fly as independent birds and the family stays together another 3 months.

#### 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

The Green Leaf is published quarterly by the Environmental Protection Agency, Guyana.

This publication is intended to promote awareness on the work of the Environmental Protection Agency.

#### Editorial Committee:

Sharifah Razack

Fareena Alli - Narine

Candacie Brower - Thompson

Aretha Forde

Deuel Hughes

#### E-mail:

[eit.epaguyana@gmail.com](mailto:eit.epaguyana@gmail.com)

#### Mailing address:

Environmental Protection Agency,  
EIT Division,  
Ganges Street,  
Sophia,  
Georgetown.

#### Telephone Nos.:

225-6044, 225-6048, 225-5467-9,  
225-0506, 225-6917, 225-1218,  
225-2062

#### Fax # 225-5481

