



2020 ISSUE

# GREEN NOTE

NEWS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

## WHAT'S INSIDE

MOVING TOWARDS  
DECENTRALISATION

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF  
"THE ENVIRONMENT MATTERS"

GUYANA THE GREEN STATE:  
THE ROAD TO 2040

THE PROPOSED BAN  
ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS (SUP)



## BRINGING OPERATORS INTO COMPLIANCE



[WWW.EPAGUYANA.ORG](http://WWW.EPAGUYANA.ORG)



# Preface

The first edition of the Environmental Protection Agency's annual magazine, 'The Green Note' was well received by readers, for its up-to-date and relevant information. The magazine featured articles contributed by several agencies and organisations on a range of topics relative to the environment.

Moreover, the second edition of the "Green Note" will once again capture the major accomplishments on the environmental front of the Environmental Protection Agency, Guyana (EPA) and some of the Agency's key partners. The magazine will also feature massive transformation at the EPA such as: Increase in technical capacity of its human resources; Compliance drive; Decentralisation of its services; Restructuring of its operations; and Acquisition of resources such as equipment and vehicles, which greatly boosted the work of the Agency.

Additionally, the features on the EPA's Regulatory oversight of the oil and gas sector and the impending ban on single-use plastics in 2021, will provide readers with pertinent information for informed decision-making. The magazine captures articles, infographics and activities under five (5) major themes: Embracing change; Sustainable biodiversity management; Oil and gas; Pollution control; and Partnering for Growth.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



Message from Executive Director, EPA	02		
Message from Director, The Department of Environment	04	Bringing Operators into Compliance	30
2019 - The Year Of Discovery And Transformation	06	Staying within the Permissible Noise Limits: 85 dB Is Not Your Lucky Number	31
EPA creates Central Registry	07	The Proposed ban on Single-use Plastics (SUP)	34
Standard Operating Procedure for complaints management	07	Capacity Building For Sustainable Forest Management	36
Moving Towards Decentralisation	08	Take Time To Breathe	38
Celebrating one year of "The Environment Matters"	09	Oil Is Here!	40
Guyana The Green State: The Road To 2040	10	What To Expect With First Oil	42
The Rio Mainstreaming Project	12	Reclaiming Mined out Areas	44
Indigenous Peoples And Their Traditional Knowledge	14	Greener Days for the Forest	46
The Life Of The Turtle	16	Guyana is on A Green Development Trajectory!	48
Licencing of the Domestic Trade of Wildlife	18	Private Sector Gearing Up For 2020	51
Promoting Integrated Ocean And Participatory Governance	20	Educating the Educators	52
Providing Regulatory Oversight For Oil And Gas	22	Balancing Fossils Fuel with Renewables	54
Building Capacity For Efficiency	24	Driving sustainability through MEAs	56
EPA explores the use of eDNA for protection of Aquatic Species	26	Guyana becomes a member of IOPER	58
Empowering The Youth	28	I am an Eco Kid	60
		Meet the Staff	62

**Green Note** is designed for and published annually by the Environmental Protection Agency-Guyana in association with its partners in environmental management and conservation.

**Publisher** - Environmental Protection Agency – Guyana

## Editorial Team

Candacie Brower-Thompson	Aretha Forde
Sharifah Razack	Ladonna Kissoon
Lauren Sampson	Savitri Itwaru
Saeed Hamid	Melinda Franklin-Lynch

**Graphic Design** -Creative Marketing Company.

## Contact Information

Environmental Protection Agency Ganges Street, Sophia Georgetown Tel No. 225-5471-2; 225-6048 Fax: 225-5481	Berbice Office Whim, Corentyne Tel No. 337-2201 / 2207
Website: <a href="http://www.epaguyana.org">www.epaguyana.org</a> Facebook: @EPAGuyana Instagram: epagyig Youtube: Environmental Protection Agency, Guyana	Linden Office LEN Building Tel No. 444-2313



## MESSAGE FROM EPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Vincent Adams

On behalf of all at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), we extend our very best wishes for good health and God’s protection to all, as we join in combating the dreadful COVID-19. We urge all, to please heed the guidance by the Government for our safe keeping against this unprecedented virus.

Our vision remains on track to make EPA the best run Agency with focus on delivering superior, professional and quality service to our customers in a timely and non-discriminatory manner; during 2019, our year of discovery and beginning of transformation, several major fundamental deficiencies and barriers were identified which have compounded over the years and hindered optimal performance of the Agency, in effectively carrying out its legislative mandate of managing, conserving, protecting and improving the environment. There upon, systematic corrective actions were aggressively developed and implemented with significant progress made in 2019, as follows:

- Developed and implemented new organization structure fashioning a culture of customer satisfaction, work pride, strive for excellence, and performance accountability;
- Opening of office for service during lunch as an example of our understanding that we are the servants of the people and

not the other way around;

- New offices opened in Linden and Whim, with plan to open at least one office in every region by 2020 end, for more timely service, and to alleviate the cost and inconvenience to customers having to travel far distances to Georgetown;
- Started construction of new parking lot and security building for better accommodation and security of customers, and enhancement of the landscaping and aesthetics of our surroundings congenial with an EPA;
- Built Registry from scratch to ensure the secure custody, accounting, and efficient processing of the voluminous amounts of documents supporting the 2,000 projects;
- Established Complaints and Incident Reporting section with a 24-hr hotline and procedures to ensure the handling of complaints and incidents in a timely manner.
- Eliminated backlog of over 500 expired permits yielding over \$130 million used to build the Registry, recruit 20 additional skilled staffs ,and raise the vehicle fleet from 2 to 9, allowing for more field compliance monitoring and enforcement;
- Attained the only ‘unlimited’ liability coverage agreement in the world with Oil & Gas companies to cover off-shore



spills from Oil & Gas operations;

- Became the 9th member country representative on The International Offshore Petroleum Environment Regulators (IOPER) group of national regulators dedicated to raising environmental performance standards within the offshore petroleum industry;
- Other significant memberships include the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA), Air and Waste Management Association (AWMA) all provide resources and technical assistance to strengthen the Agency’s regulatory capability.
- Enhanced capacity through significantly increased international exposures to networking, conferences, memberships in international professional organizations, study leave policy, and internship programme;
- Significantly expanded the education and outreach programme with establishment of Bi-weekly TV and radio broadcasts, weekly newspaper articles, and several camps and forums for hundreds of teachers and students;
- With assistance from the World Bank, established a Petroleum Unit to comprise of 36 specialized positions; and
- Led stakeholders in completing assessments of all dumpsites/landfills in the country and started process for replacements with state of art disposal sites.

Notwithstanding our formidable progress in 2019, herculean challenges lay ahead for 2020 in our quest for planned acceleration of our transformation into a modern and robust regulator, not the least of which is our recovery from the bumps in the road caused by the COVID-19, the delay in receipt of our budget allocation for 2020, and managing the already noticeable beginning of the Agency’s projected seven-fold increase in work load driven by the quadrupling of Guyana’s economy over the next four years.

Our success will no doubt rely heavily upon our ability to acquire and efficiently utilize the necessary resources including skilled personnel and tools to perform their functions. Our goal is to increase our staff level from 120 to 200 in 2020, and to 300 by end of 2021. To this end, we are already in the process of acquiring real property for a new office compound to include an EPA own certified laboratory with State of the Art equipment and instruments to monitor, measure, and analyze pollutants, so as to inform credible decisions based upon sound science; and we have acquired property in several locations for our regional offices.

We have already begun the focus on re-writing the outdated EP Act which was in place since the Agency’s inception in 1996, along with developing and revising the existing sparse and outdated environmental regulations and guidance. And last, but certainly not least, we are moving toward the Ministry of Finance’s desire for us to become financially self-sufficient through revision of the ancient permit fees also in place since 1996.



## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENCY

**Ms Ndibi Schwiers, Director, Department of Environment Ministry of the Presidency**

The Environmental Protection Agency, which is one of four Agencies that were gazetted under the Department of Environment in 2016 is empowered by the Environmental Protection Act, 1996 to manage, conserve, protect and improve the environment. In executing its role, which is grounded in the minimisation of risks to sound economic development and the maximisation of environmental benefits to the country as a whole; the EPA must continue to evolve and demonstrate leadership in the dispensation of the green economy.

Inherent in the discharge of this important responsibility is the concept of environmental governance. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, environmental governance is the means by which society determines and acts on goals and priorities related to the management of natural resources. Implicit in environmental governance is an understanding that it is not an end in itself, but rather a process to achieve a set outcome based on transparency, inclusivity and accountability.

Therefore, environmental governance is not only the responsibility of the Government. It relates to individuals at all strata of society – stakeholders, who

are all responsible for exercising authority over our natural resources and natural systems.

Over the years, Guyana has demonstrated strong leadership in environmental governance. This is demonstrated by the establishment of various institutions to manage natural resources and the public promulgation of several pieces of legislations on the environment, such as the overarching Environmental Protection Act 1996, Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2016 and the Forests Act 2009.

Guyana has also demonstrated strong leadership in environmental governance by becoming a signatory to various international and regional treaties that advocate environmental governance. The most recent was in 2018, at the United Nations General



Assembly where Guyana signed the historic Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean also known as the Escazú Agreement.

The Escazú Agreement seeks to ensure that all people have access to timely and reliable information, and are able to access justice regarding environmental matters. It also aims to: contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development

Goals guarantee environmental rights in the region; provide special protections for environmental human rights defenders and ensure people can play a part in decisions related to environmental challenges, such as climate change, ocean pollution and deforestation. Guyana became the first ratifying state of this agreement in 2019.

As Guyana advances along a steady path to becoming a green state, it is imperative that not only the EPA but all individuals, as environmental governance stakeholders, work together to achieve set objectives for environmental protection. Ideally, the work of these individuals fall into three groups which are complementary to each other. These are, doers, donors and practitioners.



Doers go out and help the cause of the environment by taking action. Donors generate financial assistance to further the cause of the environment. Practitioners work on a day-to-day basis to steer governmental agencies, scientists, stakeholder groups, or any other group toward a stewardship outcome. Together these three groups function to ensure the optimal operation of the ecosystem.

As stakeholders, it is important to be aware and knowledgeable of one's position in this group so that necessary actions could be supported.

I commend the development of the second Green Note Magazine and encourage all stakeholders including our young people to make good use of this informative resource material and to become involved in the protection of the environment.

**PROTECT OUR SPECIES**

**SAFEGUARD GUYANA'S NATURAL WEALTH**

Ministry of the Presidency  
Department of Environment

Green State  
Development Strategy  
VISION2040



# 2019

## THE YEAR OF DISCOVERY AND TRANSFORMATION

By Dr. Vincent Adams

The year 2019 can be described as a “discovery and transformation” year for the Environmental Protection Agency. Although the initial plan as the new Executive Director was to focus on implementing a Strategic Plan for the Agency, this focus quickly shifted when it was discovered that the EPA was not adequately satisfying its core mission of bringing operations with potential human health and environmental risk into compliance and ensuring they remain compliant.

This inadequacy was glaringly evident by the statistics discovered which showed that 482 facilities were operating with expired permits, some in excess of ten (10) years. The inescapable urgency to turn around the Agency, led to very aggressive actions including changing the work culture.

Despite the challenges of limited human and other resources, which have plagued the Agency for years, the sound leadership and efforts of

dedicated staff, yielded significant efficiency improvements and progress. By November 22, 2019, 92% of the expired permits were brought into compliance.

The exercise resulted in increased revenues for the Agency, which allowed for the procurement of seven (7) new vehicles and the establishment of a central registry. The EPA is now able to conduct more visits and maintain proper records, two key requisites for compliance monitoring. This activity was also a catalyst for change in the attitudes of employees as evidenced by the improved customer service at the EPA.

Although the challenges ahead may be overwhelming with the increased work load that will accompany the oil and gas sector, the Environmental Protection Agency, as the sole environmental regulator in Guyana will continue to aggressively work towards achieving its core mandate of environmental protection and pollution prevention and control.

# EPA creates Central Registry

By Candacie Brower-Thompson

The EPA through a strategic and comprehensive process in 2019, was able to bring an estimated 500 expired permits into compliance raking in revenue of over \$130 million for the Agency. This was used to build the Registry, recruit 20 additional skilled staffs, and raise the vehicle fleet from 2 to 9, allowing for more field compliance monitoring and enforcement. Understanding the importance of efficient data management to fulfilling our



mandate, the Agency built a Registry from scratch to ensure the secure custody, accounting, and efficient processing of the voluminous amounts of documents supporting the 2,000 projects. The Agency now hosts a repository for all projects, correspondences and documents entering and leaving the Agency. Additionally, Central Registry will have the following information documented on all projects including:

- Each application for Environmental Authorisation and status of applications made to the Agency;
- Each Authorisation granted;
- Each cancellation, revocation, variation or transfers of Environmental Authorisation;
- Each enforcement notice served;
- Each prohibition notice served;
- Each incident or occurrence causing environmental harm that comes under the notice of the Agency;
- Prosecution and other enforcement action;
- All environmental complaints received by the Agency and status of each complaint etc.

The general public is reminded that ALL documents, projects, correspondences etc., entering and leaving the Agency MUST be channeled through the Central Registry. Documents can be submitted electronically at [registry@epaguyana.org](mailto:registry@epaguyana.org).

## Standard Operating Procedure for complaints management

The Agency continues to receive a large number of complaints related to various environmental nuisances. This has become overwhelming and has placed additional pressure on the Agency's resources to have them addressed in a timely manner. In this regard, the Agency has developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for expeditiously and efficiently addressing environmental complaints. The SoP provides for the complaints to be managed by a single hub, which will enable the Agency to track the status of any complaint at a given time and provide accurate updates. The Agency's new approach to complaints management will also see the Agency working with other key organisations to eliminate the complaints backlog and bring resolution to many of the recurrent complaint matters.



# MOVING TOWARDS DECENTRALISATION

By Candacie Brower-Thompson

**R**eaffirming its commitment to effectively and efficiently tackle pollution and environmental management across the country, the Agency opened two Satellite Offices in 2019. This landmark accomplishment saw EPA offices being established in Whim, Corentyne, Region 6 and Linden, Region 10 in April and October respectively.

The EPA since its establishment in 1996, has been operating from a single centralised Office in Georgetown. Consequently, a suite of Officers and resources had to be mobilised to serve customers throughout Guyana. This physical expansion will undoubtedly support the compliance of business operations in the wider Region 6 and 10 in a more tangible way, allowing face to face support during the Environmental Authorisation process, timely monitoring

inspections, investigation of complaints, and emergency response. Additionally, this will alleviate the inconvenience and cost of customers having to travel to Georgetown.

On the radar for 2020 are additional offices in Anna Regina, Region 2 and Lethem, Region 9. The Agency is also currently engaging Regional Officials for the establishment of Offices in Mabaruma (Region 1), Bartica (Region 7) and Mahdia (Region 8), as it aims to make its services easily accessible and allow for timely response.



## CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF "THE ENVIRONMENT MATTERS"

By Candacie Brower-Thompson

**T**he EPA commemorates one year of "The Environment Matters", having officially launched the inaugural episode on December 04, 2018. The Environment Matters programme, features diverse segments of interest to the public, pre-recorded monthly and aired weekly for 55 minutes on NCN, Channel 11. This programme is part of the Agency's vibrant and extensive media strategies employed to catalyse positive change and appropriate actions for the environment.

Moreover, the objectives are to provide a conduit for pertinent information on the work of the Agency; local and global environmental issues; and stimulate greater public participation in environmental management. Over the past year, the Agency welcomed guests from the Guyana Police Force (GPF), University of Guyana (UG), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Department of Environment (DoE), among others. Some topics covered included;

- The work of the EPA;
- The Environmental Authorisation process;
- Risk management;

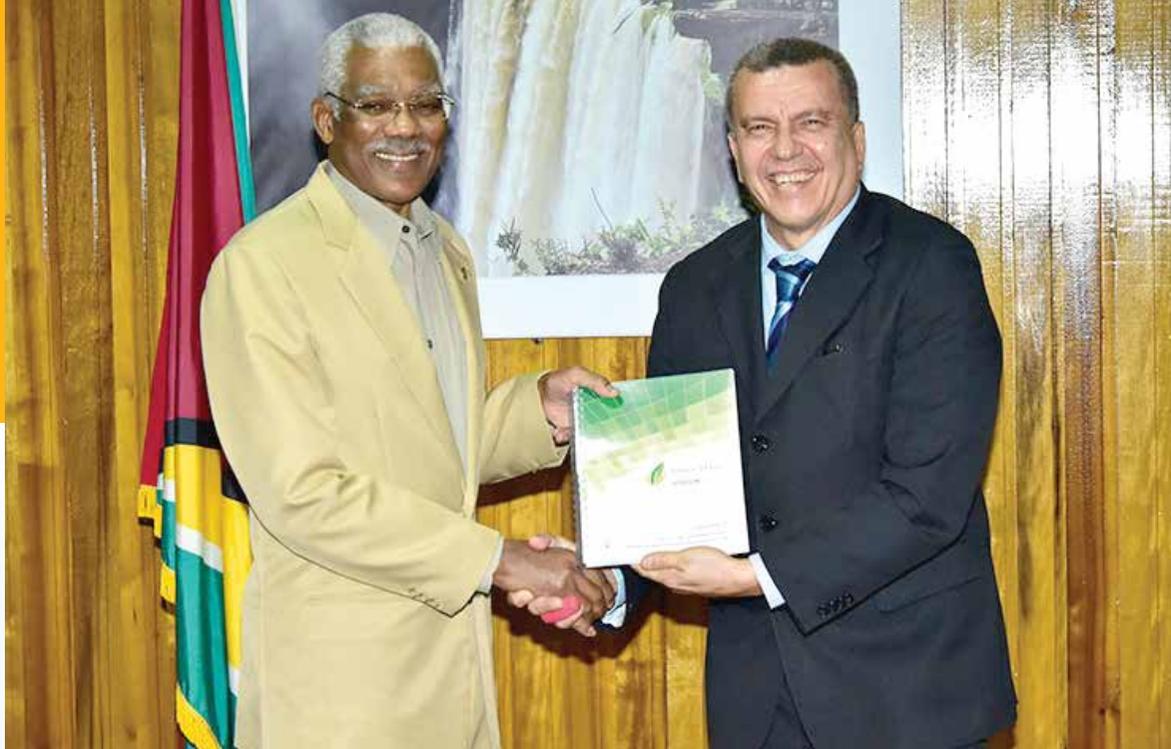


Topic: Making the future better by Reflecting on the Pass

- Biodiversity;
- Water and you;
- The Green State Development Strategy;
- Oil and gas management; and
- Single-use plastics.

This technologically advanced epoch provides ample opportunities for the timely dissemination of information.

The Agency will continue to extend its reach of environment TV, in an effort to foster positive attitudes and behaviors for a clean, healthy and productive environment. Further, the EPA extends gratitude to all supporters of the programme and call on corporate Guyana to advance its reach and impact.



## GUYANA THE GREEN STATE: THE ROAD TO 2040

In June 2019, the United Nations Environment Programme officially handed over the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 to



the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. This ceremonial hand over signalled the culmination of two (2) years of extensive stakeholder consultations, expert meetings, research and collaborative effort aimed at developing this national policy document.

The Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 is a twenty (20) year economic development strategy intended to transition Guyana into a green state. The strategy focuses on economic diversification using a low carbon approach, ensuring social inclusive development without degrading our natural resources.

The successful implementation of Vision 2040 will require an all-inclusive process. In light of this, the Department of Environment has been leading mainstreaming activities with all Government agencies. This Ministry of Finance issued a budget circular in 2019 mandating the inclusion of Vision 2040 priorities aligned to agencies' budgets.



The Department has executed interactive, sector specific presentations and document preparation for all government ministries to successfully plan for and mainstream relevant priorities into their work program, beginning in 2020.

Further, several actions have been taken to promote Vision 2040 beyond the public sector. The Department has continued to engage other stakeholders through the use of traditional and digital media-newspapers, television, radio, social media- as well as the execution of awareness sessions. One such session saw the participation of thirty-seven (37) Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisation (CSO).

These actions by the Department typify the multi-stakeholder approach essential for garnering support for the Strategy, promoting collaboration and innovative thinking across Guyana.

The successful implementation of Vision 2040 is expected to be guided by a robust monitoring and evaluation strategy along with a Vision 2040 Council. This council will be headed by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of the Presidency,



guiding Guyana as it transitions into a green state.

For more information, please visit our website at: <https://doe.gov.gy/glds>



## The Rio Mainstreaming Project - Bringing Innovations To Environmental Management...

By Michelle Klass

The strengthening of technical capacities to mainstream and monitor the Rio Conventions implementation through policy coordination is commonly referred to as the Rio Mainstreaming Project.

It is one of the new and innovative projects that is setting the stage for innovative environmental management to improve mandates and legitimacy.

The Project which commenced in 2016 is being implemented by the Ministry of the Presidency, Department of Environment and will end in 2020. It is funded by the government of Guyana, Global Environment Facility and the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP). The goals are to improve capacity to make better decisions, to manage the country's natural resources, and sustain its global environment obligations.

The project is a very timely intervention given that Guyana is on the path to becoming a green state. On September 1, 2016 the Government of Guyana established an important Policy Division, the Department of Environment (DOE) which falls directly under the Ministry of the Presidency to coordinate the implementation of the Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) and manage the environmental sector, including the national repository for laws, policies, guidelines, programmes and investments.

The GSDS is aligned with the UN 2040 agenda and seeks to mainstream sustainable development into seven critical areas including the environment, governance, human development and international cooperation among others. This forms an ideal nexus between the country's overarching environmental goals and the Rio project goals that focuses on making sound environmental and policy decisions for global environmental benefits.



### INNOVATIONS IN GUYANA'S ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR

The main innovations that the project brought to the environmental sector include strengthening of sectoral agencies' technical and institutional arrangements for data and information sharing, management and dissemination through a national platform, the Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System (EIMMS). The EIMMS is the centerpiece of the project and is networking existing data bases and reconciling their content (in particular indicators) which will serve to inform planners and decision makers about trends in meeting and sustaining global environmental indicators.

The EIMMS is also geared to allow agencies within the public and private sectors, and the general public at large to have access to environmental and non-environmental data and information at their fingertips. The data and information can be used to improve decision making at all levels and reporting on the Rio conventions, GSDS and emerging plans, programmes and policies.

The Rio Mainstreaming Project is also building technical capacity for mainstreaming the Rio Conventions into sectoral plans, programmes and policies through pilot programmes, feasibility studies, results sharing national and sub-national workshops, policy dialogues, learning by doing workshops and national environmental competitions for schools. These activities

are strengthening the capacity of staff at key environmental organisations to carry out their mandates and other responsibilities focusing on the use of data, access and sharing.

Attention is being placed on demonstrating the value of team work among government agencies, building long-term technical capacities to better understand and apply global environmental indicators, with the view to integrating global environmental priorities into development plans at the national and sub-national levels, strengthening relationships and promoting and forging stronger partnerships and commitment.

Social actors in the non-environmental sectors, decision-makers, non-state stakeholders and civil society are also benefiting from the project interventions. These interventions include environmental articles, media training and a country wide education and awareness programme.

These interventions have brought together over 2500 stakeholders from indigenous communities, government agencies at all levels, parliamentarians, the private sector, academia, journalists, youth and the civil society. This has resulted in some of the beneficiaries improving their capacity to prepare better national plans. The Private Sector has indicated their willingness to practice recycling and better waste management. These innovation can therefore be seen as effective and making the required changes for environmental development in Guyana.



discussions; for example, around the value of traditional knowledge to Protected Areas Management, the challenges associated with changes to the use of certain traditional knowledge/practices, and identifying key areas that need urgent attention as it relates to its preservation. Stakeholder engagement has also included government agencies to assess their level of awareness of traditional knowledge and to determine the current level of integration based on a review of their regulations and policies. These discussions and analysis have contributed significantly to the TKNAP drafting process.

To learn more please visit the website [cobracollective.org](http://cobracollective.org) or follow us on Facebook (Cobra Collective).

# Indigenous Peoples and their traditional knowledge

- promoting its integration at the national level

By Sean Mendonca

'Integrating Traditional knowledge into National Policies and Practices' is a project that is currently being implemented in Guyana. It is a Darwin Initiative project which commenced in 2017 and runs to March 2021. The EPA, being a partner from the inception, is especially supportive of the work being undertaken since it aligns directly with goals/targets associated with the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD), to which Guyana is a signatory and the Agency is the focal point. The project specifically addresses the CBD's Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 which speaks to the need for traditional knowledge to be better respected through national policy.

The project promotes the effective participation of Indigenous peoples in decision-making. Other partners include the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs, North Rupununi

District Development Board, Protected Areas Commission, Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group and South-Central Peoples Development Association.

Through this project, activities are being executed that pilot a model which promotes increased and effective dialogue between Indigenous peoples and decision-makers through the use of participatory video techniques. Additionally, activities also focus on building institutional capacity to encourage and promote the integration of traditional knowledge and perhaps more significantly, the development a Traditional Knowledge National Action Plan (TKNAP) for Guyana.

From the very inception, the project has been engaging several Indigenous communities (associated with Protected Areas) to facilitate



## APPLYING FOR NEW ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION?

Here's what you will need:

- ✓ Completed application form
- ✓ Identification (National ID card, passport)
- ✓ Proof of land ownership and approval from Central Housing and Planning Authority
- ✓ Map showing surrounding land uses (receiving waters, intake and discharge structures, etc.)
- ✓ Site plan showing the layout of the operation
- ✓ Project description (summary)
- ✓ Business registration/ certificate of incorporation

**ALL REQUESTED DOCUMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE YOUR APPLICATION CAN BE PROCESSED AND A SITE VISIT WILL BE CONDUCTED AFTER RECEIPT OF YOUR APPLICATION.**

**APPLICATION FEE:**

**US\$50** or equivalent in Guyana dollars using Scotia Bank daily exchange rate

✉ [epa@epaguyana.org](mailto:epa@epaguyana.org)

☎ 225-5471-2; 225-6048

[www.epaguyana.org](http://www.epaguyana.org)

   EPA-Guyana



# The Life of the Turtle

A story by Hannah Andries & Persia Martindale  
 Ranger Shell Beach Protected Area  
 Protected Areas Officer  
 Public Communication & Outreach



It is that time...she has been thinking about this journey for some time now. Mama Turtle has not been back to Guyana since she came out

of her shell and made it safely to the sea many years ago. But now she must brave the sea to return to her place of birth.

Mama Turtle crawls up onto the beach from the sea, allowing the waves to gently push her along the way. She is tired from her long journey - her flippers move slowly as she look to see where the best spot might be to lay her first set of eggs. It could be in an open space or beneath overhanging vegetation. After sometime she finds the right spot and with much care, digs her nest.



Mama Turtle uses her back flippers - left then right, left then right - until there is a hole so deep her flippers do not touch the bottom. Satisfied with her nest, she positions herself and starts to lay her eggs 2 at a time or 3 at a time, and sometimes 5 at a time, until she has laid over 100 eggs. When she is finished she carefully covers the eggs, putting back the shells and camouflaging the nest.

“And the turtles, of course... all the turtles are free, as turtles and, maybe, all creatures should be.”

— Dr. Seuss, *Yertle the Turtle*

Mama Turtle then says a teary farewell to her babies. She prays that no humans will dig up her eggs and that no dogs or birds will find them either. She knows that there were some nice humans that scared away a jaguar on the beach and she hoped they would look out for her babies. Mama turtle slowly returns to the sea from whence she came and leaves nature to take its course. The babies will take about 55 to 65 days before they hatch. The nest is very warm and so there are more girl turtles than there are boys.



In the cool dusk, the baby turtles slowly help each other to the top of the nest and peep out one at a time to see the world outside. They listen to the soothing sounds of the ocean waves and something drives them to crawl towards it, leaving tire-like tracks as they go. Hawks, vultures, dogs, even crabs and other predators lurk in the shadows waiting for the opportunity to scoop them up. They would not take the chance if they see the Rangers around, but if they can they will eat them....it's just a part of nature.



The first night in the ocean is scary for the baby turtles. One turtle was almost snapped up by a shark. Another was looking for food to eat, saw what she thought was a jellyfish but it was a plastic bag dumped into the ocean by humans. As the turtles make their way slowly across the ocean, they hear the other ocean animals talking about oil spills, sewage and scary plastic rings. They know that they must be very careful in the ocean if they will ever get to see the peaceful beach of Guyana again. As they leave Shell Beach Protected Area, they hope for a safe journey and a happy, healthy life ahead.



Protecting Nature. Improving Lives





## Licencing of the Domestic Trade of Wildlife

By Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission

Guyana is a country blessed with an abundance of wild species of fauna and flora. A few commonly known species like the towatowa, deer, tapir, orchid and lukunani are utilised in some form, either recreationally, for food or even for decorative purposes.

To control the usage of these species, the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission (GWCMC) has implemented a Domestic Licencing System which aims to control how, when, where, which and by who wildlife is exploited.

This helps to ensure that Guyana's wildlife is sustainably utilised so that we do not lose out on the numerous benefits that these species provide. As such, it contributes positively towards Guyana's green development pathway which is guided by the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 (GSDS). A key message of the GSDS is the management of our natural resource wealth which includes our wildlife.



Under Regulation 10 (1) of the Wildlife Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use Regulations (2019) six categories of licences are specified. They are as follows:

- **Wildlife Trapping Licence**  
- \$10,000 - \$100,000
- **Wildlife Commercial Licence**  
- \$20,000 - \$200,000
- **Wildlife Collecting Licence**  
- \$10,000 - \$100,000
- **Wildlife Recreational Licence**  
- \$50,000 - \$300,000
- **Captive Wildlife Licence - \$50,000**
- **Special Wildlife Licence**  
- \$5,000 - \$100,000

These licences apply to such wildlife users as trappers, middlemen, wild meat vendors, captive breeding operations, wildlife collectors (of both plants and animals), researchers and recreational hunters.

Each licence will specify the sizes, numbers and species of wildlife that a user's activities cover as well as where an individual is allowed to carry out these activities.



# ENTREPRENEURS!

## FIND YOUR SUPPORT

SME Toolkit™

Build your business with the right knowledge, skills and tools.

Visit [republicsmetoolkit.com](http://republicsmetoolkit.com) to forge your business' path to success.





## PROMOTING INTEGRATED OCEAN AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

*Conserving and restoring valuable coastal mangrove ecosystems in the Guianas*

By World Wildlife Fund



The ocean's health is under a constant barrage of pressure from numerous factors such as climate change, unregulated fishing, habitat destruction and pollution. These factors contribute to the degradation of ocean's health by negatively affecting species, disturbing areas important for biodiversity and disrupting the functioning of marine ecosystems.



In an effort to combat these negative impacts, WWF-Guianas is utilizing a participatory approach towards safeguarding and restoring the marine and coastal ecosystems. By partnering with key stakeholders (such as governments and civil society), we pursue the exchanging of knowledge, experiences and lessons learned, so as to reinforce the management, restoration and protection of marine ecosystems in the Guianas.

In Guyana, with the Protected Areas Commission, WWF-Guianas has recommenced the implementation of the European Union (EU) funded Marine Spatial Planning Project, constructed under the theme, 'Promoting Integrated and Participatory Ocean Governance in Guyana'. This project is designed to advance the enhancement of governance and management of the coastal and marine areas and foster socio-

economic development that would be compatible with ocean health.

In keeping with our participatory approach, other initiatives developed to protect our marine ecosystems included the 'Mangroves in the Guianas Exchange Workshop', which was held in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Shared Resources Joint Solutions program. Additionally, with the support of key stakeholders in the marine and fisheries sector, WWF-Guianas has made the reduction of bycatch a main priority, as training workshops were conducted for the protection of endangered, threatened and protected (ETP) species. The aims of this initiative are to improve species identification and monitoring in the fisheries industry of the Guianas.

# Providing Regulatory Oversight For Oil And Gas

By Savitri Itwaru, Oil and Gas Unit

The discovery of oil and gas in commercial quantities will bring unprecedented transformation of Guyana's socioeconomic and environmental landscape.

Notably, the oil and gas sector in Guyana has been the catalyst for many projects and activities many of which are new to our country. With Guyana soon set to join the list of top oil producing countries in the world, it is vital that robust regulatory systems be put in place to ensure the development of the sector does not compromise the quality of our natural environment, especially our offshore marine environment which is relatively undiscovered.

The EPA holds the mandate for the protection of our country's environment and sustainable use of its natural resources. The EPA is working assiduously as the guardians of the environment to ensure stringent environmental and social safeguards are in place for the oil and gas sector. In this regard, with assistance from the World

Bank, the EPA established a Petroleum Unit to comprise of 36 specialized positions. Additionally, the Agency attained the only 'unlimited' liability coverage agreement in the world with Oil & Gas companies to cover off-shore spills from Oil & Gas operations.

The Agency's regulatory oversight for the sector include, issuing of permits as stipulated by the Environmental Protection Act, and monitoring and enforcement of permit conditions.

Activities for which permits are issued include but are not limited to the following:

- **Exploration Surveys (seismic, geotechnical, geophysical, geochemical)** – acquisition of images of the earth's subsurface and understanding the geological structures of the environment;
- **Exploration Drilling-** the search for hydrocarbon and gas deposits beneath the earth's surface. Information gathered



from exploration surveys are used to identify potential locations for drilling; and

- **Production Drilling**—the extraction of hydrocarbons and gas from reserves found beneath the earth's surface.

## How does the EPA regulate the Oil and Gas Sector?

Regulation of the oil and gas sector is achieved through the Environmental Authorisation process stipulated in the Environmental Protection Act. Operators in the oil and gas sector require an environmental authorisation (permit) prior to undertaking any oil and gas activity/project and must satisfy the requirements of the EPA before a permit can be granted.

## The Environmental Impacts Assessments (EIAs)

Production drilling in no uncertain terms, require an EIA, given the potential adverse effect such operations can have on the environment. The EIA is conducted by independent consultants approved

by the EPA. It is a detailed study of all the potential adverse effects and benefit of the proposed project. These include; risk assessments as well as mitigation measures, development of management plans, inclusive of oil spill response plans.

Once approved, operators will then be granted a permit which contains specific terms and conditions for the management and monitoring of the project, and the protection of the environment; after which project implementation may commence. The Agency is a member of the working group for the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) being coordinated by the Civil Defence Commission (CDC).

The NOSCP outlines critical roles and responsibilities for Agencies in oil spill response both onshore and offshore.

There are several companies conducting exploration drilling, offshore Guyana and 2 have announced oil finds in Commercial quantities. The EPA continues to build its capacity to effectively monitor the sector, with the establishment of an Oil and Gas unit.

**DON'T TRASH OUR FUTURE**  
Go Green. Think Clean



A Message from the Environmental Protection Agency



## Building Capacity for Efficiency

By Candacie Brower-Thompson

Human resources are considered the most valuable asset to the Agency. Against this backdrop, 2019 was a very rewarding year for the EPA as it sought to enhance the capacity and increase competency of its staff. As such, employees of the EPA, for the first time, attended

a record high of more than 50 international conferences and trainings. During 2019 alone, staff benefitted from 243 local and international training opportunities. The scope of training included, radiation, oil and gas management, reviewing environmental impact assessments,



hazardous waste management, marine biodiversity management, risk management, and mining.

This has been a 33% increase over 2018. Further, the Agency has hired over 20 new employees for critical positions such as; Project Managers, Procurement, Officers Engineers etc. The Agency has joined with several professional organisations to provide professional training and technical support to build the competence of its staff; these include International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and International Offshore Petroleum Environmental Regulators (IOPER) and Air and Waste Management Association (AWMA). It is anticipated that in 2020 an additional staff, mainly engineers will be recruited to cater for the demands of a vibrant oil and gas sector, as well as, the additional Regional Offices to be established in Anna Regina and Lethem.

The priority is to equip the Agency with not only tools for testing and analysis of various environmental parameters, but also the much needed skills in science and engineering. The Agency has also drafted a Study Leave Policy which would see the provision of full sponsorship



with pay and time off to study for staff who qualify. This policy seeks to improve and retain technical skills necessary for achieving the mandate of the Agency, as the lead regulatory body for environmental management in Guyana. In 2019, the Agency has commenced a 10 year internship programme to hire interns annually, starting with 3 in 2020. This is to identify the highest quality students for permanent employment.



## List of Projects requiring Environmental Authorisation

(Revised December 2019)

Note: This list gives the categories of projects for which an Environmental Authorization/Permit is required from the EPA. Please note that this list is not exhaustive, since some of the projects not listed may require an Environmental Authorisation. In addition, some of the projects listed may also require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or an Environmental Management Plan (EMP); this decision is made by the Agency, through Screening, once an Application and all supporting documents have been submitted.

# EPA explores the use of eDNA for protection of Aquatic Species

By Michael Harding & Troy Broomes

As the Agency seeks to enhance the management of its coastal and marine resources, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) participated in the third (3rd) annual Environmental DNA Technical Exchange Workshop (3eDTEW) held at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, St. Petersburg.

The workshop was coordinated by the US Government eDNA Working Group (GEDWG). The workshop focused on methods for environmental DNA (eDNA) sample collection, DNA isolation, marker design and testing, and quality control metrics.

Environmental DNA (eDNA) is defined as genetic material obtained directly from environmental samples such as soil, sediment, water, snow, etc. or leftovers from organisms such as hair, faeces or carcasses.

eDNA can be applied for the inventory and

monitoring of aquatic species through:

- Improved Detection of Native Species, as protocols using eDNA may allow for rapid, cost-effective, and standardised collection of data about species distribution and relative abundance.



For small, rare, secretive, and other species that are difficult to detect, eDNA provides an attractive alternative for aquatic inventory and monitoring programs.

- Early Detection of Invasive Species, as the application of eDNA methods for invasive species monitoring may include periodically collection water samples and screening them for several invasive species at once. Ballast water, a source of introduction for many invasive species like mollusks, could also be sampled and analysed.

eDNA is an efficient, non-invasive and easy-to-standardize sampling approach with great potential as a monitoring tool for wildlife.



### AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

1. Agricultural developments – (new developments in sensitive areas, large scale).
2. Animal Production – large scale (including but not limited to poultry, or swine).
3. Aquaculture.
4. Logging (TSA).
5. Rice Mills
6. Sugar Cane Cultivation
7. Manufacture of food products (processing and preserving of meat, fish, and vegetables, slaughterhouses, animal processing).
8. Manufacture of animal food.
9. Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats.
10. Manufacture of grain mill products.
11. Manufacture of sugar.
12. Manufacture of Dairy Products.
13. Sawmilling and planing of wood – Sawmill, wood processing, and lumberyards.
14. Manufacture of veneer sheets and wood-based panels, including plywood manufacture.
15. Manufacture of furniture
16. The release, use or keeping of genetically modified organisms.

### MINING

17. Non-metallic Mineral Mining and quarrying (large scale).
18. Metal Ore Mining (large scale).

### OIL & GAS

19. Exploration and Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas.
20. Floating Production, Storage, Offloading (FPSO) of Petroleum.
21. Long-distance Pipeline Transportation of Crude Oil.
22. Long-distance Pipeline Transportation of Natural Gas.

### INDUSTRY/WASTE MANAGEMENT

23. Manufacture of beverages (Soft Drink, Breweries, Wineries and Distilleries).
24. Manufacture of textiles.
25. Tanning and dressing of leather.
26. Manufacture of pulp, paper and paperboard.
27. Manufacture of refined petroleum products.
28. Manufacture of cement, lime and plaster - Cement production/bagging plants.
29. Manufacture of paints, varnishes and similar coatings, printing ink and mastics.
30. Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations.
31. Manufacture of basic metals.
32. Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products.
33. Electric power generation
34. Collection of non-hazardous and/or hazardous waste.
35. Treatment and disposal of non-hazardous and/or hazardous waste (landfills, incinerators, etc).
36. Materials recovery (Recycling facilities).
37. Remediation activities and other waste management services.
38. Petroleum bulk storage and distribution.
39. Automotive Oil Change and Lubrication Shops.
40. Body-work/spray painting operation.
41. Warehousing, Storage, and transportation of Hazardous Waste.
42. Development and operation of hospitals and related infrastructure.
43. Funeral parlours.

### INFRASTRUCTURE & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

44. Construction/Installation of

### Transmission and distribution systems.

45. Power generation plants, including but not limited to, Hydroelectric (>1 MW), Fossil Fuel, Nuclear, Geothermal, Wind, and Biomass Electric Power Generation.
46. Water treatment facilities
47. Construction and operation of housing estates.
48. Development of industrial complexes/estates.
49. Development and operation of hotels, guest houses, inns and resorts (eco-tourism or otherwise of more than 10 rooms).
50. Development of water distribution facilities and pipeline systems.
51. Oil and Gas pipeline and related structures construction.
52. Power and Communication Line and Related Structures Construction, Fibre Optic Cables.
53. Construction of roads, highways and bridges.
54. Airport expansion and/or development.
55. Port and harbour development.
56. Water management projects (dams, reservoirs/impoundments).
57. Dredging activities. (needs to be specified)
58. Establishment of parks, nature trails and recreational facilities.

### GAS STATIONS

59. Service/gas stations.

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

60. Liquid Mud Plants
61. Research Permits
62. Any other project that may have a significant impact on the environment.



# Empowering the Youth

By Ladonna Kisson

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*  
— Margaret Mead

If every youth in Guyana is engaged in one good and constructive activity, there would be less societal ills. Keeping youths engaged in positive activities allows them to improve their potential and reach for excellence. Young people are more aware, proactive and willing to

participate in movements that provide for positive life changing experiences. Youth empowerment is pursued by promoting youth rights, through youth activism and youth involvement in key decision making at various levels. Awareness is a key factor for empowerment as it safeguards human agency, builds self-consciousness and gives the power of self and individual development to the individual. Youths are motivated, brilliant and packed with talents. Having a defined and structured life path challenges the minds of youths to ensure positive developments in society, and use of their talents, and effective utilisation of their skills. Youth empowerment is a critical attribute for the development of the country’s human capital and carving a sustainable path. At the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) we strive to educate and empower youths as the catalyst of environmental transformation. In 2019, the Agency engaged over ten thousand young people in various activities which include:

1. Environmental quizzes and Competitions
2. Environmental observances
3. Media Programmes
4. Exhibitions
5. Tours
6. Environmental camps
7. Theatrical Presentations
8. Environmental Workshop
9. Environmental Seminars
10. Teachers Training
11. Public Awareness Sessions
12. Establishing Environmental Clubs in

Primary and Secondary Schools.

These programmes were delivered through learner-centered approaches, to stimulate critical thinking and evoke problem-solving for the many complex and multi-dimensional environmental issues. The EPA will continue to invest in the future of Guyana, as we strongly believe that an investment in educating youths is necessary for realising a green state.





## Bringing operators into compliance

By Candacie Brower-Thompson

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) brought some 500 plus expired permits into Compliance. These permits were unearthed through a comprehensive internal audit of the Agency's files.

A robust strategy was derived and implemented, which saw massive success; approximately 92% of defaulting permit holders were brought into compliance in less than 6 months. The Agency remains committed to fulfilling its mandate and advancing a clean and healthy environment in which ecosystems and human beings can thrive. The Forestry Sector recorded 100% compliance, bringing some 250 defaulting permits holders into compliance.

Further, a thorough review of all permits which commenced in 2019 continues in 2020 to identify and amend permits where necessary. Additionally, the Agency will be diligently pursuing facilities which were constructed and are operating without permits.

Our goal is to have environmental protection etched in the psyche of the general public.

**Reminder:** Building or operating a facility which may have major environmental impacts or where the impacts are unknown without a valid Environmental Authorisation, is in breach of the Environmental Protection Act.



## Staying within the Permissible Noise Limits

**- 85 dB is not your lucky number**

By Tashana Redmond-George

Over the last year the Environmental Protection Agency worked tirelessly to afford many Guyanese the opportunity to enjoy the comforts of their homes in "peace and quiet". The Agency has observed an upward trend in the number of noise complaints received annually. Over 90% of these complaints are related to noise emissions from the operation of music systems and machinery above permissible levels. Many argue that what is loud to one may not be loud to another.

Although the effects on hearing vary from person to person, any sound that is loud enough and lasts an extended period can damage hearing and lead to hearing loss. The loudness of a sound is measured in decibels (dB). Normal conversation is approximately 60 dB while a loud concert can be as high as 120 dB. According to Health Link, British Columbia, studies have shown that exposure to noise above 85 dB is harmful depending on the frequency, length of exposure and whether



personal protective equipment such as earplugs and earmuffs is used. Cognizant of the threat of noise to human health and well being, the Environmental Protection (Noise Management) Regulations 2000, established permissible limits through the development of the Guidelines for Noise Emission into the Environment (local standards). Which state that in residential areas noise emissions should not exceed 60 dB during the night or 75 dB during the day.

The Noise Management Regulations require that any person operating a sound making device or equipment, for the purpose of hosting a public event, obtain a Permit from the EPA to operate same. Once the Permit is issued the operator is required to adhere to the terms and conditions. In compliance with the permit, operators must ensure that their activities do not exceed the permissible limit for their respective locations. Once noise emissions are above the permissible limit at a distance of fifty feet from the source, the operator is guilty of an offence and liable to summary conviction, which can result in fines of up to \$750,000 and imprisonment.

The Agency is collaborating with the Guyana Police Force in addressing the issue of noise nuisances; during 2018- 2019, 130 Police Officers were trained in 'Noise Management' and the use of the Noise Meter.

Stay within the limit so that all Guyanese can enjoy the comforts of their homes in "peace and

**ATTENTION ALL IMPORTERS, RETAILERS, TRADERS & DISTRIBUTORS OF MERCURY**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in conjunction with the Pesticide Toxic Chemical Control Board (PTCCB) and the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) hereby inform all importers, retailers, traders and distributors of Mercury, that an Environmental Authorisation is required from the EPA, in keeping with the Environmental Protection Act Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana. This came into effective on August 01, 2019.

Failure to obtain an Environmental Authorisation from the EPA will deem you ineligible to acquire a licence from the PTCCB to import, retail or distribute Mercury. To avoid this, persons are asked to make immediate contact with the EPA.

**NOTE:**

The written consent of the Commissioner of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission is at all times required before any shipment of mercury is imported into Guyana for mining purposes.

Further questions or require information on what documentation is needed to facilitate this process, please contact Ms. Odessa Duncan, Senior Environmental Officer of the Environmental Protection Agency or the Environment Division of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission.



The Environmental Protection Agency  
Ganges Street, Sophia, Georgetown.

Guyana Geology and Mines Commission  
Upper Brickdam, Georgetown

Phone: 225-0506 / 225-5487-8 / 225-5471-2 Fax: 225-5481

Phone: 225-2862/5/7 Ext. 277. Fax: 227-0084

E-mail: epa@epaguyana.org / oduncan@epaguyana.org

E-mail: commissioner@ggmc.gov.gy

Website: www.epaguyana.org

Website: www.ggmc.gov.gy

THE ENVIRONMENT IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

**Know your Noise Limits**

Noise emissions into the environmental shall comply with the limits specified in the Table below:

Categories	Day-time Limits(dB)	Night-time Limits(dB)
Residential	75	60
Institutional	75	60
Educational	75	60
Industrial	100	80
Commercial	80	65
Construction	90	75
Transportation	100	80
Recreational	100	70

**Daytime -06:00h - 18:00h**  
**Nighttime -18:00 h - 06:00h**

Remember that no one is allowed to operate sound-making devices or equipment in a public place between 23:00h and 7:00 h, on any day, without prior written approval from the EPA. Any person who emits excessive or unusual noise which can be plainly heard 50 feet away is committing an offense.

For offence relating to noise disturbances: defaulters on summary conviction may be required to pay between \$80,000 to \$750,000 and can face up to one year imprisonment.

**GET PERMITTED!**



**WHO NEEDS AUTHORISATION FROM THE EPA?**

Activities that will emit noise such as; the construction, installation, operation, modification or extension of any facility.

Persons who wish to operate a loudspeaker or any other sound-making device or equipment at a public space (e.g. barbecues, shows, nightclubs, weddings, parties etc.)

**PENALTIES RANGE FROM \$80,000 TO \$750,000 • YOU CAN FACE UP TO 1 YEAR IMPRISONMENT**

**AN OPERATION PERMIT IS NEEDED TO EMIT NOISE DOCUMENTS NEEDED**

- Completed application form
- Approvals from Neighbourhood Democratic Council's (NDC)
- Approval from Ministry of Public Infrastructure
- Approval (for activities that will occur on Government's Reserve);
- Guyana Fire Service, Certificate of Fire Safety;
- Affidavit, Magistrate's
- The application fee



# The Proposed ban on Single-use Plastics (SUP)

By Lauren Sampson and Saeed Hamid

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in collaboration with the Department of Environment, is working assiduously toward the implementation of a Single-use Plastics Ban to take effect in the year 2021. Guyana will be a part of a global concerted effort to effectively manage plastic pollution, in accordance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Green State Development Strategy (GSDS). The impetus for imposing the Single-use Plastics Ban is largely due to the adverse impacts of such plastics on human health, wildlife and the environment.

The proposed ban seeks to target the most problematic single-use plastics commonly found in our drains, surroundings, litter, landfills, coast and the marine environment. These include plastic bags, utensils, plates, food containers, cups and straws. However, the design and specific targets of the proposed ban are largely dependent on consultations with the relevant stakeholders; members of the public, private sector, and both government and non-governmental organisations. By adopting a bottom-up approach through providing opportunities for input from these key stakeholders, the Agency hopes to facilitate a truly collaborative effort towards the implementation of the proposed ban on Single Use Plastics.

It is hoped that this approach, along with the crucial improvement of Guyana's waste management system, the promotion of the re-use of plastics, where possible, and the transition to predominantly reusable alternatives, will transform Guyana into a nation that is more environmentally conscious and clean. However, this will not be possible without your support; your contribution is vital to this process.

Consequently, the Agency encourages you to educate yourself about the issue of plastic pollution, its harmful impact on the environment and, most importantly, to get involved in our process if you are a manufacturer, importer, distributor or consumer who will be impacted by the implementation of the proposed ban. The Agency has conducted consultations with businesses and members of the public in Region 1, 4, 9 and 10. Additionally, due to the global pandemic in early 2020, the consultations were moved to the virtual platforms.

Follow us on our social media platforms and EPA's website to learn about what is happening, share your views on the proposed ban. Also, lookout for newspaper articles, radio and TV programmes and other exciting fora on the impending ban throughout the year.



Ministry of the Presidency  
Department of Environment

THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA IS PROPOSING A



# BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS

TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2021

Single use plastic (SUP) items can include any disposable plastic item which is designed to be used only once. (Institute for European Environmental Policy-2016). They are also environmentally persistent and have low recycling potential.



Proposed items to be banned include plastic:

- carrier bags
- straws
- carry-out containers, cups and plates
- cutlery (forks, knives, spoons)



Proposed items to be exempted

- include SUP for:
- the storage of garbage
  - packaging of pharmaceuticals
  - packaging of hygiene products
  - storage and preservation of food
  - packaging of industrial chemicals
  - use in scientific research, biomedical sciences and chemical analysis

Suggested alternatives include paper, and bamboo food containers and utensils and cloth bags.

Contact us:  
Address: Ganges Street, Sophia, Georgetown  
Tel: 225-5471/ 225-5468/225-0506

Email:  
singleuseplastics592@gmail.com/elt.epaguyana@gmail.com

Facebook: Environmental Protection Agency-Guyana

Instagram: @epagyig

Website: www.epaguyana.org



# Capacity building for Sustainable Forest Management

By Karen Small

In Guyana there are sixty nine (69) Community Forest Organisations (CFOs) existing in eight regions, indicative of the positive attributes apparent with the community forestry programmes, although negative tradeoffs are still

evident.

In 2018 the Agency received funding through the Food and Agriculture Organization-European Union Forest Law, Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FAO-EU FLEGT) programme for the project “Providing Capacity Building Assistance to Community Forest Organizations (CFOs) on the Environmental Authorisation process in Guyana”. The project encapsulated one of the core policy objectives of the concept of community forestry, which is improved environmental conditions. It also supported the European Union Forest Law, Enforcement, Governance and Trade (EU-FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) which looks beyond trade to consider development and environmental issues.

Over a period of one year, 13 exploratory meetings and 12 awareness building and capacity development workshops were held in regions; 1,2, 3, 4, 6,7,9 &10; capturing three hundred and nineteen (319) forest operators



from forty eight (48) community forest organisations. Village leaders, youth and women groups were also part of the process and for many it was the first time hearing about the environmental authorisation. These interactive and engaging sessions focused on filling of the application forms, key issues relative to forestry operations such as fuel storage, waste management, air quality and noise emissions. The session also captured the knowledge, attitude and practices of participants towards the environment.

Community Forestry (CF) programmes aim at improving and maintaining the livelihood needs of the local people, as well as, maintaining the integrity of the forest upon which they depend.

As expressed verbatim by two of the participants.

\* “I never knew that as loggers we suppose to apply to the EPA for a license to do our harvesting before going to GFC. I learnt that today and I learnt also new things; how to go about doing the application for an EPA license likewise the rules



and procedures we should take”. Mr. Everton Gibson, President Caria Caria (Region 3) Forest Products Association.

\* “ I knew it was necessary for gas stations but I never saw the connection between the Environmental Authorisation and Forest Operations , today I was informed about that very clearly”Naomi Smith, Aroaima Forest & Agricultural Producer Association (AFAPA) , Region no.10

# TAKE TIME TO BREATHE

By Ladonna Kissoon



Breathing is such a natural process that we don't even have to think about, unless for some reason the air quality becomes compromised. You would agree, air pollution is becoming a growing problem in Guyana. Moreover, burning of waste is of major concern to the EPA. Over the past year, 80% of the complaints received by the Agency, was related to burning. Many persons opt to burn household and commercial waste in the absence of a garbage disposal service; others just choose to get rid of their waste by burning regardless of the possible impacts on those around or the environment.

**Did you know?**

Air Pollution kills about 7 million people

worldwide! It was estimated in 2016, that bad outdoor air resulted in approximately 4.2 million premature deaths (WHO 2016).

**Did you know?**

The five major outdoor air pollutants worldwide include; Ground-level ozone, Particulate matter, carbon monoxide, Sulfur dioxide, Nitrogen dioxide. (US EPA/WHO 2016)

While some of those can be found indoor, cigarettes smoke, volatile organic compounds, asbestos are among other contributor to our indoor killers. Outdoor air pollution affects both urban and rural areas and is caused by agricultural practices, industry and energy supply, transport and waste management.



**Did you know?**

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is important to the existence of all living things. However when associated with cars, planes, power plants and burning of garbage the gas is a pollutant. Greenhouse gases are major contributors to climate change and its impacts, heat waves, extreme weathers, disruption in our water ways, crop harvesting, soil nutrients and forest growth.

**Did you know?**

Burning garbage, plastics, paints or treated wood is not only harmful to the environment but to human health. When these materials are burnt, toxic chemicals are released primarily into the air and close to ground, level-where they are easily inhaled.

**Did you know?**

Toxic chemicals released to air increases the chance of lung cancer, heart diseases, stroke, respiratory diseases such as asthma, coughing and pulmonary diseases.

The EPA's Air Quality Regulations seeks to control the amount of air pollutants emitted into the atmosphere. Protect yourself and those around you; do not burn your waste!



# Oil is here!

**O**n December 20, 2019 the first drop of commercially pumped crude (First Oil) arrived in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. First Oil arrived a full 3 months ahead of projection and a mere 4 years 9 months after the first discovery. Facilitation of First Oil was occasioned by a variety of entities, inclusive of the Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, Guyana Revenue Authority, Guyana National Bureau of Standards, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and Maritime Administration Division. The Department of Energy, which is tasked with the establishment



**Dr. Mark Bynoe**  
Director of the Department of Energy

of a sound organisational, administrative, legislative and regulatory framework, continues to administer the existing contracts and build the framework that will efficiently manage the sector.

The Liza Destiny arrived on August 29th, 2019, weeks ahead of its planned arrival, further accelerating preparations for and brought the oil target into 2019.

President David Granger has said oil production will catalyse the next ten years of transformative economic and social development in Guyana, which he calls the 'Decade of Development'. Revenues accrued from the sector will be invested strategically in building human and institutional capacity, advancing infrastructure and providing economic security for future generations following a balanced development approach.



Dr. Mark Bynoe, Director of the Department of Energy has committed himself to the transparent management of the sector. The Department has conducted several outreaches throughout Guyana to inform Guyanese about the emerging industry.

To date, the Department has completed the country's first Local Content Policy, Crude Lifting Agreement, and Legislative review. There are more than 1,900 Guyanese employed directly within the sector, over 600 Guyanese service providers, and with more than US\$100 million injected into the economy via the sector directly. The multipliers are even greater. To protect this resource, the Department of Energy continues to collaborate with local regulatory agencies and is moving forward in terms of revising the legislative framework to govern this new and emerging sector, building a robust and contextually relevant organizational structure, and seeking to extract the greatest possible value from these resources for Guyana through cost minimization and revenue optimization techniques.

Guyana's world class oil finds already signal the need for a second FPSO, the Liza Unity, currently in its final stages of construction. Guyana's oil is abundant, in good hands, above all else, is beginning to deliver for the Guyanese people.





## What to Expect With First Oil

By ESSO Exploration and Production Guyana Limited

The historic milestone of first oil became a reality for Guyana in December 2019 and with it comes the hopes of a nation poised for a transformational period that is to follow. Although it has been a momentous journey to reach this stage of production, this is only the beginning of what we hope is a bright future for generations of Guyanese.

From exploration to first oil and throughout the lifetime of our projects, ExxonMobil Guyana is firmly committed to excellence in our safety and environmental performance. Our Protect Tomorrow. Today policy is ExxonMobil's commitment to being mindful of the impact the operations we undertake today could have on the planet. We have and will continue to balance the environmental and economic needs of Guyana's communities, reviewing and evaluating to improve understanding of the impacts of our operations.

These principles are reflected in ExxonMobil Guyana's Liza Phase 1 and Liza Phase 2 Environmental Socioeconomic Management Plans (ESMPs) which cover regulatory compliance as well as environmental and socioeconomic management and monitoring requirements for the project-related activities. These plans, which include very important and extensive baseline

studies to build scientific understanding of the conditions onshore and offshore, are critical tools to responsibly manage potential environmental impacts from offshore. We apply world class technology and environmental protection processes safeguards to minimize any potential releases of pollution from our operations, and, in coordination with relevant authorities, maintain and regularly drill an industry-leading oil spill response plan to be prepared in the unlikely event of a significant spill.

With 16 discoveries to date, and ongoing production and exploration activities, our slate of current and potential projects will result in decades of cooperation with the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to develop its oil & gas resources in a responsible and mutually beneficial way. The monumental achievement of first oil safely and responsibly has been a testament to the successful partnership with all stakeholders. We are committed to continuing these collaborative relationships with relevant bodies including the Environmental Protection Agency, Civil Defence Commission, and Guyana Coast Guard.

ExxonMobil pledges to work hard to contribute to sustainable development and build the capacity of Guyanese and Guyanese companies to help make a positive impact on this nation now and for future generations.



## A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO GUYANA ON THE HISTORIC MILESTONE OF FIRST OIL!

In less than five years, ExxonMobil Guyana has progressed operations from initial discovery to production, well ahead of the industry average for deepwater developments. This momentous occasion is the culmination of a shared vision and tremendous effort with our partners to reach this goal.

We deeply value the trusted partnerships with our co-venturers, our contractors and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, all of which made it possible to achieve first oil safely and ahead of schedule. This celebration is just the beginning as we look forward to future milestones and carry out our long-term vision to safely and responsibly develop Guyana's natural resources for the benefit of all Guyanese.

ExxonMobil



# MAINSTREAMING MINE RECLAMATION IN GUYANA'S EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY



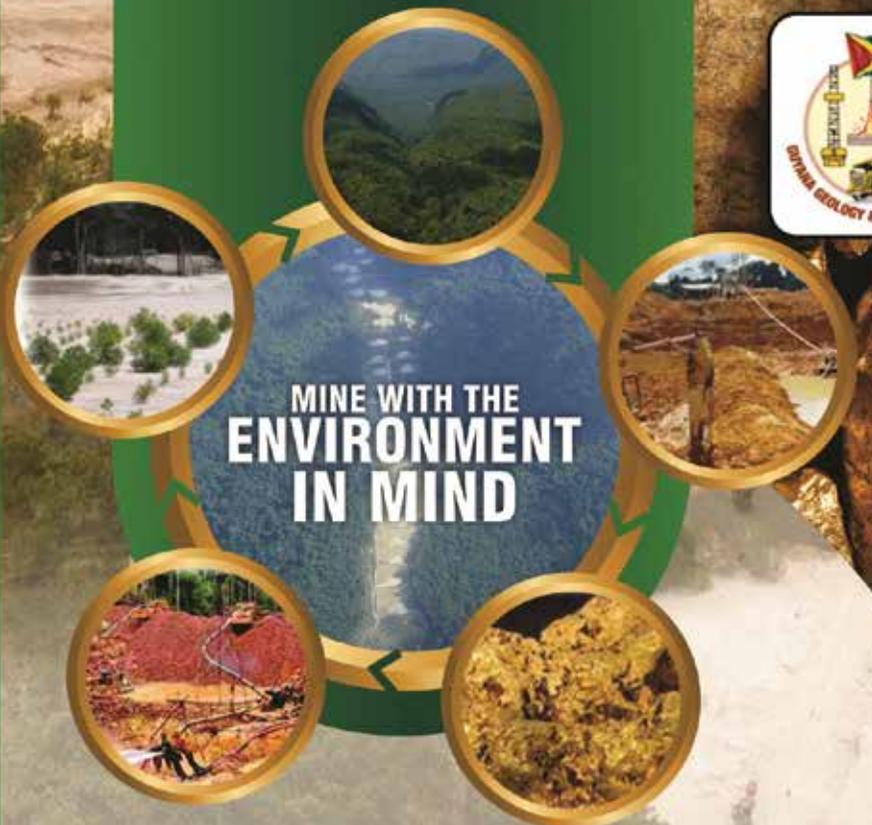
## THROUGH MAINSTREAMING MINE RECLAMATION, GUYANA:

- Promotes responsible Mining and Environmental Management practices
- Supports healthy habitats and ecosystems
- Increases forest cover and improves carbon sequestration (removal and storage) capacity
- Complies with commitments outlined in the:
  - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
  - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
  - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
  - Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040

Site – Dakoura, Reclamation Demonstration Site  
 Location – Linden, Region 10  
 Size 4.24 Acres (1.72 hectares)



# From GREEN to gold TO GREEN



## MINE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT IN MIND

### MINE RECLAMATION PLAN

Means the plan for the closing and reclaiming and reclamation of lands disturbed by mining, in accordance with the mines code of practice (*MINING (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2005*).

### PROGRESSIVE RECLAMATION

Reclamation that is carried out throughout the mine life in day-to-day operations- (*CODES OF PRACTICE - MINE RECLAMATION AND CLOSURE PLANS* drafted under the *MINING (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2005*).

### RECLAMATION

The return of the disturbed land to a stable, productive and self-sustaining condition, taking into account beneficial uses of the site and surrounding land (*MINE RECLAMATION AND CLOSURE PLANS* drafted under the *MINING (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2005*).

## MINE RECLAMATION IS A PRIORITY

BARTICA: (592)-455-2249 | LINDEN: (592)-444-6262  
 GEORGETOWN: (592)-225-6691, (592)-225-2862, (592)-225-2865  
 FAX: (592)-227-0084  
 ADDRESS: UPPER BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN, GUYANA, SOUTH AMERICA





# Greener Days for the Forest

Well managed forests continue to provide social, economic and environmental benefits. Everyone has an integral role to perform in the stewardship of our planet, ensuring that we enjoy productive and rewarding lives within the limits of the planetary boundaries.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF VPA

In an increasingly evolving world with changing paradigms of forest management, the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) has negotiated a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union (EU) in order to enhance forest governance and promote the legal trade of timber. To date, a national technical working group is established, the negotiation is finalized, the agreement initialed and a national implementation working group and other support structures were effected for the final implementation.

### List of EU FLEGT Annexes

Annexes	Names of Annexes
Annex 1	Product Scope
Annex 2	Draft Legality Definition for EU - Guyana Voluntary Partnership Agreement
Annex 3	Conditions Governing the Release for Free Circulation in the Union for Timber Products exported from Guyana and covered by a FLEGT Licence
Annex 4	Requirements and Technical Specifications of FLEGT
Annex 5	The Guyana Timber Legality Assurance System
Annex 6	Terms of Reference for Independent Audit of GTLAS
Annex 7	Supporting Measures & Financing Mechanisms
Annex 8	Criteria for Assessing the operationality of Guyana's Timber Legality Assurance System
Annex 9	Public Access to the Information on the FLEGT Licensing Scheme
Annex 10	Joint Monitoring and Review Committee



## IMPLICATIONS FOR FORESTRY SECTOR AND ECONOMY

The implications for the Forestry Sector and the economy as it relates to the following groups can be seen as beneficiaries in different ways. This includes:

**Government:** - Realize greater economic values for forest resource while enforcing existing legislation. Raise funds for national coffers, avoid loss of revenue from illegal logging, and improve forest governance by ensuring accountability and transparency in decision making. Moreover, improve country image and sector credibility.

**Private Sector:** - Provide opportunity to secure and expand market, foster fair competition by ensuring all stakeholders operate within the legal framework with better relationships with communities and international markets and facilitate the trade of legal timber.

**Civil Society:** - Recognize the rights of all stakeholders including those of indigenous people. Access to information in the forestry sector and greater transparency. Opportunities for communities to become self-sufficient in managing their resource. Provision of resources for education, training and advancement of skills and scope for employment.



# GUYANA IS ON A GREEN DEVELOPMENT TRAJECTORY!



The Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) advocates sustainable management of land resources as principal to sustainable development, and emphasizes land governance as one of its highest priorities. Rightly so, as land is a fixed factor of production, thus a change in demand for land does not change the supply of land available. Guyana has witnessed an upsurge in economic activities, which has led to expansion in mining, agriculture, logging and settlements over the last few years, and this is anticipated to continue in light of the emerging oil and gas sector.

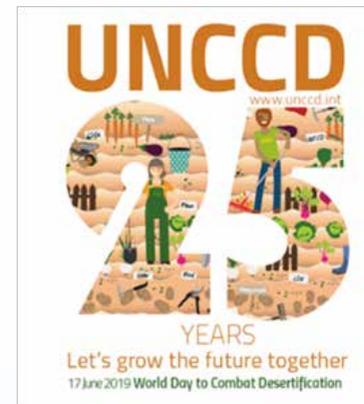
These activities can impact the quality of land resources and lead to increased land degradation. Accordingly, Guyana has committed to achieving sustainable development goal (SDG) target 15.3 of land degradation neutrality (LDN) by 2030. In 2018, Guyana was among the earliest countries

to prepare and validate its LDN Target-Setting Programme (LDN-TSP) of targets and measures. The goal of LDN is to maintain or enhance the land resource base. LDN TSP could be integrated into the land use planning process to achieve implementation of measures to meet targets.

Everyone has a role to play in sustainable land management!

Land degradation and deforestation negatively affect soil, water resources, biodiversity services, and ecosystem services. They affect livelihoods, food security and exacerbates conflict as well as natural disasters. A holistic approach to achieving long-term productive ecosystems through the integration of biophysical, socio-cultural and economic values and needs are enshrined in Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices.

The country is articulating its first National Land Policy as part of the country's drive to mainstream sustainable land management that



will provide the framework for the sustainable and efficient management of land resources. Effective Land Use Planning (LUP) can allow for beneficial uses of land to be allocated in coherence with a National Land Policy (NLP). Effective LUP is important to mitigate the negative effects of land use and to enhance the efficient use of resources with minimal impact on future generations. LUP takes place at various levels: national, regional and local, and suggests a number of options for particular areas that can then guide decision-makers and attract inward investment. Guyana's

National Land Use Plan (NLUP), developed in 2013, seeks to provide a strategic framework to guide land development in Guyana and to enable financial resources to be targeted at optimal land uses at the regional level.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Sustainable land management is everyone's business and must be priority if we are to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) under SDG target 15.3 and mitigate the effects of drought.

Through collective efforts, we can restore the productivity of many hectares of degraded land and improve the livelihoods people in Guyana.



United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification



We often use land as if it were an immeasurable resource, ignoring its role in our everyday lives.

Good land stewardship has the potential to help people, communities and the country create wealth, grow the economy and secure enough food, clean water and energy by ensuring land users have an enabling environment for sustainable land management.

There are strong links between the drought-land nexus and human decisions on land use and land use change, which impact water availability and determine ecosystem and human resilience to drought.

**Good Practices for SLM**

Adopting SLM technologies and practices

**REFERENCES**

1. GLSC, 2013, Guyana National Land Use Plan. Government of Guyana. Georgetown. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13296-016-6019-8>
2. M.J. Sanz, J. de Vente, J.-L. Chotte, M. Bernoux, G. Kust, I. Ruiz, M. Almagro, J.-A. Alloza, R. Vallejo, V. Castillo, A. Hebel, and M. Akhtar-Schuster. 2017. Sustainable Land Management contribution to successful land-based climate change adaptation and mitigation. A Report of the Science-Policy Interface. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Bonn, Germany
3. Published in 2017 by United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Bonn, Germany © 2017 UNCCD. All rights reserved. UNCCD-SPI Technical Series No.02
4. Ziadat, Bunning and De Pauw, 2017 <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5937e.pdf>

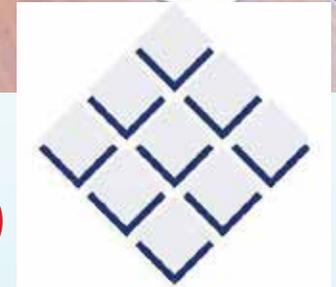
as land-based solutions to simultaneously address DLDD, climate change adaptation and mitigation, while often achieving other co-benefits, such as protection of biodiversity and securing the quantity and quality of soil and water resources.

Smart land use planning through a multifunctional landscape approach to ensure more rational land use allocations that lead to greater resource use efficiency and reduction of waste.

Sustainable crop, livestock and forest-based systems and management practices, as well as land reclamation post-mining and other extractive interventions, such as sand extraction and forest logging, will aid in the sustenance of ecosystem goods (food, fibre, fodder, forest products) and services (carbon stocks, water cycle).



# Private Sector Gearing Up For 2020



Guyana is poised to experience an economic transformation especially having recently celebrated the commencement of commercial oil production.

The fledgling oil and gas industry will necessitate a surge in demand for support goods and services which will present opportunities for the local private sector to participate within this industry and the support-services sectors. This sector includes activities such as storage, transportation (pipelines and trucking).

Having recognized the need for capacity building to exploit opportunities within the sector and throughout the value chain, Private Sector firms are forging ahead to form strategic partnerships with regional and international companies. With regard to investment, private firms have invested in the setting up of shore base facilities and other infrastructure such as storage facilities to service the offshore industry. Training in health and safety and quality management

standards are essential components to enhance firms' competitiveness for the industry as well.

There is a great need for investments in infrastructure to service the upstream sector and, therefore, it is imperative that both the Government of Guyana and the Private Sector work closely together in in this regard to ensure that we are positioned to exploit the sea of opportunities that this new sector can bring about.

More importantly, the spin-off effects on the wider economy will necessitate growing demand for health care services, insurance, accommodation, financial services, tourism, accounting and taxation services, the restaurant and entertainment industry and transportation, logistics, and brokerage services. Businesses operating within these sectors will also need to position themselves to cater for these growing demands which will translate into the creation of employment by way of expansion, and training and development.



# Educating the Educators

By Candacie Brower-Thompson



It was Nelson Mandela who said, “Education is the tool we can use to change the world.” Indeed, the fabric of transformation has to be grounded in a well educated population. Guyana has left an indelible mark by being the first country to craft a green state strategy to offset impacts from the anticipated booming oil and gas sector. One of the 3 key thematic areas of the strategy speaks to building human and institutional capacity.

Which ensures; citizens are healthy and well educated: enjoy acceptable standards of living and the rights of vulnerable groups are protected.

Guyana is governed by inclusive, transparent and accountable institutions: that efficiently manage the natural patrimony and encourage citizen participation.

Further, Goal 2. 8 (G2.8) of the GSDS seeks to fully implement curriculum changes to educate on the sustainable development agenda. Additionally, the sustainable development goal 4 focuses on Quality Education.

Therefore, in advancing Guyana’s Green Agenda, the Agency has engaged over 100 teachers

from Regions 1 through 10 in Environmental Education training. The training workshops aimed to provide impetus for bridging the human-environment gap.

Teachers of Region 1, were exposed to various instruments which can be used to make the environment real to their learners. The teachers were exposed to elements of critical thinking and experiential learning. To this end, in 2019, the Agency celebrated a decade of investment in teacher education through its annual Environmental Education teachers’ training camp for Cyril Potter College of Education. Moreover, the Agency collaborated with the Protected Areas Commission in the latter part of the year



to equip teachers with the requisite knowledge and skills to initiate and manage environmental clubs within their schools. Educating young children is fundamental to changing the negative environmental culture. Therefore, educating the educators can have a profound impact on the rate at which environmental information is diffused and assimilated.

**Are you interested in beautifying your Environment??**

**Then why not form an Environmental Club**

**Take up the Challenge**

**Because**

**“The Environment is Everybody’s Business”**

**Take the message home**

**YOUTHS, GET INVOLVED**

**SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO !!!**

**School Groups**

**Religious Groups**

**Community Groups**

**Plant a tree or some flowers**

**Clean up Your Area**

**Educate Others**

**Make a Compost heap**

**Environmental Protection Agency Guyana**

**EPA Guyana**

**Environmental Clubs and Groups**

**For more information contact**

**The Environmental Protection Agency**

**Ganges Street, Sophia**

**Georgetown, Guyana**

**Tel: 225-5467/69, 225-5471/72**

**225-6044, 225-6048**

**Fax: 225-5481**

**Email: epa@epaguyana.org**

**Website: www.epaguyana.org**

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**



## BALANCING FOSSIL FUELS WITH RENEWABLES

by Thandiwe Benn LLB(Dist.), LEC, LLM (Dist.) Head Legal and Licensing Division - GEA

Following the advent of “first oil” and the export of the first shipment of crude oil on December 20th, 2019 and January 17th, 2020 respectively, Guyana has made its official debut as an oil producing nation. With estimated reserves of approximately 8 billion barrels of crude, Guyana will experience significant economic growth capable of transforming the lives of its citizens. Increased economic activity will bring the need for increased and stable energy supply in traditional and non-traditional sectors.



The Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 outlines an attractive and ambitious goal of transitioning to near 100% use of renewable and clean energy for electricity generation by 2040. Power generation is currently the largest consumer of Guyana’s fossil fuel imports, followed by the transportation sector. Statistics in 2018 approximate Guyana’s generation of electricity from renewable energy at 8% with the remaining 92% generated from non-renewable sources.

A common perception is that being endowed with crude reserves will result in the reduction of acquisition costs of commonly utilized petroleum products (gasoline, diesel, HFO) and consequent reduction in the price of electricity and fuel for vehicles. A fulfillment of this perception however (if true) runs counter to the Government’s goal of energy transition by 2040 as it promotes the continued use of fossil fuels in their largest consuming sectors, a practice which is neither sustainable nor aids in the prevention of environmental degradation.

Increased revenue from the sale of fossil fuels provides the Government with the ability to advance the development of renewable energy technologies and promote the use of national sustainable energy solutions. Though competing for a share of the pie with other sectors for development, the case for the

allocation of funds to the renewable energy transition is made less arduous as global costs for construction of renewable energy infrastructure and levelized cost of electricity produced from various renewable energy sources continue to fall. This will be compounded by the growing nexus between electricity and transportation through the proliferation of electric vehicles locally. Additional local circumstances such as the remoteness of some communities, need for physical infrastructure to access and support the provision of renewable energy systems and the limited knowledge and capacity in those remote communities to sustainably maintain installations must be accounted for in an assessment of the financial costs however, the long term benefits of a clean, sustainable and environmentally sound energy supply make the decision to aggressively pursue the twenty year transition simpler.

Ongoing and planned projects, such as the development of utility scale solar PV and wind farms, mini and micro solar PV grids for Hinterland communities, rooftop solar PV systems on public buildings, and hydropower plants for the national grid and for Hinterland towns and villages, are being and will be implemented to realise this transition. For more information, please visit our website: [www.gea.gov.gy](http://www.gea.gov.gy).





## DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH MEAS

By MEAs Sector

Guyana is known as the land of many waters, but it can also be called the land of rich biodiversity. It's also the home of the giants; Arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*), Greenheart Tree (*Chlorocardium rodiei*) and Giant Anteater (*Mymecophagatrax*), just to name a few. Biological diversity is much more than the amount of fauna and flora in a country- it is also about the people who depend on these resources. As the world continues to record dangerous and accelerating levels of species extinction, there is an urgent global call for countries to develop and enforce policies to arrest biodiversity loss. As Guyana develops along its Green Development path, biodiversity must be mainstreamed into every aspect of national development.

Further, as Guyana continues to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, under the theme "Transforming our world", partnerships and strong alliances are critical to our success. One main vehicle to realising this goal, is through the signing of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). MEAs are treaties set up between three or more countries

with the purpose of reaching an environmental goal.

In recent years, Guyana has signed on to several MEAs focused on linking the country's mandate with sustainable development. One example, is the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), through which the NBSAP (National Biodiversity Strategic and Action Plan -2012-2020) was developed, to provide a roadmap for Guyana's vision and obligation to protect, conserve, sustainably use and equitably share the benefits arising from biodiversity.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the National Focal Point (NFP) for the UNCBD and its related protocols, such as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing. MEAs not only provide critical funding for partner countries to execute projects to advance its sustainable development objectives, but they also provide capacity building opportunities. As such, several Officers of the EPA benefited from international and local training and conferences under various MEAs. These opportunities afforded sharing of experiences,



networking and building technical competencies to advance environmental protection. Guyana's key achievements of the objectives of the UNCBD and its related protocols, include the establishment of the Protected Areas Commission, which resulted in approximately 8.7% of Guyana's land being under protection, development of Biosafety Bill with four sets of regulations to manage the risks of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs)/ Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) to human health and the environment, and preparation of draft Access and Benefit-sharing regulations to ensure clear and transparent access to and equitable sharing

of benefits derived from the use of our genetic resources, and associated traditional knowledge.

The EPA has a unit which monitors Guyana's obligations under these MEAs. However, the coordinating desk for MEAs at the National level is based at the Department of Environment.

The year 2020 marks the end of the decade on biodiversity and the process for developing the post 2020 biodiversity framework has already commenced, with global consultations. This provides us with a timely opportunity to propose novel ideas in supporting global sustainability efforts with MEAs paving the way.





## International Offshore Petroleum Environmental Regulators

### Guyana becomes a member of IOPER

by Christine Samwaroo

Guyana is on the verge of becoming a major oil-producing country in the Region. This welcoming discovery represents both economic opportunities as well as significant environmental risks associated with the potential negative impacts on the coastal and marine environment. Through the Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05, the EPA has the responsibility of ensuring that all activities under the oil and gas sector are regulated in accordance with best practices and adequate environmental safeguards.

Through partnership efforts with the World Bank, on October 30th, 2019, it was announced at the International Offshore Petroleum Environmental Regulators (IOPER)'s Annual General Meeting, attended by Dr. Vincent Adams, Executive Director of the EPA,

that Guyana was accepted as an affiliated member. IOPER is an international group composed of national regulators whose members are dedicated to raising environmental performance standards within the offshore petroleum exploration and production industry. IOPER's current membership includes: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Guyana's acceptance into the group will aid in the exchange of information and shared resources and experiences in the sector. Membership into the organisation also allows Guyana to stay informed with current trends and development in the sector. By having affiliation with this group of experts, the EPA will be able to expand its technical knowledge with exceptional insight and best practices to oversee the oil industry.



## LITTER OFFENCES AND FINES

Litter in a public place—  
Reg. 3 (1)

- **Fine: \$50,000 or \$100,000**

Littering from a moving vehicle—Reg. 3 (3) -

**Fine: \$50,000 or \$100,000**

Litter from a vehicle or trailer in motion—Reg. 4 (1) - **Fine: \$50,000 or \$100,000**

Failure to provide receptacle for public transport—Reg. 5 (1) - **Fine: \$15,000**

Littering the private premises—Reg. 6 (2) - **Fine: \$30,000**

Failure to comply with clean-up order—Reg. 24 (5) - **Fine \$30,000**

Interfering with a designated waste receptacle—Reg. 26 - **Fine \$15,000**

Causing or knowingly permitting any other

person to commit an offence under Regulations 3,4 or 6—Reg. 7 - **Fine \$30,000, \$50,000 or \$100,000**

Willfully obstructing a litter warden from performing duties—Reg. 25 (a) - **Fine: \$30,000**

Failure to comply with the requirement of a litter warden—Reg. 25 (b) - **Fine: \$30,000**

Refusal to give or provide false name or residence to Litter Warden—Reg. 25 (c i, ii) - **Fine: \$30,000**

Personating or falsely pretends to be a Litter Warden—Reg. 25 (d) - **Fine: \$30,000**

Offers violence, intimidates, use or behave in a threatening manner towards a Litter Warden—Reg. 25 (e) - **Fine: \$30,000**

Offers gifts, rewards or considerations as inducements for violations to a Litter Warden—Reg. 25 (f) - **Fine: \$30,000**

**LITTERING IS ILLEGAL**

**The difference starts with you**

**THE ABSENCE OF A WASTE RECEPTACLE IS NOT AN EXCUSE.**

**PENALTY:**  
**Fined \$50,000 - \$100,000 or face imprisonment for three months.**

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY ABOUT WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES. SPEAK OUT WHEN YOU SEE PEOPLE LITTERING AND REPORT OFFENCES TO THE AGENCY!**

# WORD SEARCH

## Single Use Plastics

F W Y C F F K N A E C O F H  
 A A C W A R O O P U A F N M Y  
 Y T V X P Y M O R D C Q D I K  
 E E Q Q S T B Q D K P B D C X  
 G R S T Y R O F O A M X L R Z  
 H B G W I K P O L L U T I O N  
 Q S D P L A S T I C E X E P S  
 I R S I Z E L B A G E L N L R  
 Z E N T X E S N Q F L A J A E  
 E R O B R E J D A R T N C S P  
 D R O U E A L S V E T D V T P  
 X I L D R L W G P E O F N I A  
 L T L R O H S S N Q B I D C R  
 S S A C O T T O N I A L H S W  
 O C B Z V U S E D L S L M X M

STRAWS FREE  
 STYROFOAM MICROPLASTICS  
 BALLOONS CAPS  
 FORK FOOD  
 LANDFILL WRAPPERS  
 OCEAN STIRRERS  
 PLASTIC  
 BAG  
 SINGLE  
 USE  
 WATER  
 BOTTLE  
 POLLUTION  
 COTTON  
 BUD

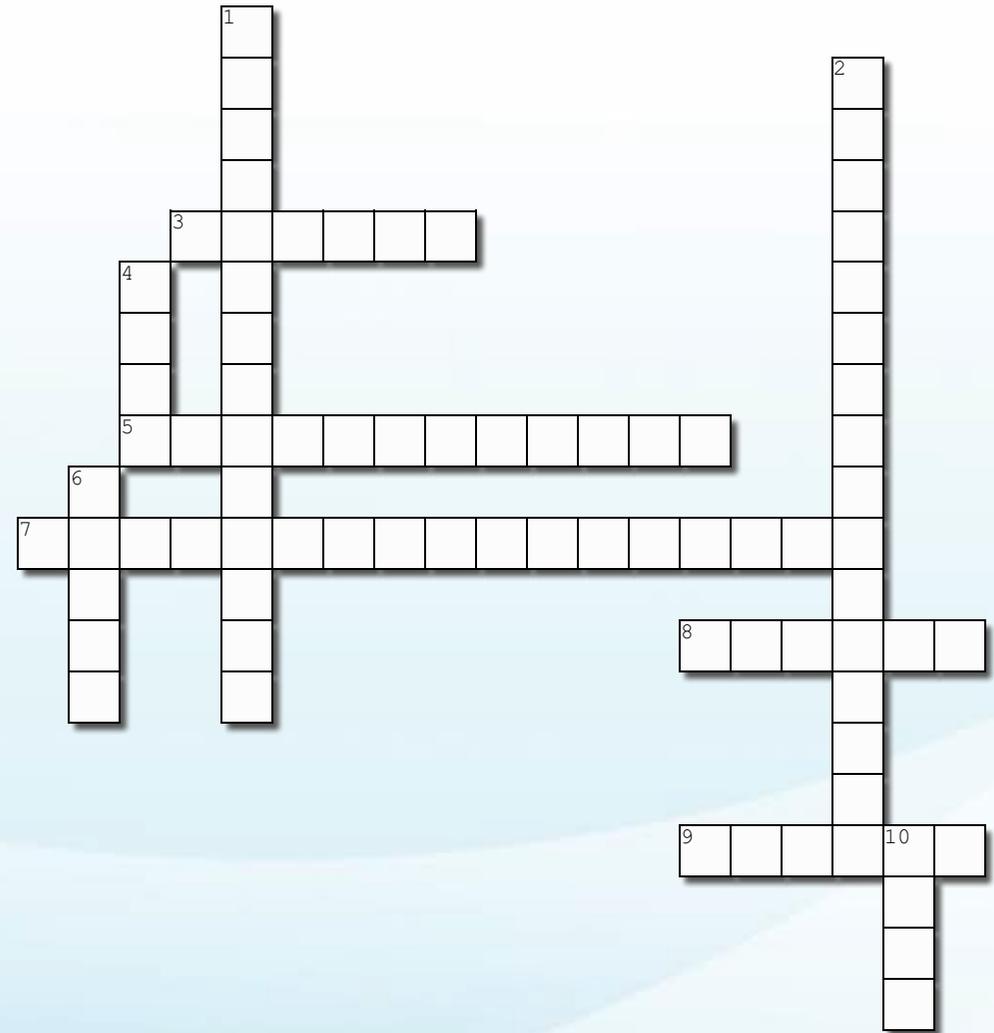
## Reduce Reuse RECYCLE

T M T I J R B T G W A K B P A  
 U K B I B E B Y P C Y R L C Z  
 L B V F N M E C E L W A B Z F  
 U D M D E P E D N W S N K J T  
 Z A V X V M E C V T G K R Y E  
 G B A R R J O S I T D X R L N  
 B N L C E K B C R V R H E D A  
 W S F D S T P E O R A D U I L  
 B S Y X N R R Z N L G B H P P  
 M A U P O A I E M R E C Q J K  
 S L E T C L L O E U E T E C D  
 S G E G Q O T E N S O G S K A  
 Z C H D X E N I T X P U C A S  
 T E T W Q P H Z T W Y V C J W  
 U C Y P A P E R J F X B L S S

CONSERVE  
 WASTE  
 PROTECT  
 PAPER  
 PLASTIC  
 GLASS  
 GREEN  
 ENVIRONMENT  
 PLANET  
 LAND  
 TREES

# Activity 3

Complete the crossword puzzle below



### Across

- 3. Poisonous chemical plastic waste give off
- 5. Plastic items mostly eaten by marine creatures
- 7. What is the accumulation of plastic products in the environment that affects wildlife, wildlife habit or human
- 8. Majority of Marine litter is discarded by
- 9. Hundreds of species of ..... are affected every year due to marine litter

### Down

- 1. Makes up about one third of all plastic pollution
- 2. A person who is concerned with the protection of the environment.
- 4. Bits of rubbish discarded in the open- .....
- 6. While a lot of debris sinks, much of it .....on water
- 10. ....-based activities are the largest contributor to marine litter

# Sectors within the EPA



**Budget and Finance**



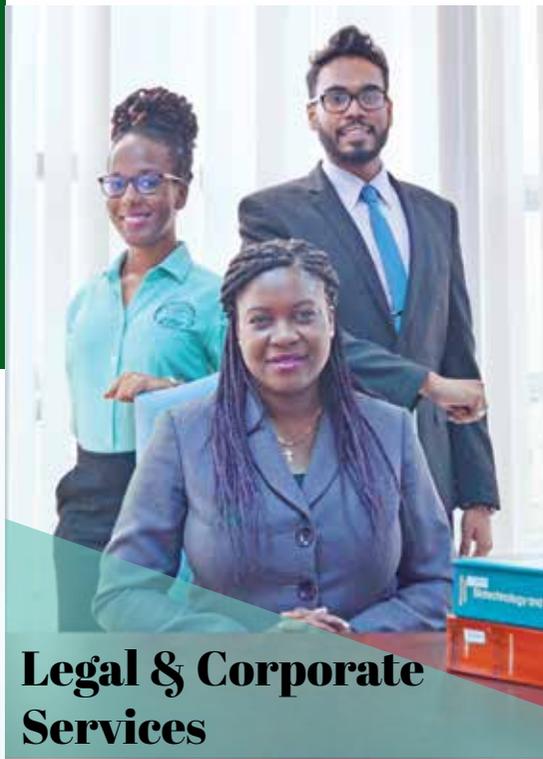
**Communications**



**Mining**



**Gas Stations**



**Legal & Corporate Services**



**Oil & Gas**



**Technical Services**



**Registry and Data Management**



**Industry and Waste Management**



**Infrastructure And Project Management**



**Forestry And Agriculture**



**Administration And Management  
Information System**



**Multilateral Environmental Agreements**



# EPA FIELD OPERATIONS

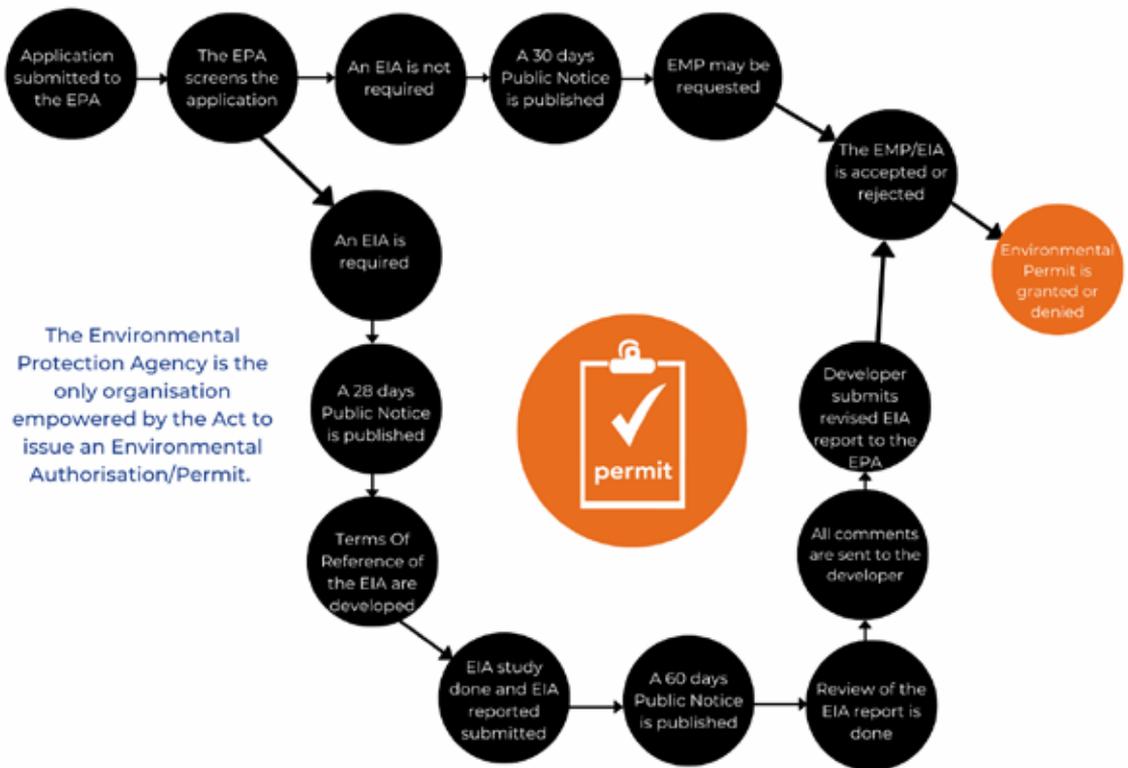


The Environmental Protection Agency and its Board of Directors were established on June 5, 1996 upon the ascension of the Environmental Protection Act (No 11 of 1996). The Agency's work enables Guyana to contribute to global and national environmental protection and conservation.

Our Mandate

TO PROMOTE, FACILITATE AND COORDINATE EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION; AND THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF GUYANA NATURAL RESOURCES.

An Environmental Authorisation is a legal document which gives a developer permission to conduct various activities that may have impacts on the environment and human health.



EPA Guyana/Epa Guyana



epagy/g



EPA Guyana



www.epaguyana.org

The Environmental Protection Agency -Guyana

Ganges Street, Sophia, Georgetown - 225-5471-2/225-2062

Fax: 225-5471

Plantation Whim, Berbice - 337-2201

LEN Building, McKenzie, Linden - 444- 2313



# HOW TO MAKE AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLAINT

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), hereby advises the general public that there is a new system in place to manage environmental complaints.

In this regard, members of the public can report environmental complaints utilising any of the follow:



**COMPLAINT  
24-HOUR HOTLINE  
NUMBER:  
592-225-5469**



**SEND AN EMAIL TO  
COMPLAINT@  
complaint@epaguyana.org**



**SEND A COMPLAINT  
LETTER THROUGH  
THE POSTAL  
SERVICES.**

## PLEASE NOTE:

Complaint reports **MUST** include : the nature of the complaint; name and address of business/entity/person causing the pollution; name of the complainant (person making the complaint); contact information and address of complainant .



For further information, please email us at [epa@epaguyana.org](mailto:epa@epaguyana.org) or contact our offices as follows:

1. Whim Office – 337-2201; and
2. Linden Office – 444-2313.

Please be assured the Agency will treat all information received from the public with strictest confidence. Complainants, however, should be willing to attend Court and testify should the matter require legal action.

Photo: Romario Hastings



**Environmental Protection Agency**

Ganges Street, Sophia  
Georgetown

Tel No. 225-5471-2; 225-6048

**Berbice Office**

Whim, Corentyne,  
Berbice.

Tel No. 337-2201/2207

**Linden Office**

LEN Building  
Mckenzie  
Linden.

Tel No. 444-2313.

Website: [www.epaguyana.org](http://www.epaguyana.org)

Facebook: @EPAGuyana

Instagram: [epagyig](https://www.instagram.com/epagyig)

Youtube: Environmental Protection Agency, Guyana