



# Update Report on the Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in Guyana







---

***Update Report on the  
Implementation of the SAMOA  
Pathway in Guyana***

---

**REPORT**

June 2018



Published By  
**Department of Environment**  
**Government of Guyana**

68 High Street, Kingston, Georgetown.  
[www.doe.gov.gy](http://www.doe.gov.gy)

  Department of Environment – Guyana

**Department of Environment**  
June 2018

---

# Contents

---

Acronmys .....	i
Executive Summary .....	vi
<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. SIDS Priority Areas .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.1 Priority Area 1: Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.1.1 Development models in Guyana for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.1.2 Sustainable tourism .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2.2 Priority Area 2: Climate Change .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2.3 Priority Area 3: Sustainable Energy.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>2.4 Priority Area 4: Disaster Risk Reduction .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>2.5 Priority Area 5: Oceans and Seas .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>2.6 Priority Area 6: Food Security and Nutrition .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>2.7 Priority Area 7: Water and Sanitation.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>2.8 Priority Area 8: Sustainable Transportation.....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>2.9 Priority Area 9: Sustainable Consumption and Production .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>2.10 Priority Area 10: Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>2.11 Priority Area 11: Health and Non-Communicable Diseases.....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>2.12 Priority Area 12: Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>2.13 Priority Area 13: Social Development .....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>2.13.1 Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities.....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>2.14 Priority Area 14: Biodiversity .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>2.14.1 Desertification, land degradation, and drought.....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>2.14.2 Forests.....</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>2.15 Invasive Alien Species.....</b>	<b>89</b>

**2.16 Means of Implementation..... 92**  
**2.16.1 Partnerships..... 92**  
**2.16.2 Trade ..... 92**  
**2.16.3 Data and Statistics ..... 97**

---

## *Acronyms*

---

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
ADEME	French Environment and Energy Management Agency
AIMS-SIDS	Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea Small Islands Developing States
BOS	National Bureau of Statistics
BUR	Biennial Update Report
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBDRM	Community Based Disaster Risk Management
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CDC	Civil Defence Commission
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CFDA	Catalogue of Federal Disaster Assistance
CGPC	Coordinating Group of Pesticides Control Boards of the Caribbean
CI	Conservation International
CP	Crime Prevention
CPG	Community Policing Group
CRSAP	Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan
C-SIDS	Caribbean Small Islands Developing States
CSSP	Citizen Security Strengthening Programme
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organisation
CYEN	Caribbean Youth Environment Network
DIEE	Database of Energy Efficiency Indicators
DOE	Department of Environment
DOT	Department of Tourism

DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EITI	Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERM	Environmental Resources Management
EU	European Union
EU-FLEGT	European Union Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FBO	Faith Based Organisation
GAB	Gender Affairs Bureau
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEA	Guyana Energy Agency
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEPA	Green Economy Policy Assessments
GFC	Guyana Forestry Commission
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GGMC	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
GHG-I	Greenhouse Gas Inventory
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GLSC	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission
GPL	Guyana Power and Light Inc.
GRA	Guyana Revenue Authority
GRIF	Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund
GSDS	Green State Development Strategy
GTA	Guyana Tourism Authority
HECI	Hinterland Electrification Company Inc.
HPV	Human Papilloma Virus
IAS	Invasive Alien Species

IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISA	International Solar Alliance
JCCCCP	Japan Caribbean Climate Change Partnership
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy
LDN TSP	Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme
LDO	Local Democratic Organs
MARAD	Maritime Administration Department
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources
MOB	Ministry of Business
MOC	Ministry of Communities
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health
MOPI	Ministry of Public Infrastructure
MOSP	Ministry of Social Protection
MOSP	Ministry of Social Protection
MOTP	Ministry of the Presidency
MRVS	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification Systems
NCCC	National Climate Change Committee
NCCC	National Climate Change Committee
NCCCSIP	National Climate Change Communications Strategy and Implementation Plan
NCCSAP	National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
NDC	National Determined Contributions
NDCs	Non-Communicable Diseases
NEMS	National Emergency Monitoring System
NFSF	National Food and Security Forum

NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OAS	Organisation of American States
OCC	Office of Climate Change
OHRLLS	Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
OLADE	Latin American Energy Organization
PAC	Protected Areas Commission
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PALCEE	Latin America and the Caribbean Energy Efficiency Program
PC	Petroleum Commission
P-SIDS	Pacific Small Islands Developing States
PTCCB	Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board
PUC	Public Utilities Commission
RCFNSF	Regional and Community Food and Nutrition Security Forum
REDD+	Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Developing Countries
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SAMOA Pathway	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Islands Developing States
SIE-LAC	OLADE's Energy Information System for Latin America and the Caribbean
UG	University of Guyana
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDAF	UN Development Assistance Framework
UN-DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCMC	Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission
WHO	World Health Organisation
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

---

## *Executive Summary*

---

The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway was conceptualised to make evident the peculiar situations and considerable uniqueness of the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), and the reasons that they must be considered a special case requiring considerable support from the international community for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The United Nations (UN) has identified two UN institutions 1) The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and 2) the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) – as channels for support to SIDS.

In Guyana, as is the case of many countries, the implementation of initiatives for the achievement of the SDGs is intertwined to achieve the SAMOA Pathway Priority Areas. Guyana being a signatory to the SAMOA pathway, the SDGs, the 2030 Agenda, as well as other multilateral agreements, sought to align the country's national development trajectory to these commitments and obligations. The Green State Development Strategy (GSDS), which is currently being developed, will guide Guyana's developmental path for the next 15 years (2015 – 2030+). The GSDS will utilize six principles – (1) Social cohesion and inclusion; (2) Well-being, education and quality of life; (3) Sustainable use of biodiversity and increased resource efficiency, (4) Decarbonization and climate resilience; (5) Sustainable finance: redirecting and mobilizing investments; and (6) Good governance, decentralization and participatory processes – to achieve a green economy. As such the document is carefully examined to ensure total alignment and harmonisation with the SDGs and by extension the SAMOA Pathway.

Recognising the need to develop along a green pathway, and the necessity for sustainable and equitable economic growth, Guyana has sought and received support from local, regional and international institutions for its development agenda inclusive of the UN agencies, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), CARICOM regional institutions, among others. Much of the support has been sector specific, whilst others have targeted the institutional mechanisms of the country to foster economic development. Poverty eradication and sustainable development pillars were addressed through the supportive mechanism from the international community. The tourism industry in Guyana, particularly eco-tourism which has been touted as having significant potential, has been an infantized

product for many years, but is currently being transformed and repackaged to meet the current market demands.

Climate change continues to be a national priority for Guyana owing to the potential detrimental impacts the country faces, particularly from sea level rise. Under the purview of the Ministry of the Presidency (MOTP), the Office of Climate Change (OCC), the focal point for climate change related issues in Guyana, has partnered with numerous local, regional and international institutions to accelerate the achievement of Guyana's climate change priorities. Significant progress has been made in this area of climate change adaptation in many sectors. Interventions in climate change mitigation have continued to progress especially in the areas of energy and forest through donor funding for the establishment of the internationally recognised Forest Monitoring MRVS system, as well as drafting of numerous legislation and policy instruments for the sector. Notwithstanding the achievements designed to support climate change adaptation and mitigation, numerous challenges and gaps remain that are critical for sound decision making. Partnerships have successfully been forged with the civil society, youths, the private sector and other governmental organizations that are valued as key stakeholders.

Guyana's development is highly dependent on the availability and reliability of affordable energy supply. Energy is enshrined in the GSDS and forms part of Guyana's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement. Guyana Energy Agency (GEA), the Guyana Power and Light Inc. (GPL) and Hinterland Electrification Company Inc. under the aegis of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure (MOPI) hold the responsibility for energy generation and transmission. Despite the numerous challenges, significant achievements have made in the energy sector on many facets: legislation, regulations and policies, renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as tax reform. The Agency faces challenges with resources deficit, lack of data, aged generation and transmission infrastructure, cap of 100kw on residential renewable generation, lack of the necessary technical capacity, low public awareness and knowledge on renewable energy and energy efficiency. The cross-cutting nature of the energy sector has resulted in its institutions forming robust partnerships with various national, regional and international bodies.

The Civil Defence Commission has the mandate to coordinate all efforts regarding Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in Guyana. Owing to the multi-faceted nature of the response efforts, partnerships and collaborations have been formed with various public entities- Ministries, private, NGO – Guyana Red Cross Society, Community Based Organisations (CBO), Faith Based Organisations (FBO), regional, and international

organisations for support and effective emergency responsiveness. Many major achievements were made particularly with legislation and capacity building. However, challenges continue to exist in critical areas such as gender mainstreaming in DDM, data management, emergence response resources, and food water and health security.

Oceans and seas in Guyana are among the least understood and studied resources. The institutional structure that bears responsibility are dispersed across many different sectors focal institution inclusive of the Guyana Maritime Administration Department (MARAD) in Guyana, the Protected Areas Commission (PAC), the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) – Fisheries Department and the Mangrove Unit, MOPI, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Much of the achievement in the priority area represent those achieved by MARAD. These include marine conservation and management, wrecks management, marine pollution, and monitoring and surveillance. Innumerable challenges exist with availability of financial resources, and data paucity particularly with respect to the marine environment. Partnerships regarding the management of the marine environment are with a cross section of institutions inclusive of NGOs, national, regional and international organisations.

Agriculture and food production continue to be national priorities in Guyana. The MOA has the overarching role to manage and regulate the sector which many semi-autonomous agencies that cover crops, livestock, fisheries, coastal protection and water. Various committees and fora are in place to guide the work of the sector. Much of the initiatives being carried out under sustainable consumption and production have cross benefits with food security. Significant achievements were made in both priority areas specifically in areas such as ADRM, policy instruments, and testing of high yielding germplasm. However, inherent challenges regarding data management, food choices and prices, poor drainage infrastructure, poor testing facilities, and market accessibility continue to be some major concerns. The agencies continue to partner with organisations at various levels to ensure that Guyana remains a food secure country through a sustainable production.

Water and sanitation are cross-cutting issues that are being managed by multiple sector agencies. Whilst Guyana Water Incorporation (GWI) under the auspices of the Ministry of Communities (MOC) has responsibility to provide access to potable water, the Hydrometeorological Department is responsible for Guyana’s hydrology infrastructure, and the MOA for irrigation water. Regarding sanitation, the MOC, through the Municipalities and the LDOs, is responsible for the management of all forms of waste, whilst the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the responsibility for pollution from waste streams. Significant

collaboration is forged with the local democratic organs as well as national organisations, NGOs, CBOs, regional and international organisations with respect to the management of water and waste. Guyana has achieved upward of 75% of water supply coverage, whilst GWI continues to improve the quality of water being delivered. Gradual progress in sanitation development is being made, which shows persons are adopting the efficient septic tanks as their sanitation facility. Data availability and management as well as behaviour and culture regarding waste disposal and water usage remain significant challenges. Water loss from leaks and theft are major concerns. Accessibility to potable water in hinterland remains a challenge due to limited understanding of the ground water resources in the hinterland.

The MOPI has the responsibility for the transport sector, however no institutional structures or mechanisms are in place to treat with sustainable transportation. Obvious challenges that exist at this stage would be the absence of data and the necessary legislation to support the attainment of sustainable transportation for land, maritime and air transport. Further, there are no clear policies or guidelines to aid the regulating and monitoring of intended sustainable transportation targets and indicators. A partnership was established with the IDB which provided funding for the “Sustainable Urban Transportation Study for Georgetown.”

The management of chemicals and waste is the responsibility of two agencies: the EPA and the Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB) under the Environmental Protection Act, Regulation 2000 and the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Act 2000 respectively. Major achievements were achieved through the record exportation of hazardous waste/materials. Significant work was done with farmers and other stakeholders that interface with chemicals and waste. However, there is poor collaboration between the PTCCB and Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA), as well as the need for education and awareness, absence of legal instruments for the sector, centralisation of the EPA therefore unable to deal with other regions, lack of testing equipment, weak enforcement capacity, and lack of data. The institutions benefitted from partnerships with various international, regional, and national institutions. Partnerships continue to play an important part in the implementation of the chemicals and waste agenda within the SAMOA pathway.

Health and non-communicable diseases (NCD) is managed by the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and has a network of health facilities that deliver five levels of health care inclusive of NCD: Health Post, Health Centres, Polyclinics, Regional Hospitals, and National Referral Hospitals. There are numerous achievements made in the priority area, some of which include: 80% of health facilities capable of dealing with NDCs, establishment of a Chronic Disease Unit

at MOPH which deals with policy development and implementation regarding the response to NDCs, establishment of a National Commission on the prevention and control of NDCs, completion of the Stepwise Approach to Chronic Disease Risk Factor Surveillance, among many others. However, the MOPH has faced many challenges such as limited financial resources for NDCs, the need for a more constant supply of drugs to treat NDCs, and the need for greater research in the area. The many interventions that have been made in the area were supported through partnerships with the Pan American Health Organisation/ World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO), United States Assistance for International Development (USAID), as well as other international, regional and national partners including civil society and the private sector.

The Gender Affairs Bureau (GAB) under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Protection (MOSP) is the principal institution and focal point for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Guyana. The Bureau has resuscitated the Regional Women's Affairs Committee (RWAC), which advocates for gender equality and women empowerment. The Women and Gender Equality Commission, the Indigenous Peoples Commission, the Rights of the Child Commission, and the Ethnic Relations Commission are the mechanisms for policy advocacy and registering complaints. Much support is being provided to the Bureau by the Regional Democratic Councils (RDCs) and the Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs) by serving as members on the RWAC. Notwithstanding the challenges in this priority area - interpersonal violence, poor implementation of laws, poor access to the justice system, and lack of data - a major achievement was the drafting of the National Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy, which aimed to reduce discrimination, promote social justice and contribute to evidence-based planning. At the national level, there is a comprehensive legislative framework which addresses the priority area. Numerous partnerships are in place with various international organisations (EU, UNFPA and UNICEF), regional organisations, as well as NGOs, CBO and FBOs.

Social development is a national priority area that is enshrined in the GSDS. Citizen security and the need to protect our citizens and ensure safe and secure societies are fundamental imperatives since a growing concern in Guyana is crime and violence. The Ministry of Public Security (MOPS) is the primary institution that is responsible for law and order in Guyana. The MOPS has developed the Citizen Security Strengthening Programme (CSSP) that focusses on the prevention and reduction of crime and violence and capacity building through three target institutions - Guyana Police Force (GPF), Guyana Prison Service (GPS), and high crime communities. Many achievements were realised including community needs assessments, the

establishment of safe spaces, training of communities in conflict resolution and domestic violence, improvement in investigative capacities for the GPF, and expansion in crime and violence data collection through the installation of the Integrated Crime and Information Systems (ICIS). However, social and technological challenges still exist, as well as resources to conduct monitoring and evaluation of the interventions. Partnerships at the various levels is paramount to ensure for citizen security. Civil society and CBOs are immensely supportive to the MOPS in addressing crime and violence.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the purview of the Department of Environment (DOE), has the overarching responsibility for biodiversity conservation and management in Guyana through the Environmental Protection Act of 1996. However, several national sector agencies as well as NGOs deal with specific aspects of biodiversity management: The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) – deforestation and forest biodiversity, the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) – desertification, land degradation and drought and their impact on species, Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission (WCMC) – regulates the trade in wildlife. Several achievements were made in biodiversity management inclusive of the establishment of a National Protected Areas System which led to the passage of the Protected Areas Act of 2011 and the subsequent establishment of the Protected Areas Commission. Other achievements include institutional structure for wildlife management and drafting of legislations and policies. However, a major challenge is enforcement and monitoring of enacted legislations due to limited resources and poor coordination. Although, much data is collected by various agencies, a centralised database for storage is absent, which poses accessibility challenges. Support for various aspects of biodiversity management has been received from various international partners – Global Environmental Facility (GEF), UN agencies, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), IDB, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Regional, national partners inclusive of NGOs, CBOs, and youth groups continue to provide innumerable support to the Agency.

Although Invasive Alien Species (IAS) was specified as a separate priority area under the SAMOA Pathway, in Guyana it is being dealt with under biodiversity. However, there are no lead agencies with overarching responsibility for IAS; the control and management are spread across several agencies. The EPA, the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) and the WCMC play intricate roles in the management of IAS. Some of the achievements made to date include the development of the IAS strategy and Action Plan, development of the IAS inventory, and establishment of the IAS task force. The foremost challenge in the management of IAS is not

having a specified lead agency or legislation in place. Except for the three agencies working together, there are no partnerships formed at the national, regional or international level.

Regarding the means of implementation of the SAMOA pathway, Partnerships and Data and Statistics are fundamental. Partnerships was dealt with under each of the priority areas, however, data and statistics are being managed unilaterally by the Bureau of Statistics (BOS). There are numerous challenges with the management of data and statistics as was pointed out under each priority area. There is a general paucity of data and information in almost all agencies in Guyana owing to limited resources and aged data management systems. Very few databases exist and in case where they existed, they are generally standalone systems. However, the BOS has received support from the international community to improve the quality of data and statistics being produced by the agency, although local, private and NGO partnerships are almost non-existent.

---

## *Introduction*

---

In view of their size, uniqueness and peculiar vulnerabilities, countries are classified as Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). These countries that make up SIDS remain a special case for achieving their sustainable development goals (SDGs) and thus require the international community support and cooperation to successfully achieve the aforementioned. There are three regional clusters of SIDS owing to their geographic location: Caribbean – SIDS (C-SIDS), Pacific – SIDS (P-SIDS), and Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea – SIDS (AIMS-SIDS).

The Caribbean – SIDS, which consists of an archipelago of islands and three main-land countries, faces similar development challenges, such as geographic isolation, slow economic growth with high debt ratios, limited resources, limited production diversification and competitiveness, environmental fragility, high costs of transportation and energy, human insecurity, and vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters.

The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway is an international framework that was developed, which outlines the ambitious commitments made by the 115 SIDS Heads of State and Government, as the outcome of the Third International Conference on SIDS in September 2014. The SAMOA Pathway illustrates the interlinking issues and unique challenges facing SIDS in successfully achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the critical role of international cooperation and wide stakeholders partnerships that are required. To this end, the United Nations has identified two units – 1) The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and 2) the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) – through which support is provided to SIDS.

The SAMOA Pathway outlined sixteen (16) priority areas for action over the next ten (10) years commencing from its conception year of 2014:

1. Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all:
  - a. Development models in Small Island Developing States for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and
  - b. Sustainable tourism;

2. Climate Change;
3. Sustainable Energy;
4. Disaster risk reduction;
5. Oceans and seas;
6. Food security and nutrition;
7. Water and sanitation;
8. Sustainable transportation;
9. Sustainable consumption and production;
10. Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste;
11. Health and non-communicable diseases;
12. Gender Equality and women's empowerment;
13. Social Development:
  - a. Culture and sport,
  - b. Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities, and
  - c. Education;
14. Biodiversity
  - a. Desertification, land degradation, and drought
  - b. Forests;
15. Invasive alien species; and
16. Means of implementation, including partnerships:
  - a. Partnerships,
  - b. Financing,
  - c. Trade,
  - d. Capacity Building,
  - e. Technology,
  - f. Data and Statistics, and
  - g. Institutional Support for SIDS.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided at its 69<sup>th</sup> session in 2016 to convene a one-day high level mid-term review in September 2019 to ascertain the progress made in addressing the priorities of SIDS through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. Considering this, the UNGA further decided that regional and interregional preparatory meetings should be convened in 2018 to review progress at the national and regional levels. The C-SIDS regional meeting is scheduled to be held on August 7 – 9, 2018 in Belize.

Guyana, as a member of the C-SIDS, is required to provide an update on the country's implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. Since the conceptualisation of the SAMOA Pathway, Guyana has made significant progress with respect to the sixteen priorities areas outlined under the Pathway. Many of these priorities are enshrined in the recently composed and currently elaborated Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) which has built upon the successes of many of Guyana's predecessor strategies. The GSDS, which will outline the path of Guyana's transition from a brown to a Green Economy, was conceptualised and drafted to align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda, the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as commitments and obligations under other Bilateral and Multilateral Agreements, and other national documents.

The Department of Environment (DOE) which assumed the responsibility as SIDS Focal Point for Guyana in 2018 will be providing an update on Guyana's Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The report is structured according to the sixteen SIDS priority areas and will highlight the institutional structures and capacities, achievements made, key challenges and gaps that still exist, and partnerships forged both nationally, regionally and internationally with regards to the specific priority areas.

---

## *SIDS Priority Areas*

---

### **2.1 Priority Area 1: Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all**

#### ***2.1.1 Development models in Guyana for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication***

Since the affirmation by Guyana and the rest of SIDS to the SAMOA Pathway in 2014, Guyana has made continuous progress in all facets of the development agenda. Guyana is on the cusp of transforming its economy and growth trajectory from one that was dominated by the extractive industries to one that is more economically diversified through the flagship national strategy, the GSDS. The country's aspiration of a green economy through the GSDS is a step in the right direction to ensure harmonization with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the SAMOA pathway, which has received support regionally and internationally inclusive of the UN agencies, the CDB, the IDB, CARICOM regional institutions, among others.

In undertaking the development agenda, Guyana has opted for an international and regional supportive mechanism to drive its progress. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) has continued to provide immeasurable innumerable support to Guyana towards achieving its development agenda. In 2017, it conducted a Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) mission of which a Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) was done of all the national planning documents as well as the GSDS to ascertain the degree of alignment with the SDGs.

Further support was garnered from the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) which consisted of partnership among five UN agencies: UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, FAO, and ILO. PAGE conducted economic modelling exercises with the planners and technical personnel of the various expert working groups of the GSDS to provide advice and demonstrate the possible futures under varying scenarios. PAGE also supported a Green Jobs Assessment Model, which is a set of tools to inform policy making on the jobs impact of policies at the macro and sectorial level. The Green Jobs Assessment Model focusses on the analysis of the quantity, quality and skills demand of job creation and losses induced by economic trends and policies. It is based on such disaggregated representation of the economic system and its social and environmental linkages. At its core is the Leonief model which represents the interlinkages between and within sectors and production factors. It provides a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the

effects of economic trends and policies on sectoral production and employment, households' incomes, government and external balances. The model provides possible answers to the questions such as:

- i. How many jobs will be created and in which sector?
- ii. What kinds of jobs are likely to be created by alternative policies?
- iii. What are the impacts on sectoral value-added, household disposable incomes, poverty and inequality?
- iv. What are the effects on occupational and formal/informal composition of jobs?
- v. What is the role of the environmental sectors in generating jobs and incomes?

Additional support was provided to Guyana, particularly to the GSDS coordinating agencies, by PAGE through the System Dynamics Model for Green Economy Policy Assessments (GEPA). The Green Economy System Dynamics Model is an integrated and quantitative modelling approach to understand situations for complex real-world issues to guide decision making over time to achieve sustainable solutions. GEPA is a critical tool for policymakers in decision making in order to develop and adopt green economy policies towards the achievement of sustainable development. GEPA includes five steps:

- i. Identifying national priorities for sustainable development targets;
- ii. Estimating the amount of investment required to achieve such targets;
- iii. Identifying the policy(ies) reform(s) that are essential for enabling the required investment;
- iv. Assessing the impacts of the required investments as well as the enabling policies using a range of economic, social and environmental indicators and comparing the results with the business-as-usual (BAU); and
- v. Presenting the assessment to inform decision making.

GEPA utilising a system dynamics model would be able to provide information on economic, social and environmental impacts resulting from green investments in selected sectors or specific policy instruments. Providing key sectors are selected to inform the model, the impacts indicators can inform from 20 – 169 SDG targets. The model being developed and used in Guyana will simulate scenarios from 2000 – 2040 focusing on five primary areas:

- i. Macroeconomic performance;
- ii. Energy demand and supply;
- iii. Agricultural productivity and production;

- iv. Forestry production and land use; and
- v. Infrastructure.

Since both models (Green Economy System Dynamics Model and Green Job Assessment Model) are being piloted and implemented by PAGE, complementarity between the two modelling technologies is assessed. Since the goal is to ensure sustainable development, it is critical that GSDS is developed and analysed for its impacts across all sectors.

The wider overarching framework of the UNCT – the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (UN-MSDF) (2017 -2021), has sought to provide the necessary support to Guyana to enable the achievement of the SDGs. As a result, the MSDF, through the Country Implementation Plan (CIP), has reinforced national planning in a multiplicity of sectors. As a result of capacity challenges (shortage) at the national level, the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) mechanism is being utilised, compared to the National Implementation Modality (NIM), to implement many of the projects supported by the UN.

The Government of Guyana has been working closely with the IDB Group for many years preceding the SAMOA Pathway. Much of the portfolio under the 2012 – 2016 Country Strategy period had continued into the initial five years of the SAMOA Pathway. The priority areas included: natural resources management, sustainable energy, private sector development, and public-sector management. The recently agreed Country Strategy 2017 – 2021 Country Strategy between the IDB and Government of Guyana has four areas of interventions:

- i. Establishing a modern national strategy and planning framework for undergirding the GSDS, including to drive economic diversification efforts and pursue modern industrial policies;
- ii. Strengthening fiscal policies and the framework managing natural resource revenues;
- iii. Facilitating private sector development to support the delivery of better services, mainly through enhancing the business environment; and
- iv. Delivering critical infrastructure to facilitate human and private sector development.

These areas of engagement by the IDB will respond to the new priorities of the Government under the GSDS, whilst fulfilling the existing portfolio commitments.

The CDB has also been a key regional institution supporting national development in Guyana. Its Country Strategies 2013 – 2017 and 2017 – 2021 outline the assistance strategy of the CDB to Guyana. The CDB 2013 – 2017 strategy was set within the context of Guyana's poverty reduction objectives, supported by its 'green-growth' agenda. The Strategy also reflects key

development priority areas for the country. The Strategy therefore seeks to: (i) promote broad-based economic growth and inclusive social development by helping to improve access to and the quality of social and economic infrastructure; support greater productivity in the agriculture sector; and improve the talent pool, particularly in the area of technical and vocational training; (ii) support environmental sustainability and disaster risk management; (iii) improve good governance by strengthening capacity for policy management, including gender responsive decision making; and (iv) foster the regional integration agenda by enhancing the country's capacity to implement policies and programmes that promote integration.

Its 2017 – 2021 strategy responds to Guyana's development priorities and it seeks to maximise CDB's comparative advantage and optimise development effectiveness and impact through selective and focussed support. Specifically, the proposed programme rests on the following three strategic pillars: (1) supporting inclusive social and economic development; (2) supporting environmental sustainability; and (3) promoting good governance. In particular, the Strategy supports a programme of assistance that is designed to help achieve the following development outcomes: (a) increased competitiveness and productivity; (b) improved quality of, and access to, education and training; (c) strengthened social protection; (d) reduced vulnerability to natural disasters; and (e) improved governance and development planning. Gender equality, energy and citizen security considerations, are also part of the CDB supported interventions.

### ***2.1.2 Sustainable tourism***

#### ***- What national or institutional structures / mechanisms are in place?***

The agenda for sustainable tourism is the principal responsibility of the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) working in collaboration with the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana (the private sector body) and the regional authorities with support from Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Conservation International (CI). The University of Guyana (UG) also inputs into the raising of awareness of sustainable tourism.

#### ***- What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?***

The process for the drafting of a National Tourism Policy, which places the development of sustainable tourism as a central tenet, is more than 95% complete. Further, Guyana has been appointed Chair of the sub-committee on Sustainable Tourism of the Association of Caribbean States, enabling Guyana to input the development of that agenda.

The main challenge in developing sustainable tourism lies in the subordination of long term goals to short term gains. This practice is seen in the construction of facilities where inferior and cheaper building materials are often preferable to more durable.

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

Guyana has not yet devised a system to determine the economic impact of tourism. Numbers arriving for specific national events (e.g. Carnival) need to be tracked.

- **What national efforts and/or best practices are in place in domesticating Agenda 2030 and/or alignment with other global processes and agendas?**

The goals and principles (Agenda 2030/SDGs) tend to be aspirational, and compliance depends heavily upon the commitment of individual organisations and entities. In the field of tourism, Guyana is aligned with the work of three regional organisations which all proclaim sustainability as their primary mandate – the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO), the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the Organisation of American States (OAS). At least 8 of the 17 SDGs have been enshrined in the recently promulgated *Declaration of Georgetown*, committing the tourism authorities to executing SDG-based development initiatives.

- **How has the institution benefitted from extra support in areas of partnerships, financing, capacity building, technology, data and statistics etc. Has the support been effective?**

No partnerships have been forged between the DoT / GTA and any NGO or similar organization, although the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has provided funding for specific capacity building initiatives. This funding has been welcome.

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments?**

Deliverables based upon the Work Programmes of the DOT and the GTA occur in communities and in national events. Internal monitoring is part of the process of the execution of those deliverables.

- **Have partnerships played any role in supporting implementation of the Samoa Pathway? How effective/durable have they been? If not, why? What are the challenges and lessons learned?**

There is no recollection of any partnership, nor was there any specific referencing of the SAMOA Pathway in the planning framework of either the DOT or the GTA.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnerships, if any?**

The tourism stakeholder cohort includes all the segments mentioned, especially the private sector. Consultations on tourism development initiatives routinely entail interface with the private sector and civil society.

## 2.2 Priority Area 2: Climate Change

### - **What national institutional structures/ mechanism are in place, if any?**

The current institutional framework governing climate change management in Guyana is the Office of Climate Change (OCC) within the Ministry of the Presidency (MOTP). The mandate of the Office of Climate Change is to coordinate efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change through the development and implementation of actions for 'climate change mainstreaming'. The OCC is also the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) national focal point. The OCC works alongside other governmental as well as NGOs and committees with similar climate-related mandates. One of the key committees is the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) consisting of representatives from key ministries, sector agencies and organizations. The NCCC, which is currently resuscitated, seeks to provide guidance, supervision and support to ensure effective implementation of projects and activities by reviewing technical reports and monitor progress.

### - **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**

#### ➤ **Achievements**

- i. Guyana signed on to the UNFCCC;
- ii. Completion of the two National Communications to the UNFCCC and is in the process of completing the third National Communications;
- iii. Commenced the preparation of the initial Biennial Update Report (BUR) to the UNFCCC;
- iv. Guyana has prepared its Technology Needs Assessment Reports for Adaptation and for Mitigation; Barrier Analyses and Enabling Framework documents for Adaptation and for Mitigation and has prepared a Technology Action Plan for Adaptation and for Mitigation;
- v. Guyana is a signatory for the Paris Agreement;
- vi. Guyana has submitted to the UNFCCC its revised National Determined Contributions (NDC);
- vii. Establishment of a REDD Secretariat;
- viii. Establishment of an internationally recognized Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS) for REDD+ in Guyana;
- ix. Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions for greening of towns;

- x. Implementation National Climate Change Awareness and Outreach Programme in schools across Guyana; and
- xi. Preparation and implementation of the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS);
- xii. Guyana signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Norway which generated Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD+) finance that is being used to finance climate related projects;
- xiii. There is a draft Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan (CRSAP);
- xiv. Elaboration of its Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) (on going);
- xv. Strengthened institutional Capacity through collaboration with international partners such as the UNFCCC, Coalition for Rainforest Nations, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), IDB, etc.; and
- xvi. Grid Emissions Factor (draft).

Despite the achievements designed to support climate change adaptation and mitigation, there remains challenges and gaps which are crucial for decision making. These are:

➤ **Gaps**

- i. There is no climate change legislation or policy. However, funds have been acquired to establish a National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (NCCSAP), a Five Year Strategic Plan for the Office of Climate Change and a National Climate Change Communications Strategy and Implementation Plan (NCCCSIP).
- ii. Limited climate information collected from sector agencies such as agriculture for decision making.
- iii. Inadequate technology or institutional capacity to collect or interpret or analyse information from sector agencies for decision making.

➤ **Challenges**

- i. Limited financial support to advance Guyana's climate change agenda;
- ii. High dependence on international donors as the main source of climate finance;
- iii. Prolonged and tedious process of procuring climate related funds and for procuring consultancy services;
- iv. Limited local capacity which leads to outsourcing expertise;

- v. Need for improved institutional capacity to fully achieve the mandate at the OCC such as building capacity locally to prepare national Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHG-I) independently and strategically. Currently, it is only prepared through the National Communications;
- vi. Absence of a framework to mainstream GHG-I within the industrial mining and agriculture sectors; and
- vii. No standardization of data collection from sector agencies or most systems currently in place are inadequate or do not convene with international standards.

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

**Data availability Challenges**

- i. Energy – there are missing years of sector breakdown by fuel type;
- ii. Industrial- road paving and asphalt quantity; food production;
- iii. Agriculture – fertilizer use and nitrogen fixing plants;
- iv. Waste- solid waste totals for the years 1990-1998. Quantity of commercial and industrial waste water;
- v. Empirical research on linkages between climate events and related health impacts; and
- vi. Sector specific socio- economic impact studies and cost/ benefit analysis of adaptation.

**Accessibility Challenge**

- i. There is no centralized system or data base for climate data; and
- ii. There is no standardization of data collection. Some data may not be accessible because of outdated file type or are not digitalized.

- **What national efforts and or best practices are in place in domesticating Agenda 2030 and or alignment with other global processes and agendas?**

Guyana established a GSDS that aligns with the SDGs. The strategy considers and puts emphasis on the balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental to ensure comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs for the next fifteen years. The GSDS will utilize seven thematic elements (Social cohesion and inclusion, Well-being, education and quality of life, Sustainable use of biodiversity and increased resource efficiency, decarbonization and climate resilience, Sustainable finance: redirecting and

mobilizing investments and Good governance, decentralization and participatory processes) to achieve the SDGs. Additionally, best practices from other countries that align with international standards were adopted by the forestry and mining sectors including when Guyana started negotiating its Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) through the European Union Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (EU FLEGT) and applied for admission to the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI).

- **How has the institution benefited from extra support in areas of partnership, financing, capacity building, technology, data and statistics. If yes, has the partnership has the support been effective?**

The Office of Climate Change partners with international organizations thus acquiring predominantly financial support, capacity building and technological advancement. These partnerships resulted inter alia funds being acquired from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) utilized for enabling activities to comply with the UNFCCC and funds for pilot implementation and other projects. The CCCCC provided the OCC with a data node and training on how to operate the equipment to collect and store information therefore creating a centralized data system. The OCC also benefitted under regional initiatives financed by development partners, bilateral and multilateral financing, including United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Government of Japan, Government of Italy, CDB and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable developments commitments?**

The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) generates a MRVS report estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources, removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes. The MRVS report applies the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (1996) Revised Greenhouse Gas methodology and improved where possible by the IPCC Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management (2000) and the IPCC (2006) Guidelines. The MRVS report provides substantial information on greenhouse gas emission and is utilized for the generation of the National Communications. Guyana has signed on to the UNFCCC and is therefore obligated to submit National Communications to the Conference of Parties. These National Communications are developed for the identification of criteria inter alia gaps, constraints, greenhouse gas inventory and vulnerability assessments. These criteria collaboratively support and seek to recognize areas for mitigation and monitoring of the climate system for decision making.

- **Have partnerships played any role in supporting implementation of the SAMOA Pathway? How effective/ durable have they been? If not, why? What are the challenges? What have been the lessons learned?**

The OCC has not benefitted from partnership for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnership if any?**

Civil society, youths, the private sector and other governmental organizations are key stakeholders, thus their partnership provides support for the identification of government priorities, elaboration of national strategies and policies and for their successful implementation.

## 2.3 Priority Area 3: Sustainable Energy

### - *What national institutional structures/mechanisms are in place, if any?*

Under the public sector, the primary entity which holds the mandate for energy, hydropower, utilities and hinterland electrification is the Ministry of Public Infrastructure (MOPI), under which the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA), Guyana Power and Light Inc. (GPL) and Hinterland Electrification Company Inc. are under its purview.

The GEA was established by the Guyana Energy Agency Act 1997, in which the statutory mandate for research and development into alternative and renewable sources of energy and dissemination and awareness of information relating to energy conservation and efficiency, is enshrined. Therefore, GEA's statutory role for energy development remains tantamount to the national development of the energy sector in consideration of the policy objectives. The GEA further serves as the entity responsible under the Hydroelectric Power Act 1956, thus reiterating its administrative mandate for this renewable source.

Similarly, the GPL as the main national electric grid infrastructure service provider in Guyana is a state owned vertically integrated utility, and is regulated by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). GPL may therefore serve as the primary off taker for energy generated by large renewable sources, and potentially alternative natural gas in due course, subject to its onshore delivery by 2022. GPL is therefore guided by the Electricity Sector Reform Act (ESRA) which requires a sustainability programme, development and expansion programme and long-term demand forecasts, which provides projected commercial feasibility for alternative generation, and access to renewable energy.

The HECI is a wholly state-owned entity that functions as the focal point with regards to energy development in the hinterland region. The HECI's mission is to maintain the steady extension and upgrade of electricity supply systems across the hinterland, progressively improving operations and merging isolated services as appropriate.

In Guyana, several committees and working groups in the areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation have been established since the submission of Guyana's NDCs. With the planned development of a NCCSAP, a National Project Steering Committee was created to provide technical oversight and ensure inclusivity. Notably, the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) is being re-established to serve as the consultative body in support of the operational mandate of the OCC, Guyana's UNFCCC Focal Point. The NCCC will also guide the development

of annual work plans and formulation of activities for implementation of Guyana's National Climate Change Policy; facilitate the establishment and implementation of a monitoring and evaluation framework and support knowledge transfer and management on climate related issues.

An Energy Implementation Working Group, which consists of representatives from government agencies, utilities and supporting regional and development partners, was established to facilitate the overall planning, development, commissioning and operation of individual projects within a programmatic framework. In addition, the following committees have been formed to provide oversight, leadership and guidance in relation to the GSDS: Inter-Ministerial and Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee (IMMSAC) and Multi-Stakeholder Expert Groups (MSEG). Both committees comprise representatives from the government, civil society, private sector and other interest groups.

The DOE, which falls under the Ministry of the Presidency, oversees the activities of environmental compliance and management, protected areas development and management, national parks management and wildlife conservation and protection.

As at October 2017, Guyana's candidature was approved by the Board of the EITI. This position comes at a time when Guyana's exploration for oil and gas resources remains a national priority. Therefore, the obligations and responsibilities that must ensue as a member of the EITI will impact on the government's governance structures within the energy sector.

In 2018, the Government of Guyana announced the establishment of the Department of Energy, which will be housed under the Ministry of the Presidency. While this Department may be focused on the provision of technical advice regarding the oil and gas sector and resources, the scope of works and organizational structure are currently under consideration. However, this Department provides the opportunity for a centralized body focused on the technical administration of this sector, which may be separate from the current functions undertaken at the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and MOPI.

In tandem, the MNR will be establishing the Petroleum Commission (PC), a statutory body, which will serve to monitor and regulate the efficient and environmentally responsible exploration, development and production of petroleum in Guyana.

- **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**

Guyana, in 2015 stated that one of its Conditional Nationally Determined Contributions is to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels for energy generation and with the provision of adequate resources, achieve close to 100% renewable power supply by 2025 through a diversified renewable energy infrastructure including biomass, solar, wind and hydropower and an assessment of the potential of the renewable power sources to determine the most cost effective and efficient means of developing this potential.

Guyana has since undertaken a number of studies and developed a policy framework aimed at diversifying its energy supply:

- i. Guyana Power Generation Expansion Study (June 2016);
- ii. Introduction of Renewable Energy and Distributed Generation in Guyana (December 2016);
- iii. Draft National Energy Policy (December 2016);
- iv. Energy Transition Roadmap (March 2017);
- v. Framework of the Guyana Green State Development Strategy and Financing Mechanisms (March 2017);
- vi. Update of the Study on System Expansion of the Generation System (May 2018);
- vii. Green State Development Strategy and Financing Mechanisms (currently being developed, 2018); and
- viii. Feasibility Study for Guyana's Offshore Natural Gas Pipeline, LPG Separation Plant, and Related Electricity Infrastructure (currently being conducted, 2018).

To facilitate grid interconnection and the uptake of renewable energy for electricity generation, the main utility, GPL has drafted a National Grid Code for the Integration of Distributed Generation which provides a commercial and technical framework to accept electricity from renewable energy sources onto its distribution network and streamline the procedures for feed-in mechanisms. Plans are now underway for the implementation of this Grid Code. Additionally, selective renewable energy machinery and equipment have been exempted from import duty and value-added tax (VAT).

Moreover, the Government of Guyana, with support from the IDB, implemented the Unserved Areas Electrification Programme (UAEP) during 2004-2010 to extend electricity to unserved areas. In addition, five (5) hinterland utilities were established to improve electricity access and there was a massive programme under the LCDS/Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund

(LCDS/GRIF) to provide additional solar photovoltaic systems to those communities without grid access during 2012-2015. Nearly 20,000 solar home systems have been distributed to over 200 hinterland and near-hinterland (rural) communities in all ten regions of Guyana. National electricity coverage has increased and access to modern fuels for cooking has improved over time, whilst the use of solid fuel for cooking has declined.

In 2016, His Excellency President David Granger, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, declared that, “The Government of Guyana will lead the way in transitioning towards greater renewable energy use. Every government building, including hospitals and schools will, within the next five years, be utilizing alternative sources of energy”. This declaration was followed by an unprecedented programme to install grid-connected solar panels on the rooftops of 70 public buildings and the installation of Guyana’s first Solar PV farm (400kW), totalling 1.36 megawatts (MW). The 2018 solar PV programme targets the installation of solar PV systems at 119 public buildings totalling 2.5 megawatts (MW) of installed capacity. The solar PV programmes were also implemented in tandem with an energy efficiency programme targeting the installation of LED lights and occupancy sensors in public buildings with about US\$7.7 million being allocated in the National Budget to finance the solar and energy efficiency Capital programmes since 2017.

Guyana will commission its first Solar PV Farm in Mabaruma, Region 1 with an installed capacity of 400kW in August 2018. Additionally, The Government of Guyana is expected to receive grant support from:

- i. Government of China for the installation of a 4MW Solar PV Farm at Onverwagt for the national grid; and
- ii. United Arab Emirates-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund (UAE-CREF) for the rehabilitation of the 0.7MW Moco-Moco Hydropower Station and/or Solar Hybrid PV Farm at Wakenaam.

Guyana has also been shortlisted and invited to submit a full proposal under the IRENA/ADFD Project Facility for the development of Solar PV Farms at six (6) locations in Guyana, totalling 5.2 MW. Guyana has also identified co-financing for this Project Facility through a soon-to-be-finalized loan with the IDB. Furthermore, plans are already advanced for two additional solar PV Farms and a wind farm for the national grid, and Guyana is also working with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to advance other solar PV initiatives.

Guyana, now a member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), is preparing a submission for support under India's Line of Credit, for the implementation of a solar PV programme targeting about 4MW of off-grid Solar PV with storage for hinterland communities and rural electrification to a value of US\$15 million. The IDB will finance the construction of a 0.15MW hydropower station at Kato, Region 7.

Additionally, the design and update of the feasibility study for a proposed 1 MW hydropower plant at Ikuribisi Falls, Region 7 for supply to the Bartica grid have also been completed, as well as a proposed 1.7 MW hydropower double system at the Kumu and Moco Moco Falls for Lethem and surrounding environs. If financing is available, the completion of these hydropower projects can be realised in less than four (4) years.

Natural gas could be available in the near future for use onshore Guyana and preliminary studies have indicated that Guyana can take advantage of this indigenous resource to meet its more immediate energy needs, presenting an almost immediate shift from imported heavy fuel oil to indigenous natural gas, a cleaner source of energy. A study is currently being undertaken to determine the feasibility of transporting and utilizing the natural gas produced offshore for electricity generation. Once deemed feasible, natural gas will be pursued as a transitional source of energy to meet current and projected demand growth projections.

Energy efficiency initiatives that have been executed include LED solar-powered street lights, distribution of energy efficient cook stoves, change-outs of inefficient lighting for street lamps, schools and other government buildings, replacement of defective photocells, energy assessments of public buildings to identify energy saving opportunities as well as on-going public education and awareness program such as Energy Month activities, workshops, seminars and presentations to schools, government institutions, private sector and non-government organisations.

Additionally, legislation has been amended to remove import duty and value-added tax (VAT) on compact fluorescent lamps and LED lamps to incentivize and motivate energy efficient behaviour. Several incentives have also been instituted to promote energy efficiency in the transport sector including tax exemption and tax reductions of newer vehicles with smaller engines, tax reductions for hybrid and electric vehicles, tax exemptions for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations and for transport biofuels. In addition, CARICOM has recently developed a Regional Energy Efficiency Building Code that would be adopted by member states.

Some of the limitations and constraints being faced by the GEA are:

- i. Financial resources;
- ii. Physical space;
- iii. Human resources (technical skills: preparation of feasibility studies and business cases, public private partnerships);

For Guyana, specific support is needed in the following areas:

- i. Technical support for renewable energy resource assessments and update of hydropower studies;
- ii. Technical support to design HFO-Diesel-Natural Gas-RE Hybrid systems;
- iii. Building of technical capacity to prepare feasibility studies and business models;
- iv. Grid integration studies, stability studies, and production cost analysis to develop the appropriate feed-in mechanisms;
- v. Economic and financial incentives to promote foreign direct investment and local private sector investment;
- vi. Integration of hybrid, electric and flex-fuel vehicles; and
- vii. Public awareness and education.

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

These are:

- i. Lack of disaggregated data;
- ii. Ease of access to census data; and
- iii. Sustainable and continuous reporting from stakeholders.

- **What national efforts and/or best practices are in place in domesticating Agenda 2030 and/or alignment with other global processes and agendas?**

Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015 at the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, Guyana joined with 193 other countries in setting out actions in their NDCs to collectively limit global temperature rise to 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

In the NDCs, we have committed to develop a mix of wind, solar, biomass and hydropower to supply both the demand of the national grid and the energy requirements for towns and villages in Guyana's hinterland. Notably, with adequate and timely financial support, we have given ourselves the ambitious target of achieving close to 100% renewable energy in the power sector by 2025. To support the transition from the use of imported fossil fuels towards indigenous and

renewable energy sources, the Government of Guyana is working to ensure that the appropriate enabling frameworks are in place.

Consequently, we have completed the first phase of updating our National Energy Policy which will be going through a series of public consultations during 2018 before finalization. The overall goals of the policy are to provide a stable, reliable, and economic supply of energy; reduce our dependency on imported fuels; promote, where possible, the increased utilisation of domestic resources; and ensure that energy is used in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner. The policy will therefore form the bedrock for addressing issues on energy access, energy security, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation.

The GSDS which articulates Guyana's long-term development agenda towards a green economy, provides the overarching framework in which the National Energy Policy will be integrated. One of the central themes of the strategy is the transition towards renewable energy and greater energy independence as the strategy also places significant emphasis on ensuring the full delivery of a modernised energy sector, with an increased mix of clean and renewable energy resources. The GSDS builds on the LCDS.

- **How have the institutions benefited from extra support in areas in partnerships, financing, capacity building, technology, data and statistics etc. If yes, has the support been effective?**

Guyana has been able to leverage support from development partners such as the UNDP and the IDB to develop policy documents, strategies, as well as implement energy projects. Also, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) is supporting Guyana in hydropower development through the provision of services from a resident hydropower expert and co-financing to construct a 20-kW hydropower plant at Hosororo, Region 1.

Additionally, other sources of support, namely Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (JCCCP) and the UK Government are financing the implementation of projects to install energy efficient street lights and solar powered LED street lights. Presently, the Government of Guyana is in the process of pursuing funding for energy projects from the European Investment Bank, Islamic Development Bank, UAE-Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund, International Renewable Energy Agency/Abu Dhabi Fund for Development and the GCF. There is need to develop a streamlined process from financial institutions to leverage concessional financing and access grant funding to address financial constraints.

The IDB remains an important development partner in the Energy Sector and is supporting Guyana's Sustainable Energy Programme. Guyana continues to work with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) to promote sustainable energy initiatives and improve energy data. For instance, ECLAC provided support for a study on the fiscal and regulatory barriers to deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in Guyana. Currently, the GEA and ECLAC, with the support of GIZ and the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), is currently developing a Database of Energy Efficiency Indicators (DIEE) for Guyana. GEA is also seeking support from ECLAC to execute feasibility study on electricity generation from rice husk and an Electric Vehicle Demonstration Project (using solar energy).

In addition, Guyana received support to implement a Rural Energy Project where solar powered freezers, solar PV Panels, solar fruit dryers and energy efficient cook stoves were installed in the villages of Powaikoru (Region 1), Moraikobai (Region 5) and Shulinab (Region 9). The GEA is also receiving support from OLADE and the Austrian Development Cooperation to implement energy efficiency initiatives under the second phase of the Latin America and the Caribbean Energy Efficiency Program (PALCEE).

Furthermore, the Caribbean Energy Statistics Capacity Enhancement Project, supported by OLADE and the World Bank aims to improve the capacity for planning and management of energy statistics in Guyana and four other Caribbean countries. The project, which is in line with Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) commitment to integrate with the OLADE Energy Information System (SIE-LAC), will provide resources to organise energy sector data, focusing on capacity and management of energy statistics and information systems. OLADE will provide technical support, training and the provision of technological infrastructure, as part of effort to promote regional and sub-regional energy integration.

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments?**

The ongoing studies and policy framework, mentioned earlier, will form the basis for delivering on sustainable development commitments. In addition to local personnel, GEA is receiving support from 2 specialists for solar energy and hydropower respectively. GEA plans to leverage technical and financial support from international financial institutions, donor agencies and

development partners to be able to implement projects and initiatives for sustainable energy development.

GEA prepares its annual report and energy statistics which tracks energy-related achievements. Additionally, as a member of the Latin American Energy Organisation (OLADE), GEA also supports the update of OLADE's Energy Information System for Latin America and the Caribbean (SIE-LAC) and preparation of Energy Statistics Yearbook. Other details can be found in the draft BUR (2018) under the UNFCCC.

- **Have partnerships played any role in supporting implementation of the SAMOA Pathway? How effective/durable have they been? If not, why? What are the challenges? What have been the lessons learned?**

The technical and financial support received from international donor agencies and development partners have led to the implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, including, the Sustainable Energy Programme funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, the JCCCP Energy Project funded by the UNDP and the Government of Japan, the Energy Efficiency Street Lighting Project and the Introduction of Renewable Energy and Improvement of Power System in Guyana Project funded by JICA and the Government of Japan.

The main challenge is ensuring sustainability in the long-term after the projects are implemented. It is important to:

- i. Ensure project ownership through in-kind contribution and community management structures;
- ii. Maintain consistent follow up with beneficiaries;
- iii. Create mechanisms for sufficient local finances e.g. revolving or community development fund;
- iv. Build capacity and training for locals; and
- v. Have consistent research and development.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnership if any?**

Civil society, youth and private sector have participated in the consultations to develop the Green State Development Strategy and have supported information dissemination activities. There is a growing interest in these strata of society to be more directly involved in the energy transition through the development policies and implementation of projects.

## 2.4 Priority Area 4: Disaster Risk Reduction

- **What national institutional structures/mechanisms are in place, if any?**
  - i. The National Disaster Risk Management Platform chaired by the Minister of State. Sub committees include the Technical Advisory Committee, Policy Level committee and the Secretariat based at the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) to monitor and evaluate the business of the Platform;
  - ii. Disaster Risk Management Policy;
  - iii. National Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan and Implementation Strategy;
  - iv. Early Warning System Framework;
  - v. National Emergency Operations Center for Response Operations of CDC; and
  - vi. National Emergency Monitoring System (NEMS) of CDC.

- **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**

### **Achievements**

- i. Draft Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Bill prepared for parliament;
- ii. Updated DRM functionalities with new structure and Chair;
- iii. Risk Assessments conducted and Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Plans developed for eight (8) communities with twenty (20) other communities identified as potential sites;
- iv. Regional Disaster Risk Management Systems in seven (7) administrative regions of Guyana;
- v. Risk Finance Mitigation & Recovery Plan; and
- vi. CDC's Volunteer Corps trained to function in many areas.

### **Challenges**

- i. Limited sectoral capacity to incorporate DRM with funding limitations;
- ii. Gender inequality and violence with financial constraints to implement community initiatives to reduce inequalities and build civil society;
- iii. Limited Land Use Planning coupled with lack of enforcement of Building Codes and limited Monitoring and Evaluation for impact; and

- iv. Financial constraints to replicate CBDRM initiatives, conduct Risk Assessments, strengthen the CDC Volunteer Corps, increase community outreach and strengthen the NEMS.

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

- i. Updated Population and Household data particularly for rural communities;
- ii. Recent imagery for day to day use in Google maps;
- iii. Data on vulnerable populations at risk to local disaster conditions; and
- iv. Weather Prediction and Forecasting.

- **What national efforts and/or best practices are in place in domesticating Agenda 2030 and/or alignment with other global processes and agendas?**

- i. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) aimed at building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters;
- ii. The SENDAI Framework endorsed by the UN in 2015 aimed at the substantial reduction of disaster losses among seven global targets; and
- iii. Guyana is a member state of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) aimed at reducing the risks and losses associated with natural and technological hazards and the effects of climate change.

- **How have the institutions benefited from extra support in areas in partnerships, financing, capacity building, technology, data and statistics etc. If yes, has the support been effective?**

The CDC has its personnel trained in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Environmental Resources Management (ERM), Incident Command Systems, Shelter Management, etc both locally and overseas. The organization has received support in the form of equipment and communications from various donors including CDEMA, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Catalogue of Federal Disaster Assistance (CFDA), United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), UNDP, CREWS, with more resources needed for an expanding role of the Commission.

The support received by the CDC has been effective in enabling the institution to carry out its mandate as the focal point for disaster management in Guyana

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments?**

The National Disaster Risk Management Platform has the capacity to provide oversight and review the progress of works at the CDC including its commitment to SDGs via the Monitoring and Evaluations Committee.

- **Have partnerships played any role in supporting implementation of the SAMOA Pathway? How effective/durable have they been? If not, why? What are the challenges? What have been the lessons learned?**

The work of the CDC in DRR directly supports the goals of the SAMOA Pathway that critical partnerships with UNDP, CDEMA, CREWS, and UNISDR have enabled. The support has produced policy guidance, legislative support, capacity building of the CDC and volunteers, risk assessments, DRR Plans, etc. Further collaboration was forged with FAO, OCC and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) to enhance and advance Agriculture Disaster Risk Management (ADRM) to improve resilience and adaptive capacity whilst ensuring food security.

The CDC has learnt that the support of the international organizations and donors is critical to the sustainability of initiatives like the SAMOA Pathway.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnership if any?**

The Volunteer Corps of the CDC is entirely from civil society that includes youths. The private sector has been extremely supportive of the work of the CDC and in response initiated by the Commission to disasters locally and in the Caribbean. The private sector donated items valued at G\$ 32,950,800 and raised cash by donations and other activities of G\$ 18, 248,193 for the Hurricane Affected Countries of the Caribbean in 2017.

In March 2018, the private sector donated water, food items, clothing, cleaning supplies and provided hot meals to the residents of communities of Uitvlugt and Stewartville affected by the overtopping of the sea defence at the West Coast of Demerara, Guyana in March 2018.

## 2.5 Priority Area 5: Oceans and Seas

### - **What national institutional structures/mechanisms are in place, if any?**

Oceans and seas is an area in Guyana that has its management and responsibility segregated based sector usage. There are no overarching Oceans and Seas Legislation that encompasses all the various uses of the resource. However, each sector that utilizes the resource has enshrined in their Act, some aspect of management of the sea or ocean, these include the MOPI: Sea Defence and Maritime Administration Department (MARAD) - Sea Defence Act of 1998 and Maritime Act of 1977, the Protected Areas Commission (PAC) – Protected Areas Act of 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA): Fisheries Department and the Mangrove Unit - Fisheries Act of 2002 and Forest Act of 2009, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Protection Act of 1996.

### - **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**

#### ➤ **Achievements**

Among the activities that the Guyana Maritime Administration Department (MARAD) within the MOPI is committed to fulfilling with respect to the SAMOA Pathway are:

- i. Community awareness programmes for safe use of the waterways as an aid to marine conservation and management;
- ii. In addressing the potential negative environmental impact on the marine and coastal ecosystems of Guyana posed by sunken vessels including oil leaks, we have engaged the services of salvage operators to remove wrecks;
- iii. We are addressing marine pollution through our compliance with the MARPOL Convention of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO);
- iv. The Coast Guard of the Guyana Defence Force has actively engaged in a partnership with the MARAD to enhance and implement the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels so as to effectively prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Institutional capacity-building at the appropriate levels is facilitated by the United States Coast Guard; and

- v. MARAD provides training and licensing for operators employed with Conservation International and the Mangrove Preservation Project which both have responsibility for reducing biodiversity loss in the marine environment.

➤ **Challenges/ Gaps**

- i. Absence of a Hydrographic Action Plan to provide an analysis of scientific data and an assessment of existing local capacity to craft the way forward in terms of improved hydrographic charting and data; and
- ii. Absence of a Marine Environmental Action Plan to provide analysis and define specific activities to meet environmental, scientific and sustainability priorities.

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

Numerous challenges exist with data management in general since very little data currently exists, particularly relating to the marine environment.

- **How has the institution benefited from extra support in areas of partnership, financing, capacity building, technology, data & statistics etc. If yes, has the support been effective?**

MARAD benefitted from training in hydrographic surveying through collaboration with the EPA and partnership with FUGRO. Further UNICEF and WWF are partnering with the PAC for the development of a biodiversity reserve and identification of a marine protected area. The FAO and UNDP are partnering with the MOA to implement ecosystem based management approaches for the management of resources (fishes) in the marine environment.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnerships if any?**

Civil society organisations such as Guyana Marine Turtle Society (GMTS), Fisherfolk Groups, youth groups such as Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN), and various private sector organisations continue to be important stakeholders that provide meaningful support to the various institutions regarding the management of the waterways.

## 2.6 Priority Area 6: Food Security and Nutrition

### - **What national institutional structures/mechanisms are in place, if any?**

Food production and nutrition in Guyana is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and its subsidiary agencies: National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA), Fisheries Unit, Mangrove Restoration Unit, Hydrometeorological Department, National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA), Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB) and Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO). At the highest level, of the structure is the Inter-Ministerial Committee Chaired by Minister of Agriculture and comprised of Ministers of Health, Education, Agriculture and Business. This committee gives political direction by making policy decisions and reporting to the President and parliament regarding progress towards achieving food security targets.

At the second level is the National Food and Security Forum (NFSF) which comprises stakeholders of public sector, private sector, civil society and the donor community. They function to provide strategic information and assistance on both policy and programme dimensions of achieving food and nutrition security.

At the third level, the National Technical Coordinating Unit (NTCU) comprising governmental and non-governmental stakeholders that have the responsibility for implementation of programmes and actions.

At the lowest level is the Regional and Community Food and Nutrition Security Forum (RCFNSF) in each of the ten administrative regions of Guyana, which comprises stakeholders of the public sector, private sector, civil society and the donor community.

### - **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**

#### ➤ **Achievements:**

- i. Guyana is self-sufficient in food production;
- ii. Successfully completed the Adaptation Development Programme which resulted in the streamlining of the crops and livestock subsectors, for enhanced delivery of agricultural support services;
- iii. Completed a Disaster Risk Management Plan for the agricultural sector (2013-2018); and
- iv. Completed a Food and Nutrition Security Strategy for Guyana.

➤ **Challenges**

- i. To address segments of the population who make poor food choices and have unhealthy eating practices; and
- ii. To address the problem in hinterland communities, where there is greater consumption of foods that are not produced in the community.

➤ **Gaps**

- i. A mechanism to address the growing food import trend especially in urban and peri-urban areas.

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

- i. A robust mechanism to collect real time and geo-referenced datasets; and
- ii. A mechanism to identify drivers of foreign food imports.

- **What national efforts and/or best practices are in place in domesticating Agenda 2030 and/or alignment with other global processes and agendas?**

- i. The National Strategy for Agriculture in Guyana 2013-2020 outlines a roadmap to ensure that Guyana achieves its ambitions as a food and nutrition secure nation, and as a major contributor to Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) within CARICOM; and
- ii. Other strategies, plans and policies outside the above mentioned documents that are guiding national development and that are in the areas of FAO's mandate, include the National Nutrition Strategy, Guyana NCD Strategic Plan 2013-2020, Draft National Youth Policy 2015, Draft Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan, and Disaster Risk Management Plan for the Agriculture Sector 2013-2020.

- **How has the institution benefited from extra support in areas of partnership, financing, capacity building, technology, data & statistics etc. If yes, has the support been effective?**

- i. Training of women and men to influence programmes and policy decision-making in their communities;
- ii. Building institutional responsiveness and accountability;
- iii. Ensuring that rural women and men can take up economic opportunities to improve their individual and household well-being; and

- iv. Provide both women and men with an enabling environment to exercise choices and transform them into desired actions and outcomes.

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments?**

- i. There is need to establish regional and national structures to provide an organisational framework for widespread stakeholder involvement in M & E.

- **Have partnerships played any role in supporting implementation of the SAMOA Pathway?**

- i. How effective/durable have they been? If not, why?
  - a. Effective and durable.
- ii. What are the challenges?
  - a. Duplication of efforts.
- iii. What have been the lessons learnt?
  - a. Difficulty of gaining consumer buy-in for newly introduced substituted food commodity.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnerships if any?**

They are all part of the institutional framework.

## 2.7 Priority Area 7: Water and Sanitation

### - **What national institutional structures/mechanisms are in place, if any?**

The institutional responsibility for the management of Water and Sanitation in Guyana has been fragmented, with responsibilities shared among various national institutions. These include the Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI), the Hydrometeorological Department for the hydrology infrastructure, and the MOA for irrigation water. The merger of the Ministry of Housing and Water Ministry, and the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development to form the Ministry of Communities (MOC) in 2015, with the mandate to build cohesive, empowered and sustainability, brought together much of the responsibilities for water and sanitation under one national institution. The GWI, which has the mandate to provide access to potable water, is an agency under the MOC. The Local Democratic Organs (LDOs) bearing responsibility of local and regional development and management are integral in the management of household sanitation, also falls under the MOC. Although embryonic, this institutional structure offers greater focus and collaboration in the delivery of water and sanitation services. Other agencies continue to bear some form of responsibility; the EPA for pollution emanating from various waste streams. However, continuous review of the current institutional structure that governs water supply and sanitation are ongoing. A national long-term goal is the establishment an effective institutional structure that will see an integrated, sustainable approach to the development, management and delivery of adequate water and sanitation services.

GWI is currently implementing a Strategic Plan for the period 2017 to 2021 which is aligned with the SDGs, Government of Guyana's Green agenda and the aim for sustainable communities.

### - **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**

#### ➤ **Achievements**

Guyana has made significant strides in improving coverage to safe water supply. Already boasting a national average of 98% water supply coverage, ongoing programs saw a number of communities gaining access to a safe water supply for the first time in recent years. This was achieved through an aggressive program by GWI to expand and improve water supply services nationwide. GWI is currently working to improved reliability of water supply systems, increased hours of service to 24 hours daily, increased capacity for construction supervision, design of water treatment plants and drilling of wells.

Specific attention since 2015 was directed to reducing the unserved gap. Improving the quality of water supplied and service standards attracted attention and saw significant improvements. Efforts targeting water quality improvement resulted in a number of water treatment plants being constructed, and the adaptation of other innovative technological solutions to improve the quality of water at the point of use. Similarly, water supply service standard and reliability of supply increased in a number of areas, advancing the development of water supply in Guyana. Investment in the water sector remains constant with both international development partners and the Government of Guyana demonstrating commitment to improving access to safe water supply. However, much of the national developmental ambitions of the water sector, particularly to meet quality measures in keeping with World Health Organisation (WHO) standards for drinking water, are curtailed due to the lack of available resources. The aggressive measures needed are often repressed through annual budgetary limitations and inadequate technical capacity. It is estimated that billions of dollars in investments is still required to meet the goal of universal access to a safe water supply, given that much of the existing infrastructure is beginning to show signs of aging.

On the other hand, sanitation access has not been aggressively pursued on a national level as with water supply. Improving access to an adequate sanitation facility is still commonly viewed as a private matter to be borne by the household. Gradual progress in sanitation development is being made, such as persons moving away from the use of poorly functioning pit latrines and adopting the efficient septic tanks as their sanitation facility. Increased attention by the government in recent years saw a number of households being assisted to convert their non-functional pit latrines to septic tanks, a programme commissioned by the Government of Guyana with support from its international development partners. Access to adequate sanitation coverage remains at an alarmingly low rate as compared to water supply and has not gotten similar national attention and investment. Additionally, the value of investment in sanitation to improve the condition at the household level remains low. To achieve the target set for sanitation improvement under the SDGs would require increased recognition by the national government, and the development of dedicated policies that will result in increased funding and long-term commitment for sanitation development. Despite the correlation between proper sanitation and the impact of national developmental goals of the Government has been politically recognised, the related actions needed to transform the sector have not yet been commissioned.

➤ **Challenges/Gaps**

- i. Challenges include access to capital funds to achieve the objectives set out in the Strategic Plan, access to hinterland communities to manage and maintain the water supply systems and bring improvements;
- ii. GWI has a billing system that requires upgrading or replacement as it often causes customer dissatisfaction;
- iii. Behaviour and culture to waste disposal, sanitation, and water usage are major challenges;
- iv. Huge water losses from leaks and theft are major concerns; and
- v. There is also a challenge with access to potable water in the hinterland as there is limited knowledge relating to the presence of groundwater in these areas.

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

A lack of water and sanitation specific data continues to challenge the development and design of effective water and sanitation improvement programmes. Data on the extent of the unserved population remains limited. The number of households/persons utilising inadequate water supply and sanitation facilities, particularly within the various developmental regions is generally lacking. Currently, development planning relies on data from National Housing and Population Censuses and other population centric surveys such as the UN Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), which does not often provide the true extent of the gaps and service standards. Sector specific data would significantly aid in (a) developing a better understanding of the national water and sanitation status, (2) raising awareness to the need for urgent actions, (3) securing political buy-in and (4) mobilising resources for the development and design of improvement programs.

- **What national efforts and/or best practices are in place in domesticating Agenda 2030 and/or alignment with other global processes and agendas?**

One of the goals of the Government of Guyana is providing a 'good life' to each citizen, for which access to safe water and proper sanitation are elements of the good life. For this reason, national development plans, to some extent, align improvements in water and sanitation to a number of its goals. Efforts are continually being made to bring water and sanitation issues to the forefront

of national developmental discourses. Development of institutional and technical capacities beyond the national level, particularly at the regional and local levels, is currently the primary strategy being employed by the MOC. This approach is seen as a means to encourage and promote local ownership for developmental and management of critical service areas, such as sanitation. Increasing awareness to the SDGs and highlighting the links between national development plans and the SDGs has been one of the primary tools used in domesticating the Agenda 2030. Collaborating with international developmental partners to establish development frameworks that align national development priorities and global agendas has been effective in forging sustainable national development plans that will see the achievement of key elements of the 2030 Agenda.

- **How has the institution benefited from extra support in areas of partnerships, financing, capacity building, technology, data and statistics etc. If yes, has the support been effective?**

The water and sanitation sectors continue to benefit from the support of a number of international and local development partners. Support over the years has been in the form of technical corporations, grants, technical exchanges, technology transfer, loans, community interventions and other forms of partnerships. Several partnerships have been established in recent years to examine the strengthening of key elements of the water and sanitation sector. However, the key partners involved in the water and sanitation sector remain relatively constant, with no new relationships being develop in recent years. Limited attention has been given to reducing the data availability gap in favour of the installation of physical infrastructure, which is more visible and appealing. There is therefore insufficient data available to make the decisions that would result in the sector attracting the political attention and investment support needed to close the institutional and service gaps that exist. The support received thus far has been effective in their respective objectives.

GWJ is currently benefitting from partnerships with the IDB, CDB, European Union (EU). There is also partnership agreement with the Suriname Water Company to exchange information and technology and a with a non-governmental organization in Holland to provide technical services, advice, training and support in specified areas. These forms of support continue to prove to be very effective in GWJ improvements.

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments?**

Although no national framework or institutional arrangement has been established to date to monitor sustainable development commitments for water and sanitation, GWI has in operation in excess of 120 water wells and 24 water treatment plants, and maintains information relating to the production and level of service from these facilities. GWI monitors the achievement of the targets set out in the current Strategic Plan every 6 months with the use of specific performance indicators.

- **Have partnerships played any role in supporting implementation of the SAMOA Pathway? How effective/durable have they been? If not, why? What are the challenges? What have been the lessons learned?**

Partnerships remain one of the cornerstones of water and sanitation development in Guyana. Support for the water and sanitation sector over the years have been in many forms and in collaboration with a number of parties. However, partnerships with other regional SIDS have been weak as a result of a number of inherent challenges within Guyana's water and sanitation sector. One of the main challenges in the development of partnerships is the absence of clear water and sanitation sector development strategy to inform and facilitate the development of long-term partnerships to move the sector forward. The progress needed to meet the goals of the water and sanitation sector in Guyana requires long-term commitment and partnerships, as opposed to the project-based short-term relationships that currently exist. Many of the short-term interventions record minimal long-term success due to the lack of sustainability.

The inability of the sector to address new complexities of the sector, such as the impact of climate change, which now promotes consideration for building sector resilience, have weakened potential partnerships. Clear national priorities for the development of the water and sanitation sector are needed to secure and sustain developmental partnerships.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnerships if any?**

In years past, involvement of civil society, youth and private sector in water and sanitation programming has been limited. More consideration is being given to the involvement of civil society in the planning, development and monitoring of water supply and sanitation infrastructure development projects. The private sector remains an elusive party in the water

and sanitation improvement efforts given the perceived lack of return on investment and the model of water and sanitation services employed in Guyana.

GWI has been forging partnerships with indigenous communities in execution of improvement projects and this has proven successful. GWI partners with the private sector for the supply of goods and services. Although this has proven successful, it has resulted in an increase in cost in some cases, such as drilling of new wells.

## **2.8 Priority Area 8: Sustainable Transportation**

- **What national institutional structures/mechanisms are in place, if any?**

Although the MOPI is responsible for the transport sector, there are no institutional structures/mechanisms currently in place for the provision of Sustainable Transportation.

- **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**

Some challenges and gaps do exist such the absence of the necessary legislation to support the attainment of sustainable transportation for land, maritime and air transport. Additionally, the absence of clear policies or guidelines and the institutions to set targets, regulate and monitor the attainment of goals and targets, further stymie the efforts to achieve our sustainable transportation goals.

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

At the level of sustainable urban transportation, the MOPI with funding from IDB recently conducted a diagnosis of the urban transportation challenges and gaps and has a considerable number of recommendations to act on to improve the status of urban transportation in Georgetown.

- **How has the institution benefited from extra support in areas of partnerships, financing, capacity building, technology, data & statistics etc. If yes, has the support been effective?**

Guyana has benefitted from partnerships in terms of attracting foreign funds (loans) to execute major projects e.g. The Sustainable Urban Transportation Study for Georgetown was funded by the IDB; In 2005 the EU funded a comprehensive Transport Sector Study for Guyana and many other donor agencies are funding the implementation of projects aimed at improving the physical infrastructure of Guyana.

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments?**

There is an absence of a particular systems to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments, however, the Central Transport and Planning Unit (CTPU) of the MOPI overlooks most processes and is currently best geared, albeit with limited capacity, for monitoring and reporting of the sustainable development commitments.

- **Have partnerships played any role in supporting implementation of the SAMOA Pathway? How effective/durable have they been? If not, why? What are the challenges? What have been the lessons learned?**

Partnerships with the private sector and NGOs are key to the development of the sustainable transport agenda. Every sustainable transport programme takes into account the needs, demands and aspirations of the private sector and other stakeholders.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnerships if any?**

These three stakeholder groups form a critical part of the stakeholder consultations/ engagement conducted by the MOPI during the execution of any project or assessment. The concerns expressed inform the strategies, studies, assessments, and projects.

## 2.9 Priority Area 9: Sustainable Consumption and Production

- **What national institutional structures/mechanisms are in place, if any?**
  - i. The Agriculture Export Diversification Programme, Rural Enterprise Agricultural Development Programme, and Rural Agricultural Infrastructural programme.
  - ii. Grow More Food campaign, back yard gardening, and
  - iii. Seed distribution to farmers and wider population.
  
- **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**
  - **Achievements**
    - i. Guyana is self-sufficient in food produce; and
    - ii. Development of agreements for access to, and successful testing of high yielding germplasm.
  - **Challenges**
    - i. High cost of inputs;
    - ii. Insufficient drainage and irrigation infrastructure; and
    - iii. Inadequate laboratory facilities to support food commodity chains.
  - **Gaps**
    - i. To identify additional commodities for which Guyana has a competitive advantage in order to secure overseas markets and earn foreign exchange; and
    - ii. The level to which vulnerable groups are able to utilize resources in the production of consumable and marketable produce owing to the absence of basic and social services.
  
- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**
  - i. Lack of knowledge of available overseas markets, and mechanism for access of local produce;
  - ii. Poor knowledge of local production and consumption of local produce; and
  - iii. Absence of a dedicated unit for collating and analysis of production and consumption data.

- **What national efforts and/or best practices are in place in domesticating Agenda 2030 and/or alignment with other global processes and agendas?**

The UN system in collaboration with Guyana is in the process of formulating a Country Sustainable Development Framework. This framework document will serve as a response of the UN system in the Caribbean and replaces the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) country approach.

- **How has the institution benefited from extra support in areas of partnership, financing, capacity building, technology, data & statistics etc. If yes, has the support been effective?**

Initiatives such as the fish-rice cultivation project implemented with assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) provided an opportunity for farmers to increase and diversify their income source.

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments?**

There is need to establish regional and national structures to provide an organisational framework for widespread stakeholder involvement in Monitoring and Evaluation.

- **Have partnerships played any role in supporting implementation of the SAMOA pathway?**

- How effective/durable have they been? If not, why?
  - ii. Effective and durable.
- What are the challenges?
  - iii. Duplication of efforts.
- What have been the lessons learnt?
  - i. Difficulty of gaining consumer buy-in for newly introduced substituted food commodity.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnerships if any?**

They are all part of the institutional framework.

## **2.10 Priority Area 10: Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste**

### **What national institutional structures/mechanisms are in place, if any?**

**The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** – the Focal Point and Competent Authority for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal. Guyana acceded to the Convention on April 04, 2001. The Convention was entered into force three months later on July 03, 2001. Guyana, through the EPA is required to do the following:

1. Receive the notification of a transboundary movement of hazardous waste or other waste, and any information related to it, and for responding to such information, and
2. Receive and submit information as required in Articles 13 (Transmission of Information) and 16 (Secretariat) of the Obligations of the Basel Convention.

**The Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste Management) Regulation 2000** requires any operation/facility that generates, transports, treats, stores or disposes of a hazardous waste to apply for Environmental Authorization. Further, every project/operation that is authorized by the Agency and generates or stores hazardous materials/waste is required to establish and maintain a hazardous material register. This information should be submitted in the Environmental Annual Report; a condition under the authorization.

**Through the EP Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana Part V; Prevention and Control of Pollution**, the Agency regularizes the management of solid and liquid waste generated by project/activity requiring Environmental Authorization.

**The Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000**, establishes that every person who discharges or causes or permits to discharge effluent shall be managed by the Agency. The regulation speaks to restricted discharge as well as discharges exempted from regulations.

**Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board, Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)** - The Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCB) is the national institution for the management of pesticides and toxic chemicals as is defined by the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Act 2000 and its associate Regulations 2004.

The Board is tasked with responsibility for licensing, registration, training, inspection and enforcement, and executes these activities with the aim of ensuring sound chemicals management in Guyana; reduce human health and environment risk, and food safety in agriculture production.

- **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**

➤ **Achievements**

Regarding the implementation of Basel Convention – Constant export of hazardous waste/materials to countries within the Basel Convention for resource recovery or final disposal. In 2016-2017 a total of 14 Notification Documents were prepared for export of 923, 100 tons of hazardous materials/waste including Used Lead Acid Batteries (ULAB), E- Waste and heavy fuel (Sludge).

Via the Environmental Protection (Hazardous Waste) Regulations 2000, the Agency authorized exporters of Hazardous Materials/Waste. Guyana currently has four (4) active exporters.

Development of legislation for the implementation of the Basel Convention – Since 2001, the EPA has drafted Regulations to fulfil the obligation of Article 4 (4) of the text of the Basel Convention which states “Each Party shall take appropriate legal, administrative and other measures to implement and enforce the provisions of this convention, including measures to prevent and punish conduct in contravention of the Convention”.

The Environmental Protection (Transit and Export of Hazardous Wastes) Regulations, 2016, was recently finalized at the level of the EPA, and dispatched to the EPA Board for review and comments. In implementing this Regulation, a mechanism also needs to be established for the development of applicable fees and accompanying application forms and permits.

Under the Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations, 2000, funds were obtained through the Canadian High Commission (Canada Fund for Local Initiatives Project) to facilitate testing to contribute to the revision of the interim guidelines for effluent discharge. This project commences in June 2018.

Under the Pesticide and Toxic Chemical Control Act 2000

- i. Comprehensive registration scheme for pesticides and toxic chemicals;
- ii. Licensing of all pesticides and toxic chemicals imported and used in Guyana;
- iii. Training and education awareness programmes:

- a. Community outreach programmes,
  - b. Farmer & farmworkers training,
  - c. Pesticide storage cabinet distribution, training and evaluation survey,
  - d. Agriculture extension officers,
  - e. Customs and trade administration officers,
  - f. Students in technical institutions,
  - g. Launched Vendors Education Programme,
  - h. PCOs Basic & Intermediate Proficiency Training,
  - i. Environmental Health Officers;
- iv. Inspection and enforcement of all post registration parameters for pesticides and toxic chemicals; and
  - v. Analysis of pesticides products and pesticides residues in food.

➤ **Challenges and Gaps**

- i. Minimal collaboration with GRA's Customs Department- The importance of border control in combating illegal traffic of hazardous wastes cannot be over emphasized. Although the Agency may implement mechanisms for regulating the process, the Customs Authority plays a critical role in ensuring that the requisite procedures and documents are correctly followed. Further, such officials must be able to recognize instances of possible illegal shipments of hazardous wastes, and flag such and alert the relevant authority. There still exists the need for education, awareness and closer collaboration with Customs Authority so that requirements of the Basel Convention may be fulfilled. Nevertheless, the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) has made it a requirement that the EPA stamps and signs the C72 Customs forms when hazardous wastes are to be exported;
- ii. Absence of national legal instrument for regulating hazardous wastes exports- The EPA, as far as practical, attempts to regulate the export of hazardous wastes as a means of implementing the requirements of the Basel Convention. However, the Regulations currently existing within the National Framework do not adequately capture the requirements of the Convention. The Environmental Protection (Export and Transit of Hazardous Wastes) Regulations 2016, seeks to establish a legal framework to regulate both the export and transit of hazardous wastes. This would therefore mean that

developers will require, in addition to consent from importing or transit states, export and transit permits for the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes;

- iii. Equipment for testing - The Agency's equipment for water quality testing is obsolete or non-functional. Currently, the Agency is only able to test for turbidity. As such, any water quality sampling has to be outsourced which comes at an additional cost;
- iv. Centralization of the EPA - The EPA is currently located only in Georgetown. This at times hampers the response time for investigations related to water pollution;
- v. Enforcement capacity - The Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05 establishes ranges for fines based on breaches/pollution, however, this is done based on summary conviction in court;
- vi. Empty pesticides container management mechanism; and
- vii. Traceability for agricultural produce from farms to market to support effective and efficient residue monitoring.

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

- i. Lack of data for National Reporting-the annual questionnaire for the transmission of information requests data regarding hazardous wastes generated and exported. However, there is limited data concerning the generation of hazardous wastes in Guyana. Although the EPA collects such data using the Reporting and Record-Keeping Form for Hazardous Wastes, the level of reporting compliance by developers is poor. A Hazardous Waste Inventory Survey for Guyana was conducted in 2008 which provided detailed information regarding the generation of hazardous wastes in Guyana. The export of hazardous wastes however, is captured through the use of the notification and movement documents;
- ii. Access and management of water quality data: Water quality data is submitted in documents such as EIA's annual reports and can be obtained from various research studies conducted in Guyana. The Agency currently has no database to store and manage the data, and as such, analysis for reporting purposes is difficult; and
- iii. Pesticide poisoning incidents for reporting under the Rotterdam Convention.

- **What national efforts and/or best practices are in place in domesticating Agenda 2030 and/or alignment with other global processes and agendas?**

Initiatives being implemented are in keeping with ensuring sound management of chemicals in keeping with Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) 2020 goals and chemicals and waste agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals. These include:

- i. Development of a National Empty Pesticides Container Management;
- ii. Development of a National Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for chemical incidences;
- iii. Prevention of accumulation of obsolete pesticides;
- iv. Inclusions of chemicals risk to human health and environment in academic curriculum (secondary schools, Guyana School of Agriculture);
- v. Reduction in use of highly hazardous pesticides; and
- vi. Integrated pest management practices and integrated vector management practices.

- **How has the institution benefited from extra support in areas of partnerships, financing, capacity building, technology, data & statistics etc. If yes, has the support been effective?**

The PTCCB has benefited significantly in the area of strengthening the regulatory system and bridging the science gap towards sound chemicals management. The National Inter-Ministerial, Inter-Agency Steering Committee on pesticides management has supported the work of the PTCCB in policy development and implementation.

The FAO, GEF, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, SAICM and Coordinating Group of Pesticides Control Boards of the Caribbean (CGPC) have also supported the PTCCB in meeting capacity building needs, technology transfer, infrastructural development, data access and development tools. This support has been integral in driving chemicals management forward in Guyana and have been effective.

Political will and support from Government must be recognized since none of the above would have been possible without acknowledging government's commitment to achieving sound chemicals management in Guyana.

The EPA has not benefited from extra support with regards to waste management including Hazardous Waste.

- i. Funds were obtained through the Canadian High Commission (Canada Fund for Local Initiatives Project) to facilitate testing to contribute to the revision of the interim guidelines for effluent discharge. This project commences in June 2018, and

- ii. Training has been facilitated by Exxon Mobil in incident command systems and oil spill response to address the emerging oil and gas sector.

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments?**

In accordance with Article 13 (3), before the end of each calendar year, Parties are required to transmit through the Secretariat, to the Conference of Parties, a report on the previous calendar year, information related to designated Competent Authorities and Focal Points, transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, measures adopted by Parties in implementation of the Convention, statistical information on effects on human health and the environment of the generation, transportation and disposal of hazardous and other wastes, information concerning bilateral or multilateral agreements, etc. Since 2013, Guyana has been submitting National Reports using the Electronic Reporting System.

For the PTCCB, annual reporting to Government, the Conventions and other chemicals agreements on the chemicals and waste agenda are also enshrined also in the SDGs.

- **Have partnerships played any role in supporting implementation of the SAMOA Pathway? How effective/durable have they been? If not, why? What are the challenges? What have been the lessons learned?**

Partnerships continue to play an important part in the implementation of the chemicals and waste agenda within the SAMOA pathway. However, there are opportunities lost as well since Guyana is not always fitted into the SIDS agenda as a SIDS country.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnerships if any?**

Much of the achievements of the PTCCB is conducted through Public Private Partnership and civil society support who are also members of the Steering Committee on Pesticides Management. We recognize the importance of partnership with these groups in order to achieve the sound chemicals management agenda.

## **2.11 Priority Area 11: Health and Non-Communicable Diseases**

### ***- What national institutional structures/mechanisms are in place if any?***

The Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), Guyana is a governmental ministry which is funded primarily by Government of Guyana and in part by donor funding from various entities (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), USAID, CDC, Global Fund, Guyana Diabetes Care Project, Bloomberg Tobacco Free Initiative) and receives technical cooperation support from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/WHO.

The MOPH is responsible for the development and implementation of national health policies which govern all public and private health institutions across the country. This in turn is sustained through government funding by the MOC peripherally. All services at the public health facilities are free of cost to the public. These services include:

- i. Access to maternal and child health care which include all vaccines for the prevention of childhood communicable diseases (mumps, measles, rubella, meningococcal infections, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus);
- ii. Dental services (cleaning, extractions, fillings, maxillofacial interventions);
- iii. Environmental health services;
- iv. Rehabilitation services (physiotherapy, orthotics, prosthetic);
- v. Access to diagnosis and treatment for chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic lung diseases, violence and injuries) inclusive of mental health services; and
- vi. Access to diagnosis and treatment for communicable diseases (zoonotic infections, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, leprosy and other skin disorders and vector borne diseases such as malaria, dengue, Zika etc.

There are 5 levels of care in the public health sector:

- i. Level 1: Health Posts;
- ii. Level 2: Health Centres;
- iii. Level 3: Polyclinics;
- iv. Level 4: Regional Hospital's; and
- v. Level 5: National Referral Hospitals/ teaching hospitals.

Drugs and medical supplies are procured centrally and then distributed to the peripheries using the Combined Requisition Internal Voucher (CRIV) from the Materials Management Unit which

is located centrally. Procurement is done using established government financial rules and mechanisms protocols.

- **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**

➤ **Achievements**

- i. Clinics for chronic NCDs established at approximately 80% of all health facilities across Guyana;
- ii. Essential medicine list which caters extensively for management of NCDs;
- iii. Continued Medical Education sessions which caters for updated information as it relates to chronic NCD;
- iv. Establishment of a Chronic Disease Unit at the MOPH which deals with policies development and implementation regarding the response to NCDs;
- v. Collaboration between non-governmental and intergovernmental agencies for improved efforts in the responses to tackle NCDs;
- vi. Development and implementation of the chronic disease medical record and healthy lifestyle passport to improve data collection;
- vii. Passage of the Tobacco Control Act to monitor the use of tobacco and protect against second hand smoking;
- viii. Establishment of a working group to develop the treatment guidelines for Sickle Cell Anaemia and Thalassemia;
- ix. Establishment of a national commission on the prevention and control of NCDs in Guyana;
- x. Completion of four rounds of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey which monitors the use of tobacco in youths;
- xi. Completion of the Stepwise Approach to Chronic Disease Risk Factor Surveillance;
- xii. Bloomberg Tobacco Free Kids Grant to implement and enforce the Tobacco Control Act
- xiii. Establishment of a diabetic retinopathy centre to screen and treat diabetic retinopathy which is the leading cause of blindness in diabetic patients;
- xiv. Introduction of the Hepatitis Vaccine in an effort to prevent liver cancers;
- xv. Introduction of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine to prevent cervical cancer (in collaboration with maternal child health);
- xvi. Establishment of seven (7) diabetic foot centres to screen and treat foot ulcers in diabetic patients;

- xvii. Establishment of a VIA (Visual Inspection via acetic acid) to screen and treat pathological lesions in a bid for prevention and early detection of cervical cancers;
- xviii. Establishment of the Sponsor A child program to provide free insulin, insulin delivery systems and blood testing supplies for children with diabetes mellitus;
- xix. Formulation of a national strategy to guide the scope of work of the chronic disease unit;
- xx. Production of a 10-year cancer profile in Guyana; and
- xxi. Costing of the care for diabetes and hypertension in Guyana.

➤ **Challenges and Gaps**

- i. Need for an established administrative structure to guide the human resource development of the Chronic Disease Unit;
- ii. No active cancer control and prevention plan exists in the country;
- iii. Limited financial resources to offset expenses to ensure maximum output in treatment and care for patients with chronic NCDs;
- iv. Gaps in human resource development and sustainability of the same;
- v. Frequent stock outs of drugs and medical supplies for NCDs;
- vi. Standard Treatment Guidelines for primary health care do not have updated treatment protocols for NCDs;
- vii. Access to health care in hinterland regions; and
- viii. Lack of appropriate infrastructure to execute the daily functions of the unit which include but are not limited to transportation and communication services (internet, telephone lines).

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

There is the avid need for more research to be conducted in Guyana to enable development and implementation of better structured policies to govern health care in Guyana with respect to the ethnic, cultural, demographic and socioeconomic disposition of the population.

Whilst there is national surveillance unit which carries out passive surveillance, there do exist challenges in receiving the reports in a timely manner from the peripheral regions. This is due in part to transportation, communication and lack of trained staff to collect and compile the reports.

Data from vital registries are not fully updated due to a backlog in the entering of data. The information captured by the vital registries is not fully comprehensive and there exists a need to have these reviewed and restructured.

- **What national efforts and or best practices are in place in domesticating Agenda 2030 and or alignment with other global processes and agendas?**

In an effort to achieve the SDGs, the country has been aggressively working to implement the NCDs Best Buys as outlined by the WHO. Best Buys are evidence-based practices which are very cost effective and have been shown to produce optimum results. These Best Buys include:

i. Reduce Tobacco Use

- a. Increase excise taxes and prices on tobacco products (not catered for in the Tobacco Control Act);
- b. Implement plain packaging and or large graphic health warnings on tobacco packages (in place);
- c. Ban tobacco advertising, sponsorship and promotions (in place);
- d. Warn about the harms of smoking/tobacco use and second-hand smoke through mass media campaigns (in place); and
- e. Provide tobacco cessation programs (not in place);

ii. Reduce harmful use of alcohol

- a. Increase excise taxes on alcohol products (not in place);
- b. Ban or restrict alcohol advertising (not in place);
- c. Restrict physical availability of retailed alcohol;
- d. Enact and enforce drink-driving laws and blood alcohol concentration limits (partially in place); and
- e. Provide psychosocial intervention for persons with hazardous and harmful alcohol use;

iii. Promote healthy diet

- a. Reduce salt intake by:
  - Product reformulation and setting targets for the amount of salt in foods and meals (not in place);
  - Providing lower sodium options in public institutions (not in place); and

- Promoting behaviour change through mass media campaigns (in place Food Based Dietary Guidelines);
  - b. Ban trans-fats in the food chain (not in place); and
  - c. Raise taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages to reduce sugar consumption (not in place);
- iv. Promote physical activity
  - a. Promote physical activity with mass media campaigns and other community-based education, motivational and environmental programs (partially in place); and
  - b. Provide physical activity counselling and referral as part of routine primary health care (not in place);
- v. Diabetes
  - a. Offer glycemetic control for patients with diabetes (in place);
  - b. Provide preventive foot care for people with diabetes (in place); and
  - c. Screen diabetes patients for retinopathy and provide laser photocoagulation to prevent blindness (in place);
- vi. Cardiovascular Diseases
  - a. Provide drug therapy and counselling for eligible persons at high risk to prevent heart attacks and stroke (partially in place);
  - b. Treat new cases of acute myocardial infarction with either aspirin and clopidogrel or thrombolysis or primary percutaneous coronary interventions (only aspirin in place);
  - c. Treat acute ischaemic stroke with intravenous thrombolytic therapy (partially in place); and
  - d. Prevent rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease by increasing treatment for streptococcal pharyngitis at primary health care level and developing a register for patients who receive regular prophylactic penicillin (partially in place);
- vii. Cancer
  - a. Prevent cervical cancer by:
    - Vaccinating girls aged 9-13 years against HPV (in place); and

- Screening women aged 30-49 years with the Pap smear or HPV test, or visual inspection via acetic acid (in place);
- b. Provide breast cancer screening for women aged 50-69 years with mammography linked to timely diagnosis and treatment for cancer (not in place, no public-sector imaging services available for diagnosis of cancers);
- c. Provide surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment for cancers (partially in place); and
- d. Provide home-based and hospital-based palliative care services (very limited);

viii. Chronic Respiratory Diseases

- a. Provide symptomatic relief for patients with asthma and for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases with inhaled salbutamol (in practice); and
- b. Provide treatment for patients with asthma, using low dose inhaled beclomethasone and short acting beta agonist (in place);

- **How has the institution benefitted from extra support in areas of partnerships, financing, capacity building, technology, data and statistics etc. If yes, has the support been effective.**

➤ **Partnerships.**

Due to partnerships, many areas which include financing, data, statistics and capacity building have been established and sustained.

➤ **Capacity building**

- i. With help from the International Diabetes Federation and the Guyana Diabetes Association, there has been a certified training session for health care providers in the management of patients with Type I Diabetes Mellitus;
- ii. With collaborative efforts from the PAHO, there has been the development of a 10-year cancer profile and subsequently training for health care providers on the staging, diagnosis and management of common cancers;
- iii. The implementation of the chronic care collaborative model has evolved in having trainers all across Guyana to train other providers on the use of the chronic care model and the healthy lifestyles passports;
- iv. The training curriculum for the diabetes foot care has been established and is sustained by the Chronic Disease Unit of the MOPH which has seen over 400 health care providers being trained in diabetic foot care across Guyana;

- v. The training curriculum for Visual Inspection Via Acetic Acid is another one that is sustained and consequently has seen over 135 providers in 21 centres across Guyana providing screening and treatment to women in the quest to prevent and detect cervical cancer in early stages; and
- vi. The Community Leaders in Health training program seeks the involvement of Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) and other agencies to train laymen in the basic knowledge of NCDs especially risk factor modification techniques which may aid in the reduction of onset of NCDs in the vulnerable persons.

➤ **Technology**

- i. Partnership with the World Diabetes Federation (WDF), The University of Toronto, ORBIS, WONDOOR has seen the development of a global health information system/ electronic medical record system.

➤ **Data and statistics**

- i. The execution of multiple surveys such as the MICS, Demographic Health Survey, School Health Survey, Global Youth Tobacco Survey, Stepwise Approach to Chronic Disease Risk Factor Surveillance, and the generation of final reports and data books for the same which provide the country with vital data to make informed decisions.

➤ **Financing**

- i. Establishment of a diabetic retinopathy centre;
- ii. Establishment of regional diabetic foot centres;
- iii. Launching of gestational diabetes program;
- iv. Purchasing of equipment for glycated haemoglobin (HbA1 C) testing for patients with diabetes mellitus; and
- v. Free insulin donated for Type 1 Diabetic Patients from Insulin for Life.

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments?**

Surveillance reports and data collection via interviews, waiting rooms survey and national surveys as well as hospital registries will provide the data needed to compare against the

baseline survey from the Steps and GSHS to be able to determine whether the country is achieving the targets in a timely manner.

Most program directors have been trained in Monitoring and Evaluation to be able to track their program directions and make changes as necessary to be able to be on the right path to achieving the SDGS.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnerships if any?**

Civil society, youth and private sector must be involved in partnership as they all form part of the diverse population that the public health sector targets. Civil society in NCDs have played the role well for advocacy and funding for initiatives towards the NCDs response. Private sector has somewhat been resistant as it relates to implementation of certain policies which are geared towards reducing risk factors (Tobacco Control), and youths continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups which are predisposed to developing NCDs due to their lifestyles.

## **2.12 Priority Area 12: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

### **What national institutional structures/mechanisms are in place, if any?**

The revised 2003 Constitution provides for the appointment of five Human Rights Commissions: Ethnic Relations, Women and Gender Equality, Rights of the Child, Indigenous Peoples, and Human Rights. These Commissions are founded on the protection and promotion of human rights and addressing the various forms of discrimination, as well as providing complaint mechanisms for redress by impartial bodies.

The Ministry of Social Protection (MOSP) is currently the leading institution, promoting women's rights and gender equality within the Government. The leading unit within the MOSP is the Gender Affairs Bureau (GAB) and acts as the governmental focal point for gender and development. It is responsible for contributing to the formulation of all policies and programmes for the advancement of men and women, providing assistance to women's organisations in the planning and implementation of programmes, providing a referral service for men and women, developing gender-based research and providing gender disaggregated data to inform policy and programme formulation, addressing issues related to girls and promoting education for gender equality.

The GAB has reinstalled the Regional Women's Affairs Committee, a forum for consultation and advocacy related to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, integrated by representatives of the ten (10) Regional Democratic Councils (RDCs), to which they report. They serve as regional gender focal points and engage with the Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDC) to promote gender advocacy and policy implementation at regional and local levels.

### **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**

#### **➤ Achievements**

The National Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI) Policy which started in August 2015 and was led by the MOSP could be seen as a major achievement for the Government. The policy is expected to receive Cabinet approval by July of 2018. This policy would replace the previous National Action Plan for Women (2000-2004).

The goals of this Policy are to:

- i. Build a just society devoid of discrimination, harness the full potentials of all social groups regardless of gender or circumstance;
- ii. Promote the enjoyment of fundamental human rights and protect the health, social, economic and political well-being of all citizens in order to achieve equitable rapid economic growth; and
- iii. To contribute to evidence-based planning and governance system where human, social, financial and technological resources are efficiently and effectively deployed for sustainable development.

➤ **Challenges and gaps**

Guyana's major challenges in the advancement of gender equality are persistent despite on-going efforts to address them. The main challenge has been unprecedented levels of interpersonal violence, effective implementation of the laws, access to justice for all Guyanese in particular those in hinterland, disaggregated data to enhance policy development and interventions to advance gender equality and social-Cultural norms and practices.

Gender-based violence is still relatively high and is believed to be rooted in cultural norms which present women as inferior to men in society and in light of this, women are disrespected. Our social perception which is influenced by the media plays a role in how cultures are being formed; the male image is being abused and the perception of what it means to be male is distorted.

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

The geography of Guyana does not lend itself to easy and seamless data collection, availability and accessibility. Although, the MOPH has a central Management Information System, much of the hinterland does not have internet access to facilitate easy data sharing. The most recent study on women is the Guyana Situation Analysis of Children and Women 2017 Report.

- **What national efforts and/or best practices are in place in domesticating Agenda 2030 and/or alignment with other global processes and agendas?**

Guyana has continuously strengthened its national legal framework to advance the rights and woman and children through laws and mechanisms. National legislations are consistent with the object and purpose of promoting women rights include, inter alia:

- i. the Domestic Violence Act, No. 18 of 1996;
- ii. the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1996;
- iii. the Prevention of Discrimination Act, No. 26 of 1997;
- iv. the Termination of Employment and Severance Pay Act No. 19 of 1997;
- v. the Representation of People's Act (Section 11B, Articles 5-7);
- vi. the Combating Trafficking in Persons Act of 2005;
- vii. the Age of Consent Act of 2006;
- viii. the Marriage Amendment Act 2006;
- ix. the Protection of Children Act of 2009;
- x. the Sexual Offences Act of 2010;
- xi. the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2010; and
- xii. the Rights of Persons in Common Law Union (Amendment) Act of 2012.

These laws provide a near comprehensive legal framework for the full implementation of human rights commitment by Guyana. In September 2011, the Government of Guyana signed the Universal Declaration for the Birth Registration of Children and ratified the Arms Trade Treaty, and the Disabilities Convention in July 2013 and June 2014 respectively.

The mechanism for complaints and undertake advocacy have been established by Article 212 of the Constitution. The Women and Gender Equality Commission, the Indigenous Peoples Commission, the Rights of the Child Commission and the Ethnic Relations Commission.

- **How has the institution benefited from extra support in areas of partnerships, financing, capacity building, technology, data & statistics etc. If yes, has the support been effective?**

The MOSP continues to receive support in the form of technical support and financing from agency such as the European Union, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnerships if any?**

Civil society groups play a critical in addressing gender equality and women empowerment issues in Guyana. Numerous partnerships were developed and continue to exist with many civil society groups. Some of the more notable ones include: Childlink, United Bricklayers, Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association, Help and Shelter, Women Across Differences, Guyana Women Miners Organisation (GWMO), as well as other CBOs and FBOs. Although many of these focus on different aspect of women's rights, the common theme is to ensure that our women and their livelihoods are promoted and protected.

## 2.13 Priority Area 13: Social Development

### 2.13.1 Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities

- ***What national institutional structures / mechanisms are in place, if any?***

The growing concern with crime and violence in Guyana has placed citizen security and crime reduction among the leading policy priorities of the national authorities. In response to these realities, the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, with the assistance from the IDB, has developed the Citizen Security Strengthening Programme (CSSP) that focuses on the prevention and reduction of crime and violence (C&V), and public sector and civil society capacity building.

The CSSP will contribute to reducing C&V in Guyana, through a comprehensive approach that combines preventive strategies with institutional strengthening activities. The CSSP will target:

- i. Communities with the highest rates nationally for homicides, burglaries and robberies and DV;
- ii. Guyana Police Force (GPF) capacity weaknesses in Crime Prevention and Crime Investigation; and
- iii. Guyana Prison Service (GPS) capacity to deliver Rehabilitation & Reintegration (R&R) services.

The CSSP is currently being implemented under three components:

- i. Component 1 of the CSSP focuses on interventions of initiatives to reduce C&V at the community level. The component addresses the weak aspects of C&V through differentiated social prevention interventions in the twenty target communities. Community Action Councils (CACs) will be established in each of the target communities as an oversight body. Community needs and asset assessments will be conducted with and in each community to tailor interventions to community needs, identify community assets (physical and human), and ensure community involvement to support implementation. Beneficiaries will be persons aged 15-64 in the 20 target communities;
- ii. Component II the CSSP seeks to support the strengthening of Guyana Police Force's (GPF) Crime Prevention (CP) and Crime Investigation (CI) capacity at the national level for homicides, burglaries and robberies. In order to improve CP effectiveness, CSSP will finance an evidence-based CP policing model at the national level, which includes: (i) IT

improvements; (ii) police training and specialization in evidence-based policing which complements the efforts; and (iii) 4 national high-quality C&V surveys, to expand access to C&V data. To strengthen GPF's CI capacity, CSSP will finance a model for effective CI to strengthen: (i) community relations; and (ii) forensic and criminal trainings and tools. Additionally, to strengthen DV CI and CP capacity, CSSP will finance (i) inter-agency coordination mechanisms; (ii) 1 national high-quality survey to understand the extent and causes of DV and VAW; and (iii) scenario-based DV training for police officers.

- iii. Component III seeks to improve the GPS effectiveness in reducing offender recidivism at the national level, through financing 2 streams of activities. To strengthen GPS capacity to deliver R&R services, the following activities will be financed: (i) a prison census of Guyana's 5 prisons, including needs assessment; (ii) design and implementation of an R&R model aligned with international best practices; (iii) design and implementation of a case management program; and (iv) development and implementation of a R&R service delivery training plan. To address prison overcrowding, CSSP will finance a study of incarceration alternatives for pre-trial detainees.

- **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**

➤ **Achievements**

- i. Conduct Community Needs and Asset Assessment and Development of Community Safety Plans;
- ii. Creation of Safe Spaces through Rapid Impact projects at the community level;
- iii. Twelve hundred at risk-youth benefiting from Skills and Entrepreneurship training;
- iv. Community members benefiting from parenting, conflict resolution and domestic violence training;
- v. Rehabilitation and Modernization of Police Stations across the country. The rehabilitative works are primarily focused on modernizing the stations with the ability to provide a more victim friendly service through the creation of domestic violence room, evidence collection room, ID parade room, etc.;
- vi. Upgrade of Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory (GFSL) to improve the investigative capacity of the Guyana Police Force;
- vii. Expanding the reach of GPF Management Systems through the expansion of the integrated crime information system and the electronic document management systems;

- viii. Strengthen evidence collection and investigative capacity of GPF- 38 persons from Guyana Police Force, Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory, and CANU benefited from criminal and forensic investigation techniques training conducted by an international forensic expert;
- ix. Strengthen the Crime and Social Observatory Unit Analytical Capacity - Three (3) data analysts and one (1) gender & demographic data specialist recruited to work with the Crime and Social Observatory Unit to enhance their analytical capacity; and
- x. Expansion of C&V Data – the Safe Neighbourhood Crime Victimization survey was completed in March of 2018. The main purpose of the survey was to garner information on criminal victimization, fear of crime, perception of safety, attitude towards GPF and opinions about effective crime prevention strategies.

➤ **Challenges**

- i. Lack of beneficiary engagement and/or community resistance to community-based interventions;
- ii. Reluctance or resistance to new approaches proposed in the GPF and GPS training activities; and
- iii. Lack of timely available and reliable administrative data to implement project activities.

➤ **Gaps**

- i. Skills gap in all agencies in areas of programme implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation, data analysis, development of strategic approaches & plans.
- ii. Availability of the relevant statistical software to conduct analysis.

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

The lack of access of reliable data on C&V remains a challenge despite major investments in the integrated crime and information system (ICIS). The CariSecure programme is currently addressing the mentioned challenge.

- **What national efforts and /or best practices are in place in domesticating Agenda 2030 and / or alignment with other global processes and agendas?**

The establishment of the Ministry of Social Cohesion (MOSC) primarily focused on youth development through education, gender equality, and culture. The formation community

policing to foster community engagement and cooperation to build community confidence / trust in the GPF. The establishment of Community Action Councils to design community development projects that addresses social ills and youth development. These efforts are focused in promoting peaceful societies and safer communities.

- **How have the institution benefited from extra support in areas of partnerships, financing, capacity building, technology, data & statistics etc. If yes, has the support been effective?**

The Government of Guyana has requested the support of the IDB to expand on the work undertaken through the Citizen Security Program (1752/SF-GY - approved by the IDB Board in 2006 and completed in 2014) with a view of further addressing the pressing risk factors for crime and violence.

The CSSP agreement was signed in February 2015 and commenced implementation in December of the said year. It is a five (5) year project funded by the IDB, as a loan initiative for a total cost of US\$15 million. The loan focuses on capacity building at the communities and agencies levels, infrastructure works, expansion of crime and violence data, etc. The support has been effective as it saw a reduction in major crimes through the improvements in crime investigation and prevention.

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments?**

The Bureau of Statistics was established as a department in 1957 and was incorporated as a semiautonomous body in 1990. The Bureau is the main co-ordinator and producer of economic statistics, including national accounts. The main data on population, economic and social conditions of households stems from censuses and surveys. The Bureau is recognized as the central authority on statistics in this country, and is often requested to advise and assist ministries and private/public sector organisations on statistical matters. The functions of the Bureau, which has since 1965 become systemized, are set out in section 4 (1) of the Bureau of Statistics Act No 25 of 1991 and the Statistical Bureau Act Cap 19.09.

- **Have partnerships played any role in supporting implementation of the SAMOA Pathway? How effective / durable have they been? If not, why? What are the challenges? What have been the lessons learnt?**

The Ministry of Public Security (MOPS) have benefitted from numerous partnerships inclusive of local, regional, and international that provided various forms of assistance. Financial

institutions such as the IDB have provided much needed resources to improve the capacity of the law enforcement arms of the Ministry. The MOPS has benefitted from various fleets of transportation from the Peoples Republic of China via the China Aid Programme. GPF has also forged an intricate partnership with various communities that saw the establishment of numerous Community Policing Groups (CPG). The CPGs offered valuable law enforcement service by deterrent. The CPGs were provided with vehicles and firearms for patrolling and were empowered to detain of potential criminals until police officers arrive.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnerships if any?**

The civil society, private sector and citizens have played an important role in the implementation, this integrated/consultative approach mitigates risks and overcome constraints, reduce communities and agencies reluctance to participate in the implementation process. One of the lessons learnt is that it is imperative that there is early involvement/engagement with partners and there is a need for continuous communication with all parties involved.

The civil society, youth and private sector offer technical support, share experiences and acknowledge, aide mobilization, spread awareness. In addition, they participate on steering committees at the project and community levels to design projects and offer oversight on project implementation to improve transparency and accountability.

## 2.14 Priority Area 14: Biodiversity

### - **What national institutions/mechanisms are in place, if any?**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established in 1996, under the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, holds a comprehensive capacity for biodiversity management enshrined in its functions under Part II, section 4(1) of the Act. Following Guyana's June 1992 accession and later 1994 ratification of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), which is also in support the country's existing legislative framework; the EPA was designated the Focal Point for the UNCBD. As the Focal Agency, the EPA's responsibility is ensuring that national patrimony is conserved, protected and sustainably utilized. Together this also facilitates the meeting of the country's obligation to the UNCBD.

The EPA's BRM was established to coordinate efforts for biodiversity protection, conservation and sustainable use and to assist with the mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into the natural development frameworks that exist. The framework for biodiversity management is set out in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and implementation of this is achieved through collaboration with other government agencies and NGOs. These organizations include:

#### ➤ **National Agencies/Sectors**

- i. Wildlife Conservation Management Commission (WCMC);
- ii. Protected Areas Commission (PAC);
- iii. Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC);
- iv. MOA (Department of Fisheries, National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) - Mangrove Management Committee);
- v. Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC);
- vi. Guyana Lands and Survey Commission (GLSC); and
- vii. Office of Climate Change (OCC).

#### ➤ **Non-Governmental Organisations**

- i. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Guyana;
- ii. Iwokrama International Center for Rainforest Conservation and Development;
- iii. Conservation International (CI),
- iv. Kanuku Mountain Community Representative Group (KMCRG);
- v. North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB); and

vi. South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS).

- ***What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?***

The Agency over the years has garnered many successes in the area of biodiversity management. Over the last two decades, the Agency was able to facilitate the development of the following, with some challenges as listed below:

➤ **Achievements**

i. National Protected Areas

- a. Protected Areas Act 2011,
- b. Protected Areas Commission 2012, and
- c. Kanuku Mountain and Shell Beach Protected Areas;

ii. Biodiversity (Wildlife) Management

- a. Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2016,
- b. Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission (WCMC),
- c. The Environmental Protection Wildlife Management and Conservation Regulations (WMCR) 2013, and
- d. Species Protection Regulations;

iii. Policies and Draft Legislation

- a. ABS Policy,
- b. Draft Biosafety Policy,
- c. Biosafety Bill,
- d. Draft Biosafety Regulations,
  - a) Biosafety (Contained Use) Regulations,
  - b) Biosafety (Environmental Release) Regulations, and
  - c) Biosafety (Placement on the Market) Regulations,
- e. Draft ABS Regulations; and

iv. Preparation and submission of MEA National Reports and Action Plans

- a. Three National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans,
- b. Five National Report to the UNCBD, and
- c. Two National Report to the Cartagena Protocol.

➤ **Challenges and Gaps**

- i. Slothful implementation and enactment of policies, legislation and action plans;
- ii. Poor monitoring and enforcement;
- iii. Limited financial and human resources to effectively and efficiently execute mandates. Opportunities for resource mobilizations are not capitalized upon;
- iv. High staff turnover and loss of institutional knowledge and memory;
- v. Agencies need to recognise the links of their programmes/activities to biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of its components. Provisions should be incorporated into annual work programme to allow for increased collaboration; and
- vi. Improved communication and information sharing among the sector agencies.

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

The Agency collects data from biodiversity research conducted by local, regional and international researchers via their application through the National Biodiversity Information System (NBRIS), and when biodiversity monitoring is conducted as a requirement in the Environmental Authorisations process. However, the existing system is dated and requires upgrading.

On May 02, 2017, the Government of Guyana, through the EPA, signed a contract with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) for the national project “*Enhancing Guyana’s National Biodiversity Information System Database*” to develop a national biodiversity database. The aims of the project are (1) To strengthen the national biodiversity information facilities; (2) To mobilise biodiversity data among sector agencies; and (3) To improve sharing of biodiversity data to support decision making.

➤ **Data Availability**

Data that exist for biodiversity or that can be used for biodiversity management exist in a fragmented construct. There are several organizations involved in collection of biodiversity data in Guyana. The data is collected for various purposes including permitting, monitoring, conservation and protection activities. The information collected is stored in formats such as site lists, reports and publications and exists within the various organisations as either physical or electronic records or both.

➤ **Accessibility Challenges**

- i. Technical resources are limiting in the expertise to collect the data and establish databases. Biodiversity data collection in some instances requires specific technical and scientific expertise that the agencies may not possess;
- ii. There is a general need for education by all the entities on the importance of biodiversity data, its collection, its storage and how to effectively utilize it. This education should include data collection methods, data management and analysis of data including how to utilize data in public policy and local and regional plans;
- iii. There is an overall need for a systemization of the data and information collected. Some education, guidance and consensus on a general format for collecting and storing the information will assist tremendously in the systemization of the data; and
- iv. Biodiversity data collection is expensive, especially in remote areas. Lack of financial resources limit the governmental and statutory organizations from recruiting staff for the specific purposes of collecting and storing the information including the establishment of databases.

- **How has the institution benefited from extra support in areas of partnerships, financing, capacity building, technology, data & statistics etc. if types, has the support been effective?**

Partnerships and provision of financial assistance with international, regional and local organizations, such as the GEF, UNDP, United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), or the German Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), IDB, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has allowed the EPA to implement a number of projects, all aimed at improving biodiversity management.

Financial resources were made available by the KfW, for the PAC to implement two (2) phases of the Guyana Protected Areas System (GPAS) project, which resulted in the development and enactment of the Protected Areas Act 2011; this involved a consultative process with hinterland communities at Chenapau, Mabaruma, Lethem, and Georgetown. Additionally, the WWF provided the EPA with the necessary technical human resource to support the process of the establishing and management of the national system of protected areas. The PAC and subsequent Protected Areas Trust Fund (PATF), and the designation two (2) protected areas, namely, the Kanuku Mountains and Shell Beach Protected Areas- the Kanuku Mountains and

Shell Beach Protected Areas were accomplished. The Biodiversity Unit received GEF funding for a number of initiatives inclusive of many capacity building initiatives.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnerships if any?**

Civil society, youth and private sector are stakeholders who are always consulted during execution of activities in relation to biodiversity management. In some instances, they assist coordination of the management efforts. Most notably the cadre of NGOs that are actively involved in biodiversity efforts: Guyana Marine Turtle Society (GMTS), the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN), Guyana Youth Environment Network (GYEN), Guyana Policy Forum, Rotary Club, and numerous indigenous CBOs.

**2.14.1 Desertification, land degradation, and drought**

- **What national institutional structures/ mechanisms are in place, if any?**

- i. National Level: The Ministry of the Presidency (MOTP) is the Political Focal Point;
- ii. The Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) is the National Focal Point;
- iii. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) supports the communication and formal submission and representation of issues in Global Affairs and Multi-lateral Commitments/Agreement; and
- iv. National structures are supported by:
  - a. the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM), an inter-governmental organization which was formed under the 25<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) [Environment], held in April 2008 in Guyana;
  - b. PISLM was decided to be utilized as the framework for the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Land Management components of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) and the MSI/BPOA in Caribbean SIDS; and
  - c. Implementation of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (LDN TSP) is undertaken by the UNCCD's Secretariat Office for the Caribbean and Latin America which is based in Santiago, Chile which provides administrative, reporting and financial disbursements to Country Parties.

- **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**

➤ **Achievements**

- i. The Guyana's National Report of the LDN TSP 2017-2030 and High-Level Note have been undertaken by the GLSC in partnership with the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD Secretariat served by its Regional Office of Latin America and the Caribbean. Cabinet endorsement was received in January 2018.

LDN TSP to strengthen the implementation of UNCCD and improve land management with a focus of balancing losses with gains to achieve long-term, concrete measures in order to achieve established targets;

The conceptualisation of the country's National LDN TSP Report originates from the 12th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UNCCD where Country Parties were invited to formulate voluntary targets to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) from Sustainable Development Goal 15. LDN is reported under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 is seeking to "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss" (Source: <http://indicators.report/goals/goal-15/>).

Target 15.3 aims "by 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world." is a strong vehicle to drive UNCCD implementation?

The sub indicators for monitoring and reporting on Target 15.3 progress are:

- a. Land cover and land cover change;
- b. Land productivity; and
- c. Carbon stocks above and below ground.

These sub-indicators would be used to monitor the progress towards achieving the land degradation neutrality targets at the country level to 2030.

- ii. Completion of the Aligned National Action Plan to Combat Land Degradation (NAP) or aligned NAP, which outlines the approach and roadmap towards continuing to enhance the way of managing land and resources in Guyana. The Aligned NAP consists of:

Achievement of Sustainable Development; Land management governance and policy; Education, training and awareness; Knowledge information and research; Evaluation and monitoring and; Partnership and financing.

This Aligned National Action Plan 2015-2025 for Guyana for the UNCCD builds on the previous National Action Plan from 2006, and is updated to reflect alignment with the UNCCD Strategic Plan 2008-2018. The goal of the 10-Year Strategy of the UNCCD (2008-2018) is "to forge a global partnership to reverse and prevent desertification/land degradation and to mitigate the effects of drought in affected areas in order to support poverty reduction and environmental sustainability".

The Aligned NAP focuses on the primary sectors on which Guyana has depended and will depend upon in the future. The potential of several of these sectors is very big and hitherto largely untapped and will likely undergo rapid development. The Aligned NAP integrates Guyana's obligations under the UNCCD into its national development and sectoral planning frameworks through a renewed and participative process, and in a manner that is in line with the global guidance contained in the UNCCD's Strategic Plan for 2008-2018. The result has positioned Guyana to comply with its international obligations, and also to provide a framework for national response to the economic and social effects of land degradation on land use, livelihood and human development.

The Aligned NAP contributes to the UNDP Country Programme Outcome: Improved functional capacity of key natural resources and disaster risk management institutions and is aligned to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals 15 – *Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.*

- iii. PRAIS3 National Report Preparation and Capacity Building Workshop for Latin America and Caribbean - Guyana is completing the national UNCCD report on the progress of implementation in meeting the obligations of the Convention.

Member countries are required to report on their status of implementation using a Performance Review and Assessment of the Implementation System (PRAIS). A new

direction in UNCCD reporting is performance is measured against the five (5) strategic objectives, (voluntary) targets and indicators of the UNCCD.

The indicators such as access to water, international bilateral and multilateral official development assistance, domestic public resources, number of co-financing partners and resources mobilized from innovative sources of finance, including from the private sector. The reporting process includes an implementation framework, financial and non-financial resources, policy and planning, and action on the ground. This is to be provided at the Regional Capacity Building Workshop.

➤ **Challenges & gaps**

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Gaps</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Land use conflicts</li> <li>2. Lack of definition of management /administration institution and land titling for land management</li> <li>3. Limited data to monitor land degradation using stratified indicators</li> <li>4. Need for maintaining a central database</li> </ol>	<p>Need for National Land Policy</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Need to harmonise and rationalize legislation to remove overlaps, promote effective coordination, information exchange, and institutional synergies</li> </ol>	<p>Overlapping/ similar legislation creates jurisdiction issues</p> <p>No planning regulation</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. More public education and public awareness</li> <li>7. More investment in new technologies, best practices, to reduce negative impacts from land uses</li> </ol>	<p>Technical assistance</p> <p>Capacity development and training</p> <p>Sharing of resources among agencies</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. The need to achieve targets and indicators to monitor land degradation and protocols for drought</li> </ol>	<p>Inter-Agency Coordinating Body</p> <p>Technical assistance</p> <p>Capacity development and training</p>

<p>9. The need for EWS and Emergency Plans to mitigate the impacts of drought, floods and other natural disasters integrated in planning</p>	<p>Inter-Agency Coordinating Body          Technical assistance          Capacity development and training</p>
--	--

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

Data is available from UNCCD Global Dataset to calculate the percentage of land degradation. There are challenges with accessibility as continued cycles of reporting require trends data on the Global Dataset to compare future periods.

- **What national efforts and/ or best practices are in place in domesticating Agenda 2030 and/ or alignment with other global processes and agendas?**

- i. The preparation of the National Land Degradation Neutrality Report which is aligned to Sustainable Development Goal 15; and
- ii. One of the processes under the UNCCD is the national reporting; the PRAIS3 report is aligned to the UNCCD Strategy and all member countries report according to the template.

- **How has the institution benefitted from extra support in areas of partnerships, financing, capacity building, technology, data and statistics, etc. If yes, has the support been effective?**

- i. Beneficial partnerships
  - a. National Agencies: GFC, EPA, Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs (MOIPA), DOE, GGMC, Guyana Women Miner's Organisation, NAREI, Guyana Sugar Corporation, Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB), MOA, Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners' Association, Private Sector Commission, Iwokrama, Mangrove Restoration Project, Women Mangrove Group, CYEN, National Toashau Council, Communities of Bartica, Annai and Kwakwani, and Regional Authorities of Region 7, Region 9, and Region 10.
  - b. Regional Entities - Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management, UNCCD Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.
  - c. UNCCD Secretariat, Global Mechanism

- ii. Financing - National Budget, GEF, and UNDP.
- iii. Technology –
  - a. Satellite imagery with data has been received from GFC to validate baseline data.
  - b. Satellite imagery with data has been received from UNCCD with quantitative data on land cover, land productivity and soil organic carbon for year 2000-2010 and 2000-2015.
- iv. Data is available from UNCCD Global Dataset to calculate the percentage of land degradation

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments?**

- i. The GLSC has the national capacity and systems in place to deliver, monitor and report on SDG 15/ 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality;
- ii. The National Bureau of Statistics (BOS) was also trained with the Commission on the data needed for the national report to UNCCD:
  - a. As National Focal Point, the Commission would be serving a global commitment of hosting the Seventeenth Session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 17) to be held in January 2019, and
  - b. In order to promote the work of the Convention, the UNCCD Secretariat; and convenes sessions with its country parties to adopt decisions for strengthening implementation and reporting to the Convention, their partnership with other internal groups for advancing the work of the Convention and address administrative approvals of budgets and work plans. Guyana, one of the member countries of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has pledged to be the host country of CRIC17; and
- iii. Support from the Project “Strengthening technical capacities to mainstream and monitor Rio Convention implementation through policy coordination” aimed to achieve the following four (4) components to support the work of the National Focal Point by:
  - a. Strengthening institutional capacities to mainstream and monitor Rio Convention implementation through development policies, programmes and plans. The centrepiece of this component is the creation of the integrated Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System. This will call

for the strengthening of the institutional construct and associated management regime for collecting, creating, and transforming data and information into knowledge;

- b. Strengthening technical capacities for mainstreaming and monitoring Rio Conventions. This component focuses on strengthening the technical capacities of key stakeholders, technical staff, and decision-makers that directly and indirectly affect obligations under the Rio Conventions. Best practices and innovations will form the basis of trainings and learn-by- doing activities to create and use knowledge to achieve global environmental outcomes;
- c. Improving awareness of global environmental values. Activities under this component will strengthen awareness and understanding of broader set of stakeholders to better appreciate how addressing global environmental obligations under the Rio Convention contributes to addressing important and immediate socio-economic development priorities; and
- d. Updating of the National Capacity Self-Assessment. Activities under this component will update Guyana’s NCSA to reflect post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and to identify current opportunities to strengthen priority foundational capacities for the global environment.

- **Have partnerships played any role in supporting implementation of the SAMOA Pathway? How effective / durable have they been? If not, why? What are the challenges? What have been the lessons learned?**

- i. Partnerships
  - a. The Convention has one hundred and ninety-six (196) Country Parties that work together to achieve this goal by improving the living conditions for people in drylands and degraded areas, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity and to mitigate the effects of drought;
- ii. Effective / durable
  - a. An analysis of the reports by UNCCD on the progress of implementation should provide status of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States;
- iii. Challenges

- a. More data is needed to continue the process of national knowledge on the extent of land degradation and drought,
  - b. Funding is needed for capacity development, data and technology, and
  - c. Study tours of adaptive technology and land management practices are needed; and
- iv. Lessons learned
- a. Global action is more needed to address areas of land, climate and biodiversity, and
  - b. The funding for the conventions should be aligned strategically and in a pool of resources for countries to access for addressing barriers and challenges, capacity constraints and awareness needed of the issues.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnerships if any?**

Civil society and the private sector have supported the programmes and projects with the provision of data, information, supported validation, decision making and provided guidance on their respective thematic area.

**2.14.2 Forests**

- **What national institutional structures/mechanisms are in place, if any?**

There are number of laws to conserve, protect, and utilize the resources of Guyana's forest. The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), established by the GFC Act in 2007, is responsible for the management and regulation of Guyana's forests on State Lands (Forest Act, 2009) and overseeing the implementation of key technical aspects of international agreements such as Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) climate change activities in Guyana. The GFC's main responsibilities are: policy implementation, sustainable forest management including conservation operations for purposes of carbon sequestration and environmental services, community forestry and planning the effective utilization of Guyana's State Forest Resources. The GFC is responsible for enforcement of forest laws and regulations, monitoring and control of social and environmental impacts of operations within the State Forest Estate, collection of revenues from forestry activities and implementation of the national Monitoring Reporting and Verification System for country level land-use and

forest change monitoring. The GFC works with private and Amerindian Village lands management structure (e.g. *Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs and Village Councils*) to provide technical assistance for sustainable forest management activities.

The GGMC created in 1979 administers the 1989 Mining Act and 1971 Minerals Act which provides for the management of large, medium and small-scale mining claims on state lands including those on State Forests. Through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and the GGMC, the EPA has environmental oversight of mining operations, including those in the forest. Of note, GGMC can issue mining licenses on State Forest (but no other) and miners could deforest the licensed area, which is now the greatest driver of deforestation in Guyana.

Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC), established under the GLSC Act 1999, is the state's regulatory body for lands, under the Land Act. Its primary role is to survey and map the land and water resources of Guyana; to take charge and act as guardian over all public lands, rivers and creeks, to administer and manage public lands to provide land-based information to a broad range of public and private sector entities and interests, and to develop land policy and land use plans. GLSC has responsibility for the preparation of land use plans. The function is *"to prepare land use plans for Guyana or any part of Guyana, except any municipality which is subject to a planning scheme (or interim development control pending the preparation of a planning scheme) under the Town and Country Planning Act"*.

The GFC supports the GLSC in this role since land use plans and policies play a key role in the implementation of forest policy in accordance with the following guidelines: (a) The nation's forest policy shall be an integral part of a comprehensive National Land Use Plan. This Plan shall be based on land use policies that recognise the sometimes conflicting but legitimate interests of different stakeholders and shall promote a process of developing a consensus on land use. (b) Priority shall be given to the preparation of a National Land Use Plan which provides: (i) guidelines for environmental protection and sustainable resource utilization; (ii) a legal framework for resource management; (iii) national programmes for resource management; and (iv) an institutional framework for land use implementation. (c) National Committees, regional authorities and local communities shall be involved in the formulation and approval of land use plans. (d) The Commission shall give consideration to the recommendations and principles emerging from the discussions of the Special Land Use Committee (SLUC).

The Protect Areas Commission (PAC) established in 2011 by the Protected Areas Act provides for “creation, management and financing of a national system of protected areas; the maintenance of ecosystem services of national and global importance including climate regulation; the establishment of a protected areas commission; the establishment and management of a protected areas trust fund; the fulfillment of Guyana's international environmental responsibilities; public participation in protected areas and conservation; and related purposes.”

The objectives of the Protected Areas Act are to: (a) provide for the conservation of biological diversity, natural landscapes, seascapes and wetlands;(b) safeguard ecosystem services; (c) establish a national protected areas system; (d) provide for the recognition of the intrinsic value of biodiversity and associated spiritual and cultural values; (e) enhance national pride in and encourage stewardship of Guyana's natural heritage, at the national, regional, local, community and individual levels of society; (f) assist in safeguarding Guyana's sovereignty over its natural heritage and to regulate access to the nation's biological resources; (g) give appropriate recognition to the conservation efforts and achievements of Amerindian Villages and Amerindian Communities; (h) promote ecologically sustainable development; (i) assist in the implementation of Guyana's international environmental responsibilities to conserve the nation's natural heritage; (j) promote the rehabilitation of degraded areas and the restoration of ecological integrity; (k) promote the recovery and rehabilitation of species which are vulnerable, threatened or endangered.

The Environmental Protection Act of 1996, establishing the EPA was enacted to “provide for the management, conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, the prevention or control of pollution, the assessment of the impact of economic development on the environment, the sustainable use of natural resources and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.” Four important functions of the EPA are: (a) to take such steps as are necessary for the effective management of the natural environment so as to ensure conservation, protection, and sustainable use of its natural resources; (b) to promote the participation of members of the public in the process of integrating environmental concerns in planning for development on a sustainable basis; (k) to establish and co-ordinate institutional linkages locally, nationally, regionally and internationally; (l) to play a coordinating role in the preparation and implementation of cross-sectoral programmes of environmental contents.

The Guyana WCMC was established by Section 4 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act. The Act which was brought into effect on June 1, 2017 provides for the protection, conservation, management, sustainable use, internal and external trade of Guyana's wildlife.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE) was established in 2012 with responsibilities for forestry, mining, environmental management, wildlife, protected areas, land use planning and coordination. Since 2016 the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) responsibilities have been re-focused on the extractive sectors forestry, mining, and on oil and gas, since 2016 when a major offshore oil deposit was discovered. The environmental portfolio has been transferred to the MOTP, which has since established an overarching DOE.

The MOPI, MOC, MOB, MOF, MOIPA, MOSP, and the Ministry of Education (MOE) have responsibilities for forest-based infrastructure, communities, eco-tourism, financial incentives, taxes and tax concessions (GRA), national and international standards (National Bureau of Standards (NBS), Amerindian concerns, and health, safety and workers' rights, and human capacity development.

- **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**

➤ **Achievements**

Since the 2011 Policy and Plan were promulgated there have been some significant accomplishments. The National Forest Policy Statement and associated Forest Plan covers priority forest strategies such as sustainability, training and education, revenue generation and research. Taken together, these priorities allow current and future generations of Guyanese to enjoy tangible forest-related benefits via tactics such as the encouragement of value-added and non-traditional products, and improved forest governance. This Plan and Policy was revised in 2018.

At an international level, the Forest Policy adds to Guyana's commitments as it relates to climate change and conservation by working to ensure the sustainable use of the forests as well as to preserve the forests as a net carbon sink. Together with other national policies, such as the LCDS, the Forest Policy has established Guyana's "green credentials" and positioned Guyana strategically at the global level.

The Forest Plan establishes a work programme for the GFC to assure the implementation of the policy. The plan contains detailed and logically ordered programmes, activities, expected

outcomes and indicators, and are a clear and compelling guide for stakeholders. The framework for the forest plan also establishes a solid base from which to monitor and evaluate progress being made towards implementing the plan.

A significant number of institutional frameworks are in place to ensure the successful implementation of the Forest Policy. Key among the institutions is the GFC, a well-structured, methodologically strong and coherent organization. Under the GFC, the systems for regulating, managing and monitoring forest-related activities are relatively strong. Institutions such as the GGMC, the EPA and GLSC have an important and complementary role to play alongside the GFC.

When it comes to logging, the Forest Policy is supported in its implementation by a Code of Practice for loggers, which establishes the rules for sustainably harvesting trees. Systems for monitoring compliance with the code are strong. The code of practice is relatively well respected by loggers, who face significant and predictable penalties for infringements.

Inclusion, participation, transparency and accountability are key governance concepts that have been promoted via the forest policy and its accompanying plan. Here, stakeholder engagements have featured prominently in the work around forests. The GFC and other institutions routinely engage stakeholders, including indigenous communities, the private sector, state institutions and civil society, on such topics as REDD+, EU FLEGT, climate change, LCDS and Forest Policy reviews such as this one.

Progress has been made most significantly in the formation and functioning of logging associations across the country. These associations are thought to be generally well structured, democratic, accountable and facilitative of engagement processes such as supporting policy reviews like this one.

Communities, particularly indigenous ones, are also participating in the implementation of the Forest Policy, as users of the forests and as monitors. This participation relates directly to REDD+ processes that underpin the Guyana-Norway agreement, and includes the titling of land to indigenous communities. Here, the GFC has helped to train and build capacities of these communities to manage the use of their own forests.

Importantly, systems of national and community Measurement, Reporting and Verification Systems (MRVS) have been developed by Guyana, under the stewardship of the GFC. Linked to the Guyana-Norway agreement, and falling originally under Guyana's LCDS, local stakeholders (such as in the north Rupununi and Kanashen) have participated in MRVS through Community

Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (CMRV) mechanisms. Annual MRVS reports have been produced and validated at the national level for five years, most recently for 2014. The MRVS benefits from the functioning of a Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee.

When it comes to smaller commercial beneficiaries, such as the members of the logging associations, the Policy creates a framework for their participation in a way that adds to an inclusive economy. The Policy has also imparted capacities to these stakeholders.

The extent to which forests are protected via the Forest Policy is further strengthened by the designation of significant amounts of forests and land as protected areas.

Governance arrangements are allowing socio-economic benefits to flow in a way that demonstrates the sustainable and efficient usage of forest-based resources. One major benefit derived from current governance arrangements is the Guyana-Norwegian Agreement (2009-17), which generates funding for Guyana on the basis of limits to tree cover loss. Funds have been used for village development projects in the hinterland as well as land titling processes for indigenous villages.

At a systems level, the increased capacities of groups (such as village communities or small loggers associations) to take advantage of opportunities encouraged by the Forest Policy has led to a more efficient and effective usage of the forests on a sustainable basis. Thus, for example, training on the use of GPS technology, measurement taking and document filing systems, have contributed to increased eco-tourism, improved health and safety of loggers, restored forests (including mangroves), and enhanced access to markets and value-added products.

➤ **Challenges and Gaps**

i. Economic Issues

A number of previous reports, studies and missions have highlighted that the problems and challenges with Guyana's forest industry lie both in the supply side and the demand side. Supply issues highlighted include:

- a. High levels of waste – with sawmills recovering 40-45%, and chainsaw operators just 30-35%;
- b. Lack of access to affordable capital in order to invest in new equipment and technology;
- c. High transportation costs due to difficulties with the internal road network and limited harbour facilities; and
- d. High energy costs that have run-on effects on processing.

Many of these issues cannot be resolved without the involvement and commitment of CRG Ministries (MOB, MOPI, MOF) and public agencies (GGMC, GLSC, EPA, etc.), along with an engaged private sector that goes beyond the forestry sector.

Demand-related issues include:

- a. The need to promote wood locally as a suitable, low-carbon, building material;
- b. The need to improve regulations in the country, such as the Building Code, to help promote and standardize quality and dimensions of wood for the construction industry;
- c. The need to promote lesser-used species both domestically and internationally; and
- d. The requirement for improved marketing of Guyana's forest products.

Addressing these issues requires action at many levels, from government promotion of the industry, to support from international organisations (e.g. International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), and greater industry collaboration.

There are similar problems in the harvesting, processing and marketing of non-timber forest products, and in the establishment and marketing of forest-based tourism. A major limiting factor in all of these economic activities is the paucity of skilled human capital and the limited availability of appropriate research, training, and human capacity development for the wood industries, non-timber production and processing, and hospitality management. Planning and coordination at the local, regional and national level could address many of these problems.

## ii. Ecological Issues

Although still among the most forested countries in the world, Guyana continues to face the challenges posed by deforestation, land degradation and watershed siltation. These threats, and their associated impacts on biodiversity, are among the biggest environmental issues facing Guyana and its forests. These threats stem primarily from activities outside of the forestry sector but have direct impacts on the health of the forest and its ability to provide goods and services to the Guyanese people. As such, any effort to address these issues will require multi-agency planning, collaboration and joint monitoring across Guyana's extractive sectors.

Key to this cross-sector collaboration will be comprehensive and up-to-date information on the health of the forest and nature of the threats facing it. GFC already collects a great deal of data (pre- and post-harvest inventory, log-tracking data, geo-referenced trees, stumps and satellite/aerial images, sawmill output, and timber shipping documents). Gathering additional data on impacts of the wider extractive sector would be key to the required broadening of this

knowledge base and better decision-making on land management at the national level. Expanded analyses of existing and new data is critical to better assess the range of ecological impacts (e.g. species depletion or loss) stemming from forest use and management practices.

Guyana's forests, and the ecological threats they face, span a variety of tenure arrangements and fall under multiple agency mandates. As such, there is need for a systematic approach to spatial planning and decision-making that go beyond discussions around timber, along with an improved understanding of Guyana's forest biodiversity and its spatial dynamics. This information is needed to inform both preventative and restorative measures aimed to improve the health and sustainability of the country's forests. Objective and scientifically grounded approaches are needed at the national level to identify and conserve high diversity forests, threatened hotspots, rare habitats and vulnerable ecosystems (including areas at risk from climate change). Addressing Guyana's lost or degraded forests will also require an expanded, country-specific data set on reclamation, reforestation (both natural and human assisted); agroforestry; and afforestation in abandoned agricultural lands and urban areas. Opportunities exist to link these preventative and restorative interventions to payment/offset systems, environmental performance standards and incentive schemes.

### iii. Social and Governance Issues

Guyana's forests remain the primary source of livelihoods for Guyana's indigenous and forest-dependent communities and are central to the country's macro-economic development. Sustainable solutions to higher-level, cross-cutting issues will require workable mechanisms for genuine inter-agency, cross-sector planning and collaboration. Integrating and streamlining the work of long-established, distinct agencies at a national level is a significant challenge, irrespective of country, and requires significant institutional structuring and legislative alignment. A national effort at integrating land-use planning, management and resource allocation should be promoted, and realistic strategies developed for formal and effective collaboration between government agencies.

The government and the private sector share the responsibility for the re-tooling and modernizing of forestry operations for value-added production and marketing. National, scale-appropriate interventions are needed to promote the sector, such as a business-friendly taxation regime that supports sustainable forest-based industries/businesses. A supportive tax regime, in combination with the development of sector-wide standards, is needed for the development of performance-based incentive measures. Fiscal incentives, and increased emphasis on self-

regulation and sectoral growth, is key to moving the forests towards economic and ecological sustainability but requires national tax reform and more accountability in the private sector.

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

i. Data on preventative and restorative measures for better forest health

Data to inform efforts to understand, prevent, and recover from climate change and other hazards is needed. Priority will be given to issues around climate change as a growing threat to local livelihoods and Guyana's macro- economic and social development.

Specifically, climate change and human activities will exponentially increase incidences of wildfires and biodiversity loss in the nation's forests. Guyana's biologically unique savannah woodland (including "bush islands") and forested wetland ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to fires and deforestation. These and other vulnerable habitats will be managed for the conservation of biodiversity, soil fertility, water resources, and cultural value;

ii. Data to inform programme on responding to Climate Change

Guyana plans on pursuing an appropriate bilateral and multilateral compensation mechanism for ecosystem services (e.g. REDD+). Data is needed to inform efforts on increasing national awareness about the role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Emphasis will be placed on mitigating deforestation and forest degradation, protecting vulnerable forest types (e.g., savannah woodland, forested wetlands, etc.), managing the increasing threat of wildfires, and increased earnings from environmental services schemes. This strategy also calls for data to inform the development of a Disaster Management Plan to address impacts of climate change;

iii. Management of Forested Watersheds

Guyana's forests are intricately linked to the health and functioning of the county's watersheds. Data is needed to support this effort. The provision of water resources by Guyana's, mostly forested, watersheds is also an environmental service that should be valued and incorporated into national/international accounting schemes. Threats to these watersheds, driven by the misuse of forested lands, are among the most serious environmental issues facing Guyana and its forests;

A comprehensive approach to watershed management in Guyana's, which goes beyond codes of practice, is required to safeguard these services and the forests that provide them, encourage eco-tourism and other forms of non-timber value-added services, and, vitally, assure the preservation of indigenous lifestyles. National conservation strategies will be developed for critical watersheds and forested wetland ecosystems and, through partnerships with the MNR and other government agencies, incorporated into ongoing integrated land-use planning efforts. A significant amount of data needs to be collected, analyzed and examined to inform this work;

iv. Identification and management of culturally important forests

Multiple sites of cultural or religious value have already been identified in Guyana's forests, with many additional areas still to be identified in actively logged areas. Although these sites tend to be relatively small in area, they should be considered in land-using planning and decision-making. Data is needed to inform this action area;

v. Conservation and protection of wildlife

There is significant overlap in the scope of Guyana's wildlife and forest policies given the vast extent of the forest. Therefore, wildlife issues in most instances are forestry issues. Of greatest relevance is the impact of forest-based activities on wildlife population. There is limited data available on this and this should be remedied; and

vi. Afforestation and Reforestation

Data is needed to support the development of systems and incentive packages, to support reforestation and forest plantation development. Public, private sector and community investment shall be sought, with emphasis on degraded forests, agricultural and mining lands and mangroves. This will require developing and implementing a National Forest Plantation Strategy, based on best practices and updated forest plantation information. Data is needed to support this.

- **What national efforts and/or best practices are in place in domesticating Agenda 2030 and/or alignment with other global processes and agendas?**

Guyana's approach to integrating the Agenda 2030 priorities for the forest sector has been through a revised National Forest Policy and Plan which are now in place. The revised Policy

and Plan have mainstreamed efforts in domesticating Agenda 2030 priority areas on forests, into national development efforts.

Guyana has made steady progress in the sustainable management and use of its forests and, more recently, has been leading international efforts to more accurately value forests beyond simply their timber potential. Following the formulation of the last policy in 2011, a number of significant changes have occurred with relevance to the sector. The 2011 revision of the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) and the NFP came in response to the Guyana's promulgation of its LCDS which established that Guyana would maintain its forest cover in order to offer climate services to the global community. The LCDS was being used to garner payments from the international community in return for the ecosystem services the country provided. The first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Guyana and the Kingdom of Norway in 2009. Financial support for Guyana was linked to its success in limiting greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and establishing institutions and practices to implement a REDD-plus Governance Development Plan (RGDP). This included the development of a MRVS to provide a performance measurement framework for the REDD+ financing mechanism.

Guyana, in recognizing the need for a holistic approach to the sustainable management of the country's forests, released the GSDS Framework in 2016. The Strategy envisions "A green, inclusive and prosperous Guyana that provides a good life for all its citizens based on a sound education and social protection, low-carbon resilient development, green and decent jobs, economic opportunities, individual equality and political empowerment. Guyana serves as a model of sustainable development and environmental security worldwide, demonstrating the transition to a decarbonised and resource efficient economy that integrates the multi-ethnicity of our country and enhances quality of life for all Guyanese".

The proposed goal for Guyana's natural resources (which includes 87% of the land covered in forests) is "stewardship of our natural patrimony" by sustainable management of the nation's (biodiversity) patrimony, allowing for efficient use of resources in a net carbon sequestering and climate resilient forest - through social cohesion, inclusion, good governance, decentralization, and participatory processes - sustainably financed to ensure the wellbeing, education and good life for current and future generations of Guyanese.

Guyana's Nationally Determined Contributions contain several proposed actions which aim to reduce emissions of GHG and increase removals. While the overarching commitment is to

pursue a green economic pathway, a number of specific actions are presented in the forestry and energy sectors.

In the forestry sector, the commitments are:

- i. Continuing to implement sustainable forest management;
- ii. Continuing with a high level of forest monitoring;
- iii. Reduced impact logging;
- iv. Avoided deforestation;
- v. Reclamation and reforestation of mined out areas;
- vi. Adding 2 million hectares of pristine forest to its system of protected areas;
- vii. Promoting conservation concessions; and
- viii. In addition, improved mining methods are planned as a means to reduce deforestation and degradation impacts.

- **How has the institution benefited from extra support in areas of partnerships, financing, capacity building, technology, data & statistics etc. If yes, has the support been effective?**

Although, a plethora of partnerships was forged over the last 15 years in the forestry sector with international institutions – Department for International Development (DFID), German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ), WWF, FAO, ITTO, CPEC, Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation (ACTO), USAID, UNDP, KfW, CI, World Bank, and Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) – that have led to various outputs which contributed to the furtherance of the objectives of the forestry development, only two were done since the conceptualisation of the SAMOA Pathway. The projects implemented from partnerships after the conceptualisation of the SAMOA Pathway are: (1) MRVS Phase 2 with NORAD, and (2) ITTO Project on Forestry Industry Development, Phase 2. Numerous partnerships are formed between many local organs.

All partnerships have been very effective and sustainable as the outputs have been integrated within the GFC system. These have fostered the forest sector's ability to meet the requirements and commitments of the Samoa Pathway as well as other commitments - national, bilateral as well as multilateral.

The main challenge has been ensuring that there is ongoing work in meeting new commitments. The main lesson learned has been the importance of bringing in synergy, the various reporting

requirements and implementation commitments, to build efficiencies in the reporting mechanism.

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments?**

The partnerships above have played a key role in the advancement of the commitments under the SAMOA Pathway as well as other commitments. The main areas of contribution have been:

- i. Sustainable Forest Management – Forests are managed to provide sustainable social, economic and environmental goods and services, while maintaining the ecological integrity of the forest and watersheds, for both current and future generations;
- ii. Stakeholder involvement and partnership - Multi-stakeholder interests in forests and biodiversity are recognised, and collaborative resource management encouraged among communities, government and other stakeholders;
- iii. International obligations – All relevant international agreements and conventions should be mainstreamed into planning and management in the forestry and eco-tourism sectors;
- iv. Decentralization – There is decentralization of forest governance and administrative functions as much as is practicable;
- v. Public-Private Partnerships - Public-private sector partnerships and investment in forestry, eco- tourism sectors and forest-based sectors are continuously promoted;
- vi. Capacity-building – Training and capacity development for stakeholders in the forestry, eco-tourism sectors and forest-based sectors are promoted as much as possible;
- vii. Good governance – Efforts are being made to continuously promote good governance in forestry and forest-based sectors. EU-FLEGT has been engaged by the GFC; and
- viii. Sustainable financing – Efforts are being made to secure appropriate and sustainable funding for the forestry and eco-tourism sectors.

These have enabled the GFC to deliver on the following key priorities, also in keeping with the SAMOA Pathway:

- i. Balanced decision-making - decision-making processes effectively integrate both long- term and short-term economic, environmental, social and equitable considerations;
- ii. The precautionary principle – used in every area of planning and decision making;
- iii. Inter-generational equity - the present generation ensures that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations;
- iv. Protection of the natural capital base - the conservation of biological diversity and the maintenance of ecological integrity are fundamental considerations in decision-making; and
- v. Local benefit - local people, particularly in indigenous and forest-dependent communities, provided with training and education relevant to job placement opportunities in the nation’s forest.

- **What role has civil society, youth and private sector played in partnerships if any?**

With the implementation mechanism for GFC’s engagement, there has been specific focus on civil society, private sector involvement and youth. For every project, a stakeholder analysis is done and the role of stakeholders and the potential benefits to stakeholders are identified.

Further, some projects are oriented directly towards these groups of stakeholders, such as those on building capacity at community level where the civil society’s role is more direct.

To sustain the impact and benefits to these groups of stakeholders, the GFC continually engages with various caucuses to seek views and provide updates.

## 2.15 Invasive Alien Species

### - **What national institutional structures/mechanisms are in place, if any?**

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) is spread across several agencies which are responsible for control and management. The National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) has responsibility for the control of plant pest. The EPA has responsibility for ensuring that Guyana fulfils its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity which stipulates that each contracting party must "prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species. The WCMC has responsibility for all wildlife species *"to provide for the protection, conservation, management, sustainable use, internal and external trade of Guyana's wildlife."* While the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (WCMA) of 2016 does not specifically mention invasive alien species, this Act applies to all wildlife species including those listed in – (a) the First, Second, and Third Schedules which lists all species included in Appendix I, II, and III respectively of the Control on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Convention.

Some of the functions of the Commission are to: (a) provide effective management of wildlife so as to ensure its conservation, and sustainable use; (b) prevent over-exploitation; (c) develop and recommend strategies in the field of conservation, management and sustainable use of species of wildlife; (f) devise measures for the protection of endangered or threatened species of wildlife; (h) identify and recommend areas for dedication to wildlife conservation; (i) grant, amend and cancel licences, permits and certificates in respect of activities related to species of wildlife; (l) monitor and enforce compliance with the terms and conditions of licences, permits and certificates; (m) administer, promote and enforce compliance with the provisions of this Act and any other laws relating to wildlife; (n) disseminate information and promote education, training and awareness of wildlife conservation, management, sustainable use, the international wildlife trade and implementation of the Convention; (o) promote scientific research and knowledge of wildlife, within their natural habitats and for ex situ conservation management; (q) develop, implement and monitor collaborative arrangements for the conservation, management and sustainable use of wildlife; (r) coordinate, in consultation with stakeholders, the establishment and maintenance of wildlife conservation and management plans and programmes; (s) on a periodic basis, assess and report on the status of species of wildlife in Guyana in consultation and collaboration with other institutions; (t) advise the Minister on action to be taken for the implementation and enforcement of the Convention; First, Second and Third Schedules of the CITES Convention.

Wild Bird Protection Act of 1919, last amended in 1997 was enacted for the protection of certain scheduled Wild Birds and it is targeted at any person who (a) knowingly wounds, or kills, any wild bird specified in the First Schedule; (b) exposes or offers for sale or exports or attempts to export from Guyana, any wild birds or part of any wild bird captured or killed and (c) keeps or confines any bird whatsoever in any cage or other receptacle which is not sufficient in height, length and breadth to permit the bird to stretch its wings freely.

The Commission in its recent strategic planning included the “development and implementation of threat mitigation plan as necessary” (WCMC’s draft 10-year Strategic Plan).

- **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**

➤ **Achievements**

- i. Development of an IAS Strategy and Action Plan;
- ii. IAS Inventory developed; and
- iii. Establishment of IAS Task Force.

➤ **Challenges**

- i. No agency identified as lead with responsibility for IAS;
- ii. Current framework relies primarily on animal/plant health legislation to prevent and manage IAS risks with a focus on agricultural pests. Invasive species with environmental impacts have low legal standing;
- iii. No programme or criteria to monitor the status and spread of IAS;
- iv. IAS Task Force needs to be revived as a cross-sectoral body that can coordinate the mainstreaming of IAS across the various sectors;
- v. No regulatory lists of species subject to mandatory controls, except for plant pest/animal disease incursions; and
- vi. Due to the recent establishment of the WCMC, it does not have the capacity to address invasive alien species. Such capacity would require space, staff and finances.

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

Very little data exist for IAS except for some available on pest/animal disease.

- **What national efforts and/or best practices are in place in domesticating Agenda 2030 and/or alignment with other global processes and agendas?**

Guyana is currently developing the GSDS that will align with the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. It is envisaged that this national strategy will effect change with regards to addressing IAS.

- **How has the institution benefited from extra support in areas of partnerships, financing, capacity building, technology, data & statistics etc. If yes, has the support been effective?**

Representatives from the EPA and the NPPO participated in a capacity Building Workshop “Small Islands Developing States of the Caribbean Region Towards Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9”

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments?**

The EPA and NPPO currently treat with IAS. Within the EPA, IAS is a cross-cutting issue under the CBD and thus is being treated from a biodiversity standpoint. The DOE is currently developing an Environmental Information Management and Monitoring System (EIMMS) that will enable the DOE to effectively report on international commitments.

## **2.16 Means of Implementation**

### **2.16.1 Partnerships**

Partnerships was extensively dealt with under each of the priority areas.

### **2.16.2 Trade**

- **What National Institutional Structures/ Mechanisms are in place, if any?**

The Department of Commerce within the Ministry of Business (MOB) is a primary governmental body with responsibility for trade. Its mandate for trade are particularly:

- i. To spearhead the implementation of a Single Window for trade transactions as part of a task force appointed by Cabinet;
- ii. To provide policy recommendations regarding trade negotiations and seeking business opportunities in current ones;
- iii. To process trade licences in a timely and efficient manner;
- iv. To develop a framework to attract sustainable investments to the country and create awareness in the business community of the importance of implementing green business models; and
- v. To design a framework to regulate and incentivize the manufacturing sector to adopt greener business processes and use eco-efficient machinery.

The MOB provides application forms for licences. These are found at its office and online website: <http://www.business.gov.gy/downloads/>. Licences are processed within one to two (1-2) working days or forty-eight (48) hours. However, in an effort to facilitate the ease of transactions for the business community, the Ministry undertakes this process within twenty-four (24) hours.

For a licence to be approved, there are certain requirements that need to be met. These requirements include:

- i. Endorsement by the Police Commissioner (Guyana Police Force) stating that there are no objections for the imports specified;
- ii. Acknowledgement and endorsement by the Minister of Public Security;
- iii. Endorsement by the Permanent Secretary and Deputy Permanent Secretary of the MOB; and

- iv. The Placement of Import Control, Ownership (Office, Importer’s Copy of forms) and Receipt stamps by the Department of Commerce.

It must be noted that endorsement from other institutions is usually necessary depending on the type and category of imports or exports. The following are a list of prominent institutions:

- i. **The Government Analyst Food & Drugs Department** – for approval and endorsement of household products, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, oils and fats and other where necessary;
- ii. **MOA** – for approval of fresh, chilled or frozen meat, sugar inter alia;
- iii. **Ministry of Education, Department of Culture** – for approval of Cinematography Film;
- iv. **National Frequency Management Unit** – for approval of transmission, radar and reception apparatus;
- v. **Guyana Civil Aviation Authority** – for approval of air and space craft;
- vi. **Guyana Energy Agency** – for approval of petrol (lube oil, grease, motor oil etc);
- vii. **Guyana Police Force** – for approval of arms and ammunition;
- viii. **Guyana Metal Recyclers Association** – for approval of scrap metal; and
- ix. **Guyana Gold Board, GGMC** – for approval of gold, diamond, other minerals etc.

Other regulatory agencies that the MOB liaisons with for matters relating to trade are:

- i. The Guyana National Bureau of Standards;
- ii. Competition and Consumer Affairs Commission; and
- iii. Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- **What are the Major Achievements, Challenges and Gaps?**

The following is a table of the major achievements, challenges and gaps in Guyana’s trade operations:

ACHIEVEMENTS	CHALLENGES	GAPS
1. Licences are processed within 24 hours at an average rate of 80%.	Other regulatory agencies are required to endorse licences and as such, the process is slowed.	The distance and reliable transport of licences for endorsement by other agencies.
2. The establishment of a help desk service center	There is not adequate awareness of the Help Desk Service Center.	Poor marketing budget.

3. Trade Agreements are created and published.	These are not adequately used by the public.	Statistics depend on those provided by the BOS.
4. Regulation of Trade such as Poultry and Scrap Metal.	Other endorsing agencies may have different views on halting or continuing trade.	There is avenue for illegal trade should all operations be halted.
5. Creation of Business Registration Hubs	Some areas are distant and difficult to access.	Registrations take a while as they are moved through a number of agencies/organisations.
6. Trade has expanded by 32 % in 2017 when compared to 2017	Small businesses are still unable to move towards international trade.	Some items are traded more than others. The Pharmaceutical Industry is especially prominent in trade operations.
7. Product Survey: Building Capacity for Export Readiness	Owners of businesses are afraid to share ideas and business development plans.	Business development efforts are restricted to a smaller number of businesses.

- ***What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?***

Data availability challenges lie in the extent to which national surveys are undertaken and in what magnitude these are done. Most data are referred to on the basis of those reported by international organisations and institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Trade Organisations Reports inter alia. Locally produced reports are often prepared by BOS, government ministries and among others the Bank of Guyana.

Access to data is often challenging not only if it is unavailable but while its available. Communication and data sharing among agencies is poor as most organisations and bodies do not easily share data and information. Therefore, a data sharing policy is recommended facilitate the smooth access of data by other bodies through a more open and easier process. It will also enable security and restrictions for those information and data that are highly confidential.

- **What national efforts and/or best practices are in place in domesticating Agenda 2030 and/or Alignment with other global processes and agendas?**

The Government of Guyana in 2018 joined with the United Nations in support of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The political climate favours the creation and operation of Low carbon impact or green businesses. According to the Minister of State: “Guyana aspires to transition into a decarbonized and resource efficient economy that values and integrates the multi-ethnicity of our country and enhances the quality of life for all Guyanese. Guyana’s commitment to the 2030 Agenda is unequivocal.”

The Department of Commerce has been working closely with the Business Strategy and Policy Unit of the MOB to acquire funding in support of the establishment of an Incentive Framework for Green Businesses. This projects primarily focuses on training and education which seeks to not only equip staff and business owners with the relevant knowledge on green reforms and incentives, but to provide a monitoring and evaluation framework that will ensure the sustainability of these initiatives.

Additionally, collaborative efforts have been made with the Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest). GO-Invest is mandated to contribute to Guyana’s economic development by promoting and facilitating local and foreign private-sector investment and exports in accordance with the country’s approved investment and export strategies while the Department of Commerce is mandated to promote the attraction of sustainable investment, trade and ease of doing business through licensing and trade policy formulation and implementation. Together these two stakeholders have combined elements of their Annual Work Plan to arrive at the initiative of enhancing and expanding the Incentive Framework for Green Businesses based on research and information gathered from businesses desiring of new incentives and recognition of the need to adjust current incentives. An evaluation of the current incentives has proven the need for additional and supporting incentives that will enable businesses to expand and diversify. This project is still ongoing due to budgetary constraints and the need for policy-level and regulatory changes.

- **How has the institution benefited from extra support in areas of partnerships, financing, capacity building, technology, data and statistics etc. If yes, has the support been effective?**

Support is often given to projects by other governmental ministries and bodies. However, support via financing and technical assistance has limitations. Therefore, international donors are relied upon. For the creation of an Incentive Framework, the Department of Commerce has

approached Compete Caribbean for funding as the resources that are available otherwise are inadequate for this project. Funding has been granted and the project is set to commence in the latter half of 2018.

The Department of Commerce in a bid to encourage trade facilitation, coordinated with and supported the work of the task force and steering committee to oversee passing of the Single Window Bill and other critical legislations. For the implementation of the Single Windows Automated Processing System (SWAPS), numerous organisations have been involved as work is being done together with the Inter-American Bank for the realization of this project. SWAPS once established will link licensing bodies to the Custom and Trade Administration to facilitate the sharing of information and to enhance the efficiency with which trade transactions are carried out. These improved procedures will reduce the amount of time that private businesses spend mired in paperwork, and will also increase government accountability, reduce corruption, and make data and information more accessible.

Another major project done collaboratively with the Guyana Revenue Authority was the planning and organisation for the implementation of ASYCUDA World (AW). The AW programme is an integrated customs management system which was developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to aid with the modernization of manifests, customs declarations, accounting procedures, transit, suspense procedures, among others. Meetings of this committee have been attended by the Department of Commerce since its establishment and assistance has been given to contact the relevant organisations and submit an inventory of all Information Technology authorities. This information will be later used for consultancy and relevant meetings. Challenges were identified as: unavailability of funding and the difficulty in attaining finances for the automation of processes of trade regulatory agencies.

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments?**

The Guyana Sustainable Development Bureau is in place to deliver, monitor and report on Sustainable Development commitments. This bureau liaises with governmental agencies and ministries, individual organisations, non-governmental agencies and groups, private sector groups and international organisations for adequate and inclusive information.

The MOB through its Monitoring and Evaluation Framework will monitor and report on the effectiveness and successes of the Incentive Framework for Green Businesses in separate phases for the five-year period of the project's implementation.

### **2.16.3 Data and Statistics**

- **What national institutional structures/ mechanisms are in place, if any?**

Guyana's National Statistical Office, the Bureau of Statistics (BOS), is recognised as the central statistical authority on statistics in Guyana. The Central Statistical Office of Guyana was first established as the 'Statistical Bureau' and a Department of Government in the year 1957. After the establishment of the Statistical Bureau, there was the enactment of the Statistics Act of the July 03, 1965, under Chapter 19:09 of the Laws of Guyana.

An Act of Parliament in October 1990 incorporated the BOS as a semi-autonomous body, outside the purview of the traditional public service. The functions of the Bureau, which have since 1965 become systemized, are set out in section 4 (1) of the Bureau of Statistics Act No 25 of 1991 and the Statistical Bureau Act Cap 19.09 and can be summed up as follows:

- i. Conduct censuses;
- ii. Collect, compile, analyse and publish socio-economic and other statistical data;
- iii. Collaborate with other government departments in collecting, compiling, analysing and Publishing statistics derived from administrative records; and
- iv. Organise a coordinated scheme of social and economic statistics for Guyana

- **What are the major achievements, challenges and gaps?**

➤ **Achievements**

Efforts toward advancing a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics can be seen as an achievement. Guyana has never known such as strategy. On 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018, there was the launch of the Guyana Strategy for the Development of Statistics Development. Further, the publication of Guyana Labour Force Survey report earlier this year can be seen as another achievement.

➤ **Challenges**

One possible challenge would be the monitoring of international data requirements. In terms of gaps, improvements in national statistics to meet targets of the SDGs inclusive of poverty eradication, reduced inequalities and zero hunger are needed.

- **What specific data availability and accessibility challenges exist?**

Undoubtedly, the type of data requested or demanded in the context of the Samoa Pathway has to be generated by a National Statistical System (NSS) rather than a National Statistical Office (NSO). To its credit, under the provisions of the current IDB-supported statistical-capacity building Project, the Bureau oversaw the launch of a National Statistical System which in time will be the instrument to address data needs such as outlined herein.

It is necessary for an NSO and the NSS to be responsive to the needs of data users, especially when such data may be needed to support policy. More needs to be done to strengthen and improve statistics in certain areas, especially the newer emerging areas such as environmental statistics and geospatially referenced data. Guidance is needed from the respective subject-matter agencies as it relates to the Bureau's role and that of the wider NSS in producing national environment statistics and the development of national environment statistics programmes. There is need to strengthen the availability and accessibility of data in the statistical system. Migration statistics could require a higher proportion of resources in the immediate upcoming years.

- **How have the institution benefited from extra support in areas of partnerships, financing, capacity building, technology, data and statistics etc. If yes, has the support been effective?**

As it relates to how the institution has benefited from extra support, currently the BOS is a beneficiary of the Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC). This project is an initiative funded by the Government of Canada through its Caribbean Program and is being executed by Statistics Canada (StatsCan). The project seeks to improve the capacity of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to provide high quality social and economic statistics to policy makers for use in the development of policies/programmes to improve the social and economic well-being of the Caribbean people. Further, the Bureau is also a beneficiary of an ongoing IDB project aimed at enhancing the statistical capacity of the national statistical office. This project has seen the Bureau benefiting in the areas of financing and capacity building. Through this project the Bureau has recently been able to assess Guyana's National Statistical System.

- **What national capacities and systems are in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments?**

The Bureau has always followed best practices in the collection, analysis, production and dissemination of official statistics. However, national efforts in domesticating Agenda 2030 and/or alignment with other global processes and agendas is that much of the integration of these global processes and agendas nationally are done through the implementation of planning documents such as National Development Plans, National Vision Strategies, Sectoral Plans and Local Development Agendas. Regarding the national capacities and systems in place to deliver, monitor and report on sustainable development commitments, at present there is no identified agency tasked with this overarching responsibility. What obtains is a situation where depending on which agency may be called upon to respond to the submission of a progress report for a particular agenda or commitment; that agency has the responsibility to liaise with other relevant agencies where the requisite data may be obtained.

- **Have partnerships played any role in supporting implementation of the SAMOA Pathway?**

Partnerships in general over the past two (2) decades have sustained the ongoing capacity-development of the Bureau. The types of partnership currently exist to support the statistical capacity and efficacy are exclusively government driven supported by bi-lateral and multilateral initiatives. Local, private and NGO partnerships are currently minimal. The multilateral support has been decidedly predominant and sustained.

