







**PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE
UPDATE ON GUYANA REDD+ INVESTMENT FUND (GRIF) PROJECTS**


There are currently seven projects funded by the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund in Implementation worth approximately US\$ 35.8 million with several others in various stages of development.




Projects in Implementation		
Project: Institutional Strengthening in Support of Guyana’s Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS)	Budget: US\$ 7,450,000	Partner Entity: 
<p>The overall objective of the proposed project is to further enhance national institutional capacity in Guyana to address the impacts of Climate Change through the effective implementation of the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), and to assist Guyana in meeting its commitments under interim Reducing Emissions from Deforestation, forest Degradation and sustainable forest management (REDD+) partnerships. These commitments include avoided deforestation measures that translate into the avoidance of CO₂ emissions. The specific objectives of the project are: (i) to strengthen the technical and administrative capacity of the principal institutions responsible for implementing Guyana’s Low Carbon Development Strategy, namely the Office of Climate Change (OCC), the Project Management Office (PMO) and the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC); and (ii) develop and implement a Monitoring Reporting and Verification System on a national level.</p> <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 84 communication and outreach sessions conducted on climate change, LCDS and REDD+ - 7 GRIF funded projects in implementation worth approx. US\$ 35.8 million - Development and implementation of a mechanism for a national scale Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Methodologies for determining the extent and scale of forest degradation were developed and digital database of archived satellite data and national spatial data sets was established ▪ Historical and current drivers and processes affecting forest carbon levels were assessed and implementation plans for long term measurements and monitoring of national forest carbon stocks were developed - 8 Technical Staff within the REDD+ Secretariat trained in the area of forest carbon stocks and change assessments - 14 field staff of the REDD+ Secretariat trained in forest carbon monitoring systems - 6 staff within the REDD+ Secretariat trained in GIS and Remote Sensing - Multiple reports completed by Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), including: Assessment Report in Current Drivers and Processes Affecting Forest Carbon, Report on Independent Forest Monitoring, MRVS Interim Measures Report for Year 3, Report on Identification of Non-Carbon Ecosystem Services for Integration into Guyana’s National MRVS Assessment, Report on Shifting Agriculture, Report on Assessment of Requirements of a Monitoring System for Carbon as well as Non-Carbon Variables - Strategy for a national scale Opt-in Mechanism completed and the procurement process initiated for a consultant to design and implement the pilot Opt-in Mechanism. <i>(The Opt-in Mechanism is an innovative approach intended to help Guyana’s indigenous people, the Amerindians, to “opt-in” to the national REDD+ mechanism and receive a pro rata share of Guyana’s REDD+ payments under the country’s partnership with Norway. Indigenous communities that choose to “opt-in” will essentially be committing their forests to a REDD+ Agreement with the Government of Guyana and, in return, will receive payments which will be allocated to further the development of indigenous communities through a sharing of the results based payments earned by Guyana).</i> 		
Project: Amerindian Development Fund Phases 1 & 2	Budget: US\$ 8,143,042	Partner Entity: 
<p>The Amerindian Development Fund was established to provide funding to support the socio-economic development of Amerindian communities and villages, through the implementation of their Community Development Plans (CDPs). The project aims to strengthen the entrepreneurial and institutional capabilities of the village economies of Amerindian communities; improve linkages with the private sector to further develop value chains; and strengthen institutional frameworks to support local economies. CDPs being implemented by communities and villages cover projects in the following sectors: agriculture, village infrastructure, tourism, manufacturing, village business enterprise, and transportation.</p> <p>Achievements</p>		

- Scoping missions completed for 113 communities and villages (1,577 female participants and 1,257 male participants)
- Leadership and business management training completed for CDP Management Teams in 104 communities/villages
- Micro capital grants signed with 76 communities/villages
- First tranche of US\$ 674,187 disbursed to sixty four (64) communities/villages to implement their CDPs
- Including Phase 1, a total of US\$ 1,298,577 has been disbursed to ninety (90) communities/villages

Project: Amerindian Land Titling	Budget: US\$ 10,755,990	Partner Entity: 
<p>The objective of this project is to facilitate and fast track the Amerindian Land Titling process. It seeks to a) Have land titles issued and demarcation process completed for all Amerindian villages that submit requests, including those that request extensions, b) strengthen existing mechanisms to deal with unresolved land issues, c) improve the communication and outreach efforts of the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs. The project seeks to enable Amerindians to secure their lands and natural resources with a view towards sustainable social and economic development. It is expected that titling of communities will strengthen land tenure security and the expansion of the asset base of Amerindians, enabling improved long term planning for their future development.</p> <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigations completed for 26 communities and villages: Rockstone, Parabara, Katoonarib, Four Miles, Eclipse Falls Top, Capoey, Mainstay/Whyaka, Mashabo, Wakapoa, St. Monica, Akawini, Sand Creek, Potarinau, Moco Moco, Karrau, Little Kaniballi, Santa Rosa, Bethany, Nappi, Yupukari, Red Hill, Hotoquai, Monkey Mountain, and Arau. - Absolute grants prepared for eight (8) communities: Sawariwau, Batavia, Kariako, Karisparu, Tuseneng, Kambaru/Omanik, Four Miles and Eclipse Falls Top - Demarcation completed for twelve (12) villages: Kamana, Manawarin, Waramuri, Kurukabaru, Sawariwau, Konashen, Baramita, Riversview, Rupanau, Kambaru/Omanik, Tuseneng, Karisparu - Absolute grants completed for three (3) village extensions: Little Kanibali Ext., Santa Rosa Ext., Potarinau Ext. - Demarcation completed for one (1) village extension: Massara Ext. Tract A and C - Training completed for 201 persons in Regions 1,2,7,8,9 and 10 in Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and dispute resolution 		

Project: Micro and Small Enterprise Development	Budget: US\$ 5,127,476	Partner Entity: 
<p>This project aims to address two of the major bottlenecks that constrain the development of MSEs and the ability of vulnerable groups to build alternative livelihoods in Guyana, which are i) limited access to finance and ii) limited technical and business skills. Access to finance is addressed through a credit guarantee facility; an interest payment support facility; and a low carbon grant scheme to assist vulnerable persons with viable business propositions in low carbon sectors. Lack of skills will be addressed through a training voucher scheme which will enable MSEs to obtain the skills they require at existing training institutions. The project targets MSEs who are in or who wish to transition to low carbon sectors. <i>The low carbon sectors identified for funding under the project are: fruits and vegetables (farming and processing); aquaculture; eco-tourism; business process outsourcing; bio-ethanol; energy efficient transportation and logistics; low carbon manufacturing activities; low carbon agriculture and agro-processing; apiculture; low carbon energy production and/or distribution; professional and business services; internet and computer based services; entertainment, music and performing arts; arts and crafts; and publishing and printing.</i></p> <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 43 loans totalling US\$ 1,091,902 approved in low carbon sectors (183 jobs created/sustained) - 162 grants totalling US\$ 231,707 approved in low carbon sectors (237 jobs created/sustained) - 1,122 persons trained in basic business management skills, record keeping, packaging and labelling, and a special course aimed at female entrepreneurs - Guyana's first bioplastics factory completed utilising a loan under the Micro and Small Enterprise Development project - Website design and development in progress - Communication and outreach activities in progress, including media awareness on tv and radio 		

Project: Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (Years 4 & 5)	Budget: US\$ 2,803,896	Collaborating Entity: 
<p>This project builds on the work completed by the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) under their component of the Institutional Strengthening Project. The objectives of this project are to: (i) further build capacity in the GFC to carry out forest cover and change monitoring and forest carbon monitoring/measurement in fulfilment of the MRVS Roadmap, and (ii) build stakeholder awareness and participation in the successful design and implementation of the MRVS as an essential tool for the implementation of the LCDS, and in overall sustainable forest management.</p>		

<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities related to stakeholder engagement, consultation and communication conducted - Independent Accuracy Assessment conducted for forest maps and change estimates and to support independent verification - Mapping and assessment of change in forest area conducted - Acquisition of Satellite Data Coverage of Guyana at national scale completed - Work has commenced on the design and implementation of a Systematic National Forest Carbon Measurement System - Work has commenced to establish an Emission Factor for Main Forest Degradation Drivers and to conduct Uncertainty Assessments 		
<p>Project: Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan</p>	<p>Budget: US\$ 343,297</p>	<p>Collaborating Entity: </p>
<p>This project seeks to establish a climate resilience framework for Guyana that addresses direct and indirect impacts associated with extreme weather events, as well as, emerging, indirect, slow-onset climate impacts and hazards. The Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan provides a roadmap for the next five years, a summary of the most significant climate risks and resilience actions across fifteen sectors, a set of capacity building actions, project concept notes for four priority resilience programmes and a financing strategy.</p>		
<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two workshops with stakeholders conducted and reports completed - Data and information reviewed on current and future climate change scenarios for Guyana, as well as information on slow onset climate events, i.e. incremental climate change - Three-day Vulnerability and Risk Resilience workshop conducted in April 2015 and a Summary Report of the Workshop produced - First draft of the Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan (including drafts of priority project concept notes) completed - Policy shapers meetings concluded - Final Workshop concluded in December 2015 - Final Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan to be submitted in first half of 2016 		
<p>Project: Implementing the LCDS Outreach Programme</p>	<p>Budget: US\$ 1,157,412</p>	<p>Collaborating Entity: </p>
<p>This project is aimed at increasing understanding and awareness, on climate change and Guyana's LCDS, both nationally and internationally. It aims to achieve greater harmonization of effort by all stakeholders in the implementation of the LCDS, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. The project focuses on communications planning for the dissemination of information on climate change, low-carbon concepts, and the LCDS; the production of targeted LCDS education and awareness materials for key audiences; and targeted outreach, education and awareness sessions on climate change and the LCDS conducted across all ten Administrative Regions in Guyana.</p>		
<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contracts awarded to overseas based consultant, Outreach Strategies, for International Communication and locally based consultant, Guyenterprise, for local communications - Three (3) cluster outreach sessions conducted in Regions 5, 7, & 9 - Procurement process commenced to hire a suitable firm/consultant to conduct Targeted Outreach and Awareness Sessions, and Capacity Building - Initial communications started by International Communications Consultant, Outreach Strategies (briefing papers, fact sheets, etc.) - Guyenterprise, the Local Communications Consultant, has started planning for stakeholder engagement 		
<p>Projects in Advanced Stages of Development</p>		
<p>Project: Cunha Canal Rehabilitation Project</p>	<p>Budget: US\$ 3,000,000</p>	<p>Partner Entity: </p>
<p>The Cunha Canal Rehabilitation Project is a part of Guyana's LCDS adaptation initiatives. The proposed physical works for the Cunha Canal will include the widening of the canal, the rehabilitation of the former outlet structure, rerouting the canal to re-establish its original alignment and construction of a bridge on the East Bank of Demerara Public Road where the canal intercepts the road. Rehabilitation of the Canal will increase its discharge capacity and contribute to reducing the risks of the embankment overtopping and flooding of areas along the East Bank of the Demerara. It is estimated that 39% of Guyana's population and 43% of GDP are in regions exposed to significant flooding risk, and extreme weather events are increasing in frequency – in 2005 floods caused losses equivalent to 60% of Guyana's GDP. The Cunha Canal project is seen as one of the major adaptation projects aimed at a more climate resilient economy in Guyana. The rehabilitation of the</p>		

Cunha Canal is expected to prevent significant losses to human lives, crops and livestock and should help increase estimated national income and provide better conditions that can attract investors in high potential low carbon sectors.

Achievements


- Project Document completed
- Public Review and Comment Period completed
- Project Document and funds for implementation approved by the GRIF Steering Committee
- Grant Agreement signed between the Government of Guyana and the World Bank in February 2016
- Project Operations Manual near completion
- Work plan and procurement plan under review

Project: ICT Access and E-Services for Hinterland, Poor and Remote Communities	Budget: TBD, but initially estimated at US\$ 15,000,000	Partner Entity: 
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The objective of this project is to provide Information & Communications Technology (ICT) access and electronic services to hinterland, poor and remote communities throughout Guyana. The project aims to provide the necessary infrastructure, equipment, hardware, and software necessary to enable access to high quality ICT, training and e-services in all parts of Guyana, with particular attention given to vulnerable groups and remote communities who might otherwise be excluded. It is visualised that the project will provide the supporting capacity to create linkages to generate inter-sectoral benefits in areas such as education, health and business. The goals of the project include the development of a digital knowledge-based society, enhancement of national efficiency and competitiveness and the promotion of inclusive and sustainable growth and development.

Achievements

- UNDP approved to act as Partner Entity to the Project by GRIF Steering Committee
- Draft Project Concept Note (PCN) completed by the Project Management Office (PMO), e-Government Unit (eGov), and the Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Environment (OPAEE)
- Draft ToR completed for consultant to conduct baseline, needs assessment and feasibility study
- Draft PCN and ToR submitted to UNDP for collaborative finalization between UNDP, PMO, eGov, and OPAEE
- Draft Request for Proposals for baseline and needs assessment study completed and issued
- Proposals received and evaluated

Project: Institutional Strengthening in Support of Guyana's LCDS Phase 2	Budget: TBD, but initially estimated at US\$ 7,000,000	Partner Entity: 
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Achievements

- Draft Project Document being finalised

Project: Biodiversity Research Centre	Budget: TBD, but initially estimated at US\$ 5,000,000	Partner Entity: 
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This project will see investment in human resources, infrastructure, facilities and equipment to develop a self-sustaining scientific research centre at the University of Guyana (UG). The international Centre for biodiversity research and low carbon development will be dedicated to researching Guyana's biodiversity and assessing its economic value and how this can be maximized. The Centre will work with emerging global institutes to ensure that Guyana is integrated with international advances in relevant fields.

Achievements

- Draft Feasibility Study and Business Plan completed by The Energy and Resources Institute of India
- Consultants to conduct stakeholder engagement sessions on April 8th 2016 to obtain feedback on draft documents

Project: Strengthening of the Hydrometeorological Office	Budget: TBD, but initially estimated at US\$ 1,000,000	TBD
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This project is targeted at increasing the institutional capacity of Guyana's Hydromet. Dept. to meet the changing demands for weather, climate, water and related environmental information. It is expected that the improved forecasting abilities and communication as a result of the project will enable citizens (including farmers and fishermen), as well as agencies such

as the Civil Defense Commission, to better prevent, prepare for, respond to, adapt to and recover from the impacts of weather, water and climate-related hazards in the most timely and effective manner.

Achievements

- Draft Project Concept Note developed

Project: Ecotourism Development

Budget: TBD, but initially estimated at US\$ 6,000,000

TBD

The Ecotourism Development project aims to improve Guyana’s ecotourism competitiveness both regionally and globally by developing and promoting the sector, as well as improving service and product quality. Targeted improvement in market networks and communication infrastructure seeks to increase international awareness and sale of destination packages to Guyana.

Achievements

- Draft Project Concept Note developed
- Initial discussions held with the Hon. Minister of Tourism, Ms. Catherine Hughes, and teams from the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples’ Affairs

Project: Hinterland Adaptation

Budget: TBD, but initially estimated at US\$ 10,000,000

TBD

The Hinterland Adaptation project is intended to address the effects of extreme weather events, including severe droughts and flooding of hinterland communities and villages. The project aims to reduce the vulnerability of these communities/villages to catastrophic conditions and increase their resilience to climate change, while helping to protect the lives and livelihoods of members of these communities/villages.

Achievements

- Initial discussions and presentation of ideas held with the Hon. Vice President, Mr. Sydney Allicock and members of the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples’ Affairs
- Initial fact finding meeting held with members of the National Toshias Executive Committee