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GUYANA



COUNTRY PROFILE



UNITED NATIONS

INTRODUCTION - 2002 COUNTRY PROFILES SERIES

Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, underscored the important role that States play in the implementation of the Agenda at the national level. It recommended that States consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) including, activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the obstacles and challenges they confront, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.

As a result, in 1993 governments began preparing national reports for submission to the CSD. After two years of following this practice, the CSD decided that a summarized version of national reports submitted thus far would be useful. Subsequently, the CSD Secretariat published the first Country Profiles series in 1997 on the occasion of the five-year review of the Earth Summit (Rio + 5). The series summarized, on a country-by-country basis, all the national reports submitted between 1994 and 1996. Each Profile covered the status of all Agenda 21 chapters.

The purpose of Country Profiles is to:

- Help countries monitor their own progress;
- Share experiences and information with others; and,
- Serve as institutional memory to track and record national actions undertaken to implement Agenda 21.

A second series of Country Profiles is being published on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development being held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, 2002. Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997, including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry.

The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level. Each Country Profile is based on information updated from that contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments.

Preparing national reports is often a challenging exercise. It can also be a productive and rewarding one in terms of taking stock of what has been achieved and by increasing communication, coordination and cooperation among a range of national agencies, institutions and groups. Hopefully, the information contained in this series of Country Profiles will serve as a useful tool for learning from the experience and knowledge gained by each country in its pursuit of sustainable development.

NOTE TO READERS

The 2002 Country Profiles Series provides information on the implementation of Agenda 21 on a country-by-country and chapter-by-chapter basis (with the exception of chapters 1 and 23, which are preambles). Since Rio 1992, the Commission on Sustainable Development has specifically addressed other topics not included as separate chapters in Agenda 21. These issues of trade, industry, energy, transport and sustainable tourism are, therefore, treated as distinct sections in the Country Profiles. In instances where several Agenda 21 chapters are closely related, for example, chapters 20 to 22 which cover environmentally sound management of hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes, and chapters 24 to 32 which refer to strengthening of major groups, the information appears under a single heading in the Country Profile Series. Lastly, chapters 16 and 34, which deal with environmentally sound management of biotechnology, and transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, capacity-building respectively, are presented together under one heading in those Country Profiles where information is relatively scarce.

At the release of this Country Profile Guyana had not updated it and therefore any new changes will appear on our web page: <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natinfo>.

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LIST OF COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMCEN	Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARICOM	The Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations
DESA	Department for Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIDA	Foundation for International Development Assistance
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development
IEEA	Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund

IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization for African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance/Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNU	United Nations University
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES - TRADE

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

Decision-Making: Governmental initiatives are identified mainly in energy issues (see under Chapter 4 – Energy). The Agency responsible for mining, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Energy Agency which will ensure that Environmental Management is integrated in mining activities. Thus all large scale mining operations are subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment as provided for under the Environmental Protection Act. In recognizing the competitiveness of the mining industry and noting the importance of its contribution to economic development, Guyana has established a policy on mining. This policy has firmly cemented the foundation for continuous growth in this sector and will allow the sector its rightful role as a principal catalyst for sustainable development in the future. Guyana has integrated in its policy on mining plans to deal with social and environmental issues arising from mining activities. In the areas of land use, the government encourages multiple land use and is in the process of finalizing a land use policy. It has also addressed issues with respect to indigenous people. The GGMC has also recognized that the regulation of small and medium scale mining is difficult because of the number and mobility of operations thus they have undertaken to implement an Environmental Management Agreement (EMA) for these operations. The EMA covers all aspects of mining including the use of equipment, sedimentation, control, vegetation removal, storage and disposal of chemicals and fuel handling and uses of mercury.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Mining has contributed significantly to Guyana's economic well-being. In 1994 gold became the largest source of export earning, accounting for 28% of the total, compared to 7% in 1992. Bauxite and gold in the same year accounted for a total of 46% of export earning. This demonstrates that mining maintained a strong position in Guyana's economy. Thus, one can emphasize its importance to sustainable development. Government therefore recognizes the need to sustain and encourage large scale exploration in the area of gold production and foreign investment in the mining sector, together with the medium and small scale efforts of our local miners who are expected to contribute 28% of the 450,000 ounces of gold production projected for 1997.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: see under Chapter 4 – Energy.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS – ENERGY

Decision-Making: Draft legislation to form a new Guyana Energy Agency has been completed. This new agency will incorporate under one umbrella all of the various energy related departments and units which would allow for the improvement in institutional arrangements. This will ensure more effective and efficient co-ordination planning and monitoring of energy matters. Guyana has formulated a National Energy Policy (NEP) in which the basic core idea is the substitution of imported fossil fuels through the promotion and increased use of renewable sources of energy with which Guyana is well endowed. Recognizing the vitallink between energy and development, the NEP administers short, medium and long term technological options for satisfying energy demand. Guyana is well endowed with renewable energy resources including hydropower, biomass, solar, wind and biogas. The NEP reviewed energy supply mixes and recommended a shift toward further use of renewable sources of energy. Co-operation with the newly established EPA to ensure that energy planning and project implementation are done in an environmentally acceptable manner has already begun through a Natural Resources and Environment Advisory Committee.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Efforts are being made to promote energy conservation through public awareness programmes. Energy Audits at various industrial and other enterprises are being undertaken.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS – TRANSPORT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: In the area of transportation there has been the introduction of unleaded gasoline into the Guyana market. As of January 1999, leaded gasoline will no longer be imported.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The GNEA, EPA and GNBS are collaborating on a programme to ensure gasoline using vehicles are fitted with catalytic converters and with the setting of vehicle emission standards.

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CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

Decision-Making: At the governmental level the integrated approach has been undertaken by two statutory bodies. There is a Cabinet Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Environment which is chaired by the Executive President. All issues related to sustainable development with regards to natural resource use which require policy decision are thoroughly discussed and reviewed by this committee before taken to Cabinet. At the Technical level there is the Natural Resource and Environment Advisory Committee (NREAC) which includes the heads of natural resource agencies and the environmental protection agency. The Government of Guyana explicitly endorsed the concept of sustainable development and the promotion of sound environmental management when it published the details of its policy and actions on the environment in the National Environmental Action Plan. This plan was approved in May 1994 after a series of consultations with NGOs, governmental and other interest groups. Recognizing the importance of establishing a legal framework to implement these policies and actions, Guyana passed an Environmental Protection Act in June 1996. The Government of Guyana now uses this as the regulatory instrument to implement environmental policy and to promote environmental management which is integral to sustainable development. This Act establishes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the institution with the mandate for coordinating environmental management and provides for the management, conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, the prevention or control of pollution and the assessment of the impacts of economic development activities on the environment. The EPA created various mechanisms for action with respect to Environmental Management as follows: setting of standards of environmental quality; environmental impact assessment; licensing of activities with the potential for pollution; penalties and fines for environmental degradation; monitoring of anthropogenic impacts on the environment emanating from industrial and other activities; public awareness and environmental education. Major groups participate in the decision making process and in some cases NGOs have been active in developing activities for sustainable development at the local and national level. Guyana has recognized that environmental management is a multi-disciplinary task. In this regard the EPA carries out its task through linkages with sectoral Natural Resource Agencies and the involvement of stakeholders and other interest groups.

Programmes and Projects: In the development of activities or programmes with regards to sustainable development, the participatory model is widely used and appreciated. In addition efforts to promote shared responsibility with different stakeholders, government, private sector, non-governmental organizations and local communities have evolved over the years. In order to commence full operation of the EPA the government will receive financial assistance from the Inter-American Development Bank to implement an environmental management project. This project aims to strengthen the technical and organizational capability of the Agency and will also assist in the legal and regulatory framework in environment and natural resources management. Under this project the government plans to strengthen the environmental management capacity of selected sectoral agencies, ministries and local governments with significant environmental management responsibilities. In this regard initial work will begin with the mining and forestry sectors with which Memoranda of Understanding have already been signed.

Status: It is widely established that sustainable development cannot be achieved without an integrated approach which involves the public and private sectors and other groups.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The EPA created mechanisms of public awareness and environmental education for action with respect to Environmental Management.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: The environmental monitoring capability of the EPA has been enhanced through the establishment of a laboratory facility to undertake monitoring of various chemical parameters and to determine their environmental effects. This was established through a private sector donation.

Financing: See under **Programmes and Projects** and **Research and Technologies**.

Cooperation: See under **Programmes and Projects**. * * *

CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: Guyana will be participating in a regional project to be executed by the OAS and known as Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC). Under this project, Guyana will join with other CARICOM States to develop national programmes to mitigate climate and climate change by monitoring same. In so doing, Guyana will: create climate change databases; inventories coastal resources and use; conduct coastal vulnerability and risk assessments; formulate a policy framework for coastal and marine management; develop an economic valuation of coastal and marine resources; develop economic and regulatory proposals for adaptation to climate change; and, provide for institutional strengthening and human resource development of relevant national agencies.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: Guyana ratified the Montreal Protocol (1987) on 12 August 1993. Neither the London Amendment (1990) nor the Copenhagen Amendment (1992) has yet been signed. The latest report to the Montreal Protocol Secretariat was prepared on 31 December 1996. Guyana ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1994. No report has, as yet, been submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat due to the unavailability of financial wherewithal. Guyana has applied to the UNDP and GEF for assistance in developing and publishing periodic national inventories of anthropogenic emissions. A UNDP consultant visited Guyana in late 1996 to assess the needs of the country. See also under **Programmes and Projects**.

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CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

Decision-Making: Guyana recognizes that land use planning is only as effective as the goals that guide the exercise. Many countries practice land use planning based on economic efficiency goals. Guyana has adopted sustainable land use planning, in which multiple goals such as conservation, spatial equity, as well as economic efficiency, form the basis for land evaluation and land use decisions. Guyana has turned attention to the comprehensive management of its natural resources, a key element of which is land use planning of those geographic areas where the natural resources lie. In this regard significant progress has been made in some fundamental land use tasks. A land use baseline report has been prepared. This report assembles all of the land use legislation, institutions and processes; identifies the land use issues and makes recommendations for the implementation of land use planning in Guyana. The report benefitted from country wide local consultations at the community level. A National Land Use Plan has been developed. A map of existing land uses and a land use classification system has been prepared at the national level. A pilot regional land use plan is being initiated. This pilot study will serve as a model for the planning of other regions.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Much work remains to be done in the areas of resource valuation, land evaluation, soil mapping at the district and local levels, institutional capacity for land use planning, and legislative reform for natural resource management. A key concept in sustainable land use planning is the interrelatedness of resource utilization. One cannot consider forestry without the people who live in the forests, nor can one talk about water pollution in isolation from economic activities that pollute the water, or about watershed management without hydropower development. Accepting the global nature of sustainable development and the need for a comprehensive focus, it is Guyana's position that, in the area of natural resources management, sustainable land use planning should not only be a key consideration, but also an essential one.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: A geographical information system has been installed; training has been given to key personnel and a data base is being created as the basis for national decision making in land use matters.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

Decision-Making: The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) is responsible for the administration and management of the forest resources of Guyana under the Forest Act, Chapter 67:01 Laws of Guyana. A National Forest Policy is in its final stage after two years of consultation with industry, public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) indigenous groups and other interested parties. The GFC is currently collaborating with the recently established Environmental Protection Agency to implement and maintain strict environmental management and monitoring programmes of the forest resources of Guyana. To this end the GFC established an Environmental Unit in 1995 to perform these functions. The Inter-American Development Bank is involved in supporting this activity. Through the Natural Resources and Environmental Advisory Committee the GFC is working with other natural resources agencies to better co-ordinate all planning functions and strategies at a national level. The GFC has created buffer zones around Amerindian villages and has streamlined logging activities to prevent encroachment on these communities. Currently the commission is collaborating with the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs to demarcate Amerindian land boundaries. A Code of Practice for responsible forest management was worked out with the Forest Producers Association of Guyana during two years of consultation and was introduced to the industry for voluntary adoption in July 1996. The GFC and the EPA are working together to ensure its full acceptance by industry. The Commission has successfully introduced improved systems to ensure better collection of forest revenue and in 1996 the Government approved increases in Royalty and Acreage Fees to logging and Sawmill Operations.

Programmes and Projects: The GFC has stepped up its programme to monitor deforestation and other activities in the state forests while examining measures to combat unacceptable practices. There is also a project for the "Institutional Capacity Strengthening of the GFC", which includes the organizational restructuring of the GFC, implemented in January 1997; new wages and salary structure to attract and retain trained staff, introduced in January 1997; the completion of the National Forest Policy; a review of revenue systems; law revision; and education and training support programmes for staff to improve administrative, management and forest monitoring capabilities. This project is scheduled for completion in the year 2000.

Status: According to statistics from the Food and Agriculture Organization, the annual rate of deforestation in Guyana is negligible at less than 1%. Since 1992 the GFC has rehabilitated twelve of eighteen forest stations, established four new stations and forecast the establishment of four additional stations for 1997-98. There are no reforestation programmes in Guyana because selective logging activities have made little impact on forest canopy. Natural regeneration of the species composition is currently encouraged. Local forests still supply all the domestic demands for timber, and there is no evidence of any scarcity. There are not any major wood-using industries at this time to justify the establishment of plantations. The GFC has withdrawn from influencing the trade in timber products. This is in keeping with Government Policy to encourage the forces of supply and demand to evolve the policing mechanisms in the market place.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: See under **Programmes and Projects**.

Cooperation: The Overseas Development Administration (ODA) of the British Government has been providing technical assistance since 1994 to the Guyana Forestry Commission under a mentioned project for the "Institutional Capacity Strengthening of the GFC."

CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: Guyana ratified the International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification Particularly in Africa on 26 June 1997.

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CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Agriculture remains at the centre of the institutional make up of the agricultural sector. Many local, national and international institutions and agencies are directly or indirectly involved in the agricultural sector. Government has clearly placed top priority on the rehabilitation of rural infrastructures, drainage and irrigation, sea defence, and roads, in addition to other social infrastructure, such as water, rural schools, and health clinics, which serve to improve the attractiveness of agriculture and rural life in general.

Programmes and Projects: Under the Agricultural sector loan, sponsored by the Inter American Development Bank (IDB), the Government has taken actions on key agricultural policies, in order to meet basic objectives of consolidation of commodity trade liberalization and extending the benefits of the adjustment process to key agricultural markets. This programme focused on: adjusting the legal-institutional framework and trade regime for the rice industry; centralizing policy and decentralizing/divesting operations in agricultural water resources; and developing agricultural land markets. In December 1994 the Ministry of Agriculture signed an agreement with IICA whereby the latter would administer G \$17 million and provide technical assistance for the management of an integrated rural development project with three basic sub-components: the development of a sustainable community agro-forestry project at Tapakuma; the partial rehabilitation of four government plant nurseries, and the strengthening of community capabilities to manage and maintain drainage and irrigation facilities at Mocha/Arcadia.

Status: Agricultural activities in Guyana are concentrated on the coastal plain, which represents less than 10% of the country's total land area. Seventy percent of Guyana's population lives in rural households and is primarily dependent on the income from agriculture and related activities. Agriculture is the single most important sector of Guyana's economy both in terms of foreign exchange generation and the number of people employed. In 1995, agriculture and fisheries contributed about 38% of GDP and 43% of foreign exchange earning. At Tapakuma, 50 acres of cleared forest land are being developed into sustainable agro-forestry enterprises. In the case of Mocha/Arcadia, efforts have gone into strengthening a small association of vegetable and food crop farmers, developing their managerial skills and providing guidance in their accessing of D & I services from public and private sectors.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: Research and development work are executed under community control.

Financing: See under **Programmes and Projects**.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Decision-Making: The institutional arrangements relating to the coordination of all activities in the management of biological diversity have been assigned to the Environmental Protection Agency under the Environmental Protection Act of 1996. Imminent legislation will require the equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use and knowledge of biological diversity as well as safeguard the interests of local and indigenous people and ensuring their participation in the study and use of biodiversity. Guyana has developed a National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Guyana's Biological Diversity through the process of a series of national consultations. The Strategy identifies some key actions under the various subheadings, and will lead to the development of an Action Plan. A National Biodiversity Advisory Committee meets under the aegis of the Environmental Protection Agency, to which it reports. This Committee works through a number of ad-hoc Groups and Working Groups. The national forest policy is being redrafted and incorporates the conservation of forest biological diversity as a major element. This policy will lead to new legislation that will aim to achieve sustainable forest resources management in Guyana. Included in this policy are mangrove forest resources. The Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development was legally established in 1996. Among the objectives of the Centre are the development of technologies for sustainable management of tropical rain forest biodiversity and resources, the preservation and application of the knowledge and innovations of local indigenous communities while providing for the equitable sharing of benefits from these to the communities. The Centre will also identify the components of biological diversity at the site and provide for the in situ conservation of biological diversity. To date, a permanent Board of Trustees has been installed, and the centre is a legally recognized entity. Communication links have also been established and strengthened where necessary, among neighbouring indigenous communities. A new fisheries' policy is being drafted which seeks in part, to promote the conservation of fisheries resources. A draft fisheries management plan has been completed with assistance from CIDA. The Draft National Development Strategy has been completed. This strategy seeks to promote the sustainable use of the natural resources of the country, including the biological resources of various sectors. Biological impact assessments are required as part of Environmental Impact Assessments. These are required by law to address the impact of planned activities on biological diversity. Among the activities in the area of ex situ conservation has been work on the establishment of a National Biodiversity Park. This park seeks, among other things, to promote the ex situ conservation of biological diversity. A national working committee has been established to work on this project. Assistance is being provided through a working arrangement with associates of the San Diego Zoo, USA. Guyana has received a commitment for Global Environmental Policy (GEF) funding towards the establishing of a National Protected Areas System. A strategy is now being prepared for implementation. This system, when established, will provide for the in situ conservation of the various components of the national biodiversity patrimony, education, public awareness and training, research, and the involvement of local communities in the management of biodiversity.

Programmes and Projects: Work on data collection and analysis has begun through the CFRAMP regime fisheries project.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: A Public Education and Awareness Programme based on a satellite network is targeting various audiences in various parts of the country. Its emphasis is on the environment, sustainable development and biodiversity.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: Guyana continues the process of identification of the components of biological diversity, particularly at the species level, as part of the activities of the Centre for the Study of Biological Diversity in collaboration with the University of Guyana.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The Convention on Biological Diversity was ratified on 29 August 1994. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was ratified on 25 May 1977.

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CHAPTER 16 AND 34: TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, BIOTECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Decision-Making:

Technology: No information available.

Biotechnology: No information available.

Programmes and Projects:

Technology: No information available.

Biotechnology: No information available.

Status:

Technology: Through technical assistance from the Guyana National Bureau of Standards, a number of private sector organizations have been encouraging their membership to move in the direction of implementing the principles contained within the ISO-9000 document. Also the ISO-14000 principles are currently being perused with the aim of possible adoption in their near future.

Biotechnology: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

Technology: No information available.

Biotechnology: No information available.

Information:

Technology: No information available.

Biotechnology: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Technology: No information available.

Biotechnology: No information available.

Financing:

Technology: No information available.

Biotechnology: No information available.

Cooperation:

Technology: No information available.

Biotechnology: No information available.

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CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES

Decision-Making: Guyana has not yet capitalized on its rights and privileges under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea as the country lacks both the institutional capability to provide the monitoring, control and surveillance necessary and the resource assessment capability. These are necessary to protect diligently its marine resources from over exploitation through proper conservation and management measures. The Maritime Boundaries Act (Turtle Excluder Device), which was enacted to deal with the problem of accidental turtle catching, was signed on 25th April 1994. The fishery sector is of critical importance to the economy and to the social well being in Guyana. The economic contribution of the fisheries sector has grown over the years. In 1996 the government drafted a new fisheries policy, which seeks to promote the conservation of fishery resources. A draft Fisheries Management Plan has been developed in which action for fisheries development has been identified. Local legislation has been drafted to incorporate provisions for the accommodation of the International Convention of Pollution (MARPOL 73/78).

Programmes and Projects: In the area of Coastal Zone Management the Government of Guyana requested the IDB to finance a loan for the establishment of a Shorezone Management Programme (SMP), which has been scheduled for approval early 1998. Two major background studies have been completed. One dealt with a feasibility and design study to formulate the overall programme needs and priorities to maximize the usefulness and sustainability of the SMP for Guyana. The second study was an institutional assessment of the agencies and their strengths and weaknesses with regard to sustainably managing the coastal zone. A study is currently under way to design a coastal management training programme in support of a wider coastal zone management programme.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: See under **Programmes and Projects**.

Cooperation: The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea was ratified in 1993. Guyana has been working on the Wider Caribbean Initiative for Ship Generated Waste project. In 1994, a national task team was established to look at the legal, technical and institutional arrangement needed for the ratification of the International Convention of Pollution (MARPOL 73/78) from ships.

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CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES

Decision-Making: The Guyana Water Authority (GUYWA) is the organization in charge of the water systems in the entire country other than Georgetown, Linnine and SILWFC. The latter two systems are also under a proposal to be tagged onto GUYWA.

Programmes and Projects: The Guyana Water Authority with the aid of IDA, ODA, CDB etc. has embarked on The Water Supply Technical Assistance and Rehabilitation Programme. One hundred seventeen new pumps are programmed to be installed by mid 1998, and forty-eight have already been completed. These minor systems, when fully rehabilitated, assure sufficient quantity of water supply in the country. There are considerable leaks in the distribution system, which are also being replaced with the new pipe laying to utilize the water extracted by the new pumps optionally to the community. Thus it is envisaged that, by the year 2000, GUYWA would have a designed, initiated and targeted national action programme at an advanced stage with appropriate institutional structures and legal instruments.

Status: Ninety percent (90%) of the population is living in the Northern Coastal belt, which is only about four percent (4%) of the land. The annual rainfall averages 2,300mm. A substantial proportion of Guyana's water run-off is deposited into the three major rivers, Essequibo, Demerara and Berbice flowing into the Atlantic Ocean. Most of the freshwater requirement in the "land of many waters" is met through seasonal rainfall, conservancies or aquifers. However, there is a question of the quality of this water. There is also need for improved and continued water quality monitoring. Since the surface flows are through the plains and sedimentary zones, the water is turbid, attracting high treatment cost. Therefore most of the country's demand for domestic water use is being met from groundwater. As the recharging conditions are favourable and the demand is not much, the possibility of sea water intrusion into the aquifers may not be there. However, this needs to be investigated.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: GUYWA is developing public participatory techniques by involving the Citizens' Water Committees into the system. It is creating a public awareness for the conjunctive use of the water extracted and delivered at a certain cost. These are being done through the newspapers, television and meetings with the community.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: See under **Programmes and Projects**.

Cooperation: No information available.

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**CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS,
INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN
TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS**

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 20 TO 22: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS, SOLID AND RADIOACTIVE WASTES, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC

Decision-Making:

Hazardous Wastes: Provisions under the Environmental Protection Act shall help to regulate hazardous waste issues in order to meet the requirements of Agenda 21.

Solid Wastes: The Ministry of Local Government, which has the responsibility for Local Town Councils has a proposal to develop a Solid Waste Management Plan. This plan will focus on solid waste collection in an environmentally sound manner, solid waste disposal into a secure landfill, and management of the secure landfill. At present work is being done to establish a new landfill site. In the rural areas solid waste is collected by the household and is burnt. Septic tanks and pit latrines are commonly used for sewage disposal and are approved by the regional Environmental Health Officer. Meanwhile, the Environmental Protection Act will help to ensure that requirements of Agenda 21 are carried out.

Radioactive Wastes: Currently Guyana is working on regulations, which shall govern the use, possession and import of radioactive substances. A project is being drafted to regulate the use of ionizing radiation in Guyana with the additional aim of making employers, employees and other users aware of the risks associated with ionizing radiation. This second draft should ideally be done prior to the development of regulations, but unfortunately, the urgency to develop these regulations is a result of the mining industry. However, a background radiation survey needs to be done.

Programmes and Projects:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Waste: No information available.

Status:

Hazardous Wastes: At present there is no data on the generation of hazardous waste and Guyana does not have the capacity to dispose of hazardous waste. There is the need for carry out inventories of hazardous waste production, distribution, management and use.

Solid Wastes: Solid waste disposal practices in Guyana have not kept pace with the demands posed by increases in population and waste generation. Municipal solid waste management in Georgetown, more than elsewhere, suffers from years of under funding and public neglect. Presently solid waste disposal activities are undertaken without a full appreciation of the impact of these activities on human health and the environment. Disposal of collected waste is of tremendous concern in the city. Most available land adjacent to the city is either privately owned or earmarked for housing. The master plan for the city does not make provisions for sanitary landfill activities. Georgetown is the only area in Guyana served by a communal sewage system which discharges to the Demerara River. Currently, however, there is no treatment of sewage before discharge. Guyana recognizes the need to concentrate on more efficient and environmentally sound ways of disposing solid waste.

Radioactive Wastes: At the moment, radioactive substances are used in the health care services, particularly for the treatment of cancer of the cervix, and in the mining industry. It is believed that various radioactive substances have been imported into Guyana for other purposes, but these have not yet been properly accounted for.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Waste: No information available.

Information:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Waste: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Waste: No information available.

Financing:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Waste: No information available.

Cooperation:

Hazardous Wastes: Although the Basel Convention has not been signed or ratified, it has been recognized as a significant issue in the Caribbean Basin of which Guyana forms the southernmost boundary. This transboundary movement also includes the movement of hazardous waste from which member states are at risk because of poor storage and transportation techniques. A regional integrated approach is perceived as the only way by which measures may be adopted to implement the convention. It is recognized that without the resources for minimization of production of hazardous waste and for management and enforcement of the measures in the convention among all territories within the region, safe movement of such wastes will be a difficult task. To this end, states of the Caribbean Basin have developed a proposal, which is expected to become the Work Plan by which the measures in the convention are implemented. Foremost in the proposal, which was submitted to the CARICOM Heads of Government was the request for member states to speedily ratify the Basel Convention.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Waste: No information available.

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CHAPTER 24 TO 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

Women: Status: In the specific natural resource sectors, a direct effort is made to involve women in environmental management activities.

Children and Youth: Status: In the specific natural resource sectors, a direct effort is made to involve youth in environmental management activities.

Indigenous People: No information available.

Non-governmental Organizations: Decision-Making: The government is in the process of establishing policies that give NGOs a clearly defined legal status, to facilitate the formation of a national umbrella organization in the various areas of NGOs involvement and to encourage NGOs to participate at all stages of the development process. At the moment most of the natural resource development activities are situated in the interior where Amerindians live. Amerindians, NGOs, captains and others have participated in the process of national decision making and also in the implementation of economic development projects that may impact on their environment. Status: Both the public non-governmental and the private sector can be said to be in their embryonic state in Guyana. The recent resurgence and increase in NGO activities in Guyana has been encouraged mainly by the economic policy reforms adumbrated by the government. However, government has recognized that there is a need to incorporate these groups to within the natural resources management and environmental conservation framework. Additionally, it aims to cater for the provision of "extension services" to the NGO sector, as well as their systematic involvement in resource management issues. This is understandable, as the informal, under-institutionalized and highly variable character of many local rural communities make their involvement particularly desirable. However, it is important that the parameters be established for NGO involvement.

Local Authorities: Decision-Making: The principal objectives of the establishment of local government in Guyana are to decentralize the decision and implementation process and to create a framework within which communities can participate in the planning and execution of development projects and programmes in their areas. The Local Democratic Act (1980) of Guyana has allowed for the country to be divided into ten regions and for these regions to be further divided into subregions, districts, communities and neighbourhoods respectively. Status: It should be noted that many of the environmental problems and their solutions have their roots in local activities and the participation of the local inhabitants. The cooperation of local government therefore becomes crucial in the entire process. Capacity Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: At the local level, there has been some amount of capacity building in the area of environmental education and training. Specifically, modules on the root causes of environmental degradation and actions necessary to address the emerging concerns have been prepared for neighbourhood democratic council members. In addition, there have been on going training programmes on good governance. Cooperation: To date, the local government ministry has been able to establish links with the CROYDEN BOROUGH in London, which is a network of local authorities in developing countries. It is envisaged that through such an established link, there shall be opportunities for technical cooperation that could facilitate an exchange of ideas, provision of equipment, training and financial resources, among other things.

Workers and Trade Unions: No information available.

Business and Industry: Status: Some private sector organizations have taken the initiative and have incorporated the sustainable development concepts with environmental management systems ensuring sustainable exploitation of Guyana's natural resources. This has helped them to maintain environmental standards and compliance with the relevant Environmental Protection laws. Additionally, improvement in the implementation of principles contained in the ISO – 9000 and ISO – 14000 documents is also verified.

Scientific and Technological Community: No information available.

Farmers: No information available.

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CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

The issue has been covered under the heading **Financing** in the variuos chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

This issue has beend covered under the heading **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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**CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR
CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

This issue has been covered under the heading **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

This issue deals mainly with activities undertaken by the UN System.

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CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

This issue has been covered under **Decision Making** and **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile. However, you will find below a list of International Legal Instruments.

Guyana ratified the following international legal instruments:

- Montreal Protocol (in 1987);
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (in 1994);
- UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (in 1993);
- International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Drought and /or Desertification (in 1997);
- Convention on Biological Diversity (in 1994);
- Convention on International Trade in endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1977).

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CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

This issue has been covered either under Chapter 8 or under the headings **Decision-Making** and **Information** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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INDUSTRY

Decision-Making: A Code of Practice for responsible forest management was worked out with the Forest Producers Association of Guyana during two years of consultation and was introduced to the industry for voluntary adoption in July 1996. The GFC and the EPA are working together to ensure its full acceptance by industry.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Some private sector organizations have taken the initiative and have incorporated the sustainable development concepts with environmental management systems. Currently, two expatriate companies operating in the area of natural resources have developed management plans to ensure sustainable exploitation of Guyana's natural resources. This has helped them to maintain environmental standards and compliance with the relevant Environmental Protection laws. Additionally, through technical assistance from the Guyana National Bureau of Standards, a number of private sector organizations have been encouraging their membership to move in the direction of implementing the principles contained within the ISO-9000 and ISO-14000 documents.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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