

GUYANA'S ADVANCES ON PLANS AND STRATEGIES OF ACTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

PLANS AND STRATEGIES

IN RESPONSE TO THE COMMITMENTS TO THE UNFCCC
CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

INTRODUCTION, ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Action Plan seeks to address the commitments of Guyana to the Convention by formulating national programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change by addressing removals of greenhouse gases .

The Plan seeks to develop, apply and diffuse technologies (and technology transfer), practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent of greenhouse gases in all relevant sectors, including energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry, waste management and health sectors.

The Relevance of the following to Guyana:

-LCDS.

-MANGROVE RESTORATION.

-THE REDUCTION OF THE IMPORTATION OF
STYROFOAM.

-THE MONITORING OF CHEMICAL AND PESTICIDES IN
THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

-EMPHASIS ON AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.

-THE CREATION OF THE NEW HEALTH PROMOTION AND
PROTECTION BILL

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF GUYANA'S CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

- Develop the capacity to undertake sectoral and national inventories of emissions of all greenhouse gases.
- Develop the capacity to conduct vulnerability assessment of sectors and communities and to identify adaptation measures required to address the impacts of climate change.
- Implement measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change.
- Implement programmes containing measures to mitigate climate change.
- Identify and implement sustainable development measures which are compatible with the objectives of the Conventions.
- Identify and implement capacity building and other programmes.

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

DIRECT IMPACTS

HEALTH-The incidence of diseases.

AGRICULTURE - Effects of rising temperature, moisture changes, increased CO₂.

content of the atmosphere, pest abundance.

SEA LEVEL RISE - Inundation of coastal areas, overtopping of sea defences.

WATER RESOURCES – Dry weather patterns, floods (the 2005 flood), regional shifts in rainfall patterns.

SOCIAL IMPACTS

ECONOMIC AND

POLITICAL STABILITY – Response to the growing social and economic challenges.

POPULATION SHIFTS - Migration creating stress in certain towns or villages.

HUNGER AND POVERTY – Disputes over limited or diminishing resources.

SOCIETAL STRESS - Rapid adjustment to accelerating change, especially in the health sector.

CULTURAL AND - Movement of people from cultural roots, and feelings of fear,

PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS -anxiety and insecurity.

THE NATIONAL VISION FOR RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Guyana's efforts to respond to the commitments under the Convention will necessarily have to be in the form of adaptation and the mitigation measures. However, these will not be achieved unless public awareness, capacity building, information sharing, and the right policy, legislation and financial measures are put in place.

The National Development Strategy

The National Development Strategy of Guyana was tabled in Parliament in July, 2000 to

- attain the highest rates of economic growths that are possible.
- eliminate poverty in Guyana.
- achieve geographical unity.
- attain an equitable geographical distribution of economic activity.
- diversify the economy.

Develop a spectrum of project proposals for all activities of the Action Plan:

The Action Plan itemizes several activities for which resources will be required.

Specialist(s) will develop these proposals and use them to mobilize resources for their implementation. The priority proposals shall be for capacity building and adaptation (including addressing coastal vulnerability).

Work with regional organizations to develop regional projects for addressing climate change:

Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change is moving towards the implementation stage and the Government would be required to support this evolution.

Guyana to undertake climate change projects by providing skills and assistance in raising funds.

Capacity Building to deal with impacts of Climate Change.

It is expected that coastal regions will be most affected by the effects of global warming and sea level rise. Some of these effects are:

- Acceleration of erosion – present elevation of the sea defence.
- Increased risks of flooding – cleaning existing drainage canal and developing new network of canals.
- Deterioration of coastal defence structures—mangrove restoration project.
- Salt water intrusion – new and modern kokers and sluice.
- Health effects-flood response and medical out reaches.
- Identify signals of the impacts-mitigation measures.
- Communicate in real time-modern network of communication.
- Develop plans of response actions-institutional workplans and the establishment of the new Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

WATER RESOURCES

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

The target groups for this programme will involve the stakeholders from various sectors,

- Energy
- Industry
- Agriculture
- Waste management
- Forestry and land use
- Fisheries
- Human settlement
- Human health
- Water resources
- Tourism
- Others - NGOs, consumers, all levels of learning, press and the public.

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTING EDUCATION, TRAINING AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Implementation of this strategy for education, training and public awareness will seek:

- To enhance the public's awareness of climate change and its associated implications for Guyana
- To encourage active participation in mitigation.

KEY ISSUES:

Some of the key issues that will be addressed are:

• **Human Settlement**

- Guidelines for the acquisition of land and areas available
- Vulnerability of areas already allocated, and areas to be allocated, to climate change and sea level rise

• **Coastal Zone Management**

- Use of building setbacks
- Limit building on the coast and encourage gradual retreat to higher ground
- Accommodate - enforcing building codes - should be mandatory that houses on the coast be built on stilts
- Protect - construct and raise the height of seawall, etc.

• **Energy**

- Implement demand side management which will improve efficiency
- Technological improvements on power plant efficiency to reduce greenhouse gases emissions
- Encourage the use of alternative energy sources such as hydropower, solar, and wind
- Switch to clean air fuel such as natural gas
- Increase use of co-generation
- Standards for electrical appliances
- Vehicle standards
- Regulate and monitor the importation of used cars

CONCLUSION

Monitoring the health impacts of Climate change
Climate change since it would have various adverse impacts on human health. One direct impact is likely to be changes in the distribution and activity of insects, ticks and rodents, which are carriers of certain human diseases. While Guyana has been controlling the spread of some diseases, such as malaria, there is the need for proper documentation and monitoring, and for projections to be made on future needs to respond to outbreaks.

Thank you.

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