

CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL  
Guyana



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# Developing With Nature

**STRATEGY**  
2023-2030

Nature is needed for the  
survival and health of people.  
Without it, the world stops  
working as it should and  
people suffer



[www.conservation.org.gy](http://www.conservation.org.gy)

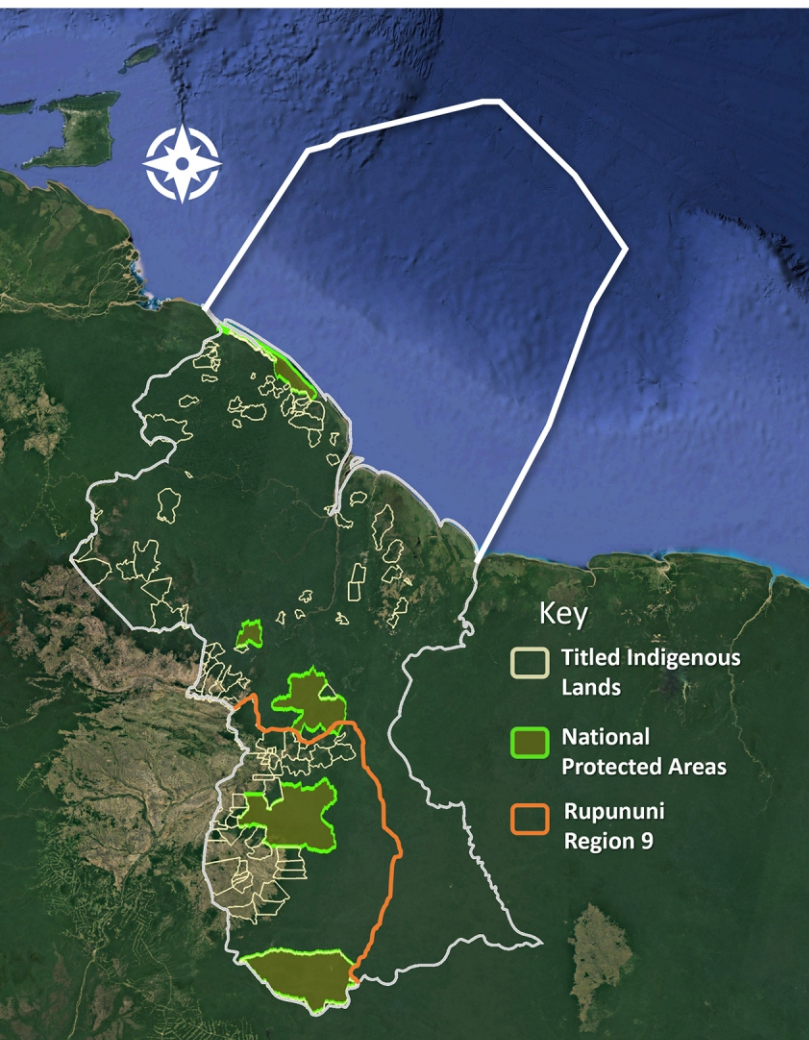


# PEOPLE NEED NATURE



As Guyana looks to build a bright economic future, we will be challenged to stay strong and resilient in a rapidly changing world. Nature, and its bounty, must remain at the center of development for us to better overcome these challenges. The Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030 (LCDS 2030) sets Guyana's path for developing with nature, and offers several important opportunities for people to benefit more from Nature.

CI-Guyana is focused on realistic and lasting approaches to make that happen. For the last 30 years, CI-Guyana has built broad partnerships and, pioneered several novel approaches to conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and enterprise at various scales. We continue to build on these experiences, challenges and results in three key areas of **Conservation & Climate, Enterprise & Economy, Partnership & Innovation.**



# Conservation & Climate

## Areas Based Conservation

We will work to help achieve Guyana's biodiversity and ecosystem conservation targets. We directly support Guyana's commitment to the 30X30 pledge in both terrestrial and marine landscapes, and are engaged with government, communities and other stakeholders to meet this target. CI-Guyana works to improve the management of existing PAs, and is supporting the expansion of new protected spaces and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure (OECMs). We partner on several community conservation initiatives, supporting conservation planning, land-use mapping, and required capacity transfer in science, economic skills and governance for stronger territorial management. We also support efforts to secure financing for the effective management of PAs and other conservation areas in the long-term.







## Building with nature

CI-Guyana is supporting a strengthened national environmental authorization process that serves to avoid, reduce or compensate for impacts on natural systems. Our efforts include testing and demonstration of green-grey solutions for the effective management and restoration of at-risk ecosystems. We are supporting innovative road design, along with coastal engineering approaches that can build on the tons of Amazonian sediment which pass off the Atlantic coast in a blended design of “green” (mangroves) and “gray” (sea walls) solutions to protect and grow the shoreline.



## REDD+ & Forest Carbon

CI-Guyana and the Guyana Forestry Commission, through support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), have partnered for over a decade to operationalize Guyana's groundbreaking Monitoring Reporting and Verification System (MRVS). This is one of the world's leading national-level forest monitoring systems, meeting international standards for independently verified accuracy and consistency for participation in international carbon markets. We are building local capacities and promoting Guyana's participation in global markets for forest climate services. Our focus on local REDD+ enabling actions includes conserving high (irrecoverable) carbon ecosystems; expanding effective incentive and benefit-sharing mechanisms; and pursuing financing opportunities for blue carbon and non-carbon ecosystem services such as biodiversity and freshwater.

# Enterprise & Economy

We will work to expand sustainable, low-carbon enterprises and economies at the community, sub-national and national levels.

## Sustainable Rupununi

The Rupununi is a vast ecologically important region of Guyana encompassing intact grasslands, forests, and wetlands where the Amazon and Essequibo watersheds connect, creating a unique mix of species, habitats, and economic opportunities. CI-Guyana is working with the Regional Democratic Council (RDC) and other stakeholders to implement an integrated landscape approach to development in this region. Building on three decades of work in the Rupununi, CI-Guyana is supporting territorial planning and management; sustainable enterprises and livelihoods; governance and capacity development; and sustainable financing. Our work includes focus on fostering sustainable, nature-based economies in the landscape, especially tourism and agriculture, with value chain interventions for access to technical, financial, and marketing resources for growth and development of these sectors.



## Sustainable Villages

Indigenous communities own over 16 percent of Guyana's land. Our Sustainable Villages Initiative, running since 2012, supports communities to develop and implement Village Sustainability Plans (VSP) – territorial plans for community development with nature. Supporting the implementation of these plans is a key priority in our work through direct village grants and effective mechanisms for long-term financing and other support, and in partnership with indigenous groups and local organisations.





## Sustainable Sectors

CI-Guyana supports the growth of climate-resilient and sustainable economic sectors nationally. This includes key actions to support sustainable value chains based on non-extractive or sustainable extraction of terrestrial and marine renewable natural resources. Our work aims particularly to support improvement of the social, economic, and ecological sustainability of key fisheries with special emphasis on the artisanal marine fisheries and other key fisheries with significant contributions to community livelihoods. We also recognize and support the growth of sustainable nature-based tourism and promote strengthened policies for reduced biodiversity loss in key economic sectors.



## Responsible Mining

Gold mining is a major part of Guyana's economy, providing jobs and livelihoods, particularly in some indigenous communities. Although still low, gold mining is the leading cause of deforestation in Guyana. CI-Guyana works with partners in the gold mining sector to reduce negative impacts through the Responsible Mining Initiative (RMI). The RMI aims to improve economic and environmental performance in the gold mining value chain through technical, economic, and policy measures.

## Partnership & Innovation

Development with nature is only possible through the joint efforts of many. We will work to strengthen local capacity and foster new partnerships for action. We will promote science and knowledge for better decision-making and action on the ground.



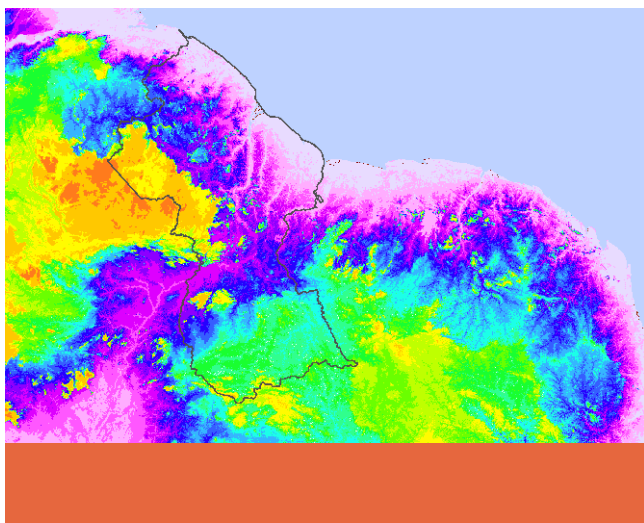
## Stronger Partners for lasting impact

CI-Guyana focuses on building the skills and capacities of our partners, while improving their access to knowledge and information. We will support local groups to generate their own data, design solutions and implement effective actions. CI-Guyana strives to build the capacity of local groups in administration, fundraising and financial management to improve their ability to realize lasting positive results."

## Working Together for a Sustainable Future

CI-Guyana believes in working together and actively engages with different groups and partners to achieve development with nature in Guyana.

We will expand our support to several diverse networks, partnerships, and relationships, and continue and expand our engagement with Government, communities, the private sector and other key actors.”



## Information for Improved Decisions

We will increase awareness and support for development with nature, share our lessons and results, provide access to information and data, and promote the ideal through various communication channels to a wide audience.”



## Values & Safeguards



Respect for the rights of people, including indigenous and local communities, to secure livelihoods, healthy and productive environments, and life with dignity is core to our work. We therefore employ a right-based approach in our work and respect human rights, protect vulnerable groups, and encourage good governance. We do this by applying standards, implementing good practices, and monitoring for environmental and social safeguards. We also provide several avenues, including a global Ethics Hotline and local online and other portals for anonymous reports of incidents of illegal or unethical conduct, grievances and suggestions related to our work and our conduct.

**Our work is also guided by six core values – courage, integrity, passion, respect, optimism and teamwork – which are reflected in our policies and procedures.**



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# THE CI-GUYANA TEAM

Conservation International Foundation (Guyana) Inc. (CI-Guyana) is a not-for-profit company registered in Guyana as an affiliate of Conservation International Foundation (CI). With significant local experience supported by a global team, CI-Guyana is well positioned to get things done.

With offices in the capital of Georgetown and Lethem, Rupununi, our team of Guyanese work closely with Government, local communities, entrepreneurs and other partners, with significant experience in issues related to indigenous peoples, sustainable development and conservation management.