Impact Report 2016







We work through science, policy, and partnerships to protect the most fundamental things that nature provides to all of us: our food, our fresh water, our livelihoods and a stable climate.

Conservation International Guyana's work is directed towards securing significant, equitable, and sustainable improvements in human well-being, underpinned by the maintenance of the country's natural capital as the centrepiece of development.

We believe that a healthy sustainable society exists where ecosystems are secure and functional, there are effective natural resource governance structures, and the productive sector is well-ordered and does not irreparably damage ecosystems. Most importantly, we believe that the conservation of nature can only be sustainably realised if the reasonable and legitimate needs for improved well-being are met.



Transforming the Landscape, Together

A message from David Singh, Vice President & Executive Director, Conservation International – Guyana

Dear friends

Please accept our very best wishes for 2017.

The Year 2016 marked another important period in our journey with you to maintaining Guyana's natural heritage as we believe that this underpins our future. During the course of the year, we spent a fair amount of time reflecting on our work and how we can improve our positive impact in Guyana. As a backdrop, we recognized the knowledge, experience and relationships built through engagements with you and how these have helped the institution as a whole to improve its work globally.

Even as we cement these relationships, we have also come to realise the importance of developing a stronger and broader alliance for nature. Indeed, we are convinced that through stepping up and out together to share and grow our collective knowledge and experiences, we will ensure that our country keeps on choosing to make the right decisions for its long term sustainability. And this occurs at the level of community, at the regional scale, nationally and beyond.

But we must ensure that we understand each other. This Impact Report therefore takes a different form than previous years. In it we present our programme in a more detailed manner, in order to explain our approach, and how we carry

out our work based on our understanding the role we play. At the outset, recognise that the conservation nature will only be realised the reasonable and legitimate needs of people improved wellbeing are met. Above and beyond this, we are convinced that sustained economic growth can only be realised



if nature, and the services which it provides for the security of human wellbeing, are maintained from generation to generation even as development is realised.

Our work to date has revealed that the main obstacle to green development in countries like Guyana – with abundant natural resources but increasing socio-ecological pressures – lies in the asymmetry between public policies and the current practices within the productive sectors that drive economic growth. This is driven by lack of capacity as well as public policies that are insufficiently attentive of sectoral realities and needs.

We have arranged our portfolio under three mutually reinforcing programmatic themes, focus on which will help produce a sound foundation for Guyana's continued progress along a Green Economy trajectory: maintaining Natural Capital, Sustainable Production, and Good Governance. We use an evidence-based and –driven style in which we help decision-making through using science-based tools and methodologies at a pilot scale before amplification. Our 20+ years of work in Guyana has consolidated proofs-of-concept, tools and lessons at a local scale that are ready for amplification to areas of higher conflict, across a range of production systems, and in other varied circumstances.

To highlight one area of activities for the year 2016, we strengthened the capacity of key civil society actors to actively participate in shaping green growth strategies and policies for improved governance. We have also improved relationships between normally disparate civil society actors, including Indigenous Leaders and the private

sector, to focus attention on how the extractive industry can better contribute to green growth.

We are necessarily aligned with the attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and it is our goal to target our interventions to ensure that key aspects of the wellbeing of Guyana's population meet these minimum global standards.

Our Guyana has an abundance of natural capital that is not yet under immediate, widespread and sustained pressure from human activities. Accordingly, we can serve as a healthy sustainable economic development model to the world, with especially low opportunity costs for pursuing climate resilient, green economic development strategies. We can build confidence in human societies that development is possible without the usual attendant loss of natural capital.

At the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22) on Climate Change in Marrakesh, His Excellency President David Granger emphasised aspects of national strategy that included the creation of a 'Green State', characterised in part by a low-emission pathway to economic development, conservation of the country's ecosystems and accompanied avoided greenhouse gas emissions, and building capacity for education and research in biodiversity and its management.

We fully share these concepts. We salute successive governments of Guyana who have stood out within the Region and beyond in their commitment to Sustainable Development. We will continue to work with government, with civil society and with the private sector in realizing a national development agenda in which natural capital is respected, treasured, and sustainably managed for future generations.



The most fundamental aspect of our approach is to protect the places that we cannot afford to lose – the spectacular but vulnerable places on land and at sea that are especially important to humanity, the places that provide our food, water and the air we breathe.

Protected Areas: Securing long-term biodiversity conservation

Guyana's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity requires that by 2020, at least 17% of its terrestrial areas, which provide adequate representations of the diversity of our ecosystems, are set aside for conservation. This commitment was further reinforced through the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework on Climate Change when the country

protecting our

natural wealth

committed to establishing a further 2M hectares¹ of terrestrial protected areas as part of its contribution to the global carbon sink.

Cl-Guyana has long supported efforts to meet this target in a cost-effective manner. Historically, we supported efforts to establish Guyana's National Protected Area System and the Protected Areas

¹2M hectares equals 9.5% of the country's terrestrial area.

Trust Fund², led a process for participatory protected area design and management in the Kanuku Mountains, facilitated establishment of a model indigenous protected (Konashen Community Owned Conservation Area), and tested a conservation concession model for biodiversity conservation (Upper Essequibo Conservation Concession), with the view of influencing policies and legislation.

This year, we provided technical assistance to the Protected Areas Commission to identify areas for expansion of the system beyond its current projection of 8.5% of the territorial space. We also committed US\$125,000 to the Government of

Guyana to support protected areas management. This avoided deforestation will contribute 48.7M tonnes of CO_2 equivalent to global climate change mitigation efforts.

Over the long-term, our vision is that through various sustainable land management tools, transboundary biodiversity corridors will exist across the Guiana Shield, which would be anchored by National Protected Area Systems in neighbouring countries. This will also help secure the ecological integrity of the larger Amazonian ecoregion³, to which the intact rainforests and freshwater systems of the Guianas belong.

Supporting the implementation of the national REDD+ plan

CI-Guyana has served as a delivery partner for the implementation of the Guyana-Norway REDD+ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation on climate change and biodiversity conservation. A delivery partner helps design projects to meet the requirements of the Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative, and oversees project execution.

We supported the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) in the development of a world-class

Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS). The MRVS is a mechanism for tracking deforestation and forest degradation, and the implementation of REDD+ policies in support of the country's national green growth path. We have been requested by the GFC and Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative to provide these services until 2020 (covering Assessment Years 6-10).

² The Protected Areas Trust Fund is a green financing vehicle that supports protected areas management. It is currently capitalised at US\$8.5M. Cl-Guyana has contributed US\$3.5M and the KfW has contributed US\$5M. The Government of Guyana has committed a further US\$10M to the Trust from minign revenues.

³ Models indicate that if 30-40% of the Amazon forests are lost, irreversible changes to the ecology and socio-economic fabric of the region will occur. We are fast approaching this tipping point at 13-17% of the original forest cover already lost to agriculture, urban development, infrastructure & extractives activities.

A green development path for Guyana's Ecological Economic Zone (EEZ)

Guyana's EEZ plays a major role in protecting our coastal population from high climate vulnerability and providing food security (with Guyana being the highest per capita consumer of fish in Latin America and the Caribbean).

Cl-Guyana aims to advance a sustainable seascapes approach to management of the EEZ, which cuts across the themes of natural capital maintenance, good governance and sustainable production systems. This year, we been collaborating with Cl-Brazil, Cl-Suriname and other stakeholders to promote the development of a contiguous 'Mangrove-scape' across the Northern Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem, as a long-term and cost-effective solution to climate change resilience for communities and

ecosystems along the northeast coast of South America.

For Guyana this is particularly important given the potentially substantial recoverable offshore oil (and gas) resource discovered by ExxonMobil. Cl-Guyana has provided comprehensive comments on the Draft Terms of Reference of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the Liza-1 Phase One Development by Esso Exploration and Production Limited. These comments flagged potential gaps in our country's collective institutional and technical capacity to manage threats and risks to natural capital maintenance in our coastal waters, from offshore oil and gas development.

Anticipating & managing systematic socio-ecological climate change risks

Guyana is already experiencing the impacts of anthropogenic-induced climate change via anomalies such as increased and unpredictable rainfall, extreme drought and heat. Slow onset impacts from sea level rise will come upon our productive, populated low-lying coastal areas.

As a delivery partner for the Guyana-Norway REDD+ MoU, we assisted the Office of Climate Change in drafting a national Climate Resilience

Strategy and Action Plan (forthcoming), as part of the Low Carbon Development Strategy. Using information gathered from research and stakeholder consultations conducted in 2015, the Strategy and Action Plan includes four priority concept notes⁴ and a financing strategy which can help our economic sectors secure their long-term competitiveness in the face of rapidly changing environmental conditions that will affect their bottom-line.

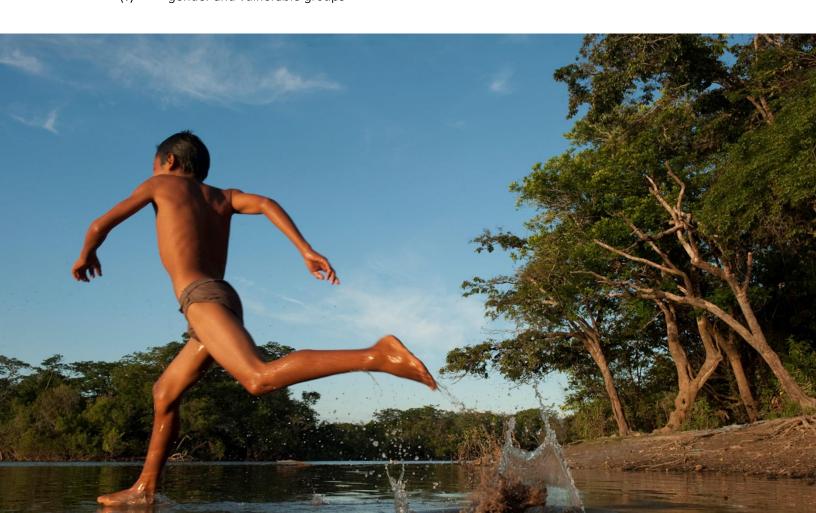
Concept notes prepared were for agricultural systems, sea defence, public health, and drainage and irrigation systems.

Building & sharing knowledge for biodiversity conservation

As part of a partnership with the Government of Guyana, University of Guyana, Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Research and Development, UNDP/Guiana Shield Facility, and WWF Guianas, we helped organise the IV International Congress on Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield, hosted in Guyana in August 2016. The Congress was held under the theme "Leveraging our high endemicity, cultural diversity, and intact ecosystems for inclusive growth and secure futures." A series of 89 presentations and discussions focused on five areas:

- (i) the state of biodiversity and ecological functions of the Guiana Shield
- (ii) local and Indigenous communities' contribution to biodiversity conservation
- (iii) biodiversity and climate
- (iv) mainstreaming biodiversity in sustainable development
- (v) gender and vulnerable groups

Cl-Guyana sponsored sessions examining the ecological impacts of extractives, logging, tourism and hunting. We also presented our work on piloting participatory processes for community development planning and mainstreaming gender issues into green financing instruments. The congress was attended by over 200 participants from ten countries.





The ability to protect our natural wealth can only occur in places where there is a political commitment to do so, where policies support such actions and capacity exists to carry them out. We work with governments to ensure that they have the knowledge and tools to enact policies that are good for their people, now and for generations to come.

Planning & financing for the transition to a Green Economy

At the IV International Congress on Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield, we co-hosted, with Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry, a symposium on Green Financing. The Congress featured presentations on integrating social and environmental safeguards into financial

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fostering

governance

instruments (Dr. Graham Watkins – Environmental Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank), reducing lending risk in a green economy (Sheliza Shaw – Head of Credit, GBTI) and frameworks for enabling community-driven development (Jude DaSilva - Project Coordinator, Ministry of

Indigenous Peoples Affairs. Responding to stakeholder dialogue at the forum, we have prepared a Policy Brief (forthcoming) on integrated strategic planning and financing

systems for a smooth transitioning to a green economy in Guyana and in the Guiana Shield as a whole.

Building young environmental leaders

We sponsored a Guyanese member of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network to attend their organisation's Biennial Congress in St. Kitts & Nevis. Delegates received training on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, discussed issues critical to the region's environment, and developed plans to engage youth in environment and sustainable development initiatives.

Also, for World Environment Day (June 5), Cl-Guyana staff delivered lectures and discussions at three primary schools in the Queenstown community, on the ecological and social value of terrestrial and marine ecosystems. By supporting these educational and professional development opportunities, we build relationships with youth leaders to help grow networks for environmental conservation.

Green Economy Perspectives Lecture Series

We have collaborated with the Protected Areas Commission, WWF-Guianas and the Private Sector Commission of Guyana to host monthly public talks on green economic development as a run-up to Guyana's 50th Independence Anniversary celebrated on May 26. This was done with the view of creating a civil society forum that can support the government's efforts in this arena.

Cl experts held three lectures: Dr. Sebastian Troëng (Senior Vice President for Americas Field Division) on marine resources; Carlos Manuel (former Costa Rica Minister of Energy and Environment and Cl's Regional Vice President on Policy) on Costa Rica's Green Economy experiences; and Margarita Mora (Executive Director, Conservation Stewardship Program) on using of conservation incentives to enable participation of local and indigenous communities.

The series concluded with a Gala Independence Lecture, "The Natural Heritage of the Guiana Shield: An Irreplaceable Gift to Humanity" presented on May 23 by Dr. Russell Mittermeier, a world famous biodiversity expert and executive Vice-Chair of Cl's International Board. All talks were well attended, with several Ministers of Government, CEOs and heads of civil society organisations in the audience.

Institutional capacity-building of the National Toshaos Council

Building on progressively open relations and overlapping interests, we signed a 2-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Toshaos Council (NTC) – the statutory body responsible for ensuring sustainable development of Indigenous communities – which will support work to fulfill its mandate.

For this to happen, we will work with the NTC to develop more effective organisational decisionmaking systems which incorporate principles of Free Prior and Informed Consent and better represent the needs of specific groups within communities (men, women, youth, elderly). We will also work together to design and test tools for incorporating REDD+ principles into community development planning.

In 2017, we will assist the NTC in establishing an independent secretariat to support its activities. We believe that a fully functional and independent NTC, as a key civil society actor, is instrumental to securing inclusive development in Guyana. The MoU is the first of its kind signed by the NTC.

"If we look at our theme, which says, 'Guyana's First Peoples, Preserving our Culture and Land for Life,' and then examine the MoU and the work that CI is doing, it fits right there. The MoU is a way forward and building bridges for great things to happen."

Toshao Joel Fredericks

Chairman of the NTC

Providing an international platform for Guyana's green economic trajectory

In October 2016, we were honoured to have President David Granger as a guest of honour at CI's International Annual Board meeting. He was joined by President Ian Khama of Botswana, and former President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson of Iceland and and former President Anote Tong of

Kiribati. President Granger had the opportunity to interact with Peter Seligmann, Chair and CEO of CI, and other global leaders in conservation and to meet CI's experts based in our Virginia headquarters and across the globe.

Enabling transformative investments in local community development

Over the past 16 months, we have been collaborating with the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs to design a Sustainable Development Agreement Framework to realize both improved human well-being for Indigenous peoples and secure the sustainable use of indigenous lands (representing approximately 14% of Guyana's landscape).

The Framework requires villages to produce a long-term (10-year) Community Development Plan (CDP) with key development targets linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Priority projects and targets are extracted from these CDPs and implemented via annual Action Plans. Villages will develop and submit funding proposals to the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs (MoIPA) and their Regional Democratic Council (RDC) by May of every year. A monitoring and evaluation mechanism will assess progress on projects and identify measures needed to improve impact.

The Framework helps Indigenous villages fulfill CDP requirements mandated under the Amerindian Act (2006) by providing a transparent, predictable, and structured way to realise their own long-term vision and priorities. It uses self-sufficiency and accountability as mechanisms to reconcile the impacts of the introduction of money into the way of life of villages, by building on traditional customs involving land, languages,

traditional practices, culture, laws and institutions. The Framework also helps MolPA and RDCs maximise synergies in the flow of technical and financial resources to communities, and develop robust annual budget proposals.

The Framework was inspired by Conservation International's own Conservation Agreement Model⁵, which was locally contextualised and is being tested in collaboration with the Kanuku Mountains Community Resource Group (KMCRG), North Rupununi District Development Board, National Toshaos Council, WWF-Guyana and the Regional Democratic Council of Region 9.

With approval by the Cabinet, we officially launched the Framework this year and began piloting it in 33 villages in Region 9. MoIPA adopted the use of the Village Resource Development Planning Toolkit, designed by Cl-Guyana and the KMCRG, for the preparation of CDPs. This process includes conducting participatory rural planning workshops with communities, with elements addressing the conservation of natural capital on community lands (especially freshwater systems), climate change adaptation measures, and monitoring and use of traditional knowledge. In addition, a Training of Trainers approach has been used to build the capacity of communities to assist each other in CDP.

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^{5 &}lt;a href="http://www.conservation.org/projects/Pages/conservation-stewards-program">http://www.conservation.org/projects/Pages/conservation-stewards-program. aspx



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promoting sustainable production

Forward-thinking policies and practices must be in place to promote sustainable production practices. We work with businesses — including those with a big impact in sectors like mining, energy and agriculture — to help make sure that industry doesn't undercut nature's ability to support us.

Building a responsible mining value chain

Gold mining is a strong sector of Guyana's economy, but is also a significant driver of deforestation, and has come under scrutiny for health, safety and social issues, particularly as it

relates to mercury use to separate gold.⁶ With US\$3.2M support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) Climate and

waterways. Mercury has deleterious effects to human health and wildlife. As a signatory to the **Minamata Convention**, Guyana has committed to eliminating mercury use by 2025.

Guyana's Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) sector uses mercury as the main process component to extract gold from its ore. However, the vast majority of these operations do not recapture the mercury after use, resulting in its release as a pollutant into soils and

Forest Initiative Support Scheme (NICFI),⁷ Cl-Guyana entered into a partnership with the Guyana Gold & Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA) that will establish a framework for working with private sector actors in mining to reduce deforestation. This has been augmented with US\$3.0M investment from the Global Environment Facility to support business enterprises in leading the shift towards a mercury-free ASGM value chain and the development of an environmentally and socially-conscious brand of jewellery; El Dorado Gold.⁸

practices to raise productivity while reducing ecosystem impacts. We will develop sustainable landscape plans for selected areas where mining forms an important source of livelihoods. Lessons learned will be translated into recommendations for improved public and private sector policies. establish geographically-defined We will demonstration areas for gold produced with nonmercury technology and processes. Producers will be linked with high-potential premium markets sourced under aold socially environmentally consciencious conditions.

Greening the gold mining value chain requires that we consider how we maximize the value of the non-renewable mineral resource, while we minimize negative social impacts the loss or degradation of our ecosystems. This project brings together the insights, expertise and resources of the private sector, public sector and local communities throughout the entire supply chain and policy spectrum, to develop solutions so that Guyana's gold is internationally respected for its very low impacts on natural capital and strong positive social impacts on communities from where the gold is mined."

David Singh

Vice President & Executive Director

Conservation International Guyana

Together, these projects form CI-Guyana's Responsible Gold Mining Initiative working with the Artisanal and Smallscale Gold Mining Sector. We will establish mechanisms for evidence-based dialogue between government, the private sector, civil society, and those directly or indirectly involved in or affected by mining and other impacts on forests. The aim will be to understand the practical production and business challenges faced on the ground and the suite of adverse impacts that must be addressed.

We will work with partners who will develop improved or alternative mining technologies and

Our approach also aims to see the incorporation of gender-sensitive issues and the rights of forest-based local and Indigenous communities and traditionally vulnerable groups, into decision-making processes. A public education and awareness campaign will foster positive attitudinal and behavioural change in natural resource management. Lessons learned will inform the crafting of private and public sector policies, also reflecting the principles of green growth, REDD+ and Free, Prior & Informed Consent.

The Project Steering Committee membership and observers for the Initiative consists of Cl-Guyana,

A parallel project will be implemented by CI-Peru, addressing forest loss from coffee and cacao production in Peru. The two projects will share emerging lessons learned to improve their performance. CI-Guyana was the only non-governmental organisation included in the Global Environment Facility's Global Opportunities for Long-term Development (GEF-GOLD) of the ASGM Sector Programme. the GGDMA, the National Toshaos Council, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, and the Guyana Women Miners Association.

The Initiaitve complements existing efforts to reduce impacts of mining on ecosystems – such as the Mercury Initial Assessment by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The Initiative aims to help reduce deforestation rates by 25%, of the 2013 baseline, by 2020. It addresses the well-documented challenges of merging REDD+ strategies with sustained inclusive development, in countries with historically low deforestation rates, such as Guyana. The initiative will also assist by demonstrating mercury-free mining in business enterprises that will provide leadership towards eliminating mercury use in gold mining by 2025.







sustainable development.

A vibrant and unique place in Guyana, the Rupununi hosts interesting exchanges of resources & culture, where people from the emerging economies of Brazil and China interact with local and indigenous communities in commerce and trade. It is the site of increasing interest in large-scale agricultural investments by domestic and international companies and the gateway for the proposed Georgetown-Lethem road to a deep water harbour which will link Brazil and Guyana to international commodity markets.

At 25% of Guyana's terrestrial area, it is also one of the country's most ecologically diverse regions. It provides the source water for the Essequibo and Rupununi Rivers and hosts one of the world's last remaining intact grasslands. In addition, its large tracts of carbon-sequestering forests qualify for substantial payments from the international community for global climate regulation services.

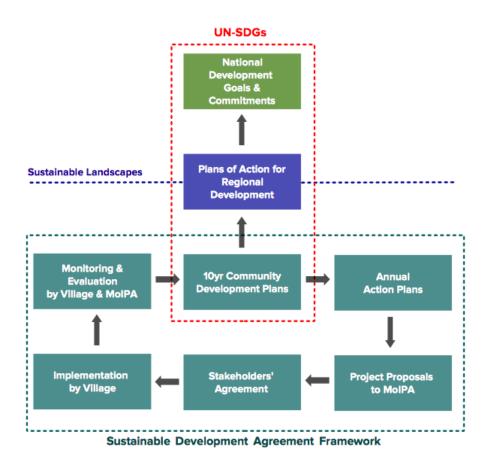
With this enormous potential, the Region also faces challenges. It is an arena where contentious issues such as unresolved land tenure of

Indigenous Peoples, conflicting land-uses, and unregulated forestry and mining activities are played out. The region will also be coping with warmer and drier conditions and extreme weather events (such as droughts and floods) under a rapidly changing climate which is expected to strain agricultural and livelihood systems, freshwater supplies and affect ecosystems which support the biodiversity of the region.

Cl-Guyana believes the Rupununi is the ideal laboratory for learning how to secure economic

development through maintenance of natural capital. The setting provides an opportunity to test models of integrated planning, economic development and natural resource management that cut across the themes of natural capital maintenance, good governance and sustainable production systems. Our Rupununi Sustainable Livelihoods programme has been doing exactly this. Our evidence-based approach will help to inform and shape national policy on green growth.

Integrated planning framework for the Rupununi – a model for amplification to other regions in Guyana.



Value Chain Approach to Low-carbon Economies

Cl-Guyana has been testing the assumption that local low-carbon businesses can compete favourably with import alternatives, while contributing to the long-term economic development of the region and simultaneously maintaining the provision of ecosystem services (e.g., carbon sinks, freshwater supplies, etc.). To this end we have been developing models and tools for transforming market systems and mainstreaming ecological considerations into two

economic sectors - nature-based tourism and sustainable agriculture — which were identified by local and indigenous communities as principal activities for the region. Our approach to helping community-based enterprises (CBEs) get off the ground has been to provide business planning and development training, access to financing, helping them organise and consolidate marketing products to access to markets at scale, and increase their transport-related bargaining power.

Valuing our assets

In 2015, we conducted community and stakeholder consultations and participatory mapping exercises of resource use and commodity chains in the tourism and agriculture sectors. This enabled us to produce the following high-level assessments for the region:

greenhouse gas inventory, climate change vulnerability, economic and ecosystem baselines, and the state of food and agriculture. In 2017, we will complement this work with a wildlife and freshwater systems baseline assessment.

A strategic approach to agricultural development

Insights from our baseline assessments went into producing an Integrated Sustainable Agriculture Development Strategy for the Rupununi, prepared by the Regional Democratic Council of Region 9, private operators, local communities and other stakeholders of civil society, and under the guidance of the United Nations Food & Agriculture Association and the Ministry of Agriculture. The plan focuses on incentive policies and institutional development; agriculture technology development and diversification; and

development of agricultural markets and enterprises. It was fully endorsed by the regional government and informed regional budget planning for 2016. Moving forward, it will inform the upcoming Plan of Action for Regional Development for Region 9, and forms the basis of two multimillion investments in agriculture funded by the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Building opportunities to expand agricultural markets

We collaborated with the Regional Democratic Council of Region 9, Ministry of Agriculture, United Nations Food & Agriculture Organisation, private operators, and local communities to organise the 4th annual Rupununi Stakeholder Business Forum. The forum enables the dialogue, networking and collaboration needed to integrate

the Rupununi region into national value-added agricultural production and market systems. This year's forum provided agencies to report on their stewardship over the year, and helped validate proposals that were presented for consideration in the National Budgeting Process.

Green Financing

In 2013, we launched the first CBE green loan fund in Guyana in collaboration with the Guyana Bank for Trade & Industry (GBTI). The Rupununi Innovation Fund (RIF) – an initiative between Cl-Guyana, GBTI, and the Inter-American Development Bank-Multilateral Investment Fund and Government of Guyana – provides loans for tourism and agriculture CBEs which embrace sustainable development principles. Informed by

direct consultations with the target groups, the RIF was also adapted to account for gender-related factors which affect its accessibility. To date, 26 initiatives have been financed and 9 initiatives are within the fund pipeline, with \$17, 395,000 disbursed. This year (2016), 8 loans were issued, and repayments have started for 22 loans which were issued in the previous years.

Launch of regional tourism coordinating body

A notable spin-off of our work with enabling tourism CBEs was the launch of Visit Rupununi – a membership-based tourism coordinating body, made possible in collaboration with the Guyana Tourism Authority. The organization promotes the Rupununi as a tourism destination by representing it in national, regional and international markets and providing training, capacity-building and marketing services for its members.

This year, marketing materials for international audiences were developed, which also highlighted the contribution of community-based

tourism to conservation. We also supported Visit Rupununi to host a major Brazilian tour operator, Roraima Adventures, on a visit to the North Rupununi, where partnerships between the operator and CBEs were explored. It is intended that future similar interactions would expand the market for the Rupununi tourism products in Brazil. The Ministry of Tourism expressed its support and recognition that Visit Rupununi may serve as a model for 'tourism hubs' for each of the 10 regions of Guyana — a proposal is currently being developed for funding under the Guyana-Norway REDD+ MoU.

Making strides in agricultural cooperatives

The assessments done under the Rupununi Low Carbon Livelihoods Project showed the high level of vulnerability that communities faced from extreme weather events that increasingly leads to food shortages. Cl-Guyana collaborated with CUSO-Guyana and the Canadian International Development Agency, the Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group, the Regional Democratic Council, the Ministry of Agriculture (National Agriculture Research & Extension Institute) to work with the Wowetta Village Council and Moco Moco Village Council on construction and operation of two farine factories in the respective villages. The projects enabled the

women in Wowetta and the farming group in Moca Moca to each develop a production and 9,000kg storage facility for farine to help mitigate threats to food security resulting from drought, flooding, wild fires and extreme climate change effects. It has also demonstrated the viability of cassava farming and processing as a CBE for income generation. The project also provided for equipment to reduce the intensive labour and build capacity in business development & business management skills, food handling, equipment management and maintenance, disaster preparedness, natural resource management and monitoring and evaluation.



A Sustainable Landscapes Approach to Regional Planning

The Regional Democratic Council of Region 9 (RDC-9) has started preparing its Plan of Action for Regional Development (PARD) which will direct and manage the strategic, long-term economic, socio-cultural and environmental development of the region to 2030. Drawing on our long history of solid engagement within the Rupununi, CI-Guyana was invited by the Ministry of Communities and the RDC-9 to provide technical expertise in regional planning and stakeholder engagement.

have already conducted three stakeholder presentations which generated a preliminary list of hot topics to be addressed in the PARD.

A notable feature will be the building of a mutually-supportive relationship between Region 9 and the Brazilian State of Roraima, with which the Rupununi is economically, ecologically and culturally connected. This will provide an institutional channel through which transboundary issues can be cooperatively addressed.

"The sustainable development of Region 9 can deliver long-term livelihood benefits for its people, but this can only be achieved by proactive and integrated management of competing development priorities in health, education, food security and nutrition, economic growth, environmental conservation, amongst many other major issues. This is what the PARD process will accomplish - crafting solutions that aim for complementary, reinforcing, long-term positive social, economic & environmental outcomes."

Rene Edwards Technical Coordinator Conservation International Guyana

We envision the PARD to integrate multiple community, sectoral and jurisdictional plans into a coherent policy framework and attract and streamline investments. But most importantly, it will be responsive to local realities: seizing opportunities, tackling emerging challenges, and creating a greater sense of regional identity and citizenship. We see our role as a facilitator in the process, convening a wide array of stakeholders to shape consensus policies on key priorities.

This year, we started assisting the RDC-9 in Participatory designing the Institutional Framework (technical units, decision-making bodies, stakeholder roundtables) and Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan (community consultation workshops, presentations, newsletters, radio programming) for the PARD. These will provide mechanisms for communities and interest groups to advocate for their aspirations and concerns and enter into evidence-based, solutions-oriented dialogue. We We are working with the Roroima State University and the Brazilian Consulate to recruit a Brazilian planning professional to work as a liaison between the RDC's Planning Unit and the State of Roraima, while also building the capacity of the Unit to undertake formalised planning processes.

In January 2017, we would have fully launched the stakeholder engagement plan and begun scoping exercises to develop a preliminary outline of priority programmatic areas for action. This will be used to inform the RDC's 2018 budget preparations, scheiduled for June 2017.

The Ministry of Communities has expressed interest in using our robust approach as a model that can be amplified towards planning initiatives in other regions. The PARD aligns with on-going efforts by the Government of Guyana to decentralize planning and decision-making and steer towards a green development path.



Our robust financial and operational systems provide a firm foundation for Cl-Guyana to be financially and operationally resilient. This is an essential element for ensuring the effective accomplishment of the preceding technical outcomes.

At Cl-Guyana, we are committed to continuously building our institutional capacity to undertake initiatives that rise to the sustainable development needs of Guyana. This work includes annual strategic planning exercises to assess the impact of our work and chart new courses, updating our administrative and financial systems to align with international best practices in efficiency and accountability, and expanding our expertise to tackle increasingly complex challenges.

Diversifying our talent

This year, we welcomed two new team members to manage our growing portfolio of partners and our projects engaging the mining sector:

Lisa Foster, Partner Relations Coordinator: A qualified finance and business professional with 20 years of combined experiences in the areas of aviation, marketing, accounting, financial management and admin. Lisa also has over 10 years of voluntary service in organisations such as Guyana Red Cross, Rotaract Club of Georgetown, Rotary District 7030, and is the current President of the Rotary Club of Georgetown.

Dr Tigerjeet Ballayram, Sustainable Development Manager. An economist with 30 years' experience, including 14 years University teaching; 12 years as a Food Economist with a United Nations Organization in research, policy/strategy formulation, program & project coordination, design, implementation, monitoring & evaluation in agriculture, food and nutrition security, nutrition in the life course, and poverty alleviation; and the last four years as an International Consultant in Food & Nutrition Security & Vulnerability Assessments.

For 2017, we expect to increase our capacity further to implement the work of our project – Addressing Drivers of Deforestation in Guyana.

Extending our influence

Three key senior Cl-Guyana staff secured volunteer governance positions in organisations working within our programmatic areas, allowing us to extend our influence:

- ▲ David Singh, Vice President and Executive Director was appointed as Chair of the Protected Areas Commission
- Curtis Bernard, Technical Director was nominated to represent Civil Society on the Steering Committee of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative in Guyana
- A Rene Edwards, Technical Coordinator was appointed to serve on the Lethem (Rupununi) Development Authority

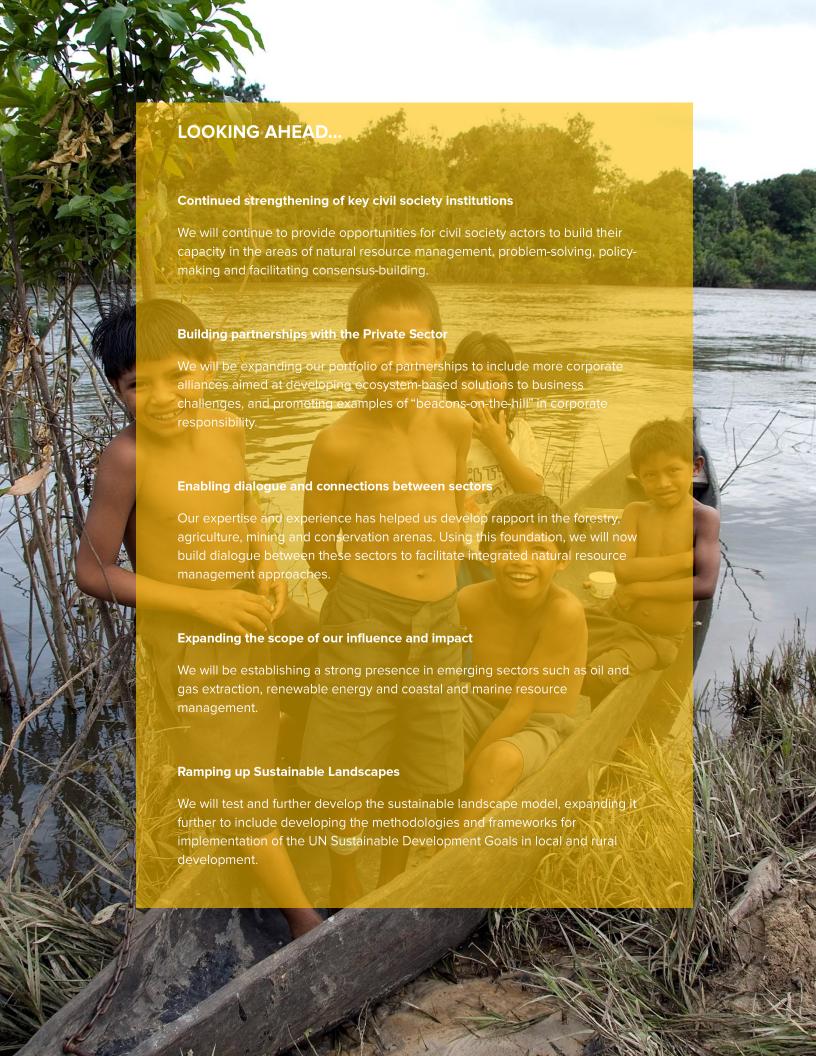
Holding our position

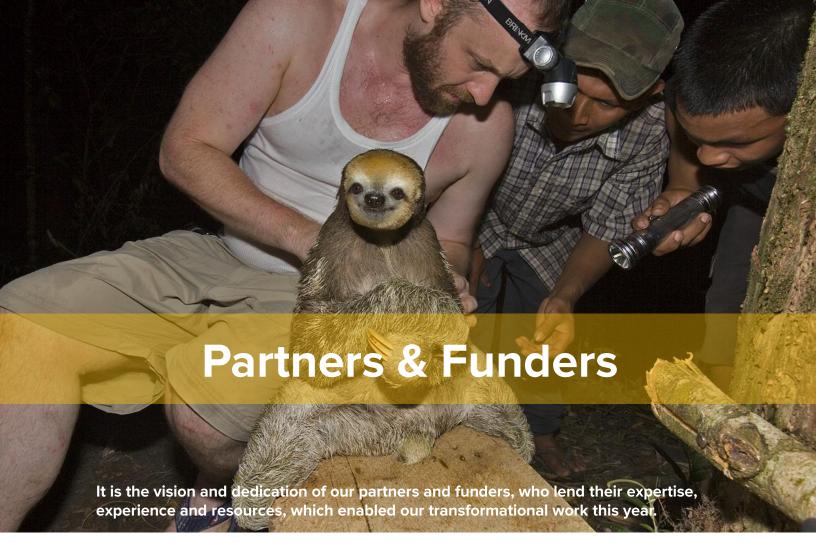
We continue to hold our accreditation as an implementing agency of the Green Climate Fund9 and the Global Environment Facility10. We are also still an interim delivery partner for the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF) under the MoU between Guyana and Norway.



⁹ The GCF aims to become the largest multilateral fund addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation, with a goal of raising US\$ 100 billion by 2020. To date, US\$ 10 billion has been pledged to the GCF.

¹⁰ The GEF is the largest multilateral fund addressing environmental issues globally.





Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry

Guyana Tourism Authority

Rupununi Livestock Producers Association

Visit Rupununi

Wowetta Women's Agro-processors Group

Caiman House

Carly's Bus Service

Clowes Fund

CUSO International

Edward B. Beharry Company Ltd.

Global Environment Facility

Greenleaf Solutions (Guyana) Inc.

Guiana Shield Foundation for Biodiversity

Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association

Guyana Livestock Development Authority (Region 9)

Helping Hands Women Producers Cooperative Society

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

Inter-American Development Bank

 ${\bf lwokrama\ International\ Centre\ for\ Rainforest\ Conservation\ \&\ Development}$

Kanashen Village, Rupununi Guyana

Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group

Kingdom of Norway—Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau (KfW), German Development Bank

Ledder Family Foundation

Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Communities

Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs

Ministry of Natural Resources

Ministry of Public Infrastructure

Ministry of Business, Department of Tourism

National Agricultural Research & Extension Institute

National Centre for Educational Resource Development, of the Ministry of Education

National Toshaos Council

North Rupununi District Development Board—Bina Hill Institute

Office of Climate Change, Government of Guyana

Ori Guesthouse

Partners of the Americas

Protected Areas Commission

Protected Areas Trust of Guyana

Regional Democratic Council, Region 9, Guyana

Rewa Eco-Lodge

Rockview Lodge

Rupununi Chamber of Commerce & Industry

South Rupununi Conservation Society

South Rupununi People's Development Association

South– South Central District Toshaos Council

Surama Village and Eco-Lodge, Rupununi Guyana

Takutu Hotel

The Guyana Bank for Trade, Industry and Commerce

The Guyana Forestry Commission

The Guyana Tourism Authority

The Swift Family Foundation
The Waterloo Foundation

Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana

Trans Guyana Airways

UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

University of Guyana

World Wildlife Fund—Guianas (WWF-Guianas)



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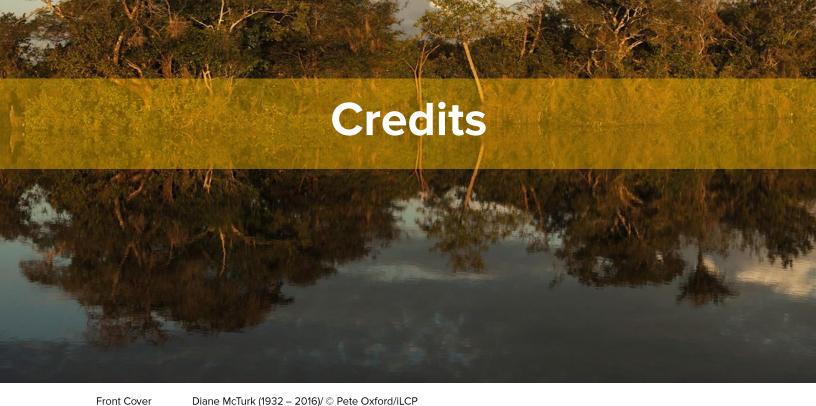
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Page 2 A Mucushi man weaves split vine/ © Pete Oxford/iLCP Page 3 Weaving of split vine/ © Pete Oxford/iLCP Page 4 Ichthyologist Carlos Lasso catching fish using a net/ © Piotr Naskrecki Page 7 Wai-Wai children hold frog/© Cristina Mittermeier Page 10 Macushi boy jumping in water/ © Pete Oxford/iLCP Page 11 GEF-GOLD launch in Guyana/ © Conservation International Alluvial Gold Mining in the rainforest/ $\ensuremath{\texttt{©}}$ Pete Oxford/iLCP Page 15 Page 18 Essequibo River/ © Pete Oxford/iLCP Page 19 Macushi boys in canoe, Yupukari village/ © Pete Oxford/iLCP Page 23 Woman peels cassava/ © Pete Oxford/iLCP Page 25 Conservation International Guyana team/ \odot Conservation International Page 27 Local Wapishana Macushi children at Nappi village in the Kanuku mountains/ © Conservation International/photo by Haroldo Castro Page 28 Smiling children in a canoe in Rewa River, Guyana/ © Conservation International/photo by John Martin Page 29 Entomologist Chris Marshall and assistants collecting symbiotic moths from the fur of a Three-toed Sloth/ © Piotr Naskrecki Page 30 Wai-Wai girls playing/ © Cristina Mittermeier Page 31 Permanent ponds in savannah/ \odot Pete Oxford/iLCP **Back Cover** Giant Otter Eating Fish (Pteronura brasiliensis)/ © Pete Oxford/iLCP



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