



MOVING GUYANA BEYOND 20/20

IMPACT REPORT 2017



Our Team

CI's team in Guyana is diverse and passionate about advancing our country's development along a green path. This mixture of seasoned experts and youths, leaders in their fields, are committed to helping secure a good future for Guyanese through valuing Guyana's natural heritage.

Our Partners

Whether we're working with villages in the Rupununi to build their capacity to plan for their own long-term development or supporting national policy makers, our work is done through partnerships. Our partners care about the future of our people and represent a cross-section of Guyanese society and interests.

Our Vision

Our vision is that by 2025 Guyanese value and secure their natural heritage as a cornerstone of their wellbeing.



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NATURE PEOPLE LOVE
HONESTY PASSION
GUYANA
COMMITMENT MORALITY
NEED SECURING
A GOOD
FUTURE
INTEGRITY
COURAGE



Learn more about our 2025 Vision
Facebook.com/ConservationInternationalGuyana

Guyana's chance to help transform the world

There are only a handful of countries on Earth that have the exquisite beauty, ecological health and cultural richness that Guyana does. Our country truly stands out. And in this moment, as the world is focusing on climate change, this country is absorbing carbon and doing more than most countries to address climate change for the health of our planet. It is really a remarkable place.

At this same time, we are blessed with the opportunity of an unforeseen wealth from newly discovered petroleum deposits. Creating somewhat of a conundrum regarding how do we use these fossil fuels as we address the challenge that climate change presents.

For these reasons, more than any other nation on Earth, Guyana has an opportunity to be a global leader demonstrating how these challenges can be addressed. We have on one hand prospects of an enormous economic wealth from fossil fuels and on another enormous opportunity to show that protecting the forests of this planet is essential to address climate change. Addressing this challenge requires open-minded innovativeness to make the right choices. It's a totally fascinating challenge because Guyana has what it takes to deliver well and be a leader. We have resources in the earth and the forest, and we have the resources in the fuel and the economy to actually find a new sustainable path.

If the only thing countries do to address climate change is provide abundant cheap and clean energy, the fundamental human need, our core values, would not be addressed. Do we value this earth, do we value nature? The obvious answer is, we must. We have no other place to go to, and so if we're going to value this place, we need to not only deal with climate change, we must also deal with the way we treat all of the creatures on this planet. Because without them, we would not exist.

That's a green development strategy: it's how we grow, how we expand, how we improve the quality of life of all Guyanese, while at the same time showing the planet that we can do this in a way that absorbs CO₂ and protects ecosystems and species. This opportunity is really remarkable, because we are in an age of innovation. We are at the tipping point in that every single industry and government on the Earth, young people and elders alike are wrestling with this challenge. Guyana is gifted with the tools to forge a wise path, a path that others can emulate.

CI sees Guyana, this great nation, not as a small country somewhere in South America but rather as a country that stands at the forefront of opportunity.

[Adapted from a speech by Chairman Peter Seligmann at CI's launch of strategy in Guyana on December 3, 2017 in Georgetown.]

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A historic signing of an agreement between the Protected Areas Commission and the Village Council of Konashen in Region Nine on July 7, 2017 has paved the way for the declaration of Guyana's first Amerindian Protected Area under the National Protected Areas System. Konashen is Guyana's southernmost Amerindian village and it is located in the Upper Takutu-Upper-Essequibo on the border with Brazil. In 2004, Konashen was granted Absolute Title to the entire Konashen Indigenous District, an area of 648,567.2 hectares (3% of Guyana's land mass) of relatively intact forests, rich in biodiversity and ecosystems, and containing the head waters of the Essequibo River.

Securing Guyana's future beyond 20/20

Dear friends,

On behalf of the Conservation International – Guyana family, I would like to thank you most sincerely for your continued interest in, and support for our work. In acknowledging the valuable position of friendship that we enjoy with such a wide range of stakeholders in Guyana, we hope that we can serve you in the important mission to secure a future for us and for all humanity through caring for nature.

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Over the Year 2017, we were honoured to have made new friends in all segments of society. As we formed new relationships with the Private Sector, Government Agencies, Indigenous and Local People, we particularly want to recognize our longstanding partners with whom we continue to engage.

It has been an eventful year. We participated in the final step to help our longstanding friends of the Wai Wai Community of Konashen to formally become a part of the National Protected Areas System, and collaborated with new partners to start understanding the importance of the coastal mangrove ecosystems of the Guiana Shield. We

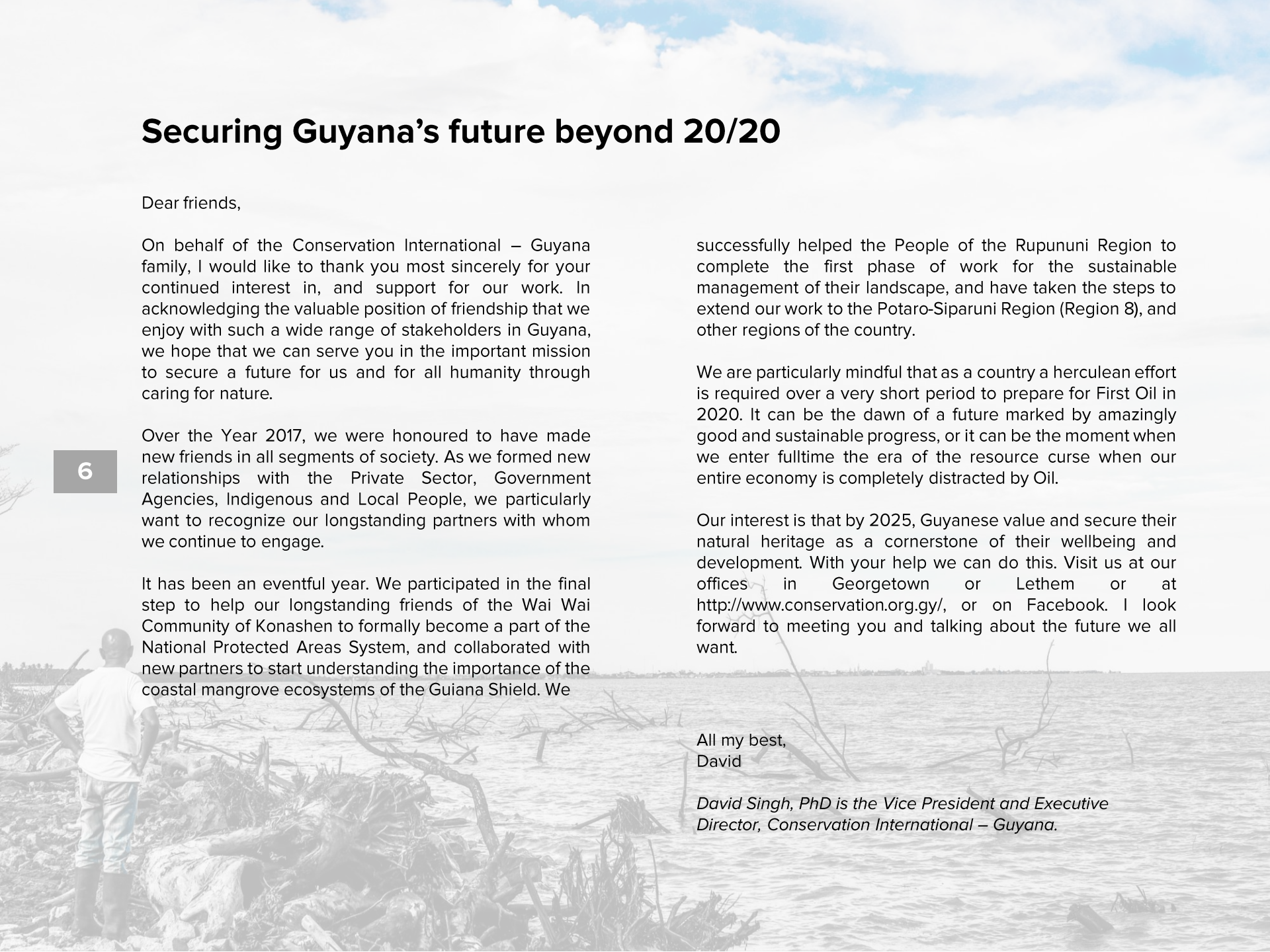
successfully helped the People of the Rupununi Region to complete the first phase of work for the sustainable management of their landscape, and have taken the steps to extend our work to the Potaro-Siparuni Region (Region 8), and other regions of the country.

We are particularly mindful that as a country a herculean effort is required over a very short period to prepare for First Oil in 2020. It can be the dawn of a future marked by amazingly good and sustainable progress, or it can be the moment when we enter fulltime the era of the resource curse when our entire economy is completely distracted by Oil.

Our interest is that by 2025, Guyanese value and secure their natural heritage as a cornerstone of their wellbeing and development. With your help we can do this. Visit us at our offices in Georgetown or Lethem or at <http://www.conservation.org.gy/>, or on Facebook. I look forward to meeting you and talking about the future we all want.

All my best,
David

David Singh, PhD is the Vice President and Executive Director, Conservation International – Guyana.

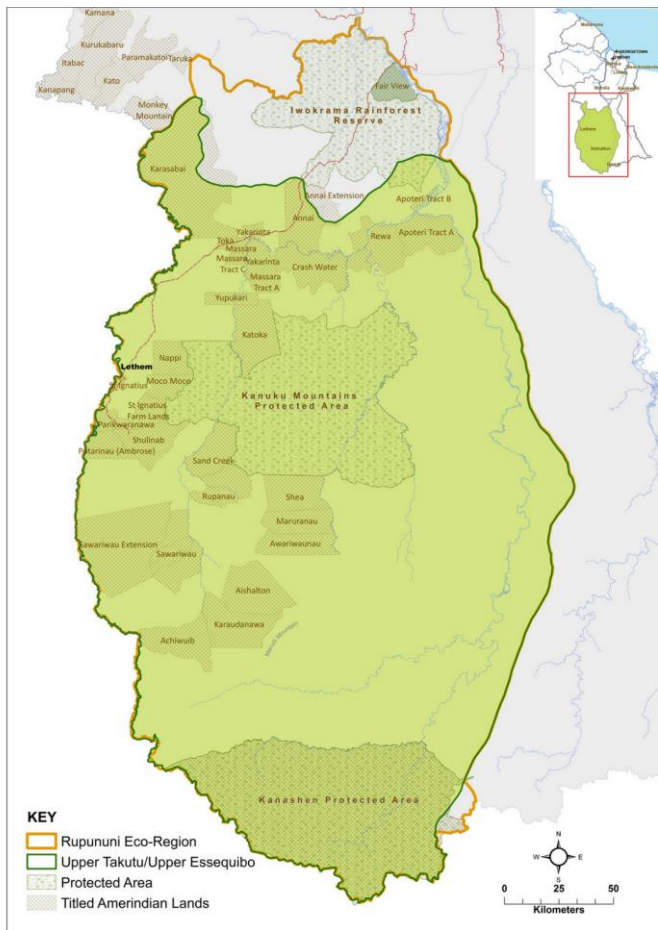


POLICIES FOR NATURE

CI works with diverse partners to decentralize decision-making to secure the wellbeing of Guyanese and their natural heritage at the regional and local levels. People must have the power to make decisions for themselves, their children and their future if Guyana is to successfully transition to a path of green economic development. Thousands of Guyanese are aware of the

importance of participating in decision-making processes which affect their lives, of planning for their future at a regional and village level, and are effectively doing so. When people have the power to design their own future, when they feel in control of where their lives are headed, they see very clearly the value of nature in this equation and make decisions and act in a way which secures it.





PLAN OF ACTION FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Regional Democratic Council - 9
Upper Takutu - Upper Essequibo, Region #9

FEBRUARY 2018

VERSION #1: FOR PUBLIC INPUTS



With technical support from Conservation International - Guyana

Increasing the decision-making power of Regional Government

Through a platform created for stakeholder engagement, thousands of Guyanese who live in Region 9, the Rupununi, are more aware of the importance of participating in the processes for planning development at a regional scale. The Regional Administrative Council of Region 9 is more empowered to make wise decisions than before.

This decentralization of decision-making (from central to regional government) encourages increased integration of sustainable development efforts at the regional and community levels. A draft Plan of Action for Regional Development (PARD) for Region 9 has increased confidence in this process and guides how key decisions are being made in the region.

The PARD is a plan for managing the long-term strategic economic, social, cultural and environmental development in the administrative regions in Guyana.

Sustainable Indigenous Villages & Communities

The power to design the future

Sustainable Villages has decentralized decision-making to a village and community level. More than **12,000 indigenous peoples in over 54 villages covering more than 1.6 million hectares** practice sustainable village planning to design their own future.

It is a tool for communities to achieve their own long-term development goals. Sustainable Villages provides a framework for external partners in their relationship with communities while doubling as a planning guide for Village Council, elders, other leaders, and people.



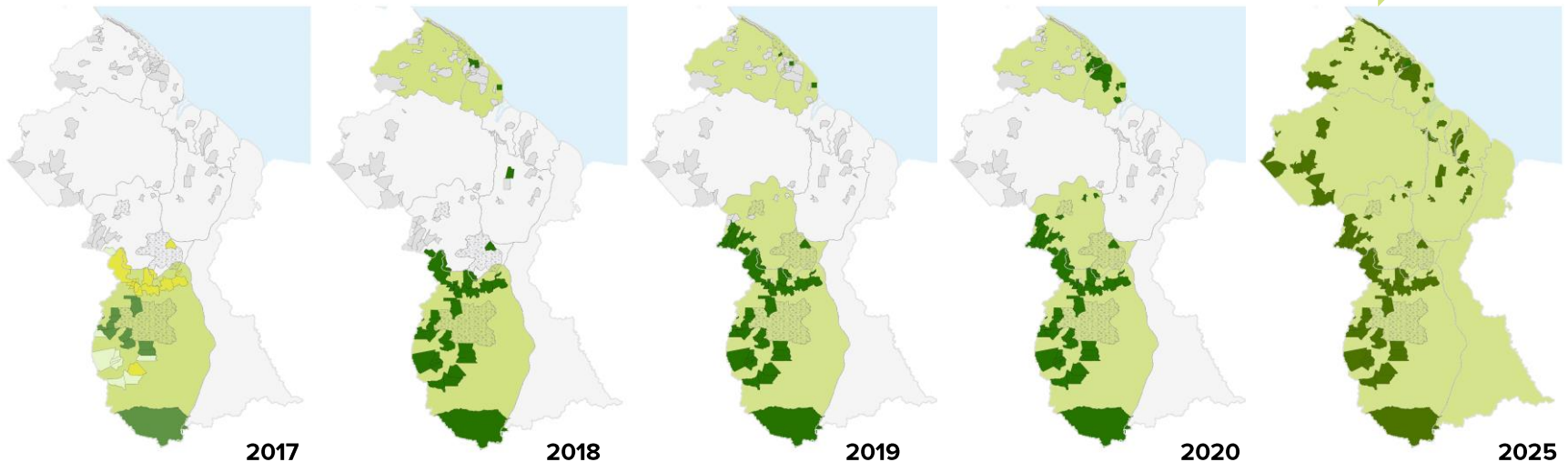
GY\$9 million was invested by the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs to continue the Sustainable Village Planning Process.



Two exchanges (with Brazil and Ecuador) increased the capacity of local actors to facilitate the Sustainable Villages process.

By 2025, all titled Indigenous villages will have a Sustainable Village Plan to guide and support local green development efforts.

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Caring for our Natural Heritage

Our work supporting the implementation of the **Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS)** has impacted how Guyanese think of our forest and increased their knowledge of its value. There is now greater awareness of just how forest-rich Guyana is and we speak of it with much pride. In July 2017, CI signed a **US \$7.8 million agreement with the Guyana Forestry Commission** to support the implementation of phase two of the MRVS. The project is transforming forest management in Guyana through an effective and sustained monitoring, reporting and verification system. The Year 6 report became available for public review in December 2017.

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Increased access to information on deforestation in Guyana can inform better management of our forests, and greater awareness of the impacts our various activities have on it. Implementation of the MRVS is a cornerstone of the Guyana-Norway Agreement and Guyana's REDD+ programme.

Guyana's relatively new **National Protected Areas System (NPAS)** is central to the development of a green economy. The expansion of the system is a key portion of the Emission Reduction Programme included in Guyana's Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as well as part of the commitments under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

Over the past year, CI-Guyana **supported the Protected Areas Commission (PAC)** to develop a strategy for the expansion of the NPAS in keeping with the country's international commitments and national ambitions. The strategy is built from the identification of gaps in the coverage of the current system and is meant to inform engagements with stakeholders towards the realization of the expansion. **The PAC and Protected Areas Trust were also supported to build their capacities to support effective management of the current and expanded system.**

PROTECTED AREAS ARE CREATED FOR PEOPLE BY PEOPLE WHO CARE.



An aerial photograph of a large-scale open-pit mine. The mine's terraced walls are visible, with a large, dark pond in the center. The surrounding landscape is a mix of cleared land, some vegetation, and a dense forest in the background. A river or large body of water is visible on the right side of the image. The sky is overcast.

PRODUCTION WITH NATURE

We work with leaders in business at all scales and across sectors to secure alignment with green economic development. This allows us to optimize economic contributions to Guyana's society and economy while maintaining nature's ability to support us. This means supporting diversified, higher-value, and green businesses across Guyana.

Production with nature means a gold mining sector with greater socioeconomic contributions and a reduced ecological footprint; tourism and agriculture sectors that are supported by healthy ecosystems; and business leaders paving the way for enhanced private sector contribution to green development.

El Dorado Gold: Responsible Mining for Guyana

CI-Guyana is working with actors in the gold mining sector towards establishment of a responsible sector that contributes to Guyana's green development path. We supported the GGDMA to develop and test low-impact prospecting techniques to increase efficiency in mining and reduce impacts on forest and fresh water ecosystems.

In 2017, we continued to build strong relationships with diverse partners and to create spaces to bring together a

cross section of miners to begin thinking about delivering a more responsible, inclusive and accountable mining sector.

Baseline data on mining practices also became available to inform decision making in the Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector and we developed a knowledge, attitudes and practice survey that provides scientific grounding for interventions to change behaviours in the sector.

Strengthening Rupununi Voices

In September 2017, we wrapped up the Leveraging Natural Capital in Guyana's Rupununi project. After five years of action, the project achieved significant results. Through a successful participatory approach, it engendered confidence in communities, their groups and entrepreneurs to have a voice.

We supported local business development in ways that reached more entrepreneurs than expected and supported the development of significantly more business plans than expected in both the agricultural and tourism sector.

Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (the earlier national strategy for green development) was successfully 'downscaled' to the Rupununi region and enabled significant new national investments in the development of the region while strengthening the regional voice and capacity to articulate regional demands.

Strengthening Rupununi Voices



The Rupununi Innovation Fund (RIF) was started in partnership with the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry (GBTI). The bank provided a GY\$20 million loan portfolio for micro enterprises in the Rupununi.



Visit Rupununi, a community-based tourism association, was formed to enable tourism outfits in the Rupununi to work collectively to promote tourism activities nationally and internationally.



Supported two food security initiatives funded by the Canada-Caribbean Disaster Risk Management (CCDRM) Fund – both farine factories linked to cassava farming in the Rupununi, with local purchases and sales, and maintaining stocks of bagged farine for emergency disaster response.



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Visit Rupununi was registered as a not-for-profit in 2017 and has taken on a life of its own. It is led by community and private sector actors in the Rupununi. The organization has been marketing and promoting domestic and international tourism to the region, providing a platform for networking and collaboration and raising service and product standards through training and capacity development.





COMMUNICATING A VISION FOR NATURE

Connecting Guyanese to their Natural Heritage

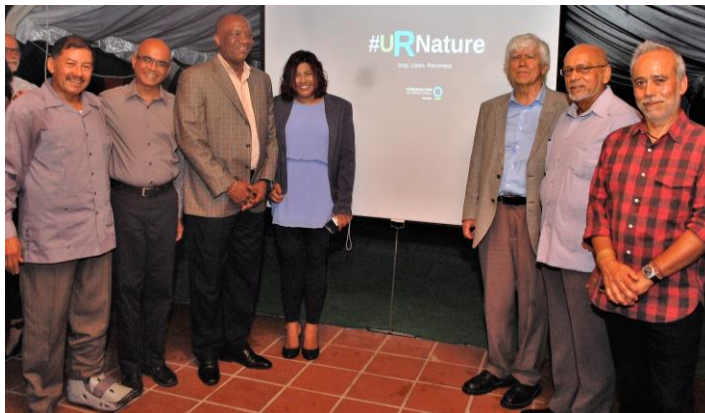
Nature is embedded in the Guyanese psyche. Our commitment to protect nature is clearly stated in the preamble to our Constitution and it is part of who we are as a people. In June 2017, with support from the British High Commission in Guyana and a wide range of partners CI increased the awareness of the human/nature connection with the aim of reconnecting Guyanese to their natural heritage.



More than 60% of Guyana's population is under the age of 35. The #URNature campaign **engaged key youth-led civil society organizations** to forge lasting and meaningful partnerships.



Almost **30,000** Guyanese were reached organically on social media and a wider national audience through paid and sponsored ads on radio and television.



#URNature

Stop. Listen. Reconnect.

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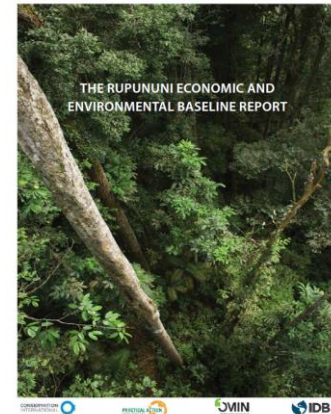
Everything from savannah
to sea makes us
Guyanese.

PARTNERS

Air Services Limited
 Caiman House
 Carly's Bus Service
 Clowes Fund
 CUSO International
 Demerara Distillers Limited
 Department of Environment
 Edward B. Beharry Company Ltd.
 Environmental Protection Agency
 Global Environment Facility
 Greenleaf Solutions (Guyana) Inc.
 Guyana Bank for Trade, Industry & Commerce (GBTI)
 Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
 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
 Iwokrama 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 Finance
 Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs
 Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment
 Ministry of Public Infrastructure

Ministry of Tourism
 National Agricultural Research & Extension Institute
 National Centre for Educational Resource Development, of the Ministry of Education
 National Toshias Council
 North Rupununi District Development Board—Bina Hill Institute
 Office of Climate Change, Government of Guyana
 ONF International
 Ori Guesthouse
 Partners of the Americas
 Practical Action— Regional Office for Latin America
 Protected Areas Commission
 Protected Areas Trust of Guyana
 Regional Democratic Council, Region 9, Guyana
 Rewa Eco— Lodge
 Rockview Lodge
 Rupununi Chamber of Commerce & Industry
 Rupununi Eco Hotel
 South Rupununi Conservation Society
 South Rupununi People's Development Association
 South— South Central District Toshias Council
 Surama Village and Eco— Lodge, Rupununi Guyana
 Takutu Hotel
 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)
 UN Environment
 University of Guyana
 World Wildlife Fund—Guianas (WWF-Guianas)

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