



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT LAND DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND RECLAMATION IN GUYANA

Guyana is endowed with a rich diversity of natural resources, including fertile agricultural lands, diversified mineral deposits and an abundance of tropical rain forests. However, the country faces growing challenges of land degradation and unplanned development, driven by pressures from mining, agriculture, forestry and human settlements. These issues, combined with the increasing effects of climate variability, have undermined land productivity, environmental resilience and equitable access to land resources in the country. The project was designed to address these challenges by strengthening governance, institutions and technical systems to support sustainable and climate-resilient land use.

In response, the Sustainable Land Development and Management (SLDM) project was developed and implemented to create an enabling environment for sustainable, climate-resilient land development and management in Guyana. Its objectives were (i) to mainstream SLDM into policy, institutional and governance mechanisms to prevent degradation and restore degraded lands, (ii) to strengthen institutional and human capacity for participatory and integrated SLDM and (iii) to enhance local governance in three targeted regions. These objectives are aligned with the low carbon development strategy (LCDS) and were executed while maintaining effective project management, monitoring and evaluation.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project directly addressed the urgent problem of land degradation and weak land governance in Guyana. By modernizing systems, building human and institutional capacity and piloting sustainable practices, the project delivered tangible results that will contribute to environmental sustainability, economic resilience and Guyana's achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Specifically, the project was structured according to four key outcome areas, namely (i) the enhancement of policy development at national level under GLSC's mandate and strengthened institutional collaboration across land-related sectors, levels and agencies, (ii) strengthening of physical, technical and human capacities, primarily within GLSC, (iii) SLM in the targeted administrative regions (4, 7 and 10) and emphasized capacity strengthening and knowledge improvement and (iv) strengthening of project management structures and mechanisms, including the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework.

IMPACT

The expected impact of the project was to mainstream SLDM into national policies and programmes for the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources (land, soil, water, climate and genetic resources) for the benefit of present and future generations in Guyana and in support of Guyana's Low Carbon and Green State Development Strategies.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 15 192 204

Duration
April 2018-December 2025

Resource Partner
Guyana REDD+ Investment
Fund (GRIF)

Partner
Guyana Lands and Surveys
Commission (GLSC)

Beneficiaries
Land user groups/communities,
national policymakers and technical
staff from GLSC and other relevant
national agencies

ACTIVITIES

- National Land Use Policy Paper drafted in August 2021, in order to support the development of the official National Land Use Policy.
- National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) action plan completed, establishing geospatial management practices to improve data-sharing, reduce redundancy and enable evidence-based decision-making across government.
- Guyana hosted the 17th Session of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) in January 2019 in Georgetown. This historic event, the first CRIC meeting hosted in the English-speaking Caribbean, attracted 566 participants from 94 countries.
- Guyana strengthened its presence in global initiatives regarding geospatial information management, including the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress in Deqing, China in November 2018 and the 9th session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM) in New York in August 2019.
- GLSC's geospatial infrastructure strengthened through the expansion of the national network of continuously operating reference stations (CORS).
- GuyanaGEOID2024 introduced – the first national geoid-ellipsoid separation model, enabling precise Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS)-based vertical positioning.
- Cadastral digitization advanced, establishing processes for field capture, office validation and digital storage.
- Comprehensive mapping data delivered as a result of the national light detection and ranging (LIDAR) initiative, covering the majority of Guyana's urban areas and planned development (12 919 km² of rural areas across regions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10).
- Strengthened capacities for 168 local actors – including farmers, miners, extension officers and community leaders – in the selection, assessment and documentation of SLM practices.
- Pilots conducted for SLM intervention in target regions, in areas such as vermicompost, biochar kilns, shade house farming with drip irrigation, assisted natural regeneration (ANR) and dragon fruit cultivation.
- Exposure visit to Brazil in 2024, allowing ten national experts from Guyana to gain valuable insights and learn from the country's successful practices in SLM.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Project Title

Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Development and Management in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

Project Code

FAO: GCP/GUY/003 GRI

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Partnerships and Outreach

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