

## Guyana

### Date and Venue:

Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2000 - Conference Room, Environmental Protection Agency, IAST Building, University of Guyana, Georgetown.

### Participants:

|                          |                                                     |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Per Bertilsson-          | Executive Director, Environmental Protection Agency |
| Andrew Bishop-           | Policy Co-ordinator, Ministry of Agriculture        |
| Rovin Bhookindran-       | Guyana Sea Defenses (Project Execution Unit)        |
| Navin Chandarpal-        | Presidential Adviser on Science and Technology      |
| Verley Cordis-           | Ministry of Agriculture                             |
| Ravita Diaram-           | Environmental Protection Agency                     |
| Krishna Dhourei-         | Guyana Forestry Commission                          |
| Paulimo Franklin-Arjoca- | Guyana Sewerage and Water Commission                |
| Yasmin Gilmartin-        | CPACC Media Group                                   |
| Dilip Jaigopaul-         | Chief Hydrometeorologist, Ministry of Agriculture   |
| Forbes July-             | Ministry of Foreign Affairs                         |
| Marlon Khan-             | Climate Change Consultant                           |
| Dawn Maison-             | Fisheries Department                                |
| Deborah Monrouth-        | Ministry of Housing and Water                       |
| Joseph O'Lall-           | Director, Guyana Energy Authority                   |
| Diridyan Permail (?)-    | Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture        |
| Zainool Rahaman-         | Hydrometeorological Department                      |
| Linda Rutherford-        | Chronicle Newspaper                                 |
| Rajkumar Singh-          | Environmental Protection Agency                     |
| Sandra Seeraj-           | Conservation International Guyana (NGO)             |
| Eilene Watson-           | Guyana Geology and Mines Commission                 |
| Dr. U O'D Trotz-         | CPACC RPIU                                          |
| Judi Clarke-             | CPACC RPIU                                          |
| Carlton James-           | CPACC RPIU (Public Awareness)                       |
| Derrick Oderson-         | CPACC RPIU                                          |
| G. de Berdt Romilly-     | CPACC RPIU                                          |

Agenda: See Annex A1 (Guyana)

### Commentary:

The following comments were made during the meeting by various participants:

- X The agricultural sector is of considerable importance to Guyana, with the result that flooding and saltwater intrusion into fertile lands is seen as one of the most pressing

problems caused by climate change.

- X It is anticipated that Component 4 of the CPACC project will assist in the identification of appropriate legal and institutional frameworks to address climate change.
- X The importance of building on ongoing initiatives was stressed. In this regard, the Guyana Climate Change Committee had been operating for a number of years and had fostered a good working association amongst various stakeholders working in the area of climate change. Additionally, the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Commission had been established in January 1999 and has developed a work plan for coastal zone management in Guyana. A large database on coastal resources had been developed to assist decision-makers in the planning process, and Guyana had been working with the CPACC RPIU on the aspect of vulnerability assessment. The Integrated Coastal Zone Management framework could address some aspects of climate change adaptation. A review of environmental legislation has been undertaken, although it does not highlight deficiencies in the legislative framework in relation to adaptation to climate change. An inventory of all environment and natural resource legislation currently exists. A *National Land Use Policy* and *National land-Use Plan* are now with cabinet and are expected to be approved in the near future. A *National Biodiversity Management Plan* has been developed, and the area devoted to national park is currently being expanded.
- X Flooding of fertile agricultural lands has exposed Guyana=s vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.
- X It was agreed that there was a need to develop a *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* that would outline intervention options and an action plan for implementation which could guide policy makers. The policy and implementation plan should identify resource constraints, and outline activities and actions which could be undertaken within existing resource capabilities.
- X Under Guyana=s *National Communication* it was agreed that a Policy on Adaptation would be developed, and an outline of a proposed policy and action plan has been formulated which would address national priorities.
- X The *National Communication* has been forwarded to Cabinet and is expected to be approved in the near future.
- X It is recognized that the proposed policy and action plan contained in the *National Communication* does not adequately address legal, policy and institutional aspects relating to climate change - particularly relating to cross-sectoral responsibilities.
- X It was recognized that there is a need to develop a policy document to complement the *National Communication*.
- X It was considered that there was a need to review existing legal and institutional frameworks with a focus on climate change adaptation. Such a review should feed into

the policy formulation process and result in the development of a *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan.

- X It was considered that the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan should identify management options, and should include measures relating to disaster preparedness, flood management and flood insurance.
- X It was considered that obtaining support, consensus and buy-in from the public/private sectors is an essential part of the process to develop the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy*.

**Proposed Work-Plan:**

- (a) It was agreed that the Climate Change Committee would co-ordinate the development of the *National Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan.
- (b) The first step in the process would be a review of Guyana's *National Communication* by the CPACC Technical Team. This review would focus on identifying any deficiencies in the proposed policy and action plan that is contained in the *National Communication*, and would be completed in about 2 weeks.
- (c) Concurrently, a review would be undertaken of existing legal, policy and institutional frameworks with a focus on climate change adaptation. This review, which would be undertaken by a local consultant with resources provided by the CPACC RPIU, would take four weeks to complete.
- (d) Upon the completion of these two reviews, it is foreseen that a technical meeting would be needed to facilitate discussion on intervention options and discuss proposed management mechanisms. This technical meeting could be held in December 2000 - comprising 2 half day sessions. These sessions would result in the formulation of a Position Paper that would be submitted for broad-based consultation. Thereafter, the Climate Change Committee would undertake an extensive public consultation process leading up to the development of a draft Policy Paper.
- (e) Once the draft Policy Paper had been formulated, the Climate Change Committee would undertake the development of an Implementation Plan. The draft Policy and Implementation Plan would be subjected to public review and consultation.
- (f) The draft policy paper and implementation plan would be submitted to CPACC RPIU for review by a panel of technical experts. This process would require two weeks. Comments arising from this technical review will be submitted to the Climate Change Committee for consideration.
- (g) Once agreement has been reached, the Climate Change Committee shall submit the Final Draft *Climate Change Adaptation Policy* and Implementation Plan to the Ministry of Agriculture for onward transmission to Cabinet for review and eventual approval.

### **Public Education and Awareness**

- A program has been developed focusing on public awareness and education for climate change, and several training sessions have been convened at the community level.
- The Climate Change Committee will review the public awareness and education program outlined in the *National Communication*, to determine whether any changes may be required to accommodate the proposed work plan for Component 4. The Committee will also identify resources that may be required from the CPACC RPIU to undertake the public awareness program.
- The workplan and estimate of costs to implement the public awareness program will be forwarded to the CPACC RPIU within 30 days