

Capacity-Building Workshop for the Caribbean Region for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, mainstreaming of Biodiversity and the integration of Climate Change

COUNTRY PRESENTATION

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) GUYANA



Presenter: Ms. Dominique Saheed
SEO (ag.) Natural Resources
Management Division



Introduction

- 👉 Guyana signed the UNCBD in 1992; ratified in August, 1994;



- 👉 The EPA is the National Focal Point for the CBD; and



- 👉 National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) I was prepared in November 1999 to integrate the implementation of the CBD into Guyana's national development goals.



- 👉 NBAP I – Funded by GEF/UNDP



Introduction Cont'd



Goals of NBAP I

- To promote and achieve the conservation of Guyana's biodiversity;
- To use its components in a sustainable way; and
- To encourage the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of Guyana's biodiversity.

Context of NBAP I



- The NBAP I is a product of national policy to elevate concern for biodiversity to the level of planning and action.
- Focused on productive sectors of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and wildlife.
- It was intended to promote conservation and responsible use of biodiversity within a five year implementation period.
- Activities within the NBAP I involved identification of achievements and setbacks and planning for the second action plan, NBAP II (2007-2011).

Development of NBAP I (1999-2004)

Process

- Involved a consultative process;
- A national workshop was held at the end of the process; and
- This plan was approved by the Cabinet of the Government of Guyana in November 1999.



Implementation of NBAP I

Implementation of projects:

- Human Resources and Institutional Capacity Building;
- Consolidation of the policy , legal and Administrative Framework; and
- Public Awareness and Education.

Review of NBAP I

Reviewing of relevant documents, legislations, requirements of laws



Consultations with relevant stakeholders to assess the extent of implementation of NBAP



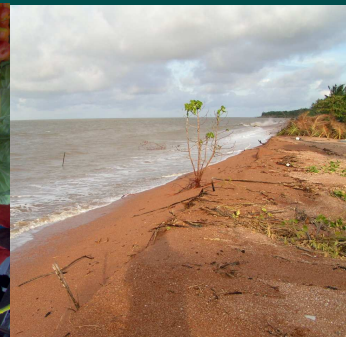
FINAL REPORT ON REVIEW OF NBAP (1999-2004)



Draft Report highlighting initiatives, extent of implementation, recommendations for enhancement of the implementation of NBAP, and issues to be considered in NBAP II

Context of NBAP II

- Continuation of planning process within the framework provided by the overall goal and objectives of NBAP;
- Guided by the Review Report; and
- Focused On Four Thematic Areas: Forest, Agricultural, Coastal Resources, and Marine and Freshwater resources.



NBAP II and Climate Change

- ✓ NBAP II addressed 4 of the 7 Thematic programmes of work under the CBD
- ✓ Cross cutting issue- Climate change;

Objective: To reduce the threats and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biological diversity

Guyana's Progress

Others involved:

- Iwokrama;
- Conservation International-Guyana; and
- Guyana Forestry Commission.



Approach to NBAP II

The EPA hired four consultants, one for each thematic area to prepare the NBAP II.

The Process

- ➔ A multi-disciplinary team with support from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF);
- ➔ Preparation of Situation Analyses;
- ➔ Identification of Programme Areas and Activities;



Approach to NBAP II

The Process Cont'd

- ➡ National Consultation Workshop (NCW) to identify Key Programme Areas for Action;
- ➡ Preparation of NBAP II, with an elaboration of Priority Programme Areas into Project Concepts and Logframes; and
- ➡ This plan was approved by the Cabinet of the Government of Guyana in August 2008.

Project Concepts and Logframes

- 👉 The EPA is listed as the Executing Agency for 9 of the 12 Projects and as a Collaborative Institution for 3 Projects;
- 👉 The Projects are to be executed over a five-year period by the NRMD in order to achieve the objectives of the CBD.



Programme Area 3

Title:

Mainstreaming Biodiversity.

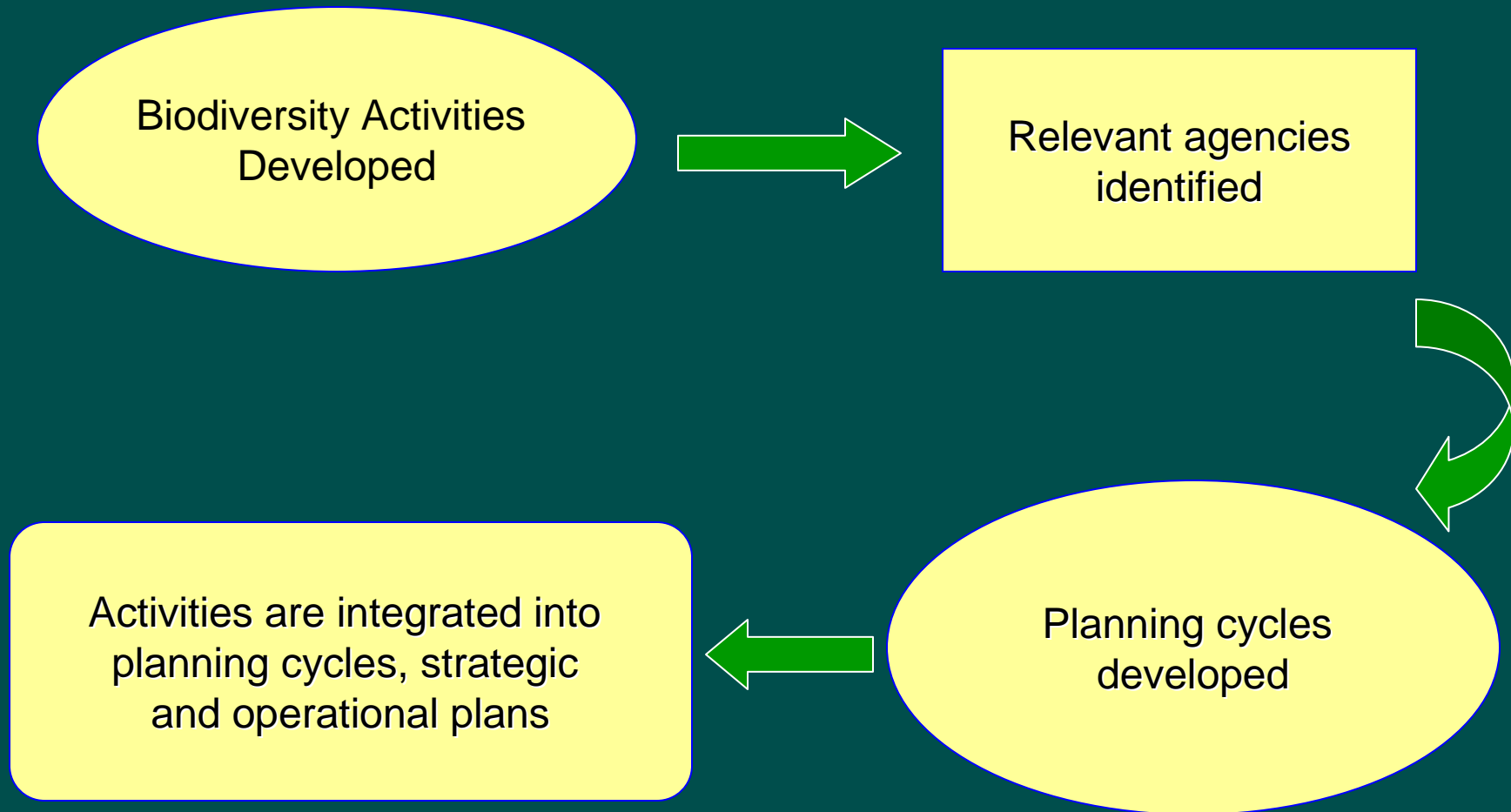
Project:

Integrating biodiversity issues and activities into strategic and operational planning of key responsible agencies.

Goal:

The goal of this project is to improve the mainstreaming of biodiversity issues and activities required by the UNCBD into the planning and operations of Governmental Agencies, Non-governmental Agencies, Regulatory Agencies and private organizations.

Mainstreaming Biodiversity



Programme Area 3 Cont'd

Outputs:

- ➡ List of responsible agencies;
- ➡ Review of agencies' planning cycles;
- ➡ List of key biodiversity issues allocated to agencies;
- ➡ Report on collaborative approaches to integrate biodiversity issues; and
- ➡ Written guidelines for monitoring integration of biodiversity issues into agencies' plans.

Next Steps



- Establish a financing strategy for securing funds to implement NBAP II;
- Establish the institutional arrangements for implementation to include Annual Work Programmes of EPA and key institutions;
- Place priority on implementing actions which require little or no funding such as mechanisms for better coordination and collaboration among sector and other institutions;
- Monitor, evaluate and report on implementation.

Climate Change

National Climate Change Unit - April, 2007, Focal Point for Climate Change.

- ☞ “Guyana Climate Change Action Plan (2001)”;
- ☞ “Initial National Communications in Response to its Commitments to the UNFCCC (2002)”;
- ☞ “Guyana’s National Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Implementation Strategy for Coastal and Low-lying Areas (2002)”; and



Climate Change Cont'd

- National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) Strategy and Action plan (2007-2011);
- National Development Strategy (2001-2010);
- Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)- Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC); and
- Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)



Guyana and Climate Change

- The forests store much carbon and, as such, the carbon in these forests needs to be given credits and the credits traded in the markets similar to the system that obtains in Europe. "Europe now, through an emissions trading scheme has been trading credits to the value of \$33 billion. We feel that we can generate a significant amount of money for developing countries like ours if we were to have a market-based mechanism trading these credits," the president said. (Kevin Lindon, Caribbean Net News Guyana Correspondent)
- At the special forum organised by the UN's Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon at the Organisation's Headquarters President Jagdeo in a speech titled *The Future in our Hands: Addressing the Leadership Challenge of Climate change*, It was stated that the Kyoto Protocol and its Clean Development Mechanism provide no recognition, nor adequate compensation for the contributions of standing forests towards climate change mitigation. In fact, "the current approaches penalise countries with low deforestation rates through reduced value of carbon credits."(GINA, September 26, 2007)

Guyana and Climate Change

- “While recognizing that a global response is required to address climate change, and facing the need as a developing country to grow our economy, Guyana is taking deliberate action for climate change mitigation and adaptation,” He said Guyana’s vast, intact forest resources represent a critical asset base for global climate change mitigation. (GINA, September 26, 2007)



Recommendations

- Source funding and prioritize climate change issues in work plans;
- Conduct research on climate and its influence and impact on the biodiversity;
- Improve data collection and dissemination of climate related data;
- Develop a comprehensive disaster management plan that outlines the role of each stakeholder;
- Engage in technology transfers to reduce green house gas emissions, strengthen regional and international linkages; and
- Increase public awareness on climate change issues.

**Thank
You**

