

Restoring Guyana's Coastal Mangrove Ecosystem

Climate Change Mitigation for a sustainable future

VYBZING Guyana 2014 "Youth Voices for Climate Change" May 22, 2014

www.mangrovesgy.org



Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project

Climate Change and its potential impact on Guyana



Over 90% of Guyana's population live and work in the coastal zone.
Guyana's coast is below sea level, in some areas by as much as 1.4 metres.
Main livelihoods, economic activities and infrastructure of the country extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts.



•Guyana's Second National Communication (SNC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) predicts higher incidents of disasters such as flooding and water intrusion derived from storm surges, sea-level rise, and intense precipitation.

Auto Qil, Air & Fuel Filters

CLEANER OIL & ENGINE - MORE LUBRICATION - LESS WEAR & TEAR

The severity of droughts and intensity of floods in various parts of Guyana is likely to increase.

Decrease in yield of crops as temperature increases in different parts of Guyana

By 2030, the annual loss due to flooding in Guyana is projected to be US\$150 million.

(Low Carbon Development Strategy, 2010)

Mangroves and Climate Change



Current rates of mangrove loss are roughly estimated at around 150,000 hectares (370,050 acres) per year, or about 1% per annum (FAO).

Mangrove loss = Loss of carbon sequestration potential

Per hectare, mangrove forests store up to five times more carbon than most other tropical forests around the world.

Mangroves Values and Functions

- Roots help to reduce and prevent coastal erosion.
- Act as wave breakers to protect coasts, coastal communities and infrastructure from the onslaught of strong waves and winds.
- Good breeding, feeding and nursery areas for many species of terrestrial and aquatic species.
- Provide an excellent habitat for different types of plants and animals.
- Root systems act as sediment traps and reduce the amount of sediment that enters

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Guyana's Coastal Mangrove Forest





Changes in Mangrove Coverage in Guyana



Threats to Guyana's Mangroves





Anthropogenic impacts

Image © 2013 DigitalGlobe

Image U.S. Geological Survey

Google earth

Coastal accretion



Garbage dumping and water





Coastal erosion

Altered hydrology and dieback resulting from infrastructure development



Goat and cattle grazing





Land development for housing

Combination of natural and man made factors has resulted in a mangrove forest which is out of equilibrium and unable to withstand the natural erosive cycle and recover during the accretion cycle

Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project

C1. Administrative capacity

C2.Sustainable management (Monitoring and **Enforcement**)

C4. Research and **Development**

To abate climate change (carbon sequestration through reforestation and forest preservation) and to *mitigate its effects* (sea defence, biodiversity).

> C6.Public awareness

C3.Legal framework and communitybased mangrove management

C5. Mangrove protection and rehabilitation



Restoration interventions

Mangrove Planting

Coastal Engineering Structures

Spartina Grass Planting







		Langer 2011 City and a planting
Location	Chateau Margot/Success, East Coast Demerara	January 2011 – Site prior to planting
Region	Region #4	
Total seedlings planted	20,529	

years after restoration



Coastal Engineering









Victoria, Geotextile Breakwater

2013 07 09 09:06

Buxton Brushwood Dam

2013 09 02 11 42



Mon Repos rubble mound groyne





Community based mangrove management



MANGROVE RANGERS



Village Mangrove Action Committees



Community Mangrove Nurseries



Mangrove Reserve Producers Coop Society



The Mangrove Heritage Trail Tour







Future of Mangrove Restoration

- Work with communities to raise awareness and understanding about the importance of mangroves.
- Understand what is preventing natural regeneration at individual sites - research.
- Continue to monitor and protect existing mangrove forests.
- Using the principles of EMR and lessons learned, continue to restore degraded forests.





Thank You!!!

Enjoy The Mangrove Hernage Trail Tour