

Target: Tertiary institutions

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Transforms Lives and Lifestyles!

Goals of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)

The goals are:

- Conservation of biological diversity for future generations;
- Exploitation of biological diversity in a sustainable manner; and
- Sharing the benefits from the use of genetic resources in a fair and equitable manner.



Photo: courtesy of guyanapremier.com

Guyana is endowed with rich biodiversity which includes the jaguar species. This animal is threatened with extinction due to destruction of its natural habitat by human activities.

What has been done to address Biodiversity Issues in Guyana?

The country has made great advances since its original effort at addressing biodiversity issues. Some of the major achievements include the following:

- Preparation of national policies, strategies and plans that address the UNCBD. For example, the Green State Development Strategy sets out the overarching framework for biodiversity conservation and management;
- Institutional reorganization and creation of new ones, including the Protected Areas Commission (PAC); and
- Collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations and Community-Based Organizations (CI, GMTCS and NRDDDB and others) on a variety of initiatives.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Focal Point for the UNCBD, adopted the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which is a ten-year framework for action containing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (For more information, contact the Department of Environment on 592 223 6313-4 or d.doe.motp@gmail.com).

Importance of the UNCBD to the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

The UNCBD is a mechanism that supports the following:

- The Framework for the Green State Development Strategy and other development plans of action;
- Access and transfer of appropriate and relevant technologies for biodiversity conservation;
- The tools used to assess the trade-offs between adaptation goals and the preservation and sustainable use of flora and fauna;
- Capacity building to enhance awareness of the value of linking biodiversity and adaptation to climate change; and
- Legislative and administrative steps to ensure the private sector participates in development activities.



Photo: Guyana's diverse forest types provide watershed and biodiversity services.

In what ways does the UNCBD Transform Lives and Lifestyles?

Through the implementation of the NBSAP (2012-2020) and related national policies, strategies, plans and projects aligned to the UNCBD, lives and lifestyles will be changed in the following ways:

- A healthier population can result from improved environmental conditions, genetically diverse and pest resistant agricultural food sources, traditional medicinal plants and improved water quality and sources;
- Conservation of biodiversity can lead to growth, diversification and expansion of national and local economies which translate to increased capital flow, job creation and livelihood opportunities; and
- Improved levels of education, awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems could serve to reduce biodiversity loss.