

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the Framework for inter-governmental efforts to tackle the challenges by Climate Change.

Emerging from the UNFCCC are the **Kyoto Protocol** and the **Paris Agreement**, in which Parties have committed to greenhouse gas emission reduction targets aimed at preventing destruction of the earth's climate system by human activities.

Why is the UNFCCC important?

- The UNFCCC seeks to strengthen and support global response to the threat of climate change.
- The Convention emphasizes equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities among Parties.
- It does not restrict development in any country.

Main Impacts of Climate Change on Guyana are:

- ✓ Increase of heavy rainfall, possibly leading to flooding;
- ✓ Sea-level rise and storm surges, especially for the coastal zone; and
- ✓ Increase in temperature and the decrease of annual precipitation.



Photo: Sea level rise may increase instances of overtopping of the Georgetown seawall.

Opportunities for Guyana

The country will have the chance to:

1. Create a data platform on emissions, sources and sinks of greenhouse gases;
2. Integrate conservation and management of greenhouse gas sinks and reservoirs into the Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) in a way that promotes synergies among the seven (7) pillars of the Strategy;
3. Establish protocols for collaboration between the public and private sector for information gathering and sharing with respect to adaptation;
4. Develop a framework for socio-economic and environmental issues relevant to climate change to be included in strategic plans, policies, programmes and projects;
5. Disseminate education and public awareness materials in support of capacity-building on climate change; and
6. Acquire technical support for the implementation of mitigation measures.



Photo: Reinforcement to protect a section of the coast from erosion by strong waves.

Some Other Impacts

Intense rainfall may cause:

- Landslides, and
- Flooding.

These events can damage infrastructure such as the sea-walls, housing, the sewage and sanitation system, roads, fishermen's landing sites, and conservancies.

Droughts may lead to:

- Migration to other areas in the country, adding pressure to the social and economic systems; and
- Fires, affecting wood production for exporting and housing.

Overall, floods, droughts and the seasonal temperature changes can cause outbreak and spread of infectious diseases, such as malaria and dengue.