### Country: Guyana

### **COUNTRY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

### Reporting period: 2012-2016

### **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Guyana is a lower middle income country. The economy registered its 10th successive year of growth in 2015 of 3.0%, down from 3.8% in 2014 and 5.2% in 2013, but yet higher than the 2.5% average for the LAC region. The drivers of this growth were gold, rice, sugar, and livestock - which represent more than 50% of the country's GDP. There were declines in the output of forestry, bauxite and fishing as well as activities in construction and wholesale & retail trade. In terms of the sectoral composition of real GDP, the agriculture sector contributed 22.6 percent, the mining sector’s contribution was 10.9 percent, and the services sector’s contribution was 65.9 percent. Contribution from the manufacturing sector (excluding sugar processing and rice milling) was 4.0 percent. Production of primary commodities remain highly susceptible to adverse weather conditions and fluctuations in commodity prices.

Between 1980 and 2014, Guyana’s HDI value increased from 0.516 to 0.636, the recent HDI places Guyana at 124 out of 188 countries. Based on the last comprehensive household survey in 2009, 7.8% percent of the population are multidimensional poor whilst an additional 18.8% live near multidimensional poverty and 1.2 % live in severe poverty. When the 2014 HDI is discounted for inequality the value falls from 0.636 to 0.520, a loss of 18.3%. The IHDI for Latin American and the Caribbean for the corresponding period is 0.570.

On the political front, the May 11, 2015 elections resulted in a change of government in Guyana, with the coalition of the “A Partnership for National Unity”/ ”Alliance For Change” (APNU/AFC) winning the presidency on a plurality of votes as well as winning control of the National Assembly with a one-seat advantage.   
The new government is juggling a sizable external debt against the urgent need for expanded public investment, as well as a divisive politics along racial lines. Further the recent discovery of significant deposits of offshore oil has exacerbated the Venezuela - Guyana border controversy and has an impact on investment opportunities in a resource rich area of Guyana.

The Government has established a Ministry of Social Cohesion to work on unification of the Guyanese people along social and political lines. Some of the Government Ministries have reached out to UNDP for assistance in support of the strategic development agenda in keeping with the new vision 2020. This dispensation includes a focus on green economic development including establishment of green towns and strong interest in developing alternative and green energy sources such as wind, hydro and solar. The Government has also made large investment out of the REDD + Programme funded by the Government of Norway in the area of land titling and village economic development with a focus on indigenous communities in the forested hinterland.

On the environmental and sustainable development front, Guyana remains susceptible to extreme weather events and natural hazards. Nevertheless the forward trajectory in line with the development of a low carbon and climate resilient economy continued. National capacity for the implementation of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS) for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) was further strengthened with identification of national carbon emission reference level, non-carbon co-benefits (freshwater) and options for a national REDD+ strategy. This resulted in Norway releasing to Guyana performance based payments in the amount of USD160 million, and Guyana significantly advancing its REDD+ readiness. However, increased extractive activities in the mining sector resulted in an estimated forest change of forest to non-forest excluding degradation of 11,969 ha or 94% of all deforestation. Two key solutions were pursued to mitigate the impacts: a study of the **economic** and environmental impacts of foreign direct investment in mining identified policy changes, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the mining sector to protect biodiversity and ecosystems.

Guyana is now better prepared to manage and mitigate the effects of natural hazards. With UNDP’s support Government has been able to establish a strengthened and functional national disaster management structure. This has enabled the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) to improve its capacity in Disaster Preparedness and Response. The CDC has improved capacities for early warning and in preparing mitigation plans has a trained cadre of persons who can serve as first responders in the event of a natural hazard. CDC is kept in a state of readiness through a 25-member Disaster Risk Reduction Platform created for the purpose of providing guidance and support.

With financial and technical support from UNDP, Guyana is now better able to streamline the operations of the natural resources sector, the main income generator for the economy over the last three years. The Ministry of Natural Resources is now better able to coordinate and monitor the operations of all sector agencies through its costed Strategic Plan (2013-2018) and Monitoring & Evaluation Framework added in 2014. With this structure in place, the Ministry can work towards the holistic development of the sector, ensuring effective monitoring, timely data, resource utilization and support for Guyana’s natural resource sector.

Guyana is improving the socio-economic condition of the Amerindians - the poorest ethnic group in the country, with absolute poverty levels as high as 70%. In response, UNDP has partnered with the Government to develop a national financing mechanism to provide micro-capital grants to Amerindian communities to stimulate village economic development. During the period under review, 103 communities accessed grant financing along with technical support from government agencies and UNDP to jump-start their village economies.

UNDP’s support to Parliament has contributed to reduction of Guyana’s carbon footprint through the introduction of paperless Parliament and employment of ICT to disseminate information to Parliamentarians and the public. These changes have also led to greater accountability of Parliament in that citizens can now uitlise the information available in real time to ask informed questions of parliamentarians and for advocacy issues concerning them. The new website is now seen by the International Parliamentary Union as a model for ongoing website upgrade in Parliaments around the world (E6). Guyana now has a core of trained youth leaders capable of responding to challenges in their communities and taking on leadership roles.

With UNDP’s support six of the country’s 10 Administrative Regions now have initiatives that demonstrate a model of community involvement in development. These initiatives were aligned to national priorities as indicated by the Ministry of Communities, the focal point for local government development. The initiatives transformed community life through responding to deficiencies in infrastructure, social spaces, child friendly spaces and access to voluntary counselling and testing.

Opportunities exist for UNDP to leverage its upstream advisory services to meet the demands of the green economy and sustainable environmental development to serve as a platform for the exchange of expertise and policies to connect the hinterland to the coastal area to advance development and alleviate poverty. UNDP aims to assist the Government in developing needed capacities to address institutional weaknesses and development challenges to enable them to advance human development whilst reducing inequalities.

### **II: Country Programme Performance Summary**

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| **Country information** | |  | | |
| **Country name: Guyana** | | | | |
| **Current country programme period: 2012-2016** | | | | |
| **Outcomes** | | **Total Expenditure 2012-2014** | **Key Indicators of outcome** | **Progress made against key indicators** |
| **1. National policies, strategies, and plans for disaster risk reduction (DRR), management of natural resources, and access to clean energy and services developed, implemented, monitored, and evaluated. (UNDAF Outcome 1)** | | USD 21,916,556 | 1. *DRR policies and strategies submitted for approval by Cabinet* 2. *National platform for the coordination of DRM in place and operational* 3. *Early Warning System in place by 2016* 4. *National multi-sector and multi-hazard disaster risk assessments and management plan established by 2016* 5. *ICAM plan updated* 6. *Hinterland Electrification Strategy* | 1. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) policy, bill, strategies and plans were approved by Cabinet of the Government of Guyana 2. National DRR coordination platform in place and operational 3. Early warning system in place. 4. National multi-hazard disaster risk assessment and management plan in place. 5. ICAM plan update in progress 6. Hinterland Electrification Strategy prepared. |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  The UNDP contribution identified in the CP was to improve functional capacity of key natural resources and disaster risk management institutions.  CP Outputs:  The indicative output(s) identified in the CP were: (a) National institutions have capacity to access environmental and climate financing for energy service and other development needs; (b) National institutions have the systems, equipment and skills to develop and operate a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System; (c) National environment data clearing house to support strategic planning, and decision making in the Environment and Natural Resources Sector; (d) Guyana Civil Defence Commission has capacity in disaster preparedness and response including national vulnerability and risk assessments.  Progress and Achievements:  Guyana is a low-lying coastal State with four natural regions, one of which is the low coastal plain on the Atlantic coast, where about 80% of the population live. There is ready access to the electricity grid. The other three natural regions make up the underpopulated ‘hinterland’, where mostly Amerindians live. The hinterland villages have little access to modern energy services such as electricity, light and modern fuels for cooking and transportation. In these villages, residents use wood as fuel for cooking and in some cases for lighting. Although several initiatives have been organised to improve energy services in the hinterland, only one addressed other energy needs such as for cooking. The UNDP supported project “Energy Services at Community Level for MDG Achievement in Hinterland Area (2010-2015)” targeted other energy needs besides electricity, like cooking. Seven communities have been provided with energy services during 2012-2013 by which means three types of alternative fuel-for-cooking methods were demonstrated:  o Technology demonstration and subsequent distribution of 507 solar cookers;  o Demonstration and training on local construction of about 18 clay/mud-based efficient wood stoves;  o Installation of three PV-based systems for lighting and powering appliances (refrigerator, PCs) for schools and clinics in two villages, accompanied by training on maintenance and operation.  Other support provided resulted in: i) A detailed energy consumption and needs survey has been carried out in 2012 in 200 villages, of which the results are published in the report *Energy Access at Community Level for MDG Achievement in Hinterland Areas* (Dec 2012); ii) A draft *Hinterland Energy Strategy 2014-2023* has been elaborated (Nov 2013) and presented to the Prime Minister for official endorsement, which was still pending at the project’s closure. The Strategy covers not only electricity, but clean fuels and transportation in rural areas as well and comes with an indicative budgeted work plan and targets;  The Guiana Shield Facility (GSF) project is a UNDP regional initiative implemented through UNDP Guyana CO as an ecoregional framework to promote and support the conservation, protection and sustainably use, of the biodiversity, forest and other ecosystems of the Guiana Shield as well as to protect the livelihood of indigenous peoples. Both the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and European Parliament have recognised the Guiana Shield Facility as a major institutional expression of the commitments of the globally binding Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Guyana CO supported delivery of US$1.3 million of developed countries resources to the protection of forest ecosystems in developing countries specifically the Guiana Shield ecoregion, and this catalytic financing helped to mobilise US$175 million to the Guiana Shield, including US$160 million from Norway to Guyana. In addition, UNDP strengthened Guyana’s national capacity to independently manage a monitoring, reporting and verification system (MRVS) for REDD+, resulting in fulfillment of obligations to Norway for forest carbon payments. Various scenarios for national reference levels for carbon emissions were developed, 591 community-based persons were trained in the area of REDD+, non-carbon ecosystem services were explored and a national REDD+ strategy drafted.  UNDP as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Executing Agency, managed GEF Trust Fund resources to effectively position Guyana on the path to developing a green economy. National systems for monitoring use of natural resources and the environment are more effective, and there is better regulation of the expanding gold mining sector to reduce impact on biodiversity, forest intactness, water quality and human livelihoods. Payment for forest carbon services from Norway was effectively used to secure land tenure for 21 communities – award of Absolute Grants and Certificate of Titles, strengthening the application of free, prior and informed consent principles as well as alternative dispute resolution. The support of the Small Grants Programme resulted in an updated draft Arapaima Management Plan, and the development of a 4-year Strategic Plan for an indigenous community-based organisation. With the discovery of offshore oil in significant quantities, UNDP partnered with Government of Guyana to deliver international best practices and build capacity of policy makers. It is expected to lead to the development of policies in the management and use of resources in the hydrocarbon sector.  The national disaster management structure has been strengthened and is functional. The following component disaster risk reduction plans and policies have been approved by the Cabinet of the Government of Guyana: (i) Disaster Risk Management Policy; (ii) Multi-Hazard Preparedness & Response Plan; (iii) Early Warning System Framework; (iv) Four Year Strategic & Implementation Plans for the Civil Defence Commission (CDC) and (v) National Emergency Shelter Management Policy. A total of 26 persons (including 10 females) had their capacities built in multiple areas of disaster preparedness and response; the 25-member Disaster Risk Reduction Platform was created and maintained to provide guidance and support to the mandate of the CDC.  The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment serves as the National Environmental Data Clearing House and is now better able to plan for the sector with the completion of the Strategic Plan including a Monitoring and Evaluation component. Other sector agencies are developing their own costed strategic plans. The ability of the Office of the Prime Minster to access financing for energy services to hinterland communities has been aided with the finalisation of the hinterland energy strategy.  Stakeholders were trained to support alignment to the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and national indicators for NAP alignment were agreed. Based on the assessment done in 2008, although land degradation in Guyana has not reached critical point, there are indications that it is occurring at an increasing rate which corresponds to an increase in the exploitation of natural resource, increased national agricultural drive and increased frequency and intensity of climatic conditions. Guyana’s vulnerability from degradation will continue to increase exponentially due to sea level rise, saline intrusion and coastal erosion as a result of its low coastline. The Aligned National Action Plan (Aligned NAP) to Combat Land Degradation was prepared in fulfillment of Guyana’s obligation to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and its 2008-2018 Strategy. The Aligned NAP provides consideration for the need for urgent efforts to integrate and strengthen existing National Policies, Strategies, Action Plans and the planning framework for conservation, promotion of sustainable land management and combating the exacerbated effects of degradation. Thus, the Aligned National Action Plan builds on the Guyana’s previous NAP of 2006, and seeks to mainstream and presents the country’s past and current efforts made towards aligning the NAP and thereafter, implementation and reporting to the UNCCD. | | | | |
| **2. Improved economic and social policies and programmes to enable the creation of a climate-resilient economy in the context of the Low Carbon Development Strategy. (UNDAF Outcome 2) National development plans, policies, programmes and legislation (where required) formulated, implemented, monitored, and evaluated to achieve the MDGs, with special attention to key populations at higher risk and the progressive realisation of human rights. (UNDAF Outcome 4)** | USD 15,516,533 | | 1. *# of implementations that are low carbon focused* 2. *# of national development plans, human and social development policies, programmes and legislation that clearly outline quantifiable responsibilities and accountabilities across sectors* | *a. at least 2 implementation plans developed- the Amerindian Development Fund and Amerindian Land Titling*  *b. at least 4 strategic plans for government and non-government organisations prepared* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  The UNDP contribution identified in the CP was to strengthen institutional and regulatory capacities of government, civil society organisations to enable access to sustainable financial and business development services for the economic poor, women and indigenous populations.  CP Outputs:  The indicative output(s) identified in the CP were: (a) Strategic plans and MDG acceleration plan developed; (b) Policy and programme to provide financing and business development support to SMEs in place  Progress and Achievements:  The Millennium Development Goal Acceleration Framework (MAF) was rolled out in health service stations across the country. Ministry of Public Health is incorporating the findings of the MAF into their health strategy sector planning for 2016. This has been manifested by their request to UNDP to develop a project for the purpose of bringing ten UNV Specialist Doctors (OB/GYN) to serve in the ten administrative regions across Guyana. A project document for this purpose is under development and should see government providing cost share of approximately US$2M over a four year period. Business opportunity created for rural poor and economically depressed through the deployment of grants for the startup of 10 new businesses. Six females and four males, first time entrepreneurs from diversified localities across Guyana, were selected through an open competitive process to receive grants of US$5000 each. Before receiving the grants UNDP facilitated a period of training for grant recipients, empowering them to make their business self-sustaining. As part of this process UNDP facilitated the opening of bank accounts for each grant recipient, registration of business, and negotiated with Small Business Bureau with agreement for the continued monitoring, mentoring and support to the grants recipients and their business. The businesses have help to transform the lives of the grantees, 10 new full time and 14 part time jobs were created. Due to the enhanced capacity of the new businesses they were able to participate and show case their products at the first national Business Exposition held in 2015.  The Compendium of “South-South” Policy Options and Best Practices was completed in 2015 and this resulted in its scaling up to the first ever national eco-tourism policy, which will be used to guide the work of the Ministry of Tourism. UNDP facilitated stakeholder sessions to gather inputs from key actors in the industry, including Hoteliers, Tourism Association of Guyana, National Toshaos Council, University of Guyana and the media as well as to review report to incorporate best practices from other countries. The business survivability study that should identify issues and factors that cause small business not to be sustainable that was expected to be completed in 2015 did not materialize as expected due to administrative changes following the national elections in May 2015. The report, when it is done, will help the Ministry identify areas that need strengthening to promote the survivability of small businesses.  With UNDP’s support, Guyana’s indigenous people have been able to benefit from financing and business development support for small & medium enterprises. USD 8.3 million have been mobilized by the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF) for the benefit of these communities. Phase I of the LCDS Amerindian Development Fund project saw 26 communities receiving grants for development projects primarily for agriculture - 75% of grants were for farming, fisheries and cattle rearing. Another 77 communities have benefitted from Phase 2 of the project. Supportively, governance structures were developed in all communities with leadership and business development training administered. Communities exhibited ownership in the implementation of projects and in so doing provided in-kind and cash contribution including an overall 48% voluntary labour. SMEs in the eco-tourism sector are also set to benefit from the development of a Compendium of “South-South” Policy Options and Best Practices through support to the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce. A study of the supply and demand of products and commodities to give entrepreneurs the ability to make crucial decisions on product development, pricing and output will similarly contribute to supporting SMEs.  Through support to the National Working Group to achieve MDGs, a better understanding of the challenges women face in the job market in Guyana and solutions to remedy these challenges have been garnered from a study of women in employment & business along with a survey on gender equality in the corporate sector.  Addressing the challenges of male youth has been made clearer through focus group discussion on male underachievement in education. The Ministry of Education participated in the analysis and has taken the report produced into consideration. | | | | |
| **3. Strengthened public participation, trust, and confidence in national governance institutions, including the five Rights Commissions, the Parliament, and GECOM (UNDAF Outcome 3)** | USD 14,962,156 | | 1. *All Constitutional Commissions fully constituted and functioning* 2. *Parliament interactive (e-parliament) website functioning* 3. *GECOM comprehensive civic and voter education programme implemented* 4. *Initiatives in Social Cohesion, peace building established and being implemented* | *a. Strategic plans for 3 Rights Commission developed*  *b. Parliament has a functioning website*  *c. Comprehensive education campaign by GECOM implemented for the 2015 elections*  *d. Initiatives in Social Cohesion commenced and currently being developed* |
| **UNDP Contribution:**  The UNDP contribution identified in the CP was to strengthen public trust and confidence in national institutions, communities, non-governmental organisations at the community and national levels, improved institutional capacity of human rights commissions and improved functioning of Parliament.  CP Outputs:  The indicative output(s) identified in the CP were: (a) Strategic plans, operational tools for three Rights Commissions and GECOM; (b) ICT infrastructure and operational capacity to record parliamentary proceedings and facilitate public engagements (c) National, regional and local level programmes strengthened to support social cohesion and vulnerable groups.  Progress and Achievements:  UNDP provided support that contributed to successful national and regional elections on 11th May 2015. The CO also facilitated the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) to set up of an Elections Media Center for GECOM. GECOM’s Civic Education capacity was enhanced and its Results Management System was upgraded. Support was also given to GECOM’s secretariat staff to improve its public information strategy to enable them to be able to announce the electoral results and make them accessible to the general public. In the context of a politically sensitive environment and possibility of conflict the Country Office also engaged vigorously with civil society and key influential Guyanese to create the foundation for peaceful electoral process. This twin approach of technical assistance and creation of an enabling environment helped UNDP to support GECOM in concluding a violence free, transparent and overall peaceful election. UNDP support to the social ad campaign by the Guyanese for Peace initiative played an important role in promoting a peaceful elections process, and encouraging wider participation in the process by electors. UNDP also facilitated the first ever national Social Cohesion Roundtable, which involved women and men from all racial background across the country to consult on a strategic plan for the new ministry of social cohesion. UNDP provided additional support to GECOM, including training materials, and three all-terrain vehicles.  The National Assembly is now better equipped to record parliamentary proceedings and facilitate public engagements. ICT infrastructure has been upgraded and the website revamped bringing it in line with international parliamentary standards. With its launch in mid-2014 the website is now capable of live streaming and has regular updates. The website has registered increased number of hits, the public for the first time has the opportunity to interact with their parliamentarians on line and is abreast of outreaches by Parliamentarians, all of whom now have parliamentary email access for the first time.  Youth leaders from six regions have been empowered to become agents of change to support social cohesion and vulnerable groups. The establishment of six ICT Hubs and the development of six youth led community projects ranging from a VCT Site in New Amsterdam, Region six; creation of a child friendly space at the West Demerara Hospital to the establishment of a playfield in Linden have all benefitted entire communities. Interaction between youth and policy makers on youth related issues increased during visits to participating regions. ICT hubs have furthered interaction and helped make access to the parliamentary website - the platform to communicate with Parliamentarians - easier. Two local government arms are now better able to extend their work with non-traditional vulnerable groups. The Mayors of New Amsterdam and Linden have re-affirmed their commitment to achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support under a human rights framework by the symbolic signing of the individual Municipal Declarations. Their awareness of issues affecting diverse groups, and to negate discrimination in all forms have been increased with requisite training in human rights. | | | | |
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| Summary of evaluation findings and lessons learned  For the period under review, a number of evaluation of projects have been executed. The recommendations have informed in some cases subsequent phases of the respective programmes and in others the iteration of the new 2017-2021 country programme. An evaluation of the 2012-2016 country programme is currently underway, and early lessons from the draft report have contributed to the design of the new country programme.  The terminal evaluation of the Strengthening National and Local Capacities for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction will be mentioned along with that of Energy Access at Community level for MDG achievement in Hinterland Areas; Amerindian Development Fund Phase 1; and the Guiana Shield Facility.  The 2014 terminal evaluation of the “**Strengthening National and Local Capacities for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction**” found that the project strengthened capacity at local and national levels, for the management of disaster response and risk reduction. Additionally the project also: Increased capacity in Guyana for the handling of any future disasters; trained Ministry stakeholders, Civil Defence Commission and non-governmental personnel in the handling of disasters; increased awareness of Ministry stakeholders and other non-governmental personnel in risk reduction and climate change adaptation; initiated continuing effort to bring the implementation of disaster programmes down to the local community level; and established procedures and centres for emergency communication and coordination. Nevertheless there is also a need for capability development on many projects, the upgrading of technical skills and knowledge to bring new technologies or disaster response procedures to the table.  The evaluation urged early institutionalization of achievements to enhance sustainability.  The 2014 terminal evaluation of the “**Energy Access at Community Level for MDG achievement in Hinterland Areas**” confirmed that the project has supported the formulation of a strategy for provision of energy services to the hinterland and has contributed to institutional strengthening of Guyana’s energy institutions by improved knowledge and technical information. This strategy will contribute to further initiatives in providing clean, affordable renewable energy to the hinterland in the next UNDP country programme. The evaluation pointed to the need to ensure that alternative energy appliances such as solar equipment and efficient woodstoves consider issues such as cooking times, complexity of use, power capacity and affordability in order to secure maximum use by target communities.  The “**LCDS Amerindian development Fund (ADF) Phase 1**” evaluation (2016) confirmed that this pilot phase of 27 Community Development Plans (CDPs) managed to produce and shepherd the ADF2 project to approval. That project is now operational and targeting 160 CDPs and has benefited from lessons learnt under ADF1 with respect to sequencing of activities. It also produced a mechanism for disbursing funds to CDPs. The mechanism, however, needs substantial strengthening, as it is not sufficiently robust to ensure full accountability and prevent misuse of resources. The ADF1 project has carried out a professional capacity assessment of the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MoAA) and produced an initial capacity development plan, which unfortunately was not implemented due to lack of buy in from the MoAA at the time. However, it is intended to implement the plan this year. Importantly, the evaluation found that the ADF1 project has been relevant to the national objective of promoting development of Amerindian communities as an integral component of the national low carbon development strategy. However, it has been overly preoccupied with dealing with financial constraints faced by these communities in implementing their plans for local economic development. It has thus failed to allocate an optimal amount of resources to capacity building support to local communities. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the limited efforts undertaken to strengthen the capacity of Amerindian communities in developing and implementing local economic development projects have produced valuable results that can be built on.  The “**Guiana Shield Facility (GSF)**” (2015) final evaluation confirmed that the national and regional necessity to conserve ecosystems, protect biodiversity, and to sustain human livelihoods within the Guiana Shield ecoregion in northern South America, is unquestionable, and the GSF project is a relevant response to the problems facing the Guiana Shield ecoregion. The evaluation indicated that the GSF project is a multifaceted answer to an even more complex problem and to realize the intended goal of providing incentives for the conservation of the unique ecosystems of the Guiana Shield, participating countries will need substantial support. To this end, the GSF project is largely consistent with GS-5 country needs and priorities, as expressed in relevant forestry, environment, and climate adaptation and mitigation policies, plans, and sector frameworks. The GSF project was found to be aligned with the requirements of the global agencies and is a relevant response to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) but adapting to the dynamic state of the global environment is a continuous challenge. The GSF project is a structuring actor gathering all Guiana Shield neighboring countries and an appropriate and coherent response to the lack of regional organization in the Guiana Shield ecoregion. However, uncertainty over the future of the GSF financing places the sustainability of the project results at risk. To this end a fund raising strategy for GSF II has been developed and applications will be prepared and submitted to identified donors to mobilise resources by this year.  Indications from the ongoing evaluation of the 2012-2016 country programme (CP) are that the outcomes, outputs and key actions were aligned with Government of Guyana priorities and plans. And the progress towards the achievements has been quite good. The government sees very good value in UNDP’s CP and its processes. One of the main drivers of UNDP’s support provided through the country programme is the high degree of trust and partnerships that have been established over the years. Many government officials indicated that UNDP was the preferred development partner for a number of areas of support, particularly when it came to technical assistance. Over the years, UNDP has played a steady and consistent role in responding to the needs of government and has been acting as an honest broker for the donor community, particularly in the area of governance, where UNDP continuously pushed issues on good governance with the previous administration. UNDP has established good relationships with its Implementing Partners, and supported the development of strategic plans and reorganization of government ministries. Of particular importance has been the support provided to Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment since 2011, where UNDP was instrumental in helping the ministry to amalgamate 8 different departments and formulate a national strategic plan for natural resources and the environment, which now guides the work of a number of commissions and agencies. Considerations for the next generation Country Programme (2017-2021) which have already been taken onboard are that UNDP should take a programmatic approach that is based on well-defined, cross-sectoral outcomes. This will involve taking the lead in formulating a series of joint programmes in priority areas (capacity development, market linkages, social cohesion strategies, etc.). A joint programme should be designed around a comprehensive capacity building programme comprised of a variety of elements to address Guyana’s capacity needs at each of the three levels of capacity building (policy, organisational, Human Resource Development). UNDP should support the MoIPA to develop and finance a comprehensive programme integrating business development in Indigenous people’s communities through implementation of Community Development Plans. This should be done through a pilot programme for 16 communities and coordinating support from donor agencies and private sector partners in building capacity and institutional strengthening. UNDP should identify ways to provide advice to the government as it searches for an appropriate model for a sovereign wealth fund for oil and gas and the extractive industries in Guyana, based on the experiences of countries like Norway and Nigeria. |

III. Country Programme Resources

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| **Focus Area** | **Programme Expenditure ($) 2012 - 2015** | | | **% of Total** |
|  | Regular (TRAC) | Other | Total |  |
| Poverty and MDGs | 204,280 | 0 | 204,280 | 2.03 |
| Democratic Governance | 0 | 871,774 | 871,774 | 8.65 |
| Environment and Sustainable Development | 990,433 | 8,010,536 | 9,000,969 | 89.32 |
| Total | 1,194,713 | 8,882,310 | 10,077,023 | 100 |

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| **Data sources: (please indicate the main sources from which data were obtained for this report.)** |
| 1. United Nations Development Assistance Framework, Guyana, 2012-2016 2. United Nations Development Assistance Framework, Guyana 2012 -2016 Mid Term Review 3. United Nations Development Assistance Framework, Guyana 2012 – 2016 Evaluation 4. United Nations Development Programme, Country Programme Document, 2012-2016 5. United Nations Development Programme, Country Programme Action Plan, 2012 -2016 6. S. Black. Government of Guyana/United Nations Development Programme, Country Programme 2012 – 2016 Evaluation Draft Report 7. United Nations Development Programme, Results Oriented Annual Report, 2012 8. United Nations Development Programme, Results Oriented Annual Report, 2013 9. United Nations Development Programme, Results Oriented Annual Report, 2014 10. United Nations Development Programme, Results Oriented Annual Report, 2015 |