



# Guyana: Technical Note on Indigenous Peoples

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**Inter-American  
Development Bank**

Environmental  
Safeguards Unit

**TECHNICAL NOTE**

**September 2007**

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Inter-American Development Bank

2007

<http://www.iadb.org>

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## ACRONYMS

AMCAR	Amazon Caribbean Guyana Limited
APA	Amerindian Peoples Association
BEAMS	Basic Education, Access and Management Support Program
BNTF	Basic Needs Trust Fund
CESI	Committee on Environmental and Social Impacts (IDB)
CHW	Community Health Workers
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CI	Conservation International
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (for TB)
EFA/FTI	Education for All Fast Track Initiative
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
FSO	Funds for Special Operations
GAP	Guyana Action Party
GBET	Guyana Basic Education Teacher Training Program
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GENCAPD	Guyana Environmental Capacity Development Program
GFC	Guyana Forestry Commission
GGMC	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLSC	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission
GMTCS	Guyana Marine Turtle Conservation Society
GOIP	Guyana Organisation of Indigenous Peoples
GSLC	Guyana Survey of Living Conditions
GUYWASP	Guyana Water and Sanitation Program
GPAS	Guyana Protected Areas System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acute Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPDP	Indigenous Peoples Development Plan
MAA	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
MIF	Multilateral Investment Fund
MLG&RD	Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development
MLHSSS	Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH	Ministry of Health
MRF	Mineral Resources Forum
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation

NRDDB	North Rupununi District Development Board
PNC/R	Peoples National Congress/Reform
PPP/C	Peoples Progressive Party/Civic
PRDO	Principal Regional Development Officer
SCPDA	South Central Peoples Development Association
SFP	State Forest Permission
SIMAP	Social Impact Amelioration Program
TAAMOG	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana
TB	Tuberculosis
TC	Technical Cooperation
TSA	Timber Sales Agreement
T&V	Technical and Vocational
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
WCL	Woodcutting Licence
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The aim of this note is to provide an overview of the situation of the Indigenous Peoples of Guyana and offer recommendations that will inform the Bank's Country Strategy. The note draws heavily on two previous studies carried out for the Bank: Amerindian Peoples of Guyana (IDB 2005) and Access to Social Services in Guyana (IDB 2006), both of which provide a more detailed description and analysis of some of the issues discussed here. Since these studies were carried out, two important events have taken place. First, in February 2006 the Board of the IDB approved the Bank's Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples (OP-765) and this provides the orientation for the present policy note. Second, in April 2006 the Guyanese Parliament approved the new Amerindian Act. This offers a more solid legal basis for many of the recommendations in this paper and gives the Bank an opportunity to work with the Government of Guyana to achieve the objectives set out in the Act.
2. The note covers a range of issues, including land regularisation, environment – especially mining, logging and the establishment of protected areas – economic development, education, health care and local infrastructure. In line with the Bank's Policy on Indigenous Peoples, it stresses the need to ensure Indigenous Peoples are given the opportunity to participate in the discussions and decisions relating to all Bank operations that may affect them. In the first place, Indigenous Peoples need to be directly involved in the discussion of major infrastructure and economic development projects that could have an impact on the hinterland and their concerns have to be incorporated into the project plans. This includes projects such as the Georgetown-Lethem road, where the Bank has an opportunity to develop a model for participation since the pre-investment studies for the road are supported by an IDB Technical Cooperation (GY-T1026).
3. The policy note also emphasises the need to include hinterland communities as potential beneficiaries of national-level social and economic projects and ensure project planning takes into account the specific circumstances of hinterland communities. There may be an opportunity to include some Indigenous communities in the proposed Agricultural Export Diversification project (GY-L1007).

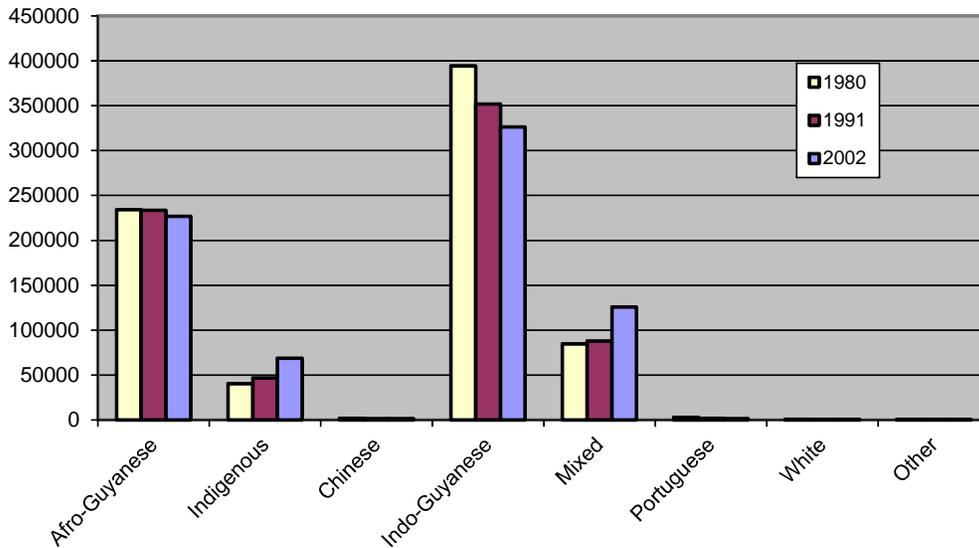
4. The Bank should consider the possibility of developing a program for the hinterland that would draw on the experience of previous capacity building projects such as Leadership Development in Amerindian Communities (TC-03010307) and would include further capacity building and a fund for investment in local infrastructure and productive projects. Potential components of the project would include: i) development of a strategic plan for the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, ii) support for Village Councils to develop village rules and agreements with outside agencies such as mining and logging companies or ecotourism operators, and iii) a fund of around US\$5M for small infrastructure and productive projects that would disburse over a period of 3-4 years.
  
5. Other priorities include support for land regularisation, education and health care. Land regularisation is a key concern, without which it would be very difficult to implement projects in the hinterland, including potentially interesting sectors such as protected areas and tourism, since there are still a number of Indigenous communities and districts that have outstanding land claims. At the same time the Bank should be encouraging and supporting Government efforts to exercise more effective controls over the environmental impacts of mining and logging. In regard to health and education, the Bank could help the Government consolidate its achievements in these sectors and look for ways to achieve more accountability and involvement on the part of local communities. A key area is the need to improve facilities in hinterland secondary schools, improving the existing facilities and providing teaching resources and equipment, especially access to information technology, laboratories and libraries. A second priority is to improve facilities and encourage the development of technical skills in “primary tops” schools that cater for pupils that do not go on to secondary school.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

### **Population and Location**

The Report of the 2002 Census gives the “Amerindian” or Indigenous population of Guyana as 68,819, equivalent to 9.2% of the country’s total population of 751,223 (Bureau of Statistics 2005: Table 10). A further 326,395 people (43.5% of the population) identified themselves as Indo-Guyanese, 226,861 (30.2%) as Afro-Guyanese and 125,669 (16.7%) as “Mixed.” Figure 1 presents the distribution of the different ethnic groups from the last three censuses. It shows the number of Indigenous people in Guyana has increased, as has their importance as a proportion of the population, rising from 40,343 (5.3%) in 1980 to 46,722 (6.5%) in 1991 and 68,819 (9.2%) in 2002. This represents a very high level of growth – 3.6% a year for the period 1991-2002, and is characteristic of populations that maintain high fertility and birth rates while their mortality rates are declining, typically because of improvements in their health status. It may also reflect a tendency for some people to redefine their identity, with people who previously considered themselves as belonging to some other group now defining themselves as Indigenous. However, it ought to be noted that the number of people that consider themselves “Mixed” – many of whom are the descendants of Indigenous people, has also increased significantly, by about 3.3% a year, from 87,881 or over 12% of the population in 1991 to 125,669 or nearly 17% of the population in 2002 (Bureau of Statistics 2005: Table 10).

**Figure 1: Ethnic groups in Guyana**



The increasing demographic importance of the Indigenous and “Mixed” population is sometimes interpreted as having political implications, since the main political parties in Guyana tend to be associated with particular ethnic groups. The PPP/C (Peoples Progressive Party/Civic), which has been in power since 1992, is seen as the party of the Indo-Guyanese, while the PNC/R (Peoples’ National Congress/Reform), which was in power from 1966-1992 is seen as an Afro-Guyanese party. From this perspective, the Indigenous and Mixed population now theoretically hold the balance of power. There is no specifically “Amerindian” political party, although the minority GAP (Guyana Action Party) is led by people of Indigenous and Mixed origin and draws much of its support from the Indigenous peoples of the Rupununi (Region 9).

Most Indigenous Peoples live in the sparsely populated hinterland that comprises over 90% of Guyana’s territory (see Map 1). The rest of the country’s population is concentrated along a narrow strip of land that runs along the coast from Corriverton on the Corentyne River in the southeast, on the border with Suriname, to Charity on the Pomeroon River in the northwest. This is the area of polders, a legacy of Dutch colonization, situated behind the sea wall, much of it below sea-level and regulated by a complex system of drainage and irrigation. The hinterland comprises Region 1 in the northwest, which includes the coastal area running from the Pomeroon up to the border with Venezuela, and Regions 7, 8, and 9, in the interior. There is also a significant Indigenous presence in the interior of Region 2 (see Map 2). According to the 2002

Census, 25% of the Indigenous population lives in Region 9, 22% in Region 1, 12% in Region 2, 11% in Region 8 and nearly 11% in Region 7 (Bureau of Statistics 2005: Table 13). In most hinterland regions Indigenous Peoples comprise the majority of the population: 89% in Region 9; 76% in Region 8; 62% in Region 1 and 42% in Region 7 (Bureau of Statistics 2005: Table 12).<sup>1</sup>

A further 8% of the Indigenous population was enumerated in Region 4, which includes Greater Georgetown. This represents over 5,200 people (Bureau of Statistics 2005: Table 13). Since the 2002 Census was a *de facto* count, some of these people may have been temporarily resident in Georgetown, for instance, students attending high school and patients at Georgetown Hospital. However, there has undoubtedly been some migration of Indigenous people to urban centres: this includes skilled and professional people, but also people that have moved to squatter settlements, including Sophia (IDB 2006: 32). Indigenous people have also been migrating abroad: with people from Region 9 moving to Brazil in search of employment, especially to Boa Vista, and people from Region 7 moving to the mining areas and cities in Venezuela. There is also some emigration to the US, although not on the same scale as the other ethnic groups: In 2000 the US Census enumerated 211,190 people born in Guyana, of whom 3,370 (equivalent to nearly 5% of Guyana's Indigenous population) would probably have been Indigenous since they identified themselves as "American Indians" (US Census Bureau 2005: Table FBP-1).

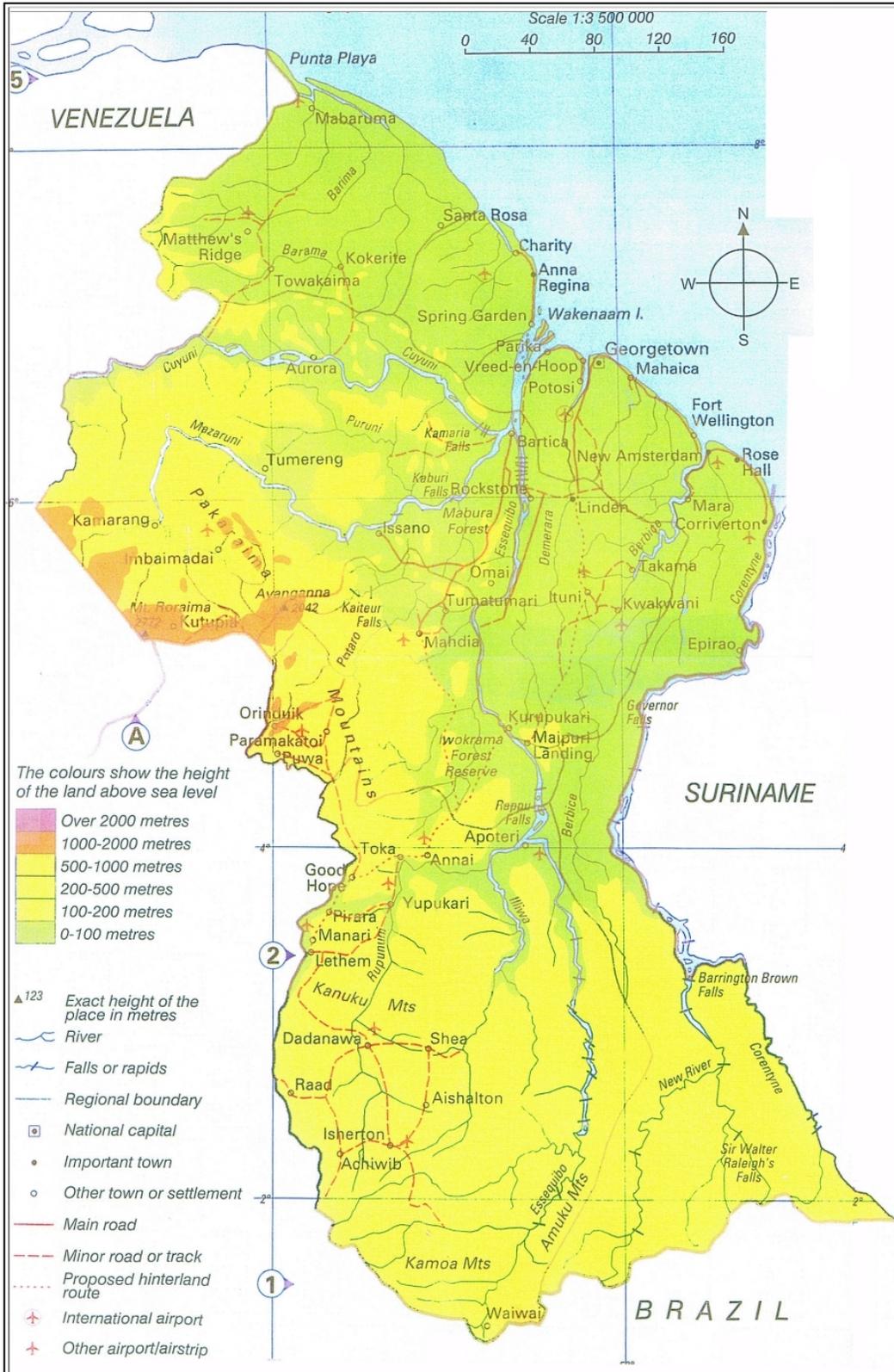
The Indigenous Peoples of Guyana are divided into nine main ethnic groups: the Arawak (Lokono), Warau, Carib (Karinia), Akawaio, Patamona, Arekuna, Macushi, Wapishana and Waiwai. The approximate distribution of the Indigenous population is summarized in Table 1 and presented in Map 3.<sup>2</sup>

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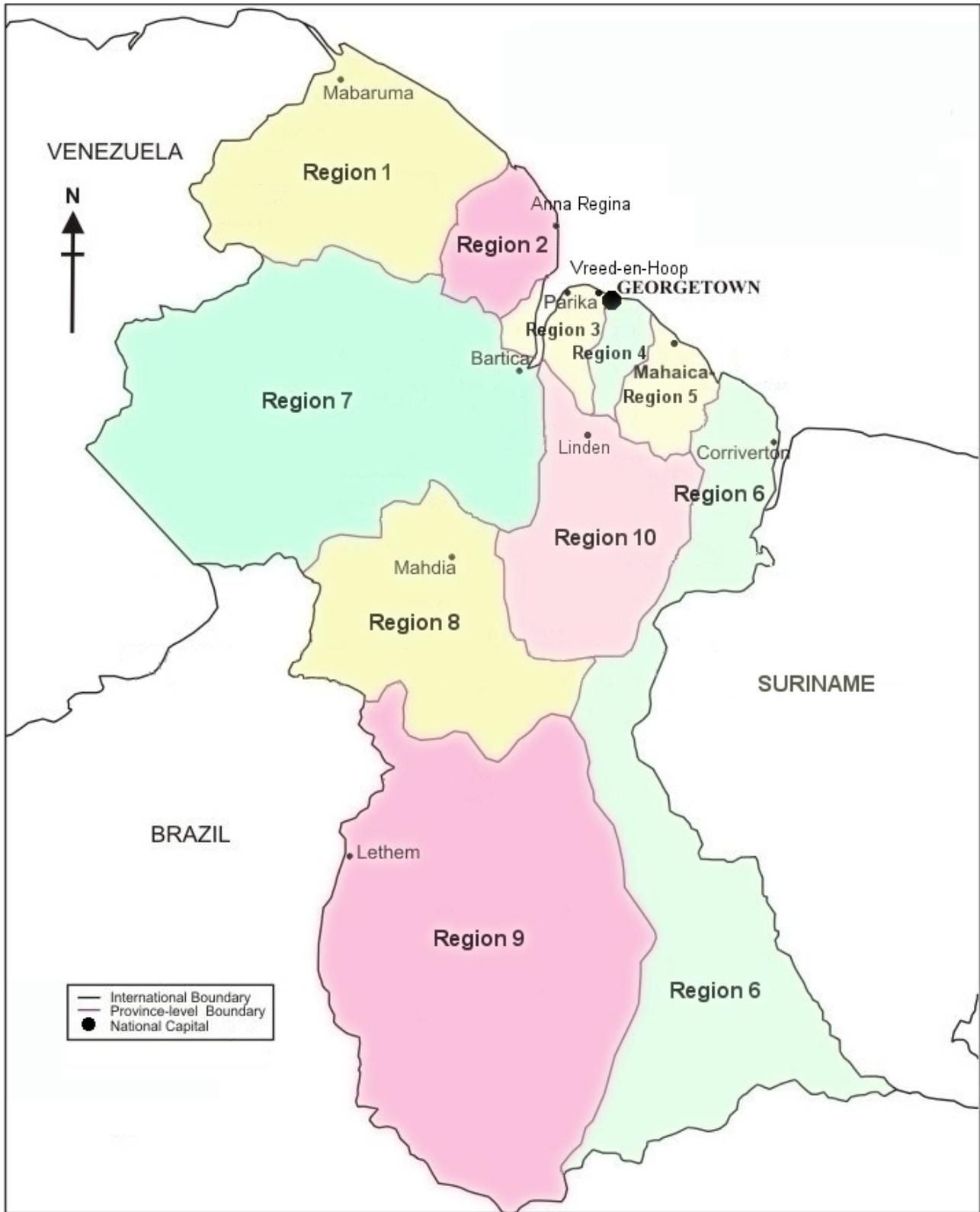
<sup>1</sup> A further 38% of the population of Region 7 is "Mixed," as is 34% of the population of Region 1.

<sup>2</sup> Data from IDB 2005: 14, which is based on information projected from UNDP 1996 (1994 data). Map 3 is taken from Colchester 1997: 8.

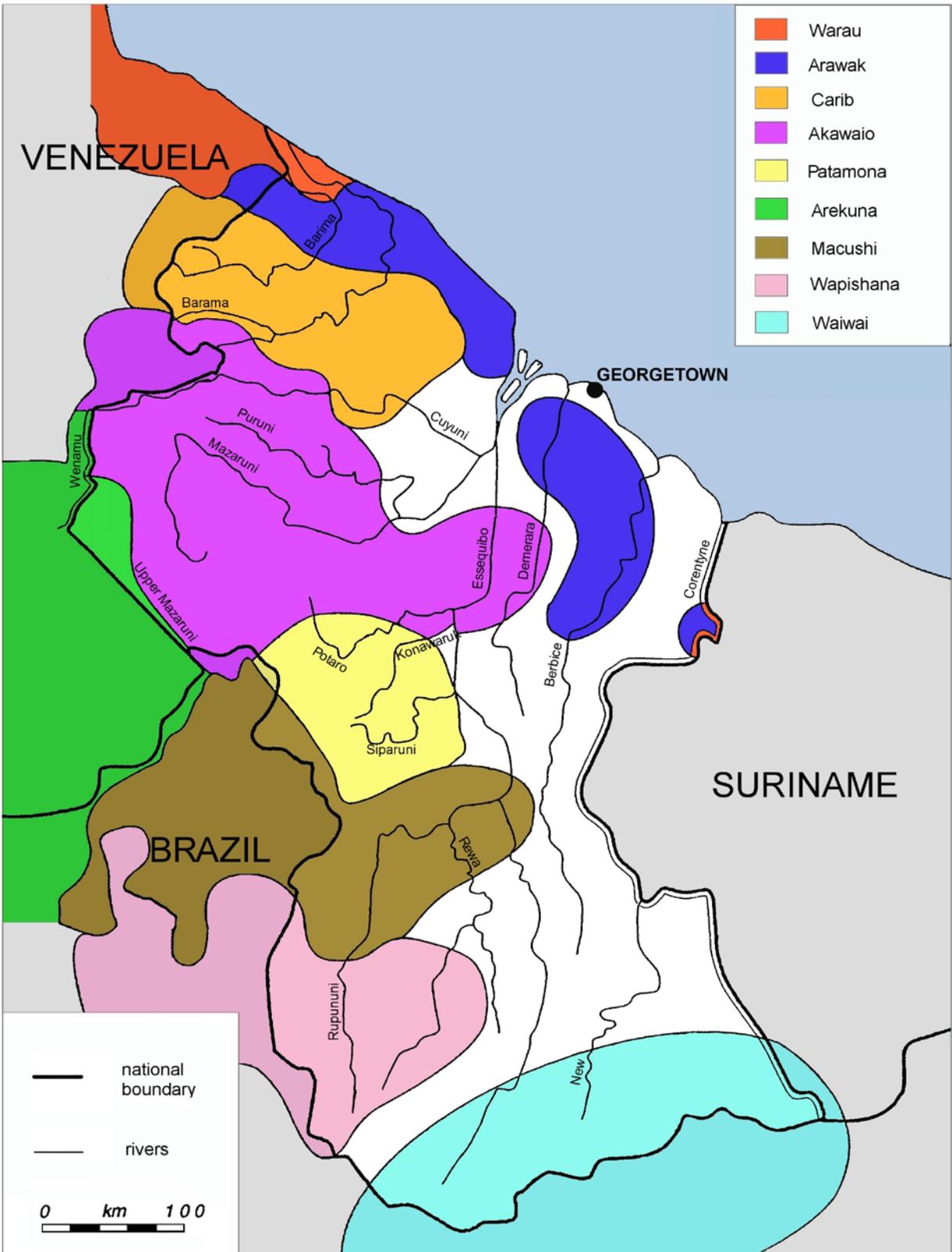
**Map 1: Guyana Topography**



**Map 2: Guyana Administrative Regions**



Map 3: Location of Indigenous Peoples



**Table 1: Indigenous Population by Ethnic and Language Groups**

Peoples	Language Group	Estimated Numbers in Guyana	Percentage of Guyana's Indigenous Population	Population in Neighbouring Countries
<b>Arawak (Lokono)</b>	Arawak	22,400	32	2,050 in Suriname; 150 in French Guiana & 100 in Venezuela
<b>Wapishana</b>	Arawak	9,800	14	1,500 in Brazil
<b>Warau</b>	Warau	7,000	10	27,000 in Venezuela
<b>Carib (Karinya)</b>	Carib	4,300	6	3,000 in Suriname, 1,200 in French Guiana and 100 in Brazil
<b>Akawaio (Kapon)</b>	Carib	7,000	10	500 in Brazil also Venezuela (?)
<b>Patamona (Kapon)</b>	Carib	7,000	10	-
<b>Arekuna (Pemon)</b>	Carib	700	1	-
<b>Macushi (Pemon)</b>	Carib	11,200	16	15,000 in Brazil, 600 in Venezuela
<b>Waiwai</b>	Carib	280	<1	1,800 in Brazil

\* Source: ethnologue.com

### **Definition and Status of Indigenous Peoples: The Amerindian Act 2006**

Indigenous Peoples, like other ethnic groups in Guyana, are defined in terms of their historical origin and are the descendants of the peoples that inhabited the region before the advent of European colonization in the late Sixteenth Century. The term “Amerindian” is widely used in Guyana; it is not considered offensive and was originally intended to distinguish the Indigenous population from the Indo-Guyanese. However, most Indigenous intellectuals, including the leadership of the Amerindian Peoples’ Association (APA), argue that the term Indigenous Peoples should be used instead, in accordance with recent amendments to Guyana’s Constitution and international legislation, including ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (APA 2005).

In April 2006 the new Amerindian Act (Act No. 6 of 2006) was brought into force; it replaces the Amerindian Act 1951 (revised 1976), an outdated piece of legislation that was intended to protect Indigenous Peoples from outside influence and included provisions to restrict the entry of

outsiders and prohibit the sale of alcohol in Amerindian communities. The Act continues to use the term “Amerindian”, which it defines as:

- (a) any citizen of Guyana who belongs to any of the native or aboriginal peoples; or
- (b) a descendant of any person mentioned in paragraph (a).

The main areas covered by the Act relate to governance and land rights: these are the two areas where Indigenous Peoples are most clearly distinguished from the rest of Guyanese society. The Act does not take the pre-existence of Indigenous Peoples as its starting point and has not incorporated all the recommendations put forward during the extensive consultations that took place before the Act was presented to Parliament. However it does provide for a greater measure of self-determination. The stated aim of the Act is “to provide for the recognition and protection of the collective rights of Amerindian Villages and Communities, the granting of land to Amerindian Villages and Communities and the promotion of good governance within Amerindian Villages and Communities.”<sup>3</sup>

The Act recognises the Village Council, comprising a Toshao or Captain and from 6 to 22 Councillors – depending on the size of the village, as the local authority in Indigenous communities, rather than the Community Development Councils or Neighbourhood Democratic Councils found in other parts of the country. Under the Act, the Toshao is an *ex officio* Justice of the Peace and is given the powers and immunities of a rural constable – for which he or she (many Tshaos are women) receives a small stipend from the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs.

The Act builds on the existing system of governance. It is sometimes claimed that the system of Captains and Village Councils was established by the PNC Government after Independence but in fact the role of the Captain or Toshao is enshrined in the 1951 Amerindian Act and follows earlier colonial practice: Everard Im Thurn, who first visited Guyana in the 1870s, describes a similar system, with Indigenous leaders being ratified by the Governor and being given a certificate of authority and the powers of a rural constable (Im Thurn 1883: 212). Under the Amerindian Act 2006, Tshaos and Councillors are elected for a three year term; elections are by

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<sup>3</sup> In the Act “Amerindian Villages” refers to communities that have land titles while “Amerindian Community” is used to refer to groups or communities that do not have formal rights to land.

secret ballot and are supervised by a Returning Officer, who is either the Clerk of the Regional Democratic Council or his/her nominee. The winners are sworn in by the Returning Officer, but in case of complaints or disputes, the Minister of Amerindian Affairs can order an investigation and has the power to decide whether to order a re-election or appoint an interim Village Council.

The Act makes provision for District Councils covering three or more villages from the same geographical area and comprising the Toshaos and one Councillor from each village. The District Councils can coordinate with the Village Councils to develop district-level programs for environmental protection, health, education and culture and can also resolve disputes. Four District Councils existed prior to the 2006 Act: two, Karasabai and Annai, hold title on behalf of their constituent communities, while the others, Baramita and Kanashen, were denied title under the original 1977 Order that established the District Councils (Kreimer 2004: 14). In Region 9 two district level organisations, the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) and the South Central Peoples Development Association (SCPDA), are implementing projects in their respective districts. In the Upper Mazaruni, the District Council has taken up claims on behalf of the communities of Chinoweing and Kambaru that do not have title to their lands. In some areas, such as the Kanuku Mountains and the Upper Mazaruni, some Councillors would prefer the District Councils to have jurisdiction over larger areas or territories, rather than having land titled to particular villages; however this is not envisaged in the 2006 Act.

The 2006 Act establishes a National Toshaos Council, comprising all the Toshaos in Guyana, and an executive committee comprising one Toshao from each region and not more than ten additional Toshaos. The Council should meet at least once every two years and the executive committee at least twice a year. The functions of the Council include the preparation of strategies for poverty reduction, health, education, natural resource management and the promotion of Indigenous languages, promoting good governance, providing observers for Village and District Council elections, investigating allegations of improper conduct by Toshaos and nominating representatives to the Indigenous Peoples Commission. The Council potentially offers an important forum for discussion of national-level programs and policies and for coordinating discussions on projects that may affect indigenous peoples (see below). However, at present there is no budget to cover the costs of the Council or the Executive Committee.

## **Recommendations**

Section 14 of the Amerindian Act gives Village Councils the power to make rules or by-laws covering issues such as the use and occupation of community lands and to define who should qualify as a resident. These issues are potentially controversial, particularly where outsiders – often coastlanders who are married or live with Indigenous partners, have settled in a community and want to set up stores, farm or exploit the community’s natural resources. The Act empowers Village Councils to carry out a series of administrative functions, including the management of natural resources, the development and maintenance of community infrastructure, the granting of permissions for business and trade, and the maintenance of discipline and good order. The Act requires outsiders other than Government officials to seek the permission of the Village Council before they can enter the community’s lands and allows the Village Council to grant leases on up to ten percent of village lands (Section 46) or to enter into agreements over mining and forestry concessions on village lands (Sections 48, 49 & 55).

In practice few if any Village Councils have elaborated or approved formal rules or regulations. Some Councils have drafted rules covering specific areas: Annai Council in Region 9, for example, has drafted regulations to licence fishing and hunting on village lands – by villagers and outsiders – in order to conserve stocks. However the development of village rules or by-laws is a priority, since without clear rules and criteria the provisions of the Amerindian Act could be subject to abuse. For instance, if there are no criteria to determine who qualifies as a resident, outsiders can potentially settle in a village, occupy the land and exploit the natural resources and even vote in village elections – in fact, there have already been disputes over elections where candidates have brought non-residents into the community to support them.

Another priority is to provide guidance to Village Councils that want to sign agreements with outside agencies such as mining and logging companies or eco-tourism operators. The Act allows Village Councils to enter into agreements but there are no benchmarks to determine whether an agreement is fair or not. This has already led to acrimonious disputes within some Villages and between Indigenous NGOs. The Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MAA) would like to develop template agreements that would help Village Councils to think through the respective responsibilities of the outsiders and the Village Councils and which could be modified according

to the specific circumstances of the project that is being proposed. Both these activities could be supported by the Bank and are discussed in more detail below in Chapter 8.

## **2. PARTICIPATION AND ORGANIZATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

One of the main demands identified in the studies carried out for the Bank is for greater self-determination (IDB 2005, IDB 2006). This does not imply breaking away or living in isolation from the rest of Guyanese society, but on the contrary giving Indigenous People more participation in the decisions that affect their lives. It means having pride in being Indigenous and in being Guyanese, and it means being able to deal with other sectors of Guyanese society and international organisations like the Bank on equal terms. It also means confronting discrimination and exclusion. This is not just overcoming the racial stereotyping that affects Indigenous Peoples much as it does the other ethnic groups in Guyana (IDB 2006: 76), but perhaps more importantly finding ways to ensure greater accountability on the part of the Government agencies, the private sector and the international organisations that work in the hinterland. This is fully consistent with the Bank's Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples (OP-765 of February 2006) which has the stated objective of supporting the development with identity of Indigenous Peoples and safeguarding them and their rights against adverse impacts and social exclusion. In the previous IDB studies Indigenous Peoples identified two aspects as particularly important: the first is control over the land and the natural resources on which the Indigenous communities depend, and second, better access to education and modern technology, especially transport, communications and information technology (IDB 2006: 74). These are discussed in more detail below.

### **Recommendations**

In line with the requirements of OP-765, the Bank must ensure Indigenous Peoples are consulted about any projects or activities that could have an impact on their communities and must take their concerns and opinions into account in the development of projects, plans and policy. This means involving Indigenous Peoples from the earliest stages of discussion of any major projects that will affect the hinterland, for instance, road projects, hydropower, agricultural, livestock or forestry projects, any prospecting or mining activities and any proposals to establish or consolidate protected areas. One of the ways to achieve more effective participation would be to

strengthen the capacity of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to manage the process of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), ensuring that potential social impacts – on Indigenous and other populations in the hinterland, are fully incorporated into ESIA procedures, and developing more capacity to enforce the requirements identified in the ESIA. Since the EPA is limited in its staff and resources, it would be worth helping the EPA to develop more a participatory methodology, and involving Indigenous and other hinterland communities – perhaps through the National Toshias Council, to monitor compliance with environmental legislation and ESIA requirements.

Participation also means “mainstreaming” – that is making additional efforts to guarantee that Indigenous people can participate effectively in programs designed to benefit the wider population, especially social and economic projects targeted at the poorer or more vulnerable sectors of Guyanese society. In practical terms this means adapting projects to the reality of Indigenous communities: taking into account their culture and values, the problems of isolation and the difficulties of transport, and above all developing mechanisms to ensure the long-term sustainability of projects and more accountability on the part of the agencies involved in project implementation. This represents a significant challenge for the Bank and Government agencies and requires close coordination with the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and organisations that represent Indigenous Peoples, including the National Toshias Council and Indigenous NGOs.

### **The Ministry of Amerindian Affairs**

The Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MAA) was set up in 1992 in the Office of the President. In 2001 it became an autonomous Ministry and in 2004 moved to its present premises on Thomas Street. It coordinates policies and programs that affect Amerindian communities and has a staff of around 40. It has three main departments: i) Community Development, which has 10 Indigenous Community Development Officers based in the hinterland who are responsible for coordinating or implementing projects in Indigenous communities and for resolving disputes, ii) a Projects Department, responsible for the preparation and implementation of specific projects, including projects financed by international agencies and, iii) a Health and Welfare Department, which is responsible for labour and employment issues, for documentation (birth, marriage and death certificates), for providing refuge for victims of domestic violence or trafficking in

persons, for the welfare of Indigenous patients referred to Georgetown Public Hospital and for the welfare of Indigenous prisoners. The MAA manages the Amerindian hostel on Princes Street, which provides board and lodging for students studying in Georgetown, for patients attending Georgetown Public Hospital and people such as Toshias and Village Councillors that come to Georgetown for official purposes. Finally, about 40% of the Ministry's budget (US\$275,000 in 2005) is taken up by the Hinterland Scholarship Program, which provides scholarships for young people to attend secondary school or vocational training in Georgetown and regional centres (IDB 2006: 89).

In 2004/05 the MAA implemented an IDB-financed Technical Cooperation Project "Leadership Development in Amerindian Communities" (TC-0301037) that was designed to strengthen the managerial and administrative capacity of the Village Councils. The program involved the preparation of training materials, including an Operations Manual for Village Councils and a Guide for the Rural Constabulary in Amerindian Communities, and the organization of training workshops for 200 leaders from 58 villages on finance, governance, community development and environmental management. The project was well received in the Indigenous communities, although one of the people responsible for implementing the project felt it would have been better if the training component had been linked to a development fund for local infrastructure or productive projects that would have given the communities the opportunity to gain hands-on experience. This program could be followed up with another capacity building program that would include the development of a Strategic Plan for the MAA. The Strategic Plan could review the role of the MAA vis-à-vis other Government Agencies including the Ministries of Health and Education and agencies such as the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) and the EPA. It could establish the goals and priorities for the MAA in particular sectors – perhaps for the next five years – and could review opportunities to collaborate with national level programs financed by international agencies such as the IDB, the World Bank, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and others, that are either ongoing or in preparation. It could also include support for Village Councils to develop rules and by-laws and could include a fund for local infrastructure and productive projects (see Chapter 8).

## **Indigenous NGOs**

There are three national-level Indigenous Peoples' NGOs in Guyana. The first was the National Amerindian Association, set up in the 1980s, which started as a national branch of the Caribbean Organisation of Indigenous Peoples and changed its name to the Guyana Organisation of Indigenous Peoples (GOIP) in 1990. GOIP is an advocacy organisation; it holds meetings and has office holders but has no office, equipment or paid staff. It has tended to attract the intellectual elite and is sometimes accused of being a Georgetown based group; however, its office holders maintain regular contact with their communities and provide them with a point of contact in Georgetown. GOIP charges a G\$100 membership fee and has seen its membership rise and fall, at one point reaching 1,000. GOIP puts a lot of emphasis on education and has been instrumental in arranging for Indigenous people from Guyana, including the present Minister of Amerindian Affairs, to attend the Saskatchewan Indian Federation College in Canada. GOIP has tried to combine advocacy with development activities and from 1995-98 was involved in a cashew nut production project in the Rupununi with IICA (IDB 2006: Interview 21).

The Amerindian Peoples Association (APA) was founded in 1991. APA has been actively involved in advocacy on behalf of Indigenous Peoples and has a Legal Services Unit that has been lobbying for legislative reform, especially in regard to the Amerindian Act, the Forestry Bill, the Mining Act and the Wildlife Regulations. APA is involved in leadership training: the Association has representatives in many Indigenous communities and has organised courses for women and young people, covering topics that have included domestic violence, trafficking in persons and youth development. APA has also managed a resource mapping project using a community resource evaluation methodology that allows the community to identify the areas used for farming, fishing, hunting and the collection of forest products to provide a justification for the extension of land titles (IDB 2006: Interview 35).

The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG) was founded in 1993. It operates in various regions but is strongest in Region 1; it has no external funding and no office or paid staff. TAAMOG is primarily an advocacy organisation and has been involved in raising a series of issues including discrimination in the award of contracts, the environmental impacts of mining, especially in the Upper Mazaruni, and Region 1, and the lack of economic opportunities in

Region 1, due to poor transport and lack of support for agriculture. The organisation is also concerned about trafficking in persons and the exploitation of Indigenous workers in the lumber companies and in a canning company that processes hearts of palm (IDB 2006: Interview 2).

### **3. LAND RIGHTS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Perhaps the most controversial issues affecting Indigenous people in Guyana involve rights to land and natural resources. Under the Colonial Administration some parts of the interior were designated as Amerindian Districts. Outsiders required special permission to enter these districts, and logging and mining were prohibited. However, the status could be revoked: the Upper Mazaruni was originally an Amerindian District but in 1959 it lost its status and was opened to mining. In 1966 in response to a petition presented to the Queen at the Independence negotiations by the first Amerindian MP, Mr. Stephen Campbell, the Amerindian Lands Commission was set up with a mandate to identify Amerindian areas that should be titled. The Commission presented its report in 1969 and recommended that 128 communities should receive title to a total of about 24,000 square miles (Kreimer 2004: 44). In fact, it was not until 1976 that the 1951 Amerindian Act was amended and in the event it only provided for the transfer of titles to 64 Amerindian villages, with a total area of 4,500 square miles. A further 10 communities, mostly in the Upper Mazaruni, were issued with titles in 1991. In 2004 the Amerindian Districts of Baramita and Kanashen were given title and in 2005 four communities on the Berbice and Demerara Rivers in Region 10 received titles. The 1969 Amerindian Lands Commission recommended the titling of 128 communities, which means there may be as many as 50 Amerindian Communities in Guyana that do not have any title to land; however a table prepared by the World Bank, using information provided by the MAA in June 2004, lists a total of 119 Amerindian villages: of these, 82 had titles (some shared) and 37 were untitled. Since four communities in Region 10 subsequently received title, this would give a total of 33 communities presently without any land titles (World Bank 2005: Annex 11).

The Amerindian Act 2006 provides for the transfer of land rights from the State to a designated Village Council and the Village Council is responsible for the allocation of land to residents. The Council is not allowed to dispose of any interest, right or title to Village lands, but may grant leases of up to 10% of its lands for a period of up to fifty years for agriculture, tourism or other sustainable use provided a majority of the residents are in agreement. If the land is to be leased to an outsider 75% of the residents must agree and the Council must obtain the advice of the Minister of Amerindian Affairs.

Under the Act a Village may apply to the Minister of Amerindian Affairs for a grant of State land to extend the area of Village land. The application must be accompanied by a resolution approved by two-thirds of the Village general meeting, and must include a justification and a description of the area requested. In addition the application has to be accompanied by a plan showing the existing Village lands prepared by a qualified land surveyor on the basis of a survey authorised by the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC). Although the Act states that the State will pay the cost of the survey, this is still an onerous requirement, since many Villages titled under the 1976 Amendment to the Amerindian Act have not yet been surveyed and there is often doubt as to the exact boundaries of the land; in some cases there are errors in the boundaries identified in the Amerindian Lands Commission report, for instance, in regard to the names or location of the creeks that often define the boundaries of a Village's lands. This is a controversial issue, since it requires that the members of a village acknowledge the legitimacy of the existing title before they can request an extension of their lands; moreover, it is difficult for villages to get their lands surveyed, since the GLSC requires a full topographic survey carried out on the ground by qualified surveyors rather than a survey based on geo-referencing using GPS and satellite imagery.

The Act also states that an Amerindian Community – i.e. a community without lands or a recognised Village Council, may apply in writing to the Minister of Amerindian Affairs for a grant of State lands provided it has been in existence for at least 25 years and has had a population of at least 150 persons during the previous 5 years. The application can be justified by oral or written statements, historical documents, photographs, surveys carried out by the GLSC or other sources. If the application is approved title can be granted under the State Lands Act, and the Minister can establish a Village Council to hold the land for the benefit of the village.<sup>4</sup>

## **Recommendations**

There is a need to review the situation of Indigenous land titles, especially in areas where there are conflicts or a potential for conflicts over land use. One of the first priorities should be to regularize the land titles of all the communities situated in the area of influence of the Georgetown-Lethem road. Until recently these communities were relatively isolated, and their

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<sup>4</sup> See Kreimer 2004: 46-7 for a discussion of the advantages of holding title under the State Lands Act.

access to land for hunting and farming was not significantly affected by ranching or logging. A number of ranches were established in the Rupununi in the 1920s. They provided employment for the Macushi and Wapishana and imposed few restrictions, other than a ban on fish poisoning. The 99 year lease for the Rupununi Development Company's Dadanawa Ranch has now expired, and apparently will not be renewed until the disputes over land title in the South-Central Rupununi have been resolved (IDB 2006: Meeting in Shulinab). However completion of the bridge over the Takutu River, joining Lethem with Bomfim in Brazil and improvement of the Georgetown-Lethem road could have a significant impact on the Rupununi, linking it to Brazilian markets and to Georgetown and making the region more attractive for Brazilian investors interested in ranching, agro-business (especially soybeans) and logging, and this could easily lead to an increase in conflicts over land. In accordance with OP-765, the Bank should ensure that any activities it finances, including the Pre-Investment Studies for the Georgetown-Lethem road (GY-T1026), safeguard Indigenous communities against potential negative impacts. In practical terms this means the Pre-Investment Studies should include the identification of all the areas that would need to be surveyed, titled and demarcated to ensure that within the foreseeable future the communities of the Rupununi have sufficient land to carry out their traditional activities and to develop new opportunities for employment and income generation, for instance, eco-tourism, which is just beginning to generate employment in communities like Surama and Nappi. The issue of land titling in the hinterland will also have to be addressed in RS-T1239, the Strategic Environmental Studies for Guyana and Suriname.

One option would be for the Bank to help the Government of Guyana take a pro-active approach to the issue of land titling for Indigenous Peoples. This could take the form of an operation that would help the MAA and GLSC prepare a comprehensive GIS database showing the Amerindian Village lands that have already been titled and whether they have been delimited and surveyed. It would also show the extent of all new and additional land claims, and would support the surveys and land use studies needed to assess the claims. Finally, the program would provide the resources needed for the titling, surveying and demarcation of these areas. Priorities would include the areas used by communities in the area of influence of the Georgetown-Lethem road, the coastal and riverain areas of Regions 1 and 2, which are the areas with the greatest potential for agriculture, including plantation crops such as oil palm as well as shrimp aquaculture, and the

lands used by communities in mining areas, especially the Port Kaituma-Matthews Ridge area in Region 1, the Upper and Middle Mazaruni in Region 7 and the Potaro River in Region 8.

## **Mining**

Mining is the main cause of environmental degradation in the hinterland, but at the same time it provides one of the few sources of employment open to Indigenous people. Most mining operations are small to medium scale; in fact, the only large gold mining operation, the Omai mine on the Upper Essequibo, closed in September 2005. In August 1995 this mine was the cause of one of Guyana's worst environmental disasters, when the tailings dam was breached, releasing an estimated 4.5 million cubic metres of toxic effluent containing cyanide and heavy metals into the Essequibo, killing off fish stocks and affecting the health of people living on the lower reaches of the river (MRF/UNEP 2002). The only other large mines still in operation are the bauxite mines in Linden and Kwakwani in Region 10; however the Canadian StrataGold Corporation has recently been exploring sites for a new large-scale gold mining operation at Tassawini on the headwaters of the Barama River in Region 1 (Forrest 2006).

The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) estimates that about 14,500 small scale mining permits have been issued and that some 1,800 licensed dredges are operating. This suggests that around 12,000 people, many of them Indigenous, are employed in the small and medium scale mining sector (cited in Colchester et al 2002); another study by WWF estimates that there are some 11,000 small miners or "pork knockers" in the interior of Guyana (Hays and Vieira 2003). Some land dredges are owned by Indigenous entrepreneurs, as in Jawalla on the Upper Mazaruni; in other communities, such as Waramadang, Indigenous people combine "pick and shovel" mining with traditional subsistence activities (IDB 2006: 83-4); however, most Indigenous miners are employed by coastlanders or Brazilians. Working conditions tend to be poor: the work is dangerous, above all due to the risk of the pit sides collapsing, and miners are exposed to a series of hazards, including drug-resistant strains of malaria and mercury poisoning; it is also common for miners to be cheated by their employers, who refuse to pay them or deduct extortionate amounts for the supplies they consume and for clothing and medicines. Even when they are paid, Indigenous miners working away from home have no way of remitting their earnings back to their families and their earnings are quickly spent, since the cost of living in the

mining areas is very high. The mining camps and mining towns have a reputation for heavy drinking, drug abuse, violence and prostitution. Indigenous women are reputed to be involved in prostitution in the mining camps: in some cases they are lured with false promises of employment as cooks or domestic servants or are taken as “bush wives” by coastlanders and Brazilians (IDB 2006: 104).

The main areas of small and medium gold and diamond mining are the Port Kaituma-Matthews Ridge area of Region 1, the Upper and Middle Mazaruni in Region 7 and on the Potaro River in Region 8. Some medium scale operations use “missile” or “cutter head” technology to suck sediments from the river bed and the banks of the rivers, extracting the particles of gold and pumping the tailings back into the river. Other operations pump the tailings from the pits straight into the river. This leaves the rivers choked with silt and kills off the aquatic life. The stagnant water in the pits provides a breeding ground for mosquitoes, since there are no fish to eat the mosquito larvae, and this has led to a very high incidence of malaria (IDB 2006: Interview 30). Many gold mining operations use mercury to recover the gold, and some continue to burn mercury amalgam in the open air. Mercury presents a serious health risk for miners and washes into the rivers, contaminating the water supply of the villages situated downstream; inorganic mercury affects the nervous system, leading to headaches, tremors, memory loss and loss of coordination. However, once it enters the food chain organic mercury represents an even greater risk to health since it becomes concentrated in higher organisms such as fish; it attacks all the body systems, leading to nausea, vomiting, kidney failure, respiratory distress, personality changes and loss of hearing and vision. It is particularly dangerous for pregnant women, and can cause mental retardation, cerebral palsy and damage to the eyes and hearing of unborn children (CPCS 2002).

The Amerindian Act 2006 requires anyone who wishes to carry out mining activities on Amerindian village lands or in any river or creek within the boundaries of the village lands to obtain the consent of at least two-thirds of the village residents as well as permission from the GGMC. Amerindian residents who wish to exercise their traditional mining privileges also have to obtain the consent of the Village Council and comply with mining laws. Before requesting permission from the village, a miner from outside the village must provide the Village Council

with a written summary of the proposed mining activities, including a list of the people involved in the operation, a simple explanation of the operations, including the site and the length of time the operation is expected to continue, and the likely environmental impacts of the operation. If the village approves the request, the miner has to draw up a written agreement with the Village Council and must pay the village a tribute of at least 7% of the value of the minerals obtained, offer employment to the residents at market rates, purchase food and materials from the village and take all reasonable steps to avoid damage to the environment, pollution of ground and surface water or interference with agriculture and disruption of residents' normal activities. The village can also require the miner to sign a protocol regulating the behaviour of the mine employees and imposing restrictions on the use of alcohol and the carrying of firearms.

Although this represents a considerable advance on previous legislation it only applies to village lands that have already been titled and does not apply to operations taking place upstream of village lands or on land claimed by the village, but not yet titled. Moreover, in the case of large-scale mining, a mining company may still be given permission if a village refuses to give its consent, providing the Minister with responsibility for mining (presently the Prime Minister) and the Minister of Amerindian Affairs declare the mining operation to be in the public interest. In this case the company would have to comply with any rules made by the Village Council and would have to pay compensation for any damage to village lands or property.

## **Recommendations**

The existing legislation, including the Amerindian Act 2006, the Mining Act 1989 and the Environmental Protection Act 1996, is probably adequate to address the main environmental issues raised by small and medium scale mining. The main weakness in the legislation is that it does not address mining in areas occupied or used by Indigenous peoples that have not been titled, nor does it address the impacts of pollution on people living downstream. This also affects towns like Bartica, which as one of the residents expressed it, is faced "with the choice of cyanide from the Essequibo or mercury from the Mazaruni" (IDB 2006: 82). More importantly there are no mechanisms in place to evaluate the impacts of mining or to enforce existing legislation. Various studies, including studies carried out by WWF and by Natural Resources Canada under the Canadian financed Guyana Environmental Capacity Development Program

(GENCAPD) suggest that mercury poisoning is a significant problem in mining areas such as the Middle Mazaruni (Hays and Vieira 2003). However, these studies have not been followed up and there is no regular monitoring of mercury levels in drinking water, fish or of the effects of mercury on human populations. This ought to be carried out by the EPA and/or the Ministry of Health on a regular basis, and the reports made available to the GGMC, MAA, MLG&RD and Regional Governments as well as the general public. Since the EPA has limited resources, the collection of samples could be carried out by local health staff or perhaps by members of the Village Councils, provided they were given the necessary training. Indeed, this was a recommendation of the Bank's Committee on Environmental and Social Impacts (CESI) in its review of Phase II of the Bank's Environmental Management Program (TC-0011034).

The GGMC should enforce the regulations of the Mining Act 1989 and should ban the burning of mercury amalgam in the open air.<sup>5</sup> The GGMC has introduced retorts that condense and recover the mercury released when amalgam is heated and these are used by some miners. Others continue to burn mercury in the open air. To begin with, the GGMC and the MAA could cooperate to educate the hinterland mining community, through workshops, which would involve the Toshaos, Village Councils and health workers, who could enforce the ban on burning mercury in their communities. The training could perhaps be supported by the Bank, through a Technical Cooperation (TC). As a condition for the TC, the GGMC should make a ban on the open-air use of mercury a condition for all concessions. This could be monitored by the EPA and the GGMC and any operation found burning mercury should have its concession revoked.

Hinterland water supply projects also need to give first priority to the areas affected by mining, particularly to the areas with the highest levels of mercury contamination; the river water in areas such as the Upper Mazaruni is also turbid, with a high level of suspended solids. The Guyana Water and Sanitation Project (GUYWASP), funded by the British Department for International Development (DFID), includes a £2 million component for hinterland water supply, but this is focused on communities in Regions 1 and 9 and envisages fairly complex pumping systems. The Bank has no ongoing water supply program and although this could be covered under SIMAP

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<sup>5</sup> Regulation 128 requires all water containing poisonous or chemical solutions to be fenced off. Regulation 134 refers to the storage of mercury. Regulations 137 and 138 prohibit the handling of mercury without gloves and the use of mercury in sluice boxes (cited in Colchester et al 2002: 33).

III, the program is due to finish and a new phase has not been included in the Bank's project pipeline. One option might be to establish an Indigenous or hinterland development fund, which would finance community infrastructure, including water supply systems and perhaps economic development projects.

In the longer term, the Government of Guyana needs to think about the measures that would be needed to reinstate the areas that have already been polluted and degraded by small and medium scale mining. The key issues are whether anything can be done to clean up the bodies of water that have been polluted with mercury and other chemicals, and second whether areas that have been scarred by mining operations will eventually recover after they have been abandoned. This could perhaps be considered under the Strategic Environmental Studies for Guyana and Suriname (RS-T1239).

### **Forestry**

The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) is responsible for managing 13.6 million hectares of State Forests, equivalent to over 60% of Guyana's land area ([www.forestry.gov.gy](http://www.forestry.gov.gy)). The remaining forested areas include private properties, land belonging to Amerindian villages and other State land. In Amerindian villages the Village Councils are the owners of the timber and forestry resources within their titled lands (IDB 2005: 40). Under the Amerindian Act 2006 residents who wish to exploit the timber or other forest produce must first obtain the permission of the Village Council; the Act allows outsiders to draw up agreements with the Village Council for the use of forest resources, provided they obtain the consent of two thirds of the residents and notify the GFC, the EPA and the MAA. The Amerindian Act also requires the GFC to "consider the impact" of any new timber sales agreement, licence or permission in respect of State forests that are contiguous to Village lands.

Map 4, which is taken from the GFC website, shows the areas covered by the existing forestry concessions, the Iwokrama Rain Forest Wilderness Preserve and the remaining areas of non-allocated State Forest. The interior of Guyana can be divided into three regions. Moving inland from the coast is a lowland area of forest, intermediate savannahs and swamp, which is accessible from the main rivers or from logging trails that cut across the savannahs from the main roads. The forested area of the lowlands more or less corresponds to the area allocated

under existing timber sales agreements (TSA), woodcutting licences (WCL) and State Forest permissions (SFP) concessions.<sup>6</sup> To the south and west is a dissected plateau of ancient rocks that is separated from the rest of the country by a steep escarpment that presents a natural barrier to navigation. The rivers that run into the Atlantic are navigable for about 100 miles but are then broken by a series of rapids and waterfalls, the most spectacular being Kaitetur Falls, where the Potaro River, a tributary of the Essequibo, falls over 740 feet in a single drop. Because of its isolation, the area above the escarpment has remained relatively untouched by logging or commercial agriculture and includes some of the most pristine tropical forest in the Americas, including Iwokrama and the Kanuku Mountains. Finally, in the far west along the Ireng and Rupununi Rivers in Regions 8 and 9, the forest gives way to extensive savannahs, which have been used for extensive cattle ranching since the 1920s.

The proposed upgrading of the Georgetown-Lethem road and completion of the bridge over the Takutu River on the Brazilian frontier at Lethem could potentially open up the area above the escarpment to commercial logging, providing an outlet to Brazilian markets and making it easier to transport timber to Georgetown and from there to international export markets. While this would provide some additional employment in the hinterland, uncontrolled logging and deforestation for ranching and agribusiness (soybeans or oil palm) could have a devastating effect on Indigenous communities, destroying the environment on which they depend for hunting, fishing, shifting agriculture and the collection of forest produce and subjecting them to an influx of outsiders from Brazil and from the coast.

Logging and the exploitation of other forest produce, including “palm cabbages” (hearts of palm from the manicole palm, *Euterpe oleracea*), provides an important source of employment for communities in other parts of the hinterland. Some logging is carried out by Indigenous entrepreneurs or associations supported by the GFC, such as the community concession in Malali and the Youth Association in Muritaro, both in Region 10, which were initially supported under the DFID-funded Guyana Forestry Commission Support Project. Indigenous people are also employed by logging contractors, and typically face the same kinds of problems as Indigenous miners: poor working conditions, inadequate provision for health and safety, delays in payment

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<sup>6</sup> An SFP is a renewable permission issued annually for areas of under 8,000 hectares. A WCL is a lease for 3-15 years and a TSA is a 10-25 year lease for areas over 24,300 hectares ([www.forestry.gov.gy](http://www.forestry.gov.gy)).

or non-payment and unfair practices such as overcharging for provisions, equipment and medicines.

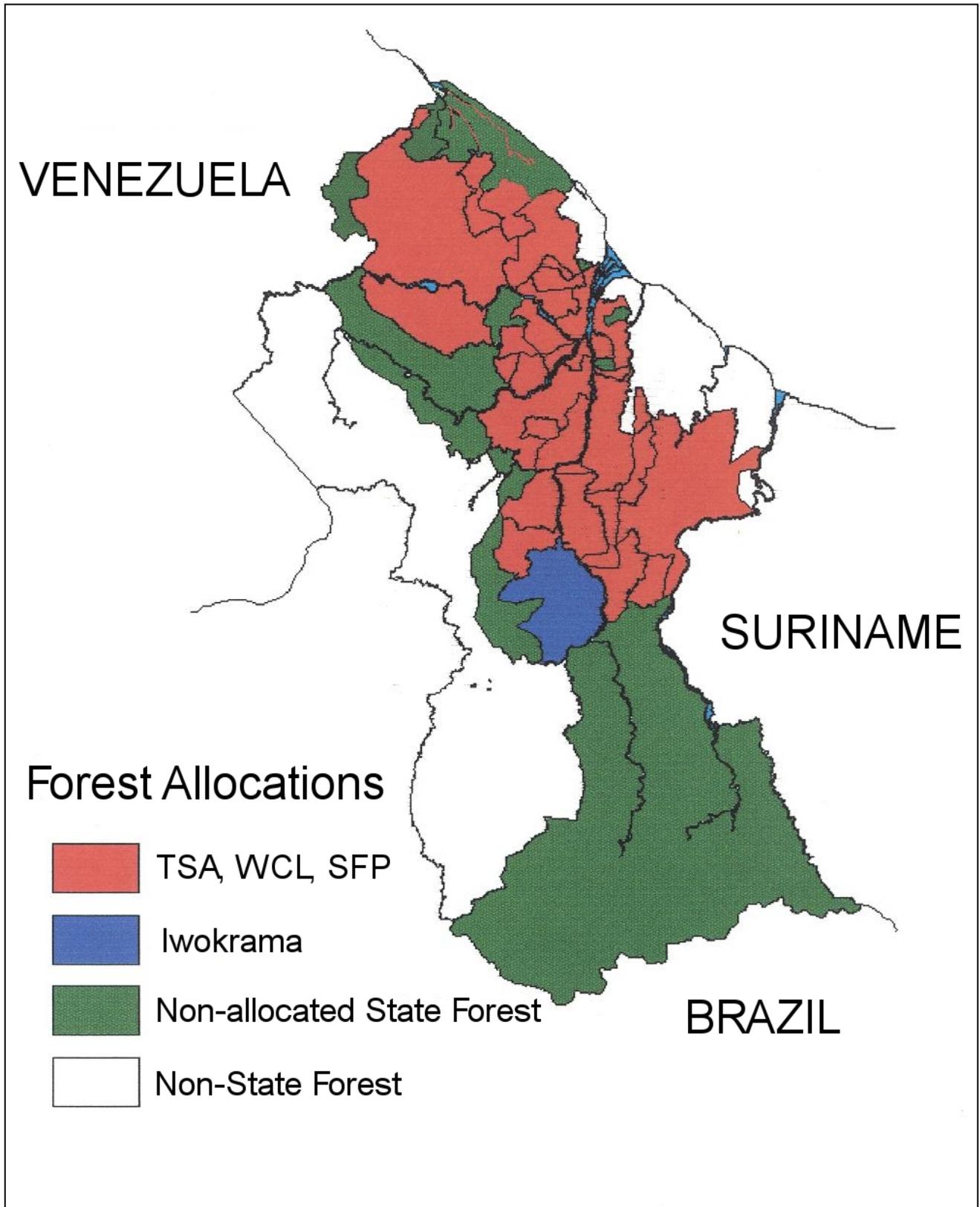
## **Recommendations**

The Bank needs to adopt a two-fold approach to the forestry sector. On the one hand encouraging the Government of Guyana to call a moratorium on all concessions in non-allocated State forests, other than permissions for local associations, until there is an administrative structure in place to ensure that forestry is carried out on a sustainable basis. It must be stressed that in the long-term this makes economic sense, since the extensive areas of pristine forest in the south and west of the country represent an invaluable and irreplaceable resource, given that much of the World's tropical forest, for instance in South East Asia, Africa and Brazil, has already been cleared or seriously degraded by over-exploitation.

On the other hand the Bank needs to encourage sustainable forest exploitation by hinterland communities, looking at ways to promote the sustainability of the operations and above all finding ways to add value, through the provision of training, equipment and identification of potential markets for high quality timber products. One of the main obstacles is the absence or very high cost of electricity in hinterland communities. A start could perhaps be made by combining the demonstration projects envisaged in the Unserved Areas Electrification Program (GY-0065) with small-scale sawmills and carpentry shops. The productive activities could perhaps be financed through a hinterland development fund, as discussed in more detail below.

In the longer term – and this may happen more quickly than expected, since the experience of most Latin American countries shows that massive deforestation usually takes place as soon as there are access roads and a ready market for tropical timber, it would be easier to defend Guyana's remaining areas of un-allocated forests if they were managed as protected areas. Even though it is located on the Georgetown-Lethem road, the Iwokrama forest is unlikely to be cleared by illegal logging operations. Other forest areas, which are presently the subject of dispute, would almost certainly stand a better chance of survival if a suitable framework could be developed for Indigenous communities to manage them as protected areas.

Map 4: Forestry Areas of Guyana



## Protected Areas

The establishment of protected areas has been controversial, even though in principle the interests of Guyana's Indigenous communities and conservationists should largely coincide. At present there are only two officially recognised protected areas in Guyana: Kaieteur National Park and the Iwokrama Rain Forest Wilderness Preserve. Kaieteur National Park was established in 1929; the boundaries were extended in 1999 to cover 62,700 hectares and in 2000 an amendment was added to the Kaieteur National Park Act to protect the rights of the Indigenous Peoples living in the area. However, in the same year a legal action was filed on behalf of the nearby village of Chenapau, arguing that the amended Act infringed their constitutional and traditional rights.

The 371,000 hectare Iwokrama Wilderness Preserve was established as an international centre for rain forest conservation and development under an agreement signed by the Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat, and an Act of Parliament passed in 1996. The proposal originated in 1989, when President Desmond Hoyte offered the area to the international community for conservation and for developing the sustainable use of tropical rain forest ([www.iwokrama.org](http://www.iwokrama.org)). The reserve is managed by the Iwokrama International Centre, which reports to an international Board of Trustees and has received support from various governments and international organisations (see Annex III). The Iwokrama Act 1996 prohibits mining, forestry and other resource utilisation by anyone other than the Iwokrama Centre, but goes on to state that "Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prejudice, alter or affect any right or privilege heretofore legally or traditionally possessed, exercised or enjoyed by any Amerindian who has a particular connection with any area of land within or neighbouring the Program Site" (Iwokrama Act 1996: Paragraph 6).

There is one, mainly Macushi village, Fairview, situated inside the reserve and 13 other Macushi and Wapishana communities located to the south and west. These communities belong to the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB), a community based organisation that links the 14 Indigenous communities with the Iwokrama Centre and government agencies. The NRDDB has been responsible for planning and implementing a number of educational, cultural, development and research programs, including the recently approved Bank TC "Enhancing Youth Leadership in Indigenous Communities" (GY-T1024). The NRDDB is responsible for the

Bina Hill Institute, a research and training centre that provides agricultural extension, development of professional and organisational skills and support for new businesses in areas such as timber, tourism, medicinal plants, aquarium fish and apiculture.

Whereas the relationship between Iwokrama and the NRDDDB has generally been very positive, relations between indigenous communities located near other potential protected areas, international agencies and government have been acrimonious. In 1995 the World Bank began preparation of a Global Environment Facility (GEF) project to support the Guyana Protected Areas System (GPAS), which in its most recent formulation would have provided US\$ 6 million for institutional strengthening of the EPA and to help the Guyana Marine Turtle Conservation Society (GMTCS) and Conservation International (CI) Guyana establish new protected areas at Shell Beach in Region 1 and in the Kanuku Mountains in Region 9. For its part CI would have invested a further US\$ 6 million and the German agency KfW US\$ 2 million. However Indigenous organisations, including the APA and the SCPDA, claimed they were not properly consulted and opposed the establishment of new protected areas until all outstanding land claims are resolved and as a result the GPAS project was cancelled. In the longer term it was envisaged that additional areas would have been incorporated into the GPAS, including the Upper Cuyuni, the Upper Berbice, Mount Roraima and the headwaters of the Mazaruni, and part of the south-eastern forest, including Gunn's and the New River Triangle on the border with Suriname and Brazil (World Bank 2005: 97-98).

## **Recommendations**

The Bank should encourage the active participation of Indigenous Peoples in the planning and management of Guyana's protected areas, building on the positive experiences of Iwokrama. At this stage, possible activities could involve training and capacity building to help Village and District Councils plan and implement protected areas or areas of special sacred or cultural importance. It could also involve training in environmental monitoring. One of the main difficulties is the lack of an institutional champion in Government. Technically the EPA is responsible for the establishment and management of protected areas but it lacks the capacity to develop and manage new protected areas since it has a wide range of responsibilities and at present is unable to control even gross breaches of environmental standards such as industrial

pollution from bauxite concentration plants in Linden or rice mills in the Mahaica area (IDB 2006: 50, 68).

One of the most interesting proposals is to propose the North Rupununi as a Ramsar wetlands site. This would provide a solid basis for sustainable land use in the region, since Ramsar would allow local people to engage in activities compatible with protected area status. This may provide a more appropriate model for protected areas than conventional national parks, which have tended to impose unreasonable limitations on the activities that can be carried out within their boundaries.

In the short term it seems unlikely that the Government of Guyana will ask the Bank for direct support to establish new protected areas. However the Strategic Environmental Study for Guyana and Suriname (RS-T1239) and the Pre-investment Program for the Georgetown-Lethem Highway (GY-T1026) provide the opportunity to identify new operations to support the development of protected areas. An alternative would be to propose a new technical cooperation that would support feasibility studies for new protected areas. Given Guyana's extraordinarily rich and largely unspoilt natural environment, there is no question that in the long term the establishment of protected areas would provide the country with a more solid basis on which to develop a high value tourist industry based on adventure and eco-tourism.

#### 4. POVERTY, FOOD SECURITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

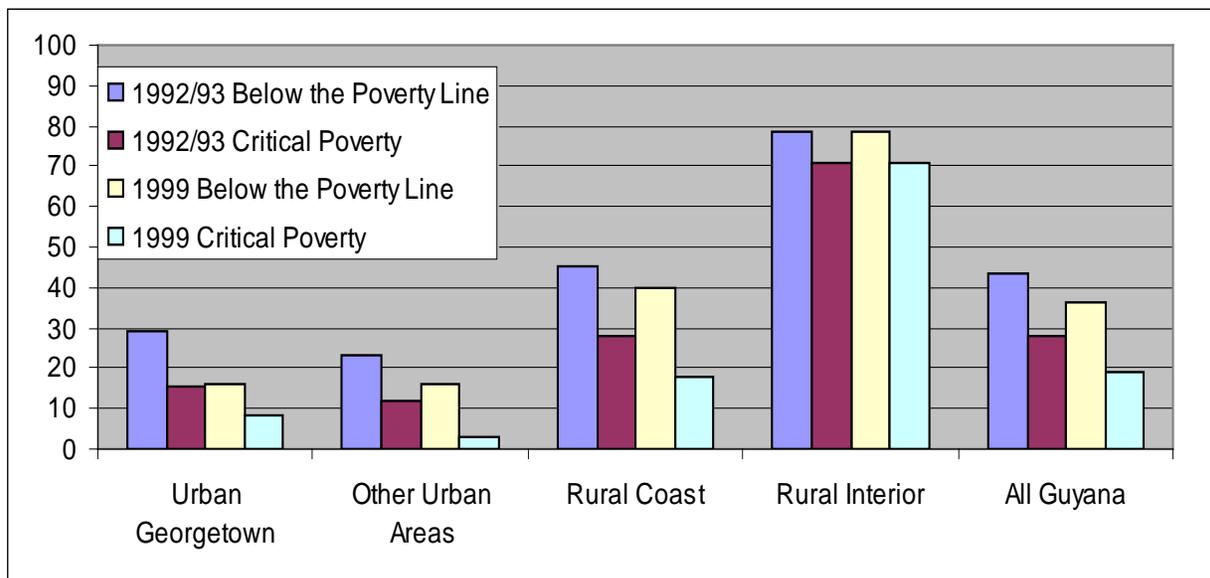
Indigenous Peoples are often described as the poorest ethnic group in Guyana.<sup>7</sup> In fact, there is little information on poverty disaggregated by ethnic group and the principal first-hand sources of information are the 1992 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) and the 1999 Guyana Survey of Living Conditions (GSLC) (Bureau of Statistics 1993 and 2000 respectively). The 1999 GSLC shows that in terms of per capita expenditure the Indigenous population is much poorer than any other ethnic group in Guyana: 78% of the Indigenous population falls into the lowest consumption quintile and another 12% into the second lowest quintile, while only 2% are in the highest quintile. The next poorest ethnic group is the group described as “Mixed,” with 35% in the lowest consumption quintile and 20% in the second lowest (Bureau of Statistics 2000: Table 28).

The information on households living below the poverty line shows a clear correspondence between poverty – defined in terms of expenditure, and geographical location. The 1992/93 HIES found 78.6% of the population in the rural interior living below the poverty line while the 1999 GSLC found 78.4% below the poverty line (Bureau of Statistics 2000: Table 14). The proportion living in critical poverty – i.e. whose level of expenditure was below that needed even to provide enough food also remained unchanged, at 70.8% in both surveys. In every other region the proportion of people living below the poverty line decreased between 1992/93 and 1999, and fell from 43.2% to 36.3% in the country as a whole. Figure 2, below, summarises the information from the two surveys.

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<sup>7</sup> For instance, IDB 2005: 17.

**Figure 2: Percentage of the Population below the Poverty Line 1992/92 and 1999**



Since the information is based on household expenditure, it gives little idea of the real situation in the hinterland, other than to confirm that levels of expenditure, and by inference cash income, are lower than on the coast or in urban areas. In some respects Indigenous communities are probably better off than poor people in urban areas or on the coast, since most have land for farming (i.e. unlike poor farmers on the coast they do not have to pay rent, enter into sharecropping agreements or squat) and are able to hunt, fish and gather wild produce. In addition, Indigenous communities may show more solidarity, sharing food between kin and neighbours, although this is also characteristic of many coastal communities in Guyana, where support is provided by churches, temples and mosques as well as by kin and neighbours. In fact there is no information available on poverty and exclusion within Indigenous communities and anecdotal evidence suggests that single mothers, the elderly and the disabled are just as vulnerable as in other communities in Guyana (IDB 2006: Interview 25).

### **Food Security**

The Project Report for the Bank’s Basic Nutrition Program (GY-0068) notes that malnutrition is greatest among Indo-Guyanese and least among Indigenous populations. However, the report notes that chronic malnutrition is more widespread in the interior, while acute malnutrition is

predominant in coastal areas. It suggests that chronic malnutrition is linked to a lack of diversity in the diet rather than general food insecurity (IDB 2002: 3-5). In fact, a number of factors affect diet in Indigenous communities. In the first place, it is likely that some communities face a shortage of protein due to the scarcity of game and fish. This is most apparent in areas like the Upper Mazaruni, where fishing has never been very productive – the Upper Mazaruni is a black water river situated above the falls and rapids, which in recent years has been affected by pollution from mining, while game has also become more difficult to find (IDB 2006: 79).

In most hinterland communities agriculture provides the mainstay of the diet, which is based above all on bitter cassava (*Manihot esculenta*), a root crop used to make cassava bread, casareep (boiled cassava juice, used for pepper pot) and beverages such as paiwari and parakari; Indigenous farmers also plant a range of other crops including sweet potatoes, eddoes, bananas, plantains, maize and sometimes sugar cane or peanuts. However, the potential for farming is often limited by the lack of suitable land near Indigenous villages. In much of the hinterland only small areas are suitable for farming; much of the land in Regions 1 and 9 is subject to flooding and in other regions the inter-fluvial areas are characterised by poor sandy soils or laterites. Indigenous people practise shifting agriculture: they clear areas, preferably of “maiden bush”, plant for one or two seasons and then abandon the plot as the soil loses its fertility and it becomes more difficult to control the weeds and insect pests. In principle, once a plot has been abandoned it should be left for up to 20 years to allow the soils to recover their fertility. Nowadays, since people tend to live in larger, more nucleated settlements, typically of 100-200 families, they have to travel further to find suitable areas for farming. This is particularly hard on the women, who often have to carry heavy loads of cassava on their backs. Some families set up temporary homesteads a few hours walk from the village: this can lead to problems since the children miss classes or are unavailable for vaccinations (IDB 2006: Interviews 23, 28 & 30). In other cases farmers reduce the fallow cycle and cultivate in the same area after a fallow of only 3-5 years. This leads to a decline in soil fertility, low yields and problems with insect pests, especially acoushi (leaf cutter) ants.

Diet is also affected by increasing dependence on wage labour. In many hinterland villages young people, especially young men, leave the community for extended periods to work in the mines, in logging camps or in urban areas. This means some of the most active people in the

village are no longer hunting, fishing or farming. As there is no way they can remit their earnings back to the village their families usually receive little or no benefit. Where men are able to find employment locally, as in Jawalla, a mining village on the Upper Mazaruni, they tend to use their earnings to buy food, such as sardines or corned beef, from local stores rather than purchasing local produce, even though the products available in the stores are very expensive.

### **Income Generation and Employment**

Although many Indigenous families are more or less self-sufficient in terms of basic food supply, they need cash for a wide range of items, including clothing, tools, salt, sugar, soap and medicines, and above all to pay for their children's school books, and if they have children in secondary school, for the children's upkeep. The cost of living is very high in the hinterland, especially in the most remote regions, and there are very few opportunities for employment or self-employment. Within Indigenous communities opportunities for income earning are limited to small-scale "pick and shovel" mining and, in Regions 1, 2 and 10, to logging, harvesting "palm cabbages" and the wildlife trade, including the sale of aquarium fish. The opportunities for commercial agriculture are also very limited: in Region 1 some households grow cocoa; there is also a project organised by the MAA, UNEP and AMCAR (Amazon Caribbean Guyana Limited, the company that buys and exports palm hearts) to grow manicole palm. In Region 9 some villages grow peanuts, which are sold to make peanut butter for a school feeding program and one or two communities, including Surama and Nappi, have eco-tourism projects.

Because of the lack of opportunities, many people, especially young people that have finished school, leave their villages to look for employment. Most work in mining or logging camps, but increasingly young people are moving to urban areas, especially to Georgetown, or abroad; young people from the Rupununi work in Brazil, either on the ranches or in the city of Boa Vista. It is reported that some young women have been trafficked for prostitution: typically they have been offered employment as domestic servants or cooks, but find they have to work in bars to attract clients or as prostitutes in mining camps. This issue hit the headlines in 2004 when the US State Department classified Guyana as a "Tier 3" country for trafficking – a classification that could have resulted in Guyana's exclusion from US Government funded aid programs and the Bank's FSO and MIF financing. The police and the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and

Social Security (MLHSSS) have responded with a public education campaign and have raided some bars and brothels, and various people, including a bar owner from the Corentyne and a businesswoman from Port Kaituma have been charged with trafficking.

## **Recommendations**

The Bank's poverty reduction strategy should incorporate measures to improve food security and increase opportunities for income generation in the hinterland. This has to be done with sensitivity, respecting the spirit of the Bank's policy on Indigenous Peoples and ensuring the full and active participation of the Indigenous communities and especially Village and District Councils. It has to start from a detailed understanding of the farming and subsistence practices in particular regions, working with communities to understand their concerns and priorities and to identify sustainable options that will allow them to improve their diet and generate some cash income; it requires the development of a different methodology from the top-down, "expert knows best" approach typical of conventional agricultural extension programs, which could actually be counterproductive in Indigenous communities.

The Bank has been preparing a US\$16.9 million Agricultural Export Diversification Project (GY-L1007), which is focused on the coastal regions and the intermediate savannahs; it may include some Indigenous communities in Regions 2, 6 and 10 but it does not contemplate any activities in the hinterland. In fact, there is a potential for developing export crops in the hinterland, especially in Regions 1 and 9. Indigenous farmers in Region 1 are already growing organic cocoa and have formed a producers' association: the main difficulty is finding a market for the relatively small quantities that are presently produced. The capacity of the association would also need to be strengthened (IDB 2006: Interview 18). Communities in Region 9 have relatively easy access to markets in Brazil; the region has good potential for livestock (sheep and goats as well as cattle) and some farmers grow peanuts as a cash crop. The Agricultural Export Diversification Project also has to include measures to ensure that Indigenous communities do not suffer negative impacts as a result of the expansion of agriculture in the intermediate savannahs. Few communities are actually located in the savannahs, but indigenous communities on the Berbice and Corentyne use the savannahs for hunting and farming; indeed, communities

like Hittia-Sandhills, have already received support from NARI (National Agricultural Research Institute) through the Intermediate Savannah Agricultural Program (Renshaw 2003: 15).

An alternative would be to develop an agricultural development project specifically for the hinterland, perhaps piloted as a sub-component of GY-L1007. This would focus on food security and export crops, and would include support for farmer organisation and marketing, improvement of existing crops, introduction of new crops and varieties, facilities to improve transport between gardens and villages, and agro-processing, especially the introduction of simple technology to facilitate cassava preparation. This is a laborious time-consuming activity that makes it difficult for women to produce a surplus of cassava bread for sale. With increased production it would be feasible to supply hinterland secondary schools with local produce that is more to the students' taste and cheaper than the supplies that presently have to be flown in from Georgetown. Cassava bread could also be used in primary school feeding programs. An agricultural development program should also cover poultry and other livestock. Many people are interested in keeping poultry but the cost of feed is prohibitive. It should be feasible to prepare other types of feed in the hinterland, using cassava, corn, beans and other locally available crops.

Another priority is to encourage new economic activities in the hinterland and build up existing enterprises. Potential areas would include sustainable forestry, timber based products such as furniture, weaving and basketry, eco-tourism and small-scale mining. This would require a combination of capacity building, training and investment and could incorporate the proposal to help Village Councils develop internal rules described in Chapter 1 (page 14). A project of this kind would build on the experiences of the Leadership Development Program (TC-0301037) and the SIMAP Amerindian Program.<sup>8</sup> It would take the form of a demand-driven hinterland development fund: the Village Councils that have participated in the capacity building program would be able to identify and apply for projects from a fund that could be administered by a Management Unit located in the MAA. Hinterland District Councils, development boards or associations - such as NRDDDB or Indigenous NGOs, such as APA, GOIP or TAAMOG might also be eligible. The sub-projects would be selected on the basis of summary proposals that would have to demonstrate that a project is technically viable and financially sustainable. There

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<sup>8</sup> See Renshaw 2001 for a discussion of the SIMAP Amerindian Program.

would be an upper limit for financing specific types of project, and regional quotas should be established to ensure benefits are not monopolized by the more easily accessible or wealthier communities. It would be particularly important to ensure that Regions 7 and 8 are involved in the project, since these are the most isolated and difficult regions.

The project could also be used to develop basic infrastructure, since infrastructure projects are simpler than economic development projects and are a good way to build the capacity and confidence of local-level organisations. Unlike the present SIMAP and BNTF programs, all the sub-projects should involve community tendering. It would be essential to ensure the community had the necessary skills to do this. Once the initial proposal is approved, the Village Council, district, association or NGO would receive funds to prepare the project, and would contract the design and/or the technical assistance required. The village council would receive administrative training and could be supervised by the Community Development Officer (CDO), who would be supervised by the Principal Regional Development Officer (PRDO) or by a Coordinator specifically contracted for the project. In principle, the work would be carried out by the community, and if particular skills were not available, the Village Council, district association or NGO would be responsible for contracting whatever outside help is needed to implement the project and to train up people from the community. The objective would be to build skills and capacity as well as to generate income or create infrastructure. It is envisaged that about 30% of the fund would be used for training and capacity building and 70% for investment in tools, equipment and materials. The community would have to provide a significant, but realistic counterpart contribution, probably involving labour, locally available materials and some cash.

There are three other areas where the Bank might be able to encourage economic development in hinterland communities. The first is to increase the availability of technical and vocational training for students at secondary and tertiary level. In the short-term this might encourage the migration of young people, but at least it would put them in a better bargaining position than they are at present. Second, given the fact that people are migrating, it would be interesting to develop a system that would allow migrants to remit earnings back to their communities. This might be possible working with the private banking sector and the Village Councils, and would require Village Councils to open bank accounts, into which individuals could deposit money for their families. The idea needs to be discussed with the Banks and the National Toshao's Council; if

necessary the Bank could provide technical support to develop the idea in more detail. Finally, the Bank and other international agencies, including NGOs like Food for the Poor, should encourage education and supplementary feeding programs to procure foodstuffs locally, and if necessary should provide the technical expertise, inputs or equipment to ensure local communities can produce enough to cover their own needs and the needs of the specific programs.

## **5. EDUCATION**

The Census 2002 shows a high level of school attendance in Guyana: 96% of children from 5-9 years of age attend school as do 93% of children from 10-14; however, attendance drops off in the 15-19 age group, falling to 41%, although this is still a significant improvement on the 1991 figures, which showed only 27% of 15-19 year olds attending school. There is little difference between the sexes and overall slightly more girls than boys attend school. No detailed figures have been published disaggregating information on school attendance by ethnic group or geographical region, but it would be reasonable to assume that in spite of the difficulties children have travelling to school – in riverain areas it is common to find children of primary school age paddling long distances to school by canoe, the level of primary school attendance in the hinterland is still reasonably high. Most parents are keen for their children to get a good education, although, as noted earlier, some parents take their children with them on extended trips to their gardens or mining areas.

Government has made significant investments in education, especially in the construction of new schools, many of which have been constructed by SIMAP and BNTF. Nowadays, the main issue in primary education is quality rather than coverage. The Bank is presently financing Phase I of the Basic Education, Access and Management Support Program (BEAMS), which includes a radio program for numeracy, piloted in Region 9 and a literacy program that is being piloted in Region 2. The Bank has also used Canadian Trust Funds to implement a capacity building and planning program to support the implementation of BEAMS in the hinterland (TC-0306021). At the same time the World Bank is supporting the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (EFA/FTI), which includes distance teaching, teacher training and the provision of equipment, housing and incentives for teachers in the hinterland, and the Canadian International

Development Agency (CIDA) has been supporting the Guyana Basic Education Teacher Training Program (GBET). GBET has had a significant impact in the hinterland, motivating teachers and improving their teaching skills. Many hinterland teachers are Indigenous and have either not completed their secondary education or have no teacher training qualifications: GBET has offered them distance learning, combined with short courses in the nearest secondary schools, organised by the Cyril Potter College of Education.

One of the main problems in hinterland primary schools is the shortage of teaching resources and basic equipment. Parents are expected to pay for their children's exercise books and textbooks, and since many cannot afford even the cost of the exercise books, pupils have to share or go without. There is little equipment in the classroom and in some schools there is a shortage of desks and benches, with children sitting three to a desk intended for two (IDB 2006: 88). Other schools have been given computers, but have no electricity supply or else the teachers have never been given any training and are unable to use the computers. Given the investments that have been made in education, the shortage of basic teaching materials seems penny wise pound foolish. There seems to be a lack of accountability in the system: teachers have to manage with inadequate resources and there appear to be no checks and no channels for parents to complain about shortages of teaching resources. Many primary school teachers are highly motivated, but if a teacher fails to turn up for school, there is little that parents can do about it. Indeed the relatively high cost of children's education appears to be one of the factors that encourage migration away from Indigenous communities.

In recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of Indigenous students attending secondary school. It is likely that around 20-30% of Indigenous students continue on to secondary school, while the others continue in "primary tops" (classes held in local primary schools) until Grade 10. At present, there are 8 secondary schools in the hinterland, with a total of over 1,000 students, and some Indigenous students attend secondary school in Georgetown or regional centres, such as Linden and New Amsterdam. Entry to secondary school is selective, and depends on the pupils' attainment in the Secondary Schools Entrance Exam. The most successful students are eligible for the hinterland scholarships provided by the MAA. In 2005 a total of 272 secondary students were receiving scholarships: 113 in Georgetown, 35 in the prestigious President's College (Golden Grove) and 124 in regional secondary schools. The

scholarships cover payment to the guardians that provide the students' accommodation and meals, a monthly stipend of G\$ 2,600, a uniform allowance, registration and examination fees and transport home for the annual vacation in July-August.

The hinterland secondary schools generally have well-motivated teachers, but facilities are poor and teaching resources inadequate. Many students have to board at secondary school as their villages are too far away for them to travel in daily, but conditions are overcrowded and some schools lack even the most basic facilities. In Waramadang (Region 7), for example, there is a shortage of beds and many students have to sleep on the floor; some do not even have mosquito nets, despite the high incidence of malaria in the region. Sanitation is very poor, with only 5 pit latrines for 345 students; there is no running water or washing facility at the school, so students have to bathe in the river. Students receive three meals a day, mainly peas and rice, which is adequate but monotonous, but they would prefer cassava bread, which is the local staple. There is a shortage of classroom space and there are no computers, laboratories or facilities for teaching music (IDB 2006: 89-90).

Many secondary students aspire to go on to university, but scholarships are very competitive. The Public Service Ministry is providing 72 scholarships a year for students from the hinterland and five hinterland students have won scholarships to Cuba. There is also a demand for vocational training: a few students from the hinterland have attended Kuru Kuru Cooperative College and others have attended the Guyana School of Agriculture.

### **Recommendations**

The first phase of the BEAMS project is starting to have an impact in the hinterland; subsequent phases ought to engage more directly with the communities in the hinterland. In the first place the Bank, the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the MAA ought to look for ways to ensure greater accountability in the provision of education. This would mean working more closely with parents and local authorities (Village and District Councils), developing mechanisms to ensure an acceptable standard of teaching and making sure basic teaching resources and equipment are provided to hinterland schools. The teacher training provided under GBET has helped teachers develop their teaching skills and self-confidence, and ought to be continued.

Although there is a lot that could be done to improve primary education, priority should be given to improving conditions in hinterland secondary schools. This will require further investment in school infrastructure – to provide adequate facilities for teaching and additional accommodation for students and teachers as well as water supply, sanitation, beds and mosquito nets. The secondary schools also need teaching materials and wherever possible should be furnished with libraries and equipment for teaching science, IT and music. At the same time more effort should be made to adapt the “primary tops” classes to the needs of children that are less academically inclined. Many parents believe their children ought to acquire “hard skills” as well as basic literacy and numeracy; it should be possible to incorporate more technical and vocational skills into the “primary tops” curriculum.

Another concern voiced in many Indigenous communities is the desire to incorporate Indigenous languages and cultural values into primary education. UNICEF has piloted teaching in Macushi and Wapishana in the *Escuela Nueva* project in Santa Rosa, Surama and Aishalton, and other communities would like to follow. Some Indigenous peoples feel their language and culture is still vibrant, others, such as the Warau, believe they are losing their language, since their children prefer to speak English among themselves, and yet others, particularly the coastal Arawak, have virtually lost all knowledge of their language but would like to recover their cultural heritage. This is a long term project that requires commitment on the part of the MOE and MAA, and cooperation with other institutions working in the field, such as the Summer Institute of Linguistics. Since some Indigenous languages are also spoken in neighbouring countries, it may be worth trying to agree on an international orthography for languages like Macushi and Warau.

Another issue raised in many hinterland communities is the need to provide a school meals program for primary and perhaps pre-school children. This would offer an added incentive for parents to send their children to school, it would help children concentrate and it would ensure they receive adequate nourishment. At present some villages have school feeding programs, for instance in Region 9, where children receive a snack of locally-produced cassava bread and peanut butter, but this is not found throughout the hinterland. In Region 1 there is no school feeding program and some children have to paddle three or four miles to school (e.g. IDB 2006: Meeting in Warapoka). In addition, in the most dispersed settlements it may be worth

considering the provision of transport – a boat and outboard motor in riverain areas, to bring children to school.

Finally, people from the hinterland want more access to university education and to technical and vocational training. This is an investment in human capital that will help create the future leaders and professionals of the country. The MAA scholarship program has provided significant opportunities for the brightest students to attend secondary school, and it would be worth looking for ways to increase the number of scholarships available for Indigenous peoples and others from the hinterland who would like to go on to higher education. Since Guyana is the only English-speaking country in South America, there may be opportunities for the Bank to encourage academic institutions and others to support a scholarship program for Guyana's Indigenous students. At the same time there is demand for more technical and vocational (T&V) training that could perhaps be supported through the establishment of new T&V centres in the hinterland.

## **6. HEALTH CARE**

There is little or no disaggregated information on the health status of Guyana's Indigenous Peoples. The information from the Census 2002 suggests there are relatively fewer over-65s in the hinterland: only 3.69% of the population in Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9 is 65 or over, as compared with 4.26% in Guyana as a whole, and this may indicate higher levels of mortality.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, the sex ratio of the over-65s is very different in the hinterland, where there are 112 men to every 100 women as compared with 85.4 men for every 100 women in the country as a whole. This suggests that in the hinterland women have a lower life expectancy than men (Bureau of Statistics 2005: Table 16 and Appendix B1).

Health problems in the hinterland include malaria, HIV/AIDS, TB, water borne diseases and environmental problems related to pollution from mining. In spite of the isolation of most Indigenous communities, the primary health care system is relatively efficient, and is based on trained Community Health Workers (CHW) and Assistant CHWs (trainees), supported by more experienced para-medical workers ("medex"). There are very few qualified doctors in the

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<sup>9</sup> However there could be other reasons for the difference in age structure, for instance, relatively less migration of people of working age.

hinterland and in some places the health service depends on Cuban doctors or volunteers from Canada and the US. Although many communities would like to have resident doctors, the CHWs, who are nearly all Indigenous people from the hinterland are well-motivated, willing and able to travel between villages and are capable of managing most day-to-day public health programs. In much of the hinterland there are no regular means of transport to the regional centres and emergencies have to be evacuated by air to Georgetown Public Hospital. This places a heavy burden on the MAA, which has to take on responsibility for the patients and the relatives or interpreters that accompany them, accommodating them at the Amerindian hostel when they have been discharged and paying their return fares home.

Malaria is perhaps the number one health issue in the hinterland. Malaria is endemic and typically peaks during the rainy seasons. In recent years there has been an increase in the number of cases of both *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax*, particularly in mining areas, where the large bodies of stagnant, polluted water provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes. There has been an increase in drug-resistant strains of malaria, which appear to have been spread by miners returning from high malaria areas, the most notorious being the Middle Mazaruni. Villages like Jawalla in the Upper Mazaruni have a very high incidence of malaria; however the CHWs appear to have managed the crisis: there has been little or no mortality and nearly all confirmed cases have been successfully treated at the village health centres using chloroquine or doxycycline. However, deaths in the mining or logging camps may go unreported. In recent months there has been a significant reduction in reported cases, due to the introduction of treated mosquito nets, which were provided by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and distributed by the MAA.

HIV/AIDS is the second major concern. Guyana has a very high incidence of AIDS, second only to Haiti in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNAIDS cited in Country Coordinating Committee 2003). The Caribbean Epidemiology Centre estimated that in 1997 the prevalence of HIV was between 3.5% and 5.5%, with AIDS being the principal cause of death in the 25-44 year age group. The first case of AIDS was reported in 1987, and by the end of 2002 a total of 2,588 cases had been recorded. There are few reported cases in Indigenous communities, but this may simply reflect the lack of facilities for testing and treatment of people who are HIV positive. HIV/AIDS represents a high risk in mining areas, where prostitution is commonplace. However the MOH,

the Red Cross and NGOs, like the Linden Care Foundation, have been actively engaged in health education and outreach work. Young people are aware of the risks of HIV/AIDS and condoms are available in most health centres. The World Bank funded HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Project has incorporated an Indigenous Peoples Development Plan (IPDP) and includes a demand-driven fund to support NGO activities that has been utilised among others by the Iwokrama Centre for an HIV/AIDS prevention project in the North Rupununi.

Tuberculosis is a significant problem in some hinterland communities: the IPDP for the World Bank HIV/AIDS project states that almost a third of TB cases are found in the Indigenous Population (World Bank 2004: 3). There are no facilities for testing for TB in the hinterland and suspected cases are referred to Georgetown Public Hospital; confirmed cases are treated under the DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course) program in Georgetown until they are fully recovered.

Other important health issues include mother-child health care and the control of water borne diseases. Primary health care coverage is good but there are some shortages of supplies – especially drugs, as well as problems with transportation. In the Rupununi the CHWs can travel by bicycle, but in riverain areas they rarely have boats with outboard motors and fuel is very expensive. This makes it difficult to carry out home visits to outlying settlements and so they tend to rely on patients coming to them for routine antenatal care and vaccinations. Another problem is lack of cold storage facilities for vaccines; this means some health posts have to rely on vaccination campaigns, which never achieve the same level of coverage as home visits. Finally, dental care was identified as an issue in many communities. District hospitals usually have a dental technician (“dentex”) on their staff, but the technicians have only basic training and limited equipment. They do visit outlying communities, but given the difficulty of transporting their equipment, they are rarely able to do anything other than carry out extractions.

## **Recommendations**

The first priority is to ensure new health initiatives are discussed with Indigenous leaders and local health workers, especially the medex and CHWs, and are adapted to the realities of hinterland communities. The IPDP prepared for the World Bank’s HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Project represents a good example of this approach; the Bank’s TC (GY-T1006)

Increasing Access to Primary Health Care for Amerindian Communities also offers an important opportunity to improve the accountability of the MOH and the communities' understanding of health care priorities. Malaria and HIV/AIDS should remain the first priorities in the hinterland, and the present model of primary health care should be maintained and strengthened, as far as possible ensuring greater accountability and better coordination between health centres and Village and District Councils. In practical terms this means continued on-the-job training for CHWs, adequate and efficient provision of supplies, including basic drugs, fendona (Alpha-cypermethrin) for treating mosquito nets, basic equipment, and cold chain facilities for vaccines, and in areas with very dispersed populations, better transport (small outboards and fuel).

The MOH and MAA should consider the possibility of implementing the DOTS program for patients with TB at local or district level. At present, patients from the hinterland stay at the Amerindian Hostel, unless they are interned in Georgetown Public Hospital. This is justified on the grounds that they would fail to complete treatment if they were not under regular supervision. However, it means TB patients are in close contact with other people using the hostel – including students and people visiting Georgetown on business. It also means patients are only referred if there is a significant possibility that they have TB, so there is no routine testing; for instance, of people living in close contact with TB patients. Given the high cost of sending patients to Georgetown and keeping them in the Amerindian Hostel, it might be worth considering the possibility of training CHWs to carry out sputum tests and administer the DOTS program. This could perhaps be combined with supplementary feeding for TB patients, which would offer them an additional incentive to comply with the DOTS regime. This could perhaps be carried out under the Global Fund financed project approved in 2005 (see Annex 3).

Finally, the MOH, the MAA and GWI need to develop a strategy for water and sanitation. As noted above, the priorities should be to provide clean drinking water to communities that suffer from contamination of their water supplies due to mining. Another priority should be to ensure the provision of clean drinking water and adequate sanitation in all public buildings. The first priority should be the hinterland secondary schools, since large numbers of young people have to board in these schools; the next priorities should be health centres, primary and nursery schools.

## **7. HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

One of the priorities identified in the Access to Social Services study (IDB 2006) is the need to improve housing and the provision of basic services in the hinterland. At present the only projects working in the hinterland are SIMAP and BNTF, which have mainly worked in the construction of schools, health centres and community centres. Most of the buildings constructed under these programs are of a fairly high standard, but typically they suffer from minor defects, which are never rectified, since the beneficiaries fail to assume responsibility for their maintenance. This is perhaps an inherent defect in the way these projects are implemented: they are carried out by contractors and the tendering and supervision is the responsibility of the project rather than the community. The first phase of SIMAP included a specific Amerindian Program which took a more pro-active approach, involving communities in the implementation of community projects but this model was not developed further, perhaps because it is easier and cheaper to administer conventional construction projects. In the long term however, this generates a culture of dependence and patronage and fails to develop the capacity of local communities. As noted above, it would be worth drawing on the Bank's experience in Guyana and other countries to develop a demand-driven small projects program for the hinterland that could include both infrastructure and income-generating projects.

## **8. SUMMARY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The recommendations from this study can be divided into three categories: i) identification of the priorities that need to be addressed in the hinterland, ii) specific opportunities that could be addressed through existing Bank operations (projects in preparation and projects in execution), and iii) opportunities to develop new operations (technical cooperation and new projects).

The study identifies three priorities that the Bank should help the Government of Guyana to address. The first is the lack of an effective institutional structure to prevent serious long-term damage to the environment in the hinterland. In practice this means establishing better monitoring and control over logging and mining – especially small and medium-scale mining, and developing a system of protected areas that is compatible with the needs and aspirations of indigenous peoples. These are difficult issues, since forestry, mining and increasingly eco-tourism are an important part of the Guyanese economy and represent the main economic activity in the hinterland – indeed these are the only economic activities in many parts of the hinterland. At present the institutional responsibilities are not clearly defined and the key agencies involved – the EPA, GGMC and GFC – do not have an effective presence in the regions where they are most needed.

The second, related issue is the lack of any alternative economic opportunities in the hinterland. Given the problems of transport and communication this requires imaginative solutions that build on the values, strengths and skills of indigenous peoples rather than on ideas imported from elsewhere. It also means working closely with Village Councils and other local and district level organisations to develop the organisational and administrative capacity to manage new productive or income generating projects. The third priority – to consolidate the achievements of Government in relation to education, health and social infrastructure, is to achieve more accountability in the provision of social services, encouraging greater involvement of local level staff and village authorities and ensuring that the quality of service provision is not impeded by a lack of basic supplies and equipment. Finally, the Bank needs to ensure that indigenous peoples are fully consulted about any projects that will have an impact on the hinterland – including road projects, hydropower and agribusiness, as well as national level social sector projects, for

instance in education, health or nutrition, so that the projects can be adapted to the specific needs and circumstances of the hinterland.

There are some opportunities to address these concerns within the context of the Bank's existing portfolio. The Strategic Environmental Study for Guyana and Suriname (RS-T1239) and the Pre-investment Studies for the Georgetown-Lethem Road (GY-T1026) provide an opportunity to discuss and identify priorities for land titling and to revisit the proposal to establish new protected areas, particularly in the Kanuku Mountains. These are major studies that need to build on and learn from the experiences of previous proposals – including the cancelled World Bank/GEF Guyana Protected Areas System (GPAS). The Strategic Environmental Study should also provide clear recommendations for the EPA, GGMC and GFC in relation to mining and forestry – above all giving priority to the issue of mercury pollution in Regions 1, 7 and 8.

There may be opportunities to develop new initiatives in hinterland schools under the Basic Education and Management Support Program (BEAMS GY-0063) building on the Education Planning in Hinterland Communities program (TC-0306021). The Un-Served Areas Electrification Program (GY-0065) also includes provision for feasibility studies and 4-8 pilot projects in the hinterland (IDB 2006: Interview 26).

The Agricultural Export Diversification Project (GY-L1007) – in preparation – is a high priority for Guyana. The present proposal focuses on the coast and intermediate savannahs but does not contemplate any activities in the hinterland. The project is still under discussion and ought to consider the inclusion of other regions, particularly Regions 1 and 9, both of which offer opportunities for the development of agriculture and livestock. The bridge over the Takutu River, linking Lethem to Bom Fim in Brazil, is due to be completed before the end of this year, and should open the Rupununi to the Brazilian market.

In regard to new initiatives, the study has identified a number of priorities that could be addressed through a single program that would be managed by the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MAA). Potential components of the project would include:<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> The figures are indicative. The proposal would represent about 4% of the existing limits on Guyana's borrowing.

- The development of a Strategic Plan for the MAA. This would help define the Ministry's role in relation to other national and regional government agencies and would identify potential synergies and opportunities for collaboration with other initiatives supported by international agencies (US\$50,000).
- A capacity building program for Village and District Councils. This would help Village and District Councils develop their rules and regulations and would develop "model agreements" and provide independent advice to help Village and District Councils develop and supervise agreements relating to village or district resources, especially in relation to mining, logging or ecotourism projects (US\$300,000 over 2-3 years).
- Support for land titling, including support for land use studies, titling and demarcation and the development of a GIS database on Indigenous lands and land claims that would be shared with the GLSC, GGMC and GFC (US\$700,000 over 2-3 years).
- A social investment fund for productive and local level infrastructure projects. This would include a strong component of training and organisational and administrative capacity building. It is envisaged that approval of the Village Council rules would be a precondition for application to the fund (US\$4-5 million over 3-4 years).

Finally, there may be opportunities for a new operation to develop the capacity of the EPA, GGMC and/or GFC to manage environmental concerns in the hinterland. The components and institutional responsibilities of the program could initially be developed in the context of the Strategic Environmental Study for Guyana and Suriname.

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## Annex I: Policy Matrix for Indigenous Peoples in Guyana

Issue	Recommendations	Outputs	Intended Outcome
<p><b>1. Participation &amp; Capacity Building</b></p>	<p><b>IDB must ensure all new operations and comply with Bank Policy on Indigenous Peoples</b></p> <p>1. Ensure indigenous peoples are consulted about major infrastructure and development projects that could affect the hinterland and make sure their views and priorities are incorporated into the project plans</p> <p>2. Ensure that indigenous peoples are consulted about social and economic projects and that projects are adapted to the needs and realities of hinterland communities</p> <p>3. Provide further capacity building for Village and District Councils. The priorities are: i) to help Village &amp; District Councils develop their own rules or by-laws, and ii) to provide guidance for the development of agreements with outside agencies such as mining &amp; logging companies or eco-tourism operators</p>	<p>1. The Georgetown-Boa Vista road TC and the Strategic Environmental Study for Guyana should provide models for the participation of indigenous communities and inter-agency coordination</p> <p>2. The Bank will assign adequate resources for consultations with hinterland communities for new social and economic development projects</p> <p>3. Help the MAA develop a strategic plan. Develop a capacity building program to help Village and District Councils develop their internal rules or by-laws and provide guidance for the development of agreements with outside agencies. This could be a component of a project that would also include a fund for community infrastructure and productive projects</p>	<p>1. Increased accountability of national and regional Government agencies, development programs, international agencies, NGOs and the private sector, (especially mining &amp; lumber companies)</p> <p>2. Greater participation should help to mitigate the potential negative impacts of major infrastructure, mining and agro-business projects</p> <p>3. Increased capacity to implement and manage development programs at the local level should lead to better quality of service provision and the development of new economic opportunities in the hinterland</p>
<p><b>2. Support for land titling</b></p>	<p>1. Develop a comprehensive database on community lands, land claims and existing forestry and mining concessions (MAA with GLSC, GFS &amp; GGMC)</p> <p>2. Carry out new land use studies of communities and districts with claims to new and/or additional areas of land</p> <p>3. Support the titling, surveying and demarcation of indigenous lands</p>	<p>1. Preparation of comprehensive GIS database showing indigenous lands that have been titled, surveyed and demarcated; new and additional land claims; forestry concessions &amp; mining concessions</p> <p>2. Land use studies to justify new or additional claims to land. Priorities include the area of influence of the Linden-Lethem road and Region 7</p> <p>3. Titling, surveying and demarcation of indigenous lands</p>	<p>Security of title for indigenous communities. An effective program of land titling would prevent the lands used by indigenous peoples being offered to outsiders or new forestry and/or mining concessions being awarded in indigenous areas. It would be critical for mitigating the potential negative impacts of the Georgetown-Lethem Road</p>
<p><b>3. Environment</b></p>	<p>1. The formal requirements for EIA should</p>	<p>1. Carry out a review of EIA procedures</p>	<p>1. Avoid or reduce the risk of new</p>

Issue	Recommendations	Outputs	Intended Outcome
<p><b>4. Environmental Health</b></p>	<p>ensure indigenous peoples are consulted about all major projects in the hinterland (private and public sector) and their views and priorities incorporated into the planning. Prior informed consent should be required for major projects in the hinterland, including the establishment of new protected areas</p> <p>2. Apply and enforce a ban on the open air use of mercury and the discharge of tailings into rivers. Propose remedial measures for areas already polluted and degraded</p> <p>3. Encourage the active involvement of indigenous peoples in the planning and management of protected areas</p> <p>1. Analysis and monitoring of mercury pollution</p> <p>2. Hinterland water supply projects should prioritize areas affected by contamination from mining</p> <p>3. Develop programs to eradicate mosquito borne infectious diseases (malaria, dengue)</p> <p>4. Improved water and sanitation for secondary schools, primary schools, kindergartens and health posts</p> <p>5. Improve housing and sanitation in indigenous villages</p>	<p>and the achievements of the Environmental Management Program Phase II. Further capacity building for the EPA?</p> <p>2. Support for the GGMC, EPA and the GPF/GDF to impose and enforce a ban on the open air use of mercury and the discharge of tailings into rivers</p> <p>3. Support the participation of indigenous communities and District Councils in the planning and management of new protected areas (e.g. Kanuku Mountains, Shell Beach)</p> <p>1. Help the EPA develop a capacity to monitor inorganic and organic mercury in water and the food chain</p> <p>2. Provide potable drinking water supply to communities affected by mining (Regions 1, 7 and 8)</p> <p>3. Health education, drainage, treated mosquito nets and spraying to reduce exposure to malaria</p> <p>4. Prioritize potable water supply and sanitation for secondary schools, primary schools, kindergartens and health posts</p> <p>5. Hinterland housing projects involving development of skills and the provision of equipment and materials</p>	<p>projects having negative social and environmental impacts on people living in the hinterland and ensure they can benefit from new initiatives</p> <p>2. Prevent further contamination of rivers and wildlife due to the open air use of mercury and the discharge of tailings into rivers</p> <p>3. Ensure indigenous peoples benefit from the establishment of protected areas. Protected areas should provide an opportunity for indigenous peoples to value their knowledge, culture and traditions as well as new opportunities for social and economic development</p> <p>1. Reduced risk of poisoning from inorganic and organic mercury in water and the food chain</p> <p>2. Reduced incidence of malaria and dengue</p> <p>3. Reduced risk of water borne diseases</p> <p>4. Improved quality of life and reduced risk on diseases and ailments related to poor sanitation and housing (parasites, rodent borne diseases, snake bite, etc.)</p>
<p><b>5. Health Care</b></p>	<p>1. Ensure national level health care programs are discussed with indigenous health workers and leaders and are adapted to the realities of the hinterland. The priorities would include mother/child, malaria, HIV/AIDS, TB and water borne</p>	<p>1. Involve community leaders in a review of existing health programs and the development of new programs. This could follow on from GY-T1006 Increasing Access to Primary Health Care in Amerindian Communities</p>	<p>1. Reduced morbidity and mortality, greater accountability and more efficiency in the provision of primary health care</p> <p>2. Identify services that can be improved at little cost: e.g. ensuring cold-chain for</p>

Issue	Recommendations	Outputs	Intended Outcome
	<p>diseases</p> <p>2. In accordance with the issues &amp; priorities identified, provide further training, equipment, transport and facilities to consolidate the primary health care system in the hinterland</p> <p>3. Develop a program to treat TB in community &amp; regional sub-centers</p> <p>4. Others: dental care; care for the disabled</p>	<p>2. Identify possible sources of funding for projects for mother/child, malaria, HIV/AIDS, etc. This could be done as part of the strategic plan for the MAA</p> <p>3. Develop a program to apply DOTS in the hinterland (training local health staff and supervisors, provision of equipment and drugs to combat TB)</p> <p>4. Training, equipment and improved facilities for dental technicians &amp; physiotherapists</p>	<p>vaccines, treating TB in the community, prevention of malaria, HIV/AIDS and other STDs</p> <p>3. Improved dental health; better facilities for people with disabilities</p>
<b>6. Food Security and Improved Economic Opportunities</b>	<p>1. Improve food security and promote income generating activities in the hinterland. Potential areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- agriculture &amp; livestock including processing, packaging &amp; marketing</li> <li>- forestry and non-timber forest products</li> <li>- fisheries and aquaculture</li> <li>- wildlife (aquarium fish, butterflies)</li> <li>- ecotourism/adventure tourism</li> <li>- gold and diamond mining</li> </ul> <p>2. Encourage projects to procure produce from local communities (e.g. for school feeding programs)</p> <p>3. Develop banking facilities that will allow migrant workers to remit funds to their families</p>	<p>1. Include hinterland communities in the Agricultural Export Diversification Project (giving priority to Regions 1 &amp; 9) and/or develop an agricultural development project for the hinterland</p> <p>2. Establish an economic development fund for the hinterland. It would have to be demand-driven and would support agriculture and livestock, sustainable forestry, tourism, manufacturing, etc. It could be part of a broader capacity building project for the hinterland</p> <p>3. Incorporate local procurement in planning new projects</p> <p>4. Mechanisms to transfer remittances to indigenous communities</p>	<p>1. Increased food security and new opportunities for employment and income generation. This would improve living standards, overcome obstacles to education and health care and would reduce migration to urban areas or other countries</p> <p>2. Facilities that allow migrant workers to remit part of their earnings to their families would encourage investment in hinterland communities</p>
<b>7. Education</b>	<p>1. Increase accountability, improve standards and provide more teaching materials and equipment in pre-school, primary and secondary schools</p> <p>2. Continue to support existing teacher training programs for pre-school, primary and secondary school teachers</p> <p>3. Improve teaching and boarding facilities</p>	<p>1. Develop a system that will allow Village Councils and teachers to identify priorities for teaching materials, basic equipment and training. This could build on TC-0306021 "Education Planning in Hinterland Communities"</p> <p>2. Ensure continuity of teacher training initiatives in the hinterland, building on GBET</p>	<p>1. Improved quality of education in the hinterland, ensuring greater accountability and more efficiency in the use of resources</p> <p>2. Improved quality of teaching by improving the skills of teachers in the hinterland</p> <p>3. Improved standards in hinterland</p>

Issue	Recommendations	Outputs	Intended Outcome
<p><b>8. Social Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>for secondary school students. Upgrade and provide new buildings, equipment, teaching materials and other facilities, including IT, libraries and extra-curricular activities</p> <p>4. Introduce indigenous language and culture modules in regions where this is identified as a priority. This could involve district level radio stations</p> <p>5. Implement a school meals program for selected nursery &amp; primary schools</p> <p>6. Better access to university or technical and vocational (T&amp;V) education for pupils that complete secondary schools and provide T&amp;V training for students in “primary tops”</p> <p>Need to address problems with the operation and maintenance (O&amp;M) of public buildings and other infrastructure (e.g. water supply systems)</p>	<p>3. Set up a program to upgrade hinterland secondary schools, including boarding and teaching facilities</p> <p>4. Develop modules for using indigenous languages in the classroom and other culturally appropriate materials</p> <p>5. Establish a program to provide school meals to selected nursery and primary schools</p> <p>6. Scholarships and pre-university programs for high achievers that complete secondary school</p> <p>7. Increase access to T&amp;V training at secondary and tertiary level</p> <p>A community development project for the hinterland could include a fund for infrastructure that would involve capacity building and community tendering</p>	<p>secondary schools: all students should have their own textbooks and materials. Every student should have his/her own bed, mattress and mosquito net. Water supply, sanitation and meals must be of an acceptable standard</p> <p>4. Indigenous language &amp; culturally appropriate modules would increase pride in indigenous culture and would encourage greater self-esteem</p> <p>5. School meals would ensure students are adequately nourished and would encourage attendance of children from remote settlements</p> <p>6. Access to university education is essential for developing indigenous leaders and future leaders of Guyana</p> <p>7. T&amp;V would ensure students complete their education with skills that are relevant for employment or self-employment</p> <p>Community tendering would develop skills and administrative capacity and would make it easier to ensure O&amp;M of public facilities</p>

## Annex II: IDB Projects with Impacts or Potential Impacts on Indigenous Peoples

Project Name and Title	Executing Agency	Amount and Type of Financing	Approval Date	Objectives and Activities	Impact or Potential Impact on Indigenous Peoples
<b>PROJECTS IN PREPARATION</b>					
<b>GY-T1016: Support for Government Performance Management Capacity</b>	Ministry of Finance	<b>US\$ 500,000</b> with US\$ 450,000 PRODEV non-reimbursable	2008?	Improvement of the result-based management system of the Government, by supporting specific activities to enhance the Government's systems in the areas of planning, budgeting, public investment, procurement, auditing and control.	
<b>GY-L1015: Support of Decentralization and the Strengthening of Local Governments</b>	Ministry of Local Government and Regional	<b>US\$ 20M</b> with US\$ 10M Policy Base Loan US\$ 5M Investment Loan	2008?	Program will have three main components: (i) Decentralization policies; (ii) institutional strengthening; and (iii) investments in infrastructure in local governments and neighbourhood democratic councils.	
<b>GY-L1014: Power Sector Support</b>	Office of the Prime Minister	<b>US\$ 12M</b> with US\$ 6M FSO PBL US\$ 6M Ordinary Capital PBL	2007?	Support the development of the power sector by promoting reduction of electricity losses, strengthening and development of the power utility provider, and social awareness programs.	
<b>GY-L1007: Agricultural Export Diversification</b>	Ministry of Agriculture	<b>US\$ 16.9M</b> with US\$ 7M FSO from IDB	End of 2007?	Action plan to draft guidelines, analyze bottlenecks, prepare plans and prepare studies of export facilities for export of meat and agricultural produce	None. Agricultural diversification is identified as a priority for indigenous peoples. However, despite potential in Regions 1 & 9 the project only focuses on coastal areas and the intermediate savannahs in Region 6. Indigenous communities located to coastal areas may benefit from the project. The option of including Regions 1 & 9 is presently under discussion with Government
<b>APPROVED PROJECTS PENDING IMPLEMENTATION (SEPTEMBER 2006)</b>					
<b>GY-T1026: Pre-investment program for the Georgetown Lethem Highway</b>	Ministry of Public Works and Communication	<b>US\$ 1.125M</b> US\$ 900,000 from IDB non-reimbursable	December 14, 2006. TC signed August 2007	Updating of the feasibility and environmental studies of the road. Two stages envisaged: i) preparation of detailed TOR, and ii) updating feasibility, ESIA and	The road project could have a major impact on the interior of Guyana, especially Regions 8, 9 and 10. The TOR for the ESIA and Indigenous Peoples Development Plan

Project Name and Title	Executing Agency	Amount and Type of Financing	Approval Date	Objectives and Activities	Impact or Potential Impact on Indigenous Peoples
				Indigenous Peoples Development Plan	will be developed in the first phase of the study
<b>GY-T1017: Power Sector Assessment and Development Strategy</b>	Office of the Prime Minister	<b>US\$ 165,000</b> US\$ 150,000 TC from IDB	December 13, 2005	Assessment of options for the power sector	Includes a review of the hydropower options that have been studied. Some are located in areas inhabited by indigenous peoples and would have significant impacts
<b>PROJECTS IN EXECUTION (Excluding TC and PEF Projects for preparation of the loans identified above)</b>					
<b>RS-T1239: Strategic Environmental Studies for Guyana and Suriname</b>	IDB (RE3/EN3)	<b>US\$ 360,000</b> Netherlands Trust Funds non-reimbursable	October 11, 2006. Started March 2007; expected to be completed by last quarter 2007	Strategic environmental assessment applied to development programs in Guyana (and Suriname) and a gap analysis of MDG environmental goals to feed into the IDB country strategies	Covers hinterland projects including mining, hydropower, fishing and timber. The gap analysis will cover wildlife conservation, rural sources of pollution and links between environmental degradation and health
<b>GY-T1024: Enhancing Youth Leadership in Indigenous Communities</b>	North Rupununi District Devt. Board with Pro-Natura UK	<b>US\$ 100,000</b> US\$ 80,000 IDB Social Exclusion Fund	August 31, 2006	Develop the capacity and leadership skills of indigenous young people in the North Rupununi, Region 9. Includes youth forums and mentoring by leaders and elders	Positive. The project is intended to develop the capacity of young people and help develop opportunities that will allow them to work and remain in their communities
<b>GY-0071: Citizen Security</b>	Ministry of Home Affairs	<b>US\$ 22M</b> US\$ 19.8M FSO from IDB	June 28, 2006	Development of a national crime prevention strategy, capacity building for the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Guyana Police Force and community interventions to prevent crime	The project is focused on high crime urban areas and the coast (Regions 4 and 6). No specific interventions in the hinterland
<b>GY-L1009: Justice Administration System</b>	Ministry of Finance?	<b>US\$ 25.23M</b> US\$ 25M FSO from IDB	June 21, 2006	Includes a policy based loan tied to reform of the justice sector and an investment loan to finance reform of the justice sector	No specific reference to indigenous people, who are particularly vulnerable given the remoteness of their communities, lack of access to lawyers
<b>GY-S1002: Social Entrepreneurship Facility</b>	Local NGO CHF/Partners in Rural Development	<b>US\$ 1.2M</b> US\$ 230,000 +US\$ 600,000 from IDB non-reimbursable	December 7, 2006. Project started in May 2007	45 communities will participate in 10 productive commercial initiatives. They will receive technical training and a fund to improve production and technology. The project is aimed at poor rural households	The project will involve "the active participation of women and different ethnic groups." It will not cover any hinterland communities but may include indigenous communities in coastal/riverain areas
<b>GY-T1021: Youth Development and Empowerment</b>	Ministry of Labour (MLHSS)	<b>US\$ 290,000</b> US\$ 250,000 TC from IDB	June 12, 2006	TC for the design of the Youth Development and Empowerment Program, covering training, labour market and interventions to prevent young people dropping out of school, teenage pregnancy,	No reference to the hinterland or indigenous peoples in the TC profile, although trafficking is mentioned. The issues are relevant in the hinterland but MLHSS has little presence in these areas

Project Name and Title	Executing Agency	Amount and Type of Financing	Approval Date	Objectives and Activities	Impact or Potential Impact on Indigenous Peoples
				HIV/AIDS etc	
<b>GY-T1013: Strengthening of the Pension System</b>	Ministry of Finance/NIS	<b>US\$ 270,000</b> US\$ 245,000 FSO from IDB	February 7, 2006	TC for the review of the Service Pension System and NIS	NIS only covers the formal sector: people in the hinterland other than public servants (teachers, health workers) are not covered and depend on the State pension. Need to think about how to expand NIS coverage to miners, farmers, fishermen etc.
<b>GY-T1008: Poverty Assessment and Public Expenditure Review</b>	IDB	<b>US\$ 150,000</b> FSO from IDB	January 3, 2006	TC for an updated poverty assessment and review of public expenditure based on the 2002 census, 2006 Household Budget Survey (HBS) and the 2006 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS).	Plan of Operations refers to a poverty profile covering socio-economic, demographic, geographic, gender and ethnic features. It is not clear whether the HBS and MICS cover the hinterland regions
<b>GY-T1006: Increasing Access to Primary Health Care for Amerindian Communities</b>	Health Sector Development Unit of the Ministry of Health	<b>US\$ 910,000</b> US\$ 750,000 TC from IDB Japan Poverty Fund	June 13, 2005	Enhance the scope of the Health Sector and Basic Nutrition Programs by improving access to primary health care and enhancing preventative services in Amerindian communities	Positive. Includes technical assistance and provision of a coordinator for Amerindian communities in the MOH & training for medex and nurses in the hinterland
<b>GY-0011: Agricultural Support Services</b>	Ministry of Agriculture	<b>US\$ 25M</b> US\$ 22.5M FSO from IDB	June 23, 2004	Drainage and irrigation program on the coast including infrastructure, development of water user's associations and rice research	None. The project only focuses on coastal areas. No activities are envisaged in the hinterland
<b>GY-0077: Health Sector Program</b>	Ministry of Health	<b>US\$ 25.5M</b> US\$ 23M FSO from IDB	June 2, 2004	Improve quality, equity and effectiveness of health care. Includes institutional strengthening, training, information systems and upgrading of hospitals in Linden and Georgetown	No specific focus on the hinterland but the project should have a positive impact since indigenous people use the hospital facilities in Georgetown and Linden.
<b>TC-0301037: Leadership Development in Amerindian Communities</b>	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	<b>US\$ 275,000</b> US\$ 250,000 FSO from IDB	January 7, 2004	To strengthen organizational capacity of indigenous communities through workshops for community leaders and preparation of training materials	Positive. The project has been completed and was considered a success by the leaders that took part
<b>GY-0070: Social Statistics and Policy Analysis Program</b>	Bureau of Statistics and various ministries	<b>US\$ 3.83M</b> US\$ 3.45M FSO from IDB	December 8, 2003	Support for Bureau of Statistics and social ministries to monitor the poverty reduction support program, includes training and TA to analyze the 2002 Census and 2006 Household Surveys	Ethnic disaggregation is politically sensitive and is not mentioned in the loan proposal. However the data could be disaggregated by region

<b>Project Name and Title</b>	<b>Executing Agency</b>	<b>Amount and Type of Financing</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Objectives and Activities</b>	<b>Impact or Potential Impact on Indigenous Peoples</b>
<b>TC-0306021: Education Planning in Hinterland Communities</b>	IDB (with MOE and MOAA)	<b>US\$ 119,850</b> US\$ 100,000 Canadian Trust Funds	September 8, 2003	Support to implement BEAMS through enhanced planning in Regions 1, 7, 8 & 9. Involves community workshops to analyze education priorities and a study tour of First Nations in Canada	Positive. The TC is primarily focused on indigenous communities in the hinterland and is intended to increase awareness in the MOE (project has been completed)
<b>GY-0068: Basic Nutrition Program</b>	Ministry of Health	<b>US\$ 6.7M</b> US\$ 5M FSO from IDB	December 17, 2002	Program to reduce malnutrition: includes nutrition training, a food coupon scheme, purchase and distribution of micronutrients and institutional support for the MOH	Targeted at poor rural areas on the coast. The Project Report notes that malnutrition is <u>least</u> among Amerindians and that deficiencies in the hinterland are due to a lack of variety in the diet
<b>GY-0063: Basic Education, Access, &amp; Management Support (BEAMS) Phase I</b>	Ministry of Education	<b>US\$ 33.5M</b> US\$ 30M FSO from IDB	July 17, 2002	First part of a two-phase operation to improve literacy and numeracy in primary education and expand access to secondary education	Includes interactive radio instruction for numeracy piloted in Region 9 and literacy program piloted in Region 2. Secondary school component includes construction of a new school in Bartica
<b>GY-0065: Un-served Areas Electrification Program</b>	Office of the Prime Minister	<b>US\$ 34.4M</b> US\$ 27.4M FSO from IDB	June 5, 2002	Institutional strengthening for power sector, including PUC & EPA, & investment in 35,000 new connections for un-served areas	Includes a study of options and requirements for the hinterland and 4-8 demonstration projects
<b>TC-0011034: Environmental Management Program Phase II</b>	Environmental Protection Agency	<b>US\$ 1.6M</b> US\$ 1.28 non-reimbursable FSO from IDB	November 20, 2001. The project is now closed	Institutional strengthening for EPA, including training, technical assistance and equipment. Water monitoring is one of the areas identified in the Plan of Operations	EPA is a key agency. In response to a requirement from CESI the project will involve Amerindians in water monitoring. No specific mention in the Plan of Operations of monitoring priorities (mercury in mining areas?)
<b>GY-0061: Social Impact Amelioration Program (SIMAP) III</b>	SIMAP	<b>US\$ 22.2M</b> US\$ 20M FSO from IDB	September 19, 2001	Economic and social infrastructure for low income communities	No specific Amerindian component was envisaged for SIMAP Phase III even though a previous SIMAP Amerindian Program had been very successful. However, sub-projects have been implemented in Indigenous communities in Regions 1 & 9 and were planned in Regions 7 & 8

Project Name and Title	Executing Agency	Amount and Type of Financing	Approval Date	Objectives and Activities	Impact or Potential Impact on Indigenous Peoples
<b>MULTILATERAL INVESTMENT FUND (MIF)</b>					
<b>TC-0005047: Institutional Strengthening of IPED (Institute for Private Sector Economic Development)</b>	IPED	<b>US\$ 247,000</b> US\$ 142,000 from MIF	October 20, 2000	Strengthening capacity of IPED to reach a larger number of small and micro-enterprises and offer a wider range of services	IPED is the only institution offering micro-credit in the hinterland. It has an office in Lethem and has been financing peanuts, livestock and small stores in the Rupununi. It keeps disaggregated records: in November 2005 IPED had 227 Amerindian clients

### Annex III: Projects with Impacts or Potential Impacts on Indigenous Peoples Supported by Other International Agencies

Executing Agency	Project Title	Amount of financing, source and type	Approval date and Execution Period	Objectives	Activities	Potential Impacts on Indigenous Peoples
<b>HEALTH SECTOR PROGRAMS</b>						
Ministry of Health	Strengthening local capacity to respond to HIV/AIDS through alliances	US\$ 8,881,686 <b>Global Fund</b> grant	Approved October 2004  Execution 2005-2010	Reduce spread and impact of HIV/AIDS by reducing transmission of HIV, morbidity and mortality and mitigating the economic and social impacts of HIV/AIDS	Education programs, better quality and access to diagnostic and care facilities; strengthened community, social and economic support; introduction of home based care	Special interventions planned for hinterland to encourage early HIV testing and consistent condom use among Indigenous Peoples
Ministry of Health	Strengthening Local Capacity to Respond to Malaria through Alliances	US\$ 2,055,675 <b>Global Fund</b> grant	Approved October 2004	Reduce morbidity and mortality from malaria by at least 50% at the end of five years in Regions 7 & 8, which have the highest incidence of malaria	Strengthen health services at local level; establish mechanisms for inter-sectoral cooperation; apply selective vector control activities; strengthen planning, decision making and information, education and communication	Indigenous Peoples will be the main beneficiaries as the program is targeted at Regions 7 & 8
Ministry of Health	Strengthening and Expanding DOTS Strategy for Control of Tuberculosis	US\$ 701,125 <b>Global Fund</b> grant	Approved June 2005	The project aims to reduce transmission of TB among vulnerable populations, and reduce morbidity and mortality associated with HIV co-infection	Improving clinical diagnosis and treatment by extending coverage, strengthening laboratory diagnosis and quality control, & instituting community based information, education & communication programs	Low income groups in the interior are targeted as beneficiaries [Regions 1, 7, 8 & 9]
Ministry of Health	HIV/AIDS Prevention and control	US\$ 10 million <b>World Bank</b> grant	Approved March 2004	To support HIV/AIDS prevention efforts and provide treatment and care for people living with the disease	Resources to assist the prevention of HIV infection, treatment, care and mitigation and will support the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan (2002-2006)	The Government, through a participatory process with IP communities and other stakeholders will support and or implement activities to address specific HIV/AIDS related issues in the indigenous population

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Family Health International (FHI)	USAID - Guyana HIV/AIDS Reduction Project (GHARP) and President's Emergency Plan for AIDS relief (PEPFAR)	US\$ 34 million USAID grant	Approved July 2004	Reduce the transmission of HIV and mitigate the impact of the disease. Improve policy coordination and management, reduce HIV transmission, increase the use of prevention and treatment services and increase the use of community-based care and support services	Provision of home-based care for those infected, support for orphans and vulnerable children; expansion and encouragement of use of voluntary counselling and testing services; and conducting research to determine best practices in all aspects of HIV/AIDS programming	Among the interventions that might benefit Amerindian communities are efforts to promote community mobilisation to address HIV/AIDS and promote active community participation through empowerment and improved access to resources (e.g. Linden Care Foundation) Goal to reduce morbidity and mortality by 50% in Regions 7 & 8 by 2008
Ministry of Health	Roll Back Malaria	Multi-donor initiative that includes government, multilaterals, private sector, non-governmental organisations and academia  [Various sources and amounts of funding]	Launched October 1998	Committed to halving the global malaria burden by 2010. The operational principles of RBM include the integration of resources, co-participation at the local level, control of malaria transmission by means of coordinated and vector reservoirs and the implementation of sound policies for the safe and effective use of anti-malarial drugs	A vertically integrated malaria program, run independently from the regionally administered health care system, in which trained microscopists are stationed in malaria-prone areas. The microscopists are trained to take blood samples, stain and examine the samples and provide appropriate treatment	
Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and Ministry of Health	Cervical Cancer Research in the Indigenous population: Pilot Study in Regions 1 and 9	CND \$29,386 CIDA grant	Approved August 2002	To determine the prevalence of cervical cancer among Indigenous populations	A structured questionnaire was administered and Pap smears were taken and processed according to established methods	Targeted at Indigenous Peoples. The results of the project reveal the extent of cervical cancer in the communities to assist in formulating policies to effectively deal with the disease
Ministry of Health through Family Health International (FHI)	Improved HIV/AIDS Awareness, Knowledge and Applied Prevention Strategies	US\$ 4,018,000 USAID grant	Approved 1999	To increase prevention efforts and slow the rate of new infections. To help non-governmental organizations (NGOs) expand HIV/AIDS prevention activities that target youth, provide care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS	Training for NGOs to deliver HIV/AIDS programs; training of peer educators with indigenous manuals and materials; training of peer crisis intervention counsellors; public awareness campaigns; and technical assistance to the National AIDS Program to improve condom distribution systems	Aimed at reducing HIV/AIDS by prevention in target groups at risk, including Indigenous Peoples

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Ministry of Health through Family Health International (FHI)	HIV Transmission Reduced and The impact of AIDS Mitigated	US\$ 21 million <b>USAID</b> grant	Approved 2004	Improve prevention efforts and slow the rate of new infections	Improved policy coordination and management, increased use of risk reduction practices by most vulnerable populations, increased use of prevention and treatment services, increased use of community-based care and support services	Target group includes indigenous peoples as a vulnerable group
Ministry of Health through Family Health International (FHI)	Child Survival and Health Programs Fund	US\$ 4.2 million <b>USAID</b> grant	Approved 2003	To prevent the spread of HIV and improving HIV/AIDS care and support among those at highest risk	Provides clients with voluntary HIV counselling and testing (VCT), post-test counselling, and other services for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT). Sponsors PMTCT training programs for nurses and provides breast milk substitutes for HIV-positive mothers in the PMTCT program	Based mainly in Georgetown and other urban areas
<b>EDUCATION SECTOR PROGRAMS</b>						
Ministry of Education	Education for All - Fast Track (EFA-FTI)	US\$ 4 million, EFA-FTI Catalytic Fund for 2004 supported by the <b>World Bank and IMF</b>	Launched June 2002	Part of a program to help seven developing countries meet the UN's Millennium Development Goal of providing every girl and boy with a complete primary school education by 2015	Improve quality of delivery; increase level of commitment to education and human rights; improve human resources; make the education system more effective and accountable and improve equity in the education sector by giving special attention to previously underserved students	Increase support for remote areas through an incentives allowance and improving living conditions for teachers in the hinterland, distance training program for hinterland teachers, ensuring some teachers are indigenous. Access to Teacher Resource Centres for teachers in indigenous areas. Promoting knowledge of Amerindian culture and history

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Ministry of Education	Basic Education Teacher Training project (GBET)	CDN\$ 6.2 million <b>CIDA</b> grant	Approved 1999  Execution 1999-2006	Capacity building to improve the quality of basic education by strengthening and upgrading the teacher training system through distance education (DE) and printed materials developed for this purpose. Focused on hinterland Regions 1, 7, 8 & 9 and Region 2.	DE Foundation / Upgrade program for unqualified teachers. DE Teacher Certificate for Early Childhood Education. DE Education Management program for various categories of managers in the education system. Strengthen the capacity of education stakeholders for DE program delivery	Increased number of teachers qualified and trained in hinterland regions. Increased number of head and deputy head-teachers, Regional Education Officers, DE Supervisors and Inspectors certified in Education Management in hinterland regions
Ministry of Education	Education Access Project	GBP 12,760,687 <b>DFID</b> grant	Approved 1997	To provide sustainable improvement in education quality and access for all children in Guyana, particularly the poorest	Improved school infrastructure; access; participation; education management & improved teaching	The project worked in Regions 6 and 10. Some indigenous pupils attend the secondary schools supported by the project
Ministry of Education	Secondary School Reform Project	US\$ 36.6 million <b>World Bank</b> loan	Approved 1996  Ongoing	To initiate a long-term, multi-phased education reform program to improve the quality, relevance, equity and efficiency of secondary education in Guyana	Improve the quality and efficiency of lower secondary education; improve the school environment by supporting rehabilitation and repair of schools and enhancing the ability of national and regional institutions to design, plan and implement education reforms	Government committed to regional & urban-rural equity. Project aims to reach all regions, including hinterland regions with a high proportion of Indigenous population
<b>LAND, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>						
Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) with support from the Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology (CANMET)	Environmental Capacity Development Program (GENCAPD)	CDN\$ 3.75 million <b>CIDA</b> grant	Approved 1998	Strengthen environmental management capacity in the mining sector with the focus on improving environmental practices in alluvial gold and diamond mining	Support to develop policies and regulations (codes of practice, environmental regulations and guidelines); institutional development focused on improving monitoring and inspection capacity); and industry practices (introducing efficient and environmentally sound practices). Training in tailings processing and the possibilities of retort recovery of mercury from amalgam	Emphasis on raising awareness about mercury contamination and providing training for indigenous mining communities in Regions 1 and 7

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Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Guyana Protected Areas System (GPAS) Phase 1	US\$ 6 million <b>GEF</b> grant	Cancelled	Aims to ensure effective protection and sustainable management of representative ecosystems of Guyana through a national system of protected areas	Preparing a National Protected Areas System (NPAS) strategic plan involving indigenous communities and other stakeholders; strengthening institutional capacity; training; developing policy and a long-term financial framework; to establish and manage at least two protected areas; campaign on conservation and protected area issues and monitoring & evaluation	The project has been suspended and GEF support cancelled. Discussions were held with the Government of Guyana and indigenous groups to agree on a process that would lead to an agreement on how to establish new protected areas and resolve outstanding land claims.
Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) with support from HTSPE and Crown Agents	Guyana Land Administration Support Project (GLASP) - Phase I	US\$ 6,007,820 <b>DFID</b> grant	Approved 1996	Poverty reduction through modernisation of the land administration and planning services and reform of land tenure administration	Phase 1 (GLASP). Transform the Lands and Surveys Department of the Ministry of Agriculture into the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC), with a modern system of land administration	Phase I focused on tenure for small scale land users & the rural poor in the coastal regions
Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) with support from HTSPE and Crown Agents	GLASP - Phase II	GBP £ 1,031,000 & £ 3,756,000 <b>DFID</b> grants	Approved 2000 Completed in 2004	Strengthening the capacity of the GLSC in order to improve incomes derived from agriculture in the coastal regions. Development and implementation of a land tenure policy that avoids adverse impacts on poorer groups, and the strengthens public land administration	Implementation of policy reforms. Lease instruments revised and a standard agricultural lease developed. Advice on rents, design of automated systems for billing and collection. Installation of Land information system	Phase II included a study to describe and analyse land use in seven Indigenous communities in Region 10. The study provided information to inform decisions about land tenure and boundary issues and was intended to provide a model that could be replicated in other regions
International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development	Iwokrama International Rainforest Program: Information and Communication Unit	CND\$ 420,000 <b>CIDA</b> grant	Approved 1996	Sustainable management of forest resources and conservation of biodiversity through protection of habitat & socioeconomic utilization of forest resources for the benefit of Indigenous and other local people	Training and outreach activities on sustainable use of tropical rainforests and preservation of biodiversity. Information management and networking for biophysical and socio-economic information; promotional programs	The project is designed to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples and help them manage and utilize natural resources in a sustainable manner

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Ministry of Public Works and Communications (MPW&C)	Transport Sector Study	US\$ 1,118,151 <b>European Development Fund</b> grant	Approved 2004	To promote integrated and sustainable transport to achieve economic growth and to minimise negative environmental and social impacts	Information gathering and assessment, definition of the sector strategy and in-depth studies to be carried out in the following phase	The project will look at constraints to accessibility in some Indigenous areas including the borders with Suriname and Brazil
EPA with support from GFA Consulting Group	Guyana Protected Areas System	US\$ 3,175,549 <b>KfW</b> Germany grant	Approved 2004	Establishment and sustainable management of selected conservation areas, contributing to a national system of protected areas	Provision of infrastructure and equipment. Measuring and demarcation of conservation areas; preparation of management plans. Support for administration of conservation areas and sustainable land use in the surrounding buffer zones. Set up a National Protected Areas Trust with Conservation International under the GPAS Project	Implementation of collaborative management projects with Indigenous communities living in or close to the proposed protected areas. The projects will: 1. bring economic progress to the communities, and 2. increase the sustainability of the protected areas
Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)	Guyana Forestry Commission Support	US\$ 4,745,108 <b>DFID</b> grant	Approved 1995  Completed 2002?	To enable GFC to effectively fulfil its functions in support of sustainable, ecologically sound & socially integrated forest management systems	Provision of technical advisers, training and equipment and support for forestry research and training in other institutions in Guyana	The GFC is responsible for management of State Forests. The project included forest management projects in some Indigenous communities
GWI with support from Severn Trent	Guyana Water & Sanitation Project (GUYWASP)	GBP £13 million <b>DFID</b> grant	Approved 2000	Sustainable and universal access to safe and affordable water	Modelling of groundwater resources, hygiene promotion and sanitation study	Includes a £ 2M hinterland program for 10-15 pilot projects in Regions 1 and 9
International Centre for Underutilised Crops (ICUC)/Ministry of Agriculture	Improve the livelihoods of Indigenous Communities through the production & marketing of Agriculture and Forest Produce	GBP £199,950 <b>DFID</b> grant	Approved 2002	To foster sustainable rural livelihoods in indigenous communities through income generated by local entrepreneurs	Develop linkages between target communities and successful international companies. Run workshops for quality goods production. Develop facilities on the internet for marketing produce. Introduction of drying technologies to preserve foods. Capacity building of entrepreneurs	Poverty reduction through increased income and greater food security due to the introduction of high value produce from local resources for which there is a demonstrated regional or international market

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Iwokrama Rain Forest Program	Program for Sustainable Forestry (Iwokrama Rain Forest Program)	US\$3 million <b>GEF</b> (Global Environment Facility) grant managed by UNDP	Approved 1991	Developing replicable demonstration projects and guidelines for sustainable utilization of tropical forests	Activities include research, detailed inventory of species, fellowship for training in environmental management, training of forest rangers and the establishment of a local study centre	The main beneficiaries are indigenous communities. The project is designed to preserve the physical and biotic elements on which the communities depend. The indirect benefits include participatory planning mechanisms and benefit-sharing arrangements related to wildlife, non-timber forest products, timber and ecotourism
Iwokrama Rain Forest Program	Support for core running costs	GBP £112,000 <b>DFID</b> grant	Approved 2005	Promotion of the conservation and sustainable use of tropical moist forests in a manner leading to lasting ecological, economic and social benefits	Support for running costs until March 31, 2005	The Iwokrama program is designed to help indigenous people by preserving the forest and providing new economic activities
Iwokrama Rain Forest Program	Iwokrama Trust Fund	GBP £100,000 <b>DFID</b> grant	Approved 2004	To establish a suitable funding mechanism to help promote the sustainable and equitable use of Iwokrama	Funding to develop the sustainable and equitable use of the Iwokrama forest	The Iwokrama program is designed to help indigenous people by preserving the forest and providing new economic activities
Government of Guyana through NGOs? Food for the Poor?	Food for Progress	US\$8,552,000 <b>USDA (US Department of Agriculture)</b>	Approved 2004	US agricultural commodities are provided on a donation basis to emerging democracies that are committed to introducing and expanding free enterprise in the agricultural sector	The monetized value of the grant will be used to undertake agricultural development activities. Activities include the rehabilitation and maintenance of sea defences and the construction of drainage and irrigation structures	Regions 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will benefit from these works

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Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI)	Water Consolidation Project	US\$ 12.3 million <b>World Bank/IDA</b> grant	Approved July 2005	To support sustainable & universal access to safe and affordable water, especially for the poor	Development of treatment facilities in the water supply systems in Regions 2, 3 and 5. Improve quality of service to low and medium income housing schemes. Technical assistance for the development of water resources. Support for the modernization and financial sustainability of GWI. Funding to support recovery after 2005 floods	No separate indigenous peoples development plan was prepared
<b>INDUSTRY AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>						
Ministry of Finance	Micro-Projects Program	US\$ 4,969,561 <b>EU</b> grant	Approved 2003	To improve the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable groups through development of sustainable and participatory self-help schemes. The micro-projects focus at the community level on: employment & income generation, training, education, communication and good governance	A ceiling of Euros 30,000 will apply for all micro-projects in Georgetown and the Coastal Areas. In the hinterland projects can be approved up to a ceiling of Euros 50,000.	Indigenous people can present micro-projects or projects for marketing goods
Basic Needs Trust Fund	Basic Needs Trust Fund	US\$ 12.8 million <b>Caribbean Development Bank</b> grant	For July 2003-2010	Improvement and/or development of basic infrastructure	Funding the construction of schools, health centres, water supply systems, community roads. The program includes a skills training component. Requests come from communities or NGOs, through a Minister or REO	Most projects are on the coast. However, three projects have been approved for the Rupununi and one in Region 8