

# CHAPTER SEVEN

## ALIGNING WITH GLOBAL CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY GOALS



Implementing LCDS 2030 will advance progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and Guyana’s multilateral, regional and bilateral agreements within the thematic areas of each programme. In fact, the LCDS is aligned to all SDGs to varying degrees. This alignment will feed into sector level planning and will be integrated within institutional programming at Governmental level. Where existing sector plans already exist, and in instances of new requirements stemming from global, bilateral and regional agreements/ conventions, these will be aligned with LCDS programme areas and future revisions of the LCDS will also take these developments on board. Implementation will be advanced, where relevant, in collaboration with NGO and development partners.

As outlined throughout this LCDS 2030, Guyana is following a development pathway that aims to simultaneously progress national and global solutions around development, climate change and ecosystem services. While national policies and plans are set through national processes, at the same time, Guyana is committed to a wide array of international treaties, conventions on pledges on climate, biodiversity and other broader sustainability. These are summarised below.

<p>United Nations Convention on Biodiversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation of Biodiversity</li> <li>• Sustainable Use of Biodiversity</li> <li>• Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Use of Genetic Resources including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies.</li> <li>• Presently guided by the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2011-2020.</li> </ul>
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<p>Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity</p>	<p>Ensures the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key Components:</li> <li>• Consists of an Advanced Informed Agreement Procedure whereby countries of import have to be notified on the LMO prior to import.</li> <li>• Establishes a Biosafety Clearing House to facilitate the exchange of information on living modified organisms and to assist countries in the implementation of the Protocol.</li> <li>• Strategic Plan for the Protocol (2011-2020).</li> </ul>
<p>Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity</p>	<p>Provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.</p>
<p>The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal</p>	<p>Global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment. Aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.</p>

<p>Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CITES works by subjecting international trade in specimens of selected species to certain controls.</li> <li>• Legally binding</li> <li>• All import, export, re-export and introduction from the sea of species covered by the Convention has to be authorized through a licensing system.</li> <li>• Each Party must designate one or more Management Authorities in charge of administering that licensing system and one or more Scientific Authorities to advise them on the effects of trade on the status of the species.</li> </ul> <p>Species covered by CITES are listed in three Appendices, according to the degree of protection they need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix I lists species that are the most endangered among CITES-listed animals and plants. They are threatened with extinction and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens of these species except when the purpose of the import is not commercial for instance for scientific research.</li> <li>• Appendix II lists species that are not necessarily now threatened with extinction but that may become so unless trade is closely controlled.</li> <li>• Appendix III is a list of species included at the request of a Party that already regulates trade in the species and that needs the cooperation of other countries to prevent unsustainable or illegal exploitation.</li> </ul>
<p>Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Wider Caribbean Region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focuses on measures to prevent pollution from ships, pollution caused by dumping, pollution from sea-bed activities, airborne pollution, pollution from land-based sources and activities in the Wider Caribbean Region.</li> <li>• The only legally binding regional environmental treaty for the Region.</li> <li>• Countries are also required to protect and preserve rare or fragile ecosystems and habitats of depleted, threatened or endangered species; and develop technical and other guidelines for the planning and environmental impact assessments of important development projects.</li> <li>• Supported by three technical Protocols: Oil Spills, Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) and Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS).</li> </ul>

<p>Special Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol under the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region</p>	<p>The SPAW Protocol stresses the importance of protecting habitats and is focused on fragile and vulnerable ecosystems as a whole, rather than on individual species.</p>
<p>Oil Spills Protocol</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen national and regional preparedness and response capacity of the nations and territories of the region</li> <li>• Facilitate co-operation and mutual assistance in cases of emergency to prevent and control major oil spill incidents</li> </ul>
<p>Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land Based Sources and Activities</p>	<p>The LBS Protocol is a set of procedures developed to respond to the need to protect the marine environment and human health from land-based point and non-point sources of marine pollution.</p>
<p><b>Convention/Protocol</b></p>	
<p>International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)</p>	<p>MARPOL is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes.</p>
<p>The Minamata Convention on Mercury</p>	<p>Global treaty to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury.</p> <p>Major highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legally binding</li> <li>• A ban on new mercury mines, the phase-out of existing ones, the phase out and phase down of mercury use in a number of products and processes;</li> <li>• Control measures on emissions to air and on releases to land and water; and</li> <li>• The regulation of the informal sector of artisanal and small-scale gold mining.</li> </ul> <p>Also addresses interim storage of mercury and its disposal once it becomes waste, sites contaminated by mercury as well as health issues.</p>

<p>Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants</p>	<p>Global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment.</p>
<p>Rotterdam Convention (formally, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm;</li> <li>• Contribute to the environmentally sound use of those hazardous chemicals, by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, by providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export and by disseminating these decisions to Parties.</li> </ul> <p>The Convention creates legally binding obligations for the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure.</p>
<p>Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer</p>	<p>Parties to promote cooperation by means of systematic observations, research and information exchange on the effects of human activities on the ozone layer and to adopt legislative or administrative measures against activities likely to have adverse effects on the ozone layer.</p> <p>The Vienna Convention did not require countries to take concrete actions to control ozone-depleting substances. Instead, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, the countries of the world agreed the Montreal Protocol under the Convention would advance that goal.</p>
<p>Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer</p>	<p>Designed to reduce the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances in order to reduce their abundance in the atmosphere, and thereby protect the earth's fragile ozone Layer. The original Montreal Protocol was agreed on 16 September 1987 and entered into force on 1 January 1989.</p> <p>Includes a unique adjustment provision that enables the Parties to the Protocol to respond quickly to new scientific information and agree to accelerate the reductions required on chemicals already covered by the Protocol. These adjustments are then automatically applicable to all countries that ratified the Protocol.</p>

<p>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</p>	<p>The objective of the Convention is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations “at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system.” It states that “such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.”</p>
<p>Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets.</li> <li>• Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities”</li> </ul>
<p>Paris Agreement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius.</li> <li>• All Parties must put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions” (<a href="#">NDCs</a>) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.</li> </ul>
<p>United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification and Land Degradation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.</li> <li>• Addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.</li> <li>• The new <a href="#">UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework</a> is the most comprehensive global commitment to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in order to restore the productivity of vast expanses of degraded land, improve the livelihoods of more than 1.3 billion people, and reduce the impacts of drought on vulnerable populations to build.</li> </ul>

<p>United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources. It enshrines the notion that, all problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be addressed as a whole.</li> <li>• The Convention comprises 320 articles and nine annexes, governing all aspects of ocean space, such as delimitation, environmental control, marine scientific research, economic and commercial activities, transfer of technology and the settlement of disputes relating to ocean matters.</li> </ul>
<p>Treaty of Amazonian Cooperation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signed on July 1978 by Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, is a legal instrument that recognizes the transboundary nature of the Amazon.</li> <li>• The main purpose of the ACT is to promote the harmonious development of the Amazon while incorporating the countries' Amazonian territories to their respective national economies, an essential condition for reconciling economic growth with environmental preservation.</li> </ul>
<p>International Plant Protection Convention</p>	<p>Multilateral treaty deposited with the FAO that aims to secure coordinated, effective action to prevent and to control the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products. The Convention extends beyond the protection of cultivated plants to the protection of natural flora and plant products. It also takes into consideration both direct and indirect damage by pests, so it includes weeds.</p>
<p>International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</p>	<p>Main objectives are the conservation and sustainable use of all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use.</p>
<p>International Tropical Timber Agreement</p>	<p>The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is an intergovernmental organization promoting the sustainable management and conservation of tropical forests and the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests.</p>
<p>UN Clean Seas Campaign</p>	<p>The Clean Seas platform focuses on catalyzing change and transforming habits, practices, standards and policies around the globe to dramatically reduce marine litter and its negative impacts.</p>