**Strengthening the environmental dimension of the SDGs: Guyana´s Green State Development Strategy**

**Inception Workshop**

***7th February 2019***

***Georgetown, Guyana***

**Introduction**

The project, “*Strengthening the environmental dimensions of the sustainable development goals*” (SDG-SED Guyana Project) is a component of a larger project implemented by UN Environment and its partners in four countries: Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, Colombia and Guyana. The Project’s goal is to strengthen the capacity of participating countries to:

1. Collect sectoral data, derive national statistics, monitor and report on the country’s progress towards achievement of the environmental targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), in accordance with national priorities;
2. Establish institutional arrangements to integrate environmental considerations in the planning, implementation and reporting processes of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its related 17 goals and targets.

**Background**

The Government of Guyana is currently reviewing the draft *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040*, the development of which was supported by UN Environment in 2018 in partnership with the Department of Environment (DoE) of the Ministry of the Presidency (MoTP). The draft Strategy describes the policy priorities for Guyana’s sustainable development over the next 20 years and addresses the three dimensions of sustainability: economic, social and environmental. The Strategy is integrated with the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through support provided from the UN Country Team in Guyana along with other national and international partners, including the Secretariat of the Partnership for Action on the Green Economy (PAGE), of which Guyana is a member.

The challenge faced by the country however, is the availability of national targets and monitoring indicators for all eight development objectives (DOs) of the *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040* for M&E during implementation. Only one of the Strategy’s Development Objectives – DO3: Transition to Renewable Energy – has had stakeholder agreement on a firm national target: that is, the transition to “100% renewables” – and this is because of its inclusion in the country’s Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement. Guyana is generally challenged by the lack of systematic, verifiable monitoring data and national statistics.

The SDG-SED Guyana project therefore provides an excellent opportunity to support the country’s planning for implementation and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the implementation of the *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040*. This foresees action through continued engagement of the GSDS networks of thematic expert groups, including public and private sector agencies and NGO partners.

Getting the relevant agencies and institutions to collectively plan, work together and coherently report on Guyana’s international environmental commitments is the main goal. As the national implementing partner, the Department of Environment (DoE) has expressed its desire for the SDG-SED Guyana Project to be integrated into efforts to support M&E reporting under *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040*. This will provide three-fold benefits: i) close existing M&E data gaps; ii) strengthen and build institutional capacity in the country for database management and M&E; and iii) improve overall capacity for environmental SDGs and MEAs implementation and reporting.

**Objectives of the Workshop:**

The objectives of the inception workshop are:

1. To sensitise stakeholders on the SDG-SED Guyana project goals and objectives and its synergies with the *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040*;
2. To understand national stakeholder needs and requirements for M&E data collection and monitoring;
3. To identify and map key agency relationships, roles and responsibilities with a view to developing operational procedures for sustaining quality data collection and sharing;
4. To achieve consensus on SDG-SED Guyana project implementation arrangements.

**Expected Workshop Outcomes:**

Participants have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities, as well as those of national institutions for M&E data collection, monitoring and reporting;

Consensus achieved for a common workplan and project participation, cooperation and implementation mechanisms.

**Workshop Agenda**

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| **Time** | **Activity** | **Presenter** |
| 8:30 – 9:00 | Registration of Participants | |
| 9:00 – 9:10 | Welcome and Introduction on Project | Ms. Ndibi Schwiers, Head, Department of Environment, Ministry of the Presidency |
| 9:10 - 9:15 | Remarks | Ms. Sonya Roopnauth; Director, Office of Budget, Ministry of Finance |
| 9:15 - 09:30 | Overview of the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 | Ms. Deirdre Shurland; Senior Specialist, Project Manager, Green State Development Strategy |
| **Session 1: SDG-SED Guyana Project Overview** | | |
| 9:30 - 9:50 | Workshop Overview and Introduction to the SDG-SED Guyana Project | Ms. Piedad Martin; Regional Development Coordination Officer, UN Environment; Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean (ROLAC) |
| *9:50 – 10:00* | *Q & A* | |
| 10:00 – 10:20 | Statistical Component and Requirements of the SDG-SED Guyana Project | Mr. Francesco Gaetani – Regional Coordinator, Environment Under Review; UN Environment, ROLAC  Mr. Robert Smith - International Consultant; Environmental Statistics |
| 10:20 - 10:30 | Interactive Q & A | |
| 10:30 - 10:45 | Coffee Break | |
| **Session 2: Inter-active Group Work on Project Roles, Responsibilities and Cooperation Mechanisms** | | |
| 10:45 – 12:15 | Interactive Group Session:   * Key project results and outcomes * Roles and responsibilities * Cooperations mechanisms between and among agencies * M&E needs, protocols, requirements | Facilitation by [TBN] |
| 12:15 – 12:45 | Summary, conclusions and next Steps | Ms. Piedad Martin and Mr. Francesco Gaetani |
| 12:45 – 13:00 | Closing Remarks | Ms. Ndibi Schwiers, Director, Department of Environment, Ministry of the Presidency [TBC] |