

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA
AND
WORLD WILDLIFE FUND, INC.,
2019-2021

(Hereinafter also referred to as “Parties” or “Party” as the case may be)

CONSIDERING that World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF-US) is a leading United States non-profit charitable corporation, and member of the WWF International network, working worldwide to conserve nature;

CONSIDERING that the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana has authorized the establishment of a World Wildlife Fund, Inc. Office in Guyana, also referred to as WWF Guianas, for the implementation of the WWF Guianas programme of activities in Guyana;

CONSIDERING that the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana has given the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Presidency in particular the Department of Environment the overarching responsibility for the country’s natural resources and environment, specific mandates and responsibilities to agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for environmental management and the sustainable use of natural resources, the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) for the management of the country’s forest resources, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) for the management of the country’s mineral resources, the Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission for the conservation and management of wildlife, the Protected Areas Commission for the management of the country’s National Protected Areas System and Urban Parks, Office of Climate Change, Department of Fisheries (DoF) and any other agencies appointed by the Government of Guyana, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs);

CONSIDERING that the general objectives of the WWF Guianas programme is to foster the conservation and sustainable management of the enduring features and ecosystems of the terrestrial Eco-regions of the Guianas as well as the biological diversity of its coastlines;

MOTIVATED by the conviction that the WWF Guianas program of activity will contribute to the Government of Guyana’s efforts to protect and maintain the country’s biodiversity for benefits, welfare and enjoyment of its citizens;

THE PARTIES HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The purpose of this MOU is to continue the working relationship between the Co-operative Government of the Republic of Guyana and World Wildlife Fund Inc., and to extend it to incorporate specific relations between WWF, Ministry of Presidency – Department of Environment (DoE), Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the aforementioned agencies EPA, GFC, GGMC, WCMC, PAC, OCC, DoF, NGOs and CBOs for the implementation of the WWF Guianas programme of activities in Guyana.
2. Nothing in this document shall prejudice the rights of any of the parties involved.
3. World Wildlife Fund, Inc. will:
 - a) continue to operate its office in Guyana and execute the WWF Guianas programme of activities in Guyana through close collaboration with the MNR, MoP, and other relevant agencies and organisations;
 - b) continue to support the Government of Guyana's stated intent to utilize the country's natural resources in an environmentally friendly manner;
 - c) continue to provide financial, administrative, institutional and technical assistance to the aforementioned organisations, through a consultative process in programme development, and taking into consideration national policies, plans, programmes and strategies in pursuit of conservation goals consistent with those of the Government of Guyana. This assistance will support the planning, development and implementation of activities which contribute to the environmentally sound management and development of the country's natural resources and the protection of its biological diversity. The levels, types and extent of such assistance will be the subject of specific agreements between World Wildlife Fund, Inc. and the target agency and institution;
 - d) develop its programmes of activities taking cognisance of the legal and institutional framework established by the Government of Guyana, as well as the mandates and responsibilities of the MoP, MNR and aforementioned Government Agencies. The programmes of activity will also consider existing and planned activities of other institutions and will be focused broadly on WWF's thematic areas of Forest, Freshwater inclusive of Mining, Oceans, Wildlife, and cross-cutting themes of Governance and Communications and promoting the government's efforts to educate the citizenry on biodiversity.
 - e) continue to ensure that its programme of activities contribute to fulfilling the objectives of key national strategies and plans including the Green State Development Strategy, the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2020 (NBSAP), National Forest Policy and Statement, National Mineral Sector

Policy and Framework, Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP), and National Development Strategy (NDS); National Protected Areas Strategic Plan and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).


- f) assist, as appropriate, the relevant agencies in promoting national, regional and international recognition of their efforts in order to increase awareness, support and resources for the protection of the country's rich biological diversity and in keeping with WWF's mandate;
 - g) Provide timely and up-to-date information to the aforementioned agencies and others, as appropriate, with respect to its conservation activities relevant to their respective sector of activities;
4. The Government of Guyana will continue to grant World Wildlife Fund, Inc.:
- a) Exemption from:
 - i. Import duties and taxes, including VAT and Excise, on equipment and materials to be used on projects funded by WWF subject to these items equipment and materials (unused) are exported at the end of the particular project or allocated to similar project activities.
 - ii. Import duties and taxes, including VAT and Excise, on two vehicles for to the activities of the WWF in Guyana subject to these vehicles being exported at the end of the programme or allocated to similar programme activities.
 - iii. Airport duties and taxes, including VAT and Excise, on a reasonable quantity of household and personal effects (excluding vehicles) of accredited foreign personnel granted permission to come to Guyana to work on WWF funded projects provided these are goods that are exported at the end of their employment contract.
 - iv. The payment of income tax, travel voucher tax and travel tax and NIS for accredited foreign staff personnel employed by WWF Inc. and their dependents in Guyana.
5. The persons responsible for the implementation of this MOU shall be the Representative of the WWF Guianas Programme, the Minister of Natural Resources and the Director of the Department of Environment. They or their designees shall meet regularly and coordinate activities jointly undertaken under this MOU.
6. Neither party shall make any commitment or take any position on behalf of the other without the other's specific and written consent. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as to create or imply a financial commitment from one Party to the other unless specifically mentioned in other signed and duly executed agreements

between the Parties. Nothing in this MOU shall create or imply a joint venture between the Parties unless agreed and signed in other documents between the Parties.


7. This MOU shall be effective for three years, from the date of its signature by the Government of the Republic of Guyana. Termination or extension of this MOU is possible considering a 60-day written notice by either Party.
8. A mid-term evaluation and final evaluation on the performance of this MoU should be jointly conducted.
9. Modification of this MOU can only be achieved by written amendment executed by the Parties. It shall contain the entire agreement between the Parties.
10. Both Parties agree to address on an as-needed basis other issues of mutual concern to both the WWF and the GoG in the areas of natural resources and environmental management and protection.

In witness thereof, the undersigned, being duly authorised by their respective authorities, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.


Agreed to and signed in the City of Georgetown in three (3) originals, in the English Language, both texts being equally authentic.



Hon. Raphael Trotman, M.P
Minister of Natural Resources
Co-operative Republic of Guyana



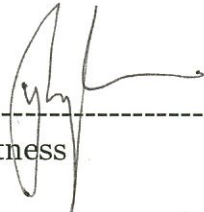
Mr. Laurens Gomes
Representative
WWF Guianas
World Wildlife Fund, Inc.



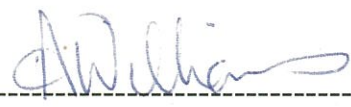
Ms. Ndibi Schwiars
Director, Department of Environment
Co-operative Republic of Guyana

2019.2.6

Date



Witness



Witness