



Hub Notes

Regional Environmental Hub for Central America and The Caribbean

Regional Newsletter

Issue N° 23 - July 2008

Conservation & Wildlife Protection

- Training in Trinidad
Page 1

- Iguana conservation in St. Lucia
- Zoo remodeling in El Salvador
- Tamarindo beach recycles
Page 2

Science & Technology

- Tech in Panama
- Young inventors in Costa Rica
Page 2



Energy

- Antigua to get loan Lucia
- Power Plant in Guyana
Page 2

- Energy and sustainable development in St. Kitts
- Eolic Energy in Honduras
Page 3

- Fossil fuel reservoir in Nicaragua
Page 4

Health

- HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean
- Tobacco in Nicaragua
- Avian influenza not resented in the DR
Page 4

Climate Change

- Climate change video in St. Lucia
- St. Lucia ratifies International Water Convention
- Marine environment failure in the Caribbean
Page 4

- Costa Rica as an example for U.S. Universities
Page 5

Marine and Water Conservation

- Pro-whaling protests in Suriname
- Guyana re-certified to sell shrimp to the U.S.
Page 5

Conservation & Wildlife Protection

EMA Training in Trinidad

June 23. In an effort to enhance the capacity of the environmental permit writers, the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) hosted a Permit Writers Training Workshop at its Conference Room at 8 Elizabeth Street, St Clair. The EMA invited two experts - Karen O'Brien PE and Angela McFadden, both of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), to deliver an intense five day workshop, which ran from April 21 - 25.

The workshop targeted staff of the EMA as well as environmental officers from the Tobago House of Assembly's Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (DNRE) in Tobago.

As a registered environmental engineer with the State of New York, as well as a Water Quality

Based Permitting Expert for the USEPA, Karen O'Brien has over ten years experience in reviewing permit applications, calculating effluent limitations for power generating facilities, sewerage treatment plants, drinking water filtration plants, military installations and industrial manufacturing facilities (such as producers of rum, tobacco, food products, and pharmaceuticals).

The second workshop facilitator, Angela McFadden, is the Acting Chief/Chief of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Enforcement Branch, Water Protection Division. With experience in preparing Clean Water Act civil enforcement cases and assisting in negotiating settlements, McFadden also develops inspection targeting strategies and guidance for inspectors.

As an environmental engineer, she has also worked in the Air Protection Division and also served as an Environmental Protection Specialist in the Air, Toxics and Radiation Division at the NPDES.

This workshop and training are required as the EMA progresses with the implementation of the EMA's Water Pollution Rules, 2001. The grant of a permit is the main mechanism by which the

EMA will effect an improvement in the quality of our inland and coastal waters. The workshop therefore also sought to improve the ability of Compliance Officers responsible for monitoring and enforcing permit conditions.

The permitting process involves negotiations between the EMA and the discharger to arrive at mitigation measures to ensure that effluent water quality standards are met and human health and the environment are protected. Permit conditions and mitigation requirements then become environmental requirements, the breach of which carries significant penalties under the EM Act. Speaking at the launch at EMA's Head Office on April 21, CEO Dr Dave McIntosh praised the timing of the workshop.

"The information provided by the experts from the USEPA will allow us to fashion a water discharge permitting process that will take us to our goal of converting our rivers and streams to a quality that will support swimming, fishing and other recreational uses.

Of course, WASA's need for high quality sources of potable water will be facilitated."

Source - <http://www.newsday.co.tt/features/0,81240.html>



Iguana conservation in St. Lucia

June 25. The St Lucia Iguana (Iguana iguana), which is a unique species of historical importance to the island, is considered by scientists to be doomed to extinction unless valiant efforts for its conservation are undertaken.

The Iguana - Iyanola, after which St Lucia was named and which folklore indicates used to roam over all parts of the island, resides in habitats of dry shrub forest areas which are ninety percent privately owned. This produces a challenge for its conservation as development threats continually impact its habitat.

The Forestry Department, in an effort to promote the conservation of the species is undertaking a twelve-month campaign to raise public awareness about the importance of conserving the habitat of the iguana.

Currently, the Department is distributing informational material such as posters, rulers; pencils, bumper stickers, and badges to the populace as part of a public awareness program.

Other educational programs will include dance competitions for schools, Iguana Days, and an island tour of the mascot Iyanola which will assist the public in maintaining a high level of awareness of Iguana conservation.

In St Lucia, wildlife species and their habitats are constantly under threat because of the increasing population and the clearing of forested areas for developmental and agricultural purposes. The North East Coast of the island is recognized as the last stronghold of the Iguana and many other rare and endemic animal and plant species.

It is hoped that the campaign will positively change the attitude of St Lucians on the importance of protecting the environment and realizing the significant role that our wildlife plays in maintaining a balanced eco-system and thus a healthier environment.

Source - *caribbeanetnews.com*

Zoo remodeling in El Salvador

June 25. El Salvador Nacional Zoo closed its door on June 22 due to a remodeling project that will be completed by August 22.

This remodeling will offer a safer and secured environment for the visitors. El Salvador's government will invest \$700,000.

Key priorities of the project include new cages for lions, a new clinic for the animals, new restrooms, a new creek for the elephant, and a brand new

cafeteria. A new entrance and parking lot will also be part of the zoo's new facade.

Source - *La Prensa Gráfica (El Salvador)*

Playa Tamarindo recycles

June 30. Playa Tamarindo in Guanacaste is trying to re-gain the Blue Flag certificate, which they lost last November due to pollution in the beach.

During four days of solid waste recollection, neighbors from the beach gathered approximately five tons of recyclable material. According to the Tamarindo Recycles organization, Costa Ricans, foreign residents, schools, businesses, and hotels participated.

According to Cassie Rauser from Tamarindo Recycles, the organization plans to build its own recycling center in Tamarindo.

Source - *La Nación (Costa Rica)*

Science & Technology

Technology for education in Panama

June 25. Salvador Rodríguez, (Minister of Education), will incorporate technology in elementary schools in order to help students obtain higher grades.

The Ministry will supply low cost laptops to kids that face serious educational deficiencies, so that they can get help for their homework from the internet.

Rodríguez is trying to implement the digital era in his Ministry given that every (truly every? –or– “nearly all”) process is done by hand.

Source - *Panama Digital (Panama)*

Young inventors in Costa Rica

June 10. . Young inventors try to help society through their creative dreams which can open doors of opportunity for them in the future and at the same time provide interesting ideas for science and living. Pedro Sanabria and Natalia Rodríguez won the United Technologies Corporation prize, in a scientific fair in Atlanta, Georgia. Their invention is targeted for helping the blind. It is a cane with ultrasound sensors that makes the cane vibrate if there are obstacles in the way.

Source - *La República (Costa Rica)*

Energy

Chinese loan for power plant in Antigua

June 19. loan for power plant in Antigua

June 19. A high level delegation of officials from the Exim Bank of China will arrive in Antigua on June 19 to finalize arrangements with the government on a concessionary loan agreement for a new power generation plant and other developmental projects including the VC Bird International Airport Terminal.

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to China David Shoul said that the preparatory team headed by the Director General of the Concessional Loan Department of Exim Bank, Wu Shaohua, will also make arrangements for the arrival of a thirteen member team headed by the President of Exim Bank of China.

Shoul added that the delegation will hold meetings with Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer, Works and Transportation Minister Wilmoth Daniel, Finance and Economy Minister Dr Errol Cort, Civil Aviation Minister Harold Lovell, and technicians from the various ministries. The team will also tour the proposed site for the new airport terminal building and the Deep Water Harbor.

“Antigua and Barbuda stand to greatly benefit from the visit of this preparatory delegation and the delegation which is scheduled to visit next week headed by the President of the China Exim Bank. During that visit the government and the officials from the China Exim Bank will sign a concessionary loan agreement for a new power plant and finalize arrangements for the construction of the new airport terminal,” noted Shoul.

“The Government and the various institutions within China have been very supportive of the Baldwin Spencer Administration's developmental plans. We consider China as a true friend of this nation and we will forever be thankful for the generous support that they have given to us,” Shoul stated.

Source - *caribbeanetnews.com*

Guyana to fund \$450 M hydro plant

June 30. Guyana's president Bharrat Jagdeo says with the rising fuel and energy prices his government will ensure that the Amelia Falls hydro-power project becomes a reality.



According to the Government Informational Agency (GINA), in a speech in Berbice, the Guyanese leader said before he leaves office that he wants to ensure construction of the hydro-electric power facility, estimated to cost in the vicinity of US\$450 million.

On May 7, when he announced additional measures to cushion the impact of rising food and other prices, Jagdeo had noted that Guyana has a very high consumption of fuel per capita.

The president noted that the Guyana Power and Light Company (GPL) has requested additional subsidies, and that the administration will have to channel another \$700 million into the Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI) in order that water cost will not increase.

"This is why we use now the equivalent of 35 percent of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to import fuel. If it (fuel) goes to US\$200 (per barrel) as predicted, I don't think it's going to get there in the near term, but assuming that that happens, close to 70 percent of the GDP would be used to import fuel. No country could sustain that kind of financial resources without there being serious problems," Jagdeo said then.

Alluding to the rising price of fuel worldwide, he also outlined some of the measures already taken by the Guyana government in its attempt to cushion the impact on Guyanese. Some of those measures, he said, include the government's subsidizing of the energy and water sectors.

He had also stressed that renewable energy resource was the answer.

Source - *caribbeanetnews.com*

Energy and sustainable development in St. Kitts

June 6. The development of bioenergy and other alternative forms are of critical importance to St Kitts and Nevis.

So says Prime Minister and Minister of Sustainable Development, Dr. Denzil Douglas, who told a high level conference on World Food Security at the FAO Headquarters in Italy that the twin-island Federation has developed an energy strategy that is intended to help promote and contribute to the sustainable development of the country.

"Consequently we are seeking to develop indigenous sources and fuel substitution in the generation of electricity and transportation fuels. The use of biomass for energy generation is one area that is under active consideration. However our aim is to ensure that such biomass use is sustainable and does not adversely effect domestic

food production," Douglas told the several Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers and experts.

He said his administration has given approval in principle for a biomass (cane grass) project as well as the establishment of a wind farm.

Much attention, he said, is currently focused on the development of a geothermal project for electricity generation while the use of solar energy is also under active consideration.

The St Kitts and Nevis leader said there is no doubt that the escalating price of fossil fuel has impacted negatively on food security, while there is continued debate about the effects of bio-energy.

He noted that bioenergy has been defined as energy produced from biomass such as energy crops, forestry residues, and organic wastes and currently the production of liquid biofuels, mainly ethanol and biodiesel receive much of the publicity.

Biofuels are mainly produced from food crops and are used for transport. Ethanol is mainly produced from sugarcane and maize while the production of biodiesel is principally from rapeseed, but also palm oil and soy oil. The growing biofuel market is driving up commodity and food prices and represents a new source of demand for agricultural commodities.

"This growth can provide new economic opportunities for the many millions of people who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. On the other hand, the soaring food prices are bad news for poor consumers as their living conditions are dramatically worsening. We now have a situation in many parts of the world where food and energy crops are competing for land, water and other resources. As policy makers, we have the difficult task of determining how best to respond to the new opportunities while ensuring that our people can grow and buy adequate food," noted Douglas.

He stressed that there is clearly a strong need to better understand the nexus between food security, climate change, and bioenergy.

"It is important to note that the degree to which the rapid rise in demand for biofuel feedstocks has contributed to the current rise in food prices varies across countries and that the impact on livelihood is also variable. However, poor countries that are both food and energy importers are facing tremendous balance of payment pressures that can result in an erosion of economic and social gains," said Douglas.

He said that the four dimensions of food security are availability, access, stability, and utilization can also be expected to be affected in varying ways.

"The diversion of land, water, and other productive resources from food to biofuel production can threaten the availability of food on

both the national and international level. Higher food prices can further erode the ability of poor persons to access food due to their low income levels. However, farmers who are net producers can benefit from higher prices and investments in bioenergy growth can revitalize agriculture and provide employment opportunities," said Douglas.

He added that the food security situation can therefore be expected to improve for some persons while deteriorate for others.

"A challenge for us is therefore to develop and agree on steps that would have to be taken towards developing sustainable bioenergy policies and programs taking into account food security and rural development," said Douglas.

Source - *caribbeanetnews.com*

Dominican Republic inaugurates bioenergy plant

June 16. Dominican Republic inaugurates bioenergy plant

June 16. The government inaugurated a gas production plant that uses agricultural waste as a raw material.

The plant is an initiative from the Industry and Commerce Secretary (SEIC), the Dominican Agrarian Institute (IAD) and Koar Energy Resources Co. It is located in Los Maestros de Bonao and is the first of its kind in Latin America.

This facility will provide gas for 288 homes. The surplus could be offered to power company Edenorte.

Source - *Listín Diario (Dominican Republic)*

Eolic Energy in Honduras

June 16. With a \$140 million investment, Mesoamerica Energy will install an eolic park in Francisco Morazán. The government announced its willingness to buy the 100 MW generated by this park.

The government's energetic expansion plan contemplates 250 MW generated by coal and 230 MW more afterwards.

Honduras energy demand increases in the 6 - 7 percent range every year.

Source - *El Heraldo (Honduras)*



Fossil fuel reservoir in Nicaragua

June 3. . Nicaraguan government confirmed that the Canadian company Norwood Resources Ltd. discovered gas and oil reservoir evidence in San Bartolo, 50 km west from Managua.

Although the Ministry of Environment said that is necessary to perform more testing and studies in order to confirm the presence of such fuels in that area.

Source – *La Prensa Gráfica (Nicaragua)*

Health

Caribbean will work to prevent HIV / AIDS

June 12. The Caribbean region remains resolute and steadfast as it moves towards building the national and regional architecture that will ensure the attainment of universal access to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services by 2010 and sustainability beyond.

“Today, I feel vindicated to be in a position to present the largely positive mid-term scorecard of the Caribbean to this 2008 High-Level Meeting on AIDS of the General Assembly of the United Nations. For us, it is particularly gratifying to note that 21 countries of the Caribbean submitted assessment reports on their progress in achieving the key indicators adopted at the 2006 UNGASS meeting. The completion of this unprecedented number of reports demonstrates both commitment and forward movement at the country level,” said Dr Denzil Douglas, St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister and CARICOM’s Lead Spokesman on HIV / AIDS and health related matters.

Douglas told Presidents, Prime Ministers, Ministers of Health and representatives of non-governmental organizations at the United Nations General Assembly in early June that two years ago, he had the honour of addressing the august body for the second time and he then committed the Caribbean to achieving universal access to HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care, and support services by the year 2010.

“It was bold pronouncement on the part of the Caribbean considering the twin problems of a region with the second highest prevalence of HIV infection in the world and limited technical and financial resources that the region has had to surmount in order to achieve this milestone. Indeed, there were many observers who considered such a declaration to be fanciful. But we held forth then and remain convinced now that overcoming the challenges of AIDS is an absolute imperative that must consume our every being if we are not to squander the significant social and

economic gains of the last half a century that our forbears have bought at such a high price with their blood, sweat, and tears,” said Douglas.

He pointed out that the Caribbean country reports indicate that the countries have worked together to strengthen their collective resolve to achieve the health related international commitments.

“We have worked to define our individual and collective organizational strengths and accountabilities in supporting health outcomes that all the countries have achieved and progress made towards Universal Access targets and the health MDGs,” said Douglas, who further noted that over recent years, “we have seen considerable political leadership mobilized in the Caribbean region behind reaching the health MDGs. High-level commitments have been made in AIDS and new health financing has been secured to scale up the response at the country and regional levels.”

He said, “the collective program under the Caribbean Regional Strategic AIDS Framework is indeed a model of functional cooperation that has spared the small countries of the Region from duplicating efforts supported by scarce resources, but despite progress in some key areas at the country and regional levels, and given the scale of effort needed to get as many Caribbean countries as possible to 2010 and then beyond, “we are always looking to find ways to use our limited financial and human resources as effectively and efficiently as possible.”

“So I stand before you and pledge the CARICOM region to do a lot more of what we are already doing – and do it much better. We pledge to scale up all HIV programs and services towards universal access based on the roadmap towards universal access which our region has already laid out. I pledge that this resolve will be political, and until it is beaten, AIDS being an exceptional epidemic, will remain a regional political priority,” said Douglas.

“This resolve will be financial; to continue to secure the funds to make headway towards universal access and to overcome the weak capacity of the health and social sectors.

“This resolve will also be a pledge to true partnership, so that governments, people living with HIV, vulnerable groups, women’s groups, civil society, faith groups, and business work shoulder to shoulder to save lives and prevent new transmissions. I also pledge to a strategic regional and country led approach that recognizes AIDS both as a key, long-term priority as well as an emergency that requires immediate and innovative responses. In other words, we will continue to work to deliver universal access right away and beyond as required,” said the St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister, speaking on behalf of CARICOM leaders “who believe that it is our major responsibility to join forces together with each other and with other global partners, to curb HIV transmission by scaling up comprehensive prevention efforts especially those targeted to

vulnerable groups and to scale up access to services for those who need them most. This is critical for the collective development and prosperity for our countries, for our Region and for the world.”

Source - *caribbeanetnews.com*

Tobacco in Nicaragua

June 6. An estimated 45 percent of young Nicaraguans smoke, according to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Miguel Balladares from PAHO Nicaragua \ explained that a study among young people (high school age) concluded that women had increased their use.

Balladares attended the First National Forum for Tobacco Control and Prevention, organized by UNICIT University and National Anti-Tobacco Forum (CNA).

Mauel Sánchez general coordinator of CAN and UNICIT’s Dean told the audience that he is planning to ban smoking near classes and halls.

Source – *La Prensa (Nicaragua)*

Experts determined there is no avian influenza in the DR

June 16. . American pathologists concluded that avian influenza has not caused pathologies in Dominican farms.

Enriquillo Rivas, president of the Farm Commission demanded that the Dominican Republic should be declared “avian influenza free”.

Pathologists went to the Cibao Central region, monitoring different farms and concluded that the H5N2 virus has not been detected since last December.

Source – *Listín Diario (Dominican Republic)*

Climate Change

Climate change video in St. Lucia

June 6. In 2006, St Lucia received funds from the Norwegian Government through the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) New Delhi Work Program on Article 6 on Education,



Training and Public Awareness.

In its efforts to raise awareness of the effects of climate change and other environmental issues, St Lucia embarked on a number of climate change activities including the production of a climate change video documentary.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs, Economic Planning, Investment and National Development through its Sustainable Development and Environment Section on June 04, 2008 launched the video documentary entitled "Paradise at Risk" - "Facing up to Climate Change in St Lucia."

The launch coincided with the commemoration of World Environment Day (WED) which is celebrated worldwide on June 05, every year. Some members of the audience included representatives of the St Lucia National Trust (SLNT), students, the media, and other environmentally conscious individuals.

It is the hope that those present will educate their peers about Climate Change.

The documentary highlighted the effects of climate change on the island's agriculture, biodiversity, marine environment, human health, water resources, settlement, and infrastructure.

Also the theme for World Environment Day 2008 is "Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy."

Source - caribbeannetnews.com

U.S. Universities admire Costa Rica's climate change plan

June 2. Three of the most prestigious Universities in the U.S., Harvard, University of California at Berkeley, and MIT, are interested in Costa Rica's strategy to confront climate change and global warming, said Roberto Dobles, Minister of Environment.

Dobles gave a speech at United Nations and afterwards he had meetings with the staffs of the universities to discuss environmental initiatives. In addition, the Minister met with several US companies that are in the business of producing electric cars and biofuels.

Costa Rica's plan seeks to reduce hazardous emissions that contribute with climate change. The country pretends to be carbon neutral by 2021.

Source - *Al Día (Costa Rica)*

Marine & Water

Pro-whaling protests in Suriname

June 16. Activists from Greenpeace and other environmental groups held a demonstration in Brazil and Chile against Suriname's pro-whaling voting at the International Whaling Commission (IWC). The activists are urging the Suriname government to start voting for the whales instead of for those who are hunting them for commercial reasons.

During the protest in front of the Suriname embassy in Brasilia and at the venue of this month's IWC-meeting in Santiago, Chile, demonstrators were holding banners calling on Suriname "not to shame Latin-America" and to "vote for the whales." Currently, this Caricom member state is the only country in South America that is cooperating with Japan to end the decades-long moratorium on commercial whaling. In Brazil, protesters presented a petition to the Surinamese Embassy, denouncing the country's position on commercial whaling.

In an interview with Caribbean Net News, Greenpeace activist Farah Obaidullah, maintained that the Surinamese government has no plausible explanation why it is voting to resume commercial whaling. Surinamese officials however argue that since whaling is believed to be an ancient Japanese tradition and whale meat is part of the menu in several Japanese communities, Suriname will not stand in the way of Japan for observing that tradition.

Officials also indicate that whales are threatening fish stocks therefore sustainable whaling should be allowed, in order to safe guard the fishing industries worldwide.

"Suriname is supports preservation of the environment and biodiversity, but it also respects the cultures of other nations," Kermechend Raghoebarsing, minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries said recently during a press conference.

Greenpeace refutes these claims, however, saying that there's no scientific proof that whales are a threat to the fishing industry.

According to Obaidullah, the Surinamese government doesn't have a unified position on the whaling issue.

Following discussions she had in March with several ministries, "it is evident," she said, "that only the ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries supports whaling."

"It seems like only the ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries supports commercial whaling. The discussions I had here with officials revealed that other ministries which

also have a stake in this matter don't have a clue what's going on," she said.

She maintains that possibly there is more at hand than securing development aid from Japan by supporting the call for resumption of commercial whaling. "There are several countries such as Brazil which receive development aid from Japan but still vote against whaling at the IWC."

According to the Greenpeace activist, Suriname should follow in Dominica's steps, which announced this week that it would abstain from voting this month at the IWC meeting in Chile.

"Whales form an integral part of our marine ecosystems and it is important that we protect them," says Leandra Goncalves of Greenpeace Brazil.

"Suriname is well-known for its pro-active position with respect to safeguarding its own environment. Its policy at the IWC is therefore all the more hypocritical and puts Suriname to shame amongst other Latin-American countries," said Samuel Leiva from Greenpeace Chile.

In January 2007, Japan granted US\$7 million to Suriname for the construction of a small-scale fisheries centre in Paramaribo.

Responding to questions from reporters, Foreign Affairs minister Lygia Kraag-Keteldijk then denied that the donation was a favor from Japan in exchange for Suriname's vote to resume commercial whaling at the meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in May that year.

"This project fits within the framework of the cooperation between the two countries. It has nothing to do with the whaling issue," the minister said.

Suriname have constantly sided with Japan and other pro-whaling nations and voted to end the moratorium on commercial whaling at last year's IWC meeting, since it became an IWC-member in 2003.

Japan, along with a number of countries, including Norway, Nicaragua, and Iceland, advocates the lift of a 20-year-old ban, while other nations, including Brazil, Spain, Chile, and Peru are against.

Source - caribbeannetnews.com

Guyana re-certified to export shrimp to the U.S.

June 4. Guyana has been recertified to export shrimp to the United States without an inspection team revisiting Guyana. This became effective this past May 1.



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

We look forward to hearing your comments, questions and contributions. If you have news, projects, latest developments or other information that you would like included in the Hub Notes, please forward them to us. Also, if you know of other people or organizations that would like to receive the Hub Notes or, alternatively, if you would like to be removed from our mailing list – contact Diego Acosta acostad@state.gov. Please note that the information provided in the Hub Notes does not necessarily represent U.S. official policies. Instead, Hub Notes are an informal means to report and distribute information on events relevant to the U.S. and the region.

Hub Info

Regional Environmental Hub for Central America and the Caribbean

U.S. Embassy San José, Costa Rica

P.O. Box 920 - 1200 San José, Costa Rica

Unit 2501

APO, AA-34020-9501



Hub Staff:

Regional Environmental Officer:

Bernie Link (linkbe@state.gov)

Tel: (506) - 519-2392

Environmental Specialist:

Andrea Borel (borelac@state.gov)

Tel: (506) - 519-2383

Environmental Analyst:

Diego Acosta (acostad@state.gov)

Tel: (506) - 519-2389

Hub's Administrative Assistant:

Marcia Miller (millerml@state.gov)

Tel: (506) - 519-2392

This is the first time in recent years Guyana has been recertified without inspection teams visiting Guyana's facilities, the Ministry of Agriculture said.

Increased monitoring efforts of the Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture, and the Guyana Association of Private Trawler Owners and Seafood Processors, led to Guyana being recertified to export shrimp to the US without an inspection team revisiting Guyana.

The shrimp industry is of great importance to Guyana, constituting 50 percent of Guyana's fishery export earnings valued at approximately US\$25 million. The most important market for seabob is the US to which 89.6 percent of exports were directed in 2007.

To access this market, Guyana must comply with the relevant US law, which states that only shrimp harvested in ways that are not harmful to certain endangered species of marine turtles can be imported.

Consequently, Guyana has put regulations in place which makes it mandatory for all shrimp trawlers to have Turtle Excluder Devices (TED'S) installed on their nets.

As a result of Guyana's compliance with these laws, the country has been able to export shrimp to the US uninterrupted for the last eight years.

Weekly inspections are carried out by the joint Government-Private Sector Team, in addition to the routine activities carried out by the Fisheries Department's TED Inspectors on the various wharves where shrimp trawlers land their catch. Reports are that the industry as a whole has been using the TEDs in the approved manner.

Despite the recertification, weekly inspections will continue to be carried out, in the interest of ensuring Guyana's continued export of shrimp to the US market.

Source - caribbeannetnews.com

NGO and other Newsletters (click to display Web-page)

- [GLOBE Bulletin for Latin American and the Caribbean](#)

- [Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative](#)

- [CATHALAC – The Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

- [Biological Conservation Newsletter](#)

- [Rainforest Alliance and Certified Sustainable Products Alliance](#)

- [Mesoamerican Biological Corridor](#)

- [Audubon Society](#)

- [Central American Commission on Environment and Development \(CCAD\) - Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles](#)

