

*Promoting Education for Public Engagement in Climate Change Mitigation
and Adaptation Initiatives in Guyana*

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Education is the cornerstone for sustainable development in Small Island and Developing States where there is very little room for error. Further, Agenda 21, Chapter 36 posits that education can give people the environmental and ethical awareness, values and attitudes, skills and behaviour needed for sustainable development. Unarguably, education has an important role in reversing the trends of climate change and reducing the potential ecological and socio-economic impacts.

This paper is based on a climate change survey conducted in Guyana in June 2009. The survey which covered issues such as knowledge, attitude and practice) targeted students, media practitioners, Members of Parliament (decision makers), farmers and the private sector. In particular, it will make a case for climate change education for sustainable development in the Region, drawing on the Guyana experience. To this end, the paper highlights the research findings of the KAP study and discusses some issues/challenges including an overcrowded school curriculum, teacher training, teaching and learning materials, followed by opportunities offered by Guyana's recently launched Low Carbon Development Strategy, the National Climate Change Action Plan, as well as the Ministry of Education (NECRD)/UNICEF Guyana project which involves, inter alia, developing a DVD on Climate Change for nursery schools, development of lessons and students activities guides for Science and Social Studies for Grade levels 1 to 6.