

UG SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT PROJECT BRIEFING DOCUMENT

Between November 2010 and May 2011, the University of Guyana engaged in the preparation of proposals for funding the improvement of its science and technology sector with a view to enhancing its ability to deliver support to Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). Negotiation of the direction of the proposal with the Government of Guyana led to a multi-visit mission from the World Bank and the ultimate framing of a project entitled the University of Guyana Science and Technology Support Project (UG STS Project). The project requires a loan of approximately US\$10million over a period of five years to be devoted to three broad areas as follows.

1. **Education Quality Improvement Programme** intended to support science curriculum reform through technical assistance on curriculum reform, instructional design and science content. This component will also provide research grants for work supportive of the LCDS. [Approximately US\$1.5m]
2. **Infrastructure rehabilitation** aimed at rehabilitation and improvement of existing science laboratory buildings of four faculties; improvement of campus-wide drainage at Turkeyen; provision of scientific and multimedia equipment aimed to deliver practical science teaching and research; and establishment of an internet network to connect faculties to the internet and international collaboration on the development of software applications, e-learning tools and digital content repositories for curriculum reform. [Approximately US\$5.5m]
3. **Building institutional capacity** for UG's managerial and administrative capacities. This will include capacity to deal with curricular supervision, information and communication technology, environmental and social management, monitoring, evaluation and facilities management; strategic business planning; preparation of studies related to the creation of a biodiversity institute, a research and innovation fund and business development unit and an assessment of existing human resources.

In significant measure, this loan can ameliorate the quality of students' experiences at UG as well as the productivity of staff in areas related to science and technology. It also provides an impetus for the University to progress rapidly in the development of the international centre for biodiversity research and low carbon development earmarked for funding under the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF).

The project was approved by the Bank in June 2011 and UG STSP is at the stage where one more document has to be signed by the Government of Guyana and the Bank's preconditions met in order to trigger the commencement of the project.