Information on National CHM

Guyana

(Updated on 2013-09-20 by Mr. Sean Mendonca)

National CHM	
Web address (URL)	http://gy.chm-cbd.net/
Title	Guyana's Clearing House Mechanism
Brief description	Guyana's CHM website was established in March, 2010 and serves to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation in support of Guyana's obligation to the CBD.
Responsible organization	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA – Guyana)
Webmaster name	Mr. Ryan Tiwari (IT Specialist, Information Technology Unit)
Webmaster email	epa @ epaguyana.org
Content management system (CMS)	Naaya Software
Content Manager	Candacie Thompson, Senior Environmental Officer (Education, Information & Training Division) Stacy Lord (Environmental Officer, Natural Resources Management Division) Sean Mendonca (Senior Environmental Officer, Natural Resources Management Division)
Content Manager email	eit.epaguyana @ gmail.com stacyrlord @ gmail.com mendonca.sean @ gmail.com
Database system	(Naaya Architecture)
Search engine	(uncertain)
Available human resources for maintenance and development	Collective effort between the Natural Resources Management Division and the Education, Information & Training Division within the EPA.
Other comments	-

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Other national websites on biodiversity

Web address (URL) & title	Brief description	Responsible organization
http://nre.gov.gy/ Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE)	Ministry's website that provides information and news within the Environment/Conservation Sector in Guyana	MNRE
http://www.forestry.gov.gy/ Guyana Forestry Commission	Provides information on the work of the Commission and publications.	GFC (Sector agency under MNRE)
http://www.mangrovesgy.org/ Mangrove Restoration Project	The overall objective of the Mangrove Restoration Programme is to respond to climate change and to mitigate its effects through the protection, rehabilitation and wise use of Guyana's mangrove ecosystems.	National Agricultural Research Extension Institute (NARIE)

Major national organizations involved in biodiversity

Acronym	Full name	Role
Iwokrama	Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development http://www.iwokrama.org/	Iwokrama Centre has tje mandate to "promote the conservation and the sustainable and equitable use of tropical rainforests in a manner that will lead to lasting ecological, economic and social benefits to the people of Guyana and to the world in general". The Iwokrama is the second established Protected Area in Guyana.
WWF-Guianas	World Wildlife Fund – Guianas www.**wwfguianas**.org	WWF has been active in the Guianas since the sixties, starting with conservation work around the Marine Turtles. WWF Guianas efforts are to safeguard this incredible part of the Amazon and show the world the benefits of a rich biodiversity.
CI - Guyana	Conservation International – Guyana www.conservation.org.gy/	CI-Guyana has play a significant role in facilitating the establishment of the Kanuku Mountains in the South Rupununi as a Protected Area.

Comments on national situation

Guyana's National CHM is up but has not be updated lately. There is a need for greater communication between EPA and all other stakeholders in promoting flow of information so as to have regular updates and addition of relevant biodiversity related materials.

Moreover, the CHM needs to be better promoted for a the tool is intended to be .i.e. a point for all information on Guyana's Biodiversity. Possibly, a blogs that is more user friendly which can be linked directly back to the CHM website.

Strategic Vision

Guyana's National CHM will be the central portal for accessing information on all aspects related to Guyana's Biodiversity.

It will also be an interactive tool for educators and students alike for learning about Guyana's biodiversity.

Roadmap				
Priority	Objective	Activity	Responsible	Requirements
2	To make CHM more user friendly.	(1) Follow up on Naaya Software update	EPA	ARR: Contact with Naaya Software Management to request updated version; CHM webmaster and content managers to prepare workplan to make CHM development an important item on their workplan.
		(2) Brainstorming session with all involved (in-house) on where the website is presently and how where we want the website to look going forward. Timelines with tasks to be agreed on.	EPA	OK
3	Ensure ease of effort in managing information upload on the national CHM website	(1) Crash course for content managers on how to use the naaya software.	EPA	OK: dedicate time for group to sit together and provide specific tasks on the CHM website.
		(2) Coordinating with relevant stakeholders to contribute/provide relevant information in a timely manner.	EPA/CHM liaison	CR: Ministry can play a role in promoting this and getting stakeholders on-board. Letters to stakeholders to sent request nomination of a liaison person.

Notes:

- Priority: 1=urgent, 2=high, 3=medium, 4=low; 5=very low
- Objective: challenge, issue, problem to resolve
- Responsible: organization or person in charge
- Requirements: Code + text
    - o   OK: Can be done with existing resources
    - o   DR: Decision required
    - o   CR: Collaboration required
    - o   ARR: Additional resources required (support, cooperation)

Comments on roadmap

While this roadmap is feasible, we can expect some challenges still related to human resources with the EPA. Note that the role of 'content manager' still will remain as one of many other tasks that an officer is responsible for. However, a deliberate effort will be made to incorporate CHM website maintenance on the monthly workplan.

Also, this will be a similar challenge with 'nominated' liaisons within our various stakeholders. Moreover, we do not control their efforts in ensuring it is place on their work programme. However, from the EPA will make best efforts to keep in close contact with these individuals via emails or if feasible, through the establishment of a blog (a present success story in the case of Trinidad and Tobago.

Cooperation opportunities / Type of support needed

The interaction from the CHM workshop held in St. Lucia is a testament to how we can learn from both the challenges and successes from other countries in our region as the work toward establishment and maintenance of a National Clearing House Mechanism.

The opportunity allows for the continuous communication of participants from the workshop as they proceed with their National CHMs. Participants should make an effort to remain in contact with countries that are at the same stage of CHM development and also any particular country that can provide support to them. (This is case, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago have been flagged as good examples for Guyana to learn from in moving forward with our National CHM.

Thank you!