



Guyana is an emerging economy with enormous untapped potential. The country's geographic position at the gateway to the Caribbean and South America, combined with its natural resources, access to key export markets, English-speaking population and affordable labor present investors with profitable business opportunities. Supported by stable macroeconomic policies, attractive investment incentives, and a regulatory environment and corporate tax regime that do not discriminate against foreign investors, Guyana also

provides investors favorable conditions to do business.

Guyana offers opportunities over a broad spectrum of activities, include mature, yet often lucrative sectors, such as mining, timber, sugar, rice and seafood, as well as emerging sectors such as non-traditional agriculture (e.g. fruits and vegetables), agro-processing, aquaculture, value-added wood products, light manufacturing, tourism and IT-enabled services. Guyana's LCDS presents opportunities of promoting new way of economic activities.

## COUNTRY CONTEXT FOR LED IN GUYANA

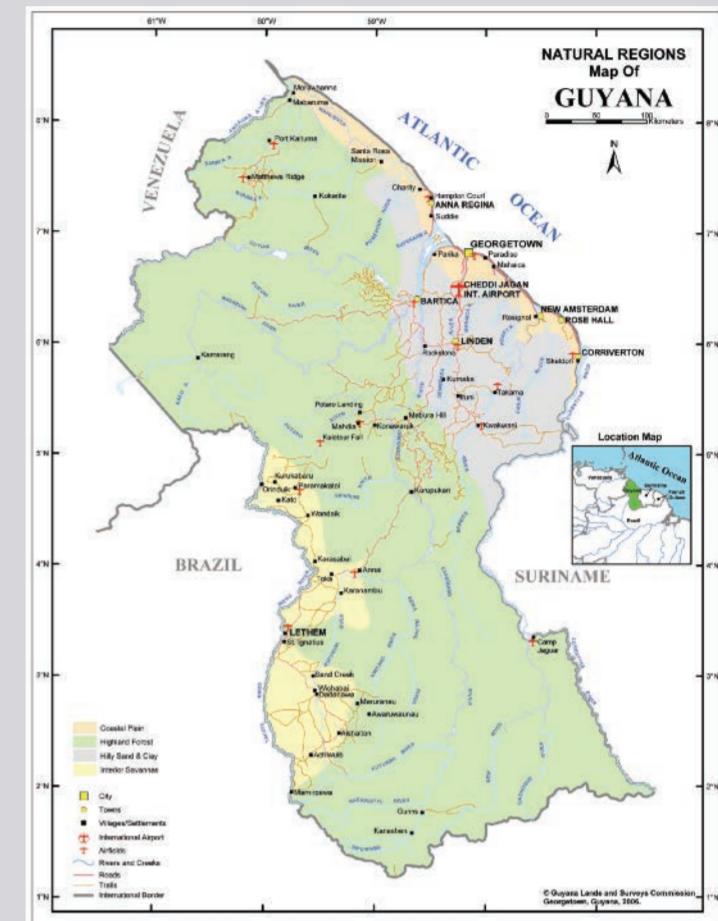
Guyana has a multi-level local government system with a special system for Amerindian communities that are enshrined in the constitution. The country is divided into ten (10) Administrative Regions governed by Regional Democratic Councils (RDCs). At the lowest level are 65 Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs). Between the two are six (6) Municipalities. The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is responsible for all three levels of local government.

Amerindian villages are organized into 180 Amerindian Village Councils under a National Toshao Council governed by a separate and distinct Act. At the national level, the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs is responsible for the administration of the councils. There are no legal or structural relations between the Amerindian Councils and the NDCs, Municipalities and RDCs.

Property taxes, user fees and licenses fees are the main sources of revenues for Local Governments. For capital works, they receive a yearly subvention from the Ministry of Local Government

LED is a new concept to local government in Guyana and not currently part of local government's role. CARILED will be working with local governments to assist them in incorporating LED as part of their overall role and responsibilities

Local Economic Development (LED) is relatively new to Guyana. There was one major LED type program in Guyana — Linden Economic Advancement Programme [LEAP]. It was funded by the EU and concluded with mixed reviews. CARILED can learn from this initiative and build on it.



## KEY CHALLENGES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN DOING LED

- **CHALLENGE 1: Delay in Local Government Reform**
- **CHALLENGE 2: Delay in Local Government Elections**  
— last election was held in 1994

- **CHALLENGE 3: Local Government has no experience in LED and is currently not part of their role**
- **CHALLENGE 4: Local Government, MSMEs, Community , Civil Society Organizations has little or no experience in LED are the main challenges**

## SUCCESS STORY: ECO-TOURISM IN GUYANA

Guyana is a paradise for nature and heritage lovers, adventure seekers and eco-tourists alike. We boast an irresistible combination of fascinating and breathtaking natural beauty and cultural heritage — pristine Amazonian rainforests; immense waterfalls; amazing wildlife; blended with a vibrant indigenous culture, rich architectural heritage and the most hospitable and friendly people in the world.

