



1988-2010

NATIONAL PARKS COMMISSION

Annual Report 2010



Co-operative Republic of Guyana

**National Parks Commission
Annual Report
2010**

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1.0 Executive Summary

2010 was the International Year of Biodiversity. National Parks and Botanic Gardens are great places to celebrate the diversity of plants, collectively the gardens of the world grow around 1/3 of all flowering plant species. The conservation and restoration work of Botanic Gardens is helping to ensure that our increasingly threatened biodiversity is maintained in safe hands.

Looking back over NPC's achievements in 2010 it is striking by how much we achieved for such a small budget.

Overall 2010 was a productive year for NPC. We strengthened our conservation work, consolidated partnerships and developed an increasing focus of work at the Zoological Park.

This guides our work and will continue to do so as pressures on biodiversity increases.

This report provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on the past and to share experiences of the board range of activities.

Communicating the need for continued efforts in conservation to a wide audience remains extremely important.

For 2010 the National Parks Commission continued to deliver results by recording growth in revenue over that of previous years.

Over the past year successful work has been done on infrastructural development, land reclamation, and many other areas that serve to enhance the product to the public.

We improved our overall performance by recording an increase in revenue generation in excess of our projected forty eight million target and over our 2009 actual.

Increase in revenue was attributed to increase in visitation to the Kaieteur National Park, increase in visitation to the Zoo, and an increase in landscape service requests.

The Commission's allocations of both capital and recurrent, complemented each other and allowed for improved works in infrastructure, drainage and irrigation, land transport all combined effecting a more efficient work plan and enhancement to the Parks.

Even as we faced challenges throughout 2010, we remained focused on our commitment to provide quality products and services, financial results and management performance.

The improved results can be attributed to revenue garnered from the increase in visits to Kaieteur National Park, efficiencies derived from infrastructural upgrades; and an improved electrical system and the installation of capital works.

Capital Expenditure

The improved infrastructure during the year as part of our ongoing upgrade program enabled for improved working conditions of the employees contributing to improved presentation.

This is evidenced by the rehabilitation of the Administrative building which provides a lunch room for staff, separated male and female washroom facilities, and an expanded Boardroom.

A new tipping trailer was acquired for the transport operations; this has allowed for improved efficiency within the Operations Division.

Over 2010, the NPC continued its partnership with the local community of Chenapou and other important stakeholders in furthering the work of the National Parks Commission.

We continue to work with the Chenapou community and will complete the draft Kaieteur National Park Management plan by early 2012.

Capacity will be further developed among the staff and the infrastructure development with the Park being out fitted with the establishment of a Visitor Arrival Centre with full office and communication facilities is ongoing with funding from KfW.

The year also saw a substantial increase in visitors to Kaieteur.

Finally we are pleased with the growth of our partnerships, especially as it relates to education and awareness as this is a cross cutting subject that will have a long term impact on our society. In this regard NPC / Zoo collaborated with Courts Guyana in supporting the Zoo Camp. We recognize the vital importance of early preparation and training. In July we conducted the Zoological Park holiday Camp a joint education and awareness project, with participants from the EPA, Guyana Forestry Commission, WWF and likeminded Agencies within the Sector.

Over the last year NPC has received substantial funding from WWF for work at Kaieteur National Park. Support was also obtained the German Government in funding the Visitor Arrival Centre.

2.0 Mission Statement

Managing the natural and cultural resources of the National Parks on behalf of the people of Guyana through conservation, education and awareness while affording the opportunity for open air recreation for future generations

3.0 Organization and Management

The Vision of the NPC is to develop and maintain public amenity environment, conducive to healthy open air recreation thereby affording citizens and visitors enjoyment of Guyana's natural beauty through conservation, education and awareness.

National Park

The National Park was established in 1965 and named The Queen Elizabeth II National Park to commemorate the Queen's visit to Guyana.

It was officially opened on February 5 1966 and later that year renamed the National Park when Guyana attained independence.

The National Park occupies 57 acres of land at Thomas Lands and is located on part of what was formerly Plantation Thomas.

Zoological Park

The Zoological Park was opened on January 1 1952; it is located within the Botanic Gardens and occupies four (4) acres of land.

There are currently 84 exhibits within the Zoo and 232 animals representing 59 species

Botanic Gardens

On April 3 1877 a resolution was passed by the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society to establish the Botanic Gardens.

The Gardens was established on April 4 1879 on 185 acres of land.

It currently occupies 96 acres of land extending from Vlissengen Road in the west to Sheriff Street in the east. It houses several varieties of tropical plants and many historical and cultural artifacts.

Kaieteur National Park

The Kaieteur Falls was created by ordinance No.41 of 1929 and has a size of 116.6 km sq. In 1999 the park was increased to maintain the integrity of its ecosystems as well as allow for effective management

Joe Vieira Park

This area was designated a Park on the 24th March 1982. It is situated on the West Bank of Demerara.

3.1 Organizational Chart

The National Parks Commission has a total of 115 staff across the five parks.

This includes the Administrative Staff at the Head Office and an Accounts Department;

The maintenance Department falls under the Deputy Manager / Operations Manager and consists of the Mechanical, Electrical and Building and Infrastructure Maintenance, and the Security Divisions.

These areas serve the various Parks with the exception of the Security division for the Joe Vieira Park and Kaieteur Park which is combined in the description of the Wardens.

The National Parks Commission is challenged by the absence of a Park Manager at Kaieteur National Park to supervise the day to day operations of the park.

In addition, the very limited technical staff in middle management / supervisory positions makes management of the Commission laborious as Management has to be involved in every minute aspect of the operations; this detracts from the larger matters that should be engaging the attention of upper management.

3.2 Description of Divisions and Departments

The National Parks Commission (NPC) was established in March 1972 to manage, control and develop park areas; and work in collaboration with local government authorities in the establishment of new parks.

The Commission is governed by the National Parks Act No.23 of 1977.

In 1984 the mandate for management responsibility for the Botanic Gardens and Zoological Park was given to the NPC.

The Kaieteur National Park is governed by the KNP Act Chapter 20:02 of 1929. This was amended in 1999 to extend the boundaries to 242 sq. miles and in 2000 amended to reflect indigenous people's rights to use the area for traditional and subsistence activities.

This Act constitutes a certain are of land in the vicinity of the Kaieteur Falls on the Potaro River in the county of Essequibo a National Park and provides for the control of the said park and for the preservation of the natural scenery, fauna and flora of the Park.

It further provides for use of the Park in accordance with the rules, where it is not lawful for any person to enter into, travel or encamp within the park or to build any structure therein, or to hunt, chase, catch, shoot at, kill or otherwise disturb the soil by mining or other operations within the park or to remove anything whatsoever from the park except in accordance with regulations made under the Act.

Currently NPC has under responsibility the following divisions:

- National Park
- Botanic Gardens
- Zoological Park
- Joe Vieira Park
- Kaieteur National Park

The technical / operational divisions are assisted by the Administration and Finance Divisions to carry out their respective mandates.

The National Parks Commission's functions are to:

- Maintain and regulate the use of any designated park so as to leave it unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations
- Make recommendations to the National Trust to achieve the conservation of the natural beauty of any area of land in Guyana and to carry out such acts as the National Trust directs for the purpose of attaining the objectives of those recommendations;
- Collaborate with local government authorities in developing any area of land subject to the control of any such authority for the purpose of affording to members of the public opportunity for open air recreations;

- Provide to local government authorities maintenance services in respect of Parks on such terms and conditions as the Commission sees fit
- Give general advice to the Minister or any statutory body in relation to the provision or improvement of opportunities for the enjoyment of the country side by members of the public.

4.0 Summary and Review of Current Year's Programme

4.1 Division 1 –

National Park and Joe Vieira Park

The National Park and Joe Vieira Park serves to provide areas of relaxation and recreation for the public. It offers arenas for various sport disciplines as well as picnic areas and open spaces for relaxation. In addition to providing and maintaining places for enjoyment the Parks also serves in other areas of environmental education and cooperation's.

Education and Awareness

- Ongoing efforts in education and awareness with Friends of Kaieteur Night, Nature School Programs and August Holiday Camps

Inter-Agency Collaboration

- University of Guyana- Donate a Tree Project - The NPC serves in an advisory capacity on the Committee set up to re-landscape the University Campus
- The National Parks Commission and the Horticultural Society of Guyana signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Friday April 23 2012 that provides for shared technical experiences; techniques, propagation material, educational support
- Coordinated activities between the National Parks Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency in observance of International Day of Biological Diversity

Staff Development

Staff was exposed to several training opportunities in various areas including :

- counterfeit note detection by the Bank of Guyana
- Bio gas and solid waste management
- Protected Areas Management

Corporate Support

- Courts Guyana sponsored Nature School activities
- Lawn Tennis Association commenced some rehabilitative work on the tennis courts in the National Park; this is an ongoing project to raise funds for the resurfacing of the Courts.

Major Activities held in the National Park

- Children's Mash parade
- Republic Day Activities
- Kite Flying, Easter Holiday- Sunday / Easter Monday
- Independence Celebrations
- Arrival Day Celebrations
- Emancipation Day Celebrations

- There were also several games of cricket and a number of shows and various events held in the Stadium area

- In the **Sport Fields** several disciplines are practiced including cycle training and matches, athletic training, football and the opening of the Rugby Season with the Bank DIH Sevens Tournament was hosted.

The National Park assists the Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation Centre with therapy sessions by allowing the use of the ponies by the children this enables an essential part of the physical rehabilitation therapy for the young patients in need of our services

In addition to improving the state of their physical and mental condition it also doubtlessly provide a source of much enjoyment and enrichment in their lives.

Capital Works

- **Rehabilitation of Administrative Building – National Park**

The NPC Administrative building was rehabilitated to improved efficiency in the delivery of service. This rehabilitation also allowed for staff welfare to be addressed in the separation of male / female washroom facilities, the provision of a staff lunch room, a proper utility room and a room that is conducive to the holding of meetings of the Board etc.

In addition, the roof of the building was re-done to address the leaking.

The increase in the height of the roof also allowed for the increase in the height of the antenna for the radio communication with Kaieteur which now has a clearer reception between Georgetown and the Park.

- **Rehabilitation of Koker**

With these very critical works being addressed, we were able to restore the koker after approximately 25 years of it being out of service.

These works allowed the flooding of the National Park to be partially addressed and provides for excess water control.

It makes the fields that are parallel to this area to be easily drained and more accessible in the rainy season.

- **Purchase of tipping Trailer**

With the purchase of a hydraulic trailer, discharge time is minimized to almost nill and eliminates the need for manual labour.

It provides for increase efficiency in the delivery of the daily work.

4.2 Division 2

Botanic Gardens

During the period under review the following activities at the Botanic Gardens was undertaken

- *Education & Awareness*

- *Development of the Botanic Gardens Web-site*

- The Botanic Gardens has developed a Botanic Gardens Website www.guyanabotanicgardens.gov.gy for outreach and information outflow.

- *International Collaboration*

- *XIX Commonwealth Games -- Delhi 2010*

- The XIX Commonwealth Games held in Delhi in 2010 passed through Guyana in the Queen's Baton Relay.

- The Queen's Baton was passed to Guyana at the historic Manatee Pond in the Botanic Gardens on Friday February 26 2010 at 11:30am.

- Present to witness this historic event was the Minister of Tourism, Hon. Manniram Prashad, among other sport enthusiast.

4.3 Division 3

Zoological Park

Education and Awareness

▪ Nature School

The Nature School in the Zoological Park on an average has five thousand students passing through the School and Zoo for a structured lesson and practical session per annum.

Everyday two schools are brought into the Zoo with the "Zoo Bus" a 36 seater bus which was made possible through donations from several Zoos, and likeminded organizations.

The kids are brought from as far as the West Coast, West Bank, East Coast and East Bank and spend approximately 2 ½ hrs. per session.

Materials and teaching aids are prepared by the Nature School Lecturer; other materials such as posters, colouring books etc. are supported from various donors such as World Wildlife Fund-Guiana's (WWF) which are distributed to the students for their class rooms.

Every Wednesday, the Environmental Protection Agency does a guest feature and presents a lesson on a particular environmental topic to the visiting class.

Below are the details of the 2010 visitation to the Nature School

Month	No. of Schools	Total No. of Students	No. of Teachers	Sessions Held	Sessions Lost
January	30	715	32	30	1
February	23	806	127	23	4 due to other field trips planned by the schools
March	27	770	37	27	1
April	7	147	12	7	-
May	23	575	40	23	-
June	21	731	42	21	-
July	<i>Closed</i>	<i>for</i>	<i>school</i>	<i>holiday</i>	-
August	<i>Closed</i>	<i>for</i>	<i>school</i>	<i>holiday</i>	-
September	19	592	37	19	-
October	22	550	27	22	1
November	40	1106	70	40	-
December	14	290	18	14	1
Total	226	6282	442	226	8

In addition to the Nature School Classes there is also a reference library that students preparing for CXC and Common Entrance use to assist them in completing assignments and course work.

▪ **Development of the Zoological park Web-site and Social Network Page**

The Zoological Park upgraded its Website www.zoologicalpark.gov.gy for outreach and information outflow.

▪ **Zoo Camp**

Every year the Zoological Park holds a Camp called the "Zoo Camp" which runs for four weeks with altering aged kids, 6-9 and 10-14;

This is designed to have the children engaged in meaningful fun exercises while at the same time learning something that has an impact on society and the environment. One Camp runs for a week and consists of several activities such as field trips, tree plantings, feed the manatees, educational videos, pony rides, lecture and activity (question & answer) sessions etc.

Various guest speakers are also invited from the Guyana Horticulture Society, the Environmental Protection Agency etc.

This is supported also through donations of materials, snacks and volunteering of time.

▪ **Zoo Volunteers**

The Zoo is supported by a group of young people called the "Zoo Volunteers" who visit primarily on weekend and holidays and assist in three main areas which include:

- ✓ "Policing of the Grounds" – this involves patrolling the grounds of the Zoo to ensure that visitors don't tease, poke, feed and injure the animals.
- ✓ Cage-side Talks – this involves the identification of specific species of animals and giving visitors a brief on the interesting facts of that species.
- ✓ Conducted Tours – groups of visitors can request a Tour of the Zoo either on specific species or a complete tour of the Zoo (as is requested)

- **Donations**

New Species at the Zoo

During the latter part of 2010 the Zoological Park was in receipt of several donations of animals particularly in the area of birds and snakes.

With the donation of snakes we were able to enhance the exhibit significantly making it more interactive for visitors.

- **Visitation**

The Zoological Park continues to attract a constant flow of visitors with an average visitation of approximately ten thousand persons per month

During the course of the year several special groups also visit the Zoological Park.

During the Easter holiday of 2010 a Cruise Ship, *Minerva II*, visited Guyana; approximately 70 passengers visited Zoological Park.

4.4 Division 4

Kaieteur National Park

Kaieteur National Park, Guyana's first national park and legally protected area, is currently managed by a Board of Directors chaired by Shyam Nokta. The NPC is the implementing arm of the Board.

A major project during this year was the development of a comprehensive Park Management Plan that encapsulated the entire Kaieteur Park and is projected to be a key transformative factor in the tourism industry. The project is being funded by World Wildlife Fund and the Government of Guyana and is about seventy percent completed, with the expectation of full completion by the end of this year.

However, and most importantly, is the fact that all the restructuring is done without compromising the ecology and bio-diversity of the area

INCREASING NUMBERS OF VISITORS

Apart from 2007, which saw a visitor in-flow of 4,512, primarily because of Cricket World Cup, 2010 recorded the highest number of visitors - 4,253, to the site. This is double the visitor in-flow of preceding years, except for 2007. The very significant increases of visitors over the last few years is a solid indicator of the increasing international awareness of the site as a tourist destination zone of great appeal, which we ascribed among the many natural attractions, to the country's dynamic role in initiatives to combat global climate change and protect the environment.

The NPC is on a drive to educate visitors on the extensive attractions, quite apart from the magnificent Kaieteur Falls, that the site offers, because most persons just view the 741 feet single-drop waterfall and then leave, without taking the time to discover the many wonders in the unique and breathtaking landscape, natural habitat to some of the world's rarest - sometimes only species of flora and fauna, various eco-systems, and the sheer spellbinding, experience of Guyana's tropical rainforest.

"The little that we know of Kaieteur Falls and its environment leaves us in awe of nature.

Scientists have only scratched the surface in identifying the many species of plants and animals. Recent research has unearthed species of frogs, lizards and snakes that are new to science, and endemic to Kaieteur. The Smithsonian Institute, along with University of Guyana's Biodiversity Centre, has studied the flora in the immediate environs of the Falls, identifying approximately 1100 species, with 22 being endemic to Kaieteur, and this remains a gross underestimate of the total number for the Park. Kaieteur Falls is undoubtedly the crown jewel of Guyana's interior and Guyana's premier tourism site" - Shyam Nokta

THE VISITOR ARRIVAL CENTRE

Among the many recent improvements to the site is a visitor arrival centre, which is a stop-off point that is almost complete. Visitor centres are a critical component of most, if not all, parks and protected areas and this new facility reflects the 'green' theme compatible with the Kaieteur Park.

The multi-purpose facility at the Kaieteur Park, when completed, will provide a comfortable lounge area, an interpretation room, wherein a warden will give visitors an audio-visual briefing on big screen that

incorporates the many facets and attractions of the site; printed literature and exhibits on Guyana as a tourist destination in general, and in the Kaieteur Park in particular; indigenous craft and other souvenirs.

A cafeteria will also provide mainly Guyanese food and beverages, because the priority is showcasing the local culture. There will also be a modern administrative block, with power being generated through a solar system.

The focus of the restructured tourism format is multi-pronged, and among the several targets is the provision of wealth-creational opportunities for indigenous communities by providing markets for their unique arts and craft, and maximizing their potential for growth and development within their own natural habitat so that their traditional mores and existential systems are not jeopardized.

For those who are desirous of extending their visit beyond the regular two-hour site visit can be housed in a small guest house that can comfortably accommodate a group of ten persons.

The guest house, which is managed by the National Parks Commission, was specially constructed to coincide with the visit of then Canadian Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau.

SUSTAINING ECO-SYSTEM IS OF PRIMARY CONCERN, however, the concern that the pristinity and the delicate eco-systems of the environs are not endangered or degraded in even the minutest way. "With Kaieteur we have to balance two things. Kaieteur has its own intrinsic beauty that has been the perennial pull-factor from a tourism stand-point. But Kaieteur is also an extremely important area for Government, basically from a nature and bio-diversity standpoint; and there are species there that cannot be found anywhere else in the world, which hold intense interest for international researchers and nature-lovers.

"If we do not get the balance right, the very tourism that we are trying to promote will contribute to degradation of this natural environment and the eventual loss of some of these rare species; so there is need to implement regulatory and protective systems and protocols, with strict adherence enforced by the wardens. Non-compliance will be met with severe punitive measures."

"We are trying to have a balance between tourism development and conservation and protection of our ecosystems. We cannot sublimate one to the other; especially in view of the fact that the immediate environs of the falls, which is the ultimate tourism destination, is very sensitive; and for that reason we only allow guided tours. No one can just wander around on their own, which also takes into account the safety aspect."

"There are many threatened species there, and our guides will point out those species to visitors. Sometimes the sheer volume of visitors requires that we stagger the tours so that no one tour guide is overwhelmed by numbers, which we keep at a maximum 15 per group. Also, if the group gets too big, this could negatively impact the trails and the sensitive species peculiar to that environment; so we have put measures in place that are ensuring efficient management of the site in accordance with the stated guidelines."

The logistical framework that will form the parameters of the infrastructures for the amenities, which would all be contained within those guidelines; through the planning exercise, zoning of the 63 thousand hectares of the park, especially the Kaieteur top, is being examined.

These exercises are being undertaken in collaboration with some international experts, who have been provided courtesy of OAS, World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International, the Smithsonian Institute, among others, which are all organizations that have contributed in significant ways to the preservation of Guyana's eco-systems.

"Preserving the bio-diversity is the major consideration. Kaieteur Falls itself is a sight to behold, but then Kaieteur Park extends beyond the waterfalls and is not the only attraction, magnificent as it is,"

"As an institution, the National Parks Commission gains its revenue from visitor arrival fees, which is a small contribution in the context of the total cost of a Kaieteur tour, because that revenue goes back into maintaining and sustaining the site, paying the wardens, et cetera.

"We have had at least one wedding at the Kaieteur Park that assumed an added dimension because of the amazing ambience of the natural environs, and we are looking at promoting tasteful events that would not negatively impact the environment."

Over time we want to increase our complement of staff, again with a focus on providing employment opportunities to local Amerindian communities. Hinterland communities are offered first opportunities during our recruitment drives. We provide training in collaboration with Iwokrama, with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acting as the implementation agency in projects that are funded by the German government – Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, and the Government of Guyana.

In collaboration with the Guyana Tourism Authority we propose to design and embark on a programme to train additional wardens who will be required to be on call for sudden influxes of visitors, because the responsibilities of the regular wardens are expansive and extend beyond serving as tour guides.

Wherever these training opportunities arise for our wardens, we also include indigenous community members, because they are the traditional guardians of our rainforest, and they are best suited to work with us. We also want guides who can do a comprehensive and engaging tour of Kaieteur, because without adequate interpretation service the experience is not complete and the visitor would be short-changed.

LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE CHANGE INFLUENCES VISITOR IN-FLOWS

The increasing visitation and interest in Guyana and the hinterland areas is directly linked to the international profile that this country has achieved through its advocacy on climate change.

Our country has received international recognition as one that is way ahead in providing leadership and building a model for the world; and our eco-tourism drive and LCDS have become interdependent on each other; so as our country increases visibility in the global arena, we will definitely witness greater visitor in-flows in the future, with the spin-off socio-economic benefits to all the other sectors.

Our leadership on climate change and our Low Carbon Development Strategy have received international attention and, of course the President being awarded Champion of the Earth, among other awards, is recognition of this.

Importantly, as well, it has raised the international profile of Guyana as a country that is in the forefront of leadership in climate change, and also in trying to chart a direction and develop a model that would bring a new thinking in the way forests are looked at - in playing a very important role in the fight against climate change; but also in promoting a different way of thinking in terms of economic development in the context of third-world developing countries with forests.

Our LCDS model is not just about protecting and maintaining forests; but it is essentially about juxtaposing the sustainable utilization of our forest resources with developing our economy and expanding into new sectors. The Kaieteur National Park is integral to this development paradigm: so the growing interest in the way the LCDS has evolved is manifesting itself in the tremendous response by the international community to our tourism opportunities.

The overland trip to the Kaieteur Falls, with a preliminary stop at facilities provided at Tukeit, followed by a climb to the escarpment, is an even more thrilling experience than the in-flight trip, because then Guyana is experienced at first-hand in all its wondrous and natural beauty.

Wardens are stationed at Waratuk waterfalls, which is the boundary of the Kaieteur Falls. Basic accommodation is also provided at that stop for overland travelers. However, the administration is in the process of constructing a guest house at Tukeit, which is at the bottom of the falls, and that facility will be able to provide comfortable accommodation for overland visitors.

SECURITY AND COMMUNICATIONS FACTORED IN

Security is also factored in, and we are at all times vigilant and have made provisions for the security of guests and their possessions. Also, all of the wardens are supernumerary constables with requisite training with the Guyana Police Force.

There is also a very effective network of communication and interaction, and an emergency response system that can be invoked with immediacy; also, the rangers have a very close working relationship with police based at Mahdia.

This fully-integrated Park Management Plan is a very essential and holistic management tool, because previously, development of the Kaieteur Park was done in an ad hoc way that focused in addressing the immediate needs in a constrained manner.

This holistic approach will look at opportunities for income generation, research, infrastructural development, protective mechanisms for sustaining the eco and bio-diversity systems, as well as provision of services, among a plethora of others. Local and foreign expertise with specialized skills will collaborate to execute this comprehensive plan, of which one major component is looking at business development, primarily in the tourism sector.

It is envisaged that the spin-off effects will benefit all the sectors and consequently add substantially to the national economy.

Visitation

Table showing number of visitors to Kaieteur National Park during 2010

Month	No. of Persons Visiting
January	353
February	366
March	262
April	384
May	437
June	233
July	418
August	580
September	604
October	147
November	216
December	253
Total	4243

- *Planning - Development Projects*

▪ **Kaieteur National Park Management Plan**

The National Parks Commission (NPC) the implementing agency of the Kaieteur National Park Board, through funding from the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF Guiana's), commenced the development of management plan for the Kaieteur National Park in 2010; it was envisioned that the plan would guide, over the coming eight years, the conservation and management of the KNP and wider ecosystem including strengthening linkages to local community development. The Commission has contracted the services of a Protected Area Specialist who was tasked with the responsibility of leading the Management Planning Process, and the Project Team which included representatives of NPC, KNP Board, EPA, WWF and Chenapou Village.

The management planning process included public and private consultations with various stakeholders. These consultations were conducted by members of the management planning team which comprised of: Dr Graham Watkins (PA Specialist), Odacy Davis (Project Coordinator), Padmini Ragnauth (Project Assistant), Vibert Welch (Tourism Development Specialist), Oronde Drakes (Geographic Information System Specialist) and representatives of NPC, KNP Board, WWF, EPA and Chenapou Village.

The management plan will be presented in three parts; the core management plan, a Tourism Development document and a Business Plan;

These documents are expected to be fully completed in early January 2012.

