

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT (2006-2011)**

THIRD PERIODIC REPORT

OF THE

PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE

ON

NATURAL RESOURCES

RESOLUTION NO. 19 OF 2003

PERIOD

APRIL 2010- AUGUST 2011

**PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE**

ON

1ST SEPTEMBER, 2011

DECLARATION

This is the Third Periodic Report to the National Assembly on the status of the work of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources, pursuant to the requirements of paragraph 4 (ix) of Resolution 19 passed by the National Assembly on 15th May, 2003.

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources (PSCNR)

- 1.1 The Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources (PSCNR) is one of four (4) Sectoral Committees of the National Assembly that was established in 2003 in accordance with the provisions of Resolution No. 19 dated 15th May, 2003 of the National Assembly of the Eighth Parliament of Guyana.

The Resolution gives effect to the provisions of Article 119 (B) of the Constitution of Guyana which states that:

- (i) There shall be parliamentary sectoral committees established by the National Assembly with responsibility for the scrutiny of all areas of Government policy and administration including-
1. Natural Resources
 2. Economic Services
 3. Social Services
 4. Foreign Relations
- (ii) The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of each Parliamentary Sectoral Committee shall be elected from the opposite sides of the National Assembly.

Standing Order 86 specifically provides for the establishment of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources.

2.0 Membership of the Committee

2.1 In accordance with Paragraph 1 of Resolution No. 19 of 2003, and Standing Order 86, the Committee of Selection appointed seven Members of the National Assembly to be Members of the PSCNS on the 14th December, 2006 and in keeping with the Standing Order the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson rotated on an annual basis.

Members nominated on 14th December, 2006

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C)

Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.	Member
Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.	Member
Mr. Neendkumar, M.P.	Member
Mr. Parmanand P. Persaud, J.P., M.P.	Member
Mr. Steve Ninvalle, M.P. (Alternate)	Member

Members of the People's

National Congress Reform-1 Guyana (P.N.C.R-1G)

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Opposition Whip (Alternate)	Member
Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.	Member
Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P.	Member

Member of the Alliance for Change (A.F.C)

Mr. David Patterson, M.P.	Member
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Change in Membership

The above listed Members constitute the Membership of the Committee with the exception of the following:

- (a) On the 9th April, 2009, the Committee of Selection met and Dr. Vishwa Mahadeo replaced Mr. Donald Ramotar.
- (b) On the 8th April, 2010, the Committee of Selection met; Mr. Aubrey Norton became a Substantive Member and replaced Mr. Mervyn Williams. Mrs. Judith David –Blair became an Alternate Member and replaced Mr. Keith Scott.

The current membership of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources remains as follows:

Members of the People’s Progressive Party/Civic-(P.P.P/C)

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, M.P.

Mr. Permanand Persaud, M.P.

Mr. Steve Ninvalle, M.P.

Dr. Vishwa Mahadeo, M.P. (Alternate)

Members of the People’s National Congress Reform 1- Guyana- (P.N.C.R-1 G)

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Opposition Whip

Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P. (Alternate)

Member of the Alliance For Change- (A.F.C.)

Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

3.0 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

At the election held on 29th April, 2010, the Committee elected Mr. Odinga Lumumba and Mr. E. Lance Carberry as Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, respectively.

4.0 Meetings of the Committee

The Committee agreed to convene statutory meetings twice per month. During the period of reporting, the Committee convened twelve (12) statutory meetings. The number and dates of the meetings are as follows:

Statutory Meetings

Meetings	Dates of Meetings
20 th Meeting	17 th June,2010
21 st Meeting	24 th June,2010
22 nd Meeting	1 st July,2010
23 rd Meeting	14 th July,2010
24 th Meeting	28 th July,2010
25 th Meeting	10 th November,2010
26 th Meeting	17 th March,2011
27 th Meeting	31 st March,2011
28 th Meeting	14 th April,2011
29 th Meeting	4 th May,2011
30 th Meeting	29 th June, 2011
31 st Meeting	10 th August, 2011

The Attendance Record of the Proceedings can be found at Appendix I.

5.0 FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

5.1 The work of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources, during the reporting period, was in consonance with its mandate and the list of functions stipulated in Resolution No. 19 of 15th May, 2003. (See Appendix II)

Using the agencies under the Committee's purview, the work programme defined the areas of focus for the Committee with the time frame over the coming years. This document was adopted by the Committee and lays the framework for the Committee's work in the Ninth Parliament. There was an understanding that some flexibility would be exercised in order to allow the Committee to examine matters of urgent interest.

Mandate

5.2 The Mandate of the Committee was derived from Paragraph 3 of Resolution No.19 which states that:

"The Committees shall, in the discharge of their scrutinizing role, examine all policies and administration for each sector to determine whether the execution of government policy is in consonance with the principles of good governance and in the best interest of the people of Guyana".

5.3 In order to discharge that mandate, the Committee was empowered to scrutinize all areas of government activity as well as to summon Ministers of Government and all other public officials to provide information, to answer questions and give evidence.

It is imperative to note that the work programme focuses the Committee's attention to Government's policies, justification and performance in the given areas of responsibilities.

6.0 COMMITTEE'S AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

6.1 The Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources has been assigned responsibility for the oversight of the following sectors and activities:

MINISTRY	RESPONSIBILITY
Ministry of Public Works and Communications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bauxite Industry 2. Geological Surveys 3. Geology and Mines
Ministry of Housing and Water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acquisition and Beneficial occupation of non-beneficial Lands in Georgetown, New Amsterdam, other Towns 2. Water Resources
Agriculture, Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acquisition/Transferral/Occupation of Lands not Beneficially occupied in Georgetown, New Amsterdam and other Towns

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Hydrometeorology 3. Forestry
Office of the President	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Natural Resources/Environment 2. Forestry and Forest Policy 3. National Parks 4. Wild Life 5. Land Use 6. Thermal and Hydro Power

7.0 APPROACH/MODE OF OPERATION

The Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources, during the period under review, utilized a consensus approach to optimize its scrutiny of government policy and administration within the framework provided by its mandate.

Within the broad framework provided by its mandate to facilitate its oversight functions, the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources (PSCNR) invited various Ministers and Public Officials to make presentations on priority issues identified by the Committee. Relevant supporting reports and documents were, in some instances, requested prior to hearings. The convening of Hearings/Meetings with various entities provided the Committee the opportunity to address urgent issues and developments within the sectors.

The Committee focused primarily on Climate Change, Environment, Land use vis-à-vis Climate Change, Water Resources, Mining and Energy Sectors and the Agriculture Sector. The Work Programme of the Committee can be found at Appendix III.

In order to facilitate its work and to garner a substantial understanding of the various issues, the Committee requested documents and reports for the purpose of acquiring additional information as was required. Reminders were sent to those institutions that did not respond promptly.

8.0 INFORMATION REQUESTED AND RECEIVED

In keeping with its mandate, the Committee requested information from the agencies being scrutinized and/or from any other entity that is in possession of information which would have assisted the Committee to expedite its work.

Documents requested and received

- Information on BOSAI and BCGI;
- GEPS Reports, Latin America, Guyana;
- Typical Articles in Guyana's Petroleum Agreement;
- OHS Mines Safety Guidelines;
- Vector-Borne Diseases;
- Guide to Closed-Circuit Mining with Recycling of Water in Land Dredging Operations;
- Mining Environmental Regulations for small and medium-scale Mines;
- Tailings Management, Small and Medium-Scale Gold Mines;
- OHS Personal Safety Guidelines;
- GGMC Locating a Claim;

- The Mining (Amendment) Regulations 2005 in brief;
- Guyana's Petroleum Exploration Business and WP 2010;
- General update on the Petroleum Industry;
- Copy of Power Point Presentation by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Team of Representatives; and
- Information on Manganese Company in Matthew's Ridge

9.0 PRESENTATIONS

The Committee invited the Prime Minister, Ministers and Officials to make oral presentations for the purpose of enlightening its Members on specific aspects of the operation of their Agencies and Ministries.

(i) Presentation by the Hon. Prime Minister and Team

The Hon. Samuel Hinds, Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communication appeared before the Committee, along with a team of representatives, at the 24th Meeting held on the 28th July, 2010.

The team comprised:

Mr. William Woolford, Commissioner (ag), Guyana Geology and Mines Commission;

Mr. Kampta Persaud, Manager, Geological Services Division, G.G.M.C.;

Mrs. Karen Livan, Manager, Mines Division, G.G.M.C.,

Mr. Donald Singh, Geographic Information Officer; and

Mr. Mahendra Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, Guyana Energy Agency.

Mr. Samuel Hinds, in an effort to address several issues, provided information on the following:

- Mining Industry which includes large and small scale mining;
- The Mining Act;
- Mining operations ;
- Illegal Mining;
- New Mining regulations - the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (G.G.M.C.) five year strategic plan;
- Reclamation Mining: Bauxite Reclamation in Mining Areas;
- Environmental impact of mining; and
- Energy Development: New and Renewable sources of energy which includes Co-generation, Wind, Bio Gas, Hydro power (potential hydro falls and its impact), Solar power, ethanol, energy for transportation and energy conservation.

At the end of the presentation, questions were asked for the purpose of clarification and can be found in the Record of the Proceedings of this Meeting.

(ii) Presentation by the Hon. Prime Minister and Representatives from the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission

The Hon. Samuel Hinds, Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communication, and Mr. Newell Dennison, Manager, Petroleum Division, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission appeared before the Committee at the 25th Meeting held on the 10th November, 2010, and made a presentation on the “Petroleum Industry”

The Prime Minister highlighted the following areas during his presentation:

- The Petroleum Division;
- Capacity Building at the Petroleum Division;
- Vignettes of gas occurrences and gas capture;
- Developments in the Petroleum Industry;
- The allocation of areas for petroleum exploration to Companies and
- Production Sharing.

At the conclusion of the presentation, questions were asked for the purpose of clarification and can be found in the Record of the Proceedings of this Meeting.

(iii) Presentation by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and team of Representatives.

The Hon Minister and his team of representatives, listed below, appeared before the Committee at the 28th Meeting held on the 14th April, 2011 and made a presentation on the following areas: “Renewable Energies, Climate Change and the rise in sea level, Climate Monitoring, Policies and Programmes on Sustainable fisheries, Fisheries Management and Assessment of Fish Content.”

The team comprised:

Mr. George Jarvis, Permanent Secretary, Minister of Agriculture;

Mr. Elvis Jordan, Head Administrator, Ministry of Agriculture;

Mr. Godfrey Marshall, Director, Forestry Training Centre;

Mr. Derrick Cummings, Executive Director, F.P.D.M.C.;

Mr. Jagdesh Singh, Guyana Forestry Commission;

Mr. Prodeepn Bholanath, Guyana Forestry Commission;

Mr. Tasreef Khan, Mr. Fredrick Flatts, Ministry of Agriculture;

Mr. Omkar Lochan, Project Manager, Ministry of Agriculture;

Mr. Sharma Dwarka, Factory Operations Manager, GUYSUCO;

Mr. Lionel Wordsworth, Chief Executive Officer, N.O.T.A.;

Mr. Gary Baird, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture; and

Mr. Garvin Cummings, Hydro meteorological /Hydrologist

The Hon. Minister of Agriculture highlighted the following issues during his presentation:

- **Climate Change:** extreme weather events in Guyana, the role of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in climate change, current meteorological and hydrological monitoring network and specific mandate of the Hydromet Office with respect to climate change.

- **Fisheries Sector:** fisheries management, importance of fisheries resources, implication of climate change on the fisheries sector and policies and programmes for sustainable fisheries.
- **Renewable Energy:** bio energy development, the benefits of promoting and encouraging Bio Energy in Guyana, GUYSUCO; the Sheldon Bagasse Cogeneration Project, Contribution of Bio Energy to sustainable development and expanding Bio Energy opportunities in Guyana.
- **Forestry :** forest policy in relation to Climate Change, global role of forest in Climate Change, mitigation activities, the Low Carbon Development Strategies, Guyana Forestry Commission Plan; General direction from National Forestry Policy, Forestry Training, Implications of REDD/LCDS for the Forestry Sector and Sustainable Forestry and Wood Processing.
- **National Drainage and Irrigation Authority:** Importance of Drainage and Irrigation, Programmes undertaken to improve Drainage and Irrigation systems and interventions for the rainy seasons.

At the end of the presentation, questions were asked for the purpose of clarification and can be found in the Record of the Proceedings of this Meeting.

(iv) Presentation by the Hon. Robeson Benn, Minister of Transport and Hydraulics and Team of representatives

The Hon. Robeson Benn, Minister of Transport and Hydraulics, appeared before the Committee at the 29th Meeting, held on the 4th May, 2011 and made a presentation on “**Sea Defences**”

The team comprised:

Mr. Rickford Lowe, Coordinator, Works Services Group;

Mr. Geoffrey Vaughn, Chief Sea & River Defence Officer; and

Mr. Walter Willis, Technical Advisor to Hon. Minister of Transport.

The Minister highlighted the following issues during his presentation:

- The Sea and River Defence Division;
- Capacity building for surveyors and engineers;
- Sea defences reserves and their contribution to the difficulty in managing sea defences;
- Reduction in the cost of sea defences construction and management;
- Challenges in Human Resource;
- Reconstruction of groins; and
- Squatting on the sea defences reserves and its effects on sea defence management.

At the end of the presentation, questions were asked for the purpose of clarification and can be found in the Record of the Proceedings of this Meeting.

10. Outstanding Documents to be submitted to the Committee;

Ministry/Agency	Document
Guyana Forestry Commission	1. Organizational Chart
Ministry of Transport and Hydraulics	1. A map of the eight (8) sea and river defences districts; 2. The challenges encountered with regard to rise in sea levels and the programmes for dealing with the challenges; 3. Scientific data in relation to the time frame for sea level rise; 4. Policy Framework Document; and

	5. Costs benefit analysis for using the rip rap design.
Ministry of Agriculture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture noted that the cost benefit analysis of the Skeldon Plant was done by another entity and agreed to provide the Committee with document; and 2. Information on the highest mega watt of power achieved, so far, at the Skeldon Plant.

11. Programme of Visits

The Committee did not undertake any visits, as planned, in its Work Programme.

12. Conclusion

In conclusion, it must be noted that the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources has completed the majority of work outlined in its Work Programme. Also, the Ministers of Government and Head of the Agencies who attended the meetings were very co-operative.

APPENDIX I

PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

ATTENDANCE RECORD (29th April, 2010 - 10th August, 2011)

NAMES	April	June			July		Nov.	March		April	May	July	Aug.
	29 th	17 th	24 th	1 st	14 th	28 th	10 th	17 th	31 st	14 th	4 th	6 th	10 th
Mr. Lance Carberry, M.P.	Pr.	Abs.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Pr.	Abs.	Pr.
Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.
Mr. Neendkumar, M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Abs.	Abs.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Abs.
Mr. Parmanand P. Persaud, J.P., M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.
Mr. Steve Ninvalle, M.P.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Abs.	Pr.
Dr. Vishwa D.B. Mahadeo, M.P.	Pr.	Abs.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Abs.	Abs.	Pr.	Pr.	Abs.	Pr.	Ex.
Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P.	Abs.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Abs.	Abs.	Pr.	Abs.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Abs.	Abs.
Mrs. Judith David – Blair, M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Abs.	Pr.	Abs.	Abs.
Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mr. David Patterson, M.P.	Abs.	Abs.	Pr.	Pr.	Abs.	Ex.	Pr.	Abs.	Abs.	Abs.	Abs.	Abs.	Abs.
Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Pr. - Present
 Abs. - Absent
 Ex. - Excused

*Committees Division
 Parliament Office
 Public Buildings
 Georgetown*

* Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P. and Mr. Keith Scott, M.P. resigned as Members of the Committee with effect from 8th April, 2010 and were replaced by Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P. and Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P., respectively.

APPENDIX II

EIGHT PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

SECOND SESSION (2002-2003)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION NO. 19

WHEREAS Article 119 B of the Constitution provides:

There shall be parliamentary sectoral committees established by the National Assembly with responsibility for the scrutiny of all areas of Government policy and administration including (i) natural resources (ii) economic services (iii) foreign relations and (iv) social services

RESOLVED,

1. The Sectoral Committees shall consist of seven (7) members, four (4) representing the Government and three (3) representing the Opposition. The Government and Opposition are entitled to elect one alternate member each for each Sectoral Committee.

2. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of each sectoral committee shall be elected from opposite sides of the National Assembly and would alternate annually with two (2) Sectoral Committees each to be chaired by the Government and Opposition respectively.

3. The committees shall, in the discharge of their scrutinising role, examine all policies and administration, for each sector, to determine whether the execution of government policy is in consonance with the principles of good governance and in the best interest of all the people of Guyana.

4. The committees shall have the authority to:

- i Determine areas of government activity for scrutiny or specific examination;
- ii Request the Minister assigned responsibility for the sector to submit written or oral information, including government documents and records about any specific area of government policy and administration;
- iii Review existing legislation on government policy and administration for any of the sectors;

- iv **Summon persons to give evidence, scrutinise government documents, papers and records;**
 - v **Visit any government activity or project in Guyana as agreed and arranged by the Committee;**
 - vi **In the discharge of their mandate, utilise the services of experts, specialists and other sources of advice as they determine;**
 - vii **Establish a timeable for the conduct of their work;**
 - viii **Make recommendations to the National Assembly on legislation or any other action to be taken on matters falling within their purview;**
 - ix **Submit periodic reports to the National Assembly on their work; and**
- Invite comments, from the Minister assigned responsibility for the sector on their recommendations or reports.**

5. **The National Assembly, notwithstanding the current work programme of any sectoral committee, may request the committee to give prompt attention to a particular aspect of the policy or administration of the government for a sector**

6. The provisions of Standing Order No. 70A shall apply to the Sectoral Committees

AND FURTHER RESOLVED,

7. The Gazetted ministerial responsibilities shall be allocated to each Sectoral Committee in the manner set out in Schedule 1.

(Passed by the National Assembly on 15th May, 2003)


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S. E. ISAACS

Clerk of the National Assembly

**S E. ISAACS
CLERK OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

APPENDIX III

**Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources
Work Programme for Period June 2010–April 2011**

Responsibility	Areas of interest	Activities	Proposed time Frame June 2010 – April, 2011							Remarks
			July	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar	
Scrutiny of all areas of Government Policy and administration in relation to "Natural Resources."	GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AND PROGRAMME FOR CLIMATE CHANGE									
	1. Hydromet/Climate Change and Climate Monitoring	Presentation by representatives from the Hydromet Department								
	2. Low Carbon Development Strategy and its impact on land use policy	(Visit to Leguan & Wakenaam)		4 th						
	3. Sea Defences	} <i>(with regard to climate change and the rise in sea level)</i>	Presentation by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and the Hon. Minister of Transport and Hydraulics (visit to selected area in Berbice)							
	4. Drainage & Irrigation									
	5. Forestry	Presentation by representatives of Guyana Forestry Commission/GGMC (Visits to Barama/Port Kaituma, Matthews Ridge)								
	LAND									
	6. Land use vis-à-vis Climate Change	Presentation by representatives of Ministry of Housing and Water/GGMC/GFC & Lands and Survey. (Visit to an island in the North West district)								
WATER RESOURCES										
7. Water Use and Development	Presentation by representatives of Ministry of Housing and Water									
8. Management of Springs										

* Wednesdays are reserved for presentations.

Responsibility	Areas of interest	Activities	Proposed time Frame June 2010 – April 2011						Remarks
			July	Aug.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	
Scrutiny of all areas of Government Policy and administration in relation to “Natural Resources.”	ENERGY								
	14. Energy Development: New and Renewable sources of energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Co-generation ➤ Wind ➤ Bio gas ➤ Hydro power (potential hydro falls and its social impact) ➤ Solar power ➤ Ethanol ➤ Energy for transportation ➤ Energy conservation 	Presentation by Guyana Energy Agency/Representatives from GUYSUCO (Visit to Skeldon Sugar Factory) (Visit to Amaila Falls/potential hydro-site)							
	15. INFRASTRUCTURE								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roads and Harbour ▪ Airstrips & Airports ▪ Deep water harbour 	Presentation by the Hon. Minister of Transport and Hydraulics							
	16. FISHERIES								
	Fisheries Department: Policies and programmes on sustainable fisheries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Assessment of Fish Content ✓ Fisheries Management 	Presentation by Team from Ministry of Agriculture (Visit to Abary River)							
	17. WILD LIFE								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hunting season ✓ wild life management 								

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 14th July, 2010