

Alexander Lowe

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Address to the IPU- Christopher Jones MP

I'm certain that each of us have seen the devastating effects of climate change globally. My country Guyana is one of the countries of the world that is vulnerable to climate change and rising sea levels. It is important to note that close to 80 percent of Guyana's population live in the low-lying coastal regions. The capital city of Georgetown relies on seawalls for protection.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change- IPCC- in its 2021 report has Georgetown listed as one of nine cities that will be underwater by 2030; a mere eight years from now.

Guyana's coastal plain is flat and below sea level, making it prone to sea defense breaches, flooding and intrusion of salt water into residential and agricultural communities. The sea defence protecting our coastline is fragile and require repairs in many areas.

Our forests provides ecological and environmental services to humanity. On April 22, 2016, The Government of Guyana in recognition of its responsibility to contribute to the global efforts to combat climate change, signed the Paris Agreement at the United Nations in New York.

Though a small developing nation, Guyana, through the pursuit of a Green Economy pledged to spare no effort to contribute to both a sustainable future and to an effective global response to climate change.

It would be remiss of me if I didn't make mention of the fact that Guyana's total area covers 83, 000 sq miles which makes it the largest country in the Caribbean Community. Its forest covers more than 85% of its land mass. Guyana is what we would call a 'net carbon sink', that is; our forests sequester more carbon than the country's human activity generates.

With the world's second highest percentage of rain forest cover, Guyana commands important carbon stocks.

As a signatory to the Paris Accord, Guyana is fully committed to ensuring it plays its role in the reduction of global temperatures to below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

From the period 2015-2020, the Government of Guyana enacted a green state development strategy.

The Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040, provides the comprehensive development policy to guide public investment over the next 20 years. It captures a more holistic view of the country's social, economic and environmental well-being, in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

In closing, I must underscore that Guyana remains committed to playing a meaningful role in the mitigation of climate change.

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