

Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme

The CME Programme is being delivered on behalf of the UK Government by a partnership of world-leading marine expertise.



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Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme



Funded by
UK Government

Enabling safe and sustainable marine economies across Commonwealth Small Island Developing States

Guyana case study

About the CME Programme

The UK Government is supporting the development of Commonwealth Small Island Developing States' (SIDS) marine economies through the Commonwealth Marine Economies (CME) Programme.

Through the provision of world-class multi-disciplinary marine expertise, the programme aims to support the creation of prosperous, secure and resilient states to unlock the huge marine resource potential within their exclusive economic zones (EEZs).

The CME Programme aims to help SIDS in-scope to:

- Expand trade capacity and security by accurately charting ports and shipping lanes
- Identify and assess critical ecosystem health so they can be maintained for economic benefit
- Provide information to model disasters and climate change impacts to improve resilience
- Train SIDS to acquire and optimise information to ensure programme legacy

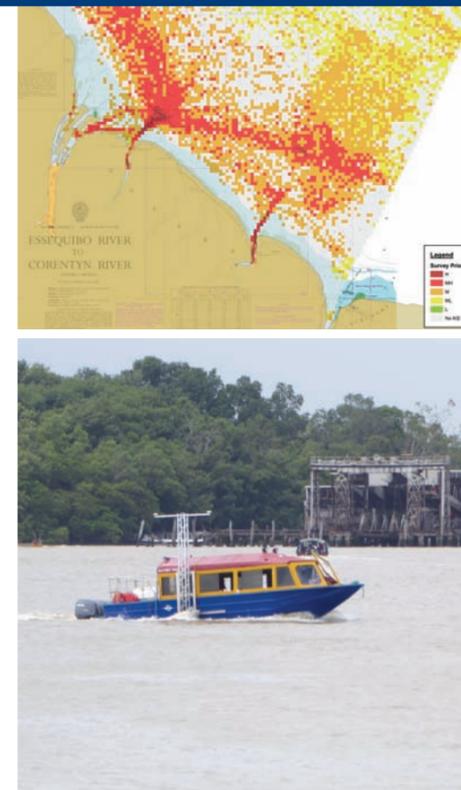
This will enable countries to realise their potential in a sustainable manner that conserves their oceans and marine resources in accordance with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Planned strategic outcomes include:

- **Prosperity** – Diversifying economies by opening up new ocean economy opportunities
- **Sustainability** – Making existing and new ocean economy activities sustainable
- **Security** – Making infrastructure and human capital resilient to natural disaster / climate change
- **Legacy** – Building capacity of national authorities to plan and optimise their marine spaces

For more information on the Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme, please contact us via:

www.gov.uk/guidance/commonwealth-marine-economies-programme
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“The fisheries and marine environment in Guyana is at a critical point. Initiatives like the specialist training on stock assessment and habitat mapping will prove to be invaluable...”

– Mikhail B. Amsterdam,
Fisheries Department, Guyana



Priority projects

- Helping Guyana to improve fisheries management and secure MSC certification
- Encouraging trade and improving infrastructure by updating coastal data and maritime navigational charts and products
- Helping Guyana improve sea defences and other measures to combat the effects of climate change



The opportunity

According to the World Bank, Guyana's low per capita income makes it the second poorest country in the Caribbean region. Helping Guyana to gain Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification for its shrimp fishing industry will boost trade and employment, and aid sustainable economic growth. In particular, MSC certified products have higher trade prices and enable access to markets that demand labelling guaranteeing sustainable sourcing. Updating maritime data, charts and products will encourage tourism and other sustainable economic activity, as well as helping Guyana protect its coastal areas against sea level rises and severe weather associated with climate change.

Key areas to benefit from the CME Programme

Fisheries – the fishing industry is a significant contributor to Guyana's economy, accounting for 6% of its GDP and around 5% of total exports. MSC certification will enable the shrimp (seabob) trawling industry to expand sustainably and compete internationally. Cefas has worked to develop Guyana's expertise in stock assessments, seabed habitat mapping and observer programme to monitor catch and by-catch – key areas in improving fisheries management.

Navigation – there is an urgent need for updated seabed mapping data due to large amounts of sediment being deposited in navigational significant areas, which have not been updated on the existing charts for quite some time. New hydrographic data will be used to modernise navigational charts and publications, supporting greater navigational safety and encouraging more and larger cargo and cruise ships to visit Guyana.

International trade and transport – Guyana has extensive mineral resources, including bauxite, gold, diamonds and copper, but export trade has been limited by existing navigational charts that need updating. This has restricted the size of cargo ships entering ports, and shipmasters have been unwilling to fully load their ships. Up-to-date navigational charts and publications will help Guyana increase its capacity for international trade, helping it stimulate long-term, sustainable economic development and growth.

Coastal protection – much of Guyana's inland coastal area lies below sea level. This is a major cause for concern as sea defences are regularly breached near Georgetown, causing considerable damage and disruption. Up-to-date, accurate seabed mapping will provide the key information and data needed to improve Guyana's resilience against severe weather and sea level rises caused by climate change.

International obligations – improved hydrographic data and navigational charts will help Guyana meet its international maritime obligations and commitments, including the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention and elements of the Implementation of the IMO Instruments Code (IIIC).

Local expertise – the CME Programme is supporting the Guyanese to improve their own knowledge and expertise, ensuring a legacy that will continue long after the projects end.

“This has been an extremely successful set of activities which are helping to put Guyana on the right path towards MSC certification.”

– Greg Quinn, British High Commissioner, Georgetown, Guyana

MSC certification for Guyana's fishing industry

Advice and support from Cefas has enabled Guyana's industrial trawl fishery for brown shrimp to work towards certification from the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). MSC certification will support the sustainable growth of Guyana's fishing industry, helping them to compete on an international level.

To attain MSC certification, a fishery must comply with the Fisheries Standard, which is based on three principles:

- **Sustainable target fish stocks:** fishing methods must not lead to over-fishing or depletion of the exploited populations.
- **Environmental impact of fishing:** fishing operations should allow for the maintenance of the ecosystem
- **Effective management:** the fishery must be managed in a way that respects local, national and international laws and standards

Cefas has been working with the Guyana Fisheries Department to improve the data, impacts and understanding of the fishery, highlighting best practice so that the industrial trawl fishery for seabob can enter MSC certification. To ensure an environmentally sustainable future for Guyana's seabob fishery, it supported the Fisheries Department in conducting a stock assessment.

Cefas experts also helped the Fisheries Department to develop a strategy for habitat and ecosystem mapping to monitor the environmental impact of fishing. In doing so, it also provided training for Fisheries Department personnel in stock assessment, habitat mapping, observer programme and other areas of fisheries management.

This support, advice and training has helped to widen expertise of the Guyana Fisheries Department – promoting more independent future progress in fisheries management.



Safer navigation can boost the marine economy

From November 2017 to February 2018, two boats commissioned by the UKHO surveyed key areas of Guyana's seabed, including important navigational channels and anchorages of its main ports.

This important work, using state-of-the-art tools and techniques, was carried out with Guyanese authorities to collect a wide range of data including seafloor features, depths, speed and direction of current and river discharge, as well as detailed descriptions of navigational aids such as lights and buoys.

Using this new, comprehensive data, the UKHO will bring navigational charts and publications of Guyanese waters up to modern standards. This will improve satellite-assisted navigation

and help support the sustainable development of Guyana's marine economy – enabling more commercial ships to use Guyanese ports safely, boosting trade, supporting tourism and protecting the marine environment.

An important element of the programme is also the development of Guyana's own hydrographic capabilities – ensuring that surveying of the area is maintained and monitored in future.