



RESULTS FACTSHEET

CONTEXT

PAGE's partnership with Guyana began in 2017 within the context of the government's commitment to developing and implementing its *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040*. Through this strategy, the government is intent on pursuing green economic and social development, with core objectives focused on promoting economic diversification and transformation, ensuring social equity and strengthening the economy's ecological foundations.

Guyana has taken a highly collaborative approach to its national development planning, drawing on the varied expertise of PAGE partner agencies, the UN country team, Inter-Ministerial and Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committees and other expert groups and partners, as well as seeking insights from key local stakeholders and civil society groups. PAGE has established itself as an important partner within this process, having initiated a Green Economy Modelling Study and providing evidence in support of investment in Guyana's natural resources, based on its potential to contribute to long-term green growth. This modelling and other PAGE workstreams are contributing towards sectoral and thematic policy reform and are building stakeholder and institutional capacity to delivering on the objectives of the *Green State Development Strategy*.

In doing so, PAGE is contributing towards the achievement of SDGs 8, 9, 13 and SDG 17 as well as Guyana's *Nationally Determined Contributions*, especially as it relates to developing the country's renewable energy potential.



STORY OF RESULTS

Supporting national policies for the Green State

PAGE's engagement in Guyana has centred around supporting the elaboration of the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040, which itself builds upon previous commitments to sustainable development, such as the country's *Low Carbon Development Strategy*, and Climate Resilience Strategy Action Plan, among other national strategies.

To support Guyana's green economy vision, PAGE has worked closely with the Ministry of Finance to apply systems dynamic modelling to forecast investment and performance scenarios in four key economic sectors: agriculture, forest, energy and road-transport. This work has helped to identify key priority areas, which were incorporated into the long-term vision set out by the *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040*.

PAGE's involvement in Guyana has sparked an increased national interest in inclusive green economy issues, leading to the establishment of regular Green Conversations—high-profile events organized in partnership with the Department of Environment, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Conservation International, the University of Guyana and UN Environment. Each Green Conversation explores

a particular aspect of the *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040*, as well as green economy principles such as green economic growth and green fiscal policy, sustainable agriculture, and investments in renewable energy. The events attract a wide audience of stakeholders, include representatives from the government, the private sector, civil society and the general public, and are an important tool for catalyzing support for the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 and green economy transition.

The Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 was presented to the Cabinet in 2018 and will be subsequently presented to Parliament, with anticipated approval in 2019 for implementation beginning in 2020. The government's commitment to the *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040* was also reiterated in the Ministry of Finance 2019 Budget Speech—delivered in November 2018—which contains strong references to green economy principles, acknowledging that “economic development must not be at the expense of our environment, and vibrant and healthy communities” and pledging to invest in opportunities that drive sustainable development and economic prosperity. Going forward, PAGE will seek to support government to realize the ambitious objectives of this strategy.

Informing sectoral and thematic policy action and reform

To support the development of green industry in Guyana, PAGE has conducted a Green Industry Assessment, which will inform the elaboration and support the implementation of the *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040*. The assessment was validated at a stakeholder workshop in December 2018, bringing together representatives from PAGE partners, government ministries, the Private Sector Commission, and the national Green State Development Strategy Coordination Office. A Green Conversation on green industry complemented the validation workshop to give more visibility to Green Industry Assessment and to PAGE's work and linkages to the *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040*.

PAGE has also begun work on a Green Jobs Assessment in Guyana, which, when complete, will provide an economy-wide analysis that uncovers the sectors and gaps with greatest potential for employment and fair work, while protecting the environment. The Guyanese government has fully embraced the importance of understanding the intersecting priorities of labour and the environment, concluding that the future Green Jobs Assessment model would become an integrated part of the implementation of the *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040*.

Building capacity for the green economy transition

Through a series of workshops and training events, PAGE has been working to build the capacity of the Ministry of Finance for systems dynamics modelling. While this agenda is still ongoing, the Ministry has already increased its capacity to use and interpret the modelling tool in order to gain a holistic understanding of the social, environmental and economic impacts

of policy and investment decisions. This work will significantly improve institutional and individual capacities in utilizing modelling to support future policy and planning processes.

Recognizing the importance of the media for developing a broad support base for the *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040*, PAGE is also developing a tailored training for journalists and other media professionals. This aims to increase understanding, clarify concepts and de-mystify perceptions around green economy, as well as to cover the key messages and priorities from the *Green State Development Strategy*.

Consultations and collaboration for inclusive, integrated policy and programmes

By working in close collaboration with the UN Country Team and other green economy actors, PAGE has been able to ensure that the expertise of PAGE partners is where it is most useful to align with national sustainable development needs and priorities.

Another important outcome has been the improved inclusivity and stakeholder representation within the decision-making processes of the development of the *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040*. Thematic groups involving representatives of government ministries, civil society and the private sector have been established and have provided recommendations for, and a review of, the strategy. In addition, 33 consultations across Guyana's 10 regions have been held to gain local perspectives on the strategy's provisions, involving 1700 participants from 200 communities. These measures have significantly increased the national ownership of the strategy, ensuring it caters to the Guyanese society as a whole.

LOOKING FORWARD: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

It is expected that the *Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040* will be reviewed and adopted by the government in early 2019. Following this, PAGE will act as an important mechanism to facilitate its implementation, in particular by supporting work on sustainable agro-processing, fiscal policies, green jobs and institutional and individual capacity development. PAGE also plans to undertake a tourism sectoral study in order to assess opportunities for greening this sector in Guyana and provide appropriate policy guidance.

In response to priorities articulated in the Strategy, PAGE is also prepared to conduct a fiscal policy study to assist the government in analysing appropriate fiscal policies that would support the country's ambitions in accordance with the Strategy and facilitate its transition to green economy. Support to the Ministry of Finance will be provided to develop its capabilities in the area of green fiscal policy. PAGE also plans to build the capacity of key stakeholders to mainstream IGE concepts into national trade policy.



Since its inception in 2013, The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) has grown into a prominent alliance of five UN agencies, eight funding partners, and eighteen countries that work together to transform economies into drivers of sustainability.

Thanks to this integrated approach and support of a wide range of partners, PAGE is increasingly recognized as a model to deliver coordinated support to countries for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets of the Paris Agreement.

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