



PRESS RELEASE

Georgetown, 2nd October 2007

All media are invited to the launch of the regional project “**Ecological and financial sustainable management of the Guiana Shield eco-region**” (also known as the GSI Phase II Project), on October 8, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the Essequibo Room at Le Meridien, Pegasus Hotel in Georgetown. The European Union, Dutch Government, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands (IUCN NL) have financed the project to the tune of 2.244 million Euros. The UNDP is directly executing the project which has a duration of 42 months. The IUCN NL is a key technical implementing partner for the project and the Secretariat for the wider Guyana Shield Initiative (GSI).

The goal of the project is to promote the sustainable development of the Guiana Shield by means of an integrated eco-regional (policy, institutional, financial) management framework, designed to enable the six countries (Brazil, Colombia, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela) and their local communities to benefit from their natural resources. Project activities focus on pilot projects for testing mechanisms for compensation for the provision of environmental services, as well as culturally appropriate management contracts, benefit sharing mechanisms and monitoring schemes.

The project builds upon the outputs of the Guiana Shield Conservation Priority Setting Workshop held in April 2002 in Paramaribo, Suriname. The resulting **Paramaribo Declaration** pledged support for *inter-alia*, the countries of the Guiana Shield in their efforts to find fair compensation for ecological services provided to the global community.

For more information on the project, please contact:

Dr. Patrick Chesney, Project Manager, GSI Phase II Project Implementation Management Unit, United Nations Development Programme, 42 Brickdam & United Nations Place, Stabroek, Georgetown, Guyana. Tel: (592) 223-6564; Fax: (592) 226-2692. E-mail: patrick.chesney@undp.org

This project is funded by the European Union
European Commission (EC)
EuropeAid Cooperation Office,
Section: Environment, Tropical
Forests
Attn: Mr. Frank Jacobs
Coordinator
Office L-41 2/40
1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel. 32 2 296.50.50
Fax. 32 2 296.14.30

A project implemented by the
United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)
Programme/Operations Unit
Section: Energy, Environment
& Disaster
Attn: Ms. Patsy Ross
Programme Specialist
42 Brickdam & United Nations
Place, Stabroek, Georgetown
Tel. 592.226-4040/8/9
Fax. 592.226.2942

This project is funded by the EUROPEAN UNION

“The European Union is made up of 25 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.