

1st Guyana Mangrove Forum Georgetown (Guyana), “Restoring and Managing Mangrove Ecosystems in a changing world”

April 11-13, 2013

<http://www.mangrovesgy.org>

Dear colleagues;

The Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project (GMRP), the National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) and the University of Guyana (UG) have the pleasure to invite mangrove researchers, restoration practitioners and managers to participate in the 1st Guyana Mangrove Forum “Restoring and Managing Mangrove Ecosystems in a changing world” which will be held in Georgetown, Guyana, April 11-13, 2013.



The Guyana Mangrove Forum, is an important event of the Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project (GMRP), a project co-funded by the Government of Guyana and the European Union.

The GMRP aims to respond to climate change and to mitigate its effects through the protection, rehabilitation and wise use of Guyana's mangrove ecosystems.

The objective of the Guyana Mangrove Forum is to build local and regional capacity in mangrove restoration and management, continue to raise the

public profile of the values of mangroves in Guyana and to bring together national, regional and international researchers to share experience and knowledge of the sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems.

Professional meetings of mangrove researchers and managers are important for the development of new techniques for mangrove restoration in the region and developing networks amongst researchers for future research in this field.

The character of the proposed forum programme provides attendees with a unique chance to (examine) mangrove restoration and management



initiatives in the region, recent mangrove studies by University of Guyana researchers, GMRP project staff and international organisations.

The Forum will also include round table discussions, poster sessions, and a cultural and social programme. In the First Announcement below more information concerning the Forum is provided.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Georgetown.



Kene Mosely, Project Coordinator, Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project (GMRP)

Owen Bovell, Dean, Faculty of Forestry and Agriculture, University of Guyana

Oudo Homenauth, CEO, National Agriculture and Extension Institute (NAREI)

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First Announcement Scientific Programme.

The core of the scientific programme is decided by the Forum Organising Committee, comprising representatives from GMRP, NAREI and UG. There will be 4 plenary lectures, 12 invited lectures, 12 presentations by University of Guyana students funded by the GMRP, as well as contributed poster sessions.

Conference themes include:

- The ecology and biodiversity of mangroves in Guyana and the Caribbean region;
 - Coastal restoration case studies;
 - Case studies of community co-management of mangrove areas (including financing mechanisms and payment for ecological services/ REDD+);
 - The economics of coastal habitat restoration (cost benefit analysis and valuation of mangrove ecosystem services.
 - Experience in the application of coastal engineering approaches to coastal mud banks stability, mangrove protection and recruitment;
 - Climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation to mangrove restoration and management; and
- Institutional models for sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems.



Proceedings. Proceedings of the Mangrove forum will be published by the GMRP and made available to registered participants subsequent to the forum.

Grants and financial support. In order to ensure broad participation in the Guyana Mangrove Forum and reduce economic barriers for regional mangrove researchers and managers, a limited number of competitive, merit based grants will be awarded.

Registration fee. Regular registration fee until December 31, 2012 will be USD50; after from December 31, 2012 the fee will be raised to USD70. There will be a reduced fee for students. Details will be posted at the website, when registration begins on November 15, 2012.



Social programme. Social and cultural programmes, promoting informal contacts between Forum participants and contact with rich cultural heritage of Guyana will be important components of the forum activities.

Participants and accompanying persons will have free access to several museums. On Saturday, April 13 excursions around Georgetown and its environs will be offered. Also, a tour of the Golden Grove to Belfield Mangrove Reserve located 15km from Georgetown is planned. In addition participants will visit a recent mangrove restoration site in Berbice, 70km from Georgetown.



Logistic of the Guyana Mangrove Forum. The convenient location of the Forum venue - the modern National Conference Centre - makes it easy to combine forum activities with exploration of Georgetown, the Garden city of the Caribbean, and surrounding countryside and for pre/post conference visits to Guyana's exotic hinterland areas.

A programme of daily events will be provided to participants once registered.

Georgetown. Formerly known as the Garden city of the Caribbean, Georgetown, is a small city of 240,000 people located on the Atlantic Ocean coast at the mouth of the Demerara River. The city was established in the 18th century and is now characterised by colonial architecture, lively markets, museums and lush parks and gardens all of which give it a laid-back feel. Georgetown is used by tourists as the Gateway to the interior and the renowned Kaieteur falls, Amerindian villages and virgin rainforests, savannahs, and uncharted rivers and mountains.

Read more: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/the-guianas/guyana/georgetown#ixzz290WpYROA> and <http://www.guyana.org>.



Registration. Registration for the workshop will open on the 15th November 2012. Registered participants will receive regular updated information. Wishes and comments may help the organizers to prepare the Guyana Mangrove Forum according to the expectations of its participants. If you use Facebook, join us at the Facebook website.

Important dates and deadlines. Here are the important deadlines.

The Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project website will be systematically updated as soon as any information becomes available.

2012-11-15 Beginning of the registration for the Guyana Mangrove Forum

2012-12-31 Announcement of the scientific programme

2012-12-31 Deadline for early bird registration

2013-02-30 Deadline for submission of posters

2013-04-10 Arrival day

2013-04-11 Opening of the Guyana Mangrove Forum, beginning of the scientific programme

2013-04-12 Ending of the Guyana Mangrove Forum

2013-04-13 Excursions and departure day

Contact. For more information visit <http://www.mangrovesgy.org> or email: Kene Mosely, Mangrove Action Committee Secretariat macsecretariat@gmail.com.

For bookings of tours contact Wilderness Explorers [+592] 227-7698 | London [+44] 020 8417 1585 | Europe [+41] 56 222 9978 | US [+1] 202-630-7698, journeys@wilderness-explorers.com.