

Guyana Citizens' Initiative.
An Interim Report on the State of Preparedness Along the Coast for
May/June 2006 rainy season.
By: Bert Carter (Board Member)

OVERVIEW

The May / June rains are definitely here. Fortunately, it would appear that even though the rainfall is widespread over the 83,000 square miles, the intensities have been modest, much to the relief of the citizenry. This has been the indication to date.

The Government acquired 14 new excavators as an immediate response to the flooding of 2006. These machines were received in April 2006 and have been distributed as follows:

Region 2 - 1 machine

Regions 3 – 2 machines

Region 4 – 4 machines

Region 5 - 2 machines

Region 6 - 4 machines

East Demerara Water Conservancy – 1 machine

CONSERVANCIES

The machine currently in use in the EDWC has been involved in clearing of channels (inner waterways) at the extreme western perimeter of the conservancy. Tenders for the lifting mechanisms for the two sluices at Kofi and Cunha have gone out and these should be awarded soon. However, they would definitely not be installed before the end of the current rainy season. The bigger of the two sluice doors at Lama has been rehabilitated.

It should be pointed out that an order should be issued shortly for the procurement of 18 pontoons and 6 swim-ends for the erection of two barges that will be used in the conservancy. The idea is to have an excavator on each pontoon and to be able to do a lot more clearing of the inner waterways as well as the rising and rehabilitation of the dam where necessary. At the time of writing this report the level in the conservancy was at least one and one half feet below the full supply level of 57.50GD.

The Boeraserie conservancy has had no further work done on the rehabilitation of its dam. Work terminated at Tiger Dam, a few miles east of Parika. The 8000feet long spill weir still needs to be de-weeded and the approach channel along the western perimeter still needs to be excavated and widened. Work on the crown of the dam beyond Tiger Dam needs to continue to really complete the remedial work recommended by the Task Force of 2005.

In addition to the above distribution there are 2 machines working in the Pomeroon whilst there are other machines working continuously in the MMA, as they have been doing since the January floods of 2006. Some machines are working in the Black Bush Polder area and also between villages # 52 to 74. The acquisition of these machinery has allowed for a certain level of planning whereby works can be executed by Governmental and Regional

staff rather than having everything done by contractors. It is hoped that with good maintenance of these equipment the coastal areas could be adequately served with respect to drainage and irrigation thereby minimizing the risks of any flooding.

OUTFALLS

Quite a few outfalls into the Atlantic Ocean have been cleared in time for the May/June rainy season. These outfalls are at Hope, Belfield and Beehive. The outfalls at Victoria, Golden Grove and Buxton were all determined to be in good condition and the inlets i.e. the approach channels to these sluice doors were all excavated.