

THE IDB IN GUYANA IN BRIEF

Country Strategy with Guyana

The 2008 – 2012 Country Strategy with Guyana is structured around three pillars, Strategic Infrastructure, Enhanced Competitiveness, and Social Development for Growth, which focus on economic diversification as a means of improving macroeconomic stability and emphasizing strategic investments in transport and energy, reform of the financial sector, support for low income housing, enhanced access to improved water and sanitation services, and ameliorated family health. Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) frames the country's competitiveness agenda for fostering environmentally sustainable economic and social development. An ambitious agenda for strengthening fiduciary country systems is also an important element of the country strategy. The estimated base case sovereign guaranteed lending envelope was US\$113 million. A total of US\$227 million was projected to be disbursed between 2008 and 2012. The estimated technical cooperation envelope was US\$8 million.

Lending and Disbursements

The implementation of the 2008 – 2012 Country Strategy with Guyana advanced in all priority areas. At the end of 2011, IDB accumulated approvals totaled US\$121.2 million, already surpassing the base case lending envelope. In 2011, two SG operations for US\$17 million were approved to improve water supply in the town of Linden and reinforce current efforts to improve the efficiency of the electricity sector. An amount of US\$66.2 million for the transport sector is scheduled for approval in 2012 bringing the total approvals under the current strategy to US\$187.4 million. Accumulated disbursements reached US\$217.4 million or 95.8% of country strategy projections.

Grants

Technical cooperation accumulated approvals during the strategy period amounted to US\$11 million. In addition, in 2011 one GEF-funded Regional Investment Grant, the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW) was approved, with an allocation of US\$3.5 million for Guyana to pilot a national wastewater revolving fund to support financing improvements in the wastewater sector.

For 2012, an important program of grants amounting to approximately US\$ 16.4 million and funded through the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF) and the GEF is envisaged. These grants will strengthen Guyana's capacity to monitor deforestation level, increase access to renewable energy for remote communities and support the development of small businesses.

These results reflect an enhanced engagement between IDB and the Government of Guyana and thus paves the way for the development of the new Country Strategy (2012-2016), expected to be considered by the IDB Board of Directors in late 2012.