

GEF SGP NEWSLETTER

July 2025



Attendees at the SGP Guyana Knowledge Fair 2024

SGP Guyana 2024 Knowledge Fair Recap

On October 11, 2024, the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Guyana, under RTTC's Knowledge Management SGP project, hosted its first-ever Knowledge Fair and Stakeholder Reception at Regency Suites, Georgetown, under the theme:

"Building Synergies for Community Environmental Action with Global Impacts"

The event was an unforgettable showcase of passion, innovation, and grassroots excellence in local development and highlighted the importance of strategic and meaningful partnerships with all stakeholders: local, national, regional, and international.

Mission Possible: Knowledge, Networking & Impact

The goal? Simple but powerful:

- Share information about SGP's grant process
- Highlight incredible community projects from across Guyana
- Spark connections, learning, and new ideas!

And that's exactly what happened

Voices that Inspired: The Stakeholder Reception

The formal program featured remarks and presentations from:

- Mr Gerardo Noto, Resident Representative, UNDP Guyana
- Mrs Felicia Adams - Kellman, Head, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Policy and Planning, Department, Environmental Protection Agency
- Ms Mariscia Charles, National Coordinator, SGP Guyana
- National Steering Committee members
- Grantees: South Rupununi Conservation Society, Guyana Council of Organisations for Persons with Disabilities, Kako Village Council, LFU Guyana Inc., Mainstay/Whyaka Village Council, and Grace Temple Assembly of God.
- Partner: Reid N Learn

This segment gave attendees a closer look at the purpose and impact of the SGP over its 12-year journey in Guyana.



SGP's trivia questions and games segment

Booths, Buzz & Big Ideas: The Exhibition Floor

The Fair welcomed 15 exhibitors, including both current and past grantees, with eye-catching booths showcasing their work and areas of impact and focus. Here's a quick snapshot:

Featured Grantees Included:

- Grace Temple Assembly of God
- Women's Agro Processors Development Network
- Kako Village Council
- LFU Guyana Inc.
- Madewini Queen Bees
- Region 10 Tourism Committee Inc.
- Guyana Council of Organisations for Persons with Disabilities
- East Berbice Corentyne Aquaculture Cooperative Society Limited
- Women's Revolutionaries Cooperative Society Limited
- South Rupununi Conservation Society

National Partners :

- Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Guyana Energy Agency (GEA)

Other Participants:

- Reid N Learn

Who Showed Up? A Great Turnout!

- 50+ attendees at the Stakeholder Reception
- 60-80 guests explored the Fair
- Dozens of CSO's joined the knowledge fair to learn how to access SGP support

What's a Knowledge Fair Anyway? *Think Expo, But Smarter – And Greener!*



Kako Village Council's Booth

A Knowledge Fair is an exciting, interactive event designed to share ideas, showcase solutions, and spark collaboration. It's a space where changemakers, innovators, community leaders, and partners come together to learn from one another, celebrate achievements, and explore ways to tackle shared challenges, especially those tied to sustainable development and environmental action.

Purpose with a Powerful Punch

At its heart, a Knowledge Fair is all about:

- Promoting awareness of ongoing and completed projects
- Facilitating connections between people, ideas, and solutions
- Encouraging knowledge exchange across communities and sectors
- Inspiring action by showing real-world examples of success

For the Small Grants Programme (SGP), it was also a chance to:

- Explain the grant application process
- Introduce potential grantees to funding opportunities
- Celebrate the work of local heroes leading environmental change

The Real Impact – From Booths to Bigger Movement

- A well-executed Knowledge Fair doesn't end when the lights go out, it leaves a ripple effect that lasts far beyond the event:
- Elevates community voices and highlights grassroots solutions
- Builds capacity by offering a platform to learn and ask questions
- Attracts new partners and encourages future collaboration
- Informs policy conversations by showcasing what works on the ground
- Strengthens networks that lead to future funding and growth

Simply put, a Knowledge Fair is where local action meets national and global opportunity.



World Youth Skills Day Spotlight: Powered by Passion, Driven by Skills!

Theme: "Powering Possibility: Youth Empowerment through AI and Digital Skills"

This July 15, we celebrate 10 years of World Youth Skills Day, a global call to action that highlights the game-changing power of youth and the skills they need to thrive.

In today's world, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a far-off idea; it's shaping how we live, learn, and lead. That's why this year's theme is all about empowering youth with AI and digital skills to navigate the future with confidence and creativity.

As the Fourth Industrial Revolution transforms our economies and workplaces, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) must evolve too, ensuring young people aren't just ready for the future, but equipped to lead it.

But let's be real, technology without access and equity can widen gaps instead of closing them. That's why this year is more than a celebration, it's a reminder of our shared responsibility to:

- Make digital learning more accessible.
- Empower youth with tools that unlock innovation.
- Equip them to solve real-world challenges with smart, inclusive tech.

So on July 15, let's honour the creators, coders, thinkers, and doers, the youth who are driving change with digital confidence and heart. Because the future isn't just automated, it's youth-powered.

Empowered to Act: **YOUTH** Turning Environmental Vision into Reality

Hey Change-Makers! Did you know YOU are the secret sauce to a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable planet? The GEF SGP is all about fueling YOUR passion and power to make BIG environmental waves!

Whether you're dreaming up cool eco-projects or rallying your community for action, SGP's got your back with youth-led support, funding, and tools to help YOU shine!



Calling All Changemakers: Youth Power the Planet!

Did you know that Guyana is all about YOU, the youth, women, and community heroes, leading the charge to protect our environment and boost livelihoods? Whether you're dreaming big or starting small, SGP is here with funding and support to help turn your green ideas into real impact!

Youth-Led Projects: Your Ideas, Your Impact!

SGP believes the future belongs to the youth because you're the ones who can spark real change. If you have a passion for the environment and want to empower your community, this program is your launchpad!

Ready, Set, Grow: Grants That Fuel Your Vision

Got an environmental project? SGP offers grants up to USD 50,000 for community initiatives.

Empowering Communities, One Project at a Time

It's not just about money! SGP also provides technical support to help your group tackle local environmental challenges. Whether you're a youth group, women's collective, or community, you get the tools and training to lead with confidence.

Green and Growing: Sustainable Livelihoods for All

SGP projects don't just protect the planet, they also help communities thrive. Imagine creating jobs and business opportunities while tackling environmental threats and challenges. That's sustainable development in action!

Spotlight on Youth Innovation: See the Plastic, Be the Change!

Here's a real gem from Region 3 Youth leaders launched the "See the Plastic, Be the Change" project to reduce plastic waste through education and recycling. It's a shining example of how Young people can lead practical, inspiring environmental action.

Your Turn: Got a Game-Changing Idea?

If you're a Youth organisation ready to tackle environmental challenges and empower your community, submit your proposal and join the movement.

YOUTH on the Rise: You're the Game-Changers!



The artwork of the inaugural art competition first-place winner, Danae Amsterdam. This artist combined recycling, solar power, and teamwork in their futuristic landscape.

Tiny Hands, Big Ideas! Kids Dazzled Us in the GEF SGP Art Competition

Back in April 2024, our inboxes were flooded with color, creativity, and powerful messages as young artists from across Guyana took part in the GEF SGP Kids' Art Competition!

With the theme "The Modern Environment", these bright young minds imagined a future where technology and nature thrive together. From robot tree-planters to futuristic eco-cities, their art reminded us that preserving our environment can be innovative, inspiring, and beautiful.

And they didn't stop there! Each piece included the heartfelt call to action: "Let's Save Nature Together," a universal message of peace and protection for our planet.



The artwork of the second-place winner, Viveka Seenauth. This brilliant piece showed how drones could help plant forests!



The artwork of the third place winner, Alecia Bernard. This piece envisions a city where every rooftop had a garden.

YOUTH Power Unleashed! — The GEF Small Grants Programme is Here to Empower YOU!



Winners of the Jingle Competition, Right, Brian Mingo – 1st place winner and left, Chavez Bender – 2nd place winner

They Sang for the Planet! GEF SGP's Jingle Competition Hit All the Right Notes

Back in August 2024, Guyanese voices rose in harmony for a cause that truly mattered, the environment! The GEF SGP Guyana Jingle Competition invited individuals from all walks of life to bring a beat to the movement. And wow, did they deliver!

With the inspiring themes "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally" and "Community Action, Global Impact", participants turned powerful environmental messages into catchy, toe-tapping tunes that celebrated local action with global reach.

What Made This Competition Unique?

Participants were asked to:

- ✓ Interpret GEF SGP's mission in their lyrics
- ✓ Highlight community-based environmental action
- ✓ Include a brief story about what inspired their jingle
- ✓ Submit audio entries with full lyrical breakdowns

The rules were clear but the creative possibilities were endless!

Music Meets Mission

This competition proved one thing: change can start with a single voice. And when that voice is backed by a beat and a passion for the planet, it can echo far beyond the borders of any community.

Stay tuned for our next creative challenge, you just might be our next eco-superstar!

Stay Connected — Stay Inspired!

Follow us on social media for updates, success stories, and tips on how YOU can continue rocking the world of sustainability!

Follow our journey and join the conversation:

