

Task Force for Infrastructure Rehabilitation

Progress report until March 20th 2005

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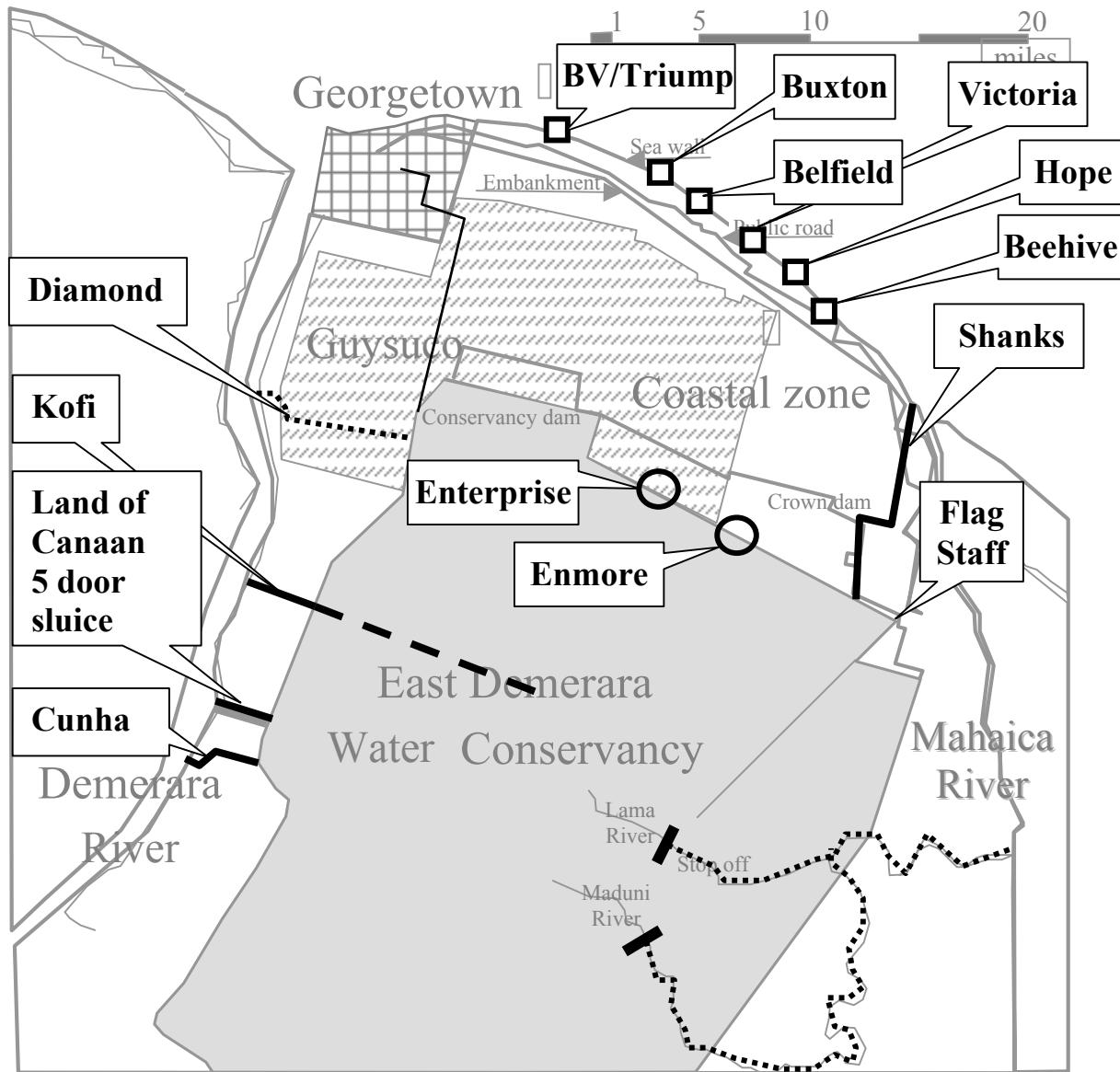
Introduction

This second progress report is intended to inform the donors involved with the works carried out by the Task Force for Infrastructure Rehabilitation. This report will be discussed at the weekly Progress meeting with the committed organizations UNDP, DFID, USAID, CIDA, EU and WB on Monday march 21st, 2005 at 16:00 in the Boardroom of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The first progress report was provided March 13th, 2005.

Scope

Figure 1 Sketch of Region 4



Meeting with NDCs

The Task Force has now met with the NDCs in region 3, 4 and 5 and agreed with them on the submission of plans and cost estimates for the rehabilitation of works in each region.

- Works may not have been included in their regular annual budget proposals
- Works shall be limited to the repair of existing drains and structures only. No new works are accepted.
- Works must - this week - be proposed to the Task Force on maps, indicating:
 - a. In green works already completed
 - b. In yellow, works undertaken but not yet finished
 - c. In red, works still to be started
 - d. In black potential borrow pits for Clay or sand

It was clarified to them that in order to be eligible for funding, the following conditions have to be met:

1. Timely completion
Works shall be completed before May 15th, 2005
2. Accountability
 - a. Works must be contracted in accordance with established tendering procedures.
 - b. Works must be priced, with unit rates and quantities and unit rates must be in line with unit rates in other areas.
 - c. Quantities must be verified after completion
3. Quality
Works will be inspected by the Consultants and must meet adequate quality standards.

The supervision will also monitor compliance with EPA requirements, and the need for remedial works where requirements could not be met immediately.

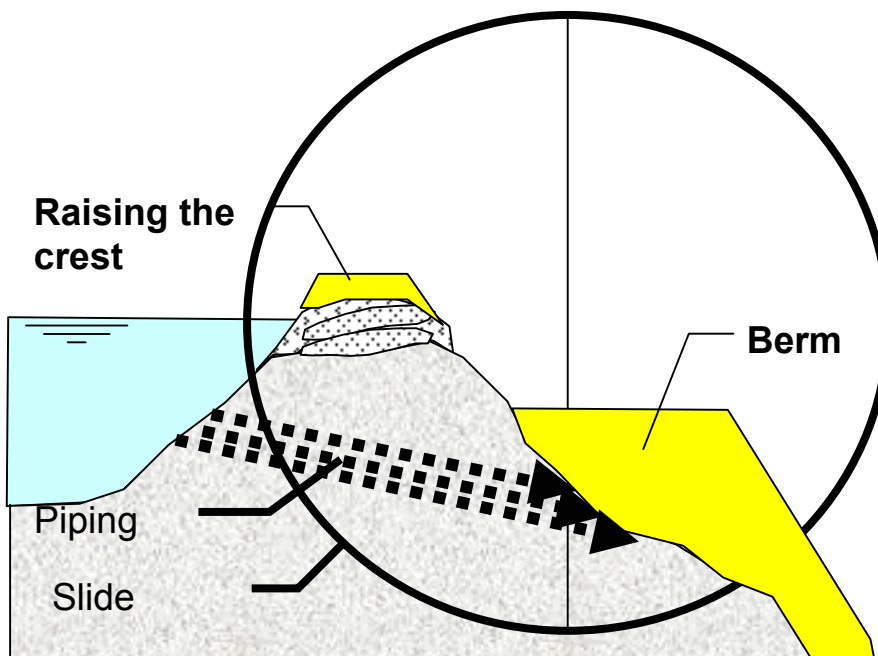
It may be considered a positive aspect to make use of the institutional capacity of the NDCs in these rehabilitation works.

Strengthening of the conservancy dams

The Task Force has initiated the repair of some weak spots in the dam, and the Work Force in the Conservancy is reinforcing the earlier emergency repairs.

Next, a berm will be constructed at the northern side of the dam, starting with the weakest section from Flag Staff (at the northern eastern side), working toward “five hundred cross canal” (somewhere half way the northern stretch). After this berm is placed, the crest level of the dam can be raised to a consistent 59 ft+G.D. over the full length.

Figure 2 Failure mechanisms and the envisaged measures for the Conservancy dam



Constructing a berm is a risky undertaking in itself. The subsoil consists partly of soft peat (Pegasse) layers, so slides may occur while the works are carried out. Such slides may even induce a breach of the dam itself. Therefore some soil investigations will be undertaken and extra expertise is being mobilized, to assist such delicate works.

Implication is that the berm will not be completed before the coming rainy season. The integrity of the dam continues to pose a substantial risk.

EPA

The Task Force complies with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency. Formalities are being finalized. The supervision of the works will be instructed to ensure that the works will be fully up to the EPA standards.

In general these works are not expected to pose any substantial environmental risk. On the contrary, the works are to ward off the environmental risks involved in flooding. Identified negative effects may come from some garbage being excavated from the silted channels. Such incidents will be addressed in case these occur.

Disaster Management

A first meeting was held with engineers from Guyana to start up the design of a Strategy regarding the management of the Conservancy and excessive rainfall in Region 4. Findings have been assembled in a separate memorandum and will be presented in the Donor meeting of March 21st.

In view of improving the early warning For the Task Force an extra job was identified

Money

Income

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DFID has been signed last Monday.

The budgets situation is as follows:

- DFID (UK) made £ 750,000 (1.2 million US\$) available, which will soon be transferred into a special account of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- CIDA (Canada) is preparing to make some 2 million Canadian dollars (about 1.7 million US\$) available.

This will bring the money available for immediate rehabilitation works to 2.9 million US\$.

- USAID (US) accepted the use of two budgets of some US\$ 1.6 million.

As these budgets are intended for other purposes, the Task Force will try to minimize the use of the USAID funds, in order not to jeopardize their original objectives. The Ministry of Agriculture is at the moment trying to secure funding until 5 million US\$.

Output

No payments had to be made yet.

Works at Cunha were previously started during the floods. The earthworks have now been completed. Negotiations about the costs of these works have been finalized. The original claim of shortly over 42 million G\$ was brought down to 11.12 million G\$. There are still works to be carried out at Cunha the outlet at the Demerara River.

These works will be defined coming week and contracted thereafter. The cost are expected to stay within the budget of G\$ 25 million.

The works at Shanks were also started during the floods, but are still in progress. A basis for unit rates has been agreed with the Contractor. Quantity surveys have been started and will be completed when the works are done.

Accounting

This week the tender has gone out for supervision of the works. The need for accountability of payments has been explicitly clarified to the candidates.

In the Attachment 1, the cost estimates have been updated, as is shown. There are no significant changes since last week.

A column has been added, showing the budgets that have been committed, either by the signing of contracts, or by the order to execute works as is the case at Shanks.

Fast tracking

It had been agreed to short-cut or fast-track procedures for making money available from donors and awarding contracts for the infrastructure rehabilitation. It is worth noting here that both have been effectuated in deed, while – in my opinion – accountability is not jeopardized by it. The Central Tender Board has been really cooperative and works are agreed rapidly. Also Contractors and Consultants have responded expediently to requests to bid for works. Thus the time between definition and award of contract is reduced to two weeks only. The only reason not to award more contracts yet is the need to define what is to be done, which can not (and should not) be avoided¹.

Because the Task Force has been strict in maintaining whenever possible competition in bids², and where it was not possible negotiations on the basis of reference rates, the cost of the works may still be considered economic.

Time

Progress

Attachment 2 shows the scheduled works and their progress with a timeline (a vertical line, crossing each work at the point of actual progress).

Lot 1 Drainage channels

Although the works on the main outfall drains are progressing somewhat different than indicated in the previous progress report, there is sufficient confidence that these works will be completed in time.

The works on the drainage system of the residential areas, carried out by the NDCs is in progress. Presumably it will be possible to provide an overall picture next week.

¹ Quoting 1 “If you don’t know what you want, you can’t have somebody else do it for you”

² Even though in Europe works below a value of 25,000 € (nearly G\$ 7 million) can be handed to contractors without competition (which is routinely done so in the Netherlands).

Lot 2 Sluices and drainage works

The bidding for the Contract for the Sluices in Region 4 has been started. Tenders are expected at Tuesday, 14:00 hours. Some two more sluices will be rehabilitated, while the sluice at Victoria is apparently being rehabilitated under CDB funding.

Lot 3 Conservancy dams

The works on the conservancy dams will start later than scheduled earlier, in view of design works. The repair works on the weak spots in the EWC dam are progressing well. The Task Force visited these works last Friday.

Soil investigations on the dam will be contracted coming week.

The road to Flag Staff, though delayed now will be the first to be handled by consultants, and is expected to be completed in time.

Lot 4 Miscellaneous works

The bidding for the Contract for the Supervision of the works has been started. Tenders are expected also at Tuesday, 14:00 hours.

Lot 5 Disaster Management

A meeting was held, but progress was not satisfactory yet. This will be discussed in the Donor meeting of Monday 21st.

Overall planning

The Task Force foresees the works contracted now to be completed substantially by May 15th, but be rounded up fully only by the end of June. Therefore consultancy services are hired until that time.

A few works will also continue until after this summer. These are:

- The works on the Boerasirie conservancy dam in Region 3
- The works on the EDWC conservancy dam in Region 4
- The Water Management Model
- Disaster Management development.

After June, the medium term activities will be started up. In the immediate term, existing structures and channels have been rehabilitated, where possible, to their original function. In the medium term, the whole water management systems of Region 3, 4 and 5 are to be rehabilitated up to the nowadays required function.

Works that are yet identified are:

- Construction of a major spillway at Diamond
- Two or three new sluices in the sea wall
- Replacing of the Sluice at Buxton
- More drainage channels within the conservancies
- Purchase of equipment for use in the EDW Conservancy

The Task Force foresees the need for continuation of its work until the works on the dams of the conservancies have been completed, presumably by the end of this year.

Therefore it is recommended to maintain part of the Task Force assigned until the end of the rainy season of January-February 2006:

- Mr. Ravi Naraine (as now)
- Mr. George Howard (as now)
- Mr. Philip Allsopp (as now, fully)
- Mr. Bert Carter (part time)

Organization

Organizational Framework

The organizational set-up is unchanged (shown once more below)

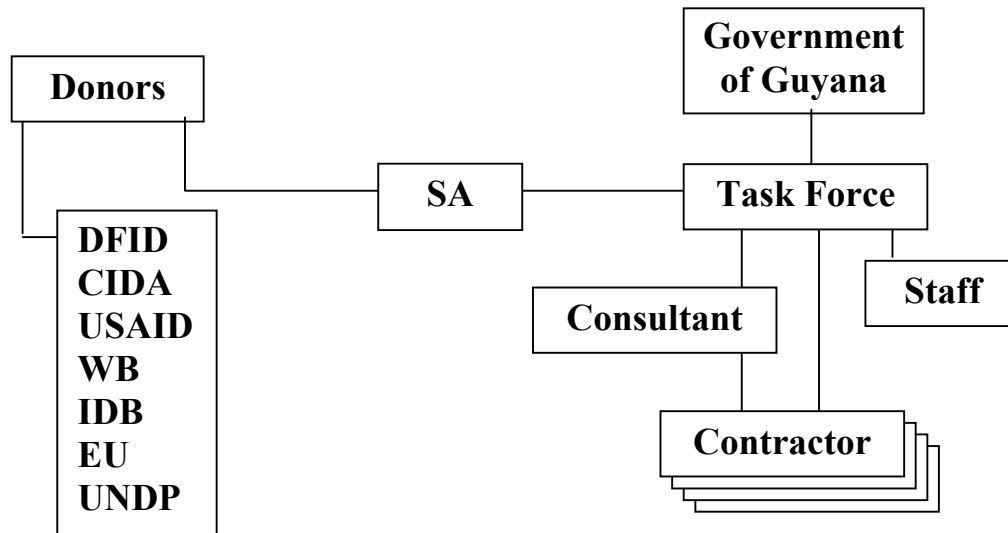


Figure 3 Organizational framework

Consultancy services

Following agreement with the donors, the Task Force started up competitive bidding for consultancy services for accounting, surveying and supervision of the works that are under contract and that are yet to be contracted.

Task Force set-up

A provisional office has been set up at the Ministry of Works Department of Sea Defense. Two computers will be purchased. It is intended to hire a copy machine. The task Force will operate with two drivers and cars, of which one 4-wheel drive. The regular car with driver will start from Monday March 21st. The Ministry of Works is trying to make a 4-wheel drive car with driver available. The Task Force will employ a secretary from March 21st.

Attachment 1 Budget

No.	Activity	Prev. etimated costs MG\$	Estimated Cost MG\$	Cummulative Costs MG\$	Committed Budget MG\$
1	Drainage canals				
1.1	Cunha/Couhngce	25	25		11
1.2	Kofi/Cuffy	30	30		30
1.3	Shanks	25	25		25
1.4	Region 3 Drainage works	-	25		8
1.5	Region 4 Drainage works	120	120		36
1.6	Region 5 Drainage works	80	60	285	18
2	Sluices in the Seawall				
2.1	Hope	20	20		
2.2	BV/Triumph	20	20		
2.3	Belfield	20	20		
2.4	Buxton	20	20		
2.5	Behive	20	20		
2.6	Victoria	-	p.m.		
2.7	Guysuco outlets	p.m.	p.m.	100	
3	Conservancies				
3.1	EDWC dam	90	90		
3.2	Drainage channels	120	120		60
3.3	Road to Flag Staf	25	25		
3.4	Lease equipment for EDWC	20	10		
3.5	Supply and storage of clay bags	5	1		
3.6	Soil investigantions at EDWC dar	-	2		
3.7	Boerasirie conservancy dam	60	60	308	
4	Miscellaneous				
4.1	Task Force	40	40		40
4.2	Consultants	15	15		
4.3	Special Advisor	p.m.	p.m.		
4.4	Task Force staf	5	5		
4.5	Water Management Model	70	70	130	
5	Disaster Management Plan				
5.1	Strategy	p.m.	p.m.		
5.2	Flood preparedness	p.m.	p.m.		
5.3	Disaster Guidebook	p.m.	p.m.	0	
6	Provision (10%)	90	90	90	
	Total MG\$	920		913	228
	Total US\$	4,600,000		4,565,000	1,138,100

Attachment 2 Planning

No.	Activity	week	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1 Contracting of works for drainage canals											
1.1	Cunha/Couhnge			Bid&Award	Construct						
1.2	Kofi/Cuffy		Bid&Award	Construct and supervise							
1.3	Shanks			Bid&Award	Construct						
1.4	Region 3 drainage channels		Works by NDC								
1.5	Region 4 drainage channels		Works by NDC								
1.6	Region 5 drainage channels		Works by NDC								
2 Contracting of works on Sluices in the Seawall											
2.1	Hope		Call Contr.s	Bid&Award	Construct and supervise						
2.2	BV/Triumph		Call Contr.s	Bid&Award	Construct and supervise						
2.3	Belfield		Call Contr.s	Bid&Award	Construct and supervise						
2.4	Buxton			Call Contr.s	Bid&Award	Construct and supervise					
2.5	Beehive			Call Contr.s	Bid&Award	Construct and supervise					
2.6	Victoria			Call Contr.s	Bid&Award	Construct and supervise					
2.7	Guysuco outlets			Carried out by	Guysuco						
3 Conservancies											
3.1	EDWC dam			Call Contr.s	Bid&Award	Construct and supervise					
3.2	Road to Flag Staf				Call Contr	Bid&Award	Construct and supervise				
3.3	Lease equipment					Call Contr.	Bid&Award	Construct and supervise			
3.4	Purchase of clay bags			Call Contr.s	Bid&Award	Construct and supervise					
3.5	Soil investigations			Call Contr.s	Bid&Award	Construct and supervise					
3.6	Boerasirie dam (Region.3)			Call Contr.s	Bid&Award	Construct and supervise					
4 Miscellaneous											
4.1	Task Force		[Grey bar]								
4.2	Consultants			Call Contr.s	Bid&Award	Construct and supervise					
4.3	Special Advisor			Bid&Award	Start						
4.4	Task Force staf			Start							
4.5	Water Mngm. Model		ToR (DFID)	Bid&Award	Start-up						
5 Disaster Management Plan											
				Start-up	[Yellow bar]						