

## Paramaribo climate change

This is a significant step towards evidence-based policies and measures addressing the pressing issue of climate change. The Climate Change Statistics and Indicators Publication emphasizes the critical importance of tracking environmental data for the nation's well-being. Leveraging the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) "Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators Framework," adopted by the UN in March 2022, this report not only provides valuable insights but also aligns Suriname with international standards.

The impacts of climate change are being acutely felt in Suriname, with increasingly frequent occurrences of floods, droughts, sea-level rise, and reduced crop productivity. These climatic shifts bear profound implications for the country's development and necessitate immediate action. In response to the threats posed by climate change, Suriname has been proactive in implementing various programs aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change, enhancing the capacity to adapt to climate change, and the ability to align with the international community's call to protect the planet.

The Suriname Climate Change Statistics and Indicators publication represents a significant milestone for the General Bureau of Statistics (GBS). Supported by the United Nations Development Programme this comprehensive report offers essential insights into the various programs designed to combat climate change. It also furnishes data crucial for monitoring several Multilateral Agreements on Climate Change, including:

The development of this report was only possible through intricate collaboration between various data providing institutions and individuals. The Suriname Global Climate Change Alliance Phase 2 funded by the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), provided essential support in the realization and distribution of this Publication.

Suriname's first Climate Change Statistics and Indicators publication is a testament to the nation's commitment to addressing the challenges of climate change and preserving our planet for future generations. It not only underscores the urgency of climate action but also serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, and all stakeholders dedicated to a sustainable and resilient Suriname.

Weg Naar Zee, an easily accessible coastal area of about 10,000 hectares located northwest of Paramaribo and part of Suriname's 386 kms of mostly muddy coastal zone, has suffered from extreme erosion that has resulted in an absence of soft silt, a favorite foraging habitat for shorebirds.

In July of 2022 the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, visited Suriname for the first time. During his visit he was able to see firsthand the effects of climate change. Visiting the mangrove rehabilitation project at Weg Naar Zee beach, Mr. Guterres saw the devastating effects of coastal erosion, flooding and sea level rise fueled by climate change.

Walking along the muddy coast with Suriname's Minister of Spatial Planning, Silvano Tjong-Ahin, Mr. Guterres planted a young mangrove tree assisted by Professor Naipal, who is one of the driving forces behind mangrove conservation in the country.

The Secretary-General was very impressed by the work being done and said mangroves held special meaning for him because the first book he read as a child was about these hardy, uniquely beneficial trees and shrubs. He also stated that "Nature-based solutions - such as the conservation of mangroves, rainforests and other essential ecosystems - are vital. The world needs more such initiatives."

They are also extremely important to our coastal environment and the habitats and nurseries that contribute to a wide variety of plant and animal species. They are also called the "kidneys of the coast" because they play an important role in the cycling of nutrients in the coastal environment.

The work being done by professor Naipal and his team is essential for Suriname's fight against climate change as it helps the population living close to a low-lying coast to build resilience to the effects of climate change.

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