



September 29, 2006

GUYANA REPORT - PLAN OF ACTION OF MEXICO

Guyana through assistance from UNESCO undertook a first phase examination of its Festivals and Folk Traditions which are critical to our Cultural Heritage. The data collected is advising on the sustenance and preservation of these Traditions.

The Government of Guyana makes tangible contribution to perpetuate these Festivals, many of which have since been incorporated into the Annual National Programme and have become significant Celebrations and National Holidays. The ultimate goal is to upgrade and document in digital format, more information and data on these festivals.

The National Trust has intensified its work on the preservation of Historical sites and its documentation of a series of Cultural/Historical sites and edifices. There has been continued Governmental, Private Sector and Community co-operation in this regard. The protection of sites has involved our Law enforcement agencies as we seek to ensure that these sites are not vandalized and invaluable cultural and historical relics removed and become part of the illicit trafficking of cultural objects.

The Burrowes School of Art has added to its curriculum Small Business Training, where it is hoped that the young artists will, on completion of their studies, be able to move into or help create small commercial groupings – job creation – which can grow into Industry which can contribute tangibly to fight against poverty reduction.

A considerable amount of work was done to improve our Museums and work continues as we explore technical assistance to treat with specific areas of Museum operations.

Towards both broadening the horizons and strengthen the identities of both our young and old JUNIOR archaeology programmes were run by the Walter Roth Museum and the Museum of African Heritage has been taking its work into rural and hinterland communities through Travelling Exhibitions.

Special attention has been paid to the preservation of Amerindian dialects, thus a small project to write the National Anthem and the National Pledge in those dialects was undertaken.

More recently UNESCO has approved funding for a small project which will allow us to document a number of authentic Amerindian Songs and poems. This project is called SONGS OF MY PEOPLE and will commence shortly.

Out National Committees to treat with National Celebrations, the National Trust, Museums, Art Training and Education has as a key factor the active involvement of civil society in discussions, decisions and to a great extent, active involvement and participation in programmes.

A new National Archives is being constructed and will be completed by the end of 2006 allowing the Archives to bring all archival property together and ensure that quality archival work is done in Guyana.

Critical to our meeting the commitments becomes the need for Technical Staff and appropriate technology to facilitate the digitalization of our records and other treasured cultural and historical property.

A review is currently in process an very shortly specific requests for assistance will be shared with you.