

A Citizen's Guide to Oil and Gas Extractivism: Impacts and Advocacy



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INTRODUCTION

Balancing Oil Wealth with a Sustainable Future for Guyana

The recent discovery of significant oil reserves in Guyana has ignited hope for a bright future for all Guyanese. While the potential for economic prosperity is beyond doubt, this windfall also presents a set of challenges. This guide explores the complexities of oil and gas extractivism, examining the potential benefits and the very real dangers it poses to Guyana's social fabric and the environment.

This resource is designed for anyone seeking to understand the implications of Guyana's oil boom and who also wants to hold decision-makers accountable. Whether you're a teacher, community organisers or simply a concerned citizen, this guide equips you with the knowledge and tools to navigate these critical issues. Additionally, this resource is intended to help you acquire the information you need to participate meaningfully in discussions and decisions surrounding oil and gas extraction in Guyana.

The guide begins with a fundamental understanding of extractivism itself, exploring the processes involved and the significant social and environmental consequences that oil and gas extraction can have, not just in Guyana, but in many countries. This includes the long-term environmental impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity loss, as well as the threat of pollution and climate change. Users of this resource will also develop an understanding of the social disruptions linked to extractivism such as displacement, loss of livelihoods, and social conflict. The need for equitable distribution of benefits, and the legal frameworks governing the oil and gas sector in Guyana will further be examined. Further, this resource will highlight the need for responsible management of the country's newfound wealth.

This resource is divided into two distinct sections to help you understand these critical issues. The first section, targeted at educators and community leaders, provides an overview of the current situation in Guyana. It includes a discussion guide aimed at fostering informed discussions. Through reflection

questions and engaging activities, you will gain a comprehensive understanding of the key issues at stake.

The second section empowers advocates with a toolkit tailored to address issues of extractivism, colonialism, decolonialism, climate change and more. This collection of resources provides practical guidance for those working to ensure a sustainable and equitable future for Guyana.

This guide aspires to be more than just an information source. It is a call to action. The idea is that every citizen can become a catalyst for change, and the hope is that this guide will empower citizens to voice their concerns, and to advocate collectively for a sustainable approach that ensures prosperity for all Guyanese, while safeguarding the environment for generations to come.



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ABBREVIATIONS

Bpd	-	Barrels of Oil Per Day
CST	-	Catholic Social Teachings
EMGL	-	Exxon Mobil Guyana Limited
EPA	-	Environmental Protection Agency
FPIC	-	Free Prior and Informed Consent
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	-	Global Environment Facility
GRA	-	Guyana Revenue Authority
IACHR	-	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
MIS	-	Mercy Investment Services
NRF	-	Natural Resource Fund
PSA	-	Production Sharing Agreement
UNCERD	-	United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
WPA	-	Working People's Alliance
WWF	-	World Wildlife Fund

OVERVIEW

There is a growing chorus of voices around the world denouncing extractive economic models. Environmental and social justice advocates are urging world leaders and industry heads to prioritise policies and economic models that promote care of the earth and more sustainable forms of living.

Extractivism, which has its roots in colonialism, is often described as a model of development that involves large-scale extraction of natural resources, typically from formerly colonised nations, mostly for the benefit of shareholders and consumers in so-called developed countries. However, Caribbean climate and environmental activists view extractivism as much broader than the activity of natural resource extraction. Lane (2021) posits that “It is about the structures and world views that European colonists developed to accumulate capital through ecocide, indigenous dispossession and the exploitation of racialized people.”¹

This expansive definition is informed by the concept of “coloniality” which recognises that “colonial relations continue to shape and ground our present-day political, economic, social and knowledge systems.”² Coloniality offers a critique of extractivism, showing how environmental destruction (the ecological and climate crisis) and social injustice (racialized inequality) stem from a Eurocentric bias that prioritises resource extraction while placing less emphasis on human impact. In fact, this Eurocentric view often frames extractivism as a necessary step for the prosperity of “developing” nations.

In essence, this definition provides a strong foundation for exploring the complex relationship between colonialism, extractivism, and environmental and social injustice. Central to this discussion is the idea that the legacy of colonialism, particularly its emphasis on extractivism and Eurocentric

¹ Lane, M. (Sept. 12, 2021) Decolonial Perspectives from the Caribbean: Beyond Extractivism Series [Webinar]. Freedom Imaginaries. <http://www.youtube.com/@freedomimaginaries8927>

² Duvisac, Sara. (July 2022) Decolonize! What does it mean? Oxfam Digital Repository. <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/10546/621456/1/rr-decolonize-what-does-it-mean-151222-en.pdf>

worldview, continues to fuel environmental destruction and social inequality globally. Therefore, to achieve a just and sustainable future, it is imperative to decolonize our economies, societies, and minds.

Decolonialism offers a critical lens for understanding the complexities of post-colonial societies. It is the undoing of colonialism. Decolonialism seeks to dismantle the exploitative economic structures, unequal political systems, imposed cultural norms, and biased knowledge systems rooted in colonialism. According to (Duvisac 2022) Decolonial theory argues that “the economic, political, cultural, and epistemic violence of colonialism has entrenched systems of racism, patriarchy and economic extraction globally. These systems uphold and reproduce present-day inequalities. As such, decolonial processes are necessary to tackle global and local inequalities.”

On the basis of Duvisac’s argument, post-colonial societies have to divorce themselves from the idea that multinational corporations engaged in resource extraction and plunder are somehow invested in their social and ecological well-being, and or the development of their countries. In fact, countries like Guyana must operate from a place of knowing that they do have the right to self-determination over their resources. This also includes the right to develop alternative, sustainable economic models that ensure the full human development of all citizens and a healthy environment.

This work will draw on decolonial literature and practices to articulate the need for culturally responsive solutions to extractivism and resource plunder. By looking at extractivism through a decolonial lens we are forced to contend with the long history of colonial exploitation of countries like Guyana. By probing deeper we can unmask the new colonial powers to see how the past is being repeated when it comes to Guyana’s oil, gas and other natural resources.

Underpinning this guide is the idea that solutions to problems in the Global South can and should be articulated by countries in the Global South. Their proximity to colonialism and neocolonialism uniquely positions them to understand their own issues and to articulate solutions for social and ecological justice that are culturally responsive. This approach interrupts the

colonial power dynamic and assumptions about the superiority of Western knowledge systems by centering local knowledge, ideas, and practices.

Reflection

1. What are the long-term impacts of oil and gas extraction on communities across Guyana?
2. What policy changes are needed to improve sustainable practices in the extractive industry?
3. What alternatives to oil and gas extractivism are being developed in Guyana?

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DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY GUIDE

COLONIALISM AND DECOLONIALISM

Facilitator

This activity is intended to help participants understand the difference between colonialism and decolonialism in the context of building a just and equitable world. Encourage participants to critically analyse social, political and economic activities in Guyana through a decolonial lens.

Introduction

Colonialism refers to the control of one country by another, usually involving the use of force, taking advantage of resources, and imposing culture. Decolonialism is the effort to reverse the effects of colonialism and remove its influence.

Brainstorming:

Begin by asking participants if they know what it means to "colonise" something. Discuss their ideas. Then, explain that this session is about historical and ongoing forms of colonisation with particular reference to Guyana

Key Concepts

- **Colonialism:** The policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it and exploiting it economically.
- **Decolonization:** The process of dismantling colonial structures and recovering indigenous and other knowledge, languages, and cultural practices.
- **Indigenous Peoples:** Original inhabitants of a territory, often subjected to colonisation and dispossession.

What is Colonialism?

- Definition: The policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying and exploiting it economically.
- Key characteristics:
 - Economic exploitation (extraction of resources)
 - Political domination (imposed governance)
 - Cultural imposition (suppression of indigenous and other cultures)
 - Social and psychological impact

Examples of Colonialism

- European colonisation of the Caribbean, Americas, Africa, and Asia
- The British colonisation of Guyana and other parts of the Caribbean

Impact of Colonialism

- Economic exploitation: extraction of resources, forced labour.
- Political oppression: imposition of colonial rule, suppression of local governance.
- Social disruption: displacement of indigenous populations and other groups, breakdown of traditional social structures.
- Cultural erasure: suppression of local languages, customs, and religions.

What is Decolonialism?

- Definition: The process of dismantling colonial power structures and replacing them with indigenous or other forms of self-determination or autonomy.
- Key elements:
 - Indigenous/local knowledge and practices
 - Land restoration
 - Language revival
 - Recovering cultural heritage

Examples of Decolonialism

- Indigenous land rights movements
- Independence movements
- Local resistance efforts
- Guyanese/Caribbean music, fashion, foods and more

Activity:

Divide participants into groups to discuss the impacts of colonialism on the Caribbean or more specifically Guyana.

Encourage participants to express their understanding of colonialism and decolonialism using the creative arts.

Reflection:

1. What are the main legacies of colonialism in Guyanese society?

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Extractivism in Guyana

Guyana generates a significant amount of foreign revenue each year from the bounty of its natural resources. However, the annual revenues could be much higher if the multinational corporations who extract these resources engaged in fair profit-sharing practices. The main extractive sectors in Guyana are:

Mining and Minerals: Gold has historically been the most important mineral resource in Guyana, and it remains a significant export today.

The country also has deposits of other minerals including diamond, bauxite, semi-precious stones, silica sand, manganese, and much more.

Gold mining is also one of the biggest contributors to environmental pollution in Guyana. The barrier to entry for gold mining is significantly low and there are twice as many small scale miners as there are large companies. Environmental pollution, land degradation, excessive mercury usage and water pollution are some of the major problems affecting this industry. Indigenous communities bear the brunt of these problems since all or most gold mining activities take place on indigenous lands.

Forestry: Guyana has a vast area of rainforest, which is an important source of timber and other forest products. Forest exports have been the mainstay of the economy for many years. However, the forestry sector has also been a source of environmental concerns, as deforestation can have negative impacts on the environment. This has led to increased regulation of the industry.

Fisheries: The fisheries sector is relatively small, but it plays an important role in providing food and income for many communities. The sector primarily focuses on catching fish and shrimp. Since the start of oil production by the Exxon Mobil consortium in 2019, there were reports of a drop in fish catch. Exxon Mobil Guyana Limited (EMGL), the largest oil producer in the country, indicated that it would conduct a study to determine the veracity of these claims.³ The Food and Drug Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

³ExxonMobil conducting assessment of Guyana's ailing fisheries sector. (2022, July 30). *Kaieteur News*. Retrieved from

later published a report of its own showing that oil and gas activities were not responsible for declining fish stock.⁴

Oil and Gas: In 2015 Exxon Mobil Guyana Limited (EMGL) and its partners Hess Guyana Exploration Ltd., and CNOOC Petroleum Guyana Limited discovered substantial quantities of crude oil offshore Guyana. Oil production commenced in 2019. Since then, oil and gas have emerged as the major extractive activity in the country. This rapidly growing sector now contributes more to the economy than any of the other natural resources combined. It has led to rapid changes in the country's GDP and it's expected to be a major driver of Guyana's economic growth in the coming years.

Estimated reserves of crude now stand at 11.2 billion oil-equivalent barrels while natural gas reserves are estimated at 17 trillion cubic feet. According to Reuters News Agency, "Exxon Mobil is now pumping about 645,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd) up from about 400,000 bpd in late 2023."⁵ It's anticipated that Exxon will reach a combined production capacity of 1.2 million bpd on the Stabroek Block by year-end 2027.⁶

According to the company's website, "Exxon Mobil Guyana Limited (EMGL) is the first and largest oil producer in Guyana, and is the operator of the Stabroek, Canje, and Kaieteur Blocks offshore."⁷ Since 2015 EMGL has announced approximately 30 significant discoveries in the Stabroek Block, an area that is 6.6 million acres off Guyana's Atlantic Coast. Although oil blocks have been issued to smaller operators, EMGL is currently the only oil producer operating in the country.

Almost overnight, these discoveries have resulted in Guyana (previously one of the poorest countries in the region) being described by the World Bank as

[KaieteurNews](<https://www.kaieteurnews.com/2022/07/30/exxonmobil-conducting-assessment-of-guyanas-ailing-fisheries-sector/>)

⁴ Guyana Standard. (2024, May 6). Oil and gas activities cannot be linked to low fish catch. Guyana Standard. Retrieved from [<https://www.guyanastandard.com/2024/05/06/oil-and-gas-activities-cannot-be-linked-to-low-fish-catch-fao-study->

⁵ Reuters. "Exxon raises Guyana's oil production to about 645,000 barrels per day." February 6, 2024. [<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/exxon-raises-guyanas-oil-production-to-about-645000-barrels-per-day>]

⁶ Ibid

⁷ ExxonMobil Guyana Limited. <https://corporate.exxonmobil.com/locations/guyana>

one of the fastest growing economies with projected double-digit growth rates in 2023 and 2024. The Bank also acknowledged the need for Guyana to manage its newfound wealth responsibly, emphasizing the importance of diversifying its economy and investing in human capital.⁸

A further indication of how quickly the economic fortunes of the country have changed is that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita which was US \$5,577 in 2015 has now jumped to US \$ 17,000 in 2023. This astronomical growth is directly related to Guyana's new found status as an oil producing country. Unfortunately, none of these accolades/achievements have translated into well-being for the majority of Guyanese who are faced with stagnant wages and rising inflation. The only figures available at the time of writing showed that in May of 2024 inflation increased to 3.6% from 2.9% in previous month.⁹

In 2016 a lopsided Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) was signed between the Government of Guyana and the Exxon Mobil consortium. The terms of the PSA allows Exxon to deduct 75% of the revenues earned each month towards cost recovery. This potentially amounts to billions of dollars in cost before they get to the profit sharing. Guyana gets 12.5 % of the remaining 25% along with a 2% royalty. In other countries where Exxon operates they pay a standard 10% royalty. This situation is only worsened by the fact that Guyana has no ring fencing provision, so Exxon Mobil can deduct oil money to fund projects that may come on stream 10 or 20 years from now. The government has consistently resisted calls to renegotiate the contract claiming that it was "sacred."

Reflection:

1. How can decolonial practices influence resource management in Guyana?

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⁸ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/guyana/overview>

⁹ [Guyana Inflation Rate \(tradingeconomics.com\)](https://tradingeconomics.com/guyana/inflation)

DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY GUIDE

EXTRACTIVISM

Facilitator Notes

By the end of the activity, participants should have a basic understanding of extractivism, its impacts, and the importance of considering sustainability in resource management.

Introduction

Begin by asking participants to share their understanding of resources and where they come from. Explain that this activity will focus on a specific way of using resources: extracting them.

Brainstorming

Introduce the word "extractivism" to participants. Ask them to brainstorm what they think extractivism might mean. Explain that extractivism is about taking something from the earth, often ignoring the long-term consequences.

Key Concepts

Resource: Something valuable found in nature (e.g., minerals, oil, timber)

Extraction: The process of removing resources from the earth

Sustainability: Using resources in a way that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

What is Extractivism?

Define extractivism as the practice of extracting natural resources for economic gain.

Discuss the difference between sustainable and unsustainable resource use.

Explain that extractivism is usually focused on short-term profits rather than long-term sustainability.

Examples of Extractivism

Mining (gold, diamonds, coal)

Oil and gas extraction

Logging

Fishing

Discuss how these industries extract resources from the environment.

Impact of Extractivism

Explore the environmental impacts of extractivism:

- Deforestation
- Pollution
- Climate change
- Loss of biodiversity

Discuss the social impacts of extractivism:

- Displacement of communities
- Conflict over resources
- Inequality

Explain how extractivism can affect communities across Guyana.

Reflection

1. What are the overall impacts of extractivism in Guyana?
2. What are the trade-offs between economic growth and environmental protection?
3. What are the alternative and sustainable ways of using resources?

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People in the way of development

According to Exxon Mobil's Annual Report for 2023, over 758 billion Guyana dollars has been paid into Guyana's Natural Resource Fund (NRF) since its start-up in 2019. In 2023 the company paid GY \$336 billion into the NRF. This was far and above anything the government had received in previous years.¹⁰

So the question that naturally arises is, how will the government prioritise its spending? An examination of the budgetary allocations for 2023 and 2024 show a greater emphasis on infrastructure or public works rather than human capital. the sum of \$149 billion was allocated in 2023, and in 2024 that sum went up to 204.1 billion. This heavy investment in roads and bridges while seen as a positive development also brings challenges for the people and communities living in the path of these projects. Bigger roads and highways often mean displacement of communities, the disruption of lives and the loss of livelihoods for those living in close proximity to the proposed road project.

Case in point is the Community of Mocha Arcadia on the East Bank of Demerara. The lands occupied by people in this community are ancestral lands, meaning that it now belongs to the ancestors of freed slaves who once owned the lands. On January 5th the homes of a number of people in the community were destroyed by bulldozers so as to make way for a highway that would run through the community. A number of residents lost homes and businesses. Some were even arrested as they attempted to defend their property. Residents of the community subsequently moved to the court to seek redress.

Gold mining and the battle for Indigenous Ancestral Lands

Gold mining is probably the most prolific form of resource extraction taking place in Guyana. However, informal mining and weak monitoring of small and medium scale mining poses the greatest environmental harm because of the

¹⁰ [2023 Annual Report | Guyana \(exxonmobil.com\)](#)

use of mercury, the pollution of water sources and in many cases the invasion of indigenous ancestral lands.

According to the Global Environment Facility “Gold mining is the main driver of forest loss and ecosystem degradation in Guyana. But not only are forests at risk, mercury is used in the gold mining process, further contaminating the environment and putting humans and other species’ health at risk.”

One example of this is the Indigenous Carib community of Chinese Landing. This village located in Region 1 has been waging an uphill battle for 19 years to remove private gold miners from their ancestral lands.

The community of Chinese Landing filed a complaint with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN CERD) alleging violations of their rights under the Amerindian Act of 2006. These violations include: granting mining concessions on their titled lands without their consent (Free, Prior and Informed Consent - FPIC), and increased presence of miners who intimidate residents and restricted their movement on their own lands (Stabroek News, July 7, 2022) The UN CERD made recommendations to the Guyanese government, including suspending mining concessions and ensuring FPIC is obtained.

The Indigenous Carib Community of Chinese Landing also filed complaints with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) alleging threats, harassment and violence by miners operating on their land. The IACHR issued Resolution 41/2023, through which it granted precautionary measures in favour of the Chinese Landing residents, who it said are “currently at serious, urgent risk of suffering irreparable harm to their human rights”.

The situations at Chinese Landing and in the Community of Mocha Arcadia highlight both the direct and indirect consequences of resource extraction. These are just two of many other examples of displacement and land degradation that are taking place throughout the country.

Reflection: What are the ethical and environmental implications of resource extraction?

DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY GUIDE

Displacement and Land Degradation in Extractivism

Facilitator Notes

The objective of this exercise is to introduce participants to the concepts of displacement and land degradation as consequences of extractivism.

Introduction

Begin by asking participants to share their understanding of the term "extractivism."

Explain that extractivism involves extracting natural resources like minerals, oil, or timber for commercial purposes.

Pose questions to stimulate thinking:

- What are some examples of extractive industries in our community or country?
- What are the benefits of these industries?
- Are there any potential negative impacts?

Key Concepts

- **Extractivism:** The process of removing natural resources from the earth.
- **Displacement:** The forced or voluntary movement of people from their homes or communities.
- **Land degradation:** The deterioration of land quality and productivity.

What is Displacement?

Explain that displacement can occur due to various reasons, including natural disasters, conflict, and development projects. However, in the context of extractivism, displacement often happens when:

- Land is acquired for mining, oil drilling, or other extractive activities.
- Communities are affected by pollution or environmental hazards.

- Infrastructure development related to extractive projects disrupts livelihoods.

Examples of Displacement

- Indigenous communities forced to leave their ancestral lands or denied access to parts of their lands due to mining operations.
- Coastal communities displaced due to infrastructure projects, construction of roads/highways, oil spills or other environmental disasters.
- Farmers displaced to make way for large-scale agricultural projects.

Impact of Displacement

- Loss of homes and livelihoods
- Disruption of social connections and cultural traditions
- Mental health issues
- Greater risk of falling into poverty and inequality

What is Land Degradation?

Define land degradation as the decline in the quality and productivity of land.

Explain that it can be caused by various factors, including:

- Deforestation
- Soil erosion
- Pollution
- Overgrazing
- Unsustainable agriculture

Examples of Land Degradation

- Deforestation for logging or to create space for mining.
- Soil erosion caused by open-pit mining or improper agricultural practices.
- Water pollution from mining activities affecting surrounding rivers, lakes, plants and animals.

Impact of Land Degradation

- Reduced agricultural productivity
- Loss of biodiversity
- Increased risk of natural disasters (e.g., floods)
- Climate change
- Conflict over resources

Reflection

1. What strategies can communities employ to resist displacement due to extractive industries?
2. How can sustainable practices be integrated into extractive industry operations?
3. What role do governments play in regulating extractive industries to protect affected communities?

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Economic Impacts of Oil and Gas Extraction

One of the common misconceptions of extractivism is that it is the holy grail of development. That is, multinational corporations will go to developing countries, extract resources, and pay a fair price for those resources leading to prosperity for the country. The reality is much more sober. The extraction of these resources using a colonial approach often means huge profits for shareholders and investors in the global north and poverty and destruction for those in the global south. It is this reality that I call the myth of salvation. This myth is the false narrative about untold riches for countries with the resources. It's a narrative often propagated by those who benefit from this unjust global arrangement, often with the complicity of our elected leaders. There is also the myth that the monies generated from oil and gas extraction is the answer to most, if not all of our social, economic and cultural problems.

Many Guyanese have openly expressed the hope that Guyana will become the Dubai of the Caribbean. That is, a country of well paved roads, gleaming towers, manufactured beaches, a jet set lifestyle for the newly rich, and American brands dotting the landscape.

There is no doubt that oil and gas will bring significant income to Guyana. However, the economic impacts of oil and gas extraction are complicated and include both advantages and disadvantages.

Positive Economic Impacts

Revenue Generation: Oil and gas exports can generate substantial government revenue through taxes, royalties, and licensing fees. This revenue can be used to fund public services, infrastructure development, and social programs.

Job Creation: The industry creates direct jobs in exploration, extraction, refining, and transportation. Indirect jobs are also generated in supporting sectors like equipment manufacturing, logistics, and services.

Economic Growth: Increased economic activity due to oil and gas operations can stimulate growth in other sectors, leading to overall economic expansion.

Foreign Investment: The sector often attracts significant foreign investment, which can contribute to increased funds for the country.

Negative Economic Impacts

Dutch Disease: This phenomenon occurs when a country depends too much on oil and gas exports. This causes its currency to become stronger making it harder for other industries to compete in exporting their products.

Income Inequality: The concentration of Oil and gas wealth in certain areas or among a few wealthy individuals, resulting in greater income inequality.

Dependency: An over reliance on oil and gas revenues can put an economy at risk from changing prices and running out of resources.

Corruption: The oil and gas industry is susceptible to corruption, which can divert public funds and hinder development.

Resource Curse: In some cases, abundant natural resources can paradoxically lead to underdevelopment, as countries may become complacent or neglect other sectors.

Additional Considerations

Environmental Costs: The extraction and transportation of oil and gas can have significant environmental impacts, such as pollution, habitat destruction, and climate change. These costs can offset the economic benefits.

Governance and Corruption: The management of oil and gas resources requires strong governance and transparency to prevent corruption and ensure that the benefits are shared equitably.

Diversification: To mitigate the risks associated with oil and gas dependency, it's essential to diversify the economy and invest in other sectors.

DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY GUIDE

Economic Impacts of Oil and Gas Extraction

Facilitator Notes

This activity is designed to explore the complex economic implications of oil and gas extraction.

Introduction

Encourage participants to think about the economic impacts of oil and gas extraction:

Positive Economic Impacts

1. How can oil and gas extraction contribute to economic growth in Guyana? (Possible answers include job creation, increased government revenue, infrastructure development, and foreign investment).
2. What are some examples of industries that can benefit from oil and gas activities? (Examples include transportation, manufacturing, and tourism).

Negative Economic Impacts

3. What are the potential negative economic consequences of relying heavily on oil and gas revenues? (Discuss concepts like "Dutch Disease," resource curse, and over dependence on a volatile commodity).

Economic Diversification

4. Why is it important for countries like Guyana to diversify their economies away from oil and gas? (Discuss the importance of building a resilient economy that can withstand external impacts).
5. What strategies can be implemented to promote economic diversification in communities across Guyana? (Brainstorm ideas such

as investing in education, supporting entrepreneurship, and developing other industries).

Social Impacts

6. How can oil and gas extraction impact social conditions in a community? (Discuss potential impacts on inequality, social unrest, and migration patterns).

Reflection

What role can individuals, communities, and governments play in managing the economic impacts of oil and gas development? (Think about potential actions and solutions).



Environmental Impact of Oil and Gas Extraction

Flaring

One of the central issues in oil and gas production is routine gas flaring, the practice of burning excess natural gas during oil extraction. While permitted under certain conditions, Exxon Mobil has been accused of exceeding allowable limits and failing to implement technologies to capture and utilise the gas. This practice not only wastes a valuable resource but also contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, and undermines Guyana's commitment to environmental sustainability. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Guyana has struggled to enforce regulations, with some arguing the initial contract with Exxon Mobil was too lenient on flaring.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) have also expressed concerns about routine flaring and the consequences for Guyana's environment. The WWF notes that flaring by EMGL defies the company's global commitment to reduce flaring from 2016 levels by 20% in 2020, and it was a clear contradiction of Exxon's global statements about reducing its greenhouse gas footprint.¹¹ Dr. David Singh, Director of WWF Guyana said that EMGL should be held accountable for its actions noting that "the continued use of flaring shows abject disregard for both the health of the planet and the well-being of the people of Guyana."¹²

In response to the routine flaring by Exxon, Guyana's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) levied fines of US \$45 per every ton of Carbon dioxide emitted. The fines were later increased to US \$50. In 2022 Exxon paid fines on approximately 279,537.33 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) flared.

One particular concern of gas flaring is greenhouse gas emissions. It is well known that the extraction and burning of fossil fuels are major sources of greenhouse gas emissions, particularly carbon dioxide and methane. These

¹¹ ExxonMobil's continued flaring undercuts Guyana's Low-Carbon interests. (n.d.). WWF. <https://www.wwf.org.co/en/?365808/ExxonMobils-Continued-Flaring-Undercuts-Guyanas-Low-Carbon-Interests>

¹² Ibid

emissions are linked to climate change, rising sea levels, and other environmental challenges.

Oil and gas extraction in Guyana is being done off the country's Atlantic Coast using a method of deep water exploration. This method of oil exploration involves the extraction of oil and gas from reservoirs located beneath the ocean floor at significant depths. Although deep water oil reserves have the potential to provide more oil and gas than traditional land-based drilling, there are significant environmental risks associated with this method.

Accidental spills during transportation or extraction can have devastating effects on marine and environments, harming wildlife, contaminating water sources, and requiring major cleanup efforts.

The extraction process also generates substantial amounts of waste, including produced water, and excess gas. Proper management of this waste is crucial to prevent environmental contamination.

Overall, the environmental impacts of oil and gas extraction are complex and multifaceted, requiring careful management and regulation to mitigate potential harm to the environment and public health.

Reflection

What are the environmental risks associated with oil and gas development?
(Explore concepts like pollution, climate change, and the costs of repairing environmental damage)

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Discussion/Activity Guide

The Environmental Impact of Oil and Gas Extraction

Facilitator Notes:

Encourage participants to identify key environmental impacts associated with oil and gas extraction, and to discuss potential solutions to lessen these impacts.

Introduction

Begin by asking participants what they know about oil and gas. Explain that oil and gas are important energy sources but their extraction can have significant environmental impacts.

Environmental Impacts

Arrange participants into groups to brainstorm the potential environmental impacts of oil and gas extraction. As a group discuss the following impacts:

- Air pollution: greenhouse gas emissions, methane leaks
- Water pollution: oil spills,
- Land degradation: habitat destruction, soil erosion
- Climate change: contribution to global warming

Mitigating Impacts

- Discuss potential solutions to reduce the environmental impact of oil and gas extraction:
 - Renewable energy sources: solar, wind, hydro
 - Energy efficiency: reducing consumption
 - Government regulations: stricter environmental standards

Reflection

Why should countries like Guyana prioritise alternative forms of energy as a sustainable practice?

What steps can be taken to encourage responsible energy use by citizens?

Legal and Regulatory Environment

Environmental activists and concerned citizens have initiated legal action in at least six different cases to challenge the practices of the Exxon Mobil consortium and Guyana's environmental regulatory agency. While some of these cases have already reached a verdict, others are still in the process of being litigated.

Perhaps, the most notable case is the May 2023 ruling by Guyana's highest court that Exxon Mobil is operating in violation of its environmental permit by not providing full insurance for potential oil spills at its offshore operations in Guyana. High Court Justice Sandil Kissoon ruled that Exxon "engaged in a disingenuous attempt" to dilute its obligations under its environmental permit for Liza One project by not fully meeting oil-spill insurance requirements.

He noted that Exxon Mobil and the Guyanese government are attempting to dilute the company's responsibility to cover all cleanup costs, leaving the country potentially liable for billions of dollars in the event of a spill. He also criticised both Exxon Mobil and the government for their lack of transparency and their attempts to avoid accountability for potential environmental risks.¹³ The company had until June 10, 2023 to furnish Guyanese authorities with a liability agreement from an insurance company (<https://www.reuters.com>). Exxon appealed the ruling and the Guyana government said it supported the appeal.

Exxon Mobil's refusal to provide full insurance and the Guyanese government's failure to enforce environmental regulations also raises serious concerns about the integrity and sustainability of the country's oil industry. The author suggests that the Guyanese government is prioritising revenue from oil extraction over the well-being of its citizens and the environment.

¹³ Cc-Admin-Backend. (2020, September 4). ExxonMobil unhappy with Guyana government's plans to review oil agreements. The Caribbean Council. <https://www.caribbean-council.org/exxonmobil-unhappy-with-guyana-governments-plans-to-review-oil-agreements/>

Questions also continue to swirl about the lack of transparency and accountability within Guyana's oil industry and the risks this poses to the country's future. There is growing demand, both locally and internationally, for robust environmental regulations and responsible corporate practices to ensure sustainable development.

Following the landmark decision Mercy Investment Services lead-filed a shareholder resolution with Exxon Mobil about the spill risks associated with its operations in Guyana. Ballot Item No 10 which was tendered to shareholders at Exxon's May 31st AGM sought to get from Exxon a report on the costs and impact of a worst-case oil spill from Exxon's operations in Guyana's Atlantic waters. The resolution was not carried.

Work is underway to update Guyana's oil and gas regulatory framework. This includes updating the Petroleum Commission Bill and drafting operating rules for the Petroleum Commission of Guyana. In 2023 the National Assembly enacted the Petroleum Activities Bill 2023 whose main purpose is to provide for the exploration, production, storage, and transportation of petroleum in Guyana. The Bill replaces the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act of 1986.

Reflection

What are the real benefits of creating an effective regulatory framework for oil and gas in Guyana?



Discussion/Activity Guide

Oil and Gas Regulatory Framework

Facilitator Notes

Explore with participants the basic principles of a regulatory framework and identify key regulatory bodies involved in the oil and gas industry in Guyana.

Introduction

- Briefly explain what a regulatory framework is and why it is important.
- Discuss the role of the government in overseeing extractive industries.

Regulatory Bodies

- Introduce major regulatory bodies and agencies involved in the oil and gas industry (e.g., EPA)
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of these agencies.

Areas of Regulation

- Explore key areas of regulation in the oil and gas industry:
 - a. Environmental protection (air, water, land)
 - b. Safety and health standards
 - c. Exploration and production practices

Challenges and Issues

- Discuss the importance of balancing economic growth with environmental protection and the effectiveness of current regulations.

Conclusion

- Discuss the importance of staying informed about industry regulations.



Advocacy Toolkit

Introduction

Purpose of the Toolkit

This toolkit is designed to equip individuals and organizations with the knowledge and tools necessary to advocate for a just transition away from fossil fuels, particularly within the oil and gas industry. It aims to empower advocates to address the social, economic, and environmental inequities associated with oil and gas extraction, transportation, and consumption, while promoting sustainable and equitable alternatives.

Target Audience

The toolkit is intended for a diverse range of individuals and organizations working on issues related to oil and gas, including:

- Community organisers and activists
- Environmental justice advocates
- Indigenous leaders and representatives
- Labor union members and representatives
- Policymakers and government officials
- Students and young people

Overview of Advocacy

Advocacy is a strategic process of influencing decision-making to achieve social change. In the context of oil and gas, advocacy involves challenging the status quo and demanding accountability from oil companies, governments, and other powerful actors. Key principles of advocacy outlined in this toolkit include:

Social justice: Making sure everyone fairly shares the benefits of resource extraction, and that those who caused the least harm do not bear the greatest burden.

Environmental justice: Protecting the health and well-being of Guyanese communities disproportionately affected by pollution and climate change.

Economic justice: Creating a just transition away from fossil fuels that supports workers and communities dependent on the oil and gas industry.

Indigenous rights: Respecting and upholding the rights of Indigenous peoples, including their right to self-determination and the protection of their lands and resources.

Climate justice: Addressing the climate crisis in a way that focuses on the needs and rights of those most vulnerable to its impacts.

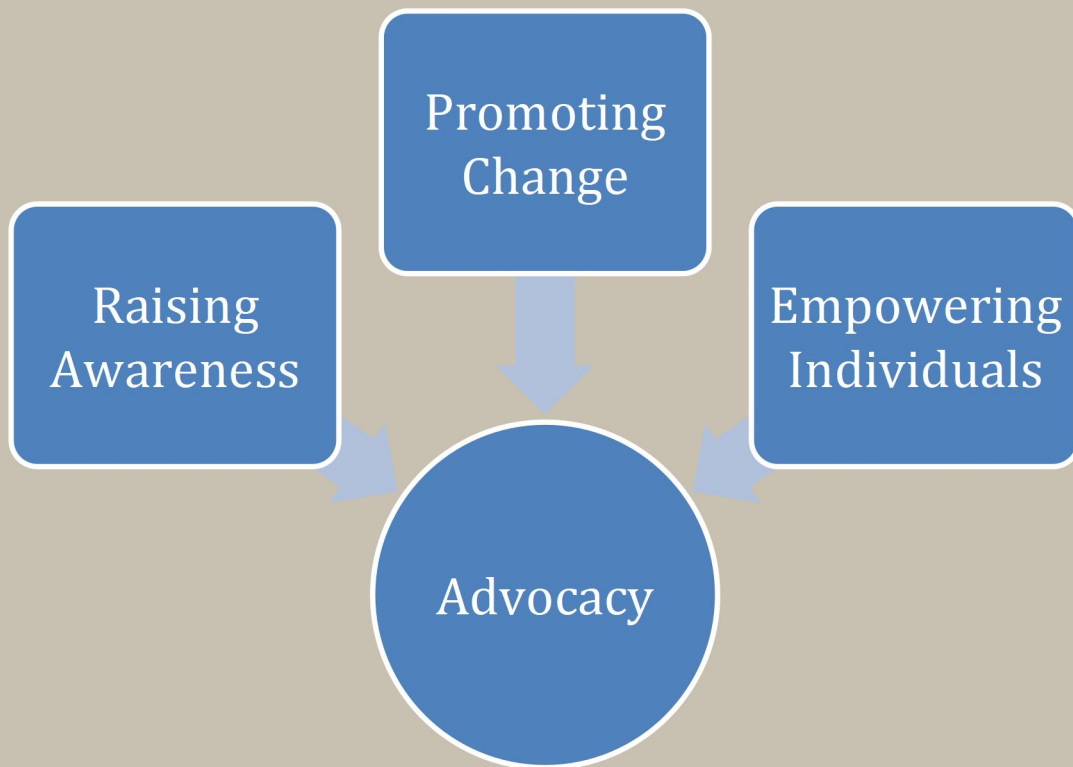
How to Use This Toolkit

This toolkit is a practical resource that can be customized for different advocacy campaigns. It can be used alone or with other advocacy efforts. Users should explore its sections and use the provided resources and templates.

The toolkit is divided into several sections, each focusing on a specific aspect of oil and gas advocacy. Users can navigate through the toolkit based on their specific needs or interests.

By utilizing this toolkit, advocates can develop and implement effective campaigns that contribute to a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels.

Defining Advocacy



Advocacy is the act of speaking up for, supporting, and defending the rights and needs of others or a cause. It involves raising awareness, promoting change, and empowering individuals or groups to have their voices heard. In the context of social and environmental issues, it involves actively promoting and defending the rights and interests of individuals or groups. Effective advocacy requires a deep understanding of the issue, empathy for those affected, and a commitment to creating positive change.

Advocacy Goals and Objectives

Goals are broad statements of desired outcomes. In advocacy, goals are focused on creating a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.

Examples of advocacy goals:

- Protect the environment from the negative impacts of the oil and gas industry.

- Ensure fair compensation and working conditions for oil and gas workers.
- Promote the transition to clean and renewable energy sources.

Objectives are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) targets that contribute to achieving the overall goal.

Examples of advocacy objectives:

- Pass legislation to regulate oil and gas drilling practices.
- Secure funding for community-led environmental restoration projects.
- Increase public awareness about the health risks associated with oil and gas extraction.

Types of Advocacy

Legislative advocacy	Influencing policymakers to enact or amend laws that address the issue. Examples: lobbying, testifying at legislative hearings, building coalitions with other organizations.
Media advocacy	Shaping public opinion and influencing media coverage to advance the cause. Examples: press releases, media interviews, social media campaigns, op-eds.
Grassroots advocacy	Mobilizing community members to take action and exert pressure on decision-makers. Examples: organizing protests, letter-writing campaigns, voter registration drives.
Legal advocacy	Using the legal system to protect rights and enforce laws.
Economic advocacy	Utilizing financial resources and investments to promote change.

Other Types of Advocacy

Individual Advocacy

Supporting a specific person or group in need.

Group Advocacy

Working collectively to address the needs of a specific community.

Policy Advocacy

Influencing laws and regulations to create systemic change.

Self-advocacy

Empowering individuals to speak for themselves.

Media Advocacy

Using media platforms to raise awareness and share public opinion.

Planning an advocacy campaign:

An advocacy campaign is a strategic initiative aimed at influencing public opinion and decision-makers on a specific issue. It involves a series of actions designed to generate support for a cause, change policies, or raise awareness about a problem.

Advocacy Strategies:

1. Identify the issue or define the problem you plan to advocate for.
2. Conduct research by gathering information and evidence to support your cause?
3. Set clear goals for your campaign. Begin by defining specific and measurable objectives for the campaign.

4. Identify your target audience or the key groups you want to influence (policymakers, public, media).
5. Develop compelling messages that resonate with your target audience.
6. Select effective strategies and tactics to reach your target audience, such as media outreach, grassroots organizing, bottom-house meetings, protest marches or social media campaigns.
7. Implement the campaign by carrying out the activities set out in your plan.
8. Evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign by measuring the campaign impact and making adjustments as needed.

Taking Action:

Advocacy is only successful if it's matched by action. Turning advocacy into real change requires deliberate steps. Some common actions that can inform an advocacy campaign include the following:

- 1) Build relationships or network with like-minded individuals and organizations. This kind of collaboration can help amplify your message and impact.
- 2) Raise awareness of the issue by utilizing various communication channels (social media, press releases, public speaking). This offers an opportunity to educate the public about the issue and its consequences. How you frame the issue will determine how people respond to your message.
- 3) Mobilize support by creating opportunities to involve people. Grassroots organising is one way of engaging volunteers and supporters.
- 4) Engage government officials and policy makers. Also, participate in public hearings and consultations, and use data and evidence to shape your advocacy.
- 5) Build relationships with journalists and media outlets, and take advantage of traditional and new media channels to tell compelling stories about your campaign. This will help capture public attention, shape public opinion, and influence policymakers.

- 6) Finally, monitor and evaluate the impact of your advocacy efforts. Make adjustments as needed based on evaluation findings.

Advocacy Tactics:

Advocacy tactics are the specific actions taken to achieve the goals of an advocacy campaign. They should be chosen based on the target audience, the issue, and the desired outcome.

Here are some common advocacy tactics:

Communication and Education	
Public Speaking	Sharing your message with a live audience.
Media Advocacy	Engaging with journalists to spread your message.
Social Media Campaigns	Utilizing online platforms to reach a wide audience.
Educational Workshops	Providing information and training to the public.
Fact Sheets and Reports	Creating informative materials to support your cause.
Direct Action	
Petitions	Collecting signatures to demonstrate public support.
Demonstrations and Protests	Publicly expressing dissatisfaction or support (rallies and marches to raise awareness and put pressure on decision-makers, blockades or occupying pipelines)
Boycotts	Withholding support from businesses or organizations.
Lobbying	Directly influencing policymakers.
Letter-Writing Campaigns:	Sending messages to decision-makers.

Coalition Building	
Partnerships	Collaborating with other organisations.
Networking	Building relationships with key stakeholders.
Grassroots Organizing	Mobilizing community members.
Research and Analysis	
Data Collection	Gathering information to support your cause.
Policy Analysis	Examining existing laws and regulations.
Impact Assessment	Evaluating the effectiveness of advocacy efforts.
Legal Action	
Litigation	Pursuing legal remedies to address an issue (For example: file lawsuits against companies for environmental violations or challenge government permits for drilling projects).

Implementing Your Advocacy Campaign

Developing an Action Plan

An action plan is the road map for your advocacy campaign. It outlines the steps that will help you achieve your goals and objectives.

Elements of an Action Plan:

1. Identify the task and detail specific actions you will take to implement your campaign strategies.
2. Establish clear deadlines/timelines. Break down the campaign into phases and assign specific tasks to team members.
3. Assign responsibility or clearly define who is responsible for each task.
4. Identify the necessary resources (human, financial, material) for each task.

5. Develop a communication plan. That is, determine how you will communicate with your team, volunteers, and supporters.
6. Create a contingency plan or develop alternative plans to address potential challenges or setbacks.
7. Identify performance indicators to measure the success of your campaign.
8. Allocate resources including budget and personnel to different campaign activities.
9. Build a coalition by partnering with other organizations to amplify your impact.
10. Monitor and evaluate the campaign by defining specific metrics to track progress towards your goals and objectives.
11. Gather relevant data through surveys, social media analytic, media coverage, and other sources.
12. Analyze the data to identify trends, patterns, and areas of success or challenges.
13. Share findings with stakeholders and use data to inform decision-making.
14. Make necessary changes to the campaign based on research findings findings.

APPENDICES

Advocacy Tools and Resources

1. Letter To Elected Officials or Parliamentary Representative

Date:

Dear [Elected Official's Name],

I am writing to express my deep concern about the ongoing expansion of the oil and gas pipeline in our community. The potential environmental and health risks associated with these projects are unacceptable.

I urge you to support legislation that:

1. Imposes a moratorium on new oil and gas drilling permits
2. Invests in renewable energy sources and job training programs
3. Provides adequate compensation for communities impacted by oil and gas activities

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

2. Letter to Government Agencies/ Environmental Regulators

Date:

Dear [Agency Name],

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed [oil and gas project name] project. This project poses a significant threat to our water resources, air quality, and public health.

I request that your agency conduct a thorough environmental impact assessment and hold public hearings before approving this project. Additionally, I urge you to strengthen regulations to protect our communities from the harmful effects of oil and gas extraction.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

3. Letter to Corporations:

Date:

Dear [Company Name],

I am writing to express my deep disappointment in your company's continued investment in the oil and gas industry. The climate crisis demands immediate action, and your company's actions are contributing to the problem.

I urge you to divest from fossil fuels and invest in clean energy solutions. Your company has the power to lead the transition to a sustainable future.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Example: Press Releases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Activists Launch Campaign to Protect Community from Oil and Gas Pipeline

[City, State] – [Date] – A coalition of concerned citizens and environmental organizations today announced the launch of a campaign to prevent installation of oil and gas pipelines in the [area] region. The campaign, [campaign name], aims to raise awareness about the devastating impacts of oil and gas extraction on air quality, water resources, and public health.

[Quote from a campaign leader about the importance of protecting the community]

The campaign will focus on [list of campaign activities, such as organizing community meetings, lobbying elected officials, and engaging in social media outreach].

[Contact information for media inquiries]

Talking Points

- a) The oil and gas industry is a major contributor to climate change.
- b) Oil and gas extraction poses significant risks to air, water, and soil quality.
- c) Communities near oil and gas operations often experience higher rates of health problems.
- d) The transition to clean energy creates jobs and economic opportunities.
- e) We deserve a future powered by clean, renewable energy.

Op-eds

Sample Title: Time to End Our Addiction to Fossil Fuels

[Your Name]

The climate crisis is undeniable. Extreme weather events and rising sea levels are just some of the consequences of our reliance on fossil fuels. It is time for our leaders to prioritize a just transition to clean energy.

[Continue with arguments supporting the transition to clean energy, addressing economic concerns, and emphasizing the importance of protecting communities]

Social Media Content

Images: Visuals of oil spills, polluted waterways, and climate change impacts.

Videos: Short clips of protests, interviews with impacted communities, and educational content about the dangers of oil and gas.

Captions: Use strong calls to action, share facts and statistics, and engage with followers by asking questions.

Hashtags: Utilize relevant hashtags to increase visibility, such as #ClimateAction, #StopDrilling, #CleanEnergy.

Social Media Guidelines

Platform-Specific Guidelines

Twitter:

- Brevity is key: Utilize the character limit effectively.
- Use relevant hashtags to increase visibility.
- Engage with your audience through replies and retweets.
- Share links to blog posts, articles, and other content.
- Use Twitter polls to gather audience feedback.

Facebook:

- Use high-quality images and videos.
- Write engaging and informative posts.
- Encourage comments and shares.
- Utilize Facebook Live for real-time interaction.
- Explore Facebook Groups to connect with specific audiences.

Instagram:

- Focus on visually appealing content.
- Use relevant hashtags and location tags.
- Run Instagram Stories and Reels.
- Collaborate with influencers.
- Utilize Instagram Insights for performance analysis.

Content Calendar Template

Platform: [Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.]

Date: [Date]

Time: [Time]

Content Type: [Image, video, text, link, etc.]

Topic: [Relevant topic]

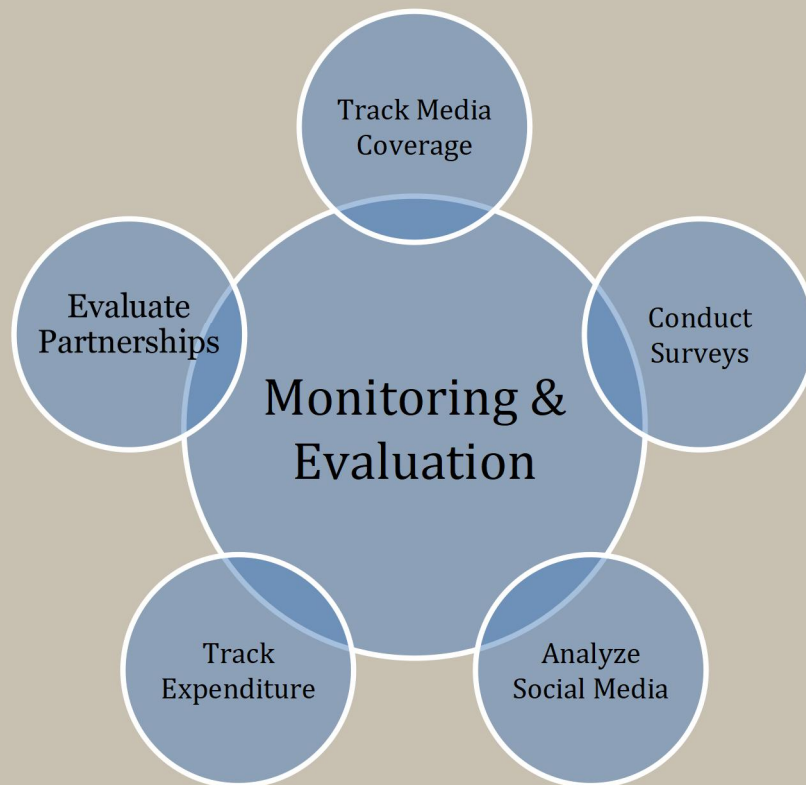
Message: [Key message or call to action]

Visuals: [Image or video link]

Hashtags: [Relevant hashtags]

Link: [Link to website or external content]

Monitoring and Evaluation Activities



Track media coverage: Monitor news outlets for mentions of the campaign and its key messages.

Conduct surveys: Gather feedback from your target audiences to assess campaign effectiveness.

Analyze social media metrics: Measure your engagement and reach on social media platforms.

Track campaign expenditures: Monitor budget spending and identify areas for cost-efficiency.

Evaluate coalition partnerships: Assess the effectiveness of your collaborations with other groups and identify opportunities for improvement.

Action Plan Template

Campaign Title: [Insert Campaign Title]

1. Issue Statement: Clearly define the problem or issue being addressed (.

2. Target Audience:

Identify the primary and secondary audiences for the campaign.

Overall Goal: State the long-term desired outcome of the campaign.

3. Campaign Objectives

Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound (SMART) objectives that contribute to the overall goal.

Example: Reduce oil and gas production by 20% in the community by 2025.

3. Target Audience Analysis

Identify key demographics, values, and concerns of the target audience.

Develop messaging tailored to resonate with the target audience.

4. Campaign Strategies

Outline the primary approaches to achieve the campaign objectives.

Examples: media advocacy, grassroots organizing, legislative lobbying, public education.

5. Tactics and Activities

Develop specific actions to implement the strategies.

Assign responsibilities and deadlines for each activity.

Example: Organize a community rally, produce a documentary, lobby for policy changes.

6. Timeline

Create a detailed timeline for campaign activities, including milestones and deadlines.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of team members or partners.
Establish communication channels and decision-making processes.

8. Budget

Develop a realistic budget for the campaign, including anticipated expenses and revenue sources. Identify potential funding opportunities.

9. Evaluation Plan

Outline the methods for measuring campaign success and impact.

Identify key to track progress.

Determine data collection methods and analysis procedures.

10. Communication Plan

Develop a communication strategy to disseminate information and engage stakeholders.

Identify key messages and target audiences for communication efforts.

Determine communication channels (e.g., social media, press releases, newsletters).

Coalition Building Template

1. Identify Potential Partners

Research organizations with similar goals and values.

Consider diversity of partners (e.g., environmental, social justice, labor unions).

2. Initial Contact

Reach out to potential partners to introduce the campaign and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Clearly communicate the campaign goals and objectives.

3. Build Relationships

Establish trust and rapport with potential partners.

Identify shared values and common ground.

Explore opportunities for mutual benefit.

4. Develop a Coalition Agreement

Create a formal agreement outlining the shared goals, roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes.

Address potential conflicts and dispute resolution mechanisms.

5. Coordinate Activities

Develop a joint action plan outlining shared activities and timelines.

Establish regular communication channels and meeting schedules.

Assign responsibilities and share resources.

6. Evaluate and Strengthen the Coalition

Regularly assess the effectiveness of the coalition.

Identify opportunities for improvement and growth.

Celebrate successes and address challenges together.

Evaluation Template

1. Develop Evaluation Questions

Clearly define what you want to learn from the evaluation.

Example: Did the campaign increase public awareness of the issue? Did it lead to policy changes?

2. Identify Evaluation Indicators

Develop specific indicators to measure progress of goals and objectives.

Example: Number of media mentions, social media engagement, number of people attending events.

3. Data Collection Methods

Determine how data will be collected (e.g., surveys, interviews, focus groups, social media analytics).

Develop data collection tools and protocols.

4. Data Analysis

Analyze collected data to assess campaign effectiveness.

5. Report Findings and Recommendations

Prepare a comprehensive evaluation report summarizing findings and conclusions.

Identify lessons learned and recommendations for future campaigns.

Share the evaluation results with stakeholders.

6. Use Evaluation Findings

Incorporate evaluation findings into ongoing campaign activities and future planning.

Share evaluation results with the public to build credibility and accountability.

Fundraising / Grant Writing Tips

Understand the Funder: Research potential funders to align your proposal with their mission and priorities.

Create a Compelling Narrative: Clearly articulate your organization's mission, vision, and potential impact.

Needs Assessment: Demonstrate a clear understanding of the problem you're addressing.

Measurable Goals and Objectives: Outline specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound outcomes.

Budget Justification: Clearly outline how funds will be used and provide detailed budget breakdowns.

Evaluation Plan: Demonstrate how you will measure the impact of the grant.

Strong Letter of Support: Include letters from key stakeholders or beneficiaries.

Proofread Carefully: Ensure the proposal is free of errors and professionally presented.

Working with Donors

Identify and Segment Donors: Create donor profiles based on giving history, interests, and demographics.

Build Relationships: Engage with donors through personalized communication and events.

Offer Opportunities for Involvement: Involve donors in your work through volunteer opportunities or board membership.

Recognize and Thank Donors: Express gratitude for their support through personalized thank-you notes and gifts.

Communicate Impact: Share stories of how donor contributions are making a difference and build a strong case for support that highlights the impact of your work.

Seek Feedback: Regularly solicit donor feedback to improve your fundraising efforts.

Upgrade Donors: Identify opportunities to increase donor giving levels and cultivate a culture of philanthropy within your organization.

Glossary of Terms

Activism: Vigorous action or campaigning to bring about social or political change.

Advocacy: The act of supporting or recommending a particular cause, often involving public support. In the context of oil and gas, this could involve lobbying for stricter regulations or supporting affected communities.

Affected Community: A group of people who are directly or indirectly impacted by the operations of an oil and gas project.

Allyship: A relationship in which members of a dominant social group work in solidarity with members of a marginalized group to achieve racial/environmental justice.

Capitalism: An economic system based on private ownership of the means of production and their operation for profit. In capitalism, decisions about how to allocate resources are driven by competition in a free market.

Climate Change: Long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. The burning of fossil fuels is a primary contributor to climate change.

Climate justice: The fair treatment of all people in light of climate change impacts.

Coalition: A temporary alliance of different groups or organizations with a common interest, working together to achieve a shared objective.

Colonialism: The practice of one country maintaining or extending control over another country or region. This control can be political, economic, or social.

Colonizer: A person who is part of a group that controls and exploits another group of people.

Colony: A territory under the sovereign rule of another country.

Commodity: A raw material or agricultural product that can be bought and sold.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): A self-regulating business code for being socially responsible to its stakeholders and the public.

Crude Oil: Naturally occurring unrefined petroleum.

Decolonialism: The process of dismantling colonial legacies and structures.

Decoloniality: A critical perspective that examines the legacies of colonialism and seeks to dismantle colonial structures and power dynamics.

Decolonisation: The political and cultural process of withdrawing from colonialism and establishing control over government and culture.

Dependency theory: A theory that explains how developing countries are dependent on developed countries for economic growth.

Discrimination: Unfair treatment of individuals or groups based on prejudice.

Eco-justice: A framework that combines ecological concerns with social justice.

Emissions: The release of gases or particles into the atmosphere.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): A process of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of a planned activity or project.

Environmental justice: The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Epistemicide: The destruction of knowledge systems and ways of knowing of colonized peoples.

Equality: The state of being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities.

Equity: The process of ensuring everyone has the resources they need to be successful.

Extractivism: The practice of removing resources from the environment, such as minerals, timber, or fossil fuels, often with little regard for the environment or local communities.

Flaring: The burning of excess natural gas from oil production at a well site. This process releases greenhouse gases and pollutants into the atmosphere.

Fossil Fuels: A natural fuel such as coal, natural gas, or petroleum that is formed in the Earth's crust from the remains of organisms.

Globalization: The process of interaction and integration among people, companies, and governments worldwide.

Grassroots: political activities/movements organized by local people rather than professional leaders.

Greenhouse Gases: Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, contributing to global warming. Examples include carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide.

Greenwashing: The deceptive use of green marketing to promote products/ services or an organisation as environmentally friendly.

Imperialism: A policy of extending a country's power and influence through diplomacy or military force.

Indigenous Peoples: Native to a particular land or country often disproportionately affected by resource extraction.

Inequality: The state of being unequal, especially in status, rights, or opportunities.

Infrastructure: The basic physical systems of a society, such as transportation, communication, sewage, and power supplies.

Intersectionality: The interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group.

Land Grabbing: The acquisition of large tracts of land by states, corporations, or individuals. Often associated with resource extraction.

Lobbying: The act of attempting to influence decisions made in government by individuals or groups.

Neo-colonialism: A form of indirect colonialism that maintains control over resources and economies of developing countries.

Offshore Drilling: The extraction of oil and gas from beneath the ocean floor.

Oil Spill: The release of liquid petroleum into the environment, often with catastrophic consequences for ecosystems.

Oppression: Systematic denial of opportunities and rights to a group of people.

Pipeline: A long pipe used for transporting liquids or gases over long distances.

Postcolonial: The period following the end of colonial rule.

Privilege: A special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group.

Public Consultation: A process of involving the public in decision-making about projects that may affect them.

Racialize: To assign a racial category to a person or group of people. This can be done in a way that is either positive or negative.

Racism: A system of oppression based on race that devalues and discriminates against people because of their race or ethnicity.

Renewable Energy: Energy from sources that are naturally replenished, such as wind, water, and solar power.

Social justice: The fair distribution of resources and opportunities among all people, regardless of race, gender, class, or other identities.

Sustainability: Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Toxic Waste: Hazardous waste that is poisonous, radioactive, or otherwise harmful to humans or the environment.

Transparency: The quality of being open and truthful; being transparent in business operations is crucial for building trust.

List of Relevant Organisations

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): The primary regulatory body for environmental protection in Guyana.

Address: Sophia, Georgetown

Contact: 225-5472

Website: <http://www.epaguyana.org/>

Guyana Forestry Commission: Manages Guyana's vast forest resources.

Address: Kingston, Georgetown

Contact: 226-2757 /226-7040

Website: [Guyana Forestry Commission – Ensuring Sustainable Forestry](#)

Guyana Geology and Mines Commission: Responsible for regulating the mining sector and ensuring environmental compliance.

Address: Sophia, Georgetown

Contact: 226-7478 /7475

Website: [Guyana Geology and Mines Commission \(ggmc.gov.gy\)](#)

Conservation International Guyana: Focuses on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Address: Georgetown

Contact: 227-8171

Website: <https://conservation.org.gy/about-us/our-policies/>

Guyana Marine Turtle Conservation Society (GMTCS): Works to protect sea turtles and their habitats.

Website: [Guyana Marine Conservation Society](#)

Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development: Manages the Iwokrama Forest Reserve for sustainable development.

Address: Kurupukari, Region 8

Website: [Iwokrama International Centre – Iwokrama! The Green Heart of Guyana.](#)

Guyana Conservation Network (GuyCoN): A platform for collaboration among environmental organizations.

Website: <https://guycon.org/conservation/>

WWF Guianas: Part of the global WWF network, working on conservation and sustainable development in the Guianas.

Website: [Welcome to WWF Guianas | WWF](#)

Protected Areas Trust: Dedicated to the protection and management of Guyana's protected areas.

Address: Georgetown

Website: [Protected Areas Trust \(Guyana\)](#)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Supports Guyana's sustainable development efforts.

Website: [Guyana | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](http://Guyana | United Nations Development Programme (undp.org))

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB): Provides financing and technical assistance for environmental projects.

Website: <https://www.iadb.org/en>

Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association: Represents the mining industry and works on environmental issues related to mining.

Website: <https://ggdma.com/>

Ministry of Natural Resources: This ministry oversees environmental protection, forestry, and wildlife management.

Website: <https://nre.gov.gy/oil-and-gas/>

Amerindian Peoples Association (APA): A non-governmental organization focused on protecting the rights and interests of Guyana's indigenous peoples.

Address: Georgetown, Guyana

Website: <https://apaguyana.com/>

African Cultural and Development Association (ACDA): A Guyanese organization dedicated to promoting African culture and supporting the economic and social development of the African community in Guyana.

Email: acda2011@yahoo.com

Telephone: 592-225-8420

Address: Georgetown, Guyana

Website: [African Cultural and Development Association \(acdagy.org\)](http://African Cultural and Development Association (acdagy.org))

Red Thread: A women's organization based in Guyana.

Email: redthreadguyana@gmail.com

Address: 72 Princes & Adelaide Streets, Charlestown, Guyana

Website: <https://redthreadguyana.org/>

Further Reading

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