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## **ExxonMobil Foundation Invests US\$10 Million in Guyana for Research, Sustainable Employment and Conservation**

- New collaboration established between ExxonMobil Foundation, Conservation International and University of Guyana
- Program to advance Guyana's sustainable economy through investments in education, research, sustainable management and conservation of the country's vast ecosystems
- Part of ExxonMobil's long-term investment in supporting local priorities in Guyana

IRVING, Texas & GEORGETOWN, Guyana--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- ExxonMobil Foundation said today that it will contribute US\$10 million to a new collaboration with Conservation International and the University of Guyana to train Guyanese for sustainable job opportunities and to expand community-supported conservation.

The investment is also intended to support Guyana's Green State Development Plan, the country's 15-year development plan that aims, among other things, to diversify Guyana's economy and balance economic growth with the sustainable management and conservation of the country's ecosystems. The ExxonMobil Foundation will provide the investment over five years.

Initial grant money will fund a feasibility study driven by Conservation International, through its affiliate, Conservation International Guyana, to further define the details of the program. Once defined, Conservation International Guyana and the University of Guyana will deliver the education, training, research and retention programs that will help ensure that economic growth reinforces Guyana's environmental development goals.

The investment is also intended to expand conservation areas in the Rupununi Wetlands, aid mangrove restoration and management and support improvements to community-based fishing on Guyana's coast, a sector the government of Guyana has identified as critically important to the wellbeing of the Guyanese people, and support the work of the University of Guyana's Greening Research and Innovation Centres.

"This partnership will support the highest conservation priorities for the country as well as education and training for sustainable employment," said Kevin Murphy, president of the ExxonMobil Foundation. "It reinforces the government's objectives as outlined in its Green State Development Strategy and demonstrates the value we place on our long-term relationship with the citizens of Guyana."

"Guyana stands at a critical crossroads in its development," said Jennifer Morris, president of

Conservation International. “By investing in both people and nature, this partnership will play an important part in helping Guyana execute its vision for a green future.”

“A central feature of Guyana’s development plans is its Green State Development Strategy which envisions a commitment to a green economy, sustainable development and protection of its forests and fresh water resources aligned with the UN’s 2030 Sustainable Development Goals,” said Professor Nigel E. Harris, chairman of the University of Guyana Council.

“Funding support for a collaborative effort between Guyana’s leading university, Conservation International and ExxonMobil Foundation promises a critical opportunity to build relevant teaching, research and outreach capacity at our university that is necessary to underpin Guyana’s 2030 Vision for an inclusive, green and prosperous state.”

At this stage, Conservation International anticipates that training will be focused on environmental innovation and sustainability, and on entrepreneurship in nature-based sectors. Conservation International will tap its partnerships with key international universities such as Arizona State University in the United States to help develop the programs.

Conservation International is the grantee and the University of Guyana a key beneficiary. Conservation International, with over 20 years’ experience in Guyana, will take the lead in managing project objectives and implementation, including success measures as well as financial and reporting requirements of this multi-year partnership. Conservation International has been working in Guyana with over 50 communities to protect nearly 3 million acres of indigenous lands while also improving livelihoods.

ExxonMobil is placing an emphasis on supporting local priorities, including business and employment opportunities as well as broader community programs in Guyana. The company has spent about US\$39 million with local suppliers in Guyana through 2017 and first quarter 2018. Approximately 68 percent of ExxonMobil’s current in-country employees are Guyanese.

### **About the ExxonMobil Foundation**

The ExxonMobil Foundation is the primary philanthropic arm of [Exxon Mobil Corporation](#) (NYSE:XOM) in the United States. The foundation and the corporation engage in a range of philanthropic activities that advance education, with a focus on math and science in the United States, promote women as catalysts for economic development and combat malaria. In 2017, the ExxonMobil Foundation, together with Exxon Mobil Corporation, its divisions and affiliates along with employees and retirees, provided \$204 million in contributions worldwide.

### **About ExxonMobil**

ExxonMobil, the largest publicly traded international energy company, uses technology and innovation to help meet the world’s growing energy needs. ExxonMobil is a global leader in LNG project execution and holds an industry-leading inventory of resources, is one of the largest refiners and marketers of petroleum products, and its chemical company is one of the largest in the world. For more information, visit [www.exxonmobil.com](http://www.exxonmobil.com) or follow us on Twitter [www.twitter.com/exxonmobil](https://www.twitter.com/exxonmobil). Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Limited is the affiliate in Guyana.

## About Conservation International

Conservation International uses science, policy and partnerships to protect the nature that people rely on for food, fresh water and livelihoods. Founded in 1987, Conservation International works in more than 30 countries on six continents to ensure a healthy, prosperous planet that supports us all. Learn more about [Conservation International](#), the groundbreaking [“Nature Is Speaking” campaign](#) and its series of virtual reality projects: [“My Africa”](#), [“Under the Canopy”](#) and [“Valen’s Reef”](#). Follow Conservation International's work on our Human Nature blog, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

## About University of Guyana

The University of Guyana (UG) was established by act of parliament in 1963. It is the country’s leading tertiary institution and Guyana’s only national university. With a current enrollment of some 8,000 students, UG has graduated more than 40,000 students who have gone on to successful careers locally, regionally and internationally. Over 65 percent of its graduates are absorbed in the local workforce. The university is also a major contributor to the national economy and to business and industry. UG expanded in 2000 with the addition of the Tain Campus. It now offers more than 90 undergraduate and post-graduate programs including engineering, environmental studies, forestry, urban planning and management, tourism studies, education, creative arts, economics, law, medicine, optometry and nursing. Several online programs are available and UG also offers extra-mural classes at four locations across Guyana through its Institute of Distance and Continuing Education. UG also offers the opportunity for student engagement in debating, sports, and cultural, religious and professional activities. Visit [www.uog.edu.gy](http://www.uog.edu.gy).

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