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| **Monitoring Guyana's Forests, the Development of a Sustainable Framework** |
| **Introduction**  The impact of global warming due to the continued rise of atmospheric CO2 is well documented, with climate change a real threat to the Earth's ability to sustain life. Tropical forest conversion is estimated to contribute 12 to 30% of global carbon emissions. The Amazon is one of the tipping points of the Earth system-climate interaction. Feedback models of forest loss predict direct consequences for global climate that impact a far wider series of consequences, including rainfall shifts, forest dieback, and water availability2. Tropical forests are Guyana's most valuable land resource; they cover 87.5% of the landmass and are home to Amerindian peoples, representing 15% of Guyana's population.  **Aim**  Guyana, a high-forest, low-deforestation country, was a REDD+ early mover, signing a bilateral agreement with Norway in 2009.  Under the agreement, Guyana agreed to monitor its forest area and carbon loss using a series of interim indicators or measures. In return, Norway agreed to provide performance-based payments on an annual basis.  **Methods**  The approach developed is run by the Guyana Forestry Commission and uses satellite imagery to monitor and report forest loss at a 1 ha scale. Over time the system has evolved to leverage new satellites and improvements in cloud-based processing.  **Conclusion**  After thirteen years of continuous monitoring, the framework developed provides invaluable insight into national forest loss trends while also allowing Guyana to transition to a position where, in exchange for protecting forests, the country is financially rewarded for the carbon credits generated. |

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