The Pomeroon Development Fund focuses on community projects in Guyana targeted at either Education or Female Empowerment.

We chose this corner of Guyana because of its fertile land, the stunning natural environment and the unique local communities. To support this community, we pledge to play a meaningful role in stimulating the local economy; to protect the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices; and to develop the socio-economic environment for women and children along the river.

In 2018 we ran two projects:

- **Women's Empowerment Seminar Project**: We designed and sponsored a seminar series for 50 women from the Pomeroon community covering gender equality, entrepreneurship and access to finance. The workshop was run in conjunction with the Ministry for Social Protection and established self-help groups for women in the Pomeroon to link them to development agencies and lending institutions. There was also optional (and free) cervical cancer screening, led by the Cancer Institute of Guyana. For more information, see [here](#).

- **Hackney Primary School Dining Room**: We [built a dining room](#) at a local primary school in the Pomeroon. Prior to the new dining room, the children had to eat outside (in the direct sun) or inside (thereby dirtying the classroom) as there was no dedicated dining area. The new beautiful wooden dining room will accommodate all children and teachers, thereby facilitating the existing feeding program and teaching of dining etiquette. The dining room is constructed in the local traditional style using local materials and local craftsmen. For more information, see [here](#).

In 2019 we are running two projects:

- **Rural Education Project**: We are building a library and computer center at two Pomeroon schools. This project is run with the kind support of Eco Oil & Gas Ltd. See below for a full write-up and progress.

- **Agricultural Livelihood and Science Project**: We are partnering with Wakapoa Secondary School to teach agricultural and business principles to students and establish a scholarship program. See below for a full write-up and progress.
Rural Education Project: Abrams Creek Primary School & Kabakaburi Secondary School

This project aims to bring a higher quality education to two small rural communities in the Pomeroon River: Abram’s Creek and Kabakaburi Village.

Key outputs of the project are as follows:

1. Build a library and computer center at Abram Creek’s Primary School
2. Build a library and computer center at Kabakaburi Primary School
3. Provide support for after school programs at the two schools

To date over 100 students from Abrams Creek Primary School and Kabakaburi Secondary School have benefited from the project. The implementation phase of these projects also saw a strong collaboration between several stakeholders in Guyana.

We are delighted to announce that the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) has committed to provide solar panels to the schools. Abrams Creek Primary School will be the first school to benefit in the installation of a 2.6 kWp standalone Solar Photovoltaic System. The Ministry of Telecommunications has committed to install a ICT Hub facility in the computer center at Kabakaburi Secondary School.

The National Center for Education Resource, a branch under the Ministry of Education, committed to assist both schools in training teachers. These trainings will include library management and maintenance and a basic literacy program to enhance teaching methods.

Local suppliers such as Austin’s Bookstore, T&J Bookstore and Ansa McAl assisted by providing discounts during the procurement of books and other materials for the project. The residents of both villages also volunteered their time and resources to assist in the project. Lumber was donated from the village towards the construction of shelves, tables and benches for the libraries.

This project was made possible with the generous financial support of Eco Oil & Gas Ltd. In 2019, Eco joined forces with The Pomeroon Trading Community Development Program to jointly finance and manage projects in Guyana focusing on education. Jared Kissoon, Chief Operating Officer of Pomeroon Trading, commented: “Most natural resource companies write a check, walk away, and call it CSR. Not Eco Atlantic. They are getting their boots dirty: are investing in the land, planting trees and teaching skills. I believe this will be model for future CSR innovation in Guyana”
The Library at Abrams Creek Primary School

The residents of Kabakaburi Village assisting in the construction of furniture for the project and the cleaning of the room
Agricultural Livelihood and Science Project: Wakapoa Secondary School

This project collaborates with the Agricultural Science department at Wakapoa Secondary School, a key community for the workers at Pomeroon’s Stoll Estate.

Key outputs of the project are as follows:
1. Construction of a chicken pen and providing education to students on how to rear broiler chicks
2. Business education for the department
3. Establishment of a scholarship program for the top graduating Agricultural Science student to attend Guyana School of Agriculture or Essequibo Technical Institute

Like many other schools in the hinterland of Guyana, Wakapoa Secondary School lacks certain amenities, such as an agricultural science lab. Despite this, Agricultural Science remains a popular course in the school, though we fear that students are not living up to their true potential.

The village also faces a major issue of unemployment, particularly among those aged under 25. Many students have the required grades to attend University, but fail to attend because of the remoteness of the village and the cost associated in leaving.

This project seeks to bridge the gap between <Agriculture> and <Business>: we aim to help the students build capacity in Agri-business. We will achieve this by supporting the Wakapoa Secondary School’s Agricultural Science Department in establishing practical facilities (such as the chicken breeding pen). The project will also provide a link between the Stoll Estate and the village in the further development of the students’ capacities.

Progress to date:
- Several visits to the village to discuss the project activities and meet with the village volunteers
- The Department of Education provided transport for the materials purchased from the Essequibo Coast to the Village
- The Wakapoa Secondary School donated $100,000 of their savings to assist in the startup of the project
- Lumber for the construction of the facilities was procured from the village at a lower cost
- The villagers volunteered their time to the construction of the facilities
- Construction of the poultry pen is 50% completed
- Draft scholarship contract developed
Talks with Bounty Farm commenced. Bounty Farm technical staff to offer expertise on the business behind agriculture

Meeting held with Guyana School of Agriculture about the various programs offered.

Photographs showing the materials transported with the assistance of the Department of Education and the construction of the Poultry Pen