

Meeting 18

Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)

Meeting 18

Date: Thursday, 6th November 2009

Venue: Office of the President

Time: 15:30 hrs

Attendance:

Name	Institution
His Excellency President Jagdeo	Office of the President
Minister Pauline Sukhai	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
Shyam Nokta	Office of the President
Michael Brotherson	Office of the President
Edward Dreyfus	Office of the President
Shereeda Yusuf	Office of the President
Dr. Dindyal Permaul	Ministry of Agriculture
Pradeepa Bholanath	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
Hilbertus Cort	Forest Producers Association (FPA)
William Woolford	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)
Indarjit Ramdass	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Jocelyn Dow	International Institute for Environmental and Development (IIED)
Vanda Radzik	International Institute for Environmental and Development (IIED)
Carvil Duncan	Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG)
Gerry Gouveia	Private Sector Commission (PSC)
Hymawattie Lagan	Women's Affairs Bureau
Yvonne Pearson	National Toshias Council (NTC)
Ashton Simon	The National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
Peter Persaud	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana
Pamela Mendonca	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana
Mimi Fernandes	Guyana Organisation of Indigenous People (GOIP)
Sydney Allicock	North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB)
Alfred King	Youth Representative

Absent/Excused

Dr. Roger Luncheon	Office of the President	Excused
Minister Robert Persaud	Ministry of Agriculture	Excused
Andrew Bishop	Office of the President	Excused
Joe Singh	Individual Capacity	Excused
Edward Shields	Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association	Excused
James Singh	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)	Excused
David James	Individual Capacity	Excused
Gillian Burton	Guyana Trade Unions Congress	Excused
David Singh	Conservation International (CI)	Excused
Patrick Williams	World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	Excused
Lester Flemming	National Toshias Council	Absent
Jean La Rose	Amerindian People's Association	Absent by Choice

1. Call to Order

His Excellency President Jagdeo opened the meeting.

2. Announcements and Correspondence

There were two correspondences identified:

1. The IIED sent an invitation to Guyana for a forest dialogue to be held in Ghana on 18-19 November.
2. Global Witness has sent a document with their review on REDD, which was circulated to the MSSC.

3. Minutes of Meeting 17

His Excellency invited the MSSC members to go through the Minutes of Meeting 17. The following corrections were identified:

- i. Mr. Romel Simon is a member of the MSSC, not a guest
- ii. Ms. Pamela Mendonca's name was absent from the attendance list
- iii. "Region 8" should be corrected to "Region 7" in point 5.4
- iv. In point 5.8, the number 720 should be corrected since there were over 900 persons.
- v. "UNDP" should be corrected to "UNIFEM" in point 6.9
- vi. It should be corrected in point 6.5 that the COICA document contained statements on the "rights relating to REDD" and not "rights of the indigenous people".

The minutes were verified as true and correct by Mr. Peter Persaud and seconded by Ms. Yvonne Pearson.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

- 4.1 Ms. Vanda Radzik noted that point 6.5 in the Minutes of Meeting 17 should be flagged because the COICA document was not seen by the MSSC.
- 4.2 His Excellency stated that there were many other controversial statements made in previous Meetings that were recorded in the Minutes but they were recorded because the Meetings are transparent and the Minutes accurately reflect what was stated.
- 4.3 Mr. Shyam Nokta stated that for point 5.1 there was a substantial discussion with the World Bank made and point 5.3 relates to 5.1.
- 4.4 His Excellency told the MSSC that should the members have any issues to raise later they are free to do so without repercussions.
- 4.5 Ms. Vanda Radzik stated she needed to emphasise the point that she has an issue with the way the Minutes are written. Ms. Radzik said she has been tracking the Minutes and there are some things recorded related to the APA that should not be recorded.
- 4.6 His Excellency stated that there were three representatives who were in the fields and it is their report that was captured in the Minutes.
- 4.7 Ms. Radzik stated that there are some things attributed to the APA that were overstated. Ms. Radzik said that Mr. Tony James spoke positively when the I-NGOs were in Washington. He did make some comments but generally he spoke well of the LCDS.
- 4.8 His Excellency stated that there cannot be a double standard set for the recording of the Minutes. His Excellency said that it was Ms. Radzik and Ms. Dow who advocated that everything should be recorded in the Minutes. In the past, there have been many speculative statements recorded in the Minutes but were allowed because of the transparency in the process. His Excellency said the APA cannot be left out from the Minutes. Maybe the presence of stakeholder representatives in the MSSC caused Tony James to go the rational line. But when Tony James is alone it is a different picture. His Excellency said that the MSSC needs to be faithful to the whole process and

not censor certain things especially now with the conclusion of the LCDS. His Excellency said that he has asked Norway to have the MSSC in the long term future. But, some things cannot be censored only. His Excellency told the MSSC that an agreement needs to be made on whether things should be censored or if the Minutes should record everything that was stated.

- 4.9 Mr. Gerry Gouveia said that if an adjustment needed to be made to the Minutes then it should have been done when the statement was made. The statement in question was stated unchallenged. Mr. Gouveia stated that he left the last Meeting with the impression that the APA was disruptive.
- 4.10 His Excellency asked the MSSC what they their agreement will be. Should all things mentioned that cannot be substantiated be excluded from the Minutes.
- 4.11 Ms. Jocelyn Dow stated that what was said about the APA was by Mr. Peter Persaud. It was his word and he needs to know if it was an accurate statement. Ms. Dow said that the MSSC had previously agreed to a disclaimer that the views expressed are not those necessarily of the Committee.
- 4.12 Ms. Vanda Radzik stated that no one got up at Nappi and said anything disruptive.
- 4.13 Minister Sukhai stated that at Nappi people stood up and asked the World Bank how much money will be given for APA. Andrew Demetro from CI said that it was not a pleasant experience. Even Commissioner Singh said that he did not understand why the World Bank should have answered that question.

5. Updates and Reports

- 5.1 Ms. Pradeepa Bholanath updated the MSSC on the Meeting with the World Bank that was held on 26 – 28 October in Washington. Ms. Bholanath stated that Ms. Yvonne Pearson, Mr. Ashton Simon, Mr. Peter Persaud, Ms. Vanda Radzik and Ms. Jocelyn Dow attended the Meeting. Ms. Bholanath said that it was unfortunate that Ms. Mimi Fernandes could not attend. Ms. Bholanath said that the team represented Guyana well. Guyana made a presentation on the Readiness Proposal and the steps taken with the MRV system. Overall the countries agreed on the proposal. Guyana is the leading in this proposal. Ms. Bholanath said that of the three countries that were supposed to implement the proposal only Guyana is actually going ahead with it. The issues of land titling and information dissemination were discussed and comments were sent on the Readiness Proposal. The GFC will examine all the comments and determine if they can be incorporated. Ms. Pearson gave the NTC's views positively at the Meetings. It was well received by the World Bank. Ms. Bholanath stated that Guyana attended the 5th Sub-Committee Meeting and there was a proposal for \$385M with Guyana's target being \$500M. Ms. Bholanath said that Minister Persaud needed to be thanked for giving guidance.
Ms. Bholanath said that there was a workshop at the Pegasus Hotel on 27 – 28 October on the MRV system. The team that was in Washington could not attend but there were 13 representatives from the NTC present. In general there is satisfaction with the system and there is now a growing understanding of how the Readiness Proposal is related to the LCDS. The linkage was not clear before.
- 5.2 His Excellency stated that the MRV system is rated the second best legislation in the world according to Gavin Brie from the World Bank.
- 5.3 Ms. Yvonne Pearson said that the Meetings in Washington were a good experience. It was good to hear other countries speak and learning more of the LCDS. It was an opportunity to present the facts about the indigenous people of Guyana relating to land rights. Ms. Pearson said she hoped that Guyana made an impact in the Meetings. On Thursday there was a Meeting with the World Bank to discuss the function of the NTC and to discuss the Amerindian Act. Ms. Pearson stated that she tried her best to share as much information as possible at the Meeting.
- 5.4 His Excellency stated that there was a good review of the Meeting. His Excellency said he spoke to Mr. James Singh who was ecstatic and the World Bank was pleased. His Excellency stated that he hoped the Meeting was a good experience for the representatives. His Excellency stated

that Guyana should take the lead and push the World Bank since they usually take two years to accomplish the same work that can be done in two months. His Excellency said he was very pleased with the outcome of the Meetings.

- 5.5 Ms. Jocelyn Dow said she needed to highlight that Mr. James Singh was a gracious team leader. Ms. Dow stated she needed to congratulate Mr. Singh. At the Meeting, Ms. Dow said a map was presented by Suriname on the New River Triangle. Ms. Dow said she informed Suriname prior to the Meeting that she was going to object to the map. Ms. Dow stated that Global Witness made a statement and was supportive of Guyana. Ms. Dow said the people were impressed with Guyana and the work done by the GFC. Ms. Dow said that she felt proud with the efforts of the team and that the team should congratulate themselves and Ms. Bholanath on the well done job. At the Meeting the NGOs made connections with various bilateral and multilateral NGOs. Ms. Dow said that the NGOs need to develop links with the other organisations. Ms. Dow stated that after the "horrors" displayed by Suriname, Guyana looked like a pearl by comparison. Ms. Dow said that Mr. Tony James stated that he does not know anyone who did not support the LCDS but he did make comments afterwards.
- 5.6 Mr. Peter Persaud said that he would like to echo what Ms. Dow said that Mr. James Singh is skilled in team leadership. Commissioner Singh was the highlight of the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP). Mr. Persaud said that there were some Guyanese who were not friendly with the Government. Mr. Persaud stated that Suriname was devastating again. The indigenous people "blasted" Suriname on their consultation process. Mr. Persaud said that Mr. Tony James wanted to blast Guyana's consultations but Mr. Simon and he were prepared to defend the process.
- 5.7 Ms. Jocelyn Dow said that Mr. Tony James was friendly with the team. Once the facts were laid out by Ms. Pearson all questions were answered.
- 5.8 His Excellency stated that this problem can be tackled by the sharing of information and being more transparent in the process.
- 5.9 Ms. Jocelyn Dow said that the Meeting held on Thursday allowed other participants to know more about Guyana.
- 5.10 Ms. Vanda Radzik updated the MSSC on IIED's report on the Consultation process that was done for the LCDS. Ms. Radzik said there was a questionnaire designed for the MSSC but not many persons answered the questionnaire. Ms. Radzik stated that 37-42 questionnaires were answered. Ms. Radzik said that the questions were rated on a scale between 1-10 where "1" is low and "10" is high.
- 5.11 Mr. Michael Brotherson asked what "information linked with timeliness" means
- 5.12 Ms. Vanda Radzik said that one issue arising from the Consultations is the timeliness of the documents and the feedback on the consultations, especially since some communities do not have access to the internet.
- 5.13 Mr. Michael Brotherson stated that the timeline is understood. The revised LCDS is a good benchmark for how comments received from the LCDS is reflected. Mr. Brotherson said that social science questions can be skewed. The first and second week of the Consultation process were challenging for the Office. There were constraints and if the question was better stated, it can change people's perception and the way it was answered.
- 5.14 Ms. Vanda Radzik explained to the MSSC the limitations of the Report. Ms. Radzik said that the bulletin format in the LCDS is useful but the detailed points were not captured. Ms. Radzik stated that carbon services can be understood with education.
- 5.15 Minister Pauline Sukhai asked Ms. Radzik to explain what "definition of stakeholder process" means
- 5.16 Ms. Radzik stated that the information process is a two way process and information found should be shared

- 5.17 Minister Pauline Sukhai suggested that the report should not use the word “unresponsive” because it is not the process that was at fault.
- 5.18 Mr. Gerry Gouveia said that the report suggests there was a problem with the process when in fact it is a problem with the persons’ responses. Mr. Gouveia suggested that responses should be encouraged.
- 5.19 Mr. Shyam Nokta said that the slide contradicts what was stated in an earlier slide with constraints of the process.
- 5.20 Ms. Vanda Radzik stated that IIED was impressed with the number of outreach sessions done, its reach and scope. Ms. Radzik said Mr. Brotherson and Mr. Nokta and the team should be congratulated. Miners who self mobilised several sessions should be congratulated also. Recognition was given to Mr. Simon and his team who went back into the fields to reach more than 900 persons. The NRDDDB and Bina Hill should be recognised too.
Ms. Radzik stated that it was good that the Drafting Committee for the LCDS was created from the members of the MSSC and the MSSC will be given an opportunity to review the finalised LCDS.
The comments received from the sessions held were recorded in a matrix that was comprehensive and useful.
- 5.21 Ms. Jocelyn Dow stated that the team was fast in compiling the reports.
- 5.22 Ms. Vanda Radzik said that the LCDS website had a section for people to post comments but it caused the website to be hacked. The technology should be upgraded to prevent this. Ms. Radzik stated that there were several television and radio programmes that featured information on the LCDS.
- 5.23 Mr. Michael Brotherson said that the report should include the months that the infomercials were aired on television channels.
- 5.24 Ms. Vanda Radzik said that the Draft of the LCDS was well written however, many people did not understand certain terms like “Carbon Trading”. Hence, a recommendation was made for the use of visual/audio visual aids to be used.
- 5.25 Mr. Michael Brotherson stated that there were elements of the visual/audio visual aids. Mr. Brotherson said that after the NTC Meeting 100 copies of CDs with documentaries were sent out to the communities.
- 5.26 Minister Pauline Sukhai said that the Al Gore documentaries were circulated but not the CDs. There were 3 copies of the CDs received but they had no audio.
- 5.27 Mr. Michael Brotherson said that at the Youth forum and other major events the documentaries were played.
- 5.28 Ms. Jocelyn Dow said that the report will state that these visual/audio visuals were used.
- 5.29 Ms. Vanda Radzik stated that there were three proposed financial mechanisms from the indigenous people: An Amerindian Development Fund for the LCDS payments; Indigenous Peoples’ Low Carbon Development Bank and Indigenous Peoples’ LCDS Trust Fund. Ms. Radzik said that the NTC should provide guidance and expertise and provide independent and expert legal, financial, environmental, social and cultural preservation advice to the Village Councils.
- 5.30 Dr. Dindyal Permaul stated that the NTC should have the capacity to appoint anyone. The Council should be able to access skills and resources as any other council and thereby be able to appoint who they want. Dr. Permaul stated that there is a subliminal message in the way it is written that the NTC is not able to appoint who they want.
- 5.31 Mr. Shyam Nokta said that the statement should be re-written to state that the NTC can bring on board any expert they see fit.

- 5.32 Ms. Vanda Radzik stated that the point on Iwokrama has lots of lessons to be learnt. Ms. Radzik quoted Mr. Sydney Allicock “we need to use the road (wisely) so that the road does not use us” Ms. Radzik said the Guyana/Brazil road link provides a major opportunity and risk and that this should be highlighted in the LCDS.
- 5.33 Mr. Peter Persaud enquired if it was Mr. Sydney Allicock who was quoted or if it was Mr. Badford Allicock.
- 5.34 Ms. Vanda Razik said it was Mr. Sydney Allicock and he can verify the statement. Ms. Radzik concluded the IIED’s presentation by thanking the MSSC and stated it was a privilege and honour to work with everyone.
- 5.35 Mr. Shyam Nokta said that the IIED team needs to be commended for their thorough work. It is a good opportunity for the MSSC to review the report.
- 5.36 Ms. Vanda Radzik said should anyone want a hard copy of the full report they can request it through the OCC.
- 5.37 Dr. Dindyal Permaul said that the team should be commended on the quality of work. However, the report should include a methodology section. An evaluation of the exercise must have a methodology section. An assessment of questionnaires should be done like bar charts and pie charts. The way the raw data was gathered should be included in the report. The document should be properly labelled, documented and referenced for the document to be used as a authentic document for reference.
- 5.38 Ms. Vanda Radzik said that to do bar charts will not be possible because the information was based on opinions. The IIED used the nine standards laid out in the conceptual framework.
- 5.39 Dr. Dindyal Permaul said that the method that was recorded in the report is qualitative as opposed to quantitative but this can still be stated in the report.
- 5.40 Mr. Alfred King stated that any number of data more than 30 can be used for analysis. It was a good research and to add value to it there should be analysis done. The registration list from the consultations can be used and there is some work done with statistics from the questionnaire. It just needs to be defined properly.
- 5.41 Ms. Jocelyn Dow said that the questions tracked by the Drafting Committee can be added to the report
- 5.42 Mr. Shyam Nokta said that he supports the previous speakers for a comprehensive study that should include a methodology. The criteria for the analysis should be done like that for the consultation process.
- 5.43 Mr. Michael Brotherson said there cannot be a study without a methodology. The scientific analysis Dr. Permaul stated may be difficult to do but there is already a methodology done for the report, it just needs to be stated.
- 5.44 Minister Pauline Sukhai stated that three data sets can already be listed to be included in the report: the participants’ register, matrix of the responses and the questionnaire sent out. These can be placed in a technical framework.
- 5.45 Ms. Jocelyn Dow stated that there is a gap in that the consultations engaged the forested communities but the wider population stills needs to be engaged. IIED will try to include the suggestions mentioned but IIED did not want to highlight the gap. Ms. Dow stated that Norway has given Ms. Radzik and herself the last edit for the document, which is fair. They recognised that she and Ms. Radzik were on the ground monitoring and understood the process.
- 5.46 Mr. Shyam Nokta stated that the work of the awareness sessions should not go unnoticed which targeted the wider population.

- 5.47 Mr. Alfred King said that there was a balance that almost all the awareness sessions and media awareness were done for the wider population. Hence, there was indirect participation.
- 5.48 Ms. Jocelyn Dow stated that the forested communities were engaged because they had something to gain. But, the wider population was informed, not engaged. Many persons do not believe they will benefit or receive any money. In terms of participating, the matrix from the Drafting Committee can be placed in the Appendix.
- 5.49 Ms. Vanda Radzik said that there is a section in the report, section 3, which included the participation of all the sessions.
- 5.50 Dr. Dindyal Permaul said that a map showing the number of forested communities and the state forests should be done to illustrate where the sessions were held.
- 5.51 Ms. Vanda Radzik said that the map was a good recommendation and will be included.
- 5.52 Mr. Alfred King said that the executive summary of the report was lengthy and it should be reduced to include three main elements.
- 5.53 Ms. Jocelyn Dow said that the summary is long because she or Ms. Radzik believed that people would not want to read the full length report.
- 5.54 Dr. Dindyal Permaul said that the report should be structured with: introduction, methodology, analysis of response/findings, recommendations and conclusions.
- 5.55 Mr. Sydney Allicock stated he supported the previous speakers and suggests that the document be used in schools because it will help students, especially those in the interior on planning and using the environment.
- 5.56 Mr. Alfred King said that there should be an element in the report that says in the future the LCDS will be incorporated in the schools' curriculum.
- 5.57 Ms. Vanda Radzik asked Mr. King to write a summary on youths and the LCDS based on the session held with the Youths and this will be incorporated in the report.

6 Any Other Business

- 6.1 His Excellency stated that the accommodation for Copenhagen is very expensive. His Excellency said that Ms. Dow has found a penthouse with six rooms available for the trip. It costs about \$150000 just to go to Copenhagen. It is very expensive. His Excellency said that the cost for flights to get to Copenhagen through Suriname should be checked out. His Excellency said he hopes that the team that went to Washington gets to go to Copenhagen.
- 6.2 His Excellency stated that the MSSC should review the MoU between Norway and Guyana and send comments by 06:00hrs on Friday.
- 6.3 Ms. Vanda Radzik enquired what time the signing will be.
- 6.4 His Excellency said it will be on Monday. His Excellency stated that the document is on embargo until the signing on Monday. His Excellency said that the first four pages of the document are clear and the concept papers of the MoU are attached. His Excellency said that on page 2 in the second paragraph he changed "maximum amount" to "reference levels"
- 6.5 Ms. Jocelyn Dow said that the line on forested communities should be changed to all local communities.

- 6.6 His Excellency stated that that was a valid point. The wording can be rewritten to local forested communities and not just local communities. His Excellency stated that not everything Norway has written will be agreed to because Norway still has a developed country bias.
- 6.7 His Excellency said that he is perusing the document and there are a lot of words to be changed. His Excellency told the MSSC that they should review the formula for benefits on page 11.
- 6.8 Ms. Jocelyn Dow said that her concern was that it is stated that benefits will go to indigenous people and not all Guyanese.
- 6.9 His Excellency said that it was made clear in the document that all Guyanese will benefit. His Excellency stated that the details are in the concept papers – the spending related to issues in the LCDS and commitments to spend on. His Excellency told the MSSC they have one day to review the document and they should send all comments by email to him or Mr. Nokta by 06:00hrs on Friday.
- 6.10 Ms. Vanda Radzik stated that the issue of persons using REDD-plus and REDD+ should be noted.
- 6.11 His Excellency said that editorial error or simple grammar error should be ignored in the review. Those errors can be easily corrected later.
- 6.12 Ms. Vanda Radzik enquired what the meaning of GRIF is.
- 6.13 His Excellency explained that GRIF means Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund. It is an investment fund through which money will flow. The key to the Fund is to receive money now and until 2015.
- 6.14 Ms. Vanda Radzik asked Mr. Nokta to give an update on the revised LCDS.
- 6.15 Mr Shyam Nokta said that the revised draft should be completed within a few weeks. The MoU between Guyana and Norway had taken priority in the last few weeks.
- 6.16 Ms. Jocelyn Dow stated the Meeting with Global Witness to be held in Ghana is important and Mr. Nokta should attend.
- 6.17 His Excellency stated that there are many scheduled Meetings similar to the one in Ghana. His Excellency said that Mr. Shyam Nokta and Mr. Andrew Bishop have to attend a Meeting on the 26th with all the Amazon countries.
- 6.18 Ms. Vanda Radzik suggested that Mr. Gavin Agard from GFC attend the Meeting in Ghana.
- 6.19 His Excellency asked Mr. Sydney Allicock about the problems with the lights in Region 9.
- 6.20 Mr. Sydney Allicock said that there is a problem with the wiring of the bulbs.
- 6.21 His Excellency stated that the bulbs were sent to GEA for rigorous testing and there should not be a problem with the bulbs.
- 6.22 Dr. Dindyal Permaul stated that Guyana has changed from the British system to American system and that the UL listing should be carefully followed.
- 6.23 His Excellency stated that the quality of the bulbs is a factor and this needs to be examined more carefully.

There being no other business, the meeting closed.

End of Minutes

A number of key points were made and follow up action identified. This is summarised below.

Key Points	Follow Up
The MSSC should send their comments on the MoU between Norway and Guyana by Friday 6 November at 06:00hrs	MSSC to follow up
Flight plans for team to get to Copenhagen via Suriname should be checked out	OCC to follow up