

Meeting 23

Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)

Meeting 23

Date: Tuesday, 2 March 2010

Venue: Office of the President

Time: 14:00 hrs

Attendance:

Name	Institution
His Excellency President Jagdeo	Office of the President
Minister Pauline Sukhai	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
Minister Robert Persaud	Ministry of Agriculture
Andrew Bishop	Office of the President
Michael Brotherson	Office of the President
Edward Dreyfus	Office of the President
Shereeda Yusuf	Office of the President
Alfred King	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
Dindyal Permaul	Ministry of Agriculture
James Singh	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
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)
Gillian Burton	Guyana Trades Union Congress(GTUC)
Hymawattie Lagan	Women's Affairs Bureau
Mimi Fernandes	Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous People (GOIP)

Absent/Excused

Dr. Roger Luncheon	Office of the President	Excused
Shyam Nokta	Office of the President	Excused
Hilbertus Cort	Forest Producers Association (FPA)	Excused
Edward Shields	Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association	Excused
Joe Singh	Individual Capacity	Excused
Gerry Gouveia	Private Sector Commission	Excused
David James	Individual Capacity	Excused
Sydney Allicock	North Rupununi District Development Board	Excused
Carvil Duncan	Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana	Absent
Yvonne Pearson	National Toshias Council	Absent
Ashton Simon	The National Amerindian Development Foundation	Absent
Romel Simon	The National Amerindian Development Foundation	Absent
Peter Persaud	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana	Absent
Pamela Mendonca	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana	Absent
Edward Shields	Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association	Absent
Lester Fleming	National Toshias Council	Absent
David Singh	Conservation International	Absent
Patrick Williams	World Wildlife Fund	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

The following persons were excused from the Meeting: Mr. Shyam Nokta, Mr. Hilbertus Cort, Mr. Gerry Gouveia, Mr. Joe Singh and Mr. David James.

3. Minutes of Meeting 22

The following corrections were identified:

- i. Point 3.28 on Page 3 should be reworded.
- ii. Page 4, Point 3.33 should read David James and not Peter Persaud.

The Minutes were verified as true and correct by Ms. Hymawattie Lagan and seconded by Ms. Gillian Burton.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

The Meeting agreed to subsume this item under Updates and Reports.

5. Updates and Reports

International Scene

5.1 His Excellency updated the MSSC that there has been a lot of confusion in the media relating to the future of climate change. Advocates are now examining the outcome of the Copenhagen Meeting and currently, elements of reorganisation can be seen. This reorganisation is focused on getting a decision in Mexico later this year, but it has just started and is fragile. His Excellency reported that there will be a Meeting with four heads of Government and a technical team to raise the \$100B annually by 2020. The steps to make this happen will also help to get an agreement in Mexico. The President said that he has made a suggestion that there be a Meeting in New York in September with Heads of Governments as was done before Copenhagen.

5.2 His Excellency stated that there is uncertainty with the US position. They can put in place the cap and trade system through the EPA. On the other hand, there are some credibility problems on climate change. There are some people opposed to climate change and want to cast a doubt on its impact. They are the extremists: they don't support the general conclusion that climate change is caused by anthropogenic behaviour. The President noted that Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is now facing a huge problem in Australia where the opposition denounce that climate change is occurring. There is now an ongoing momentum to oppose the claim on climate change. His Excellency expressed concern on how this problem will play out in the international scene and how it will affect the Mexico meeting.

5.3 His Excellency said that Guyana has participated in the technical debate on forestry matters but a re-grouping is needed to bolster actions relating to forestry.

“Opt in” Mechanism for Amerindians

5.4 His Excellency stated that the OCC has prepared a draft paper for the “opt in” mechanism for Amerindian communities. This paper should be circulated to the MSSC for review.

CIFOR and FAO Reports

5.5 Mr. James Singh updated the MSSC that there was a Subcommittee Meeting on 18th January with approximately 7-8 representatives from the MSSC being present. The comments from the GFC were endorsed and some additional comments were made by TAAMOG and were also endorsed. These comments were circulated to the MSSC to be formally endorsed so they can be

sent to the consultants. The GFC has already sent their comments to the consultants but on request of the President the MSSC needs to make a formal position and send the comments to the consultants.

- 5.6 Ms. Jocelyn Dow stated she has not received the comments that were circulated.
- 5.7 Mr. Andrew Bishop said that the comments will be resent to Ms. Dow. Mr. Bishop stated that the MSSC should send any comments on the reports to the OCC by Thursday 4 March so that it can be sent to the consultants as the official MSSC position statement by Friday 5th.

REDD+ Governance Plan

- 5.8 His Excellency stated that Guyana is currently waiting the first disbursement of money from the Government of Norway. H.E. lamented the fact that GRIF is not established because of the World Bank's peculiar set of conditionalities which they wish to apply to the GRIF. Mr. Dreyfus and Mr. Grin from the PMO were told they needed to follow World Bank's procedures in order to have the road built for the hydropower plant. This will delay the project by approximately six months and will be costly. His Excellency emphasised that Guyana has met all the requirements for the agreement with Norway. Guyana is asking for payment for service not a grant. The President noted that Guyana is still awaiting the FCPF money.
- 5.9 Mr. James Singh reported that the REDD+ Governance Plan is being finalised. There are 14 actions that have been identified with the GFC taking a lead. The GFC is very confident that the timeline specified in the plan will be met. Additionally, the other elements of the plan have been advancing and are on schedule.

MRVS

- 5.10. Mr. James Singh informed the Meeting that the GFC has advertised two Bids for the MRVS. The deadline for the expressions of interest for the first Bid on GIS and Remote Sensing was January 29 and deadline for proposals was on February 26. The GFC has received 52 expressions of interest and received 10 proposals up to date by email. For Bid 2 on Carbon Stock and Assessment the deadline for expressions of interest was 25th February and the deadline for the proposal is 25th March. So far the GFC has received 15 expressions of interest. There is a technical committee for the MRVS who needs to agree on the evaluation criteria.

EU FLEGT

- 5.11 Mr. James Singh updated the Meeting that Minister Persaud has spoken to the EU Ambassador on matters related to EU FLEGT. Mr. Singh stated that next week an officer from the GFC, Mr. Gavin Agard, will be attending a workshop in Barbados held by the FAO. Following the workshop, a team will be visiting Guyana on 11th – 16th March.
- 5.12 Ms. Jocelyn Dow asked what Guyana is doing about the private sector certification. Ms. Dow said that the view is that Guyana is not seeking FSC.
- 5.13 Minister Persaud said that the position is that FSC is voluntary. If companies want to do it they can. Presently, Guyana is conducting legal verification. The entire country is being certified through the LCDS process, more specifically the MRVS, which can be used by companies for marketing purposes.
- 5.14 Mr. James Singh stated that the legality is driven by the private sector, which only two companies - Barama and Iwokrama - have engaged in certification. Mr. Singh said that the process is very costly and there is no premium.

LCDS

- 5.15 His Excellency stated that there has not been many new activities locally relating to the LCDS process. He said that the LCDS needs to be finalised and until this is done there will not be many outreach programmes since certain issues are still to be resolved.
- 5.16 Mr. Bishop stated that the Second Draft for Consultations of the LCDS has been circulated to the MSSC and the comments received will be taken into consideration in the finalisation process and then the document will be reviewed by the MSSC.
- 5.17 Ms. Vanda Radzik suggested that the Drafting Committee be convened at least once more to review the finalised second draft before it is circulated. Ms Radzik stated that she believes the process for the LCDS was good and solid and should be maintained.
- 5.18 Minister Persaud concurred with Ms. Radzik's suggestion to have the Drafting Committee meet to discuss the finalising of the LCDS.

6 Any Other Business

Circulating Information

- 6.1 Ms. Jocelyn Dow suggested that there be a news bulletin to inform MSSC members of matters of significance to keep them updated.
- 6.2 Minister Persaud stated that for the public to be engaged and have continued interest then there should be continuous sharing of information. The problem we had with miners was highlighted because of the gap for information sharing. Occasionally if the moment is right it should be done, for example, when the President meets with the Norwegian team.
- 6.3 Mr. Michael Brotherson reported that the OCC have been receiving calls still on the LCDS and people have been using the website, where they are constantly being updated on matters related to the LCDS. The OCC has new infomercials, which includes the post Copenhagen outcomes. He also pointed out that senior OCC personnel had provided updates on climate change and the LCDS to Government Agencies that had requested this and noted that there were volunteers making enquiries to the OCC on how they could be involved. Mr. Brotherson reiterated that whilst there may be a hiatus in terms of intensity but the buzz on the LCDS is still there.
- 6.4 Ms. Jocelyn Dow said that it should be clear that she is not criticising Mr. Michael Brotherson or the OCC. Ms Dow stated that there should be a bulletin from the OCC updating the MSSC on current matters because information needs to be circulated to keep members updated.
- 6.5 Mr. Andrew Bishop noted the points made by both Ms. Dow and Mr. Brotherson.

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 "opt in" mechanism for Amerindian communities needs to be discussed and debated with the MSSC	OCC to follow up
Meeting with the Norway team on the 8 th March	OCC to follow up
Comments for the CIFOR and FAO reports need to be endorsed by the MSSC by 4 th March to be sent to consultants	OCC to follow up