

Meeting 25

Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)

Date: Tuesday, 16 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
Shyam Nokta	Office of the President
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
Pradeepa Bholanath	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
William Woolford	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)
Edward Shields	Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA)
Mohindra Chan	Forest Producers Association (FPA)
Gillian Burton	Guyana Trade Union Congress (GTUC)
Gerry Gouveia	Private Sector Commission
Jocelyn Dow	International Institute for Environmental and Development (IIED)
Vanda Radzik	International Institute for Environmental and Development (IIED)
Hymawattie Lagan	Women's Affairs Bureau
Lester Fleming	National Toshias Council (NTC)
Mimi Fernandes	Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous People (GOIP)
Ashton Simon	The National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
Romel Simon	The National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
Peter Persaud	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG)
Sydney Allicock	North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB)
Joe Singh	Individual Capacity
David James	Individual Capacity

Absent/Excused

Dr. Roger Luncheon	Office of the President	Excused
Minister Robert Persaud	Ministry of Agriculture	Excused
Dindyal Permaul	Ministry of Agriculture	Excused
James Singh	Guyana Forestry Commission	Excused
David Singh	Conservation International	Excused
Hilbertus Cort	Forest Producers Association	Excused
Indarjit Ramdass	Environmental Protection Agency	Excused
Carvil Duncan	Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana	Excused
Yvonne Pearson	National Toshias Council	Excused
Pamela Mendonca	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana	Excused
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

There was no correspondence or announcements.

3. Minutes of Meeting 24

The following corrections were identified:

- i. Points 5.4, 5.6, 5.12, 5.16, 5.24, 6.22, and 7.6 need rewording.
- ii. Point 6.2 should read David James not James Singh
- iii. Point 6.4 should read not to examine the procedure not to examine the document
- iv. Point 6.3 the use of MSSC are
- v. Point 6.7 should be "review" and "submit"
- vi. Point 6.11 should be "itself" not "themselves"
- vii. Point 6.12 should be "its" not "their"
- viii. Point 6.13 last line should state "defined"
- ix. Point 6.17 should be "its" not "their"
- x. Point 6.18 1st line should read "GFC has the lead"
- xi. Point 6.19 the line from "grey areas... world bank" should be deleted

Motion to adopt the Minutes was moved by Ms. Jocelyn Dow and seconded by Mr. Peter Persaud.

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 reviewed developments at the international level, noting that we are somewhat behind in the momentum needed for a legally binding agreement this year in Mexico. The Ban Ki Moon appointed Finance Advisory Panel set up to identify options for raising the US\$100B annually by 2020 is scheduled for 31st March. However, also needed is the short term financing pledged in the Accord. The REDD Plus meeting in Paris meeting did not produce the results as expected.

Payments from Norway

- 5.2 His Excellency explained that the Guyana-Norway MoU is a model for payments for environmental services and that a similar model agreement for funds disbursement is needed. His Excellency discussed the GRIF issue with the President of the World Bank at the just concluded CARICOM Heads of Government Intersessional Meeting in Dominica. From Guyana's perspective it is a payment for services so the transfer mechanism cannot be an ODA type arrangement.
- 5.3 His Excellency also said that to pay for the Amaila access road, Guyana will have to now use its own resources. Further, Amerindians will now benefit from US\$7M instead of the originally planned US\$5M from the US\$30M from Norway for Amerindian development.

The APA

- 5.4 His Excellency stated that recent articles in the press is attempting to bring into question the credibility of not only the consultations but the entire MSSC, and the negative perceptions being cultivated needs to be addressed internationally and locally.
- 5.5 Ms. Jocelyn Dow indicated that she already sent out a press statement while Ms. Radzik stated that she is preparing one.
- 5.6 Ms. Jocelyn Dow reported that the WWF and CI are releasing a public statement as well.
- 5.7 His Excellency stated that Mr. Sydney Allicock indicated that he will be releasing a statement too.
- 5.8 Mr. David James reported that he made a presentation at the workshop and which would have contained views consistent with what were expressed during the LCDS consultation process.
- 5.9 Ms. Radzik indicated that the APA felt that the way in which the workshop statement is being interpreted is not what was intended, and that the statement from the workshop that was not as demeaning as was reported in the Stabroek News.
- 5.10 Mr. Joe Singh said that it was unfair to penalise villages that do not know that their Toshaos came and made objections. Mr. Singh stated that these villages need to give them the benefit of doubt for the recent objections from their Toshaos. His Excellency agreed, and said that a team from OCC, MoAA, and IIED can go back to villages to explain what their Toshaos said. The team should explain that if the villages do not want the money to be distributed to them, then their wish will be respected. His Excellency stated that the media should also go to the villages and have enough people document the process properly.

6. “Opt In” Mechanism for Amerindians

- 6.1 Mr. Shyam Nokta indicated that the OCC has received preliminary comments from some members of the MSSC for the “opt in” mechanism. Mr. Nokta urged other members to send in comments as early as possible, so that a more informed document can be prepared, after which a wider consultation would be done.
- 6.2 In response to a query from Mr. Nokta, Minister Sukhai stated that the NTC should be engaged on the ‘Opt In’ mechanism.
- 6.3 Ms. Radzik stated that in finalising the document it would be very useful to have consultations of some type with the NTC and NGO’s.
- 6.4 Mr. David James suggested that the concept paper should be given to communities for review, as there are no Guyanese radio/television stations in the communities.
- 6.5 Mr. Joe Singh said that the concept paper is OK as a concept, but there is a need to develop an operational document that can get the message over easily to communities.
- 6.6 Mr. Edward Dreyfus enquired how REDD revenue would be divided – whether by population, forest area, among others.
- 6.7 Mr. Shyam Nokta stated that the distribution of payments earned by communities is a matter for communities to decide not the Government and that the revenue will be earned from a forest-based model whereby communities will bring their forests to the model and based on performance, will be paid.
- 6.8 Mr. Joe Singh clarified that Mr. Dreyfus was enquiring what model will be used to determine how the money will be given to the villages that choose to “opt in.”

- 6.9 His Excellency stated that a calculation for disbursement of payments would need to be done. Payment by area of forest is one such way. 50% can be given to the village and the other 50% placed in a community fund for the other communities without forests. Where a problem exists is if some communities with forests “opt in” while others with forests do not and expect to still benefit from the community fund but these are issues communities will need to decide on.
- 6.10 Peter Persaud enquired if the model applies to villages that have protected areas. His Excellency clarified in the affirmative indicating that communities with protected areas should not prevent a community for participating and receiving payment.
- 6.11 Mr. David James enquired what definition for forests will be used. Ms. Pradeepa Bholanauth referred to Mr. Nokta’s statement and indicated that the model is forest based and many of the definitions used in the paper relates to those used for the MRV System.
- 6.12 Mr. Mahendra Chan stated that for those Amerindian villages that do not “opt in” their village lands will be in demand for commercialisation. His Excellency noted that this was the issue that would need to be considered.
- 6.13 His Excellency indicated that at this stage the MSSC should deliberate on the ‘opt in’ draft concept document.

CIFOR and FAO Reports

- 6.14 Mr. Shyam Nokta stated that the MSSC review comments on the CIFOR and FAO reports have been sent to the consultants and the OCC is awaiting response.

REDD+ Governance Plan

- 6.15 Mr. Shyam Nokta informed that the REDD+ Governance Plan Framework has been developed and agencies are working on their individual sections, these include the GFC, OCC, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and EPA. Ms. Pradeepa Bholanath stated that the GFC is working on specific aspects of the Plan, for which the Commission has been identified as the lead agency; GFC may be able to receive support for consultation for the first four activities of the RGDP, which relates to the reviewing and revising of the National Forest Plan and Policy Statements. The first set of consultations will commence in April.

MRVS

- 6.17 Ms. Pradeepa Bholanath reported that the final number of submissions of proposals for Bid 1: GIS and Remote Sensing is twenty-seven (27). A total of 44 expressions of interest have been received for Bid 2: Carbon Stock and Assessment. The closing date for Proposals for Bid 2 is the end of March. The issue of financing of Bids 1 and 2 needs to be addressed, and it may be advisable to secure financing for these bids prior to issuing out the contract to selected consultants chosen through the procurement process.

EU FLEGT

- 6.18 Ms. Bholanauth informed that a team from EU FLEGT office is currently in Guyana meeting with relevant stakeholders. Following this, next steps will be outlined by the mission team to the GFC. The GFC would be exploring the possibility of including IFM into the FLEGT agenda for Guyana.
- 6.19 Ms. Jocelyn Dow enquired if Guyana does not engage in EU FLEGT if it will be a barrier to trade. Ms. Pradeepa Bholonauth stated that because it is a voluntary agreement, the EU will not be able to import products that are not VPA certifiable.
- 6.20 Mr. Mahendra Chan enquired if the MoU compels Guyana to use EU FLEGT. Ms. Pradeepa Bholonauth stated that the MoU does not compel that Guyana in this matter. Mr Nokta added that the MoU urges Guyana to seek alignment with EU FLEGT and this process will determine how to proceed.

LCDS

- 6.21 Mr. Shyam Nokta informed that a matrix of responses on the second draft of the LCDS will be circulated to the Drafting Committee prior to the committee meeting scheduled for Friday March 1 at 13:00hrs to review the comments.

7 Any Other Business

Press Conference

- 7.1 His Excellency informed the meeting that a press conference should be scheduled to clarify misconceptions and current issues on the LCDS.

Global Witness

- 7.2 Ms. Vanda Radzik enquired if the OCC has received any feedback from Global Witness. Mr. Shyam Nokta stated that no feedback was received.

Progress Report for the MoU

- 7.3 Ms. Shyam Nokta informed that the OCC has circulated the Annual Progress Report which outlines the status of actions specified in the MoU that Guyana should have completed in 2009. The report gives an update up to February 2010.

Caribbean Development Bank

- 7.4 Ms. Vanda Radzik reported that in Africa Norway is using the African Development Bank and we have the Caribbean Development Bank that has implemented projects in Guyana and perhaps this should be considered.

There being no other business, the meeting closed.

End of Minutes

A number of key points were made and follow up action identified. These are summarised below.

Key Points	Follow Up
A team consisting of the OCC, MoAA and the IIED should go to villages whose Tashaos objected to the LCDS and were not interested in participating to find out if it is the village's decision or just the Tashaos	OCC to follow up
A Press Conference should be held and to include IIED and other members of the MSSC and to discuss the consultation process	OCC to follow up
The matrix of comments for the second draft of the LCDS should be circulated to the MSSC	OCC to follow up