

Meeting 48 Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)

Date: Wednesday, 21st November 2012

Venue: Office of the President

Time: 10:40 hrs

Attendance:

Name	Institution
Minister Pauline Sukhai	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
Shyam Nokta	Office of the President
Kapil Mohabir	Office of the President
Shereeda Yusuf	Office of the President
Rickford Viera	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)
Pradeepa Bholanath	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
Ronald Webster	Private Sector Commission (PSC)
Edward Shields	Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA)
Carvil Duncan	Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG)
Derrick John	National Toshias Council (NTC)
Yvonne Pearson	National Toshias Council (NTC)
Michael Williams	North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB)
Peter Persaud	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG)
Ashton Simon	The National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
Rommel Simon	The National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
Colin Klautky	Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous People (GOIP)
George Norton	Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous People (GOIP)
Joe Singh	Individual Capacity

Absent/Excused

His Excellency President Ramotar		
Former President Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo	Individual Capacity	Excused
Dr. Roger Luncheon	Office of the President	Excused
Minister Ashni Singh	Ministry of Finance	Excused
Minister Robert Persaud	Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment	Excused
Minister Leslie Ramsammy	Ministry of Agriculture	Excused
Andrew Bishop	Office of the President	Excused
George Jervis	Ministry of Agriculture	Excused
Alfred King	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports	Excused
Hilbertus Cort	Forest Producers Association	Excused
Indarjit Ramdass	Environmental Protection Agency	Excused
Paulette Bynoe	University of Guyana	Excused
Pamela Mendonca	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana	Excused
James Singh	Guyana Forestry Commission	Excused
David James	Individual Capacity	Excused
David Singh	Conservation International	Excused
Hymawattie Lagan	Women's Affairs Bureau	Absent
Patrick Williams	World Wildlife Fund	Absent
Gillian Burton	Guyana Trades Union Congress	Absent
Jean La Rose	Amerindian People's Association	Absent by Choice

Invitee

Nikolaus Oudkerk	Office of the President
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1. Call to Order

Mr. Shyam Nokta called the meeting to order.

2. Announcements and Correspondence

2.1 There were excuses from Minister Singh, Minister Ramsammy, Minister Persaud, Mr. Bishop, Mr. King, Dr. Bynoe, Dr. Singh, Mr. Singh, Mr. Jervis, Ms. Mendonca, Mr. James and Dr. Ramdass.

2.2 There was no correspondence.

3. Remarks Delivered on Behalf of His Excellency President Ramotar

3.1 Mr. Shyam Nokta stated that His Excellency was unable to attend the meeting due to some urgent matters requiring his attention. Mr. Nokta chaired the meeting and delivered the following presentation outlining key events and initiatives since the last meeting:

3.1.1 There was an initiative by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE) towards improved management of extractive industries and the setting up of a 5 year strategic plan for the Conservation Trust Fund. There have been two important workshops to address these issues.

3.1.2 Efforts were made by the Ministry of Housing and Water to initiate work on integrated water resources management.

3.1.3 An MoU was signed with the Clinton Foundation's Climate Initiative on support for renewable energy and to allow them to mobilise technical skills and expertise to assist Guyana.

3.1.4 Guyana is continuing work with Norway for the third payment. The independent auditors have now completed their work, and their reports are being reviewed. As progress is made, the OCC will provide more information. However, work continues regarding the implementation of the agreement with Norway.

3.1.5 There is continued progress on the LCDS Projects and a matrix with an update has been circulated to the meeting in this regard. From the last MSSC meeting, there was a team in country from the IDB looking into the environmental aspects of the Amaila Project and this team has now submitted its report and recommendations which are being looked at by Government. Also, work is progressing on the road. Other projects such as the Micro and Small Enterprise Development Project are in the review period through the GRIF; and work is continuing on the Cunha Canal Project and Biodiversity Centre. Already in implementation is the Institutional Strengthening Project which is going to give support to the OCC, PMO and GFC and the Amerindian Development Fund Project which will initially support 27 villages to implement their Community Development Plans.

It is usually not convenient to provide in-depth details on the LCDS projects and elements of the LCDS and the Norway Agreement at the regularly scheduled MSSC meetings. As such, the OCC will convene a quarterly forum with the MSSC, through a half-day session to provide more details and interaction on all aspects of the LCDS.

3.1.6 Work is continuing towards preparing an LCDS Addendum which will also include a second wave of LCDS Projects based on what was identified within the LCDS document. Ideally the aim is to have this ready by end of this year but to also benefit from whatever comes out of the Conference of Parties meeting in Qatar.

3.1.7 With regards to the international negotiations, the 18th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC will start this week with preparatory meetings. Among the key issues will be the fate of the Kyoto Protocol and the second commitment period; the possible extension of the period of Fast Start Financing until the Green Climate Fund becomes fully operational; and to further progress work on REDD+, in particular to look at financing for results based actions. The global economic situation and domestic politics in the industrialised countries have created a dynamic which has virtually stifled the momentum that climate change had attained two years

ago. The same dynamic makes it less likely that industrialised countries will come up with deeper emissions cuts at this time.

Generally, Guyana does not believe that this meeting in Qatar will produce any agreement of global significance. A technical team led by Andrew Bishop will undertake the negotiations, allowing us to review the situation in 2013.

3.1.8 There are some upcoming events at the international and domestic level. Later this month, Prince Charles will convene a major event that will look at climate change and in particular the role of forests and REDD+. Guyana has been invited and will participate in this meeting. As you know, Prince Charles has a keen interest in this area, and also in Guyana, and he serves as the Patron for Iwokrama.

Nationally, Guyana will be hosting a visit from Nobel Prize Laureate and Chair of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Dr. Rajendra Pachauri this weekend. This is not his first visit to Guyana but this is a very significant one as he will be undertaking a very important assignment to assist Guyana and the international community. There will be a reception hosted on Sunday evening at State House for which all MSSC members are invited.

4. Minutes of Meeting 47

4.1 There were no corrections to Minutes 47.

Motion to adopt the Minutes was moved by Mr. Peter Persaud and seconded by Mr. Ronald Webster.

5. Matters Arising from Minutes

5.1 There was no matter arising from Minutes No. 47.

6. Updates and Reports

The LCDS Projects

6.1 It was requested that updates be given on the amount of money received from Norway; how much money Guyana currently has; as well as the LCDS projects that have received payments and the amount spent on the projects. Information should be given on when the next tranche of payments will be received.

It was replied that the matrix that is circulated by the OCC from the PMO contains relevant information regarding the LCDS projects. Additionally, the GRIF website is currently being updated with all the project details including the fees paid to the Partner Entities.

Regional Position

6.2 Enquiry was made on CARICOM's perspective; the regional hemispheric position and the extent of advocacy done at the regional level relating to climate change. It was stated that there was preparatory work done with CARICOM and the wider region mainly through Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and GRULAC for the upcoming Conference of Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC. Both of these groupings registered their disappointment regarding the lack of deep emissions cuts and slow mobilising of funds. There are some views that the Annex1 countries are deliberately slowing down the process. However, Guyana maintains its position pushing for more ambitious action to ensure global warming is kept under 2 degrees, calling for deeper emissions cuts by developed countries; advocating greater action for Fast Start financing modalities; pushing for financing on REDD+ and direct access to funds. These views will also be expressed at the COP meeting in Qatar.

The aftermath of Hurricane Sandy is the likely outcome that will become more common in years to come. The IPCC will be presenting its AR-5 Report, which is a follow-up to its fourth assessment report done two years ago, which stated the status and updates on climate change and actions needed. Hence, this fifth report will outline the current status of climate change and what actions now need to be taken. In his presentation Sunday, it is hoped that Dr. Pachauri will highlight some of the critical issues likely to be within the report. But from indication, the report will likely state that urgent action is needed as the world is currently on a trajectory of 5 degrees or greater by 2050.

The major challenge of this IPCC report was that it relied on data from different regions and for the Latin America and the Caribbean, data is insufficient; as a result modelling in the IPCC report was done by extrapolation. However, Guyana has been trying to build datasets to run more robust models. Guyana's Second National Communications to the UNFCCC contains recent up-to-date information and is therefore a useful document to obtain relevant information on Guyana. Work is currently being concluded under the Conservancy Adaptation Project (CAP), which is being executed by the World Bank through the Ministry of Agriculture, is designed to inform future interventions at the East Demerara Water Conservancy (EDWC), as the country bolsters its capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change. This will be done through detailed topographic and land use mapping, hydrologic modelling of coastal lowlands, assessment of EDWC system integrity, EDWC hydraulic modelling, pre-feasibility studies for coastal lowland interventions and operational capacity building.

Other measures undertaken by the Government is the ongoing establishment of hydrometeorological stations to provide up-to-date data for early warning systems and forecasting. This is also part of the LCDS. Over the next few months, there will be work done on creating a comprehensive adaptation plan specified within the LCDS.

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

- 6.3 Enquiry was made on the status of the FCPF. It was stated that the Guyana Forestry Commission has continued to pursue efforts in advancing work under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) as part of its REDD+ programme of work. Guyana's Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) was approved in 2008 and Guyana's follow up submission of the Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP) was submitted and approved in 2009 at the FCPF Participants Committee Meeting 3. The approval of Guyana's RPP marked the first of three RPPs, to be approved by the FCPF. Since 2009, there have been delays in the advancing of work under the FCPF, partly due to the finalising of the activities under the multiple delivery approach (called common approach – which involved the assessment of compatibility of World Bank Policies and Safeguards with that of the identified delivery partners) which is being piloted by the FCPF, including the finalising of the Transfer Agreement between the World Bank and the delivery partners (the IDB in Guyana's case).

Based on the information available to the GFC, the next steps include the formulation of the RPP into an IDB Project document for tabling and approval by the IDB Board, and the formal initiation of the Project between the IDB and the GoG. Following this, the agreement between the GFC and IDB may be the next step. The GFC expressed its expectation of the commencement of activities in 2013, but acknowledged that the date cannot be confirmed at this time. The GFC noted that there may no longer be an initial preparation grant but an initial disbursement to start actual implementation. The GFC also noted that support under the RPP is also envisaged to help in the work of the NTC and for purposes of consultations, some of which may be led by NGOs. The GFC expressed hope that FCPF will come into fruition for Guyana in the near future and assist ongoing REDD+ activities that the Commission has been executing.

Conservation Trust Fund

- 6.4 The meeting was informed that Guyana has made significant strides regarding Protected Areas (PA). Conservation International-Guyana held a workshop last week and the question was raised on the likelihood of the allocation of the payments from Norway to the Trust Fund.

It was replied that financing for the trust comes from the German government through their development bank, KfW, which provided US\$5 million with another US\$3.5 million coming from Conservation International's (CI) Global Conservation Fund. The funding from the German Bank is a grant and not a loan. The objective of the trust fund is to enhance Guyana's conservation efforts by supporting the on-the-ground efforts for the country's protected areas including the implementation of management and monitoring plans and funding for park rangers and scientific research. Additionally, Guyana has passed a National Protected Areas Act in July 2011 and set up a Protected Areas Commission, which is now operational and being staffed.

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

- 6.5 Enquiry was made on the status of EITI. It was stated that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) has taken the lead on moving EITI forward. There was a Memorandum of Understanding signed to facilitate, inter alia, Guyana's preparation of a candidature application based on the EITI requirements. The MoU further outlines the process undertaken by the International Board to the EITI following the submission of the application; the support that could be provided by the EITI Secretariat and finally, identified focal points for both the EITI and GoG.

There is a requirement for a multi-stakeholder forum and it is still being decided what role the MSSC will play in this regard. Updates will be given from the MNRE as they become available. Additionally, there will be a meeting for EITI to be held in Trinidad before the ending of the year. There will be participation from various stakeholders, namely Government, civil society and private sector at this forum.

7. Any Other Business

Congratulations to former President Jagdeo

- 7.1 Enquiry was made on whether a letter was sent to former President Jagdeo on the sentiments of the MSSC regarding his appointment as First Chair to the Global Green Growth Institute. It was stated that the message was conveyed.

Travel Expenses for Michael Williams

- 7.2 Concern was raised that Mr. Michael Williams, who is the NRDDDB representative has to travel from Region 9. The logistics of his travelling to the MSSC meetings are expensive. Request is being made on behalf of Mr. Williams to have his travel finances compensated. It was replied that the NRDDDB has been participating on the MSSC for some time now without such a request and it will be noted.

8. Close

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11:40 hrs.

End of Minutes