

## Meeting 49 Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)

**Date:** Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012

**Venue:** Office of the President

**Time:** 10:05 hrs

### Attendance:

Name	Institution
Andrew Bishop	Office of the President
Kapil Mohabir	Office of the President
Shereeda Yusuf	Office of the President
Alfred King	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
Indarjit Ramdass	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Pradeepa Bholanath	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
Ronald Webster	Private Sector Commission (PSC)
Hymawattie Lagan	Women's Affairs Bureau
Derrick John	National Toshias Council (NTC)
Peter Persaud	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG)
Pamela Mendonca	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)
David Singh	Conservation International (CI)
Charles Hutchinson	World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
Joe Singh	Individual Capacity
David James	Individual Capacity
Raquel Thomas-Caesar	Individual Capacity
Annette Arjoon-Martins	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
Minister Pauline Sukhai	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	Excused
Shyam Nokta	Office of the President	Excused
Paulette Bynoe	University of Guyana	Excused
James Singh	Guyana Forestry Commission	Excused
Dane Gobin	Iwokrama International Centre	Excused
Carvil Duncan	Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana	Excused
Yvonne Pearson	National Toshias Council	Excused
Michael Williams	North Rupununi District Development Board	Excused
Edward Shields	Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association	Excused
George Jervis	Ministry of Agriculture	Absent
Rickford Vieira	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission	Absent
Hilbertus Cort	Forest Producers Association	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. Andrew Bishop called the meeting to order and chaired the meeting

## 2. Announcements and Correspondence

2.1 Mr. Andrew Bishop stated that His Excellency was unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances and urgent matters requiring his attention. Mr. Nokta was also unable to attend due to unavoidable circumstances. Excuses were also received from Minister Singh, Minister Ramsammy, Minister Persaud, Minister Sukhai, Mr. Nokta, Dr. Bynoe, Mr. Gobin, Mr. Singh, Mr. James and Mr. Duncan.

2.2 New members Mr. Dane Gobin, Dr. Raquel Thomas-Caesar, Ms. Annette Arjoon-Martins and Mr. Charles Hutchinson were welcomed to the MSSC.

2.3 There was no correspondence.

## 3. Remarks Delivered on Behalf of His Excellency President Ramotar

3.1 Mr. Bishop delivered a brief from the President:

3.1.1 New members of the MSSC were welcomed to the committee; they were chosen because of their outstanding work in sustainable forestry management and climate change.

3.1.2 This year saw key developments regarding climate initiatives and the LCDS. This includes the 2011 General Elections and budget cuts made by Parliament, which affected the Office of the President and the LCDS projects. However, work has continued on the LCDS. In August, at the National Toshias Conference the first LCDS project to go to implementation – the Amerindian Development Fund (ADF) was signed. This project will assist Amerindian villages in implementing their Community Development Plans which they have prepared themselves. There are a number of other LCDS projects that are now moving into implementation stage and an updated matrix with the status of each was circulated to the MSSC prior to this meeting.

3.1.3 Work is continuing on the preparation of the LCDS Addendum, which will include a second wave of LCDS projects as identified within the LCDS. The projects will focus on adaptation which it was expected to be funded from Fast Start Financing from the Copenhagen Accord was not materialised as expected. Emphasis will also be placed on new and emerging growth sectors that can further promote Guyana's efforts at green growth and diversify the economy.

3.1.4 Regarding the international negotiations in Qatar, progress was slow. There has been a decision on a second commitment to the Kyoto Protocol (KP) but the targets remain extremely low until 2020. Also, the developed countries have made no commitment to operationalise the Green Climate Fund or to put money into it. They have only reaffirmed their pledges from Copenhagen of mobilising USD 1 billion by 2020 and scaling up from 2013 to 2020.

With regards to REDD+, a process has been put in place for 1) financing for REDD implementation and 2) an institutional architecture for REDD Plus under the Convention, to be decided at the 2013 COP.

Although, the multilateral process under the UNFCCC may not deliver results in the near term, Guyana will continue to work with bilateral arrangements such as the partnership with Norway and other mechanisms to keep the momentum going on climate change.

3.1.5 Guyana is continuing its work with Norway for the third payment. The independent auditors have completed their work and the reports are currently being reviewed by Norway and Guyana. Mr. Nokta is working with the PMO and GFC on this and it is expected that an update will be given soon.

3.1.6 The LCDs projects are in the process of being implemented and those funded by the GRIF and those initiatives being supported through other sources of financing will continue to move forward.

3.2 Notwithstanding the many challenges during the year, Guyana continues to play an important role on the issue of climate change. The LCDS and the Guyana-Norway partnership have shown progress, and the experiences and lessons learnt can assist other countries and an international framework. Guyana's achievements have not been unnoticed. Notably, Dr. Pachauri, Nobel Prize laureate and Chair of the IPCC, was in Guyana recently and has recognised the work being done. He will now be heading the Board of Iwokrama, which is another initiative with challenges that the Government of Guyana is assisting in resolving.

#### **4. Minutes of Meeting 48**

4.1 Edits were made to Points 6.2; 6.3 and 6.4.

Motion to adopt the Minutes was moved by Mr. Ronald Webster and seconded by Mr. Colin Klautky.

#### **5. Matters Arising from Minutes**

5.1 There was no matter arising from Minutes No. 48.

#### **6. Updates and Reports**

##### **International Negotiations**

6.1 Guyana played a leading role in the Coalition of Rainforest Nations (CfRN) and in the REDD negotiations. A definitive timeframe was agreed for the establishment of modalities for institutional arrangements for REDD+ and financing for results based actions, to be decided by COP 19 next year. As a consequence, in 2013, final decisions are expected to be made for REDD+ Phase 3.

6.2 The meeting was informed that the Kyoto Protocol was extended for a second commitment period but developed countries' targets remained very low.

6.3 Enquiry was made on what the pre 2020 expectations were. It was stated that:

6.3.1 The establishment of a new architecture for REDD+ and agreement on financing results-based actions.

6.3.2 Medium and long-term financing with pressure building in the UNFCCC to capitalise the Green Climate Fund and to scale-up financing up to 2020.

6.3.3 Increased levels of mitigation ambitions from developed countries.

6.3.4 The new global protocol, applicable to all is expected in 2015, to come into force 2020.

##### **Information Dissemination**

6.4 Suggestion was made that Power Point presentations be made regarding updates on the LCDS projects. It was also suggested that clear deliverables for 2013 be circulated to the MSSC. It was reported that a matrix was circulated to the MSSC with updates on the LCDS projects. However, the PMO indicated that an information and consultation programme for sustainable intensification of outreach activities both in the hinterland and elsewhere is planned for 2013.

6.5 It was suggested that a national strategy for communicating pertinent information on the LCDS to the general public is needed. Currently, information is disseminated via the LCDS website and when visiting villages. It was suggested that there can be more press releases and panel discussions regarding updates to the LCDS for the general public.

- 6.6 The meeting was informed that even though it seems like there has been a slowdown in information dissemination; the I-NGOs have been visiting Amerindian villages on a regular basis to keep villages updated on current matters relating to the LCDS and its projects.
- 6.7 It was indicated that work was being done in collaboration with NCERD on having climate change and the LCDS incorporated into schools' curriculum. However, it was expressed that the general public may not connect the work done through the LCDS and effects of climate change with what is taught in schools. There seems to be a disconnect with the LCDS and with routine events such as flooding, drainage issues etc.
- 6.8 The meeting was informed that an audit was done last year that reflected Guyanese have the highest level of awareness of the LCDS relative to the rest of the world. It may not be perfect but recognition should be noted that there is a high level of awareness among peoples on the LCDS and climate change.

### **Progress of LCDS**

- 6.9 It was stated that Guyana is currently past the half way point for the agreement with Norway that ends in 2015 with many of the LCDS projects not implemented as yet. It is hoped that the agreement with Norway extends after 2015. It was stated that the work done by the present administration cannot be denied for its efforts to move Guyana on a low carbon trajectory.
- 6.10 Enquiry was made on whether the Micro and Small Enterprise Development for Vulnerable Groups (MSE) Project will be channelled through the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MoAA). It was stated that there are many experiences that can benefit the MSE project such as the Women of Worth Programme and Amerindian Enterprise Programmes. It was replied that the MSE project will be channelled through the Small Business Bureau (SBB). The Amerindian Development Fund (ADF) will finance Community Development Plans of Amerindian Communities, and will be executed by the MoAA, while the MSE project, will focus on micro and small entrepreneurs and vulnerable groups (and does not exclude Amerindian entrepreneurs, groups or communities). It was also stated that extensive consultations were conducted, with all commercial banks and micro finance institutions, along with other organisations, on the operation of the MSE project and the experiences and mechanisms of previous programmes such as the Women of Worth Programme were considered. The ADF Project will also consider the experiences and data from previous funding mechanisms.

### **Composition of MSSC**

- 6.11 Enquiry was made on whether Dr. Norton is the only member of the MSSC representing the Opposition party. It was stated that Dr. Norton is on the MSSC as a representative of GOIP and not a political party. It was indicated that the members of the MSSC come from a wide range of technical and civic interests and that there are no representatives of political parties on the committee.

### **Georgetown**

- 6.12 MSSC members expressed their concerns that the state of Georgetown is not a reflection of the LCDS. The state of the city with garbage and drainage problems does not reflect the low carbon green path the LCDS promotes.

## **7. Any Other Business**

### **Congratulations to former President Jagdeo**

- 7.1 Congratulations were extended to former President Jagdeo on his fourth Honorary Doctorate from the University of Central Lancashire, in recognition of his global leadership on climate change, low carbon development and green growth.

7.2 The MSSC also congratulated Mr. Bishop for his work in international negotiations and in the CfRN.

### **Conservation International – Guyana (CI-Guyana)**

- 7.3 It was reported that CI-Guyana is working on a new initiative with a German group as project consultants and WWF in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) and the mining association to develop a paper relating to mining and its effects on the environment, as it is one of the main contributors to land degradation and deforestation. It is expected that this paper will be published in January 2013.
- 7.4 It was stated that the CI-Guyana is working with WWF on Protected Areas (PA), since PA is the carbon bank of the world and is important in combating climate change. CI-Guyana is interested in assisting in having the Trust Fund that has been set up for PA to be used by funds from the GRIF. It was noted that this will be relayed to His Excellency President Ramotar.

### **8. Close**

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

**End of Minutes**