

Meeting 12

Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)

Meeting 12

Date: Tuesday, 26th August 2009

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
Shereeda Yusuf	Office of the President
Dr. Dindyal Permaul	Ministry of Agriculture
James Singh	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
Hilbertus Cort	Forest Producers Association (FPA)
William Woolford	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)
Indarjit Ramdass	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Ashton Simon	The National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
Pamela Mendonca	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG)
Peter Persaud	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana
Mimi Fernandes	Guyana Organisation of Indigenous People (GOIP)
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)
David Singh	Conservation International (CI)
Patrick Williams	World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
Alfred King	Youth Representative
David James	Individual Capacity

Absent/Excused

Dr. Roger Luncheon	Office of the President	Excused
Minister Robert Persaud	Ministry of Agriculture	Excused
Joe Singh	Individual Capacity	Excused
Edward Shields	Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association	Excused
Hymawattie Lagan	Women's Affairs Bureau	Excused
Sydney Allicock	North Rupununi District Development Board	Absent
Gillian Burton	Guyana Trade Unions Congress	Absent
Jean La Rose	Amerindian People's Association	Absent by Choice

Invitees

Hon. Prof. Mark Mwandosya	Ministry of Water and Irrigation (Tanzania)
Duncan McQueen	International Institute for Environmental and Development (IIED)
Davyth Stewart	Global Witness
David Young	Global Witness

1. Call to Order

His Excellency President Jagdeo opened the meeting.

2. Announcements and Correspondence

- 2.1. His Excellency introduced to the MSSC Hon. Prof. Mark Mwandosya who is Minister of Water and Irrigation for Tanzania. H.E. stated that Hon. Minister Mwandosya has a special interest in the consultation process of the LCDS and has been briefed on the Strategy.
- 2.2. His Excellency also introduced to the Committee Mr. Duncan McQueen, who is from the International Institute for Environmental and Development (IIED). H.E. explained that the MSSC has been anxiously awaiting Mr. McQueen's arrival to discuss, among others, adjustments to IIED reports on Guyana that were pointed out to Mr. McQueen. His Excellency introduced the two representatives from Global Witness Mr. David Young and Mr. Davyth Stewart.
- 2.4. Minister Mark Mwandosya stated that he is pleased to be in Guyana and to be invited to observe the MSSC process. The Minister indicated he is heading an 8 member delegation who are here to learn about the experiences of Guyana in matters related to utilities, water and electricity. The Minister stated he is very honoured to meet H.E. and since Guyana is rated among the highest in the world on low carbon initiatives and the experiences here can be beneficial to Tanzania. Minister Mwandosya indicated that Tanzania is interested in the presentations made by H.E. He gave a brief background of himself stating that previously he was at University teaching Environment then he joined Politics and before that was involved in the UNFCCC processes and the Bali Climate Conference.
- 2.5. Mr. Duncan McQueen stated that he is pleased to be here and he is the head of the forestry team in the IIED, a non-governmental organisation primarily based in London. Mr. McQueen stated that IIED has done work in 4 fields: natural resources, climate change, urban settlement and sustainable market. The IIED was invited by the Government of Guyana as an independent monitoring agency to monitor the LCDS consultations/awareness process.
- 2.6. Mr. David Young stated that Global Witness is a non-governmental organisation mainly focused on natural resources that is based in London. Mr. Young said that he and his colleague have never done work in Guyana before so they are here to observe the process. He made reference to his colleague Davyth Stewart who is an expert on forestry and climate change and has been tracking the UNFCCC. Mr. Davyth Stewart indicated that he is a lawyer by trade but have expertise in forest monitoring and climate change and is here in Guyana to observe the monitoring of REDD and MRV. Mr. Stewart indicated that he is inspired by Guyana taking a lead in REDD and while there is a lot of talk in the international community of REDD there is little implementation and that Guyana is the furthest along in that sense. The international community is keen to see Guyana implement REDD. Mr. Stewart further stated that Global Witness is here to focus on implementation of REDD and to meet those involved so as to listen to the way it is done here. He said that Global Witness can use Guyana as an example to be used in other countries like Australia who needs a better example of the MRV implementation.
- 2.7. His Excellency, in response to the issues raised by Global Witness and the discussion with Minister, stated that Guyana is trying to a large extent to address questions that have surfaced on REDD. It was noted that the international community recognises renewable energy and the more efficient use of energy as key but there are three major ways of reducing greenhouse gases and prominent in this is the inclusion of forests. However, there seems to be questions than there are answers on forests and climate change. While there is recognition that forestry has to be included in Copenhagen Guyana is hoping that the work being done nationally will assist that process. In making reference to this, the following was highlighted:
 1. The technical work done with support from the McKinsey Group
 2. Fitting REDD in bigger picture of the LCDS
 3. Institutional arrangements for transfer of resources.

At present discussions are being held with Norway, World Bank and other partners to put in place institutional mechanism for recipient country and donor/financing country/organisation and close attention is being paid to accountability and transparency while at the same time ensuring sovereignty is maintained. Reference was made to the LCDS consultation process which has been an extensive process in wide stakeholder involvement ranging from youths, women, labour, indigenous people, private sector, forestry, and mining among others. Reports from all of the consultations and awareness sessions are posted on the LCDS website and include negative and positive comments. Reference was also made to the MSSC which is overseeing the LCDS consultations and awareness and includes representation from wide stakeholder groupings include indigenous peoples and meets weekly. It was recognised that the LCDS process and the Strategy itself is model building.

- 2.8 There was discussion on the issue of compliance by Amerindians with national laws and standards for natural resources extraction activities, in particular forestry and mining. The discussions recognised that the Amerindian Act makes provisions for villages to establish rules but also recognised the jurisdiction of the GFC and GGMC in overseeing these activities. It was recommended that these issues be looked at in more details and in so doing to examine the existing legislation (Amerindian Act, forestry and mining legislation).
- 2.9 It was noted that with the National Toshau's Council in place following its election, the organisation should be represented on the MSSC. While the OCC had made this request, a formal correspondence should be sent to the Chairman, Toshau Yvonne Pearson.
- 2.10 Mr. Duncan Mc. Queen was reminded of the need for the IIED publications to be corrected. He indicated he has received these comments and will pursue.
- 2.11 There was discussion on the LCDS web site and it was noted that Guyana's efforts is a positive example to the world through an open and transparent process. It was recognised that all of the reports from the launch, sub-national consultations and awareness sessions were being posted and which included positive as well as critical comments and in addition, newspaper letters and articles on the LCDS which are already in the public domain were being posted. It was suggested that a disclaimer be posted on the LCDS site.
- 2.8 Mr. Nokta informed that Min. Persaud, Mr. Edward Shields, Mr. Joe Singh, Ms. Hymawattie Lagan have been excused from the Meeting.
- 2.9 Mr. Nokta informed the gathering that there was no correspondence.

3. Minutes of Meeting 11

His Excellency invited the MSSC members to go through the Minutes of Meeting 11. There was one correction identified:

- i. There is ambiguity in Point 6.8. It should be corrected.

The minutes were verified as true and correct by Mr. Peter Persaud and seconded by Dr. Dindyal Permaul.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

- 4.1 Enquiry was made if the proposal for awareness and outreach in Regions 7 & 8 was from Mr. Ashton Simon or if it was collaborative work by the I-NGOs and David James.
- 4.2 On the point 5.8, the MSSC was informed that there will be a dinner on Friday 28th at Pegasus Hotel and His Excellency has been invited to be the guest speaker.

5. Updates and Reports

Awareness Sessions

- 5.1 Mr. Shyam Nokta informed the Committee that C.I & Iwokrama have organised a three part dialogue series on the LCDS, commencing 20 August 2009, with the other two scheduled for August 24 and 26, respectively. The two bodies have issued a press release to this effect. The OCC will provide support and Mr Andrew Bishop will be making a presentation regarding the MEAs.
- 5.2 It was reported that the GGMDA was in the process of preparing a report on mining including views on the LCDS and this will be submitted shortly. Also, GGMC will provide a digital copy of the report (s) from their outreach/awareness sessions with miners on the LCDS.
- 5.3 IIED outlined the structure of their report which is being prepared.
- 5.4 It was pointed out that the report on Amerindians lands and demarcation was provided by the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and has been posted on the LCDS web site.
- 5.5 Mr. Shyam Nokta stated that the proposal from the I-NGOs and Mr. David James for awareness and outreach activities in Regions 7 & 8 has been approved and the OCC will be working with the team on logistics and other details.
- 5.6 Mr. Nokta updated the MSSC on awareness activities. These are outlined below.

Awareness Sessions

- 5.7 Awareness sessions were held with Caribbean youths at the Scouts Jamboree held at the Sophia Exhibition Centre and the National Youth Forum held at the Guyana International Conference Centre. At both events President Jagdeo was present. Reports from these sessions have been circulated to MSSC members for review.

Media

- 5.8 An article on Guyana and climate change has since been prepared and despatched to the Dutch magazine for publication.

Jingle

- 5.9 The jingle prepared by Dave Martins has been sent to GINA for airing.

Web Site

- 5.10 The website is continuously updated and included all reports from the consultations and awareness sessions, key documents, and articles and letters in the media on the LCDS.

Others

- 5.11 The radio/TV spots and the panel discussions are on-going.

6 Presentation of the R-Plan

- 6.1 His Excellency invited Mr. James Singh to make a presentation on the R-Plan. Mr. Singh explained that handouts have been circulated on the R-Plan and its linkage to the LCDS. The Guyana's Readiness Plan was recently renamed as the Readiness Preparation Proposal. There are nine components of the MRV system based on estimate of forest carbon stock. We are looking at a forward baseline. The RPP is one component of the LCDS; the LCDS itself is the overall development strategy that seeks to generate financial incentives for avoided deforestation, continued sustainable utilization of forest resources, and maintenance of the current low rates of

deforestation and forest degradation. In a more direct way, the LCDS outlines a mechanism whereby payments from a REDD mechanism will be the main source of revenues from 2020 onwards. REDD revenues also account for payments in a transitional manner from 2009 to 2020. The functions of the OCC include consolidating and streamlining existing Government efforts to encompass the forest monitoring, reporting and verification system. The MRVS is a continuous system that will require measurements to be taken routinely over time. There are also two tables in the document. The first relates to main deliverable, the activities completed. The second table deals with the summary of field work done.

7 Any Other Business

- 7.1 It was pointed out that in September work will commence on analysing the feedback received during the sub-national consultations and awareness sessions and to revise the draft LCDS.
- 7.2 Following discussions IIED and Global Witness are to work towards arranging a forum sometime in October 2009 for international NGOs and interested parties to discuss Guyana's LCDS.

There being no other business, it was agreed that the next meeting will be on Tuesday 1st September 2009 at 14:00hrs at the Office of the President.

End of Minutes

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

Key Points	Follow Up
A consolidated report from the awareness sessions held by CI-Iwokrama will be done and submitted by next week	CI to follow up
The Minutes should be circulated to MSSC before the Meeting	OCC to follow up
A letter should be sent to the National Toshias Council re-inviting them to select a representative to be part of the MSSC Meetings	OCC to follow up
Scorecard to be developed to serve a comparison between World Bank Safeguards and the standards set by the MSSC for the LCDS Process.	IIED to follow up
GGDMA to submit the mining report	Mr. Edward Shields to follow up
The soft copies of the mining sector awareness sessions' reports should be sent to OCC for posting on the website	Mr. William Woolford to follow up