

Meeting 15

Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)

Meeting 15

Date: Thursday, 17th September 2009

Venue: Office of the President

Time: 14:00 hrs

Attendance:

| Name | Institution |
|---------------------------------|--|
| His Excellency President Jagdeo | Office of the President |
| Shyam Nokta | Office of the President |
| Andrew Bishop | Office of the President |
| Michael Brotherson | Office of the President |
| Shereeda Yusuf | Office of the President |
| James Singh | Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) |
| William Woolford | Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) |
| Edward Shields | Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA) |
| Indarjit Ramdass | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) |
| 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) |
| Hymawattie Lagan | Women's Affairs Bureau |
| Alfred King | Youth Representative |
| Lester Flemming | Toshao from Mauritaro |
| David James | Individual Capacity |
| Joe Singh | Individual Capacity |

Absent/Excused

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|
| Dr. Roger Luncheon | Office of the President | Excused |
| Minister Robert Persaud | Ministry of Agriculture | Excused |
| Minister Pauline Sukhai | Ministry of Amerindian Affairs | Excused |
| Dr. Dindyal Permaul | Ministry of Agriculture | Excused |
| Hilbertus Cort | Forest Producers Association (FPA) | Excused |
| Ashton Simon | The National Amerindian Development Foundation | Excused |
| Pamela Mendonca | The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana | Excused |
| Peter Persaud | The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana | Excused |
| Mimi Fernandes | Guyana Organisation of Indigenous People | Excused |
| Sydney Allcock | North Rupununi District Development Board | Excused |
| Gerry Gouveia | Private Sector Commission (PSC) | Absent |
| David Singh | Conservation International (CI) | Absent |
| Patrick Williams | World Wildlife Fund (WWF) | Absent |
| Gillian Burton | Guyana Trade Unions Congress | Absent |
| Jean La Rose | Amerindian People's Association | Absent by Choice |

Invitees

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Yvonne Pearson | National Toshao's Council |
| Inger G. Naess | Norwegian Ministry of Environment |
| Marte Nordseth | Norwegian Ministry of Environment |
| Vemund Olsen | Rainforest Foundation of Norway |

1. Call to Order

His Excellency President Jagdeo opened the meeting.

2. Announcements and Correspondence

2.1. Mr. Shyam Nokta introduced to the MSSC the team from Norway.

2.2 Ms. Inger G. Naess stated that the Norwegian team is pleased to be here. She indicated the team participated in the MRV Workshop and also had a number of stakeholder engagements.

2.3 Mr. Nokta informed that Minister Robert Persaud, Minister Pauline Sukhai, Dr. Dindyal Permaul, Mr. Hilbertus Cort, Mr. Ashton Simon, Mr. Peter Persaud and Ms. Mimi Fernandes have been excused from the Meeting.

2.4 Mr. Nokta informed the meeting that there was no correspondence.

3. Minutes of Meeting 14

Mr. Shyam Nokta invited the MSSC members to go through the Minutes of Meeting 14. There were no corrections identified.

The minutes were verified as true and correct by Mr. Carvil Duncan and seconded by Ms. Jocelyn Dow.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

4.1 It was reported that there was no update on Point 4.2 in the Minutes of Meeting 14 - feedback from Mr. Duncan McQueen on the adjustments to the IIED report.

4.2 IIED reps on the MSSC suggested that someone from the MSSC or OCC be assigned to follow up with Mr. Duncan McQueen on having the factually incorrect sections on the reports published by the IIED corrected. His Excellency identified the GFC to follow up.

4.3 It was reported that the C.I & Iwokrama and FITUG awareness session reports have been prepared and following submission to the MSSC, posted on the LCDS website.

4.4 On the issue of the report from the mining section, the representatives of GGMC and GGDMA indicating that work is progressing. His Excellency pointed out stated that the report from mining will more generalised and not specifically focused on the LCDS.

4.5 It was reported that the security on the LCDS website was working well and there have been no other incidences of breach in the security.

5. Updates and Reports

Report from IIED

5.1 Vanda Radzik briefed the MSSC on the IIED's report. Ms. Radzik stated that as part of the IIED's report preparation, questionnaires were distributed but they have received 35 so far and are awaiting the others. Ms. Radzik informed that also included in the report are the nine key principles from the Conceptual Framework. In providing the MSSC with a synopsis of the report, Ms. Radzik informed that the consultations and awareness sessions of the LCDS had *the* participation of key stakeholder groups across Guyana and it has been the broadest and widest coverage ever in Guyana for a process of this nature. Ms. Radzik noted that members of the Opposition parties have shown interest in the LCDS and have submitted some press releases and the IIED has copies of the releases. While pointing out that it was unfortunate that the LCDS did not benefit from the Parliamentary Debate, Ms. Radzik indicated that it was tabled in Parliament by the Minister of Agriculture on the 9th July and there was a request for a rescheduling of the debate by the Opposition. However, due to unrelated matters to the LCDS,

the Opposition had a walkout of Parliament and then Parliament subsequently went into recess. Ms. Radzik stated that she had an interview with a PNC Member who expressed regret that the LCDS was not discussed in Parliament, which she stated seems like a signal to have the LCDS still debated. In further elaborating the LCDS process and reporting, Ms. Radzik indicated that the numbers in the quantitative analyses speak for themselves and it was really done well - the quantitative analysis showed the regions, each comment made and the frequency of the comments and that the quantitative analysis is good empirical representation of the range of the LCDS dissemination and how many people it has reached. Ms. Radzik elaborated that the format used was very good and impressive and while the approach took on a traditional style, it was effective and that there was transparency in the entire process and the reports from the rapporteurs were posted in record time online.

- 5.2 His Excellency stated that at a previous MSSC meeting the issue was raised and there is a commitment to having the LCDS discussed in Parliament on its resumption.
- 5.3 His Excellency requested that the IIED's Summary Report be sent to all members of the MSSC and to have the report discussed at a later Meeting.

Report from Drafting Committee

- 5.4 Mr. Shyam Nokta informed the MSSC that there is a Summary Report on the progress made by the Drafting Committee. He pointed out that at the 13th MSSC Meeting, the members of the Drafting Committee were named and on the 3rd September the Drafting Committee held its 1st Meeting. The approach was discussed and it was agreed that the all the responses received (sub-national consultation reports, awareness session reports, letters in newspapers, and-mails) will be put in a database and the OCC would categorise the responses into 10 broad Thematic Areas which were discussed and agreed by the Drafting Committee. Additionally, for each Thematic Area, a Team and Lead Person was identified to be responsible for analysing the responses and identifying the issues which need to be taken forward into the revised LCDS. Mr. Nokta informed that since that 1st Meeting there have been 2 other meetings on the 8th and 11th September to discuss the progress of the teams. The teams' final submissions deadline was yesterday – Wednesday, 17th September but submissions are still outstanding. Mr. Nokta stated that when the teams send in their final analysis, it will be placed in a final document and that document will be circulated to the entire MSSC Members.
- 5.5 His Excellency stated that the finalising process should have already been concluded. His Excellency indicated that it should be completed by the 1st week in October.

Presentation of Guyana's MRV System

- 5.6 Mr. James Singh stated that a 2-day workshop was held with international experts on Guyana's MRV and that a framework on Guyana's MRV system was developed. This was circulated by email to the MSSC. Mr. Singh noted that the model was done in collaboration with the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) and based on the experts review and discussions, CCI will submit a revised proposal by end of September.
- 5.7 His Excellency enquired when Indigenous people decides to "opt in" if there will be any difficulty in including them with the MRV System.
- 5.8 Mr. James Singh indicated that the MRV system is flexible and will be adjusted accordingly.
- 5.9 Mr. Joe Singh enquired if the Amerindian villages choose not to 'opt in' what the benchmark for managing inventory is. Mr. Singh also asked if there is an option to surrender a portion of the forest lease by loggers if it is not economically feasible to log in the area.
- 5.10 His Excellency stated that there is option to surrender but even if there is logging done, standards will have to be met and these standards are stringent.
- 5.11 Mr. James Singh pointed out that there is provision in the GFC guidelines for unproductive areas to be phased out but on inventory basis.

6 Any Other Business

- 6.1 It was reported by Mr. Carvil Duncan that he spoke with his colleagues from the Norway Trade Unions who indicated that they are on board with the LCDS and will be sending a team to Copenhagen. They have requested for additional information and Mr. Duncan told them to check the website, which has all information on the LCDS.
- 6.2 After an enquiry on the views of the Norwegian team there was a general discussion among MSSC members and the team where it was discussed that there are high expectations for Copenhagen to agree on a climate change agreement - a successor to the Kyoto Protocol that will expire in 2012, and that REDD should be included in the new agreement. It was said that the mechanism estimated to create incentive to reduce deforestation will be decided at a later time. Exactly how it will look, how it will work may not be elaborated in Copenhagen – it could be in the follow period through an extended process similar to what happened to the Kyoto Protocol.
- 6.3 Response was made to the question relating to funds to be received by villages and whether this will be subject to the control of organisations such as the IMF. It was stated that any money the Amerindians earn from Opting In will go back to the villages. However, there will be much more in-depth discussions and consultation at the village level to discuss details before communities Opt In but the villages will decide on how the direct funds will be distributed. It was noted that while some suggested have been made on the mechanisms for disbursement from the international there will be accountability and transparency.
- 6.4 It was stated that as an observer the inclusion of indigenous people, their lands and their participation is crucial to the REDD scheme. The option of having the village 'opt in' or 'opt out' has certain dangers. The communities that say 'no' can come under pressure by logging companies because the rules will be less restrictive to log in those areas. One might suggest instead of each community deciding have 1 representative from the National Toshius Council (NTC) make decision. It was said that the NTC cannot make decision for the communities, each community has its own circumstances and has to make their own decisions. Also, Amerindian communities are guided by the provision of the Amerindian Act for mining and logging activities and also there are specified guideline and standards that miners and loggers have to comply with under the forest and mining laws.

There being no other business, the Meeting was closed.

End of Minutes

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

| Key Points | Follow Up |
|--|---------------------------------|
| There should be correspondence with Mr. Duncan Mc. Queen on the adjustments to the report published by IIED. | GFC to follow up |
| The Private Sector should issue a release on the Dinner as well as provide formally its views on the LCDS | Gerry Gouveia to follow up |
| A copy of the IIED's Summary Report on the LCDS should be distributed to the MSSC | IIED to follow up |
| The Drafting Committee needs to finalised its work by the 1 st week in October to be circulated to the MSSC | Drafting Committee to follow up |