



DRAFT REPORT

Continuing Awareness and Outreach Sessions - LCDS: Regions 7 and 8

**Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee-Participatory Indigenous NGO'S
Initiative**

September 2009

Ashton Simon

September 30, 2009

Introduction

Guyana launched its low Carbon Development Strategy on June 8, 2009. This strategy outlined Guyana's outlook at promoting economic development while combating climate change.

The Low Carbon Development Strategy only commits State forests and makes provisions for Indigenous Communities to "Opt In" if they so desire.

To ensure that these communities are given a fair chance to understand and participate in this process, Sub National Consultations were conducted in Regions 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Targeting Amerindian Communities in the Hinterland proved to be very challenging, particularly those in Regions 7 and 8. During the consultations between June 19 and July 15, 2009, representatives of some communities indicated their difficulty understanding the LCDS document and asked for assistance from the Indigenous NGO's.

The National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF), The Amerindian Action Movement Of Guyana (TAAMOG) and Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous Peoples (GOIP) embarked on an Awareness and Outreach sessions in regions 7 on September 7, 2009. These sessions were to facilitate concerns aired at the National Toshaus Conference (NTC) when some leaders indicated they had difficulty understanding the document.

The team was joined at Paruima by Mr. John Andries a member of the National Toshaos Council NTC, Mr Norman Walker the Community Development Officer (CDO), Ministry of Amerindian Affairs for region 7 subsequently joined the team at Waramadong.

The team completed the awareness and out reach sessions and submits this report.

Background:

Region 7 and 8 are two of the most isolated regions in Guyana. These regions are home to the Patamona, Macushi, Akawaio and Arekuna Indigenous Peoples. They have a combined population totaling approximately fourteen thousand three hundred and fourteen (14,314).

Logistics in these regions are very challenging exacerbated by, extended traveling to distant communities, limited communications, unpredictable weather and other natural elements. Uses of aircraft or walking are the only means to access these regions. Amerindian villages are situated miles apart and visiting or sending messages to certain people or groups can take days. Logistics and communications can be made worse by heavy rainfall, bushy trails, wild animals, reptiles and swollen creeks.

The areas visited by the Indigenous Awareness Team are region 7, Pariuma, Waramadong, Kamarang/Warawetta, Kako and Jawalla. Region 8, Kopinang, Kurukubaru and Paramakatoi.

Awareness and Outreach Sessions, regions 7 and 8.**Goal.**

- To ensure that the residents of Region 7 and 8 understand the Low Carbon Development Strategy document.

Objectives

- To mobilize residents of regions 7 and 8 to participate in the continued awareness and out-reach sessions for the LCDS.
- To extend help in explaining and clarifying the LCDS document to Toshaos and Councilors who expressed difficulty understanding the document
- To facilitate the representative Toshaos who indicated they needed help understanding the LCDS document and also to explain the LCDS document to residents and Village Councilors.
- To involve residents of the targeted communities who were not in attendance at the Sub National Consultations.

Indigenous NGO's team.

Name	Organization	Function/Role
Ashton Simon	National Amerindian Development Foundation	Team Leader/Facilitator
Rommel Simon	National Amerindian Development Foundation	Member/Facilitator
Peter Persaud	The Amerindian Action Movement Of Guyana	Member/Facilitator
Mimi Fernandes	Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous Peoples	Member/Facilitator
Gavin Agard	Office of Climate Change	Presenter

Main Issues:

- General support for the LCDS but issues on land ownership, demarcation and extension of lands were main issues of concern at some communities.
- Concerns on what happens to traditional activities by Indigenous peoples on state lands prior to the LCDS, concerned that they may be stopped.
- Strong positions that I-NGO's should have been involved in drafting of the LCDS draft document if LCDS was really to reflect Amerindian inclusion.
- Confused that NGO's are interacting with them after President told them not to listen to Indigenous NGO's.



Continuing Awareness and Outreach Sessions – LCDS region 7 and 8

Community awareness and outreach sessions – continuing LCDS discussions

Paruima (September 7, 2009)

Attendance - 60

Call to order - Toshao John Andries

National pledge/prayer -

Welcome – Toshao Andries

Introduction (Team members)

Opening remarks – Ashton Simon

Presentation - Gavin Agard

Discussions

Closing remarks - Peter Persaud

Close

Materials

Guyana Low Carbon Development Strategy

Frequently asked questions

Fact sheet for Amerindian and Forest Communities

Paruima

Name	Designation	Question	Comment	Response
Abel Robertson	Villager		Understood the presentation but need clarification on what is climate change	Not being able to predict weather like before is evidence of Climate Change
James Chambers	Resident	Hydor/solar – how will attract cost for residents at a lower rate? What do you		Cost of generating power wind/solar/hydro are cheaper than fossil driven machines in the long term. Different countries may need different species of plants and Ministry of Agriculture will be the best to seek advice from
Belcia Edmond	Resident	From ‘opting In or opting out’ how will we benefit? Are we going to be left out if we say no? How sure are we that our carbon dioxide is not going some where else?		‘Opting in’ has more benefits than ‘opting out’ as funds from ‘opting in’ will go directly to communities. No you will not be left out. Carbon emissions have no boundaries and travel globally
John Andries	Toshao	What will be our benefits if we		If you agree to LCDS funding will

		<p>agree to LCDS?</p> <p>What will we benefit if we do not agree?</p> <p>We have the draft document – would we be able to see the final document before it is sent to Copenhagen?</p> <p>What will be the conditions imposed by the funders?</p> <p>Paruima residents are accustomed to use organic foods – will we now be required to eat fertilized foods?</p>	<p>We had a bad experience with the Amerindian Act</p>	<p>flow directly to communities.</p> <p>If you do not agree – you will still benefit but maybe on a smaller scale as monies will have to be divided between more people.</p> <p>Compiling of the final document is happening as we speak – will bring this concern to the OCC.</p> <p>Conditions are not yet known – maybe after Copenhagen.</p> <p>The issue of using fertilizer for farming purposes is not mentioned in the LCDS draft document, its focus is on development.</p>
Laya Charlie		<p>Were other consultations done in other Indigenous communities?</p>		<p>Yes, other communities were consulted during the sub national consultations.</p> <p>Yes, you will still</p>

		<p>If we don't 'opt in' do we still benefit?</p> <p>Did the team consult in more regions?</p>		<p>benefit from LCDS as it is a national programme for all Guyanese.</p> <p>This team will conduct awareness sessions in regions 7 and 8, but the sub national consultations consulted in regions 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10</p>
Belcia Edmond		<p>Policy and programme sound good but there is no mention of risks and mitigation – why?</p>		<p>LCDS is a draft document so we may see risks and mitigation plans after our president visits Copenhagen in December.</p>
Audrey Robertson		<p>Since we have to cut forests to do farming – how often will measuring of forests take place?</p> <p>Is there a possibility we can 'opt in' at any time?</p> <p>How sure we are</p>	<p>The team's mission is to entice us to 'opt in' whether we 'opt in' or not government will give benefits.</p>	<p>The team is not here to entice your community to 'opt in' the team is here to make you better aware of the LCDS and help you understand the document.</p> <p>Measuring of the forests will be discussed at the time of opting in</p> <p>Yes, you can 'opt in' at any time. The team is not here to ask you to 'opt in' now.</p> <p>We have no known evidence of solar panels having negative effects.</p>

		that solar will not have negative side affects in the long term?		
Elvis Charlie			We want Norway Government to come see our conditions – how we farm	
John Andries		Have any studies been done on contributions of slash and burn farming towards green house emissions?		Yes, studies have been done on emissions of slash and burn farming – conducted studies in Wowetta in region 9 - ref. to be confirmed with Vanda Radzik.
James Chambers			Read draft document about emissions – North Korea damaged their environment but still continue making machines.	
Edgar Williams		What will the long term effects be?	<p>People come with good news but never the negative sides to it – this team may not be exceptional, we don't know.</p> <p>I don't want my grand children to be wiped out.</p>	

September 8, 2009

Waramadong – Residential School for Upper Mazaruni District.

Head Master – Mr. Ganesh Persaud

Enrolement – 495

Name	Designation	Question	Comment	Response
Ganesh Persaud	H.M	Will benefits be shared with Waramadong?		Yes, benefits will be shared to every one.
Evet	Student	In what form will LCDS benefit us as Guyanese?		Benefits will be shared in the form of health, education, power, infrastructural and other development programmes.
Chris	Student	If you have to go LCDS what will happen to the fancy cars in the city that give off green house gases – if we are to cut fossil fuel uses?		Video on effects on climate change shown to students and teachers. Our carbon foot print is insignificant to the worlds carbon emission level but we still have to improve our emission levels in cars and other mode of transport.
Brown	Student	How is the sun passing through the green house layer if it's getting thick and not being able to pass out back?		The force of the sun's rays puncture the green house layer but after warming the earth loses energy to return through the layer.



Continuing Awareness and Outreach Sessions – LCDS region 7 and 8

Community awareness and outreach sessions – continuing LCDS discussions

Waramadong (September 8, 2009)

Attendance - 71

Call to order - Lennen Thomas

National pledge/prayer -

Welcome – Anexia Issacs

Interpreter - Brenton Bascom

Introduction (Team members)

Opening remarks – Ashton Simon

Presentation - Gavin Agard

Discussions

Closing remarks - Mimi Fernandes

Close

Materials

Guyana Low Carbon Development Strategy

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Fact sheet for Amerindian and Forest Communities

Waramadong September 8, 2009

Name	Designation	Question	Comment	Response
Immanuel Thomas		Will communities that 'opt in' benefit more than those that don't 'opt in'?		Yes, communities that opt in will benefit more as funds derived from the forests will come directly to their communities.
Clyde Harry		What is state forest? Does Norway have forests? How do we make money through usage of computers?		State forests are forests owned by the state and belong to all Guyanese. Norway have very little forest Monies can be derived through usage of computers to process data, out sourcing jobs, marketing etc.
Danny Daniels			LCDS will deprive me the use of my generator	
Bendral Thomas		Persons that farm and fish on state lands – will they be penalized for using resources from state forests?		The LCDS draft document does not speak about penalties it speaks about development.
Harry Williams		Can community see rules or regulations for opting in?		If the community decide to 'opt in' more teams will come to have discussions –

				then guidelines and regulations will be outlined.
Lennen Thomas		<p>Does the government want people to 'opt in' before Copenhagen?</p> <p>Will the countries know what policies for mining, logging and agriculture will be like?</p> <p>Will the countries that pay for LCDS implement their own rules?</p>		<p>No, the government does not want 'opting in' before Copenhagen.</p> <p>Policies will be developed after Copenhagen, if all goes well and will follow International Best Practice Policies.</p> <p>It is not yet fully established what funders will do.</p>
Chris Isaacs		<p>Why trees contribute more green house gases when they are cut down?</p> <p>What strategies are in place to control deforestation?</p>		<p>Because when trees are cut down they release the stored carbon dioxide from their trunk and branches.</p> <p>GFC code of practice and forest act have established control policies.</p>
Clyde Henry		<p>Where or when will the next consultation be?</p>		<p>We are unsure but we hope to have further consultations after Copenhagen presentation by our president.</p>

		<p>What are the negative effects of LCDS?</p>	<p>Because of the bad experience with the 'Amerindian Act' we want to see the final LCDS document.</p>	<p>Team promised to this request to the attention of the OCC</p> <p>No response</p>
Anexia Isaacs			<p>Point #10 in the 'Frequently asked questions' logging, mining and agriculture 'could' – should be changed to 'Will' because 'could' implies maybe or maybe not.</p>	<p>Point will be pointed out for further scrutiny.</p>
Curtis Isaacs		<p>Will Amerindians be trained as rangers?</p> <p>Will government deal with land issues before Amerindian communities 'opt in' to the LCDS?</p> <p>President said at the National Toshao's Conference – not to listen to Amerindian NGO's, so why are the</p>		<p>Amerindians will be trained as rangers.</p> <p>Government cannot intervene into Court matters and the process has to take its course.</p> <p>Amerindian NGO's are here to try to make communities understand the LCDS document better at the request of some leaders who had</p>

		Amerindian NGO's speaking to us?		difficulty understanding the document. We are not aware of the statement by the president.
Kendal Williams		Can the team tell us if we can 'opt in or out?'	<p>LCDS money should come straight to this community and not through the government.</p> <p>Barama and Tooslie Persaud exploited the forests and government should limit concessions.</p>	<p>LCDS says that monies derived from community forests will come direct to the community.</p> <p>No the team cannot tell you to 'opt in or opt out' that decision will have to be made by the community when the time comes.</p> <p>All concessions will have guidelines to follow under LCDS and operate under a 'quota' policy.</p>
Maxim Williams			We are skeptical about hydro projects because flooding will destroy the trees and relocate people.	Establishing a balance is what is important, benefits must out weigh the negative elements.

		<p>Can there be disease from solar energy?</p> <p>Why the concern of state forests when there are other resources i.e medical plants, gold etc.?</p>		<p>We have no evidence that solar driven power causes disease.</p> <p>No response</p>
Desa Moses			Any decision must respect Indigenous Peoples rights.	



Continuing Awareness and Outreach Sessions – LCDS region 7 and 8

Community awareness and outreach sessions – continuing LCDS discussions

Warawetta (September 9, 2009)

Attendance - 28

Call to order - Norma Thomas

National pledge/prayer -

Welcome – Lorna Thomas

Introduction (Team members)

Opening remarks – Peter Persaud

Presentation - Gavin Agard

Discussions

Closing remarks - Rommel Simon

Close

Materials

Guyana Low Carbon Development Strategy

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Warawetta

September 9, 2009

Name	Designation	Question	Comment	Response
P. Dorreck		How will we benefit from such a venture?	Industrialized nations had no future because they destroyed their forests and now ask us for help	Through intervention in health and other programmes.
Alma Marshall		<p>Are you here to help us with the LCDS?</p> <p>What is your mission?</p>	<p>We support the LCDS NGO's team and want them to be more involved in drafting the final document and negotiations.</p> <p>The language of the booklet needs to be simplified because the people cannot understand it.</p>	<p>Yes, we are here to help you understand LCDS document.</p> <p>Our mission is to fulfill the request of some leaders who want help explaining the LCDS document.</p> <p>We agree the LCDS document needs to be simplified and presently</p>

		<p>What is slash and burn?</p> <p>What kind of representation are you making for us?</p> <p>What are NGO's doing in upper Mazaruni?</p>	<p>Not so happy when the president said not to listen to the NGO's and they are here speaking with us.</p> <p>APA was missing I know they were referring to APA.</p> <p>If the land issues are resolved any thing can happen, we are fearful of making wrong decisions.</p>	<p>efforts are being made to interpret the document into five Indigenous languages – Akawaio being one.</p> <p>Slash and burn is shifting cultivation.</p> <p>To ensure that Amerindian concerns are reflected in the final document</p> <p>NGO's are here to help explain the LCDS document.</p>
Norma Thomas	Toshao	Do we have to go backward		LCDS does not say we move

		<p>instead of forward i.e donkey cart instead of cars, bicycles etc?</p> <p>Did Amerindian NGO's participate in drafting of the LCDS document?</p> <p>When are we going to see the final document?</p> <p>What will be the rules and regulations in terms of mining and logging?</p>	<p>Translating document into Akawaio is a waste of time because we read English and do not understand Akawaio.</p> <p>It's puzzling to understand where the money will come from for all the standing trees.</p>	<p>backward, it promotes development.</p> <p>NGO's did not participate in drafting of the LCDS document.</p> <p>The final document is presently being finalized; we hope communities can see it soon.</p> <p>Forests and mining acts have rules to follow in their code of practice for harvesting and mining regulations.</p>
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		Is any other country being paid for standing forest?	<p>Look at the destruction that Barama did in region 1.</p> <p>look at the way people have to entice the Amerindians i.e GGMC promised 7% tribute and to date we have not seen any benefits.</p> <p>Kamarang and Warawetta did not benefit from development projects – only last year they received the presidential grant.</p>	We are not aware of any country benefiting through payment for their standing forest.
P Dorreck			Amerindians have to be careful and we need more time to think about LCDS	
Amerita Thomas	Regional Vice chairman		Full support for the previous speakers. LCDS is a good document but Amerindians should have been involved	

			<p>in developing the strategy. Glad to know that communities will still get benefits even if they do not 'opt in' please let the president know we need compensation for our standing forests. We will contribute towards LCDS, we want Norway to come to show us how to conserve our forests.</p>	
Norma Thomas	Toshao		<p>I have learnt a lot through Mr. Agard's presentation and am now clearer on LCDS.</p>	



Continuing Awareness and Outreach Sessions – LCDS region 7 and 8

Community awareness and outreach sessions – continuing LCDS discussions

Kako (September 10, 2009)

Attendance - 60

Call to order - Mario Hastings

National pledge/prayer - Mario Hastings

Welcome – Melvie Williams

Introduction (Team members)

Opening remarks – Mimi Fernandes

Presentation - Gavin Agard

Discussions

Closing remarks - Rommel Simon

Close

Materials

Guyana Low Carbon Development Strategy

Frequently asked questions

Fact sheet for Amerindian and Forest Communities

Kako

September 10, 2009

Name	Designation	Question	Comment	Response
Humphrey Hastings	Resident	<p>LCDS is good and helpful but what will happen to my life and children's lives?</p> <p>Will LCDS change our daily living activities?</p> <p>Do NGO's understand what the LCDS is about and are they with us?</p> <p>Some NGO's sell out the people are the NGO's with us or not?</p> <p>How will the LCDS affect our lives?</p> <p>We don't destroy our forests, as</p>	<p>We will need to study it more and get more clarification, we are fearful of the LCDS</p>	<p>All activities will continue under the LCDS and will not affect the life of people.</p> <p>No! LCDS will not change people's daily living activities.</p> <p>NGO's support the LCDS draft document and that is why they are here to help explain it.</p> <p>If NGO'S were not with you, we would not be here.</p> <p>LCDS is about development and betterment of living standards.</p> <p>If a community says 'yes' to the strategy, further</p>

		Guyanese if we say 'yes' what will happen next?		consultations will be organized when the time is appropriate.
Orlinda Roland	Resident	<p>How often will we receive money from LCDS?</p> <p>If a community 'opt in' when will we discuss about the finances and the consistency of the cash flow?</p> <p>Some programmes i.e school feeding</p>	<p>Agree in principle with the LCDS document.</p> <p>Point #4 in "Important information for Amerindian and forest communities' line #3 – however 'logging, agriculture and mining MAY continue BUT would have to be consistent with the strategy' should read 'mining WILL continue AND would have to be consistent with the strategy'</p>	<p>Monies for communities will be discussed at the appropriate time, maybe after Copenhagen.</p> <p>Cash flow and</p>

		programme was discontinued because cash flow stopped, will LCDS follow the same pattern?		other elements of the strategy will be discussed when the time matures, our president still has to argue for the strategy at Copenhagen.
Nelvie Williams	Vice Captain	Will LCDS stop as the other programmes?	Only coastal communities have been benefiting from development programmes, older folks are saying 'no' to this programme since they don't eat curry and onions. We are happy that government is negotiating for standing forests but feel the community and NGO's must also be part of the negotiations.	LCDS does not have a definite timeline and will out last many governments.
Maximee Crammer	Resident	Will LCDS affect the hunting, fishing and farming practices of the Amerindians?	I support the	No the LCDS will not affect the normal practices of the Amerindians.

			LCDS in general	
Casy Hastings	Minister of religion	<p>What was the reason for APA stepping out? I was told that they asked a question and a negative answer was given. How do we benefit financially?</p> <p>Do we have enough time to consult?</p>	<p>Appreciate the meeting because the community has been hearing different things – such as, government will be selling their forests for millions of dollars and it will affect the way of life of Amerindians. Commend the president for the concept ‘statement on climate was read from the Seventh Day Adventist Church’. If land issues are clarified we would be</p>	<p>APA chose not to participate.</p> <p>Through health, education and other programmes.</p> <p>Amerindians have no time line for consulting.</p>

			<p>behind this strategy, lets go ahead with development of Guyana. Indigenous peoples should be commended as forests preservers.</p>	
Maximee Crammer			<p>Even if Indigenous people say 'no' the president will still go ahead with the LCDS. Indigenous peoples should be compensated for preserving the forests.</p>	<p>LCDS is about development and payments for services from the forests, that will correct the non-compensation of forests communities.</p>
Mario Hastings		<p>Could monies from LCDS be utilized for demarcation and judicial problems?</p> <p>With the global financial crises who has money to pay for the LCDS?</p> <p>On your next visit can a representative from APA go with the other NGO's so we can have a</p>	<p>Land issues are our primary concerns and should be dealt with.</p>	<p>Monies from the LCDS could be utilized for demarcation and other Amerindian issues. Initial payments for LCDS is supported by Norway.</p>

		<p>balanced discussion?</p> <p>Will LCDS have a long term effect?</p> <p>What are developing countries doing about contributing towards global warming?</p>	<p>People with vision are causing problems such as global warming. LCDS is not clear and have fear that negative effects will follow. We want to participate at all levels until the end. NADF was only heard of since the LCDS. APA was doing a good job in terms of capacity building. We would like to know what was said about LCDS in Copenhagen. Attorney Melinda Jankie</p>	<p>Yes, LCDS will have a long term affect. Developed countries i.e US and others are developing policies to have industries improve efficiency to cut emission levels in cars, aircraft and industries etc.</p>
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			<p>sat with Indigenous peoples discussing our rights and now sit with the government and tell us what are not our rights and now using the knowledge received to attack us.</p>	
Anderson Hastings	Former Toshao	<p>Do we have to keep the forest standing?</p> <p>Is there any policy in the strategy to stop mining, logging, touring – in general human activity?</p> <p>What sort of energy will be used?</p>	<p>I used to communicate with NADF as Toshao, so the NGO is not very new.</p> <p>I know the NGO's I know why the APA left the Steering Committee.</p>	<p>LCDS is about keeping the forest standing.</p> <p>No there is nothing in the LCDS to stop hunting, mining, farming or logging.</p> <p>LCDS speaks about solar, wind and hydro energy.</p>
		<p>Will there be rangers to monitor activities and</p>		<p>Yes, there will be rangers to monitor activities.</p>

		<p>also rules and regulations for protected areas and parks?</p> <p>Which of the NGO's at the Toshao's conference were we asked not to listen to?</p> <p>Were NGO's involved in drafting of the LCDS document?</p> <p>Will traditional farming rights be violated?</p>	<p>The president told us not to listen to the Amerindian NGO's , If I was Toshao, I would not invite the community to listen to them.</p> <p>Mr. Persaud must ensure that the final document is made available before it goes to Copenhagen.</p> <p>If we don't own anything we cannot negotiate, we need to own our lands.</p>	<p>This team is not aware of which Amerindian NGO communities must not listen to.</p> <p>No, no NGO was involved in drafting of the LCDS document.</p> <p>Traditional practices will continue.</p>
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			<p>Words in the LCDS is hard to understand.</p> <p>We need to see the final results from Copenhagen</p>	
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Continuing Awareness and Outreach Sessions – LCDS region 7 and 8

Community awareness and outreach sessions – continuing LCDS discussions

Jawalla (September 11, 2009)

Attendance - 45

Call to order - Daizel Isaacs

National pledge/prayer -

Welcome – Daizel Isaacs

Introduction (Team members)

Opening remarks – Peter Persaud

Presentation - Gavin Agard

Discussions

Closing remarks - Mimi Fernandes

Close

Materials

Guyana Low Carbon Development Strategy

Frequently asked questions

Fact sheet for Amerindian and Forest Communities

Jawalla

September 11, 2009

Name	Designation	Question	Comment	Response
Wrenton Williams	Resident	Which country uses the LCDS document as a model?		This is a novel and visionary idea from our president – we are sure that support will be forth coming from Norway and others will follow.
Vernon Henry		<p>Will climate change our way of life?</p> <p>How are we going to get funding and how are we going to benefit?</p> <p>Will villages benefit if they 'opt in' and how will they benefit?</p>	<p>I am confused, the president advised at the last Toshao's conference not to listen to Indigenous NGO's.</p> <p>I am concerned about climate</p>	<p>Yes, climate change will affest our way of life through droughts, floods, change of climate etc.</p> <p>Funding will be secured through the LCDS if it is adopted at Copenhagen.</p> <p>Yes, villages will benefit if they 'opt in' through monies being directed to their communities.</p>

			<p>change.</p> <p>We do traditional farming then president speaks about slash and burn.</p> <p>Hydro will kill trees and flood areas, we need time to study the ICDS document as it does not make sense.</p> <p>We need to get our titled lands sorted out.</p> <p>People should follow our forest preservation style.</p>	
Nobrego Williams	Resident	<p>What will happen with the huge agriculture areas and sugar plantations?</p> <p>What will happen to our daily traditional activities?</p> <p>Will commercial logging in Guyana stop?</p>	<p>Upper Mazaruni have a court</p>	<p>If the impact of climate change is not too extreme planting of sugar cane will continue.</p> <p>LCDS clearly outlines that traditional activities will continue.</p> <p>Commercial activities will continue but in consistence with our obligations under the</p>

			<p>case for over ten years now.</p> <p>New initiatives like the LCDS are coming on stream and our land issues are not being dealt with, we want the government to settle it.</p>	LCDS.
Harold Brown		<p>What is the Kyoto Protocol?</p> <p>What will the G20 nations be paying for?</p>	<p>Laws that will be imposed, that is what Amerindians are afraid of.</p>	<p>The Kyoto Protocol is an International agreement linked to the UNFCCC which encourages countries to continue to reduce green house emissions. Under the Kyoto protocol countries are required to replant forest or plant new forests where none existed before. It does not reward countries like Guyana that have standing forest, this is what the LCDS seek to achieve.</p>
Wrenton Williams			<p>We are asking the government to respect our rights to farm, fish and poison our rivers.</p>	

			<p>We ask too to keep us in mind for development and funding. Use the word 'betterment' instead of 'development' because development comes with increased crime and terrorism.</p>	
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REGION 8



Continuing Awareness and Outreach Sessions – LCDS region 7 and 8

Community awareness and outreach sessions – continuing LCDS discussions

Kopinang (September 16, 2009)

Attendance - 96

Regis Cyprian - Call to order

Interpreter – Francis Xavier

Registrant –

National pledge/prayer- Regis Cyprino

Welcome – lisa Augustus

Introduction (Team members)

Opening remarks – Peter Persaud

Presentation – Gavin Agard

Discussions

Closing remarks – Mimi Fernandes

Close

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Guyana Low Carbon Development Strategy

Frequently asked questions

Kopinang

September 16, 2009

Commenced 12:25

concluded – 15:05

Name	Designation	Question	Comments	Response
Lawrence Nazio	Resident	<p>How much money will we get if we ‘opt In’?”</p> <p>Which country in the world is causing climate change?</p> <p>What will be the answer for extension of lands after state forests would have been committed?</p> <p>Does our farming practice cause any difference to climate change?</p> <p>Why is forestry allowing big logging companies to use and destroy our forests?</p> <p>What or how</p>		<p>If LCDS is accepted at Copenhagen methods of payment and other issues will be discussed, sometimes it may never happen.</p> <p>All countries contribute to climate change but developed countries contribute more.</p> <p>LCDS does not stop the extension of lands process.</p> <p>Yes, but our farming practices and emissions make no significant impact to that of developed countries.</p> <p>GFC does not allow destruction of forests on Amerindian or state lands, concessionaires are bound to “Quota” and “Code of Practice”</p>

		will we benefit from 580 m US?		<p>systems.</p> <p>Representation will first have to be made at Copenhagen, then after, discussions on payment and other issues will be finalized.</p>
Christino Moses (Maiquak)	Resident	What will happen to me if I don't cut and burn my farm?	<p>We don't destroy our forests to deforestation levels, we cut for farming purposes. I do this for the benefit of my family because government does not give me anything.</p>	The LCDS says traditional practices will be allowed to continue.
Richard John	Resident		<p>Kopinang does not have generators or industries to that cause emissions and destruction, it is affected by outsiders – miners and strangers who use machines like excavators and dredges to destroy our lands and take</p>	

			away our products. No outsider can come and stop us from our daily activities we will continue our daily activities.	
Albert Atkinson	MP (To Villagers)	Do you think it is a good strategy for you?		(From villagers) we think it is a good strategy
Leonard John	Resident	How will the hydro work with out giving off green house gases?	Did not understand what was said, from the time of demarcation, I felt I was in a fenced area.	The force of the water falling on the propellers of the Turbines will generate clean energy
Lawrence Salvador	Resident	Will it benefit the country and Amerindian communities?	I want more clarification on the 580mUS	Clarification on the distribution of the 580mUS will establish that all Guyanese will benefit through educational, health, generation of power and other programmes.
Christino Nichols			There are times when people come to talk to us about programmes that never materialize. I wonder if LCDS will be the same and	

			we are afraid.	
Lawrence Salvador		Can we benefit from this strategy by having a secondary school established here in Kopinang?	I am in favor of the LCDS but we need to be on the safe side.	Establishing a secondary school in Kopinang will have to be discussed but all Guyanese will benefit from the LCDS
Christino Nichols	Resident	If we say “yes” how early will we get benefits?		Outcome of discussions at Copenhagen will determine how soon benefits will be received by community members.
Leonard John (Maiquak)	Resident	Can we farm in state land? What will happen if we farm in state lands?		Your question on farming on state lands will be forwarded to OCC for further clarification – through this document
Lawrence Nazio	Resident		I am in support of the LCDS	Thanks for your support



Continuing Awareness and Outreach Sessions – LCDS region 7 and 8

Community awareness and outreach sessions – continuing LCDS discussions

Kurukubaru (September 19, 2009)

Attendance - 50

Call to order (Saturday 19, 2009) Ronald thomas

National pledge/prayer – Ronald Thomas/Fr. Gabriel

Welcome-Ronald Thomas

Introduction (Team members)

Opening remarks – Mimi Fernandes

Presentation – Gavin Agard

Discussions

Closing remarks – Rommel Simon

Close

Materials

Guyana Low Carbon Development Strategy

Frequently asked questions

Fact sheet for Amerindian and Forest Communities

Kurukubaru

Commenced – 14: 55

September 18, 2009

concluded – 17:15

Name	Designation	Question	Comment	Response
Sylvester Sebastian	Resident	We would like to know if Guyana is alone with the LCDS?		Guyana is in partnership with Norway, so we are not alone
Wilfred Xavier	Resident	Are Amerindian titled lands included in the strategy?	Large logging companies destroy our forests in the Siparuni area (DTL) we use our forests for farming purposes	Amerindian titled lands are not included in the Strategy, this cannot happen because only Amerindians can give consent for their titled lands to be included.
Albert Francis	Resident	How much money will I get if we 'Opt In' on an annual basis? How is logging going on in Iwokrama and it's a conservation area?	If I am not satisfied I will "opt out" Iwokrama is an example of what can	At the time of "opting In" further consultations will occur at community level and issues such as financing will be discussed. Iwokrama has evolved from a strictly conservation activity to sustainable logging, ecotourism and conservation.

			<p>happen if we “opt In” Afraid that logging companies will come in after we ‘opt in”</p>	
<p>Cajetan Joseph</p>	<p>Dentex</p>	<p>What indications are we getting about global climate change? Is there a positive response from developed countries for funding the LCDS?</p>	<p>Those developed countries have contributed to suffering through global warming.</p> <p>Team asked to look into rules on Wai Wai issues set out by CI</p>	<p>Ice caps melt, floods, weather pattern changes, droughts are all indications of global climate change.</p>



Continuing Awareness and Outreach Sessions – LCDS region 7 and 8

Community awareness and outreach sessions – continuing LCDS discussions

Paramakatoi (September 21, 2009)

Attendance - 48

Call to order - Toshao Christopher Sandwel

National pledge/prayer – Candida Nazio

Welcome – Matheson Williams

Introduction (Team members)

Opening remarks – Ashton Simon

Presentation – Gavin Agard

Discussions

Closing remarks – Peter Persaud

Close

Materials

Guyana Low Carbon Development Strategy

Frequently asked questions

Fact sheet for Amerindian and Forest Communities

Paramakatoi

September 21, 2009

Commenced 10:45

Concluded 13:45

Name	Designation	Question	Suggestions	Comments	Response
Ian Williams	GECOM rep			Explanation very good	
				People interested in finding out what benefits will indigenous people get	Explained below
		What are the benefits?			The benefits are that you can decide what programmes you want and pursue them i.e health, education, infrastructure etc.
		Will we be drouggers?			The LCDS will train people in relevant fields
		Will we be trained to do research?			Certainly, there will be a training component in the LCDS
		Will we be given scholarships?			
		How will money be accrued to villages?			Monies for communities will be paid directly into village funds but systems will have to be put in place for

					transparency and equitability.
		Who will be responsible for distribution of funds?		We have been saying “Yes” to programmes i.e Kaieteur National Park, Iwokrama and we have not benefited, these past projects have shown no distribution of benefits. We need to see a balanced distribution and plans.	Systems to facilitate distributions will have to be developed
		If you “Opt In” or not and you still benefit – why is the team here?			The team is here to try to make the document better understood at the request of some leaders of communities.
		Will there be regional bodies to monitor the LCDS?			This will have to be discussed and developed
		How do savannah communities benefit? Should I tell them “well, you have			Savannah communities will benefit from state forest monies, a proposal to have forested

		nothing to get?"			communities contribute to savannah communities is still to be developed
Candadia Nazio	Resident			I am in support of Ian williams	
		We do our daily activities in state lands; will LCDS affect us as Amerindians?			This question will be directed to the Climate Change office for further clarification and we will feed you back the information.
		Will we be able to continue our daily activities?			Yes, the LCDS does not stop traditional or daily activities
		Why does the government give our forest away to loggers and miners?		We are forest people who try to keep our forests in place	
Gregory Simon				It is not good for Minister to call a meeting here and give us no time to ask our questions.	Reference to a meeting held at Paramakatoi by Minister of Amerindian Affairs during her visit.
				We were forced to agree to demarcation it is not our land but that of the white man.	

		How far will our demarcation fall?		I don't believe this strategy because God breathed into man and not the trees.	The demarcation process is an on going process to ensure that Amerindian communities know their boundaries, this makes titling easier, so the team has no idea of how far your boundaries will fall.
Gideon John	Teacher			The LCDS was distributed very late	The team is not responsible for your late information but we do notice your concern because your Toshias should have informed their communities. Our distribution of the LCDS document today is for the furtherance of awareness, I agree that today some people would

					have heard it for the first time and our purpose is to enlighten those people.
				I am not against this strategy	
		What are the advantages or disadvantages?		We should be given the "pros" and "cons" about LCDS	These will be known after our president's visit to Copenhagen
Matheson Williams	CDO	If communities "Opt In" will there be conditions attached?			We will know after our president's visit to Copenhagen
		If there are conditions what will they be?			We will know after our president's visit to Copenhagen
Roy Edwin	Pastor	Who is responsible for state lands between Amerindian lands?		We don't need state lands between our lands, because we don't have freedom on our ancestral lands, so we need to occupy them. On these	The state Comments noted and OCC will be asked to take note

				state lands we have our farms and houses also fruit trees form our ancestors.	
Iola John	Head Mistress	If we “Opt In” how much acres will we have to give in?		We need to know what are the advantages and disadvantages. We need to know what will happen to our farm lands – you are fooling us.	This will have to be finalized by the community
Gideon John	Teacher	Why not get people to be trained to synthesize people?		It will cost less? Politicized teams should not come to synthesized us.	Point noted and relevant offices to be notified through this document.
				People from different organizations should sit on consultation teams i.e Miners, Forestry, lands and mines etc.	Point noted and OCC to take note
Calvin Simon	Resident			I understand that President will be going	

				<p>to Copenhagen. Funds from village forests will go to Government treasury; we don't want that to happen.</p> <p>Other foreign countries give funds towards the development of Amerindian communities, none was received. If we don't "opt in" our forests is still producing oxygen and we should be paid for that.</p>	<p>The draft LCDS does not say monies from Amerindian communities will go to the Government's treasury, it says monies will go directly to Amerindian communities.</p> <p>No clarity on this comment</p>
Gregory Simon		If the government really cares why did the miners destroy our forests and medicine trees?		<p>We want our demarcation to fall as far as we need it, then we will decide to "Opt</p>	No comment

				In or Opt Out”	
Ian Williams		Why is APA Absent?			APA was invited by our President to be part of the LCDS through functioning on the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee. The team learnt that a letter was sent to OCC indication their desire to de-link from the process
		What position has Amerindian NGO’s taken on the LCDS?			Amerindian NGO’s are supportive of the LCDS and our presence here is testimony of our commitment
Roger Alfred		This strategy is saying not to continue our daily activities, what happen to Amerindian rights and freedom?		You tell me not to cut trees – we eat organic foods and felling trees has been our practice for generations.	No, the LCDS does not say to discontinue your daily activities, it says they will not stop This team does not say to stop cutting trees as a matter of fact, the presenter clearly said that our global emission foot

					print was insignificant to those of the industrialised countries and also the LCDS does not point in that direction.
		Some titled lands are on savannah and I use the state lands to farm, what will happen to my family if I cannot farm on state lands?			This observation will be forwarded to OCC for clarity and comment through this document.
		How many people will be trained and benefit from the strategy?			Many will be trained once the proposal is accepted by the international countries and all Guyanese will benefit from the strategy.
		Toshao never introduced the LCDS – what about the other villages?			This observation is noted
				People are with out jobs	
Iola John	Head Mistress			Community meeting stated that monies are already there to pay for the forests	CDO stated that there was a mis-interpretation
Gregory Simon				Government uses NGO's to	NGO's are not aware of such

				fool them because they have power	a strategy
Agatha Paul	Resident			If we “Opt In or out” I don’t see the necessity. We protect our forest and don’t cut it down unnecessarily. The ones that come to cut down our forests will have to be stopped. If we “Opt In or Not” the globe will still be enjoying our oxygen.	
Candadia Nazio		Rules and regulations – will our president allow the foreigners to deal with the LCDS?			No comment but question noted.
		If they make their own rules and regulations will they not affect us?			All rules and regulations will be developed with donor and recipient countries
Gregory Simon				The present Amerindian Act does not protect me or other Amerindian Communities.	
Agatha Paul		How will monies be			Guidelines will be

		distributed?		I am very concerned about how monies will be distributed because there are no clear guidelines and something looks fishy	developed through a participatory process and agreements
Calvin Simon				The Amerindian Act needs to be revised and amended	Point noted and recorded

Results:

The I-NGO's awareness and outreach sessions attracted from (6) six communities and (4) satellite communities 274 registered participants, an additional 495 students from the Upper Mazaruni Residential School attended the sessions. Bringing the accumulated total of attendants to – 759

For region 8 the I-NGO's awareness and outreach sessions attracted 194 registered attendants. The attendants for these sessions have a mandate to share with other communities. The accumulated total of attendants for the Awareness and Outreach sessions for regions 7 and 8 is 953.

Team Awareness:

The team was made aware of plans for protesters to be present during the President's visit to Copenhagen in December. The umbrella Organisation COICA and affiliated Indigenous Organisations have plans to be there inclusive of Organisations from Guyana

Suggestion:

There were strong feelings between the Indigenous NGO's that it would reflect a perfect balanced team in terms of Indigenous support base and stakeholder involvement if considerations can be made for Indigenous representation on the President's Team to Copenhagen in December. TAAMOG, GOIP and NADF are supportive of the LCDS and being part of the Presidents team to Copenhagen can play a deciding factor for international support and commitment.

Conclusion:

The awareness and outreach sessions achieved its goal in region 7 and 8. Although some attendance at sessions circled around the more committed activities for Amerindian Heritage Month; the sessions attracted persons that were more concerned about the LCDS and their future. The team feels that given more time the outreach and awareness sessions would have made more impact in other regions.

Recommendations:

For better results, more involvement and greater impact on recipients the "Indigenous Team" recommends that a more community centered approach such as the just concluded "Awareness and Outreach Sessions" be considered as the strategy to follow. This means that either, the consultations for Indigenous communities begin early or are given extended periods to complete the consultations.

Completing any consultation with the same timeline as that suggested for coastal communities will not garner the same impact at the consultation's conclusion.

Some examples were exposed of why such a strategy would be necessary. Generally it is felt that leaders of communities attending consultations in Georgetown will disseminate information to community members on their return, in most of the communities this information on the LCDS was absent and this must be corrected if programmes are to be successful and create the desired impact.

Team members:

- Ashton Simon - NADF
- Mimi Fernandes - GOIP
- Peter Persaud - TAAMOG
- Rommel Simon - NADF
- Gavin Agard - OCC