

# LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



*Transforming Guyana's Economy While Combating Climate Change*

**DRAFT REPORT**

**SUB NATIONAL OUTREACH – Moruca, REGION 1**

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013  
Santa Rosa Secondary School

## Introduction

In June 2009 the Government of Guyana launched its Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) which aims to transform Guyana's economy on to a low carbon, sustainable development trajectory, while simultaneously combating climate change. The LCDS aims to protect and maintain the forests in an effort to reduce global carbon emissions and at the same time attract payments from developed countries for the climate services that the forests provide to the world, which will be invested to foster growth and development along a low carbon emissions path.

In November 2009, Guyana and Norway signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which Norway committed to providing financial support of up to US\$250 million by 2015 for results achieved by Guyana in limiting emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, which will support the implementation of Guyana's LCDS. Under the MOU, contributions from Norway are channeled through the multi-contributor Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF), established in October 2010, for which the World Bank is Trustee, towards priority projects identified in the LCDS.

Guyana's LCDS has made significant progress since its 2009 launch. The LCDS is now in the implementation phase. Following three successive years of performance in accordance with the Norway MoU and the Joint Concept Note (JCN) which sets out the framework for taking the Guyana-Norway co-operation forward, Guyana has met the requirements for performance-based payments to the tune of US\$115M. These funds are being invested in the LCDS projects.

The JCN stipulates that the continuation of result-based financial support from Norway to Guyana will depend on publicly observable progress on forest governance. The JCN identifies 'Indicators of Enabling Activities' where performance in enabling activities will be measured against progress on six key categories of activities. Two such categories relate to the 'Continuous multi-stakeholder consultation process' and 'the rights of indigenous peoples and other local forest communities as regards REDD-plus'. The Constitution of Guyana guarantees the rights of indigenous peoples and other Guyanese to participation, engagement and decision making in all matters affecting their well-being.

As a result, in this first phase, the Hinterland outreach programme targets Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9 as part of the Office of Climate Change (OCC) wider outreach programme as described in the Annual Stakeholder Awareness and Engagement Plan 2013. This component directly relates to the performance indicator, *Continuous Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Process*, as outlined in the Revised JCN.

A similar approach to the national outreach and awareness sessions conducted in 2009 is being adopted by the OCC for this Hinterland outreach programme. The OCC is spearheading the planning of these sessions in collaboration with the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MoAA).

The main objectives of this outreach session are:

1. To update the public and in particular Amerindian Villages on key issues related to climate change and LCDS implementation;
2. To provide a systematic and transparent process of multi-stakeholder engagement enabling the participation of all potentially affected and interested stakeholders in the LCDS process; and
3. To support the overall goals and objectives of Guyana's LCDS.

The second outreach session was held in the Moruca Sub-district. It brought together stakeholders from a number of communities, inclusive of Toshaos, Councillors, students and residents and representatives from communities such as Kokerite, Waikarebi, Kariako, Warapoka, Kwebanna, Assakata, Waramuri, Haimacabra, Manawarin, Father's Beach, Santa Cruz, Mora, Parakese Island, Santa Rosa & Islands, Huridiah, Kamwatta (Moruca), Karaburi, Koko & Island, Kumaka, Rincon, Karie & Island, Cabora and Wallaba

This report captures the discussion of the session, the key issues identified and any suggestion and/or recommendations emanating from the discussions. The complete list of communities and representatives is included in Appendix A.

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## **National Stakeholder Outreach and Awareness 2013 – Region 1 Santa Rosa**

*June 23, 2013*

### **PROGRAMME**

<b>08:30</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Call to Order by Chairperson (Regional Chairman)</b>
<b>10:35</b>	<b>National Pledge &amp; Prayer</b>
<b>10:45</b>	<b>Welcome by Toshao Santa Rosa</b>
<b>10:55</b>	<b>Introductions</b> (Outreach Team and Representatives of Villages)
<b>11: 10</b>	<b>Brief Remarks:</b>  Ashton Simon, NADF&MSSC Member  Peter Persaud, TAAMOG&MSSC Member
<b>11:40</b>	<b>Presentation:</b> Shyam Nokta, Presidential Adviser and Head, OCC
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Presentation:</b> Hon. Minister Pauline Sukhai, Minister of Amerindian Affairs
<b>12:20</b>	<b>Open Discussion</b>
<b>01:55</b>	<b>Closing Remarks: Chairperson</b>

## Outreach Session

### Outreach Team

The members of the Outreach Team were:

- Honourable Minister Pauline Sukhai      Minister, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
- Mr. Shyam Nokta                              Adviser to the President & Head, Office of Climate Change
- Mr. Paul Pierre                                Regional Chairman, Region 1
- Mr. Ashton Simon                            Representative NADF&MSSC Member
- Mr. Peter Persaud                            Representative TAAMOG & MSSC Member

### Summary of the Presentations

The session was chaired by Mr. Pierre, Regional Chairman Region 1 and the presenters were: (i) Hon. Minister Sukhai; (ii) Mr. Nokta (iii) Mr. Simon; and (iv) Mr. Persaud.

Participants were welcomed to this outreach session. Presenters noted that this session provides an opportunity for people to further understand and receive updated information on the LCDS, as well as, discuss the Opt-In Mechanism. Participants were reminded of the timeline of the LCDS – from conceptualization to launch, inclusive of the recent update launched by President Ramotar on March 22, 2013. References were made to a recent article noting 97% of 4000 scientists reaffirming that climate change is real.

Mr. Shyam Nokta in his presentation thanked the Regional Democratic Council and Toshao for their support in facilitating this outreach session. He expressed appreciation to the participants attending this session and recognised this as a sign of continued interest in the process and the LCDS. Reference was made to similar sessions in 2009, at the time of introducing the idea of the LCDS, the concepts and plan for implementation. Participants were informed of the purpose of this session and that is to provide an update on the LCDS and discuss the way forward inclusive of challenges as well as to answer any questions and address clarifications.

The core principle of the LCDS -- continued development while safeguarding resources for the present and future generations was recognised. In addition, it was noted that the LCDS is based on (i) how can we transform our economy and at the same time promote social development for Guyanese by pursuing a type of development path that will allow us to maintain our resources, and (ii) how can we make a contribution to the world to help address the issue of Climate Change. In pursuing this, the LCDS set out to address (i) how to make the forest worth more alive than dead (ii) how can we stimulate growth of our economy through the utilization of clean energy, recognising the potential for hydropower, solar and wind -- achieving this while transiting away from fossil fuels (iii) how can we look at other economic activity so that in time we can become less dependent and to have a low environmental footprint and at the same time create opportunities for everyone.

Reference was also made to Guyana's progress in defining the climate agenda internationally and the LCDS as a working model for low carbon development.

The Community Development Plans, as the first project to benefit under the LCDS, was highlighted and also other green projects to create more employment and opportunities within communities as one area where the LCDS is supporting through the financing from Norway.

The challenges, especially at the international level were noted. The lack of urgent action at the global level and in particular by developed countries to address the issues of climate change and to provide support was highlighted as daunting. It was recognised that developing countries are playing a greater role at the forefront of addressing these issues, in spite of being vulnerable. It was estimated by a technical team a few years ago that Guyana would need approximately 1Billion USD to adapt to climate change. Financing, at this scale, and the access to and availability of, is the main challenge faced by many countries.

Reference was made to the LCDS update launched in March 2013 by H.E President Ramotar as well as several projects currently being implemented, inclusive of the Amerindian Development Fund, and Amerindian Land Titling Project.

Minister Sukhai presented a brief overview of the projects, specifically, the Amerindian Development Fund (ADF), and Amerindian Land Titling (ALT) Project as well as highlighted a few additional points. It was pointed out that the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs has been allocated funds to implement the ADF. The first batch of 27 CDPs aim to improve village economies and boost the human development capacity. In addition, funds have been allocated to deal with strengthening of our youths in villages in Regions 1, 7, 8, 9 with the intent to harness their potential. The project was launched in Santa Rosa on June 22, 2013. The ALT project aims to address the titling of 14 communities and it was noted that Minister Sukhai met with a multi-sectoral team to begin the schedule of implementation for the next six months.

Reference was made to the LCDS budget cuts which impacted the implementation of the ALT and ADF projects. However, it was noted that the ALT project commenced with support from the national budget allocations through the MoAA. In addition, Minister Sukhai made reference to the members of communities who are involved in the project and recognised this as their (communities) contribution to strengthening of the (LCDS) model. Minister also referenced the One Laptop per Family Project (OLPFP) as another project to benefit Amerindians. She noted that discussions have led to earmarking about \$500M for this project which will soon commence. It was however recognised that the issue of availability of power must be addressed first and funds will be allocated to set out infrastructure for power. This project, in the first phase aims to benefit 50 – 60 communities. Emphasis was placed on the important role and responsibility of every Guyanese in the overall LCDS project implementation.

Minister Sukhai highlighted the Opt-In Mechanism and noted this as the vehicle for communities to be a part of the process. Participants were reminded that Amerindians are not under any pressure to Opt-In and any decision to do so should be taken at the Village level. Minister noted that the Opt-In Concept Note was circulated to all communities through the NTC and the NTC Executive Body even as late as the 2012 meeting. She exhorted on Tshaos to share the information with their communities especially seeing that the NTC Executive Body agreed with the contents of the concept note in February 2012 – each group in Guyana should be responsible to share this information to aid community discussions and to review and provide feedback to the NTC.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Comments/ Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>  (Minister Sukhai, Shyam Nokta)
Basil Cornelius  Toshao	Santa Rosa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the last NTC meeting it was mentioned that whether a village Opt-In or not they will still benefit. The village of Santa Rosa Opt-In has a large land mass of resources and may decide to not utilise all of it in this process. Does the LCDS cater for land use planning similar to the process undertaken in Region 9? We'd like to know we have a full knowledge of our natural resources before opting in.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many villages have expressed interest in opting in but no village has opted in as yet. However, the funds earned right now from the Government of Norway will benefit all communities whether they opt-in or not. Villages with forests that opt-in (putting their forest to the Guyana Norway model) will stand to benefit additionally. The mechanism to facilitate this is currently being worked out, in particular, how performance will be measured; specific requirements to opt-in; the extent of forest and minimum percentage villages can set aside etc. Additionally, it is important to understand different land uses and uses of the forest. The Guyana Forestry Commission has been working with communities to develop Community Forest Plans and this could be a good start for villages to consider when thinking of resource planning. The next stage of the Opt-In process is to further develop the concept paper into an Opt-In Strategy; circulate the strategy for review and selection of a pilot community by the NTC. It should be noted that there is no deadline or timeframe to Opt-In – communities need to do this when they are ready and willing. It must be reiterated that whether you opt-in or not, all communities will benefit from the LCDS.</li> </ol>

Hilary Henry	Warapoka	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Village has indicated its interest to Opt-In and a letter was sent but is unaware where that letter is at the moment.</li> <li>2. Attention should be placed at the GFC in issuing large concessions to investors.</li> <li>3. Happy to hear that the MoAA is training youths and especially that they will be involved in the LCDS.</li> <li>4. Noted that there're 24 or more families in the village and these need to be added to benefit from the solar panels.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Opt-In request was noted and as indicated earlier, no village has been selected to pilot the mechanism as the process is still being worked out.</li> </ol>
Geraldine Charles	Warapoka	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted that women in the community are not employed and are looking forward as a village council to undertake more in the process. Happy to learn more of the LCDS and this will be on the agenda of the village's next meeting.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The call by women is an issue that needs to be addressed. It's been recognised that there is a lack of opportunity to gainfully employ everyone and this is noticeable through the hinterland. Incentives are necessary to ensure more jobs are generated and this is the initial approach to the CDP. It is expected that when implemented the projects can be seen as one of permanence and a long term goal for the community. Communities should view the CDPs, not as a standalone project with a start and end date, but one that is sustainable. Along these lines, the youths must be engaged.</li> </ol>
Bernard Lewis	Waramori	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted that some of the Toshaos attending the LCDS workshops in the past did not understand the information to be able to impart the knowledge to the villagers. But the changes in the climate are noted and the programmes such as this outreach session are beneficial and as a village we support the LCDS. Called on other villagers to deter persons with agendas to stop the LCDS and noted that development is not expected to occur overnight or immediate.</li> </ol>	<p>Mr. Lewis was thanked for his comment.</p>
Marco Boyol	Warapoka	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Could persons with large private lease opt-in to receive funds from the LCDS?</li> <li>2. Can persons set aside land for protected areas and can they receive funds from the LCDS?</li> <li>3. Noted that a team of persons visited the village to</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There are 3 types of land ownership: Amerindian Lands; State lands and Private lands. In the case where an individual or company was issued a lease, the specific activity would be outlined.</li> </ol>

		<p>petition the villagers to protect the forest and to support the amendments to the Amerindian Act with the intention to protect the rights of indigenous peoples.</p>	<p>Therefore, the individual or company is confined to the activity/activities of the lease. Opt-In is specific to Amerindian lands and is not linked to lands issued by the State for other purposes. Lease lands still belong to the State while Amerindian Lands are private lands.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protected areas are not a part of the State Forest under the Guyana Norway arrangement to which we are earning funds. Guyana is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity and under this Convention we are required to establish about 17% of land for protected areas by 2020. Significant progress has been made so far to ensure we protect significant biodiversity.</li> <li>The Amerindian Act was discussed and developed by the Indigenous Peoples of Guyana. It is a comprehensive piece of legislation. It is therefore necessary for everyone to have a copy of the Act and to be aware of its contents and rights to avoid being misinformed.</li> </ol>
Lloyd		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With respect to global warming, for the past 4-5 years what is the extent of sea level rise and the sea wall one day break?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some of the recent occurrences (flooding etc) could be attributed to sea level rise; some may be as a result of events in the wider Caribbean Sea. However there's still a lot more work to be done. Many countries have not been able to track the changes but Guyana by 2030 could experience 25/26 cm rise in sea level.</li> </ol>
Alvin George	Manawarin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should have a tracking system in place to ensure that there is reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. This is especially necessary for solar panels as it has been observed that people are not managing the panels and in some years they will want more.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solar panels are distributed for free in Guyana; however, this is not the case in other countries. A programme to service, protect and maintain the equipment is necessary and monitoring is a key component of such a programme. As regards the LCDS and monitoring for carbon emissions, Guyana is subject to an annual performance audit by the Government of Norway, inclusive of</li> </ol>

			assessing the rate of deforestation.
Marti De Souza	Santa Rosa	1. Requested financial support to further understand the elements of the LCDS and Opt-In. Noted especially that new communities are emerging around Santa Rosa and these communities should be given the same opportunities – such as improved infrastructure and priority for financial support. The issue regarding satellite communities – Rincon and Kabora were inherited by the current village council.	1. Disaggregation of communities / satellite communities /settlements are not encouraged, especially those that occur without any structure. It is the duty of the Village Council to ensure that development flows beyond the central area of the Village. As the population increases, consideration will be given to add infrastructures such as schools, health centres etc. in a particular area. In the case of Santa Rosa and its surrounding communities, the MoAA does not recognise disaggregation of the communities. It should be noted that the councillors are assigned to monitor and manage the affairs of the area, thus the surrounding settlements are recognised as satellite communities of the Village.
Marti De Souza Head teacher	Santa Rosa	1. We should reach out to the younger generation on the LCDS to have a basic understanding of its concepts.	1. The government is working to include the LCDS in the primary school curriculum and the University of Guyana, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences has refined its programme to be more inclusive of the concepts of low carbon development.

**Appendix A : List of Participants - Moruca**

No	Name	Gender	Occupation	Village	Contact No	Email
1	Wynette Wilson	Female	Teacher	Waikarebi		
2	Martin Williams	Male	Community Health Worker	Waikarebi		
3	Michael Williams	Male	Toshao	Waikarebi		
4	Macio Boyol	Male	Community Health Worker	Warapoka		
5	Israel N Henry	Male	Toshao	Waikarebi	6014181	
6	John Campbell	Male	Toshao	Santa Cruz	6913128	
7	Geraldine Charles	Female	Village Consular	Warapoka	6961649	
8	Errol Charles	Male	Toshao	Assakata	6685073	
9	Hillary Henry	Male	Vic Secretary	Warapoka	6850988	
10	Lewis Figusodo			Kokerite Village		
11	Leslie Edwards	Male	Toshao	Kokerite Village	663018	
12	Jaqueline Wilsory	Female	Village Secretary	Kokerite Village		
13	Sandra Edwards	Female	Village Consular	Kokerite Village		
14	Govina Benjamin	Female	Community Health Worker	Rincon	6652184	
15	Judy Henry	Female	Student	Mora Village	6982528	
16	Fazia Thomas	Female	Area Councillor	Rincon		
17	Yrovona Abraham	Female		Rincon	6984387	
18	Marti De Souza	Male	Head Teacher	Santa Rosa	6795507	
19	Basil Cornelius	Male	Toshao	Santa Rosa	6022054	
20	Karen Domingo	Female	Environmental Health Ass.	Cabora	6999360	
21	Gentruide Wolford	Female	Area Councillor	Cabora	6987748	
22	Alvin George	Male	Toshao	Manawarin	6940128	
23	Joan Willams	Female	Area Councillor	Haimacabra	6739621	
24	Rusheel Henry	Female	Nurse	Rincon	6740659	
25	Benedict Rodrigues	Male	Senior Councillor	Mabaruma	6635268	
26	Dennis Jones			Kumaka	6782726	

27	Karen Willams		Office Assistant	Koko	6850440	
28	Anlene Atkinson		Typist Clerk	Kumaka	6780718	
29	Ann Cornelius		House Wife	Koko	6602382	
30	Karen Harris		House Wife	Kumaka	6874489	
31	Wanita Phillips		House Wife	Koko	6700258	
32	Ivor Waldis		Security Guard	Kumaka	6920786	
33	Stacy Abrahams		House Wife	Kumaka	6930353	
34	Merlyn James		Farmer	Huridiah	6624596	
35	Bernard Lewis	Male	Toshao	Waramori	6797310	
36	Festus Duncan	Male	Councillor	Waramori	6811793	
37	Claudius Alexander		Self Employed	Waramori	6743093	
38	David Peters	Male	Self Employed	Waramori	6697362	
39	Veronica Hosey		House Wife	Huridiah	6753077	
40	Kim Ashley		School Student	Huridiah	6043266	
41	Imeze Henry		House Wife	Rincon	6788211	
42	Saeed Baskh	Male	Regional Development Officer	Rincon	6887294	<a href="mailto:Saeedbaskh@yahoo.com">Saeedbaskh@yahoo.com</a>
43	Monique Phillips	Female	Teacher	Santa Rosa	6634966	
44	Amanda Atkinson	Female		Karaburi	6018914	
45	Angus L Savory	Male	Farmer	Santa Rosa	6879704	
46	Wandell Rodrigues	Female	Teacher	Santa Rosa	6049689	
47	Dennis Hories	Male		Karaburi	6801245	
48	Linus Henry	Male		Mora Village	6894311	
49	Errol Hernandez	Male		Panakese	6782263	
50	Arnold Danniels	Male		Panakese	6847753	