

LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



Transforming Guyana's Economy While Combating Climate Change

SUB NATIONAL OUTREACH – PORT KAITUMA, REGION 1

July 27th, 2013
Mabaruma Primary 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 third outreach session was held in the Port Kaituma Sub-district. It brought together stakeholders from a number of communities, inclusive of Toshaos, Councillors, members of the police force and residents and included representatives from communities such as Four Miles, Matakai, Tissiwaru, Canal Bank, Oronoque, Citrus Grove, Turn Basin, Sebai Village and Heaven Hill.

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

GUYANA LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



Transforming Guyana's Economy While Combating Climate Change

National Stakeholder Outreach and Awareness 2013 – Region 1

Port Kaituma

July 27, 2013

PROGRAMME

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| 08:30 | Registration |
| 09:45 | Call to Order by Chairperson (Regional Chairman) |
| 09:47 | National Pledge & Prayer |
| 09:50 | Welcome by Regional Chairman |
| 09:55 | Introductions (Outreach Team and Representatives of Villages) |
| 10: 10 | Brief Remarks: Ashton Simon, NADF & MSSC Member David James, Lawyer & MSSC Member Peter Persaud, TAAMOG & MSSC Member |
| 10:35 | Presentation: Andrew Bishop, Lead Negotiator to the UNFCCC, OCC |
| 11:00 | Presentation: Minister Pauline Sukhai, Minister of Amerindian Affairs |
| 11:20 | Open Discussion |
| 01:00 | Closing Remarks: Chairperson |

LUNCH

Outreach Session

Outreach Team

The members of the Outreach Team were:

- Honourable Minister Pauline Sukhai Minister, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
- Mr. Andrew Bishop Lead Negotiator to the UNFCCC, OCC
- Mr. Paul Pierre Regional Chairman, Region 1
- Mr. Ashton Simon Representative NADF & MSSC Member
- Mr. Peter Persaud Representative TAAMOG & MSSC Member
- Mr. David James Lawyer & MSSC Member

Summary of Presentations

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

Participants were welcomed to the third outreach session and Mr. Paul Pierre, the Regional Chairman of Region 1 and the Chairperson, called the session to order at 09:45 hrs. The Outreach Team and representatives of villages introduced themselves and members of the Head table provided brief remarks. They noted that there is growing awareness on climate change and the importance of addressing the issues of climate change was emphasized. The work done under the LCDS to address climate change were noted.

Mr. Andrew Bishop indicated that globally and locally, countries are experiencing extreme weather events which are linked to climate change. He reflected on the recent flooding of a number of countries in the European Union and noted that in one day across the world events such as forest fires, heat waves, flooding were all occurring simultaneously. In addition, Guyana has experienced severe overtopping of the sea walls in the recent months and is now experimenting to raise the height of the sea wall by two (2) feet. He further noted that the LCDS is in the implementation phase and significant progress has been made thus far but this has not been without challenges. In addition, the Hinterland communities have played an important role in making the LCDS work. In particular, the LCDS is about transforming our societies and improving lives while helping the country to deal with climate change. Challenges in implementing the LCDS include financial issues. While there are a number of options before us, such as multilaterals or bilateral engagements, for example, our agreement with the Government of Norway; we have also been financing the LCDS with our local funds. As a result issues such as the budget cuts can severely impact the implementation of the LCDS. It is also important to note that the bilateral arrangement with the Government of Norway is a payment for service which is performance based arrangement and not a hand out. He indicated that the Amerindian Development Fund (ADF) has been signed off already and the Amaila Falls Project is the biggest project under LCDS that should translate into benefits for all Guyanese.

Mr. Bishop emphasised that the LCDS will not shut down mining and forestry, and will not stop agriculture and traditional lifestyles.

Minister Sukhai thanked participants and organisers for their efforts. She alluded that the LCDS is a work in progress that is now in the implementation phase. Guyanese including Amerindians have been involved in the development of the LCDS. She noted that issues have arisen where there is a misconception that Amerindians would not get to use the forest in the traditional means any more. This is not the case and the forestry sector will not be shut down. Minister Sukhai noted that the Norway partnership has led to many things. The LCDS will help the country to develop and all have a role to play in the development of the LCDS road map.

She emphasised that climate change is the world's biggest challenge and that Guyana is flood prone. She indicated that efforts should be made to adapt to climate change and noted that some projects are underway under the LCDS. Actions should be taken to reduce harmful emissions and to reduce the country's carbon footprint. She noted that funds have been placed to develop the Amaila Falls project which is one of the key strategies to address climate change.

She stated that the Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE) Development and Building Alternative Livelihoods for Vulnerable Groups Project will support all Guyanese, inclusive of young entrepreneurs and Indigenous groups. In addition, communities have to ensure that the Community Development Projects (CDP) are agreed upon by communities. She indicated that approximately 78 villages were now demarcated and that at the meeting of the National Toshias Council (NTC) last year, the Opt-in Mechanism was reviewed by Toshias and persons were urged to review the Opt-in paper. She further indicated that all are not required to Opt-into the LCDS - it is a choice.

Table 1: Comments by Participants and Responses

| Name | Village | Comments/ Questions | Response (Minister Pauline Sukhai and Mr. Andrew Bishop) |
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| Mr. Philbert Henry, CDC Chairman | Canal Bank | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports the LCDS 100%. 2. Canal Bank has a population that is over 900. It is not a titled community. They live on State land and have not applied for title due to issues with Barama. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participant was thanked for his comment 2. Canal Bank is a mixed settlement with approximately 900 people and a sizeable Amerindian grouping. Across Guyana there are Amerindian Communities/Villages and mixed settlements. As a result of having a sizable Amerindian population, there is a special approach to developing and providing support to Amerindians. The Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MOAA) continues to follow the policy of the Government in addressing indigenous rights, making representation for them and facilitating developmental support. However, Canal Bank is not an Amerindian Community as it is not populated 100% with Amerindians. There are other communities referred to as Amerindian communities that are mostly populated with Amerindians with a few persons that are of mixed descent, but they remain as Amerindian communities. An Amerindian community is referred to a community that is eligible for title under certain conditions. They have met the condition of having 150 members of their village 5 years prior to their application. Also they should have been in existence for 25 years. Canal Bank does not have these characteristics as yet and should not move towards asking for titling. Some |

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| | | <p>3. As they are not a titled community, how will they benefit from the LCDS?</p> <p>4. What are the first steps that they will have to take to gain benefits under the LCDS?</p> <p>5. Recommends more training and workshops to improve understanding of the LCDS in Amerindian Communities. Many persons don't fully understand the LCDS and many words/concepts are too technical.</p> <p>6. The LCDS should focus more on the provision of solar energy. More panels could be set-up in the community to provide more energy for appliances.</p> | <p>communities have applied for titling over the period and since then there have been minor changes in communities that do not hamper the original status of the Amerindian Community. Canal Bank can remain as it and the Government will continue to develop all communities including Hinterland communities.</p> <p>3. The LCDS is quite clear. Government's policy is to address development issues and to prioritise how these will be addressed. While specific communities are not earmarked to receive benefits -- all communities will benefit from LCDS developmental projects under the LCDS.</p> <p>4. The Amerindian villages with forests that opt-in will receive funds that equate to their forests and conditions for performance based payments may be applied. The opt-in document is still being refined.</p> <p>5. Participant's comments were noted and recommendation taken on-board</p> <p>6. In terms of the solar units, there was a project that was supporting the distribution of solar energy systems. Available funding, at the time of project conceptualisation, is one of the factors to determine the kilowatt hour distributed. However, the recommendation is noted for future reference to be able</p> |
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| | | | to provide a higher kilowatt voltage per unit. |
| Mr. Neville La Rose | Citrus Grove | <p>1. Please clarify the point made that farming takes place in the Savannahs, - that is where the land is available. But here are forest lands and this would require land clearing and is done through Slash and Burn which is the traditional way of farming.</p> <p>1. In applying for farm lands the GLSC has indicated we need to apply at the Georgetown Office. The Guyana Lands and Survey Commission (GLSC) in this region indicated that we have to make our application for farm lands in Georgetown. There is an office in Mabaruma and we do not understand why we have to apply in Georgetown. A lot of people are interested in farming but can't travel all the way to Georgetown to apply. After obtaining the land, we are required to clear the forest in order to prepare it for farming. Before we remove the forest, permission is required from the Forestry Commission. An application was tabled to the relevant authorities over two years ago.</p> <p>In addition, farmers in the area need technical advice and faster actions from officials. Would like some recommendations and technical guidance from the MoA on farming and the use of fertilizer.</p> | <p>1. Mr. Bishop explained that the LCDS would not affect traditional Amerindian activities. Villages will be able to continue to farm the way they are used.</p> <p>2. Applications are processed at the regional offices for state lands and in the case mentioned it relates to Mabaruma. Applications should be submitted at the Mabaruma Office and on a periodic basis the applications are sent to the GLSC Office in Georgetown for processing.</p> <p>For settlements like Canal Bank and Citrus Grove which are not Amerindian Communities but have a sizeable Amerindian population, efforts have to be made to move towards regularising the way the lands are traditionally occupied. Many Homesteads don't have formal ownership and there are no formal ownership documents for those lands.</p> <p>Government is moving to a more structured and stabilized land use arrangement for informal settlements. The MOAA has been looking into the matter.</p> <p>The request for speeding up the process related to the agriculture extension officer has been noted.</p> <p>A Youth Entrepreneurial Apprenticeship Project executed by the MOAA was held but it is not clear</p> |

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| | | | <p>whether Citrus Grove participated. Some communities were absent when it was launched.</p> <p>A liaison of the MOAA has been appointed to work with Amerindian villages and settlements. About 800 young people are being targeted under the project. Some persons who are part of the project will have an opportunity to be trained in some fields like agriculture.</p> <p>There is a procedure to be followed with respect to the use of the forest products from areas that are being farmed.</p> |
| <p>Mr. Mendonca CDC Chairman</p> | <p>Oronoque</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He applied for a portion of land for agriculture and the GLSC took their applications and fees. The matter is still unresolved. 2. There is an Agriculture officer in Port Kaituma and he asked farmers what their issues were. 3. Would like to support the LCDS because they are embarking on a low cost housing scheme in their | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approximately 100 acres of land has been approved for the settlers of Oronoque. The Ministry of Housing is carrying out a number of surveys and supporting the core homes initiatives and are well advanced in that field. They have made recommendations to increase the acreage and these have been considered by Cabinet. More plots may become available. The surge in the population at Port Kaituma needs to be regularised. Oronoque is not an Amerindian community, it is an Amerindian settlement and that is why 100 acres were approved for the area. Efforts are being made to address the issues that are being raised 2. There is an agriculture officer in the region. 3. Participant's comments were noted and recommendation taken on-board |

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| | | community. | |
| Lloyd Sheldon McGregor, CDC Chairman | Four miles | 1. His community is willing to fully support the LCDS but they cannot give full assurance until some matters are settled. | <p>1. Four Miles is eligible for titling however; the funds to conduct the process were not available.</p> <p>MoAA is aware of all the problems encountered in the area and have received letters from different persons who have objections to the process. The former chairman of the area, Mr. Whittaker and the former Minister went through the process. Mr. Whittaker conducted investigative meetings and listed the non-Amerindians within the area. The matter is under consideration.</p> <p>The final investigation will be done in August and both Four Miles and Eclipse Falls will be visited by an investigative team consisting of representatives of the MoAA, the NTC, GGMC, GLSC and GFC. The Ministers responsible for other Commissions are informed of the dates of visitation.</p> <p>Efforts will be made to follow up on the letters of notification of the investigation and community leaders and Toshias will be informed. Teams will be visiting the areas soon. Money has been made available by the Government to address titling of Amerindian lands to ensure closure if brought to pending cases. Some areas already have been completed.</p> <p>Three areas will be visited in the Region: Eclipse Falls, Four Miles and Caribou as these are currently eligible for titling.</p> |

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| | | <p>2. An officer from a Government agency should be sent to the community to educate persons on the LCDS and to address other Issues.</p> <p>3. There are issues related to the selling of land that should be examined. Would like more support from the police to address the matter. Would like a meeting to be held at Four Miles to address the problem.</p> | <p>2. Training on the LCDS is an on-going process. The NTC is planning scheduled visits that will target leaders and representatives of villages. The OCC has Public, Education and Outreach sessions which will be continuous. However, outreach sessions to each village can be expensive and this needs to be taken into account.</p> <p>Leaders have a role to play in making requests for training. Efforts will be made to liaise with the NTC to follow up on the matter.</p> <p>There are some community development support officers who have been recruited and are apprised of the issues. They may be able to support efforts to increase awareness on the LCDS and to discuss issues.</p> <p>3. The Lands and Surveys Commission is aware of the matter through the MoAA, as well as from letters and complaints. These will be dealt with but would not be in a position to elaborate at this time. With regards to Four Miles and Eclipse Falls, the solution will lie in their titles.</p> |
| <p>Toshao Emmanuel</p> | <p>Sebai</p> | <p>1. The LCDS is being reviewed in the community and noted the need for enhanced public awareness programme on many of the areas. As an Executive Member of the NTC, he participated in many workshops and outreach programmes. Next month the NTC is planning to have outreach programmes in the Matakai sub-region and the communities will be further informed.</p> <p>In addition, he just learnt that there an agriculture officer who will be stationed in the sub region and is happy with this news. This particular matter was raised with the NTC but still</p> | <p>1. This is a good observation. The GGMC can examine methods to adapt to heavy rainfall in places where mining is taking place and technical guidance can be provided. The LCDS requires all sectors such as mining and forestry to improve on their monitoring and enforcement capabilities. The GGMC and GFC are engaged in more awareness and training and have been employing more Officers. Through this process waste management could also be targeted.</p> <p>In addition, under the LCDS funds are earned based on performance. If the country lags in the performance at the various levels, it can hamper the disbursement of funds that are expected under the LCDS. Efforts should</p> |

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| | | <p>need to call on the relevant authorities to provide more information.</p> <p>Based on the executive summary of the LCDS, reference is made to low carbon electricity and clean water , but canal in Port Kaituma is heavily polluted.</p> | <p>be made to respect regulations and make adjustments. Key agencies, groups and individuals could help to increase awareness on the importance of the LCDS</p> |
| A Barnes, GGMC | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A senior mines engineer and senior mines officer of GGMC conducted water analysis in the Port Kaituma canal. The results show that the major discoloration of the water ways were caused by the over flowing of old mined out pits and was not as a result of tailings flowing directly into the water. A report was sent to Georgetown. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GGMC was thanked for this update. |
| Wilson Daniels | Sebai | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solar energy systems are important for the villages and he is grateful for efforts so far. Would like to request more solar energy systems for the community and replacements. About 30 families don't have systems. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Prime Minister's Office in collaboration with the MOAA have recommended that more solar units be procured but last year's budget was thrown out. The PM's Office is working to have the full register of communities that have grown. A register was created 2 years ago but within this period new households were established and would require updating. Some communities did not receive any and as such support will be given first to Riverain communities that cannot access electricity from national and regional grids as there are gaps to be met. Government will focus on ensuring equity. |

Appendix A: Participants at the Session in Port Kaituma

| No | Name | Organisation / Representing Agency | Contact No | Email |
|----|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|-------|
| 1 | Lyndon Hall | | | |
| 2 | Kenrick Oberllun | | | |
| 3 | Emanuel Henry | | | |
| 4 | Maria Henry | | | |
| 5 | Ellis James | | | |
| 6 | Henry Robinson | Four Miles CDC | 6624046 | |
| 7 | Lloyd Sheldon McGregor | Four Miles - CDC Chairman | 6758478 | |
| 8 | Patrick Barclay | GGMC | 6012552 | |
| 9 | Bradley Thomas | Toshao | 6737662 | |
| 10 | Johnny Simon | Deputy Toshao | 6044472 | |
| 11 | Yardly Jacobs | Councillor | | |
| 12 | Shondel H Ellen | Matthews Ridge | 6015913 | |
| 13 | Johnny Smith | Tissiwaru | | |
| 14 | Joel Abrahams | Tissiwaru | 6758599 | |
| 15 | Shianwalle St Auste | | | |
| 16 | Colestine Joseph | Police | 6879259 | |
| 17 | DoodnauthChaitram | Police | 6627072 | |
| 18 | Sobers | Police | | |
| 19 | Philbert Henry | Canal Bank -CDC Chairman | 6766235 | |
| 20 | LoviaMendoncia | Oronoque | 6713040 | |
| 21 | Lisa Thomas | Canal Bank | 6833582 | |
| 22 | Angela Poliah | Canal Bank | 6868820 | |
| 23 | Gerald Rodrigues | Port Kaituma | 6771456 | |
| 24 | Christopher James | Port Kaituma GFC | 6920664 | |

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| 25 | David James | MSSC | 6847031 | |
| 26 | Andrew Bishop | Office of the President | | |
| 27 | A Barnes | GGMC | 6707610 | |
| 28 | Ashton Simon | MSSC | 6541068 | |
| Figure 1 29 | Peter Persaud | TAAMOG | 2238422 | taamog@yahoo.com |
| 30 | Mary Roberts | Citrus Grove | 688 9243 | |
| 31 | Nalini Rodrigues | Turn Basin | 6787664 | |
| 32 | Shoma Singh | MOAA | 2275067 | |
| 33 | Ann Marie Robinson | Four Miles | 6048785 | |
| 34 | RohildaMendoncia | Oronoque | 6634668 | |
| 35 | Maureen Hutson | Oronoque | 6796509 | |
| 36 | John Mendonca | Oronoque | 6608975 | |
| 37 | Vibert La Rose | Oronoque | 6608494 | |
| 38 | Manila Perez | Citrus Grove | 6045025 | |
| 39 | Nevelle La Rose | Citrus Grove | 6692243 | |
| 40 | Vincent Emmanuel | Sebai Village | 6664074 | |
| 41 | Winston Daniels | Sebai-Village Councillor | 6882887 | |
| 42 | Allen La Rose | Sebai -Village Councillor | | |
| 43 | Claudia Benjamin | Sebai Village | 6670275 | |
| 44 | Stephanie Robinson | Four Miles | 6621322 | |
| 45 | Tishon Rodrigues | Port Kaituma Police Station | 7774007 | |
| 46 | Eldon Sobers | Port Kaituma Police Station | 7774007 | |
| 47 | Mark Campbell | Port Kaituma Police Station | 7774007 | |
| 48 | Stephan Miguel | Canal Bank GWMO | 6820522 | |
| 49 | Rita Tories | Four Miles | 6731708 | |
| 50 | Anthony Dalgetty | Heaven Hill Matthews Ridge | 6864682 | |