

Meeting 21

Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)

Meeting 21

Date: Wednesday, 9 December 2009

Venue: Office of the President

Time: 14:00 hrs

Attendance:

Name	Institution
His Excellency President Jagdeo	Office of the President
Minister Robert Persaud	Ministry of Agriculture
Minister Pauline Sukhai	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
Shyam Nokta	Office of the President
Michael Brotherson	Office of the President
Edward Dreyfus	Office of the President
Shereeda Yusuf	Office of the President
Alfred King	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
Dr. Dindyal Permaul	Ministry of Agriculture
James Singh	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
Hilbertus Cort	Forest Producers Association (FPA)
Edward Shields	Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA)
William Woolford	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)
Indarjit Ramdass	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Jocelyn Dow	International Institute for Environmental and Development (IIED)
Vanda Radzik	International Institute for Environmental and Development (IIED)
Carvil Duncan	Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG)
Hymawattie Lagan	Women's Affairs Bureau
Yvonne Pearson	National Toshias Council (NTC)
Ashton Simon	The National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
Peter Persaud	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana
Pamela Mendonca	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana
Mimi Fernandes	Guyana Organisation of Indigenous People (GOIP)
Joe Singh	Individual Capacity

Absent/Excused

Dr. Roger Luncheon	Office of the President	Excused
Andrew Bishop	Office of the President	Excused
Patrick Williams	World Wildlife Fund	Excused
David Singh	Conservation International	Excused
David James	Individual Capacity	Excused
Romel Simon	The National Amerindian Development Foundation	Excused
Gillian Burton	Guyana Trades Union Congress	Excused
Gerry Gouveia	Private Sector Commission	Absent
Lester Fleming	National Toshias Council	Absent
Sydney Allicock	North Rupununi District Development Board	Absent
Jean La Rose	Amerindian People's Association	Absent by Choice

1. Call to Order

His Excellency President Jagdeo opened the meeting.

2. Announcements and Correspondence

There was no announcement or correspondence.

3. Minutes of Meeting 20

The following corrections were identified in the Minutes of Meeting 20:

- i. In Point 4.1, the word “be” should be inserted in the fourth line after the word “should”
- i. In Point 5.3, the words “for deforestation” should be added at the end of the sentence.
- ii. In Point 5.7, in the penultimate sentence, it should be specified that Mr. Duncan McQueen represents IIED.
- iii. The names of Meetings attended and referenced at the MSSC meetings should be stated in the Minutes
- iv. Point 5.17 should be renumbered as 5.16 and in the last line from “in the document... issues” should be deleted.
- v. Point 6.1 should be edited.
- vi. Point 6.4 should be edited.
- vii. Point 6.5 should be edited.
- viii. Point 6.6, first line should be reworded to “His Excellency stated that there is a shift in financing from NGOs in the North to South”.
- ix. In Point 6.9, it should read “plantation forests” and not “plantation.
- x. In Point 6.22, in the second sentence there is a double negative. This should be corrected.

The Minutes were verified as true and correct by Mr. Joe Singh and seconded by Mr. Peter Persaud.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

Relating to Points 6.23, 6.24 and 6.25 of Minutes of Meeting 20

- 4.1 Mr. Edward Dreyfus enquired if the Amerindian communities were to be given monies directly from the LCDS in 2010.
- 4.2 Minister Sukhai stated that the contributions to the Amerindian communities will be from Government’s ongoing programme in Amerindian communities.
- 4.3 Mr. Edward Dreyfus stated that this distinction should be specified in the Minutes.

Other

- 4.4 Mr. Joe Singh said that headings and sub-headings should be used in the Minutes to group matters together so that they are easy to follow.
- 4.5 Ms. Vanda Radzik stated that the minutes should be free flowing. Some matters raised in the meeting do not really relate to specific matters of the MSSC and should be edited.
- 4.6 Mr. Shyam Nokta, while recognising Ms. Radzik’s point, informed that the minutes need to be a true and accurate reflection of the deliberations of the meeting.

5. Updates and Reports

Manaus Summit and CHOGM

- 5.1 Mr. Shyam Nokta updated the MSSC, informing that there were over nine Amazonian countries present at the Manaus Summit. There were three Presidents there: His Excellencies President Sarkozy, President Lula and President Jagdeo. The Manaus Summit was organised to build momentum for Copenhagen and to bring support for REDD+. Mr. Nokta indicated that President Sarkozy emphasised the needs for support for addressing deforestation, pointing out that deforestation contributes to 20% of greenhouse Gases and should therefore receive 20% of the financial resources. He also called for a new institution to be established to monitor compliance with GHG emission targets and to administer financing.
Mr. Nokta said that President Lula emphasised the importance of the Amazon Region and he emphasised that adequate financing is required since many people rely on the forests for their livelihoods.
Mr. Nokta stated that overall it was a good Summit. The Manaus Declaration was made public one day before the CHOGM Meeting and the outcomes of the Manaus Summit were fed into CHOGM.
- 5.2 Ms. Jocelyn Dow enquired about President Sarkozy's purpose at the Manaus Summit.
- 5.3 His Excellency said that President Sarkozy represented French Guiana. He also indicated the Manaus Summit was good for Guyana.

LCDS

- 5.4 His Excellency said that tomorrow he will be making a short statement and that the 2nd draft LCDS will be made public and posted on the website. His Excellency said that the LCDS will be finalised after it has been reviewed by the MSSC and after the Copenhagen Meeting. He noted that Members of Parliament (MPs) will have a chance to read the revised document.
- 5.5 Ms. Jocelyn Dow asked if it will be better to wait until after Copenhagen when there is an outcome to have the Strategy discussed.
- 5.6 His Excellency said it is not a good idea to wait after Copenhagen. He noted that the MPs had the first draft of the LCDS for a long time before the debate and the debate was still postponed.
- 5.7 Minister Persaud stated that it should be noted the MPs was given an extension for reviewing the first Draft of the LCDS.
- 5.8 His Excellency said that this is the first time a rule of Parliament is bent to allow the same issue to be debated twice.

COP 15 - Copenhagen

- 5.9 His Excellency stated that the delegation going to Copenhagen should already have their briefing document. He pointed out that they have had several briefing meetings because every member of the delegation should be familiar with the agreement with Norway and Guyana and the LCDS since members of the team may be required to speak.
- 5.10 Ms. Jocelyn Dow said that at the briefing meeting she raised the point that on the official Guyana list for the UN the NGO and IIED members are listed as Alternative delegates and are not on the UN register at Copenhagen. Ms. Dow said that Mr. David Singh, who is in Copenhagen, sent an email that no one was on the official list.
- 5.11 His Excellency stated that the document for the delegation's accreditation was signed.

- 5.12 Ms. Jocelyn Dow said that she saw the document but she wanted to check on the status because it will “be a zoo” in Copenhagen.
- 5.13 His Excellency said that the list should be checked to ensure the each member of the delegation is registered as a full delegate.
- 5.14 Ms. Jocelyn Dow asked His Excellency what his schedule will be like in Copenhagen.
- 5.15 His Excellency said that there are a lot of request for him to speak.
- 5.16 Ms. Jocelyn Dow asked if the delegation can return to Guyana earlier on His Excellency’s flight from Suriname.
- 5.17 His Excellency said yes but it will not be confirmed since he usually changes his plans depending on the situation. If the Meetings in Copenhagen are not favourable, His Excellency said he will leave earlier on the 18th.
- 5.18 Ms. Vanda Radzik enquired what the prospects of the meeting in Copenhagen are.
- 5.19 His Excellency stated that he hoped the paper that was issued last night does not spoil everything. His Excellency said that there are 3-4 areas to be dealt with in detail and if there is a single document to replace the Kyoto Protocol, it will “break everything up”.
- 5.20 His Excellency said if there is a break then the interim financing will not be available.
- 5.21 Ms. Jocelyn Dow stated that a similar situation has occurred before where an agreement was “pulled together”.
- 5.22 His Excellency said that that was a different situation. This is a critical issue. His Excellency said that it is hard to get a position. Everyone knows what will make a good deal: there are 5-6 items. It comes down to detailed interpretation. There are 5 elements in the new agreement with varying opinions known to the developing and developed world. His Excellency said that reports from Andrew Bishop, from Copenhagen, state that there is progress in some areas. However, there is a challenge with AOSIS group to fight for market mechanism where Tuvalu objected again.

Marrakesh Accord

- 5.23 Mr. James Singh updated the MSSC on the definition for forests under the Marrakesh Accord. He stated that the definition for forest is any area 0.5 hectares and greater; has 10-30% forest cover; 6-15m high is considered forest. Mr. Singh said that this definition is not good for Guyana because many areas can be considered as forests.

MRVS

- 5.24 Mr. James Singh said that GFC was tasked with advertising in newspapers for tenders and invitations to bids for the MRVS. Mr. Singh said that there were two quotes from the Economists for the different types of advertising: online it costs US\$750 per week and for the magazine advertising in black and white was US\$38,850 per week.
- 5.25 His Excellency told Mr. Singh to advertise online.
- 5.26 Mr. Singh said the GFC is waiting on the Ministry of Finance to do the text for the advertisements.
- 5.27 His Excellency said that Minister Ashni Singh should be contacted to speed up the process.

6 Any Other Business

The 2nd Regional Steering Committee Meeting of WWF-Guiana in Suriname

- 6.1 Ms. Vanda Radzik asked if the MSSC can be updated on the Second Regional Steering Committee Meeting hosted by WWF in Suriname.
- 6.2 Minister Robert Persaud said that there were some articles that were against Guyana. But, the Surinamese understood the arrangements made and had conceded. Minister Persaud said that the Minister of Suriname called him and apologised that his comments were taken out of context, the Minister said he meant no insult. Minister Persaud stated that the Minister said he will make a public statement at a later date with regard to the issue.
- 6.3 Mr. Ashton Simon stated that on two occasions, a map was used by Suriname with the wrong border lines.
- 6.4 Minister Persaud said that every time a Suriname team visits Guyana and makes a presentation with the map, they are stopped and informed that they will not be allowed to participate if they use the map. Mr. Persaud said that the team usually respond by saying the map represents Suriname's position. Minister Persaud said that the World Bank should be written and asked to take up a position about the incorrect map. Minister Persaud said that Janette Bulkan, as a member of the FCPF Committee had allowed the usage of the map in a previous presentation which should not have been done.
- 6.5 His Excellency said that whilst Guyana lodges a protest about the map, we have to be realistic as Suriname may not change its map.
- 6.6 Mr. James Singh asked what will happen to future meetings when the map is presented.
- 6.7 Minister Persaud said that Guyana will need to continue to object to the map's use.
- 6.8 Ms. Vanda Radzik asked if there is any CARICOM position on the disputed territory.
- 6.9 His Excellency stated that there is no dispute. It is Guyana's territory. CARICOM recognised Guyana's map long before Suriname joined CARICOM. His Excellency stated that there was friction with Suriname because Suriname asked if the area was demilitarised. His Excellency said he told them the area was not demilitarised. His Excellency stated that Suriname asked if Guyana is going back on the agreement made between President Burnham and Suriname. His Excellency said no sovereign land should be demilitarised.
- 6.10 Ms. Vanda Radzik said that she is not convinced that Janette Bulkan read the Suriname map. Ms. Radzik said that Ms. Bulkan did not deliberately see the territory and allow the map's usage. It might be remiss to not to say this.
- 6.11 His Excellency told Ms. Radzik that she cannot re-word the minutes as she sees fit.
- 6.12 Ms. Vanda Radzik said that she does not believe that what was expressed was factual.
- 6.13 His Excellency asked if everything in the Minutes need to be check to see if it is factual. His Excellency said that the Minutes have to be an accurate reflection of the discussions of all sides. It is several people's opinion of the event and that needs to be recorded.

Meeting with the Miners

- 6.14 His Excellency stated that he had a meeting with the miners but apologised to Mr. Woolford and Mr. Shield for their not being invited. His Excellency said that Minister Singh and Minister Benn were asked to brief Mr. Woolford and Mr. Shield of the meeting. His Excellency said that he explained that mining will not be stopped. But there are some bad cases where people cut down trees when it was not necessary. His Excellency said that the matter was discussed with GFC,

EPA, Lands and Survey, PM Sam Hinds and Minister Persaud. It was emphasised that miners can lose their certificate if they cut down trees unnecessarily. His Excellency said there should be some arrangement in place to prevent this matter and both the GFC and GGMC should hire more people for monitoring.

- 6.15 Mr. William Woolford stated that a committee is being set up which will be headed by Minister Benn.
- 6.16 His Excellency said that everyone needs to work together to ensure things are in place. His Excellency said that rehabilitation was a topic for discussions at the Meeting. His Excellency stated that he urged strong enforcement actions on part of GGMC against people cutting down trees when it is not necessary and that he plans to have a series of discussions next year with miners.
- 6.17 Mr. Edward Shields stated that the GGMC has two environmental officers that are working with the miners in Northwest who are working without the use of mercury.
- 6.18 His Excellency stated that small-scaled miners need greater monitoring than the medium-sized or large scaled miners.
- 6.19 His Excellency enquired what the environment management agreement is with miners.
- 6.20 Mr. William Woolford stated that environment management is a Memorandum of Understanding with the EPA and the GGMC.
- 6.21 His Excellency enquired who checks for compliance in the mining sector.
- 6.22 Mr. Woolford stated that the GGMC checks on compliance. He stated that training sessions are set up for miners who need information and that the GGMC has set up nurseries for seedlings.
- 6.23 His Excellency asked how many acres were planted from the seedlings.
- 6.24 Mr. Woolford said that four acres were planted.
- 6.25 Ms. Vanda Radzik stated that landscape restoration is a “wonder model” and should be explored.
- 6.26 Mr. James Singh said that the efforts of the GGMC and GGDMA should be done with greater collaboration with the GFC. Mr. Singh stated that this will prevent species to be introduced in the environment that will compete with the natural forest.
- 6.27 Mr. Hilbertus Cort stated that the FPA was not consulted in the large concessions.
- 6.28 Minister Robert Persaud said that the focus of the working group is to fix problem with the mining sector that is why there was no forestry representative involved but the regulator [GFC]. Minister Persaud said that the FPA will be informed when necessary.

There being no other business, the meeting closed.

End of Minutes

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

Key Points	Follow Up
The UN list should be checked to ensure the each member of the delegation going to Copenhagen is listed	OCC to follow up