

Meeting 11 Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)

Meeting 11

Date: Tuesday, 18th August 2009

Venue: Office of the President

Time: 14:00 hrs

Attendance:

Name	Institution
His Excellency President Jagdeo	Office of the President
Minister Pauline Sukhai	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
Andrew Bishop	Office of the President
Michael Brotherson	Office of the President
Shyam Nokta	Office of the President
Shereeda Yusuf	Office of the President
Dr. Dindyal Permaul	Ministry of Agriculture
Pradeepa Bholanath	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
Hilbertus Cort	Forest Producers Association (FPA)
William Woolford	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)
Indarjit Ramdass	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Ashton Simon	The National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
Pamela Mendonca	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG)
Mimi Fernandes	Guyana Organisation of Indigenous People (GOIP)
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)
Edward Shields	Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA)
Gerry Gouveia	Private Sector Commission (PSC)
Hymawattie Lagan	Women's Affairs Bureau
Alfred King	Youth Representative

Absent/Excused

Dr. Roger Luncheon	Office of the President	Excused
Minister Robert Persaud	Ministry of Agriculture	Excused
James Singh	Guyana Forestry Commission	Excused
Patrick Williams	World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	Excused
David James	Individual Capacity	Excused
Joe Singh	Individual Capacity	Excused
David Singh	Conservation International (CI)	Absent
Peter Persaud	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana	Absent
Sydney Allicock	North Rupununi District Development Board	Absent
Gillian Burton	Guyana Trade Unions Congress	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

- 2.1. His Excellency introduced to the Committee Mr. Edward M. Dreyfus, who will be heading the Project Management Office (PMO). He explained that the PMO is an integral part of the Strategy. Its primary focus is to seek out investment opportunities. Mr. Dreyfus will focus on getting investments in areas such as hydropower, telecommunications, aquaculture, fruits and vegetables and other priority areas identified within the LCDS.
- 2.2. Mr. Nokta informed that Dr. Patrick Williams, David James and Mr. Joe Singh have been excused from the Meeting.
- 2.3. Mr. Nokta informed the gathering that there was no correspondence

3. Minutes of Meeting 10

His Excellency invited the MSSC members to go through the Minutes of Meeting 10. There were corrections identified:

- i. David Singh's name was not included in list of attendees.
- ii. Vanda Radzik's name was not included in list of attendees.

The minutes were verified as true and correct by Mr. Carvil Duncan and seconded by Mr. Hilbertus Cort.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

- 4.1 There is no Chairman of UNDP that will be coming to Guyana as stated in the last Key Point. This sentence should be deleted.
- 4.2 The Section 5.4 mentioned in 6th Key Point is not from the Forestry Bill but rather from the Amerindian Act.
- 4.3 Enquiry was made as to whether the inaccuracies in the IIED publications were corrected by Mr. Duncan McQueen.

5. Updates and Reports

Awareness Sessions

- 5.1 Mr. Shyam Nokta informed the Committee that CI & Iwokrama have organised a three part dialogue series on the LCDS, commencing 20 August 2009, with the other two scheduled for August 24 and 26, respectively. The two bodies have issued a press release to this effect. The OCC will provide support and Mr Andrew Bishop will be making a presentation regarding the MEAs.
- 5.2 Mr. Shyam Nokta stated that the I-NGOs and Mr. David James proposal for awareness outreach activity in Regions 7 & 8 has been approved and the OCC will be working with the team on logistics and other details.
- 5.3 Mr. Nokta updated the MSSC on the awareness session with Caribbean youths at the Scouts Jamboree held at the Sophia Exhibition Centre and the National Youth Forum held at the Guyana International Conference Centre. At both events President Jagdeo was present.
- 5.4 The point was made that when presentations are done to young people it should be done more interactively rather than focus on main presentation.
- 5.5 Mr. Woolford indicated that there will be another mining conference during the next week that will have a session particularly relating to the LCDS.
- 5.6 Ms. Pradeepa Bholanath informed the MSSC that in collaboration with the FPA there will be another awareness session with the forestry sector sometime between the 20th -24th August.
- 5.7 Ms. Hymawattie Lagan informed that she spoke with her Minister on finalising a date for the Women's Trade Fair. The tentative date is 25th August.

- 5.8 Mr. Gerry Gouveia indicated that he needs to speak to Mr. Shyam Nokta about setting a date for the awareness session with the Private Sector and that should be held within a week or two.
- 5.9 Dr. Indarjit Ramdass stated that the EPA has an internal committee examining the LCDS. They are looking at the Strategy in terms of how it impacts the EPA's objectives.
- 5.10 Mr. Andrew Bishop updated the MSSC on the UNFCCC Meeting he attended in Germany. He explained that Guyana made interventions in relevant areas such as REDD, Finance, Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry. He stated that there is a call for new architecture in coordinating multiple fund sources. On the issue of avoided deforestation and market-based mechanisms he stated that Brazil may come on board, however similar support from China and India could very well be elusive. He explained that Australia and New Zealand along with AOSIS will support REDD but not REDD+.

Press Release

- 5.3 An article on Guyana and climate change has since been prepared and despatched to the Dutch magazine for publication.

Jingle

- 5.4 The jingle prepared by Dave Martins was played for review of the MSSC.

Other

- 5.5. The radio/TV spots and the panel discussions are still on-going.
- 5.6. The website is continuously updated.

6 Update on International Developments – Climate Change & REDD

- 6.1 His Excellency discussed the institutional arrangements on transfer of funds that could flow from Norway agreement and noted that the design must be done carefully. His Excellency pointed out that while it may be appealing to use traditional instruments because of ease of implementation, we cannot succumb to this approach. If we do then the institutional arrangements will be only applicable to Guyana, which is not the idea. We are building a model to address not only our concerns but for other countries as well. The preferred action is to have a multi-donor trust fund. His Excellency pointed out that we need to combine two things together:

1. Accountability and transparency in the use of money and
2. Pre-agreed list of projects to benefit from the funding

His Excellency stated that this is how he envisions the discussion taking place for the designing of the institutional framework.

- 6.2 His Excellency invited comments from the MSSC on this process.
- 6.3 Ms. Vanda Radzik asked His Excellency on a scale 1-5 how he thinks the discussions is heading. His Excellency stated that Guyana is working hard to influence the ongoing negotiations and Mr. Kevin Hogan and officials from the Ministry of Finance are working with Norway in the financing arrangements, with guidance from His Excellency. His Excellency indicated that he is of the view that the negotiations must be completed by September, after which the agreement should be signed and it is likely that the Norwegian team will come to Guyana.
- 6.4 Ms. Jocelyn Dow stated that it would make more sense to sign the agreement in New York to put more pressure when the team goes to Copenhagen. His Excellency said that the agreement will be signed in September.
- 6.5 On the matter of the LCDS receiving Parliament's support, His Excellency noted that the misconception that the Opposition walk out of Parliament was related to the LCDS, which was not so. He stated that since the LCDS was not discussed at the last Parliament it will be discussed in the next sitting of the National Assembly.
- 6.5 Mr. Gerry Gouveia asked if the institutional arrangement as the Strategy unfolds includes compliance that ties to the problem we have in the country. His Excellency informed the MSSC that compliance is part of the verifying process. When there is a functioning monitoring and

verification system countries will pay more, which is why we need the MRV system. Compliance is important as identified by the sectors. Norway will give money for this activity. The World Bank will also cover some of the monitoring cost through the R-Plan.

- 6.6 His Excellency informed the Committee that a market for forest carbon will be developed before 2015. It related to the Kyoto Protocol whereby countries that have excess emissions are allowed to secure allowances to offset the increased levels of emissions. There is concern that the market base on allowances for hot air and compliance, in addition to market for forest carbons will overload the market for carbon. He stated that unless these shift before Copenhagen, it will take a longer time to develop a market for carbon. A coefficient was developed for deforestation. Compensation will be given in relation to the size of the forest adjusted by the coefficient. When calculated the money derived from this method using the coefficient will be significantly less than what we are asking for in the LCDS. This may be a more realistic scenario but we are trying to get a larger coefficient. We should be able to receive larger funds with the MRV system. The money received, though less than what we want, will help our sectors.
- 6.7 Mr. William Woolford asked if the money from the coefficient will required the same level of commitment as that from the Strategy. His Excellency indicated that the commitment will not be a rigid as discussed in the Strategy.
- 6.8 Ms. Jocelyn Dow asked if the notion that the US will compensate for deforestation is a positive or negative signal. His Excellency stated that it is positive since it sends signal that people can pay for forests.
- 6.9 Ms. Vanda Radzik asked if the MRV is optional or non-optional. His Excellency told her that the MRV is required and the R-Plan outlines this in a comprehensive way.

7 Any Other Business

- 7.1 Ms. Vanda Radzik asked if CI, in addition to national awareness, has planned anything internationally. His Excellency indicated that they are planning a meeting in September.
- 7.2 Ms. Vanda Radzik stated that there have been some comments that the website does not have a section for making comments. Mr. Shyam Nokta indicated that the website does not facilitate blogging but comments are received from the website and other sources directly to the OCC where they are documented and responded.

There being no other business, it was agreed that the next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th August 2009 at 14:00hrs at the Office of the President.

End of Minutes

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

Key Points	Follow Up
A report from the Mining Sector should be done and submitted	Edward Shields to follow up
Pradeepa Bholanath should be invited back to the MSSC Meeting to update the Committee on the R-Plan	OCC to follow up
The CV of the new Greenpeace President should be sent to His Excellency	Jocelyn Dow to follow up
Mr. Bishop's report on the UNFCCC meeting in Germany should be posted on the website in addition to the official report from the Meeting	OCC to follow up
The report by Mr. Bishop should be made public through the media	OCC to follow up
The tourism sector should submit a document on their views on the LCDS as was done by the other sectors	OCC to follow up