

Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030
Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)
Summary of Meeting held on 14th February, 2022

The first meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC) for the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 was held on 14th February, 2022 at the Office of the President.

The LCDS 2030 was launched by His Excellency, President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali in October 2021, and sets out a draft for consultation on the potential of an expanded development pathway for Guyana. Since October 2021, initial consultations have been taking place with key civil society, private sector and other organisations through 25 consultation sessions involving 80 organisations/groups/bodies. The national consultation will now move into its next phase – broader public consultations involving members of the MSSC and others.

In addition to supporting the next phase of the consultation, the main objective of the MSSC will be to advise on the implementation of the LCDS 2030, inclusive of supporting the catalysing of low carbon investments. This role is reflective of the new framework for forest carbon financing which will see greater national ownership and participation of the process of earning and managing payments. The new MSSC will support Government's work on restoring Guyana's ambition for the future on forest, climate, protection of biodiversity and sustainable development. Meetings are held monthly.

The MSSC's membership covers a wide range of issues pertinent to Government Agencies responsible for land management, as well as climate related and environmental issues; focal agencies for low carbon development; the private sector, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, the broader civil society and other stakeholder groups. Representation on the MSSC comprises the Offices of the President and the Vice President, the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Natural Resources (including Guyana Forestry Commission and Guyana Geology and Mines Commission), Ministry of Agriculture, the National Toshias' Council, Amerindian Peoples' Association, Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous Peoples, The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana, National Amerindian Development Foundation, Private Sector Commission, Indigenous Peoples Commission, Forest Products Association, Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association, in addition to representatives of Labour Unions, Women's organizations and Youth groups.

At the February meeting, the draft Terms of Reference for the MSSC was finalised and adopted with one addition to the membership, the Indigenous Peoples Commission. Two technical briefing reports were also presented on the progress of consultation activities, along with a briefing note on the steps made by the Government to advance the ART TREES (Architecture for REDD+ Transaction, The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard) process to engage in the voluntary carbon market. Discussions also focused on approaches to widen consultations into communities and all regions. A sub-committee of the MSSC was formed to support this process.

The next MSSC meeting is planned for March 2022, while in the interim, members are supporting the roll-out of regional and community level consultations.