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CHAPTER EIGHT

INVOLVING ALL GUYANESE IN THE LOW-CARBON TRANSITION

Ongoing engagement of all Guyanese is essential to successfully create a new low-carbon economy in Guyana. This is being done through (i) a national consultative process; (ii) ongoing input from the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee; (iii) the national budgeting process; (iv) ongoing communication and awareness-raising.

In line with this approach, this LCDS 2030 was produced after a seven month national consultation from October 2021 to June 2022. The National Consultation consisted of (i) national level engagements; (ii) thematic engagements; (iii) community based consultations; (iv) receipt of written feedback; (v) feedback via a website; (vi) an active public engagement programme; (vii) oversight by a Multi Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC). Each of these is summarised below.

Key themes identified throughout the LCDS, which will continue to be developed as

the LCDS moves to implementation, including consideration of a diverse range of stakeholder inputs.

Plans for continuing the broad-based consultative approach as the LCDS moves into implementation are set out in the Conclusion chapter. Gender equality will be a main implementation focus of the LCDS, emphasis on indigenous peoples and local communities is also a priority area, and highlighting the role and opportunities for youth is also another centerpoint for the involvement of all Guyanese.

National Level Sessions

Background and Structure of Engagements

LCDS 2030 was launched in October 2021. Stakeholder engagement commenced in November 2021, intended to sensitize key stakeholder groups on the content of the LCDS, seek feedback and recommendations, and clarify matters raised. The format of the presentation follows two main aspects: a presentation outlining progress made so far and the aspects of LCDS 2030 by Objectives and Programme Areas; and a discussion session. Following sessions held, requests for bilateral meetings are facilitated if requested.

The following stakeholder groups were engaged between October 2021 and 2022:

Government Ministries and Agencies

1. Office of the Prime Minister
2. Ministry of Finance
3. Ministry of Natural Resources
4. Ministry of Public Works
5. Ministry of Agriculture
6. Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
7. Ministry of Human Services and Social Security
8. Ministry of Culture Youth and Sport
9. Ministry of Health
10. Ministry of Tourism Industry and Commerce
11. Protected Areas Commission
12. National Centre for Education Resource Development
13. Hydromet Unit
14. Guyana Energy Agency
15. Environmental Protection Agency
16. Guyana Forestry Commission
17. Guyana Gold Board
18. Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission
19. Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
20. National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute

21. National Drainage and Irrigation Authority
22. Civil Defense Commission
23. Guyana Livestock Development Authority
24. Global Green Growth Institute
25. Guyana Rice Development Board
26. G-Invest
27. Competition and Consumer Affairs Commission
28. Guyana Tourism Authority
29. Small Business Bureau
30. Guyana National Bureau of Standard
31. Office of the President - Major General Joe Singh

Private Sector

1. Private Sector Commission
2. Guyana Manufacturers and Services Association
3. Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association
4. Forest Products Association
5. Credit Info
6. The Berbice Chamber of Commerce and Development Association
7. Bankers Association
8. Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry
9. Bartica Chamber of Commerce
10. Halliburton
11. Exxon Mobil
12. Bulkan Timber Works

Civil Society

1. Guyana Marine Conservation Society
2. Amerindian Peoples Association
3. The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana
4. National Amerindian Development Foundation
5. Guyanese Organization of Indigenous Peoples
6. Conservation International
7. World Wildlife Fund
8. Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development
9. University of Guyana Student Clubs
10. University of Guyana Economics Society
11. University of Guyana Geography Society
12. University of Guyana Chemistry Club
13. University of Guyana Medical Lab Science Students' Association
14. University of Guyana Hindu Society
15. University of Guyana EcoTrust Society
16. University of Guyana Lions Club
17. University of Guyana Biology Club
18. University of Guyana Dental Association

19. University of Guyana Student Society
20. Vanda Radzik
21. Jocelyn Dow
22. Guyana Human Rights Association
23. Lawrence Latchmansingh
24. Clerical and Commercial Workers Union
25. University of Guyana Staff Union
26. University of Guyana Workers Union
27. Guyana Agriculture and General Workers Union
28. Guyana Labour Union
29. GUYSUCO Training Centre
30. University of Guyana
 - a. Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry
 - b. Faculty of Natural Sciences
 - c. Faculty of Education
 - d. Green Institute
 - e. Department of Languages and Cultural Studies
31. Guyana School of Agriculture
32. Cyril Potter College of Education
33. Council for Technical and Vocational Training

Several follow up meetings were held, and agency and sector-specific matters were further detailed.

Gender Equality and the Role of Women and Girls in the LCDS

The gender dimension of the LCDS recognizes the different impacts that climate change and climate events have on women and men. The experience of floods and droughts in Guyana during the past two decades in particular has made it quite clear that the immediate effect and the subsequent consequences of floods have been particularly difficult for women. In indigenous communities where the farms are part of the women's work, the task of restoration of the farms and the need for alternative food supplies during and after floods or droughts puts a new and onerous burden on women and the household in general. In urban and rural communities women have experienced loss in long-term damage to homes and loss of livestock and kitchen gardens to mention a few. In all areas, the risk to health and the long-term impact of these realities have added unequally to the status of women.

The LCDS 2030 is cognizant of these realities and intends to provide a number of mitigating measures which would be based firstly on in-depth consultations with women on their particular roles in their homes and in their communities. Given the diverse nature of Guyana geographically and the different ethnicities that make up communities and the different cultural norms, it is necessary to create sensitive and appropriate solutions including training to address the common problem of climatic change events that are more frequent and more intense. Additionally, the role of women and girls in climate action is a high priority in the LCDS. This will include the role of women and girls in influencing change to achieve climate adaptation, creating awareness of LCDS objectives, innovating solutions to climate risks, and in being agents of change at the community and national levels.

Given that a low carbon economy seeks to address climate change and its varied impact on women and men, the LCDS 2030 recognizes that common and differentiated measures are required to address this reality. The LCDS 2030 will establish benchmarks and appropriate responses that take into account the realities of the disproportionately negative impact of climate change on women. Women have already been consulted in the design of the Strategy to date and provision is made for women-driven deeper analysis and the specific measures needed for mitigation and adaptation.

Women-centered approaches based on the realities and experiences that recognise the commonalities that women face are a cornerstone of the strategies. Equally important is that specific LCDS actions are conceptualized and deployed to be women driven and responsive to demography, age, and cultural norms. Women's representatives will be a significant part of the multi-stakeholder committee of the LCDS in order to ensure that their voices are heard at all levels and that they are direct beneficiaries of resources to help build their resilience. Further, the involvement of women will aim at establishing leadership over key LCDS projects and, resultant plans are honed at addressing their often times unequal access to resources. In so doing, the resources of the LCDS can be directed to improve the opportunities available to women by providing skills training and affordable financial resources to widen their choices.

Focus of LCDS 2030 on Youth

Guyana's transition to a low carbon pathway rests on all citizens through a multigenerational approach to policy development, decision making, programme implementation and stakeholder ownership. Representing over two thirds of the population, Guyana's youth bring dynamism, energy, creativity, and a fresh outlook towards the realization of these goals. The LCDS is formulated to enable and ensure meaningful youth participation is integrated and applied at all levels.

Young Guyanese number amongst millions globally who actively engage in building awareness and advocating for significant and meaningful action to curb the climate crisis. They organize events and work at the local and community level, nationally, regionally and at the global level to share knowledge on the plight faced by Guyana and other SIDs, and appeal for greater environmental responsibility and action.

The LCDS will harness attributes in policies, projects and programmes that enhance climate awareness and behavioral change in addressing pollution and other environmental ills, while promoting responsible consumption patterns, and overall encouragement for safe and healthy well-being amongst all Guyanese. The Strategy will be integrated in the schools' curricula at all levels, thereby inculcating environmental responsibility in all aspects of our children's education and consciousness.

Youth unemployment and underemployment will be tackled through the provision of educational, training, scholarships and employment opportunities across all sectors including entrepreneurship and business incubators; micro- and small business financing; academic, technical and vocational training; internships, and other avenues. Focus will not only be directed to information technology, business development and STEAM subjects, but also to general skills development and mentorship.

Guyana's leading role in ensuring food and nutrition security in the Caribbean region presents one of the greatest opportunities for youth involvement, employment and business development. The LCDS will enable enhancement of training provided by the Guyana School of Agriculture, University of Guyana and other institutions, and the expansion and upgrading of their curricula to match these needs that include climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience. Investments under the LCDS would upgrade drainage and irrigation systems, improve coastal infrastructure, and incorporate safeguards against climate events. The LCDS will also be directed towards increasing productivity and enhancing value-added production thereby enabling greater employment and business opportunities along the value chain.

Implementation of the cutting-edge LCDS Strategy also requires technological advancement, innovation, research and development, and for the need of specialized skills. Policies, programmes and projects of the Strategy would encourage, assist and incentivize these capabilities primarily among the youth, to meet the new and emerging needs of the oil and gas sector, and to enable national transition to clean and renewable

energy. Other human capital required for Guyana's low carbon trajectory based on the four pillars of the LCDS include marine biologists, hydrologists, climate scientists and other specialists thereby offering greater opportunity for the youth.

Generally, the LCDS envisages nurturing leadership roles and empowering youth to address and overcome social ills and other challenges which hinder their development and ultimately, Guyana's future growth. Youth perspectives would be integrated into policy making, programme design and project implementation to surmount these issues. Additionally, youth participation and expression through various platforms including the arts, culture and sport would be supported to promote young influencers and positive role models.

The LCDS values the youth as partners of today who will become the leaders of tomorrow to propel Guyana's socio-economic development while conserving our valued natural assets and securing citizens' future.

Thematic Engagements on the LCDS

The LCDS 2030 team participated in the following stakeholder sessions on LCDS 2030.

- **Moray House Stakeholder Meeting on LCDS 2030:** at this session, the LCDS Team presented an overview of the LCDS and responded to questions in the discussion session. Other presenters at this session included WWF, CI, and the University of Guyana. This session was attended by 75 participants and was live-streamed on the Moray House Trust Facebook page. Present at the meeting were members of civil society, the University of Guyana, Members of Parliament, as well as members of the private sector. The presentation was well-received, and responses were provided to queries from participants. A reminder was also issued for submitting comments and recommendations to the LCDS website or email address.
- **Meeting with Regional Officials on LCDS 2030:** over this period of reporting, a stakeholder session was held with regional officials on LCDS 2030. This session was attended by regional officials and the Ministry of Local Government representative.
- **Participation in Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 66), Guyana Preparatory Meeting:** CSW66 was held under the theme “Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow”, with one of the thematic areas of focus being “Gender Equality, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction”. The LCDS 2030 team presented the scope of the LCDS 2030 within this area whilst covering the progress made under the first LCDS in advancing programmes that have resulted in the empowerment of women and girls. The focus of LCDS 2030 on gender equality was highlighted at the meeting. The meeting was attended by a broad cross-section of women and men from constitutional bodies, the religious community, the private sector, youths and civil society.
- **LCDS 2030 vision shared at Ministerial Round Table at the UN Commission on the Status of Women, 66th Session (CSW66):** At this meeting held at the United Nations, Minister of Human Services, Dr. Vindhya Persaud, presented Guyana’s progress on climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes in the area of advancing gender equality through holistic and integrated actions from global to local.
- **LCDS 2030 vision was highlighted at Commemorative Activities under International Day of Forests:** Over the third week of March, commemorative activities for International Day of Forests featured LCDS 2030. Included in the activities was a statement from the Ministry of Natural Resources on forests and Guyana LCDS 2030.

Community Based Sessions

Regional and Community Level Consultations: sessions have been held in every region, as shown in the table below.

Each session was attended by on average 100 persons, and coordinated by a Minister of the Government, Regional Representatives, and the LCDS 2030 team. Over 200 Indigenous Villages and forest-based communities have been engaged.

Summary of Villages, Communities and Organizations represented at Regional LCDS Consultations		
Regions	Location	Villages/Organizations represented
1	Mabaruma	St Dominic, Aruka Mouth, Arukamai, Sacred Heart, Aruau, Hobediah, Hotakwai, Lower Kaituma, Barima /Koriabo , Black Water Savannah, Lower Black Water, Lower Kariabo, Red Hill, Baracina, Unity Square, St Anselm's, Morawhanna, Imbotero, Smith Creek, Shell Beach, Kachikaimo, Three Brothers, Yarakita, White Water, Wauna, Tobago, Wanaina, Hosororo, Koberimo, Khan's Ville/Hill, Hobo Hill, Thomas Hill, Barabina, Mabaruma
	Port Kaituma	Matthew's Ridge, Arakaka, One Mile, Baramita, Eclipse Falls, 4 miles, Oronoque, Citrus Grove, Canal Bank, Sebai, Fitzburg, Port Kaituma
	Santa Rosa	Kariako, Kokerite, Waikerebi , SantaCruz (Little and Big Canaballi), Warapoka, Assakata, Kwebana, Fathers Beach, Manawarin, Waramuri, Haimaracabra, 7 mile (Santa Rosa and satellites) Kairie, Kamwatta, Parakese, Mora, Wallaba, Karaburi, Haimaruni, Rincon, Cabora, Huradiah, Koko, Paloma, Kumaka
2	Anna Regina	Bethany, Mashabo, Capoey, Mainstay/Whyaka, Tapakuma, St. Deny's, Akawini, Wakapoa, Charity, Kabakaburi, St Monica, Karawab., Lima Sands, Anna Regina (and Mayor & Town Council, Onderneeming
3	Lenora	Zeelugt, Parika, Naamryck, Groenveldt, Stewartville, Lenora
4	Lusignan	Golden Grove, Non Pariel, Brixton, Foulis, Enmore, Unity/Vereeniging, Cane Grove, Mon Repos, Haslington, LBI, Buxton, Kuru Kuru
5	Bush Lot	#22 Bel Voir, Woodlands, Bel Air, Hamlet, Fellowship, Proffit, Rising Sun, Bush Lot, Armadale, Mahaicony, Farm, Cotton Tree, Moraikobai, Blairmont, Gelderland , Mara, Kilcoy/Hampshire, No. 52 -74 NDC, Plegt Anker, Enfield, Kintyre/Borlam NDC, Crabwood Creek, Wyburg/Caracas NDC, Corriverton M&TC , Maida/Talgorie NDC, Brothers Village, Rose Hall, Eversham
6	New Amsterdam	Loggers' associations from Canje River, Mara, and Lonsdale/Brothers/Sisters; New Amsterdam
7	Kamarang	Phillipai, Wayala Yeng, Amokokopai, Jawalla, Quebanang, Kako, Warawatta, Waramadong, Paruima, Omenaik, Kamaru, Imbamadai , Chinoweng, Wax Creek, Kamarang
	Bartica	Isseneru, Tasserene, Kangaruma/Asura, Miles Potaro Road, Karrau, Kartabo, Issano, Sacaralla Bay, Falmouth, Agatash, Daag Point, Mile Potaro Road.
8	Kato	Kato, Chiung Mouth, Kanapang, Penak, Itabac, Kurukabaru, Kamana, Waipa, Sand Hills, Catchcow, Kaibarupai, Karisparu, Paramakatoi, Mountain Foot, Bamboo Creek, Tuseneng, Taruka
	Mahdia	Chenapou, Campbelltown, Mahdia, Princeville, Micobie, El Paso, Sucre Junction, Mowasi, Muruwa
9	Annai	Fairview (Region 8, but administratively Region 9), Surama, Wowetta, Kwatamang, Rupertee, Annai Central, Apoteri, Rewa, Crash Water, Yakarinta, Massara, Kwaimatta, Anaruputa, Toka, Yupukari, Quatata, Fly Hill, Kaicumbay, Katoka, Semonie (& Students of Bina Hill Institute), Iwokrama, Conservation International, South Rupununi District Council, Sustainable Wildlife Management Project
	Maruranau	Sand Creek, Potarinau, Kraudanarau, Maruranau, Aishalton, Quiko, Shea, Baitoon, Achiwib, Sawarenau, Rupanau, Shulinab, Parikarainau, Meriwau, Parabara, Katoonarib, Lethem
10	Kwakwani	SandHills /Hittia, DeVeldt, Kimbia, Wiruni, Wikki/Calcuni, Parapee, Ituni, Hururu, Kaitapin, Bamboo Landing, Jonestown, Kimbia, Community Forestry Groups from Berbice River area
	Linden	Rockstone, Bamia, Wisroc, 47 Miles Mabura Road, Prosville, Andyville, Malali, Siberian, Coomacka Mines, 58 Miles Mabura Road, Kara Kara, Kairuni, Muritaro, Great Falls, Christianburg, Nottinghamshire, Watooka, Speightland, Ituni, Richmond Hill

Written Submissions Providing Feedback

Feedback continues to be received by email (official LCDS Email) and on website posting (LCDS 2030 website). Written submissions have also been received to date from the following entities/individuals:

- Conservational International – Guyana
- Guyana National Bureau of Standards
- Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA)
- Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association Ltd.
- Howard Bulkan
- Z. E. Khan
- Lawrence Latchmansingh
- World Wildlife Fund
- ExxonMobil Guyana
- Guyana Civil Aviation Authority
- British High Commission
- Women and Gender Equality Commission
- Guyana: Office of the UN Resident Coordinator
- Iwokrama
- Moruca District
- Amerindian People’s Association

Feedback on draft LCDS 2030 from Website

The LCDS 2030 website has recorded 4,930 visits. (See Data Analytics Summary for Global Access of Guyana’s LCDS 2030 below). Through the comments portal on the site, the following feedback has been additionally logged:

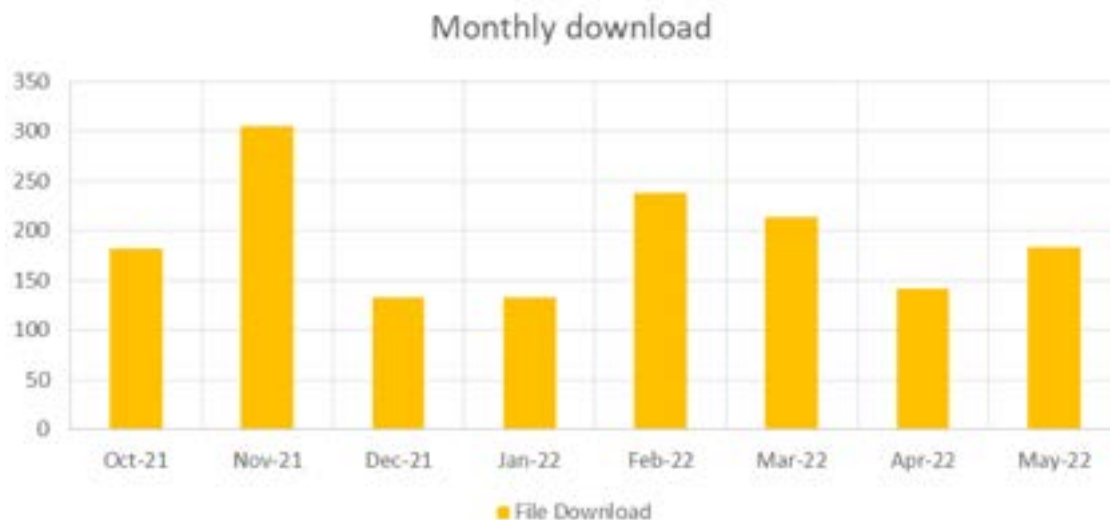
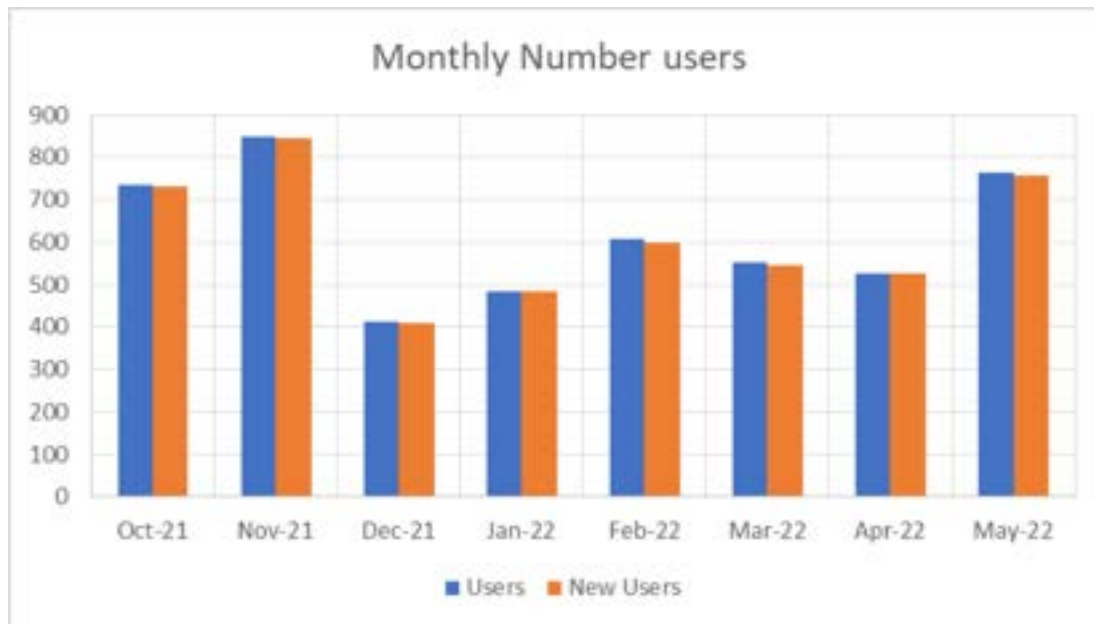
1. Iwokrama
2. Guyana Energy Agency
3. Guyana Tourism Authority
4. South Pole
5. Individual: Dr. Ulric Trotz
6. Individual: Dr. Anna Perreira
7. Individual: Dolwin Khan
8. Individual: Dr. Lesley Desouza
9. 5 anonymous contributors

Data on LCDS Website Usage for October 2021 to May 2022

	Accumuled data							
	31-Oct-21	30-Nov-21	31-Dec-21	31-Jan-22	28-Feb-22	31-Mar-22	30-Apr-22	31-May-22
Users	734	1,583	1,995	2,480	3,087	3,640	4,167	4,930
New Users	732	1,577	1,985	2,469	3,067	3,614	4,139	4,898
Page view Count	1,589	3,927	4,898	6,362	7,895	9,545	10,754	12,364
File Download	182	487	620	753	991	1,204	1,345	1,528
Comments through website	4	10	11	23	24	86	86	87

Data on LCDS Website Usage over the duration of the Consultation Period

	Data by month							
	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22
Users	734	849	412	485	607	553	527	763
New Users	732	845	408	484	598	547	525	759
Page view Count	1,589	3,927	4,898	4,899	4,900	4,901	4,902	4,903
File Download	182	305	133	133	238	213	141	183



Active Public Engagement Programme

The LCDS engagement strategy also saw wide public engagement via radio, newspapers, and social media. A core of media experts worked on leading the public relations programme. It advanced the strategy of sensitisation of the public on the draft LCDS. This saw engagements as follows:

- i. Radio and television programmes, public service announcements (PSAs), interviews
- ii. Literature: brochures, flyers, posters, newspaper articles, press releases
- iii. Public events (including Government officials & MSSC members)
- iv. Virtual meetings (Zoom and other platforms)
- v. Social media platforms (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and other online sites)

A full report on all LCDS Communication and Consultation activities is also prepared and published on the LCDS Website.

Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)

The MSSC was re-constituted to oversee the LCDS development and implementation processes. The Committee will comprise members of Government bodies, Non-Governmental Organisations, Civil Society, the Private Sector, and Indigenous communities.

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.

In addition to supporting the next phase of the consultation, the main objective of the MSSC will be to advise on implementing the LCDS 2030, including 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 in the process of earning and managing payments. The new MSSC will support work on restoring Guyana's ambition for the future on the forest, climate, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development.

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.

The MSSC will meet regularly after the National Consultation is completed and the LCDS has been tabled in the National Assembly to take forward elements of the LCDS, which will require further consultation and idea generation. This will continue during the LCDS implementation.

Photographs below show engagement sessions with community stakeholders on LCDS 2030. Sessions were organised by Regional Offices, the LCDS Team and Village Leaders, working closely with the MSSC.











