

Multi Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC) Approves Finalisation of Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030

On Monday, July 18, 2022, the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC) approved the finalization of the LCDS 2030. This represents the culmination of a more than seven-month national consultative process on the draft Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 which was launched by His Excellency the President, Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali on October 28, 2021.

This followed the endorsement of the LCDS 2030 by the National Tshaos' Council (NTC) on Friday July 15, 2022.

The strategy will now be tabled in the National Assembly.

Since early 2022, the MSSC has been overlooking and making recommendations on the national consultative process on the draft LCDS 2030. Many of its members took part in stakeholder engagements and consultations, which were rolled-out through a multi-faceted approach involving virtual and face-to-face presentations; radio, television, and social media interviews; and focus group meetings. Multiple videos and posters were produced and published in the print and electronic media, on the LCDS official website and social media pages (FaceBook, Instagram Twitter and YouTube). Public service announcements were circulated, and promotional/information banners are on display at the two (2) international airports and at regional offices across the country.

With the support and involvement of many members of the MSSC, awareness and consultation sessions were held at the community- and regional-level in all ten (10) administrative regions deploying a cluster approach where groups of communities were engaged at central hubs across districts and regions. Guyanese locally and in the diaspora, and other persons interested in the Strategy also used the facility afforded by the official LCDS website (www.lcds.gov.gy) to share their feedback online and/or via email.

The MSSC was satisfied that a broad and comprehensive stakeholder consultations process was undertaken, and that there was adherence to the protocols for convening meetings throughout the extended Covid 19 health restrictions period.

Chapter Eight of the LCDS 2030 summarises the consultation process - and how the consultations targeted farmers; fishermen; miners; loggers; health and education professionals; private sector businesses; government and regulatory agencies; regional councils; academic and technical/vocational institutions; labour unions; women, youth and the elderly; indigenous and other advocacy groups; village and community representatives; development partners; environmental NGOs; and thematic specialists among others. Insights, questions and recommendations were received from research institutions, private representative groups, NGOs, climate change specialists and other professionals.

All of the stakeholder feedback received from the multiple forms of engagement was compiled into a *Summary of Feedback from the Consultations Process and Consideration of Comments*. This document provides in detail, all comments received from the virtual sessions, regional and community sessions, written submissions, and the website portal. The responses provided to each question and comment are recorded in the summary; in addition, an indication of how the comment/question has been considered in the revised LCDS 2030 is also presented.

The MSSC will meet regularly now that 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 and will include a focus on community-based consultations around village sustainability plans as outlined in the LCDS 2030.

Note:

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, Indigenous Peoples Commission, Amerindian Peoples' Association, Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous Peoples, The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana, National Amerindian Development Foundation, Private Sector Commission, Forest Products Association, Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association, in addition to representatives of Labour Unions, Women's organizations and youth groups.