

Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030
Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)
Summary of Meeting held on 10th October 2023

The 7th Meeting of the MSSC, was held on 10th October 2023 at the Office of the President. The MSSC discussed the following: matters that arose from its previous (6th) meeting; upcoming activities, communications, and engagements; and other business.

The MSSC began their 7th Meeting with updates on the following three key matters: report and next steps on village planning and disbursement of carbon credits funds; update on the verification and validation process for the year 2021 credits (field audit and complaints process); and public awareness regarding Guyana's global leadership on climate change action.

The LCDS 2030 team supported the National Toshias Council (NTC) in assisting all 242 Indigenous villages/satellites/community development councils with the submission of their 50 Ten Year village sustainability plans (VSPs) and 191 outline plans (OPs). The field audit was successful and should result in the issuance of 7.3 billion carbon credits to Guyana for the year 2021 via the Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART) registry. The LCDS team and ART Secretariat published "*Guyana's Jurisdictional Forest Carbon Credits*" on several media. The LCDS 2030 team also presented the LCDS 2030 to several private sector fora. The plan to continue such engagements with the Forest Leaders Partnership Forum, the United Nations, and the Commonwealth to (1) discuss representative positions on the just transition, food security, mitigation, and adaptation to be submitted at COP 28 and (2) develop programmes to validate the high quality of carbon credits generated from forest countries.

The MSSC continued their 7th Meeting by discussing preparations for COP 28, concerted efforts to further build awareness about the LCDS 2030, and other business. COP 28 will take place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 30th November 2023 – 12th December 2023. Guyana will attend COP 28 and aims to prominently showcase the country's developmental model using several organized events and media. The country will leverage its inaugural pavilion to host and engage with numerous leaders and international organisations to stimulate discussions for solutions to the issues that would be negotiated at COP 28. Given the great interest being generated by the LCDS 2030, Guyana would continue to engage on its position within the agenda on forests and climate.

The Chairperson of the MSSC called for the LCDS 2030 team with support from the MSSC (particularly the youth representatives) and NTC to (1) develop the livelihood framework/component and business model/opportunities of the LCDS 2030 by considering sustainable agriculture and local craft production, and programmes to boost the tourism industry, and (2) actively implement the LCDS 2030 by visiting Guyana's educational institutions and building awareness on LCDS 2030; presenting Guyana's positions to stakeholders; providing updates on the holistic and sectoral progress of the LCDS 2030 to CARICOM representatives; commencing the monitoring and evaluation of the VSPs/OPs to produce documentaries and inspirational stories that convey the success and impact of the undertaking, and publishing the outputs of the preceding on the LCDS 2030 website.

The MSSC concluded their 7th meeting and plans were made to meet in the next quarter – the first quarter of 2024.