

## Meeting 10

### Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee (MSSC)

#### Meeting 10

**Date:** Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009

**Venue:** Office of the President

**Time:** 14:00 hrs

#### Attendance:

Name	Institution
His Excellency President Jagdeo	Office of the President
Minister Robert Persaud	Ministry of Agriculture
Minister Pauline Sukhai	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
Michael Brotherson	Office of the President
Shyam Nokta	Office of the President
Shereeda Yusuf	Office of the President
James Singh	Guyana Forestry Commission
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)
Peter Persaud	The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG)
Jocelyn Dow	International Institute for Environmental and Development (IIED)
Vanda Radzik	International Institute for Environmental and Development (IIED)
Hymawattie Lagan	Women's Affairs Bureau
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)
David Singh	Conservation International (CI)
David James	Individual Capacity

#### Absent/Excused

Dr. Roger Luncheon	Office of the President	Excused
Dr. Dindyal Permaul	Ministry of Agriculture	Excused
Andrew Bishop	Office of the President	Excused
Patrick Williams	World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	Excused
Joe Singh	Individual Capacity	Excused
Mimi Fernandes	Guyana Organisation of Indigenous People (GOIP)	Excused
Alfred King	Youth Representative	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. Mr. Nokta informed that Dr. Patrick Williams, Dr. Dindyal Permaul and Mr. Joe Singh have been excused from the Meeting. Ms. Mimi Fernandes was also excused.
- 2.2. Mr. Nokta informed the gathering that there were three correspondences:
  - i. CI & Iwokrama - Low Carbon Development Strategy Dialogue Series, which was circulated to the MSSC. It was noted that the forum dealing with MEAs should benefit from expertise who were familiar with recent developments on REDD and its relation to the MEAs.
  - ii. Proposal by I-NGOs on MSSC & Mr. David James for Continuing Awareness and Outreach Sessions - LCDS: Regions 7 and 8.
  - iii. E-mail by Mr. Duncan McQueen has submitted a list of comments that is circulated to the MSSC. It was pointed out that Mr. McQueen was expected in Guyana soon and the suggestion made that perhaps he should be invited to the MSSC for a discussion.

## **3. Minutes of Meeting 9**

His Excellency invited the MSSC members to go through the Minutes of Meeting 9. There were no corrections identified.

The minutes were verified as true and correct by Ms. Jocelyn Dow and seconded by Ms. Hymawattie Lagan.

## **4. Matters Arising from Minutes**

There was no matter raised.

## **5. Updates and Reports**

### **Awareness Sessions**

- 5.1 Mr. Michael Brotherson updated the gathering that the Scouts Jamboree will be held later in the afternoon at the Sophia Exhibition Centre. He indicated that one of the representatives of the OCC will be there to make a presentation to the Scouts.
- 5.2 Ms. Jocelyn Dow updated the members on her Meeting with the World Bank representatives for their literature on safeguards specific to carbon in order to do a comparison of their standards and Guyana's LCDS process. It was pointed out that no other country has done anything as specific as Guyana and our standards of transparency are high compared to many countries.

### **Press Release**

- 5.3 The Press Release which had been prepared by the OCC was reviewed by the MSSC, finalised and dispatched.

### **Jingle**

- 5.4 The lyrics for the jingle prepared by Dave Martins were reviewed by the MSSC and had been edited. Mr. Martins has received all the comments made and will redo the jingle.

### **Song**

- 5.5. GT&T was contacted to have 5 – 6 persons from the Cellink Jingle Competition do a theme song for the LCDS.

### Others

- 5.6. The radio/TV spots and the panel discussions are still on-going.  
 5.7. The website is continuously updated.  
 5.8. The OCC has responded to the articles in the newspaper in addition to the response from Forestry and the MSSC.  
 5.9. Apart from the letters sent by the OCC, Peter Persaud, indicated that he had written a letter to the newspapers but stated it has not been published. His Excellency informed him that the Government does not control the publication in the papers. However, he can circulate the letter to the MSSC.

## 6 Any Other Business

- 6.1 The suggestion was made that a report should be sent to other Youth Forums around the world about the outcomes of the Youth Forums – Bina Hill and National Youth Forum – being held here in Guyana. Ms. Vanda Radzik indicated she could provide the contacts.  
 6.2 Mr. Nokta informed that the Georgetown Chambers of Commerce and Industry had extended an invitation to President Jagdeo and OCC for an awareness session on the LCDS. It was put forward that Mr. Gerry Gouveia, as Chairman of the PSC, work with GCCI to convene a larger forum involving the wider private sector.  
 6.3 Minister Sukhai submitted two translations in local languages of the Amerindian Fact Sheet and indicated that there were some delays in completing the remaining three translations. She presented an updated version on the land demarcation process and informed that a digital copy will be provided.  
 6.4 There was a continuation of the discussion of application of forest laws in Amerindian lands, and current practices in Amerindian lands, in particular logging and mining and external contractors operations on Amerindian lands. It was suggested that a lawyer be retained by the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs to provide assistance to Amerindian communities on these matters and Section 55.4 of the Forest Bill be looked at.

There being no other business, it was agreed that the next meeting will be on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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
The funds for the I-NGOs Proposal for further consultations in Regions 7 & 8 should be disbursed	OCC follow up
Duncan McQueen should be invited to the MSSC Meeting to discuss his comments	OCC to follow up
Private Sector Commission should work with the Chamber of Commerce to hold one large awareness session	Gerry Gouveia to follow up
The date for the Women's Trade Fair which will facilitate an awareness session will be decided and submitted next week	H. Lagan and Vanda Radzik to provide
Minister of Amerindian Affairs to provide remainder LCDS translations and digital version of land demarcation process document.	OCC follow up
The Section 55.4 of land in the Forestry Bill should be examined	David James to follow up
A lawyer should be hired by the MoAA to examine contracts and to offer free legal services to those Amerindian	MoAA to follow up

communities who need it.	
When the new Chairman for UNDP comes to Guyana, he should be invited to meet with the MSSC.	IIED and OCC to follow up.