

A LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



Transforming Guyana's Economy While Combating Climate Change

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR AMERINDIAN AND FOREST COMMUNITIES

1. What is the LCDS seeking to achieve?

Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy seeks to maintain our country's forest and in return, seek payments from the world for the service our forests provide. The payments received will be used to develop our communities and our country.

2. What does the Strategy mean for Amerindian villages and forest communities?

The Strategy is about development of all of Guyana. It is not about locking away forests from people or displacing people. It is about maintaining the forest and developing communities at the same time.

3. Are Amerindian titled lands included in the Strategy?

The Strategy at present, only includes State Forests. However, Amerindian Villages can decide if they would like their titled lands to be part of the Strategy. Government could not include Amerindian lands without consulting and obtaining agreement from communities to participate. The Villages have the right to opt in or opt out.

4. If Villages opt in would they be able to continue their traditional activities?

If villages 'opt in' they can continue to hunt, fish, gather and farm. Communities will not have to change or adjust their practices and sustainable subsistence activities will continue. However, commercial logging, agriculture and mining may continue but would have to be consistent with the Strategy.

5. What if some villages decide to opt out?

If villages 'opt out' they will continue to receive the benefits from the Strategy like all Guyanese.

6. What are the possible benefits for those that opt in?

Financial resources - Financial resource obtained from the Strategy will go towards national development. Where Amerindian villages opt in to the Strategy, financial benefits that are obtained from their forests will go to Amerindian villages

Employment - In addition to financial benefits, there could be opportunities for employment for community members to monitor the forests (inventories, field checks, research). Maintaining the forests is a key part of the Strategy and monitoring would be critical.

Transforming the Village Economy - The Strategy also seeks to transform village economies by supporting improvements in agriculture, value-adding of forest products and also introduce new economic opportunities such as information technology.

7. How would finances flow to the Villages that opt in?

The details of how this will work will have to be discussed and agreed with villages.

8. How will those communities that have applied for land titles and extensions be affected?

Land titling and the consideration of extensions will continue following the process outlined in the Amerindian Act. These activities will not stop.

9. How long is the consultation process?

This is the start of the process. Consultation will continue for a period of 3 months up to August 2009. Education and awareness activities are ongoing.

Villages are not expected to make a decision on opting in or out during this time but if some villages are comfortable opting in at this stage, more detailed discussions will begin with these villages.

The upcoming National Toshao's Council meeting in July will present a further opportunity to discuss the Strategy with village leaders.

10. Where can comments and questions be sent?

An Office of Climate Change has been established within the Office of the President to provide additional information and to which comments, queries, questions and suggestions can be directed.

Office of Climate Change
Office of the President
Shiv Chanderpaul Drive
Georgetown

Tel. 223 5205

Email: info@lcads.gov.gy

Web Site: www.lcads.gov.gy

This can also be done through the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs.