

**FIELD TRIP REPORT – IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DUE DILIGENCE MISSION  
ON THE FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY (FCPF)  
Guyana – April 30, 2010**

## **1. Introduction**

On April 30<sup>th</sup> 2010, a team comprised of representatives from the Government of Guyana, civil society, World Bank, and USAID visited Port Kaituma in Region 1 and met with small and medium scale loggers and miners, Amerindian communities and other stakeholders.

The joint multi-stakeholder mission team was led by the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) and included representatives of the Guyana REDD Secretariat, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association (GGDMA), the World Bank, USAID (development agency from the United States, an FCPF contributor), the Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG), the National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF), the Amerindian Peoples Association (APA), the Guyanese Organization of Indigenous Peoples (GOIP).

This field trip, financed by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the UK, was part of the World Bank due diligence process undertaken by the World Bank following the June 2009 Participants Committee of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility with a view of allocating an FCPF Preparation Grant to support Guyana's REDD Readiness preparation phase. The FCPF is a global partnership involving 50 donor and forest countries. It is administered by the World Bank, with the USA and the UK being two contributors. The due diligence process is meant to ensure that there is compliance with the social, environmental and fiduciary safeguards of the World Bank at preparation stage and to ensure that from the onset key issues relevant to REDD preparation, are identified and a process is in place to address them during the REDD Readiness preparation phase.

The mission set out to explain to the communities of Region 1 the REDD Readiness preparation process, its priority thematic areas, and the way in which it functions. Communities were invited to express their views, questions and concerns so that they may be taken into account and addressed in the preparation phase. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, the information session was divided in two meetings: one with small loggers and farmers in the morning facilitated by the GFC and one with small and medium size miners facilitated by the GGMC. On May 1, the World Bank team also visited a medium-scale mining operation in Arakaka and met with miners in Matthews Ridge.

The discussions were informative and covered a range of issues related to climate change, such the impacts on current logging, mining and agriculture practices; land tenure; alternatives livelihoods options, synergies between REDD and LCDS, Guyana's participation in the FCPF, and issues around communities' rights and participation. The team listened to the comments, questions, queries and suggestions, and provided responses, clarifications and comments. Minutes of these meetings will be shared with the communities.

## **2. Highlights of the Discussions**

### **Small and Medium Scale Loggers and Farmers**

- Farmers enquired about the impact of the REDD strategy on traditional shifting cultivation practices for subsistence. Some farmers also expressed that the small-scale production of organic goods for market requires the use of fertile soils, which are obtained by clearing small plots of

forest. In either case, soil fertility is usually sufficient for about 3 years of cultivation, after which time the fields are left fallow and forest regeneration occurs.

- The community, including farmers and small loggers, faced difficulty in affordably transporting their products to a wider market. Small loggers expressed that they face challenges in utilizing lesser known species of wood because these species do not give enough profit to offset the high cost of transportation.
- The Toshao from Sebai explained that land titles were given to several communities in Sebai village and now they are asked whether they have a preference for opting in under the LCDS. These communities have been doing small scale logging for over 15 years and their forest is very much pristine.
- Small loggers expressed that some of the procedures, paperwork and requirements are extensive and that the standards for large- and small-scale logging should be revised in relation to their scale.
- A woman member of a logging association expressed that the women have a small or no role at all in the management of the forests and stressed the need for diversification of livelihood activities for women. Some participants suggested livelihood alternatives such as cattle and fish rearing, the production of non-timber forest products such as crafts and furniture, construction work and working on transportation.
- Indigenous participants also approached a few team members to share their concern about their traditional lands and that many communities in the region do not have titles. The GFC had expressed that land titling is a priority of the Government and this has been outlined in the Low Carbon Development Strategy as one of the areas that resources are to be channeled to further advance this process. Additionally, the GFC indicated that the Amerindian Act 2006 outlines clear procedures for land titling and added that significant progress has been made over the past 15 years in granting of titles as well as extensions.

### **Small and Medium Scale Miners**

- A representative from the mining association stated that small and medium mining contributes substantially to the economy of the region and close to 7.7% of the annual GDP.
- One miner suggested options to reduce the impact on the forest including using recycle pits (using the soil extracted from a pit to cover up a previous dig) and having access to equipment for low impact mining.
- A miner from a medium sized operation enquired about how damage in the forest was verified, the mechanisms to reduce the impact and if this is part of the GFC's work.
- One participant asked about the Government's actions to control the impacts of mining such as pollution of rivers and stated that their working conditions are poor. Additionally, the mining camps have become places where young ladies go to look for work. Due to the remoteness of these mining operations, monitoring these social and environmental impacts has been a challenge.
- The miners explained how a small scale mining operation functions and explained that they often go for weeks or months before returning to see their families. Some Amerindian workers bring their families to the camps.
- When asked about potential alternatives to mining, there was a consensus in the room that they only knew how to do mining. Since childhood, mining is the only activity they know and they do not have any other sources of income.
- Another participant talked about cassava as a good alternative since it grows almost everywhere and there is a good market for it. He stated that if you provide an alternative that provides the

opportunity for families to stay together with a steady income, he is sure people will prefer that than going off for months away from their families and communities.

- The representative of the miners association explained that when the Memorandum of Understanding with Norway was signed, people thought that mining was closing down. Then the President heard from the miners and now they all have to fill in a document with information about their mining activities and one copy of the document goes to the GFC, one to the mines officers and one to the GGMC, so everyone is aware of all mining operations.

### 3. Main messages conveyed by the mission team

- The GFC is drafting the Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP) document which outlines the actions the country needs to take to get ready for REDD+ and to access financial mechanisms. The GFC provided an overview of the contents of the RPP and clarified the inter relationship and synergy between the REDD and LCDS programs.
- The GFC stated that this meeting is not a consultation but that consultations will be taking place with relevant stakeholders in the next step of the process.
- The USAID representative explained the nature of the work USAID undertakes in Guyana and how it fits in with the overall climate change agenda.
- The World Bank team described the purpose of their visit to Guyana. They described the role of the World Bank office in Georgetown and their facilitating role in Guyana overall process of developing a REDD strategy. The team also described the objectives of the project on community-based forest management.

### Reviewed and agreed by the members of the mission team:<sup>§</sup>

1. Pradeepa Bholanath, Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
2. Quacy Bremner, GFC
3. Nasheta Dewnauth, REDD Secretariat, GFC
4. Ronald Glasgow, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
5. Lawrence Anselmo, Amerindian People's Association (APA)
6. Romel Simon National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
7. Mimi Fernandes, The Guyanese Organisation of Indigenous Peoples (GOIP)
8. Peter Persaud, The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG)
9. Maria del Mar Polo, FAO
10. William Gelman, USAID
11. Giorgio Valentini, World Bank
12. Gregory Frey, World Bank
13. Darshana Patel, World Bank
14. Carolina Hoyos, World Bank
15. Haddy Jatou Sey, World Bank

---

<sup>§</sup> Mr. Ramesh Deonayaran of the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association also participated in this field trip. Due to health reasons, Mr. Deonayaran was unable to review this report in the month following the trip.