



**MEMORANDUM**

File Classification: PO-Mis-GY-2014

IDBDocs #39414601

INE/CCS-54/2015

March 02<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

To : Mr. David Wilk  
Division Chief a.i. (INE/CCS)

From: Mr. Juan Chang  
Mission Team Leader (INE/CCS)

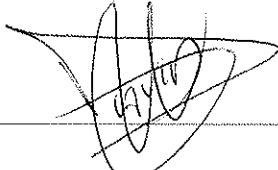
Subject: Back-to-the-Office Report. Georgetown, Guyana. Execution Mission. Follow-up on status of ATN/FP-14161-GY (GY-T1097) and provide support to Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC). February 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Please find attached the Back-to-the-Office Report for the above-mentioned mission.

The mission was comprised of Mr. Juan Chang (INE/CCS), mission team leader and mission member, Ms. Annika Keil (INE/CCS).

This report outlines the Aide Memoire and Annexes.

Authorized Distribution: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Mr. David Wilk  
Division Chief a.i. (INE/CCS)

Enc.: Back to the Office Report Document

c.c.: Mr. Gerard S. Johnson, General Manager (CCB/CCB)  
Mr. Néstor Roa, Sector Manager a.i. (INE/INE)  
Ms. Sophie Makonnen, Country Representative (CCB/CGY)  
Ms. Leslie-Ann G. Edwards, Operations Sr. Specialist (CCB/CGY)

**GUYANA**  
**BACK TO OFFICE REPORT (BTOR)**

**FOLLOW-UP ON STATUS OF ATN/FP-14161-GY (GY-T1097), GY-G1002 GRIF / LCDS AND  
GY-L1043 AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION (GFC).**

**EXECUTION MISSION**  
**FEBRUARY 09<sup>TH</sup> TO 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**

**I. BACKGROUND**

The Bank sent a mission to Guyana to follow-up on the execution of the GY-T1097 Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and start coordination for the execution of GY-G1002 GRIF/LCDS AND GY-L1043 from February 9<sup>th</sup> to February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The mission team leader was Juan Chang (INE/CCS) with Annika Keil (INE/CCS) and Luis Miguel Aparicio (INE/CCS) as team members.

In Guyana, the mission met with the following members of the Government: (i) Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, MNRE: Bobby Gossai, Senior Policy Analyst/Advisor; Mahendra Saywack, Technical Officer Climate Change (ii) Office of Climate Change, OCC: Gitanjali Chandarpal, Head of the OCC; (iii) representatives of Amerindian Civil Society Organisations: Guyanese Organization of Indigenous Peoples, GOIP: Colin Klautky, Chief of GOIP; Amerindian Peoples Association, APA: Sharon Atkinson, President of APA; Laura George, Advisor and officer at APA; (iv) Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC): Pradeepa Bholanath, Project Coordinator; Edward Goberdhan, Financial Director; Nasheta Dewnath, Programme Officer; Jowala Somea, Procurement Specialist; Quacy Bremner, GFC forest engineer; (v) WWF Guianas: Aiesha Williams, Head of Office; Charles Hutchinson, Protected Areas REDD+ Lead Officer; (vi) Barama Company Limited, Buckhall: Krishna Basdoo, Assistant Manager; Horex Meligat, Complex Manager; Denzil Jones, Occupation, Health and Safety Officer.

**II. MISSION OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES**

The objective of the mission was to follow-up on the status of ATN/FP-14161-GY (GY-T1097), giving support to the implementing agency Guyana Forestry

Commission (GFC) on the next steps necessary for a successful project execution and to undertake field visits to forest concessions and mining sites.

Activities:

- a) Attend internal meetings with the IDB Guyana country office to organize the work plan for the FCPF execution;
- b) Meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE) and the Office of Climate Change (OCC);
- c) Workshop on IDB's internal procurement procedures for GFC and discussion of the need for updating the procurement plan;
- d) Meeting with representatives of two Amerindian Civil Society Organisations, the Guyanese Organization of Indigenous Peoples (GOIP) and the Amerindian Peoples Association (APA) to talk about participation and consultation processes regarding FCPF;
- e) Two field visits to forestry and mining concessions: Small-scale forest management and small-scale mining operations in Mabura community; large-scale timber processing in Buckhall (Barama Company Ltd.)

### III. MINUTES OF MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND VISITS

Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

#### Meeting at the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (MNRE)

Participants: IDB project team: Juan Chang, Annika Keil, Luis Miguel Aparicio. MNRE: Bobby Gossai, Senior Policy Analyst/Advisor; Mahendra Saywack, Technical Officer Climate Change.

MNRE officials provided details on the coordination process established to operationalize the REDD+ mechanism within the LCDS. A summary was offered on the progress in the outreach and consultations process conducted by the Ministry.

Information was shared about an existing Conflict Resolution Mechanism within the MNRE and its registry of complaints and feedback. At the same time the mission was informed of the existence of a centralized GIS for the whole Ministry, under the GFC, serving the Ministry's agencies it, as to allow for effective information sharing between them.

Regarding budget allocation and sustainability strategies for the agencies in charge of the REDD+ implementation, the recommendation was addressing the Ministry of Finance.

**Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Meeting with Chief of Operations CGY, Leslie-Ann Edwards**

Participants: IDB project team: Juan Chang, Annika Keil, Luis Miguel Aparicio.

Representatives of CGY: Leslie-Ann Edwards, Chief of Operations and Janelle Leitch, Operations Senior Analyst.

An overview of the Mission objectives and agenda was given. Update on the current state of the GY-T1097 (FCPF), GY-G1002 (GRIF / LCDS) and GY-L1043 (PBL) operations was shared between the participants of the meeting.

It was agreed to establish contact with relevant actors in Guyana such as WWF and the Ministry of Finance, however the MoF was not available to meet

**Meeting with the Office of Climate Change**

Participants: IDB project team: Juan Chang, Annika Keil, Luis Miguel Aparicio.

OCC: Gitanjali Chandarpal, Head of OCC.

The current GoG progress towards the implementation of REDD+ was explained. OCC's participation in multiple coordination committees, in which OCC officials exchange information on policies and activities to be developed within the LCDS framework, was stressed.

As duplicity in the activities should be avoided, participation in many committees (such as the Multi Stakeholder Steering Committee – MSSC – among others) allow for adequate communication and coordination between OCC and GFC.

The development of outreach activities, carried out by OCC (including REDD+ issues), was informed: the REDD+ technical issues are not being covered directly by OCC although CC adaptation issues related to REDD+ are addressed. UN portfolio offers funding for consultations to be carried out.

OCC is currently establishing a communication strategy (working with Conservation International), funded by the GRIF/LCDS. It is not REDD-specific but it could allow for building the REDD communication strategy on it, based on the abovementioned coordination.

**Meeting with Amerindian Civil Society Organisations**

Participants: IDB project team: Juan Chang, Annika Keil, Luis Miguel Aparicio.

GOIP Representative: Colin Klautky, Chief of the Guyanese Organization of Indigenous Peoples; APA representatives Sharon Atkinson, President of Amerindian Peoples Association and Laura George.

The Amerindian Civil Society representatives expressed their concern about the legitimacy of the consultations that the GoG claims to have carried out. APA representatives opine that the positions of the Amerindians have not been adequately taken into account since the principles of FPIC have not been followed. From their point of view, the consultations should give the information in an appropriate manner (i.e. with talks and outreach materials translated to indigenous language and approaching as many communities as possible).

APA and GOIP representatives expressed their concern regarding the lack of FPIC for the signature of the FLEGT VPA, the Land Titling project that MNRE carries out.

The absence of a platform where their recommendations or complaints and those from other interested parties could be shared, and the necessary timeframes for discussion among the Amerindians are issues pending to be addressed.

APA and GOIP representatives state that the implications of LCDS and FCPF (particularly the "Opt-in" mechanism) need to be further understood by the indigenous groups if FPIC is the objective. Moreover, they underpinned that the National Toshias Council is not complying with their expected role as they lack independence and capacity: it should be leading the consultations for FPIC but up to date there is a significant influence from the GoG over it.

**Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Field trip to Mabura community to visit a small-scale mining site and small-scale forestry operations**

Participants: IDB project team: Juan Chang, Annika Keil, Luis Miguel Aparicio.

GFC: Quacy Bremner, GFC forest engineer.

A small-scale mining operation was visited. The overlap between the gold-mining concession and a timber concession, whose holders differed, was explained to the IDB project team.

It was explained that although the mining concessions are granted for a certain area it is improbable that all of such area gets affected by the operations, although the digging operations are not planned but rather follow trial and error in the search for mineral deposits. The mechanism used for paying the machinery consists in sub-renting parts of the concession to the machine owners; this was observed and explained onsite by the concession holders.

GFC explained that some attempts of land reclamation in mined-out areas are being carried out by the MNRE, using *Acacia melanoxylum*, under a pilot project. The results are still preliminary.

IDB Project Team Recommendations:

- Performing a detailed study on the repercussions of small-scale mining operations on the sustainability of small-scale forestry operations. Analysing the real impact of the mining operations in terms of deforestation and forest degradation is recommended.

A small-scale logging operation was visited. GFC explained that the small-scale operations are granted for 2-year periods that could be extended. No guarantee exists that the same operator will access the same area for the next consecutive period so investments in road infrastructure or silviculture are not a priority.

The infrastructure, machinery, techniques, expected productivity, efficiency and costs were discussed onsite with the concession holder and GFC representative. Sustainability of the forest management was discussed and GFC offered explanations related to the code of practice in the logging operations (in terms of harvest cycles and minimum harvestable diameter).

Most small-scale operations occur over areas which were harvested in the past as part of larger-scale operations; therefore, residual timber stocks are being harvested. The operators refer to small diameters, low productivity and high operational costs related to the low abundance of valuable timber.

IDB Project Team Recommendations:

- Performing a detailed study on the financial sustainability of small-scale operations. Analyse the feasibility and convenience of modifying the existing regimes in terms of area-size, harvest cycles and access to the previously harvested areas. Consider the establishment of temporarily protected areas as to allow for biomass (total and harvestable) recovery.

Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Workshop on IDB's procurement policies for representatives of GFC**

Facilitator: Émilie Chapuis (FMP/CGY) Procurement Specialist.

Participants: IDB project team: Juan Chang, Annika Keil, Luis Miguel Aparicio.

GFC: Pradeepa Bholanath, Project Coordinator; Edward Goberdhan, Financial Director; Nasheta Dewnath, Programme Officer; Jowala Somea, Procurement Specialist.

## 1. Procurement policy session

The Procurement Specialist made a presentation of IDB procurement procedures that must be observed during the TC implementation. GFC officials expressed their concern for the execution of the activity 1.1.2 and asked for possible alternatives for best-execution of such activity; the alternatives for its execution were analysed under the Bank's procedures.

The existing procurement plan was then analysed finding that it needs to be revised as to better operationalize the TC execution.

**IDB Project Team Recommendations:**

- Revision of the Procurement Plan after analysing potential restructuring. Adjust procurement plan to the Bank's policies.

## 2. Discussion on the R-Package and the restructuring of the procurement plan

The IDB Team took note of the time passed since the R-PP was approved and the substantial progress made by GoG in terms of the Readiness activities as per the information presented in the R-Package submitted by GFC (October 2014) as well as in the Country Progress Report (August 2014).

**IDB Project Team Recommendations:**

- Perform a detailed assessment of the reported progress against the requirements of the FCFP Assessment Framework (2013), including a gap analysis. Crosscheck the potential redundancy between already attained progress, and the TC activities. Identify aspects where efforts and investments are still required. Restructure the project activities and procurement plan as necessary.

### **Meeting with WWF Guianas**

**Participants:** Juan Chang, Annika Keil, IDB

Aiesha Williams, Head of Office; Charles Hutchinson, Protected Areas REDD+ Lead Officer

Through a NORAD funding, the WWF Guianas and the Global Canopy Programme (Oxford) have undertaken capacity building in CMRV in 17 communities which are mostly located close to protected areas in Rupununi. WWF expects rising sufficient additional funding for the capacity building of approximately 30 communities, all of them located in Rupununi.

WWF Guianas will work on the Terms of Reference (ToR) for an opt-in pilot project for the GFC until the end of June 2015. This opt-in pilot project is a requirement by Norway.

WWF Guianas representatives stated that the internal capacities at GFC for MRV activities were well developed whereas there was a lack of capacity in land use planning. Back to MRV, WWF stressed that it would be of utmost importance to create a link between the CMRV and the National MRV

Amerindian civil society/communities would need to be more empowered by trainings and capacity building (e.g. elaborate their own development plans; fully understand the concepts of the LCSD and REDD+; understand the implications and consequences of opt-in vs. opt-out and the concepts of access and benefit sharing mechanism) in order to have a real stake in discussions and to make well-informed decisions. Institutional strengthening and adequate funding for the Amerindian representatives (NTC and Indigenous NGOs) is required

Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

#### **Field visit of Barama Company Limited (BCL) in Buckhall**

Participants: IDB project team: Juan Chang, Annika Keil, and Luis Miguel Aparicio. GFC: Quacy Bremner, GFC forest engineer. BCL: Krishna Basdoo, Assistant Manager; Halex Meligat, Complex Manager; Denzil Jones, Occupation, Health and Safety Officer.

BCL representatives provided an overview of their forest management and timber processing/exporting operations: BCL is the largest forest management company in Guyana, and is involved in selective timber harvesting and value added processing (plywood, veneer and sawn lumber), although an important part of their production is exported as wood in the rough.

A forest concession of 1.6 million hectares was granted to BCL for a period of 25 years - ending in 2016 - which can be subject to renewal. Although the total investment to date is substantial, there is a 100% overlap of the forest concession area with mining concessions; BCL representatives mentioned this as the main reason for the loss of their FSC certification.

GFC has permanent offices and staff in three locations of BCL's operation area: the main log landing (Buckhall) and two other sites within the concession. GFC mentioned the fact that most mining concessions in the country overlap with forest management operations.

IDB Project Team recommendations:

- Perform a detailed analysis on the ecological and economical sustainability of large-scale forest management operations under the current scenario and analyse potential fields of improvement to serve as input for the design of the REDD strategy options.

#### **IV. NEXT STEPS (Q1)**

- Conduct a detailed analysis (including the provision of means of verification) of the progress attained by GoG in the Readiness phase, using the FCFP Assessment Framework as benchmark.
- Analyze how inputs from different stakeholders, in terms of requirements for adequate FPIC, are being taken into account. Restructure the TC activities as necessary.



- Adjust the TC procurement plan according to the Bank's procurement requirements and developments of execution of the previously planned activities.

## Annex

### Details of new contact persons during the mission

Office of Climate Change

Ms Gitanjali Chandarpal, Head of OCC

[Gitanjalic81@yahoo.com](mailto:Gitanjalic81@yahoo.com)

Guyanese Organization of Indigenous Peoples (GOIP)

Mr Colin Klautky, Chief of GOIP

[Goip2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Goip2000@yahoo.com)

Amerindian Peoples Association (APA)

Ms Sharon Atkinson, President of APA

[Wafugee1@yahoo.com](mailto:Wafugee1@yahoo.com)

Ms Laura George, Assisent / Officer of APA

[kukuigok@yahoo.com](mailto:kukuigok@yahoo.com)

[apaguy@networksgy.com](mailto:apaguy@networksgy.com)

WWF Guianas

Aiesha Williams, Head of Office

[awilliams@wwf.gy](mailto:awilliams@wwf.gy)

Charles Hutchinson, Protected Areas REDD+ Lead Officer

[chutchinson@wwf.gy](mailto:chutchinson@wwf.gy)

Barama Company Limited, Buckhall

Krishna Basdoo, Assistant Manager

[kbasdoo@baramagy.com](mailto:kbasdoo@baramagy.com)

Holex Meligat, Complex Manager

[hmeligat@baramagy.com](mailto:hmeligat@baramagy.com)

Denzil Jones, Occupation, Health and Safety Officer

[djones@baramagy.com](mailto:djones@baramagy.com)