

RPP: Guyana Update



Guyana's Participation in the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility



Background

- Guyana is a country with over 80% of its land mass covered with intact forest.
- It has demonstrated over the years, a low deforestation rate, of less than 1%
- Significant efforts towards sustainable forest management and utilization have contributed toward this.
- Overall sustainable utilization practices by indigenous peoples over the years, have significantly contributed to this favourable circumstance.

Background



- Submission of Guyana's Readiness Plan Idea Note (RPIN) – March 2008
- Approval of RPIN – June, 2008
- Submission of Readiness Plan – February, 2009, Revised in April 2009, Revised in May 2009, Revised in June 2009, Revised in August 2009, Revised in September 2009.
- Readiness plan renamed RPP
- 2 Additional Revisions Planned for October 2009 and December 2009.
- These reviews completed, would have taken into consideration, comments from the TAP, Forest Peoples' Programme, Guyanese stakeholders as well as others, including those of the World Bank.



Background



- The total amount currently requested from the FCPF is US\$3.6M over a period of 36 months
- Noted that Preparatory activities needed to be conducted inclusive of due diligence by the World Bank
- REDD is one aspect of the LCDS
- Participation of all stakeholders especially indigenous communities/NTC/Indigenous NGO's is vital to guarantee success





Key Issues Identified



- Activities to target a forest carbon financing mechanism have to be appropriate and relevant to Guyana's context.
- Efforts must be geared towards sustainable forest management, conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (Bali Action Plan 1 (b) (iii)).
- Identification of focal areas/groups and synchronization of work programs to address issues of deforestation and forest degradation in Guyana.
- Harmonization of natural resource utilization; capacity building, and upgrading of resources. (GFC/GGMC/GLSC/EPA/NGO's/Communities/others...)



Key Issues identified



- **Building National Ownership**
 - Develop/enhance/strengthen participatory mechanisms for information dissemination/awareness/consultation/feedback: Continuous process driven by NTC/NGO's/GoG/ Civil society
- **Strengthening/enhancing mechanisms which ensure active participation of forest dependent communities and users in all areas of the initiative e.g Capacity building/value adding/benefit sharing**
- **Integration- Building partnerships with Caricom to enhance mitigation/adaptation activities.**

Conducting Due Diligence

- 2 visits have been made so far by the World Bank:
 - July 2009 – Riversview, Region 7, St. Cuthberts, Region 4
 - October 2009 – Kamarang (and included representatives of Waramadong, Chinoweing, Kaikan, Arau, Kako, Jawalla, Warawatta, Paruima); Fairview and Nappi, Region 9 (and included representative of Moco Moco, Parishara, Haiwa, St. Ignatius)
- The main intention was to gain a balanced view of both the opportunities of and risks to the process, and to obtain a better understanding of how the preparation process may best accentuate the positives, and eliminate or reduce and mitigate negatives



Due Diligence Mission



- The October 2009 Mission saw the participation of a multi stakeholder committee. WB team suggested the sites for the field visit.
- The World Bank Washington Team comprised of a range of specialists:
 - land tenure specialist
 - indigenous rights specialist
 - social development specialist
 - communications specialist
- 3 members of the WB team remained in Region 7 for an additional 3 days to have further dialogue with the communities.

Multi-stakeholder team composition for due diligence



- World Bank (WB)
- National Toshias' Council (NTC)
- Amerindian Peoples' Association (APA)
- Guyana Organization of Indigenous People (GOIP)
- National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF)
- The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG)
- Iwokrama International Centre (IIC)
- National Monitors (IIED)/Civil Society
- USAID
- British High Commission
- Conservation International (CI)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
- Guyana Forestry Commission/REDD Secretariat

RPP Link with LCDS



- REDD is one component of the LCDS
- LCDS is overall development strategy of country
- Well managed forests to provide incentives:
 - Mitigation actions (Renewable sources of energy ...)
 - Adaptation actions (infrastructure; D&I...)
 - High Potential Low Carbon Sector Investments
 - Improved livelihoods and Social development
- LCDS awareness sessions held countrywide
- 141 communities/sectoral consultations/civil society consultations/Nat. Toshias' Conference...
- Awareness led by Multi Stakeholder Steering Committee

Composition of MSCC



- 3 of the 4 Amerindian NGO's
- Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
- National Tshaos' Council
- Other Amerindian Leaders in individual capacities
- Organized Labour
- CI/WWF/Iwokrama
- Private Sector
- Sectors (Forestry/Mining/Agriculture/Tourism)
- Government Ministries and Agencies
- National Monitors (IIED)
- Civil Society representatives

World Bank Visit in July, 2009

St. Cuthbert



Land Tenure Specialist, Mr. Malcolm Childress seeking inputs from residents in St. Cuthbert's Mission: July 2009





Feedback from visits



- Higher level of inclusivity, acknowledged by all
- Many concerns on information dissemination
- Commitment given that dialogue will be improved
- National Toshias' Council to play lead role
- Need to better link all initiatives:
- -LCDS/REDD/FCPF/RPIN/RPLAN/RPP
- Visits provided opportunity to clarify issues
- Communities identified incorrect documentation
- General support for initiatives/improved process
- Other areas of concern raised by communities





Next Steps

- RPP circulated to NTC/NGO's/also on GFC website
- Comments invited from NTC/Indigenous NGOs ; to be submitted by early November.
- As soon as comments are received, RPP will be revised taking these into consideration.
- The Revised RPP will then again be made available to all stakeholders with an explicit invitation for comments. This is expected to occur in mid November.
- The RPP will be revised, taking into consideration, comments received. This is foreseen to be completed by December 2009.



Next Steps



- The World Bank Mission report is being finalized.
- The GFC has completed additional requirements necessary to receive the seed financing of US\$200,000 of which part will be used by the NTC to conduct awareness/information sharing.
- The GFC is awaiting the disbursement of this financing. The following activities are planned under this preliminary phase:
 - Conduct Awareness and Sensitization sessions with communities, indigenous groups and other stakeholders across Administrative Regions of Guyana. The majority of the Indigenous community sessions will be led by the NTC in collaboration with other stakeholders
 - Commence initial work on developing a methodology and model for forest carbon stock assessment in Guyana
 - Assess information requirements to conduct a baseline assessment of historical carbon emissions from deforestation and degradation in Guyana





Next Steps

- Initial Work on the MRVS.
- Formulation of preparatory activities as outlined to be done with US\$200,000.
- Issuance of agreement by the World Bank, for US\$3.4M
- Continuous interaction with stakeholders.