

Regional Stakeholders' Workshop on Mangrove Restoration



Government of Guyana



European Union



REPORT

REGIONS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS



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BACKGROUND

Climate Change is a major issue for Guyanese and the Second Draft LCDS has, as its central theme, forest conservation that includes the protection of coastal areas from the sea. Mangroves contribute substantially to sea defence by damping off wave action and protecting coastal banks from erosion, however, due to natural and artificial effects mangroves ecosystem have been degraded. Under the European Union's Global Climate Change Alliance Budget line, a programme linked to sustainable Coastal Zone Management has been developed. The overall objective of the programme is to abate climate change (carbon sequestration through reforestation and forest preservation) and to mitigate its effects via sea defences. The project will include rehabilitation, protection and sustainable use of mangroves, their monitoring and the enforcement of forest legislation, mangrove research, formulation of a Code of Practice for mangrove management, public awareness and education and policy and legislation review.

The Government of Guyana (GoG) through the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has identified the National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI) through its Climate Change and Agricultural Adaptation Unit as the lead agency for the overall coordination of the programme and a Mangrove Action Committee (MAC) has been formulated to oversee the implementation of the programme. The committee comprises representatives of 12 government agencies namely; Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), Ministry of Public Works and Communications – Sea Defences – Work Services Group, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Fisheries Department, the National Drainage and Irrigation Board (NDIA), the University of Guyana, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Guyana Marine Turtle Conservation Society and the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI).

An Updated National Mangrove Management Action Plan (NMMAP) has been developed and will be the guiding document for the Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project. The acceptance of the document by stakeholders and its approval by CABINET is the performance criteria for disbursement of the initial tranche of budget support from the EU to GoG.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

-  To review and discuss the Updated National Mangrove Management Plan from different stakeholders' perspective
-  To understand how different stakeholders are affected in different ways
-  To understand the recommendation presented by different stakeholders

PROCESS

The regional stakeholders' workshops on mangrove restoration are an opportunity for the project to critically reflect on our approach and how it is perceived by different stakeholders. The idea is to document the process of the interaction to better understand how different stakeholders perceive the issue and how they think it should be addressed. The process will guide the project in terms of linking people and research and provide ideas for how we plan the next steps and what is relevant for the analysis, through facilitated participatory group discussions.

The description of the process below builds mostly on concrete insights. The chosen cases are situated within contexts in which the historical legacy is characterized by conflicting interests in terms of the management, governance and use of coastal resources. Situated within all cases are mangroves which serve as arenas for discord but also in some cases reconciliation. The Updated National Mangrove Management Action Plan is about providing insights, tools, approaches and theory into operationalising mangrove management in Guyana, and in this context it is important to foster the reconciliation.

In the series of regional stakeholders' workshops, stakeholders were provided with a platform to critically reflect upon the influence of NMMAP both from the stakeholders' and the project's perspective. They were able to develop, contest, deconstruct earlier, and reconstruct new common visions and plans through a phase of scenario development. In short support a strategic action planning process.

CONSULTATION SESSIONS

The consultation team included Mangrove Project Office, MAC and NARI personnel:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| ▪ Director NARI | Dr. Oudho Homenauth |
| ▪ Project Coordinator | Bissasar Chintamanie |
| ▪ MAC Chair | Annette Arjoon-Martins |
| ▪ Mangrove Specialist | Owen Bovell |
| ▪ Community Development Specialist | Paul McAdam |
| ▪ Admin/Finance Officer | Kene Moseley |
| ▪ Team Leader-EU TA | John Townend |

Presenters for the sessions were Bissasar Chintamanie, Owen Bovell and Paul McAdam

Regional representatives from each Region gave remarks at the consultations. Closing remarks were made by Mr. John Townend – Team Leader - European Union Technical Assistance to Works Services Group

MAIN ISSUES

GENERAL VIEWS:

- At all consultations, stakeholders gave their support for the project.
- Stakeholders were of the view that more public awareness needed to be done to ensure that all communities are aware that mangroves are a protected species and the importance of mangroves to our sea defence

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 Mangrove Action Committee

- 1.1 RDC's o setup mangrove management committees to feedback to MAC
- 1.2 Newly established National Livestock Development Board should be included on the Mangrove Action Committee
- 1.3 The Religious community should be represented on the MAC
- 1.4 Private sector should be represented on the MAC
- 1.5 MAC and Forestry officials should set up a system to notify relevant authorities about developmental plans, for example building of wharfs for farm access, and gathering of firewood in a sustainable manner. This information will be passed on by Touthao to forestry staffers and MAC for the go-ahead.
- 1.6 Establish Regional Mangrove Committees which will be responsible for the monitoring of mangroves in their Region and report to the MAC. This committee representatives should come from the NDCs
- 1.7 Ministry of Amerindian Affairs should be included on the MAC to ensure that Amerindians have a representative that they can identify with

2.0 Monitoring, Reporting and Protection

- 2.1 Better enforcement of existing laws to prosecute persons who destroy mangroves.
- 2.2 More rangers should be used to protect areas.
- 2.3 The Guyana Police Force needs to be involved with the project.
- 2.4 Institute realistic fines for destroying mangroves
- 2.5 Need for community rangers for practical monitoring and inventory
- 2.6 GSA should be utilized for the monitoring and reporting aspect of the project
- 2.7 Buttonwood should be included under the list of protected mangrove species
- 2.8 Install signs indicating that it is illegal to destroy mangroves
- 2.9 Permission should not be granted for construction of houses along key areas of the coastline.
- 2.10 NDCs should not give permission to residents to occupy lands on mangrove areas for farming and squatting purposes
- 2.11 Boundaries should be extended from 50m to approximately 200m
- 2.12 Rangers should be employed from the community they would be expected to monitor

- 2.13 Placement of signs along public areas such as beaches and access paths to warn persons about dangers of harming mangroves.
- 2.14 GFC should include community participation during inventory for follow up and reporting
- 2.15 Penalty for destroying mangroves should be clearly stated and published so that the general public is made aware
- 2.16 Provision of alternative grazing lands for cattle and other animals.
- 2.17 Residential development along key areas of coastline should be stopped.
- 2.18 Explore the establishment of common pastures for cattle farmers
- 2.19 Fence mangrove areas to protect them
- 2.20 Ministry of Agriculture to provide cattle industry with data on mangrove forested areas
- 2.21 Establish barriers between mangroves and pastures
- 2.22 NDCs with the support of EPA need to establish garbage dump site to alleviate the problem of dumping garbage in the mangrove forest
- 2.23 Areas should be dredge when the tide is going out to prevent the silt from killing the mangroves
- 2.24

3.0 Restoration

- 3.1 Use of old barges/boiler/scuttled ships/wrecks to promote soil accretion offshore.
- 3.2 Use of palms/coconut trees and grass to reinforce sea defence dams
- 3.3 Construct groynes with local materials, Greenheart/hard wood, tyres filled with garbage, derelict vehicles
- 3.4 Future Development of mangrove restoration should include from Mon Repos to Buxton
- 3.5 Rehabilitate old channels
- 3.6 They are no mangroves at the following areas:
 - No. 7 Village; Belladrum; Cottage – Litchfield; No. 5 Village; Profit, No. 4 Village
- 3.7 Crop grass can be planted to boost mangroves

4.0 Research and Development

- 4.1 Better data collection and research for future use.

5.0 Public Awareness and Education

- 5.1 More community meetings to focus on smaller groups.
- 5.2 More youth education, possible through schools with the Ministry of Education.
- 5.3 More community involvement in the project
- 5.4 Introduce Mangrove as a topic in Geography
- 5.5 Interschool debating competitions
- 5.6 Have school talks by mangrove project personnel
- 5.7 Educate GSA students on Mangrove Management and Restoration
- 5.8 Educational tours to deforested mangrove areas

- 5.9 Develop practical apiculture programme at GSA since to encourage this as an alternative livelihood programme that can be established in the mangrove forest
- 5.10 Conference on mangrove restoration which will include the Caribbean and South American countries
- 5.11 Increase public awareness on the importance of mangroves
- 5.12 More community development council leaders and Touthao should be informed, possible through the Amerindian Affairs Ministry.
- 5.13 Public awareness program needs to include signage near mangrove sites prohibiting person from dumping garbage in the mangrove and from destroying the mangroves
- 5.14 Public awareness program should target fishermen to educate them on the damage caused to the mangroves forest and effects this would have on their fishing.

6.0 *Alternative Livelihood*

- 6.1 Community incentive programs should be developed to motivate communities with mangrove stands to manage their areas.
- 6.2 Program should be developed to compensate farmers who have mangrove stands on their property to encourage them not to destroy the mangroves for farmlands
- 6.3 Economic activities need to be sustained with viable alternatives
- 6.4 Despite titling of lands, concessions still be given to access lands (specific to Region 1).
- 6.5 Serious concerns about the grazing of cattle. Livestock farmers will be displaced on the West Coast. Suggested solutions:
 - Acquire land for farmers and provide other facilities (MMA/ADA should provide state land)
 - Provide fenced pasture for cattle farmers
- 6.6 Some cattle farmers will be forced to sell and seek other employment, arrangements should be made to support affected farmers by setting up apiculture programs
- 6.7 Mangroves are being burned for use as fire wood. It is suggested that support be provided for installation of solar panels to families for cooking

APPENDIX 1 - ATTENDANCE FOR REGIONS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Dates: April 16 - May 28 2010

Total number of persons registered: 497

| Date | Region | Workshop Location | Areas/Villages Represented | Persons registered |
|----------------|--------|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| April 16, 2010 | 2 | Anna Regina, Essequibo | Charity, Reliance, Bush Lot, Adventure, Better Success, Devonshire Castle, Anna Regina, Dartmouth, Airy Hall, Mainstay, Affiance, Bounty Hall, Pomona, Queenstown, Golden Fleece, Cotton Filed, Lima, Suddie, Henrietta, Pomeroon River, Three Friends, Tapakuma, Windsor Castle, Cullen, Hampton Court, Onderneering | 81 |
| April 23, 2010 | 6 | # 63 Village, East Berbice | Rosignol, New Amsterdam, Bath, N0. 68 Village, No. 51 Village, No, 62 Village, No. 60 Village, Bloomfield, No. 6 Village, Kildonar, No. 52 Village, No. 64 Village, Edinburg, Skeldon, No. 58 Village, No. 54 Village, Nurney Village, Springlands, Corriverton, Black Bush Polder, Brothers Village, Rose Hall, No. 17 Village, Queenstown, Crabwood Creek, Eversham Village, Williamsburg, Tain, No. 70 Village, Albion, Cane Field, Kilroy, No. 69 Village, Adventure, Hamshire, Bush lot | 104 |
| April 30, 2010 | 3 | Crane, West Coast Demerara | Zeelugt, Cornelia Ida, Parika, Verngenogen, La'Union, Best, Klien Pouderoyen, Anna Catherina, Windsor Forest, La Jalousie, Vreed-en-Hoop, Greenwich Park, Rumzeight, Zeeburg, Crane, Stewartville, Vergenoegen, Tuschen, DeKenderen, Den Amstel, Farm Village, | 111 |
| May 7, 2010 | 4 | Mon Repos, East Coast Demerara | Cane Grove, Mon Repos, Chateau Margot, Enterprise, Golden Grove, Kuru Kururu, Better Hope, Bladen Hall, Vigilance, Foulis, Tuschen, Nabacalis, East LaPenitance, Enmore, Friendship, Patentia, Haslington, Triumph, Victoria, Lusignan, | 90 |
| May 14, 2010 | 5 | # 28 Village, West Cost Berbice | No. 28 Village, No. 3 Vilalge, No. 30 Village, Bath, No. 29 Village, Woodley Park, Blairmont, Lichfield, Perth, Hopetown, Golden Grove, Cotton Tree, Onverwagt, Lovely Lass, Dundee, No. 29 Vilalge, No. 30 Village, Shieldstown Settlement, Britannia Village, | 59 |

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| May 28, 2010 | 1 | Kumaka, Mabaruma | Barima River, Kumaka, Mabaruma, Hosororo Hill, Bumbary, Khan Hill, Aruka River, Wanakai Creek, Waini, Arukama Village, | 52 |
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