

GUIANA SHIELD REGIONAL MEETING REPORT



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, MINING AND CLIMATE CHANGE

APRIL 13-17, 2009 • GEORGETOWN, GUYANA



Cover Photograph: Guiana Shield Regional Meeting Group Picture

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Acronyms

APA- Amerindian Peoples Association

CI- Conservation International

COICA- Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin

DECOIN- Defensa y Conservación Ecológica de Intag (Defense and Ecological Conservation of Intag)

ECOLEX- Corporación de Gestión y Derecho Ambiental

EDF- Environmental Defense Fund

FCPF- Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

FERN- Forest and the European Union Resources Network

FOAG- Fédération des Organisations Autochtones de Guyane Village Amérindien

FPIC- Free Prior and Informed Consent

IPAM- Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia (Amazon Institute for Environmental Research)

OIS- Organisatie Van Inheemsen (Organization of Indigenous Peoples of Suriname)

REDD- Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation

R-PIN- Readiness Plan Idea Note

R-Plan- Readiness Plan

UNDRIP- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

UNFCCC- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Executive Summary

The Guiana Shield Regional Meeting on Infrastructure Development, Mining and Climate Change held April 13-17th in Georgetown, Guyana, reinforced the importance of preserving forests from infrastructure development and resource extraction and emphasized the vital role of the Guiana Shield region in climate change. It also highlighted the critical gap of information flow to the base communities and the lack of consultation on numerous projects and proposals through IIRSA and REDD initiatives. Finally, the meeting demonstrated that collaborative processes between indigenous peoples' organizations (IPOs) and NGOs can produce concrete action plans while still respecting the rights and perspectives of those who are most often marginalized.

The Guiana Shield has been targeted not only because of its biodiversity, but because of its vast resources and the tremendous value placed on its forest. The failure to recognize the key role indigenous peoples have played in forest preservation leads to their marginalization within crucial decision-making spaces. It is a severe problem that the very people who have preserved and protected forests for millennia are the first to be impacted yet the last to be consulted.

Many governments, multilateral institutions, and NGOs fail to uphold indigenous peoples' right to *self-determination* and *Free Prior and Informed Consent* (FPIC) even though these rights are guaranteed under several international legal instruments, such as the ILO 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Legitimate elected indigenous leaders are routinely excluded from policy development in important initiatives such as REDD and IIRSA. As a response, the IPOs of the Guiana Shield region decided to organize a meeting in Georgetown, specifically to bring together elected indigenous leaders and NGOs to create an example of collaborative approaches. This meeting enabled all participants to set joint priorities in strengthening the Amazonian movement while mapping out methods of how to utilize existent legal systems and instruments, accountability mechanisms and monitoring systems in relation to climate change, the impacts of infrastructure development, and mining.

Presentations by IPOs and NGOs repeatedly brought attention to the following with regard to IIRSA, REDD and mining:

- Information access by ALL who will be impacted must dramatically increase
- Previous consultation with ALL stake holders is necessary and has been lacking
- Participants desire more spaces for further education
- Participants desire more advocacy and political spaces for direct dialogue with governments

As indigenous perspectives are increasingly accepted around the world, it is important to reexamine how indigenous organizations can engage with allies to protect their lands and peoples from the destruction that is consuming Amazonia. This meeting focused on the strengths and vulnerabilities of the Amazonian indigenous movement in the face of myriad threats. However, the respectful exchange of ideas and strategies within this meeting, and willingness to develop mutually beneficial partnerships, exemplifies the principle of self-determination and provides a model for the international community.

The meeting organizers would like to congratulate all participants, presenters, and staff members for the success of this momentous meeting. Through immense determination, everyone came together to renew their commitment to working collaboratively to defend the Amazon and its peoples.

The Current Situation of Indigenous Peoples in the Guiana Shield

Indigenous peoples of the Guiana Shield region of the Amazon—spanning Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana—face numerous internal and external threats that have the potential to destroy their homelands. The combination of infrastructure development and mining correlate with the increased threat of climate change within this region.

The Guiana Shield region is an area rich in biodiversity and natural resources. The region has large reserves of bauxite, gold, diamonds, and iron ore which make this attractive for increased mining concessions of small, medium and large scale. The numerous rivers are a significant attractor for the development of hydroelectric power. Finally, the large tracts of forest that have been preserved are not only attractive for the harvesting of high value timber, but also a high value commodity within the emergent carbon market. The development of infrastructure to accelerate the extraction and exportation of these natural resources is coupled with weak governance and lack of enforcement of environmental laws. The result is massive deforestation and degradation, environmental pollution and the displacement of indigenous peoples, often replaced by colonists and industrial agriculture.

Deforestation is widely recognized to be a key driver of climate change. Already, there are reports that climate change has altered the populations and migrations of fish and animals essential to the diet and livelihoods of indigenous peoples. Agricultural and growing seasons are also impacted by the shifting climate. If the rate of infrastructure development continues as planned, in the next 10-20 years the entire Amazon rainforest is predicted to reach the “tipping point,” resulting in increased temperature, decreased rainfall, and permanent drought causing irreversible damage and death to the whole forest.

The Guiana Shield region is politically complex and this often presents obstacles to indigenous peoples’ ability to effectively navigate through their country’s policies in regard to their rights, the environment and proposed solutions to mitigate climate change. The colonial history and government systems (and in the case of French Guiana, remaining a territory of France) create challenges for effective participation. However, all three countries have ratified the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In the case of Suriname, the landmark case of the Saramaka People V. Suriname set a precedent for self-determination and the principal of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for both tribal and indigenous peoples

Additionally, communication between the three countries remains challenging as this region, in addition to Brazil, remains the only tract in South America in which the common language is not Spanish. All these complexities intensify the need for stronger collaborative approaches to effectively address the numerous, serious threats facing the indigenous peoples of this region.

Expected Future Impacts on Indigenous Peoples in the Guiana Shield

Within the Guiana Shield countries, the future of indigenous peoples has been compromised by rapid advancement of infrastructure development projects, extensive mining, and most recently climate change negotiations that fail to incorporate adequate representation of indigenous leaders. To best analyze the impacts that such projects are going to have on indigenous peoples, various experts from around the world were invited to Georgetown to provide meeting participants with the most up to date and relevant information on all three topics.

Infrastructure Development

The Initiative for Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA) is a continent wide infrastructure plan which includes over 500 mega-projects. Such projects are designed to dramatically increase resource extraction along ten transnational “axes of integration” by developing large-scale transportation, energy, and communication systems. Almost 10 years since its launch, IIRSA is still not a well known topic among indigenous peoples. General Coordinator of COICA, Egberto Tabo, and Diego Escobar, Coordinator of Biodiversity and Territories, presented on the potential impacts of IIRSA within the whole region of the Amazon. They highlighted the need for all indigenous organizations in the Amazon Basin to work together in order to confront these issues.

COICA stressed the urgency to address the economic incentive for foreign investors, and the lack of consideration of how indigenous peoples will benefit. COICA argued that in reality, IIRSA would not likely benefit indigenous peoples. For example, few indigenous peoples would benefit from the expansion of current airports and construction of new ones as promoted within IIRSA.



IIRSA projects in the Guiana Shield

Dr. Manolo Morales, Executive Director of ECOLEX, presented on the specifics of IIRSA within the Guiana Shield. Currently there are 32 projects planned for the Guiana Shield Hub of which the dominant and potential activities include oil extraction, mining, fisheries, forestry, tourism and advancement of renewable energy.

The stated purpose of these projects is to promote the improvement of transportation, resource-sharing and poverty alleviation among all three countries. However, the presentations illustrated that in reality IIRSA projects fall short in multiple aspects, hindering the benefits that such projects are intended to provide.

Dr. Morales highlighted, several key social and environmental aspects forgotten within IIRSA:

- adequate Social and Environmental Impact Assessment Studies
- information access by ALL who will be impacted
- civil society participation
- previous consultation with ALL stake holders

For many of the indigenous delegates, the COICA and ECOLEX presentations were the first time they had ever heard or seen any of this information. Many of them have been experiencing the direct impacts that such projects have brought to their peoples without having had prior information from their government, or the institutions responsible for managing IIRSA. For instance, in all three countries, the influx of migration from Brazil due to road expansion is already causing disruptions. The leaders present clearly voiced their concerns that decisions by their governments that affect the well-being of their peoples cannot be made without proper consultation processes.

Additionally, it was pointed out that all the governments involved in infrastructure development are simultaneously interested in reducing deforestation; hence the deep contradiction between government discourse and actual

government policies. The consensus amongst participants was that such contradictions need to be addressed and further discussions among all actors are urgently needed

Mining

Mining activities are promoted by governments and development agencies as a way for low-income countries to improve the well-being of their citizens. However, the social, health and environmental impacts are consistently far more devastating than any monetary benefit justifies. Mr. Carlos Zorilla, Executive Director of DECOIN, contributed his first-hand knowledge of the mining reality in indigenous and local communities around the world.

Mr. Zorilla pointed out that global mining companies, as well as local mining entrepreneurs, operate under a few key principles. Number one is that mining enjoys priority of land use and resources over most, if not all, economic, social and cultural activities. Thus, mining claims can be staked anywhere. In Canada, this is called the free-entry mechanism; it works almost like a Divine Right to Mine.

The second principle is that miners don't have to incorporate all of the externalities into their operations. It is expected that a significant part of the social, cultural and environmental consequences of their actions will be addressed, and be paid by others. The third principle is that miners don't really have to clean up after themselves: They can leave their mess for governments and future generations to clean up.

These Three Golden Mining Principles can greatly impact regional and local development plans: ruin renewable resources- sometimes for millennia, impact a country's food sovereignty, lead to serious human rights violations, limit a country's capacity to support sustainable activities--such as ecological tourism, create serious health problems capable of bankrupting a nation.

Global extractive policy, as promoted by the Washington Consensus and carried out by institutions such as the World Bank, has one main objective: to promote and sustain the free flow of raw materials to the economies of the global North in the cheapest way possible. Accomplishing this has meant doing away or severely undermining human-rights, health, land-use, fiscal, labour and environmental regulations. For decades, it has propped up the unsustainable lifestyle of the richest nations and the elites of the rest of the world.¹

Mining in the Guiana Shield is proving to be one of the most environmentally and socially catastrophic extractive activities in the region. Selected delegates from the three countries shared documentaries and personal experiences of what mining has brought to their communities.

Mr. David James, Attorney at Law, discussed in detail his work around Amerindian communities and mining. He addressed the misconception that since Guyana has a Mining Act, that mining activities are carried out in accordance to such laws, thus minimizing any negative impacts on Amerindian communities. This legislation primarily provides for the administration of prospecting permits and licenses for mining operations. It vests guardianship of all minerals in the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC), which then grants licenses and permits to individuals and companies interested in exploration and exploitation of minerals. All mining is supervised by the Prime Minister who can declare any part of Guyana a mining district. Such districts overlap almost all indigenous titled and untitled lands and villages.

The implementation and enforcement of such laws falls short of safeguarding impacted communities. It is required by law that adequate consultations be carried out between mining companies, the government and Amerindian communities. It was noted through personal accounts that such processes are not respected by the government and private sector.

¹ Global Mining in a Nutshell by Carlos Zorilla.

While the government states that under the Mining Act communities have a veto power, in actuality this right is rarely taken into consideration if enacted. Furthermore, the issue of mining on traditional indigenous lands is of urgent concern. Amerindian communities depend on such lands and mining will heavily impact or completely destroy them, even if a concession is not directly located on indigenous lands.

In sum, in Guyana, mining concessions are granted without the free prior and informed consent of communities, consultations are hardly ever carried out properly, and the government does not provide adequate training or safety materials to individuals involved in small or medium scale activities.

For the Suriname delegation, Mr. Leon Winjgaarde shared an award-winning documentary, "Indigenous Suriname" which provided excellent insight into the mercury pollution in the village of Apetina. By focusing on one specific area that now must adapt to the devastating impacts that years of unregulated mining have brought, the severity of the health implications of mining were depicted. With the assistance of the Washington State University, OIS documented a study of the hair analysis of community members for levels of mercury contamination. The results of 159 hair samples were alarming. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the allowable mercury levels need to be *below* 1 part per million, none of the 159 samples taken from Apetina fall under the low risk level. 119 cases fall under the high risk category.

French Guiana had similar experiences as their Surinamese neighbors and indicated that various communities are facing similar health impacts such as birth defects and abnormalities. FOAG also utilized a brief documentary film to highlight the severity of the mining impacts in French Guiana.

The cross-country dialogue enabled participants to understand the aggregate effects of small, medium, and large scale operations when analyzed at a regional level.

Mining was acknowledged to be a source of income for some indigenous peoples; however it was noted that in most cases the benefits are only felt by those individuals directly involved in mining, not the community as a whole. Furthermore, many studies such as the UNCTAD's *The Less Developed Countries 2002 Report*, illustrate the indisputable link between developing countries' reliance on mineral exportation and the exacerbation of poverty. The most mineral-dependent developing countries experience slower economic growth, and a far higher portion of their population lives in poverty than countries not dependent on mining.

Regardless, the social, health and environmental impacts are so severe that no financial reward can compensate for the losses incurred. Indigenous leaders discussed how mining has caused internal conflicts and cultural problems. It is related to armed groups, prostitution, and violence. It has not provided health or education as was promised, and does not create the kind of development they want.

Climate Change

Climate change within the Guiana Shield has become an issue of utmost concern to indigenous peoples. Indigenous leaders in attendance described how climate change is already having direct impacts on their way of life. For instance, there is much uncertainty as to when to plant their crops because prolonged rainy seasons are ruining crops and causing moderate to severe flooding. In recent years, communities that had never experienced floods have had to alter their way of life to adapt to these changes. Furthermore, indigenous peoples are not the cause of these severe changes that are threatening their very own well being and way of life.

As the issue of climate change continues to gain momentum at international level negotiations within the UNFCCC, the information needed by indigenous leaders and organizations to have the ability to make well informed decisions about what mechanisms might be implemented by their respective government is scarce or entirely unavailable. Thus, meeting organizers stressed the urgent need to have various perspectives presented on the subject.

Chris Meyers, of Environmental Defense Fund, discussed some of the challenges and opportunities faced by indigenous peoples within the hotly debated topic of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). Some of the key challenges mentioned included: the lack of understanding among indigenous leaders about international and domestic REDD negotiations and programs; securing Indigenous peoples' rights to the carbon stored in their forests, and finding the correct REDD project framework for each country or community project. REDD discussions are already underway. Mr. Meyers urged indigenous leaders to work closely with allied NGOs to be gain access to information and be able to participate in the discussions on the framework that is being put into place. He suggested that leaders exert pressure on their own governments to insist that indigenous organizations have a meaningful role in REDD negotiations. There are opportunities for indigenous peoples to be compensated for their role as protector of the forest and to reduce the climate change that is negatively impacting them.

Opportunities:

1. Strengthened international focus on the conservation of indigenous controlled forests.
2. Financial compensation for the continued conservation and protection of biodiversity of forests under your control.
3. Financing for economic development projects based around conservation business opportunities for indigenous communities and people.

Ms. Flavia Oyo Franca of the Brazilian Research institute, IPAM, provided further insight into what REDD is and the processes that have led to extensive analysis of what this mechanism would bring to indigenous peoples in the Amazon.

She asserted that REDD activities can provide an additional source of income for indigenous communities and governments, with direct payment or some other kind of revenue derived indirectly. Indigenous peoples can use the political space opened by Readiness activities which could indirectly help to fulfill a range of indigenous rights as stipulated in the UNDRIP and national laws and policies pertaining to indigenous rights. Participating in REDD could therefore decrease deforestation by establishing spaces and mechanisms for indigenous peoples' involvement in the UNFCCC negotiations. Finally, the presentation highlighted the importance of mapping indigenous territories in the Guyana Shield.

Mr. David Sigh, Executive Director of Conservation International Guyana, discussed the background of REDD, and the FCPF. He outlined CI's new mission—to inspire and help societies manage nature's assets for the equitable benefit of current and future generations. He explained that the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) provides direct assistance to developing countries in their efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and land degradation (REDD). This process is new, is moving fast and is driven by partner countries. The dual objectives of the FCPF are building capacity for REDD in developing countries and testing a program of performance-based incentive payments in some pilot countries. Mr. Sigh emphasized the importance of an integrated approach to natural resource management, and the potential REDD scenario within Guyana if economic activities, such as IIRSA, forestry and mining are to move forward as planned. He explained that without REDD there would be deforestation at ~95-100,000 ha/yr, with REDD, but not sufficient ~70,000 ha/yr, and with effective REDD it would be ~20,000 ha/yr.

If the government is calling for the effective involvement of IPs, and proposes that this be done through the national Toshao's council, then it first must allow for such council to be effective by promoting institutional transparency, providing funding for activities in the hinterland, allow APA's active participation, collaboration and (monitoring). It must not be a government controlled body.

Ms. Jutta Kill of FERN delved into the serious issue of indigenous rights within the whole climate change debate. She addressed the various fundamental flaws of the process and the urgent need to bring attention to such flaws. Proposals outlining economic incentives are moving ahead without due consideration of the human rights aspects of climate change mitigation. Despite indigenous peoples' solidarity and joint actions at recent UN climate conferences, indigenous peoples are still considered "stakeholders," not rights-holders. For example, all references to the inclusion of recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in a decision on forests and climate change were deleted from the UN climate conference documents in 2008. It was widely agreed that the only way climate change policies will succeed is if indigenous peoples' rights, participation and their free prior and informed consent are respected and enforced at the national, regional and international level.

Recommendations

One of the main objectives of having each country working group meet among themselves and with allied NGOs was to develop concrete recommendations to address the abovementioned concerns. The most consistent recommendations included:

Within all Projects which will impact indigenous peoples of the Guiana Shield:

- Capacity and information access at the grassroots level
- Mapping of indigenous territories
- Statutory representative indigenous bodies should also be involved in shaping policies and providing advice
- Create dialogue tables between governments, indigenous peoples, and NGOs
- Government and private sector (national and international) must adhere to the principle of FPIC
- Seek support from national and international organizations working to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples
- Establish partnerships with NGO and private sector for collaborative work on the impacts of infrastructure development, mining and climate change
- Develop working relationship with the government, civil society, indigenous peoples organizations, NGOs, grassroots organizations
- Development of a collaborative action plan inclusive of the government, indigenous peoples organizations, NGOs, and the private sector to address these issues
- Establishment of a 3 country working group
- To develop working relationship with the government civil society, IP orgs, NGOs, national Toshaos council, village council
- Include indigenous leaders in national government committees
- Develop system for documentation of impacts
- Lobbying government to enforce existing legislation

IIRSA

- Familiarity with IIRSA projects: what/who will be affected? When? Must know impacts so communities can be prepared- enhance benefits, minimize damages
- Full, effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in decision making processes related to IIRSA, nationally and internationally
- Access to financial and technical resources to strengthen institutional capacity of the indigenous communities on the values of their culture and identity

Mining

- Deliberate work on public opinion about mining. Clarify to the public the reality of mining impacts. Mining arrives with a discourse of work, wealth, development. But what is the cost/benefit analysis when we look at pollution and other impacts?
- Ratification and respect for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Ratification and respect for the Framework Law on Indigenous Rights in Suriname, by the National Assembly of Suriname.
- Full and effective participation throughout the introduction of new environmental legislation in Suriname, and any such legislation in Guyana and French Guiana
- Revision of the Mining Act of Guyana with the intention to incorporate indigenous peoples' rights in accordance with UNDRIP
- Proper ESIA's must be done prior to any mining activity, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, including the cumulative effects in the case of integrated industries

- Rehabilitation and compensation in accordance with international standards in the case of change or destruction of the environment
- Undertake research if mining companies adhere to their policies regarding indigenous peoples, and also where they get the financing for mining activities from
- Strive to stop all mining activities in indigenous regions
- Take IPs to witness impacts of mining in villages- community to community education on mining

Climate Change

- More research related to the specific themes related to climate change, and the results of such research should be accessible by grassroots organizations
- Make funds available so that indigenous organizations can ourselves provide information on climate change and REDD to our villages (how, what, when)
- Plan ahead for the potential relocation of villages to other areas that do not flood
- Drill for permanent water sources and build water reservoirs
- Establish new agricultural plots to secure food supply
- Research potential new crops in order not to have dependence on one single crop
- Full recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples as expressed in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in all REDD and FCPF processes, including land rights and FPIC
- Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in R-PIN and R-Plan processes



Guyana Delegation Working Group



Suriname Delegation Working Group



French Guiana Delegation Working Group

Meeting with President Jagdeo of Guyana

The conveners of the Guiana Shield Meeting had the honor and pleasure of hosting Guyana's president, President Jagdeo, at a dinner and discussion with all the meeting participants. It was an unprecedented opportunity for indigenous leaders and their allies to engage in direct dialogue with an Amazonian president who is one of the principal proponents of REDD. It was a truly historic occasion and we wish to thank President Jagdeo for his attendance.

President Jagdeo has taken significant steps to position Guyana as a global leader in climate change mitigation. In 2007, President Jagdeo expressed interest in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Program, after its launching in Bali, and in spring of 2008 Guyana submitted its Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) to the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). This was the first of five steps in the process of acquiring funding and approval from the World Bank. Later in 2008, Guyana received funding to create its R-Plan. Guyana has championed forest preservation, and by establishing a framework of incentives and compensation has affirmed its ability to effectively preserve the forests.

The evening began with introductions and brief statements by APA, OIS, FOAG, the Amazon Alliance and the President. The statements recognized President Jagdeo's important work on the topic of deforestation, but expressed concern regarding violations of indigenous peoples' rights and the minimal involvement indigenous peoples had in shaping important national policies. Indigenous delegates urged the President to set a positive precedent by implementing systems that involve indigenous peoples in designing exceptional national strategies for confronting climate change.

During the lively discussion session, President Jagdeo took questions from the audience and agreed to the following:

- 1) to work to increase the amount of titled indigenous land in Guyana
- 2) establish a process for ongoing direct dialogue for indigenous peoples' representatives

This dinner meeting with President Jagdeo was important for the entire Guiana Shield region—and all of Amazonia—because numerous precedent-setting initiatives are being piloted in Guyana. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, 85% of Guyana's rainforest, which in total covers an area the size of England,² can be classified as "pristine forest"³. Under the carbon markets, this is a tremendous commodity, with value placed on it to remain intact rather than for industrial logging and infrastructure development. With compensation for forest preservation, Guyana can potentially bring in tremendous revenue for the country each year. Under the leadership of President Jagdeo, this opportunity has not been lost as his administration has actively pursued the options available in the global market.



Guyana Indigenous Delegation with President Jagdeo

² Republic of Guyana The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN), terminology commonly referred to by President Jagdeo

³ Draft Forest Bill to be approved early 2009 to enhance sector - 18 certified timber graders added to sector

<http://www.agriculture.gov.gy/Bulletins/January%202009/Draft%20Forest%20Bill%20to%20be%20approved%20early%202009%20to%20enhance%20sector.html>

Guyana's Leadership on Climate Change and Indigenous Rights

Written by Trevor Stevenson and Presented by Juan Carlos Jintiach:
Co-Directors of the Amazon Alliance

Your Excellency President Jagdeo,

It is a great honor to have been asked by the maximum indigenous leaders of Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana to say a few words here today. I am here today speaking in representation of the Amazon Alliance and COICA, both of which are lead by the indigenous leaders from all 9 Amazonian countries. We are very pleased to see that the president of this country is open to dialogue with indigenous leaders.

Throughout the Amazon, indigenous organizations have been meeting to discuss the threats facing the existence of our peoples, and develop proposals. Across the entire Amazon region, indigenous leaders have united in identifying IIRSA and Climate Change as the most urgent threats facing indigenous peoples.

We have attended countless international meetings on Climate Change, and we have seen the prominent role that Guyana is playing in the climate change debates. We have studied your proposals for the future of forests and indigenous peoples with great interest, as they set a precedent that may be followed by many other countries. We are concerned that your proposals include plans to restrict the rights of indigenous peoples to conduct their traditional slash-and burn agriculture, in violation of the rights defined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. However, it gives us great hope to have you join us here today.

Indigenous peoples are undisputable experts on environmental issues. Over the last few days, we have learned a great deal from the many indigenous leaders who are participating in this meeting. As indigenous peoples, we work via our representative indigenous organizations to develop proposals for the future of our peoples and our lands. In order to produce the best possible proposals, we need to be involved in the design of any projects that will affect our lands. Open dialogue is essential.

This week, the leaders here are working hard to share vital information and develop proposals. We would like to ensure that indigenous peoples join the Government of Guyana in leading the design of climate change proposals that may set the standard for many other countries. This week the Amerindian Peoples Association, our esteemed Council member in Guyana, will be selecting someone to serve as an advisor to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. We trust that the Government of Guyana will involve the Amerindian Peoples Association and the grassroots indigenous leaders of Guyana in exploring the best possible ways to protect forests and indigenous peoples' rights.

On Friday, the Guiana Shield countries will hear the preliminary resolutions that are being developed here this week. We look forward to hearing your response, and seeing how we can continue to collaborate in the future.

Thank you for your leadership in seeking solutions to deforestation, and thank you again for joining our leaders here this evening.

Action Plans

Developing action plans and general timelines for continuing the work begun in Georgetown during this historical meeting of indigenous leaders and allied NGOs was a top priority among all participants. Within the country working groups the following plans were developed according to topic areas. Thank you to the French Guiana delegation for creating their action plan in this format, which has been expanded to include all three countries.

IIRSA

	Urgent: within 3 months	Priority: 3-6 months	Important: 6 months to a year	Necessary: 2010 and beyond
Guyana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education at the community level about current and future projects Follow up and evaluation of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Re-focus government attention to land demarcation issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach to allies for support in continuing education at local level Dialogue with government agencies on land demarcation issue, consultation processes and IIRSA project management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue collaboration with allies to ensure information is reaching the communities Continue dialogue with government agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of work carried out in 2009 with NGOs and government agencies Construction of 2010 work plan
Suriname	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with other member organizations of COICA for better structuring Lobby for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decision making processes nationally and internationally Information at the village level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach to national and international allies for support to continue information sharing at the village level Continue lobbying for recognition of indigenous peoples in decision making spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for recognition of indigenous organizations by the Government Continue outreach to allies Continue information sharing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue lobbying for the full recognition of indigenous peoples' rights
French Guiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 day Meeting for the Development of FOAG member organizations with partner NGOs FOAG's Congress Cross border dissemination of information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social mobilization at national, regional and international level Continue information sharing to the core of the communities: West- East, central and south Oyapock, Maroni 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional development partners- COICA and Amazon Alliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote standardization of legal norms across the 3 Guianas

MINING

	Urgent: within 3 months	Priority: 3-6 months	Important: 6 months to a year	Necessary: 2010 and beyond
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop plan for education material preparation- i.e. documentaries Begin educating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National forum with Indigenous Peoples organizations, National Toshias Council, NGOs, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research of Mercury contamination/mining in general Continue education at community level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue research on mining contamination Publish research Continue training for

Guyana	<p>communities about the true impacts of mining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop public awareness campaign Meet with Guyana Geology and Mines Commission to discuss Amerindian Peoples concerns 	<p>government , multilaterals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch public awareness campaign Lobby for enforcement of the Mining Act- Amerindian Veto Right! Continue education at community level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement plan for Amerindian leaders to visit mining compounds- material for documentary Train rangers within communities to test for mining related contamination 	<p>local rangers to maximize their work quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop plans for international anti-mining campaign
Suriname	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop plan for lobbying for the Ratification and Respect of UNDRIP and the Framework Law on Indigenous Rights in Suriname by the National Assembly Continue distribution of documentary "Indigenous Suriname" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby for ratification and respect for the Framework Law on Indigenous Rights in Suriname by the National Assembly Advocate for the Revision of the Mining Act to include IP rights Advocate government and the private sector (national and international) to work with the principle of FPIC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue advocating for the full and effective participation throughout the introduction of new Environmental Legislation in Suriname Advocate for ESIA's to be done prior to any mining activity Outreach to national and international mining advocacy organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for the rehabilitation and compensation in accordance with international standards in the case of change or destruction to the environment Undertake research if mining companies adhere to their policies regarding indigenous peoples, and also where they get the financing for mining activities from
French Guiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue dialogue with neighboring countries about wide spread mining contamination and impacts Construction of the legal argument for the complaint in favor of Wayanas and Wayapis Continue work on mining with partners: SHERPA, Danielle Mitterrand Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch a complaint in favor of Wayanas and Wayapis Initiate work for studies of mining pollution within border areas Work with government do develop and eventually establish sustainable alternative activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out cross border research on mining pollution Anti mining campaign, Brazil, European Union, Suriname, Guyana Strengthen networks of IPs, NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up work to anti mining campaign Continue research Join action with neighboring countries

CLIMATE CHANGE

	Urgent: within 3 months	Priority: 3-6 months	Important: 6 months to a year	Necessary: 2010 and beyond
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicity, letters to the media Educate at the community level about CC through 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue education to and from communities Continue dialogue with the President of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copenhagen Lobby government to ensure that ANY Climate Change agreement is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post Copenhagen re-evaluate education, media strategy

Guyana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meetings and workshops • Immediate evaluation of Guyana R-Plan • Demand appropriate consultations • Establish working group- APA, National Toshaos council, NGOs, government • 	<p>Guyana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make FPIC a priority within the Government. Of Guyana • Ensure that proper consultations are carried out • Continue collaboration with allied NGOs on the topic • Set work plan for working group 	<p>inclusive of Indigenous Peoples rights as detailed in UNDRIP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop community alternatives to national and international proposals • Coordinate exchange of experiences domestically and regionally 	
Suriname	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More research related to the specific themes related to climate change, and the results of such research should be accessible at the local level • Establish new agricultural plots to secure food supply • Research potential new crops • Demand the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in R-Pin and R-Plan processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate funds so that indigenous organizations can ourselves provide information on climate change and REDD to our villages (how, what, when) • Plan ahead for the potential relocation of villages to areas that do not flood • Advocate for the full recognition of the UNDRIP in all REDD and FCPF processes, including land rights and FPIC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish partnerships with NGO and private sector for collaborative work on the impacts of climate change • Develop a plan of action for the government with the indigenous peoples in which also the role of NGOs and private sector is included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drill for permanent water sources and build water reservoirs
French Guiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish contact with the French Network on Climate Change • Dissemination of information • Demand for traditional zones and transfer of forestry concessions: • Reinforcement of forestry regulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate IP organization negotiators to the core of the official government delegations • Establish national negotiation tables • UNREDD studies with Guyana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue lobbying government for extension of traditional zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote local climate plan program at the community level

It is important to consider that in Suriname there is no legislation specific to indigenous peoples, exceptionally strong lobbying is needed for the government to support indigenous peoples needs. This makes potential implementation of these action plans particularly difficult and time consuming. As in other countries, even small tasks as information distribution take a considerable amount of time and money as most communities do not have access to information via internet or other modes of communication.

Participants in this meeting unanimously agreed that this Guiana Shield Regional Meeting should become an annual event and affirmed their desire that this gathering will launch ongoing partnership and joint work.

Resolutions

During five days of intensive collaborative work, indigenous leaders and representatives of allied NGOs drafted 6 resolutions highlighting the key points of discussion and the recommendations to address the various issues confronting the cultural and environmental preservation of this often forgotten part of the Amazon Rainforest. .

The resolutions on Climate Change, IIRSA and Mining heavily focus on the rights of indigenous peoples to consultations, FPIC, and self-determination. As a result, leaders are now much more aware of the international standards and the resources available to them via partnerships with NGOs and civil society. The idea of working with their respective governments to ensure that dialogue among all rights holders is enforced and vigorously pursued was also a common recommendation. County resolutions produced by each delegation further highlight the urgent need for implementation and enforcement of the UNDRIP as a minimum human rights standard within domestic policies.

There is a clear need for all three governments to take this opportunity to work directly with the national level indigenous organizations to ensure effective collaboration and respect for indigenous peoples rights in accordance to international law. Please refer to appendix A for the full text of the resolutions.

Next Steps

Several aspects of the issues addressed throughout the Guiana Shield Meeting require immediate attention and concrete action. Beyond the drafting of Resolutions and Action Plans, the 3 national indigenous peoples' organizations led the joint identification of five key steps needed to maintain momentum and focus following the meeting:

1. 3-country working group as first step to potentially developing a Guiana Shield Indigenous Organization
 - Tentative proposal is for APA to lead coordination
2. Creation of country-specific working group
 - Guyana example: APA as representative of Indigenous organizations, National Toshias council, NGOs, Government, Multilaterals
3. Developing a system to continue and strengthen communication between the three national level indigenous organizations
 - Create database of volunteer translators to address language barrier
4. Continuing dialogue with NGO meeting participants to carry on collaboration and information sharing
 - Participants voiced their commitment to work together with Indigenous organizations to meet mutual goals and objectives
5. Wide distribution of Guiana Shield Meeting Report to potential allies
 - Raise awareness of the collaborative effort being carried out within the 3 countries
 - Motivate other NGOs to join forces

The tremendous work and collaboration among meeting participants to develop these plans will only be effectively carried out with the support of civil society, government officials, and multilateral institutions. The time for constructive collaboration has never been more critical.

Special Acknowledgements

The Guiana Shield Regional Meeting Coordinators would like to thank the many people who contributed to the tremendous success of this historical assembly. We acknowledge the vital contributions of:

The Amerindian Peoples Association for their hospitality, dedication, and non-stop efforts to host the GSM in their country.—

Chief Kokoi, Jean La Rose, Lawrence Anselmo, Miranda La Rose (consultant).

Organisatie Van Inheemsen (OIS) of Suriname, and the Fédération des Organisations Autochtones de Guyane Village Amérindien (FOAG) of French Guiana for the leadership they provided throughout the coordination of the GSM.—

Leon Wijngaarde, Representative of OIS and Charles Jean-Auberic, President of FOAG

The indigenous delegates of Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana for making the demanding trip to Georgetown to share their experiences and knowledge for the betterment of their people.

The representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations who committed to create a cohesive action plan in unity with the indigenous leaders of the Guiana Shield—

Vanessa Benn, IWOKRAMA; Dane Gobin, IWOKRAMA; Mike McCormack, Guyana Human Rights Association; Reggy Nelson, Conservation International Suriname; Rickford Vieira, World Wildlife Fund Guianas; Kristen Walker-Painemilla, Conservation International and Aiesha Williams, World Wildlife Fund Guianas.

His Excellency President Bharrat Jagdeo for devoting the evening of April 15 to the GSM delegates and discussing Guyana's proposed policies to address Climate Change, and to his administration for their active participation on April 17.

Presenters for sharing their research and expertise—

Flávia Gabriela Oyo França, Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia (IPAM); David James, APA; Jutta Kill, Forests and the European Union Resource Network (FERN); Chris Meyer, Environmental Defense Fund; Manolo Morales, ECOLEX; Dr. David J. Singh, Conservation International Guyana/South America Field Division and Carlos Zorilla from DECOIN.

The Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) –

Egberto Tabo, Diego Escobar, Valentin Muiba, Rafael M. Lozano, Wilson Valladares

Amazon Alliance staff for their assistance and collaboration with APA, OIS, and FOAG—

Juan Carlos Jintiach, Trevor Stevenson, Juanita Cabrera-Lopez, Jodi Lasseter, Lauren Johnson, Lorena Vaca

Interpreters for bringing together the many languages of our participants—

Max Ooft, Guillaume Vignali

Environmental Defense Fund, the Ford Foundation, and Rainforest Foundation Norway for their generous support.

And to all volunteers and Amazon Alliance interns who shared their unique skill sets in preparation for the Guiana Shield Meeting—

Francis Agola, Jessica Gifford, Colleen Gormanly, Sandra Klerks, Gentry Mander, Marie Mussman, Brook Stableford, Nienke Torensma

Appendices

Appendix A

Resolutions

Guiana Shield Resolution on IIRSA

Preamble:

Considering that IIRSA is a process that pursues the goal of colonization and dispossession of indigenous lands targeting the irrational extraction of natural resources whose profits benefit the oligarchy and the elitist consumerism.

We denounce the public opinion that mega IIRSA projects (led by the states) are responsible for the genocide of indigenous peoples and the depredation of forests, we demand that the law applies to free, prior and informed consent as prescribed by the Convention 169 of ILO and the UN Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples before the introduction of some projects or mega projects in the territories.

The agreements of economic blocs: MERCOSUR-EU, CARICOM / EU, CAN / EU and others targeting the exploitation of natural resources together with IIRSA directly threaten even the physical existence of the 400 peoples in the Amazon and, in particular the natural and cultural corridors of Guiana Shield.

Confronted with threats, we resolve:

- To establish an agreement between our organizations of the three Guianas to establish a dialogue with our governments for the recognition, defense, protection of our territories and natural resources for effective implementation within a relevant deadline.
- We call for reframing of our relations with non-governmental organizations to enhance the impact of our actions and turn them into public policies more favorable to the protection, defense of our territories, our natural resources and the Cultural Diversity in the Amazon.
- We are committed with our allies to inform, educate, supported by our public actions, including through social mobilization with other sectors in each of our respective countries, in particular communities and municipalities that have expertise in development and territorial planning
- We call for a reform of standards in order to systematize the mandatory inclusion of studies of socio-cultural and environmental impact in all projects and mega projects.

We consider the implementation of the Amazonian Indigenous Agenda-AIA as a priority for indigenous peoples in the Amazon.

Guiana Shield Resolution on Mining

We, the indigenous peoples' representatives of the Guiana Shield countries Suriname, Guyana and French Guiana, have come together here in Georgetown, Guyana, from 13 – 17 April 2009 to deliberate on major issues affecting us, especially those related to IIRSA, Mining, Climate Change and REDD. On the issues of **Mining** we declare the following:

Whereas mining and other ways of commercial exploitation of natural resources without due respect to the rights of indigenous peoples has already shown detrimental negative impacts on the health of the indigenous peoples in various regions, and yet no effective measures are being taken against the destruction of our water resources, pollution of our environment and illnesses of our peoples as a result of mercury intoxication, e.g. brain damages and organ diseases;

That the indigenous communities are already suffering from the impacts of climate change, including floods, droughts, changes in seasons, and changes in flora and fauna;

Based on these considerations we urgently recommend:

1. Respect for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as of the Framework Law on Indigenous Rights in Suriname, in particular regarding land rights and FPIC
2. Government and private sector (national and international) must use the FPIC principles
3. Gold mining in indigenous areas must be abolished and measures must be taken to improve the health condition in relation to mercury intoxication, drinking water and food supply
 - a. Assistance from the government and international collaboration to expel garimpeiros
 - b. Research into the health situation of indigenous peoples in mining areas and publicly present the results, nationally and internationally
 - c. Request the assistance of international health organizations including the WHO
4. Environmental and social impact assessments (ESIA) must be done prior to any mining activity, with the full and effective participation of the indigenous peoples, including regarding the cumulative effects in the case of integrated industries
5. Full and effective participation during the development of new environmental legislation
6. Rehabilitation of mining areas and compensation at international standards in the case of change or destruction of the environment
7. To cease granting concessions to mining and industrial logging companies, the major cause of deforestation and degradation.
8. To stop the incorrect and unjust propaganda and image as if the traditional subsistence agriculture of Indigenous Peoples is a major source of deforestation and degradation.
9. To settle all unresolved territorial rights claims of IPs in the Guiana Shield.
10. To take effective measures to stop the mercury contamination of our territories and peoples.
11. We demand an inclusive, effective participatory process at National and International levels that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples rights to free, prior and informed consent.
12. To enforce and respect existing legislation that protects indigenous peoples and territories from the negative impacts of mining.
13. Whereas in the absence of legislation, for the establishment of legislation to protect the Amazonian territories and its peoples.
14. We call to strengthen our relations with nongovernmental organizations in order to amplify the impact for common actions and to transform them to public policies favorable for the protection and the defense of our territories, natural resources and cultural diversity in the Amazon.
15. To seek restitution and compensation to our peoples who are suffering from the negative impacts of mining.
16. Indigenous peoples receive equal compensation according to international standards for keeping the forests standing.
17. Inform and educate Indigenous Peoples on the negative impacts of mining.
18. Indigenous representatives from the Guiana Shield regularly convene to promote common interests.
19. To promote alternative economic activities to mining.

Guiana Shield Resolution on Climate Change and REDD

We, the indigenous peoples' representatives of the Guiana Shield countries Suriname, Guyana and French Guiana, have come together here in Georgetown, Guyana, from 13 – 17 April 2009 to deliberate on major issues affecting us, especially those related to IIRSA, Mining, Climate Change and REDD. On the issues of Climate Change and REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation of Forests) we declare the following:

Whereas we, the indigenous peoples, have a long lasting relationship with the land and the natural environment;

Whereas forests for us indigenous peoples, have more and higher values, including spiritual and cultural values, than just as a natural resource, because they form part of our daily lives, subsistence, cultures and spirituality;

Whereas we, indigenous peoples, have been managing our lands and natural resources over many centuries in a sustainable manner, as evidenced by the fact that remaining forests are to be found not coincidentally in indigenous peoples' territories, and whereas we are the only true guardians of our environment, forests, biodiversity and natural resources;

Whereas we, indigenous peoples, have traditional knowledge, expertise and experiences gathered over centuries and over many generations on sustainable management practices, conservation and sustainable use of our environment and natural resources, and which we may wish to use to demonstrate, advise and provide strategies to the governments and other decision-makers on conservation and the proper use of our natural resources;

Whereas we have not been included yet in a meaningful manner in the national and international discussions, policy-making and decision-taking on issues related to climate change, mitigation and adaptation measures even though our communities and our peoples are directly dependent on the natural environment and are in a much more vulnerable situation if it comes to climate change, as has been shown already by the many incidences of flooding, drought, changes in seasons and changes in flora and fauna, directly affecting our livelihoods, food security and even survival;

Whereas we are only called upon at short notice to participate in major discussions affecting us, and we are given the opportunity to only participate in inappropriate consultation processes that do not follow the internationally accepted principles of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and other principles of good governance;

Whereas we have never shared equally and in a just manner in the benefits arising from the utilization by others of the lands and resources that historically

And whereas our rights as indigenous peoples, laid down in human rights' instruments and explicitly in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) which has also been supported by the Governments of Guyana, Suriname and France, continue to be violated, disrespected or neglected;

We therefore resolve:

1. The global community, and in particular the Governments of Guyana, Suriname and France, must explicitly recognize indigenous peoples as rights-holders in all climate change discussions, not merely stakeholders
2. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples must be fully respected by governments, private sector, NGOs, international donor organizations, financial institutions and other actors
3. Particularly, all actors must respect the land rights of indigenous peoples, the necessary integrity of our territories and the unbreakable relation between our land rights and our existence; furthermore our right to self-determination and to decide over our own course and means of development; and our right to fully and effectively participate in all matters affecting us through processes that respect the principles of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)

4. All actors must recognize and act accordingly, that forests are not merely tradable commodities in climate change and/or carbon schemes but represent other, higher values to indigenous peoples who have cared for and maintained such forests over many centuries. We will simply not allow any REDD or other scheme that violates our rights and interests
5. Much more information-sharing and capacity strengthening on the complex issues of climate change, REDD, financial facilities and funds, and the governance mechanisms around such mechanisms and funds, are urgently needed at all levels and in varying degrees. Financial resources must be provided to our organizations as a matter of priority, in order to educate and strengthen the capacity of our peoples and communities, to be able to participate effectively and take informed decisions
6. Legal regulatory frameworks on forest management must be reviewed and/or reinforced as necessary, more strongly recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples and our role in managing, monitoring and enforcing regulations related to forests
7. Further legislation and common norms must be developed for the protection of forests and for compensation schemes, such with full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and following FPIC principles.

Finally, we hereby emphasize and consolidate our unity as indigenous peoples of the Guiana Shield region and reiterate our determination to work together and strengthen our collaborative efforts also in matters related to climate change, REDD and other forest debates in which we are legitimate rights-holders.

Guyana Country Resolution

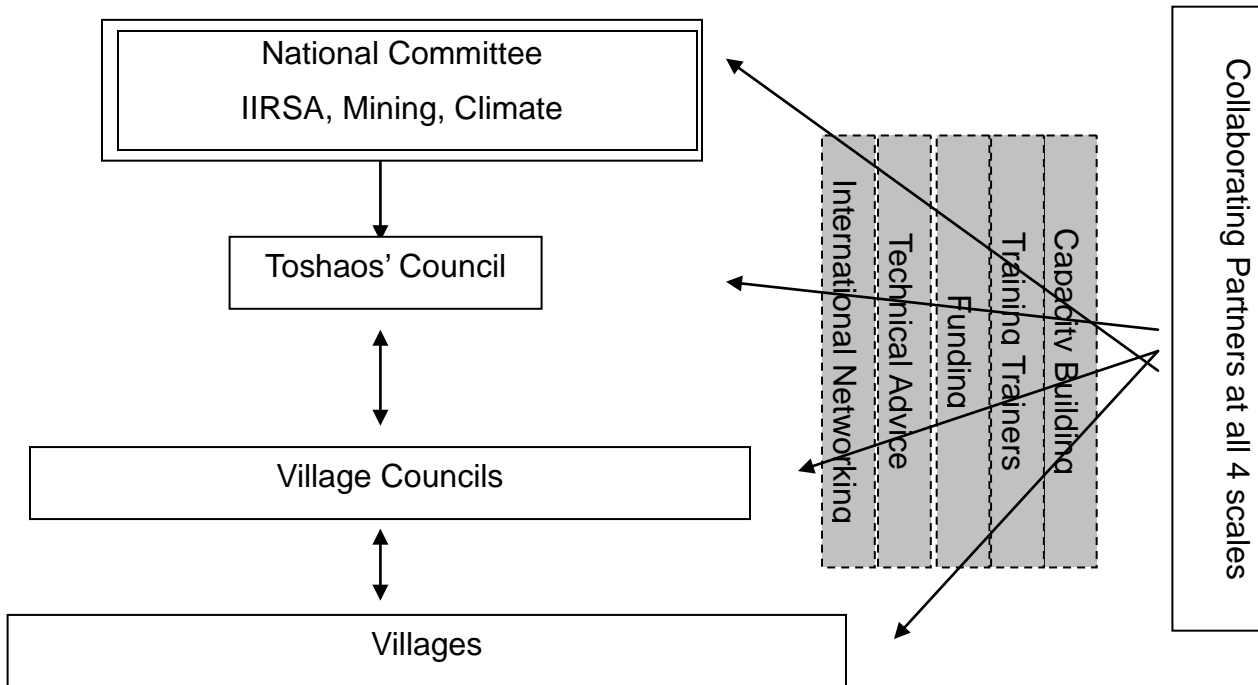
Whereas we the Indigenous Peoples of the Guiana Shield countries, namely Suriname, Guyana and French Guiana have deliberated on major issues affecting us, especially those related to IIRSA, Climate Change and mining; and whereas we the Indigenous Peoples have had a long lasting relationship with the land and its natural environment; and whereas Indigenous Peoples have been managing their lands from time immemorial and can demonstrate, advise and provide strategies to government and other decision makers on conservation and the use of natural resources; and whereas Indigenous Peoples have been called upon to make decisions at short notice and have been the subject of inappropriate processes;

We resolve that:

- Partnership and collaboration across the Guiana Shield will be established;
- Partnership and collaboration at the national level will be established through the formation of a working group;
- Our representative organizations will negotiate suitable timeframes.

We recommend that:

- Effective participation in all decision making processes and at all levels be respected;
- The tenets of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) be respected;
- Capacity building through education at all levels and of varying degrees be carried out;
- Adequate financial resources be provided to execute these vital and important functions.



Suriname Country Resolution

The representatives of the Indigenous Peoples in Suriname present in the Guiana Shield Regional Meeting on Infrastructure, Mining and Climate Change, held in Georgetown Guyana, 13 – 17 April 2009;

Having taken into consideration:

- That the rights of indigenous peoples in Suriname are not being fully respected, particularly in the areas of land rights and the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), even though Suriname has supported the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and there have been judicial rulings against the State Suriname by the Inter-American Court on Human Rights;
- That there is very little information available on topics that will potentially have serious negative impacts on the indigenous peoples of Suriname, including the issues of REDD and FCPF;
- That particularly small-scale gold mining with the use of mercury has led to detrimental negative impacts on the health of the indigenous peoples in various regions of Suriname, and yet no effective measures are being taken against the destruction of our water resources, pollution of our environment and illnesses of our peoples as a result of mercury intoxication, e.g. brain damages and organ diseases;
- That the indigenous communities are already suffering from the impacts of climate change, including floods, droughts, changes in seasons, and changes in flora and fauna;

Based on these considerations we urgently recommend:

With respect to Mining:

1. Ratification of, and respect for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as of the Framework Law on Indigenous Rights in Suriname by the National Assembly of Suriname, in particular regarding land rights and FPIC
2. Government and private sector (national and international) must use the FPIC principles
3. Gold mining in indigenous areas must be abolished and measures must be taken to improve the health condition in relation to mercury intoxication, drinking water and food supply
 - a. Assistance from the government and international collaboration (in particular from French Guyana) to expel garimpeiros
 - b. Research into the health situation of indigenous peoples in mining areas and publicly present the results, nationally and internationally
 - c. Request the assistance of international health organizations including the WHO
4. Environmental and social impact assessments (ESIA) must be done prior to any mining activity, with the full and effective participation of the indigenous peoples, including regarding the cumulative effects in the case of integrated industries
5. Full and effective participation during the development of new environmental legislation
6. Revision of the Mining Act with the aim of including and respecting indigenous peoples' rights
7. Rehabilitation of mining areas and compensation at international standards in the case of change or destruction of the environment

With respect to the Infrastructure Initiative for the Region South America project (IIRSA):

1. Follow the internationally recognized principles of FPIC with regard to IIRSA
2. Undertake ESIA's for all projects and subprojects within the framework of IIRSA
3. Infrastructure projects may not negatively impact the rights of indigenous peoples, in particular our land rights

With respect to Climate Change

1. Reduce the negative impacts of climate change
2. Undertake more research in relation to climate change and its impacts, and the results of such research must be accessible for indigenous peoples
3. Make available funds in order for indigenous organizations to provide sufficient and adequate information to the communities
4. Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in processes that can be of influence on us and on our rights, including REDD, RPIN and R-Plan processes, and to follow FPIC principles in those processes.

French Guiana Country Resolution

Considering that IIRSA is a process allowing the continuity of colonization and exploitation of indigenous territories aiming at the irrational extraction of natural resources which benefits to the oligarchy and to elitist consumerism.

The impacts are the slow extinction and the genocide of the four hundred indigenous peoples of Amazonia, the large scale deforestation that will irreversibly affect the balance of our climate within forty years.

We are considering that after having identified the irreversible impacts:

Our organization and our people must be present in the heart of the decision processes regarding all subjects and programs related to IIRSA, inter-governmental negotiations, in the definition of the mechanisms linked to REDD, in the transfer of technology, and in mining issues regarding legal and illegal gold extraction.

We have decided the following action plan:

1. We are asking for the immediate stop and ban on all non-sustainable extractive industries that increase poverty and the dispossession of our peoples.
2. We are denouncing to and ask all opinions, regional, national and international in order that the fundamental rights written in the human rights declarations and particularly those for the rights of indigenous peoples of the declaration of the United Nations are being effectively and concretely enforced.
3. We commit ourselves with our allies to inform, to train through actions our public and our public deciders in each of our countries, especially the collectivities and municipalities that have competences in the development and planning of territories.
4. We commit ourselves to explore the possibility of cooperation thru the program of cross border PO Amazonia 2009-2013 in particular to Suriname decide to strengthen our cooperation on the Guyana Shield through the creation of a strategic permanent monitoring, consolidated and proactive.
5. We are urgently setting up a process for the education, the training, the information and the expertise for our communities in order to guarantee an increased vigilance.
6. We are setting up an agreement between our organizations for the three Guianas to establish a dialogue with our governments for the recognition, the defense and the protection of our territories and our natural resources for an efficient implementation and within pertinent delays.
7. We ask for the establishing of legal international norms, particularly regarding innovation and adaptation for the legislation in regards to the realities and stakes in the Amazon basin in order to protect our territories, our forests, our water resources and the cross border cultural corridor.
8. We as organizations must work with the government during international negotiations through the inclusion of indigenous representatives inside official delegations and to reform domestic norms that are non conform to international norms.
9. We are calling for the redefinition of our relations with Non Governmental Organizations in order to amplify the impact of our common actions and to transform them in public politics more favorable to the protection and the defense of our territories, our natural resources and the cultural diversity of the Amazon.

Appendix B

Guyana's Emerging Climate Policies Under President Jagdeo

Despite President Jagdeo's willingness to utilize emerging carbon markets to protect the country's rainforest, there have been concerns pertaining to the methodology applied by the government, specifically highlighting the consultation process and information sharing with the indigenous peoples living in the rainforest that will be affected by this emerging policy. This was indicated in the FCPC external review of the Guyana R-PIN in June of 2008 and in independent analysis of the R-PIN by Forest Peoples Programme and FERN in November 2008. The analysis conducted by FPP and FERN, "Cutting Corners: World Bank's Forest and Carbon Fund Fails Forests and Peoples," highlighted several key problematic areas including:

- human rights infractions
- lack of land tenure and Free Prior and Informed Consent
- lack of public consultation on the R-PIN
- weak enforcement of existing environmental laws
- minimal mention of mining and infrastructure development impacts
- minimal risk analysis

Although such serious problems with its planning process have been identified, Guyana has positioned itself in the international arena as a 'leader' in the forefront of climate change mitigation as was demonstrated at the conference of the parties (COP 14) in Poznan, Poland. Since Poznan, President Jagdeo has done tremendous outreach both domestically and internationally about his plans to curb climate change and the role that Guyana can take in leading this work. This has helped generate financial support from such countries as Norway and from such organizations as WWF and CI amongst others.

Since Poznan, President Jagdeo has continued promoting his model both domestically and internationally about his plans to curb climate change and the role that Guyana can take in leading this work. In January of 2009, President Jagdeo received US \$151,250 from the World Wildlife Fund ⁴and US \$40,000 from Conservation International⁵ in addition to the financial backing from Norway and recognition from Prince Charles in his Europe Tour. The financial support from Norway was formally established in a memo in February of 2009, when President Jagdeo and the Prime Minister of Norway signed this memo. This agreement reflects that both countries "have agreed on the need to keep climate change firmly at the top of the international agenda, underlining that it is essential to reach an ambitious agreement in Copenhagen in December 2009"⁶.

On March 4, 2009, Prime Minister Hinds had a "sensitization meeting" during which he was asked by the APA when indigenous peoples would be included in the process of consultation, how this process would work, and how the government planned to measure deforestation rates by indigenous communities as opposed to mining activities and commercial exploitation of timber. Questions from other participants were raised including how the selection process worked for organizations to assist in the development of the R-PIN. Per the response at that meeting, Prime Minister Hinds reported that 30 consultations--including that meeting on March 4, 2009--had taken place in indigenous communities including Mabaruma, Port Kaituma, Orealla, Lethem, Annai, Parishara, Kwbona; these communities were all "consulted" and pamphlets were distributed at these consultations.⁷

On March 5, 2009, President Jagdeo was in the United States promoting his plan to mitigate climate change and deploy the rainforest for this global service. In a briefing sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund, the Union of

⁴ Guyana, WWF sign carbon storage grant <http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2009/02/04/guyana-wwf-sign-carbon-storage-grant/>

⁵ A figure stated as 8 Million in the Stabroek News but corrected by Mr. David Singh of Conservation International as equivalent to \$40,000

⁶ Guyana, Norway strike climate change deal <http://www.guyanachronicle.com/topstory.html>

⁷ In the notes from Brief Report of a Meeting with Guyana Forest Commission (GFC) March 4, 2009 written by the APA

Concerned Scientists--and attended by Mr. Per Federik Ilsaas Pharo, Deputy Director of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative-- President Jagdeo again expressed the importance of collaborating with Guyana for the global ecological services that it provides and to compensate it appropriately. He stated that "the state has not sold any rainforest in my country, so it belongs to the state and the indigenous peoples. I excluded their land from the model, so they have the choice of what they want to do. They have moved from 6% of territory to about maybe 13% in the last maybe 10 years." He then continued, "These are some of the proposals that we brought to the consultations, so people are informed and the indigenous peoples' rights are protected, we have special consultation with indigenous people with all the villages you are free to come and observe those." At this meeting, the question of transparency was raised and whether international standards were being followed in the development of the REDD framework.

The outcome of these questions at the briefing in the United States was a small and informal dinner meeting in Guyana between President Jagdeo, and the Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister within the Ministry of Education, the APA, and the Amazon alliance. During this informal dinner, the President committed to attending the Guiana Shield Regional Meeting to address some of the concerns expressed by the APA and the Amazon Alliance directly with the leaders representing their communities and the concerns of their peoples. Additionally, he retracted some of his statements where he had said consultations had already occurred in Guyana with indigenous communities and instead expressed interest in working with the APA in constructing a process where indigenous communities could truly participate in consultations about their lands and their peoples



From Left: Mr. Jean-Auberic of FOAG, Mr. Wijngaardde of OIS, and His Excellency President Jagdeo

Appendix C

Media Report on Coverage of the Guiana Shield Regional Meeting on Indigenous Peoples, Infrastructure, Mining and Climate Change

April 13 – 17, 2009
Georgetown, Guyana

Media coverage of the five-day meeting was covered both locally and internationally in the print and electronic media with much being said about it on a number of blog sites.

The Guyana Chronicle first carried a 'curtain raiser' on the meeting the week before the Amerindian Peoples Association issued a press release on the opening of the meeting and its objectives and an invitation to cover it on April 9, 2009.

The press release and the invitation was prepared by Miranda La Rose and distributed to all the main local media houses and foreign correspondents including the Associated Press, the BBC Caribbean and AFP.

On April 13, the privately-owned Kaieteur News covered by the opening of the meeting and spoke with the organizers as well as the Toshao of Micobie. This was reported on April 14 in a story titled 'Meeting of Indigenous peoples open'

On the morning of April 14, the state-owned National Communications Network television and radio stations; the privately owned Capitol News and Evening News; the state-owned Guyana Chronicle; and the BBC Caribbean Radio covered most of the morning session. They all carried reports the same evening and the following day in rebroadcasts or print.

Throughout the meeting reporters from the Chronicle and the Kaieteur News continued interviews with delegates to the meeting. Among the articles the Chronicle carried were 'Indigenous Leaders working on climate change action plan' on April 17, 2009; Guiana Shield indigenous leaders discussing Amazon Basin Protection on the same date; and 'Indigenous people of Guiana Shield agree on action plan' on April 22, 2009.

A press conference to convey to the public the outcomes of the meeting was held during the afternoon session of April 17. This was covered mainly by the print media, NCN radio and television; Prime News; and the BBC Caribbean. Coming out of the press conference the Kaieteur News of April 19, 2009 carried a full page feature captioned 'We don't know anything about Carbon Trading and REDD.' While the Stabroek News in an article of the same date captioned 'More work needed to address threats to indigenous Leaders.' The ruling party, the People's Progressive Party newspaper, the Mirror, also carried a news feature on the meeting.

On April 23, the Guyana Chronicle continued its coverage with an article, 'Indigenous leaders get assurances on forestry use, management.' Also on April 23 the Stabroek News reported that 'Indigenous people have benefited from new Amerindian Act'; and the Kaieteur News that the 'Government was not ready to ratify UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples.'

A number of blog sites originating from Suriname and French Guiana as well as in the Caribbean and the wider world also carried in part in full the news stories carried by the dailies. They included www.guyanaforests.blogspot.com; www.guyana.cublogz.com; www.zimbio.com; www.wikio.com; www.wikio.co.uk; www.afromix.org; www.schema-root.org; www.pro2.blogger.com; and www.insideworld.com.

The meeting, which hosted President Bharrat Jagdeo at dinner on April 15, was covered by the Office of the President Press Unit and the Government Information Agency. The Press Unit has provided the conference with a video copy of the President's address to the delegates.

Reports on his address was also featured on the Office of the President's website at www.opnew.op.gov.gy; and on the National Communications Network's website www.ncnguyana.com.

Amazon Alliance, a sponsor of the meeting featured the meeting on its website www.amazonalliance.org.

Personally I felt that there could have been more local coverage of the event but the media was also hyped up about the Summit of the Americas and the local stringers for the international media were in Trinidad and Tobago almost a week in advance of that meeting.

Prepared by Miranda La Rose
Media Consultant

April 27, 2009

Additional coverage can be found at the following links:

<http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2009/04/12/indigenous-leaders-of-the-guianas-meet-in-georgetown/>

<http://guyanaforests.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.guyanaoutpost.com/news/news.shtml>

http://guyanachronicleonline.com/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=789:amerindian-leaders-within-guiana-shield-to-meet-here&catid=2:news&Itemid=3

<http://opnew.op.gov.gy/index.php?view=article&catid=34:bulletins&id=516:president-tells-amazonian-indigenous-leaders-of-efforts-to-improve-lot-of-amerindians-&tmpl=component&print=1&page=>

<http://www.guyanachronicle.com/news.html>

<http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/news/local/04/19/more-work-needed-to-address-threats-to-indigenous-peoples-conference/>

<http://myguyanachronicle.com/2009/04/17/indigenous-leaders-working-on-climate-change-action-plan/>

<http://www.zimbio.com/President+Bharrat+Jagdeo/articles/14/President+Tells+Amazonian+Indigenous+Leaders>

<http://www.guyanaoutpost.com/guyana.shtml>

<http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/news/local/04/23/indigenous-people-have-benefited-from-new-amerindian-act/>

<http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2009/04/23/gov%E2%80%99t-not-ready-to-ratify-un-declaration-on-rights-of-indigenous-peoples/>

<http://www.guyanachronicle.com/topstory.html#Anchor-In-33208>

Appendix D- Participant List

Indigenous Delegations			
Country	Organization / Confederation/ Federation	Name	Title
Guyana	Amerindian Peoples Association (APA)	Tony James (Chief Kokoi)	President
	Amerindian Peoples Association (APA)	Jean La Rose	Program Administrator
	Amerindian Peoples Association (APA)	Lawrence Anselmo	Program Assistant
	<i>Independent</i>	Miranda La Rose	Media Consultant
	Region 9	John Alfred	Toshao
	North Rupununi District Development Board	Sydney Allicock	Representative
	National Toshao Council	Colin Andrews	Toshao, Chairman
	Region 7	Claude Anselmo	Toshao
	APA/Region 1	Sharon Atkinson	Representative
	Region 9	Matthew Charlie	Deputy Toshao
	Region 1	Andrew Da Silva	Toshao
	Region 6	McLean De Vair	Toshao
	Region 8	Majuna Edwards	Toshao
	Guyanese Organisation for Indigenous Peoples (GOIP)	Dorothy Gibson	Toshao
	GOIP	Allen Leow	Toshao
	GOIP	Mimi Fernandes	Representative
	GOIP	Pearl Leow	Representative
	GOIP	Gracene Rosheuvel	Representative
	GOIP	Mary Valenzuela	Representative
	Region 7	Albert Reid	Councillor
Region 2	Rudolph Wilson	Deputy Toshao	
Suriname	Organization of Indigenous People in Suriname (OIS)	Leon Wijngaarde	Delegation Coordinator
	Kwamalasemutu (Trio community)	Ashongo Alalaoaroe	Granman
	OSIP	L. Artist	President/Chairman
	CLIM	Louis Biswane	Representative
	Anapaiké	Pelenapin Ipomadi	Head Captain
	Kwamalasemutu (Trio community)	Ai Ai Jadi	First Assistant and Interpreter of the Granman
	Apoera	C. Lewis	Captain
	Suriname Delegation	Max Ooft	Suriname/ Interpreter
	Apoera	Steve Stuart	Representative
	Wajana communities	Sita Timpico	Adviser and interpreter for Head Captain Penelapin
	Kwamalasemutu (Trio community)	Robert Timpico	District Secretary
	Pikin Poika	Joan Van Der Bosch	Captain
French Guiana	Fédération des Organisations Autochtones de Guyana Village Amérindien (FOAG)	Jean Auberich Charles	President
	FOAG	Eddy Appolinaire	Representative
	Federation Lokono	Anne-Marie Chambrier	Representative
	Oka Magazine	Daniel Francois	Editor
	Palikur	Roger Labonte	Representative
	Kulalasi	Jocelyn Therese	Representative
	Kuasi Bonon	Michel Therese	Representative
Lokono	Silvio Van Der Pij	Representative	

NGOs			
Country	Organization	Name	Title
Guyana	IWOKRAMA	Vanessa Benn	
Guyana	IWOKRAMA	Dane Gobin	Chief Executive Officer
Guyana	Guyana Human Rights Association	Mike McCormack	Co-President
Suriname	Conservation International Suriname	Reggy Nelson	Legal and Policy Director
Guyana	World Wildlife Fund Guianas	Rickford Vieira	Regional Gold Mining Pollution Abatement Coordinator
USA	Conservation International	Kristen Walker-Painemilla	Vice President Indigenous and Traditional Peoples Program
Guyana	World Wildlife Fund Guianas	Aiesha Williams	Freshwater/ Protected Areas Officer

Presenters			
Country	Organization	Name	Title
Brazil	Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia (IPAM)	Flávia Gabriela Oyo França	Environmental Engineer
Guyana	Amerindian Peoples Association (APA)	David James	Attorney-at-Law
United Kingdom	Forests and the European Union Resource Network (FERN)	Jutta Kill	Climate Campaigner
USA	Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)	Chris Meyer	Amazon Project Coordinator
Ecuador	ECOLEX	Manolo Morales	President
Guyana	Conservation International Guyana/South America Field Division	Dr. David J. Singh	Executive Director
Ecuador	DECOIN	Carlos Zorilla	Executive Director

Support Staff			
Country	Organization	Name	Title
USA	Amazon Alliance	Juan Carlos Jintiach	Executive Co-Director
	Amazon Alliance	Trevor Stevenson	Executive Co-Director
	Amazon Alliance	Lorena Vaca	Program Assistant
	Amazon Alliance	Lauren Johnson	Office Manager
Ecuador	COICA	Egberto Tabo Chipunavi	General Coordinator
	COICA	Diego Ivan Escobar Guzman	Coordinator of Land Rights, Territories & Biodiversity
	COICA	Valentin Muiba	Technical Support
	COICA	Wilson Valladares	Communications
	COICA	Raphael Anibal M. Lozano	General Support/ Interpreter

Government and Multilaterals		
Institution	Name	Position
Government of the Republic of Guyana	His Excellency President Bharrat Jagdeo	President of the Republic of Guyana
Government of the Republic of Guyana	Honorable Prime Minister Samuel Hinds	Prime Minister of the Republic of Guyana
Government of the Republic of Guyana Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	Honorable Pauline Campbell- Sukhai	Minister of Amerindian Affairs
Government of the Republic of Guyana Ministry of Education	Honorable. Dr. Desrey Fox	Minister within the Ministry of Education
Government of the Republic of Guyana Lands and Surveys Ministry of Agriculture	Andrew Bishop	Commissioner
Government of the Republic of Guyana Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Keith George	Director of the Frontiers Division
Government of the Republic of Suriname Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Muriel M. Held	Policy Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs
UNICEF Guyana Integrated Programming for the Hinterland	Ian Jones	Programme Officer
UN Population Fund Guyana	Patrice D.A. La Fleur	Liaison Officer
Inter-American Development Bank Suriname	Carol Lieveld	Country Department Caribbean Group
Environmental Division, G.G.M.C	Karen Livan	Manager
Government of the Republic of Guyana Climate change Committee	Shyam Nokta	Chairman
Inter-American Development Bank Guyana	Sybille Nuenninghoff	Natural Resources Specialist
Government of the Republic of Guyana Environmental Protection Agency	Sharifah Razack	Director of Natural Resource Management Division
Government of the Republic of Guyana Forestry Commission	James Singh	Commissioner of Forests
Environmental Protection Agency Guyana	Hance Thompson	Senior Environmental Officer
United Nations Development Program Guyana	Didier Trebucq	Deputy Resident Representative
The World Bank Latin America and the Caribbean Region	Giorgio Valentini	Country Representative for Guyana

Appendix E

Contact Information for the three National Indigenous Organizations of the Guiana Shield

National Indigenous Organizations of the Guiana Shield	
<p>Amerindian Peoples Association (APA) Chief Kokoi- Tony James President APA 200 Charlotte Street Bourda Georgetown, Guyana E-mail: chiefkokoi@yahoo.com Phone: 592-223-8150; 592-227-0275</p>	<p>Amerindian Peoples Association (APA) Jean La Rose Program Administrator APA 200 Charlotte Street Bourda Georgetown, Guyana E-mail: apaguy@networksgy.com Phone: 592-223-8150; 592-227-0275</p>
<p>Amerindian Peoples Association (APA) Lawrence Anselmo Program Assistant APA 200 Charlotte Street Bourda Georgetown, Guyana E-mail: lawrence.anselmo@gmail.com Phone: 592-223-8150; 592-227-0275</p>	
<p>Fédération des Organisations Autochtones de Guyane Village Amérindien (FOAG) Jean-Auberic Charles President FOAG Village Amérindien 97310 KOUROU Guyane Française – DOM – France E-mail: kajulai@hotmail.com; Jean-Auberic.Charles@cnes.fr Phone : 594-694-422-776</p>	<p>Organization of Indigenous People of Suriname (OIS) Leon Wijngaarde Representative OIS Bisoenweg no 11 Nw. Weergevondenweg Paramaribo, Suriname E-mail: ewijngaarde@gmail.com Phone: 597-465-618, 597-85-91-334</p>

