



The European Union's programme on Tropical Forests and other Forests in Developing Countries

Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw milling through multi-stakeholder dialogue in Ghana and Guyana

Focus Group Report – Annai Amerindian District, North Rupununi, Region 9

Final: December, 2008



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A collaborative project of Tropenbos International, Forestry Training Centre Inc.
and Iwokrama International Center of Rainforest Conservation and Development.

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Focus Group Report Annai Amerindian District, North Rupununi, Region 9

Final

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List of Acronyms

EU	European Union
BHI	Bina Hill Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
FTCI	Forestry Training Centre Inc.
GFC	Guyana Forestry Commission
MoAA	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
MYC	Makushi Yemekun Cooperative
MYFM	Makushi Yemekun Forestry Management Inc.
MSD	Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
NRDDB	North Rupununi District Development Board
SFP	State Forest Permit
TSA	Timber Sale Agreement
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

1 Executive Summary

This is the summary report of the pilot Focus Group session conducted on August 5, 2008 in Annai Amerindian District, North Rupununi, Region 9, which is one of the three forest user communities targeted by the Project identified by the Project entitled: "Developing Alternatives for illegal chainsaw lumbering through multi-stakeholder dialogue in Ghana & Guyana".

The Project Update Issue # 1 July 2008 states that: In Guyana, chainsaw milling has emerged as a major component of rural livelihoods but there is insufficient data and information on the practice at a national scale. The scope of opportunities and challenges of the practice and the impacts on the forest resources are also not sufficiently documented to guide the strategic decisions and policies on the practice and on strategic issues of livelihoods.

The Project proposes a multi-stakeholder dialogue process to build consensus between and among stakeholders for reducing the level of conflict and illegality related to chainsaw lumbering by local communities and addressing regulatory frameworks in order to strengthen the good governance of the forestry sector. To prepare the way for these multi-stakeholder dialogue forums, a few Focus Group sessions involving key stakeholder groups are planned.

Participants for the pilot Focus Group in Annai were identified and selected from three categories:

1. Representatives of the one of the three pilot communities and/or community associations - the Makushi Yemekun Forestry Management Inc. (MYFM). The MYFM operates in the Annai area utilising community forests owned by Annai under the Amerindian land title allocations and governed by the Amerindian Act of 2006.
2. Representatives of the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) which is the umbrella body and community stakeholder forum for 16 communities of the North Rupununi and made of the Toshao of these 16 communities, including Annai; NRDDB is also the key stakeholder I the collaborative management agreement for the Iwokrama Forest. The NRDDB is comprised of the Toshao - the elected leaders of the communities, the Bina Hill Institute (BHI) for training, research and development, women and youth groups and conservation-based business enterprises.
3. Youths from the BHI who are students of forestry, wildlife management, environmental studies and agro-forestry/ organic agriculture and who have a vested interest in all development projects within their respective communities.

Participants were varied by age, gender, occupation, and interest. The primary commonality amongst them was their interest in community forestry for livelihoods and conservation and therefore an interest in the opportunities and issues connected to chainsaw lumbering.

A series of 'probe' questions were developed and used to provide a framework for the discussions, but participants were encouraged to identify salient issues for themselves. It is important to note that the "dialogue process" was explained and completely understood by all participants who were familiar with it. While the probe questions dealt with issues such as definition of illegal logging, participants' hopes and fears concerning the chainsaw lumbering project and matters concerning sustainable harvesting practices etc., the Annai stakeholders also identified over harvesting, training, and participation in the decision making processes about issues and matters concerning forestry that affect their economic development/viability.

Participants politely and thoughtfully answered the questions, but also focused on the issues related to the broader context of community forests and to the specific challenges and actions they considered to be most significant for their livelihoods.

The Method employed provided a structured framework for discussion while allowing for maximum self-direction for discussion in and reporting from the three break-out cluster groups.

The probe questions guided and deepened deliberations and responses concerning chainsaw milling and lumbering operations; and the card technique elicited expressions of community stakeholders' hopes, fears and recommended actions that were categorised by colour coding.

The Report presents the following outputs from the Focus Group as articulated by the community stakeholders:

1. A Summary of issues related to chainsaw lumbering / milling as identified and experienced by the Annai and North Rupununi community stakeholders;
2. The expression of stakeholder Hopes – aspirations and expectations and their Fears and anticipated challenges concerning chainsaw lumbering in Guyana and the role of this Project; and
3. Stakeholder recommendations for priority actions for the Way Forward and intended for further uptake within the multi-stakeholder dialogue process of the Project.

2 Introduction

2.1 Background

The Forestry Training Centre Inc. in partnership with the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation & Development and in collaboration with Tropenbos International have begun the implementation of the Guyana component of the EU funded project entitled “Developing Alternatives for Illegal Chainsaw Lumbering through Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD) in Ghana and Guyana”.

Forest Governance is the broad theme of the Project. It focuses on two developing, post-colonial countries with tropical rainforests, Guyana, a CARICOM country located in South America and Ghana situated on the north western coast of Africa, both of which have a high incidence of chainsaw milling / lumbering. These countries were selected because both are developing countries with tropical forests where there is a high prevalence of chainsaw milling / lumbering and the livelihoods of many persons are dependent on this forest-based activity. The differences between the countries are in terms of population: Ghana has 22 million people and Guyana has less than 1 million; and in the policies related to chainsaw milling. Chainsaw lumbering, as it is called in Ghana, is illegal and there are intense conflicts arising because of this policy. In Guyana it is legal and regulatory policies and programmes are in place and / or being developed to try to better regulate and sustainably manage such operations.

Definition of Chainsaw Milling or Lumbering

Chainsaw milling in the context of the project means:

The conversion of logs at stump into lumber using a chainsaw. The term chainsaw milling is used to denote both chainsaw lumbering (without attachments such as guiding bars) and chainsaw milling (with such attachments). *Source: Guyana Project Update - Newsletter, July 2008*

In the Guyana context, the Project Update Issue # 1, July 2008 further elaborates the situation as follows: “In Guyana, chainsaw milling has emerged as a major component of rural livelihoods but there is insufficient data and information on the practice at a national scale. The scope of opportunities and challenges of the practice and the impacts on the forest resources are also not sufficiently documented to guide the strategic decisions and policies on the practice and on strategic issues of livelihoods.”

2.2 Project Focus

The project has three main components:

1. research
2. stakeholder dialogue and consensus building at community, national and international levels
3. capacity building for sustainable forest management at the community level.

A number of communities who use or depend on the forest for livelihoods have been selected for direct participation in the Project in both Guyana and Ghana: Three have been selected in Guyana and eight in Ghana. In Guyana these are: Annai - MYFM Inc. (formerly MYC) in Region 9; Orealla (Region 6) and Ituni (Region 10).

2.3 Objectives

- To reduce the level of conflict and illegality related to chainsaw lumbering by local communities::
- To introduce the Chainsaw Milling Project to one of the key stakeholder groups and one of the three target communities for the MSD process:
- To pilot the methodology for the Guyana Focus Groups for the MSD:
- To engage in a focus group dialogue with key stakeholders identified for the MSD from the Amerindian sector in Guyana who operate within a framework of conservation and who are developing forest-based business enterprises:
- To receive feedback and perspectives on critical issues and recommendations that need to be taken on board by the wider MSD forums:

3 Methodology

The methodology was a simple and effective one geared to maximize participation and interactive dialogue between and among the stakeholder group itself so as solicit unfettered opinions and perspectives.

The Focus Group Session was divided into four parts:

- ◊ Sessions one & two were designed to provide and exchange contextual information about the stakeholder grouping itself and the Project partner;
- ◊ Session three utilised small, working groups of stakeholder clusters who were issued with probe questions to guide their discussions and the card technique focusing and documenting their respective reports; the graffiti / “notice board” method was integrated in order to provide a visual aid for reporting and sharing views to the wider group;
- ◊ Session four was the report-back session with a wrap up and “next-steps” component;

4 Probe Questions & Answers

1. What is meant by “illegal logging” according to your understanding of this term within the context of your community?
 - “[Harvesting of lumber without permission from the Village Council](#)”, or in the case of an SFP (State Forest Permit) from the Guyana Forestry Commission”.
2. Would the MYFM Inc. (MYC) consider harvesting in a protected area as illegal logging?
 - “[The MYFM Inc. considers logging in a protected area “illegal” unless there is an MOU, as there are special areas within the protected area you can harvest.](#)”
3. The Amerindian Act allows for personal use of logs, at what point does the Village Council consider an act by an individual of the community to be illegal?
 - “[The Village Council considers illegal harvesting when you harvest under sized timber and you harvest for commercial use without permission](#)”.
4. What are Village Council’s views concerning over harvesting and its link with deforestation?

- “Depleting the forest so that it cannot regenerate successfully so as to continue to provide our people with the resources we depend on to live”
5. Is there a programme for reforestation in logged-over areas (areas that have been logged)?
- “Conservation efforts are being undertaken, some land being used for Agricultural purposes”.
6. What are your hopes and fears about the sustainable development of your community where logging is the primary economic activity?
- “All communities in North Rupununi would take the initiative and come to be trained in the proper use of board milling.”
 - “Develop knowledge and capacity to deal with issues pertaining to sustainable logging;”
 - “Apply for more State Forest permits”.
 - “High cost of royalties and acreage fees,”
 - “Unavailability of markets for lesser utilized species,”
 - “Non-Enforcement of health and safety measures”
7. What are the key actions / recommendations and suggestions you have for the Project to effectively move forward?
- “Proper inventory done of community , trees identified and tagged, “
 - “Regular monitoring by the Village Council and Guyana Forestry Commission,”
 - “Training and capacity building provided and accessed e.g. timber graders, and local rangers to be trained as Community Forestry Rangers”

5 Focus Group Results

There was group consensus about the following topics which was articulated with frequency and intensity, these focus group participants who represent key community stakeholders in the Project held strong opinions and beliefs and as such it was expressed with clarity and much emphasis.

Cost of royalty and acreage fees being paid by the Amerindian communities, instead of these costs being absorbed by the International companies with TSA's. – (the frequency of the statement based on the number of occurrences was 20 (20) times, by all participants

- Over harvesting and no proper system in place for reforestation, a land use policy for Amerindian communities needs to be drafted (Majority views)
- The urgent need for inventory to done in these areas and the extremely high cost for inventory which would enable them to value their asset base thus ensuring sustainability over a longer term. (All)
- Finding Alternative livelihoods: there was recognition that some studies were undertaken however “implementation ”of the recommendations were never completed, (the hope was expressed that this Chainsaw-milling Project does not go the same route. (All)

- The opportunity to be a part of process that is not just confined to superficial consultations, but being involved in “real dialogue” that permits them to arrive at a consensus with other players or stakeholders in the Natural Resource Sector. They have and continue to have many dialogue processes, not only as these relate to forestry and alternative livelihoods but in other arenas such as health, education and welfare issues (Majority)
- The relationship with GFC, Geology and Mines and Lands and Surveys Commission needs to be further strengthened, especially with GFC whom the majority believed was indifferent to their needs by the inherent policies that are being made without proper consultations. (Majority)
- The consensus of the Youths is that they need to be involved in any consultations which relates to or assists in the developmental process –
- Creation of Investment packages as it related to non timber forest products was mentioned a couple of times.
- There was a view expressed about GFC and its current understanding, arrangements and relationship with Community Forestry in the context of Amerindian communities: It was felt that there was need for a more informed community forestry policy or a strategy better tailored to community owned or community leased forests which would then have a different yard stick by which to determine royalties and acreage fees and other financial arrangements which would be fairer and more equitable for community forestry to operate.
- Understanding with clarity the Laws, By Laws and Policies which must be simplified so that all would know what is and is not written in the Amerindian Act of 2006, and the Forest Laws and the GFC Code of conduct for timber harvesting. (A new Forestry Act is being drafted, but it was noted that there were no consultations held with their communities and they need to make representation before it is enacted.)

6 Conclusion

Several ‘topics’ were identified by the participants but a recurring theme throughout was lack of consultation by the policy makers, and the communities’ desire to be involved in processes that have a direct and indirect impact on their lives and livelihoods. The question was how they would be allowed to enter this arena to let their voices be heard, this refrain was from all.

It is important to note that the community stakeholders recognized the importance of the dialogue process which allows them to have a “voice”, it was felt by all that their interests are being ignored or frustrated by others whose policies and actions determine their fate or they basically do not understand the needs and this creates an *“imposition of inappropriate forms of development”*.

These stakeholders are seeking real empowerment, not talk shops but engagement with a process that allows them to participate in consultations and decisions and to be able to represent their own positions and interests and also, to take responsibility.

What the appropriate processes are ,they believe, would be as a result of their involvement, some are of the conviction that their communities are being exploited economically. This pilot community expressed a “fear” that they would lose control of their operations. Is this fear founded? Perhaps, based on their past experiences.

As a buffer to this fear, the issue of collective land rights and co-management of conservation areas within the North Rupununi was raised by leaders in connection with the North Rupununi Wetlands which is recognised locally and internationally as an important ecosystem. The communities of the North Rupununi represented by the NRDDB are working out a strategy to have these Wetlands be recognised as a Community-owned Conservation Area and with a vision to also this eco-system established under the Guyana Protected Areas System. The aim here is to have Community Natural Resource Management Plans developed and partnerships established to co-manage / and collaboratively manage this area. This objective is supported by Iwokrama, Conservation International and WWF, and some joint projects are underway, including the Arapaima Management Plan which is a tri-partite arrangement between NRDDB, the Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Iwokrama.

It is the facilitators view that “real dialogue” has an important role in respect to changing the attitudes and hence policies and actions of other relevant actors in the Natural Resource Sector. For the purposes of the Chainsaw Milling project the Annai focus group firmly believed that they were being marginalized, caused by a failure of the policy makers to listen and include them in the decision making process. It is the expectation of the Project that the dialogue process at grass root level or community level will inform higher level dialogue (e.g. a powerful logging company is not likely to listen to forest dwellers perceptions unless at some stage its representatives have been involved in dialogue at every level with the community)

As we continue this ‘focus group process’ which will be used as a platform to introduce the Multi stakeholder dialogue, we subscribe to the following ethics, goals and methods.

- All people are equally valuable and it is important to allow people to achieve their good.
- The voices of the people are an accurate indication of the people’s good.

Our goal is to build consensus in having practical decisions by allowing all persons involved in the process to speak their views freely without intimidation and to enable others to listen to other parties. (Whatever training is needed to empower the participants will be made available in accordance with the objectives of the Projects).

Finally, an Action Plan will be developed based on these findings as one of the results of the MSD process of the Project.

Annex 1: Reference Notes/Guidelines for Focus Group

Relevance of project to Amerindian Communities Engaged in Community Forestry

The project aims to address strategic matters of chainsaw milling / lumbering by local communities. Some of these matters are:

1. Compliance with the Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting;
2. Village by-laws for timber harvesting and chain-saw lumbering with relevance to the Amerindian Act;
3. Village by-laws for timber harvesting and chain-saw lumbering with relevance to the Amerindian Act; ,
4. Type of Relationship with the Forestry Commission;
5. Illegal cutting (logging within protected areas or outside concession areas or in contravention to Village by-laws);
6. Cutting of restricted species over the allowable limit;
7. Cutting before a license is active;
8. Under reporting the amount cut;
9. Monitoring – including option of invitation to the Guyana Forestry Commission to monitor;
10. Use of forest produce.

Annex 2: Key Legal Frameworks for Reference for Focus Group

Legal Definitions

THE AMERINDIAN ACT 2006 (Law of Guyana: Act No. 6 of 2006)

Section 54 (1) Use of Forest produce by residents

- (i) A resident who wishes to use forest produce from Village lands shall obtain the permission of the Village Council and comply with any conditions attached to that permission.
- (ii) The Village Council may invite the Guyana Forestry Commission to monitor the use of forest produce by a resident.

See also: **Section 55 (1-4) Use of Forest Produce by Non-residents**

Section 56. Obligations of the Guyana Forestry Commission

GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION'S OVERARCHING DEFINITION OF LEGALITY

"Legal timber in Guyana is that which has been removed, transported, processed, bought or sold in a manner that is within the provision of relevant laws of the country"¹

The Laws of Guyana, Chapter 67:01, Section 19, 1-2 (Damage to forest produce)

1. Any person lawfully cutting or removing forest produce from any State forest shall take all necessary precautions to prevent damage to other forest produce.
2. Any person unnecessarily damaging other forest produce when lawfully cutting or removing forest produce from any state forest shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of six thousand five hundred dollars.

20 Offences & Legal Proceedings

(1) Everyone who trespasses on or unlawfully occupies any State forest shall be liable to a fine of four thousand five hundred dollars or imprisonment for four months.

21 "Any person who in any State forest, except in accordance with the terms of a permit granted, contract or lease granted under this Act or of the State Lands Act or of the Mining Act or a timber sales agreement granted under this Act –

- (a) cuts, fells, lops, damages or removes forest produce
- (b) grazes or pastures cattle
- (c) cleans, cultivates, cuts, digs or turns the soil, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of thirteen thousand dollars (amended)1997

22: (1) Any person who contravenes any of the regulations made under this Act or any to the terms or conditions of a contract made or exploratory permit ,lease or timber sales agreement granted under this Act or who knowingly receives any forest produce which has been cut, felled lopped, damaged or removed in contravention of this Act or of any of the terms or conditions of a contract made or exploratory permit, lease or timber sales agreement granted under this Act shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of thirteen thousand dollars.

23, Unlawful possession of forest produce.

24. Counterfeiting and similar offences.

¹ The Forestry Act is currently being amended and is under review by the Select Parliamentary Committee – Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues representing the Government of Guyana and M.P. Anthony Vieira representing the Opposition are key members of this Committee. Technical Advice is being supplied by the Commissioner of Forests and Guyana Forestry Commission.

Annex 3: Focus Group Agenda

FOCUS GROUP AGENDA

STAKEHOLDERS: Annai Amerindian District / MYFM Inc. / NRDB & BHI

DATE: August 5, 2008 Bina Hill, Annai.

Chairperson: Mr. Mike Williams – Director of MYFM Inc. & Senior Councillor of Annai

Session One:

Welcome & Introductions by Community & Overview of MYFM Inc. (MYC)

- Welcome by Toshao of Annai. Mr. Mark George & Director MYFM. Mr. Sydney Allicock
- Blessing of Meeting
- Participants Introductions
- Overview of MYFM Inc. by Mr. Glendon Allicock (MYFM is a Pilot Project for the MSD)

Session Two:

Introduction to the Chainsaw Milling Project & Multi-stakeholder Dialogue (MSD)

- Introduction to Project by Mr. Godfrey Marshall – Director, Forestry Training Centre Inc.
- Dialogue Process, Goals & Methods of MSD & Overview of Community Forestry Associations
Ms. Margo Boyce, National Co-Facilitator of the MSD
- Remarks by Community Forestry Adviser – Mr. Leroy Welcome
- Outline of Focus Group session & questions and clarifications facilitated by Ms. Vanda Radzik
National Co-facilitator of MSD

Session Three: Stakeholder Focus Group Session facilitated by Vanda Radzik and Margo Boyce

- Working Groups organised into three sub-groups of stakeholders:
- Card Technique / Graffiti Board (variation) method used to anchor working groups
 - Blue Cards – Key Issues identified by the Participants
 - Green Card – Hopes and Expectations
 - Red Card - Fears
 - Orange Card – The Way Forward/recommendations

Session Four: Reporting by Stakeholder Working Groups Chaired by Dr. Raquel Thomas

- Stakeholder Working Groups complete dialogue & write up reports
- Presentation of Reports from stakeholder working groups
- Open Forum Discussion on reports from working groups
- Wrap Up & Closure of Meeting by Rohini Kerrett, Project Coordinator²

Break for Snack & Departure

² Documentation of the process was also videotaped by Ms. Rohini Kerrett

Annex 4: Participants List

CHAINSAW MILLING PROJECT, GUYANA Attendance Register

Community: Annai District
Focus Group Meeting 1

Date: August 5, 2008

No.	Name	Occupation	Tel. No./Email
1	Ivor Marshaw	Progru Busht. .	imarslow@gmail.com
2	Joyyna Zammett		joyyna.zammett@hotmail.com
3	Rosie George	FLC	rosie_george@hotmail.com
4.	Michael Williams	Senior Carveriller	michaelwilliams@yahoo.com
5	Toshao (Mark George)	Toshao	
6	VIRGIL HARDING	Exc. DIRECT NRDA	
7	Licky Moses	Student / GIS	vivian-moses@hotmail.com
8	Herbert Andries	carpenter	hubford@hotmail.com
9	Kennick Alli	Senior Councillor	Ruperte.
10	Olinola Salvador	student	sur amra
11	Gulene Salty	Student	JJ192008@live.com
12	Bernie Robertson	Student	robernie2006@hotmail.com
13	Brenda Gregory	Student	brenda-gregory@hotmail.com
14	Brain Rnemmer	student	Masscam .
15	Richardson Haynes	student	Richard.Haynes20@yahoo.com
16	Ivor Daniels	council lor.	Annai
17	Heusley Edwards	Student	Kwataanang
18	Eitan Lawrence	Student	Jafka
19	Maun Andre	Student	C. totter .
20	Yonette Jacobus	Mentor	debsjacobs@yahoo.com

CHAINSAW MILLING PROJECT, GUYANA
Attendance Register

Community: Annai District Date: August 5, 2008
Forws Group Meeting

No.	Name	Occupation	Tel. No. / Email
21	Alphonse Esdale	Sawmiller	alphonse.esdale@yahoo.com
22	Bertie Xavier	Facilitator	bertie.xavier@yahoo.com
23	Nicholas Smith	Peace Corps	gouldfish@hotmail.com
24	Zacharias Norman	Fisheries Designate	zachariasnorman@hotmaile.com
25	William Andries	Toshao	williamandries@yahoo.com
26	Glendon Allcock	Councillor (M.Y.C)	Glendon.allcock@yahoo.com
27	Ricardo Cobroj	Driver/Sawmill hand	ricardo.yugana@gmail.com
28	Mark Limpus	Logger	Surama Village
29	Jacqueline Allcock	Senior Councillor	Surama Village
30	Siegfried Rosa	Senior Councillor	wowetto
31	Sydney Allcock	Councillor	Surama
32	R.F. Delicole	Council of Elders	Surama
33	Bryan Allcock	C.D.O	bryannai139@yahoo.com
34	Benita Roberts	M.R.U	Rupertee
35	Damson Bartholomew	B.H.T Health Staff	Mirarao
36	Parresh Andries	Forest Ranger	Annai F/station

Annex 5: Photographs of the Focus Group Meeting



Annex 6: Feedback from Focus Groups Clusters

Key Issues	Hopes	Fears	The Way Forward
Harvesting of lumber without permission from the Village Council	All communities in North Rupununi would take the initiative to be trained in the proper use of board milling. Having the knowledge and capacity to deal with issues pertaining to logging and the availability of more State Forest Permits	Cost of royalty, acreage fees paid by Community Groups for State Forest concessions are high and that cost should be absorbed by the TSA operators	Proper Inventory completed, system of identification for trees to be harvested
Logging in protected areas without an MOU from the village council	Recommendations to be included in the New Forest Act.	Identification of a proper area for stockpiling and storage	Regular monitoring by GFC and the Village Council
Cutting of undersized trees is considered illegal	Communities would look to non timber forest products (NTFP's) as alternative livelihoods to lessen the dependency on lumbering	Health and safety measures to be implemented and enforced	Local Rangers to be trained as Forest rangers
Depletion of the forest in some areas	Increased participation by women	Unavailability of markets for non commercial species	All logs harvested to be utilized as fully as possible so as to minimize wastage
Planned conservation activities must involve the communities	Conservation awareness programmes should be an ongoing activity and not a one off process	Proper management. Lack of tree spotters, trees not properly tagged, Supervision	Training to produce quality sawn material, also introduction of alternative skills training such as plumbing and farming as well as timber grading

Key Issues	Hopes	Fears	The Way Forward
SFP arrangements: Why should small community projects like ours have to pay the same rates as big companies and multinationals in terms of royalty and acreage?	GFC continues to provide training	That we would lose control of MYFM operations.	Formation of a management committee for the MYFM Inc.
Why miners can mine in a creek and even change direction, while Foresters cannot? (Miners are allowed to clear-fell the trees near the creek, but loggers are allowed to harvest trees near the creek the excuse given is soil erosion.	Special acreage fees and royalty payments should be negotiated for Amerindian communities	Licenses to mine would continue to be issued without proper consultations with the communities within the vicinity of the mining area , and how the use of mercury affects the water supply for the community.	Establishment of a reforestation programme. Development of monitoring systems within communities on chain saw milling. Dialogue between stakeholders should become an ongoing process
	More employment opportunities created for youths	Not enough job opportunities for the Youths.	Full understanding of the Amerindian Act of 2006
			Have exchange visits, and projects between the 3 pilot communities of Ituni, Orealla/Siparuta and Annai
Poor communication – not consulted in matters affecting the community or the decision making process (Youth Reps)	Improve youth participation in the decision making processes of all communities as well as in this project	Social problems such as alcoholism, drugs and violence needs to be addressed and strategies developed to cope with these ills	Better information sharing among communities on chainsaw milling
Lack of support and cooperation from the elders	Provide opportunities for communities to own small forest concessions		Develop a simplified version of the Code of Practice with more illustrations and less words (text)