



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

Report on the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Chainsaw Lumbering in Guyana, Meeting 2

held at Egbert Benjamin Centre, Linden, Region 10, July 7-8, 2010

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Guyana, Meeting 2**

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(Upper Demerara River as viewed from the Egbert Benjamin Centre)

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Acronyms

CFA	Community Forest Association
CFA, CMP	Community Forest Advisor, Chainsaw Milling Project
CFW	Community Forest Worker
CMP	Chainsaw Milling Project
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FPA	Forest Products Association of Guyana
FPDMC	Forest Products Development & Marketing Council
FTCI	Forestry Training Centre Incorporated
GACPA	Guyana Arts & Crafts Producers Association
GFC	Guyana Forestry Commission
GGMC	Guyana Geology & Mines Commission
GMSA	Guyana Manufacturing & Services Association
GTIS	Guyana Trade & Investment Support, USAID
IWIAG	Ituni Women in Action Group
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy
METF	Maria Elizabeth & Three Friends Logging Association
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoAA	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoL	Ministry of Labour
MYFMI	Makushi Yemenkun Forest Management Inc
NARI	National Agricultural & Research Institute
OCC	Office of Climate Change
RIL	Reduced Impact Logging
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SFP	State Forests Permit
TF	Task Force (of the CMP)
TSA	Timber Sales Agreement
UBFPA	Upper Berbice Forest Producers Association

1. Introduction

This report seeks to give an account of the **second multi-stakeholder dialogue meeting on chainsaw milling in Guyana facilitated by the Chainsaw Milling Project**. The meeting was held at the Egbert Benjamin Centre, Region 10 on July 7, 2010 and followed by presentations on other forms of livelihood options and a practical demonstration exercise on different technologies and techniques for converting logs into lumber on the second day, July 8, 2010.

2. Background

2.1 The Chainsaw Milling Project

Chainsaw lumbering refers to on-site conversion of logs into lumber using chainsaws. This practice offers livelihood opportunities to many people in both rural and urban areas in Ghana and Guyana. One advantage of chainsaw lumbering is that it pairs low capital requirements with high labour input making it relatively easy for small scale operatives in rural areas to produce timber. Chainsaw lumbering affords jobs to people in rural areas and in addition, the price of chainsaw lumber is generally within the means of poorer sections of the population.

The EU funded Chainsaw Milling Project *'Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw lumbering through multi-stakeholder dialogue in Ghana and Guyana'* focuses on the broad theme of **forest governance** in **Ghana** and **Guyana**, countries with high incidence of chainsaw lumbering. In many local communities, chainsaw lumbering is an important component of livelihoods; and there is the opportunity to address issues of conflict and illegality associated with chainsaw lumbering.

Chainsaw lumbering was banned in **Ghana** in 1998, but the practice is widespread despite measures put in place by government to enforce the ban. Several factors have promoted the widespread illegal chainsaw lumbering in Ghana. Some of the key factors are: high demand for chainsaw lumber due to relatively cheap prices, failure of the sawmills to supply 20% of their lumber products to the domestic market as required by law, strong support of some local communities for illegal chainsaw operations and connivance of some law enforcement personnel and Forest Services Division staff with illegal chainsaw operators. The illegal chainsaw activities contribute to forest degradation and conflict with several other stakeholder groups such as the government, traditional sawmill owners, conservationists and other owners of trees and forest resources.

In **Guyana**, chainsaw lumbering is permitted and regulated by the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC). However, although the GFC has developed and implemented a number of measures to improve the management of chainsaw milling operations, practices in the sector need to be reviewed to align it more holistically with national initiatives on reduced impact logging, sustainable rural livelihoods and poverty alleviation.

Overall objectives of the project:

- to reduce poverty and promote viable livelihoods in forest-dependent communities;
- to reduce the occurrence of illegal logging; and
- to promote the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests in developing countries.

The specific objective is 'Level of conflict and illegality related to chainsaw lumbering by local communities reduced'.

Expected results:

1. Causes and consequences of chainsaw lumbering and its links with illegality understood (National Level).
2. International best practice determined to address chainsaw lumbering (International level).
3. Multi-stakeholder learning platforms established to discuss chainsaw lumbering issues (National level).
4. National consensus achieved in Ghana and Guyana about issues regarding chainsaw lumbering using an institutionalized mechanism for permanent dialogue between stakeholders (National level).
5. Communities dependent on chainsaw lumbering producing timber in a regulated and sustainable way (Local level).

Local partners:

In Ghana: Forestry Commission (FC)
Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)

In Guyana: Forestry Training Centre Incorporated (FTCI)
Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development (Iwokrama)

Target groups:

The project targets stakeholders of chainsaw lumbering in Guyana (and Ghana) and include chainsaw millers, sawmill owners, forest concession holders, the government and the conservation and development communities respectively. Specifically, eleven communities (eight in Ghana and four in Guyana) dependent on chainsaw milling will be targeted. At the international level, forestry decision makers are targeted.

2.2 The Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Platform

The substantive activities of the stakeholder dialogue platform consist of inventorying the critical issues regarding chainsaw milling, identifying stakeholders' perceptions, assessing the extent to which they differ and proposing acceptable means to bridge these divisions using participatory strategies to collect unbiased, objective and relevant information. This information will assist to determine the costs and benefits of chainsaw milling from the perspectives of each interest. Once agreement can be achieved about the principal problems, strategies to address them will be formulated, including a plan for further action.

Result (3) of the project aims to create a mechanism for stakeholders to interact.

Rationale for the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD)

In both countries (Ghana and Guyana) chainsaw lumbering is an important component of livelihoods for local and indigenous communities.

In Guyana, chainsaw lumbering in State forests falls within the purview of the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) while on Amerindian Lands it is regulated by the relevant Amerindian Village Council, with commercial extractions monitored by the GFC.

According to a report prepared for World Bank in 2006¹, anecdotal evidence suggests that there is not large scale commercial illegal logging in Guyana. However, the report goes on to state that there are reports of small-scale commercial illegal logging which in certain areas may be quite widespread.

Preliminary research findings of this project indicated that there are many troubling issues related to

¹ Gary Clarke, *Law compliance and prevention and control of illegal activities in the forest sector in Guyana*. (The World Bank, 2006), p.11.

chainsaw lumbering, for example unsustainable forest management practices.

There is the need for an appropriate mechanism for dialogue among the principal stakeholders of chainsaw lumbering to support rural livelihoods where feasible and to ensure the sector responds positively to national objectives for sustainable forest management. Effective and meaningful mechanisms for dialogue between the principal stakeholders will lead to a shared understanding of chainsaw lumbering practices and associated socio-economic issues.

In preparation for the multi-stakeholder dialogue a series of focus group and preparatory meetings were held with key stakeholders to brief them on the project and the multi-stakeholder dialogue and to initiate discussions on stakeholders issues in relation to chainsaw milling, and hopes, fears and expectations in relation to the future of chainsaw milling and the dialogue process.

2.3 Objectives of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue held in Region 10

Objectives of the multi-stakeholder dialogue meeting held in Region 10 during July 7 and 8, 2010:

1. To continue the stakeholder dialogue, consensus and capacity building process for community livelihood and sustainable forest management in Region 10
2. To provide information to guide the stakeholder decision-making process
3. To present other forms of possible livelihood options
4. To demonstrate and facilitate hands-on practice with a range of different technologies for more effectively converting logs to lumber

Expected outputs of the meeting:

- An understanding of the issues related to chainsaw lumbering and their impacts on the sub-sector;
- Recommendations on solutions for addressing issues related to chainsaw lumbering;
- Capacity of local operatives built for practical decision making for sustainable forest management; and
- Meeting proceedings report with recommended solutions to stakeholder issues that will contribute to national level discussions on chainsaw milling in Guyana.

Participants:

- 1) Representatives from the following stakeholder categories identified in the stakeholder analysis:
 1. Amerindian communities;
 2. Investors/Contractors;
 3. Community Forestry Associations;
 4. Chainsaw crews;
 5. Transportation providers;
 6. Resale and manufacturing establishments;
 7. Consumers;
 8. Regulatory Agencies;
 9. Suppliers of inputs and supplies;
 10. Other forest users;
 11. Traditional sawmilling industry; and
 12. Stakeholders interested in Sustainable Forest Management.

- 2) Members of the Task Force (responsible for guiding the multi-stakeholder dialogue process);
- 3) Sustainable Livelihood Options Presentations by resource personnel;
- 4) FTCI Safety Officer and Farfan & Mendes milling demonstration crew;
- 5) The Chainsaw Milling Project staff in Guyana (responsible for facilitating the meeting).

Forum Structure

The two-day meeting was organized to facilitate dialogue among and between stakeholders on strategic and practical solutions to issues previously identified through research, focus group and preparatory meetings conducted by project personnel. The first day of the meeting comprised four main sessions:

1. Session 1 focused on a review of strategic and practical issues. Stakeholders were organized to sit in table groups in a semi-circle to review issues, get clarifications, raise new issues, select representatives to communicate the group's thinking to the plenary and generally engage in dialogue with fellow stakeholders from other communities and stakeholders from other interest group locations.
2. Session 2 focused on group work on strategic and practical solutions to selected issues.
3. Session 3 saw presentations by representatives from each 'solutions group' with opportunities for further dialogue.
4. Session 4 was dedicated to stakeholder feedback and evaluation of the day's activities.

Complementing the first day's MSD discussion, presentations and practical demonstrations were organized to support other forms of viable livelihood options and facilitate hands-on-practice with a range of different technologies for more effectively converting logs into lumber.

The second day on 'other livelihood' presentations and practical demonstration was structured as follows:

1. Introduction to Day 2
2. Short (10-minute) presentations on Forest Management; Low Carbon Development Strategy; Forest Products Development & Marketing ; Marketing from a Business Perspective; Utilizing Wood Waste; Agricultural Options; Non-Timber Forest Products (Q&A session after each presentation)
3. Practical Demonstrations (with opportunities for dialogue with demonstration facilitators)
 - a. Safety
 - b. Log selection and measurement
 - c. Methods of Sawing
 - d. Timber Storage & Hygiene
4. Chainsaw ripping competition
5. Evaluation

Both days' activities strived to achieve high levels of participation by all stakeholders.

3. Proceedings of the MSD Meeting, Day 1, Wednesday July 7, 2010

3.1 Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions of Stakeholders

The meeting was called to order at 9.10 am by the Chairperson, Mr. Charles Thom, representing Chainsaw Logging Associations on the CMP Task Force. Participants then stood for a reciting of the National Pledge. This was followed by brief remarks from the Chairperson on the history of chainsaw logging in Upper Demerara, Region 10.

To facilitate formal and informal dialogue, participants were seated at six tables arranged in a close semi-circle (bicycle-spoke-like) in six stakeholder groups:

- #1 Regional, Town, & Village Leaders;
- #2 Community Forest Associations & Chainsaw Crews;
- #3 Regulatory Agencies;
- #4 FPDMC, Resale & Manufacturing Establishments, Transportation Providers, Building Contractors;
- #5 Traditional Sawmilling Industry & Other Forest Users;
- #6 SFM Stakeholders (Iwokrama, FTCL, Iwokrama, University of Guyana)

Thirty-three (33) participants were present for the first day of the Region 10 MSD: 23 men and 10 women.

The warm up/ice breaker and stakeholder introductions were facilitated by Ms Bonita Harris, Facilitator of the meeting. These activities created opportunities for participants to begin engaging in dialogue, selecting representatives, ensuring the accurate representation of their views, making corrections where necessary, and representing themselves. Please see Annex 1, 2, 3 and 4 for the meeting's agenda, list of participants and details of introductory activities.

Before participants returned to their seats, the facilitator asked them to continue to listen as patiently and respectfully to the contributions of others as they had been doing during the early stages of the day's dialogue, and to treat the discomfort they experienced standing throughout the introductory exercises as a form of solidarity with chainsaw operators who undergo far more hardship in their work as loggers.

3.2 Review of Chainsaw Milling Project MSD & Objectives

After participants viewed an 18-minute documentary on chainsaw milling in Guyana, the CMP Coordinator Ms Rohini Kerrett addressed the main aspects of the Chainsaw Milling Project, and summarized the findings from research and focus group meetings aided by a power-point presentation. She examined the reasons why the project was paying attention to and evaluating chainsaw milling; reviewed the various stakeholder groups and concerns; and noted the importance of planning for the future of chainsaw milling (with the involvement of chainsaw operators) to enable chainsaw millers to increase the benefits they reap from our forests without having to work as hard as they now do. She explained the multi-stakeholder dialogue methodology being employed by the CMP process and the objectives of the MSD process:

- 1) To achieve a shared understanding of chainsaw lumbering practices and associated socio-economic issues;
- 2) To build consensus between and among stakeholders to reduce the level of conflict and illegality related to chainsaw lumbering;
- 3) To address the regulatory frameworks to strengthen good governance in the forestry sector.

3.3 Review of Key Issues (arising out of earlier stages of the stakeholder dialogue)

The six table groups were invited to review and discuss the various issues and general solutions proposed in preparatory meetings that had been held with stakeholders. For ease of reference and to facilitate continuation of the dialogue, each list of issues was printed on paper of a different color and enclosed in the folders given to participants. See Annex #5, “Stakeholder Group Issues and Possible Solutions identified at the Preparatory Meetings for the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Chainsaw Milling in Region 10.”

Each group was asked to select a representative to report on additional issues arising in their dialogue on the ‘issues’ listed, and to engage in dialogue with representatives of other stakeholder groups.

In the consultations that followed, at the table groups and with the wider assembly, stakeholder representatives raised/added the following points:

Regulatory agencies

1. Need for clarity on definitions of *re-forestation* and *afforestation* where the need for re-planting is noted at Issue #1.
2. Re #4 (Village councils unaware of permits granted within their boundaries) and conflict with #16 (insufficient awareness of rights/entitlements):
 - It was noted that village councils collect ‘tags’ and therefore could not be unaware of rights and entitlements. In the course of dialogue, it was pointed out that although the village council leader may be the person actually collecting the tags, he/she may not be communicating with other members of the council or with residents of the community – hence the problem.
 - It was also noted that lack of accountability by community leaders towards all sections of the community was also an issue. Issues currently engaging the MoAA include the matter of village leaders (a Toshao and two councilors) insisting on their right as elected leaders to proceed with an investment contract although most of the community is opposed to the deal. It may not be widely known that two-thirds of residents present at the meeting must agree (by way of informed consent) in order for leaders to enter into contracts with investors.
3. What is the role of the GFC? If an Amerindian community wants to build a school, does it need permits and tags to transport logs to the building place? Re #9 (lack of trained personnel to explain and monitor SFM), it was observed that it was vital to monitor the tagging system as it operates in Amerindian communities.

- A CFA representative noted that there must be a role for GFC in forested areas titled to Amerindian villages because outsiders are ‘gangstering’ wood and illegally passing it through Amerindian tags. (A forensic investigation of apparently legitimate tags by the GFC recently uncovered such an illegality.)
 - Two CFA representatives also called for explanations of regulations re ‘titled’ lands and review of the GFC role re titled lands. It was noted that the wide latitude permitted Amerindian villages not only led to people getting away with wrongdoing and generally leading to all-round disrespect for laws and regulations, but is also leading to exploitation. Now that Amerindian villages can enter into business relations, export arrangements and contracts, regulatory agencies such as EPA, GFC & MoAA must be involved to advice and guidance and help safeguard the community. A strong sentiment expressed on the responsibility of authorities to ensure that ‘entitled’ communities are also ‘empowered’ and not ‘empowered *and* handicapped’ at the same time.
 - Another important governance issue related to the nature of the tags/permits and dispute resolution system resulting in conflicts and challenges in court with respect to ‘origin’ which may lead to parties preferring to battle it out on the ground.
4. There is lack of clarity with respect to procedures for moving mills, where they are to be moved to and which agency/agencies has/have responsibility.

Regional, town & village leaders

1. Capacity building with respect to governance (including importance of transparency, understanding laws, consequences and ramifications) is needed in Amerindian village councils and communities.
2. The length of time it takes to sort out problems, especially minor ones, causes unnecessary suffering, and suggests the need for sensitizing forestry officials on the need for discretion and on simple corrective measures they can take in the face of minor matters.
3. There is a need for an equal voice for Amerindian communities at the national level so that persons can understand where we are coming from. There is a need for Amerindian communities to be a real part of stakeholder strategic planning for the next five or ten years so they can help decide where they want the sector to go. Amerindians need to be empowered in a true sense.
 - It was pointed out that the National Toshao Council and regional level councils allow Amerindian voices to be heard and their problems aired. (Note: This still does not address the call for Amerindian communities to be a real part of strategic planning processes.)
 - It was observed that not all regions have a council (e.g. Region 10 has no area/district council and Regions 3, 4, 5, 6 may have too few villages to justify the need for a regional council). It was also noted that Region 9 with its North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB) has much to teach Region 10 about governance; they can describe what they did, why, how and with what results.

- It was also noted that Berbice with only one Amerindian village (Orealla) and one satellite community (Siparuta) can more easily get together and discuss their issues than Region 9 with its several villages. This was countered by an Amerindian Community Association rep with the observation that communication is the problem. He doubted whether Berbice village representative could meet on a regular basis with the National Toshao Council. He noted that after meetings of the National Toshao Council, there is no information on what came out of the meeting, what is expected of leaders, what they must and mustn't do.
 - It was generally felt that there is not sufficient back-and-forth communication between the National Toshao Council, village councils and communities; that there are serious representation and communication issues with respect to all local government bodies (not just the Amerindian councils) and that representatives do not have many opportunities to meet and talk with one another, such as afforded by this MSD.
4. This discussion led to a call for urgent local government reform, and the need for communities to start taking responsibility to empower themselves to hold their leaders and councils accountable.
 - It was noted that change was necessary at the individual and community levels if we are to have change at other levels. Government of the people, by the people, for the people must start with the people.
 5. Re Issue #1 (chainsaw milling critical for the existence of communities) and Issue #4 (GFC practice of impounding produce causing suffering in communities) on the "Amerindian Communities" List, it was noted by a CFA representative that there is a need to differentiate between *laws* and *policies* (and guidelines, someone added). People need to know what the laws are and what the policies are. Policy should not be in conflict with the law. People should not be charged under 'policies.'
 6. Re Issue #4 under 'general solutions' (GFC grace period for implementation of policies) on the "Amerindian Communities" List, it was recommended that 'grace period' time limit should take into consideration the time needed for raising awareness, education and training; and time for testing levels of awareness of regulations, while recognizing that all communities are not likely to be at the same levels of awareness.
 7. While GFC has responsibilities as a regulatory agency, an evenhanded approach must recognize that everyone has responsibilities, both legal and representational, Ignorance of the law, it was noted, is no excuse; chainsaw businesspeople, like other businesspeople, need to take responsibility for becoming aware of the laws and regulations governing their operations.

Community Forest Associations & Chainsaw Crews

1. Issues #9 (lack of knowledge and skills to improve practices), #7 (poor governance), and #4 (binding agreements/contracts not in place) are very important concerns.
2. There is a general lack of cooperation in the groups. It was noted that people cooperate to get access to land, but *not* for better roads and other important infrastructural community needs.
3. Access to land is still an ongoing and key issue.

4. There is a need for implementation of national standards. It was felt that GFC should have told Bai Shan Lin that it must pay \$x for Wamara; that GFC/FPDMC should monitor what prices are being offered and communicate current market price info to chainsaw millers so they don't get cheated.
5. Representatives were critical of GFC for giving people land and expecting them to get into business without any guidance, training or capacity building in business.
 - In response to this grievance, representatives were asked to see the wider context: GFC was asked to release concessions; this it did; this is the first stage, the next stage was training, and this is now being made available.
 - It was also recommended that GFC do a stakeholder analysis of the sector to establish clear-cut benchmarks, determine who has what training, who has what business experience, assets, etc. A GFC rep noted that it is currently engaged in assessing, via its application form, equipment pool etc.
 - The FPDMC rep noted that all the ideas had merit and restated its intention to work with the associations to advocate on their behalf, help strengthen the associations, and work towards the formation of a national association.
 - It was also noted that it was not helpful to apportion blame; that people need to accept responsibility, forge ahead and establish groups, seek training to access funding; CMP can help, GFC & MoAA have community development programmes that can also be of assistance.
 - Re ownership and price controls, it was noted that the general acceptance of low prices is a bread and butter issue. How much do the various stakeholders have to do with grading and setting prices? What level of involvement are the regulatory agencies expected to have? Do we want a free market or a price control system?)
6. Stakeholders had questions on GFC's position on tenure re SFP. They wanted to know whether there were any plans on increasing lengths of tenure?
 - Observations from other stakeholders included questions on 'tenureship' versus 'ownership.' Why tenureship? What can various lengths of tenureship achieve? What is it that the Community Forest Associations really want when they ask about possibilities of extending their leases? What are the various ways of achieving the desired ends?
7. The final issue of this session concerned awareness and mechanisms re fines and appeals – with respect to chainsaw operators, Community Forest Associations and miners with chainsaws.
 - It was felt that there was a need for greater awareness of penalties and rights on the part of all stakeholders.
 - It appeared to representatives that GFC officers in the field seem to be under an obligation to find faults to report back to the agency. Stakeholders want GFC to be more transparent, show more discretion, be more compassionate, clarify grey areas, find better ways of

settling disputes, resolving land conflicts and responding to complaints so complainants don't find themselves penalized or feel that it is better to fight out the issue on the ground without reference to GFC.

- It was recommended that GFC note concrete examples of conflicts cited and use as 'case studies' to develop 'best practice' guidance in training its officers.

FPDMC, Resale & Manufacturing Est, Transportation Providers, Building Contractors

(no additional issues were raised by this group)

Traditional Sawmilling Industry, Other Forest Users, Other SFM Stakeholders

1. It was recommended re Issue #2 (shift in recent years to smaller-scale milling) that the word "since" be deleted and that Issue #11 (on GFC expectations and resulting regulatory practices) be omitted all together.
2. Re Issue #6 (chainsaw operators not choosy about species): this may be that a particular species may be the only one available.
3. The view was expressed that small loggers pay more fees than large loggers for less valued land; that there was not a level playing field for small and large loggers.
4. It was also felt that grading rules are not applied in an even-handed manner for all stakeholders; and that there should be grading at all points of sale.
 - This point invited the comment that stating grades has implications for contracts, and that GFC needs to protect the reputation of the grade.
5. There should be evaluations and feasibility studies on alternative economic activities. People should know what the soil can support before, deciding what they want to plant. For agricultural diversification, decisions have to be taken on scale (subsistence or large scale) and land resources available. It was pointed out that much information/research already exists.

3.4 Recommended Solutions

MSD representatives were invited to choose issues and groups they wished to work on and with, engage in dialogue with other stakeholders using the five questions suggested on the agenda, and choose a representative to re-present their recommendations to the whole group. The small groups were urged to select persons who could be relied on to be effective representatives of the group's views. The meeting facilitator also urged participants to consider *strategic* solutions in addition to the *practical* ones they will be putting forward. She used the example of the proposal for extension of leases to Community Forest Associations by two, five, or ten years as a practical solution; the proposal for real ownership of land with community development work would be along the lines of a strategic solution for more sustainable forest management. The five questions suggested for guiding the dialogue on solutions are as follows:

1. Where are we now as a sector?
2. Where do we want to go – in terms of community, regional and national development?
3. What can we do as stakeholders – from practical and strategic standpoints?
4. What needs to be done at other levels – re policies, codes, laws, regulations?
5. What knowledge and resources we need to have these done?

3.4.1 Strategic Solution from Traditional Sawmilling & SFM Group on Sustainable Forest Management

Where are we now? There is a decline in traditional family-owned sawmilling business; production is down and the number of sawmills is decreasing; there is outdated equipment and technology; there is limited investment and re-investment (this can be traced to currency difficulties in the 1980s which led to people keeping money outside the country and not re-investing); there are shifts in the overseas markets; the human factor (skilled and experienced personnel) is declining for a number of reasons including migration and resistance to change; there is uncertainty of tenures (reluctance of government to renew TSAs); there are poor business strategies characteristic of many family-owned businesses; and financial investment is currently thinly spread out in the sector over logging, milling and marketing.

Where do we want to go?

- Specialized operations in milling, logging, marketing, etc. The solution is mastery of each area of specialization. To do this, training will be required.
- Training: In each of the specialized areas, in sustainable forest management, to meet industry needs, to meet challenges of the new environment; chainsaw operators need to be trained.
- Willingness to change – mindset change and policy change cannot be overemphasized.
- Access to financing (change will require finance).

What can we do?

- Provide training (UG and GSA are now producing graduates in forestry) and see it not as a cost but as an investment;
- This thinking is new; this SFM concept (that is, linking Sustainable Forest Management to land ownership and all-round community development) is in its infancy; therefore we need a model to showcase it, and the Forest Products Association to drive it. (Note: Mr Khalawan, FPA representative, is working through the FPA to give change process a push-start.)
- We have to work on policy change, and work to convince policy makers to support this new thinking.

What needs to be done at other levels?

- Other stakeholder groups must be able to participate, be assured that their rights will be respected, be sensitized and educated, and allowed to share their views.
- There needs to be a re-thinking of the Community Forest Association (CFA) model and a modification of the CFA tenureship. Currently, an SFP is given to what is called a CFA but these are not communities in the true sense of the word –where they own the land, guard it, and don't want to see it destroyed. The MoAA rep drew attention to the fact that the majority have decision-making powers, not the few, even when the few are leaders or bosses. There are models in India, e.g., where people manage the forests for firewood, watch each other to see that people stay within the terms of agreements.
- There will be a need for support from the Government for specialized training.
- There will be a need for stronger and more relevant marketing support. Marketing units in the past did not work. Marketing units need to be active, to know how to connect with the market, and to connect with the market.
- There is need for R&D (research and development) and support for new trends in the industry (this includes becoming familiar with all of the things people are doing with wood, painting it, spraying woods to resemble other species, e.g., the highly valued mahogany). Guyana shingles recently won an award; we need to look at the strategy behind this success. We need to work on presentation of our products.

3.4.2 Practical Solutions from Resale & Manufacturing Group on Price, Supply, Quality, Measurements, Tolerances, Educating Operators & Identification of Species

Where we are now? No control over price, supplies, species, quality.

Where we want to go?

- We want to be able to buy wood at a constant and reasonable price.
- We want to have a regular supply of specific species on a regular basis.
- We want to have good quality wood.
- We want to have the precise measurements ordered.

What can we do as stakeholders?

- We can lobby GFC to have a monitoring system to establish and publicize standard prices for local sales.

What needs to be done at other levels?

- Better contractual arrangements between lumber buyers and sellers.

- Establishment of standard measurements for chainsaw cutters and sawmillers with ¼" tolerance for sawmillers to pass on to manufacturers.
- Just as FPDMC posts information on the foreign market to facilitate foreign sales, the same can be done for the local market; FPDMC can develop a website to facilitate local sales.
- GFC can establish a price monitoring system to discover and publicize, current prices – and establish standard prices for local sales.
- GFC can provide information on what species are available, and where they are available.
- Price, supply, quality, measurement, and tolerance issues must be seriously addressed by GFC and other regulatory agencies.
- There should be an Information Clearing House where producers and suppliers can be informed and can inform the general public on what is available, at what price, quantity and quality.
- Networking and collaboration by various agencies and stakeholders is needed, in addition to inventorying, and training in inventorying by FTCL.
- There should be ongoing awareness raising, education and training of chainsaw operators on a much wider scale than currently, with practical demonstrations until a formal training and certification course can be established; financing will be needed to implement this solution.
- Existing information and research findings on species availability and locations need to be made available, and accessible; GFC should put more of the information it already has on its website.

What knowledge and resources we need to have these done? Knowledge and skills to lobby key agencies; capacity building to access a variety of channels (internet, newspapers, handouts, brochures, contact with agencies by phone or on walk-in basis) and sources (e.g., GFC, FPDMC, FPA, UG) for information vital to the small manufacturing sector; agencies in bracket above need to access finance to better support manufacturing sector.

3.4.3 Strategic & Practical Solution from Regulatory Agencies on Social Development Committee to start work with Amerindian communities addressing community development by October 2010

Where we are now? Communities engaged in chainsaw milling have generally weak capacity; not enough knowledge on regulations, penalties; and there is no proper feedback mechanism.

Where we want to go?

- We want the chainsaw sector to be financially stable, to have more knowledge on all related legislation and regulations, to have better safety practices, to be more sustainable.
- We want to improve quantity and quality of information between regulatory bodies, people's associations and communities directly and indirectly dependent on the forests.

What can we do as stakeholders?

- Voice concerns, seek assistance, make recommendations, network with one another, and research dynamics, issues.
- We can find out what communities want us to do.

- We can facilitate the resuscitation of the Social Development Committee on economic planning by the MoH, MoL, OCC, MoAA, EPA and MoA involving the GFC and EPA who are also engaged in implementing economic pilot projects.

What needs to be done at other levels?

- Issues and solutions must be endorsed by the authorities.
- There should be greater collaboration and synchronization of interventions to avoid duplication.
- There should be a better spread of resources.

What knowledge and resources we need to have these done?

- Human, financial and research resources.

3.4.4 Practical and Strategic Solutions from Amerindian Communities, Chainsaw Crew, and Community Forest Associations Groups on Range of Issues

3.4.4.1 Amerindian Communities

What needs to be done at other levels?

- GFC should work with MoAA to facilitate training opportunities in the chainsaw sector.
- Realistic stipends and wages should be paid village councilors to encourage responsibility and accountability.
- Specific persons should be designated to uplift and distribute tags, and report on same to Village Council on a monthly basis.
- GFC and MoAA should supply sample contracts and give assistance in the drawing up of supply contracts for logs and lumber before the signing of contracts.
- Amerindian Act to be amended to address issues concerning governance (as governance issues too numerous and too large to be addressed by the group).

What can we do as stakeholders?

- Amerindian Village Councils can begin networking and organizing to make recommendations for amendment of the Amerindian Act.
- Kimbia, Sandhills and Rockstone can re-apply for 'reservation' status under the Amerindian Act

3.4.4.2 Chainsaw Crews

- GFC should ensure that chainsaw operators have working contracts.
- Grading standards should be implemented by GFC.
- Chainsaw operators should go through training and certification by FTCL.

3.4.4.3 Community Forest Associations

Where we are now? Community Forest Associations operate under SFPs.

Where we want to go?

- We want to be more empowered.
- We want more ownership.
- We want more involvement in planning.
- We want improvement in the quality of lumber produced by chainsaws.

What can we do as stakeholders?

- Better networking by any means necessary, and more dialogue.
- CFAs can get together in a regional association.
- CFAs can merge orders, share resources to meet orders, 'hold one head.'
- CFAs, as the body granted permits, should be the only marketing agency for its members.
- CFAs can network to influence how the new Forest Act deals with CFAs.

What needs to be done at other levels?

- We want a longer tenure (five to ten years) granted to allow for better planning to manage concessions.
- We want the new Forest Act (not yet assented to by the President) to empower Community Forest Associations.

What knowledge and resources we need to have these done?

- Training and other capacity building necessary to bring about improvements in the quality of lumber produced.

3.5 Next Steps, Evaluation & Closing

Under the 'next steps' agenda item, CMP Coordinator, Ms Rohini Kerrett asked stakeholders to

(1) Begin the process of identifying their strongest representatives to participate in the national level of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue; and

(2) Establish a new way of dealing with issues in Guyana by institutionalizing multi-stakeholder dialogue on a regular basis at community, regional and national levels.

Participants were asked: Do you see the process as beneficial? How do you see it working? Responses to these questions moved directly into the 'evaluation' item on the agenda. The meeting facilitator, referring to the expectations participants expressed at the start of the day, noted that successful outcomes to processes are directly related to the high expectations people bring. She reminded participants that it was

their responsibility to return to their groups, organizations and communities and report on what was raised and achieved in this stage of the dialogue process. Please see Annex 6 for participants' evaluation of the day's activities.

The Chairperson, Mr Charles Thom, thanked participants for their work and led the gathering in the singing of the National Song, "Hymn for Guyana's Children." The day's session closed a few minutes before the scheduled closing time of 5 pm.

Hymn for Guyana's Children

With humble hearts and heads bowed down
In thanks for each new day of toil
We kneel before Thine altar, Lord
The children of Guyana's soil.

Great is the task that Thou hast given
Thy will to show; thy truth to find;
To teach ourselves that we are one
In Thy great universal mind.

But not in vain we'll strive to build
A new Guyana great and free
A land of glory and of hope
A land of love and unity.

O children of Guyana rise
Rise up and sing with happy tears
And bless the land that gave you birth
And vow to serve her through the years.

4. Proceedings of the MSD Meeting, Day 2, Thursday July 8, 2010

4.1 Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions of Stakeholders

After Chairperson Charles Thom, welcomed stakeholders and called the meeting to order at approximately 9 am, there was a “Life Sentences’ warm-up which saw participants who were present on the previous day saying in one sentence, what they learned about their lives as a result of the previous day’s session. Participants who joined the MSD process only for Day 2 were asked to sum up their lives in a sentence.

This activity was followed by another round of introductions since many participants were new to one another. The meeting facilitator pointed out that since the day’s proceedings would be dominated by presentations and demonstrations, and would not have the same levels of participation as the previous day, it was important at the inception to hear each person’s voice.

4.2 Presentations on Alternative Livelihood Options & Practical Demonstrations

Because there were many presenters, and each was limited to 10 minutes, the Chairperson, while allowing two or three questions following each presentation, encouraged stakeholders who had other queries to engage the presenters on a one-on-one basis at other points of the proceedings. Many did so. Please see Annex #1 for Day 2 agenda and Annex #7 for issues raised as a result of the video and oral presentations.

FTCI Safety Officer, Mr. Wilfred Jarvis, CMP Community Forest Advisor, Mr Leroy Welcome, Mr Andrew Mendes and the Farfan & Mendes crew facilitated the safety, log selection & measurement, and methods of sawing demonstrations.

Unfortunately, heavy rains caused the practical demonstration on converting logs to lumber to be cut short. The ‘Timber Storage & Hygiene’ agenda item and the chainsaw ripping competition had to be aborted entirely. The decision to end the proceedings prematurely was taken by consultation among the main presenters (Mr. Andrew Mendes and Mr. Leroy Welcome), the Chairperson, chainsaw operators and the Farfan & Mendes crew.

The decision, and the process by which the decision was taken, were communicated to the participants who were re-assembled for an orderly close to the proceedings by the Chairperson. This was met with recommendations for regional, and perhaps, national chainsaw ripping competitions to be held. Forty-seven (47) persons (including seven Farfan & Mendes staff) participated in the Day 2 activities. There were 12 women and 35 men.

4.3 Next Steps, Evaluation & Closing

Brief closing remarks were made by the CMP Coordinator, Ms Rohini Kerrett. The evaluation took the form of participants coming to the top of the circle to tick *happy* (26), *unhappy* (1) and *in-between* (3) face drawings to share their feelings about the Day 2 process. The Chairperson thanked all the presenters, wished everyone a safe journey home, and called on Mr Colin Lyte, farmer and community representative, to offer a prayer on behalf of the group. The proceedings ended at approximately 4.30 p.m.

Annex 1: Agenda

Chainsaw Milling Project Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Agenda

Day 1 (Wednesday, July 7, 2010, 9 am to 5 pm at Egbert Benjamin Centre, Linden)

Objectives

1. To continue the stakeholder dialogue, consensus and capacity building process for community livelihood and sustainable forest management in Region 10.
2. To provide information to guide stakeholder decision making process.

Agenda

1. Registration: Name, stakeholder group, community and contact information
2. Welcome: Chairperson – Mr. Charles Thom, Upper Berbice Agricultural & Forest Producers Association
3. National Pledge
4. Warm up / Introductions: Stakeholders
5. Documentary on Chainsaw Milling in Guyana
6. Findings from Research and Focus Group Meetings

SNACK (10.30 – 10.45)

7. Review of key issues by Stakeholder Groups:
 - a. Chainsaw Milling
 - b. Governance (groups, associations, councils, GFC regulations, policies and practices)
 - c. Communication
 - d. Sustainable Forest Management/Sustainable Livelihood (options for making a living)
8. Group Work on specific solutions to issues: (Small Groups 6-7)
 - a. Where are we now
 - b. Where do we want to go
 - c. What can we do as stakeholders
 - d. What needs to be done at other levels
 - e. What knowledge and resources we need to have these done

LUNCH (12.30-1.30)

9. Group reports
10. Next steps
11. Evaluation and Closing
12. National Song: Hymn for Guyana's Children

Chainsaw Milling Project MSD Practical Demonstration Agenda

DAY 2: Thursday, July 8, 2010, 9 am to 5.30 pm at Egbert Benjamin Centre/Bandstand, Linden

Objectives

1. To demonstrate and facilitate hands-on practice with a range of different technologies for more effectively converting logs into lumber; and
2. To present other forms of possible livelihood options.

Agenda

1. Introduction to Day 2 Activity **Charles Thom, Chairperson**
2. Forest Management **Godfrey Marshall (10 minutes)**
3. Low Carbon Development Strategy **Jocelyn Dow (10 minutes)**
4. Forest Products Development and Marketing **Derrick Cummings (10 mins)**
5. Marketing from a business perspective **Andrew Mendes (10 mins)**
6. Questions and Answer Session (to follow each presentation)

SNACK (10.30-10.45)

7. Presentations on other forms of livelihood options:
 - a. Utilizing wood waste (adding value) **Irene Bacchus-Holder (10 mins)**
 - b. Agricultural options **Courtney Bullen (UG), Jerry La Gra (SSOS), Y. Rambharrat (Farming Resource) (10 mins each)**
 - c. Non-timber forest products **Ituni Women in Action, Jocelyn Dow (10 mins each)**

LUNCH (12.00-1.00)

8. Practical Demonstration on converting logs into lumber
 - a. Safety **Wilfred Jarvis, FTCl (10 mins)**
 - b. Log selection and measurement **Leroy Welcome (10 mins)**
 - c. Methods of sawing **Andrew Mendes/ L Welcome (3 hrs)**
 - d. Timber Storage and Hygiene **Leroy Welcome (10 mins)**
9. Chainsaw ripping competition **Chainsaw Operators(40 mins)**
10. Evaluation of Day 2
11. Closing (5.30 pm) **Charles Thom, Chairperson**

Annex 2: List of Participants

(*present both MSD meeting days)

Town & Village Councils/Community Forest Associations/Chainsaw Crews

1. *Ecliff Lindie, Logger, Kimbia, 638 9617/338 9289/444 9291
2. *Ezra Kersting, Logger, Hururu, 675 4613//671 2295
3. *Colin Lyte, Farmer, Amerindian Community Association, Kimbia, 444 9291
4. *Michael Hernandez, Farmer/Logger, Wikki , 441 9293
5. *Gerald Gilbert, CFA, Paropie, Coomaka, Upper Demerara, 668 2941
6. *Leslie Adrian, Logger, Siparuta, Upper Berbice, 654 7794/338 9284
7. *Yvonne Williams, Housewife, Upper Berbice
8. *Winston Smith, Region 10 M&TC, CFA, 665 1207/442 2393
9. *Christopher Rose, Logger, Linden, 612 0012
10. Keith Hinds, Chainsaw Operator, Muritaro Village, 633 4415
11. Clinton Hinds, Muritaro Village, 643 4966
12. Denold Rogers, Chainsaw Operator, Muritaro Village
13. H Couchman, Toshao, Great Falls Amerindian Village, 441 9291/655 9842
14. Lester Fleming, Toshao Montow Village, 694 6642
15. Vanessa Daniel, METF Small Loggers Association, 674 6457
16. Kesta Patoir, IWIAG, 641 8200
17. Shaundell Naipaul, IWIAG, 645 4868
18. *Ryan Barratt, Computer Technician , 614 0624

Transportation Providers

1. Mukesh Ramnand, 442 3873
2. Shafema Sulam, 442 8873
3. Feroz Ramnarain, 610 7045

Regulatory Agencies

1. Ovid Williams, Principal Regional Development Officer, MoAA, 223 7392
2. Shameza David, Project Officer, MoAA, 226 5167, 672 9195
3. *Simone Benn, Community Development Officer, GFC, 226 7271, 644 5252
4. *Roger Astwood, Environmental Officer, EPA, 657 0482
5. *Godfrey Marshall, Director, FTCl, gemar@guyana.net.gy
6. *Derrick Cummings, Director, FPDMC, FTC, director@fpdmcguy.org
7. Jowala Soma, Project Officer, GFC
8. Alphonso George, FTCl

Resale & Manufacturing Establishments

1. *Linden Haynes, Craft Producer, LACA, 444 3370/668 1850
2. *Glendon Allicock, MYFMN Manager, North Rupununi

3. *Jean Allicock, Craft Producer & Makushi Teacher, North Rupununi

Other Stakeholders with an Interest in SFM

1. Vanessa Benn, Consultant, Iwokrama vbenn@iwokrama.org
2. Rebecca Mitchell, GTIS Manager, USAID, 623 3432/223 7144
3. *Courtney Bullen, Dept of Forestry, UG, 225 3420/625 6101
4. Chelsea Fung, Iwokrama Volunteer, 699 4693/225 8003
5. Jerry La Gra, Agricultural Specialist, SSOS, jerrylagra@hotmail.com
6. Yogeshwar Rambharrat, Farm Supply, Linden Farm Project, 628 8826/444 3434

MSD Day #2 Presenters

1. Godfrey Marshall, FTCl
2. Jocelyn Dow
3. Derrick Cummings, Director, FPDMC
4. Andrew Mendes
5. Irene Bacchus-Holder
6. Courtney Bullen
7. Jerry LaGra
8. Yogeshwar Rambharrat
9. Ituni Women in Action Group
10. Wilfred Jarvis, FTCl
11. Leroy Welcome, CMP Advisor

Chainsaw Milling Project Team & CMP Task Force (TF)

1. *Rohini Kerrett, Coordinator, 227 0724
2. *Onica Dennis, Project Assistant, 227 0724
3. *Bonita Harris, Facilitator, 226 4458
4. *Leroy Welcome, Community Forest Advisor, 227 0724
5. *Linden Duncan, Community Forest Worker
6. *Raymond Herman, Community Forest Worker, 622 9657
7. *Lawrence Lewis, Lecturer, Dept of Agriculture & Forestry, UG 665 5458 (TF)
8. *Andrew Mendes, Managing Director, GMSA, amendes@fmcgy.com (TF)
9. *Khalawan, Forester, FPA 613 8319 (TF)
10. *Charles Thom, logger's representative, UBFPA, 647 1588 (TF)
11. Shameza David, Project Officer, MoAA, 226 5167, 672 9195 (TF)
12. *Simone Benn, Community Development Officer, GFC, 226 7271, 644 5252 (TF)
13. *Irene Bacchus-Holder, GACPA, 621 9303 (TF)

Annex 3: Seed, Branch, Trunk & Root Warm-Up

(How representatives saw their organizations)

For the warm-up and introductions session, the facilitator mobilized the whole group to stand in a circle in an open space in the room. Noting that all present represented some group, organization, association or agency, she asked each participant to think about and say whether his/her group was “more like” or was “most representative of” a *seed, branch, trunk* or *root*, re-group accordingly into four small circles, share their thinking with other members of the new ‘tree-part’ group, and select one person to share the group’s thinking with the other three ‘tree-part’ groups. The big circle was slowly reconstituted as each smaller circle completed its dialogue and prepared to represent their thinking to the whole assembly. This informal dialogue and selecting of persons to represent the group’s consensus engaged stakeholders in partly meeting the MSD meeting’s objective ‘to continue the dialogue and ... consensus building.’ Participants were encouraged to re-use this technique with their groups and organizations as a way of getting insights into to their members’ thinking

Seed: *starting point for people’s livelihood; if given right environment seed will blossom into something beautiful; seed is a finished product, however small; the seed stores knowledge, we can plant seeds of knowledge; personality*

Branch: *subset of the wider sector; can’t function alone; dependent on other bodies*

Trunk: *supportive body; have to be strong to support branches, to link different agencies; focal point getting and dispersing information from seeds to the branches to the root*

Root: *foundation; has vision; spread tentacles far and wide to get nutrients to allow the tree to grow big and strong and fulfill its purpose for communities that fall within its shade*

Annex 4: Stakeholders' Expectations of MSD meeting

The formal introductions that followed the warm-up activity saw each stakeholder introducing himself or herself and saying what he/she hoped to get out of the meeting.

Success, better life for Kimbia; most of our problems solved or addressed; solutions should be documented, be practical, and bear fruit; common understanding of future of chainsaw milling; practical ways of addressing issues; chainsaw millers can find ways of diversifying and engaging in forms of agriculture; more of our children taking up other alternatives, accessing education so that they can bring skills and knowledge to our communities; each participant must be satisfied with the results; getting more forms of craft, getting more from our seeds, getting loggers to ease down and find other things to do so that the forests will remain; create a forum for people to get together, discuss and find solutions so the forests will remain and communities will have a good livelihood; feel free to discuss issues and come up with good solutions that will take us forward; hoping to direct persons towards the best use of the chainsaw and other forms of livelihood with positive results; that chainsaw operators can benefit from this process (I'm a furniture producer, and the wood I am getting is hard to work with) so I am also hoping to get better quality; to continue to educate the people, good for the children; something positive to ease the stress on chainsaw operators; need change (I don't want just to sell a man a chainsaw and leave it at that; chainsaw operations have to be sustainable business) to improve value, we need action, we need to set timeframes to get results; more dialogue on forest products, not just logging, using ends productively, stronger unity (the CMP is doing a good job of bringing us together); more processes for dialogue and consultation to improve decision-making to take on the powers-that-be and get change, and move away from the thinking, the myth that chainsaw milling is a destructive form of livelihood; better understanding of the issues and how the FPDMC can use what comes out of the dialogue to improve our strategy; sustainable forest management; how chainsaw milling can become sustainable and what other forms of livelihood we can engage in; Amerindian communities integrated into the discussion, we can disagree but come to a common position, recommending but not prescribing best practices; older heads to educate the younger heads to go along with the changes; change for chainsaw operators and communities that will be better for the youths, will reduce accidents and keep the forests from getting smaller, to go back to diversification we need to offer people something; share ideas and solutions for the future because traditional saw millers are a dying breed; hear problems, come up with solutions, plan for better utilization of our forest resources.

Annex 5: Stakeholder Groups Issues (Problems/Constraints) and Possible Solutions identified at the preparatory meetings for the multi-stakeholder dialogue on Chainsaw Milling in Region 10

Amerindian Communities

Issues

1. Chainsaw milling is critical for the existence of our communities.
2. Financial and technical assistance needed for people to engage in other ways of making a decent living (viable livelihood options).
3. Governance: council is responsible for setting guidelines, harvesting, pricing etc.
4. GFC seizing produce and impounding it for long periods (sometimes 1 month) whilst the logger/chainsaw operators suffer.
5. Lack of knowledge about GFC laws and regulations.
6. GFC overnight makes policies/rules and implement them without informing communities, causing communities to suffer losses.
7. Lack of cooperation and assistance by GFC for correcting small problems with filling out of permits (and minor breaches) – they don't have consideration or leniency; they seize our produce and apply stiff penalties.
8. Issues with buyers: buyers place order and then cancel with some sad story. In other cases, when lumber is taken to the lumberyard rejects are high and/or you have to leave and come back for payment (late payment).
9. Communication needs to be improved – more open forums (places and opportunities) are needed to discuss issues, to educate people on new policies, on contract making. Various modes of communication can be used, for instance, telephone, letters, etc.

Possible general solutions

1. More forums to discuss issues.
2. Financing and technical support for viable livelihood options (for making a decent living)
3. Improved consultations on forestry laws and policies
4. GFC to give more grace period for implementation of policies; training and education for new rules, etc.
5. More support from GFC, buyers.
6. Representation of the communities at the national level.
7. Monitoring, data and reporting (education and awareness)

Chainsaw Crews

Issues

1. No prompt payment for produce; buyers complaining about price; no guaranteed price
2. Need for GFC to educate chainsaw operators on measuring, grading, tagging
3. Full measurement is never given and tolerances are not standard
4. No binding agreement or written contracts are in place
5. Kimbia is not a reservation: the community need legal access to land
6. Benefits for injured or accident, are not in place (no NIS paid).
7. Poor governance at the level of village council.
8. Poor communication between GFC and woodcutters because of illegal logging, lack of access to legal land which affects income, social livelihood and planting of illegal drugs.
9. Lack of knowledge.

Possible general solutions

1. Understanding the grading rules: chainsaw operators are vulnerable, if grading is applied give A and B price, and not one price for the entire load.
2. Relationship between chainsaw lumber seller (producer) and buyer: contract needed
3. Easier financial access for investment for community/village
4. Standardize pricing for chainsaw lumber
5. Legal access to land for harvesting of lumber (Kimbria)
6. Education and awareness of penalties re forest laws, policies etc.

Community Forestry Associations

Issues

1. Land tenure – Community Forestry Associations treated the same as individual SFP holders; 2-year concessions leave no room for planning and hinder associations from getting financing.
2. Poor marketing of our produce
3. Laws governing Community Forestry Associations should be better developed – tenure, code of practice, number of person that depend on chainsaw milling for a living.
4. Development of markets for Lesser Used Species to be supported by Government contracts.

Possible general solutions

1. Land tenure for Community Associations should be lengthened, for example to 10 years.
2. Building capacity for marketing to be done in collaboration with Forestry Training Centre Inc and the Forest Products Development and Marketing Council.
3. New Forest Bill to be examined

Resale and Manufacturing Establishments

Issues

1. Constant and reasonable prices for wood
2. Constant supply of specific species on a regular basis
3. Quality of produce supplied
4. Precise measurement as order
5. Merging of specified sizing (standard size cutting)
6. ¼" tolerance on specified size at lumberyards and mills
7. Education and awareness for chainsaw operations (cutting size and warping)
8. Identification of species by millers and GFC

Transportation Providers

Issues

1. Poor road in accessing communities
2. Non-payments and late payments for services
3. Harassment of tractor drivers by police for
 - a. Certification of tractors
 - b. License and insurance
4. Overloading of trucks causing breakdowns (owners suffer losses for repairs)

Regulatory Agencies

Issues

1. Need for replanting
2. More thought needs to be given to the art & technique of chainsaw cutting and milling;
3. Insufficient awareness of Code of Practice; not enough application of Code of Practice
4. Village Councils unaware of permits granted within their boundaries (royalty-related issues), Village Councils not monitoring permit-holders (MoAA)
5. Effects on wildlife
6. Social effects on communities
7. Harmony with LCDS and other international commitments
8. Lack of information on how to do sustainable forest management,
9. Lack of trained personnel to explain and monitor SFM
10. Fear that OCC through LCDS, will stop people from earning, traditional practices will be affected
11. Loss of traditional/sacred respect re forests

12. Lack of capacity/knowledge on how to practice SFM, different interpretations of what SFM really means
13. Lack of social infrastructure (eg electricity, water)
14. Lack of guidance on identifying livelihood options, training in other livelihood options, reluctance to try new things
15. Over-exploitation of natural resources
16. Insufficient awareness of rights/entitlements
17. Need for better communication, education & training on SFM practices
18. Village council accountability and transparency (re royalties, eg), ability of village councils to mobilize and motivate communities to observe laws, bring practices in line with Code of Practice
19. Misconceptions on advantages of LCDS
20. insufficient awareness by agencies and indigenous communities of issues affecting both (need to improve the communication and feedback loops)
21. misconceptions on LCDS and the part communities can play in the LCDS

Proposed general solutions

1. More widespread application of MoAA community development planning initiative
2. Training in Forestry regulations and Code of Practice for all forest users, monitors, village councils and other governmental bodies; adaptation of Code of Practice for small scale loggers
3. Providing of training and support for alternative livelihoods to ensure 'protected areas' remain 'protected'

Traditional Sawmilling Industry

Issues

1. Unclear state policies
2. Since shift in recent years to smaller-scale milling, deeper inroads being made into forests
3. Social needs of populations driving expansion of chainsaw milling sector
4. Unclear expectations of positive and negative impact of LCDS on big and small milling operations
5. Poor and varying quality of chainsaw product
6. Chainsaw operators not choosy about species
7. Need for more control (easier to address problems, control and measure output of big millers because they are fewer and known, more difficult to monitor volumes, impose standards and control growing multitude of smaller operators)
8. Many operators functioning as individuals rather than in groups, but growing number of associations not necessarily positive because it increases the number of players in the field, leads to a shortage of tags, and need for increased land allocations
9. Associations have no sense of community, no sense of belonging (this is my home), no planning for schools, clinics, institutions for governance and other key elements of community

infrastructure, no ownership of land allocations, leases too short to allow for community development, thus associations not likely to be motivated to practice SFM

10. Communities more interested in commercial uses for forest rather than conservation
11. High and unrealistic expectations of GFC (big millers over-regulated, small millers not regulated)
12. GFC policies and regulations not specifically designed to meet current state of forestry sector, need for harmonizing of sector

[Note: Other issues raised earlier in focus group discussions with industry representatives also included conflicts (FPA/chainsaw operators) related to poaching; GFC not service-oriented, not functioning as facilitators, but as police and enforcers; non-representation of FPA on GFC Board of Directors; regulatory agency monitoring capacity not good enough; frequent changes in policies without adequate consultation or notice; dangers of over-regulation of large-scale millers and non-regulation of chainsaw operators; GFC Code of Practice out-dated and out of step with current reality; new Forestry Act not seen developing industry, but likely to cripple it]

Proposed general solutions

1. Development of regulations and standards specifically for chainsaw operators to improve quality of product.
2. Instead of having operators responsible for tagging, state/GFC should assume responsibility for inventorying, marking and allocating trees for logging.
3. Possible future of chainsaw operations may be in logged-over forests, rather than in virgin forests; chainsaw operators can go where skidders can't
4. Advice and model on how to promote community development in forested areas
5. Advice, guidance and training for community and chainsaw associations on managing their affairs; associations should be facilitated to create one representative association to work with the state to ensure concerns are heard and addressed
6. Ownership is critical for SFM/SLO; state needs to release lands to communities for SFM to be successful and sustainable
7. The expansion of chainsaw milling requires a new model for SFM that fully includes it, other stakeholders and professionals in the sector, with provisions for virgin and planted forests, salvage logging, a timber processing zone, capital, community development – with the objective of facilitating a sustainable livelihood for all. Elements of the SFM model would include a Foundation to plan, manage and provide the basic infrastructure. The state should seek to have competent authorities develop a radically new and visionary SFM model situated within the LCDS, based on framework outlined by key national stakeholders. LCDS should be seen as an opportunity to develop new SFM model. Because of the growth of the non-traditional milling sector, processing is a key investment gap that should play a key part in the new SFM model.

Annex 6: Stakeholders “Next Steps” & Evaluation of MSD Meeting, Day 1

Note: The first eight (8) comments were in response to the ‘next steps’ item on the agenda

- 1. We all have to be prepared (not just the representatives); we have to stop the blaming; we need more training in Reduced Impact Logging; we need a certifying operation – this will instill pride in how we do things; a lot of persons in the chainsaw industry have high intellect, it should be a career, we need to start believing in ourselves, not just seeing it as a hustle or seeing ourselves as ‘bush-hogs’ but as corporate citizens, as chainsaw operator businessman; FTCl, MoAA and other stakeholders should come up with a role model, a profile of what a successful chainsaw operator and what he can earn; \$200,00 a month can be earned (W Smith, CFA, Region 10)*
- 2. I endorse certification. I started in the chainsaw business at 17, I’m now 53. Chainsaw milling is here to stay. (M Hernandez, CS operator)*
- 3. Chainsaw milling is lucrative. Most of us do not manage our money properly. A new thinking is needed by people; the wood industry needs better planning, a better system; pension plan needed; CMP should focus on these matters (C Thom, CPA, Region 10)*
- 4. Agree with what previous speakers just said; we find that chainsaw operators did not have a proper understanding of the value of their input, labor, cost to them, cost of product, profit margin; business management is very relevant and very important to the sector (V Benn, Iwokrama)*
- 5. CSM is a stepping stone for many organizations, for raising awareness; if it were not for the CMP we would never have been able to get together as loggers; a logger once told me that he had to kill an animal to repair his chainsaw (instead of using money he made from his chainsaw operations); very wonderful the places the CMP will be going (G Allcock, CFA, North Rupununi, Region 9)*
- 6. We have to have a lot of pride. This is uncharted territory. Interesting for me to hear of it as a career, a job with pride, something to bring pride to, that people are buying into training and certification instead of being seen as an itinerant dysfunctional child going into the bush and getting ‘blocked up;’ gratified at the MSD bringing people together; there is a lot of agreement; this is what I wanted to see out of it – model chainsaw operators, community development model sort of approach (A Mendes, Supplier & TF)*
- 7. This is just the starting point to where we want to go; in 10 years new challenges will arise; we have to educate ourselves and our community to see the value of our resources and how we value ourselves and future generations; it is said that great men stand on the shoulders of great men (C Lyte, CFA)*
- 8. Happy to see that we all recognize the value of talking together; helped to ventilate issues, see what issues we have in common; some issues need to go to higher levels, some we can handle ourselves (R Kerrett, CMP)*

9. *Good session; liked the feedback; would like to hear more from the ladies (V Benn)*
10. *Learned quite a lot; see the importance of chainsaw milling; really makes one think (R Herman, CMP CFW)*
11. *Not directly involved, but learnt a lot (R Barratt, UG Computer Tech, representing his father who is in lumber resale & manufacturing)*
12. *I'm involved at the bottom end of the industry and would like to see that improve a lot (L Haynes, craft producer)*
13. *Learnt a lot; looking forward to getting my wood in order; hoping now that more will get involved in alternative livelihood options (I Bacchus-Holder, craft producer & TF)*
14. *Enjoyed the programme, the interaction even though I'm not a logger; I really enjoyed listening to the loggers speaking and learning what is going on in the different parts of Guyana (J Allicock, craft producer, Makushi language teacher, Region 9)*
15. *Really enjoyed everything; not a logger, but my children work in it; I learned much that I can share (Y Williams, Orealla, Region 6)*
16. *Really enjoyed today; thank you all for coming (A Mendes, TF)*
17. *What I learned from this gathering is really bridging the communication gap; we are from the Berbice River but we don't really see each other every often to interact, share ideas; I am challenged to communicate what has transpired here today; when people are asked to be trained, I know there will be resentment because they will have to give up opportunities for earning, but it is for us to encourage them to develop themselves, especially the youths; it is our responsibility to continue trying to communicate to them in a manner for them to accept training (G Gilbert, chainsaw operations rep)*
18. *Today I've learned so much even though I've been in the chainsaw industry for such a long time (17 to 53); I can encourage the youths to take chainsaw operating more seriously; hope that as we prolong these dialogues and go higher up, we suggest that chainsaw operators must get a certificate because it is very dangerous (M Hernandez, farmer and logger)*
19. *I'm in the business for 22 years and I know we must have certification; I had planned to put up my chainsaw for sale, but after today, I'm back in business ((E Lindie, logger)*
20. *See chainsaw logging from a different perspective (E Kersting, logger)*
21. *Thank you all for today; I ask you to go through with the plan for training operators; I will meet with workers and tell them what it is all about; I can tell you all that we will be willing to take the training (L Adrian, chainsaw operator, Siparuta, Region 5)*
22. *Once you actually benefit from the forest, you are a forester (W Smith, CFA)*

23. *Its been great, meeting with you guys; we have been doing the wrong thing for so long ... there's going to be a change; coming together has been great; it has been difficult to change loggers, but as time goes by the young ones will change; something very good happened here today; we learned a lot; no one is too old to learn (G Allicock, Region 9)*
24. *Today's meeting was great; met all and more of my expectations; we need more dialogue like this, more craft teaching; liked the wooden egg (C Lyte, farmer and community rep, Region10)*
25. *Commend the CMP Task Force for good execution, pulling together the different stakeholders; hope that this form is a catalyst for change in the right direction; overall a very good session (R Astwood, EPA)*
26. *Thought the ice-breaker was okay, started as a 'trunk' but changed to 'seed,' was expecting another ice-breaker after lunch; will not be here tomorrow (have another assignment); would like to submit some questions on LCDS; glad I was able to reply to Amerindian representatives on their issues and commend the group for coming up with solutions; enjoyed the camaraderie; got to know a lot of persons I didn't know before; well structured, more productive first day than Annai MSD (O Williams, MoAA)*
27. *Like the enthusiasm; highlighted that a lot more work has to be done; looking forward to getting involved in the solutions work (S David, MoAA, TF)*
28. *Today very productive; persons able to voice concerns, but the focus was on solutions; like Colin pointed out, issues will change so there will be a need for continued dialogue (S Benn, GFC, TF)*
29. *Liked it; people opened up; proud to be a chainsaw operator (C Thom, CFA, Chair, TF)*
30. *Today's MSD was indeed a success; I can recognize a lot of happy people; dialogue is really people getting together to thrash out issues; we are beginning to see change; at the beginning the focus was on the GFC, now the success is that people are beginning to move from blaming to solutions-finding (Khalawan, FPA, TF)*
31. *Issues wide, we should continue thinking and talking about them; feel free to reach out to the Forestry Training Centre (G Marshall, FTCl)*
32. *Enjoyed session, very pleased (R Kerrett, CMP Coordinator)*
33. *Me too! (B Harris, Meeting Facilitator)*

Annex 7: Stakeholder Comments, Questions & Presenters' Responses

Forest Management (Godfrey Marshall)

- *It is important for everyone to adhere to laws, codes of practices, and use our resources sustainably. We at GFC are not alone in the field, but unlike miners, wildlife and people involved in agriculture, we have to see the whole picture.*
- *The idea is to create a level playing field – where trees have value, where the animals (in reference to the monkey & manicole observation) have value, and where people can make a decent living.*

Low Carbon Development Strategy (Jocelyn Dow)

- *We have a history of good forest practice; we inherited a forest that is fairly intact, 75% of original forest cover still remains; LCDS is a continuation of a national position on how we can best utilize our forests; before Kyoto, forests only had value when transformed into logs or other product; apart from interest by tourists, there was no value to standing forests; picking up on Godfrey's point about our international obligations, value for standing forests is a way of paying for the service our trees are doing for the global good;*
- *All of us are interdependent; in the LCDS we are trying to have a conversation on the environmental service to the global community, how this can be measured, and how we can be compensated; we have to make our own reality; the monkey/manicole discussions are relevant and we have a right to have them;*
- *Recommend that the Chainsaw Milling Project write to the Multi-Stakeholder Committee (currently being chaired by the President) and secure a place on that Committee.*

Mr Ovid Williams, Principal Regional Development Officer, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, submitted the following questions that had been raised with him by residents of Amerindian communities. Questions and responses by Ms Jocelyn Dow in her Low Carbon Development Strategy presentation, follow:

1. Amerindian villages know that they can opt into the LCDS in their own time. How will the administration ensure that there is no reckless harvesting in the villages since GFC has no jurisdiction in their villages?
 - *All calculations (on value) have been done on state lands. Amerindian lands have not yet opted in. The process for their opting-in is open-ended. There are no time limits. Since GFC does not have jurisdiction over Amerindian lands, which I personally believe is wrong, because in my view this is national patrimony, and there should be one stewardship, enabled by law – Amerindians have the right to cut unrestrained by the*

GFC. Reckless harvesting can be stopped through knowledge, the desire and commitment to co-exist with nature. These practices have been part of their tradition, but have changed because of livelihood issues. If you are to be paid for standing forests, why cut it down? And if you do cut it, make sure you get the best value out of it.

2. We have been hearing a lot about the ‘positives’ of the LCDS? What are the negatives? We need to hear both sides.

- *“Change” is the only ‘negative’ of the LCDS I see. People fear ‘change’ and some fear that the money will go to things they are not involved with. Millions of dollars will be going directly to Amerindian communities. This is not so for other communities. The Amerindian communities we (the LCDS team) have visited have said that this will be shared with other communities.*

3. When the Beal Space Station project was being proposed, Venezuela upped its claim to the Essequibo. This contributed to the project being aborted. We have not heard that Venezuela is supportive of LCDS. If Amerindian villages in the Essequibo and Venezuela object, can the villages still opt in, and how can that claim affect the situation?

- *If I were Venezuela, I would love large uncut forests. Beal was opposed because it was an American-based company. Venezuela was not comfortable with the US at its back door. There will be an enormous amount of young people employed as rangers for monitoring and verification.*

Question: What mechanism is to be used to value our forests?

JD: McKinsey worked with the GoG to arrive at an assumed value of US\$540 billion. People have said this is too high. I believe it is as good a value ... because this is about “life”!!! How do you value life?

Comment & Questions: We should ask Ms Dow to return and make this presentation again. It is too important to be rushed, but I have some questions: \$7 million will be assigned to Amerindian communities. This is really an ethnic imbalance; they have not agreed to it, and still they are getting money. Re chainsaw personnel: no direct input is coming to us (infrastructure, roads etc), only monitoring etc. There is no compensation for chainsaw operators. While we (Guyana) can earn all this money, where is my benefit? I’ll hold my other question to discuss later with Ms Dow.

Response (JD): *Valid question. Amerindian citizens, all citizens have a right to benefit. Whatever your view on the hydropower project, cheap electricity will make a difference for all of us; it will set up a green fun. I personally rang up MP Carberry, head of the National Resources Committee in Parliament, to get coastal communities involved in the process. Why don’t you all come up with a plan for the coastal communities? No one has seen fit to do that yet. That does not stop you from engaging in consultation. There will be enough money to re-tool, re-ignite, re-inforce coastal communities, roads, raise houses, whatever. You are right to raise these questions, argue for your communities. I recommend you submit*

plans. Ask the Steering Committee for more in-depth consultations. People need to take advantage of the LCDS process.

Forest Products Development & Marketing (Derrick Cummings)

- *FPDMC supports the formation of a National Association of Community Loggers. Current goals of CFAs have to be examined. CFAs can initiate contact with FPDMC, send in goals and objectives to help expedite the process of FPDMC/FPA collaboration.*

Comment & Questions: Glad you have been mandated to work with community loggers associations. Specifically for Region 10: What can the FPDMC do for Region 10? What are the concessions – especially since we have the cheapest electricity? What are the benefits in order to get more businesses established in Region 10? (A population of 55,000, ¾ unemployed)

Response (DC): *Go-Invest and the government have lots of incentives for re-tooling that people don't take advantage of. We are working to find unique features of this region. Capacity building and technical support will start happening since we are now mandated to work with Farfan & Mendes and other suppliers.*

Question: As a forester I want to know what you can do about bridging the gap between us and the banks and other financial institutions.

Response (DC): *We know that banks are no longer taking concessions as collateral. We are working on that; that is why CFAs have to function properly.*

Comments:

- We (logging associations) have to organize ourselves to get on board.
- FPDMC has to find markets; employ designers to improve products. Barbados has eight (8) full-time designers, fully paid by the Barbados government. FPDMC doesn't serve me and most other producers; it has to serve a wider community. It needs some form of membership with membership for associations and other entities to democratize it and make it a real national vehicle. It is hard even for the GMSA to benefit. If this new entity, the FPDMC, is to serve us, it has to be more inclusive; it shouldn't be a little group of people that does not serve the needs of the ultimate beneficiaries.
- Go-Invest incentives should be known by everyone.

Response (DC): *FPDMC's emphasis is on 'development' because "marketing" is still mainly the responsibility of the GFC. There will be the need for funding.*

Comment: Use the LCDS!

Question: My maintenance is very hard. What about the roads? We never have good markets. There are quality issues. ...

Note: This stakeholder, a transportation provider, who could not have been present on Day 1 because of an injury was raising issues that had been ventilated the pervious day, and was very agitated when the Chairperson, in the interest of time keeping, was attempting to move on to the next presenter. He was clearly experiencing intense emotional pain and physical paid (he actually had to leave the proceedings soon after and return to the hospital). The facilitator used the opportunity to draw attention to the importance to the MSD process of allowing stakeholders to express their pain and frustrations, listening with compassion, and for the gathering to respond in ways that made it clear that it was really hearing and feeling what was being communicated.

Marketing from a Business Perspective (Andrew Mendes)

- Marketing should be about customer service and satisfaction and a planning tool re product, price (cost that is fair to the customer), promotion (how the product will look like so that the customer can see it where he wants to use it) and place (giving the customer what they want, when they want it, where they want it).

Question: We who are planning, dressing and supplying wood – are we included in ‘customer service and satisfaction, at \$80 a bm? How can we promote the chainsaw as a tool when it can’t produce a good product?

Response (AM): *People will be willing to pay higher prices if the product is higher in quality. The demonstrations later today will show how to achieve higher quality product by chainsaw operators.*

Comment: Liked the presentation. We should go into the business of chainsaw milling in a businesslike manner. Inventorying can’t be short-circuited as is our practice. I don’t defend that. The GFC needs to hold training sessions on how to do a proper business plan, to help loggers to plan properly, to guide (not guarantee) them to where their proposals are more likely to be accepted.

Response (AM): *People can help. I organized a Wood Mizer demonstration and no one showed up. If you guys are willing to get together, I’m willing to help you learn how to maximize volumes and get good quality lumber from logs. We have a marketing package that includes training.*

Comments:

- The networking has started. We now understand how to connect the dots and where we can get help;
- There is validity about the constraints. FPDMC, GMA and GFC need to do more to facilitate small operators. Use LCDS to come with a template, a plan for them. Put their feet to the fire, say this is what we want, what we need (grants, low interest loans). The door is open to use the LCDS.

Question: I'm willing to take correction, but I was invited to take part in a chainsaw ripping competition. The cost for people to come here from their villages is high, the prizes are cheap, and this is just another talk-shop.

Response (Chair & Facilitator): Nearly everyone here has been compensated for their travel expenses. It is unfortunate that you were not here yesterday where participants focused on solutions to the problems stakeholders identified. Today's session is intended to give information on other forms of livelihood and demonstrate more effective ways of converting logs to lumber. The chainsaw competition was merely an added attraction as so many chainsaw operators were going to be present for the two-day MSD meeting. The competition is not the main event of today's activities.

Utilizing Wood Waste & Adding Value (Irene Bacchus-Holder)

- Wood waste from species apart from the popular purpleheart, chips, vines, seeds, bark, burls can all be used to produce art and functional pieces for the souvenir and other markets

Question: How can a community group get training?

Response (IBH): *The Guyana Technical Institute and the Linden Technical Institute.*

(Note: The CMP has also facilitated training by bringing craft producers from the Annai district to work with the Ituni Women in Action group in Region 10 and with the Orealla community in Region 6.)

Comment & Question:

- There is a market for wood that seems like 'waste,' when wood starts to decay, not when it rots, it actually has added value.
- What market is there at what prices? Cost of transportation is too high. Where is the market?

Response (DC): *Markets have to be developed.*

Agricultural Options (Courtney Bullen on soils, Jerry La Gra on Rupununi peanut project, and Yogeshwar Rambharrat on his farm project)

- White and brown sands that dominate in this region called the intermediate savannahs are acid, infertile, sandy soils. White sands are not generally good for agricultural purposes, although some subsistence agriculture has been practiced on it. I recommend the brown sand soils with the addition of limestone to reduce acidity, soil conservation by vegetative cover to prevent loss of top soil, fertilizer application to improve fertility, and rotation of crops and selection of crops

that are compatible (eg, red peas, peanuts, cassava and other root crops). Liming agents will be necessary in large quantities therefore it makes sense to come together in associations (CFAs) so that importers can see the feasibility of importing large quantities. A lot of information is available from NARI and UG. UG is willing to assist by conducting feasibility studies for large, medium and small scale agriculture and monitoring of agro/forestry activities.

- Agricultural development planning for Rupununi in Region 9 saw two representatives from 50 villages meeting for 5 days (they needed peanut cultivation for cash and cassava for security). This started a 10-year project currently with 7 cottage industries producing 1.5 million lbs peanut butter between 2000 to 2004 (production levels similar to that of Florida peanut processors). We brought in experts in roasting, shelling, grinding (3 processes, 3 different machines). We contacted the Ministry of Education (then importing milk, buying Banks biscuits in GT and transporting same to Rupununi) to purchase cassava bread, peanut butter and fruit juice for school snacks. \$20 million has been generated in the past 5 years, 100 jobs created and 26 schools have been added to project. Key learnings from the successful peanut butter project in the Rupununi (may be applied to wood and other products) involve identifying 1) a local, lucrative market with minimal packaging and transportation costs; 2) benefits to local people re jobs and income; 3) how local agricultural production can be supported, what chemicals you will need and the best sources for accessing them; 4) who will operate the business, and how, what the organizational structure will be; 5) appropriate technology for your situation, technical support (we got grant from CIDA, support from universities of Florida & Georgia). It is also vital to know your product from the inside and the outside, and know who you are competing with.
- There is still value in the soil after timber has been extracted. Rotting sawdust added to sandy soil can help retain moisture. I produce papaws on bauxite over-burden. Drip irrigation is a good alternative that does not require much infrastructure. There is need for training in the use of chemicals, especially for young farmers.

Non-Timber Forest Products [Linden Duncan, Glendon Allicock, Jean Allicock, Ituni Women in Action Group (Kesta Patoir, Shaundell Naipaul), Jocelyn Dow, Liana Cane Furniture Est]

- CMP Community Forest Worker Linden Duncan, the Allicocks and IWIAG representatives explained how the Chainsaw Milling Project facilitated capacity building of IWIAG through skills exchange. Surama (Region 9) women travelled to Ituni and Orealla to share knowledge and skills to transform tibusiri, seeds, bamboo, coconut shell into products. A variety of craft products from Ituni and Surama were displayed.

Comment: Good presentation. We have to practice what we preach. Love it, live it, wear it, breathe it.

- Liana Cane's history started with Red Thread educating women on valuing their time, labor and the forests. There was transfer of skills from community to community. Work started with St Cuthbert's craft producers; raising standards at the upper levels of production and emphasizing

the importance of design. Liana Cane is design-driven using renewable materials from the forest and some imported materials. Slide show showcased furniture line with all Guyanese names. “New Caribbean Designs” hopes to work with crafts associations (with a little difference in design and some training people can make more money, the market can no longer absorb crochet ‘chairbacks,’ need to make new products from wood waste). There is need for the sector to standardize and replicate production so that people can get what they order. Even though items are high quality, marketing is a big problem as the cost of transporting goods from the Caribbean is very high (food production can find a local market; Surama embroidery and other craft have a captive market because of their tourism enterprise). There is a need to develop a “Guyana Signature.” Government intervention in the Phillippines craft sector turned it into a \$500 billion industry. LCDS represents a good opportunity for lifting the wood and craft sector. US\$32 billion was spent on Caribbean hotels, if we got US\$1 million for the small items (stop buying them from China) it would be transforming. We need to look into making tools for our materials and our designs. The Marriot is coming, they need to be made to furnish their rooms with local products.

Comment & Question: People always want to know why craftspeople want so much money for ‘that.’ How do we get our government on board?

Response (JD): *We have to sensitize and educate buyers. Sometimes we have to go outside to get respect inside. As consumers we have to start buying from ourselves, walk the walk. It sometimes helps if things are functional. When Jamaica wanted to improve their art & craft sector, they said every government agency had to use 20% of their budget to purchase local products. Duty free concessions must come with things we want. In short, we have to play an active part in designing our lives.*



