



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 4

held at Regional Democratic Council Boardroom, Anna Regina, Region 2
October 19-20, 2010



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**Regional Democratic Council Boardroom, Anna Regina, Region 2,
October 19 and 20, 2010**



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Acronyms

CDO	Community Development Officer
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
GFC	Guyana Forestry Commission
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoAA	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
MoH	Ministry of Health
RIL	Reduced Impact Logging
RDC	Regional Democratic Council
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SFP	State Forests Permit
TF	Task Force (of the Chainsaw Milling Project)
UBFPA	Upper Berbice Forest Producers Association

1. Introduction

This report seeks to give an account of the **fourth multi-stakeholder dialogue meeting on chainsaw milling in Guyana facilitated by the Chainsaw Milling Project**. The meeting was held at the Regional Democratic Council Boardroom, Anna Regina, Essequibo, Region 2 on October 19 and 20, 2010 and included a practical demonstration exercise on different technologies and techniques for converting logs into lumber.

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 chainsaw lumbering, for example unsustainable forest management practices.

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

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 stakeholder 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 2

Objectives of the multi-stakeholder dialogue meeting held in Region 2 during October 19 and 20, 2010:

1. To continue the stakeholder dialogue, consensus and capacity building process for community livelihood and sustainable forest management in Region 2;
2. To provide information to guide the stakeholder decision-making process and to support more sustainable forest practices by chainsaw operators;
3. 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;
- 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. Other stakeholders interested in Sustainable Forest Management.
- 2) Members of the Task Force (responsible for guiding the multi-stakeholder dialogue process);
- 3) FTCI Safety Officer and Farfan & Mendes milling demonstration crew;
- 4) 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: Review of strategic and practical issues. Stakeholders were organized in groups around both sides (in and out) of a U-shaped boardroom table 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: Group work on recommendations to solutions.
3. Session 3: Presentations by representatives from each 'solutions group' with opportunities for further dialogue.
4. Session 4: Presentation on Sustainable Forest Management
5. Session 5: 'Next steps' and an evaluation of the day's proceedings.

The second day of the meeting, which complemented the first day MSD discussion, was also organized into four main sessions:

6. Session 1: Participant feedback and evaluation of the day's activities.
7. Session 2: Presentations on Recovery, Timber Storage and Marketing Issues
8. Session 3: Safety, Log measurement, Free Hand Ripping, hands-on-practice with board mill
9. Session 4: Evaluation of day's proceedings

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

3. Proceedings of the MSD Meeting, Day 1, Tuesday October 19, 2010

3.1 Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions of Stakeholders

Before the meeting was formally called to order, the Facilitator, Ms Bonita Harris, in order to achieve a prompt 9 am start to the meeting, engaged participants in an occupational health and safety-related awareness-raising warm-up activity. Each participant was asked to note (in writing) and then share orally with the group, the three body parts he/she most valued. They were then asked to state what they were currently doing to preserve the health and safety of one of the parts they mentioned. This activity was designed to get a dialogue going on the dangers to limb, life, and livelihood that participants were facing, set the stage for accepting personal responsibility for safety, and put forest workers on notice that a Chainsaw Milling Project OSH campaign will begin in earnest in 2011. As persons outlined the laughable superficial precautions they were taking, the facilitator and other resource persons brought a level of seriousness to the activity with information and experiences to red-light the dangers.

At about 9.20 am, the Chairperson, Mr. Leroy Welcome, Community Forest Advisor of the Chainsaw Milling Project, welcomed stakeholder representatives from near and far, and explained the process which brought us together. Participants then stood for a reciting of the National Pledge. This was followed by participant Introductions.

To facilitate formal and informal dialogue, participants were seated in eight small groups of stakeholder representatives around the inner and outer perimeters of the massive U-shaped table, as follows:

1. Regulatory Agencies (EPA, GFC, MoAA)
2. Amerindian Village Councils, Regional Community Development Officer for Amerindian Affairs
3. Community Forest Associations
4. Chainsaw operators
5. Transportation providers, Lumber dealers, Suppliers of inputs
6. Consumers, contractors
7. Traditional Sawmilling Industry & SFP Holders
8. SFM Stakeholders (Iwokrama, FTCL, FPDMC)

Forty-five (45) participants (eleven female and thirty-four male) were present for the first day of the Region 2 MSD. Thirty-nine (39) participants (twelve female and twenty-seven male) were present for the second MSD day. These numbers do not include Project staff. Please see Annex for the meeting agenda and list of participants by stakeholder group.

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 (in collaboration with chainsaw operators and other stakeholders) to enable people in the sub-sector to benefit from our forests without operators having to work as hard as they now do. She explained the multi-stakeholder dialogue methodology being employed by the project 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 (from earlier stages of the stakeholder dialogue)

The eight stakeholder groups were invited to review and discuss the various issues that surfaced during the focus group and preparatory meetings that had been held earlier. 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 for “Stakeholder Group Issues.”

Each group was asked to examine, discuss and report on additions, subtractions and observations arising out of 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 (EPA, GFC, MoAA)

- Chainsaw operators engaging in illegal harvesting on grants assigned to SFP holders
- GFC needs more officers assigned to Region 2 along with capacity building of current staff
- Some SFP holders not managing their concessions properly thereby encouraging poaching
- Amerindian communities are entering into contracts that are not in their best interests, without prior consultation and advice from regulatory agencies; when these matters come to the attention of the agencies, it is too late to intervene on behalf of the community, because the contracts have already been signed
- Although some RIL training has been conducted in the region, more needs to be done
- Most concessions do not have management level inventories
- Buffer zone violations are occurring too often; regular non-compliance with the 10-metre rule is a serious matter; different ‘buffer zone rules’ for different species; expectation that ‘rules’ will be changed again in January 2011
- Cutting of under-sized trees continues to be a major issue (dialogue outside the formal MSD noted that GFC issues permits for the export of logs from immature greenheart trees)

- Many breakdowns in communication between SFP holders and chainsaw operators who work on their concessions
- Chainsaw operators have poor living conditions and no recreation facilities

Amerindian Village Councils, MoAA, Regional Development Officer for Amerindian Affairs

- Many untrained chainsaw operators do not know what are acceptable practices

Community Forest Associations

- GFC detaining tagged wood in unattended trailers; GFC not compensating from wrongful detention of wood
- GFC unfairly charging producers for late lodging of permits; more than 24 hours needed for lodging permits

Chainsaw operators

- Lack of training
- Waste of good forest material
- Need for alternative livelihood
- Difficulty understanding GFC rules and regulations

Transportation providers, Lumber dealers, Suppliers of inputs

- Quality issues: not getting quality or grade lumber needed or paid for
- Look-alike species being bundled together in an attempt to defraud buyers
- Boards are being cut from young trees causing warping at various angles
- Lumberyard employees largely untrained in wood-related matters
- Multitude of storage issues (size, species, grade)

Furniture manufacturers, contractors and other consumers

- Sometimes 'saw men' collect advances and disappear without delivering goods
- Lack of standard price for lumber
- Chainsaw operators not meeting orders, but bringing what they want or have
- Products ordered not delivered on time

Traditional Sawmilling Industry & SFP Holders

- Although there are restrictions on log exports, logs are being passed as though sourced from Amerindian owned forests
- Transportation costs excessively high
- Labour laws not being observed
- Many workers involved in chainsaw operations do not know how to complete required forms and reports
- Can't get duty-free concessions

- CFA members destroying roads in concessions of other SFP holders and not contributing to repairs
- CFA members and illegal loggers transferring tags from one stump and re-placing them on other stumps
- Letters from regulatory agencies being delivered late
- GFC officers need to be more considerate in allowing time to complete removal permits

SFM Stakeholders (Iwokrama, FTCI, FPDMC)

(Note: There was no prior 'issues' list for this group, so it used the time to document their concerns.)

- Overall concern is the need for improved practices in the sector
- Occupational Health & Safety Issues causing injuries and deaths
 - Insufficient use of personal protective equipment (e.g. boots, helmets, visibility vests, gloves, goggles, ear muffs) and carrying case for saw bar covers)
 - Saws are not being maintained in proper condition
- Indiscriminate use of hazardous chemicals, e.g., old batteries being re-used (with zn, Mn, Hg) can affect lungs, eyes, nervous and respiratory systems, childhood development, appetite, sleep, digestion and bone development
- Improper waste disposal, e.g., used saw chains, oil bottles, etc
- Need to improve efficiency, make optimum use of trees felled and reduce waste
- Inadequate use of training opportunities afforded by FTCI, Iwokrama, GFC, MoAA, MoH, MoL
- Need for greater awareness and action to increase opportunities for alternative livelihoods
- Better communication, appropriate language and tools required, e.g., more workshops, practical sessions
- Need for greater collaboration amongst producers and buyers to meet market targets (volumes)
- Inadequate achievement and maintenance of standards in the industry
- Insufficient pursuit of proposal writing, business plan development funding opportunities
- Need to enhance and/or contribute to community development
- Need for creative marketing; more use of simple technology; taking advantage of niche marketing opportunities; production to meet specific market needs
- Adaptation of policy to meet current needs and future developments required locally and nationally
- Inadequate understanding of cost and production in the trade; simple business management and record keeping practices in need of improvement
- Need for a better appreciation of the value of forest products, a valuable resource which must be managed wisely through improved milling technology, storage, handling, drying; Improved practices are required in sector, felling techniques and cross-cutting methods; compliance with laws and guidelines
- Stakeholders do not appreciate labour and total financial input and the consequences of bad practices, e.g., lost pay, family affected, illness, death. Increasing debts, lost markets, etc

Contributions from the floor helped disclose the general lack of knowledge of what is meant by 'buffer zones,' helped participants appreciate the thinking behind the concept and regulations; understand the reasons why undersized trees should not be cut, the value of inventorying, and the use of the tagging system for verification and fraud prevention purposes.

The destruction of roads and despoiling of creeks by miners was also brought to the attention of the GFC officers present in the hope that something could be done by the GGMC.

The complaint by SFP holders that they were being made to comply with regulations while others were not, and the different standards of accountability for Amerindian lands, allowed for the explanations on the legal implications of land leased by the state to individual or group operators in the sector and lands privately owned by Amerindian communities.

It was also pointed out by a GFC officer that tagged wood in unattended trailers ought not to be detained by the GFC. Other GFC officers present also agreed that it is unacceptable for operators to be charged for lodging removal documents on the Monday following Friday operations. The reasonable and conciliatory attitude, and the willingness to listen and provide explanations, displayed by the GFC representatives at the Region 2 MSD reinforces the CMP view (1) that real consensus is being achieved with respect to stakeholder acceptance that capacity building is a crucial GFC role; and (2) that genuine multi-stakeholder dialogue can resolve forest-related issues in ways that respect all involved.

3.4 Presentation on Sustainable Forest Management, FTCI Representative

In his presentation, FTCI officer Chris Davis addressed the following:

- Role of Forestry Training Centre Inc (FTCI), part of an international network of four centres, fostering skill sets in the forestry sector; targeting students, environmental NGOs, staff of public agencies, representatives of communities, forest operatives at all levels; managing model logging operation where trainees get hands-on, very practical training; specializing in reduced impact logging.
- Key Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management: Acknowledgement of global concerns about local forests and their management; information on the nature and extent of forest resources; clear idea on the production and protection of forest resources; adequate policies, laws, guidelines and code of practice to ensure consistent behavior in forests; a strong forest authority; critical skill sets to address the requirements of forest practices (map reading & interpretation, tree identification, forest mensuration & forest surveys; reduced impact logging)
- GFC's Primary Responsibilities: Management of 13.3 million hectares of State forests in accordance with the principles of multiple use of forest resources in consultation with other key stakeholders, including indigenous peoples; awarding of forest concession agreements; reviewing forest management plans and annual plans of operations relating to forestry concessions; monitoring of timber harvesting operations.

- Importance of the different levels of planning: Strategic (long term planning), operational (three to five years), annually (once per year), quarterly (four times a year), monthly and daily. When there is no planning, this leads to waste of resources, underutilization of productive resources, and excessive costs.
- He also elaborated on buffer zone, proximity rule and quota related issues. In response to an intervention from the floor that ‘people want to understand the reasons for the rules and regulations,’ the GFC officer and Dr Raquel Thomas (Iwokrama) offered helpful information on a variety of matters. Dr Thomas addressed seed dispersal, replanting of faster growing species such as Crabwood and Kabakali and plantations for species valuable for community life.

3.5 Recommendations on Solutions from Stakeholder Groups

3.5.1 Regulatory Agencies

1. Where are we (the chainsaw milling sector) now? We now have more statistical data. We are at a stage where the chainsaw sector is now known as a main contributor to the market and needs to be further developed. We have improper felling and sawing techniques and inefficient use of logs.

2. Where do we want to go? We want optimum use of our forest resources (efficient use of logs). We want better communication and understanding between concession holders and chainsaw operators. We want alternative livelihoods to reduce the impact of chainsaw milling. We want greater accountability for forest products from concessionaires, sustainable business practices, and greater compliance with Code of Practice by chainsaw operators.

3. What can we do as stakeholders? We can foster greater collaboration among regulatory agencies to avoid duplication of efforts, prevent overlap, and reduce conflicts in the laws. We want movement from a policing *modus operandi* to a more facilitatory approach. We want Increased training for operators and concession holders.

4. What needs to be done at other levels? Review of existing legislation and guidelines to ensure practicality and clarify chainsaw operation ‘gray areas.’

5. What knowledge and resources will we need to get chainsaw milling where we want it to be? We need human and financial resources to increase our capacity; more advanced technology/equipment for transporting logs and for more efficient log-to-lumber conversion

3.5.2 SFM-Specific Stakeholders

- Awareness (and understanding that health and safety is beneficial to the operator)
- Enforcement, enforcement, enforcement
- Awareness and enforcement to ensure compliance
- Training, putting into practice what is learnt, and adapting

- Operators need to be proactive for opportunities and be willing to change old ways; often information is provided by opportunities not utilized
- A multi-stakeholder approach (government, business, communities, associations etc)
- Making more use of sessions such these and demonstration activities; regulatory agencies need to disseminate information in a manner appropriate to the group being targeted
- Greater collaboration requires willingness to share information, orders, and markets. This is completely in the hands of the producers
- Inadequate achievements and maintenance of standards requires training, awareness building and honesty, enforcement – must be done if industry is to be viable in the long term
- Agencies involved need to make information on funding opportunities accessible; producers need to be proactive (indicate needs and be willing to pursue solutions)
- Recognition that everyone in the community has a stake with responsibilities and the willingness to act on them; self-assessment and possible solutions need to be done internally and within communities to mobilize community members
- Multi-stakeholder approach to marketing, access to small business development training
- Willingness of relevant authorities to adopt, adapt and implement policies to meet current and future needs at local and national levels
- Small business training and routines to implement an effective management system
- Training and awareness, and uptake of information and practices to enable behavior change

3.5.2 Community Forest Associations

1. *Where are we (the chainsaw milling sector) now?* We are expanding, but people are not making much profit. The forest is depleting.
2. *Where do we want the chainsaw milling sector to go?* Lower costs of production, better markets, improved technology, better quality product.
3. *What can we as stakeholders do to make this happen?* Cooperation and team work with regulatory agencies.
4. *What needs to be done at other levels?* Capacity building, physical inputs (equipment and machinery such as planes, mills), knowledge, training, practical assistance in finance, workshops and training in various areas including marketing and accounting. GFC training sessions should take place in the 'bush' where the operators work.
 - GFC should compensate us if they have wrongfully detained our produce and caused us to lose our market.
 - GFC should not detain produce on trailers (left unattended due to mechanical breakdown on the road) if they are tagged. GFC should not be charging producers for two days' late payment for not lodging permits for produce sold on Friday and permit lodged on Monday. We need more than 24 hours to lodge permits after selling produce.
 - Duty free concessions for Community Forest Associations.
 - Action should be taken against people destroying roads and not contributing to repairs; and people removing tags from stump and putting it on their own stumps.

- Letters and other communication from regulatory agencies should reach us in a timely manner.

3.5.3 Chainsaw Operators/Amerindian Village Councils

1. *Where are we (the chainsaw milling sector) now?* Chainsaw milling is a major economic activity in our villages and communities; our forests are depleting rapidly; safety measures are not being implemented; there is too much dependence on middle-men; not enough operators own their own saws (when the loggers are finished, they take their saws and leave residents without anything); not enough collaboration with agencies in the sector; not enough information on felling and measurement.
2. *Where do we want the chainsaw milling sector to go?* We want to reach a level where our villages and communities can see progress as a result of activities in the sub-sector. We want to see better agreements between chainsaw owners and operators. We want to see everyone owning their own equipment.
3. *What needs to be done at other levels?* We look forward to working more closely with agencies, and training in record keeping and management.
 - Cattle rearing should be promoted as an alternative livelihood
 - More of the communication should be word-of-mouth, man-to-man, face-to-face
 - Rules and regulations should be communicated in language that operators can understand

3.5.4 Transportation providers, Lumber dealers, Suppliers of inputs

1. *Where are we (the chainsaw milling sector) now?* Most of the chainsaw lumber has defects. There is bad cutting and cutting of young trees.
2. *Where do we want the chainsaw milling sector to go?* To produce good quality, graded lumber without defects.
3. *What needs to be done at other levels?* GFC training on the regulations, what ‘prime’ means, and grading for operators, engineers, and consumers; GFC to act as arbitrator on grading issues and the authority on standards.
 - There should be a public awareness campaign to educate people in the sector on grading rules, species characteristics (engineers don’t know about trees; lumber dealers want operators to take knots out of wood), and contracts
 - SFP holders should do their own inventorying so they know what they have
 - Need for enforceable contracts between producers and dealers

3.5.5 Traditional Sawmilling Industry & SFP Holders

1. *Where are we (the chainsaw milling sector) now?* There are illegal operations in the sector.
2. *Where do we want the chainsaw milling sector to go?* We want the state forests to be more clearly defined, forest planning and reduced impact logging.
3. *What needs to be done at other levels?*

- Guidelines, Practices and Policies need to be incorporated into regulations and laws
- Harmonise land use policy
- GFC to facilitate GGMC in ensuring that mining community complies with sustainable forest management
- Roadways and waterways need to be improved and maintained for better communication
- GFC should assume responsibility for doing, or at least assist in, forest inventorying so that concessionaires know what they have
- Manual should be prepared for chainsaw operators working on concessions held by SFP holders
- Markets needed for lesser used species
- GFC needs to conduct inspection to determine situation in Tapakuma and St Denny's Amerindian lands

3.6 Next Steps, Evaluation & Closing

Under the 'next steps' agenda item, CMP Coordinator, Ms Rohini Kerrett congratulated participants on their active participation in the process, drew attention to the Day 2 activities, noted that this was the fourth and final regional multi-stakeholder dialogue, and undertook to ensure that a record of the meeting's proceedings will be available to stakeholder representatives to continue the dialogue and begin action planning on solutions to the issues raised.

The facilitator mounted four 'face' drawings and asked participants to step forward and tick the 'face' that most resembled how they felt about the day's session. The *blank face* received no ticks; the *happy face* with up-turned mouth got twenty-two (22) ticks, the *sour face* with a down-turned mouth earned one tick, and the *neutral or bland face* with straight-line mouth got four (4) ticks,

The Chairperson, Mr Leroy Welcome, thanked participants and closed the session at 5 pm after the singing of the National Song, "Hymn for Guyana's Children."

4. Proceedings of Region 2 MSD Meeting, Day 2, October 20, 2010

4.1 Reflections on Day 1

Day Two of the meeting opened at 9 am with participants sharing their thoughts and feelings about *what* was done on the previous day and *how* it was done. Please see Annex for participants' views.

4.2 Presentations

4.2.1 Recovery Issues & 4P Approach to Marketing (Product, Price, Promotion, Place)

Mr Andrew Mendes, a member of the CMP Task Force with a lot of hands-on experience with milling equipment and the wood business conducted his presentation in an informative and engaging manner. He used slides, diagrams and calculations to illustrate his main points and clarify questions raised by participants. He began by asking the group what they understood by the term 'recovery.' **Recovery**, he then disclosed, is not about 'volume' but about 'value.' After some feedback from participants on their understanding of **marketing**, he shared his company's definition: "meeting and exceeding customer satisfaction better than the competition." **Product** was explained in this way: that which the producer produces with the level of quality the consumer expects or is at least satisfied by. **Price** is the price that allows the producer to make a profit, have an economically viable operation while still being attractive or acceptable for the consumer. **Promotion** is how you access the market and covers everything from creating awareness to advertising the product. **Place** means being able to deliver in a timely manner, the volume and quality of product the customer wants. "Give them what they want, when they want it, and how they want it," he advised.

Mr Mendes also spent time on the importance of proper timber storage, and planning. "Planning is how you can prevent people from taking advantage of you. ... A plan can be an idea in your head to prevent you making the same mistakes over and over again. For example, we talk about the rains, but they come every year, twice a year. Plan!" (He used a map of his concession to show where he works in what seasons.) "Planning saves money." He shared his experience with testing the myth that felling crabwood on a dark (i.e, moonless) night prevents splitting in order to let operators know that there is a lot of ancestral and other information (apart from the information in books and reports) that people have. (Although he couldn't explain why, his experiment found him increasing his crabwood recovery rates by 32% to 41%.)

4.2.2 Health, Safety, Directional Felling & Other Logs-to-Lumber Practices

Before the health and safety presentation by Mr Alphonso George at the outdoor site for the practical logs-to-lumber demonstration, the facilitator drew participants' attention to the behaviors of an alcohol-impaired contributor (the chairman of a CFA, but not a registered participant at the MSD) whose insistent interventions on the previous day had threatened to undermine the process. On the morning of Day 2, he was still inebriated and resisting the efforts of his 14-year-old son to get him to return to their home in Georgetown. Apart from making the obvious point about the dangers of engaging in forest work while under the influence of alcohol and other drugs (reportedly a common practice), she emphasized the need for operators to be mindful of the careless and negative occupational health and safety examples they were displaying to their children, other family members and younger men entering forest-related work.

Mr George of FTCl then walked the group through the basic safety measures and safety gear they should be taking and using. Demonstrating directional felling was a natural extension of the safety talk.

Attention was also drawn to the dangers of inhaling the dust created by sawing not only for blocking up nasal pathways, lungs and the entire respiratory system but also by introducing carcinogenic chemicals into the body. The facilitator urged the women present to imagine the state of bodies breathing in fine sawdust day after day to make sure that their partners, brothers and sons protect themselves and the families who rely on them.

The session on 'log measurement' facilitated by the GFC officers was very instructive. The interest participants displayed in asking questions and taking notes seemed to indicate their unfamiliarity with the process and the need for more systematic training geared to persons without the necessary formal numeracy foundation. After the exercise, the facilitator pointed out to the instructors that even with a university education, she was unable to do the calculations involved, and that some other method needed to be devised to ensure accurate measurement of forest produce.

The Transport & Harbours vessel on which the equipment was being moved from Demerara to Essequibo was stuck on a sandbank in the middle of the river. A small vessel, hired by Farfan & Mendes to take off the milling equipment in midstream, could not accommodate the Portable Sawmill so there could be no demonstration of this piece of machinery. Nonetheless, participants were very interested in seeing and comparing freehand ripping with the chainsaw frame attachment. Chainsaw operator Berthland deCunha (who started chainsaw ripping at 12 years, and is now 24 years) impressed the group with his freehand skills, especially in comparison with the chainsaw with the frame. The performance of this master craftsman, with a level of skill not common to most practitioners, allowed attention to be drawn to the wear and tear on a body engaged in years of this form arduous work. That he started while still a boy (not unusual) also reminded stakeholder representatives of the fact that many operators lack formal schooling. There is therefore an urgent need to fashion training in ways that grassroots people can comprehend and learn.

4.2.3 Evaluation & Closing

The evaluation took the form of participants place a tick of approval against one of the four 'face' drawings (a technique employed on the previous day) that most clearly resembled what they were feeling about the day's programme. One person ticked the sour face with the down-turned mouth, but everyone else ticked the happy face. One participant drew happy-face features in the blank face. After this activity, the Chairperson, Mr Leroy Welcome, thanked participants and closed the proceedings at approximately 3 pm.

Annex 1: Region 2 Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Meeting Agenda

(Day 1: Tuesday, October 19, 2010, 9 am to 5 pm, RDC Boardroom, Anna Regina)

Objectives

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

Agenda: DAY 1

1. Registration
2. Welcome: Chairperson, Mr Leroy Welcome, CMP Community Forest Advisor
3. National Pledge
4. Introductions: Stakeholders
5. Documentary on Chainsaw Milling in Guyana & Findings from Research and Focus Group Meetings, Ms Rohini Kerrett, Coordinator, Chainsaw Milling Project

SNACK (10.30 – 10.45)

6. Review of key issues on Chainsaw Milling by Stakeholder Groups:
 - Sustainable Forest Management/Sustainable Livelihood Options (other ways of making a living)
 - Governance (community forest associations, village councils, GFC policies, regulations, practices)
 - Communication
7. Reports on Issues by representatives of stakeholder groups
8. Sustainable Forest Management, FTCl Officer

LUNCH (12.30-1.30)

9. Group work on recommending solutions to issues:
 - Where are we [the chainsaw milling sector] now
 - Where do we want the chainsaw milling sector to go
 - What can we do as stakeholders to help make this happen
 - What needs to be done at other levels
 - What knowledge & resources we need to get chainsaw milling where we want it to be
10. Reports on recommendations for solutions from stakeholder group representatives

SNACK (3.30)

11. Next steps; Evaluation; Closing; National Song, *Hymn for Guyana's Children*

*'Sustainable forest management'
means managing all our forest resources,
in ways that meet the needs of present and future generations
of all life forms
-- big and small, near and far --
that depend on our forests for their livelihood.*

(Day 2: Tuesday, October 20, 2010, 9 am to 3 pm, roadway near Anna Regina State House)

Information & Practical Demonstration on Effective Logs-to-Lumber Techniques

Objectives

1. To provide information to support more sustainable forest practices by chainsaw operators; and
2. To demonstrate and facilitate hands-on practice with a range of different technologies for more effectively converting logs into lumber.

Agenda (9 am to 3 pm)

1. Registration
2. Introduction to Day 2, *Chairperson, Mr Leroy Welcome, CMP Community Forest Advisor*
3. Converting logs to lumber, *Mr Andrew Mendes, CMP Task Force*
 - Log Selection
 - Sawing Patterns (1/4 cants, taper sawing)
 - Best Practices for Improving Recovery
 - Volume, Grade & Value (cutting for grade)
 - Marketing Influences on Recovery
4. 4P Approach to Marketing: Product, Price, Promotion & Place, *Mr Andrew Mendes*

Snack (10.00 – 10.15)

5. Directional Felling Demonstration
 - Safety Gear & Safety Features of Equipment, *Mr Alphonso George, FTCl*
6. Logs-to-lumber demonstration, *Mr Andrew Mendes & team*
 - Log Measurement
 - Free Hand Ripping
 - Board Mill (frame) Ripping
 - Portable Mill Sawing

Lunch (12.30-1.00)

7. Logs-to-lumber demonstration (continued)
 - Timber Storage & Hygiene, *Mr Leroy Welcome, CMP*
8. Evaluation
9. Closing

“Plantain wha yellor can’t turn back green!”

*“Stone wha deh a battam river,
nah know how sun a hot a river top!”*

“Wan wan dutty build dam!”

(Guyanese Proverbs that can advise us on sustainable forest management & sustainable livelihood issues.)

Annex 2: List of Participants by Stakeholder Table Groups MSD #4, Region 2

1. Regulatory Agencies (GFC, MoAA, EPA)

- 1) Warren Lockna (GFC, Community Development Officer), 688 5856*
- 2) Clive Smith (GFC, Forest Ranger), 612 2837*
- 3) Dexter McAndrew (GFC, Forest Inspector), 662 6418*
- 4) Shameza David (Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, Project Officer), 672 9195*
- 5) Roger Astwood (EPA, Environmental Officer), 657 0482

2. Amerindian Communities

- 6) Thomas Charles, St Monica Toshao, 645 3702*
- 7) Levi Williams, Mashabo Deputy Toshao, 694 3890*
- 8) James Miguel, St Monica Village Councillor, 658 6813*
- 9) Dennis Richards, Wakapoa Village Councillor, 771 9282/656 3813*
- 10) Melrose Henry, MoAA, Community Development Officer, 641 8965*

3. Community Forest Associations:

- 11) Dwarka Persaud, Chairman, Upper Pomeroon, Logging Association*
- 12) Sukrajie Persaud, Treasurer, Upper Pomeroon Logging Association*
- 13) Marceline Simon, Secretary, Cottonfield Small Loggers Association*
- 14) Allison Austin, Vice Chair, Capoey Loggers Association, 627 5582*
- 15) Maylene Edwards, Secretary, Capoey Forest Association, 622 3140*
- 16) Ivan Brand, Assistant Treasurer, Good Hope Small Loggers Association, 665 6870*
- 17) Shevon Fiedtkou, Vice Chairman, Good Hope Small Loggers Association, 675 3237*
- 18) Naresh Karanjeet, Treasurer, Cottonfield Small Loggers Association, 611 0372*
- 19) Sheneza Simon, Three Friends Small Loggers Association, 771 1147*
- 20) Bharat Ramsunand, Chairman, Riverstown/Pomona Logging Association, 642 9229
- 21) Kunjie, Cutter & Ranger, Riverstown/Pomona Logging Association, 615 2745*
- 22) Charles Thom, Chairman, Upper Berbice Forest Producers Association, 647 1588*
- 23) Sumintra Ruffino, Secretary, Upper Pomeroon Logging Association, 645 5681**
- 24) Sujeet Persaud, Upper Pomeroon Logging Association**
- 25) Harvey Ruffino, Upper Pomeroon Logging Association**
- 26) Eula Pearson, Cottonfield Logging Association, 771 1147**

4. Chainsaw Operators

- 27) Berthland Decunha, Pomona, 678 7433*
- 28) Neeti Rampersaud, Huis T'Dieren, 774 5454/673 9233*
- 29) Kawall, Chainsaw Operator, Riverstown/Pomona Logging Association, 681 3136
- 30) Kevin Chappell, Good Hope
- 31) Ronald Williams, Wakapoa*

5. Transportation Providers, Suppliers of Inputs, Lumber dealers

- 32) Gobindranath Dindyal, Equipment Operator, Nandkishore Singh Airy Hall Lumberyard
668 9092
- 33) Mohindra Suejohn, Lumber Checker, C Ellis Queenstown Lumberyard, 614 0739

- 34) Kameela Persaud, Rakesh Samaroo Lumberyard, Anna Regina 771 4984/621 7315*
- 35) Andrew Mendes, Farfan & Mendes*
- 36) Melissa Gounga-Khan, Sales Supervisor, Farfar & Mendes, 629 6792**
- 37) Darius Machado, Sales Representative, Farfar & Mendes, 660 8160**

5. Consumers, Contractors

- 38) Teakumar, Furniture Manufacturer, 627 4243*
- 39) Darmandra Singh, Furniture Manufacturer, 621 7467
- 40) Shivanand Narine, Engineer, Satwar Mohamed Construction, Reliance, 609 5737

6. Traditional Sawmillers & SFP Holders

- 41) James Smith, SFP Holder, Siriki, Pomeroun, 684 5549
- 42) James Ramroop, SFP Holder, Pickersville, Pomeroun
- 43) Khalawan, Senior Vice President, Forest Products Association, 613 8319
- 44) Roopan Ramoutar, sawmiller, Managing Director, Ramoutar Investments, 624 1607**

7. SFM-Specific Stakeholders

- 45) Vanessa Benn (Consultant, Iwokrama)*
- 46) Raquel Thomas (Director, Iwokrama)
- 47) Alphonso George (FTCI Forest Technician), 644 7002*
- 48) Theresa Madray (FPDMC Marketing Promotion Officer), 223 5135-6

Other Project Staff

- 49) Rohini Kerrett, CMP Coordinator*
- 50) Leroy Welcome, Community Forest Advisor*
- 51) Bonita Harris, CMP Facilitator*
- 52) Onieca Dennis, Administrative Assistant*
- 53) John Culpepper, Driver*

*Participants present on Days 1 and 2

**Participants present only on Day 2

Annex 3: Stakeholder Group Issues for the Region 2 Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Chainsaw Milling, October 19, 2010 Anna Regina

Regulatory Agencies (RDC, GFC, Village Councils)

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION ISSUES

Sustainable Forest Management/Sustainable Livelihood Issues

1. Current system for monitoring activities of chainsaw operators not adequate
2. Chainsaw operators cutting on grants of SFP holders
3. High levels of wastage by chainsaw producers, for example, leaving useful slabs behind because of the expense involved in bringing them out of the forest
4. Need for training to maximize production and ensure sustainable practices

Governance

5. High levels of disputes between chainsaw operators and owners of grants
6. Underhand business arrangements, 'shafting' of Amerindian communities, councilors unaware of who has permits to cut, materials being 'shipped out' behind village council back
7. Need for regularisation of chainsaw sector
8. Sensitization and education of toshaos and councilors of Amerindian villages

GFC REGION #2 ISSUES

Sustainable Forest Management/Sustainable Livelihood Issues

1. Improper management of forest resources; unnecessary waste left in forest
2. Lumberyards not willing to purchase short pieces, thereby contributing to waste
3. Safety issues: non-use of gloves, respirators, ear 'defenders' for a variety of reasons, some reasonable, some not
4. No training in Reduced Impact Logging (RIL)
5. Destruction of keystone species
6. Destruction of wildlife
7. Cutting of faulty and undersized trees
8. No planning for work during different seasons or best extraction routes; no inventory, formal or informal
9. Tractors and machinery damaging forest

Governance

10. Illegal logging: SFP holders and reservations cutting outside their boundaries; independent loggers poaching from concessions leased to others
11. Poor record keeping; false declarations: e.g., substitution of one species for another
12. Improper use of tags: 'hurry up work' and 'bad work' tagging practices; persons collecting tags from GFC usually not the same persons actually doing the tagging

Communication

13. Forms, returns, agreements wrongly and inaccurately completed by operators in the sector
14. Internal communication is a problem sometimes; forest operators cite decisions made at the top about which GFC officers in the field have no knowledge
15. Lack of cooperation from the public on transport and use of 'illegal' wood

AMERINDIAN VILLAGE COUNCILS

Sustainable Forest Management/Sustainable Livelihood Issues

1. Cutting of undersized trees
2. A lot of waste
3. High cost of inventorying forest
4. Irresponsible felling practices damaging other marketable species and useful non-timber forest materials; need for training in directional felling
5. Low price for lumber; chainsaw operators sell to tractor owners who function as middlemen re-selling to buyers at up to 30% more
6. No village tractor forcing VC to use private tractor operators
7. Problems transporting produce from forest to landing
8. Markets only exist for certain species, and not for other useful species plentiful in forests
9. Need for equipment and training for dressing wood for sale and use in community
10. Need to get contracts for school building and school furniture
11. Up to 70% of the young men going into mining in Upper Essequibo, Cuyuni, Mazaruni, Barama facing malaria and typhoid
12. Better market needed for craft products
13. Farming, poultry rearing and eco-tourism need to be developed

Governance

14. GFC policies and system for declaration and issuing of tags unclear
15. Chainsaw operations and tagging not being checked and properly monitored by village councils
16. Access to finance difficult
17. No Village Council quota system or village marketing system
18. GFC rules not being followed, not being fully implemented by village councils
19. SFP holders cutting on Amerindian community lands

Communication

20. Communication between village council and chainsaw operators not enough, not regular
21. Village council not doing the necessary work on the ground, in the forest, with operators

Community Forest Associations/SFP Holders

Sustainable Forest Management/Sustainable Livelihood Issues

1. Inexperienced persons are going into chainsaw work
2. General need for training: no training in proper felling, forest management
3. Operators and bosses not observing safety practices
4. Failure to follow GFC regulations, practice good husbandry and good management
5. Safety gear problems: steel tip boots too heavy, goggles get cloudy making it hard to see, chainsaw operators accustomed to working barefoot and bareheaded; safety helmet uncomfortable
6. Illegal logging; CFA members poaching on other concessions; barefaced illegalities with men fetching away wood in broad daylight; traveling to GFC to make report on illegal activities expensive because of cost of fuel
7. Not getting value for lumber from dealers
8. Cutting of under-sized trees
9. Litter and garbage (plastics, Styrofoam etc) being left in forests by chainsaw operators
10. Need to develop farming and eco-tourism as alternate forms of livelihood

Governance

11. Not enough leadership training
12. Lack of cooperation among members of associations
13. Community Forest Association (CFA) members using, abusing and not maintaining road and landing facilities of other CFA; setting up camps on other CFA concession; bullying and threatening behaviors; CFA abusing Timber Pass License issued by GFC; CFA powerless to do anything about bad-behaved CFA since concessions and permits are issued by and belong to the state; difficulty in getting GFC to site when there are problems with other CFAs.
14. One CFA is reportedly made up of five brothers bullying, trespassing and taking advantage of a concession holder
15. Members of community not interested in participating in CFA making some of them 'family associations'
16. Some people uplifting permits and not paying fees
17. Need for problem-solving procedures especially in the case of family-dominated CFAs
18. Lack of cooperation among CFAs

Communication

19. Workers (chainsaw operators) not listening to leaders
20. Inability of operators to work out problems together
21. Meetings of community forest associations not being held on a regular basis

Chainsaw Operators

Sustainable Forest Management/Sustainable Livelihood Issues

1. Lack of training
2. Waste of good forest materials
3. Quality of lumber produced not sufficiently presentable
4. Need for inventorying by GFC and concession holders so operators can know what is in the forest and where it is
5. Cattle rearing can be developed as an alternative form of livelihood

Governance

6. Need to simplify the rules and regulations so that operators can understand them
7. Need to allow more time for operators to learn about rules and regulations
8. Need to simplify the system for moving lumber from point to point to reduce costs

Communication

9. Communication should be by word-of-mouth, man-to-man, on-the-spot; not TV or high tech
10. Officials who are sent out should have answers for chainsaw operators' questions

Lumberyard Dealers

Sustainable Forest Management/Sustainable Livelihood Issues

1. Many defects, inaccurate cutting and sizing, split ends, rents, cutting young trees leading to warping at various angles
2. A lot of mud on the wood making it difficult to see defects, to grade, and to determine species
3. Soaking of wood to discolor it and pass it off as another species and hide rents

Governance

4. Illegal wood, without papers or with fake documentation, coming through Charity at night underselling lumberyard wood
5. GFC not monitoring new construction to verify where wood came from

Furniture Manufacturers

1. Difficulty in getting specific orders met
2. Difficulty in knowing what wood lumberyards are selling because of labeling 'hardwood' or 'mixed hardwoods'

Traditional Sawmillers (from focus group discussions with Essequibo FPA members)

Sustainable Forest Management/Sustainable Livelihood Issues

1. Poaching is the norm in Essequibo; many inlets, creeks, rivers and few GFC officials with the necessary transportation to traverse and monitor forests; no measures being taken, just talk; chainsaw operators are cutting on our concessions and underselling us on the local market
2. We understand that everyone has to survive, but sawmillers livelihood is threatened. Sawmillers bear the brunt of expenses; we are burdened by fines, royalty and compounding fees; chainsaw operators just throw the saw over their shoulder, rip a tree, and that's it; chainsaw cutting not being monitored in the same way as sawmills are – we have no expectation of the playing field being leveled
3. We don't see the Forests Act supporting the growth and development of the forestry industry – all it does is say that if you don't do this, GFC will do that: this is not being 'supportive;' this thing (the Forests Act) is all about fines – monies from the fines should be used to establish a fund to allow us to get fuel at a reasonable rate
4. With so many strict rules and regulations, people are getting angry, frustrated, discouraged and deciding to get out of the business altogether
5. We fear that regulatory bodies will come down so hard on chainsaw operators that employment will come to a standstill since workers involved in re-manufacturing (planing and dressing) will have difficulty getting material for work
6. Cutting of immature trees; blocking of roads; destruction of creeks by mining and poaching leading to destruction of forests
7. Wastage of lumber; too much good sawn wood being left in forest
8. Very few avenues for alternative sources of employment for indigenous people
9. Operators need to be educated on proper ways to get maximum and quality lumber in an environmentally friendly way
10. Well known species/marketable products are getting less and less and may become extinct
11. Chainsaw operators and owners refusing to cut 'cants' for secondary production and processing; demanding to be paid for 'tolerances'

Governance

12. Regulatory agencies need to beef up supervision/monitoring capacity and ensure that Code of Practice is being observed; they need vehicles so they can respond to reports on illegal harvesting; sometimes there is a two-week wait after reports because everyone is in Georgetown
13. Code of Practice is outdated
14. New policies are emerging each day, not written, but verbal so we are all uncertain about things
15. EPA does nothing to help; the agency only takes our money; monies are paid to EPA and years later there is no inspection or approval

16. We need policy makers to consult with us and spell out how new policy frameworks will affect us; we don't understand; the little we know is that a time will come when we will not be granted concessions
17. Most of our workers object to using the safety gear; they say it is too uncomfortable; there is need for behavior change or regulatory bodies will have to resort to legal means to protect life and limb
18. Grant tax exemptions to concessionaires to purchase logging and milling equipment to help reduce their costs of production
19. Regulatory body should monitor for quality of produce
20. Out-of-control illegal logging in Tapakuma and St Denny's Amerindian lands because regulatory body has no strategy for containing it *(Note: The Region 2 MSD Stakeholder group recommended that GFC should carry out inspection as information may be outdated.)*
21. GFC's speed to modernize and regularize the system does not provide stakeholders with enough time to get documents together for GFC to issue certificate of approval
22. High cost for licenses and passes
23. Our problem is not with the operators, since as concessionaires we use them to help us – our problem is with illegal operations. We recommend:
 - a. That the numbers of chainsaw operators should not be allowed to increase;
 - b. That we be more accommodating of our chainsaw operators;
 - c. That chainsaws be registered;
 - d. That chainsaw operators be licensed;
 - e. That chainsaw operators be trained;
 - f. That importation of chainsaws be stopped; or limits placed on the number of chainsaws imported annually and then sold only to persons licensed to operate *(Note: The Region 2 MSD Stakeholder group recommended that this point be deleted.)*
 - g. That chainsaw operators not cut 'boards,' only 'cants' to reduce wastage.
24. The regulatory body needs to practice tolerance and respect.



Birds
on
electric
wires
near
To
Day 2
work
site

Annex 4: Stakeholders' Evaluation of Day One of the MSD meeting

(At the start of Day 2, participants were asked to share what they were thinking and feeling about the work of the previous day. Participants not able to share at the beginning of the day, were given an opportunity to give their evaluations at the end of the second day presentations before we moved outdoors for the practical logs-to-lumber demonstration session.)

Yesterday I was thinking about chainsaw milling in my community. Will it benefit us or will they stop milling operations? I now understand that it will continue but in a sustainable way. Yesterday was very good. I can return to my community and tell them that if we harvest in the right way, we can pass it down to the generations to come. *(Thomas Charles, Toshao, St Monica)*

Having sat here, I have gained a lot concerning the chainsaw milling project. Indeed our problem is that we didn't know where we were going. We learned a lot from the various stakeholders and the documents. We must compliment the facilitator. Usually the level is too high and we don't understand what is going on. I only hope that in the future we will have this level of facilitation – and not university level! *(James Miguel, Village Councillor, St Monica)*

It was interesting. Most of the things I learned yesterday I was not aware of. They were new. I have learned a lot. In our community we only know about logging, not about State Forest Permits. I can go back to my community and share with the Toshao and the rest of councilors. *(Dennis Richards, Village Councillor, Wakapoa)*

I was so happy because of all the things I have learned. So many things I was not aware of as a chainsaw operator. I can go back and share these things with my fellow operators. *(Ronald Williams, Wakapoa)*

It was really nice. What I really liked was the frankness in the way people shared their views, how they had A hopping. No one was ashamed to ask questions. As chainsaw operators, if we don't understand a word, we didn't have to be ashamed. Anywhere we go we have to let people know what we think. People are accepting that things can happen, that changes will come. I felt really proud of Guyana and the way the facilitators presented the issues. *(Charles Thom, CFA representative)*

I learned a lot. But I feel that chainsaw operators should adhere to GFC rules, if not, what will happen to the younger generation? *(Maylene Edwards, CFA Secretary)*

Yesterday's session benefitted me a lot. When I came id did not know what it was all about, I learned a lot about chainsaw operations, concessions. Before yesterday I didn't know about buffer zones. *(Allison Austin, CFA Vice Chair)*

Sitting and listening to each group's views, I learned that there are many things we have to put in place so you guys can understand the laws, and as the girl just said, buffer zones. We have to plan and pursue our plans so you can benefit and we can get the best out of our forests. *(Alphonso George, FTCl)*

This is the fourth MSD and every one seems to get better and better. There is a real need for a lot of knowledge to be disseminated, but we don't have to re-invent the wheel and we don't have to do it all

on our own. We have to make better use of the resources that are there (GFC/FTCI) to help you to maximize value from our forests. We have new things to think about ... the thing about wood is that you can't know everything about it. Keep an open mind, take what you need and share the information. I learn a lot more outside the meetings and conferences I go to than inside. *(Andrew Mendes, Task Force)*

Yesterday was really beautiful. The discussions were very rich. A lot came out that didn't come out in the other three meetings. I felt really happy to be part of the process and happy to be ending on such a high note in this MSD. *(Shameza David, MoAA)*

Very successful, appreciate all the questions and concerns raised. What I can deal with, I will. What I can't, I'll raise with my supervisor at GFC. *(Warren Lockna, GFC)*

Yesterday was a wonderful session. I gained a lot of knowledge. Listening to each person and group and all the problems will make Guyana a better place with a better future. *(Mohindra Suejohn, lumberyard representative)*

Very interesting, I learned a lot. I will share it with the other lumber dealers. *(Kameela Persaud, sawmill representative)*

At the start I was very happy to see so many people turn out. In the preparatory meetings we were worried that stakeholders might be getting tired of so many talk shops. Yesterday I thought this was a good start for the Region 2 dialogue. Seeing people sitting down together, sharing opinions, talking about what is affecting you made me very, very happy. I felt that we did very well in being able to express our views. This was another opportunity to hear Essequibo's issues and how we can make a difference. *(Rohini Kerrett, CMP Coordinator)*

Congratulations, Region 2! I'm really proud. This is the best MSD so far. Everyone was able to give an input. I passed by the groups and everyone was making an input. We can share information, but not skills, and not in one day. You have to go back and practice working in better ways. This is how we get skilled. I am feeling happy and very proud. *(Leroy Welcome, CMP Community Forest Advisor)*

It was overall good. I learned a lot from the different stakeholders. I am looking forward to more meetings like this. Sometimes, unconsciously you do things that affect people in the backdam. This meeting was good to clear up things that we might not know. Sometimes people want to show off what they know, this is not what we need to do; we need to work to make things better. *(Clive Smith, GFC)*

I was thinking about how this project has grown from its inception, looking at the objectives and how we have been achieving our aims, especially the feedback we have been getting from the regulatory agencies. I have also been thinking of how the chainsaw milling project continues to engage the various actors in the sector and how we can build on this example. Some of my concerns are about how we can pass on what we have learned and how we can share what you need to be more aware of, such as the dangers of using old batteries, health and safety, and value for labour. *(Vanessa Benn, Iwokrama)*

Yesterday, Vanessa said to me that we have to be careful about using the word 'conflict.' She said we really don't have conflicts in Guyana; compared to what is happening in the rest of the world, we have

issues, difficulties, problems, challenges. There are conflicts in some African countries. We are not Haiti, not Pakistan, not Afghanistan. We have, in comparison, a very blessed country. What we need to do is to treasure and care for these blessings. This work we are doing is not just about the forests, but about our country. There are no problems that we cannot solve by working together in a serious manner. *(Bonita Harris, CMP Facilitator)*

I feel privileged to be here. It was a learning experience. After this forum, will there be a chance for hinterland communities to get FTCI and GFC to come to help us and give us training? *(Levi Williams, Deputy Toshao, Mashabo)* *(The facilitator responded by saying that the CMP had facilitated training in the three pilot communities. Although there is currently no pilot community for Region 2, she pointed out that FTCI and GFC officials present would be noting their needs and that the CMP will be motivating them to respond positively to their requests (and those from other communities) for assistance.*

Yesterday was real good for learning new things and being reminded of other things. It was important work with regards to training. Training is key; there should be a lot of it and it should be regular. I want to encourage the concession holders and loggers to take advantage of training, and use the knowledge to better our situation. *(Neeti Rampersaud, Chainsaw Operator)*

Everything was so good. I enjoyed the day. GFC should give more training to chainsaw operators. *(Berthland Decunha, Chainsaw Operator)*

Happy to be here. I learned a lot about wood. If we do what we say, things can get better. *(Teakumar, Furniture manufacturer)*

Yesterday's training was very impressive and useful. If this continues, we'll be able to do better. *(Dwarka Persaud, Chair, CFA)*

Grateful to hear from each and every group. We learned a lot from Andrew and others. *(Sukrajie Persaud, Treasurer, CFA)*

Yesterday's session enlightened me a lot about things, rules and Forestry. Will enlighten the members of my association. *(Marceline Simon, Secretary, CFA)*

I learned a lot yesterday. I got a clear understanding about 'recovery.' I need to see some of the ground works in the field. *(Shevon Fiedtkou, Vice Chair, CFA)*

First of all, I didn't have in mind to give a speech, but I learned a lot from yesterday. To be truthful, every meeting that we were notified about, we have attended. But from then to now, this is an experience I will never forget. I'm always learning something new – especially from some of the questions that were asked. This was edifying and we can share with fellow workers. I'm glad everybody here turned out. We want to share with others in our community who are not doing things right but would like to.

I am wondering where will chainsaw milling be going? In my future, I don't want to see 'saw men' cutting wood with a saw; I would like to be having a machine that can do the work of three men. With a chainsaw, I don't have much room to grow because I'm barely getting by.

We know what we can achieve, not only us, but the people who work with us, and the livelihood of people in the community. We want to give back to the community, but with a chainsaw you don't really have much to give.

The GFC guys are alright. We don't really have a problem with them. We will be glad to entertain you in the bush. But one thing, filling up a permit is really tricky ... and then you have something behind that that you have to fill out. These GFC guys should be teachers in the field, helping us if we don't know something. If you don't fill out the permit right, it is an offence. Up to now some people don't know how to fill out a permit properly. I remember a meeting where Mr ... actually told them they are supposed to be teachers. People might think we are trying to forge something but sometimes you don't know, sometimes you make a mistake. We need GFC to help us, not just spraying up our wood. Be a helper; be a teacher. I'm not so hard-headed I can't understand. *(Ivan Brand, Assistant Treasurer, CFA)*



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.



