



Project Speaking Points Document

Support to Village Planning and Implementation as part of Guyana's REDD+ Programme

The purpose of this speaking document is to provide a clear and concise overview of the project "Support to Village Planning and Implementation as part of Guyana's REDD+ Programme." It highlights the project's background, goals, expected outcomes, key achievements, and future directions. This document is intended to support communications, presentations, and stakeholder engagement regarding the project and its role in advancing sustainable development in Indigenous communities across Guyana.

What is VSP?

Background & Scope

The project supports **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)** in Guyana to pursue sustainable development **through Village Sustainability Plans (VSPs)** aligned with **Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030 (LCDS 2030)**.

Under the LCDS 2030 framework, Guyana receives revenues from forest carbon markets. **Fifteen percent (15%)** of these revenues are allocated to Amerindian villages to support community-driven development priorities identified through **participatory planning processes**.

This project strengthens the capacity of the **National Toshias' Council (NTC)**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and Conservation International Guyana**, to support villages in developing, implementing, and monitoring long-term sustainability plans.

The initiative targets **242 Indigenous villages and communities** across Guyana and aims to ensure that community development is environmentally sustainable, economically beneficial, and aligned with national climate and development priorities.

Role of the National Toshias' Council (NTC)

The **National Toshias' Council (NTC)** plays a central role in the successful implementation of the Village Sustainability Planning (VSP) process.



- **Coordination and Leadership:** Leads and coordinates VSP efforts nationwide, ensuring alignment with national policies and the LCDS 2030.
- **Technical Support:** Provides tools, guidance, and facilitation to support development of VSPs and Outline Plans.
- **Capacity Building:** Conducts training and awareness to strengthen village planning and governance.
- **Implementation Support:** Assists with project design, financial management, and access to technical resources.
- **Facilitation & Quality Assurance:** Ensures participatory and inclusive planning processes.
- **Monitoring & Knowledge Sharing:** Supports tracking progress and sharing lessons learned.
- **Institutional Strengthening:** Establishes systems such as a VSP Unit to sustain long-term support.

Overall, the NTC serves as the **bridge between communities, government, and partners**, ensuring that development is community-led and sustainable.

Key Goals & Objectives of the VSP Project

The overall goal of the project is to **support Indigenous villages in achieving sustainable development while maintaining Guyana's high forest cover and low deforestation status.**

Key objectives include:

- Supporting villages to **develop long-term Village Sustainability Plans (VSPs)** through inclusive, participatory processes.
- Strengthening the **institutional capacity of the National Toshias' Council** to support sustainable village development.
- Providing **technical support, training, and resources** to help villages implement their development priorities.
- Establishing **monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management systems** to track progress and share best practices.
- Promoting **sustainable livelihoods, environmental protection, and climate resilience** in Indigenous communities.

Impact & outcome

The project is expected to generate significant benefits for Indigenous communities and the country as a whole.

Key impacts include:

- Improved **long-term development planning and governance** in villages.
- Increased **community participation in sustainable development initiatives.**
- Strengthened **institutional capacity of the National Toshias' Council** and



supporting agencies.

- Enhanced **environmental protection and forest conservation** aligned with REDD+ and LCDS 2030 objectives.
- Improved **economic opportunities, livelihoods, and climate resilience** in Indigenous communities.

Ultimately, the project contributes to **community-led development while maintaining Guyana's forests and biodiversity.**

Contribution to International Commitments

Village Sustainability Plans (VSPs) play an important role in helping Guyana meet its **international climate and development commitments.**

- **Climate Change Mitigation (REDD+):** VSPs support Guyana's participation in REDD+ by promoting low deforestation, sustainable land use, and forest conservation.
- **Paris Agreement:** By maintaining forest cover and reducing emissions, VSPs contribute to global efforts to limit temperature rise and achieve net-zero targets.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** VSPs advance multiple SDGs, including poverty reduction, quality education, climate action, and life on land through community-led development.
- **Biodiversity Conservation:** The plans support protection of ecosystems, biodiversity, and water resources, contributing to global biodiversity goals.

Through these contributions, VSPs ensure that **local actions in villages directly support global environmental and development priorities.**

Key Achievements /Milestones

Several milestones have already been achieved in advancing village sustainability planning:

- **125** VSP Plans validated in villages/communities for implementation
- **9** established partnerships between the **NTC and other stakeholders.**
- The development of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) guidelines
- Institutional strengthening of the NTC

These milestones demonstrate strong national commitment to **community-driven sustainable development and forest conservation.**

Future Plans

The project will continue to build on the progress achieved and focus on the following priorities:

- Supporting all villages to develop **comprehensive 10-year Village Sustainability Plans.**
- Establishing a **Village Sustainability Planning Unit within the NTC Secretariat** to coordinate and sustain village development planning.



- Strengthening **monitoring and evaluation systems** to measure the impact of village projects.
- Facilitating **knowledge sharing and best practice exchanges among villages**.
- Expanding partnerships to support the **implementation of sustainable livelihood initiatives** and community development projects.

These efforts will ensure the **long-term sustainability of village development and continued alignment with Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030**.

Note: The information provided above can be tailored to make it appropriate for the channel of communication that is being used.

If you have questions about this matter or ideas for improvement, please contact the **Knowledge Management & Communications Coordinator** at kmcc@ntcgy.com. Thank you for your kind cooperation.

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