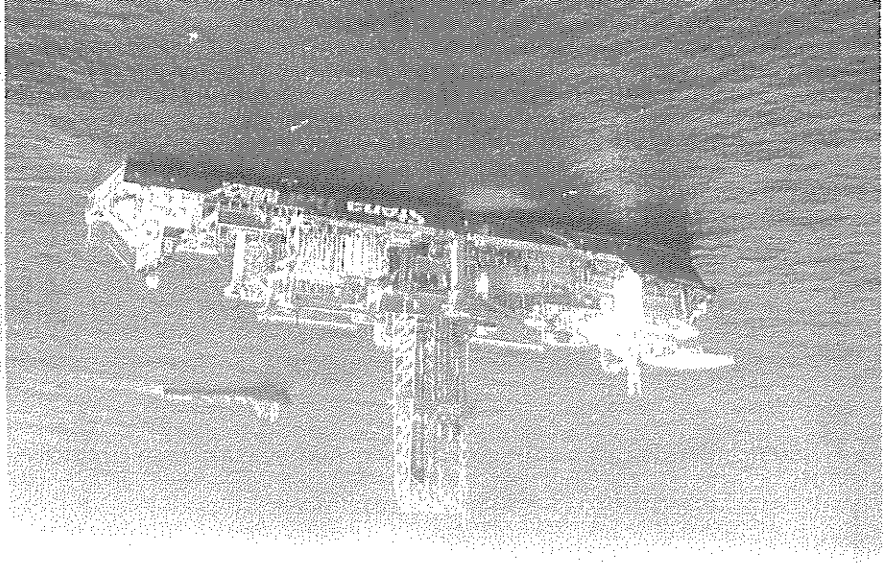
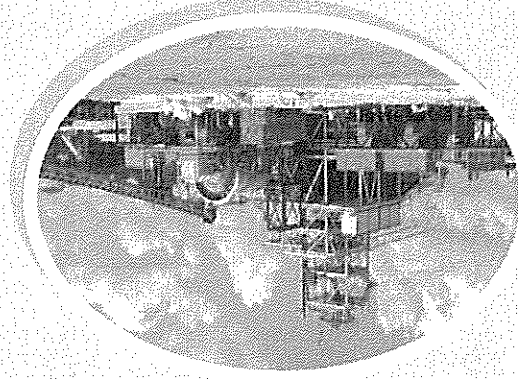


GUYANA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE
SYMPOSIUM FOR MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GROUP
ON NATIONAL PRIORITIES



VENUE: GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION
1 WATER STREET, KINGSTON, GEORGETOWN
TIME: 9:00 AM-11:00 AM



GEITI National Secretariat
Ministry of Natural Resources
Upper Brickdam
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**GUYANA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY
INITIATIVE
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SYMPOSIUM**

**TO: Discuss and Determine National Priorities for the Extractive Industry in
Guyana**

GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION – BOARDROOM

**1 Water Street, Kingston, Georgetown
Friday, 19th May, 2017, 9.00 am – 11.00 am**

WELCOME ADDRESS

by

Dr. Rudy R. Jadoopat, National Coordinator, GYEITI

1. Good Morning Everyone!
 - 1) Excellency, Distinguished Ambassador Mr. Rudolph Collins, C.C.H.
 - 2) Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Mr. Joslyn McKenzie
 - 3) Respected Members and Alternates of the Multi-Stakeholder Group of the Guyana Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
 - 4) Attorney-at-Law, Ms. Diane Barker, Deputy Coordinator, National Secretariat, GYEITI
 - 5) Ladies & Gentlemen

In my capacity as National Coordinator of the Guyana EITI National Secretariat, I welcome you to today's Symposium. This symposium satisfies one of the decisions taken at the 3rd MSG Meeting held on 12th April, 2017. Please ensure you have a copy of the Program for the symposium which is self-explanatory.

2. Ladies and Gentlemen, to give Opening Remarks, please join me in welcoming the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Mr. Joslyn McKenzie.
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3. **THIS SYMPOSIUM PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE THREE SECTORS OF THE MSG TO MAKE THE FIRST TWO OF THE FIVE STEPS IN DEVELOPING A WORKPLAN:**

- i. Identify national priorities for the extractive industry, and
- ii. Define objectives for the implementation of EITI

The three sectors of the MSG, Civil Society, Industry and Government, held separate discussions and each prepared a list of national priorities. Ladies and Gentlemen, the opportunity is now provided for the sectors to make their respective presentations.

- a) Civil Society
- b) Industry
- c) Government

Ladies and Gentlemen the MSG sought and obtained the services of a Facilitator to exhaust the next agenda items.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I consider it a distinct honour to be tasked with introducing today's Facilitator, a renowned personality of Guyana who served our country in numerous high ranking capacities both at home and abroad. He was awarded the Cacique Crown of Honour for outstanding achievement and service to his motherland Guyana. The former head of the Guyana Foreign Service also had a distinguished career within Caribbean Community Secretariat. He served as the Chairman of the Guyana Elections Commission and currently provides advisory services to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. May I also add that the chosen Facilitator has been very helpful to the EITI process in Guyana.

Ladies and Gentlemen, to exhaust Agenda items 4 to 8 and act as Facilitator for said agenda items, please join me in welcoming His Excellency, Ambassador Rudy Collins.

9. Concluding Remarks

10. Vote of Thanks – Ms. Diane Barker, Deputy Coordinator, GYEITI

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Rudolph Collins

- Ambassador Collins provides advisory services to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- His Excellency Rudolph Collins enjoyed a long and distinguished career in the Public Sector in Guyana and within the Caribbean Community.
- He was head of the Guyana Foreign Service from 1972 to 1978
- He served as Guyana's Ambassador to Venezuela from 1978 until 1984.
- In recognition of his contribution to Guyana's development he was awarded the Cacique Crown of Honour (C.C.H.)
- Between 1986 and 1996, Ambassador Collins was attached to the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CCS) first as the Director of its Administrative Services and then as Assistant General Secretary for Human and Social Development.
- He was seconded from the CCS, to serve as Chairman of the Guyana Elections Commission and in that capacity supervised the October 1992 Elections.
- Ambassador Collins holds an Honors Degree in History from the University of the West Indies (London/UCWI:1959)
- Ambassador Rudolph Collins was appointed to the Board of Directors of Demerara Distillers Limited.

Priorities for G-EITI Implementation

Civil Society Contribution

Background and Preamble

As owners of the natural resources of the country, the citizenry of Guyana is entitled to full disclosure of the conditions under which the privilege to extract, process and otherwise develop such resources. Ensuring transparency around financial flows resulting from monetization of Guyana's natural resources is an essential step towards maximizing the long-term benefits of extraction to the Guyanese people. Guyana's extractive industry sector is important and transparency in its operation will help enhance its impact in the achievement of sustainable green development in Guyana.

The extractive industry must be operated within the tenets of Guyana legislative requirements and policy commitments, both domestic and international, including:

- the Constitution;
- laws for environmental protection;
- laws and policies concerning the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the principles and process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC);
- laws and policies concerning the rights of women and girls, especially the Combatting Trafficking in Persons Act (2005) and the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
- the principle of "Decent Work" as enshrined in the ILO convention and related regulations in Guyana's laws such as the Occupational Safety and Health Act (1997).

We recognize that the tri-sectoral governance mechanism of the EITI is exemplary in its potential to demonstrate innovative and inclusive governance in Guyana.

Consultation Process

This document was prepared through contributions from most Civil Society members of G-EITI MSG. All drafts of the document were circulated to all members on, providing the opportunity them to contribute. Time constraints did not permit wider stakeholder involvement.

Critical Issues in NR Management

1. There is a lack of transparency around the licensing and financial flows (including Corporate Social Responsibility) and other benefits from the exploitation of resources. Hence, the degree to which the general citizenry of Guyana, as owners of the natural resources of the country, receive a fair share of the benefits derived from these resources is unclear.
2. The environmental cost of the exploitation of natural resources are unnecessarily large, are a huge loss to the nation and, in many cases, felt most by those who benefit least from exploitation. This is exacerbated by the fact that enforcement is token and restoration of impacts is not adequately regulated and monitored.
3. The privilege to exploit resources are vested in few individuals and companies.
4. The means to realize investment of the financial resources generated from the exploitation of natural resources in the growth of a sustainable future for Guyana is not clear. Little to no measures (such as a Sovereign Wealth Fund) with inclusive and representative decision-making

mechanisms are implemented to realize equity in the benefits and costs of natural resource exploitation across generations.

5. Natural resources (both renewable and non-renewable) are rarely exploited in ways that minimize impact on the ability of the environment to recover and under stringent, independent and high quality environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs).
6. Over reliance on the revenues from extraction for national economic development undermines regulation and enforcement.
7. Governance and decision making around the management of natural resources, is inefficient and too infrequently based on reliable data.
8. Information of individuals and beneficial owners of companies who have been granted extraction privileges is not readily available.
9. Conflicts between the rights of people, especially indigenous people, and the privilege of extraction are common and effective means of realizing FPIC are uncommon.
10. Measures to ensure occupational safety and health are weakly enforced within many parts of the extractive industry, especially within smaller-scale operations.
11. Social dislocation and sexual violence caused by the presence of mining is extensive.

Priorities for GEITI

1. GEITI must work progressively towards capturing all revenues generated directly and indirectly from the exploitation of natural resources (both renewable and non-renewable).
2. In the short term, GEITI must cover reporting from companies and individuals with the access privileges to the greatest proportion of Guyana's natural resources.
3. GEITI must, from the inception, capture reporting on contextual information on the socioeconomic, environmental and human rights, including gender, conditions associated with the exploitation of natural resources.
4. GEITI must seek increasing transparency in beneficial ownership, license conditions and other terms under which the natural resources are exploited.
5. GEITI must seek to ensure efficient public engagement and participation in the process.

Environmental aspects of natural resource governance are important to all EITI stakeholders. Extractive companies should be forced into consistent disclosing details about funds transferred to the government, and depletion.

EITI ~~is~~ expects that adherence to the EITI Standards and participations in EITI processes will contribute to a more attractive investment climate, including reducing government red tape and bureaucracy, creating and ~~and~~ maintaining a level playing field, efficient management, increase competitiveness, promoting research and analysis.

GUYANA – EXTRACTIVE
INDUSTRIES
TRANSPARENCY
INITIATIVE

Government's Objectives

This document was prepared based on research into countries in various stages of EITI implementation. Information was obtained from EITI.org, countries include Trinidad & Tobago, Philippines, Ghana

17/05/2017

we can narrow the gaps if they exist and foster the improvement of not only data collection but national receipts.

- ❖ Improve data quality
- ❖ Reliability of data
- ❖ Timeliness of data
- ❖ Capacity building
- ❖ Comprehension of the industry and its components (e.g. fiscal and legal)
- ❖ Regular monitoring of payments between the point of collection and the recording of payments.
- ❖ Review codes, regulations, guidelines, laws to determine if there are confidentiality provisions which stand in the way of full disclosure
- ❖ Review and improve the data collection systems as necessary
- ❖ Develop relationships with businesses in the extractive industry and government revenue collecting agencies to ensure the delivery of timely information and reliable information
- ❖ Encourage social and environmental expenditures
- ❖ Continuously record challenges to completing activities
- ❖ Through gathering and analyzing the information, recording challenges, communicating with stakeholders and the public, etc identify and record potential policy issues

Objective #3: Improve extractive industry revenue collection and foster the public disclosure of accurate information on natural resource revenues that are accrued by governments.

- ❖ Government to disclose revenues earned
- ❖ Extractive companies to share data on payments made.
- ❖ Compare to discover any discrepancies
- ❖ Publicize the information as a way to foster public scrutiny and greater accountability over natural resource profits earned by the government.
- ❖ Preventing corruption

Objective #4: Create environment for implementation of EITI

- ❖ ensuring Gov administrations and institutions provide data
- ❖ developing legal framework
- ❖ Understanding of rules and financial relationships between government and state owned enterprises
- ❖ Disclosure of government on level of ownership in extractive companies
- ❖ Promote legislative change to remove restrictions on disclosure of information.

GUYANA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE

NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR GYEITI

INDUSTRY'S OBJECTIVES

- 1) **Create an enabling environment within the extractive industry in Guyana by advocating, promoting, embracing and upholding the following:**
 - i) Create and maintain a level playing field
 - ii) Observance of the Rule of Law
 - iii) Sanctity of Contract
 - iv) Equality and Fairness
 - v) Efficient management
 - vi) Build Trust and Consensus, and
 - vii) Accountability
 - viii) Competitiveness
 - ix) Reduction of government red tapes and bureaucracy
 - x) Influence improvement in government policies and strategies
 - xi) Promote research and analysis

- 2) **Develop and enhance relationship with the citizenry of Guyana through the following:**
 - i) Adherence to user friendliness in understanding the fundamentals of corporate transparency within the norms of universal business practices.
 - ii) Promoting the best practices of responsible citizenship
 - iii) Conduct workshops, debates, discussions and public events for sharing of data and contextual information in EITI reports.
 - iv) Capacity building for citizenry through local, regional and national media
 - v) General review of EITI Principles, Standard and Reports

- 3) **Establish and maintain a comprehensive system to ensure perpetual sustainable corporate social responsibility by focusing on, and consistently build capacity in, the following areas:**
 - i) Sustainable use of Natural Resources and understanding the policies on promoting 'Green Economy', 'Water Conservation' and 'Indigenous Peoples Entitlements'
 - ii) Climate change and environmental protection
 - iii) Poverty Reduction, Workers Safety and protection of endangered species
 - iv) Constraints, advantages and the mechanics of social contracts
 - v) Participation in organized public consultations aimed at improving extractive industry governance
 - vi) Role of citizens, government and companies within the framework of corporate social responsibility.