



THE WORLD BANK

Annual Bank Conference on Land Policy and Administration

GOV8: The Role of Land Governance in Facilitating a Low-Carbon Development Strategy: Guyana

Tuesday, April 27, 2010 | 3:30-5:00PM | MC13-121

Session notes prepared by Harry Uitermark

Notes of the discussion.

Jorge Muñoz (Discussant):

1. Guyana is interesting because of high carbon low population country where deforestation is extremely low. With a large portion of public land, which means that a state policy must have a great impact. Also from a transfer perspective from emitters to conservers. Because it is embedded in the REDD program it will go beyond climate change and will address poverty reduction.

2. Land tenure has a focal point in REDD. Land tenure is critical, because of the overlap between subsurface mineral rights and indigenous rights of Amerindian people.

3. No doubt that this is complex: (a) international support for Guyana's effort (b) establish in an early stage mechanisms that reconcile conflicts. Determine also who will benefit and how from the REDD-program.

Finally the issue of monitoring of how the strategy itself is implemented. Particularly because it is a long-term strategy, the time dimension is fundamental.

Question 1 (Bastiaan Reydon): On the Reductions of Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD)-program were there any criteria to join?

Answer (Ken Andrasko): Any country in the tropical zones that is interested in REDD is free to develop programs that REDD addresses. So there are no formal criteria except for being situated in the tropics.

Question 2: How about land tenure in Guyana?

Answer 2 (Malcolm Childress, Andrew Bishop): Most land in Guyana is state-owned. In fact there are very few Amerindian communities where land titling has not been finalized. In some cases there is overlap between Amerindian land and mineral right concessions. However, the law provides the possibility of consultation between government and Amerindian representatives in case of conflicts. Plus a share in the benefits of the exploitation of minerals.

Question 3 (Melchiade Bukuru): The case of the incentives. What are the mechanisms to put in place to encourage people at the level to participate? What incentives can we develop?

Answer 3 (Jorge Muñoz): There are three mechanisms: (1) the formal recognition of land rights. This is fundamental. (2) the direct participation in the benefit of mineral resources.

(3) the empowerment of local organizations. Communities must get organized. Their voices should be heard beyond the local level.

Question 4: what are carbon cowboys?

Answer 4: all kind of business men that show up everywhere that are dealing in carbon credits.

Question 5 (Melchiade Bukuru): How can the Guyana experiment if succesful be replicated by countries with similar conditions?

Answer 5 (Andrew Bishop): it is Guyana's intention to share the experience with other countries and not do this in isolation, and sincerely hopes that this experiment will be replicated, a model for the world.