

Inception Report for Short-Term Consultancy

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Advancing Support among Key Stakeholders in Guyana for the Triple A Eco-cultural Corridor Initiative

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this consultancy is to solicit support (buy-in) for the Triple A Eco-Cultural Corridor Initiative towards the facilitation of transboundary eco-cultural collaboration among the countries that share the Amazon Basin. The strategy is to harvest existing programmes, projects, and transboundary agreements, and articulate them within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. Articulating existing initiatives will highlight the need for new social, economic and environmental projects. This will be done through engagement with key stakeholders and decision-makers in Guyana, and review of existing documents and initiatives. At the micro-level, the Triple A Corridor Initiative is seeking to develop partnerships among indigenous and local populations and other interest groups in the Amazon River Basin.

The Amazon Basin lies within the borders of the countries of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. The ancient Guiana Shield ecoregion is one of three ecoregions of the Amazon Basin. The Amazon Basin is one of the most biologically diverse regions comprising a large variety of floral and faunal species that are endemic to the region. In addition, the Amazon Basin serves as home to a large number of indigenous and tribal peoples who for centuries have earned their livelihood by engaging in traditional activities and living in relative isolation and protecting their cultures and lifestyles.

Within recent decades, the ecosystems of the Amazon region have been under pressure from activities such as (il)legal logging, mining, hydro-dam development and ecotourism, and they have been contributing to several unintended consequences. Among these are diversion, disruption and pollution of river systems, landform degradation and the invasion of outside cultures. As such, the region has been undergoing social, economic, cultural and environmental transformation, posing a threat to the lives and livelihood of its indigenous, tribal and local populations. In response to these new and emerging situations, initiatives are being made by different institutions to grapple with the multiplicity of problems confronting the region.

The Triple A Corridor initiative is one such regional initiative that is providing a vision that seeks to establish and maintain connectivity between the three ecosystems - Andes, Amazon and Atlantic - in an effort to guarantee ecosystems and biodiversity services of the Amazon Basin

and to bolster innovative solutions to climate change. The Triple A Corridor initiative is supported by a network of eco-cultural mosaics woven through local, regional, national and international actions. It is the eco-cultural aspect that is of relevance to the present study.

The initiative is constituted by a central axis concentrated in Brazil and Colombia, which conforms to a continuum of biological and cultural diversity from the Andes, across the Amazon, all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. 80% of this area is already safeguarded under declared Protected Areas and the recognized Indigenous Territories. Intervened areas cover the remaining 20% with potential of recovering ecosystem connectivity through Sustainable Development. The complementary areas to the central axis are located in the remaining Amazonian countries, where indigenous territories and protected areas have been declared, and where transboundary agreements have been signed.

In the context of Guyana, the Triple A Eco-Cultural Corridor initiative is of particular relevance given the fact that the country lies at the heart of the Guiana Shield. The southern portions of the three countries that form the Guianas – French Guiana, Guyana and Suriname - are part of the northern extremity of the northern portion of the Amazon River Basin that comprises the Triple A Corridor. These southern corridors of French Guiana, Guyana, and Suriname share some of the similar socio-economic, cultural and environmental characteristics as those of their southern neighbours in the Amazon Basin.

The specific objectives (SOs) of the consultancy are as follows:

- i. SO1: To peruse the literature and collect a broad range of data from a variety of sources such as field reports, journals, books from libraries, the electronic media, interviews with selected specialists on eco-cultural issues in the south of Guyana;
- ii. SO2: To organize and conduct high-level dialogue to garner support for the Triple A Corridor initiative in Guyana;
- iii. SO3: To identify the roles and functions of the various stakeholder groups that conduct developmental and other activities in Guyana's hinterland regions;
- iv. SO4: To identify the ways in which local stakeholders could collaborate with each other and with partner organizations across the northern Amazon region on the issues impacting on indigenous and local peoples;
- v. SO5: To produce a finalized report on the legal and institutional frameworks, socio-economic, cultural and environmental issues and activities, including those that have transboundary implications that have taken place and are on-going in southern Guyana.

2. METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

(a) Start-up meetings

There will be two meetings to kick-off the consultancy. The first meeting will be held with the Guyana Focal Point for the Triple A Corridor Initiative (Guyana Focal Point) with the express purpose to finalise the ToR and to identify the critical points in the consultancy (deliverables and timelines). The second meeting will be with the Guyana Society for Biodiversity and Ecosystems (GSBE) Assistant to review the tasks distribution and critical dates for submission of inputs to the consultant.

(b) Document review

The consultant will review all relevant documents of the Triple A Corridor Initiative to get a firmer understanding of the Initiative as well as the specific requirements of the present project. Other key documents to review include, but are not limited to: Sustainable Development Goals; Sustainable Development Solutions Network – Amazon (SDSN-Amazon) regional synthesis; Guiana Shield Initiative / Guiana Shield Facility reports; Guiana Shield Kurupukari Declaration; Project COBRA reports; The State of the Environment Report 2016; Biological Assessment reports; Proceedings of the International Congresses on Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield; relevant articles from journals, book publications and newspapers.

This will contribute to the achievement of SO1.

(c) High-level engagement:

The consultant, under the guidance of the Guyana Focal Point, will engage high-level representatives of the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in discussions about the Triple A Corridor Initiative and its significance for Guyana. This is timely given the high-interest of the President of Guyana in the Guiana Shield. Indeed, the President has articulated a vision for a Green State of Guyana, and a strategy is being developed by that name. The consultant will prepare a PowerPoint presentation and a 2-page brief on the initiative, and present these to the Government at an appropriate forum. The consultant will provide the technical content and respond to questions. Feedback from the high level engagement will be used as input for the draft and final consultancy report.

This will contribute to the achievement of SO2.

(d) Stakeholder analysis:

Relevant data and information from the stakeholders involved in eco-cultural work in the Guyana Amazon areas will be collected and analysed. The stakeholders include but are not limited to: Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Presidency / Department of Environment / Office of Climate Change, Ministry of Indigenous People's Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Protected Areas Commission, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Guyana Forestry Commission, Guyana Wildlife Management Commission, Conservation International Guyana, WWF Guyana, Iwokrama International Centre, the University of Guyana, community-based organizations such as South-Central Peoples Development Association, and North Rupununi District Development Board, Panthera, National Toshias Council, The Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana, Guyanese Organisation of

Indigenous Peoples, National Amerindian Development Foundation, and Amerindian Peoples Association. The private sector companies that provide employment for the indigenous and local population will be consulted to document drivers of influence on their lifestyles, health conditions and cultures. Particular attention will be paid to environmental and social effects such as polluted rivers, malaria infestation, prostitution, and food shortages.

Current data and information collected from these sources will be used to identify ways in which the stakeholders could collaborate with each other and with partners across borders within the Amazon region.

This will contribute to the achievement of SO3 and SO4.

(e) Data analysis and preparation of report:

All data and information collected will be analysed and organized to support the preparation of the consultancy report. The report will be organized into the following parts: I-Summary, II-Background, including Aim and Objectives, III-Methodology, IV-Analysis of Data and Information, V-Key findings (legal and institutional frameworks, socio-economic, cultural and environmental issues and activities, including those that have transboundary implications), and VI-Conclusions and Recommendations. Data and information considered to be explanatory to the key findings will be included in annexes to the report.

This will contribute to the achievement of SO5.

(f) Strategies to achieve SOs and task distribution

The following strategies will be employed by the consultant to achieve the deliverables. In addition, there will be a division of tasks between the consultant and GSBE Assistant. These are captured in the table below:

Deliverable	Strategies to Achieve the Deliverables	Tasks - Consultant	Tasks – GSBE Assistant
Inception report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review Triple A Corridor Initiative documents. - Meeting with Guyana Focal Point for Triple A Corridor Initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare inception report inclusive of a workplan (activities and timelines). - Organise kick-off meeting with Guyana Focal Point and GSBE Assistant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in kick-off meeting.
Draft report on status of stakeholders’ interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify stakeholders and review list with the Guyana Focal Point. - Consult with stakeholders and collect and compile data and information pertaining to the study objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare data and information collection sheets (Annex 1). - Draft report on the status of stakeholders’ interventions in eco-cultural issues in the Guyana Amazon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meet with identified stakeholders and collect and compile data and information pertaining to the study objectives.

Draft report on comments from the high-level meeting; and PowerPoint Presentation.	- Engage high-level Government of Guyana representatives on the Triple A Corridor Initiative. Follow up engagement with other officials based on guidance from the high-level meeting.	- Prepare a brief on the Triple A Corridor Initiative and share with Government of Guyana; - Prepare draft consultancy report and share with Government of Guyana; - Prepare and deliver PowerPoint Presentation on the Triple A Corridor initiative and main findings of consultancy to the Government - Document comments and feedback.	- Follow up on any issue arising out of the high-level meeting and meeting with other officials.
Finalised report (3 spiral bound copies and e-copy)	- Review main elements of the final report with the Guyana Focal Point.	Prepare and submit final report in hard-and soft-copies.	Provide data sources and contact information and other pertinent information for the annexes to the report.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSULTANCY

The consultancy will be implemented over a period of six weeks. The consultant intends to commence work on 18 November 2017 and conclude the assignment on 31 December 2017.

Deliverable	Tasks	Weeks					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Inception report.	Review list of stakeholders with Guyana Focal Point.	Yellow					
	Prepare inception report.	Yellow					
	Organise kick-off meeting with Guyana Focal Point and GSBE Assistant.	Yellow					
Draft report on status of stakeholders' interventions;	Prepare data and information sheets.	Yellow					
	Prepare draft report on the status of stakeholders' interventions in eco-cultural issues in the Guyana Amazon.		White	Yellow			
Draft report on comments from the high-level meeting; and PowerPoint Presentation	Prepare draft consultancy report				Yellow		
	Prepare and deliver PowerPoint Presentation to high-level engagement with Government of Guyana.				Yellow		

	Prepare report on comments from the high-level meeting.						
Finalised report (3 spiral bound copies and e-copy)	Analyse data and information from all sources and review with Guyana Focal Point.						
	Prepare and submit final report.						

Annex 1: Data collection sheet (summary of basic data and information to be collected)

A. Identification.

Name of organisation:

Type of organization (including legal status):

Name and contact information of head of organization:

Name and contact information of person providing information:

B. Record of eco-cultural work in the Guyana Amazon.

- (i) What type of work has been carried out and under what institutional framework(s)?
- (ii) Please describe the socio-economic context.
- (iii) Please describe the cultural and eco-cultural context.
- (iv) List the environmental issues and activities implemented to address them, including those that have transboundary implications. Be specific with respect to geographic location.

C. Record of ongoing or planned initiatives.

D. Any other pertinent data and/or information on eco-cultural activities.