# ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT

## **MAHDIA SOLAR FARM PROJECT**



**JANUARY 2022** 

### Environmental & Social Assessment Report Mahdia Solar Farm Project

January 2022

**Appendix G** 

Consultation Reports and Formal Arrangements with Neighbouring Land Users

#### Guyana Energy Agency

#### Internal Memo

| To:      | Dr. Mahender Sharma, Chief Executive Officer                                  |
|----------|---|
| From:    | Mr. Mfon Akpan, Project Coordinator   |
| Subject: | Report of Meeting with the farming family at the Mahdia Solar PV project site |
| Date:    | September 13, 2021  |

On Friday September 10, 2021 the Project Coordinator visited Mahdia to further engage the farming family presently occupying a portion of the Mahdia Solar PV project site. Present at the meeting were the following persons:

- 1. Mfon Akpan (Project Coordinator, representing the GEA)
- 2. Ms. Claudette James (Subsistence farmer at the Mahdia Solar Farm Site)
- 3. Daniel Francis (Brother to Ms. Claudette James)
- Mr. Ivor Caesar (Driver providing transportation services around Mahdia)
- 5. Mr. Tyrone Edwards (the legal occupant of land adjacent to the Solar Farm Site)

The matters arising from the meeting are as follows:

Ms. Claudette James would have expressed her willingness to discontinue all farming activities within or around the site allocated for the Solar PV project after this harvesting season by yearend.

Furthermore, she also expressed her willingness to remove structures from the Solar PV project area and to relocate to another site. However, she expressed concern that her relocation would involve sourcing some local construction materials from the nearby forest, which is about 3 miles away, plus labour costs to erect the new structure.

She further said that in the past, her brother, Mr. Daniel Francis, presently living with her, would have been responsible for the labour at no costs. But as of late, the brother has become visually impaired and as a result, she would have to pay somebody else to do the construction work. She requested for some form of financial compensation in the amount of **G\$415,000** to cover the cost of sourcing materials and labour for her relocation.

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Claudette James on Friday at 17.30 hours on the grounds that, as a Seventh Day Adventist, it was time for her to commence the preparation for the observance of Sabbath. The following day being Saturday (Sabbath), there was no meeting and on Sunday, September 12, 2021, the meeting was once again convened at 8.00 hours and adjourned at 10.00 hours, during which she made the following submissions attached hereto;

- a) Annex 1: Letter of consent to remove structures from the Solar PV project area
- b) Annex 2: Cost estimates for relocation

#### **Report of Consultation with Ms. Claudette James**

| MEETING:       | Consultation with Ms. Claudette James  |
|----------------|--|
| DATE:          | November 1, 2021   |
| LOCATION:      | Farm of Ms. Claudette James  |
| OBJECTIVE:     | Update Ms. Claudette James on the project.   |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Mr. Kenny Samaroo, Energy Engineer, GEA<br>Mr. Kyle Lewis, Social and Environmental Officer, GEA<br>Ms. Renata Anderson, Monitoring & Evaluation Assistant, GEA<br>Ms. Claudette James, farmer of Campbelltown |

## Report of the Public Consultation Meeting with the Ms. Claudette James, farmer of Campbelltown

The consultation commenced at 4:10 PM with a brief introduction of our team (see Annex 1.1).

**Kyle Lewis:** Mr. Lewis explained the reason for the visit and updated Ms. James on the progress of the solar farm. He explained that the financial aid requested is currently under review and that the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) is trying to finalize the Environmental and Social Analysis Report (ESAR) for the progression of the project. Mr. Lewis then explained the Project boundaries and advised that access to the existing water source will not be hindered and Ms. James can continue to access the water source.

**Claudette James:** Ms. James thanked Mr. Lewis for the updated information and advised that she does have access to a clean water source at the alternate location located behind both her current farm and the solar farm.

**Kyle Lewis:** Mr. Lewis asked if water is available at Ms. James's residence located away from the farm.

**Claudette James**: Ms. James indicated that she has have access to the Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI) line services at her home located 5 minutes away from the farm and that she currently receives water from the company.

**Kyle Lewis:** Mr. Lewis asked if the move would affect any farming activity or access to water for farming at the new location.

**Claudette James**: Ms. James indicated that the move will not affect her access to water for farming activities.

**Claudette James**: Ms. James asked when will the funds be available for her to proceed with moving from her current location.

**Kyle Lewis:** Mr. Lewis explained that GEA is reviewing the request and is exploring options to assist her with moving the structure (see Annex 1.2) and clearing of alternate location.

**Claudette James:** Ms. James, however did not agree to having the GEA rebuild the structure but rather be compensated and have the works completed by one of the village contractors who she believes would best give her exactly what is desired and comforting to her.

**Kyle Lewis:** Mr. Lewis indicated that a final word from the GEA will be communicated to her on the way forward with regards to her move from the land once the assessments have been completed.

The consultation concluded at 4:40 PM with the signing of the Acknowledgement by Ms. James (see Annex 2.1).

#### Letter of Agreement with Tyrone Edwards (Occupant 1)



Republic of Guyana Campbelltown Village 111 Miles Mahdia, Region 8.

Date: August 12, 2021

Dear Mr. Tyrone Edwards,

#### Acknowledgement of the GL&SC Plan No. 76977 Dated 15th April 2021

Please be advised that a lease was issued to the Mahdia Power and Light Company Inc. for a tract of land measuring 11.48 acres as shown in the GL&SC Plan No. 76977 dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

This communication serves as a formal acknowledgement by you, Mr. Tyrone Edwards, of the said GL&SC Plan No. 76977 Dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Having been consulted and adequately informed, you understand the demarcation by the GL&SC Plan No. 76977 dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 of the land parcel belonging to you and that of the Mahdia Power and Light Company.

In consideration of the above, the parties hereby affix their signatures in the presence of the following witness.

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**Dr**: Mahender Sharma Chief Executive Officer Guyana Energy Agency

Kyle Lewis Social and Environmental Officer Guyana Energy Agency

Junon Edwards

Mf. Tyrone Edwards 111 Miles Mahdia, Region 8 Neighbouring land owner

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295 QUAMINA STREET, SOUTH CUMMINGSBURG, GEORGETOWN, GUYANA. P.O. BOX 903 Website: www.gea.gov.gy Email: gea@gea.gov.gy Tel: (592) 226-0394, 225-7901, 226-4424, 225-8569 Fax: (592) 226-5227

#### Letters of Consent with Claudette James (Occupant 2)

**Republic of Guyana** Campbelltown Village 111 Miles Mahdia, Region 8.

Date: August \_19, 2021

#### LETTER OF CONSENT TO DISCONTINUE FARMING ON THE SOLAR PV SITE

I, the undersigned, hereby declare as follows:

- That I have been consulted and adequately informed by the Guyana Energy Agency of the Solar PV farm project taking place at Mahdia in Region 8.
- That based on my shifting cultivation farming practices, my crop and harvesting cycle will . terminate before the installation of the Solar PV farm on the site, and thereafter I have other suitable areas to continue my farming practices.
- That after due consideration. I have decided to discontinue all farming activities on the tract of land issued to the Mahdia Power Company for the said project.
- That I hereby grant my consent voluntarily and in good faith, and with an understanding of the • long-term benefits of the solar farm to the entire community of Campbelltown.

In consideration of the above, I hereby affix my signature in the presence of the following witness(s).

<u>CLaudette James</u> Name (BLOCK LETTERS) <u>blaudette Jernes</u> Signature Name (BLOCK LETTERS)

111 Miles Mahdia, Region 8

Kyle Lewis Social and Environmental Officer Guyana Energy Agency

<u>159172733</u> ID Number

#### GEA Mahdia Site Visit Internal Memo (September 10 to 12, 2021)

 

 Guyana Energy Agency

 Internal Memory

 To:
 Dr. Mahender Sharma, Chief Executive Officer

 From:
 Mr. Mfon Akpan, Project Coordinator

 Subject:
 Report of Meeting with the farming family at the Mahdia Solar PV project site

 Date:
 September 13, 2021

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- 1. Mfon Akpan (Project Coordinator, representing the GEA)
- 2. Ms. Claudette James (Subsistence farmer at the Mahdia Solar Farm Site)
- 3. Daniel Francis (Brother to Ms. Claudette James)
- 4. Mr. Ivor Caesar (Driver providing transportation services around Mahdia)
- 5. Mr. Tyrone Edwards (the legal occupant of land adjacent to the Solar Farm Site)

The matters arising from the meeting are as follows:

Ms. Claudette James would have expressed her willingness to discontinue all farming activities within or around the site allocated for the Solar PV project after this harvesting season by yearend.

Furthermore, she also expressed her willingness to remove structures from the Solar PV project area and to relocate to another site. However, she expressed concern that her relocation would involve sourcing some local construction materials from the nearby forest, which is about 3 miles away, plus labour costs to erect the new structure.

She further said that in the past, her brother, Mr. Daniel Francis, presently living with her, would have been responsible for the labour at no costs. But as of late, the brother has become visually impaired and as a result, she would have to pay somebody else to do the construction work. She requested for some form of financial compensation to cover the cost of sourcing materials and labour for her relocation.

The meeting was adjourned by Ms. Claudette James on Friday at 17.30 hours on the grounds that, as a Seventh Day Adventist, it was time for her to commence the preparation for the observance of Sabbath. The following day being Saturday (Sabbath), there was no meeting and on Sunday, September 12, 2021, the meeting was once again convened at 8.00 hours and adjourned at 10.00 hours, during which she made the following submissions attached hereto;

- a) Annex 1: Letter of consent to remove structures from the Solar PV project area
- b) Annex 2: Cost estimates for relocation

Republic of Guyana Campbelltown Village 111 Miles Mahdia, Region 8.

Date: September 12, 2021

#### LETTER OF CONSENT TO REMOVE STRUCTURES FROM THE SOLAR PV SITE

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I have been consulted and adequately informed by the Guyana Energy Agency, of the Solar PV farm project taking place at Mahdia in Region 8, and the benefits of the solar farm particularly to the community of Campbelltown.

In consideration of the above, I have decided to discontinue all farming activities on the tract of land issued to the Mahdia Power Company for the said project. Also, I will remove all structures built on the site after this harvesting season and relocate to another area to continue with my farming activities.

I hereby grant my consent voluntarily and in good faith, with my signature affixed here and in the presence of the following witness.

Chaudette James Name (BLOCK LETTERS) 111 Miles Mahdia, Region 8

Ray !

Mfon Akpan. Project Coordinator Guyana Energy Agency

Signature

15 917 2733 ID Number

#### Annex 2: Acknowledgement of Stakeholder Engagement



#### Acknowledgement of Stakeholder Engagement



| I. <u>Elandette Jones</u>                       | of     | 11 Halides     |                            | hereby     |
|---|--------|----------------|----------------------------|------------|
| acknowledge that on the 1st Nor, 2021           |        |                | I met with a team of offic | ers from   |
| the Guyana Energy Agency who held a St          | akehol | der Engagement | meeting on the Ewerg       | y Matrix   |
| Diversification and Institutional Strengthening | of the | Department of  | Energy (EMISDE)- Insta     | llation of |
| 0.65MW Solar PV in Mahdia.                      |        |                |                            |            |

At the said meeting, the following topics were discussed and addressed:

- 1. Access to water at current residence
  - Whether water is currently received at the stakeholder's residence
- 2. Access to water at an alternative location
  - G Whether stakeholder will have access to clean, potable water at relocated farm
- 3. Relocation and compensation
  - Whether alternative farm site has been identified
  - 2 · Compensation terms were discussed

I hereby confirm that I understand the nature, scope and effects of the abovementioned project and have no objection to its implementation.

Adaudette Dames.

. HINELONE

Renata Anderson (GEA) - Monitoring & Evaluation Assistant

K- Samaal

Kenny Samaroo (GEA) - Energy Engineer

Kyle Lewis (GEA) - Social & Environmental Officer

Witnesses

Stakeholder

2.....

Image 7: Depicting acknowledgement by Ms. Claudette James (farmer) that necessary concerns were discussed and addressed by the GEA Team.

Photographs from Consultation with Ms. Claudette James and Guyana Energy Agency Team



Image 1: Depicting team discussing outstanding matters with Ms. James (left in blue floral tshirt) and her family



Image 2: Depicting Ms. James camping area



Image 3: Depicting southern end of camping structure which measures 9ft consisting of the sole entrance/exit door.



Image 4: Depicting northern end of the camping structure which measures 9ft.



Image 5: Depicting eastern end side of camping structure which measures 18ft.



Image 6: Depicting western end side of camping structure which measures 18ft.