

**INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**  
**TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM (TRUST FUND FINANCING)**

**TC/FUNDS BRIEF**

**TC N°: GY-T1027**

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

**TC Project Title:** Support for Guyana Country Strategy Paper - Development of a Policy Note on Indigenous Peoples

**Trust Fund :** Social Inclusion Trust Fund –Special Line of Activity for Country Papers and Poverty Assessments (NSI)

**Execution Agency:** Inter-American Development Bank

**Beneficiary Country:** Guyana

**Beneficiaries:** All regional operations staff and relevant line ministries in Guyana

**Amount financed by Social Inclusion Trust Fund:** \$20,000

**Execution deadline:** 6 months after approval date

**Disbursement deadline:** 8 months after approval date

**II. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Indigenous peoples of Guyana - Arawak/Lokono, Carib, Warrau, Akawaio, Patamona, Arekuna, Makushi, Wapishana and Wai Wai – have inhabited the area for thousands of years. Once key trading allies of the early Dutch colonists, Amerindians are now considered among the poorest groups in Guyana, with approximately 85% considered being in ‘critical poverty’. However, many still maintain strong cultural and spiritual links with their territories and relationships with neighboring communities. According to the 2002 Population and Housing census, there are 68,819 Amerindians, which represents 9.2% of the total population. This is a significant increase from .5% in 1991 and 5.3% in 1980.

- 2.2 Today, the majority of Indigenous peoples in Guyana practice mixed economies, supplementing hunting, fishing and gathering with various means of cash-income generation. However, markets for Amerindian produce seem to be in decline, partly as a result of growing competition from imported foods and other goods and on-going challenges related to the high cost of transportation. As a result, Amerindians remain marginal in the national economy, which historically has focused on the development of plantations and agriculture on the coast. Efforts under structural adjustment to boost exports and open up the interior through logging, mining and road building have increased pressure on Amerindian lands, cultures and livelihoods.
- 2.3 While their numbers are relatively small in terms of the overall population, their population is growing and Indigenous peoples represent the majority population in the largely undeveloped interior regions of the country. They rely on the rich diversity of natural resources contained in these regions and, as a result, are highly vulnerable to the negative impacts of large infrastructure development and extractive industry. Their remote geographical location, historical legacy, unique legal status, and strong cultural practices require an entirely different approach in terms of health and education and social development in general. Their heavy dependence on natural resources, and the poor communications among the many small villages in the Interior pose a challenge for Government policy, especially with respect to the provision of social services. In addition, their population is increasing which will place additional burdens on the provision of basic social services and which will become an important issue to address as the country prepares for elections in 2006.
- 2.4 The Bank is in the process of preparing a new Country Strategy (CS) with Guyana, which is expected to be submitted for Board approval in 2007. The new Country Strategy will be informed primarily by a series of Policy Notes -- brief analytical papers, prepared with secondary information, that outline development challenges and then focus on policy recommendations for the Strategy in key sectors. The process will be characterized by strong participation on the part of the Bank's functional divisions and civil society including Indigenous peoples in Guyana.

### **III. PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION**

- 3.1 The main objective of this project is to support the preparation of the IDB Country Strategy with Guyana by developing a Policy Note on Indigenous Peoples. The policy note will provide a brief description and analysis of current socio-economic and legal status of Indigenous peoples and will provide policy recommendations to be discussed as part of the Bank's dialogue with Government. The policy recommendations will be summarized in a Policy Matrix, which will provide a strategic focus for the Bank's activities in Guyana as they relate to these groups. The project will also support the updating of the current Guyana Study on the Circumstances and Needs of the Amerindian

Population (GY-P1010) in order to reflect recent changes in the legislative framework and donor activities.

3.2 Consultancy services would be commissioned in order to provide the following technical assistance:

- i. Research and gather information regarding the current socio-economic and legal status of Indigenous peoples in Guyana. Relevant information will include: most recent statistics including census information; health and education indicators; poverty indicators; legal framework including land tenure; and socio-economic organization. This activity will benefit from the information gathered as part of the Indigenous Peoples Briefs project (SO3), the Guyana Study mentioned above and the Access to Services TC but will expand and deepen this information. All efforts will be made by the consultant to gather primary data and all information will be verified by interviews with relevant government agencies and organizations.
- ii. Research and analyze the Bank's existing portfolio (approved and pipeline) and the portfolio of other international donors including the World Bank, UNDP and CIDA in order to identify complementarities and potential synergies, as well as "missed opportunities"<sup>1</sup> in the Bank's portfolio. The policy note will include recommendations for the Bank's existing pipeline and identify potential opportunities for new operations.
- iii. Develop an outline and basic format for the policy note in collaboration with OD6 and SO3. In addition to the information indicated in (i) & (ii), each document will include a series of maps that clearly show the geographic location of Indigenous populations in relation to areas relevant to Bank operations (major roads, protected areas, oil and gas operations, etc).
- iv. Prepare a draft of the policy note and circulate it to OD6, SO3, COF/CGY and SDS. Incorporate comments received and prepare a final version for further review.
- v. Update and finalize the current version of the Guyana Study on the Circumstances and Needs of the Amerindian Population (GY-P1010). Updates will include provisions of the new Amerindian Act, new census results, current projects benefiting Indigenous peoples and other information found to be relevant.
- vi. Present the results of the information gathering and the final version of the policy note and Guyana Study at a meeting of stakeholders gathered for this purpose. The invitation list will be agreed by and between OD6,

---

<sup>1</sup> Bank programs that could have included positive interventions to address the problems that indigenous peoples and maroons face.

SO3, COF/CGY and SDS and will include representatives from government, civil society, Indigenous peoples and the Bank. The consultant will be responsible for coordinating all logistics for this meeting.

#### IV. JUSTIFICATION

- 4.1 Indigenous peoples remain a largely excluded sector of Guyanese society. Until recently, their remote geographical locations and distinct culture and language have isolated them from most development activity. This will change rapidly and significantly as Guyana moves toward increasing activity in the timber and mining sectors and develops a national protected area system. Without comprehensive information on the status of Indigenous peoples, these groups – the most vulnerable to these kinds of activities – will likely face serious negative impacts and further erosion of their resource-dependent livelihoods.
- 4.2 At present, only general information on Indigenous peoples in Guyana exists. The real value of this project is the focus on a strategic approach that incorporates Indigenous peoples into both the Bank's existing portfolio and provides information essential for the country programming process. This project will ensure that the information is available at a relatively early stage of the process where it can make the most impact.
- 4.3 This proposal complies with mandates both in the Bank's Action Plan to Combat Social Exclusion due to Race and Ethnic Background, which highlights the key role of the Country Strategies as the "foundation –or front line- for advancing social inclusion in the region", and the Bank's Social Development Strategy, which calls for "promoting social inclusion and preventing social ills". The Policy Note will also play a key role in assisting with the implementation of the Bank's Policy and Strategy on Indigenous Peoples (2006).

#### V. COST AND FINANCING

##### BUDGET (in US\$)

ACTIVITY	COST
	IDB
1. Consultancies (30 days x \$400 + \$2000 travel)	14,000
3. Stakeholder meeting costs	6,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,000</b>

- 5.1 The total cost of the operation is estimated to be US\$25,000 of which US\$20,000 will be drawn from the Social Inclusion Trust Fund. In compliance with the operational guidelines of the Special Lines of Activity for Country Papers of the Fund, SO3 will make an in-kind human resources contribution of approximately US \$5,000.

## **VI. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS**

- 6.1 There are no foreseeable negative environmental or social impacts for the implementation of this operation. The technical cooperation will have a positive social impact as it will greatly contribute to mainstreaming these important issues into the regular work of the Bank.

## **VII. RESPONSIBILITY IN THE BANK**

- 7.1 The Social Programs Division of Region 3 (RE3/SO3) has technical and disbursement responsibility for this project. The project team leader for this operation is Kristyna Bishop, Social Development Specialist, phone (202) 623-3420; fax (202) 623-3173; E-mail: [kristynab@iadb.org](mailto:kristynab@iadb.org). The Bank's Country Coordinator for Guyana, Marguerite Berger, has cleared this proposal.

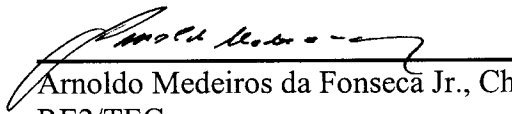
## **VIII. RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 Kristyna Bishop (RE3/SO3), designated team leader for the project of reference, recommends the approval of this technical cooperation and the use of resources from the Social Inclusion Trust Fund totaling up to US\$20,000 in order to finance the corresponding technical cooperation.

## **IX. CERTIFICATION**

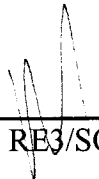
- 9.1 I certify that this operation was approved for financing by the Technical Review Committee of the Social Inclusion Trust Fund held on May 1, 2006. Also, I certify that the resources from the Social Inclusion Trust Fund (NSI) are available for up to US\$20,000 in order to finance the activities described and budgeted in this document. The commitment and disbursement of these resources shall be made only by the Bank in US dollars. The same currency shall be used to stipulate the remuneration and payments to consultants, except that local consultants working in their own borrowing member country shall have their remuneration defined and paid in the currency of that country. No resources of the Fund shall be made available to cover amounts greater than the amount certified herein above for the implementation of this TC Brief. Amounts greater than the certified amount may arise from commitments on contracts denominated in a currency

other than the Fund currency, resulting in currency exchange rate differences, for which the Fund is not at risk.

  
Arnoldo Medeiros da Fonseca Jr., Chief  
RE2/TEC

August 18, 2006  
Date

## **XII. APPROVAL**

  
Michael Jacobs, Chief, RE3/SO3

17 Aug '06  
Date