

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND
THE NATIONAL TOSHAOS COUNCIL

This **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** (hereinafter referred to as the “**MOU**”) is made on this **6th day of February, 2019**.

BY AND BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA represented by the **MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES**, with offices situated at 96 Duke Street, Kingston Georgetown, Guyana (hereinafter referred to as “**MNR**”) of the one part; and

THE NATIONAL TOSHAOS COUNCIL established under the Amerindian Act 2006 as a body corporate comprising all Toshaos, being the leadership of the Indigenous communities; with its offices situated 62 Hadfield & Cross Streets, Werk-in Rust, Georgetown, Guyana (hereinafter referred to as “**NTC**”), of the other part, both parties being collectively referred to as “the Parties”;

CONSIDERING that the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana (the “Government”) is steadily moving the country towards a green economy; and that Guyana’s natural resources’ sector plays a critical role in this transition; and

RECOGNISING the importance of strategic mechanisms for inclusive discourse on and assessment of the issues relating to the sustainable use and development of Guyana’s natural resources and the role of the Indigenous Peoples of Guyana in providing critical input towards this discourse and attendant decision making mechanisms with a view to advancing the development of the Indigenous Peoples and of all Guyanese;

AND WHEREAS the mandate of the MNR includes the management of Guyana’s natural resources so as to promote and support the expansion and diversification of the economy by facilitating responsible exploration and development through effective regulation and oversight by the regulatory agencies;

AND WHEREAS the mandate of the NTC includes promoting good governance in Indigenous communities and preparing strategies and plans for the protection, conservation and sustainable management of Indigenous community lands and natural resources;

AND WHEREAS the mandates of the MNR and the NTC afford opportunities for the Parties to collaborate and cooperate in the achievement of agreed goals and objectives to support the development of inclusive discourse on and assessment of the issues relating to the sustainable use and development of Guyana's natural resources, including that of good governance, in order to bring lasting benefits to Indigenous communities and the people of Guyana as a whole;

AND WHEREAS the MNR already provides support to the NTC under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF);

DESIRING, within this context, to establish an Understanding for further collaboration and cooperation between the MNR and the NTC for the attainment of their mutual objectives; and

DECLARING that the MNR and the NTC each have all legal and statutory capacity to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding.

THE PARTIES AGREE to the Understandings as follows:

Overarching Goal and Objectives

1. Overarching goals are for:
 - a. the MNR to collaborate with the NTC to assist the organisation to fulfill its mandate as set out in Part IV, section 41 of the Amerindian Act 2006 insofar as pertains to the scope of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "MOU") and in particular as it relates to the areas of good governance and preparation of strategies and plans for the protection, conservation and sustainable management of Indigenous community lands and natural resources, whilst the NTC enables the MNR to achieve success in its programmes; and
 - b. the MNR to establish and maintain a communication channel with Indigenous communities, through, but not limited to the NTC, to promote the MNR's programme of work, as it relates to Guyana's indigenous stakeholders and other interested parties, and to work together on any other issues as may be mutually agreed upon between the Parties.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Parties

2. MNR commits to:

- a. Establishing a relationship and protocols with the NTC to facilitate activities and information sharing in support of the Government's Green State Development Plan, and specifically, its natural resources annual programme of work, where such work involves sustainable development within indigenous communities.
- b. Identify an Officer in the MNR for the purpose of promoting and sustaining communication with the NTC on issues affecting Indigenous communities, and to be the Focal Point to achieve the above objectives.
- c. Collaborating with the NTC towards the development of inclusive and continuous discourse on and assessment of the issues relating to the sustainable use and development of Guyana's natural resources, including that of good governance, in order to bring lasting benefits to Indigenous communities and the people of Guyana as a whole; and
- d. Support education and training opportunities, where possible, for indigenous community members for capacity building and strengthening their capabilities for ensuring the protection, conservation and sustainable management of Indigenous community lands and natural resources.


3. NTC commits to:

- a. Supporting the Government's Green State Development Plan and specifically the Ministry's annual programme of work, where such work involves capacity building for sustainable development within indigenous communities.
 - Identifying an individual within the NTC Secretariat as the focal point for the purpose of promoting and sustaining communication with the MNR on issues affecting Indigenous communities.
 - Promoting and supporting information sharing with the MNR to facilitate the implementation of the MNR's annual programme of work as relates to Indigenous communities in a timely manner.
 - Making copies of all relevant reports generated by activities of the NTC and its associated bodies available to the MNR.
 - Engaging the MNR on a quarterly basis for the purpose of advancing the Understandings as set out in this MOU.

- Collaborating with the MNR on outreach programmes for community engagements regarding the development of inclusive discourse on and assessment of the issues relating to the sustainable use and development of Guyana's natural resources, including that of good governance.


This Memorandum of Understanding is signed by the National Tshaos Council and the Minister of Natural Resources of Guyana.

For the National Tshaos Council

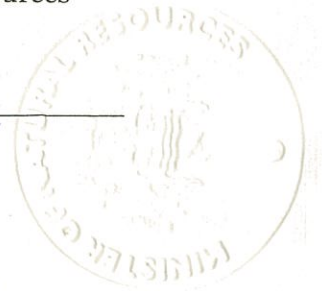


Toshao Nicholas Fredericks
Chairman - National Tshaos Council

For the Ministry of Natural Resources



Hon. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.,
Minister of Natural Resources



Date: 2019.02.06

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Witness:



Witness: