



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION

REPORT OF THE
COMMISSION
for 2020–2021

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Vision

“Within the next five years, IPC will have “recommended, promoted, and actively contributed to the implementation of relevant policies on rights, empowerment, consultative processes, training and technical assistance, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of a more informed and more conscious Indigenous peoples. With stronger partnerships, coordination, stable resources and improved services, IPC will be a fully recognized and respected commission representing IP’s rights.”

Mission Statement

“To contribute to create/build/monitor/advocate for an enabling environment by building competence of strategic stakeholders to deliver services through effective policies and practices based on legitimate demands and needs of the Indigenous peoples and, congruently educate the Indigenous people to make them aware of their rights and the processes of the enabling environment to realize their full potential.”

I. Chairperson's Remarks

The 2020/2021 annual report for Indigenous Peoples' Commission showcases the resilience, achievements, and commitment of our first people in building a sustainable and thriving community even though there was the impact through the global pandemic and heightened political tension.

The Commission was unable to execute its mandate until the last quarter of 2020 as the whole country felt the effects of the Corona virus pandemic. Our Indigenous communities were not spared by the numerous sickness and deaths. And as the country slowly recovered from the effects of the pandemic, it was still risky to visit communities since lots of persons refused to be vaccinated.

Nonetheless, the Commission for the two-year period was able to achieve some success while achieving the objectives of the work program. Efforts were also made to promote the well-being of our indigenous peoples.

We continue to foster partnerships and collaborations with external organizations, government agencies, and non-profits aligning with the goals and aspirations of the Commission.

I wish to thank the Commissioners and staff for their commitment for the continued growth and prosperity for our Indigenous Peoples in Guyana.



Doreen Jacobis
Chairperson
Indigenous Peoples' Commission

2. Executive Summary

The Indigenous Peoples' Commission (IPC) is one of four Rights Commissions established under Article 212 G of the Guyana Constitution and tasked, inter alia, with setting up mechanisms to enhance the status of Indigenous Peoples. The Indigenous Peoples' Commission has the mandate to empower this population as well as advocate for their economic, social and cultural enhancement as well as Risk Reduction.

Established in September 2010, the IPC became functional during the latter part of 2011 with the appointment of staff in September 2011. The overall strategy is to create an enabling environment by building competence of strategic stakeholders to deliver services based on the needs and demands of the indigenous peoples and congruently educate the indigenous people to make them aware of their rights and processes of the enabling environment to realize their full potential.

In realizing this, the Commission continued its focus on training and capacity building as well as public awareness in successfully executing its work program for 2020/2021.

Despite the challenge of the ongoing pandemic and the delayed reopening of parliament in 2020, both 2020 and 2021 were successful as the activities in keeping with the workplan were achieved.

In February and August 2020, the Commission worked with the Wakapoa village Council to set up and implement a computerized accountancy system.

Following the success of the emergency budget granted in September, the Commission conducted an outreach in Moruca sub-district on September 28, October 1, 2020, to assess how school children were coping with the online learning system due to the pandemic.

In October and November, cluster capacity building sessions were held in Kimbia, Hururu and Linden that led to all of the nine communities in Region 10 being trained in Governance and Leadership skills.

In 2021, the Commission commenced the year by facilitating with support from the Ministries of Health and Human Services and Social Security a successful one-day Alcohol and Domestic Violence workshop in Mallali, Region 10.

In February, a courtesy call was successfully made by the Commission on His Excellency, Dr, Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. Also, in February, there was attendance and participation by the Commission at the Women's Day of sport held at Wikki/Calcuni, Region 10

Between March and April, using a prepared brochure containing elements of the Amerindian Act, 2006, on governance and leadership skills for Village Leaders, sensitizations were done in parts of Region 1, the entire Regions 2, 3, 4 and 10 to help residents to make good choices when voting at the village elections.

In May, there was representations from the Commission at the opening of the bakery at Caopey village, while there was an outreach to Orealla and Sipuruta in supporting the Counter-in-Trafficking unit awareness program and an outreach to Chinese landing, Region 1.

In June and July, the Commission facilitated a conflict resolution workshop at Port Kaituma and a financial workshop for the Red Hill Village Council, Region 1

In October and November, cluster capacity building sessions were held at the Kumaka, Region 1 for the Village Councils members from Santa Rosa, Kwebanna, Manawarin and Waramuri.

On Jan 11, 2020, Mr. Ron Albert joined the Commission as the new Administrative Assistant.

3. Major Activities 2020/2021

3.1 Wakapoa

Following the comprehensive accountancy training held for the Toshao and Treasurers of Region 2, in December 2019, Toshao Howard Cornelius sought further training for his Village Council members and support staff with the aim of establishing and implementing a financial system for accountability purposes. Using an Excel template, CEO Neil Bacchus on February 8, 2020, at Charity, Region 2 provided assistance in helping the participants at a special one-day training in understanding petty cash, bank statements and cash and bank reconciliations. A excel program was provided to the Treasurer to implement at the village. A follow up assessment on the implementation was done on August 16, 2020. However, while it was straight forward to account for each activity, the difficulty encountered by the treasurer was to consolidate the three

projects that Village Council was managing. These projects were, block making, farming and tourism. Further assistance was provided to the Treasurer and Village Council.



Training workshop for Toshua Cornelius and members of the Village Council

3.2 Meeting with His Excellency, Dr. Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

On February 11, 2021, His Excellency Dr Irfaan Ali met with six Commission members at State House including, the Chief Executive Officer Neil Bacchus, Commissioners: James Singh, Marco De Souza, David James and Matilda Williams and Administrative Assistant, Ron Albert.

In his remarks, His Excellency noted “I am very pleased to have this opportunity to engage and to listen to you...I would like to first of all say to you that our commitment to our Indigenous community has never been stronger.”

President Ali also stressed that this commitment will be reflected in all “Government policies, Government programmes and of course, in our national budget.”

President Ali also explained that his government has embarked on a National Development Plan that will promote equitable distribution across all communities.

He stressed “It will seek to not only respect the rights of every community, but to honour the rights, by ensuring that they are engaged in the development of their own priorities, advancement, respect of culture.”

President Ali also emphasized that the country’s trajectory going forward is framed in an expanded Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), which should add benefit and protection to Amerindian communities. This, he said, will be the framework through which the country’s development will take place.

CEO Neil Bacchus took the opportunity to update the Head of State on all the recent accomplishments of the Commission as well as its future.



His Excellency, Dr. Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana meeting with the IPC

3.3 Meeting with Wikki/Calcuni Women’s Group and Presentation of Wheelchair

On November 15 and 16, 2020, following the request made by the Head of the Women’s group at Wikki/Calcuni, Ms. Marlyne Rodgers, a meeting was held with the Women’s group and CEO Neil Bacchus to discuss support for the establishment of a bakery with help of the Guyana Foundation Inc.

The parents of little Ayesha Agard, an otherwise able kid was the recipient of wheelchair through the kind courtesy of Ms. Bibi Ahamed from the Guyana Voice.



Meeting with Wikki/Calcuni Women’s Group



Mr. And Mrs. Agard receiving the Wheelchair from CEO Neil Bacchus

3.5 Domestic Violence workshop

In the November 2020 training of the Village Leaders of Region 10, CEO Neil was highlighting the accomplishments of the Commission over the years of which mention was made of the Gender Based Violence workshop facilitated by the Commission at Kamarang in March of 2019. Toshua Orlayne Williams of Mallali village noted with concerns that due to the ongoing pandemic, lots of young people have left school and are working and with income in their position, they are using alcohol. Some of them are involved in spousal relationships and when under the influence of Alcohol or when money is not generated in the home, it is causing serious conflict between husbands and wives as well as between children and parents. In requesting the Commission to facilitate an intervention sensitization awareness program to address this concern of alcohol and domestic violence, the Commission requested the Ministry of Health to provide the resource personnel to conduct an awareness program which was coordinated by the Commission. This request was in keeping with Objective J of the Commission’s mandate. Subsequently, a Domestic Violence workshop was held in the school at Mallali Region 10 on January 27,

2021. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Kester Harding – Social Worker Women’s Health Department – Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and Dr. Util Thomas – Chronic Disease Department – Mental Health Unit – Ministry of Public Health. The participants included residents from the Community including the Village Council members and those from the health and education sector. They were sensitized on the issues affecting their well-being as residents residing in Mallali with respect to domestic violence and alcohol and drug abuse. **(Appendix 1)**.

3.5 Sponsorship of Women day of Sports

The Head of the Women’s group at Wikki/Calcuni extended an invitation to the Commission to participate in their women day of sport at the village. Commissioners Marco De Souza, David James, CEO Neil Bacchus, and Administrative Assistant Ron Albert attended and participated in this activity and sponsor the trophy given to the winning team.



Commissioner De Souza presenting the sponsored trophy to the captain of the winning team.

3.6 Sensitization on Village Elections

Within the months of March – April 2021, outreaches and sensitization were done at Amerindian Communities which were held in Regions, 1 – Red Hill, Barima Kariabo, Santa Cruz, Warapoka, Assataka, Santa Rosa, Kwebanna, Manawarin and Waramuri , all the Amerindian communities in Regions 2 and 10 as well as those in Region 3 and 4 to sensitize residents on leadership role and management skills in the upcoming Village Council elections. The objective was helping residents to be more informed in making better choices and to educate residents on their role for the Toshoas' elections that were in May/June 2021. A special brochure highlighting extracts of the Amerindian Act - relating the conduct of the Amerindian village elections, village leadership roles and functions, transparency and accountability and good governance the roles of the Toshoa, Secretary and Treasurer was distributed at these outreaches. 3000 copies were also sent to Ministry of Amerindian affairs to assist with the distribution in other regions.



Sensitization at Akawini, Region 2



Sensitization at St. Monica, Region 2



Sensitization at Rockstone, Region 10



Sensitization at Santa Mission, Region 3

3.7 Capoey Bakery

On May 7, 2021, Chairperson Doreen Jacobis and CEO Neil Bacchus attended the opening of the Bakery at Capoey village, Region 2. This bakery was built through the efforts of the Guyana Foundation Inc which was recommended by the Commission.

3.8 Sensitization Workshop on Trafficking – in – Persons (TIP)

Trafficking-in-Persons Workshop at Orealla & Siparuta

This workshop was hosted and coordinated by members of the Task force and supported by Commission as a member on the National Task Force of trafficking-in-persons.

It was held at Orealla and Siparuta, Region 6 on May 24, 2021, from 10:00hrs to 16.00hrs.

This objective of the workshop was to partner with the Counter-in-trafficking unit from the Ministry of Human Services in ensuring the outreach was successful by providing the necessary support.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide information and to generate awareness on “What is Trafficking-in-Person and its impact in our community”.

It was facilitated by members of the Counter-in-trafficking unit from the Ministry of Human Services and Neil Bacchus, Secretary/CEO of the Commission and Task Force member and deputy chairman of the Awareness sub-committee who also made a brief presentation on the role and mandate of the Commission

Mr. And Mr. Hillman, Christians Missionaries and who were heavily involved in charitable work also made brief remarks at the engagement and pledge to return in August which they did and distributed over 200 self-care and stationary hampers as well as bicycles and computers to the children and high achievers from both communities.

There were 150 participants.

Topics discussed included the following:

- Role and mandate of the Commission
- Defining and understanding human trafficking
- The distinction between human trafficking and human smuggling
- Child trafficking
- Causes and consequences of human trafficking
- Trafficking in Persons laws in Guyana

- Examples of intervention to raise awareness and reduce trafficking
- Roles of the Village Council and residents on the best practices in combating trafficking in persons

At the end of presentations, questions and comments were entertained.

Brochures, posters, bags, water bottles and bookmarks and copies of the TIP Act 2005 were presented to the participants with the compliments of the Countering in trafficking-in-persons unit, Ministry of Human Services and Social Security

At the end of the workshop, the participants expressed their gratitude in helping them to understand TIP and its impact on their community. They have pledged support the fight against TIP by sharing information and to be aware of any such practices.



TIP Awareness at Orealla and Siparuta, Region 6



Distribution of sports gear at Orealla, Region 6

3.9 Port Kaituma

The Commission conducted a workshop with 40 stakeholders including the chairman and council members of the Community Development Councils within the Matarkai sub-district and members of the Local Authority Area at Port Kaituma, Region 1 on Friday June 18, 2021.

Ms. Bhagmattie Shivdayal, Conflict Management and Development Specialist - Ministry of Human Services & Social Security facilitated the workshop and the focus was on the importance of teamwork by reducing conflict with aim of developing their communities.

(Appendix 1)

Other team members include Commissioner David James and CEO Neil Bacchus

3.10 Special Training in Bookkeeping

After the Village Elections that were conducted to elect new Village Council Members across to country for Amerindian communities were successful, a concern was expressed by newly elected Toshua Desmond James of Red Hill, Region 1, who requested the Commission to provide accountancy and bookkeeping training for him and his Village Council Members to start their services to their community with full accountability and transparency. On July 29, 2021, A financial training workshop was conducted by Commissioner David James and CEO Neil Bacchus and the topics includes basic financial terms, cash, bank, asset, and budget. The objective of this workshop was on the empowerment of Village Council members in the execution of their mandate to effectively manage their villages competently as it relates to bookkeeping and the accurate completion of financial records. An expression of appreciation was given to the IPC on the easy way accountancy can be done.

3.11 Indigenous Heritage Month Celebrations

There was no participation as it was field related due to the ongoing pandemic

3.12 Donation

Following a request made by MP Alister Charlie, a tablet was donated to Ms. George from Region 9 to assist her children with the ongoing online learning by the ministry of Education.

4.0 Outreaches

4.1 Moruca Sub-district

On October 5 -8, 2020. Chairperson Doreen Jacobis, Commissioner Marco De Souza and CEO Neil Bacchus visit the communities of Assataka, Santa Cruz and Warapoka Karaburi, Kemwatta and Wallaba all located within the Moruca Sub-district, Region 1. The objective of this outreach was to interact with the village and school leaders to get feedbacks on issues regarding their community and access to the learning classrooms during ongoing pandemic time. Meetings were held with the Head teachers at the schools in these areas and the District Education Officer.

Generally, despite lack of internet in these communities, the Ministry of Education was ensuring that workbooks are been sent for the students to use. There was an issue with the sanitation of the schools due to not having the required cleaners and calls for made for sports equipment and computers for teachers. The Guyana learning channel through E-Networks is best suited for the schools in these areas.



Meeting with School's leaders and parents in Moruca, Region 1

4.2 Chinese Landing

On May 28, 2021, the Commission conducted an outreach to Chinese landing, Region 1. The team comprised of Chairperson Doreen Jacobis, Commissioners David James and Marco De Souza, CEO Neil Bacchus, Regional Vice-Chair A. Peters, Probation Officer M. Torres and the Hillmans who each made presentations and support for the community. It was noted that this was the first time a probation officer visited this community and there were several pensioners not receiving pensions as they had never applied before. Mr.

Torres expressed gratitude to the Commission for facilitating him on this trip. Mr. Hillman donated some sport gears and expressed his desire to work with the children in the community in the future. Ms. Peters also felt happy in ensuring that support would be there to do some capital work in the community and in the coming week facilitate a Covid-19 vaccination team to the community and help in the education and health sector. After presentations were done by the IPC representatives, the following were noted:

- Violation of the Amerindian Act 2006 by Mr. Viera and team by accessing concession on titled area without the permission of the Toshua and village council
- Unwarranted and excessive force and intimidation by members of the Guyana Police Force against the members of the community when Mr. Viera and team accessed the land.
- A call for all mining activities to halt pending a new court case

The Commission in noting these concerns promised to work with the village in addressing them.

Also, Sports gears through the courtesy of Food for the Poor were noted to the sport clubs at Karaburi, Wallaba, Rincon and Santa Cruz

Following a successful meeting with the Santa Mission Village Council members including the Toshua, Vice-Toshua and Secretary, plans are in place in providing training and capacity building for the members of the Santa Rosa Village Council as well as members from the Village Council from Kwebanna, Waramuri and Manawarin.



Donation of sports Equipment in, Santa Cruz, Region 1



Donation of sports Equipment in, Moruca, Region 1



Meeting at Chinese Landing, Region 1



Handing over of sports equipment to Chinese Landing, Region 1

5.0 **Cluster Capacity Building workshops**

Workshops were held for the village leaders on capacity building and the empowerment of Village Council members in the execution of their mandate to effectively manage their villages competently and were successful. 5 members from Sandhills, Kimbia, Wiruni and Wikki Calcuni Village Councils were trained at Kimbia, Region 10 from October 29-31, 2020, and 13 members from Hururu, Village Councils were trained at Hururu, Region 10 from November 16-18, 2020. 5 members from Mallali, Muritaro, Greatfalls and Rockstones Village

Councils were trained at Linden, Region 10 from November 25 -27, 2020. For 2021, 40 members from the Santo Rosa Village Councils and its satellite areas were trained at Kumaka, Region 1 from October 1-3 while 8 councils' members from Waramuri, 5 from both Kwebanna and Manawarin were trained at Kumaka November 20-22. The workshop focused on governance, leadership, management, financial, teamwork, communication, employment, and TIP skills.

At the workshop held in Linden in 2020, members of the Guyana Forestry Commission led by deputy Commissioner Mr. T Khan was given time to deliberate with the participants on burning forestry related matters. Also. Mr. M. De Souza, Deputy Chief Education Officer address the concerns of the participants on school related matters through a video conference.

The participants expressed their appreciation for the knowledge shared and have pledge to implement the training to make them more effective in the execution of their duties.

(Appendix 3)

6.0 Participation on different Committees and activities

6.1 Amerindian Land Titling Project

The Ministry of Amerindian Affairs requested that Vice-Chairperson to be the IPC nominee on this body which was approved by the Commissioners at the April 28 virtual meeting

6.2 Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons

Guyana is equipped with the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act Chapter 10:06 which provides the legal basis for law enforcement actions with regard to trafficking in persons. In accordance with Part V, Section 30 (1) of the aforementioned Act, Guyana established a Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons on February 6, 2007. The Task Force was created to facilitate the planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of national strategies in response to trafficking in persons. scale.

As a member of the Task Force, CEO Neil Bacchus attended the monthly meetings which were held virtually, participated in the activities, and incorporated TIP in the capacity building

training for Indigenous Leaders. The CEO also participated in a workshop organized by the Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in persons March 22 and March 23, 2021,

6.3 ICT Access and E-Services for Hinterland, Poor, and Remote Communities project

CEO Neil Bacchus attended a board meeting on Wednesday 8th September 2021, at the Arthur Chung Convention Centre where the 2021/2022 workplan was presented for approval

6.4 NSSW G

The Commissioner was invited to sit as nominee on the National Standard Setting Working Group. Commissioner David James is the IPC nominee. CEO Neil Bacchus reported that he attended the first meeting held virtually as the Commission's alternate on June 9, 2021.

The following was discussed of which there was great participation by everyone logged in.

- Introduction and welcome by the GFC (Governing Body and the Standardizing Body)
- Introduction of international resource persons (Mr. Hamish Crawford and Dr Kwame Assumed) by the GFC
- Confirmation of membership of the NSSWG
- Selection of the Chair (for them to give a no-objection that GFC will be the chair)
- Selection of the representative for the INGO
- Selection of the representative for the ENGO
- Discussion of involvement of stakeholder groups with multiple members
- Confirmation of the role of the GFC as the Standardizing Body and Governing Body. GFC's role includes:
 - Standard-setting manages the process of developing the standards.
 - Governance: provides a credible structure for decision-making and an institutional home for the national certification System.
 - Administration: implements the day-to-day operational functions of managing the national certification System.
- PEFC membership represents Guyana and participates within the PEFC Council.

Confirmation of the role of the NSSWG

Subsequently there have been 11 virtual meetings to date and the standards will be ready within the next quarter.

7.0 Complaints

During the reporting period the Commission received one complaint; details are as follows in Table 1.

Table 1: Complaints received in 2020/2021

Date	Complainant	Complaint/Concerns	Action taken	Status	Remarks
June 11, 2021	Toshao & Treasurer of Wikki/Calcuni Village, Berbice river, Region 10.	Former Village Council refuse to hand over projects started under the previous Council, including the enhancement of guesthouse.	They were referred to the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs to address the concern.	The Honourable, Minister Pauline Sukhai, M.P intervened in the matter.	The Toshao needs to follow up.
May 28, 2021	Residents of Chinese Landing, Moruca Sub-District Barima River, Region 1.	Seeking support against an unlawful entry to titled land through enforcement means, by miners working on the land.	Enforcement by police officers.	Correspondences will be sent to MoAA, MoNR and GPF regarding complaint.	To get feedback.
March 15, 2021	Residents of Wikki/Calcuni Village, Berbice river, Region 10.	Requesting intervention form Guyana Forestry Commission to inspect Backdam, which pertains to illegal logging.	Letters were delivered to the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, GFC, on behalf of the concern made.		To get feedback.
March 15, 2021.	Residents of Kimbia Village, Berbice river, Region 10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seeking intervention for an erosion that is being gradually occurring for about two years, 20 meters away from the primary School. - Parent requesting for child to be transfer from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To follow up with RDO. <p>To follow up with Region 6 Education Department.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Incomplete.</p>	

		Linden to New Amsterdam to pursue secondary level education.			
March 14, 2021.	Residents of Wiruni Village, Berbice river, Region 10.	Parents are concerned about the hostel in New Amsterdam, which is affecting the students of the community in relation to the unrepresentable environment, meals that are not properly served and the unpleasantness of the washrooms.	To follow up with Ministry of Amerindian of Affairs.	Incomplete.	
March 14, 2021.	Residents of Hururu Village, Region 10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council members request to meet with the Minister of Ministry of Amerindian Affairs. - Parent, Tessa Williams is requesting assistance for a sewing machine for her disable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Message delivered to the RDO <p>To follow up with Ministry of Human Service and Social Security.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed. <p>Incomplete.</p>	

		child Shenaza Williams.			
March 13, 2021.	Residents of 58 miles/Great Falls, Region 10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents carving the Ministry of Education humble indulgence to utilize secondary department (primary top) in the community, to enhance the level of education. - The CSOs are inquiring to whether they are working voluntarily, due to payment been delay for their hard efforts which causes an impact of frustration. - Malfunctioning of water system seems to an ongoing issue in the community, call for an urgent intervention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matter was raise with the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs. - Matter will be raised with the Ministry of Housing and Water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed. - Completed. 	<p>Payments would be made after budget 2021.</p> <p>Minister Susan Rodrigues says the Ministry is presently reviewing all water system in the country</p>

March 12, 2021.	Residents of, St. Cuthbert's mission, Region 4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leadership roles are not portrayed within the Village Council. - Issue with the demarcation of land, call for an urgent demarcation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training to be provided. <p>Vice Chairperson will follow up on matter.</p>		
March 12, 2021.	Residents of Santa mission/Aratak, Region 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Despite training provided for the village leaders, the treasure is alleged to be working not to the resident's satisfaction. - No improvement of water system in community, hence, an amount of 1.1 million was given for a project on the basis on developing water system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To follow with training after budget. - Matter will be raise with the Ministry of Hpusing and Water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incomplete. <p>Complete.</p>	Minister Susan Rodrigues says the Ministry is presently reviewing all water system in the country.
Nov 27, 2020	The Toshaos and Council members from Muritaro, Great	Concerns related to the Forestry sector specific to the 30 days period for the declaration form	Mr. T. Khan, one other Deputy Commisioner and the Head of the forestry station at	Completed	The interactive session was very good and the

Nov 27, 2020	The Toshihos and Council members from Muritaro, Great Falls, Malali and Rockstone.	Concerns related to the Forestry sector specific to the 30 days period for the declaration form	Mr. T. Khan, one other Deputy Commissioner and the Head of the forestry station at Linden all from the GFC were invited to address these and other concerns	Completed	The interactive session was very good and the participants left satisfied also with the intention to implement a few recommendations that were agreed upon by both sides.
Nov 27, 2020	The Toshihos and Council members from Muritaro, Great Falls, Malali and Rockstone.	Concerns regarding access to the ongoing Ministry of Education initiatives such the printed learning materials and teacher's presence in these community to distribute, its timely distribution and children attending the Secondary school been accused of having Covid-19	At the ongoing workshop, Mr. Marti De Souza was contacted via whatApps and these concerns were noted and subsequently addressed	Completed	
Nov 27, 2020	Toshao F. Carter - Rockstone	Need support for internet enhancement in his community	A commitment was made to provide private investors in his community	Completed	A private investor - Zen Technology visited the community on January 28, 2021
Nov 27, 2020	Toshao O. Williams - Malali Village	Need support to address domestic violence and alcohol abuse along with	A commitment was made to conduct a workshop in the community sometime in 2021	Completed	Workshop was held in the Village on January 27, 2021 by

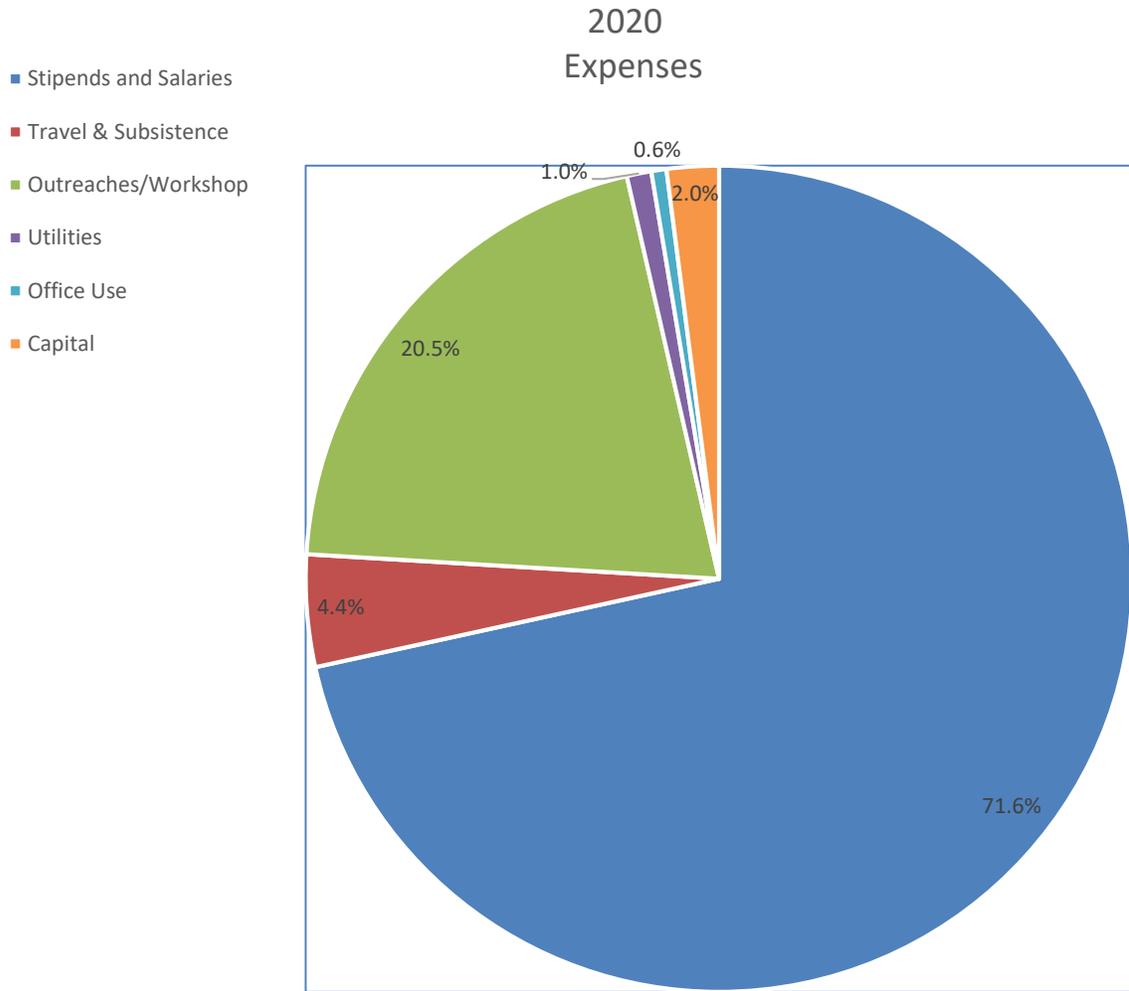
		sexual abuse in his community			Mr. K Harding Social Worker Women's Health Department , Ministry Of Human Services and Dr Thomas - Chronic Disease Department Mental Health Unit, Ministry of Health
Sept 28, 2020	Toshoa P. Pieres - Kwebana	Call for the establishment for a Community Policing Group in village to tackle to growing drug and small criminal problems	A commitment was made for the establishment of a CPG.	Completed	Commander Region 1 assisted in the establishment of this and other CPG in the Moruca area.
Sept 28, 2020	Head Teacher - Karaburi,	Request for a computer		Incomplete	Recommendation was made to Mr. Hillman who will try to assist.
Sept 28- Oct 1, 2020	Residents and School teachers from Assataka, Santa Cruz and	Concerns were raised with the access to sporting equipment and enhances internet	A commitment was made to see what support the Commission will render in the new year	Incomplete	Mr. P. Hillman, based on the USA has agreed to donate

	Warapoka - Karaburi, Kemwatta and Wallaba.				some sport gears to the communitie s in Moruca. Communiti es would benefiting from the establishe nt of a hub on the ICT project.
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8.0 Financial Statement

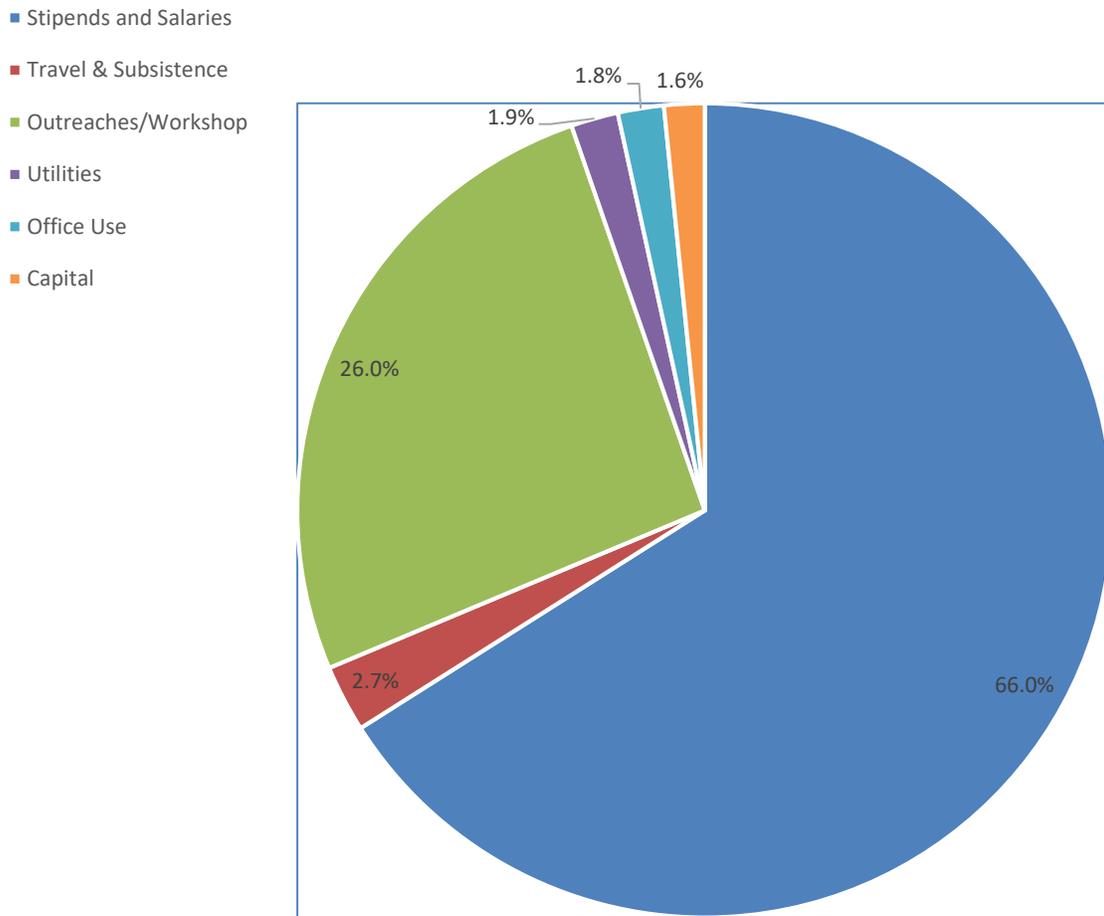
As a constituted body, IPC follows all the accounting procedures of the government, and therefore has a reliable financial management system. All financial transactions were processed by the Rights Commission Secretariat through its Finance Department.

The totals sum of G\$24,394,270 was allocated as its approved budget for 2020 which reflected a decrease of 20% of the allocated amount for 2019. The amount of \$G3,696, returned to the consolidated fund as the unspent sum at the end of the year. The breakdown of the total expenditure is as follows:



The totals sum of G\$31,296,059 was allocated as its approved budget for 2021 which reflected a increase of 28% of the allocated amount for 2020. The amount of \$G120.000, was returned to the consolidated fund as the unspent sum at the end of the year. The distribution of the total expenditure was as follows:

2021 Expenses



The Commission 2020 and 2021 financial statements were audited by the Audit Office of Guyana.

IPC Official Bank Account.

Year: 2020/21

Opening Balance b/f		483.505
Additions	1000	
Closing Balance c/f		484,505.

9.0 Proposed activities for 2021/2022

Description of Activities	Intended Output/Outcomes
One community visit to Region 6 and outreaches to Amerindian communities on sensitization for Village Elections in 2021 outreaches as necessary to follow up specific issues in Region 1, 5 and 9	Root cause of concerns / issues ascertained for better resolution and policy guidance
Participate in media interviews	Public Awareness
Participation in national events such as World Indigenous Peoples' Day and Amerindian heritage month	Public Awareness
Providing of technical training for Indigenous youths in the Forestry Sector	To provide entrepreneur opportunities for youths to move from loggers to skilled personnel
Training in Amerindian Act (2006) and human development in 1 cluster area at region 1 in 2021 and 2022	Amerindian communities strengthened with knowing and understand their rights and benefits therefrom as well as respect to leadership, management, community, and human development

10.0 Challenges and Recommendations:

10.1 Challenges

The main challenge in 2020/2021 was the delay initially to a delayed budget in 2020 and the ongoing pandemic which hampered Commissioner's attendance at meetings and other activities.

10.2 Recommendations

- 10.2.1 The formal establishment of the Human Rights Commission
- 10.2.2 A revamping of the mapping unit at the Guyana Lands and Survey Commission with integral input from key stakeholders and agencies such as the GFC, GGMC and PAC
- 10.2.3 A review of all the names of all rivers in Amerindian Communities as it relates to legal definition and descriptions.
- 10.2.4 Accessibility for young people in Amerindian communities who are desirous of rewriting CSEC subjects
- 10.2.5 The establishment of the learning channel in all hinterland school that does not have access to internet
- 10.2.6 The granting of all teachers a computer/ laptop or a tablet
- 10.2.7 The support of Football and Cricket coaches in hinterland as it relates to training and recruiting of potential athletes

11.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Alcohol Violence Workshop

Appendix 2: Report of the conflict Resolution workshop

Appendix 3: Report of the capacity building workshops.

Appendix 4: Audited Financial statements.

Appendix 1:

INDDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION

Report on Alcohol and Domestic Violence workshop

Date of Activity: January 27, 2021, from 09:00 hrs. to 16.30 hrs.

Venue: Mallali School, Upper Demerara River, Region 10

Facilitators: Dr. Util Thomas - Chronic Disease Department Mental Health Unit - Ministry of Health

Mr. Kester Harding - Women's Health Department – Ministry of Human Service and Social Security,
Neil Bacchus, CEO

Number of participants: 50

Participated:

- Mallali Village Council
- Residents of Mallali

Purpose of the workshops:

- monitor the need for and recommend where appropriate the establishment of mechanisms to provide counseling for indigenous peoples.
- to promote training and technical assistance to support initiatives by and for indigenous peoples

Expected outcome:

- For the stakeholders to be sensitized on an issue affecting the well-being of the residents residing in Kamarang with respect to domestic violence and alcohol.

- Concerns of Amerindians documented to guide policy considerations of the IPC to benefit the demands and needs of indigenous peoples.

Activities

A participatory approach was taken by Dr. Thomas and Mr. Kester Harding both whom in a dynamic presentation allowed for maximum interaction while enabling a learning environment. The topics discussed was directed in enhancing the participants abilities to understand aspects of the alcohol and substance abuse and its relation to gender-based violence. Information was shared on

- 1. Definition of Domestic Violence**
- 2. Common Belief of Domestic Violence**
- 3. Scale of the domestic violence**
- 4. Findings from research in relation to indigenous persons in Guyana on domestic violence**
- 5. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS- A life free from violence**
- 6. Powers of the village council to investigate breaches of rule as stated in the Amerindian Act 2006**
- 7. Breaches of rule and action that can be taken by the village council based on the Amerindian Act 2006.**
- 8. Role(s) of the members of the Village Council in relation to the Amerindian Act 2006**
- 9. The Amerindian Act 2006 and the process of making rules by the Village Council**
- 10. Toshua and responsibility based on the Amerindian Act 2006 The Addictive Side of Alcohol**
- 11. The Domestic Violence Act**
- 12. What is a Protection Order?**
- 13. Protection, Interim, Occupation, Tenancy and Ancillary Orders**
- 14. What is the role of the police?**
- 15. Key contact details within the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security**
- 16. Types of drugs**
- 17. Overdose and Withdrawal**
- 18. Why people use substances**

19. What is harmful use?
20. What is dependence?
21. What causes drug withdrawal symptoms?
22. Health effects of psychoactive substances include
23. Effects of smoking
24. Effects of substance use on the family
25. Global impact of alcohol use
26. SAYING NO TO ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCES

At the end of each topic presented, questions and comments were entertained.

Information materials from the Ministry of Health including Posters and brochures were distributed to all present.

Conclusion: The participants expressed their appreciation for the timely intervention made by the Commission in helping them to understand Domestic Violence and Alcohol abuse.



Mr. Harding making a point.



Dr. Thomas making her presentation.

Prepared and submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil Bacchus", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Neil Bacchus

Secretary/Chief Executive Officer

Indigenous Peoples' Commission

Appendix 2:

INDDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION

Report on Conflict Resolution workshop

Date of Activity: June 18, 2021, from 9:00 hrs. to 16.00 hrs.

Venue: Community Center, Port Kaituma, Region 1

Facilitators: Commissioner David James

CEO Neil Bacchus

Ms. Bhagmattie Shivdayal - Conflict Management and Development Specialist -

Ministry of Human Services & Social Security

Number of participants: 40

Villages/Communities participated:

- Seaby Village Council
- Four Miles Village Council
- Canal Banks CDC
- Citrus Grove CDC
- One Mile CDC
- Fitzberg CDC
- Oronoque CDC
- Port Kaituma Central
- Matthew's Ridge NDC
- Baramita Village Council

Purpose of the workshops:

- promote consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples especially about their participation in national decision-making and other decisions that affect their lives" and has been requested by the leaders of the Councils leaders of the CDCs.

- to promote training and technical assistance to support initiatives by and for indigenous peoples
- To reinforce the leaders' skills in conflict management.
- To empower leaders with non-violent skills used in conflict prevention to properly settle disputes that could arise within families or the community.
- Understand the reasons for conflict; teaching leaders and all employees to handle conflict rather than avoid it; since it is the next big step in creating agile, responsive, productive organizations.

Expected outcome:

- Amerindian people as stakeholders are able understand the importance of teamwork by reducing conflict with aim of developing their communities.
- Concerns of Amerindians documented to guide policy considerations of the IPC to benefit the demands and needs of indigenous peoples.

Activities

A participatory approach was taken by Ms. Shivdayal who in a dynamic presentation allowed for maximum interaction while enabling a learning environment. The topics discussed was directed in enhancing the participants abilities to understand aspects of the teamwork and conflict resolution. Information was shared on

- 1. Introduction to conflict**
- 2. Definition and discussion of Conflicts**
- 3. Common cause of conflicts in the workplace**
- 4. Why conflicts are good?**
- 5. Who are the parties in a conflict.**
- 6. Effects and Types of Conflict**
- 7. How conflicts escalate and de-escalates**
- 8. Conflict Management**
- 9. Peace Building**
- 10. Conflict Resolution**

11. Negotiation

12. Mediation

At the end of each topic presented, questions and comments were entertained.

Brochures from the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and Posters and the presentations were distributed to all present.

Conclusion: The participants expressed their appreciation for the timely intervention made by the Commission in helping them to understand their rights regarding teamwork and conflict resolution.



Participant making a point.

Prepared and submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil Bacchus".

Neil Bacchus

Secretary/Chief Executive Officer

Indigenous Peoples' Commission

Appendix 3

INDDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION

Report on Cluster Training workshops

Workshop 1

Date of Activities: October 29-31. 2020 from 09:00 hrs. to 16.30 hrs. daily

Venue: Kimbia, Region 10

Facilitators: CEO Neil Bacchus

Number of participants: 20

Villages/Communities participated:

- Kimbia Village
- Sandhills Village
- Wiruni Village Council
- Wikki/Calcuni Village Councils

Workshop 2

Date of Activities: November 15-18, 2020 from 09:00 hrs. to 16.30 hrs. daily

Venue: Hururu village office, Region 10

Facilitators: CEO Neil Bacchus

Number of participants: 15

Villages/Communities participated:

- Hururu Council

Workshop 3

Date of Activities: November 27-29, 2020, from 09:00 hrs. to 16.30 hrs. daily

Venue: Amelia's Ward, Linden, Region 10

Facilitators: CEO Neil Bacchus

Number of participants: 20

Villages/Communities participated:

- Mallali Village Council
- Muritaro Village Council
- Rockstone Village Council
- Great Falls Village Council

Workshop 4

Date of Activities: October 1-31, 2021, from 09:00 hrs. to 16.30 hrs. daily

Venue: Kumaka, Moruca Region 1

Facilitators: Commissioner David James
CEO Neil Bacchus

Number of participants: 40

Villages/Communities participated:

- Santa Rosa Village Council including its satellite areas

Workshop 5

Date of Activities: November 20-22 12022, from 09:00 hrs. to 16.30 hrs. daily

Venue: Kumaka, Moruca Region 1

Facilitators: Commissioner David James
CEO Neil Bacchus

Number of participants: 22

Villages/Communities participated:

- Manawarin Village Council
- Waramuri Village Council
- Kwebanna Village Council

Purpose of the workshops:

- to promote empowerment of indigenous peoples, especially with regard to the village council in the local government system and the scope and authority of the Council of Toshias
- to promote training and technical assistance to support initiatives by and for indigenous peoples

Expected outcome:

- Amerindian people competent as natural leaders & have management capacity to function as councilors while effectively collaborating with the local government system.
- Indigenous people competent in taking their initiatives and making them into lucrative and sustainable opportunities.

Activities

For the workshops, a participatory approach was taken by the facilitators so as to allow for maximum interaction while enabling a learning environment. The topics discussed were directed in enhancing the participants' abilities to function more efficiently and effectively at the level of their village and community councils. These topics were:

- **IPC**
 - The existence of the IPC as a constituted body
 - The mandate of the IPC as set in the constitution
 - The objectives of the IPC
 - The general functions of the IPC
 - Accomplishments
 - Challenges

- **Governance**
- **Employment**
- **Management and Administration**
- **Leadership**

- **Teamwork**
- **Financial Management**
- **Communication**
- **Trafficking – in – persons**

All presentations were done with content from the Amerindian Act 2006

At the end of each presentation, questions and comments were entertained.

Brochures, complaint forms and copies of the Amerindian Act 2006 and the presentations were distributed to all present

Conclusion: At the end of the workshops, the participants expressed their appreciation for the timely intervention made by the Commission in helping them to become better leaders. They have pledged to put into practices what they have learnt so as better manage their villages and communities. They have also called for follow-up workshops within their respective communities.



Facilitating GFC to have a dialogue with Village Leaders from the Demerara river and Rockstone





Training of Village Leaders in Linden, Region 10







Training of Village Leaders in Moruca, Region 1



Presentation of information booklets to the Toshua of Hururu, Region 10 after successful training workshop

Prepared and submitted by:



Mr. Neil Bacchus

Secretary/Chief Executive Officer

Indigenous Peoples' Commission

Appendix 4



Audit Office of Guyana

P.O. Box 1002, 63 High Street, Kingston, Georgetown, Guyana

Tel: 592-225-7592, Fax: 592-226-7257, <http://www.audit.org.gy>

AG:155/2022

23 September 2022

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION
ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission, which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2020, Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission as at 31 December 2020, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAPs).

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) and the Audit Act 2004. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the Commission in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Guyana, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with GAAPs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Commission's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs and ISSAIs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of my audit in accordance with ISAs and ISSAIs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



AUDIT OFFICE
63 HIGH STREET
KINGSTON
GEORGETOWN
GUYANA

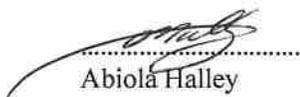
Indigenous Peoples' Commission
Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2020

ASSETS	Notes	2020	2019
Non-current Asset			
Furniture and equipment	4	1,512,022	1,015,636
Current assets			
Cash & cash equivalents		-	-
TOTAL ASSETS		1,512,022	1,015,636
EQUITY AND LIABILITY			
Equity			
Capital contribution	4	1,515,636	1,176,180
Returns to consolidated fund	7	(3614)	(160,544)
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITY AND		1,512,022	1,515,636

These financial statements were approved by the Commission on

Prepared By:

Accounting Officer



Abiola Halley
 Finance Officer
 Human Rights Commission



Neil Bacchus
 Chief Executive Officer
 Indigenous Peoples' Commission

The notes form an integral part of the financial statement

***Indigenous Peoples' Commission
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the year ended December 31, 2020***

Receipts	Notes	G\$ 2020	G\$ 2019
Government Subvention	5	23,917,000	30,323,000
Payments			
Operating expenses	6	23,916,965	28,158,333
Returns to the Consolidated fund	7	35	2,164,667
Total Payments		23,917,000	30,323,000
 FUNDS TO BE REIMBURSED		 0	 0

The notes form an integral part of the financial statement.

Indigenous Peoples' Commission

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2020

1. Identification

The Indigenous Peoples' Commission became a constitutional agency with effect from 1st September, 2015 under the following budget agency details:

Budget Agency:	61 Rights Commission of Guyana
Programme:	611 Rights Commission of Guyana
Chart of Account:	6231 Subsidies and contribution to local organisations

2. Principal activities

According to the Constitution (Amendment No. 3) Act 2001, 212 S (1) The Indigenous Peoples' Commission shall establish mechanisms to enhance the status of Indigenous Peoples and to respond to their legitimate demands and needs.

3. Significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below:

- The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAPs).
- The income and expenditure is accounted for using the cash basis of accounting i.e. funds are recognised when cash is received or disbursed rather than the occurrences of these transactions.

Indigenous Peoples' Commission

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2020

4. Furniture and Equipment

Items of furniture and equipment are measured at cost.

Particulars	G\$	G\$
	2020	2019
January, 1	1,015,636	756,180
Additions	496,386	259,456
December, 31	1,512,022	1,015,636

The amount represents furniture and equipment that were acquired over the years.

5. Government Subvention

The expenditure of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission shall be funded by a direct charge upon the consolidated fund in accordance with article 222A of the constitution.

Currency	IPC	IPC
	G\$	G\$
Year	2020	2019
Subvention (Current)	23,892,000	20,323,000
Total	23,892,000	20,323,000

Indigenous Peoples' Commission

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2020

6. Operating Expenses

Currency Year	IPC G\$ 2020	IPC G\$ 2019
Statutory expenditure	10,965,984	10,081,152
Employment cost	6,512,851	8,817,830
Materials, Equipment and supplies	133,734	679,685
Fuel & Lubricant	10,000	82,000
Transport Travel and Postage	3,519,100	5,040,030
Utility charges	234,463	143,207
Other Goods and Services Purchased	738,500	1,057,855
Other Operating Expenses	1,802,333	2,169,774
Education Sub. & Training	-	86,800
Total	23,916,965	28,158,333

7. Return to Consolidated Fund

Current	35	2,164,667
Capital	3,614	160,544
Total	3,649	2,325,211



Audit Office of Guyana

P.O. Box 1002, 63 High Street, Kingston, Georgetown, Guyana

Tel: 592-225-7592, Fax: 592-226-7257, <http://www.audit.org.gy>

325/SL:72/2022

23 September 2022

Ms. Colleen Branford
Administrative Officer
Indigenous Peoples' Commission
66 Peter Rose & Anira Streets
Queenstown.

Dear Ms. Branford,

AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The audit of the financial statements of Indigenous Peoples' Commission for the year ended 31 December 2020 has been completed. The findings hereunder were discussed with the accounting personnel within your Commission and are now forwarded for your appropriate action.

2. The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing issued by the International Federation of Accountants, the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions and the Audit Act 2004. These standards require that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements.

3. The main purpose of the audit was to express an opinion on the financial statements and to evaluate the operations of the Commission to ascertain whether: -

- (i) The financial statements have been properly prepared, in accordance with applicable laws and properly present the operations and affairs of the Commission.
- (ii) The accounts have been faithfully and properly kept.
- (iii) The rules, procedures and internal management controls were sufficient to secure effective control on the assessment, collection, and proper allocation of revenue.

- (iv) All monies expended and charged to an account have been applied to the purpose or purposes for which they were intended.
- (v) Essential records were maintained, and the internal management controls, rules and procedures established and applied are sufficient to safeguard the control of stores and other public property.

A. Statement of Financial Position

Non-Current Assets: \$1,512,022

Finding

4. The amount of \$1.512M was reflected on the financial statements as Non-Current Assets as at 31 December 2020. Included in this amount is \$496,386 which represents additions for the year for the procurement of a HP Pavillion Gaming Laptop, KLIP X laptop case, 5-level filing cabinet, one 4-draw filing cabinet and four (4) Alcatel 8 inches tablets. Except for the four Alcatel tablets that were not presented for verification, all other assets were physically verified and marked to be easily identified as the property of the Commission.

Management's Response: Please note that only three of the Alcatel tablets were entered as non-current assets and are reflected on the Commission's Asset Register and is marked as property of the Commission. However, they are with the out-of-town Commissioners and by September 1, 2022, would be available for verification. The fourth Alcatel tablet mentioned in the query does not form part of the Commission's Asset register as it was recognized as an expenditure since it was donated to a single parent in Region 9.

Recommendation: The Audit Office recommends that in future, all assets are made available for physical verification at the time of the audit.

Operating Expenses

Statutory Expenditure - \$10,965,984

5. The sum of \$10.966M represents the amount reflected as Statutory Expenditure on the financial statement as at 31 December 2020. The amount which represents stipend, was paid to the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and seven Commissioners attached to the Commission. Audit Examination of related documents revealed that the expended amount was properly brought to account in the records and there was no material finding.

Employment Cost - \$6,512,851

6. During the year, the sum of \$6.513M was expended on Employment Cost. Payments were made on salaries, entertainment, travelling, and vacation allowances, gratuity, National Insurance Scheme and bonuses for the staff. There was one (1) staff employed under the Commission for the audited year. The expended amount was properly brought to account in the records of the Commission.

Transport, Travel and Postage - \$3,519,100

7. Amounts totalling \$3.519M represent the amount reflected as Transport, Travel and Postage on the Financial Statement as at 31 December 2020, which was verified with records maintained by the Commission. The expended amount was properly brought to account in the records of the Commission and there was no material finding.

Finding

Utility Charges - \$234,463

8. The Commission expended the sum of \$234,463 on Utility Charges for the year. During the year, a Utility Register was maintained, but did not reflect pertinent information such as the location of telephone lines, name and designation of officers' telephone lines assigned to, breakdown of usage and details of payment. As a result, it could not be determined whether proper controls were followed.

Management's response: With reference to the Audit of financial statements of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission for the year ended 31 December 2020 prepared by the Audit Office of Guyana, specific to Utility Charges, please note, the Commission does maintain a utility register, however, a specific format was requested from the Audit Office, as a result, the Commission will adhere to the request and have the matter rectified as soon as possible.

Recommendation: The Audit Office recommends that the Commission updates the utility register to reflect all pertinent information.

Other Goods and Services Purchased - \$738,500

9. During the year, the sum of \$738,500 was expended on Other Goods and Services Purchased. The expended sum was verified with records maintained by the Commission, and was properly brought to account.

Other Operating Expenses - \$1,802,333

10. The sum of \$1.802M represents the amount reflected as Other Operating Expenses on the financial statement as at 31 December 2020. The amount was verified with records maintained by the Commission and the expended amount was properly brought to account in the records of the Commission.

11. In the audited year, the Local Bank Account № 1624004500 at the Bank of Guyana was operated by the Commission for its ordinary imprest with a float in the sum of \$1.5M. The Imprest retired on 31 December 2020.

B. General

12. The Audit Office wishes to express its gratitude for the cooperation given to its Officers during the course of the audit.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,



Marcel Pinder
Audit Manager (ag)
For Auditor General

c.c. Mr. Sukrishnalall Pasha
Finance Secretary
Ministry of Finance

c.c. Ms. Jennifer Chapman
Accountant General
Accountant General Department



Audit Office of Guyana

*P.O. Box 1002, 63 High Street, Kingston, Georgetown, Guyana
Tel: 592-225-7592, Fax: 592-226-7257, <http://www.audit.org.gy>*

AG:159/2022

20 October, 2022

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION
ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission, which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2021, Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission as at 31 December 2021, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAPs).

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) and the Audit Act 2004. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the Commission in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Guyana, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with GAAPs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Commission's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs and ISSAIs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of my audit in accordance with ISAs and ISSAIs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



D. SHARMA
AUDITOR GENERAL
AUDIT OFFICE
63 HIGH STREET
KINGSTON
GEORGETOWN
GUYANA

Indigenous Peoples' Commission
Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2021

ASSETS	Notes	2021	2020
Non-current Asset			
Furniture and equipment	4	2,011,922	1,512,022
Current assets			
Cash & cash equivalents		-	-
TOTAL ASSETS		2,011,922	1,512,022
EQUITY AND LIABILITY			
Equity			
Capital contribution	4	2,012,022	1,515,636
Returns to consolidated fund	7	(100)	(3614)
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITY AND		2,011,922	1,512,022

These financial statements were approved by the Commission on *13th October, 2022*

Prepared By:



Abiola Halley
 Finance Officer
 Human Rights Commission

Accounting Officer



Neil Bacchus
 Chief Executive Officer
 Indigenous Peoples' Commission

The notes form an integral part of the financial statement

Indigenous Peoples' Commission
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the year ended December 31, 2021

Receipts	Notes	G\$ 2021	G\$ 2020
Government Subvention	5	30,796,000	23,917,000
Payments			
Operating expenses	6	30,675,782	23,916,965
Returns to the Consolidated fund	7	120,218	35
Total Payments		30,796,000	23,917,000
 FUNDS TO BE REIMBURSED		 0	 0

The notes form an integral part of the financial statement.

Indigenous Peoples' Commission

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2021

1. Identification

The Indigenous Peoples' Commission became a constitutional agency with effect from 1st September, 2015 under the following budget agency details:

Budget Agency:	61 Rights Commission of Guyana
Programme:	611 Rights Commission of Guyana
Chart of Account:	6231 Subsidies and contribution to local organisations

2. Principal activities

According to the Constitution (Amendment No. 3) Act 2001, 212 S (1) The Indigenous Peoples' Commission shall establish mechanisms to enhance the status of Indigenous Peoples and to respond to their legitimate demands and needs.

3. Significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below:

- The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAPs).
- The income and expenditure is accounted for using the cash basis of accounting i.e. funds are recognised when cash is received or disbursed rather than the occurrences of these transactions.

Indigenous Peoples' Commission

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2021

4. Furniture and Equipment

Items of furniture and equipment are measured at cost.

Particulars	G\$	G\$
	2021	2020
January, 1	1,512,022	1,015,636
Additions	499,900	496,386
December, 31	2,011,922	1,512,022

The amount represents furniture and equipment that were acquired over the years.

5. Government Subvention

The expenditure of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission shall be funded by a direct charge upon the consolidated fund in accordance with article 222A of the constitution.

Currency Year	IPC G\$	IPC G\$
	2021	2020
Subvention (Current)	30,796,000	23,917,000
Total	30,796,000	23,917,000

Indigenous Peoples' Commission

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2021

6. Operating Expenses

Currency Year	IPC G\$ 2021	IPC G\$ 2020
Statutory expenditure	11,669,654	10,965,984
Employment cost	8,911,606	6,512,851
Materials, Equipment and supplies	547,782	133,734
Fuel & Lubricant	21,700	10,000
Transport Travel and Postage	6,335,890	3,519,100
Utility charges	585,184	234,463
Other Goods and Services Purchased	883,220	738,500
Other Operating Expenses	1,655,756	1,802,333
Education Sub. & Training	64,990	-
Total	30,675,782	23,916,965

7. Return to Consolidated Fund

Current	120,218	35
Capital	100	3,614
Total	120,318	3,649



Audit Office of Guyana

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480/SL:71/2022

20 October, 2022

Ms. Colleen Branford
Administrative Officer
Indigenous Peoples' Commission
66 Peter Rose & Anira Streets
Queenstown.

Dear Ms. Branford,

AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The audit of the financial statements of Indigenous Peoples' Commission for the year ended 31 December 2021 has been completed. The findings hereunder were discussed with the accounting personnel within your Commission and are now forwarded for your appropriate action.

2. The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing issued by the International Federation of Accountants, the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions and the Audit Act 2004. These standards require that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements.

3. The main purpose of the audit was to express an opinion on the financial statements and to evaluate the operations of the Commission to ascertain whether: -

- (i) The financial statements have been properly prepared, in accordance with applicable laws and properly present the operations and affairs of the Commission.
- (ii) The accounts have been faithfully and properly kept.
- (iii) The rules, procedures and internal management controls were sufficient to secure effective control on the assessment, collection, and proper allocation of revenue.

- (iv) All monies expended and charged to an account have been applied to the purpose or purposes for which they were intended.
- (v) Essential records were maintained, and the internal management controls, rules and procedures established and applied are sufficient to safeguard the control of stores and other public property.

A. Statement of Financial Position

Non-Current Assets: \$2,011,922

4. The amount of \$2.012M was reflected on the financial statements as Non-Current Assets as at 31 December 2021. Included in this amount is \$499,900 which represents additions for the year. Audit examination of documents provided revealed that a metal filing cabinet, a desktop computer, one (1) laserjet printer and a sofa were purchased or use by the Commission. The items were verified and marked to be identified as the property of the Commission.

Operating Expenses

Statutory Expenditure - \$11,669,654

5. The sum of \$11.670M represents the amount reflected as Statutory Expenditure on the financial statement as at 31 December 2021. The amount which represents stipend, was paid to the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and seven Commissioners attached to the Commission. Audit Examination of related documents revealed that the expended amount was properly

Employment Cost - \$8,911,606

6. During the audited year, the sum of \$8.912M was expended on Employment Cost. Payments were made on salaries, entertainment, travelling, and vacation allowances, gratuity, and National Insurance Scheme for the staff. There was one (1) staff employed under the Commission for the audited year. The expended amount was properly brought to account in the records of the Commission.

Materials, Equipment and Supplies - \$547,782

7. The sum of \$547,782 represents the amount reflected as Materials, Equipment and Supplies on the Financial Statement as at 31 December 2021. Audit examination of related documents revealed that payments were made for the printing of brochures, supply of newspapers and the purchase of stationery and ink. The expended amount was brought to account in the records of the Commission.

Transport, Travel and Postage - \$6,335,890

8. Amounts totalling \$6.336M represent the amount reflected as Transport, Travel and Postage as at 31 December 2021. Included in the above amount, is \$6.329M which was expended on airfare to Mabaruma and Region 1 for Commissioners to attend outreach. The amounts were verified with records maintained by the Commission. The expended amount was properly brought to account in the records.

Utility Charges - \$585,184

9. The sum of \$585,184 was expended on Utility Charges for the year by the Commission. For the year, even though a utilities register was maintained, it did not include pertinent information such as, the location of telephone lines, name and designation of officers' telephone lines assigned to, breakdown of usage and details of payment. As a result, it could not be determined whether proper controls were followed.

Management's Response: The Commission have considered your recommendation in the 2021 Management Letter and is currently putting systems in place to address this concern for subsequent years.

Recommendation: The Audit Office recommends that the Commission ensure that the utility register includes all pertinent information.

Other Goods and Services Purchased - \$883,220

10. During the year, the sum of \$883,220 was expended on Other Goods and Services Purchased as at 31 December 2021. The expended sum was verified with records maintained by the Commission, and was properly brought to account.

Other Operating Expenses - \$1,655,756

11. The sum of \$1.656M represents the amount reflected as Other Operating Expenses on the financial statement as at 31 December 2021. Included in the above amount is \$1.633M which was expended on refreshments and meals and the difference of \$23,000 on others. The amounts were verified with records maintained by the Commission.

11. The Commission maintained Local Bank Account № 1624004500 at the Bank of Guyana which was operated by the Commission for its ordinary imprest with a float in the sum of \$1.5M. The Imprest retired on 31 December 2021.

B. General

13. The Audit Office wishes to express its gratitude for the cooperation given to its Officers during the course of the audit.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,



Marcel Pinder
Audit Manager (ag)
For Auditor General

