



# FINAL REPORT

Rural Enterprise  
Development under Energy  
Access programme



Organización Latinoamericana de Energía  
Latin American Energy Organization  
Organisation Latino-américaine d'Énergie  
Organização Latino-Americana de Energia



Foreign Affairs, Trade and  
Development Canada

Affaires étrangères, Commerce  
et Développement Canada

EMPRETEC Guyana Inc.

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## ***Introduction***

### **Rural Enterprise Development under an Energy Access Programme using renewable energy**

EMPRETEC Guyana was pleased to be a part of a process that will bring in the first instance energy access to hinterland communities and as a spin off, socio economic development to the individuals and the communities as a whole. As Empretec Guyana executed this project there were some things revealed and things which when recommended can and will make the follow on phase of the intended project successful.

*There were hurdles and experiences that one can only get first hand as you enter into the lives of communities far out of the reach of the average Guyanese and allow one to be very appreciative of the amenities they have or in contrast the peace and quiet that await an individual on entering one of these communities. With access to the electrification process the livelihood of these communities can be transformed and allow so much development on a micro or macro level depending on how it is managed through the developed Rural Enterprise and the Village councils plans over the next ten years- an average time for significant changes in any community to take place.*

This report will provide observations and make recommendations for a quicker implementation of future rural enterprises as well document all the achievements under the assignment.

## *Background*

The availability of energy, particularly in remote and scattered rural and even urban marginal areas, is an essential factor in the search for socio-economic equity. Renewable Energy technologies have proven to be one of the most attractive options for increasing the rates of electrification in rural areas which remain unserved due to their remoteness, low population levels and their proximity to the conventional power grid.

Electricity is of significance to all developed and developing economies. They all need to ensure a sustainable supply of electricity due to their growing dependence over time. While electricity has become one of the most common forms for energy delivery, other indirect energy sources are still relevant. Electricity is therefore fundamental to the industrial and economic development of any society. Meanwhile, many developing countries face the struggle of providing electricity to all communities to aid socio-economic development and catch up with the rest of the world in many respects. It is used in virtually all types of places, from homes to industry and public spaces. As a result, economic growth of a country is always reflected in a rise in energy consumption.

While the availability of energy is an essential factor in the search for socio-economic equity, renewable technologies allow the supply of off-grid electricity in isolated systems. They are presented as one of the most attractive options for increasing the rates of electrification in rural areas where, due to its remoteness and low population levels, the laying of the conventional power grid is not feasible from an economic standpoint.

To this end an Hinterland Electrification Project is being implemented by OLADE and funded by the CIDA and the University of Calgary in collaboration with the Guyana Energy Authority, Office of the Prime Minister of Guyana and Corporate Social Partners in Guyana. EMPRETEC Guyana has been assigned the role of CSR entity and will be the coordinating body for all intended activities for the setting up, registration and first phase project implementation for this energy access project for hinterland communities. This collaboration will see a paradigm shift in the way selected rural communities manage their livelihood once there is a low cost access to electricity. In order to accommodate this shift the community has to be first set to take ownership and responsibility for the renewable power and be structurally sound to maintain it, thereby demonstrating sustainability. The following therefore represents the responsibilities that will fall under the established Rural Enterprise for each community in the implementation and management of the energy service.

## ***Methodology Employed to Interface with Communities***

It was our view to approach the interaction with villagers from the point that they needed to know about the entire project and all who were the key players. Thus a recap of what the project was about, who were the key players; funding agencies, the implementing organisations and the champion of the process the Government of Guyana. What were the possible outcomes of an implemented renewable energy source project such as this one. How such a project can and will affect their lives socially and economically. The possible changes to their environment and what would be required of each villager to see such an implemented energy source installed and maintained.

The positive social changes to their livelihood; through the implemented energy access health care can be provided to the villagers, there centralised water supply can reduce time for household chores and allow a safer environment for the collection of water and treated water as well, enhanced learning facilities and libraries making reading and learning a part of their new way of life. As the expected benefits were explained to each community, the opportunity was taken to also inform them of what would be required of them as a community to receive such a project. It was further explained, that there may be possible physical changes to the layout of their communities as they accommodate the energy systems, in one part and the changes to their livelihood as they relate to the new technology. It was also explained that their individual villages were not the only one selected but were among two others as a pilot to address the socio economic development of their villages.



Figure 2: Typical dwelling Powaikoru, June 2014

*First Deliverable and Second Deliverable –*

1. Terms of Reference Document to be used by each community as an established Rural Enterprise.
2. Agreed Final Structure of the Rural Enterprise

**Enterprise Purpose**

The purpose of the Rural Enterprise, a semi-autonomous corporate body, is to work with the Village Council and members of the community to fulfill the objectives of the rural energy services that will foster economic and social advancement in a timely and efficient manner utilizing the most relevant and sustainable technology.

The Rural Enterprise will be breaking new ground in the management style of these communities as it allows for comprehensive decision making processes with total community involvement and external stakeholders all with the aim of community development.

It will seek to foster a different **Way of Thinking** and **Way of Working** to ensure that all decisions are made with the view of sustaining and increasing the energy services within a given time frame. Also that decisions when made will not only be for economic advancement but also effect change in the social development of each village member from birth to death.

## **Guiding Principles**

- a) The Primary objective of the Rural Enterprise is to effectively and sustainably manage the energy services being given to the community under the Rural Electrification Project.
- b) Rural Enterprise will collect all monies and issue receipts in accordance with developed and agreed upon management principles of the registered enterprise for transparency, accountability and continuity.
- c) The Rural Enterprise will pay monies to its members once per quarter after it has been assured from bench marks that the Rural Enterprise has realized a profit from the accessible energy system
- d) While Independent of the Village Council the Rural Enterprise will not enforce its own decisions but will work collaboratively with the village council to mutually arrive at decisions that would benefit the social economic development of the community under the established governance structure. .
- e) The members appointed to the Rural Enterprise shall be done by the Village Council and sanctioned by the village members

## **Terms of Reference defining how the Rural Enterprise will Operate**

- a) A working Rural Enterprise committee is to be established
- b) Meetings are to be conducted approximately every two months in alignment with existing governance structures
- c) Meetings to be convened and chaired by the Toshao
- d) As far as possible all meetings shall be recorded and filed appropriately with key decisions taken as well as actions to be carried out by specific times. (Format for such record keeping can be shared with communities).
- e) The recorder of such decisions can be the collections officer or another community member at large with the capacity for such a function. ( This is an activity that the RE can make amongst themselves in attempt to build capacity and ownership of decisions)

- f) Rural Enterprise receives and review regular reports on the operation and functionality of the electrical service.
- g) Where possible consumption of electricity burnt will be recorded and kept as record. (A check/SOP list of activity of the energy service to be followed for maintenance)
- h) The Rural Enterprise will receive and review requests from Corporate Social Responsibility sponsor on further implementation of socio economic projects that will enhance the lively hood of the community and will share this information with the village council.
- i) The Rural enterprise will also request of the Office of the Prime Minister for any assistance that will add value to the sustainability of the enterprise and the village as a whole.
- j) The Rural Enterprise to identify factors such as process shortfalls, communications breakdowns, funding shortages and the like, impeding progress; this in order to identify solutions and delegate responsibility for resolution.
- k) The Rural Enterprise will review distribution reporting for the previous period and propose and agree to interventions, as needed.
- l) The Rural Enterprise will identify and provide expert advice as relates to significant procurement issues as may involve the Ministry, donors and the procurement infrastructure in Guyana, as required.
- m) The Rural Enterprise shall determine the social benefits that can be addressed from the revenue derived from the enterprise in conjunction with the village council. As far as possible these decisions should not be unilateral.
- n) The Rural enterprise shall meet and decide from advice received from OPM and the level of activity generated from services offered or derived from the energy service the pricing cost for consumers charged to consumers for the consumption of the said energy service.
- o) In an attempt to address issues that may rise from the operation and receipt of power from the energy system an agreed upon mechanism for dealing with complaints in conjunction with the existing governance structure.
- p) For decisions to be carried there must be a minimum of three members of the Rural Enterprise has to be present at the stipulated statutory meeting.

- q) Once established, the Rural Enterprise appoints a note-taker or scribe. The specific required functions will be delineated.

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## **List of Individuals and Responsibilities**

### ➤ Community Lead & CSR Liaison

The Community Lead and CSR Liaison would be responsible for:

- Coordinate the activities of the Rural Enterprise
- Liaising with the OPM on project implementation
- Communicating any new energy needs to the OPM
- Communicating between the local council and the Rural Enterprise
- Establishing collections model for any community collections process

### ➤ Collections Agent

The Collections Agent would be responsible for:

- Collection of payments from commercial interests on behalf of the Rural Enterprise
- Properly recording all collections
- Reporting any collection concerns to the Rural Enterprise
- Signing on new users for the energy service

### ➤ Services Agent

The Services Agent will be responsible for:

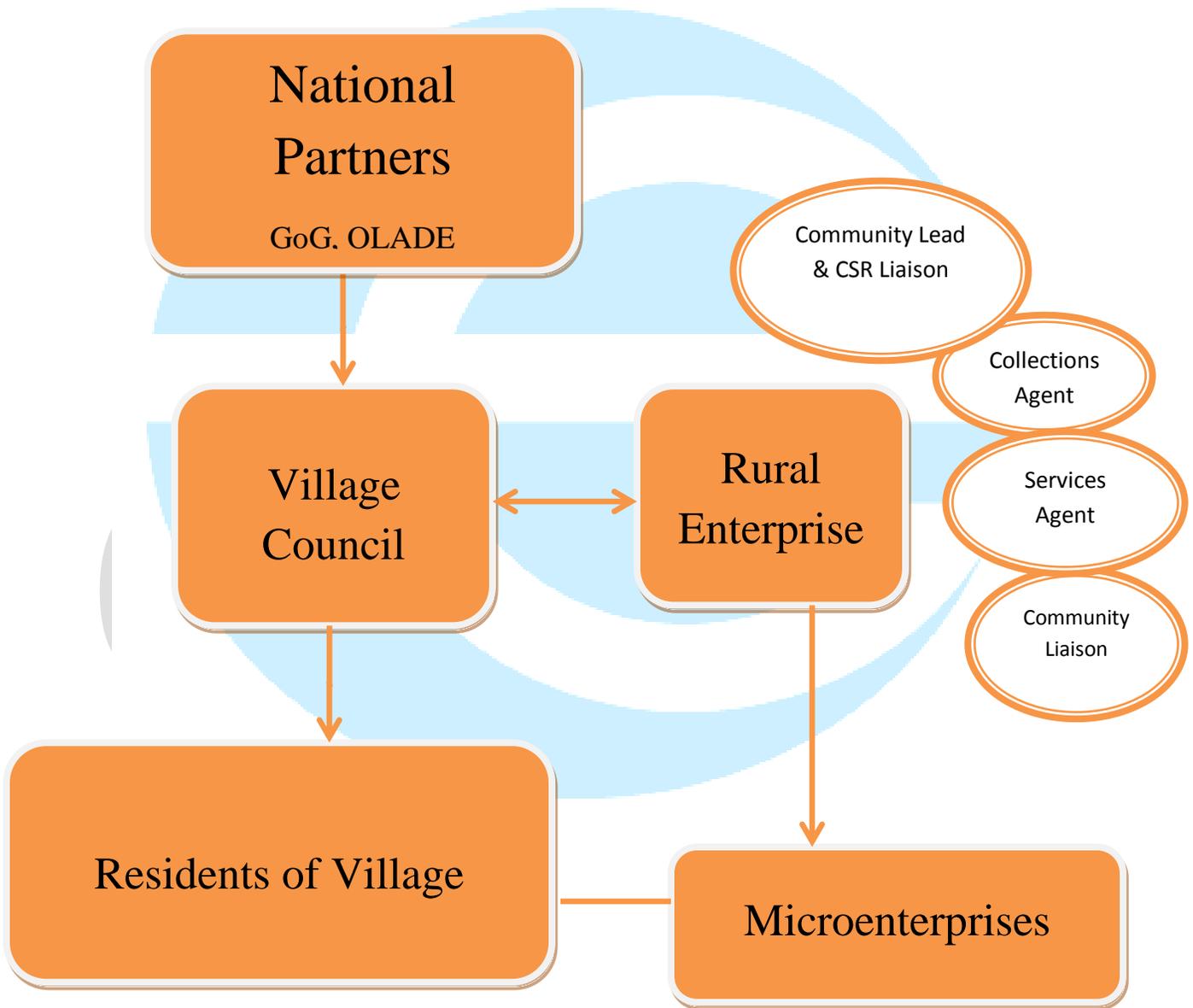
- Recommending collection rate to the Rural Enterprise for the use of the community facility
- Establishing and maintaining agreements between the Rural Enterprise and commercial interests
- Receiving any new service requests
- Coordinating repairs to the installed operating equipment

### ➤ Community Representatives/Liaison

*The two (2) Community Representatives would be responsible for:*

- Reporting community interests and concerns to the Rural Enterprise
- Representing the community on the Rural Enterprise
- Assisting the Services and Collections agents in executing their duties as it relates to persons in the community

# Rural Enterprise Model



### *Third & Sixth Deliverables – Filed and resulting legal documents establishing Rural Enterprise*

The terms of reference document outlines specific responsibilities and requirements for the established Rural Enterprise. In these responsibilities would be the collection of monies, procurement of supplies for maintaining the energy system and the payment of stipends to the members of the enterprise. The described steps place the enterprises as a fully functioning going concern and therefore should be covered by the necessary legal instruments to conduct such business within country. Therefore the Established Rural Enterprises were registered as a business to own and operate the soon to be implemented energy system.

The included documents posit the proof that the entities do exist and would require for their status to be renewed each year.

# Kangaruma Certificate of Registration

2014

GUYANA R. No. 331468  
Fee \$5,000.00



Certificate No. 7477

**BUSINESS NAMES (REGISTRATION ACT, CHAPTER 90:05)**

## CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

I HEREBY Certify that a statement containing the prescribed particulars for registration furnished by KANGARUMA RURAL ENTERPRISE of KANGARUMA VILLAGE, MAZARUNI, REGION SEVEN, ESSEQUIBO, GUYANA pursuant of Section 5 of the above-mentioned Act was registered on the 30th day



July

2014

day of

August 2014

Registrar of Business Names

Office of Registrar of Business Names,  
Georgetown, Demerara.

NAME  
AUTRY HAYNES

ADDRESS  
J Laing Avenue,  
Bel Air,  
Georgetown,  
Guyana.

Attention is drawn to section 8 of the Business Names (Registration) Act, Chapter 90:05.  
8. Whenever a change is made or occurs in any of the particulars registered in respect of any firm or person that firm or person shall within fourteen days after the change or any longer period allowed by the Registrar on application in writing or any particular case, whether before or after the expiration of the fourteen days, furnish by sending by post or delivery to the Registrar in the Country in which the aforesaid particulars are registered a statement in writing in the prescribed form specifying the nature and date of the change signed and where necessary sworn, in like manner as the statement required on registration.

Pursuant to the Business Name (Registration) (Amendment) Act No.3 of 2013. This registration ceases on 30th July, 2014. If this registration is renewed on the 30th July, 2015 or no later than fifteen days after, the fee is \$2500.00 (two thousand and five hundred dollars). If after fifteen days, a new registration would have to be effected and the fee therefore is \$5 000.00 (five thousand dollars).

# Shulinab Certificate of Registration

2014

GUYANA

R. No. 331469  
Fee \$5,000.00



Certificate No. 7478

**BUSINESS NAMES (REGISTRATION ACT, CHAPTER 90:05)**

## CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

I HEREBY Certify that a statement containing the prescribed particulars for registration furnished by SHULIMAB RURAL ENTERPRISE of SHULIMAB RUPUNUNI, REGION NINE, ESSEQUIBO, GUYANA pursuant of Section 5 of the above-mentioned Act was registered on the 30th day



July

2014

*6th* day of *August*

2014

Registrar of Business Names

Office of Registrar of Business Names,  
Georgetown, Demerara.

NAME  
AUTRY HAYNES

ADDRESS  
J Laing Avenue,  
Bel Air,  
Georgetown,  
Guyana.

Attention is drawn to section 5 of the Business Names (Registration) Act, Chapter 90:05.  
5. Whenever a change is made or comes into effect of the particulars registered in respect of any firm or person that firm or person shall within fourteen days after the change or any longer period allowed by the Registrar on application made in any particular case, whether before or after the expiration of the fourteen days, furnish by sending by post or delivers to the Registrar in the Country in which the aforesaid particulars are registered a statement in writing in the prescribed form specifying the nature and date of the change aforesaid and where necessary verify, in like manner, as the statement required on registration.

Pursuant to the Business Name (Registration) (Amendment) Act No.3 of 2013. This registration ceases on 30th July, 2014. If this registration is renewed on the 30th July, 2015 or no later than fifteen days after, the fee is \$2500.00 (two thousand and five hundred dollars). If after fifteen days, a new registration would have to be effected and the fee therefore is \$5,000.00 (five thousand dollars).

**Powaikuru Certificate of Registration**

2014

GUYANA

R. No. 331470  
Fee \$5,000.00



Certificate No. 7479

**BUSINESS NAMES (REGISTRATION ACT, CHAPTER 90:05)**

**CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION**

I HEREBY Certify that a statement containing the prescribed particulars for registration furnished by POWAIKURU RURAL ENTERPRISE of POWAIKURU, KAITUMA RIVER, REGION ONE, ESSEQUIBO, GUYANA pursuant of Section 5 of the above-mentioned Act was registered on the 30th day



July 5th 2014  
day of August 2014

Registrar of Business Names

Office of Registrar of Business Names,  
Georgetown, Demerara.

NAME  
AURY HAYNES

ADDRESS  
J.Laing Avenue,  
Bel Air,  
Georgetown,  
Guyana.

Attention is drawn to section 8 of the Business Names (Registration) Act, Chapter 90:05.  
8. Whenever a change is made or occurs in any of the particulars registered in respect of any firm or person that firm or person shall, within fourteen days, after the change or any longer period allowed by the Registrar on application made in any particular case, whether before or after the expiration of the fourteen days, inform by sending by post or delivery to the Registrar in the Country in which the aforesaid particulars are registered a statement in writing in the prescribed form specifying the nature and date of the change signed and where necessary verified, in like manner to the statement required on registration.  
Pursuant to the Business Name (Registration) (Amendment) Act No.3 of 2013. This registration ceases on 30th July, 2014. If this registration is renewed on the 30th July, 2015 or no later than fifteen days after, the fee is \$2500.00 (two thousand and five hundred dollars) If after fifteen days, a new registration would have to be effected and the fee therefore is \$5,000.00 (five thousand dollars).

## *Fourth Deliverable - Financial Structure-*

### *Cost Commitment Letter*

The communities after being briefed with the outline and implementation processes of the energy access project were required to sign off on a letter of commitment agreeing to a process where in the administering of the established Rural Enterprise they would charge and collect monies from tenants/users of the energy programme. *This process was therefore agreed as the requirements for the Financial Scheme for the recipients of the energy service.* The specific details of how much will be charged and how the monies would be deposited and managed had to be finalised out and would be peculiar to each community since each enterprise would have differing numbers of businesses in size and demand and would therefore require some individualism while at the same time ensuring that monies were collected and held for the sustainable running of the enterprise.

This was achieved through the signing off of a generic but inclusive letter of commitment by the Toshaos of these communities. With the understanding that a cost charging principle for the use of the service would be employed and this would be sufficient at this stage for the implementing partners OLADE and funding agencies to move the process forward.

The signed letters of commitment to this cost charging principle is attached below as a completed deliverable under contract for the three pilot communities.

Cost Commitment Letter – Shulinab



PROMOTING INNOVATIVE AND INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISES

**LETTER OF COMMITMENT**

Shulinab Village  
Rupununi  
Region 9

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2014

**To Whom It May Concern**

This Letter of Commitment is in reference to the provision of electricity through the installation and maintenance of a fully operational Solar PV System under the OLADE CSR Rural Electrification Project.

Once installed by the Office of the President, the Rural Enterprise will take ownership of the system and be responsible for the monitoring, maintenance and repair of all power equipment. We also agree that tenants will be required to make monthly payment of a percentage of their revenues or a fixed fee, to the Rural Enterprise for their use of the system and will be determined when the system is in place.

PRINT COUNCIL MEMBER'S NAME : Vibert Ignace *Vibert Ignace*  
SIGNATURE : *[Signature]*  
DATE : 2014-08-10



J Lama Avenue, Bel Air Park, Georgetown  
Telephone: 592-225-1219  
Email: guyanaempretec@yahoo.com

## Cost Commitment Letter - Powaikuru



PROMOTING INNOVATIVE AND INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISES

### LETTER OF COMMITMENT

Powaikuru Development Council  
Kaituma River River  
Region 1

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2014

#### To Whom It May Concern

This Letter of Commitment is in reference to the provision of electricity through the installation and maintenance of a fully operational Solar PV System under the **OLADE CSR Rural Electrification Project**.

Once installed by the Office of the President, the Rural Enterprise will take ownership of the system and be responsible for the monitoring, maintenance and repair of all power equipment. We also agree that tenants will be required to make monthly payment of a percentage of their revenues or a fixed fee, to the Rural Enterprise for their use of the system and will be determined when the system is in place.

PRINT COUNCIL MEMBER'S NAME : \_\_\_\_\_ Nicholas Lewis \_\_\_\_\_ (Toshao)\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE : Nicholas Lewis \_\_\_\_\_

DATE : 2014-08-15 \_\_\_\_\_

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J Lama Avenue, Bel Air Park, Georgetown  
**Telephone:** 592-225-1219  
**Email:** guyanaempretec@yahoo.com

Cost Commitment Letter – Kangaruma



PROMOTING INNOVATIVE AND INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISES

**LETTER OF COMMITMENT**

Kangaruma Village  
Mazaruni River  
Region 7

Date: September 26, 2014

**To Whom It May Concern**

This Letter of Commitment is in reference to the provision of electricity through the installation and maintenance of a fully operational Solar PV System under the **OLADE CSR Rural Electrification Project**.

Once installed by the Office of the Prime Minister, the Rural Enterprise will take ownership of the system and be responsible for the monitoring, maintenance and repair of all power equipment. We also agree that tenants will be required to make monthly payment of a percentage of their revenues or a fixed fee, to the Rural Enterprise for their use of the system and will be determined when the system is in place.

PRINT COUNCIL MEMBER'S NAME: Alfred Joseph (Toshao)

SIGNATURE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alfred Joseph' is written over a horizontal line.

DATE

September 26, 2014

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J Lama Avenue, Bel Air Park, Georgetown  
Telephone: 592-225-1219  
Email: empretecguyanainc@gmail.com

## **Overview**

The process for setting up a Rural Enterprise is described herein as a necessary six step process to guide future agencies tasked with such a role. When followed, it will take the selected agency through the necessary prerequisites as it engages the hinterland communities of Guyana, considering their distance from the coastal plain, the city, their uniqueness and the sensitivities of the authorities when external agents deal with the indigenous people of Guyana. Some are of the view that these communities are considered precious in the eyes of some - a possible bargaining chip for political mileage for others and competing agendas for many.

During the process, consideration was given to the sustainable livelihood of these communities as well as to their cultural norms, practices and existing governance structures that allow for co-existence of these communities. It was therefore, prudent that one followed the established norms and engage the powers that be for achievement of the goals and objectives of the assigned project.

## **Step One –**

After engaging the implementing entity of the particular project and understanding the set deliverables under contract, it would be necessary to have a plan of action that should be shared with two key agencies:

Firstly, the Office of the Prime Minister, Rural electrification project office, that acts as a certifying agency as to the legitimacy of the organisation and its plan. Their covering and acceptance of your organization bring the next step with ease. Secondly, the project implementation plan of project with timelines for interaction with these communities should be shared with the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs. They would, in turn, make the necessary contacts with the village leaders and establish the connections necessary for seamless interaction. It would be safe and correct to say that the Indigenous people of Guyana are quite welcoming and accepting of outsiders once their internal structures are adhered to and they are given the respect they deserve.

## **Step Two –**

Upon acceptance, the outlined plan should include how the community would be approached for meeting with the villagers. This will also need to include a strategy for keeping your explanation simple and factual, since language, accent and tones of the selected officer can be a barrier to getting the message across to the audience. The use of examples and references to which the villagers can relate can be good ground to work with as they are interacted with. Providing a background to the project, who are the key players in the implementation of the energy project i.e. Office of the Prime Minister, OLADE, ATOMS, University of Calgary, the endorsement of the Government of Guyana and the Guyana Energy Agency encourage buy in and support. Other considerations include:

1. The persons from the village you expect to be involved and not just their involvement but the entire villages' buy in and their ability to take ownership and see this as their own for now and the future.
2. The project timelines for implementation; from the time they are registered to the time they actually see work on the ground,
3. What it will cost them as a community socially and economically.
4. Most importantly the assurance to the community and its leaders that the intended project and its outcomes will not obstruct and get in the way of any existing governance structures.

### **Step Three –**

Coming out of the discussions and through a democratic process of selection as well as a clear understanding of what the selected roles within the Rural Enterprise will entail, the five members of the Rural Enterprise are selected and agreed upon. On a note of caution, literacy levels in some communities are extremely low and therefore choosing the members of the Rural Enterprise will likely see similar players from within the village council being a part of the Rural Enterprise.

### **Step Four –**

One of the key deliverables is the registering of the Rural Enterprise as a business unit within national legal business structures, which requires the use of a national identification card and the signature of at least one of the Rural Enterprise members. It is therefore necessary for the form to be purchased from the Deeds Registry in Georgetown, filled out and signed on the first visit to the community. A snap shot of the selected Rural Enterprise members' identification card should also be printed and attached to the submitted application.

What was found to be extremely helpful is if a connection is made with one or two villagers who have the ability to communicate via the established means of communication, cell phones, radio and internet, in some instances. This allows for quick and easy follow up when there is a need to have a response in the shortest possible time.

### **Step 5 –**

Another deliverable or milestone in setting up the Rural Enterprise is the cost commitment letter signed off by the community leaders. This letter of commitment sets out the terms governing the implementation of the project where the solar energy service will be supplied to micro-enterprises but managed by members of the community, functioning under the Rural Enterprise. Another consideration is that there is a cost for the consumption of the energy generated and it is understood that there will be a price attached to it that will have to be paid by the micro-enterprises accessing the services. This is signed off and agreed to in the discussions by a letter of cost commitment. It is EMPRETEC Guyana 's view that the existing or

sitting village council lead, preferably the Toshao signs this letter of commitment. This should be part of the package going into the community on the first trip.

With these five steps completed the Rural Enterprise would have been successfully set up and ready for registration with the requisite legal authorities in country. The table below gives a step by step process and expected time lines of registering a rural enterprise at the country's designated place for such activity.



## Step 6 –

Process overview for registering a new business

Action Number	Action	Remarks
1	Purchase registration form	Cost G\$100 from Deeds Registry Avenue of the Republic and Charlotte St. Lacytown
2	Fill Registration form	One page with name of business, type of business and who's name the business will be registered as owner
3	Submit registration form at Deeds Registry	Requires a color copy of personal identification card of person named on application and G\$5000
4	Collect Registration of Business	<p>This takes 14 working days from date of submission</p> <p>The business registration is renewed annually on / or before the date it was registered.</p> <p>This registration can be used to open a bank account for the Rural Enterprise. It will require a recommendation from a person with a business account at the same bank.</p>

## ***Observations and Recommendations***

The information set out below is a list of observations and recommendations that the EMPRETEC Guyana Inc. has seen fit to share with ATOMS and OLADE to be used in future actions in dealing with the hinterland communities of Guyana.

**Overall Goal:** Using solar electrification to initiate or enhance micro-enterprise and as an entry point for demonstrating Corporate Social Responsibility in three indigenous communities as a pilot.

**Status:** All three villages (Kangaruma, Powaikoru and Shulinab) have enthusiastically agreed to the proposal posited through EMPRETEC Guyana by the key partners and stake holders in this solar electrification process (OLADE, University of Calgary, ATOMS and the Government of Guyana) to establish, as a model, Rural Enterprise with in which solar electrification shall be the basis on which will be used to stimulate micro enterprise as a means of bettering the individual local socio-economic concerns. This has been achieved through the establishment and registration of each Rural Enterprise. It is important; therefore that the momentum started is upheld. The approach for a ‘bottom-up,’ participatory and inclusive manner was touted and has received the necessary acceptance as a means to demonstrate **Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)**<sup>1</sup> which is being advocated especially for indigenous engagement<sup>2</sup>. The United Nations Declarations for Rights of Indigenous Peoples (DRIP) for example at Article 19 says:

***“States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.”*** ■

The continuation of this approach started will immensely contribute to the sustainability efforts while implementing the models.

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<sup>1</sup> “Free Prior and informed consent’ (FPIC), is the principle that a community has the right to give or withhold its consent to proposed projects that may affect the lands they customarily own, occupy or otherwise use. FPIC, for years advanced by FPP, is now a key principle in international law and jurisprudence related to indigenous peoples.”

<sup>2</sup>[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf)  
<http://www.forestpeoples.org/guiding-principles/free-prior-and-informed-consent-fpic>

## ***Age ranges of Communities visited***

	<b>Kangaruma</b>	<b>Shulinab</b>	<b>Powaikuru</b>
<b>Age Group (years)</b>			
< 5	45	75	16
>5 and < 14	86	156	48
>14 and < 30	65	101	29
>30 and < 65	76	129	59
> 65	12	25	9
<b>Total Population</b>	284	486	161
% females	57%	56%	50%
<b>Community settled in or established</b>	Late 1800s	1902	1976
<b>Schools: Secondary or Primary</b>	primary	primary	
<b>Main economic activities</b>	Farming, fishing and mining	Fishing, tourism, livestock and craft	Farming and hunting

## ***Literacy Levels***

Of the Three communities Shulinab has a higher average population of literate villagers as compared to the other two community's visited. Of those who could read their level of reading would be that of primary level and lower.

This was a challenge in selecting a cross section of villagers to be a part of the established five member Rural Enterprise entities. Hence this would be a necessary intervention as the project is gradually integrated into the livelihood of the communities and the issue of village elections which will bring changes to the makeup of the Rural Enterprise.

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## ***Intended Business or social needs that can be derived as a result of the introduction of solar energy for the individual communities***

Following the discussions of the intent of the project and what it can bring to the lives of individuals and the community as a whole while yet ensuring that existing structures do not erode to the demise of these national treasures. The following businesses were touted as safe and effective building blocks for villages.

### **Businesses**

1. Bakery - which can be effective on a commercial scale once there is access to light after evening comes
2. Meat & Fish – A cleaner fresher source of meat can be brought to the market if there is overnight storage of the catch and slaughtered animals. Which the preferred preference at the market the next day.
3. Female centered industry of craft
4. Wood and Timber production and side products thereof once it is managed in the villages
5. Food processing and preservation;
6. Village Guest House
7. Village Community Centre and Sports ground
8. Village Shop
9. School Hot meal facility
10. Medium Scale Chicken Farm

### **Social /Community Needs**

1. Multi-purpose Building with nursery for infants,
2. Guest House to support incoming visitors
3. Public Lighting,
4. Centralized Water Supply,
5. Access to Computers, TV and/or radio,

6. Washing Machine,

7. Primary School with proper equipment, kitchen and dining facilities

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## ***Immediate benefits***

Life in such communities are quite routine and is a factor due to their access to basic amenities or infrastructural systems that people in the city would not be able to exist if it were removed. Hence there is great potential while maintaining normalcy amongst the lives of villagers while yet enhancing their existence with access to electricity.

- ✚ ***Literacy development for Adults***- The existing school house can be place of remedial classes thought by the village teacher and or those who have that skill to the vast number of villagers whose reading skills are quite poor.

With the introduction of electricity, then it allows other resources from different donors or funding agencies to now come and provide teaching in differing areas of skills development to the villagers.

- ✚ ***Greater Control of Water Supply*** - Currently villagers do not have access to potable water, with the access to solar power, systems can be in place to bring water to the village and more time can be spent with the family and small scale enterprise. Lives will be made safer if women and children do not have to travel miles to seek the water and return with it back to the villager.

- ✚ ***Increased productivity of the Village through micro& small enterprises*** – Currently many villagers who are involved in micro and small entrepreneurial enterprises re hindered by their inability to either store their catch whether meat or fish. The baking facilities of the villages are curtailed by access to light for long hours and the storage of the resulting product once it is completed. Therefore access to electricity increases each entrepreneurs chance to be a part of the thriving commerce that exist outside of his/her village.

- ✚ ***Awareness of the Outside World*** - Sensitization about social threats such as human trafficking, HIV and gender based violence

## ***Concerns***

The access to electricity brings with it modern amenities that can either add or subtract from the existing ways of life. It also influences the norms and customs of the village folk. In discussion with the villagers across the three communities the concerns were somewhat similar:

- ✚ *Access to computers* – can allow the access to information that shows “false positives” on the way of life and hence be a source of disruption to norms and customs.
- ✚ *Business Development* and its spin offs– that the community develops as a business group and not an individual or a family and hence there is great disparity in the income generation of the peoples of the village.

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## **Moving forward: *The following SMART<sup>3</sup> actions can contribute to achieving the intended goal!***

### **1. *Strengthen relationship with communities to maintain momentum***

An assured cordial relationship with mutual respect is important throughout the process of implementation and during the mentorship period to ensure win-win outcomes. As the CSR Entity EMPRETEC Guyana can be so positioned to maintain this relationship.

### **2. *Define with communities Corporate Social Responsibility and with each community identify social needs: HIV/AIDS, Trafficking In Persons (TIP), GBV,) as threats to successful and sustainable Rural Enterprise;***

*2.1 Delineate what Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR) Really is and how it impacts on the lives of villagers, including benefits to the community as a whole, responsibility of Village Council, Rural Enterprsie and Micro-enterprises, public at large including Community Support Officers<sup>4</sup>. Each village has ten CSOs and in an effort to encourage active participation and experience with respect to governance, each village has been including the CSOs in community engagements.*

*2.2 Identify Social concerns to which CSR can be applied and determine with each community what could be done to alleviate threats of those social concerns.*

*2.2.1 A good example! During the visit to Kangaruma, the village expressed the need to better understand what human trafficking is and what are the threats to the village?*

*2.2.2 Literacy has been identified as one of the major concerns for Powaikuru and an inhibiting factor for active participation in socio-economic advancement of the community*

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<sup>3</sup> S: Specific; M: Measurable; A: Appropriate; R: Realistic; T: Time bound

<sup>4</sup> Community Support Officers an initiative of the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs where CSOs: "...created to allow for the direct monitoring of Socio-Cultural, Economic Infrastructural and environmental development within villages."

**3. Define Rural Enterprise discrete to each community; Include functions / responsibilities of Village Councils vis-avis Rural Enterprises, taking into consideration Village Council elections schedule for 2015 (March – May).**

3.1 Training in Rural Enterprise as a micro-enterprise with the members of the village Council, Rural Enterprise as well as persons actively involved in micro-enterprise opportunities that will benefit from the Rural Enterprise Solar electrification service.

3.2 Training will include basic principles of business, record keeping, security of finances etc, as well as develop cost / price relationship for sustainable Rural Enterprise management; ascertain viability

3.3 Discuss options of solar distribution systems. The initial proposal by the project was an All-in-one component. However, the visits to the communities seem to indicate that a multi-distribution system will be preferred.

3.4 Delineate functions for Village Council, Rural Enterprise, relationship within a structure developed for the RE and Village Council. Each village may consider this differently to suit their context.

3.5 Forward thinking discourse with Village Council and Rural Enterprise the expected Village Elections between March-May 2015 and what transition mechanism may be necessary to ensure sustainability of the Rural Enterprise during and after the election. Planning for any eventuality should begin now.

3.6 Share with each community the implementation plan for solar electrification, identify modes of transportation of solar equipment and possible threats to the implementation process.

**4 Mentoring communities during establishment**

**4.1 Develop clear indicators of achievement as a model**

Appropriately designed visits to maintain relationship, understand challenges that may be experienced during effort to achieve indicators of achievements, monitor collections, recording and documentation of appropriate data.

**4.2 We learn and share**

Develop with each community means of documentation of experience learn from the RE. This could include photos, videos, oral documentation etc so that the community could eventually share this experience as a model. This sharing of experience can be titled, 'Knowledge Fair' showcasing the results of the RE as a model, identifying what worked and what didn't. The Knowledge Fair could be held in each village for neighboring villages. Effective documentation made for national sharing as Knowledge Assets or Best Practices.

## Apendix- Pictures

*EMPRETEC Guyana Programme Manager; Corwin Hunte and Community Development Officer  
John Antonio meeting with villagers' community meeting place*



*Soon to be completed Church, School and existing unused Health Center  
Facilities that can bring social development to the community once fitted with lights*





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*Meeting with members of Kangaruma Village*



*Meeting with members of Shulinab Village*



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