



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION

**REPORT OF THE
COMMISSION
for 2022**

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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 2022 annual report for Indigenous Peoples' Commission reflects the dedication and progress made in preserving and enhancing the well-being, culture, and prosperity of our first people especially as we are coming out of the covid-19 pandemic.

As we worked to implement our workplan, throughout the year, a variety of initiatives were undertaken to address key areas of focus. Emphasis was placed on the continued capacity building for our village leaders to enhance their skills to be competent in the execution of their duties and responsibilities. Outreaches were also conducted to outline strategies for overcoming obstacles and leveraging opportunities for growth.

We were happy with the efforts to improve the overall quality of life for our residents and creating opportunities for economic growth and development.

Strengthened partnerships with external organizations, government agencies, and non-profits aligning with the goals and objectives of the Commission is key in the executions of the mandate.

I wish to thank my fellow Commissioners for their towering support and the staff for their unwavering efforts.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Doreen Jacobis".

Ms. 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.

The Commission continued its focus on training and capacity building as well as public awareness in executing its work program for 2022.

In February, an outreach was conducted to the riverain communities of Crash Water, Rewa and Apoteri in Region 9 while in October another outreach was conducted at Lima Sands, Region 2. The objective of these visits was to use the opportunity to share information and document concerns regarding the mandate of the Commission. Hence the Commission engaged in social interaction and for the community to be sensitized about the establishment of the IPC, its functions and for villagers to share key concerns experienced at the village level.

Cluster capacity building sessions were held in Warapoka and Moruca, that led to all the communities and its satellites in Moruca sub-district being trained in Governance and Leadership skills using the Amerindian Act, 2006.

In May, the Commission worked with the representatives from the 14 communities in the Annai Sub-District at Annai in facilitating a one-day workshop on the basic skills of project management while focusing on results-based management and proposal writing.

The Commission participated in the Amerindian Heritage Day celebrations on September 10 and the Human Rights Day exhibition on December 10, 2022.

In February 2022, the Commission's budget in the amount of \$33,226, 000 was approved in the National Assembly.

The Commissioners met four times for the year of which at only one meeting, a quorum was present. In December 2022, Commissioner Father Malcolm Rodrigues passed away.

3. Major Activities 2022

3.1 Stakeholder Meeting to discuss the Traditional Knowledge National Action Plan

An email was received from Deirdre Jafferally, extending an invitation to a Stakeholder Meeting to discuss the Traditional Knowledge National Action Plan, at the National Toshaos' Council Secretariat. On March 29, 2022 Mr. Ron Albert, AA attended this workshop on behalf of the Commission at the National Toshaos' Council Secretariat. The workshop focused on the roles organizations could play in the implementation of the 2021 – 2025 TKNAP, and as such the following were discussed;

- What activities does the Commission currently have in its Workplan as relates to Traditional knowledge?
- What activities from the TKNAP could the Commission incorporate into its' workplan?
- What kind of support and resources would the Commission need to implement the activities?

AA Ron Albert reported that during the discussion, it was noted that the Commission in its' upcoming statutory meeting will decide on activities from the TKNAP to include in its' work plan and that the Commission is willing to give its' support as it is mandated primarily to protect and promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

3.2 Human Rights Exhibition Day

In observance of International Human Rights Day, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance hosted a series of activities culminating in a Human Rights Exhibition on December 10, 2022. An invitation was extended to the Commission to participate as an exhibitor to showcase its materials and engage with the public on progress made to date. A banner outlining the Commission's mission and specific objectives, along with paintings of Indigenous communities were used for the décor of space designated to the Commission. Materials such as brochures with information extracted on Governing Indigenous Villages, the Amerindian Act, brochures with information on Commission's mandate and its Commissioners, Annual Reports, and the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples' Rights document were made available to exhibit.

Briefly, through an interview with the state media, the public was sensitized to the work and the challenges faced by the Commission while urging them, particularly Indigenous peoples to be part of the promotion and protection of their rights through the Commission. Other agencies were also urged to collaborate with the Commission on addressing these challenges in indigenous communities.



Fig.1; United Nations representatives to Guyana (left & right) and the IPC representatives (middle).

3.3 Special Training in Project Management

The Commission had conducted an outreach to Crash water, Rewa and Apoteri, Region 9 from February 19 to Tuesday February 21, 2022. During this outreach, a call was made by the leaders of these communities and by the District Council Chairman, Mr. Mike Williams for training in Project Management and Proposal writing.

At the Commission's monthly meeting held on April 1, 2022, the workplan for 2022 was approved with the proposal for this workshop was accepted and endorsed by the Commissioners.

Subsequently, led by Commissioner D. James and CEO Neil Bacchus, the Commission conducted a two-day workshop for 2 representatives from each of the 14 communities located within the Annai Sub - District from May 25-27, 2022, at Annai, Region 9.

The objective of this workshop was to provide the participants with the tools, skills and knowledge to submit successfully proposals that would provide them with financial opportunities to develop their communities. It has been noted that an absence of these skills was preventing the communities from accessing available funding for community projects. Emphasis was done on greater capacity to design projects and develop project proposals, using a variety of tools including the Logical Framework and the basic elements for project management and due diligence requirements grant scheme. An expression of appreciation was given to the IPC for demonstrating how easily proposal writing can be done.



Participants at the project management training

3.3 Indigenous Heritage Month Celebrations

The Indigenous Peoples' Commission attended the Amerindian-designated Heritage Village Day that occurred at Mainstay Village, Region 2, on September 10, 2022. As part of this activity, the Commission observed the promotion and depiction of Guyana's rich Indigenous Culture. In this observation, present were Commissioners David James and Marco De Souza, along with the Administrative Assistant.

His Excellency, President Dr. Mohammed Irfan Ali and members of his Cabinet, along with other high officials and regional authorities were all in participation of this activity. The Village was applauded for promoting its Indigenous culture while urging the youths to keep its tradition alive. The activities included games and competitions which allowed Indigenous participants to win prizes for their outstanding performance while entertaining the crowd.

4.0 Outreaches

4.1 Annai Riverain Communities

From February 19-21, 2022, Commissioner David James and CEO Neil Bacchus visited the communities of Crash Water, Rewa and Apoteri. Presentations were made to the residents on the purpose, and functions of the Commission, CDO Winter initiated the discussion while Toshao Mike Williams from Annai acted as the translator. Their concerns were documented. Lunch was prepared for those present. (Appendix 1)

4.2 Lima Sands

On November 9, 2022, the Commission team comprising of Commissioner David James, CEO Neil Bacchus and AA Ron Albert, visit the community at Lima Sands, Region 2 where the main issues were the non-allocation of house lots; the use of available lands and non-receipt of the twenty-five dollars gas grant given to Indigenous communities by the Administration. These concerns were recorded and subsequently all the residents in the community received their \$25,000 gas grant in December. The issues with land was reported to the Ministry of Housing and the Municipality of Anna Regina who both gave a commitment to follow up on the concern.



Outreach at Lima Sands

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. 20 members from Assakata, Santa Cruz, and Warapoka, Village Councils were trained at Santa Cruz, Region 1 from March 22-23, 2022, and 15 members from Kariako, Kokerite, and Chinese Landing Village Councils were trained at Moruca, Region 1 from August 29-31, 2022. 10 members from Waikarebi Village Council inclusive of CSOs were trained at Moruca, Region 1 from October 26 -28, 2022. The workshop focused on governance, leadership, management, financial, teamwork, communication, employment, and TIP skills. The participants included the Toshao, Secretaries, Treasurers, CSOs and other village council members. The participants expressed their appreciation for the knowledge shared and have pledged to implement the training to make them more effective in the execution of their duties.

(Appendix 2)

6.0 Participation on different Committees and activities

6.1 Amerindian Land Titling Project

The Commission did not receive any the updates status on the Amerindian Land Titling Project.

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 Training of Trainers Workshop on the gender - responsive and socially inclusive Trafficking in Persons Training Manual from August 22-24, 2022.

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

CEO Neil Bacchus attended a Board meeting on Friday, November 25. 2022 2021, at the Arthur Chung Convention Centre where the project manager, Mr. Harsawack provided an update on the implementation of the project and a request for extension. The GRIF Steering Committee subsequently approved an interim extension of the ICT project until May 31, 2023. In 2022, funding has been set aside in this year's budget for Indigenous communities to complete their hubs.

6.4 NSSWG

After participating in several virtual meetings for the year as the Commission continued to sit as nominee on the National Standard Setting Working Group, the second draft documents of the Guyana National Standard for Sustainable Forest Management and the Group Certification Standard

Requirements were uploaded on GFC's website for public review at the end of 2022 from November 23, to Friday, December 23, 2022. Notifications inviting the public to make their contributions were done via the print media and via public consultations. The standards are expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2023.

6.5 Spotlight Initiative Gender Technical Working Group

The group continues to work in addressing gender issues and the IPC is a recipient via email of all the updates.

7.0 *Complaints*

During the reporting period the Commission received seven complaints; details are as follows in Table 1.

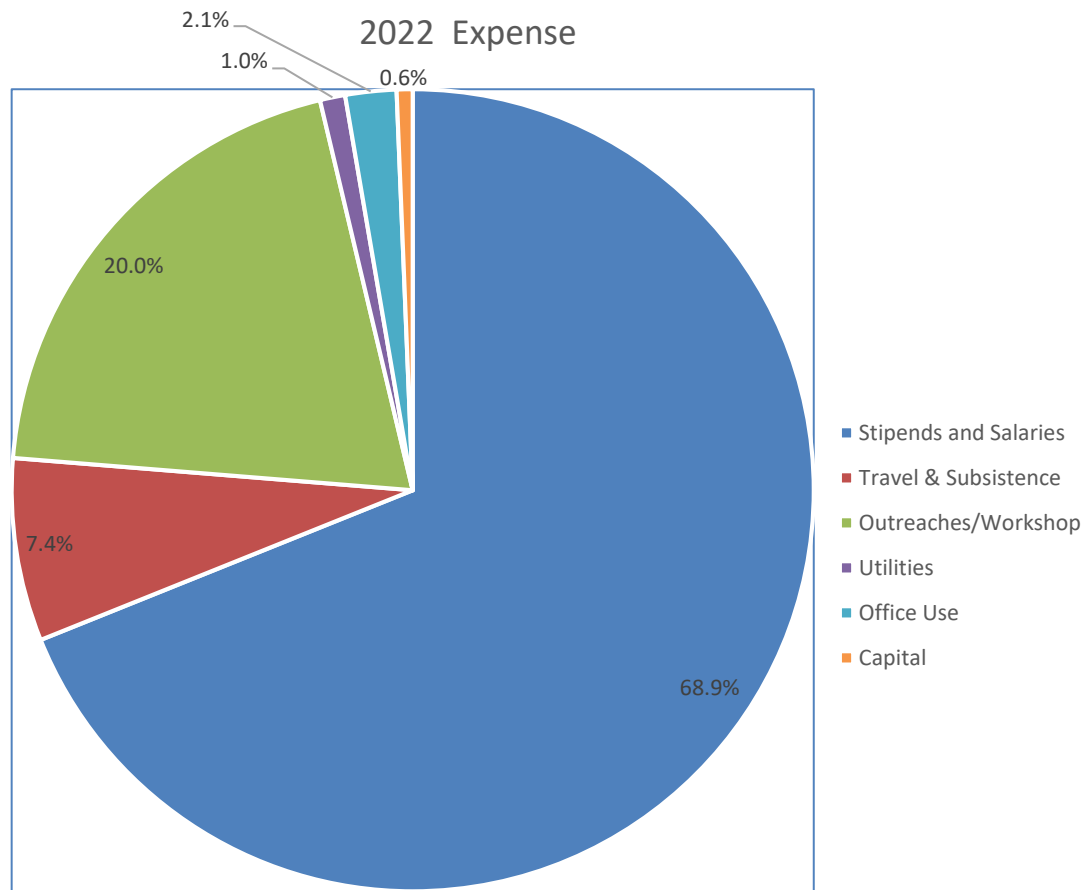
Table 1: Complaints received in 2022.

Date	Complainant's	Complaint/Concern	Action Taken	Status	Remarks
November 5, 2022.	Residents of Lima Sand Village, Essiquibo Coast, Region 2.	Residents of Lima Sand Village complain of not receiving Government cash grants during the recent nationwide distribution.	The Commission raised the complaint with the Ministry of Local Government.	Completed	The residents were successful in receiving their cash grants.
November 5, 2022.	Miss Sarah Adams of Santa Roza Secondary School, Moruca Sub-district, Region 1.	The teacher express difficulties in gaining access to birth registrations for two students that were preparing for CSEC in 2023.	The Commission contacted the GRO to intervene in the matter.	Completed.	The Students were able to get their birth certificates and are prepared for CSEC
September 02, 2022.	Francisco Dion Soza Atkinson of Moruca Sub-District, Region 1.	Francisco's daughter with the name Dyan Kelsy applied through an overseas application to the GRO, and while several follow-ups were made, Ms. Kelsy was told there is no application for her.	The Commission contacted Mr. Boodhoo, Deputy Registrar, on the matter.	Completed.	After a successful engagement with GRO, Ms. Kelsy was able to acquire her registration.
August 22, 2022.	Lisa De Souza of Moruca Sub-District, Region 1.	Ms. De Souza seeking financial assistance to undergo MRI at the GPHC.	The Commission sought assistance from the PS of MoAA on behalf of the individual.	Successful.	
February 23, 2022	Concerns raised by residents of Crash Water Village, Annia sub-district, Region 9	Residents are requesting the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and some glucose testing strips.	The Commission to follow up with the Ministry of Public Health.	Ministry reported that medical supplies were recently distributed throughout the region.	
February 23, 2022	Residents of Riverine communities, Rewa, and	Seeking intervention to their distribution system included the	The Commission wrote to the Ministry of Housing & Water		To get feedback.

	Apoteri, Annia Sub-district, Region 9.	wells in the communities.	on behalf of these villages.		
February 23, 2022	Residents of Riverine Communities, Rewa, Crash Water, and Apoteri, Annia Sub-district, Region 9.	They had all applied for land extension and to date, there has been no response to their requests.	The Commission wrote to the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs to get an update on behalf of these Villages.		To get feedback.

8.0 Financial Statement

As a constituted body, IPC followed 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. The sum of \$33,226,000 was allocated as its approved budget for 2022 which reflected an increase of 6% of the allocated amount for 2021. The amount of \$G2,834,00, 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:



The Commission 2022 financial statements were audited by the Audit Office of Guyana.

IPC Official Bank Account.

Year: 2021/22

Opening Balance b/f		484.505
Additions	1000	
Closing Balance c/f		485,505.

8.0 Proposed activities for 2023

Description of Activities	Intended Output/Outcomes
Two outreaches to Region 7 - Kurutuku and Region8 - Kurukubaru and investigations as necessary regarding concerns faced by Indigenous Communities	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 2 cluster areas at Rewa, Region 9 and Issenaru, Region 7	Amerindian communities strengthened with knowing and understand their rights and benefits therefrom as well as respect to leadership, management, community, and human development
Visits to Region 1 and 9 to assess training provided to Village Councils	To identify short comings of village councils regarding practical application of training provided and to identify gaps to plan better capacity building programs aimed at empowering village leaders

Challenges and Recommendations:

8.1 Challenges

The main challenge in 2022 unavailability of village council members to participate in capacity building workshops and the continuous ongoing pandemic which hampered Commissioner's attendance at meetings and other activities.

Recommendations

10.2.1 All Annual reports must be debated in Parliament.

8.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report on outreach to Annai Riverain Communities

Appendix 2 – Report on Cluster Training Workshops

Appendix 3 – Audit report



Engagement of IPC with the Village Councils and residents of the villages of Crash Water, Rewa and Apoteri

February 19-22, 2022

A. Background

The Commission, as part of its annual work program for 2022 proposed to visit the community of Crash water, Rewa and Apoteri Region 9. This activity was approved in 2021 but due the depletion of the Commission's funds in 2021, it was proposed for it to be the first activity for 2022. There was the consensus that where opportunity exists, the Commission capitalized on these opportunities to interface with Communities. Contact was made with the Community Development Officer, Christopher Winter who facilitated the village meetings with the Village councils and residents of the three villages.

Expected Outcome

- To have social interaction and for the communities to be sensitized about the establishment of the IPC and its functions and for villagers to share key concerns experienced at the village level.
- The Commission has an appreciation of how the Village Council operates and what their major challenges are with respect to rights and rule of law.

B. Interactive engagement between IPC and each Village.

The Commission met with:

- 70 residents including the Toshao and six Council members at Crash Water.
- 60 residents including the Toshao and nine Council members at Rewa.
- 705 residents including the Toshao and nine Council members at Apoteri.

(i) The process of the engagement entailed following activities:

The Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Neil Bacchus along with Commissioner David James shared with the residents, the purpose, and functions of the Commission and how communities could benefit from the mandate of the Commission. CDO Winter initiated the discussion while Toshao Mike Williams from Annai acted as the translator. Their concerns were documented. Lunch was prepared for those present.

(ii) Overall concerns

- Even though the Commission is in existence for almost 12 years, villagers never heard about the IPC and when hearing about the mandate were left surprise, upset, angry and happy that this Commission exists that promote and protects their rights.
- One of the burning issues is that they have all applied for land extensions and to date, there have no response to their requests.
- The land proposed for extension between Crash Water and Rewa was given out by the Guyana Forestry Commission as a timber concession

C. Concerns expressed by Residents

The concerns expressed by residents are presented below. The main concerns were related to, health, education and economic activities within each village.

i. Crash Village

- Land titling was done in 2007 but no survey was done, and the demarcation is incomplete.
- Health building needs extension and renovating.
- Need more community health workers
- Need glucose testing kits.
- Only received the first does of the Covid-19 vaccines

- Issues with domestic violence and alcohol abuse; Police not responding adequately
- Need support for a project on Farine research
- School needs comprehensive renovation
- Pensioners are expending \$12,000 to uplift pension at Annai.
- Medical Doctor visits once a month for chronic diseases
- Call for a river market to be established
- Call for capacity building and training for the Village Council

ii. Rewa Village

- School needs furniture as many are broken and there is a shortage.
- Primary land overused and thus the need for extension
- Students from Grade 7 attending Annai Secondary school were sent home without any notification: issues with submission of weekly worksheets.
- Calling for a housing program for the community especially targeting the older residents
- Calling for a dedicated boat and engine catering for the older residents to aid in transporting farm produce and to support the pensioners
- Issue with water system; the pressure is low and not adequate and GWI never followed up.
- Independent tour operator Jules Frederick did not inform the Village Council and is using firearms in his operations
- Call for capacity building and training for the Village Council

iii. Apoteri Village

- Application for extension since 2014. Never received a response.
- Since 2017, water system not functioning. The school does not have water
- There is a shortage of teachers. One teacher is teaching 3 classes

- Need agricultural support such as tools, seedlings, pesticides, and insecticides
- School need furniture and blackboards.
- Need support for a health boat. Issues with transportation at night for sick persons
- Request for extension to the shed of health post as during doctor's visits, persona would be standing in the hot sun
- Call linking tourism with Iwokrama and King Williams falls
- Mr. Lall, a resident of the community is requesting since 2015 a refund of \$300,000 that he expended to sustain a snack feeding program started in 2014.
- Call for capacity building and training for the Village Council

D. Conclusion:

The Indigenous Peoples' Commission agreed to provide support with respect to all the concerns. It was agreed that the secretariat will raise some of these concerns urgently with the relative agencies and to provide a feed back to the village. The residents also thanked the Commission for their timely visit.



Activities at Crash Water



Activities at Rewa



Activities at Apoteri

Appendix 2
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION
Report on Cluster Training workshops

Workshop 1

Date of Activities: March 22-23, 2022, from 09:00 hrs. to 16.30 hrs. daily

Venue: Warapoka, Moruca, Region 1

Facilitators: Commissioners D. James and M. De Souza with CEO Neil Bacchus

Number of participants: 20

Villages/Communities participated:

- Assakata, Village Council
- Santa Cruz Village Council
- Warapoka Village Council

Workshop 2

Date of Activities: August 29-31, 2022 from 09:00 hrs. to 16.30 hrs. daily

Venue: Kumaka, Moruca, Region 1

Facilitators: Commissioners D. James and M. De Souza with CEO Neil Bacchus

Number of participants: 15

Villages/Communities participated:

- Kariako Village Council
- Kokerite Village Council
- Chinese Landing Village Council

Workshop 3

Date of Activities: October 26 -28, 2022, from 09:00 hrs. to 16.30 hrs. daily

Venue: Kumaka, Moruca, Region 1

Facilitators: Commissioners D. James and M. De Souza with CEO Neil Bacchus

Number of participants: 10

Villages/Communities participated:

- Waikaraibi 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 are competent as natural leaders & have management capacity to function as councilors while effectively collaborating with the local government system.
- Indigenous people are 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 at 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.



Training at Warapoka, Region 1



Training at Kumaka, Moruca, Region 1



Training for the Village Councils and CSOs from Waikaraihi at Kumaka, Moruca, Region 1

Prepared and submitted by:



Neil Bacchus

Secretary/Chief Executive Officer

Indigenous Peoples' Commission

Appendix 3



Audit Office of Guyana

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AG: 171/2023

26 October 2023

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION
ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022 and the statement of receipts and payments for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission as at 31 December 2022, 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



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FISCAL YEAR 2022



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION

Indigenous Peoples' Commission

Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2022

ASSETS	Notes	2022	2021
Non-current Asset			
Furniture and equipment	4	2,207,298	2,011,922
Current assets			
Cash & cash equivalents		-	-
TOTAL ASSETS		2,207,298	2,011,922
EQUITY AND LIABILITY			
Equity			
Capital contribution	4	2,211,922	2,012,022
Returns to consolidated fund	7	(4624)	(100)
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITY AND		2,207,298	2,011,922

These financial statements were approved by the Commission on

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

Receipts and Payments For the year ended December 31, 2022

Receipts	Notes	G\$ 2022	G\$ 2021
Government Subvention	5	33,026,000	30,796,000
Payments			
Operating expenses	6	30,196,188	30,675,782
Returns to the Consolidated fund	7	2,829,812	120,218
Total Payments		33,026,000	30,796,000
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, 2022

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 contributions to local organizations

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 are accounted for using the cash basis of accounting i.e. funds are recognized 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, 2022

4. Assets

Property, Plant and Equipment

The amount represents fixed asset acquired during the years.

Particular	Motor Vehicle	Equipment	Office Furniture	Other	Total
	G\$	G\$	G\$	G\$	G\$
January 1 st	-	1,550,209	461,713	-	2,011,922
Additions	-	49,000	146,376	-	195,376
December 31st	-	1,599,209	608,089	-	2,207,298

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\$ 2022	IPC G\$ 2021
Subvention (Current)	33,026,000	30,796,000
Subvention (Capital)	200,000	500,000
Total	33,226,000	31,296,000

Indigenous Peoples' Commission

Notes to the financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2022

6. Operating Expenses

7. Return To Consolidate Fund

6. Operating Expenses

Currency Year	IPC G\$ 2022	IPC G\$ 2021
Statutory expenditure	10,965,984	11,669,654
Employment cost	9,977,676	8,911,606
Materials, Equipment and supplies	377,776	547,782
Fuel & Lubricant	96,200	21,700
Transport Travel and Postage	4,804,693	6,335,890
Utility charges	309,130	585,184
Other Goods and Services Purchased	1,240,352	883,220
Other Operating Expenses	2,273,397	1,655,756
Education Sub. & Training	150,980	64,990
Total	30,196,188	30,675,782

7. Return to Consolidated Fund

Current	2,829,812	120,218
Capital	4,624	100
Total	2,834,436	120,318



Audit Office of Guyana

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444/SL:72/2023

26 October 2023

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 2022

The audit of the financial statements of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission for the year ended 31 December 2022 has been completed. This report contains findings of the current year matters in relation to the audit of the financial statements.

2. The audit was conducted 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. 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(s) 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: \$2,207,298

4. The amount of \$2.207M was reflected in the financial statements as non-current Assets as at 31 December 2022. Audit examination of documents provided revealed that all the assets were verified and marked to be identified as the property of the Commission.

B. Statement of Receipts and Payments

Payments\$ - 33,026,000

5. The amount of \$33.026M was reflected as Payments in the financial statements as at 31 December 2022. Audit checks carried out on the payment vouchers, log books, utilities registers, contracts of employment and other related documentations of the Commission revealed that there were no material findings to be reported.

C. General

6. 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,


★ Troy Braithwaite
Audit Manager (ag)
For Auditor General

