



National Toshihos Council
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24th April, 2023.

Ms. Christina Magerkurth
Managing Director
Architecture for REDD+ Transactions,
Secretariat at Winrock International

Dear Ms. Magerkurth,

It has been brought to our attention that a local non-governmental organisation, the Amerindian Peoples' Association (APA), has filed a formal complaint with the ART Secretariat and called for the suspension of Guyana's carbon credits.

When they made the complaint on the 8th March, 2023, the APA did not share this information with any person or agency in Guyana, although they copied it to several international institutions including the United States Department of State and the Norwegian Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI).

They certainly did not consult with any indigenous leaders or villages in accordance with long-standing village processes to seek free, prior and informed consent to represent our peoples in important matters which affect them.

The APA is entitled to represent itself as a non-governmental organisation and to make a complaint to the ART Secretariat if it believes that the APA has not had the opportunity to engage in the various forms of consultation that have been taking place for over eighteen months now, since October 2021.

However, they have no mandate to represent indigenous peoples, who were not even given the courtesy of notification that the ART Secretariat was being contacted allegedly in their name.

As the chair of the National Toshihos' Council, I am unaware of **any** elected indigenous leader or **any** indigenous village which associated themselves with the APA's complaint to the ART Secretariat, since it was sent almost two months ago.

Therefore, I urge the ART Secretariat to recognise that indigenous peoples in Guyana can speak for themselves through their own representatives, and that it would be a misuse of the grievance process if non-governmental organisations were facilitated in abusing the process without the freely-given consent of indigenous peoples.

Best Regards

Derrick John

Chairman, National Tshaos' Council

NATIONAL TOSHAOS COUNCIL	
SIGN:	
DATE:	Derrick John- NTC Chairman


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Sonia Latchman- NTC Vice Chairwoman


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Shane Cornelius- Secretary