



Overview of Legality and Sustainable Forest Management policies and practices in Guyana



Guyana Forestry Commission
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Structure of Presentation

Areas to be discussed:

- Overview of Forest Legality in Guyana
- Main Aspects of GFC's Forest Monitoring System
- Overview of Activities in Development
- Independent Forest Monitoring, Legality Assurance System
- Forest Monitoring in Guyana and International Requirements
- Links among SFM, forest legality and REDD+
- Vision and Objectives
- Challenges





Overview of Forest Legality in Guyana



- Forest Act
- National Forest Policy, Plan
- GFC's Work Plan
- The GFC's Forest Monitoring Division has as one of its main tasks, the regulating of forest legality
- Total staff complement of 160
- Divisional Stations: 4
- Field Stations: 26
- Mobile Stations: 17

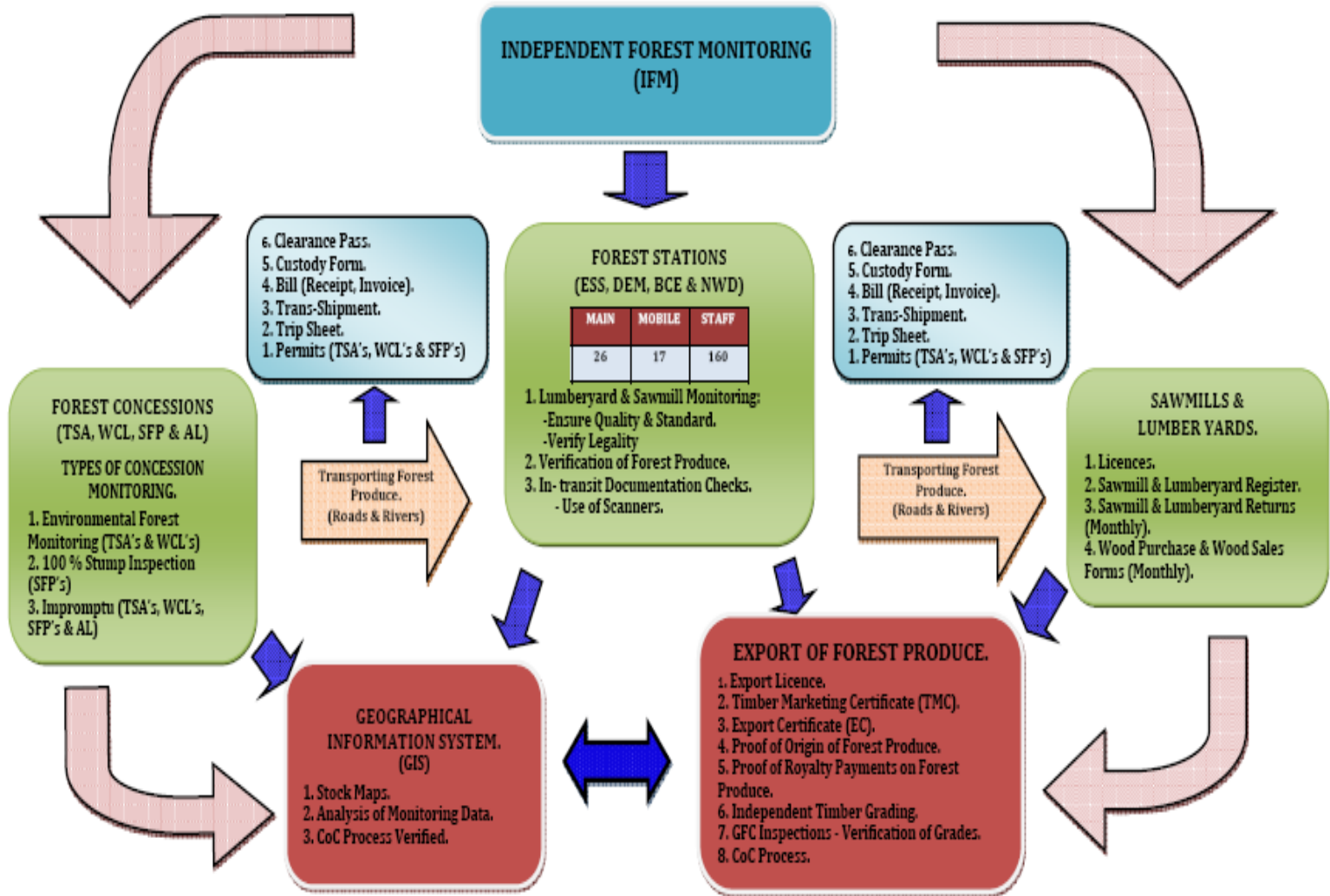


Main Aspects of GFC's Forest Monitoring System

GFC's Forest Monitoring System has among its main objectives, the enforcement of forest legality. Some of the main aspects are:



- Forest Concession Monitoring
- Monitoring of forest produce in transit
- Sawmills and Lumberyards
- Exports



- GUIDING DOCUMENTS FOR THE FORESTRY SECTOR**
- Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting (2002)
 - Forests Act Cap 67:01
 - Timber Marketing Act Cap 67:04
 - Contractual Agreements (TSA, WCL & SFP)
 - Annual Operational Plans (TSA)
 - Policy Documents (National Log Export Policy, National Forest Policy)
 - National Forest Plan (Draft)
 - Guyana Legality Assurance System (Draft)
 - Code of Practice for Wood Processing (In Development)



GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION MONITORING OF TIMBER SALES AGREEMENTS (TSAs) and WOOD CUTTING LEASES (WCLs)

Forest Monitoring for TSAs & WCLs are conducted at two distinct levels

LEVEL 1 – Daily Monitoring by Staff at Mobile Stations

1. Verification of stock maps
2. Block Monitoring based on: block approval letters, the Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting (2002), Annual Operational Plans (AOPs), contractual agreements

Staff at Mobile Stations are permanently based at forward camps within concessions

LEVEL 2 – Quarterly Audits by the Legality Monitoring and Extension Unit

1. Monthly assessment of production by species and volume harvested per block
2. Review of monthly reports submitted by mobile station staff
3. Audits conducted based on the work programme for mobile station staff

Quarterly Audits provide detailed reports of TSA and WCL

Reconciliation and Analysis of information obtained.

The company is officially informed of positive and negative observations of inspection via recommendation letters.



Methodology for State Forest Permission (SFP) Monitoring

Preparation

- Collect Production Data on the Removal Permits submitted by Concessionaire.
- Inform concessionaire of date and time of inspection.
- Arrange Monitoring Team.

Concession Visit

- Inspect areas harvested by Concessionaire.
- Check all stumps and verify tag numbers.
- Record GPS coordinate stumps harvested in the concession.
- Measure and record diameters and length.
- Stamp and spray Stumps.

Prepare Report and Letter

- Computerize field data.
- Plot maps of stumps harvested.
- Submit Report.
- Prepare summary letter for concessionaire.



Tools and Systems Used in Monitoring Legality in the Forestry Sector



1. Legal Concession Agreement
2. Boundary Demarcation
3. Forest Management Plan – Strategic Forest Inventory, Business Plan
4. Annual Operational Plan – FI, Stock Maps - AAC
5. Quota System
6. Log tracking and tagging
7. Removal Permitting
8. Production Register
9. Licensing – Sawmill, Timber Dealer, Export
10. Code of Practice



Overview of Activities in Development

Some of the activities that are being developed to strengthen the forest monitoring system include:



- Expansion of the forest monitoring base
- Expanding Mobile Monitoring at Large Concessions
- GPS tracking of removed forest produce
- Legality Monitoring and Extension Unit
- Bar coding in timber tracking
- Reconciliation of wood products sales and wood products supply
- Independent Forest Monitoring – IFM (External)

Independent Forest Monitoring



- Independent Forest Monitoring is the use of an independent third party that, by agreement with state authorities, provides an assessment of legal compliance, and observation of and guidance on official forest law enforcement systems.
- IFM presents a unique approach to assessing and strengthening legal compliance in the forest sector.
- The Terms of Reference for IFM is an essential part of the process of preparing for IFM.
- The ToR is crucial in delineating exactly what will be monitored, what information is required, how quality will be assured, and what protocols will govern validation and publication of findings.
- The principal activity of IFM entails field investigations by which independent monitoring observe and document activity, legal and illegal, in the forest and through the trade.



Independent Forest Monitoring cont'd



- IFM is jointly identified by Guyana and Norway in the MoU
- Details Terms of Reference developed through a process involving the Govts. Of Guyana and Norway, MSSC
- Minimum Standards set for IFM
- The first step of the IFM process will be the conducting of a scoping mission to assess monitoring systems;
- Secondly, a time frame will be identified for Guyana to implement recommendations made in the scoping mission;
- Public call for proposals, bids have been submitted, assessment is undergoing.



Forest Monitoring in Guyana and International Requirements



- ITTO
- FAO
- UK Procurement Requirement for Timber
- EU FLEGT
- US Lacey Act

- Chain of Custody Systems
- Third Party Verification



Links – SFM, Forest Legality and REDD+



- The important links with sustainable forest management, forest legality, and REDD+ have been clearly established in key documents – LCDS, RPP – REDD+ strategies.
- SFM and forest legality impacts on deforestation and forest degradation
- Sustaining Livelihood
- Equitable benefits to stakeholders
- Maintenance of forest ecosystems
- Sustainable development of communities and the forests
- Legality, SFM and REDD+ are not the same but are closely linked programmes which are all needed to work towards the same objective.



Vision and Objectives



- Robust forest monitoring and legality framework
- Strong chain of custody management
- Effective forest governance and stakeholder partnerships and ownership
- Allow for independent international third party verification
- Continually improve and adapt to new and emerging requirement, concepts, change, etc.



Challenges



- Resources – human, physical and financial
- Numerous, and what may sometimes seem, as conflicting international requirements
- Availability of technology to allow for state-of-the-art monitoring
- Responsiveness and capacity to adapt to changes
- Cost vs. added value of new requirements
- Many legality programmes are becoming market-based entry requirements and thus seemingly voluntary requirements transcend to compulsory requirements.



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