

**MRVS STEERING COMMITTEE (MRVS SC)**  
**Summary of Meeting 15**  
**September 25, 2013**

The fifteenth meeting of the MRVS Steering Committee was held on **September 25, 2013** in the Boardroom of the Guyana Forestry Commission. During this meeting there were updates provided on progress of the Accuracy Assessment, Year 3 Forest Area Change Assessment, Phase 2 of the Forest Carbon Monitoring System, and exploring Co-benefits of REDD+.

The key points arising from the meeting were as follows:

1. The aerial surveys were incorporated as a method to provide a dynamic dataset for accuracy assessment of changes in Guyana's forest area. GeoVantage was contracted by the GFC to work along with Indufor and the GFC, under a survey design constructed by the University of Durham (UoD) to conduct this activity.
2. The Year 3 assessment will include several new features such as the assessment of re-entered mining sites; initial exploration of the assessment of shifting agriculture as a driver of forest degradation; a new categorization of land use to group all protected areas; and a new benchmark indicator for assessing new infrastructure.
3. The full report of the Year 3 Forest Area Change Assessment will be made available to the MRVS Committee members from October 16, 2013 for discussions with the GIS/Remote Sensing staff of the GFC.
4. Phase 2 of the FCMS has begun and would focus on the medium potential for change stratum with a modification in the sampling design to address the sampling of Secondary Sampling Unit (SSU) and Primary Sampling Unit (PSU) in field plots, in cases of the SSU being inaccessible.
5. A national assessment of watershed services as a co-benefit of REDD+ has commenced, and aims to determine the impact of REDD+ on watershed services in Guyana (assessed through water/stream flow and properties related to water quality e.g. temperature, turbidity, etc.) utilizing the SWAT model.
6. Next steps in the Year 3 MRVS process were outlined including timelines for independent verification.