

MRVS STEERING COMMITTEE (MRVS SC)
Summary of Meeting 11
July 12, 2012

The eleventh meeting of the MRVS Steering Committee was held on July 12, 2012 in the Lower Conference Room of the Guyana Forestry Commission. This meeting was convened to discuss issues relating to the development of reference level & historic emissions; a reference level tool developed and a Long Term Monitoring Plan for the Forest Carbon Monitoring System for Guyana with experts from Winrock International. The key points arising from the meeting were as follows:

1. The process of development reference levels, the emissions and removals for all REDD+ activities, was discussed, along with the decisions that were made as outcomes of COP 17 in this regard;
2. In discussing reference levels, it was pointed out that the estimate of emissions from deforestation and degradation requires assessing reference levels based on Guyana's national circumstances, which will be that of a stock based approach. This method will be applied given that Guyana is a country that has had and continues to have high forest cover and a low rate of deforestation (HFLD).
3. Technical negotiations at the level of the UNFCCC have so far continued to take into consideration the important factor of national circumstances. These negotiations have supported the use of reference levels, as opposed to reference emissions levels, for HFLD countries like Guyana. Through using this approach, forest carbon financing payments will be based on stocks rather than emissions levels. These reference levels should represent the historical rate of deforestation and forest degradation in "forested land" at the national scale. Given the rather low rate of deforestation in Guyana, the method of establishing the reference level will likely use a future projected approach.
4. In discussing the long term monitoring plan, it was explained that the medium and low threat areas will be targeted (Phases 2 & 3), as work on Phase 1 has been completed. The plan is closely aligned with the Sampling Design and allows for validation of existing data, reduction in uncertainty, and revision of the emissions factors as needed.
5. From assessment of data collected, it will inform whether changes are occurring in these areas, which would later inform a revision of the stratification, if necessary.
6. It describes the next steps needed to fully complete the work in the phases to update data for some carbon pools and reduce uncertainties. This is followed by a description of work to be completed in sampling and developing emission factors for the medium and low potential for change strata. The final section of the report describes the plan of proposed steps needed to ensure the emission factors remain current over the medium term of about 10 years.