MRVS STEERING COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 25, 2010

A Special meeting of the MRVS Steering Committee (MRVS SC) was held on August 25, 2010 in the Lower Conference Room of the GFC. This meeting was convened to allow for the members of the MRVS SC to interact with the consultants of Bids 1 & 2 and for the consultants to present their respective work plans and approaches, and receive inputs and feedback from the Committee.

Presentation of Poyry's Work Plan & Approach – Dr. Pete Watt

In explaining Poyry's approach to the work of Bid 1, the following main points were discussed:

- The definition of forest to be applied;
- Deforestation - Long term conversion from forest use to non-forest use;
- Degradation / enhancement- Loss or increase of growing stock between two periods of time but still considered forest;

Some of the other main points raised during the presentation were:

- Landsat 5 data used (30 m) would be used to conduct the assessments;
- In conducting detection of historical change the time periods, 1990-2000, 2005, 2009 would be used. The years 1990, 2000, and 2005 time series data were found to generally be of fair quality;
- It was noted that the Benchmark Map was being prepared for up to the time period September 30 2009;
- It was pointed out that for Guyana, the best months for imagery were found to be in the September –October period;
- The reporting period for the current year is October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010;
- It was noted that these was limited coverage for the benchmark map period and mostly not concentrated in areas of change, and as such, Poyry's suggested approach was as follows:
    - Conduct targeted fly overs to cover change areas with the purpose of documenting change
    - Await tasked acquisition of RapidEye (5m) to conduct formal accuracy assessment.

Presentation of Winrock International's Work Plan & Approach – Sandra Brown

The following main points were discussed:

- There are two methodologies outlined by the IPCC for measuring carbon, the Gain Loss Method & the Stock Change Method;
- The Gain Loss Method may be more suited to measuring forest degradation. To measure this, annual data needed is as follows:
    - Gains: annual rates of growth
    - Losses: data on timber harvests
- The Stock Change Method on the other hand may be better suited towards the measurement of deforestation. It measures the difference in carbon stocks between forest and post-deforestation land use;
- In designing the Forest Carbon Monitoring System (FCMS), she pointed out that this would be done using a phased approach, with full collaboration with the consultants of Bid 1;

- Some of the key considerations outlined in the development of the monitoring system include defining the population of interest, stratification, deciding upon which carbon pools to measure, developing a sampling design and determining the frequency of measurement;
- Carbon data collected will serve to inform the reference emission level, in that Historical estimates of emissions require accurate and precise estimates of C stocks; as well as inform future MRV plans, in that the long-term FCMS Implementation Plan will inform future carbon stock inventories.

Attendees:

	Name	Organisation
1.	Naseem Nasir	Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GL&SC)
2.	Donald Singh	Guyana Geology & Mines Commission (GGMC)
3.	Nadia Nasir	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
4.	Andrew Bishop	Office of Climate Change (OCC)
5.	Mohindra Chand	Forest Products Association (FPA)
6.	Yvonne Pearson	National Toshaos Council (NTC)
7.	Lawrence Lewis	University of Guyana (UG)
8.	Sharon Austin	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MoAA)
9.	Pradeepa Bholanath	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
10.	Jagdesh Singh	
11.	Nasheta Dewnath	REDD Secretariat (RS)
12.	Pete Watt (Lead Consultant)	Poyry Management Consultants
13.	Sandra Brown (Lead Consultant)	Winrock International
14.	Nancy Harris	
15.	Silvia Petrova	
16.	Felipe Casarim	

Absent:
Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association

Apologies:
Commissioner James Singh