MRVS Steering Committee
Summary of Meeting 7
March 30, 2011

The seventh meeting of the MRVS Steering Committee was held on March 30, 2011 in the Lower Conference Room of the Guyana Forestry Commission. The key points of discussion arising from the meeting were as follows:

1. As of March 30, 2011, assessment of forest area change for Year 1 of MOU between Guyana and Norway was completed. This entailed the completion of the following activities:
   o Develop Benchmark forest map for 2009
   o Using historical data in archives (Landsat-type data), map deforestation (and reforestation) starting 1990 (if historical data permit, other options may be proposed)
   o Conduct assessment using of (minimum) four (bi-annual) time steps since 1990 (ideally) using Guidance for methods given by GOFC-GOLD Sourcebook
   o Identification of mapped forest change processes at second step
   o Assess available software for forest change assessment (Spring from Brazil should be explored. Sources in Guyana will be analyzed for suitability)

2. Accuracy Assessment and Independent Verifications were conducted of the Guyana MRVS Interim Measures Report 2011. The Accuracy Assessment was conducted by Durham University, while Det Norske Veritas (DNV) conducted the Independent Verification. The report, Guyana MRVS Interim Measures Report by Poyry Forest Industry, was revised to reflect the recommendations made in both reports. The final version is that of March 2011.

3. A second field mission was conducted by Winrock International (WI) in February- March 2011. This mission was conducted in the Variety Woods & Greenheart Limited Concession. During the field mission, the following activities were conducted:
   a) Destructive sampling of three (3) trees
   b) Establishment of logging plots and measurement of impacts of logging in these plots- To determine the carbon stock of the forest before and after selective logging. (Based on gain-loss approach –IPCC, 2007)
   c) Conducting of Forest Carbon Stock assessment- To assess the carbon stock of Guyana's forest in the various pools: Above Ground Biomass, Below Ground Biomass, Dead Wood – Standing and Lying, Litter, Soil – Bulk Density & Carbon
   d) Establishment of Re-growth Plots

4. The methodology used was based on accepted literature for determining forest carbon stocks and for each activity there are standard operating procedures developed by WI. These procedures are robust and internationally recognised and have been field tested by WI in other countries.

5. The main reasons for collecting these specific data are to:
   o Validate the use of the Chave et al equations
   o Determine the total emissions from deforestation and forest degradation;
   o Quantify the amount of biomass stored in the forest of Guyana;
   o Evaluate the impacts caused by SFM as relates to carbon emissions;

6. Capacity building is an ongoing process, targeting not only the staff of the GFC, but also other relevant partners such as the University of Guyana and the members of the MRVS SC.