

MRVS STEERING COMMITTEE (MRVS SC)

Summary of Meeting 19

November 5, 2015

The nineteenth meeting of the MRVS Steering Committee was held on November 5, 2015 in the Lower Conference Room of the Guyana Forestry Commission. Key areas of discussion during this meeting were the findings of the forest area assessment for 2014 (Year 5), as reported in the MRVS Year 5 Interim Measures Report, the audit of the Year 5 assessment by Det Norske Veritas (DNV), and the future of the MRVS. The key points arising from meeting are summarised below:

1. On October 7, 2015, the MRVS Interim Measures Report for Year 5 was completed and made public on the GFC's website and also circulated directly to Stakeholders. The period for public comments was 4 weeks, over the period – October – to November 7, 2015. For Year 5, accompanying the full MRVS Interim Measures Report, is a Year 5 Summary Report. This Report provides a summarized version of the MRVS Interim Measures Report in a less technical, more user friendly format.
2. Forest change of forest to non-forest excluding degradation between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014 (12 months) is estimated at 11 975 ha. Over the Year 5 reporting period, this equates to a total deforestation rate of 0.065%. This rate of change is lower than the previous Year 4 period which was reported as 0.068%.
3. Year 5 forest degradation has been calculated and is compared against a 2011 benchmark value of 4 368 ha. Since its first year of assessment (Year 2), forest degradation has fluctuated; from 5 467 ha in Year 2, to 1 963 ha in Year 3 and 4 352 ha in Year 4. Year 5 is reported at 4 231 ha which is in line with Year 4 values and represents a slight decrease. These fluctuations are due to a consolidation of mining operations around existing infrastructure.
4. A number of technical improvements were made in the Year 5 assessment that included:
 - Continued development of a second reporting framework aligned to the IPCC Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) template for annual assessments, based on the IPCC 2003 GPG tabular format.
 - RapidEye has updated the positional accuracy over Guyana using control points derived from VHR (Very High Resolution) Digital Globe imagery. The GFC team has updated and improve the existing base maps using RapidEye's improved 3A ortho-corrected product.
 - Continued development of methodology and guidelines for mapping and monitoring shifting cultivation.
 - Introduced a new interim measure monitoring the regeneration of deforested areas returning to degraded and active forest.
 - Refinement of the method for accuracy assessment data collection and analysis.
 - Incorporation of deforestation modelling methods to predict future deforestation patterns
5. The audit by DNV was scheduled for November 15 - 21, 2015. The indicators which will be examined are 1) the gross deforestation rate 2) the intact forest landscape 3) forest management 4) carbon loss as an indirect effect of new infrastructure and, 5) Emissions resulting from illegal logging and anthropogenic forest fires.