

MRVS STEERING COMMITTEE (MRVS SC)

Summary of Meeting 21

March 31st, 2016

The twenty first (21) meeting of the MRVS Steering Committee was held on March 31st, 2016 in the Lower Conference Room of the Guyana Forestry Commission. Key areas of discussion during this meeting included overview of the status of the MRVS; final results of the year 5 assessment; findings of the year 5 audit by DNV and the plans for year 6 and onwards.

The key points arising from the meeting are summarised below:

1. Work on Year 5 forest area change assessment has been completed and has undergone both an accuracy assessment by the Durham University and an independent third party verification by Det Norske Veritas (DNV GL).
2. Total deforestation for the final year was recorded at 0.065% which represented the third lowest reporting rate for the 5 year agreement. Reporting figures for years one to five were 0.056%, 0.054%, 0.079%, 0.068% and 0.065% respectively. This value presents a decrease in the rate for the previous year which stood at 0.068%, a difference of 0.003%.
3. There were a number of key development areas in the conducting of the Year 5 assessment, that included the continued development of a second reporting framework aligned to the IPCC Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) template for annual assessments; further sub-division of the non-forest area into the relevant IPCC classes; continued development of methodology and guidelines for mapping and monitoring shifting cultivation; development of relevant emission factors for degradation due to mining and shifting cultivation activities and Incorporation of deforestation modelling methods to predict future deforestation patterns among others.
4. The possibility for year 6 funding of the National MRVS have been proposed while Guyana and Norway engage in negotiations. A tentative year plan has been drafted in the event funding is acquired for phase 6.
5. In securing of financing for MRVS Year 6, a plan will be for 12 months beginning in May, 2016 – April, 2017. The forest cover and change monitoring unit will procure rapid eye imagery for June – July where a six month mapping process will follow. With relation to the FCMS, work will continue on routine monitoring of activity data and emission factors along with measurement and reporting on forest degradation.