

MRVS STEERING COMMITTEE (MRVS SC)
Summary of Meeting 23
December 6, 2016

The 23rd meeting of the MRVS Steering Committee was held on December 6, 2016 in the Video Conference Room of the Guyana Forestry Commission. Key areas of discussion during this meeting included updates on the proposal for Support to Years 6- 9 of the MRVS as well the updates on the outcomes of the forest area change assessment for the Year 2015. The key points arising from the meeting are summarised below:

- The proposal for funding Years 6 – 9 of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS) was been submitted by the GFC through Conservation International Guyana, to the Government of Norway. Among the activities to be supported are the conducting of reporting on forest area change assessment and monitoring for Years 6 to 9 (01 January 2015 to 31 December 2019), and the continued strengthening of Guyana’s Forest Carbon Monitoring System in fulfilment of the MRVS Roadmap Phase 2. This process is expected to be completed by mid-2017.
- The GFC outlined the main areas that would be supported as follows:
 - To complete reporting on forest area change assessment and monitoring under the reporting to Norway, with completion of reporting for Years 6 to 9 (01 January 2015 to 31 December 2019), and strengthen Guyana’s Forest Carbon Monitoring System in fulfilment of the MRVS Roadmap Phase 2.
 - To advance the development of new areas under the MRVS.
 - To establish and test mechanisms for the application of the MRVS to inform improvements in forest management policy and practice.
 - To establish plans for sustaining and further developing the MRVS into a third phase.
 - To share knowledge generated through the project with key technical and non-technical audiences.
- Members of the MRVS Steering Committee participated in activities under the evaluation of the Institutional Strengthening Project (ISP). This evaluation was being undertaken by a consultant hired by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The objective of the consultancy was to prepare the final program evaluation of the Institutional Strengthening in Support of Guyana’s LCDS Project. Components of the ISP were implemented by the Office of Climate Change, the GFC and the Project Management Office.
- The GFC conducted forest area assessment and monitoring for assessment Year 2015. This was done using Landsat 8 (30m) resolution imagery, as the use of RapidEye imagery is awaiting the formal commencement of the Year 6- 9 project. The results were undergoing QA/QC procedures and rechecks. From initial results, it was noted mining, which has been the largest driver of deforestation over the Years 1 to 5 period, remained the largest driver for 2015.
- Through funding from NORAD, WWF will continue its work in supporting CMRV activities in Region 9. This will result in training opportunities in CMRV being made available to 19 indigenous communities.
- The CMRV training will involve 11 months of intensive training. There will also be training for the Toshias in areas of governance and finance. This will equip them to be better able to participate once the Opt-In Mechanism is launched.