



GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION

STATEMENT ON RELEASE OF YEAR 7 INTERIM MEASURES REPORT (ASSESSMENT YEAR 2017)

The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) has completed mapping of year 2017¹, forest change from deforestation drivers. This assessment is part of the national programme of Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) that Guyana started in 2010 with support from the Norwegian Government and which forms part of the Guyana Norway Partnership on climate and forests.

For Year 7, the GFC continued using ESA's Sentinel-2 satellite imagery for the deforestation mapping. Sentinel-2 data is free of charge; this is in line with the commitments made by Norway and Guyana in MRVS Phase 2 (Year 2015 – Year 2019) that Guyana should look into non-payment options. The resolution of the relevant spectral bands of Sentinel-2 is 10 meter. Spatial accuracy and co-registration of Sentinel-2 imagery was noted by the independent verifiers in year 2016 (MRVS Year 6) assessment to be very good, and was found to be better and more consistent than RapidEye (5 meter resolution). Additionally, Landsat-7 and Landsat-8 imagery (30m resolution) was used, to fill in for persistent- cloud areas in the Sentinel-2 imagery, and to more precisely pinpoint the time of change for deforestation events. Wall-to-wall coverage was acquired for Sentinel-2, Landsat-7 and Landsat-8 imagery, from August to December 2017, resulting in multiple acquisitions per location from each sensor. Ancillary FIRMS (MODIS) fire hotspot data were acquired and used to aid in the classification of areas deforested due to fires.

All mapping is done following specific mapping Standard Operating Procedures, which ensures full consistency in the interpretation and data treatment. Training procedures are in place, and the establishment of automatic operations in the processing change, enables for the system to confirm that Quality Control (QC) procedures are in place to provide reliable mapping results. Additionally, an independent accuracy assessment is conducted as a verification procedure as defined by the 2006 IPCC Good Practice Guidance. The MRVS is coordinated by a team of local experts housed within the GFC and all mapping aspects and analyses are completed using local staff.

Results for year 2017 deforestation assessment are presented below and show a continuing reduction on the rate of deforestation or loss of forest. The rate of deforestation for Year 2017 is 0.048%, which is a reduction from the year 2016 assessment which concluded on a deforestation rate of 0.05%. Mapping of forest degradation is being finalized for Year 2017.

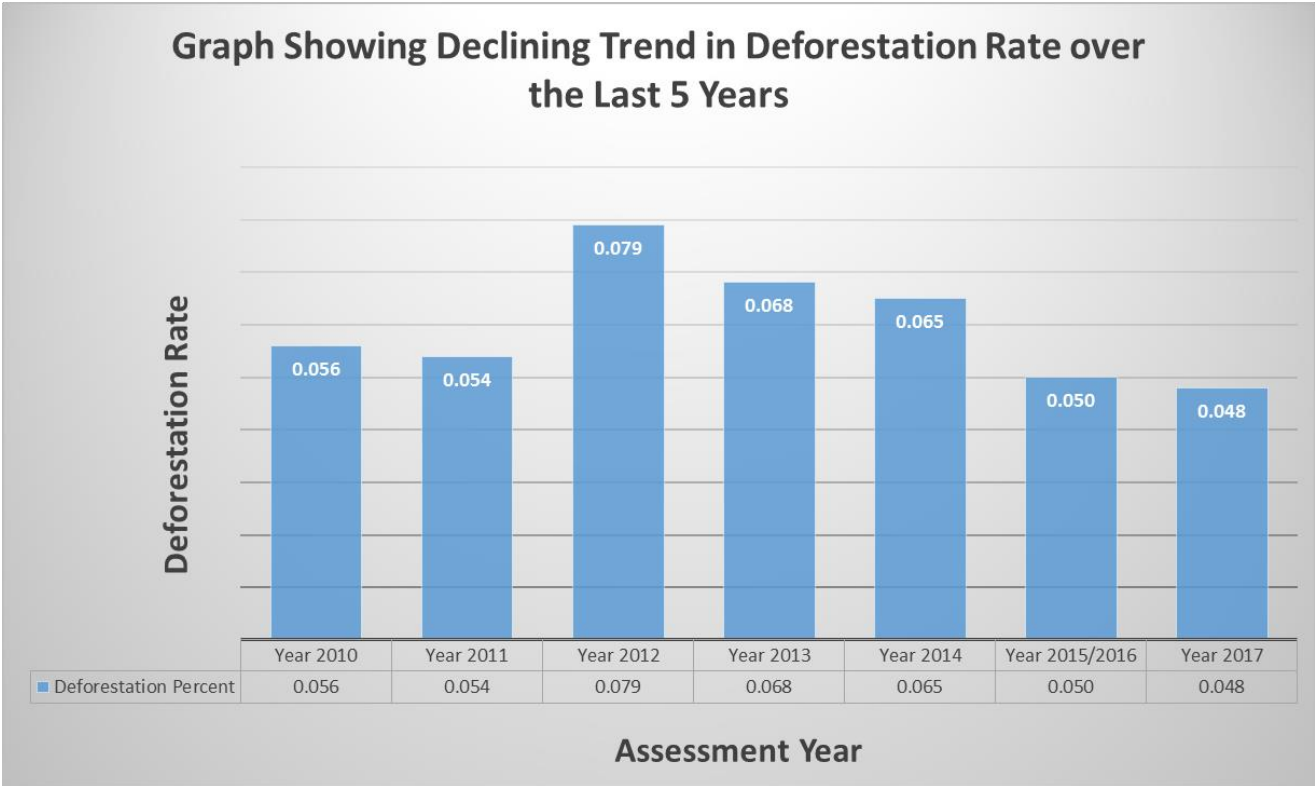
Year	Deforestation Percent
Year 2010	0.056
Year 2011	0.054
Year 2012	0.079

¹ Referred to as Year 7 as this is the 7th continuous year we have completed this assessment.

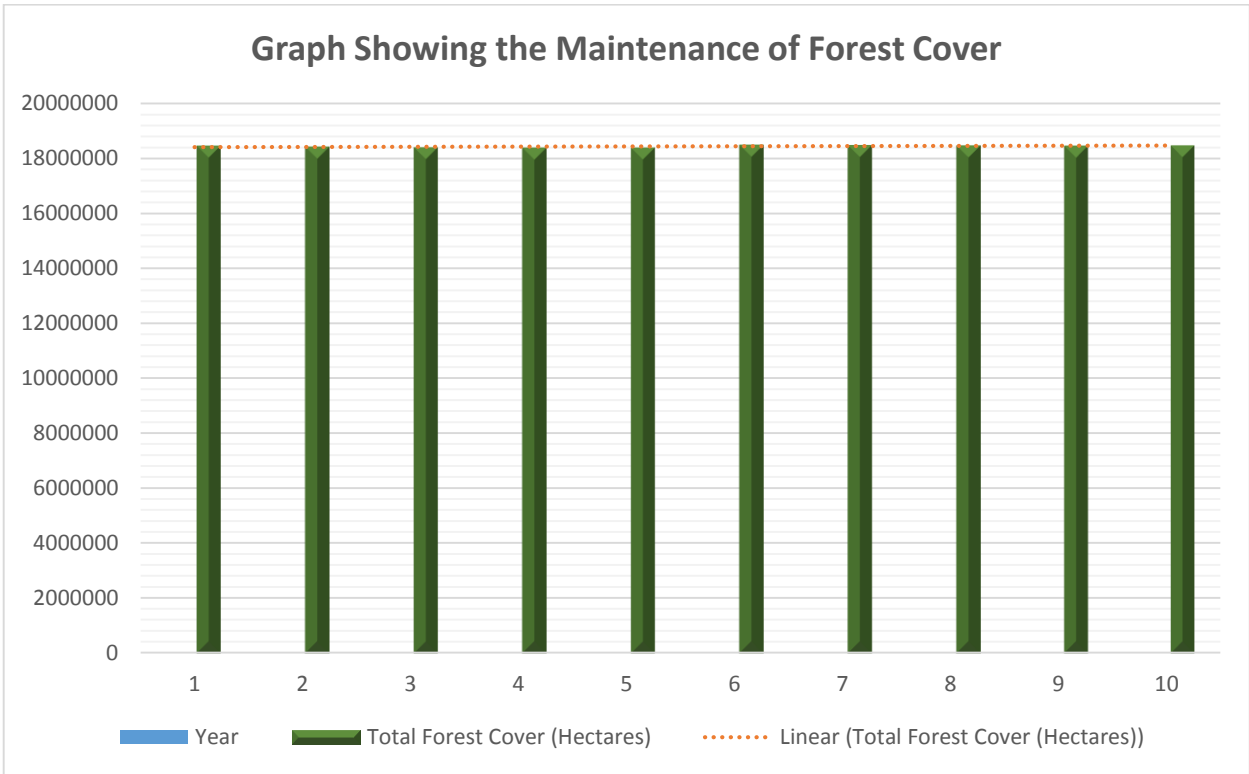
Year 2013	0.068
Year 2014	0.065
Year 2015/2016	0.050
Year 2017	0.048

The details of deforestation by drivers are as follows:

DRIVERS	HECTARES OF FOREST LOSS
Mining	6,495
Mining infrastructure	947
Forestry infrastructure	227
Infrastructure	195
Agriculture	477
Settlements	7
Fire	502
Total	8,851



These results conclude that forest at a national scale remains largely intact as presented below, with over 99% of forest still standing:



- Percent of total forest cover lost from 1990 to present is 0.083%.