

# GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION



## *Draft* ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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## **CONTENTS**

Message from the Chairman, GFC Board of Directors	4
Message from the Commissioner of Forests	5
Executive Summary	7
GFC Board of Directors 2015	8
Acronyms	9
Organizational Structure of the GFC	11
Divisional overview of the GFC	12
Administration	13
Financial summary	16
Performance of the Forest Sector	17
Summary of key activities	20
Forest Monitoring Operations	27
Forest Management Operations	33
Support from Associated Forestry Entities	37
Key areas of Focus: 2016	40
List of GFC Forest Stations Countrywide	41

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, GFC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The GFC Board as per its mandate, provided policy guidance to the GFC, as well as oversight to the financial and operational aspects of the GFC.

This support was instrumental in helping the GFC to meet its national and international obligations (on behalf of the Guyana), and satisfactorily complete its 2015 operational work plan activities.

This was in spite of a forest sector performance that declined in 2015 with both production and exports showing decreases compared to 2014. This can be attributed mainly to a contraction in both local and international market demands, especially the Asian component.

There was once again confirmation by independent auditors that our SFM practices are appropriate and being implemented satisfactorily at all levels of forest operations. Our rate of deforestation remained one of the lowest globally, and access to markets has improved.

Public education and awareness meetings were held where persons were given the opportunity to freely express their concerns and provide suggestions on mechanisms for improving the efficiency and productivity of the sector.

Additionally, meetings were held with the concessionaires impressing upon them the need to increase production, engage in the production of more added-value forest products, and reduce log exports.

Emphasis was again placed on the submission by TSA/WCL holders of their realistic short-, medium- and long-term investment plans which they would be held accountable for.

The sector was provided with many training and capacity building sessions geared towards the accelerated manufacturing of added-value forest products. It is hoped that this would bear fruit in successive years.

The GFC Board of Directors also played an active role in encouraging the utilization and marketing of the Lesser Known Species or Lesser Used Species (LUS).

In 2016, it is expected that there will be an even more aggressive campaign by the GFC in collaboration with the FPDMC and sister Agencies such as the PAC, leading to a greater promotion and acceptance of these LUS by both local and export markets.

The GFC Board congratulates all stakeholders for their combined efforts in making 2015 a relatively successful year in spite of the downturn in markets locally and internationally.

We also commend the GFC for its stewardship of Guyana's state forest estate, and recognize the commitment and dedication of staff members who continue to work in often challenging circumstances.

We commit to supporting the 2016 Board, the GFC and all stakeholders as we strive to better implement the very robust SFM guidelines and build on the sector's very firm foundation of sustainability and legality.

Sincerely

.....  
Dr. Indarjit Ramdass  
Chairman

## **MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF FORESTS**

The forest sector plays an important role in national development of Guyana. It contributes in excess of 3% to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) based on primary production.

This sector provides direct employment to approximately 23,000 persons. It also helps to sustain the local construction industry through the supply of timber resources. Contribution of foreign exchange earnings is approximately US\$45M annually, as well as the provision of livelihood opportunities to many forest based communities, and ecosystem services to the global environment.

In 2015, GFC finalized Codes of Practice for Timber Harvesting specific to State Forest Permissions, Agricultural and Mining Leases. These Codes were accompanied by extension training, stakeholder awareness and capacity building.

With donor support, GFC collaborated with the Forestry Training Centre Inc. (FTCI) and the Forest Products Development and Marketing Council (FPDMC) to continue engagements such as capacity building and extension training of community forestry association employees, TSA/WCL/SFP concession employees as well as GFC staff.

The GFC satisfactorily completed its 2015 deliverables especially those relating to the activities on REDD+ and MRVS, the initiative on EU FLEGT and forest legality. The year 5 (2014) forest area assessment recorded a deforestation rate of 0.065% (0.079 % in 2012; 0.068 % in 2013).

The sector performed below expectations in 2015. Production decreased by approximately 14.7 % (453,000 m<sup>3</sup> in 2015 compared to 531,000 m<sup>3</sup> in 2014).

Export of forest produce for 2015 was US\$ 45.6 M; a decrease of 15.8 % compared to 2014. The main export destinations continued to be Asia/Pacific for Roundwood, Europe and the Caribbean region for Sawn timber, while the main export market for Plywood was North America and the Latin American and Caribbean region

The domestic and external markets both contracted in 2015; this was a major reason for the decline in production and in exports.

In terms of revenue and expenditure, the GFC continued to manage its financial responsibilities well; there was a slight decrease in the revenue collected compared to the budgeted figure whilst actual expenditure was below budgeted.

In 2015, GFC continued to emphasize the need for beneficial occupation of allocated forest lands. Additionally, collaborative efforts were made with FTCI, FPDMC and stakeholders to promote the use of the Lesser Used Species (LUS), and increase the manufacture of added value forest products.

The Commission's work program for 2015 maintained focus on active field based monitoring of forest concessions as well as processing and export operations. This proactive monitoring approach has contributed to the rate of illegal logging being one of the lowest in the tropical timber producer countries: less than 1% of annual production.

From an international perspective, GFC collaborated with a number of international organizations and donors such as ITTO, FAO, IDB, WWF and UNDP to implement projects relevant and appropriate to Guyana's situation.

GFC thanks the Minister and staff, MNR; the GFC Board of Directors, GFC Staff and our direct and indirect stakeholders for their invaluable advice, guidance and commitment.

GFC will continue to work collaboratively with all our local, regional and international partners/stakeholders for the sector's development in 2016 and onward.

With best regards

.....  
James Singh  
Commissioner of Forests

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

The Forest Sector continued to provide direct employment opportunities to over 23,000 persons, inclusive of residents of hinterland communities.

Oversight of the sector was provided by the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) through policy guidance by the GFC Board of Directors and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The GFC satisfactorily completed its 2015 operational Work Plan activities through the combined effort of 408 staff and the support of the Forest Products Development and Marketing Council (FPDMC) and Forestry Training Centre Inc. (FTCI).

Revenue collected for 2015 was \$1,372,137,000.00 whilst Expenses totalled \$1,173,762,000.00, with a surplus of \$198,375,000.00.

Both production and exports of forest produce declined when compared to 2014 (14.5% and 15.8% respectively). This decline was directly related to depressed markets locally and internationally.

Other key activities that were undertaken in 2015 included:

- Training and capacity building of GFC and sector personnel in various aspects of forest management.
- Preparation of a draft revised Guyana Timber Grading Rules.
- Interagency collaboration on Community Forestry.
- Preparation of national reports on Forest Sector Information.
- Preparation of a draft revised National Log Export Policy.
- Forest Area Change Assessment for 2014 (Rate of deforestation to be 0.65%).
- REDD+ Outreach Activities.
- Monitoring of State Forest Areas (SFA's), Sawmills, Lumberyards, Exports, other licences to verify compliance with the relevant legislation and guidelines. Compliance was found to be satisfactory.
- Review of and compliance with Annual Operational Plans (AOP's) Forest Management Plans (FMP's), Annual Allowable Cuts (AAC)/ Quota, Log tagging, Forest Inventory methodologies.
- Promotion of the Lesser Used Species and encouraging the transition to manufacture of added value forest products.

The deliverables for all of these activities were achieved in a timely and effective manner. Additional actions to support positive sector interventions will continue in 2016. GFC expresses its appreciation to its staff, the sector, local and international partners for their collaboration.

Thanks also go to the Minister and Ministry of Natural Resources, the GFC Board of Directors and the general public for their guidance, encouragement and support.





## **GFC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015**

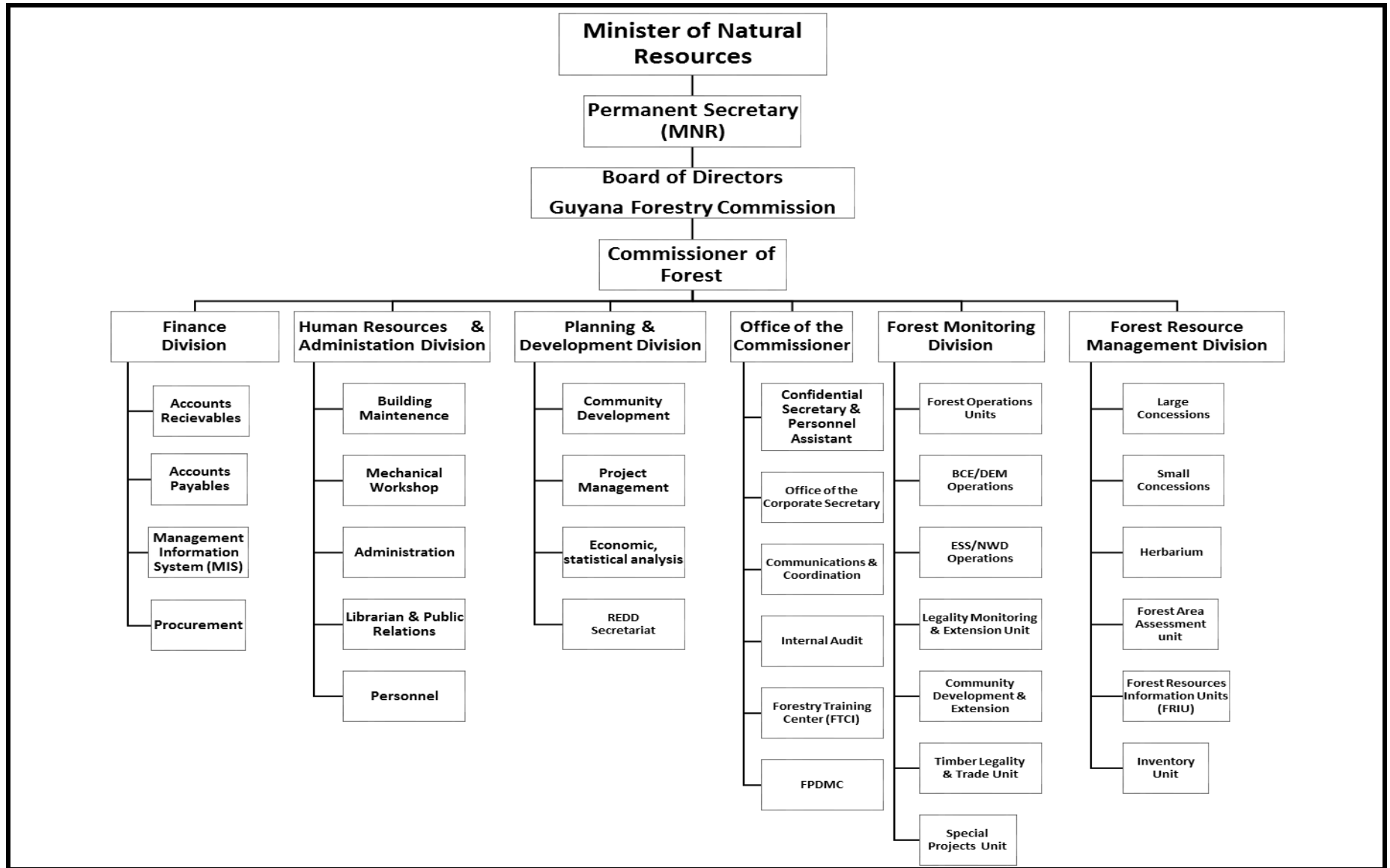
✓ Dr. Indarjit Ramdass	Chairperson
✓ Ms. Vanessa Benn	Director
✓ Mr. Andrew Bishop	Director
✓ Mr. Clinton Urling	Director
✓ Mr. Donald Singh	Director
✓ Ms. Yvonne Pearson	Director
✓ Ms. Prema Ramanah-Roopnarine	Director
✓ Mr. Bertie Xavier	Director
✓ Mr. Rajnarine Singh	Director
✓ Ms. Seion George	Director (GFC Workers Representative)
✓ Mr. James Singh	Commissioner of Forests (ex-officio)

## ACRONYMS

AAC	Annual Allowable Cut
ACF	Assistant Commissioner of Forests
CDP	Community Development Programme
CFO	Community Forestry Organization
CMRV	Community Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
CoP	Code of Practice
EU FLEGT	European Union Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO ACP	FAO African Caribbean and Pacific Programme
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FPA	Forest Products Association
FRMD	Forest Resources Management Division
FRP	Forest Resources Planning
FRIU	Forest Resources Information Unit
FRIO	Forest Resources Information Officer
GCP	Global Canopy Programme
GEMFORM	Guyana Empirical Model for Forest Management
GEO	Group on Earth Observations
GEO FCT	GEO Forest Carbon Tracking
GEOS	Global Earth Observation System of Systems
GFC	Guyana Forestry Commission
GOF	Global Objectives on Forests
GoG	Government of Guyana
GRA	Guyana Revenue Authority
GSF	Guiana Shield Facility
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFM	Independent Forest Monitoring
IPCC	Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
JFSQ	Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (ITTO)
KCP	Knowledge and Capacity Building Product (IDB)
KfW	German Development Bank
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy
MoAA	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (Guyana)
MRVS	Monitoring Reporting and Verification System for REDD+
MRVS SC	MRVS Steering Committee
NFCMS	National Forest Carbon Monitoring System (Guyana)
NFP	National Forest Plan
NFPS	National Forest Policy Statement
NRDDB	North Rupununi District Development Board
NTC	National Toshias' Council
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
NTWG	National Technical Working Group (for EU FLEGT for Guyana)
OCC	Office of Climate Change
PDD	Planning and Development Division
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PSP	Permanent Sample Plot
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Plus
RGDP	REDD+ Governance Development Plan
RIL	Reduced Impact Logging

SFA	Senior Field Assistant
SFEP	State Forest Exploratory Permit
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SFP	State Forest Permission
ToR	Terms of Reference
TSA	Timber Sales Agreement
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
VPA	EU FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement
WCL	Wood Cutting Lease
WI	Winrock International
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
YTC	Yarrowkabra Training Centre

## Organizational Structure of the GFC



## **1. DIVISIONAL OVERVIEW OF THE GFC**

### **1.1 Human Resource and Administration Division**

The Human Resources and Administrative Division is responsible for the general administration of the Guyana Forestry Commission, staff management, development and implementation of human resources policies, procedures and training. It also manages the Library which is available for public use and is stocked with a number of publications including research findings and journals on issues of local and international status.

### **1.2 Finance Division**

The Finance Division is responsible for managing the financial resources of the Commission. It is also responsible for the Management Information System which assures improved data communication between both internal and external stakeholders; and maintains reliability, security and availability of information that is accessed throughout GFC.

### **1.3 Planning and Development Division**

The Planning and Development Division is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the National Forest Plan, conducting economic analyses and other relevant studies on the forest sector, reporting on forest sector information and coordinating GFC's social development programme. It also formulates project proposals and seeks funding for projects developed. Project activities that are approved and financed are implemented by this Division under the oversight of the office of the Commissioner. The Division is also responsible for supporting the REDD+ and MRVS work that is being executed by the Commission.

### **1.4 Forest Resource Management Division**

The Forest Resources Management Division (FRMD) of the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) is largely responsible for data collection on National Forest resources by conducting surveys and inventories. Additionally, the FRMD contributes to research and makes recommendations on forest dynamics, silviculture treatments, the allocation of forest concession areas, the preparation of operational guidelines for forest management plans, evaluation of proposed forestry operations; ensuring concessionaires follow prescribed standards for sustainable forest management and disseminating information on Guyana's forest.

## 1.5 Forest Monitoring Division

The Forest Monitoring Division (FMD) of the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) is responsible for the enforcement of Forest Laws and Regulations, the licensing of forestry operations, the monitoring and control of forestry operations with regards to annual allowable cuts, social and environmental impacts, approving forest produce for export, and the collection of revenue.

## 1.6 Overview of the REDD Secretariat

As part of Guyana's efforts to provide an enabling environment for the facilitation of key technical aspects of REDD+ activities, the REDD Secretariat (RS) has been established as a unit within the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC). The Secretariat has been tasked with responsibility for the coordination and implementation of key technical REDD+ activities as detailed in Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy framework.

# 1. ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW OF GFC

## 1. Staffing

The Table 1 below shows the 2011-2015 Staff complement by Division:

**Table 1: Staff distribution for years 2011- 2015**

Divisions of GFC	Number of staff in divisions				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Forest Monitoring Division	233	200	189	213	208
Forest Resources Management Division	47	63	55	64	64
Planning Development Division/REDD	12	12	11	13	13
Human Resources & Administration	31	59	54	58	86
Finance & MIS	29	31	35	35	37
<b>Total</b>	352	365	344	383	408

In 2015, the major staffing increase was in the Human Resources and Administration Division with the recruitment of some additional security staff at Head Office and at Forest Stations.

## 2. Staff Development

### 2.1 Scholarships

In 2015, two scholarships were awarded for students to the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) Forestry Certificate in Forestry (1 student each from Rockstone village, Region 10 and Phillipai village, Region 7).

Five (5) scholarship awardees have completed their studies at the University of Guyana (UG) and are now stationed at the GFC as Management Trainee.

### 2.2 Local/Overseas Seminars

Almost all of GFC's Senior and Middle Managers attended the local/overseas training courses and seminars in 2015.

**Table 2: Table showing persons who attended overseas training in 2015.**

No. OF STAFF	COURSE	DURATION	COUNTRY
16	<b>Seminar on modern Technology of Agro-Forestry Planting and processing.</b>	September 7-26, 2015	Beijing Forestry University (BFU), China
1	<b>Training on land use classification System which was hosted by SBB &amp; FAO</b>	March 9 -13, 2015	Paramaribo, Suriname
1	<b>Terraclass/Terraamazon/introduction to radar</b>	August 31 to September 11, 2015	Belem do Para, Brazil
1	<b>Project Design and Proposal Writing for Improved Forest Governance (EUFLEGT).</b>	July 13 -17, 2015	Cara Lodge, Guyana
2	<b>Effective Audit Report Writing</b>	April 4, 2015	Regency Hotel, Guyana.
2	<b>Timber Grading Course.</b>	January, 2015	GFC Multiplex
1	<b>The Use and Preventative Maintenance of Saws.</b>	December 12, 2015	GFC Multiplex
10	<b>Technical training in Synthetic-Aperture Radar (SAR) for forest mapping,</b>	January 12-16, 2015	GFC Multiplex
3	<b>Training in satellite image interpretation.</b>	October 19– 30, 2015	GFC Multiplex

4	<b>Introduction to SQL, Introduction to C#, Introduction to Asp.net, CSS3</b>	April – November 2015	GFC Board Room
27	<b>Code of Practice on Wood Processing and Facilities (Sawmills and Lumber Yard)</b>	November 5, 2015.	Yarrowkabra Training Centre
12	<b>Metrification Manual training</b>	March 10 – 11 & 19– 20, 2015	BCL, Buckhall
16	<b>Orientation and FMD Capacity Building Training Workshop for new Recruits</b>	31 August – 11 September, 2015	Yarrowkabra Training Centre
75	<b>Capacity Building (EUFLEGT)</b>	Various dates	Forest Stations
25	<b>Training of drivers on the Vehicle care; basic mechanical techniques; Radio usage; Chainsaw operation; Road Safety</b>	September 12 & 13, 2015.	Yarrowkabra Training Centre

### 3. Industrial Relations

During the year GFC continued to enjoy very cordial relations with the union representing the workers- GAWU. There was no major area of contention in 2015.

### 4. Other Important Issues

- Mr. Rawle Lewis was promoted to DCoF, FRMD
- Mr. Quacy Bremner was seconded to the Forestry Training Centre Inc. as the Training Manager.
- Mr. Ewart Moore was promoted to ACF, Inventory Unit, FRMD
- Ms. Shuba Soamandaugh was promoted to ACF, Large Concessions, FRMD
- Ms. Lashanna Lillie was promoted to ACF, FRIU
- Mr. Haimwant Persaud was seconded to MNRE and appointed as Manager of its Geospatial Information Systems Unit.
- Ms. Sonya Reece was promoted to Communications Manager
- Mr. Jowala Somai was appointed to the position of Personnel Manager.
- The Health and Safety Committee of GFC was resuscitated; eight (8) meetings were held and recommendations to address concerns are being implemented.



### 3. FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2015

#### 3.1 Financial Summary 2015

The year 2015 was very challenging for the GFC in terms of production, export and revenue generation. Both production and export were lower than the previous year and this had an impact on the revenue outflows for the Commission in 2015. Revenue collected for 2015 was **\$1.372B**; total expenditure for the year was **\$1.173B**, comprising of employment cost- **\$663.2M**, operational cost- **\$376.M**, Administration cost- **\$66M**, Finance & Professional cost- **\$67.2M**. Capital expenditure for the year was \$ 68M.

**Table 3: Table showing Revenue, Actual 2015 and Budget 2015**

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Actual 2015(000)</b>	<b>Budget 2015(000)</b>
Royalty	\$260,502	265,000
Acreage Fee	\$178,447	175,000
Licensing & Other Fees & Compensation	\$126,487	130,000
Commission on Exports	\$780,000	800,000
Other Income	\$26,670	30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,372,137</b>	<b>\$1,400,000</b>
Employment Cost	\$663,240	670,000
Operational Costs	\$376,690	380,000
Administration Cost	\$66,627	70,000
Finance & Professional Cost	\$67,205	72,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,173,762</b>	<b>1,192,000</b>

Despite the challenging circumstances of 2015, the Commission continue to ensure that competitive salaries and adequate resources were provided for the staff.

The Commission also met its obligations with respect to other aspects of staff welfare such as NIS, pension medical, PAYE.

Total employment cost accounted for approximately 60% of GFC's total cost.

Operational cost for the year was \$376,690,000; the bulk of this related to the core operational areas of travel and subsistence, fuel, vehicle maintenance, building maintenance etc. Due to the field nature of the GFC operations: fuel, subsistence and building and vehicle maintenance cost are usually substantial.

Upgrade and maintenance works was carried out in a number of forest stations in 2015 namely Supenaam, Bartica, Arapaico, Springland and Canjie and Kwakwani, amongst others.

In October 2015 the sum of G\$ 100M was paid over to the consolidated fund as per request from the Ministry of Finance.

It is expected that production and export will improve in 2016 and thus enable the cash flow position to improve.

Additionally, the following notable activities were done in 2015:

- Installation and setup of GFC's Video Conference Facility
- Installation of Wide Area Network System at Five outstations.

This was in addition to routine activities inclusive of:

- Continued development of concession management database, concession profile database, and upgrades to production, export and tag management database
- Maintenance of GFC Network System and intra and internet facilities
- Security management of the network and databases
- Updating of GFC website
- Hardware and software maintenance
- Data management and day to day management of the network, files, user ID, data storage and backups

## **4. PERFORMANCE OF THE FOREST SECTOR IN 2015**

### **4.1 Production**

The forest sector experienced decreases in both production and export in 2015. The main markets for Guyana forest products, specifically India and China have contracted their demand following economic slowdown in both countries. Of note, Log export volume decreased by approximately 20% over the corresponding annual 2014 volume total. Also notable, is the trend in Dressed Sawnwood export value for 2015, which increased by close to 5%, representing higher overall prices for this product category.

Total production of Timber (Logs, Primary Lumber, Roundwood, Fuelwood, and Splitwood) for the period January to December 2015 was recorded at 452,954m<sup>3</sup> and together with Veneer and Plywood recorded a total of 483,702m<sup>3</sup>. This compares to 530,864m<sup>3</sup> and 572,236m<sup>3</sup> respectively, recorded in 2014. Overall, total production reflects a 14.7% decrease in 2015 compared to the year 2014.

Total Log Production for 2015 was 331,195m<sup>3</sup> as compared to 406,433m<sup>3</sup> in 2014. This was a decrease of approximately 19%. Total Primary Lumber production recorded a notable increase of 6% in 2015 with a production level of 70,952m<sup>3</sup> as compared to 67,147m<sup>3</sup> in 2014. In the Roundwood Category, Greenheart Piles and Wallaba Poles were the leading products in terms of production volume. Total Plywood and Veneer production was recorded at 30,748m<sup>3</sup> in 2015, as compared to 41,372m<sup>3</sup> in 2014.

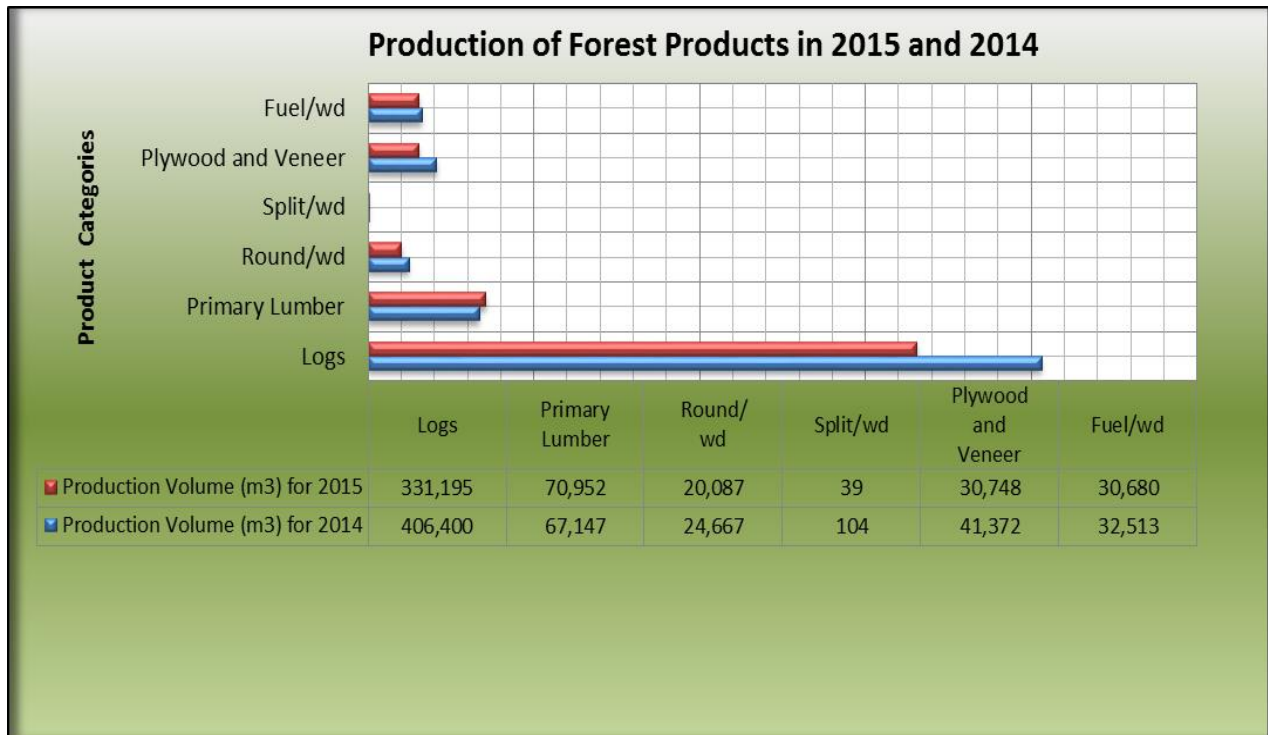
**Table 4: Table showing Total Production for 2015 and 2014**

<b>GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION</b>					
<i>Total Production for 2015 and 2014</i>					
				<b>Jan - Dec 2015</b>	<b>Jan - Dec 2014</b>
<b>PRODUCTS</b>		Unit		<b>Volume</b>	<b>Volume</b>
<b>TIMBER PRODUCTS</b>					
<b>Logs</b>		m <sup>3</sup>			
Special Category					
	Greenheart			67,343.13	64,628.97
	Purpleheart			23,672.34	22,052.17
	Others			6,648.67	8,312.26
<b>Total Special Category Logs</b>				<b>97,664.14</b>	<b>94,993.40</b>
Class 1				145,478.61	198,467.44
Class 2				61,108.34	68,785.15
Class 3				26,943.79	44,187.16
<b>Total Other Class Logs</b>				<b>233,530.74</b>	<b>311,439.76</b>
<b>Total Logs</b>				<b>331,194.88</b>	<b>406,433.16</b>
<b>Roundwood</b>		m <sup>3</sup>			
Greenheart Piles				13,965.68	17,633.25
Kakaralli Piles				594.09	765.65
Wallaba Poles				3,854.96	4,067.05
Posts				1,550.99	2,053.77
Spars				121.51	146.95
<b>Total Roundwood</b>				<b>20,087.23</b>	<b>24,666.67</b>
<b>Primary (Chainsaw) Lumber</b>		m <sup>3</sup>			
Special Category					
	Greenheart			7,239.97	6,271.14
	Purpleheart			2,532.56	1,799.47
	Others			2,758.93	3,104.27
<b>Total Special Cat. Lumber</b>				<b>12,531.46</b>	<b>11,174.87</b>
Class 1				32,116.28	36,149.55
Class 2				20,577.12	12,017.33
Class 3				5,727.49	7,805.92
<b>Total Other Class Lumber</b>				<b>58,420.89</b>	<b>55,972.80</b>
<b>Total Primary Lumber</b>				<b>70,952.35</b>	<b>67,147.68</b>
<b>Total Splitwood</b>				<b>39.14</b>	<b>104.02</b>
<b>Total Fuelwood</b>				<b>30,680.45</b>	<b>32,512.56</b>
<b>Veneer</b>				<b>16,131.00</b>	<b>22,574.00</b>
<b>Plywood</b>				<b>14,617.00</b>	<b>18,798.00</b>
<b>NON - TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS</b>					
Wattles		pieces		343,608.00	401,618.00
Manicole Palm		pieces		3,253,785.90	2,796,974.00

### Production Volume of Forest Products in 2015

The graph below shows the production level for the main forest products in 2015 as compared to 2014. The graph highlights increased levels of forest production in 2015 for Primary Lumber, the product mainly produced by smaller forest concessions and community forestry organizations.

**Chart 1: Showing Production of Forest Products in 2015 and 2014**



### 4.2 Exports

Exports of Forest Products for the year 2015 is recorded at US\$45.6M. This represents a decrease over the 2014 total by 15.8%. Logs and Sawnwood continue to be the leading export value earner for 2015.

For 2015, the export destination trend follows that of 2014. Logs are mainly being exported to the Asia Pacific region namely India and China; and Sawn Lumber exported mainly to the Europe and Caribbean markets namely the United Kingdom, Trinidad and Tobago and St Lucia.

The main market for Roundwood has been in the North American region namely, the United States, and Plywood major market being the Latin American and Caribbean region, namely Suriname and Belize.

**Table 5: Table showing Export Value for 2015**

<b>Product</b>	<b>Export Value for 2015 (US\$)</b>
Logs	20,669,302
Primary Lumber	18,013,447
Roundwood	2,122,289
Splitwood	2,089,193
Fuelwood	335,234
Plywood and Veneer	1,940,822
Added Value Products	457,439
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,627,725</b>

## **5. SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIVITIES FOR 2015**

The activities undertaken are part of the GFC's Annual Work Plan 2015 and are also outlined as key priorities in the National Forest Plan 2011, National Forest Policy Statement 2011, REDD+ Governance Development Plan (RGDP), MRVS Road Map, and LCDS, among other strategic documents.

### **5.1 Revising Forest Industry Standards**

In 2015, ITTO project # PD 687/13 Rev.1 (I), entitled: *Strengthening the performance of the Wood Processing Sector in Guyana, through Building Local Capacity and Enhancing National Systems that promote forest product trade and sustainable utilization of forest resources*, continued to be implemented.

This Project has three main Outputs:

- Trained personnel operating within wood processing operations (Management, Supervisors, Operators, and Regulators)
- Report on a National system for local and export trade of lumber that is supported through a reviewed Guyana Timber Grading rules, and quality/dimensional standards for lumber to be used in the construction sector
- Increase awareness for persons using lumber (Contractors, Architect, Value-Added Operations).

During 2015, decentralized training was completed in the following key areas:

- Timber and its properties, Timber grading

- Legal framework for and Management of sawmills, lumberyards
- Overview of sawmilling process, Saw doctoring, kiln drying
- Occupational safety and health in wood processing operations
- Sawmill components
- Sawmill site layout
- Sawmill (internal) layout

2015 also saw the development of the first draft of the Revised Timber Grading Rules which is currently being reviewed by the GFC and other stakeholders.

## **5.2 Developing Capacities for Managing CITES Timber Species**

In 2015, ITTO PROJECT # TMT-SPD 014/13 Rev.1 (M) was further advanced. This project is entitled: *Enhancing the sustainable management and commercial utilization of the CITES Listed species Cedrela Odorta (Red Cedar) in Guyana.*

2015 saw the completion of the first draft of the Resource Assessment and Forest Management Plan for the CITES-Listed Species *Cedrela Odorata* (Red Cedar) providing an overview of the population size, distribution, stand density, size structure, regeneration dynamics and possible strategy for the sustainable management of this timber species; also, a possible reporting framework for CITES.

The Report concludes that Guyana has a strong system of forest permitting and monitoring that includes most elements of an effective chain of custody management system of forest produce from the point of harvest to point of export, and allow for verification of legal origin of forest produce.

## **5.3 Community Forestry**

### **Overview of Community Forestry in 2015**

In 2015, two (2) new Community Forestry Organizations were established giving a total of seventy-five (75) CFOs, occupying 497,554 hectares of forests on 130 Community Forestry Management Agreement.

The CFO's regime involves continuous intervention by GFC in the areas of training, mediation and other capacity building initiatives. During the first half of 2015, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), formalized an agreement to provide USD 120,000, towards improving FLEGT readiness of six (6) Community Forestry Organizations within Region 10.

## **Interagency Collaboration on Community Forestry Areas**

In 2015, GFC supported various aspects of interagency collaboration. Included among these are:

*Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs* – The main purpose of this support was aimed at troubleshooting forestry related issues reported by Indigenous communities to the Ministry.

*Ministry of Labour* – This basically focused on incorporation of CFOs as either Friendly Societies or Cooperative Societies. During 2015, through increased dialogue with the Registrar of Friendly Societies, a number of CFOs were registered and some are in the process of registration. This collaboration continues to improve GFC's effectiveness in guiding the groups' administrative management.

## **5.4 National Reporting on Forest Sector Information**

Reporting to national agencies on key forest sector data continued in 2015.

The main reports are:

1. Coordinate Economic Analyses and Forest Sector Reporting
2. Monitor Performance of the Forest Sector – Concession Level Analysis
3. Monthly Reports on Production, Export and Prices
4. Annual Forest Sector Information Report
5. Half Year Forest Sector Report.
6. Forest Sector Employment Census
7. Domestic Price Survey

The Forest Sector Information Report is a main report published by the GFC on forest sector performance. These reports are available on the GFC's website.

The Agencies that the GFC supplies information to are:

1. Bank of Guyana
2. Bureau of Statistics
3. Ministry of Public Works
4. Guyana Energy Agency
5. Ministry of Finance

## **5.5 National Log Export Policy**

From 2009 – 2011, a National Log Export Policy that saw a phased increase in the rates of export commission on targeted species of logs was instituted.

This Policy was aimed at encouraging added value manufacturing of forest products and lowering the export of logs for prime timber species that can be utilized in added value forestry activities.

Following another national process, a revised National Log Export Policy 2012-2014 was implemented from August 2012.

In 2015, a draft Policy was developed for consideration of the Government/stakeholders.

## 5.6 Year 5 Forest Area Change Assessment Completed

On October 7, 2015, the MRVS Interim Measures Report for Year 5 (January 1 to December 31, 2014) was completed.

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. equating 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%.

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.

The main deforestation driver for the current forest year reported (Year 5) is mining (sites and roads) which accounts for 85% of the deforestation in this period. The majority (83%) of the deforestation is observed in the State Forest Area. The temporal analysis of forest change post-1990 indicates that most of the change is clustered around existing road infrastructure and navigable rivers. In Year 5 the change has continued primarily near the footprint of historical change.

**Table 6- Area Deforested 1990 to 2014**

Period	Years	Analysis resolution	Forest Area ('000 ha)	Change ('000 ha)	Change Rate (%)
Initial forest area 1990		30 m	18 473.39		
Benchmark (Sept 2009)	19.75	30 m	18 398.48	74.92	0.41
Year 1 (Sept 2010)	1	30 m	18 388.19	10.28	0.056
Year 2 (Oct 2010 to Dec 2011)	1.25	30 m & 5 m	18 378.30	9.88	0.054
Year 3 (Jan 2012 to Dec 2012)	1	5 m	*18 487.88	14.65	0.079
Year 4 (Jan 2013 to Dec 2013)	1	5 m	18 475.14	12.73	0.068
Year 5 (Jan 2014 to Dec 2014)	1	5 m	**18 470.57	11.98	0.065



**Table 7: Forest Change Area by Period & Driver from 1990 to 2014**

Driver	Historical Period			Year 1	Year 2 2010-11 (15 months)		Year 3 2012		Year 4 2013		Year 5 2014	
	1990 to 2000	2001 to 2005	2006 to 2009	2009-10	Deforestation	Degradation	Deforestation	Degradation	Deforestation	Degradation	Deforestation	Degradation
	Area (ha)											
<sup>1</sup> Forestry (including forestry infrastructure)	6 094	8 420	4 784	294	233	147	240	113	330	85	204	62
Agriculture (permanent)	2 030	2 852	1 797	513	52	-	440	0	424	-	817	-
<sup>2</sup> Mining (includes mining infrastructure)	10 843	21 438	12 624	9 384	9 175	5 287	13 516	1 629	<sup>2</sup> 11 251	2 955	10 191	3 674
Infrastructure	590	1 304	195	64	148	5	127	13	278	112	141	63
Fire	1 708	235		32	58	28	184	208	96	395	259	265
Settlements									23	20	71	-
Shifting Agriculture										765		167
Year 2 forest degradation converted to deforestation							148		67		22	
Year 3 forest degradation converted to deforestation									200		94	
Year 4 forest degradation converted to deforestation											127	
<sup>3</sup> Amaila Falls Development (Infrastructure roads)					225				64	20	49	20
<b>Area Change</b>	<b>21 267</b>	<b>34 249</b>	<b>19 400</b>	<b>10 287</b>	<b>9 891</b>	<b>5 467</b>	<b>14 655</b>	<b>1 963</b>	<b>12 733</b>	<b>4 352</b>	<b>11 975</b>	<b>4 251</b>
Area Change less Shifting Agriculture										<b>3 587</b>		<b>4 064</b>
Total Forest Area of Guyana	18 473 394	18 452 127	18 417 878	18 398 478	18 388 190		<b>18 502 531</b>		18 487 876		<b>418 482 547</b>	
Total Forest Area of Guyana Remaining	18 452 127	18 417 878	18 398 478	18 388 190	18 378 299		18 487 876		18 475 143		18 470 572	
Period Deforestation (%)	0.01%	0.04%	0.02%	0.056%	0.054%		0.079%		0.068%		0.065%	

<sup>1</sup>Forestry infrastructure accounts for the full total of deforestation from forestry activities.

<sup>2</sup>Mining Infrastructure accounts for 918 ha in 2013 out of the total deforestation driven by mining of 11 518 ha, when Year 2 & 3 transitional areas are taken into account.

<sup>3</sup>Amaila Falls Development has been split from other infrastructure driven change for reporting purposes.

<sup>4</sup>Using the updated start forest area as derived from Year 5 mapping.

<sup>5</sup> Area change totals may vary between 1 to 3 hectares owing to the rounding of numbers.

## **5.7 Guyana's Reference Level Proposal for submission to UNFCCC**

Guyana submitted its National level Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) Proposal for REDD+ to the UNFCCC on December 8, 2014. The Proposal underwent a series of technical reviews by the UNFCCC and subsequent revisions based on the comments provided.

The FREL proposed by Guyana covers the activities “reducing emissions from deforestation” and “reducing emissions from forest degradation”, which are two of the activities included in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70.

The assessment team noted that the data and information used by Guyana in constructing its FREL are transparent and complete, and are in overall accordance with the guidelines contained in the annex to decision 12/CP.17.

The Report on the technical assessment can be accessed through the link below: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/tar/guy.pdf>

## **5.8 Demonstration activities**

In continuing its collaboration with the WWF Konashen CMRV, the GFC provided guidance to Konashen in collection of soil sampled for estimation of soil carbon content. Further, the GFC’s team is working with tree spotters in Konashen to identify tree species to further estimate carbon content. GFC continues to provide technical support to the NRDDDB.

## **5.9 ROBIN Project**

This project is a collaborative effort across several partners and funded by the European Union. It focuses on the role of biodiversity in climate change.

In 2015, the GFC was involved in the following areas of work:

- Relationship between biodiversity and climate change mitigation
- Interactions between biodiversity and measures of climate change mitigation over time
- Framework for analyses of impacts of land use change on social-ecological systems
- Integrated framework for modelling interactions and trade-offs at local to regional scales
- Exploring trade-offs between biodiversity, ecosystem services and climate change mitigation
- Management and Coordination
- External Communications

## **5.10 REDD+ for the Guiana Shield Project**

GFC participated in the following regional studies which were initiated over the 2015 period:

- a) Regional Support on Allometric Equations
- b) Regional economic analysis of historical deforestation

Under this project, the GFC was supported to carry out works in the following area:

- a) Conduct field work for data collection for the measurement of emissions caused by degradation around mining sites. Mining sites are categorised by size: Small, Medium and Large
- b) Compile data in Forest Carbon Emissions tool

- c) Prepare final report on Emissions Factor for Degradation around Mining sites.

A Report: *Degradation around Mined Areas*: Methods for developing emission factors, August 2015 was prepared.

Based on data collected from 63 transects, the mean emission factor for degradation around the mining sites is **13.9 t C/ha or 50.9 t CO<sub>2</sub>/ha**.

### **5.11 REDD+ Outreach Activities**

In 2015, the GFC initiated another phase of national REDD+ outreach activities. The primary focus of these workshops was to inform stakeholders on the status of REDD+ implementation with a view to building stakeholders' knowledge and capacity to engage in further dialogue on REDD+. This project was implemented under the MRVS Year 4 Support, through the Guyana Norway MoU; with Conservation International, Guyana being the GFC's implementation partner (in the capacity of technical/financial manager).

Ten (10) cluster meetings were conducted : 8 at the community level (Annai, Bartica, Charity, Kamarang, Kwakwani, Linden, Mabaruma and Moruca,) one for NGOs & one for the private sector. The participants came from 76 locations across 6 administrative regions. A total of 250 persons comprising 143 males and 107 females attended the workshops which represents a 68% attendance rate.

Sixty four percent (64%) of the participants were either directly involved in activities associated with forestry/logging, or were Toshias/ Village Councillors. Attendance by women and youths were 40% and 20% respectively. Forty two percent (42%) of the participants were women and 29% youths (18-30 years).

### **5.12 Submission of Presentation to Carbon Fund**

An early ideas presentation on Emissions Reduction Project Idea Note (ER- PIN) through sustainable natural resources management was submitted to the FCFP for access to the Carbon Fund. The areas that Guyana presented for emissions reduction are:

- a) Programme Areas (1) – Sustainable Mining
  - Movement away from inefficiency recovery technology – e.g. use of mercury
  - Use of centrifuge systems
  - Land reclamation
- b) Programme Areas (2) – Sustainable Forestry
  - Reduced Impact Logging
  - EU FLEGT
  - More added value
- c) Programme Areas (3) – Community Forestry
  - Use of NTFPs
  - Expand into forest services (ecotourism, etc...)
  - CMRV capability

Comments were received and the presentation was resubmitted on April 7, 2015. Guyana presented its ER-PIN to the Thirteenth Meeting of the Carbon Fund (CF13) in Brussels over the period October 13 - 16, 2015. Comments were received and Guyana was asked to make a revised submission in April 2016.

### **5.13 Submission of Expression of Interest to Forest Investment Programme (FIP)**

Based on the fact that Guyana met the FIP eligibility criteria, the country was invited to express interest to be considered as a potential new pilot country under the FIP. The \$600 million Forest Investment Program (FIP), a funding window of the \$8.3 billion Climate Investment Funds (CIF), supports developing countries' efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and promote sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+). The FIP is currently active in 8 pilot countries. FIP is country-led and builds on national policies and the activities of existing adaptation and mitigation initiatives related to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Focal areas highlighted for FIP financing were:

1. Forest Sector
2. Community owned and managed areas
3. Private Sector

### **5.14 Caribbean Climate Online Risk & Adaptation Tool (CCORAL)**

The GFC continues to participate in ongoing training on the Caribbean Climate Online Risk & Adaptation Tool (CCORAL). This training commenced in August 2015 and will continue into the first half of 2016.

CCORAL is an online support system for climate resilient decision making that is uniquely designed for use in the Caribbean. It facilitates the integration of climate resilience in day to day activities, by helping to prioritize efforts given limited time and resources. This tool enables actions to be taken in response to changing climate, apply risk management approach in decision making processes and activities and, contribute to delivering climate resilient development.

## **6. FOREST MONITORING OPERATIONS**

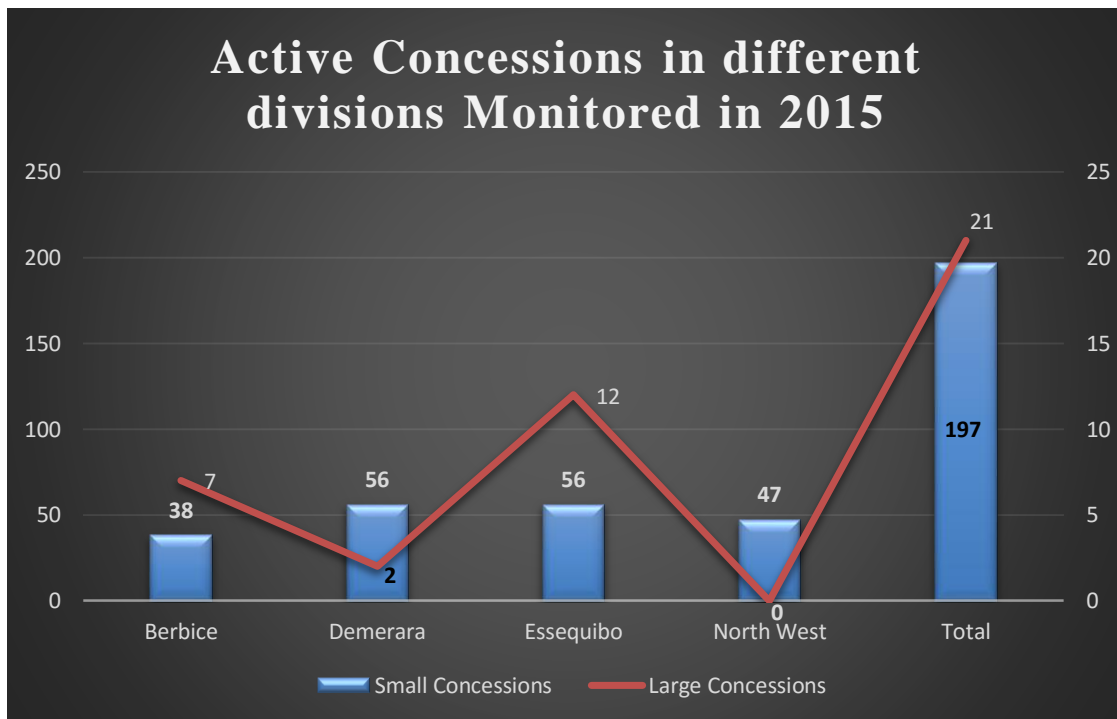
### **6.1 Monitoring of Timber Sales Agreements/Wood Cutting Leases (TSA/WCL's); State Forest Permissions (SFPs)**

TSA/WCL/SFP monitoring activities for forest concession operations were conducted annually (*see figure below*).

These monitoring exercises were aimed at investigating compliance with the logging operation against the GFC's CoP for Timber Harvesting, the procedure for the GFC's log tracking system and other operational procedures and standards that were set such as the Annual Operational Plans (AOPs) and SFP Quotas. The Figure below indicates small & large concessions monitoring conducted for the year.

It should be noted that these monitoring activities consisted of both impromptu and regular routine monitoring.

**Chart 2: Depicts the total number of Small and Large concessions that were monitored during the Year 2015.**



Generally, compliance was found to be satisfactory. However, there were a very limited occurrences of improper or no log tagging; false declaration of volume or species; illegal harvesting (mainly harvesting outside of the legal concession boundaries); some under sized felling.

Additionally, it was observed that there needs to be greater adherence to the Occupational Health and Safety legislation, especially on the aspect of enforcement of the use of employees' personal protective equipment.

Stakeholders were written to on these breaches and the necessary corrective action taken with an agreed time frame.

## 6.2 Stump Inspections

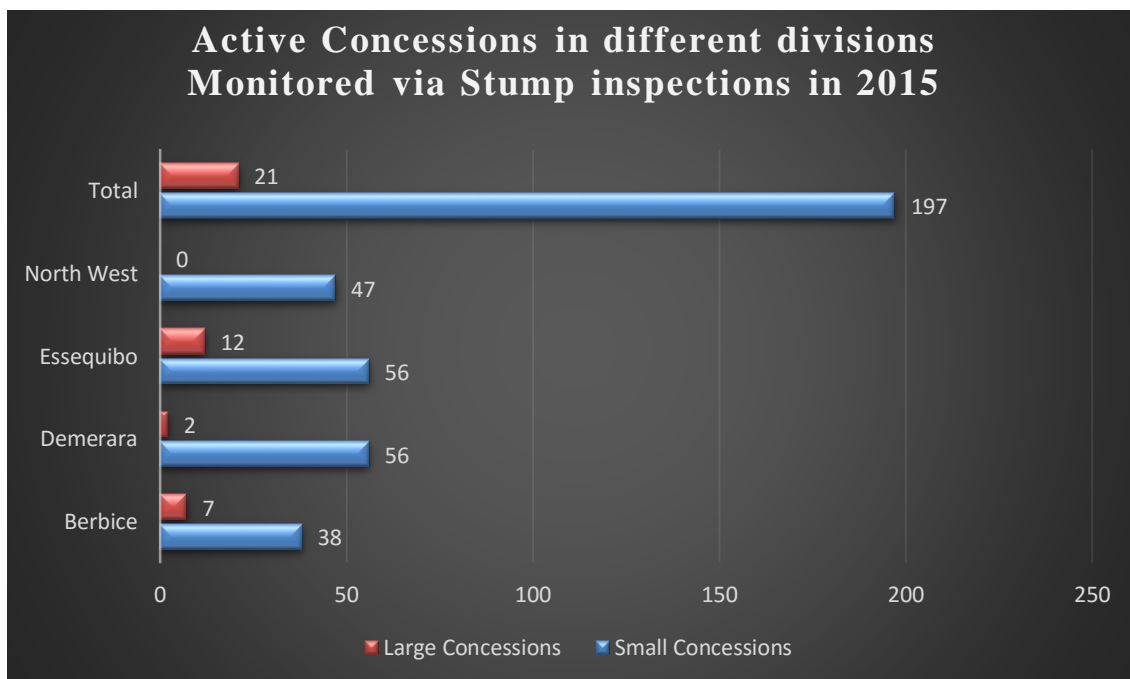
Numerous inspections were conducted within the allocated state forest to verify the level of stakeholder compliance with the GFC procedures.

Impromptu inspections were performed, as well as part of GFC’s regular routine monitoring operations. Some stations also conducted stump inspections for logs and lumber before removal from the concessions, to ensure accuracy as it pertains to the use of the log tracking tags and the origin of the produce.

**Table 8: Illustrates the number of concessions within the divisions, which were monitored via stump inspection exercises for the year 2015.**

Number of Concessions Monitored for Year 2015		
Divisions	Small Concessions	Large Concessions
Berbice	38	7
Demerara	56	2
Essequibo	56	12
North West	47	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>21</b>

**Chart 3: Chart showing the concessions monitored via stump inspections exercises during the course of 2015 by the different divisions.**



(Management of Berbice/Demerara and Essequibo/North West District Operations

### **6.3 Sawmill and Lumberyard Audit Inspections**

Audits were based on the revised monitoring checklist for sawmills and lumberyards. This revised checklist is based on the Code of Practice for Wood Processing Facilities (Sawmill and Lumberyards).

Generally compliance was satisfactory but some deficiencies that were observed within sawmill and lumberyard operations during the year 2015 are as follow:

#### *Lumber yards:*

- Protective gears are provided but its use is not enforced.
- Racks containing no labels at some locations.
- No Accident registers at some locations.
- No work instructions for Wood Processing Operations such as loading of lumber, safety procedures when utilizing machinery etc.
- No Safety gears issuance register.

#### *Sawmills:*

- No health and safety meeting minutes.
- Protective equipment provided but its use is not enforced.
- No Safety gears issuance register
- No work instructions for Wood Processing Operations such as loading of logs/lumber, safety procedures when utilizing machinery etc.
- Lumber scattered in some locations

Defaulting entities were written to and reminded of the need to ensure compliance with the GFC and OSH guidelines.

Follow up visits will be made to these entities in 2016, and action takes as necessary.

### **6.4 Licence Issuance**

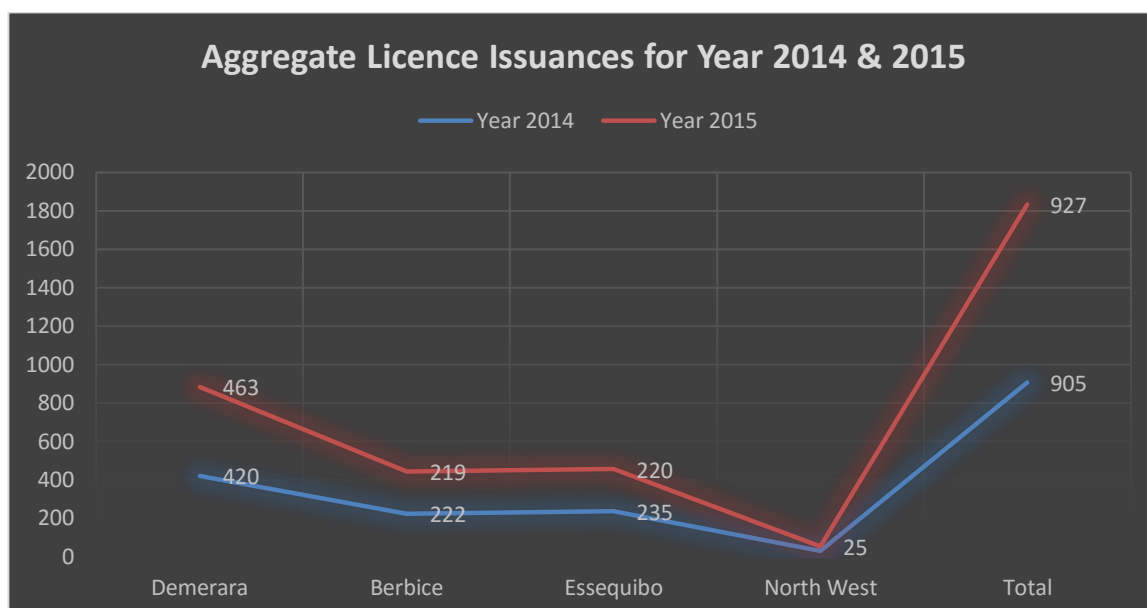
The Table below show the number of licences issued by type, for 2015.

**Table 9: Comparison of Years 2014 & 2015 Licences Issuance**

Licence Type	Comparison of Year 2014 & 2015 Licence Issuance					Total
	Year of Issuance	Division				
		Demerara	Berbice	Essequibo	North West	
Timber Dealer Export	Year 2014	61	31	10	0	102
	Year 2015	72	25	12	0	109
Lumber Yard	Year 2014	92	32	36	3	163
	Year 2015	96	34	29	2	161
Timber Dealer No Storage	Year 2014	9	4	9	1	23
	Year 2015	8	2	7	1	18
Sawpit Licence	Year 2014	109	58	78	21	266
	Year 2015	114	65	86	20	285
Sawmill Licence	Year 2014	78	46	67	2	193
	Year 2015	89	44	60	2	195
Firewood Licence	Year 2014	4	4	8	0	16
	Year 2015	3	4	5	0	12
Charcoal Licence	Year 2014	25	1	5	0	31
	Year 2015	32	3	3	0	38
Timber Depot	Year 2014	16	32	7	1	56
	Year 2015	26	33	9	0	68
Timber Path	Year 2014	5	4	3	0	12
	Year 2015	4	2	2	0	8
Permit to Erect	Year 2014	21	10	12	0	43
	Year 2015	19	7	7	0	33
TOTAL	Year 2014	420	222	235	28	905
	Year 2015	463	219	220	25	927



**Chart 4: Depicts the aggregate issuances for the year 2015 compared to 2014.**



## **6.5 Export- Inspections and Processing of Export Documentation**

Inspections for the purpose of export were only conducted at sites that were approved by the *GFC*.

Export documents were processed with great efficiency, usually within 24 hours once all the relevant documentation/inspection were properly done.

There were a total of 80 Exporters, exporting to 34 countries. Caribbean countries included Trinidad, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Belize, Barbados, Bahamas, Tortola, St Croix, St. Kitts and Dominica; while North America included United States of America. European Countries included the Netherlands and Scotland, while Asian countries included China, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and India. South American Countries included Suriname And Columbia.

## 7. FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

### 7.1 Forest Land Allocation

**Table 10: Table showing Forest Land Allocation**

CLASSIFICATIONS	COUNT	Area (Hectares)	%	%
			Total Allocation	State Forest
<b>PRODUCTION LANDS</b>				
State Forest Permits (SFP)	568	2,045,211	29	16
State Exploratory Permits (SFEP)	6	504,459	7	4
Wood Cutting Leases (WCL)	1	21,268	0.30	0.17
Timber Sale Agreements (TSA)	26	4,456,902	63	35
<b>Total Production Area Allocated by GFC</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>7,027,840</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>PERMANENT RESEARCH AND RESERVES</b>				
<b>GFC Forest Reserves</b>	11	17,797		
Total Forest Allocated (Management by GFC)		<b>7,045,637</b>		
Unallocated State Forest Estate		5,548,363		
<b>Total State Forest Estate</b>		<b>12,594,000</b>		
<b>PROTECTED AREAS</b>				
Iwokrama	1	371,681		
Kaieteur National Park	1	61,091		
Other Protected Areas (Shell Beach and Kanuku Mountains)	2	730,300		

For 2015 there were 535 active SFA and CFMAs versus 524 in 2014; there were also 29 Agriculture Leases and 4 Mining Lease. For Large Concessions, FRMD had 26 active TSAs, 1 WCL, 1 non-TSA and 6 SFEPs; with one TSA in abeyance.

## **7.2 Forest Management Plans (FMP)**

The Division continued to monitor the implementation of approved Forest Management Plans in 2015. Critical management prescriptions, such as felling cycles, blocks for harvesting, annual yield and felling area were the key areas of focus. Efficient monitoring of these management prescriptions ensure that companies are adhering to the sustainable forest management guidelines prescribed by the GFC and are complying with environmental guidelines for forest operations.

Seven (7) FMPs were submitted for 2015. Of these, four (4) have been approved; the others are under revision.

## **7.3 Annual Operational Plans (AOP)**

AOPs are essential for effective monitoring by FMD. All plans submitted were assessed against the minimum requirements as outlined by GFC Guidelines and in keeping with the GFC's AOP Guidelines. Where GFC was not satisfied with the quality of plans or vital information was omitted, the company was requested to resubmit a revised plan.

The AOP template for Large Concessions was completed in 2015 and approved. In addition, the AOP assessment sheet was also improved and now includes a percentage weighing system to inform AOP approval. The improved assessment sheet was circulated to concession holders and they were invited to discuss any issues they may have with the sheet. It is hoped that this will vastly improve the quality of AOP submissions for 2016.

2015 saw a 100% approval rate, i.e. all submitted AOPs were approved.

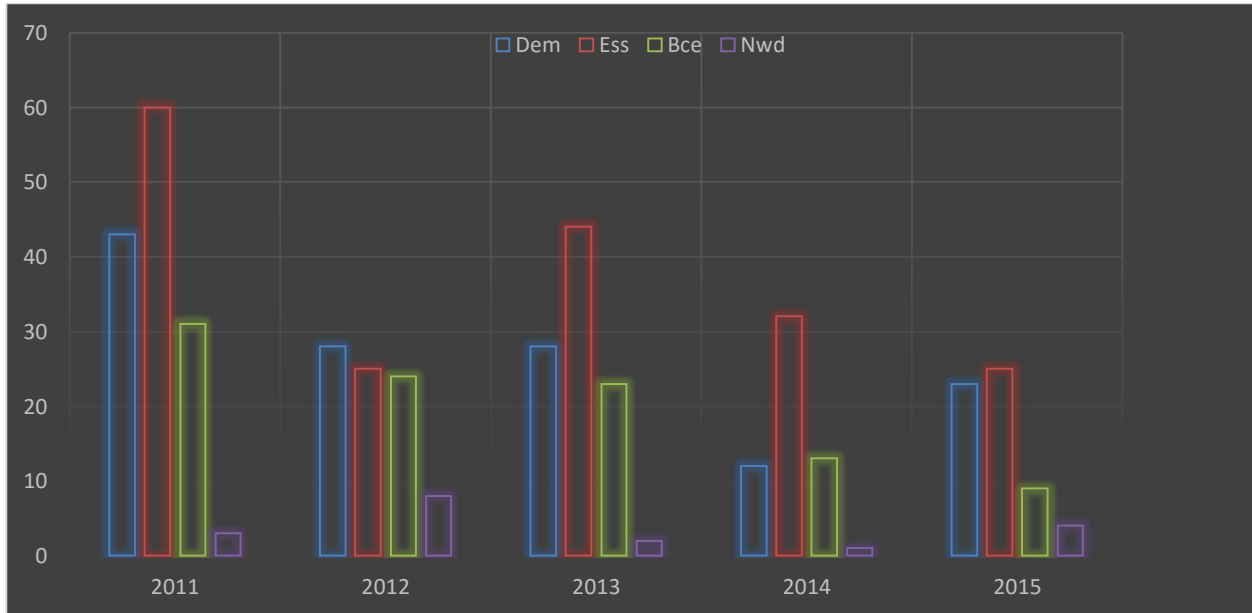
## **7.4 Block Approvals**

For the year 2015, a total of 320 new blocks, 120 roll over, 72 re-entry and 3 advance blocks were approved for harvesting for TSAs and WCL. Theoretically, there were a total of 813 allowable blocks based on Annual Allowable Area (AAA); thus 63% of allowable blocks were approved for 2015.

## 7.5 Forest Land Allocation

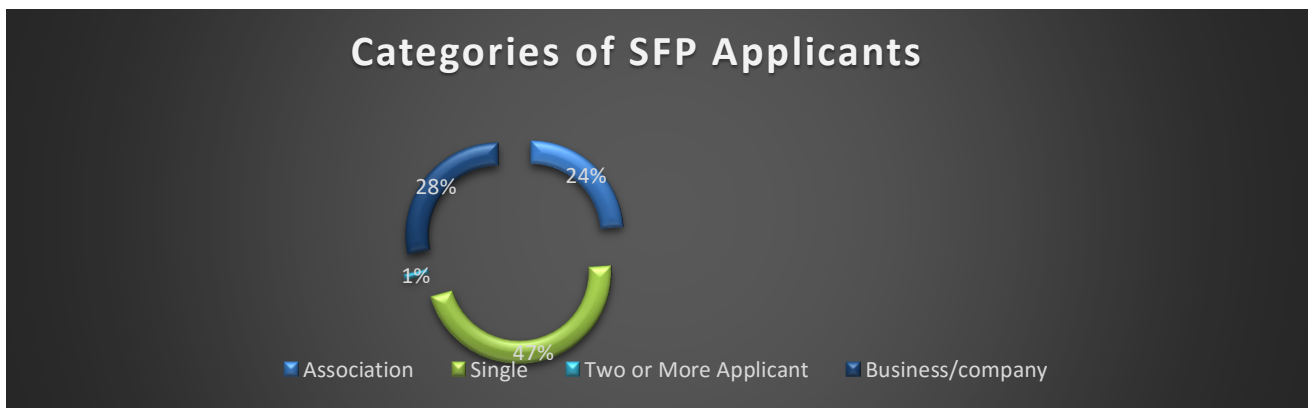
New areas allocated in 2015 were based on the Vacant List from September/October 2014.

**Chart 5: Chart below compares new SFA areas allocated for period 2011-2015**



On average, the largest number of areas is allocated in Essequibo, with the largest number of new areas allocated in 2011. Figures for 2015 are the overall lowest for the five-year period.

**Chart 6: Chart below shows the categories of SFA applicants for the 2014 vacant lists.**



From the pie chart above (Chart 2), it is clear that SFP allocation continues to provide a vibrant livelihood option for the “small man” and community associations across Guyana improving rural livelihood,

enhancing income generation and improving social benefits for Guyanese; with business/companies making up only 28% of all applicants.

## **7.6 Forest research**

Following the establishment of 4 100X100ha PSP (2 control, 2 treatment PSPs) for Kufa and Nibbi within Vaitarna Holdings PVT Inc. TSA 01/10 (Wineperu and Koetaru compartments) in 2014, PSP re-measurement for growth and yield data collection was done in August 2015 and data analysis is ongoing. In 2015, planning began for the establishment of similar PSPs for manicole in collaboration with AMCAR.

## **7.7 Forest Reserves**

The Moraballi, Bartica Arboretum, 5 Miles and 24 Miles Reserves were maintained and upgraded for 2015, along with the Yarrowkabra Training Centre (YTC). YTC continues to be an asset to the Forest Sector and facilitated 478 visitors for 2015. YTC also hosts FMD and FRMD new recruits training session. The Reserves are utilized by the University of Guyana (UG) and the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) for fieldtrips.

## **7.8 Amerindian Lands**

Several areas have been identified by the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs for extension or titles. The Division worked closely with the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission to address overlaps and conflicts between forest concessions and Amerindian communities. The GFC has committed to provide assistance in ensuring that forest concessions do not impede the rights of the indigenous people.

## **7.9 Management of Forest Resources Information**

The FRIU has the following goals and objectives that involve developing and managing a centralized Geographic Information System (GIS) database on National Forest Resources., to achieve the Forest Policy Goal of *“Improved Sustainable Forest Resource Yields while ensuring the Conservation of Ecosystems, Biodiversity and the Environment”*.

The Unit facilitates:

- The management of forest concession and stakeholder interaction

- Forest and non-forest analysis using remotely sensed data
- Collaboration with GL&SC, GGMC, NARIE and PAC.

As it relates to REDD+ MRVS submissions the entire coverage for Guyana has been mapped for the REDD+ MRVS.

## **8. SECTOR BASED PROJECTS AND INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION**

### Key agencies

GFC collaboratively interacted with the following agencies and organizations during the year 2015:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Guyana Defence Force (GDF)
- Guyana Geology & Mines Commission (GGMC)
- Guyana Lands & Surveys Commission (GL&SC)
- Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA)
- Guyana Sea Defence Commission
- IWOKRAMA
- Ministry of Amerindian Affairs/Indigenous Peoples Affairs
- National Agriculture Research and Extension Institute (NAREI)
- Protected Areas Commission (PAC)
- University of Guyana (UG)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

## **9. FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING COUNCIL**

- The Forest Products Development & Marketing Council of Guyana Inc. (FPDMC) work program for 2015 was designed to fulfill the mandate of the Council namely:
  - ✓ Promote downstream processing
  - ✓ Expand the market base of timber products
  - ✓ Encourage the use of the Lesser Used Species of wood
- During the year, Council focused on Product Development and Innovation; Quality and Legality Assurance in the form of support to the EU/FLEGT initiative, promotion of Lesser Used Species

(LUS), Market Intelligence/Promotion, Training, Expanding the national consumption of timber and developing new markets overseas.

- Monthly market analysis reports were generated and circulated to over 60 stakeholders and other agency representatives.
  
- Guyana- EU FLEGT VPA
  - ✓ The FPDMC continues to play a major role on the EU/FLEGT committee serving as a member of the National Technical Working Group.
  
  - ✓ The Council prepared applications for funding for four projects that are designed to get the timber industry in Guyana ready for the European market following the successful conclusion of the Guyana/EU FLEGT negotiations.
  
  - ✓ Additionally, the FPDMC created a booklet addressing the various components of the EU FLEGT/VPA. The booklet was designed in a user friendly format so that stakeholders can better understand the information relative to the Guyana EU/FLEGT VPA.
  
- Gathering information for Global Value Chain and Cluster Study

The Council undertook an outreach program aimed at collecting information from lumberyard operators and saw millers. The data collected is being utilized in a project titled: “Global Value Chain and Cluster Study of the Furniture Industry in Guyana”. It is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and Caribbean Center for Competiveness (CCfC) of the University of the West Indies (UWI).
  
- Visits to technical institutes.

The FPDMC conducted presentations to the woodworking students at the Government Technical Institutes in Georgetown and Linden. The goal was to inform the students about the various LUS species available and their applications and why it is important to utilize these species.
  
- Promotion of Lesser Used Species (LUS).

A meeting was held with the National Park Commission (NPC) to promote the Lesser Used Species in NPC projects. The purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate to the public the usefulness of the LUS in that these species have similar properties to the traditional timbers and can withstand the elements of weather. Potential structures were identified and discussions were held with the Guyana Forestry Commission and timber producers who have promised to lend support for the project.
  
- Timber Trade Magazine

A second edition of the Timber Trade and Investment Magazine for the forest sector was produced in 2015. The magazine is to showcase Guyana's timber and timber products both locally and internationally with the aim of increasing economic benefits for the industry in Guyana. The magazine also promotes investment in the sector.

- **Documentary demonstrating best practices in Sawmilling and Lumberyard Operations**  
A video documentary on best practices in Timber Processing in Sawmill and Lumberyard operations in Guyana was completed by the FPDMC. The objective of this documentary is to demonstrate that better operating practices in Sawmilling and Lumberyard management in accordance with GFC code of practice could result in improved grades and better yields. The areas of focus include pre-sawmilling practices, Sawmill Layout, Grade sawing, Maintenance of Equipment, Saw doctoring, Moisture in lumber, Stickers, Stacking and Racking and Kiln drying. The Council intends to distribute this video amongst saw millers and lumberyard dealers. It will also be used as a teaching aid by the Council and the GFC when outreach training courses are being conducted.
- **Market Reports**  
The Council continues to prepare and disseminate market intelligence reports to stakeholders in the industry. These reports are prepared to reflect monthly and year to date figures on volume and value of timber and timber products sold on the international market. The report contains nine different analytical sections covering various aspects of export sales of timber and timber products

## **10. FORESTRY TRAINING CENTRE INC.**

- The Forestry Training Centre Incorporated (FTCI) is responsible for vocational training of stakeholders within the forestry sector, communities, academic institutions and staff of the Guyana Forestry Commission.
- FTCI addresses a wide range of training needs in the forestry sector including courses for forest managers, planning teams, forest surveyors, tree spotters, forest inventory crews, chainsaw
- **Training**  
2015 was a very good year for FTCI with 566 persons being trained as compared to the 243 that was achieved in 2014. This achievement was based on collaboration with several local and international agencies.

For example, the European Union funded Chainsaw Milling Project and the European Union Food and Agriculture Organization Forests Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Programmes, partnered with FTCI to provide training to Community residents and Students from Guyana School of Agriculture.



Locally the Board of Industrial Training continued to provide support to the FTCI as efforts continue to ensure youths are provided with requisite skills to gain employment in the forestry sector.

FTCI was also able to provide its services overseas during the period with the trainers providing Reduce Impact Logging to staff of the Forests Land Group in Belize.

- **Projects**

The Centre has been responsible for the management of two (2) projects during the period. These projects are namely the Chainsaw Milling Project funded by the European Union and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The Chainsaw Milling project activities focused on “at supporting the integration of legal and legitimate timber markets into voluntary partnership agreements in Guyana.” The project will be concluded in 2016.

The FAO project will address the needs of 6 Community Associations by improving their record keeping system and general governance structure, accountability and business orientation. This project will also be completed in 2016.

## **11. Key areas of Focus: 2016**

<b>Encourage/promote more beneficial occupation of allocated forest within SFM framework</b>
<b>Investments - Encourage and monitor Investments from Existing/potential Stakeholders</b>
<b>Improve production, processing/manufacturing and export of forest produce</b>
<b>Market development and promotion; including the promotion of Lesser Used Species (LUS); Revision of the National Log Export Policy</b>
<b>Promotion and enhancement of sustainable management, forest monitoring, forest legality, and reduced impact logging</b>
<b>Maintaining strong environmental and social guidelines to ensure Sustainable Forest Management, low rate of deforestation and illegal logging</b>
<b>Training and capacity building at all levels in the sector</b>
<b>Encourage an increase in direct and indirect employment</b>
<b>Fulfilling Local and International Obligations including activities under the LCDS, REDD+ activities, MOU with Norway, finalizing the Guyana- EU FLEGT VPA</b>

### Guyana Forestry Commission Forest Stations

<u>FOREST STATIONS</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>TELEPHONE #</u>
112 KM Buckhall		672- 5513
50 KM-110 KM UNAMCO		697-5698
70 KM Buckhall		625- 0612
A. Mazaharally and Sons	Buckhall, Water Front	
Anarika	Rockstone, Esequibo	
Annai	Rupununi	772-9280
Arapiarco	Pomeroon River	771-4735
Bamboo Landing	Between Ituni & Kwakwani	440-2590
Bartica	Bartica, Essequibo	455-2332 – Fax;455-2255
Bissaruni Junction	Berbice	650-4698
Buckhall	Essequibo River	
Buckhall (Water Front)	Essequibo	668-9935
Butakari	Essequibo	
Canje	East Canje, Berbice	332-0487/332-0227 (F)
CPT	Essequibo	604-3016
Georgetown	Water Street, Kingston	226-7271-4
Goat Landing	Berbice	
Haimorakabra	Berbice	613-9327
Hururu	Berbice River	686-9023
Iteballi	Mazaruni River	
KK Water Front (Rong An Landing)	Berbice	692-0664
Kurunduni	Berbice	690-6448
Kwakwani	Berbice River	440-2589 (F)/440-2590
Kwebana	Region 1 NWD	
Lethem	Lethem	
Linden	Christianburg, Linden	444-4727-8
Mabaruma	North West District	777-5131
Mabura	74 Miles Mabura	226-5385/226-5382 (DTL)
Manaka	Essequibo River	
Moraballi	Demerara	651-3972
Orealla	Corentyne River	338-9280
Parika	East Bank Essequibo	260-4084/260-4217 (F)
Port Kaituma	North West District	
Scatter Rock	Corentyne River Berbice	614-3742
Soesdyke	Soesdyke, EDB	261-5310 – Fax ;261-5044 ;261-5045
Springlands	Corentyne, Berbice	335-3414
Supenaam	Essequibo Coast	774-4944 (Office/Fax); 774-4945
VW&GL	Berbice	
WAICO	Berbice	656-4019
Wineperu	Bartica, Region 7	