

GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

2005

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List of GFC Directors for 2005

Chairman:	Mr. T. Balgobin
Commissioner of Forests:	Mr. James Singh
Director:	Mr. Kellawan Lall
Director:	Mr. E Daniels
Director:	Permanent Secretary, Minister of Agriculture
Director:	Representative, EPA
Director:	Representative, Guyana Manufactures Association
Director:	Workers' Representative
Director:	Representative, Forestry Producers' Association
Director:	Representative, PNCR
Director:	Mr. Peter Ramotar

Commissioner's Report

The Guyana Forestry Commission's Annual Report for the year 2005 is presented by Division, outlining the activities completed for the year in relation to the Work Plan and Budget for the year 2005, which would have been previously approved by the GFC Board of Directors. The GFC has five (5) divisions namely:

Human Resources and Administration

Finance

Planning and Research Development

Forest Resources Management

Forest Monitoring

Overall achievement of work plan activities for all divisions was approximately 90 %; this is a significant achievement when one considers that the country experienced severe flooding at the beginning of the year which had extremely negative effects on the Commission and sector for the first quarter.

That we were able to achieve in excess of 90% of our work plan is testimony to the excellent guidance provided by the Government, Ministry with responsibility for Forestry, the GFC Board of Directors and the GFC Management team. It also reflects the commitment, dedication, and teamwork displayed by all GFC staff members, and good support of the sector.

For the year 2006, the GFC will continue to build on its successes, and counts on the continued collaboration and support of all its stakeholders.



James Singh

Commissioner of Forests

2006-7-31

Executive Summary

The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) is the semi-autonomous Government of Guyana Agency which was established in 1979 to ensure the sustainable management and utilization of the state forest resources.

The GFC is given guidance at the policy level by the Minister of Agriculture with responsibility for Forestry, a Board of Directors, and key policy documents including: GFC Act, Forests Act, National Forest Policy, Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy, and the National Competitiveness Strategy.

At the operational level, the GFC is guided by an annual work plan and budget which is implemented by the staff of the Commission, with Board oversight.

To ensure efficient and effective work plan implementation, the GFC has five (5) well staffed and resourced Divisions, with a Commissioner of Forests as the Chief Executive Officer.

A brief overview of the Commission and its organizational chart is given below:

Commissioner of Forests – The Commissioner is responsible for the overall management of the Guyana Forestry Commission.

Internal Audit - The GFC Internal Audit Unit performs Systems/Operational and Financial Audits in the form of Independent investigative activities designed to assist the GFC accomplish its objectives through a systematic approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of control, risk management and the governance process.

Finance Division - Responsible for managing the financial resources of the commission, provide service to other departments as well as act as a liaison forum for stakeholders.

Management Information Systems - Is responsible for Improved Data Communication between both Internal and External Stakeholders, Maintaining reliability, security and availability of information that are accessed throughout GFC. Increased data accuracy, productivity and processing speed/capabilities. Develop end-user reporting capabilities and train staff in new technological advancements/developments.

Planning & Research Development Division - Is responsible for the implementation of the National Forest Plan, conducting economic studies 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..

Forest Monitoring Division - Is responsible for the enforcement of the forest laws and regulations, monitoring and control of environmental and social impact of operations within the state forest and collection of revenue. Is also responsible for processing export

documents (with forest produce), quality control and promote forest products, review and assist in enquires in relation to lumber and logs.

Forest Resource Management Division - Responsible for data collection on national forest resource, conducting surveys and inventories, researching and making recommendations on forest dynamics and silviculture, planning and recommending the allocation of concession areas, preparing operational guidelines for forest management planning, evaluating management and operational plans, prescribing standards for forest management and providing support for forestry extensions. Responsible for building a GIS capacity, developing a database of digital geographical data and provide a service to both external & internal stakeholders.

A *herbarium* is available for public use and has a collection of wood samples and plant specimens (these are sold at a cost recovery basis).

Human Resources & Administration- Responsible for staff management, development and implementation of human resource policies and procedures, education, training, including in service training and liaison with relevant teaching and training institutions. Also responsible for maintenance of GFC assets, implementation of health and safety policies and security issues.

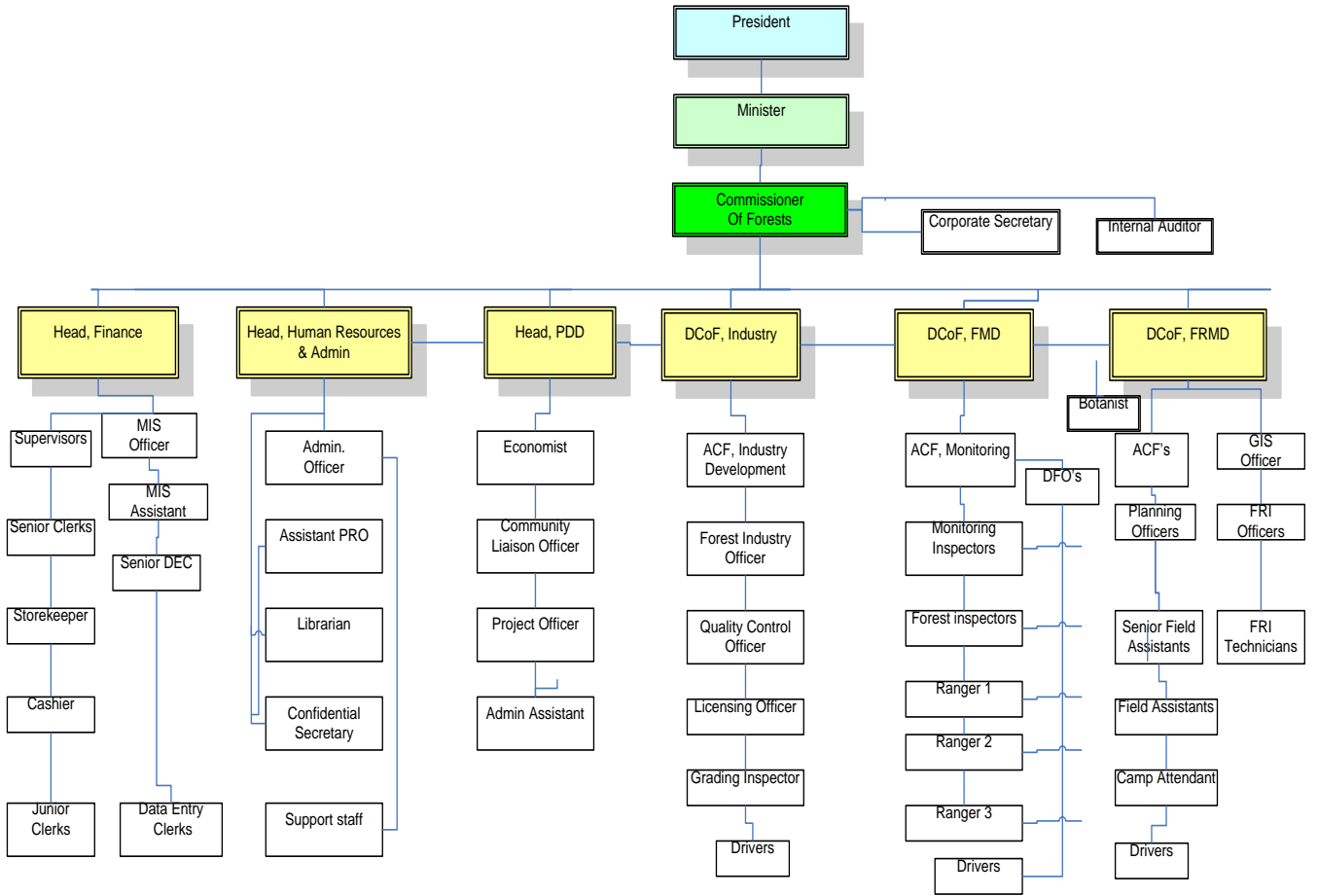
A *library* has been opened for public use and is stocked with research findings, and journals on issues on the local and international arenas.

Total production for the year was 246,272m³; export value was US\$9.7M.

As indicated, the Guyana Forestry Commission was able to complete over 90% of its Annual work plan activities. This was due in great part to the guidance of the Minister, Board of Directors, Stakeholders; and our dedicated and committed staff.

We look forward to your continued support in 2006.

GFC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



FINANCE DIVISION

The following represents the audited financial statements of the Guyana Forestry Commission for the fiscal year January to December 2005



Audit Office of Guyana

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AG: 82/2009

6 November 2009

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION
ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Guyana Forestry Commission which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2005, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. The audit was conducted in accordance with the Audit Act of 2004.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), and those of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amount and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial

judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements on pages 4 to 14 present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Guyana Forestry Commission as at 31 December 2005, and the results of operations for the year then ended in conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards.



D. SHARMA
AUDITOR GENERAL (ag.)

AUDIT OFFICE
63 HIGH STREET
KINGSTON
GEORGETOWN
GUYANA

GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2005

	2005	2005	2004	2004
Note	G\$	G\$	G\$	G\$
Assets	5			
Fixed Assets		340,010,325		351,354,898
Current Assets				
Stocks	1,334,056		1,644,909	
Accounts Receivable	710,935,185		706,743,708	
Other Debtors & Prepayments	21,550,107		18,910,000	
Loose Tools	118,770		118,770	
Cash on Hand & Bank	727,489,158		582,562,554	
Current Assets		<u>1,461,427,276</u>		<u>1,309,979,941</u>
Less				
Current Liabilities				
Creditors & Accruals	196,737,368		174,499,998	
Taxation	768,971,678		709,261,580	
Suspense A/C	286,088		(4,397,528)	
Total Current Liabilities		<u>965,995,134</u>		<u>879,364,050</u>
Net Current Asset		<u>495,432,142</u>		<u>430,615,891</u>
Assets less Liabilities		<u><u>835,442,467</u></u>		<u><u>781,970,789</u></u>
Represented By:				
Capital and Reserves				
Government of Guyana		7,653,712		7,653,712
Revaluation Reserve		321,145,906		321,145,906
Capital Donation Reserve		4,500,000		-
Accumulated Earnings		502,142,849		453,171,171
		<u><u>835,442,467</u></u>		<u><u>781,970,789</u></u>

Prepared By: Edward Goberdhan - Head of Finance *Edward Goberdhan*

Approved By: James Singh - Commissioner of Forests *James Singh*

GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION
Income & Expenditure Statement
For the Year Ended 31st December 2005

Income	Note	2005	2005	2004	2004
	6	\$	\$	\$	\$
Royalty		203,457,054		196,139,588	
Acreage Fees		143,048,521		130,443,041	
Licence Fees & Fines		60,775,844		45,386,578	
Commission		113,410,927		81,588,584	
Miscellaneous		3,311,673		5,594,451	
Interest Income		22,564,255		13,813,894	
Gain on Disposal of Fixed Assets		7,900,000		12,805,000	
Other Income - Donation		1,500,000			
Total Income			555,968,274		485,771,136
Expenditure	7				
Employment		189,124,417		167,143,825	
Operational		83,128,937		73,403,774	
Administrative		27,231,224		27,420,195	
Repairs & Maintenance		26,558,898		20,810,847	
Financing		4,784,841		11,054,504	
Professional Fees		60,330,400		31,398,731	
Depreciation	5	27,673,915		32,395,350	
Provision for Bad Debts		27,992,032		34,883,084	
Miscellaneous		461,834		-	
Total Expenditure			447,286,498		398,510,310
Net Operating Income			108,681,776		87,260,826
Taxation			(59,710,099)		(53,016,404)
Net Income for the Year			48,971,676		34,244,422
Statement of Accumulated Earnings/(Losses)					
At 1st January 2005			453,171,171		418,926,749
Net Income for Year			48,971,676		34,244,422
			-		-
At 31st December 2005			502,142,847		453,171,171

GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION

**Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31st December 2005**

	2005	2005		2004	2004
	G\$	G\$		G\$	G\$
Operating Activities					
Operating Profit		108,681,776			87,260,826
<i>Adjustment to Reconcile Operating Profit to Cash</i>					
Add:					
Depreciation	33,089,348			32,395,350	
Gain on Disposal of Fixed Assets	(7,900,000)			(12,805,000)	
Sub Total	25,189,348			19,590,350	
Add/(Less):					
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	22,237,370			141,162,716	
(Increase)/Decrease in Stocks	310,853			932,459	
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Debtors	(2,640,107)			5,645,220	
(Increase)/Decrease in Accounts Receivable	(4,191,477)			(118,449,952)	
(Decrease)/Increase in Suspense	4,683,616			(5,317,990)	
Sub Total	20,400,255			23,972,453	
Total Adjustments		45,589,603			43,562,803
<i>Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities</i>		154,271,379			130,823,629
Investing Activities					
Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	7,900,000			12,805,000	
Capital Donation	6,000,000			-	
Acquisition of Fixed Assets	(21,744,775)			(45,677,309)	
<i>Net Cash Flows Used For Investing Activities</i>		(7,844,775)			(32,872,309)
Financing Activities					
Write off from Capital Donation Reserve		(1,500,000)			(1,400,000)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash/Bank		144,926,604			96,551,320
Cash on Hand 01.01.2005		582,562,554			486,011,234
Cash/Bank Increase 2005		144,926,604			96,551,320
Cash on Hand & Bank 31.12.2005		727,489,158			582,562,554

HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION

Recruitment

For the year, 42 recruits were hired; these comprised mainly graduates from the Guyana School of Agriculture, and drivers.

As part of our staff succession program, we continued our program of hiring Management Trainees but only three (3) were available from the University. Towards the end of the year an additional five (5) graduates were identified for middle management positions but they would be employed in January 2006.

One staff who went on an IADB scholarship to Japan returned after successfully completing her program. Unfortunately, after 7 months she tendered her resignation. This affected the operations of the Planning and Research Development Division, and the GFC had to take a decision to have the other 4 divisions absorb the work of the PRDD, and temporarily close that Division.

The GFC Board also approved of the creation of the Forest Products Marketing Council.

The table below shows the breakdown of the recruits for 2005 as against two previous years

	2003	2004	2005
Head, HR &A	1	-	-
Corporate Secretary	1	-	-
Middle Management positions	5	-	3
Management Trainees	6	2	4
Forest Ranger 2	9	8	5
Field Assistants	12	3	6
Camp Attendants	3	1	-
Clerks	5	2	3
Drivers	10	7	14
Other staff	10	5	7
Total	62	28	42

We can see from the figures above that our greatest needs are for the Rangers and Field Assistants who come from the GSA, and drivers. We had a high turnover of drivers mainly due to a zero tolerance for negligence and abuse of the GFC's vehicles.

Attrition.

With a total of 16 terminations, 23 resignations and 42 recruitments we had a record turnover in 2005 compared to the turnover in 2004. We lost one Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) and the Corporate Secretary to emigration and at year end. A Deputy Commissioner of Forests (DCoF), an Assistant Accountant and an Assistant Commissioner of Forests (ACF) also left to go to the private sector. Another ACF and a Forest Inspector had their services terminated due to irregularities.

Staffing

In 2005 our staffs were distributed among the five departments as follows:

	2004	2005
Department	Number of staff	Number of staff
Forest Monitoring Division	87	97
Forest Resources Management Division	38	40
Planning Research & Development Division	5	4*
Human Resources & Administration	20	20
Finance & MIS	14	13
Forest Products Marketing Council	-	3
Total	164	177

* reallocated

Discipline

It was indeed a very challenging year for the Commission.

We had several major issues that related to indiscipline of staff and actions had to be taken to send the right signals.

10 employees were suspended for not following procedures or usurping authority for periods ranging from 1 day to one month. 4 staff were suspended for one month.

10 were dismissed for various offences. In addition there were 23 resignations for the year.

Staff Development

Scholarships

During this year, one of our junior staff resigned to pursue the Degree Program in Forestry in Trinidad. A Forest Inspector is currently on scholarship at the University of Guyana.

Two employees, the Botanist and a Monitoring Inspector continued to pursue their MSc degree in Forest Biology at UG. GFC had also given 2 Amerindian Students scholarships at the GSA. Only one was successful and the other was referred in two subjects which will be done in 2006.

Overseas Training

Several staff including the Commissioner and nearly all the Heads of Divisions went on overseas workshops on behalf of the Commission in 2006.

In-house training was also done :

Name of Course	Number in attendance
Tree and wood identification	20 at Pibiri
Reduced Impact Logging	15 at Manaka
Basic Computing-word & excel	62
6 modules for FAO Program	8
GPS and using the Compass	21
Induction program	34
Econometrics	13

The only program that was exclusive to the middle management and senior staff was the training in Econometrics-advanced statistical techniques. The staff that benefited mainly from the above training were the forest officers and particularly the outstation staff.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

During the year we continued to enjoy very cordial relations with the union representing the workers- GAWU.

Health and Safety

There were no reported industrial injuries for 2004.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The main functions that the division was engaged in up to July 2006 (when a decision was taken to temporarily close the PRDD Division, and distribute its tasks amongst the other four (4) Divisions) can be stated as follows:

- Coordination of Research activities. The Division facilitated the activities of several researchers (local/overseas) in research sites of the Commission including the Mabura Field Station, Pibiri Reserve, Moraballi Reserve, and in several State Forest Concessions.
- Economic Analysis – impact studies, projections on production, contribution of various products to the sector and the GDP, collection of real time data on costs and income to inform the study on Stumpage values.
- Information compilation, analysis and dissemination for the forest sector-employment data, domestic consumption. Preparation of the statistical Bulletin for the forest sector. Preparation of market information and its dissemination to the sector.
- Community Forestry outreach activities, preparation of student packages, participation of the GFC in fairs, career guidance sessions, and general promotional activities of the GFC, including preparation of the material to be distributed such as calendars, pamphlets etc.

After the resignation of the Head of Division in July 2005, the Division Headship was taken over by the MSc Graduate who had returned from Japan. Unfortunately, she also resigned, and a decision was taken to temporarily close the Division, since it was envisaged that the majority of the activities that were being undertaken by the PRDD Division, would actually be subsumed by the proposed Forest Products Marketing Council.

The total staffing of the Division until its temporary closure was four (4).

FOREST MONITORING DIVISION (FMD)

The FMD work plan was presented in the form of twenty seven projects. The key objectives of these projects were:

1. To ensure compliance in all forestry related areas
2. To improve coordination of work activities
3. To improve standards of operations
4. To improve relations with stakeholders at various levels
5. To enhance the systems in place

The Division was able to satisfactorily complete project activities for the year.

Staff Complement as at December 31, 2005

Position	No. of Officers
Deputy Commissioner of Forests	1
Assistant Commissioner of Forests	1
Divisional Forest Officers	3
Administrative Assistant	1
Monitoring Inspectors	4
Quality Control Officer	1
Quality Inspector	0
Forest Inspector	3
Management Trainee	2
Forest Ranger 1	4
Forest Ranger 11	28
Forest Guards	13
Typist Clerks	3
Confidential Secretary	1
Fixed Driver	12
Fixed Driver/ Speedboat operator	4
Speedboat operator	1
Rotational Driver	0
Cleaners	9
Security Officers	5
Saw Doctor	1
Total	97

Operational Stations at December 31, 2005

Demerara Division: Soesdyke (Divisional Forest Office)
Georgetown
Linden
Mabura

Berbice: Canje (Divisional Forest Office)
Springlands
Kwakwani
Bamboo landing
Orealla

Essequibo: Parika (Divisional Forest Office)
Bartica
Wineperu
Iteballi
Manaka
Supenaam
Arpiarco
Mabaruma
Anarika
Buckhall
Port Kaituma

Record keeping system

During 2005 FMD maintained its regular record keeping procedures. Progress has been made with the development of the necessary database systems/s for the FMD. Some amount of progress was made with equipping of some stations with computer systems.

Saw Shop

The saw Shop continued to provide a vital service to the forest industry and other industries

Quality Control

Eleven (11) stations were equipped with forest officers that are qualified as quality control inspectors for grading of timber.

Forest Monitoring Inspections

Approximately 75 % of all active Timber Sales Agreements (TSA) and wood Cutting Leases (WCL) were monitored during 2005 while a representative number of active and inactive State Forest Permission (SFP) were monitored according to schedule. In addition, several impromptu inspections were done in some of these areas. In conclusion to this it can be said that approximately 90 % of these logging concessions have been monitored.

The Moraballi reserve was brought under control in 2005 due to intensified monitoring activities in the area.

Forest Industry

2005 Licence issuance

Type of Licence	Amount issued in 2004	Amount issued in 2005	Percentage Achieved %
Sawpit	143	135	94
Permit to Erect Sawmill	22	31	141
Sawmill	83	97	116
Timber Dealers	205	201	98
Timber Depot	1	6	600
Timber Path	3	4	133
Charcoal	15	9	60
Firewood	12	9	75
Total	484	492	102

State Forest Production as at December 31, 2005

Products	Unit	Production Volume 2004	Production Volume 2005	Percentage Achieved (%)
LOGS				
Greenheart	m 3	75,340	84,528.85	112
Other species	m 3	168,810	117,371.9	70
Total	m 3	244,150	201,900.75	83
Sawn Lumber	m 3	35,153	34,372.4	98
Greenheart piles	M	158,782	174,073.31	110
Kakaralli piles	M	13,682	6,582.84	48
Mora piles	M	91	0	0
Wallaba poles	M	225,898	153,577.95	68
Wallaba posts	M	8,872	19,529.05	220

Spars	M	66,452	7020.96	11
Wattles	Pieces	109,865	145,682	133
Shingles	Pieces	486,700	812,500	167
Paling Staves	Pieces	319,500	579,267	181
Vat Staves	Pieces	0	0	0
Firewood	Pieces	15,452	368,785.75	2,387
Charcoal	Kg	207,209	220,094.5	11
Mangrove Bark	Kg	5,749	9,083.48	158
Manicole Palm	Stems	3,784,887	4,427,432	117

The following products can be considered as having a significant increase when compared to 2004 production:

- Greenheart Lumber – 12 %
- Greenheart piles – 10 %
- Wallaba Post – 120 %
- Wattles – 33 %
- Shingles – 67 %
- Paling Staves – 81 %
- Firewood – 2,287 %
- Mangrove bark – 58 %
- Manicole palm – 17 %

Export Of Forest Produce 2005 (January to December)

<u>Product</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total Value (GYD)</u>	<u>% of Total Value (GYD)</u>
Charcoal	219328 kg	8,183,361.01	163,667.22
Crafts	7767.37 pcs	13,606,460.00	272,129.20
Door Components	393 pcs	1,660,184.00	33,203.68
Doors	9150 pcs	137,827,395.70	2,756,547.91
Firewood	38.58 m3	22,511.71	450.24
GR03 Round timber piles	32.6 m3	1,342,989.60	26,859.79
GR04 Sawn timber for building and construction	22275.4 m3	1,751,075,372.40	35,021,507.45
GR06 Dressed products from seasoned timber	19822.4 m3	1,785,143,410.81	35,702,868.23
GR08 Round transmission poles	2069.44 m3	62,068,511.90	1,241,370.24
GR10 Fencing posts	413.912 m3	17,392,174.39	347,843.49
GR10 Fencing posts	0.01 pcs	15,000.00	300.00
GR11 Shingles	2198.18 m3	211,224,771.05	4,224,495.42
GR12 Fence staves	40 pcs	2,800.00	56.00
GR13 Hardwood logs	115767 m3	2,405,118,951.16	48,102,379.02
Indoor furniture	2264 pcs	11,403,176.00	228,063.52
Mouldings	184034 m	49,251,284.44	985,025.69
Mouldings	457.2 m3	149,961.60	2,999.23
Other Builders Joinery	700 pcs	2,208,500.00	44,170.00
Other Non Timber Forest Products	1867 pcs	8,386,911.79	167,738.24
Outdoor/ Garden Furniture	43971.4 pcs	684,658,236.03	13,693,164.72
Piles	6465.76 m3	272,434,995.00	5,448,699.9
Plywood	36574.3 m3	2,265,910,969.39	45,318,219.39
Prefabricated Houses	1 pcs	1,080,880.00	21,617.60
Rails	0.27 m3	50,999.76	1,019.99
Rails	901 pcs	419,995.00	8,399.91
Spindles	15058.5 pcs	6,959,685.44	139,193.71
Windows	31233 pcs	11,922,465.60	238,449.31
Wooden Utensils & Ornaments	5091 pcs	1,565,125.00	31,302.50
Total		9,711,087,078.78	194,264,199.84

Total export value for 2005 showed a 17 % increase when compared to 2004.

FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION (FRMD)

Objective and Scope

The five specific objectives for the Forest Resources Management Division (FRMD) for 2005 were the same as for previous years. They were:

- a) To improve forest resources planning.
- b) To improve the level of baseline forest data available to the GFC.
- c) To improve administrative procedures within the FRMD.
- d) To conserve approved portions of the forest estate, and
- e) To improve the quality of skilled technicians within the FRMD.

Staffing/Training

In addition to the training that were facilitated through the Human Resources Division, staff of the division continued to benefit from in-house training such as: compass, clinometers and GPS usage, forest inventory, map reading and description, GIS software, basic function of Microsoft Excel and Word and tree and wood identification. The division had a total staff complement of 40.

Staff members also attended workshops and seminars sponsored by regional countries, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

During the year the division also facilitated short training sessions in GPS usage to the Guyana Defence Force Officers. Four work-study students from various schools were attached to the division for a period of one month. They benefited from basic training in forestry science and technology.

In 2005, a more participatory approach was used to improve management of Guyana's natural forests by increasing the promotion and adoption of sustainable forest management practices by forest users, from industries to communities.

During the year the division provided technical assistance to a number of Forestry Companies and hinterland communities in areas such as, forest management planning, forest mapping, forest inventory and data processing.

State Forest Permission Assessment

During 2005, State Forest Permissions within the Essequibo division were assessed using the GFC's State Forest Permission – Rapid Assessment Procedure (SFP-RAP). This programme has been designed to quickly assess the forest resources within State Forest Permissions (SFPs) and to determine whether individual SFPs are sufficiently well stocked to support current harvesting of wood products.

Tree Growth and Yield Modelling

During the year the division provided technical assistance to forestry companies in forest inventory data processing, growth and yield modelling.

Code of Practices

* Finalizing the Code of Practice for Mangrove Harvesting in Guyana

The draft Code of Practice to regulate the harvesting of Mangrove that was developed by the division was revised based on consultations with internal and external stakeholders. Some external stakeholders who commented on the code were EPA, Iwokrama, University of Guyana, Conservation International and Guyana Sea and River Defense. These stakeholders were asked to comment on the code so that the final draft for practicing Mangrove Harvesting would address all possible concerns.

Establishing and Maintaining Permanent Sample Plots

* Establishment and Maintenance of Permanent Sample Plots for Kufa and Nibi Harvesting in Guyana

During the year, eleven (11) sets of documents were reviewed so that adequate knowledge can be obtained on maintaining and establishing sample plots for the NTFP.

* Establishment and Maintenance of Permanent Sample Plots for Manicole Palm Harvesting in Guyana

During the year, a national procedure for the establishment of PSPs based on international standards was developed for Manicole Palm Harvesting in Guyana. Documents such as Permanent Sample Plot Guidelines, which was developed by GFC, were reviewed.

Forest Mapping and Zoning

A strategy to manage competing land uses in state forest and to optimize productive forestland is still not clearly defined. However, the division has been able to digitise TSAs, WCLs, SFEPs, active SFPs and protected area or proposed protected areas as well as Amerindian reservations using the 1: 50,000 topo map sheets. Boundaries overlap and conflict areas were identified and corrective actions were taken to reduce the land use conflicts.

Forest Reserves

Maintaining and Upgrading Yarrowkabra Training Center

The Yarrowkabra Training Centre (YTC) was adequately maintained on a monthly basis. The Centre enjoyed an average of approximately 20 visitors every month.

Upgrading GFC Nursery Sites (Plantation Trial)

The nursery was maintained and seedlings were planted for the Pilot Plantation Trial at Chikabaru and the National Enhancement Project. This project will continue in 2006.

Forest Land Allocation

The table below shows area estimates for State Forests categories as at 2005.

State Forest Categories as at 2005					
	Concession type	Total number	Acres	Hectares	Percent (%)
1	TSA	31	11,269,319	4,560,631	33.6
2	WCL	5	1,073,073	434,267	3.2
3	SFEP	4	928,204	375,639	2.8
4	SFP	261	2,624,689	1,062,187	7.8
5	GFC Reserves	10	36,079	14,601	0.1
	Total	311	15,931,364	6,447,325	47.5
Bio-Diversity Reserves					
Areas			Acres	Hectares	
	Kanuku		2,195,613	888,552	6.5
	Kaieteur National Park		155,803	63,053	0.5
	Shell Beach		356,736	144,369	1.1
	Iwokrama		918,219	371,598	2.7
	Total		3,626,371	1,467,572	10.8
Total Area of Forest in Use				7,914,897	58.3
Total Area of State Forest in Guyana				13,580,000	
Un-alienated State Forests				5,665,103	41.7

Concession Administration Database (CAD)

Although not completed as originally planned, the database has the capacity to provide baseline information on TSA, WCL and SFEP concessions. During the year, basic information for all TSAs, WCLs, and SFEPs were accessed and entered into the CAD. Basic information as well as information from strategic planning were collated and entered in the CAD; however, information on monitoring, social, annual plans and operational plans were not entered during the year since upon request, no information was given from the officers responsible.

Timber Sales Agreement

Two (2) Timber Sales Agreements were issued in 2005. These TSAs were converted from SFEPs. The TSA areas that were issued in 2005 are:

1. Garner Forest Industries
2. Jailing Forest Industries

Wood Cutting Leases

No wood cutting leases were issued in 2005.

State Forest Permissions

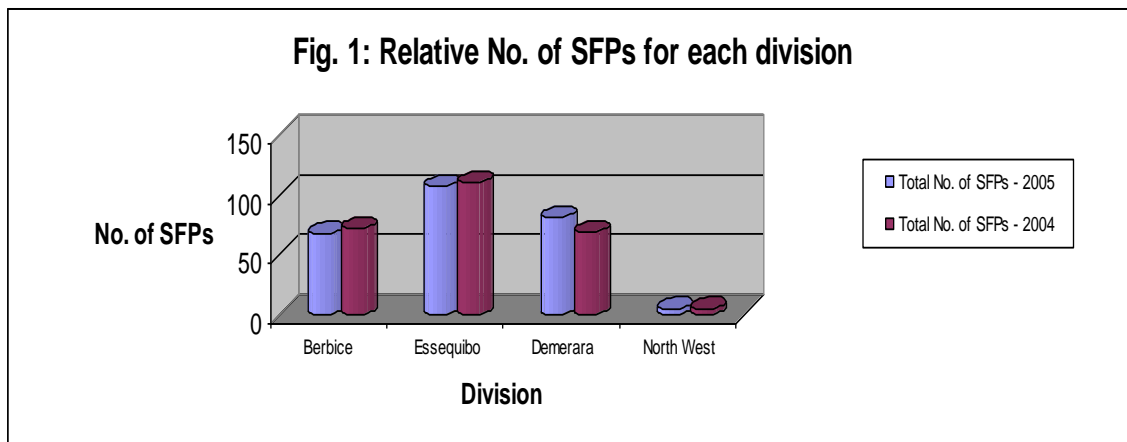
Two hundred and sixty one (261) Permissions are existent at December 2005; twenty one (21) of these were issued during the year. The table below categorizes the SFPs issued in 2005. The Table below that categorizes the total number SFPs existent at the end of 2005.

Table showing SFPs issued in 2005

No.	Division	Total No. of		
		SFPs	Acres	Hectares
1	Berbice	6	61,426	24,859
2	Demerara	3	25,845	10,459
3	Essequibo	10	57,847	23,410
4	North west	2	29,594	11,977
	Total	21	174,712	70,705

Table showing Total number of SFPs at the end of 2005

No	Division	Total No. of SFPs	Acres	Hectares
1	Berbice	68	1,202,804	486,768
2	Demerara	107	707,001	286,114
3	Essequibo	81	691,476	279,831
4	North West	5	23,409	9,473
	Total	261	2,624,689	1,062,187



State Forest Exploratory Permit

No State Forest Exploratory Permits were issued in 2005.

Forest Concession Mapping

All large forest concession, that is TSAs, WCLs, SFEPs, and active SFPs concession boundaries were reviewed based on their approved description. Subsequent to this review, the 1:50,000 hardcopy maps were updated and information was incorporated into the GIS database.

Amerindian Reserves and Concession Mapping

During 2005, the FRIU has continued to include all Amerindian Reservation and Concession in the FRMD GIS database. Currently the area is being digitized based on their gazetteer descriptions and plans provided by Guyana Lands and Survey Commission. To date 44 Amerindian villages have been digitized and demarcated on the regional topographic maps. Five (5) new areas were identified as proposed sites for Amerindian Reserves during 2005.

Concession Roads Mapping

During the year the divisions continued to track, map and digitize major forest roads.