**GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION**



**ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| C:\Users\Ramona\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\89UBVNNL\Visitors 003 (2).jpg | C:\Users\Ramona\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\89UBVNNL\FPDMC MidEastwood 003 (2).jpg | C:\Users\Ramona\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\89UBVNNL\P1010229.JPG |

Guyana Forestry Commission

1 Water Street, Kingston, Georgetown, GUYANA, South America

Tel: + (592) 226-7271/4; Fax: + (592) 226-8956

Website: [www.forestry.gov.gy](http://www.forestry.gov.gy/)

**ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

****

**CONTENTS**

Message from the Chairman, GFC Board of Directors 4

Message from the Commissioner of Forests 6

GFC Board of Directors 2014 8

Acronyms 9

Organizational Structure of the GFC 11

Divisional overview of the GFC 12

Administration 13

Financial summary 14

Performance of the Forest Sector 15

Summary of key activities 21

Forest Monitoring Operations 29

Forest Management Operations 33

Support from Associated Forestry Entities 39

Thematic areas for 2015 41

List of GFC Forest Stations Countrywide 42

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, GFC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The forest sector continued to improve in 2014 with both production and exports showing marked increases. This can be attributed mainly to on-going GFC Board approved policy guidelines that allowed Companies to have easier access to financial, technical and other resources within the framework of the relevant legislation, coupled with the wide range of investment incentives in place for the sector.

Additionally, the GFC Board continued to provide policy guidance to the GFC, as well as oversight to the financial and operational aspects of the GFC on a monthly basis. This support was instrumental in helping the GFC to end the year with a very healthy financial profile, and satisfactorily complete its 2014 operational work plan activities.

There was also 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.

The GFC Board continued to engage stakeholders across the country. At these outreach meetings, persons were given the opportunity to freely express their concerns and provide suggestions on mechanisms for improving the efficiency and productivity of the sector. Some of the stakeholders’ suggestions were immediately operationalized while others are still being analyzed technically to see if they are compatible with our SFM guidelines.

Further, several meetings were held specifically with the TSA/WCL Concessionaires impressing upon them the need to increase production, engage in the production of more added-value forest products and reduce log exports.

As a follow-up to this, these concessionaires were requested to submit their short, medium and long term investment plans which they would be held accountable for.

A lot of emphasis was placed on accelerating the movement of the entire sector towards manufacturing added-value forest products, and persons employed in the sector (inclusive of the SFP/Community Groups) were provided with many training and capacity building activities in support of same.

Evidence that this has borne fruit is seen in the increase in the number of portable mills that were licensed in 2014 to representatives of all groups to facilitate conversion of logs into lumber.

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 2015, it is expected that there will be an even more aggressive campaign by the GFC in collaboration with the FPDMC that will lead to a greater acceptance of these LUS by both local and export markets.

The GFC Board congratulates all stakeholders for their combined efforts in making 2014 a relatively successful year.

Let us further consolidate our efforts in 2015, building on the sector’s very firm and independently verified foundation of sustainability, legality and improving socio-economic development.

Sincerely

………………………………

Dr. Indarjit Ramdass

Chairman

# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF FORESTS

The forest sector plays an important role in national development of Guyana. It supports the national economy by contributing in excess of 3% to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) based on primary production, provision of direct employment to approximately 23,000 persons, supply of essential raw materials to the local construction industry, contribution of foreign exchange earnings of approximately US$45M annually, and provision of livelihood opportunities to many forest based communities, as well as ecosystem services to the global environment.

In 2014, the Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting 2nd Edition was finalized. This Code was accompanied by a structured programme of stakeholder awareness and capacity building.

In 2014, the GFC continued work on capacity building and extension training in collaboration with the FPDMC- this activity targeted community forestry association employees, TSA/WCL/SFP concession employees as well as GFC staff. Progress with the respective roadmaps continued in areas of REDD+ and MRVS and their links to Guyana’s LCDS, the initiative on EU FLEGT and forest legality.

The sector performed well in 2014 compared to 2013. Production increased by approximately 21% (534,000 m3 in 2014 as compared to 473,000 in 2013). Export of forest produce for 2013 was US$ 54M; a marked increase of 38 % compared to 2013. 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 economy continued to grow in 2014, consuming a significant quantity of local production mainly in the housing and construction sub sector. This represents an important segment of the forest sector development in Guyana.

The GFC continue to advance efforts for greater efficiency and productivity and maximum utilization of forest lands. Tremendous emphasis was also placed on increasing value added activities and utilization of the LUS. More operators are investing into processing equipment such as portable sawmills.

The Commission’s work program for 2014maintained focus on active field based monitoring of forest concessions as well as processing operations. This proactive monitoring approach has contributed to the rate of illegal logging being one of the lowest in the tropical timber producer countries of less than 1% of annual production.

The community forestry program continues to thrive. At the end of 2014 there were 72 community based forest organizations with access to 125 issued forest concession; representing close to 0.5 M ha of forests. This initiative has benefitted in excess of 3,000 persons directly through employment and related opportunities. The GFC will continue to expand this program in 2015.

Finally, from an international perspective, the Commission partnered with a number of international organizations and donors such as ITTO, FAO, IDB, WWF and UNDP to implement projects that contribute to the sustainable management of the forests. The GFC successfully completed the year 4 (2013) forest area assessment which recorded a deforestation rate of 0.068%.

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

Thanks go to the Minister and staff, MNRE; the GFC Board of Directors, GFC Staff and our direct and indirect stakeholders for their invaluable advice, guidance and commitment who worked collectively to realize the improvement in the forestry sector relative to 2013.

# Sincerely

………………

James Singh

Commissioner of Forests

# GFC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014

* Dr. Indarjit Ramdass Chairman
* 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

GEOSS 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 Toshaos’ 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

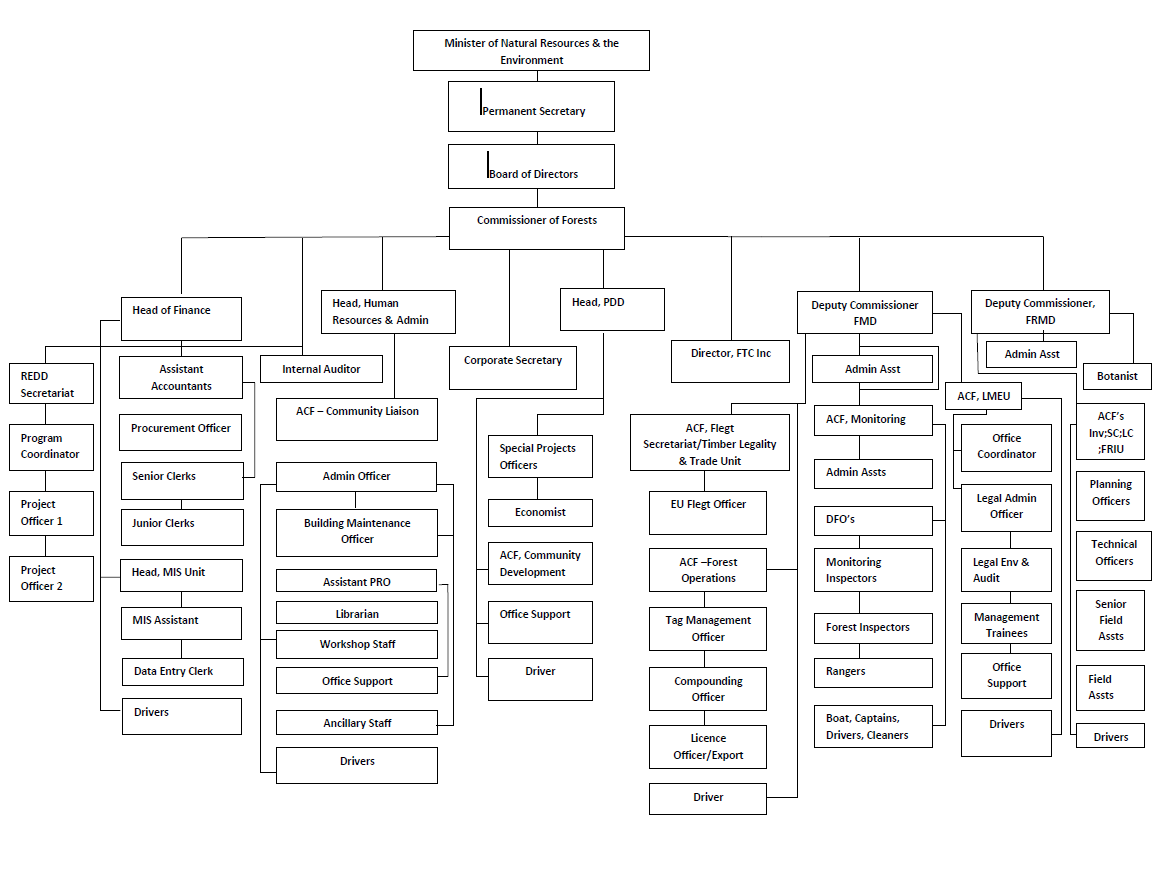
WCL Wood Cutting Lease

WI Winrock International

WWF World Wildlife Fund

YTC Yarrowkabra Training Centre

# Organizational Structure of the GFC



# 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 managing and monitoring 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 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**

In 2014, our staffs were distributed among the five departments as follows (with 2012 and 2013 figures for comparison):

20122013 **2014**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Department | Number of staff | Number of staff | Number of staff |
| Forest Monitoring Division | 200 | 189 | **213** |
| Forest Resources Management Division | 63 | 55 | **64** |
| Planning Development Division/REDD | 6/6 | 6/5 | **13** |
| Human Resources & Administration | 59 | 54 | **58** |
| Finance & MIS | 31 | 35 | **35** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Total | 365 | 344 | **383** |

The increase in staffing was most pronounced in the FMD due to the need for more Rangers; the FRMD also needed additional work teams.

*Scholarships*

One scholarship was offered by the Jawarharlall University, New Delhi, India to ACF Uma Devi Madray for MSc. Studies in Environmental Studies and is of two years duration. The six (6) students at UG on GFC Scholarships will be completing their program in 2015 and 2016.

*Overseas Seminars*

Eleven (11) Middle managers attended approved overseas training courses and meetings in 2014. In excess of two hundred (200) staff was exposed to GFC internal training and/or relevant local training.

*Industrial Relations*

During the year, GFC continued to enjoy very cordial relations with the Guyana Agricultural Workers Union (GAWU), the Union representing the workers

*Public Relations*

Twenty secondary schools and tertiary institutions were targeted by the GFC to sensitize students to pursue careers in Forestry at the Guyana School of Agriculture. Over 1200 students were enlightened on career opportunities in GFC. GFC also participated in 25 exhibitions in various regions of Guyana, and in several environmental programmes.

Additionally, several outreaches were held by the GFC Board of Directors and the GFC, targeting direct and indirect stakeholders inclusive of Amerindian Communities.

# 3. FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2014

**3.1 Financial Performance**

The Financial year 2014 was satisfactory for the GFC. Revenue collected was approximately $ 902.8M compared to budget of $ 859.2M (increase of 5 %) and also higher than the comparative period of 2013 which was $ 868.6M. Expenditure for the year was kept within the budget of $ 739.3M compared to the budget of $ 750.1M. Expenditure for the corresponding period 2013 was $ 696.4M. The table below provides a summary of the financial performance of the GFC for 2014 compared with budget and also 2013.

**3.2 Summary of GFC Financial Performance for 2013-14**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Actual 2013** | **Actual 2014** | **Budget 2014** |
| Royalty | 310,338,720 | 334,903,169 | 320,400,000 |
| Acreage Fee | 167,697,109 | 178,477,558 | 174,621,505 |
| Licencing& Other Fees & Compensation | 167,184,626 | 126,487,391 | 119,701,100 |
| Commission on Exports | 183,773,405 | 220,170,891 | 204,000,000 |
| Investment Income | 13,705,000 | 14,160,000 | 14,000,000 |
| Other Income | 25,955,056 | 28,670,394 | 26,500,000 |
| **Sub Total Revenue** | **868,653,916** | **902,869,403** | **859,222,605** |
| **TOTAL** | **868,653,916** | **902,869,403** | **859,222,605** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Employment Cost | 411,286,495 | 452,532,496 | 458,624,310 |
| Operational Costs | 231,532,118 | 235,244,595 | 237,860,800 |
| Administration Cost | 41,308,962 | 39,945,263 | 41,450,400 |
| Finance & Professional Cost | 12,357,460 | 11,606,111 | 12,215,000 |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | **696,485,035** | **739,328,465** | **750,150,510** |
| **Net Surplus/(Deficit)** | **172,168,881** | **163,540,938** | **109,072,095** |

## 

# 4. PERFORMANCE OF THE FOREST SECTOR IN 2014

## 4.1 Production, Exports, and Prices

The forest sector showed significant improvement in 2014. There was an overall increase in production levels as well as export value and volume. Although log export volume recorded a significant increase in 2014, it represents only 34% of total log production in 2014. The remaining 66 % was available for in country added value processing chains for exportation; as well as for local utilization in the construction and other sectors.

Total production of Timber (Logs, Primary Lumber, Roundwood, Fuelwood, and Splitwood) for the period January to December 2014 was recorded at 530,864m3 and together with Veneer and Plywood recorded a total of 572,236m3. This compares to 437,922m3 and 473,031m3, respectively, recorded in 2013. Overall, total production reflects a 21% increase over the year 2013.

Total Log Production for 2014 was 406,433m3 as compared to 304,601m3 in 2013. This increase, of approximately 33%, was mainly driven by the Classes 1 to 3 species of timber.

Total Roundwood production recorded a significant increase of 19% in 2014 with a production level of 24,667m3 as compared to 20,691m3 in 2013. In the Roundwood Category, Greenheart Piles and Wallaba Poles were the leading products, recording a 12% increase and 80% over that of 2013 production, respectively. Primary Lumber however, recorded an 8% decrease over the 2013 total volume. Total Veneer production was recorded at 22,574m3 as compared to 18,943m3 in 2013. This represents a 19% increase over the 2013 production level. Similarly, Plywood also recorded a notable increase with production showing a 16% increase in 2014 at 18,798m3 over the 2013 level of 16,166m3.

### Production Volume of Forest Products in 2014

The graph below shows the production level for the main forest products in 2014 as compared to 2013. There were greater levels of forest production in 2014 for most forest products including Logs, Plywood, Veneer and Roundwood.



*Total Production for Year 2014 Compared to Year 2013*

**Jan - Dec 2014**

**Jan - Dec 2013**

**PRODUCTS**

Unit

**Volume**

**Volume**

**TIMBER PRODUCTS**

***Logs***

m

3

Special Category

Greenheart

64,628.97

52,715.54

Purpleheart

22,052.17

25,658.41

Others

8,312.26

6,723.36

**Total Special Category Logs**

**94,993.40**

**85,097.32**

Class 1

198,467.44

121,070.59

Class 2

68,785.15

56,435.23

Class 3

44,187.16

41,998.42

**Total Other Class Logs**

**311,439.76**

**219,504.25**

***Total Logs***

**406,433.16**

**304,601.56**

***Roundwood***

m

3

Greenheart Piles

17,633.25

15,787.91

Kakaralli Piles

765.65

765.02

Wallaba Poles

4,067.05

2,271.41

Posts

2,053.77

1,889.71

Spars

146.95

290.72

***Total Roundwood***

**24,666.67**

**20,690.92**

***Primary (Chainsaw) Lumber***

m

3

Special Category

Greenheart

6,271.14

6,510.56

Purpleheart

1,799.47

3,407.06

Others

3,104.27

3,181.90

**Total Special Cat. Lumber**

**11,174.87**

**13,099.52**

Class 1

36,149.55

40,017.65

Class 2

12,017.33

11,398.76

Class 3

7,805.92

9,156.95

**Total Other Class Lumber**

**55,972.80**

**60,573.36**

***Total Primary Lumber***

**67,147.68**

**73,672.88**

***Total Splitwood***

**104.02**

**243.03**

***Total Fuelwood***

m

3

**32,512.56**

**38,713.70**

**TOTAL Logs, Roundwood, Lumber, Splitwood, Fuelwood**

**530,864.09**

**437,922.09**

**22,574.00**

**18,943.00**

**18,798.00**

**16,166.00**

**NON - TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS**

Wattles

pieces

401,618.00

375,146.63

Manicole Palm

pieces

2,796,974.00

1,576,340.00

***Veneer***

***Plywood***

### 4.2 Exports of Forest Products

Exports of Forest Products for the year 2014 were recorded at US$54.2M. This represents a marked increase of 36.7% over the 2013 total of US$39.6M. Logs and Sawnwood continue to be the leading export value earner for 2014, earning revenue of US$24.5M and US$20.3M, respectively. Roundwood values increased for 2014 when compared to 2013 with both export volume and revenue increasing significantly over the 2013 total. Roundwood exports for 2014 reflect a 7.7% increase in volume and 47.8% when compared to 2013, reflecting an increased price level for this product over that of 2013.

For 2014, the export trend continues to be as those in 2013. 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, with the Plywood major market being the Latin American and Caribbean region, namely Suriname and Belize.

**Export Volumes and Values**

*by*

**Product for Year 2014 and 2013**

**PRODUCT**

**Volume**

**Value**

**Volume**

**Value**

m

3

US$

m

3

US$

**Logs**

**138,502.34**

**24,448,974.36**

**76,615.79**

**12,451,749.35**

**Sawnwood**

**22,735.51**

**20,343,895.23**

**22,835.09**

**19,676,530.60**

*Dressed*

**8,093.50**

**9,635,353.53**

*7,757.95*

*9,172,635.37*

*Undressed*

**14,642.02**

**10,708,541.70**

*15,077.14*

*10,503,895.23*

**Roundwood**

**6,871.25**

**4,102,447.37**

**6,380.28**

**2,774,713.41**

Greenheart Piles

**5,542.72**

**3,054,103.96**

*5,611.24*

*2,268,267.00*

Other Piles

**20.38**

**6,246.00**

*-*

*-*

Poles

**1,089.13**

**481,949.32**

*553.28*

*409,877.41*

Posts

**219.03**

**566,394.09**

*215.77*

*96,569.00*

**Splitwood**

**2,042.61**

**2,138,739.50**

**1,781.22**

**1,730,696.43**

Shingles

**2,042.61**

**2,138,739.50**

1,781.22

*1,730,696.43*

**Plywood**

**5,278.87**

**2,615,302.92**

**4,714.50**

**2,369,415.27**

***TOTAL TIMBER & PLYWOOD***

**175,430.59**

**53,649,359.38**

**112,326.88**

**39,003,105.06**

**Furniture**

(pcs)

**232.00**

**34,856.00**

**250.00**

**52,896.32**

**Building Componentry**

(pcs)

**3,191.00**

**116,622.50**

**3,336.00**

**177,579.41**

**Mouldings**

(m)

**36,777.75**

**103,646.97**

**27,373.19**

**79,028.30**

***OTHER (than Plywood) VALUE ADDED***

**40,200.75**

**255,125.47**

**30,959.19**

**309,504.03**

**Fuelwood**

(m

3

)

**9,364.48**

**261,541.78**

**8,164.33**

**196,480.92**

**Other**

(pcs)

**3,965.32**

**9,057.37**

**10,211.00**

**99,856.25**

Wooden Ornaments & Utensils

**1,745.32**

**2,739.47**

*3,521.00*

*6,340.45*

Craft

**2,220.00**

**6,317.90**

*6,469.00*

*93,573.80*

**Non - Timber Forest Products**

(pcs)

**773.00**

**10,315.00**

**1,264.00**

**19,519.50**

***OTHER PRODUCTS***

**14,102.80**

**280,914.15**

**8,441.50**

**315,914.67**

**TOTAL EXPORT VALUE**

**54,185,399.00**

**39,628,523.76**

**Jan - Dec 2014**

**Jan - Dec 2013**

### 4.3 Export Volume and Value Analysis for 2014

There were increases in all product categories when compared to 2013. Further, volume increases or similar performance was noted for all forest products exported in 2014 when compared to 2013. This is illustrated below:

## 5. SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIVITIES FOR 2014

In 2014, the forest sector of Guyana continued to advance in terms of growth and development within a strong policy and strategic framework, modern legislation, and a robust system of guidelines and systems for sustainable forest management.

The key activities highlighted below are an integral part of the GFC’s Programme of Work for 2014 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 2014, GFC continued the implementation of the 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.*

The general focus of this ITTO funded project was (and is) to strengthen the performance of the wood processing sector through building local capacity and enhancing national system that will promote and facilitate efficient trade and utilization of lumber for local and export markets.

A detailed work plan has been completed and three (3) Consultants are implementing same under GFC guidance.

### 5.2 Developing Capacities for Managing CITES Timber Species

In 2014, 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 CedrelaOdorta (Red Cedar) in Guyana*.

The general objective of this ITTO funded project is to strengthen forest planning and marketing of CITES listed, current and potential timber species from Guyana.

Several activities such as collection/ analyses of inventory, production and market data are ongoing.

### 5.3 Developing Capacities at the GFC in Policy and REDD+ Areas

In 2014, a project on: Institutional Strengthening in Support of Guyana’s Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) was further advanced and concluded.

The overall objective of the Institutional Strengthening in Support of Guyana’s Low Carbon Development Strategy Project was to enhance national institutional capacity in Guyana to address the impacts of Climate Change, ensure the effective implementation of the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), and meet its commitments under interim Reducing Emissions from Deforestation, Forest Degradation and Sustainable Forest Management (REDD+) partnerships.

There is now enhanced capacity within the Guyana REDD+ Secretariat to develop and quantify many of the key elements of a Forest Carbon Measurement and Monitoring System (FCMS) and increased effectiveness of the monitoring programmes in relation to the Development of Guyana’s MRVS.

### 5.4 GFC Reports on Forest Sector Status as part of National Trade Policy Review

In 2014, Guyana welcomed a WTO team to conduct a trade policy review. The Trade policy review is conducted once every six years with the first two being conducted in 2003 and 2009. The team was briefed on several initiatives taken to strengthen the legal parameters such as the new GFC forest Bill (2009) and Forest Act (2007) which addressed critical areas of management and access within the sector. This has in turn facilitated trade in providing a more efficient mechanism to operate within the industry. These changes were well received by the WTO team and acknowledged as a step forward in improving trade polices within Guyana.

### 5.5 Community Forestry

Within the Community Forestry Programme, approximately 2,000 members within 73 Community Forestry Organisation/Associations, benefitted from assistance and technical support. A total of 128 concessions (488,015 hectares of forest land) were issued to these Associations, providing direct and indirect socio-economic benefits for members and others residing in and around the respective concessions.

The following areas of capacity building were undertaken at the community level in 2014.

* **Community Development Unit Training Interventions**: A total of 215 members from 21 community groups and other stakeholders received training and updates in community governance, MRVS and REDD+., while an additional 36 members from 6 CFOs received training in sustainable forest management practices.
* **Grant Funding**: Through the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF)-Institutional Strengthening Project the Rockstone Loggers Association received in excess of 10M GYD as a pilot to implement sustainable forest management practices. This project allowed the community to engage in alternative income generation mechanism such as fish drying and craft while improving their capacity to manage their forest operations by constructing and furnishing an office.
* **Scholarship**: One student, Mr. Sherlock Phillips from Aroaima was sponsored to read for a Certificate in Forestry at the Guyana School of Agriculture for academic year 2014/2015.

**5.6 National Log Export Policy**

Year 2014 marked the penultimate year of implementation of the current National Log Export policy.

**5.7 Year 4 Forest Area Change Assessment Completed**

# 

During 2014, Forest change between January 01, 2013 and December 31, 2013 was determined using high resolution 5 m imagery for the whole of Guyana.

Forest change of Forest to Non-forest excluding degradation between January 01, 2013 and December 31, 2013 (12 months) is estimated at 12 733 ha. Over the Year 4 reporting period, this equates to a total deforestation rate of 0.068%. This rate of change is lower than the previous Year 3 period which was reported as 0.079%.

The main deforestation driver for the current forest year reported (Year 4) is mining which accounts for 90% of the deforestation in this period. It should be noted that the driver of mining includes mining infrastructure.

**Area Deforested 1990 to 2013**

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

Forest Change Area by Period & Driver from 1990 to 2013

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Driver** | **Historical Period** | | | | **Year 1** | **Year 2 2010-11 (15 months)** | | **Year 3 2012** | | **Year 4 2013** | |
| 1990 to 2000 | 2001 to 2005 | 2006 to 2009 | | 2009-10 | Deforestation | Degradation | Deforestation | Degradation | Deforestation | Degradation |
| **Area (ha)** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Forestry (includes forestry infrastructure) | 6 094 | 8 420 | | 4 784 | 294 | 233 | 147 | 240 | 113 | 330 | 85 |
| Agriculture (permanent) | 2 030 | 2 852 | | 1 797 | 513 | 52 | N/A | 440 | 0 | 424 | N/A |
| Mining (includes mining infrastructure) | 10 843 | 21 438 | | 12 624 | 9 384 | 9 175 | 5 287 | 13 516 | 1 629 | \*\*11 251 | 2 955 |
| Infrastructure | 590 | 1 304 | | 195 | 64 | 148 | 5 | 127 | 13 | 278 | 112 |
| Fire (deforestation) | 1 708 | 235 | |  | 32 | 58 | 28 | 184 | 208 | 96 | 395 |
| Settlements | | | | | | | | | | 23 | 20 |
| Year 4 Shifting Agriculture | | | | | | | | | |  | 765 |
| Year 2 forest degradation converted to deforestation | | | | | | | | **148** |  | 67 | N/A |
| Year 3 forest degradation converted to deforestation | | | | | | | | | | 200 | N/A |
| Amaila Falls development  (Infrastructure Roads) |  |  | |  |  | 225 |  |  |  | 64 | 20 |
| **Area Change** | **21 267** | **34 249** | | **19 400** | **10 287** | **9 891** | **5 467** | **14 655** | **1 963** | **12 733** | **4 352** |
| Total Forest Area of Guyana | 18 473 394 | 18 452 127 | | 18 417 878 | 18 398 478 | 18388 190 |  | 18502 531 |  | 18 487 876 |  |
| Total Forest Area of Guyana Remaining | 18 452 127 | 18 417 878 | | 18 398 478 | 18 388 190 | 18378 299 |  | 18487876 |  | 18 475 143 |  |
| Period Deforestation (%) | 0.01% | 0.04% | | 0.02% | 0.056% | 0.054% |  | 0.079% |  | 0.068% |  |

\*\*Forestry infrastructure accounts for the full total of deforestation from forestry activities.

\*\*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.

\*\*\*Amaila Falls Development has been split from other infrastructure driven change for reporting purposes.

# 5.8 Forest Carbon Measurement System (FCMS) in Guyana

Work on Phase Two (2) of the Forest Carbon Monitoring System (FCMS) continued to focus in 2014 on the medium potential of change stratum. Emissions factors are currently being developed for degradation occurring around mining deforestation and infrastructure and degradation from shifting agriculture. The REDD Secretariat is also in the process of developing a community level Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for forest carbon monitoring.

# 5.9 MRVS Roadmap Phase 1 Review

At the completion of implementation of the MRVS Roadmap for Phase 1, a series of consultation sessions were conducted over the period 24-27 March 2014 in Georgetown, Guyana. The consultations with national and international partners and experts reviewed the progress achieved; lessons learned and discussed the foundations for continued engagement and next steps in further developing Guyana’s forest monitoring capacities.

# 5.10 MRVS Roadmap Phase 2

Roadmap Phase 2 was developed in 2014 to consolidate and expand capacities for national REDD+ monitoring and MRV; and support Guyana in meeting the evolving international reporting requirements from the UNFCCC as well as continuing to fulfill additional reporting requirements, e.g. to meet obligations under the bilateral cooperation agreement with the Government of Norway. It will also support Guyana in further developing forest monitoring as a tool for REDD+ implementation.

Three specific areas were identified where key activities are recommended for the next 1-3 years in order to consolidate and expand capacities:

1. Consolidate capacities and routine REDD+ monitoring and MRV
2. Develop national forest monitoring as tool for REDD+ implementation
3. Knowledge sharing and capacity building

**Progression of Guyana’s REDD+ monitoring: frame for Roadmap Phase 1 and Roadmap Phase 2**.



# 5.11 Strengthening of Guyana’s Technical Capacity to Implement MRVS & Other REDD+ Related Activities- funded by Guiana Shield Facility

Through support from the Guiana Shield Facility, the GFC began implementing this project which seeks to address activities outlined in both the MRVS Road Map as well as Guyana’s R-PP; these being the Development of National Reference Level; REDD+ Consultations on development of the National MRVS; the Exploration of Co-benefits under the MRVS and the Development of national REDD+ Strategies.

The outcome of the project will be the strengthening of Guyana’s capacity to manage forest resources and environmental services through the development of an appropriate national reference level as well as aspects of the MRVS related to PES, which will in turn allow for strengthened monitoring of deforestation and forest degradation. The capacity building exercises will see improved knowledge of REDD+ and the MRVS, as well as the involvement of these communities in executing their foreseen roles in REDD+ and the MRVS.

# 5.12 Guyana's Reference Level Proposal for submission to UNFCCC

Guyana prepared and submitted its Proposal on Reference Level (RL) for Guyana’s REDD+ Programme to the UNFCCC in December 2014.

# 5.13 Community MRVS- support to NRDDB & Konashen

In continuing to support efforts at the development of MRV at the subnational level, the GFC has been continuing its work with the NRBBD as well as commencing support of the WaiWai Konashen Community Owned Conservation Area (COCA) CMRV Project, a collaboration with the WWF.

A key area of focus during the GFC’s interaction with the NRDDB was that of improving pathways for integrating community data into national forest monitoring systems

# 5.14 Guyana’ Engagement with the FCPF

The GFC completed updating a Matrix designed by the FCPF to present the status of REDD+ Annual Country Progress Reporting.

# 5.15 Real Time Evaluation Team for Guyana Norway MoU

Over the period April 28 - May 2, 2014, a team was in country to conduct a real time evaluation of the implementation of the Guyana Norway agreement, as part of Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI). This process aimed at evaluating the work that is being done with each partner country and in Guyana’s case, the Guyana Norway partnership on forests and climate.

# 5.16 FAO’s Space Data Management System (SDMS)

In 2014, Guyana was selected to be a pilot country in the FAO’s Space Data Management System (SDMS). This pilot is intended to make medium resolution satellite imagery available to developing countries as well as to provide training and further capacity building, as well as technical support to the pilot countries. Guyana’s selection was based on its enabling environment and Guyana’s willingness to promote and evaluate alternative MRVS approaches.

**6. FOREST MONITORING OPERATIONS**

**6.1 Monitoring of Forest Concessions**

State Forest Permission (*SFP)* monitoring activities for forest concession operations were aimed at investigating compliance with the logging operation against the *GFC’s* Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting, the procedure for the *GFC’s* log tracking system and other operational procedures and standards that were set by the *GFC*.

Monitoring of TSA, WCL& SFEP forest concession operations were performed throughout the year. The objective of these monitoring exercises was to investigate the compliance of the logging operation against the *GFC’s* operational procedures and standards. Resident Forest Officers on these concessions worked closely with the concession holders to periodically visit high risk areas within each concession.

The graph below gives further details of the exercises undertaken; compliance was found to be very satisfactory.

**6.2 Patrols including Impromptu activities**

In addition to the detailed concession audits referred to above, regular and impromptu patrols were done to ensure that forest operations including lumber yards and those at other non-forest locations, were monitored on a constant basis as outlined below:

The frequency of the monitoring had the desired effect in ensuring that there was very favorable compliance at all categories of operations.

**6.3 Licence Issuance**

A total of nine hundred and five (905) licences (sawmills, sawpits, export, lumber yards, timber depots…) were issued as shown below:

**Aggregate issuances for the year 2014 compared to2013.**

**6.4 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 controls contained to be extremely tight, and compliance with the procedures, legality and sustainability aspects was extremely satisfactory. Additional Audit staff was employed to further strengthen this specific function.

**6.5 ISO 17020 & ISO 17065 Gap Analysis for GFC**

In conjunction with the National Committee on Conformity Assessments, the GFC is working steadfastly with the GNBS to bring its current operational procedures (in relation to export: inspection and certification) up to par with the updated standards: ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 and ISO/IEC 17065:2013.

**6.6 Timber Legality & Trade Unit**

Funding from the *FAO* has allowed for two critical projects to be developed under the Guyana – EU FLEGT VPA engagement; namely:

* A Communication and Consultation Strategy which is in its draft stage and highlights the most appropriate mechanisms to be used to communicate with various stakeholder groups.
* A Scoping of Impacts Study which sought to highlight the possible impacts the *VPA* will have on various stakeholders. This study was aimed at highlighting what were the main constraints and areas for improvements that would be needed when the VPA is finalized.
* Outreach and consultation continues to be a part of the activities of the NTWG and the FLEGT Secretariat. There were a number of outreach sessions which were held across the country with various stakeholders. These sessions were focused mainly on gathering comments and feedback on the Legality Definition (LD).
* The Joint Roadmap for the *VPA* process was adjusted after the second negotiation in July. However, as was mentioned to all stakeholders, the roadmap is not static, and if there is need for changes these can be made if and when the need arises. This need has arisen and it is expected that the first few months of 2015 will see significant changes being made to the Joint Roadmap; these being finalized at the 3rd Negotiation scheduled for early 2015.
* The main changes which are to be made will focus mainly on the dates for specific deliverables since there were delays in some scheduled activities, as requested by the EU.
* During 2014, there were a number of VCs held which were aimed at discussing technical issues on the VPA such as the LD and the verification systems.
* An international Workshop was also held on Sharing Experiences on the FLEGT VPA in Guyana during the month of September. Participants from a number of VPA countries and non- VPA countries were able to participate and provide a lot of useful information on the VPA process in various parts of the world.

**7.0 FOREST MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS**

**7.1 Forest Land Allocation**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CLASSIFICATIONS** | **COUNT** | **Area (Hectares)** | **%** | **%** | **%** |
| **Area Type** | **Total Allocation** | **State Forest** |
| **PRODUCTION LANDS** |  |  |  |  |  |
| State Forest Permits (SFP) | 531 | 1,973,040.00 | 28.77 | 25.93 | 15.37 |
| State Exploratory Permits (SFEP) | 9 | 702,229.24 | 10.24 | 9.23 | 5.47 |
| Wood Cutting Leases (WCL) | 1 | 21,267.27 | 0.31 | 0.28 | 0.17 |
| Timber Sale Agreements (TSA) | 24 | 4,160,869.46 | 60.68 | 54.69 | 32.42 |
| **Total Production Area Allocated** | **565** | **6,857,405.97** | **100.00** | **90.13** | **53.43** |
| **PERMANENT RESEARCH AND RESERVES** | |  |  |  |  |
| **GFC Forest Reserves** | 11 | 17,797.40 | 2.37 | 0.23 | 0.14 |
| Other Research & Reserves [Shell Beach, Kanuku Mountains, (GL&SC Shapefile) ] | 2 | 733,292.00 | 97.63 | 9.64 | 5.71 |
| **Total Research & Reserve Areas** | **13** | **751,089.40** | **100.00** | **9.87** | **5.85** |
| Total Forest Allocated | **578** | **7,608,495.37** |  |  | 59.28 |
| Unallocated State Forest |  | 5,225,447.13 |  |  | **40.72** |
| **Total State Forest** |  | **12,833,942.50** |  |  | **100.00** |
| Iwokrama (GL&SC Shapefile) |  | 371,610.44 |  |  |  |
| Kaieteur National Park (GL& SC Shapefile) |  | 61,091.00 |  |  |  |

**Table showing areas allocated as Large Concessions for 2014.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total area size (ha) TSA/WCL** | 4,182,136.73 ha | 4,884,366.07 ha |
| **Total area size (ha) SFEP** | 702,229.34 ha |
| **Total TSA/WCL count** | 25 | 34 |
| **Total SFEP count** | 9 |

**Table showing state forest allocated as SFP ending 2014**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Division** | **# of SFPs** | **Total amount of Hectares** | **Agri. Leases** | **Mining Leases** |
| Demerara | 164 | 529,855 | 14 | 0 |
| Essequibo | 186 | 626,747 | 4 | 4 |
| Berbice | 161 | 737,465 | 3 | 0 |
| North West | 20 | 78,973 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **531** | **1,973,040** | **21** | **4** |

For 2012/2013, approximately 534 State Forest Permissions (SFP) (inclusive of Mining and Agriculture leases) were active, covering an area of 1,895,149 ha. In 2014, there was 1,973,040 ha allocated as SFP (including AL and ML), portraying an increase in area managed as SFP and a decrease in area managed as large concessions.

### 7.2 Forest Management Plans (FMP)

GFC continued to monitor the implementation of approved Forest Management Plans in 2014 with emphasis being placed on critical management prescriptions, such as felling cycles, blocks for harvesting, annual yield and felling area. 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. The submission and quality of FMP’s has increased significantly in 2014 compared to previous years.

### 7.3 Forest Annual Plans of Operations (AOP)

AOPs are essential for effecting concession level monitoring by GFC. All plans submitted were assessed against the minimum requirements as outlined by 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.

Though the quality of plans increased when compared to previous years, there was an observed need for consistency in AOP presentation; many companies are still preparing AOPs without relevant structured analytical information. These results in some plans having to go through multiple revisions before they are finally approved. For this reason, an AOP template is currently being finalized to aid companies in preparing easy to use, accurate and GFC ready plans.

While there was 100% submission of required AOPs, AOP 2014 for Kwebanna Wood Products TSA 04/09 was not approved and a resubmission is being awaited.

**AOP Status for 2014.**

### 

### 7.4 Block Approvals

For year 2014, a total of 370 new blocks, 98 roll over, 102 re-entry and 6 advance blocks were approved for harvesting for TSAs and WCL; a total of 724 allowable blocks was available based on Annual Allowable Area (AAA).

GFC facilitated the year-round submission (and ground verification) of inventory data from Companies; additionally, GFC assisted many companies with inventory training.

### 7.5 Forest Land Allocation during 2014

In 2014, two lists of forest areas for re-allocation were published: January/February and September/October. The award of 31 allocations from the first vacant list was approved by the GFC Board of Directors and issued by the GFC. The second set of allocations will be approved by the GFC Board in time for issuance in early 2015.

**Chart below compares new areas allocated for period 2010-2014**

On average, the largest number of areas is allocated in Essequibo, with the largest number of new areas allocated in 2011. 2014 figures do not include the September/October advertised areas; these will be reflected in 2015.

**Chart below shows the categories of SFP applicants for the 2014 vacant lists.**

From the pie chart above, it is clear that SFP allocation continues to provide a vibrant livelihood option for ‘the small man’ and community associations across Guyana, improving rural livelihoods, enhancing income generation and improving social benefits for Guyanese.

## 7.6 Forest research

The Inventory Unit placed great emphasis on research for 2014. The foundation was set for future data collection with the establishment of 4 100X100ha Permanent Sample Plots (PSP) (2 control, 2 treatment PSPs) for Kufa and Nibbi within Vaitarna Holdings PVT Inc. TSA 01/10 (Wineperu and Koetaru compartments). Measurements of growth and yield will be derived from these sites.

This further complements the nation-wide implementation of the CoP for kufa and nibbi. In 2014, planning began for the establishment of similar PSPs for manicole in collaboration with AMCAR.

## 7.7 Management Level Inventory (MLI)

MLI was conducted for a total of 23 SFPs in Essequibo. The Data entry process has been completed and GFC is now generating the output and analysis.

This will provide information to aid decision-making as it relates to complaints of low stockings by SFP holders. Empirical data will be available to decide which areas must be rested and which are still productive.

# 7.8 Forest Reserves

The Moraballi, Bartica Arboretum, 5 Miles and 24 Miles Reserves, Pibiri, Mabura, Chikabaru, Long Creek and Kairuni Forest Reserves were maintained and upgraded for 2014. The Yarrowkabra Training Centre (YTC) continues to be an asset to the Forest Sector and facilitated 586 visitors for 2014. YTC also hosts GFC in-house training sessions.

The Reserves are utilized by the University of Guyana (UG) and the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) for fieldtrips. PSPs within reserves were used for research by local and international researchers.

In addition, the GFC has committed to both GSA and UG, the availability of the Acacia Plots at Mon Repos on the East Coast for research development.

# 7.9 Management of Forest Resources Information

The GFC is involved in developing and managing a centralized Geographic Information System (GIS) database on National Forest Resources. This provides accurate information to both staff and stakeholders, policy makers, local and international bodies; the GIS work is also integrally used for REDD+ and MRVS work.

**8.0 SUPPORT FROM ASSOCIATED FORESTRY ENTITIES**

The implementation of GFC’s activities for 2014 was supported by the Forestry Training Centre Incorporated (FTCI) and the Forest Products Development and Marketing Council (FPDMC).

**8.1 FORESTRY TRAINING CENTRE INC.**

FTCI trained 243 persons for 2014. Unfortunately, only two large companies took advantage of the highly subsidized courses being offered.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Total Courses | Total Participants | Participants |
| 14 | 234 | * 5 Courses - sponsored by the Board of Industrial Training * 2 Courses - University of Guyana * 1 Courses -Guyana School of Agriculture * 1 Courses – Amerindian Community * 1 Courses – Small Loggers Association * 2 Courses- Companies in Suriname * 2 TSA’s (VHPI; BCL) |

* 33 other participants benefited from extension training through a collaborative effort with FTCI and Farfan and Mendes.

Training demand was high among rural forest based communities but this training cost could only be financed through donor support.

To foster this, FTCI has been able to develop a partnership with UNDP and with the communities of Kaburi Amerindian Village and Rockstone Amerindian Village to do training in 2014. New opportunities are expected to emerge in 2015.

FTCI maintained developmental partnerships with the Board of Industrial Training, ETS Suriname and FAO. These opportunities are expected to expand in 2015.

Additionally, FTCI submitted a training proposal to an NGO in Belize that could lead to a training opportunity in May 2015.

Following a meeting in September 2014 with TSA/WCL Concessionaires, the FPA members recommended a regional, decentralized approach to training due to geographical differences in species composition and forest conditions. FTCI will operationalize this in 2015.

In September 2014, GFC made the decision that it will transfer its training requirements to FTCI.

There were significant developments with the FLEGT-VPA process in 2014 and activities by the NTWG in 2015 will be supported by DFID Funding. FTCI has been earmarked to do the training component.

On a negative note, the imminent closure of Tropical Forest Foundation (Virginia, USA) in 2014 could disrupt FTCI’s linkages with other RIL based training centres in Indonesia and Brazil.

There were major improvements to the field camp. FTCI developed a relationship with CTVET that would lead to additional improvements in 2015.

FTCI will continue its consultancy work on FMPs, AOPs and ESIAs

**8.2 FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING COUNCIL**

* During the year 2014 the Council focused on Product Development and Innovation; Quality and Legality Assurance in the form of support to the EU/FLEGT initiative; Branding; Development of Lesser Used Species (LUS); Market Intelligence/Promotion; Training; Expanding the national consumption of timber and developing new markets overseas.
* The Council coordinated an initiative centered on the training of Guyanese technicians in India and the testing of selected species of timber at an Indian laboratory. Species that were identified for testing comprised woods that pose problems for processing in Guyana. A list of these species was submitted to the Indian High Commission for consideration.
* Additionally, FPDMC coordinated interactions with the Indian High Commission on possible funding and expertise for a forest products value-added training facility. Discussions will continue in 2015 on these topics.
* 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.
* These projects which will commence in the first quarter of 2015 once the applications are approved. They will focus on educating stakeholders about the terms and conditions of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) and the implications of the VPA for their businesses. One of the projects will highlight the implications of dealing with illegal timber.
* The Council continued its advertising campaign to promote the use of the Lesser Used Species of woods. Brochures reflecting the benefits of using LUS were distributed to persons attending various exhibitions. Television advertisement was produced and aired on several occasions.
* The FPDMC in collaboration with MNRE extended invitations to all the Permanent Secretaries at the various Ministries seeking their cooperation in ensuring that the LUS are utilized in works undertaken by government departments requiring wooden material. A LUS Seminar "Enhancing the use of LUS timber in Government Procurement Projects" was subsequently conducted and in attendance were Government Permanent Secretaries and Engineers. Presentations were made by the GFC & FPDMC. Follow-up actions are to be taken in 2015. A copy of the Hand Book on the LUS produced by the Council was included in promotional packages sent to these Ministries.
* Lesser Used Species Promotional packages were prepared and disseminated to the overseas missions via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
* The Council undertook the exercise of producing five thousand timber trade magazines for the forest sector.
* The FPDMC launched an enhanced marketing database encompassing 27 countries worldwide and reflecting in excess of over 600 companies dealing with timber and timber products. The data base was then placed on the FPDMC website for easy access to stakeholders.

**Thematic areas for GFC in 2015**

A number of initiatives are planned for 2015 under the following thematic areas:

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Increase/Enhance local forest product added value activities** |
| 1. **Stimulation of greater foreign and local investment in the sector** |
| 1. **Improve production, processing/manufacturing and export of forest produce** |
| 1. **Investments - Encourage and monitor Investments from Existing Stakeholders** |
| 1. **Encourage an increase in direct and indirect employment** |
| 1. **Increased community access to forest resources** |
| 1. **Promotion and enhancement of sustainable management, forest monitoring, forest legality, and reduced impact logging** |
| 1. **Training and capacity building at all levels in the sector** |
| 1. **Market development and promotion; including the promotion of Lesser Used Species (LUS); Revision of the National Log Export Policy** |
| 1. **Maintaining strong environmental and social guidelines to ensure Sustainable Forest Management, low rate of deforestation and illegal logging** |
| 1. **Fulfilling Local and International Obligations including activities under the LCDS, REDD+ activities, MOU with Norway, finalizing the Guyana- EU FLEGT VPA etc** |

**Guyana Forestry Commission Forest Stations**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **OUTSTATIONS** | **ADDRESS** | **TELEPHONE #** |
| 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 |
| Buckhall | Essequibo River |  |
| Canje | East Canje, Berbice | 332-0487/332-0227 (F) |
| Georgetown | Water Street, Kingston | 226-7271-4 |
| Iteballi | Mazaruni River |  |
| Kwakwani | Berbice River | 440-2589 (F)/440-2590 |
| Kwebana | Region 1 NWD |  |
| 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 |  |
| Orealla | Corentyne River | 338-9280 |
| Parika | East Bank Essequibo | 260-4084/260-4217 (F) |
| Port Kaituma | North West District |  |
| Soesdyke | Soesdyke, EDB | 261-5310 – Fax  261-5044  261-5045 |
| Springlands | Corentyne, Berbice | 335-3414 |
| Supenaam | Essequibo Coast | 774-4944 (Office/Fax)  774-4945 |
| Wineperu | Bartica, Region 7 |  |