Strengthening of Guyana's Technical Capacity to Implement MRVS & Other REDD+ Related Activities

Component 1: Reference Level

Outline of Presentation

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Reference Level Proposal Work Plan
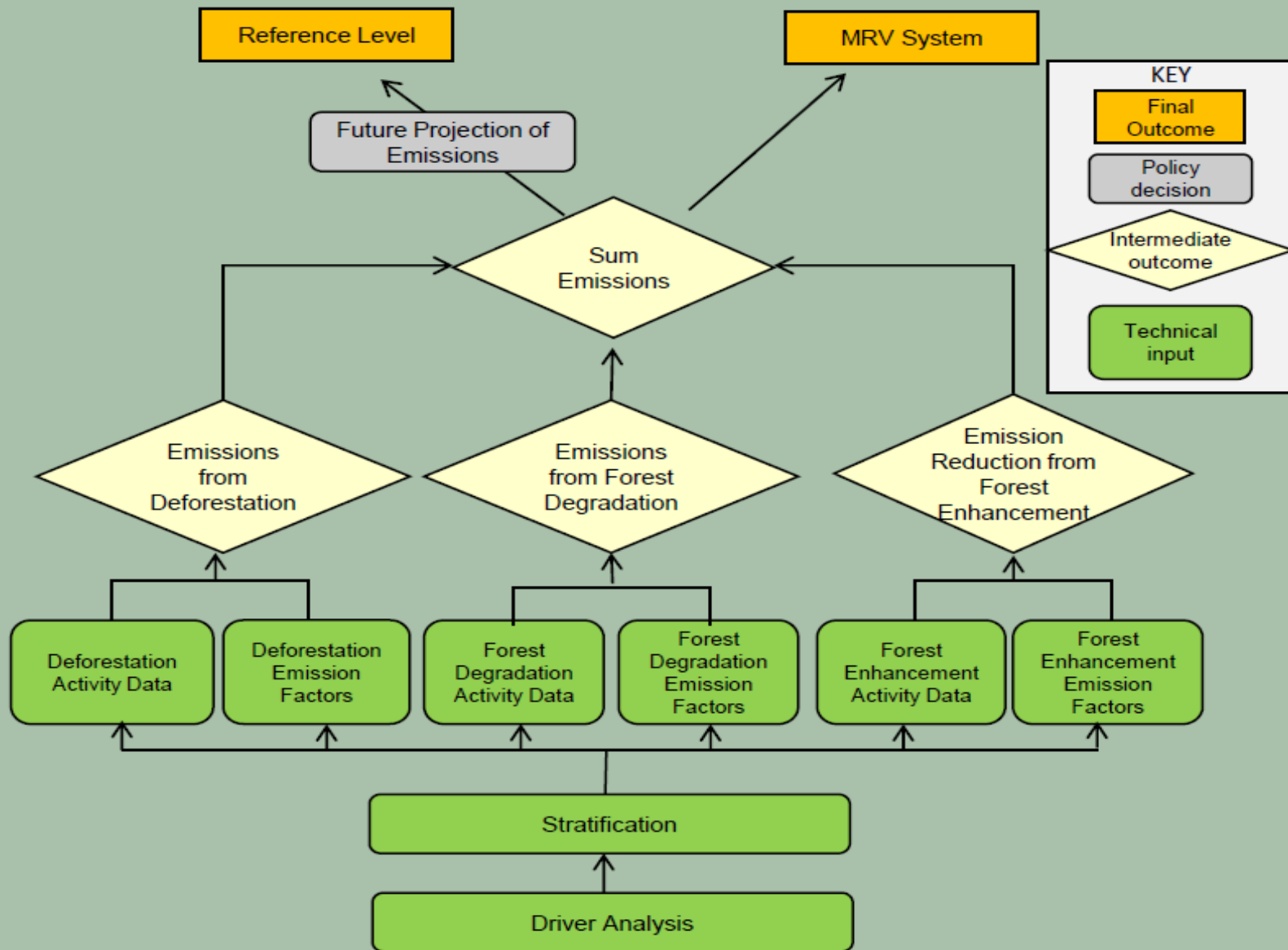
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Conclusion

Overview

- Reference Levels (RLs) refer to business–as-usual benchmarks and form the basis for calculating emission reductions for each year.

- Ultimately compared to REDD+ implementation captured by MRV.

- Derived from historical data and adjusted for national circumstances as appropriate.

- Set at the beginning of a fixed length period (e.g. 5 year period beginning in 2013).

Overview Cont'd

- In accordance with decision 12/CP.17 paragraph 13, Guyana has deemed it appropriate to submit and is submitting on a voluntary basis for consideration by the UNFCCC its initial proposal for developing the forest RL.

- There are two main components of the RL: (a) establishment of Guyana's historical emissions profile from the forestry sector and (b) the development of the proposed reference level.

- On August 29, 2013, The GFC facilitated a workshop on Reference Level under Component 1 with support from the **GSF.** This Workshop provided stakeholders with an overview of the relevance of Reference Levels for REDD+ with details on the progress made by Guyana.

RL and MRV Inputs

Why Do Reference Levels Matter?

- RELs/RLs depict what the emissions scenario would be in the absence of REDD+ implementation.

- Historic emissions provide information of the magnitude, location, and causes of emissions/removals that can be used to develop REDD+ strategies.

- Improve GHG inventory for National Communication and contribute to developing LEDS by providing improved knowledge of the relative role of forests in national GHG inventory (better than a Tier 1 estimate) and potential of REDD+ activities to impact GHG emissions/removals.

Options for Guyana's RL/REL (Option 1)

- Combined Reference Level: Subtracting Guyana's observed annual deforestation rate from an agreed interim reference level of 0.275.

  Calculating the carbon emission reductions achieved through avoided deforestation (as compared to the agreed reference level).

  Subtracting from that number changes in emissions – on a ton-by-ton basis – from forest degradation as measured against agreed indicators and their reference levels.

  Applying an interim carbon price of US$5/ton CO_2, as established in Brazil's Amazon Fund.
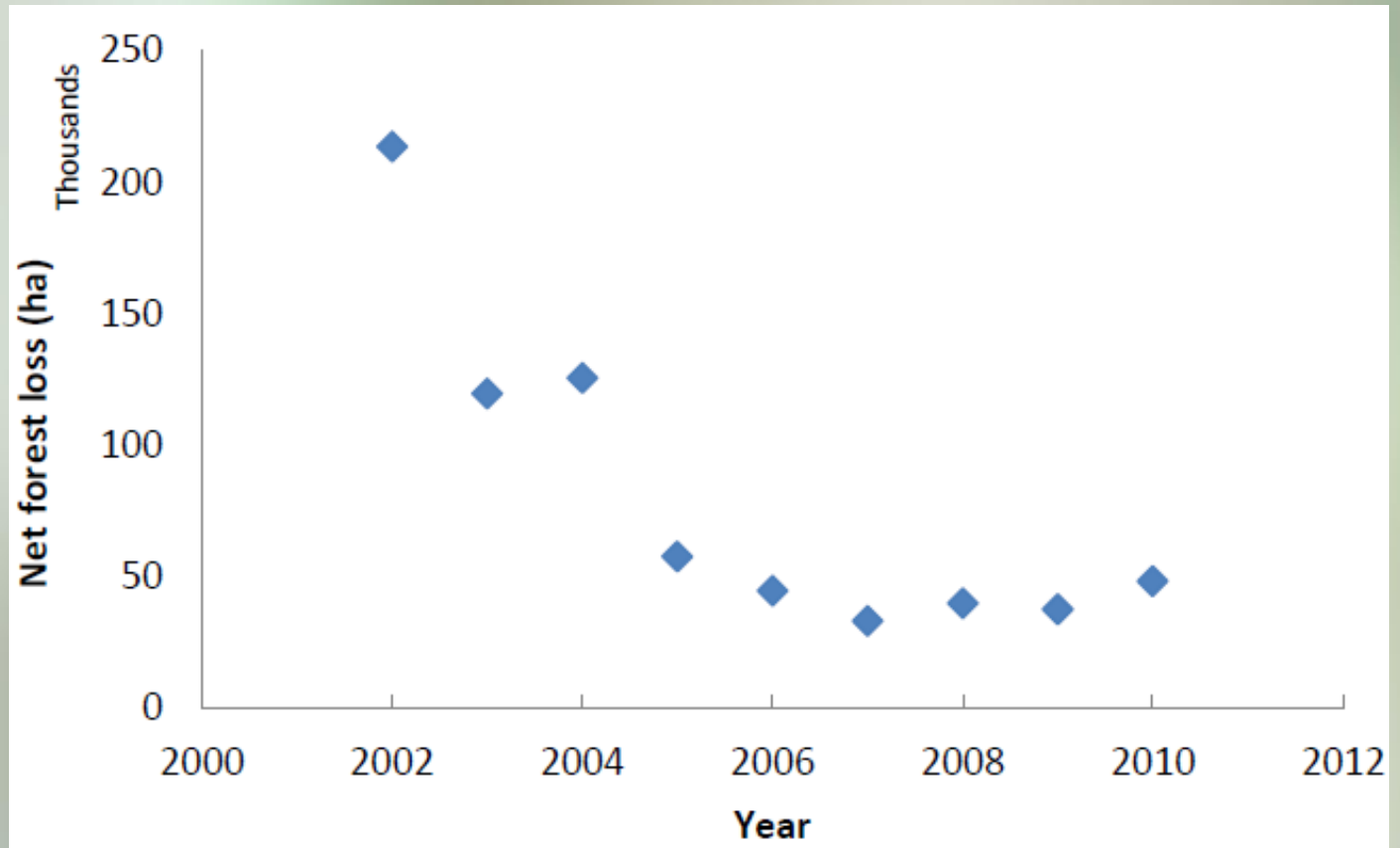
Options for Guyana's RL/REL (Option 2)

- Continuation of Historical Average

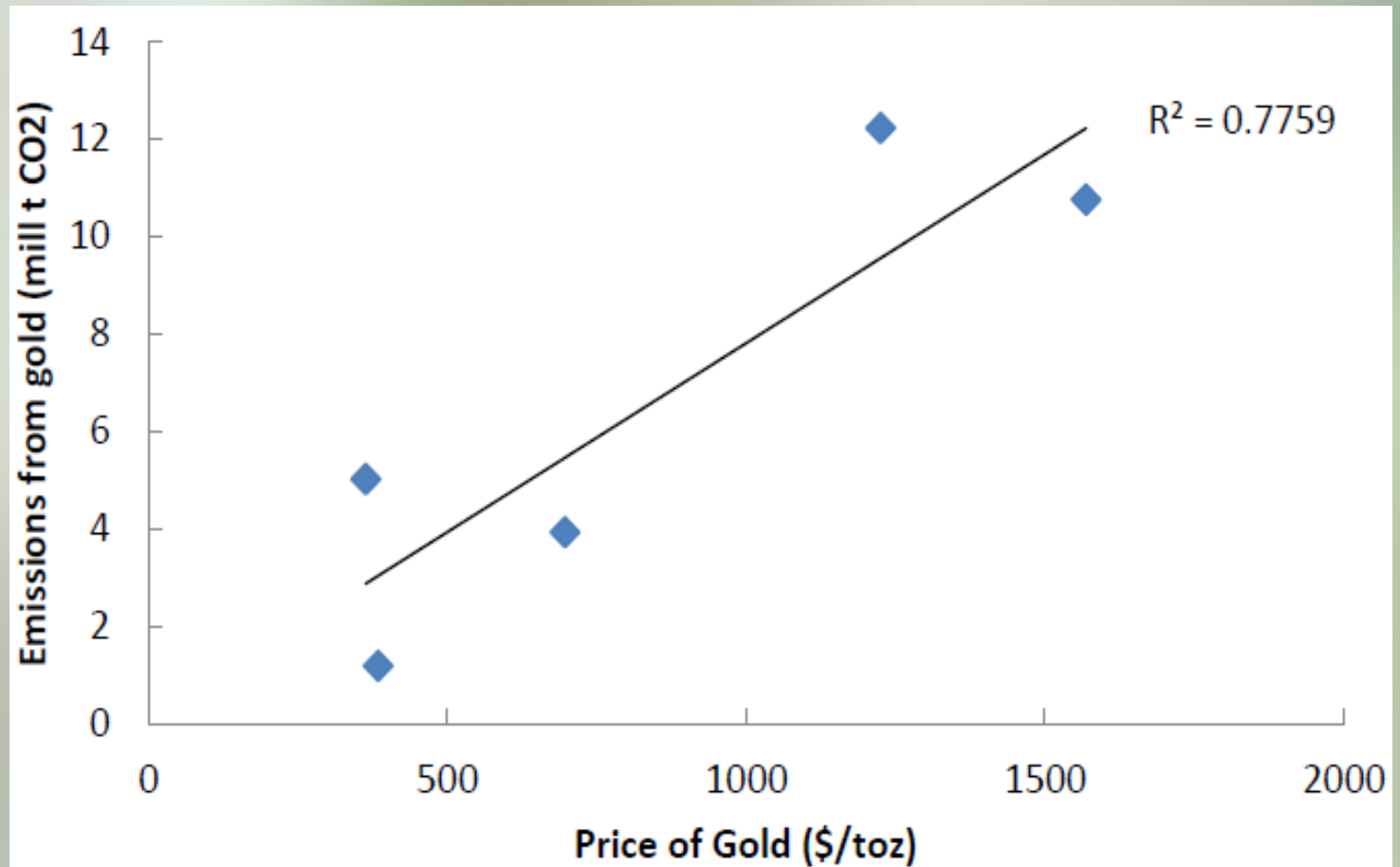| Reference Period	Average Emissions (t CO_2 yr^{-1})
1990-2009	4,617,875
1990-2011	5,288,840
2000-2009	6,751,598
2000-2011	7,580,967
2006-2009	5,231,637
2006-2011	7,134,304
2009-2011	11,193,327

Options for Guyana's RL/REL (Option 3)

- Continuation of Historical Trend

Annual net forest loss from 2002-2010 using 500m resolution MODIS imagery.

Options for Guyana's RL/REL (Option 4)

- Adjustment for National Circumstance

- Emissions from gold mining vs. price of gold in troy ounces, from 1995 to 2011.

Preferred Option for Guyana

- 2010 and 2011 included in historical reference level.

- Use robust, credible global average to establish interim future emission projections :
  - Appropriate to ensure REDD+ activities in HFLD countries
  - Accounts for Sustainable Forest Management
  - Allows phased approach

Conclusion

Guyana is now able to Project future emissions of CO_2e by quantifying historic emissions and developing future trajectories of emissions (5 yr and10 yr periods) under different economic and development scenarios to formulate pertinent policies aimed at maintaining a low rate of forest change.

Thank You