

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

JANUARY 2016 - JUNE 2016

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME: Downscaling Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy to SMEs

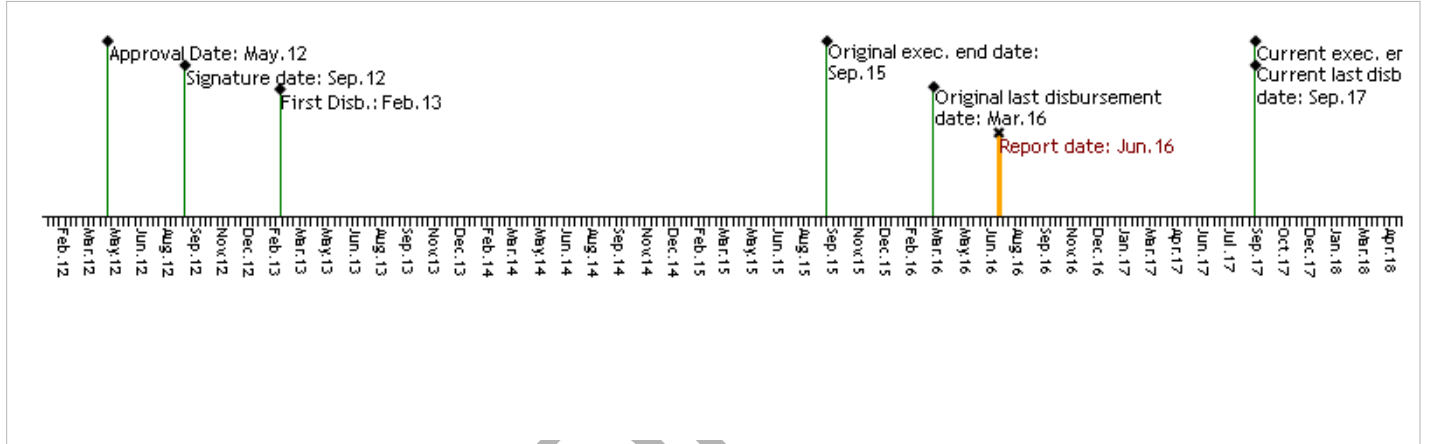
Project Number: GY-M1021 - Project Num.: ATN/ME-13229-GY

Purpose: To strengthen and create environmentally-sustainable businesses in the Rupununi.

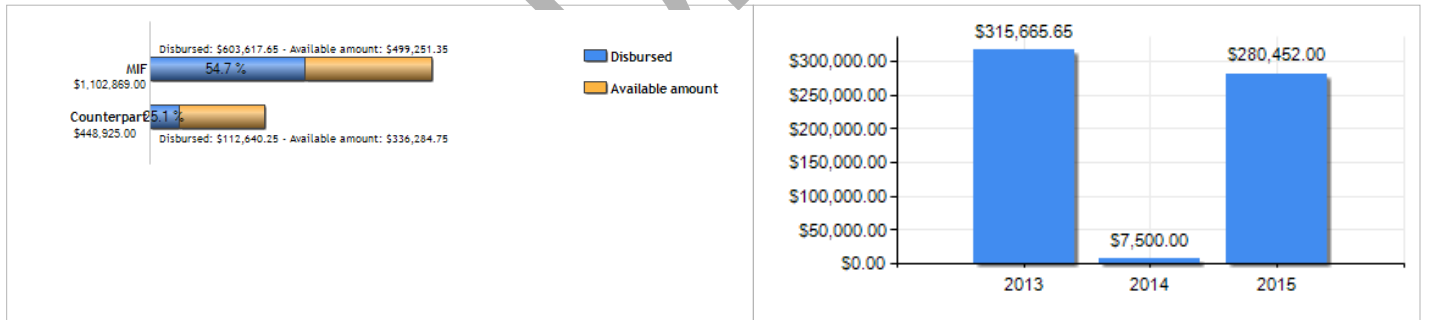
Country Admin	Country Beneficiary	Group	Subgroup
GUYANA	GUYANA	ENV - Environment	TOUR - Sustainable Tourism

Executing Agency:	Conservation International	Design Team Leader:	GREGORY WATSON
		Supervision Team Leader:	VASHTIE DOOKIESINGH

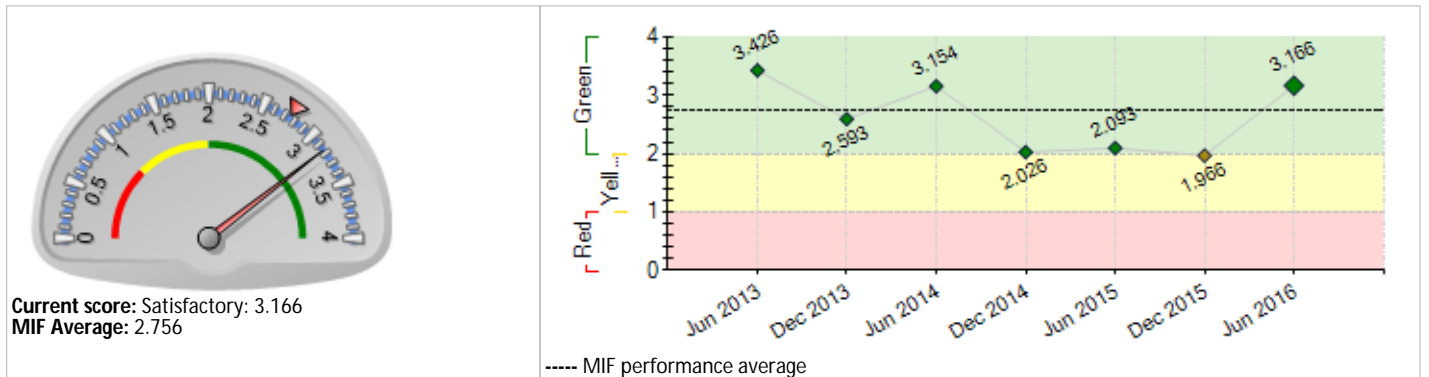
PROJECT CYCLE



FUNDS



PERFORMANCE SCORE

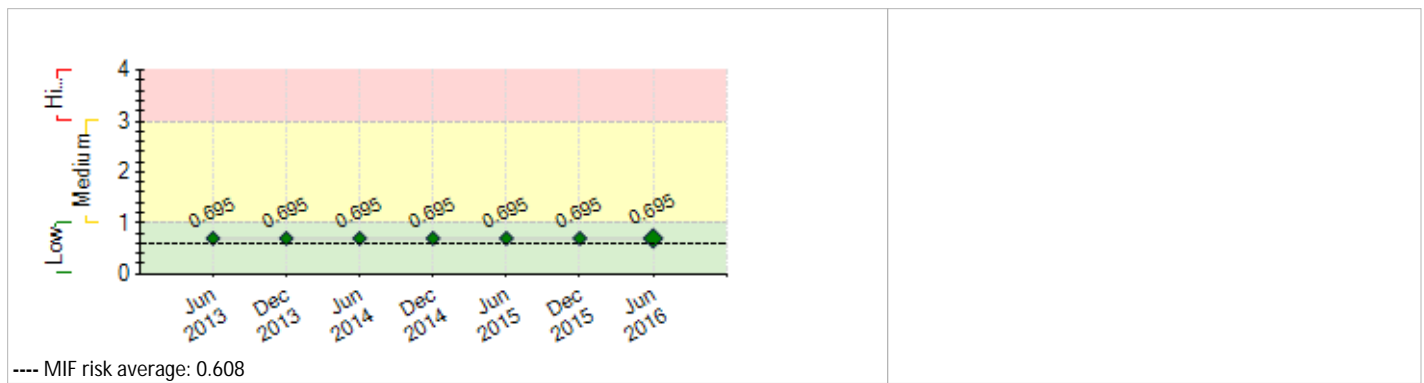


EXTERNAL RISKS

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Risk

Financial Management:
Procurement:
Technical Capacity:



SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE

Summary of project performance since inception

Main Results

Baseline assessments refined and published. These reports and data produced are currently being used to inform and guide the design of a 9 million USD 'Hinterland Environmentally Sustainable Agricultural Development' project being developed by the Government of Guyana (GOG) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Moreover, the data and lessons learned from action being used to inform GOG and IDB agricultural surveys in regions 5, 9 and 10

Rupununi tourism syndicate work-plan being implemented: communication plan & constitution finalized, branding and web-site completed, proposals for financing completed and submitted

3rd annual business forum held in collaboration of the RDC-9, Ministry of Indigenous People's Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Business

Rupununi agriculture strategy finalized and adopted by RDC-9 & Ministry of Agriculture. Document in process of being published and printed for distribution and naturalization

Agriculture and tourism CBEs receiving targeted training that are focused on business planning and management. Sustainable business planning manual drafted

22 loans approved, 2 loans repaid and closed, 12 loans in basket for approval 12 loans at the business planning stage

RIF credit manual revised, and monitoring system developed and being implemented

Critical actions

Communications, promotion and knowledge management: project and RIF

Integration of strategies and plans into statutory programmes and budgets

Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

Summary of project performance in the last six months

Regional agriculture development strategy finalized and adopted by the Regional Democratic Council - 9 and the Ministry of Agriculture and baseline studies begun used to inform key decision i.e. the development of regional and national agricultural projects being developed by the GOG, IFAD and the IDB

Tourism syndicate functional: communication plan being implemented, articles for legal establishment finalized and registration process commenced, region promoted at key regional events i.e. Rodeo 2016, tourism mission to Roraima, Brazil - Rupununi operators showcased their products and were able to develop concrete business contacts

Targeted training of enterprises under the RIF in enterprise development and sustainable business planning. Sustainable business planning manual drafted

Functional data base and tracking system enterprise tracking (social, environmental and financial dimensions of the enterprises)

RIF functional: 22 loans approved, 2 loans repaid and closed, 12 loans in basket for approval 12 loans at the business planning stage

Targeted outreach with the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry to north and south Rupununi conducted

Actions

Sustainability of key activities

Tourism syndicate: legally registered, financing to implement work-plan

Regional agricultural strategy fully adopted by region and part of work-programme and budget

Training curricula developed and mainstreamed

RIF: marketing and promotional material developed and outreach activities continued

Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

SECTION 3: INDICATORS AND MILESTONES

	Indicators	Baseline	Intermediate 1	Intermediate 2	Intermediate 3	Planned	Achieved	Status
Purpose: To strengthen and create environmentally-sustainable businesses in the Rupununi.	R.1 9 tourism businesses implement low-carbon, climate-resilient, or pro-conservation practices.	0				9 Aug 2016	0	
	R.2 14 agricultural businesses have identified low-carbon, climate-resilient, or pro-conservation strategies and are moving towards their implementation.	0				14 Aug 2016	0	
	R.3 For 9 tourism providers, average earned revenue growth of 20%.	0				20 Aug 2016	0	
	R.4 For 9 tourism providers, earned revenue per guest increases by 10%.	0				10 Aug 2016	0	
	R.5 For 14 agricultural producers, average earned revenue growth of 15%.	0				15 Aug 2016	0	
	R.6 For 14 agricultural producers, number of purchase contracts increases by 50%.	0				50 Aug 2016	0	
	R.7 For 14 agricultural producers, unit value increases by 10%.	0				10 Aug 2016	0	
	R.8 15% of Rupununi's businesses implement low-carbon, climate-resilient, or pro-conservation practices.	0				15 Aug 2017	0	
Component 1: Baseline GHG, climate change, and economic assessment Weight: 12% Classification: Satisfactory	C1.11 Economic baseline and tracking methodologies completed.					Feb 2014	Yes Aug 2014	Finished
	C1.12 Stakeholders analyzed and mapped.					Feb 2014	Yes Jan 2014	Finished
	C1.13 Analysis of Rupununi agricultural supply and demand.					Feb 2014	Yes Jun 2014	Finished
	C1.14 Selection and categorization of targeted communities, enterprises, and products.					Feb 2014	Yes Jul 2014	Finished
	C1.15 Options for mainstreaming climate change mitigation and adaptation action in the Rupununi community-based enterprises identified, described, and agreed upon by stakeholders.					Feb 2014	Yes Sep 2014	Finished
Component 2: Facilitate a business, community, and government network for climate-responsive development in the Rupununi Weight: 9% Classification: Satisfactory	C2.11 A Rupununi Community Tourism Syndicate is operational.					Jun 2016		Finished
	C2.12 Community based organizations selling to formal private enterprises					Mar 2017		
Component 3: Selection and implementation of specific interventions Weight: 28% Classification: Satisfactory	C3.11 Business Plans developed for market-ready tourism community-based MSMEs	0				4 Jul 2014	4 Aug 2014	Finished
	C3.12 Rupununi community agriculture blueprint developed	0				1 Jul 2014	1 Aug 2014	Finished
	C3.13 Market readiness plans developed for other tourism MSMEs	0				5 Sep 2016	1 Jan 2015	Finished
	C3.14 Detailed business plans developed for agricultural community-based enterprises	0				2 Sep 2016	1 Jan 2015	Finished

C3.15 Market-ready MSMEs have implemented at least 50% of their business plans	0				6		Delayed
					Feb 2016		
C3.16 Participating MSMEs received business management and product development training appropriate to their market readiness	0				100		Delayed
					Feb 2016		
Component 4: Establishment and Implementation of the Rupununi Innovation Revolving Fund Weight: 27% Classification: Satisfactory	C4.11 At least 6 enterprises access finance from either the innovation fund of component 4 or commercial funds	0			6	23	Finished
					Feb 2016	Apr 2016	
C4.12 Fund agreement established with local financial institution	0				1	1	Finished
					Aug 2015	Nov 2014	
Component 5: Securing Stakeholder Participation through Outreach, Monitoring and Evaluation of Results Weight: 19% Classification: Satisfactory	C5.11 Environmental, social, and economic impact indicator matrix developed	0			1	1	Finished
					Aug 2013	May 2014	
C5.12 Environmental impact assessment completed (including biodiversity, ecosystem services, conservation).	0				1		
					Sep 2016		
Component 6: Knowledge Management Weight: 5% Classification: Satisfactory	C6.11 Case studies developed	0			6		Delayed
					Feb 2016		
C6.12 Project results disseminated in at least 2 national or international fora.	0				2		Finished
					Feb 2016		

Milestones	Planned	Due Date	Achieved	Date of achievement	Status
M0 Conditions Prior	4	Mar 2013	4	Mar 2013	Achieved
M1 Establishment of community tourism syndicate for purposing packaging, marketing, booking and branding of community tourism operations.	1	Nov 2013	1	Nov 2013	Achieved
M3 [*] Develop agricultural blueprint	1	Sep 2014	1	Sep 2014	Achieved
M4 Develop administrative arrangements with a local financial institution for fund management and administration.	1	Dec 2014	1	Nov 2014	Achieved
M5 Design sustainability plan including information for the Rupununi business forum, Rupununi tourism syndicate, the innovation fund and the training curricula.	1	Dec 2015	0	Jun 2015	Not Achieved
M2 [*] Establish tourism syndicate	1	Nov 2016			

[*] Indicate that the milestone has been reformulated

CRITICAL ISSUES THAT HAVE AFFECTED PERFORMANCE*[None reported in this period]***SECTION 4: RISKS****MOST IMPORTANT RISKS AFFECTING FUTURE PERFORMANCE**

	Level	Mitigation action	Responsible
1. Environmental disasters and/or degradation from factors external to the project (e.g. mining concessions) infringe upon intended business models.	High	Encourage the adherence to strict mining guidelines and enforcement of the applicable laws.	Project Guest
2. External or international market factors and global climate change discussions may negatively affect the targeted economic sectors.	Medium	Support the promotion of Guyana's LCDS at global climate change discussions.	Project Guest
3. International tourism decreases	Medium	A tourism product will be developed that is attractive to the local market.	Project Guest
4. Political support for the project may not be sustained.	Medium	Promote the project within the Rupununi communities to achieve local ownership.	Project Guest
5. Guyana is not able to appeal to niche tourism markets, such as birders and sportfishers.	Medium	This will be mitigated by the development of business plans that will target such markets.	Project Guest

PROJECT RISK LEVEL: Low **TOTAL NUMBER OF RISKS:** 18 **IN EFFECT RISKS:** 18 **NOT IN EFFECT RISKS:** 0 **MITIGATED RISKS:** 0**SECTION 5: SUSTAINABILITY****Likelihood of project sustainability after project completion:** P - Probable**CRITICAL ISSUES THAT MAY AFFECT PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY***[None reported in this period]***Actions related to sustainability which have been taken in the reporting period:**

Sustainability plans developed and being implemented for the following key initiatives/areas:

- Rupununi Innovation Fund
- Training/capacity development
- Rupununi Christmas Fair (market linkages)
- Rupununi Stakeholder Business Forum

- Community Enterprise Database
- Rupununi Tourism Syndicate (Visit Rupununi)

Short term consultant Mr. Martin Dellavedova supported and facilitated the project team in the development of a sustainability plan and provided support for the definition and prioritization of key activities and associated use of resources in the final phase of the project. The consultant gave particular focus to the activities related to the Rupununi Innovation Revolving Fund (RIF) and the mechanism for the continued operation of the fund and business activity in the targeted communities beyond the period of MIF and priority actions for agriculture and tourism actions with the project.

The result of this action has been the production of reports on prioritization of roject activities and development of a sustainability plans for agriculture, tourism and the RIF. These plans all have accompanying budgets and activity/implementations plans.

SECTION 6: PRACTICAL LESSONS

	Relative to Implementation	Author
<p>1. Understanding of the culture, customs, attitude and overall agro-ecological characteristics of the Rupununi</p> <p>The ability of the executing agency to effectively manage difficulties, barriers and obstacles that are peculiar to the region (based on extensive on the ground experience executing projects in isolated natural resource based areas.</p> <p>Several mechanisms used by the executing agency to ensure project success, including regular site visits, mentoring, and empowering communities to take responsibility of project activities that affect them.</p>		International Guyana, Conservation

Draft