SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME: Downscaling Guyana’s Low Carbon Development Strategy to SMEs
Project Number: GY-M1021 - Operation Number: ATN/ME-13229-GY

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

Country Administrator: GUYANA
Beneficiary Country: GUYANA
Group: ENV - Environment
Subgroup: TOUR - Sustainable Tourism

Executing Agency: Conservation International
Design Team Leader: Watson, Gregory
Supervision Team Leader: Dookiesingh, Vashtie

TIMELINE

Current score: Satisfactory: 2.593
MIF Average: 2.606

EXTERNAL RISKS

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Risk
Financial Management: Low
Procurement: Low
Technical Capacity: Low
SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE

Summary of project performance since inception

Main Results (towards achieving the purpose)
- **Stakeholder and community based enterprise (CBE) database and map for the Rupununi developed.** This map provides an understanding of enterprises in the region, including information on sectors, size, level and source of investments, and key markets. This map gives important baseline information to help guide decision making and helps to target interventions for the CBEs, CI-Guyana and other development partners so that these actors work together to create a regional model of a healthy sustainable economy.

- **Agriculture and tourism seminar held and Rupununi Stakeholder Business Forum launched:** The objective of this initiative was to facilitate networks and relationships between the owners and users of natural resources and ecosystem services within the Rupununi, developing joint understanding of responsibilities and sharing costs; and linking together community based enterprises with larger private sector firms, government agencies, service providers and NGOs. The initial networks and collaboration catalyzed by this process will support the development of an integrated approach to management of the Rupununi.

- **Rupununi Christmas Fair held:** The fair provides an opportunity for local CBEs to market their processed and fresh agricultural products, craft and other sustainable products, and to explore wider market opportunities and linkages.

- **Rupununi Innovation Fund Launched:** the fund is targeting growth of low carbon CBEs.

Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments
The Executing Agency has made good progress in mobilizing and advancing the project.

Summary of project performance in the last six months

Main Achievements
- Project mobilization and procurement of key staff and establishment of adequate project management systems (attainment of milestone 1)
- Development of community based enterprise database and map, including information on sectors, size, level and source of investments, and key markets
- Collaborated with the Rupununi Chamber of Commerce and Industry to host the region’s first business forum, as part of Rupununi Expo, 2013. The forum provided a unique opportunity for key local, regional and national actors and stakeholders to interact, network, and negotiate collaborative opportunities with each other (attainment of project milestone 2)
- Developed a partnership has been formed with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO) towards a potentially ground-breaking study of the State of Food and Agriculture in the Rupununi region (which will rolled out in 2014)
- Supported the Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group in holding the Rupununi Christmas Fair
- Launched the Rupununi Innovation Fund (RIF) in collaboration with GBTI
- Ongoing monitoring by the Project Steering Committee

Delays
- Baseline & Value Chain Assessments & Monitoring Framework (delays in the procurement process): Firm contracted and work will be rolled out and completed in 2014

Upcoming Actions
- Baseline assessments
- State of Food & Agri - milestone
- Business plan training and template development
- Refinement and roll-out of RIF
- Curricula development

Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

SECTION 3: INDICATORS AND MILESTONES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Intermediate 1</th>
<th>Intermediate 2</th>
<th>Intermediate 3</th>
<th>Planned</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R.1</td>
<td>9 tourism businesses implement low-carbon, climate-resilient, or pro-conservation practices.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Aug 2016</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>R.2</td>
<td>14 agricultural businesses have identified low-carbon, climate-resilient, or pro-conservation strategies and are moving towards their implementation.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Aug 2016</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
For 9 tourism providers, average earned revenue growth of 20%.  
Aug 2016

For 9 tourism providers, earned revenue per guest increases by 10%.  
Aug 2016

For 14 agricultural producers, average earned revenue growth of 15%.  
Aug 2016

For 14 agricultural producers, number of purchase contracts increases by 50%.  
Aug 2016

For 14 agricultural producers, unit value increases by 10%.  
Aug 2016

15% of Rupununi’s businesses implement low-carbon, climate-resilient, or pro-conservation practices.  
Aug 2017

Component 1: Baseline GHG, climate change, and economic assessment  
Weight: 12%  
Classification: Satisfactory

- Economic baseline and tracking methodologies completed.  
Feb 2014

- Stakeholders analyzed and mapped.  
Feb 2014

- Analysis of Rupununi agricultural supply and demand.  
Feb 2014

- Selection and categorization of targeted communities, enterprises, and products.  
Feb 2014

- Options for mainstreaming climate change mitigation and adaptation action in the Rupununi community-based enterprises identified, described, and agreed upon by stakeholders.  
Feb 2014

Component 2: Facilitate a business, community, and government network for climate-responsive development in the Rupununi  
Weight: 9%  
Classification: Satisfactory

- A Rupununi Community Tourism Syndicate is operational.  
Sep 2015

- Community based organizations selling to formal private enterprises  
Sep 2015

Component 3: Selection and implementation of specific interventions  
Weight: 28%  
Classification: Satisfactory

- Business Plans developed for market-ready tourism community-based MSMEs  
Jul 2014

- Rupununi community agriculture blueprint developed  
Feb 2015

- Market readiness plans developed for other tourism MSMEs  
Feb 2015

- Detailed business plans developed for agricultural community-based enterprises  
Feb 2015

- Market-ready MSMEs have implemented at least 50% of their business plans  
Feb 2016

- Participating MSMEs have implemented at least 50% of their business plans  
Feb 2016

Component 4: Establishment and Implementation of the Rupununi Innovation Revolving Fund  
Weight: 27%  
Classification: Satisfactory

- At least 6 enterprises access finance from either the innovation fund of component 4 or commercial funds  
Feb 2016

- Fund agreement established with local financial institution  
Aug 2015

Component 5: Securing Stakeholder Participation through Outreach, Monitoring and Evaluation of Results  
Weight: 19%  
Classification: Satisfactory

- Environmental, social, and economic impact indicator matrix developed  
Aug 2013

- Environmental impact assessment completed (including biodiversity, ecosystem services, conservation).  
Aug 2015

Component 6: Knowledge Management  
Weight: 5%  
Classification: Satisfactory

- Case studies developed  
Feb 2016

- Project results disseminated in at least 2 national or international fora.  
Feb 2016

Milestones

- Conditions Prior
- Establishment of community tourism syndicate for purposes of packaging, marketing, booking and branding of community tourism operations.  
Dec 2013
- Explore and develop linkages between local agricultural production and tourist needs.  
Dec 2013
- Develop administrative arrangements with a local financial institution for fund management and administration.  
Dec 2013
- Establish tourism syndicate  
Dec 2013
- Design sustainability plan including information for the Rupununi business forum, Rupununi tourism syndicate, the Innovation fund and the training curricula.  
Dec 2013

CRITICAL ISSUES THAT HAVE AFFECTED PERFORMANCE

[X] Executing agency institutional capacity

[X] Purchase difficulties

SECTION 4: RISKS

MOST IMPORTANT RISKS AFFECTING FUTURE PERFORMANCE
1. Environmental disasters and/or degradation from factors external to the project (e.g., mining concessions) infringe upon intended business models.
   - Level: High
   - Mitigation action: Encourage the adherence to strict mining guidelines and enforcement of the applicable laws.
   - Responsible: Project Guest

2. External or international market factors and global climate change discussions may negatively affect the targeted economic sectors.
   - Level: Medium
   - Mitigation action: Support the promotion of Guyana’s LCDS at global climate change discussions.
   - Responsible: Project Guest

3. International tourism decreases
   - Level: Medium
   - Mitigation action: A tourism product will be developed that is attractive to the local market.
   - Responsible: Project Guest

4. Political support for the project may not be sustained.
   - Level: Medium
   - Mitigation action: Promote the project within the Rupununi communities to achieve local ownership.
   - Responsible: Project Guest

5. Guyana is not able to appeal to niche tourism markets, such as birders and sportfishers.
   - Level: Medium
   - Mitigation action: This will be mitigated by the development of business plans that will target such markets.
   - Responsible: 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 will be or have been implemented:

On November 30, CI-Guyana collaborated with the Rupununi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) to host the region’s first business forum, as part of Rupununi Expo, 2013. The forum provided a unique opportunity for key local, regional and national actors and stakeholders to interact, network, and negotiate collaborative opportunities with each other. The RCCI has pledged to hold this event annually as part of the Rupununi Expo, this will ensure sustainability of the forum.

CI-Guyana supported the Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group in holding the Rupununi Christmas Fair under the theme “Celebrating Nature’s Gifts using Our Skills & Traditional Knowledge.” The fair is a significant livelihood initiative spanning across the agriculture, tourism, craft and related sectors, the fair has attracted the interest of regional and national public and private sector stakeholders. The fair provides an opportunity for local Community Based Enterprises to market their processed and fresh agricultural products, craft and other sustainable products, and to explore wider market opportunities and linkages. The fair is now an annual event on the Rupununi calendar.

SECTION 6: PRACTICAL LESSONS

1. Stakeholder engagement and involvement of local communities in decision making is key
   • Contextualizing interventions: social (gender, fairness and elite capture), environment & stage of development is very important so that they are relevant and applicable
   • Capacity development for enterprises and communities, including product and market development, monitoring (social and environmental), business development skills, governance and negotiation
   • Overall monitoring and evaluation, including the development of baseline data and metrics for project monitoring and evaluation should be done in a participatory way so that communities define project success.

   Relative to Implementation  Author
   • International Guyana, Conservation