

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

JULY 2013 - DECEMBER 2013

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

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

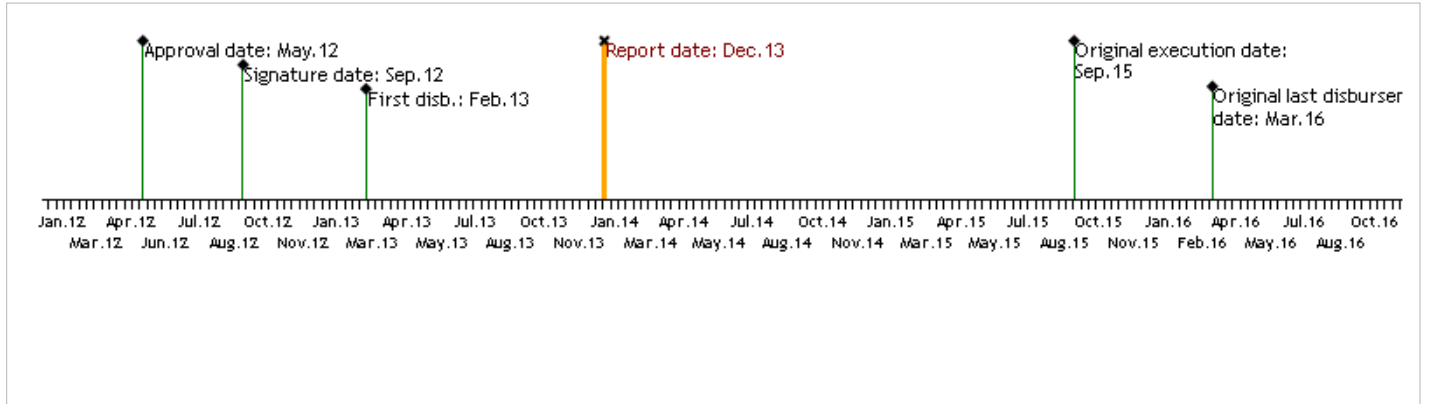
Project Number: GY-M1021 - Operation Number: ATN/ME-13229-GY

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

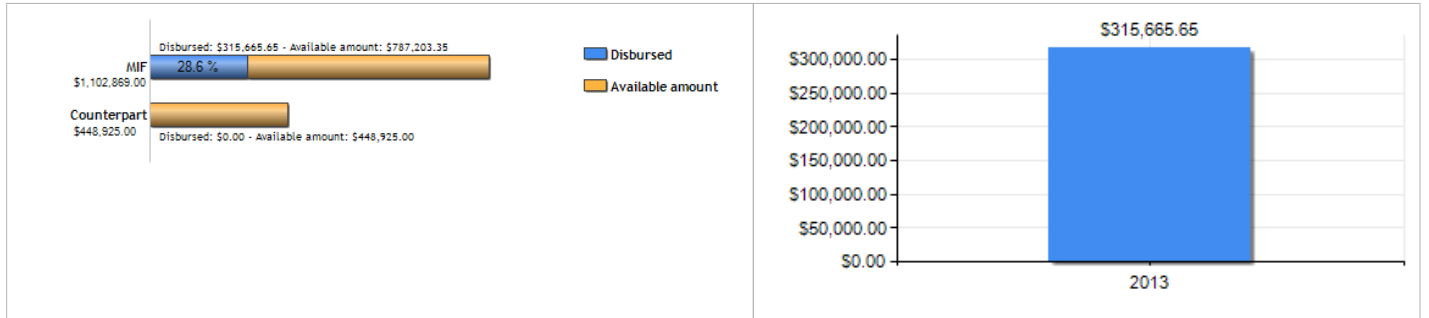
Country Administrator GUYANA	Beneficiary Country GUYANA	Group ENV - Environment	Subgroup TOUR - Sustainable Tourism
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Executing Agency: Conservation International	Design Team Leader: Watson, Gregory
	Supervision Team Leader: Dookiesingh, Vashtie

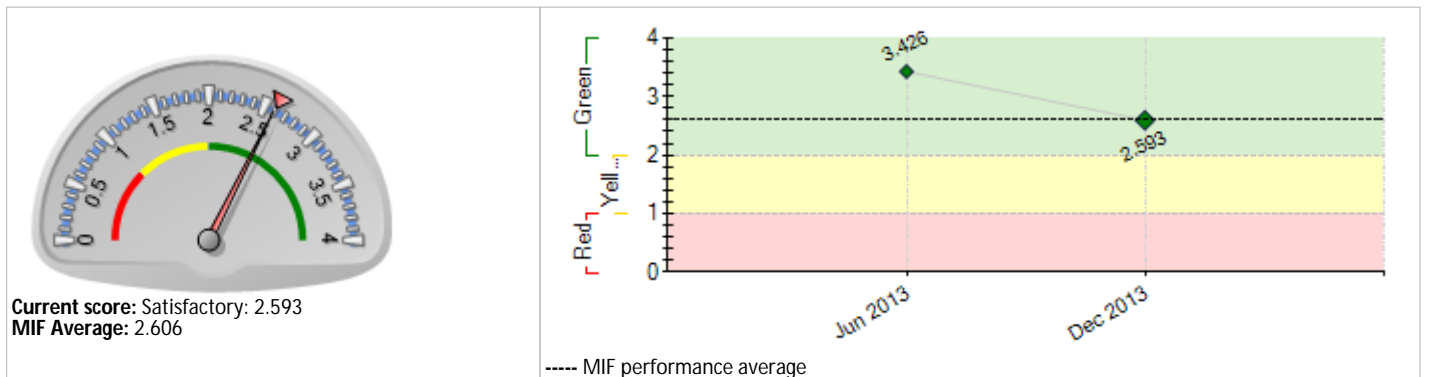
TIMELINE



FUNDS

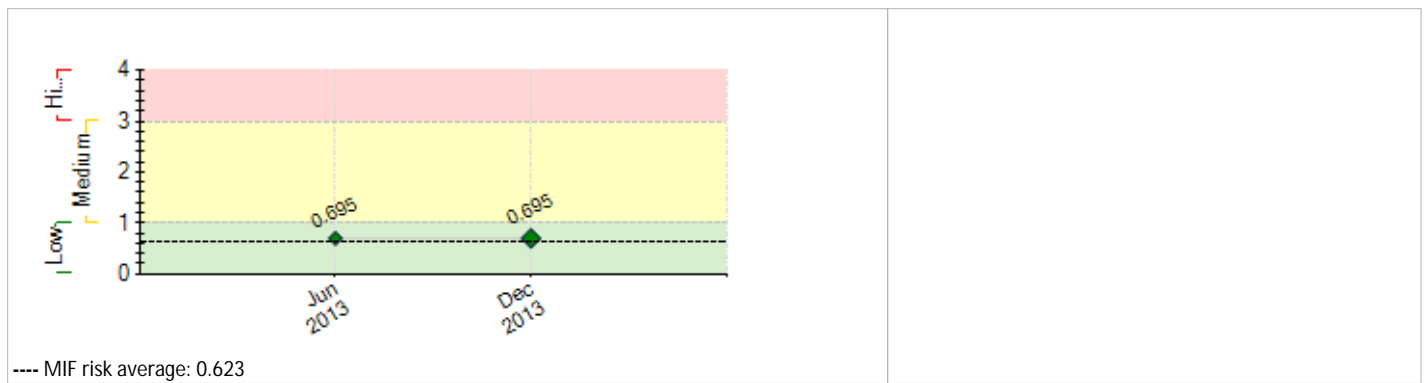


PERFORMANCE SCORE



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

Indicators	Baseline	Intermediate	Intermediate	Intermediate	Planned	Achieved	Status	
		1	2	3				
Result: 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	0	
	R.2	14 agricultural businesses have identified low-carbon, climate-resilient, or pro-conservation strategies and are moving towards their implementation.	0			14	0	
					Aug 2016			
					Aug 2016			

R.3	For 9 tourism providers, average earned revenue growth of 20%.	0				20	0
						Aug 2016	
R.4	For 9 tourism providers, earned revenue per guest increases by 10%.	0				10	0
						Aug 2016	
R.5	For 14 agricultural producers, average earned revenue growth of 15%.	0				15	0
						Aug 2016	
R.6	For 14 agricultural producers, number of purchase contracts increases by 50%.	0				50	0
						Aug 2016	
R.7	For 14 agricultural producers, unit value increases by 10%.	0				10	0
						Aug 2016	
R.8	15% of Rupununi's businesses implement low-carbon, climate-resilient, or pro-conservation practices.	0				15	0
						Aug 2017	

Component 1: Baseline GHG, climate change, and economic assessment

Weight: 12%

Classification: Satisfactory

C1.11	Economic baseline and tracking methodologies completed.						Feb 2014
C1.12	Stakeholders analyzed and mapped.						Feb 2014
C1.13	Analysis of Rupununi agricultural supply and demand.						Feb 2014
C1.14	Selection and categorization of targeted communities, enterprises, and products.						Feb 2014
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

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.						Sep 2015
C2.12	Community based organizations selling to formal private enterprises						Sep 2015

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
C3.12	Rupununi community agriculture blueprint developed	0				1	Jul 2014
C3.13	Market readiness plans developed for other tourism MSMEs	0				5	Feb 2015
			Sep 2012			2	Feb 2015
C3.14	Detailed business plans developed for agricultural community-based enterprises	0				6	Feb 2016
C3.15	Market-ready MSMEs have implemented at least 50% of their business plans	0				100	Feb 2016
C3.16	Participating MSMEs received business management and product development training appropriate to their market readiness	0					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	Feb 2016
C4.12	Fund agreement established with local financial institution	0				1	Aug 2015

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	Aug 2013	Delayed
C5.12	Environmental impact assessment completed (including biodiversity, ecosystem services, conservation).	0				1	Aug 2015	

Component 6: Knowledge Management

Weight: 5%

Classification: Satisfactory

C6.11	Case studies developed	0				6	Feb 2016
C6.12	Project results disseminated in at least 2 national or international fora.	0				2	Feb 2016

Milestones	Planned	Due Date	Achieved	Date achieved	Status	
M0	Conditions Prior	4	Mar 2013	4	Feb 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	Explore and develop linkages between local agricultural production and tourist needs.	1	Apr 2014	0	Dec 2013	
M4	Develop administrative arrangements with a local financial institution for fund management and administration.	1	Dec 2014			
M2	Establish tourism syndicate	1	Mar 2014			
M5	Design sustainability plan including information for the Rupununi business forum, Rupununi tourism syndicate, the innovation fund and the training curricula.	1	Dec 2015			

CRITICAL ISSUES THAT HAVE AFFECTED PERFORMANCE

- Executing agency institutional capacity
- Purchase difficulties

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 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

	Relative to Implementation	Author
1. • Stakeholder engagement and involvement of local communities in decision making is very important so that they are relevant and applicable • Contextualizing interventions: social (gender, fairness and elite capture), environment & stage of development • 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.		International Guyana, Conservation