

PROJECT STATUS REPORT (PSR)

07/01/2022 - 12/31/2022 - PSR-09376



PROJECT SUMMARY

Operation number

GY-T1181

Suboperation number

ATN/ME-19363-GY

Project Name

Securing the Future of the Barima Mora Passage Mangrove Ecosystems and its Peoples

Team Leader

Vashtie Dookiesingh

Executing Agency

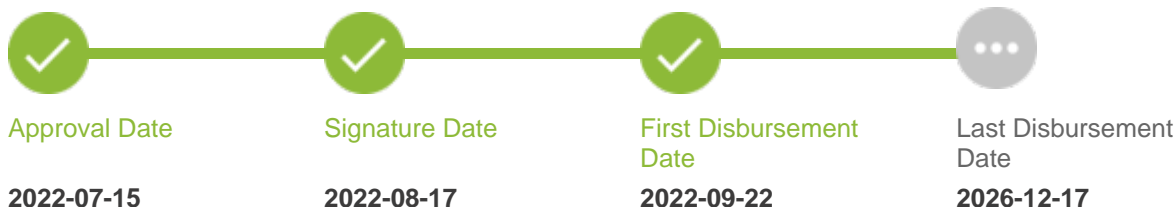
Guayna Marine Conservation Society

Purpose

Co-management system for the BMP ecosystems established.



Project cycle



PSR SCORE



- 0 - 1 Red Flag
- 1 - 2 Yellow Flag
- 2 - 4 Green Flag

LEARNINGS

1. Risk and Lessons

1.1. Risk

1.1.1. What do you think is the biggest risk that threatens the achievement of the project objectives?

The biggest risk that threatens the achievement of the project objectives is the unplanned and unregulated development in the project area (The Barima-Mora Passage). This includes the following: 1. In the absence of a land use plan for the area there are instances where developers who have applied for land leases but have not received them have proceeded to clear large swathes of mangroves. In cases where leases are issued, the developers are not required to seek the permission of the relevant regulatory agencies with jurisdiction for mangrove management. In such cases, the developers can clear mangroves for their agricultural and other purposes. 2. Due to the lack of regular monitoring visits by the regulating agencies mangroves are being cleared illegally by both the communities and developers. If this remains unmitigated this can compromise the 14,000 hectares of mangroves that are present in the Barima-Mora Passage.

1.2. Greatest Achievement or Failure

1.2.1. What has been the greatest achievement or failure in the last semester that affected the implementation of the project?

The greatest achievement in the last semester which has affected the project in a very positive way has been the support of both governmental agencies and additional donors: 1. One of the biggest and earliest gain has been The Guyana Forestry Commission and the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission placing the map of the Barima Mora Passage in their respective master maps. This means that the project area will always be taken into consideration when applications are made for land leases or forest concessions within this area. 2. Since the inception of this project due to its high visibility, GMCS has secured both cash and in-kind support from additional donors: a) the Government of Guyana has provided US\$50,000 to assist with the development of the apiculture enterprise under the Project. This support is being implemented by the Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) through the Ministry of Agriculture which has responsibility for apiculture development and management in Guyana. So far 12 trainees comprised of four males and eight females have participated and will benefit throughout 2023. As a result of this support, the funds budgeted for beekeeping capacity development under Component 2 of the project will be used to increase the focus on product development and the establishment of a honey house to process honey in a hygienic and sanitary manner. b) GMCS has also secured funding from SBM Offshore Guyana to the value of US\$467,800 for a four-year environmental awareness programme in the Barima-Mora Passage where ten (10) schools will be targeted. This support will facilitate the development of a range of multimedia communication tools such as animations of each chapter of the Barima-Mora Passage booklet, videos, murals, and billboards in each stakeholder community and at both commercial wharves in the Region. A new boat and engine, specific for the environmental awareness project will also be acquired and a wildlife club curriculum will be developed. Most excitingly, an Annual Wildlife festival will be hosted for children in the Barima Mora Passage which will be the first of its kind in Region 1. This programme will enable the development of a generation of future environmental stewards in the primary stakeholder communities located within and nearby this invaluable biodiversity hotspot. c) The Hinterland Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Development (HESAD) project under the Ministry of Agriculture has sought the support of GMCS to plan, host and report on a two-days Women's Empowerment Conference in Region 1 (Mabaruma Sub-District). This event, a first for Region 1 will cost US\$25,000 and will be held on March 8-9, 2023. The Regional Democratic Council has made available its boardroom as the venue for this important conference. The aim of this conference is to create a networking space for fifty (50) women in the Mabaruma Sub-District

and to empower women through raising their awareness on topics relating to indigenous rights, leadership, environmental stewardship and sustainable economic opportunities. The sustainable economic activities that will be highlighted will include the green businesses under the IDB Lab Project and presentations will be done by representatives of the Indigenous Girls Drone Unit, the beekeeping trainees and Imbotero Research Centre. d) The Guyana Conservation Initiative (GCI) has committed their support of a contribution to the value of US\$50,000 which will fund an entire year of natural resource management training where Iwokrama International Centre's (IIC) Natural Resource Management Curriculum will be made fit for purpose for the literacy level of the Barima Mora Passage Communities and all training will be held at the Imbotero Research Center to enable wider participation. e) CNOOC, one of Exxon Mobil's partners has purchased US\$2,500 worth of the Barima-Mora Passage medicinal crabwood oil to distribute at the Guyana Energy Conference from the 14-17th February, 2023. They have also committed to procure 200 solar lamps for households in both Imbotero and Smith's Creek. f) Mr. Russell Mittermeier, Chief Conservation Officer of Re: Wild has committed to a primate study in the Barima Mora Passage and has promised to seek the support of The Turtle Conservancy US for studies of the red and yellow footed tortoises in the Barima Mora Passage. g) GMCS has secured US\$11,000 for a one year environmental awareness project on the shorebirds. h) GMCS has secured a three-month virtual attachment of a Virtual Service Pilot Participant (VSPP) from the Peace Corp to assist in the development of a business plan for the Smith's Creek green enterprise pepper project. The biggest challenge has been the impacts of extremely low literacy of the communities compounded by lack of connectivity which has impacted the progress of activities.

1.3. Findings and Lessons

1.3.1. What are the most useful findings and lessons from this project that when taken into consideration could improve the execution and results of existing projects and the design of similar projects in the future? A finding describes an action, circumstance or decision that was critical in determining the positive or negative evolution of the project (for example, switching from the development of a blockchain platform to a web-based shared database reduced the cost and time devoted to implementing the traceability capabilities required by the project). A lesson is a concrete, actionable proposal based on a finding that, in similar circumstances, would facilitate problem solving, risk mitigation, and the achievement of results (for example, Develop guidelines and criteria to identify candidates that could benefit from the implementation of a blockchain platform, and assess during the design if the selected project satisfies the criteria before committing to develop one).

The most useful finding from this project has been the impacts of lack of connectivity in the target communities. The lesson was that GMCS had to find innovative solutions to address same. One innovation was that GMCS secured the support of Broomes Guest House which has WiFi to enable limited connectivity for the five field officers who are required to travel to the Mabaruma township every second Tuesday of the month for online zoom meetings with GMCS where the two weeks challenges of project implementation could be discussed and resolved. GMCS has also utilized this free WiFi from the private sector operative to facilitate online training with the field officers when necessary.

2. Scalability and replicability

2.1. Scalability Plan

2.1.1. Now that the Project is in the execution phase, have you developed any concrete plan or action that will allow it to reach a greater number of users/clients/beneficiaries (or broader environmental or resilience to climate change and natural disasters impacts) in the future?

As project funds became available at the end of September, 2022, this has facilitated only four months of activities to date. This in itself has been too early to allow for the development of a concrete plan for scalability. However, GMCS is working towards completing a Sustainability and Scaling Plan by 17th February 2025 as per the Milestones timeline.

2.2. Costs and Partners to Scale

2.2.1. Now that the project is in the execution phase, do you know how much it costs to offer your product / service per user / client / beneficiary? Is this a factor that could affect reaching a greater number of users / clients / beneficiaries in the future? Has any public or private institution requested this information from you, looking for scaling or replicating the model / product / service?

As the project is still in the early stages it is difficult to determine the cost of offering our products and services. However, to date our Barima Mora Passage Drone Unit has provided their services to the Berbice Aquaculture Coop and their charges were US\$200 for their photography and videography of thirty-five (35) aquaculture ponds in five (5) different locations in East Berbice, Region 6. We envision that this service will be needed again going forward as the Government of Guyana is on an aquaculture sector development drive. The Regional Development Council (RDC) in Region 1 has also requested the services of the Drone Unit to be available on call to assist in the monitoring of natural disaster impacts such as flooding which has negatively impacted both transportation infrastructure and agriculture in the region. In addition, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) has requested the support of the drone unit and in this case, specifically their ROV capacity to assist in locating a shipwreck 17km offshore Mahaica in Region 5. This will afford the drone unit real time commercial use of the ROV procured under this project. We expect as time progresses and drone unit services become more visible that this will increase.

2.3. Facilitating or Hindering Factors

2.3.1. Has any of these factors affected the number of users/clients/beneficiaries (more/fewer) reached by the project compared to what was originally planned (or environmental or resilience to climate change and natural disasters impacts)?

[Coordination with third parties, Cost of the solution, Ease of transferring the solution to a different context (different city/country/etc.), Knowledge of the existence of the solution by potential users/clients/beneficiaries, Visibility for users/clients/beneficiaries of the advantages of the proposed solution, Behavioral changes required by users/clients/beneficiaries, Complexity of the solution (high number of actors involved/interaction of many parts/components)]

2.4. Scalability Scope

2.4.1. How feasible it is that the organization could reach a number of users/clients/beneficiaries 5, 10 or 100 times the number originally planned in the project design, five years after the project ends?

[It could reach less than 5 times the number of users/clients/beneficiaries originally planned in the project design five years after its closure]

2.4.2. How likely is the organization to reach that number five years after the project ends?

[Highly probable (above 90% chance)]

2.5. IDB Group business relation

2.5.1. Has a business relation been created with another part of the IDB Group different from IDB Lab?

The GMCS is currently preparing a Pitch for the Amazon Bioeconomy and Forest Management Multi-donor Trust Fund to co-finance activities in Component 2: Training and Support for Green Enterprise Development and Component 3: Development of ecosystem management and monitoring systems.

2.6. Replicability Partners

2.6.1. Are you aware of any other entity at a national or international level that has copied / replicated completely or partially the business model of the project? Did you collaborate in the process with that entity?

[No]

2.7. Replicability Scope

2.7.1. Number of users / clients / beneficiaries reached by entities that have fully or partially replicated / copied the business model / products / services implemented with the support of the project?

[N/A]

2.7.2. Have you experienced, in the last year, significant expansion (50% or more) of the reach of the business model of the project beyond what was expected in the original project design (due to increasing of the organizational size, operational scope or geographic spread)?

[No]

2.7.3. Number of users / clients / beneficiaries reached as of the end of the year?

[Less than 2 times the number of users / clients / beneficiaries planned in the original project design]

2.8. Sustainability

2.8.1. How do you think the project will continue once the IDB Lab financing ends? Examples: it has identified external financing sources to continue operating, it has reached the breakeven point through the sale of services and products, it has obtained the support of public institutions or the private sector, it will adjust the business model to remain viable (via franchises, etc.)

The support of the Government of Guyana and in particular the personal interest of His Excellency President Irfaan Ali which resulted in securing US\$50,000 to complement the green enterprise development in Aruka which is beekeeping is indicative of GMCS being able to seek further support from the Government. The buy-in and support of private sector companies such as SBM Offshore Guyana and CNOOC Petroleum Guyana Limited as well as Non-Governmental Agencies such as Iwokrama International Center which has already allocated part of their financial resources from the Guyana Conservation Initiative (GCI) are similarly indicative of continued support to that of the Government.

3. Implementation

3.1. Facilitating or Hindering Factors

3.1.1. What specific aspects have (positively or negatively) affected the implementation of the project the most?

[Public recognition / award, Coordination with third parties, Contracting consultants / suppliers, Quality of consultants / suppliers, Advantages or disadvantages of technology, Changes in costs]

3.1.2. Explain in detail how these factors that you identified have made the implementation of the project easier or more difficult

1. Public recognition: the Project Director has decades old public and private sector networks and also a large social media audience which through her posts on the project has allowed for invaluable visibility. This has resulted in greater support from both the Government as well as Private Sector entities who are keen to assist in several areas of the project. 2. Coordination with third parties: GMCS has been partnering with the relevant government agencies and has been able to leverage this relationship to ensure that the project is done in an efficient and effective manner: a) The National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute and HESAD has provided training and monitoring support of the Smith's Creek Pepper Project. They have also provided supplies such as shade house material, black pepper plants and planting sticks which will allow for diversification of the agro-processing in this particular green enterprise. b) The Mayor and Town Council of Mabaruma, Region 1 (the closest township to the Project Area) has provided a venue at no cost which allowed GMCS to hold the Natural Resource Management Committee Workshop. GMCS Field Officers are also welcomed to use the free WiFi at this facility when needed. c) The Regional Democratic Council (RDC) of Region 1 has facilitated the use of their Boardroom several times for GMCS activities. The most recent being GMCS hosting a 2-day Women's Empowerment Conference on 8-9 March, 2023. This conference is being sponsored by The Hinterland Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Development (HESAD) project under the Ministry of Agriculture. The green enterprise initiatives being done under the IDB Lab Project will be highlighted at this conference, enabling the

awareness of the fifty (50) female participants of green businesses. d) HESAD which is currently executing a project in Smith's Creek is providing GMCS with monitoring support as their staff visits and updates GMCS on the Pepper Project activities. As lack of connectivity in this particular community is the most challenging, this particular monitoring support has been extremely positive. e) Due to the Project Director's network with the Minister of Natural Resources, GMCS was able to secure a pass to attend the International Energy Conference and Expo which is being held from 14-17th February, 2023 as well as a highly visible space at the entrance of the conference facility to place a banner of the Imbotero Marine Research Centre which includes a QR code to facilitate immediate access to the website. As the Imbotero Marine Research Center will secure the attention of the highest level of government representatives and private sector attendees at this very large event, the visibility to this green enterprise initiative will be extremely invaluable. 3) Contracting consultants/ suppliers & 4) Quality of consultants/ suppliers: a) The oil and gas sector has impacted the availability of suitably qualified environmental consultants who have both relevant expertise and experience, in a negative manner. This shortage of qualified consultants has not only resulted in a smaller pool of accessible resources but has also had a negative impact such as instances where NGOs such as GMCS have no alternative but to use what remains available. 5) Advantages or disadvantages of technology Due to the extremely limited technology and communication infrastructure, which is further compounded by the remoteness of the stakeholder communities, communication is extremely challenging. Not only with the leaders of the Communities but also with The GMCS Field Officers as well which has impacted project management. As the Ministry of Education has installed 70" television monitors in each classroom of the primary schools, this has allowed GMCS to tailor its environmental awareness programme to be technologically efficient and exciting. For example, each chapter of the Barima-Mora Passage book is being animated and will make learning fun for the primary school students. 6) Changes in cost: The constant increase in fuel prices has affected the transportation cost of executing project activities which require both short and long trips to beneficiary stakeholder communities. Additionally, the increasing consultancy fees of environmental service providers are also having an impact of project activities which require same.

3.2. Novel Technologies Factors

3.2.1. If the project makes use of novel technologies or methodologies, what factors have facilitated or hindered the implementation of the technological solution initially proposed by the project?

[Previous experience of the executing agency / client with the technology, Public recognition of the innovation of the project, Telecommunications network coverage, Interest from other companies / government in the technology, Interest from industry experts or academics outside the executing agency / client]

4. Development Outcomes (Quantitative)

4.0 Has your project contributed to any of the following indicators in the last 12 months (last year)?

[4.2. Direct jobs generated by the project or financing]

4.2. Direct jobs generated by the project. How many people were directly employed as a result of the project funded by IDB Lab?

Total

8

Jobs created: number of men

2

Jobs created: number of women

6

4.2.2. Indicate which indicator in the results matrix is related to your answer, or how did you calculate this number?

This number was calculated based on the project staff in GMCS head office and in the field.

4.5. Data Source

4.5.1. What kind of verification sources have you used to report the data you provided in this section? (Please select all that apply)

[Administrative information]

5. Development Outcomes (Qualitative)

5.1. Target population identified in the design

Is the target population that was identified in the design being reached by the project? Select the target population actually reached by the project that was originally identified in the project design.

[Indigenous population, Women, Poor/vulnerable/low income population, Rural population]

5.2. Population served NOT identified in the project design

5.2.1. Select if there are Groups that were NOT originally identified in the project design but are being reached in the execution phase?

[Migrants and displaced persons, Child and young]

5.3. Facilitating or Hindering Factors

5.3.1. Factors that have affected (facilitated or hindered) reaching these groups, or the resilience/environmental impacts, in the numbers/dimensions that the project had originally planned.

[Difficulties or advantages related to the adoption of technology, Interest of clients/users/beneficiaries, Quality of the product/service offered, Cost of offering product/service, Prices, Institutional Capacity]

5.3.2. Explain in detail how these factors that you have identified have affected the ability of the project to reach the groups (achieve resilience/environmental impacts) in the numbers/dimensions originally expected

1. Difficulties or advantages related to the adoption of technology: The difficulty of adoption of technology in the stakeholder communities was that there was none in the first place. This was addressed by GMCS providing electronic tablets to the field officers who were required to have SIM cards to enable communication once they travelled to locations where hotspots were available. Due to the limited knowledge and access to technology in the stakeholder communities, GMCS had to invest considerable time and effort to get even its Field Officers to a suitable level of understanding and using the limited technology it made available. The use of the audio visual aids made possible by the project allowed for greater understanding by the participants at community meetings. 2. Interest of beneficiaries: The remoteness of the stakeholder communities as well as the lack of investment in supporting infrastructure or technology has resulted in the target beneficiaries having little or no interest in environmental matters. As a consequence, the project commenced in the absence of this essential foundational knowledge not only of environmental awareness. An additional consequence of the stakeholder communities not having any experience in commercial enterprises, resulted in lack of interest in the huge effort required to develop same. 3. Quality of the product/ service offered: The lack of quality construction experience in the communities has proven to be challenging when high quality construction output was required. For example, when quality construction is required for rehabilitation of the Smith's Creek agro processing building which will benefit thirty seven (37) women, this was not available in the Smith's Creek community. 4. Cost of offering product/ service and 5) Prices The constantly increasing cost of gasoline is impacting transportation cost to reach the stakeholder communities and targeted beneficiaries as is the increasing cost of environmental consultants is similarly impacting the budget where such services are required. 6. Institutional capacity: The decades old network in Region 1 has served GMCS well in this particular project as is seen by the invaluable support of the focal policy makers, Regional Democratic Council, Mabaruma Mayor and City Council and relevant regulatory agencies with remit for mangroves monitoring and management such as the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), The Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) and the National Agricultural Research Extension Institute

(NAREI). Similarly, the networks with indigenous leaders in other communities in Region 1 such as Warapoka whose Toshao Jeremy Boyal is the President of the Moruca Sub-District Development Committee as well as an Executive Member of the National Toshaos Council (NTC) has allowed for the sharing of such capacity at such high levels with our Barima Mora Passage stakeholder communities. Indeed, Toshao Jeremy will be one of the main presenters at the upcoming Women's Conference where he will share his experience as a community leader with challenges on social issues and solutions in his community as will former Santa Rosa Toshao, Whanita Phillips.



INDICATORS

 Overachieved
  Achieved
  Pending
  In process
  Overdue

C1: Component I: Community & Stakeholder Awareness and Engagement

Weight: 25%






Qualification: High Satisfactory

60%		40%	
Indicators	Planned	Achieved	Status
I1 Roll out of sensitization campaign at the community level via local events	98 (2027-02-17)	16 (2023-02-08)	
I2 Forum engaging local, regional, and international organizations.	7 (2027-02-17)		
I3 Communication strategy is developed and implemented	0 (2027-02-17)	Yes (2023-02-10)	
I4 Development of multimedia communication tools.	0 (2027-02-17)	Yes (2023-02-10)	
I5 The establishment of a youth environmental local content brigade	0 (2027-02-17)	Yes (2023-02-10)	

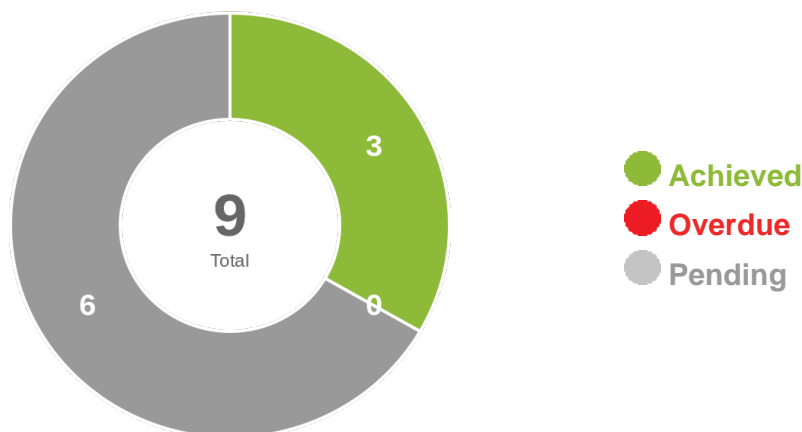
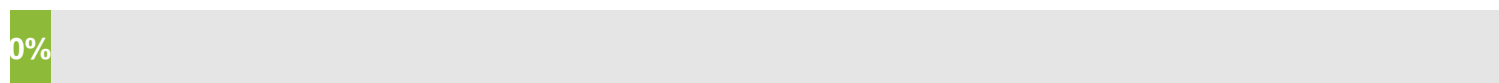
C2: Component II: Training and Support for Green Enterprise Development and Gree

Weight: 25%

Qualification: High Satisfactory



33%		67%	
Indicators	Planned	Achieved	Status
I1 Training and livelihood support programmes implemented in ecosystem surveillance and monitoring.	3 (2027-02-17)	1 (2023-02-10)	
I2 % of participating trainees that utilized the program to engage in green livelihood activities.	30 (2027-02-17)		
I3 % of trainees identified as women and or youth	70 (2027-02-17)		
I4 GMCS to convene quarterly meetings with relevant agencies and donors to coordinate support for the BMP project	4 (2027-02-17)	1 (2023-01-10)	
I5 Research tourism development plan developed	0 (2027-02-17)		
I6 Establishment of accommodation for research tourism	0 (2027-02-17)	Yes (2022-11-24)	
I7 Training and livelihood support in hospitality and research tourism	0 (2027-02-17)	Yes (2022-07-29)	
Training and livelihood support in bee keeping,			

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KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Website

-  The Imbotero Research Center (IRC) is a field facility designed to accommodate international researchers in biological sciences, environmental studies, and cultural/ethnographic subjects.
-  The Guyana Marine Conservation Society country-wide community of marine lovers all working together towards our vision of a sea full of life, where nature flourishes and people thrive.