

PROJECT STATUS REPORT (PSR)

07/01/2022 - 12/31/2022 - PSR-09521

PROJECT SUMMARY

Operation number

TT-T1106

Suboperation number

ATN/ME-18620-TT

Project Name

Experience Nariva

Team Leader

Vashtie Dookiesingh

Executing Agency

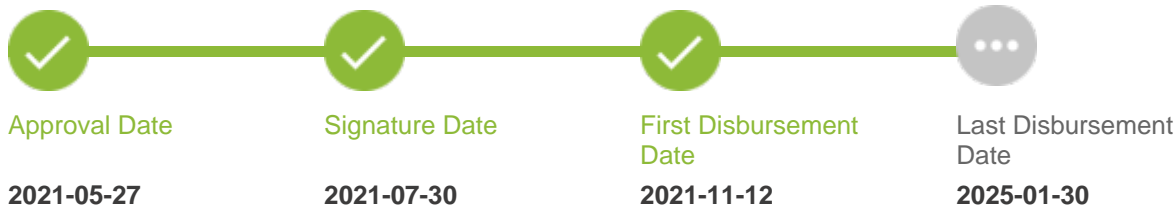
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute

Purpose

To develop a community-based low density eco-tourism data-driven model for conservation of the Nariva, Swamp Protected Area in Trinidad and Tobago



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 goal of this project is centred around increased ecotourism activity in the Nariva Swamp. While the project's activities are geared towards this, there are a number of external factors that currently affect ecotourism activity in Nariva and are likely to impact in the future. These factors include infrastructure, climate change and tourism preferences. In terms of infrastructure, the road network to the ecotourism sites is a concern. For example, the road to the Plum Mitan ecotourism sites is in poor condition. The main road to the Kernahan sites (Manzanilla/Mayaro Road) is generally adequate, however, in November/December 2022 flooding linked to heavy rainfall and possible unchecked watercourse manipulation by residents along the road damaged the Manzanilla Mayaro Road. This significantly affected the daily activities of our stakeholders and meant in particular that the Kernahan group did no tours/ecotourism linked activities over what would normally be the busy Christmas holiday period. A number of temporary road bypasses were put in place in January 2023 by the Government, but the road network is likely to be a challenge into the future, post-project completion. This is especially the case as climate change is anticipated to cause more intense rainfall events/hurricanes which can lead to flooding and road destruction. In terms of the last factor vis-a-vis tourism preferences, our stakeholders have suggested that post COVID-19 locals are once again seeking tourism opportunities outside of Trinidad, for example, in the USA or Canada ahead of local tourism offerings.

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?

There is no noted failure. In terms of greatest achievement, this would be the establishment of the cluster and the enthusiasm of the cluster group such that they are seeking formalisation as a co-operative. As explained elsewhere in this PSR and supporting reports, an informal cluster was established in August 2022 after the Experience Nariva Event when the stakeholders began collaborating on ecotourism activities. The stakeholders had the option to remain an informal group or register with the relevant Government agencies as an association. They decided to pursue a more formal model of a co-operative. After having sent a letter of intent to form a co-operative to the Co-operative Development Division of the Ministry of Youth Development and National Services in January 2023, their status is currently that of a co-operative in-information. They are currently working with a designated co-operative officer to set up the structures and protocols and receive the necessary training to become a co-operative. It should be noted, however, that much of the required documentation and structures have already been drafted under the Experience Nariva Project in 2022 such that it is currently more of a matter of finalisation with the Government Agency.

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).

Much of the enthusiasm and interest exhibited by the stakeholders towards the formation of the cluster and co-operative was a direct result of the Experience Nariva Day Event. This activity demonstrated the benefits of the coordination through the formation of a cluster. CANARI also invited a number of social media influencers to the event and the resulting publicity to the community ecotourism enterprises also demonstrated the benefits of cluster formation and overall engagement in the project. The event showed that CANARI was serious about helping them and has gone a long way in cementing trust and collaboration with the cluster stakeholders.

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?

The Experience Nariva Initiative is foundational for other planned CANARI work in and around the Nariva Swamp. This includes a project focused on building sustainable blue tourism which has been approved and is likely to commence in April 2023 with funding from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM). Nariva is one of the target sites under this blue tourism project and the work will include the following components: 1. Assessing the environmental and social impacts of the COVID crisis on global and regional tourism and identifying pathways for a sustainable recovery 2. Encouraging tourism planning that integrates environmental and social requirements 3. Supporting the implementation of innovative tourism projects. Further, Nariva is a target site under another upcoming project that CANARI is earmarked to implement titled "Developing and piloting a methodology for participatory land use planning in Trinidad and Tobago" under a wider Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded project entitled, "The Biodiversity Conservation and Agroecological Land Restoration in Productive Landscapes of Trinidad and Tobago Project (BIOREACH)". The CANARI BIOREACH sub-project will have a citizen science/community land mapping component which CANARI is planning to execute in tandem with the mapping/citizen science activities under the Experience Nariva Initiative, to take advantage of synergies. In addition, this BIOREACH initiative will likely increase the number of stakeholders we engage with in the Nariva area, who depending on their suitability, will be invited to participate in the Conservation Fund/Ecosystem Stewardship Activities under the Experience Nariva Initiative.

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?

No

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, Complexity of the solution (high number of actors involved/interaction of many parts/components), Market size that could be reached]

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?

[Probable (more than 50% but less than 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?

No

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.)

Most of the project activities thus far have concentrated on the formation of the cluster. As explained elsewhere in this report, a co-operative is in formation. Planned activities by stakeholders once that co-operative is formed include sales of services and projects.

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?

[Coordination with third parties, Quality of consultants / suppliers, External shocks that affect the economy in general (natural disasters)]

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

1. Coordination with third parties: See Risk R2402 2. Quality of consultants/suppliers: The cluster consultant hired (Alana Flores) has done very good work in engaging and supporting the stakeholders including producing the draft documentation that the cluster will refine with the staff from the Co-Operative Division. 3.External shocks that affect the economy in general: See Risk R2392

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]

4. Development Outcomes (Quantitative)

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

[4.6. Not contribute]

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.

[Poor/vulnerable/low income population, SMEs, Women, 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?

[Entrepreneurs]

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.

[Interest of clients/users/beneficiaries]

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

Interest of clients/users/beneficiaries: The project plan had 20 SMEs as a target for business strengthening and cluster formation. Currently, CANARI is working with 12 SMEs. There was a heavy stakeholder sensitization effort from October 2021 to June 2022, including in-person visits, phone calls and WhatsApp messages. At least 14 other SMEs were engaged but either declined to participate or participated in a few meetings and then opted out.






INDICATORS

 Overachieved  Achieved  Pending  In process  Overdue

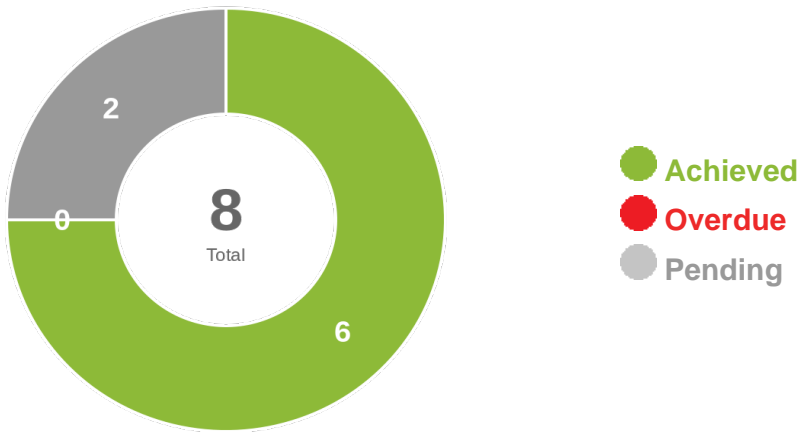
C1: Component 1 Tourism Cluster and Strategic Partnership Development

Weight: 25%

Qualification: Satisfactory

| 14% | | 86% | | |
|---|---------------------|----------|---|--|
| Indicators | Planned | Achieved | Status | |
| I5 | 1 (2024-10-30) | |  | |
| I7 | 1000 (2025-06-30) | |  | |
| I4 Local entity established to manage conservation and eco-tourism-based activities in the region | 1 (2024-06-30) | |  | |
| I6 | 2 (2025-06-30) | |  | |
| I1 | 15000 (2024-07-30) | |  | |

MILESTONES



| Milestones | Achieved Value | Due Date | Achieved Date | Status |
|--|----------------|------------|---------------|--------|
| *Condiciones Previas / Prior Conditions | 1 | 2022-01-30 | 2021-10-24 | ✓ |
| *Stakeholder and engagement strategy completed | 1 | 2022-07-21 | 2022-02-07 | ✓ |
| *submission of first disbursement request | 1 | 2021-11-30 | 2021-10-01 | ✓ |
| *ecotourism cluster established | 1 | 2023-03-30 | | ✓ |
| *sme mentor training workshops completed | 2 | 2023-10-31 | | ✓ |
| *citizen outreach campaign | 5000 | 2024-04-25 | | ✓ |
| *mapping of financing opportunities and potential conservation fund partners | 1 | 2024-10-10 | | ... |
| *launch of conservation fund | 1 | 2025-01-16 | | ... |