

# PROJECT STATUS REPORT (PSR)

07/01/2022 - 12/31/2022 - PSR-09446

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Operation number

TT-T1082

Suboperation number

ATN/ME-17209-TT

Project Name

Building on Vetiver

Team Leader

Vashtie Dookiesingh

Executing Agency

IAMovement

Purpose

The key objective of the project is to demonstrate the economic, social, technical and environmental benefits of a community driven approach to using vetiver as an alternative solution to current practices in prevention and mitigation of soil erosion, lan



## 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 most noteworthy risk that affects implementation remains the 2020 global COVID-19 pandemic. This created several barriers to communication and effective implementation of the initial VEEP model, which is highly focused on hands-on interaction and community trainings. This caused delays in the deployment of workshops as well as the ability to have a more community-centered approach to the project. The number of people allowed to participate in field activities was limited due to some government restrictions that had been in place for some time. As such, the project installed some areas under less than ideal conditions where the rainy season may have already passed. In these areas, installation still took place, however, with a greater emphasis on the maintenance that would have to be deployed over time. As a result, there was a higher installation mortality rate during the pandemic.

### 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?

BOV has also within the last 6 months been awarded the IDB's Superheroes of Development award for its performance on the BOV project, where there were 77 proposals from 23 countries in our region. BOV also concluded its support activities at National Quarries geared towards Quarry Restoration. Following the completion of the IWEco Rehabilitation of Quarries project, BOV has continued to support social community interactions through the continued provision of stipends and support for the vulnerable migrant community group previously engaged with PADF.

### 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 critical lesson would have involved institutional cooperation through co-finance; which allowed us to increase our target co-finance support for these Green infrastructure solutions by 5 times, from about five hundred thousand USD to 3 million USD.

## 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?

There have been actions both from the development funding side supported by the Implementing Agency, IAMovement, and there have also been actions from one of the implementing mechanisms and a private partner, Vetiver TT EES Ltd, that have allowed both organizations to clearly articulate and define each of their roles, the partnership, and

competencies to be able to secure greater reach and clients. Through more intentional communication plans, tools, and activities developed and in use by both organizations, it is easier to promote the VEEP model and VS as green infrastructure solutions to many more interested stakeholders since the initial hesitance due to the relative novelty of the solution has been one of the main challenges that have been and continues to be treated with via iconic case studies and guaranteeing 'bonus support' to clients to gain and/or increase trust and confidence in the solution. Recent collaborations through the inaugural Caribbean Green Infrastructure Conference 2022 has been one of the major actions to allow greater reach; to date, there are now close to 200 organizations and government offices/partners who have been supporting or have supported the project and are interested in broadening its use.

## 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?

In general, the knowledge of and the demand for Vetiver and the VS is growing locally and regionally given that more and more organizations and government offices/partners are aware of and requesting it. Similarly so with VEEP when they understand the social component of the model. While Vetiver TT EES Ltd has developed a table of rates for the VS with coverage ranging from 1000 to 3000 square feet (at \$18 per sq ft) to more economical rates to the client for areas of 20,000 square feet or above (at \$14 per sq ft), other projects such as UNDEF and MEWE Green have allowed hundreds of people access to knowledge and plant material, with MEWE Green in particular allowing people in target communities to access the solution at no cost. Vetiver TT EES Ltd, on the other hand, continues to receive a large number of requests and clients, owing to the growing interest in VS and VEEP in general. In general VS and VEEP has been quite widely promoted through securing various development and technical grant funding and now, VS as a cost-effective social, economical and environmental green infrastructure tool with nurseries established throughout the country and growing in the region is truly allowing VS to reach a wide number of beneficiaries.

## 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)?

[Behavioral changes required by users/clients/beneficiaries, Knowledge of the existence of the solution by potential users/clients/beneficiaries]

Others, Which?

The institutional capacity of IAMovement facilitates scaling with partners; the labor force capacity of IAMovement has allowed for integration into multiple projects given project synergies. This has allowed for the most optimal use of all project resources present at the organization, allowing for optimized performance of project objectives. This is evident where certain BOV team members directly contribute to the execution of IAMovement's co-financed project activities. Similarly, VetiverTT EES Ltd's capacity enables scaling and replicating the VS solutions to a greater number of private residential and commercial clients.

## 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 more than 100 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?

Yes. With Carina Cockburn, country head for IDB Trinidad and Tobago, and Gregory Watson, a green infrastructure and climate change specialist, a blossoming relationship has been created through the inaugural Caribbean Green Infrastructure Conference (2022). The purpose of the contacts are possible future partnerships in accessing Climate funding toward regional (Latin America and Caribbean) in partnering with IDB as an accredited entity for execution of VS related projects

## 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?

[100 times or more of the number of users / clients / beneficiaries planned in the original project design]

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)?

[Yes]

If Yes. Explain

The project has attracted additional financing and has scaled significantly including within other Caribbean states

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

[At least 10 times but less than 100 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.)

Sustainability of the project, its results and impact will continue through a few opportunities and factors, namely Financial, Institutional and Stakeholder Ownership where past actions and upcoming plans help secure this. Additional funding opportunities, such as the Green Climate Fund, in which the IDB invests, have also been identified as other sources of funding to allow for scalability and sustainability of results and impact. For example, there was appropriate development and strengthening of the overall institutional capacity of both IAMovement and Vetiver TT EES Ltd. The Director of IAMovement noted that both organizations currently have strong institutional capacity after the project closure date to allow a high level of self-sufficiency that would also be able to support project outcomes after project closure. The improved articulation of roles and relationship is now well documented through internal reporting systems where BOV serves as a case study to highlight an effective inter-organizational structure and relationship that representing appropriate implementation strategies for NGO-private partner mechanisms. The NGO-private partner mechanism (of IAMovement and Vetiver TT EES Ltd) creates fertile grounds for growing private and public sector interests to commit investment to

Vetiver System (VS) solutions. Additionally, there have been internal improvements to data systems and structures that allow ease of task management and implementation so that future continuity can occur.

### **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, Contracting consultants / suppliers, Quality of consultants / suppliers]

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

Coordination with the financier (the Green Fund) has resulted in a pause in some scaling, where the financier has not made required disbursements, resulting in a halt of activities. The social and economic consultant has also been difficult to get due to the small funds available for the level of work required. Additionally, the quality of the contracted social and economic consultant has been poor.

#### **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?

[Availability of suppliers / consultants]

### **4. Development Outcomes (Quantitative)**

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

[4.1. Number of companies benefited, 4.2. Direct jobs generated by the project or financing, 4.3. Households/People with improved living conditions, 4.4. Reduced CO2 emissions]

4.1. Number of companies with improved business performance or productivity

Total

103

Companies Owned/Led by Men

65

Companies Owned/Led by Women

38

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

There are no surrogate indicators that may be relevant to this number however, these are logged via our stakeholder database

4.1.4. Please select how the project is benefiting these companies

[Improved productivity or business performance (e.g. improved sales/reduced costs/improved profitability/return on capital/yields/labor productivity, Reduced climate risk or improved climate resilience of the Business, Improved capacity to address the needs of women, Improved capacity to address the needs of under-represented groups (e.g. afro-decedents/indigenous populations/people with disabilities/LGBTQ+), Improved capacity to address needs of youth/elderly or migrants]

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

284

Jobs created: number of men



Jobs created: number of women

115

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

There are no surrogate indicators that may be relevant to this number however, this includes 8 full time staff within Vetiver TT and IAMovement teams 8 field workers on quarry rehabilitation activities 6 community members working as vetiver plant producers 20 community members producing and selling handicrafts on an occasional basis 35 community members employed for coordination, technical and VS installations among partner countries - Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia 87 persons receiving stipends for individual VS installation and maintenance activities at community sites 120 persons receiving stipends for individual VS installation and maintenance activities at community sites in partner countries - Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia

4.3. Number of Households/People with improved living conditions

[Households]

4.3.1. Total

65

Men

52

Women

13

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

There are no surrogate indicators that may be relevant to this number however, this includes persons in our participant databases

4.3.4. Please select the type of benefit

[Improved access to environmental amenities (clean air/clean water/green and forest areas), Improved employability (access to new skills that may lead to higher quality job opportunities or new work modalities)]

Others, Which?

IAMovement through the BOV project has supported essential services access in the following ways: - providing resilience solutions for persons to protect their own properties from damage - educating farmers and community members on other ecosystem based approaches, such as organic mulching, topsoil regeneration, living check-dams, and access to appropriate soil amendments and fertilizers - helping migrant community members develop new skills training (handicrafts) and livelihood opportunities - helping community members gain knowledge on vetiver grass production and VS installation, thus opening their ability to gain employment in this area - • Participants gained knowledge of agriculture, vetiver, the VS and crafting vetiver-derived products. • Persons earned temporary income with the distribution of stipends to project participants. • With the training of persons in the VS, its maintenance and vetiver handicrafts and products, participants have potential opportunities for income generation in their local area. • The bonding around vetiver, climate change and land-related challenges, and crafting among persons involved in project activities improved community participation and togetherness among participants. • Participants gained knowledge about setting up an enterprise. • Participants gained confidence in green infrastructure and technology. • Relationships between IAMovement, VetiverTT and Me-We Green have been built and strengthened.

4.4. Reduced CO2 emissions

4.4.1. Tons of greenhouse gas emissions reduced or avoided

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

There are no indicators in the results matrix that measure this but literature and past evaluative assessments have given estimates based on similar climate. There is a range within the literature where we have used the lower limit and a more conservative figure to calculate this

4.4.2. How many hectares of land/or water have improved management or sustainability as a result of the project funded by IDB Lab?

15

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

This number comprises several 'acreages' which are included within main BOV sites of IAMovement in Trinidad & Tobago implemented, such as hillside farms, rehabilitated quarry lands; and also comprises other lands where VS green infrastructure applications were undertaken and where an estimate of 3 square meters improved land area per linear meter of vetiver hedgerow that was applied.

#### 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)

[Based on personal experience, Administrative information, Surveys]

### 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, Rural population, Women]

#### 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, Entrepreneurs, SMEs, Urban/periurban population, Afro-descendants]

#### 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.

[Demand for the product/service (market needs), Interest of clients/users/beneficiaries, Adaptation of the product/service to the needs of the clients/users/beneficiaries, Scope of the access channels to the product/service, Cost of offering product/service, Communicating to customers/users/beneficiaries the advantages of the products offered, Institutional Capacity, Difficulties or advantages related to the adoption of technology]

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

Implementing Agency IAMovement, and the Private partner Vetiver TT EES Ltd have better Positioned the project and VS as a tool which has now growing interest, readiness and commitments of stakeholders in both private and public sectors to Vetiver System (VS) solutions. Surveys and Administrative data have shown that interest is growing and the approach of VTT and IAMovement in partnering with interested organizations and clients is a very soft, unique approach where we work with the organizations needs and then co-create and support this. In such cases, where the project or site was determined to be very suitable for VS

solutions; the project was able to offer clients certain 'bonus support', such as a portion of plants at no cost, or a longer period of maintenance support – and guarantee the successful establishment of the solution. In this was there was some adaptation of the VS intervention more to the needs of the clients/users/beneficiaries while also boosting their confidence through our 'bonus support', showing our commitment and confidence that the solution would work, alleviating any lingering hesitations they may have felt. By offering partners additional value, their gratitude and interest in partnering is often increased significantly; and this lends to collaborative implementation approaches and successful projects which serve as case studies for VS use in T&T. When partners learn about the BOV project and its goals, this also often has the added benefit of further increasing confidence, as they recognize the significant commitment by IAMovement and Vetiver TT's teams to ensure their project's success. The access channels to VS has also been a positive influence on reach whereby MEWE Green cofinanced much of the Communication Planning with heavy emphasis on radio, television, and online advertising to allow a very wide segment of the national populous exposure to information and subsequent access via the main channels of telephone, WhatsApp, and online. Furthermore, cofinance has significantly reduced the cost of providing the product or service in at least eight (8) key communities in Trinidad, where it allows people to access VS for free. Communicating the advantages of VS is now extremely wide reaching the point where more than 2200 children in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Suriname have recently learned about VS as a Climate resilience tool and green infrastructure solution. These 2200 children are eligible for Level 1 VS training, the first of three levels. The dimensions allow reach beyond what may have initially been envisioned, on top of which both IAM and VTT has experienced improved institutional Capacity to allow reach to grow and facilitate better adoption of technology. This increased capacity, combined with our learnings or nudges from COVID-19, has allowed a shift in perspective from traditional classroom trainings, nudging IAMovement to adapt and consider alternate means of supporting VS knowledge transfer, and lessons in how to do so more efficiently have occurred, and are poised to be developed. Additionally, it has driven thinking about how trainings can be delivered virtually through educational videos, a few of which are scheduled to start later in the year. Although this was not originally included in the BOV project specifically; another development is the interest with The Vetiver Network International (TVNI), to look at reviving past efforts at creating online learning tools, consideration is being given to combine some available resources with others available from TVNI to develop a suite of educational videos – which can serve the project's goals for Vetiver System (VS) training and knowledge expansion locally, while also potentially lending greatly to other training and knowledge dissemination efforts regionally and globally

## INDICATORS



 Overachieved
  Achieved
  Pending
  In process
  Overdue

### C1: Deployment of the Vetiver Solution

**Weight:** 25%

**Qualification:** High Satisfactory

100%

	Indicators	Planned	Achieved	Status
I1	Number of community members trained in vetiver technology (gender aggregated)	70 ( 2022-04-07)	127 ( 2020-12-31)	
I2	Acres of quarry land rehabilitated land under sustainable management through Vetiver propagation	20 ( 2022-04-07)	27 ( 2022-01-31)	




## C2: Results Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation

**Weight:** 25%

**Qualification:** High Satisfactory

100%



	Indicators	Planned	Achieved	Status
I1	Development of robust monitoring and evaluation system (examines key indicators including economic, environmental, technical and social impact)	1 ( 2022-04-07)	1 ( 2021-12-31)	

## C3: Sustainable handicrafts and green enterprise development

**Weight:** 25%

**Qualification:** High Satisfactory

100%




	Indicators	Planned	Achieved	Status
I1	Number of persons generating incomes through Vetiver solutions (gender aggregated)	30 ( 2022-04-07)	53 ( 2021-06-30)	
I2	Number of women trained in vetiver handicraft (gender aggregated)	20 ( 2022-04-07)	47 ( 2020-12-31)	

## C4: Knowledge Dissemination for Scaling

**Weight:** 25%

**Qualification:** High Satisfactory

100%

	Indicators	Planned	Achieved	Status
I1	Completion of one public sector stakeholder forum to disseminate project results	1 ( 2022-04-07)	2 ( 2022-10-25)	
I2	Completion of one private sector stakeholder forum to disseminate project results	1 ( 2022-04-07)	4 ( 2020-12-31)	
I3	Design and Implementation of The Vetiver Network West Indies webbased platform for knowledge dissemination and engagement/connection of stakeholders in the Caribbean region 1 1 1 Project activity records and records of platform launch	1 ( 2022-04-07)	1 ( 2019-03-31)	

## MILESTONES



Milestones	Achieved Value	Due Date	Achieved Date	Status
*Conditions Prior	1	2019-09-03	2019-03-25	✓
*Identification of 4 pilot sites	4	2019-09-03	2019-09-02	✓
*Launch of regional platform	1	2020-03-06	2020-05-11	✓
*50,000 vetiver plants installed	50000	2020-09-05	2022-01-31	✓
*Completion of 20 training workshops	20	2021-03-07	2020-12-31	✓
*Complete of one stakeholder forum	1	2021-09-05	2021-06-10	✓
*Contract awarded for development of mobile app	1	2022-06-15		✓