

# PROJECT STATUS REPORT

JULY 2015 - DECEMBER 2015

## SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

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

Project Number: GY-M1021 - Project Num.: ATN/ME-13229-GY

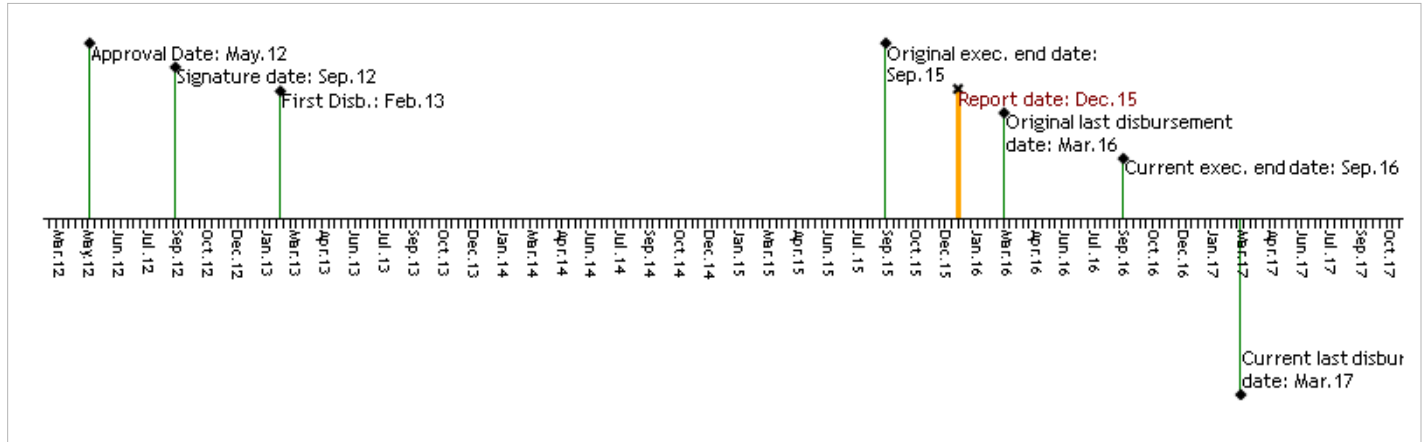
**Purpose:** To strengthen and create environmentally-sustainable businesses in the Rupununi.

Country Admin	Country Beneficiary	Group	Subgroup
GUYANA	GUYANA	ENV - Environment	TOUR - Sustainable Tourism

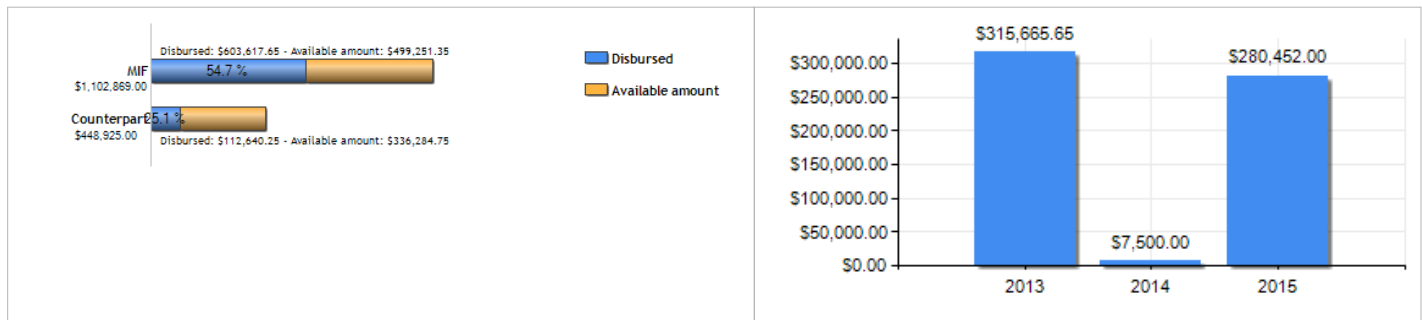
**Executing Agency:** Conservation International

**Design Team Leader:** GREGORY WATSON  
**Supervision Team Leader:** VASHTIE DOOKIESINGH

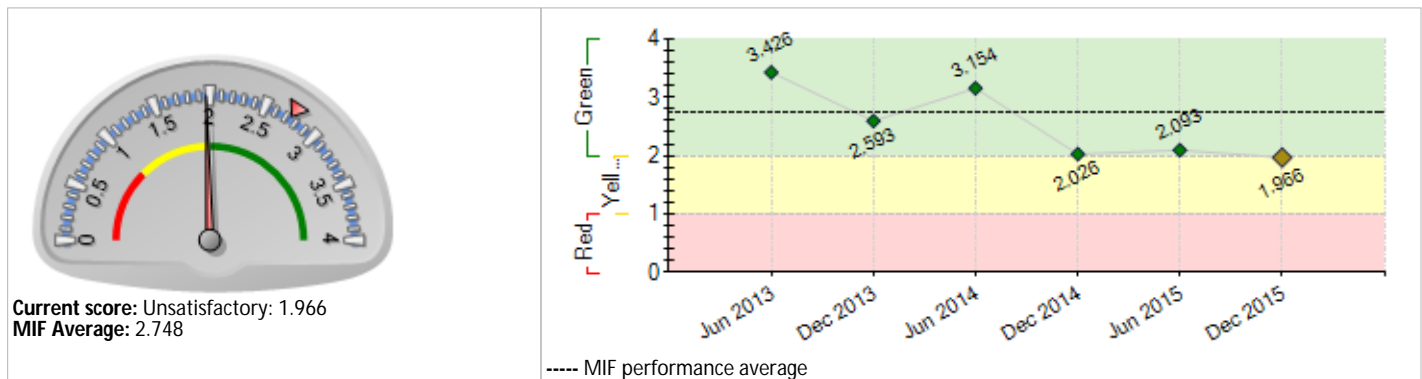
### PROJECT CYCLE



### FUNDS



### PERFORMANCE SCORE

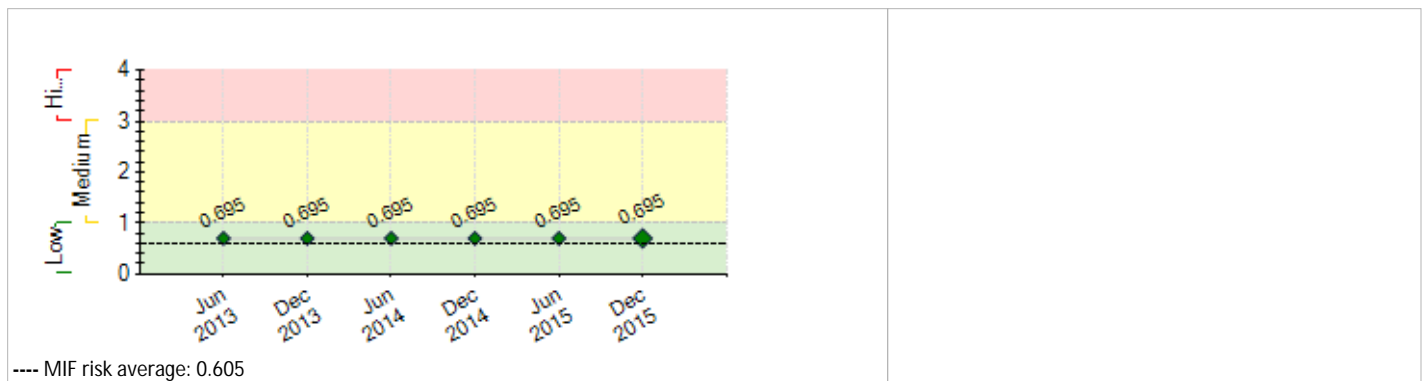


### EXTERNAL RISKS

#### INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Risk

Financial Management:  
Procurement:  
Technical Capacity:



## SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE

### Summary of project performance since inception

#### Main

Baseline assessments refined and published

Rupununi tourism syndicate work-plan being implemented: communication plan & constitution drafted, logo developed, web-site being developed

3rd annual business forum held in collaboration of the RDC-9, Ministry of Indigenous People's Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Business

Rupununi agriculture strategy finalized and adopted by RDC-9 & MOA

Agriculture and tourism CBEs receiving targeted training

23 loans approved and 11 loans in basket for approval

RIF credit manual revised, and monitoring system developed and being implemented

Project monitoring matrix refined to include systemic, gender and youth dimensions

#### Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

This project continues to achieve good results although implementation is slower than anticipated in the design as the level of community and stakeholder engagement that has been required was not envisaged. However as noted in the interim evaluation the Executing Agency has created the buy in and commitment that are required for sustainability through efforts in community engagement. In addition important inter institutional partnerships have been forged with organizations such as CUSO and FAO through this process and the results achieved to date.

### Summary of project performance in the last six months

#### Main

Policy briefs developed from base line studies and shared with relevant decision-makers at the regional and national levels. Reports published on web-site and disseminated at key events.

Tourism syndicate functional: tourism information desk established, communication plan and material developed, articles for legal establishment drafted steering committee established and work-plan being executed

3rd annual Rupununi business forum held and now an integral part of the Rupununi Expo (which is organized by the Rupununi Chamber of Commerce) activities

6th annual Rupununi Christmas Fair held with largest participation (buyers and sellers)

Targeted training of enterprises under the Rupununi Innovation Fund in enterprise development and sustainable business planning

Data base and tracking system developed for enterprise tracking (monitoring the social, environmental and financial dimensions of the enterprises)

Rupununi Innovation Fund fully functional: 16 loans approved and 14 loans in basket for approval. Targeted outreach with the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry conducted

Monitoring system refined and updated

Delays

Delivering the capacity building exercise in collaboration with partner institutions, still delayed due to challenging institutional capacity of targeted institution. This will be addressed by developing a proposal and supporting the implementation through training and mentoring and hands on guidance in technical execution and administrative execution.

#### Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

### SECTION 3: INDICATORS AND MILESTONES

Indicators		Baseline	Intermediate 1	Intermediate 2	Intermediate 3	Planned	Achieved	Status
<b>Purpose:</b> 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 Aug 2016	0	
	R.2 14 agricultural businesses have identified low-carbon, climate-resilient, or pro-conservation strategies and are moving towards their implementation.	0				14 Aug 2016	0	
	R.3 For 9 tourism providers, average earned revenue growth of 20%.	0				20 Aug 2016	0	
	R.4 For 9 tourism providers, earned revenue per guest increases by 10%.	0				10 Aug 2016	0	
	R.5 For 14 agricultural producers, average earned revenue growth of 15%.	0				15 Aug 2016	0	
	R.6 For 14 agricultural producers, number of purchase contracts increases by 50%.	0				50 Aug 2016	0	
	R.7 For 14 agricultural producers, unit value increases by 10%.	0				10 Aug 2016	0	
	R.8 15% of Rupununi's businesses implement low-carbon, climate-resilient, or pro-conservation practices.	0				15 Aug 2017	0	
<b>Component 1:</b> Baseline GHG, climate change, and economic assessment <b>Weight:</b> 12% <b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory	C1.11 Economic baseline and tracking methodologies completed.					Feb 2014	Yes Aug 2014	Finished
	C1.12 Stakeholders analyzed and mapped.					Feb 2014	Yes Jan 2014	Finished
	C1.13 Analysis of Rupununi agricultural supply and demand.					Feb 2014	Yes Jun 2014	Finished
	C1.14 Selection and categorization of targeted communities, enterprises, and products.					Feb 2014	Yes Jul 2014	Finished
	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	Yes Sep 2014	Finished
<b>Component 2:</b> Facilitate a business, community, and government network for climate-responsive development in the Rupununi <b>Weight:</b> 9% <b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory	C2.11 A Rupununi Community Tourism Syndicate is operational.					Jun 2016		
	C2.12 Community based organizations selling to formal private enterprises					Mar 2017		
<b>Component 3:</b> Selection and implementation of specific interventions <b>Weight:</b> 28%	C3.11 Business Plans developed for market-ready tourism community-based MSMEs	0				4 Jul 2014	4 Aug 2014	Finished
	C3.12 Rupununi community agriculture blueprint developed	0				1	1	Finished

<b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory	<b>C3.13</b>	Market readiness plans developed for other tourism MSMEs	0				Jul 2014	Aug 2014	Finished
			Sep 2012				Sep 2016	Jan 2015	
	<b>C3.14</b>	Detailed business plans developed for agricultural community-based enterprises	0				2	1	Finished
	<b>C3.15</b>	Market-ready MSMEs have implemented at least 50% of their business plans	0				Sep 2016	Jan 2015	
	<b>C3.16</b>	Participating MSMEs received business management and product development training appropriate to their market readiness	0				6 Feb 2016 100 Feb 2016		
<b>Component 4:</b> Establishment and Implementation of the Rupununi Innovation Revolving Fund <b>Weight:</b> 27% <b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory	<b>C4.11</b>	At least 6 enterprises access finance from either the innovation fund of component 4 or commercial funds	0				6 Feb 2016		Finished
	<b>C4.12</b>	Fund agreement established with local financial institution	0				1 Aug 2015	1 Nov 2014	Finished
<b>Component 5:</b> Securing Stakeholder Participation through Outreach, Monitoring and Evaluation of Results <b>Weight:</b> 19% <b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory	<b>C5.11</b>	Environmental, social, and economic impact indicator matrix developed	0				1 Aug 2013	1 May 2014	Finished
	<b>C5.12</b>	Environmental impact assessment completed (including biodiversity, ecosystem services, conservation).	0				1 Sep 2016		
<b>Component 6:</b> Knowledge Management <b>Weight:</b> 5% <b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory	<b>C6.11</b>	Case studies developed	0				6 Feb 2016		
	<b>C6.12</b>	Project results disseminated in at least 2 national or international fora.	0				2 Feb 2016		

Milestones	Planned	Due Date	Achieved	Date of achievement	Status
<b>M0</b> Conditions Prior	4	Mar 2013	4	Mar 2013	Achieved
<b>M1</b> Establishment of community tourism syndicate for purposing packaging, marketing, booking and branding of community tourism operations.	1	Nov 2013	1	Nov 2013	Achieved
<b>M3</b> [*] Develop agricultural blueprint	1	Sep 2014	1	Sep 2014	Achieved
<b>M4</b> Develop administrative arrangements with a local financial institution for fund management and administration.	1	Dec 2014	1	Nov 2014	Achieved
<b>M2</b> Establish tourism syndicate	1	Mar 2014	1	Mar 2014	Not accepted
<b>M5</b> Design sustainability plan including information for the Rupununi business forum, Rupununi tourism syndicate, the innovation fund and the training curricula.	1	Dec 2015	0	Jun 2015	

[\*] Indicate that the milestone has been reformulated

**CRITICAL ISSUES THAT HAVE AFFECTED PERFORMANCE**

- [X] Executing agency institutional capacity
- [X] Supplier/contractor performance
- [X] Others, which?: Need for higher than anticipated efforts to engage communities and secure buy in

**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
<b>PROJECT RISK LEVEL:</b> Low <b>TOTAL NUMBER OF RISKS:</b> 18 <b>IN EFFECT RISKS:</b> 18 <b>NOT IN EFFECT RISKS:</b> 0 <b>MITIGATED RISKS:</b> 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 have been taken in the reporting period:**

Sustainability plans developed and being implemented for the following key initiatives/areas:

- Rupununi Innovation Fund
- Training/capacity development
- Rupununi Christmas Fair (market linkages)
- Rupununi Stakeholder Business Forum
- Community Enterprise Database
- Rupununi Tourism Syndicate (Visit Rupununi)

These plans are being implemented and monitored by the project team and will be used to inform the overall sustainability plan that is required to be completed towards the end of the project.

**SECTION 6: PRACTICAL LESSONS**

	<b>Relative to Implementation</b>	<b>Author</b>
1. (i) Strong community participatory approach to community needs, project identification, design and implementation;		International Guyana, Conservation
(ii) Sensitizing and empowering communities to take ownership and responsibility for actions for projects that will affect them;		
(iii) Approach development and change as a focused and deliberate course of action to change or modify some given situation rather than relying on ad hoc public policies or the free market system;		
(iv) Create and maintain a presence in communities where projects are implemented as a way of mentoring beneficiaries, monitoring progress, providing support and making adjustments where necessary;		
(v) Take a sustainable landscape approach, thereby explicitly recognize the inter-connectedness of all components of natural capital (agriculture, livestock, forests, and fisheries land, and living organisms), and endogenous and exogenous forces that impact on them; and		
(vi) Sensitive to the customs, values and visions of all stakeholders		