

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

01/01/2020 - 06/30/2020

SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

Operation number: TT-T1082

Suboperation number: ATN/ME-17209-TT

Project Name: Building on Vetiver

Purpose: The key objective of the project is to demonstrate the economic, social and envi

Country admin

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Country beneficiary:

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Group:

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SubGroup:

Executing Agency: IAMovement

Team Leader: VASHTIED

Project cycle:

Report Date: 2020 - 07 - 01

Approval Date: 2018 - 12 - 14

Signature Date: 2019 - 03 - 07

First disbursement date: 2019 - 04 - 17

Original Execution End Date:

Current Execution End Date:

Original Last Disbursement Date: 2022 - 09 - 07

Last Current Disbursement date: 2022 - 09 - 07

SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE

Project's performance summary since the beginning

The project can be considered as one that has been performing relatively well in all areas since its official commencement in 2019, and with inclusion of some retroactive activities at certain sites completed in 2018. All key activities and milestones required under the project have been met or exceeded by the required timeline despite the emergence of a global pandemic. Likewise, all targets for (i) number of sites installed, (ii) number or persons trained, (iii) nurseries installed, (iv) women trained in handicraft as well as (v) individuals using vetiver to increase their income; have either been on train to achievement or have already been exceeded in some cases. Performance indicators in these areas lends to the confidence that the project will in most cases exceed requirements by its end and maintains a high likelihood of success. Key activities over the last year would have been the identification of all primary project sites as well as identification of at least half of the secondary project sites, completion of all handicraft training sessions, with more than 20 women trained, community training through field installations (in both Sangre Grande and Santa Cruz), the establishment of 2 macro-sized and several micro-sized nurseries, and the installation of over 50,000 vetiver plants across the 9 primary project sites, and 12+ secondary sites to date. The project has also allowed for financed partnerships between several other regional and local NGO's as well as relevant and key governmental institutions such as The Ministry of Works and Transport, which altogether is expected to carry the co-financed project commitment well beyond the expected. The project to date includes along with IAMovement and the IDB, over 25 partners which include other NGOs, government entities, commercial entities, community groups, and further local and international donors. A project poster showcasing the eight (8) primary sites + 1 bonus site and all the project partners is under development and will be completed soon, for printing and distribution to all partners. The project has attracted the commitment of the University of the West Indies (UWI) who are leading several academic investigations into the characteristics and properties of the vetiver plant in different various applications inclusive of phytoremediation, hydrogeology, soil regeneration and geotechnical stability, all key study areas with will result in deliverables critical to the project outcome. These studies are being supported by four (4) professors who have been contracted as project consultants, and five (5) students who will be completing their research papers in the study of vetiver use for these different applications.

Supervision Team Leader comments

The project is achieving good projects and securing traction with external partners that will support sustainability and scaling

Project's performance summary in the last 6 months

Over the last 6 months of January – June, the project has performed well, having developed new partnerships, strengthened old ones, managed human resource challenges, and having executed preliminary planning, scoping, administrative and even outreach activities despite the emergence of the global pandemic, COVID-19. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of having a robust, reliable, and innovative team capable of working remotely with the ability to be flexible and agile around limitations. In the first half of 2020, due to the pandemic of COVID-19, the project experienced significant restrictions with field activities, field training, and all group participatory events were postponed due to the lockdown restrictions. Nonetheless, the project's human resources were well managed during this time, whereby IAMovement developed work from home procedures relevant to the national restrictions. This allowed an agile shift to more project planning, administrative and technical activities and decisions to be pursued within the COVID-19 restrictions. IAMovement initiated the proposal process in 2018 for a new, regional vetiver-focused project in the same project countries which IAMovement worked in for the launch of The Vetiver Network West Indies (TVNWI - www.tvnwi.org); namely, Antigua, Dominica, St Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago (project focus in north east Tobago). This project was officially approved and signed in March 2020, with IICA as the lead applicant, receiving funding from the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), for \$1.6 M USD, for the 36-month project. IAMovement was not included in formal contracting with the donor for the project, but as a consortium applicant, supported much work in development of IICA's project Procurement Plan and NGO partner identification and selection in each of the project countries, to aid with implementation of on the ground activities, during the period March - June 2020. During the essential services lockdown period in March, two significant issues arose at site that had the potential to have minor but noticeable setbacks to the project. Firstly, stakeholders at the U-Pick Nursery in Chaguaramas destroyed the project nursery due to a perceived lack of maintenance (due to no presence on site during lockdown) and secondly, reduced contact with stakeholders at St Andrews Golf Course during the pandemic led to a loss of/significantly reduced interest. These challenges were segued from through the adoption of a large existing vetiver nursery in Paramin, and growth of other project nursery sites; and also the adoption of a new Riverbank site. In the latter, another strong partnership was realized with the Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT) Drainage Division that resulted in a mixed approach being used at the site, namely the Vetiver system, geotextile and gabion baskets as the final intervention. Field training activities were slowed during this period, in particular Site #5 Ramkisoon Trace and Site #6 Moruga/Coora. One unintended and beneficial result was the independent

Supervision Team Leader comments

SECTION 3: INDICATORS AND MILESTONES

C1 : Deployment of the Vetiver Solution		Weight 25%	Qualification ~not selected~			
	Indicators		Baseline	Planned	Achieved	Status
I1	Number of community members trained in vetiver technology (gender aggregated)		1	70 (2022 - 04 - 07)	95 (2020 - 06 - 30)	Finished
I2	Acres of quarry land rehabilitated land under sustainable management through Vetiver propagation		0	20 (2022 - 04 - 07)	5 (2019 - 07 - 31)	In progress
C2 : Results Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation		Weight 25%	Qualification ~not selected~			
	Indicators		Baseline	Planned	Achieved	Status
I1	Development of robust monitoring and evaluation system (examines key indicators including economic, environmental, technical and social impact)		0	1 (2022 - 04 - 07)	0 (2020 - 06 - 30)	In progress
C3 : Sustainable handicrafts and green enterprise development		Weight 25%	Qualification ~not selected~			
	Indicators		Baseline	Planned	Achieved	Status
I1	Number of persons generating incomes through Vetiver solutions (gender aggregated)		0	30 (2022 - 04 - 07)	25 (2020 - 06 - 30)	In progress
I2	Number of women trained in vetiver handicraft (gender aggregated)		0	20 (2022 - 04 - 07)	28 (2020 - 03 - 10)	Finished
			Qualification ~not selected~			

Qualification ~not

C4 : Knowledge Dissemination for Scaling **Weight 25%** selected~

Indicators	Baseline	Planned	Achieved	Status
I1 Completion of one public sector stakeholder forum to disseminate project results	0	1 (2022 - 04 - 07)		In progress
I2 Completion of one private sector stakeholder forum to disseminate project results	0	1 (2022 - 04 - 07)		In progress
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	0	1 (2022 - 04 - 07)	1 (2019 - 03 - 31)	Finished

Milestones	Planned Value	Achieved Value	Due Date	Achieved Date	Status
Conditions Prior	1	1	2019 - 09 - 03	2019 - 03 - 25	Achieved
Identification of 4 pilot sites	4	4	2019 - 09 - 03	2019 - 09 - 02	Achieved
Launch of regional platform	1	1	2020 - 03 - 06	2020 - 05 - 11	Achieved
50,000 vetiver plants installed	50000	50000	2020 - 09 - 05	2020 - 05 - 18	Achieved
Completion of 20 training workshops	20	0	2021 - 03 - 07		Pending
Complete of one stakeholder forum	1	0	2021 - 09 - 05		Pending

CRITICAL FACTS THAT HAVE AFFECTED PROJECT'S PERFORMANCE

Others, Which?

COVID-19. In the first half of 2020, the project experienced some restrictions with field activities due to the pandemic of COVID-19. On January 31st, 2020, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT) proclaimed COVID-19 as a dangerous infectious disease under the Public Health Ordinance, Chap. 12 No. 4 in order to trigger special provisions under the Ordinance. During the period February to May 2020, Trinidad and Tobago, similar to other countries, instituted several containment measures against COVID-19, which included the initial travel bans to China, Italy, Iran, Spain, Germany, Singapore and South Korea. On March 11th, 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the 2019-nCoV to be a Pandemic. On March 20th IAMovement issued an official position and general communication to the project teams, to inform members about the internal measures and discuss the potential spread. IAMovement guidance was in according with the latest official government guidelines (<http://www.health.gov.tt/covid19/GuidelinesRegulations/ReopeningGuidelines.pdf>), inclusive of concerns, feedback and positions of members of the team. After these events, on March 22nd, 2020 the country then closed its borders. This slightly affect CBF training activities since the work plan development process and contract development process has been slowed down due to this. Also, the 7th International Conference on Vetiver was postponed due to the pandemic of which IAMovement was meant to participate. There were other significant measures undertaken by the GoRTT that greatly affected implementation schedule of the project whereby site visits planned for March-April was only able to happen in July. In particular, these GoRTT covid-19 measures were (i) issuance of stay at home orders for workers in nonessential services; (ii) the sequential closure of schools (including the UWI); and (iii) the limitation of operating hours for commercial retail and wholesale outlets, effective April 6th, 2020. The project office adapted to the first measure through an official work from home policy that maintains effect and many meetings were held virtually. The closure of the UWI hindered field activities and preliminary planning that our academic partners were engaged in. Only after the ease of restrictions in July was the UWI research team able to plan again for site visits to establish M&E sample design for the research projects. Nonetheless, the restrictions were capitalized on through extensive planning to improve research project design and has also resulted in a more formal management of UWI research teams through contracted consultancies. A fortunate, strategic outcome has been the collaboration between parties in developing a draft MOU between IAMovement and the UWI for the project, which supports the ease of engaging in and sustaining research activities throughout the remainder of the project while adding value through the use of assets and pursuit of additional research funding opportunities.

SECTION 4: RISKS

Impact Area	Severity	Prob.	Date	Responsible	Mitigation action
Project External Risk	(3) Medium	Low 40%	2020 - 02 - 13	Project Coordinator	As a mitigation measure, this project was launched where there was still 2+ years before elections, which should see the project sufficiently advanced or completed before any political party change.
Social/Technical Risk	(4) High	Low 40%	2020 - 02 - 13	Project Coordinator	To mitigate this risk, project pilot sites will be clearly marked with appropriate signage.
Social/Technical Risk	(3) Medium	Very Low 20%	2020 - 02 - 13	Project Coordinator	This risk will be mitigated by ensuring key project team members as well as partners with established track records and experience in community partnerships, assist in screening, selection of implementation leaders and through delivery of capacity building, coaching and recognition throughout the implementation process.
Safety Risk	(4) High	Low 40%	2020 - 02 - 13	Project Coordinator	All employees, project participants, team members are participatory to safety talks, toolbox meetings and HSE trainings where appropriate for specific sites, where safety risks, mitigation measures, and actions to be taken in cases of incidents are discussed. Where incidents take place, incident reports are also written up, with investigations and lessons learned where required to be communicated to other persons on the project afterwards.
Partners for the project include National Agencies	(3) Medium	Low 40%	2020 - 09 - 16		As a mitigation measure, this project is being launched where there are still 2+ years before elections, which should see the project

TOTAL RISKS QUANTITY: 5 IN EFFECT RISKS: 5 NOT IN EFFECT RISKS: 0 MITIGATED RISKS: 0

SECTION 5: SUSTAINABILITY

Indicate likelihood of project sustainability after project completion:

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Justification

The model is gaining traction with local and regional partners and use of vetiver as a cost effective green technology for land stabilization and rehabilitation of degraded areas is growing

ASPECTS THAT PUT THE PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY AT RISK

[There were no aspects reported during this period]

Actions related to sustainability which have been implemented in the project:

In the last few months Vetvier TT has had eight (8) new clients that has commissioned work. Added to this, each successive secondary site completed as well as the primary sites (such as Quinam, Nu-Iron and Tucker), commissioned by private counterparts that has engaged Vetiver TT on a for profit bases presents a catalogue of case studies that highlight Vetiver TT as a green for profit business. The sites commissioned by private counterparts are being documented and is growing and added to the number of new clients, provide evidence of sustainability within the implementing green, for profit business of Vetiver TT. Negotiations with strategic regional and local stakeholders have lent to the securing of a few notable partner-projects secured. Regionally, are two regional partner projects and there has been the official sign-off on Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) CBF, as well as GEF SGP Grenada project. Locally, a key strategic partner was the Ministry of Works and Transport, Drainage Division who bought-in to the project . The IICA led The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund project is still in its formative stages due to COVID 19 which hindered the contracting work plan and developing processes. The official project kick-off and on the ground activities are yet to begin A partnership was made with the regional seminary at the Mt St Benedict through their Food Governance Team. This situation prompted the use of project resources for several strategic reasons. One (1) installation day has been used to stabilize slippage on a plot of land of approximately 160 feet long using three (3) rows of the VS with about 300 plants per row for the church. This strategic contribution was made since the church communicated that they are managing a larger food production project commissioned by the Archbishop whereby several church owned land on hillsides in Trinidad would require additional stabilization. The benefit of adopting this as a secondary site again comes in the form of counterpart funding. The Seminary has agreed to see maintenance going forward, use of the site as a demonstration and educational resource and hosting of several classroom Vetiver Training Sessions. The first of these sessions have been planned and is expected to commence in August as a one (1) day interactive workshop, open to many church groups. This is expected to make use of one (1) additional VTT installation. The benefit by this would be the magnitude of reach considering that the church's network and audience would be a much larger audience than originally expected or typically possible. The seminary shall also install and maintain a small nursery to continue expanding upon its needs independent of project resources adding to strong partnerships and sustainability of the project. The Handicraft Coordinator has focused activities on the planning and expansion of the House of Vetiver brand. in an attempt to make the community engagement aspect more sustainable and attractive through handicraft sales. Much of the preliminary activities to achieve some longevity of the brand has been centred around the Establishment of Brand objectives, Piece rate determinations and an overall streamlining process from production of crafts to Packaging design and print.

SECTION 6: PRACTICAL LESSONS

Relative to Author Date

During the site selection process, it was learned that certain sites which are ideal for study may not be located in community settings, but due to environment/terrain conditions were appropriate to choose for the project. In

these cases community members from other sites locations under the project are brought in to assist where applicable and practical.	Design	Jonathan Barcant	2020 - 02 - 13
For the extensive M&E to be completed under the project to study and capture 8+ sites in varying environments and differing phenomena (coastal erosion, quarry topsoil regeneration, infrastructure protection, water treatment, etc); the amount of resources for the depth of study required was deemed to be greater than the amount applicable to yield greatest results, and so in partnership with the University UWI (2 professors, 5 students, 1 associate professional), our research team is exploring opportunities to attract greater resources to the entire M&E project study.	Monitoring and Evaluation	Jonathan Barcant	2020 - 02 - 13
One of the initiatives completed is in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, which was done at their request to be complete a pilot "show case" site on a very short timeframe at their Head Office in 2019. This was done given 'urgent request', however where IAMovement specified many times the importance of training grounds maintenance staff and Min Ag staff (extension officers). They were not able to facilitate these trainings despite strong recommendations, but at request of the Minister project was implemented. As was an identified risk, due to lack of training, the project has already been affected and damaged due to lack of trained ground staff. This is not one of the major sites, rather a small show-case project - but nonetheless, an important lesson learned is the necessity of complete processes for project implementation, including proper stakeholder involvement and training of personnel as needed.	Implementation	Jonathan Barcant	2020 - 02 - 13
The original Project Coordinator contracted was given flexibility to undertake side-positions (State Board) on her request, and this was permitted though identified as a concern in terms of distraction, time commitment issues which may arise, etc. The concerns prove to be valid when neglect for the project and eventual breach of contract took place; resulting in end of contract. An important lesson learned is need for full-time focus and attention from the Project Coordinator for the project, where such allowances in the future will not be considered appropriate and acceptable.	Management	Jonathan Barcant	2020 - 02 - 13
It was determined that there were additional very useful sites to include in the project, beyond the planned total of six (6) to eight (8) primary sites, given their environmental conditions, partnership value, etc. As such we have expanded the number of main sites to nine (9) to complete our site selection process. Any more valuable sites which arise during the project will be listed among the 15 sub-sites.	Implementation	Jonathan Barcant	2020 - 02 - 13
Given the nature of the challenges, and where the level of soil movement has been observed to be so severe that it is difficult to carry out proper soil assessment in order to design solutions such as retaining wall(s) etc. the development faced within Ramkissoon Trace is Complimentary relationship with Habitat for Humanity has provided funding opportunities to treat with these underlying systemic challenges at the site. Habitat for Humanity has acknowledged the proposal to provide funding for construction of drainage and minor household water management (rainwater harvesting) systems. This has allowed better immediate management of rainfall and runoff at Ramkissoon Trace. Installation of additional vetiver grass is prescribed where possible throughout the properties – to provide increased stability with the grass' deep root system, as well as to de-saturate the soil. Therefore, during the early part of the 2020 rainy season, further planting will take place.	Design	Kasey Gordon	2020 - 08 - 01
To manage the extensive M&E to be completed under the project a full-time M&E Specialist was taken on board in March 2020 complimentary to the UWI research team. The M&E Specialist as a dedicated resource has allowed some of the more administrative M&E components of the project to be attended to while the heavier empirical activities are being predominantly designed, implemented and examined by the UWI. There has been the development of a M&E Plan and an implementation schedule as well as a series of surveys developed for (i) Perceptions, (ii) Ongoing Community Monitoring, (iii) Quarterly internal updates and (iv) midterm and final evaluations.	Monitoring and Evaluation	Kasey Gordon	2020 - 08 - 01
A unique partnering opportunity with an arm of the government presented itself despite issues with Relations at Site 8, St Andrews Riverbank. This site became a challenge following the COVID lockdown. Communication were stalled with St Andrews Golf Club during the lockdown but an opportunity to work with the Drainage Division of the Ministry of Works and Transport arose. The unique collaboration led to a combined approach design which allowed for the installation of the VS Solution along with geotextile cover and Gabion Basket footings	Implementation	Kasey Gordon	2020 - 08 - 01
To exclusively manage the Handicraft's Component a part-time Handicraft Coordinator came on board in June 2020. The Handicraft Coordinator as a dedicated resource has resulted in a the development and implementation of Strategic activities in the area of Database management, Product Streamlining, Branding as well as Marketing and Sales. Strategic activities completed to date include the development of draft KPIs, re-assessment and improved management of social media platforms, refinement and price streamlining/systemization, Customer Outreach, Piece rate determinations, Packaging design and print/streamlining, Establishing Brand objectives, as well as minor headways into Market Research and drafting a Digital Strategy. The brand, House of Vetiver has also been spread through the Handicraft Coordinator's effort in the creation and re-establishment of e-commerce/affiliated pages	Implementation	Kasey Gordon	2020 - 08 - 01
As a result of Covid-19, there has been the adoption COVID-19 guidelines for work as well as the implementation of an IAM BOV Work From Home Policy – whereby staff work three (3) days (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) in office and two (2) days (Tuesday and Thursday) at home. The days are more of a guideline than an imposed rule that allows flexibility. It is also expected to support productivity and reduced time losses due to travel as part of the work from home policy.	Management	Kasey Gordon	2020 - 08 - 01
There was the destruction of a Nursery at Chaguaramas with an estimated number of plants about 3300 valued at about \$2475 USD. Each plant would have had at least 1 years maturity by 2021, each of which would have been expected to give 50 plants giving an overall of 165,000 plants with an estimated in-situ value of \$99000 USD. Action to address the challenge was the decision to adopt the nursery of Mrs. Shurland Romany. Although the Nursery was not maintained in 2.5 years there are at least 1000 installed plants currently. Using the lowest estimates of 50 plants per 1 year old mature plant Mrs Romany would have immediate access to at least 50,000 plants with a cash value of \$30,000 USD if sold at full market price.	Implementation	Kasey Gordon	2020 - 08 - 01
Several Management tools have been adopted and in use for internal management of the project, inclusive of several monitoring and tracking templates focused on counterpart inputs and funding, planting schedules, field days, Vetiver stocktaking, persons trained and income earners.	Management		2020 - 08 - 01