

# LEVERAGING NATURAL CAPITAL IN GUYANA'S RUPUNUNI PROJECT

## PROJECT FACTSHEET

### BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

- ▶ **Project Title: Leveraging Natural Capital in Guyana's Rupununi (ATN/ME-13229-GY)**
- ▶ **Financing Period: June 2012- March 2016**
- ▶ **Location: Rupununi, (Region 9), Guyana**
- ▶ **Executing Agency: Conservation International-Guyana**
- ▶ **Executing Agency Contribution: US\$448,925**
- ▶ **MIF Contribution: US\$1,181,329**
- ▶ **Total Amount: US\$1,630,254**



*“Low carbon development is very welcoming to us because we have already been practicing low carbon development programmes in our community.”*

SYDNEY ALLICOCK- ECO- TOURISM PIONEER, SURAMA VILLAGE



### Background

This Project is testing models for expanding low carbon economic sectors while supporting communities and human development at a local level in line with Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). The Project will demonstrate how indigenous and local communities can directly benefit from low carbon development through enhancement and sustainability of livelihoods, whilst maintaining the capacity of the Rupununi to provide environmental services. The Rupununi is ideal for testing these models at a local level

because of its intact ecosystems and representation of Guyana's biodiversity, the culture and people of the region, and CI-Guyana's strengths in the region.

### Objective

To contribute to healthy and sustainable economic development of the Rupununi Region through strengthening and creating sustainable business models for Community-Based Enterprises (CBEs) with a focus on **nature-based tourism** and **agriculture**.

### Challenges

- ▶ **Vastness and accessibility:**

The Rupununi is a vast region and transportation costs are very high. Hence, market access for locally produced goods and services is poor and underdeveloped.

- ▶ **Low levels of enterprise capacity for business planning and access to loans from the Rupununi Innovation Fund.**

### Opportunity

- ▶ **Bridge to Brazil and planned upgrade of Georgetown - Lethem road corridor (linkage to Brazil):** these developments can provide new opportunities i.e. cheaper options to move people and goods.

## Strategy

1. Assess baseline greenhouse gas, climate change, market and socio-economics of the region.
2. Develop a business, community and government network for climate responsive development in the Rupununi.
3. Select & implement specific interventions to promote sustainable community enterprise development, including training, product development and marketing.
4. Establish & implement the Rupununi Innovation Revolving Fund.
5. Secure Stakeholder Participation through Outreach, Monitoring and Evaluation of Results.
6. Share project information through Knowledge Management.

## Key Expected Results

- ▶ Rupununi Innovation Revolving Fund developed in partnership with Guyana Bank for Trade & Industry and the Government of Guyana
- ▶ Stakeholder Business Forum
- ▶ Tourism Syndicate
- ▶ State of Food and Agriculture in the Rupununi Report
- ▶ Business Planning training and technical support for community-based enterprises
- ▶ Training courses on product development & business management, including good practices and low carbon, climate resilient development mainstreamed at Bina Hill Institute
- ▶ Bankable business plans

developed for community-based enterprises

## Project Impact

- ▶ Community-based enterprises working together to create a model for testing the LCDS.
- ▶ 15% of sustainable micro and small and medium scale enterprises (MSMEs supporting sustainable livelihood development and serve as models for successful low carbon, climate resilient enterprise development.
- ▶ Private sector understands low carbon development as essential to their business planning and sustainability takes a leadership role in promoting low carbon development strategies.

## Lessons Learned

Based on the work done so far, indigenous and local communities in the region have shown a strong interest in developing sustainable MSMEs, to achieve this it is important to:

1. have a good understanding of the local socio-economic, ecological and market conditions to aid in decision making,
2. focus on building local skills and capacity to plan for and manage these enterprises sustainably and;
3. building networks for collaboration (between the communities, public, private and not for profit sectors) to leverage technical support, increase market access and unlock development finance.

## Next Steps

1. **Vastness and accessibility:** This is being addressed through a comprehensive community outreach and engagement

strategy.

## 2. Low levels of enterprise capacity for business planning and access to loans from the Rupununi Innovation Fund:

The Project is completing a capacity assessment to understand the challenges and opportunities, and will provide targeted capacity training and technical assistance in partnership with key agencies, both governmental and non-governmental. The project will also develop training programmes in climate resilient agriculture and nature-based tourism with a local training institution.



## Inter- American Development Bank

47 High Street, Kingston, Georgetown, Guyana.

## Multilateral Investment Fund

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[www.fomin.org](http://www.fomin.org)

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## Conservation International-Guyana

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Email:

[applications.cig@conservation.org](mailto:applications.cig@conservation.org)

## CI- Guyana Website

<http://www.conservation.org.gy>

## Project Facebook profile:

[www.facebook.com/RupununiLowCarbonLivelihoods](https://www.facebook.com/RupununiLowCarbonLivelihoods)



*Helping Hands Women's Group, a beneficiary of the project, displaying their products at the Rupununi Stakeholder Business Forum*