



LEVERAGING NATURAL CAPITAL IN GUYANA'S RUPUNUNI

Rupununi Innovation Fund (RIF) Facility- Rupununi Ventures

FACT SHEET

What is the Rupununi Innovation Fund (RIF) Facility?

Through the Rupununi Low Carbon Livelihoods Project¹, Conservation International- Guyana has collaborated with the **Government of Guyana** and the **Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry (GBTI)** to establish the RIF Facility, a sixty- million Guyana dollar (GY\$60, 000,000) revolving fund, that will finance Community Based Enterprises (CBE) that promote the combined effectiveness of low carbon development, maintenance of ecosystems & good business practices.

What is a Community Based Enterprise?

A CBE is one that is completely or partially owned or operated either by a community or an individual group in partnership with the community. **The partnership must be formal, open and transparent.** The CBE must derive social benefits while maintaining the natural environment and quality of life in the community made better.

What types of Community Based Enterprises can access the RIF Facility?

- Sustainable Agriculture
- Sustainable Fisheries
- Agro- processing
- Nature- based & Agro- tourism
- Agro- forestry
- Forest Conservation
- Arts & Craft

- Service Provision
- Marketing

How to qualify for a loan from the RIF Facility?

Applicants under this loan facility must:

1. Be based in the Rupununi Region.
2. Develop a bankable business plan.
3. Satisfy eligibility criteria.
4. Satisfy objectives of the Rupununi Low Carbon Livelihoods Project.
5. Receive a reference from Conservation International- Guyana.

¹ Officially known as ATN/ME- 13229- GY- Leveraging Natural Capital in Guyana's Rupununi Project

Requirements (eligibility criteria):

1. Identification/Passport/Affidavit of Identity.
2. One (1) Passport sized photograph of applicant.
3. Proof of address (utility bill, rental receipt etc.)/ Affidavit to prove address.
4. One (1) character reference for applicant.
5. Introductory letter from Conservation International- Guyana.
6. Business Plan inclusive of a Cash Flow Projection for the next 12 months prepared on a monthly basis (GBTI will provide assistance with the preparation of this document).
7. Statement of outstanding loan(s) with other bank(s)/ person(s) and/or hire purchase.



Tourism: Rewa Eco- Lodge

Features of the Rupununi Innovation Fund Facility

- Low interest rate (reducing balance method) of 6% per annum
- Fast approvals
- 25% discount on lending services fees
- 1-3 months moratorium on payment of installments where applicable
- No repayment penalties



Agro- processing: Helping Hands Women's Producers Co- operative Society

Equity Contribution

A low equity contribution of 5% is required.

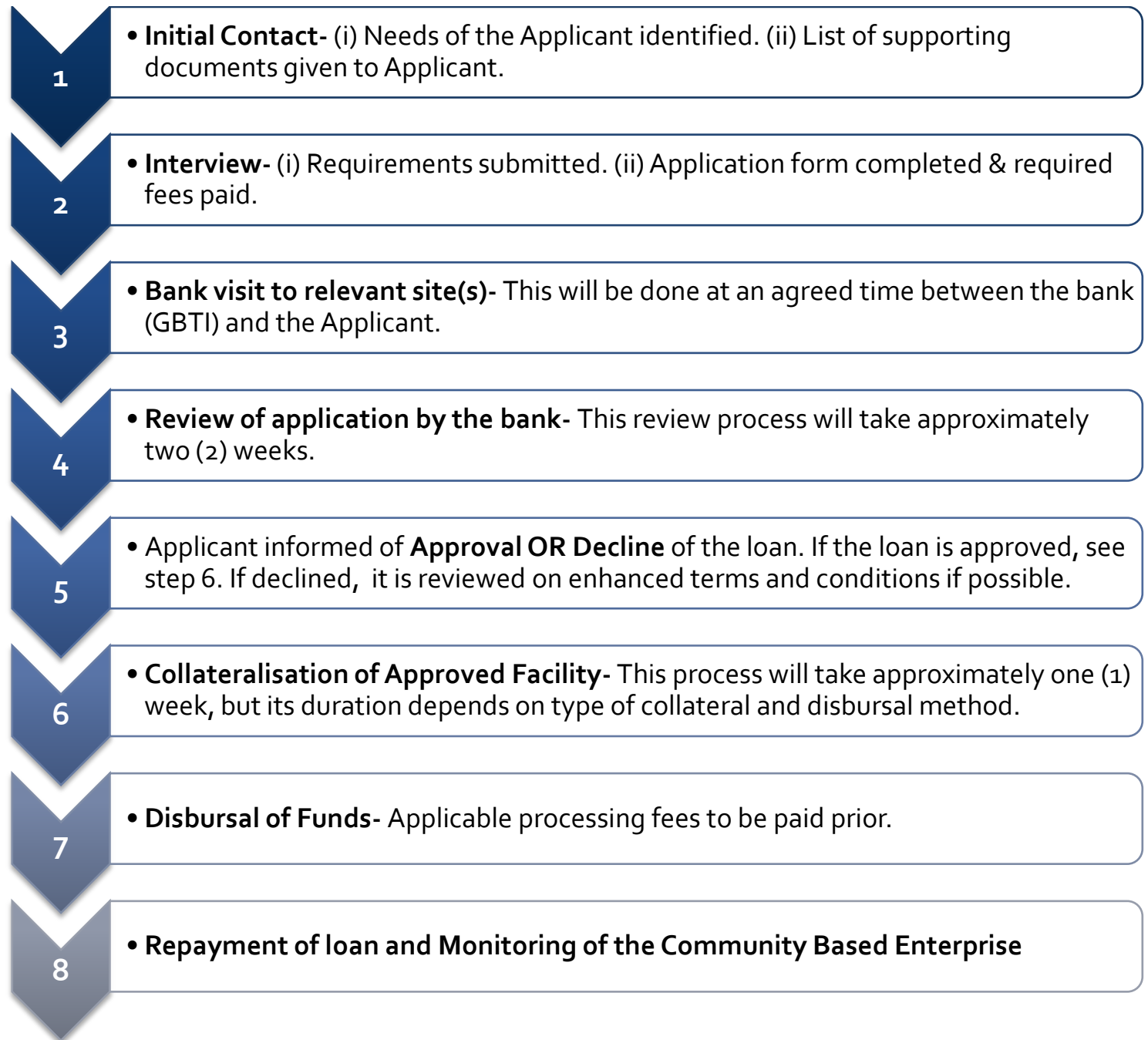
Repayment terms

The 6% interest rate will be applied with a maximum repayment period of forty-eight (48) months.



Craft: Balata Craft produced in Nappi Village

Accessing the RIF Facility (Rupununi Ventures) from the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry (GBTI)



Contact Information



The Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry Ltd. (GBTI) has a rich and successful history of over 170 years that began with the establishment of the first commercial bank in British Guiana. GBTI's mission is to achieve a mutually beneficial relationship between the bank and its customers by providing efficient and quality services to both depositors and entrepreneurs in the tradition of courtesy and confidentiality through the harnessing of state-of-the-art technology, and the employment and training of a committed team. See <http://www.gbtibank.com>.

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Your Friend, Your Bank

**CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL**
Guyana



Conservation International is a Non-Governmental Organization registered and working in Guyana for over 20 years, linking human development with conservation of the earth's living natural heritage. Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration; CI-Guyana works to empower societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, global biodiversity, and the well-being of humanity.

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

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People Need Nature to Thrive

