



THE MINISTRY OF
Amerindian
AFFAIRS

REPORT: OCT - DEC 2014

Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS)
Amerindian Development Fund: Village Economy
Development (Phase II) under GRIF

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1. Introduction

Outlined in this document is a status update on initiatives undertaken by the ADF Project Management Unit (PMU) for the period October 20, 2013 through December 18th, 2014.

2. Project office set-up and operationalized

ADF Project Management Unit up and running to facilitate full implementation of 160 CDPs. 92 percent of project office set-up and internal operational costs met. This included setting up of the office, procurement of office supplies, furniture and equipment and vehicle.

Table 1: Financial report 4th Quarter 2014 - Office Set-up and Operationalized

PROCUREMENT BUDGET VS EXPENDITURE - ADF PROJECT 2014				
PROJECT MANAGEMENT LAST QUARTER				
BUDGET PER BUDGET LINE	TOTAL BUDGETED	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE GYD	TOTAL BUDGETED USD	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE GYD
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	4,912,000	4,254,762	24,560	21,274
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES (COMPANY)	450,000	249,460	2,250	1,247
TRAVEL (VEHICLE)	8,000,000	8,074,051	40,000	40,370
EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE	2,168,500	1,680,012	10,843	8,400
SUPPLIES & MISCELLANEOUS	660,075	625,015	3,300	3,125
COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	3,385,000	3,159,599	16,925	15,798
GRAND TOTAL	19,575,575	18,042,899	97,878	90,214

3. Inception Conferences for 102 Communities and Villages conducted.

Five regional inception conferences conducted by the Project Management Unit (PMU) from the 25th November to 10th December, 2014 to kick-start the full implementation of the ADF-GRIF project.

The regional inception seminars marked the beginning of the implementation of the Community Development Plans (CDPs) which cover agricultural production and processing, village infrastructure, tourism, manufacturing, village business enterprise, and transportation, among others.

102 Communities from Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 benefitted from start-up orientation which accomplished the following:

- 1) Determined whether the respective CDPs in their current form are still relevant and remain a priority for the Community and Villages.
 - 11 percent of community representatives indicated a desire to change their CDP
- 2) Identified potential CDPs for 22 communities that did not submit CDPs previously. Communities from within this group that attended the seminar along with their proposed CDPs are as follows:
 - 50 percent (11 of 22) communities without CDPs have put forward proposals for potential business ventures.

- 3) Assessed communities' technical, economic and financial capacities for implementation of CDPs
 - 76 percent of respondents said that they had experience in the project identified for their CDP
 - 74 percent of respondents said that they would sell their product locally and regionally (38 percent said that they would sell their product within their own village and to surrounding villages, 25 percent only in their village, 11 percent only surrounding villages), remainder, said some combination of locally, regionally, coast, or internationally.
- 4) Identified constraints to successful implementation of CDPs.
 - 31 percent of responses indicated marketing/acquiring markets as a constraint
 - 20 percent indicated uncertain weather pattern
 - 18 percent indicated high cost of production/transportation/procurement of materials
 - 7 percent indicated lack of experience/need for training in implementation of CDP
 - Other constraints identified were availability of land, drainage and irrigation, pests, stealing, lack of community support and workforce to support the project.
- 5) Prepared the Communities for disbursement of micro-grant of 5M to pursue these business ventures.
 - 45 percent of villages had at least one meeting to discuss the CDP
 - 25 percent of villages have identified a CMT of 6-8 persons to manage their CDP
 - 75 percent of respondents said that they are ready to begin implementation of their CDP (of those; 49 percent are ready to begin implementation within 1 month, 39 percent within 1-3 months, and 12 percent were not sure).
 - 36 percent of respondents said that they had a village bank account

4. Identification and Coordination of Stakeholders

70 percent of CDPs are agricultural in nature, therefore the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) is an important stakeholder in terms of capacity strengthening at the community level.

Training provided in 4 agriculture sub-sectors including crops, poultry, cattle and aquaculture by technical officers identified from agencies under MoA including National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) and Fisheries Department

Technical support also provided by officers from Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) at the inception conference held in Georgetown.

5. Conclusion

ADF Project Management Unit up and running to facilitate planned activities for 2015. The information gathered from inception seminars conducted will guide the PMU in full implementation of 160 CDPs.