

<p align="center">UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME Georgetown, Guyana</p>	<p>Mission Report Summary Date: 3rd June 2015</p>
<p>Name(s) of Traveller(s): Chika Ohashi, Pryiadarshni Rai</p> <p>Unit:Environment and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Project No. & Title: Project No.: 00068818 GRIF- Amerindian Development Fund</p>	<p>Mission period & Itinerary: 3rd June 2015</p> <p>Travel authorization date: 2nd June 2015</p>
<p>Purpose of the Mission (<i>specify the type of work which has/had to be accomplished</i>):</p> <p>The general purpose of this field visit was to obtain updates on the progress of the St. Cuthbert's Mission CDP implementation, who were one of the beneficiaries of the GRIF- ADF Phase 1 project.</p>	
<p>Brief summary of the Mission Findings:</p> <p>A. Findings: Date: 2nd June, 2015 Place: St. Cuthbert's Mission, Office of Toshao Interviewee: Mr. Luke Simon, Toshao- St. Cuthbert's Mission</p> <p>The information was acquired from an interview conducted with Mr. Luke Simon, current Toshao of St. Cuthbert. The details are noted below.</p> <p>CDP Activity Status update All the purchases and constructions from the first tranche have been made and completed. In addition to the field report written in August 2014, the community has completed: 5 benabs, dining area, kitchen, 6 mile walkway, 50 feet tower, hotels (2 rooms) and a bar.</p> <p>In the second tranche, the community has purchased:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 canoes • Equipment for the restaurants to furnish • 8 paddles • 3 allows and bows • Hammocks <p>They have completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketball courts • Paining the constructed buildings (hotel, restaurant, benabs) • Septic tanks for toilets <p>It is important to note that since August 2014, two horses that were purchased died due to the overdose of drugs by veterinarians from Guyana Livestock Division.</p> <p>Product/services Tourism packages have been developed for day and overnight tours such as: Boating, bird watching, bow and arrow, camping and mountain biking. The involvement of the youth in the community was not mentioned.</p> <p>Promotional/Marketing Strategies According to Toshao, Mr. Luke Simon, the pricing of the commodity cannot be determined unless they have formally started their venture of eco-tourism. The community is still waiting for the official opening.</p>	

With reference to the marketing, they are also waiting for the official launch by the Ministry to formally start marketing their tourism activities.

Community support

Currently 20 persons are involved in the project. Self-help work by the community has been taking place 3 times in the past to clear eco-tourism sites. There has been less involvement in the project due to the long waiting period between the 1st and 2nd tranches.

Since August 2014, one committee member has dropped out and has been replaced by other member.

Cost management

Financial report has been done once prior to August 2014, an updated financial report will be submitted by next week.

Strategic Partnership

The committee has lost contact with all of the partners identified (Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MoAA), Guyana Tourism Authority, Tourism and Hospitality Association Guyana).

Recommendations

- The beneficiary needs to have close contact with the strategic partners in receiving appropriate guidance, support and recognition from these authorities.
- Means of transportation to the eco-tourism sites were not mentioned in the meeting. The beneficiaries need a plan to facilitate the means of transportation from Georgetown for tourists.
- Although tourism packages have been developed, the details need to be published in advertisements in proposed marketing methods. Further, tour guides and the roles and responsibilities in the packages are still unclear and have not been allocated to the community members. The recommendation is for youth involvement in the venture as tourist guides and facilitators of the eco-lodge (cooking and cleaning).
- The official launch needs to be facilitated by the MoAA. This will facilitate a sound advertisement of the eco-tourism in St Cuthbert and stipulate the community in advancing their venture.
- Liaising between the beneficiary and strategic partners could be an important key for advancing the CDP in St Cuthbert.
- Resources planned to be used for the tourism activities need to be sourced from St Cuthbert itself to create an internal market within the village and demand (e.g. human resources as tourist guides and crews of the lodge, cassava bread, crafts, arrows and bows, cash crops such as vegetables) to firstly maintain the eco-tourism business and secondly, ensure the sustainability of resources and skills remain in the village.

B. Results achieved/Decisions made:

With the time constraints in the field visit, the eco-tourism sites and equipment purchased were not observed by the mission members. Taking account the described progress made by the beneficiary, it can be assumed that the venture is at the stage of official launch and advertisement. One observation is that there is a need to rebuild contact with strategic partners. Guidance by these partners will facilitate the necessary procedures of their CDP (eco-tourism venture) and the launch.

Mechanisms should be set up to maintain the sites and to determine roles and responsibilities in their eco-tourism related activities.

Detailed information was not available nor provided on how the budget was spent and what purchases were made. The CDP secretary Ms. Dianna Clenkin who is responsible for any financial report and accounting, was not present at the meeting. Nevertheless, the Toshao committed to provide an updated financial report to be submitted by next week (June 6-12, 2015).

Follow-up action matrix:

Action(s)	By whom	Time-line

Key counterparts met:

Luke Simon, Toshao of St Cuthbert

Distribution of mission report:

Chisa Mikami, Patrick Chesney, Ronald Cumberbatch, Shonelle Chase-Wishart

Mission report uploaded on ATLAS? No

Annexes: Not applicable