

ACTIVITY REPORT 4.1.1

Activity:	Meeting on land management and protection with Trio leaders
Financed by:	Organization of American States
Focal group:	The Trio indigenous community
Execution:	The Amazon Conservation Team (ACT); President: Mark Plotkin; ACT Suriname Program Director: Gwendolyn Emanuels-Smith <i>Counterparts:</i> the Trio indigenous communities
Date:	October 20, 2005

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this activity was to develop a strategy for land protection and management for the Trio indigenous community.

COORDINATION

Activities were coordinated by the ACT Culture Coordinator Beverly de Vries.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants were the Trio Granman Asongo Alalaparú and his staff in the village of Kwamalasamutu.

ACTIVITY REPORT

On October 20, 2005, ACT staff convened a meeting with Granman Asongo. The meeting focused on land management and Trio plans for land use in the region.

The Granman gave an overview of regional history. The trend in the 1970s was for the indigenous groups that were spread out in Suriname's border regions to move to larger villages in the interest of centralized healthcare, education, and religious teachings. Kwamalasamutu became such a mega-village of people from all over the region. Recently, however, the people in these mega-villages have seen that trend subside. This change is likely due to several factors such as the increasing distance people have to travel to find ground suitable for their gardens. Likewise, there is an increasing scarcity of game and fish due to the strain on local resources from over-hunting. For the last few years there has been a gradual spread into the region. People accompanied by Kapiteins have set up villages in Alalaparú, Sipaliwini, Vier Gebroeders, Kuruni, Amotopo and Wanapan.

The Granman has proposed a spreading of his people into the local region, in part for the reasons mentioned above and most of all to secure title to a large territory. They are worried they will be given title to the mega-villages only and will not be able to survive without a larger territory in which to find sustenance and resources. The Granman also worries that villages such as Tepu and Kwamala will be divided by land they don't own. He proposes that villages once occupied by indigenous groups will be reoccupied and footpaths between villages will be reopened. By doing this, he hopes that the indigenous people of southern Suriname will be able to secure the region eventually.

The proposal is to set up satellite villages at the following locations:

- Maha camp
- Mani creek mouth

- Kamani River mouth
- Between Kwamalasamutu and Sipaliwini
- Between Sipaliwini and Brazil
- Panapipa camp near Alalaparu

Additionally, the Trios wish to repair and broaden paths between Kwamalasamutu and Alalaparu and from Kanawapan to the Guyana border (as it is recognized by Suriname). One possible challenge with the latter is the border dispute between Suriname and Guyana, which could affect the creation of this footpath.

In a meeting earlier this year (February 5), the Granman also mentioned that some satellite villages have recently been established along the Kutari River between its mouth and the Brazil border.

CHALLENGES

The challenge is to effectively compile a comprehensive management plan, in which all actors are involved and that is collaboratively developed with the Trios in Brazil.

FOLLOW UP

The creation of a comprehensive land management plan early next year is a useful foundation for the goals of this proposal. The indigenous communities of the south must decide what their plans are for their traditional lands and how they wish to achieve these goals.