

ACTIVITY REPORT

Activity: First field expedition to update the 2001 Trio ethnographic map
Financed by: Organization of American States
Focal group: Communities of Kwamalasamutu
Execution: The Amazon Conservation Team (ACT); President: Mark Plotkin;
ACT Suriname Program Director: Gwendolyn Emanuels-Smith
Counterparts: the Trio indigenous communities
Date: September 21 through October 6, 2005

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this activity was to gather data during an expedition to update the ethnographic map of Trio traditional lands created in 2001.

COORDINATION

Activities were coordinated by the ACT Biodiversity Coordinator Angela Monorath. Assisting was the ACT Field Assistant Skapie Wongsonadi.

PARTICIPANTS

The mapping expedition team consisted of: Keng, Jalouefah, Wuta, Sotense, Wakusa, Menjo, Jawarasa, Peeri (replacing Eseke), and Koita.

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The first field expedition was divided into two sub-routes of 10 days each: the Sipaliwini area and the Alalapadu area. The expedition team traveled to the south in two boats beginning September 21st, and returned to the field base in Kwamalasamutu on October 12.

Route 1 was divided into 2 sub-routes	Rivers and large creeks	Time (in days)	Researchers
Begin sub-route 1: September 21-30, 2005	Sipaliwini, Akarapi eeku, Manicoeni eeku, Murai, Kijapokomahpe, Apeje eeku	10 days	Jalouefah, Keeng, Wuta, Scappie, Sotense, Wakusa, Menjo, Jawarasa, Peeri, Koita
Begin sub-route 2: October 3-12, 2005	Wiumi river, Alalapadu, Wurapa eeku, Napeke eeku, Sipari eeku, Tuha eeku, Maraka eeku, Kananaman eeku	10 days	All except Jalouefah and Skapie

The team visited 82 creeks and rivers. Many of the identified creek names were shown to be missing on the existing Trio map (ACT, 2001), and some of the rivers were shown to be inaccurately named. The correct name was added to each location, and its position was georeferenced through GPS. Each night, the data was downloaded to the computer. The

researcher Keng worked with the GPS software, while Wuta recorded all information gathered on the journey.

When returning back to Paramaribo, the volunteer Oliver Smith assisted with the process of merging track files that were downloaded to the computer by the Indians during the expedition. These results were e-mailed (October 20) to the ACT-Brazil mapping specialist Wesley Pacheco for further analysis and insertion in a final map of southern Suriname. The expedition resulted in the first set of digital tracks of rivers and creeks, as well as waypoints, with updated information on traditional lands south of Kwamalasamutu.

CHALLENGES

The main challenge in updating the Trio maps was that the system employed to acquire field data was more advanced than that previously utilized. This included more complex logistical arrangements with high-tech equipment, such as a laptop computer with generator.

FOLLOW UP

Evaluation of mapping expedition with Trio chief Asongo and the mapping researchers (November 14), and planning of second route expedition.

PHOTO ANNEX



Gathering GPS data at Ooto Entu (Sipaliwini)



Images of the expedition to southern Suriname