



**FIRST  
TRANS-BOUNDARY MEETING  
ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**JUNE 6<sup>th</sup> AND 7<sup>th</sup> 2006**



Suriname



Brazil



**THE  
AMAZON  
CONSERVATION  
TEAM**

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**Report**  
**FIRST TRANS-BOUNDARY MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE**  
**BRAZIL-SURINAME BORDER REGION**  
**Kwamalasamutu, Suriname June 3-4, 2006**  
**Paramaribo, Suriname, June 6-7, 2006**

## **Introduction**

The Amazon Conservation Team (ACT) and its tribal partners have been involved in culturally mapping some of the most remote pristine rainforests in the world. These mapping areas cross the borders of countries and show the land-use activities of tribal groups. As such, the Brazil-Suriname border region has been depicted into ethnographic maps in partnership with the Brazilian national indigenous affairs agency, the Suriname Bureau of Aerial mapping and the Trios/Tirio's and Wayanas/Apalay indigenous peoples. ACT and its partners have mapped all indigenous lands bordering Brazil, improving protection for a 20 million acre region of high biological diversity in northeast Amazon.

Mapping gives the opportunity to identify areas where border protection is needed by prompting exact locations of illegal activities, such as small-scale gold mining, logging and trafficking, allowing the Government to commence judicial action against illicit activities in the Brazil-Suriname border region. Such combined actions of indigenous groups and authorities have been implemented in Brazil and ensure improved protection in cross-border areas, as called for in the latest UN Convention for Biological Diversity Conference of Parties.

In this regard, ACT-Suriname and ACT-Brazil have held a meeting focusing on networking between each other to reach effective environmental protection in the Brazil-Suriname border region. The objectives of the meeting are:

- (1) To discuss and promote the improvement of bio-cultural protection in the border region
- (2) To bring closer institutions and indigenous communities which are willing to protect the border area.
- (3) To establish trans-border strategies of identifications, communication and actions of protection
- (4) Identify and monitor the common problems of protection in the border area
- (5) Present the alternatives and answers to fight bio-piracy, animal trafficking and garimpeiros, illegal entry of people in protected areas, illegal airstrips, predatory hunting and fishing
- (6) Strengthen partnerships between indigenous communities and organizations involved.

The first part of the meeting was held among indigenous tribes in Kwamalasamutu on June 3-4<sup>th</sup> 2006 and specifically gave an opportunity for forest peoples along the borders to discuss their problems, threats and joint actions for protection. The second part of the meeting took place in Paramaribo. Brazilian and Surinamese environmental organizations, Government representatives, armed forces, NGO's and indigenous people working in the border region had an opportunity to share experiences, understand each others needs, and network towards effective protection of the border region.

**Kwamalasamutu, June 3rd 2006**

**PART I      Official opening of the meeting**

**ACT Suriname's Sonja Lisse** opened the meeting by explaining the main reason why these talks are being held and also what kind of key issues related to environmental protection will be discussed during this first trans-boundary meeting between Brazil and Suriname. Sonja Lisse also noted that this particular meeting was being organized together with our Brazilian counterparts from ACT Brazil because of the similar problems they are confronted with on their side of the Brazil-Suriname border such as illegal garimpeiros, animal trafficking, malaria spread etc. She stated that the Surinamese government only has limited resources available for monitoring and protection of the border region, so the villagers are the ones that can set a good example and lend a hand by being the ears and eyes of the forest.

**Granman Asongo Alalaparoe** thanked everyone for being present and regretted that the indigenous people from Missao Tiriyo were unable to attend the meeting, but was hopeful that they indeed will participate the next time such a meeting is organized. He asked Mark Plotkin, President of ACT for help with the production of land use maps, which he did receive. Granman stated that they, the indigenous people, are thinking of their future generations and that is the main reason why they are asking for land rights. The indigenous people do not want activities on their lands that can have a negative impact on the local community and especially the environment. (Activities or persons such as: garimpeiros, wood logging, animal trafficking/trade and so on). They want to keep safe the important (medicinal) plants, types of wood etc. for future generations. Granman remarked that he has asked the Surinamese government for assistance on numerous occasions and every time he has gotten the same reply; namely to be patient. But he's not going to give up, because the future of his children and grandchildren depends solely on his efforts.

**ACT's president Mark Plotkin** thanked everyone for being present at the meeting. He was delighted to see everyone gathered, in order to work together and stressed that cooperation of all the different organizations present is very necessary for the right implementation of development projects.

Facilitator Marieke Heemskerk requested everyone present to introduce themselves.

## **PART II Identification of common problems and protective actions in the border region**

### **Presentation on Threats analysis**

#### **by Marcelo Segalerba (Amazon Conservation Team Brazil)**

Marcelo Segalerba held a presentation about the difference between a threat (risk) and a problem. He explained that some things are problems and others are threats. Examples of problems are: garimpeiros (gold miners), and tourism. The (Guyanese) military also creates a problem and they can bring along other problems such as hunting, logging and bio-piracy. Another example is the Brazilian military that have the task to protect the border and work together with the indigenous peoples. This is not always the case. For example they over hunt, don't respect secret places as well as places of cultural value to the indigenous community. He stressed that he is not against military or tourism but you need to be aware, open your eyes and watch it carefully, because it can (and usually does) have an impact on the community. Animal trafficking is illegal and considered a crime in Brazil.

Marcelo explained that you can't just move animals from one place to another. Another identified problem is sexual diseases; the impact can be long term and indigenous women are especially affected (Missao Tiriyo and neighboring communities). When large companies build dams in rivers, certain areas will get flooded and this in turn will cause a lot of problems for fauna and flora, leading to the extinction and/or disappearance of certain species. Also, the landscape is going to change and climatic changes could occur. Giving tourists the ability to go hunting for game is a possibility that can pose a major threat.

Marieke Heemskerk divided the whole assembly into separate groups and explained the purpose of the exercise for that day on identifying the threats and problems in the area. The groups had extended deliberations and met after an hour to present their results.

#### **Group 1: Granman Asongo, Wakusja, Aines, James, Pesiphe Presentation by Wakusja**

Wakusja explained that tourists are everywhere (for example, Wayana lands, at Amotopo etc.) and the Surinamese government is aware of our concerns, but still we have not received a reply from them. The tourists take away a lot of animals (especially fish and plant species). Animal traders from Paramaribo are searching for specific rare animals, especially birds to take away to the city for further trade out of Suriname. Another posed threat is the gold prospectors, usually from Brazil, and are operating close to Kwamalasamutu. It's also rumored that there is gold to be found in the 'Vier Gebroeders' area. Brazilians have arrived to do some gold prospecting and Granman sent the message to the local villagers to chase those people away.

#### **Group 2: Mennio, Nuta, Ewka, Jang, Jenever, Santana Presentation by Mennio**

Mennio's group is worried about the dam to be built in the Kabalebo River. They know that if the dam is built, there will be flooding of areas, which of course will bring along huge problems; the forest will be destroyed and the fish will die. The garimpeiros poison and pollute our waters so we cannot drink from the river anymore and people who do so will get sick. We want to protect our water supply. Moreover, several wood logging companies are active that destroy our forest; important medicinal plants and trees which do not grow back easily after deforestation. Mennio stated that they don't want tourists to walk around everywhere just as they please and they should be accompanied by a guide, preferably a local person. "We do not want foreigners (city people and others) just come in and steal our wildlife or bring it away and they need to ask our permission first". "We want land rights."

**Group 3: Eseke, Philip, Idaisa**  
**Presentation by Eseke**

Eseke told everyone that their presentation didn't differ that much with the previous held presentations, "but what we want to accentuate the importance of having good drinking water". "We mainly use rain water and river water as drinking water. So during the dry season, we don't have any drinking water available. City people have access to several kinds of drinking water but this is not the same for us. I think we need to look more carefully after our waterways. We are eager to generate some means of income from, for example, the gold mining sector, but not at the cost of our health, because our waterways can be polluted. Garimpeiros pollute our fish and we can get sick from eating these infected fish and we don't want that happening. Bauxite mining companies have made plans to build dams in the area near the village of Apoera in western Suriname. This can have a negative impact on the fish stand. Everywhere gets flooded and a lot of animals die because they can not escape. Wood logging companies (especially the Chinese) destroy the woods. We don't practice clear cutting like certain logging companies. We cut down trees when the land is ideal to plant crops or because we need wood or building materials for our houses. Big companies destroy the forest to make big roads for transport. We don't do that. We fight for our rights because we are thinking of our children and their future. We desperately need your help.

Facilitator Marieke Heemskerk stated she was glad to see everyone did their best to put the issues on paper. She stressed the difference between a risk (threat) and a problem. A threat is not yet a problem and its consequences are not yet felt, while a problem is something that has already occurred and the consequences thereof are already apparent. The schedule for the next day was discussed.

Wuta ended the first meeting day by saying the indigenous people need to fight to achieve their land rights and to not give up this cause.

Kwamalasamutu, June 4rd 2006

### **PART III Strategy for future protection of the border region**

#### **Presentation on Land Rights in Brazil**

**by Julio Cesar Borges (Amazon Conservation Team Brazil)**

Julio Cesar Borges noted that Brazil maybe isn't the ideal country in the world, but in South America they have the most beneficial circumstances for indigenous people. The Government has a moral obligation to recognize land rights, because of Brazil's colonial history. Wayana's and other indigenous tribes were the first landowners, but due to colonization, their lands were owned by the Europeans. In the past the Brazilian Government did not recognize indigenous rights to the lands and at the same time was handing over land to foreigners.

In Brazil and the rest of Latin America, indigenous groups have organized themselves in order to get their land rights recognized by the government and so they can live according to old ways. In order to achieve land rights, you must do so in an organized manner.

In 1988, the constitution was changed and a law was instated to grant land rights to insurrection and coordinated efforts by indigenous people. At first the idea was to create a reservation where tribal groups could live according to their own ways; they have the right to use the lands (above ground). This new law obligates the Brazilian government to consult with the indigenous people before implementing Government development projects on indigenous territory. Although land rights were achieved, the Government is not responsible for protection of the lands, so the indigenous community has to be mobilized for protection.

After 1989, several countries ratified the ILO (International Labor Organization) convention, but not Suriname, which means that the Surinamese government does not recognize indigenous land rights. If indigenous communities mobilize and work together they can pressure the government to ratify the convention and in this way acquire land rights and provide better protection of their lands. Brazil achieved independence in 1822 and it took up until 1988 to get land rights recognized. Within South America, Brazil does provide the best protection of indigenous land rights. Granman is advised to clearly indicate areas of protection and risk areas on the maps and to present these to the Surinamese Government. These maps can function as a means of acquiring better protection by indigenous people themselves. ACT can provide training for vigilance and to help set up border posts.

#### **Presentation on Protection**

**by Marcelo Segalerba (Amazon Conservation Team Brazil)**

Marcelo's presentation:

In Brazil there are several risks and problems such as garimpeiros and ranchers. On the Surinamese side, there are problems with wildlife trade and also foreigners that invade the territory to work in mostly the gold sector. You need to be prepared for everything and everyone that wants to invade your territory. When government, NGO's and indigenous people come together, they are stronger and can deal with invaders much better. It is important to set up monitoring posts along the borders which are manned by indigenous park and/or forest rangers that have received training and are fully equipped with all necessary tools (radio, GPS, uniforms, computers, boats, maps) to provide the optimal protection of the lands. Protection is not easy; it requires a lot of financial investment and support. Also very important is the legislation. Without a sound legal basis it is very hard to achieve positive results.

## **Discussion / debate:**

Captain Ewka from Sipaliwini stated that they have had numerous problems with garimpeiros. He has asked for help from ACT in the past, but that didn't work, because ACT isn't authorized to sort this problem out. That's the reason why we started the TALAWA foundation (TALAWA stands for: Trio and Wayana); this way we can achieve better protection therefore it is imperative that we must build border posts for protection.

Marcelo agreed with what captain Ewka said and that the sooner the posts are built, the better. He also said that this land belongs to the indigenous people, so they are the best candidates for protecting the land. Marcelo also noted that ACT is not the police; ACT cannot arrest people, but it can provide the people with training on the subjects of vigilance and monitoring.

When the question was posed as to how to deal with garimpeiros that have invaded the territory, Marcelo answered, "that you need to make sure that you know exactly what's happening, watch everything carefully and write everything down, make risk maps and maps of areas of protection and hand these maps over to the police and other authorities that are required to provide protection by law (reinforcement authorities), don't try to take matters into your own hands, because it can get dangerous. Leave it over to the police or military to deal with these people."

Wuta came forward and presented the first map that was hand drawn by the indigenous people. Granman is gathering his people from all sides to tell them how to protect their own lands. At the moment we are doing an update of the existing maps, but they aren't finished yet. Marcelo replied by saying that, "In Brazil. they are training representatives of indigenous communities to become trainers themselves. This way they can train other villagers when they get back. Marcelo expressed his hope that the same will be done in the future in Suriname and he considers his indigenous colleagues as professionals that do important work.

The following question was posed: 'What if there are diamonds found in the ground that is indigenous territory? Marcelo answered by saying; "that you need to discuss these issues amongst each other first and then decide together how to address them. But you need to consider what the consequences will be for the village and the forest, also the flora and fauna, when the mining companies start exploiting the minerals. Where do you want to be in 20 years? What kind of life do you want to live? Do you want a place where the people live in harmony with nature or with a lot of garimpeiros and big companies everywhere around"?

Felix made a remark that they want to receive training in environmental protection and inquired when the training will start. Rachele Bong A Jan explained that at the moment, we are still discussing the identification of risk areas and protection areas. After this phase is completed, we will start training the indigenous people to become park guards and forest rangers as well as establishing a network of border posts and other necessary infrastructure. There is a lot of work ahead of us, this is merely the beginning.

Santana (a participant that came all the way from Curuni- in the west of Suriname) said that it's the first time he heard of these issues and that he wants to talk much further. He also stated that near his village of Curuni they have had some problems with tourists removing various plants, fish etc., and also there is a threat from the Guyanese military. Marcelo replied by saying that the best thing to do would be to communicate with each other what it is exactly that you want and don't want, what actions to take, how to take them, when to take them, who and where.

James was wondering how the indigenous people from Brazil achieved their land rights. Marcello replied by stating, "First you need to organize meetings within the village and between villages to discuss

demarcation of the territory, identification of sacred sites and places with high cultural value, identification of uses of the land (traditional use) to be put in maps. These maps should be presented to the government and NGOs. Hereafter the negotiation process between government, NGOs and indigenous communities can take place with eventually the aid of lawyers, anthropologists etc. In the end an official declaration should be drawn up. Another important piece of advice is that in order to fight something you need to know your weapons, so you need to be well prepared and if you are in need of help don't be afraid to ask for it. Another important step is affirmative action. Try talking to politicians on a regular basis."

Julio noted that in Brazil after years of fights and struggles, people finally started to realize that indigenous people have rights to the lands as much as every other citizen and every time we lose a tribe, invaluable knowledge gets lost altogether. Every tribe delivers an important contribution to the cultural richness of the indigenous peoples.

James posed another question: "How did the forest rangers project come about?" Marcelo responded, "The first selection took place by the government, but these were corrupt, that is why nowadays, the selection takes place from the indigenous community with assistance of NGOs. It's very important to educate your children. A strong culture is a prerequisite for protection."

**Presentation on Risk maps  
by Granman Asongo (TALAWA)**

Granman Asongo's presentation

Granman finished the meeting by standing at the risk maps and stating the following: These maps are the end result of the information we've brought forward to ACT employees. If you take a look at the symbols underneath the maps, you will be able to read the maps. Every map indicates something else. For instance, one map indicates where the villages, camps and pathways are located while another one gives an idea of areas we want to keep safe for future generations. We need to be alert and careful, because there are a lot of valuable things we have that others want to take from us. If foreigners come to our lands, we need to keep an eye on them.

**Sketches: Acting out current problems**

With role playing, the ACT staff from Suriname and Brazil addressed the issue of how to deal with garimpeiros.

**Synthesis of the meeting**

Marieke Heemskerk summarized the strategies and actions that came up during the meeting and need to be undertaken by various actors (see table below).

GOAL	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
Demarcation of indigenous territory	Organize a national meeting	The indigenous community and the maroon community
Achieve Land Rights	-affirmative action (regular talks) -more information on how land rights were achieved in other countries e.g. Brazil	-Indigenous community and Surinamese government -ACT Brazil and indigenous community
Place infrastructure	Build camps / posts where water originates	Indigenous community and NGOs (ACT)



Protect the environment	Removal of garimpeiros	Indigenous community, government and event. ACT
Fight wildlife trade and trafficking	Regulate hunting/gathering of fish and game: -only indigenous people may catch animals -hunting can only occur according to the indigenous hunting law -teach/educate the youth on hunting rules -designate one person with the protection of one species and to monitor it's population - write and publish an indigenous law for hunting and fishing	Indigenous community and ACT
Knowledge transfer between Suriname and Brazil	Training in several areas: -communication: use of GPS, computers, satellite phones -mapping -park rangers / forest ranger courses -maintenance of tools and equipment e.g. outboard boat engines	Indigenous community, ACT Suriname and Brazil and other NGOs
Awareness and capacity building	more meetings to further discuss issues concerning indigenous people	Indigenous communities from Suriname and Brazil (e.g. Missao Tiriyo) and NGO's

**Paramaribo, June 6<sup>th</sup> 2006**

**PART I      Official opening of the meeting**

Due to some technical difficulties, the meeting started 30 minutes later than planned. Marieke Heemskerk was the appointed facilitator for the day.

**8.55 AM      Welcoming remarks by facilitator Marieke Heemskerk**

The participants were welcomed and the opening speech was held by the current director of the Amazon Conservation Team (ACT), Mrs. Gwendolyn Emanuels-Smith.

**9.00 AM      Opening speech by the Director of ACT-Suriname  
(Mrs. Gwendolyn Emanuels-Smith)**

Gwendolyn Emanuels-Smith welcomed all the participants and explained why this meeting was so important. The main goal for this meeting was to get all stakeholders together and come to a more effective methodology in implementing actions and promoting environmental awareness and protection for the border region. Mrs. Emanuels-Smith informed the participants that this gathering was the second part of the trans-boundary meeting; the first part of the meeting was held in Kwamalasamutu (June 3-4<sup>th</sup>, 2006). This meeting is an historic event, not only because it's the first Suriname-Brazil encounter for discussing the border protection but also because yesterday (5 June 2006) was the International day for the Environment.

Furthermore, Gwendolyn Emanuels-Smith also talked about the United Nations, which promotes cross-border cooperation and stressed that this meeting is a way of supporting the UN's objectives. The natural disasters, such as the occurrence of flooding in the southern part of Suriname (May-June 2006); the plague of leaf cutting ants; threats of large scale mining and illegal activities are very good examples of the necessity for this meeting. The meeting focuses on the border region (North-Brazil and South-Suriname). The area has the same geomorphology, flora, fauna, waters and also the same indigenous peoples of the Tareno tribe.

In 2000 land-use maps were developed by the Tareno's in partnership with ACT. This mapping project in South-Suriname is presently an ongoing process and the basic tool for land management planning. But land protection concepts have changed in the world. Many protected areas only exist on paper and focus on the protection of biodiversity (flora and fauna). Nowadays protection is more integrated in politics, development plans and forest peoples lives (e.g. the indigenous peoples can be the eyes and ears of the Government). Establishing a network can play a key role in environmental protection. Finally, Mrs. Emanuels-Smith quoted Trio-chief "I don't want my children to be scattered with a gun shot instead they must retain a unified group to become stronger". Mrs. Emanuels-Smith ended her speech by thanking all the participants for attending the meeting.

**9.06 AM      Opening speech by Organization of American States  
(Mr. Fitzgerald Bramble)**

The director of the OAS-Suriname stated that this trans-boundary meeting was a special occasion for the OAS. This meeting is a reflection of the commitment that the OAS has with the OAS-member states. Mr. Bramble states that there is a geometric imbalance between the increased and intensified/abused use of nature and the replenishing of natural resources. Mr. Bramble indicates the problem and/or negative impacts the nature of Haiti is currently undergoing and warns about the negative impact the intensified use

of the forest can have on the northern Brazil and southern Suriname border. Mr. Bramble repeatedly reminded the participants of the fact that great efforts must be made to protect our environment. Furthermore, he indicated that this meeting is a great opportunity to discuss and inform or create an effective methodology to solve this problem (how to effectively protect the environment).

Through the department for sustainable development, the OAS has teamed up with ACT in a project implemented in the Suriname-Brazil border region, in order to address the matter of sustainable development (land mapping, land management activities in order to protect the environment).

Mr. Bramble stressed the responsibility of the country by quoting article 33 of the charter of the OAS: "Development is a primary responsibility of each country and should constitute an integral and continuous process for the establishment of a more just economic and social order that will make possible and contribute to the fulfillment of the individual." To archive the objectives mentioned above (article 33) the citizens of the associated countries, in this case: the people of the Brazil-Suriname border region, will have to stand up for their rights and address the problems in their region. Problems such as: bio-piracy, animal trafficking, illegal airstrips, predatory hunting and fishing.

To summarize: the people have to look inside themselves to make responsible decisions concerning the use of their lands, so that future generations can also enjoy the natural resources.

Finally, Mr. Bramble emphasized the fact that the OAS will continue to play a leading role in this hemisphere in promoting environmental protection and sustainable development. The organization of OAS will continue to foster and promote cooperation in this regard and the OAS is happily willing to be partnering with the ACT.

#### **9.20 AM      Opening speech by the Minister of Physical Planning, Land- and Forest Management (Mr. M. Jong Tjien Fa)**

The minister Jong Tjien Fa started his speech with greeting all the participants and acknowledges the fact that the government is aware of the needs for environmental protection. Minister Jong Tjien Fa gave a historical review of environmental expeditions done by various researchers and mentioned the different laws concerning environmental protection.

He also stressed the need for solving the land rights issue and explained that his Ministry is well aware that this a priority issue. He officially opened the meeting and wished all participants a fruitful meeting.

## **PART II Identification of common problems and protective actions in the border region**

### **9.35 AM Presentation: Environmental Threats in the Tumucumaque Region by Marcelo Segalerba (Amazon Conservation Team Brazil)**

Marcelo Segalerba presented the environmental threats in the Northern Brazil area – the Tumucumaque region. Marcel Segalerba started with a short introduction about the Tumucumaque region; a general view of the threats and environmental problems in this region was briefly enlightened. Marcelo Segalerba stated that the location of the indigenous communications the ACT works is in the Tumucumaque region. Marcelo Segalerba then described the study area, the Tumucumaque area. Marcelo also stated that the particular geological formations found in the confluence of the frontiers of the different Suriname, Brazil, and French Guyana areas which gives the name of the different zones.

The area description could be seen projected on a screen. He also showed more of less defined areas by the indigenous lands (Tumucumaque Indigenous land and Paru Del Este), Tumucumaque Natural Park and a not well defined area of Suriname and French Guyana.

These threats can be treated as problems. The problems that have to resolved, are sometimes difficult to understand (e.g. waste without treatment in the villages). These problems also have cause and effect. To solve these problems, a methodology should be developed, for example, capacity building and waste management. In addition, Mr. Segalerba suggested that a cultural map should be created by the indigenous community. In this map, the cultural values should be represented and also the places and/or areas these indigenous people want to protect. Finally, He suggested that a risk map should be created (this means risk of loss and damage). A risk map could be helpful in anticipation before the occurrence of destruction. In the end, Marcelo Segalerba listed some environmental problems, such as hunting taking place and also forest fires, illegal airstrips, garimpeiros camps, and rapid deforestation. On the satellite photographs, illegal airstrips could also be seen on the Suriname territory. Other problems are poaching of animals (parrot, singing birds, etc). It is very difficult to solve these problems. Finally Marcelo Segalerba stated: “We are with few people, but that does not mean that we should stop. No, we should go on and on and on until our own objectives are achieved.”

### **10.15 AM Presentation: Terras Indígenas no Brasil: Panorama da Situação Jurídica by Julio Borges. (Amazon Conservation Team Brazil) --**

Julio Borges described the situation in Brazil regarding indigenous territories and indicated that there are 750.000 indigenous people in Brazil. Julio Borges also gave a historical view of the government; for example, that Brazil had a military regime in 70-80. Julio Borges quoted certain articles of the Brazilian constitution. One of the articles quoted by Julio Borges states that indigenous people are forbidden to hunt fish, animals, husbandry and agriculture in certain areas.

Finally, Julio Borges states that the government must respect and protect the cultural, natural and social rights of indigenous people; also that land is not the only source of wealth.

### **11.00 AM Presentation: Aspects of the Environmental Protection of the National Park “Montanhas do Tumucumaque” in Amapa/ Brazil by Christoph Jaster (IBAMA -Instituto Brasileiro de Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis) –**

Tumucumaque is a border park; and its borders/ limits are divided into two points. It is a very remote area, difficult to reach. In the area, an informal form of tourism is practiced (small shops, etc). In the park it is strictly forbidden to hunt and fish. These activities have to be controlled. This also includes subsistence agriculture along the rivers (erosion, deforestation, illegal occupation by man at the border with French Guyana, 5000 Brazilian garimpeiros). It is not known which legislation, French or Brazilian, is

applicable in the area. In the neighborhood of the national park there have been 20 airstrips identified of which some are still active. Problems in this park are: informal tourism, mining (garimpo), hunting and fishing, subsistence agriculture, trade, bio-piracy and illegal occupation.

Some of the future plans/perspectives could be: partnerships with police and indigenous people, control illegal airstrips, and implementing environmental monitoring. Other future perspectives include: promoting the relationship between Suriname and Brazil, controlling illegal airstrips, working with geo-processing and environmental monitoring. The National Park of Tumucumaque relies on financial resources from IBAMA and APPA programs.

**11.25 AM      Presentation: Current Vision of Trio and Wayana Indigenous Communities in the Suriname-Brazil border region  
by TALAWA (represented by Granman Asongo of the Trio indigenous groups)**

Granman Asongo was delighted to be invited to this conference. In the past Granman Asongo stated that he had asked for help with development of land maps of his tribal area, ACT-Suriname was one of the organizations who helped his people. Thanks to the ACT the mapping of the Trio area is an ongoing project. Granman Asongo stated that he is someone that does not only think at the life of the present generations of indigenous peoples, but that he also thinks about the future generations of his tribe.

Granman Asongo wants to protect the area and if possible keep it as it was when his forefathers lived on the land. The Granman stated that he is a citizen of the interior and that he can get almost everything he needs from the rainforest. Granman Asongo stated that he drinks water from the rivers and creeks, and does not need spring-water from the capital, Paramaribo. So to Granman Asongo and his tribe, it is very important to keep the area free from pollution.

Granman Asongo states that the government was asked to acknowledge the Trio area and thus give the area to the Trio's, so it can be protected against garimpeiros and other illegal activities.

**11.45 AM      Presentation: Identification of Common Problems of Protection in the Suriname-Brazil Border Region  
by Bryan Drakenstein (Ministry of Physical planning, Land- and Forest Management)**

Bryan Drakenstein presented the organization of the Ministry and its role and mandate in protection in general. He appointed the various laws that give the Ministry to mandate actions in the field. He stressed that problems could be identified in the southern part of the country in areas of wildlife management (illegal trans-boundary trade of wildlife, sport hunting / wildlife trade and the high enforcement costs. Mr. Drakenstein explained the plans that the Government has with management of protected areas, such as the Sipaliwini Management Plan, which is under review by the Ministry. Also, the tourism activities in the region are proposed by Conservation International. He generally stated that there is a lack of data concerning the trans-boundary region and shares some thoughts with the participants on how regional development planning, the existing Sipaliwini Management Plan and wildlife management can work together in protecting the region.

**12.05 PM      Presentation: Role of SEMA in Protection of the Suriname-Brazil Border Region  
by Marcello Newton (Secretario de Estado de Meio Ambiente SEMA)**

Mr. Newton talked about several projects, such as "Projeto Arco Norte", which was developed by the government -AMAPA-state through which he hopes that Suriname, Brazil, and French Guyana will work together. He also depicts a map presenting the infrastructure (roads, waterways) in which the Guianas, Suriname, Brazil and Venezuela will be connected together. It will be necessary to develop

networks for organizations to work together. Eventually, AMAPA is organizing an international meeting about protecting bio-diversity.

**12.19 PM      Presentation: Trans-boundary Environmental Protection Suriname-Brazil:  
a NIMOS perspective  
by Cedric Nelom (National Institute for Environment and Development in  
Suriname NIMOS)**

Cedric Nelom presented the main actors in environmental management in Suriname, including NIMOS. He elaborated on the task of NIMOS – advisory to the Government, to prepare legislation and regulations and to coordinate matters that deal with compliance to the rules. Cedric Nelom raised a number of trans-boundary concerns including: illegal trade, mercury pollution, genetically modified organisms and loss of biodiversity through forest fires. NIMOS will be facing many challenges in the border region, especially with no environmental management law in place and relatively “open” borders. He encourages collaboration (information sharing) between IBAMA and NIMOS in implementation of legislation and environmental monitoring and enforcement.

**12.35 PM      Presentation: Trans-boundary Conservation: a New Vista  
by Annette Tjon Sie Fat (Conservation International Suriname)**

Annette Tjon Sie Fat gave an overview of the work of CI Suriname, including ecotourism as an economic alternative, education and awareness, research and capacity building for science development, protected area development, capacity building of local communities, informing policy, and monitoring environmental threats. She gives a brief overview about Central Suriname’s Nature Reserve/Kwinti area which is used for eco-tourism development and research. In the South-Suriname region/Trio area, with the protected area in Sipaliwini, this may be used for protected area development and eco-tourism. She stressed that the challenges in South Suriname are the settlement of land rights issues and economic opportunities for people in the interior, conceptual grasp of economic value of bio-diversity conservation, working in different cultures and levels, local, national and international and strengthening adaptive strategies versus increasing dependence.

Annette Tjon Sie Fat also found that logging, small-scale gold mining and mercury pollution, the large-scale integrated bauxite industry being explored in West Suriname, road construction, disappearance of mangrove and rising sea level, may be the most immediate threats to the region.

**14.05 PM      Presentation: ACTO Environmental Agenda and Trans-boundary Dynamics in the  
Amazon region.  
by Louis Alberto Oliveros (Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization ACTO)**

Louis Alberto Oliveros described the ACTO, including its mission, objectives and structure. The organization was established to raise concern about the Amazon region, which is one of the most priority regions in the world. ACTO’s work with the 8 member countries (including Suriname), primarily focuses on strategic framework and a regional action plan on bio-diversity, coordination of applied research and strengthening capacity building. He explained the specific conservations actions to be taken by ACT and its partners such as;

1. Establishment of ecological corridors and protected areas in boundary zones,
2. Propose to the responsible government the establishment and/or effective management of one ecological corridor and three protected areas in boundary zones,
3. Define the supplementary financial needs and alternatives to finance the protected areas,

4. Have a feasible proposal to have access to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) financing mechanism and to establish, in ACTO, a mechanism of environmental analytical and strategic information on biodiversity.

Louis Alberto Oliveros also explained the philosophy of an active frontier, having an interrelation between people who live on both sides of the frontier. He concluded with elaborating on the ACTO recently commenced biodiversity project which among others has the objective of developing conservation actions. He also suggested that Brazil and Suriname could define a biological conservation corridor/bio-national area and start an organizational boundary integration process (health, education, telecommunications, conservation), with joint actions and making use of common resources.

#### **14.35 PM Presentation: Estado do Amapá Polícia Militar Batalhão Ambiental**

by Alvaro de Oliveira Correa Júnior

Alvaro de Oliveira showed the participants pictures of the work of the organization which was established in 1997 as a support to the Government's enforcement structure. The environmental police of Amapa consist of 235 people spread over 15 stations. He explained that the force is not only working with motorized units on land, but also on water with specialized boat patrol. He explained that one of the main problems is dealing with garimpeiros that have retracted onto island around the rivers in Amapa.

The Batalhão is involved in environmental education for children and capacity building of individuals from companies, NGO's etc. Batalhão ambiental is involved in social projects; youth between 5 and 12 years are encouraged to sports such as swimming, karate/capoeira (8-15 yrs) and soccer (280 students).

#### **Synthesis of Day 1**

Facilitator Marieke Heemskerk presented the summary of the first day of the meeting

- All participants agreed to that the border region, as referred to in this meeting, consisted of Suriname, Brazil and also French Guyana.
- Exchange of biological and cultural diversity across the border is the main issue to be addressed.
- Throughout the meeting, several stakeholders addressed problems and threats, such as:

Problems and treats in the border region
Small-scale gold mining
Illegal hunting and fishing
Animal trafficking/illegal wildlife trade (singing birds)
Bio-piracy
Transport of radio-active material (uranium)
Transport of ozone-depleting substances
Illegal airstrips
Illegal tourism
Illegal settlement
Logging/timber concessions
Subsistence agriculture near rivers
Road construction

- The main stakeholders in the border region are the Government (environmental organizations and armed forces), indigenous peoples and the NGO's, who have identified their need for collaboration

and communication. The meetings participants agreed on the need for stronger presence of armed forces and police, first-line park guards, improved monitoring on the ground and with GIS, unity among indigenous groups, tri-lateral cooperation between Suriname, Brazil and French Guyana and financial support from countries and organizations for this collaborative effort.

The various stakeholders all have their own specific activities needs in ensuring effective border protection:

<b>Government</b>	<b>Indigenous Peoples</b>	<b>NGO's</b>
Environmental legislation (not in Suriname)	Mapping of territories as tools for monitoring and protection	Participatory mapping with indigenous groups
Bilateral cooperation	Border guards as eyes and ears of the Government and do first actions to problems themselves	Capacity building and training of indigenous as border guards
Monitoring animal trafficking	Customary natural resource management with written laws	Meetings/networking of stakeholders in the border region
Establish ecological corridors	Youth education	Economic activities with indigenous groups
Military posts in interior (Brazil)	Appoint community focal points for species monitoring	

- The main challenges listed to ensure effective border protection were: transportation costs, isolation of the area, population growth in Brazil, roads adjacent to the national parks in Brazil, needs for economic development of indigenous peoples and solving the land rights issue in Suriname.

The summary, presented on wallpaper, was depicted on the wall for participants during the whole meeting to make corrections or add-on issues that should have been included.



Wednesday, June 7, 2006

**PART III Strategy for future protection of the border region**

**9.00 AM Developing a framework for collaboration  
by facilitator Marieke Heemskerk**

Marieke Heemskerk welcomed the participants and gave a short overview of the first day's results. She explained that this day we would work on presenting a common strategy to fight illegal activities strengthening partnerships between indigenous peoples and community and law enforcement organizations. She proposed to divide the group into four smaller groups to have more thorough and focused discussions. The participants were divided into 4 groups:

- Group 1: NGO's / Indigenous people*  
Marcelo Segalerba, Marieke Heemskerk, James Makadepung, Anette Tjon Sie Fat, Asongo Alalaparoe, Aines Japanaloe, Pesiphe Padoe.
- Group 2: NGO's / Indigenous people*  
Julio Cesar Borges, Rachelle Bong A Jan, Ewka Oochpatapo, Jang Djeneninpe, Jacqueline Jubithana, Loreen Jubitana, Lupita Oekimuung
- Group 3: Armed Forces*  
Sonja Lisse, Alvaro de Oliveira Junior, Ewald Eyndhoven, Franklin Amier, Dietrich Breeveld, Roy Hotsoi, Armand Tjin A Ton
- Group 4: Government / environmental organizations*  
Margarida Bronzoni, Humberto Gomez, Gerda Sichtman, Olivier Gadan, Christoph Jaster, Silvio de Souza, Shelley Soetosenojo, Jornell Vinkwol, Muriel Held, Terry Hewitt, Grace Wagimin, Chiquita Margaret, Luis Alberto Oliveros, Marcelo Newton, Ingrid Krisnadath

Each group had 2.5 hours of time to develop a framework for future collaboration including

- 1) Goal/purpose for the collaboration,
- 2) Actions and activities,
- 3) Timeline, both short term and long term,
- 4) Resources needed and,
- 5) Responsibility/commitment.

**12.15 PM Presentations by focus groups**

The meeting reconvened after lunch and Marieke Heemskerk gave each group the opportunity to present the results of the discussions.

- Group 1: NGO's / Indigenous people*  
*Presenter: Granman Asongo Alalaparoe*

Granman Asongo presents the ideas they have developed during the debate. He proposed that the organizations working in the Southern-Suriname area should continue their work and specifically train the indigenous people. They also want to divide the indigenous peoples into different groups. The indigenous peoples need an open communication between Suriname and Brazil to share information with each other. Granman Asongo wants to appoint a professional to protect the area in every village. Problems and solutions needs to find their way through everyone who is already involved, and to also overcome the

different languages spoken. Persons who have received any training need to work together to protect the area and the government need to recognize them.

*Group 2: NGO's / Indigenous people*  
*Presenter: Loreen Jubitana*

Loreen Jubitana presented the goals of this group for collaboration: 1) look at the quality of life of local community, 2) ensure improved protection in cross border actions and 3) achievement of common vision and goals regarding legal, technical, structural and institutional law, taking in to account the participants of the local community. Out of discussions, the group thinks that specific joint actions can be the exchange of information about legislation for protected areas, water resources, research, environmental impact, resources, land rights, indigenous people, mining, forestry, education where institutions such as IBAMA, SEMA, NIMOS, Department of Nature Conservation (Natuur Beheer), Ministry of ATM, Ministry of Physical Planning and Forestry Management will work together in a short-time period (September). In addition, the group felt that they could jointly organize workshops and have technical cooperation such as physical protection, sociological collaboration, fire control, natural disasters, GIS, monitoring, bio-diversity, red list where institutions such as IBAMA, SEMA, NIMOS and some Ministries will work together in a time-line of two workshops within one year.

*Group 3: Armed forces*  
*Presenter: Sonja lisse*

Sonja Lisse presented the view of the armed forces on collaboration. She explained that sort term projects in Suriname such as environmental law (high priority) with acknowledgement of IBAMA and SEMA are a priority. After the environmental law is enforced, monitoring and controlling the area seems very important. Enforcement through the Forest Management authority, State Police, Military Police and Nature Conservation Division is needed. There must be joint actions between Departments from Suriname and Brazil for exchanging information, mainly through local and regional networks for the people and an information system. The Brazil team suggested that an information system can be created through the indigenous peoples' laws from Brazil and can be used as an example in implementing laws for the Suriname team. Funding for the projects must be found. The group also realized that the environmental law is currently analyzed by various ministries in Suriname. Batalhão Ambiental proposed that the Brazilian legislation can be used as an outline. Brazil does not have the same protection system as Suriname, so protection of the environment must be done by the two countries together and Batalhão can then assist with the training.

*Group 4: Government / environmental organizations*  
*Presenters: Shelley Soetosenojo en Chequita Margaret*

Shelley Soetosenojo and Chequita Margaret presented the main goals for collaboration of Government organizations: 1) achieve land rights with legal recognition, with actions such as regular negotiation between government and representatives of the indigenous people within a time limit - prior to the next political elections, 2) protection of land with actions such as border post where the monitoring, control and patrolling starts, training indigenous people by Government and vice versa and also hand over more power to indigenous people within a time limit of 1-5 years, 3) communication between the government, indigenous people and NGO's must improve on national and international levels with actions such as logistics within an ongoing time limit, 4) improving environmental legislation by changing some rules, for example, bio-piracy and trafficking of wildlife, lastly, 5) cooperation with activities of Suriname and Brazilian partners such as information exchange, organize workshops, and networking within an ongoing time limit.

The group thought about options for obtaining resources needed through consultants with knowledge of the legal system (legal advisors), and Global funds. They also need construction materials to

build posts, communication and navigation equipment (radio, GPS), transportation (boats, engines), and translators for better communication.

**14.55 PM      Closing**  
**by Director of ACT Suriname - Gwendolyn Emanuels-Smith**

All participants were given a declaration, which intends the collaborative effort for protection of the border region in the future. Many organizations did not have the mandate to sign such a declaration, so they took it back for approval.

A short word of thanks was given by Cristoph Jaster and Marcello Newton from the Brazil participants.

A short word of thanks was given by Nancy del Prado from the Surinamese participants.

Gwendolyn Emanuels-Smith closed the meeting and thanked all participants for their presence and cooperation, the ACT team of Brazil for their input, the translator and reporters and ACT Suriname supporting staff for their endless efforts. She explained that the objective of this meeting was achieved by bringing many organizations (governments, NGO's, etc) together to develop a framework for protection.

**List of Participants of the First Transboundary meeting on Environmental Protection, Kwamalasanutu 3-4 Juni and Paramaribo 6-7 Juni 2006**

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# PHOTOANNEX

Kwamalasamutu, 3-4 June 2006



# Paramaribo, 6-7 June 2006

