

ACTIVITY REPORT

Activity: Health Workshop for the Trio community of Tepu
Financed by: Organization of American States
Focal group: The Trio community of Tepu
Execution: The Amazon Conservation Team (ACT); President: Mark Plotkin;
ACT Suriname Program Director: Gwendolyn Emanuels-Smith
Counterparts: the Trio indigenous communities
Date: November 15, 2005

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this activity was to create awareness within the local community regarding the importance of improving adherence to personal hygiene.

COORDINATION

Activities were coordinated by the ACT Health Coordinator Melvin Uiterloo Health and the ACT Biodiversity Coordinator Angela Monorath.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants were the local community of Tepu, a translator, and local ACT staff.

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A meeting was held with Granman Pikumi to inform him of the contents of the workshops; the Granman received a synopsis of the workshop written in the Trio language. Prior to the presentation, Trio-language documents were distributed to all participants on food safety, kitchen hygiene, and hand hygiene; also distributed was a list of participants (approx. 55).

The workshop was conducted by Ms. Monorath through a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Monorath focused on hand hygiene and kitchen hygiene. Some points considered:

- The importance of maintaining nails at a length of less than a quarter inch.
- Means of preventing cross-contamination and protecting against infection.
- Hand washing with soap and water as a sensible strategy for hand hygiene in non-health care settings.
- The importance of good kitchen hygiene and personal hygiene in controlling the spread of harmful germs.
- Microbes on food that can cause food poisoning are usually controlled by heating (cooking) and/or storing the food, but given the chance they can easily spread around the kitchen – via our hands, chopping boards, cloths, knives, and other utensils.
- The importance of keeping domestic animals and pets as well as insect pests away from campsites and cooking and food-storing environments.

A hand washing demonstration was provided by Ms. Monorath based on WHO procedures and guidelines. The participants were asked to repeat what they had learned and to also train other community members. The workshop ended with a short evaluation and exam in the form of a questionnaire. The ACT staff member Cornelis and Ms. Monorath evaluated the answers, and the high scorers received hand-care sets.



Captain Mozes, local women, and Tepu children demonstrate their knowledge to the community



Cornelis evaluating questionnaire responses



Winners Shikampe (score 100) and zuster Patty (score 85) receive a hand-care set