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# REPORT/PROCEEDINGS ON THE WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES OF SOUTH SURINAME

Initial Stakeholder Consultation Workshop within the Framework of Component #12  
“Preparation of a Proposal for Submission to GEF, to Develop a Strategy and Activities for  
the Conservation of Biodiversity in the Region” of the OAS-Funded Project on Sustainable  
Development and Biocultural Conservation in the Brazil-Suriname Border Region  
Paramaribo, Suriname, April 8, 2005



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for the Office of Sustainable Development  
and Environment of the General Secretariat  
of the Organization of American States

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## ACRONYMS

- ACT Amazon Conservation Team
- ATM Ministry of Labor, Technological Development and Environment
- CBL Central Bureau for Aerial Mapping
- CELOS Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname
- COICA Coordinating Body for the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin
- FAB Brazilian Air Force
- FUNAI Brazilian Federal Bureau for Indian Affairs
- GEF Global Environment Facility
- IDB Inter-American Development Bank
- IICA Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
- LBB Forestry Service
- LVV Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
- NB Nature Conservation Division / NH
- NH Ministry of Natural Resources
- NIMOS National Institute for Environment and Development
- NMR National Environment Council

- OAS            Organization of American States
- OIS            Organization of Indigenous Peoples Suriname
- OSDE          Office for Sustainable Development and Environment
- PAS            Pastor Ahlbrinck Foundation
- PHS/KKF       Platform Timber Sector / Chamber of Commerce and Industries
- PLOS          Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation
- RO             Ministry of Regional Development
- ROB            Council for the Development of the Interior
- SGP            Small Grants Programme
- STINASU       Foundation for Nature Conservation in Suriname
- TC             Technical Cooperation
- UNDP          United Nations Development Programme
- VIDS          Union of Indigenous Village Leaders Suriname

#### **WORKSHOP AGENDA**

Friday, April 8, 8:30 – 14:00

- 1 – Opening by Minister of ATM Clifford Marica
- 2 – Elaboration of objective and program of the Workshop by Moderator Neville Gunther
- 3 – Introduction by Angela Bailey – IDB
- 4 – Introduction by Sasha Gottlieb – OAS/OSDE
  - Discussion
  - Break
- 5 – Presentation of the results of the Trio/Wayana internal consultation . Introduction by Headcaptain Ewka of the Trio . Presentation of the results by Trio interpreter Thomas Anderson Podina . Introduction by Paramount Chief Asongo of the Trio
  - Discussion
  - Break
  - Discussion
- 6 – Closing
  - . Conclusions by Moderator Neville Gunther
  - . Closing words by Paramount Chief Asongo

- . Closing words by Sasha Gottlieb / OAS.OSDE
- . Closing words by Moderator Neville Gunther

## WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

### OPENING BY MINISTER OF ATM CLIFFORD MARICA. SUMMARY OF KEY STATEMENTS IN THE OPENING SPEECH OF THE MINISTER

- The traditional way of life of the indigenous communities has always been sustainable in nature. This centuries old way of life of the oldest inhabitants of this continent, who live in harmony with their environment and nature, has enabled subsequent generations to benefit from this longtime conservation of the riches nature offers to us, to provide for our needs. This way of life, though sustainable in nature, however is not so much aimed at maximum utilization of natural resources.
- The challenges developing countries, in particular, are faced with in the world of globalization, put enormous pressure on policymakers to aim at maximum utilization of natural resources, and realization of desired economic and social development. The world community has come to realize, that this aim leads to enormous negative consequences for the environment, thus for mankind in its totality and quality of life on earth.
- The serious threats to our livelihood, in particular to that of the indigenous communities (who live in the areas where the natural resources are situated, and also because of their traditional way of life are directly vulnerable), require serious consideration in decision-making with regard to development issues and implementation of policy measures.
- Internationally, various steps have been taken and agreements (in particular the UN Convention on Biodiversity) reached, whereby countries including Suriname, have committed to conservation and protection of the environment, in order to maintain a livable world. In these agreements the important historical role of indigenous communities with regard to their traditional knowledge and culture is stressed, and recognized as contributing to sustainable use of nature and ecosystems.
- The Ministry of ATM appreciates all the efforts that have been undertaken thus far. The OAS project on Sustainable Development and Biocultural Conservation in the Brazil-Suriname Border Region, is considered a reinforcement of these initiatives.
- An important aspect that has been lingering for many years, is the issue of indigenous land rights. A solution to this issue is urgently needed, and it would not be fair to state that no attempts have been made to find a solution. In actuality, the nature and complexity of this problem obstruct the finding of a speedy solution.
- The Ministry of ATM is counterpart of the ILO, and is responsible for the implementation of ILO Conventions. One of these Conventions is ILO Convention 169, i.e. “The Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples”, of which land rights is a component. In 2003 ATM has invited the ILO to provide more information on the contents of Convention 169, and to assist Suriname in dealing with this issue. Indigenous and Maroon representatives have also been facilitated through means provided by ILO, to pass the information obtained on to their respective communities in their own way.
- The Minister stresses the importance of consultation and states, that the Government has aimed at bringing the indigenous communities closer to it in order to jointly arrive at a solution.
- Consultation will also be applied in the preparation of the project proposal for submission to GEF. This will be necessary to guarantee the sustainability of the OAS project.
- The Minister thanks the OAS for their willingness to organize this Workshop together with ATM. He wishes the participants a successful and fruitful Workshop, and is looking forward to the results.

ELABORATION OF OBJECTIVE AND PROGRAM OF THE WORKSHOP BY MODERATOR  
NEVILLE GUNTHER

After a short break to allow the Minister to leave, the moderator goes on to give an explanation of the objective (an initial broad stakeholder consultation) and the agenda of the Workshop.

INTRODUCTION BY ANGELA BAILEY – IDB

“ Land rights and land management are important issues for economic development.

The Bank has supported the Government of Suriname’s request for assistance in land management and administration issues. Over the past five years there have been two TC’s.

The second TC, has as the objective, the preparation of a land policy and institutional development operation for Suriname. A Draft Project Document is expected to be completed soon. The proposed project is the Suriname Land Management Project (SLMP ). The Bank will continue to support the Government of Suriname in this regard.

The current initiative in which the OAS and the IDB are holding consultations with the leaders of the indigenous groups of southern Suriname, fully compliments the SLMP.

The Bank looks forward to the workshop and is keen in being informed of the needs and concerns that all stakeholders have with regard to land issues in Suriname”.

INTRODUCTION BY SASHA GOTTLIEB / OAS.OSDE

“Thank you to the Minister of Labor, Technological Development, and Environment for co-hosting this workshop together with the Organization of American States. Thank you to the District Commissioner of Sipaliwini.

Thank you to Granman Asongo and the village leaders and basjas from Southern Suriname and the VIDS Bureau. We really appreciate the time and effort you have dedicated to speaking with us about the priorities of your communities, as it relates to land management.

And, thank you to the other participants here with us today.

As both the Minister and Neville Gunther have said, the consultation with the village leaders and this meeting is really a first step in an ongoing process to develop a land management strategy for Southern Suriname, together with the communities of Southern Suriname, the government of Suriname, and other stakeholders in the region.

As you are aware, the OAS is an inter-governmental organization, made up of 34 nations in this hemisphere. It is the oldest regional organization in the world, beginning as the Pan-American Organization in the early 1900s.

The OAS has been working on issues related to both indigenous peoples and natural resources management for some time, based on specific mandates of the OAS member nations.

In recent years, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has been able to facilitate agreements between OAS member states and those submitting cases to the Inter-American Human Rights System.

The OAS also has significant experience in land management in Suriname. In the 1980s we worked together with the government to develop the Planatlas of Suriname. More recently, in 2003 the governments of Suriname and Brazil jointly submitted a proposal to the OAS for funding for sustainable development in the border region of Suriname and Brazil. The project was approved by an independent selection committee, to be executed by the OAS, with ACT serving as the field implementing agency.

The project focus is on bio-conservation – promoting sustainable development through cultural strengthening – 2 more years to go. Activities include consultations on non-traditional forest products, training on fire control, vigilance plan in Brazil, and workshops on non-traditional forest products.

One component of the project is dedicated to the preparation of GEF proposal to more thoroughly address land management and land rights issues in Southern Suriname. This proposal is being prepared for submission to the GEF.

This component is the reason why we are all here today. This week has been the first steps in the development of that proposal. As was mentioned earlier, on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, we consulted with the village leaders of Southern Suriname about their priorities as they relate to land management, which they will be presenting to you later today.

Based on the consultation with the village leaders, the OAS and IDB are prepared to collaborate with the communities of Southern Suriname, the Government of Suriname, NGOs working in the region, and the private sector, on the development of a land management strategy. Again, we are very much at the beginning of this project idea. Before even submitting the project for consideration by the GEF, we plan more consultations with the communities of Southern Suriname, the Government, and the various stakeholders here today.

I really look forward to hearing what you have to say and working with you today and in the future. Again, thank you for your participation”.

## DISCUSSION

Before the initial discussion related to the introductions presented up to this point, the participants were given the opportunity to briefly introduce themselves. This enabled each participant to get a good understanding of the broad stakeholder representation in the meeting.

Distribution of the **73 participants: 28 Government representatives** from 8 Ministries (ATM; NH; PLOS; RO; Defense; Foreign Affairs; Justice & Police; Social Affairs & Housing); **12 Trio/Wayana representatives; Indigenous NGO's: 5; other NGO's: 8; Private Sector: 8; International Organizations: 12.** (Note: There was also excellent media representation; there were at least 9 media representatives present (the last 9 names on the participants list), who provided extensive coverage of the Workshop in the media (Newspapers, TV and Radio).

**H. Vreedzaam-Joeroeja:** - Would like to know to what extent the OAS is able to assist Suriname with the incorporation of the legal provisions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights concerning indigenous peoples, into our own national legislation.

- Not much is known about the project. In case this is a mega project, Mrs. Vreedzaam-Joeroeja wonders what legal basis will be created to protect the collective rights of the Indigenous Peoples and Maroons.

**S. Gottlieb:** There have been consultations with the communities and they have identified the priorities. One has to make sure that the contents of the project works for the people living there and for the larger nation.

**J. Aloema-Tokoe:** - Requests a good introduction on the contents of the project, in order that a good discussion could unfold.

**Moderator:** - The intention is for the local population to indicate what they would like to see taking place in their areas.

**(Note:** Later on during the Workshop, it would become clear that there was some misunderstanding on the part of some participants, who were getting mixed-up between the OAS project and the preparation of the GEF proposal, which is component #12 of the OAS project)

## PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE TRIO/WAYANA INTERNAL CONSULTATION

### **Introduction by Head captain Ewka of the Trio**

In 1960 we came together in our main village Alalapadu. That was the only village with a rather large indigenous population. In 1975 we established a new village, i.e. Kwamalasamutu, downstream of the Sipaliwini River. There are 10 sub-tribes in Kwamalasamutu, and four different indigenous languages are spoken, i.e. Trio, Mawayana, Sikiiyana, Akuriyo. (Note: In “Beyond Samuwaka”, the booklet on the history of the Trio peoples, written in conjunction with the Kwamalasamutu and Tepu maps (produced by the Trio, CBL and ACT), the following twelve tribes/sub-tribes present in Kwamalasamutu, are listed: Trio, Saketa, Maraso, Sirewu, Katuena/Tunayana, Okomoyana, Aramayana, Mawayana, Sikiiyana, Pireuyana, Akuriyo, Waiwai).

Before 1975 there were 5 or 6 old villages, but in 1975 we moved to Kwamalasamutu. Now we are moving back to the old villages; presently there are 6 smaller villages, which belong to Kwamalasamutu, i.e. Sipaliwini Savanna, Alalapadu, Kuruni, Amotopo, Kayser and Wanapan.

We, indigenous peoples, protect our area, not for ourselves but for everyone who lives in Suriname. That is why we are at the southern border of Suriname. We don't sell nature, we preserve it. We live off of nature. We, of the different indigenous villages, are all here in order that we could talk with the lady of the OAS. We have spoken in NAKS, with Indigenous Peoples present from: Kawemhakan, Apetina, Paloemeu, Kwamalasamutu, Tepu, and Sipaliwini. (Notes: NAKS is the venue of the two-day Trio/Wayana consultation; the latter, facilitated by VIDS, was attended by Sasha Gottlieb/OAS and Kristina Bishop/IDB, as well as (partially) by the moderator). The indigenous peoples to the East and to the West must not be forgotten. We are all indigenous peoples of Suriname. Also in Galibi, Apura. Let us work together with the indigenous peoples. If we do that, it will be good.

### **Presentation of the results of the Trio/Wayana consultation by Trio interpreter Thomas Anderson Podina**

We, indigenous peoples of South Suriname are glad, that OAS and IDB have come with this project idea, and want to know what we think about it. We have been invited, and during two days we discussed the project idea, what we can do to better manage and protect our territory.

We are in agreement, that it is important to protect nature, but it is also important to protect the people. That is often forgotten.

That is why for a long time we have been asking for legal recognition of our collective land rights. We live of nature and without nature we cannot live. People from the city often do not understand how important nature is for us. I have, for instance, seen with my own eyes, how fishermen from the city, have caught 35 anjoemara's (a popular fresh water fish). When the plane arrived to pick them up, they could only take 10 fish with them. The rest of the fish, they just dumped along the air strip. They have not even given it to the people there. We therefore think that legal recognition of our land rights is important to us, in order that we can better prevent these things. This project idea can help us too to protect our area.

We also have our unwritten traditional rules that can help us with the protection. In the past couple of days, we have spoken about how we can do this.

Thus, we have thought it to be of importance to reinforce our traditional protection of our territory. Furthermore we need training. For instance on:

- negotiation techniques
- management of our natural resources
- fire prevention and control

We must also make our area economically viable through creation of employment and by so doing, earn income in a sustainable manner.

We are, therefore, pleased with this assistance and hope that the Government of Suriname will support this project idea, and that we can work together on the development of Suriname, in particular the development of the Trio and Wayana down south. On our part, we return to our villages and communities to inform them about what we heard here and what we have discussed with OAS, IDB and VIDS.

### **Introduction by Paramount Chief Asongo of the Trio**

"I am Paramount Chief of all the villages in southern Suriname. We are from southern Suriname and we live off of nature. On behalf of all the villages of South, West and East Suriname, I want to say, that the indigenous peoples want their land rights. We are staying there like tourists. We are from Suriname and we remain Surinamese indigenous peoples. That is important for us and for all who live in Suriname. The speakers before me have also said that we protect the areas ourselves. The incident with the 35 anjoemara's is very strange to me and to all of us. If we still do that, we are lost from nature. We all want to make a map of our lands from Amotopo, Wanapan up to Kawemhakan.

Finally, I want to thank you very much".

### **DISCUSSION**

The Moderator proposes to the meeting that, based on the presentation of the Trio/Wayana consultation, the discussion takes place focusing on the following **4 topics**:

- 1 – Collective land rights
- 2 – Collaboration with the Government

- 3 – Sustainable income generation
- 4 – Capacity building,

with 25 minutes for each topic. It was no surprise that it proved hard to guide the discussion via one topic at the time. These topics are intertwined and linked to the umbrella topic of land management. Given the importance of this first consultation, it has been deemed necessary to present the discussion as complete as possible.

**E. Eyndhoven:** Wants to know if the findings of the final draft for a management plan for the Sipaliwini Nature Reserve, as presented in February, 2004 by CELOS, will be taken into consideration in this project; considering this project targets the Indigenous Peoples of South Suriname and covers a vast area.

**Moderator:** There are several current projects and initiatives. It is obvious that this project should complement and not overlap said projects and initiatives.

**R. Strijk:** Suggests a different wording for topic #2 “Collaboration with the Government”, as Indigenous Peoples are Government.

**Moderator:** This is about Indigenous Peoples and the Central Government

**H. Vreedzaam-Joeroeja:** Also has a problem with the wording of Topic #2; it suggests that there is no collaboration. She calls for a consultation mechanism between Government and Indigenous and Traditional Communities. An example is, that with regard to the Sipaliwini Nature Reserve, the Indigenous Communities were not informed adequately.

**Moderator:** This is a first step; to provide the opportunity for the voices of the Indigenous peoples of South Suriname to be heard. It is not just about collective land rights, but about sustainable management of the areas, whereby establishment of the land rights is of importance. There will always be an overlap between the 4 topics.

**R. Landveld:** Proposes “Structuring of the collaboration between Government and Indigenous peoples” as wording for topic #2. He feels, that matters have not been formulated sharply for the Trio in particular. He raises the question if in the log frame land rights are considered an assumption or an output.

**S. Gottlieb:** “This project is in its initial phase in terms of collaboration on land management strategies. We recognize that a lot has already been done, also by other organizations. We think about a log frame, but it makes no sense to develop that before speaking with the people from southern Suriname. The idea is first to speak with the people and then create a log frame. We are not in that stage yet. We are taking a very participatory approach in this.

The issue of land rights is very important, but the goal of the project is land management and not land rights alone. Another key element is capacity building”.

**R. Landveld:** Reiterates the need to have clarity whether land rights will be considered an assumption (with the responsibility in the hands of others) or an output.

**S. Malone:** “ In 1982 it was proposed to join management of the Sipaliwini Nature Reserve and that of the Brazilian Trio. FUNAI was not interested, claiming that the objectives of the two areas were totally different. With this project other criteria are being applied. He wants to know if there is an observer from Brazil present to see how the process evolves. Some time ago, during preparations for Sipaliwini Nature Reserve, there have been contacts from the Trio community with their Brazilian counterparts. They went to Posu Tiriyo (Missao Tiriyo) and there are current arrangements; he wants to know if those arrangements will be given consideration in this process.

**Moderator:** The Brazil-Suriname Border Region project is a current OAS project with activities in Brazil and Suriname. What we are discussing now is a strict Surinamese matter. In southwest and south-central Suriname are the Trio and in southeast Suriname the Wayana. On the Brazilian side of the border there are also Trio and Wayana; there is a National Park which borders the Tumucumaque Indigenous Area. ACT has been involved in mapping of the latter Indigenous Area. Suriname and Brazil have the opportunity to realize something in their border region, that would set an example for the whole world.

**Th. Anderson Podina:** There have been talks with the Trio of Brazil. The Trio from Suriname stayed 2 weeks at Missao Tiriyo. There have been talks about what is to take place at Sipaliwini/Vier Gebroeders (Mamia). Many topics have been discussed, such as transport of bauxite to other countries. There were not just meetings with the Indigenous peoples of Brazil, but also with Government authorities FUNAI and FAB. The talks went well. At Mamia a game warden's house is being built.

**S. Malone:** Wants to know if the Trio of Posu Tiriyo have been informed of the travel/participation of the Surinamese Trio to/in this Workshop.

**Th. Anderson Podina:** The captain is here; upon his return he will meet with them and present information to them. They have expressed their interest to be present when a meeting on land rights will be held.

**Moderator:** "The focus is not only on collaboration between the Indigenous peoples of Suriname and Brazil, but also between the Indigenous peoples and the Governments".

**Miep (Pelenapin):** He has not heard anything about French Guiana, but there are 6 villages in French Guiana and they are family. It is necessary for the village leaders from Suriname, Brazil and French Guiana to come together in a krutu (meeting) to talk about a map of the Wayana.

**Moderator:** Miep indicates that for the Wayana the international boundaries are non-existent; they are all one family. It is obvious that something will have to take place in consultation with the respective Governments.

**J. Aloema-Tokoe:** Makes reference to an encounter in January 2005 between the Federation of Indigenous Organizations in French Guiana, OIS, COICA, WWF, Parque Nationale of French Guiana, and the indigenous leaders of Suriname and French Guiana. The Wayana don't know boundaries; they are all family. Mrs. Aloema-Tokoe calls for an international conference between the three countries in order that it can be assessed properly what the situation is. At that conference, international conventions and agreements must be discussed. During a meeting in Maripasula (French Guiana) with the Commissioner and representatives of the Indigenous Peoples, the latter indicated that there is need for more collaboration with all relevant organizations, national as well as international. The setting of this Workshop is good; there must be unity between all organizations, and all organizations must have the correct information available.

**Moderator:** Suggests that the call from Miep for a meeting between village leaders of the three countries, deserves to be addressed. It is, for instance, of importance that there is collaboration between the health care agencies of Suriname, Brazil and French Guiana. Recently the importance of collaboration has been displayed during a visit, arranged by ACT, from the Director of the Medical Mission of Suriname to meet with the people and authorities on the Brazilian side of the border region.

**S. Malone:** Has missed the village of Orroyhintu in the listing of villages presented by the paramount chief.

**Th. Anderson Podina:** Orroyhintu was left out in the listing by the paramount chief. It is a Trio village in the Upper Corentyne. There is a radio at Orroyhintu for communication.

**H. Vreedzaam-Joeroeja:** It is not clear to her how land rights will be dealt with in the project. Talks about land rights have been going on for a very long time. Mrs. Vreedzaam-Joeroeja refers to the Ministry of RO, the National Assembly and the President for information on what has been undertaken thus far. Thus one can obtain an idea of how the Indigenous peoples have formulated their views in the course of time. An international conference had been held in Suriname, whereby the NGO's had been asked to present proposals for solution of the land rights issue. One of those proposals, next to that of legal demarcation, is for a land registry for Indigenous lands.

With regard to income generation, she is concerned about protection of collective traditional knowledge. Existing laws are inadequate since they pertain to individuals.

**Moderator:** The intention is to take everything into consideration.

**K. Bishop:** "We are going to try to do it in a way that makes sense and which includes looking at who is doing what and what has already been done and try to pull those together. The IDB has been working with the Government of Suriname regarding land management for several years now. It is not yet approved and is very much in a project preparation phase and this project is very good timing; it will be a good input. Everything is related. Traditional knowledge is also a part of it all. Everything will be looked at and then an assessment has to be made of what the next logical steps should be".

**E. Rustveld:** "The paramount chief has stated that he wants land rights to better manage nature; that he does not want to be a tourist in his own country and that he wants a map. What exactly does he want on that map? Is he thinking of a map for the villages in Suriname, or does he want an international map, in accordance with Miep's proposal, whereby villages in Guyana, Brazil and French Guiana would also be on the map?"

**Asongo A.:** "It is not only about a map of South Suriname. Nature is important for all of us. As tribal leader of South Suriname, I am afraid and I am not only looking at myself. Tigri is under control of Guyana, but it is part of us. Indigenous Peoples don't know boundaries, but boundaries have been added. Having a map is important; businesses for instance, can then know exactly where they are.

**C. Misiekaba:** "On the one hand Captain Miep states that he wants land rights, but on the other hand he states that they don't know boundaries. That is contradictory. I urge the Indigenous peoples to first talk about what it is that they want exactly. There have been talks going on for such a long time, but it is still unclear. Many consultants come and go, a lot of money is being spent, but that money is not spent wisely. It is necessary to work in a clear direction, rather than to always talk at conferences, without follow-up".

**K. Bishop:** "The issue of the borders is that the borders are not their borders, they have different borders for their territories. What they really want is a map of their territories and recognition of those territories within the legislation. These are two different issues. In order for the land rights to be effective, things need to be recognized in a national legal framework. They are saying that they need to recognize that they are related to other people and they feel that they are in each other's territories. They do understand that in order for those land rights to be effective, that has to be within a national context".

**Moderator:** "The land rights issue is complex, and requires much attention.

**C. Misiekaba:** He acknowledges the way of living of the Indigenous Peoples and understands that it is about protection of their lands.

**R. Pane:** “Matters must not be confused. When it is said that they do not know boundaries, it is about traditional, cultural, spiritual, and socio-economical. They visit family members in other countries. But when it comes to authority, they have to obey the laws of the country. It is not that they do not know what they want”.

**R. Landveld:** “What the Indigenous peoples are doing now, is what has always been taking place. We have to acknowledge, that we, as Government of Suriname, together with Guyana and French Guiana, have stopped that process. Maybe it is necessary to talk with each other and look into the possibilities to enable the Indigenous peoples to continue their ways. Laws have changed over the years, and it must be considered how the process can be facilitated in order that the people can continue in their traditional way. The OAS has the possibility to do that, since the countries mentioned are members of the OAS”. (Moderator’s note: with the exception of French Guiana, which is an Overseas Department of France).

**L. Sampai:** “The obtainment of collective land rights is a lengthy process; there has been talk about this for a very long time. But while the talking takes place, things are happening which disrupt that process. I have often heard the Government saying: ‘we will take into consideration’; ‘we respect as much as possible’. On the part of the Government, one is given the impression, that there are no problems; but the rights are not granted. What then is left for the people to do? The Government gets annoyed when they complain to International Organizations, but where do they have to look for their rights?”.

**M. Held:** “The Government has not made any commitments, and matters concerning land rights are still being studied”.

**H. Vreedzaam-Joeroeja:** Notes that there are inaccuracies in the map that is displayed in the room. She calls on the Government of Suriname to be cautious with regard to the territory of Suriname. “When there is talk about Tigri, there should not be any doubt: it is Surinamese territory. That must be stated in total confidence”.

**Moderator:** Concurrs that the map is not accurate, but it was better than to have no map at all.

**C. Margaret-Resomardono:** Would like to know if the intention is that sustainable development would be preceded by a baseline study.

**Moderator:** This project is in the stage of conception, with presentation of priorities by the Indigenous Peoples themselves. There is indeed need for a baseline study. Some such studies have already been executed in South Suriname, in particular for the area of the Trio. At this moment a similar study is being completed for the Wayana.

**L. Jubitana:** There is some confusion about the two projects. It should be clear that these are two different projects.

**G. Emanuels-Smith:** ACT is currently implementing an ethno-ecological survey in the Wayana area, which will be completed by June/July. ACT is also engaged in mapping of the Wayana region, from Apetina to Kawemhakan; this will be completed in a couple of months. Currently work is also being done with friends in Brazil, on a complete map of the Trio and Wayana.

**H. Ormskerk:** “With regard to topic #3, sustainable income generation, reference can be made to a study that has been completed recently in the Cottica area. The project is entirely based on the territorial approach, whereby an area is looked at from the perspective of the possibilities that are present. Subsequently a methodology is applied, which should enable a faster development of

the area. Upon completion of the baseline study, a needs assessment will be made. With the territorial approach it is easier to achieve sustainable income generation”.

**T. Hewitt:** “With regard to Topic #4, capacity building, the Government has to look at other organizations, national as well as international. RO is working with UNDP on a project that includes capacity building for people in the interior. An assessment is made of where training is needed. Consideration is given to what is already taking place, since it would be bad to pay people twice for the same thing. Coordination is necessary in order to avoid that the same training would be provided by different organizations.

**Moderator:** “This statement is justified. There is need for coordination, since the problem is very complex. It is good that in this meeting representatives of Government and Non-Government are present.

**S. Malone:** “It is not entirely clear what project we are talking about. Is it the project that was submitted to the OAS?”

**Moderator:** “We are talking about preparation of a project proposal for submission to GEF, component #12 of that OAS project.

**S. Malone:** Wants to know if everything that is mentioned here will be included in said proposal.

**Moderator:** “The OAS project has 12 components; it is a 3-year project and execution started last year. That project has been submitted to the OAS by Suriname, with support from Brazil. It has been approved and is in execution. One of the components of that project is the preparation of a project proposal for submission to GEF. The latter proposal will entail an expansion of the OAS project. We are talking about the preparation of the GEF proposal.

**S. Malone:** Wonders if everyone present is aware of this. He does not know the project as such.

**M. Kerkhoffs-Zerp:** “Four topics have been listed for the discussion. Two of the four are present in the OAS project. Is the GEF project a continuation of activities that take place within the OAS project? There is need for further information”.

**S. Gottlieb:** “Project 1 was submitted by the governments of Brazil and Suriname. One of the expectations of the project under consideration was, that some of the issues which had started, needed to be addressed more thoroughly. The expectation was that through the mechanism of project 1, we would be able to work together with the various stakeholders in further developing a second project. GEF projects require a lot of funding, counterpart funding, etc. There is no overlap, but there is a lot of complement between the two projects, as well as there is between other projects that are not OAS, IDB, ACT and are going on in Suriname. One of the things that the OAS says is ‘what is going on in south Suriname and how can the GEF project complement that, strengthen that rather than doing nothing’.

There are 2 separate projects. The first project is to find support for the second project to be developed. Regarding the second project, the GEF project idea, there is no clear executing group identified. We only know that it is being led by the people of southern Suriname. They are prioritizing things and it would be something that the Government would agree with to report on because the Government is the one that officially needs to endorse it. It is important to see who is doing what; how can more assistance be offered or how can some activities be re-oriented to support what the goal of this project would be”.

**S. Malone:** States that it is of importance that a number of things take place, but he wonders if the people in South Suriname are informed that we are only at the beginning of preparation of project 2, and that it will take some time before the start of project execution. “When you talk about sustainable income generation and capacity building, there must be a baseline as starting

point (the territorial approach brought up earlier). It is of importance for the Indigenous Peoples to know what they have to expect, how long they will be engaged in the process. Empty promises will not be appreciated by the people who live there”.

**Moderator:** “The people need to be informed properly. It is correct, that no empty promises should be made. That there may be a long time involved, is something that can not always be predicted”.

**S. Gottlieb:** “The concern is valid and serious. From the beginning we said this is the idea and the people living in the region must identify the priorities. This is a concept. If things take longer than we thought, they must know about that. The point Mr. Malone made is very well taken.

The timeline was not set very strongly because we wanted to speak with the Trio and Wayana communities and other stakeholders about priorities, activities and developments. This week we held a very initial consultation with the village leaders and the consultation here with the broader stakeholders. We see the village leaders going back to their communities, speaking with their communities about it, getting more input. Then we plan on another level of consultation in southern Suriname, specifically with the village leaders of the communities. We also will hold another level of consultations in Paramaribo. At that point we would probably begin to draft a proposal which will probably be consulted a third time with the communities and in Paramaribo. Throughout the process, a lot of consultation is happening. We are looking at how we are doing, are we moving in the right direction, do we need to shift gears at all, are we moving too slow or too fast, etc.?” The broad timeline is between 2006-2008, but that is not definite”.

**G. Emanuels-Smith:** “The ongoing project has 12 components, 10 of which are being implemented by ACT. One of them is sustainable income generation, for which ACT is working in the village of Alalapadu. This is a Brazil nut project; non-timber forest products are taken from the forest, dried and transported to the city and sold. Workshops have been held whereby attempts were made to identify other non-timber forest products. Capacity building is ongoing and the people are asked what they think is important. At this moment a workshop on fire control is being held, as well as a mapping workshop. The idea is, that the people who live there themselves indicate what they consider important”.

**H. Vreedzaam-Joeroeja:** States that there is confusion because of the fact that the information does not reach the people properly. Sometimes the people in the interior need more time to understand something, because often things are explained from a western perspective. Words are used which the people of the interior have yet to learn. With regard to topics #3 and #4 she reiterates her concern regarding protection of collective traditional knowledge (knowing about Brazil nuts being sold, as well as other non-timber forest products). “There are many ongoing projects in the interior. The information on the different projects is not available to the Indigenous communities. Some time ago, a medicinal project was executed, and the information resulting from that project has never been made available to the people there. Another point of concern is, that the information is scattered too much and not collected centrally”. With regard to capacity building, she wonders what capacity building will take place: re cultural and spiritual values of the people of the interior, or capacities that are not part of the cultures of the people of the interior. She states that things must not lead to loss of culture.

**Moderator:** With regard to capacity building, the people themselves will indicate what they wish; nothing will be forced upon them. The project is in its initial stage and further consultations will be held. In no way will anything be forced upon the communities.

**H. Vreedzaam-Joeroeja:** “We are close to the May 25 General Elections; it could be, that the current Minister approves of projects, but the next one does not.”. She makes some recommendations:

- Mrs. Vreedzaam-Joeroeja would like to see work on a legal framework (to provide legal protection with regard to the rights of Indigenous Peoples) being included in the project. Proper arrangements must be made between the village communities and the initiators of the project.
- A consultation mechanism must be established; Mrs. Vreedzaam-Joeroeja proposes that this method of consultation via VIDS be continued, in order that said mechanism can be created further to the consultation via VIDS.
- It should be included in the project that via the Ministry of Education, space should be created to collect the results of scientific research in the Indigenous communities. Many foreign researchers come here, but the Indigenous Peoples have no basis for cooperation with them nor to monitor those research activities, and to collect the final results somewhere in the interest of the Indigenous communities. She refers to recent archeological diggings by Billiton in the Surnau area.
- A great effort should be made with regard to contact between the border areas. Considering the border dispute with Guyana, the villages near the border provide a good mechanism to assist the Government in protection and management of the borders. Something about this should be included in the land management plan.

**S. Malone:** “Carbon credits is mentioned among the 12 components. Suriname has recently participated in a Climate Change Meeting, and it is my understanding that ATM is working towards signing of the Kyoto Protocol. When Suriname becomes party to said Protocol, there can be talk about carbon credits. At the establishment of CSNR, carbon credits were being considered. However, after the work was done, it was declared, that the area was no longer under pressure, and thus did not qualify for carbon credits. Going back to the 11 components, which as I understand it, are being executed, I would like to advise Mrs. Emanuels-Smith to closely follow that process. Should there be information, it would be good to discuss this, together with ATM. I do not know if the people of South Suriname clearly know what the carbon credits entail, nor is it clear which way they want to go”.

**S. Gottlieb:** “When the project was designed, we looked into the idea of carbon credits which would basically give the opportunity to people to not cutting down their forest to get some compensation for the fact that they are protecting the forest. Unfortunately, what we found out later is that the way the carbon credits system is set up, it is not a feasible option for southern Suriname. Right now little time is left and it would be good to focus on what is really in the project”.

**Moderator:** A complete report on the Workshop will be prepared, which will be presented to the Government.

## CLOSING

### **Conclusions by Moderator Neville Gunther:**

- It was an important meeting, considering the representation: Government, Indigenous communities, NGO's, Private Sector, individuals involved in the development of South Suriname.
- The importance of collaboration has been stressed, given the complexity of the subject matter.
- The Government has shown its willingness to make use of assistance offered. Last year ACT made a recommendation to the Government of Suriname to make use of the advisory services related to the issue of “Indigenous land rights and protected area

management” of an ACT official, to which the Government has responded positively. An inter-ministerial commission has been established.

- In response to calls that were made in this meeting, a next step could be to structure consultation between said commission and a representation of the Indigenous communities.

#### **Closing words from Paramount Chief Asongo:**

I wish to thank everyone present in this meeting. Much has been said. Certain things were not clear, other things were difficult to understand. But it is important that we can sit together and exchange thoughts with each other. This is the first Workshop and the next time we must be able to sit together again.

The land rights for the Indigenous Peoples are for all Surinamers. We love nature and nature must be kept intact in Suriname.

What ACT has stated is correct, they are helping us. I am pleased with the assistance from the OAS. Maybe next time we can discuss even more with OAS and IDB.

#### **Closing words from S. Gottlieb:**

“Vote of thanks to:

- Granman Asongo for coming here and contributing throughout this meeting and helping to prioritize the strategies for land management in Suriname.
- The other village leaders and basja’s from southern Suriname to work and conceptualize and move forward in a direction that they want to move forward to.
- The Ministry of ATM, for co-hosting the workshop and their participation and assistance throughout the process.
- The IDB Office
- The interpreters for doing a very difficult job

We walk away knowing this is a very complex issue. This process is a first step to think about, to prioritize some aspects and to begin to work on collaboration. The topics that came up are very important, namely intellectual property rights, land rights, the different priorities in terms of capacity building. We need to talk more and find out who is doing what, what are the gaps and how can it be moved forward even more? How can this work within a log framework and other frameworks?

The next step would be to have clear view of what is happening now in southern Suriname and then further consultations. There will be a complete report coming out of this meeting and it will be distributed to everyone.

Thank you for your patience, your contribution and discussing the issue”.

#### **Closing words by Moderator Neville Gunther:**

“Development of the Indigenous communities in South Suriname is a very complex issue. There is, however, good news, in the sense that the broad participation in this Workshop is an indication that we are heading in the right direction to tackle this complex issue.

I cannot adequately compliment those persons, who, despite the fact that the invitation only reached them last night, were able to be present here today. That is an expression of the importance they attach to this issue. I am looking forward to the continuation of this consultation”.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Overall it can be stated that the objective of the Workshop has been met. The aim of an initial consultation between the Government, Indigenous Communities, NGO's, Private Sector and International Organizations, and the obtainment of feedback on the results from the Trio/Wayana consultation to be presented to the meeting has been achieved. A better than expected turnout made for a broad stakeholder representation.
2. The limited time did not allow for an in-depth and exhaustive discussion of the complex issue of "Sustainable Development of the Indigenous communities of South Suriname". Yet, a good exchange of ideas took place on the 4 topics presented to the meeting to guide the discussion. The topic the participants were obviously most interested in was that of "collective land rights".
3. Though this was only an initial consultation, the broad stakeholder representation, the very positive atmosphere during the Workshop, and the repeated calls for consultation and collaboration between Government, Indigenous communities, NGO's, Private Sector and international organizations, which everyone present appeared to be in agreement with, suggest a positive outlook on the elaboration of the project proposal for submission to GEF.
4. OAS and IDB appear to be in an excellent position to offer continued support to the Indigenous communities of South Suriname and the Government of Suriname, in their efforts aimed at finding solutions for Sustainable Development of the Indigenous communities of South Suriname and related issues of land management and collective land rights. OAS and IDB can tap into available experience with these issues elsewhere in the hemisphere and make said experience available to the Surinamese partners.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: PHOTOS





## ANNEX 2: PARTICIPANTS LIST

Name	Organization
Esajas H.	Natuurbeheer / LBB
Noorden D.	Private
Boedhoe-Hemai A.	Ministry of PLOS
Lie A Kwie K.	Staatsolie / VSB
Leysner R.	BHP Billiton
Guicherit H.	Culconsult
Mascary M.	IICA
Anapaike P.	Stichting Tokokosi (Wayana)
Roos C.	Ministry of NH
Malone S.	Conservation International
Vreedzaam-Joeroeja H.	Sanomaro Esa
Vrede J.	MVN ?
Chin Ten Fung B.	PHS/KKF.
Strijk R.E.	DC Sipaliwini / R.O.B.
Emanuel-Smith G.	ACT
Jaggan S.	Ministry of PLOS
R. Kartoinangoen	CBL
De Rooy Ch.	UNDP
Margaret-Resomardono C.	NIMOS
Grant A.	Nationaal Herbarium
Landveld R.	UNDP GEF-SGP
Waterwal M.	ACT
Jubithana J.	VIDS
Mormon E.E.	NMR
Essed H.E.	PAS
Asongo A.	Tarëno
Padoe P.	Tarëno
Japanaiu	Wayana

Ijapawai	Tarëno
Kerkhoffs-Zerp M.	Ministry of ATM
Bailey A.	IDB
Pelenapin	Wayana
Palijale A.	Wayana
Jubitana L.	VIDS
Defares Sh.	Ministry of ATM
Timpico M.	Ministry of ATM
Pinas J.	WWF Guianas
Van Kantén R.	CELOS
Aloema-Tokoe J.	OIS / COICA
Henry R.	Ministry of ATM
Khoenkhoen A.	Ministry of ATM
Eyndhoven E.S.	National Army
Stekkel M.	Ministry of NH
Sanches H.	Chairman Wildlife Exporters
Warso J.	Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing
Apinsa R.	Ministry of Justice and Police
Shameem T.H.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Noordam G.	Embassy of the Netherlands
Bhairo Sh.	Embassy of the Netherlands
Oochpatapo	Trio
Podina Th. A.	Trio / Wayana
Merton Y.	STINASU
Stanley	Apetina
Gunther N.	Private
Bundel L.	OAS
Bishop K.	IDB
Liems R.	Suralco
Uiterloo H.	Ministry of ATM
Rustveld E.	Ministry of ATM
Hewitt T.	Ministry of RO
De Vries B.	ACT
Sampai L.	LVV / IICA
Ajomaka G.	Wayana
Kejese A.K.	Wayana
Gottlieb S.	OAS
Misieka C.S.	District Commissioners Office Sipaliwini
Ormskerk H.G.	IICA
Soetosenojo S.R.	Ministry of ATM
Jubitana R.	IADB
Pané R.	VIDS
Swedo C.R.	District Commissioners Office Sipaliwini
Held M.	ROB
Graanoogst E.	NVB
Eenig E.	ABC
Dompig A.	De West
Biesham C.	Radio 10
Panka H.	ATV
Wijngaarde A.	ATV
Ramlal R.	ATV
Albrechts E.	Apintie
Blinker F.	TIMES
Atmopawiro D.	TIMES