



MEETING REPORT TRIO AND WAYANA STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Trio and Wayana 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

Naks Volkshoge School, Lelydorp, Suriname
April 5 and 6, 2005



Prepared by the Association of Indigenous
Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS)
for the Office of Sustainable Development
and Environment of the General Secretariat
of the Organization of American States

MEETING REPORT

TRIO AND WAYANA STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background	3
Objective	3
Coordination	3
Participants	3
Activity Report	4
Challenges	6
Follow –up	6
Table of Contents	2
Annexes	7

BACKGROUND

Activity: Trio and Wayana Stakeholder Consultation
Financed by: OAS
Focal group: Trio and Wayana Communities in South-Suriname
Execution: The Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS)
Chairman Richardo Pané and member Ramses Kajoeramari,
Bureau VIDS staff: Director, Loreen Jubitana and legal officer; Jacqueline Jubithana
OAS Washington: Sasha Gottlieb
IDB Washington: Kristyna Bishop
Trio and Wayana representatives from Kwamalasamutu, Sipaliwini, Palumeu, Kawemhaken and Apetina
Date: April 5 and 6, 2005
Place: Naks Volkshoge School, Lelydorp
Reported by: Bureau VIDS

There is an ongoing project of the OAS with the Trio and Wayana indigenous communities, *“Sustainable Development and Bio-cultural Conservation in the Brazil-Suriname Border Region”*, with the goal to contribute to the conservation of their culture and the sustainable development of the natural resources within their territories. There are twelve components in this project and component 12 is to submit a proposal to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to develop a strategy and activities for the conservation of biodiversity in the region prepared. For proposing the next phase this consultation was held with the Trio and Wayana representatives in order to express their views about the desirability of the project idea and to comment, express opinions and make recommendations for the next phase. The VIDS was asked to facilitate the consultation of the indigenous communities involved.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the meeting was to get feedback from the involved indigenous peoples on the OAS/IDB project idea “Developing and implementing a sustainable management strategy for the Trio and Wayana traditional territories by empowering the communities to serve as the steward of these resources”. The objectives of that project would be achieved through building local capacity, developing alternative sources of income, strengthening important cultural values, and improving communication and collaboration between Trio and Wayana communities and the Government of Suriname.

COORDINATION

The roles of the VIDS was to invite and inform the representatives of the Trio and Wayana communities of the project idea, and organize a consultation meeting in Paramaribo that was scheduled for April 5 and 6, 2005. VIDS presented the goals and format of the meeting to the Trio and Wayana representatives present so that they could express their views about the desirability of the project idea. VIDS also facilitated and translated when needed the discussions on the topics proposed in the project idea in order to present the information in such a way that the community participants understood as much as possible.

PARTICIPANTS

There were participants from 5 Indigenous communities of South Suriname: 6 representatives of 3 Trio communities, Kwamalasamutu, Sipaliwini Savanne and Palumeu, and 4 representatives of 2 Wayana communities, Apetina and Kawemhaken. The meeting was furthermore attended by

members of the board of VIDS, the VIDS Bureau, and OAS and IDB representatives (see list of participants).

ACTIVITY REPORT

MONDAY, APRIL 4TH, 2005

VIDS Chairman Richardo Pané met informally with the Trio and Wayana representatives to provide them with background on the project concept and the goal of the stakeholder consultation.

TUESDAY APRIL 5TH, 2005

On the first day of the meeting, the background of the ongoing project and the proposed next phase, which would be funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was presented by Sasha Gottlieb of the OAS, Washington. Kristyna Bishop from IDB Washington and William Grisley of the IDB country office Suriname were also present.

Key issues that were discussed included:

- Natural resources and land management approaches already being employed by the Trio and Wayana communities
- Conservation should not just protect the trees, birds, and animals, but also the people living on the land
- Need for better communication channels and skills between Trio and Wayana communities and the Government.
- Safeguarding the environment for future generations
- Collective land rights
- The project concept and future collaboration with the OAS and IDB in its development and eventual execution.

The most important issue the participants would like to see addressed in any activity within their land and territories is the issue of land rights. They also expressed in the meeting the importance of the local communities as a whole to be informed, and not only the village chiefs.

The participants were asked to discuss among themselves about the project idea and to give their input on the second day on specific priorities they suggest be addressed.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 6TH, 2005

On the second day the results of the deliberations on the first day were presented by the community participants.

The Trio and Wayana leaders then listed their top priority issues and discussed them. The IDB and OAS clarified that not all priority issues are eligible to be addressed under this project concept, but they potentially could be taken up via other sources at the IDB.

- 1) Drinking Water
 - a. The system is too small and does not provide potable water to all homes (Kwamalasamutu).
- 2) Energy Supply

- a. Solar panels stopped working after five years – both the batteries and panels are broken.
 - b. There has been no training in use and maintenance of the solar panels (Kwamalasamutu).
- 3) Education
- a. The school building and teachers' residences are very run down.
 - b. There is no secondary boarding school in Paramaribo for Trio and Wayana students who wish to continue their education and qualify to do so.
 - c. Transportation and food for teachers is in short supply.
- 4) Medicine/Health Care
- a. ACT & the Medical Mission were going to construct a larger polyclinic, but that was never completed (Kwamalasamutu).
 - b. Six people have been trained as health care workers, but they are old and their vision is not very good.
 - c. There is only one Shaman teaching young people about traditional medicine. This is not enough. Perhaps a book to record these teachings?
 - d. More effective transfer of knowledge regarding health care (traditional and western) is needed.
- 5) Telecommunications
- a. A better telecommunications networks is necessary (e.g. satellite telephone).
- 6) Natural Resources
- a. The forest police are only on the borders of areas, where there is a lot of enforcement needed in villages and settlements
 - b. There is no control over the airstrips. People fly in and out of Trio and Wayana traditional territories, using the airstrips, but not informing the Village Chiefs of their arrival nor plans.
 - c. Visitors from outside often take too much fish and other resources and then just throw away what they are unable to use of transport.
 - d. Trio and Wayanas have a hunting calendar indicating what species can be hunted and when.
 - e. Trio and Wayanas know how to use the land and forest sustainably. They know how to hunt, fish, and cut trees.
 - f. There is a need to record and reinforce traditional laws.
 - g. Legal recognition of land rights is a high priority issue.
 - h. Capacity building in negotiations, natural resource management.

The Village Leaders highlighted the importance of legal recognition on their land rights by the Government of Suriname. They said that nature is very important for them and most of the people in the city do not understand that. They have their unwritten traditional rules and habits that can help them protect their territory. They expressed the need of capacity building, e.g. training in negotiations, management of their natural resources and fire-fighting. They also want to be able to undertake economic, income-generating activities in their territories. These results of these two days were also presented on Friday April 8th, 2005 to representatives of the Government of Suriname, NGOs and private sector.

In conclusion, the Village Representatives appeared generally positive about the project concept, but wished to consult their communities on its further development. It was clear that whichever final decision is taken, the most important aspect that the indigenous peoples wish to see addressed and actions to be taken in an eventual project, is the legal recognition of their land rights in Suriname, and furthermore the undertaking of capacity building and sustainable income-generating activities.

On this day, the Trio and Wayana village leaders choose representatives to present the findings at the workshop scheduled for Friday, April 8. They determined that Captain Ewka (Village Captain of Sipaliwini) would present a brief history of the indigenous communities of Southern Suriname and Thomas (Assistant/Translator for Granman Asongo) would outline the priorities of these communities. The presentations would then be concluded by brief remarks from Granman Asongo, re-affirming what they said and the IDB/OAS approach of the project being lead by their communities. During the Trio/Wayana consultation, the Village Leaders also stated that they appreciated this opportunity to present their priorities in the development of a project, rather than having the project hoisted upon them, fait accompli.

CHALLENGES

It was very difficult exchanging information in the Trio and Wayana languages. Although the community representatives had a quite good translator it was still very hard to make certain concepts and proposals clear and confirm their understanding.

FOLLOW -UP

We think that the communities need time to talk things over and they certainly need more meetings to understand clearly what this project is about. Traditional communication methods need to be respected and the meeting has proven that there are no shortcuts to sustainable decision-taking. It is also more effective to meet village per village for a better input.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: PHOTOS





ANNEX 2: PARTICIPANTS LIST

NAME	FUNCTION	VILLAGE	COMMUNITY
Ashonko Alalaparoe	Granman	Kwamalasamutu	Trio
Thomas Padino	Chair foundation Meu	Kwamalasamutu	Trio
Ewka Oochtapo	Village leader	Sipaliwini Savanne	Trio
Essikio	Assistant village leader	Sipaliwini Savanne	Trio
Pisive	Village leader	Palumeu	Trio
Kejese	Village leader	Palumeu	Trio
Aines Japanaloe	Village leader	Apetina	Wayana
Apoetoe	Assistant village leader	Apetina	Wayana
Miep Pelenapin	Village leader	Kawemhaken	Wayana
Pantakoe	Assistant village leader	Kawemhaken	Wayana
Anapaiké Pao	Chair foundation Tokokosi	Kawemhaken	Wayana
Richardo Pané	Chair VIDS		
Ramses Kajoeramari	Member VIDS		
Loreen Jubitana	Director Bureau VIDS		
Jaqueline Jubithana	Legal Officer Bureau		
Sasha Gottlieb	OAS Washington		
Kristyna Bishop	IDB Washington		
William Grisley	IDB Suriname		
Monique Pool	Translator		