

## ACTIVITY REPORT

**Activity:** Women's NTFP Workshop 1  
**Financed by:** OAS  
**Focal group:** Indigenous communities of South-Eastern Suriname, from the village of Kwamalasamutu  
**Execution:** The Amazon Conservation Team (ACT), Virginia, USA; President: Mark Plotkin;  
ACT Suriname Program Manager: Gwendolyn Emanuels.  
Counterparts: the Trio Indigenous communities  
**Date:** Monday May 10, 2004

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### **OBJECTIVE:**

The main objective was to discuss the handicrafts that women in the village currently produce in order to get a working inventory of products and the basic materials used to make them. This inventory will provide information for the production of a Women's NTFP Report.

The reason that workshop was held with only female participants is to ensure female participation. In general when both women and men are present in a meeting, the men do most of the talking. The women of Kwamalasamutu speak more freely when men are not around and we wanted to make sure their voices were heard.

In general women have few or no opportunities for earning money since the village is so remote. In our efforts to facilitate the development of NTFP's as an economic option we need to conduct such research workshops. For the women of the village, the prospect of developing a plan for income-generation is vital.

### **COORDINATION:**

The workshop was arranged and facilitated by Beverly de Vries, Culture & Education Coordinator for ACT Suriname. Endenie, one of the participants, acted as translator when needed.

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

The participants were 12 women ranging in age from age 15 to 50+, from several of sub-tribes in Kwamalasamutu. Each of the women is affiliated with ACT's work in the village.

(see Annex 1 for a complete list of participants with name, age, sex, function).

### **ACTIVITY REPORT:**

#### **Monday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

The women arrived at 8am and the workshop was started with small talk that led into a free discussion of handicrafts. Prior to the workshop, women had been asked to bring handicrafts with them. The women had a show-and-tell with the crafts that they had brought. They were

then asked to list all of the handicrafts that women produce as well the handicrafts traditionally produced by men. This long list was compiled on a wall chart and each product was described. The women were asked to draw the seeds they use for beads as a wrap-up activity. The final question posed to the women was if they had any ideas for products they could sell. Answers to this question were to be discussed in the following Women's workshop. Around noon we all walked across the village to a souvenir shop and examined the handicrafts being sold by a local family. A discussion of possible and successful NTFP's continued during our field excursion.

### **CHALLENGES:**

Some women were not used to the idea of a workshop and many were shy to speak. They are not accustomed to being asked for their opinions or input. With the help of a casual atmosphere, snacks and refreshments and free discussion I was able to break the ice. The women have busy lives and generally spend their days gardening, fetching firewood or preparing food. As such, their availability for workshops is limited. This will be a challenge in coordinating future workshops.

### **FOLLOW UP:**

1. Another workshop will take place in one week to continue discussions and information gathering about the main NTFPs presented in this workshop. Each of the participants has been invited back and is welcome to bring a female friend or relative.
2. A Women's NTFP Report will be written based on all of the information gathered in this and the following workshop.
3. Recommendations listed in the report will be followed up on, pending approval from ACT.

### **Annex 1: List of Participants**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>
Shokonono	Apprentice	38	Female
Faari	Apprentice	35	Female
Keiti	Apprentice	41	Female
Susari	Clinic Intern -Apprentice	19	Female
Klarice	Novice	18	Female
Endenie	Novice	16	Female
Anria	Novice	16	Female
Rachel	Novice	15	Female
Enisian	Novice	16	Female
Morina	ACT staff	50+	Female
Asusu	ACT staff	50+	Female
Lokashi	ACT staff	42	Female

### **Annex 2: Photo Documentation**

See attached document