

## ACTIVITY REPORT

**Activity:** Opening of the Epipakolon clinic in Apetina  
**Financed by:** Organization of American States (OAS)/World Bank Development Marketplace  
**Focal group:** Indigenous communities of southeastern Suriname, from the village of Apetina  
**Execution:** The Amazon Conservation Team (ACT), Virginia, USA; President: Mark Plotkin;  
ACT Suriname Program Manager: Gwendolyn Emanuels.  
Counterparts: the Trio Indigenous communities of Apetina  
**Date:** February 18, 2005

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### **OBJECTIVE:**

The main activity in this reporting period was the cultural opening of the Epipakolon clinic. The objective of this activity was the official handing over of the clinic to the Apetina village by conveying the clinic keys from Granman Aptuh Noewaheh to Metelli Kuluksai (chairman of the Foundation Kuluwajak).

### **COORDINATION:**

Activities were coordinated by ACT biodiversity coordinator Angela Monorath; Apetina community representative Samoe Schelts; Kajana community representative Frits van Troon; ACT Board member Margo Waterval; Program Director Gwen Emanuels; Medical Mission representative Glenn Lavenberg (coordinator, northeast region); the Granman of the Wayanas Aptuh Noewahe; and Metelli Kuluksai, representative of the local Kuluwajak Foundation.

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

Participants comprised the entire village of Apetina, about 350 people, including local shamans and future clinic personnel.

### **ACTIVITY REPORT:**

When entering Apetina, guests were welcomed by young indigenous women in traditional dress and men singing songs while playing guitars. The crowd was guided into the recreation center and greeted by the village population. Speeches were made by the local representatives Granman Aptuh Noewaheh, Sinthoenka Ikinaido and Basja Pantakoe, and by Ms. Emanuels, Ms. Waterval, Mr. Lavenberg and Mr. van Troon regarding the purposes and the uses of the clinic as well as the collaboration of the Medical Mission and the traditional medicinal clinic. The official opening was carry out by Granman Aptuh Noewaheh and Metelli Kuluksai at 13.00 h. After the opening, the keys were officially handed over to Metelli Kuluksai. Prayers, speeches and songs then filled an hour.

The clinic was successfully opened and adapted by the Apetina community for further operations. The Granman send his gratitude on a letter of appreciation to ACT which read: "I welcome you for the opening of the clinic that is established to make sure that the knowledge of our elders remains. We now believe that we have done this together, especially with the support you gave us. The result is this building "Epipakolon" (medicine clinic). You have kept your word and did not, as many others, make promises that were not kept." The press (*De Ware Tijd*) was present to interview ACT staff and local villagers.

### **CHALLENGES:**

Fully equipping clinics and workshops for the clinic personnel and communities in order to make the clinic operational.