

ACTIVITY REPORT

Activity: Men's NTFP Craft and Carving Workshop
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: August 5th and 6th, 2004

OBJECTIVE:

The main objective was to discuss the crafts and carvings from NTFPs that are currently produced in Kwamalasamutu. An inventory was made of the basic materials used, the technology used and the trio names given to the materials and crafts.

The objective of this workshop was to ensure documentation of the knowledge on several crafts and carvings that are regularly made by the men in the villages. The workshop is part of a series of workshops that survey the potential NTFPs in South-Eastern Suriname. This information may provide input for the search for alternative NTFPs as a source of income in the future.

COORDINATION:

The workshop was arranged and facilitated by Ethnobotanist Bruce Hoffman, the NTFP specialist for ACT Suriname.

PARTICIPANTS:

The participants consisted of 8 men from the village of Kwamalasamutu. The men were all aged within 30 and 50 and derived from several of sub-tribes in Kwamalasamutu. (See Annex 1 for a complete list of participants).

ACTIVITY REPORT:

Thursday August 5th, 2004

Many handicrafts were gathered in advance for arranging this workshop. The men also brought some of the handicrafts themselves. After introduction, the men started explaining the source and name of the handicraft they brought to the workshop. One by one, the handicrafts were discussed using the following methodology: stating the name, the technology to produce the handicraft and the result. The men were asked to give their opinion about the possibility for handicrafts to be developed into marketable NTFPs. The workshop was ended, but two men (Wuta and Keng) stayed afterwards to continue providing information on names for the handicrafts, technologies and products.

Friday August 6th, 2004

The next day, the two men (Wuta and Keng) worked with the Ethnobotanist to give the correct names in the Trio language. They also discussed the processing of products into NTFP handicrafts. Wuta and Keng intended that some of the technologies involved were too time-consuming and would never benefit income generation for the Kwamalasamutu community. This exercise ended around 16.00 PM and provided a comprehensive list of potential NTFP handicrafts (see annex 2).

CHALLENGES:

The challenge during this workshop was to correctly get names for the processes of making NTFPs. The two men were asked to stay behind to verify the information to be correct for documentation for future use. This was not planned before, but started giving more insight in the problems with potential NTFPs.

FOLLOW UP:

1. Document all information for the survey for potential NTFP products as a source of income for the communities.
2. A final report on the survey of NTFPs in Suriname will be written based on the information gathered. In this report we will provide information on pre-feasibility, as discussed with the communities.

Annex 1: List of Participants

Name of men participated
Okoji Petura
Saiman Wakki
Puuru Puumona
Wuta Wajimuu
Keng
Noeta Toetsi
Akolei koedji
Ihko Paulin

Annex 2: List of crafts and carvings

Kwamalasamutu MEN'S CRAFTS and CARVING workshop

weaving patterns

- 1) pai mekung = tapir wrist
- 2) sirikē, moman(g) = Pleides
- 3) tuha arī = tuha leaf
- 4) tariipi arokē = agouti tail or penis
- 5) kujari empata = macaw face
- 6) ēepuku arī = haipuku leaf

teeth

- 1) kumu leaf base (arī entu)
- 2) peuru epu – arrow grass
- 3) sari bamboo
- 4) ankaimē
- 5) other palms

cross-bar

- 1) arimi etapu = spider monkey arm bone
- 2) ankaimē
- 3) other palms

weaving material

- 1) koi inko – young meristem lvs *Mauritia flexuosa*
- 2) mare - cotton

additional

- 1) toucan feathers

Wood carving – Trio names for crafts

spears/clubs? – warataa

fan – sipari of murumuru (*Astrocaryum sciophyllum*) or waruma (*Ischnosiphon*)

sifter – pēntī

backpack – katari

seive – manari

bow/arrow – wurapa/pirēu

hair decoration – mumeshoro

flute – sari

curare container – jama

tuha bracelet – amekuntara

matapi

wetorijefu (wukapao ietupe)

men's cotton = wurawaito

cotton spindle - maru epu

canoe - kanawa

feather earrings – panasiri

maramara drum – sampura

maraka rattle - pejai

axe – apëton
comb – ankai (emenu sirikë, Pleides)
men's box – pakara
rattle – maraka
knife – maja
spoon? – kuje, sokoepisi
fork - konkate
stool – mikëtë (Trio), mĳjeree (Wai-wai)
ant frame? – wĳrawaito wëitapi
paddle? - soku
club? mara epu
club? pukuita (kuikui weti), tehpaimiti, kunawae, pura
wëitapi

Fibers

baskets

waruma (Ischnosiphon) – sieve, manari, matapie, old time plate, shipari, kotari, fire, medicine, wounds

murumuru (bud, young shoot = ingkompa)

kumu – ingkompa, old time plate

ayawari (Heteropsis) – all habitats, kotari,

nopoyamo (Cyclanth, Thoracocarpus, mamure) – like ayawari but thicker, only far away in creeks