

ACTIVITY REPORT

Activity: Water assessment, Kwamalasamutu clinic
Solar panel stand replacement, Kwamalasamutu clinic
Outboard training, Kwamalasamutu

Financed by: Organization of American States

Focal group: Indigenous communities of southeastern Suriname, from the village of Kwamalasamutu

Execution: The Amazon Conservation Team (ACT), USA; President: Mark Plotkin; ACT Suriname Program Manager: Gwendolyn Emanuels-Smith
Counterparts: the Trio Indigenous communities

Date: May 6-8, 2005

OBJECTIVE

The main activities were: 1) water assessment, primarily for the *Katameime* traditional medicine clinic and for the village; 2) outboard motor training for the local technicians; and 3) replacement of the wooden solar panel frame with an aluminum frame.

COORDINATION

Activities were coordinated by the ACT Suriname Health Coordinator Melvin Uiterloo, Engineer Rudi Liems, Roy Tjoen A Tsoi, and Paulo van Brussel.

PARTICIPANTS

The participants were approximately 20 men from Kwamalasamutu, including the chief, Granman Asongo.

ACTIVITY REPORT

Saturday, May 6

Meeting with Granman Asongo 12:36-13:15h (Mr. Uiterloo, Mr. Liems, Mr. Tjoen A Tsoi, Mr. van Brussel, Thomas, Nuta).

In this meeting, Mr. Liems, Mr. Tjoen A Tsoi and Mr. van Brussel were introduced and the purpose of their visit was discussed, after which they each had a talk with the Granman. Mr. Liems explained that he visited Kwamalasamutu three years ago together with his friend Mark. During this visit, he installed the solar panel, and now he is back to replace the wooden frame with an aluminum one. Mr. Liems explained that he is an ACT Suriname board member and works for Suralco. He brought two colleagues, one for outboard training (Mr. van Brussel) and the other for assessments for water system installation (Mr. Tjoen A Tsoi). The plan was to instruct locals how to fix outboard propellers; Mr. van Brussel would teach the basics with regard to use and maintenance of outboards. The Granman expressed his happiness about their visit, and welcomed all projects that help in the development of his people. For future reference, he asked specifically for a lawnmower and 20 machetes. Appointments were made for the following days.



Introductory meeting of engineers with Granman Asongo

14:30-16:30h: Outboard training part 1 and water system assessment

While Mr. van Brussel and Mr. Liems were occupied with outboard training, Mr. Uiterloo, Mr. Tjoen A Tsoi and the local natural resources representative went to the center of the water distribution system, the water well and the *Katameime* clinic. Mr. Tjoen A Tsoi drafted a small map of the current water system and took measurements for additional pipes, which might be required depending on the varying scenarios designed to solve the water problem for *Katameime* and/or the community. The scenarios each took into account varying availability of funding and water resources.



Upper left: quality of water from the well
Upper right/Lower right: water distribution system
Lower right: Water well

16:30-17:30: Replacement of the wooden frame from the clinic's solar panel with one of aluminum.



Sunday, May 7

10:30-12:30h: *Outboard training part 2*

Mr. van Brussel continued to provide the community with basic skills in outboard motor operation. Mr. Liems instructed community members in propeller repair; for this, he used a bench-vice and a file, which he later donated to the community. Community members expressed great interest in the lectures provided.



Monday, May 8

08:45-10:00h (absent: Okoi, Eisa, Asusu, Lokashi, late: Ihko)

Katameime clinic staff meeting. Points discussed: donation of a voltage meter by Mr. Liems. Mr. Liems also appreciated that the items he installed three years ago are still in good condition

The villager Willem expressed his appreciation for the visit, as most of the community's outboards were broken because of improper sparkplug use, poor fuel mix, and broken propellers

10:00-11:00h: *Meeting with Granman Asongo.*

Points discussed: The Granman appreciated what had been achieved over the past days, but queried why Mr. van Brussel hadn't repaired any outboards. Mr. van Brussel and Mr. Liems clarified this by explaining that they began with the basics and will continue at a later stage with more advanced training.

FOLLOW UP: Advanced training and troubleshooting; discussion of the various scenarios for water system installation.