



Suriname

SGP is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme UNDP on behalf of the GEF partnership, and is executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services UNOPS

In this Issue

SGP in CBA workshop Trinidad
SGP Spotlight—new Programme Assistant
SGP participates at Made in Suriname fair
SGP climate change adaptation in Johanna Margaretha
Farewell David and Hiske
SGP Knowledge Fair
SGP launches Strategic Projects—update on the call
SGP volunteers

SGP participates in SIDS -CBA regional workshop



SGP Suriname coordinator participated in the regional SIDS-CBA workshop with the topic "Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change for GEF SGP National Coordinators" from 6–9 March 2013 in Trinidad and Tobago.

The goal of this workshop Workshop is to bring together existing and new Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) National Coordinators in order to strengthen delivery of the SGP and Small Island Developing States Community Based Adaptation (SIDS CBA) programmes in the Caribbean.

The status for Suriname is that we have been able to utilize one planning grant in 2012 for a project initiative in the plantation of Johanna Margaretha (right bank of the Commewijne river). The grantee was the Stichting Ontwikkeling Marienburg, and the funds were used to conduct a baseline for the vulnerability capacity assessment of Johanna Margaretha, realized by the Red Cross Suriname, see more on page 2.

The aim for 2013 will be to approve 3–4 projects related to climate change adaptation, one for Johanna Margaretha, and possible other project ideas that will focus on youth education related to climate change and adaptations related to agriculture.

SGP Spotlight

NEW SGP Programme Assistant

Arioene Vreedzaam, the new SGP Programme Assistant



As of February 2013, the SGP office has finally expanded, with a new Programme Assistant.

Short bio on our assistant:

I was born in Suriname, but raised in suburban New York City, U.S.A. I am of indigenous descent, in particular of the Karib tribe. I have an undergraduate degree in biology from Kent State University, and a Master's in Anthropology from the same university. I am a biological scientist and my focal research areas are in feeding and behavioral ecology of Neotropical primates. Additionally, I have conducted biodiversity assessments in the various ecosystems of Suriname. I teach part-time at the Advanced Teachers Training Institute (I.O.L.) in Paramaribo in the biology department. Course topics I teach in are molecular genetics, ethology, health and nutrition, and evolution. In my spare time I volunteer with a local NGO aimed at conservation of the Guiana River Dolphin, go birdwatching, and run marathons.

I am very excited to be working for the Small Grants Programme as this gives me a unique opportunity to work with small communities in the area of environmental sciences at a very different level; from the birth of an idea, to project write up, and to the actual project implementation.

SGP Participates in Made in Suriname fair

From 26—30 April 2013, SGP Suriname participated in the Made in Suriname fair, organized at the Chamber of Commerce location.

SGP Suriname participated with different projects: Stichting Agrarische Vrouwen Commewijne (organic agriculture), Stichting Moederhart from Nickerie (safe agriculture, selling chutney and banana chips) and Stichting U Sa Du from the upper Suriname river (agroforestry project, selling dried chilli powder and cassava products (kwak).



SGP supports Vulnerability Capacity Assessment in Johanna Margaretha

On Tuesday 9 April 2013, the Climate and Vulnerability Assessment Report was officially shared with the SGP coordinator and the community of Johanna Margaretha.

Johanna Margaretha is a former Dutch plantation located on the right bank of the Commewijne river, and bordering the Atlantic Ocean in the north. The total number of inhabitants is 460 people, who are mainly dependent on fisheries for their livelihoods. SGP supported the community with a planning grant of USD 2,000 to assess the Climate and Vulnerability Capacity (VCA), which was done by Suriname the Red Cross.

On 9 April, Mrs. U. Satnarain, who supported the Red Cross in the VCA, also gave a brief presentation to the community on the impacts of climate change for Suriname (see picture left). The next step is that Mrs. U. Satnarain will support the community in drafting a project proposal that will be submitted to SGP for further funding. The ideas are to focus on protection of the mangroves, improving fisheries techniques and management, and also to raise awareness on climate change impacts and education for the community. The planning is to have this project proposal ready by October 2013.



SGP at the Peace corps legacy event

Peace Corps is a United States organization that provides trained men and women volunteers to interested countries around the world. Since its founding in 1961, Peace Corps has had more than 200,000 Volunteers serve in 139 countries. Peace Corps Volunteers promote people-to-people contact between Americans and foreign nationals and work with local communities on sustainable projects that promote economic development, education, health, and other key areas that have been identified by the host government as priorities.

Peace Corps was invited to Suriname in 1995 and has had more than 420 Volunteers serve in Suriname with 27 currently in country. Volunteers work within two areas requested by the Ministry of Regional Development: Community Health Education and Community Economic Development. Volunteers are trained and work throughout Suriname, speaking the local languages Sranan Tongo, Aucan, Saramaccan and Dutch.

Volunteers work on a variety of projects in Suriname including water and sanitation, improving access and availability of health education, conducting public awareness campaigns about HIV/AIDS, improving small business development, teaching grant-writing, promoting youth development and giving trainings on project design and management. This has included assistance with many SGP projects from climate-change awareness training and encouraging solar power for interior radio stations to the sustainable use of non-timber forest products.

In July 2013 Peace Corps Suriname will officially close. To celebrate and commemorate 18 years of service and development work, Peace Corps Suriname held a multi-media Legacy Event on 5 April 2013. The Legacy Event included a documentary film and a photography exhibit. The legacy of Peace Corps Suriname will be measured by the tangible projects and work left behind as well as the impact of the cultural and personal exchanges Volunteers and staff have had with the Surinamese people.

SGP Suriname participated in the legacy event on 5 April with a booth, displaying different SGP project related products, as well as providing general SGP information to attendants.



Left: SGP coordinator Tanja Lieuw, and SGP assistant, Ari Vreedzaam



Right: Ari Vreedzaam with 2 volunteers helping us at the legacy event

New SGP Projects

The following list is a compilation of approved projects in the period February 2013—July 2013 for Operational Period 5. For a complete list of SGP projects, please visit our website

Project Applying traditional Knowledge in achieving green development

This project aims to facilitate and support mainly community members from different SGP projects in the interior to participate at the 3rd Biodiversity Congress organized in Suriname, from 5—8 August 2013. Also, communities from Guyana, Venezuela, Brazil and Columbia will be facilitated. The community members will have the opportunity to showcase their project, that relates to the topic of this congress, as well as to discuss with other regional community members on the challenges of achieving green development.

Applicant Stichting Institute for Graduate Studies and Research | **Focal Area** Biodiversity | **Location** Suriname |

Grant Amount USD 50,000

Project Community bamboo project

The project aims to strengthen the communities of the district of Para and Wanica to produce bamboo related products for income generation. At the same time, awareness will be raised on how to sustainably harvest the bamboo, as well as the importance of forest conservation.

Applicant Stichting Caribamboo | **Focal Area** Biodiversity | **Location** District Para and Wanica | **Grant Amount** USD

48,000

Project Waste management in Commewijne

The project aims to raise awareness in the resort Alkmaar, district Commewijne, on the dumping of waste, as well as initiating campaigns to clean up the different areas by the local communities and to separate waste, such as the PET (plastic) bottles. A cooperation with a local PET bottle collection company will be realized, to collect the plastic bottles, that are exported for recycle purposes.

Applicant Stichting Lust en Rust | **Focal Area** Chemicals | **Location** Commewijne (Marienburg, Ellen en Zoelen) | **Grant**

Amount USD 48,000

Project Recycling waste for handicrafts

The project aims to raise awareness in Wageningen on the re-use of plastic bags, for example to crochet and make plastic bags, that are being sold. The women therefore can earn an income, and spread the message to re-use plastic bags, that are a burden for the environment.

Applicant Stichting Wageningen SME | **Focal Area** Chemicals | **Location** Wageningen (district Nickerie) | **Grant Amount**

USD 10,000

Farewell dinner David and Hiske



On 4 April 2013, we had our farewell dinner for our response peace corps volunteer David, and our communications intern, Hiske Schaap.

Thank you both for spending time at the SGP office and supporting us with our work! We wish both of them all the best in their new endeavors.

SGP prepares for Knowledge fair



On 23 and 24 August 2013, SGP will organize the first ever SGP knowledge fair in Suriname. Prior to the fair, SGP grantees will come together in a 2-day workshop on 21 and 22 August 2013.

The organization Stichting Innova is responsible for the implementation, together with Organice.

The aim of the activities are:

1. To show the positive results of SGP projects; the leadership role of local communities will be highlighted.
2. To ensure exchange of ideas and experiences between the various NGOs and CBOS, so they can learn from each other and the best practices can serve as example.
3. To publicize SGP's approach, whereby local communities/ organizations take ownership in capacity building and the fight against poverty, through one of SGP's focal areas.
4. to create a network of all organizations that are currently implementing projects and those that have already completed. This network will serve to promote and facilitate communication between SGP grantees. This will create a dynamic process of exchange of ideas, knowledge, information, and experience between the grantees, and also increase communication with the SGP office and the National Steering Committee of SGP in Suriname.

The preparations for the fair are kicking off, an evaluation of around 20 SGP projects has already been implemented. Some of the interviews have been used to produce a promotional video. To view and like our video, go to the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxh3wOCYb8o&list=LL0oNhqFOf30SFiqKWq--uTA>.

Also, to receive up to date information, do not forget to like our facebook page!



At the knowledge fair, 20 SGP grantees will showcase their projects and related products, so come and learn more about our projects and support the grantees! See some pictures below of the products that will be sold, but there is much more! We will be having hand made oils (amana, carapa), hand made soaps, pangi's and pangi bags, and lots



From left to right: Hand made soap from the women of Godo (upper Surinamer river), crafts from non timber forest products (Nieuw Aurora upper Suriname river), recycled plastic crochet bags made by women in Wageningen

SGP Volunteers



Hiske Schaap—Communications intern

For seven weeks, I have been an intern at Small Grants Programme. I planned on staying five months but unfortunately I had to leave early because of some bad news I received from home. I am from Holland so I had no other choice than to stop my internship at SGP and leave Suriname. Even though seven weeks is a short period for an internship, I can honestly say that I learned a lot. I study communication so I mainly focussed on the website and other communication related tasks. There is a big SGP event coming up in August, so there was a lot to do in and around the office. I will definitely come back to Paramaribo in the future. If everything goes well, I might even be able to continue my internship at SGP. Of not, I can always come back for holidays. I was lucky enough to experience Suriname for two months, but there is still so much I have not seen yet!



Hello everyone! My name is Jouke Spoelstra, 23 years old and I'm From Friesland (a northern province of the Netherlands). I'm studying Financial Services Management in the city of Groningen at the Hanzehogeschool. For 3 months I have been doing my internship at the Small Grants Programme. I started here in 24 April until 18 July 2013. During my intern period over here I have made a financial analysis of grants given to the different grantees and I will make summaries of the supported projects by the SGP. These summaries are now on the website of the SGP. Furthermore I have joined my colleagues Tanja and Ari on field visits to several projects and supported them with different types of work like the maintenance of the website, take phone calls and helping with the newsletter.

Through the field visits I have travelled a lot in Suriname and have seen already a lot. Also the projects we visited have made a big impression on me because the people (mostly volunteers) have all got a great dedication committed to the their community and the environment. So it's

good to see that the SGP can help the kind of people with the projects!

Besides my internship at the SGP I also met a lot of nice new people in Suriname and I have enjoyed my stay in the city of Paramaribo. One of the most beautiful things of this country is the very nice nature in the interior which I really enjoyed



United Nations House
Heerenstraat 15-17
Paramaribo, Suriname

