

**Regional Workshop on
Ecotourism Development in the Protected Area of the Guianas
Bigi Pan, Nieuw Nickerie, Suriname
19th – 21st November 2019**



Strengthening the network of protected areas in the Guiana Shield and their contributions to sustainable development in respect of local cultures, values and lifestyles

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RENFORESAP in Brief

RENFORESAP project “Strengthening the Network of Protected Areas in the Guiana Shield and their Contributions to sustainable development in respect of local Cultures, values and lifestyles” is a multi-stakeholder and transnational approach amongst protected areas managers of French Guiana, Suriname and Guyana.

The Project engages the management of protected areas in the region and is being implemented by the French Guiana Amazonian Park (French Guiana); the Protected Areas Commission (Guyana); the Ministry of Planning, land and Forest Management (Suriname) and the Ministry of Regional Development (Suriname).

It is 74% funded by the Interreg Amazon Cooperation Program (IACP) which is involved in the integrated development of French Guiana and its neighboring Guiana Shield territories – Suriname, Guyana, Amapá, Pará and Amazonas. The other funding are from: the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) which is an inclusive public financial institution, the Direction of Environment, Land planning and Housing (DEAL), a major state stakeholder in French Guiana and the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM) which promotes the protection of the global environment in developing countries.

Objectives

The Project runs for three years (2108-2020) with the aim to strengthen the resilience of the forest and livelihoods of the local population in a context of increasing impacts of global change on the Guiana Shield ecosystems. Its overall Objective is to reinforce the capacity of protected or conservation area management in order to meet the common challenges they face.

Actions Foreseen

The specific actions to achieve these objectives are the organization of three regional workshops bringing together the managers of protected areas and the production of four participatory thematic overviews on how best to support local development in isolated areas in terms of ecotourism development, participatory science for the sustainable management of natural resources in the Amazonian environment, strategies against the threat from illegal gold mining and transmission of living cultural heritage.

Regional Workshop on Ecotourism Development in the Protected Areas of the Guianas



The 2nd regional workshop was held on 19th to the 22nd of November 2019 at Bigi Pan, Nieuw Nickerie, Suriname to discuss and achieve specific objectives on the theme “Ecotourism Development in the Protected Areas of the Guianas.

Ecotourism, as defined by the World Conservation Union, is “environmentally responsible travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas, in order to enjoy and appreciate natural (and any accompanying cultural features-both past and present) that promotes conservation, has low negative visitor impact and provides for beneficially active socio-economic involvement of local population.”¹

Objectives

The aim of the workshop is to improve the management of protected areas through the sharing of best practices and experiences between stakeholders and communities. Fifty-five (55) participants from Guyana, Suriname, Peru, Colombia and French Guiana shared their experiences in ecotourism in natural protected areas. These exchanges revealed the strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to the development of ecotourism in protected areas.

The participation to this workshop of two experts from Peru and Colombia was possible thanks to the partnership between RENFORESAP and the IAPA team, from the REDPARQUES Amazon Vision.

¹ Ecotourism: Principles, Practices & Policies for Sustainability. UNEP 2002 from <http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/9045/-Ecotourism>



Day One of Workshop, Welcoming Address

Outcomes

The working sessions helped define the different issues faced by each territory, and the group discussions helped identify the various opportunities for collaboration.

In order to meet the objectives of this 2nd Regional Workshop in Suriname, case studies and practices were presented from the 5 participating countries and 3 discussion groups were developed. On the agenda: community ecotourism, challenges related to the isolation of the territories and opportunities of partnerships and networking. These groups were able to carry out a common discussion while having full knowledge of the legislative and organizational constraints of the countries. Three discussion panels also completed the agenda on the need for continuous training and professionalization of tourism stakeholders in protected areas, on the impacts of legal and illegal activities, on the exploration of other forms of tourism in and around the protected areas of the Guiana Shield, on the development of innovative forms of eco-tourism, as well as opportunities for collaboration.

What all the participants agreed on was that ecotourism in protected areas cannot be done without the support and engagement of the local communities.

The key outcomes for each working session are as follows:

Country perspective

Each country representative depicted the background of their territory, how ecotourism development is established and what are the threats and successes of the protected areas as it related to the ecotourism.

Integration of ecotourism in protected areas policies and practice

A feature presentation from Carolina Gonzales of the Division of National Parks of Colombia during which she explains the importance of alliances with members of local communities for the provision of services, to strengthen their capacities, to improve the conservation of natural and cultural resources, quality of life of the communities and regional development.

Sharing experiences on how ecotourism in protected areas can contribute to the sustainable livelihoods for local communities

Experiences were shared on community-based tourism in Favard Village in French Guiana, projects being implemented in Suriname where local communities are creating products (crafts and food products) to sustain their livelihood and how, in Guyana, eco-tourism was an asset in developing the local communities of Surama and Warapoka and their livelihoods.

During this session, it was highlighted that ecotourism can be a means of revenue generation and benefit both nature and human alike. It also created partnerships to ensure sustainable management and development of tourism sector and networking opportunities.

Group discussion on Community-Based Ecotourism linked to protected areas of the Guianas – how to ensure meaningful involvement of the communities, benefit sharing (to the whole community), visitor management (quantity-wise too) and tourist-inhabitant relationship (behaviours, image rights, privacy)

Regarding the meaningful involvement of the communities, the solutions proposed by the participants were to establish training center/ programs for all members of the local communities for capacity-building, to encourage networking between protected areas to create more institutional strength amongst each other and promote partnerships thus providing avenues for economic opportunities.

As for benefit sharing to the entire community, the solutions identified were to empower the community and rely on their areas of expertise to develop ecotourist activities according to their capacities. Partnering with legal representatives, operators and communities can be efficient ways

to regulate tourist flow and monitor visitors. Moreover, creating a code of conduct for tourists can help improve the tourist-inhabitant relationship as this will create a better understanding of the communities, their ways of life and the area in which the tourist will evolve during his stay.

How to tackle the need for more skilled operators in the field of sustainable conservation compatible tourism?

On this subject, the Guyana Tourism Authority described its “community led and owned” model which facilitates the training of personnel through peer to peer activities, i.e., more skilled community members train others. A needs assessment is also conducted within a community to identify the areas where long term support is needed. On a more local level, a tourism committee was set up in Santa Rosa Village in Guyana where members of the community can benefit from trainings for tour guides and other expertise required in the ecotourism sector.

“Peuple en Harmonie”, an association of French Guiana, described its strategy at helping local communities build new projects linked to the promotion of their environment, the know-hows, co-management and to co-construct the project from the phase of feasibility to a sustainable stage while giving them the necessary tools to complete it. Furthermore, a representative from the French Coastal Conservation Authority seized the opportunity of this panel to seek advice from the other panellists on a project of turning the old rice fields of Mana, an agricultural area no longer in use, to an eco-touristic area. She stated the challenges they are facing and managed to find a few solutions during the discussion.

As for Suriname, the representative of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism mentioned that there are collaborations between the ministries and the operators to create plans on providing more skilled personnel in the local communities and increasing communications pathways.

Group discussion on the challenges linked to the remoteness of the Protected Areas: limited access to network facilities and public services, high cost for transportation and inaccessibility and attractivity of the territories.

Regarding the limited access to network facilities and public services, some suggestions were to establish access to Wi-Fi and mobile network to remote communities, to encourage the use of bio-degradable products to limit wastes and to have more collaborations between local communities, private sectors and public services in order to address these issues.

As for the inaccessibility to the territories, a special attention was brought to the fact that there should be a balance between the accessibility of Protected Areas and the protection of biodiversity with the local community. On a broader scale, it was suggested to open discussions on the reduction of restriction of visas between the 3 Guianas.

Finally, as for the unique attractions of the territories, in order to counteract the loss of cultural identity and historical heritage of the local communities, exchanging experiences can help develop better networking between the 3 countries, as well as working closely with the stakeholders.

Discussion panel on impacts of legal and illegal incursions on eco-tourism development in the protected areas of the Guianas (e.g. mining, hunting and logging, etc.)

The discussion panel covered the example of how IWOKRAMA is dealing with the impacts of legal and illegal incursions on eco-tourism development in the protected area. There are collaborations between rangers and governmental authorities to reinforce the law and with local communities to monitor these incursions. For French Guiana, there is competition for hunting between local communities and the illegal persons (poachers, miners, etc.). The latter are responsible for destroying and polluting the areas near the villages thus impacting any possible tourist activities. In Suriname, some parts of the protected areas are designated for fishing by local fishermen, but illegal hunting and mining sometimes persist in these areas.

Sharing experiences on solutions to challenges met in ecotourism development in protected areas of the Guianas

Solutions put forward for Guyana were community outreach to enlighten each local member of the benefits of ecotourism, training of unskilled members and partnerships and governmental support agreements to solve the infrastructural and illegal challenges in the community. As for French Guiana, community outreach and trainings are also solutions that have been developed. One practice that has proved successful is the creation of the code of conduct for tourists which explains the local context of the villages, the traditional ways of life and the behaviour to adopt towards the inhabitants. Finally, partnerships and governmental support were also the solutions identified and put into practice by Peru in the case of the Tambopata National Reserve.

How to improve scope of tourism and exploring other forms of tourism in and around Protected Areas e.g. Educational/ Research/ Conservation Tourism?

Different forms of tourism were put forward during this panel discussion, for instance, conservation tourism with the example of the blue tarantula at the Kaieteur National Park. It was also stated that ecotourism can bring about the development of a community through trainings and economical benefits. Educational tourism was also showcased with the example of the Mont Grand Matoury Reserve where educational programs are carried out regularly for youths. Suriname also carries out such tourism educational programs.

Group discussions on partnering for Protected Area Tourism Sustainable Development and developing ecotourism business plans for PAs with the following guidelines: opportunities for cooperation and sharing of experiences/best practices, recommendations for short term and long-term actions and funding source (known or perceived).

The participants identified numerous opportunities for cooperation and for sharing experiences, for instance, encouraging exchange visits, sharing experience on awareness and education, having more workshops, organising regional and international meetings to promote ecotourism in the Guianas, creating a Guiana Shield package and having multicultural programs. As for the recommendations, the short-term ones were the setting up of a communication platform (email, WhatsApp chat, etc.) to share information. The long-term recommendations revolve mostly around having Memorandum of Understanding between governments of the 3 countries to facilitate future cooperation, solving visa issues and promoting co-marketing opportunities. The discussions ended with existing and possible funding sources. The participants suggested international sources like the United Nations Programs and the European Union, as well as governmental support, regional projects and local initiatives that can arise locally as well.

Day 1 – November 19th, 2019

Workshop launch

The workshop commenced with a welcoming address by **Mr Roy Ho Tsoi** and opening remarks from various representatives of the three Guianas.

Mrs. Joyce Toelsie (Representative of the District Commissioner of Nickerie) welcomed the participants on the behalf of the District Commissioner of Nickerie and encouraged the participants to be open to meetings about tourism and to visit the bountiful population of birds that the site had to offer.

Mrs. **Faridy Lila** (Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade, Industries and Tourism) also expressed her excitement and importance regarding the workshop and is looking forward to the outcome of the workshop and future collaborations regarding eco-tourism in protected areas.

Mrs Kaminie Tajib (Policy and Legal advisor at the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Land & Forest Management), together with Mr Wilco Finisie (Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Regional Development in Suriname), are members of the RENFORESAP steering committee. On his behalf and on that of the Minister of Spatial Planning, Land and Forest Management, who was supposed to open the workshop, but unfortunately could not make it due to other important engagement, she welcomed the participants in Bigi Pan. She mentioned how special Bigi Pan MUMA is and the importance of conserving nature, but on the other hand it is also important to safeguard the livelihood of the local communities, who sometimes live or find their living in the protected Areas. There should be a balance between preservation and economical benefit. Cherishing nature resources is essential, so it will- on the long run- benefit all and future generation. In identifying the challenges regarding eco-tourism in protected areas, together with all stakeholders, a strategy and action plans can be developed to tackle these challenges. On behalf of the Minister of RGB and Mr. Hesdy Esajas, General Manager of all protected areas in Suriname, she formally opened the workshop and wished the participants a productive workshop with important steps to be taken in the joint initiative to conserve the protected areas in the Guianas while keeping in mind the economic and social wellbeing of all communities involved in the process.

Continuing, **Dr. Raquel Thomas-Caesar** (Protected Areas Commission & Iwokrama International) spoke on how important it is that each participant share their experiences and challenges so that they can learn from each other and help promote eco-tourism.

Ms. Denise Fraser (Commissioner of the Protected Areas Commission) spoke on how the protected areas need tourism and tourism needs protected areas; each participant should share experiences and learn from each other's lessons and good practices so that it may benefit each country's development. She thanked Suriname, Akira resort and Sevahnee for coordinating and

preparing the workshop to the success it had become. She also mentioned that the current workshop on eco-tourism and other workshop would help us to move forward step by step to new opportunities while making the Guianas more visible worldwide. She briefly outlined the perspective of Guyana on eco-tourism, being the youngest protected area system in the Guianas, established by the Protected Areas Act, 2011 which also established the Protected Areas Trust Fund to provide financial support to the management of the protected areas. The Protected Areas system includes Shell beach Protected Area located on the north western shoulder of Guyana where the turtles come up to nest and has the longest stretch of mangroves; the urban parks in Georgetown where we have over 100 species of birds; Kaieteur National Park which has the highest sheer drop and volume of water in the world and a unique ecosystem; the Iwokrama Programme Site and Kanashen Amerindian Protected Area (an Amerindian village that is managed by the community). The Protected Areas Commission has a strategic plan and its mission is to effectively manage Guyana's Protected Areas while ensuring that they continue to add value to the lives of present and future generations.

Lastly, **Claude Suzanon** (President of Parc amazonien de Guyane) stated that what is important is that we need each other here in this RENFORESAP project and that the protected areas form a large part of a family and in every family there are problems and we need to look for solutions. It is important that we work hard and be visible as it is true that the Guianas are not visible as yet, but things can be done to enhance and develop the programs lead by RENFORESAP.

Overview of the Renforesap Project

Deputy Director of French Guiana Amazonian Park, Mr. **Arnaud Anselin** in his presentation mentioned the first workshop that took place in Lethem (Guyana) in May 2019 which carried the theme “Transmission of living cultural heritage in the protected areas of the Guianas”. With the success of the previous workshop, RENFORESAP continued with its project to bringing together representatives from the three Guianas to discuss, exchange experiences and combat threats facing each country. This year's workshop is based on the theme of “Ecotourism Development in the protected areas of the Guianas.”

Participants took turns introducing themselves by stating where they were from and their favourite ecotourism experience. This helps each member of the workshop to be affiliated with each other and be able to network together.

Country Perspective

Representatives from the three Guianas gave presentations on how their country manage their protected area. These presentations show the background of the country, how eco-tourism development is established, threats and successes of the protected areas.

Viviane Ng Kon Tia, Loïc Massué and Laurent Garnier representing French Guiana stated that their country is an area that covers 83 846 km², 412 km of sea front with beautiful landscapes, cities, villages, rivers, wildlife and a welcoming population of 281 612 people. Presently there are six (6) Regional Natural Reserve, three (3) Integral Biological Reserve, twenty (20) Coastal Conservatory sites, one (1) Regional Natural Park and one (1) National Park. They also showcased the variety of protected areas with emphasis on the size, wildlife population and the touristic benefits it provides to French Guiana.

Denise Fraser (Commissioner of PAC) presented on behalf of Guyana. The Protected Area Commission is mandated to manage, maintain, promote and expand the national protected areas system in Guyana. The Commission, overseen by a Board of Directors, administers the protection and development of protected areas such as the Kaieteur National Park, Kanashen Amerindian Protected Area, Kanuku Mountains Protected Area and Shell Beach Protected Area. Even though threats may arise, these areas have been successful on a national and PA level, some of these successes consist of the Iwokrama model of Conservation; community led eco-tourism linked to protected areas; networking, partnerships, contributing to the economy (GDP), increasing national and policy focus on tourism and becoming a top eco-tourism destination in the world.

Finally, on behalf of Suriname Delegation, **Damilla Williams** mentioned Suriname being one of the greenest countries in the world, illustrated by the lowest ecological footprint and highest biodiversity per capita. She outlined the legal Framework for natural conservation, legal framework for PA's, threats, challenges and best practices.

Each representative of the three Guianas was able to give the participants a brief description of their country, what it has to offer, challenges, threats and successes achieved as it relates to eco-tourism.

Integration of ecotourism in protected areas policies and practice

In order to understand how this impacts the eco- tourism in each country, a presentation was done by **Carolina Gonzales** from the Division of National Parks of Colombia. The presentation was based on Eco-tourism – As a strategy of conservation in National Natural Park of Colombia. In

the presentation, she explains the ways in which members of the group tackle the integration of eco-tourism in the protected areas.

ECOTOURISM - As a strategy of conservation in National Natural Parks of Colombia

Ecotourism is a strategy that improves and keeps the natural and cultural values, shares this responsibility with those involved in their development, enhancing the visitor a particular experience and stimulates alternatives that benefit economically and environmentally to local communities and regions, from the opportunities that represent these protected areas in the country.

In Colombia, there are 82 indigenous people and 40 Afro Colombian communities. 32 of the natural protected areas overlap with ancestral indigenous and Afro Colombian communities. For the integration in eco-tourism in local communities to occur, alliances with local communities for the provision of services, to strengthen their capacities, improve the conservation of natural and cultural resources, quality of life of the communities and regional development must be in place. Some of the Natural Parks found in the local communities are as follow:

- *Corales del Rosario National Natural Park*
 - *Afro community – Isla Grande*
 - *10 years in operation*
- *Iguaque Fauna and Flora Sanctuary*
 - *Peasants community*
 - *10 years in operation*
- *Utria National Natural Park*
 - *Afro community*
 - *10 years in operation*
- *Cueva de los Guacharos National Natural Park*
 - *Peasants*
 - *3 years in operation*
- *Chingaza National Natural Park*
 - *Peasants*
 - *3 years in operation*

A case study done showed the challenges faced when trying to integrate eco-tourism in the local communities. The challenges were:

- *Need for more diverse experiences in the local community.*
- *New legal models of public and private alliances should be in place.*
- *Strengthening of eco-tourism in areas surrounding PA's.*
- *Reinvestments in conservation should be implemented.*

Solution for each problem coincide with the general objectives of the project, ' Consolidate the National Natural Parks as spaces that promote healthy lifestyles and well-being to children, young people and adults who visit them, contributing to the improvement of visitor's health. '

Sharing experiences on how ecotourism in protected areas can contribute to the sustainable livelihoods for local communities

Day 1 continued with the presentation of shared experiences from the participating countries. Each country's representative presented projects related to theme 'How can ecotourism in protected areas contribute to the sustainable livelihoods for local communities?'

Leïca Desire, Laurent Garnier and Elisabeth Wilicki presented two projects on the eco-tourism activities in the protected natural areas and the appreciation of the local lifestyle of the local community.

Natural Regional Reserve Trésor (Roura)

The Natural Reserve is made up of three distinct areas: Savannah, Tropical Rainforest, Swamp forest and Orapu River. It is 2464 hectares with 68 known species of amphibians, 98 known species of reptiles, 340 known species of birds, 53 known species of non-flying mammals, +1300 known species of plants and is managed by the Association Trésor. The objectives of the reserve are to contribute to the conservation of the natural heritage of the Kaw mountains, ensure local integration, improve knowledge on natural heritage of the reserve and identify ecosystem modification indicators to access past and future impacts. Actions were made in the means of monitoring poisonous frog population, monitoring grand fauna, conducting educational programs and field activities for schools, etc to achieve the objectives of the reserve.

Community Based Tourism in Favard Village Project

The Project was established from a common initiative of Favard's inhabitants (2013-2015). The Project was based on the respect and appreciation of the traditional lifestyle of the local community. Chocolate making, açai juice making, palm leaf weaving, walks in the forest were some of the activities that attracted tourist to the village. However, the village faces many challenges such as no internet connection, difficult to access training, vision of the future and entrepreneurship mindset. Subsequently with the exposure of the village, training opportunities were introduced and better access to the village were made which also increased the touristic flow.

Ms. **Katia Delvoye** spoke on a Project being implemented in her country where local communities are creating products to sustain their livelihood.

The Amazon Conservation Team

This is a worldwide organisation that partners with the indigenous people to help protect the rainforest and traditional culture in the Northeast areas of the amazon. Land & Resource Management, Internal and External Governance and Community Sustainability are some of the strategies used by the ACT to protect and bring benefits to the local community and rainforest. With the partnership, local community members are free to create products such as arts & crafts, bottled organic pepper, bottled honey, herbal tea, etc to receive income to provide for their families and a thriving economy within the community.

Guyana's representatives, **Jacqueline Allicock** and **Dayne Fredericks** shared their communities' experiences on how eco-tourism was an asset in developing their community and the livelihood of their people.

'The Surama Experience' Village Structure

This village is titled owned and managed by the community. Volunteerism is one of the main strategies that build the economy of the community. Partnerships also play a part in developing the community and helped combat some of the challenges faced by the community. The one main solution for the community was to train the next generation in different tourist activities and management skills. These trainees can then help bring exposure to the community.

Warapoka

In Warapoka, fishing is seen as a sport but was not really supported. With the introduction of eco-tourism and partnerships from NGO's, youths were trained in different areas to help create employment in their community, craft training and learning how to promote the activities of the community such as fishing for sport.

In closing, it was highlighted that ecotourism can be a means of revenue generation and benefit both nature and humans alike. It also created partnerships to ensure sustainable management and development of tourism sector and networking opportunities.

Group discussion on community-Based Ecotourism linked to protected areas of the Guianas

The participants were divided into four working groups and each group was assigned one of the following topics for discussion, how to insure:

- Meaningful involvement of the communities
- Benefit sharing (to the whole community)
- Visitor management (quantity-wise too)
- Tourist-inhabitant relationship: behaviours, image rights, privacy

Each group needed to outline the common challenges met by the Guianas, the solutions and the opportunities to better networking in terms of sharing best experience and practices. The discussions held by each group were summarized and are as followed.

Meaningful involvement of the Communities

Challenges identified by members were:

- Lack of long-term strategies in terms of employment. Employment is seasonal.
- High regulations with emphasis on legal framework restrictions.
- Lack of cohesion and communication amongst agencies e.g. organizations repeating the same activities as the other.
- Loss of cultural identity and lack of interest in conservation from the youths.

Suggested solutions made by members

To solve problems met by each country, leaders of the community along with partners need to establish a training centre or programs to teach members of the community, both young and old, skills that can create employment and appreciation for nature and animals. Also, annual forums should be kept to update members of the communities and agencies about the activities that have taken place in the community.

Opportunities identified by the group were:

- Agencies can create training programme for the local community.
- Networking between PA's to create more institutional strength amongst each other.
- Partnership should provide avenues for economic opportunities (art & craft) and market linkages.

Benefit sharing to the Entire Community

Some challenges mentioned by the group were:

- Land title issues pose complications for discussions and implementation of benefit sharing mechanisms for some countries e.g. Suriname and French Guiana

- There are differing definitions for ‘subsistence use’
- The three Guianas have a developing tourism industry, and many organizations need strengthening mainly- government, communities, industry, training institutions etc.

Solutions to challenges mentioned were:

- Community empowerment is necessary
- Capacity building is needed however recognizing that communities already have capacity and skills that would help tourism to be successful e.g. traditional knowledge of biodiversity, spotting skills, heritage skills etc. Capacity building is a two-way process. Communities do need capacity building for areas of business development e.g. accounting, hospitality, housekeeping to standards required for hotels, enhancing biodiversity skills, etc.
- Ensuring that for communities in need of developing in the tourism sector, the risk takers (the business interested people) are targeted and ideas used from the member of the communities, rather than imposing ideas on communities.
- Government should give marketing support for local communities.

Opportunities stated were:

- Governments of the three Guianas should work together
- Grants for Feasibility studies for issues related to sector development e.g. energy, tourism etc.
- Loans would be organized for projects but has to go through the Government.
- Business opportunities- e.g. craft or produce from communities to be sold in PAs shops for tourists to buy.

Visitor Management

Challenges raised were:

- Increase of visitor can be a problem for the local community as they may feel threatened or frown upon the behaviors of the tourists.
- Illegal operators looking to exploit both local community members and tourist

Solutions were:

- Monitoring of the tourist/visitor population and being able to regulate it
- Creating a code of conduct for each tourist visiting the area.
- Working with police officers (the law) to arrest and stop illegal operators in the area.

Opportunities stated were:

- Partnering with the police force or training rangers to protect the tourist, communities and the area.

- Airline agencies can regulate the amount of visitor wanting to enter the protected areas e.g. Kaieteur Falls.

Tourist-inhabitant relationship: behaviours, image rights, privacy

Challenge stated was:

- Different rules in the PA's of the Guianas- between the local community and tourists.
- It's difficult for local communities to have benefits shared equally with tourists.

Solutions made:

Tour guides should be certified before working in specific areas where people inhabit. These individuals must know of the area and people inhabiting it (their practices, beliefs and way of life). In addition, tourist must be made aware of the ways of the local people before entering the community.

Suggested Opportunities were:

- Local communities should work together with tour guides to combine rules for tourists.
- MoU should be in place between both parties.

The facilitator brought the group session to a close and provided details on the activities of the next day.



Participants of the group discussion

Day 2 – November 20th, 2019

The second day of the workshop began with a presentation by **Kiara Julca**, a specialist of the Functional Unit of Tourism Management in Peru. The presentation features the Tourism Management in Peruvian Protected Natural Areas (National Park).

Tourism Management in Peruvian Protected Natural Areas (National Park)

The objective of the Tourism Management in Peru is to contribute to the conservation of nature and economic development of the local people, also to permit that citizens visit and value the natural heritage.

Several actions were lined up to achieve this:

- *Planning and Management of tourist sites*
- *Diversification and strength of tourist offer*
- *Use of natural resources and biodiversity*
- *Monitoring of tourist activity*

*To carry out these actions, allies for conservation were made. These allies came in the form of concessions, contracts and agreements with the local people to strengthen tourism in their area. This method proved to be beneficial in a program called **Turismo Emprede** which improved the eco-touristic sector of the community.*



Kiara Julca delivering her presentation

Panel Discussion on how to tackle the need for more skilled operators in the field of sustainable conservation compatible tourism

A panel discussion based on the topic “How to tackle the need for more skilled operators in the field of sustainable conservation compatible tourism?” was facilitated by **Shenera Sam**. Each participant from the three Guianas contributed with their own experiences.

The panelists were:

- **Guyana** – Mr. Karmul Balsh, Mr. James Atkinson
- **Suriname** – Ms. Santoesha Lachman
- **French Guiana** – Ms. Lucie Mato, Ms. Leïca Desire

Mr. **Karmul Balsh** (Senior Officer of Product Development and Certification in Guyana Tourism Authority) presented a model to boost and tackle the gap in the skills particularly in communities across the country. The model called “community led and owned” suggests the ideas, initiatives, etc. come from the community. With this model, the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) facilitate the training of personnel through peer to peer activities where more developed community members train others starting up in an area for example tour guiding. GTA also conducts a needs assessment with communities and the results from this survey help to identify the areas where long term support is needed in the community. A long-term benefit is that this model helps members of the community to generate income and introduce their community as a tourist destination.

Mr. **James Atkinson** shared his experience on the start-up tourism committee within his community where their leaders find that there was a need for more development of tourism. Some of these include basic training for tour guides particularly in identifying bird species, plant species and fishes. As a result, more emphasis needs to be placed on training youths to become professional tour guides or further their studies in areas of ecotourism. In addition, these individuals with training help improve the community in areas such as financing for the feasibility studies in the community, budgeting, book-keeping, proper transparency and accountability, accounting, market research and assistance in procurement. There are limitations within the area of persons interested in dealing with tourism. This is due to lack of employment and persons leaving the community for work in the city however persons who stay help to benefit their community immensely.

Ms. **Leïca Desire** (Association People en Harmonie) presented on some of the actions done by the association she is a part of. The aim and objective of the association is to help local communities build new projects linked to the promotion of their environment, the know-hows, co-management and to co-construct the project from the phase of feasibility to a sustainable stage while giving them the necessary tools to complete it. In order to achieve this, a consultation phase is done through group discussions among the inhabitants or with the project leaders then there is

mobilization of financial partners, training and professionalization of the actors and the conception of the business plan, the strength of the product, the commercialization and communication. Before putting in place these assistances, a campaign of characterization and identification of the project leaders is carried out in the different villages. They are first, sensitized to sustainable development, to social and solidarity-based economy and to solidarity tourism in order to assess their needs and propose an adapted assistance. The sensitization is also carried out among local decision-makers, to accompanying structures and rural territories. Networking with the project leaders to share their experiences with each other and facilitating the commercialization of their offers with the community. There is a standby mechanism which is put in place to share events and information with the project leaders of the community. An example of training was in the Favard village, which was the first initiative for the association and which lasted 2 years. 10 inhabitants were trained on the different phases of the project and different aspects of tourism like guiding, accounting and management. It was an ongoing training on the long term which has allowed the association to offer a viable product and which is nowadays operational.

Ms. **Lucie Mato** (Coastal Conservation Authority) shared her challenges with a project that her institution has initiated for one year now, rice fields in the town of Mana. These rice fields have been abandoned for more than 10 years now so the agriculture had died up and closed. This impacted the biodiversity of the area (there is a decrease), mostly avifauna. The objective of the project was to restore the hydraulic network, to bring back water and develop activities like agriculture, cattle rearing and the bird population. Once the project of restoration is complete, they hope to develop activities like cycling, kayaking, horse-riding and tour-guiding to increase tourist population in the area. She further mentioned the inaccessibility of the land to the inhabitants of Mana as they have not had access to this site for more than 10 years. Another challenge mentioned is the underdevelopment of tourism in the Mana area. There is only one hotel available, huts with hammocks to sleep in however not all tourists were comfortable with the sleeping arrangements and there are very few restaurants. Communication is a challenge amongst several agencies who offer those support. She stated that it is very difficult to combat each problem with very limited assistance even though they have a year-old management plan and have conducted discussions with engineers' associations, local actors and the population, more still needs to be done.

Ms. **Santoessa Lachman** (Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism) mentioned in her country, collaborations are done with the ministries and operators to create plans on tackling the provision of more skilled personnel in the local communities and increasing more communication to a monthly basis through social media and face to face visits.

Question, Answer and Suggestion

Mr. **Michel Aloiké** raised a question on how to sway local community member who do not like tourist coming into their area. Mr **Roy Ho Tsoi** answered this by suggesting hosting open hall

meetings with the entire community to make each member aware of the tourist and establish a visitor and community member code of conduct.

Solutions were made to solve the challenges facing the project brought to light by Lucie Mato:

- Consultancy can be a beneficial aspect in order to develop tourism and institute training in marketing.
- Conducting assessments within the area to find out exactly what the region needs.
- Together with stake holders, develop a plan to solve the problem in the area.

Final comments were made by Mr. **Alphonso King** who said, “tourism takes time to show how beneficial it is, frustrations may arise however one only need to keep at it to achieve their goals.”

Group discussion on the challenges linked to the remoteness of the Protected Areas

The participants of the workshop were divided in three group to discuss the challenges linked to the remoteness of the Protected Areas specifically on issues faced, solutions to the problem and opportunities for cooperation. Topics given to the groups were:

- limited access to network facilities and public services
- inaccessibility to the territories and
- unique attraction for the territories

Each group presented a summary of what was discussed during the time given for discussions:

Limited access to network facilities and public services

Issues faced:

- Limited access to mobile and Wi-Fi for not only the tourist but for local communities who need this for basic planning
- Access to health services is limited e.g. in Suriname, not all villages have health centers
- Medical supplies to communities are hard to obtain
- Waste management
- Legal framework for tourism to be adopted to operate sustainability
- Management of lodges and tourist responsibility

Solutions:

- Government in Suriname should create policies to establish access to Wi-Fi and mobile to remote communities which can help improve education, the tourism sector and social benefits.

- Educate the local community on the benefits of using bio-degradable products, recycling and reusing plastics to reduce wastage or pollution.
- Managing visitor expectation such as suggestion boxes, management policies should be implemented.

Opportunities for Cooperation:

- PA organization should create linkages with the local community as well as other public and private institution.
- MoUs between institutions
- In Guyana GTA can assist with the business planning for WIFI and can share the was in with they carry out the process with the other Guianas.
- NGOs can help in supplying health supplies and government assistance can be given.

Inaccessibility to the territories

Issues faced:

- Isolated areas can have difficulty accessing simple resources that are available to the city.
- High and additional cost is added to provide products to remote areas.

Solution presented were:

- There should be a balance between the accessibility of PA's and the protection of biodiversity with the local community.
- Communication with tourist to find out the expectations and need when visiting the area.
- Regulations for tourist to enter certain areas should be taken into consideration.

Opportunities mentioned by the group were:

- Discussions with the three Guiana governments on the reduction of restriction of visa between the three countries.
- Stakeholder collaboration is necessary.

Unique Attractions of territories

Issues mentioned by members of the group were:

- The loss of cultural identity and historical heritage in the local community.
- Most local communities are very isolated and is difficult for tourist to access.

Solutions stated were:

- Working together with stakeholders to provide better access to local communities
- Cultural demonstrations and outreach programs to educate local and tourist about the heritage of the community.

Opportunities suggested by group member were:

- Exchanging experiences can develop better networking. Collaboration between the three Guianas can occur.
- Intergenerational links to heritage programs with universities and NGO's.

Impacts of Legal and Illegal Incursions on Ecotourism

A panel discussion was held with the topic 'Impact of legal and illegal incursion on eco-tourism development in the protected areas of the Guianas' (e.g. fishing, hunting, logging, etc.). It was facilitated by Ms **Kaminie Tajib-Rakimoen** who gave a brief description on why it is important to protect our country (protected areas) from poachers, hunters and illegal miners.

Panel members were as followed:

- **Guyana:** Dr. Raquel Thomas - Caesar
- **French Guiana:** Mr Michel Aloiké
- **Suriname:** Mr Rudewan Sowikromo

Dr. **Raquel Thomas - Caesar** began the discussion by giving a brief definition of what the protected area of Iwokrama is all about. She stated, Iwokrama serves as a model for sustainable use, works together with 20 indigenous people communities and is run by an international board of trustees. Even though it is protected by the Iwokrama Act, there have been cases of illegal mining, logging, hunting and fishing in the area. These illegal activities for example over-hunting of fishes which is an important problem for the local community since their source of food is taken away and illegal mining which causes pollution in the rivers making it too dangerous for consumption or simple daily use. She mentions further that measures are being put in place in terms of collaborating with rangers and the GGMC (Guyana Geological Mining Commission) to arrest and issue warnings to individuals who are partaking in these illegal activities and forming agreements with local communities to create monitoring group with the help of the police force to catch and arrest any person involved in illegal activity.

Mr. **Michel Aloiké** continued the discussion by sharing some of the experiences he has encountered in his community as it relates to illegal activities. He spoke on there always being a risk when trying to track and capture persons involved in illegal activities in the protected areas since they tend to attack instead of giving up. One challenge faced by the local community as a result of illegal hunting is the difficulty local communities have in finding game (meat) to survive on. With increase in hunting, the animal population has reduced significantly, and local communities are left to find other difficult means to survive. Another challenge mentioned was

gold mining. Gold miners use mercury to extract gold from the earth but can contaminate water thus polluting the rivers and lakes and contaminating all fish and any inhabitant of the water ways.

Finally, Mr **Rudewan Sowikromo** concluded the discussion by sharing Suriname experience on illegal activities. In his presentation he mentioned Suriname's northern zone being protected from hunters and other illegal actors as this protected area contains migratory birds being a main attraction for tourists. Furthermore, certain areas within the protected areas are designated for fishing by local fishermen as a means of survival. One of the challenges facing Suriname is illegal hunting and illegal mining of gold. Hunters who are captured are fined or prosecuted by the authorities.

Suggestions, Questions and Answers

Two questions were asked concerning the size of the illegal mining in French Guiana and the monitoring of the species of fishes being fished by local fishermen in Suriname. They were answered firstly by Michel Aloiké who responded by saying,

“Signs from the amount of water being polluted and large sites discovered show that a number of miners were present.” The second question was answered by Rudewan Sowikromo saying, “There are guidelines in place to monitor the amount of fishes to be taken and all certified fisherman must use a specific size of net.

One Suggestion was made by Odacy Davis, she spoke of the importance of gold mining for a country especially Guyana since it is one of the minerals exported for income. Policies must be made to benefit both the miners and the inhabitants of the protected areas. Each participant needs to look at the broader view since local communities need to survive and the government needs to gain income to sustain the country.

The facilitator closed the session with a parting statement for each participant of the workshop, “Risk and livelihood goes hand in hand.”

Solutions to challenges met in ecotourism development

Presentation were made showcasing the experiences each country had on the topic ‘Solutions to challenges met in ecotourism development in the protected areas.’ Each country was represented by a delegate.

Members of the panel were:

- **Guyana:** Michael Patterson
- **French Guiana:** Loïc Massué
- **Peru:** Kiara Julca

Mr. **Michael Patterson** on behalf of Guyana presented the Challenges and Solutions of Eco-tourism development in the Iwokrama Forest and neighbouring communities (protected areas). Their mandate or mission is to promote the conservation and wise use of tropical forest in a manner that will lead to lasting ecological, cultural, economic and social benefits to the people of Guyana and the world in general by undertaking research, training and the development and dissemination of technologies. He stated the challenges faced by the protected area in which he lives in, for instance, illegal activities (mining, fishing, forestry, tourism operation), community's reluctance to ecotourism and low infrastructure with high maintenance cost (buildings, vehicles, boats). To solve these issues, outreaches were done with the community to enlighten each local member of the benefits of ecotourism, as well as training of unskilled members and partnerships and government support agreements were created to solve the infrastructural and illegal challenges in the community.

Mr. **Loïc Massué**, French Guiana delegation, presented a project on how his country solve the challenges faced in ecotourism. The project was established in Maroni community with the hope that ecotourism can flourish and benefit each member of the community however the local community was not aware of how beneficial tourism can be and therefore showed resistance. To solve the problem, programs were created to bring awareness on tourism and training campaigns developed. He also presented another project that was successful in solving the challenges of ecotourism of the community by creating a code of conduct for tourist visiting local communities who were a bit reluctant to have strangers in their inhabitation.

The final presentation was given by Ms. **Kiara Julca**, the representative of Peru. She presented the Tombopata National Reserve as the shared experience in her country. This reserve is in the Tombopata Province and covers 274 690 hectares of protected area. Improvement were needed in order to increase tourist population as well as activities so as to keep them interested in the area. Partnership and governmental support were given to revitalize the reserve and within a few years the areas have become a major tourist attraction. Fees were added to create income to up-keep the quality of the reserve e.g. trails, transportation, etc.

In closing, the facilitator comments on several of the projects presented and thanks each participant of the panel for sharing their country's experiences as they will help each member of the workshop develop and improve the eco-touristic aspects of their country.

Day 3 – November 21st, 2019

The final day of the workshop began with a short presentation followed by a panel discussion on how to improve the scope of tourism and exploring other forms of tourism in and around the protected areas e.g. Educational/ Research/ Conservation Tourism. The presentation was given by Dr. **Raquel Thomas-Caesar** of Guyana who also facilitated the panel discussion. She greeted the workshop with a warm welcome before introducing the panel members.

In her presentation, she gave a brief background of the Guianas as it relates to their size, population, forest cover, economy, indigenous people and annual tourist population statistics. She made known that the Guianas are probably the most forested covers countries in the world. In addition to the background, she brought to light all that the Guianas have to offer in terms of beautiful forests, abundance of flora and fauna, cultural heritage (crafts, folktales, cook, films), research and rehabilitation centers, film and photographic scenery and the welcomed atmosphere local community offers. In closing, she mentioned that the Guianas is blessed, and it is our duty to protect all they have to offer.

Panel Discussion on how to improve scope of tourism and exploring other forms of tourism in and around Protected Areas

Panel members include:

- **Guyana:** Edward Mc Garrell & Jaqueline Allicock
- **French Guiana:** Thibaut Foch
- **Suriname:** Rudewan Sowikromo

Mr. **Edward Mc Garrell** presented a brief description in the Kaieteur Park protected area and his village Chenapau which is next to the Park; and new discoveries e.g. the blue tarantula. He further added that tourism is something that can benefit everyone and with the collaboration of agencies e.g. GTA and the government, conservation can be achieved. We must protect the forest since it is the world's lungs.

Ms. **Jaqueline Allicock** shared the experience of having a tourism committee in her village. Surama tourism committee encourages its members to create and sell products to tourists to generate income for the community. From this, her community can achieve a sustainable economy and improve their development. Training is also held in collaboration with partnering agencies. These training programs teaches members of the community ways to adversities world-wide, promote and improve customer services with tourists and educate themselves in other areas of

tourism. A village council was also created to handle issues and agreements as it relates villagers and tourists.

French Guiana representative, Mr. **Thibaut Foch** presented a brief description of the Mount Grand Matoury national reserve and the species (flora and fauna) located in the area. The protected area is located near an airport and is the most visited protected area in French Guiana. With the increase in tourism, there is a need for more skilled personnel, tourism activities, educational programs to teach youth about the forest and its importance. To solve this, rangers volunteer to educate youths about the forest (flora and fauna) and the government helps to finance educated employee to assist in tourism educational programs.

Mr. **Rudewan Sowikromo** gives specific information on how his country partake in school visits to teach children about the protected areas and the species that inhabit it. This information is distributed to different institutions to allow them to become aware of how important the protected areas were and what they can do to protect it. Government wise, with the help of other organizations create restrictions and laws to protect and prosecute individuals who hunt or conduct illegal mining. The local communities who live in the protected areas do not have to abide by these rules since hunts is done as a way of surviving.

Questions and Answers

A question was asked to Mr. Thibaut Foch about the concern of a protected area being so close to the airport and if the animal living within it is affected. He responded by saying, there has been no study to determine the impact the airport has on the wildlife; however, it is a small airstrip with too little activities to know the impacts caused. The one problem that is faced by the protected area is poaching.

Group Discussion on partnering for Protected Area Tourism Sustainable Development and developing ecotourism business plans for PAs

The workshop participants were divided into four groups to discuss the topic, ‘Partnering for Protected Area Tourism Sustainable Development and developing ecotourism business plans for PAs’ with specific focus on the opportunity for networking. Each group needed to focus on opportunities for cooperation and sharing of experiences/best practices, recommendations for short term and long-term actions and funding sources for the protected areas.

Group 1

Opportunities for cooperation and sharing of experiences/best practices:

- Exchange visits
- Making use of networking
- Shared experiences on awareness and education

Recommendations for short term and long-term actions

- Short Term
 - Create email, whatsapp chat or online platforms
 - Share brochures

- Long Term
 - MoU of cooperation agreements
 - Co-marketing opportunities
 - Visa and travel requirements to increase internal travel between countries

Funding source for the protected areas:

- Green Economy Transition or UN
- EU – environmental focuses
- Government cooperation (Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana)
- World Bank/International Monetary Fund

Group 2

Opportunities for cooperation and sharing of experiences/best practices:

- More workshops and Expos
- Regional and international meetings to promote ecotourism in the Guianas
- Create a Guiana Shield package e.g. travelling, trading, etc.

Recommendations for short term and long-term actions:

- Collaboration between universities
- Outreach programs (training)
- Internships

Funding source for the protected areas:

- Enhance changes by working as a unit
- Compensations
- Obtain sponsors with ethic boundaries

Group 3

Opportunities for cooperation and sharing of experiences/best practices:

- Exchange visits between the Guianas
- Multicultural Programs

Recommendations for short term and long-term actions:

- Provide ways to better networking between the Guianas
- Promote the International Literacy Day

Funding source for the protected areas:

- Renforesap Projects
- Government support

Group 4

Opportunities for cooperation and sharing of experiences/best practices:

- Sharing of experiences on how to make study trips possible including operators and guides
- Cooperation between lodges, within countries (different operators and communities), between the Guianas and countries in South America.
- System set up for more free travel between the Guianas e.g. Guyana visa requirements
- Marketing of the Guianas.

Recommendations for short term and long-term actions:

- Short term
 - MoU between governments to facilitate future cooperation
 - Establish or renew MoU for transboundary cooperation e.g. tourism between Galibi and Awala Yalimapo
- Long term
 - Solve the visa issues

Funding source for the protected areas:

- EU funding
- Life + dedication to the environment for every individual involved.

Video Presentation

Participants of each country showcased video presentations on projects carried out by their country on tourism, different protected areas located in their country, the improvement within their tourism sector, local and international programs and speeches from influential individuals on tourism. A few of these presentations were:

- ‘The Amazon for all’ by French Guiana
- ‘Healthy Parks, Healthy People’ by Colombia
- ‘ACT Oral Histories’ by Suriname

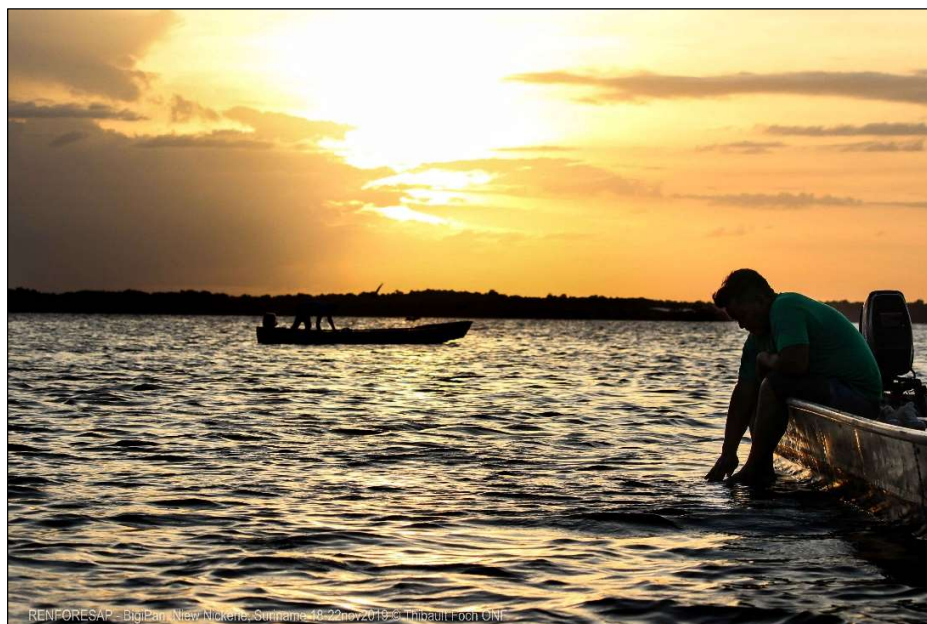
Excursion on the lake

Two boats of participants were taken on a tour of the Bigi Pan wetlands. This wetland is home to a variety of fishes and birds. Each member of the workshop had a chance to see the splendor and beauty Suriname’s protected area had to offer.



RENFORESAP - BigiPan, Nieuw Nickerie, Suriname 18-22nov2019 © Thibault Foch ONF

Participants on the Wetland



RENFORESAP - BigiPan, Nieuw Nickerie, Suriname 18-22nov2019 © Thibault Foch ONF

Sunset in Bigi Pan



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Bird life in the Wetlands

Closing Remarks

A brief review of the activities completed in the workshop as it relates to the objectives, strategies, challenges, solutions and shared experiences were revised. Mr. Arnaud Anselin thanked the participants, the Bigi Pan team, the coordinator for making the 3rd workshop a success. Mr. Claude Suzanon also thanked each member and participant as well as encourage them to remain in contact with each other in order to bring about change through networking.

Event Programme



RENFORESAP's Regional Workshop on Ecotourism Development in the Protected Areas of the Guianas

Bigi Pan, Nieuw Nickerie, Suriname

19th – 21st of November 2019

Objective of the workshop:

Improve the management of protected areas through the sharing of best practices and experiences between stakeholders and communities

Expected outcomes:

Contribute to an action plan for the development of ecotourism in the Protected Areas of the Guianas and Identify opportunities of cooperation

DAY 1: Tuesday November 19th, 2019

8:30 – 9:00 am

Registration

9:00 - 9: 20 am

Welcoming Address and Opening Remarks (Facilitator: Roy Ho Tsoi)

Suriname:

1. Representative of the District Commissioner of Nickerie: Mrs Joyce Toelsie
2. deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism: Mrs Faridy Lila
3. Legal advisor at the Ministry of Spatial Planning: Mrs Kaminie Tajib

Guyana:

4. Raquel Thomas Chairman of the Board of the Protected Areas Commission

	<p>5. Denise Fraser, Commissioner of the Protected Areas Commission</p> <p>French Guiana:</p> <p>6. Claude Suzanon, President of the French Guiana National Park</p>
09:20 – 09:30 am	Presentation of RENFORESAP Project and Workshop Overview
09:30 – 09:50 am	Address by representative of Akira Group
09:50 – 10:20 am	<p>Getting to know the participants & Workshop Logistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who are you? -What do you do? - One favourite tourism experience
10:20 – 10:35 am	BREAK
10:35 – 11:35 pm	<p>Protected Areas and the Development of Ecotourism– <i>Country Perspectives (Guianas)</i></p> <p><i>Sebastiaan Spek and Damilla Williams from Suriname, Denise Fraser from Guyana, Viviane Ng Kon Tia + Loïc Massué + Laurent Garnier from French Guiana</i></p>
11:35 – 12:00 pm	<p>How to integrate ecotourism in protected areas policies and practice?</p> <p><i>Carolina Gonzales from Colombia</i></p>
12 :00 – 1 :30 pm	LUNCH
1:30 – 2:45 pm	<p>How can ecotourism in protected areas contribute to the sustainable livelihoods for local communities? - <i>Best practices & experiences from the Guiana Shield countries</i></p> <p><i>Suriname: Katia Delvoye</i></p> <p><i>French Guiana: Leïca Desire, Laurent Garnier, Elisabeth Wilicki</i></p> <p><i>Guyana: Jacqueline Allcock, Dayne Fredericks.</i></p>
2:45 – 3:00 pm	BREAK
3:00 – 4:30	<p>Group discussion on:</p> <p>Community-Based Ecotourism linked to protected areas of the Guianas – How to insure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>meaningful involvement of the communities</i> - <i>Benefit sharing (to the whole community)</i> - <i>Visitor management (quantity-wise too)</i> - <i>Tourist-inhabitant relationship: behaviours, image rights, privacy</i>
4:30 pm	END of DAY 1

DAY 2: Wednesday November 20th, 2019	
8: 30 – 9:00 am	Registration
9: 00 – 10:15 am	<p>Discussion panel on:</p> <p>How to tackle the need for more skilled operators in the field of sustainable conservation compatible tourism?</p> <p>Brief presentation from Peru: Kiara followed by discussions</p> <p>Suriname: Miss Lachman</p> <p>French Guiana: Lucie Mato + Leïca Desire</p> <p>Guyana: Kamul Bash + Marcus Atkinson</p>
10:15 – 10:45 am	BREAK
10:45 – 12 pm	<p>Group discussion on:</p> <p>The challenges linked to the remoteness of the Protected Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - limited access to network facilities and public services - High cost for transportation - inaccessibility to the territories and -unique attraction for the territories <p>=> ISSUES, SOLUTIONS, OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION</p>
12:00 – 1:15 pm	LUNCH
1:15 – 2:45 pm	<p>Discussion panel on:</p> <p>Impacts of legal and illegal incursions on eco-tourism development in the protected areas of the Guianas (e.g. mining, hunting and logging, etc.)</p>
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Break
3:00 – 4:30 pm	Solutions to challenges met in ecotourism development in protected areas of the Guianas - <i>Sharing experiences from the Guiana Shield countries</i>
4:30 pm	END of DAY 2
Day 3: Thursday November 21st, 2019	
8: 30 – 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 – 10: 15 am	Short presentation followed by panel discussion:

	How to improve scope of tourism and exploring other forms of tourism in and around Protected Areas e.g. Educational/ Research/ Conservation Tourism?
10:15 – 11:45 am	<p>Group discussions on:</p> <p>Partnering for Protected Area Tourism Sustainable Development and developing ecotourism business plans for PAs.</p> <p>Opportunities for networking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opportunities for cooperation and sharing of experiences/best practices • Recommendations for short term and long-term actions. • Funding source (known or perceived)
11:45 – 12:15 pm	Video Presentations
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm	LUNCH
2:00 – 6:00 pm	Excursion on the lake
Time to be determined	Closing Remarks & Wrap up

Who's who



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Ecotourism Development in the Protected Areas of the Guianas
Développement de l'écotourisme dans les aires protégées des Guyanes
 Suriname. Nickerie, Bigi Pan - 18-21th november 2019



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Carolina Gonzales
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 Specialist of the Functional Operating
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Suriname Delegation



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PR Coordinator
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism



Joyce Toelsie
Ajunct District Secretary
Nickerie
Ministry of Regional Development



Nadia Ashruf
Legal Department
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism



Katia Delvoye
Regional Coordinator
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Amazon Conservation Team



Faridy Lila
Permanent Deputy
Secretary Tourism
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Roy Ho Tsoi
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Sebastiaan Spek
Repr MUMA North
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Cluster Commewijne



Ronnie Mangoentaroeno
Game Warden/Acting
Administrator BIGI PAN
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Ministry of Spatial Planning, Land & Forest Management



Damilla Williams
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Vincent Esajas
Chief PA Administrator Nature
Conservation Paramaribo
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Amarnath Jagessar
Nature Conservation Division
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Rudewan Sowikromo
Education
Ministry of Spatial Planning, Land & Forest Management



Jonathan Tilborg
Sound Engineer



Tarmilan Kasidi
Lodge Owner Albatros
Tours BIGI PAN MUMA



Pawiroredjo Rudi
Rep Lodge Owner Mantje's
Tours BIGI PAN MUMA



Stephanie Kramawitana
Lodge Owner Stephanie's
Tours BIGI PAN MUMA



Sylvia Ang
Lodge Owner Akira Nature
Resort BIGI PAN MUMA



Jeffrey Jong Tjien Fa
Lodge Owner Akira Nature
Resort BIGI PAN MUMA



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French Guiana Delegation



Loïc Massue
Officer in charge of Tourism - Amazonian Park



Lucie Mato
Project Officer Coastline Conservation Authority



Laurent Garnier
Conservation Officer at Amana Reserve Natural Regional Park of French Guiana



Claudia Berthier
Multimedia Project Manager Amazonian Park



Thibaut Foch
Conservation Officer at Mont Grand Matoury Reserve National Office for Forestry



Viviane Ng Kon Tia
Officer in charge of the Observatory for tourism and training Tourism Committee of French Guiana



Elisabeth Wilicki
Officer in charge of Sustainable Development Territorial Collectivity of French Guiana



Michel Aloiké
Tour operators in the upper Maroni Envie d'aventures amazoniennes



Severine Champetier
Officer in charge Municipality of Papaïchton



Leïca Desire
Officer in charge of the development of solidarity tourism Association Peuple en Harmonie



Milena Valbuena
Officer in Charge of Suriname-Guyana Office Agence Française de Développement



Cédric Berton
Officer-European Affairs Office in French Guiana



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*Ecotourism Development in the Protected Areas of the Guianas
Développement de l'écotourisme dans les aires protégées des Guyanes
Suriname, Nickerie, Bigi Pan - 18-21th november 2019*

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**Surama Village & NRDDB
near to Iwokrama**



Edward Mc Garrell
Toshao
**Chenapau Village near to
Kaieteur National Park**



Dayne Fredericks
...
**Warapoka Village near
to Shell Beach Protected
Area**



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**Santa Rosa Village near
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