Indigenous Women and Climate Change
Suriname case study
by
Hariette Vreedzaam & Ethel Jubithana
18-19 November 2010
OVERVIEW

- SURINAME & CC; GENERAL INFORMATION
- IP & CC; OCCURRENCES, TREATHS & IMPACTS
- INDIGENOUS WOMEN & CC
- FOOD SECURITY
- SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE
- WOMEN’S SECURITY
- LAND TENURE & SECURITY
- CHALLENGES – SUPPORT NEEDED BY WOMEN (CBO’s)
SURINAME & CC;
GENERAL INFORMATION

- LAND AREA 164.000 KM
- 16 DIFFERENT SPOKEN LANGUAGES INCLUDING > 5 IP’s
- APPROX. 18.000 IP
- 50 AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES

CONVENTIONS
1. UNCCD
2. UNCBD
3. UNFCC
4. KYOTO
IP & CC; OCCURRENCES, TREATHS & IMPACTS

• CASE STUDY 3 COMMUNITIES;

• CHANGES OF THE WEATHER AFTER THE SIXTIES (60); LONGER RAIN & DRY SEASONS, MORE STORMS, UNPREDICTABLE WEATHER;

• FOOD SECURITY IN JEOPARDY;

• UNAVAILABILITY OF PROTEIN.
INDIGENOUS WOMEN & CC

- HOUSEHOLD INDIGENOUS FAMILY
- EXPERIENCES OF FLOODS IN 2006 & 2008 IN IP AND TP COMMUNITIES;
  < 50,000 EFECTED PEOPLE
  NO LOSS OF LIVES
  NO RESETTLEMENTS BUT REARRANGEMENTS INTERNALLY
  ALMOST ALL PLOTS WERE SOACKED
- INTERRUPTION OF DAILY LIFE
- CC AND MANIOC ROOT
FOOD SECURITY

• Collective responsibility
• Planning ahead, prospecting of site especially during rainy season
• Making a choice
Sustainable Forest Management and Governance

• Women role: teaching, transfer of Knowledge and the “knowing” about the relationship between men and nature and spirituality;

• Women voices: through their role as traditional authority, traditional mid-wives and healers, CBO’s
Women security

• Gender inequality, yes and no! Go’s hand in hand with
  a) strong traditional leadership and
  b) awareness and taking responsibility for its own welfare by women,

• Vulnerability yes! Impact of modern lifestyle and technology. As a consequence: prostitution (human trafficking?), young modern Indigenous Women stepping out / neglecting cultural and spiritual norms. Supporting young men in their attempt to mortgage community forest.
Continue Women Security

• Discrimination in daily life yes! By national legal system, government administration, in husband and wife relation.
Land Tenure and Security

- Status of IP’s Land: no legal title
- IP’s land is Inheritance from ancestors according to culture and tradition,
- Collective ownership: no individual land title and or trading thereof
- National legislation: individual - westernized - tradable title
- Community land accessible at all time to women but through and according to traditional way and rules (e.g. agriculture plot) only.
Support needed by Women CBO’s

- Strengthening: production of training materials, awareness with regard to CC, documentation of the different methods of practices related to CC and food availability;
- Exchange programs with other communities;
- Recognition and protections of IP’s collective Human Rights.