



Report of the 1st Suriname Water Resources Information System (SWRIS) - Water Dialog

Thursday Aug 27, 2009, 8.30-13.00 hr., Conference room University Guesthouse, Leysweg, AdeKUS, Paramaribo, Suriname.

By: Dr. R. Nurmohamed (Project coordinator)

In the framework of the project “**Development of a Suriname Water Resources Information System (SWRIS)**”, a one day information workshop was organized with the project partners, including the launching of the SWRIS project. There were about 24 invited participants from the Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS), the Meteorological Service Suriname (MDS), the Hydraulic Research Division Suriname (WLA), the Natural and Environmental Assessment Dept. (NARENA), a representative of WWF-Suriname, a representative of the Dutch Embassy, 2 independent consultants, and project assistants. Different brochures were distributed among the participants such as the VLIR-AdeKUS brochure, Caribbean Waternet leaflet, Global Water Partnership-Caribbean leaflet, WWF-Suriname brochure, GEMS brochure.

The workshop was opened by the project coordinator Dr. R. Nurmohamed and a welcome remark was given by the Dean of the Faculty of Technology, ir. H. Martinus. After a short introduction of all participants, the different (7) presentations of the day started at 9.00 am.



Dr. R. Nurmohamed (AdeKUS) gave an overview of the general project characteristics, partners involved, project objectives, goals, expected outputs and explained the SWRIS model in detail. He named the different partners contributing directly to the project (SWM, WLA, MDS, AdeKUS, MAS, NARENA) and the GWP-C, WWF and IAHS as supporting partners (scientific review of products). He continued with information that might be needed from the partners, the role of AdeKUS and he also provided a possible structure for the Digital Water Portal SWRIS for Suriname. He also gave examples of other water portals in the world and the advantages of this network system for all partners. He mentioned that in time other institutions will be also be contacted to contribute to SWRIS.

Prof. Dr. S. Naipal (AdeKUS) gave a presentation about water and climate related data collection in Suriname and the need for a SWRIS. He provided an overview of water related projects AdeKUS has conducted and the types of data that have been collected with sophisticated instruments. He concluded with some pictures of field activities and plans in the field of data collection and processing by AdeKUS.



C. Becker Dipl. Met (Head of the MDS) gave an overview of the duties of MDS, the history of measurements and installations of stations, historical and current maps of stations, type of data that is being collected. He also

explains how request of data are being handled at MDS and also presented the coming plans of MDS.

A. Amatali MSc (Head of the WLA) gave an overview of the organizations in Suriname in the field of the water sector, the duties of WLA, the different past and present field activities, the history of measurements and installations of stations, historical and current maps of stations, type of data that is being collected, publications, pictures of field activities, and an overview of existing data and other relevant information. He finished with a summary of policy on data from WLA.

Drs. F. Delhot (Manager Nautical Management MAS) gave an introduction in activities of the MAS with some pictures, the data they collect including different maps and books they produce annually, and the data distribution.

A. Salmin MSc (Researcher SWM) presented an overview of drinking water supply in Suriname and policies on water by SWM, the activities of SWM, the measurements they perform, and the data they have available at SWM.

K. Tjon Lcs. (staff member of NARENA) presented the activities of NARENA, the different GIS based data they produce and sources of basic information, and finally showed some GIS maps they develop and produce.



The presentations ended at 12.00 pm. After a break (with snacks and beverages), the round table conference started. Dr. R. Nurmohamed asked the partners to give their opinion on: their vision of SWRIS, contribution of your organization to SWRIS, and things that need to be added to the activities in the framework of SWRIS.

WLA indicates that this project is a very good initiative and had to be done many years ago. However they indicate that some of the partners here will have their own policy and may have to consult with the Minister. Support is given to this project. The **MAS** also welcome this initiative and they indicate that there is already some overlap in activities with WLA. With this project, the cooperation between partners will increase and they also hope that more partners will join this project. They also agree with support to the SWRIS, but do indicate that there should be a control mechanism on data traffic and data sale. The **SWM** is also happy with the general idea of SWRIS and would very much like to contribute to this project. However they indicate that their contribution should be based on a win-win situation and they may also have to consult their director for certain contribution. The **MDS** says that they are already making data available for many persons, they have also published a lot of data (website MDS), but do emphasize the need of a SWRIS and are also happy with this initiative. **AdeKUS** supports the SWRIS and emphasis the need of a larger data bank because of the large amount of different data they want to make available to the wider public. The SWRIS will provide us more insight in what data is available in Suriname, reports, etc. NARENA says the we should indeed spend our resources in an efficient way and SWRIS is a good model for this. They also indicate that their contribution will be based on a win-win situation.



The PC would like to know from the partners if they have staff members to assist in the execution of their contribution to the project, if there is a need for a small agreement between AdeKUS and the partner institution with regard to their contribution to the SWRIS. All agreed, with support of WWF-Suriname, that this is OK.

The workshop was closed at 13.00 pm with a closing remark by A. Moredjo MSc (representative of WWF-Suriname) and a concluding remark by Dr. R. Nurmohamed (AdeKUS). The PC thanked all the partners for their contribution today and says that soon he will contact the contact persons of the partners to start with the execution of SWRIS. An email list will be activated to follow the progress of SWRIS. Every one was finally invited for a lunch.