

**Minutes of the  
Final Steering Committee Meeting  
Project 00087073-Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Regional Development**

**Date: 21 December 2020**

**Via Zoom**

**Present:**

Name	Title
<b>Steering Committee Members</b>	
Mr. Maverick Boejoekoe	Director Regional Development/Chair
Dr. Margaret Jones Williams	UNDP Deputy Resident Representative/Co-chair
Mr. Nielton Grootfaam	Director Indigenous Affairs/Member
Mrs. Jennyfer Wachter-Jozefzoon	Deputy Director Department of Decentralization/Member
<b>Project Implementation and Support Team</b>	
Mr. Miguel Abili	Staffmember of International Relations Department
Mrs. Simone Sakia	Staffmember of International Relations Department
Ms. Simona Boldewijn	Staffmember of Indigenous Affairs Department
Mr. Ruben Martoredjo	UNDP Programme Associate

Agenda Item	Notes
Opening	Mr. Boejoekoe opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and thanking them for their presence. A round of introductions took place thereafter with the notification that the chair, and co-chair were new and took part for the first time in the Steering Committee meeting of the project.
Presentation of the Report	Mr. Miguel Abili presented the report with power point slides. He started by noting that the main objective of the project was to support the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Regional Development to deliver efficient and targeted services to marginalized populations across Suriname but with emphasis on vulnerable and deprived communities in the hinterland. This would be achieved through a strong programme of National volunteerism, the provision of basic services to communities and ensuring that they are empowered to have a voice in developmental processes.  He elaborated on the activities of 2019 which were implemented in the context of the third extension of the project: 1. Train the trainers sessions for new SDGs working group; three (3) training sessions were held aimed at getting a new cohort



of field workers ready to conduct the outreach and awareness activities

2. SDGs Community outreach in the Kabalebo Region, West Suriname, comprising of the border communities of the Indigenous villages Apoera, Section and Washabo. Focus group sessions were held with the different groups such as village leadership, young people and women.
3. SDGs vacation school sessions were held in 10 districts during the main school holidays.
4. SDGs Info session was held for youth in detention at Opa Doeli Centre, in giving substance to the slogan "Leave No one Behind".
5. Evaluation of the community outreach activities held earlier to determine whether the implementation of the interventions had been effective and to what extent the information still resided among the community
6. Alignment of the district plans with the SDGs, where the 2020 District Plan of Paramaribo was chosen as a pilot.
7. SDGs Info session for people with disabilities, the blind and visually impaired, of the National Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NSBS).
8. Train the trainers training sessions for Rural livelihood and productive inclusion development for Indigenous and Maroon communities in the hinterland, aimed at the improvement of the capacity of the Ministry to successfully foster productive inclusion in rural areas through South South Cooperation (SSC) with Colombia.

There were also activities in the 2019 annual workplan that were not implemented:

1. Continuation of sessions with border communities in Albina, multifunctional community centers and children's home.
2. Rainwater Harvesting for other communities, especially those affected by flooding was not carried out due to a shortage of financial resources.
3. The Atjoni Integrated Development activity in the 2019 work plan had been replaced by the training session 'Train the trainers for rural livelihood and productive inclusion development for indigenous and maroon communities in the hinterland of Suriname', because it fitted better as a follow-up activity to the learning mission to Colombia in November 2017.
4. Setting up a SDGs House/SDGs "Miti Presi" (= meeting place): a base for information sharing to the public and home base of the SDGs working group.

The training activities "Train the trainers sessions for new SDGs working group members" and Training session 'Train the trainers for



	<p>Rural livelihood and productive inclusion development for Indigenous and Maroon communities in the hinterland of Suriname” were not included in the 2019 workplan, but were implemented given the necessity and relevance.</p> <p>The following conclusions and recommendations were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- there is a clear need for opportunities for young people to continue their study at senior high school (VOS) level in the Kabalebo area; and capacity building for the community in the field of agriculture, poultry and textile processing.</li> <li>-the coverage of awareness sessions had to be widened to include the local government structures as well as the local media. The SDGs were not sufficiently incorporated in projects implemented by various stakeholders, nationally and locally.</li> <li>- regard to the holiday schools, coordination is needed not only with the Ministry of Sport and Youth, but also with the coordinators of the various holiday schools for better logistical preparation and implementation of the activities</li> <li>-it is necessary to adjust the SDG information so that it is also clear and understandable for children under 10 years of age.</li> <li>-it is strongly recommended that the SDGs are regularly promoted in schools, for example by incorporating SDGs in the curriculum and or appointing SDGs ambassadors to the various schools</li> <li>-active participation of SDGs working group members in the field activities to be encouraged to ease the workload of the small active members and improve the results</li> <li>-the ministry should sustain the SDGs outreach and awareness activities under the project.</li> </ul>
Discussion	<p>As the presentation spoke to the performance and findings of 2019 Mr. Martoredjo added that the project was implemented during the period of the 2015 to 2019. He shared the overall findings and lessons learned during the lifetime of the project which included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Excellent partnership – close and productive collaboration between UNDP and Implementing partner (Min RO)</li> <li>2. Relevance of localizing SDGs; aligning the local and district plans with SDGs and the contribution the project should be sustained</li> <li>3. The SDGs awareness activities should be widened and deepened, and to be very inclusive by inviting input and involvement of the community</li> <li>4. The process should be inclusive in regard to vulnerable and excluded groups such as People with Disabilities (PWDs), Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs) etc.</li> <li>5. Some successes had been achieved on the provision of services through installation of rainwater harvesting system; other social services should also be given attention such as electricity provision and health services</li> </ol> <p>There were also some critical points:</p>

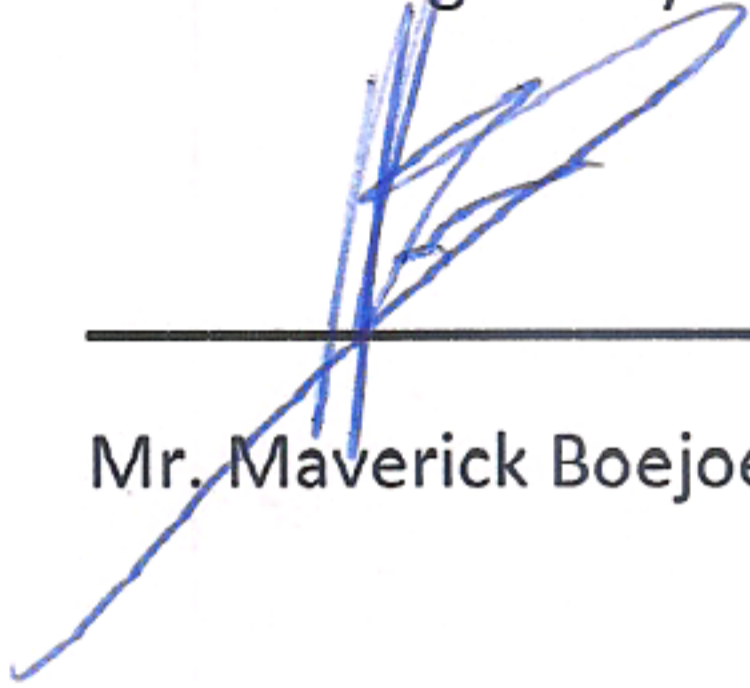


	<p>1. project was designed and approved with Government Cost Sharing; however, due to Macro Economic challenges of the country only UNDP funds was available which resulted lack of coverage of the target communities due limited funding resources</p> <p>2. Mobility of staff; issue faced by all ministries of government and is huge challenge in process of capacity strengthening;</p> <p>3. Although entitled to, staff/working group members didn't receive their overtime compensation from the ministry although most of the outreach/awareness activities took place after working hours and weekends (best time to reach the communities)</p> <p>Dr. Margaret Jones Williams thanked the team for the presentation and the information and updates that were shared. She acknowledged the work of the ministry and the team on the basis of the achievements shown and the targeted communities reached despite the challenges.</p> <p>Being new in the Steering Committee, she thanked Mr. Martoredjo for underlining the fact that project was implemented from for a period of five years namely from 2015 to 2019. She pointed out the importance of localizing the SDGs and encouraged the ministry to continue with the interventions and to sustain and institutionalize the results. Referring to the lack of resources, she recommended to seize the opportunity to raise resources and to continue the work under a new project.</p> <p>Dr. Jones Williams put emphasis on the inclusion of vulnerable and marginal groups such as PWDs and ITPs who are in constant risk to be marginalized. She also applauded the success of rainwater harvesting as a pilot but also noted that other basic services should be taken care of.</p> <p>Mr. Grootfaam thanked the members of the Steering Committee, UNDP and staff of the Ministry. He noted that it was a good moment to reflect on the achievements of the project. Within the ministry the process of transition regarding staffing is still in progress; some committee members are new and internal meetings still to be organized to inform the new members.</p> <p>Relates the concern of Mr. Martoredjo on the mobility of staff Mr. Grootfaam assured that this matter would be addressed.</p>
Closing	<p>On her closing note Dr. Margaret Jones Williams underlined that the work must be continued by building on the results and that UNDP is looking forward to continuing the collaboration with the ministry.</p> <p>Mr. Grootfaam ensured the UNDP that the ministry will sustain the successful collaboration and underlined the need for deeper conversation, after internal discussions within the ministry had taken place.</p>



In his closing comments Mr. Boejoekoe confirmed that the ministry is eager to continue the partnership with UNDP and referred to the results that were achieved. He also emphasized that the Ministry is willing to continue working in partnership with UNDP and that they will look to create a new project in 2021 after closing the current one. On his opinion the SDGs should be implemented collaborative by all 5 (five) departments of the ministry and should cover the whole territory of Suriname. Following these comments Mr. Boejoekoe proceeded in closing the meeting.

Minutes signed by:



date 29. 12. 2020

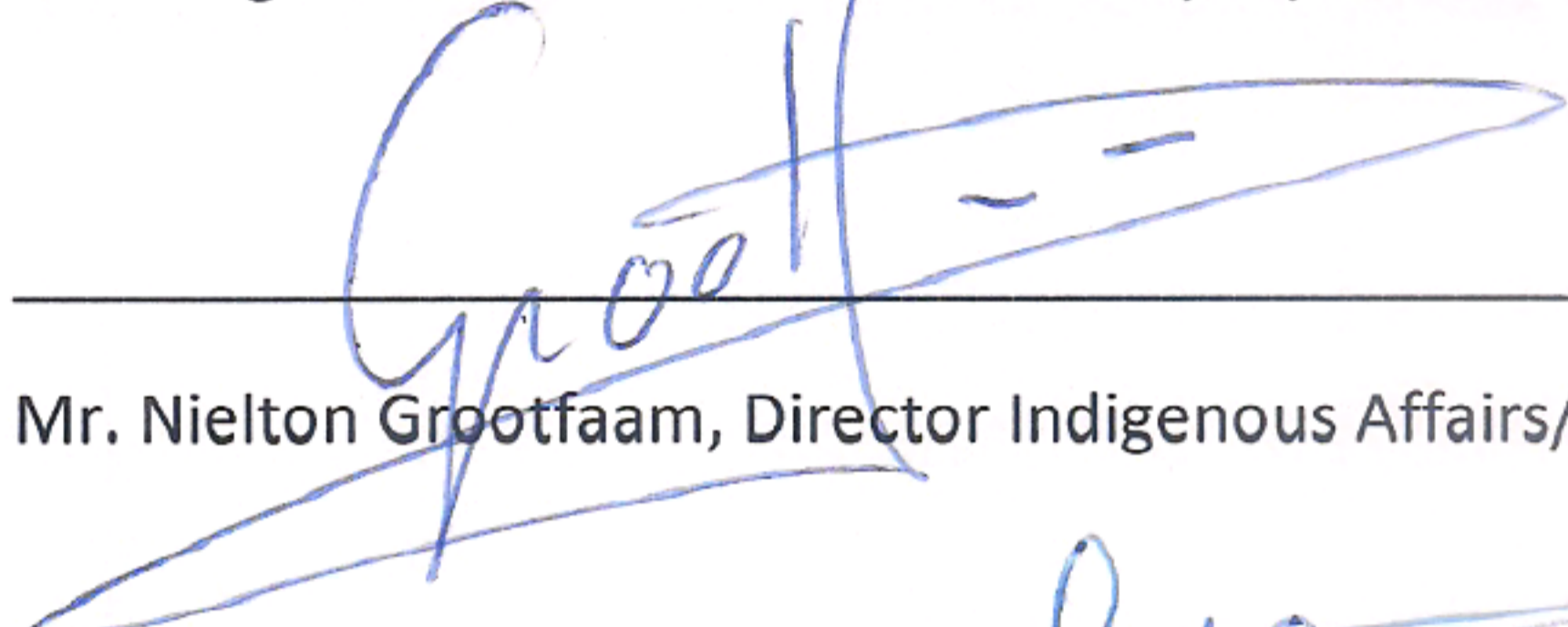
Mr. Maverick Boejoekoe, Director Regional Development/Chair



December 28, 2020

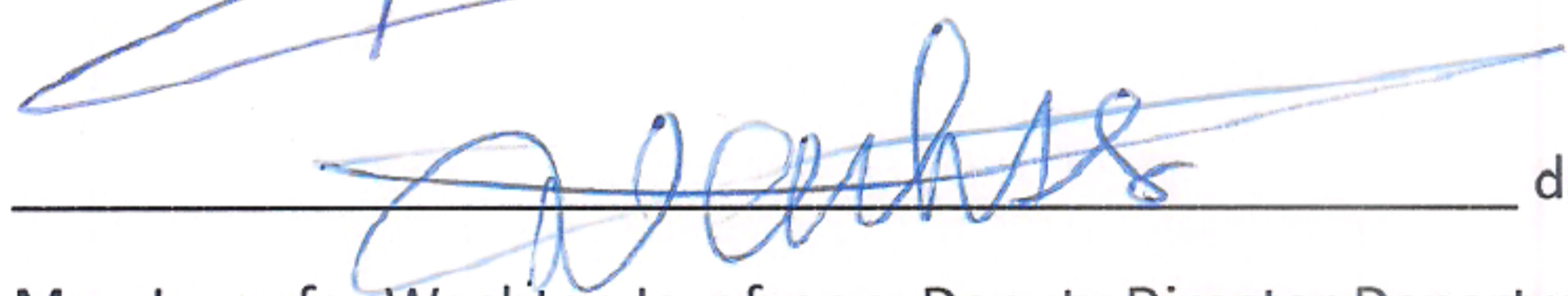
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Dr. Margaret Jones Williams, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative/Co-chair



date 29/12/20

Mr. Nielton Grootfaam, Director Indigenous Affairs/Member



date 29 dec 2020

Mrs. Jennyfer Wachter-Jozefzoon, Deputy Director Department of Decentralization/Member