



JOINT MISSION IN THE MARONI RIVER BASIN

29/01/2024 – 02/02/2024

In the framework of the Phase II of BIO-PLATEAUX project, a transboundary joint mission has been organized in the Maroni river basin, on the week of January 29th to February 2nd, 2024, with coordination of the International Office for Water (IoWater).

PARTICIPANTS

Ministry of Public Works-WLA
 Ministry of Natural Resources -MNH
 National Water Company-SWM
 Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning - ROM



Community of Municipalities of Western Guiana - CCOG,
 French Guiana Water Office-OEG
 Geological Research Office -BRGM



1. LOCATION



The mission took place first in Albina, then the delegation focused on the Grand-Santi/Stoelmanseiland area, where issues of essential services and water quality are shared by local population on each bank of the river.

Other missions will be organized in the near future with other populations and areas of the basin.

2. MAIN OBJECTIVES

Continuing the previous dialogues (Technical working groups of Phase 1 2019-2022, Paramaribo workshop of May 2023, etc.), the technical institutions of both Suriname and French Guiana realized a joint field visit in order to :

TERRITORIAL DIALOGUE



Dialogue on visions and perceptions on the Maroni river basin, among institutions of each country and with populations living in the area

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP : ESSENTIAL SERVICES



Exchange of technical experience, to initiate the joint inventory of the basin infrastructure for essential services (starting with drinking water supply), identifying areas of common interest for future projects

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP : QUALITY OF WATER RESOURCES AND CONTAMINATIONS



Discussion on the quality of aquatic ecosystems in the Maroni, which evolution are challenging for populations. Strengthen common monitoring network of water resources with measurements of turbidity



**... A PROGRESSIVE WORK TOWARDS
A SHARED INTEGRATED
RIVER BASIN PROFILE UNTIL 2026**



SUBJECTS

SUMMARY OF THE WORKING GROUP (DRAFT)

WATER QUALITY NETWORK – 31/01/24 – GRAND SANTI

OBJECTIVES & EXPECTATIONS

With participation of Local authority (Grand Santi), OEG, WLA, Ministry of Natural Resources and OiEau

- Willingness to cooperate on water quality in Maroni river basin
- Improve together the monitoring network basin
- Enhance articulation between water quality monitoring and public policy
- Show links between evolution of quality and pressures along the rivers.



TECHNICAL INTEREST

Partners prioritized the following thematic exchanges

- Type of equipments and joint campaigns
 - Tools for georeferences - Qfield
 - Methods for calibration
 - Methods for sampling
- Norms and parameters (environment & drinking water)
 - Water quality analysis (labs)

NEXT STEP

Preparation of the installation of a joint automatic turbidity station

WHAT? Focus on turbidity, for a first step of collaboration, in a pilot perspective and for a integrative parameter on a permanent automatic basis. Method will be developed jointly & data produced by the station will be shared

WHERE? Identification of a relevant position in the field, downstream confluence of Tapanahony and Lawa (Kawani). Dialogue with landowner

HOW? Agreement of principle between partners of both countries for installation (WLA/OEG) with support of Grand Santi municipality for maintenance. An institutional figure should be developed for sustainability

HOW MUCH ? The first station has already been financed by the project, based on previous dialogues

WHEN ? Proposal to install until end of first semester 2024



SUBJECTS

SUMMARY OF THE WORKING GROUP (DRAFT)

ESSENTIAL SERVICES – 31/01/24 – GRAND SANTI

OBJECTIVES & EXPECTATIONS

With participation of Local authority (Grand Santi), OEG, BRGM, WLA, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of Public Works and OiEau

- Assess the pressures related to sanitation on Maroni river basin
- Characterise water flows and water access on the Maroni river
- Improve together the access to safe drinking water
- Share experience and methodologies (hydrogeology, norms and parameters)



AREAS OF WORK IDENTIFIED

Partners prioritized the following areas of work to be developed as part of the working groups

1. Assessing impacts of “Surinamese pits” on water quality

- Inventory of existing studies
- Feasibility of setting up a monitoring unit
- Definition of the parameters to be studied

2. Assessing water flows

- Diagnosis: assess water flows (who? when? how many people? where?)
- Outlook: identify concrete actions to guarantee access to drinking water for the population
- Awareness raising

3. Sharing experience on hydrogeology

- Sharing experience on monitoring of groundwater resources
- Joint field mission

4. Sharing norms and parameters

- Parameters and thresholds in Suriname and French Guyana related to drinking water supply
- Perspective: Study the feasibility of setting up a joint laboratory



NEXT STEPS

1. Field missions

- Suriname: Visit to the Stoelmansland treatment plant
- French Guiana: Hydrogeology mission with BRGM

2. Internships

- Identification and characterisation of water flows on the Maroni river, between Suriname and French Guyana banks
- Identification and characterisation of areas for fetching water on the Maroni river, assessment of the quality, and awareness raising about drinking water treatment



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