THE BIO-PLATEAUX PROJECT

The BIO-PLATEAUX International Conference took place in Cayenne on 26 November 2019. It has received accreditation from the French Biodiversity Action Plan (action No. 62) and is part of the project of the same name, with financial support from the European Union through the programme INTERREG-IACP 2014-2020 coordinated by the Guiana Territorial Authority (CTG). The initiative is led by the International Office for Water, and also supported by the National Centre for Spatial Studies (CNES), the Guiana Environment, Planning and Housing Agency (DEAL), and the Guiana Water Office (OEG).

PARTNERS

→ International Office for Water (IOWater), project leader in its capacity as an association recognised to be of public interest;
→ Guiana Water Office (OEG) in its capacity as a public organisation with an administrative character attached to the Guiana Territorial Authority (CTG);
→ Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS), coordinator of the Suriname National Water Information System (SNWIS) and focal point for BIO-PLATEAUX activities in the country;
→ Amapa Economic Development Agency (Agência Amapá), the competent public body for promoting the economic attractiveness of this Brazilian state and responsible for international cooperation. It acts as the Amapa focal point.

EXPECTED BENEFITS

→ Jointly reinforce monitoring of watercourses
→ Establish effective tools to aid decision-making
→ Develop the use of spatial technologies to improve knowledge of water resources
→ Boost sharing of experience between stakeholders
→ Improve preservation of aquatic biodiversity
→ Build stakeholder capacities with training on Integrated Water Resources Management

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Develop the sharing of information on water and aquatic biodiversity between Guiana and its neighbours Brazil and Suriname in the respective basins of Oyapock and Maroni.

TERRITORY

BIO-PLATEAUX is implemented on the transboundary basins of the Maroni River (shared by French Guiana and Suriname), and Oyapock (shared by French Guiana and the federated state of Amapa in Brazil).

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

All of the project’s documents and publications will be written in French, Portuguese and English.
KEY FIGURES

140 PARTICIPANTS
mostly from France, Suriname (30) and Brazil (27)

50 INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED
from all territories combined

3 PLENARY SESSIONS

2 TRANSBOUNDARY TECHNICAL GROUPS
respectively dedicated to Maroni and Oyapock

3 GOVERNMENT MINISTERS
(Minister for Overseas France, interim Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence of the Republic of Suriname, Minister of Regional Development of the Republic of Suriname, Governor of Amapa State, President of the Overseas Territory of French Guiana)

1 DECLARATION SIGNED by project partners

1 TECHNICAL VISIT IN FRENCH GUIANA
involving 50 participants

1 CORE THEME
SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE
of the Maroni and Oyapock river basins
SPEAKERS & PLENARY THEMES

OPENING SESSION

Mr Éric TARDIEU, Director General of the International Office for Water (IOWater) chaired the meeting.

Welcome addresses were given by:

→ Mr Rodolphe ALEXANDRE, President of the Overseas Territory of French Guiana
→ Mr Antônio WALDEZ GOES DA SILVA, Governor of Amapa State
→ Mr Edgar DIKAN, Minister of Regional Development of the Republic of Suriname
→ Mr Marc DEL GRANDE, Prefect of Guiana
SESSION ON “SHARING EXPERIENCES AND INFORMATION TO IMPROVE TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION FOR WATER AND AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT ON THE MARONI AND OYAPOCK BASINS”

KEY QUESTION
What are the ways to improve transboundary cooperation for managing water resources and aquatic biodiversity

Moderator
→ Mr Jorge Thierry CALASANS, Senior specialist in water resources management at the National Water Agency of Brazil (ANA)

Key speaker
→ Mr Paul HAENER, Expert in Water Information Systems for the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO)

Speakers for Brazil
→ Mr Alan KARDEC RIBEIRO GALARDO, Director of research at Amapa State Institute of Scientific and Technical Research (IEPA)
→ Mr Patrick SILVEIRA FARIAS, Coordinator of geo-processing for the Amapa State Secretary of the Environment (SEMA)

Speakers for Suriname
→ Ms Gaitrie Usha SATNARAIN, Research lecturer at Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS)
→ Mr Riad J. NURMOHAMED, Senior researcher at Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS)

Speakers for French Guiana
→ Mr Patrick LECANTE, President of the Committee for Water and Biodiversity (CEB)
→ Ms Hélène SIRDER, First Vice-President of the Overseas Territory of French Guiana
SESSION ON “CHALLENGES INVOLVING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT POLLUTION ON THE MARONI AND OYAPOCK TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS”

KEY QUESTION
What are the best technical tools to measure pollution on basins, and how can we work together to share information on water quality?

Moderator
➔ Mr Mirdad KAZANJI, Director of the Institut Pasteur in French Guiana

Key speaker
➔ Mr Marcio DIONISIO, Technical Unit of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation (ACTO)

Speakers for Suriname
➔ Ms Gaitrie Usha SATNARAIN, Research lecturer at Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS)
➔ Mr Armand AMATALI, Director of the Hydraulic Research Division (WLA) at the Ministry of Public Works of the Republic of Suriname

Speaker for French Guiana
➔ Mr Pascal VARDON, Director of the Guiana Amazonian Park

Speaker for Brazil
➔ Mr Luis Roberto TAKIYAMA, Director of Environmental Development for the Amapa State Secretary of the Environment (SEMA)
SESSION ON “PREVENTING NATURAL RISKS IN TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASINS”

KEY QUESTION
In what ways is hydrological monitoring of water courses on the Maroni and Oyapock basins key to climate change adaptation and how can we encourage sharing information to achieve it?

Moderator
→ Mr Stéphane CALMANT, Unit manager at the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) in French Guiana

Key speaker
→ Ms Maha SALL, Expert on the Permanent Water Commission of the Organisation for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS)

Speakers for French Guiana
→ Mr Thomas PETITGUYOT, Head of Natural Environments, Biodiversity, Sites and Landscapes, at the Guiana Environment, Planning and Housing Agency (DEAL)

Speakers for Brazil
→ Mr Alcir FIGUEIRA MATOS, Amapa State Secretary for Infrastructure
→ Mr Sandro OLIMPIO DA SALVA BONFIM, Lieutenant Colonel of the Amapa State firefighters

Speakers for Suriname
→ Mr Peter DONK, Researcher at Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS)
→ Mr Frits KOSSO RAMI, Engineer from the Hydraulic Research Division (WLA) at the Ministry of Public Works of the Republic of Suriname
CLOSING SESSION

The Conference was wrapped up with an overview by Mr Éric TARDIEU.

Closing addresses were given by:

→ Mr Rodolphe ALEXANDRE, President of the Overseas Territory of French Guiana
→ Mr Alcir FIGUEIRA MATOS, Amapa State Secretary for Infrastructure
→ Mr Roni BENSCHOP, interim Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence of the Republic of Suriname
→ Ms Annick GIRARDIN, Minister for Overseas France
CONCLUSIONS OF THE BIO-PLATEAUX CONFERENCE

The water resources and aquatic biodiversity associated with the transboundary river basins of Oyapock (shared by French Guiana and Brazil) and Maroni (shared by French Guiana and Suriname) are vital natural assets. To promote sustainable development and preservation of these rich ecosystems, cooperation between riparian countries is key to facilitating dialogue and developing shared knowledge.

As part of the Interreg Amazonia Cooperation Programme 2014-2020, the BIO-PLATEAUX Conference for Transborder Coordination of the Management of Water and Biodiversity, which took place on 26 November 2019, addressed transborder issues of water and aquatic biodiversity on the Maroni and Oyapock basins.

More specifically, the following three themes were covered in the course of the exchanges:

- Improved knowledge and information sharing for better transborder cooperation to manage water and aquatic biodiversity;
- Challenges involving knowledge about pollution, its consequences and control;
- Prevention of natural risks.

The present declaration constitutes the conclusion of these debates, and suggests directions for future action on these subjects as part of the BIO-PLATEAUX project.

Considering

- Challenges related to managing water resources and the exceptional biodiversity in the transboundary river basins of Maroni (Guiana/Suriname) and Oyapock (Guiana/Amapa) with tributaries located on either side of the respective borders;
- The similar and often shared issues of economic, social and environmental development in the three riparian countries, requiring better anticipation and management of risks and greater awareness of the importance of preserving biodiversity;
- The importance of stronger transboundary cooperation to improve knowledge of these territories and their abundant but fragile resources, in particular to share information, protect water resources and the biodiversity of aquatic environments, anticipate and control pollution and flood risks;
- Demographic development, anthropogenic pressures, development of activities with impacts on the management of water resources and more generally on aquatic biodiversity, which are by nature challenges shared by the riparian countries;
- The need to adapt fast to the impacts of climate change in the region and its consequences on natural resources;
- The methodological benefits of the processes and tools developed in the European Union to implement the Water Framework Directive and other directives related to water and biodiversity;
- The role of transboundary coordination organisations, including the Mixed Transboundary Commission with Brazil (CMT) and the Councils of the Maroni and Oyapock Rivers;
The relative complexity of the institutional landscape in each of the riparian countries, the numerous data producers, the heterogeneity and dispersion of information, and the absence of a general decision-aid tool, all of which are obstacles to sustainable management;

The fact that good quantitative and qualitative knowledge of water resources and aquatic biodiversity, and their evolution over time, is a necessary condition for their sustainable management and durability.

The partners support the following guidelines

1. Improved characterisation of water resources and aquatic biodiversity should be sought on both river basins by reinforced monitoring and measurement networks relating to quantity and quality of water resources, including using state-of-the-art technological resources, such as spatial hydrology;

2. Sharing of available information, experience and knowledge is crucial to inform decision-making. This can be implemented using shared data enhancement tools (e.g. online platforms, metadata catalogues). It can also be fostered by regular meetings between technical stakeholders and transboundary data producers;

3. The implementation of the BIO-PLATEAUX project should be progressive to ensure its adoption by stakeholders and greater trust. This should involve pilot actions on data production, their standardisation, training, sharing of information and knowledge;

4. In the long term, the existence of a Transboundary Observatory on water resources, devised as a place for sharing knowledge and experiences, would facilitate the development of a long-term exchange framework adapted to stakeholder needs;

5. The partners underline the benefits of widely disseminating the conclusions of the conference to both inform inhabitants and stakeholders and boost support for the project.
In the presence of the competent ministerial and territorial authorities, the Declaration was signed on 26 November 2019 in Cayenne by the project partners:

- Ms Myriane INIMOD, Director of the Guiana Water Office
- Mr Riad J. NURMOHAMED, Coordinator of the BIO-PLATEAUX project for Anton de Kom University of Suriname
- Mr Wagner José Pinheiro COSTA, Coordinator of the BIO-PLATEAUX project for the Amapa Economic Development Agency (Agência Amapá)
- Mr Éric TARDIEU, Director General of the International Office for Water.
Participants at the BIO-PLATEAUX Conference on 26 November 2019

Study visit of the delegations of Suriname and Brazil to Favard village, November 28, 2019

250th launch of the Ariane 5 rocket, seen on November 26, 2019 from the Grand Hôtel Montabo where the Conference was held
TROUNSBOUNDARY TECHNICAL GROUPS

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

The Technical Working Groups (TGs) were created following the BIO-PLATEAUX Conference on 27 November 2019 in Cayenne. The establishment of these TGs on each river basin makes it easier to exchange and share knowledge on the greatest territory-specific challenges.

The two TGs gather technical, management, scientific and political stakeholders to focus on knowledge of water and aquatic biodiversity.

CONCLUSIONS: BIO-PLATEAUX ACTION PLAN UP TO JUNE 2021

During the meetings, a list was drawn up featuring all of the technical stakeholders involved in the river basins, their respective skills, and a definition of participants’ needs in terms of experience and knowledge sharing. Based on the conclusions of the Conference and the first Technical Groups, the BIO-PLATEAUX project adopted a plan running up to June 2021 involving a resource centre based on the following components:

- www.aquacoope.org/guyane/fr
BIO-PLATEAUX CONFERENCE PRESS RELEASE

CAYENNE, 22 NOVEMBER 2019

Managing Water and Biodiversity on the Maroni and Oyapock Transboundary River Basins

Marking a high point in the coordination of transboundary waters and biodiversity, the first BIO-PLATEAUX Conference will take place at the Grand Hôtel Montabo in Cayenne on 26 November 2019 from 8.30 am to 6.30 pm. This first-time event is devised to foster the sharing of information on water and aquatic biodiversity with French Guiana’s neighbours.

The BIO-PLATEAUX Conference will gather 130 people from competent national and local institutions and research organisations working on water and producing data in this area. Key participants include:

- Mr Rodolphe ALEXANDRE, President of the Guiana Territorial Authority (CTG)
- Ms Annick GIRARDIN, Minister for Overseas France
- Mr Antônio WALDEZ GOES DA SILVA, Governor of Amapa State
- Mr Roni BENSCHOP, Minister of Defence of Suriname and interim Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Mr Edgar DIKAN, Minister of Regional Development of Suriname

Co-funded by the INTERREG Amazonia (IACP) cooperation programme, the Conference has received accreditation from the French Biodiversity Plan (Action n°62) by the French ministries of Ecological and Inclusive Transition (MTES) and Overseas France (MOM).

The four partners leading the project are the International Office for Water (IOWater), the Guiana Water Office (OEG), Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS) and the Amapa Economic Development Agency (Agência Amapá).

On the day after the Conference, 27 November from 9 am to 4.30 pm, at the Grand Hôtel Montabo in Cayenne, the first transboundary technical meeting will be organised on water resources and aquatic biodiversity.

Contacts for the event

- Franck CHOW-TOUN – 06.94.40.25.65
  franck.chow-toun@office-eauguyane.fr
- Celia BIANCAT – 06.82.29.48.81
  c.biancat@oieau.fr

With the support of the Guiana environment, planning and housing agency (DEAL)
COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

INTERNATIONAL BIO-PLATEAUX CONFERENCE FOR TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION – WELCOME EVENING
Guiana Territorial Authority, 25 November 2019
www.ctguyane.fr/conference-internationale-bio-plateaux-pour-une-cooperation-transfrontaliere-soiree-de-bienvenue

POST OF GUIANA TERRITORIAL COLLECTIVITY PRESIDENT, RODOLPHE ALEXANDRE
Facebook account of Mr Rodolphe Alexandre, 25 November 2019

TWEET BY WWF GUIANA
Twitter account of WWF Guiana, 26 November 2019

BIO-PLATEAUX, THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT WATER AND AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY ON THE MARONI AND OYAPOCK RIVER BASINS
International Office for Water, 25 November 2019
www.oieau.fr/actualites/oieau/bio-plateaux-la-conference-internationale-en-faveur-de-leau-et-de-la-biodiversite
REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL BIO-PLATEAUX CONFERENCE FOR TRANSBORDARY COOPERATION ON WATER-RELATED ISSUES
Guiana Territorial Authority, 26 November 2019

OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL BIO-PLATEAUX CONFERENCE
Guiana Water Office, 26 November 2019

TWEET BY THE PREFECT OF FRENCH GUIANA
Twitter account of Mr Marc DEL GRANDE, 26 November 2019

TWEET BY FRENCH MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS
Twitter account of Mrs Annick Girardin, 26 November 2019
MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS FRANCE ANNICK GIRARDIN ON A TWO-DAY TRIP TO GUIANA
Guyane 1ère - France TV info, 26 November 2019
la1ere.francetvinfo.fr/guyane/ministre-outrigger-annick-girardin-guyane-deux-jours-visite-775177.html

TWEET BY INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR WATER
Twitter account of IOWater, 26 November 2019

GUYANE SOIR NEWS REPORT
Guyane 1ère - France TV info, 26 novembre 2019

CONFERENCE BESLUIT: BIO-PLATEAU UITVOERING MOET PROGRESSIEF
Starnieuws, 27 November 2019
ADEKUS-STUDENTEN NEMEN DEEL AAN BIO-PLATEAUX-CONFERENTIE IN FRANS-GUYANA

Suriname Herald, 27 November 2019

AdeKUS-studenten nemen deel aan Bio-plateaus-conferentie in Frans-Guyana

Studenten van de wetenschappelijke Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (Lisamnr) van de Arabeske universiteit van Suriname (Aadk) nemen deel aan een Bio-plateaus-conferentie. De uitdagingen op het gebied van watermanagement en agrarische binnenvaart, die zich voornamelijk in de regio's van de Manamare en Oiapoquevliet, zijn aan de orde geschiedt de verschillende presentaties.

ASSEMBLEIA LEGISLATIVA DO AMAPA

Facebook, 27 November 2019

www.facebook.com/1447269388679764/photos.br.AbplG4Nq_5qN4gavH11nlTsyac9X935BkklymdjUxncfRRgmkS2TEM0J2Gq0LpIskFk1SChOyVIP4LF1rrzRC5DFRoJtBl5Xikb79W-umhUsN28WEhoITFQ75ghiB-u5g5M/2112034282203268/?type=1

www.facebook.com/1447269388679764/photos.br.AbplG4Nq_5qN4gavH11nlTsyac9X935BkklymdjUxncfRRgmkS2TEM0J2Gq0LpIskFk1SChOyVIP4LF1rrzRC5DFRoJtBl5Xikb79W-umhUsN28WEhoITFQ75ghiB-u5g5M/2112034282203268/?type=1

BIOPLATEAUCONFERENCE IN FRANS GUYANA AFGESLOTEN MET VERKLARING

Dagblad Suriname Nationaal, 2 December 2019

Biolplateauconference in Frans Geyana afgesloten met verklaring
The BIO-PLATEAUX project is co-funded by the European Union through the PCIA.

The contents and opinions included in this document are the exclusive responsibility of the IOWater, and do not necessarily reflect the position of the European Union.