



BIO-PLATEAUX CONFERENCE

26 November 2019



Concept note



With financial support of
DEAL of French Guiana



PRESENTATION OF THE BIO-PLATEAUX PROJECT

The Conference BIOPLATEAUX will be held in Cayenne on November 26th 2019. It is part of a 2 years project financed by the Interreg Amazon Cooperation Program (PCIA) 2014-2020 under the coordination of the Guiana Territorial Collectivity (CTG). The project is also supported by the French Guiana Environment, Planning and Housing Department (DEAL) as well as the National Center for Spatial Studies (CNES). The Conference received the accreditation of the Biodiversity Plan (Action n°62) by the French Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition (MTES) and the Ministry of « Outre-Mer » (MOM).

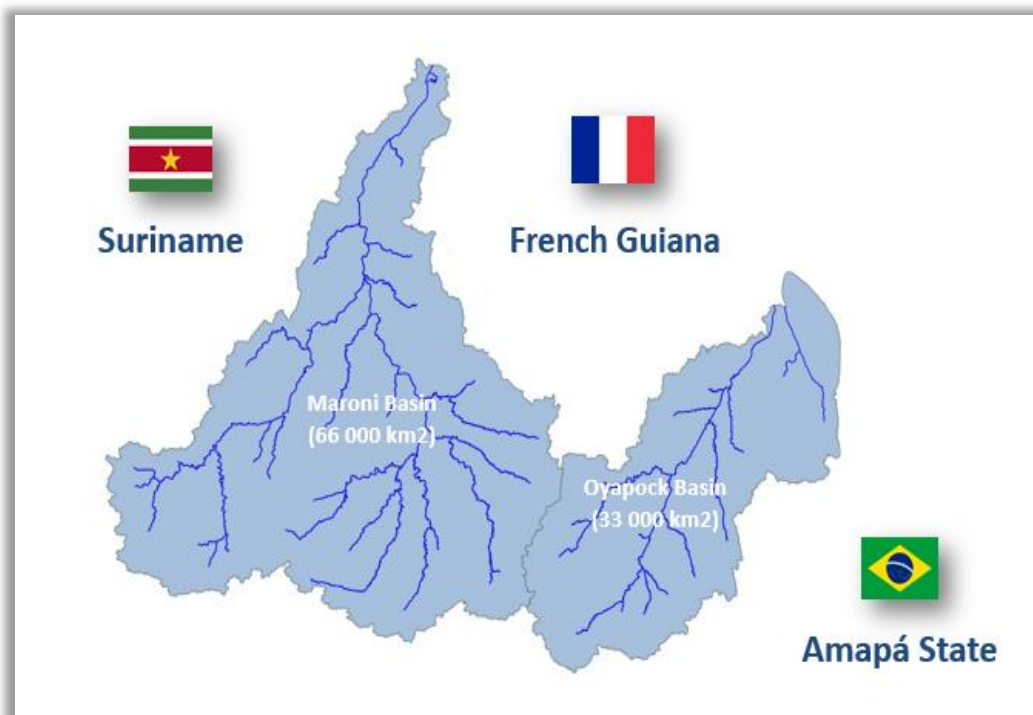


Implementing partners:

- The International Office of Water (IOWater) is project coordinator. As an association recognized of public interest, IOWater is facilitator and responsible for the implementation of activities from a technical and financial point of view;
- The “Office de l’Eau de Guyane” (OEG), is a public institution attached to the Guiana Territorial Collectivity (CTG). The OEG acts as the technical coordinator of the activities in French Guiana, as responsible for water resources management and knowledge in this territory;
- The Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS), is facilitator of the Suriname Water Resources Information System (SWRIS) and is focal point of the project in the country;
- The Amapá Economic Development Agency (Agência Amapá), is the entity responsible for economic attractiveness and development in the State, also competent for regional cooperation.



TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS



The project is focused on Maroni and Oyapock transboundary basins. These territories are exposed to similar management issues due to homogeneous natural conditions (basins flows, adaptation to climate change and risk of flooding) and human geography (populations, land use, evolution of uses and impacts on water resources). Both rivers constitute boundaries, but they are also living areas with continuous social, cultural and economic exchanges.

In this context, the central issue tackled by the project is a fundamental principle of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM): preparing an efficient basin planning needs a good and updated quantitative and qualitative knowledge of resource, as much as possible.

Aquatic biodiversity and its evolution must also be taken into account, while transboundary basins are located among exceptionally rich ecosystems.

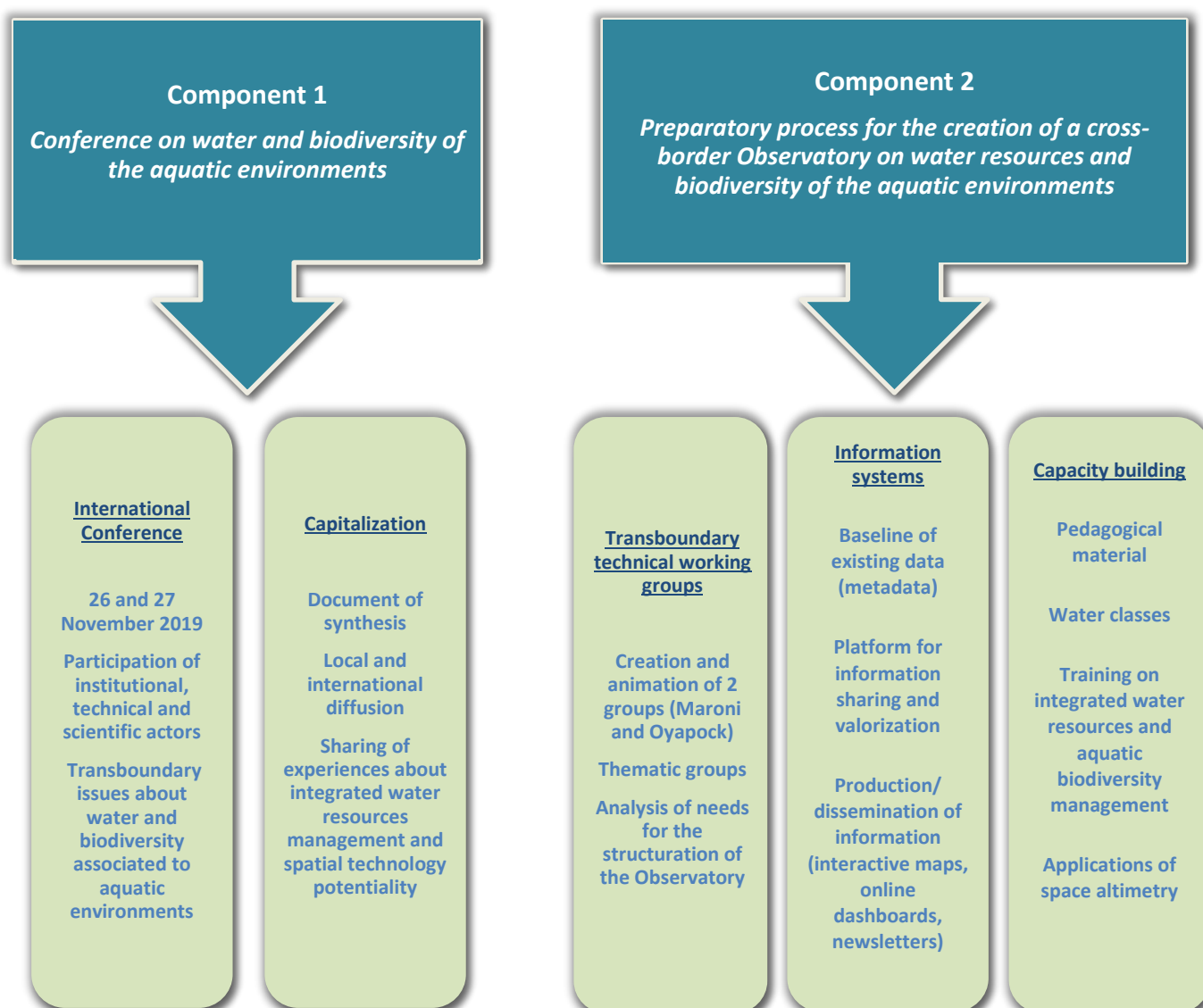
KEY CHALLENGES

- Exceptional water resources and aquatic biodiversity to preserve
- Transboundary shared impacts (uses and contamination)
- Risks linked with flooding and climate change
- Transportation of sediments and morphology
- Unequal access to drinking water
- Sanitation challenges linked with hydric diseases

OBJECTIVE AND COMPONENTS OF THE BIO-PLATEAUX PROJECT

In this context, the BIO-PLATEAUX project aims to develop information sharing on water and biodiversity associated to aquatic environments between French Guiana, Brazil and Suriname, particularly in the transboundary basins of Oyapock and Maroni rivers.

- An **International conference will be held on 26 November 2019** in Cayenne. It will bring together the scientific, technical and administrative stakeholders in order to discuss the optimal approach for integrating the information according to the specific characteristics of the territory,
- Organization of transboundary **technical Working Groups (WG)** dedicated to preparatory work for the creation of a cross-border Observatory on water and associated biodiversity. The first one **will take place in Cayenne on 27 November 2019**.



BIO-PLATEAUX CONFERENCE

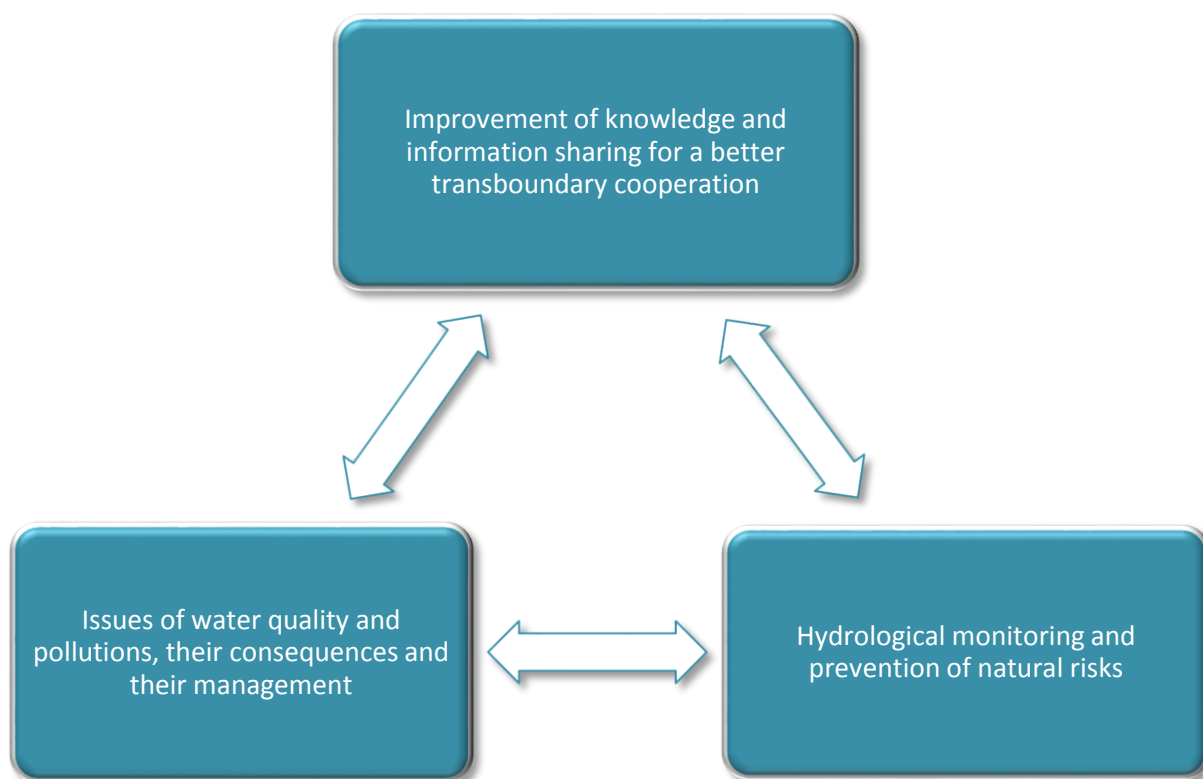
*The International conference of BIO-PLATEAUX Project will be held
on 26 November 2019 in Cayenne.*

This event will allow discussing jointly transboundary issues of water and biodiversity associated to aquatic environments and will contribute to the dialogue for a better knowledge of transboundary basins. This dialogue will be based on available information and future opportunities for water resources' monitoring, including the most advanced technological methods (as space hydrology).

The BIO-PLATEAUX Conference aims to facilitate a clear technical rapprochement on information and knowledge sharing as well as training for actors, key-bone issues for a good preservation of transboundary water resources.

The participants of the Conference will come from different institutions associated to water resources management in partner countries of the project, from a political, administrative and scientific perspective.

Three main interdependent topics will structure the debates. They will also allow discussing key aspects prioritized by the partners, such as the presentation of institutional contexts in each country (basin planning, basin committees, management of coastal areas), and data production (environmental monitoring, knowledge on quantity and quality, hydrometeorology networks, remote sensing as a transversal tool, etc.)



TRANSBOUNDARY TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

Creation of transboundary technical Working Groups (WG) will be initiated at the beginning of the project, on the day after the BIO-PLATEAUX Conference (27 November 2019). Based on the findings on the Conference, implementation of WG on each basin (1 Oiapoque-1 Maroni) will promote exchanges and information sharing on specific issues for each basin.

The Working Groups (WG) will gather technical responsible, managers, scientists and data/knowledge producers related to water and aquatic biodiversity. Participant identification for each riparian countries will be a prerequisite to WG. It will be realized jointly by partners of the project in the three territories (OEG in French Guiana, Amapa Agency in Brazil, AdeKUS in Suriname).

The WG will prepare a mapping of basin technical actors, their respective institutional competences, data production and collect processes, existing data records (metadata), as well as existing information systems.

The WG will inventory available knowledge and will also identify additional information to acquire in the near future for a better approach of specific issues to Maroni and Oyapock. They will contribute to the elaboration of "Masterplan for data and information management associated to aquatic biodiversity". It will include a synthesis of data available, an identification of missing information, and an action plan.

In parallel with the technical works, the WG will prepare a proposal for structuration of the WG into a future transboundary Observatory. The members of the groups will discuss options and scenarios about the mandate, the governance, the objectives and a first budgetary evaluation.

Based on the diagnosis made by the WG, the project will support data producers in order to facilitate knowledge accessibility (first of all between stakeholders of the sector; then for general public in the long-term) and the interoperability between

information systems. The project will develop activities based on pre-existing works in each countries.

A web portal will be created and include access to a metadata catalogue and to various tools of data/information valorization and diffusion (mapping tools on line, indicators, newsletters). The project will promote optimization of the use of data produced, interoperability of systems and improvements at lower prices. Always preparing jointly accepted common processes for a good ownership of the actors

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The process of creation of an Observatory will adopt an inclusive strategy. It will elaborate means of awareness raising and participation in order to effectively serve its objectives.

To facilitate the dissemination of works carried out by the project but also more generally the valorization of existing data and information on water and biodiversity management, the project will provide a training module adapted to a citizen approach, designed for schools.

In terms of knowledge/content, the module will be sustained by the works of the different components of the project, with a concrete and pedagogic vocabulary.





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