

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN THE UPPER SURINAME REGION

EU-CIF Parallel financing, FED/2015/362-010 Improve Sustainability of Electricity Service

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Government of Suriname (GoS) has received parallel financing from the EU for projects for the electricity supply in the interior of Suriname through renewable energy technologies.

This project includes the construction and operation of 10 hybrid minigrids in the villages Gingeston up to Nieuw Aurora, which are fed by solar panels with diesel generators as back up meaning that the villages will have 24/7 electricity supply. The overall project coordination is the responsibility of the NV EBS, which is the Project Execution Unit. The NV EBS assigns all logistics to the Ministry of Regional Development. Since the service area at the Upper Suriname River is the responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources (department DEV), the current electricity grid is under their supervision.

Prior to the activities, it is important that the stakeholders are consulted in a proper manner. This document presents the consultation process in the Upper Suriname Region for the 10 mini solar plants.

2. CONSULTATION

In order to engage all the stakeholders regarding the activities of the proposed project several meetings were held. The kick off meeting was held on 6th of June 2019 in the head office of the EBS. A field visit accompanied by a meeting (krutu) was held on 26th and 27th of June.

2.1 preparation phase

Prior to the kickoff meeting on the 6th of June an invitation letter was sent by EBS on June, 3 2019 to the permanent secretaries of the Ministry of Regional Development (MinRD) (see **Annex 1**) and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MinNR) (see **Annex 2**) to participate in the field visit and krutu. The kick-off meeting was attended by representatives of MinRD. Follow up meetings were attended by representatives of the MinRD and the MinNR. An action list (see **Annex 3**) and time schedule (see **Annex 4**) were made for the site visits and meeting (krutu) at Asidohopo and surrounding villages.

2.2 Execution of the stakeholder meetings

In order to launch the project, the minister of Natural Resources attended and started the meeting (Krutu) as representative of the President of the Republic of Suriname, at Asidohopo in which the Gaama Aboikoni was present with representatives from the beneficial villages and other of his invited traditional authorities. The Gaama is traditionally the highest authority in the Saramaccan community. Representatives of the EBS continued the meeting together, with representatives of the EU, the IDB and the Ministry of Regional Development. District Commissioner Humphrey Jeroe chaired the meeting after the minister left. (See **Annex 5** for the representatives from EBS, EU, IDB, MinRD and MinNR who attended the meeting and site visits). The highlights of the topics the minister elaborated on are presented in **Annex 6**.

The EBS held a presentation about the project background. The execution team and the general timetable were also presented. The IDB and EU representatives gave a short summary about the project objectives and their support to the project.

After the presentations the locals had the opportunity to ask questions. (see **Annex 7** the questions and answers during the krutu)

The following pictures illustrate the krutu held in Asidonhopo and the site visits held in the villages.



New Aurora

EBS, EU and IDB did a field orientation at Nw Aurora, guided by representatives from MinRD. Since the Gaama has already given approval to the project, the villagers and their authority accepted the project. However, some of the traditional authorities and villagers requested a meeting to discuss some issues they had. At this meeting representatives of EBS, EU and IDB presented the project background and timetable to the villagers. (See **Annex 8** for the questions and answers regarding the meeting at New Aurora)

Jaw Jaw

At Jaw Jaw no meeting was requested. The villagers were very cooperative and supportive to the project team. At this village, a site was also cleared. This site is at highland and meets the requirements. The existing genset is not far from the appointed site. The genset at this village is in good condition according to the locals.

The villagers of Jaw Jaw are willing to help with activities which are within their knowledge and possibility, in order to fast track the project.

2.3. Results

The stakeholder engagement process resulted in a signed letter in which Gaama Albert Aboikoni approves of the execution of 10 solar minigrids in the villages from Gingiston up to Nw Aurora. (See **Annex 9**)

Annex 1: Invitation letter to the minister of Regional Development

Paramaribo, 03 juni 2019



Ref.no.: 0311-19/01.13
Dir./RPL/AAI

De Directeur van Regionale Ontwikkeling
Drs. W. Finisie
Van Roseveltkade no.2
Paramaribo

Betreft: Onderhoud i.v.m. Electriciteitsproject Gingeston – Nw Aurora

Geachte Directeur,

De overheid van Suriname heeft van de Europese Unie (EU) parallel financing gehad t.b.v. projecten voor de elektriciteitsvoorziening in het binnenland van Suriname middels renewable energy technologies.

Dit project waarvan de NV EBS de Executing Agent is, omvat het opzetten van 10 hybride minigrids gevoed door zonnepanelen met dieselgeneratoren als back up in de dorpen Gingeston tot en met Nieuw Aurora.

Het project bevindt zich in de fase waarbij haalbaarheidsstudies reeds zijn uitgevoerd en overgegaan moet worden tot de uitvoering. Momenteel zijn de eerste plannings documenten door de Bank (IADB) goedgekeurd en is de N.V.EBS gestart met het treffen van voorbereidingen voor veld oriëntaties.

Vanwege het feit dat het om traditionele leefgemeenschappen gaat waar het project uitgevoerd zal worden, zijn consultaties met het Traditioneel Gezag onderdeel van het proces, waarbij voor uw Ministerie een belangrijke rol is weggelegd.

Voor een vlotte gang van zaken doen wij een beroep op u om tenminste een vertegenwoordiger van uw Ministerie af te vaardigen om overleg te plegen met het project team van de NV EBS over de opzet van de veld oriëntatie.

Uw vertegenwoordiger(s) zal (zullen) worden uitgenodigd voor een Kick-off meeting op 6 of 7 juni 2019 op het Hoofdkantoor van de NV EBS aan de Noorderkerkstraat no. 2-14, waarbij er werkafspraken gemaakt zullen worden.

Verder hebben wij een site visit aan het gebied gepland in de periode van 24 t/m 28 juni 2019, waarbij uw vertegenwoordiger (s) ook mee verwacht wordt (worden).

Uw reactie zien wij spoedig tegemoet via directie@ebs.sr

Hoogachtend
N.V. Energiebedrijven Suriname,

Marcel Eijndhoven MSc.
Chief Technical Officer

Annex 2: Invitation letter to the minister of Natural Resources

Paramaribo, 03 juni 2019



Ref.no.: 0312-19/01.08
Dir/RPL.AAI

Ministerie van Natuurlijke Hulpbronnen
T.a.v. de Directeur
De heer drs. Dave A. Abeleven
Mr.Dr.J.C. de Mirandastraat 11-15

Betreft: uitnodiging participatie werkgroep

Geachte heer Abeleven,

De overheid van Suriname heeft van de Europese Unie (EU) parallel financing gehad t.b.v. projecten voor de elektriciteitsvoorziening in het binnenland van Suriname middels renewable energy technologies.

Dit project waarvan de N.V. EBS de Executing Agent is, omvat het opzetten van 10 hybride minigrids gevoed door zonnepanelen met dieselgeneratoren als back up in de dorpen Gingeston tot en met Nieuw Aurora,.

Het project bevindt zich in de fase waarbij haalbaarheidsstudies reeds zijn uitgevoerd en overgegaan moet worden tot de uitvoering. Momenteel zijn de eerste plannings documenten door de Bank (IADB) goedgekeurd en is N.V. EBS gestart met het treffen van voorbereidingen voor veld oriëntaties.

Vanwege het feit dat de elektriciteitsvoorziening in het binnenland van Suriname, onder uw Ministerie valt, doen wij een beroep op u om ten minste een vertegenwoordiger van uw Ministerie aan te wijzen om samen met het project team van de NV EBS van gedachten te wisselen over de opzet van de veld oriëntaties.

Uw vertegenwoordiger(s) zal (zullen) worden uitgenodigd voor een Kick-off meeting op 6 of 7 juni 2019 op het Hoofdkantoor van de NV EBS aan de Noorderkerkstraat no. 2-14, waarbij er werkafspraken gemaakt zullen worden.

Verder hebben wij een site visit aan het gebied gepland in de periode van 24 t/m 28 juni 2019, waarbij uw vertegenwoordigers(s) ook mee verwacht wordt (worden).

Uw reactie zien wij spoedig tegemoet via directie@nvebs.sr.

Hoogachtend
N.V. Energiebedrijven Suriname,

Marcel Eijndhoven MSc.
Chief Technical Officer

Annex 3: Action list agreed on regarding the field visits

| No. | Action point | Responsibility | Deadline | Comment |
|-----|----------------------------------|----------------|----------|---|
| 1 | Attendees list | EBS | 19 june | Representatives per stakeholder submitted to EBS |
| 2 | Letter to the Graman | MinRD | 20 june | Including notifications to the <i>kapiteins</i> of the beneficial villages. |
| 3 | Boat transport | MinRD | 23 june | Life vest mandatory |
| 4 | Catering (Breakfast-Lunch-Diner) | MinRD | 23 june | Standard food preferabel |
| 5 | Accommodation (Kumalu) | MinRD | 23 june | Based on attendees list. Single rooms for IDB and EU representatives |
| 6 | Detail budget estimation | MinRD | 20 june | |
| 7 | Bus transport Par'bo - Atjoni | MinRD | 23 june | Depart 26 june 07:00h from EBS head office, route 'highway' |
| 8 | Meeting Agenda | MinRD / EBS | 23 june | MinNR to cover project India Credit line |
| 9 | Check list personal requirements | EBS / MinRD | 24 june | HSEQ dept. EBS prepared draft list |

Annex 4: Time schedule site visits

Timetable

Wednesday 26 June

- 07:00h: Bus depart from EBS headoffice, Noorderkerkstraat.
- 10:00h: Arrive at Atjoni
- 11:00h: Depart from Atjoni
- 15:00h: Arrive at Kumalu/Asidohopo
- 15:00h - 16:00h: Incheck and 'freshen up'
- 17:00h: Meeting with Graman

Thursday 27 June

- 08:30h: Depart from Asidohopo/Kumalu
- 11:00h - 12:30h: Field orientation at Nw Aurora
- 13:00h – 14:30h: Lunch at Anaula, including orientation at solar plant
- 15:00h - 16:30h Field orientation at Jawjaw
- 17:30h: Depart from Atjoni
- 20:30h: Arrive at Paramaribo, EBS Head office

Meeting agenda

- 17:00h – 17:10h Meeting introduction by DC Jeroe
- 17:10h – 17:30h Presentation EBS: Project information, incl Atjoni experience (CTO/RPL)
- 17:30h – 18:00h Presentation MinNR (NH): India Credit Line
- 18:00h – 19:00h Questions & clarifications

Annex 5: Attendees list of the representatives from EBS, EU, IDB, MinRD and MinNR who attended the meeting and site visits

| No. | Name | Organization | Telephone |
|------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Mr. Richard Paal | NV EBS | |
| 2 | Mr. Andy Aboikoni | NV EBS | |
| 3 | Mr. Ernesto Kasban | NV EBS | |
| 4 | Mr. Jacob Petrusi | Min.RD | |
| 5 | Mr. Marlon Cairo | Min.RD | |
| 6 | Mr. Marlon Wamenie | Min.RD | |
| 7 | Mr. Humphrey Jeroe | Min.RD/Sip | |
| 8 | Mr. Henny Betian | Min.RD/Sip | |
| 9 | Mr. Anthony Jeroe | Min.RD/Sip | |
| 10 | Mrs. Doritha Lugart | Min.RD/Sip | |
| 11 | Mrs. Marjolette Huur | Min.RD/Sip | |
| 12 | Mrs. Latoya Williams | EU | |
| 13 | Mr. Jordi Abadal | IDB | |
| 14 | Mrs. Mariko Russel | IDB | |
| 15 | Mrs. Sifra Thijm-Fraser | Min.NR | |
| 16 | Mrs. Angelique Mackintosh | Min.NR | |

Annex 6: Topics on which the minister elaborated on

- Project main objective: to provide for electricity to the villages, which is a basic need for the community.
- EBS and DEV, both under supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources, need to join forces to provide for the electricity services to the villages.
- The minister admit that he is aware of the efforts in the past and the promises made regarding the electrification of the villages.
- Currently there are 2 projects for the electrification of the villages:
 - The EU-CIF project, with EBS as the execution agent, is to provide electricity to the villages from Gingeston up to Nw Aurora;
 - The India Credit line project, with MinRD/DEV as execution agent, will cover the remaining villages in the Surinamese hinterland.
 - Both projects are based on PV-Diesel hybrid systems.
- The minister requested the support of the local community to the proposed projects.

Annex 7: Questions and Answers during the krutu

| No | Question / Issue | Answer / Clarification | Action by |
|----|---|---|-----------|
| 1 | Locals do not trust that the project will proceed after the election in 2020. They see the project as a political action since the election is next year. | The project should be starting earlier, but due to some approvals from the Government, it is delayed. Mr. Paal (N.V. EBS) presented the general timeline and clarified the procurement guidelines. The project will be executed in 2-3 years considering the procurement processes. Pokigron is an example. | EBS |
| 2 | Locals do not agree with performance of DEV so far. | No answer | DEV |
| 3 | Some villages already executed site clearing activities, since other governmental missions did site visits to the villages | Project team will perform site visits together with the locals and decide how to proceed. | EBS |
| 4 | Locals do not agree with the project execution period of 2-3 years. They require a temporary solution for the electricity supply while the project is in execution. | The reality is that the project cannot be finished in less than 2 years. The electricity supply in the meantime is not within this project scope. | EBS |
| 5 | Request for locals to do the O & M | EBS is looking into options to include local content as much as possible into the project and its operation | EBS |
| 6 | Will the project start simultaneously in all villages? | Depend on the bids. It is possible to start simultaneously in some villages. | EBS |
| 7 | The Gaaman requested EBS to listen to the locals and skip some IDB procedures in order to fast track the project. | EBS cannot promise that, since the guidelines need to be followed. | EBS |

Special notes with regard to the meeting with the Gaama:

1. The Gaama gives approval to execute the project and request the community of Upper Suriname Village to support the project.
2. The Gaama did a special request to the execution team, including local workers, to do the job properly and fair for maximum project output.
3. The Gaama and the local community agreed for project to start but they ask for a short-term or fast track solution since they will introduce production units for agricultural purposes which required electricity.

Annex 8: Questions and answers during the meeting at Nw Aurora

| No | Question / Issue | Answer / Clarification | Action by |
|----|--|---|-----------|
| 1 | On request of India Credit line mission, the villagers have already cleared a site. | Site will be inspected and advice will be given on how to proceed. The site needs to be sufficient for 20 years, including expansion. | EBS |
| 2 | Existing diesel genset is defect; village needs maintenance or replacement and continuous fuel supply awaiting the solar project | Is out of project scope. DEV to follow up | DEV |
| 3 | Afraid that the project will close after the election in 2020. | According to the IDB procurement procedure the project will be executed in 2-3 years | EBS |
| 4 | Prefer the electricity from the Afobaka hydropower plant to be extended to the villages at Upper Suriname River. | An IDB hired consultant studied different options and the best solution is the PV-Diesel minigrid per village. | EBS |

Notes with regard to Nw Aurora:

1. Site appointed is close to the river and was partly flooded at 2006.
2. Villagers do not believe in solar energy because of bad experience with the Gunzi PV project.

Annex 9: Signed letter in which Gaama Albert Aboikoni gives his approval



SAAMAKA LO
Kabinet van de Gaama

Aan: De N.V. Energiebedrijven Suriname (N.V. EBS)
T.a.v: Directeur M. Eyndhoven
P/a: Noorderkerkstraat 2-14
Paramaribo

19 AUG. 2019

043842

RPL
RAM
EAN
EAA

Asindonhopo, 15 Augustus 2019

Betreft: Toestemming Groot Opperhoofd Gaama Albert A. Aboikoni voor de uitvoering van het EU-IDB electriciteitsproject in de dorpen Gingiston t/m Nw. Aurora door de N.V. EBS.

Geachte directeur,

In navolging van het verzoek van Districts Commissaris J. Petrusi, vervat in de e-mail van donderdag 15 Augustus j.l aan het kabinet van Gaama Albert Aboikoni, betreffende het verzoek om schriftelijke toestemming van het Groot Opperhoofd aan de N.V. EBS voor de uitvoering van het EU-IDB electriciteitsproject in de dorpen Gingiston t/m Nw. Aurora, geeft het Groot Opperhoofd, de geachte Gaama Albert A. Aboikoni U het hierna volgende te kennen:

Met verwijzing naar de gemeenschapsconsultatie vergadering (krutu), gehouden op 26 juni 2019 te Asindonhopo door de Ministeries van Regionale Ontwikkeling en Natuurlijke Hulpbronnen; de EU; de IDB en de N.V. EBS enerzijds en anderzijds de bevolking en het Traditioneel gezag van de dorpen van genoemd gebied, waarin door de N.V. EBS een uiteenzetting is gegeven van het project, welke inhoudt dat binnen een periode van 3 jaren er 10 zonnepanelen stations (mini solar grids) gebouwd zullen worden met diesel generatoren als back up in de dorpen Gingiston, Pambooko, Amakkakonde, Abenaston, Kaajapaatie, Jaw Jaw, Lespaansie, Adawai, Gunsu, Ladoani, Tjalikonde en Nw. Aurora (waarbij de 3 laatst genoemde dorpen geclusterd zullen worden op 1 netwerk),

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U middels dit schrijven te informeren dat de uitvoering van het EU-IDB electriciteitsproject in genoemde dorpen door de N.V. EBS, de goedkeuring draagt van de gemeenschappen en het Traditioneel gezag van genoemd gebied. Derhalve verleent het Groot Opperhoofd van de stam Saamaka, de Gaama Albert A. Aboikoni heden en bij deze zijn toestemming aan de N.V. Energie Bedrijven Suriname voor het uitvoeren van genoemd electriciteitsproject binnen de aangegeven periode.

Het Groot Opperhoofd hoopt bij deze het verzoek in voldoende mate te hebben ingewilligd. Inmiddels verblijft hij.

Het Groot Opperhoofd der Saramaccaners

De Gaama Albert A. Aboikoni



Kabinet van de Gaama
Asindonhopo