

Suriname report for World Wetlands Day

The Minister for Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management, Mr. Ginmardo Kromosoeto (BSc, LLB), opened Suriname's World Wetlands Day event in Nieuw Nickerie near the site of the internationally significant Bigi Pan Wetland. The event was hosted by the Nature Conservation Division of the Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management (RGB) and was designed to promote wetland management and engage the local and national community in the development of a management strategy for wetlands.

Minister Kromosoeto outlined the importance of wetlands for their contribution towards biodiversity, their part of the ecosystems, how people interact and depend on wetlands and the necessity for sound management.

"The Surinamese Government has recognised the international significance of the wetlands and manages many of them for multiple use. An important aspect to managing multiple use areas is to engage with the stakeholders and that is an integral element of today's event."

A broad spectrum of the community participated in a round table discussion as part of the event. The discussion involved local high school students and teachers, regional representatives from the government, federal policy makers, fishermen, hunters, tour guides, game wardens/rangers, conservation professionals within the government, consultants working with the UN, academics, general members of the public and an Australian Volunteer working with the Nature Conservation Division.

"The diversity of stakeholders participating at the meeting will generate some good momentum and encourage wetland management issues to be further promoted in the public forum. The Government will be ensuring that this momentum is utilized to advance the management strategy and implementation of measures to sustainably manage Suriname's wetlands." Minister Kromosoeto said.

The event received good media coverage and was promoted on local and national television and radio.



Minister for Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management, Mr Ginmarido Kromosoeto



The Chief of the Education Section of the NCD, Mr Ashok Pherai, presenting a prize to a school student



Participants in the round table discussion



A man who fishes on Bigi Pan wetland for his living participates in the round table discussion