Suriname is divided into a more developed northern belt along the Atlantic coast which accounts for 20% of the country’s area and 90% of its population of 481,000; and the southern interior belt covered by rainforest, home to a multitude of ethnic, tribal communities. Much of the country’s interior is inaccessible by road, lacks basic access to adequate water and sanitation facilities, adequate educational opportunities for children, and there is limited provision of government services.

As a result, most villagers are isolated from typical sources of information such as television broadcasts, internet, newspapers, etc. One exception to this is the presence of radio stations in several parts of the interior. Radio stations provide an effective and economical way to provide various sorts of information to these isolated communities.

It is particularly important that these communities receive information about the environment and environmental issues that can directly affect their lives. Interior villages rely extensively on the natural environment around them for food, water and shelter. Threats to their environment can mean direct threats to their livelihoods. Interior radio stations provide a unique opportunity to supply environmental messaging and content to these remote areas. Improved environmental awareness and access to information may help the rural Surinamese make informed choices about how to better take care of their immediate environment as well as to have adaptive strategies for environmental changes that are outside of their control.

Objectives

The purpose of this consultancy is to strengthen the knowledge of the communities in the region of Langatabiki regarding environmental awareness and possible impacts to their lives regarding climate change. This will be done by providing training to radio broadcasters of Langatabiki so they are able to make and produce radio programs to:

1. Explain the environmental benefits of a demonstration project to run their radio station on solar instead of diesel power
2. Educate hinterland communities about environmental issues such as climate change, bio-diversity, renewable energy and other topics of interest to them such as solid waste management.
The full request for quotation can be downloaded here.