

Smith Gwendolyn

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Gwendolyn Smith is an international practitioner with roots in biology and social science. Her mission is to study and transform social systems undergoing pressure from development activities or changes in the availability of natural resources. Gwendolyn aims to create better relationships between the stakeholders operating in these social systems.

EDUCATION

- 2008 – 2013 Doctor of Philosophy in Conflict Analysis and Resolution
Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, USA
- 1994 – 1996 Master of Science in Biotechnology
University of Texas, San Antonio, USA
- 1987 – 1992 Bachelor of Science in Agronomy
Anton de Kom University, Paramaribo, Suriname

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2015 – Present **Executive Director**
Perspectives of Freedom Foundation
USA-based research and development organization working
in community development in South America
- 2013 – 2015 **Independent Consultant/Director**
Attune Consultants
Suriname-based consultancy firm working in participatory
processes related to environmental protection.
- 2004 – 2013 **Program Director**
Amazon Conservation Team
USA-based organization working in the preservation of
biodiversity, health, and culture in the Amazon.
- 1997 – 2002 **Lecturer/Researcher in Biosciences**
University of Suriname
Suriname-based University offering undergraduate and
graduate level study programs in technology.
- 1993 – 1994 **Researcher in Banana Cultivation**
Suriname Agricultural Farms
Suriname-based Banana farm producing crops for the UK.

AWARDS

Global Top 6 Best Indigenous
Engagement Projects 2018
Best Alumni Award Nova
Southeastern University 2018
Miami Book Award 2017
Fulbright Award 1994
Student of the Year 1992

SKILLS

Professional

Conflict Resolution
Stakeholder Engagement
Impact Studies ESIA | SIA
Teaching and Training

Computer

MS Word | Excel | PowerPoint
Citrix Podio
Quickbooks
KOBO Toolbox

Languages

English
Dutch
Surinamese
Spanish (comprehensive)
Trio (comprehensive)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

United Nations Roster of
Experts for Participation on
Indigenous Peoples and Afro-
descendants, and for climate
change/REDD+

Association of Conflict
Resolution

EXPERIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

- 2023 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the Construction of a Port for Parfind at the Suriname River. Client: Ilaco. [Social Expert](#)
- 2022/2023 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the Redevelopment of the Waterfront and Improvement of Mobility Infrastructure in Suriname. Client: Ministry of Education, Science and Culture/Inter-American Development Bank. [Team leader/Social Expert](#)
- 2022 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the Climate Smart Forestry Proof of Concept Program in Suriname. Client: Conservation International. [Social and Safeguards Expert](#)
- 2021 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the Construction of a Basic Shore Base at Suzannasdaal, Commewijne, Suriname. Client: Firm Engineering. [Team leader/Social Expert](#)
- 2020 Regional Environmental and Impact Assessment for Road Infrastructure in South Suriname. Client: Conservation International/European Union. [Team leader/Environmental/Social Expert](#)
- 2019 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the Water Supply Modernization Program. Client: Inter-American Development Bank/Suriname Water Supply Company. [Team leader/Social Expert](#)
- 2017 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the Construction and Operation of the Office of Tax Administration Building. Client: Inter-American Development Bank. [Social Expert](#)
- 2016 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for Coastal Region, Greenstone Belt, and South Suriname landscapes. Client: World Wildlife Fund. [Team leader/Social Expert](#)
- 2015 Environmental Impact Assessment of the Construction of Wanica Hospital in Suriname. Client: Ministry of Public Works/Sugrema. [Social Expert](#)
- 2014 Social Impact Assessment of the Railroad Paramaribo-Onverwacht in Suriname. Client: Strukton Engineering BV. [Team leader/Social Expert](#)
- 2014 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for 3D Seismic Acquisition in Block 54 offshore Suriname. Client: Tullow Oil/RPS Energy. [Social Expert](#)
- 2013 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the oil exploration drilling phase Block 47 offshore Suriname. Client: Tullow Oil/RPS Energy. [Social Expert](#)
- 2004 Country Environmental Impact Assessment for Suriname. Client: Inter-American Development Bank. [Environmental and Social Expert](#)
- 2003 Greenstone Belt Gold Mining Regional Environmental Assessment for Suriname. Client: Inter-American Development Bank/ National Institute for Environment and Development. [Team leader/Environmental and Social Expert](#)
- 2002 Environmental Impact Assessment on proposed Loan: Agricultural and trade policy reform. Client: Inter-American Development Bank. [Environmental and Social Expert](#)

SELECTED EXPERIENCE IN SOCIAL STUDIES

- 2024-ongoing Consultancy for the Development of a mid-and long-term strategy for preventing homelessness and the social inclusion of the homeless in Paramaribo. Client: Inter-American Development Bank/Ministry of Health Suriname. [Social Expert](#).
- 2024 Mobile Study on Amerindian Population Size, Migration, Turnover and Health Priorities Elaborated. Client: Inter-American Development Bank/Ministry of Health Suriname. [Principle Investigator/Social Expert](#).
- 2023-now Determination of a Vulnerability Determinator for Carbon Projects with Small Farmers Worldwide. Client: ReSeed USA. [Social Expert](#).

- 2023 Livelihood Restoration Plan for the Redevelopment of the Waterfront and Improvement of Mobility Infrastructure in Suriname. Client: Ministry of Education, Science and Culture/Inter-American Development Bank [ongoing]. [Team leader/Social Expert](#).
- 2022 Feasibility studies for the floating solar photovoltaic installation in Suriname. Client: Ilaco/Dornier Group/Inter-American Development Bank. [Social Expert](#)
- 2022 Knowledge Attitude and Practices (KAP) survey needed to improve the capacity of Suriname to build resilience to climate change in the agricultural sector. Client: Food and Agricultural Organization/Green Growth Suriname. [Social Expert](#)
- 2019 Social Cultural Analysis of the Line Route for the project Integration of Moengo, Albina, and Villages Along the East-West Corridor into the Energy Supply Paramaribo (EPAR) Network Client: Cesi Italy/Energy Company Suriname. [Social Expert](#)
- 2018 Socio-cultural Analysis for Improving the Healthcare System of Suriname. Client: Inter-American Development Bank. [Team leader/Social Expert](#)
- 2017 Feasibility Study of a Goldmining Project in the Guianas. Client: BRGM French Geological Survey. [Social Expert](#)
- 2016 Baseline Assessment for the Establishment of an Agricultural Processing Center in Robles, Colombia. Client: Funecorobles. [Team leader/Social Expert](#)
- 2014 Helipad Constraint Study in Suriname. Client: Tullow Oil/RPS Energy. [Social Expert](#)
- 2014 Study of the Perception of Trio and Wayana on Proposed Road Infrastructure in South Suriname. Client: World Wildlife Fund. [Team leader/Social Expert](#)
- 2010 Social Impact Assessment for the Road Albina-Meerzorg in Suriname. Client: IIRSA. [Team leader/Social Expert](#)

SELECTED EXPERIENCE IN STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 2024-ongoing Stakeholder engagement for the Spaces program that supports Suriname’s conservation priorities and climate outcomes. Client: Systemiq/Zomalab. [Design and Implementation](#).
- 2023 Stakeholder engagement for the sensitization of the nature management law in Suriname. Client: Rewild/Green Growth Suriname. [Design and Implementation](#)
- 2022 Stakeholder engagement for constructing the shared vision of the Spatial Planning Act in Suriname. Client: Inter-American Development Bank. [Design and Implementation](#)
- 2021-2022 Stakeholder engagement for competitiveness and diversification program in Suriname. Client: World Bank/Government of Suriname. [Design](#)
- 2021 Stakeholder engagement for the establishment of an environmental fund under the Environmental Framework Law in Suriname. Client: Green Growth Suriname Foundation. [Design and Implementation](#)
- 2020 Stakeholder engagement for citizen science in Suriname. Client: Green Growth Suriname Foundation. [Design and Implementation](#)
- 2019 Stakeholder engagement for value exchange for nature conservation in USA and Suriname: Client: Intrinsic Value Exchange/ Inter-American Development Bank. [Design](#)
- 2017-2018 Stakeholder engagement for the revision of the Nature Conservation Law in Suriname. Client: Conservation International/World Wildlife Fund. [Design and Implementation](#)
- 2016 Stakeholder engagement for REDD+ readiness in Suriname. Client: World Bank/UNDP/NIMOS. [Design](#)

- 2015 Grievance redress mechanism for REDD+ in Nepal. [Design](#)
Client: World Bank/Government of Nepal
- 2014-2015 Stakeholder engagement for the South Suriname Conservation Corridor (now TWTIS) in Suriname.
Client: Conservation International. [Design and Implementation](#)
- 2013-2014 Stakeholder engagement for the ratification of the Minamata Convention on phasing out mercury in Suriname. Client: World Wildlife Fund/NIMOS. [Design and Implementation](#)
- 2012-2013 Stakeholder engagement for the REDD+ project proposal in Suriname.
Client: World Bank/UNDP/NIMOS. [Design and Implementation](#).

EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING AND TRAINING

- 2013-now **Guest Instructor**
Nova Southeastern University, USA
Instructor for graduate-level students on sustainable development and conflict transformation
Florida Atlantic University, USA
Instructor for graduate-level students in communication in philanthropy
- 2012-now **Trainer**
Conflict Resolution
Multiple clients: FAO, World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International, ATV, Iamgold, UNESCO, Tropenbos, UNDP, Worldbank, Surinam Airways
- 2008-2016 **Guest Instructor**
University of Texas, San Antonio
Instructor in Plants and Society, Climate Change
- 1997-2002 **Instructor**
Anton de Kom University of Suriname
Instructor in courses Biotechnology, Bioprocessing, Biochemistry, Organic chemistry

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 Seasonal Indicators for Rapid Detection of Climate Variability across Suriname. Academic Journal of Suriname 14(01), 33-55. [Journal Article](#)
- 2024 Local Knowledge Matters: Understanding the Decision-Making Processes of Communities under Climate Change in Suriname. Frontiers in Climate 5. [Journal Article](#)
- 2023 Community in a “Conflict System”: A Case Study of Facilitating Conflict in Nature Conservation. Journal of Conflict Management 8(1): 23-38. [Journal Article](#)
- 2020 Collaborative (co) Management as a Model for Bio-cultural Conservation in Suriname. [Online Paper](#)
- 2020 The Tribal Characteristics of Suriname Society. [Online Paper](#)
- 2019 The Rules are Changing: Indigenous Peoples and Social Impacts Assessments. [Online Paper](#)
- 2017 Conflict and Sustainability in a Changing Environment: Through the Eyes of Communities. Ecosystem and Restoration Series. Anthem Press: London, New York. [Book](#)
- 2014 MAPCID: A Model for the Analysis of Potential Conflict in Development. Journal of Conflict Management 2(1): 7-32. [Journal Article](#)

- 2014 Conflict Resolutie: Een Methode ter Onderhandeling van het Surinaams Grondenrechten Vraagstuk. In E. Jagdew & H. Gezius (Ed.): Grondenrechten in Suriname: Het vraagstuk nader bekeken. Paramaribo, Suriname: IMWO, Anton de Kom University of Suriname His/Her Tori no.5, 143-155. [Book Chapter](#)
- 2010 Carbon-based Conservation Projects in Ecuador and Suriname: An Analysis of Vulnerability and Conflict Potential. *Peace and Conflict Review* 5(1): 1-10. [Journal Article](#)
- 2010 Planet or Profit: Remodelling the Climate Change Negotiations. *Journal of Alternative Perspectives in Social Sciences* 2(1): 28-45. [Journal Article](#)
- 2000 The importance of gender issues in revitalizing commercial agriculture in Suriname. In A. Spring (Ed.) *Women farmers and commercial ventures*. London: Lynne Rienner Publishers. [Book Chapter](#)