

Smith Gwendolyn

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Gwendolyn Smith is an international practitioner with a solid foundation in biology and social science. Her work focuses on analyzing and transforming social systems that are impacted by development pressures and shifts in natural resource availability, ultimately fostering more equitable, resilient, and sustainable systems that can adapt to global change.

EDUCATION

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| 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

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| 2015 – Present | Executive Director
Perspectives of Freedom Foundation
USA-based research and development organization working in community development in South America.
Registration # Florida: N14000009503 |
| 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 Crop 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
Social Analyses
Data Analysis
Impact Studies ESIA | SIA
Teaching and Training

Computer/Programming
MS Word | Excel | PowerPoint
Quickbooks
SQL, R, Tableau, SPSS, SAS

Languages
English
Dutch
Surinamese
Spanish (comprehensive)
Trio (comprehensive)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- United Nations Roster of Experts for Participation on Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants and climate change
- Association of Conflict Resolution (ACR)
- International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)

EXPERIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

2025-ongoing	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for a proposed Quay at Dordrecht, Commewijne Suriname. Category A. Client: NV Dordt Gateway. Social Expert .
2025-ongoing	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the Establishment of a Waste Management and Liquid Mud Plant in Commewijne, Suriname. Category A. Client: Comport. Team leader
2023	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for the Construction of a Port for Parfind at the Suriname River. Category A. 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. Category B. 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. Category A. 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. Team leader/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 .
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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-ongoing	Determination of a Vulnerability Determinator for Carbon Projects with Small Farmers Worldwide. Client: Reseed USA. The developed methodology was adopted by Social Carbon, a global carbon standard for nature-based solutions. 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. 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 conflict and 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](#)