

To: de President van de Republiek Suriname, Drs. R.R. Venetiaan  
de Minister van Natuurlijke Hulpbronn, Dr. G.A. Rusland  
de Minister van Arbeid, Technologische Ontwikkeling en Milieu, Drs. J. Amarello-Williams  
de Minister van Ruimtelijke Ordening, Grond en Bosbeheer, Mr. M. Jong Tjien Fa BA  
de Directeur NIMOS, Drs. S. Ang  
de Voorzitter van het Bestuur Anton de Kom Universiteit van Suriname, Drs. A. Li Fo Sjoer  
de General Manager BHP-Billiton Maatschappij Suriname, Mr Frank Blom  
de Managing Director Suralco Llc, Mr Peter de Wit  
the Ambassador the United States of America in Suriname, Mrs L. Bobby Schreiber-Hughes  
de Ambassadeur van het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden in Suriname, Mevr. M.W.J.A. Van Gool  
de Director Conservation International Suriname, Mevr. A. Tjon Sie Fat  
de Representative World Wildlife Fund Suriname, Mr. D. Plouvier  
de redacties van de dagbladen De Ware Tijd, De West, Times of Suriname en Dagblad Suriname

Subject: Mining in Nassau Mountains

Attachments: (1) Table summarizing recent studies in Nassau Mountains  
(2) Nassau Resolution Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation

Paramaribo, 17 February 2009

I would like to draw your attention to a resolution that has recently been formally approved by the Executive Council of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) concerning mainly the projected mining of bauxite in Nassau Mountains by Suralco Llc. In addition, Suralco Llc and Newmont are collaborating in the Surgold project, a projected goldmine in the northern foot hills of Nassau Mountains.

A Rapid Assessment Program (RAP) expedition of Conservation International in 2005 and subsequent field and laboratory studies by Anton de Kom University of Suriname, Museum d'Histoire Naturelle Geneva and University of Geneva (attachment 1) have revealed a rich fish and amphibian fauna in Nassau Mountains with a number of new species that are endemic (restricted in their distribution) to Nassau Mountains. A geohydrology report by SRK has shown that the porous bauxite rock acts as a shallow aquifer that fuels the Nassau streams in the dry season, in effect providing for clear, running water in the streams year round. The Nassau bauxite deposits are located in a small, 20x20 km<sup>2</sup> plateau area that is a concession of Suralco Llc. Mining of these bauxite deposits would negatively affect water quality and quantity in Nassau's streams and thereby threaten its endemic fishes and amphibians with extinction.

The scientific community, as represented by ecologists and conservation biologists of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation, has expressed its concerns about mining projects in Nassau Mountains in its Resolution 11 (attachment 2). Please take careful notion of the attached ATBC resolution on mining in Nassau Mountains. More information on ATBC at [www.atbio.org](http://www.atbio.org), the 2008 annual meeting of ATBC in Paramaribo at [www.atbc2008.org](http://www.atbc2008.org), and specific questions about the Nassau resolution to be directed to Dr William Laurance of ATBC's conservation committee (e-mail: [LauranceW@si.edu](mailto:LauranceW@si.edu)).

Dr Jan H. Mol

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