

# SURINAME

A stylized orange tree with a thick trunk and a dense, rounded canopy of leaves stands on a rocky, orange-colored hill. The background is a light gray gradient, and the foreground shows a dark blue body of water with a small orange reflection.

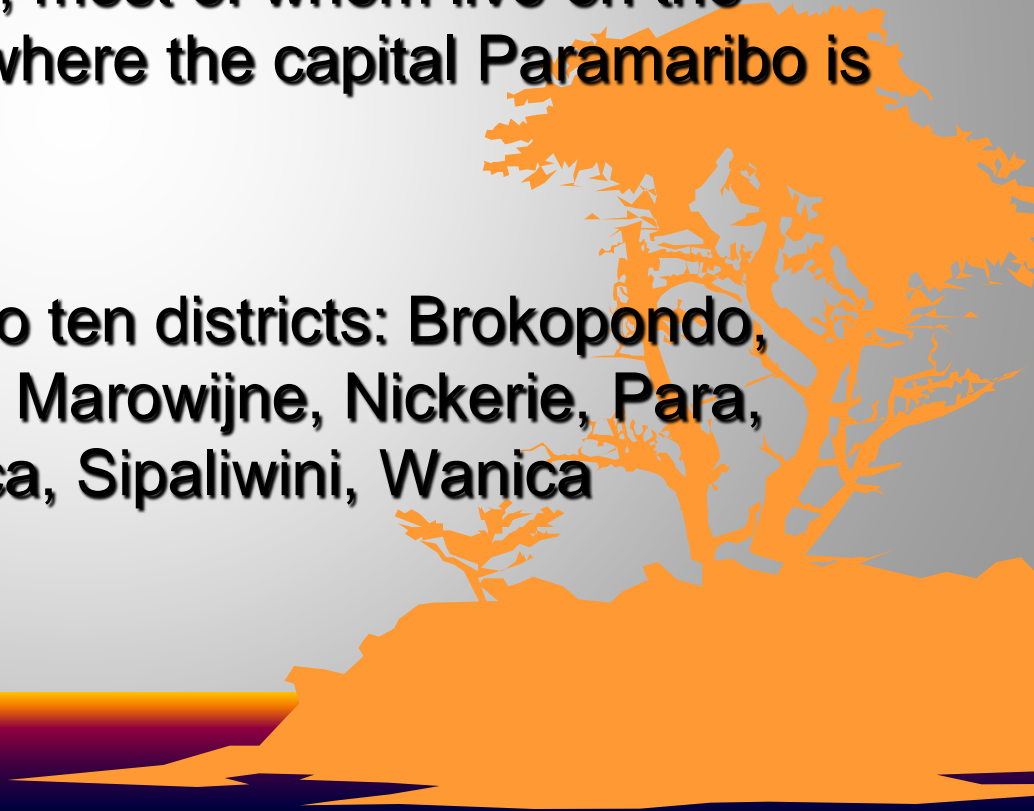
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# Introduction

- Republic of Suriname, is a country in northern South America, with an estimated population of approximately 470,000, most of whom live on the country's north coast, where the capital Paramaribo is located.
- Suriname is divided into ten districts: Brokopondo, Commewijne, Coronie, Marowijne, Nickerie, Para, Paramaribo, Saramacca, Sipaliwini, Wanica



# History

- In 1683, the Society of Suriname was founded by the city of Amsterdam, the Van Aerssen van Sommelsdijck family, and the Dutch West India Company. The society was chartered to manage and defend the colony.
- Surinamese society is one of the most multilingual in the world. Dutch is the sole official language, and is the language of education, government, business and the media.



# History



Slavery was abolished by the Netherlands in Suriname in 1863, but the slaves in Suriname were not fully released until 1873, after a mandatory 10 year transition period during which time they were required to work on the plantations for minimal pay and without state sanctioned torture.



# History

- The Republic of Suriname is a constitutional, democratically representational republic based on the 1987 constitution. The legislative branch of government consists of a 51-member unicameral National Assembly, simultaneously and popularly elected for a five-year term.



# Education

- **Suriname has an extensive educational system with free schooling compulsory until age 12. The Government and the Roman Catholic and Moravian Churches provide education for kindergarten through secondary school. As a rule, all instruction is in Dutch. The three exceptions to this rule are the International Academy of Suriname, administered by a local Christian foundation, Christian Liberty Academy, administered by the Caribbean Christian Ministries, and the AlphaMax Academy, a private nonsectarian school administered by the AlphaMax Foundation.**

# Education — Pre-Primary

- Pre-primary education is considered part of the *Early Childhood Development*. Children go to pre-primary school at age 4 and go through a 4-years' programme, preparing them for elementary school. They are taught all sorts of skills, such as singing, drawing, fine motor skills, language, pre-reading skills and number work. It appears that in 1995/1996, according to a publication of the General Statistics Offices, 81.3% of the children were enrolled in pre-primary school.





# Education — Pre-Primary

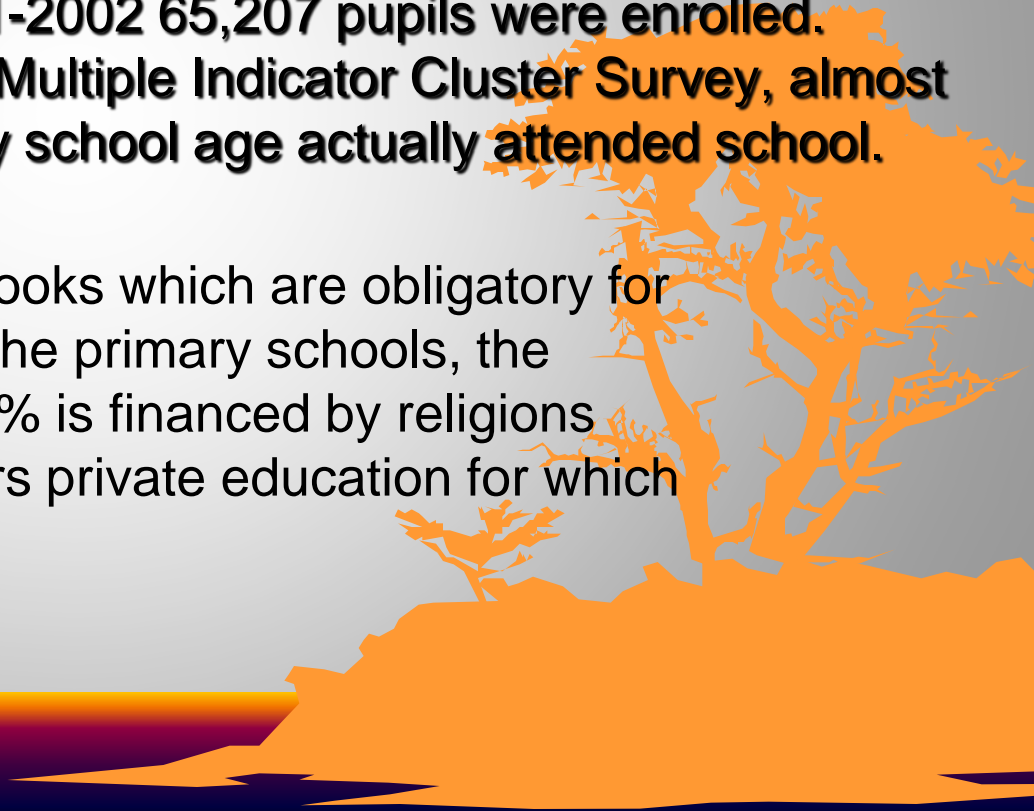


- Pre-primary education in Suriname is free, with the exception of private schools. The ratio of children/teachers amounted to 23.4. Pre-primary schools are often linked to a primary school, although they have their own teachers, who are nursery trained teachers. There are no legal compulsory, established, national curricula for pre-primary education.

# Education - Primary

Primary education comprises six years and children are enrolled from age six until they are 12 years old (compulsory education runs from age 7 to 12). The number of enrollments in the nineteen-nineties was over 75,000 pupils. In 2001-2002 65,207 pupils were enrolled. According to the Suriname Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, almost 78% of the pupils of primary school age actually attended school.

All schools use the same books which are obligatory for public primary schools. Of the primary schools, the government funds 51%, 48% is financed by religious organizations, and 1% offers private education for which a tuition fee is paid.



# Education - Primary

- At the end of the 6th year, the pupils take a test aimed at two objectives:

1

To determine whether a pupil is eligible for transfer to a following level (advanced education at junior level) Dependant on the score, the pupil may pass for MULO (junior secondary general education, LGBO (junior vocation-oriented education), LTO (junior technical education), or LHNO (junior domestic science and technical education)

2

To determine whether a pupil is eligible for a school certificate (diploma), which indicates that the student has successfully complete primary education. When a pupil of the 6th grade does not pass the test but is not yet 13 years of age, he/she may repeat the grade. If the pupil is older, it is possible to be admitted to EBO (elementary vocational education) with a certification. There is also the possibility, for pupils of age 14, to be admitted to LGBO with the GLO certification, dependent on the marks obtained



# Education - Primary

The school marks of the 6th grader are included in the assessment whether the pupil passes or not. The schools take their own tests which make up  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the score, whereas the nation-wide test form  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the score. The school tests are prepared by the teachers of the school.

# Education - Secondary

Secondary education may be divided into junior secondary education (VOJ) and senior secondary education (VOS). Voj comprises one general education course (MULO), which offers possibilities for further study, whether or not after an entrance examination at VOS level.



VOS comprises two general education courses and some vocation-oriented courses. Pre-university education prepares students for admission to university. Higher General Secondary Education (HAVO) prepares pupils for higher vocation education (HBO).

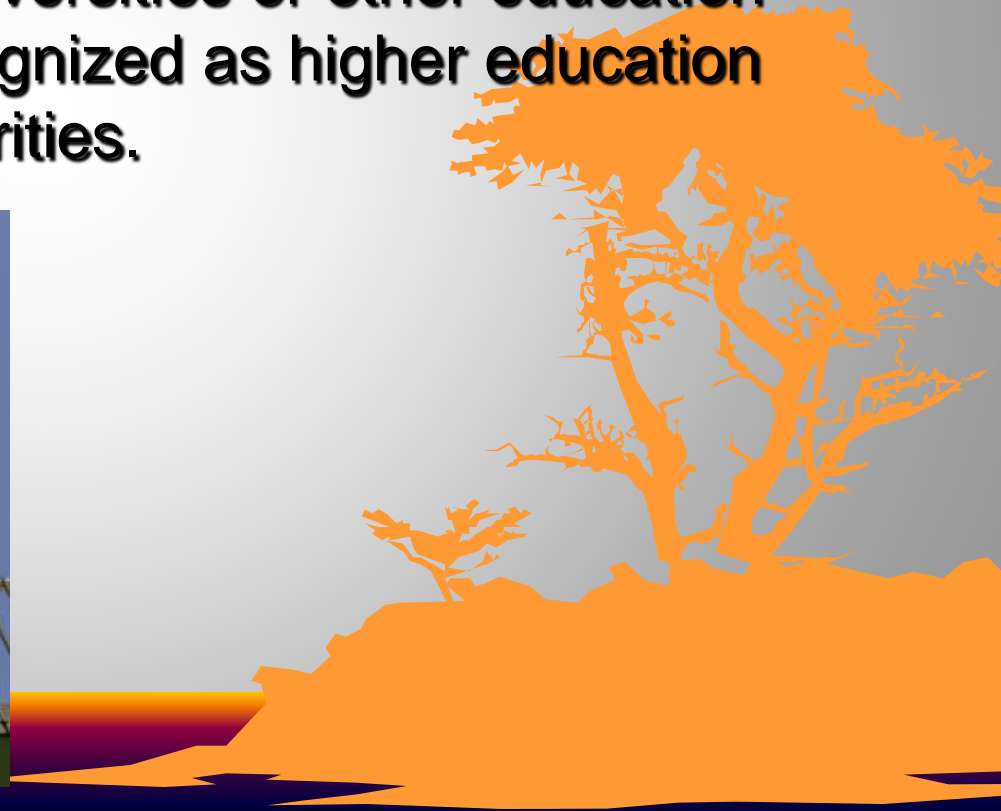


Students who follow MULO sit for an entry exam for VWO/HAVO in the third or fourth year. Their score determines their further education. Students with the highest scores can follow the 3-year university preparatory school (VWO). Students with lower scores can follow the two-year general secondary education (HAVO), which is actually preparation for higher vocational education (HBO).



# Education - Higher Education

- Higher Education comprises all types of studies, training or research, training at post-secondary level, which is provided by universities or other education institutions that are recognized as higher education institutions by the authorities.



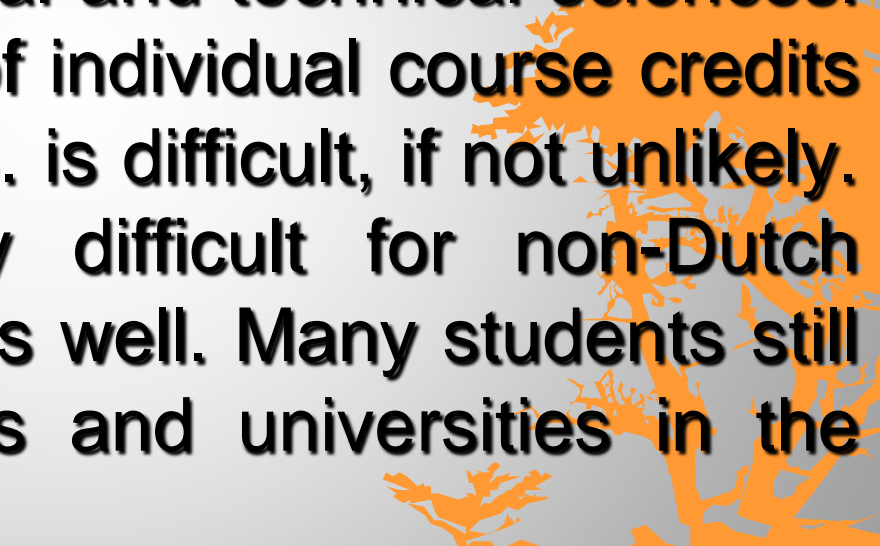
# Anton de Kom University of Suriname



The University provides academic training. The institution is a parastatal, which aims at being a center for science and technology and contributing actively to the social reform process, directed towards social and economic independence and with respect to realization of social justice.

# Anton de Kom University of Suriname

The Anton de Kom University in Paramaribo has faculties of medicine, law, natural resources, and social and technical sciences. However, transfer of individual course credits to and from the U.S. is difficult, if not unlikely. Enrollment is very difficult for non-Dutch speaking persons as well. Many students still attend high schools and universities in the Netherlands.



# Anton de Kom University of Suriname Law School

## Admission criterion

University preparatory (VWO)

## Duration

5 years (daytime classes) or 6  
years (night classes)

# Education — Literacy

The adult literacy rate is approximately 89.6%. Teacher training institutes, secondary schools, and technical schools provide terminal degrees. Nurses and dental technicians are trained in conjunction with the medical faculty, but standards do not equal those found in more developed countries.





# CARICOM



# CARICOM

- In 1972, Commonwealth Caribbean leaders at the Seventh Heads of Government Conference decided to transform the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) into a Common Market and establish the Caribbean Community, of which the Common Market would be an integral part.

# CARICOM



The signing of the Treaty establishing the Caribbean Community, Chaguaramas, 4th July 1973, was a defining moment in the history of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Although a free-trade area had been established, CARIFTA did not provide for the free movement of labour and capital, or the coordination of agricultural, industrial and foreign policies.

# CARICOM



The objectives of the Community, identified in Article 6 of the Revised Treaty, are:

- To improve standards of living and work
- The full employment of labour and other factors of production
- Accelerated, coordinated and sustained economic development and convergence
- Expansion of trade and economic relations with third States
- Enhanced levels of international competitiveness
- Organization for increased production and productivity
- Achievement of a greater measure of economic leverage and effectiveness of Member States in dealing with third States, groups of States and entities of any description and the enhanced co-ordination of Member States' foreign and foreign economic policies and enhanced functional co-operation.

# CARICOM



In CARICOM, one may identify Suriname as being an example of the civil law tradition of the Dutch-being of old Dutch, French and Roman law descent. Suriname provides one of the few examples of a common law legal system being transplanted by a civil law legal system.



# CARICOM



- The CARICOM Treaty was the result of initiatives towards economic and political integration within the Commonwealth Caribbean community and established the regional entity known as the Caribbean and Common Market. Recently, Caribbean countries outside the Commonwealth, such as Suriname, have been accepted, at least partially, under the Treaty.

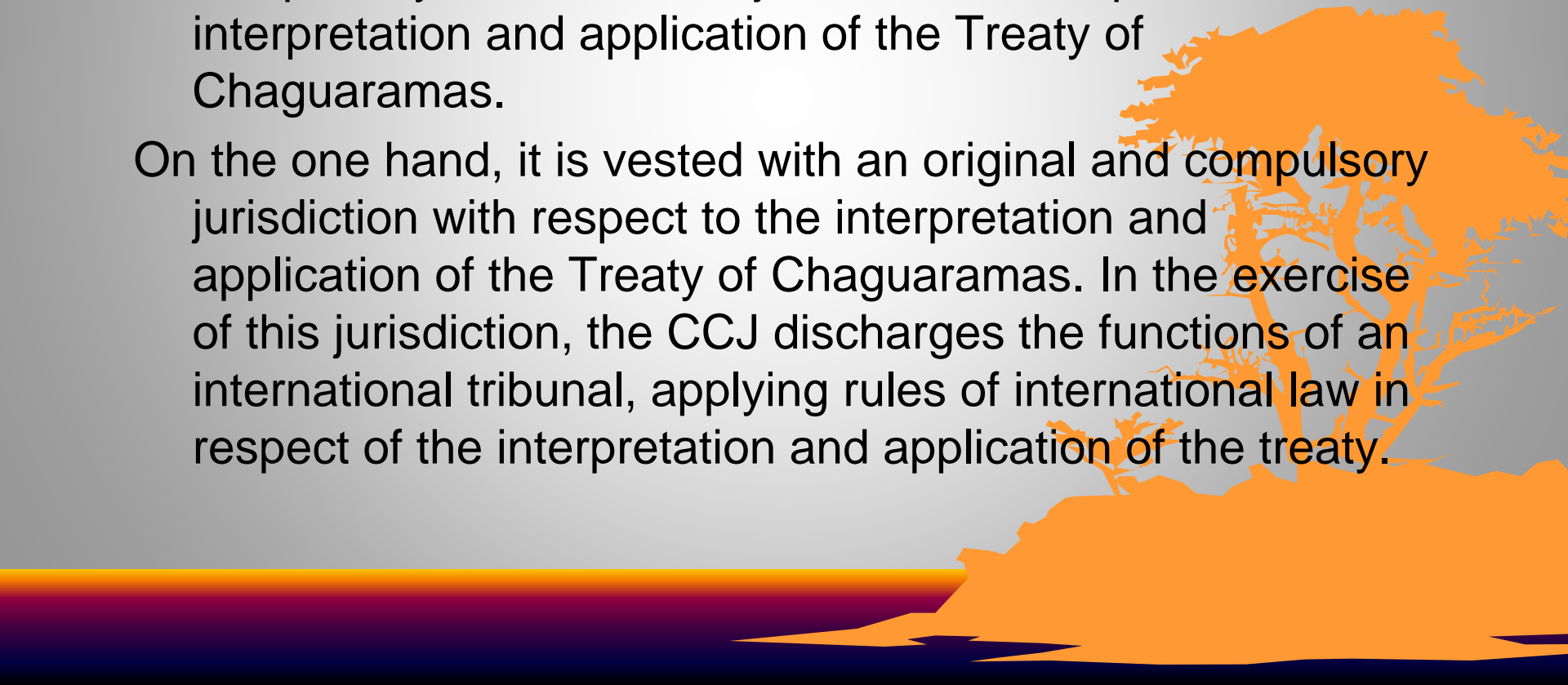
# Caribbean Court of Justice



# Caribbean Court of Justice

The CCJ is intended to be a hybrid institution: a municipal court of last resort and an international court with compulsory and exclusive jurisdiction in respect of the interpretation and application of the Treaty of Chaguaramas.

On the one hand, it is vested with an original and compulsory jurisdiction with respect to the interpretation and application of the Treaty of Chaguaramas. In the exercise of this jurisdiction, the CCJ discharges the functions of an international tribunal, applying rules of international law in respect of the interpretation and application of the treaty.



# Caribbean Court of Justice

- Since the expansion of CARICOM to include Suriname, it has become more important for the region to be familiar with the civil law legal tradition. More particularly, one of the judges on the newly constituted CCJ a final court of appeal, Justice Wit, is from the Netherlands, and it is to be expected that influences of civil law will come to the forefront. Indeed this is seen to have begun, if one were to judge by one of the first decisions from the court.



# Caribbean Court of Justice

- **According to the CCJ:**
  - **The Caribbean Court of Justice is designed to be more than a court of last resort for member states of the Caribbean Community. For, in addition to replacing the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the CCJ is vested with an original jurisdiction in respect of the interpretation and application of the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community. In effect, the CCJ is designed to exercise both an appellate and an original jurisdiction.**



# Caribbean Court of Justice



# International Court of Justice

- Currently, Suriname is a member of the International Court of Justice.
- The Government of the Republic of Suriname recognizes, in accordance with Article 36, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, with effect from the seventh September 1987, as compulsory ipso facto and without special agreement, in relation to any other State accepting the same obligation, that is on condition of reciprocity, the jurisdiction of the said Court in all disputes, which have arisen prior to this Declaration or may arise after this Declaration, with the exception of:

A. disputes which have arisen or may arise with respect to or in relation with the borders of the Republic of Suriname;

B. disputes in respect of which the parties, excluding the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, have agreed to settlement by means of arbitration, mediation or other methods of conciliation and accommodation.

This Declaration shall be binding for a period of five years and shall continue in force after that period until twelve months after the Government of the Republic of Suriname has given notice of its termination.



# ADR

*Alternative Dispute Resolution*



# ADR



- **Arbitration**

- Arbitration is a legal technique for the resolution of disputes outside the courts, wherein the parties to a dispute refer it to one or more persons, the arbitrators, by whose decision they agree to be bound. Arbitration often includes alternative dispute resolution (ADR), a category that more commonly refers to mediation (a form of settlement negotiation facilitated by a neutral third party).



# Arbitration – *Guyana/Suriname*

By its Notification dated 24 February 2004, Guyana instituted arbitration proceedings concerning the delimitation of its maritime boundary with Suriname, and concerning alleged breaches of international law by Suriname in disputed maritime territory pursuant to Articles 286 and 287 of the Convention and in accordance with Annex VII of the Convention. The Arbitral Tribunal was composed of five members: Dolliver M. Nelson (President), Kamal Hossain, Thomas M. Franck, Ivan Shearer and Hans Smit. The Permanent Court of Arbitration served as Registry for the proceedings.

On 20 May 2005, Suriname filed Preliminary Objections on jurisdiction and admissibility.

A Tribunal addressed the delimitation of the territorial seas and the single maritime boundary dividing the continental shelves and exclusive economic zones of the Parties.

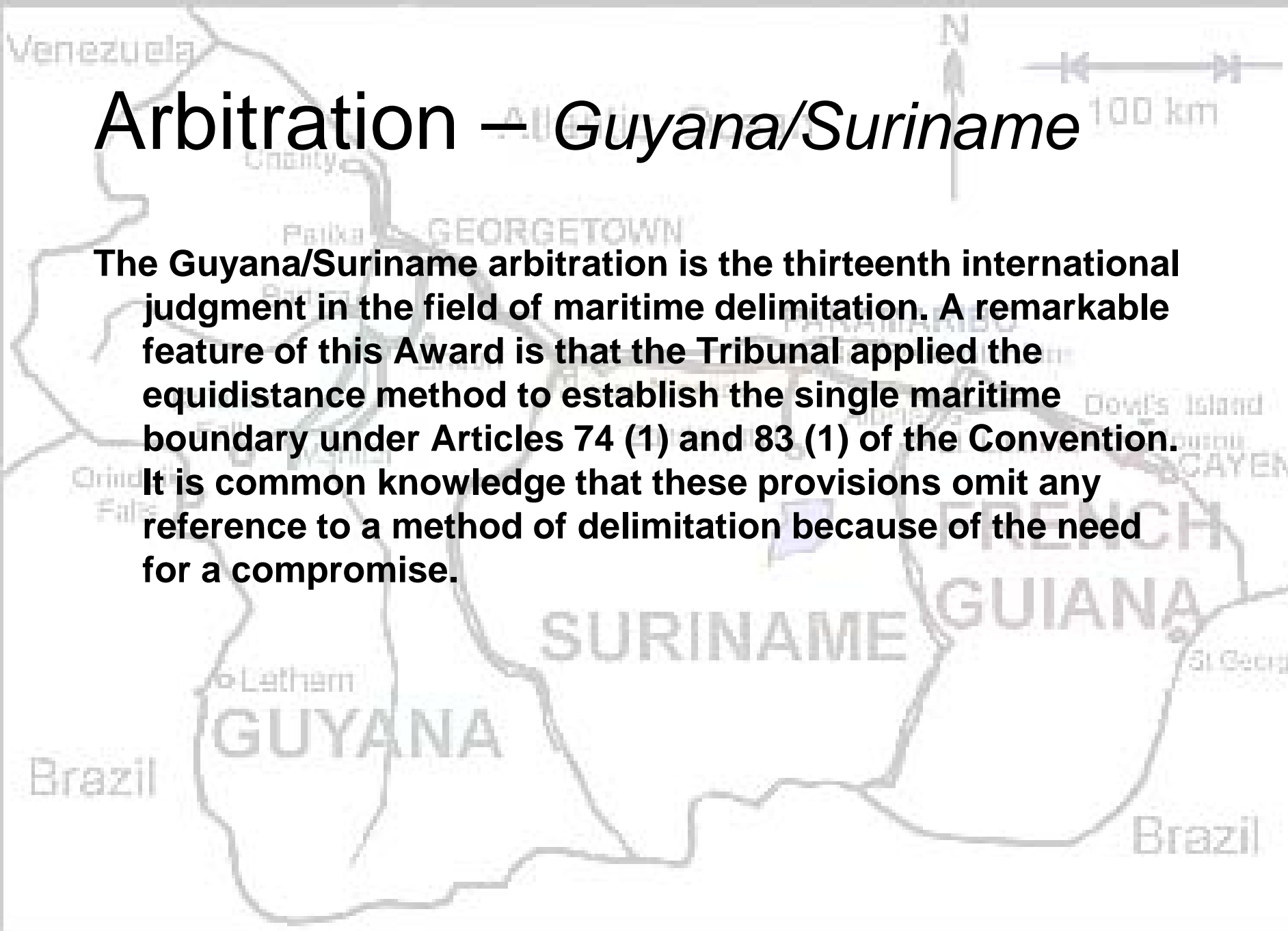
The delimitation of the continental shelf and the EEZ in the case were governed by Articles 74 and 83 of the Convention.





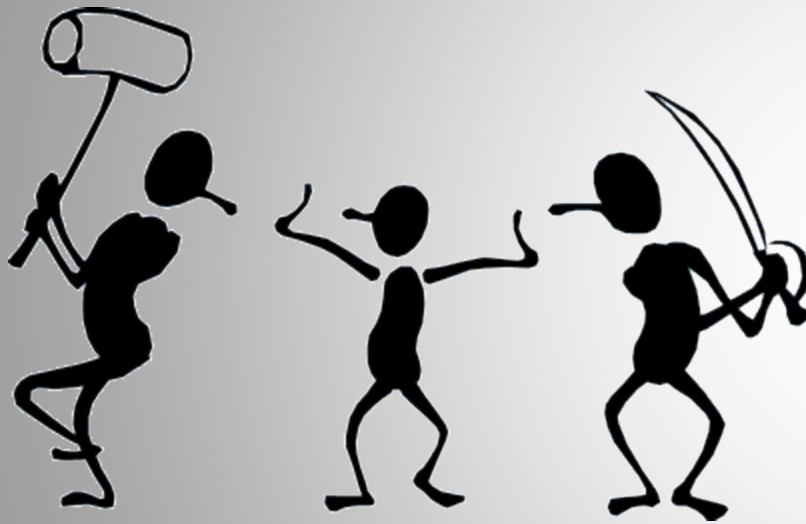
# Arbitration – *Guyana/Suriname*

**The Guyana/Suriname arbitration is the thirteenth international judgment in the field of maritime delimitation. A remarkable feature of this Award is that the Tribunal applied the equidistance method to establish the single maritime boundary under Articles 74 (1) and 83 (1) of the Convention. It is common knowledge that these provisions omit any reference to a method of delimitation because of the need for a compromise.**



# ADR

- **Mediation**



- Mediation has a structure, timetable and dynamics that "ordinary" negotiation lacks. The process is private and confidential. The presence of a mediator is the key distinguishing feature of the process. There may be no obligation to go to mediation, but in some cases, any settlement agreement signed by the parties to a dispute will be binding on them.



# Mediation

There are some examples of situations in which mediation is working well in Suriname. In the 5<sup>th</sup> Canton, police are acting as mediators of small disputes. Similarly, in Paramaribo one police officer is assigned to assist parties to settle conflicts such as those between landlords and tenants.



# Mediation

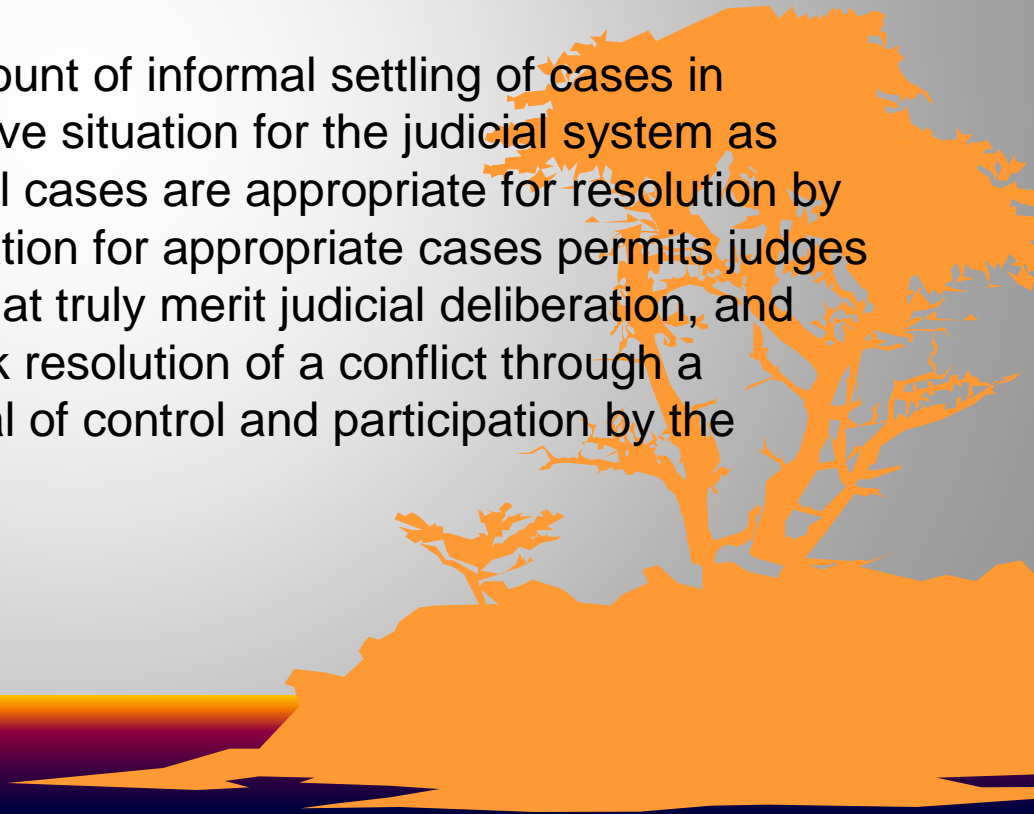


There are traditions of mediation among many of the ethnic groups in Suriname. For example, in Hindustani families the eldest family member is often looked to, to mediate disputes; in Saramacca, it was traditionally the schoolmaster (the most educated member of the community) who mediated disputes. Maroon villages before the civil war had traditional courts and dispute resolution; their use is apparently less frequent after the war.



# Mediation

- Interest among the bar and business community in negotiation and mediation courses offered by the Foundation for Legal Cooperation between Suriname and the Netherlands has been high.
- The fact that there is a fair amount of informal settling of cases in Suriname is a potentially positive situation for the judicial system as well as for the citizenry. Not all cases are appropriate for resolution by mediation, but providing mediation for appropriate cases permits judges more time to focus on cases that truly merit judicial deliberation, and gives parties the option to seek resolution of a conflict through a method that allows a great deal of control and participation by the parties themselves.





# Legal Aid

## Constitutional Law of the Republic of Suriname

### Article 12:

1. Everyone has the right to legal assistance before the courts
2. The law shall provide regulations with regard to legal aid for the financially weak.



# Legal Aid



- **The Government has had a legal aid system since 1955. The Government provides legal aid through provision of lawyers whose fees are paid for by the Government. However the availability of lawyers is compromised by the low legal fees paid to the lawyers, and therefore the pool of available lawyers is limited.**

# Legal Aid

- The Government's legal aid system is channeled through the Legal Aid Bureau. The Legal Aid Bureau lacks the necessary human resources and proper systems to manage the diverse cases and has become overwhelmed with the myriad of cases and high numbers of citizens seeking legal protection and redress



# Legal Aid



The public at large also needs to be empowered to increase their access to justice and the justice system through popularizing key pieces of legislation and making them more reader friendly; public awareness of the law and modalities for accessing the legal system; and increasing the geographical scope and reach of the legal aid system and public education and awareness activities to include the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and hinterland communities.



# Legal Aid

In August 2010 the Ministry of Justice and Police and UNDP finalized a project to produce multi-media products for an outreach campaign to increase the public's knowledge of Suriname's Legal aid system, the judicial system and citizens' rights, and selected pieces of local legislation. The content covered by these multi-media products included:

- A basic understanding of Suriname's judicial system (including roles and functions of judges, lawyers and the public prosecutors, Cantonal Courts and the Court of Justice)
- Suriname's system of legal aid explained
- Suriname's legislation regarding Child Support
- Suriname's legislation regarding Inheritance Law
- Suriname's legislation regarding marriage and living together
- Suriname's legislation regarding Domestic Abuse



## GET LEGAL AID NOW !!

Legal aid is a fundamental right ... use it !!



For more information on Legal Aid  
call or walk by on monday, wednesday and friday  
from 9:00 hrs - 11:00 hrs

**Call. 424485 / 424486**

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Gonggrijpstraat 1-3  
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