



The use of mercury is not illegal in, Suriname but rather bound to permits. It is imported from Guyana, Brazil and French Guyana in large quantities and used for the extraction of gold from other materials in the (large -and) small scale gold mining operations in the interior. Although Suriname is part of the Minamata convention on the use of mercury, regulation has been proven difficult, partly due to the remoteness of the southern half of the country, which can only be accessed by airplane. Government activity in the area is few and far between, and thus far from effective. The Wayana feel ignored by their own government in their plight.

2: The use of mercury impacts the Wayana negatively in a multitude of ways. Looking at the SDG's they violate with SDG:

- 3. Good Health and well-being
Due to mercury in our food and water (drinking water we still get unfiltered from our rivers and creeks) our health and well-being are in danger
- 6. Clean drinking water and sanitation
We also have boats in our rivers that suck the mud from the bottom of the river, looking for gold. This disturbs the whole eco-system of the river, our rivers become brown and aren't transparent anymore. This has also a big influence on the quality of our drinking water.
- 11. Sustainable cities and communities
Due to the (illegal) gold mining and the use of mercury, but also for past 2 years cyanide, our territory and communities aren't sustainable anymore
- 12. Responsible consumption and production
The proteins we eat are poisoned with mercury and other heavy metals
- 14. Life below water
See 3, 6 and 12.

It's also important to mention that the Indigenous in Suriname still don't have land rights.

3: FPIC is NOT adhered to in the cases of mercury use in our lands. Our traditional leadership is not consulted on any of the matters concerning mining, government sanctioned or not.

We have developed our own Wayana PFIC protocol, but our government refused to use it.

4: The Wayana territory along the Lawa river is mainly targeted for small scale (illegal) goldmining. Local and outside groups (mainly from Brazil) enter our lands, often illegally, but there are also proven cases of individuals or groups having concession rights, given to them by government without our consent.

The groups/individuals are seldomly inspected on the use of mercury. There is no dialogue between the Wayana and before mentioned groups/individuals who run small mining operations.