

The Mulokot Foundation

Wayana Indigenous of Suriname

KKF: 36436 (Chamber of Commerce)

5: The Mulokot Foundation is a Wayana Indigenous NGO. One of our core issues since our founding in 2018 is to fight against the use of mercury in our territories. We have funded research, we have supported petitions, and we are in perpetual talks with government, pertaining the issue.

6: Legislation-The use of mercury is legal in Suriname. The need for a permit has not lessened the use.

Regulation: Due to the remoteness of our territories, there is little to no government activity in the sense of regulation. Goldminers can freely use as much Mercury as they please. The Government presence in the area usually consists of a small team of Army and Police officials. Who are ill equipped to deal with the massive size of the area. They cannot deal with real-time alerts of illegal activity because the miners will have broken up camp and left by the time the government team arrives. Bribery is also a huge issue.

7: We as the Mulokot Foundation have organized educational sessions on the hazards of mercury in water/fish for our local community. The government, to date has not. Nor have the small Goldminers in our territories.

The medical mission have done some awareness, especially for our pregnant women, but that was on a very small scale and it was a project. After little more than a year the project was finished, no long term information.

8: Suriname is part of the Minamata convention, but none such measures have yet been implemented. They only installed a commission, but we never seen or heard any progress.

9: Individuals have done various studies, mostly funded by NGO's like the Mulokot Foundation. As far as we know, no such direct studies have been done by government.

10: Our country does not. We have contacted the PAHO/WHO [Dr. Yitades Gebre] in 2018 and 2019 but they never responded or even visited our area to get better informed.

11: None beyond our basic human rights as dictated by the U.N. Environmental remediation is not written in our laws. We don't have land rights either.

12: There are at this moment none whatsoever. People in our communities that get sick as a result of mercury poisoning (long term exposure) need to be transported to the capitol for medical treatment. But mercury poisoning and the