



# Tropenbos International Suriname Programme

**Tropenbos International (TBI) is a tropical forest initiative, set up in 1985, by the Dutch government and research community that works in selected partner countries in the tropics. Its objective is to achieve that sound information is used to formulate appropriate forest policies and to manage the forest land for conservation and sustainable development.**

## **TBI's Mission**

TBI's mission is to improve forest management for the benefit of people, conservation and sustainable development. Tropenbos is increasingly focusing on capacity building and the 'uptake' of research findings in countries where people's livelihoods depend on forests. In this case 'uptake' should be understood as the actual use of research results for formulating forest policy, and for adapting forest management and use.

## **TBI's Objective**

TBI recognizes the crucial role of people in forest management and the importance of forests for people's livelihoods. Therefore the objective of TBI is to achieve that forest actors in partner countries use sound and adequate information for formulating appropriate policies and development. TBI aims to:

- Substantially improve knowledge and human capacity, both at an individual and institutional level;
- Apply knowledge and capacity to governance, conservation and management of forest resources.

At present TBI has programs in five countries: Colombia, Ghana, Indonesia, Suriname and Vietnam, and one region: Congo basin.

## **Tropenbos Suriname Programme**

First steps towards the Tropenbos Suriname Programme were set in June 2002 when a letter of intent was signed by the Chairman of the Tropenbos Board and the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy of the Republic of Suriname. This letter expressed shared interest in arriving at a Tropenbos programme for Suriname. This was followed on

March 14, 2003 by a formal agreement between the same parties: the legal initiation of the Tropenbos Suriname Programme (TSP). Finally, early 2004, the process of developing a coherent Tropenbos Suriname Programme was initiated.

## **Basis and structure of the Tropenbos Suriname Programme**

- The legal basis is the agreement of March 14, 2003 between TBI and Suriname, at present represented by the Minister of Physical Planning, Land- and Forest Management;
- The agreement recognizes the ADEK University of Suriname (AdeKUS) as the main Surinamese academic institute and a key actor in the development and implementation of the TSP; with the Director of the Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS) as the Scientific Coordinator of the TSP;
- The development and implementation of the TSP is guided by a Bi-National Committee (BNC) with representatives (16) appointed by the Government of Suriname and Tropenbos International;
- The TSP is executed by a Programme Management Unit (PMU), which consists of the Programme Team Leader (PTL), the Programme and Scientific Coordinators and the Chair of the BNC;
- The setup and operation of the TSP office is facilitated by Suriname; CELOS is currently hosting the TSP office and facilitating the further development of the TSP.

*Making knowledge work for forests and people*



## TSP Programme Development Strategy

In order to develop a Tropenbos Suriname Programme, the following steps were taken:

**Assessment Phase** - in this phase a wide range of issues in the Surinamese forestry sector were identified and analyzed. This concerns issues that require research and are potentially relevant to Tropenbos. Furthermore, capacity building needs and partner organizations were identified;

**Programme Development Phase** - here priority issues were identified and selected on the basis of the inputs of multiple stakeholders, as well as the Tropenbos Suriname PMU and BNC. The purpose of this phase was to provide a clear focus and direction for the Tropenbos Programme in Suriname.

**Project Development Phase** - the rationale of this phase was that TSP themes were translated into concrete projects, based on project ideas from the Surinamese and international partners of Tropenbos.

Tropenbos Suriname focuses on Forestry, Conservation and Livelihoods. The outcome of the mentioned steps resulted in themes concerning the three focus points, namely:

### 1. Forestry themes:

- Definition of sustainable forest management and certification in Suriname;
- Appropriate implementation of the CELOS Management System;
- Understanding costs and benefits of timber harvesting and processing.

### 2. Conservation themes:

- Effective protected area management, including the involvement of local people in such management;
- Valuation and capturing of environmental services of forests;
- Sound tools for forest and NTFP (use) management.

### 3. Livelihood themes:

- Forest-based community livelihoods.

## Project development TBI Suriname

In the recent past TBI Suriname facilitated many projects and programs, of which some are still ongoing. All these projects and programs focus on one or multiple themes of TBI Suriname. Some of these are:

- Impact of gold mining on the aquatic ecosystem of Witi Creek in the Brownsberg area;
- Legality of timber harvesting and trade in Suriname;
- Professionalism and capacity needs in the forest sector;
- Transfer of knowledge in forests;
- Basics of the CELOS Management System: principles, implementation, results & experiences so far (CMS I);
- Preparing the study on practical scale operations of CMS (CMS II).

Furthermore training and other programmes are facilitated by TBI Suriname to increase capacity building at an individual and institutional level. At the moment more projects are in preparation and will be implemented soon.

### For more information:

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