



Positioning the Tropenbos Suriname Programme

A tool for monitoring and 'measuring' the effectiveness and impact of the Tropenbos Suriname Programme is provided by its five critical results: Knowledge, Capacity Building, Organizations, Linkages and Dialogue.

Through the generation and mobilization of Knowledge and supporting Capacity Building, Tropenbos aims at improved policy and management of Suriname's forests, both for sustainable development and conservation. By doing so, the programme contributes to improved livelihoods and poverty alleviation, and to a better information of policy makers and people who depend on forests.

Tropenbos aims to achieve sustainable results through local ownership of its programme and implementation together with both national and international partners. However, Suriname faces a noticeable shortage of capacity, sometimes clearly hampering the functioning of partner organisations. For this reason, Tropenbos concluded that during the initial phases of the programme, special focus should be on capacity building. The mobilization of additional funds for capacity building and the contracting of a Capacity Building Officer are examples of how this vision has been put into practice.

In our approach, both research and knowledge, as well as capacity building are defining the course of the programme. The action field of Tropenbos is characterized in the figure on the back side of this fact sheet to which the descriptions below offer additional explanation.

Capacity Building

Besides other activities, Tropenbos facilitates the partnership between Van Hall Larenstein and the Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS). This partnership aims at the improvement of the BSc curriculum for Forestry & Nature Conservation. Simultaneously, the partnership of the Flemish Inter-University Council (VLIR) and the AdeKUS aims at the development of a MSc curriculum on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, due to start in November 2009. Both partnerships make it possible

for students to study and graduate at MSc level. On top, VLIR provides several grants for PhD researchers. This will be most effective if both levels (BSc and MSc) are well connected, both on level and content. Initial talks with VLIR and AdeKUS learned that some important modules like Dendrology, Silviculture and Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) are not covered by the MSc, and should thus be included in the BSc. Tropenbos will watch over the connection between the two programmes.

Research

For both the BSc and MSc, practical fieldwork and research form part of the curriculum. Within the Tropenbos themes, this research can be facilitated in the MLA project in the Carolina Resort and in the CELOS silvicultural research area at Mapane. Besides, other students can do their fieldwork here too. Doing so, Tropenbos makes maximum use of the student research capacity in Suriname in generating 'knowledge'. Additionally, by having students working together in the same area over time, this will help in creating a network of both national and international students. Finally, graduates will become acquainted with the Tropenbos Programme in Suriname and will make a better use of the programme during their future careers.

Institutional support

Once graduated, students should be able to work in a challenging and motivating environment. Besides the need for general institutional support, there is need for

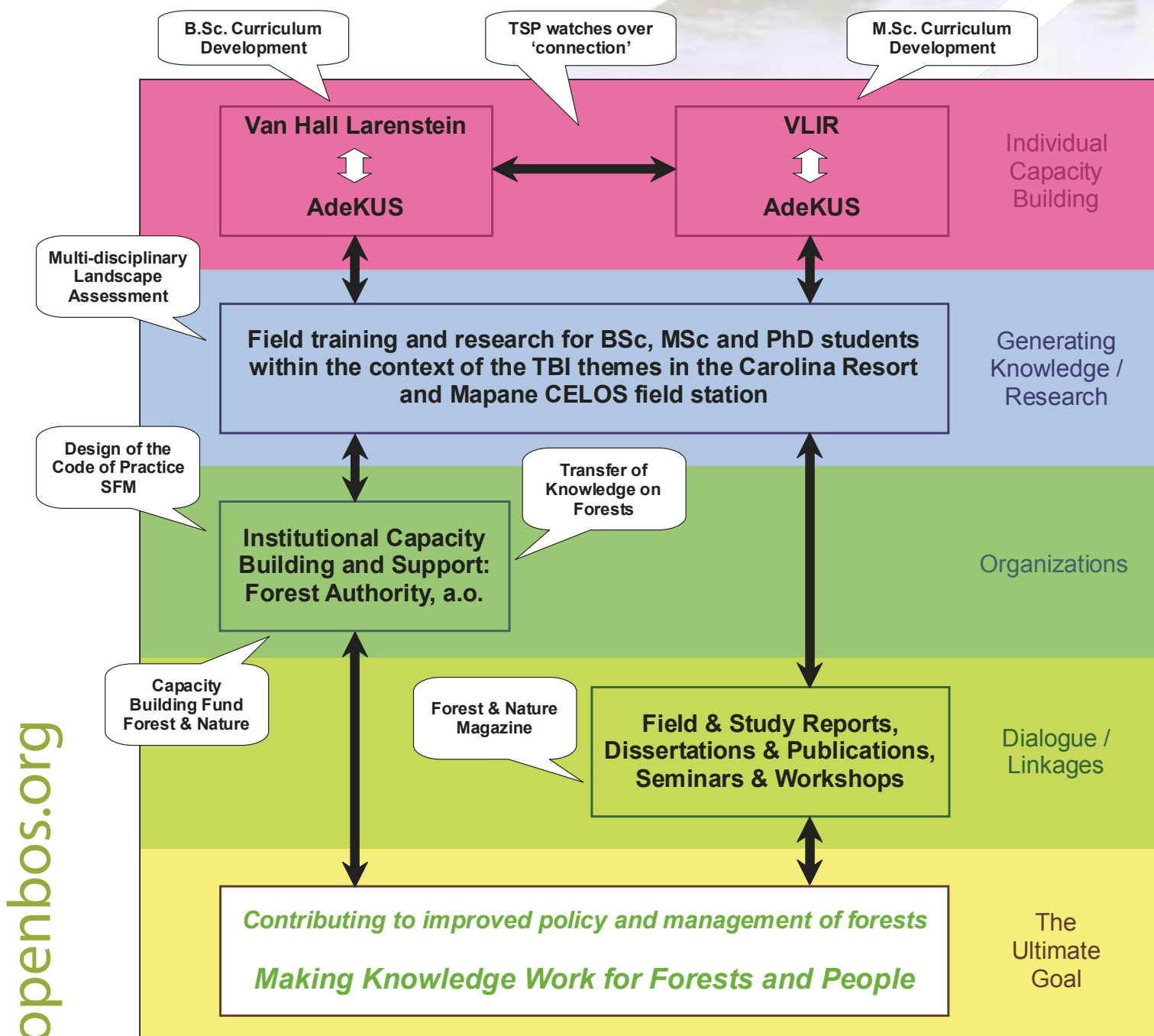
Making knowledge work for forests and people

an 'overarching' forest authority which might create job opportunities to young professionals to deal with emerging themes like Forest Financing Mechanisms (FFM), Payment for Environmental Services (PES), Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and carbon trade. Tropenbos will make efforts to portray these issues in the national portfolio. This will be a significant contribution to both capacity building and institutional support.

Dialogue / Linkages

Research will result in 'new knowledge' and in a range of reports, such as thesis, articles in refereed journals, brochures and presentations. Tropenbos will translate these research results in knowledge which shall contribute to improved policy and management of forest in Suriname and link this knowledge to the international forest agendas.

Schematic overview of projects and activities of the Tropenbos Programme in Suriname



www.tropenbos.org

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