Making knowledge work for forests and people

Annual review 2020

About Tropenbos International

Mission

To improve the governance and management of tropical forests for the benefit of people, biodiversity and sustainable development.

Objective

To ensure that knowledge is used effectively in the formulation of appropriate policies and managing forests for conservation and sustainable development.

Our vision

A future in which forests and trees are used sustainably for the benefit of local people and the global community.

Our guiding values

The core values of sustainability, inclusiveness and equity guide us. We work together with our partners and other stakeholders based on respect, co-ownership and a focus on impact. We encourage and empower local stakeholders to participate in shaping decisions concerning the governance of forested landscapes and value chains.

The TBI network

Tropenbos International (TBI) operates as a network of legally autonomous member organizations, two in each of the main tropical forest regions: Southeast Asia, West and Central Africa, and South America. All TBI network members share the same mission and commit themselves to collaboration in pursuit of common goals. Through this structure, TBI is well-positioned to inform international policy debates based on national experiences.

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Message from the Chair and Director

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic seemed to slow everything down, except forest loss. More than 12 million hectares of tree cover in the tropics disappeared during the year. In some remote areas, COVID-19 measures resulted in a decrease in law enforcement, triggering opportunistic behaviour by actors looking to convert forested lands for agriculture. And it is feared that the economic downturn caused by the pandemic will encourage governments to cut budgets for environmental protection and to favour the expansion of agrocommodities, further speeding up deforestation. It makes our work to promote climate-smart landscapes all the more urgent.

The pandemic not only affected the landscapes where we work, but also the way we operate. Most of the fieldwork and face-to-face meetings came to a halt, so we had to come up with new ways to continue our work. Sometimes these new ways proved to be quite effective. At the level of the TBI network, for example, we started having regular online meetings with all members, which has strengthened the network and enhanced the exchange of knowledge and experiences. At the level of individual members, we saw several innovative responses to the new situation. Tropenbos Indonesia, for example, managed to greatly increase its outreach through online webinars.

In 2020, the EU-funded programme, Strengthening the Capacity of Non-State Actors to improve FLEGT-VPA and REDD+ processes in Western Africa, came to an end. Also, 2020 was the final year of the Forested Landscapes for Equity programme of the Green Livelihoods Alliance, funded under the Dialogue and Dissent strategic partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. We are grateful that the alliance received funding to continue its work in a new programme, Forests for a Just Future. We also secured funding from the Dutch National Postcode Lottery for a new programme, Green Finance for small and medium-sized enterprises.

With support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, we continued our work in the Working Landscapes programme, the Mobilizing More 4 Climate programme and CGIAR's research programme on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry. As part of the Working Landscapes programme, we started work on activities in Ethiopia, where we will be working with local partners to restore landscapes and strengthen livelihoods in the country's drylands. Important first steps were taken, including the launch of an *ETFRN News* edition on restoring African drylands.

This annual review presents highlights from a wide variety of outcomes over the past year. For example, farmers in Ghana started reforesting riverbanks, a credit union in Indonesia adopted sustainability standards, and the government of Bolivia changed logging regulations to benefit indigenous communities. At the international level, the European Parliament adopted recommendations for a legal framework to halt and reverse EU-driven deforestation, and we continued to advance our understanding of innovative finance models for sustainable landscapes. In this report you can read about these, and many other, achievements of our work. Clearly, they would not have been possible without the commitment and professionalism of our many partners. We hope that our joint dedication continues long into the future.

Edwin Huizing
Chair

René Boot
Director

Photo previous page: Yosef, a Dayak elder, in the Tembawang forest, Mekar Raya village, West Kalimantan, Indonesia.
Photo: Irpan Lamago

Sharing landscape experiences

Interview with Edwin Huizing

In March 2020, Edwin Huizing became the new chair of the general board of Tropenbos International, replacing Tini Hooymans. Huizing is the Executive Director at the Humanistic Institute for Development Cooperation (HIVOS), and has worked in international cooperation since 1989. He talked to Koen Kusters about his views on TBI and his role as chair.

Why does TBI matter?

Forests are of crucial importance for achieving international climate change and conservation objectives — everyone knows this. Still, the concrete efforts to save forests and improve forest management are lagging behind. Moreover, such efforts often do not adequately involve the people that live in or near those forests. Solutions need to be found in the landscapes, and need to address the environmental as well as the social challenges. And, importantly, people in the landscapes should have a voice. That is TBI's core business.

TBI is not the only organization that operates at the interface of environmental and socio-economic challenges in the forested tropics. What is its added value?

First, TBI was originally established as a research organization. Although the focus today is on achieving impact, everything TBI does is still firmly rooted in science. Second, TBI is not a single-issue organization, but looks at landscapes holistically. And, finally, the TBI network is unique, in that it is based on true local ownership, as the members are independent organizations. In that sense, TBI is ahead of many of the larger Dutch development organizations.

What do you think is your added value to the network?

I have worked for many different organizations, including the United Nations, the Dutch Council for Refugees, and SNV, the Netherlands Development Organization. So, I bring some experience. Moreover, I think I can bring enthusiasm and energy, to help the network grow to its fullest potential. I see my role primarily as a sounding board for the management of the network and its members. My role is to ask questions and give nudges. I want to stimulate people to think beyond their comfort zones, to take a fresh perspective on their own work. Where do we want to be in five years? How can the network be further strengthened?

What is needed to strengthen the network?

Strengthening the network's functioning requires, among other things, that the chairs and directors of the individual members have a more prominent voice in matters related to the network as a whole. The members themselves need to set the agenda. I think this starts with the joint development of a network-wide strategy. The network needs to have a compass, in order to help decide what to focus on.

What is your vision for the network, five years from now?

Let's say a doubling of the total budget. Also, each individual network member will be in a place from which it can grow further. This means that the members are less dependent on financing from the Netherlands. Possibly, five years from now, the network will have grown, with some additional members in new countries, but I don't think network expansion should be a goal in itself. The priority is to strengthen the current members, who can then explore whether expansion in their region has added value. Here too, a network strategy is important, because it will help with making such decisions.

What do you think is needed for TBI to increase its impact?

Governments and organizations from all over the world get together in all these international conferences on climate change and sustainable development. We have a role to play there. We need to make sure that commitments get ramped up, and put into action. I think the TBI network can be more visible in such international arenas, to share experiences from the landscapes where we work, and to voice the views of people living there. This could mean, for example, that the network prioritizes one or two international conferences, and then makes sure that some of the members get a stage there. There is no need for modesty. TBI has a long history and embodies an enormous wealth of knowledge, and I think this needs to be shared more widely.

Photo previous page: Agroforestry landscape in Ghana. Photo: Tropenbos Ghana

Contributing to transformative change

TBI contributes to sustainable development and climate objectives by promoting the sustainable use of tropical forests and trees in climate-smart landscapes. The ultimate aim is to achieve transformative change in the way natural resources are governed, which implies fundamental shifts in policies, institutional arrangements, perceptions and approaches.

The starting point of TBI's efforts is the recognition that, to improve the governance of forest and tree resources, public, private and civic actors will need to make their decisions based on reliable knowledge from various sources.

TBI's work focusses on three strategic priorities: sustainable land use, inclusive governance, and responsible business and finance. TBI considers these as the building blocks of climate-smart landscapes.

This annual review presents some highlights of TBI's work in 2020 on all three of these strategic priorities.

A landscape with different land uses near the village of Mekar Raya, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. Photo: Irpan Lamago

Strategic priority

Sustainable land use

The adoption of more sustainable land-use practices by smallholders, communities and large-scale producers of agricultural and forestry products, in a way that supports local livelihoods, as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Dayak woman collecting food from the forest near the village of Mekar Raya, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. Photo: Irpan Lamago

Participatory productive restoration takes root in Colombia

The Government of Colombia aims to plant 180 million trees by 2022. To ensure that local communities are effectively involved, Tropenbos Colombia calls for the participatory productive restoration approach.

At the 2020 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the Government of Colombia announced the most ambitious tree-planting programme in the country's history. The aim is to plant 180 million trees by 2022, which includes the restoration of more than 300,000 hectares of degraded land. It will be a huge undertaking, involving municipal governments, environmental authorities and several ministries—even the Ministry of National Defence.

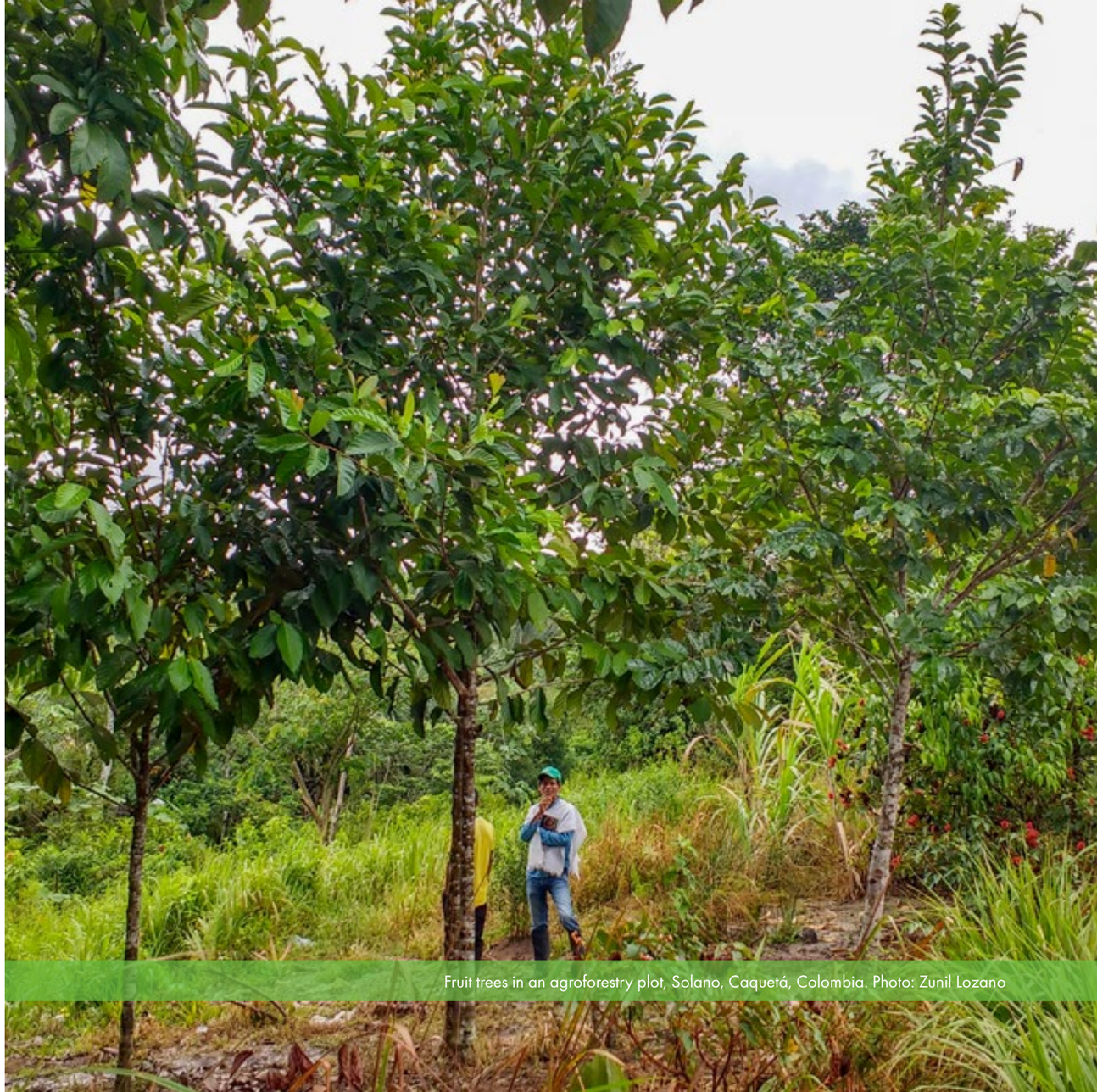
By the end of 2020, the first activities were already evident in the field, after the military established enormous nurseries of fast-growing tree species. This is exemplary considering the government's top-down and technocratic approach to restoration. The prime goal is to get degraded areas covered with trees as quickly as possible.

Although Tropenbos Colombia applauded the government's ambition, it worried that local communities were not involved, and would not be able to benefit from the programme. It therefore called for a very different approach, known as participatory productive restoration (PPR). This approach stresses that restoration needs to be productive, providing local people with access to timber, fruits and firewood for subsistence use and for sale to the market. In addition, the approach says that restoration efforts are best led by local communities themselves, based on their ecological knowledge. Elders and women in particular have a profound understanding of soils, vegetation succession and useful species, and how they relate to each other. Local people know best how lands can be restored in a productive and sustainable manner.

To develop the PPR approach on the ground, Tropenbos Colombia started in the Solano landscape in the southern department of Caquetá. This landscape has undergone rapid deforestation in recent decades, due to the establishment of illicit coca crops and the conversion of land into pastures. Today, with coca fields fumigated and pasture soils compacted from cattle trampling, the area has large stretches of degraded lands, often covered with invasive weeds. The potential for PPR is enormous.

At the beginning of 2020, Tropenbos Colombia organized meetings in the area, where they let people know that if they had a concrete proposal for restoration, the organization could provide them with a small budget and technical support. Soon after that, the proposals started coming in. By the end of 2020, three restoration plots were up and running, and more were in development. Tropenbos Colombia sees them as models, to help convince others of the benefits of PPR.

In addition to this landscape-level work, Tropenbos Colombia promoted PPR with the Solano municipal government and the regional environmental authority (Corpomazonia). The message did not fall on deaf ears. The Solano government decided to explicitly include PPR in its 2020–23 development plan, while Corpomazonia committed to explore the possibilities of scaling up PPR, as part of a memorandum of understanding with Tropenbos Colombia. These are clear signs that the Colombian government — at various levels — is starting to see the benefits of PPR.



Fruit trees in an agroforestry plot, Solano, Caquetá, Colombia. Photo: Zunil Lozano

Sustainable use of community forests in DR Congo

As soon as communities in DR Congo received formal forest rights, they established new rules for forest management. The result: fewer trees are being cut, and the communities are earning more money.

Between 2017 and 2019, Tropenbos DR Congo assisted the communities of Barumbi-Tshopo, Bapondi and Bafwamogo in Tshopo Province to acquire formal forest rights. In February 2020 the communities formally received community forest concessions, covering around 90,000 hectares. They now have the exclusive right to use and manage these forests — in perpetuity. Village forest committees, consisting of democratically elected community members, are now in charge of all decisions regarding forest management.

Previously, decision-making power had been in the hands of traditional chiefs. This was seldom beneficial to communities. It was common for chiefs to sell standing trees to artisanal loggers from outside the community. This meant that a chief gave a logger permission to cut a certain number of trees, and received US$ 25 per tree in return, regardless of its size. The community did not have a say in the matter, and did not receive any of the money. Moreover, no one monitored what the loggers were actually doing in the field.

The three newly established management committees decided that this practice had to change. So, as soon as they received the formal concession rights, they called a meeting with loggers and other stakeholders, where they announced that all logging was suspended until a new system was in place. After the meeting, they wrote the main chief to inform him of their decision.

It didn't take much time for the management committees to decide on a different system. According to the new rules, loggers now need to pay US$ 200 per cubic metre of sawn timber. Leftover timber can be used by the community. A community member accompanies the logger into the forest to calculate the exact volume after a tree has been felled and sawn into beams and planks. As a large tree may provide around five cubic metres of lumber, the community can earn up to US$ 1,000 per tree. Few loggers are willing to pay the new price, but for the village forest committees, this is not a problem. They get more money for fewer trees; that's exactly what they wanted to accomplish. The money is used for community expenses, such as constructing a community building, or purchasing supplies for local schools.

Tropenbos DR Congo facilitated the three communities in the process of acquiring the concessions and developing management plans. Moreover, it provided training to the village forest committees on entrepreneurship and sustainable forest management. Even though the field staff of Tropenbos DR Congo had prepared the committees for their new task, they were positively surprised by the resoluteness of the committees' decision-making. Clearly, the village forest committees were ready to take control of their own destiny.

The next step for Tropenbos DR Congo is to help more communities acquire forest rights and build capacity. It is estimated that more than 75 million hectares can potentially be awarded to communities, so there is still plenty of work to be done.

A bumpy road — forest concessions of local communities in DR Congo - In conversation with Alphonse Maindo

A sign marking a new community managed forest concession of the community Barumbi-Tshopo, DR Congo.
Photo: Tropenbos DR Congo

Indigenous trees for rural beautification in Viet Nam

The farmers' association of Krông Bông district in Viet Nam's Đak Lak Province used the knowledge they gained from trainings of Tropenbos Viet Nam to support the planting of indigenous trees, as part of a government initiative aimed at beautifying the countryside. This will not only please the eye, but is also good for the soils, and will provide people with fruits and high-quality timber.

"Beautiful houses, clean roads, and environmentally-friendly fields"— that is the English name of an initiative launched by the government of Viet Nam's Đak Lak Province to make the countryside more attractive, among others by planting flowers, shrubs and trees. Organizations such as farmers' associations are expected to implement the initiative throughout the province.

In Krông Bông district, the farmers' association decided it would take a different approach from other districts and combine aesthetics with usefulness. Rather than aiming for quick results, by planting flowers and decorative shrubs and trees, they thought it would be better to invest in the long term, and focus on indigenous trees. These would not only look attractive, but would also increase soil health, provide shade and yield fruit and timber.

According to representatives of the farmers' association, people had long been reluctant to plant indigenous trees, because they take such a long time to grow. The association's decision to actively promote indigenous trees was the direct result of training in agroforestry and restoration organized by Tropenbos Viet Nam in 2019 and 2020. During these training sessions, a lot of attention was paid to the benefits of planting indigenous species, such as *Hopea odorata*, *Michelia tonkinensis* and *Dalbergia tonkinensis*.

The representatives of the farmers' association who participated in the training passed on what they learned to other farmers. This meant that knowledge spread over the whole district. Moreover, the District Department of Agriculture and Rural Development supported the association, among others, by providing indigenous tree seedlings. The conditions were perfect for tree planting to take off.

In 2020, people all over the district started planting seedlings of indigenous species in their gardens and along roads. Based on a recent survey, the local government estimates that around 70% of the households in the district were engaged in the initiative, in one way or another.

For Tropenbos Viet Nam this was a somewhat unintended outcome of their capacity-building work with the farmers' association. The beautification efforts may ultimately also contribute to the overall ambition of promoting restoration in the wider landscape. The experience that people all over the district are now gaining with planting indigenous trees is expected to further stimulate them to also plant trees in their agricultural fields and as part of restoration efforts. The beautification initiative may thus provide a fertile basis for wider tree-planting efforts in the district. And when tree planting gets scaled up, so will the livelihood and environmental benefits. This, in the end, is the objective of Tropenbos Viet Nam.

Training on agroforestry models in Krông Bông district, Viet Nam. Photo: Phan Thi Thuy Nhi

Promoting tree planting along riverbanks to protect water sources in Ghana

Tropenbos Ghana has encouraged hundreds of farmers to start planting trees on riverbanks to support long-term access to water. In addition, it created a platform for stakeholders to provide input to a bill for Parliament to protect riparian buffer zones from human activities.

Traditionally, farmers in the Juabeso-Bia landscape in Ghana did not plant crops on their riverbanks. It was considered bad practice; riverbanks were supposed to stay forested. A couple of decades ago, however, farmers started to violate this customary rule by deforesting the riverbanks in order to plant rice and cocoa. Some of them thought it would be good for the crops. But they were wrong.

Not only did cocoa not thrive on the riverbanks, farmers also started to experience water scarcity. This was because removing the trees had increased the water surface's direct exposure to the sun, leading to much higher levels of evaporation. Moreover, runoff from the agricultural fields resulted in the sedimentation of the rivers. Today, every dry season, the rivers and streams dry up. People have to walk long distances to find drinking water, and there is not enough water to irrigate the rice fields, leading to food scarcity.

To prevent such negative effects, the Ghanaian government recently passed a Riparian Buffer Zones policy, which requires a buffer to be maintained between a water source and human activities. Tropenbos Ghana has been working with the national Water Resources Commission to develop a draft bill for Parliament, outlining the details for the implementation of this new policy. This has involved, among other initiatives, creating a platform for relevant stakeholders to provide input to the bill, emphasizing the key role of farmers and miners in protecting water sources, and making sure that the national policy takes local realities into account.

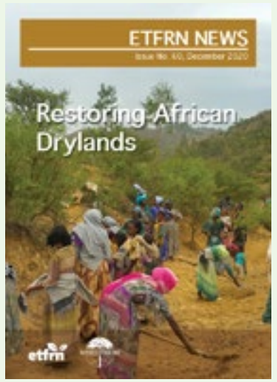
At the same time, it became clear that farmers in the communities knew little about the policy or the rationale behind it. In 2020, Tropenbos Ghana organized several workshops with community representatives to raise awareness of the long-term benefits of restoring riverbanks by using a variety of tree species with commercial value. After the workshops, about 200 farmers from the Elluokrom and Asuontaa communities started planting trees on the riverbanks, where their farms used to be. Inspired by these actions, farmers in other communities also started planting.

To keep the momentum going, and achieve impact at a larger scale, Tropenbos Ghana is now trying to convince other NGOs and district governments to join in the efforts, for example by providing seedlings. Moreover, the organization is engaging with chiefs, who still have an important position in society. Together with the chiefs, Tropenbos Ghana hopes to revive some of the traditional land-management rules that reinforce elements of the national Riparian Buffer Zones policy. The goal is to prevent further deforestation on riverbanks, and to promote tree planting on riverbanks that have been deforested. These efforts will help to secure people's long-term access to water, while also producing income.

Yaw Gyabeng's – River bank restoration at Elluokrom, Ghana

Preparations for tree planting on a riverbank in the Juaboso-Bia landscape, Ghana. Photo: Boakye Twumasi Ankrah.

ETFRN News 60 – Restoring African Drylands



The latest issue of *ETFRN News*, published in 2020, focuses on dryland restoration in the Sahel and the Greater Horn of Africa, where poverty, land degradation and out-migration are acute. The issue collates 36 articles from more than 100 contributors, and includes some long-term analyses — never published before — of remarkable increases in tree cover and improved agricultural yields over large areas of the Western Sahel, landscape restoration in Ethiopia, and achievements from many other countries.

These articles provide new insights into what has led to the documented successes. They also summarize the top ten key findings, and offer recommendations for a much-needed change in focus in order to achieve the ambitious commitments made by African countries to Land Degradation Neutrality targets, the Bonn Challenge, the African Forest Landscape Initiative, and the Great Green Wall, among others.

The overriding story is that initiatives led by farmers and communities are the main driver of those cases of dryland restoration that have been adopted at scale and at low cost. These initiatives include simple water harvesting techniques, encouraging natural regeneration, and locally managed control over resources. Key factors include bylaws made with and enforced by local institutions and communities, the inclusion of women and youth, and effective support from projects and programmes and national and international policies. Large-scale projects have also played a role, and private-sector investments, although limited, are expanding.

There is an urgent need to take this knowledge into consideration when adapting and implementing restoration programmes. Challenges remain, such as tailoring investments to community needs so local people earn more from their efforts, and improving monitoring to assess progress — not just in productivity and number of hectares being restored, but also in the resulting social, economic and environmental benefits.

Dryland degradation can be reversed, recreating more productive and resilient landscapes that will fix more carbon (especially in the soil), restore ecosystem services, promote new and viable enterprises and create employment, while reducing conflicts and migration. Together, these efforts will increase the opportunities to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and the targets of the Rio Conventions on desertification, climate change and biodiversity.

Nabou village in southwest Burkina Faso during the rainy season. Photo: ©Matthieu Louis/Adobe Stock.

Strategic priority

Inclusive landscape governance

An increase in the participation of local people—particularly women and marginalized groups—in decision-making processes related to the landscape, ensuring that decisions adequately reflect their knowledge, experiences and interests.

Community members of Bukinalwa in Buvuma, Uganda, prepare current landuse map on the ground.
Photo: Ecological Trends Alliance

Tropenbos Indonesia, a key contributor to international High Conservation Value screening guide

Tropenbos Indonesia helped develop an approach to identify areas with high conservation value within a landscape. At the end of 2020, updated guidelines were published, which are expected to become an invaluable tool for companies, NGOs and government.

Globally, interest in the High Conservation Value (HCV) approach has been rising. The approach focuses on natural habitats that are located outside of protected areas. It advocates for managing areas with important biological, ecological, social or cultural values to maintain or enhance those values. The Forest Stewardship Council first developed the approach in the late 1990s, and over the years it was adopted by numerous certification schemes and initiatives to promote sustainable production.

Initially, the HCV approach was developed at the scale of a management unit, such as a certified logging concession or an oil palm plantation. However, for the HCV approach to become more effective, it also needed to take into account the wider context of the landscape. For example, paying attention to connections with other HCV areas and protected areas could identify opportunities for wildlife corridors.

Tropenbos Indonesia started developing and implementing a landscape-wide HCV approach in Ketapang, West Kalimantan, as well as in the provinces of Jambi and West Sumatra. Based on the experience in Ketapang, Tropenbos Indonesia published a policy brief in 2018. This made it one of the first organizations to synthesize its experiences with applying the HCV approach at a landscape scale.

This pioneering work did not go unnoticed. In 2019, the HCV Resource Network (HCVRN) asked Tropenbos Indonesia to provide input to an international HCV screening guide. The guide will help companies, organizations and governments worldwide to identify the key HCV areas in a landscape or jurisdiction. Screening is used to assess the likelihood that HCVs are present, to determine the threats to those HCVs, and to identify which values require interventions most urgently.

In 2020, the HCVRN and Tropenbos Indonesia continued their collaboration and started working together to test the HCV screening method in the Kapuas Hulu District in West Kalimantan. Based on this work, they made significant improvements to the screening guide, adding practical examples of indicators that determine HCV probability and threats. The HCVRN published the updated guide at the end of the year.

The result is a guide to a robust method, with wide applicability. Companies can use it to inform certification and sustainable sourcing initiatives, NGOs can use it to plan interventions, and governments can use it to support land-use planning and inform regulations. Tropenbos Indonesia is now collaborating with Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry, as well as local governments, to identify HCV areas at the jurisdictional level. This could be useful for the creation of wildlife corridors and the designation of Essential Ecosystem Areas—a new conservation category for natural habitats outside of protected areas. It is hoped that this will help stakeholders to conserve important biological, ecological, social and cultural values within productive landscapes.

High Conservation Value (HCV) Screening: Guidance for identifying and prioritising action for HCVs in jurisdictional and landscape settings

Forests in Simpang Dua, Ketapang, Indonesia. Photo: Irpan Lamago

A new government decree provides benefits to small-scale forest producers in Bolivia

Research by Instituto Boliviano de Investigación Forestal (IBIF) motivated the Bolivian government to issue a new decree in 2020 that allows the use of low-cost and low-impact logging technologies. This will greatly improve timber harvesting options and diversify management options for small-scale forest producers.

A large part of Bolivia's forest is owned by, or designated for, indigenous peoples and local communities. They are allowed to cut and sell trees, as long as they have an approved management plan. In practice, however, these people have seldom been able to carry out logging activities independently, because the government prohibited the use of low-cost technologies, such as chainsaws, for commercial purposes. Logging became the prerogative of companies that had the resources to invest in heavy equipment and industrial sawmills. Local people stood on the side, watching the trees being dragged out of their forests. Although they received some financial compensation for each extracted cubic metre, it was the timber companies and middlemen who benefitted most.

To remedy this situation, TBI's partner in Bolivia — Instituto Boliviano de Investigación Forestal (IBIF) — wanted to make the government aware of an alternative model. IBIF therefore became part of a research consortium to evaluate the feasibility of low-cost technologies that are better adapted to local capacities and resources. The consortium involved IBIF, the University of Freiburg in Germany, and the private companies Canavalia Servicios Verdes and Hiller S.A. Financial support was provided by Andreas Stihl AG & Company KG and Tropenbos International.

The study was conducted in the Indigenous Territory of Lomerío. It focused on mobile technologies that are affordable and have a low impact on the environment, such as chainsaws and portable attachments to turn roundwood into sawn timber on site. The study also looked at different ways to get the timber out of the forest, either by using motorbikes with trailers, animal traction, or by people carrying the wood on their shoulders. Data was collected from forest operators in local indigenous communities, and included 255 samples of five tree species. The analysis showed that mobile chainsaw milling is technically feasible, and is financially very attractive for local producers.

With these study results, IBIF started lobbying, involving many cups of coffee with government representatives at the national level in La Paz, and at the departmental level in Santa Cruz. It helped that IBIF had a long history of collaboration with the relevant agencies, and that government representatives were open to change. It also helped that IBIF's recommendations were backed up by a university, two private companies and an indigenous umbrella organization. Eventually, the Forestry Directorate asked IBIF to co-write Supreme Decree No. 4359, which formally allows the use of low-cost technology to harvest timber.

On 12 October 2020, the decree was issued. Although at first sight it may look like a minor regulatory change, its potential impact on local forest producers is enormous. By allowing the use of low-cost technologies, the decree will reduce local communities' dependence on commercial timber companies and middlemen, consolidate their forest management autonomy, and increase the possibilities for benefitting from natural resources, while reducing environmental impacts. It is a milestone in Bolivian forestry history.

Training on the use of a portable sawmill as part of a study on mobile technologies to saw wood on site, Territory of Lomerio, Bolivia. Photo: IBIF

Indigenous communities in the Philippines participate more effectively in public consultations

The current Government of the Philippines wants to build dams and other large-scale infrastructure, with little regard for the impacts on indigenous communities. The Forest Foundation has trained indigenous representatives to make use of their legal right to oppose these infrastructure projects.

The construction of the Kaliwa Dam in the Sierra Madre mountain range in the Philippines is controversial. Intended to help secure water supplies for Manila and the surrounding urban areas, it will displace indigenous communities, and flood forested areas that have high biodiversity and are considered sacred by the local population.

In 2019, the indigenous communities of General Nakar, located near the dam's proposed site, were invited to participate in a consultation process. This was part of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure, which is a legal obligation for high-impact infrastructure projects. Soon, however, community representatives became discouraged. The consultation process was unclear. There were no guidelines on how and when to participate, and they did not know how to make their voices heard. They decided to walk away from the official consultation. In hindsight, that was not the most effective move, because it meant that they lost the opportunity to influence the process.

Later that year, during a landscape dialogue facilitated by the Forest Foundation Philippines (TBI's main partner in the Philippines), representatives of the indigenous communities voiced their frustration with the experience. They wanted to know more about the formal ways in which they could raise their concerns regarding infrastructure projects within the EIA process. In response, the Forest Foundation facilitated a three-day workshop with representatives of communities, NGOs, universities and the government, aimed to strengthen the communities' capacity to participate in EIA procedures. Among the key lessons: back up your arguments with scientific evidence, and never walk away. Instead, make sure to formally document all complaints and concerns — only then will they be considered as part of the assessment.

In 2020, representatives of the indigenous communities of General Nakar and local civil society organizations continued their lobbying and advocacy efforts, using scientific data. They also wrote a letter to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, outlining a number of arguments against the dam. Unfortunately, preparations for the dam's construction had already started. Although this was a major disappointment, community representatives feel emboldened to continue their advocacy, and know better how to participate in formal processes. This does not apply just to the communities of General Nakar. Throughout 2020, the Forest Foundation and other NGOs have been sharing the lessons of the workshop with indigenous communities all over the Philippines, to empower them to participate effectively in consultation processes.

This is important, considering that the national government has vowed to invest heavily in the construction of roads, bridges, railways and dams, as part of its 'Build, Build, Build' programme. With this programme — a centre piece of the Duterte administration — the government wants to ignite a 'golden age of infrastructure'. Although the current administration is no fan of public consultations, there are legal procedures through which communities can influence planning processes. Because of the work of the Forest Foundation, they now know how to make better use of those opportunities.

During a workshop in 2020, Ms. Conching, an indigenous leader, shares the concerns of her community regarding the possible impacts of the Kaliwa dam, and the implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment. Photo: FFP

More equitable community forestry in Suriname

In Suriname, income from logging within community forests goes mostly to companies and village leaders, rather than to community members. This was one of the conclusions of a study conducted by Tropenbos Suriname in 2020. It prompted 14 indigenous communities to request training in benefit sharing.

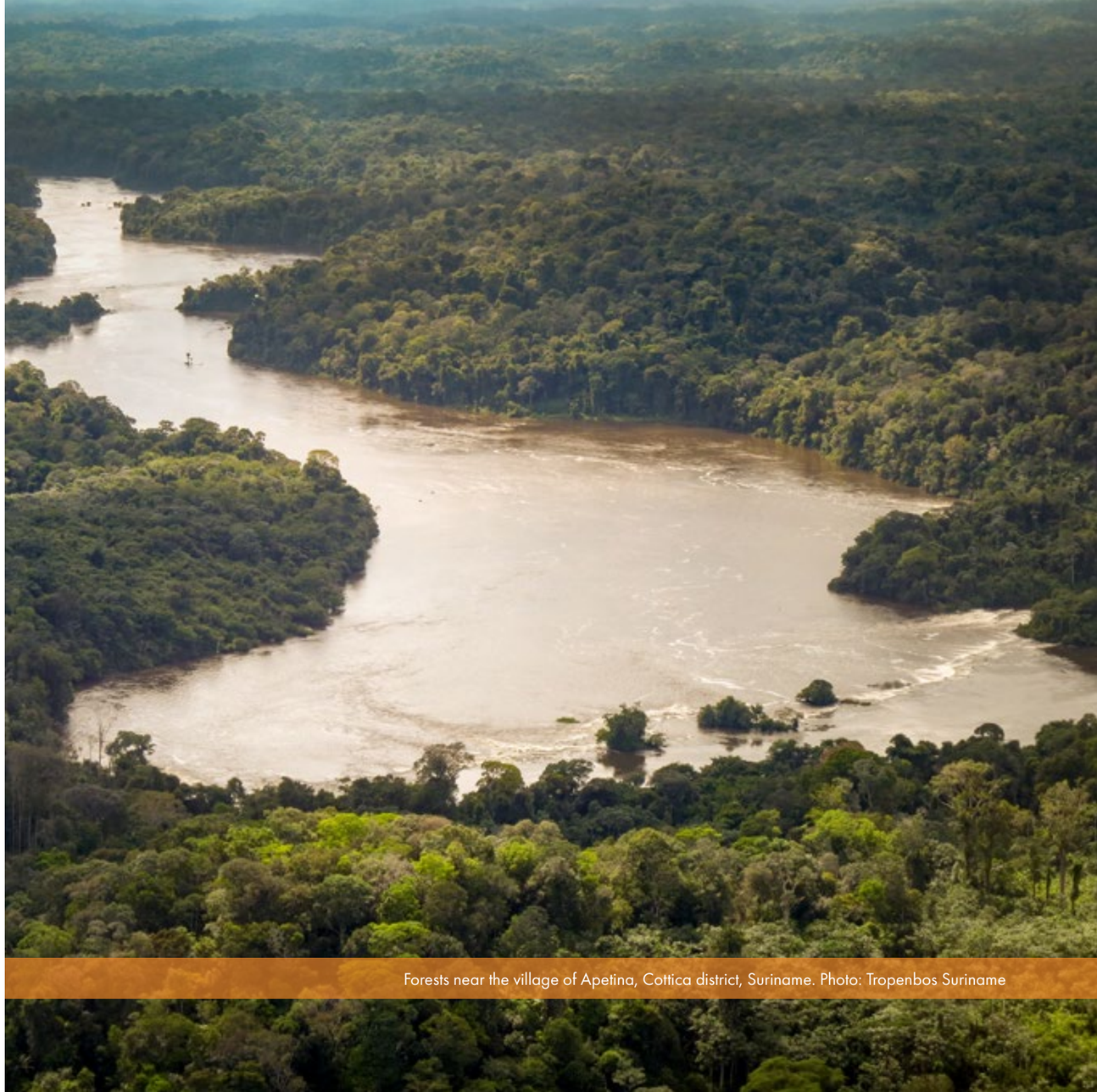
Although all of Suriname's forest land is formally state owned, the government does issue community forest permits to indigenous and Maroon communities, who depend on forest resources for their livelihoods. Such a permit gives a community the right to practise small-scale agriculture, collect non-timber forest products and sustainably harvest timber. In this way, community forest permits are expected to improve local livelihoods and sustainable forest management, which will also contribute to achieving Suriname's climate change objectives. There are currently 101 community forests in Suriname, covering an area of about 818,000 hectares.

In 2020, Tropenbos Suriname took a closer look at these community forest permits, to find out whether they have had the expected outcomes, to identify the conditions for success, and to determine the role that civil society organizations (CSOs) can play in shaping these conditions. The study involved interviews with professionals from CSOs, academia and the government, as well as focus group discussions in several indigenous and Maroon communities.

The review showed that many community forests are used by commercial logging companies, often as part of an agreement between the company and a village leader. Such an agreement allows the company to log the community forest; in exchange, it shares a part of its revenues with the community. However, these arrangements often lack transparency, and it is not uncommon for payments to end up in the pockets of village leaders. The review also found that guidelines for sustainable logging are often not followed, leading to forest degradation.

The results of the review were published in a briefing paper, including recommendations for CSOs. This paper then formed the basis for an online seminar with representatives of communities, CSOs and government agencies. Seminar participants agreed that contracts between companies and communities need to become more transparent, and to include benefit-sharing mechanisms and detailed requirements for sustainable logging practices. There was also consensus that communities need more support to develop forest management plans, negotiate better deals, and monitor the practices of third parties. Both the government and CSOs have a place in this. The discussion was frank and open, and resulted in clear action points for improvements. Following up on these, Tropenbos Suriname continues to work with the relevant government agencies and CSOs, especially in strengthening their capacity to support communities.

After the seminar, representatives of 14 indigenous communities from the Para District — the forestry centre of Suriname — asked Tropenbos Suriname to further inform them on the findings of the community review and help build their capacity. In response, Tropenbos Suriname plans to provide community-level training in designing management plans, negotiating better deals, and improving monitoring. The training will also assist communities with setting up governance systems and fair benefit-sharing mechanisms. In this way, Tropenbos Suriname helps to shape the conditions for successful community forestry, so that community members will be able to benefit.



Forests near the village of Apetina, Cottica district, Suriname. Photo: Tropenbos Suriname

A bigger role for non-state actors in the forest sectors of western Africa

TBI and Tropenbos Ghana have been collaborating with organizations in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Liberia to increase the contribution of non-state actors to forest policy processes. This has resulted in a range of outcomes.

Non-state actors — such as community-based organizations, NGOs, academics and journalists — make an important contribution to informing and sustaining policy processes in the forest sector. However, their capacity to do so is often limited due to factors such as a lack of training, resources and organization. TBI and Tropenbos Ghana have therefore been involved in an EU-funded project that aims to increase the involvement of non-state actors in the western African forest sectors. In the course of four years (2017–20), the project has achieved a large variety of results.

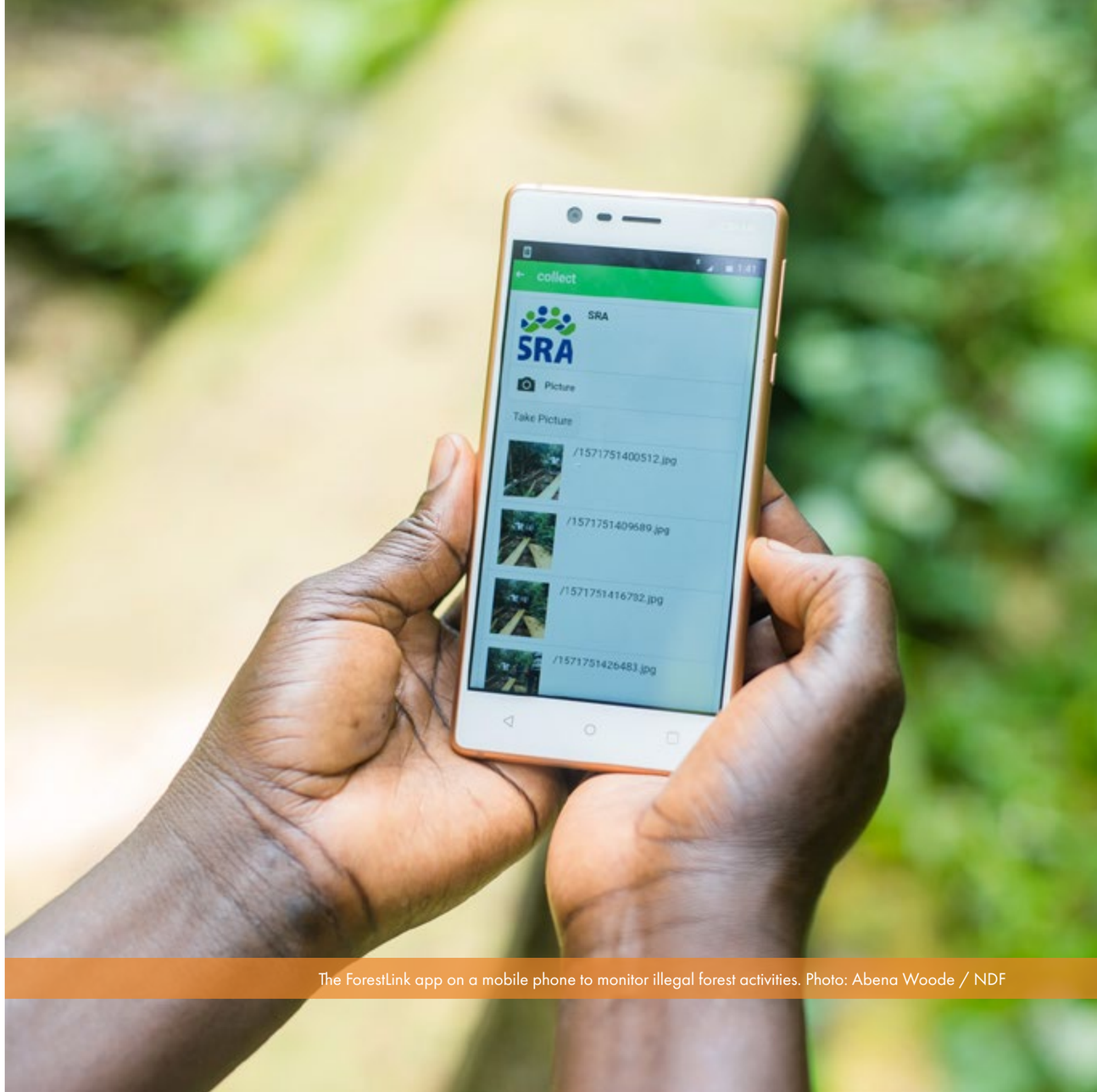
In Côte d'Ivoire, the project organized small and medium-sized forestry enterprises into six large associations, including charcoal makers, carpenters, wood resellers and woodworkers. The leaders of the associations then committed to halting the use of wood from illegal sources, and successfully lobbied for a reduction in taxes. Moreover, the organization of small entrepreneurs into associations greatly improved their negotiation power when dealing with other actors, such as government agencies and financial institutions. The associations are now involved in policy discussions related to illegal timber trade (FLEGT) and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+).

In Ghana, the project increased the involvement of local communities and other non-state actors in efforts to monitor illegal activities in the forest sector. It did so by setting up an independent forest monitoring system, consisting of civil society organizations (CSOs) and representatives of the government's Forestry Commission. The project built trust between the government and CSOs, streamlined the monitoring activities of various organizations, and stimulated the development of joint strategies. Moreover, 500 people from local communities were trained to watch over the forest with ForestLink, an easy-to-use forest monitoring tool accessible through mobile phones.

In Liberia, the project helped to set up Liberia Forest Media Watch, a group of investigative journalists who report on harmful and illegal practices in the forest sector. The project also created a radio show called Forest Hour. The weekly programme enables forest communities and civil society organizations to discuss a range of issues, including illegal logging, bad labour practices, forest management contracts, environmental pollution and corruption. The show has greatly increased transparency and accountability in the country's forest sector and has exposed numerous forest-related illegalities, forcing the relevant authorities to respond and take action.

These are just some examples of the ways in which non-state actors can be supported and can make the forest sector more sustainable and inclusive. More examples of the project's outcomes can be found here.

**The project — 'Strengthening the capacity of non-state actors to improve FLEGT-VPA and REDD+ processes in Western Africa' — was coordinated by TBI, and implemented by Tropenbos Ghana, the Nature and Development Foundation, Groupe national de travail de Côte d'Ivoire sur la gestion durable des forêts et la certification forestière, and Volunteers to Support Efforts in Developing Africa.*



The ForestLink app on a mobile phone to monitor illegal forest activities. Photo: Abena Woode / NDF

Reducing the negative impacts of oil palm on food security in Uganda

Research shows that oil palm expansion in Kalangala District, Uganda, has had severe negative effects on food security and the environment. Based on these research results, the Government of Uganda has improved the planning of oil palm expansion in other parts of the country.

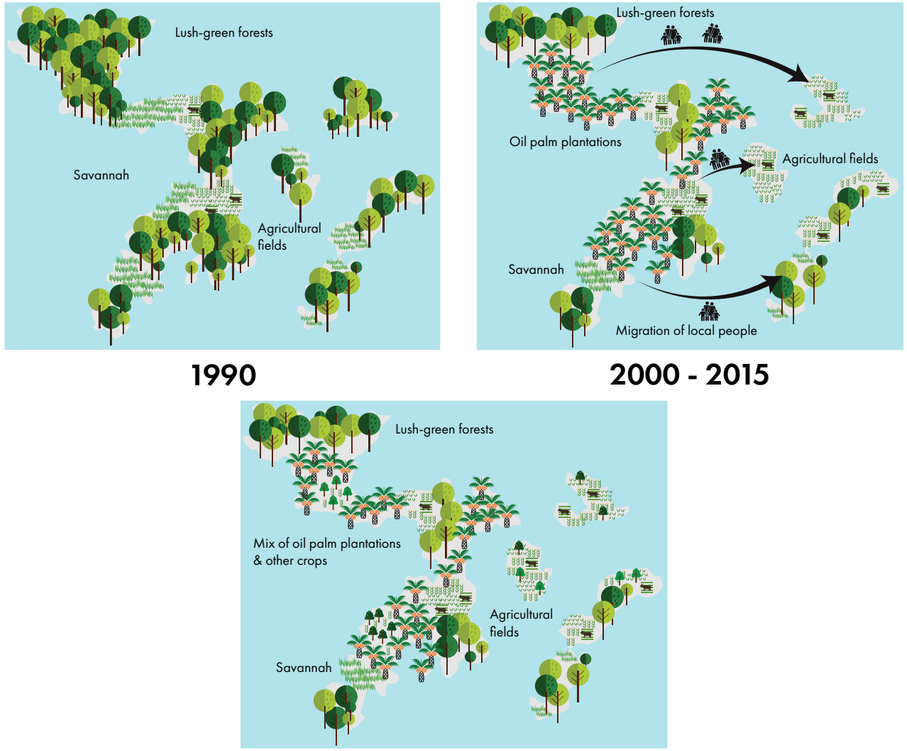
Uganda's Kalangala District consists of 84 islands in Lake Victoria. These islands were once covered with diverse landscapes consisting of savannah, lush green forests and agricultural fields, where farmers would grow a variety of food crops, such as sweet potatoes, cassava and bananas. About two decades ago, however, the central government started acquiring land in the district, among others by buying up land from small landowners. The government then leased the land to a private company, which converted it to oil palm plantations. This was part of an ambitious government programme to grow substitutes for vegetable oil imports. Today, Kalangala's landscapes are dominated by oil palm, and in the coming years the government plans to further expand oil palm plantations to other parts of the country.

Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA) — TBI's partner in Uganda — has been researching the impacts of oil palm expansion in Kalangala for several years. They found that biodiversity and other ecosystem services had decreased tremendously, and also discovered numerous injustices, including land grabbing and unfair pricing by the company. Moreover, most local people seemed disappointed with the developmental outcomes of oil palm expansion. For example, although many people could earn income as labourers on the plantations, their access to affordable food products had decreased significantly. Because so many food crops had been replaced by oil palm, Kalangala District could no longer produce enough to feed its own population. As a result, the district became dependent on more expensive food crops that had to be shipped in from the mainland. This showed that the approach to oil palm expansion in Kalangala had many negative effects.

The impact of oil palm growing on land use and food security in Kalangala district

ETA then started to build awareness among the communities in the district, providing them with evidence of negative effects, and empowering people to speak up against oil palm injustices and its further expansion. At the same time, ETA opened up a dialogue with the company, and with government departments at the district and national level. One of the ways they did this was by organizing multi-stakeholder field visits that included representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, which is responsible for the country's oil palm programme. From the field observations, participants could see how uncontrolled expansion had affected the environment and local livelihoods. These field visits had positive results. Although at first the ministry had downplayed the impacts of oil palm on people and environment, their attitude gradually changed.

With this change of attitude, the ministry even started asking ETA for support. Staff from ETA actively engaged with government staff to improve land-use planning and mapping, which are crucial to ensure that oil palm expansion does not take place at the cost of important food production areas and forests. ETA was also asked to provide input to the government's new oil palm programme document (including its gender strategy), which sets out a better approach to oil palm expansion for the coming years. Under the new programme — which was launched in 2020 — the government can no longer purchase land for private investors. Instead, the emphasis is on organizing communities to produce oil palm on their own lands, while making sure that people still produce enough food locally. Moreover, the programme no longer focuses just on oil palm, but also supports the production of other crops, such as coffee and banana, to ensure a more varied landscape. This is a significant break with the past, and it is hoped that the mistakes made in Kalangala will not be repeated.



Land use change in Kalangala, Uganda

Strategic priority

Responsible business and finance

Private actors effectively implement environmental, social and governance standards and commitments, and promote the inclusion of smallholders in value chains of agricultural and forestry products.

Motorbike with trailer to get timber out of the forest in Bolivia. Photo: IBIF

Attracting finance to small and medium-sized enterprises

Financial institutions are often reluctant to provide loans to small and medium-sized enterprises in the forestry and agroforestry sectors. To change this, TBI provides them with information that shows the benefits of investing in these businesses.

All over the forested tropics, plantations of oil palm, soy, cocoa and other agrocommodities are rapidly expanding. As a result, farmers become overly dependent on one crop, and landscapes change from diverse mosaics into monocultures.

For a long time TBI members have been pointing out the risks associated with unbridled agrocommodity expansion, while proposing practical alternatives. A promising alternate model is based on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the agroforestry and forestry sectors. These enterprises generate sustainable incomes, are resilient in the face of climate change, and deliver additional benefits, such as carbon sequestration. In the view of TBI, SMEs are crucial for achieving sustainable landscapes.

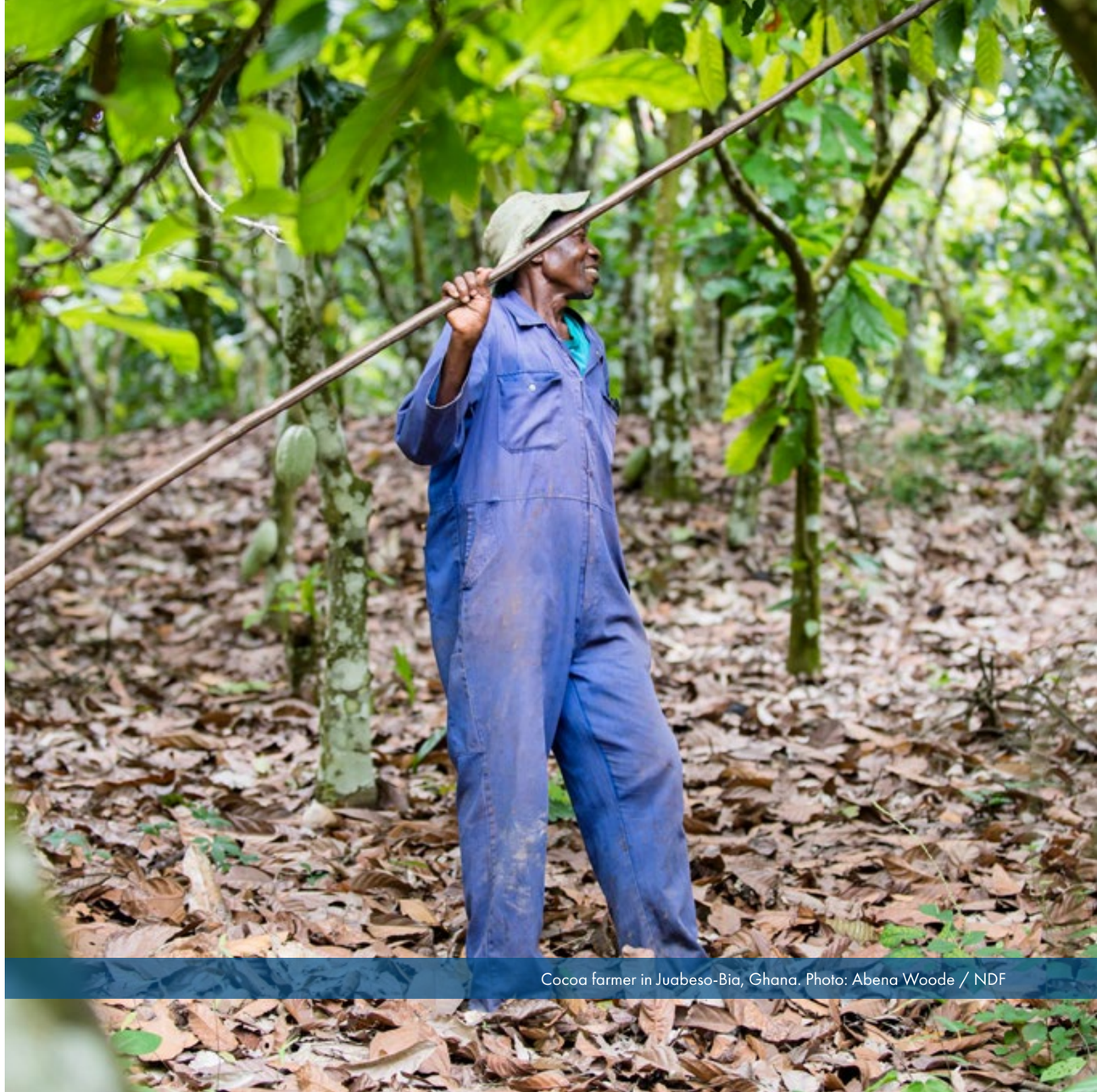
One of the main problems faced by agroforestry and forestry SMEs is their limited access to capital. This is mostly because financial institutions have little or no experience in these sectors; they lack basic trust and knowledge of how the sectors operate, and are therefore reluctant to provide loans. As a result, a huge potential remains untapped. To convince financial institutions that it is safe — and worthwhile — to invest in such businesses, information is needed.

In 2020, Tropenbos International has been exploring the numbers behind that information. In Ghana, a case study on mixed agroforestry systems suggested that the financial benefits per hectare could increase five-fold when changing from cocoa monocultures to integrating cocoa with food crops and fruit trees and other perennials. In addition, under the FFAST-AAA initiative, a more extensive business case was developed for combining cashew, cocoa and black pepper cultivation in the Ghanaian forest zone. This included full-fledged market analyses, business risk assessments, stock inventories and feasibility studies. The resulting numbers convincingly show the economic benefits of mixed tree-based systems.

These numbers provide a solid basis for engaging in discussions with potential producers, off-takers, and especially, financiers. The willingness of financiers to provide loans is expected to rise once they see that agroforestry and forestry SMEs can be profitable businesses and can reduce farmers' dependency on a single commodity, while lessening the pressure on the remaining forests.

Financial information is also needed at the international level, where discussions take place about ways to spend the money that has been pledged to achieve international sustainable development and climate objectives. At the request of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, TBI staff organized several round tables in 2020, with representatives of the Dutch government and national and international organizations. These meetings were used to emphasize the need to connect international financial flows with landscape-level actors and financiers, who can support SMEs in the forestry and agroforestry sectors.

In this way, TBI works both from the bottom up and from the top down. The ultimate goal is to increase the viability and sustainability of agroforestry and forestry practices, so they benefit local people and the environment. In the coming years, it is expected that financial institutions and local producers will increasingly be able to find each other and work together.



Cocoa farmer in Juabeso-Bia, Ghana. Photo: Abena Woode / NDF

Toward an EU law on deforestation commodities

Much of the deforestation that takes place in Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America is the result of the European consumption of commodities, such as soy, cocoa and palm oil. Stricter EU-level regulations could go a long way to put an end to deforestation. Such regulations are a contentious political issue, but at the end of 2020, after years of concerted lobbying by TBI and partners, there was a breakthrough.

On October 22, 2020, the European Parliament adopted the Burkhardt report. The report contains recommendations for a legal framework to halt and reverse EU-driven deforestation, which the European Commission is expected to present in 2021. The report unequivocally calls for binding legislation on due diligence. This means that companies that import agrocommodities into the EU would be obliged to ensure that these commodities are not produced at the expense of forests.

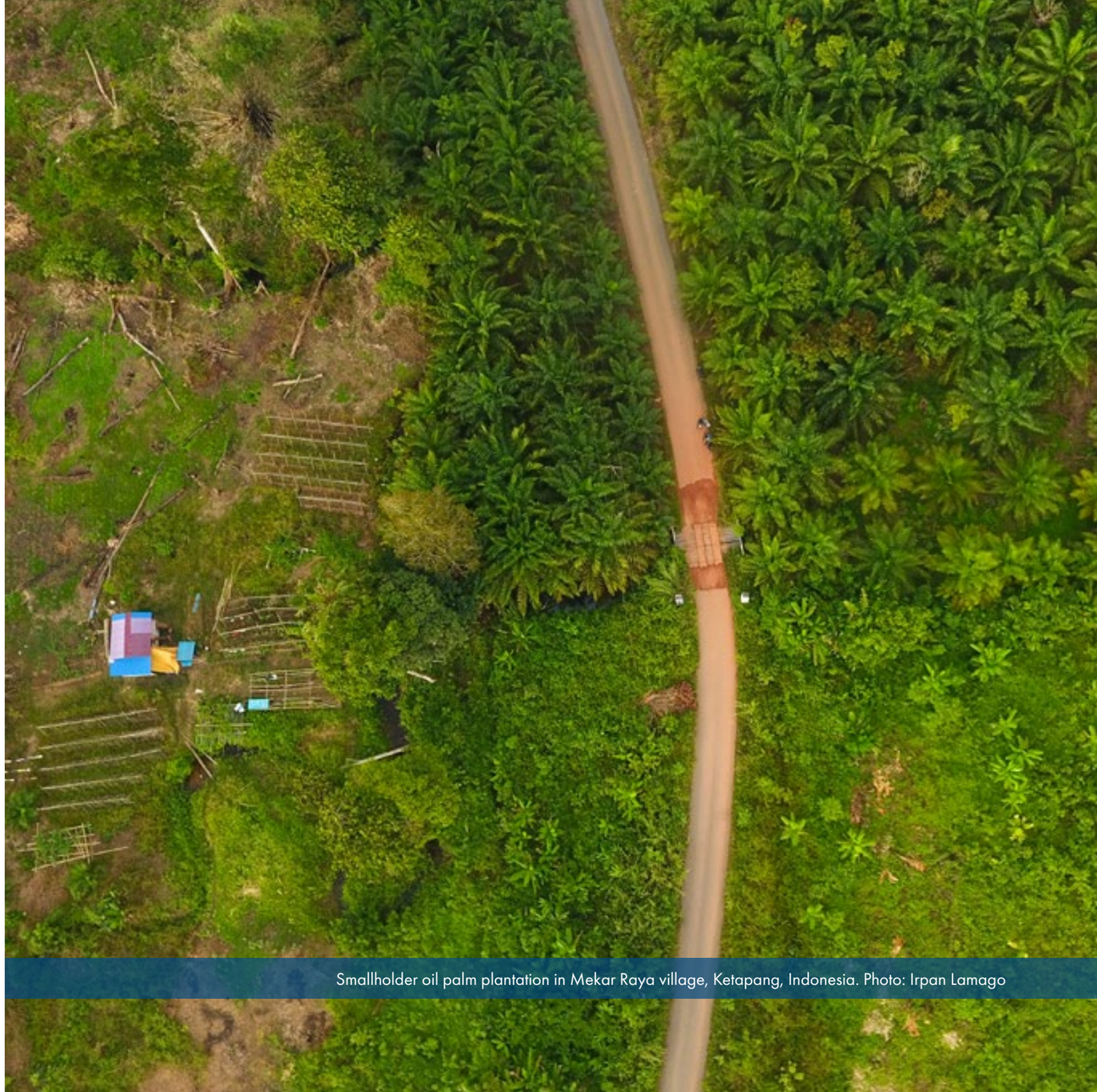
For many years, Tropenbos International has been calling for such binding EU legislation, as part of a 'smart mix of measures.' TBI advocated for this in discussions with the Government of the Netherlands and the Amsterdam Declaration Partnership, among others. TBI was also able to share its views as a member of the EU multi-stakeholder platform on deforestation and forest degradation, which had a direct link to the European Commission. The adoption of the Burkhardt report in 2020 was a clear sign that these joint lobbying and advocacy efforts had not been in vain. But the battle is not yet won.

Designing an effective, ambitious and coherent EU regulatory framework to tackle deforestation

Ambitious binding measures are needed, but they are only part of the solution. This became clear from intensive discussions that TBI held with its network members and partners. They pointed out that if EU regulations were not well designed, they could have unintended negative consequences in supply areas, since they could lead to the exclusion of smallholders from international value chains. This was one of the main messages of a TBI position paper provided as input to a public consultation organized by the EU. The paper argues that binding regulations would need to be combined with additional support measures in producer countries for smallholder inclusion and to address underlying causes of deforestation.

One way to jointly develop such supporting measures is through partnerships between the EU and producing countries. One such partnership, focusing on cocoa, has recently been established between the EU, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. This will serve as an important model for partnership agreements with other countries, covering other commodities.

In 2021 the EU legal framework will further take shape, and TBI and partners are planning to be closely involved. The goal is to help establish a smart mix of binding, non-binding and supportive measures. TBI and its partners will push for broad regulations. This means, among others, that regulations should apply to forests as well as other vulnerable ecosystems, and should also address human rights violations. At the same time, the aim is to mobilize civil society in producing countries to participate in new partnerships with the EU, such as the one on cocoa. This involvement will ultimately determine how effective the EU legislation will be.



Smallholder oil palm plantation in Mekar Raya village, Ketapang, Indonesia. Photo: Irpan Lamago

From financial flow analysis to better landscape practices

TBI members in Ghana and Indonesia studied landscape-level financial flows to understand how they can better contribute to livelihood and environmental objectives. In Indonesia, the study had an additional and unexpected positive effect.

Achieving sustainable landscape management requires that farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises have access to finance that they can invest in sustainable land-use practices. To help with this, financial institutions, private companies, NGOs and government organizations are increasingly showing interest in developing innovative landscape-specific financing models. However, developing such a model requires a profound understanding of how finances currently flow within the landscape.

This realization prompted TBI and EcoAgriculture Partners to develop an integrated method for a landscape assessment of financial flows (LAFF) in 2019. The method can be used to assess which financial flows have the potential to contribute to sustainable landscape management, and which ones have a negative effect on sustainability. Since the manual was published, the method has been attracting attention from researchers and practitioners around the globe, and the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) has heralded it as a critical innovation.

TBI members in Ghana and Indonesia implemented the LAFF method in their focus landscapes. Landscape-level multi-stakeholder platforms then used the results to develop priority climate-action plans. Moreover, the assessments formed the basis for follow-up studies that focused on the financial flows that stakeholders saw as particularly promising. In Ghana, the follow-up study focused on the Partnership for Productivity Protection and Resilience in Cocoa Landscapes (3PRCL). Led by a private company (Touton), the partnership finances the efforts of civil society organizations and farmers' associations to support sustainable cocoa production, with potential to reach around 60,000 people.

In Indonesia, the follow-up study focused on the Semandang Jaya credit union, which serves around 50,000 clients in West and Central Kalimantan. The credit union was chosen because the LAFF study showed that it was the only financial entity that was able to reach smallholders and small and medium-sized enterprises in the landscape. In the second half of 2020, the staff of Tropenbos Indonesia and the credit union's management team met many times. Although the formal purpose was to gather data for the study, these meetings often turned into wide-ranging discussions, during which researchers and the credit union's management team could freely exchange ideas.

Many of the discussions focused on environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria, which inspired the management team to take action. By the end of 2020, the team members had developed a proposal for the formal adoption of ESG criteria. Soon after, the proposal was accepted and integrated into the credit policy. The new policy will prevent the credit union from providing loans to businesses that are associated with illegal practices in mining, logging and fishing, or to businesses that cause forest destruction. Thus, the informal exchange of ideas between researchers and other stakeholders inspired and informed immediate positive changes, which directly contribute to more sustainable practices in the landscape.

Landscape Assessment of Financial Flows: Lessons learned from pilot implementation

Collection of cocoa pods in a smallholder farm in Juabeso-Bia, Ghana. Photo: Abena Woode / NDF

Innovative finance for sustainable landscapes

Smallholders and local farm and forest producer organizations play a critical role in achieving sustainable landscapes. However, they often have difficulties in obtaining access to the finance that they need to invest in sustainable practices. Since 2018, TBI has been working with experts and organizations from around the globe, to explore how these barriers could be overcome. In 2020, this resulted in the publication, *Innovative Finance for Sustainable Landscapes*, published by TBI and the Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) research programme of CGIAR.

The publication provides insights into three emerging financial initiatives with the potential to increase financial flows to sustainable landscapes: blended finance, green bonds and crowdfunding. In addition, the report explores the conditions that need to be in place to improve the social and environmental impacts of investments.

The publication is an invaluable resource for investors who are interested in achieving social and environmental impacts in the global south, and for development organizations that want to leverage private finance for local development and conservation objectives. It also provides the basis for a range of follow-up activities, including case studies of innovative financial mechanisms, which will be published in 2021 and 2022.

Collecting grass for cattle in Sungai Pelang, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. Photo: Jaswadi

Outreach and engagement

Tropenbos International engaged in a wide range of outreach initiatives to build bridges between communities, researchers, practitioners and policymakers. In 2020, due to COVID-19, most activities took place in an online setting, creating novel opportunities for outreach:

more than **102** events organized with more than **5,234** participants *(Stakeholder meetings, seminars, conferences and exibihitions)*

24 workshops with more than **1,100** participants

24 webinars with more than **2,720** participants

Tropenbos International also had a strong presence on social media:

1,543 likes (↑29%) on Facebook

1,324 (↑30%) followers on Twitter

4,899 (↑13%) followers on LinkedIn

6,835 videos viewed on YouTube

Meeting of the Cocoa Sector Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Platform in the Western North region. Photo: Abigail Birago Owusu

webinar

Managing Indonesia's remaining forests

Since August 2020, Tropenbos Indonesia has organized biweekly webinars on current issues related to the sustainable management of forested landscapes in Indonesia. The webinars are attended by many hundreds of professionals from government agencies, universities and NGOs — from all corners of the archipelago. The webinars have grown into a vibrant place for exchanging and discussing relevant experiences and insights, which increases the role of Tropenbos Indonesia as a knowledge broker at the national level.

webinar

Access to finance for smallholders, SMEs and women

On 26 November 2020, TBI organized a webinar with FTA to launch a report on Innovative Finance for Sustainable Landscapes. Presenters shared the report's key findings as well as areas for future collaborations, after which key stakeholders and donors discussed a range of perspectives on the implementation of innovative finance. The webinar was attended by 180 participants. It was the first in the open webinar series, From Science to Action, organized by FTA and its partners.

webinar

The links between global deforestation and pandemics

In June 2020, TBI organized a webinar for staff from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality about the links between human-driven deforestation and increasing susceptibility to pandemics. During the webinar, a discussion on the importance of conserving and restoring tropical forests for future disease prevention took place with experts in animal trafficking, climate change, conservation and virology. The webinar was attended by 80 participants from the two ministries.

training

Stories of change

During 2020, an online training session on storytelling took place as part of the GLA programme. The training presented an opportunity for 27 GLA partner organizations to learn how to translate the outcomes of their work into compelling stories of change. As part of the training, the partner organizations produced their own stories, which resulted in 19 videos, two series of podcasts and two written stories. The partners then used their productions in campaigns to raise awareness and in lobby and advocacy efforts.

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Videos

- Forest Governance in the Indigenous Territory of Lomerío, Bolivia
- Yaw Gyabeng's – River bank restoration at Elluokrom, Ghana
- Laman Besolek: a beauty inside the forest - Indonesia
- Préserver la forêt communautaire la lutte d'une femme pour la vie
- The impact of oil palm growing on land use and food security in Kalangala district - Uganda

Safeguarding and integrity

TBI strives to deliver high-quality work in line with its values and legal standards. This includes fair and respectful treatment of all its staff, partners, target audiences and beneficiaries.

Integrity, quality and control

Since 2018 an overarching integrity policy for the Tropenbos Network members and staff has been in place. It consists of a code of conduct and a complaints procedure. The policy establishes that the TBI culture is based on trust, mutual respect, open communication and high standards of professional conduct, which are essential to achieve its mission. All TBI staff are informed about the expectations, rules and regulations outlined in the integrity policy. The policy can be found on the TBI website. In 2020 there were no reported complaints or breaches of the code of conduct.

General data protection regulation

Regarding the protection of personal data, TBI follows the AVG programme of the Stichting AVG voor Verenigingen, from which TBI receives a compliance statement every year. In 2020 there were no cases of data leaks or other infractions of the general data protection regulation.

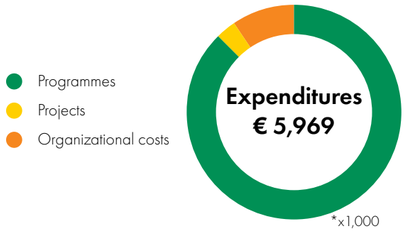
The Privacy Statement on the TBI website provides clear and transparent information about how the organization handles personal data.

Diversity, inclusion and equality

In 2020 the Gender and Youth network team, with representatives of partners from all continents where TBI works, continued to actively support gender and youth activities throughout the network. In 2020 this support concentrated on developing gender- and age-disaggregated baselines in all network countries on the basis of five agreed common indicators. This allowed the team to identify the priority issues to address in each country, and to determine common important issues and start an exchange on how to address these issues within the network.

Financial summary

In 2020, TBI received major programme funding from the Directorate General for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) of the Netherlands, and from the European Union. A range of other donors also supported TBI's work. TBI's partners in the network provide substantial contributions in kind, such as office space and/or equipment. They also make researchers and relevant expertise available.



Revenues

	€000	% of total
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (DGIS)	4,902	82.1
European Union	757	12.7
CGIAR Research Program on Forest, Trees and Agroforestry	112	1.9
Projects	198	3.3
Total	5,969	100.0

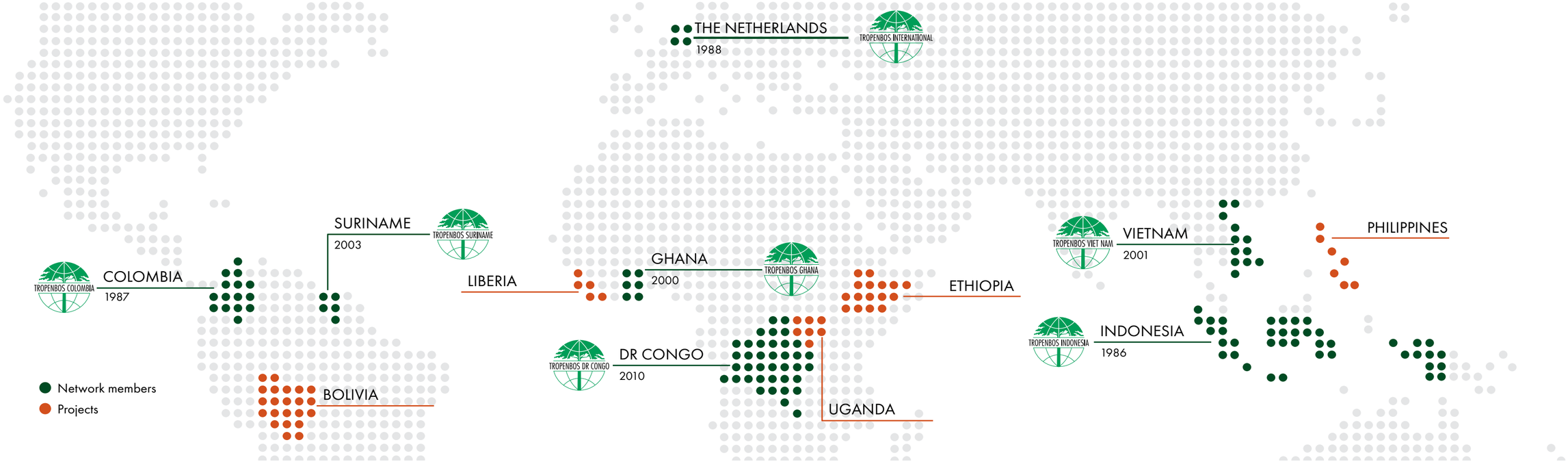
Expenditures

	€000	% of total
Programmes	5,217	87.5
Projects	198	3.3
Organizational costs	554	9.2
Total	5,969	100.0

Donors to TBI - the Netherlands

Directorate General for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) of the Netherlands
European Union (EU)
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands (LNV)
CGIAR Global Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA)
Dutch Research Council (NWO)

Farmer in Ghana in his agroforestry plot. Photo: Rosalien Jezeer



General board

TBI is governed by an international General Board composed of respected Dutch and international experts drawn from the research, policy, business and development communities.

Edwin Huizing (Chair)
Executive Director at Hivos

Dr. Maas M. Goote
CEO, Dobecology

Sarbani Bhattacharya
Head Finance and IT transformation at ASML

Consultative committee

The Consultative Committee consists of the Chairs of the Tropenbos Network Members and advises the TBI Board on the strategic thematic direction and long-term development of the TBI Network.

Prof. Alfred A. Oteng-Yeboah (Ghana - Chair)

Prof. Honorine Ntahobavuka (DR Congo)

Trieu Van Hung (Viet Nam)

Dr. Dicky Simorangkir (Indonesia)

Manuel Rodriguez Becerra (Colombia)

Ir. Djaienti D.C. Hindori (Suriname)

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Gunung Juring Forest in Simpang Dua Sub-landscape, Ketapang, Indonesia. Photo: Irpan Lamago

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Cover photo: Aerial view of Batu Daya village, in Simpang Dua-landscape, Ketapang, Indonesia. Photo: Irpan Lamago; **Photo pages 2-3**: Rainforest in Brazil - © Rodrigo M Nunes/ Adobe Stock

By making knowledge work for forests and people, Tropenbos International contributes to well-informed decision making for improved management and governance of forests and trees in climate-smart landscapes. Our longstanding presence and ability to bring together local, national and international partners make us a trusted partner in sustainable development.

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