TROPENBOS INTERNATIONAL

Making knowledge work for people and forests

Annual review 2021

About Tropenbos International

Vision

Tropenbos International (TBI) envisions a future in which local people living in tropical forest and woodland areas benefit from the sustainable use of forests and trees in climate-smart landscapes.

The TBI network

TBI operates as a network of autonomous organizations in Colombia, DR Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Suriname, Viet Nam and the Netherlands, with partners in Bolivia, Ethiopia, the Philippines and Uganda.

Climate-smart landscapes

Climate-smart landscapes are landscapes where local people practise sustainable agroforestry, restoration and community forestry, contributing to climate, biodiversity and development objectives. Local people of all genders exercise clear rights over natural resources, and participate equitably in decision making about their landscapes.

Making knowledge work for people and forests

As a network of locally rooted organizations, we offer practical, locally owned solutions for transformative change to achieve climate-smart landscapes, using an integrated approach based on knowledge and dialogue.

Contents

Opening words

The role of forests in sustaining people's lives is under great pressure across the globe. Agricultural expansion and resource extraction are threatening forests and the biodiversity they contain, with negative effects on food security, health and the climate. In 2021, more than ever before, forests were high on the political agenda. At COP26 in Glasgow, leaders from more than 140 countries pledged to eliminate forest loss by 2030 and to support restoration and sustainable forestry.

These pledges align well with TBI's core objectives to halt deforestation, manage forests sustainably and restore degraded lands. Indigenous peoples and local communities depend on and actively manage a large proportion of the landscapes where these global ambitions need to be realized, and we must support local men and women in their role as effective custodians of land and forests. Also, funds for climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation and development must reach the grassroots level, so local communities will have the means to implement the required strategies.

Tropenbos International has been working for 35 years with local communities and local authorities in forested landscapes throughout the world. Together we co-create solutions for climate-smart landscapes, where local people can improve their livelihoods while also contributing to conservation, food security and climate objectives. We do this based on the conviction that evidence and dialogue are crucial when developing locally owned solutions.

In 2021 we started a new five-year programme, Forests for a Just Future, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (a continuation of the programme implemented by the Green Livelihoods Alliance between 2016 and 2020). We also launched a new programme, Green Finance for Small and medium-sized enterprises, funded by the Dutch National Postcode Lottery. We continued with the Mobilizing More 4 Climate programme and the Working Landscapes programme, and the latter received additional support to promote an integrated approach to preventing wildfires in the tropics. The research programme on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) of CGIAR, in which we have been partners since 2017, came to an end.

In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic, which continued to rage, we are happy to see our climate-smart landscape visions gradually taking shape across our focus landscapes. We successfully supported local communities to secure and manage forests and restore degraded lands in ways that work for them. We now see promising climate-smart business cases emerging, and we are strengthening linkages between local entrepreneurs and financial institutions. Both in the landscape and internationally, we drew attention to the role of smallholders who produce cocoa, rubber and other commodities, when designing anti-deforestation and climate policies. We also made strides in involving women and young people in our programmes.

In this Annual Review we provide examples of the types of results that we achieved in our various programmes. Clearly, they would not have been possible without the commitment and professionalism of our many partners, staff and donors. We also wish to express our gratitude to René Boot, our long-serving director, who has been at the heart of all the important advances that TBI has been able to make in the last 20 years, and who stepped down in March 2022. We are happy that the Board contracted Joost van Montfort as new director as of June 2022. His appointment is an important step in preparing ourselves for a future where we can further strengthen the network and continue to increase our impact.

Edwin Huizing
Chair

Roderick Zagt
Acting Director

Photo previous page: Sustainable natural resource management training, Mekar Raya village, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. Photo: Irpan Lamago

Examples of outcomes achieved in 2021

Bolivia

Indigenous women and youth developed **business proposals** based on the sustainable use and management of natural resources within their territories.

Colombia

Local people developed more than 100 initiatives to **restore degraded lands** as an alternative to top-down restoration projects.

Ghana

Village savings groups enabled cocoa farmers to **invest in climate-smart practices** by diversifying their crops and improving irrigation.

Viet Nam

Local governments started to support **restoration by women farmers**, based on agroforestry practices that combine coffee and indigenous tree species.

DR Congo

Smallholders established **agroforestry systems** on previously deforested lands, combining cocoa and other useful species.

Indonesia

Government officials and other stakeholders in Ketapang District adopted peatland restoration as the main approach to **prevent fires** in the future.

Ethiopia

Government agencies and other stakeholders agreed on a **national restoration strategy**, laying a firm foundation for ambitious nationwide restoration efforts.

Suriname

Young people got involved in the governance of the traditional territory of the Saamaka tribe in the country's interior rainforest.

Bringing people together for a more sustainable future

Interview with René Boot

On 1 April 2022, René Boot retired as director of Tropenbos International (TBI). During his 20 years at the helm, he transformed TBI into an international network of autonomous organizations that help communities, companies and governments with improving the governance and management of tropical forests and woodlands. Here he talks with Koen Kusters about some of the insights he gained along the way.

What has been the main lesson during your time as TBI's director?

I would say that the most important lesson in my career stems from the time before I was TBI's director, when I was working in Bolivia. There, I learned that you cannot achieve sustainable forest management without putting people first. When I became TBI's director, I saw it as my task to mainstream this perspective in the organization. At that time TBI was still mostly focusing on the technical aspects of forest management. I was convinced that this needed

to change. We adopted "putting people first" as our adage because people who depend on forests should also manage them and have a strong voice in governing them.

What did you encounter when trying to introduce a more people-centred perspective?

There was quite a bit of resistance. At the time, we worked intensively with Dutch universities, who placed their PhD students in our country programmes. I told the universities that all research had to be demand driven, and some of them were not happy with that. They wanted to have students working on a research agenda set by Dutch universities with little or no input from forest and knowledge institutes in the host countries. Rudy Rabbinge, then Chair of TBI, played an important role in helping to convince the universities of the need for a different approach, where research agendas are determined together with local actors. Rabbinge also introduced the concept of the knowledge broker, which became a central component of our approach. It meant that we were no longer focusing on generating academic knowledge, but much more intent on connecting knowledge to its potential users.

What has been your most important achievement?

I think that would be the establishment of the network. Around 2012, I realized that structural changes were needed. Up until then we were a Dutch organization with offices abroad. We were completely dependent on financing from the Dutch government. The board, chaired by Martin Kropff at the time, rightfully stressed that this made the organization highly vulnerable. Moreover, by keeping it a Dutch organization, we were not contributing to building a strong civil society in the countries where we were working. I felt we needed to change to a network of autonomous organizations, to ensure ownership where it belongs, and to increase legitimacy at the national level.

You could say we were ahead of the time. Most other organizations active in international development stuck to a centralized approach for much longer. But you see that the thinking in development cooperation has been evolving.

How has the thinking changed?

There is more awareness now that local ownership is key. We can provide support to countries, but we must recognize our role and position. This also applies to me. Working in Bolivia 25 years ago, I wouldn't hesitate to tell a Bolivian minister what I thought needed to be done. I would never do that now! Who am I to tell them what to do?

How would you describe the impact of the work of TBI network members?

TBI members apply a landscape approach, resulting in tangible changes in the landscapes where they work. Those are changes that improve the situation for the people who live there through better management of forests and trees. Sometimes this requires a policy change, as a means to an end. Ultimately, one should be able to walk through a landscape and be able to point out the concrete results of TBI's activities. If TBI members can show that their work resulted in improved landscape features and conditions for local people, I think that the TBI approach will be picked up by others. This is one of the ways to reach scale.

TBI does not represent a particular stakeholder group. What gives TBI members a licence to operate in the landscapes where they are active?

In my view, TBI's licence to operate has been based on our role as knowledge broker: informing discussions and decisions with evidence-based information, and providing insights into the consequences of certain decisions for a

Photo previous page: René Boot during the seminar "The role of smallholders in forested landscapes – what did we learn?, March, 2022, Ede, the Netherlands. Photo: Milagro Elstak

range of sectors. Next to that, I think that the legitimacy of TBI members is also based on their longstanding relationships with local and national stakeholders, who invite them to participate in discussions to share their knowledge and recommendations. They are trusted as neutral and trustworthy organizations.

Could you describe a moment when you felt that your work as director really came together?

That was sometime in 2019. In the timespan of only a couple of months a lot of things happened. At an international event in New York, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs subscribed to an international commitment to combat wildfires, which were wreaking havoc in the Amazon region. Around the same time, the Bolivian government approached the Dutch embassy for help with fighting the fires. I knew that our Bolivian partner, IBIF, had been working for quite some time on developing a more structural approach to wildfires, in close collaboration with a local mayor and a district head. There was a window of opportunity there. I then managed to bring all parties together; IBIF, the mayor, the district head, Bolivian government officials, the Bolivian ambassador to the Netherlands, the Dutch diplomatic service, and the head of the programme on forests and climate of the Dutch government. After meetings with all of them, everyone was enthusiastic. Things started moving, and resulted in a new programme in support of a more structural approach to wildfire prevention in multiple countries. That was an exciting time for me.

What is the secret to successfully bringing people together?

I was able to get all the different parties around the table because over the years I had built relationships of trust with all of them. And I was able to ensure that everyone felt ownership over the process. The key is to listen to everyone. You must take everyone's interests seriously. Bringing people around the table to work on a common objective will not work if you only have an eye for your own interests, or if you want to convince others that your own goals are more important than theirs. Success starts with the agenda of the other.

Taking all interests seriously — is that a key element of the TBI approach?

I think so. TBI members have the capacity and the openness to develop relationships of trust with a range of actors. Many NGOs focus on identifying problems, and on creating awareness about those problems. That is important too, of course. But TBI members are more focussed on developing solutions, and this requires considering the interests of all stakeholders. I have learned that it is not effective to start with stating what you think is the solution. Instead, it is better to start with talking about what the various parties find important. We must start with listening. When all the interests and priorities are on the table, we can talk about possible solutions that do justice to the concerns of all stakeholders. That is one of the secrets of being an effective knowledge broker. In this role, TBI members can help with developing broadly supported solutions for a more sustainable future.

Stories of change

The unsustainable use of forests and trees contributes to global climate change and biodiversity loss, and decreases people's resilience, with grave consequences for the most vulnerable. To improve the management of forests and trees in climate-smart landscapes, governments, companies, civic organizations and farmers will need to make different choices, leading to different policies and practices. It is our mission to make sure that these policies and practices are based on reliable knowledge and evidence, and rooted in equitable dialogue between different actors. We strongly believe this is a key condition to achieve change that will last.

This annual review presents stories that illustrate how TBI has been working to realize its mission. It includes stories about our activities to promote sustainable agroforestry systems, participatory restoration and community forest management. The review also has examples of our cross-cutting activities to empower women and young people, increase access to finance for sustainable practices, and improve national and international policies. Finally, we present a story about our work to prevent wildfires, as part of a new programme that started in 2021.

A landscape with different land uses around the village of Batu Daya, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. Photo: Irpan Lamago

Impact area

Climate-smart agroforestry systems for food and commodities

Many frontier areas in the forested tropics have witnessed a rapid expansion of agrocommodities such as palm oil, soy, coffee and cocoa. This leads to the destruction of natural forests and reduces diversity in the landscape, increasing local people's vulnerability. We aim to reverse this process, by supporting deforestation-free models for agrocommodity production that are based on sustainable practices and that improve farmers' resilience. To this aim, we implemented a wide range of activities throughout 2021. At the international level we advocated for the equitable inclusion of smallholder interests in the European Commission's proposed EU regulation on deforestation-free products. At the landscape level, we helped farmers diversify their production systems, in order to decrease their dependence on a single agrocommodity crop while increasing food security and the provision of environmental services. Our efforts included technical assistance for farmers to establish agroforestry systems in DR Congo, and the promotion of village savings groups to support livelihood diversification in Ghana.

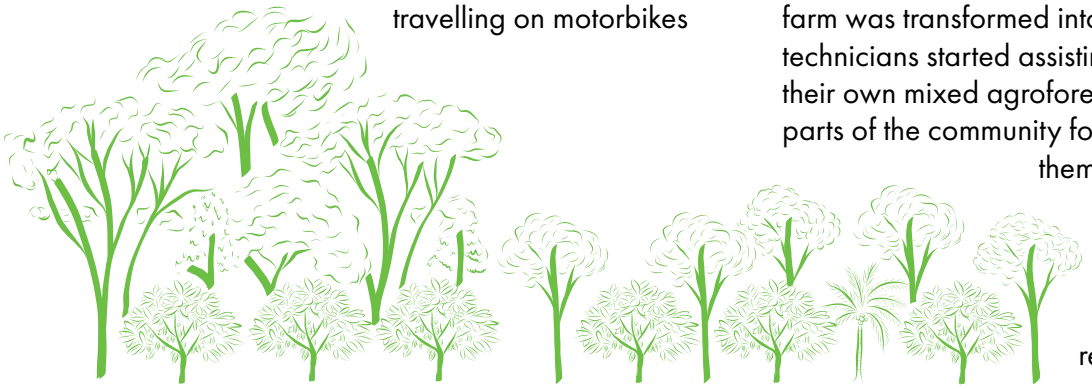
Cocoa agroforestry in Quindio, Colombia. Photo: ©GATO - stock.adobe.com

Cocoa in DR Congo — Turning threat into opportunity

In 2021, hundreds of farmers throughout the Bafwasende landscape started to establish cocoa agroforestry systems on previously deforested lands, with the help of Tropenbos DR Congo. This is a major step towards more sustainable farming and improved livelihoods.

The Bafwasende landscape in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) is one of the most densely forested areas in the world. The indigenous population is scattered across remote villages, living subsistence lifestyles. They typically use fire to open up the forest for cultivation, and move on after a couple of years, when the soils are depleted.

In recent years, the landscape has undergone rapid changes. Large numbers of migrants, mostly Yira people originating in North Kivu province, have come to Bafwasende looking for land to cultivate. Based on their traditions, the Yira started cultivating cocoa in mixed agroforestry systems, which provided food as well as cash income, without depleting the soil. With the growth of cocoa farms in Bafwasende, the local trade in cocoa also started surging, driven by the ever-growing international demand. Traders started travelling on motorbikes and boats from village to village, in search of farmers selling cocoa.



Although the coming of the Yira has led to tensions with the original population and has increased the pressure on the forest, it has also provided new opportunities. Tropenbos DR Congo realized that the original population could learn from the Yira about sustainable agriculture, and could benefit from the increasing market for cocoa. The challenge, however, was to prevent the adoption of cocoa cultivation from leading to further deforestation. Tropenbos DR Congo therefore started helping farmers with establishing mixed agroforestry systems (combining cocoa with other useful species such as fruit trees, and trees that function as hosts for edible caterpillars) on the condition that these farms were established on previously deforested lands within community forest concessions.

As community forest concessions are collectively owned, the initial idea was to establish communal farms. Field technicians of Tropenbos DR Congo worked on this for two years, but the concept never really took off. People seemed to have little interest in collective farming. Tropenbos DR Congo then drastically changed its strategy. The communal farm was transformed into a training plot, and the field technicians started assisting individual farmers to establish their own mixed agroforestry systems, within the degraded parts of the community forest concessions, by providing them with seeds and technical advice. Suddenly, things started moving rapidly. Throughout 2021, more than 460 households in 28 villages requested and received support for agroforest

Mixed agroforestry field in the community forest concession of Bapondi Bambaka, DR Congo. Photo: Charles Mpoyi

establishment. Even the field technicians themselves were surprised by the success.

Mixed agroforestry systems require less land than traditional shifting cultivation practices. Moreover, they provide cash income that is needed to pay for healthcare and education, as well as fruit, caterpillars and vegetables for subsistence purposes. For this reason, the adoption of agroforestry is an important step to improve local livelihoods. The next step is to connect the cocoa farmers in Bafwasende to the market for zero-deforestation cocoa, which may pay a premium price. This will provide an extra incentive for farmers to focus their production on previously deforested lands.

Savings groups help Ghanaian cocoa farmers to invest in climate-smart practices

Tropenbos Ghana helped to develop 12 Village Savings and Loan Associations in the Juabeso-Bia and Sefwi-Wiawso landscapes. This has provided cocoa smallholders with access to finance to invest in climate-smart practices, such as diversifying their crops and improving irrigation.

Climate change is threatening the livelihoods of smallholders in the Juabeso-Bia and Sefwi-Wiawso landscapes in the Western North Region of Ghana. Most of these farmers depend on only one crop — cocoa — which makes them particularly vulnerable to changing and ever more extreme weather conditions. To increase their resilience in the face of climate change, farmers must invest in climate-smart practices; for example, by diversifying their income sources. However, such investments typically require more cash than they have on hand.

One promising way to overcome this hurdle is for groups of farmers to start saving together, enabling group members to take out loans with low interest rates. In the early 1990s, CARE started developing such savings groups in Niger, calling them Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). Since then, a range of NGOs have been successfully implementing VSLAs in many parts of the world.

The VSLA concept is powerful in its simplicity. A key feature is that people develop their own savings groups, usually consisting of between 15 and 25 members, who come together regularly. They jointly decide on the periodic cash contributions that everyone will make, and on loan conditions and interest rates. The cash contributions are kept in a box with three locks. The keys are distributed among different group members, which means they all need to be present to unlock the box. After one year, the accumulated savings and loan profits are distributed back to the members. When a VSLA is up and running, it is entirely self-sufficient, and does not require external support. It is an easy and safe way for farmers to have access to cash to make small investments.

Inspired by the success of VSLAs in other parts of Ghana, Tropenbos Ghana decided to start similar savings groups in the Juabeso-Bia and Sefwi-Wiawso landscapes, with the specific aim to help farmers invest in climate-smart practices. In 2021, they established 12 VSLAs in 10 communities; these involved close to 300 people, most of whom are women. The groups started saving immediately, enabling their members to take out loans in the second half of the year. The loans were typically used to diversify income sources by investing in vegetable farming and expanding small scale businesses. In one village — Suhenso — VSLA members decided to use their savings to purchase irrigation equipment as a group.

Administration training in the Community of Aferewa, Ghana. Photo: Tropenbos Ghana

The results of these VSLAs have not gone unnoticed by other community members, and they have started requesting Tropenbos Ghana to help them establish additional savings groups. In response, Tropenbos Ghana has started training community agents to help set up VSLAs throughout the landscape in the coming years. This will greatly increase smallholders' access to finance, which is key to developing vibrant and climate-smart landscapes.

Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) in Sefwi-Suhenso

Including smallholders in EU action to protect and restore the world's forests

In September 2021 a briefing was published in advance of the European Commission's regulatory proposal to minimize the European Union's (EU's) deforestation and forest degradation footprint.

The briefing — written by six NGOs — outlines what the EU will need to do to deliver a smart and comprehensive mix of demand- and supply-side measures to halt deforestation, forest degradation and the destruction of other ecosystems. This includes measures to involve and support smallholders.

These are some of the recommendations to the EU:

- Jointly develop and then implement roadmaps with producer countries to help smallholders comply with EU requirements. These should be developed and implemented with the effective participation of smallholders themselves.
- Promote, in partnership with producer countries, financial incentives for smallholders to move towards sustainable practices.
- Promote landscape/jurisdictional approaches in which farmers organizations, the private sector and governments work together to implement sustainable farming at the local level.
- Increase smallholders' access to affordable financing and loans so they can invest in sustainable production.
- Strengthen smallholders' tenure rights.
- Facilitate a process between stakeholders to develop pricing models that enable farmers to earn a living income and produce sustainable, deforestation-free goods.

Farmer using organic fertilizer, Batu Daya village, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. Photo: Irpan Lamago

Impact area

Participatory forest and landscape restoration

Deforestation and land degradation contribute to global climate change and biodiversity loss, and threaten the livelihoods of millions of people around the world. More than two billion hectares of land are currently degraded, and there is a huge potential to restore these areas to diverse and productive lands. To make sure that local people benefit, restoration needs to take place through a bottom-up process, led by the people who live in the landscape. TBI therefore works to achieve the widespread application of smallholder-driven restoration in degraded forest and dryland areas, resulting in increased forest cover and ecological diversity while also improving livelihoods. In 2021, at the international level, we raised awareness of the opportunities for dryland restoration in Africa. At the national level, we facilitated the development of a restoration strategy in Ethiopia. And at the landscape level, we made significant progress with developing locally led restoration models, demonstrating their effectiveness, and supporting their uptake, especially in Colombia's Solano landscape.

Restoration by Indigenous communities in Guarayos, Bolivia. Photo: IBIF

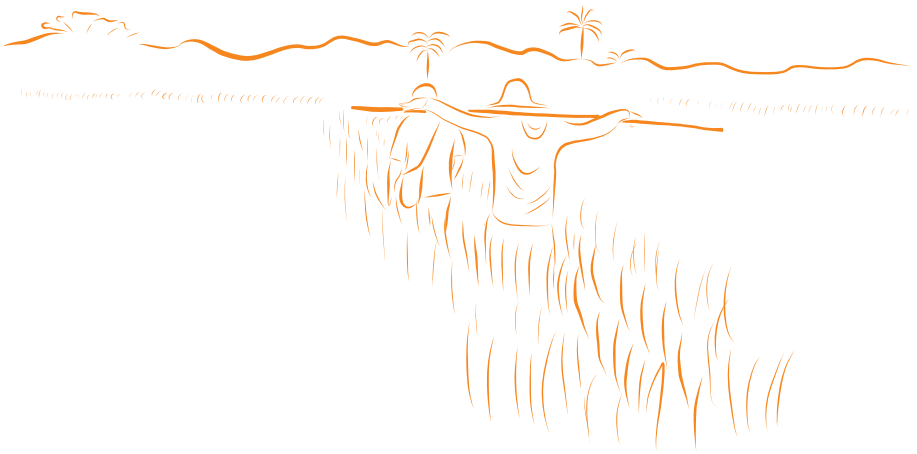
In Colombia, local people take restoration into their own hands

For several years, Tropenbos Colombia has been promoting participatory productive restoration (PPR) as an alternative to top-down restoration projects. After taking root in 2020, PPR really started growing in 2021. More than 100 initiatives are now up and running, and enthusiasm for PPR is spreading.

To achieve its ambitious tree-planting targets, the Government of Colombia focuses on large-scale planting of a limited number of tree species. According to Tropenbos Colombia, these top-down tree-planting projects have some serious shortcomings, as they do not result in resilient ecosystems, and neither do they involve or benefit local communities. Moreover, the government-led efforts focus on planting as many seedlings as possible to reach national targets, but pay little attention to the question of who will maintain the seedlings to make sure they grow into adult trees.

Recognizing these flaws, Tropenbos Colombia has been advocating for an alternative, bottom-up approach to the restoration of degraded lands, where the focus is not only on planting but also on growing the trees. This approach — known as participatory productive restoration (PPR) — is led by local people and is based on their own needs and their knowledge of the environment. The approach provides access to timber, fruits and firewood, and helps to retain water, supporting healthy and resilient ecosystems.

In 2020, Tropenbos Colombia started actively promoting PPR in the Solano landscape in the southern department of Caquetá. They invited Indigenous and peasant farmers to develop proposals for small-scale restoration initiatives. Tropenbos Colombia would then provide technical assistance and a small budget for these initiatives, for example to purchase seedings and fencing materials for restoration plots. By the end of 2020, three restoration plots had been established. By the end of 2021, more than one hundred local initiatives were up and running. Each of them is unique, and is customized to the specific ecological context in terms of soils and degradation levels, and to specific local needs and priorities, such as the protection of water bodies.



All over the Solano landscape are formerly deforested plots coming back to life. People are enthusiastic. In an effort to further mainstream locally led restoration, representatives of Indigenous and peasant communities in Solano have proposed that PPR be included as a special category in the upcoming revision of the municipality's spatial plan. Also, inspired by Tropenbos Colombia, several other NGOs want to start supporting farmers to develop and implement their own restoration initiatives. And, after discussions with Tropenbos Colombia, Visión Amazonía — a large government programme to reduce

Community-managed tree nursery in Solano, Caquetá, Colombia. Photo: Zunil Lozano

deforestation — started looking into the possibility of including PPR in its strategy for the deforested parts of the Amazon basin.

In the long term, PPR is much more sustainable than the large-scale tree planting projects of the government. Crucially, it starts with the Indigenous people and peasants themselves, who are invested in its long-term success. This is key to ensuring that tree-planting efforts will ultimately lead to a restored landscape, contributing simultaneously to climate, biodiversity and livelihood objectives.

A national strategy to restore Ethiopia's drylands

The restoration of Ethiopia's drylands has the potential to improve local livelihoods while contributing to climate change mitigation. In 2021, TBI's partner in Ethiopia — PENHA — got government agencies and other stakeholders to collaborate and agree on a national drylands restoration strategy, laying a firm foundation for ambitious nationwide efforts.

Ethiopia's drylands make up much of the country's land mass, and are mostly inhabited by pastoralists. Over the last decades, these areas have suffered severe degradation caused by deforestation, agricultural expansion and overgrazing, in combination with climate change. There is an enormous potential to restore these areas in ways that contribute to local livelihoods while also helping to mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon.

So far, however, restoration initiatives have been hampered by a lack of coordination across different government institutions and by a failure to harmonize policies across sectors. Moreover, restoration programmes have been based on area exclosures, which restrict communities' access to and use of dry forests and woodlands, limiting their incomes and ability to maintain restoration efforts.

Effective restoration requires a better strategy, and increased coordination and collaboration across local, regional and national levels. This is a major challenge in a conflict-torn country with a long tradition of centralized and top-down policy making, with limited space for civil society actors. In 2021, TBI work in Ethiopia therefore focussed on research, raising awareness, and getting all relevant parties together to develop a common vision and strategy.

Despite the ongoing war in the Tigray Region, the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA), TBI's partner in Ethiopia, was able to continue its research and policy work at the national level. They carried out a study that provided a detailed review of the links between landscape restoration and Ethiopia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), with a focus on drylands. They also conducted a study of the frankincense value chain, emphasizing the importance of community forest ownership and management in establishing inclusive and sustainable value chains that boost local incomes while restoring the landscape.

PENHA's policy work in 2021 focussed on developing a national dryland restoration strategy. In April they organized a national workshop with representatives from the Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Commission, research institutes, NGOs and government agencies from the six regional states where drylands predominate. Based on the workshop, a book was published, providing an overview of challenges and opportunities for restoration in Ethiopia. Moreover, the workshop resulted in a joint declaration on a shared restoration vision, and the creation of task teams to work on a draft national restoration strategy that promotes the integration of trees, agriculture, water and livelihoods. By the end of 2021, the draft strategy was ready and agreed upon by all stakeholders, including all relevant government departments.

Great Rift Valley in Ethiopia. Photo: ©Pascal RATEAU - stock.adobe.com

The strategy provides a framework for the elaboration of tailored regional action plans in 2022, and will also support the implementation of Ethiopia's NDC. It represents a major breakthrough, as it is the first time that all relevant parties agree on a strategy that will restore Ethiopia's drylands and benefit the people who live there.

Dryland restoration and dry forest management in Ethiopia

Impact area

Community forest management

In many parts of the world, forests that are managed and used by Indigenous peoples and local communities are under increasing pressure from outside forces such as commercial plantation development, mining and logging. Also, preservationist approaches to nature conservation threaten local people's access to the forest resources they depend on for their livelihoods. To reduce these threats, TBI supports Indigenous peoples and local communities to have their forest tenure rights formally acknowledged, and to benefit from sustainable community forest management. In 2021 we identified the key conditions that need to be in place to unlock the potential of community forest management to contribute to conservation, climate and livelihood objectives. At the landscape level, we have been helping communities with meeting those conditions; for example, by increasing the capacity of Indigenous women and youth to develop business plans in Bolivia, and by supporting community-level governance in Suriname.

Korebaju women discussing their territory during a workshop on governance, Caquetá, Colombia. Photo: Catalina Vargas

Indigenous women and youth in Bolivia propose forest-based businesses

During 2021 the Instituto Boliviano de Investigación Forestal (IBIF) has been helping Indigenous women and youth to develop their own forest-based businesses. This has resulted not only in detailed business proposals, but has also provided people with inspiration, confidence and courage to pursue their dreams within their territories.

Significant parts of Bolivia's remaining forests are located within Indigenous territories. People living in these areas have been sustainably using forest resources for generations, primarily for subsistence purposes. In the view of IBIF — TBI's partner in Bolivia — the strengthening of sustainable forest-based businesses can improve local livelihoods.

A recent study conducted by IBIF in the Indigenous territories of Guarayos and Lomerío identified two trends related to the position of women and youth. First, women are increasingly important in household economies, taking on a bigger role in income-earning activities. Second, many young people are migrating out of their territories to search for jobs. The study concluded that Indigenous women and youth are interested in developing their own businesses, but lack the tools and skills to do so.

IBIF then decided to join with Fundación Trabajo Empresa, an organization that specializes in developing business capacities. In 2021, they jointly launched the Future Forest Challenge, which called on youth and women in Guarayos and Lomerío to submit ideas for sustainable forest-based businesses. The response was overwhelming. Some people presented their existing initiatives, while others presented ideas to develop new businesses from scratch. Ideas included the production of furniture from the waste of sustainable logging activities in managed forests, the development of an online trading platform for forest products, and the production of bricks with the residue from sawmills, to name just a few.

In each territory, around 40 people joined a three-day workshop, facilitated by trainers from Fundación Trabajo Empresa, where they could collaborate to further develop their ideas. On the last day of each workshop, the participants together selected a handful of proposals, to be developed into full-fledged business plans.

After finalizing the business plans, participants prepared pitches for nine initiatives, which they then presented during a meeting in Santa Cruz that was attended by representatives of financial institutions, NGOs and government agencies. After the pitches, the attendees provided their feedback to further improve the plans. In this way, the nine proposals became stronger and stronger, and some are now in the process of acquiring financing from local banks and other supporting institutions.

Participants of the Future Forest Challenge, in Guarayos, Bolivia. Photo: Miguel Manchego

The process also provided insights into the specific needs of youth and women in the territories (e.g., related to access to forest resources, and marketing and accounting skills) which will help to strengthen IBIF´s competencies development programme. In addition, the workshops created a lot of enthusiasm among the participants. Many of them expressed that they felt empowered, inspired, and more confident. The workshop had given them the courage to dream about setting up their own businesses. Their enthusiasm proved contagious, and many people in the territories have been requesting that similar workshops be organized.

A new collaboration between Tropenbos Suriname and the Association of Saamaka Authorities

Throughout 2021 Tropenbos Suriname carried out a dialogue with the traditional leaders of the Saamaka tribe in the country's interior rainforest. By the end of the year this resulted in an agreement to work together to strengthen the tribe's territorial governance, based on the concerns and priorities of the Saamaka leaders, and with the enthusiastic involvement of Saamaka youth.

The Saamaka are one of six tribal peoples in Suriname. They are descendants of enslaved people from Africa who successfully freed themselves and established communities deep in the interior rainforest. Over centuries they developed their own distinctive culture, including customary laws and territorial boundaries. Most Saamaka in Suriname live in 75 villages along the upper Suriname River and its tributaries.

During the 1990s, the Surinamese government started to grant industrial logging and mining concessions within the Saamaka's tribal territory, as it regarded the land as state property. The Saamaka's customary rights were not respected. But soon this will change, as Parliament is expected to approve a new law that provides collective rights to all Indigenous and tribal people, including the Saamaka. The new law will also come with responsibilities. For example, the Saamaka tribe, which consists of 12 clans, will need to adjust their customary governance system to meet formal requirements, such as having a legal entity that represents the tribe as a whole. They will also need to document their customary laws in writing (which are based on oral traditions), have maps of their territory, and agree on protocols to collectively share the benefits derived from the economic use of their soon-to-be-titled land.

Tropenbos Suriname has been active in the Saamaka territory since 2013, and thought it could play a role in supporting the Saamaka with meeting the requirements set by the new law. Throughout 2021 they discussed this effort with the traditional leaders of the Saamaka, organized in the Association of Saamaka Authorities. Towards the end of the year they organized a joint planning exercise with Saamaka representatives, including traditional leaders and young people. During the workshop, the Saamaka shared their views about the steps that would need to be taken to prepare for the new situation, while Tropenbos Suriname listened.

At the end of the workshop, the Association of Saamaka Traditional Authorities and Tropenbos Suriname came to a formal agreement on collaboration, based on the needs and priorities of the Saamaka people. They agreed that Tropenbos Suriname would support a process of internal deliberation between Saamaka clans, Saamaka leaders and community members to strengthen the customary governance system and meet the formal requirements of the land rights law.

Sustainable agroforestry in Pikin Slee, Suriname. Photo: Bindia Jaddoe

Tropenbos Suriname then teamed up with Hugo Jabini to facilitate the internal deliberations. Jabini had been acting as legal representative of and advisor to the Saamaka people for many years. Being widely respected by the traditional authorities, he proved to be the ideal bridge builder. Moreover, the workshop had generated a lot of enthusiasm among the participating Saamaka youth, and resulted in a group of 15 young people becoming active in the Association of Saamaka Traditional Authorities, with technical and financial support from Tropenbos Suriname. All of this will help to ensure that the Saamaka themselves remain in the driver's seat and that their governance institutions are prepared to take on new formal responsibilities when the law passes..

Cross-cutting themes

Gender and youth: Women and youth are often not able to participate on equal terms with men in decisions regarding the management of agricultural and forest lands, and they also do not share equally in the benefits. In 2021 we made sure that all our activities paid specific attention to the perspectives and needs of women and youth. In addition, we carried out activities in the landscapes that specifically focus on strengthening the position of women and young people (see the story about women farmers in Viet Nam on page 35 for an example).

Business and finance: Smallholders and local entrepreneurs in the landscapes where we work often lack access to finance to invest in sustainable practices. In 2021 we helped to develop the capacity of local actors to apply for loans and funding, while working with financial institutions to help them develop a range of financial products that are suitable for smaller entrepreneurs in the forestry and agroforestry sectors (see the story on developing bankable business cases on page 37).

Policies: Achieving climate-smart landscapes requires international, national and sub-national policies that promote locally led solutions to improve the management and governance of trees and forests. Throughout 2021 we engaged with decision makers at different levels to help improve their policies. A significant part of this work focussed on national climate plans, which we believe can play a crucial role in supporting climate-smart landscapes (see the story on Nationally Determined Contributions on page 41).

Fruit trees ready to be planted in agroforestry plots, Pikin Slee, Suriname. Photo: Vanessa van Hetten

Women farmers in Viet Nam restore lands with coffee and indigenous tree species

In Viet Nam's Central Highlands, women have the potential to play a key role in restoring degraded lands. Until recently, however, women seldom joined in local government efforts to promote restoration. By involving government officials in research, awareness creation and training, Tropenbos Viet Nam managed to convince them to focus their support on women-led agroforestry models for restoration.

Large areas of forest lands in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam are severely degraded. In theory, these lands can be restored through agroforestry. In practice, however, restoration has been slow to happen. The government's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) has been supporting restoration efforts by providing extension services and training to smallholders, but these efforts seldom included women. According to Tropenbos Viet Nam, this was a missed opportunity, because among the ethnic minorities living in the area, it is typically the responsibility of women to plant trees, especially on the lands surrounding the house.

To identify possibilities for women-led restoration, Tropenbos Viet Nam conducted an assessment of agroforestry models that are suitable to the ecological context of the degraded areas, and to the traditions and needs of women farmers in the Central Highlands. They did this in close collaboration with Tây Nguyên University and DARD. The assessment resulted in a recommended mixed model of coffee and several indigenous tree species, offering both short- and long-term benefits in the form of cash income and food.

Tropenbos Viet Nam then discussed the outcomes of the assessment in a workshop with provincial and district government agencies, which resulted in the DARD offices in Lak and Krông Bông — two districts with large areas of degraded lands — signing a decree that formally supports the recommended coffee-based agroforestry model. This decree opened the door for Tropenbos Viet Nam to work together with local DARD officers, who provide extension services in the villages and are trusted by the local people. Throughout 2021 Tropenbos Viet Nam and the DARD offices in both districts jointly organized a range of training sessions and workshops. The training provided practical guidance on coffee-based agroforestry, focussing primarily on female-led households of ethnic minority groups.

During a field visit in late 2021, Tropenbos Viet Nam staff observed that the female farmers who had received the training had not only started intercropping coffee and indigenous tree species, but had also spontaneously started passing on their knowledge to other people in their communities. Moreover, the staff found that the government was sending DARD extension officers into the communities to provide more training in coffee-based agroforestry to female farmers.

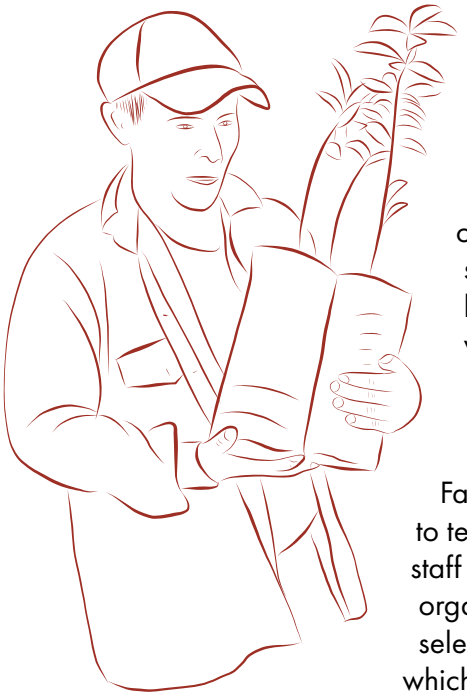
Yang Mao women in their coffee-based agroforestry restoration plot. Photo: Phan Thi Thuy Nhi

The experience shows that Tropenbos Viet Nam was able to change government officials' perspectives on gender roles by actively engaging them in a process involving research, awareness raising and field-level training. As a result, local government extension officers are now providing women in the country's Central Highlands with practical support for coffee-based agroforestry that delivers both short- and long-term benefits, building on women's experience as tree planters around their houses.

Towards bankable business cases for sustainable agroforestry and forestry

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the agroforestry and forestry sectors require access to finance to make investments in sustainable practices. With this aim, TBI increases their capacity to develop bankable business proposals. At the same time, TBI collaborates with financial service providers to make new and existing financial products more easily available for SMEs.

SMEs in the forestry and agroforestry sectors play a crucial role in shaping vibrant, climate-smart landscapes. Their potential, however, is often hampered by their lack of access to finance. Although they may have good ideas for developing sustainable production and processing practices, they often lack the skills to develop these ideas into bankable business proposals and get access to finance.



In 2021, TBI organized extensive training for its members and partners to familiarize them with the ins and outs of business plans, so they will eventually be able to help others with developing bankable proposals. The training was given by consultants from Fair and Sustainable to teams of two or three staff members from each organization. Each team selected a business case, which they then developed under the guidance of the trainers. Some of these cases focused on productive activities, while others focused on the development of financial mechanisms to facilitate investments in climate-smart landscapes. In this way, the training not only increased the staff's capacity, but also resulted in actual business cases. Some of these cases will be implemented in the coming years, as part of a new and innovative TBI programme supported by the Netherlands Postcode Lottery.

Complementary to the training, Tropenbos Indonesia and Tropenbos Ghana launched calls for sustainable business ideas in the landscapes where they work, as part of the Mobilizing More for Climate (MoMo4C) programme. Tropenbos Indonesia selected 14 business cases, which they then helped to develop into bankable proposals. As a result, by the end of 2021 a proposal for a horticulture business had successfully obtained finance from a local credit union. More proposals may follow. In Ghana, the call for business ideas generated a staggering 120 proposals, mostly to help cocoa farmers with decreasing their vulnerability in the face of climate change. Tropenbos Ghana then selected ten proposals that were developed further. Four of the ten proposals are up and running, and about to receive financial support from a local financial institution. These include businesses in cocoa agroforestry consultancy services, aquaculture and processing, cassava production and processing, and soap production using local materials.

The idea behind the two calls was not only to develop bankable business ideas, but also to raise interest among financial institutions, which are typically reluctant to provide loans to SMEs in the agroforestry and forestry sectors. Parallel to the development of actual business cases, Tropenbos Ghana and Tropenbos Indonesia therefore

Woman collecting food from an agroforestry plot, Batu Daya village, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. Photo: Irpan Lamago

started working with financial institutions to develop financial instruments that are suited to agroforestry and forestry SMEs, and to promote sustainability. This work already started to show results in 2021. In Indonesia, for example, the Semandang Jaya credit union, which serves around 50,000 clients in West and Central Kalimantan, formally adopted no-deforestation criteria in one of their loan application processes. This is a key step in achieving climate-smart landscapes.

Finance for Integrated Landscape Management: Processes that support integrated landscape initiatives and make access to finance more inclusive

Integrated landscape initiatives have shown promising potential to mobilize and support diverse stakeholders across sectors to work jointly toward shared objectives. However, few integrated landscape initiatives have had access to the finance needed to achieve their goals. There is a clear mismatch between the supply side of private impact investors and the demand side of sustainable land-use investments on the ground.

One of the major barriers to investments in integrated landscape initiatives is the perceived risk that investors associate with such investments. At the same time, there are cases where investments are available, but do not support shared landscape objectives (social, economic and environmental). Pilot applications of a methodology to analyze financial flows at the landscape level showed that, in some landscapes, private finance was readily available, but only a small proportion of it was geared to objectives that aligned with integrated landscape management.

Tropenbos International, together with World Agroforestry (ICRAF), developed a methodology that helps identify the key stakeholders linked to financial flows for integrated landscape management, their perspectives and motivations, and the mechanisms used to channel funding from investors through brokers or intermediaries to individuals or recipient groups who support integrated landscape initiatives. The methodology emphasizes identifying and assessing the risks and barriers perceived by various stakeholder groups; the range of strategies they employ to reduce or overcome these barriers; and the extent to which these strategies have succeeded.

Aerial view of Kamora village, Ketapang, Indonesia. Photo: Irpan Lamago

Increasing the role of forests and trees in national climate plans

TBI aspires to increase the role of forest and tree-based strategies in national plans to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation goals, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In 2021 TBI's efforts started showing the first promising results.

Agroforestry and forestry can help to simultaneously achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives, because trees and forests absorb carbon while also reducing people's vulnerability to the effects of climate change. In national climate plans, however, forest- and tree-based strategies are often mentioned only in relation to mitigation, focussing on conservation and restoration of forest areas. Little is noted about the sustainable use of trees and forests, and their importance for local people in changing climate conditions. In the view of TBI this is a missed opportunity, especially considering that large parts of the world's forest lands are assigned to community use.

To support forest- and tree-based strategies for climate objectives, TBI aims to influence Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), in which countries document their climate targets and the ways they intend to achieve them.

Governments are expected to revise their NDCs every five years, which offers opportunities for improvements. However, it has been difficult for TBI to be involved in these revisions. NDC processes are often coordinated by government agencies, leaving little room for significant inputs from non-governmental actors.

In 2021 several TBI members adapted their NDC-related strategies and stepped up their efforts. This has started to show results. Tropenbos Ghana, for example, facilitated a process through which civil society actors could provide feedback to the NDC, provided a platform for writing the forest sector commitment, and was tasked to write specific sections on community resource management areas and biodiversity conservation. Tropenbos Viet Nam realized it was not able to influence the revision process at the national level, and therefore shifted focus to provincial authorities. This proved to be a smart move, as provincial authorities highly appreciated the help with developing forest- and tree-based plans for NDC implementation. Inspired by the success of Tropenbos Viet Nam, Tropenbos Indonesia is now considering a similar strategy.

Arguably the biggest success was in Bolivia, where TBI's partner Instituto Boliviano de Investigación Forestal (IBIF) conducted an evaluation of the NDC and was then asked by the government to participate in the review and submission of its new NDC. In this capacity, IBIF managed to include the reduction of wildfires as an explicit ambition in the revised NDC, stressing the need for better fire management. Following IBIF's recommendations, the government included a section on an implementation mechanism for realizing the NDC ambitions. Moreover, IBIF's landscape-level work, with a focus on community-based forest management, can function as a showcase for the mitigation and adaptation strategy that is outlined in the revised NDC. In this way, IBIF's landscape work will help

Puerto Córdoba rapid, Caquetá river, Colombian Amazon. Photo: Felipe Gast

to achieve the ambitions set in the NDC, while at the same time serving as an inspiration for other locations in Bolivia.

In addition to these country-level achievements, the network-wide NDC team developed a method to assess the extent to which current NDCs are effectively addressing the conditions needed to support community forestry. In 2021 the method was successfully piloted in Suriname, and in 2022 it will be implemented in other countries. With the results, TBI aims to improve the NDC development guidelines used by international organizations that support countries with their revisions, such as the NDC partnership. Together, TBI's national and international efforts should ensure that NDCs provide a boost for locally led forest- and tree-based strategies to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation goals.

Fire-smart landscape governance programme

Across the tropics it is common for plantation companies and farmers to use fire to clear vegetation for agriculture. However, these fires often spiral out of control. The human tragedy, the loss of assets, and the impacts on health and the environment are tremendous. Firefighting efforts are often futile, and prohibiting the use of fire altogether has proven ineffective. There is thus a need for better approaches to effectively reduce the risk of wildfires. Recognizing this need, we developed an idea to apply the landscape approach to reduce fire risks and make landscapes less vulnerable. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs approved a proposal for a three-year programme to implement this in our focus landscapes. The new programme is based on the concept of fire-smart territories, where stakeholders work together to develop locally appropriate strategies to manage the use of fire as an agricultural practice, while reducing the risk of wildfires. Such strategies take account of local ecological, climatic, and cultural factors. The programme is implemented in several landscapes that are grappling with recurring and destructive fires. In 2021 we started in Bolivia and Indonesia, where local governments had requested our help with developing approaches to prevent fires. The story below highlights the initial achievements in Indonesia.

Forest fires in Para State, Brazil. Photo: ©Fernando Martinho - stock.adobe.com

Preparing for a different approach to preventing fires in Indonesia

In Ketapang, Indonesia, fires keep recurring on drained peatlands, with devastating effects. Preventing them requires restoring water levels, but government officials, companies and farmers have long resisted this approach, fearing it would compromise the economy. In 2021, Tropenbos Indonesia managed to change their minds — a crucial first step towards structural fire prevention.

In Indonesia, recurring fires result in environmental destruction, greenhouse gas emissions and economic losses. Moreover, the haze causes widespread health problems and tensions with neighbouring countries. Fires are especially severe in peatlands that were logged and drained. Drained peat is highly flammable, providing a huge supply of fuel for fires. In the past, the government opened up these areas for agriculture and transmigration, without a clear understanding of the risks this entailed. Today, fires keep returning, with devastating effects.

Ketapang District in West Kalimantan has large areas of drained peat that are designated as agricultural lands. Fires occur every year, mostly in abandoned areas, where fire is used to clear the vegetation to prepare for cultivation. The fires often get out of control, and spread into neighbouring areas, causing a lot of damage. In 2020, the Ketapang District government approached Tropenbos Indonesia to develop a strategy for fire prevention and suppression. For Tropenbos Indonesia, it was clear that the focus should be on structurally reducing fire risks. This would require restoring the peatlands into a humid state by blocking existing drainage canals and improving water management.

However, Tropenbos Indonesia soon found out that the term "peatland restoration" raised a lot of suspicion among stakeholders in the landscape, who thought of it as a conservation effort that would ultimately have negative consequences for the economy. To achieve structural change, these stakeholders needed to be brought on board, but this felt like fighting an uphill battle.

In 2021 the efforts of Tropenbos Indonesia received a major boost when the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs approved an initiative to reduce wildfire risks as part of the Working Landscapes programme. This allowed Tropenbos Indonesia to step up its efforts. It managed to facilitate an agreement between the district government and the national Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency, which opened the door for additional resources from the national government. At the same time, Tropenbos Indonesia successfully lobbied the district government to formalize a special taskforce, ensuring the commitment of the relevant government agencies to work with other stakeholders on the prevention of fires. The taskforce, together with a widely felt urgency, brought government agencies, NGOs, companies and smallholders around the table, with Tropenbos Indonesia as the convenor.

Considered a neutral and trusted partner by all other stakeholders, Tropenbos Indonesia managed to gradually

Canal blocking as part of peatland restoration in Ketapang District, Indonesia. Photo: Irpan Lamago

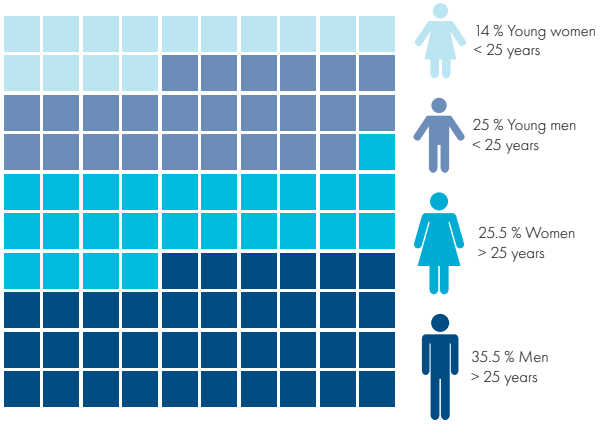
introduce the concept of peatland restoration to the taskforce members. Part of this effort was to show that rewetting would not compromise the production of existing plantations. By treating the topic carefully, listening to all the stakeholders' concerns, and sharing information, Tropenbos Indonesia managed to get the message across.

By the end of 2021, all taskforce members agreed that fire prevention would have to be based on peatland restoration. This was a key achievement, providing the foundation for the actual rewetting of the peatlands, to eventually reduce the risk of fires there.

Outreach and engagement

Tropenbos International engaged in a wide range of outreach initiatives to build bridges between communities, researchers, practitioners and policymakers.

More than **105** events organized with more than **13,098** participants
(Stakeholder meetings, seminars, conferences and exibihitions)



Disaggregated percentages of event participants by gender and age group

48 workshops and trainings with more than **1,976** participants

19 webinars with more than **8,466** participants

21 multistakeholder meetings with more than **492** participants

Tropenbos International also had a strong presence on social media:

1,576 likes on Facebook

1,507 followers on Twitter

5,862 followers on LinkedIn

7,020 videos viewed on YouTube

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Interviews

Community-based monitoring and enforcement is key to conservation - In conversation with Marieke van der Zon. Interview by Koen Kusters (13 December, 2021)

Partnership between Tropenbos International and the Forest Foundation Philippines results in mutual learning - A conversation between René Boot and Jose Andres Canivel. Interview by Koen Kusters (25 November 2021)

Community forestry is central to Bolivia's climate plans, but bottlenecks remain- In conversation with Humberto Gómez Cerveró. Interview by Koen Kusters (4 November 2021).

Community forest land allocation can help to achieve climate objectives in Viet Nam - In conversation with Tran Nam Thang. Interview by Koen Kusters (1 November 2021).

In the Philippines, community forestry can help the climate agenda, and vice versa - In conversation with Heidi Mendoza. Interview by Koen Kusters (28 October 2021).

Forests are at the forefront of Bolivia's revised Nationally Determined Contribution - In conversation with Humberto Gomez Cervero. Interview by Koen Kusters (14 July 2021).

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Sharing landscape experiences - Interview with Edwin Huizing. Interview by Koen Kusters (3 June 2021).

Blog

Kusters, K. (2021, 13 December 2021) Increasing access to finance for sustainable forestry and agroforestry businesses - Five questions about a new and innovative TBI programme.

Kusters, K. (2021, 30 September 2021) When promoting climate-smart landscapes, make sure to listen to farmers first

Videos

- Community forest rights in Philippines
- Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) in Sefwi-Suhenso
- The Role of Credit Union in Financing Farmers Group in West Kalimantan

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 International Network members and staff has been in place. It consists of a code of conduct and a complaints procedure. TBI strives for a professional culture 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 2021 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 2021 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

TBI has a policy of inclusion and equality that applies to the whole network. In its programmes TBI has mainstreamed attention to gender and youth, which means that all planned activities consider the specific perspectives and needs of women and youth. Since 2020 a Gender and Youth team, with representatives of all TBI network members, has been in place to ensure diversity and inclusion throughout the network.

Financial summary

In 2021, TBI received major programme funding from the Directorate General for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) of the Netherlands. 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.

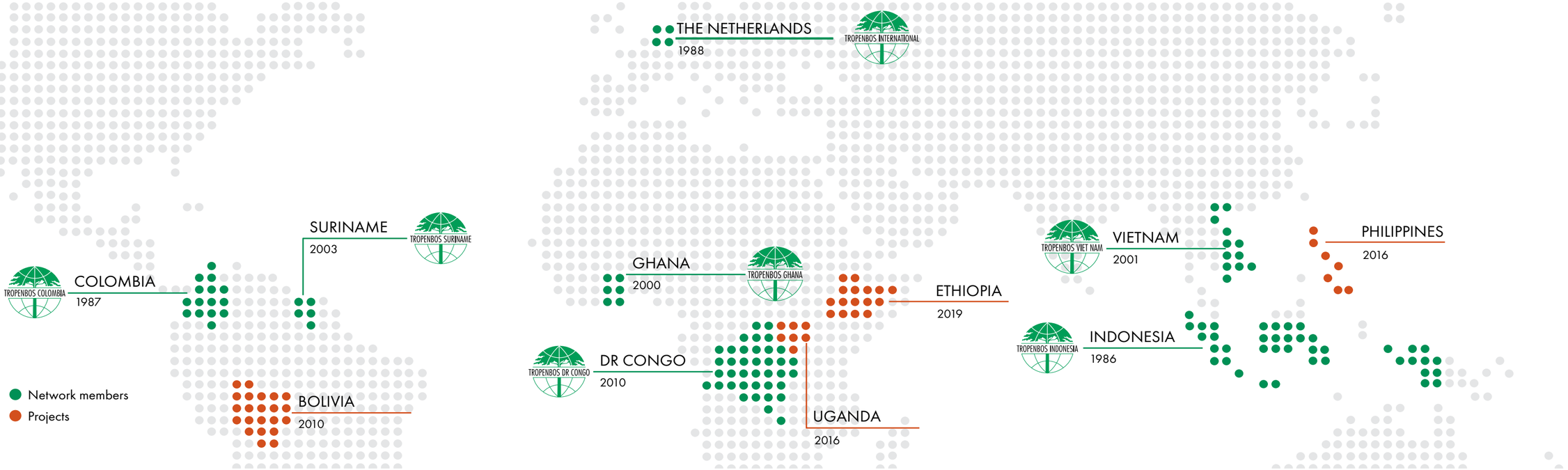
Revenues

	€000	% of total
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) of the Netherlands	4,473	90.4
CGIAR Research on forest, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA)	188	3.8
Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO)	85	1.7
Dutch Postcode Lottery	50	1
European Union (EU)	46	0.9
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands (LNV)	39	0.8
Projects	65	1.4
Total	**4,946**	**100**

Expenditures

	€000	% of total
Programmes	4,000	80.9
Projects	425	8.6
Organizational costs	521	10.5
Total	**4,946**	**100**

Landscape near Yang Mao commune in Krong Bong district, Viet Nam. Photo: Phan Thi Thuy Nhi



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)
Founding CEO IMS Foundation

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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Bogotá, Colombia
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Tropenbos DR Congo
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Kisangani, DR Congo
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Tropenbos Ghana
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Kumasi, Ghana
www.tropenbosghana.org

Yayasan Tropenbos Indonesia
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Bogor, Indonesia
www.tropenbos-indonesia.org

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Agricultural plot in Guarayos, Bolivia. Photo: Miguel Manchego

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Cover photo: Collecting palm wine, Bopuo, Lisala, Mongala Province, DR Congo. Photo. Joseph Bolongo; **Photo page 2:** Landscape in North West Viet Nam. Photo: ©degist/ stock.adobe.com; **Photo page 3:** Smallholder oil palm plantation in Simpang Dua, Indonesia. Photo: Irpan Lamago; **Back cover**: Landscape with dried paddies and the Manjau forest near the village of Laman Satong, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. Photo: Irpan Lamago

By making knowledge work for people and forest, 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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