



# Making knowledge work for people and forests

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Annual Review 2023



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# About Tropenbos International

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## Thriving, resilient and biodiverse landscapes

We envision thriving, resilient and biodiverse landscapes across the forested tropics, where land is used sustainably, and local communities exercise their rights and participate equitably in decision making.

## Supporting locally owned solutions in frontier landscapes

We support locally owned solutions for thriving, resilient and biodiverse landscapes at the forest-agriculture frontier, through evidence based dialogue, collaborative action and improved decision making.

## Our goal

By 2030, we aim to improve governance and management of 20 million hectares of tropical forested landscapes, benefiting at least 5 million people and supporting global climate and biodiversity goals.

## A global network

TBI is 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.



Youth planting trees in Yang Tao commune, Dak Lak province, Viet Nam. © Tropenbos Viet Nam



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Forest and agroforestry near Sinar Kuri Village, Ketapang, West Kalimantan. © Ipan Lamago

## Message from the Chair and Executive Director

Tropical forests are vital for life on Earth, harbouring unique biodiversity, regulating the climate, and providing livelihood opportunities for 1.6 billion people. However, unsustainable land use is driving deforestation and degradation at alarming rates. At Tropenbos International, we are dedicated to reversing this trend by strengthening communities in implementing locally owned solutions for sustainable forest governance and management, benefiting both people and forests.

Our 2023–2027 strategy outlines ambitious goals to double our impact by 2030, aiming to improve the governance and management of at least 20 million hectares of tropical forest landscapes, benefiting the livelihoods of at least five million people while contributing to global climate and biodiversity goals. We focus on three key impact areas: community forest management and conservation, participatory forest and landscape restoration, and diversified production systems.

In 2023, we reflected on how the Tropenbos International Network is achieving the goals of our overall strategy. Based on this, we began a transition where members take a pivotal role in ensuring a locally impactful, globally relevant network that is equitable, accountable, financially sustainable, and widely visible. We also laid the groundwork for IBIF, our partner in Bolivia, to become the eighth Network member, joining the current members in Indonesia, Viet Nam, DR Congo, Ghana, Suriname, Colombia, and the Netherlands.



Over the past year, evaluations of the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) and Working Landscapes (WL) programmes have demonstrated positive results, and we secured an additional two years of funding for the WL programme. Together, our programmes have made significant strides across all impact areas and goals outlined in the strategy.

We supported communities in securing land rights and implementing sustainable forest management practices in DR Congo, Indonesia, and Bolivia, among others. We made progress with the participatory productive restoration (PPR) approach in Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Indonesia. By promoting diversified production systems, such as agroforestry, we advanced sustainable land-use practices and supported farmers in Ghana, Indonesia, Suriname, and Viet Nam. Internationally, we raised awareness about the impacts of the 2023 EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) on smallholders in tropical forest landscapes.

We firmly believe that collective action and stakeholder engagement are essential for addressing the challenges facing tropical forests and fostering resilient, biodiverse landscapes. We therefore continue to share our experiences, lessons learned, and best practices to contribute to the sustainable management and equitable governance of tropical forests worldwide.

We acknowledge that although attention for climate change and biodiversity soared in the past years, funding is barely reaching the grassroots. Additionally, we anticipate a reduction in ODA funding due to political changes within the Dutch government, our main donor, as well as in Europe in general. This poses an extra challenge for the Network to diversify its funding and reduce costs to assure continuity at the grassroots level.

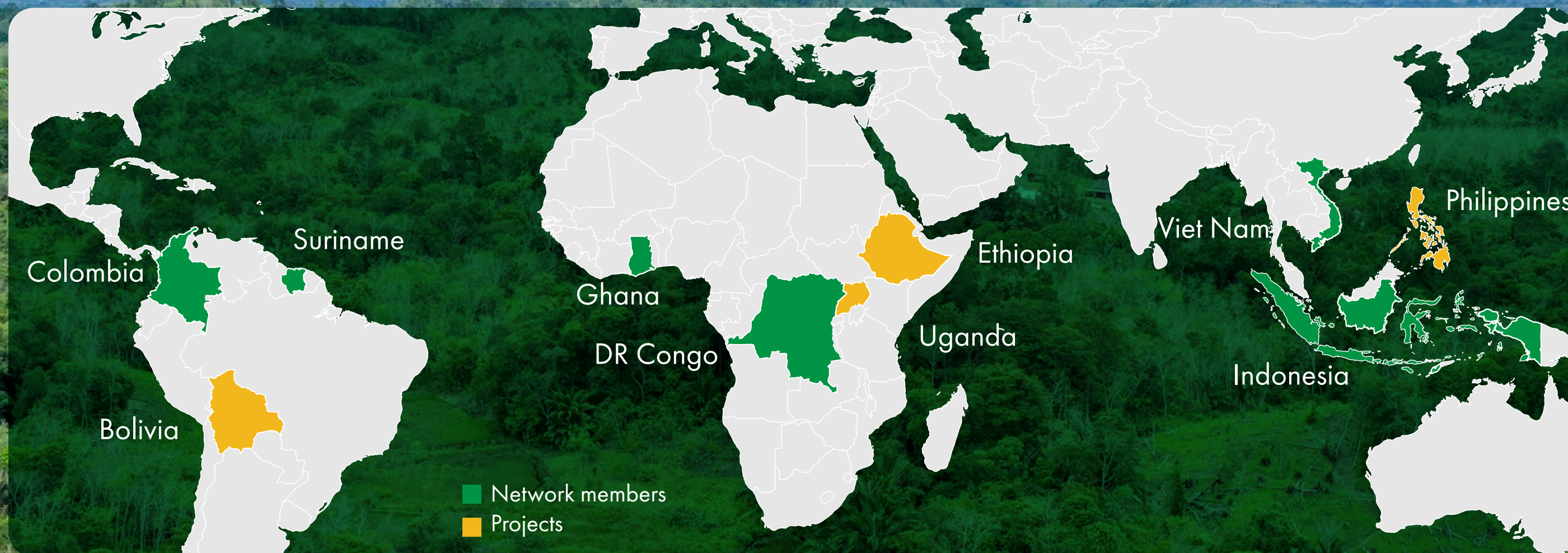
We are pleased to present Tropenbos International's 2023 annual review. In these pages, you can learn more about our aspirations, achievements, and the ongoing challenges. Together, we can make a difference and secure a brighter future for tropical forests and the communities that depend on them. Thank you for your support and collaboration in our mission to protect and restore these vital landscapes.

**Edwin Huizing**  
Chair

**Joost van Montfort**  
Executive Director



# We work in frontier landscapes around the world



## Impact

*Estimated cumulative impact since 2019, applying TBI's impact measurement system:*

Land use practices and governance improved on over **16,4 million** hectares in our focus landscapes.

More than **243,000** people benefited from improved land-use practices and better governance.

We made **44** contributions to changes in policies, regulations and investments concerning inclusive and sustainable development.

## Reach in 2023

**70** publications

**100.000+** website page views

More than **20,000** reached on social media

**134** events organized

**7,400** participants in events

## Revenue

In 2023 EUR **8,814,560** was the estimated total revenue for the TBI network





Forests around Batu Daya Village, West Kalimantan. © Irpan Lamago

## Strategy 2023-2027

### Making knowledge work for people and forests

Tropenbos International envisions a future in which communities equitably benefit from the sustainable use of forests in thriving, resilient, and biodiverse landscapes. This is best achieved by helping communities conserve, sustainably manage, and restore forest as the foundation of their livelihoods and the local economy.

In our 2023-2027 strategy, we set out the ambition to help develop and apply locally owned, evidence-based solutions that improve the inclusive and equitable governance and management of forested landscapes in the tropics, benefiting local sustainable development, biodiversity and the climate.

By 2030, we will double our impact. We want to improve the governance and management of at least **20 million hectares** of tropical forested landscapes. This will benefit the livelihoods of at least **five million people**, while also contributing to global climate and biodiversity objectives.

## We focus on three key impact areas:



**Community forest management and conservation**, aiming to increase the extent of forest areas under community management and conservation, while securing rights, sustainable incomes, and strong governance for local communities.



**Participatory forest and landscape restoration**, aiming to initiate and scale bottom-up, participatory restoration models.



**Diversified production systems**, aiming to replace monoculture agriculture with smallholder-driven agroforestry models and deforestation-free sustainable agriculture.

## We are a global network of local organizations

Over the last 30 years, we have evolved into a global network of partners across the dry and humid tropics, with a secretariat in the Netherlands. Each partner is deeply embedded in one or more landscapes, with a long history of working with stakeholders to develop locally owned solutions to landscape-specific challenges.

## Six steps to lasting change

Our starting point is the landscape approach. We facilitate evidence-based dialogue, collaborative learning and collective action among landscape stakeholders. Building on these efforts, we inform and influence policies and practices at various levels, from local to national. We work closely with communities, civil society organizations, researchers, businesses and governments, in order to:



**Understand:** We gather and analyze evidence about landscape challenges and locally owned solutions by combining traditional and scientific knowledge.



**Connect:** We connect stakeholders within and beyond landscapes to facilitate dialogue and collaborative learning for collective action.



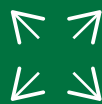
**Show what works:** We co-create, test and demonstrate locally owned solutions, such as more equitable governance arrangements and innovative business models for agroforestry and forest restoration.



**Influence:** We influence governments and companies to adopt policies and practices that support thriving, resilient, and biodiverse landscapes.



**Enable stakeholders:** We strengthen local stakeholders' capacity for sustainable practices, equitable governance, and improved landscape management.



**Leverage:** We form partnerships with other organizations that complement our capacities and help scale up solutions for thriving, resilient, and biodiverse landscapes.





## Community forest management and conservation

Humanity faces challenges from deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change, and the international community is focusing on investing in solutions such as protecting and conserving forest lands and other ecosystems. We believe that Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and local communities should play a vital role in addressing these environmental issues; lands managed by them show greater ecological health and less deforestation than other areas.

By 2030, our goal is that, with our support, Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and

local communities in our focal landscapes have secured their land rights, strengthened their governance, and have more diverse options for income from sustainable management. To achieve this, we use a collaborative approach that integrates a range of knowledge systems and considers different interests. We empower communities to be stewards of their lands by strengthening capacities, building a shared vision, and improving policies and practices through lobbying and advocacy.

By the end of 2023, our work with Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and local communities had resulted in more than **1,08 million hectares** under improved community forest management, which includes better governance, greater land rights and increased sustainable management. Over **26,5 thousand Indigenous, Afro-descendants and local communities** had become involved in, and can now benefit from, improved community forest management.



## Examples of achievements in 2023

In 2023, we successfully strengthened community tenure rights, governance, and income-earning opportunities throughout our focus landscapes. We also established broad collaboration and commitment among stakeholders. All of this was key to ensure the long-term success of community forest management and conservation.

### *Clear and robust land and forest tenure*

We advocated for policies that recognize the rights of Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities and supported communities in formalizing their land and forest rights. By strengthening their tenure rights, we ensured that communities have long-term incentives to manage forests responsibly, benefit from sustainable management, and are better able to prevent unsustainable use by external actors.

In Bafwasende, DR Congo, our partner Tropenbos DR Congo collaborated with various stakeholders and nine communities. After more than three years of advocacy and lobbying, they **secured more than 320,000 ha** of forest through the country's community forest concession programme.

In Ketapang District, Indonesia, our partner Tropenbos Indonesia assisted **three Dayak communities** in securing their rights by registering more than 3,000 ha of forest as

Indigenous people's community conserved areas (ICCAs). Dayak communities rely heavily on forests for their livelihoods and culture, and they believe that ICCAs will prevent the expansion of oil palm and mining onto their lands and allow them to re-establish their customary forest management practices.

In Colombia, we raised awareness of land rights and different types of land tenure among peasant communities in the Solano landscape, Caquetá Department. While, in Suriname, we worked with the Association of Saamaka Authorities (VSG) to strengthen their capacities for territorial governance and securing collective land rights. In 2023, the **Saamaka women's organization U Fiti** received leadership training, so that they could advocate for land rights and environmental protection for their forest lands.

### *Community governance of forests and lands*

We helped communities across our focus landscapes strengthen the governance of forests and lands, based on a shared vision for the future, supported by the creation of territorial plans, and ensuring that all community members can participate effectively and equitably. We paid particular attention to young people, as the future guardians of the forest.

In the Philippines, our partner the Forest Foundation Philippines was one of the organizers of a BioChamps youth camp,



Community members participating in a fire awareness meeting in the Bugoma Landscape, Uganda. © Brian McDonald



bringing together more than 60 youths from local communities and from the Palaw'an and Tagbanwa Indigenous groups. These participants developed a youth agenda focused on forest conservation and advocacy. Later in the year, some of these youth participants vied for government positions and won, ensuring that their agenda would be represented in their local legislative bodies.

In Viet Nam, our partner Tropenbos Viet Nam supported Indigenous peoples and local communities to develop and implement a community development plan. The plan includes initiatives such as **restoring watershed forests** and reviving traditional **pottery craft** as an economic activity.

### ***Income generation***

We supported income generation and more equitable sharing of income from sustainable community forest management and conservation. In Bolivia, for example, three community-based forestry organizations were able to certify **timber production in 200,000 ha of forest** under the Bolivian Forest Certification and Incentives System, demonstrating their commitment to sustainable management and to their ancestral territory. This certification is expected to provide them with greater access to timber markets.

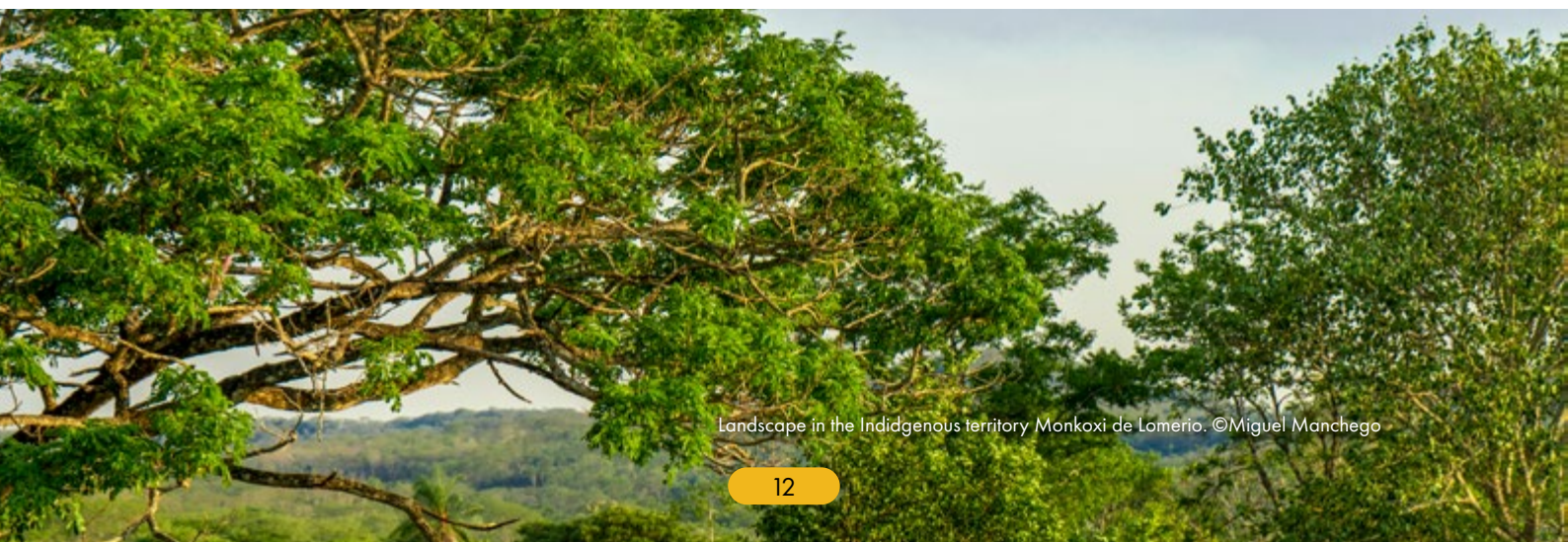
In West Kalimantan, Indonesia, support from our partner Tropenbos Indonesia and investments from Rimba Collective helped **local communities and village forest management committees** increase their capacity to conserve and restore forests and to develop sustainable businesses.

### ***Support for community forest management***

To strengthen collective commitment and cooperation among stakeholders in support of community forest management, we advocated for integrating community forest management in landscape-level planning and decision-making processes. For example, we supported **young people from Amazonia in Bolivia, Colombia and Suriname** to develop strategic actions related to knowledge, inclusion and impact, and well-being, to be included in programmes in the region.

To deal with the wide range of interests among landscape stakeholders — and the possible conflicts that may arise — we organized network-wide training in conflict management. Together we conducted conflict analysis and reflected on the potential ways in which Tropenbos International or its partners can assist in conflict management.

As part of our network-wide learning process we examined the role of NGOs — including our own efforts — in community forestry initiatives. We reflected on the need for NGOs to help communities strengthen local governance structures in order to navigate the challenges posed by commercialization and external pressures. We concluded that NGOs can support communities by facilitating community discussions, negotiations, and interactions with external actors. In 2023 we shared the outcomes of our learning process through a **published paper** and **case studies**.



Landscape in the Indigenous territory Monkoxi de Lomerio. ©Miguel Manchego





Cocoa nursery in the CFCL of Barumbi-Ishopo, DR Congo. © Meshak Koy

## Impact story

# Empowering Communities: Securing Community Forest Concessions in Bafwasende, DR Congo

After dedicated efforts and persistence, nine local communities in Bafwasende, DR Congo have secured their rights to more than 320,000 hectares in the form of local community forest concessions (CFCLs). This was the result of more than three years of advocacy, lobbying and collaboration with various stakeholders, including our partner [Tropenbos DR Congo](#), as well as provincial and national authorities.

Faced with the problem of elites benefiting from forests and land at the expense of local communities, the government of DR Congo introduced CFCLs to empower communities to manage forests sustainably. A community can apply for a concession for up to 50,000 ha of forests traditionally owned by them. Once the concession is granted, a community is allowed to engage in sustainable management practices based on a locally developed and validated management plan in perpetuity.

Bafwasende is the largest forest territory in DR Congo. It covers 47,087 km<sup>2</sup> and 98% of it is forested. CFCLs present a vital opportunity for Bafwasende communities to secure their forests and lands. However, due to the complexity

of the process — including numerous technical and administrative challenges — the communities required support. Tropenbos DR Congo therefore helped them by building the capacity to develop management plans, raising awareness of their rights and guiding them through the process.

In December 2023, the provincial Governor of Tshopo finally signed the decrees for nine communities. The long-awaited allocation of the community forest concessions has brought hope and empowerment to the communities of Bafwasende, allowing them to manage their forests sustainably and protect their lands.





Members of U Fiti, Upper Suriname River area, Suriname. © Sara Ramirez

## Impact story

### U Fiti: Saamaka women lead the way for their community in Suriname

In Suriname a group of Saamaka women are a shining example of what empowered women can achieve when they come together and work towards a common goal. They have transformed themselves from a small group of women with a vision into a powerful force for change in their community.

In 2022 they formed an organization called U Fiti ("Women qualified") to have more opportunities and to participate more actively with the Association of Saamaka Authorities (VSG) in local decision-making and local territorial governance.

In 2023, [Tropenbos Suriname](#) strengthened the women in U Fiti through leadership training. The women learned about tools for effective and inclusive leadership; this has helped them become more engaged in advocacy for land rights and environmental protection and in awareness campaigns. In November 2023 one young woman, together with the VSG, participated in a hearing at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, where they made a strong statement on the urgency of protecting the rights of the

Saamaka people. U Fiti has taken the lead in mobilizing community members to act against logging multinationals in their territories. The group has also created awareness among the Saamaka community of land rights and of the need to demand legal recognition and support for sustainable management.

Their efforts are reaching other communities and areas in Suriname. For example, group members are organizing cultural and knowledge exchanges with women from the district of Coronie in the country's coastal area to encourage them to build meaningful entrepreneurship networks.

As they look to the future, the women of U Fiti know that their work is far from over. They are determined to continue fighting for their rights and the rights of their people, and to create a better future for the next generation of Saamaka women.





## Impact story

# Certification of forest management by Indigenous communities in Guarayos, Bolivia

Deep in the forests of Guarayos, Bolivia, lies an invaluable treasure: lush vegetation, diverse wildlife, and the unwavering commitment of three Indigenous community forest organizations (CFOs) dedicated to its protection.

These organizations achieved a significant milestone by certifying their forest management plans through the Bolivian Forest Certification and Incentives System (SBCBI). Their goal was to enhance market access and demonstrate their dedication to sustainable forest management, safeguarding their ancestral territory: their home and their livelihood.

To meet SBCBI's rigorous standards, the [Instituto Boliviano de Investigación Forestal](#) (IBIF) and TBI provided crucial support through technical assistance, training, and innovative solutions to tackle specific challenges. This collaboration strengthened the organizations' sustainable forest management, improved internal governance, and enhanced timber traceability. Moreover, it fostered a collective effort towards environmental conservation that benefits the entire Indigenous territory.

An SBCBI assessment of the 200,000 hectares managed by these CFOs confirmed their adherence to high standards of conservation and environmental responsibility through effective natural resource management. The CFOs of Guarayos exemplify how economic benefits can coexist with environmental protection, proving that sustainable development is both a shared responsibility and a compelling opportunity. In the forests of Guarayos, this story will echo for generations, reminding us that caring for the environment is essential for the future.





## Impact story

# Supporting village forest management committees in West Kalimantan

In West Kalimantan, Indonesia, landscapes comprise diverse forest ecosystems. Peatlands, peat swamps and primary forests are home to rich biodiversity and a wealth of endangered species. These landscapes provide important ecosystem services such as clean water, and support diverse livelihoods.

These valuable forests are threatened by encroachment, wildfires, illegal logging, illegal gold mining, land clearing for agriculture, and expansion of oil palm plantations. To address these challenges, it is imperative to strengthen the capacities of local communities and village forest management committees.

Since 2022, **Tropenbos Indonesia** has combined the work of three of its programmes — the **Green Livelihoods Alliance**, **Working Landscapes** and **Mobilizing More for Climate** — to support community-based forest management in four forest villages: Sungai Pelang, Sungai Besar, Pematang Gadung and Pangkalan Telok. The goal is to preserve the remaining forests and restore degraded areas. At the beginning of 2023, the four village forest management committees, Tropenbos Indonesia and Lestari Capital, the fund manager of Rimba Collective, signed an agreement. Through the agreement, Tropenbos Indonesia commits to supporting the villages

in managing, conserving and restoring peat forests, and in developing sustainable businesses. Rimba Collective provides annual results-based payments that cover the costs of conservation and restoration and contribute to community well-being. This approach aligns with the broader goals of the country's social forestry programme.

Tropenbos Indonesia's support has increased the institutional capacity of these management units. And investments by Rimba Collective enable the future implementation of effective forest protection and monitoring systems. Moreover, Tropenbos Indonesia and Rimba Collective have engaged with local stakeholders through environmental awareness activities and planting campaigns. Through these efforts, village forest management committees have acquired the information and expertise they need to implement restoration efforts.

As the second year of the agreement begins, these collaborative efforts are poised to make a lasting impact.



***Rooted progress – Marking the first year of a community-based sustainable forest management programme in Ketapang Indonesia***





Participants of the youth exchange. © Miguel Manchego

## Impact story

# From and for youth: young leaders from the Amazon outline their priorities

In 2023 in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, youth from Amazonia in Bolivia, Colombia and Suriname met to discuss their experiences. During the five-day exchange the participants learned from each other, got to know more about the Monkoxi Indigenous people, and shared information.

With their shared experiences as context, the group jointly defined three strategic actions from and for Amazon youth, which they presented to the TBI network:

1. Know to defend: It is important for Amazon youth to know their territory, including biophysical information, traditional knowledge from elders, and governance structures. The youth assert that when they know their ancestral land and the challenges they have endured to obtain rights to it, they will care more about it.
2. Inclusion and impact: Youth in all programmes should have an opportunity to formulate their own agenda (environmental and political) on relevant topics at the local, national and international level.
3. Vivir bonito ("to have well-being"): This relates to land, territory, management, economy and livelihoods, as well as physical and mental health. The cultural meaning of these aspects is gradually being Westernized or even being lost. Amazon youth urgently call for support to strengthen the economy through productive initiatives that do not disrupt — but on the contrary, strengthen — their cultural identity and sense of belonging.

After the exchange, the participants formed a core group to start working on these strategic actions, and to be united in defence of their territories. The youth believe that if they are connected to each other, they can share solutions and create regional awareness. They feel that if they collaborate with a common agenda, and they have the skills and opportunities to participate in civic processes, their voices will be heard.



**From and for youth: Young leaders from the Amazon outline their priorities**





## A landscape approach to fire management

In tropical regions, fires set by farmers and plantation companies to clear land often burn out of control, becoming destructive wildfires. The human tragedy, loss of assets, and impacts on health and the environment are devastating. Firefighting efforts frequently prove futile, and outright bans on the use of fire have not been effective. It is clear that a different approach is needed.

In response to this urgent need to reduce wildfire risks, we introduced a programme in 2021 that is based on the concept of fire-smart landscapes. Using this innovative landscape-level approach we started bringing stakeholders together to develop customized strategies for fire management. In this way, we not only address the risks posed by wildfires but also lay the foundation for a more sustainable and resilient future.

By the end of 2023 our work to reduce wildfire risks already had significant results, with improved fire-smart practices implemented on more than **9,7 million hectares** of land, benefiting over **21,3 thousand people**.

### Examples of achievements in 2023

We have made strides towards safer and more fire-resilient landscapes through collective action to fire management, by focussing on collaborative learning, empowering communities, inclusive governance, and improving policies and practices.

#### *Collaborative learning*

In an example of collaborative learning, representatives from all five programme countries — Bolivia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia and Uganda — **gathered in 2023** in Ketapang District, Indonesia, to share experiences in and insights on this landscape approach to fire management. Additionally, we participated in the **8th International Wildland Fire Conference** in Portugal, which allowed us to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders and showcase the programme's impacts.

To better understand wildfire management in Ethiopia, our partner, the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA), **reviewed** the challenges surrounding



wildfire management and laid the groundwork for a national fire management strategy.

### ***Empowering communities***

Community involvement is key to successful wildfire management, as demonstrated in Ghana and Uganda. In Ghana the programme's community awareness and education initiatives have led to a significant reduction in wildfire incidents in the landscapes of Juaboso-Bia, Sefwi-Wiawso, Atebubu and Kintampo. Programme staff trained around 400 community fire volunteers, and district and regional fire management committees were formed. Through these training programmes and public campaigns, community fire volunteers were able to educate and empower local communities. This resulted in a notable decrease in reported fires, from 1,050 in 2022 to 513 in 2023. In Uganda, a private sugar company engaged with local communities to create firebreaks, showcasing a positive outcome of collaborative action.

### ***Inclusive governance***

Shared governance and collaboration are essential to mitigate wildfire risks on a broader scale. Collaborative efforts by our partner IBIF with Indigenous organizations in the Guarayos and Chiquitania landscapes in Bolivia led to the implementation of inclusive fire-smart

strategies and community monitoring systems. This has resulted in the control of at least 67 fire outbreaks. In the Bugoma landscape, Uganda, ongoing efforts between Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA), local authorities, private companies and communities have culminated in the development of a comprehensive fire management strategy. This strategy is now being scaled up to the national level, with key authorities taking the lead in implementing effective fire prevention measures.

### ***Improving policies***

Policy development is crucial in shaping wildfire management practices. In Ethiopia, a National Fire Management Strategy was implemented. This was a significant milestone, with federal and regional authorities working together to endorse and implement the strategy. Similarly, in Ghana, the fire-smart programme's influence on national policies has formalized the involvement of community fire volunteers, solidifying their role in national fire management efforts. In Indonesia the national peatland and mangrove restoration agency, together with Tropenbos Indonesia, built on the results of the programme's interventions and developed a regional master plan on fire prevention in peatlands for Ketapang District.



Community members and sugarcane company employees working together to create a firebreak. © Brian McDonald





## Participatory forest and landscape restoration

Deforestation and land degradation are major contributors to climate change and biodiversity loss, with impacts on the livelihoods of at least one billion people around the world. Over two billion hectares of land are currently degraded worldwide. These lands have a high potential for restoration, but to be successful restoration initiatives require participation by local people and direct benefits for their communities.

Taking these two requirements into account our goal is that by 2030 global restoration efforts adopt participatory productive models on a large scale, leading to increased bottom-up initiatives. We aim to see landscape restoration efforts benefiting local communities in the tropics, while also contributing to climate

change mitigation and adaptation as well as biodiversity conservation.

Our work emphasizes the importance of restoring areas for crop diversity, generating additional income and of improving water and food security. Since 2019 we have promoted and successfully implemented a participatory productive restoration (PPR) approach in Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia and Viet Nam. Our progress includes policy changes in Ethiopia and Indonesia, signalling widespread restoration efforts in drylands and peatlands. In Colombia, PPR has gained recognition as a viable alternative to conventional top-down restoration approaches.

Due to our work, by the end of 2023, over **314 thousand hectares** of degraded land were restored through participatory efforts. These efforts involved and benefited more than **23,9 thousand people**.



## Examples of achievements in 2023

In 2023 we improved our understanding of the status and potential of PPR initiatives through a stocktaking review. At the same time, we continued working in the focus landscapes, supporting the implementation of PPR initiatives. Finally, where possible, we helped governments to incorporate PPR in their policies and plans.

### *Stocktaking*

In 2023, we carried out a stocktaking review of PPR. It showed that direct restoration had taken place on a small scale (about 20,000 ha) across four countries (Colombia, Ghana, Viet Nam and Indonesia), but also revealed that the use of PPR is gaining traction in the landscapes where we work. In all cases multistakeholder dialogues have been key in creating the conditions that support PPR initiatives.

The PPR review emphasized the importance of strengthening legal frameworks and enforcement, particularly in Bolivia, Ethiopia, and Ghana, as this is vital for creating a supportive context. The review also stressed the need to improve economic incentives and market conditions to make restoration financially viable. Additionally, it highlighted the importance of addressing competing land-use demands through alternative livelihood options, such as agroforestry and ecotourism. Finally, leveraging favorable environmental conditions and maintaining strong community engagement were deemed critical. The findings from the review helped us refine our strategies and focus resources where they are most needed.

### *Support for local PPR initiatives*

Throughout 2023 we continued working on restoration initiatives at the landscape level

that use the PPR approach. In Colombia, for example, we have been supporting many local PPR initiatives. Among the outcomes of these efforts is a growing interest in sustainable production systems among young people from peasant communities. This youth participation in restoration initiatives was highlighted in a series of documentaries, produced by young people from the landscape with the support of Tropenbos Colombia. This not only resulted in a **documentary series** that draws attention to restoration, but also built capacities and empowered the participating youth. In Ghana we built capacity for locally-led restoration, which ultimately led to increased tree cover. In Indonesia, tree nurseries were established as part of an effort to restore state forest areas. In Viet Nam, we collaborated with forest owners and communities, resulting in advanced restoration plans.

### *Improving government policies and plans*

By collaborating with and lobbying governments, we aim to improve their plans and policies, making them more conducive to PPR initiatives. Our influence on government policies is most evident in Ethiopia, where our partner, the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA), has been instrumental in the development and adoption of the **Ethiopian National Drylands Restoration Strategy**. In 2023, PENHA has been supporting regional governments in developing regional restoration strategies, based on the national strategy, but taking into account local social, cultural, political, and ecological specificities. This work serves as an example of how sharing knowledge and promoting collaboration with governments is key to supporting PPR on the ground.





## Impact story

# Fire, Earth, Water and Air: Stories of participatory productive restoration in Solano, Colombia

In 2023, a group of peasant and Indigenous youth engaged in PPR in Colombia's Solano landscape created the documentary series, *Fire, Earth, Water and Air: stories of participatory productive restoration in Solano*. The series presents peasant and Indigenous perspectives on the forested landscapes that they inhabit.

The group, composed of a dozen young men and women, discussed the four elements — fire, earth, water and air — in workshops to tell the stories of their territories. With support from **Tropenbos Colombia**, the group formulated plans to produce the documentary series and learned how to use the audiovisual equipment.

Throughout the documentary production, the young group collected testimonies across their communities, capturing a richness of intergenerational perspectives on the importance of forests and the value of restoration.

The series provides a locally based narrative of restoration benefits in the Solano landscape. The youth who produced it have found

empowerment in a region ravaged by the presence of agro-industrial interests and armed groups. It is a valuable record that preserves peasant and Indigenous environmental knowledge, and also represents resistance to external threats to their territories.

Producing the series strengthened the youths' connections to their landscape, and they acquired technical communication skills that will be useful in future projects. The documentary conveys the youths' broadened and enriched perspectives of the value of restoration in their landscapes, and in forested landscapes beyond Caquetá. This can inspire and broaden further restoration initiatives led by local people and youth.

The film was presented at the Mambe Film Festival in Florencia, Caquetá, in November 2023, and there are plans to present it at other festivals.



***Fire, Earth, Water and Air: Stories about participative productive restoration in Solano***



## Impact story

# Cascading the national drylands restoration strategy to the regional level, Ethiopia

The Ethiopian National Drylands Restoration Strategy is a pivotal initiative. It addresses the degradation of the extensive dryland regions, which comprise approximately 70% of the country's land area. Our partner, the **Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa** (PENHA), has made a crucial contribution to this endeavour, ensuring that the national-level strategy is adapted to regional contexts to maximize its effectiveness.

From the outset, PENHA facilitated a detailed and highly inclusive process, involving extensive community-level consultations and workshops across six regions. These efforts led to participation by diverse stakeholders, including forest user groups, pastoralists and traditional leaders. This bottom-up approach fostered broad support and local acceptance, which were essential to the strategy's success.

In 2023, PENHA continued this important work. It convened a four-day workshop in Addis Ababa to tailor the strategy to the specific environmental and social contexts of three regions: Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz and Tigray. The workshop highlighted the importance of addressing specific regional challenges, such as severe land degradation,

deforestation and the socioeconomic impacts of conflict. Since the workshop Amhara and Tigray have prepared regional strategies, and an official from the national government has been appointed to support their implementation.

In its work PENHA always emphasizes the necessity of integrating livelihood options with restoration efforts. This holistic approach ensures that poverty reduction and sustainable resource management go hand in hand. Amhara's regional strategy focuses on redefining dryland areas based on moisture indices, while Tigray's aims to restore war-damaged forests and incorporate water valuation into its restoration measures.

PENHA has been vital to this process. By fostering collaboration among national and regional stakeholders, PENHA ensures that efforts are coordinated and cohesive. Its work, supported by TBI and CIFOR-ICRAF, provides a successful model for developing and implementing sustainable development policies that are locally led and locally owned.



**Tailoring Ethiopia's Dryland Restoration Strategy to regional contexts**





## Diversified production systems

Many frontier areas in the forested tropics are experiencing a rapid expansion of plantations for agrocommodities such as palm oil, soy, coffee, cocoa and timber which leads to deforestation and reduced landscape diversity.

Our goal by 2030 is to reverse this trend by promoting sustainable production models that support smallholders, increase farmers' resilience and produce commodities without

causing more deforestation. We see the combination of trees and crops in diverse agroforestry systems as a particularly promising land-use. Such systems can improve livelihoods by increasing smallholders' resilience and food security, while also contributing to climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation, provided they do not expand at the expense of forests

By the end of 2023 our work has resulted in more than **175 thousand hectares** under diversified production systems, and over **122 thousand people** who are involved in and benefit from diversified production systems. Moreover, **33 business cases** have been identified and been strengthened in diversified production practices.



## Examples of achievements in 2023

In 2023 we collaborated with actors in the focus landscapes and beyond to help the transition towards diversified and deforestation-free production. We did this by supporting farmers to improve their land-use practices and strengthening the organization of smallholders. We also facilitated knowledge sharing and collaboration among stakeholders and worked with private actors to improve smallholders' access to finance and markets. At the international level, we focussed on raising awareness about the new EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

### ***Improved land-use practices and profitability***

For several years, we have worked with farmers to improve their land-use practices by raising awareness, building capacity to diversify production systems, and strengthening smallholder organizations. The results of this work became clearly visible in 2023. In Bafwasende, DR Congo, smallholders began earning income from cocoa farms established as agroforestry systems three years ago. In Ghana, a [women's cocoa cooperative](#) started converting cocoa waste into a valuable resource, creating a new income stream. In Viet Nam, farmers began [incorporating fruit trees into coffee systems](#), which provided additional revenue and reduced the need for inputs. In Indonesia, smallholder oil palm farmers prepared to comply with the Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) standard and legal requirements. Additionally, Tropenbos Indonesia organized farmer field schools to enhance rubber processing skills and helped rubber smallholders form a marketing unit to sell directly to buyers, increasing their bargaining power and income.

### ***Knowledge sharing and collaboration***

From our work in DR Congo, Ghana, Indonesia and Viet Nam we [have learned](#) that successful diversification of production systems requires knowledge sharing and collaboration among various stakeholders in the landscape and beyond. In 2023, we worked with landscape stakeholders and other relevant

actors at national, and international levels to promote zero-deforestation commitments and the broader adoption of diversified production systems. For example, to advance [agroforestry in Indonesia](#), we partnered with the Embassy of the Netherlands to foster collaboration among government agencies, NGOs/CSOs, the private sector, and academic institutions. We also [facilitated a visit](#) of a group of community leaders, farmers, and a cocoa buyer from Ghana to DR Congo to learn about cocoa agroforestry and exchange lessons with their peers. Furthermore, in a study published last year on [agroforestry approaches](#) from six cocoa and chocolate companies in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, we offer recommendations for private firms and the wider cocoa sector to enhance their agroforestry strategies.

### ***Financial mechanisms***

We worked closely with financial institutions to develop innovative financial mechanisms to increase access to finance for smallholders, allowing them to invest in diversified production systems. In Ghana, for example, we organized multistakeholder round tables to establish landscape-level financial partnerships. These partnerships involve collaboration with financial institutions, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and private companies, and help [accelerate investments](#) in agroforestry initiatives.

### ***Legal and policy frameworks***

An enabling legal and policy framework is needed to enable and support deforestation-free practices and diversified production systems. Over the last years we have focussed on the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) as a particularly important policy framework. In 2023 we continued to raise awareness through campaigns and advocacy efforts, together with an NGO coalition, to ensure that the implementation of the EUDR includes smallholders. In Ghana, Tropenbos Ghana began efforts to raise awareness through campaigns and discussions with communities and other key landscape actors about the implications and impacts of the regulation.





Processing cocoa husks, Ghana. © Tropenbos Ghana

## Impact story

# Women in Ghana transform cocoa waste into energy

In Ghana a women's cooperative is turning cocoa waste into a valuable resource. The Nyame Tease Women Cocoa Cooperative aims to create new opportunities to generate income, diversify livelihoods, and achieve long-term sustainability in the landscape, particularly for women and young smallholder farmers. This is the Waste-to-Energy pilot project of [Tropenbos Ghana](#) in the Juabeso-Bia and Sefwi-Wiawso (JB-SW) landscapes.

These landscapes have some of the country's highest levels of biodiversity and intact high forest. However, in a concerning trend over the past three decades cocoa farms have expanded into forested areas. Farmers' income often remains low despite this encroachment, causing them to expand their farming area or seek alternative ways to increase their income. Female members of farmer families in particular look for off-farm economic activities, but find it hard to obtain technical support and finance.

In response, in 2023 Tropenbos Ghana started the Waste-to-Energy initiative under the [Mobilizing More for Climate](#) (MoMo4C) programme, aiming to promote more diversified and sustainable land-use practices in the region. The initiative is based on cocoa pod husk, a byproduct of cocoa cultivation

that in the past has been considered a waste material with little economic value. However, Tropenbos Ghana, in collaboration with Zaacoal Ghana Ltd., a leading national green charcoal producer, is challenging this perception.

In 2023 the company provided members of the cooperative with two days of training in processing techniques. The women are transforming the cocoa pod husk into charcoal briquettes, offering a sustainable and eco-friendly energy solution for domestic and industrial use.

The cooperative also received logistical and protective equipment to ensure that farmers have the resources they need to make this initiative a success.

*"We are excited to be selected to lead and pilot this interesting innovation, the waste-to-energy business case. For us, it is an opportunity to demonstrate our strength, resilience and efforts to enhance our livelihoods."* Lucy Yeboah, Chairperson, Nyame Tease Women Cocoa Cooperative, December 6, 2023



All-women cooperative transforming cocoa waste into energy in Ghana





## Impact story

# The positive economic and environmental effects of coffee agroforestry in Viet Nam

Until recently little was known about how growing trees in coffee plantations in Viet Nam might affect the economic and environmental performance of the plantations. In 2023, however, TBI, together with Tây Nguyên University and experts from the Dutch start-up, FarmTree BV, used the Farm Tree tool to estimate the costs and benefits of three agroforestry farms.

The tool estimates the economic and environmental performance of farm plots, using data on growth, yield, markets and environmental factors. The study in Viet Nam paid particular attention to financial performance under good market conditions, and to the effect of trees on local water regulation. It also compared the three agroforestry farms to local monoculture coffee farms.

The study showed that incorporating fruit trees in a coffee system can financially compensate farmers for reduced coffee yields, both by providing additional revenue and by reducing the need for inputs such as irrigation and fertilizer. Additionally, since this approach

provides coffee growers with a diversity of products it reduces their vulnerability to fluctuations in coffee prices. To optimize these benefits, it is important to select the appropriate tree species, and to have access to markets for the tree products. In the three farms studied, cashew was common, although in other coffee agroforestry plantations avocado and durian are also frequently grown. The study found that cashew trees provided increased income and helped regulate water availability between soil layers throughout the year. The high-value, low-volume and nonperishable products of shade trees and mulch-producing trees with efficient water use seem to be particularly useful in agroforestry systems in remote areas, such as the ones studied in Viet Nam.

The next step is to advocate for including coffee agroforestry in national payment for environmental services schemes by engaging with key stakeholders and policymakers at both the regional and national level in Viet Nam.





## Impact story

# Scaling agroforestry in Indonesia

Agroforestry in Indonesia has a long history, with practices ranging from simple intercropping to complex integrated systems. Agroforestry brings many benefits, including increased livelihood resilience, improved food security, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation. However, despite existing policy support, the adoption of agroforestry in Indonesia remains limited; some farmers prefer monocultures for their perceived economic advantages. It is crucial to work together with farmers and other stakeholders to address their interests and to promote and scale up agroforestry.

In 2023, a [research initiative](#) on upscaling agroforestry in Indonesia was conducted and validated at a multistakeholder workshop. The workshop, co-organized by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Indonesia, TBI and [Tropenbos Indonesia](#), brought together more than 100 participants from various sectors, including government agencies, NGOs/CSOs, private companies, and academic and research institutions.

The workshop identified and explored the challenges that hinder the adoption and scaling of agroforestry in the country. Workshop participants reviewed, validated and refined the findings while exploring opportunities for collaborative exchanges and learning among a wide range of stakeholders.

With the study as background, the workshop participants formulated the following measures to increase the adoption of agroforestry and achieve impact at scale:

- develop a national strategy on agroforestry through a collaborative multistakeholder approach;
- enhance policies and governance;
- mobilize businesses and markets;
- implement innovative finance arrangements;
- mobilize knowledge and research;
- optimize agroforestry design based on local knowledge and practices;
- strengthen awareness, outreach and capacity building; and
- share knowledge (collective learning).

To effectively implement these measures, it is essential to prioritize actions such as establishing a multistakeholder platform to facilitate cooperation and collaboration, promoting knowledge exchange and learning, and showcasing on-the-ground experiences through pilot projects on the short term. By working together and taking specific steps to achieve these measures, we can advance the adoption and scaling of agroforestry in Indonesia for the benefit of all stakeholders.





Cocoa agroforestry plot in Ghana. © Tropenbos Ghana

## Impact story

# Cocoa agroforestry in West Africa: experiences from the private sector and opportunities for collaborative action

Despite efforts to promote agroforestry in the cocoa sector in West Africa, farmers have been slow to adopt it. In light of its benefits — sustainability, increased resilience of farmer livelihoods, and contribution to climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation — several private companies have committed to promoting agroforestry in the cocoa sector. To better understand how these commitments were being implemented, a series of case studies looked at the approaches of six cocoa and chocolate companies operating in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. By combining insights from the case studies with findings from the literature, the initiative made recommendations for private companies and the broader cocoa sector to improve their agroforestry strategies.

The case studies show interesting differences among the agroforestry models promoted by the companies, which range from simple cocoa agroforestry to highly diverse dynamic agroforestry. Moreover, companies use a range of strategies to encourage and support farmers to adopt agroforestry. Some strategies

focus on overcoming barriers to agroforestry adoption (e.g., difficulties in registering land title), while others focus on making agroforestry more economically attractive to farmers (e.g., providing payments for ecosystem services). The case studies identified several ways to strengthen agroforestry strategies, including developing more tailored approaches to agroforestry, the use of farmer-managed natural regeneration, and expanding cooperatives' agroforestry extension and support services.

Ultimately, for agroforestry to be adopted at scale and reach its full potential in contributing to thriving, resilient and biodiverse landscapes, livelihoods and cocoa supply chains, all actors need to rally behind a coordinated vision for agroforestry and work together to achieve it. Such a collaboration should reframe agroforestry as a locally owned solution, and provide an approach that is centred on farmers.



[Download the publication in English or French](#)





## Impact story

### Facilitating increased access to finance and markets for local smallholders

In 2021, TBI started the three-year programme, Green Finance for SMEs (GFS), with support from the Dutch Postcode Lottery. The goal is to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which have the potential to generate sustainable economic activities that benefit local communities while also contributing to biodiversity and climate resilience.

Only a small portion of international biodiversity and climate funding reaches SMEs on the ground. SMEs often struggle to obtain financial capital to invest in sustainable businesses. Through the GFS programme, Tropenbos International aims to increase access to finance and markets for local SMEs in tropical forest landscapes — a vital part of delivering Tropenbos International's strategy and achieving thriving, resilient and biodiverse landscapes.

Since it began, the programme has worked with smallholders and their organizations as well as with financial institutions. For example,

in Colombia we have been working with CENCOIC, an Indigenous cooperative that produces and trades coffee, following environmentally responsible and fair-trade practices. The cooperative buys coffee from its members and sells it in local and international markets. However, purchasing coffee requires a large amount of cash, which is not always available, and this affects the cooperative's ability to pay its producers. It has been difficult for CENCOIC to access credit, as lenders consider the cooperative a high-risk business, given that they operate in a remote region that has struggled with armed conflict.

In response, in 2023 CENCOIC started working with the GFS programme and SIDI, a French investor. SIDI supports the cooperative through long-term loans, while GFS provides small guarantees (up to €200,000) that allow CENCOIC to be financed.

This innovative approach generates income for Indigenous communities, reduces risks for producers, and fosters long-term relationships between the coffee producers' cooperative, SIDI, and Tropenbos International.

The three-way alliance has led to a loan for the purchase of coffee. The guarantees provided by GFS have been vital in reducing risk and facilitating the flow of money to the cooperative so that it can continue to operate and generate well-being for its members. In addition, GFS leverages CENCOIC's operation, empowering it to succeed in broader markets.

With the support of the GFS programme, CENCOIC was able to better serve its members, ultimately benefitting 3,000 families. This success highlights how backing a cooperative can expand market access while boosting local economic resilience and social cohesion.





## Outreach and engagement

In 2023 Tropenbos International engaged in a wide range of outreach initiatives. These connected forest-dependent communities, businesses, smallholder farmers, researchers, civil society organizations and decision makers within and beyond landscapes to facilitate dialogue, learning, collaboration and collective action.



More than **130 events** organized with almost **7,400 participants**.  
—stakeholder meetings, seminars, conferences, and exhibitions —



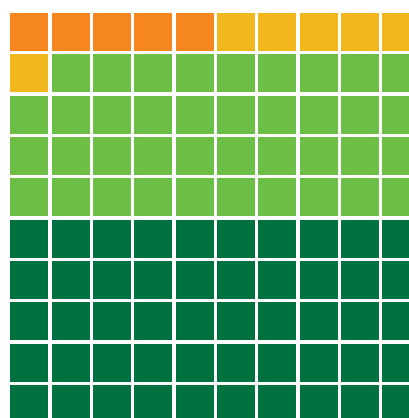
**95** workshops and training sessions, with more than **5,570** participants



**21** multistakeholder meetings, with more 750 participants



**18** webinars, exhibitions and other events, with more than **1,070** participants



5% Young women  
< 25 years

6% Young men  
< 25 years

39% Women  
> 25 years

50% Men  
> 25 years

Percentages of event participants by gender and age



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Zewdie S, Sahle K, Kassa H, Livingstone J, Yimam K, Hagazi N and Shibeshi A. 2023. *Towards an integrated national fire management system in Ethiopia: A review of experiences, gaps, patterns and MODIS data-based identification of patterns and hotspot areas*. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: PENHA. Ede, the Netherlands: Tropenbos International.

## Interview

*Locally owned solutions for thriving and climate-resilient landscapes* — In conversation with Joost van Montfort. Interview by Koen Kusters (30 June 2023)



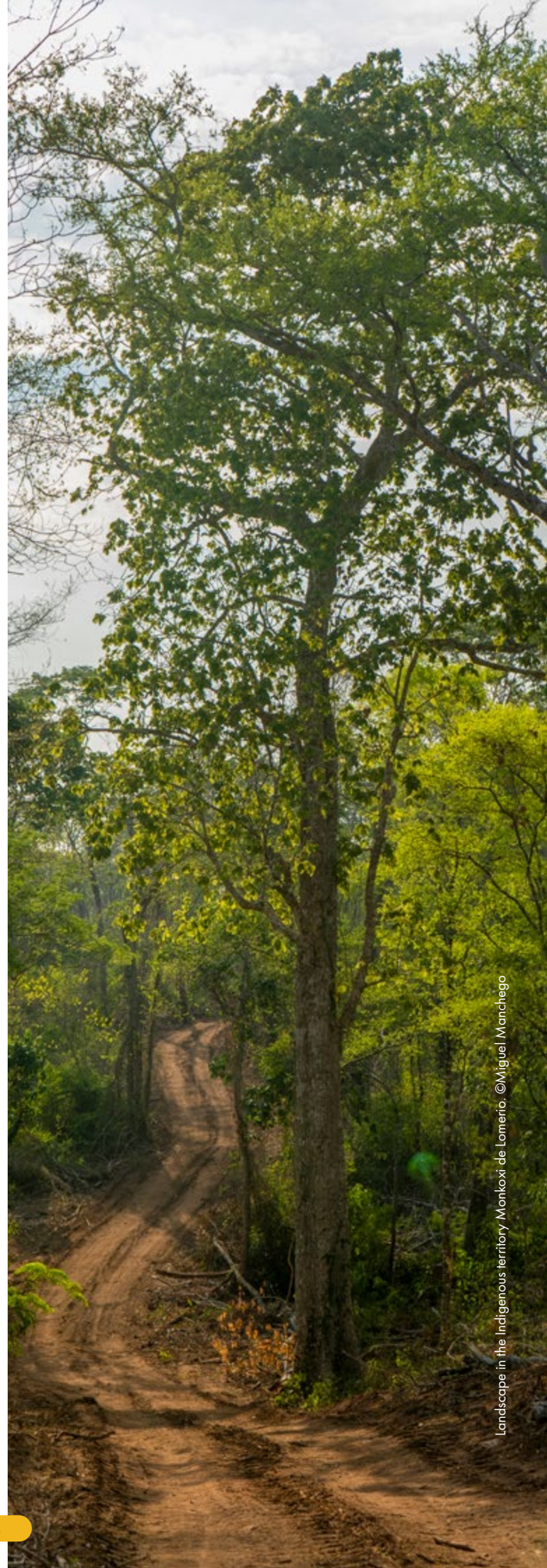
## Blogs

Jezeer R, Kusters K, Gomez H and Widayati A. (2023, 5 September) [Tackling the blaze — towards a more effective approach to reduce wildfire risks.](#)

de Graaf M, Agbobli S, Mpoyi C and Obeng K. (2023, 22 June) [Learning about cocoa — exchange between Ghana and DRC.](#)

## Videos

- [From and for youth: Young leaders from the Amazon](#)
- [Land use change through oil palm introduction in Buvuma district](#)
- [Integrating trees in farms: agroforestry](#)
- [We envision a future with thriving and climate resilient landscapes – we are Tropenbos International](#)
- [Agroforestry for thriving and climate resilient landscapes](#)
- [Is cocoa agroforestry an option for farmers in Ghana?](#)
- [Supporting cocoa farmers to deal with climate change in Ghana](#)
- [Diversifying rubber agroforests in Indonesia](#)
- [Empowering women to improve coffee farms through agroforestry in Vietnam](#)



Landscape in the indigenous territory Monkoxi de Lomerio. ©Miguel Manchego



# 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**

TBI endeavours to maintain a professional culture based on trust, mutual respect, open communication and high standards of professional conduct, which are essential to achieving its mission. Since 2018 an overarching integrity policy for the Tropenbos International Network members and staff has been in place. This was revised during 2023, resulting in a more complete system of policies and guidelines, including a revised code of conduct and complaints procedure, anti-corruption and fraud policy, and a policy on sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH). All TBI staff were informed about the system and participated in its validation. The code of conduct and a short description of the integrity system can be found on the TBI website.

In 2023 there were no reported complaints or breaches of the code of conduct.

## **General data protection regulation (GDPR)**

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 2023 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 2023, TBI revised its policy on gender and youth inclusion to ensure a transformative change approach to programme and project design, management, implementation and monitoring, and to ensure that gender and youth transformative change is attained across its landscape programmes. To guarantee this, a Gender and Youth team, with representatives of all TBI network members, has been in place since 2020. They meet regularly to exchange and learn from the experiences across the network in relation to the implementation of the policy. In 2023, a gender and youth strategy and action plan were formulated to ensure that the seven key principles of the gender and youth policy are included across our network.



# Financial summary

In 2023, 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.

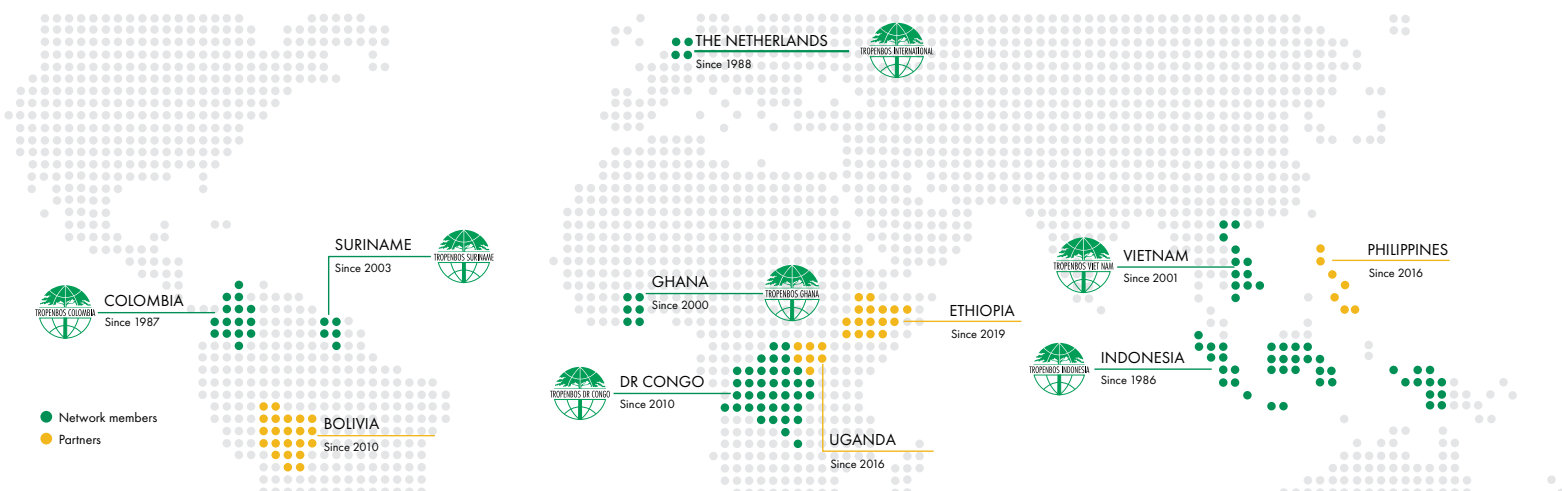
## Revenues

	EUR 000	% of total
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands	6,533	96.7
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands (LNV)	108	1.6
Dutch Postcode Lottery	53	0.8
Projects	36	0.5
Other income	23	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,753</b>	<b>100</b>

## Expenditures

	EUR 000	% of total
Programmes	6,533	95
Projects	197	3
Organizational costs	149	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,879</b>	<b>100</b>





## 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

### Maas M. Goote

Founder/Owner, Carraway Strategies

### Sarbani Bhattacharya

Head of Finance and IT transformation, ASML

## Consultative Committee

The Consultative Committee consists of the Chairs of the Tropenbos International 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)

## Network members

### Tropenbos International - the Netherlands

Director: Joost van Montfort  
Ede, the Netherlands  
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### Tropenbos Colombia

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[www.tropenboscol.org](http://www.tropenboscol.org)

### Tropenbos DR Congo

Director: Alphonse Maindo  
Kisangani, DR Congo  
[www.tropenbosrdc.org](http://www.tropenbosrdc.org)

### Tropenbos Ghana

Director: Mercy Owusu Ansah  
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[www.tropenbosghana.org](http://www.tropenbosghana.org)

### Yayasan Tropenbos Indonesia

Director: Edi Purwanto  
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Paramaribo, Suriname  
[www.tropenbos.sr](http://www.tropenbos.sr)

### Tropenbos Viet Nam

Director: Tran Huu Nghi  
Hue, Viet Nam  
[www.tropenbos.vn](http://www.tropenbos.vn)



# Programmes

## Working Landscapes

Through transformational change to establish fire-smart and climate-resilient landscapes in the tropical forest and woodland regions the Working Landscapes programme contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation, improved livelihoods and environmental integrity, which are crucial to achieving the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Duration:** 2019–2025

**Implemented in:** Bolivia, Colombia, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Suriname, Uganda, Viet Nam

**Financed by:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (DGIS)

*In 2023 an end-of-programme evaluation was conducted. The review recommended that the programme capitalize on its accomplishments by scaling successful models and approaches. To enable this, the programme was granted a two-year extension until 2025. The evaluation's main recommendations shaped an updated programme outline, which places a greater emphasis on biodiversity.*

## Forests for a Just Future - Green Livelihoods Alliance

Through this initiative tropical forests and forest landscapes are sustainably and inclusively governed to mitigate and adapt to climate change, fulfil human rights and safeguard local livelihoods.

**Duration:** 2021–2025

**Implemented in:** Bolivia, Colombia, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, the Philippines, Uganda, Viet Nam

Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) is an alliance of Gaia Amazonas, IUCN NL, Milieudefensie, NTFP-EP, SDI and Tropenbos International, with WECF and FERN as technical partners.

**Financed by:** Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) through the DSO Power of Voices policy framework.

*In 2023 a midterm review showed that the programme was well on track, and provided recommendations for improvement. Based on these recommendations, the alliance developed a management response for the final two years of the programme (2024–2025) that will be integrated into its planning going forward. The most important recommendation was that GLA should develop and deliver a learning agenda within the Alliance. Tropenbos International will take the lead in this.*

## Mobilizing More for Climate (MoMo4C)

This programme brings together entrepreneurs, companies, policymakers, investors, civil society organizations and local entrepreneurs to develop gender-inclusive green business propositions. These efforts tackle the causes and impacts of climate change at the landscape level in developing countries, and attract investments.

**Duration:** 2019–2024

**Implemented in:** Ghana and Indonesia

**Financed by:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (DGIS)

*While the programme has performed above expectations, more time is needed to achieve lasting impact. The end evaluation of the programme was brought forward to the end of 2023 to help identify where remaining and new resources would achieve that impact most effectively and efficiently.*

## The Green Finance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Initiative

This initiative increases responsible investments in sustainable small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in the forestry and agriculture land-use sectors in the Global South.

**Duration:** 2021–2023

**Implemented in:** Ghana, Colombia, Indonesia, Suriname

**Financed by:** Dutch Postcode Lottery

## Contributing to the development of integrated models for sustainable agriculture and forestry in tropical landscapes

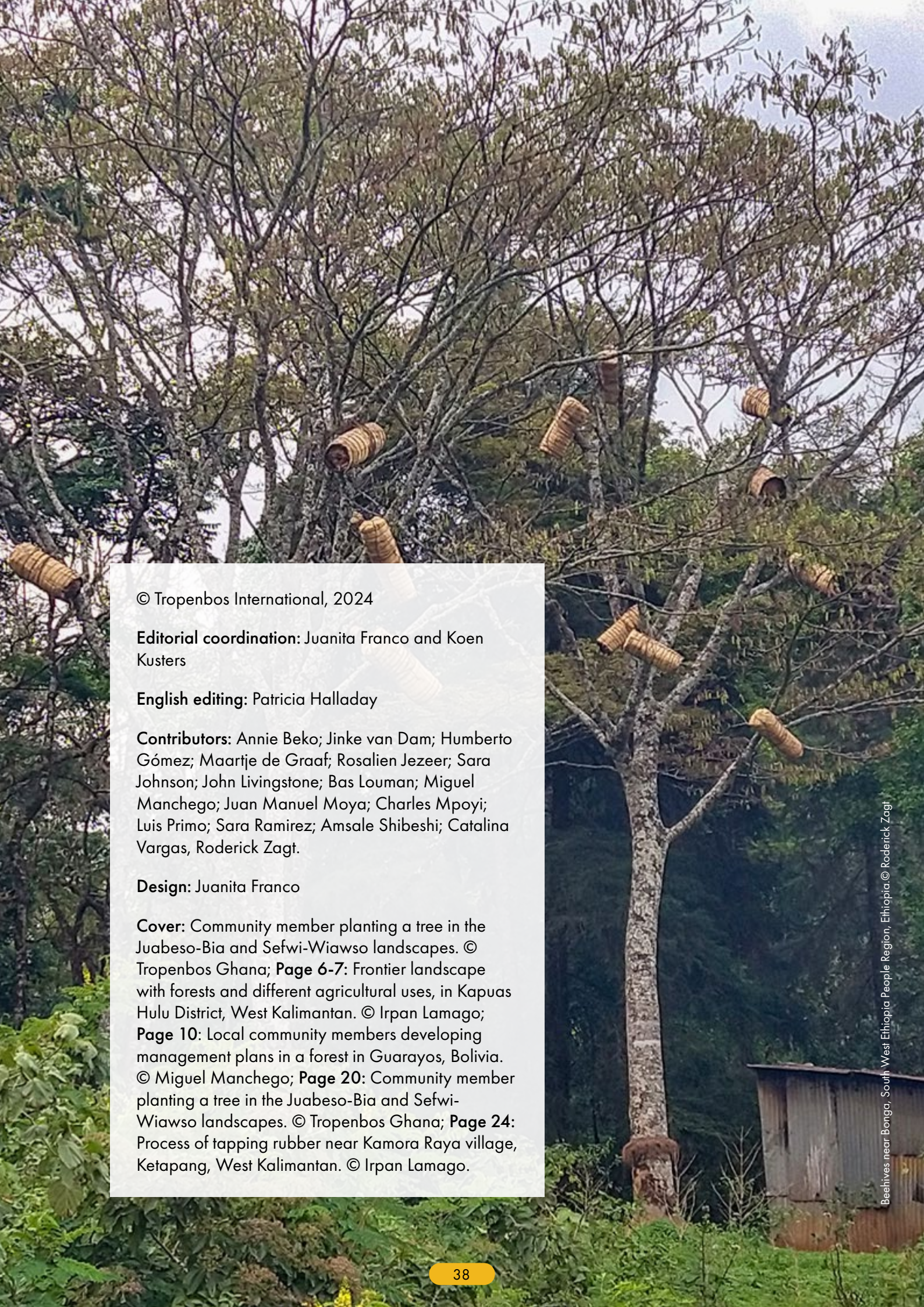
The main activities are: 1. Co-organize a regional meeting and knowledge sharing fair on lessons learned and good practices; 2. Develop a strategic proposal for a landscape-level financial mechanism to facilitate inclusive investments in the Juabeso-Bia Landscape in Ghana to support climate-smart landscape practices; and 3. Develop an analysis of agroforestry in Indonesia to increase insight into the barriers to and solutions for scaling (co-financing with the Dutch Embassy of Indonesia).

**Duration:** September 2022–July 2023

**Implemented in:** Ghana and Indonesia and internationally

**Financed by:** Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands





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**Design:** Juanita Franco

**Cover:** Community member planting a tree in the Juabeso-Bia and Sefwi-Wiawso landscapes. © Tropenbos Ghana; **Page 6-7:** Frontier landscape with forests and different agricultural uses, in Kapuas Hulu District, West Kalimantan. © Irpan Lamago; **Page 10:** Local community members developing management plans in a forest in Guarayos, Bolivia. © Miguel Manchego; **Page 20:** Community member planting a tree in the Juabeso-Bia and Sefwi-Wiawso landscapes. © Tropenbos Ghana; **Page 24:** Process of tapping rubber near Kamora Raya village, Ketapang, West Kalimantan. © Irpan Lamago.



Tropenbos International (TBI) envisions a future with thriving, resilient and biodiverse landscapes across the dry and humid tropics. In those landscapes, land is used sustainably, and local communities exercise their rights and participate equitably in decision-making concerning the future of the places they inhabit.



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