

Making knowledge work for forests and people



Annual Report 2010



Making Knowledge Work for Forests and People

Tropenbos International

**Annual Report
2010**

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Acronyms

ACICAFOC	Regional organisation of indigenous communities in Central America
ACTO	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation
AdeKUS	Anton de Kom University (Suriname)
CANR	College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Ghana)
CELOS	Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CRIMA	Regional Council for the Upper Amazonas (Colombia)
CSM	Chainsaw milling
ETFRN	European Tropical Forest Research Network
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FLA	Forest Land Allocation
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
FORDA	Forestry Research and Development Agency (Indonesia)
FORIG	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
FMO	Netherlands' Development Finance Bank
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HCV	High Conservation Value
HFLD	High Forest Low Deforestation
HUAF	Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (Viet Nam)
INRM	Integrated Natural Resource Management
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organisation
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KNUST	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana)
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy (Guyana)
EL&I	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Viet Nam)
MINEPAT	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (Cameroon)
MLA	Multidisciplinary landscape assessment
MOF	Ministry of Forestry (Indonesia)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRV	Monitoring, reporting and verification
MSD	Multi-stakeholder dialogue
MTP	Minor Timber Products
NCD	Nature Conservation Division (Suriname)
NFP	National Forest Programme
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
NUFFIC	Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education
PES	Payments for environmental services

RAPP	Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper
REDD	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
RGB	Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management (Suriname)
SBB	Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (Suriname)
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SENA	National Training Service (Colombia)
SFM	Sustainable forest management
SMFE	Small and medium forest enterprise
SWI	Foundation for Scientific Information (Suriname)
TBI	Tropenbos International
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
VIDS	Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname
WUR	Wageningen University and Research Centre (the Netherlands)

Message from the Chairman



This annual report appears at a moment when the international development priorities of Tropenbos International's principal donor, the Government of the Netherlands, have changed considerably. The government's new focus on food security, water, peace and security and reproductive rights provide the new context for its actions, as does the role of the private sector in achieving sustainable economic development and self-reliance. Moreover, the number of countries with whom the Government of the Netherlands has bilateral relations has decreased considerably.

The International Year of Forests 2011 provides an excellent opportunity to disseminate TBI's view that forest ecosystems critically support the ambitions and concerns of governments, corporations and citizens worldwide — for producing timber and fuel wood, maintaining the stability of our climate, nourishing the soils that produce our food, pollinating our crops, capturing and cleaning the water we need, protecting slopes, coasts and soils or providing a home to hundreds of thousands of species that constitute our evolutionary capital and ticket to the future. Forests are not just an immediate asset and lifeline for billions of people living in or near them; they provide critical services to all the people of the world. This creates a global responsibility for their wise management, one that is increasingly recognised in international policy.

Forests and trees form part of healthy landscapes, and fostering sustainable and productive landscapes is the cornerstone of policies that satisfy the current and future needs of a growing population.

In preparation for renewal of the funding arrangements with its donors, the Board of Tropenbos International has embarked on formulating a new strategic plan for the period 2011–16. The plan confirms TBI's mission and objective and strengthens its focus on effectively contributing to those international challenges where forests form a part of the solution. This annual report 2010 bears witness to the continued importance and relevance of TBI's work.

Rudy Rabbinge

Message from the Director



The investments made in Tropenbos International's programme during the first few years of the current funding phase are starting to pay off. The year 2010 was a good year for TBI. We were able to leave our mark on a number of important occasions, consolidated the Congo Basin programme, and we published several important reports. In addition, an increasing number of talented young people from our partner countries received academic formation as PhD or MSc student, while hundreds more benefitted from dedicated training.

In the year when Ghana — TBI's only other country programme in Africa —, celebrated its tenth anniversary with a range of topical and social events, the new programme in the Congo Basin came on stream. In both DR Congo and Cameroon, TBI set up offices, recruited staff and started projects. Two vastly oversubscribed courses on community forestry and forest governance co-organised by TBI in DR Congo filled an apparent need and quickly affirmed the importance of this new programme.

Another highlight was the implicit recognition received from the EU for TBI's work on chainsaw milling in Ghana and Guyana, in the form of its approval of a second phase of the project, even before the finalisation of the first phase. Starting in 2011, we hope to increase the impact of that work on the implementation of some of the thornier aspects of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement, i.e., the regulation of the domestic timber market. The achievements of the first phase of the project are increasingly being noted in publications; as shown in this annual report, in 2010 TBI was able to contribute to a range of studies on aspects of chainsaw milling, domestic market timber supply, small forestry enterprises and timber dependent livelihoods, mostly related to the situation in Ghana.

TBI was also able to make a contribution to the rapidly developing field of financing sustainable forest management, through presentations at the Katoomba meeting co-organised by TBI Viet Nam and insights on appropriate forms of compensation for communities, which were shared at a country-led initiative in support of UNFF in Mexico and a groundbreaking project on culturally appropriate forms of payments in Colombia. Both are elaborated in this annual report.

Further inspiration came from TBI Indonesia. Armed with solid evidence from a landscape-level High Conservation Value assessment, TBI staff were able to advance their vision of collaborative management of the ecologically and socially highly complex landscape in the Kampar Peninsula. Their efforts were rewarded when the Ministry decreed the establishment of a special collaborative management zone and forest industries adopted the concept, much in agreement with TBI's proposal.

Finally, several publications must be highlighted here, including two issues of ETFRN News; a series of publications documenting TBI Colombia's acclaimed action research methods; and the launch of the Dutch-language publication *Vakblad Bos & Natuur* in Suriname, an initiative which takes many aspects of forests, forestry and nature to a wide range of readers in that country.

René Boot



Making knowledge work for forests and people

International interest in forests has surged. Millions of people in the tropics depend on forests for their livelihoods, and the contribution of forests to maintaining global climate stability and the intrinsic capacity of nature to adapt to change have been central in international policy deliberations and action on the ground. These contributions are a clear but incompletely understood part of sustainable and equitable economic development.

The designation of 2011 as the International Year of Forests highlights this international recognition. Although threats to tropical forests and their biodiversity persist, the response to these dangers has become stronger and more diversified. Sound and relevant information will be needed to support the design of policies that work and to implement them in the field.

Tropenbos International

Tropenbos International (TBI) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in the Netherlands. It was established in 1986 in response to concern about the degradation and disappearance of tropical rainforests worldwide. Over the years, TBI has established itself as an important body supporting the forest and development agenda in developing countries. TBI has built a reputation for improving knowledge, and individual and institutional capacity to support better governance and management of tropical forest resources.

Goal: *to achieve the sustainable management of tropical forest lands for the benefit of people, conservation and sustainable development.*

Objective: *to ensure that knowledge is used effectively in the formulation of appropriate policies and the management of forests for conservation and sustainable development.*

Mission: *to improve tropical forest governance and management for the benefit of people, conservation and sustainable development.*

In order to achieve its objectives, TBI carries out joint activities with national and international partners in the field of research, capacity building and communication.

All activities contribute to one or more of the following results; these make knowledge work for forests and people:

1. The information and knowledge needed for better decisions on forests is available (through research).
2. National human capacity is sufficient to generate knowledge and make use of it (through capacity building).
3. National forest sector organisations are able to identify, manage and deploy relevant information (through institutional development).
4. Information exchange mechanisms are in place (through fostering multi-stakeholder knowledge networks and dialogue).
5. National and international forest agendas are coordinated and support forest-based sustainable development and poverty reduction (through promoting knowledge-based international dialogue).

To achieve these results, TBI has established a network of country programmes in tropical forest countries, where it links with researchers, policy-makers and practitioners in the North and South. It coordinates and implements projects funded by local, Dutch and European donors and agencies. TBI's activities balance the local forest agenda priorities of its partner countries and international themes that are relevant to the Dutch government and the global forest community. TBI currently operates programmes in Colombia, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Suriname and Viet Nam. It also participates in projects in Guyana and Bolivia.

This annual report presents TBI's main achievements in 2010. TBI's activities cover a diversity of themes, reflecting what is important for forest-based livelihoods, forest management and forest conservation in its seven country programmes and throughout the world. The report highlights examples that demonstrate how knowledge, individual and organisational capacity, informed dialogue and exchange of information can help support better decisions on a range of subjects:

- ◆ financing mechanisms for sustainable forest management (SFM);
- ◆ sustainable domestic timber markets;
- ◆ productive and sustainable landscapes;
- ◆ mitigating climate change;
- ◆ improving livelihoods through community forestry and local governance; and
- ◆ responsible trade and entrepreneurship.

TBI relies on the support and hard work of its numerous partners and donors, both in the Netherlands and its partner countries. Their contributions are warmly acknowledged.



Forest financing

Sustainable forestry is increasingly recognised as an important strategy in addressing global issues such as climate change, energy use, poverty, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and supply of raw materials. Although revenues from forest management alone tend to be insufficient to make sustainable forest management (SFM) competitive, an array of new and promising public and private financing sources, instruments and mechanisms is emerging at the national and global level. If these opportunities for additional income and investment are realised, they could help to make SFM more competitive with alternative land uses. Well-designed financing initiatives can also enhance the livelihoods of forest-dependent people and promote responsible forest entrepreneurship.

Currently, private financing is the most important source of funds for forestry and it is likely to become even more important in the future. TBI's experience with forest financing shows that mobilising private financing for SFM is enhanced in these circumstances:

- ◆ a supportive policy and institutional environment are present, including security of land tenure;
- ◆ a forest strategy is aligned with long-term national priorities and commitments;
- ◆ forestry information (e.g., on markets, productivity, legislation and institutional arrangements) is available and accessible; and
- ◆ legislation encourages the development and use of market mechanisms, including payments for ecosystem services (PES).

Through longstanding collaborative efforts with two of its partners — the National Forest Programme (NFP) Facility and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) — TBI has developed an extensive network on forest financing at the local, national and international level. This collaboration dates back to 2006. It includes analysis and assessment of forest financing in several countries (particularly in Latin America) and

in-country support for the development and implementation of national forest financing strategies and mechanisms.

In 2010, the partnership supported Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay and Peru, as well as ACICAFOC, the regional organisation of indigenous communities in Central America, in developing forest financing strategies. TBI also assisted the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation (ACTO) Regional Forest Programme in developing its approach to forest financing for the Amazon region in its strategic agenda. The focus of ACTO's programme is knowledge generation and policy development related to domestic markets and informal forest financing in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Making the business case for SFM

Given private investors' emerging interest in forestry, there is a need to further explore the requirements of a "bankable" business case for SFM and to determine ways to bridge the gap between the financing and forest sectors. As a follow-up to its country support work on forest financing in Latin America, the partnership is facilitating contacts between Latin American and African forestry business developers and European financing institutions, so that they can discuss the requirements of feasible SFM businesses.

In the Netherlands, TBI has also created an informal network of experts on financing biodiversity and forests. To date, the group includes the Netherlands' Development Finance Bank (FMO), Nyenrode Business University, ASN Bank, Copernicus Institute and TBI. It will likely expand in the coming years.

In 2010, TBI initiated a study among Dutch institutional investors to enhance understanding of their involvement in and perspectives on investing in sustainable forestry. The initial results of this study indicate an increasing interest in forestry investment on the part of this category of investors, but also reveal several challenges:

- ◆ investors' unfamiliarity with the forest sector;
- ◆ the difficulty of quantifying risk and uncertainty; and
- ◆ disparity in the scale of investment between banks and forest owners.

In 2011 TBI — together with FAO and the Canadian Forest Service — will implement a similar study with a worldwide scope.

Financing small-scale forestry

Local communities and small forest enterprises are likely to benefit from forest financing opportunities only if these address local economic concepts of access to and use of financing. Informal financing arrangements are common at this level, but information about the details of these arrangements is generally not available or not taken into account when financing instruments are developed.

TBI carried out a study in Colombia that emphasises the cultural-economic perspectives of developing payment mechanisms for ecosystem services for indigenous and afro-descendant communities (Box 1).

Box 1. Cultural-economic perspectives and environmental services in indigenous and afro-descendent communities, Colombia

Payment for Environmental Services (PES) schemes, including REDD+¹, are currently being discussed in Colombia as mechanisms to provide the financial basis for SFM and conservation. These initiatives would involve both investors and local communities in areas with valuable landscapes and ecosystems.



There is a strong need to better understand how local communities perceive these mechanisms, and how compensation initiatives should be designed to ensure that they comply with local cultural-economic concepts, values and perspectives. These initiatives also must work effectively on the ground. TBI Colombia — in collaboration with Patrimonio Natural — awarded 20 local research grants to indigenous and afro-descendant leaders to carry out a participatory study on environmental services and conservation incentives in traditional communities.

The studies highlight the importance of adopting schemes that are non-paternalistic and developed on the basis of a local community's own cultural concept.

Schemes must incorporate locally validated payment mechanisms and a collective rather than individual perspective on management and conservation. All of these may be challenges for PES schemes. Communities expressed a strong interest in including specific measures within the "Life Plans"² for their territories in order to prepare themselves to adopt compensation schemes. The studies also revealed that communities have experienced intense conflicts with local authorities on the utilisation of funds. This implies that there is a need to develop capacities for consensus building and meaningful dialogue.

These studies remind those who design compensation schemes for environmental services that it is essential to consider local perspectives of PES in order to make these initiatives work on the ground. This is particularly relevant to the unfolding REDD debate.

Indigenous people, local communities and small-scale farmers are key participants in the discourse on implementing REDD+ and other PES schemes. There is a broad understanding that such mechanisms must include certain safeguards to ensure that they represent not a threat but an opportunity for communities. Based on experiences in Latin America, TBI, FAO and the NFP Facility jointly published the paper, "Financing Sustainable Small-Scale Forestry: Lessons from Developing National Forest Financing Strategies in Latin America" (see Box 2). The paper was presented at an international workshop on Forest Governance, Decentralisation and REDD+ in Latin America and the Caribbean.³

¹ Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) is an effort to create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests. "REDD+" goes beyond deforestation and forest degradation, and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

² Life Plans are local development plans that are equivalent to land-use or development plans.

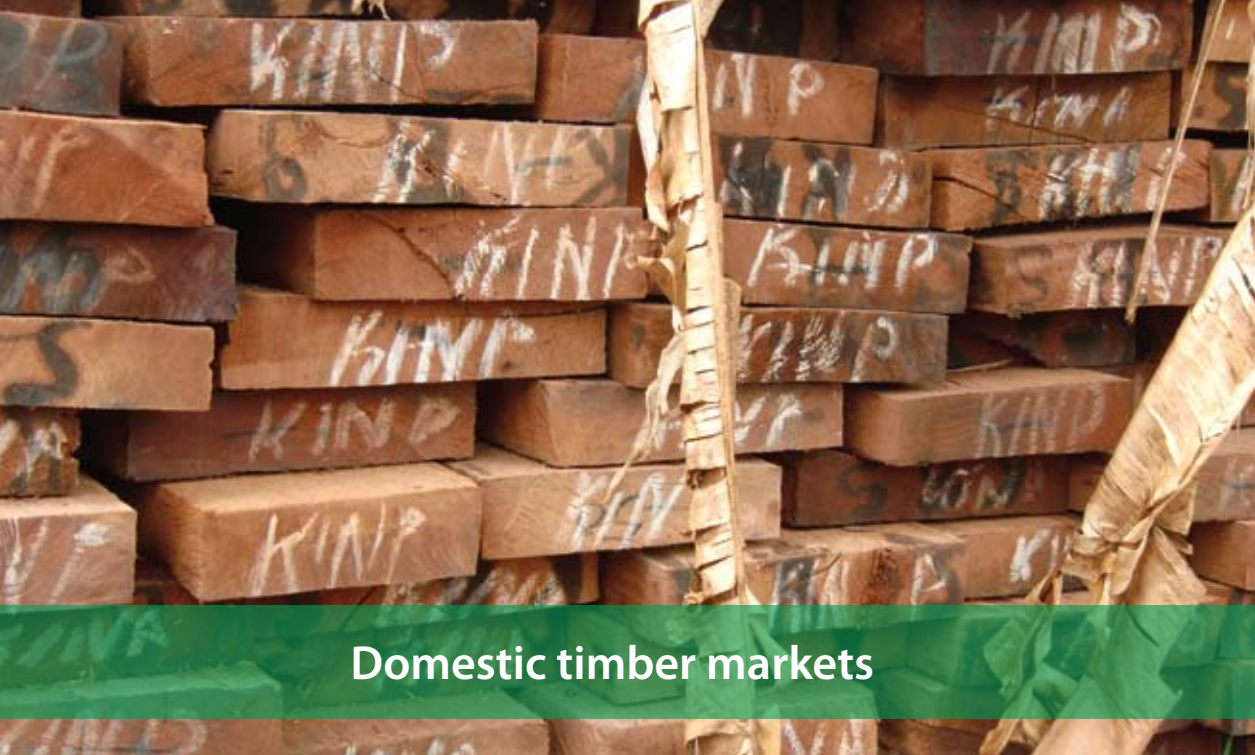
³ This was a country-led initiative in support of the UN Forum on Forests, held in Oaxaca, Mexico, August 31–September 3, 2010.

Box 2. Financing small-scale forestry: some lessons

- ◆ Forest financing mechanisms for small-scale forestry need to build on existing livelihood strategies and respond to diverse local realities. This requires a participatory approach and flexibility in the design of the mechanisms.
- ◆ Increasing financing for forestry requires good communication and understanding between the forest and finance sectors. This can take the form of joint development of financing strategies, instruments and business cases.
- ◆ Constraints in forest financing are often due less to lack of funds than to lack of access to funds. When trying to obtain new sources of financing, including domestic sources, and to realise the potential of new and emerging instruments — such as capital market instruments, PES, risk mitigation and guarantee schemes — lack of governance and institutions and inadequate policies and legal frameworks are often more serious limitations than the lack of money itself.

From: Boscolo, M., Dijk K. van, Savenije H. 2010. Financing sustainable small-scale forestry: Policy issues and lessons from developing national forest financing strategies in Latin America. CIFOR Info Brief.





Domestic timber markets

Timber production and trade take place in an increasingly globalised economy. The growth in population and economic wealth, especially in developing countries, increases the demand for forest products and puts more pressure on natural resources. For many years, the international community has focused on promoting SFM and legal international timber trade. However, timber production for the domestic market represents a high percentage of total timber production in tropical countries.

The scale and impact of the domestic timber trade, and of chainsaw milling (CSM)⁴ was clearly established by *ETFRN News 52*, which was compiled by TBI and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in 2010 (see page 50). Chainsawn lumber's share of total domestic market production ranges from 30–40% in Guyana, Congo, DR Congo and Uganda to more than 50% in Cameroon and most Latin American countries and to nearly 100% in Liberia.

There is growing recognition that local timber production and consumption in tropical countries should be incorporated in international forestry initiatives, such as the European Union (EU) Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement and Trade (FLEGT) and REDD+.

Although FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) are primarily concerned with international trade, they have put the spotlight on domestic timber markets by recognising the links between domestic and international trade. Most existing VPAs therefore include domestic trade.

REDD+ assigns a value to standing forests and compensates governments for verifiable reductions in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. This may well lead to a change in timber production and trade, with likely impacts on both formal and informal economies.

⁴ Chainsaw milling is the on-site conversion of logs into lumber using a chainsaw. See also footnote 5.

TBI works in the area of timber production and trade for the domestic market in DR Congo, Suriname, Ghana and Guyana. Its main interests are governance and regulation of domestic markets — in the context of FLEGT VPAs and the evolving REDD+ regime — and the social impacts of small-scale logging and processing.

DR Congo: artisanal logging

Artisanal logging⁵ is on the rise in Eastern Congo, where a lucrative market for timber exists due to post-war reconstruction and demand from neighbouring countries. Forest laws and regulations in DR Congo are primarily focused on exported timber. As a result, artisanal production and trade are poorly regulated.

Informal artisanal logging is highly organised, with a wide network of formal and informal actors; artisanal production and trade are an important part of the local economy. Access to resources, benefit-sharing mechanisms and forest governance are key issues of artisanal logging in DR Congo. Customary rights and a formal regulatory framework operate side by side, and formal regulation is disconnected from the reality in the field. The social and environmental impacts of artisanal logging have generated concern among environmental and development NGOs.

As a start to its programme in DR Congo, TBI invited local and international researchers to compile as much information on artisanal logging as possible for a book that will be published in 2011. The publication will provide the best available estimate of the extent and impacts of artisanal logging in DR Congo, and will identify the principal issues to be addressed by policy and research. This data will support the regulation of artisanal milling in a way that considers the interests of multiple stakeholders and is able to be effectively implemented. This will directly feed into the many initiatives aimed at reforming forestry regulations in the DR Congo under the FLEGT regime.

Suriname's timber market

On November 12, 2010, TBI Suriname held a workshop called Domestic Timber Market: Insights and Developments. The goal of the workshop was to discuss ways to increase the contribution of the timber sector to the Surinamese economy through job creation and increased use of local high-quality wood products. More than 60 participants from government, NGOs, research institutes and the private sector concluded that government forestry procedures need to be simplified, land-rights issues need to be addressed, and a platform needs to be established to discuss forest-related issues.

Based on a presentation from TBI's chainsaw project in Guyana, participants discussed the opportunities and threats of CSM in Suriname. Even though there is chainsawn timber on the market, there is little awareness about chainsaw milling in Suriname. Issues encountered in other countries, including neighbouring Guyana, have not yet surfaced in Suriname. Participants recommended that the government register saws and mobile mills and monitor their use, and suggested that education and training on

⁵ In DR Congo chainsaw milling is referred to as artisanal logging. In Ghana, the term "artisanal milling" refers specifically to a regularised, well-trained and licensed form of chainsaw milling. Artisanal millers in Ghana use more efficient equipment than a standard chainsaw, such as Logosol or Wood-Mizer. See also footnote 4.

sustainable production methods be provided. They also recommended research into the production, recovery rate and cost of chainsaw and mobile milling.

The potential of minor timber products in Suriname

Minor timber products (MTPs) produced in rural forested areas contribute directly to the livelihoods of rural and forest-based communities. MTPs constitute less than 1% of state forest revenues in Suriname, but their potential is considered to be much higher. MTP producers are a heterogeneous group; they differ in production techniques, management and entrepreneurial skills. About 40% of producers harvest their produce without making a forest inventory. The work is hard, the equipment is basic, and operators lack financial skills, but a survey conducted in 2010 by TBI Suriname showed that most MTP producers earn a reasonable income. The survey recommended an increasing awareness of costs and prices, pooling resources to create economies of scale, and establishment of simple forms of forest management as steps toward increasing income from MTPs.

Ghana: addressing domestic timber market and livelihoods within the VPA

Ghana signed a VPA with the EU in 2009 and has initiated a process of piloting REDD+ programmes. The VPA includes the legalisation of the domestic timber trade (84% of which is supplied by illegal chainsaw milling), which provides almost 100,000 people with an income. The Ghana-EU agreement recognises the potential effects of VPA implementation on local livelihoods. It addresses these impacts by involving stakeholders such as industry, civil society and communities in the implementation of the agreement, and by instituting social safeguards to mitigate any negative impacts.



An international workshop on FLEGT/VPA and its implications for livelihoods in Ghana was held in Elmina on November 25–26, 2010. It was part of the research project, “Illegal or Incompatible? Managing the consequences of timber legality standards on local livelihoods,” coordinated by the Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation (WUR-CDI). The workshop aimed to further understanding of social safeguard mechanisms in the context of the Ghana-EU VPA. Participants concluded that research is needed to develop effective safeguard mechanisms for those groups who are expected to be most adversely

affected by VPA implementation. Participants also suggested that a special working group be established, in addition to the existing technical working groups, for the elaboration of these social safeguards.

The EU-funded project, “Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw milling in Ghana and Guyana through multi-stakeholder dialogue,” supports the implementation of the VPA by involving all stakeholders in dialogue, information gathering and

the development of alternatives to unsustainable CSM practices (see also Chapter: Dialogue). In 2010, a series of dialogues at the district and national levels in Ghana led to a widely shared consensus among stakeholders that the domestic market would best be supplied by a combination of formal sawmills and regularised, well-trained and licensed chainsaw millers (to be known as artisanal millers; see footnote 5). The consequences of regulating CSM are complex in terms of sustainability of the resource, access and benefit-sharing mechanisms, employment and vested interests. These consequences must be managed effectively. In the second half of 2010, stakeholders began discussions on these consequences, supported by a cost-benefit analysis conducted by TBI's partner, the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG).

Guyana: integrating sustainable logging in the LCDS

Although chainsaw milling is illegal in Ghana, in Guyana it is managed and promoted as an economic option to improve the livelihoods of local communities. In Guyana, as in Ghana, CSM provides more than 80% of the local timber supply.

In 2009 Guyana embarked on a Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), a national development plan financed by REDD+ payments. To support its REDD+ efforts, Guyana has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Norway. Under the MOU, the parties agreed, among other things, that the Government of Guyana would start a formal dialogue with the EU with the intent of joining its FLEGT process to a VPA. Even though the scope of REDD+ is broader than that of a VPA, a VPA offers a solid basis for shared decision making. The government organised two meetings in 2010 to inform stakeholders about the FLEGT-VPA and to facilitate discussions among stakeholder groups about the requirements, implications, advantages and disadvantages of a VPA. Based on these stakeholder meetings, the Government of Guyana will make a decision on whether to start formal negotiations for a VPA with the EU.



Stakeholders have yet to understand how the LCDS and a potential VPA would affect the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities in Guyana. The LCDS considers sustainable forestry and wood processing to have great potential as low-carbon economic activities. An ongoing multi-stakeholder consultation process needs to be part of the LCDS process to support discussions of the consequences of new policies, ensure ownership of decisions, reduce conflicts between stakeholders and support a broader acceptance of policies. The TBI chainsaw milling project — implemented in Guyana by the Forestry Training Centre and Iwokrama — would provide a suitable platform for stakeholders to discuss the impact of national strategies on diverse actors in the small-scale forest sector and facilitate agreement on feasible options for the sector.



Productive landscapes

Millions of hectares (ha) of degraded forest lands in the tropics have not yet developed into productive and sustainable landscapes. These degraded areas are subject to competing claims for logging, mining, plantation development, carbon sequestration and protected areas. Forests, often degraded or in the process of secondary regrowth, survive as remnants in a matrix of lands used for other purposes. If effectively managed, forests and trees in these landscapes support productive activities that contribute to sustainable livelihoods, food security, national development and the provision of environmental services.

Global warming and the development of roads, dams and other infrastructure are examples of changes that affect landscapes, including forests, and the people living in them. TBI projects contribute to socio-economic and ecological conditions that reduce conflict in these landscapes and increase their resilience in the face of change. These are just some of TBI's activities:

- ◆ the development and application of tools for participatory planning, negotiation and adaptive learning;
- ◆ support for participatory and informed decision making; and
- ◆ evaluation of the effectiveness of landscape-level interventions in terms of livelihoods, biodiversity and environmental services.

In 2010, TBI activities focused on collaborative management of peat lands in Indonesia, the effects of forest land allocation on communities in Viet Nam (see Chapter: Community forestry and local governance), and dealing with planned infrastructure changes in Cameroon and Suriname.

Indonesia: from HCV assessment to landscape restoration

A consortium led by TBI Indonesia and its Indonesian partner, the Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA) carried out a High Conservation Value (HCV) assessment of the Kampar Peninsula, Sumatra in early January 2010. They did so at the request of PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper (RAPP), the holder of large industrial forest plantation concessions in the Kampar Peninsula and one of the main operators in the area. The assessment followed a preliminary evaluation carried out in 2009, which considered only RAPP's individual holdings. The company agreed with TBI's view that challenges in the area must be addressed at the landscape level and must involve all stakeholders: local, national and international; for this reason, the 2010 assessment was carried out at the scale of the entire peninsula.

The 700,000-ha Kampar Peninsula is the site of one of the largest peat deposits in the tropics. Illegal logging, plantation development, migrant settlement, land clearing and poorly constructed drainage canals have degraded the peatland ecosystem and fueled extensive carbon emissions. Conflict, competing claims, overlapping concessions, incompatible landscape goals, and inadequate communication between stakeholders stand in the way of productive landscape management.

The purpose of the HCV assessment was to provide guidance to RAPP and other stakeholders on options for the future management of the peninsula, based on a full consideration of the landscape's social and environmental values.

Based on the assessment — which confirmed the presence of high conservation values associated with ecological, biodiversity, biophysical and social/cultural criteria — the consortium proposed subdividing the peninsula into two zones. The deep peatland area would be strictly protected and rehabilitated, while the shallow peatland surrounding it would be available for forest plantations and other social and economic interests.

The HCV assessment clearly recommended collaborative management as the best way to address the area's complex issues and range of stakeholder interests.

The assessment work on HCV and peatland zoning has alerted a large number of stakeholders to the need for integrated management in the Kampar Peninsula. A major achievement — given the conflict-prone interests in the area — is the Kampar Initiative. It was established to obtain the support and participation of all stakeholders in finding a balance between restoration of the peninsula's ecological services, protection of habitats, and sustainable management of plantations and the socio-economic development of local communities.

After the Kampar Initiative was proposed to Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry (MOF) on September 23, 2010, the Ministry decreed that a Provincial Forest Management Unit (PFMU) would be created for *Tasik Besar Serkap* (as the Kampar Peninsula is known locally). The establishment of the unit recognises the need for active and collaborative forest management in the area.

The creation of the PFMU by the Ministry of Forestry was supported by both the provincial forest service and the districts involved. A number of private companies

have applied to adjust their permits from timber concessions to ecosystem restoration concessions, so that they will be compatible with the Ministerial decree. It is essential that local communities — who are the primary stakeholders — be involved in the establishment of the model and in decisions on the benefit-sharing mechanism.

The success of the PFMU model developed for Kampar relies on revenues to be generated from avoided carbon emissions and from carbon sequestration on the designated protected peatlands. Effective monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon storage in peatland areas will be a challenging task for everyone involved in the Kampar Initiative.

In the coming years TBI expects to remain involved to facilitate the processes of change and to ensure that implementation is based on best practices and knowledge gathered during the HCV assessment.

Suriname: causes of deforestation along road corridors in Suriname

Deforestation rates in Suriname have been low due to moderate population pressure and the interior's relative remoteness. The country's status as a High Forest Low Deforestation (HFLD) country is set to change, however, if planned infrastructure developments (a hydro-electric dam and a road to Brazil through the heart of Suriname) are carried out. Analytical and empirical studies have shown that increased access to previously inaccessible forested areas is an important determinant of deforestation.



Timely information about the underlying drivers of past and future deforestation, and on the location and extent of expected deforestation is necessary to effectively manage this process of change. The Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS) researchers associated with TBI Suriname are using spatial deforestation models to assess the influence of drivers

on forest cover change and to project future deforestation trends. They first developed maps of forest cover change based on Landsat Thematic Mapper images; these showed about 0.1% annual deforestation in the study area during 2005–09. The maps were used in a model that estimates deforestation based on the spatial distribution of deforestation drivers. Proximity to roads, previously deforested areas and gold mines were the strongest determinants of deforestation.

This information can be used to model a range of scenarios related to the planned infrastructural developments. When finished, the model will demonstrate how land use, infrastructure, socio-economic aspects and biophysical features drive forest loss in the existing road corridor in Suriname. With the outcomes of this research the researchers expect to be able to demonstrate the potential of this type of study to estimate the effects of land-use decisions on forest conservation in Suriname, and to inform these decisions so that they minimise undue negative impacts on forests and forest-dependent people.

Cameroon: TRIDOM

The industrial mining sector is developing rapidly in Cameroon and neighbouring countries, particularly in the areas of nickel, iron and natural gas. The industry will require substantial investment in infrastructure such as roads, railroads and hydro-electric dams over the next decade. This will increase claims on forest land and will have a considerable impact on biodiversity and on people who depend on the forests for their livelihoods.

TBI is a partner in the GEF-sponsored Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM) regional project, which started in late 2008 and extends until 2015. The project concerns the conservation of trans-boundary biodiversity in the TRIDOM area of Gabon, Congo and Cameroon, which contains nine protected areas of high conservation significance. At least three mines are planned in the area; they will be connected by railway with a new deep-sea harbour in Kribi, Cameroon.

TBI's goal in this project is to stimulate informed multi-stakeholder interaction to manage the disparate sectoral interests in the area, and, through a study conducted in cooperation with the Geography Department of the University of Yaoundé I, to provide a baseline of information for decision-making. TBI Cameroon has been instrumental in setting up a platform for discussions on issues related to the TRIDOM area; the platform has been functioning for more than a year. Participants have engaged in discussions with the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT), which plays a coordinating role in harmonising the plans of the various line ministries and is responsible for developing a zoning plan.





Climate change and REDD+

In November 2010, international negotiators at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties in Cancun, Mexico (COP 16) agreed on a general outline for a REDD+ mechanism. This was a major achievement after a long process of negotiation, but much work has yet to be done to turn REDD+ into a reality that conserves forests, stimulates sustainable forest management and protects forest carbon stocks. In the meantime, it is clear that a financial value will be attached to forests, and that international and local policies and initiatives related to REDD+ will have a tremendous impact on decisions affecting forests and the people who depend on them. The scope, direction and magnitude of climate change impacts on tropical forests and their related livelihoods are not well understood, nor is the way that REDD+ regimes will affect land-use decisions and livelihoods.

TBI Colombia attempted to answer questions related to the effects of climate change by asking local indigenous researchers to document local perceptions. Indigenous people have an intimate relationship with nature's cycles and they keenly perceive changes, including those associated with climate. During the project, women described how changes in climate and increases in temperature affect agricultural production and everyday practices in the *chagra* cultivation system. Men noted changes in the traditional annual cycle and the ritual calendar and the consequences of these modifications on the control and prevention of diseases. The information gathered in this project will be useful in political negotiations and the implementation of strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change on communities.

REDD+

At the national level, TBI is interested in the effects of REDD+ policies and implementation in its partner countries. At the international policy level, TBI is involved in the design of REDD+ mechanisms and their interactions with other international public policies (for

instance, the EU FLEGT initiative). Current and future REDD-related TBI activities will address these issues:

- ♦ clarifying community tenure, access to resources and benefit sharing under REDD+ regimes;
- ♦ using the potential of REDD+ and other mitigation schemes to restore environmental functions and achieve sustainable livelihoods in forest landscapes;
- ♦ assessing interactions between REDD+ regimes and sustainable forest management, local timber-dependent livelihoods and legal logging initiatives;
- ♦ developing mechanisms for REDD+ payments that are locally and culturally relevant; and
- ♦ establishing monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) mechanisms in partner countries and developing the capacities needed to do so.

Yonky Indrajaya, a PhD researcher in TBI's Indonesia programme, investigates benefit-sharing mechanisms in a national REDD regime. By implementing SFM and establishing a fair distribution of revenue, REDD+ can become a major source of income for Indonesia. The project's early findings suggest that equitable distribution has to be based on consensus among parties, including governments, private sector, NGOs and communities. It should also consider revenue distribution among regions of the country. These differ in the extent to which local governments participate in setting national reference levels for deforestation; in some cases these reference levels are simply imposed by the central government.

REDD+ funds can potentially make a major contribution to the large-scale reconstruction of degraded landscapes. A good example is provided by TBI Indonesia's activities for the Kampar Initiative, which seeks to reduce emissions from peatland degradation but requires investments in more sustainable land-use practices (see page 19).

In Guyana, the country's partnership with Norway provides for performance-based payments for avoided deforestation that are invested in strategic low-carbon sectors. As described on page 17, low-carbon development will have consequences for SFM, local timber-dependent livelihoods and legal logging initiatives. TBI, with its partners in Guyana, addresses these issues in the EU chainsaw milling project.

To date there is little experience with compensation payments associated with REDD+. Although many people agree that the local communities involved should benefit from such compensation payments, they also recognise that such payments can disrupt social and economic relations in these communities. In Colombia, indigenous researchers identified local perceptions of value and payments in order to design culturally appropriate benefit-sharing mechanisms related to PES (see Box 1). The research covered community experiences related to the meaning of money, traditional forms of payment and compensation, the impact of the market economy on the communities, and relationships between indigenous and afro-descendant communities and external projects, among other topics. Indigenous and afro-descendant people presented the results of this local research at a round-table discussion on June 16 and 17, 2010.

With regard to MRV, TBI Suriname and several other partners supported Suriname's Ministry of Forest Management in establishing a Forest Carbon Unit. As part of this effort, a training course was organised for the unit and other forest agencies in Suriname on carbon assessment in forest plots, both above ground (living biomass, dead wood and litter) and in the soil.

In Ghana and Suriname TBI participated in national REDD committees to prepare and implement Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) plans. Both country programmes organised meetings in 2010 to introduce REDD+ and climate change concepts to stakeholders. TBI Suriname made a presentation to the country's National Assembly on the topic. TBI Ghana facilitated stakeholder consultations and awareness creation on REDD+ with communities, traditional rulers and civil society organisations.





Community forestry and local governance

Decentralisation and devolution of control over forest resources to local governments or local communities is a worldwide trend. It affects TBI partner countries to differing degrees; in some cases, centralised control over forest resources is actually increasing. International policies on climate change and illegal timber trade, as well as the development of the carbon market, have led to renewed interest by central governments and private interests in natural resources, such as timber and carbon resources, that are controlled by local actors. Rapid changes associated with policies, markets and demographics — and in some places, conflict — will increasingly challenge local forest management institutions.

TBI contributes relevant and practical information to the debate on and the practice of local and decentralised forest governance. Whether local management improves livelihoods and better conserves forest resources is not yet fully understood.

TBI also supports the development of effective local and decentralised forest management arrangements (including ownership and tenure), clarifying local use of forests and biodiversity and improving the way that local and/or community interests are considered in governmental, non-governmental and corporate policies related to natural resources.

Viet Nam: evaluating forest land allocation policy

Forest land allocation (FLA) — the transfer of land formerly managed by the state to households and communities — marks a profound change in the way that forests are managed in Viet Nam. The stated objective of FLA is clear: to allocate forests to individual households in order to economically stimulate them to manage these lands and reduce deforestation. People are supported financially and technically so that they can manage protection forest and production forest.

FLA could have a large impact on landscape integrity, the provision of environmental services, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. In practice, however, its impacts to date have been limited, since allocated land often has poor soil quality and production is focused mainly on production of fast-growing *Acacia* trees. There is an urgent need to examine how best to use this land and its forest resources in order to maintain environmental integrity and provide sustainable livelihoods for the communities that depend on them, and to analyse the extent to which FLA actually contributes to increased tenure security and alleviation of poverty.



To address these issues, TBI Viet Nam initiated several collaborative research projects in the North Central Region of the country. One set of projects addresses the consequences of FLA on forest resources in relation to income generation and alternative livelihood strategies for forest-dependent communities. Another set examines the impact of FLA on biodiversity, delivery of environmental services and the abundance of economically valuable and endangered tree species in allocated forest lands and fragmented landscapes.

On November 22, 2010 TBI Viet Nam presented the results on the effects of FLA on local livelihoods and forest resources at a workshop in Hué. The researchers provided information confirming that FLA has led to local people having more access to the forest, where they harvest non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and timber for subsistence use. FLA is associated with changes in forest resources, especially when forest areas are partly converted to other crops, such as rubber, cassava or corn. FLA may also have indirect effects on forests and biodiversity. People tend to use the forest lands allocated to them for long-term purposes (for instance, by planting *Acacia* and *Eucalyptus* or by protecting them); while they illegally enter state-owned forests for short-term needs (such as timber and NTFPs). This can have a negative effect on biodiversity conservation.

DR Congo: community forestry

In Africa, community forestry was introduced relatively recently; in the Congo Basin only Cameroon has any significant experience with this form of forest management. The 2002 forest law in DR Congo allows local people to participate in forest use and management, but specific regulations on community forest management have yet to be approved. Several national and international organisations engage in lobbying for the approval of these regulations. Other organisations have started pilot projects in the field based on the constitution's recognition of customary rights to the land and the forest and on negotiations with local government officers.

TBI embarked on a collaboration with OCEAN (a local NGO which has contributed to national discussions on community forestry for more than ten years) and with the Faculty

of Social, Administrative and Political Sciences (FSSAP) of the University of Kisangani to implement a research project on community forestry in the Oriental Province. The objective of the research is to document and assess existing forms of forest use and internal organisation in rural villages. Land and forest use is often strictly organised according to family and clan; these traditional land-use patterns are important to consider when proposing new forest management systems. The results of the study could inform a bottom-up approach to promoting community forestry systems, rather than imposing systems from the top down.

TBI partnered with the NGO Forests Monitor to jointly produce a series of videos that introduce community forestry concepts to Congolese audiences. The videos provide an overview of community forestry: what it is, the process and challenges involved in implementing it, and the various benefits it can provide in terms of improving livelihoods, reducing poverty and protecting forests. The videos are based on footage taken from across the world: Guatemala, Bolivia Indonesia and Cameroon. The videos were issued in four languages (English, French, Lingala and Swahili).



In November TBI — in cooperation with WUR-CDI — organised a course in Kisangani on community forest management. The goal of the course was to increase awareness of community forestry in DR Congo as well as providing basic theoretical perspectives and international experiences. The course also included presentations on the specific experiences of Congolese NGOs in community forestry, and on the vision of the provincial government. The course targeted stakeholders from the government, civil society, universities and the private sector at the provincial level (Oriental Province), but it also attracted participants from central government in Kinshasa. There was keen interest in the course: only 30 of 160 applicants could be admitted, and participants considered it a success because of its combination of theoretical and practical aspects. Because of its success, the course will be repeated in March 2011.

Colombia: extending its successful model of local research

Since 2008, TBI Colombia — together with WWF Colombia and La Paya National Park — has involved local communities, municipal authorities and local organisations in more integrated, effective and participatory management of the protected areas in the middle basin of the Putumayo River, on the borders of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The

project's main goal is to strengthen local governance of communities and assist leaders in the three countries to develop a regional management plan.

The tri-national area is an important area due to its biological and cultural diversity, the latter represented by the various indigenous and peasant communities living in the area. The rapid expansion of agriculture, illegal crops and extensive cattle ranching — as well as illegal logging and hunting, and a limited government presence — pose a risk to the area's natural ecosystems and the people who depend on them. The 450,000-ha La Paya National Park is located in the Colombian part of the basin and contains part of the region's natural forest. Although Colombian law restricts extractive activities inside national parks, communities harvest natural resources from both inside and outside the park for their subsistence.



Based on its work in the Amazon region, TBI Colombia hopes to establish and institutionalise a process of decision-making for resource management through local research in this area. In this approach, local people generate their own data about resource use, analyse it and use it in the participatory formulation of natural resource management plans for forests, wildlife hunting and land use. These management plans are a legal requirement of the Colombian government for autonomous areas that overlap national parks.

TBI Colombia is establishing relationships with local communities and strengthening their capacity for natural resource governance, based on community research, monitoring and analysis. As many as 66 local researchers from ten communities in various ecosystems throughout the area are involved in inventories and daily recording and monitoring of the ways in which they use natural resources. The project also facilitates interchanges among local researchers and provides suitable tools to support joint analysis of information.

Suriname: mapping indigenous forest use

Unlike the situation in Colombia, land rights for indigenous and Maroon people are still a matter of dispute in Suriname, and there is little local awareness about the value of traditional knowledge. In order to better understand patterns of land use in relatively accessible indigenous communities, TBI Suriname conducted a multidisciplinary landscape assessment, using a methodology developed by CIFOR. The people of three indigenous villages (Pierre Kondre, Redi Doti and Cassipora) collaborated with researchers from CELOS, the Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname, the Nature Conservation division of the Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management, the Foundation for Scientific Information and Culture Com consultancy. The interest of the local population (around 450 people in total) in their surrounding

environment was central to the approach. In collaboration with the indigenous people, the research teams recorded local perceptions, needs, culture and organisation related to local forest resources and the environment. The study also included a mapping of soils, vegetation types and landscapes. Geographic Information Systems and remote sensing were crucial tools in the mapping exercise.

The results of the study showed that the villages, which are located relatively close to the capital, have relatively little dependency on traditional economic activities such as shifting cultivation, forestry, hunting and fishing. About 80% of income is derived from market economy activities. The survey also made clear that although villagers can hardly imagine a life without the forest, only a small number of them believed that the forest is indispensable to their lifestyle. Although preliminary, the results can contribute to reviving knowledge of and interest in the forest. This could strengthen the three local communities.





Sustainable entrepreneurship

Increased synergy between public- and private-sector efforts, both in the Netherlands and TBI's programme countries, will help stimulate sustainable development and alleviate poverty. TBI has a history of collaboration with private businesses — for instance, in supporting forest certification — although the main beneficiaries of its projects have been government agencies, civil society and communities.

TBI's engagement with the private sector has several components:

- ◆ supporting the development of responsible international sustainable supply chains for products such as timber, palm oil and biofuels;
- ◆ supporting local sustainable economic development through local entrepreneurship based on forest commodities;
- ◆ supporting the creation of secure enabling conditions for trade and entrepreneurship through good governance and equitable opportunities; and
- ◆ promoting innovative investment opportunities for natural resource management and landscape management.

TBI contributes knowledge and innovative ideas and evaluates business and government policies and practices.

One of TBI's activities in 2010 was to bring together partners from the forestry and finance sectors in Latin America and the Netherlands in order to stimulate innovation in forest investment in both sectors. Participants at these meetings identified the lack of credible examples of forest investment in sustainable multi-purpose forest management as a major constraint, and several efforts are underway to develop these investments (see page 10).

In Indonesia, TBI collaborates with a major pulp and paper company in implementing responsible plantation practices, specifically by applying the High Conservation Value

approach and extending this concept to the entire landscape where companies have their holdings (see page 19).

In developing countries, the potential of small and medium forest enterprises (SMFEs) as a catalyst for economic development, employment and innovation is frequently overlooked. As a partner in the Forest Connect project of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), TBI Ghana published a diagnosis of the SMFE subsector and its potential (see page 47).

In several countries, companies involved in natural resource extraction must comply with detailed Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) requirements. These companies often operate in areas where government, education and health care services are limited, and their operations can have a large impact on local livelihoods. In Indonesia, a PhD student has studied the practical implementation of CSR legislation in the province of South Kalimantan from the perspective of both the company and the community (see below).

In the Netherlands, significant momentum is developing for responsible corporate practices among major companies. The Leaders for Nature initiative of the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands (IUCN NL) is a network of current and future business leaders from 20 companies. TBI's director, René Boot, chaired the network's November 2010 meeting, "REDDening your business," where participants discussed climate markets and opportunities for companies to engage in them.

As certification and responsible supply chain management become more widespread, the question of whether they are effective continues to be asked. Forest management certification has many social and environmental goals. In 2010 TBI co-produced an issue of *ETFRN News* evaluating certification's impacts on forest biodiversity (see box 3 and page 49). This type of analysis is useful in guiding private sector action and helping responsible policies achieve their intended effects.

Corporate social responsibility in Indonesia

Where local autonomy is lacking, or where local communities live alongside strong corporate interests in the form of logging or mining concessions, company-community relations are best managed through corporate social responsibility (CSR) approaches.

Forestry companies in Indonesia are required by law to develop a CSR programme. In practice, numerous conflicts exist between companies and communities; these are problematic for both sides. Tri Wahyudiyati of TBI Indonesia's partner FORDA is investigating the relationships between forestry corporations in Indonesia and communities close to their operations. The study provides detailed information on CSR practice in South Kalimantan, comparing the application of CSR strategies and programmes by forestry and mining companies.⁶

⁶ The FORDA study is being carried out under guidance from Charles Sturt University in Australia and the University of Lambung Mangkurat in South Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Wahyudiyati examines how CSR theories are interpreted in practice, and assesses constraints and challenges at the field level. The study also explores local community perspectives, including cultural and customary features and people's attitudes to sustainable natural resource development and to the companies operating in their area. This work on CSR in a local context should inform government and corporate policies in Indonesia's forest sector.

Box 3. Biodiversity conservation in certified forests

Logging was once viewed as a major threat to tropical forests and their rich biodiversity, but recently that view has become more nuanced. Forest certification has been widely embraced as a strategy to better conserve forests and their biodiversity by promoting good forest management. But is it effective?

In 2009, TBI published a literature survey addressing the key question of whether forest certification supports biodiversity conservation. The topic was further explored in 2010 in issue 51 of *ETFRN News* (see page 49). The issue brought together 33 articles reflecting practical experiences and insights from a diversity of researchers, conservationists and forestry and certification practitioners.

Diverse experiences with and opinions about certification and its impacts were reported in *ETFRN News* 51. Despite these wide-ranging views, some general conclusions can be drawn. The articles provide many instances of the positive conservation benefits of good forest management practice:

- ◆ adoption of reduced-impact logging;
- ◆ establishment of streamside buffer zones and corridors;
- ◆ creation of biodiversity reserves; and
- ◆ landscape assessment and planning requirements involved in managing designated High Conservation Value Areas.

However, some authors stressed that certified forests are not substitutes for protected areas.

Many certification and conservation practitioners consider the conservation benefits of certified forest management practices to be so obvious that there is little incentive to document them. Nevertheless, it is questionable whether these benefits will be apparent to consumers and funders of certification programmes in the long run.

Despite positive effects on local biodiversity, certification was considered by participants in TBI's literature survey to have little influence on deforestation in tropical regions. Less than 2% of tropical forest areas are certified, and the requirements for certification remain a challenge for many commercial and community forest managers.

Certification stands out from other initiatives to conserve biodiversity as a well-known, flexible, market-based, multi-stakeholder approach. Better forest management practices, improved certification procedures and further research can all increase the benefits of forest certification for biodiversity conservation. Simpler and more practical standards and a focus on practices with relatively large conservation gains will increase certification's effects on biodiversity conservation and make it suitable for a wider group of forest managers. Improvements in existing monitoring schemes and in-depth research on management practices and long-term forest management effects will help address gaps in data. Forest certification is not without its faults, but once its benefits are better quantified, and the mechanisms to secure these benefits are better understood, forest certification looks set to remain an important driver of good forest management in the next decades.



Dialogue

It is increasingly recognised that governance problems underlie many forest problems. Good governance embodies decision-making that is participatory, consensus-based, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive, and which follows the rule of law.⁷ Moreover, good governance helps reduce corruption, takes into account the views of minorities, and acknowledges the voices of the most vulnerable in society in decision-making.

To support good forest governance, TBI stimulates and creates opportunities for the exchange of information in a way that allows people to contribute to better forest policies and SFM. Impartial and independent exchange of information is a critical part of fostering good governance processes. TBI is well placed to stimulate this dialogue, as demonstrated by its experiences in Ghana and Guyana.

Multi-stakeholder dialogue in Ghana and Guyana

For complex issues, with a range of competing claims and expectations, a well-managed multi-stakeholder dialogue (MSD) can bridge the differences in perceptions of the diverse participants and help them reach agreement. Since 2007, TBI has facilitated MSD in Ghana and Guyana to address chainsaw milling (see also Chapter: Domestic timber markets). These MSD processes were established to achieve several goals:

- ♦ provide a mechanism for stakeholders to share information, interact, participate in and influence national policy processes and outcomes;
- ♦ enhance levels of trust between different actors;
- ♦ mitigate conflict between stakeholders; and
- ♦ generate shared views of solutions and relevant good practices for CSM among stakeholders.

⁷ This is from the UNESCAP paper, What is Good Governance? www.unescap.org/huset/gg/governance.htm (December 2006).

A solid foundation

There is no such thing as an MSD blueprint. The context, stakeholders, issues, participants and objectives determine the design of each dialogue process. Preparation is crucial to ensure that the process is sound, inclusive and driven by the stakeholders. All relevant stakeholders must participate in the process and should be well informed about its objectives. They need to be organised and they should be able to express their opinions about the issues to be discussed and the process itself (Box 4).

Box 4. MSD: more than just talk

An MSD is more than just meetings. It is a process that is supported by several crucial elements:

- ◆ To allow for informed decision-making, participants need to have access to sound information. Information gaps identified by stakeholders are met through (action) research. A technical expert committee supports MSD participants in reviewing information and presents findings to the participants in an easily understood way.
- ◆ Skilled and sensitive facilitation is critical for successful management of the dialogue. The facilitator is crucial in guiding the dialogue toward its goals, ensuring that participants contribute fully and freely and dealing with conflicts and divergent interests.
- ◆ Stakeholders need to have a sense of ownership of the process. An MSD steering committee, comprising representatives from the key stakeholder groups, is responsible for guiding the multi-stakeholder dialogue process and ensuring that follow-up on consensus decisions is carried out.
- ◆ Not all participants in the MSD have the same level of knowledge and/or skills. It is important that — throughout the process — capacities and skills are built to empower stakeholders, particularly those at the community level, to participate effectively in the MSD.
- ◆ A communication mechanism is needed to ensure that information is provided to stakeholders within and outside the process.
- ◆ An effective monitoring framework needs to be developed. This enables stakeholders to assess whether the MSD is contributing to the realisation of goals, or whether there is a need to make changes.

The MSD process in Ghana and Guyana started with an analysis that identified and categorised the various stakeholder groups. This ensured that all relevant groups of people with a stake in CSM would be involved in the process. A key outcome of the stakeholder analysis in Ghana was a shared understanding of the need to make all stakeholders aware of the dialogue process, to seek their consent and commitment and to understand their fears and expectations of the process. After this analysis was done, district-level meetings were held to assess the extent to which stakeholder perceptions on chainsaw issues and the MSD differ, propose acceptable means to bridge these divisions, discuss and address important issues raised during the sensitisation programme, facilitate the selection of representatives and determine the issues to be discussed at the MSD meetings.

Following the stakeholder analysis, national focus group meetings were organised to provide insight into the expectations of important stakeholder groups and their views of the MSD as a tool to address critical issues. These focus group meetings established an understanding of stakeholders' interests, problems and concerns in chainsaw operations and identified issues, values, motivations, problems and opportunities associated with the MSD.

As a final step before actually starting the MSD, a preparatory workshop was conducted to present and prioritise the findings from the stakeholder analysis and the focus groups, to nominate members of the MSD Steering Committee and to agree on the structure of the MSD and the criteria for selection of MSD members.

In both Ghana and Guyana the MSD has been structured into district- and national-level dialogues, which are inter-related.

MSD results in 2010

In Ghana the chainsaw milling MSD process, the National Forest Forum (NFF) and the VPA decided to coordinate their efforts with regard to CSM issues. Stakeholders increased their understanding of the main issues and identified acceptable options to address CSM and the domestic timber supply. They then discussed three possible policy directions for ensuring a legal supply of domestic timber:

- ♦ Option 1: Sawmills alone to supply the domestic market with legal timber. This would require strict enforcement of the current CSM ban and the development of a range of options to encourage sawmills to supply domestic markets rather than exporting lumber.
- ♦ Option 2: Both sawmills and artisanal millers to supply the domestic market with legal timber. This would imply lifting the ban and allocating harvesting rights to regulated artisanal millers (see footnote 5) and the logging industry.
- ♦ Option 3: Artisanal millers alone to supply the domestic market with legal timber. This would imply lifting the ban and allocating harvesting rights to regulated artisanal millers.

Stakeholders agreed that option 2 was the best policy direction for supplying legal lumber to the domestic market. This policy direction needs to be further elaborated to provide clear recommendations to ongoing policy review processes in the government. The MSD process will continue to support this decision making.

In Guyana four regional meetings were organised in 2010 to prepare for the national-level MSD that starts in 2011. Community members and district-level stakeholders participated. The two-day meetings involve discussions complemented by practical demonstrations of log-to-lumber processing and safety instruction as well as lectures on SFM, processing, lumber storage and marketing. The meetings identified land-use planning, greater representation of small-scale loggers at the decision-making level, development of chainsaw policies and regulations and involvement of the mining community in the process as the main issues to be discussed in the national-level MSD.



Institutional development and capacity building

Through institutional development and capacity building, TBI works to strengthen key national forest sector organisations so that they will be better able to produce and use information to fulfill their mandates. These institutional strengthening activities focus on a limited number of national partner organisations. So far, most of TBI's affiliations have been with universities and research institutes that are a key part of the forest sector (Table 1).

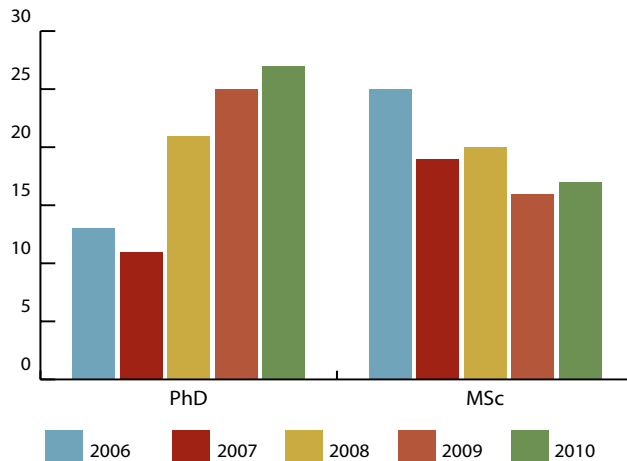
Table 1. TBI's key national forest research partners

Partner	Country
National University, Amazon (UNAL) National Training Service/Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA)	Colombia
University of Dschang	Cameroon
University of Kisangani	DR Congo
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (CANR/KNUST) Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)	Ghana
Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA)	Indonesia
Anton de Kom University Suriname (AdeKUS)	Suriname
Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (HUAF) Forest Science Institute of Viet Nam (FSIV)	Viet Nam

Institutional strengthening is carried out through a range of activities, such as joint research projects with national partners, training of professional staff, networking, collaboration with international partners (including the private sector) and tailor-made training. Whenever possible, TBI combines issue-oriented research and capacity building (through MSc and PhD projects) with organisational strengthening.

Capacity building for staff is one of TBI's major benefits to its partner organisations. In 2010, 28 PhD students and 17 MScs from southern countries participated in TBI's country programmes (Figure 1). Doctoral students who study at Northern universities while carrying out fieldwork in their home country are particularly valuable in supporting effective North-South partnerships. Northern students also participate in projects in close collaboration with students from the South. Undergraduate students participate in TBI programmes through internships and seminars. This collaboration between Northern and Southern partners is highly valued by both sides.

Figure 1. Number of students participating in TBI programmes



TBI also works with universities and research and training organisations in the areas of curriculum development and knowledge management. TBI coordinates four projects that are specifically aimed at strengthening the institutional capacity of its partners:

- ◆ training in environmental management and sustainable production chains geared to the needs of local communities within the National Training Service/ *Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje* (SENA) in Colombia;
- ◆ institutionalising Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) principles and approaches in the strategy and academic programmes of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources/Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (CANR/KNUST) in Ghana;
- ◆ creating synergy in forest research, a joint project of Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (HUAF), Viet Nam and International Development Studies (IDS, Utrecht University) to develop mutual capacity in forest areas; and
- ◆ modernisation of BSc forest and nature management curriculum at the Anton de Kom University of Suriname.

The SENA project in Colombia and the CANR/KNUST project in Ghana are funded by the NPT-NUFFIC⁸ initiative. The two projects aim to instil awareness about the complexity of forest issues in staff and students at the participating organisations. They also convey the need to involve and respond to the needs of stakeholders and to recognise the importance of traditional knowledge.

⁸ This is the Netherlands Programme for Institutional Strengthening of Post-secondary Education and Training Capacity (NPT) of the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC).

Colombia: integrating traditional knowledge in Colombia's largest training centre

The SENA project aims to strengthen the organisation's ability to work with ethnic groups in the Pacific, Amazon and Casanare regions. In 2010, new approaches and curricula were developed and tested that reflect the specific environmental, cultural and organisational aspects of each region.

More than 100 of SENA's instructors are being trained in developing environmental education and capacity-building programmes that match the characteristics, needs and potential of the ethnic groups of each region (Box 5). The instructors work in close collaboration with the local people to develop small-scale commercial projects on a wide range of topics, e.g., ecotourism, poultry farming, fishing, agroforestry and agricultural production. These efforts are being documented so that others can learn from them.

As well as training for instructors, the project closely involves higher management of SENA. A course for SENA managers increased their engagement in the project.

Box 5. Colombia: capacity building in communities

In the country's Amazon region, TBI Colombia runs a local grant programme to promote the recognition of traditional knowledge as a means to contribute to local livelihood strategies. This is a long-term capacity building process in the communities that includes ways to compile information, methods of creating documents and techniques to disseminate this information within the community and beyond. Local researchers produce data for natural resource management plans and negotiations with government authorities. One of the major strength of the programme is that its spokespeople are the indigenous researchers themselves.

This model has gradually established research formats that are shared with other communities and are now being adopted by the country's natural parks and protected area system. Some lessons learned are being applied in the design of curricula in the SENA project. This approach is a good example of how capacity building, research and strengthening of local communities can be combined.

Ghana: stakeholder involvement in designing CANR's curriculum and institutional strategy

The CANR project in Ghana pays specific attention to thoroughly involving stakeholders, both as a general institutional strategy and in the design of learning programmes. The project offers the opportunity for CANR to become more relevant to its stakeholders by engaging them in capacity-building activities. CANR prepares graduates by giving them experience in research for real-life problems, providing tailor-made courses on topical issues and conducting research by an interdisciplinary group of experts who work closely with stakeholders. This allows the stakeholders to be involved in CANR activities.

During the implementation of the project, more and more focus is being given to managerial aspects (job descriptions, performance appraisal, reward systems) that are key to motivating staff and supporting the envisaged organisational changes. In

addition, CANR staff members receive ongoing training in integrated approaches to natural resources and in learning programmes specific to the relevant circumstances.

Viet Nam: PhD research as a strategy to increase institutional capacity

In the HUAF project in Viet Nam, PhD research is the binding element between organisational strengthening and capacity building. PhD studies address topics that directly address HUAF priorities. In addition to research, PhD candidates organise training and workshops, involve both Vietnamese and Dutch students, develop proposals and strengthen the institutional network. Through collaboration with International Development Studies of Utrecht University, new approaches of socio-economic research and teaching are being introduced at HUAF.

Suriname: improving the AdeKUS BSc curriculum on forest and nature management

One of the major problems of the forest sector in Suriname is its very limited human resource base. To develop the sector, there is a critical need to attract more students to forest and nature studies and to strengthen the capacities of stakeholders. TBI Suriname supports AdeKUS through the modernisation of the BSc Forest and Nature Management curriculum. The goal of TBI's collaboration is improvement of course content, introduction of competency-based learning, improvement of the relationship between the university and the sector (a future employer), increasing the number of students and graduates, and promotion of interactions between Northern and Southern partners.

After carrying out a capacity (competence) needs assessment, training in Competence Oriented Teaching (COT) was provided by an expert from Van Hall-Larenstein University of Applied Sciences in 2010. The COT training was well received by teaching staff from the agricultural institute within the faculty. A promising result of this training was the mutual understanding of the need to structure and expand the relationship between the university and the sector.

Box 6. Capacity Fund for Forests and Nature, Suriname

The Capacity Fund for Forests and Nature/Capaciteitsfonds Bos en Natuur (CBN) supports projects that increase the capacities of individuals, organisations and communities in the interior of Suriname. The goal of these projects is to improve the quality of forest goods and services and to use them efficiently and sustainably.

CBN's projects in Suriname are diverse in both type of activities and target groups. In 2010, CBN carried out 13 projects, including GIS training for staff of the Foundation of Forest Management and Production Control/*Stichting Bosbeheer en Bostoezicht* (SBB), training in forest carbon assessment and monitoring for the Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management, development of educational material for primary schools on littering and a workshop on the application of solar energy.

Table 2. Courses given by Tropenbos International

name of course	co-organiser	date
Colombia		
Elements for the construction of a intercultural perspective	SENA	April 21–23
Training of Teachers in Multicultural Contexts	SENA	May 10–15 and August 30– September 1
Workshop for the Design of Syllabis in Multicultural Contexts	SENA	November 1–4
First Course for the Agroecology Diploma	SENA, Universidsad Minuto de Dios	September 20–24 and October 28–30
DR Congo		
English language course		November, 2010 – May 2011
Community Forestry	WUR-CDI	November 15–19
Forest Governance	WUR-CDI	December 6–10
Ghana		
Community training	WUR-CDI	June 28 –July 2
Writing to be published	KNUST	July 10
Communication training		November 12
Indonesia		
GIS and Remote Sensing basic training	Riau University	March 22–26
Training of Librarians	Waspola Facilities	July 21–23
HCV Assessment for technical staff	Instiper, TNC	July 26–30
GIS and Geomatics Certification	CEFET	August 18–28
HCVF training for Manager Level	TNC, WWF Indonesia, Bogor Agricultural University and University of Indonesia	October 23–29
Suriname		
Competence Oriented Learning	AdeKUS	March 8–12
Writing skills	CELOS, ESS, WWF	March 2
Writing skills	CELOS, ESS, WWF	April 19 – 10 June
The role of the editor	Schrijversvak school Paramaribo	October 15–20
Viet Nam		
Biodiversity conservation methodology	Forestry organisations	April 17–22
English course for Sub-FIPI staff members		October 22
Strengthening the Capacity of Biodiversity Inventory and Monitoring	Forestry organisations	December 19–24



Working in partnership

Partnership — bringing together national and international parties that contribute and share a range of skills and expertise, and working through partners rather than replacing them — is a critical element of TBI’s approach. TBI engages in partnerships at multiple levels (Table 3). Within its country programmes, partnerships with national forest-sector organisations help TBI develop its research and capacity-building agenda and communicate the message while research partners carry out the work. On a strategic level, partnerships with the private sector, research organisations and conservation and development groups create markets for the knowledge and skills produced within the programmes. Partnerships support several goals:

- ◆ applying the results of research;
- ◆ disseminating research results to wider audiences;
- ◆ achieving productive decisions on forest policy, forest management and the general field of TBI’s activities (research, capacity building, etc.); and
- ◆ access to funding.

Table 3. TBI partners

Universities and forest research institutes

Africa Museum	Belgium
Alexander von Humboldt Biological Resource Research Institute (IAvH)	Colombia
Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS) Faculty of Technological Sciences	Suriname
Bogor Agriculture University (IPB) Faculty of Forestry	Indonesia
Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS)	Suriname
Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)	Indonesia

Charles Sturt University (CSU) Institute for Land, Water and Society	Australia
Environmental Research Institute of the Pacific (IIAP)	Colombia
Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR)	Belgium
Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)	Ghana
Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA)	Indonesia
Forest Science Institute of Viet Nam (FSIV)	Viet Nam
Gadjah Mada University (UGM) Faculty of Forestry	Indonesia
Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry (HUAF) Faculty of Forestry	Viet Nam
<i>Institut Facultaire des Sciences Agronomiques de YANGAMBI</i>	DR Congo
<i>Institut Supérieur d'Etudes Agronomiques de BENGAMISA</i>	DR Congo
International Centre for Development-oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA)	the Netherlands
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) Department of Planning Department of Agricultural Engineering Faculty of Bioscience	Ghana
Lambung Mangkurat University (UnLaM) Department of Forest Management, College of Forestry	Indonesia
Leiden University Institute of Environmental Sciences (CML) Faculty of Social Sciences-Cultural Anthropology (FSW/CA)	the Netherlands
Mulawarman University (UnMul) Faculty of Forestry	Indonesia
National University of Colombia (UNAL) Sede Amazonia (IMANI)	Colombia
Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa (OFAC)	Congo Basin
Queensland University (UQ) School of Land and Food Sciences	Australia
SINCHI Institute	Colombia
University of Amsterdam (UvA) Amsterdam institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies (AMIDSt) Expertise Centre for Sustainable Development (ECDO)	the Netherlands
University of Copenhagen Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning (FLD)	Denmark
University of Dschang Faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural Sciences (FASA)	Cameroon
University of Freiburg Department of Forest Biometry	Germany

University of Kisangani	DR Congo
Faculty of Science	
Faculty of Social, Administrative and Political Sciences	
Faculty of Psychology	
Faculty of Economy	
University of Tilburg	the Netherlands
Development Research Institute	
University of Twente	the Netherlands
Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)	
Utrecht University (UU)	the Netherlands
International Development Studies, Faculty of Geosciences (IDS)	
Institute of Environmental Biology (IEB)	
Université de Yaoundé I	Cameroon
Department of Geography	
Université de Yaoundé II	Cameroon
Faculty of Economics and Management (FSEG)	
Viet Nam Forestry University (VFU)	Viet Nam
VU University Amsterdam	the Netherlands
Centre for International Cooperation (CIS)	
Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR)	the Netherlands
ALTERRA	
Environmental Economics and Natural Resources Group (ENR)	
Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group (FNP)	
Forest Ecology and Forest Management group (FEM)	
Landbouw Economisch Instituut (LEI)	
Rural Development Sociology Group (RDS)	
Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Science	
Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation (WUR-CDI)	
Government and government agencies	
Bach Ma National Park (BMNP)	Viet Nam
Forestry Commission (FC)	Ghana
Forest Services Division (FSD)	
Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC)	
Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD)	
VPA Secretariat	
Forest Service (LBB)	Suriname
Nature Conservation Division (NB-LBB)	
Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)	Guyana
Forestry Training Centre Incorporated (FTCI)	

Local governments in Indonesia	Indonesia
Province of Papua	
Province of Bali	
Province of Riau	
Boven Digoel	
Merauke	
Paser	
Mayor of Balikpapan	
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)	Viet Nam
Forest Inventory and Planning Institute (FIPI)	
Sub-FIPI Hue	
Directorate of Forestry	
Forest Protection Department (FPD)	
International Cooperation Department (ICD)	
Department of Science, Technology and Environment	
Forest Sector Support Partnership (FSSP and P)	
International Support Group (ISG)	
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Colombia
Ministry of Culture	Colombia
National Museum	
Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (EL&I)	the Netherlands
Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territory Development (MinAmbiente)	Colombia
Special Administrative Unit of the National Parks System (UAESPNN): Amacayacu and Cahuinari national parks	
Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF)	Cameroon
Ministry of the Interior and Justice	Colombia
Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management (RGB)	Suriname
Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism (MECNET)	DR Congo
National Training Service/Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA)	Colombia
Office National des Forêts - International (ONFI)	Cameroon
Provincial Government of <i>Province Orientale</i>	DR Congo
<i>Division Provinciale de l'Agriculture</i>	
The Office of Environmental Monitoring of Balikpapan City	Indonesia
Foundations, NGOs and associations	
Amazon Conservation Team (ACT)	Suriname
Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS)	Suriname
Association pour la Promotion des Initiatives Locales en Afrique Forestière (APILAF)	DR Congo
Centre Technique de la Forêt Communale (CTFC)	Cameroon
Development in Higher Education/Duurzaam Hoger Onderwijs (DHO)	the Netherlands
Dutch Association for Tropical Forests (VTB)	the Netherlands
European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN)	the Netherlands

FERN	UK
Forest Trends	USA
Forests Monitor	UK
Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control (SBB)	Suriname
Foundation for Information and Development (SWI)	Suriname
Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (HIVOS)	the Netherlands
IKV-PAX Christi	the Netherlands
Indigenous Regional Council for the Upper Amazonas (CRIMA)	Colombia
Institute of Natural Resources Law (IHSA)	Indonesia
Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation (ITFC)	Uganda
<i>Instituto Boliviano de Investigación Forestal (IBIF)</i>	Bolivia
International Centre for Development-oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA)	the Netherlands
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)	UK
International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Switzerland
IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands (IUCN NL)	the Netherlands
Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development	Guyana
Netherlands Development Organization (SNV)	the Netherlands
<i>Organisation Concertée des Ecologistes et Amies de la Nature (OCEAN)</i>	DR Congo
<i>Organisation pour l'Accompagnement des Pygmées (OSAPY)</i>	DR Congo
Pact	USA
Patrimonio Natural	Colombia
Programme for Sustainable Management of the Forests in the Bolivian Amazon (PROMAB)	Bolivia
<i>Réseau pour la conservation et la réhabilitation des écosystèmes forestiers (RESEAU CREF)</i>	DR Congo
Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI)	USA
<i>Solidaire et Organisé pour Sauver la Nature (SOS NATURE)</i>	DR Congo
The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC)	Thailand
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	USA
WWF Colombia	Colombia
WWF Guianas	Suriname
WWF Indonesia	Indonesia
International and multilateral agencies	
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (OCTA)	Brazil
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)</i>	Germany
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) NFP facility	Italy

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
UNESCO
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
UNOPS – TRIDOM GEF

Nigeria
France
USA
Congo Basin

Corporate

Culturecom Consulting
Environmental Services and Support (ESS)
La Forestière
Quente
Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper (RAPP)
T&C Consulting Ltd.
Van der Hout Forestry Consulting

Suriname
Suriname
DR Congo
the Netherlands
Indonesia
Viet Nam
the Netherlands



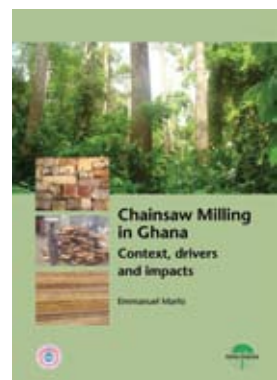


Publications

Chainsaw Milling in Ghana — Context, drivers and impacts

In spite of being banned in 1998, chainsaw milling (CSM) continues to be a major supplier of Ghana’s domestic lumber needs, with an annual estimated volume of 487,000 m³ (84% of local consumption). CSM provides jobs for about 97,000 people and supports the livelihoods of more than 650,000 people. CSM challenges Ghana’s ambitions to develop a legal and sustainable forestry sector. Discussions on CSM have become an important part of the EU-Ghana Voluntary Partnership Agreement; the country cannot fully meet the legality assurance aspect of the agreement without addressing CSM. Dealing with the issue in an equitable way will reduce conflicts in the forest sector, diminish forest degradation and support rural livelihoods.

This synthesis report examines the evolution of the policy, legal and institutional framework of CSM in Ghana. Based on new research and a review of recent studies, it provides insights into the social, political, legal and economic factors that drive CSM and assesses the practice’s impacts on livelihoods, forests and the timber sector. The report recommends a number of measures to more effectively regulate the practice to meet stakeholders’ needs and help Ghana achieve sustainable forest management goals.



Hidden forestry revealed: Characteristics, constraints and opportunities for small and medium forest enterprises in Ghana

Loss of forest undermines employment and revenue in the forest industry, which is Ghana’s fourth largest source of foreign exchange. It also exacerbates poverty and compromises a sustainable opportunity for economic growth. The informal sub-sector, characterised by small and medium forest enterprises (SMFEs), is largely left out of formal forest statistics, government planning and management, even though it provides income for about three million people in the country. SMFEs may in fact outweigh the formal forest sector in terms of their contribution

to livelihoods and resource sustainability, because they tend to accrue wealth locally, empower local entrepreneurship and require local approval in order to operate.

Several ongoing international initiatives have implications for SMFEs in Ghana. Key among them are the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) in Ghana and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). Efforts must be made to utilise opportunities offered by these initiatives and deal with the challenges they present. The VPA, for instance, promotes the legality of enterprises and has the potential to put SMFEs — which are mostly informal and unregistered — out of business. This situation could be avoided if the definition of legality were broadened to include the interests of SMFEs; this may require a review of some of the current forest policies and legislation. Isolated SMFEs may also need to be organised into associations and assisted to register themselves and conduct their operations in a legal and sustainable manner.



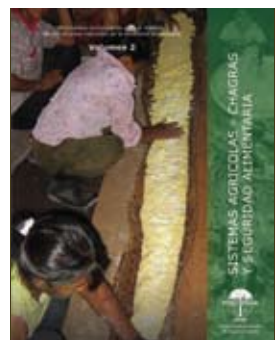
The state continues to lose revenue by neglecting the SMFE sub-sector, which results in non-registration and non-payment of permit fees and taxes. It also leads to illegal and unstable operations and less than optimal contribution of the sub-sector to people's livelihoods and poverty reduction. SMFEs lack organisation through associations, business registration, legality and tenure security of enterprises in the formal forest sector. People engaged in SMFEs face problems such as excessive bureaucracy, unfavourable policies and legislation, insecure tenure, poor market access and information, lack of access to credit, poor infrastructure, inadequate technology, weak bargaining power and insufficient business know-how. Furthermore, the subsector is plagued by depletion and/or seasonality of raw materials and an influx of alternative imported products on the market. There is a high level of arbitrariness and general weakness in the implementation of the few supporting policies that exist.

Addressing institutional challenges — with an emphasis on networking, research, capacity building, information and technology transfer, access to capital (microcredit facilities) and participation in decision-making processes — could greatly enhance the contribution of the SMFE sub-sector to the improvement of local livelihoods and resource conservation.

Monitoreos Comunitarios para el Manejo de los Recursos Naturales en la Amazonia Colombiana

In 2010 TBI Colombia launched the series "*Monitoreos Comunitarios para el Manejo de los Recursos Naturales en la Amazonia Colombiana*" (Community monitoring for natural resource management in the Colombian Amazon). The series documents TBI Colombia's experiences in the use of local and traditional knowledge in the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources.

For more than 15 years, TBI Colombia has been collaborating with the local communities of the lower and middle Caquetá River to document and revitalise traditional knowledge and practices, and to use these practices as a tool for developing models for local governance and sustainable management of natural resources. The success of this model has increasingly been recognised by a variety of organisations working with indigenous and afro-colombian communities in Colombia. Previously, the methods used for engaging local communities in participatory research had not been documented. The experiences compiled in this series serve as a guide and a source of inspiration for researchers and development NGOs who work on projects that generate local information aimed at facilitating decision-making processes for conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. Through this series, TBI will further contribute to the recognition of local and traditional knowledge, the capacity of local communities to generate information and monitor natural resources, discussions on the sustainable use of natural resources and the development of a platform to strengthen environmental governance.



The first four books of the series are on *chagras* (indigenous farming systems), subsistence fishing, commercial fishing and participatory mapping.

ETFRN News 51: Biodiversity conservation in certified forests

Published after more than 15 years of certification, *ETFRN News 51* assesses whether forest certification has been an effective strategy for conserving forests and their biodiversity. This issue of *ETFRN News* brought together 33 articles reflecting practical experiences and insights from a diversity of researchers, conservationists and forestry and certification practitioners. They address the challenges of monitoring biodiversity, assessing high conservation value forests and a range of other subjects. The results of a dedicated on-line survey gauge expert opinion and provide additional insights.

The evidence indicates that certification has helped to conserve tropical forest biodiversity but the extent of both the evidence and the conservation benefits remains limited. In spite of these uncertainties, certification — and a regulated timber harvest — are viable strategies in the fight against biodiversity loss in tropical forests.

ETFRN News 51 was jointly produced by TBI and the Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation and was made possible through financial contributions from the Government of the Netherlands, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the German International Cooperation (GIZ).



ETFRN News 52: Chainsaw milling: supplier to local markets

Chainsaw milling (CSM), the on-site conversion of logs into lumber using chainsaws, supplies a large proportion of the lumber at local timber markets at low prices. While it offers socio-economic opportunities for local people, it is often associated with corruption and illegalities. Regulating and controlling the practice is a challenge due to the mobility of CSM operations.

Governments of tropical countries around the world have failed to address the domestic timber demand and have struggled to deal with the CSM subsector, which is often informal. International negotiations and agreements on tropical timber production also tend to disregard local timber consumption, although the local timber trade is affected by these international agreements and vice versa. The European Union (EU) Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and future climate change agreements (through REDD+) might be able to provide incentives to regulate the local timber trade.

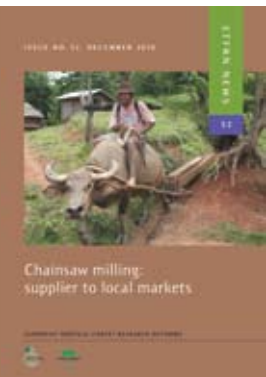
This issue of *ETFRN News* has 28 articles, with contributions from more than 20 countries in South America, the Caribbean, Asia and Africa. They provide an overview of the nature, extent and implications of chainsaw milling as a supplier to local and regional timber markets in various countries. The publication also gives a good picture of the key issues, challenges and opportunities of chainsaw milling and illustrates the importance of including local timber flows in national and international forest initiatives such as FLEGT and REDD+.

ETFRN News 52 was jointly produced by TBI and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and was made possible through financial assistance from the European Commission's Programme on Tropical Forests and other Forests in Developing Countries and the Government of the Netherlands.

World Forestry at a crossroads: Going it alone, or joining with others?

Forestry cannot go it alone. Many forest-related problems extend beyond geographic borders, and most are closely interwoven with issues beyond the forest sector. Forests are increasingly becoming a societal concern, of interest to people other than foresters. Forging links with other sectors and between various levels (from local to international) is a challenge for the forest sector. In addition to maintaining and guaranteeing substantive expertise, actors in the sector will need to be flexible in their ideas, attitudes and methods if they wish to remain relevant and effective partners in developing and implementing global and local forestry for development agendas.

In a recent article in the FAO forestry journal *Unasylva*, Herman Savenije and Kees van Dijk identified major trends related to forestry and reflected on



the need for change to ensure the sector's relevance to and effectiveness for sustainable development.

They came to some pertinent conclusions:

- ◆ Stop seeing the sector on its own. Focus on the world beyond the forest and the questions and perceptions that arise there.
- ◆ Adopt an active, strategic and political position in the public debate, indicating clearly what the sector can offer.
- ◆ Shift from a do-it-yourself mentality to a service-oriented approach to sustainable development and the agendas of other sectors and actors.
- ◆ Demonstrate all of the actual values of forests to society, i.e., production and service functions.

Vakblad Bos & Natuur

Many Surinamese are involved in some aspect of forest and nature, either professionally, due to personal interest or because they live in or near the forest. For many people the forest is a crucial part of their livelihoods. Previously, no forum existed where people could publish forest-related information on education, research, policy, innovation and other fields.

In January 2010 TBI Suriname — together with the Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS) and World Wildlife Fund Guianas — launched *Vakblad Bos & Natuur*, a quarterly specialist journal on forests and nature. The Dutch-language journal provides a platform for exchanging insights, ideas, proposals, notices and announcements on forest and nature. It is targeted to the various stakeholders in these fields.

In 2010 four issues were published, with articles on a variety of themes, including climate change, ecotourism, small-scale mining, certification, multi-disciplinary landscape assessment and biodiversity.

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Events

TBI organised many conferences, workshops and other events in 2010, sometimes in conjunction with other organisations (Table 4).

The Netherlands — The Dutch Forum on Forests

The Dutch Forum on Forests (*Het Bossenoverleg*) is the meeting place for professionals who are active in forest-related policy, research, management and conservation. This platform serves as a place for members to inform each other of developments in the national and international forest policy arena, develop joint initiatives related to forest conservation and SFM and consolidate political support in the Netherlands.

The forum is organised by the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands (IUCN NL) and TBI. TBI's director, René Boot, co-chairs the meetings with Mark van der Wal of IUCN NL. In 2010, three meetings were held. The first focused on the outcomes of COP 15 of UNFCCC in Copenhagen (December 2009), while the other two meetings discussed national and international policy developments in general, including Dutch timber procurement policy, forest certification and governance requirements for SFM.

Viet Nam — Katoomba XVII: opportunities for PES in Viet Nam

The Katoomba Group is an international network of individuals working to promote and improve capacity related to markets and PES. The Katoomba XVII Conference provided a venue to exchange knowledge about new markets and opportunities related to PES between Viet Nam and other Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries. TBI Viet Nam — along with, among others, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Forest Trends and Winrock International — organised the conference, which was held on June 23–24 in Ha Noi.

The conference focused on the current state of PES markets in the region and their potential, including pioneering initiatives in water-, forest- and marine-based carbon sequestration and biodiversity markets. These PES initiatives, in conjunction with REDD, have the capability to reduce global carbon emissions, mitigate the negative impacts of climate change and help conserve natural ecosystems.

Presentations and in-depth discussions at the conference, especially those relating to PES and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms, provided a good overview of PES and REDD issues for MARD. This will enable the Ministry to improve its policies on climate change and conservation of forest ecosystems.

Ghana — ten years of making knowledge work for forests and people

TBI Ghana made its debut in May 2000. The programme aims to bridge the gap between forest policy, management and science; provide a forum for discussing forest issues; and carry out relevant research and training. For ten years, TBI Ghana has remained committed to providing relevant knowledge and guidance on SFM for policy-makers, resource managers, researchers, academia, civil society, the timber industry and forest communities in the country.

The programme celebrated its tenth anniversary through a variety of activities with its closest partners and collaborators, including Ghana's Forestry Commission, the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources of KNUST and civil society groups.

Two anniversary lectures were organised. The first was entitled "Forests, people and livelihoods: entitlements to the world's forestry resources" and was delivered by TBI Board member Ton Dietz with support from Mirjam Ros-Tonen, of the University of Amsterdam. A second well-attended lecture was on "Multi-level governance of timber legality: FLEGT, local livelihoods and social safeguards" and was given by incoming TBI Board member Bas Arts of Wageningen University.

In spite of many interventions in Ghana's forest sector, the country continues to experience soaring rates of deforestation and forest degradation. TBI Ghana held a public debate among key forest actors on the theme "Halting deforestation and forest degradation in Ghana — the missing link."



Table 4. Conferences and workshops

Financing mechanisms			
event	co-organisers	date	place
Environmental Economy and Services in Indigenous and Afro-descendant Communities: a local point of view	Patrimonio Natural	June 16–17	Bogotá, Colombia
Katoomba XVII Conference (see details above)	MARD, the Katoomba group, Forest Trends, USAID, WINRock International, MONRE, MacArthur Foundation, GTZ, SNV, World Agroforestry Centre, CIFOR, Rainforest Alliance, Mangroves for the Future	June 23–24	Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Domestic timber markets and chainsaw milling			
event	co-organisers	date	place
Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD) Guyana	FTCI, Iwokrama	February 17–18; June 7–8; August 17–18; October 19–20	Annai Linden Corriverton Anna Regina
District level MSD 2 and 3, Ghana	FC, FORIG	February /March; June/July	Akyem Oda, Assin Foso, Begoro, Goaso, Juaso, Kade, Nkawie, Sunyani
National MSD 3 and 4, Ghana	FC, FORIG	April 4; September 23	Kumasi, Ghana
MSD harmonisation meeting between EU CSM project and TIDD	FC, FORIG	May 31	Kumasi, Ghana
Joint MSD (CSM project and TIDD)	FC, FORIG	October 28	Accra, Ghana
Workshop — The Domestic Timber Market: Insights and Developments		November 10–12	Colacreek, Suriname
FLEGT/VPA and implications for livelihoods in Ghana – informing the further development of social safeguard mechanisms	WUR-CDI	November 25–26	Elmina, Ghana
Multi-level governance of timber legality: FLEGT, local livelihoods and social safeguards		November 30	Kumasi, Ghana
Joint MSD Validation workshop	FC, FORIG	December 16	Accra and Kumasi, Ghana

Landscapes			
event	co-organisers	date	place
Inception workshop, CoCoon project on marginal lands	CoCoon researchers	January 23–26	Hue, Viet Nam
Radar satellite monitoring and forest monitoring		February 26	Paramaribo, Suriname
Public hearing pre HCV assessment		February 23	Pekanbaru, Riau Province, Indonesia
Public hearing on socialisation of HCV assessment result, Kampar Peninsula	PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper (RAPP)	May 6	Bogor, Indonesia
Integrated Forest Landscape Restoration in Spatial Planning Review	Brawijaya University	July 21–22	Malang, Indonesia
Round-table meeting of Spatial Planning Society: Integration of Strategic Environmental Analysis (SEA) for Spatial Planning Review	Bogor Agricultural University	August 4	Bogor, Indonesia
Climate change			
event	co-organisers	date	place
Future Steps of Indonesia in Responding to the Result of Copenhagen Meeting	CIFOR, ICRAF, MOF	April 13	Jakarta, Indonesia
Local governance and community management of forests			
event	co-organisers	date	place
Public lecture: Forest, people and livelihoods		July 10	Kumasi, Ghana
Local researchers conference	WWF	September 8–10	Puerto Leguizamo, Colombia
Knowledge Dialogue in BIOEXPO 2010		November 18–24	Neiva, Colombia
Workshop — Impacts of Forest Land Allocation on the Livelihoods of Local People and Forest Resources in the North Central Region		November 22	Hue, Viet Nam
Miscellaneous			
event	co-organisers	date	place
Meeting of the Dutch Forum on Forests (see details, above)	IUCN NL	January 13 May 12 September 29	Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Launch of Vakblad Bos & Natuur, a quarterly specialist journal	CELOS, WWF, ESS	January 14	Paramaribo, Suriname

Annual researchers workshop		January 22	Hue city, Viet Nam
Identification of environmental problems	Consortium of Green Institutions and NGOs	February 5	Balikpapan, Indonesia
Ceremony, International Day of Biodiversity	FSSP, DOF, MONRE	May 21–22	Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Making knowledge work for forests and people (presentation by TBI's country programmes)	VTB	May 19	Wageningen, the Netherlands
Final day of writers' training as part of the Vakblad Bos & Natuur project, including presentation of certificates to 18 participants	CELOS, WWF, ESS	June 7	Paramaribo, Suriname
Conservation and use of biodiversity in tropical forests: Are we on the right track?	Utrecht University (Prince Bernhard Chair), Wageningen University Forestry Groups, Dutch Association of Tropical Forests (VTB) and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation	June 16	Ede, the Netherlands
Launch of TBI Ghana's tenth anniversary (see details, above)		June 16	Kumasi, Ghana
Community meeting to mark ten years of making knowledge work for forests and people		June 24	Asumura, Ghana
Workshop: Making the Revised Forest and Wildlife Policy Responsive to Livelihood Challenges in Ghana		September 9	Kumasi, Ghana
Launch of the book Feathered Beings: Feather Art in the Colombian Amazon from a Local Perspective	IaVH	September 21	Bogotá, Colombia
Creating synergy in forest research: HUAF-IDS mutual capacity development in forest areas	UU	September 30	Utrecht, the Netherlands
Workshop: Improved National Forest Research Strategy Action Plan	Forest Science Institute of Viet Nam (FSIV), Science Technology and Environment Department/MARD	October 26	Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Information meeting of the Capacity Fund for Forests and Nature		November 9	Paramaribo, Suriname
Higher Education in the Amazon Today: Inclusion, relevance and financing (seminar)	National University in Leticia and the Departmental Office for Education	November 22	Leticia, Colombia



General Board

TBI is governed by a General Board of Dutch and international experts drawn from the research, policy, business and development communities (Table 5). An Executive Committee is responsible for implementing board resolutions.

Table 5. Members of TBI General Board

Name	Organisation	Country
Prof. Dr. Rudy Rabbinge (Chair)	WUR	the Netherlands
Yolanda Kakabadse (Vice-Chair)	Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano	Ecuador
Prof. Dr. Janice Jiggins (Treasurer)	WUR	the Netherlands
Alhassan Attah	Forestry Commission; UNFF secretariat	Ghana
Prof. Dr. Ton Dietz	African Studies Centre	the Netherlands
Dr. Guido Gryseels	Royal Museum for Central Africa	Belgium
Claudia Martínez	Ecology, Environment and Ethics (E3)	Colombia
Prof. Dr. Frits Mohren	WUR	the Netherlands
Dr. Heleen van den Hombergh	IUCN NL	the Netherlands
Prof. Dr. Marinus Werger (em)	Utrecht University	the Netherlands

The General Board had its 17th meeting on July 6–7, 2010 in Ghana. This was the third time that the board combined its annual meeting with a visit to one of TBI's programme countries. The visit consisted of a formal component, which included meetings with the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, the Ambassador of the Netherlands, and several TBI Ghana partners such as the Forestry Commission and the Forest Research Institute of Ghana; and an informal part, which allowed the members of the board to better understand some of the key issues affecting forests and people in Ghana. Board members paid a visit to the Kumasi lumber market, a bustling market

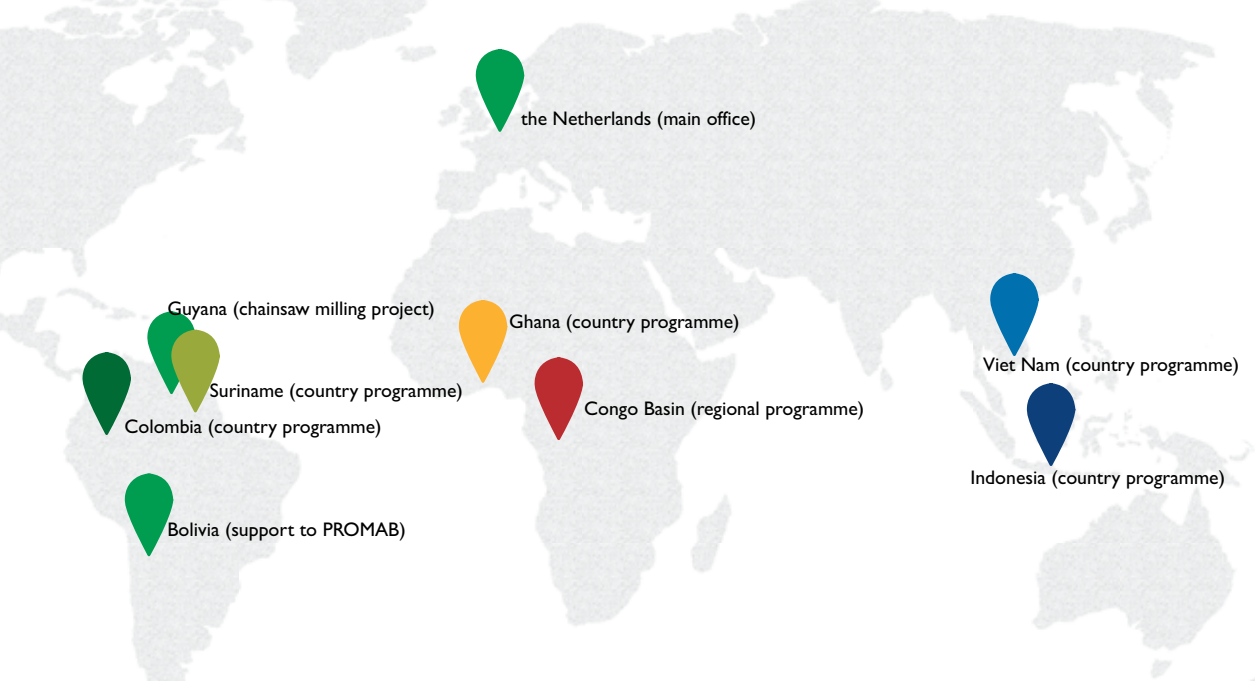
thriving on illegal lumber produced using chainsaws, and to a village struggling with the limitations of its location within a Globally Significant Biodiversity Area.

The main issues on the annual meeting agenda included a discussion of the draft strategic plan, which prepares TBI for a renewed relationship with its main donors during 2011–16, and a review of the TBI Ghana programme. A discussion on a draft Code of Conduct on intellectual property rights was also on the agenda, as were the usual reporting issues.



The Executive Committee met on two occasions in 2010. The committee consisted of Rudy Rabbinge (chair), Frits Mohren, Ton Dietz, Janice Jiggins (treasurer) and Marinus Werger. Committee members discussed ongoing management issues, TBI's risk analysis and the strategic plan. Preparations for the mid-term evaluation and planning of a joint meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands received special attention.

In the course of 2010, Yolanda Kakabadse and Frits Mohren retired from the Board. Janice Jiggins and Ton Dietz agreed to extend their terms until after the board meeting in 2011. Guido Gryseels joined the General Board in 2010.



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 Clara Rita Hernández
 Gertrudis Matapí
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 Francisco Sierra
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 Patricia Vargas

 Yaneth Triviño
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 Secretary
 GIS Officer
 Educational Specialist, SENA– NPT Project
 Legal Consultant
 Secretary
 General Services
 Project Officer, SENA– NPT Project
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 Financial Manager
 Coordinator, WWF-Trinational Project for Tropenbos
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Vivian Haward	Cleaner
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James Parker McKeown	National Coordinator, EU Chainsaw Milling Project
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Bossmen Owusu	Communication Officer
Obed Owusu-Addai	Intern: Project Assistant
Sarah Paintsil	Cleaner
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Director
Senior Advisor
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Administrator
Controller
Secretary/Office Manager
Secretary
Programme Coordinator
Programme Coordinator
Programme Coordinator
Programme Coordinator



Finances

During 2010 TBI received core funding from the Directorate General for International Cooperation of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS) and the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (EL&I). A range of other donors also supported TBI's work, almost doubling the DGIS core contribution. TBI's partners in the programme countries further provide substantial contributions in kind, in the form of office space and/or equipment, or make researchers or relevant expertise available. All these contributions enable TBI to continue its activities to improve the sustainable management of tropical forests for the benefit of people and biodiversity.

Table 6. Donors

the Netherlands	Type
DGIS	Core funding
EL&I	Co-funding core programme
NUFFIC	NPT programme
International	
DFID (UK) / GIZ (Germany)	ETFRN
EU	Chainsaw milling project
Hivos / EU	Project based contribution (Bolivia)
Instituto Alexander von Humboldt (Colombia)	Local research projects
Royal Netherlands Embassy	Project based contribution (Suriname)
WWF Colombia / EU	Project based contribution (Colombia)

Table 7. Annual accounts 2010

Revenues	€ x 1000	%
Netherlands Government		
DGIS (core contribution)	2,940	58.3
EL&I	119	2.3
Nuffic NPT programme	753	14.8
EU (Chainsaw milling project)	530	10.4
RNE Paramaribo (CBN Project Suriname)	276	5.4
WUR (Competing Claims project)	20	0.4
Hivos (EU Bolivia project)	29	0.6
DFID / GIZ (ETFRN news)	17	0.3
WWF Colombia / EU (Trinational project)	67	1.3
Local site contracts	194	3.8
Miscellaneous (a.o. consultancies)	85	1.7
Interest	35	0.7
Total	5,065	100.0

Expenditures	€ x 1000	%
Country programme activities	2,246	44.6
Local site contracts	220	4.3
Special projects	1,708	33.7
Organisational costs	404	7.9
Programme development and monitoring	272	5.3
Programme activities	215	4.2
Total	5,065	100.0



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12	SENA - Tropenbos International - Colombia
13	TBI DR Congo - DR Congo
14	TBI DR Congo - DR Congo
16	TBI DR Congo - DR Congo
17	Tropenbos International - Guyana
18	TBI Viet Nam - Viet Nam
20	Rudi van Kanten - Suriname
21	Clara Moeremans - Cameroon
22	Tropenbos International - Indonesia
24	Aryo Bhirowo - Indonesia
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29	Daniel Matapí - Colombia
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46	Confucio Hernández - Book illustration
55	Francisco Sierra - Colombia
56	TBI Ghana - Ghana
60	Juanita Franco
61	TBI Ghana - Ghana
65	Francisco Sierra - Colombia
66	TBI Indonesia - Indonesia

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



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