

Making knowledge work for forests and people



Annual Report 2011





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Message from the Chairman

Well-managed productive landscapes provide agricultural products, forest resources, water and ecosystem services. These are indispensable to sustainable growth in developing countries. Incorporating environmental and social concerns in the governance and management of tropical landscape mosaics is a specific objective of Tropenbos International's (TBI's) strategic plan for the period 2011–2016.

This plan re-establishes TBI as an intermediary organization and knowledge broker, linking research with policy and policy makers with civil society and the private sector. That role may be different in developed countries than in developing countries, but the need for intermediary organisations has become more clear.

The strategic plan combines the development of locally relevant country programmes in Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Suriname and Viet Nam with a greater focus on four themes where forests can provide solutions for global challenges: 1) investing in productive landscapes that meet the demand for food, water and forest products while contributing

to poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation; 2) promoting sustainable timber trade for international and domestic timber markets; 3) improving local governance and community management of forests as a condition for sustainable local economic activities and forest conservation; and 4) developing innovative financing mechanisms that support sustainable forest management.

These themes largely coincide with those of the Netherlands' International Cooperation. TBI is pleased that the Dutch government has renewed its support for the organisation for another period of five years.

The new strategic plan and the new funding from the Netherlands' government put TBI on a strong footing to make knowledge work for forests and people in the years ahead.

Rudy Rabbinge
Chairman



Message from the Director

In 2011 TBI finalized its latest five-year programme. The programme was evaluated by a team of eight reviewers, who concluded that TBI's work is highly relevant to the national and international forest agenda due to its presence in host countries, its approach and its network of partner organisations and alumni.

In Suriname TBI studied the drivers of deforestation, which is associated with the construction of roads in the country's interior. In Indonesia TBI promoted the use of High Conservation Value approaches to achieve local economic development while taking into account social economic and environmental concerns. And in Cameroon, TBI helped to establish an exchange of information about infrastructure development and conservation planning in the TRIDOM region in the south eastern part of the country.

In Ghana and Guyana TBI supported the regulation of domestic timber markets. Addressing domestic markets in Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) and REDD+ was also the theme of an international seminar organized by TBI and its partners in Brussels this year.

A third subject relevant to national and international agendas is the design of financial mechanisms in support of sustainable forest management. In May TBI and its partners organized the business meeting "Forestry investment in emerging markets: risks and opportunities of investing in forests." TBI further studied the engagement, experience and perspective of institutional investors in forest investment in developing countries. Both activities revealed the growing interest of the financial sector in forestry.

Given TBI's role as a broker linking research with policy and practice, its experience with facilitating informed dialogue, and its partnerships in the North and South, we are confident that TBI will continue to have a positive impact on both national and international forest and development agendas.

René Boot
Director





Towards Productive Landscapes

Productive landscapes fulfil the economic and environmental requirements of present and future generations through their capacity to produce essential products and ecosystem services. In productive landscape mosaics, forests are an important part of providing these goods and services. Large areas of degraded lands in the tropics — often former forest lands — demonstrate the consequences of land-use practices that neglect the environmental limitations of ecosystems and ignore the interests of some stakeholders.

This raises several questions: What makes a landscape – with their forests – function in such a way that it sustainably delivers goods and services to people? What makes a landscape — and people’s livelihoods — resilient to change, caused for instance by climate change or shifts in land-use patterns? What will be the effects of implementing potentially far-reaching policies such as Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), REDD+ and biofuel policies?

TBI looks at these issues in forest landscapes that have been affected by policy and physical changes. TBI studies these changes and their impacts on local people and forests, and contributes to the design of methods to manage their effects. Through capacity building, dissemination of information and participation in networks and in dialogue TBI supports informed decision making by governments, businesses and communities.

The main landscape changes that TBI worked on in 2011 were related to oil palm expansion in Indonesia, REDD+ projects in Indonesia and Suriname, small-scale logging in Ghana, Guyana and DR Congo, allocation of forest lands to communities in Viet Nam, and mining and road-building developments in Cameroon and Suriname.

In Cameroon TBI helped establish a platform of actors operating in the TRIDOM region in the south eastern part of the country. The platform facilitates information exchange and negotiation related to infrastructure development and conservation planning in the area. TBI conducted a study summarising all social, economic and environmental information available for the region as a baseline against which to evaluate future developments.

In Indonesia TBI advocated the use of the High Conservation Value (HCV) approach as a means to support stakeholder negotiation about acceptable development initiatives that take account of local socio-economic and environmental needs and priorities. TBI collaborated with partners to implement two landscape-level HCV assessments and participated in the creation of an Indonesian chapter of the international HCV Network.

In Suriname TBI mapped the drivers of deforestation associated with roads in the interior, contributed to improved guidelines for sustainable forest management by co-developing a Code of Practice and helped Surinamese organisations develop the institutional capacities for forest carbon monitoring. TBI also completed a multi-year study on community landscape perspectives in the Carolina area, a combination of local and university research.





Domestic timber markets

In many countries, the amount of timber harvested for local purposes is as high as or higher than that for export. This local timber trade provides jobs and income to millions of people, but is often poorly regulated and associated with social injustices, environmental degradation, lack of governance, wasteful practices and loss of tax revenue. Both domestic and regional demand are predicted to expand as a result of population growth, improved infrastructure and economic development.

Governments in tropical countries around the world have difficulties in effectively addressing the local timber demand. Managing the domestic trade is not just a national concern of producer countries; it is in the interest of the global community. The negative effects of non-regulation spill over to the timber export trade and result in forest degradation, loss of environmental services and poverty. Ignoring the domestic timber trade will undermine good governance, hinder sustainable forest management of the world's production forests and jeopardize efforts to implement a legal international timber trade. Local timber production and consumption in tropical countries should be incorporated in international forestry initiatives. The FLEGT/VPA has already acknowledged this by including the domestic market.

TBI is supporting the effective regulation of domestic timber markets in several ways. In Ghana and Guyana TBI is facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues (MSDs) to address domestic timber issues. In 2011 the MSD in Ghana resulted in a policy proposal that aims to provide a framework promoting

trade in legal and sustainably produced timber for the domestic market. It introduced the new concept of artisanal milling to supply the domestic market. TBI is now testing various types of artisanal milling, in which chainsaw millers will be trained and organised and will use more efficient equipment to process logs.

To bring this local knowledge to the international level, TBI — together with other leading organisations in the field of domestic timber markets — organised an international seminar in Brussels. More than 100 participants, comprising policy makers, industry, NGOs and research institutions, discussed how the domestic timber trade could effectively be addressed within VPAs and REDD+. Participants concluded that local timber markets are diverse and need a tailored, country-specific approach; they also need to be better regulated and must involve all stakeholders through an MSD.





Financing Sustainable Forest Management

Decreased public funding and budget deficits predominate in many countries, along with reductions in Overseas Development Aid (ODA). This set of circumstances emphasizes the importance of innovative policy approaches, strategies and instruments to leverage financing for forests from new and additional sources, particularly the private sector. Currently, private money — both domestic and international — is the most important source of finance for forest activities, and is likely to increase. The challenge is to reorient private businesses and financing towards economically and socially competitive and environmentally sustainable forest management practices.

In 2011 TBI carried out several activities to better understand the potential and limitations of private finance and business engagement in sustainable forestry, both small-scale and large-scale enterprises.

In May TBI and its partners organised the business meeting “Forestry investments in emerging markets: business risks and opportunities to invest in the forest sector.” In addition a study has been carried out to assess the actual engagement, experiences and perspectives of institutional investors in forest investment in developing countries; and, a forest excursion was organized for financing organisations in the Netherlands.

These activities reveal the clear but nascent interest of the financing sector to engage more actively in forestry, since it fits well within their portfolio diversification, risk-return strategies and Corporate Social Responsibility policies. Unfamiliarity with forestry in developing countries, investment policies and conditions

(tenure security, legality and good governance) at the country level, a lack of forestry investments and of specific knowledge and expertise (e.g., on markets, productivity and good forest practice, legislation, institutional arrangements) are hampering forestry business development and financing.

In Colombia, Cameroon, Peru and Bolivia TBI has worked on local and national forest financing strategies and instruments, including compensation mechanisms related to REDD+ and Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) mechanisms. Emphasis is given to the contribution of local, traditional and/or informal financing mechanisms to smallholder forest management. TBI's work in small-scale forestry financing reveals the importance and diversity of the local informal financing systems that are already in place, and the socio-cultural, economic and institutional realities under which they operate. TBI understands the need to recognise and respect these systems, in order to learn from them, build on their potential and adapt them, rather than replace them.

TBI's experience shows that mobilizing and leveraging private financing for Sustainable Forest Management is enhanced in these conditions:

- it takes place within a supportive and coherent national policy and institutional environment;
- forest strategy is aligned with long-term national priorities and commitments;
- forestry information (e.g., on markets, productivity and good forest practice, legislation, institutional arrangements) is available and accessible;
- multi-stakeholder participation and partnerships across sectoral boundaries have been established; and
- legislation encourages the development and use of inclusive market mechanisms, including PES and REDD+.





Capacity building and organizational strengthening

Within the TBI programme, capacity building is interwoven with organisational strengthening and research. TBI provides training to large numbers of professionals working in the forest sector, including policy makers, regulators, members of forest-dependent communities and staff of universities and research institutes. The majority of this training is part of larger projects aimed at organisational strengthening. Organisational changes are challenging and long-term processes, but are also rewarding. Two years after the finalisation of TBI's project with the National University of Colombia in Leticia (UNAL), the PhD programme "Studies of the Amazon," which was formulated during project implementation, began.

In 2011, about 20 national PhDs and 20 MScs were associated with the TBI programme; 13 graduated. This contributed to a considerable upgrade of the education level of staff of TBI's partner organisations and an improved understanding of many forest-related topics.

As part of a PhD on education on environmental issues in Ghana, a researcher at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology is deriving lessons that are directly applicable to the education provided by CANR. Another example of a PhD project directly supporting organisational strengthening is a study on conflict management and natural resources, which is a new field for the Hué University of Agriculture and Forestry in Viet Nam. It creates new perspectives for the elaboration of academic learning programmes around this theme.

The “Training in environmental management and sustainable production chains” project has been implemented under the SENA-Tropenbos agreement since 2008. It addresses the education of indigenous and Afro-descendant population of Colombia in a different way than previously used by SENA, Colombian’s National Training Institute. The project includes 95 small-scale initiatives, which were developed and implemented in a way that combines cross-cultural training and production. These initiatives were formulated through a process of extensive consultation and diagnosis with the communities affected. They provided a detailed documentation of the communities’ environment and traditional resource management practices. Participants are highly enthusiastic about this approach, which directly addresses their needs.

As part of the EU chainsaw milling project in Guyana, capacity in forest-dependent communities has been built to improve forest practices, provide skills for alternative livelihoods and strengthen their organization and negotiation skills in areas such as leadership, bookkeeping, governance, occupational health and safety and timber grading.



Publications

Current status of community forestry in Cameroon



Pascal Cuny

In the publication *Etat des lieux de la foresterie communautaire et communale au Cameroun* (Current status of community forestry in Cameroon) TBI reviews more than 15 years of community forestry in Cameroon and provides some lessons for its application in other Central African countries.

Cameroon has two types of community forestry: community and council forest. A community forest (*forêt communautaire*, < 5,000 ha) is part of the non-permanent forest estate (agro-forestry field) and is governed by a management agreement between the rural community and the Minister in charge of forests. A council forest (*forêt communale*, average surface 20,000 ha) forms part of the permanent forest estate.

In spite of important progress since the implementation of the 1994 Forest Law — which provided a favourable framework for decentralised forestry and the participation of local actors — constraints to the implementation of community forestry remain. This publication provides a thorough analysis of community forestry in Cameroon, which was a strategy of the government to improve local

livelihoods. It describes the strengths and weaknesses of the establishment and management of community and council forests, evaluates their long-term impacts and provides recommendations to improve the legislation and implementation processes of community forestry in order to better involve local people and improve their livelihoods.

Sustainable Management of Tropical Rainforests: The CELOS Management System



Marinus J.A. Werger (ed.)



This book, with contributions from 25 authors, summarises the history of forestry in Suriname and other tropical countries. It reveals how work on forestry in Suriname led to the development of a potentially sustainable forest management system, integrating a harvesting and silviculture system. It also documents the long-term effects of implementing this system, through a great deal of research in experimental forest stands by the Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS) in Suriname. The CELOS management system has the potential to serve as a model for other systems of sustainable management of tropical forests in Suriname and beyond, particularly in other countries in the region with similar forests.

List of Publications

For a complete list of publication visit our webpage:
www.tropenbos.org/publications

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Donors

the Netherlands

Directorate General for International Cooperation of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS)

Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (EL&I)

Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (Nuffic)

International

Department for International Development (DFID) - UK

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) - Germany

European Union (EU)

Royal Netherlands Embassy - Suriname

WWF Colombia

Revenues	€ x 1000	%	Expenditures	€ x 1000	%
Netherlands Government			Country programme activities	1,677	36.2
DGIS (core contribution)	2,268	49	Local site contracts	208	4.6
EL&I	195	4.2	Special projects	1,849	40
Nuffic NPT programme	916	19.8	Organisational costs	389	8.4
EU (Chainsaw milling project)	426	9.2	Programme development and monitoring	266	5.7
RNE Paramaribo (CBN Project Suriname)	336	7.3	Programme activities	238	5.1
WWF Colombia / EU (Trinational project)	35	0.8	Total	4627	100.0
Local site contracts	215	4.7			
Miscellaneous (a.o. consultancies)	207	4.4			
Interest	29	0.6			
Total	4,627	100.0			

General Board

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

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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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