



TROPENBOS INTERNATIONAL



Annual Report
2006 - 2007





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From our Chairman



In December 2007 the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held its 13th session, in Bali, Indonesia. This meeting, more than any other recent Convention, has put forests back on the international agenda.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, deforestation and exploitation of peatlands contribute significantly to carbon emissions and thus to global warming. The Panel estimates that tropical deforestation accounts for about one fifth of current global carbon emissions.

For this reason, many now see actions that lead to a reduction in deforestation and forest degradation as an indispensable part of the global strategy for countering climate change.

Concern about climate change has led to the promotion of policies to stimulate the use of biofuels as an alternative source of energy. However, large scale introduction of biofuels will increase the demand for cultivated land, and further drive deforestation. Instead of representing an effective strategy to counter climate change, current biofuel policies are likely to make matters worse.

In responding to these challenges, countries will need to formulate and implement evidence-based policies and develop their capacity to monitor the impact of these policies on their forests and the people that depend on them for their livelihoods.

For Tropenbos International (TBI) this implies a shift in focus and role, from an organization that promotes and supports academic research on forests and forestry to one that links research with policy and practice. TBI is well positioned to provide support to policy makers and practitioners in developing countries on how best to govern and manage their forests for the benefit of both people and forests, to avoid negative side effects and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2007, TBI signed a new funding agreement with the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. This agreement allows us to continue our work, but with greater focus on building research capacity capable of generating relevant knowledge, within TBI host countries that will enable them to respond to these global challenges.

Rudy Rabbinge, Chairman

From our Director



In 2006, TBI completed its previous five year programme. Together with its many partners, TBI has conducted a host of activities, each contributing to the overarching goal of improving the governance and management of forests for the benefit of people and of conservation.

In TBI's vision, knowledge must be shared among stakeholders in order to be effective. Dialogue among multiple stakeholders, based on good information, is a powerful tool in bridging often contrasting views on forest governance and management.

For example, in Indonesia TBI facilitated a dialogue on the management of conservation areas and districts through the National Secretariat for Conservation Districts, a forum that brings together government, NGOs and university stakeholders. In Ghana the ban on chainsaw lumbering was heavily debated in a multi-stakeholder forum, and in Colombia, the National Environmental Forum, an alliance of non-governmental organizations, including TBI, became an important platform for debating environmental issues.

Promoting evidence-based dialogue has become an important instrument for TBI to achieve changes in forest and development policies and practices. For this reason we included informed dialogue as a key instrument within our new five-year programme, which started in the second half of 2006, and gained momentum in 2007 after the Dutch Government approved our funding.

The programme is designed so that we will

be better positioned to operate globally, creating synergies among country programmes and establishing partnerships and alliances with other organizations so that we can be more effective in the international arena.

In 2007, TBI returned both to Guyana and Cameroon, two countries where we have worked in the past. Our work in Guyana is part of a project addressing the concerns about livelihoods and biodiversity raised by chainsaw lumbering. The opportunity to start working again in Cameroon was provided by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the end of 2007. Our many partners and legacy in Cameroon should give us a unique opportunity to build a programme with a regional focus, the effects of which will be felt beyond Cameroon.

With these current developments, TBI is confident in continuing its mission of making knowledge work for forests and for people in the coming years.

René Boot, Director



Tropenbos International: in brief

The mission of Tropenbos International (TBI) is to contribute to the better use and governance of tropical forests, for the benefit of people, conservation and sustainable development. TBI aims to achieve this objective through making knowledge available for policy and practice. The new programme for 2006-2010 is focused on activities that emphasize five major thematic elements: knowledge, capacity, organizations, dialogue and, linking national and international forest debates. These elements jointly determine the success of introducing knowledge and evidence into major policy and management decision processes. They also define TBI's niche as an intermediary between the policy, management and research communities. Hence, TBI's role is that of a knowledge broker.

TBI's programmes are implemented through partnerships in which organizations with different interests and roles with regard to forests and forestry collaborate in meeting shared objectives. Partners such as universities and research and training institutions are responsible for research and training, while others, representing forest policy and use, define the issues and guide the direction of each project. Local needs and local partners assume a leading role in formulating and implementing the programmes, while Dutch and other northern partners play an important supporting role. TBI facilitates the partnerships and resulting activities.

An important activity in 2006 was translating the programme proposal for 2006-2010, *'Integrating forest research and capacity building into local and international development agendas'*, into concrete country programmes. In 2006-07, there were five operational country programmes: in Colombia, Ghana, Indonesia,

Suriname and Vietnam. TBI was also involved as a partner in one project in Bolivia. In addition, TBI is participating in a Dutch financed project: *'Strategies and financial mechanisms for the conservation and sustainable use of forests; phase 1 Latin America'*. In 2007, TBI also initiated another project, *'Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw lumbering through multi-stakeholder dialogue in Ghana and Guyana'*. This project is funded by the EU for a period of five years. Finally we started carrying out interviews about the external and internal perceptions of TBI's relationships as a basis for renewing our corporate communication strategy, which will be finalized and implemented in 2008.



Our experiences in...

Colombia: Applying indigenous knowledge in National Parks

In 2006 and 2007, TBI Colombia and the Puinawai National Reserve initiated local monitoring activities and generated local debates on the current use of forest resources in the upper middle basin of the Inirida River, with a view to improving their future management. TBI Colombia guided local communities and reserve staff in ways of organizing a local monitoring scheme. Puinawai National Reserve is one of the 25 areas within the National System of Protected Areas that receives direct assistance from Patrimonio Natural; this funding is intended to diminish pressure on natural resources and improve land use planning through supporting sustainable approaches to conservation within these parks and their buffer areas. In the Puinawai National Reserve the local monitoring scheme is currently being used with five indigenous communities, generating information about hunting, fishing and the use of forest products so as to identify and evaluate the threats to indigenous livelihoods.

As TBI Colombia has extensive experience in monitoring hunting and fishing activities in the middle Caquetá region, it was invited



to assist in the local monitoring programme. Activities began with short workshops, held in several communities. After this, the communities started to record their fishing activities, spending 18 months collecting information on the diversity and abundance of species that they fish and hunt, the most frequent hunting and fishing areas, fishing and hunting techniques, bait varieties and socio-cultural factors associated with these activities. Questions such as which member of the community should record the information, and how the information can be used by the community and by the National Reserve were addressed during several meetings between the communities, the Reserve and TBI Colombia. The following goals were set:

- provide the government with an example of local territorial management;
- leave future generations the information that they have generated so that they can use the information for taking decisions on their territory;
- create tools in order to sign agreements, seek support and obtain recognition;
- recover traditional fishing and hunting techniques;
- conserve and protect special areas in order to ensure a good livelihood;

- improve fishing and hunting techniques;
- improve internal organization in order to build better relationships with government agencies; and,
- participate in exchange activities with other indigenous communities.

A report of this experience has been published and a database of the information gathered has been constructed. In the future, this database will be the basis for an exercise with the GIS unit of National Parks to start exploring the possibilities of creating a monitoring system for natural resources using locally gathered information.



Ghana: Forestry dialogue - Focus group discussion

The Forestry Dialogue is a multi-stakeholder discussion platform on topical forestry issues. The dialogue is built around a well organized and facilitated focus group discussion, fed by scientific knowledge and enriched by the sharing of professional experiences. It aims to foster common understanding and to provide policy options.

The process begins with the selection of a topic for discussion. Suitable topics are contentious issues that need critical debate or analysis, delicate issues that are not openly discussed and issues over which different opinions are paraded as facts.

After a topic is selected, resource people are identified to prepare discussion or position papers. The former usually provide factual information from credible sources and the latter present the views of a particular stakeholder group. These papers provide a basis for the discussions. The discussions are guided by independent and neutral facilitators and participants hear a balanced representation of the views of all relevant stakeholders.

The discussions normally occur at two levels, with plenary and working group sessions. The plenary session usually occurs immediately after the initial presentations and is used as a feedback mechanism for clarification and



further information sharing. The working group sessions involve detailed and focused discussions, aimed at addressing specific aspects of the issue and coming up with practical recommendations. Effective follow-up is essential. A summary of the discussion is normally prepared to inform policy makers and other stakeholders. Other follow-up actions might be taken, depending on the subject, the outcomes of the discussions and the stakeholder groups involved.

TBI Ghana's Forestry Dialogue has thrived because of its neutrality and its knowledge-based approach, two unique qualities that set it apart from other discussion platforms. Effective organization and facilitation ensure that participation is representative and balanced and that no single stakeholder group or voice dominates, or carries more weight than the others, thereby minimising biased outcomes. TBI Ghana is now recognized by many stakeholders as a bastion for promoting forestry dialogue and a credible source of information, particularly in the highly contentious areas of chainsaw lumbering and equity in sharing the benefits of forests.



Thanks to its track record, TBI Ghana received a contract from the FAO in 2006 to work in partnership with the Forestry Commission to institutionalize the dialogue concept in Ghana. Of Ghana's ten regions, TBI Ghana took responsibility for three: the Volta, Eastern and Greater Accra regions. Partners within the Forestry Dialogue include: the Forestry

Commission, the Ghana Institute of Foresters, the Planning Department and Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and the African Studies Department at the University of Ghana.

In the same year, TBI Ghana also worked in partnership with the Forestry Commission and the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana to identify national development and re-

search priorities for the forestry sector. The Select Committee consulted TBI Ghana's work in the run-up to their review of the forest benefit sharing scheme.



Indonesia: Conservation Districts - local government involvement in forest conservation

The Conservation District concept is a conservation effort that has emerged from district level government rather than central government in Indonesia. It is a response to a strongly felt need for conservation at the district level. While responsibility for natural resource management has mostly been devolved to district governments, conservation management remains the responsibility of central government. TBI Indonesia, in collaboration with other NGOs, has initiated dialogue between central and district government, which promises to bring about policy changes that will embrace this original, bottom-up conservation effort.

The past decade has been marked by massive destruction of Indonesia's forests, through fires, flooding, landslides, oil palm development and illegal logging. Conservation forests, often National Parks, managed by the national government, are not immune from this destruction.

In response to this the local government of the Kapuas Hulu district in the upland watershed of West Kalimantan Province, with an important trans-boundary National Park, declared itself a 'Conservation District'. Its declaration stated that *'a Conservation District is an administrative area which has the political*



commitment to pursue development based on the sustainable utilization and protection of life support systems and the preservation of biodiversity.' The central government was initially suspicious of this declaration, unsure whether it was motivated by a genuine concern for conservation or by a desire to increase local government income.

It was not at all clear at the time what the declaration would mean in practice. Kapuas Hulu has a large coverage of protected areas, and only a limited area is available for conversion to other, more immediately productive uses. The district is eager to find alternative sources of income from conserving its natural resources. Its declaration was probably inspired by the assumption that central government or the international community would compensate it for not converting its forests.

In a workshop, facilitated by the Centre for International Forestry Research in 2004, Malinau district (East Kalimantan Province) also announced its intention to become a Conservation District. The official declaration came in August 2005, and was made before the Ministers of Forestry and the Environment. In June 2006, a third district, Paser, also became a Conservation District, with support from TBI Indonesia. Two districts in Sumatra and one in Java followed suit, and some archipelagic districts in Sulawesi and Papua have indicated a similar interest.

TBI Indonesia has supported Conservation District development in a number of ways:

- generating and disseminating information that supports the development of Conservation Districts;
- bringing together a wide group of interested stakeholders to form a National Task Force to further develop the Conservation District concept through scaling-up the discussions and disseminating the concept at the national level. The secretariat of the National Task Force has drafted principles, criteria, regulations and incentives for Conservation Districts;
- TBI Indonesia field tested the principles and criteria in Paser as part of a broader evaluation of the usefulness of the concept.

In the ensuing period, a national decree (SKB) for the formation of Conservation Districts has been jointly drafted by four Ministries. The strength of these Conservation Districts to date lies in the commitment of the involved stakeholders. In particular:

- Paser district has undertaken a commitment to implement the Conservation District concept in practice, by sharing the costs of training in community-based ecotourism management ;
- The government of Malinau district has set aside 5 billion Rupiah (circa €370,000) for Conservation District incentives and is now engaged with a Swiss-based company in the Voluntary Carbon Market which will pay for forest protection services.

The massive inflow of investment for oil palm development is the major threat to implementing these Conservation Districts. Oil palm is being promoted in Indonesia not only for food processing and consumption but also for biofuel. So the challenge ahead for Conservation Districts is to secure financing that adequately compensates for foregone income from oil palm development and will balance the use of natural resources for food, fuel, and conservation.



Suriname: Assessing professionalism in the forest sector

A recurrent observation, made by almost all actors in the Suriname forest sector, is that progress in achieving sustainable forest management is constrained by a lack of human capacity. A study conducted by TBI Suriname in 2006 supported these concerns.

The study suggested that there are currently just 87 forestry professionals in Suriname trained to degree level (including higher vocational training). The majority are trained as foresters and biologists (each accounting for 37% of the total), with fewer environmental scientists (9%) and social scientists (6%). A further six forestry professionals work outside the forest sector, mainly in mining. Of these 87, 60% have obtained a second degree, of which seven are PhDs (mostly biologists).

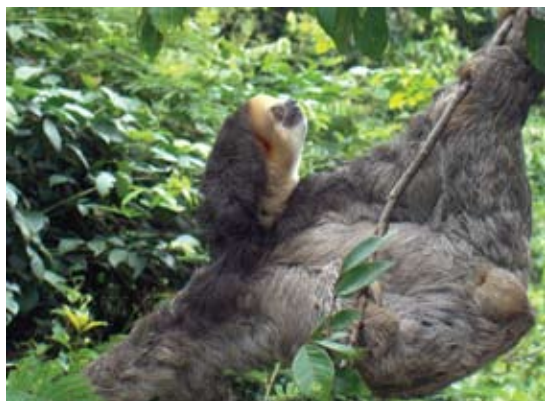
It is frequently claimed that many of Suriname's forestry professionals are approaching retirement age, but this is only partly supported by the survey. Biologists are the most senior group, with about a third within ten years of retirement, while in the "novel" discipline of environmental sciences, 80% are less than 40 years old. A gender shift is gradually taking place; women are in a minority of 35% among the over 55 age group, but form a clear majority of 60% in the below



40 age group. Women are most represented among environmental sciences, where they outnumber men by 7:1.

The causes of the capacity problem are complex. Suriname has a small population and an inherently limited capacity to produce the number of professionals it needs. Only seven students started studying forestry at the University of Suriname between 1997 and 2005, although 137 started studying environmental sciences in this period. To qualify for a second degree, students have to obtain scholarships to study outside Suriname. As a consequence, many positions in the governmental and private sectors are occupied by relatively under-qualified and inexperienced staff.

The public sector is the main employer of forestry professionals: 46% are employed by institutes of learning and research and another 33% elsewhere in the public sector. The forest industry employs very few professionals (3%), although a more thorough survey may show this figure to be an underestimate. Employment in newly emerging areas, such as in conservation management, community-based forestry and ecotourism is still small, although students are increasingly choosing these subjects. Employers indicated that the curricula have generally not kept abreast with the demands of the sector or the developments in the international forest agenda. At the same time, few students seem ready



to choose an uncertain career in a sector that is associated with hard work under primitive conditions.

Under such conditions, increasing human capacity is a daunting task. Many of the problems are interlinked and can not be dealt with in isolation. A structured approach is required, based on a clear vision of the for-

estry sector and its future that incorporates the views of all involved. Suriname's forest policy offers a first glimpse of such a vision and needs to be complemented by a capacity development strategy.



Vietnam: The demography of threatened tree species in Vietnam

Affected by a tropical climate and a complex terrain, Vietnam's forests are very diverse, and include tropical rain forest, mangroves, and limestone forests as well as coniferous and subtropical forests. All of them have severely declined in both quantity and quality over recent decades as a result of a protracted war, shifting cultivation, conversion to agriculture and overexploitation.

Pham Duc Chien, a researcher at the Forest Science Institute of Vietnam received a PhD degree from Utrecht University (The Netherlands) in 2006 for a demographic study of six threatened tree species in four protected areas in Vietnam. This research was one outcome of a cooperation project: '*Generating and disseminating knowledge on the conservation and use of Vietnamese tree species*,' which involved TBI Vietnam, the Department of Plant Ecology and Biodiversity of Utrecht University and the Forest Science Institute of Vietnam.

This study formulated some important guidelines for the conservation of threatened tree species:

- small and fragmented habitats increase extinction risks, so it is necessary to increase the size of protected areas and to stop activities that lead to fragmentation;



- strict protection, particularly for juvenile and adult trees, needs to be implemented in protected areas, with human disturbance and logging strictly forbidden;
- the improvement of seedling and juvenile growth (e.g. by controlled liberation) can also help populations to recover;
- forest enrichment through additional plantings is a good conservation measure, and seed germination under controlled conditions is better than under natural conditions;
- for threatened tree species within small and/or isolated populations, expansion of their habitat area through natural restoration is a crucial conservation measure.

This study is an example of successful collaboration between TBI Vietnam, national stakeholder organizations and Utrecht University. These collaborations not only provide postgraduate study opportunities for researchers but also form the basis for applied research projects that explore critical and topical issues facing Vietnam's forestry sector. The results of this study will greatly enhance and contribute to the conservation of endangered species, especially Dipterocarps, within and beyond Vietnam.



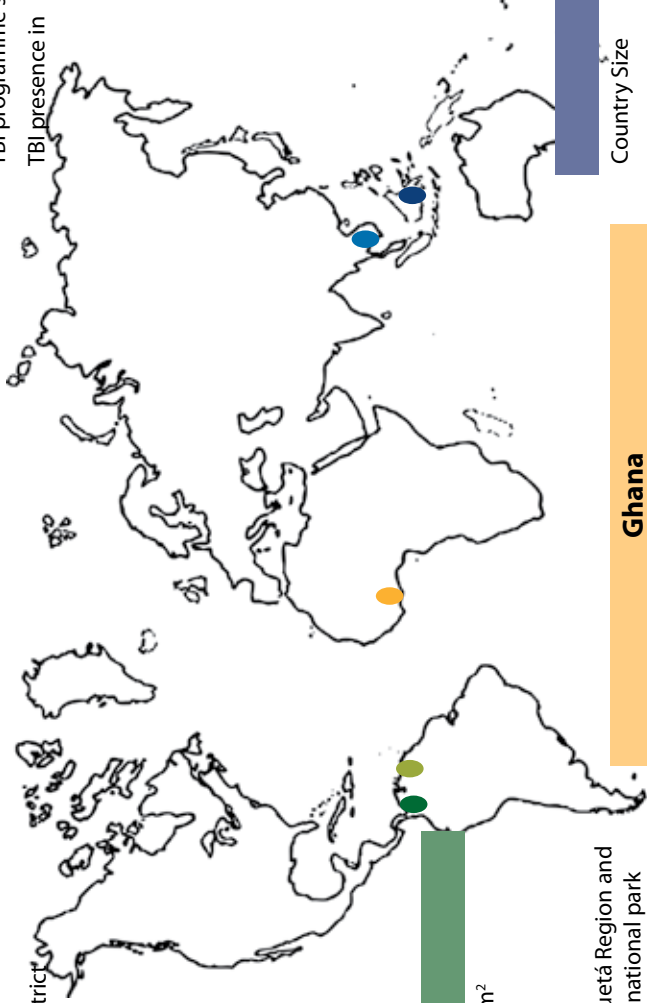
Our Country programmes

Suriname

Country Size 163,820 km²
 Population density 492,829 (in 2004)
 TBI programme since 2003
 TBI presence in Carolina District

Vietnam

Country Size 325,490 km²
 Population density 84 million
 TBI programme since 2002
 TBI presence in Buffer zone of the Bach Ma national park.



Colombia

Country Size 1,138,910 km²
 Population density 42 million
 TBI programme since 1987
 TBI presence in Middle Caquetá Region and Amacayacú national park and surrounding areas

Ghana

Country Size 238,538 km²
 Population density 22,409,572
 TBI programme since 2001
 TBI presence in Southwestern Goaso region

Indonesia

Country Size 1,811,570 km²
 Population density 245,452,739
 TBI programme since 1987
 TBI presence in Pasir district in East Kalimantan; Kapuas Hulu district in West Kalimantan and Malinau.



Colombia

Throughout 2006-07, Tropenbos International Colombia (TBI Colombia) has been supporting the generation of both scientific and local/traditional indigenous knowledge relevant to managing and conserving biodiversity in the Colombian Amazon and has been granting fellowships to support participatory research. TBI Colombia is now promoting this approach with institutions in other parts of the Amazon (Programa Amazonico) and on the Colombian Pacific coast where it is working with the Institute for Environmental Research of the Pacific Region (IIAP) and Afro-Colombian communities.

One of the main achievements in this period has been the consolidation of long term natural resource monitoring developed in partnership with local communities along the Middle Caqueta River. All the local hunting, fishing and harvesting registers have now been incorporated into a unified database. Local representatives of the community of Peña Roja are now working on proposals on how to use this information, gathered over a decade, and to transform it into a tool for local and regional decision making. The lo-

cal monitoring process that was used to build the database, is now being applied in the Puinawai National reserve and Cahuinari National Park after receiving support from Patrimonio Natural (Global Environmental Facility , World Bank funds).

Knowledge

In the past two years, students have received support from TBI Colombia through grant mechanisms under an agreement with the Sinchi Institute. This agreement aims to encourage undergraduates to do theses that can directly improve knowledge on the use of botanical methods of pest control in indigenous gardens. This agreement has led several students from the Universidad Nacional of Medellin to do their undergraduate studies in Amacayacu National Park, among the communities of San Martin and Palmeras. They are isolating the active component(s) of several plant species used for pest control by local indigenous people. Additionally, five anthropology students carried out internships in the TBI Colombia office, organizing information gathered by TBI Colombia students and local researchers on the use of



chambira palm fibre. The topics being explored included traditional basketry and cultivation systems and the impact of research on indigenous settlements. TBI Colombia intends to continue supporting MSc students to do field activities and to provide internships for undergraduate students. One MSc student has developed her thesis in Amacayacu National Park's buffer area, working on a plan for reducing timber extraction rates.

Capacity

With funding from the Royal Netherlands Embassy, TBI Colombia has continued working on the Daupara Project in the Chocó region. The Daupara Project aims to develop community leadership and ethnic territorial management skills within the Pacific coastal region.

Recent activities include preparing the local project staff from IIAP and participating communities and organizations for a programme of participatory research. In 2006 a team of academic researchers, indigenous people and TBI Colombia staff worked with IIAP staff and ethnic organizations on several themes selected by the local inhabitants: fishing, mining and food security. This gave local people confidence in their capacity to generate the information to enable them to manage their resources. TBI Colombia developed a series of exercises that allowed local people to identify information needed for managing specific resources. The questions

covered issues including people's favourite fishing sites, the main harvested products and the effort spent on mining activities. These were discussed and formulated so that they could be monitored by members of the community themselves.

The workshops prepared the participants in participatory research methods and allowed TBI Colombia to share its experiences on local monitoring of natural resources in the Amazon Region. After four months of local monitoring activities, the results were discussed in another workshop, where people reflected on and adjusted the information they were gathering and the methods they were using. A third workshop, with other local institutions participating, discussed how to continue the process.

TBI Colombia will continue to support these activities as an adviser in the background, assisting to address any difficulties that arise.

Organizations

Support provided by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Colombia is enabling a wide range of activities to be developed in the tropical forests of the Amazon and the Chocó region. It is important that the experiences of projects in community management of natural resources are shared, even when there may be cultural and regional differences, since these regions share common needs and face similar problems. For this reason, the IIAP appointed TBI Colombia





Dialogue

The Foro Nacional Ambiental (National Environmental Forum -NEF), created in 1987, is an alliance of eight organizations that provides a public forum for critical analysis of national environmental policies and aims to strengthen environmental protection in Colombia within a framework of sustainable development. TBI Colombia is an active member of this forum.

to assist in formulating and implementing a participatory research strategy that will work with local communities along 1,300 kilometres of the Pacific coast line of Colombia.

The work has involved organizing seminars and workshops with administrative personnel and members of the communities of Tutunendo, Playa de Oro and Nuqui. Each workshop began with a presentation of TBI Colombia's work in the Amazon and continued with a discussion on the use of resources in the region. This was followed by exercises in which local people suggested formats for documenting their daily activities. Further discussions explored how and by whom the information should be gathered and documented, and how it could be used in negotiations. The methods were discussed for five months, with the debates focusing around three main issues; fisheries, artisanal gold mining and food security. One of the most important initial results has been the increase in local people's self esteem after realizing their ability to properly use tools that allow them to analyse their reality.

The experience was very enriching for all concerned and opened the way for exploring participatory work methods and strategies for monitoring daily activities. The results and experiences of this process were later published by the IIAP.

Over the years, NEF has organized several forums about the National Environmental System and policies for spatial planning, the urban environment, forestry and water. In 2006, NEF did an evaluation of the government's environmental track record between 2002 and 2006, using the 1991 constitution as the reference point. The results were submitted to the National Planning Council for the analysis of the environmental chapter of the 2006 – 2010 National Development Plan. Over the past two years, NEF also set up public forums for debating the water bill and conducted workshops on water marketing. It intends to continue working on the topic of water by publishing policy briefing papers and organizing a public forum to coincide with the Senate's discussions of this issue. Previous work by NEF, over the forestry bill opened up a public debate which led to the President objecting to Congress's approval of the bill, and the bill's subsequent abolition.





NEF is actively involved in a thematic programme concerned with communities, forest and territory: a continuation of a previous theme on society and environment. Two regional forums and one national forum have been organized in the Chocó region.

NEF is also involved in raising awareness about international environmental policy issues and has organized several public forums about the most high profile international negotiations (such as the Kyoto Protocol, the Biosecurity Protocol and the UN Forest Forum). Participants have included government officials, the general public and interest groups. The next forum will deal with the social and environmental implications of the Free Trade Agreement currently being negotiated with the USA.

In the coming year NEF will focus on strengthening the effectiveness of its periodic policy papers, establishing a website (<http://www.faae.org.co/html/policy.html>) and holding a series of regional forums.

In 2007 TBI Colombia organized a forum on 'The Amazon, territory, environment and conflict' under the auspices of NEF. Over two days more than 80 representatives of various institutions discussed some of the most pressing issues facing the Amazon region; regional development, spatial planning, the role of protected areas, the main threats posed by infrastructure projects (such as ports, highways and oil exploration) and cli-

mate change. Indigenous people from different parts of the Amazon were invited to present their communities' experiences and perceptions. Experts from governmental and non-governmental institutions, including the National Department of Planning, the Gaia Foundation and the National Parks also had a chance to present their views and generate discussions. These discussions illustrated the great gaps that still exist between national policies (e.g. the Development Plan Colombia 2019) and locally-based development in the Amazon. The government still favours large infrastructural projects and oil and mineral exploitation in the region, which is clearly in conflict with the aspirations of local indigenous communities and the government's declared intentions of conserving protected areas.

The conflict between indigenous people living in reserves (*resguardos*) and the government's support for oil and mining projects was a major topic, since by granting the permits the government is renegotiating on its commitment to supporting collective property rights. While conflicts of interest continue to exist in areas where there is an overlap between protected areas and indigenous territories, there is evidence of willingness on both sides to find agreeable solutions to these conflicts, at both the local and legal levels. Some parks have agreed to the extraction of resources, such as timber and game at certain times of the year and in certain areas.



The presentation on climate change generated strong reactions from the audience, especially the indigenous people. Although most of them were unfamiliar with the scientific evidence, they could clearly identify the consequences in their daily lives. Climate change needs to be more thoroughly incorporated in future institutional and academic activities in the Amazon region.

Over the past two years, TBI Colombia has been invited to participate in a number of other events. In 2006 the most important of these events included a multimedia workshop on traditional agricultural systems in the Amazon and the contribution they make to local people's well-being and the conservation of tropical rain forests. TBI Colombia also participated in several workshops on the Amazon Biodiversity Action Plan, which will become the government's framework for environmental policy in the region.

Linkages

In June 2007 a number of organizations, including TBI, organized an international workshop on *'The application of the ecosystem approach in Latin America'*. It focused on international initiatives for avoiding the negative effects of development, population growth and the inappropriate use of natural resources on different ecosystems. A document, edited by the Vice President of the Commission for Ecosystem Management in South America, was subsequently published (for more information see: <http://observancia.blogspot.com>). This document compares conventional approaches to ecosystem management with the ecosystem approach, which takes social, economic, cultural and biological principles into account.



Management of overlapping protected and indigenous areas

Patrimonio Natural is the Fund for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in Colombia, which financially supports the national system of natural parks, environmental planning and strategies for sustainability. The organization supports inter-institutional management in specific areas of Colombia and seeks to strengthen the organizations involved in, and build a financial strategy for, the national system of protected areas. This latter work involves securing national and international funds and promoting appropriate economic and financial instruments to enable the country to achieve its environmental policy and protected area objectives.

In 2007 TBI Colombia and Patrimonio Natural were joint signatories to an agreement to co-operate in providing support for protected areas and strategies for conserving biodiversity based on cultural strengthening, experience exchange, local research, intercultural management and local capacity building. The other main partners in this agreement are the Cahuinari National Park, the Puinawai Natural Reserve and the indigenous communities in and around these protected areas.

These activities now form part of TBI Colombia's project for the co-management of



forest resources in overlapping protected and indigenous areas. The first activities involved gathering material on the relationship between indigenous people, natural resources and protected areas. This was done through experience exchange, capacity building with staff from national parks and publishing guidelines for good practice. These early results will now provide the basis to develop co-management plans for the future.

TBI Colombia and Patrimonio Natural have organized a series of exchanges between indigenous communities to share their experiences of environmental and territorial issues. Participating communities come from the Matavén forest in the eastern Colombian Amazon, the Alto Fragua Indi wasi National Park in the Amazon foothills and the Cauca Valley. The aim was for different indigenous people to share their experiences about territory and the environment. Although the conditions under which these people live are quite different, they were able to share their approaches towards territorial and environmental matters and their views on government policies. At the moment they are in the process of deciding how to build on this exercise and future steps.

TBI Colombia has also organized capacity

building meetings with the staff of national parks who work with indigenous communities. The staff are interested in finding methods and developing activities to help them create a fruitful relationship with the indigenous communities living within the protected areas. Their greatest concern is to find a way in which local communities can use the natural resources without endangering their conservation. They find TBI Colombia's experience with local monitoring to be of benefit to both them and the local inhabitants.

There are plans for a series of joint publications on these activities which will highlight

the intra-institutional work with indigenous communities aimed at establishing co-management plans and activities. Two publications are in production and will be ready for distribution in June 2008. The first is a detailed review of the experience of local monitoring activities in the Puinawai Natural Reserve. The second draws on the results from local grants and activities developed with people from the indigenous resguardo of Matavén.





Ghana

The Tropenbos International Ghana (TBI Ghana) programme is gradually moving into a second phase, after its first successful five year phase. In 2006, the programme development process was accelerated by a national workshop that prioritized forestry sector issues. In 2007, the contours of the TBI Ghana programme were clearly mapped out and specific projects were identified at a workshop involving partners identified through an institutional analysis. By the end of 2007, concept notes had been prepared for all these potential projects. Two of these projects: *'Governance of timber trees in Ghana with a particular emphasis on the off-reserve situation'* (hereafter "*Governance of timber trees in Ghana*") and *'Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw lumbering through multi-stakeholder dialogue in Ghana and Guyana'* (hereafter the "*EU chainsaw project*") are already up and running.

Knowledge

The *'Governance of timber trees in Ghana'* project is being carried out in collaboration with the Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning, and is generating much in-

formed and evidence-based knowledge for sustainable forest management, especially in off-reserve areas. In 2007 the project carried out field surveys and stakeholder consultations in the Ashanti and Central regions; the results were presented to scientists and experts from local forestry institutions in a colloquium. Off-reserve timber resources were also discussed extensively in a focus group discussion (see below).

TBI Ghana and its partners also took initial steps in defining the research agenda for the *'EU Chainsaw Project'*, including a literature review and a gap analysis. The steady involvement of TBI Ghana on the chainsaw issue, through focus group discussions and various projects, has contributed immensely to the growth of reliable data on chainsaw activities, especially in Ghana. This has led to TBI Ghana being invited to provide information, or to collaborate in programmes, on chainsaw lumbering. TBI Ghana collaborated with the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) on a United Kingdom Department for International Development, sponsored project, *'Chainsaw milling and the lumber trade in West Africa'* which produced new in-



sights into these issues. The highlight of this project in 2006 was a national dissemination workshop in Accra, involving the participation of stakeholders from Ghana and the region. In 2007, the project implementation team met to review and finalize the project report and consider follow-up options.

Capacity and organizations

Many graduates from programmes and courses mediated by TBI Ghana have begun to apply their new skills in employment within forestry related organizations and institutions. The research capacity of FORIG has been boosted by three additional PhD researchers, trained within TBI Ghana research programmes. These researchers are now leading specialized research in forestry or natural resource management, covering silviculture, forest conflicts and forest policy. One of the TBI-sponsored researchers is supervising the training of many undergraduate and graduate forestry students and another is playing a leading role in the EU chainsaw project. TBI Ghana has also sponsored four graduates on the GIS NATUREM (MSc) programme, three of whom are now working in forestry related organizations in Ghana and the other for the Energy Commission in Ghana. As part of its in-house capacity building initiative, the TBI Ghana communication officer attended a three-month training course, in the Netherlands, on international perspectives on communication. In 2007, the FORIG communication officer attended the same course. FORIG is plan-

ning fundamental changes to strengthen its institutional position, more closely align itself with national priorities and policies and increase dialogue with a range of stakeholders. Through a specific consultancy mission, TBI Ghana has supported this repositioning process, which is in line with TBI's approach.

A Dutch consortium, coordinated by TBI, is helping to introduce an integrated natural resource management approach into the curricula and learning programmes of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). The project, financed through the NPT-NUFFIC programme, was triggered by the Student Platform project carried out by TBI Ghana and KNUST. The NPT project led to one short course in leadership and adaptive management being organized for district planning officers, project officers, engineers and researchers in Ghana. In addition, six people, including a lecturer from KNUST, received TBI-Huygens grants to pursue a six-week international course on leadership and adaptive management in forest environment in the Netherlands. Two others participated in a course in Thailand on landscape functions and people. All these persons worked for an additional six-week period in the Netherlands on topical issues related to their fields of work. This enabled them to update their knowledge and skills in communication, facilitation and integrated natural resource management and strategic thinking about



collaborative action at the local district and regional levels. In 2007, one of them gave a seminar on facilitation skills at a national capacity building forum for executives of the District Forest Forums, which have been established to promote district level discussions on forestry. In the same year an alumnus of the leadership and adaptive management course delivered a workshop to civil society organizations in the forestry and environment sectors, enabling them to upgrade their facilitation skills.

Dialogue and linkage

Many forestry stakeholders in Ghana, including the donor community, have expressed concern about the state of off-reserve timber resources and are working in different ways to improve the situation. In 2007 TBI Ghana, together with the Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning and Care International, organized a workshop on *'Strengthening off-reserve timber resource management in Ghana'*. This provided the basis for developing options and a roadmap for stakeholder consensus on how to decentralize off-reserve timber resource management. In a broader sense, the workshop served as a platform for all relevant stakeholders to contribute to a better understanding of and discuss feasible solutions to the current state of off-reserve timber resources, which are decreasing in numbers and the variety of species. For the first time, major stakeholders, including the Forestry Commission, industry, district assemblies, traditional authori-

ties, farmers, and civil society, all presented their views on the current state of these resources. The workshop was further enriched by the participation of representatives of the donor community and experts from Europe, who shared their experiences and expectations. This informed the discussions, which identified current problems and options for strengthening off-reserve timber resource management in Ghana. Some of the main problems identified were: lack of clarity on management objectives for off-reserve timber resources, unequal sharing of benefits and responsibilities, inadequate supply of lumber to the local market and inadequate reforestation.

Throughout 2007 TBI Ghana facilitated the Network of Dutch Supported Initiatives in Ghana, a network of organizations, projects and institutions in receipt of Dutch assistance. In 2007, members of the network gained new insights on the policy discussions between development partners and the Government of Ghana, the Voluntary Partnership Agreement and the modalities for accessing and disbursing donor support. At the last meeting, in October 2007, a taskforce was set up to consider ways for civil society organizations to contribute ideas and advise to the government on issues of national development, especially in connection with forestry and the environment. TBI Ghana will continue to participate in this network, which is an important vehicle for information sharing and alliance building.



Capacity building in biodiversity protection and sustainable land use.

The Offinso District, in the Ashanti Region of Ghana, lies within the savannah and high forest transition belt. The area suffered severe bouts of wildfires in the early 1980s which caused huge biodiversity loss and heavy erosion. People in the region have very few livelihood options. Farming is the main source of livelihood but is not sustainable. There is also very little awareness about biodiversity conservation.

In 2005 TBI Ghana won a contract from the Regional Network for the Synergy between the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity (RNSCC) to implement a nine-month-long project in the Offinso District. Its main goal was to enhance biodiversity conservation through sustainable land use. Since then, TBI Ghana has received further funding from the RNSCC for various follow-up activities.

Through this project, TBI Ghana has contributed to biodiversity conservation and improving the livelihoods of selected communities in the Offinso district. In 2005 TBI Ghana established seed nurseries in several villages and by 2007 many of the farmers running these nursery establishments had substantially increased their incomes by selling seedlings to the Forestry Services Division. TBI Ghana is currently exploring wider mar-



ket opportunities for the increasing stock of seedlings being produced by the farmers.

In 2007, TBI Ghana further developed this project through training and capacity building in sustainable farming practices and bee-keeping for honey production as an alternative livelihood option. Ten farmers in five different communities benefited from hands-on training in bee-keeping and ten more in five other communities received awareness training in biodiversity conservation, improved farming practices and agroforestry technologies.





Indonesia

For several years research projects have been running under the TBI Indonesia umbrella exploring trade offs between biodiversity and forest exploitation in selected forest areas of the Gunung Lumut area. These studies aim to develop methods for enhancing biodiversity with a minimal reduction of forest product yield (both timber and non-timber forest products), and to quantify this reduction and the associated opportunity costs to various stakeholders (forest owners, the timber industry and national and local governments).

The agencies involved in implementing this study are TBI Indonesia, the Institute of Environmental Sciences, the National Herbarium of the Netherlands and the Van Vollenhoven Institute (all part of Leiden University), the Mularwarman University of Samarinda, the Forest Research and Development Agency (FORDA), and Loka Litbang Satwa Primata Samboja.

These studies have contributed to institutional and capacity strengthening, particularly within the Paser district, and have supported the establishment of collaborative

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) forums in the districts, which help district agencies coordinate their spatial plans. In Paser and Malinau the GIS forum helped refine land use plans so that they took traditional land use and customary land allocation into account.

One research project, the *'Rapid biodiversity assessment in Gunung Lumut protection forest'* was finalized. This sought to promote the management and conservation of Gunung Lumut protection forest (PF) by increasing awareness among local people about their natural heritage. It encouraged local stakeholders, particularly local communities, to take a more active role in conserving and managing the area and promoted partnerships between relevant stakeholders. The outcomes of the project will be used to improve the management plan for the area, reconciling economic and social development with environmental protection.

One of the recommendations of the project was to institute a collaborative management body for the Gunung Lumut PF. This will help protect the area from illegal logging and

mining and other encroachments. The Paser government has now proposed that the District House of Representatives establish a management unit for Gunung Lumut PF.

Capacity

TBI Indonesia has provided advice to FORDA in Bogor on spatial planning and GIS. Equipment for GIS and Remote Sensing (RS), and mapping has been installed in the FORDA centre, specifically in P3HKA (Forest and Nature Conservation Research and Development Centre) and P2SEKK (Social Economy and Forest Policy Forest Research and Development Centre). More than 20 researchers have been involved in training and internships so as to strengthen FORDA researchers' capacity in spatial land use analysis. This scheme has strengthened the capacity of individuals and the institution as a whole.

FORDA has a long history of forest research, but many of the results are barely accessible. Moreover due to a lack of structured documentation of past and ongoing research, there is much overlap, and even repetition, of research. FORDA recognizes the urgent need to develop a database and clearing house for the research and analysis conducted by the Ministry of Forestry and other relevant organizations, and to actively disseminate the findings and results. TBI Indonesia has started to assist FORDA in developing a database and clearing house for forest-related research and to provide relevant training for



FORDA staff. As with the GIS/RS training, this activity is focused on P3HKA and P2SEKK in Bogor. TBI Indonesia will benefit from this activity by being able to access much of the knowledge that has been generated by FORDA and to use it in our future field activities.

TBI Indonesia has also provided intensive training and assistance on GIS/RS and mapping to district institutions and national park agencies in Kapuas Hulu, West Kalimantan. Communities were empowered with regard to protected areas management, thereby facilitating sustainable development. Refinement of the district land use plans was undertaken in Paser, Malinau and Kapuas Hulu. As well as providing training and technical assistance, TBI Indonesia facilitated and mediated in a number of forest resource management conflicts. TBI Indonesia also organised seminars and workshops on payments for environmental services, establishing conservation districts, environmental education and community-based environmental monitoring and reporting. The Betung Kerihun and Danau Sentarum national park agencies were assisted in completing of several master plans, including one for ecotourism.

Organizations

During 2006-07 TBI Indonesia helped develop GIS working groups in Paser, Malinau and Kapuas Hulu. This successfully helped the local planning agencies in these districts to refine their land use plans using more appropriate parameters and variables. Land zoning in these districts has accommodated spatial



planning parameters such as land cover and erosion risk. The resulting improvement of spatial information in these districts has enabled the Planning Agency of the Ministry of Forestry to analyze and assess proposals for revising land use made by the provincial governments of East and Central Kalimantan.

Dialogue

Earlier involvement in developing ecotourism in Kapuas Hulu and Paser and in carbon trading in Malinau inspired TBI Indonesia and other NGOs in Kalimantan to organize a two day training on payments for environmental services (PES). This was carried out in May 2007, in partnership with the German Cooperation for Development (GTZ), WWF Indonesia, the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and Sungai Wain Protection Forest Management Unit. Around 100 representatives drawn from all the provinces of Kalimantan attended and increased their understanding of PES and the ways of developing its potential in Kalimantan.

Participants used the event to exchange success stories related to PES. At the end of the event, the Environmental Management Center of Kalimantan, a unit of the Ministry of Environment, was charged with establishing a PES forum in Kalimantan.

TBI Indonesia has assisted in setting up a policy expert working group at the Ministry of

Forestry in order to catalyze policy and decision making processes and the application of research results within these processes. This expert group consists of senior FORDA researchers, forest policy experts from universities and representatives of NGOs. Their task is to provide policy input based on expert opinion and research findings to the Minister of Forestry. This is expected to help the flow of information from forestry research to policy and decision makers, thereby making them more effective.

TBI Indonesia was also involved in a number of exhibitions at the district, provincial and national level and used these to raise public awareness about Tropenbos International. This has led to an increase in requests for support in capacity building and technical assistance. TBI Indonesia also participated in the Forest Day at the 13th session of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, where more than 100 national and international representatives visited our booth.

TBI Indonesia has also supported the Paser local government in developing a new environmental curriculum for primary schools, which has been coordinated by Bapedalda in liaison with local stakeholders. This curriculum will include some research results produced by TBI Indonesia. The district government has allocated a budget for printing a handbook for primary and junior high schools.



Promoting better management practices in National Parks

TBI Indonesia is involved in the Forest Partnership Programme, together with WWF Indonesia, CIFOR and WWF International. As part of this programme, two National Parks, Betung Kerihun and Danau Sentarum, both in the Kapuas Hulu District, West Kalimantan, were selected as pilot project areas. These two Parks are characteristic of Kalimantan's forested regions, although they contain very different landscapes and forest types. The Betung Kerihun National Park consists of lowland Dipterocarp forest, while Danau Sentarum is a wetland containing a huge lake and riparian forest types.

The project aimed to support the Parks' authorities to involve local communities in the management of these protected areas. In most National Parks in Kalimantan, the surrounding communities and other stakeholders are not involved in the planning or management of the area. There are often conflicts between local people and the Park authorities and this undermines the work of the authorities in protecting conservation values. The survival of Kalimantan's National Parks depends on the ability of park authorities to involve local stakeholders in their management and to convince them that the National Parks are in their interest as well.



Master plan for the Betung Kerihun National Park

A stakeholder analysis, undertaken in 2005 by Mularwarman University in Betung Kerihun National Park (BKNP), recommended developing a master management plan for the Park, which should be collaborative and in the interests of all relevant stakeholders. The master plan was developed through a consultative and participatory process, facilitated by the Department of Conservation and Ecotourism at the Agricultural Institute of Bogor (IPB) and was funded by TBI Indonesia. Partners from the University of Tanjungpura (West Kalimantan), the Forestry Service, the District Planning Agency, NGOs, and local community representatives were involved during a number of consultative meetings.

The document was presented to the local government and the Ministry of Forestry, responsible for the management of National Parks. The Ministry of Forestry adopted the document and granted BKNP the status of Model National Park. This implies more resources and a greater authority for the Park's management authority.

One recommendation in the master plan was for the local government of Kapuas Hulu to promote ecotourism as a mechanism for generating sustainable income from the National Park and livelihood opportunities for communities around it. This would



mean the development of a West Kalimantan ecotourism area centred around BKNP. TBI Indonesia has responded by providing technical assistance to the local government to develop a blueprint for ecotourism and IPB was selected as a consultant for this project. Working with local stakeholders, this blueprint was finalized at the end of 2007 and is expected to guide government institutions and other stakeholders in Kapuas Hulu on how to improve ecotourism. The blueprint describes a number of potential eco-tourism destinations in Kapuas Hulu, both within and outside its National Parks. Within the Parks, these potential destinations include waterfalls, caves and opportunities for rafting, bird watching and visiting traditional villages. The report lists improvements required to the local infrastructure so that ecotourism can best contribute to local income growth. It is expected that the numbers of local, national and international tourists visiting Kapuas Hulu will increase and that local people will benefit from this.

The management plan and the ecotourism blueprint were both developed through a collaborative multi stakeholder analysis. TBI's role has been to facilitate communication between stakeholders and link the interests of central government with provincial and district government and local people, especially the communities living in and around the Park. Follow-up on the implementation of these plans will be done by students measur-



ing community acceptance and support for the plan and the contribution it makes to poverty alleviation.

Master plan for Danau Sentarum National Park

The launch of the BKNP master plan drew attention to the other large protected area in Kapuas Hulu, the Danau Sentarum National Park (DSNP). Previously, this Park was managed and controlled by the provincial natural resources conservation agency (BKSDA) of West Kalimantan, which only allocated two to three people to manage more than 130,000 hectare. In early 2007, the Minister of Forestry created a dedicated agency to manage the National Park. This new body invited TBI Indonesia to develop a master plan for the Park, replicating the process conducted in BKNP. This project involved IPB as a consultant, and the costs were shared between TBI Indonesia (Forest Partnership Project) and the DSNP agency. Similar consultative and participatory processes were followed as in BKNP, although they were much simplified since the stakeholders had already been involved in the BKNP master plan and had knowledge of the process, and the output, products and targets to be achieved. The document has been presented to the local district government and the Ministry of Forestry for approval.

Because of the greater priority being given

to managing the DSNP, TBI Indonesia was also requested to provide technical assistance in zoning the area. The process began at the end of 2007 and will be completed in the first quarter of 2008. One bottleneck that has been experienced is the current lack of staff with GIS expertise at the Park agency. To address this problem TBI Indonesia is strengthening the GIS and remote sensing

skills of staff at BKNP and BKSDA so they can assist DSNP staff in solving spatial planning problems.





Suriname

Suriname is the newest TBI programme, established in 2003. Suriname is the smallest country with the highest percentage of forest cover in which TBI operates. The country has a limited human resource base. Forestry and conservation agencies and institutions (including research institutions) face a shortage of skilled and experienced staff. As a consequence, one of the priorities of the TBI Suriname programme during this reporting period has been capacity building.

During 2006 and 2007, the short-term projects that started in 2005 began to show results. One early project sought to raise awareness among Surinamese stakeholders about legal timber and to assess their views on how 'legality' should be defined in a Surinamese context. These discussions led to proposals for further projects designed to help frame a National Code of Practice for sustainable forest management. An exercise on identifying a suitable area for projects on forest-based livelihoods was completed, while a multi-agency task force was established to prepare a project on multi-disciplinary landscape assessment, which will work with the

indigenous population in the selected area. A capacity building strategy and action plan for the programme have now been completed. One component involved undertaking an assessment of the professional human resources in Suriname's forest and conservation sector. Capacity building efforts involved providing training to a group of enthusiastic mid-career staff in the main agencies. Preparations have been made to launch a quarterly specialist journal on forest management, conservation and forest-based livelihoods. Many of these activities were carried out in close collaboration with our immediate partners: the Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS), the Logging and Timber Industry Platform Suriname and the Forest Department. Many of these activities were jointly funded with WWF Guianas.

Knowledge

Following an assessment conducted in 2005, Redi Doti and surroundings in the Carolina subdistrict and Brownsberg were selected as suitable areas for TBI Suriname projects on forest-based livelihoods. These areas contain indigenous and Maroon settlements, for-

estry concessions, protected areas, heritage sites and present numerous ecotourism opportunities.

The PTL and the anthropologist who carried out this assessment paid an exploratory visit to the TBI Colombia programme in order to learn about its experiences with community-based research. This led to the proposal to support the establishment of indigenous and Maroon knowledge centres which will serve as a platform for traditional and formal knowledge exchange and community oriented capacity building.

In the course of 2007, contacts were established with communities in the Carolina subdistrict, with the intention of starting a multi-disciplinary landscape assessment to establish the environmental functions of the Carolina landscape, from the perspective of the people living in it. Talks between indigenous representatives of the villages and the project team on the practicalities of participation and how to share and use the research findings resulted in a draft 'consultation protocol' which will provide the basis for conducting the assessment. The talks were moderated by the Association of Indigenous Leaders of Suriname which was also in charge of drafting the protocol.

Capacity and organizations

A key challenge faced by TBI Suriname is the very limited capacity in the forest sector, in



public and private organizations as well as in NGOs and CBOs. Based on the success of the first "transfer of knowledge" project, which started in 2005, a continuation of this project was organized during 2006-2007, together with WWF. In this project, young professionals from government agencies, NGOs and the private sector receive training in skills that will help them develop professionally. Each participant is linked to a mentor, a senior professional who guides the participant in his/her development. The training is based on a Personal Development Plan drawn up by the individual, their mentor and the supervisor from the home institution. This plan structures individual capacity development according to individual needs and ambitions. The project can cover training in general skills, such as presentation, reporting and proposal writing, as well as more technical ones, such as basic GIS training. The project aims to develop a body of young professionals who can take a leading role in promoting evidence-based dialogue about topical forestry and conservation issues, cutting across existing institutional boundaries. By the end of 2007, two trainees submitted proposals for receiving MSc training abroad and another is working on a PhD research proposal. Three participants attended three-month courses in the Netherlands. Due to the enthusiasm of the participants, the project will



be extended. This project is appreciated by both the participants and their employers as a targeted approach that enhances capacity within their organizations.

Recognition of the general need for capacity development within the forestry and nature sectors has led TBI Suriname to hold discussions with the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation over developing a sector-wide capacity building project, based on TBI Suriname's experiences. TBI Suriname has proposed a comprehensive capacity building effort at the post-graduate level for staff in the forest and nature sectors in Suriname. This will be based on a detailed analysis of priority needs and will lead to a tailor-made programme of capacity development, which will include updating the curricula of training and teaching institutions, such as the Nature Technical Institute and the University of Suriname.

To strengthen the forest network in Suriname, TBI is working with WWF and CELOS to launch BOS, a quarterly specialist journal on forest management, forest conservation and forest based livelihoods. The prime objective of this journal is to provide information on relevant developments in the national and international forest arena. To enhance journalism skills, all potential contributors will receive training in writing. This journal is expected to offer an excellent, yet low-threshold opportunity to publish and share views, knowledge and research findings within Suriname. A first issue is due in 2008.



Legality of Timber Harvesting and Trade in Suriname

Timber exporters in Suriname are not immune from the increasing international pressure to demonstrate the legality of their timber. Statements of legal origin issued by the Forest Service may soon no longer be acceptable if they are not backed up by a credible definition of legal timber and a system to verify compliance with it.

Stakeholder perceptions on what is legal timber vary. Currently producers see the urgency of developing a credible verification system, while other stakeholders in Suriname may not see the need to change practices that have functioned well for a long time, and for which they do not see any added value. Some stakeholders may not even realize that they have a stake in the discussion about legal timber, while others see it as a stepping stone towards certified sustainable forest management. Thus, the discussion is not just about a suitable definition of legal timber in Suriname, but also about the need to have that discussion in the first place.

The discussion is not without risk for those involved. Those who seek a declaration of origin might be confronted with claims from stakeholders who have thus far been excluded from discussions and decisions about forest management. Those who see it as a vehicle to achieve more ambitious goals may realize timber legality is just one component



of more comprehensive challenges. Any discussion will certainly involve new actors currently not associated with the forest sector.

As a first step, TBI Suriname and WWF Guianas supported the Logging and Timber Industry Platform Suriname (the private sector association) in carrying out an assessment of stakeholder views about legal timber and the need to develop a national definition. The researchers were particularly interested in finding out what stakeholders considered to be the basic elements of a legal definition. Of about sixty organizations identified as having a stake in forestry, a selection of eleven - representatives of government, private sector, NGOs and CBOs - was interviewed for a preliminary assessment.

In general, NGOs favoured a somewhat broader definition than private and public sector respondents, but the main conclusion was that there is a high level of agreement among stakeholders. Some forty statements about the basic elements of legality were offered: ten of these showed a significant consensus, thirteen showed modest differences of opinion and the remainder showed highly diverse perceptions.

A meeting of these stakeholders agreed on the need and usefulness of formulating a definition of legality; preferably at the level of 'legal compliance' (timber that has been le-



gally obtained and produced). Further work is required to bring forward a suitable and acceptable definition of legality. It was proposed to continue the project under the aegis of a steering committee, which will bring forward a definition, based on the existing consensus and then open up a discussion over those issues that are somewhat, but not widely, at variance with this. This steering committee has not yet been appointed, but in the meanwhile two follow-up projects on formulating a National Code of Practice for sustainable forest management will be implemented in 2008.

Small-scale gold mine rehabilitation

TBI Suriname has participated in two research projects in the Brownsberg Nature Reserve, which explore the rehabilitation of forest vegetation and the aquatic environment after small-scale gold mining activities. These projects are undertaken in partnership with the University of Suriname (the zoological collection and the herbarium), the manager of the Reserve, Foundation for Nature Management in Suriname (STINASU) and Wageningen University and Research Centre (Alterra). The first project started in 2004 and concluded that major changes in

soil structure (reduced organic matter and clay content), the large area opened by mining and the creation of large pools of water together meant that regeneration of mined land to mature forest would be likely to take many decades. The presence of mercury in the soil of the abandoned sites appeared to have no effect on vegetation. It was suggested that the recovery of vegetation could be accelerated if the abandoned areas were levelled and covered with the original top soil. A second study on the impact of gold mining on the aquatic ecosystem suggested that increased sediment in the creeks reduced visibility and fish diversity. The study indicated that some species survive in artificial mining pits, which have better visibility. These observations resulted in a proposed stream rehabilitation strategy in which re-colonization is stimulated both from upstream sources of clean water and by connecting isolated pits with the streams. This strategy is, of course, only effective when there are no upstream gold mining activities. The results of these studies were discussed in two workshops in the community in May 2006 and January 2007. The relation between mercury contamination and health was discussed and an inventory taken of community attitudes towards mine rehabilitation.





Vietnam

TBI Vietnam was established in 2002, following an agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Tropenbos International. TBI Vietnam's focus is on tropical forest research and capacity building for individuals and organizations working in forestry, agriculture and rural development. During its first phase (2001-05), TBI Vietnam's work was focused in the North-Central region, mainly in Thua Thien Hue Province, an area with high biodiversity, which is the climatic transitional area between the north and the south of the country. TBI Vietnam works in partnership with local research institutes, universities, national parks, nature reserves and local authorities. Now into the second phase of our programme, TBI Vietnam is working to integrate forest research and capacity building into local and international development agendas.

Knowledge

Information feeds forest sector in Vietnam

The database of Bach Ma National Park (a CD-Rom with an extensive geo-referenced

database) has been used by several governmental organizations and research institutions for the management of protected areas and buffer zones. It has proved valuable in providing relevant, accurate and up-to-date information for management purposes.

Using an 'action-learning approach' local farmers in the buffer zone around Bach Ma National Park have been trained in and have adopted several different agroforestry systems. These include establishing nurseries of indigenous trees, using fodder grass for cattle and fish and planting fruit and betel nut trees and mixed species of indigenous trees. One group of farmers has built a pig production system, the effluent from which is used as an input in a fish pond. Such combinations of land use activities have great potential to increase farm incomes, while respecting the environment.

Rattan is the second most important source of income (after rice) for poor and landless households in Vietnam. Over-harvesting is a major problem and the amount of rattan in the natural forest has declined rapidly over the past 10 years. Guidelines have been de-

veloped for local people on planting rattan species, on their sustainable use and improved harvesting techniques.

Capacity

Participatory action research planning

In 2007 a workshop was held in Hue, to introduce the second phase of TBI Vietnam's programme. The central theme of the programme is the *'Consequences and impacts of benefit sharing through land allocation on livelihoods and forest ecosystem services'*. National and international research partners were invited to the workshop to share their ideas and experiences on these issues. The workshop led to five research projects being planned and designed with project partners:

- designing an information management system to identify, store and manage relevant data and parameters about the socio-economic and forest and land resources issues related to forest land allocation (FLA);
- analysis of the consequences of and changes in land use, the quality of the forest resource and income generation brought about by FLA;
- analysis of the changes in biodiversity, including conservation and environmental integrity, brought about by FLA;
- development of new livelihood strategies for forest communities to generate



income and improve biodiversity, conservation and environmental integrity;

- supporting the policy process for improved FLA that generates income and improves biodiversity conservation and environmental integrity.

Effective capacity building

The varied range of capacity building opportunities organized by TBI Vietnam has been greatly appreciated by our Vietnamese partners and public authorities. They vary from short courses to degree level education, both in Vietnam and abroad. Several Vietnamese trainees have gained international experience by working overseas in international institutes. This has broadened their horizons and changed their working approach, giving them new skills and methods to implement in their work. The trainees have passed on these skills and knowledge to their colleagues through their daily work and to students through teaching activities. This knowledge and experience has been more broadly disseminated among collaborators and relevant stakeholders through workshops.

The majority of people who have participated in TBI Vietnam's capacity building remain involved in the forestry sector and most of them have been promoted in their institutes and now occupy influential positions. The impact of capacity building strengthens partner institutes and networks for future collaboration.

TBI Vietnam has supported the Forestry Department of Thua Thien Hue Province, which has launched a policy dialogue on *'Revising forestry law and updating policies'* engaging practitioners, forest managers, forest users and other private sector actors at the local level in the process.

Together with the Management for Development Foundation Indochina, TBI Vietnam organized a five day training course on management skills at the Hue Learning Resource Centre. The course offered training in communication, active listening, awareness of different types of questions, the importance of non-verbal communication and reflection on personal communication style. It was used to help managers and heads of forestry and state organizations to improve their management skills through adopting a more participatory and interactive approach.

Programme development through consultation workshops

TBI Vietnam organized its first consultation workshop for programme development for 2006-10 in Hue city, with the participation of our local partners and other stakeholders in Thua Thien Hue province. Group discus-

sion was an integral part of the workshop, especially when selecting and prioritizing research themes for the upcoming phase. Six specific research themes were identified including: poverty alleviation and livelihoods; land use planning, allocation and forestry policies; forest restoration and rehabilitation; international commerce in timber and other forest products; the environmental services provided by forestry; and biodiversity conservation.

The same process was repeated at a national-level workshop, organized in Hanoi, which gathered together TBI Vietnam's central partners, the programme and scientific coordinators, leaders of the main forestry organizations and representatives of NGOs. The ideas and recommendations from both workshops helped TBI Vietnam improve its proposals for the second phase research programme. The workshops identified forest land allocation as a priority issue for sustainable forest development in Vietnam. TBI Vietnam took up this theme and through a workshop a demand driven research programme has been developed.



Linking forest information to decision making - INFOLINK

The INFOLINK project, carried out during the first phase of TBI Vietnam's programme, improved the flow and use of information for sustainable forest management and forest policy in Thua Thien Hue Province. The project linked users of information (decision makers) with those who produce it (researchers, mapping organizations, etc.). Decision makers need access to (and the skills to assess) information that might influence their decisions. Often, much of the relevant information is not available. Sometimes the results of forestry research do not reach decision making agencies, because of inadequate dissemination. At other times the research has not been directly relevant to the needs of the forestry sector or forest-dependent local populations. For social forestry and biodiversity conservation, multi-disciplinary approaches and closer collaboration among social researchers, economists, technical specialists and extension agents is needed. The INFOLINK project specifically addressed these issues.

The project was conducted in a participatory manner, involving forest users from the very outset. Local partners and relevant stakeholders were involved in all aspects of the project to assure the relevance of the information produced and its compatibility with users' needs. The INFOLINK project



brought together a number of local collaborators, together with the national Forest Research and Ecology Centre and the Centre for Forest Information Consultancy. Local partners included the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Forestry Protection Department, the Forestry Development Department, Sub-FIPI, Bach Ma National Park, Tien Phong State Forest Enterprise, Huong Tra and Huong Thuy District Agriculture and Forestry Sections. Their cooperation was central to the success of the project, ensuring that the project was locally embedded, worked within the provincial (and national) institutional contexts and recognized the political and administrative aspects of information flows between researchers and management.

The result was a decision support system (DSS) for the Bo River Watershed Management Board in the Huong Tra District. The Board is responsible for protecting the remaining forest areas and reforesting bare land and denuded hills (through an extensive Government programme to rehabilitate five million hectares of land). INFOLINK established a prototype DSS that included available maps and other documents, including: a land use master plan, maps of forest cover, topography, soils and rainfall, a list of suitable forest species, and a socio-economic database (population, household composition, incomes, etc.). The DSS made a significant contribution to the planning, management,



implementation, monitoring and review of local agencies' five-year plans.

INFOLINK has proved to have been an innovative project addressing topical issues in Vietnam's forestry sector in several respects:

- it was the first project of its kind in Vietnam to address the information gap between research and forest policy and management;
- it has provided the tools and human capacity to improve the situation in Thua Thien Hue province;
- its success will enable the government of Vietnam to replicate it in other provinces and develop an information strategy at national level;
- it was the first decision support system to be developed in Thua Thien Hue province, and probably the first of its kind in Vietnam;
- the GIS-based database will significantly enhance users' capability to access up-to-date data and generate desired information in the form of tables, graphs and maps;
- it can be linked to other databases.

The INFOLINK project was a successful prototype that generated much interest locally and from further afield. Local organizations successfully used the system for planning reforestation. The Management and Resources Centre project funded by GTZ (German Technical Co-operation) visited the Bo River Watershed Management Board to see how the DSS could be applied to the planning and management of forest plantations. This success has shown that there is a demand for such tools in other provinces of Vietnam. It also highlighted the importance of providing suitable training courses for using DSS systems.

INFOLINK will be further developed in TBI Vietnam's second phase, which will include a training course in 2008 on DSS use and management. INFOLINK will also receive funding from the Trust Fund for Forest and 'Pro-Poor Forestry Project' to be used for planning purposes within more provinces in Vietnam.





TBI activities in Bolivia

Communal forestry in the northern Bolivian Amazon

The northern Bolivian Amazon is a region of almost ten million hectares of lush tropical rain forests intersected by meandering rivers. The region is thinly populated. Less than 200,000 people call the region home; two thirds of them live in the three main urban centres in the region: Riberalta, Cobija and Guayaramerin. The region is distant from the country's main economic centres, such as Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, and almost 1000 kilometres of dirt road away from the capital, La Paz. However infrastructure developments in the Amazon region may end this isolation.

The economy of the region is highly dependent on forest resources. One hundred years ago rubber and Brazil nuts were collected and exported to Europe. In the second half of the 20th century, timber and Brazil nuts became the two main resources that provided employment and income to the region's inhabitants.

A decade ago, Bolivia adopted a new forestry law aimed at achieving sustainable production of timber and non-timber forest products



and providing opportunities for those living in and around the forests to receive benefits from sustainable activities in the forest. For this purpose the law distinguished between different social actors: indigenous communities, campesinos and small-scale forest users engaged in chainsaw lumbering.

Ten years later the results of the law are mixed. Two million hectares of managed tropical rain forests are currently certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. An impressive figure, although local people find it difficult to exploit forest resources under this scheme. Only a limited number of rural communities have developed forest management plans that have been approved. A host of legal and technical requirements make it costly and time consuming for communities to harvest timber from their forests under such plans. Inadequate social organization and absence of land rights are two of the main obstacles to communities engaging in forest use under the forestry law.

Against this background a consortium of national and international organizations is carrying out an EU funded project – Programa Manejo de Bosques de la Amazonia Boliviana PROMAB - that aims to improve the livelihoods of forest dwellers by helping them use their forest resources in a sustain-



able way. The participating organizations include Instituto para el Hombre, Agricultura y Ecología (IPHAE) and Herencia, two Bolivian NGOs with extensive experience in communal forestry, agroforestry and the management of protected areas. Two Bolivian academic institutions are also involved: the Universidad Autónoma de Beni and the Universidad Amazónica de Pando, together with four international organizations: HIVOS, SNV, Utrecht University and TBI.

PROMAB aims to build capacity among rural communities in the region so they can manage their forests sustainably. Support is also given to municipalities and organized groups of traditional forest users, such as chainsaw operators.

The project also aims to analyze the constraints of the current regulatory system and to develop a model for community forestry that takes into account the region's specific characteristics: the existence of a high-value non timber forest product - Brazil nuts -, the region's isolation from the country's economic centres and its poor infrastructure (although this is about to change with improvements in the road infrastructure linking Brazil and Peru, a few kilometres from Bolivia's northern border), the large scale of forest lands managed by communities and the long history of commercial forest use in the region.



Financing of sustainable forest management in Latin America

According to the International Timber Trade Organization (ITTO) only five per cent of the world's tropical forest ecosystems are managed responsibly. The rest is subject to deforestation, overexploitation and degradation. There are many reasons why the proportion of well-managed forests is not increasing, but TBI believes that the lack of financing options for sustainable management is one of the main underlying issues, and that forests are undervalued compared to other land uses. We also believe that one of the main challenges facing foresters is to increase the attractiveness of investing in good forest management. They need to demonstrate the competitiveness of forest investments by highlighting all the services and goods that forest ecosystems produce. Many new initiatives in the world are tackling the issue of financing, especially pilot projects that are designing and implementing payments for environmental services.

Tropenbos International is participating in a Dutch financed project: *'Strategies and financial mechanisms for the conservation and sustainable use of forests; phase 1 Latin America'*. The main implementing agencies are the FAO, IUCN and two regional Latin American organizations: the Amazon Treaty Cooperation Organization and the Central American Commission for Environment and Develop-



ment. The project is preparing an inventory and analysis of the present status of, and prospects for, forest financing mechanisms in Latin American countries. The project started in the beginning of 2004 and the results will be published in 2008.

This project approached the problem of forest financing from a broad and integrated vision, that sees investment in good forest management and just payment for the multiple goods and services that forests provide as inextricably linked. This approach emphasizes the need for and added value from 'bundling' different sources and instruments to increase the financial basis for sustainable forest management.

To date the project has produced a number of outputs:

- 19 country case studies that provide a comprehensive inventory of the array of financing mechanisms that have been used in Latin America; and lessons learned from developing national strategies for forest financing;
- national, sub-regional, regional, and international workshops to disseminate the findings and receive stakeholders' feedback;
- a website (www.fao.org/forestry/mecanismosfinancieros);



- a database of papers on forest financing;
- a desk-review paper 'Towards national financing strategies for sustainable forest management in Latin America';
- a 'community of practice' - a group of practitioners from throughout Latin America with expertise in the forest and financial sectors;
- a training module to build capacity for developing national forest financing strategies (developed by Wageningen International - part of Wageningen University and Research Centre - with support from the FAO and the Dutch Government).

A synthesis paper and a policy brief are in preparation; these draw on the experience of participant countries and lessons learnt from the project and make recommendations for future action.

TBI has provided conceptual support throughout the project and has contributed to the analysis and synthesis of the results.

The project has generated many conclusions, which will be published in the synthesis

document in 2008. The central conclusion is that the main problem is not a lack of financial resources for forest management. The major obstacle for adequate financing, payment and investment is the absence of an enabling environment that supports the effective scaling-up of financing mechanisms, for better sustainability and impact. Lack of transparency, poor governance, insufficient political commitment to sustainability, insecure land tenure, failing institutions, lack of reliable information and illegality and corruption are the main hurdles that inhibit the building of trust. As a second main, and more positive, conclusion, we see opportunities and possibilities for developing innovative instruments that draw the capital market and the emerging markets for forest services together. Closer collaboration between the forest and financial sectors offers a real possibility of providing creative and innovative solutions supporting sustainable forest management.

Possible follow ups to the project are being explored. These include a continuation of the project in Latin America and its extension towards Africa and Asia.



Towards sustainable chainsaw lumbering in Ghana and Guyana

Chainsaw lumbering (milling), the commercial on-site conversion of logs into boards using chainsaws, is an important source of income in many local and indigenous forest-dependent communities. Significant and increasing amounts of timber in the tropics are produced for local markets using this simple technology. However, poorly regulated chainsaw milling can also lead to the overexploitation and degradation of the resources on which rural populations depend. This leads to complaints and conflict with governments, traditional sawmill owners, conservationists, farmers and other owners and users of trees and forest resources.

Chainsaw lumbering is widespread in both Ghana and Guyana. In both countries, it supplies much of the domestic market demand but the practice creates tensions with the regular milling industry and other stakeholders. The two countries differ in the way they deal with this. In Ghana, chainsaw lumbering has been banned since 1998, while in Guyana it is legal for certain categories of forest use.

TBI is working with four partner organisations from these two countries on a new project



'Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw lumbering through multi-stakeholder dialogue in Ghana and Guyana', which started in March 2007. The project is funded by the EU for a period of five years and aims to develop and promote effective policy measures to address the negative aspects of chainsaw lumbering, while maintaining its positive socio-economic effects. The driving factors and impacts of chainsaw lumbering will be analysed, together with the macro-economic, political, legal and socio-economic conditions that foster it. The project strongly emphasises the use of multi-stakeholder dialogue as a mechanism for reducing conflict, adjusting perceptions and creating mutually acceptable solutions to the problems associated with chainsaw milling. Appropriate approaches that promote more sustainable practices and reduce reliance on chainsaw milling will be piloted in a number of communities.



The overall objectives of the project are to reduce poverty and promote viable livelihoods in forest-dependent communities; to reduce the occurrence of illegal logging and to promote the conservation and sustain-

able management of tropical forests in developing countries. The specific objective is to reduce the level of conflict and illegality related to chainsaw lumbering by local communities.

The expected results are:

- a better understanding of the causes and consequences of chainsaw lumbering (national level);
- establishing multi-stakeholder learning and discussion platforms over chainsaw lumbering issues (national level);
- achieving national consensus about chainsaw lumbering in Ghana and Guyana;
- regulating chainsaw lumber production so that it is sustainable (local level);
- determining best practice for addressing chainsaw lumbering (international level).

At the start of the project, delegations from Ghana and Guyana visited Wageningen in August 2007 for an initial meeting where a detailed workplan was developed.

Each country has established a Project Secretariat and appointed a Project Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of key stakeholders and agencies whose areas of operation, mandate or expertise are crucial to achieving the objectives of the project in the long run. In each country the project has been officially launched in the presence



of numerous dignitaries and stakeholders. In preparing the analysis of the drivers of chainsaw milling, a gap analysis of available information has been made. This will be followed by studies in 2008 that cover the gaps in knowledge and understanding. At the same time, a stakeholder analysis has been started to understand the sector and to prepare for multi-stakeholder dialogue in the next phase of the project.

TBI is implementing this project with the following partners: in Ghana: the Forestry Commission, and the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, and in Guyana: the Forestry Training Centre Incorporated, and the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development.

FLEGT and chainsaw lumbering in Ghana

Under its Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, the European Union has committed itself to cooperate with governments in their effort to halt illegal logging and to secure good governance and law enforcement within existing legal and institutional frameworks.

In December 2006, Ghana formalized the negotiation process to enter into a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the EU. This trade agreement aims to restrict illegal timber imports into the EU while building Ghana's capacities to deliver legal timber. Since the beginning of 2007, Ghana has identified and discussed policy options for addressing the issues for adopting and implementing the VPA. These include: the operations and sale of illegal lumber - especially chainsaw lumber - on the domestic market, fiscal implications and options; and the legal and institutional challenges and opportunities.

A VPA steering committee, set up by the Government, recognized that the choice of options and the degree to which they are

pursued, will create different winners and losers in social, economic and environmental terms. The committee has thus commissioned an independent assessment of the potential impact of the VPA, which started in October 2007 and is ongoing.

Chainsaw lumbering in Guyana: legal but not without challenges

Chainsaw milling has been accepted by policy makers in Guyana as a means of providing employment to the populations of its hinterlands. However, since the late 1980s, the production of chainsaw lumber has skyrocketed. Legal production comes mostly from short-term State Forest Permissions (SFPs), issued by the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) for areas of less than 8,000 hectares. Legal chainsaw lumbering has a very high socio-economic significance: the SFPs employ 70% of people working in productive forestry and generate over 50% of the total revenue earned in royalties and fees from forest producers.

However, because of the itinerant nature of chainsaw operators and the difficulty in reg-

ulating them, illegal activities such as timber poaching have been rampant. The GFC has established four main measures to curb illegal activities:

- more intensive forest monitoring (including lumber yards);
- introduction of a log tagging and a quota system;
- formation of Community Logging Associations; and
- intensified capacity building activities among rural logging communities.

While these initiatives have gone a long way in addressing the negative aspects of chainsaw milling, numerous challenges remain, including the depletion and degradation of the resources on which some rural populations depend, continued conflicts between different land uses and poor functioning of some loggers' associations. It is up to Guyana's policy makers to find appropriate answers to these prevailing and emerging threats.





The European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN): a key resource for forest research results and for cooperation

In 2007 the European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN) saw some major changes in its staff and structure. Willemine Brinkman, the coordinator of the network, left the organization after seven years of hard work and dedication. She successfully mobilized the many members of ETFRN in Europe and beyond over important international forestry issues, through newsletters, web-based discussion platforms, seminars and workshops. Much of the success of ETFRN in recent years has been due to her extensive network and her ability to mobilize it.

In November 2007, Marieke Wit took over the role of coordinating ETFRN. This change of staff occurred at the same time as an internal discussion among the founding members of the network on how best to continue to work without the financial support of the EU, which ended in 2004. The working group analyzed the pros and cons of different organizational structures. One involved transforming the network into an independent legal entity with a governing board and a coordination unit carrying out the tasks.

The alternative was to continue as a network with no independent legal status, hosted by a member organization, with contributions being made by members sharing the network's vision. The working group concluded that the latter option, hosted by TBI, would provide the best conditions for continuing the work of ETFRN and promoting the involvement of European research expertise in the conservation and wise use of forests and woodlands in tropical and subtropical countries.

These changes in the staff and structure of ETFRN have led to a delay in carrying out some of the network's plans for 2007. Both the network and its host are confident that ETFRN will pick up its pace in 2008 and will continue for many years to be a source of reference on forests and development and a force for mobilizing research on the fate of tropical forests and those that depend on them for their livelihoods.

A large proportion of armed conflicts in the world today occur in forested regions, which may have very negative impacts on conservation and forestry efforts. These conflicts undermine attempts to improve governance, retard economic development and impoverish rural people: forest dwellers are among the groups most harmed by armed conflicts.

Over recent years, international recognition of the problem of armed conflict in forested regions has grown rapidly. In 2006 ETRN coordinated the International Forum on Security, Development and Forest Conflict (Brussels, 8-9 February 2006). This Forum made a number of recommendations, including the following:

- to integrate natural resource conflict into the broader security agenda;
- to examine options for incorporating concerns over natural resource conflict in the UN security and peace-building institutions;
- to address both supply and demand issues related to conflict resources; and
- to support and document community-based natural resource management as a means for conflict prevention and post-conflict stabilization and development.

The Forum's website, www.etfrn.org/etfrn/sdfc, contains more information on this meeting, including reports, presentations, background material and links.



Eradicating poverty is a priority, and forests have an important role to play as an estimated quarter of the world's population, many among the poorest in the world, are dependent on forest resources for their livelihoods. National Forest Programmes (NFPs) should be aligned to the objectives of national poverty reduction strategies and clearly address poverty issues. The National Forest Programme Facility, hosted by FAO, has developed a digest that aims to assist those involved in NFPs or forest policy development to do this, by bringing together available knowledge on the relationship between forests and poverty and pointing the way to further sources of information. ETRN was commissioned to update this digest and to develop paper and CD versions of it and completed this task in 2007.

Newsletters 2006-07

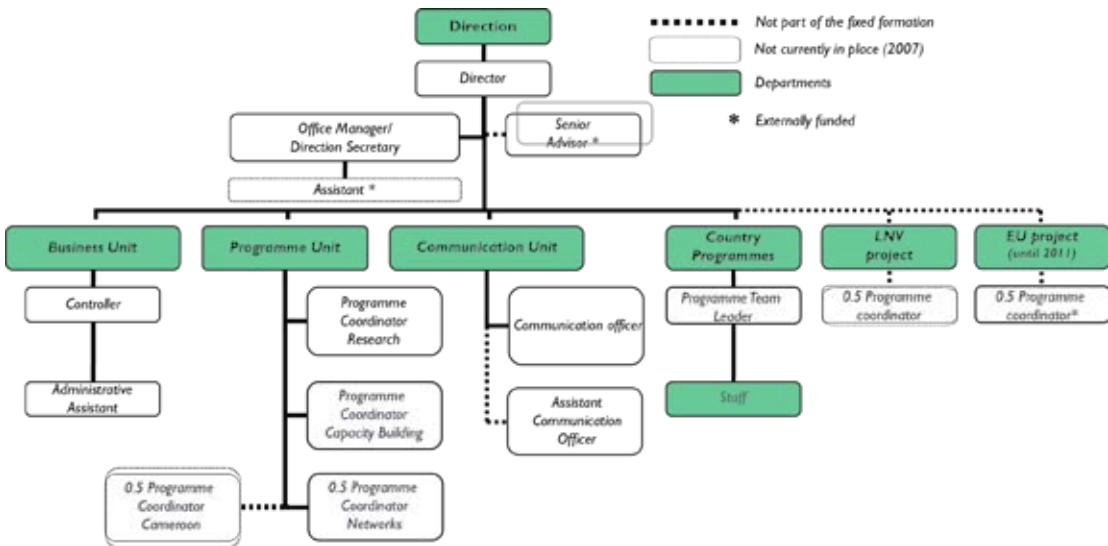
ETFRN News published a special issue on "**Forests, water and livelihoods**" (winter 2005-2006). The debate over forests and water is full of valid observations that are often used to make generalizations at the wrong level, ignoring the effects of scale on many of the 'truths'. This issue sought to counter-balance some of these 'myth-perceptions' by documenting information on forest hydrology, gaps in perception about forests and water, livelihood issues and payments for environmental services, and providing a number of case studies. An on-line version can be downloaded from: www.etfrn.org/etfrn/newsletter/news4546.

ETFRN News published an issue which focused on "**Forests and the Millennium Development Goals**" (winter 2006-2007). The main issues addressed concerned the relation between forests and trees and the Millennium Development Goals. An on-line version can be downloaded from www.etfrn.org/etfrn/newsletter/news4748.



Our organisational structure, board and partners

The organisational structure of Tropenbos International



The General Board and the Programme Advisory Committee

The 2006 meeting of the TBI General Board took place in Indonesia, in May. This was the first ever Board visit to a programme country, and consisted of the statutory meeting, a meeting with the Minister of Forestry, a visit to the Forest Research and Development Agency (TBI's main partner in Indonesia), the Centre for International Forestry Research, and a two-day field visit to TBI's project area and local partners in Paser District, East Kalimantan. The field visit led to an increased

appreciation of the achievements and challenges of the TBI Indonesia Programme. During the statutory meeting, TBI's draft communication strategy, integrity policy and partnership strategy were reviewed. In all cases recommendations for further action were made.

The fourteenth meeting of the TBI General Board took place on 20-21 June, 2007, in Rhenen, the Netherlands. The main issues on the agenda were discussing programme development for the 2006-10 funding period and, from that, a general discussion on TBI's priorities and visions. Topics of discussion included the choice of strategic partners and appropriate strategies for achieving policy change. The meeting concluded with a joint meeting with the Programme Advisory Committee, which explored the thematic coherence of TBI's programme. It was recommended that TBI position itself in the newly emerging policy areas of biofuels and reduced emissions from deforestation. The composition of the Board changed, with



Mr Karssen and Mr Prins leaving the Board in 2006 and Ms Ozinga and Mr Rodriguez Becerra retiring in 2007. The General Board of Tropenbos International now consists of the following members:

- R. Rabbinge (Chairman), the Netherlands
- C. Amoako-Nuama, Ghana
- J. Blaser, Switzerland
- A.J. Dietz, the Netherlands
- H.H. Haeruman, Indonesia
- J.L.S. Jiggins, the Netherlands
- Y. Kakabadse Navarro, Ecuador
- G.M.J. Mohren, the Netherlands
- E. Pelinck, the Netherlands

The Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) advises the Board on the approval of country programmes, with an emphasis on the scientific quality of the projects. The PAC also advises the local Steering Committees in the programme countries on the scientific content of the programme, at the request of the Steering Committee or General Board.



Partners

Tropenbos places a high priority on its partnerships. As a small organization with limited direct implementation capacity, TBI needs to pursue many of its objectives through partners and partnerships. These partnerships help to transfer capacity and skills between partners and help to disseminate knowledge and information. Flexibility in the choice of partners allows TBI to find the best available expertise to suit particular needs. This helps TBI to retain our relevance in the face of changing needs in partner countries. TBI acknowledge the contributions of all the partners with whom we participated and collaborated during 2006 and 2007.





Finances

During 2006-07, TBI received core funding from the Directorate General for International Cooperation of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS). In 2007 the organization also received funding from the EU for the chainsaw lumbering project. A range of other donors from the Netherlands and abroad also supported TBI's work, and doubled DGIS' core contribution (see table below). TBI's partners provide substantial contributions in kind, in the form of office space and/or equipment, researchers or expertise. Thanks to these contributions, TBI can continue its activities to improve the sustainable management of tropical forests in the countries in which it operates.

Table of donors

The Netherlands	Type
DGIS	Core funding
NUFFIC	Scholarships and NTP programme
International	
COLCIENCIAS (Colombia)	Scholarships
DFID-FRP (UK)	ETFRN
Institute Alexander von Humboldt (Colombia)	Local research projects
Royal Netherlands Embassy - Jakarta (Indonesia)	Project based contribution
WWF (Suriname)	Local research projects
Wotro (Colombia)	PhD studies
HIVOS/EU (Bolivia)	Project based contribution
USAID	ETFRN
FAO	ETFRN
PROFOR	ETFRN
EU (2007)	Chainsaw lumbering project



Annual accounts 2006

Revenues	€ (000)	%	Expenditures	€ (000)	%
Netherlands Government	1,289	31.0	Country programme activities	920	22.0
Junior expert programme	49	1.0	Special projects	2,525	61.0
Local site contracts	52	1.0	Organisational costs	429	10.0
FPP programme Indonesia	339	8.0	Junior expert programme	42	1.0
Amazonico programme Colombia	1,623	39.5	Programme development	170	4.0
EU Suriname	14	0.5	Programme activities	86	2.0
Nuffic NPT programme	419	11.0			
Nuffic Huygens programme	84	2.0			
Hivos/EU Bolivia programme	37	1.0			
ETFRN	168	4.0			
Sales publications	1	-			
Interest	5	-			
Miscellaneous	92	1.0			
Total	4,172	100.0		4,172	100.0

Annual accounts 2007

Revenues	€ (000)	%	Expenditures	€ (000)	%
Netherlands Government	1,450	61.0	Country programme activities	1,030	43.4
Local site contracts	115	5.0	Special projects	710	29.9
FPP programme Indonesia	101	4.0	Organisational costs	332	14.0
Amazonico programme Colombia	17	1.0	Programme development	104	4.4
EU Suriname	4	-	Programme activities	197	8.3
EU Chainsaw Ghana/ Guyana	117	5.0			
Nuffic NPT programme	400	17.0			
Nuffic Huygens programme	61	3.0			
Hivos/EU Bolivia programme	15	1.0			
ETFRN	56	2.0			
Sales publications	-	-			
Interest	12	0.5			
Miscellaneous	25	0.5			
Total	2,373	100.0		2,373	100.0



How to contact us....

Tropenbos International

P.O. Box 232
6700 AE Wageningen
The Netherlands

Visitor's address:
Lawickse Allee 11
6701 AN Wageningen
The Netherlands

T: +31 (0) 317 48 14 16
E: tropenbos@tropenbos.org
www.tropenbos.org

TBI Colombia

Apartado Aéreo 036062
Bogotá DC
Colombia

Visitor's address :
Cra 21 # 39-35
Santa Fe de Bogotá

T: +57 (0) 1 3203502 /3203319 /2456974
E: ftropenbos@cable.net.co

TBI Indonesia

P.O.Box 494
Balikpapan 76100
East Kalimantan
Indonesia

Visitors' address
Gedung Sylva Graha PT. Inhutani I, Lt. 2
Jl. Jend. Sudirman No. 27
Balikpapan
East Kalimantan
Indonesia

T: +62 (0) 542 820503 /820504
E: tropenbos@telkom.net

TBI Suriname

P.O. Box 4194
Paramaribo Zuid
Suriname

Visitor's address:
Prof. Dr. Ruinardlaan
(CELOS Building)
Paramaribo
Suriname

T: + 597 (0) 532001
E: tropenbossuriname@yahoo.com

TBI Vietnam

c/o Forest Inventory and Planning Institute
6/1 Doan Huu Trung
Huế, Vietnam

T: +84 (0) 54 886211
E: hue.tbi-vietnam@dng.vnn.vn

or

TBI Vietnam

c/o Forest Inventory and Planning Institute
IPO Box 671
Hanoi, Vietnam

T: +84 (0) 4 6870600/1
E: tbi.vietnam@hn.vnn.vn

TBI Ghana

P.O. Box UP 982
KNUST, Kumasi
Ghana

T: +233 (0) 51 60310/61361
E: tropenbos@idngh.com

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