



# IMPACT REPORT

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2022

CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL

Suriname



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## Letter of appreciation from CIS Executive Director Mr. John Goedschalk

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*Paramaribo, December 2022*

*To: Our Friends of Green Suriname (FOGS)*

***This is not a goodbye; this is a THANK YOU!***

*Dear Friend of Green Suriname,*

*Friends never say goodbye, but this is the occasion I would like to take to let you know that after almost 10 years as director of Conservation International Suriname, I will say goodbye to the organization by December 31st, 2022, to begin a new path in my own climate and conservation trajectory. I will continue to serve Conservation International Suriname in another role with the same dedication.*

*For any organization with a strong foundation, such as ours, changes and institutional innovations can never be a set-back, but instead a huge opportunity.*

*Once more I would like to thank you FOGS, for supporting the conservation goals and to keep supporting CI Suriname in our common vision to be the most forested country in the world, with a rich biodiversity and with happy and prosperous societies.*

*Our environmental work is not done, and we appreciate your support in the coming years.*

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John R. Goedschalk'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

John R. Goedschalk

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# OUR VISION

**SURINAME IS THE GREENEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD  
FOREVER WITH A PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY POPULATION**

# OUR MISSION

**TO PRESERVE SURINAME'S RICH BIODIVERSITY AND  
ECOSYSTEMS FOR THE WELL BEING OF OUR CURRENT AND  
FUTURE GENERATIONS**



**SURINAME IS THE GREEN JEWEL OF THE WORLD,  
WHERE YOU CAN WATCH THE EARTH  
BREATHE....**

**- AXEL SCHMIEGELOW -  
ITravel Group**



# FRIENDS OF GREEN SURINAME (FOGS) REVITALIZED

In 2023 Conservation International Suriname (CIS) will -more than ever- focus on our Friends of Green Suriname (FOGS)-program to intensify our commitment to develop and execute environmental and sustainable livelihood programs. You as our 'Friends of Green Suriname' can support the programs that advocate the well-being of our planet and its people. With your commitment we can bridge the gap between conservation and sustainable development and our mission to preserve Suriname's rich biodiversity and ecosystems for the wellbeing of our current and future generations.

Since 2014, our Friends of Green Suriname contributed in many ways and has proven to be a great accelerator for the projects of CI Suriname. Despite the COVID and financial challenges which turned the world upside down, with the support of FOGS, CIS continued its work because 'there is only one planet to save'.



# FOGS SPENDINGS



CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY



FISHERIES



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

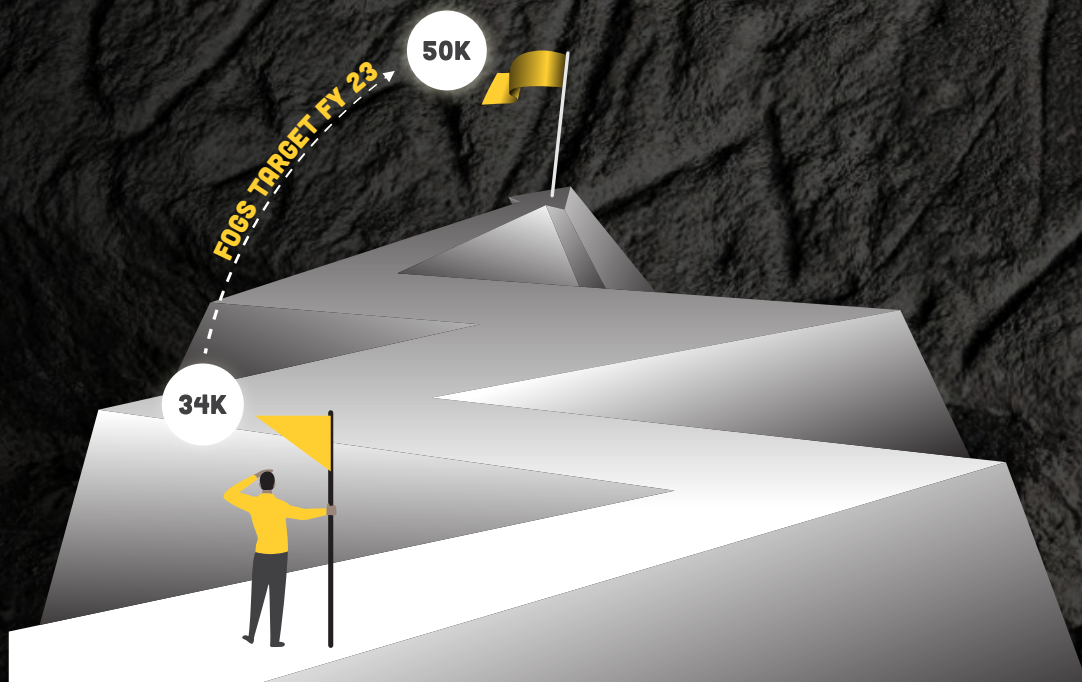


NATURE TOURISM



WILDLIFE

# FOGS FUNDING GOAL FY23





# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Local companies	Amount
Torarica Group of Hotels	\$ 3,000.00
VSH	\$ 2,500.00
Gumair	\$ 4,059.69
Staatsolie	\$ 5,000.00
Republic Bank	\$ 15,000.00
	<b>\$29,559.69</b>

Companies abroad	
Berthling Group	\$ 5,069.00
	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$ 34,655.69</b>

In kind grands	
Telesur/ATV	Free broadcasting time on television for CI-projects
Courtyard by Marriott	Spending to the amount of \$5,000





# 30 YEARS CIS DEFINED IN OUR ADVOCACY WORK

29 December 1992 - 29 December 2022

## Celebration of CIS 30 years with stakeholders and partners

Conservation International Suriname (CIS) has celebrated her 30th birthday in 2022. Throughout these past years we've worked on different projects, with various stakeholders and communities that are ready to work with us. We are grateful for the confidence you have in us to bring our vision closer into reality.

On August 1st we launched our 30th birthday with our partners, stakeholders, communities, FOGS and our very own CIS team. Everyone in its own way contributed to the success of our mission.





CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL





## **The High-Level Policy Exchange Mission to Gabon.**

This year one of the significant milestones was the High-Level Policy Exchange Mission to Gabon (West Africa) from March 12 – 19, 2022, with a Surinamese delegation consisting of policy makers and technical experts.

The Suriname delegation coordinated and financed by CIS was led by the Head of Parliament from the Republic of Suriname, accompanied by the minister of Land Policy and Forest Management and the minister of Regional Development and Sport and their experts on forest policies. These two countries have a lot of similarities, such as a limited population density and abundant natural resources. Gabon has adopted such models in managing and exploiting its natural resources that it is now one of the more prosperous countries in Africa. And that thanks to its vigorous forestry policy. This created the basis for Suriname's growing interest in successful forestry models of Gabon.

## **The policy of phasing out round wood export and better management of forests and nature parks.**

With a view to diversifying our economy and strengthening the country's revenues, a sound 'no or only limited raw materials policy' is a necessary measure. This includes studying various success models and gaining knowledge to manufacture end products for wood that can be exported with processing facilities in place, capacity building trainings, as well as legislation that enables sustainable exploitation of natural areas with fair Benefit Sharing models for the local communities.

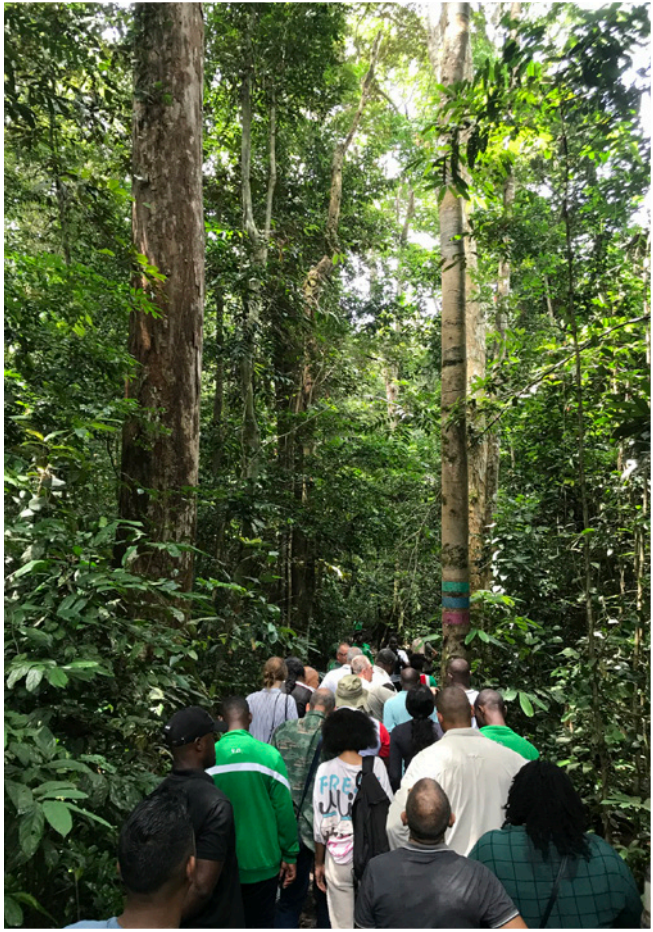
We will join forces with Gabon to exchange information on their national green development strategy, that has a minimum impact on the existing forests in the hinterland. This includes exchange of data on forest policy, land use planning, sustainable forest management, protected area management, log tracking and control, phasing out of log exports and forest certification.

The objectives of the mission were as follows:

- Gain understanding of the Gabon approach on nature management and sustainable forest management.
- Lessons learned from Gabon on phasing out log wood for the increase of nationwide economic benefit.
- Establish technical committee/agreement for supporting policy framework with regards to zero deforestation in Suriname.
- Hands on experience of the success story of Gabon to serve as inspiration for the carbon potential in Suriname.
- Discuss coordination of HFLD countries.

Since the trip the discussions and programs on phasing out round wood export and implementation of sustainable forest management and carbon rights has intensified and the results will be evident within a few years.





# TWO-DAY ‘ORGANIZATION AND TRANSFORMATION TIMBER SECTOR’ BY PRESIDENTIAL TASKFORCE

On Friday December 2nd and Saturday December 3rd a workshop “Organization and Transformation Wood Sector” was hosted in the Royal Torarica Ballroom. The guests were stakeholders from from the private sector, government, local Indigenous and Tribal communities, and non-governmental organizations. The event was organized by the presidential task force, which was appointed on September 6th, 2022, with the aim of issuing advice about policies for the Surinamese timber sector, including the successive reduction of round wood illegal logging and export. Some of the concrete intentions are to 1) gradually phase out roundwood exports, 2) to combat (illegal) logging and export, 3) to further stimulate sustainable forest management, and 4) to maximize the income of the state. The taskforce, led by chairman Mr. Pertap Bissumbhar, organized the two day workshop in collaboration with WWF-Guianas and Conservation International Suriname. The agenda highlighted our local timber sector from several angles. During the 1st day, information was provided about the timber sector opportunities for Suriname. During the 2nd day, thematic issues were elaborated interactively in smaller groups, after which the outcomes were presented to the other attendees. At the end, a declaration was issued which the government can use to formulate policies, to combat illegality and transform a policy of highly regulated tolerance of a practice into correctness.

A photograph of a Penan man in a lush green forest. He is wearing a large, elaborate headdress made of brown, red, and yellow feathers. He is shirtless and has a red cloth wrapped around his waist. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is filled with dense tropical foliage.

“

**THE LAND IS SACRED;**

**IT BELONGS TO THE COUNTLESS NUMBERS WHO ARE  
DEAD, THE FEW WHO ARE LIVING AND THE MULTITUDE  
OF PEOPLE YET TO BE BORN**

- Penan, Sarawak -



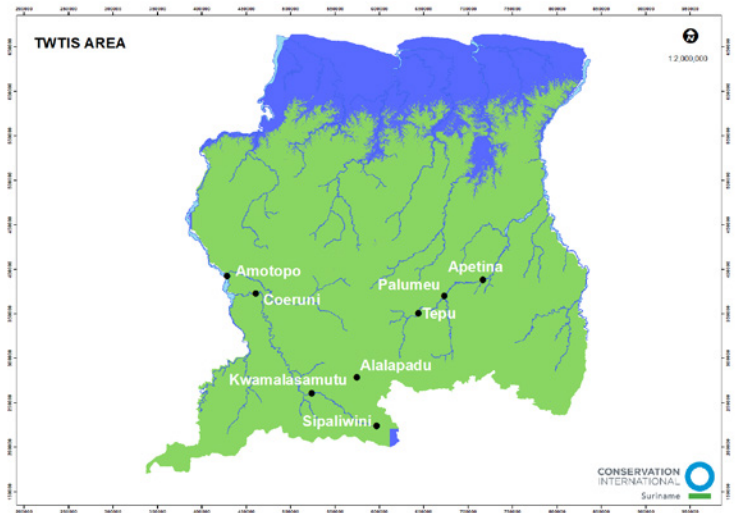
# STORIES – TWTIS

## Establishing a TRIO and Wayana Code of Conduct book

In April 2020 the TWTIS team started to bring awareness to the indigenous communities on land rights. The European Union funded the project, and it has been executed with 3 outputs:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Execute a road Impact assessment with the Trio and Wayana Community members
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Host a Train the Trainer workshop for the Trio and Wayana Community
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Develop a Trio and Wayana Code of Conduct handbook

The Trio and Wayana ‘Code of Conduct Handbook’ is ready and will be presented to the stakeholders and high-level policy makers on January 12th, 2023, during a special ceremony.



## Supporting Indigenous woman leadership through fellowship program



From April 25 – 29, 2022, the first Indigenous Women Fellowship Regional Exchange was held in Ecuador. Twenty-seven Indigenous women from Columbia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Guyana Brazil, and Suriname came together to exchange their experience as ‘women fellows’ within our ‘Future Forest-Amazona Verde’ project. It was also the first time for many of these inspiring women to experience an international exchange.

For Suriname, fellow Sharmaine Artist participated accompanied by Shaniel Gena, the technical coordinator for the CI’s South Suriname program. During the exchange, topics on gender equality were discussed and it became clear that Indigenous women also do not get the same opportunities as men, especially not in decision making processes. It would be a great opportunity for other indigenous women to have this experience through a yearly ‘get together’, fellow Sharmaine stated.

Her fellowship program to set-up a hydroponics system in her village, Powakka, was completed in July 2022. For the 2nd edition of the ‘woman fellowship program’ two new woman fellows have been selected in April 2022 and will receive guidance from the previous fellow, Ms. Sharmaine Artist, who will be their mentor.

## Strengthening indigenous communities

For CIS, developing sustainable livelihoods in these Indigenous communities, goes hand in hand with capacity building, so they can develop ownership of their living areas, their forests and all the resources it provides. In 2022 the following trainings have been hosted within the communities for the community members:

- **MAPEO training: July 2nd – 6th, 2022, Alalapadu**

This training was aimed at the Monitoring team in Alalapadu that keep track on the reproduction and inventory of the Tuhka Trees and the hunting activities in the village; **Machine Operations & Maintenance:**

- **July 13th – 15th, Paramaribo**

Villagers of Alalapadu visited the city to take part in a machine operating training hosted by Farmers choice. This allows the workers of the Tuhka enterprise to manage the company machines more effectively.

- **The ‘on the job training’ for the sustainable harvest of ornamental fish: August 15th- 22nd, 2022, Tepu** was to learn how to catch and take care of the fish, how to store, pack and transport the fish in a responsible manner to Paramaribo.

- **Capacity Building in managing skills for Stichting Tuhka: August 27th – September 7th, 2022, Alalapadu** to strengthen the employees in managing the stock, operational processes, lifecycle of the process, Inventory, and financial management.

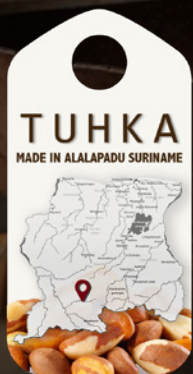
In the upcoming year TWTIS will continue supporting the Indigenous people through certain capacity building trainings in the areas.

## Letter of Intention with Tepu

As part of our intensive engagement processes, we have signed a Letter of Intention with Tepu in November 2022. This as a preliminary step for the Conservation Agreement, set to be signed in 2023) to protect 365.000 ha of pristine forest as a prerequisite for the sustainable Ornamental Fisheries project.









STICHTING  
TUHKA  
ALALAPADU

# WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Suriname is known as one of the major global source countries for parrots, macaws, toucans, songbirds, snakes, frogs, toads, primates and so much more. Most of the trade is legal, as Suriname maintains high export quota compared to any other country in the world, except for Guyana, which is also known for its high wildlife export quota. But as has been proven for decades, where hunting and legal wildlife trade is taking place, illegal trade is also happening, especially when considering the incredible value of wildlife trade globally.

We have executed wildlife trade assessments in three South Suriname Indigenous villages, Kwamalasamutu, Amatopo and Tepu and are working on piloting wildlife awareness in these, our long-term goal is to implement these activities in all villages where CIS is working. The awareness sessions are focused on the role of wildlife and ecosystems, legislation, sustainable hunting, and the impact of wildlife trade. We have also started with wildlife trade assessments in these three villages as well as developing lesson plans to be piloted in the three villages as well.

Additionally, we have been asked to help recover the overharvested wildlife populations around Kwamalasamutu and we are currently preparing the methodologies and will discuss this with the Granman and hunters, to be piloted in 2023.

## Go Wild for Wildlife



**GO WILD FOR  
WILDLIFE!**

The launch for the **GO WILD FOR WILDLIFE** campaign was hosted on December 14th, 2022, in the Back Lot Cinemas. The campaign is supported by local role models and highly appreciated public figures who are focused on wildlife issues and sustainability. Eight themes have been

chosen, focusing on illegal trade in Jaguars and other relevant creatures of our forests that are endangered.



## Wild Felid (cats) Workshop and National Jaguar Action Plan

On November 15th, 2021, we delivered a training on the identification of felid parts targeting officials from Paramaribo, the Nature Conservation Division, the Public Prosecution, Police and Customs, who are active areas for felid trafficking in Suriname. The training covered relevant wildlife legislation, pathways to report and deal with trafficking cases and morphology of felid parts and how to recognize them. We used excerpts from the felid ID guide as visual aids during the training as well as parts of the felines (skin, teeth, paws) that Paramaribo Zoo had lent to us for this workshop. We disseminated the copies of the Felid Identification Guide for Suriname to our stakeholders and all institutions that were represented at the workshop, and additionally to the relevant NGOs in Suriname. We are also in the final stages of the development of the National Jaguar Action Plan for Suriname, co-developed by our stakeholders with content that is related to jaguars. This action plan will hugely help better protect the currently, still healthy populations of jaguars in Suriname.

# FISHERIES

In 2022 CI Suriname continued its work on environmental improvements with the artisanal fishing sector. Coastal community-based fisheries play a key role in terms of food security, employment, and poverty eradication. Despite their importance, coastal community-based fisheries have been marginalized or ignored in national and international policies. In consequence, there is inadequate financial, institutional, and scientific support to ensure their good governance and long-term sustainability.

CI's unique approach to fisheries improvement is the Community Fishery Improvement Project (CFIP) model – that innovates on the traditional top-down and environmentally focused model to prioritize fishery- and community-led processes based on the needs and priorities of the communities, the integration of triple impact improvements (social, economic, and environmental), and a human rights-based approach through building capacity of rights holders. The CFIP model is proven, scalable and evidence based – relying on a rigorously developed interdisciplinary assessment methodology informed by best available science and reflecting the diversity and reality of global coastal fisheries. We are now engaged in driving social and economic improvements through the application of the Social Responsibility Assessment (SRA) Tool and the co-development of a socio-economic improvement plan - a key part of the CFIP methodology.



# “TURNING LOGGERS INTO CONSERVATIONISTS”



# PILOTING OF THE CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY PROGRAM FROM 2021 ON



The Foundation for Forest Management and Forest Supervision (Stichting Bosbeheer en Bostoezicht-SBB), CIS and its partners: government institutions, industry, communities, and other national and international stakeholders will focus with the CSF project on building (further) technical capacities of the local population and monitoring these capacities with the communities and national institutes (such as SBB, NIMOS, etc.). The first pilot covers approximately 200,000 ha in the selected areas and after evaluation will then go nationwide. The launch of the CSF project took place on August 27, 2021, where the community of Bigi Poika and the private concessionaire signed the agreement for participating in this climate friendly forestry program, while on November 3, 2021, at the conclusion of a 3-day Budget Estimation Workshop, the signing with stakeholders for implementation of climate-friendly forestry in their community forest took place.

## MOU signing for better CSF support

On August 24th an MOU was signed between CIS and the Association for Domestic Timber Producers (BHP). The aim of the MOU is to strengthen the cooperation between the parties, which will result in support for sustainable and Climate-friendly forestry techniques, create support among the government, the private concessionaires and the communities for better planning and improved timber harvesting techniques.

These actions will result in improving and maintaining forest health, diversity and promote the productivity of timber harvesting. With the MOU we also aim to collaborate in developing a joint Action Plan for phasing out round wood.

## Capacity building workshops for carbon crediting and certification.

Carbon rights experts from the Netherlands were recruited as consultants to prepare the Project Development Document (PDD) for the Climate Smart Forestry Program in Suriname. At the start of this activity, a 3-day workshop was organized from 17 – 19 May 2022, with CI Suriname, SBB and other stakeholders. During this event, information was provided about the possibilities of our Surinamese forest to be used to generate carbon certificates as a way of translating the CO<sup>2</sup> that is captured in forests and trees into certified carbon credits to trade on the international market.





# DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE NATURE TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES FOR SURINAME

In 2022, after two years (as the first FOGS ‘get together’ after Covid), we had a special international FOGS member, the CEO of a Germany based tour organization ITRAVEL, Mr. Axel Schmiegelow. He has been traveling through the interior of Suriname and has discovered our ‘green jewel’: our pristine Amazone. In an emotional speech he pleaded to keep our forest intact to attract more high-end visitors and promote sustainable nature tourism.

On the event on May 2nd in Courtyard by Marriot the focus was set on promoting nature tourism. The minister of TCT, special speakers and our foreign guest, Mr. Axel Schmiegelow, expressed their excitement about our pristine forest. They shared the diverse opportunities for nationals and people abroad to experience a piece of Suriname. Ittravel will promote Suriname on their booking engine page.

# VISIT'S OF OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TO VIEW OUR COMMUNITY WORK



In appreciating of our work, supported by local FOGS partners, our German Partner, Oro Verde visited the project in South Suriname in November 2022, to watch the progress on the Tepu ornamental fisheries project, which they also support. They were able to see that this project is feasible and sustainable. Also ambassadors and high officials of the EU program, visited the Brownsweyeg to get more insights on the efforts and activities of

the maroon organizations that want to generate a sustainable income. With this program we want to increase the feeling of empowerment, self-worth and create independence and other opportunities, especially for women in this area. **Women must also be involved in community-based conservation** and protection of nature to help keep it for future generations.



