RENFORESAP’s Regional Workshop on
Ecotourism Development in the Protected Areas of the Guianas
Bigi Pan, Nieuw Nickerie  Suriname
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INTRODUCTION

Suriname is one of the greenest countries in the world, illustrated by the lowest ecological footprint and highest biodiversity per capita. The Interior of Suriname (80+ percent of the land) is part of Wider Amazonia, the Amazon basin and neighboring basins in the Guiana Shield that are largely and contiguously rainforest-clad. It holds a considerable amount of natural wealth in terms of biodiversity, freshwater resources and cultural heritage.

From the years 70 there are several areas, which are representative for the ecosystems of Suriname declared as a protected area. With 16 formal protected areas (11 nature reserves, 4 Multiple-Use Management Areas and 1 nature park) approximately 2.1 million hectares is protected, which amounts to 13% of the total territorial. With the signing of the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) Suriname has committed to at least 2020, per 17% of domestic territorial area to protected area to have elevated.
TYPE OF PA’S

• NATURE RESERVE (natuurreservaten)
• NATURE PARK (natuurparken)
• MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT AREA (bijzonder beheersgebieden)
• SPECIAL PROTECTED FOREST (Speciaal beschermd bos van)
• COMMUNITY FOREST (Gemeenschapsbossen ingesteld conform de Wet Bosbeheer)
PURPOSE

- ECO-SYSTEEM BASED
- ECO-SYSTEEM SERVICES
- SPECIES BASED (HABITAT)
- CULTURAL OBJECTIVES
- NATURAL MONUMENTS
- LANDSCAPE
I. **BIGI PAN**  
(68,000 ha) 30/12/1987  WHSRN (1989)

II. **NOORD CORONIE**  
(97,500 ha) 25/03/2001

III. **NOORD SARACAMCCA**  
(100,400 ha) 25/03/2001

IV. **NOORD COMMEWIJNE/MAROWIJNE**  
(97,500 ha) 04/03/2002

06. **HERTENRITS**  
(100 ha) 31/01/1972

01. **COPPENAME MONDING**  
(12,000 ha) 22/04/1966  **RAMSAR SITE**

02. **WIA-WIA**  
(36,000 ha) 22/04/1966  WHSRN (1989)

03. **BRINCKHEUVEL**  
(8,000 ha) 22/04/1966

04. **GALIBI**  
(4,000 ha) 23/05/1969

05. **BROWNSBERG**  
(8418 ha) 14/03/1971

07. **SIPALIWINI**  
(100,000 ha) 31/01/1972

08. **BOVEN COESEWIJNE**  
(27,000 ha) 26/08/1986

09. **COPI**  
(23,000 ha) 26/08/1986

10. **PERUVIA**  
(31,000 ha) 26/08/1986

11. **WANEKREEK**  
(45,000 ha) 26/08/1986

12. **CENTRAAL SURINAME**  
(1,600,000 ha) 31/07/1988  **WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

05. **BROWNSBERG**  
(8418 ha) 14/03/1971 **WORLD HERITAGE SITE**
LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

- CONSTITUTION 1987
  Grondwet van Suriname

- AGRICULTURAL LAW 1937
  de Agrarische Wet

- NATURE CONSERVATION ACT 1954
  de Natuurbeschermingswet

- HUNTING LAW 1954
  de Jachtwet

- SEA FISHING LAW 1980
  de Zeevisserijwet

- LAW ON ALLOCATION OF STATE-OWNED LAND 1982
  het decreet Uitgifte Domeingrond 1982

- FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT 1992
  Wet Bosbeheer 1992

- Minisrial Decree on the establishment of the Special Management Areas
  Instellingsbeschikkingen MUMA's

- Minisrial Decree regarding guidelines Estauriene management areas land allocation 2005

- CBD Convention

- RAMSAR Convention

- CITES Convention
• NATURE RESERVES: are established according to the Nature Conservation ACT 1954 and its resolutions. Natuurreservaten: Natuurbeschermingswet 1954 en de Natuurbeschermingsbesluiten.

• De Multiple Use Management Areas (MUMA’s)/Bijzonder beheersgebieden: are established by Ministrial Decree according to Law on Allocation of State-owned land 1982. Ingesteld bij ministeriele Beschikkingen o.b.v. het Decreet Uitgifte Domeingrond 1982.

• Nature Park. Suriname has one Nature Park (Brownsberg NP) that is established by Ministrial Decree according to the Agricultural Law 1937 and Law on Allocation of State-Owned Land 1982 (expansion). Natuurpark: ingesteld bij Ministeriele beschikking volgens de Agrarische Wet en Decreent Uitgifte Domeingrond (uitbreiding).

• Special Protected Forest Reserves: are established by Ministrial Decree according to the Forest Management ACT 1992. Speciaal beschermd Bossen: ministeriele beschikking (Mapane en Kabo)
Management PAs

• All natural resources are property of the Government and the people of Suriname.

• The management of the forest area falls under the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Land & Forest Management (RGB)

• The Nature Conservation Division (NCD) under the state Forest Service (LBB) is responsible for the protection and sustainable of Suriname’s natural wealth. (Minister RGB-> Deputy Permanent Secretary Forest Management ->Head Forest Service -> Coordinator NCD)
Threats

• By increasing the number of visitors, which leads to more income, so that PAs can work in a self-sufficient manner, there might be spoken of MASS TOURISM;

• Arguably the most serious long term threats are the rich natural and timber resources in and near the property (these activities has expanded rapidly near the PA’s);

• Tourism can also threaten PA resources by destroying habitat, disturbing wildlife, impacting water quality, and threaten communities by over-development, crowding, and disruption of local culture.
CHALLENGES

• A lack of adequate resources and capacities and manpower to manage and control the PA’s;

• Fragmentation of tasks and authorities that are assigned to various organizations;

• The mandate to exploit eco-tourism in PA is in hands of different authorities (Head Forest Service, DC of the district and Ministry of Trade, Industry & Tourism);

• Competition among the people of the local community to operate in protected areas.

• Mass tourism can put the PA’s under stress.
Best practices on eco-touristic activities

• Establishment The Suriname Nature Conservation Foundation, STINASU. It is a quasi-ngo (quango), which is dependent on income from ecotourism and on project funds obtained from international partner organizations, such as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The Surinamese government (the Ministry of Natural Resources) appoints the board of the foundation. It was the first organization that introduce eco-tourism in the region. Years ago, beginning of STINASU, tourism had an EDUCATIONAL CHARACTER where the tourists actually learned something about nature (educational tours). STINASU assist the operational management (NDC) in the PA’s and focus on nature-based tourism and research in support of Suriname’s governmental protected areas efforts. The slogan of the Stinasu was for years: Nature conservation is Self preservation;

• Mangrove school in Coronie.
Best Practices on eco-tourisme activities

• Brownsberg: for years this site has been of interest for researchers (mostly fauna research)

• CSNR: Raleighvallen, Voltzberg

• Braamspunt and Galibi NR: Sea turtles

• Commewijne/Marowijne MUMA: bird watching and rehabilitation of trail of the old plantation. It’s the place where nature, culture and history meets. {Mr. Bas will continue with the next presentation for the best practices of Eco-tourisme in Suriname.}
EXPERIENCE
NORTH COMMFWIJNE
THIS IS OUR CLUSTER

NORTH COMMUNITY

Tourism Joint Venture

- Vegetable Suppliers
- Local Community
- Grocery Stores
- Merchants
- Wetland Tours
- Owners
- Museum

Tour Operators
Local Boat Rental
Tour Guides
Bike Rental Companies
Local Hotels
Local Restaurants
WHY ARE WE SO SPECIAL?

WE HAVE IT ALL

Nature
- Sea Turtles Nesting Area
- River Dolphins spotting
- Birdwatching (approx. 300 species in the region)
- Mud Flats with Scarlett Ibis and Sandpipers
- Huge wetlands
- Ocean beach

Small entrepreneurs
- Mangrove tours
- Local restaurants
- Bicycle tours
- Fishing in ocean, swamps and river
- River cruise tourism
- Creek tourism
- Agro-tourism, coffee, citrus, cattle
- Adventure tourism

Resorts and facilities
- Local lodges & hotels
- Swimming pool

Environment
- MUMA, scientific research

National architecture heritage
- Museum collection

Traditional villages (unique Javanese communities)
- Rich cultural heritage

Colonial and plantation history visuals
- Cultural landscape
GROWING TOGETHER
We thank you in advance

Cattle farm/Plantation Rust en Werk
Plantation Resort Frederiksdorp
Plantation Bakkie
Plantation Warappa Kreek
MOEN

United Tour Guides Suriname
Bondru Tours
Fortress New Amsterdam
Plantation Katwijk
Green Heritage Fund Suriname

Dipai Transport
Robby
Fietsen in Suriname
AST
Plantation Alliance
Mi Gudu Rivercruiser
GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO TOURISM

- The Ministry of Finance and The Ministry of Trade Industry and Tourism granted the North Commewijne Tourism Cluster USD$ 150,000

- The Ministry of Finance and The Ministry of Trade Industry and Tourism granted the Brokopondo Tourism Cluster USD$ 125,901.50

- The Ministry of Finance and The Ministry of Trade Industry and Tourism granted the Coronie Tourism Cluster USD$ 79,000

- The Ministry of Finance and The Ministry of Trade Industry and Tourism granted the Paramaribo Live museum Tourism Cluster USD$ 98,624.00

- The Ministry of Finance and The Ministry of Trade Industry and Tourism has drafted national strategic tourism Plan Suriname 2018-2030 and are in preparation with the IDB to arrange the drafting of a Tourism Masterplan

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs E-visa and tourist card

- Ministry of Finance Tax incentives for the tourism industry

- Ministry of Education and Culture Formulate a sound cultural policy and diplomacy with relevant actors

- Ministry of Public Works Transport and Communication Airport upgrading
Government support of bridges and gravel in the North Commewijne region
Opening first kilometers
Airlift in Suriname

- KLM Royal Dutch Airlines
- Caribbean Airlines
- Surinam Airways
- Gol Airlines
- Gum Air and Trans Guyana Airways
- Fly All Ways (New Airline)
- Copa Airlines (New Airline)
- TUI Fly TUI Netherlands (New Airline)
The North Commewijne region is a protected area and offers huge tourism potential.
SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT

Environmental
- The greater part of the area is MUMA (multi use management area, protected)
- Jobs as nature guides will reduce poaching
- Protecting mangrove sites (climate change)
- Low carbon impact because of car free region

Social
- Job creation, so people will stay in the region
- Families stay together, youth won’t leave in search of jobs and education
- Activities, the region will become more vibrant for the locals

Economical
- Entrepreneurs will continue tourism operations
- Sales will increase through successful marketing
- Taxes will stimulate government support
## Job Creation

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<th>2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cluster members</td>
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<td>375</td>
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<td>Value chain jobs</td>
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<td>Women in value chain</td>
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<td>800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women in management (cluster)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Leading companies with women as CEO or Company Partner

- **Monique Nouth Chaia**
  Owner Plantation Katwijk

- **Monique Pool**
  Green Hervitage Fund Suriname (CNN Heroe)

- **Karlijn Paulus**
  Fietsem in Suriname

- **Mrs. Dipal**
  Owner Dipal Transport
Cluster Goals

- Increase the number of tourist
- Increase the number bed nights
- Strengthen attractions
- Professional marketing in targeted destination promotion (Holland, EU, Caribbean)

Challenge

- How do we connect the sites and upgrade North Commewijne to a TOP destination?
- Training small stake holders
- How to trigger potential tourists to come to Suriname?

Cluster first Results

- Cluster penetrates EU buyers market
- Start rehabilitation old bicycle trail
Main activities

1. Promote and brand the Commewijne region as “one” destination, strengthen attractions and train locals and the tourist employees.

2. Developing the tourism potential to the max by upgrading and expanding tourism attractions, and train locals.

3. Expand awareness of local entrepreneurs and citizens about tourism.

4. Grow the cluster and develop (future) entrepreneurs.

5. Connect and create synergies between separate tourism attractions to gain more for everybody.
1. Build a joint umbrella website for North Commewijne
2. Contract professional market agency with proven results and knowledge of target destination
3. Develop strategic marketing plan
4. Produce professional marketing material
5. Install attractive signage and info panels connecting the region
6. Promote North Commewijne at tourism fairs
7. Earn advertisement income to maintain website and folder
8. Transform contractor’s house to museum including tourist fruit picking area
9. Strengthen the cluster (management) strengthening small entrepreneurs for international tourism
10. Strengthening firm, workers and locals to international standard (training)
11. Upgrade the attractions (e.g. fruit picking, heritage garden etc)
Our cluster is Market-driven
AST is Suriname’s biggest DMC and will drive international tourism to the Commewijne, and throughout Suriname

Our cluster is Private sector led
Private sector leaders have jumped in to lead our cluster and have already created big wins for the entire region: rehabilitating Suriname’s first car-free bike trail along the villages, plantation, and attractions.

Our cluster is Technically sound

Our cluster has proven capacity to absorb and sustain technical assistance

Our cluster generates foreign exchange (FOREX)

Our cluster attracts Foreign Direct investment (FDI), capital, technology and skills
Thank You
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

EXPERIENCE
NORTH COMMUEWIJNE