



RENFORESAP's Regional Workshop on
Ecotourism Development in the Protected Areas of the Guianas
Bigi Pan, Nieuw Nickerie Suriname
19 November 2019



**Damilla Williams
Bas Spek**

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.

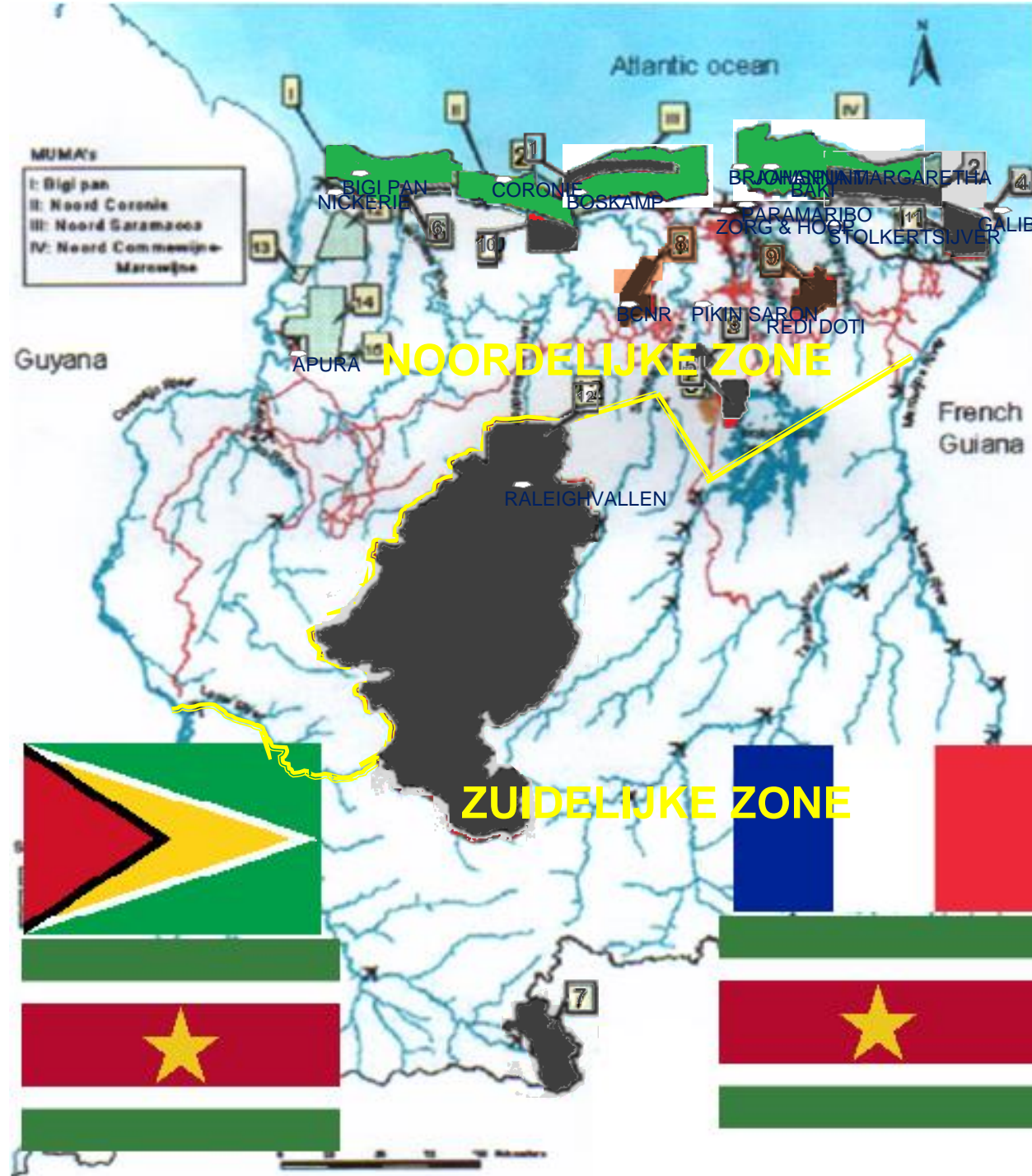
From the years 70 there are several areas, which are representative for the ecosystems of Suriname declared as a protected area. With 16 formal protected areas (11 nature reserves, 4 Multiple-Use Management Areas and 1 nature park) approximately 2.1 million hectares is protected, which amounts to 13% 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 beschermde bossen)
- COMMUNITY FOREST (Gemeenschapsbossen ingesteld conform de Wet Bosbeheer)

PURPOSE

- ECO-SYSTEM BASED
- ECO-SYSTEM SERVICES
- SPECIES BASED (HABITAT)
- CULTURAL OBJECTIVES
- NATURAL MONUMENTS
- LANDSCAPE



MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT AREA

- I. BIGI PAN**
(68.000 ha) 30/12/1987 WHSRN (1989)
- II. NOORD CORONIE**
(97.500 ha) 25/03/2001
- III. NOORD SARACCA**
(100.400 ha) 25/03/2001
- IV. NOORD COMMEWIJNE/MAROWIJNE**
(97.500 ha) 04/03/2002

NATUURRESERVAAT

- 01. COPPENAMIE MONDING** (12.000 ha) 22/04/1966
RAMSAR SITE
- 02. WIA-WIA** (36.000 ha) 22/04-1966
WHSRN (1989)
- 03. BRINCKHEUVEL** (6.000 ha) 22/04/1966
- 04. GALIBI** (4.000 ha) 23/05/1969
- 06. HERTENRITS** (100 ha) 31/01/1972
- 07. SIPALIWINI** (100.000 ha) 31/01/1972
- 08. BOVEN COESEWIJNE** (27.000 ha) 26/08/1986
- 09. COPI** (28.000 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) 31/07/1998
WORLD HERITAGE SITE

NATUURPARK

- 05. BROWNSBERG** (8418 HA) 14/03/1971

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
- Ministerial Decree on the establishment of the Special Management Areas
Instellingsbeschikkingen MUMA's
- Ministerial Decree regarding guidelines Estauriene management areas land allocation 2005 **Beschikking Richtlijnen Gronduitgifte Estauriene Beheersgebieden 2005 (15 februari 2005 No. 180/0036, SB 2005 no. 16)**
- CBD Convention
- RAMSAR Convention
- CITES Convention

LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR PA'S

Juridische grondslag beschermde gebieden

- **NATURE RESERVES:** are established according to the Nature Conservation ACT 1954 and it's resolutions. **Natuurreservaten: Natuurbeschermingswet 1954 en de Natuurbeschermingsbesluiten.**
- **De Multiple Use Management Areas (MUMA's)/ Bijzonder beheersgebieden:** are established by Ministerial 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 Ministerial 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 Decreet Uitgifte Domeingrond (uitbreiding)**
- **Special Protected Forest Reserves:** are established by Ministerial Decree according to the Forest Management ACT 1992. **Speciaal beschermde 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
- Braampunt 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 tourism in Suriname.}



renfc
resap

STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK
OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THE GUYANAS



EXPERIENCE
NORTH COMMEWIJNE



SURINAME

THIS IS OUR CLUSTER

NORTH COMMEWIJNE 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



CLUSTER'S AGENTS



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



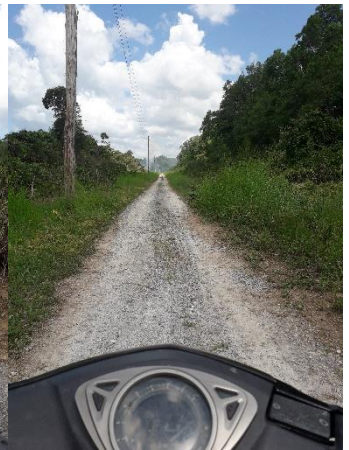
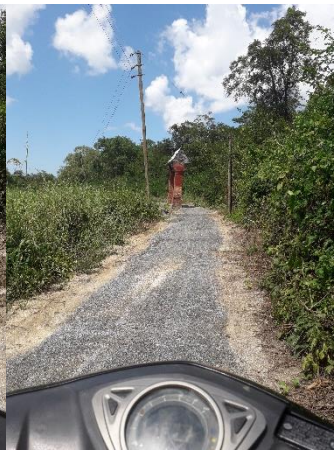
GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO TOURISM

- 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



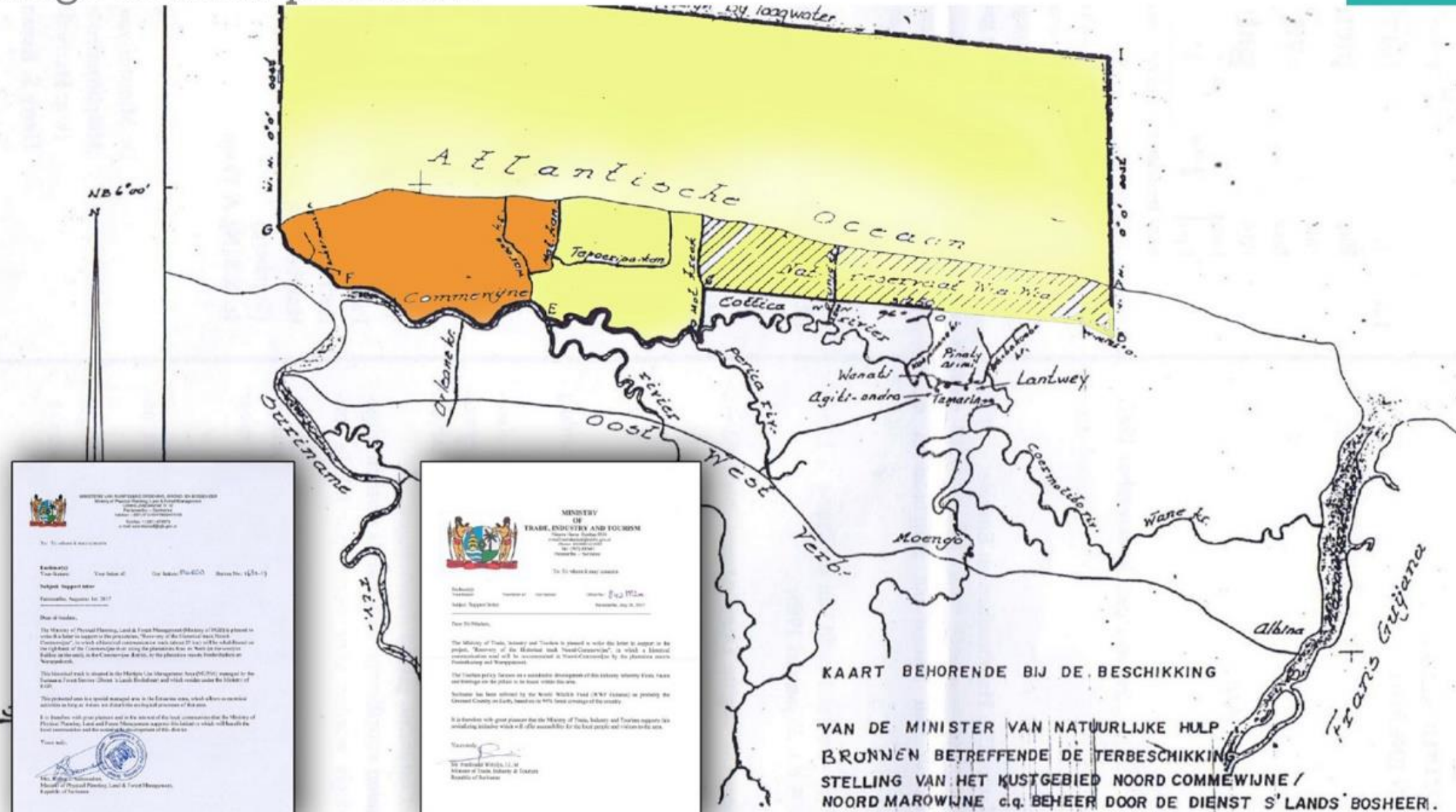


AIRLIFT IN SURINAME

- 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



MINISTERIE VAN NATUURLIJKE HULP BRONNEN
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
P.O. Box 10000
Paramaribo - Suriname
Tel: +594 223 2000
Fax: +594 223 2001
E-mail: minnat@minnat.gov.sr

To: Minister of Tourism

Betreft: Toelating tot het gebied 'Noord Commewijne' (No. 12/15-17)

Subject: Request letter

Paramaribo, Suriname, 10/11/2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Ministry of Physical Planning, Land & Forest Management (Ministry of PMLF) is pleased to inform you that it has approved the application for the establishment of the 'Noord Commewijne' as a special management area in the Commewijne river basin, which offers a wide range of tourism potential.

This historical tract is situated in the Marowijne (Commewijne) basin (MAB) managed by the Suriname Forest Service (SFS) in Landbouwkant and which is under the control of the SFS.

This protected area is a special management area in the Commewijne river basin, which offers a wide range of tourism potential.

In accordance with your request and in the interest of the local community, the Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management agrees to the location in which will have the forest management and the development of the area.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
Minister of Physical Planning, Land & Forest Management,
Republic of Suriname.

MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND TOURISM
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism
P.O. Box 10000
Paramaribo - Suriname
Tel: +594 223 2000
Fax: +594 223 2001
E-mail: minnat@minnat.gov.sr

To: Minister of Tourism

Betreft: Toelating tot het gebied 'Noord Commewijne' (No. 12/15-17)

Subject: Request letter

Paramaribo, Suriname, 10/11/2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism is pleased to inform you that it has approved the application for the establishment of the 'Noord Commewijne' as a special management area in the Commewijne river basin, which offers a wide range of tourism potential.

This historical tract is situated in the Marowijne (Commewijne) basin (MAB) managed by the Suriname Forest Service (SFS) in Landbouwkant and which is under the control of the SFS.

This protected area is a special management area in the Commewijne river basin, which offers a wide range of tourism potential.

In accordance with your request and in the interest of the local community, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism agrees to the location in which will have the forest management and the development of the area.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
Minister of Trade, Industry & Tourism,
Republic of Suriname.

KAART BEHORENDE BIJ DE BESCHIKKING

VAN DE MINISTER VAN NATUURLIJKE HULP

BRONNEN BETREFFENDE DE TERBESCHIKKING

STELLING VAN HET KUSTGEBIED NOORD COMMEWIJNE /

NOORD MAROWIJNE c.q. BEHEER DOOR DE DIENST S'LANDS BOSHEER.

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

Job Creation	2019	2020	2021
Cluster members	313	375	600
Value chain jobs	1500	2200	5000
Women in value chain	600	800	1500
Women in management (cluster)	24	35	75

Leading companies with women as CEO or Company Partner



Monique Nouh Chaia
Owner Plantation Katwijk



Monique Pool
Green Heritage Fund Suriname
(CNN Heroe)



Karlijn Paulus
Fietsen in Suriname



Mrs. Dipai
Owner Dipai Transport



WHAT DO WE WANT?

TO GROW A
SUSTAINABLE
& PROSPEROUS
TOURISM FUTURE

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



WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES FOR THIS PROJECT?



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

SPECIFIC PROJECT ACTIVITIES



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 PROVIDES VALUE FOR THE ENTIRE ECONOMY



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





renfc
resap
STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK
OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THE GUIANAS

Thank You
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

EXPERIENCE
NORTH COMMEWIJNE

