

Bosaanplant voor een welvarend leven in de Andes

tekst en foto's Stichting Campesina Forestal

De Nederlandse Julia Attevelt en de Peruaanse Julio Nina Cusiyanpanqui wonen met hun dochtertje Sophia in de Heilige Vallei in Peru. Ze hebben een gezamenlijke missie: de bestaanszekerheid en toekomstbestendigheid van boerengemeenschappen in de Peruaanse Andes verbeteren door het laten groeien van bomen. Daarvoor hebben ze in 2023 de Nederlandse Stichting Campesina Forestal opgericht en in Peru de lokale partnerorganisatie Asociación Campesina Forestal.

Julia Attevelt en Julio Nina Cusiyanpanqui zien het klimaat veranderen: gletsjers verdwijnen en meren drogen op. De toekomst voor lokale boerengemeenschappen wordt daarvoor steeds onzekerder. Genoeg reden voor actie en een ambitieus plan. Met het project 'Bosque Próspero' (Welvarend Bos) willen ze de komende tien tot vijftien jaar met de boerengemeenschap Quencco maar liefst één miljoen bomen (rond de 1000 hectare) planten. De gemeenschap waarmee Attevelt en Cusiyanpanqui samenwerken leeft op ongeveer 3800 meter hoogte en bestaat uit ongeveer tachtig families. Om er te komen moet je vanuit Cusco (3000 meter) via onverharde wegen en heel wat haarspeldenbochten verder omhoog om de boerengemeenschap te bereiken. Het afgelegen gebied is typerend voor hoe veel boerengemeenschappen in de Andes leven. Tijdens de Spaanse overheersing waren dit de relatief rustige plekken om terug te trekken, ver weg van de hoofdkwartieren van de Spaanse grootgrondbezitters. Makkelijk om er te leven? Dat is het er waarschijnlijk nooit geweest. Het klimaat op deze hoogte is extreem. Maar het wordt steeds extremer. De grote kale vlaktes zijn door klimaatverandering aan het verwoestijnen. Voedsel verbouwen is met een korter wordend regenseizoen een steeds grotere uitdaging.

Versterking economie

Eeuwenlang was de inheemse bevolking van hun grondbezit beroofd, maar in 1969 kwam daar verandering in. De Spaanse grootgrondbezitters moesten via een nieuwe wet het land 'teruggeven'. Zo ook aan Quencco, die nu weer ruim 1400 hectare bezit. Hoewel het grondbezit meer vrijheid heeft gebracht, betekent dit nog niet automatisch dat de boeren goed van hun grond kunnen bestaan. Hiervoor zijn strategieën nodig en vooral investeringen. Dat is wat precies gebeurt in het project 'Bosque Próspero'. Daarmee willen Campesina Forestal en de boerengemeenschap laten zien dat in afgelegen gebieden een welvarend bestaan is op te bouwen door een bos aan te planten. Met agroforestry-technieken, ecotoerisme en houtproductie worden er drie economisch sterke componenten in de gemeenschap gebracht. Tegelijkertijd geeft de gemeenschap een boost aan de natuur. Op 3800 meter hoogte zijn er helaas weinig boomsoorten geschikt. Daarom wordt zoveel mogelijk diversiteit in geracht met langzaam groeiende inheemse bomen die relatief klein (bosjesachtig) blijven, maar goed zijn voor natuurbehoud en mooi zijn om tussendoor te wandelen of te mountainbiken. De dennenbomen (*Pinus radiata* en *Pinus patula*) worden veel hoger, groeien sneller en kunnen goed wortelschieten op zwaar gedegrademd land. De bomen leven in symbiose met een eetbare paddenstoel (*Suillus lutes*, slip-

The Dutch Julia Attevelt and the Peruvian Julio Nina Cusiyanpanqui live with their daughter Sophia in the Sacred Valley in Peru. They have a common mission: improving the livelihoods and future sustainability of farming communities in the Peruvian Andes by growing trees. To this end, they founded the Dutch Campesina Forestal Foundation in 2023 and the local partner organization Asociación Campesina Forestal in Peru. <https://campesinaforestal.org> At the end of September/beginning of October, Julia will give a presentation at a VTB event.

perry jack or sticky bun) die verhandeld kan worden op lokale markten in Cusco. Ook is deze boom als enige geschikt voor houtproductie op deze hoogte.

Professionalisering

De gemeenschap heeft de afgelopen jaren zelf al rond de 70.000 bomen geplant, waarvan sinds 2023 10.000 bomen samen met Campesina Forestal. Het streven is om dit jaar 25.000 bomen aan te planten en daarna verder op te schalen om de komende 10-15 jaar de 1 miljoen bomen te bereiken. Om het bos op de lange termijn in stand te houden is uiteraard een goede organisatie binnen de gemeenschap nodig. Het vormen van een coöperatie lijkt de meest voor de hand liggende structuur. Ook moet de aanplant en het onderhoud van het bos binnen de coöperatie goed betaalde, professionele banen opleveren, zodat er extra motivatie is voor de gemeenschap om zich voor het bos in te zetten. Gedurende de aanplant zorgt Campesina Forestal voor financiering van de werkzaamheden door middel van fondsenwerving en individuele donateurs, totdat de gemeenschap zelf genoeg inkomsten uit het bos kan halen om de loonkosten vanuit de coöperatie te kunnen betalen.

Hele regio profiteert

De aanleg van het bos helpt niet alleen de eigen gemeenschap vooruit, ook de omliggende gemeenschappen en voor de natuur als geheel profiteren. Het natuurlijke watermanagement verbetert door een grotere infiltratiecapaciteit van het regenwater en meer ondergrondse wateropslag. Het bos zorgt ook voor een stabielere lokaal klimaat, absorbeert op de lange termijn jaarlijks duizenden tonnen koolstofdioxide en



geeft een basis voor een grotere biodiversiteit. Er is nog meer. Behalve dit project is er bijna geen houtbouw in de Andes, en elders in Peru relatief weinig. Meer dan de helft van het benodigde hout wordt dan ook geïmporteerd. Lokale duurzame kwalitatieve houtproductie in de Heilige Vallei is van groot belang voor de houtbouw en kan de druk op de houtkap in de Amazone verminderen.

Inspirerende voorbeelden

De helft van het land in Peru is in handen van boerengemeenschappen. Om de natuur en de mens vooruit te helpen, zijn inspirerende voorbeeldprojecten nodig en dat is wat

Julia en Julio met 'Bosque Próspero' willen bereiken: Welvarend leven in de Andes door middel van een bos!

<https://campesinaforestal.org>

Eind september/begin oktober geeft Julia een presentatie op een VTB-event.

Julia Attevelt is MSc. Natuurkunde en zet zich in voor oplossingen voor een duurzamere wereld. Julio Nina Cusiyanpanqui is specialist in agro-ecologische voedselproductie en duurzame ontwikkeling van boerengemeenschappen in de Andes.

Colofon

VTB Bulletin is een uitgave van de Vereniging Tropische Bossen (Tropical Forest Association)

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De Vereniging Tropische Bossen stimuleert en faciliteert het contact tussen mensen die geïnteresseerd zijn en/of zich bezighouden met duurzaam en maatschappelijk verantwoord beheer, aanleg en ontwikkeling van tropische bossen.

Ook schrijven in deze nieuwsbrief? Stuur je bijdrage of suggesties naar: vtbnieuwsbrief@tropischebossen.nl



Een blik op verandering

Het is een bekende uitspraak: *I change by not changing at all*. Wat ook doet denken aan het sprookje *Alice in Wonderland* waarbij Alice een koningin tegenkomt die alsmaar aan het rennen is. 'Waarom ren je steeds?', vraagt Alice. De koningin: 'Zodra ik stilsta ga ik achteruit want alles beweegt.' De veranderende wereld refereert uiteraard aan het klimaat dat verandert, de bossen die (moeten) veranderen, omdat ze steeds verder achteruitgaan of verdwijnen. Ook de urgentie van het werken voor, in en met tropische bossen verandert. Er is steeds meer te doen en – gelukkig – neemt de aandacht voor het behoud en de versterking van tropische bossen toe.

Ook de tropische-bossengemeenschap zien we langzaam aan veranderen. De VTB begon als een club voor en door overwegend Nederlandse experts, die soms na jaren in het buitenland weer terug waren op het thuishonk. Nog altijd vormen zij een groot deel van de VTB-gemeenschap. Daarnaast zijn de nodige leden die vanuit het buitenland via de VTB contact houden en kennis delen. De laatste jaren komen er steeds meer experts die geen Nederlander zijn, maar het stokje hebben overgenomen en in diezelfde landen het werk

doen. Een deel van hen woont en werkt in Nederland aan tropische bossen. Ook voor hen is de VTB een thuis.

Dat is een van de charmes van de VTB: in 25 jaar zijn we uitgegroeid tot een pluriforme, internationale club enthousiastelingen met een gedeeld 'tropische-bossengevoel'. De VTB is nog altijd *the place to be* om elkaar te ontmoeten, kennis uit te wisselen en te netwerken. Maar om mee te bewegen met de veranderingen in ons werk en de maatschappij, en de toenemende internationalisering van vereniging, zal de VTB subtiel mee veranderen. Deze nieuwsbrief die we na lange tijd weer hebben opgepakt is daar een uiting van. We veranderen iets van stijl en maken de nieuwsbrief ook interessant voor niet-Nederlandstalige leden. En ook het type activiteiten passen we wat aan. Wat blijft is een hechte en gezellige club! Doe mee! Tot gauw op een volgende activiteit. En neem je hardloopschoenen mee....

namens het VTB-bestuur,
Claudia Doets, Anna Duden, Jeroen Sleijffers

The VTB: a long history which continous

In the run-up to this issue of the *VTB Bulletin* there was a brief discussion about the language to use to communicate with each other. From the start the main language within the Vereniging Tropische Bossen (VTB, Tropical Forest Association) had always been Dutch. Understandably as the society was founded by Dutch people who would work in, for in with tropical forests. Obviously an important reason for people to want to start an initiative like this was the sharing of knowledge and networking (what was everyone up to, how did that go? Etc.). But as well the society served as a homebase, virtual head quarters for people having spent months if not years all over the globe in relative outbacks. This 'feel' of the VTB being a social club still sticks to the VTB and is – in our opinion – one of the attractions of the club. Just zooming out a bit, it remains an interesting feat that there even exists such a club dedicated to forest and even tropical forest, sitting in a country so high up on the northern hemisphere that nearest tropical forest can only be found at some 6000 km. Let alone a country having itself a mere 11% as opposed to its' neighbouring countries in Europe with a mean 35%. It must be history that determined why this brave society sits there. History dating back to colonial times when the Netherlands still had strong ties with tropical forest-rich

countries like Indonesia and Suriname. (And still has strong ties by the way.) So the roots go back centuries. And now the VTB has reached 25 years of existence since it's foundation in 1999 – or should we say rebirth from the stichting BOS (Bos en Ontwikkelings Samenwerking). And as tropical forests all around the world are still in decline, and the need to preserve them is ever so pressing, the need for a society to exist even if it is operating from this small Dutch-speaking country is still there. And becoming more and more part of an international movement thanks to the people originally there at its foundation. We're remembering here the inspirational Herman Savenije who coincidentally and unfortunately passed away just this 25th year. And we see how the direction of the work of the previously Dutch experts is now changing as more and more people from countries base themselves in the Netherlands. Let the VTB be their social club. And for that reason let's add English to the original Dutch. As well as Spanish, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Swahili, Mandarin, etc.

On behalf of the VTB board,
Claudia Doets, Anna Duden, Jeroen Sleijffers

Remembering Herman Savenije

We've received very sad news. Herman Savenije (11 january 1953 – 2 June 2024), one of the founders of the Vereniging Tropische Bossen (VTB, Tropical Forest Association) has passed away. From the start Herman has played an important role at the VTB. Herman was already a member of Stichting BOS, the fore-runner of the VTB. He was one of the people in this foundation who investigated in which way the foundation BOS could continue. This resulted in the founding of the VTB in 1999. In 2015 Herman became the first Honourable Member of the VTB. His energy, ideas, network has stood for a great many activities amongst which the notorious Are We On The

Progress and changing perspectives in Suriname

author Jeroen Sleijffers

Thoughts on community forestry and human-wildlife coexistence in Suriname after attending the Suriname-edition of an Around-The-World-evening of the Tropical Forest Society (Vereniging Tropische Bossen) on the 29th of May.

To be frank, I've never been to Suriname, a country with strong historical ties to the Netherlands. However I've always associated Suriname with tropical forests. But I could imagine it is as with most countries: once you visit them you'll find your idea of the iconic features of these countries shrivelling to mere worn-down tourist attractions. A lion in an enclosure. A historical city centre surrounded by miles of close-knit and stone-faced urban area. A piece of tropical forest cut off from the former bigger forest. Apparently not so in Suriname. 93% (!) of the country is covered in forest. One of the most forested countries in the world. Something to be proud of these days. Which they are, the people of Suriname. Does this mean it's all sunshine? Well, every story has more sides. On the 29th of May the Vereniging Tropische Bossen (VTB, Tropical Forest Society) organised an evening with short lectures on Suriname and its tropical forest. We listened to Ravic Nijbroek of the WWF who introduced Suriname through his own Surinamese ancestry. Marijke van Kuijk of the University of Utrecht spoke about the impact of hunting on plant and animal communities. Giani Razab-Sekh, a Suriname-based independent forestry consultant, gave an overview of recent developments in forestry. Sara Ramirez of Tropenbos International shared her successes in and enthusiasm about participatory mapping. She also introduced the challenges of some of the peoples living in the interior. Vanessa Kadosoe, an ecologist specialised in jaguars and working in Suriname for the NGO Neowild, introduced a new word 'faunitoring' (fauna monitoring) and stressed the importance of animals to the ecology of the forest. To get the full story I'd invite you to join the next VTB-event. But I do want to share some of the insights the lectures gave me.

Perspectives

Suriname takes up a large part of the Amazonian rain forest. The colonial history is one of diverse perspectives, Ravic Nijbroek shows in his introduction that evening. He uses his

Right Track-series. This series really stood for exactly the combination of knowledge and network the VTB has aimed for. His legacy is the continuation of this combination in the future activities of the VTB. We want to express our condolences to his wife Margreet, children Tim, Menno and Laura, his family and friends and wish them strength.

The board of the Vereniging Tropische Bossen

In the next newsletter we will reflect in memoriam on what Herman Savenije has meant to our association.



Around-The-World-evening. Giani Razab-Sekh takes us through some of the recent developments in Suriname's present-day forest management.

own ancestry as a metaphor for the typical history. He has African, Chinese, European but also Jewish and Javanese roots. Each of his ancestors worked in one of the economic pillars which shaped Suriname's history. From the colonial plantation – each ancestor worked either on the land, in the administration or as the owner – to a broader agricultural and logging economy, developing to gold mining and oil drilling in the last 30 years Suriname is made up of different cultural backgrounds, as his family tree shows. But it didn't entirely mix up as for instance the U.S.. According to Ravic Suriname is unique in the sense that the cultures brought by the people from Africa have remained fairly well preserved in the six maroon communities still living in the interior. Meanwhile Giani Razab-Sekh takes us through some of the recent developments in Suriname's present-day forest management. It's being modernized. The Surinamese State Forest Service (SBB) has installed a sustainable forestry information system. It is using an IT-programme called Gonini which is the national land monitoring system. Another programme is Kopi which keeps statistics for timber production. So more data are now available which give a rough picture of what's



Marijke van Kuijk of the University of Utrecht (left) with students in Suriname.

going on in the forests. More than ever before. However, such a rough picture doesn't always depict the reality on the ground. It shows us that 93% of the country is still covered in forest, but it becomes clear that forest degradation is still a threat. The value of the trees cut out and those left standing is not in balance. There's no control on the harvesting situation. The systems record predominantly quality and quantity and not biodiversity, water et cetera. The harvest intensity is high. The standard is that one is allowed to harvest 25 m³ per ha per 25 years. This is considered by some as too high for the forest to recover. In French Guyana the harvest is limited to 25 m³ per ha every 60 years. So it might be that we see a degraded forest. Giani holds a plea for more long term planning and evaluation: forest management planning enforcement is needed, as well as improved annual felling plans, evaluations of operations and holistic monitoring. So what is happening on the ground? Marijke, Vanessa and Sara show us.

Hunting

People who hunt see that the populations of animals roaming the forests are going down. Hunting nowadays takes much more effort. What is going on? Marijke van Kuijk studied this question together with the Amazon Conservation Team, an organization cooperating with indigenous people. Apparently, the changing behaviour of the people also induced a change in behaviour by the animals. As people were ushered into villages by missionaries the population sizes of the villages also changed. One could imagine a correlation between species composition and village size. But a subsequent change in species compositions and population sizes would mean a change in seed dispersal and thus a change in tree species. For instance, more hunting of certain species in an area – usually the larger ones – would favourably select the smaller animals as well as the ones having less colour visibility. These two traits would mean less dispersal of the bigger seeds and fewer seed eating species in general. And fewer seed eaters would mean more leave eaters. More leave eaters would



Jaguar



Peccaries

result in less wood growing and less biomass production. So one could see a feedback loop between behaviour, species compositions and change in landscape. Human wildlife coexistence isn't merely about the rate of exploitation of resources. It is also about the relationships between all the elements influencing each other in continuous back-and-forth loops. In this case: maybe the animals die in the regions where people hunt, maybe they just move. Marijke: "Indigenous people appreciate it if you explain what happens, because they are really worried about their animals and it is also their subsistence."



Determining trees

What comes forward as well: youth in the remote regions wouldn't automatically respect traditional nor national hunting rules. And they would more readily grab the gun instead of the bow and arrow as that takes up less time (though is more damaging). And logging has a big impact. Apparently, a Chinese logging company doesn't follow the logging regulations as well as any other companies do.

Jaguars

Another perspective is mentioned by Vanessa Kadosoe when she talks about her research on jaguars. Where there is gold mining there is poaching. Where there are loggers there is poaching. The presence of Chinese logging companies establish a connection to Chinese markets and communities which obviously plays a role in the increase in poaching. The jaguars are changing their behaviour and becoming more nocturnal. Their decline in numbers has an impact on the ecosystem. Even ecotourism has an effect. Multiple perspectives and multiple developments change multiple relationships. For the survival of the species Vanessa advocates more monitoring and more awareness raising on nature conservation. Logging and mining need to become more sustainable. But most importantly wildlife conservation laws and regulations have to be enforced. And she calls for more involvement of indigenous and tribal people to find out how to get on with human-wildlife coexistence basically.

'Spaarpot'

Sara Ramirez also talks from the perspective of the peoples in the interior of Suriname. She has gained good experience in applying participatory mapping in several regions. Her main objective is identifying the areas which are important to the communities. Through mapping it became apparent – to the people as well – that areas are not only used along river banks but all over the place. The Samaaka – a people occupying a territory of 1.4 million hectares, of which 1 million tropical rain forest – took the Suriname government in 2007 to the international court of human rights. Successfully. Now the rule is that any development in the area must pass the Samaaka people. But since then the damaging activities have increased. There is more illegal logging and more illegal mining. 447.000 ha (32% of the territory) have been granted for concessions, illegally. Why did logging and mining increase instead of decrease? The answer: economical elite, misinformation of the people outside the territories and in the cities. For instance

for some the judgment meant that "all this land and its benefits are now no longer available for the rest of Suriname." Whereas the Samaaka tended to safeguard large parts of their area as a "spaarpot", as savings for future use. And this is where the mapping comes in. Not only does it aid the Samaaka's case towards the outside world. It also reveals to the people living in the area how all the dots connect. Sara: "It gives people a bird's eye view." This broader picture shows how individual decisions to the benefit of one's individual livelihood can ultimately affect the wider boundary decisions that have to be made on a landscape scale. For instance a Samaakan who provides the service of a ferry to loggers merely to provide in his or her livelihood will end up living in a deteriorated environment which cannot provide for anyone's future livelihood. The credo is "Stand with the Samaaka people". The specific way of putting it like this is also to stress that the perspective of the whole community is the only way forward if the goal is to preserve a liveable environment.

Concluding, the story of Suriname and its forest is one of many perspectives as well as progress: the ways people tend to provide for their income, their food and the resources they need. The ways mining, logging and agriculture are being pursued while there is still the need of an environment which will continue to provide the many things humans and non-humans need in future. One remark of Marijke: "I always keep in mind: French Guyana is more 'European', has more infrastructure. But Suriname has far more forest and has a more interesting culture." Guyana might be ahead of Suriname in terms of development of progress, but it depends on what one would actually define as 'progress'. The value, the richness in terms of a vast amount of biodiverse forest becomes apparent after listening to these stories. Under a great many threats, obviously. But at the very least: still there! And giving a chance to Suriname to take a different path on the road to 'progress' if progress is described as a liveable future for humans and non-humans together. Real human-wildlife coexistence!

If you need more information from or have a question which you would like to ask one of the speakers please contact us at vereniging@tropischebossen.nl

VTB Agenda

Please note this in your agenda. The invitation will follow.

September	VTB Around The World theme Brasil – evening
October	Movie night/presentation Campesina Forestal – evening (see pagina 5-6)
November/December	VTB In Depth - EU Deforestation Regulation – day event