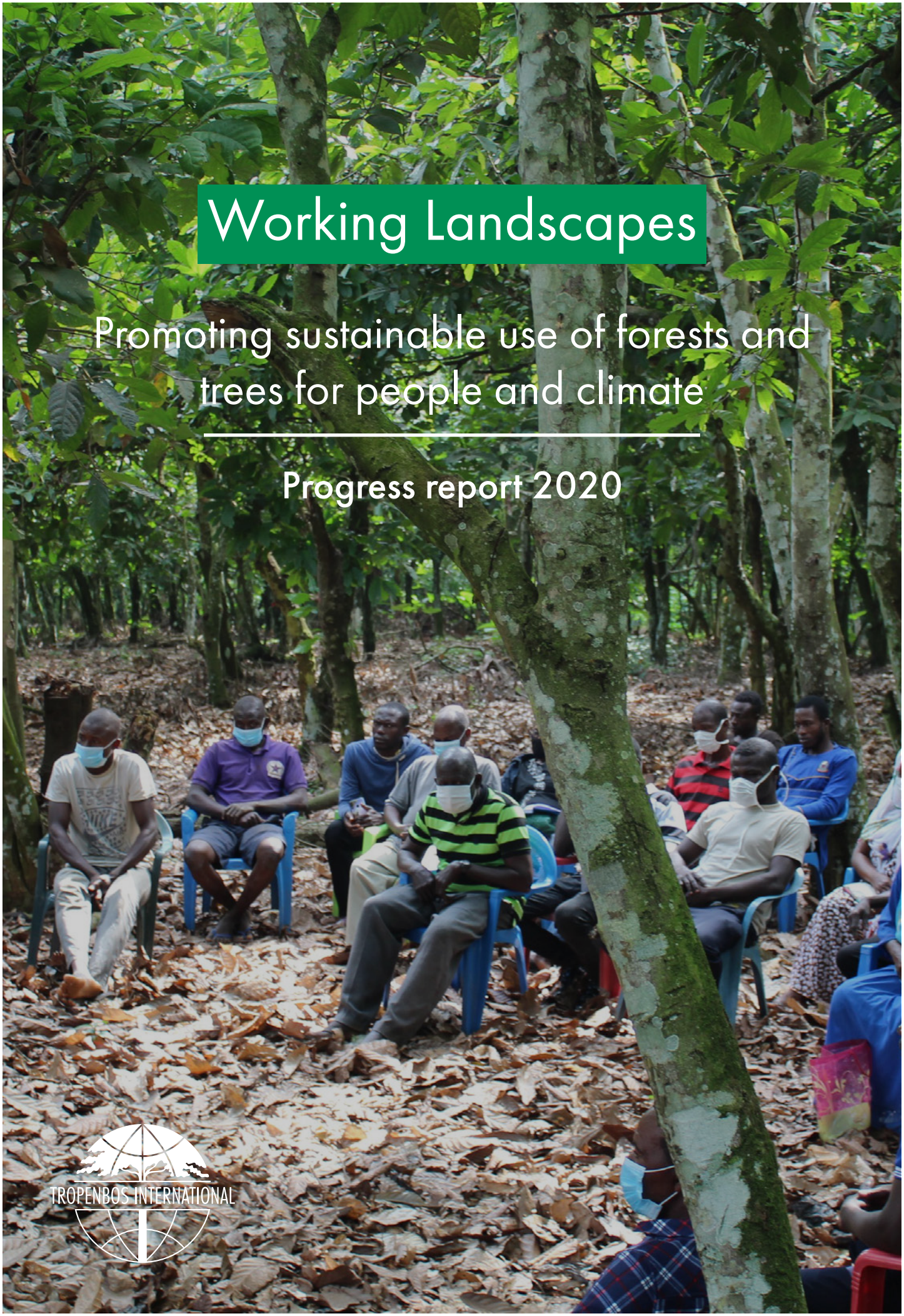


Working Landscapes

Promoting sustainable use of forests and trees for people and climate

Progress report 2020

TROPENBOS INTERNATIONAL



Annual progress report 2020: Working Landscapes Programme. Promoting sustainable use of forests and trees for people and climate — Activity 4000002173 / Agreement 6003552

Date: June 2021

Editors: Koen Kusters, Roderick Zagt, Andre Brasser & Luis Primo

Contact: Roderick Zagt (roderick.zagt@tropenbos.org)

Photos: *cover*: Meeting of the Cocoa Sector Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Platform in the Western North region, Ghana, Abigail Birago Owusu; *page 5:* Yosef, a Dayak elder, in the Tembawang forest, Mekar Raya village, West Kalimantan, Indonesia, Irpan Lamago; *page 6:* Community members of Bukinalwa in Buvuma, Uganda, prepare current landuse map on the ground, Ecological Trends Alliance; *page 9:* Meeting with community members in Solano, Caquetá, Colombia, Zunil Lozano; *page 12*: Smallholder oil palm plantation in Mekar Raya village, Ketapang, Indonesia, Irpan Lamago; *page 21:* Cocoa farmer in Juabeso-Bia, Ghana, Abena Woode / NDF; *page 28:* Collecting grass for cattle in Sungai Pelang, West Kalimantan, Indonesia, Jaswadi; *page 31*: Parkland in Zinder region, Niger, Chris Reij; *page 32:* Forests near the village of Apetina, Cottica district, Suriname, Tropenbos Suriname; *page 34:* Training on agroforestry models in Krong Bong district, Viet Nam, Phan Thi Thuy Nhi; *page 36:* Community sensitization on the Cocoa Forest Initiative, climate change, cocoa-agroforestry and tree tenure in Western North region, Ghana, Alex A. Bampoh; *page 38*: A landscape with different land uses near the village of Mekar Raya, West Kalimantan, Indonesia, Irpan Lamago.

Tropenbos International
Horaplantsoen 12
6717 LT Ede
tropenbos@tropenbos.org
www.tropenbos.org

The WL landscapes: a diagnosis



Bolivia



Guarayos

Total area (km²)
13,300
Forest cover
81 %
Annual forest loss
2.5 %
Inhabitants
50,100
60 – 90 %
indigenous and peasant

Main commodities

Colombia



Solano

Total area (km²)
42,500
Forest cover
82 %
Annual forest loss
0.2 %
Inhabitants
21,400
15 % indigenous

Main commodities

Suriname



Upper Suriname river

Total area (km²)
2,010
Forest cover
93 %
Annual forest loss
0.1 %
Inhabitants
18,300
100 % tribal (Maroon)

Main commodities

DR Congo



Bafwasende

Total area (km²)
47,100
Forest cover
98 %
Annual forest loss
0.1 %
Inhabitants
413,500

Main commodities

Ghana



Juabeso-Bia & Sefwi Wiawso

Total area (km²)
4,810
Forest cover
57.8 %
Annual forest loss
2.1 %
Inhabitants
315,500
74.1 % local communities

Main commodities

Ethiopia

Landscape to be confirmed

Indonesia



Ketapang & Kayong Utara

Total area (km²)
35,600
Forest cover
42.8 %
Annual forest loss
2.3 %
Inhabitants
602,000
82 % Indigenous

Main commodities

Viet Nam



Srepok river Basin

Total area (km²)
15,300
Forest cover
45.8 %
Annual forest loss
0.02 %
Inhabitants
5,460,000
30 % Indigenous

Main commodities

Soy · Rubber · Cocoa · Illegal coca · Cattle ranching · Oil palm · Coffee · Rice · Mining · Food / Cash crop · Timber

Tropenbos International

Working Landscapes Progress report 2020

TABLE OF CONTENT

1 Introduction 5
2 Theory of change 6
2.1 Overview 6
2.2 Strategies 6
2.3 Intended impacts 8
2.4 Implementing organizations 8
3 Progress in 2020 at a glance 9
4 Country programmes 12
5 Thematic programmes 21
5.1 Nationally Determined Contributions 21
5.2 Agrocommodities 23
5.3 Restoration 24
5.4 Business and finance 25
6 Gender & Youth cross-cutting theme 28
7 Drylands 31
8 Assumptions 32
9 Risks 34
9.1 Contextual risks 34
9.2 Programmatic and organizational risks 35
10 Programme organization and learning 36
10.1 Network-wide approach 36
10.2 Thematic and regional learning 36
10.3 Learning across organizations 37
11 Final remarks 38
Annex: Summary of the impacts of the Corona crisis on TBI 39



1 Introduction

This document reports on the progress in 2020 of the 'Working Landscapes Programme. Promoting sustainable use of forests and trees for people and climate', implemented by Tropenbos International (activity 4000002173; agreement 6003552).

The Working Landscapes (WL) programme promotes climate-smart landscapes to help achieve the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. Climate-smart landscapes maximize synergies between climate change mitigation, adaptation, improved livelihoods and environmental integrity. The deliberate management of trees and forests is key to realising climate-smart landscapes, as they increase carbon sinks, improve resilience to climate change, support people's livelihoods and sustain agricultural value chains.

The programme started in January 2019 with an inception phase, during which we developed country-level theories of change (ToCs), four thematic programmes (NDCs, agrocommodities, restoration and business & finance), and a cross-cutting gender & youth programme. In 2020 the various programmes took off, and a programme on dry lands was developed, with a focus on Ethiopia.

There has been some delay in implementation because of Covid-19. However, in the third and, especially, fourth quarters of 2020, implementation started to pick up, and some good progress could be made. In this report we summarize the progress of 2020 – by country and by cross-cutting theme. We briefly reflect on our assumptions and on the extent to which risks materialised in 2020. Detailed progress reports are available for each country and lodged on IATI.

We first recapitulate the programme's theory of change, as well as its main strategies and implementing partners (chapter 2). We then describe progress in the country programmes (chapter 4), the four thematic programmes (chapter 5), the gender and youth programme (chapter 6), and the drylands programme (chapter 7). This is followed by short reflections on the main assumptions (chapter 8) and risks (chapter 9), as well as on learning (Chapter 10). Chapter 11 concludes with some final remarks.



2 Theory of change

2.1 Overview

The WL programme is operational in seven landscapes in Bolivia, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo), Suriname, Ghana, Indonesia and Viet Nam, while in 2020 WL established in Ethiopia through a collaboration with a regional partner. The objective of the programme is to promote transformational change towards climate-smart landscapes. The programme specifically focusses on three conditions (pillars) needed for achieving climate-smart landscapes: (i) inclusive landscape governance, ensuring that decisions reflect the interests of local communities, taking the interests of men, women and youth into account; (ii) more sustainable land-use practices by small-scale and large-scale producers of agricultural and forestry products; and (iii) responsible business and finance, leading to effective implementation of social and environmental standards and commitments, and equitable inclusion of smallholders in value chains. Figure 1 presents a visual representation of our Theory of Change (ToC).

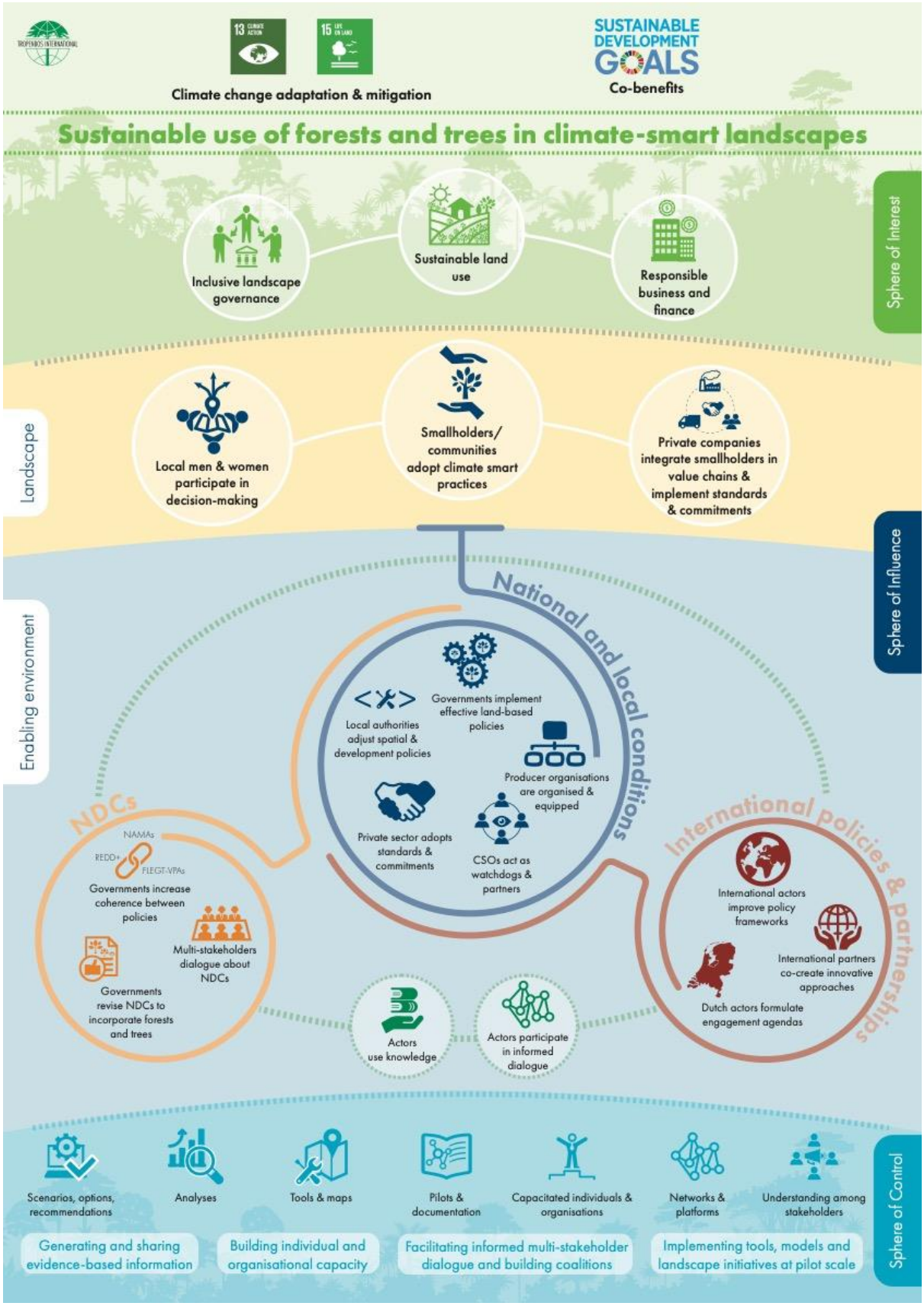
2.2 Strategies

At landscape level, our target groups are climate-vulnerable smallholder men and women, local communities and small and medium-sized entrepreneurs, as well as larger businesses and local governments. In each landscape we work together with these stakeholders on one or more propositions (models) to respond to climate change through the integration of forests and trees in climate-smart landscapes. Each proposition shows how action in the three pillars of the WL programme — inclusive landscape governance, sustainable land use, and responsible business and finance — jointly strengthen a climate-smart landscape solution, in support of the country ToC elaborated during the inception phase. The key intended outcomes are that: (i) local men and women participate in decision-making; (ii) smallholders and local communities adopt climate-smart practices; and (iii) private companies integrate smallholders in value chains, and implement standards and commitments.

To support these changes at landscape level, The ToC distinguishes five broad outcomes that help to mainstream climate considerations in enabling local and national conditions, including policies, private commitments and civil society roles. The target groups are: governments and civil society organizations involved in forest and landscape governance; forest and farm producer organizations and organizations of women and youth; and investors and companies.

In parallel, we aim to better anchor forest and tree-based mitigation and adaptation approaches as developed at the landscape level into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which lay down national climate targets and the plans to achieve them. We propose the WL landscape propositions as models for the implementation of the NDCs, while, in turn, we expect that well-designed NDCs are enablers for change towards the climate-smart landscapes that we seek to achieve. As an intended outcome, we strive for adoption of revised NDCs that operationalize the concept of climate-smart landscapes with an increased role for forest and trees, taking the interests of men, women and youth into account.

Figure 1. Theory of Change



At the international level, we will stimulate South-South learning and policy innovation, and we will translate lessons into concrete inputs into international policy processes related to climate change and landscape governance. The intended outcome is that international-level actors incorporate national experiences and evidence on forest and trees in climate-smart landscapes in updated climate commitments and in related new policy frameworks.

2.3 Intended impacts

The programme seeks to achieve benefits in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation, through sustainable use of forest and trees in climate-smart landscapes. We assess programme impacts in terms of the area and the number of people benefiting from improved climate-smart landscape practices and policies. In the inception report, we estimate that implementing our landscape-level and national plans will directly and indirectly contribute to improved landscape governance and land-use practices in an area of over 11 million ha, impacting the livelihoods of around 2.15 million men, women and youth.[1] Improved policies and practices have the potential to be relevant for an area of more than 77 million ha and to impact 8.3 million people.

2.4 Implementing organizations

The programme is implemented by TBI network members and partners. The TBI network consists of independent Tropenbos organizations in Indonesia, Viet Nam, DR Congo, Ghana, Suriname, Colombia and the Netherlands. The network members have committed themselves to collaboration in pursuit of common goals through a Memorandum of Understanding. They coordinate their activities and work together in joint programmes. The TBI office in the Netherlands implements activities at the international level, that complement and support the work in the network countries, and pursues the development of joint insights and strategies. It is also designated as the secretariat, providing support services to the network, including quality control, administrative processes, communication, capacity development and fundraising at the international level. In Bolivia, where there is no Tropenbos network members, the programme is implemented by partner organization *Instituto Boliviano de Investigación Forestal* (IBIF). In Ethiopia we started working with the Pastoralist and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA) as our main partner in the WL programme.

[1] These figures exclude the dryland countries.



3 Progress in 2020 at a glance

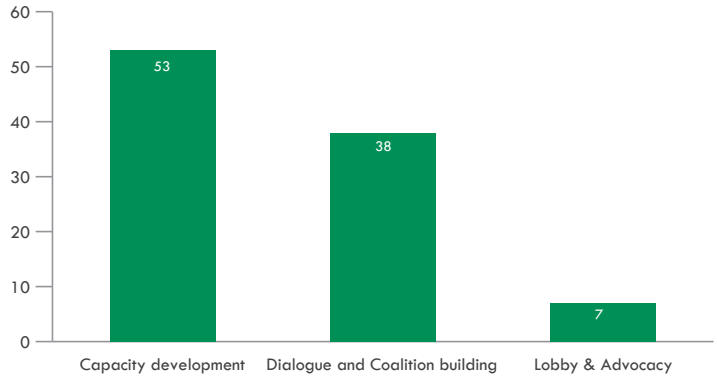
The year 2020 was dominated by the Covid-19 crisis, which forced all partners to adjust their plans to a greater or lesser extent. With all tragedy — neither staff nor local people in the programme landscapes escaped this — and all obstacles in programme implementation, the crisis also turned out to be a catalyst for innovation, leading to new ways of internal interaction and engagement with target groups and beneficiaries. The severity and timing of lockdowns varied between programme countries, but in general they halted or severely restricted the most typical strategies in our programme: organizing dialogues and consultations, engaging with local people in the villages in the focal landscapes, organizing local, national and international workshops, and international exchange between programme staff for planning, strategic reflection and learning. Despite these obstacles, partners learned to adjust to the new realities. They realized a significant part of their plans, and seized some opportunities offered by the crisis.

While 2019 could be characterised as an establishment year — developing the necessary arrangements with local people and authorities, assessing the baseline conditions — 2020 saw dedicated work towards realising the programme objectives as far as allowed by Covid-19. The country ToCs were made more tangible as 'propositions'. Each proposition is a concrete and achievable model that translates the WL building blocks (inclusive governance, sustainable practices and responsible business and finance) into locally appropriate, climate-smart solutions for a specific landscape issue. At the end of the year, country teams reflected on the original ambitions expressed in each proposition and used 'reflection and learning meetings' to bring ambitions better in line with reality and capacities. This has led to a better documentation of what each proposition precisely entails (Bolivia), and/or an adjustment of the proposition to be more realistic and therefore more achievable. In one case a proposition was abandoned (Indonesia). This is summarized in the overviews in Chapter 4.

Overall progress towards realizing our objectives can be assessed in several more or less subjective ways. Country teams self-assessed their progress generally as between 2 and 3 (out of 5, their target), with an occasional 4, showing that the initial stage has been left behind, but that much work lies ahead. On average, progress on objectives of 'inclusive governance' (one of the three pillars in the ToC) was considered most advanced — this shows from the successful establishment (and first signs of decision making) of multi-stakeholder dialogues in the landscapes, and from outcomes that show increased participation of smallholders and local communities – including of women and youth – in those dialogues. About half of the number of actual outcomes that were documented (harvested outcomes) addressed improvements in inclusive governance. 'Sustainable practices' is next, with a somewhat lower self-assessed score and about 40% of harvested outcomes, showing implementation of climate-smart practices (e.g., in agroforestry in Suriname and restorative efforts in Ghana and Colombia). However, the scale is still small at this stage. 'Responsible business and finance' related progress lags somewhat behind in terms of recorded outcomes (about 10% of the total number). It shows that it takes a bit more to achieve results here. During 2020 we worked on internal capacity strengthening which we expect will result in more outcomes in 2021. Progress on Gender and Youth ambitions was self-assessed to be moderate, with some results in terms of increased participation but transforming power relations requires a sustained effort (see also chapter 6)

Capacity development was the main intervention that led to the outcomes documented for 2020: in three quarters of outcomes an element of capacity building was involved (figure 2), and in one quarter the outcome resulted from only capacity development. Dialogue and capacity development contributed to about half of the outcomes, and Lobby and Advocacy to just 10%. About a third of outcomes resulted from a combination of intervention strategies.

Figure 2. Type of interventions leading to the recorded outcomes of 2020.



Key performance indicators (KPIs) provide a quantitative indication of progress towards targets. As the programme is still in its early stages, we have not emphasized data collection, but from the country progress reports some information can be gleaned. In terms of the KPI 'Area affected by improved climate-smart landscape practices', the partner in DR Congo reported the formalization of 90,000 hectares of community forest to local people, in three different Community Forestry Concessions. In Colombia, the areas directly benefiting from restoration in the form of tree planting or improved agroforestry still remain small, but the national government is showing signs of embracing the 'productive participatory restoration approach' after realising that community buy-in is needed in order to meet their ambitious restoration goals. This opens the way to a much larger, indirect contribution to change by Tropenbos Colombia.

The data also indicated that by the end of 2020 partners have been able to contribute to tangible improvements for the KPI 'local beneficiaries benefiting from improved climate-smart landscape practices' (figure 3). These figures represent some 30% of the target partners established at the baseline (excluding DR Congo, with a disproportionally large target, and Viet Nam, no data in 2020).

Figure 3. Number of beneficiaries impacted by improved climate-smart practices.



The landscape projects represent the second strategy in the ToC. The first strategy addresses NDCs. Even though Covid-19 stalled the processes for submission of updated NDCs to UNFCCC, partners got involved in the NDC-

related platforms in some countries (Suriname, Colombia, Bolivia, Ghana). In Indonesia and Viet Nam the focus shifted to (regional) implementation. Partners are also looking at improving the means of implementation (policies, strategies, models) whereby they stress the potential of communities and smallholder farmers to contribute to NDC goals. In all countries, we want to further elaborate on common gaps in the NDCs: adaptation and gender. See also Chapter 5.1.

The third strategy of the ToC represents the international component of strengthened national and landscape level climate-smart practices. This is partly addressed in the thematic programmes (see chapter 4). These gained more traction in 2020, by offering a cross-country platform for learning and for cross-cutting work. However, the Covid-19 crisis cut off the main strategies towards building partnerships and supporting international action, i.e., participating in international meetings and events. We built a network and platform to share best practices on dryland ecosystem restoration (in a publication of ETFRN News), the lessons of which will serve to inform restoration initiatives in Africa (2021). And we have worked with other CSOs to highlight the role of smallholder agrocommodity production in the ongoing discussion towards an EU Forest and Environmental Risk Commodity Regulation, by conducting national dialogues in three countries and compiling these in a policy brief.



4 Country programmes

Each WL country team prepared a 2020 progress report, which is available through IATI. Below we present a table for each of the seven countries, summarizing the main progress for each of the propositions (including a reflection on challenges and expectations), as well as the progress on the NDCs and gender and youth. Ethiopia is still in its development phase and reported in Chapter 7.

Table 1. Summary of progress in 2020, Ketapang and Kayong Utara, Indonesia[2]



Model/theme	**Summary** (i) progress; (ii) challenges; and (iii) expectations/reflection
Agro-ecological connection zone in oil palm landscape: Demonstration of an oil palm landscape in which multiple stakeholders collaboratively manage an essential ecosystem area (KEE), serving as a wildlife corridor that connects High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) areas. [Gunung Palung sub-landscape]	(i) A broad coalition of actors in the landscape has agreed an action plan to implement an Essential Ecosystem Area (KEE), including communities with village forest permits and conservation agencies. With TB Indonesia support, the provincial government issued regulations to operationalise the requirement for companies to set 7% of their concessions aside as HCV areas. (ii) Up to now, the national government has not yet signed the KEE regulation, which has slowed down the formal roll-out of a KEE in the landscape. (iii) Once the national regulatory framework is in place, we expect that KEE implementation in the WL landscape can function as an important model for climate-smart landscape management.
Community-based sustainable peatland management: Manage peatland in a climate-smart way at landscape level through: (a) avoidance of further degradation of forested peat lands; (b) design of sustainable livelihood options	(i) A landscape-level multi-stakeholder working group is now up and running, hydrological and carbon data have been gathered, and community village forest applications have been submitted. Also, sustainable livelihood options were piloted, and first steps towards a PES mechanism have been taken. Importantly, the Ketapang District Government and the National Peat Land and Mangrove Restoration Agency have given their official support to our interventions to manage Peatland Hydrological Areas (KHG).

[2] The proposition for 'traditional land use management' was included in the workplan 2020 but not highlighted as a proposition in the summary table

adapted to peat lands; (c) Payments for Environmental Services (PES) mechanism that compensates communities for peat forest protection. [Pelang sub-landscape]	(ii) There is still a need for better inter-village regulation in order to anchor commitments to landscape protection. (iii) We anticipate additional funding for wildfire management in the landscape, which will help us to deepen and scale up our efforts to realize the model.
Zero-deforestation smallholder oil palm production: Implement a jurisdictional village-cluster-based zero-deforestation model for independent smallholder oil palm farmers integrated in the palm oil value chain, based on sound village-level planning and adoption of good agricultural practices, complying with appropriate standards and ESG performance criteria. [Pelang sub-landscape]	(i) Participatory maps and land-use plans have been developed and good agriculture practices have been adopted by three ISP farmer groups, in line with Indonesia Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) requirements. (ii) We initiated contacts with large-scale oil palm companies active in the area, but they are not interested in acting as guaranteed buyers of certified produce. The agricultural practices of independent smallholders are still far removed from the minimum requirements, which limits the options for a viable smallholder based zero-deforestation model. (iii) We decided to refocus our work, omitting this model, but continuing to support independent smallholder oil palm farmers in the context of the peat land and the traditional land-use management models.
Traditional land-use management: Sustainable management of indigenous communities' forest, rubber agroforest and agricultural areas, through the promotion of (a) community forest rights; (b) non-timber forest product (NTFP) processing and trade; and (c) mechanisms for landscape finance and community business. [Simpang Dua sub-landscape]	(i) A multi-stakeholder working group is up and running in the sub-landscape (including regular forest patrols), and participatory maps are finalized. Also, strategies to improved rubber production and processing are identified, and women groups have been trained on NTFP processing and trade. Farmers and the local financial institutions have a better understanding of the costs and benefits of traditional agroforestry models. (ii) No specific challenge reported. (iii) Progress so far is a good basis for further interventions to improve indigenous communities' natural-resource management, to further develop NTFP processing and trade, and to establish new financial mechanism for community-based enterprises.
NDC: (a) Influence policy makers on NDC (climate adaptation and mitigation) strategies at national level, and (b) provide lessons learned on mitigation and adaptation strategies at landscape level.	(i) Relationships with the Directorate General on Climate Change Control (DG-PPI), the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) and the National Peatland Restoration Agency (BRGM) are established, and an assessment of vulnerability to climate change has been conducted in the WL focus landscape. (ii) It is still unclear how TB Indonesia can influence the NDC most effectively. (iii) With more time, we hope to further strengthen our links with the above mentioned agencies, and we expect that especially our experiences with the peat land model can be used as contributions to the national NDC discussion.
Gender and Youth	(i) Participation of women in community-level activities (e.g., participatory mapping) and village organizations (e.g. village forest management bodies) increased. (ii) It has been difficult to engage youth, and to promote women's roles beyond the village level. (iii) More time and energy are required to effectively improve the participation of women and youth, which includes convincing other stakeholders of the importance.

Table 2. Summary of progress in 2020, Juabeso-Bia & Sefwi Wiawso, Ghana



Model/theme	**Summary** (i) progress; (ii) challenges; and (iii) expectations/reflection
Climate-smart cocoa landscapes: Climate smart cocoa-forest mosaic model in Juabeso-Bia (JB) and Sefwi-Wiawso (SW) landscapes where smallholder farmers, Licence Buying Companies (LBCs), Traditional Authorities (TA) and government agencies (state actors)	(i) At the landscape level, smallholder farmers in Elluokrom and Asuontaa in the JB landscape have revegetated riverbanks to protect and improve waterbodies within their communities. Also, three communities in the SW landscape have committed to restore about fifteen hectares of degraded areas outside forest reserves to increase tree cover, and more than 1000 smallholder farmers (from 18 communities in the JB and SW landscapes) have registered their names with Tropenbos Ghana for capacity strengthening on restoration, indicating their willingness to restore tree cover in their cocoa

develop, promote and implement sustainable land use, deforestation-free agrocomodities, restoration of degraded lands and use of trees and agroforestry for climate change mitigation and adaptation.	farms and other degraded areas. In addition to the landscape-level work, Tropenbos Ghana organized a workshop by which Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Licence Buying Companies (LBCs) could provide inputs to the European Union (EU)'s deforestation-free agrocommodity policies/regulations processes to make them locally relevant. (ii) Two major challenges were encountered. The first was the Covid-19 pandemic with its attendant restrictions that prevented implementation of most field activities. The second challenge was low willingness and bureaucratic obstacles to collaboration with other CSOs and LBCs already working in the landscapes. (iii) Tropenbos Ghana has built a fairly good foundation in 2020, especially regarding the EU deforestation-free agrocommodity policies and the NDC update (see below), as well as by enlisting of committed individuals and communities for implementation of various interventions. These positive signs indicate that Tropenbos Ghana is on course to achieve our intended outcomes (in terms of key performance indicators) from the year 2021 onwards. Nonetheless, there is a need to intensify field activities and strengthen collaboration with key stakeholders in order to achieve the expected outcomes.
NDCs	The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Ghana officially invited civil society organizations (CSOs) related to forestry and agriculture including Tropenbos Ghana to participate in the processes to update Ghana's NDC. Tropenbos Ghana is a member of the forestry sector working group, currently working with the Climate Change Directorate (CCD) of the Forestry Commission (FC) in updating forestry sector priorities and strategies of the NDC.
Gender and Youth	Through sensitization and awareness creation efforts of Tropenbos Ghana more than 200 women have enlisted to form village savings and loans associations (VSLAs) in 10 communities in the JB and SW landscapes, which are functional for climate-smart initiatives. So far, 54% of the more than 1000 smallholder farmers that registered for climate-smart agroforestry capacity building support are women. Moreover, Tropenbos Ghana organized workshops for women cocoa farmers on issues affecting their farming activities and productivity due to climate change. In terms of organizational set-up, Tropenbos Ghana has a dedicated gender point of contact who reviews activities and makes recommendations to improve gender responsiveness.

Table 3. Summary of progress in 2020, Guarayos landscape, Bolivia



Model/theme	**Summary** (i) progress; (ii) challenges; and (iii) expectations/reflection
Self-governed indigenous territory & commercial forest management: Demonstration of the viability of the indigenous territory model and inclusive and sustainable forest management as an alternative to advancing the agricultural frontier, as an example of the Bolivian proposal for joint mitigation and adaptation.	(i) With support of IBIF, three indigenous forest management associations (OFCs) in the Guarayos territory have significantly improved their internal organization through the application of a package of training and technical assistance on governance, inclusive decision making and leadership, enterprise development, operational management, finance literacy and innovation. The strengthened OFCs now include all members in decision making, have greater financial management skills, and are better positioned to voice their interests to the forest service and to negotiate with timber buying private enterprises. The OFCs have clearly defined the barriers that private enterprises impose to prevent a more fruitful collaboration and identified the strategies to negotiate better timber sale contracts. Also, they have identified local carpenters willing to buy timber directly from the Guarayos landscape to improve prises for both parties. IBIF organized a large number of activities using digital media (using the mobile network), that the Guarayos caught up on very fast. Unexpectedly, the use of digital technology allowed for a broad participation in courses and workshops as entire families would listen in without the need to travel and leave their homes.

	(ii) The main challenge is dealing with the internal conflicts in the Guarayo representative organization COPNAG, which is responsible for the governance of the Guarayos indigenous territory. Also, political turmoil and presidential elections have affected all work with government institutions, delaying the implementation of some activities. It remains difficult to improve the timber sale contracts between OFCs and private parties, mostly due to a lack of interest of enterprises, and financial institutions have little interest in the provision of credits to the OFCs mainly due to previous negative experiences and lack of information with regards to the forestry sector. Another main challenge is to get the agroindustry and cattle ranchers on board to improve mutual respect between the traditional indigenous population and "new" stakeholders. Last but not least, Covid19 caused health problems in the indigenous communities and travel limitations that reduced field activities, and reduced the forestry operations during 2020. (iii) IBIF will emphasize the development of the capacities of the Guarayo people, through their OFCs, to monitor for encroachment, illegal resource extraction and wildfires. The information will serve as input for multi-stakeholder platforms, as well as for a Territorial Platform to be built within the Joint Mechanism of Mitigation and Adaptation. The idea is to increase pressure on the COPNAG from all stakeholders to improve the governance of the territory. Additionally, the training package for the OFCs will be applied at larger scale, including more local forest management organizations. IBIF will continue to link them up with the national certification system of the Forest Service, and will continue working with ABT (National Authority on Forest) to develop regulations to facilitate access to forest resources.
NDC	During 2020, IBIF conducted an assessment of the extent to which the Plurinational State of Bolivia is delivering on the outcomes and commitments made in its NDC. The assessment has shown that the ambition on forests is high, but that the results achieved to date are modest, mainly due to limitations in the institutional governance structure for the achievement of the targets, the need for greater clarity on climate change policy, financial needs for the implementation of actions, and the lack of an appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanism. The goals will only be achieved if coordinated work is carried out between government entities at different levels, with the participation of civil society. The evaluation provided a series of recommendations to improve compliance that will be shared with the new national authorities in 2021.
Gender and Youth	In 2020, IBIF's technical team became more familiar with gender issues and youth participation in forest governance and developed a long-term strategy to promote equal opportunities in activities to build organizational, administrative and financial capacity for forest management. With the acquired skills, both women and young people will be able to aspire to leadership roles in the near future. Also, with support from IBIF, three OFCs established in their internal rules and regulations that women can take on leadership positions in the monitoring committees. In general, there is a need for a holistic approach to promote true gender equality and youth engagement in community forest management and territorial management, which goes beyond increasing the participation of women or young people in a particular project.

Table 4. Summary of progress in 2020, Solano landscape, Colombia



Model/theme	**Summary** (i) progress; (ii) challenges; and (iii) expectations/reflection
Integrated inter-cultural restoration: Develop a model – including associated appropriate financial mechanisms (based on community forestry, sustainable use,	(i) In 2020, most progress was made with promoting and implementing participatory productive restoration (PPR), as an alternative to top-down and technocratic approaches to restoration. Tropenbos Colombia established four PPR models in the southern department of Caquetá, to help convince others of the benefits of PPR. As a result of the work of Tropenbos Colombia, the Solano

REDD+ and PES principles) – that promotes the valuation of the forests and trees to be implemented in the areas that are under threat of deforestation as an attractive alternative to cattle ranching.	government decided to explicitly include PPR in its 2020–23 development plan, and Corpomazonia (the regional environmental authority) committed to explore the possibilities of scaling up PPR. Moreover, a PPR Citizens Lab was established with various stakeholders, including the government, CSOs and universities. (ii) The Covid pandemic greatly reduced opportunities to do field work with the local communities and institutions. It also had a major impact on Colombian society, increasing poverty and inflation. Because of the lack of economic opportunities, a large number of people started migrating to Solano in pursuit of jobs in illegal economies, adding further pressure to the forest. Overall insecurity in the area has increased (among others due to renewed plans for fumigation by the government), necessitating Tropenbos Colombia to implement various security measures for staff and communities. (iii) The formal ambition of the Government of Colombia is to plant 180 million trees by 2022, including the restoration of 300,000 hectares. This is providing an important possibility for Tropenbos Colombia to scale up the PPR approach. In 2021, Tropenbos Colombia expects to be able to resume field activities, so they can expand PPR implementation models, and start working on testing financial mechanisms. With regard to the latter, Tropenbos Colombia established a finance group with the Amazon Conservation Team and the Javeriana University (as part of the Citizens Lab) to conceptualize possibilities for financial mechanisms.
NDC	Throughout the year, Tropenbos Colombia has attended meetings organized by the Ministry of Environment to discuss the concept NDC revision, providing inputs on ways to involve communities to reduce deforestation and emissions. Next to that, Tropenbos Colombia became part of a CSO group called *Voces por el Clima,* which aims to influence the NDC process by advocating for climate justice and a more inclusive approach with local communities.
Gender and Youth	In 2020, Tropenbos Colombia invited 20 young people — most of them women — to collect information on land use, water management, food security, and climate change within their communities, for which they received a monetary incentive in return. This was an effective way to involve women and youth more actively in the activities of Tropenbos Colombia, while also building their capacity. Also, indigenous women in the Solano landscape have shown interest in capacity building on women´s rights, political participation, project management and economic alternatives based on local resources, and Tropenbos Colombia has been able to develop a workplan for this. However, progress has so far been slow, primarily due to the fieldwork restrictions.

Table 5. Summary of progress in 2020, Upper Suriname River landscape, Suriname



Model/theme	**Summary** (i) progress; (ii) challenges; and (iii) expectations/reflections
Local governance of traditional territories: A model of strengthened local governance in the Saamaka territory, that is well integrated in the formal governance structures and processes, and that serves as a model for locally controlled, climate smart development in a heavily forested landscape with limited current commercial activity and the urgent need of local people to earn income.	(i) In 2020, Tropenbos Suriname strengthened the capacity of Saamaka communities in the Upper Suriname River Area (USRA) to map their territories using Participatory 3-Dimensional Modelling (P3DM), and established connections with the new District Commissioner, with the intention to integrate P3DM results in the annual district plan. A platform was created with the different environmental NGO's to strengthen lobby and advocacy efforts, among others to influence the Collective Land-Tenure Rights Act, which is currently being drafted by the national government, and which is expected to provide legal recognition of indigenous and tribal communities' collective land tenure rights. Also, due to the work of Tropenbos Suriname, public sector authorities and local communities are now recognizing the importance of community forestry, particularly in the context of climate change objectives and avoidance of forest degradation. With support from Tropenbos Suriname, the

	agro-cooperative Hatti Wai U.A. in Pikin Slee, internally reorganized to expand agroforestry activities and improve casava production and commercialization. (ii) The main challenges in 2020 came from a national financial crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic, which meant that Tropenbos Suriname could not be active in the field for six months. Moreover, much time went into establishing contacts with new ministers, directors, and district commissioners, after the national elections. Because of this, progress has been slower than initially expected. (iii) The importance of communities' P3DM capacity (and results) is expected to increase, if and when the Collective Land-Tenure Rights Act is adopted. Tropenbos Suriname plans to continue working on the upscaling of agroforestry techniques, and enhancing community financial literacy, climate financing and forest product value chains. Also, Tropenbos Suriname is anticipating new opportunities in the context of a Forest Partnership that the EU and Suriname are developing (2021 – 2027), addressing forest governance, nature-based tourism, forest-based value chains, payment for environmental services, and climate finance.
NDC	The NDC is being led by the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (ROM). Although the 2nd NDC has been submitted at the end of 2019, Suriname has yet to clearly define the implementation of its NDC objectives. Tropenbos Suriname has set up a good working relationship with the Ministry of ROM. However, since the government was mostly in transition in 2020, there were fewer opportunities for Tropenbos Suriname to contribute to the implementation of the NDC. In the coming years, Tropenbos Suriname still expects to be able to contribute to the implementation of the NDC through the promotion of climate-smart agroforestry and forestry activities, as well as through the emphasis on the forest-water-climate nexus.
Gender and Youth	Tropenbos Suriname has mainstreamed gender and youth considerations in the WL activities (e.g., in surveys, trainings and fieldwork). Next to that, it established a virtual communication hub with local communities, aiming to increase the involvement of women and youth in WL activities. In trainings and workshops on agriculture, there were usually more women than men, showing the importance of women in the provision of food for the family. However, it proved more difficult to engage youth in project activities, as they are more oriented to city life. Tropenbos Suriname, therefore, intends to find new ways to make workshops and other activities more attractive for young people.

Table 6. Summary of progress in 2020, Bafwasende landscape, DR Congo



Model/theme	**Summary** (i) progress; (ii) challenges; and (iii) expectations/reflection
Agroforestry to improve income generation without deforestation: Harness the potential of local entrepreneurs (mainly Yira immigrants) to disseminate models of mixed cocoa/banana agroforestry, providing secure income through organized value chains that reduces encroachment.	(i) Communal cocoa-banana agroforestry fields have been established in three villages. All of them in old agricultural fields without causing deforestation. Around 300 farmers in Bakundumu and Bekeni-Kondolole have copied the idea of growing cocoa on their family fields as well. (ii) One of the challenges is that some farmers favour monocultures over agroforestry, because they believe crop yields will be higher. (iii) It is expected that (farmer to farmer) exchanges with the migrant Yira farmers will result in more local farmers applying agroforestry practices.
Landscape level PES model based on land-use planning: Establish an	(i) The conditions for the implementation of a landscape-level PES have been set: The Bafwasende territory land-use plan has been developed in a participatory

international PES model, based on an agreed land-use and green development plan, to conserve 95% of standing forest and drive socio-economic development of regional urban centres (this may be through a REDD+ approach)	way, setting the basis for nature-based economic development. Two of Bafwasende's six sectors started developing their land-use plans to be achieved in 2021. Three communities received community forest concessions (CFCLs) and established community management committees. (ii) The challenge is to design a PES system that takes the local context and poverty level into account (addressing the need for basic services, economic development, and continuous dialogue with the population). (iii) Tropenbos DR Congo expects to design a PES system that offers benefits to the local population, and plans to establish a database on the contributions of this PES system to mitigation and adaptation, to convince international parties to invest in the landscape.
Community forest management for nature-based enterprises: Operationalisation of community forestry model for sustainable forest management, equity (IP and gender) and enterprise development.	(i) Ten new communities have started the administrative process to request a CFCL and the development of the required forest management plans. Tropenbos DR Congo has been successful in having Bantou communities recognize the rights of pygmy communities, and in increasing the membership of women in forest management committees to 50%. In established CFCLs, the conditions of timber sales have greatly improved, allowing the communities to earn more money and have access to timber themselves. (ii) Initial community-based proposals for economic activities have not been successful and the newly established management committees are challenged by traditional authorities that are reluctant to give up their power over natural resources. (iii) Tropenbos DR Congo will continue developing productive activities in the CFCLs for local people, especially youth, and to assist communities with monitoring their CFCLs, to reduce the sale of land and resources without community consent, and foster the use of local governance mechanisms to deal with (internal) problems and conflicts.
Farmer cooperatives to access markets for deforestation free cocoa: Establishment of cooperative incubator organizations that partner with producers and buyers to help implement international social and environmental standards and commitments.	(i) Tropenbos DR Congo established relations with companies exporting deforestation-free cocoa, to understand the requirements for farmers to enter this niche market. (ii) The challenge is to have farmers comply with these requirements from the moment they establish their cocoa plantations. Also, overcoming farmers' short term visions in a context of severe poverty is a challenge that will take time. (iii) Tropenbos DR Congo will focus on the organization of farmers in intermediate producer organizations that provide technical assistance and assure the position of farmers in the value chain of deforestation-free cocoa.
NDC	Tropenbos DR Congo incremented the awareness and willingness to implement Community Forestry management, Forest Management Units (by artisanal loggers) and agroforestry systems, and contributed to improved forest governance, and forest-based livelihoods. These interventions address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and are key to achieve mitigation and adaptation targets set in the NDC.
Gender and Youth	The activities carried out by Tropenbos DR Congo in 2020 have enabled women and young people to have a voice in decision-making bodies where access to them was traditionally restricted. This was seen in the establishment of the management bodies of the CFCLs, where women and young people were appointed to the leadership of these structures. Also, a woman was elected president of the management committee of the Bambaka CFCL in Bapondi. This is considered beneficial for inclusive local governance.

Table 7. Summary of progress in 2020, Srepok river basin, Viet Nam[3]



Model/theme	**Summary** (i) progress; (ii) challenges; and (iii) expectations/reflection
Inclusive Restoration Dialogue: Establishing a permanent multi-stakeholder platform, where restoration priorities are identified, collaborative actions developed and joint monitoring takes place. [This is a modified version of model 2 in workplan 2021]	(i) In 2020, Tropenbos Viet Nam (TBVN) signed an MOU with the Department on Agriculture and Rural Development in Dak Lak province (DARD), to support in identifying restoration opportunities, and through this collaboration new restoration guidelines were developed (in a participatory process) and approved at provincial level. (ii) The process of signing the MOU with DARD took longer than expected, but now provides an important foundation for the collaboration on landscape restoration. Also, engaging youth has been difficult. In 2021, TBVN will therefore put more effort into understanding and aligning with the priorities of the Youth Union in the landscape. (iii) For the landscape forum to be more inclusive and long-lasting, TBVN will engage the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE), Women's Union and Youth in the core task force. Moreover, together the task force will look for sustainable funding of restoration activities, so that these can continue after the WL programme.
Coffee PES: Elaborate the modalities for inclusion of coffee farmers in the national PES (water; financial) mechanism that enables for instance the restoration and management of upstream forests. [This is model 1 in workplan 2021]	(i) TBVN conducted research on the link between coffee, forest and water and shared the findings with the Forest Protection and Development Fund (FPDF), which is the implementing agency for the current PES model. Subsequently, FPDF committed to work with TBVN to identify opportunities for coffee PES. (ii) Adjusting the PES model remains a sensitive topic, so TBVN needs to approach this topic carefully. TBVN is confident that it can initiate the conversation at the local and national level on the need for integration of coffee in the PES model, but implementation of a functional model is expected to take several years. (iii) From 2021 onwards, TBVN will build a bigger coalition of organisations (including DARD and DONRE) who will jointly explore a potential coffee PES model at landscape level and will bring the discussion up to the national level by 2023.
Inclusive forestland restoration: Model for greater inclusiveness and participation in restoration on production and protection forest land.	(i) TBVN has worked with research institutes to identify the existing gaps of Community Forest Management (CFM), while recommending suitable livelihoods models for CFM. In 2020, a CFM manual was made, taking into account the needs of local communities, as well as the challenges for more inclusive forestland restoration efforts. (ii) No specific challenges reported. (iii) In 2021, TBVN will support state forest owners such as Chu Yang Sin National Park, and Lak Forest Management Board (FMB) to set up restoration models with local farmers. The models are a joint effort by local farmers and FMB that seek to create equitable benefits for local people.
Climate Smart Coffee Establish a 'landscape coffee' model that is less vulnerable to climate change, and which can contribute to restoration of coffee farms on marginal grounds currently occupied by unstainable coffee. [This is a combination of model 3 and 4 in workplan 2021]	(i) TBVN collaborated with research institutes and DARD to develop agroforestry guidelines, in which practical and technical guidance have been indicated for both managers and practitioners. These guidelines were approved by the provincial government in 2020. (ii) No specific challenges reported. (iii) Tropenbos Viet Nam will collaborate with IDH to document the mini-landscape model, which was jointly developed several years ago and is now being applied in IDH and TBVN programmes. The model will be improved to become more climate smart.
NDC	TBVN contributed to improved awareness and understanding of relevant stakeholders, not only in the landscape Lak and Krong Bong, but in Dak Lak province as well, through an update regarding the national NDC revision process, and a participatory climate risk assessment. Moreover, TBVN started to build the cooperation with Dak Lak DONRE to

[3] During the WL learning and reflection meeting that took place early 2021, some propositions were adjusted, leading to small differences between the propositions mentioned here and those mentioned in the work plan for 2021.

	make and implement its NDC implementation plan (MoU between TBVN and DONRE was signed early 2021).
Gender and Youth	TBVN organized a workshop with several state agencies where local female representatives argued for better livelihood options. Previously, due to their limited knowledge and information, women would not participate actively in such discussions. In 2020, TBVN organized a tailor-made training for its staff on gender, and discussed gender outcomes, plans and strategies with a consultant. TBVN also wanted to work more closely with the Youth Union, but progress has been slow. In 2021, TBVN aims to get a better understanding of the Youth Union's needs and the interests of their members, and to involve them in monitoring of restoration.



5 Thematic programmes

In addition to the country programmes, there are four thematic programmes, which seek to strengthen coherence between the context-specific landscape programmes, and to establish a mutually reinforcing 'linking and learning' relation between landscape activities and international activities. The thematic programmes are: (i) NDCs; (ii) agrocommodities; (iii) restoration; and (iv) business and finance. Next to the thematic programmes, WL has a cross-cutting programme on gender and youth. Thematic programmes are coordinated by network-wide teams, consisting of staff from different country offices. The four themes are based on cross-cutting issues that are present in many or all countries, and on opportunities provided by the international agenda. Each theme consists of elements of the national ToCs, as well as additional elements of a cross-cutting and/or international nature. The latter include learning-oriented elements, as well as international policy-oriented elements. The activities in the thematic teams started in late 2019. Throughout 2020, the teams strengthened coherence between landscape programmes and coordinated network-wide knowledge sharing and learning around the themes. Below we shortly summarize the progress on the thematic programmes.

5.1 Nationally Determined Contributions

Thematic vision

A new generation of NDCs includes concrete and inter-sectoral strategies towards climate-smart landscapes, with a key role for forests and trees managed by smallholders and local communities. Finance for such strategies is available and oriented at leveraging private capital into low carbon, sustainable and inclusive landscape initiatives.

Intended overall outcomes

- Governments in WL countries include integrated landscape approaches in their revised NDCs, taking the interests of men, women and youth into account.
- Increased achievement of NDC commitments, due to collaboration between donors, governments, CSOs and key national and international climate action NGOs to implement climate-smart landscape models in the country, learning from the experience in the WL landscapes across continents.
- Intermediary international organizations (e.g., the NDC partnership) adopt integrated landscape approaches as a means of implementation for climate action, and translate these into guidance for NDC design and implementation.

Intended 2020 outcomes

During 2020, we specifically focused on establishing a framework that will allow us to show how integrated landscape approaches can address climate change mitigation and adaptation. The intended outcomes were formulated as follows:

1. In the programme landscapes, the landscape models under development explicitly address one or more of the priority climate actions defined by the landscape stakeholders based on participative assessments of local climate risks and mitigation opportunities.
2. 2020 NDCs analysed and gaps identified that are addressed by the models proposed in the different programme countries.

Progress 2020

With respect to the first intended outcome for 2020, WL country teams in Indonesia, Ghana, Viet Nam and Colombia carried out participatory village-level vulnerability assessments (VAs), complementing the more general assessments done in the context of the WL inception phase. The VAs were developed to match local conditions, and were adapted to national Covid-19 regulations where necessary. In Indonesia and Ghana the assessments were done in collaboration with the MoMo4C programme. The VAs confirmed the close linkages between stakeholder activities and climate variability, and showcased a series of existing adaptation strategies by local farmers and communities.

The VAs helped to define the priority climate actions for the landscapes and to adjust the landscape models: A common denominator in several landscapes appeared to be the increased risk of wildfires and the availability of water for crops and inhabitants. Conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems are seen as the main priority climate actions, but the details vary between the landscapes. In Viet Nam, restoration and incorporation of trees in the coffee landscape are identified as key adaptation strategies. In Indonesia, the focus is more on rewetting peatlands to reduce the risk of fire, and on crop diversification on mineral soils, which helps to reduce vulnerability to droughts and fluctuating market prices, while reducing conversion to oil palm. In Ghana, the identified priority climate actions are income diversification, cocoa agroforestry systems and forest restoration.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, implementation of the VAs was delayed in some of the landscapes. In DR Congo, the decision was taken not implement a VA, since an earlier technical assessment indicated that climate change will not have a strong impact on the landscape, but losing the existing forests will result in climate change.

With respect to the second intended outcome for 2020, it was not possible to analyse the revised NDCs, because Covid-19 had caused delays to the 2020 NDC revision processes in all WL countries.[4] We therefore decided to analyse the role of forests in the original NDCs. The network-wide team identified that adaptation is often not adequately addressed. NDCs tend to refer to the National Adaptation Plans, which are developed by separate teams and often further developed in sectoral adaptation plans. In particular in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector, this leads to mismatches or undervalued opportunities for synergies between adaptation and mitigation. For example, restoration is typically presented as a way to sequester carbon in the NDCs, while it is presented as a way to increase the provision of essential ecosystem services (such as water regulation or soil conservation) in the National Adaptation Plans. Alignment of National and Sectoral Adaptation Plans with NDCs will therefore be necessary to adequately support climate-smart landscape initiatives. First steps were taken to explore opportunities for greater alignment. Another gap identified in existing (pre-2020) NDCs is related to the explicit consideration of gender and youth issues.

In their efforts to influence NDC revisions, several TBI members and partners found that such processes were not that participative. In both Colombia and Ghana, TBI members helped set up a CSO platform for that reason, and Tropenbos Suriname participated in the national forest roundtable, and is on standby for the 2025 NDC revision process. Tropenbos Ghana has been invited to participate in the processes to update the NDC. Our Bolivian partner IBIF conducted a detailed analysis of the implementation of the Bolivian NDC with respect to its commitments in the forest sector, and was subsequently formally invited to join the team that is responsible for the 2021 revision. In Viet Nam, the process has been rather top-down, but our partner is supporting the provincial government in designing its implementation strategies.

At this stage of the work it is difficult to make global contributions. Each of the landscapes has its own conditions and therefore the various TBI members and partners are designing their own strategies towards either design or implementation of the NDCs. All but one of the country teams see adaptation as a priority with mitigation benefits. It is, therefore, good to see that they have adopted VAs as departing points. The method, which was developed in Indonesia and then shared with the other partners, has triggered the implementation of such assessments, always stressing the importance of local perceptions of climate change and already existing local adaptation strategies.

[4] With the exception of Bolivia (which finalized its revision in 2021), the governments of all WL countries submitted their 2020 revisions towards the end of 2020.

While Covid-19 restrictions have delayed our work, the country teams have used 2020 to gain greater awareness of the importance of NDCs for their work in the landscapes, and vice versa. This has expressed itself in a greater understanding of, and emphasis on, the link between our landscape propositions and the NDCs in each of the 2021 landscape plans. Since the UNFCCC COP 26 was delayed (to November 2021), we will now have the opportunity to share the first experiences of contributions of landscape approaches to the NDCs.

5.2 Agrocommodities

Thematic vision

Our long-term vision is that producers, companies and governments implement measures and policies that support climate-smart, sustainable agrocommodity production models. These climate-smart, sustainable production models have demonstrated that they avoid deforestation and include (elements of) climate-smart agricultural practices. Besides, they offer a positive value proposition and fair living income for producers, taking the different needs and interests of men, women and youth into account. Women, men and youth are equally represented in producer associations and in decision-making processes.

Intended overall outcomes

- Local communities, governments and companies support and adopt viable alternative production models in the programme's focal landscapes that are sustainable and climate-smart, taking the different needs and interests of men, women and youth into account, across the landscape, and promote smallholder inclusiveness.
- Producers, companies and governments develop and endorse measures that halt agrocommodity related deforestation in these landscapes.
- National governments, sector associations and international fora support and promote sustainable and climate-smart supply chains, building upon lessons learned in the landscapes.

Intended 2020 outcomes

1. Local communities, governments and companies have started to participate in dialogues to jointly develop (principles for) viable, inclusive, climate-smart agrocommodity production models in the programme's focal landscapes.
2. Landscape actors are aware of the need for effective monitoring of agrocommodity impacts on local livelihoods and deforestation.
3. EU NGOs and policy makers are aware of barriers and incentives ('readiness'), especially to enable smallholder inclusion, of national policies to implement zero-deforestation policies, developed in the EU of our focus countries.

Progress 2020

In 2020, we started with collecting data describing agrocommodity production models. Using a standardized approach, we collected information on characteristics (e.g., trade, yield level, tenure, types of stakeholders), trends, impacts, and approaches to promote sustainable commodity production, both on country and landscape levels. This enabled us to identify commonalities and differences between the landscapes. Most of the information collected within countries concerned 'business as usual' models, and these are often not the inclusive, climate-smart models that we envision. The propositions in the countries therefore develop promising alternative models.

With respect to intended 2020 outcome #1, in Indonesia (palm oil), Ghana (agroforestry cocoa), Viet Nam (agroforestry coffee) and DR Congo (cocoa banana), we developed propositions for alternative agrocommodity production models. In some landscapes, progress was made with multi-stakeholder dialogues to operationalize these models. At the same time, we started with data collection about key characteristics and trends in agrocommodity production in the landscapes, which is the point of departure when developing alternative production models.

As part of this inventory, a start was also made in all countries with the collection of information on what systems are currently in place for supply chain monitoring and traceability. In some countries, we already started implementing promising monitoring approaches. In Bolivia, IBIF commissioned a participatory approach to monitor water quality in relation to large-scale soy-development, as a step in raising awareness on the impact of agrocommodity production in the landscape (intended 2020 outcome #2). This involved capacity building, so that local people — in this case mostly youth — can use these monitoring tools and protocols in the future.

With respect to intended 2020 outcome #3, much of the network-wide agrocommodity teamwork in 2020 was to support the country teams to get a better understanding on the ongoing development of EU legislation to halt the import of forest and ecosystem-risk commodities (FERCs), and how proposed EU measures translate to producer countries, and the landscapes. We reflected on implications, feasibility and desirability of zero-deforestation measures developed in the EU, to create more awareness of barriers and incentives ('readiness'), especially to enable smallholder inclusion, and what is needed to overcome the hurdles. The data collection about trends in agrocommodity production in the landscapes (see outcome #1) also formed the starting point for this reflection, as it provided a basic understanding of the context (e.g., the number of smallholders active in the agrocommodity sector, export figures, relevant national and regional policies and initiatives, etc.), and how possible EU measures would impact smallholders. In Ghana, Bolivia and Indonesia, multiple workshops and meetings with a broader group of stakeholders were organized for this, which all served to identify possibilities and challenges. For Indonesia, this resulted in an infobrief, titled 'Possibilities and challenges for developing a more inclusive and sustainable independent smallholder oil palm sector in Ketapang, Indonesia'.

Based on these elaborate analyses and expert workshops in the countries, the agrocommodity team developed a general policybrief to inform (EU) policy makers about options to contribute to the development of zero-deforestation policies, titled 'Designing an effective, ambitious and coherent EU regulatory framework to tackle deforestation – Building on local realities and reflections in productive agrocommodity landscapes'. The key message is that ambitious binding measures are needed, but they are only part of the solution. Our network members and partners from producing countries pointed at the risk of EU regulations — when not well designed — having unintended negative consequences in supply areas, as they could lead to the exclusion of smallholders from international value chains. One of the main messages of this paper is therefore that binding regulations need to be combined with additional support measures in producing countries, aiming for smallholder inclusion and addressing underlying causes of deforestation.

5.3 Restoration

Thematic vision

In our long term vision, degraded landscapes have regained their vital functions and provide wealth for the people living and depending on them. Carbon stock, tree cover, soil fertility and other key ecosystem services have been restored. Policies and practices are in place to generate good income for local people from sustainable land use and business practices in the landscape. Governments are able to implement spatial and development policies and plans supportive to the restoration of degraded lands.

Intended overall outcomes

- Restoration models: Local communities, governments and companies implement a participative landscape restoration model that increases carbon stock and gives local people access to the benefits of restored lands, including men, women and youth.
- Sustainable practices: Governments, companies and financial institutions have mechanisms in place to invest in participative landscape restoration and sustainable land use and business practices of local people and producers.
- Bring to scale: National governments support participative landscape restoration, to meet the goals of their NDCs and other policies.

Intended 2020 outcomes

1. Relevant stakeholders in four WL landscapes have agreed on participatory and widely supported approaches to restoring forest and land.
2. Landscape actors have identified promising mechanisms to finance climate-smart businesses and in some cases have started to develop these into business cases.
3. Actors from WL landscapes and across the world have documented cases of participatory landscape approaches.

Progress 2020

In 2020 we worked on two separate lines: one related to supporting the landscape propositions on restoration across WL countries (reported below), and one on documenting successful practices of dryland restoration, in association with the development of a programme in Ethiopia. The latter contributes to the third outcome, but we report on it in Chapter 6.

With respect to intended 2020 outcome #1, country teams in Colombia, Ghana, Viet Nam and Indonesia have started to develop participatory restoration models contributing to climate-smart landscapes. Progress has been slow, but despite limitations due to the Covid-19 pandemic they have managed to set up structured dialogues around participative restoration with relevant stakeholders in the landscapes.

Partners formed multistakeholder fora on restoration using online technologies, mainly with national, regional and local institutions. The Covid-19 pandemic limited opportunities for local communities to participate in these, which delayed the advancement of participative restoration models in the landscapes. However, the online setting created unexpected access to institutions participating in these fora, enabling TBI to advance participative restoration on the agenda. This access to fora proved to be effective in a number of instances. In Colombia, for example, the Ministry of Environment included Tropenbos Colombia — as member of the National Environmental Forum (NEF) — in virtual fora on large-scale tree plantings, resulting in inclusion of NEF perspectives on financing and community participation in the National Forest Plan. In Viet Nam, the key functional agency in charge of forestry and agriculture development (DARD) accepted the need for participatory (as opposed to top-down) restoration.

With respect to intended 2020 outcome #2, partners in all countries have worked on the design of custom-built mechanisms supporting sustainable land use and business practices on restored lands. For example, rather than analysing PES, forest bonds and other propositions with local communities, TBI Colombia established a finance group in the Citizen Lab Financial mechanism in order to create a mechanism based on the needs.

With respect to intended 2020 outcome #3, partners worked with smallholder farmers and communities to initiate efforts towards forest restoration. Tropenbos Ghana was able to select a group of smallholder farmers and communities to establish forest restoration plots in the Sefwi-Wiawso landscape, whereas in the Juabeso landscape, farmers have revegetated riverbanks to protect and improve waterbodies in their communities, and more than 1000 farmers in 18 communities have enlisted to restore degraded forests. In the Pelang landscape in Indonesia, Tropenbos Indonesia mapped the extent of canals that drain the peatland through intensive ground and drone survey supported by ten students of the Faculty of Forestry of Tanjung Pura University (Pontianak, West Kalimantan). Additionally they conducted stakeholder analysis on fire prevention and community perceptions on canal blocking and flood incidents to pave the way for restoration to start. Tropenbos Viet Nam assisted the regional agricultural department in developing restoration guidelines which are an important reference for restoration in the Central Highlands.

In terms of upscaling, we found that the participation of TBI members in national platforms has prepared the ground to promote inclusion of participative restoration at a wider national scale. In Colombia, the National Forest Plan and participation in the Caquetá Roundtable led to adoption of participatory restoration approaches in regional plans and enabled Tropenbos Colombia to start a dialogue with the Senate, discussing restoration public policies as a bottom up approach.

The network-wide TBI restoration team has supported restoration dialogues in the countries and initiated cross-country exchange and learning, benefitting from the biweekly online network meetings. This resulted in the joint development of a restoration base line. Although the context in each country is different, we identified that participative restoration models should always include the following five elements to bring the benefits of restoration to the people living in the landscapes: (i) the presence of institutional and public policies for restoration; (ii) availability of financial mechanisms for restoration; (iii) participation of the local people in restoration; (iv) land access and tenure policies in place; and (v) sufficient knowledge for restoration. In 2020 most progress has been made to include participative restoration in regional policies (i), identification of mechanisms to support sustainable practices on restored lands (ii) and increasing knowledge on restoration at relevant stakeholders (v).

We identified restoration as a key implementation model for country NDCs to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. As a result, the NDC and restoration themes will be more aligned in 2021.

5.4 Business and finance

Thematic vision

A substantively larger capital flow supports diverse landscapes, where smallholders and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) deploy climate-smart, land-use practices and are integrated in sustainable value chains, and where zero-deforestation commitments are effectively implemented. Financial institutions and businesses use inclusive, innovative business models and financing schemes, supported by appropriate policies, minimizing negative, and maximizing positive social and environmental impacts, taking the interests of all stakeholders into account; in particular those of indigenous peoples, women and youth.

Intended overall outcomes

The focus is on supporting the design and implementation of innovative business models and financing schemes that contribute to climate-smart agricultural and agroforestry production that benefits local smallholders and SMEs, resulting in, amongst others:

- Increased flows of financial resources towards sustainable, integrated forest-farm systems that avoid deforestation and forest degradation, and contribute to climate-smart landscapes.
- Fair, inclusive and equitable integration of smallholders and SMEs in commodity value chains, leading to job creation and diversification of income-generating activities.
- Implementation of financial mechanisms (incl. REDD+ and other PES schemes) that are easily accessible, promote SFM, and are gender-sensitive and socially inclusive.

In addition, the programme will focus on improved and aligned public policies and regulations on financial products and business development, promoting sustainable land use and inclusive trade.

Intended 2020 outcomes

1. Baseline inventories have identified constraints and opportunities in the landscape.
2. Stakeholders have started to engage in participatory processes that increase their involvement and say in landscape-level planning and investments, and contribute to strategies that secure land rights.
3. Climate-smart demonstration farms that are commercially viable are established.
4. Relevant authorities establish a supportive environment for community forest management and/or forestry business partnerships with private sector partners.
5. Communities/producer groups and financial institutions co-develop financial mechanisms to facilitate investments in forest-based inclusive business; and, microfinance institutions start conducting outreach and capacity building towards financial literacy and bankable (landscape) business proposals

Progress 2020

Business and Finance (B&F) is a priority theme in four countries: Ghana, Indonesia, DR Congo and Bolivia. [5] In 2020, we completed in each landscape the measurement of an agreed set of baseline indicators that characterizes the roles of smallholder and producer organizations; community forest enterprises and financial organizations in achieving climate-smart landscape goals (intended outcome #1 for 2020). With those indicators progress will be measured halfway through, and at the end of the programme.

Regarding the other intended outcomes for 2020, progress differs per country. Some partners have focused on improving the resilience of the ecosystem and production systems, whilst optimizing and diversifying income, for instance by promoting integrated agroforestry systems that are more diverse than current landcovers/production systems (e.g. in Ghana and DR Congo) (intended outcome #3 for 2020). Other partners have been working on building relationships in the enabling environment with stakeholders that include local government agencies, value chain actors as well as forest enterprises and financial organizations (intended outcome #2 for 2020), for instance by engaging with local financial institutions (FIs) and work on improved environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria for lending portfolios (e.g. in Indonesia). In all countries, collaborations with relevant authorities on developing or improving current legislation and policies (intended outcome #4 for 2020) are ongoing (some of the outcomes are reported in other sections of the progress report). Co-creation of financial mechanisms with financial institutions (intended outcome #5 for 2020) has commenced in 2020 but is yet to materialize. In Ghana, exploratory talks have taken place with local FIs and integrated agroforestry business case cost-benefit analyses were presented to test the appetite for such cases, and in Indonesia an exchange with Credit Unions has led to a different set of ESG criteria.

With the partners, we identified the need to strengthen capacities on some B&F aspects, for which we made preparations – specifically training in business case design tailored to WL propositions, and a training on pricing and marketing of wood products (for the Latin American partners). A few partners have strengthened their team with a business and/or economy expert, in particular to work with SMEs.

[5] In Ghana and Indonesia, we are also active under MoMo4C, which is complementarity to this theme in WL. Under the MoMo4C programme, calls for proposal for business cases that contribute to climate-resilient landscapes have been issued. Trainings conducted under the WL B&F thematic programme are expected to contribute to the quality of the business cases. In addition, the FFAST-AAA initiative is also focusing on Ghana.

Several WL landscape propositions emphasize multi-species agroforestry models, but the farmers and financial institutions are yet to fully embrace these systems. Therefore, we piloted (in a combined exercise with MoMo4C) the design of a 'Decision Support Tool' (DST) that can show costs and benefits, and cashflow projections, of agroforestry systems, in Ghana. The fieldwork to test the tool was interrupted in March 2020 by a Covid-19 lockdown. But still the results, albeit not validated yet, where very promising showing multiple environmental, social and financial benefits resulting from the integrated agroforestry land management strategies. Subsequently we commissioned a similar exercise for Indonesia at the end of 2020, which resulted in a complete tool, and we developed an app for use by WL staff, farmers and others (delivered in 2021).

The momentum is now building very rapidly on the Business & Finance theme and we therefore expect to show more results in 2021.



6 Gender & Youth cross-cutting theme

Thematic vision

The WL programme envisions climate-smart landscapes that offer adequate livelihood options for men, women and youth, now and in the future. In these landscapes, women and youth act as agents of change and their active involvement in landscape governance and land-use practices make efforts towards sustainable and resilient climate-smart landscapes more equitable and effective.

Intended overall outcomes

- Men, women and youth participate in land-use decisions and landscape governance on equal terms, and decisions reflect their interests.
- Men, women and youth are involved in applying sustainable land-use practices, and equally benefit from these practices, including securing access rights.
- Men, women and youth have equal access to finance, training and other development opportunities, benefit equally from the implementation of social and environmental performance standards and commitments; and are involved in value chains on equal terms.

Progress 2020

Gender & Youth team

In 2020 the gender & youth (G&Y) team consisted of gender focal points and/or directors of Suriname, Colombia, DR Congo and Indonesia. They continued to meet once a month digitally. During the first quarter of 2020 they finalized guidelines for gender and age disaggregated country baselines, based on five agreed common indicators. These guidelines were presented during a workshop for all partners. All partners then finalized their country G&Y baselines, in which non-G&Y team local partners staff were supported by G&Y team members. Based on these baselines, each country team selected its own priority G&Y issues to address, but several common obstacles and related priority issues were identified prior to the Working Landscape learning weeks in October 2020 (Table 8). During the learning weeks, strategies on how to address these obstacles and priority issues were discussed and documented.

Table 8. Common obstacles and priority issues related to gender and youth

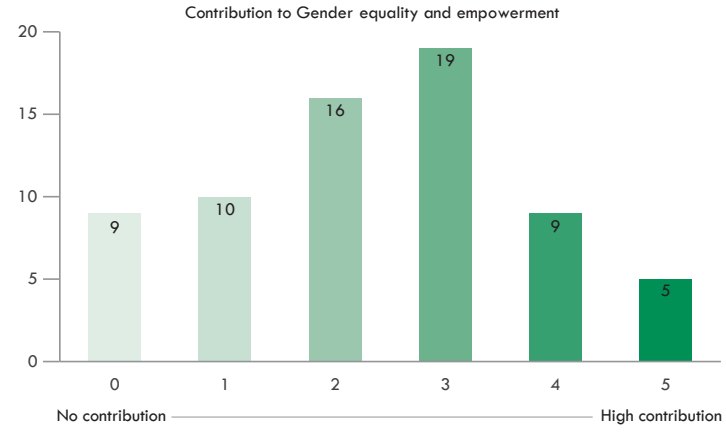
Resistance/obstacle	Related priority issue
Social norms and values, and traditional male leadership	Secure participation ('voices heard') of women and youth in processes towards formalization of land tenure rights
Low self-esteem, self-confidence and/or capacity to participate	Capacity strengthening of women and youth (F/M) to participate meaningfully in discussions and decisions on land use
Low participation/interest of youth in agricultural and environmental issues, and restrictions for young women	Creating income generating opportunities for youth related to climate-smart natural resource use and governance

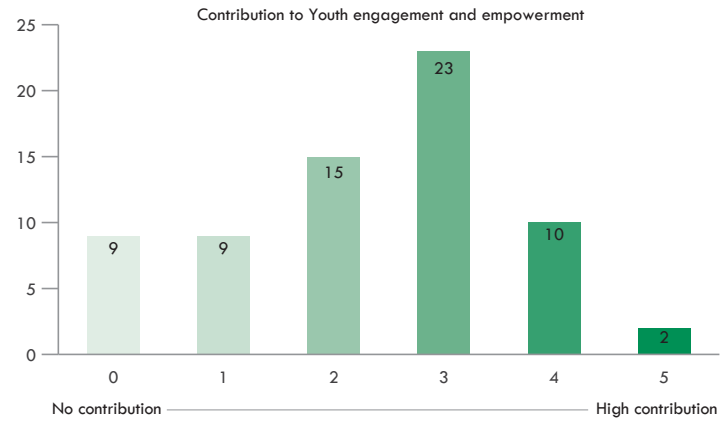
Country results

All partners are very conscious about the need for gender equality and youth engagement, and actively pursue the engagement of women, and were possible youth, in all activities, working groups, task forces, governance bodies, etc. Although all country teams addressed both, some (e.g., those in Bolivia and Viet Nam) put slightly more emphasis on gender equality, while others (e.g., those in DR Congo, Suriname and Indonesia) put slightly more emphasis on youth engagement.

The country teams assessed their harvested outcomes on their contribution to gender equality and youth engagement on a scale of 0 (no contribution) to 5 (very high contribution). Figure 4 presents the results of this self-assessment.

Figure 4. Harvested outcomes' contributions to gender equality and youth engagement (2020)





Out of a total of 68 outcomes, nine scored 'high' and four scored 'very high' on their contribution to gender equality and women empowerment. This included outcomes that gave men and women equal opportunities in natural resources related income-generating activities and/or training activities. For example, in Bolivia women outnumbered men in financial trainings. In Viet Nam, women participated on an equal basis in workshops with other landscape stakeholders. This was the result of dedicated efforts to identify women's specific interests as well as targeted information dissemination for women, prior to such workshops. In Indonesia, the inclusion of women in the boards of Village Forest Management Groups was actively promoted. And in Colombia existing gender and youth platforms were reactivated, and women and youth were given leading roles in discussions on food security, watershed management and climate change adaptation.

For youth, 12 out of 68 outcomes contributed to a high extent to more youth engagement and empowerment. In several countries this was the result of actively including youth in sustainable income generation opportunities in the

agroforestry and forestry sectors. In Indonesia it also included dedicated efforts to engage youth in forest patrols, fire prevention and participatory mapping.

All partners are dedicated and investing staff time in improving gender equality and ensuring women and youth engagement in their activities. They all have developed (or are developing) G&Y policies and strategies. Yet, the need is felt for a more systematic network-wide planning and reporting approach in relation to the G&Y baseline indicators, main obstacles and priority issues, and to identify, exchange and communicate more on success stories and strategies.



7 Drylands

A dryland restoration coordinator was recruited in February 2020 for the 'Dryland countries' component of the Working Landscape programme. This had a two pronged approach, to (i) establish a country programme in Ethiopia, and (ii) document landscape restoration more broadly across a range of dryland countries.

Arrangement for a scoping visit to Ethiopia in March had to be cancelled due to the outbreak of Covid-19. Discussions were held with Dutch organizations and others regarding leading experts and potential partners, and eventually, the regional NGO, the Pastoralist and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA), was selected to conduct an inception review. This was led by Mitiku Hailu, of Mekelle University and PENHA Senior Associate. and a respected expert on restoration in Ethiopia.

The inception review was completed in July 2020, and published (Landscape restoration in Ethiopia's drylands - Tropenbos International). This identified the 'Top 20 challenges' to dryland restoration in Ethiopia, which were prioritized, and clearly formed the basis for further work. And after PENHA's NGO registration was approved by the Government of Ethiopia and they took up an office in Addis Ababa, PENHA was contracted as interim country partner for six months (October 2020 – March 2021). A target landscape was identified in eastern Tigray and northeastern Afar. The outbreak of locusts followed by war, floods and famine, meant that focus was shifted to planning for national-level activities in 2021. However, Prof Mitiku, based in Tigray, was still able to undertake field assessments, leading to the identification of a provisional working landscape. The unrest in the region led us to hold a decision for establishing a field programme until a later moment. PENHA's other lead staff conducted a wide range of interviews in Addis Ababa in October/November. These clearly highlighted a huge gap, and need for, more coordination regarding dryland development. The programme was accepted by all with open arms. Plans then began to be made for a national workshop in April 2021, leading to the establishment of national dryland restoration platform that would produce a draft national strategy within the year.

In parallel, through 2020, continued the processes of documenting dryland restoration experiences and successes across the Sahel and Greater Horn of Africa. This resulted in the publication in December 2020, of 'Restoring African Drylands', as the latest edition of ETFRN News (ETFRN news 60: Restoring African Drylands - Tropenbos International), containing 36 contributions (24 full articles, 4 high-level interviews, and 8 'inbriefs'), with the preface co-signed by René Boot and Ibrahim Thiaw, UNCCD Executive Secretary. A print run was made for distribution in 2021.



8 Assumptions

Chapters 7-9 contain reflections on the progress report in the previous chapters and the detailed country reports. Four general assumptions underlie the WL programme. We are regularly monitoring their validity as well as those underlying the country ToCs during biannual Learning and Reflection meetings both at country level and at programme level. After two years of implementation, we have gathered the following evidence about their validity.

Assumption 1: NDCs are key policy frameworks for countries to align and optimise their climate-related policies and initiatives.

The experiences so far indicate that NDCs are our best bet to ensure the mainstreaming of climate-smart policies at the national level in the programme countries. In all countries the role of trees and forests has been recognized, in particular in relation to reduced emissions and increased absorption of carbon. However, the situation varies by country, as reported in Chapter 5.1. In some countries, like Ghana, the government agency responsible for the NDC is strong, and has been able to develop linkages with other government agencies. In other countries, like Colombia, the NDC revision process is more isolated, and not well aligned with other climate and environmental policies. In DR Congo, compared with other (forest) policy processes, the NDC process seems not yet powerful enough as a framework for mainstreaming climate-smart policies. Although NDC revisions are important, we concluded that the WL programme should also pay attention to its link with national adaptation plans (NAP) and NDC and NAP implementation at the local level, in terms of improved policies, greater inclusivity, capacities, plans, and budgets. This is expressed by efforts to collaborate with regional entities on NDC implementation, as reported by Viet Nam. Plans to take NDC officials in the field (in, e.g., Bolivia) did not materialise due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Assumption 2: If local people—and particularly women and marginalised groups—are involved in decision-making processes, they are in a better position to protect their interests.

We see some evidence that increased participation of women in forest governance bodies enables them to influence decisions in a way that protects their interests. In Indonesia, for example, women were found to influence decisions of village forest committees, by emphasizing the value of species they use for subsistence purposes. However, more evidence is needed to truly validate the assumption. Clearly, the extent to which local actors are able to protect their interests, depends on *how* they are involved in decision-making processes. After all, they may be involved, but not listened to. Under the WL programme, TBI members and partners are therefore not only facilitating the participation of local actors in multi-stakeholder dialogues, but also building their capacity, so they feel empowered and confident to raise their voice in such settings.

Assumption 3: Providing decision makers with reliable and relevant information will improve their decisions.

Under the WL programme, some TBI members and partners have been able to improve decisions by providing decision makers with evidence-based information. This has been accomplished through national-level multi-stakeholder processes (e.g. Tropenbos Ghana facilitated a multi-stakeholder platform to provide input to a draft

bill on the Riparian Buffer Zones policy in Ghana), as well as through lobby and advocacy (e.g. IBIF influenced the Bolivian government to issue a new decree in 2020 that allows the use of low-cost and low-impact logging technologies). However, the success of such efforts is never guaranteed. In addition to access to reliable and relevant information, a number of other factors influence decision-making, including the personal political and economic interests of those who make the decisions. To increase the influence of information, it is important to look for windows of opportunities, and to form coalitions to pressure for change. In some countries, there are national platforms that facilitate the exchange of information with decision makers, such as the National Environmental Forum in Colombia. This offers possibilities to disseminate information and discuss with the relevant actors, and our experience is that it has a real impact on relevant policies.

Assumption 4: Dialogue between stakeholders improves the quality of decision making, as it ensures that diverse and conflicting interests are considered, and that each actor contributes knowledge.

At the landscape level, we experience that multi-stakeholder dialogues have been able to reduce tensions between stakeholders, providing the basis for collaboration and improved (mutual) decision-making (e.g. through inter-cultural exchanges between peasants and indigenous communities in Colombia). Experiences in Ghana indicate that multi-stakeholder dialogues can also improve the quality of decisions at national level. However, the extent to which dialogue improves decisions depends on the ability of various stakeholders to contribute relevant information, as well as on existing power relations. It is therefore necessary to have preconditions in place before embarking on multi-stakeholder dialogues, by building the capacity of less powerful stakeholders.



9 Risks

During the development of the programme a number of risks were identified, both at the level of individual country programmes and the programme as a whole. Regarding programme-level risks, we distinguished between contextual, programmatic and organizational risks. Below we reflect on the ways in which these risks manifested themselves in 2020, and how TBI members and partners have addressed them.

9.1 Contextual risks

The Covid-19 pandemic, and regulations to slow down the spread of the virus, have affected the landscapes where we work and our target groups. In Bolivia, for example, some of the indigenous communities in the WL landscape were hit hard by the pandemic, and several instituted voluntary isolation (see Annex 1). In Ethiopia, Covid-19 led to the return of hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians from the Middle East, putting enormous pressure on land resources. In some of the landscapes, the crisis resulted in a relaxation of monitoring and law enforcement, leading to a rise in illegal activities.

So far, in terms of policy level responses, we have not seen major diversion of donor and government attention and resources from climate change adaptation and mitigation towards rapid economic recovery at the expense of forested landscapes and smallholders/local communities. However, we did see some Covid-19-inspired policy responses (such as the adoption of the Indonesian Omnibus Bill, passed on 5 October 2020), that emphasise quick economic recovery or reduce participation in decision making, which may affect the potential for success of the programme.

The pandemic also affected our operations: larger national and international events were cancelled; there was no international travel; and local travel into the landscapes was also stalled or severely restricted. Group activities (workshops, trainings, consultations) came to a halt, and when they resumed, this was done with limited participation and under strict protocols. This affected implementation of the workplans (least in Viet Nam and most seriously in Latin America). We did also adapt by publishing a series of articles and interviews representing local voices from our landscapes, and organised a seminar on forests and pandemics for DGIS and LNV (see Annex 1), and by prioritising activities based on documentation, writing up experiences and desk-top analysis.

In response to Covid-19 and its restrictions, TBI and partners have adopted remote forms of collaboration, and partners have included zoom-based webinars as a key collaboration and dissemination strategy, including even in some remote communities. Partners have internalized Covid-19-proof operational procedures in their interactions with communities and other large groups. They have also strengthened their local presence in the communities (e.g. by posting staff in field locations and recruiting local people to collect data), which provides a better starting point for continued work in the case of renewed lockdowns.

In some cases, new modes of communication and exchange proved successful. Tropenbos Indonesia, for example, managed to greatly increase its outreach through online biweekly webinars, attended by many hundreds of professionals from government agencies, universities and NGOs from all corners of the country. At the level of the

TBI network, we started having regular online meetings with all members, which has strengthened the network and enhanced the exchange of knowledge and experiences.

Limited amounts of Covid-related expenditure are reported. Apart from the time associated with risk assessment, documenting field evidence of Covid-19 impacts and organising a seminar, several programmes have responded to requests by local communities to provide medical supplies and food supplies, and provide basic Covid-19 information. This has happened in Colombia, Bolivia, Suriname, Ghana and DR Congo. TBI's policy has been to encourage partners to leave emergency aid to specialized agencies, but we realized that in the communities where we work (sometimes as the only NGO present) we can't leave people on their own.

Related to the risk of war and armed conflicts, the WL programme was faced with an outbreak of an armed conflict in Tigray, which is part of the intended Ethiopian focus landscape. The conflict has resulted in horrific atrocities, loss of life, damage to infrastructure, and months without electricity and internet. This stalled the establishment of an on-the-ground programme in Ethiopia. In response, we delayed developing the field programme, and focussed more on documentation, analytical work and policy-oriented strategies, and managed to secure high-level engagement of national government agencies and other stakeholders, resulting in their support to our programme ambitions.

Some degree of conflict has persisted in Colombia as well, and insecurity in the WL focus landscape has increased (among others due to renewed plans for fumigation by the government), necessitating Tropenbos Colombia to implement various security measures for staff and communities. Other than that, this has not substantially affected the programme's implementation.

9.2 Programmatic and organizational risks

In organizational terms, TBI members and partners have had to manage multiple programmes at the same time. (e.g., WL, GLA, and MoMO4C). This sometimes caused a strain on staff capacity, but in general WL staff indicated that the challenges in terms of staff capacity have so far been manageable. Involvement in multiple programmes also involves risks related to overlap, unclear attribution of results to programmes and potential administrative clutter. We managed to mitigate overlap by ensuring clarity of delineation between programmes, whereby WL is oriented at designing practical integrated solutions for climate-smart landscapes, with a focus on collaboration with authorities and private sector, and an emphasis on topics such as NDCs, agrocommodities, restoration, and business and finance. Attribution is addressed along these similar lines, and this is emphasized in PMEL exercises. Administrative clutter has been reduced by ensuring standardization in reporting and planning formats and aligning PMEL systems and cycles.

The decision to develop both country and thematic programmes involves both opportunities and risks. Thematic programmes were specifically developed to provide focus and coherence to the potentially scattered country programmes. However, there is a risk that thematic programmes compete with (rather than sustain) the country programmes, and distract partner staff from the landscape projects. It took some time before the interplay between countries and themes became smooth; this was greatly assisted by the institution of a regular network-wide exchange and learning programme.

Finally, in terms of organizational risks, we did not experience insufficient financial and administrative capacity, fraud, or corruption. Local audit reports did not report irregularities. We did not lodge reports on irregularities with DGIS in 2020. We strengthened a number of organisational policies, including our whistle blower policy.



10 Programme organization and learning

In 2020, the WL programme has made important strides on joint learning and knowledge exchange. It strengthened learning at different levels, including thematic and regional learning, network-wide learning within TBI, and learning across organizations implementing landscape programmes.

10.1 Network-wide approach

The WL programme is implemented by a network of seven country teams and a quartermaster team in the new country Ethiopia. The country teams closely work together with a core team of country and theme coordinators at Tropenbos International. The core team looks after focus and coherence of the WL programme, and ensures a programme-wide emphasis on its main rationale (i.e. addressing the climate crisis through a greater role of forest and trees). In 2020, we improved programme-wide focus and coherence in a number of ways: Partly in response to the suspension of programme missions, we organized biweekly online network sessions for all staff involved in WL, to discuss progress and share methodologies and experiences. The great benefit was that we were thus able to involve a much larger proportion of staff in discussions about topics relevant to the WL programme (including staff from TBI partners that are not participating in the programme). In addition, the two annual 'planning, learning and reflection events' evolved into interactive, focused online learning sessions extending over two weeks and involving many staff from all countries.

10.2 Thematic and regional learning

Following the start of the country programmes in 2019, four thematic programmes (and the Gender and Youth theme) were created to foster mutual learning on shared issues. Each theme is coordinated by a multi-country team and takes turns to share knowledge with the other network members and partners — using the biweekly meetings as the main platform. In addition, we organized specific learning sessions with external partners, such as lunch meetings with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (e.g. on the relationship between pandemics and deforestation), and thematic sessions on landscape finance during seminars of the Global Landscape Forum (GLA) and the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA). Each thematic programme addressed specific learning needs that were identified together with stakeholders in the landscapes and the wider Tropenbos network. For example, in the NDC team, WL country teams in Indonesia and Ghana shared their experiences on participatory village-level vulnerability assessments with the other countries. And together with FTA and the MoMo4C programme we launched a series of case studies to learn from existing local financial mechanisms on potential strategies to reduce production, market and financial risks for small scale farm and forest producers.

Within the WL programme, country teams pursue cross-country learning within their own region, especially when they work on similar topics. The country teams in Latin America, for example, identified the governance of locally-owned or managed territories by indigenous people in Colombia and Bolivia and the Saamaka Maroon tribe in Suriname as an issue of common interest, on which they plan to work together. The Latin American country teams have also been preparing for a joint training on pricing and marketing of wood products (under the Business and Finance thematic programme).

10.3 Learning across organizations

In 2020 managers of TBI, WWF, Solidaridad and Commonland established a group focused on mutual learning. The group meets about every two months and agreed to jointly develop an informal learning platform to accelerate learning, develop capacity and build a network across partners. Together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this group will look for opportunities to develop a robust collaborative learning platform where WL will be connected to the overall learning approach that the Ministry is developing. The collaboration should improve synergies between organizations and foster joint learning from the various programmes and initiatives they are running. Especially where they work in the same countries the collaboration should enable them to identify and address issues of common interest and concern.



11 Final remarks

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic seemed to slow everything down, except forest loss. More than 12 million hectares of tree cover in the tropics disappeared during the year. In some remote areas, Covid-19 measures resulted in a decrease in law enforcement, triggering opportunistic behaviour by actors looking to convert forested lands for agriculture. And it is feared that the economic downturn caused by the pandemic will encourage governments to cut budgets for environmental protection and to favour the expansion of agrocommodities, further speeding up deforestation. It makes our work to promote climate-smart landscapes all the more urgent.

In the face of this challenging situation, the WL programme adjusted but also achieved many of the planned results.

In the field, we have clear indications that stakeholders appreciate the programme and the way it addresses the role of smallholders and communities in climate-smart landscapes. This shows from formal requests for collaboration, the adoption of some of the ideas in higher level policies and the participation of local communities in our activities. This has led to promising engagements in multi-stakeholder dialogues close to the policy making processes, e.g., in Ghana and Colombia, and we now need to turn this momentum into an influence on the decisions made.

Gradually, the WL programme is getting a foot in the door with the ministries responsible for the NDCs: most countries have problems implementing their NDCs and several governments have approached our national partners to support them, by helping them to set up platforms for greater consultation (Ghana), or by providing direct recommendations for the text of the revised NDC (Bolivia, Suriname), while other governments have expressed their interest in the programme's activities, eager to obtain evidence from climate-smart implementation of agro- and forestry activities (Bolivia, Indonesia and Vietnam).

As a programme, we are progressing on our ambition to establish a reputation (through the ETFRN News on Restoring African Drylands) and a foothold (through our partnership with PENHA in Ethiopia) on dryland restoration. The Covid crisis drove us to electronic means to communicate, but this has paid off in a closer and more engaged network, that involves a greater proportion of staff across the world.

With programmes developing on the ground, the thematic programmes have begun to provide a lens on shared accomplishments and challenges, and thus started to lift each landscape programme out of its local context and towards a coherent, field tested and network wide response to some of the great issues of our times.

Annex: Summary of the impacts of the Corona crisis on TBI

Based on an interim assessment dd 7 July 2020

Status of corona in TBI programme countries

All programmes are affected by Corona and measures to address it, to a greater or smaller extent.

In Viet Nam, Corona hit early and normalcy has been restored even though certain restrictions continue to apply. To an extent this also applies to the Netherlands.

In five programmes the occurrence of Corona is reported to be intensifying. Nevertheless, all countries except Colombia (until September) indicate that government measures to contain the spread are being relaxed – mainly because it is economically or socially not feasible to remain in lockdown. In addition to government-imposed lockdowns, in Bolivia and Colombia the communities where we work impose self-isolation and limit traffic and movements into their territories.

Implications for programme activities

In all this means that in all programmes, staff work fully (Colombia, Suriname) or mostly (Bolivia, Indonesia, Wageningen) from home, while in DR Congo and Viet Nam people work from the office or mostly so (Ghana). This situation changes continuously; e.g., in Viet Nam, Ghana and Indonesia normal activities have resumed on April 23rd, June 1st and July 1st, respectively.

In four programmes (Latin America, Indonesia), there is no physical access to the programme landscapes, while elsewhere it is possible to travel there and interact with communities. Only there and where there is on-site staff (Bolivia, Indonesia, Ghana), the work can continue to a certain extent, and respecting health protocols. The Colombia programme works with local researchers, and that work has continued. In all cases there is a lot of interaction by phone, sometimes zoom, and, exceptionally, by writing letters (DR Congo).

In most countries, larger gatherings have been forbidden, and this has affected the implementation of meetings, events and trainings. Most of these have been put on hold or have been cancelled. In Ghana there is also a limit to the duration of meetings.

In Viet Nam and DR Congo face-to face meetings with authorities or other organizations continue, while in the other programmes, these have been replaced by phone contacts or zoom meetings. In general, the number of such meetings has decreased or even stopped.

The mode of work changed – with activities much more task and output based than before, and much more time spent on supervision and checking progress and quality of the work. This applies to office staff working from home, but also work with staff located on site or consultants and partners.

Implications for programme goals

Overwhelmingly, corona has upended workplans. In general, all field operations and all activities involving larger groups of people have been put on hold at least temporarily.

Although access to communities and landscapes has generally be restricted, in practice most programmes have found ways to continue at least some of those activities, often in a modified way. This is achieved through locally based staff, by frequent interaction through phone or zoom (Bolivia), by working through community-based organizations or local people.

To a much greater extent, activities requiring the involvement of local leaders, subnational or national government representatives have suffered. Such meetings no longer happen. Only after senior programme staff can travel to the landscapes or (provincial) capitals it will be possible to resume such activities. Limitations were mentioned for Indonesia, Suriname, Ghana, Colombia, Bolivia and DR Congo, and it will affect the achievement of outcomes at a policy level, or agreements on collaboration etc. In Ghana, the Chief Executive of the Forestry Commission passed away due to corona, demonstrating the impact of the corona crisis on the policy process and the limitations that this presents for achieving some of the outcomes.

It was also mentioned that it was harder to reach civil servants if they don't attend physical meetings and the benefits that are associated with it (allowance for attendance, free lunch, etc). In Indonesia, it was observed that civil servants don't consider it a part of their job to consult CSOs like TBI about the design of policies. They do if CSOs take the initiative to involve them in meetings etc., but these have come to a standstill. In practice, this has led to the closing of the policy space that used to be available to contribute to policy development. This has affected several planned activities. In Ghana it is observed that officials who 'know' Tropenbos still seek input and support, but it is harder to reach less well known officials.

However, examples of the opposite are also provided. For instance, in Colombia TBI was involved in organizing a series of 15 webinars attracting 1000s of participants, intended to directly provide input in the new Forest Policy. The Minister participated actively in all these meetings. Without Corona this intensity and level of interaction would never have been achieved, while it is likely that the impact will be larger than initially anticipated.

There are instances where these restrictions did not stand in the way of achieving results. The DR Congo programme managed to complete administrative requirements for the recognition of 10 community forestry concessions entirely by phone.

Adaptation

The constraints associated with work at home and reduced access to field sites and key stakeholders have led to adjusted ways of work throughout the programme.

Online meetings have taken a flight especially within the Tropenbos programmes and Tropenbos network itself, but also with government and NGO partners. Only to a limited extent, zoom proves useful to reach local people (especially in Bolivia). In Ghana, the cost of airtime and the high consumption of data associated with zoom limits people's appetite to participate in online meetings. So far, the programme has not yet started to pay compensation for those costs but it is considering it.

Where physical meetings are still (or once again) possible, they are divided in smaller sessions that are repeated frequently (Ghana)

Staff used the time 'at home' to bring forward preparatory work (development of manuals, preparation of ToRs, identification of consultants and partners for planned activities) and they focused on documentation and publication, of Policy/Infobriefs, news, videos, scientific reports, technical manuals). Most PDs state they are well prepared to start off once the restrictions are lifted. Some noted there has been more time for internal discussions and collaborative thinking on strategy.

Some PDs reported that more could be achieved with local staff, local people who were tasked with certain activities or CBOs than they anticipated, e.g., in Colombia. This applies to certain type of activities, and it requires intense supervision, but the results were good.

For the longer term, the corona crisis has taught us some valuable lessons:

- More work can be organized through electronic means, and from home (in most of TBI's partners in the South, work from home was not a very usual way of work). Remote activities sometimes yield surprising results (DR Congo).
- Zoom has allowed a certain democratization of events including policy making events, by enabling participation of remote participants in those places where adequate internet facilities are available (Bolivia).
- Zoom to an extent can replace (bi)annual internal learning and reflection meetings and allows a broader participation.
- Investment in local and on the ground staff (or local partners) reduces programme vulnerability and increases its relevance. The quality can still be delivered, provided adequate supervision is possible. A strong local presence makes even more sense in countries like Bolivia, where road blocks and civil protests often limit access to project sites.
- On the other hand, where policy space is constricted in response to emergencies, it may make sense to invest in lobbyists or similar permanent staff located near government centres to maintain access to policy shaping processes (Indonesia).
- Output oriented work stimulates staff (Suriname).

Additional Corona initiatives

As a programme, TBI responded in two main ways to Corona:

We published a range of local voices: interviews and short videos where local people from the communities where we work relate about the impact of corona on their lives and livelihoods (https://www.tropenbos.org/news/the+effects+of+covid-19+measures+on+rural+communities and links therein).

Second, we organized a seminar for staff of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture on the relation forests-wildlife-epidemics. The seminar featured presentations from TBI, CIFOR, WWF and a virologist from Erasmus University. It was attended by 80 Ministry staff.

A closer network

At a network level, corona spurred a rapid adoption of teleconferencing, specifically between network partners. We now organize biweekly network updates, no longer 'just' about corona but increasing addressing topical issues and serving a learning agenda. We are moving to further structure this and keep it as a good result of a bad period.