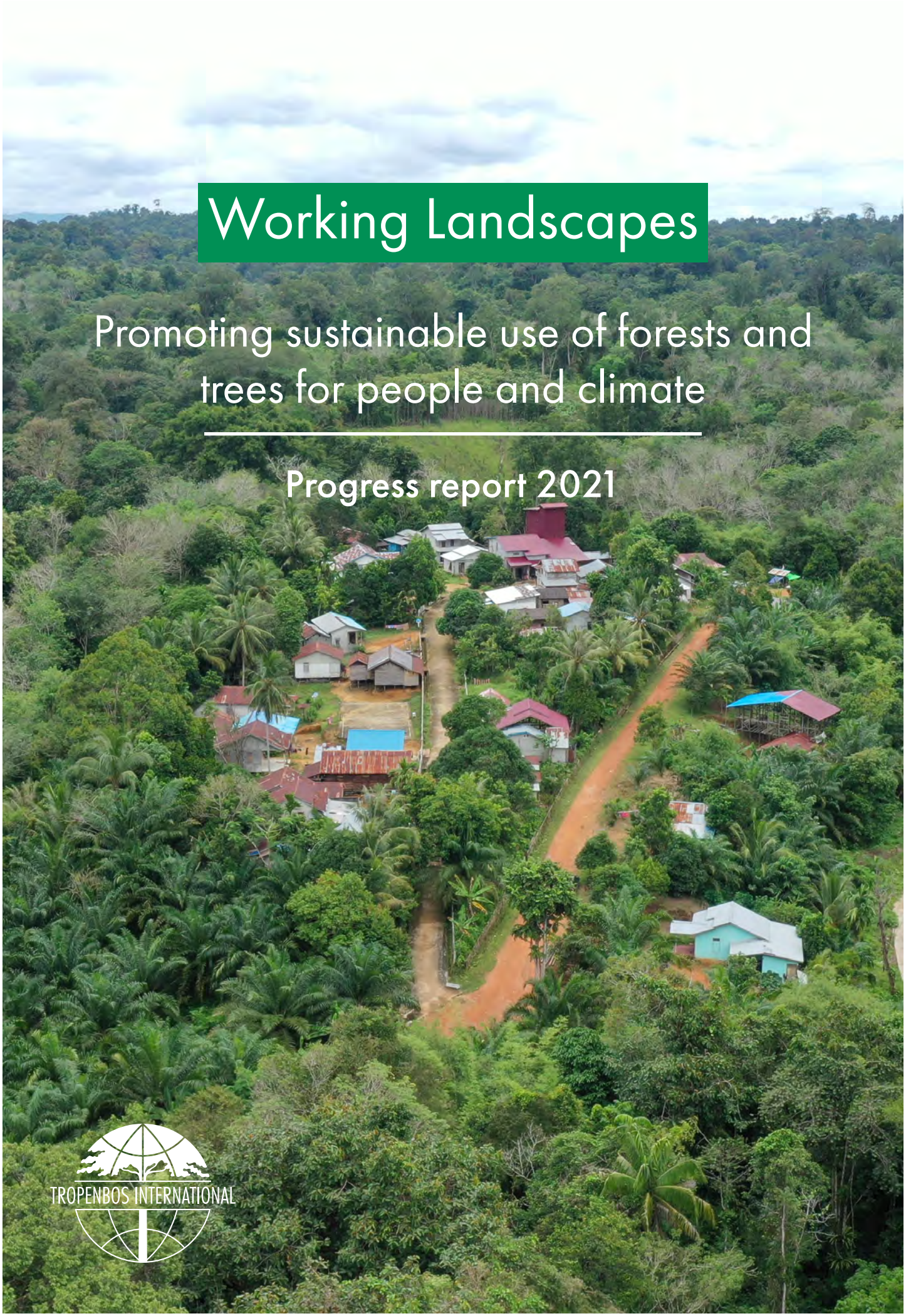
Working Landscapes

Promoting sustainable use of forests and trees for people and climate

Progress report 2021



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Annual progress report 2020: Working Landscapes Programme. Promoting sustainable use of forests and trees for people and climate — Activity 4000002173 / Agreement 6003552 as amended on 4 August 2021

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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

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1 Introduction

This document reports on the progress in 2021 of the 'Working Landscapes Programme. Promoting sustainable use of forests and trees for people and climate', implemented by Tropenbos International (activity 4000002173; agreement 6003552 as amended on 4 August 2021).

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 started, and a programme on dry lands was developed, with a focus on Ethiopia. In 2021 programme implementation came up to speed, despite delays caused by Covid-19. In 2021 we also added a new programme on wildfires and started implementing this in Bolivia and Indonesia.

In this report we summarize the progress made in 2021. 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), the drylands programme (chapter 7) and the wildfire subprogramme (chapter 8). This is followed by short reflections on the main assumptions (chapter 9) and risks (chapter 10), as well as on learning (Chapter 11). Detailed progress reports are available for each country and lodged on IATI.

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.

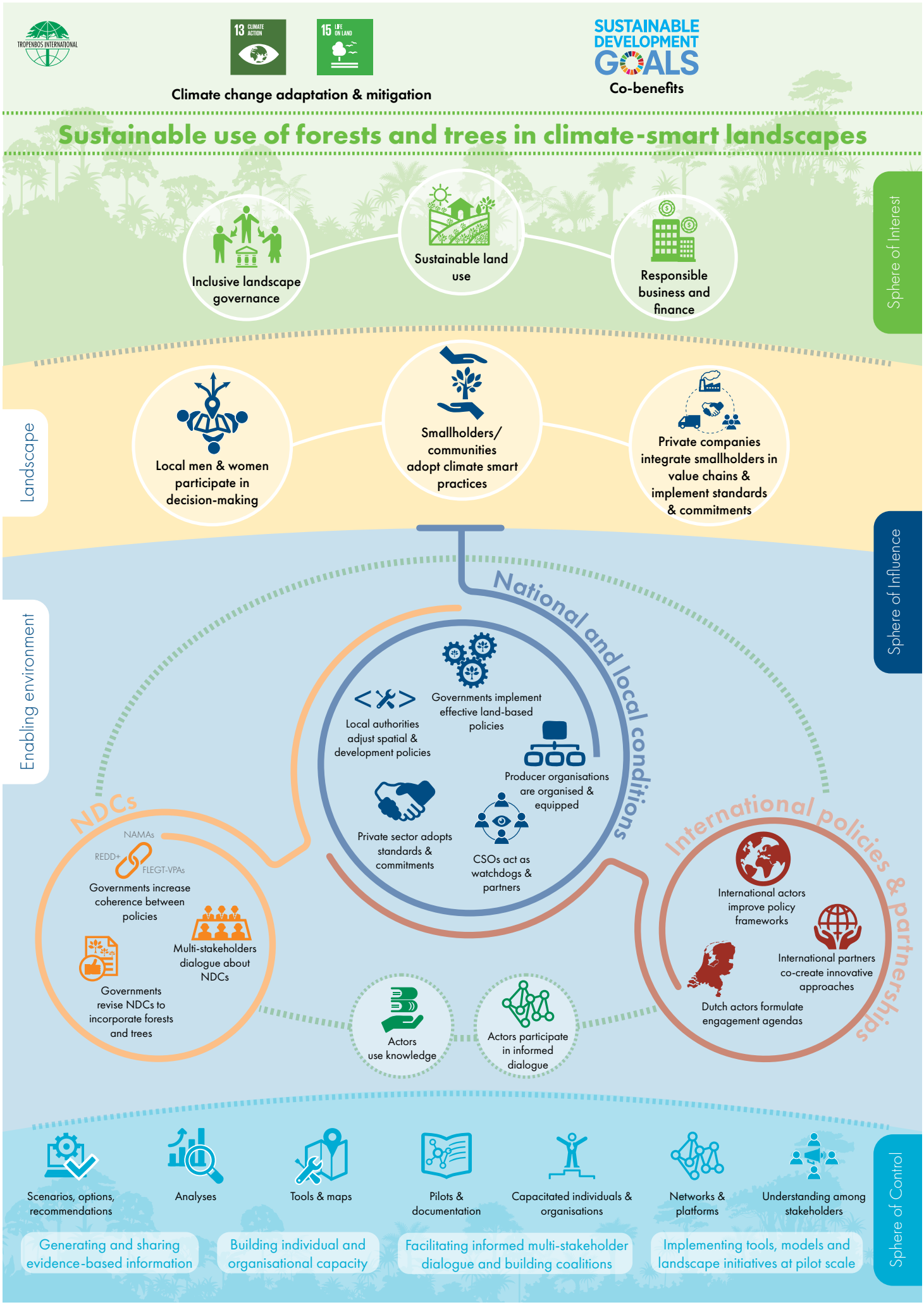


Figure 1. Theory of Change

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.

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. 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 member, 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.

3 Progress in 2021 at a glance

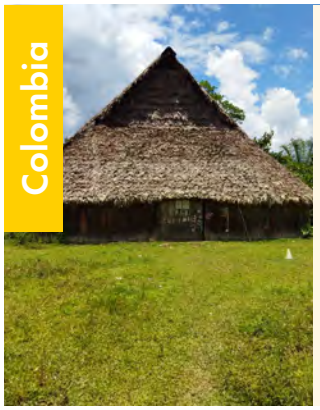
The year 2021 was the third year of operation of the WL programme. While in previous years there was an emphasis on coalition building for our landscape propositions and on the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms, in 2021 these efforts started to pay off. The various partners have been reporting outcomes showing that they are making headway with realizing their climate-smart landscape visions, and WL's climate-smart landscape propositions are gradually starting to become tangible. Figure 2 shows some examples of the types of outcomes we achieved in the various WL countries.

Box 1: Types of outcomes and interventions
Partners reported about 80 qualitative outcomes. Figure 3 shows the outcomes per pillar of the WL programme (Inclusive governance, sustainable practices, and responsible business & finance). Figure 4 shows the types of interventions. About 70% of the interventions had an element of capacity building contributing to accomplishing the outcome, and 56% had 'dialogue and coalition building'. Outcomes resulting from 'lobby and advocacy' remain a minority (26% of outcomes). Most outcomes were reported in 'Sustainable practices' (56%), followed by 'Inclusive Governance' (40%), and only a few in 'Responsible business and finance' (13%; some outcomes are in multiple categories). In 2021, the WL programme included approximately 10,000 people in trainings, workshops and multi-stakeholder meetings, and produced 20 publications to share information with a wider audience.

Significant **outcomes** achieved in **2021**

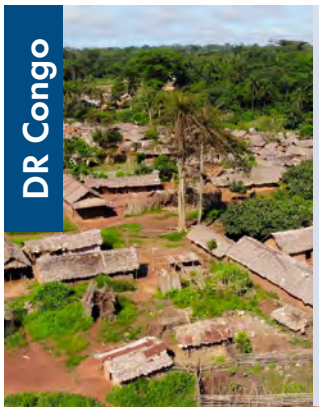
Updated NDC

Bolivia's government added targets for the reduction of wildfires in its **updated NDC.**



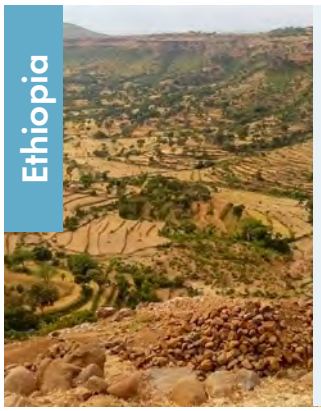
Halt deforestation

Citizens of Solano convinced the local government to include the Participatory Productive Restoration approach as part of its strategy to halt deforestation across **4 million hectares**.



Community forest concessions

Ten communities in Bafwasende completed the application process for community forest concessions, **covering 435,000 hectares**.



National dryland restoration strategy

Government agencies and other national and regional stakeholders agreed on a **national dryland restoration strategy.**

Savings groups

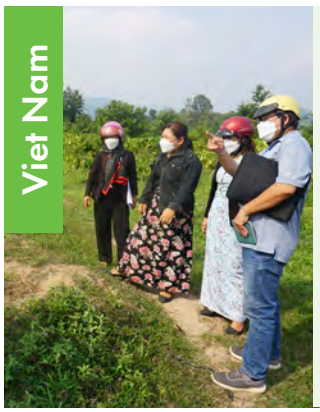
Investments in climate-smart practices were made possible by 12 newly established and female-dominated community savings groups in the Juabeso-Bia and Sefwi-Wiawso landscapes.

Village Forest

The government formally awarded over **7,500 hectares of Village Forest** to Pematang Gadung community.

Participatory planning

Eight villages completed participatory planning of over **8,000 hectares** of forested lands in Saamaka territory.



Women-led restoration

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development started supporting **women-led restoration** in Dak Lak Province.

In 2021, the WL programme included **~10,000 people in trainings**, workshops and multi-stakeholder meetings, and **20 publications** for national and international audiences.

Figure 2. Significant outcomes achieved in 2021

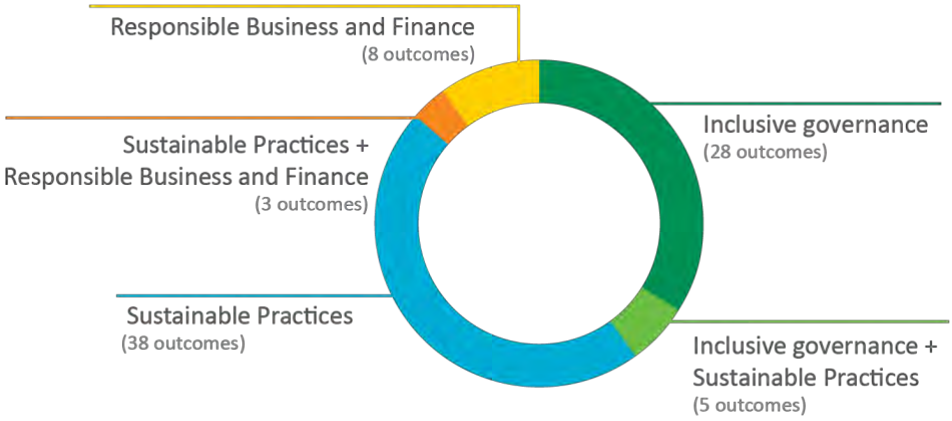


Figure 3. Outcomes per WL programme pillar

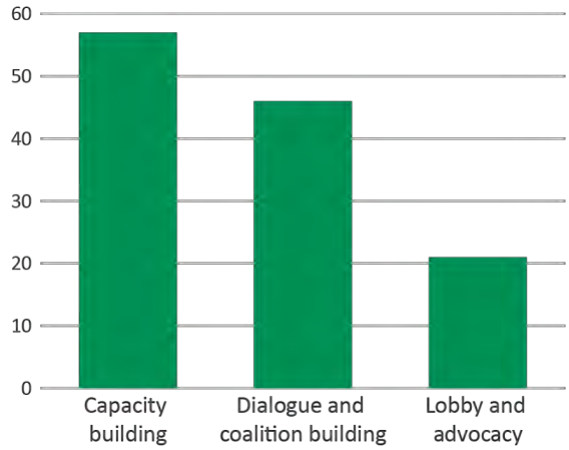


Figure 4. Types of interventions leading to the recorded outcomes of 2021

Key performance indicators

In 2019, a baseline was established for two quantitative key performance indicators (KPIs): "Area affected by improved climate-smart landscape practices" and "Number of beneficiaries impacted by improved climate-smart landscape practices." Each was then broken down in sub-indicators, related to the three dimensions of climate-smart landscape solutions: inclusive governance, sustainable practices, and responsible business and finance. We distinguished between direct and indirect (landscape-scale) impacts, as well as impacts beyond the landscape. In 2021 we assessed progress on all KPIs, except for those related to impacts beyond the landscape. Table 1 shows the results of this assessment per sub-indicator.

Table 1: The KPIs and sub-KPIs, which are interpretations of the KPIs for specific conditions encountered in the WL landscapes. Which sub-KPIs are measured depends on landscape-specific propositions and intervention strategies.

Area directly and indirectly affected by improved climate-smart landscape practices (hectares)	**5,636,400**
KPI#0. Forest cover	Not assessed in 2021
KPI#1. Area that has been restored or reforested	22,400
KPI#2. Area under improved smallholder agroforestry and community forestry	1,115,000
KPI#3. Area under improved environmental and social standards	468,300
KPI#4. Area under improved company commitments	34,500
KPI#5. Area under local control	7,100
KPI#6. Area subject to more inclusive governance and participatory planning (landscape approaches, participatory land use plans)	5,359,400
Number of beneficiaries directly and indirectly impacted by improved climate-smart landscape practices (# people)	**93,600** ***(28,300 adult women; 24,900 adult men; 17,000 young women; 23,400 young men)***
KPI#7. Number of men and women with improved access to forest and tree resources	20,900
KPI#8. Number of men and women that adopted climate-smart practices and management	5,200
KPI#9. Number of men and women who benefitted from inclusive landscape governance initiatives*	67,200
KPI#10. Number of men and women included in inclusive business arrangements	1,000

* KPI#9 used to be "number of men and women involved in inclusive landscape governance initiatives", but this formulation caused confusion among WL partners about whether to include the number of people living in the area subject to more inclusive governance and participatory planning. To address this, "involved in" was changed to "who benefitted from".

A direct comparison of KPI data is wrought with pitfalls and provisos, but some trends emerge:

- KPIs related to improved governance tend to be large or even very large, followed by improved practices and finally responsible business.
- Improved community forestry practices apply to much larger areas than improved agricultural practices, but not to more people.
- The reported KPIs are highly skewed between subtype and between countries. In part, this is due to data consistency issues that still need further addressing.
- The programme in DR Congo reached young men in particular (22,800), and had a total number of beneficiaries that surpassed that of all other countries combined (64,000). In all other countries, the WL programme has impacted more women than men, and more adults than youth.

Overall, reported area KPIs so far add up to about 50% of the aspirational target, but there is still much variation between landscapes. Additional efforts will be required in the final years of the programme to meet the targets, in particular for the people-based KPIs, as these are lagging behind (although this may also be caused by data consistency issues). In October we dedicated our learning week to discussing scaling strategies, and we will focus one component of our mid-term review on scaling and achieving indirect effects.

Challenges and resistance
The KPIs begin to show evidence of the programme's impact, but these are just numbers. Other signs, and food for thought, are provided when WL's climate-smart propositions meet some resistance. On the one hand this can show imperfect stakeholder analysis or participation. On the other hand, it may imply that changes start to happen, that they have an impact, and that they challenge the status quo. In DR Congo, for example, some traditional leaders are resisting the governance innovations that come with the Community Forestry Concessions. Such cases prompt reflection – in order to distinguish between the two possible types of explanation for the phenomenon, and to mitigate possible negative impacts.

Progress on integrating the three elements of climate-smart landscape models
The WL programme assumes that successful climate-smart landscape models always integrate at least three elements: inclusive governance, sustainable practices and responsible business and finance. Once an element is missing, the model is likely to be incomplete and not sustainable in the longer term. While this thought is not new, achieving it in practice, and at scale, is a challenge. The country summaries provided in Chapter 4 show the status for each of the 14 models included in the WL programme. Some start to demonstrate progress towards a landscape vision that integrates all three elements. This is the case, for example, for the proposition *Reduced peatland fires and restored peatlands* in Indonesia. There, multi-stakeholder platforms are now enabling different actors to influence the development of regulatory instruments on peatland restoration in the district, and some villages have acquired social forestry management rights (inclusive governance). A peatland restoration action plan for the landscape is being drafted, while local farmers are adopting no-burning land clearing and land management for rewetted peatlands (sustainable practices). Moreover, villages with social forestry permits are about to be rewarded for forest protection, and entrepreneurs are supported to develop business cases and attract finance (responsible business and finance). Similarly, the model for the Solano Landscape in Colombia, makes clear progress with achieving citizen participation in municipal planning (inclusive governance), organizing local farmers and communities to implement their own participatory productive restoration proposals (sustainable land use), and bringing together experts and local people to design locally appropriate mechanisms to finance restoration (responsible business and finance). In Ghana, a local financial mechanism and better practices towards climate-smart cocoa agroforestry start to take root, and stakeholders are collaborating on addressing monitoring and planning issues, although significant constraints remain (e.g., tree ownership).

NDCs and national policy outcomes
The WL programme recognizes an enabling national policy environment as crucial for realizing climate-smart landscape models, and in this regard national NDC processes are particularly relevant (see also section 5.1). Some significant outcomes related to policy reform, and national NDC processes emerged. The Ethiopian partner, PENHA, worked with a broad range of institutional stakeholders and representatives of six Ethiopian regions, governmental agencies, NGOs and research institutions to draft a national drylands restoration strategy. This was a major breakthrough, as restoration strategies so far overlooked the dryland regions (which cover 70% of the country), and work on it involved all applicable regions in the country, in spite of the internal conflict. In May 2021, after advocacy from TBI's partner IBIF, the Government of Bolivia increased the ambition on forests in its NDC by committing to targets on forest fire reduction. In Ghana, the government updated and submitted its NDC with significant attention to trees and forests for climate. This resulted from enhanced participation of CSOs facilitated by Tropenbos Ghana.

Programme-wide initiatives
Within the thematic programmes on NDCs, agrocommodities, restoration, and business & finance, joint efforts led to more coherence and mutual inspiration, and several joint publications, including a briefing paper on *Including smallholders in EU action to protect and restore the world's forests*, and a *Review of dryland restoration experiences in Africa* (ETFRN News 60). Also, the Business and Finance thematic team organized a programme-wide training in the design of business cases, because the lack of knowledge about

business case design had been identified as a bottleneck in achieving progress in the WL landscapes. This type of knowledge is crucial to help develop sustainable businesses in the forestry and agroforestry sectors, as well as the financial mechanisms that underpin climate-smart landscapes. The training greatly increased partners' ability to support local entrepreneurs and smallholders in developing financially and environmentally sound businesses. In WL focus landscapes in Indonesia, Ghana and Suriname, local businesses are now (close to) receiving support from local financial institutes. Complementary programmes — Mobilizing More for Climate (MoMo4C) and Green Finance for SMEs (GFS) — are providing additional support and expertise to realize the ambitions of the responsible business and finance component of the WL programme. For instance, the MoMo4C programme organized business competitions to stimulate entrepreneurship.

Under the Gender and Youth cross-cutting theme a programme-wide training was organized to better analyse and respond to the underlying drivers of the lack of participation and influence of women in many of the WL focus landscapes. In 2021 we already saw more positive gender outcomes reported compared to previous years, and in most key performance indicators women beneficiaries are outnumbering men. We expect that the training will result in further improvements in our strategies to engage and benefit young people and women. There is also more active engagement of Youth in several landscapes (for example, Samaaka youth in Suriname have become active in territorial governance, while in the Guarayos Indigenous territory in Bolivia young people have been trained to participate in territorial management and monitoring).

Wildfire subprogramme

Last but not least, in the second half of 2021 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs approved a subprogramme titled 'Fire-smart landscape governance: from opportunity to lasting change'. This subprogramme will allow us to apply the principles of the landscape approach to help prevent the occurrence of uncontrollable wildfires in tropical landscapes. The new subprogramme provides an opportunity to expand and intensify work we had already started on preventing wildfires in our focus landscapes in Bolivia and Indonesia. In the course of 2022, we expect to start the programme in a number of additional landscapes, which were still being identified by the end of 2021. Due to its late start in 2021, only a few initial results on the wildfire programme can be reported in this progress report, but from 2022 on it will be fully integrated in WL reporting.

4 Country programmes: Summaries of progress in 2021

Each WL country team prepared a 2021 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. Progress on our dryland programme in Ethiopia is reported in Chapter 7.

4.1 Ketapang and Kayong Utara, Indonesia

Model 1: Demonstration of an oil palm landscape that protects and connects High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) areas in the form of an agro-ecological connection zone in production areas (APL), known as essential ecosystem areas (KEE), which is collaboratively managed by multi-stakeholders (government, estate companies, civil society and local communities), within and outside the landscape.

Progress: In October 2021 the West Kalimantan Environment and Forestry Agency (WKEFA) reactivated the Multi Stakeholders Platform (MSP), after more than one year of inactivity. The MSP includes stakeholders who are directly involved in land-use management along the wildlife corridor (KEE), which connects High Conservation Value Areas of large-scale oil-palm plantations (PT. KAL and PT. GMS) to form wildlife ecological corridor between Sungai Putri Landscape with Gunung Palung National Park and Gunung Tarak Protection Forest Landscape. The MSP recognized that local communities should be at the centre of forest protection within the KEE. In February 2021, Manjau Village Forest started to receive Payments for Environmental Services (PES) from a company (PT. DSN). This is part of RSPO's Remediation and Compensation Procedure (RaCP). The scheme is facilitated by Community Forest Ecosystem Services (CFEA) in collaboration with Fauna and Flora International (FFI).

Challenges: After reactivating the MSP, we have had difficulties to manage and protect the KEE. This is primarily due the opening of a road by a mining company for intensive bauxite mining operations. Expansion of mining operations has the support of the Indonesian government.

Expectations/reflection: Considering the above, we will urge the KEE stakeholders (organised in the MSP) together with the West Kalimantan Province government and Ketapang District government to discuss the Governor Regulation No. 718/2017 on Ketapang KEE establishment and its relation with Governor Regulation No. 6/2018 on sustainable land-based investments, according to which plantation companies must allocate a minimum 7% out of their concession as HCVA. If the government remains committed to the regulations, it will need to ensure protection of the existing KEE.

Model 2: Reduced peatland fires and restored peatlands

Progress: In 2021, a district level MSP was established as the major vehicle for negotiations and consultations across actors related to fire-smart approaches and the key role of peatland restoration to decrease future risks of wildfires. Also, the national Peatland Restoration Agency became committed to assist the district government on peatland restoration by officially including the district's peatland as national restoration target and by developing a restoration action plan. Finally, farmers in the landscape have been actively participating in our farmer field school and started to adopt no-burning land clearing and land management.
Challenge: The peatlands have long been mis-allocated for production functions. Fire suppression and fire-fighting methods are still favoured instead of restoring the peatlands. Smallholders' farmers prefer to keep the peat dry for production and management reasons. It remains difficult to engage powerful oil palm companies in the landscape in dialogues about climate-smart/fire smart landscape solutions.
Reflection/Expectation: Collaborative efforts with the right actors and through the right structure (MSPs) will enable us to raise awareness and lobby with the government, the private sector and communities. We need to develop relations with the higher-level private actors that have decision-making power, such as the Association of Oil Palm Corporations (GAPKI). We expect that developing demonstration plots of peatland-adaptive practice will incentivise farmers to adopt models of humid-peatland adaptive management.

Model 3: Implement a jurisdictional village-cluster-based zero-deforestation model for ISP producers 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. [This model was dropped in 2021.]

Model 4: Protect the indigenous community (Dayak) forested areas and traditional land uses based on sustainable management and business models for NTFP and Ecosystem services.

Progress: On 2 July 2021, the government formally awarded over 7,734 hectares of Village Forest to Pematang Gadung village. Farmer groups established a rubber processing and marketing unit (UPPB), connected to the nearest rubber factory in Pontianak, which will help to secure offtake because government regulation requires that rubber factories buy rubber from the UPPB. Also, women groups in Simpang improved the production and marketing capacity for weaving handicrafts from non-timber forest products (NTFPs), and started managing orders for district-level events and handicraft fairs.
Challenge: The challenge for rubber farmers is to access seed funds to pay them in advance for their produce. For NTFP products, it remains a challenge to achieve consistent quality and quantity of production.
Expectations/reflection: The UPPB will help rubber farmers with improving rubber quality to meet the standards required by the factories, and to obtain higher rubber prices. We expect that this will increase competitiveness of rubber vis-a-vis oil palm, and thus contribute to maintaining diverse land uses in this landscape. In Simpang, we expect that the craft producing women groups will achieve consistent quality and quantity to meet the market demand.

Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

Progress: The issuance of Presidential Regulation 98/2021 on carbon values and the NDC created an opportunity to facilitate the development of a climate change adaptation action plan at the district level as part of local level NDC efforts. We started helping the district government in responding to the Presidential Regulation by developing district level action plan (mandated in the regulation).
Challenge: The regulations of the overarching policy framework at the provincial and district level remain unclear.
Expectations/reflection: We learned that prior to facilitating the development of an action plan (to respond to the Presidential Regulation), we must understand the overarching policy framework. We now consider facilitating the development of a prerequisite planning document (RPPLH), or collaborate with other partners (e.g., USAID Segar) to develop this document.

Gender and Youth

Progress: The contributions of women and youth to the village management bodies in Pematang Gadung and Mekar Raya has increased significantly. Also, there has been a significant increase of women involvement in

organic farming, post-harvest rubber treatment, permanent agriculture and horticulture farming in both focus landscapes.
Challenges: It remains a challenge to convince other stakeholders to integrate gender and youth issues in their policies and practices.
Expectations/reflection: With support of MDF, we have identified actions to achieve a transformative gender strategy, including: (i) a series of trainings to improve knowledge and skills of women and youth related to forest protection, fire management, and business development; (ii) events for sharing experiences with NGOs, village governments and other stakeholder related to mainstreaming gender and youth in their activities; (iii) the development of a brief on social forestry and community business groups focussing on women and youth aspects.

4.2 Juabeso-Bia & Sefwi Wiawso, Ghana

Model 1: Zero-deforestation and adaptation model for cocoa agroforestry by developing business cases for Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) and CREMAs to engage in income diversification based on community forestry, timber, cocoa agroforestry, NTFP & cocoa value addition.

(a) Increase forest cover and the number of trees in the landscape, especially in cocoa farms and on degraded forest lands, improving attractiveness and reducing disincentives of trees to farmers.	**Progress:** Tropenbos Ghana proposed inclusion of secured tree tenure in the draft National Biodiversity Policy. Smallholder farmers in Juabeso-Bia & Sefwi Wiawso (JB & SW) landscapes have increased tree cover by at least 25% on about 2,000 ha of farmlands. We have established an agroforestry and climate-smart cocoa learning and reflection platform where COCOBOD, District Assembles, Olam (private sector licence buying company) and farmers share lessons towards harmonization of climate-smart and agroforestry practices in JB&SW landscapes. These lessons are being disseminated (scaled up) by participants to other landscapes. Mapping and restoration planning of degraded forest allocated by chiefs and individuals in six communities started in 2021. **Challenge:** Stalled tree tenure reforms and unclear link between Cocoa Management System (CMS) and National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) - creating doubts among stakeholders about prospects of increasing tree cover, particularly outside forest reserves. Inability of smallholder farmers to access quality tree seedlings and low capacity to identify and manage natural regeneration. Identification of funding sources to support restoration of allocated degraded lands. **Expectations/reflection:** Considerable campaigns about secured tree tenure have long been carried out by CSOs but the expected reforms have not yet materialized. Nonetheless, Tropenbos Ghana and collaborating CSOs are not giving up until the agenda for secured tree tenure has been achieved. Incentivising the youth through targeted restoration investment schemes will be important. The WL programme could facilitate identification of such schemes and connect youth groups to them. We will also explore green businesses initiatives under the MoMo4C programme to enhance this.
(b) Stop encroachment by accelerated implementation of a sustainable and climate-smart cocoa supply chain by cocoa	**Progress:** Local communities, governments, LBCs and CSOs participated in dialogues to jointly develop viable, inclusive, climate-smart agrocommodity production models in the JB&SW landscapes. In addition, JB&SW landscapes actors accepted the need for effective

producers, cocoa bean Licensed Buying Companies (LBCs) and governments through exclusion of illegal cocoa and harmonization of deforestation-free cocoa standards.	monitoring of agrocommodity impacts on local livelihoods and deforestation and the active role they could play in this. Also, we started participatory research to assess and document socio-economics of encroachment in forest reserves, to guide agrocommodity policy development and voluntary relocation of illegal farmers. **Challenge:** Absent link between the Cocoa Management System (CMS) and National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS). **Expectations/reflection:** Study findings and related recommendations will be shared with cocoa and forest stakeholders in 2022 to support discussions on deforestation free cocoa including EU due diligence regulation. We also expect enhance collaboration between COCOBOD and Forestry Commission to connect the CMS to NFMS.
(c) Increase farmers' resilience by design of climate-smart practices that ensure sustainable diversification of crops and incomes of smallholder farmers.	**Progress:** Over 1,200 smallholder farmers have adopted one or more climate-smart agricultural (CSA) practices through capacity strengthening activities that we conducted. This includes selection and training of 48 CSA youth champions who are advising and coaching other farmers in their communities. Five municipal and district assemblies have included climate-change actions in their medium-term development plans. **Challenge:** Advisory and coaching services by CSA champions is voluntary and selective, thereby limiting their reach to others. Moreover, most of the CSA champions lack the required funds to establish climate-smart demonstration farms. This reduces their interest and motivation to serve climate-smart "ambassadors". **Expectations/reflection:** There is a need to step-up our activities in 2022.
(d) Provide/develop financial incentives to land users to apply climate-smart models / or facilitate access to credit and market access for farmers who engage in climate-smart practices.	**Progress:** Twelve village savings and loans associations (VSLAs) have been established in 10 communities. 183 members (144 women and 39 men) from eight groups are financing climate-smart practices and additional livelihoods using funds accessed from VSLAs. **Challenge:** Currently, a high percentage of VSLA members do not apply their accessed loans to agricultural production. **Expectations/reflection:** Members of the groups expect that in the coming years they will be able to increase the minimum value of contributions (share value) in order to expand the scope to long term agricultural production. There is increased demand for the establishment of VSLAs in new communities. This component is done in association with the Mobilizing more for climate (MoMo4C) programme.
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)	
Progress: Ghana's NDC has been updated and submitted with significant attention to trees and forests for climate. This resulted from enhanced participation of CSOs facilitated by Tropenbos Ghana through the WL programme. **Challenge:** The main institution responsible for coordinating NDC implementation and reporting hardly creates awareness at the landscape level about the NDC. The current national economic problems might lead to very low achievement of the NDC in the short-term. **Expectations/reflection:** Many actors (state, non-state and private sector) have their visions for the JB&SW landscapes. Transforming these landscapes into climate resilient ones hinges on improved collaboration	

and coordination, partnership, commitment and sharing lessons amongst key actors operating in the landscapes.

Gender and Youth

Progress: In the WL focus landscapes, our interventions have pro-actively addressed several gender and youth issues, including their limited access to productive resources and ecosystem reserves; their low involvement in decision making on land and forest use; and their limited capacity to adopt climate resilience practices.
Challenges: It will be a challenge to incentivise youth to sustain the current commitment and enthusiasm and scale up to coach other young farmers in nearby communities.
Expectations/reflection: We need to encourage the youth to be part of the VSLA groups and we need to promote their engagement in other income generating activities such as green businesses initiatives.

4.3 Guarayos landscape, Bolivia

Model 1: Demonstration of the viability of the indigenous territory model and inclusive and sustainable forest management as an alternative to advancing the agricultural frontier.

(a) An operational model of inclusive and participatory indigenous (self) governance that sets and enforces internal rules for natural resource management.	**Progress:** We have been engaging with the Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Bolivia (COPNAG) to improve governance in Indigenous territories (TCOs). **Challenge:** Problems related to the endowment of land to new settlers have generated conflicts that created unrest and decreased possibilities for collaborative work. COPNAG is politically unstable, which makes coordination and decision-making complex. **Expectations/reflection:** To improve the governance conditions in the Indigenous territories, we must extend our support to the main grassroots organizations that are part of COPNAG, and we will strengthen the role of municipal governments so that, within the framework of their competencies, they can make decisions in a consensual manner to increase resilience in the territory.
(b) Increased integrity and monitoring of land and resource interactions between indigenous territory and third parties, including agribusinesses, leading to reduced encroachment.	**Progress:** We proved that active community forest management effectively prevented deforestation, and we consolidated our work to achieve more than 460,000 hectares under sustainable and responsible forest management. In addition, 45 young people were trained in territorial management processes and monitoring of their natural resources. With this knowledge they are better prepared for decision-making regarding their territory, and the trainings increased their engagement in the governance of territory. It has enabled them to take on a leadership role in defence of their territory, questioning the political decisions of current leaders that have been selling off resources and land to third parties. **Challenge:** Increasing the number of Community Forest Organizations (OFCs) would improve the negotiation power with other productive actors, and more deforestation could be avoided. However, with the current project resources, it is not possible to provide additional direct assistance to OFCs. **Expectations/reflection:** We must develop a strategy to scale up support to OFCs, based on the Indigenous Forest Association of Guarayos (AFIG). Also, to increase general support for community forest management, we need to create further awareness about its benefits as well as a sense of urgency.

(c) Develop models of equitable, profitable and inclusive business collaborations between indigenous forest owners and timber industries based on sustainable forest management, and financial rewards for restoration.	**Progress:** During 2021, we have supported CFOs in the region to commercialize their forest products in collaboration with two private companies in the region. This done under conditions that were agreed between the parties and a contract that clearly establishes prices and conditions, leading to viable and fair long-term business relations that respect sustainable forest management regulations. **Challenge:** Market access is the main constraint for both forestry producers and processors. The potential to reach international markets is limited. **Expectations/reflection:** We conducted a market study, which showed that the growing national market has most potential for forestry producers and processors in the Guarayos landscape. Also, we found that development of inclusive businesses is hampered by a lack trust. We will therefore focus on the development of trade agreements that at least establish clear marketing conditions to re-establish trust between forest producers and processors.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Progress: We contributed directly to Bolivia's revision of the NDC. Because of our contributions, the revised NDC maintains a high level of ambition in terms of community forest management and includes goals for the reduction of forest fires. The revised NDC also includes a description of an implementation mechanism (through the joint mitigation and adaptation mechanism for forests), which has an approach that is similar to what has been developed under the Working Landscapes programme.
Challenge: Despite the updated NDC, the Bolivian government is slow with putting the implementation mechanism into operation.
Expectations/reflection: The implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions must be accompanied by economic incentives for the adoption of climate-smart production practices.

Gender and Youth

Progress: We implemented a gender disaggregated monitoring system around participation on meetings, workshops and round tables, and developed a gender and intersectional institutional policy, with clearly defined gender and intersectional objectives. As a result of our interventions in 2021, Indigenous youth from Guarayos are now aware of the importance of their participation in territorial and forest based- decision making processes. Also, two women-led community forest organizations from Guarayos (Agwara and Ipagwasu) have become beneficiaries of the WL programme, and the Community Forest Organization AISU now has woman in its directory board.
Challenges: It remains a challenge to mainstream gender and youth strategies in the programme, including the need to ensure that interventions do not cause harm in the gender and generational power relationships in the landscape.
Expectations/Reflection: In 2022, based on the gender and youth diagnoses carried out in Guarayos and Lomerío, we plan to further develop gender and youth strategies, based on the social matrix analysis framework facilitated by MDF consultants.

4.4 Solano landscape, Colombia

Model 1: Develop a model – including associated appropriate financial mechanisms – 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.	
(a) A proof of concept of financial mechanisms that make the sustainable use of forests and restoration efforts an attractive alternative to livestock breeding.	**Progress:** In 2021, we developed strategies for alternative forest economies for peasant and indigenous communities. At the end of the year, we conducted a large citizen laboratory in which various academics, financiers, artists, carpenters, architects, communicators, representatives of indigenous and peasant communities of Solano, and colleagues from other NGOs, discussed proposals for the design of innovative and inclusive financial mechanisms, within the framework of the model of productive participatory restoration. **Challenges:** Commercialization of coca creates dynamics that are difficult to control. The challenge is to recognize the forest as a long-term business opportunity. **Expectations/reflection:** It has become more difficult to find people who know how to work with fine wood. We identified this as an opportunity for the communities who could transform the wood and sell final products, which would improve their income as well.
(b) A model of intercultural participative inclusive governance, aligning various conflicting land uses through intercultural agreements, and monitoring them in a participatory way, leading to reduced conflict, reduced encroachment into forest, and restoration.	**Progress:** The municipality of Solano integrated local initiatives of sustainable forest and land use, as well as participatory productive restoration (PPR) proposals from indigenous and peasant communities, in its strategy to stop deforestation and in its territorial development plan (EOT). Also, women from the Jericó Consaya resguardo, negotiated with the municipality and received financing for restoration projects. With this economic support, the women have recovered their own seeds of food and medicinal plants. **Challenges:** We had planned to train employees of Corpoamazonia (the decentralized environmental authority) in participatory methodologies for the development of forest restoration plans with local communities. However, staff turnover at Corpoamazonia is very high, which made it difficult to maintain continuity in our working relationship. **Expectations/reflection:** We expect to continue the training process with Corpoamazonia. Based on discussions with teachers, we expect to establish a work strategy with schools in Solano to develop PPR projects with youth.
(c) Implement innovative restoration models that integrate traditional and technical knowledge, including a large number of forest species in contrast to mono plantations or low diverse plantations.	**Progress:** With our support, the communities of the Peñas Rojas and Puerto Naranjo resguardos developed PPR proposals and implemented them. Their restoration activities focussed on the parts of the resguardos that were invaded by vendeaguja grass (*Imperata brasiliensis*); these areas were also identified as restoration zones within the environmental management plans. The PPR approach has caught on widely, and we received 83 proposals from communities to initiate PPR in their territories. **Challenges:** Solano's municipality has a low budget, so it is not possible for them to allocate money for restoration. **Expectations/reflection:** By 2022, we plan to implement all PPR proposals and expand the approach further. With our CSOs allies, we will formulate a PPR project to allocate budget to the local initiatives. Also, we plan to achieve that local tree nurseries have a diversity of at least 100 local species.

Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)
Progress: In 2021, the Colombian government updated its NDCs, including more ambitious goals. However, the roadmap for meeting these new goals remained unclear. We participated in the "Pre-dialogue of Colombian Civil Society Organizations for COP26: for fair and participatory climate decisions'', where we were able to share our concerns with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - the entity in charge of the coordination of COP26. Also, we joined a group of CSOs organizations in voicing our concern about the accelerated processing and approval of Bill 365 of 2020 of the Senate, establishing new mechanisms and goals for energy transition in the country. We signed a statement with 10 urgent points for improvements in terms of climate change considerations. **Challenge:** During 2022 Colombia will have presidential elections and starting the work with the new government will be a challenge for 2022. **Expectations/reflection:** We have been able to position the PPR approach in several environmental spaces, improving the chance that it will be adopted as one of the methodologies to meet the NDC.
Gender and Youth
Progress: We have been able to involve more women (both from indigenous and peasant communities) in our activities. We have also managed to engage young people in the discussions about PPR and climate change agenda. These were mostly young people who were still living with their families. **Challenges:** Addressing gender inequality does not only imply engaging women more actively, but also requires the active involvement of men in discussions on gender. It has been difficult to engage young people; some are reluctant to engage, because of their participation in illegal activities or their membership of armed groups. **Expectations/reflection:** We will develop a methodology to involve men in discussions about gender in a special meeting with indigenous organizations.

4.5 Upper Suriname River landscape, Suriname

Model 1: 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 to provide for their families in a changing environment (transformation towards a money-oriented economy).	
(a) Improved access to land and integrated traditional - decentralized land and forest governance with land tenure rights.	**Progress:** A Participatory 3D mapping (P3DM) exercise was completed in November 2021 for a cluster of eight Saamaka villages. This resulted in the participatory mapping of 178,291 hectares and 37 land use layers. This new P3DM complements two previous ones. Together they account for the mapping of 475,417 hectares by Saamaka communities and will be used as input for upcoming land-use planning processes. In November 2021, the members and associates of the VSG, including youth, discussed relevant issues in the landscape and explored collaboration. The workshop resulted in an MoU between Tropenbos Suriname and the VSG, which includes the development of capacity and the active involvement of a group of enthusiastic young Saamaka people of all genders. We also worked together with Bolivia and Colombia to develop a video on IPLC territorial governance. There are now three Saamaka communication hubs in operation and they are used to share information on relevant topics of the WL programme. **Challenges:** Throughout 2021 the restrictions associated with COVID 19 have remained huge challenge for our field activities. The use of P3DM maps for capacity building and training was also hampered due to difficult communication with Saamaka leaders and authorities. **Expectations/reflection:** Now that we have a MoU with the VSG formalizing our collaboration, we expect to be more effective in our strategy on this

	proposition. We will support Saamaka authorities and Saamaka community members with meeting the formal requirements of an upcoming law that will provide them with collective tenure rights over their territory. This will be done by facilitating a consensus building process on an internal governance system, so that Saamaka leaders agree on a legal representative body that will be accountable for the administration of the land rights.
(b) Local people engage in climate-smart integrated community forestry and commercial agriculture that allows for a 50% increase in income for men and women and offer economic opportunities to the youth, potentially supported under a payment for environmental services model such as the REDD+ scheme.	**Progress:** A total of 74 farmers from Gran Tatai, Nieuw Aurora, and Pikin Slee participated in training and on-farm trials on agroforestry techniques. Of this group, 30 farmers are applying the techniques on their farms and will enter in a monitoring scheme. Tropenbos Suriname also signed an MoU with the Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname , which resulted in technical collaboration for improving agricultural practices on 11 plots. A study on climate-forest-water linkages was conducted, resulting in a better understanding of the sensitivity of recovering forests to the water balance, among others. The village of Gengeston has completed a participatory study that provided information needed to strengthen local community-level committees with knowledge and skills and to collectively decide future visions regarding the management of their community forest. **Challenges:** Some farmers are sceptical about the agroforestry practices being piloted in some plots. There seems to be a lack of understanding of the rationale of those practices and the benefits they have in comparison with their traditional practices. In relation to community forestry, we are faced with the challenge to agree with the VSG on a concept of forestry which applies to the aspirations of the local people and is compatible with the Forest Law. **Expectations/reflection:** We expect to exchange lessons with our Tropenbos network colleagues in the DRC related to agroforestry interventions. In relation to community forestry, we expect to be able to support a thorough internal consultation process where Saamaka leaders, representatives and Saamaka authorities to come to an agreement about a community-led forestry model.
(c) Local sustainable development through access to financial services that are adapted to the requirements and possibilities of the communities and productive organizations.	**Progress:** Three agro-cooperatives have been formed, which have received training in finance management. A total of seven business ideas have been developed and 30 farmers have received training in business administration. We have had discussions with the Godo Cooperative Bank to establish a revolving fund (with support of the TBI Green Finance for Small and Medium Enterprises Fund), with the objective to award eligible climate-smart business plans from producer groups or individuals from the landscape with small loans. **Challenges:** The agro-cooperatives are reluctant to engage in further training because they want to see first that accessing funds to run their business becomes real and effective. This is challenging the opportunity to further develop the (marketing) capacities of the formed agro-cooperatives. **Expectations/reflection:** The expectation is that the overall enthusiasm to participate in further trainings will increase after the first cases can access funds and demonstrate success.
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)	
Progress: In 2021 we held meetings with the NDC focal point and the climate change focal point of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishing, and we now participate in the climate change awareness project of the Ministry and the FAO. **Challenges:** We need to show that community forestry is a way to achieve targets set in the NDC and ensure that NDC implementation strengthens community forestry.	

Expectations/reflection: The Ministry of Physical Planning and Environment (ROM) is preparing a National NDC budget (expected in July 2022) as part of its Climate Action plan (CAP). The CAP includes a Climate Change Technical Group with the participation of NGOs. The SDG Fund project on Inclusivity of Indigenous and tribal peoples offers a possibility to increase awareness of Saamaka people about the revised NDC, the SDGs and the National REDD+ Strategy. The role of Indigenous and tribal peoples in the implementation of the NDC can be included in training sessions for Saamaka youth, who could then play a role in lobbying activities.

Gender and Youth

Progress: We have made some good progress in terms of working with youth. We hired a youth engagement person (from the Saamaka tribe) to actively include the interest and needs of the Saamaka youth in our work. This created a lot of enthusiasm and prompted us to tailor interventions to youth ideas and interest. We have trained young Saamaka members on different topics with the aim to develop understanding on territorial governance. The group is very enthusiastic and there are a couple of young people with clear leadership vocation which we want to further develop.
Challenges: We have encountered most challenges to reaching planned outcomes for women. We have not been very effective to identify women leaders and work more closely to them.
Expectations/reflection: We need to develop an intervention strategy that tackle women's needs and include their ideas, which should motivate women to be part of our activities. We plan to design a gender strategy together with local women (based on the social change matrix together).

4.6 Bafwasende landscape, DR Congo

Model 1: Harness the potential of local entrepreneurs (mainly Yira immigrants) to disseminate models of mixed cocoa/banana agroforestry, providing secure income through organized value chains, reducing encroachment.

Progress: With our direct support, smallholders planted cocoa on over 45 ha (mostly on fallow land, degraded areas) and we obtained many more requests for support in obtaining cocoa and other seeds (also from outside of the focus landscape). Awareness building focused on compliance with zero deforestation standards, which is observed by the majority of beneficiaries. In some community forest concessions, non-indigenous people (Yira and Topoke) have been given the right to practise perennial agriculture and to be involved in the community activities by the right holding clans.
Challenges: Community members were unwilling to adopt the mixed cocoa-banana system in their community fields. Also, the cultivation of perennial crops could eventually increase the pressure on the forest, and it is therefore important to adhere to land-use plans. Conflicts have been observed between communities with community forest concession titles (CFCLs), and outsiders and other communities.
Expectations/reflection: Some important questions for reflection are: How to convince the authorities to implement and enforce land use plans, and how to support livelihoods development through perennials such as cocoa while preventing their expansion into the forest?

Model 2: Establish an international payment for environmental services 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).

Progress: We reviewed different experiences with REDD+ implementation and developed a proposal for simple and viable PES models, taking into account the expectations of IPLC. In addition, we have helped 13 terroirs with updating their simple terroir management plans.
Challenges: It is a challenge to attract green funds and private investment from banks and micro-credit institutions to the landscape, and to have the PES model known and accepted in other regions.
Expectations/reflection: A partnership has been established between 3 CFCLs and the University of Ghent for the implementation of a PhD study on the quantification of the exchange of gases between the forest and the atmosphere according to forest strata. We expect the outcomes of this study to help quantify the amount of carbon sequestered by the forests in the CFCLs and to enable the community to sell this carbon on the carbon market.

Model 3: Operationalization of local forestry model for sustainable forest management, equity (Indigenous Peoples and gender) and enterprise development.

Progress: Applications for 10 CFCL titles have been successfully submitted to the Provincial Governor. The only thing remaining is for the Governor to sign the CFCL allocation decrees. Two Artisanal Forest Management Units (FMUs) were developed, after a consultation process that followed FPIC- procedures, socio-economic surveys and participatory mapping. The management committees of 3 existing CFCLs have been strengthened in terms of administrative management, among others. Some of the members now actively engage in the fight against illegal logging.
Challenges: One community has withdrawn from the CFCL application process because they found out that mining is not allowed in the CFCLs. Indeed, some communities continue to engage in mining as a livelihood activity with negative consequences for the environment. Some traditional leaders are resisting the governance innovations that come with the CFCLs.
Expectations/reflection: Some relevant questions we need to consider: Can raising awareness on the adverse effects of mining on human health convince miners to reduce or even abandon mining? How can the participation of traditional leaders in inclusive forest governance be ensured without undermining the CFCLs?

Model 4: Establishment of cooperative incubator organizations that partner with producers and buyers to help implement international social and environmental standards and commitments.

Progress: We started working with initiatives (e.g., farmers associations) that can serve as the basis for the formalisation of cooperative incubator organizations, which will increase their access to credit and markets and will strengthen their position to negotiate with buyers.
Challenges: As farmers rejected the idea of cocoa-banana systems, the focus will be on other cocoa-based systems.
Expectations/reflection: Some relevant questions we need to consider: What is the socially acceptable and economically profitable form of cooperative?
Which model for agricultural credit provision?

Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

Progress: We reviewed DR Congo's NDC and raised awareness about the relation between the NDC and community forestry among all Congolese government partners involved in community forestry.
Challenges: The government does not have the necessary funds for the implementation of the NDC.
Expectations/reflection: It is feasible to include community forestry in the priority areas of the NDC and to channel of internal and external funds towards its implementation

Gender and Youth

Progress: Women have become increasingly active in agroforestry practices (which are traditionally dominated by men). Also, women are now holding responsible positions in the governing bodies of the CFCLs, and are accepted by other members. These women are role models for young girls.
Challenges: The greatest challenge remains the social deconstruction of negative values, prejudices and stereotypes that stigmatize the skills, rights and abilities of women and youth. some men do not allow their wives to participate in meetings without them, especially if the meetings are facilitated by men. We

must continue raising awareness of men and women to promote the active participation of women in landscape governance. This requires dedicated work with boldness and patience.
Expectations/reflection: We have been able to contribute to inclusive landscape governance with the participation of women, youth, Indigenous people and other marginalized groups, but more work is needed. Socialization of G&Y equality can be done through institutions such as school and church.

4.7 Upper Srepok River Basin, Viet Nam

Model 1: Elaborate the modalities for inclusion of coffee farmers in the national payments for environmental services (PES) mechanism that enables the restoration and management of upstream forests.

Progress: We discussed the linkages between forest, coffee and water with local coffee farmers, forest owners, the provincial Forest Protection and Development Funds (FPDF), the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), and representatives of the national PES group. This has resulted in a widely shared understanding of the need to integrate coffee agroforestry in the PES system.
Challenges: The provincial government asked for more evidence concerning the relationships between coffee agroforestry, environmental services and local livelihoods, and for more information about a workable mechanism to integrate coffee into the current PES mechanism.
Expectations/reflection: We will jointly work with DARD/FPDF to create more evidence, while influencing the provincial People's Committee to create a field trial of sustainable coffee for PES. We will seek additional funds for a locally adapted model that convincingly demonstrates the long-term benefits of coffee agroforestry.

Model 2: Model for greater inclusiveness and participation in restoration on production and protection forest land.

Progress: Our guidelines on restoration, agroforestry and community forest management have been shared and discussed with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, and women and youth organizations. This has improved their capacity for inclusive and participatory restoration through agroforestry and community forest management. We also jointly identified areas that require urgent restoration with Tay Nguyen university.
Challenges: Unclear/conflicted ownership/user rights over large parts of the area that needs to be restored.
Expectations/reflection: We will support the DARD to make further plans to solve current conflicts and promote restoration.

Model 3: A model for restorative coffee agroforestry on marginal grounds currently occupied by unsustainable coffee.

Progress: We worked with the DARD and district-level DARD on a review of climate-smart and restorative coffee agroforestry. The district-level DARD then released a document formally approving the design of our restorative agroforestry models. After this, we conducted trainings on restoration through coffee agroforestry together with the district-level DARD, with specific attention to women farmers. As a result, a growing number of women farmers started combining coffee and indigenous tree species to restore degraded lands. Importantly, the district level DARD has instructed local extension stations to continue supporting women farmers with developing our model, which is key for upscaling.
Challenges: We do not yet know whether the models we developed are feasible for duplication in other landscapes.
Expectations/reflection: We will continue to document the lessons and share them with other actors, within and outside of our focus landscape.

Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

Progress: We shared information on the national NDC plan among landscape actors, and supported the development of a provincial NDC draft plan by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE).
Challenge: The provincial NDC plan is still in draft, and it is still too early to share with other provinces.
Expectations/reflection: Once DONRE finalizes the NDC provincial plan, the plan will need to be shared with other provinces and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Gender and Youth

Progress: Forest restoration used to be considered a men's job, and women were typically hesitant to share their views on the issue. In 2021, the capacity of women to present their needs/demands in landscape decision making forums has been improved significantly. Together with local authorities we have trained women to restore degraded lands, and provided them with practical support for tree planting. By involving government officials in research, awareness creation and field-level training, Tropenbos Viet Nam managed to convince them to focus extension services on women-led agroforestry models for restoration. Within our own organization, opportunities were given to staff members to participate in gender workshops/seminars.
Challenges: Covid-19 restrictions limited our possibilities to travel to the landscape to work and facilitate women directly.
Expectations/reflection: We will remain working with the provincial and district Women's Association to support local women and strengthen their voices in decision making process.

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. Throughout 2021, 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
The original vision for this thematic programme was formulated as follows: "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."

Reflection on the original vision: In most 2021/22 versions of the NDCs, forests and trees play an important role, and although the role of smallholders and local communities in managing them is not sufficiently recognized, we feel that it is particularly urgent to help local and provincial stakeholders develop and implement climate action plans adequate for their scale and in support of implementation of the NDCs. That is also where we can focus on the involvement of smallholders and local communities within the framework of the WL programme. This can then be complemented with lobby and advocacy at national and supra-national level through the GLA programme topic group on UNFCCC and NDCs. Within the programme's timespan, it is unrealistic to expect that the NDC theme group will be able to influence financial flows as indicated in the original vision.

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.
- 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.

In most WL countries the focus is on achieving the second and third intended overall outcomes**.**This is particularly the case in Viet Nam and Indonesia and to a lesser extent in Suriname, DR Congo and Colombia. In Bolivia, IBIF already was able to provide a major contribution to the 2022 NDC and will now also focus on improving strategies for local implementation, while in Ghana major progress has been achieved in increasing the participation of CSOs in the NDC revision process. In Ethiopia the focus is on integrating forests and trees in drylands into the NDC.

Intended 2021 outcomes

1. CSOs, locally active companies and local authorities are aware of the need to align adaptation and mitigation strategies in the AFOLU sector in order to achieve the NDC commitments more efficiently and effectively, and they adjust their strategies accordingly.
2. At least one financial institution in at least each of two landscapes are aware of gender specific strategies for financing the AFOLU sector and commit themselves to adjusting one or more of their financial instruments to increase access to finance for sustainable activities that benefit women and/or youth.

Progress 2021

Following up on the experiences in Ghana and Indonesia, participative village level vulnerability assessments were conducted in Bolivia and Viet Nam. These reflected the close linkages between stakeholder activities and climate variability and show-cased a series of existing adaptation strategies by local farmers and communities. In Bolivia this was followed up by a reflection on potential adaptation measures. In Colombia an assessment was made of potential impacts of climate change, which also reflected on potential adaptive measures. The assessments in Ghana and Indonesia were done jointly with the MoMo4C programme and resulted in their uptake in the MoMo4C climate action plans. Further, the assessments in Ghana and Vietnam resulted in recommendations that were published in policy briefs, while the one in Indonesia was the basis for a scientific article published in the open access journal ”Land” aiming to reach out to a broader public. The assessment in Indonesia identified increasing wildfires in peat lands as one of the major risks, thus strengthening the rationale to implement the wildfire component of WL in Indonesia.

We found that the separation of adaptation and mitigation into two different documents (NDC and NAP) remains a weak aspect of climate policies. In some NDCs an attempt is made to emphasize the need for synergies, but none emphasizes that the AFOLU sector is particularly well placed to achieve synergies, with the exception of the Bolivian NDC. Our analysis of NDCs also showed that gender and youth remain undervalued in the NDCs. In the future we will need to do more work to achieve explicit recognition of their differentiated role in achieving the NDC goals.

During 2021 we analysed the NDCs of Bolivia and Suriname for gaps and opportunities to strengthen community forestry. The report is being finalized and its results will support the 2022 strategies towards providing evidence of community forestry’s contribution to NDCs and the need for additional NDC measures to enhance that contribution. In Ethiopia, a similar study was done to link dryland restoration to the NDC. We focus now on showing how the WL propositions can become examples for addressing these gaps at landscape level. More work is needed to convince locally active companies and authorities to consider taking up the concept of climate resilient landscapes in their climate strategies.

In Ghana, a FTA/MoMo4C report on the activities of one of the partners of the Cocoa Forest Initiative (CFI) showed the need for addressing the needs for technical assistance and access to (micro-) finance for women to enhance economic diversification in the landscape. The results of this study will feed into the WL work with cocoa companies and local financial institutions involved in or related to the CFI. In the other landscapes, we need to pay more attention to showing the role of women and youth in achieving resilient landscapes, and showcase that to local financial institutions.

Finally, in terms of direct contributions to NDC revisions, most progress was achieved in Bolivia, where TBI's partner IBIF conducted an evaluation of the NDC and was then asked by the government to participate in the review and submission of its new NDC. In this capacity, IBIF managed to include the reduction of wildfires as an explicit ambition in the revised NDC. Also, following IBIF's recommendations, the government included a section on an implementation mechanism for realizing the NDC ambitions.

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 2021 outcomes

1. Local communities, governments and companies 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 and the active role they can take in this.
3. EU policy makers take barriers and incentives ('readiness') of national policies from producing countries into account (especially to enable smallholder inclusion) to develop effective zero-deforestation policies.

Progress 2021

With respect to intended 2021 outcome #1, country teams continued with the development of their propositions for alternative agrocommodity production models in Indonesia (palm oil and rubber), Ghana (cocoa), Viet Nam (coffee) and DR Congo (cocoa and banana). Progress is made to operationalize these models through multi-stakeholder dialogues, training and capacity building. Tropenbos Indonesia, for example, used farmer field schools to promote rubber agroforestry as an alternative to oil palm monocultures. Tropenbos Ghana provided training in agroforestry and climate-smart practices to over 1200 smallholders, and Tropenbos Viet Nam provided training on restoration agroforestry with a specific focus on women of ethnic minority groups.

Our partners engaged with local governments and landscape actors to strengthen the implementation of zero-deforestation commitments and to promote the adoption of alternative climate smart production models, by supporting the development of guidelines, policies and regulations. For example, Tropenbos Indonesia facilitated an oil palm farmer group to arrange their Plantation Registration Letter (STDB) – an important step towards Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) certification. In Viet Nam, the provincial Forest Protection & Development Fund (FPDF) and the provincial Forest Protection Department (FPD) agreed to use the findings of Tropenbos Viet Nam to inform actors in the coffee sector about the link between coffee, forest and water, to start a conversation about the possibilities to include coffee agroforestry systems in the national PES programme, which could help to make coffee agroforestry economically more attractive. Tropenbos Ghana brought together government agencies, NGOs and companies to harmonize their agroforestry extension models.

On international level, our knowledge and expertise on alternative production models, including agroforestry, are increasingly recognized and our publications on cocoa agroforestry and palm oil intercropping have been mentioned in articles from Mongabay (e.g. here and here). In 2021, we started to work on extracting lessons learned from our WL propositions to better understand which incentives and preconditions are needed to adopt alternative smallholder production models, how to overcome general barriers, and how to scale up. First results are expected in 2022.

In 2021 we started with the evaluation of strategies of companies promoting agroforestry in the cocoa sector in West Africa, as these have so far not resulted in the widespread adoption of agroforestry systems. We also initiated a study to develop practical recommendations for companies and other stakeholders to engage in landscape approaches to promote agroforestry and halt deforestation and forest degradation**.** The focus lies on the landscapes in which Tropenbos Ghana is active.

With respect to intended 2021 outcome #2, country teams collected information to monitor, and get insight in the impacts of agrocommodity production on local livelihoods and deforestation, helping to raise awareness about the need to move to alternative climate-smart production models. Tropenbos Colombia worked with communities to monitor water quality, stressing the importance of restoring riparian zones. Tropenbos Ghana supported the organization of meetings involving CSOs and the Forestry Commission towards launching national forest monitoring systems, which will help to monitor deforestation in the country.

With respect to intended 2021 outcome #3, we continued as network-wide agrocommodity team to support the country teams to get a better understanding of the ongoing development of EU legislation to halt the import of forest and ecosystem-risk commodities (FERCs), and to have dialogues with the country teams on how proposed EU measures translate to producer countries and the WL focus landscapes, and how this may impact on smallholder inclusiveness.

We continued to compile experiences and expertise from the WL landscapes to inform discussions in the EU multi-stakeholder platform and CSO coalitions. For example, the inputs from our partners were used for the briefing paper "Including smallholders in EU action to protect and restore the world's forests" that we published together with five other NGOs in advance to the regulatory proposal to minimize the European Union's (EU) deforestation and forest degradation footprint that was released in November 2021. The paper recommends strengthening smallholders' tenure rights and developing financial incentives for smallholders to move towards sustainable practices.

There is momentum regarding the development of partnerships between the EU and cocoa producing countries to address deforestation. The network-wide agrocommodity team as well as the Ghana Civil-society Cocoa Platform (GCCP), of which Tropenbos Ghana is a member, provided inputs to EU cocoa talks on deforestation-free agrocommodities.

5.3 Restoration

Thematic 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 programme outcomes
The programme works towards three main outcomes:

- Restoration: 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 business practices: Governments, companies and financial institutes have mechanisms in place to invest in participative landscape restoration and sustainable 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 outcomes 2021

1. Relevant stakeholders are collaborating to start up participatory restoration pilots in the WL landscapes.

2. Landscape actors have learned to identify promising mechanisms to finance climate-smart businesses in restored landscapes.
3. Actors from WL landscapes have documented cases of participatory restoration approaches and share these at national and international fora.

Progress 2021
In 2021, different participative restoration models are taking shape across the programme, producing visible results on the ground. To get the benefits of restoration to the people living in the landscapes, restoration models tend to have five basic building blocks in common: (i) participation of the local people in restoration; ii) the presence of institutional and public policies for restoration; (iii) land access and tenure policies in place; (iv) sufficient knowledge for restoration; and (v) availability of financial mechanisms for restoration. With the exception of the last, we have gained considerable progress with learning to apply these elements in 2021.

With respect to Outcome #1 we have developed different strategies to get local people and other stakeholders to participate in restoration approaches. The process in general starts with dialog and raising interest with local communities and key restoration institutes mostly in the form of setting up a multi-stakeholder dialogue in the landscape in combination with providing technical support. Through these approaches, we learned to identify the most promising entry points to design participative restoration models. This is a complex process where many actors have different interests, but joint mapping of degraded areas or identification of areas suitable for restoration appears to be a good starting point. For example, in Ghana we supported local communities in the Juabes-Bia and Sefwi Wiawso landscape to designate parts of the landscape as restoration areas. In Colombia we supported local communities in the Solano landscape to identify the most important areas to protect or restore, focussing on water bodies and pastures. One of the communities took immediate action and decided to stop burning evasive grasses in the designated restoration area. The grass protected the trees planted in the summer, resulting in an average tree height of 50 cm at the end of 2021.

We either worked directly with local communities or through engaging with institutes implementing policies of restoration in the landscape. In Indonesia, we chose to work with the national agency for peatland restoration (BRGM), resulting in a MoU and a workplan to start mapping the areas for canal blocking in 2022. A comparable strategy was used in Viet Nam, where we worked with the provincial government to enhance awareness and commitment for restoration in the landscape dialogue platform (which led to a group of local farmers in Lak and Krong Bong districts to apply restoration agroforestry models). In Ethiopia, we mostly worked with national governments and CSOs to improve the general conditions for implementation of restoration initiatives at landscape level.

Creating access to finance for participative restoration models as intended in Outcome #2 appeared to be most challenging. The ability of community members to mobilize funds and get support to sustain the benefits of restoration is too limited to deal with the complexity of financial models. We experienced this with carbon tax funds in Colombia, among others. We achieved some results with local funding in Ghana, where members of 12 village savings and loans associations (VSLA's) are financing climate-smart practices and additional livelihoods using funds from their groups. In Indonesia, our collaboration with BGMR created a different entry for financing as it incorporated our peatland landscape as part of a national target of peatland restoration.

The development of strategies to enlarge the impacts of the restoration pilots to a wider scale as intended in outcome #3 became increasingly important over the year. We managed to include some of our strategies in institutional and public policies. In Ethiopia, we managed to bring together a broad range of national stakeholders to draft a National Drylands Restoration Strategy. In Colombia, thanks to joint lobby with other CSOs, the Solano municipal government integrated our local restoration initiatives in its strategy to stop deforestation and in the municipal territorial development plan (EOT). This also helps to increase the government's attention to the potential of the Participatory Productive Restoration (PPR) approach to help meet the climate change mitigation and adaptation goals defined in the NDC.

As network-wide restoration team, we have documented the PPR approach and shared with the other TBI network countries. As such, network partners learned about a practical model that has proven successful in Colombia, which they can adapt and apply in their own focus landscapes. A review on landscape restoration models in drylands was published for a wider audience, and we used the biweekly network meetings as the main forum for exchanging learnings and to discuss progress in the development of our different models.

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 2021 outcomes

1. Network partners, as well as selected communities, forest enterprises and/or producer groups have better basic financial and business capacities. Key modules include: (a) Financial literacy and readiness; (b) Business case identification and development; (c) What it takes to be a successful entrepreneur; and (d) Financial mechanisms: what are they and how do they work? More modules may be identified during the year. Some modules will also serve, or be developed under the MoMo4C programme.
2. TBI landscape partners and financial institutions have started to apply a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) tool to identify and promote investable agroforestry land-use options. Landscape-specific and land-use model-specific cost-benefit analysis will help to identify the best mix of crops and tree species. The web-based farm-tree-model from DIBcoop will be made available and trainings will be provided for network staff to use it. Outcomes of the model can be used in contacts with farmers, producers, financial institutions, and policy makers. With the outcomes of the CBA model that we have been trialing in 2020 we can communicate easier with financial organizations and/or local policy makers.
3. TBI landscape partners collaborate with financial institutions to develop locally appropriate green financial products/services. To bridge the distance between stakeholders at the grassroot level and financial institutions and investors, they need to be aware of each other's needs and realities. Network partners, assisted by TBI staff, will engage with financial actors to jointly develop suitable financial products, and the best financial vehicles in support of smallholders/communities/producer organizations in the landscape.

Progress in 2021

Complementary to the WL programme, we are involved in two other programmes that focus on business and finance, i.e., the Mobilizing More 4 Climate (MoMo4C) programme, implemented together with IUCN NL and WWF NL and funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the 'Green Finance for SMEs (GFS)' programme, funded by the Dutch Postcode Lottery. The three programmes reinforce each other. This means that it is sometimes difficult to attribute certain outcomes to one particular programme. In general terms, the Business & Finance thematic programme of WL focusses on the enabling conditions at landscape level that increase the chances of success of innovative business models and financing schemes; the MoMo4C programme focusses on developing business propositions that support climate change mitigation and adaptation; and the GFS programme works with financial actors on financial products that will help to increase the number of investments in the forestry and agroforestry sectors.

With respect to intended 2021 outcome #1: Three staff members of each of the eight WL network partners were invited to a training on business case (BC) development. It was a 10-week course in which a plenary session was held each week, dealing with a different aspect of BC canvasses. Each country-team selected a BC and elaborated an aspect of the canvas in between the plenary sessions. The coaches screened the 'homework' and provided feedback. The original idea was that at the end of the 10-week period, each country would have a fully developed BC, after which a 'dragons' den' would be held. A dragons' den is a gathering of investors and BC proponents, whereby the latter try to persuade the former to invest in their BC, and investors can quiz the BC proponents to find out whether the BC is of interest to them. However, as it turned out, the financial aspects of the BC development were more challenging than anticipated, and the collective training sessions were therefore complimented with one-on-one coaching sessions to finalize the documentation. The dragons' den was converted into a *friendly* dragons' den where each country pitched their BC and received feedback from experts in the field: no real investors were involved. The training and the one-to-one coaching resulted in an increased understanding of the network partners' staff of what a BC comprises. This will enable them to assist BC proponents in their landscapes, to compile bankable BC and to

interact with financial institutions. The overarching objective is to promote responsible business, building more resilience into a diverse landscape with higher incomes and more autonomy for local land users. Besides the increased staff's understanding of BCs, it also resulted in actual business cases. Some of these cases will be implemented in the coming years, as part of a new and innovative TBI programme supported by the Netherlands Postcode Lottery.

With respect to intended 2021 outcome #2: After having developed the CBA tool for Ghana in 2020, a tailormade tool was developed for Indonesia in 2021. A number of agroforestry options were quantified in which multiple combinations of trees and foodcrops or fruits featured: both currently used combinations, as well as new combinations with a higher share of trees in them. The CBA analysis showed that agroforestry systems are more profitable than single crop systems, for instance in the case of cocoa. In addition, such systems have extra development benefits, such as a more balanced distribution of cash in and cash out moments throughout the year. And this is aside from the positive impact on the climate resilience of and biodiversity in the land-use system. The outcomes of the tool were used in 2021 in discussions with financial service providers to see whether they are willing to engage in a formal relationship with the BC proponents who practice agroforestry. This is still an ongoing process of building (trust) relationships with financial service providers. It did, however, already lead to the establishment of a consultancy service company specialised in delivering expertise in cocoa agroforestry models that combine different plant and tree species (including food crops, medicinal plants, cocoa, fruits and nuts).

With respect to intended 2021 outcome #3: In a number of countries (notably Ghana, Indonesia, and Suriname) first conversations were initiated with financial service providers. In some countries, especially Ghana and Indonesia, these conversations were particularly constructive and are expected to result in new/better financial services (this is also grace to the MoMo4C programme that is being implemented in these countries giving them a head start). In Suriname the cooperatives in our landscape are opening bank accounts with the GODO bank, anticipating the possibility of being able to apply for financial products soon. With respect to financial mechanisms, both Colombia and Bolivia are developing schemes. In Colombia the scheme, developed conceptionally in 2021, is driven by environmental co-benefits (carbon credits), and in Bolivia by domestic conservation and climate change mitigation aspirations. During the BC training the concepts were refined and elaborated in the BC proposals. We hope to report more on the design of these mechanisms in 2022.

6 Gender and youth cross-cutting theme

Thematic vision

Our long-term vision is 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 contributes simultaneously to equity, sustainability and resilience.

Intended overall outcomes

The programme emphasizes the gender and youth (G&Y) dimensions of the three main landscape-level pathways (inclusive governance, responsible businesses and finance, and sustainable practices). The associated intended outcomes are:

- Men, women and youth participate in land-use decisions and landscape governance on equal terms, and decisions reflect the interests of men, women and youth;
- 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.
- Men, women and youth are involved in applying sustainable land-use practices, and equally benefit from these practices, including secured access rights.

Intended 2021 outcomes as a G&Y network team

1. Consolidate the G&Y country baselines, based on the 5 agreed indicators related to the 3 overall outcomes mentioned above (Box 2), and based on that, develop a more systematic network-wide (mainstreaming) planning and reporting approach in relation to the G&Y baseline indicators, priority issues, gender and age disaggregated monitoring.
2. Continue to guide the network and stimulate exchange and learning with a focus on developing gender policies and strategies and setting specific gender and youth targets; exchange and communicate more on success stories and strategies.
3. Develop guidelines to address obstacles and resistance identified during the Learning weeks in October 2020 for achieving G&Y objectives, e.g. resistance coming from (male) traditional leaders, and local organizations that are dominated by men, low self-esteem and confidence of women and youth (see Table 2).

Box 2. Gender and age disaggregated baseline indicators related to WL landscape level pathways
Inclusive landscape governance: Related gender and age disaggregated indicators: Level of…:
1. access to land and ecosystem services;
2. land tenure rights/security;
3. participation in decision making about land & forest use and governance)

Responsible business and finance: Related indicator:
4. Level of access to production resources, inputs and benefits)

Sustainable land-use practices: Related indicator:
5. Level of participation in, contribution to, and benefits of climate smart practices)

Table 2. Obstacles to achieve G&Y objectives, and related priority issues

Resistance/obstacle	*Related priority issue*
Social norms and values; traditional male leadership	Secure participation ('voices heard') of women and youth in land & forest governance issues (rights & access)
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 agr./env. issues, restrictions for YW	Creating income generating opportunities for youth related to climate smart NR use and governance

Progress 2021

In the first three months of 2021, the G&Y team developed guidelines to address the most common obstacles and issues identified during 2020, with guidance for all network partners to: analyse root causes; create awareness; build capacity; identify potential allies; and approach stakeholders and improve their engagement to achieve policy changes, for each obstacle and/or priority. Among network partners it resulted in more attention to improving the self-confidence and capacity of women to participate in land and forest governance and to encouraging local leaders to stimulate women to participate.

The G&Y team also started to assemble G&Y success stories from the network, for example about how women can be stimulated to express their interests and needs (Suriname), how women and youth can be engaged in ecotourism activities (Indonesia), and how more gender equity in community forest governance can be achieved (Bolivia). In Viet Nam a policy brief was produced showing how environmental degradation, privatization and the introduction of commercial crops are affecting women negatively. Some stories were presented and shared in a TBI network meeting. This contributed to the increased attention for the need to build capacity and encourage engagement of women and youth.

Because of delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the baseline development process that started in 2020 continued for some countries in 2021. Not all went as intended: the G&Y team found that some partners used another approach to establish their gender and youth baseline, and there was no good overview on the state of affairs on the common indicators across countries, to what extent the analysis resulted in the formulation of ambitious targets and actions, and what progress had been made. Therefore, the team developed ToR for a consultancy to: (1) establish a consolidated baseline; (2) assess progress and to identify 'stories of change'; and (3) develop a vision and strategy for addressing priority issues of inequality and improving engagement. In October 2021 a consultancy agency (MDF) started working on this.

The consultants concentrated first on working with country teams to: (1) analyse issues with the help of the 'social change matrix' and defining activities for the 2022 work plan during and after the WL learning weeks; and (2) review the baseline and progress made on the common indicators in a joint Baseline and Monitoring Excel sheet. The social change matrix introduced by the MDF consultants proved to be a powerful tool to analyse different root causes of inequalities and reflect on ways to address these. During November and December each WL partner received one-on-one coaching from the consultants to use this tool for their

2022 G&Y priority issues. As a result of this coaching several partners added or strengthened specific gender and youth targets to their 2022 work plan.

The original WL G&Y team consisted of gender focal points and/or directors of Suriname, Colombia, DR Congo, and Indonesia. We assumed that, through peer-to-peer coaching, the other TBI members and partners would also adopt the indicators for gender and age disaggregated baseline development. In 2021, however, we realized that the approaches developed by the G&Y team were not always picked up by the other country teams. In 2021 we therefore expanded the G&Y team to involve members of all the WL countries. By having all countries represented in the G&Y team, and by analysing and developing strategies together, it is less complicated to exchange and learn together, and implement strategies adapted to the local context.

7 Drylands

TBI's dryland programme focusses on Ethiopia. Drylands make up much of Ethiopia's land mass. Over the last decades, these areas have suffered severe degradation caused by deforestation, agricultural expansion and overgrazing, in combination with climate change. There is much potential to restore these areas in ways that contribute to local livelihoods while also helping to mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon.

TBI's partner in Ethiopia is the Pastoralist and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA). At the start of the programme in 2020 a provisional working landscape was identified as comprising of four adjoining districts straddling the border between northeastern Tigray Region and northern Afar.

Priorities for 2021

In 2021, TBI and PENHA had planned to work around the following priorities:

1. Continue establishing the programme by identifying suitable local NGO partners and elaborating the ToC based on continued reconnaissance in the selected landscape, taking into account political developments. By the end of 2021, the aim is that Ethiopia is fully established as a WL country programme and included in the regular programme cycle.
2. Complete assessments on the contribution of dryland restoration to Ethiopia's NDCs; and charcoal and fuelwood production in Ethiopia.
3. Contribute to national level coordination and collaboration among dryland restoration actors, based on documenting and dissemination of knowledge, and improving dialogue and knowledge sharing between diverse government and non-government actors. By the end of 2021, we aim to establish a functioning multi-stakeholder platform including relevant government and non-governmental actors with interests in drylands, land restoration, or climate change mitigation and adaptation, and leading to the production of a draft national dryland restoration strategy.
4. At the local level, steps will be taken in parallel, to confirm the target landscape and undertaking scoping visits, site assessments, stakeholder mapping and baseline studies and associated analyses, leading to the production of a participatory landscape restoration plan.

Progress 2021

Planned landscape-level work around the Desa'a Forest at the border of the Tigray and Afar regions was suspended after war broke out in Tigray. The ongoing war has made landscape-level work impossible, and we therefore focussed on research and policy work (related to the second and third priority). We carried out a study providing a detailed review of the links between landscape restoration and Ethiopia's NDC, with a focus on the drylands. We also conducted a study on carbon finance in the Bale Mountains eco-region, assessing challenges with existing models and pointing to revisions to enhance effectiveness. Finally, we conducted a study on the frankincense value chain, emphasising the importance of community forest

ownership and management in establishing inclusive and sustainable value chains, boosting local incomes while restoring the landscape.

In addition to our research and dissemination activities, we put much effort in developing a national dryland restoration strategy together with the key actors in the country. A national strategy is required for two reasons. First, past restoration efforts have been hampered by a lack of coordination across different government institutions and a failure to harmonize policies across sectors. Second, past restoration efforts have been based on area exclosures, which restricted communities' ability to access and use dry forests and woodlands, with little or no consideration for the effects on local livelihoods. There is thus a need for restoration approaches that benefit local communities.

In April we organized a national workshop with representatives from the Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Commission, research institutes, NGOs and government agencies from the six regional states where drylands predominate — Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia, Somali and Tigray. Based on the workshop, we published a book, providing an overview of challenges and opportunities for restoration in Ethiopia. Moreover, the workshop resulted in a joint declaration on a shared restoration vision, and the creation of 'task teams', which then started working towards a draft national restoration strategy. The Netherlands Embassy in Addis Ababa also participated in the development of the strategy.

By the end of 2021, the draft strategy was ready and agreed upon by all stakeholders, including all relevant government departments. The strategy promotes the integration of trees, agriculture, water and livelihoods, and is based on the 'top 20 challenges in dryland restoration', which were identified during the inception phase of the drylands programme.

In 2022 the draft strategy will be reviewed and approved by the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture. The strategy provides a framework for the elaboration of tailored regional action plans, and will also support the implementation of Ethiopia's NDC. It represents a major breakthrough, as it is the first time that all relevant parties agree on a strategy that will restore Ethiopia's drylands and benefit the people who live there.

8 Wildfire subprogramme

In 2021, an additional programme, called “Fire-smart landscape governance: from opportunity to lasting change” (or: the “wildfire subprogramme”) was approved.

Over the past decade, uncontrolled forest fires have increasingly captured international headlines. They have affected many regions worldwide, including places not previously associated with fires, such as dense tropical forests. The human tragedy, the loss of assets, and the impacts on health and the environment have been tremendous. At the same time, fire contexts have become more complex, due to the effects of climate change; the presence of disturbed, more flammable vegetations; and the increase of economic activities in fire-prone landscapes. This combination of factors has increased the risk of fires spiralling out of control and becoming wildfires. Recent wildfire events in a variety of tropical contexts have increased attention to the urgent need to develop and implement effective fire management strategies, both at landscape and national levels.

Thematic vision
Our long-term vision is one of climate-smart landscapes where forest and trees are used sustainably, and the risks of catastrophic wildfires are reduced, through the adoption of fire-smart territory approaches. Stakeholders manage land use and fire to reach jointly agreed objectives, taking the needs and interests of women, men and youth into account and supporting mitigation and adaptation goals.

Intended subprogramme outcomes
- Landscape stakeholders support and implement an inclusive and participatory approach to reduce or eliminate the risk of wildfire, taking the different needs and interests of men, women and youth into account.
- (Inter)national practitioners, policy makers and international fora have improved awareness and recognize the importance of adopting inclusive and participatory wildfire risk management approaches and practices to reduce wildfire risks and the relation with climate change mitigation and adaptation in the tropics.

Progress 2021
The wildfire subprogramme started in August 2021. First, the concept of fire-smart territories (FST) was adapted to the tropics, including defining principles. A synthesis connecting FST with fires in tropical context was finalized end 2021; it will serve as a working reference for the programme, and as a basis for a detailed theory of change (to be finished early 2022). It has become clear that, while there is literature on this topic, the terminology that is used differs from temperate and Mediterranean examples, and there are not many

documented experiences. Therefore, we have started with collecting information about the FST approach and other related integrated fire management approaches, to enrich the concept of climate-smart landscapes for the tropics. This includes clarifying the link between the FST approach and climate change mitigation and adaptation in climate-smart landscapes in the forested tropics.

In 2021, we started working on a new edition of Tropical Forest Issues (formerly ETFRN news) #61, which will be used to document experiences with integrated fire management approaches in the tropics, with specific attention to issues related to governance, landscape level implementation and local stakeholder participation. In developing the publication, we have been able to establish new contacts and links to relevant networks. In 2021, an editorial board including experts has been established and the call for abstracts has been released. The final publication is expected in mid-2022.

We have started implementing field projects in WL focus landscapes in Bolivia and Indonesia to demonstrate the application of fire-smart territory approaches in practice. In Bolivia, the focus is on implementing effective, locally appropriate and inclusive fire-smart strategies with local partners to reduce the risk of wildfires. In 2021, two municipal governments in the landscape included fire risk prevention in their development plans, and one of them issued a Municipal Law for Fire Risk Management, based on a joint analysis of the needs of local communities, and including elements of the landscape approach. At the national level, IBIF's efforts resulted in the inclusion of forest fire reduction targets in Bolivia's revised NDC, that was submitted to the UNFCCC in the beginning of 2022.

In Indonesia the focus is on reducing the risk of fires on drained peatlands (used for large and small scale oil palm cultivation), by promoting peatland restoration approaches, developing alternative land-use options and implementing well-coordinated fire prevention policies at the district and landscape level. In 2021, Tropenbos Indonesia successfully facilitated a collaborative process involving multiple stakeholders from national to local and landscape levels to develop a shared vision. At the landscape level, a 'peatland-monitoring patrol' was established as part of a fire risk prevention strategy, and champion farmers were trained to showcase fire-smart peatland agricultural practices. Also, a formal collaboration was established between the national peatland restoration agency and the district government as a foundation for peatland restoration efforts district wide.

In addition to the activities in Bolivia and Indonesia, we have started exploring new opportunities to expand the subprogramme into other countries. For this, we developed a procedure to identify new projects, including criteria and the process to be followed. Several concept notes, including for Ethiopia, have been drawn up, for further decision making in the early months of 2022.

9 Assumptions

Below we share some reflections on each of the four general assumptions that underlie the WL programme. Evaluating the assumptions and TBI's response to assumptions that may not hold are the subject of the Mid Term review that is happening in 2022.

Assumption 1: NDCs are key policy frameworks for countries to align and optimise their climate-related policies and initiatives.
The NDCs of all countries in the WL programme recognize the role of trees and forests. They usually mention forest- and tree-based strategies in relation to mitigation, focussing on conservation and restoration of forest areas. However, little is noted about the sustainable use of trees and forests, and their importance for local people in changing climate conditions. In the view of TBI this is a missed opportunity, and we therefore work towards greater recognition of forest and tree-based strategies in the NDCs, to achieve both climate mitigation and adaptation objectives. Governments are expected to revise their NDCs every five years, which offers opportunities for improvements. Our experiences so far indicate that NDCs are indeed an important policy vehicle to ensure the mainstreaming of climate-smart policies at the national level, but that the possibilities to effectively influence the content of the NDCs differs greatly between countries. In Bolivia we have been able to directly contribute to the revision of the NDC, but in most other countries it has been difficult for our members and partners to be involved in these revisions. NDC processes are often coordinated by government agencies, leaving little room for significant inputs from non-governmental actors. Several TBI members therefore adapted their NDC-related strategies. Tropenbos Ghana, for example has been facilitating a process through which civil society actors could provide feedback to the NDC. In some other countries, like Viet Nam, the focus has shifted to sub-national levels, to help with the implementation of the NDC.

Assumption 2: If local people—and particularly women and marginalized groups—are involved in decision-making processes, they are in a better position to protect their interests.
At landscape level, the inclusion of local people in multi-stakeholder platforms helps to ensure that their voices are heard, and this may eventually influence decisions by government and corporate actors, but these processes require a lot of time, trust building, and well-organized (and well-represented) local groups. At community level, we see evidence that increased participation of women and other marginalized groups in forest governance bodies enables them to influence decisions. However, the extent to which these groups can protect their interests, depends on: (i) *how* they are involved in decision-making processes; (ii) their capacities to influence decision-making; and (iii) the attitude of those who usually make decisions. TBI members and partners are therefore not only facilitating the participation of women and other marginalized groups in community forest governance bodies, but also building their capacity, so they feel empowered and confident to raise their voice in such settings, while engaging traditional decision-makers in these processes.

In some of the WL focus landscapes, there is significant resistance from traditional (male) authorities, but there too, it is possible to achieve breakthroughs. In DR Congo, for example, women are increasingly accepted as equal members in community forest concession management committees.

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

TBI members and partners provide decision makers with reliable information in multi-stakeholder processes. They bring evidence to the table, as a basis for discussions and negotiations. This has been effective to inform the decisions of other stakeholders. For example, information that Tropenbos Indonesia brought into a district-level multi-stakeholder platform has changed the perception of key stakeholders about the benefits of peatland restoration, eventually resulting in a commitment of the government. When economic interests are at stake, stakeholders will be inclined to resist change, and in such cases it is particularly relevant to provide reliable information about the short-and long-term costs and benefits of proposed changes. TBI members and partners also provide decision makers with reliable and relevant information through targeted lobby and advocacy. For lobby and advocacy, 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.

10 Risks

During the development of the programme and in the workplan for 2021 we identified a number of risks, 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 2021, and how TBI members and partners have addressed them.

10.1 Contextual risks

Covid-19 continued to affect operations in 2021 in terms of health risks to staff and stakeholders, restrictions to staff travel, and cancellation of group work and larger national and international events. We were indeed confronted with personal tragedy among (partner) staff and relatives. Effects on progress manifested principally in Suriname, Colombia and Viet Nam. The effects were moderate, mainly in the form of delayed field work. For instance, the third Covid peak in Colombia delayed the implementation of the restoration community proposals because the right planting period had passed. Covid-related restrictions were mitigated by adjusting the work plans and by observing strict biosafety protocols and avoiding face-to-face activities. The creation of chat groups and involvement of local people also helped to keep activities going. The Covid crisis virtually stopped our international travel and no cross-country field visits could be made. We largely replaced this by intensified virtual communication.

We also feared 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. To an extent this may have been the case, but it did not set us back operationally. It does affect the context in which the programme should achieve its results.

Risks related to ethnic/political unrest and war in Tigray (Ethiopia), rearrangement of illegal armed groups in the Solano landscape (Colombia), and conflict between local people and Yira immigrants in the Bafwasende landscape (DR Congo) largely materialised. The war in Tigray made it impossible to carry out planned landscape-level activities with community groups and traditional institutions in the Tigray and Afar regions. The conflict also intensified the felling of trees in the Desa'a Forest for charcoal production. We avoided the conflict by postponing the development of a landscape programme in favour of nationally oriented policy work, while we are scouting alternative locations.

The security situation in the Solano landscape in Colombia changed last year, as the production, purchase and price of cocaine increased. As a result, the groups in charge of the business, such as the FARC dissidents and the Sinaloa cartel, are fighting over territories, including the Peneya basin. This situation has increased

the presence of these groups in the work area. Mitigation happened by building strong relations with local communities and key persons, remaining neutral in conflict and involving all parties involved in activities.

There have been political changes at national and local levels in Bolivia, Suriname, Indonesia and Ghana, affecting the continuity of collaboration between Tropenbos members and relevant government agencies. As a result of political changes, relationships with relevant agencies and officials sometimes needed to be re-established. The partner in Bolivia mitigated the risk by adopting a culture of registration of all the activities and agreements reached with authorities and technical personnel, so that in case of changes in personnel the activities can be quickly redirected if necessary. In Bolivia and Ghana, partners mentioned that the changes turned out to provide an opportunity by bringing people in power that are sympathetic to the changes that the WL programme seeks.

Emerging contextual risks
Risks that turned up in 2021 were campaigns against human rights defenders (which affects Tropenbos DR Congo in general and their Director in particular) and the waxing and waning political urgency of certain issues, in particular the wildfire issue but also land reform. In Bolivia, the interest of political actors in fire-related issues varies according to the intensity of the fires. Production of information on the impacts of the fires on the region's economy, distribution and presentation of the information is crucial in maintaining the sense of urgency.

10.2 Programmatic risks

The workplan identified the existence of several complementary programmes as a potential risk, i.e., potential overlap, unclear attribution of results and potential administrative clutter. This concerns the second phase of the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA2) and the Mobilising more for Climate (MoMo4C) programme, both funded by DGIS, and also the Green Finance for SMEs (GFS) programme, funded by the national postcode lottery. After the first year of GLA2 we see that some partners chose to separate the programmes geographically. Also, compared to the WL programme, activities within the GLA2 programme emphasise a rights-based approach, and have a stronger focus on CSOs and land rights issues. In Bolivia, the GLA2 programme took on a gender perspective. In all, this means that the risk of overlap and unclear attribution did not materialize in 2021. MoMo4C is operational in Ghana and Indonesia, and focuses on the development of business skills and business cases. The GFS programme potentially provides guarantee funding to stimulate local financial institutions to provide credit for those business cases. The WL programme focuses on improving the enabling conditions for entrepreneurship in a wider landscape context. The programmes are clearly mutually supporting, but it does lead to instances where delineation between them is somewhat arbitrary. We address it by being transparent about the contribution of each programme.

The risk of administrative clutter due to overlapping programme cycles is real. Our strategy is to standardize planning and reporting procedures and integrate coordination structures. This does not prevent that at times, partners are flooded with administrative requirements, which are partly overlapping.

Emerging programmatic risks
As referred to in chapter 3, there are some instances of pushback, and achievement of WL outcomes in some instances were observed to lead to conflict. For example, in DR Congo, some traditional leaders have been resisting the governance innovations that come with community forest concession titles (CFCLs) and some local authorities have shown reluctance to the community forestry process; they have refrained from signing the identification files of some CFCL applicant communities. To circumvent these challenges, open advocacy and dialogues were carried out with the authorities concerned, with a view to raising their awareness and reminding them of their rights and duties in the field of community forestry. Thanks to this, all community identification files and letters of transmittal of these files have been signed. Also in DR

Congo, conflicts have been observed between communities with community forest concession titles (CFCLs), and outsiders and other communities.

10.3 Organizational risks

We identified the start and intensification of work with a new partner in Ethiopia (PENHA) as a potential risk. This risk did not materialize. We have been working closely with PENHA and they delivered according to expectation both in terms of content and administratively.

In 2021 there were no reported complaints or breaches of the code of conduct, which covers integrity, fraud, corruption, unacceptable behaviour, etc. Also, during the audit no instances were identified. At an organizational level, we have upgraded our fraud and corruption policy and expect to have it confirmed by our Board soon.

Emerging organizational risks
The WL programme was topped up by 25% in August 2021 in order to implement a subprogramme on wildfires. This leaves us just over 2 years to achieve the results of that subprogramme. The programme had a flying start based on pre-existing activities in Indonesia and Bolivia, but the identification of additional opportunities for field programmes as well as the consecutive development of solid workplans for those countries is expected to take some time and there is a risk that the programme's intended outcomes will prove to be too ambitious. We mitigate this by being realistic in setting programme goals and by timely adjusting those goals if needed.

11 Programme organization and learning

11.1 Learning within the network

The WL programme is implemented by a network of eight countries. 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). Through biweekly network meet ups we exchange and discuss common issues and lessons learned with a large proportion of the staff in the eight WL-countries, including staff from countries where TBI has projects but which are not represented in the WL programme. In addition, country teams organize bi-annual reflection meetings to reflect on their progress vis-à-vis the country theory of change, and prepare for joint WL-planning and reporting. These feed into network-wide interactive 'planning, learning and reflection events': a series of two-hour online learning sessions extending over two weeks and involving many staff from all countries. Network meetings and Learning Weeks help to streamline common procedures and strengthen capacities, such as reporting on key performance indicators, applying theories of change, outcome harvesting, and a common gender and youth approach.

Throughout 2021, the thematic teams have used the network meet ups to exchange the expertise built up across the different country programmes and to share relevant developments related to their themes. Among others this has resulted in a joint presentation on NDCs during the Global Landscape Forum at COP26. In addition, (virtual) cross-country exchange took place between country teams during joint trainings on developing business cases (in the Business and Finance thematic team) and on analysing and developing strategies for gender and youth priority issues (Gender and Youth thematic team). Also, communication staff in WL country teams started monthly learning and exchange meet ups to strengthen joint WL communication.

The reflection sessions in 2021 have brought to light additional cross-cutting themes. These relate to coherent programme monitoring, scaling up strategies, the operationalization of the climate-smart landscape concept on the ground, and the 'legacy' WL wants to leave behind.

11.2 Learning with other organizations

The Collaborative Learning Initiative that was started up in 2020 to stimulate mutual learning between TBI, WWF, Solidaridad and Commonland has been extended with the participation of the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), The Dutch Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WCDI), Oxfam Novib and staff from the department of the Inclusive Green Growth Department

(IGG) of the ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2021, the Collaborative Learning Initiative has been developing a joint learning agenda, aiming to improve synergies between organizations and foster joint learning from the various programmes and initiatives they are running. The initiative acts as a Community of Practice for landscape learning, enabling participants to create small learning groups around issues they suggest themselves. The collaboration should enable them to identify and address issues of common interest and concern — especially where they work in the same countries.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