

SURINAME

The greenest country on Earth

CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL

Suriname



WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Suriname retains **93% of its original forest cover** — the highest percentage in the world. These precious forests allow Suriname to be a **carbon-negative** country, meaning the country removes more greenhouse gases from the atmosphere than it emits.

However, deforestation is increasing rapidly. **Gold mining and infrastructure**, mainly road construction, are the main drivers of deforestation and habitat destruction in Suriname. If we act now, we can curtail the **deforestation and coastal erosion** that threaten climate stability and livelihoods of thousands of people and wildlife.

At the same the recent Forest Reference of Emissions Levels study shows that in Suriname most of the emissions are ascribed to the forestry sector (51%). As such, more focus will be given to adopt a Climate Smart Forestry (CSF) approach.



SIPALIWINI DISTRICT, UPPER PALUMEU, SURINAME © TROND LARSEN

Conservation International (CI) Suriname works to:

Help maintain 93% forest cover by implementing CI's **Green Growth Strategy** in support of **sustainable economic growth** and strategic use of the country's **natural capital**



PARAMARIBO, SURINAME © RENE OCKHUIJSEN

WHERE WE WORK.

CI works in the South of Suriname to protect intact forests and improve livelihoods; in Mid Suriname to curb deforestation; and in the North of Suriname to protect mangroves and support sustainable fishing in coastal communities.

CI Suriname Conservation Indicators



7.4 million hectares conserved



6.2 billion tons of carbon stored



268,000 direct beneficiaries
161.5 million indirect beneficiaries

OUR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES.

Protecting Forests and Oceans for People, Nature and Climate.

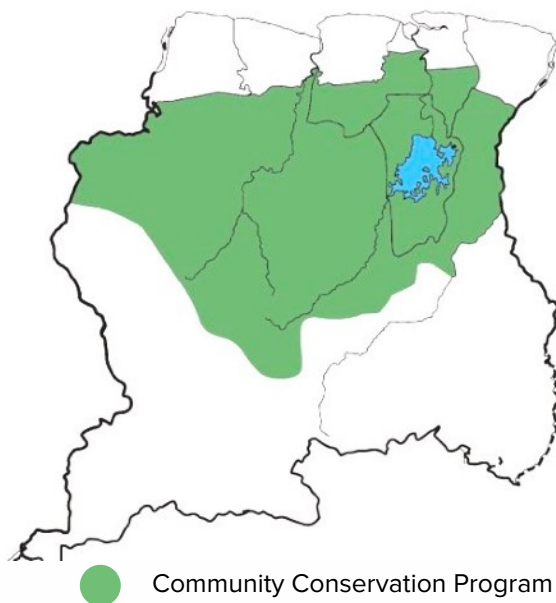
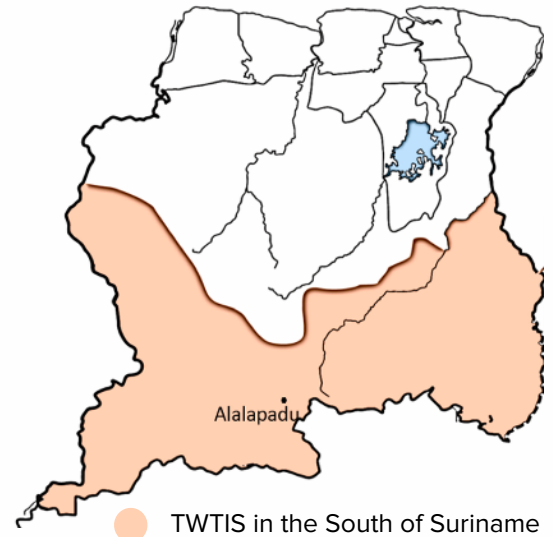
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TRIO AND WAYANA PROTECT LAND AND NATURE IN SOUTHERN SURINAME (TWTIS)

CI and our partners established the TWTIS program to secure irreplaceable ecosystems through a new community conservation area in the South of Suriname. We are supporting indigenous communities to co-manage **7.2 million hectares** in TWTIS. We helped update Suriname's Nature Conservation Act, and are building local capacity and engaging stakeholders to effectively manage and conserve these remote, intact community living areas.

To provide economic alternatives to deforestation, CI uses conservation agreements. This incentive-based strategy outlines conservation actions that communities who own and use natural resources agree to carry out in exchange for direct benefits. The Alalapadu, one of nine TWTIS communities, agreed to sustainably harvest Brazil nuts, regulate agouti hunting and monitor vegetation burning in exchange for capacity building and the establishment of an oil processing facility.

As a result, **43 jobs have been created**, employing nearly 87% of the adult population, generating 2,547 liters of Brazil nut oil and **\$62,134 in revenue during the first 18 months of the pilot**. CI seeks to expand our efforts to the 8 remaining TWTIS communities, working to support sustainable livelihood projects identified by each village.



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

CI is working with Matawai tribal communities to protect and sustainably manage their community forest. This program spans across the Mid-Region of Suriname, where most of the deforestation in the country occurs. By sustainably managing **97,000 hectares** and conserving **39,000 hectares** of forest, CI and the Matawai community have been able to reduce deforestation in their community forest. CIS aims to empower the Matawai and local authorities to sustainably manage their community forest through the implementation of Climate Smart Forestry (CSF) practices, resulting in reduced emissions, while creating sustainable finance and livelihood opportunities.

COMMUNITY FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Our Goal

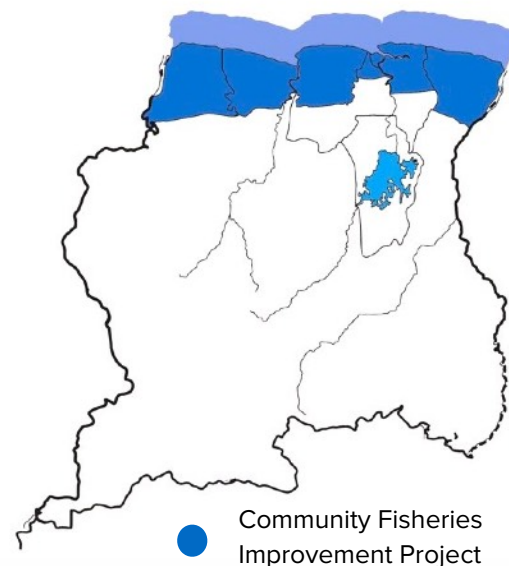
CI works to improve the conditions of Suriname's coastal fisheries and supporting ecosystems critical to community livelihoods, and protect endangered, threatened and protected marine species. We aim to bring **60% of seafood production to sustainable levels** by increasing awareness of sustainable fishing practices.

Our Efforts

CI is working with the University of Suriname to reduce bycatch of endangered, threatened and protected species in coastal community fisheries. Bycatch occurs when fishers unintentionally catch species other than their target species. Currently, CI is testing innovative bycatch reduction devices. Additionally, we coordinated a multi-stakeholder workshop with over 30 representatives, including local fisheries, government agencies, scientific institutions, civil society, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Maritime Authority of Suriname to provide technical assistance and capacity building to improve sustainable fisheries in coastal communities.

Take-Away

Through this project, CI is bringing awareness of the importance of responsibly managing and protecting marine ecosystems to improve the livelihoods of local communities and fisheries. In the coming months, we seek to identify new market opportunities that value sustainable fishing practices.



SEDIMENT TRAPPING UNIT IN WEG NAAR ZEE, SURINAME
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MITIGATING COASTAL EROSION

Building with Nature

With the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, CI is working in the northern coast of Suriname to mitigate erosion through the application of wave-breaking and sediment trapping techniques.

What is a STU?

A Sediment Trapping Unit (STU) is a cost-effective structure built of wallaba wood and bamboo that filters out sediment from seawater. STUs are used to trap sediment to improve conditions for mangrove growth. To complement this natural mangrove growth, researchers, members of the community and the general public are planting mangroves in the newly formed sediment bank, helping nearby communities adapt to climate-induced sea level rise.

Seeing Results

The STUs have shown improvement in stabilizing the coastline, generating new mangroves and increasing the prevalence of bird sightings. Through capacity building and public awareness, communities in the area are learning about the importance of mangrove restoration and the benefits that mangroves provide for their well-being.

CI'S FIRST NATIONAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

CI launched its first wildlife program to bring legal and illegal wildlife trade and hunting to sustainable levels for nine priority species in Suriname. The initial focus is on training, recruitment and networking to build the foundation of a robust and lasting program. This program aims to **secure healthy wildlife populations** by preventing wildlife trade, habitat loss and poaching.

OUR CALL TO ACTION.

Nature doesn't need people. People need nature.

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Each year **\$1.5 million** is needed to accomplish our conservation priorities

With your support, CI Suriname will:

- Continue to develop our National Wildlife Program to ensure healthy wildlife populations and help set-up an educational center for nature and wildlife.
- Establish additional conservation agreements with the 8 remaining indigenous communities in South Suriname
- Collaborate with the Matawai to sustainably manage an additional 60,000 hectares of community forest
- Support recovery of small-scale fisheries through our Community Fisheries Improvement Projects (CFIP), innovative financial models and social marketing strategies.
- Develop an awareness campaign on the importance of healthy marine ecosystems

“ Taking care of nature means taking care of ourselves and our economy, **and a better future for ourselves and our children.** At CI, it’s a matter of developing the best way to do that. ”

John Goedschalk

Executive Director, CI Suriname

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