

## Opportunity for research in 2021 with Conservation International Suriname and Universiteit Utrecht

Conservation International Suriname (CI-S) and the Universiteit Utrecht (UU) are collaborating on the Twinning project in South Suriname and give students the opportunity to participate in research activities. The goals of the Twinning project are:

- To consolidate and improve the sustainable production of Brazil nut oil in Alalapadu, an indigenous village in South Suriname.
- To set up an engagement process of a sustainable NTFP livelihood project in Sipaliwini, an indigenous village in South Suriname.

This project can facilitate students from the Anton de Kom University (ADEK) and Stichting Polytechnic College (PTC). Below we propose two research opportunities for students within the Twinning Project.

### **Project 1: Sustainable harvesting of Brazil nuts; a follow up**

In many parts of South America people make a livelihood from the Brazil nut (*Bertholletia excelsa*). Harvesting must be done sustainably in order to guarantee future populations of *Bertholletia* trees. In order to develop a plan for sustainable exploitation, information on the growth and reproduction dynamics of the species is needed. Since 2019, the people in Alalapadu began to exploit the Brazil nuts commercially. In 2016 the UU started a research in the village to determine differences in tree population dynamics between areas where the nuts were harvested and areas where nuts were not harvested. Also, the agouti population, which is the main natural seed disperser of the Brazil nut tree, was monitored in both areas. We now want to build forward on this research and other available information, to provide more scientific support for guidelines for sustainable harvesting scenarios. In 2019 the research was set up based on the results of the research that was done in 2016. CI-S now wants a follow up on this study.

Timing: April-Juni 2021

Field research in Alalapadu: 2-3 weeks

Supervision: Angélique Mackintosh (Conservation International) and Marijke van Kuijk (Utrecht University)

### **Project 2: Conducting a feasibility study for a sustainable livelihood (NTFP) project, including a basic biodiversity and socio-economic study**

The village Sipaliwini in South Suriname is interested in setting up a sustainable livelihood for their community. For this livelihood project they particularly expressed their interest in the NTFP: Mauritia (*Mauritia flexuosa*), which occurs in the area. This research must show if it is feasible to set up a sustainable livelihood from Mauritia, whereby a basic biodiversity and socio-economic study (market analysis and gender analysis) will also have to be carried out.

Besides a feasibility study for Mauritia, we are also interested in a feasibility study for another NTFP: Kui (*Attalea speciosa*), which can also offer a lot of potential for the village. Therefore, two students can be accommodated for this project.

Timing: April-Juni 2021

Field research in Sipaliwini: 2-3 weeks

Supervision: Angeliqve Mackintosh (Conservation International) and Marijke van Kuijk (Utrecht University)