

PARAMARIBO BIO-PLATEAUX CONFERENCE

TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASINS CONFERENCE IN THE GUIANAS

October 31 to November 2 – 2024



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• Ministry of Public Works

The Ministry of Public Works in Suriname, originally formed as the "Building department" in 1856, was responsible for civil and military construction. In 1912, it merged with the Colonial Shipping and Railways departments, becoming the Department of Public Works and Transport, overseeing public infrastructure such as roads, buildings, and water systems.

Over time, the ministry expanded to include urban development, telecommunications, and meteorology. Today, it is organized into four (4) directorates, namely:

1. The Directorate of Civil Engineering Works
2. The Directorate of Construction and Urban Development
3. The Directorate of Research and Services
4. The Directorate of Public Green and Waste Management



• Directorate Public Green & Waste Management

The Directorate Public Green & Waste Management, formerly called, Directorate of Environmental Management (in Dutch known as '*Milieubeheer*') was established on the 1st of May 1981.

Mission and Vision

- By maintaining and improving the living and working environment, the directorate contributes to a good, sustainable and manageable physical environment.

Objective

- The protection of the environment in general and the improvement of the physical living and working environment as well as the monitoring of compliance with relevant statutory regulations related to environmental matters.



- **Human resources**

The directorate has subsidiaries in 9 of the 10 districts of Suriname and employs a total of 1774 employees.

A few highly educated employees but predominantly low educated skilled employees (+/- 1664)

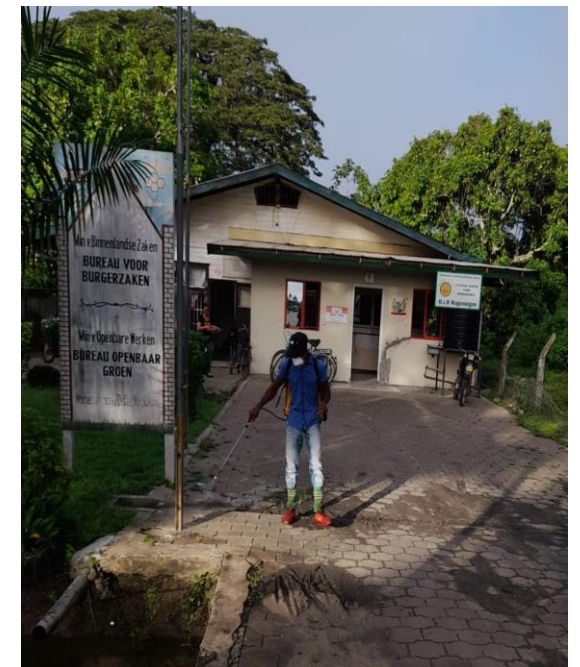
Note: There is need for capacity building within the organization.



• Main activities

- The maintenance of public areas, such as roadsides and public spaces;
- The construction and maintenance of parks, squares, green areas and recreational areas;
- The collection and disposal of municipal waste (garbage) in 5 of the 10 districts, namely Paramaribo, Wanica, Commewijne, Saramacca and Nickerie;
- The collection of street, yard and bulky waste;
- Working on urban development through urban beautification projects and landscaping;
- Promoting activities to improve the living environment in urban areas, as well as monitoring compliance with all relevant statutory regulations.





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- **Mega-project: Planting One Million Trees in Five Years**

In the global fight against the effects of climate change, forests and trees play a crucial role, namely absorbing greenhouse gases (CO₂) from the atmosphere.

However, there is little noticeable conservation of forests in urban areas. Trees in the city center of Paramaribo are becoming lesser, due to, among other things, the development of industrial areas, the construction of infrastructure and the paving of sidewalks, roadsides, etc.

Even when driving along the many roads in Suriname, it is clear that few trees have been planted on the roadsides against the background of beautification. Also in rural areas it appears that there is a loss of trees due to exploitation of natural resources (gold and trees) and human settlement.





• Mega-project: Planting One Million Trees in Five Years

In line with the policy objectives of the Directorate Public Green & Waste Management, the directorate intends to improve urban livability and contribute to global efforts to reduce CO2 emissions by planting one million trees in 5 years. Additionally, the project aims to enhance food security by planting fruit trees and establishing community fruit gardens.

Objectives:

- ✓ Improve urban green spaces by enhancing and beautifying green areas.
- ✓ Strengthening the resilience of the green-gray infrastructure.
- ✓ Promoting community engagement by collaborating with different partners: Institute of the First Lady and the Ministries of Spatial Planning and Environment, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries and Regional Development and Sports.



- **Mega-project alignment with international frameworks**

UNFCCC: Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement.

- **Article 4.1(d): Reforestation obligations.**

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- **SDG 13: Climate action.**
- **SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities.**
- **SDG 15: Life on land.**



• Current status of Mega-project

The mega-project was officially launched by the President of Suriname, H. E. Mr. Chandrikapersad Santhoki on the 24th of May 2024 in the district Wanica. Subsequent following the initial launch, two additional launch events have been conducted in the districts Saramacca & Commewijne, to promote and kick-start the planting activities across various regions.

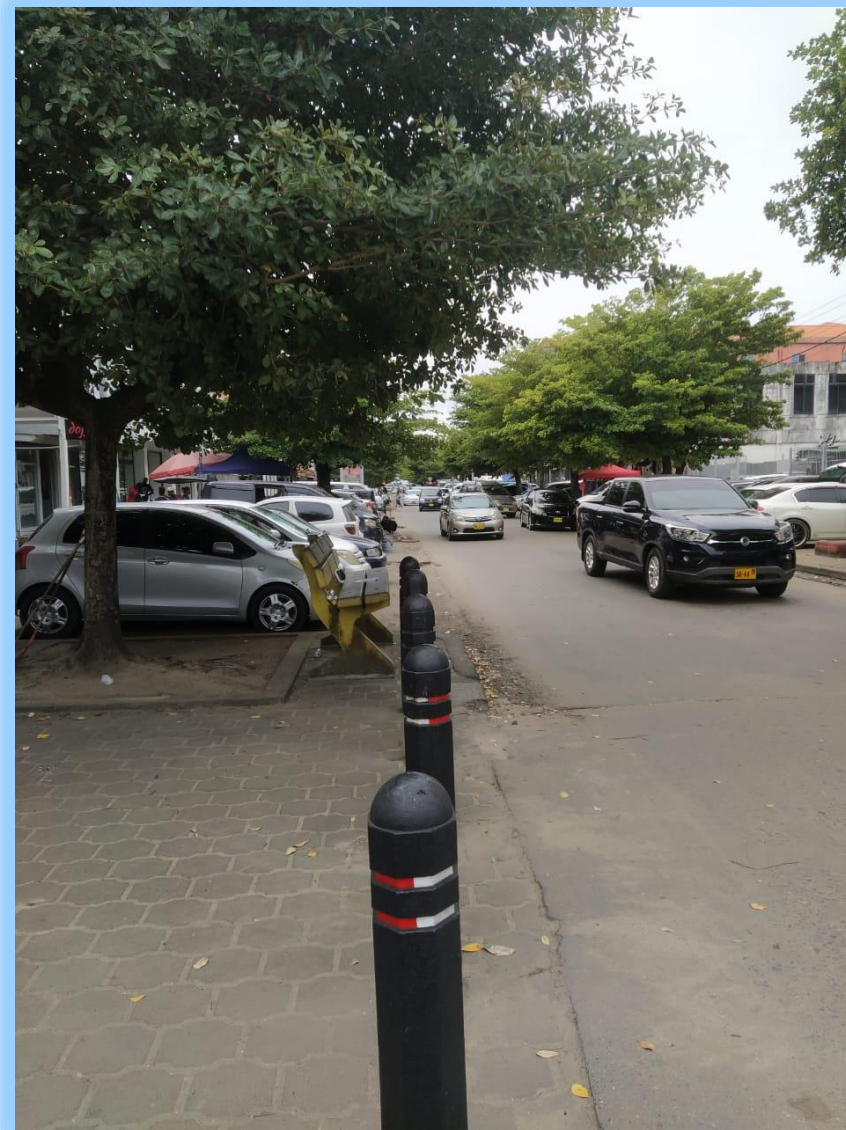
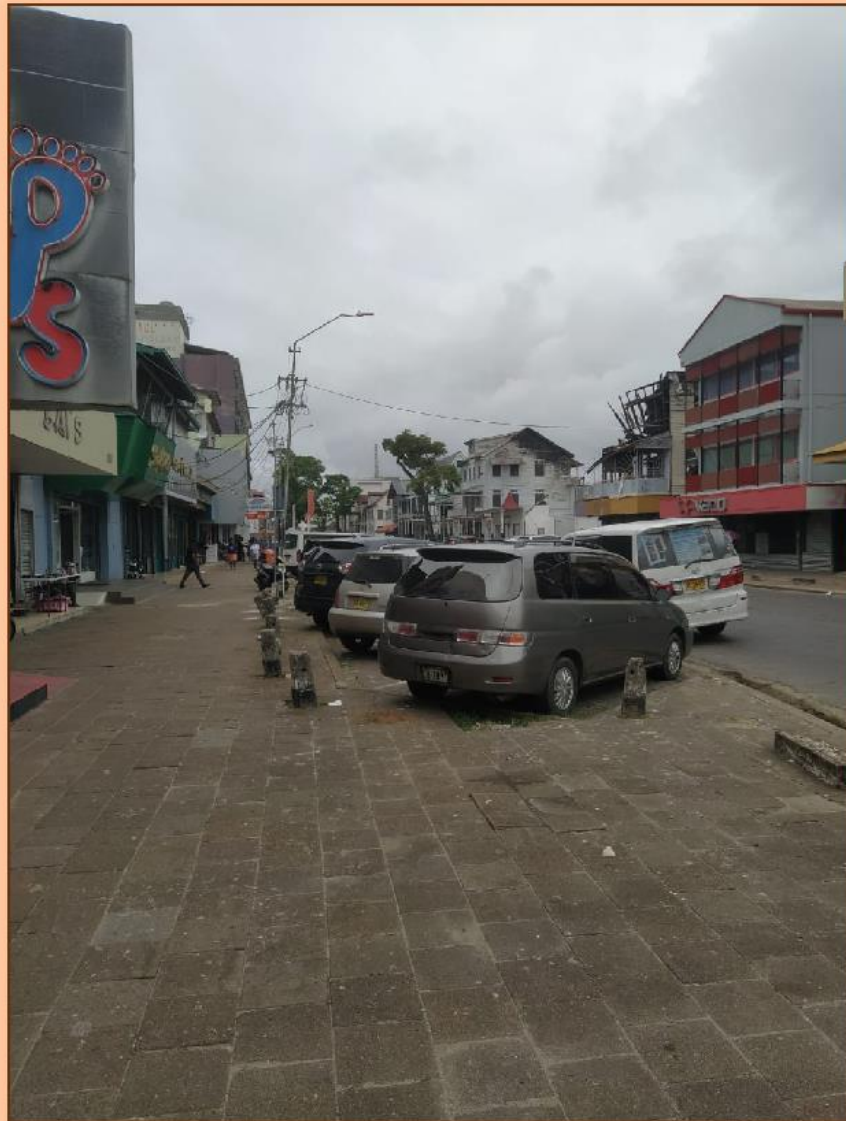
The project currently faces inadequate funding, which has posed challenges to full-scale implementation. Despite the financial constraints, efforts are being made to keep the project on track. Collaboration and partnerships are being strengthened to maximize resource use and community involvement.

However, if the tree nurseries are not established in the districts, there will be a lack of tree seedlings for planting or re-planting activities in the long term. Simultaneously, setting up composting facilities will allow the compost to be used as fertilizer for trees and plants, both in the nurseries and in community parks, squares, and fruit gardens.









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THE SESSION WILL START SHORTLY

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