



## Announcement

# Responsible Enterprise, International Cooperation and Tropical Forest Management. Are we on the right track?

Thursday, September 13, 2012, 13:00 – 17:00 hours

Conference Centre "De Reehorst", Bennekomseweg 24, Ede (for route, see: [www.reehorst.nl](http://www.reehorst.nl))

### Why this seminar?

In development policy of the Netherlands the active engagement of the private sector is increasingly seen as a core condition to achieve sustainable development and poverty alleviation. This seminar analyses the experiences, dilemma's and perspectives of the Dutch private sector in shaping their international Corporate Social Responsibility policies, with a particular focus on their impact on tropical forests and their role in the international cooperation of the Netherlands. This seminar aims to take stock of the state of affairs, recent insights and developments, share experiences and identify key steps in the way forward in policy and business development.

**Questions** that will be addressed include:

1. How do companies comply with CSR criteria and effectively take up the roles attributed to them in the Dutch development policy?
2. What specific measures have companies taken to mitigate their footprint on tropical forests and/or to promote sustainable forest management?
3. What can realistically be expected from companies and what should governments and NGOs take up?
4. What are the main dilemmas, needs and opportunities for putting CSR to practice, and how are these addressed by different actors?

### Participation and registration

This seminar brings together a broad audience of professionals from international private business and finance companies and their umbrella organisations, government, NGO's and science/education bodies; disciplines include technical, economic, financing and social specialists who are directly and indirectly involved in forest and land conservation, ecosystem management and restoration, biomass and carbon, and/or the production and trade chains of agricultural and forest products.

Attendance is free of charge after registration at <http://www.tropischebossen.nl/seminar/>.

### More information

See the VTB-website, or contact: Herman Savenije, Tropenbos International; e-mail: [herman.savenije@tropenbos.org](mailto:herman.savenije@tropenbos.org)

Follow us and comment on Twitter: @WeRightTrack

This seminar is the **sixth** in a series of annual events on *Sustainable forest management in the tropics. Are we on the right track?* The seminar takes stock of the latest knowledge, insights and activities on a specific tropical forest theme that is topical in the current Dutch policy and society against the question: are we on the right track? It is jointly organized by Wageningen University (Forestry Groups), Tropenbos International, Dutch Association of Tropical Forests (VTB), Prince Bernhard Chair of Utrecht University, Nyenrode Business University, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

# Tentative Programme

Time:	Subject:	Speaker:
12.30 – 13.15 hrs.	Registration and coffee	
13.15 – 13.30 hrs.	Welcome & Introduction	<b>Mrs. Sophieke Kappers (chair)</b> <i>Kubita Economic Empowerment</i>
13.30 – 14.10 hrs.	Session 1: Setting the stage: key notes	
	CSR and Tropical Forests: Status, Insights, Developments and Perspectives	<b>Mrs. Tineke Lambooi</b> <i>Nyenrode Business University</i>
	Dutch International Cooperation Policy and the Private Sector: Perspectives and Dilemma's	<b>Mr. Paul Schoenmakers</b> <i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>
14.10 – 15.00 hrs.	Session 2: Entrepreneurs interview panel	
	Interactive discussion facilitated by Sophieke Kappers	<b>Forum:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Mrs. Karin Verstralen</b>, <i>FMO - Entrepreneurial Development Bank</i></li> <li>2. <b>Mr. Paul Hol</b>, <i>Form International</i></li> <li>3. <b>Mr. Jan Maarten Dros</b>, <i>Solidaridad</i></li> <li>4. <b>tbc</b> - <i>Agricultural sector</i></li> </ol>
15.00 – 15.15 hrs.	Break	
15.15 – 16.15 hrs.	Session 3: Breakout groups: Perspectives & Dilemmas	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Group 1:</b> How to leverage the opportunity that the EU Timber Regulation offers to make sustainability the standard</li> <li>2. <b>Group 2:</b> Enterprise perspectives and dilemmas on CSR</li> <li>3. <b>Group 3:</b> Perspectives and dilemmas of CSR in Africa</li> <li>4. <b>Group 4:</b> Perspectives and dilemmas of the timber trade sector</li> <li>5. <b>Group 5:</b> Supply chain responsibility and sustainable business opportunities</li> <li>6. <b>Additional groups</b></li> </ol>	<b>Mrs. Esther Bosgra</b> , <i>Sustainable Trade Initiative</i>  <b>Mr. August Mesker</b> , <i>VNO/NCW/MKB Platform Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Economy</i>  <b>Mr. Bob van der Bijl</b> , <i>Netherlands-African Business Council (NABC)</i>  <b>Mr. Paul van den Heuvel</b> , <i>Royal Netherlands Timber Trade Association (VNNH)</i>  <b>Mrs. Bernedine Bos</b> , <i>MVO Nederland</i>  <b>Optional</b>
16.15 – 16.45 hrs.	Session 4: Plenary feedback of findings	
16.45 – 17.00 hrs.	Take-home messages for policy makers & business. Final reflections by Sophieke Kappers, chair & Bernedine Bos, MVO Nederland	
17.00 -18.00 hrs.	Drinks	

## Background

In development policy of the Netherlands the active engagement of the private sector is increasingly seen as a core condition to achieve sustainable development and poverty alleviation. International cooperation should catalyse inclusive growth that is basically sustained by the domestic private sector. Development money should basically be invested in the strengthening of knowledge, capacities and enabling conditions of domestic enterprise. Public money should be used to a larger extent to leverage private investment and private and public-private partnerships. In the implementation of its development policy the Netherlands government sees a leading role for the Dutch private sector. Business linkages between the Netherlands and developing countries are manifold and diverse and its local presence, organisation and expertise is a strong advantage. In the view of the Netherlands government the Dutch private sector has a lot to offer, but also has to take active social and environmental responsibility abroad throughout their production and value chains, hence contributing to a “Green and Equitable Global and Local Economy”.

Companies are increasingly aware of the need and opportunities to materialize Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies and strategies in their daily business. Societal demands and environmental concerns, reputation, risk mitigation and long term resource access and security are among the factors that drive this development. Internationally the Netherlands private sector is profiled as a frontrunner in CSR. In the Netherlands many companies and sectors directly or indirectly influence the state of tropical forests, their management and conservation: through forest concessions, agricultural and timber production and trade chains, financing and investment and otherwise.

This seminar analyses the status, experiences and perspectives of the Dutch private sector in shaping their international CSR policies, with a particular focus on their impact on tropical forests. How have companies equipped themselves to comply with CSR criteria in general (f.e. the OECD guidelines on CSR) and to effectively take up the roles attributed to them in the Dutch development policy? What specific measures have companies taken to mitigate their footprint on tropical forests and/or to promote sustainable forest management. What can realistically be expected from companies and what should governments and NGOs take up? What are the main problems, needs and opportunities for putting CSR to practice and how are these addressed by different actors? By bringing together and sharing the experiences of diverse networks of experts the seminar aims to identify practical steps and policies for CSR strategies for tropical forests. The seminar takes the outcomes of Rio+20 on board, and is well-timed to provide inputs to the new Dutch government.

