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PRESS RELEASE

Global Environmental Facility – Small Grants Programme Surinam signs projects on UN International Day of Forests for a total of USD 343.000

Friday the 21st of March is the UN International Day of Forests. On this day we take a moment to dwell on the significance and importance of all types of forests and trees all over the world. The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) will do the official contract signing of six new projects, including a strategic project of $ 150,000. All projects of the SGP are intended to protect the forests and therefore this day has been chosen to do the official signing.

Forests cover one third of the Earth's land mass, performing vital functions around the world. Around 1.6 billion people - including more than 2,000 indigenous cultures - depend on forests for their livelihood. They play a key role in our battle in adapting to and mitigating climate change. Forests contribute to the balance of oxygen, carbon dioxide and humidity in the air. They protect watersheds, which supply 75% of freshwater worldwide. Yet despite all of these priceless ecological, economic, social and health benefits, we are destroying the very forests we need to survive. Global deforestation continues at an alarming rate - 13 million hectares of forest are destroyed annually. Deforestation accounts for 12 to 20 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. This global celebration of forests provides a platform to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests.

The official signing of the projects will take place in the conference room of the UN House, and mr. Armstrong Alexis (UNDP Deputy Resident Representative) will sign the contracts on behalf of the SGP. The foundations of which the projects are approved are Stichting Centrum voor Landbouwkundig Onderzoek Suriname (CELOS), Stichting 94 Green, Stichting Dierentuin Suriname, Stichting Henaturant, Stichting Bureau voor de Vereniging van Inheemse Dorpschriifden in Suriname (VIDS) en Stichting Warappa Conservation. The total grant amount from SGP for these six projects is U$ 343.000. Hereby
the first round for the proposal of projects in 2014 is closed. The next round will be in June of 2014. The deadline for foundations to submit their proposal will be on the 30th of May.

Total of approved grants from SGP in the first round:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name foundation</th>
<th>SGP Grant</th>
<th>Short summary of the project</th>
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| 1 Stichting Centrum voor Landbouwkundig Onderzoek (CELOS) | U$ 150.000 | Project title is: “Conservation of agro-biodiversity and providing communities key crop planting material”  
The main goals of this project are the preservation of agro-biodiversity through the provision of good and sufficient planting material, training communities to produce good planting material and building a gene bank for this material. By providing them with the knowledge and methods for the production of plant material, communities will ultimately contribute to greater food security. The total costs for this project are estimated at USD, 380.000, of which USD, 150.000 is funded by SGP.  
The project will take place in the districts Saramacca, Paramaribo, Marowijne, Para en Brokopondo. |
| 2 Stichting 94 Green Foundation | U$ 50.000 | Project title: “Capacity building of communities in and close to the Bigi Pan Multiple Use Management Area (MUMA) in Nickerie through the development of interactive audio-visual lessons”.  
This project involves the collection and dissemination of interactive video material on sustainable use of the environment in the Bigi Pan area, such as hunting, fishing, tourism and farming. The Bigi Pan area is a Multiple Use Management Area (MUMA), so the protection and conservation of the rich biodiversity in the area is necessary. The video material is produced in close cooperation with the local population. The goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity and to increase the knowledge of the local population in the areas of:  
  - Management  
  - Sustainable use  
  - Monitoring  
  - Community Participation |
| 3 Stichting Dierentuin Suriname | U$ 50.000 | Project title: “Protection of wild animals through education in the Paramaribo Zoo”.  
This project aims to increase the knowledge of zoo visitors and students on different kinds of wild animals, by focusing |
on the wild animals found in the Paramaribo zoo, specifically Gonini, jaguar, giant otter, red ibis, howler and black spider monkey. Protection of wild animals can not be achieved just by introducing laws and regulations or by marking protected areas. Raising awareness within the indigenous communities on the importance of the existence of wild animals for a healthy environment is very important as well.

| 4 | Stichting Bureau voor de Vereniging van Inheemse Dorpshoofden in Suriname (VIDS) | U$ 50,000 | Project title: “Cultural Sensitive Toolkit for Indigenous Peoples in Suriname”.

This project focuses on the development of materials for indigenous communities in Suriname and Maroon communities located at the Upper Suriname River. It involves about 100 communities. The goal of the project is to help these communities with the understanding of and dealing with complex climate change or forestry related issues. The target group will also be informed about REDD+, and the rights and relationships of Indigenous communities with regard to sustainable development.

The project will take place in the districts Paramaribo, Marowijne, Para en Sipaliwini.

| 5 | Stichting Warappa Conservation | U$ 28,000 | Project title: “Community-based adaption to climate change and the biodiversity conservation within the Johanna Margaretha Plantation in District Commewijne – Suriname”.

The Johanna Margaretha Plantation is located on the right bank of the river Commewijne. This area is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. For instance the impact of drought on the mangrove forests and the changing weather conditions which could lead to sea level rise and large variations in the river water level. A possible solution to the flooding is mangrove reforestation, which will notably reduce the risk of damage to infrastructure and the homes of the community. Also, the mangrove forest will protect the natural dams. Additionally, it provides a habitat for several organisms, including fish, which stimulates the local fishery.

| 6 | Stichting Henaturant | U$ 15,000 | Project title: “Conservation and development in Hannover, Mawakabo”

The goal of the project is the integration of conservation and promoting sustainable economic development within the plantations. It is important that the natural environment of both plantations (Hannover and Mawakabo) and the historic residential area of Hannover are sustainably managed for the purpose of economic development, scientific research, tourism and cultural and historical value. Specifically, it
involves creating a natural and cultural tourist resort with opportunities for economic development, scientific research and environmental education.

The project from CELOS is the first SGP Surinam project to be approved with a grant of U$ 150.000. This is called a strategic project and is different from the other projects because of its’ special strategic objectives. The maximum amount for strategic projects is U$150.000 and for normal projects U$50.000. The foundation who is going to implement the project is Stichting CELOS, who is active in different areas of forestry, contributing to national development.