

# Suriname: The Most Important Country You've Never Heard Of

| By Camelia Raoui |

**N**estled on South America's Atlantic coast, it is the world's greenest country, with 93 percent of its land covered by rainforest. Though it relies heavily on mining, first bauxite and aluminum, now primarily gold, it remains one of the few carbon-negative countries on the planet. But beyond its mining and biodiversity, Suriname is stepping into the spotlight as a rising economic player, particularly in energy, infrastructure and sustainable development.

The history between Suriname and the United States dates back over 400 years, beginning with European colonialism. In 1667, the Treaty of Breda saw the Dutch secure Suriname while the British took Manhattan, forever shaping the two regions. Fast forward to the 20th century, American companies like Alcoa transformed Suriname's economy through bauxite mining. During World War II, the U.S. stationed troops in Suriname to protect its bauxite reserves, vital to the Allied war effort. Since Suriname's independence in 1975, the U.S. has remained a key partner, supporting its development, democracy and economic growth. Today, the local presence of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce serves as a key gateway for American investors seeking opportunities in Suriname.

"Suriname is incredibly diverse, home to multiple ethnicities, languages and religions," says Dr. Henry Ori, minister of education, science and culture. A blend of Indian, Maroon, Creole, Javanese, Chinese, Dutch and Indigenous communities shape its identity, further enriched by mi-

## MAIN DATA

**Capital:** Paramaribo

**Population:**

Approximately 638,000 (Worldometer 2025)

**GDP:** Around USD 4.96 billion (IMF 2025)

**GDP per Capita:**

Approximately USD 7,540 (IMF 2025)

**GDP Growth Rate:**

3% in 2025 (IMF)

**Exports:** Around

\$2.6 billion (2024), primarily consisting

## WORLD LOCATION



of gold, oil, wood and agricultural products



**Currency:** Surinamese

Dollar (SRD)

**Visitor Arrivals:**

Approximately 470,000 (2024 estimate)

**Area:** 63,252 sq mi (163,820 sq km)



\* CHAN SANTOKHI  
PRESIDENT OF SURINAME

**"We are positioning Suriname as a regional logistics hub."**

gration from Guyana, Brazil, Venezuela, Cuba and Haiti.

Suriname stands at a pivotal juncture in its economic journey. Under President Santokhi's leadership, the country has made significant strides in stabilizing its economy, reducing debt and inflation while implementing policies that foster a more attractive investment climate. "We are positioning Suriname as a regional logistics hub," the president explains. "Our strategic location, coupled with the development of shore bases, airports and trade corridors, will unlock new opportunities across the region."

With vast offshore oil reserves on the horizon, the government is establishing a sovereign wealth fund to secure long-term prosperity for future generations. Minister of Foreign Affairs Albert Ramdin highlights the broader impact: "Oil and gas will be the engine of transformation, stimulating growth across healthcare, hospitality and beyond."

Finance Minister Stanley Raghoebarsing highlights clear progress: "Through targeted reforms, subsidy cuts, tax modernization and monetary restructuring, we've lowered the debt-to-GDP ratio from 148 percent

to 85.7 percent while diversifying into agriculture, renewable energy and infrastructure." He credits the IMF program as a key catalyst. As noted in its final review on March 24, 2025: "The objectives of the program have been broadly achieved. The economy is growing, inflation is receding, public debt is declining, central bank governance has strengthened and investor confidence is returning."

Energy lies at the core of Suriname's economic transformation. Major offshore oil discoveries in Block 58, led by TotalEnergies and APA Corporation, are expected to generate up to \$25 billion in revenue over the next 22 years, following the final investment decision. The project, officially named Gran Morgu, is set to begin production by 2028, supported by \$1 billion in local investment. "Our goal is to ensure Suriname maximizes the benefits while maintaining a strong focus on sustainability," says Staatsolie CEO Annard Jagesar.

EY Caribbean Senior Advisor Rudolf Elias adds: "We have nine oil discoveries; only two are being developed. Others will follow in phases over the next five to 10 years. This could grow our GDP from \$4 billion to over \$20 billion. But we must manage this wisely or risk the resource curse."

"Floating LNG could be a game-changer," says Willem Bloem, principal at Bloem Consultants. "It allows Suriname to monetize gas in the

near term, thereby supporting its energy transition. Suriname is a hidden gem, not just in energy but also in tourism, diversity and natural resources."

Major infrastructure projects are also underway. A \$50-\$60 million dredging tender will deepen the river from 5.5 to 7 meters, boosting maritime logistics. Several local shore bases will support offshore operations and increase local content. Meanwhile, the EAG Airport in Kwatta, which opened in March 2025, is set to connect Suriname with Guyana, French Guiana and the Caribbean, as well as with offshore vessels, supporting both trade and tourism.

As the world's most forested nation, Suriname is carbon-negative and committed to preserving its environmental wealth while fostering economic development. "Our focus is on sustainable and green investments," states Amar Alakhramsing, CEO of SITA.

Beyond extractive industries, Suriname is positioning nonextractive sectors as key drivers of economic diversification. Large-scale farming and agro-processing, sustainable forestry, tourism and a growing range of services are emerging as engines of growth, aligned with the country's green development agenda.

With sound reforms, rich resources and strategic partnerships, Suriname is inviting the world to invest, not just in opportunity, but in a sustainable future. •



Country Report Produced by  
Kaori Media for Newsweek  
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**"Suriname has become more relevant to the U.S. due to oil discoveries in Guyana and Suriname, as well as regional issues such as those in Venezuela."**

MARTEN SCHALKWIJK AMBASSADOR OF SURINAME TO THE U.S.



**"The relationship between Suriname and the United States is very positive. We cooperate across multiple sectors, focusing on strengthening democracy, stability and security."**

ROBERT J. FAUCHER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SURINAME

# Suriname's Mining Sector: Gold and Beyond

Suriname's resource base is expanding with both local drive and international investment.

| By Camelia Raoui |

Suriname's mining industry is gathering momentum. Gold remains the country's anchor, with Newmont and Rosebel operating its two largest mines. In 2024, gold accounted for 79 percent of total exports, valued at approximately \$2.05 billion according to the Central Bank of Suriname. Beyond gold, the country also boasts some of the world's richest bauxite reserves, a key raw material for aluminum. Though less developed, deposits of copper, iron ore and diamonds signal untapped potential.

Canadian company Founders Metals is making its mark on the region. "The Guiana Shield has the same mineral potential as West Africa, yet it remains vastly underexplored. This is a true frontier with immense



opportunities," says Pascal Voegeli, vice president of exploration.

Meanwhile, Suriname Natural Stone continues to drive exports and scale up operations. "We've worked hard to position Suriname

in the international market. Our goal is to prove that local companies can lead with professionalism," says CEO Bryan Hoefer.

With world-class reserves and a powerful mix of global capital



**In 2024, gold accounted for 79% of total exports, valued at approximately \$2.05 billion.**

ACCORDING TO THE CENTRAL BANK OF SURINAME.

and local know-how, Suriname is emerging as a diversified mining hub. As Wesley Rozenhout, CEO of Grassalco puts it: "This is about building a future, not just for mining, but for Suriname's economy." ●

## Shaping the Future of Sustainable Mining in Suriname by Bringing Prosperity to the Surface

Unlocking resources, driving growth and expanding global partnerships. | By Camelia Raoui |

N.V. Grassalco, Suriname's leading state-owned mining company, is at the forefront of responsible mineral extraction, with a focus on sustainability and economic development. As the company explores and exploits Suriname's rich resources, its CEO emphasizes the importance of environmental stewardship and community well-being. "Our mission is clear—develop Suriname's mining sector for the prosperity of our nation while minimizing environmental impact," says Rozenhout.

The company's flagship product, crushed stone, plays a central role in supporting Suriname's construction and infrastructure development. With a strong demand for quality aggregate across Suriname and the Caribbean, Grassalco has seen its crushed stone production soar. "We're committed to meeting the needs



**WESLEY ROZENHOUT**  
PRESIDENT &  
CEO OF N.V.  
GRASSALCO

of both local consumers and large infrastructure projects," says Rozenhout. The company has expanded its capacity and now supplies materials to major projects in Guyana, where demand has surged due to the growing oil industry.

In addition to its aggregate business, Grassalco is making strides in its granite operations. The Grasshopper Dark Silver granite, extracted from Patamacca in Marowijne, is highly valued for its durability and unique aesthetic. The company's granite is used in both local and international



markets for various applications, including countertops and flooring.

Grassalco also operates InVitro-Plants Grassalco N.V., a state-of-the-art laboratory focused on in vitro plant propagation. With the capacity to produce millions of high-quality plants, this division is an important part of Grassalco's broader commitment to sustainable practices in all aspects of its operations.

Grassalco is also expanding into gold mining, holding rights for explora-

tion and exploitation in the Maripaston area of Suriname's Greenstone Belt. The Greenstone Belt, which spans over 415,000 square kilometers, holds significant gold deposits, and Grassalco is dedicated to responsible, environmentally conscious gold extraction.

"We are bringing prosperity to the surface, and we are ready to serve the growing needs of our communities and international partners," Rozenhout concludes. ●





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DIMITRI  
LEMMER  
CEO OF  
CRS AND  
CDWE

# Consolidated Resources Suriname: Unlocking the Riches of the Guiana Shield

| By Camelia Raoui |

Exploration and innovation in Suriname's mining sector.

Suriname's mining sector stands at a promising crossroads, fueled by significant exploration activities and rising investments. Dimitri Lemmer, CEO of Consolidated Resources Suriname (CRS), believes the industry is entering a transformative phase. With over \$60 million invested in exploration, the country is becoming a hotspot for discovering critical minerals like gold, copper and lithium, resources crucial for global technological advancements.

CRS's primary focus is gold exploration, with an eye toward building materials and emerging minerals. The

Guiana Shield, a geological extension of the mineral-rich West African belt, holds immense potential. Despite the region's historical underexploration, CRS has become the largest independent exploration company in Suriname, bridging local expertise with international partnerships.



"Mining is inherently risky," Lemmer noted, emphasizing the importance of collaboration with global firms for technological transfer and access to capital. The company's technical partnership with Gexpro France underscores its commitment to high-quality project execution.

Challenges persist, particularly in regulatory transparency and data availability. However, the current high gold price—hovering around \$2,800 per ounce—provides a favorable climate for investment. Lemmer remains optimistic about the development of mid-scale satellite mines, which could become game-changers for the economy.



As Suriname transitions toward a more diversified mineral portfolio, CRS' role is pivotal in setting the foundation for long-term growth. Lemmer's message to international investors is clear: Fueled by its rich resources and strategic potential, Suriname is on track to become a prime investment hub within the next three to five years. ●

## CDWE Suriname: Supporting Mining Growth with Comprehensive Facility Services

Driving operational efficiency for industry leaders. | By Camelia Raoui |

As Suriname's mining sector continues to expand, companies require robust operational support to ensure seamless exploration and production activities. CDWE Suriname, led by Lemmer, has positioned itself as a key player in the local content landscape, catering to international mining, oil and gas companies operating in the region.

CDWE Suriname operates across two core divisions: facility services and business representation. The company's comprehensive facility management solutions span logistics, housing, flight bookings and local transport. "From pencils to plutonium," Lemmer quipped, describing the breadth of services offered to meet client needs.

One of CDWE's standout projects is the development of a \$5



million resort near the EAG International Airport in Paramaribo, currently in the design and construction phase. Once completed, the facility will feature 40 apartments tailored for international travelers and businesses operating across the region. This investment underscores CDWE's commitment to maximizing the spinoff effects of

the oil and gas boom. With strong financial backing, we are moving forward with the project.

As Suriname's industrial landscape evolves, CDWE Suriname remains a cornerstone of support for businesses seeking reliable and innovative solutions. CDWE's focus is on enhancing operational efficiency for industry stakeholders. The company's



ambition is to become the go-to local content partner. "Our goal is to be the partner of choice," Lemmer emphasized, "enabling companies to thrive in a dynamic and growing market." ●



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## From Startup to Sustainability

| By Camelia Raoui |

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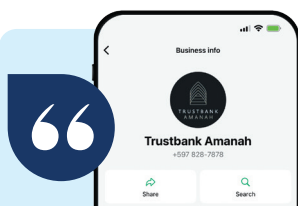
## Trustbank Amanah: Pioneering Ethical Finance in Suriname

Expanding access to inclusive and sustainable banking.

| By Camelia Raoui |

**A**s Suriname's first and only full-fledged Islamic bank, Trustbank Amanah is redefining the country's financial landscape. CEO Maureen Badjoeri highlights its rapid growth, with a 200 percent increase since its conversion in 2017 and nearly 50,000 clients today. "Islamic banking is not just for Muslims, it is inclusive and available to everyone," she emphasizes. Trustbank Amanah's client base reflects Suriname's diverse society.

Islamic banking in Suriname is still evolving, but regulatory support is increasing. "Initially, there were no specific regulations, so we had to adapt to conventional



**"We introduced Suriname's first WhatsApp banking service, allowing customers to check balances and make transactions easily."**

banking laws," Badjoeri explains. However, the Central Bank is now

collaborating with the Islamic Development Bank to develop a formal framework, ensuring long-term growth for the sector.

The bank offers a range of Sharia-compliant funding and financing products based on equity, lease and trade for business as well as for individuals. Trustbank Amanah's role in the SME sector is focused on providing accessible financing options and technological support. This contributes to a robust business climate and stimulates economic development in Suriname.

Financial inclusion is a key priority. "We recently traveled to a couple of remote villages to provide residents with debit cards so they could access banking services," she shares. Trustbank Amanah also supports women entrepreneurs by offering 0 percent profit-rate financing.

Digital innovation plays a central role in its strategy. "We introduced Suriname's first WhatsApp banking service, allowing customers to check balances and make transactions easily," Badjoeri says. Looking ahead, she envisions regional ex-



MAUREEN  
BADJOERI  
CEO OF  
TRUSTBANK  
AMANAH

pansion while strengthening Suriname's economy beyond oil and gas.

In addition to its commitment to the business community, Trustbank Amanah achieved a BBB+/A-2 (Triple B plus / A two) credit rating from Islamic International Rating Agency (IIRA) at the end of last year. This recognition reflects the bank's solid financial position, its resilient strategy and its continued growth in the banking landscape. The rating underlines the bank's confidence as a stable and reliable financial partner for both entrepreneurs and individuals.

"Suriname is an untapped opportunity," Badjoeri states. "With the right investments, it can become a regional economic hub." •





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FARSI  
KHUDABUX  
CEO OF  
BAITALI  
GROUP

## Building Suriname's Future: The Role of Baitali Group

Driving infrastructure growth in a transforming economy.

| By Camelia Raoui |

Suriname's construction industry is gaining momentum after years of stagnation. With increased private investment and government spending fueled by the oil and gas sector, the country is entering a new phase of development. According to Baitali Group CEO Farsi Khudabux, key growth areas include steel buildings, commercial spaces and vital infrastructure projects such as roads and ports.

Local expertise remains a crucial pillar of Suriname's infrastructure growth, but resource limitations often necessitate strategic partnerships. While local contractors may not always have the capacity to meet large-scale demands, collaboration with international firms has proven to be a suc-



cessful model. "It's essential to strike a balance," Khudabux noted. "Local contractors should have the space to grow, and past collaborations with foreign firms have been successful." Proj-

ects like the Suriname River Bridge and Port of Paramaribo show how such partnerships drive development while strengthening local businesses. Encouraging these partnerships ensures

knowledge transfer, fosters economic growth and prepares Surinamese companies for larger roles in the future.

Baitali Group has played a crucial role in Suriname's development, constructing major roads and financing government projects. Current initiatives include rehabilitating the East-West Connection Road and expanding operations in Guyana and Barbados. Looking ahead, Khudabux stresses the need for strategic planning: "Suriname must invest its oil wealth wisely, diversifying into agriculture and tourism."

Sustainability and innovation are at the heart of Baitali's work, with initiatives focused on reducing carbon footprints and improving fuel efficiency. The company also prioritizes community engagement, hiring and training local workers.

For investors, Suriname offers untapped potential. "We're at the beginning of something big," Khudabux says. "Now is the time to explore the opportunities." •

## Havenbeheer Port Management: Driving Suriname's Maritime Growth

Investing in infrastructure and sustainability to boost regional trade.

| By Camelia Raoui |

Suriname's port industry is in transition, balancing economic challenges while preparing for an oil and gas boom. Andreas Talea, CEO of Havenbeheer Port Management, explains that while trade volume has slightly declined, strategic investments are underway to support future growth.

A key project is the 240-meter quay expansion and a 30-hectare development site designed for heavy equipment. "We need to be fully prepared to support the oil and gas sector," says Talea.

Digitalization is also a priority, with a new port community system



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ANDREAS  
TALEA  
CEO OF  
HAVENBEHEER  
PORT  
MANAGEMENT

streamlining trade operations. Sustainability efforts include solar energy projects and a study on shore power for ships.

Looking ahead, Havenbeheer aims to transform Suriname into a regional trade hub, with plans for a deep-water port by 2030, strengthening the country's role in global logistics. •

## Traymore Moengo: Powering Suriname's Economic Growth

Strategic location and expansion set the port on a path to success.

| By Camelia Raoui |

Once the backbone of Suriname's bauxite industry, Traymore Moengo is now a gateway to a new era, one driven by oil, gas, mining and expanding regional trade. "The future looks bright," says CEO Eugene Profijt. "With stability in the foreign exchange market, long-term planning is finally possible."

Strategically located just half an hour from the French Guiana border, the port offers cost-effective, efficient shipping solutions. "Water

transport is safer, more efficient," Profijt explains. Serving major clients like Newmont, Traymore Moengo is expanding fuel storage and positioning itself as a key logistics hub.

Looking ahead, the port is set to strengthen Suriname's trade connections, reinforcing its role in the country's economic rise. "Suriname is ready for investment," Profijt affirms. •



Aerial view of Havenbeheer



Tankfarm Traymore Moengo

## Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries: Suriname's Fields of Opportunity

Growing, adapting and ready to feed the region. | By Camelia Raoui |



Passion fruit  
Rambutan

Suriname's agricultural sector is at a turning point. According to Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Parmanand Sewdien, the country possesses the land, soil and resources needed to play a meaningful role in addressing the global food crisis, presenting both a challenge and an opportunity. However, climate change, labor shortages and unpredictable weather patterns are complicating efforts to reduce food imports by 25 percent by the end of 2025. "We need to invest in irrigation and mechanization to adapt," says Sewdien, underscoring the importance of

forward-thinking strategies to meet future demands.

In the fisheries sector, Ocean Delight stands out as a leader. CEO Ugo Karg emphasizes the company's focus on sustainability, noting that Suriname has the potential to meet the world's growing demand for nutritious seafood. Ocean Delight is already making a name for itself in the EU, U.S. and Caribbean markets. With 30 percent of Suriname's seafood exports under its belt, the company is proving that Suriname can compete on the global stage.



Baitali rice field with small wheels tractor

**"We're encouraging farmers to grow more, using mechanization where possible."**

PARMANAND SEWDIEN

The country is also exploring new opportunities in agriculture. Sewdien is keen to increase rice production and diversify with crops like passion fruit, a promising option for small farmers. "We're encouraging farmers to grow more, using mechanization where possible," says Sewdien.

Meanwhile, the livestock sector is also evolving. Patrick Wolterstorff of Interfarm, a leading food service

distributor, underscored the growing importance of local meat production. Interfarm, while known for its imported products, is now planning to invest in local cattle and pig farming. We aim to increase local production, bringing more products to Suriname's markets and beyond, Wolterstorff said. With the rise in demand from the offshore industry and supermarkets, Suriname's agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors are ready to scale up and offer new investment opportunities.

Suriname's agricultural future is still unfolding. With the right investments and a commitment to sustainability, it could soon become a key player in regional and global food production. ■

## Espee: Leading the Way in Suriname's Poultry Industry

Innovation and investment drive local production and food security.

| By Camelia Raoui |

Founded in 1960, Espee has grown into one of Suriname's leading poultry producers. A family-owned business, it has continuously adapted through modernization and strategic investment. "In 2010, we became ISO 22000 certified, and now we are ISO FSSC certified this is a major upgrade and a testament to our commitment to food safety and quality," says Director Shawn Thijm. Today, the company operates a fully automated processing line, handling up to 3,000 birds per hour.

Espee is committed to strengthening Suriname's food security by increasing local production. "Our goal is to meet the entire demand for chicken in Suriname," says Thijm. Recent investments include a \$2.5 million state-of-the-art farming facility and plans for a dedicated feed mill to cut costs and enhance efficiency. The company is also exploring alternative

**"Our ultimate goal is to meet the entire demand for chicken in Suriname with local production."**

**Espee**



feed sources like corn and cassava to reduce reliance on imports.

Looking ahead, Espee aims to expand into value-added products like pre-seasoned and pre-cooked chicken, ensuring high-quality, locally produced poultry while driving sustainability and innovation in Suriname's agricultural sector. ■

## Suriname's Pork Industry: Tradition, Innovation, and Growth

How Varross and Suriname Pig Farms are shaping the future of food production and farming in the region.

| By Camelia Raoui |

In Suriname, pig farming isn't just a business, it's a legacy. "I started with 13 piglets," says Lex Van Dijk, Director of Suriname Pig Farms. "Now we have 8,000." Alongside Gerard Van Dijk, director of Varross, he operates the country's only active slaughterhouse and one of the largest pork farms, supplying both local and export markets.

Despite its small scale, Suriname's pork industry is highly advanced, producing grandparent stock for the entire CARICOM re-



**\* LEX VAN DIJK**  
DIRECTOR OF  
SURINAME PIG  
FARMS

**GERARD VAN DIJK**  
DIRECTOR OF  
VARROSS

gion. Sustainability is at the forefront—Varross is expanding local feed production and modernizing processing facilities. "We're growing exports to Guyana and Barbados while ensuring our quality meets global standards," Gerard explains.

As Suriname's economy gains momentum, Varross and Suriname Pig Farms are driving agribusiness innovation, blending tradition with the future. "This is our legacy," Lex says. "And we're just getting started." ■





## Professional Private Security N.V.: Safeguarding Suriname's Growth

Securing Suriname's future with innovation and excellence. | By Camelia Raoui |

**A**s Suriname enters a new era of economic expansion, fueled by its promising oil and gas sector, the country is evolving into a hub of opportunity. With growth comes the need for world-class security services. Leading the way is Professional Private Security N.V. (PPS), setting new standards to meet the demands of multinational companies investing in Suriname's future.

PPS started operations in 1990, and since 2016 has established itself as the corporate security partner in Suriname, delivering customized solutions for industries demanding the highest standards. "We've been aiming our services, our products, everything toward providing security the way these industries demand,"



says CEO Badwie Chehin. Throughout the years their expertise has gained international recognition, with partnerships including global security leaders like Brinks, G4S and HSBC.

PPS is also at the forefront of innovation, integrating drone technology for rapid incident response. "Drones will allow us to assess situations quickly, helping police, fire



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BADWIE  
CHEHIN  
CEO OF PPS

or ambulance teams respond more effectively as well," explains Chehin. Additionally, PPS is launching a cybersecurity department this year to meet growing digital security needs. Beyond security, PPS is embracing sustainability, investing in electric vehicles and modernizing its infrastructure. "Our goal is to comply with green standards and lead by example," says Chehin.

With Suriname on the rise, PPS stands ready to ensure growth is built on safety, innovation and resilience. "We're eager to learn, adapt and help build a secure future for Suriname," Chehin affirms—a vision of stability and success in a thriving nation. ●

## Health Control Services: Elevating Occupational Health Care in Suriname

Innovative medical solutions support Suriname's growing industries.

| By Camelia Raoui |

**F**ounded in 1998, Health Control Services has become a leader in occupational health-care in Suriname. "We introduced a one-stop-shop concept where companies could send employees for all necessary tests in one visit," says Managing Director Anouk Kort. Today, the company is the largest provider of oil and gas medical screenings in the country.

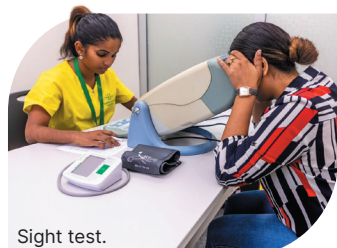
Innovation is key to their success. "We can set up a fully equipped pop-up medical clinic in just two



\* SHEILA KORT CEO  
ANOUK KORT MANAGING DIRECTOR

days," notes CEO Sheila Kort. The services include aviation medicals, laboratory diagnostics and mobile health solutions for remote sites.

As Suriname's economy grows, Health Control Services is prepared to meet rising healthcare demands. With international standards and a customer-focused approach, they continue to set new benchmarks for medical excellence in the region. ●



Sight test.

## Telesur: Driving Suriname's Digital Transformation

Expanding connectivity, fintech and sustainability.

| By Camelia Raoui |

**S**uriname's telecom sector is evolving rapidly, led by Telesur's investments in mobile and broadband infrastructure. "We've successfully deployed 4G LTE nationwide and launched Suriname's first 5G network in Paramaribo," says Doric Armesh Ramlakhan, CEO of Telesur. The company is also finalizing its fiber rollout, bringing high-speed internet to the entire coastal region.

Beyond connectivity, Telesur is expanding into fintech, cloud computing and data services. "We aim to



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DORIC  
ARMESH  
RAMLAKHAN  
CEO OF  
TELESUR

**"We operate 75 solar-powered sites in remote areas, ensuring connectivity for all."**

DORIC ARMESH RAMLAKHAN

transform into a digital platform company," Ramlakhan explains. Strategic partnerships with Cisco and Ciena are strengthening Suriname's role as a regional tech hub.

Looking ahead, Telesur is committed to bridging the digital divide. "We operate 75 solar-powered sites in remote areas, ensuring connectivity for all," Ramlakhan emphasizes. With Suriname's economic growth, Telesur is poised to drive innovation and investment in the digital economy. ●

## Transport and Tourism: Suriname's Journey Begins

New hotels, new flights and untouched nature. | By Camelia Raoui |

Suriname's tourism story is still at the beginning. For now, the numbers remain modest, around 900 hotel rooms nationwide and 470,000 arrivals annually, a figure that includes locals returning from the Netherlands, home to a large Surinamese diaspora. But change is on the horizon. According to Egon von Foidl, Chairman of the Suriname Hotel and Hospitality Association (SHATA) and managing director of the Courtyard Paramaribo, eight new



hotel projects are currently underway, aiming to double the country's accommodation capacity by 2028.

This isn't mass tourism. And maybe that's the point. Suriname offers something different, space, nature and time to slow down.

The national airline, Surinam Airways, is rebuilding its network after a difficult few years. CEO Steven Gonesh says the focus now is on regional growth, adding new Boeing 737 aircraft, expanding cargo operations and eventually reintroducing wide-body service

**Suriname offers something different, space, nature and time to slow down.**

to destinations like Amsterdam. With stronger links to Miami, the Caribbean and Brazil, the country is becoming more connected and more visible. While other airlines also serve routes to Panama, Brazil, the Caribbean and Europe, there's something unique about the atmosphere on a Surinam Airways flight.

And in the untouched rainforest, there's Kabalebo Nature Resort. Remote, only accessible by air and completely off-grid, it offers a rare kind of eco-luxury. Founder Karel Dawson started with a fishing trip in the '80s. Now, the resort draws guests from all over the world, attracted by silence, wildlife and the kind of nature you don't find on a map. You'll find other nature resorts along the rivers near Maroon and Amerindian villages, but this one, on the Kabalebo River, is pure wilderness.

This is Suriname: not overbuilt, not overrun. Just beginning but already something special. ■



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