



**Movement collective spreading  
the climbing culture in Suriname**

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# A B O U T   U S



We are a **movement collective** focused on promoting and **improving mind** and **body awareness**, by stimulating humans to explore and enhance their mental, physical, and social challenges. We do this by **creating**, **activating**, and **reenergizing** unused **spaces** and transforming them into functional **places** through movement.

Our **mission** is to improve **people's** mind and body awareness through **movement**. Our **main focus** is doing this through **rock climbing**, by **spreading** and **promoting**, in an honest and sustainable manner, the **climbing culture** in Suriname and making it **accessible** for everyone.

Together with our **stakeholders**, we continuously work to **spread the climbing** culture and make **climbing accessible**, by introducing and **bringing** climbing to **neglected** indoor and outdoor spaces in **local villages**, **local parks**, **schools**, **organizations**, and other private entities.

Our **focus** areas are:

- **Placemaking** (spaces into places) specifically through **indoor** & **outdoor climbing walls** with seated areas and the use of natural surroundings (plants, sunlight, and green areas)
- **Slacklining**
- Personal training through **mindful movement**
- Movement **group activities** for corporate and private **events**

# TEAM

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Our team consists of various **core members** and **several (international) community members** and **huge supporters** that are continuously helping us with our mission and ongoing projects.

We may come from different parts of the world, but the one thing that we share in common and that brings us together is our love and passion for **nature, climbing, and movement**.



**Julio**

Jungle & Adventure lover | Tour Operator | Initiator & Pioneer of the climbing culture in Suriname



@julio.derooy

**Matias**

Nature lover | Pilot | Initiator & Pioneer of the climbing culture in Suriname



@matixtorbo



**OT**

Social Entrepreneur | Movement Practitioner | Climber & Coach



@loveguysu

**Stefano**

Runner | Climber | Entrepreneur & Business development



@stefanopp



# PROJECTS

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## Ebba Top bolting & Wall at Boslanti (2020)

Boslanti is a Tribal village of Matawai Maroons in the resort of Boven Saramacca in the Sipaliwini District of Suriname. Boslanti is located on the Saramacca River. Boslanti is the closest village to the **Ebba Top Mountain** and is accessible by car from the capital, Paramaribo.

In 2018, **Julio de Rooy** saw the **potential for rock climbing** at the **north face of Ebba top** in Suriname. Two years later, together with **Matias**, an expedition was initiated and the **Matawai people aided and assisted** in bolting the **first sport climbing spot in Suriname** on the Ebba Top.

This was **realized** and **successfully** implemented with the **help**, climbing **expertise**, and equipment of **Lucho** Birkner, and **Mateo** Barrenengoa through their project **Climbing for A Reason.**

Click [\*\*here\*\*](#) to watch the **full documentary** made by Mateo Barrenengoa for this project.



*Julio, Lucho, Matias & Mateo in Boslanti with the Matawai people*

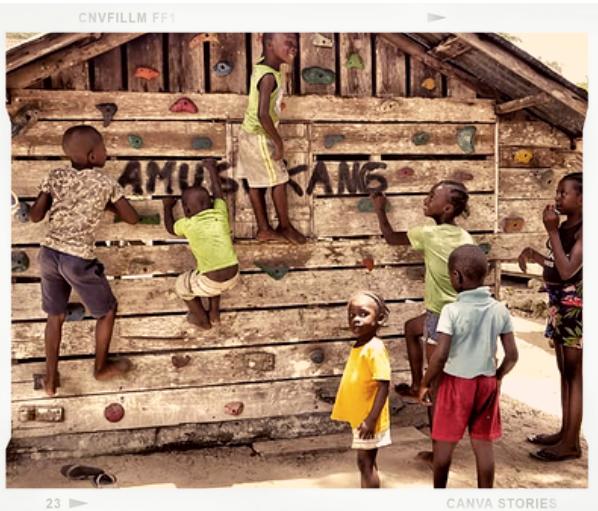
# PROJECTS

## Ebba Top bolting & Wall at Boslanti (2020)



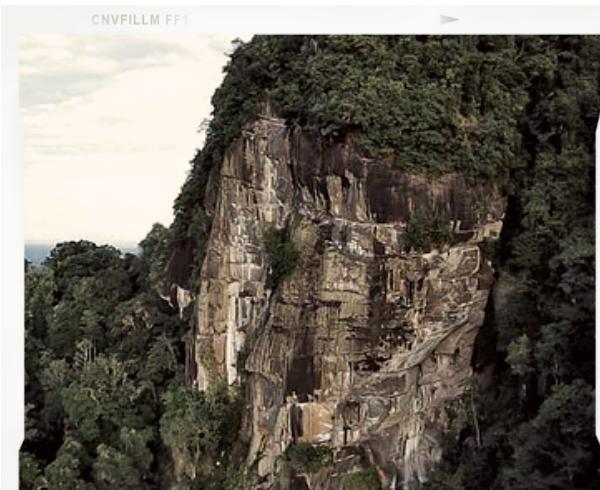
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CANVA STORIES



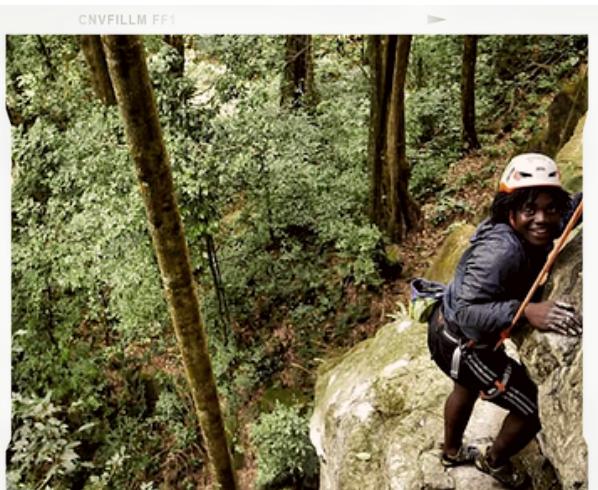
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CANVA STORIES



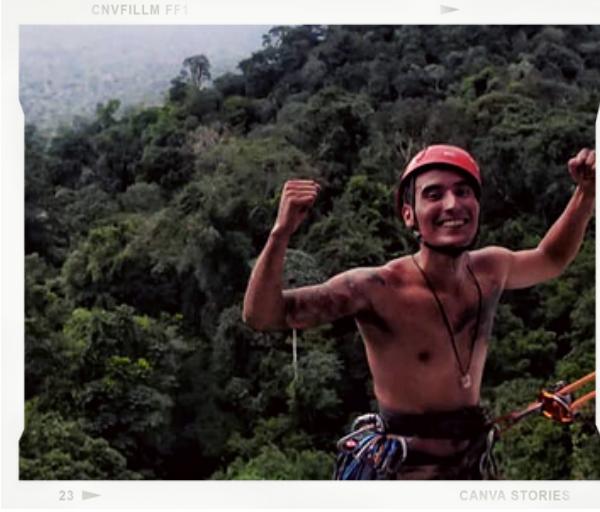
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CANVA STORIES



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CANVA STORIES

# PROJECTS

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## Project Ebba Top (2022 - present)

After a two-year waiting period, due to the pandemic, we have started operations again to collectively develop **Project Ebba Top**. The main **objective** of this project is to **collectively** work with **Tribal villages** in the Matawai area **to introduce new & sustainable industries** for the local villages.

The **pilot phase** of the project focuses on the tribal villages of **Boslanti** & **Poesoegroenoë** and at the moment, there are **limited employment opportunities** for the locals, as there are mainly **(illegal) wood and gold mining activities** in the area. This has created a **fragile situation** for the people, unable to "fight" against the illegal activities, thus **forcing** some of them to work in these industries for their livelihood.

In the past, there have been **tourism collaborations with the locals** from Boslanti through our partner, **Jungle Xperience**, offering various experiences in the Matawai area for tourists. This year, the chief of Boslanti, "Basja" Cornelie, has expressed her interest and desire to **restart** the **tourism industry** with new offerings **in combination with rock climbing at the Ebba top**.

Through a systematic and sustainable approach, we divided this project "**Project Ebba Top**" into two parts:

1. **Adventure tourism** through rock climbing at **Ebba Top**
2. **Wildlife Monitoring & Conservation** in the **Matawai Area**

The two parts are separate domains and areas of expertise but have **overlapping operations** areas that **complement** and **strengthen** each other. One of the overlapping areas is the **development** of **local people**, providing them with a **hybrid form** of **training** and guiding them into becoming (1) rock climbing **tour guides**, and (2) **Matawai wildlife** & rainforest **guardians** aka rangers. Another overlapping area is e.g. the use of the same equipment and lodging.

# PROJECTS

## Project Ebba Top (2022 - present)

### Adventure Tourism

#### **Human resources:**

Together, with Jungle Xperience we provide the **rock climbing training** and **development** aspect for the local people. At the moment, we have 2-3 locals that are willing to train and become fully equipped and knowledgeable to guide and provide rock climbing expeditions at the Ebba top for tourists, including:

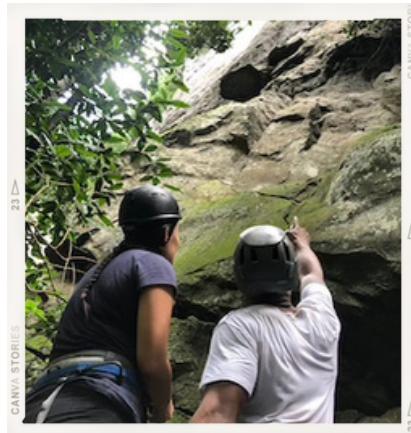
- Climbing gear and set-up equipment management
- Technique & Communication procedures
- Climbing safety procedures

#### **Main offerings** for adventure tourism are:

- Trail hiking to the top of the Ebba Top (140m to 750m)
- Trail hiking (~3,5km) to the foot of the mountain (140m to 455m)
- Sport & Traditional rock climbing (see [here](#) for a list of routes)
- Via Ferrata (*to be developed*)



Rope tying procedures



At the foot of the Ebba Top



Poesoegroenoel Village

# C U R R E N T P R O J E C T S

## Project Ebba Top (2022 - present)

### Adventure Tourism

The **basic requirements** for providing **rock climbing expeditions** are:

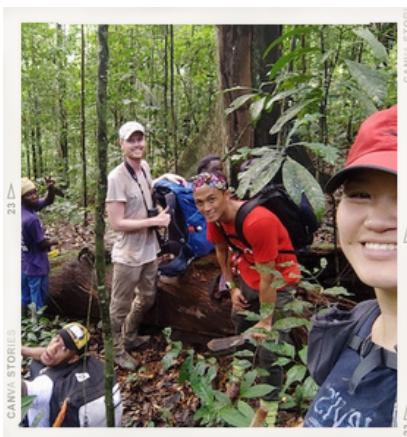
- **Expansion** of the already built **artificial climbing wall** in Boslanti
  - This will be used for training and in preparation for climbing on the mountain
- Main base camp/lodge at Boslanti
  - Lodge equipped with sleeping accommodation, cooking space and
- Jungle lodge/camp at the **foot of the mountain**
  - Basic hut equipped with water tanks for rainwater collection
  - Sleeping accommodation, cooking space and
- Jungle lodge at the **top of the mountain**
  - Basic hut equipped with water tanks for rainwater collection
  - Sleeping accommodation, cooking space and
  - Seating area for a panoramic view from the top

The **basic equipment** for providing **rock climbing expeditions** are:

- 4x4 vehicle made for rough terrain
- Climbing helmets, climbing rope, climbing shoes, belay devices, sport harnesses



Base camp at Poesoegroenoe



Trail hike to the foot of Ebba top



Local guide Guillermo getting ready to climb Ebba top

# C U R R E N T P R O J E C T S

## Project Ebba Top (2022 - present)

### Wildlife Monitoring & Conservation

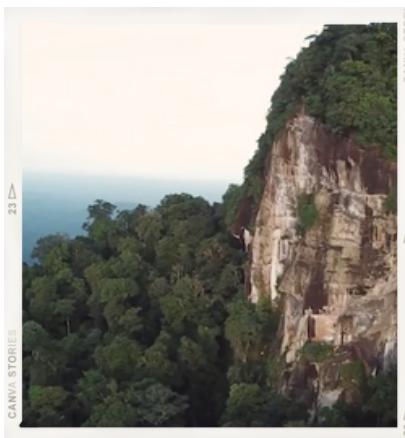
#### **Human resources:**

The tour guides will also receive training and empower them in embracing their crucial role as "guardians" of the Matawai Wildlife and Rainforest area. This will be done under the guidance and supervision of external local wildlife professionals and that will train these local guides into rangers and become fully equipped and knowledgeable in conservation best practices and implementation of these practices in the area, including:

- Wildlife monitoring through camera traps
- Area surveillance for updates on ongoing and new activities in the area
- Efficient & non-invasive methods to record mammal species in the forest (camera traps, drones)
- Communication skills training

The **basic equipment** for Wildlife Monitoring & Conservation in the Matawai Area:

- 4x4 vehicle made for rough terrain
- Handheld GPS units
- Camera trap for wildlife data (e.g. jaguars, tapir, howler monkeys, harpy eagle, cock of the rock)
- Drones for area surveillance (e.g. illegal activities & on the area/road conditions)



Drone footage of Ebba Top



Stock photo of footage of camera trap image



Old tree in the Matawai area

# C U R R E N T P R O J E C T S

## Project Wayana Indigenous People (2019 - present)

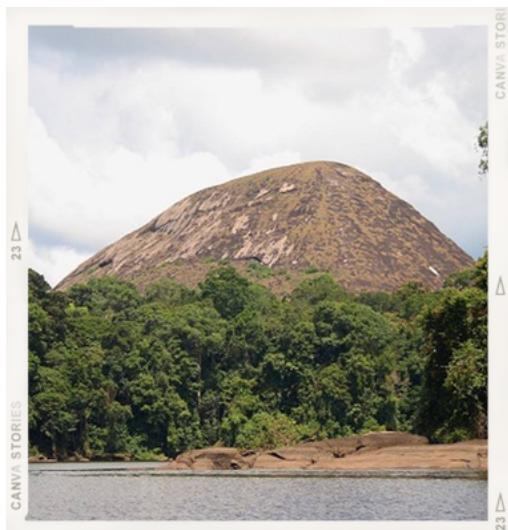
In **December 2019**, Julio visited the **Wayana Community** in **Apetina** in the **south of Suriname** as part of an **expedition to explore** the potential for adventure tourism and **rock climbing**. The Wayana tribal community are **indigenous people** that live divided over villages in Suriname, French-Guyana, and Brazil

**Apetina** is a village in the **South Eastern jungle** area of Suriname within the Tapanahony resort in the Sipaliwini District and is located on the small hills along the **Tapanahoni river** and is only accessible by plane from the capital. Two potential nearby points include the Insel **Tebu Mountain**, at around 347m, and the **Roosevelt Peak Mountain** at 644m. There is **potential** for the **development** of these mountains as part of our **mission** for rock climbing and **interest** has been shown by the **local villages** for this.

A major **constraint** in the further **exploration** and development of this project are the **logistics**, as Apetina and the mountains are only accessible by air. Thus requiring more time and financial investment.



Apetina Village

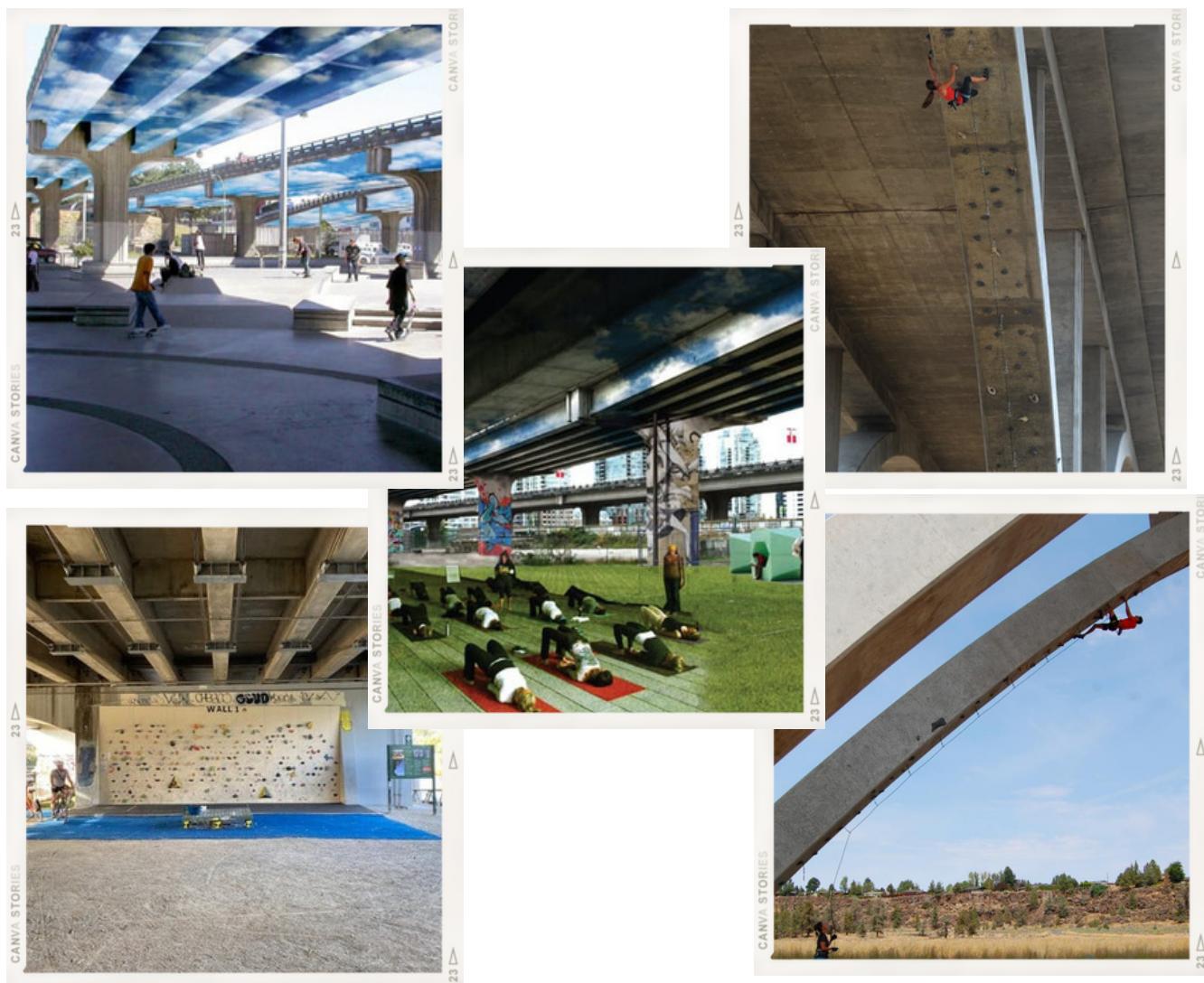


Tebu top

# NEW PROJECT

## Bridge climbing & placemaking

Besides the development of our projects in the interior, and as part of our vision for **urban placemaking & rock climbing**, we are envisioning an outdoor place underneath the Wijdenbosch Bridge in Paramaribo, Suriname. Currently, the space is being unused, and there is a neglected nearby playground that can be re-activated and used for movement activities including **rock climbing under the bridge** and as a space for running/walking especially for people running across the bridge.



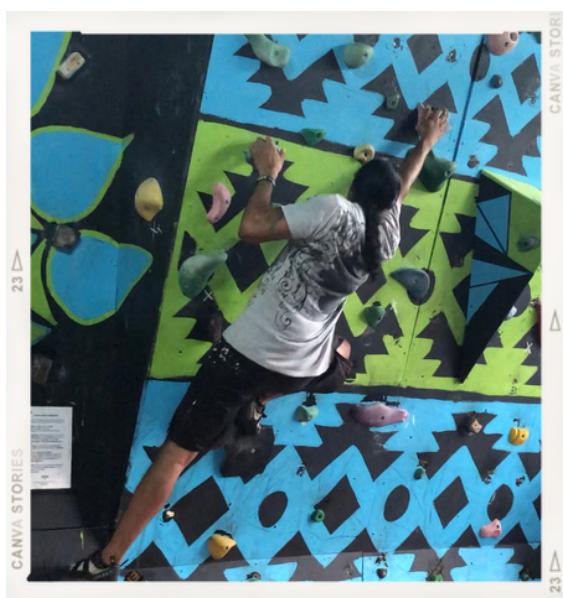
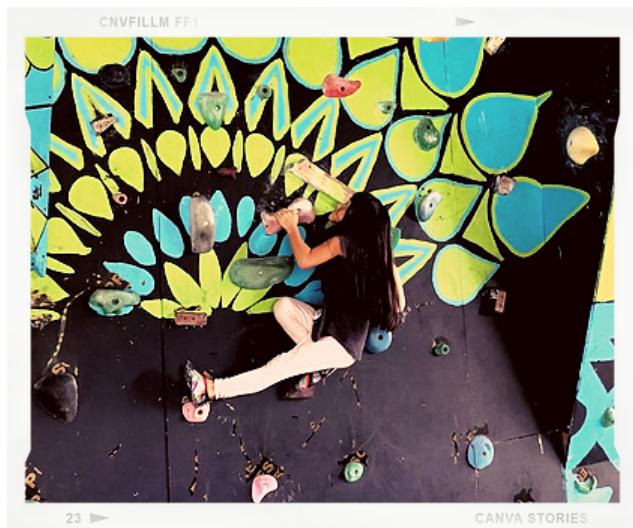
Images above are reference pictures of projects that have been done in other countries stating and strengthening the feasibility of our idea

# PROJECTS

## Climbing Suriname



In 2020, we have set up a "home" base and the **first climbing wall** in **Paramaribo**, the capital of Suriname. This initiative is called "**Climbing Suriname**" and open for members. Also, we have been providing **donation-based** Introduction Classes to the general public since 2020.



# PROJECTS

## Climbing at a High School in Suriname

In May 2021, we installed a beginner and kid-friendly wall at a school in Paramaribo. We used the climbing holds that we received as a donation made possible by **Monk Amsterdam**.

The current set-up is a vertical wall (5mx3m) where the students can participate in a **creative skill-building activity**, to cultivate and improve their: spatial **awareness**, motor skills, balance & **self-confidence**, cognitive functions, and overall **mind & body strength**.



# PROJECTS

## Climbing at an Elementary School in Suriname

In September 2021, we installed a beginner and kid-friendly wall at a school in Paramaribo.

The current set-up is a vertical wall (3,66mx2,44m) where the students can participate in a **creative skill-building activity**, to cultivate and improve their: spatial **awareness**, motor skills, balance & **self-confidence**, cognitive functions, and overall **mind & body strength**.



# PROJECTS

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## Slackine Suriname

Another initiative we have been promoting and introducing in Suriname is Slacklining. This initiative is still in its infant stages and we plan to continue our efforts in spreading movement through the beauty of slacklining.



# S U P P O R T   U S

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As a non-profit organization, we are **bootstrapping** each project and investing our own **private** funds to achieve our goals. Although we achieved several objectives and have set up different projects, the financial aspect has been a **limiting** factor for us to grow and expand our goals of **spreading** the **movement** culture through **climbing** in Suriname. Thus, we are reaching out to you to help and support our cause.

## Ways in how you can help & support

- Provide us with **(used) climbing gear** (e.g. climbing shoes, climbing holds, bolts/ankers, other climbing gear);
- Sharing **expertise** and **ideas** with us, through knowledge sharing and collaboration;
- **Financial contributions** in the form of project capital funding and donations.





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