In Suriname Tropical Group of Companies commands the respect of the local market with its portfolio of over 70 world-recognized brands. Its strength comes from progressive thinking and a strong internal structure.

Tropical Marketing & Distribution NV is the trading arm of the holding group of companies, Tropical Group. This group consists of:
- Tropical Trade & Industries NV: manufacturer of foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals with ISO 22000 Certification.
- Tropical Marketing & Distribution NV: importer/distribution/wholesaler/retailer
- Tropical Duty Free NV: importer, distributor and retailer of Duty Free Jewelry, Accessories and Watches.

Tropical Marketing & Distribution NV is headquartered in a new facility in the northern part of Paramaribo at an industrial site with warehouse capacity of approximately 4,500 square meters, which includes dry and air-conditioned, refrigerated and bonded facilities.

We have over ten (10) sales personnel that service all consumer sectors including supermarkets, hospitals, pharmacies, hotel and restaurant business (bars, cafeterias, delis and caterers), government institutions and urban and rural shops.

The company is highly regarded for its high level of Customer Service, including the fastest delivery lead-time in the local distribution sector with a professional sales team of a fleet of ten (10) trucks and an agent network that covers their respective local markets in depth.
URBANIZATION
Suriname has a population consisting of approx. 121,000 families with population growth of > 1%. The majority of the population resides in or around the outskirts of the capitol Paramaribo, the urbanization grade is highest in this area although an elevated level is also seen in the area between Lelydorp and Paranam as well as Moengo, where Suralco Mining is located.
The birth factor is 43 per 1,000, with a birth explosion in the districts of Sipaliwini and Brokopondo (the area where Afro Surinamese live).
The death factor is 6 to 7 %.
The average age expectation is 71 for the Surinamese female and 69 for the Surinamese male.

AGE GROUPS
The age groups of the Surinamese population can be broken down as follows:
- 0-14 yrs 31%
- 15-60 yrs 60%
- > 60 yrs 9 %

POPULATION
The gender and ethnic diversity of the Surinamese population is:
- Male 48.6%
- Female 51.4%
- Indians 37.9%
- Creoles 27.5%
- Indonesian 16.3%

ECONOMIC DATA
The economy is dominated by the mining industry with exports of alumina, gold and oil accounting for about 85% of exports and 25% government revenues making the economy vulnerable to mineral price volatility.
Offshore oil drilling was given a boost in 2004 when the State Oil Company (Staatsolie) signed exploration agreements with Repsol, Maersk and Occidental. Bidding on these new offshore blocks was completed in July 2006. Oil is a promising sector; current output is 12,000 barrels a day and regional geology suggests additional potential so prospects for local onshore oil production is promising.
The short-term economic outlook depends on the government’s ability to control inflation and on the development of projects in the bauxite and gold mining sectors, though investment in these projects may slow with the tightening of global credit markets Suriname has received aid for these projects from Netherlands, Belgium, and the European Development Fund and is still entitled to aid from Netherlands for a decade, the economic prospects for the medium term will depend on continued commitment to responsible monetary and fiscal policies and to the introduction of structural reforms to liberalize markets and promote competition.
In 2000, the government of President Ronald VENETIAAN, returned to office and inherited an economy with inflation of over 100% and a growing fiscal deficit where he quickly implemented an austerity program and raised taxes with attempts to control spending and tame inflation. This resulted in steadily increase of Suriname’s economic growth. Real growth is estimated at 6.4% in 2006 compared to the 5.2% in 2004 and sectoral contribution thrives from a dominating mining industry where increases in the development of projects for bauxite and gold mining sectors put the country in better economic standing for 2006; high prices for gold, alumina and oil helped to spur exports in recent years, thus pushing both the trade and the current account into surplus. In 2007, the trade account registered a surplus of $88 million, which was 3.6 percent of GDP. In 2010 President Desi Bouterse’s administration took office and have continued the monetary policies that have been in place.

**POSITIVE TRENDS**

- The external debt is manageable.
- Suriname is a democracy that respects Civil Rights.
- Foreign investment has recently increased, hence the recent opening of Best Western Elegance and Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Paramaribo, the construction of the new Wyndham Resort in Paramaribo, the establishment of 2 CARICOM organizations in the capital, the establishment of UNDP office in Paramaribo.

**COUNTRY CREDIT RATINGS**

Credit Rating Standard & Poor’s Moody’s Fitch Ratings (as of date of publication)

B+/Stable/B  
B1/Stable B/Stable

Suriname is rated by all three of the major ratings agencies. Standard and Poor’s has assigned it a rating of B+/Stable/B. This is the same level as Cambodia, Honduras, Mozambique and Papua New Guinea. Moody’s has given Suriname a rating of B1/Stable, which is the same rating as Albania, Belarus, Papua New Guinea, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Ukraine.

Fitch has given Suriname a rating of B/Stable. This is the same level as Benin, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Mozambique and Uganda.

For S&P and Fitch, an investment grade rating is BBB- or above. For Moody’s, an investment grade rating is Baa or above.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

- To be the preferred distributor for premium international and local brands by devoting exceptional standards of care and expertise to all products and services we represent and provide.”
- “To cultivate and maintain a positive organizational culture, favorable to both our employees and business objectives.”
- “To conduct all operations in an ethical manner while contributing to the building and strengthening of our communities and country.”
PRODUCTS and SERVICES

- Food products and services including dry/refrigerated
- Non-alcoholic beverages
- Household and Consumer
- Pharmaceuticals, OTC, supplements and Personal Care
- Dental supplies and equipments
- Office supplies
- Haberdashery supplies

We represent brands that are internationally recognized, we therefore go the extra mile to provide those brands with the marketing investment and support they need in the market. The ethical pharmaceutical division generating Suriname US$25 million in sales annually, plays a prominent role in the country’s health care system. Representing (35) pharmaceutical companies, (15) medical/dental and diagnostic/ equipment supply companies and (6) OTC companies; we can proudly state that we are market leader in this territory.