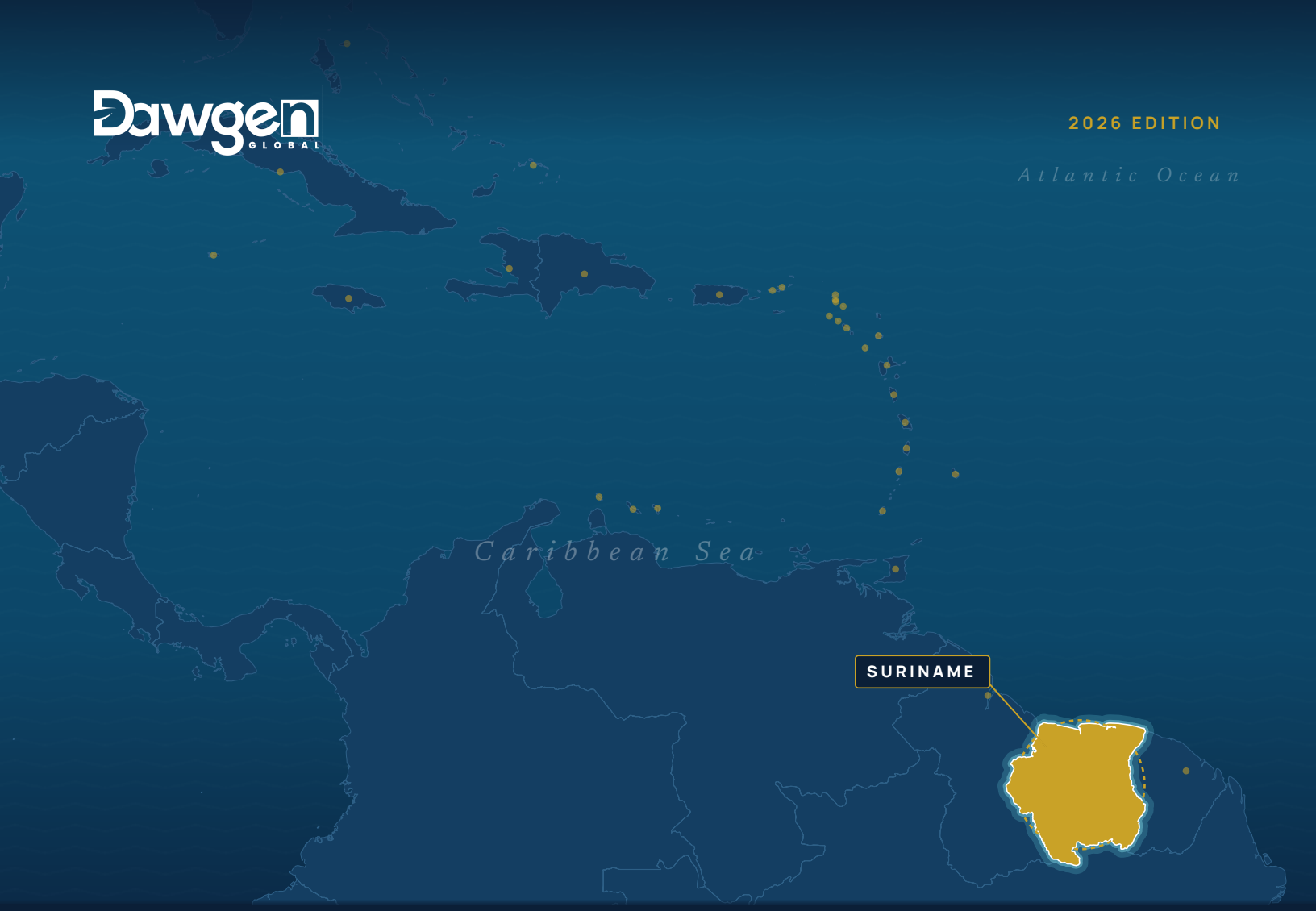
Dawgen GLOBAL

2026 EDITION



CARIBBEAN SERVICE DESK · MAINLAND CARIBBEAN

Doing Business in Suriname

A practical guide to establishing, operating and growing a business in Suriname

CONTENTS

01	Suriname at a glance	3
02	Why Suriname	4
03	Choosing a business structure	5
04	Setting up: step by step	6
05	Tax at a glance	7
06	Employing people	8
07	Banking, currency and property	9
08	Incentives, trade and customs	10
09	Regulators and compliance calendar	11
10	Your first 90 days: checklist	12
11	How Dawgen Global helps	13

FOREWORD

Suriname is entering a defining decade. Its first major offshore oil project is being built, and businesses are preparing for what will follow.

Investors are looking at Suriname for good reason: a CARICOM member on the South American mainland with rich natural resources and links to the Netherlands and the region. Opportunity sits alongside complexity. Civil law, a floating currency and local rules all need careful handling from the first day.

This guide sets out what you need to know in plain language: how to choose a structure, how the set-up process works, what taxes apply, how to employ people, and which incentives may be available. It is written for investors, entrepreneurs and regional and international groups considering Suriname.

We serve clients in Suriname through Dawgen Global's Caribbean Service Desk, managed from our headquarters in Kingston, and we are ready to help you turn a plan into a well-run, compliant business.

Dr. Dawkins Brown, Ph.D., MCMI, ACFE

Executive Chairman, Dawgen Global

How to use this guide

This guide gives a practical overview of establishing and running a business in Suriname. It is general information, current to October 2026, and is not a substitute for advice on your circumstances. Rates and rules change; speak to us before you act.

OVERVIEW

01 Suriname at a glance

A Dutch-speaking CARICOM member on the north-east coast of South America, with an economy built on gold, oil, bauxite heritage, agriculture and services.

CAPITAL
Paramaribo
Commercial, financial and government centre

POPULATION
Over 600,000
Most live along the coast; large diaspora in the Netherlands

LANGUAGE
Dutch
Official language of law; English widely used in business

CURRENCY
Surinamese dollar (SRD)
Floating since 2021; US dollar and euro widely used

LEGAL SYSTEM
Dutch-based civil law
New Civil Code Book 2 in force from 1 May 2025

TIME ZONE
UTC−3
No daylight saving

CORPORATE INCOME TAX
36%
Flat rate on resident companies' profits

VALUE ADDED TAX
10%
Since 1 January 2023; registration above SRD 1 million a year

TRADE AGREEMENTS
CARICOM, EU
CSME; CARIFORUM–EU EPA

Leading sectors

Oil and gas · Gold mining · Agriculture and rice · Fisheries · Forestry and timber · Trade and distribution · Construction and real estate · Tourism and eco-tourism · Financial services

Gateways

Johan Adolf Pengel International Airport, south of Paramaribo, has flights to the Netherlands, the US and the region. The Nieuwe Haven port in Paramaribo is the main entry point for cargo. Road links run to Guyana and French Guiana.

Public holidays

About fifteen public holidays reflect the country's many communities, including Holi, Eid al-Fitr, Diwali, Keti Koti (1 July) and Independence Day (25 November).

INVESTMENT CLIMATE

02 Why Suriname

Natural resources, a coming oil economy and a bridge between the Caribbean, South America and Europe make Suriname a market to watch.

Strategic location

Suriname sits between Guyana, Brazil and French Guiana, part of the European Union. It is a member of CARICOM and of South American bodies, and its history gives businesses close links with the Netherlands and Dutch-speaking markets.

Multilingual workforce

Dutch is the language of law and government, while English, Sranan Tongo and other languages are widely spoken. The Anton de Kom University of Suriname and technical institutes supply professional and technical skills.

Familiar legal framework

Company, contract and property law follow the Dutch civil law tradition, modernised by a new Civil Code. Deeds are prepared by civil-law notaries, which gives investors from the Netherlands and Dutch Caribbean a familiar starting point.

An economy in transition

After a debt restructuring and an IMF-supported programme that ended in March 2025, Suriname is working to strengthen tax collection, control inflation and keep a flexible exchange rate. New laws on public finances and a Sovereign Wealth Fund aim to manage future oil revenue transparently.

TotalEnergies' GranMorgu project in offshore Block 58, partnered with APA and Staatsolie, is targeting first oil in 2028, and further discoveries have been made in Block 52.

Where the opportunities are

Sector	Examples of opportunity
Oil and gas	Supply base, logistics, engineering, maintenance, catering, training and professional services for operators
Mining	Gold mining services, equipment, environmental and community programmes
Agriculture	Rice, fruit and vegetables, agro-processing, fisheries and exports to the region
Infrastructure	Housing, roads, ports, power and water projects
Tourism	Eco-tourism in the interior, hotels and hospitality services

Investsur

The Investment and Trade Agency Suriname (Investsur) is the national investment promotion agency. It provides information on the investment climate and helps investors with approvals and incentives.

LEGAL VEHICLES

03 Choosing a business structure

Most investors use a naamloze vennootschap (NV), the limited liability company. Overseas companies may instead register a branch. The right choice depends on liability, tax, financing and exit plans.

Vehicle	Key features	Typical use	Main obligations
Naamloze vennootschap (NV)	Separate legal entity with share capital; shareholders' liability limited to their shares; incorporated by notarial deed in Dutch; at least one director	Most operating businesses and subsidiaries of foreign groups	Trade Register filings with the KKF; income tax returns; shareholder register
Branch of a foreign company	Registered with the KKF as a branch office; not a separate legal entity	Projects, contracts and market entry by foreign companies	KKF registration; 36% tax on Suriname profits; local accounts
Foundation (stichting)	Legal entity without members or shareholders, set up by notarial deed for a stated purpose	Charities, holding and family arrangements	KKF registration; tax filings where it carries on business
Partnerships (VOF and CV)	General partnership, or limited partnership with silent partners; general partners personally liable	Professional practices and family businesses	KKF registration; partners taxed on their share of profits
Sole trader (eenmanszaak)	Individual trading in their own name or a trade name; unlimited liability	Small owner-managed businesses	KKF registration; personal income tax
Cooperative	Member-owned entity carrying on business for its members	Agriculture, fisheries and savings	KKF registration; annual accounts

New Civil Code

Book 2 of the new Civil Code, on legal persons, took effect on 1 May 2025. It keeps the NV as the main company form and does not introduce a BV. Existing NVs must update their articles; unclaimed bearer shares lapse after 1 May 2027.

Ownership and beneficial owners

Foreign investors may generally own 100% of an NV. Banking, insurance, mining, oil and other regulated activities need licences or agreements first. Notaries and banks must identify beneficial owners under anti-money laundering law; keep this information up to date.

GETTING STARTED

04 Setting up: step by step

A company is formed by notarial deed and registered with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KKF). Allow several weeks for incorporation; bank accounts, permits and licences usually take longer.

1 **Plan the structure and name** — WEEK 1
Choose the vehicle, shareholding and directors, and check the proposed name with a Surinamese civil-law notary.

2 **Execute the notarial deed** — WEEK 1–3
The notary prepares and executes the deed of incorporation in Dutch, containing the articles, share capital and first directors. Capital is usually paid in at this stage.

3 **Register with the KKF** — WEEK 2–4
Register the company in the Trade Register with the deed, director and shareholder details, identification and a lease or title for the Suriname premises.

4 **Register for taxes** — WEEK 3–5
Register with the Tax Authority for income tax, wage tax as an employer, and VAT if annual taxable turnover will exceed SRD 1 million. Returns are now filed online.

5 **Open a bank account** — WEEK 3–8
Banks apply full know-your-customer checks on the company, directors and beneficial owners, and need the KKF extract. Allow extra time where owners are overseas.

6 **Obtain permits and licences** — VARIES
Apply for a business permit where your activity needs one, import or export licences, sector licences, building approvals, and work and residence permits for foreign staff.

7 **Set up accounting and compliance** — BEFORE TRADING
Put in place bookkeeping, payroll, pension and health insurance cover, a tax and filing calendar, and anti-money laundering controls where your sector requires them.

Documents you will usually need

Certified passport and proof of address for each director, shareholder and beneficial owner; source of funds evidence; a Suriname business address; and, for a foreign company, certified constitutional documents and a certificate of good standing. Foreign documents generally need an apostille and, where needed, a Dutch translation.

TAXATION

05 Tax at a glance

Suriname taxes resident companies and individuals on worldwide income and non-residents on Suriname-source income. The headline rates are below.

Business taxes	
Corporate income tax	36% flat rate; branches taxed at the same rate on Suriname profits
Losses	Carried forward seven years; start-up losses of the first three years without time limit
VAT	10% standard rate; 25% on listed luxury goods; 0% on exports and listed supplies; lower rates or exemption for some essentials; registration above SRD 1 million a year
Oil and mining	Terms set mainly in production sharing contracts and mineral agreements
Property	Transfer tax and notarial costs on property transfers; supplies of immovable property are VAT-exempt
Customs	Import duty under the CARICOM Common External Tariff, plus VAT and other levies on imports

Individuals	
Tax-free amount	SRD 108,000 a year (SRD 9,000 a month) since 1 January 2024
Income tax rates	8%, 18% and 28% on successive bands of SRD 42,000 above the tax-free amount; 38% on the excess

Withholding tax	Rate*
Dividends from an NV	25%
Interest	Generally nil
Royalties	Generally nil

*Domestic rates. Suriname has a tax treaty with the Netherlands, which may reduce dividend tax to 7.5%. A treaty with Curaçao has been signed but is not yet in force.

Recent changes

From 2024 the tax-free amount rose to SRD 108,000 with new bands. From 2025 the tax-free limits for holiday allowance and bonuses rose to SRD 19,500 each, and online filing became mandatory. The 2026 budget, adopted on 8 July 2026, and the draft 2027 budget focus on stronger VAT enforcement and collection rather than new rates.

PEOPLE

06 Employing people

Employment law is protective. Employers must withhold wage tax and contributions monthly, provide pension and health insurance cover, and observe minimum standards on wages, leave and termination.

Minimum standards

- **Minimum wage:** SRD 61.25 an hour from 1 July 2026
- **Hours:** maximum working day and week set by law; overtime at 150%, and 200% on Sundays and public holidays
- **Vacation:** at least 12 working days a year after a year's service, rising with service
- **Sickness:** employers continue wages for a limited period
- **Parental leave:** 16 weeks' paid maternity and 8 days' paternity leave
- **Notice:** depends on service, up to six months when the employer gives notice
- **Dismissal:** generally needs prior permission from the Ministry of Labour, unless by mutual consent or for urgent cause

Statutory payroll contributions

Contribution	Employee	Employer
Wage tax	8% to 38%	—
AOV old-age pension	4%	—
Pension (APW), 8.5% in 2026	Up to half	At least half
Basic health insurance (BZV)	Up to half	At least half
Parental leave fund, 1%	Up to 0.5%	At least 0.5%

The pension base runs from SRD 2,250 to SRD 22,500 a month. Health insurance premiums are fixed amounts by age. Wage tax and AOV are paid monthly.

Bringing in foreign staff

Work permits

Foreign nationals need a work permit from the Ministry of Labour, applied for by the employer. Permits run for up to one year; the fee is US$100, or US$500 in timber and mining.

Residence

Most foreign staff staying more than 90 days need a temporary residence authorisation (MVK), applied for before travel, and then a residence permit.

CARICOM skilled nationals

Qualified nationals of participating CARICOM states in approved categories may work under a CARICOM Skills Certificate.

HR essentials from day one

Give every employee written terms of employment, keep accurate time, pay and leave records, enrol staff in a pension scheme and basic health insurance, and adopt a staff handbook covering conduct, grievances and health and safety. Most disputes we see start with missing paperwork, not bad intentions.

MONEY AND ASSETS

07 Banking, currency and property

Banking and finance

Banks, insurers, pension funds and licensed exchange offices (cambios) are supervised by the Central Bank of Suriname (CBvS).

- **Floating currency:** the SRD has floated since 2021; it traded at around SRD 37 to 38 per US dollar in mid-2026
- **Foreign exchange:** bought through banks and cambios; supporting documents may be needed, and exporters may have surrender obligations
- **Foreign currency accounts** in US dollars and euros are widely used
- **Capital markets:** the Suriname Stock Exchange is small
- **Compliance:** expect thorough know-your-customer checks

Financial reporting

Larger companies must prepare and file annual accounts, and IFRS or IFRS for SMEs is widely used. Confirm which framework and audit requirements apply to your company.

Land and property

Much land in Suriname is state domain land, granted for use under long-term land leases (grondhuur) with an annual rent, while private freehold exists mainly in older urban areas. Take advice on title and lease conditions before buying.

Typical costs on a property purchase	
Transfer tax	Payable on the value of the property transferred
Notarial deed and registration	Transfers are made by notarial deed and registered with the land registry
Legal and notarial fees	Agreed with the notary and advisers
Land lease rent	Annual rent on domain land under a land lease

Before you build

Development needs building approval and, for larger or sensitive projects, environmental assessment. In the interior, check overlaps with mining or forestry concessions and with the land rights of Indigenous and Maroon communities.

GROWTH LEVERS

08 Incentives, trade and customs

Suriname offers incentives mainly through its investment law and sector agreements, alongside preferential access to regional and European markets.

Key incentive regimes

Regime	What it offers
Investment Act	Tax and import duty relief for approved investment projects, through Investsur and the Ministry of Finance
Draft Investment Act	A new investment law has been drafted but was not yet approved by Parliament at the latest report
Import duty exemptions	Partial exemptions on listed goods by ministerial decree, for set periods
Oil and gas	Fiscal terms in production sharing contracts with Staatsolie; supply opportunities for local businesses
Mining and forestry	Terms set in concessions and mineral agreements

Eligibility and conditions apply to each regime. We can assess which incentives fit your project and prepare the applications.

Market access

- **CARICOM Single Market and Economy:** duty-free trade in qualifying goods across member states, with a Common External Tariff on imports
- **CARIFORUM–EU Economic Partnership Agreement:** preferential access to the European Union
- **CARICOM trade agreements** with Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba and the Dominican Republic
- **Neighbouring markets:** land borders with Guyana and French Guiana, and close links with Brazil

Customs

The Customs Department handles imports and exports. Importers need KKF and tax registration, and some goods need an import licence from the Ministry of Economic Affairs or health and agriculture certificates. Duty is charged on the customs value at tariff rates, plus VAT on imports.

COMPLIANCE

09 Regulators and compliance calendar

Who regulates what

Body	Role
Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KKF)	Trade Register for companies, branches and businesses
Tax Authority (Belastingdienst)	Income tax, wage tax, VAT and dividend tax
Customs Department	Imports, exports and duties
Central Bank of Suriname	Banks, insurers, pension funds, cambios and foreign exchange
Financial Intelligence Unit Suriname	Anti-money laundering reporting
Ministry of Economic Affairs	Business permits and import and export licences
Ministry of Labour	Work permits, dismissals and labour standards
Ministry of Justice and Police	Residence permits for foreign nationals
Staatsolie	State oil company; petroleum contracts
Investsur	Investment promotion and facilitation

Key filing dates

When	What
Early each month	Wage tax and AOV withheld for the previous month
By the 15th of each month	VAT return and payment for the previous month
By 15 February	Reasoned request where the current year's provisional tax should be lower
April	Provisional income tax return for the current year, with tax paid in instalments
30 June	Final income tax return of entities for the previous year
As changes occur	Updates to the KKF Trade Register

Dates shown are for a company with a calendar year-end. Late filing and payment attract penalties and interest, which build quickly.

Anti-money laundering

Financial institutions and designated businesses, including notaries, accountants, real estate dealers and gold traders, must identify clients and beneficial owners and report unusual transactions to the Financial Intelligence Unit.

ACTION PLAN

10 Your first 90 days: checklist

Use this checklist to track the essential steps from decision to first trading day.

Days 1–30: establish

- [ ] Agree business plan, structure and ownership
- [ ] Appoint a Surinamese civil-law notary
- [ ] Gather KYC documents for directors and owners
- [ ] Apostille and translate foreign documents
- [ ] Execute the deed of incorporation
- [ ] Register the company with the KKF
- [ ] Record beneficial ownership information
- [ ] Apply to open business bank accounts

Days 31–60: register and license

- [ ] Register for tax, and VAT above SRD 1 million
- [ ] Register as an employer for wage tax
- [ ] Apply for business permits and sector licences
- [ ] Apply for work and residence permits for foreign staff
- [ ] Assess eligibility for incentives
- [ ] Lease premises and confirm title or land lease
- [ ] Arrange insurance cover

Days 61–90: operate

- [ ] Set up the accounting system and chart of accounts
- [ ] Set up payroll, AOV and statutory deductions
- [ ] Enrol staff in pension and health insurance
- [ ] Issue written employment contracts
- [ ] Build the tax and filing calendar
- [ ] Agree year-end and audit arrangements

Ongoing

- [ ] Monthly wage tax and VAT filings
- [ ] Provisional tax instalments
- [ ] Annual tax return and financial statements
- [ ] Keep the KKF Trade Register up to date
- [ ] Renew licences and permits on time

YOUR PARTNER

11 How Dawgen Global helps

One Dawgen Global team supports you through our Caribbean Service Desk, managed from our headquarters in Kingston.

Market entry and structuring

Choice of vehicle, group and tax structuring, feasibility studies and business plans.

Incorporation and corporate secretarial

Coordination with notaries, KKF registration, statutory records and beneficial ownership information.

Tax advisory and compliance

Registrations, planning, VAT, wage tax, returns, transfer pricing and tax audits, through our Caribbean Tax Service Desk.

Accounting and payroll outsourcing

Bookkeeping, management accounts, payroll and a Virtual CFO.

Audit and assurance

Statutory audits, reviews and special-purpose reporting for lenders and parent companies.

HR, immigration and legal support

Employment contracts, HR policies, work permits and legal process support, with our panel of attorneys.

Risk and compliance

AML programmes, internal audit and governance.

Technology and cyber

Systems selection, digital transformation, cybersecurity and AI governance.

Incentive applications

Investment Act and permit assessments and applications.

Start with a conversation

Tell us your plans for Suriname, and we will set out the steps, timeline and costs. Some regulated services are performed by affiliated firms; we will advise you of the arrangements when you make a request. Fees are tailored to each client's circumstances and set out in an engagement letter. Email **suriname@dawgen.com** or **info@dawgen.global**, or call (876) 926-5210.

Talk to the Suriname Caribbean Service Desk

Contact

suriname@dawgen.com

Dawgen Global, Dawgen Towers
47-49 Trinidad Terrace, Kingston 5, Jamaica
(876) 926-5210 · (876) 630-2011
(876) 929-3670 · (876) 929-3870
US toll free 855-354-2447
info@dawgen.global · dawgen.global

Key official sources

- Tax Authority of Suriname (belastingdienst.sr)
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry (kkf.sr)
- Investment and Trade Agency Suriname (investsur.sr)
- Central Bank of Suriname (cbvs.sr)
- Government of Suriname (gov.sr)
- National Assembly (dna.sr)
- Suriname Legal Information System (sris.sr)
- Staatsolie Maatschappij Suriname (staatsolie.com)



This publication contains general information only, current to October 2026, and is not professional advice. Tax rates, thresholds, exchange rates and procedures change frequently, and official texts in Dutch prevail; confirm the current position with Dawgen Global or the relevant authority before acting. Some regulated services are performed by affiliated firms; we will advise you of the arrangements when you make a request.
© 2026 Dawgen Global Caribbean Limited. All rights reserved. Maps: Dawgen Global.