

Curriculum vitae

Roel Brienen was born in Heerlen, the Netherlands, on the 21th of August 1974. In 1992 he obtained his high school degree at the Romboutscollege, Brunssum. In the same year he started his Biology study at the University of Groningen. During this study he specialized in ecology and carried out two research projects.

The first project dealt with phenology and seed production of species-rich grass meadows for restoration purposes in north-east Germany. This project involved 5 months of fieldwork and was carried out at the Plant ecology group of the University of Groningen (RUG). The second project was done at the Forest ecology and management group of the Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR). In this research he studied density- and size-dependence in the survival of experimental seed caches in undisturbed tropical rain forest in French Guyana, involving 4 months of fieldwork at the Nouragues Biological Station.

After graduating in 1998 he worked during three seasons for an ecological consultancy office, Buro Bakker in Assen (the Netherlands). In this function he executed monitoring projects and did plant inventories and vegetation mappings of several nature areas in the Netherlands. During this period he also traveled through India and Nepal for nine months.

In 2001 he started his position as a PhD student at the Plant Ecology Group, Utrecht University, where he worked for three years at the Programa Manejo de Bosques de la Amazonía Boliviana (PROMAB). He investigated growth patterns of tropical rain forest trees using tree ring analysis.