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Simplified version of the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Plan



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Introduction

Starting in 2008, the Wapichan communities in Guyana initiated an extensive and collaborative process to develop a territorial management plan, culminating in 2012 with the publication of *Baokopa'o wa di'itinpan wadaun nii nao ati* (Thinking together for those coming behind us). Since its publication, the territorial management plan has been guiding practices and management decisions over Wapichan land and livelihoods. It has also been instrumental in shaping the common vision of the Wapichan communities, particularly advocating for the legal recognition of customary lands; promoting the sustainable use of resources; preserving and transmitting customary laws and traditional practices; achieving self-sufficiency and food security; and fostering respect for Wapichan culture and traditional institutions.

As emphasized in the territorial management plan, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife is a key element of Wapichan livelihoods, culture, values and beliefs. As such, it is often incorporated into food, medicine, stories and ornaments. It is an integral part of Wapichan identity, and therefore deserves special attention in terms of management and conservation efforts. Since the early 2000s, several initiatives have been implemented in Wapichan Wiizi (the traditional territory of the Wapichan people in Guyana) to protect wildlife and ensure its sustainable use. These include the monitoring of the red siskin (*Spinus cucullatus*), biodiversity assessments in the Kusad and Parabara mountains, mammal/fish/turtle surveys, jaguar

population assessments, and monitoring of hunting. Since 2019, these initiatives have been consolidated and expanded with support from the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme. To coordinate these efforts, the South Rupununi District Council (SRDC) established the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Committee (WWWC), which works closely with local partners such as the South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS), the Rupununi Livestock Producers Association (RLPA) and Visit Rupununi (VR). In 2022, to further strengthen its wildlife management efforts, WWWW – together with all communities that are part of Wapichan Wiizi, and local partners – decided to develop a wildlife management plan. This plan is aligned with the broader territorial management plan, ensuring coordinated and sustainable efforts to protect and manage terrestrial and aquatic wildlife in the region.

In this document, we present a simplified version of the ten-year management plan for the protection and sustainable use of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife within Wapichan Wiizi. The plan is implemented on a voluntary basis by village councils with support from the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Committee and local organizations (SRCS, VR, RLPA, etc.) in coordination with relevant governmental organizations such as the GWCMC, Fisheries Department - Ministry of Agriculture Guyana, Protected Areas Commission (PAC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



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Objectives, scope and approach of the management plan

The WMP serves as a comprehensive framework for future actions towards the sustainable use and conservation of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife in Wapichan Wiizi. This ten-year plan provides an overarching structure to guide decision-making processes for present and future village councils on the management of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife within Wapichan Wiizi. The plan can also be used to search collectively for funding, for scientific partnerships, to network with other communities with similar goals, and to lobby for national support with regard to any aspect stated in the plan. It is aligned with the wider objectives of the WMP, and contributes towards its implementation.

The WMP covers all terrestrial and aquatic wildlife present within Wapichan Wiizi. However, a particular focus is placed on species that are important for the livelihoods and cultural identity of the Wapichan people, as well as endemic species, species with worldwide conservation interest, and species that are not yet well known to science (see Appendix 1).

The shared vision guiding the development of the WMP can be summarized as follows:

“Our dream is to see the entire Wapichan territory legally recognized, and our communities empowered to implement a functional plan for the sustainable use of wildlife and fisheries and the conservation of our biodiversity”.

by the Participants at the Workshop for the Development of the WMP plan, Aishalton, Guyana

This plan is a community-driven effort to contribute to national-level policies and legislations on wildlife and fisheries management and conservation.

The WMP was developed over a period of eight months from March 2022 to October 2022. It is founded on baseline information found in the



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literature, wildlife use surveys and population assessments, and an extensive consultation with community members and relevant stakeholders. The participation of women was encouraged throughout the consultation and development process, and particular attention was given to ensuring that their views were well represented in the management plan. The consultation was based on an internal decision-making process among the Wapichan leaders, and followed the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) which included the following steps:

Step 1. Awareness raising: Posters with guidelines for community wildlife and the national list of protected species in Guyana were distributed in all communities. A brochure explaining the role of the WWWC was distributed during village and district-level meetings. Short messages about the WMP were aired on local Radio Aishalton twice per month, beginning in November 2021. Live interviews were conducted to inform community members about the progress made, and to share news regarding local and national wildlife initiatives and other educational content. Thus, radio played a key role in disseminating information about the plan to villages. Finally, representatives from the SRDC also made in-person presentations at village general meetings – disseminating information and addressing concerns and questions from community members.

Step 2. Multistakeholder workshop: The workshop took place in Aishalton in March 2022 to set the foundation for drafting the WMP. Participants included *toshaos* (community leaders), members of WWWC, SRDC leaders, representatives of women’s groups, local NGOs (SRCS, VR, RLPA), Community

Development Officers (CDOs), one representative of the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, and the Regional District Council. The workshop was facilitated by technical experts from the SWM Programme and consisted of three phases: a game session to introduce the discussion around the sustainable use of wildlife and the role of collective action; a series of presentations about current wildlife management and conservation activities within Wapichan Wiizi; and a theory of change exercise. To advance the planning process, participants were divided into two groups to define the boundaries of the territory where the WMP would apply; identify the species that should be part of it; and pinpoint the stakeholders that should be involved in the consultation and validation process. Stakeholders were ranked according to their levels of influence and interest. The final session of the workshop focused on creating a joint vision of the future of people and wildlife in Wapichan Wiizi, and a road map detailing the actions needed to achieve that vision. Participants defined the vision, the general and specific outcomes, and the activities that would lead to such outcomes, slowly building a comprehensive draft road map.

Step 3. Draft management plan: This plan was ratified and revised by each of the villages during village-level engagements, and shared with local NGOs involved in the implementation of activities mentioned in the management plan. This iterative process continued from April 2022 to February 2023, and culminated in another round of village-level meetings for endorsement of the management plan.

Step 4. Validation: Finally, in March 2023, the WMP was validated and launched.



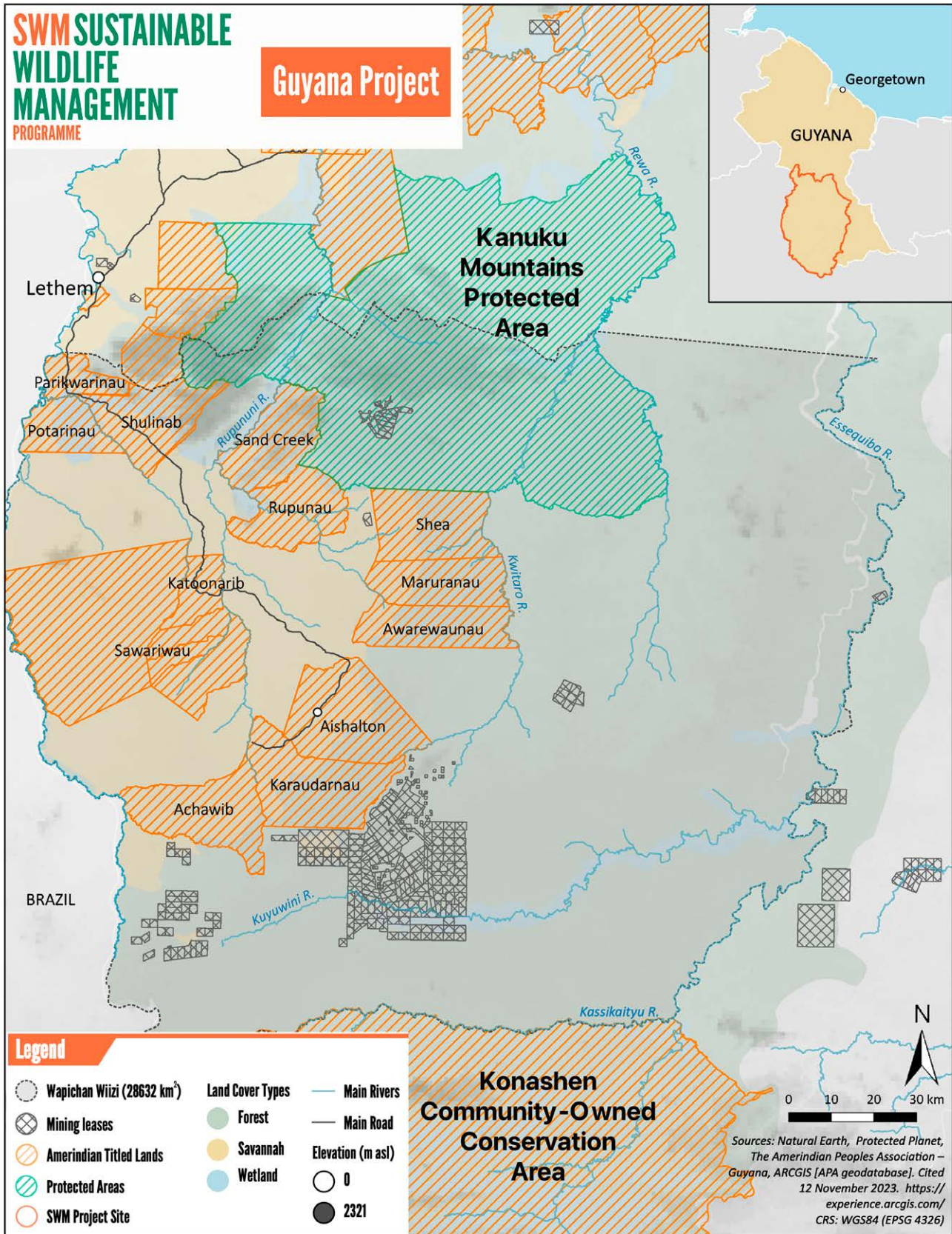
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Description of Wapichan Wiizi

Wapichan Wiizi (see Figure 1, 28 632 km² and 10 237 inhabitants) represents the full extent of the traditional territory of the Wapichan people. It is located in South Rupununi between three rivers: the Takutu (which is the Guyana-Brazil border), the Kassikaiytu and the Essequibo. The land includes the southern part of the Kanuku Mountains. Wapichan Wiizi harbours a highly diverse habitat with continuous tracts of primary forest, “bush islands”, gallery forests, open and tree savannah, and seasonally flooded wetlands. Phytogeographically, Wapichan wiizi represents an extension of the Rio Branco savannahs in Brazil, and is therefore distinct from other parts of Guyana (Jansen-Jacobs and ter Steege 2000). Wapichan Wiizi lies on one of

Guyana’s unique and diverse ecosystems, and is one of the last great wilderness areas on Earth. It is home to many species that are highly endangered globally. These include many iconic Amazonian species: the jaguar (*Panthera onca*), giant river otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*), harpy eagle (*Harpia harpyja*), Brazilian tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) and giant armadillo (*Priodontes maximus*). Wapichan Wiizi comprises the South Central and the Deep South districts, with 21 communities. Only 13 of those communities hold title to a portion of their customary lands, while the rest of the territory has yet to be legally recognized by the government. Overall, the titled lands comprise only 35 percent of the full territory.

Figure 1. Map of Wapichan Wiizi



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of EU, FAO, CIFOR, CIRAD or WCS concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Governance for the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Plan

The WMP sets general objectives towards which Wapichan communities and their local partners have agreed to work in a collaborative manner. Governance for the implementation of the plan involves the village councils, WWWC, local civil society organizations and the relevant governmental institutions.

Village councils

Village councils are the only governance institutions with a legitimate mandate to take decisions over the land, resources and people within their village titled lands. Each village council may establish a wildlife/fisheries committee as the local implementing team or advisory body for the WMP. In consultation with community members, the village council voluntarily develops village wildlife/fisheries rules, guidelines or action plans guided by the overarching WMP. For enforcement at the local level, *toshao*, the village council and the community itself (through the village meetings) represent the traditional institutions in charge of settling disputes.

Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Committee

The Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Committee was established in 2019 by the SRDC to promote conservation and sustainable management of wildlife species and habitats across Wapichan Wiizi. The activities of the committee encompass raising public awareness about conservation and sustainable management of wildlife; incorporating traditional knowledge into conservation and sustainable management of wildlife; empowering communities to make informed wildlife management decisions through studies of species with high conservation value; exploring wildlife livelihood opportunities; and assisting village councils in establishing rules for the protection, conservation and sustainable management of wildlife. In the context of the WMP, the committee will serve a facilitation role for the stakeholder platform, which includes village councils, governmental institutions and wider civil society.

Key civil society partners

Several local civil society organizations are supporting the implementation of this plan. These include the South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS), for its expertise in environmental education, wildlife monitoring and research. SRCS is considered one of the leading grassroots conservation NGOs in Guyana, advancing the preservation of the wildlife,

environment and culture of the Rupununi through community-based conservation, research and environmental education. Its members – many of whom are local Indigenous Peoples of the South Rupununi – have been part of trainings, expeditions and projects within Wapichan Wiizi over the past few decades, and therefore have a wealth of expertise on research methodologies as well as project design and management. In addition, SRCS has successfully collaborated with multiple communities within Wapichan Wiizi on a number of projects. SRCS will therefore be a key partner for the successful implementation of the WMP. The partnership between SRCS and SRDC was bolstered by the signing of an MoU between the two organizations to lead a coordinated approach to sustainably preserving the culture, wildlife and environment of South Rupununi.

Visit Rupununi (VR) is included for its expertise in wildlife-based tourism and its work raising awareness of sustainable wildlife management, wildlife protection and social responsibility. VR markets the



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tourism value of the region through its established platform that reaches out to the people of the region, especially in those areas that overlap with the integrity and uniqueness of the region's landscape. It also places particular importance on the integrity and respect of Indigenous Peoples' lives, culture and rights as intrinsically linked to the experiential and cultural tourism that VR is promoting in the region. Because of this, VR can assist SRDC with visibility, accountability and marketing on aspects of the WMP that intersect with tourism; in particular, within private sector forums.

The Rupununi Livestock Producers Association (RLPA) is included for its expertise in livestock production and marketing as potential alternative livelihoods in Wapichan communities. RLPA works with Wapichan communities and supports the local livestock industry

through lobbying and the promotion of technical and marketing improvements. It also supports and coordinates the development of holistic and sustainable approaches to pasture development and management within the landscape's environmental limits, breed improvement, improved animal husbandry, and marketing opportunities for communities and livestock farmers.

Key governmental partners

Key governmental partners involved in the implementation of this plan are GWCMC and the Fisheries Department. However, its implementation will require close coordination with the Protected Areas Commission (PAC), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (MoAA) and the Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA).

Management for the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife and fisheries

The key assumptions guiding the development of this plan are the following:

- By legally ensuring the recognition of the Wapichan territory, and building capacities at the community level (in particular on free, prior and informed consent and community-based rights approaches), the plan contributes to preserving the territory on which terrestrial and aquatic wildlife depends.
- By strengthening village councils, ensuring continuity between *toshao* mandates, and establishing a platform for coordinated actions between all stakeholders with an interest in wildlife and fisheries management, the plan empowers the Wapichan community and establishes good governance over the management of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife within the territory.
- By increasing awareness of sustainability concepts, developing a research agenda that bridges traditional and scientific knowledge, investing in environmental education, as well as by developing diversified sources of protein, the plan promotes community buy-in for the sustainable use of wildlife and fisheries within its territory.
- By advocating for the mitigation of impacts caused by mining and other development projects within the territory, establishing conservation zones, encouraging village councils to establish and enforce rules on use of wildlife and fisheries, and protecting biodiversity hotspots, the plan contributes to maintaining healthy terrestrial and aquatic wildlife populations for future generations.





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Objectives of the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Plan

The WMP is structured around six main objectives :

Objective 1: Wapichan peoples' rights and customary territory are legally recognized

The right to FPIC is respected

SRDC, with support from partners, will continue to build capacities within the communities, particularly with regard to understanding and exercising their rights, including the right to FPIC. This will entail raising awareness about FPIC at the community level (e.g. workshops with village councils that will then conduct trainings with the rest of the community members) and supporting villages in the development of their village-level FPIC rules.

Wapichan co-management agreements are officially recognized

The SRDC, through the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Committee and other partners engaged in the implementation of this plan, will work with GWCMC for the legal recognition of co-management wildlife agreements and the development of a co-management policy for wildlife. In parallel, the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Committee will engage with the Department for Inland Fisheries to establish a fisheries co-management zone within Wapichan Wiizi following

the National Co-management Policy for Inland Fisheries validated in 2023.

Wapichan land rights are granted

The SRDC and villages will continue to advocate for the full legal recognition of their right to own, use, control and develop their traditional lands, territory and resources.

Objective 2: Local leaders are empowered to manage and conserve wildlife and fisheries in a coordinated effort

Village councils are at the centre of the WMP

Village councils are the most important governance bodies within each community and their role is to inspire respect for the rules to protect Wapichan Wiizi and its resources. Village councils will continue to play a key role in fostering unity within the community and between communities in Wapichan Wiizi. *Toshaos* will ensure continuity across mandates in terms of wildlife and fisheries management, and work towards establishing transition periods between *toshao* mandates.

Village councils have better control over wildlife use

The SRDC, in collaboration with village councils and GWCMC, will put in place a checkpoint controlling

access to the Wapichan territory, and control and monitor the trade of wildlife and the extraction of other resources and goods.

Village councils will communicate and enforce existing village-level wildlife and fisheries management guidelines in their titled lands. They will ensure compliance with locally agreed rules within their communities. Village councils will jointly develop rules on shared use areas, expanding upon their common boundary agreements.

Future leaders are trained

SRDC and SRCS will continue to train youth to become efficient local leaders.

The local civil society network is consolidated

Local wildlife and fisheries-related organizations (such as SRCS and SRDC through the WMP Committee) will increase their technical capacities, their functional structure, and their fund raising know-how to ensure continuity of activities over the long term.

Objective 3: Wildlife is managed sustainably

Rules for sustainable use are enforced, and terrestrial and aquatic wildlife use is monitored

Where not yet in place, village councils will develop village-level wildlife and fisheries use rules to ensure sustainable use. This will be done with support from SRDC through the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Committee. A process will be put in

place to mainstream guidelines that apply across the landscape. These village-level rules will be revisited every year based on new information available. SRDC, through WWWC, will put in place a stewardship system. Hunters and fishers in each community will be identified to play a central role as “wildlife and fisheries stewards”. On a voluntary basis, village councils will consolidate their river turtle conservation and sustainable use efforts along the Rupununi River and participate in the development of the river turtle management plan, with technical support from SRCS.

Community conservation areas are created

On a voluntary basis, each village council will determine criteria for the establishment of conservation zones, including the numbers of areas, size, their delineation, rules, etc., in some cases with assistance from technical experts. Village councils that have already created conservation zones within their lands (e.g. the Katoonarib giant anteater community conservation zone) will consolidate their implementation. SRCS will serve as a technical adviser for this activity and support the recognition of these areas at the regional and national level.

Human wildlife conflicts are mitigated

Village councils, in partnership with SRCS, scientific organizations, and GWCMC, where necessary, will develop a strategy to deal with animals that cause damage to crops or livestock or represent a threat to human lives.



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Objective 4: Traditional and scientific knowledge is available to inform wildlife management decisions

Information relevant to management is generated to guide our decisions

A joint wildlife and fisheries research plan will be developed to increase scientific knowledge on terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, map traditional knowledge on wildlife and fisheries, and better understand the relationship between people and terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Partnerships with scientific and research institutes will be encouraged.

Village councils, in close collaboration with WWWC, and with support from external partners, will implement multi-taxa assessments in bioculturally rich areas, such as the assessments already carried out in Parabara, Karaawaimin Taawa and Kusad Mountain, and closely monitor these rich areas for their protection.

Village councils have access to key sources of information

SRDC will consolidate community libraries with existing publications on wildlife in a selected number of villages across Wapichan Wiizi to ensure that information on wildlife and fisheries is made available to community members.

SRDC will facilitate access to good satellite (or drone) images to map the current extent of forest, fire damage, current farm areas, secondary growth, etc., and train councils in the use of GIS and other such imagery in decision-making.

Factors influencing terrestrial and aquatic wildlife populations are monitored

SRDC, through WWWC, will put in place a monitoring system. Hunters and fishers in each community will be identified to monitor biodiversity-rich areas, monitor terrestrial and aquatic wildlife use and trade, and monitor populations of certain key species.

SRDC will continue to monitor mining areas and develop an advocacy plan to reduce the impacts of gold mining on wildlife and fisheries.

Objective 5: Community members and youth understand wildlife management issues and have positive attitudes towards management and conservation initiatives

Youth understands the importance of wildlife and fisheries for the Wapichan culture and ways of life

SRCS, in close collaboration with village councils and schools, will continue to take the lead in environmental education in schools and through traditional knowledge classes.

The plan contributes to raising awareness about wildlife and fisheries issues at national and international levels

Village councils, with support from SRCS and SRDC, will continue to raise awareness about wildlife and fisheries management initiatives through various communication means. A communication and awareness plan will be developed on a yearly basis. The Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Committee will ensure that lessons learned through the implementation of the WMP will be shared. The platform will play a key role in ensuring cross-country and inter-community exchanges.

Objective 6: Alternative livelihoods and sustainable business models are available for communities

Alternative sources of protein are available to guarantee food security

Village councils will work with RLPA and the Guyana Livestock Development Agency/National Agricultural Research Extension Institute to reduce dependence on wildlife for food and develop alternative sources of protein.

Village councils will partner with key organizations to encourage youth to take part in training and exchange programmes with regard to the diversification of livelihoods that are compatible with the conservation of wildlife.

Businesses based on sustainable use are explored

In order to ensure that the sustainable use of wildlife can contribute to local livelihoods, avenues to develop wildlife-based, sustainable use initiatives based on five dimensions of sustainability (environmental, economic, social, human health and animal welfare) will be explored and piloted.

Wildlife-based tourism becomes a sustainable livelihood option

Village councils will work together with Visit Rupununi to ensure that conservation efforts are rewarded by revenues from wildlife-friendly tourism, and that the region can continue to be promoted as “Keep the Rupununi Wild”.

Conclusions and recommendations

Wildlife is an integral part of the Wapichan culture and way of life. It deserves particular attention and specific management and conservation strategies. Through the WMP, communities have identified a vision for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and people within Wapichan Wiizi: “Our dream is to see the entire Wapichan territory legally recognized, and our communities empowered to implement a functional plan for the sustainable use of wildlife and the conservation of our biodiversity”. The plan is implemented over the whole extent of the customary land of the Wapichan people, beyond titled land. As such, the implementation of this plan

requires a close collaboration between communities and governmental institutions in charge of wildlife management in the national territory, particularly with GWCMC and the Fisheries Department. Communities will implement this plan through their community wildlife and fisheries management committees in close collaboration with WWWC and civil society organizations established in the Rupununi. This plan serves as an overarching framework that consolidates a united vision and strategy for the conservation and management of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife over the next ten years within Wapichan Wiizi.

Appendix 1: List of priority species included in the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Plan

Common names	Scientific names
Water Animals	
Arowana	<i>Osteoglossum bicirrhosum</i>
Swordfish	<i>Boulengerella cuvieri</i>
Tiger fish	<i>Pseudoplatystoma</i> sp.
Lukanani	<i>Cichla ocellaris</i>
Haimara	<i>Hoplias aimara</i>
Spectacled caiman	<i>Caiman crocodilus</i>
Black caiman	<i>Melanosuchus niger</i>
Red pacu	<i>Myleus pacu</i>
Giant otter	<i>Pteronura brasiliensis</i>
Toadhead turtle	<i>Mesoclemmys gibba</i>
Twist-necked turtle	<i>Platemys platycephala</i>
Mata mata	<i>Chelus fimbriata</i>
Painted wood turtle	<i>Rhinoclemmys punctularia</i>
Giant South American river turtle	<i>Podocnemis expansa</i>
Yellow-spotted river turtle	<i>Podocnemis unifilis</i>
Terrestrial animals	
Jaguar	<i>Panthera onca</i>
Oncilla	<i>Leopardus tigrinus</i>
Red brocket deer	<i>Mazama americana</i>
Amazonian brown brocket deer	<i>Mazama nemorivaga</i>
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
Grey (brown) brocket deer	<i>Mazama gouazoubira</i>
White-lipped peccary	<i>Tayassu pecari</i>
Collared peccary	<i>Dicotyles tajacu</i>

Giant anteater	<i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>
Silky anteater	<i>Cyclopes didactylus</i>
Southern tamandua	<i>Tamandua tetradactyla</i>
Yellow armadillo	<i>Euphractus sexcinctus</i>
Southern naked-tailed armadillo	<i>Cabassous unicinctus</i>
Northern naked-tailed armadillo	<i>Cabassous centralis</i>
Nine-banded armadillo	<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>
Greater long-nosed armadillo	<i>Dasypus kappleri</i>
Seven-banded long-nosed armadillo	<i>Dasypus septemcinctus</i>
Giant armadillo	<i>Pridontes maximus</i>
Tapir (lowland)	<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>
Capybara	<i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i>
Labba	<i>Cuniculus paca</i>
Howler monkey	<i>Alouatta macconnelli</i>
Bush dog	<i>Speothos venaticus</i>
Blue poison dart frog	<i>Dendrobates tinctorius azureus</i>
Red-footed tortoise	<i>Chelonoidis carbonarius</i>
Pinktoe tarantula	<i>Avicularia avicularia</i>
Skeleton tarantula	<i>Ephebopus murinus</i>
Yellow-footed tortoise	<i>Chelonoidis denticulatus</i>
Hoary-throated spinetail	<i>Synallaxis kollari</i>
Flying animals	
Harpy eagle	<i>Harpia harpyja</i>
Chestnut-bellied seed finch	<i>Oryzoborus angolensis</i>
Red siskin	<i>Spinus cucullatus</i>
King vulture	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>
Twa-twa	<i>Oryzoborus crassirostris</i>
Powis	<i>Crax alector</i>
Blue-and-yellow macaw	<i>Ara ararauna</i>
Red-and-green macaw	<i>Ara chloropterus</i>
Red-bellied macaw	<i>Orthopsittaca manilatus</i>
Red-shouldered macaw	<i>Diopsittaca nobilis</i>
Scarlet macaw	<i>Ara macao</i>
Cock-of-the-rock	<i>Rupicola rupicola</i>
Hawk-headed parrot	<i>Deroptryus accipitrinus</i>
Amazonian umbrellabird	<i>Cephalopterus ornatus</i>
Toco toucan	<i>Ramphastos toco</i>
White-throated toucan	<i>Ramphastos tucanus</i>
Rio Branco antbird	<i>Cercomacra carbonaria</i>
Bearded tachuri	<i>Polystictus pectoralis</i>

Source: Authors' own elaboration. 2023



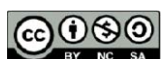
SWM PROGRAMME

SWM PROGRAMME

The SWM Programme is a major international initiative that aims to improve the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife in forest, savannah and wetland ecosystems. It is funded by the European Union with co-funding from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the French Development Agency (AFD). Projects are being piloted and tested with governments, national partners and communities in 16 participating countries. The initiative is coordinated by a dynamic consortium of four partners, namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

In Guyana, the SWM Programme is being implemented by the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission in coordination with CIFOR-ICRAF.

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