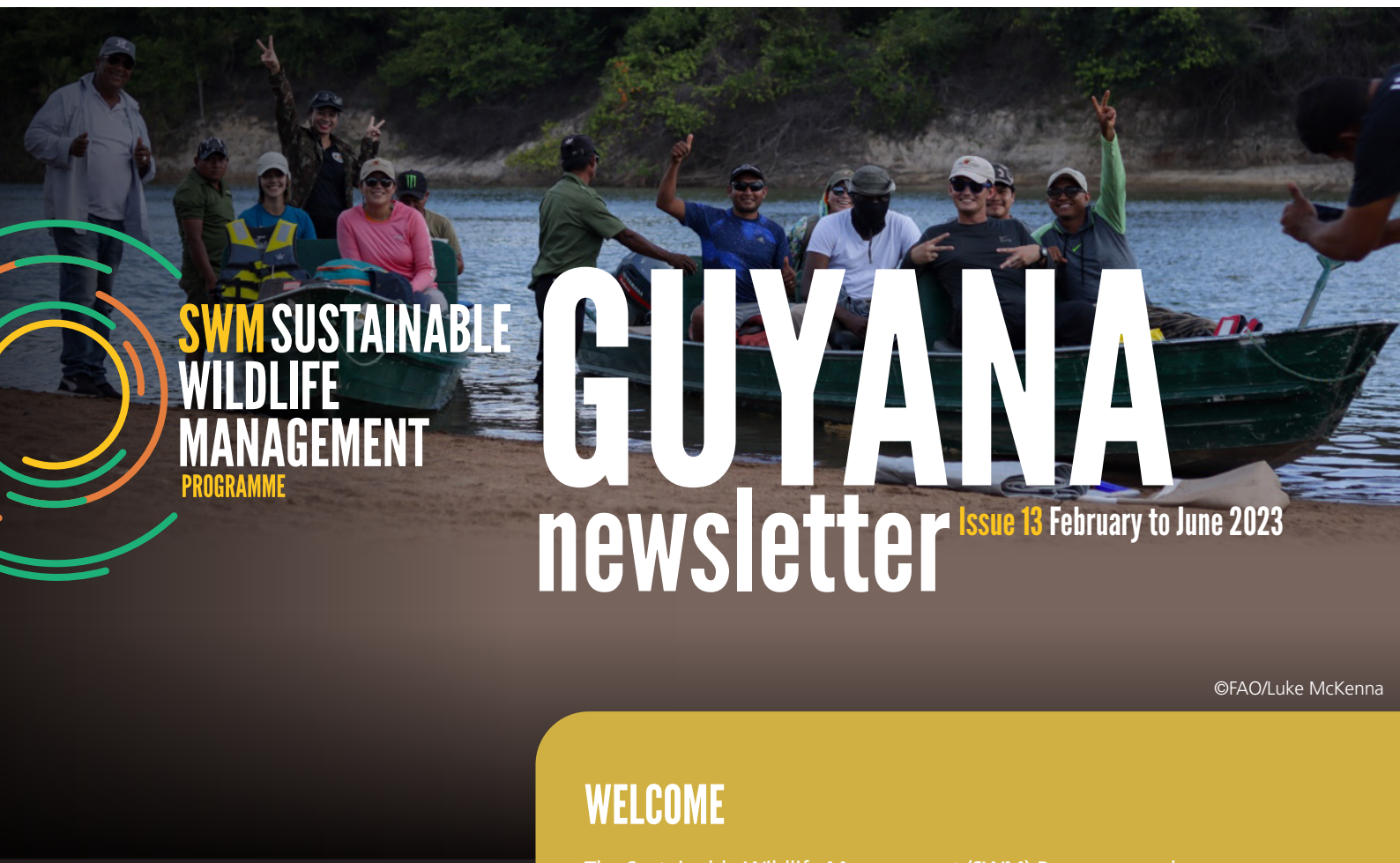




Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**SWM SUSTAINABLE  
WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAMME**

# GUYANA

## newsletter

Issue 13 February to June 2023

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### WELCOME

The Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme phase one (2018–2023) is ending after a five-year adventure in Guyana. Its goal has been to achieve conservation and sustainable management of wildlife and promote livelihoods that are aligned with local aspirations.

We have been devoted to ensuring that our programme translates into tangible impacts for communities and conservation, and that lessons learned are upscaled. Thanks to continuous engagement with communities, and local partners in Rupununi and governmental institutions, we have been able to make substantial achievements. The next phase of the SWM Programme, 2023–2028, will focus on consolidating existing models and upscaling them to other regions in Guyana and other countries of the Guiana Shield.

We hope you will enjoy reading more about the SWM Programme in [Guyana](#). Follow us on our active Facebook page for up-to-date information [here](#).

Happy reading!

Nathalie van Vliet

SWM site coordinator for Guyana

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## PROJECT UPDATES

### Supporting women and youth within industry

- Visit Rupununi (VR) hosted a stakeholder engagement meeting with Rupununi artisans, crafters and agroprocessors to discuss the development of a new regional tourism event with an emphasis on women and youth, called 'Craft to Market Table'.
- 'Craft to Market Table' events have begun monthly with SWM Programme support.

### Rupununi Livestock Producers Association successes

- The Rupununi Livestock Producers Association (RLPA) conducted its first outreach by mobile hub into the Deep South Rupununi in February, and has since reached 17 villages. The mobile hub sells everything available at the RLPA Lethem central livestock hub – from chicks to feed, equipment, medication, vitamins and minerals for animals. In the past four months, 720 people have visited the central livestock hub.
- Since the RLPA project began, 104 154 chicks and 358 470 kg of feed have been supplied to the Rupununi. Each month, RLPA provides 70 farmers with feed and 155 local chicken farmers (100 women, 48 men, and 7 associations/groups) with chicks.
- Since opening in November 2022, the RLPA's hatchery has hatched 4 095 eggs, including 2 166 since February alone. Any local eggs that don't hatch are also being sold by RLPA for human consumption.
- The first capybara pilot project in the Rupununi has begun and one location has already been fenced off to house the animals.

### Final phase one technical workshop

- The SWM Programme team and all six local partners travelled to Guyana's capital city Georgetown to present findings and accomplishments of phase one of the SWM Programme.
- Twenty-seven different organizations were represented, including local partners, key policy-makers, government agencies, and key stakeholder at national and international levels.

### Biodiversity assessments and management plans

- The SWM Programme, along with the South Rupununi District Council (SRDC), published a new book *The Karaawaimin Taawa – Insights from a biocultural assessment led by the Wapichan people in Guyana*. Find it [here](#).
- Thirty-five photos from the Karaawaimin Taawa biodiversity assessment were presented during a photography expo at Yupukari village during the annual turtle festival in April.
- The second and third articles in a series on the biodiversity assessment of the Karaawaimin Taawa were released; find them [here](#) and [here](#).
- A checkpoint at Saurab bridge in Shulinab village has been constructed as part of the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Plan and will eventually be used to monitor wildlife trade travelling through this area.
- A five-year research plan is being developed by SRDC that will guide research on wildlife within the South Rupununi.



Hydra is the first to arrive for the capybara project at Wichabai Ranch



Children from Karasabai wildlife club experience the Karaawaimin Taawa biodiversity assessment photo expo

# PROJECT UPDATES

## Education across the region

- The South Rupununi Conservation Society's (SRCS) citizen science curriculum has been teaching citizen science to more than 350 kids from 12 communities in the Rupununi.
- The North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB) wildlife clubs continue in the villages of Wowetta, Fairview, Surama, Rewa, Kwaimatta and Yupukari. These clubs conduct bird and amphibian monitoring, fish stock assessments, discussions of citizen science initiatives, camera trapping, nature trail walks, book discussions, and outdoor games.

## Turtle conservation initiatives

- The Rupununi River at Sand Creek has been monitored by the SRCS for 12 weeks with 14 rangers (eight females and six males).
- A project to create and complete a turtle management plan for the Rupununi is being developed jointly by the SRCS and Caiman House Inc. On World Wildlife Day 2023, representatives from SRCS and Caiman House Inc. participated in the national turtle consultation in Georgetown, where they presented information about their ongoing and upcoming turtle projects in Region 9.
- After being raised for a year, 472 turtles were successfully released back into the Rupununi River by Caiman House Inc. at their 11th annual turtle festival. Caiman House Inc. also rescued and incubated 1 500 eggs from 76 nests due to the season's beach flooding. One thousand of the rescued eggs have hatched so far with another 500 to hatch over the coming weeks.

## Inland fisheries

- Through consultations in regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9, the SWM Programme, the Department of Fisheries, and the Ministry of Agriculture have successfully developed a proposed draft aquaculture bill to support the regulation and management of the aquaculture sector as well as proposed amendments to the Fisheries Act (2002) to include inland fisheries and co-management.
- The revised arapaima management plan and NRDDDB's fisheries management plan has been submitted.
- Using Koboollect to collect data, 250 FLEKSI surveys have been performed in ten riverine North communities.

## Wildlife management gaff and site steering committee (SSC) meeting

- The 'wildlife management gaff' in Rewa 15-17 April 2023 provided a discussion and training opportunity for partners to learn about innovative topics and approaches to sustainable wildlife management.
- Six international researchers were invited to facilitate discussions.
- The SSC meeting was held the following day, 18 April 2023, with European Union (EU) Ambassador Rene Van Nes and the EU Delegation team included as observers, and Project Management Unit (PMU) coordinator Hubert Boulet from project partner Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).



Children release yellow-spotted river turtles at the 11<sup>th</sup> Yupukari turtle festival.

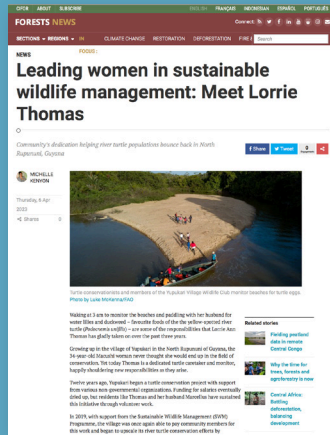


Nathalie van Vliet SWM site coordinator for Guyana presents at the SSC in Rewa

## PUBLISHED



The Karaawaimin Taawa – Insights from a biocultural assessment led by the Wapichan people in Guyana. Find it [here](#).



Leading women in sustainable wildlife management: Meet Lorrie Thomas. Find it [here](#).



Leading women in sustainable wildlife management: Meet Guyana's ecotourism entrepreneurs. Find it [here](#).



Our 12th issue of this newsletter (October 2022 – February 2023) was published. Find it [here](#).



A scientific paper looking into the impacts of COVID on wildmeat value chains in five different countries, including Guyana, was published in World Development. Find it [here](#).

## FROM THE FIELD

**“I’VE LEARNT A LOT AND DEVELOPED MY SKILLS IN CAMERA TRAPPING, NOW I FEEL I HAVE A BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF DOING IT.”**

*Kim Spencer – teacher and wildlife club coordinator for Sand Creek secondary school.*



## HIGHLIGHTS

**Official launch of the book *The Karaawaimin Taawa - Insights from a biocultural assessment led by the Wapichan people in Guyana* on 21 April 2023.**

**Phase one concludes with success and our local partners are preparing for phase two.**

**The Capybara project is underway, and Wichabai Ranch has already fenced off its enclosure.**

**A proposed draft aquaculture bill and proposed amendments to the Fisheries Act (2002) have been successfully developed.**

## SWM PROGRAMME

The SWM Guyana project activities are part of the SWM Programme, an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), and funded by the European Union with co-funding from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the French Development Agency (AFD). The Programme mobilizes an international group of partner organizations with experience and expertise in wildlife conservation, food security and policy development. It is implemented through a consortium partnership, which includes the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD). Projects are being implemented in 15 participating countries: Botswana; Chad; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Egypt; Gabon; Guyana; Madagascar; Mali; Namibia; Papua New Guinea; Republic of Congo; Senegal; Sudan; Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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## MEET OUR TEAM



*Yusuf Abraham, a key member of the VR team*

Meet Yusuf Abraham, who has been destination programme manager for Visit Rupununi (VR) for the past two years, working alongside the SWM Programme. Yusuf, 30, was born in Brazil and raised in Guyana (Lethem), where he has a solid track record. He has previously worked for Trans Guyana Airways, GBTI Bank, Fronteering Travel Services, and electrical work on a freelance basis. Currently, he owns and operates Red Dust Transportation Service, a transport company. Yusuf’s spouse also works at VR as the financial clerk, and the couple has a delightful five-year-old daughter who is directly connected to and involved in sustainable wildlife management because of her devoted family.

“There are endless opportunities for self-development through various workshops and capacity building sessions,” said Yusuf.

“Networking is also incomparable; here, I get the chance to meet a wide range of people who are like-minded, of high standing, and make new friends and build strong relationships across the region. It’s all too amazing, and the work itself allows me to make a positive impact – not only on myself, but for the lives of the people and communities we work with. I feel I can achieve my goal in making my mark in the history of our country!”



The Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme

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