

**SWM SUSTAINABLE  
WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAMME**

# GUYANA

## newsletter

Issue 9 - October - February 2022

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## WHAT'S INSIDE?

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## WELCOME

We are now at the mid-term point in implementing the fourth year of the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme's work in Guyana, whose goal is to achieve conservation and sustainable management of wildlife and to promote livelihoods that are aligned with local aspirations.

During the past five months, and thanks to continued engagement with communities and local partners in the Rupununi and governmental institutions, we have been able to move forward with our Year 4 plan without major changes.

The most salient achievements have included finalizing the arapaima and other fish stock assessments in the Rupununi River, preparing for an important biodiversity and cultural assessment of the Karawaimen Taawa area and then developing the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Plan, actively engaging with the Fisheries Department to support the development of inland fisheries regulations, expanding support for poultry development, continuing our outstanding work with children and environmental education, and preparing for the 2022 turtle surveys on the Rupununi and Rewa Rivers.

We hope you will enjoy reading further details here. Do follow us on our Facebook page for more up-to-date information.

**Nathalie Van Vliet**  
SWM Programme site coordinator in Guyana

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## Free Prior and Informed Consent overview

- Meetings were conducted in 32 communities to provide an update on SWM to the newly elected Village Councillors and present SWM Year 4 activities. Of these communities, 17 have so far updated and renewed their Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) agreement.
- The SWM country coordinator and FPIC focal point delivered presentations on SWM activities to the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) and South Rupununi District Council (SRDC).

## Wildlife Wiizi Management Committee – SRDC

- A total of 17 monitors participated in learning to do data collection training on hunting, using interview forms.
- Hunting monitoring surveys were launched in 15 communities of the South Rupununi.
- The SRDC has completed the pre-assessment for the biodiversity survey of Karaawaimin Taawa.



SRDC members hiking with their 'warashis' (traditional backpack made from nibbi)

## Reducing human-carnivore conflict through participatory research

- The Rupununi Livestock Producers Association (RLPA) held three participatory human-carnivore conflict workshops in three villages of the South Rupununi (Rupunau, Sand Creek and Karaudarnau), with more than 67 community members participating.
- A total of 117 livestock farmers have now attended these participatory workshops.

## Fire monitoring – South Rupununi Conservation Society

- The fire monitoring team continues to walk 1 km transects in ten locations, twice monthly, around Shulinab Village titled land.
- After 75 hours of flight-time and an area of 792 km covered in a total of 90 days, the South Rupununi Conservation Society's (SRCS) drone monitoring operation has been concluded, and the data is now being analysed.
- An SWM fire monitoring consultant conducted camera trapping training with the team and discussed the new component of fire chasing with the team leader.



Black Rock Mountain in Shulinab Village showing visible burn scars along the transect line

## Site Steering Committee workshop and social safeguards training

- The SWM Programme held its first face-to-face Site Steering Committee (SSC) meeting in two years in Aishalton Village, with the participation of 41 local partner representatives.
- The SSC meeting was attended by a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – a member of the SWM's Site Steering Committee.
- Some 21 SWM local partners participated in a workshop on the programme's social safeguards approach, with a specific focus on FPIC, the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and gender mainstreaming.

## Giant anteater and red siskin monitoring

- The SRCS rangers, in search of giant anteaters, placed 40 camera traps around Katoonarib Village and developed a methodology to conduct a population estimate in South Rupununi, with guidance from the International Union of Conservation of Natures Red List (IUCN) Xenarthrans Specialist Group.
- Giant anteater calendars were created to raise awareness of the importance of this species and distributed to communities in Shulinab, Katoonarib and Sawariwau.
- Consultations took place in six villages to discuss SRCS's red siskin Community Based Conservation Management zones and so far three of these have signed the memorandum of understanding (Sand Creek, Shulinab and Sawariwau).

## Environmental education in the Rupununi

- The NRDDB visited five out of six pilot communities to provide in the field monitoring skills, camera trapping/bird watching training and citizen science curricula to a total of 181 students (93 males and 88 females).
- More than 300 students from 12 communities in the Rupununi completed Term 1 of the SRCS environmental education curriculum.
- Eleven communities held their Term 1 SRCS environmental education exhibitions, showcasing what they had learned about plants and animals.
- More than 100 students took part in traditional knowledge classes in Nappi, Awarewaunau, Rupunau and Karaudarnau.
- Efforts are continuing to insert local names for animals listed in SRCS's new book *Reptiles and amphibians of the Rupununi*, along with recordings of 20 environmental education radio lessons.

# PROJECT UPDATES

## Fisheries management plan implementation

- The NRDDB fisheries team concluded its general fish stock assessment and second arapaima stock assessment, which revealed a 44 percent decline in arapaima populations since 2013.
- Arapaima counters discussed the monitoring protocols with 11 Surama Wildlife Club members and took them into the field to participate in the stock assessment.
- Two international fisheries management experts were recruited to review data and develop an action plan for the Fisheries Department for inland fisheries and aquaculture development.



Awarewaunau schoolchildren taking part in environmental education lessons

- In the past four months, 350 people have visited the Livestock Hubs for knowledge, inputs and products.
- Awarewaunau, Maruranau and Katoonarib all received visits from RLPA's project coordinator to engage communities in its objective of supporting livestock producers and local meat production, developing the industry within the Rupununi.



RLPA Livestock Hub opens in Aishalton Village

## Rupununi Livestock Producers Association updates

- Between October 2021 and February 2022, the Rupununi Livestock Producers Association (RLPA) supplied 8 700 chicks and 300 bags of feed to the Rupununi, bringing the total number of chicks supplied since the beginning of this project to 37 880.
- The RLPA opened a new Livestock Hub in Aishalton Village, with another due to open in March in Karasabai.

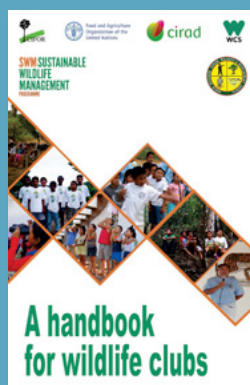
## Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission

- The Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission (GWCMC) conducted eight nocturnal population surveys within Katoka and Yupukari titled lands along the Rupununi River, examining three species of caiman to gather data and understand the impacts of commercial harvesting of this animal.
- Three rangers travelled for three days through forest areas from Katoka to Mapari. For a further five days, the team travelled in savannah areas from Katoka to Semoni and collected data in Semoni Lake, Creek and some ponds near the river.

## PUBLISHED



Forests News articles:  
<https://forestsnews.cifor.org/75510/chickens-and-cattle-a-gateway-for-economic-diversification-and-wildlife-protection?fnl=>  
<https://forestsnews.cifor.org/75402/amerindian-culture-and-land-rights-shape-conservation-in-guyanas-rupununi-region?fnl=>  
<https://forestsnews.cifor.org/75576/wildlife-clubs-teach-children-in-guyanas-rupununi-about-life-and-livelihoods?fnl=>



Handbook for wildlife club:  
<https://www.fao.org/3/cb5309en/cb5309en.pdf>



Visit Rupununi Map  
<https://www.fao.org/3/cb6992en/cb6992en.pdf>

## FROM THE FIELD

### “WILDLIFE CLUB MEMBERS ARE CITIZEN SCIENTISTS!”

Samantha Meiwa – NRDDDB project coordinator



NRDDDB team member shows a photo to Wildlife Club members from Rewa

## HIGHLIGHTS

The SWM Programme in Guyana held its Year 4 mid-year Site Steering Committee meeting face-to-face after two years of virtual meetings.

The RLPA opened another Livestock Hub in Aishalton Village, South Rupununi.

The SRCS facilitated 300 students from 12 communities to complete Term 1 of environmental education.

## SWM PROGRAMME

The activities in Guyana are part of the SWM Programme, an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, which is funded by the European Union with co-funding from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the French Development Agency (AFD). The SWM 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). Activities are being implemented in 15 participating countries, namely Botswana, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Guyana, Madagascar, Mali, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## MEET OUR TEAM



Meet Ayla Kenyon, project coordinator of the Rupununi Livestock Producers Association. Ayla has been part of RLPA for the past 12 years and is an active member of the rodeo committee. She is Rupununi-born and comes from a long tradition of livestock rearing at her family's home at Saddle Mountain Ranch, South Rupununi. In 2021, Ayla accepted a full-time position with RLPA where she has been instrumental in establishing a new Livestock Hub in Aishalton Village and another due to open soon in Karasabai Village, South Pakaraima. Ayla has increased and expanded the stocks within the Livestock Hubs, adding leather products and much more. She has also spent time actively reconnecting with local communities to share RLPA's plans and activities. "Sustainable wildlife management is key to maintaining ecological balance and is important so that future generations can enjoy our natural world and all the beautiful wildlife that lives here," Ayla told SWM.

Well done, Ayla! The RLPA and SWM Programme Guyana are delighted to have you on the team!



## A brighter future for people and wildlife



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