HARVEST ZONES AND CHECKPOINTS

To manage the domestic trade of Guyana's wildlife, the country will be divided into harvest zones. These zones will be divided according to the country's administrative regions. Each wildlife user will be permitted to harvest wildlife in specific zones.

When transporting wildlife (whether live animals or meat), users will be required to stop at various checkpoints across the country to have their transport permits endorsed.

At these checkpoints, transporters of wildlife will be required to present their transport permit and declare the wildlife in their possession to the officials there.

Officers will check the documents presented to verify that the information presented is correct and corresponds with the wildlife being transported.

Officers will also be checking to ensure that closed seasons for hunting and trapping are respected, and that hunting and trapping are being done in allowed areas.



PROTECTED SPECIES



According to Regulation 4 (7) of the Wildlife Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use Regulations (2019), wildlife which are classified as Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable are protected and it is an offence to collect, hold in captivity, kill, hunt, or otherwise molest a protected species. Any person who violates this will be liable to pay a fine of \$750,000 to \$2,000,000 and face imprisonment of up to 3 years.

Closed Seasons

According to Section 6(1)(x) of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (2016), the Commission is responsible for determining annual closed seasons for the hunting, trapping and trade of wildlife. These seasons are determined by careful consideration of the breeding habits of the animals, hunting practices by indigenous peoples and consultations with stakeholders. Failure to respect these seasons can result in up to 3 years imprisonment and/or fines from \$750,000 to \$2,000,000.

Wildlife Encounters

From time to time and for various reasons, human beings and wild animals cross paths. When this happens, persons are advised to report such cases immediately to the GWCMC or the nearest police station. This includes instances where an animal is killed. However, any animal that is killed or wounded due to threat or nuisance must not be sold or offered for sale. Any person who fails to make a report, as required by these Regulations, commits an offence and can be punished by having to pay a fine of \$70,000 to \$300,000

Additionally, according to Regulation 28 of the Wildlife Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use Regulations, any person who intentionally or recklessly harms wildlife by any action that causes unjustified and

unnecessary suffering, e.g., injuring, kicking, burning, etc., commits an offence and can be punished by having to pay a fine of \$400,000 to \$750,000 and be imprisoned for up to six months.





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FUNCTIONS OF THE GWCMC

Established in 2017 with the commencement of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (2016), the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission (GWCMC) is one of Guyana's newest environmental agencies.

In order to secure the future of Guyana's wildlife through effective, sustainable management, and conservation, the Commission has oversight of:

The hunting, trapping, trade, protection, conservation and sustainable use of wildlife;

Design, management and operation of holding premises for wildlife;

The exemptions and special procedures for wildlife;

Guidelines for the transportation of wildlife;

The establishment, management and operation of wildlife rescue centres;

Prescribing measures that enhance community participation in the protection, conservation, management and sustainable use of wildlife;

Granting licenses, permits or certificates concerning the wildlife trade;

The establishment, management and operation of wildlife production systems;

The management of hazardous areas affecting wildlife;

Disseminating information and promoting education, training and awareness of wildlife conservation management and sustainable use.



Managing the trade of Wildlife

The Commission implements various strategies to ensure the utilisation of wildlife in Guyana is sustainable. This includes granting licenses and permits, setting quotas and harvest zones.

International

The Commission grants licences and permits for persons to engage in the commercial import or export of wildlife. Any person who imports or exports wildlife without the necessary licence or permit will be liable to pay a fine of \$750,000 to \$2,000,000 and face imprisonment of up to 3 years.

Local

As part of its mandate to ensure the protection of Guyana's wild species of fauna and flora, the GWCMC has implemented a system to govern the domestic utilisation of our wildlife. This system began with the passing of the Wildlife Conservation, Management and Sustainable Use Regulations (2019).

Under these Regulations, there are various categories of licences governing particular uses of wildlife within the country. Under Regulation 10 (1) of the aforementioned Regulations the six categories of licences, with their respective costs, are as follows:

Wildlife Trapping Licence - \$10,000 - \$100,000

Wildlife Commercial Licence - \$20,000 - \$200,000

Wildlife Collecting Licence - \$10,000 - \$100,000

🐝 Wildlife Recreational Licence - \$50,000 - \$300,000

Captive Wildlife Licence - \$50,000

Special Wildlife Licence - \$5,000 - \$100,000

These licences apply to such wildlife users as trappers, middlemen, wild meat vendors, captive breeding operations, wildlife collectors (of both plants and animals), researchers and recreational hunters.

Indigenous Village Councils may also have to apply for a licence to cover wildlife users who are registered members of the village.

Each licence will specify the sizes, numbers and species of wildlife that a user's activities cover as well as where an individual is allowed to carry out these activities.

A licence can be obtained by completing and submitting an application along with the application fee. Granting of the licence is subject to favourable review of the application by the GWCMC. Forms can be obtained from the Licensing and Permitting Division of the GWCMC.

Transport Permits

The GWCMC will issue trappers and middlemen transport permits along with their licenses. Information to be included on the permit includes:

- name of the trapper/hunter/middleman,
- location in which animals were trapped/hunted,
- name of the persons transporting the wildlife,
- type of transportation used to transport wildlife (e.g., bus, car, boat, van, etc.),
- intended destination, a list of species that are being transported and the state they are in (dead/alive; skin/parts),
- amount of each species being transported,
- sex of the animals (where possible), whether young or adult, and
- record of any deaths.

Transport permits will only be valid for a certain period of time.

These permits will help the Commission in collecting accurate data about the wildlife that is being utilised across Guyana.



