



**SWM SUSTAINABLE
WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME**

GUYANA

newsletter

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WELCOME

We are starting our fifth year of the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme's work in Guyana, with the goal of achieving conservation and sustainable management of wildlife and promoting livelihoods that are aligned with local aspirations.

This year is a very important year because we are completing the first phase of the SWM Programme. We are increasingly devoted to ensuring that our programme really translates into tangible impacts for communities and conservation, and that lessons learned are upscaled. Thanks to continuous engagement with communities, local partners in the Rupununi and governmental institutions, we have been able to make substantial achievements which will need to be further consolidated in the following years.

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

Regards,

Nathalie van Vliet

SWM Site Coordinator for Guyana

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PROJECT UPDATES

Awareness of wildlife regulations and behaviour change

- The legal Hub is finally online [here](#). On this page you will find all legal texts relevant to wildlife management.
- The SWM Programme has completed ten radio recordings on wildlife regulations and begun airing on Aishalton, Lethem and Paiwomak radio stations, spanning the north, central, south and deep south of the Rupununi.
- Facebook posts on 'Wildlife Wednesdays' continue to be shared on Facebook, with a newly shifted focus from protected species to open and closed seasons.
- The production of three wildlife awareness videos with local coastal production team 'Nothing to Laugh About' have commenced, with the aim of changing behaviours, discouraging consumption of vulnerable species and encouraging compliance with hunting seasons.
- Ten acting scripts have been produced to promote more wildlife-friendly behaviours among kids. The scripts will be played by wildlife clubs and school kids as skit shows during the Turtle Festival.

River Turtle Conservation Plan

- The SWM Programme held a workshop in Yupukari Village to discuss a road map for the development of the River Turtle Management Plan.
- Three communities across the Rupununi (Sand Creek, Yupukari and Rewa) have decided to take the lead in that process with support from the SWM Programme and other stakeholders including North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB), South Rupununi District Council (SRDC), Regional District Council (RDC), Conservation International (CI) and the Protected Areas Commission (PAC).



The turtles at Caiman House continue to grow and will eventually be released when they are larger.

Inland fisheries

- Consultations for the review of the Arapaima Management Plan and the updating of the NRDDB Fisheries Management Plan have taken place in 32 communities across the Rupununi.
- A co-management policy is under development to strengthen the partnership between communities, government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other stakeholders to ensure sustainable inland fisheries.
- In parallel, a work plan for the development of inland fisheries and aquaculture regulations was prepared and submitted to the Fisheries Department.



Toshao Vibert Ignace discussing inland fisheries, during a consultation in Shulinab Village.

Environmental education and citizen science

- South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS) has trained 24 local facilitators (10 men and 14 women) to implement their citizen science curriculum, and over 350 children from 13 communities in Central and South Rupununi are participating in these citizen science classes.



SRCS citizen science facilitators complete their training at Manari Ranch.

PROJECT UPDATES

Promoting wildlife-friendly livelihood activities

- The Rupununi Livestock Producers Association (RLPA) livestock hubs in Central Rupununi, Lethem, have had over 600 people visit in the past four months! A total of 72 400 chicks and 216 270 kg of feed have been supplied to the Rupununi since the beginning of this project. RLPA layer chickens based in Lethem are producing over 100 eggs per day.
- Visit Rupununi (VR) presented their Wildlife-friendly Tourism Manual by members of Visit Rupununi to local tourism operators in order to mainstream the 13 values of Visit Rupununi’s wildlife-friendly tourism agreement.



Local poultry farmer, Auntie Flora Gomes, is successfully rearing layer chickens provided by RLPA.

Wildmeat trade on the coast of Guyana

A workshop with over 40 wild meat traders and commercial hunters was held at Lake Mainstay to present results of the SWM Programme wild meat trade monitoring data and discuss changes observed in the wild meat trade chain over the past 30 years.

One Health and wildlife

- The One Health platform for Guyana was launched in June 2022 with representatives of governmental organizations, international organizations and community representatives.
- A workshop was held in September 2022 to develop a decision tree and define criteria for the prioritization of zoonotic diseases. Among the diseases that have a direct link to wild meat and wildlife trade, the participants prioritized leptospirosis, rabies, tuberculosis and several pathogens associated with gastrointestinal problems: cryptosporidiosis, escherichia coli and salmonellosis testina.

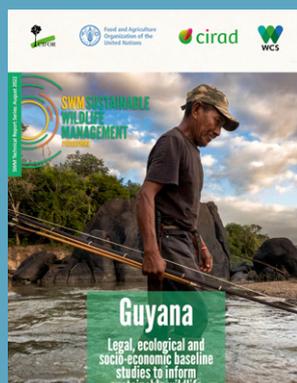
Sharing lessons learnt with other Caribbean and Amazon countries

- The SWM Programme, along with representatives from NRDDDB, SRCS and Caiman House, participated in the 58th annual meeting of the Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) to present lessons learned on community-led turtle conservation along the Rupununi River, community-led fisheries management implementation and the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Plan in the South Rupununi.
- Two publications have been accepted for publication in Ethnobiology and Conservation. Read them [here](#) and [here](#).
- The report entitled “Legal, ecological and socio-economic baseline studies to inform sustainable wildlife management” in the Rupununi has finally been published. Read it [here](#).
- One publication has been accepted in Ecology and Society. Read it [here](#).

PUBLISHED



Empowering women through sustainable wildlife management - www.forestsnews.cifor.org/79010/empowering-women-through-sustainable-wildlife-management-flora-gomes-story?fnl=en



Legal, ecological and socio-economic baseline studies to inform sustainable wildlife management - www.fao.org/3/cc0031en/cc0031en.pdf



Yellow-spotted river turtle conservation programme along the Rupununi river - www.fao.org/3/cb9392en/cb9392en.pdf



Grievance redress mechanism brochure - www.fao.org/3/cb7857en/cb7857en.pdf

FROM THE FIELD

“THIS WORKSHOP HAS BEEN A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR ME SINCE I AM RELATIVELY NEW TO THE WILDMeat TRADE!”

Obindernauth Sash – Wildmeat vendor



A group of hunters, vendors and middlemen discuss the wildmeat chain over the past 30 years.

HIGHLIGHTS

The SWM Programme in Guyana held its first wild meat workshop with coastal traders and hunters.

The Guyana One Health Platform has been launched.

The development of the Rupununi River Turtle Management Plan has begun.

SWM PROGRAMME

The activities in Guyana are part of the SWM Programme, an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), 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 Center 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.

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MEET OUR TEAM



Derrick David delivers his presentation on behalf of SRCS for the up-and-coming River Turtle Conservation Plan.

Meet Derrick David, SRCS's Senior Ranger for the turtle project in Sand Creek Village. Derrick is 44 years old and was born and grew up in Sand Creek. For a living Derrick hunts, fishes and farms to maintain his family, which is a normal thing in the villages. When we at SWM Programme visited, the rangers had saved over 1 000 eggs from the flooding beaches and had shared them all amongst each other until all were hatched. Derrick himself had 400 in his garden alone! The plan is to raise them until they are bigger and release them at the second annual Sand Creek Turtle Festival (in October).

Derrick said, “So our village tends to look into the yellow-spotted river turtle, where we go and monitor these beaches, educate our people why we are doing it. Really, it’s not for me now, I would say it is for our children coming... Because, one day our children will ask to see a picture of a yellow spotted river turtle, just a picture now. But we want them to see the real natural turtle.”



A brighter future for people and wildlife



FIND OUT MORE

SWM-programme@fao.org
www.swm-programme.info