



**SWM SUSTAINABLE
WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME**

GUYANA

newsletter

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

Welcome

Project updates

Published

Highlights

Meet our team

SWM Programme

WELCOME

The Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme phase one is getting closer to the end of a five-year adventure in Guyana, with the goal of achieving conservation and sustainable management of wildlife and promoting livelihoods that are aligned with local aspirations.

We are increasingly 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, local partners in the Rupununi and governmental institutions, we have been able to make substantial achievements which will need to be further consolidated in phase two. Yes, there will be a phase two!

We hope you will enjoy reading more about the SWM Programme in Guyana here.

Regards,

Nathalie van Vliet

SWM Site Coordinator for Guyana

Supported by



National partner



PROJECT UPDATES

Turtle festival in Sand Creek

- Sand Creek held its second-ever turtle festival, where over 150 children from 7 communities participated.
- In total, an amazing 1 362 yellow-spotted river turtles were released into the Rupununi River!
- Eight booths were set up, consisting of activities such as face painting, games (from the SWM Programme “Eco-Players booklet”), the Rupununi Livestock Producers Association (RLPA) stand and much more.
- The children held a banner parade, performed skits, and had a costume competition where there were many prizes to be won for all the events of the day.



Some children display their turtle costumes and dance before the big turtle releasing event.

Environmental education and citizen science

- Our partner, the South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS), facilitated 120 lessons for over 350 children over the past four months. A total of 24 local facilitators (10 men and 14 women) implemented this Citizen Science Curriculum across Central and South Rupununi.
- The SWM Programme has produced 15 games and a booklet called “Eco Players – Keeping the Rupununi wild through games” to be distributed, along with a games box and materials, to our partners SRCS, the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB) and Caiman House. Read it [here](#).
- The NRDDDB has six wildlife clubs with six coordinators (three men and three women). The wildlife clubs are teaching children about bird watching, camera trapping, litter prevention and environmental education. Find their recent video [here](#).



Alyssa Melville (SRCS Environmental Education Coordinator) is shown with her students of Karaurdarnau Village after successfully exploring climate change.

Legal framework for Sustainable Wildlife Management

- The Guyana Legal Hub is now online to allow anyone to access the tools and methodologies used to carry out the legal analyses of wildlife-related regulations. Read them [here](#).
- The Guyana Legal Hub provides a general background about the national governance structures, provides access to national normative texts by sector, and presents the results of the legal assessment of sectoral legislation, plus much more.
- Ten episodes on wildlife regulations have been aired on Radio Lethem and Paiwomak. Plans for a workshop with our partners based around these audio segments is underway. Radio Aishalton will also air the episodes soon.
- A concept has been submitted to the Fisheries Department and will serve as the basis for the development of the new regulations on inland fisheries and aquaculture. The co-management framework will be promoted for the implementation of the new inland fisheries regulations.

PROJECT UPDATES

Local chicken becoming a local norm

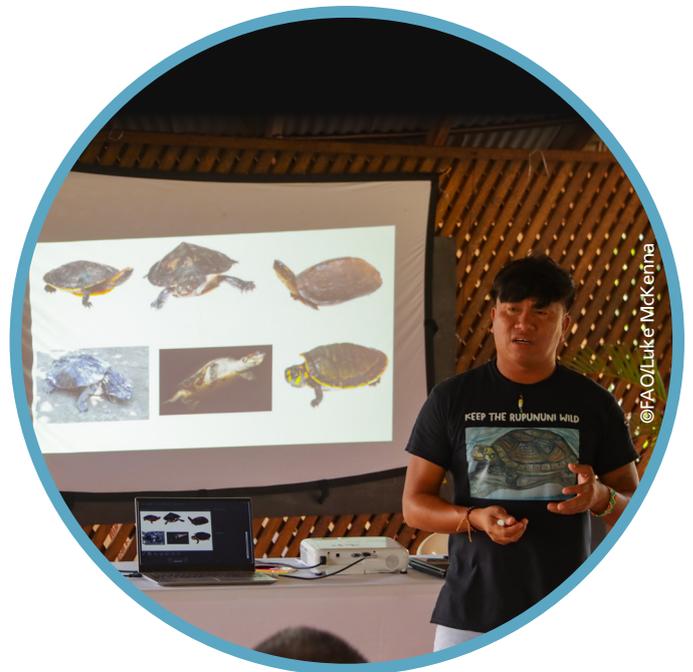
- Our partner, the RLPA has had over 480 people visit the Central Rupununi livestock hub in the past four months!
- A total of 86 100 chicks and 286 470 kg of feed have been supplied to the Rupununi since the beginning of this project. RLPA supplies 46 local chicken farmers (17 women, 18 men and 11 associations/groups) with chicks every month and chicken feed to over 100 farmers.
- In November 2022, the RLPA officially opened the first producer-owned hatchery in the Rupununi. Based in Central Rupununi, Lethem, the RLPA is now hatching eggs and providing a direct supply locally. Since the beginning of the project the RLPA has sold over 527 trays of eggs and since 1 November 612 eggs have been hatched! The RLPA chicken coup produces approximately 127 eggs per day!
- Poultry training workshops targeting women have been delivered through videos, PowerPoint presentations and open discussions with participants from 11 villages across the Rupununi in attendance.



RLPA's hatchery is in full swing and successfully hatching chicks to be distributed across the Rupununi.

River Turtle Management Plan

- Consultations have been completed across all 26 of the targeted villages in the North and South Rupununi, as well as Yupukari Village from Central Rupununi, due to their huge affiliation with turtle conservation.
- Each village along with the SWM Programme team has discussed the threats, actions and challenges that would affect the river turtle conservation plan across the Rupununi.
- Local digital content provider, Multi Technology Vision (MTV Guyana) featured the SWM Programme online in the article "River turtle conservation activities to be enhanced across the Rupununi"! Read it [here](#).



Oswin David (SWM Programme Country Coordinator) delivers his presentation on the River Turtle Management Plan to all of the Toshaos.

Development of Community Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Guidelines

- The SWM Programme has begun facilitating the development of three community FPIC guidelines in the North and Central Rupununi.
- The villages have welcomed and supported this critically important community progress of defining how they will be consulted and their FPIC sought.

PROJECT UPDATES

One health

- After the virtual launching of the One Health multisectoral collaborative platform for zoonotic diseases in Guyana, a prioritization workshop was organized in September 2022 to identify the most important zoonotic diseases in Guyana. The platform members ranked tuberculosis, leptospirosis, gastroenteritis, rabies, coronavirus, orthopoxvirus, viral hemorrhagic fever and hepatitis as the first eight priority zoonoses.
- A collaboration agreement was signed with the University of Antioquia, Colombia, to develop and present a series of standardized protocols for the assessment of pathogen prevalence in wildlife and humans for selected prioritized diseases, namely leptospirosis, rabies, avian influenza and gastroenteritis.

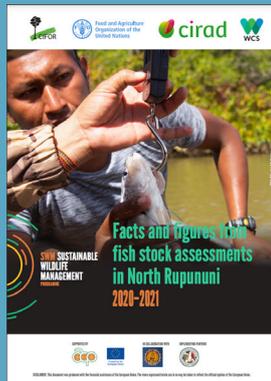
Fisheries Management

- A total of 24 youths from 19 NRDDB Communities participated in general fish stock assessment and arapaima survey training.
- The team successfully completed General Fish Stock assessment and arapaima assessment methodology training in the North Rupununi communities.

PUBLISHED



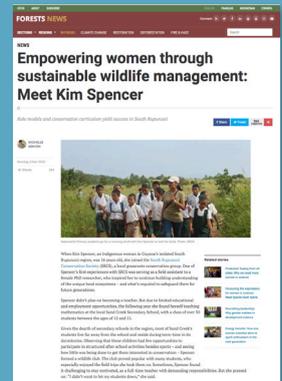
Eco players – Keeping the Rupununi wild through games – www.fao.org/3/cc2381en/cc2381en.pdf



Facts and figures from fish stock assessments in North Rupununi 2020-2021 – www.fao.org/3/cc2291en/cc2291en.pdf



Protecting habitat, preserving heritage at the Karaawaimin Taawa – www.forestsnews.cifor.org/80245/protecting-habitat-preserving-heritage-at-the-karaawaimin-taawa



Empowering women through sustainable wildlife management: Meet Kim Spencer – www.forestsnews.cifor.org/80073/empowering-women-through-sustainable-wildlife-management-meet-kim-spencer?nl=

FROM THE FIELD

“THE TRAINING WAS VERY INTERESTING, I LEARNED SO MANY THINGS THAT I HAD WANTED TO ASK ABOUT BEFORE.”

Emily Allcock – Local poultry farmer from Surama Village, North Rupununi.



HIGHLIGHTS

Fifteen educational games have been created for SRCS, NRDDB and Caiman House.

A total of 1 362 yellow-spotted river turtles have been released at Sand Creek Turtle Festival.

FPIC guidelines are being developed in three communities across North and Central Rupununi.

Final consultations in 14 communities have been completed to endorse the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Management Plan.

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 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, namely: Botswana; Chad; Democratic Republic of 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



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Suretia Marslow is one of the six Wildlife Club Coordinators for the NRDDB.

Meet Suretia Marslow, NRDDB's Junior Wildlife Club Coordinator for Fairview Village, Region eight, Guyana. Suretia is 20 years old and started the Wildlife Club as a member herself at the early age of eight. Fairview Village can be found in the forest just off the Lethem-to-Georgetown trail and has rain throughout the year. Suretia heads multiple activities for the wildlife club, which consists of youth within the age range of 7 and 19 years. For the remainder of this year, Suretia and the club will focus on camera trapping of their village and its surroundings to produce a document showing what animals can be found in Fairview.

Suretia said, "I am the coordinator and work with the SWM Programme and NRDDB. We do bird and mammal monitoring; we go on educational trips and we want to start monitoring amphibians and reptiles. The children do public speaking, learn about the environment and are building leadership capacity. This all helps the younger ones to grow up with the knowledge of what is happening in the environment and how to help it improve."



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