

ISSUE 3 | JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2019

EMAIL: SWM.GUYANA@GMAIL.COM

SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME - GUYANA PROJECT



© CIFOR/ Barbara Fraser

Inside this issue:

General Overview of SWM Guyana - 1
Year 2 Activities - 2
Project Updates - 3
Highlights - 4
Coming Soon - 4
Meet a Member of our SWM Team - 4
SWM Programme - 4

General Overview of SWM Guyana

The Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme – Guyana Project (SWM) was launched on November 9, 2018. The project is being implemented in the Rupununi Region over a period of five years (2018-2023), by the Government of Guyana through the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission (GWCMC), in coordination with the Centre of International Forestry Research (CIFOR). The project is funded by the European Union, through the Africa, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat.

It was developed and launched after a continuous consultation process over the past two years with Governmental Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations and Community Members across the region.

SWM seeks to ensure that the Rupununi can continue to offer sustainable options for food security and livelihoods in accordance with traditional lifestyles. To this effect, SWM will build upon existing community-driven initiatives that contribute to maintaining healthy fish and terrestrial wildlife populations at the landscape level.

Year 2 Activities

After the Site Steering Committee meeting in June 2019, SWM prepared formal agreements with all the partners engaging in activities in Year 2 (August 2019 to July 2020). Below is a summary of these plans:

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

- Supporting the NRDDDB in the implementation of their fisheries management plan.
- This plan involves management (fishing seasons, quotas, best practices), monitoring, enforcement activities, and consumption surveys.

WILDLIFE FARMING

- In October this year, SWM will be taking several representatives from the Rupununi on a field trip to Trinidad and Tobago to experience some working pecarry, agouti, labba and deer farms.
- The aim of this trip to develop a working knowledge of how these establishments operate with the aim of possible implementation in the Rupununi in the future.

ECO-TOURISM

- Supporting our partner, Visit Rupununi, in producing promotional materials to represent, market and promote Rupununi tourism representatives.
- Supporting capacity building exercises and training sessions to help develop the skill set and increase the tourism product value of tour operators.
- Providing expert assistance by engaging an Eco-Tourism consultant to evaluate the implementation of tourism action plan developed in Year 1 and provide additional recommendations.

LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

- Supporting the Rupununi Livestock Producer's Association to establish a livestock hub in Lethem to help provide veterinary supplies, feeds, and hatchlings to Rupununi.
- Promotion of the Black Giant dual purpose bird for rearing in the Rupununi.
- Creation of a marketing campaign to promote beef from the Rupununi.

SUSTAINABLE APIARY PRACTICES

- SWM is supporting Karanambu Trust to establish more sustainable methods of honey extraction while promoting it as a means of income for women in the Rupununi.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- Continued support of the North and South Rupununi's environmental education plans by the NRDDDB and SRCS. These activities will be in the form of extra-curricular activities which will be piloted in the following primary or secondary schools: In the north - Fair View, Surama, Wowetta, Kwatamang, Rupertee, Annai, Aranaputa, Apoteri, Rewa,

Crashwater, Yakarinta, Massara, Toka, Kwaimatta, Yupukari, Fly Hill, Quatata, Simonie; in the South - Shea, Sand Creek, Shulinab and Kumu.

- It focuses on teaching the values of environmental conservation and sustainable use to the younger generation.

WILDLIFE MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- Camera trapping activities would be continued throughout Year 2.
- A wildlife officer is to be hired to help engage communities and train representatives in camera trapping and assist with general project activities.
- Monitoring of the red siskin and anteater populations by the SRCS.
- Support to the Rupununi Learner's Inc. for the continued execution of the Yupukari River Turtle Project which monitors the populations of river turtles in Yupukari.

WILDMEAT AND WILDLIFE TRADE STUDY

- An in depth study of the wildlife (large-billed seed finch and chestnut-bellied seed finch) and wildmeat trade will be conducted to understand their respective market chains to ascertain the market structures, volumes and buyer preferences.

ROAD KILL ASSESSMENT

- The results of the roadkill assessment will be translated in a strategy document and communication document to assist in policy influence.

SUPPORTING THE WAPICHANA WAI WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- Promote the care of, conservation and sustainable management of wildlife species and habitats across the South Rupununi.
- Explore wildlife livelihood opportunities.
- Assist Village councils in establishing rules on the protection, conservation and sustainable management of wildlife.



Project Updates

From July to September 2019, several activities have been going on:

FIRST COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES MEETING ON SUBSISTENCE HUNTING AND WILDMEAT FOR THE GUIANA-SHIELD

Communities are instrumental in ensuring that sustainable wildlife use practices contribute to improved human well-being, cultural identity, social resilience, reduction of illegal wildlife trade and biodiversity conservation. As such, SWM was glad to collaborate with the South Rupununi District Council (SRDC) in the organizing of the First Community Representatives Meeting on Subsistence Hunting and Wildmeat for the Guiana-Shield Region.



©CIFOR/ Nathalie Van Vliet

This meeting was held on the 8th and 9th September 2019, in Aishalton village, South Rupununi. Community representatives from French Guiana, Suriname, Brazil, Peru and Guyana sat down and shared their challenges, experiences and lessons learnt about subsistence hunting and wildmeat. They acknowledged that despite their diverse culture, social and environmental contexts, they share common goals.

The final outcome of this meeting was the production of a community voices document. The objective of this document is to represent their collective voices on the topic of sustainable wildmeat and hunting at both regional and international platforms.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PLAN

The South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS) have been continuing with the design and implementation of their Environmental Education Curriculum entitled, "My Rupununi and Me: Our Culture, Skills and Knowledge". The curriculum aims to educate students in Central and South Rupununi on the importance of preserving both



©CIFOR/SRCS

their environment and their culture. In August, after consulting with community members, SRCS rangers and various scientists who have all conducted field work in the South Rupununi, the curriculum was created.

A one-week training workshop was then held for teachers, rangers and community members from the four pilot communities. The curriculum was presented and the teachers were assisted with manuals, handbooks and tips on how to implement the curriculum.

The SRCS team revisited the pilot communities in September to witness the first lesson of the curriculum being taught.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NORTH RUPUNUNI FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

During the rainy season, fisheries related activities in the North Rupununi were mainly desk related, and the staff completed a number of communication materials to raise awareness of the upcoming work. These include: a simplified version of the Fisheries Management Plan, public service announcement which will be played on Radio Paiwomak and a series of posters and signage.

Now that the dry season beginning the NRDDDB Team will be working on community outreaches and various surveys on fish consumption and monitoring of fish stocks in all 20 communities in the North Rupununi.



©CIFOR/ Nathalie Van Vliet

Highlights

- The SWM Project Vehicle is finally in Lethem!
- The recruitment process for the Wildlife Officer has begun!
- Barbara Fraser (Consultant, FAO) visited Guyana to develop multimedia stories about SWM and helped to deliver workshop to local representatives and partners on narrative writing for different audiences which will assist them developing communication materials and translating scientific/technical data into an easier to understand form.



©CIFOR/ Nathalie Van Vliet



©CIFOR/ Barbara Fraser

Meet a Member of Our SWM Team

Meet Kevin Edwards. Kevin is the Fisheries Coordinator for the NRDDb. He was hired to coordinate the implementation of the Fisheries Management Plan which is being implemented through direct support from SWM. Kevin hails from Kwaimata and was a student of the Youth Leadership Programme at the Bina Hill Institute. Today, he is a Senior Councilor of his home community and has conservation and sustainable use very close to his heart.

"Fish is a very important natural resource to the people in the Rupununi and helps to keep the ecosystem in balance. I support the 'take only what you need' campaign of the North Rupununi Fisheries Management Plan to ensure that sustainable level of fish stocks can be maintained for the years to come".



©CIFOR/Kevin Edwards

Coming Soon

SWM is sponsoring a trip to Trinidad and Tobago to help build capacity of local stakeholders and the Guyana Livestock Development Authority on wildlife farming as a means of food production.

SWM Programme

The SWM Guyana Project activities are part of the SWM Programme, which is an initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States. It is being funded by the European Union through the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). 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 twelve participating ACP countries, namely: Chad; Democratic Republic of Congo; Gabon; Guyana; Madagascar; Mali; Papua New Guinea; Republic of Congo; Senegal; Sudan; Zambia and Zimbabwe.

DISCLAIMER: This document was produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.