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 **SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME - GUYANA PROJECT**


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GENERAL OVERVIEW OF SWM GUYANA

The Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme (SWM) – Guyana Project 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 Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).

It was developed and launched after a continuous consultation process 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 builds upon existing community-driven initiatives that contribute to maintaining healthy fish and terrestrial wildlife populations at the landscape level.

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PROJECT UPDATES

WILDLIFE REGULATIONS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN: HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WILDLIFE REGULATIONS IN GUYANA?

- A survey to assess current knowledge on wildlife regulations has been launched: 151 responses have been received successfully to date. Check out our Facebook page and try the survey for yourself!
- SWM is supporting the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission (GWCMC) in raising awareness about the different regulations under the Wildlife Management Act of Guyana. As part of this, we have already produced a poster informing about hunting seasons per species. Several other informative materials are in the works.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT: 90% OF THE PEOPLE EAT FISH MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK IN NORTH RUPUNUNI!



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- SWM continues to support the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB) in the implementation of its fisheries management plan.
- The NRDDDB has already completed a year of fisheries data collection in 10 communities of the North Rupununi. Community Resource Environmental Workers (CREWs) have used the KoboCollect application on smartphones to collect monthly household consumption and shop trade of fish.
- The NRDDDB has also conducted patrols on the Rupununi and Essequibo Rivers, fisheries officers interviewed fishers about the species and catching practices they use.
- The NRDDDB plans to conduct a stock assessment as waters recede after the rainy season to gain an understanding of the quantity and quality of fish in their rivers.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: VILLAGES ARE DISCUSSING HUNTING GUIDELINES!

- SWM in partnership with the Wapichana Wizi Wildlife Management Committee from the South Rupununi District Council (SRDC) has provided support for the development of wildlife resource use guidelines in four pilot villages. Surveys on the use of wildlife and the impact of COVID-19 on the latter will be carried out in four villages.



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- We are also finalizing a plan for conducting biodiversity assessment surveys in the South Rupununi which will be conducted on pre-agreed areas of the South Rupununi after consultations with stakeholders.

WILDLIFE MONITORING: LET'S KEEP THE RUPUNUNI WILD!

- The first comprehensive assessment of territorial wildlife for the Rupununi Region using camera traps has been finalized!
- Together with the South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS), we continue to monitor Giant Anteaters around Katoonarib village. This will eventually form the foundation for setting up a Community-led Giant Anteater safe zone.
- Since COVID-19 lockdown, our Red Siskin monitoring activities have been canceled, but we intend to continue as soon as possible and work towards the development of a Community Based Conservation Management Zone across Sawariwau, Katoonarib, Rupunau, Sand Creek, Shulinab and Potarinau.



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HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT: IS A JAGUAR BEHIND YOUR COW?

- SWM is developing a methodology for a Human-Wildlife Conflict study to help increase the understanding of the frequency and distribution of livestock loss from predators and retaliatory killing of large carnivores.
- We aim to understand the attitudes towards, and responses to these events; the movements of free-roaming cattle; and areas of overlap between the territories of livestock and large predators.
- We hope to use this information to identify targeted strategies for reducing human/carnivore conflict.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: LOOKING FORWARDS TO SEEING THE KIDS TOGETHER AGAIN!

- While waiting for kids to be back at school and together again, NRDDDB has developed a handbook for wildlife clubs and SRCS finalized term 2 of the environmental curriculum.



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IMPACTS OF ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE ON WILDLIFE ALONG THE GEORGETOWN – LETHEM ROAD: HOW CAN ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE BE FRIENDLIER WITH WILDLIFE?

- SWM has continued to promote further awareness among stakeholders and the community about the impacts of roads on wildlife.
- A brochure featuring our research in this area during Year 2 has been produced for distribution to stakeholders.



IMPACTS OF FIRE ON WILDLIFE: SWM IS ON FIRE!

- In coordination with SRCS and the Royal Holloway, University of London, SWM developed a methodology to understand how fire affects Rupununi wildlife in order to incorporate fire as an integral part of wildlife management decisions. Specifically, the project aims to determine the temporal and spatial patterns of focal mammal and bird species in relation to fire.



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SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK REARING: RLPA ADDED OVER 10,122KG OF CHICKEN MEAT TO THE REGION!



© Rebecca Faria/RLPA

- The Rupununi Livestock Producers' Association (RLPA) continues its hard work to improve the livestock sector in Region 9. With the establishment of its Livestock Hub in Lethem, they have so far supplied: 7,230 chicks and 16,275Kg of chicken feed to farmers.
- This is estimated to have added over 10,122Kg of chicken meat to the region, further helping to bolster food security during the pandemic which saw a reduction of goods traded from Brazil and the coast.
- The RLPA has just completed the construction of a hatchery/incubator which would allow them to hatch their own chicks for distribution. Chicks are currently being brought in from the coast which has proven logistically difficult and causes many losses during travel.
- A chicken rearing facility has also been constructed. This features a breeder's pen, a layer's pen and an open paddock. This facility is intended to be used as a teaching facility to help develop the capacity of farmers and agricultural students in the region, as well as to provide an avenue of income for the RLPA through the sale of chickens.



© Rebecca Faria/RLPA

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The RLPA Hatchery, Breeder and Layer Facilities have been completed!
- GWCMC's "Knowledge of Wildlife Regulations" survey has begun!
- The NRDDDB's "Handbook for Wildlife Clubs" has been finalized for publishing!



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MEET A MEMBER OF OUR TEAM:

© Timothy Williams

MEET TIMOTHY WILLIAMS

Timothy is the Technical Coordinator for the SRDC/SCPDA conducting SWM activities. Timothy hails from Aishalton, South Rupununi and has a Bachelor's Degree in Geography from the University of Guyana.

'The sustainable management of wildlife in the South Rupununi is paramount for the survival of animal species, and in turn our natural environment.'

WILDMeat AND WILDLIFE TRADE STUDY: IS WILDMeat ON THE MENU?

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- SWM will continue monitoring places where wildmeat is sold to help understand the market chains, structures, volumes and buyer preferences. This is being conducted both in Region 9 and on the coast.
- A behavior change campaign is being prepared to reduce the consumption of the most vulnerable wildlife species on the coast and in mining areas.

SWM PROGRAMME

The SWM Guyana Project activities are part of the SWM Programme, which is an initiative of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS). 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 OACPS countries, namely: Chad; Democratic Republic of Congo; Gabon; Guyana; Madagascar; Mali; Papua New Guinea; Republic of Congo; Senegal; Sudan; Zambia and Zimbabwe.