



SOUTH RUPUNONI CONSERVATION SOCIETY



January to July 2019

Update on SRCS new activities

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SRCS' new activities 2019 to 2020

February 2019: SRCS completed a kobocollect training and produced a 3 year strategy to guide activities

The SRCS is pleased to announce new and exciting programmes for 2019 to 2020. From January to July 2019, the SRCS have been developing an environmental education curriculum to be implemented with school aged children in September 2019 to July 2020. These new activities are part of a region 9 wide programme called **Sustainable Wildlife Management**.



The SRCS' main focus has been; attending training in kobo tool box (how to build survey forms and collect data using phones), producing a 3 year strategy outlining guiding activities and developing an environmental education curriculum with the help of four pilot communities: Shea, Sand Creek, Shulinab and Kumu. The curriculum developed will be implemented and evaluated in the pilot villages over the course of one school year, with 10 lessons and activities in term 1 and 2, 8 lessons and activities in term 3.

May 2019: Two Shulinab students explain what should be included in the environmental education curriculum that SRCS is developing.

Donnors



Consortium partners



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Implementation



Other activities planned August 2019 to July 2020:



From September we will be implementing the environmental education curriculum as previously mentioned. Activities for this are summarised below:

August 2019: teachers review and finalise the curriculum

September to December 2019: term one lessons and activities are implemented

January to April 2020: term two lessons and activities are implemented

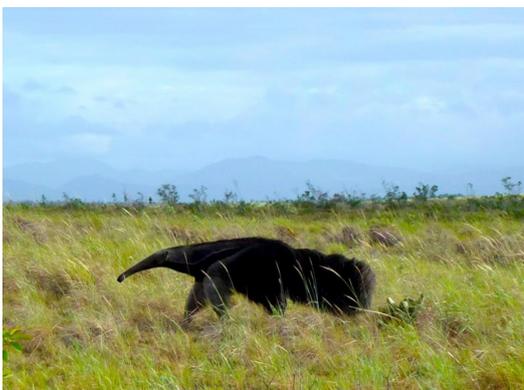
April to July 2020: term three lessons and activities are implemented. The year is evaluated

July 2020: Art, Culture and Conservation festival, we hope to have an end of year activity which brings together our pilot communities to show case what they have done over the year!



We will also continue our Red Siskin research, survey and protection of this special bird. From September 2019 to July 2020, we will be running siskin operations, focusing on collecting gaps in our data.

These gaps include the life cycle of the Red Siskin (from nest to flight) and siskin behaviour in the rainy season.



New to our focus, but a long term favourite is the giant anteater. All over the Rupununi there are reports of declining numbers. This animal is threatened everywhere in South America, and in some areas are going to vulnerable, in Central America it is endangered and in some regions are now extinct.

For the Rupununi, this is a tourist attraction as many visitors to the region long to see this animal.

Because of limited funding and knowledge, the SRCS aims to focus on a small area to study behaviour, habitat and population. The data collected over September 2019 to July 2020 will form a baseline to inform future research.

Interesting Wildlife Facts!

Honey bees (*maab*): did you know that honey bees dance to tell other bees the way to the best flowers.. Their dance makes a map for the other bees to follow.

Acoushi Ants (*kooko*): do you know why the acoushi ants (also known as leaf cutter ants) raid your farm? It is because they take the leaves they cut to their nest and feed a type of fungus, which grows and then that is what the acoushi ants really eat!

Golden Handed Tamarin (*Wiicharo*): this is the smallest primate (monkey) in Guyana and weighs 500 grams!

Tapir (*kodoi*): did you know that the tapir is the largest terrestrial (land) animal in all of South America!

Note: The endangered Red Siskin (*Spinus cucullata*) is officially protected by the South Rupununi Conservation Society who is currently researching its life cycle; egg to flight.

The giant anteater is one of the giants of the Rupununi, is endangered and officially protected in Guyana.

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