



SOUTH RUPUNUNI  
CONSERVATION SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER May 2020 - July 2020

### SRCS Executive

Leroy Ignacio, PRESIDENT  
Angelbert Johnny, VICE PRESEDENT  
Erin Earl, TREASURER  
Kim Spencer, SECRETARY  
Eian Gray ASSISTANT SECRETARY-  
TREASURER

### Project team

Neal Millar, Programme  
Coordinator  
Alyssa Melville, Environmental  
Education Facilitator  
Erin Earl, Giant Anteater Project  
Coordinator  
Leroy Ignacio, Field Operations  
Coordinator  
Eian Gray, Field and Logistics  
Assistant

### Special thanks to

Ministry of Education  
South Rupununi District Council  
Sand Creek Secondary School  
Sand Creek Village  
Shea Primary School  
Macushi Primary School  
Shulinab Village  
Sawariwau Village  
Katoonarib Village  
Rupunau village  
Potarinau Village  
Kumu Primary School

## Overview of SRCS Activities

### Main Projects

With support from the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme Guyana, our 3 main projects have been continuing. We also have also added 2 new projects. Find out more on the back page of the newsletter!

### SRCS Starts 2 New Projects

Due to the success of our 3 main projects so far, the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme Guyana has awarded SRCS funds to start 2 new projects.

The first of these is to monitor the impact of wild land fires on wildlife. The second project is to monitor river turtles in Sand Creek Village.

## SRCS Selling T-Shirts to Raise Funds

Until now, SRCS has always relied on funders to make the dreams for our projects a reality. Whilst we are extremely grateful to all our funders, the Executive Committee realises that we must also try to raise some of our own funds. That is why we asked local artist, Kerry Rudolph, to design 2 t-shirts that we are now selling. The shirts come in black and white with each shirt featuring a Red Siskin painting. All profits go directly towards helping our conservation efforts.



Top (1) Peggy the Giant Anteater and her baby Meryl exploring a tree near Katoonarib Village  
From left (2) Two of our Senior Rangers, Flavian Thomas and Ponila Joseph ,on a Red Siskin monitoring trip 3) One of the designs for our new t-shirts, designed by Kerry Rudolph

Supported by

**SWM SUSTAINABLE  
WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAMME**



# Project Updates



A wild land fire spreads across the Rupununi savannah  
Photo Credit: Reel Guyana

## River Turtle Monitoring

Since SRCS began in 2000, we have received continued reports that the populations of river turtles seem to be decreasing. To help prevent this SRCS will now work with Sand Creek Village to monitor river turtle populations along the Rupununi river. Rangers will monitor 8 beaches during the nesting season for river turtles (December to April) and ensure that the eggs are not disturbed. After this, we then hope to work with Sand Creek to start more activities that give further protection to the river turtles of the Rupununi.

## Monitoring the Impact of Wild Land Fires on Wildlife

Across the Rupununi, wild land fires have become a common sight and so have images of dead wildlife that have been caught in the destruction of the fires. Whilst fire was traditionally used by the Indigenous Peoples of the Rupununi, over the past few decades, much of this knowledge appears to have been lost and fires are nowadays being started for no particular reason. As such, SRCS wants to understand the impact that these fires are having on wildlife so that we can then use the information to work with communities in the Rupununi to prevent further loss of wildlife.



A Yellow-spotted river turtle climbing up a beach bank on the Rupununi River in Sand Creek.



Peggy and her baby Meryl inspecting a tree near Katoonarib. See how big Meryl has grown from the picture on the front page!

## Giant Anteater Research and Monitoring

Although the restrictions for Covid-19 have resulted in many of our project activities being postponed, our Giant Anteater Rangers have still been able to monitor Giant Anteater movement and behaviour through camera trap monitoring.

Every few weeks, the Giant Anteater rangers check the camera traps around Katoonarib and Wichabai to look and see if we have captured any images of Giant Anteaters. The unique markings on Giant Anteaters mean that we are able to identify individual anteaters by recognising these markings. So far we have identified 26 different Giant Anteaters in Katoonarib alone!

## Interesting Wildlife Facts!

**Cassava/Kise/Kanuzu** (*Manihot esculenta*) - Cassava is the third largest source of food carbohydrates in the tropics.

**Guianan Cock-of-the-Rock/Koanari/Kawanaru** (*Rupicola rupicola*) - There are 2 different species of Cock-of-the-Rock, the Guianan and the Andean

**Note:** The Endangered Red Siskin (*Spinus cucullata*) is Endangered and is officially protected in Guyana.

The Giant Anteater (*Myrmecophaga Tridactyla*), one of the giants of the Rupununi, is also Endangered and is officially protected in Guyana.

The South Rupununi Conservation Society is based at Wichabai Ranch, South Rupununi, Region 9, Guyana. Contact via email (srcs.rupununi@gmail.com) or by phone - Leroy Ignacio (+592) 663 8888.