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Red Siskin Birds Protection: 15 New Ranger - Researchers Trained

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Asaph (One of the trained Ranger Researcher) with Male and female Red Siskin (Photo: South Rupununi Conservation Society)

Fifteen persons from six villages in South Rupununi in Guyana have completed training to function as Ranger-Researchers as part of the South Rupununi Conservation Society effort to protect the Red Siskin birds.

Highlights

- Three Red Siskins captured, measured, banded and released three Red Siskins.as part of SRCS training programme
- Six villages in South Rupununi are benefitting from the project

The red siskin (*carduelis cucullata*), a rare bird of the fringillidae family, was found in Guyana in 2000 by a team from the Smithsonian Institute guided by the South Rupununi Conservation Society. Previously, the bird was known in the northwestern part of Venezuela and was greatly endangered by the cage bird trade. Since the surprising discovery, the SRCS has been running a project to establish a population estimate, distribution map and baseline data of the bird, its behaviour and habitat for academic research and conservation.

The South Rupununi Conservation Society was formed in 2000 for the protection of the flora and fauna of the South Rupununi. They work with all the villages of the South Rupununi and the executive board of the organization comprises of community members from the villages.

The SRCS is receiving funding from the Global Environment Facility small grants programme in Guyana which is being managed by the UNDP with the hope to address the issues of the Red Siskins such as to protect its habitats, reduce fire from the Siskins areas and trapping.

As such, to date the society has successfully completed training fifteen additional researchers who will be visiting Siskin sites to observe, capture, band, measure and release the birds for the next year and a half.

The SRCS has sounded their success at the completion of the first batch of training and field visit to Sand Creek Village where they captured, measured, banded and released three Red Siskins.

The participants have expressed their gratitude to the society for allowing them the opportunity to learn something new and develop a skill while adding to their livelihood.

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The project is particularly benefitting the six villages included in the Red Siskin area (Shulinab, Potarinau, Sawariwau, Katoonarib, Rupunau and Sand Creek villages), the primary schools of these villages, bird trappers and other resource users, community tourism and women groups, all villages through education and all partners and relevant authorities.

This initiative has created employment for residents of the South Rupununi villages and also provided specialty training adding to the education development of the researchers.

Moreover, emphasis will be placed on education and awareness so that communities can realize the importance and benefits, train researchers to ensure they are fully knowledgeable and equipped to monitor threats to the Red Siskins and its habitats and to carefully outline the follow up mechanism of the programme.

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Unemployment
11%

Population growth rate
0.6%

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