



## NEWSLETTER August 2020 - October 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, and the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme our 5 main projects have been continuing, Find out more on the back page of the newsletter!

### UNDP-GEF Award Funding to SRCS

The UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme has awarded funding to SRCS for the second time. With this funding, SRCS will expand our Giant Anteater research and monitoring to the communities of Shulinab, Sawariwau and Wariwau. The funding is also to construct a Research Station for SRCS. The research station will serve as the headquarters for SRCS and will host SRCS meetings, provide accommodation for rangers and have a library that will be available to all.



## South Central Rupununi Officially an IBA

South Central Rupununi has been officially confirmed as the first Important Bird Area (IBA) in Guyana by Birdlife International. This was able to be confirmed by the population of Endangered Red Siskins that has been estimated by SRCS through years of continued monitoring. Confirmation was also made possible through the initial work of the Guyana Amazon Tropical Birds Society and through collaboration with SRDC and SCPDA.



Top (1) Erin Earl, Justin de Freitas and Roger Kind "break ground" for the new SRCS Research Station.  
From left (2) Edmund the Giant Anteater climbing his favourite tree near Katoonarib 3) Our youngest ranger, Wun Wilson, with a male and a female Red Siskin

Photo Credits: Quadad de Freitas (Top), Asaph Wilson (Right)

Supported by





# Project Updates



Students at Sand Creek Secondary School playing a board game that teaches them about reptiles and amphibians  
Photo Credit: Quadad de Freitas

## Red Siskin Monitoring

For our next Red Siskin project, we want to work with the 6 communities that have Red Siskin habitats on their titled land and extensions; Potarinau, Shulinab, Sand Creek, Rupunau, Katoonarib and Sawairwau. We want to work with communities to reduce the threats to the Red Siskin from fire destruction and illegal trapping. Before we start this, we visited the 6 communities to inform them of the activities, gain support and to sign an agreement that we will work together on this project in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

## Environmental Education Curriculum

Since March 2020, schools across Guyana have been closed to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Due to this, we were unable to complete Term 3 of our Environmental Education Curriculum nor can we start the second year of the curriculum in 4 more schools in the Rupununi.

However, we don't want to sit around and do nothing! That is why we want to know from you what you would like SRCS to do to provide environmental education to students across the Rupununi whilst schools remain closed. Radio programmes, workbooks, a movie? Let us know at [srcs.rupununi@gmail.com](mailto:srcs.rupununi@gmail.com)



SRCS President signs an MoU agreement with Toshao Nicholas Cyril of Katoonarib Village.  
Photo Credit: Quadad de Freitas

## Giant Anteater Research and Monitoring

With our new funding, this has been a very busy month for anteater research. The SRCS team first visited Shulinab and Sawariwau to inform the villages that we would now be starting our activities. We then started right away and recruited rangers from each village to complete household surveys on what villagers thought about Giant Anteaters, where they normally see them and what they think is a threat to them.

We are also continuing with our Camera Trap Monitoring and have set up Camera Traps in Shulinab Village as well as putting more camera traps in Katoonarib Village.



A close up camera trap image of a Giant Anteater near Katoonarib Village.

## Interesting Wildlife Facts!

**Toco Toucan/Chakoi/Kia'ke** (*Ramphastos toco*) - The Toco Toucan's bill accounts for almost half of its body length.

**Ocelot/Wadyaran/Woronai** (*Leopardus pardalis*) - Ocelots have excellent eyesight and can also see well in the dark.

**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](mailto:srcs.rupununi@gmail.com)) or by phone - Leroy Ignacio (+592) 663 8888.