



SOUTH RUPUNUNI
CONSERVATION SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER February 2020 - April 2020

SRCS Executive Team

Leroy Ignacio, PRESIDENT
Angelbert Johnny, VICE PRESEDENT
Erin Earl, TREASURER
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Project team

Alyssa Melville, Environmental
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Erin Earl, Giant Anteater Project
Coordinator
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Coordinator
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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. Find out more on the back page of the newsletter!

End of Term Two Exhibition

In March, members of SRCS project team travelled to 3 of the pilot schools to participate in their end of Term Two Exhibitions. The students performed dances, poems, skits and songs to showcase what they had learnt. At Sand Creek, the students demonstrated how a volcano works, at Shea, Miss Caroline put parents against students to see who could guess the garbage and at Shulinab, the students invited Uncle Mao to tell some stories in Makushi. Keep up the great work teachers and students!



COVID-19 Announcement

Due to the circumstances surrounding the spread of COVID-19, also known as Coronavirus, SRCS has decided to suspend all of their activities until further notice.

In the meantime, we advise everyone to maintain social distancing, and to practice good hygiene.

Our activities will resume when it is deemed safe to do so.



Top (1) Quadad de Freitas, SRCS ranger, demonstrates how a volcano works to students at Macushi Primary School
From left (2) Students from Shea Primary School posing with a globe during their end of Term Two Exhibition 3) A pair of SRCS Rangers displaying a female Red Siskin during their monthly field survey

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**SWM SUSTAINABLE
WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME**

Project Updates



Uncle Mao telling a story about a turtle in Makushi to students of Macushi Primary School at their end of Term Two Exhibition

Red Siskin Monitoring

Our rangers are continuing to monitor and protect the Red Siskin. Once a month the rangers from six villages in the South Rupununi (Sawariwau, Katoonarib, Rupunau, Sand Creek, Shulinab and Potarinau) are visiting a Red Siskin habitat near their village to watch the bird and record their observations. In addition, some of our rangers are also finding out more information about the Red Siskin by monitoring their life cycle.

Have you seen a Red Siskin lately? Let us know or send a picture!



A camera trap image of a curious Giant Anteater inspecting a tree near Katoonarib Village

Environmental Education Curriculum

The second term of the Environmental Education Curriculum has concluded. During this term, students learnt about the geology of the Rupununi, water and bush habitats, how to correctly dispose of garbage and lots more!

When schools reopen, students will begin the third and final term entitled "Culture, language and stories". Students will learn songs, stories and names of plants and animals in their local language, how to make traditional craft and traditional knowledge about local wildlife.

Are you interested in assisting the teachers with these lessons? Do you have traditional knowledge, language and skills to share? If so, then please contact one of the teachers (Shea, Macushi and Kumu Primary and Sand Creek Secondary) and let them know.



Senior Ranger, Asaph Wilson releasing a male Red Siskin from a mist net near Shulinab Village

Giant Anteater Research and Monitoring

Rangers in Katoonarib Village and Wichabai Ranch have been continuing with their monitoring of Giant Anteaters. As of April 2020, the rangers have now identified 21 different anteaters that live in and around Katoonarib.

The rangers have identified these Giant Anteaters by setting camera traps across Katoonarib land and then collecting them after 6 weeks to see what footage they have captured.

They have also been going out twice a month on motorbikes to see if they can spot anteaters to understand both their range and behavior.

Interesting Wildlife Facts!

Red-handed Tamarin/Witaro/Is'taru (*Saguninus midas*) - They are superb jumpers, known to jump distances of over 60ft from a tree top to the ground.

Scarlet Macaw/Shaakoo/Kiyari (*Ara Macao*) - Scarlet Macaws can live up to 80 years.

Note: The Endangered Red Siskin (*Spinus cucullata*) is officially protected by the South Rupununi Conservation Society.

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.