



**NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2019 - OCTOBER 2019**

SRCS Executive Team

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

Project team

Alyssa Melville, Environmental
Education Facilitator
Erin Earl, Giant Anteater Project
Coordinator
Leroy Ignacio, Field and Logistics
Coordinator
Leandrew Fredericks, 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
Potrinau Village
Kumu Primary School

Overview of SRCS Activities

Main Projects

Our 3 projects, with support from the Sustainable Wildlife Management - Programme Guyana, are now up and running! These are the Environmental Education Curriculum, our Red Siskin Monitoring Project and our Giant Anteater Research and Monitoring Project. Find out more on the back page of the newsletter!

Presentation in Recife, Brazil

In October, our President Leroy Ignacio travelled to Recife in Brazil, to do a presentation at the International Conference of Ethnozoology. Leroy talked about the history of SRCS and how we have combined scientific knowledge and traditional knowledge to protect the Red Siskin in the South Rupununi.

SRCS Elections

Elections were held by SRCS in September for the new Executive Committee. Special congratulations to Leroy for being re-elected as president and to Angelbert Johnny for becoming Vice President!

Executive Committee members include Samuel Cyril, Eian Gray, Frank Johnny, Mark Alexander, Richard Peters and Rosannah Johnson.



Top (1) Sand Creek Secondary students climbing the mountain behind the dormitory to set a camera trap. From left (2) The newly elected members of the SRCS Executive Team hold their first meeting (3) SRCS rangers pose after completing a training session at Wichabai Ranch.



Donors



Consortium partners



Implementation



Project Updates



Students from Kumu Primary School participating in bird watching as part of their lesson on birds.

Red Siskin Monitoring

Our rangers have now recommenced monitoring and banding the Red Siskin in 6 villages (Sawariwau, Katoonarib, Potarinau, Sand Creek, Rupunau and Shulinab). The rangers are visiting Red Siskin sites once every month, to take measurements and also to band the bird.

Some of our rangers have also begun field trips every other day at Wichabai Ranch to observe the Red Siskin. The purpose of this is to understand the life cycle of the Red Siskin which will help us to collect more scientific knowledge for the species.



A Giant Anteater roaming around the Rupununi.

Environmental Education Curriculum

The Curriculum entitled “My Rupununi and Me: Our Culture, Skills and Knowledge” has 3 terms, with the first term focusing on Plants and Animals of the Rupununi. The Curriculum is currently being taught in 4 pilot schools; Shea Primary, Sand Creek Secondary, Macushi Primary and Kumu Primary.

So far students have learnt about the different wildlife in the Rupununi including mammals, birds, fish, birds, reptiles and how each animal plays an important part in keeping the Rupununi ecosystem healthy.

The classes are a mix of completing activities in the classroom as well as going out to participate in field activities. Field activities have involved going bird watching and learning how to use camera traps.



Senior Ranger Kim Spencer teaching new recruit Edson John how to use callipers to measure the width of a bird's beak.

Giant Anteater Research and Monitoring

After completing a training workshop at Wichabai Ranch, our new Giant Anteater Rangers have begun their fieldwork. This has involved completing 40 household surveys in Katoonarib Village to understand villagers perceptions and interactions with Giant Anteaters.

The rangers will now begin monitoring Giant Anteaters in Katoonarib to collect information such as population estimates and habitat locations. An observation board has also been set up in Katoonarib to allow villagers to mark on a map whenever they spot a Giant Anteater.

Interesting Wildlife Facts!

Giant Armadillo/Maroro/Mauraimi (*Pridontes Maximus*) - This species is nocturnal, which means that they sleep during the day and are active at night.

Bullet Ant/Ira'/Manai (*Paraponera Clavata*) - This species of ant has more hair on its body than any other ant species!

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.