



NEWSLETTER
February 2021 - April 2021



SRCS Executive

Leroy Ignacio, PRESIDENT
Angelbert Johnny, VICE PRESEDENT
Erin Earl, TREASURER
Kim Spencer, SECRETARY
Eian Gray ASSISTANT SECRETARY-
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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
Nate Wilson, Assistant Giant Ant-
eater Coordinator

Special thanks to

National Geographic Society
South Rupununi District Council
Sand Creek Village
Shulinab Village
Sawariwau Village
Katoonarib Village
Rupunau village
Aishalton Village
Maruranau Village
Kumu Village
Shea Village
Awarwanau Village

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!

Phase 1 of Research Station is Complete!

The first phase of the SRCS Research Station has been built at Wichabai with support from the UNDP Small Grants Programme Guyana. The first phase includes an office, a meeting area and a library that will be available to use by any SRCS member. We are now aiming to secure funding to build the second phase which will include two bedrooms and a storage unit. The first phase was officially opened by the SRCS Executive Committee during their first meeting in the station in February.



SRCS Awarded Funding from National Geographic!

We are excited to announce that SRCS have been granted funding from the National Geographic Society to design, implement and monitor a Community Based Conservation Management Zone for the Red Siskin in the South Rupununi. The purpose of the zone is to provide more protection to the Red Siskin which still faces threats from habitat destruction and illegal trapping.



Top (1) A cotton spinning class taking place in Sawariwau Village as part of the Traditional Knowledge Classes From left (2) The SRCS Executive Committee at the opening of the first phase of the new research station 3) Uncle Henry Kaitan holding a Red Siskin. Photo Credits: Angelbert Johnny (Top), Felicia Collins (Left), Chung Liu (Right).

Supported by



Project Updates



A young girl spinning cotton in Sawariwau Village

Credit: Angelbert Johnny

River Turtle Monitoring

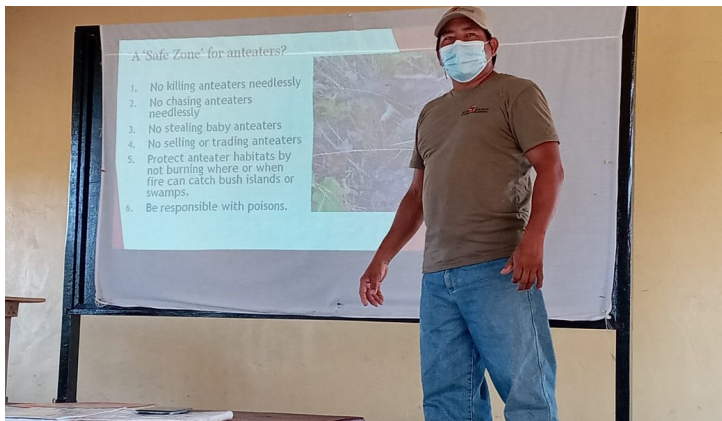
Over the past few decades, residents of the Rupununi have noticed a decline in the number of Yellow-spotted river turtles. Since January, 8 rangers from Sand Creek Village have been monitoring 8 beaches along the Rupununi River to protect the nests of these turtles. The purpose of this is to help more of the eggs survive the nesting to hatching season so that they can make it to adulthood and increase the population. If you see one of our signs on a beach along the Rupununi River, we kindly ask you not to disturb the eggs on that beach. If you are on a non-protected beach, remember to only take eggs that you need!

Traditional Knowledge Classes

Traditional Knowledge Classes have now started in 8 communities in Central and South Rupununi (Kumu, Shulinab, Sand Creek, Shea, Maruranau, Aishalton, Sawariwau and Katoonarib). In each community, 3 classes are taking place once a week where children are learning a Traditional Skill such as cotton spinning, basket weaving, arrow making, Wapichan language, Macushi language, storytelling, cow skin crafts and woodwork. The aim of the classes is to pass down Traditional Knowledge from one generation to the next in order to preserve it. It is also hoped that the classes will spark an interest in the youth in their culture and heritage. To start, 20 classes will be running from January to June, with each community holding an exhibition to showcase what the children have learnt in the final week.



The River Turtle Monitoring team at Sand Creek Crossing at the end of the first year of the river turtle monitoring project.
Photo Credit: Maxi Pugsley



Angelbert Johnny discussing the Giant Anteater Safe Zone in Katoonarib Village.

Photo Credit: Leroy Ignacio

Giant Anteater Research and Monitoring

In March, Erin, Leroy and Angel met with the residents of Katoonarib Village to discuss the creation of a Giant Anteater "Safe Zone" in Katoonarib. The Safe Zone will have a set of rules, decided upon by Katoonarib Village, that will help to give protection to the Giant Anteater to help their population numbers increase.

We are also excited to announce that the "Katoonarib Nature Day" will be taking place in Katoonarib on Sunday 13th June for the villagers of Katoonarib. There will be lots of games, prizes, activities and food! So save the date in your diary and we will see you there. Please remember to bring your mask and note that Covid-19 precautions will be in place.

Interesting Wildlife Facts!

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl/Wu-uwuzo/Teepoi (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) - They are most active near dawn and dusk when they hunt.

Capybara/Kash/Paranawi (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) - It is the largest rodent in the world.

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 Vulnerable 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.