

Basic Guide to the Mammals of the Rupununi Makushi and Wapichan



SOUTH RUPUNUNI
CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Credit:

This book is part of a series of books produced by the South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS) that are intended to educate people about the wildlife of the Rupununi.

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WILDLIFE ECOLOGY
AND CONSERVATION



Foreword

I've always believed we will not protect what we do not love, and cannot love what we do not know. I wish to encourage people to become more passionate about exploring and protecting what we love - our dear 'Rupununi'.

The Rupununi is considered the 'Land of Giants' and a 'haven for birding' for its reputation of supporting healthy wildlife populations. This makes it the heart of tourism in the country.

To maintain its healthy wildlife populations, the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme has provided its support to local organizations involved in wildlife management and conservation. In this context, the SWM Programme has partnered with the SRCS to implement an environmental education program, which combines both scientific and traditional knowledge to reinforce students' appreciation of their natural surroundings and cultural heritage. This book on mammals was supported by the SWM Programme as a recognition of our objective to developing increased awareness of wildlife in the Rupununi.

O. David

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Introduction

Greetings to the reader of this book! On behalf of the South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS), I am delighted to introduce “Basic Guide to the Mammals of the Rupununi”.

In the Rupununi, we are fortunate to have a diverse and interesting range of mammal species. These mammals are important for our culture, the health of our ecosystems, food security and tourism.

As our population grows and modernises, our wildlife is coming under increasing pressure from a number of threats. It is therefore essential that we all do our part to protect the amazing mammals that exist in the Rupununi.

The aim of this book is to educate people on the mammals that can be found in the Rupununi and also to preserve their local name. We also hope that it will help people to appreciate our wonderful wildlife and to deepen their love for the Rupununi.

L. Ignacio

Leroy Ignacio

*President, South
Rupununi
Conservation Society*



South Rupununi Conservation Society

We are farmers, hunters, school children, business people, tour operators, teachers, tour guides and more. We are the women, men and children who call the Rupununi our home.

Over the years, we have seen a decline in the number of animals and plants of the Rupununi region as well as continued degradation of the natural environment. Through education, research and conservation we are dedicated to sustaining and protecting the wildlife of our home.

Our focus currently includes:

- Red Siskin Conservation
- Giant Anteater Monitoring and Research
- Yellow-spotted River Turtle Monitoring and Research
- Environmental Education
- Traditional Knowledge Preservation
- Monitoring the Impact of Fire on Wildlife
- Conservation of the Hoary-throated Spineail and the Rio Branco Antbird



Members of SRCS



Maxi Ignace with a Red Siskin

If you like this book and want to learn more about wildlife and your environment or if you would like to become a member of SRCS, please contact an Executive Committee member.

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SOUTH RUPUNONI
CONSERVATION SOCIETY



Seeing Mammals

As you might know, most mammals are not always easy to see. Many mammals only move around during specific times of the day, such as at sunrise, sunset, or at night. Some mammals are much easier to see than others if they are more active during times of the day that you are, or they may be more common (or abundant) where you live.

Tracks and signs

Even though you might not always see them, mammals live all around you. One of the ways we can see if mammals live in an area is to look for signs of their presence, such as tracks. This is one of the ways scientists study mammals.

You might already know some mammal tracks! When mammals walk, they leave footprints in the ground. A tapir's footprint looks very different to a deer's footprint (see below). There are more examples of mammal tracks at the end of this book.



A tapir track



A deer track

Remember, tracks might be different depending on the kind of ground the animal walked on. For example: tracks in sand will look different from tracks in mud or on a hard dirt road. The weather can also affect tracks. Rain can erase tracks or make them harder to see. If it rained the night before you go walking in the forest and you see a track, it is very likely the animal walked there quite recently!

Many people in Indigenous villages are very knowledgeable about the kinds of tracks and signs that animals leave behind. If you'd like to learn more about how to identify tracks and signs, feel free to ask a village elder or hunter, or an SRCS ranger for help!

Camera Traps

Another way that scientists study mammals is to use camera traps. These devices can be set up in places you think mammals live. They are set up to take a picture of an animal when it walks in front of the camera.

A camera trap is like having a researcher in one spot who is always looking for animals all day and all night for as long as their energy (battery) lasts. If you see a camera trap in the forest, it is best not to trouble it. It is possible that it is collecting very important data to help scientists and village leaders learn more about the animals that live near there. This information can be used to help leaders make important decisions that help to ensure that mammals are around for long into the future.



A camera trap set up in the forest.

How to Read the Pages

Scientific Order (Family)

This refers to the scientific group to which the mammal belongs.

Makushi

This is the name of the mammal in the Makushi language.

Wapichan

This is the name of the mammal in the Wapichan language.

Common Name

This is the English common name of the mammal. You can use this name to find it online or in other books.

Scientific Name

This is the name that scientists use to refer to the mammal. It varies a lot less than the common name, but more importantly: it only refers to one species.

Identification Note

This is a brief description of the mammal to help you identify it in the wild.

Habitat

This lists the habitat that you will most likely see the mammal in. This can vary.

IUCN Red List Status

This is the conservation status of the animal, as determined by the International Union on the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It describes the risk of a species going extinct. Although it is reliable, it is important to remember that it may not reflect the situation in Guyana; some species that are doing well internationally, may not be doing as well here. The opposite is also sometimes true: some species that are doing well in Guyana, may not be doing as well internationally.

Carnivora (Felidae)

Jaguar
(*Panthera onca*)

Kaikushi
Baudokoru

DD LC NT VU EN CR

Identification
Largest cat in the Americas. Tawny yellow and reddish brown coat covered in black spots or "rosettes", underside is white. Muscular body and jaw, large head and feet, long tail, short legs. Size, shape, and pattern of rosettes vary among individual jaguars.

Habitat
Prefers lowland rainforests with plenty of cover and prey, but is also found in mountain rainforests up to 2,000 m, swamps, savannah grasslands, and scrublands.

Photo © Christian Vinces

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SOUTH AMERICAN
CONSERVATION SOCIETY



Low

Risk of Extinction

High

Jaguar

(*Panthera onca*)

Kaikushi

Baudokoru



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Largest cat in the Americas. Tawny yellow and reddish brown coat covered in black spots or “rosettes”, underside is white. Muscular body and jaw, large head and feet, long tail, short legs. Size, shape, and pattern of rosettes vary among individual jaguars.

Habitat

Prefers lowland rainforests with plenty of cover and prey, but is also found in mountain rainforests up to 2,000 m, swamps, savannah grasslands, and scrublands.

Puma

(*Puma concolor*)

Sariwara
Koshardin



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Large cat with long, slender body, small head, yellow to greyish brown coat, pale belly, and pink nose. Long tail is about 1/3 of its total length. Cub has black spots on its coat that begin to fade at 2 months.

Habitat

Inhabits lowland and mountain rainforests up to 2,000 m, savannah grasslands, scrublands and any areas with adequate cover and prey.

Ocelot

(*Leopardus pardalis*)

Woronai

Wadyaran



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Short, stocky cat with brownish yellow-orange coat with black spots or streaks in rows, white belly. Fur short & smooth, large eyes, big feet, long legs for body size. Tail is shorter than hind leg, around 1/4 of animal's total length.

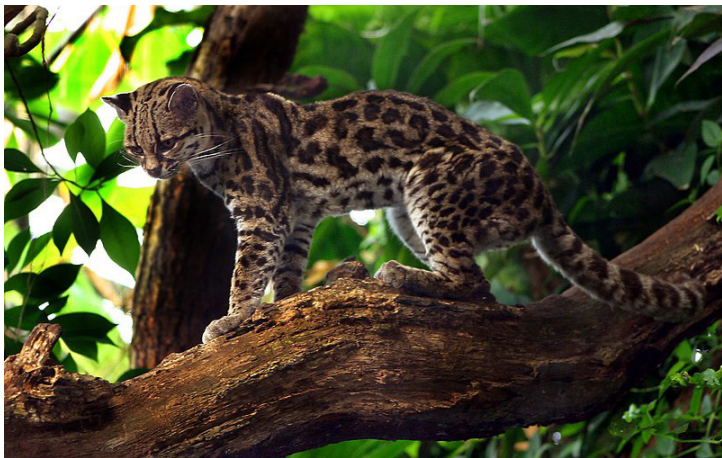
Habitat

Most adaptable of Guyana's cats. Found in lowland and mountain rainforests, savannah grasslands, swamps, and scrublands. Prefers dense cover but will use open areas, even close to villages, at night.

Margay

(*Leopardus wiedii*)

Masikî
Chamchamoru



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Slender cat with large eyes, long whiskers, and very long tail (3/4 of body length). Light brown, yellow or greyish brown coat with rows of black spots or stripes and thick, soft fur.

Habitat

Prefers densely forested lowland and mountain areas. Skilled climber that spends most of its time in the trees. Will occasionally travel through open areas between large bush islands.

Oncilla

(*Leopardus tigrinus*)

Kuwai yenpu

Katabarodin



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Smallest wild cat in Guyana, similar in size to a house cat. Slender body, small feet and head, narrow slightly pointed muzzle, long tail (1/2 body length). Short, thick fur is light brown, yellow, or greyish brown with black spots/rosettes.

Habitat

Prefers forested areas, but found in a wide variety of habitats. Subject to competition from other cats due to its small size, it is most often found in mountain rainforests and savannah grasslands.

Carnivora (*Felidae*)

Jaguarundi

(*Herpailurus yagouaroundi*)

Waron

Sokordin



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Slender cat with long body & tail, short legs, small head and rounded ears. Single coloured coat - can be black, grey, tan, red, or brownish.

Habitat

Demonstrates habitat flexibility. Can be found in lowland and mountain rainforests, savannah grasslands, swamps, and scrublands. Often found in association with water. Most common in savannahs and secondary forests.

Carnivora (*Felidae*)

Domestic Cat

(*Felis catus*)

Pusi pusi
Pishan



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

The only domesticated species in the cat family. It has fast reflexes, sharp teeth, flexible body and retractable claws. It has excellent night vision and dozens of moveable whiskers all over its body.

Habitat

Can thrive in almost any terrestrial habitat and is therefore found all over the world.

Carnivora (*Canidae*)

Bush Dog

(*Speothos venaticus*)

Ai

Wichaa waru



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Squat in stature with long body and short legs. Round face & ears, short muzzle, webbed feet, and short, stubby tail. Head & neck pale brown to yellow, legs & body dark brown to black – fur long & soft. Very rarely seen - high pitched, yappy bark often defining characteristic.

Habitat

Primarily found within large tracts of intact, undisturbed lowland and mountain rainforests, but will use wet savannahs and large bush islands.

Carnivora (*Canidae*)

Crab-eating Fox

(*Cerdocyon thous*)

Maikan
Waruzo



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Dog-like body with light brown to grey coat and black streak along spine from neck to tail. Bushy tail with black tip, legs & feet darker than body, belly light.

Habitat

Primarily found in savannah grasslands and bush islands, but will inhabit lowland forest edges. Generally moves to higher ground during the rainy season.

Carnivora (*Canidae*)

Domestic Dog

(*Canis familiaris*)

Arimaraka

Arimaraka



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

A descendent of the grey wolf and the first species to be domesticated. All dogs have an identical skeletal structure but vary in size according to breed.

Habitat

Located all across the world in a wide variety of habitats. In the Rupununi, dogs are mostly kept as pets and are found in homes and farms.

Tayra

(*Eira barbara*)

Araiwa
Koorau



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Long body, short legs, long neck and robust head, round ears, long claws, and long bushy tail. Glossy dark brown to black coat with tan, grey, or yellowish head and white, diamond shaped patch on throat, though can commonly be all black or all blonde/white in colour.

Habitat

Prefers lowland rainforests, but will use mountain forests, secondary forests, and savannah grasslands with bush islands. Found in close association with water.

Carnivora (*Mustelidae*)

Greater Grison

(*Galictis vittata*)

Niinito



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Long, slim body, flat head, webbed feet with claws, small ears and eyes, a short long-haired tail, and very short legs. Bushy coat with white stripe that runs from brow to shoulder, black face, neck, and legs, and greyish body and tail.

Habitat

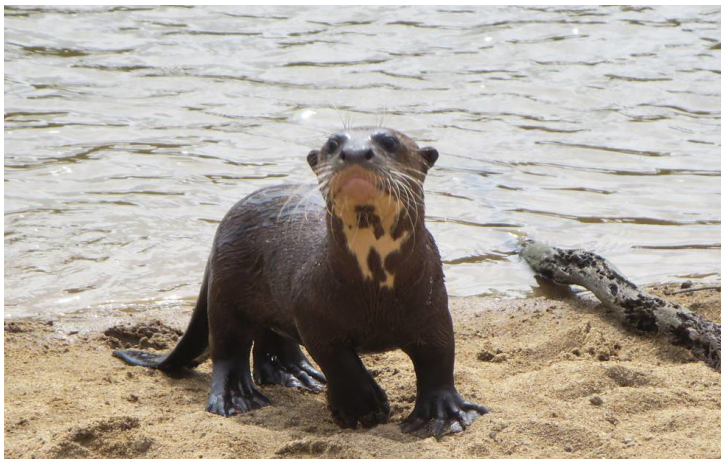
Occupies a wide variety of habitats, from lowland rainforests, to savannah grasslands, scrublands, and agricultural fields.

Carnivora (*Mustelidae*)

Giant River Otter

(*Pteronura brasiliensis*)

Turara
Saaro



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Largest otter species in the world. Long body, short legs, round head, short snout, small ears, long whiskers, large webbed feet and long, flat, powerful tail. Dense, soft brown fur and white throat patch with spots in patterns that are unique to individual otters.

Habitat

Primarily inhabits freshwater rivers, creeks, and lakes with abundant prey. Excavates dens into sloped riverbanks. Prefers secluded areas with high water quality and overhanging vegetation.

Carnivora (*Mustelidae*)

Neotropical River Otter

(*Lontra longicaudis*)

Epînimîiki
Nyoobau



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Long body, short legs, small flat head with broad muzzle, dense whiskers, small webbed feet, and long, wide tail that comes to a point at the tip. Short, dense fur glossy brown, and whitish on the chin, throat, and belly.

Habitat

Primarily inhabits freshwater rivers with abundant prey. More common in faster flowing mountain streams where giant otters are not present.

Crab-eating Raccoon

(*Procyon cancrivorus*)

Saro
Wakuru



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Pointed nose, medium length tail with black rings, long, skinny legs & fingers. Body grey or brownish, dark legs, and black 'mask' across eyes bordered by white stripe across brow & snout.

Habitat

Inhabits primary and secondary lowland forests and savannah grasslands associated with bush islands. Found in close association with bodies of water, such as swamps, lakes, lagoons, and ocean beaches.

Carnivora (*Procyonidae*)

South American Coatimundi

(*Nasua nasua*)

Kuwasi
Kowachi



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Long narrow head with pointed snout & upturned nose. Very long tail with dark rings. Grey, brown, or red-orange coat, with dark snout, white around eyes and under chin. Skilled climber that sleeps in trees. Lives in groups of up to 30 individuals.

Habitat

Primarily inhabits lowland and mountain forests up to 2,500 m, but will use savannah grasslands, scrublands, and swamps.

Carnivora (*Procyonidae*)

Kinkajou

(*Potos flavus*)

Kuikui
Shishipot



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Round head, pointed snout, and large, round, wide-set eyes. Nocturnal, lives in trees, and monkey-like in appearance.

Habitat

Inhabits a variety of forest habitats, including lowland, mountain, and gallery forests, and bush islands. Habitat requirements have not been fully investigated due to their nocturnal and secretive nature.

Perissodactyla (*Tapiridae*)

Lowland Tapir

(*Tapirus terrestris*)

Waira
Kodoi



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Largest native mammal in South America, weighing up to 250 kg. Large body and long nose (proboscis) capable of grasping. Prominent crest on top of head and neck forms a hump that extends from forehead to shoulders. Short, smooth coat is uniform blackish brown.

Habitat

Prefers intact, undisturbed mountain forests up to 4,500 m, but readily inhabits lowland forests and swamps.

Perissodactyla (*Equidae*)

Domestic Horse

(*Equus caballus*)

Kaware
Kawaro



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Oval-shaped hooves, long tail, long slender legs, muscular build and deep torso, long thick neck, and large elongated head. Short, glossy hair covers most of its body, except long, coarse hairs that form a mane from top of head to shoulders.

Habitat

Domesticated, or tamed, horses can live in almost any habitat, but wild horses prefer open savannahs.

Perissodactyla (*Equidae*)

Donkey

(*Equus africanus asinus*)

Sakasi
Chaakashi



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Four-legged domesticated farm animal with hooves similar to the horse. Known for the braying sound it makes and its long ears.

Habitat

Found all over the world, but prefers dry, warm areas. In the Rupununi, they are commonly found in Karasabai and Maruranau.

Artiodactyla (*Tayassuidae*)

White-lipped Peccary

(*Tayassu pecari*)

Piinkî
Bicha



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Coat is dark brown to black, with the exception of two distinct white patches covering the lower jaw, cheeks and chin, and sometimes neck and belly. Crest of long hair on top of head and neck. Young has red, brown, black, or cream coat with white legs and undersides.

Habitat

Inhabits a variety of habitat types from lowland and mountain rainforests to savannah grasslands, scrublands, and swamps.

Artiodactyla (*Tayassuidae*)

Collared Peccary

(*Dicotyles tajacu*)

*Paraka
Bakuru*



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Coat is a grizzled greyish black throughout, except yellowish tinge on the cheeks and a distinct whitish to yellowish collar or stripe that extends from lower cheek to shoulders.

Habitat

Inhabits lowland and mountain rainforests and savannah grasslands associated with bush islands and gallery forests. Seems to be less abundant in areas with high density of white-lipped peccaries.

Artiodactyla (*Cervidae*)

Red Brocket Deer

(*Mazama americana*)

Usari
Koshara



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

The largest deer in Guyana, its coat is uniform reddish brown to chestnut red across most of its body, except light, greyish-brown fur on head and neck, and white fur on its inner thighs, throat, inner part of the ears, and tail. Only males have 'spike' antlers.

Habitat

Prefers lowland and mountain rainforests, but will also inhabit savannah grasslands associated with bush islands and gallery forests.

Artiodactyla (*Cervidae*)

Amazonian Brown Brocket Deer

(*Mazama nemorivaga*)

Enpuma
Sowai



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Smaller than red-brocket deer, it has a uniform greyish-brown to reddish-brown coat, with fur along flanks paler than its back, and white on the underside of its tail. Only males have 'spike' antlers.

Habitat

Only inhabits intact, primary lowland and mountain rainforests. Generally does not venture into savannah grasslands or even in proximity to forest edges.

Artiodactyla (*Cervidae*)

White-tailed Deer

(*Odocoileus virginianus*)

Waikin

Masairo'o/Aro



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Coat is uniform greyish to reddish brown across entire body, with the exception of white fur encircling eyes, band behind the nose, inside the ears, over the chin and throat, on inside of upper legs, and underside of tail. Only males have 'branching' antlers.

Habitat

Often referred to as 'savannah deer' in Guyana due to its preference for open savannah grassland habitats.

Artiodactyla (*Suidae*)

Domestic Pig

(*Sus scofra*)

Puruku
Kooshi



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Stout-bodied, short-legged, omnivorous mammal, with thick skin usually sparsely coated with short bristles. Its hooves have two functional and two nonfunctional digits.

Habitat

Typically lives in grasslands, wetlands, rainforests, savannahs, scrublands and forests. Most commonly found in or near communities as a domesticated animal.

Artiodactyla (*Bovidae*)

Domestic Sheep

(*Ovis aries*)

Karinero

Kazinizo



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Hooves on ends of its feet, and it stands on two primary “toes” rather than a single hoof like a horse. Has dense fur known as wool.

Habitat

Domestic sheep are found worldwide in association with humans. They live in different habitats ranging from mountain forests to desert conditions. In the Rupununi they are found near homes or farms.

Artiodactyla (*Bovidae*)

Domestic Goat

(*Capra hircus*)

Kapra
Boochi



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Related to sheep, a goat has a smaller build, horns that arch backward, a short tail, and a coat of straight, coarse hairs. Male goats, called bucks or billies, usually have a beard. Females are called does or nannies, and immature goats are called kids.

Habitat

Domestic goats are raised all over the world in almost every type of terrestrial biome.

Artiodactyla (*Bovidae*)

Domestic Cow

(*Bos taurus*)

Paaka
Tapi'iza



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Stocky body with relatively short legs and long, muscular, rectangular body. Long, straight snout, strong neck, and head is small relative to body size. Short dense fur that can have a variety of patterns and colours.

Habitat

Savannah grasslands, scrublands, bush islands, gallery forests, and the edges of lowland rainforests. They require lots of open space and plenty of grass.

Rodentia (*Erethizontidae*)

Brazilian Porcupine

(*Coendou prehensilis*)

Aru
Ziwará



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Robust, spiny quills are long with white tips at the ends of black quills, giving it a speckled appearance. These spines cover the short, soft fur underneath. Tail is brownish and about as long as the head-body and can grab onto branches.

Habitat

Primarily lowland forests and savannahs below 550 m in elevation. Found in tropical South America east of the Andes.

Rodentia (*Erethizontidae*)

Black-tailed Hairy Dwarf Porcupine

(*Coendou melanurus*)

Aru
Ziwara



Identification



Spiny quills are short and not immediately obvious because they are covered by the longer, finer pale or yellowish guard hairs and the underfur is blackish. Tail is black and about as long as the head-body, but cannot be used to grab branches.

Habitat

Lowland and highland forests up to 1,830 m in elevation. Endemic to the Guiana Shield.

Rodentia (*Dasyproctidae*)

Red-rumped Agouti

(*Dasyprocta leporina*)

Akuri
Sokoru



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Relatively large head and rump with slender legs and small ears. Coarse, glossy coat is greenish-brown in color with orange-brown belly, and distinct orange or red fur on its rump. Tail is very short and hairless.

Habitat

Most common medium-sized mammal in Guyana, it inhabits lowland and mountain rainforests, savannah grasslands associated with bush islands and gallery forests, swamps, scrub, mangroves, and even agricultural areas.

Rodentia (*Dasyproctidae*)

Red Acouchi

(*Myoprocta acouchy*)

Kusiwai
Adori



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Relatively large head and rump with slender legs and small ears. Similar in appearance to red-rumped agoutis, the acouchi is smaller in size and has black or very dark red fur on its rump, dark chestnut-red or orange fur on its sides and legs, and a short hairless tail.

Habitat

Inhabits the dense undergrowth of lowland and mountain rainforests, usually around fallen trees. Generally active at dawn and dusk and avoids overlapping with the larger red-rumped agouti.

Rodentia (*Cuniculidae*)

Lowland Paca (Labba)

(*Cuniculus paca*)

Warana
Oran



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Robust, cone-shaped body with large, blunt head, large eyes, small forelimbs, and large hind limbs covered by reddish-brown to darker brown coat with several rows of distinct whitish spots.

Habitat

Inhabits a variety of habitats including primary and secondary lowland and mountain rainforests <1,600 m, savannah grasslands associated with bush islands or gallery forests, swamps, and agricultural areas. Found in close association with water.

Rodentia (*Lagomorpha*)

Brazilian Cottontail

(*Sylvilagus brasiliensis*)



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Small to medium-sized rabbit with soft brown speckled fur, a small, dark tail, short hind feet, and long ears. A solitary, nocturnal animal, it is usually seen after nightfall or before dawn, feeding on grass.

Habitat

It is found in forested habitats, close to swamps and along river edges, and in disturbed areas, such as gardens. Rarely seen in the Rupununi.

Rodentia (*Sciuridae*)

Guianan Squirrel

(*Sciurus aestuans*)

*Kari
Karicho*



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Long, bushy tail with multi-banded brownish hairs. Fur on the back and sides is a grizzled brown with flecks of yellow and red hairs and a paler yellowish belly. Large, dark eyes surrounded by a paler coloured ring.

Habitat

Lowland and highland forests up to 1,800 m in elevation. Occurs primarily in the eastern portions of South America.

Rodentia (*Caviidae*)

Brazilian Guinea Pig

(*Cavia aperea*)

Adorom



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Fur is brown on the back and sides with some black hairs. The belly is a paler yellowish grey. It has no tail. The head-body length ranges from 220-310 mm and weight from 314-660 g with males usually heavier than females.

Habitat

Savannahs and gallery forests. Found in drier and open habitats in South America east of the Andes.

Rodentia (*Caviidae*)

Capybara

(*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*)

Paranwi
Kasho



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

World's largest rodent, weighing up to 65 kg. Barrel-shaped body with rectangular head, and partially webbed feet. Thin, coarse coats are reddish brown over most of the body, turning yellowish brown on the belly and sometimes black on the face.

Habitat

Found only in areas where water is easily accessible: seasonally flooded savannah grasslands are a favoured habitat, as are seasonally flooded lowland forests where grasses are accessible.

Rodentia (*Echimyidae*)

Guyenne Spiny Rat

(*Proechimys guyannensis*)

Pîriya
Kiuz



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Large rat with stiff, spiny, brownish fur with hints of red and black on the back, which contrasts sharply with the white belly. Long tail, but less than the length of the head-body. Big dark eyes and feet are whitish.

Habitat

Restricted to lowland rainforests, savannahs, gallery forests, and dry forests in Guyana. Endemic to the Guiana Shield.

Rodentia (*Cricetidae*)

Broad-headed Rice Rat

(*Hylaeamys megacephalus*)



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Medium-sized rat with greyish brown fur on the back and paler grey belly. Subadults and juveniles have an overall grey coat, as in most rats. Tail slightly shorter than head-body length. Ears relatively long and feet white.

Habitat

Primarily occurs in lowland and highland rainforests, but also in dry habitats such as savannahs and gallery forests. Found in South America east of the Andes from Venezuela to Paraguay.

Alston's Cotton Rat

(*Sigmodon alstoni*)



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Stocky, medium-sized rat with speckled brownish grey fur on the back and greyish belly. Yellowish ring around the eyes. Tail just over half the length of the head-body. Ears short and don't project much from the head.

Habitat

Lives in the savannahs and also the adjacent forests. Distributed east of the Andes in northern South America.

Rodentia (*Cricetidae*)

Common Cane Mouse

(*Zygodontomys brevicauda*)

Waimu
Korii



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Medium-sized mouse with grizzled greyish brown fur on the back and paler belly. Tail shorter than head-body length and bicoloured with darker top and lighter bottom. Ears slightly longer than those of the cotton rat. Hindfeet are relatively small.

Habitat

In Guyana, found in lowland savannahs, adjacent forests and gallery forests. Occurs from Costa Rica to northern Brazil.

Cingulata (*Dasypodidae*)

Southern Naked-tailed Armadillo *Kapasi*
(*Cabassous unicinctus*) *Kabazibara kapashi*



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

The smallest armadillo in Guyana, it has a short snout, large ears, and short legs. Its upper body is covered by a dark grey bony carapace of squarish scutes, the mid part of the body is divided into a series of 10-13 mobile rings, and the tail and underside are hairless.

Habitat

Inhabits a variety of habitats, including lowland rainforests, savannah grasslands, and swamp edges. Creates burrows about 16 cm in diameter, so range is limited by flooding and rocky soils.

Cingulata (*Dasypodidae*)

Nine-banded Armadillo

(*Dasyus novemcinctus*)

Pîrun

Dowaozoo kapashi



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Covered by an outer body armor made up of bony plates covered in a leathery skin with 8 to 11 visible bands. Head is partially covered by bony scales, long snout is softer and pinkish in color, ears are hairless, belly lacks armor.

Habitat

Inhabits a variety of habitats, including lowland and mountain rainforests up to 3,000 m, savannah grasslands associated with bush islands or gallery forests, scrublands, and swamp edges.

Cingulata (*Dasypodidae*)

Greater Long-nosed Armadillo

(*Dasyus kappleri*)

Kai'kan

Wit kapashi



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Medium-sized armadillo with outer body armour made up of bony plates and leathery skin. Similar in appearance to the nine-banded armadillo, except it is larger in size, has longer tail, 'spurs' on its rear legs, and 7-8 visible bands.

Habitat

Inhabits lowland and mountain rainforests up to 3,000 m, floodplains and swamps near creeks and steams, and only savannah grasslands with large bush islands.

Cingulata (*Dasypodidae*)

Giant Armadillo

(*Pridontes maximus*)

Mauraimî
Maroro



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

World's largest armadillo species, weighing >25 kg. Pronounced carapace covered with bony scales resembles a tortoise's shell. Top of the carapace black or grey while the sides are much lighter and separated by a noticeable band.

Habitat

Inhabits lowland and mountain rainforests up to 500 m, savannah grasslands, and wetlands. Overhunting in open savannah habitats in Guyana may limit their range to intact forests.

Pilosa (*Bradypodidae*)

Pale-throated Three-toed Sloth

(*Bradypus tridactylus*)

Kuwaran
Awu



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Body is covered with long, coarse hair that is pale yellowish brown, but may appear green due to small green algae that live in cracks in its hair. Round head, face is whitish with dark brown streaks from the corner of its eyes. Long arms, short legs, long claws.

Habitat

Primarily inhabits lowland and mountain rainforests to 1,200 m. Lives high in the forest canopy, seen along the edges of rivers and creeks.

Pilosa (*Megalonychidae*)

Linnaeus's Two-toed Sloth

(*Choloepus didactylus*)

Tenupi
Wushi



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Short, flat head, blunt snout, small ears, and large eyes. Four long limbs are equal in length, but only front two end in curved claws. Covered in long brownish-grey hair that curves from stomach to back.

Habitat

Primarily inhabits lowland and mountain rainforests to 1,200 m. Lives high in the forest canopy, often seen along the edges of rivers and creeks.

Pilosa (Myrmecophagidae)

Silky Anteater

(*Cyclopes didactylus*)

Warin
Paashim



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Smallest species of anteater, has a short snout, long prehensile tail, and a coat of dense, soft fur, which ranges from grey to yellowish in colour and has a silvery sheen. This sheen is nearly identical in colour to the silky silverish fiber within the seed pods of *Ceiba* (silk cotton) trees.

Habitat

Lives high in the forest canopy, primarily in *Ceiba* trees found in lowland and mountain rainforests, as well as large bush islands and gallery forests.

Pilosa (*Myrmecophagidae*)

Giant Anteater

(*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*)

Tamanuwa
Tamanowaa



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Has a long snout and tongue, long middle claw, feathery tail, and coat of long, coarse hair that is dark brown over most of its body, except black and white stripes that run down each flank from neck to ribs.

Habitat

Inhabits a variety of habitats, including open savannah grasslands, lowland and mountain rainforests, and swamps. Population density seems to be higher in savannah grasslands due to increased availability of its primary food item (termites and ants).

Pilosa (*Myrmecophagidae*)

Southern Tamandua

(*Tamandua tetradactyla*)

Waiwo
Wauru



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Long, curved snout, long middle claw, hairless prehensile tail, and coat of relatively short, soft fur is solid blonde or light brownish in colour. May have a light 'vest' of black fur from shoulders to rump that widens near the shoulders and encircles the forelimbs.

Habitat

Inhabits a variety of habitats, including lowland and mountain rainforests, bush islands, gallery forests and savannah grasslands. Spends most of its time in the trees.

Didelphimorphia (*Didelphidae*)

Woolly Mouse Opossum

(*Marmosa demerarae*)

Yaware
Waasa



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Base of prehensile tail is furry for at least one inch. Tail has white tip and is longer than the head-body length. Long, woolly fur on the back and sides is greyish brown with the belly paler. Largest of the smallish mouse opossums in Guyana.

Habitat

Rainforests, dry forests, secondary forests, and gallery forests in savannahs from lowlands to highlands up to 2,100 m in elevation. Guiana Shield endemic.

Didelphimorphia (*Didelphidae*)

Linnaeus's Mouse Opossum

(*Marmosa murina*)

Yaware

Yawari



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Short, velvety fur on back and sides is greyish brown, fur on belly paler, and base of tail not as furred compared to the larger woolly mouse opossum. Tail about 30% longer than head-body length and brownish with slightly paler underside.

Habitat

Found in rainforests, dry forests, and near savannahs. Occurs in South America, primarily east of the Andes up to 1,350 m in elevation. Also found in houses.

Didelphimorphia (*Didelphidae*)

Delicate Slender Opossum

(*Marmosops parvidens*)

Yaware

Yawari



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Relatively short fur is reddish brown on the back and sides, which is distinct from the whitish belly. Tail about 50% longer than head-body length with slightly paler underside and not furred at the base.

Habitat

Lowland rainforests and savannahs below 500 m in elevation. Primarily a Guiana Shield endemic with one record south of the Amazon River.

Didelphimorphia (*Didelphidae*)

Bare-tailed Woolly Opossum

(*Caluromys philander*)

Yaware

Yawari



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Long, woolly fur is pale brown on the back and sides with some reddish tinge and fur on the belly is slightly paler. Head is greyish with brown streak from the forehead to the nose. Medium-sized opossum in Guyana.

Habitat

Lowland rainforests, dry forests, and forest near savannahs below 700 m elevation in Guyana. Found in South America east of the Andes.

Didelphimorphia (*Didelphidae*)

Brown Four-eyed Opossum

(*Metachirus nudicaudatus*)

Yaware

Yawari



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Short fur on back and sides is brownish with a paler belly. Yellowish spot of equivalent size above each eye. Tail longer than head-body length, hairless, and brown. Medium-sized opossum in Guyana.

Habitat

Forests up to 1,000 m elevation in the Guianas. Found primarily in tropical rainforests from Central America to South America.

Didelphimorphia (*Didelphidae*)

Grey Four-eyed Opossum

(*Philander opossum*)

Yaware

Yawari



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Short fur on back and sides is greyish with a paler belly. Whitish spots of equivalent size above each eye. Tail about equal in length to head-body, furred near the body, and blackish grey with usually a white tip. Medium-sized opossum in Guyana.

Habitat

Lowland rainforests and gallery forests in savannahs below 300 m in elevation. Occurs primarily in Amazonian areas of South America.

Didelphimorphia (*Didelphidae*)

Common Opossum

(*Didelphis marsupialis*)

Yaware

Yawari



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Fur scruffy with two layers composed of sparse, long, black guard hairs and dense, yellowish white underfur. Tail as long as head-body length, furred near the base and with a white tip. Ears are black. Largest opossum in Guyana.

Habitat

In Guyana, occurs primarily in lowland rainforests and gallery forests in savannahs, but also in highlands. Found from Mexico to Amazonian Brazil.

Didelphimorphia (*Didelphidae*)

Short Tailed Opossum

(*Monodelphis arlindoi*)

Yaware
Waasa



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Tail about half as long as the head-body length and furred at the base. Dense, short fur on back is grizzled greyish black that contrasts sharply with the reddish sides and paler yellowish belly. Ears short.

Habitat

Lowland rainforests, including near savannahs, and highlands up to 670 m in elevation in Guyana. Endemic to the Guiana Shield. The only terrestrial and diurnal opossum in Guyana.

Golden-handed Tamarin

(*Saguinus midas*)

Itaru
Witaro



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Small-sized monkey (smallest in Guyana) with small rounded head, black hairless face, and large ears that extend beyond fur. Soft coat is dark brown or black, with long hair around cheeks and chin, except for orange-red or yellow fur on its feet and hands.

Habitat

Inhabits lowland rainforests, bush islands and gallery forests within savannah grasslands, and swamp forests.

Guianan Squirrel Monkey

(*Saimiri sciureus*)

*Karima
Chaumaa*



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Small, slender monkey with non-prehensile tail longer than its body. Coat is short, thick, soft, and brightly colored with greyish fur covering sides and back, black fur on top of head, white fur around eyes, ears, throat, and neck, and bright reddish fur on its shoulders and legs.

Habitat

Inhabits primary and secondary lowland and mountain rainforests, bush islands or gallery forest within savannah grasslands, and coastal forests.

Wedge-capped Capuchin

(*Cebus olivaceus*)

Iwaraka
Owao



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Small-sized monkey with round head, stocky build, opposable thumbs, and long, semi-prehensile tail. Coat is off-white to pale buff coloured, except for a black to dark-grey wedge-shaped patch extending from the forehead backwards over the skull.

Habitat

Inhabits a variety of habitats, including lowland and mountain rainforests up to 2,700 m, bush islands or gallery forest within savannah grasslands, swamps and scrublands.

Brown Capuchin

(*Sapajus apella*)

Kuwa'ti
Powatu



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Small-sized monkey with round head, stocky build, opposable thumbs, and a long, prehensile tail which it carries in a tight coil. Coat can vary in colour from light brown to yellow or black, with underbelly lighter.

Habitat

Inhabits lowland and mountain rainforests up to 1,100 m, bush islands or gallery forest within savannah grasslands, coastal forests, and even disturbed areas.

White-faced Saki

(*Pithecia pithecia*)

Ariki
Oroa



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Small-sized monkey with long, bushy tail used for balance, and strong hind legs for jumping. Sexes look very different (sexual dimorphism). Males have a black coat with white fur surrounding a bald black face. Females brownish grey.

Habitat

Inhabits primary lowland and mountain rainforests as well as gallery forest running through savannah grasslands. Prefers areas with abundant fruit trees and watering holes.

Red-backed Bearded Saki

(*Chiropotes chiropotes*)

Kusi'wî
Wishi



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Small-sized monkey with long, bushy tail used for balance, and strong hind legs for jumping. Body covered with dense, short black hair except for the back which can vary from red to yellowish-gold.

Habitat

Prefers primary lowland and mountain rainforests, but also inhabits gallery forest running through savannah grasslands. Rarely descends to the forest floor, spending most of its time in the mid and upper canopy.

Guiana Spider Monkey

(*Ateles paniscus*)

Kuwata

Roomi



Identification



Largest primate in South America, weighing >9 kg. Small head relative to body with long, agile, strong fingers and limbs, and a long prehensile tail that enables it to swing through the trees. Covered in black hair except for hands, feet, and red face.

Habitat

Inhabits lowland and mountain forests and bush islands or gallery forest within savannah grasslands. Preferred habitat typically includes forests with canopy heights >25 m.

Primates (*Atelidae*)

Guianan Red Howler Monkey

(*Alouatta macconnelli*)

Arauta
Soburu



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Large, sluggish monkey with long, slender limbs, short trunk, round belly, long prehensile tail, and deep reddish-brown coat. Black, mostly hairless face with prominent muzzle. Males larger than females with prominent throat pouch that amplifies roar.

Habitat

Prefers lowland and mountain rainforests, but also inhabits large bush islands or gallery forest within savannah grasslands, swamps, and coastal forests.

Proboscis Bat

(*Rhynchonycteris naso*)

Marapa
Tamaruo



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Small bat with long, grizzled greyish-brown fur and two wavy, faint whitish lines on its back. Paler fur on the belly. Has a pointy nose that extends past the lower jaw. Tufts of paler hairs on the forearms. Whitish lines on its back act as a camouflage when roosting on trees.

Habitat

In Guyana, occurs mainly in lowland rainforests, dry forests, savannahs, and gallery forests, but also in highlands up to 400 m elevation. Found from southern Mexico to eastern Brazil.

Brown Tent-making Bat

(*Uroderma magnirostrum*)

Marapa
Tamaruo



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Medium-sized bat with a white line along the middle of the back and stripes above and below the eyes. Dorsal fur is brown and ventral fur is greyish. Fleshy flap of skin (noseleaf) on the face, diagnostic for the family, is used to direct echolocation calls.

Habitat

Closely associated with lowland savannahs and gallery forests in Guyana. Distributed from western Mexico to eastern Brazil.

Common Vampire Bat

(*Desmodus rotundus*)

Marapa
Tamaruo



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Well-developed thumbs that it uses to walk on the ground. Large, razor-sharp front teeth used to make incision in its prey. Sleek greyish brown fur on the back with a paler belly. Noseleaf present, but as a reduced bump of skin.

Habitat

Found primarily in lowland regions of Guyana, including rainforests, dry forests, savannahs, and gallery forests, but also in highlands up to 800 m. Occurs from Mexico to northern Argentina.

Chiroptera (*Phyllostomidae*)

Miller's Long-tongued Bat

(*Glossophaga longirostris*)

*Marapa
Tamaruo*



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

One of the largest of the typically small nectar-feeding bats. Many morphological adaptations related to this foraging behaviour, including elongated snout and long tongue. Fur is brownish on the back and paler on the belly.

Habitat

Occurs in lowland savannahs, gallery forests, and nearby rainforests in Guyana. Restricted to drier habitats of northern South America.

Chiroptera (*Phyllostomidae*)

Seba's Short-tailed Bat

(*Carollia perspicillata*)

Marapa
Tamaruo



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Medium-sized, brown furred bat with no distinctive features as seen in other genera of the noseleaf family. Hairs are tri-banded with dark bases and tips separated by a paler middle. Has a short tail about one-third of the length of the skin membrane between the hindlegs.

Habitat

In Guyana, found in rainforests, savannahs, gallery forests and dry forests up to 1,100 m in elevation. Occurs from eastern Mexico to northern Argentina.

Chiroptera (*Phyllostomidae*)

Orinoco Sword-nosed Bat

(*Lonchorhina orinocensis*)

Marapa

Tamaruo



Identification



Ridiculously long noseleaf and huge ears over an inch in length. Fur is brownish and fluffy. Long tail about equal to the head-body length and enclosed in an extensive skin membrane between the hindlegs.

Habitat

Mosaic of grasslands, forested hills, and granite outcrops. Endemic to the lowland savannahs in the Llanos of Venezuela and Colombia, and Rupununi of Guyana.

Chiroptera (*Phyllostomidae*)

Gervais's Fruit-eating Bat

(*Artibeus cinereus*)

Marapa

Tamaruo



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Small bat with white stripes above and below the eyes. Fur is brown and there is no tail. Pale yellowish edging on ears and noseleaf. A similar species (*Artibeus bogotensis*) is found less commonly in the Rupununi and has whitish edging.

Habitat

In Guyana, lowland dry forests, savannahs, and gallery forests, but usually not in deep rainforests. Found from eastern Venezuela to eastern Brazil.

Chiroptera (*Molossidae*)

Pallas's Mastiff Bat

(*Molossus molossus*)

Marapa
Tamaruo



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Tail extends past the skin membrane between the hindlegs, as do all species in the free-tailed bat family. Fur on the back is dark brown with the base of the hairs white. Fur on the belly is paler brown.

Habitat

Primarily found in lowland rainforests, dry forests, savannahs, and gallery forests, but also in highlands of Guyana. Distributed from Mexico to Argentina and the Lesser Antilles.

Chiroptera (*Noctilionidae*)

Lesser Bulldog Bat

(*Noctilio albiventris*)

Marapa
Tamaruo



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Large species of bat with jowl-like cheek pouches and big hindfeet. Short, reddish brown fur with a pale line down the middle of the back and paler belly. Subadults and juveniles greyer in colour, as also occurs in most other bat species.

Habitat

Lowland rainforests, dry forests, savannahs, and gallery forests in Guyana. Distributed from southern Mexico to northern Argentina.

Chiroptera (*Vespertilionidae*)

Thomas's Yellow Bat

(*Rhogeessa io*)

*Marapa
Tamaruo*



Identification

DD LC NT VU EN CR EX

Small bat with cinnamon brown fur on the back and paler belly. Tail more than half the length of the head-body and completely enclosed in the skin membrane between the hindlegs. Prominent gland on each side of the face above the upper lips.

Habitat

In Guyana, closely associated with lowland savannahs, gallery forests, and nearby rainforests. Occurs from Central America to Brazil.

Amazon River Dolphin

(*Inia geoffrensis*)

Powa



Identification



The largest species of river dolphin, weighing >200 kg. Body appears fat and heavy, though it is exceptionally maneuverable. Eyes are small but melon on forehead used for echolocation.

Habitat

Inhabits rivers, creeks, lakes, and floodplains in the Amazon and Orinoco river basins and their main tributaries. In Guyana, it is limited to the Takutu River (tributary of the Rio Branco) in Region 9.

Select Mammal Tracks



front



hind

Jaguar

Kaikusi | Baudokoru
(*Panthera onca*)



front



hind

Puma

Sariwara | Koshardin
(*Puma concolor*)



front



hind

Ocelot

Woronai | Wadyaran
(*Leopardus pardalis*)



front



hind

Crab-eating fox

Maikan | Waruzo
(*Cerdocyon thous*)



front



hind

Giant River Otter

Turara | Saaro
(*Pteronura brasiliensis*)



front



hind

Tayra

Araiwa | Koorau
(*Eira barbara*)

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Disclaimer: This book does not contain every known mammal that has been recorded in the Rupununi. It does contain all of the recorded species of large and medium-sized mammals however it does not include all of the recorded smaller species of mammals.

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**SWM SUSTAINABLE
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