

## NEWSLETTER November 2019 - January 2020

### SRCS Executive Team

Leroy Ignacio, PRESIDENT  
Angelbert Johnny, VICE PRESIDENT  
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 Operations  
Coordinator  
Eian Gray, Field and Logistics  
Assistant

### Special thanks to

Ministry of Education  
South Rupununi District Council  
Guyana Tourism Authority  
Tourism and Hospitality  
Association of Guyana  
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!

### SRCS won an award!

In December, SRCS won the Guyana Tourism Authority 2019 award for "Most Outstanding Contribution to Tourism by an NGO/ Volunteer Group". In addition, our President, Leroy Ignacio, won the award for "Best Senior Tour Guide" whilst our Senior Ranger, Asaph Wilson, received an honorable mention for "Best Emerging Tour Guide". Finally, our headquarters, Wichabai Ranch, won 2 awards for "New Tourism Product of the Year" and "Tourism Investment of the Year". Congratulations to all!



Top (1) A Giant Anteater roaming the Rupununi Savannas near Katoonarib Village  
From left (2) Maya de Freitas collecting an award for SRCS at the 2019 Guyanese Tourism Awards 3) Students from Macushi Primary tell Alyssa Melville what they have been learning at their end of term exhibition

## End of Term One Exhibition

To finish off the end of the first term of the environmental education curriculum, each school put on an exhibition for parents, community members and the SRCS team.

The students performed skits, poems, dances, songs and lots more to show everything they had learnt about plants and animals in the Rupununi. See more pictures on our website



#### Donors



#### Consortium partners



#### Implementation





## Project Updates

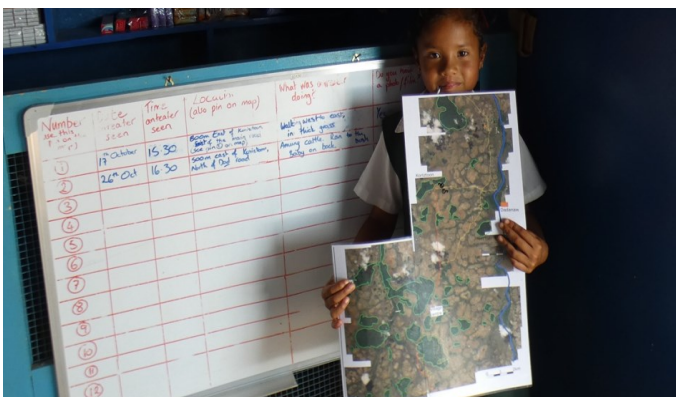


Students from Shea Primary School model their animal masks which they made for their end of Term One exhibition.

### Red Siskin Monitoring

Our rangers are continuing to monitor and protect the Red Siskin. Once a month the rangers 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? Our rangers would love to know if you have!



A young student from Katoonarib Village standing next to the village "Anteater Board" and holding a map of the village.

### Environmental Education Curriculum

Term Two of the Environmental Education Curriculum has now begun! This term, students will be learning all about their landscape. This will include lessons on different types of ecosystem (such as bush islands and wetlands), geology, hydrology and how to look after our environment.

Students will again be taking part in scientific activities which will involve finding out knowledge such as "how did Shea Rock get there?". At the same time, they will also do practical activities including making volcanoes, litter picks, scavenger hunts and lots more!

Are you interested in assisting the teachers with the lessons? Do you have traditional knowledge 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.



A great picture of a Red Siskin, caught in a mist net by one of our rangers. The bird was measured, banded and recorded before being released.

### Giant Anteater Research and Monitoring

Rangers in Katoonarib Village and Wichabai Ranch have been busy monitoring Giant Anteaters. They have set up a Giant Anteater board as well as a map in Katoonarib which villagers can add to every time they spot an Anteater.

The rangers have also been going out twice a week to see if they can discover how many Anteaters are in the area. They are able to do this as every Anteater has different features (e.g. the location of the stripe, the shape of the stripe) that allows rangers to tell them apart.

Finally, they have also set camera traps throughout the area to help estimate the number of Anteaters found around Katoonarib.

## Interesting Wildlife Facts!

**Rupununi Rattlesnake/Sakotakii/Patako** (*Crotalus durissus trigonicus*) - There are over 29 species of rattlesnake in the world and all of them are venomous from birth!

**Tiger Catfish/Koruzu/Kurutu** (*Pseudoplatystoma fasciatum*) - Tiger catfish have long whiskers which help them hunt for food!

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