



WWF

HIGHLIGHTS

GUI

2013

# WWF Guianas Highlights 2012



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The WWF Guianas programme in 2012 was co-funded by the following donors: WWF Netherlands, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Suriname, WWF International, GAA French Guiana (the French Ministry of Environment, French Ministry of Research and the European Union), WWF-France, WWF Belgium, FFEM (French Global Environment Fund), Riverbanks Zoo and Cedla/Gomiam. The WWF Marine Turtle Conservation Project is co-funded by WWF Netherlands and Adessium Foundation.



Front picture: Red howler monkey - *Alouatta macconnelli* - by Laurens Gomes.  
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# PREFACE

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Dear reader/supporter,

In 2012 WWF Guianas was able to consolidate its new program with new funding for the next 3-4 years. Despite the financial crisis worldwide, we were still able to conclude some very important donor contracts that will sustain the activities of WWF in the Guianas for the coming years. In July 2012 a 4.87 million USD contract was signed with the Dutch Embassy in Paramaribo, an important milestone in our progress towards conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development in the Guianas. Other important donors for the WWF Guianas program are WWF Netherlands (with substantial funding), WWF-France, WWF Belgium, WWF US/International and Adessium Foundation.

Meanwhile all WWF work in the Guianas has been aligned with the Global Program Framework of WWF Global. Terrestrial work is now aligned with the Living Amazon Initiative, which held his Amazon Shareholders Meeting in Paramaribo, beginning of May 2012. All work related to Marine Turtle Conservation is in line with WWF's Global Marine Turtle Conservation Strategy and the work related to sustainable fisheries is in line with WWF's Global Marine Program.

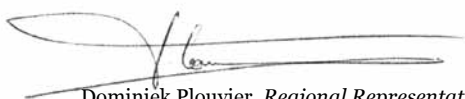
WWF Guianas finalized its Living Guianas report in 2012. The LGR report gives an overview of the state of biodiversity of the Guianas, compared to the ecological footprint. It is inspired by the WWF Global Report 'The Living Planet Report' which is released every 2 years and analyses the state of the planet. The Living Guianas report comes up with some new data on biodiversity and on the threats posed to the ecosystems. It concludes the region still holds a large potential for green development and gives some recommendations on how to implement green and sustainable economies in the 3 Guianas.

The main environmental problem in the Guianas remains illegal and uncontrolled activities, such as small scale gold mining and overfishing in the seas. Illegal and informal gold mining continuously threat the freshwater ecosystems and the potable water reserves of these countries. Every country has its different approach to tackle this problem, but so far none of these have been very successful, especially since the gold price continues to be very high on the world markets.

In Suriname WWF has brought the case of the Brownsberg National Park to the attention of the responsible Ministries and the media. With 23 illegal mining sites in the Park detected in March 2012, WWF has tried to bring down all partners (the main Ministries and the miners) together to come up with workable solutions to save this national monument. Slowly but surely, progress is being made. In Guyana WWF has contributed with CI and the Ministry of Natural Resources to find solutions to mitigate the impact of the extractive industries sector under the LCDS. Furthermore WWF has supported the newly erected Protected Areas Commission in Guyana and will continue to do so in the near future.

In French Guiana WWF has been very active in bringing the problem of illegal gold mining to the media and the public as a whole. Furthermore WWF looks for solutions with the Regional Assembly in French Guiana in order to find ways to trace gold and certify mercury-free and environmentally sound gold mining operations. Furthermore WWF Guyane and WWF France play a major role in bringing worldwide attention to the importance of certified gold through campaigns on Valentine's day, and events like RIO + 20.

I hope you enjoy this WWF publication which presents some highlights of our work in 2012.



*Dominiek Plouvier, Regional Representative WWF Guianas*



# THE LIVING GUIANAS REPORT 2012



Due to their low population figures (each country has far less than a million inhabitants), the Guianas are one of the few places on earth so far not included in WWF's international Living Planet Report.

This might change now that WWF Guianas published the Living Guianas Report. The report is a first exercise in replicating the Living Planet approach for the Guianas and providing a framework for recommendations on green economies for this unique region. The countries are part of the Amazon Biome and probably have one of the highest biodiversity figures in the world, together with a footprint that is still limited. The Guianas thus hold enormous potential for the future, however threats are appearing fast.

The Living Guianas Report contains some general and some more specific recommendations on how to make better choices for the future. It highlights many positive actions that are already being taken by the different countries, but also raises some questions and presents some broad recommendations on how to improve the economic development of the Guianas without compromising the needs of future. The report can be downloaded at: [www.wwfguianas.org/lgr](http://www.wwfguianas.org/lgr).

The report was made in collaboration with the Dutch Copernicus Institute and the footprint team of WWF-NL. It was financially supported by WWF-NL and WWF-France. The report was launched in Suriname during the ACP-EU parliamentary assembly in the country and received significant positive media attention.



Table 3: Number of species per taxon in the Guianas. Source: Millonoff and Reynolds, 2003; DGGS, 2006; Conservation International, 2003; Park et al., 2007.

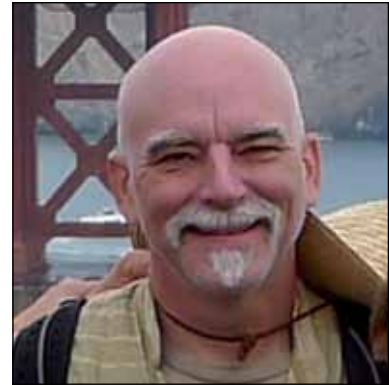
# MEET OUR NEW STAFF

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With the start of a new four year program, WWF Guianas was also able to recruit new, qualified and highly motivated staff members. Please meet them on this page; for a more extensive overview you're invited to visit [www.wwfguianas.org/about/wwfguianas](http://www.wwfguianas.org/about/wwfguianas).



Adrian Levrel (*Marine Officer-French Guiana*)



Chuck Hutchinson (*Protected Areas/REDD+ lead - Guyana*)



Marvin Behari (*Driver-Messenger, Suriname*)



Karin Bilo (*Regional Marine Conservation Coordinator-Suriname*)



Laurens Gomes (*Country Manager - Suriname*)



Marlyn Payne (*Office Manager-Guyana*)



Sofie Ruysschaert (*Biodiversity Officer-Suriname*)



Sopheia Edghill (*Marine Conservation Officer-Guyana*)

# INTERNATIONAL VISITS AND NEW CONTRACT WITH THE ROYAL DUTCH EMBASSY IN SURINAME

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## FEBRUARY 2012:

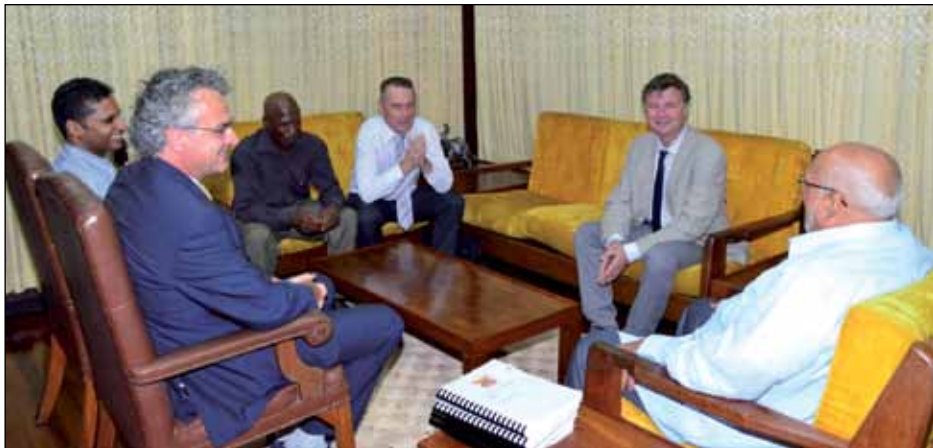
*Claudio Maretti, Roberto Troya and Dominiek Plouvier at the Living Amazone Initiative (LAI) meeting in Suriname.*



## NOVEMBER 2012:

*The CEO of WWF Netherlands and WWF Belgium had a meeting with the President of Guyana: His Excellency Mr Donald Ramotar (far right).*

*From far left to right: Shyam Nokta - Adviser to the President and Head of the Office of Climate Change Guyana; Johan van de Gronden - CEO WWF Netherlands; Patrick Williams - Country manager Guyana; Dominiek Plouvier - Regional Representative WWF Guianas; Geert Lejeune - Conservation Director WWF Belgium.*



## JULY 2012:

*Mr. Petri of the Royal Dutch Embassy of the Netherlands signed a 4,87 million USD funding contract with WWF Guianas.*

# PROTECTED AREAS AND SOUND LAND USE PLANNING

47.9%  
OF FRENCH GUIANA IS  
PROTECTED AREA

4  
IS THE NUMBER OF RAMSAR  
SITES IN THE GUIANAS, OF  
WHICH 1 IN SURINAME AND 3  
IN FRENCH GUIANA



14,758,000 Ha  
OF SURINAME (OR 95%) IS  
COVERED WITH PRIMARY  
FOREST. THIS IS THE HIGHEST  
REPORTED FOREST COVER  
OF ANY THE COUNTRY IN THE  
WORLD.

US \$250,000,000  
HAS BEEN OFFERED BY  
NORWAY TO GUYANA IN A  
GROUND BREAKING CARBON  
COMPENSATION DEAL.

Previous programs of WWF Guianas focused on stimulating the adoption of new Protected Areas and helping to maintain them. In the new program of WWF Guianas the discussions around new Protected Areas are becoming part of a larger debate on the way countries organize themselves: sound Land Use Planning. Elements of Land Use Planning are necessary in all other components of the new program of WWF Guianas: for a solid implementation of new protected areas, REDD+ and controlled Gold mining Land Use Planning is key.

Projects for the new theme of Land Use Planning have just been starting up in 2012, which is why the next overview is still on Protected Areas. For French Guiana, with 47.9% Protected Area, work in this theme is less intensive than on a prominent other theme: gold mining.

	Guyana*	Suriname*	French Guiana
<b>% Protected Area</b>	App 8.5%	App 14.6 %	App. 47.9%
<b>Ha Protected Area</b>	App 1,839,000	App 2,147,000	App 3,975,000
<b>Ramsar sites</b>	0	1	3

\* Guyana and Suriname  
both signed the Convention  
of Biological Diversity (CBD)  
which describes 17%  
Protected Area for each  
country by 2020



### **Guyana: Moving Forward**

2011 saw a breakthrough in Guyana's Protected Areas status; with the passage of the Protected Areas Act in October, followed by the announcement of two new PA's: Kanuku Mountains and Shell Beach.

Since the passage of the bill, several initiatives have been implemented to forward the process of creating and managing a National Protected Area System in Guyana. During 2012, The Board of Directors to the Protected Areas Commission (PAC), the Protected Areas Commission and a Conservation Trust Fund were established to advance this cause. As provided for in the PA Act, the PAC is responsible for managing, promoting and expanding the National Protected Areas System (NPAS) which is comprised of existing and new protected areas, such as Kaieteur National Park, Iwokrama Forest, Shell beach and the Kanuku Mountains, along with urban parks. The immediate focus of the PAC includes increasing awareness on PAs, working with key stakeholder groups to finalize management plans for specific PAs, spearheading an initiative to rehabilitate the National Park, Botanical Gardens and the Zoo spearheading an initiative to rehabilitate the National Park, Botanical Gardens and the Zoo within Georgetown and strategic planning for the entire system.

WWF Guianas has been engaged in several meetings with the newly formed PAC to discuss and outline areas of support to the Commission's work.

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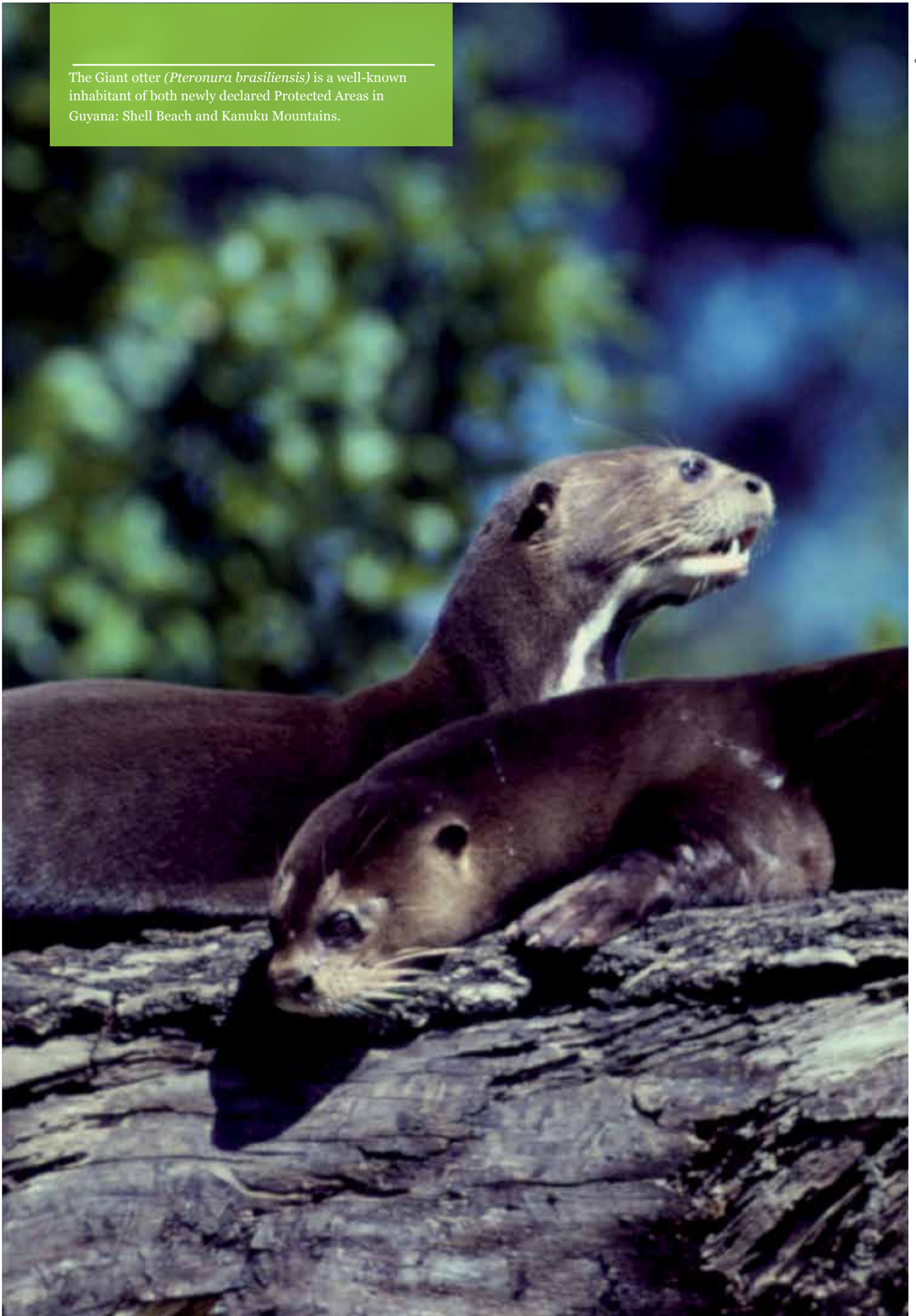
## **Guided by the “Sound Land-use Planning and Protected Areas Strategy” of WWF Guianas programme and, through consultations with the**

**PAC, WWF Guianas has officially** pledged technical and financial support for several initiatives including; Fund raising for the PA Trust fund, strategic planning and programme implementation of PAC, capacity building and PA awareness, PA System review and specific support to finalization of management plans and their implementation in Kaieteur and Shell Beach.

The appointment of Mr Charles Hutchinson, (WWF Guiana's Protected Area/REDD+ Lead) to the Guyana office in November 2012 would be critical to WWF's realizing its plan of support to the commission. Mr Hutchinson brings to the WWF Team a long standing career and experience in Protected Areas and REDD+, - He previously worked with CI-Suriname and in countries such as Ghana and South Africa. Since his appointment, he has been working closely with the PAC especially in the area of giving guidance in their strategic planning process.



The Giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) is a well-known inhabitant of both newly declared Protected Areas in Guyana: Shell Beach and Kanuku Mountains.



# KAIETEUR NATIONAL PARK – NON VOLANT MAMMALIAN RESEARCH

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In support of the management of Kaieteur National Park, WWF Guianas, in collaboration with the National Parks Commission (NPC) and the communities of Chenapou and Karisparu, conducted a biodiversity assessment of the Park. A team of local researchers and community members conducted a terrestrial biodiversity assessment at four locations in the park (Mure Mure, Amakwa, Elinku and Lower Potaro). This assessment sought to record the terrestrial biodiversity of the park with the aim of guiding future management actions.

While documentation of floral diversity of the park has been satisfactory, there has been little systematic research on faunal diversity and population trends and it was mostly limited to amphibian and volant mammal surveys. Approximately 80% of the research work conducted in the park prior to this assessment has been concentrated on areas around the falls and along the Potaro River.

Methodologies used in the past to determine non-volant mammalian diversity at Kaieteur were predominantly opportunistic sightings and interviews. One unpublished research used small live traps around the falls area to capture small mammals. There are no documented reports of camera trapping at Kaieteur National Park prior to this assessment.

THIS PIONEER RESEARCH ON NON-VOLANT MAMMALIAN DIVERSITY IN KAIETEUR NATIONAL PARK WILL CONTRIBUTE TO FUTURE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND CONTINUED RESEARCH IN THE PARK. WWF GUIANAS WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF KAIETEUR NATIONAL PARK.

A total of fifty eight (58) camera traps were setup in the four surveys areas of the park. These traps altogether were opened for 1066 trap nights. This survey methodology by camera trapping recorded the presence of the following fourteen (14) non-volant mammals; Tayra (*Eira Barbara*), Jaguarondi (*Herpailurus yagouaroundi*), South American coati (*Nasua nasua*), Ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*), Puma (*Puma concolor*), Savannah Fox (*Cerdocyon thous*), Red rumped agouti (*Dasyprocta leporine*), Paca (*Cuniculus paca*), Nine banded armadillo (*Dasybus novemcinctus*), Gray four- eyed opossum (*Philander opossum*), Red brocket deer (*Mazama Americana*), Grey brocket deer (*Mazama gouazopira*), Collard peccary (*Pecari tajacu*), and Brazilian tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*).

Slightly similar results have been obtained by researchers using camera traps to determine mammalian presence in the Emas National Park, Brazil with 16 and 17 species recorded over 1035 and 1849 trap days respectively.

None of the species recorded via camera traps are locally endangered or threatened, however the Brazilian tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) is listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened species.





Ocelot (*Leopardus pardalis*)



Savanna Fox (*Cerdocyon thous*)



Puma (*Puma concolor*)



Brazilian Tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*)



Grey Brocket Deer (*Mazama gouazoupira*)



Tyra (*Eira Barbara*)



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## OVERVIEW SURINAME

Suriname has a long history of nature conservation. Since the seventies of the previous century, the government started to designate, with the support of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), a formal protection status which nowadays sums up to app. 14.6% of the countries natural heritage (i.e. app. 2,147,000 ha), resulting in 17 protected areas (PA) that cover the variety of Suriname's spectacular landscapes. More than half of the PA belongs to category IV of the classification system of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), meaning that they are typically protected for valuable species or ecosystems..

The designation of protective borders around vulnerable ecosystems is a first step in the national nature conservation policy. Development of comprehensive management plans is needed for sustainable conservation of the natural environment and the ecosystem services it provides. Much work still has to be done in Suriname to meet the 2020 objective as formalized under the convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) of assigning and effectively managing 17% of total land surface in PA.

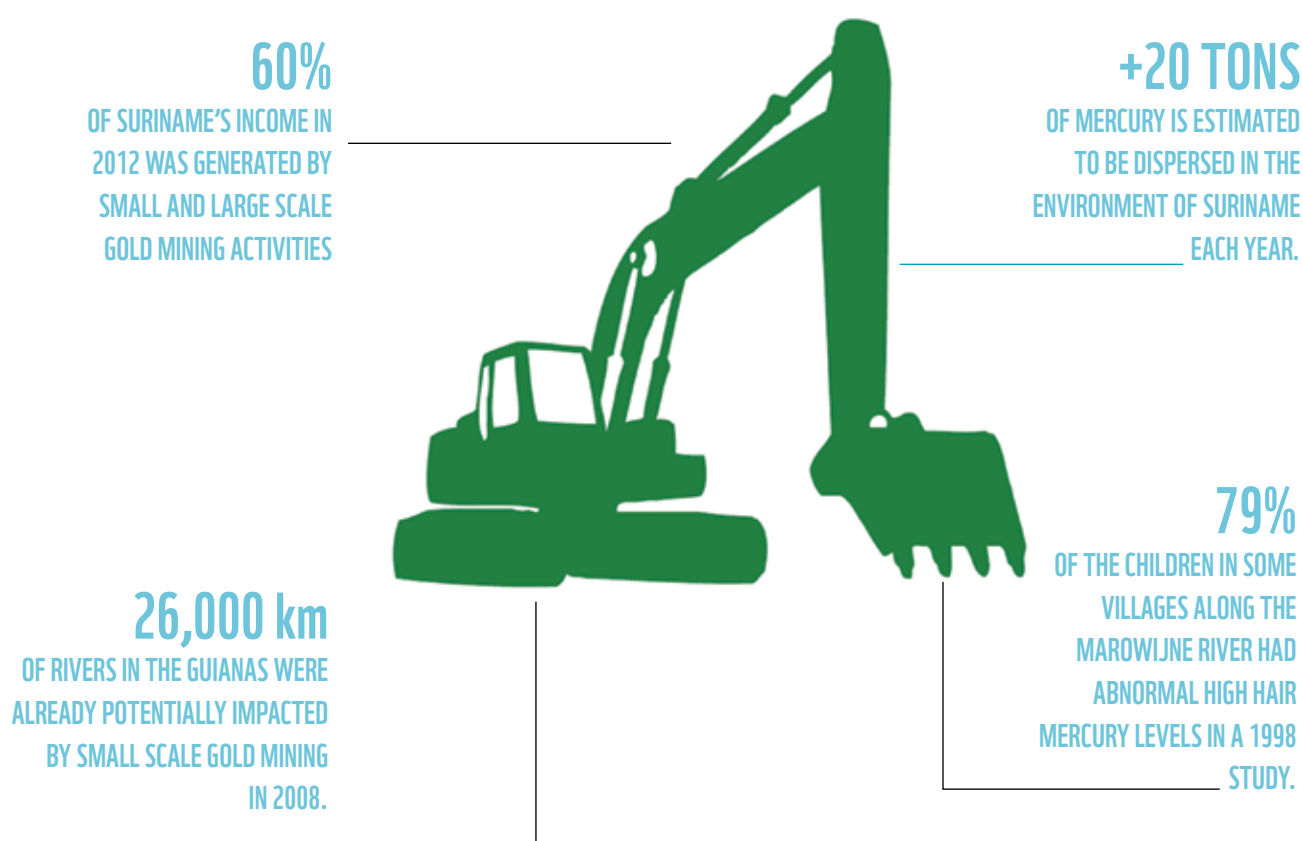
New developments continue to put pressure on the fragile ecosystems of the country, such as large infrastructure projects and extractive activities. In 2012, WWF Guianas has maintained her support to the government and her partners to improve the local PA policy and to find alternative solutions for current challenges, such as poaching of sea turtle eggs in the Galibi nature reserve and illegal small-scale gold mining in the Brownsberg National Park.

**In 2012, WWF Guianas continued to promote conservation, education, research and ecotourism in the Peperpot Nature Park and the surrounding Peperpot Nature Corridor, which is (since 2009) the first and only private PA in Suriname.**

The swamp forests of the former plantations in Peperpot are a hotspot of biodiversity in a fast urbanizing area. Nature education and ecotourism in this unique area close to Paramaribo are vital means to raise awareness for nature conservation in and outside PA in Suriname. WWF Guianas will actively support the development of a nature education and research Centre in Peperpot, where local and international people can meet to share and feed their common interest in nature, cultural history and PA.

# GOLD MINING POLLUTION ABATEMENT

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WWF Guianas -as the only NGO in the Guianas- has worked for ten years in the realm of Gold-mining Pollution Abatement through various efforts. This has led to a widespread awareness on the negative effects of mercury poisoning and the pollution of freshwater systems. In the new program of WWF Guianas, focus within the huge topic of Goldmining is especially on:

- Mercury impact research
- Mercury awareness and support for a ban on mercury use
- Gold mining in Protected Areas
- Gold traceability and certification



Gold mining in close proximity to the Irene falls of Brownsberg Nature Park.





# BROWNSBERG

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In the seemingly ideal pristine country of Suriname WWF Guianas delivered shocking evidence in March 2012 to Government officials of icon Park Brownsberg on the brink of devastation as a result of activities by (illegal) small scale gold miners. In a carefully conducted study, dozens of active mining pits in Protected Area Brownsberg Nature Park were documented with photographs and video. The footage included the GPS-coordinates of each mining pit. Photographs were made during both a fly-over and extensive on ground visits to the mining areas.

The Brownsberg Nature Park (IUCN category II Protected Area) is one of Suriname's icon Parks and internationally renowned for its unique biodiversity. Each year tens of thousands of national and international visitors enjoy the famous falls in the Park, some of which now lay only a few meters away from the gold mining activities. Small scale miners in the Guianas are notorious for their wide scale and largely unmanaged use of mercury, an element which is readily dispersed and absorbed into the environment, most notably soil, water, and sediment, thus severely threatening nearby streams and rivers.

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**Brownsberg Nature Park has always been considered a model for Green Economy dynamics: a place where unique biodiversity could be enjoyed and preserved through tourism.**

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For this reason, WWF Guianas has, since 1999, invested more than a million US dollars in the Nature Park's infrastructure and management. However, despite this investment, destruction of the Brownsberg Nature Park has been steadily progressing since 2007. WWF Guianas has been acutely aware of this and has repeatedly been alerting the Government of Suriname of this.

With gold prices rising dramatically in the last decade, so has infestation by small scale gold mining activities in all 3 of the Guianas, with the corresponding environmental damage. Full impact and consequences for the Brownsberg Park and its visitors have yet to be determined, but counteracting the damage to the pristine tropical rain forest will presumably cost millions of dollars and take many, many years.

The current government of Suriname has recently installed a high level commission to lead intensive measures against illegal gold mining and its impacts on the environment. WWF Guianas is determined to support this commission by -amongst other things- providing technical advice and monitoring progress of the crucial restructuring and rehabilitation process that will determine the fate of Brownsberg Nature Park over the next few years. One thing is certain: the future administering team of the Brownsberg will determine the chances of successful recovery of the Park.

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## BETTER GOLD TRACEABILITY AFTER MINING

Three years after the WWF study<sup>1</sup> revealing that between 2002 and 2008, 22 tons of gold exported from French Guiana had non-traceable origins, the legal framework has made an important step forward. As of 2012, all gold buyers must keep an official register of the individuals who sell the gold, including details about the company when the case applies. In French Guiana, this means that refiners will know in detail which miners provide their gold and what part of the production they account for. Thanks to the new regulation, clandestine gold miners can no longer launder their production through the local gold-buying agencies in French Guiana.

By moving towards a better gold traceability, French Guiana gold production gains in credibility. More than 95% of the gold on the world market today has no known origin, and is very much likely to have been extracted or traded illegally. Illegal gold is produced because it can easily be sold, and laundered, before it officially becomes a bullion, or a ring. Therefore, combating illegal gold mining means distinguishing, well-before the “ring stage”, the legal production from the illegal one.

**95%**  
OF THE GOLD ON THE WORLD  
MARKET IS  
OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN



<sup>1</sup> WWF, 2009. *From mine to showcase.*



*The side event (with guests from Brasil, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, French Guiana).*



*'Call for the Amazon', with CEO Serge Orru from WWF-France and Claudio Maretti, Leader of the Living Amazon Initiative.*

## CALL FOR THE AMAZON

The RIO+20 Conference in Brasil was the opportunity for several organisations to gather around a side-event and exchange on “Small-scale Gold Mining in the Amazon: Socio-Environmental Issues and Opportunities for Regional Change”. These organisations noted that, despite some efforts in many countries to mitigate the environmental footprint and maximise benefit-sharing from gold extraction, several parts of the Amazon are experiencing a gold rush with dramatically increasing environmental and social impacts. The threat is particularly noticeable in and around protected areas, fragile rivers and sensitive areas for the long-term conservation and health of the Amazon region and its people.

Supported by FFEM, WWF and COICA launched a Call for the Amazon, asking Amazonian governments to

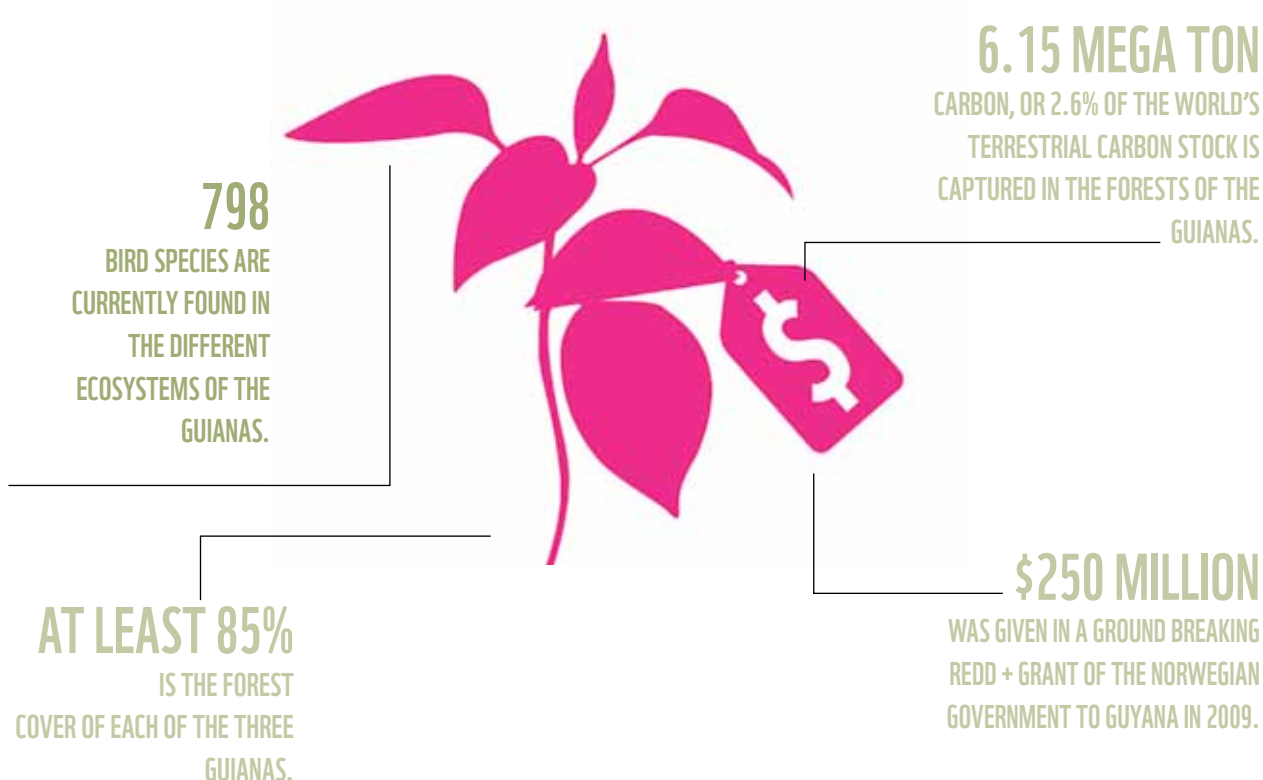
1. stop gold-mining occurring in protected areas and Indigenous Lands;
2. ensure that all gold-mining operations follow the highest standards regarding human rights, labour conditions, environmental management and relationship with local communities;
3. promote and implement sound land-use planning, environmentally benign gold-mining practises, habitat restoration, and effective and transparent governance of all mining permits;
4. guarantee the legal origin of the gold bought, traded and stored by State organisations through national and regional gold traceability schemes.

The Call for the Amazon is the first example of a clear message to governments on mining issues, integrating social and environmental concerns at Amazon scale.



# PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

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## THE TROPICAL RAINFORESTS

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of the three Guianas contribute to 6,5% of the Amazon and 3% of the Tropical Rainforests worldwide. All three countries still have a forest cover of over 85%, although pressures (especially small scale gold mining) are appearing. The Guiana Rainforests store vast amounts of carbon, an increasingly important fact in the international climate change discussions.

REDD+ has become an increasingly important theme for the Guianas in the last years, especially with the ground breaking \$250 million grant of the Norwegian government to Guyana in 2009. This grant boosted the Low Carbon Development Strategy in Guyana -led by former President Bharrat Jagdeo- even further.



# REDD+

In 2012 WWF Guianas published an extensive overview of the state-of-the-art of REDD+ in the Guianas.

## REDD+ DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GUIANAS

The evolution of the concept and activities  
undertaken in Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana

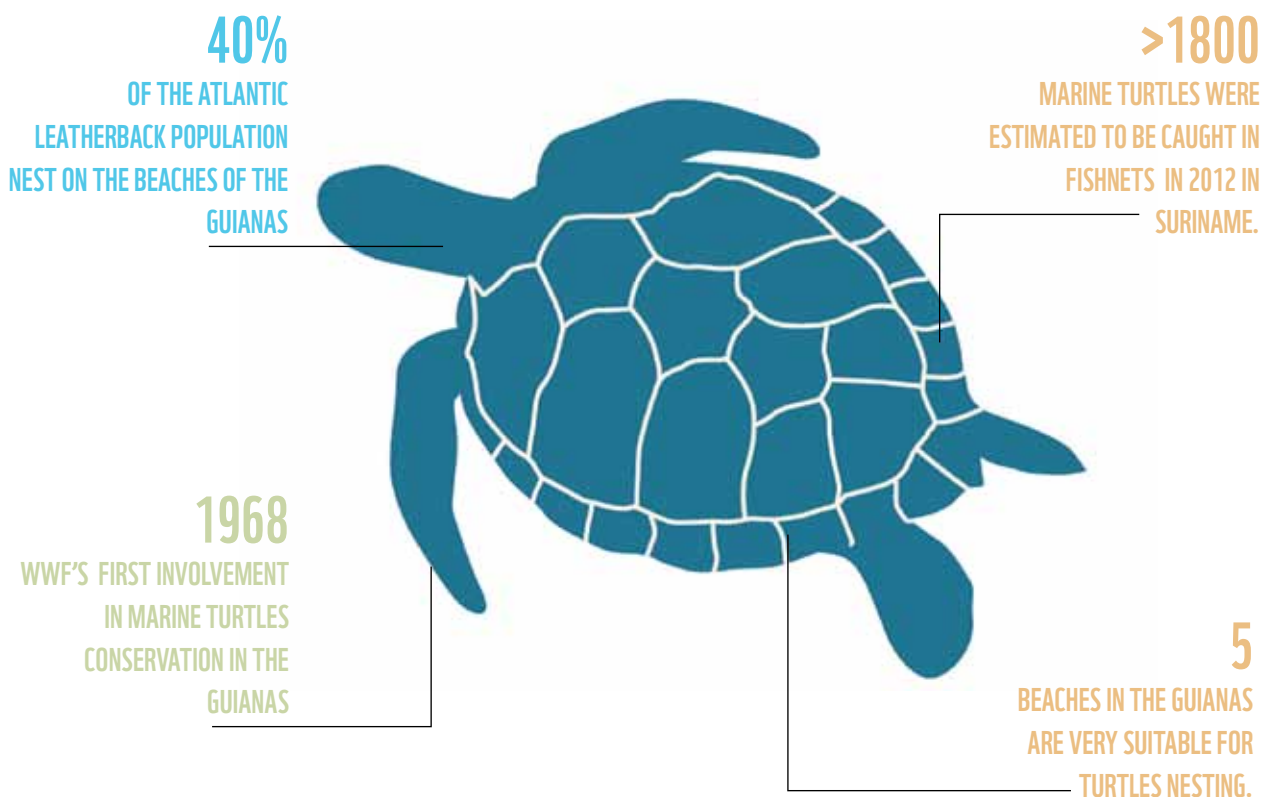
## DEVELOPMENT OF AWARENESS MATERIAL TO ENTER R-PIN.

The three Guianas are considered High Forest cover, Low Deforestation (HFLD) countries and their rainforests are storing vast amounts of carbon. The idea of marketing this carbon is relatively new and requires a fair indication of the actual amount of carbon stored. WWF Guianas is supporting the governments of the Guianas in building (in Suriname) and solidifying (in Guyana) the foundation for carbon trade.

In Suriname the Climate Compatible Development Agency (CCDA) was supported by WWF Guianas with a US \$25,000 grant to develop an awareness strategy for the general public and forest people on REDD+.



# MARINE TURTLES OF THE GUIANAS



The murky waters and remote beaches of the Guianas may not be very popular amongst tourists, but the relatively undisturbed coast provides ideal nesting sites for marine turtles. Four of the seven marine turtle species nest on the beaches of the Guianas; among them 40% of the critically endangered Atlantic leatherback turtle population and large numbers of green turtles.



## INTRODUCTION TO MARINE TURTLES OF THE GUIANAS

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Four of the seven marine turtle species come to the Guianas to lay their eggs. Some of the most important nesting beaches in the world for leatherbacks (*Dermochelys coriacea*) are found near the mouth of the Maroni River that separates Suriname from French Guiana. The Guiana beaches also provide important nesting sites for green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), the olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and some hawksbills (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

These marine turtles species are listed as either critically endangered, endangered or threatened and continue to face a number of threats. Major threats are poaching of turtle eggs and meat, bycatch of adults in fisheries, predation of the eggs by dogs and erosion of the nesting beaches.

WWF Guianas works in close collaboration with the government and local communities to support marine turtle conservation and research. The main area of work is the reduction of poaching, the mitigation of bycatch and education of local communities and youth.

There are five main nesting beaches in the Guianas: Awala Yalimapo and Cayenne in French Guiana, Galibi and Matapica in Suriname and Shell Beach in Guyana.





## THE UNIQUE, DYNAMIC BEACHES OF THE GUIANAS

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The Caribbean is celebrated by many tourists for its white beaches, coral reefs and crystal clear waters. The Guianas coast looks vastly different; murky waters, large mudflats, mangroves and patches of sandy beaches shape the seashore. The nutrient rich mud of the Amazon is carried from east to west by the Guiana current, coloring the waters and creating a unique ecosystem. The Guiana current seasonally creates and washes away mudflats and stretches of sandy beach. While the Guianas coast attracts fewer tourists, it attracts numerous nesting marine turtles every year. The highly dynamic, and relatively undisturbed, sandy beaches of the Guianas provide ideal nesting sites for marine turtles, as indicated by the large numbers of nesting leatherbacks and greens.

At the beginning of each nesting season, WWF conducts an aerial survey to determine where the suitable nesting sites are located this year. As the sandy beaches may shift up to two kilometers per year, it is important to understand where marine turtles may come to nest and where monitoring and enforcement activities need to be developed.

In 2012, a new, remote nesting site for greens was identified east of the Awala-Yalimapo beach, the so-called “Aztèque” beach. An estimated 3000 green turtle nests were laid on this beach, the greatest number among the three sites monitored that year.

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THE MUDDY WATERS OF THE GUIANAS DO NOT ATTRACT MANY TOURISTS, COMPARED TO THE REST OF THE CARIBBEAN. HOWEVER, THE PATCHES OF SANDY BEACHES PROVIDE FOR A UNIQUE SETTING FOR MARINE TURTLE NESTING.

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## BYCATCH

Marine turtles are highly migratory species; between two nesting seasons they travel across the oceans in search of food. As they travel from nesting beaches to foraging grounds and back again, they encounter all types of threats, including fisheries. Marine turtles are reptiles and must come to the surface to breathe every hour; turtles that are entangled or trapped in fishing gear may eventually drown. Considering that turtles mature slowly (sexually mature at the age of 12) and may be fertile up to 40 years, the death of an adult turtle, especially female, represents a huge loss in potential offspring, with significant impacts on the endangered population.

1828

**SURINAME:  
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF  
TURTLES ACCIDENTALLY  
CAPTURED IN 2012:**

Based on a bycatch survey conducted in Suriname. No provisions have been made for illegal fishing, this number is likely underestimated.



© PHOTO: TONY MALOVIC

## FRENCH GUIANA

**THE ORGANIZATION CNRS  
(CENTRE NATIONAL DE  
RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE  
-NATIONAL SCIENTIFIQUE  
RESEARCH CENTER;  
PARTLY FUNDED BY WWF)  
FOUND THAT 20% OF THE  
LEATHERBACK TURTLES SEEN  
IN YALIMAPO HAD INJURIES  
RELATED TO BY-CATCH.**

Fishing effort in the Guianas has increased over the years. More boats and bigger and longer nets lead to increased interactions between marine turtles and fisheries. To reduce bycatch of marine turtles, Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) are used by shrimp trawlers in Suriname and Trash and Turtle Excluder Devices (TTEDs) are used in the shrimp fishery in French Guiana.

The TED is expected to reduce turtle bycatch considerably if the metal grid is properly installed in the nets. The grid acts as a barrier for turtles, and other large animals, from passing through the bars into the back of the net and allows the turtles to escape when caught in the shrimp trawl nets. In French Guiana, the TED has been developed further into the TTED which further reduces the bycatch of fish, sharks and rays.

In collaboration with fishers from the fish trawl sector in Suriname a flexible cable TED was tested; the cable TED is expected to result in turtle bycatch reduction, but further development and testing of this device is required.

WWF Guianas continues to collect detailed data on bycatch in artisanal fisheries to identify solutions to marine turtle bycatch and mortality. Based on the results of bycatch monitoring programs, specific modifications in gear and practice can be recommended to fishers.

The only leatherback from 2012 that is still transmitting a signal is Rosa, the female on the far left of the map. She was nesting on Shell Beach in Guyana in May 2012. Rosa chose to nest between the low and high tide boundaries, which means that the nest would be flooded as the tide comes in, which will reduce the chances of successful hatching. The team of the Guyana Marine Turtle Conservation Society (funded by WWF) moved her eggs to a higher location so that the eggs would have a better chance at successful hatching. GMTCS placed a satellite transmitter on Rosa to determine her migration route.

The interesting thing about Rosa is that she does not follow the expected migration route; she has travelled over 7000 km, but chose a unique direction. As can be seen on the map, most leatherbacks cross the Atlantic Ocean to the cold waters in Canada, where jellyfish are abundant and leatherback can feed in preparation for the next reproduction.

However, Rosa chose to stay in the warm Caribbean waters and has been foraging in front of Honduras. This has not been seen before in the leatherbacks that nest in the Guianas. It is crucial to assess migration patterns and understand the behavior of the turtles so we can develop effective regional conservation activities aimed at protecting marine turtles during different life stages on land and at sea.

## TRACKING TURTLES

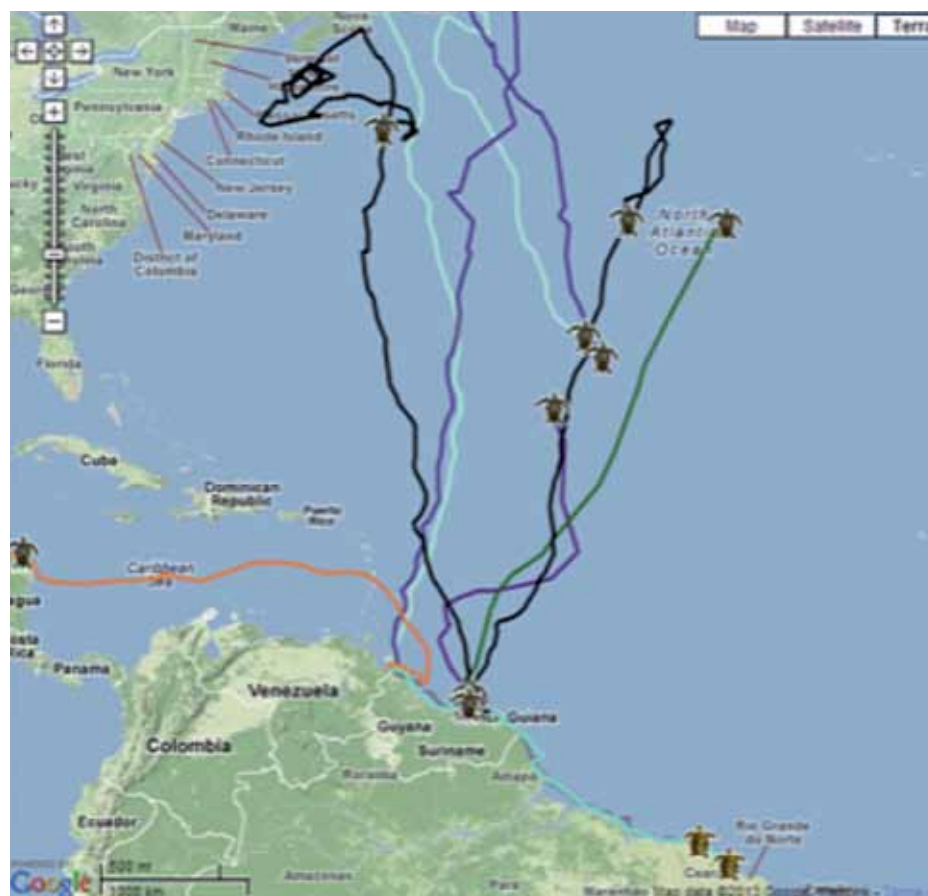
To assess marine turtle behavior and migration and to identify the feeding grounds of the turtles nesting in the Guianas, WWF Guianas has placed 21 satellite transmitters on leatherbacks and greens in 2012. An important contribution was made by the CARET 2 program, under which 16 transmitters were deployed on green turtles, 8 in French Guiana and 8 in Suriname.

As can be seen on the map, leatherbacks cross the Atlantic Ocean into the cold Canadian waters, while greens nesting in the Guianas stay closer to the coast and migrate to Brazilian waters to feed.

The satellite information can be used to map potential interactions with fisheries. A no fishing zone in front of Galibi and a no netting zone in front of Shell Beach are in effect during the turtle season. The satellite information may help to establish a network of seasonally closed areas.

Additional information on inter nesting behavior will be collected in the coming years to better understand how marine turtles may overlap with oil and gas exploration activities during the nesting season.

All of the tracks are available online and can be accessed through: [www.conserveturtle.org/wwf](http://www.conserveturtle.org/wwf)





## MONITORING THE BEACHES

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WWF Guianas works closely together with government, local communities and local NGOs to conduct beach patrols and to monitor nesting of the marine turtle species that frequent the shores of the Guianas.

The monitoring activities do not only provide valuable information but the presence of the monitoring teams on the beach also deters poachers.

In response to an increase in the number of turtles attacked and killed by jaguars, WWF Guianas placed camera traps to observe the jaguars on the beach. The camera images revealed a remarkable sight; instead of seeing jaguars in actions, there were images of poachers with bags full of eggs roaming the beach.



*A patrol team monitoring the beach of Galibi.*

## SAVE THE EGGS

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### HATCHERIES

In Guyana, the turtle patrollers relocate turtle nests that are laid under the flood line, of which the eggs will not survive. The eggs are placed higher up the beach or in hatcheries. Nests in hatcheries are monitored during the season and the hatchlings are safely released when the time is there.

## POACHING

Poaching remains a problem, especially in Suriname. Turtle eggs are considered a delicacy by especially the Javanese community. The beaches are patrolled and poaching is illegal by law, but poachers continue to find their way to the beach. Since the demand for eggs remains, WWF has looked at ways to influence consumers through education and awareness and improved control and enforcement on the demand side.

### RELOCATION OF EGGS TO HATCHERY



### RELEASING OF HATCHLINGS FROM HATCHERY



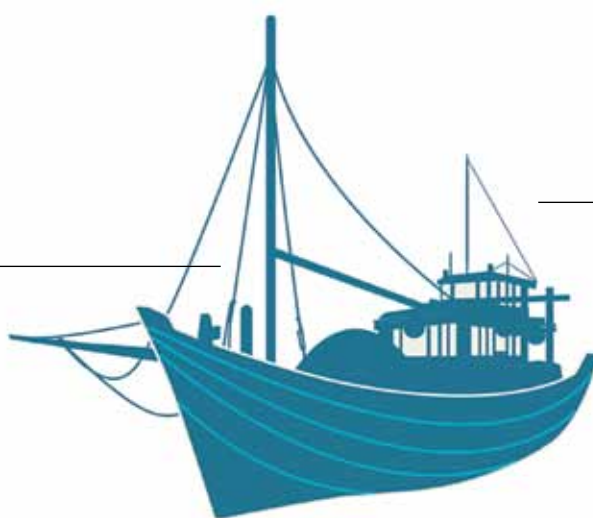
# SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

75%

OF THE SHRIMP TRAWLER FLEET IN 2000 WAS REDUCED BY 2010, DUE TO DECLINING STOCKS.

60%

OF ALL FISH CAUGHT IN FRENCH GUIANESE WATERS IS ILLEGAL.



+5KM

IS OFTEN THE LENGTH OF THE GILLNETS IN THE WATERS OF THE GUIANAS. THIS IS THREE TIMES LONGER THAN PRESCRIBED BY THE FISHING LICENCE.

ALL

SHRIMP TRAWLERS IN FRENCH GUIANA AND SURINAME USE TURTLE EXCLUDER DEVICES (TED'S).

With the Guianas coasts being a biodiversity hotspot for many species, coastal fisheries is an important part of the economy of the Guianas. However, the sector is not well managed. There are clear indications of depletions of stocks and illegal fishing in coastal waters is a persistent problem. In the coming years WWF Guianas will help governments and fishers in their quest for sustainable fisheries development. The fisheries program requires strong regional collaboration between governments and WWF Guianas sees her role accordingly.



## FUNDING SECURED FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

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In 2012, a contract with the Dutch Embassy was signed to work towards ecosystem based fisheries management, traceable production and improved fishers livelihoods.



## ILLEGAL FISHERIES IN FRENCH GUIANA

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In 2012, a study on illegal fishing in French Guiana was published by Ifremer (French marine scientific institute). The report concludes that fish production by illegal Surinamese and Brazilian boats is at least two times higher than the legal local production. The report confirms what has been known for many years. The release of the report sparked a heated debate on regional fisheries management and offshore enforcement to combat IUU. The study generated international media attention and WWF will use the results of the report to urge neighboring governments to take a strong stance against IUU fishing.

# EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

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## 5 + 1 THEMES

WWF GUIANAS' WORK FOCUSES ON FIVE THEMES: LAND-USE PLANNING AND PROTECTED AREAS, PAYMENT FOR FOREST CARBON AND OTHER SERVICES, GOLD MINING POLLUTION ABATEMENT, MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES. COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION IS AN OVERARCHING THEME IN ALL ACTIVITIES.



15

IS THE NUMBER OF YEARS WWF GUIANAS HAS BEEN WORKING ON ENVIRONMENTAL THEMES OF THE REGION.

2,000,000

INHABITANTS OF THE GUIANAS ARE THE POTENTIAL AUDIENCE FOR WWF'S EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS.

**WWW.  
WWFGUIANAS.  
ORG**

IS THE WWF GUIANAS WEBSITE.

Education and Awareness have always been an important pillar in the work of WWF Guianas. The symbol chosen to indicate our Education and Awareness activities shows the earth and its nature, laying in our hands.

## EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

WWF has recognized that there is a need from the general public to become more cognizant about environmental issues. We especially believe that children are the future of our generation and it's best to instill the knowledge of conservation in them, so they will be aware of their environment and intern share such knowledge in their homes.

In 2012 a lot was done on Marine Turtle education; with three Marine Turtle information points launched in Guyana and Suriname, a permanent turtle exhibit within the Guyana National Museum, billboards in collaboration with three villages along the Moruca Northwest area in Guyana and the Marine Turtle month in Suriname.

Displayed at the museum and Turtle Information Points are a life sized hawksbill and leatherback sculpture which the general public is able to have a clear idea of what the turtle looks like in reality. In addition, turtle books, posters and promotional materials were distributed at all events to the general public.



*Above: Streaming video highlighting marine turtle projects undertaken by WWF Guianas and section of the museum in Guyana displaying photos of marine activities and life sized hawksbill sculpture.*

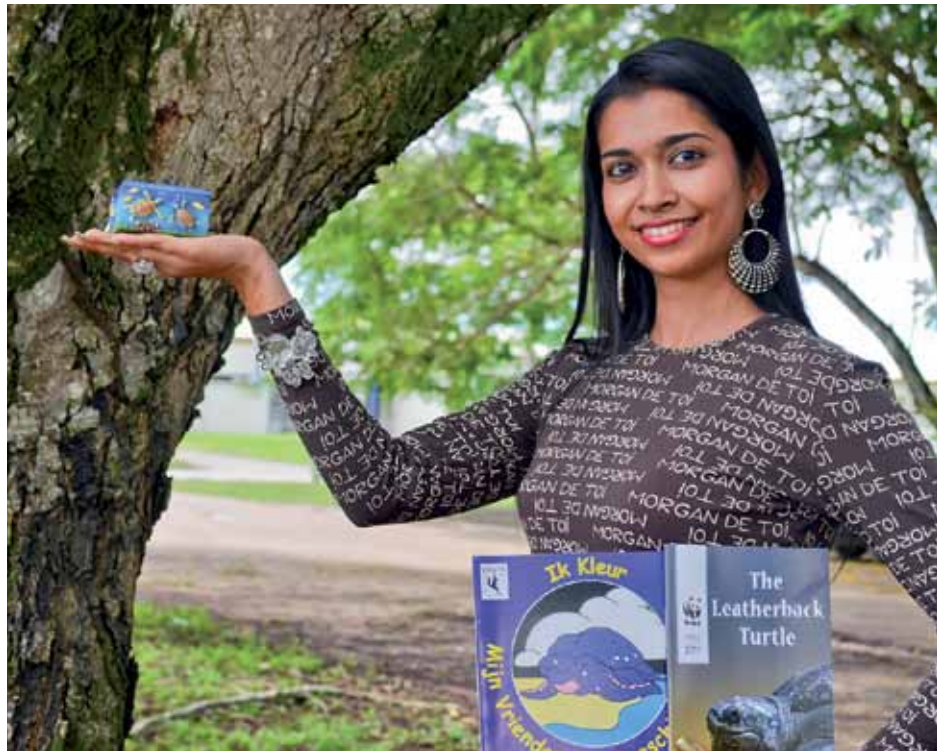


*Right: Turtle Information point in Nickerie, Suriname.*



## MAY 2012: MARINE TURTLE MONTH.

*Miss India Suriname 2012 became ambassador for the Marine Turtles and was seen in TV shows, advertisements, the Turtle workshop for the scouts and at the Children's book festival. Above: Children's Book festival in Suriname. Left: World Animal Day in the Paramaribo Zoo.*



*Right and below:  
Children's Book festival in  
Suriname.*

*World Animal Day in the  
Paramaribo Zoo.*



To increase the appreciation for the incredible biological diversity of the Guianas, educational material and events are developed and organized on a continuous basis throughout the year.

On the next two pages an impression of material and events that particularly stood out because of the enthusiasm they received.

*One of the four new posters displaying a selection of the 735 Birds of Suriname.*



*An educational meeting with all 'green' shareholders in Suriname received great appreciation. Educational material was shared and amazement on the wealth of available information was shared by all.*



*World Forest Day turned out to be an occasion to take the scouts into the forests and train them with additional survival skills. The training was done by the Army.*



*World Wetlands Day is generally an activity with school children, educating them on the value of wetlands, in a playful way with games and quizzes.*



*Impression of Earth Hour in the Guianas.*





# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW CALENDAR YEAR 2012 OF THE WWF GUIANAS PROGRAMME (PERIOD JANUARY - DECEMBER 2012)

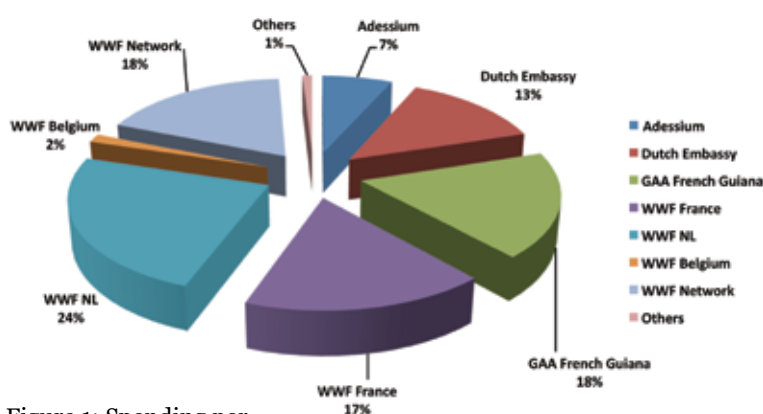


Figure 1: Spending per donor WWF Guianas 2012

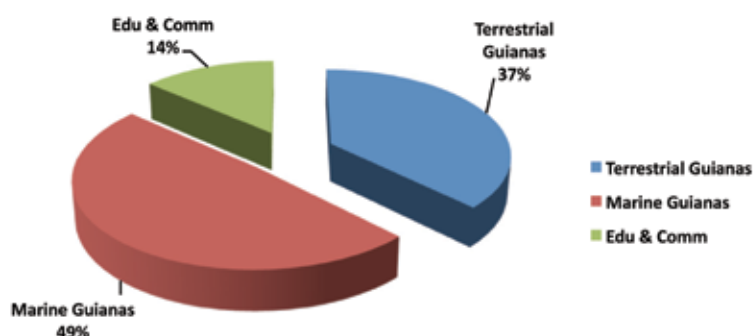


Figure 2: Spending per theme for calendar year 2012

Figure 1 shows the contribution of the different donors to the WWF Guianas Programme for calendar year 2012. WWF Netherlands is the major donor with a contribution of 24% in 2012, followed by WWF Network and GAA French Guiana with 18%, WWF France with 17% and The Dutch Embassy with 13%. In the contribution of WWF Network is included support from WWF international through Levy and WWF US. In GAA French Guiana is included the contribution of the French Ministry of Environment, French Ministry of Research and the European Union.

Adessium contributed 7% to our 2012 activities followed by WWF Belgium with 2% and Other donors such as Riverbanks Zoo, FFEM and Cedla/Gomiam with 1%. In 2012 our focus was on the finalization of the Guianas Sustainable Resources Management Project 2008-2012 (GSNRM) and fundraising for the new WWF- Guianas program for the coming 3-4 years. Three (3) major contracts for the coming 3-4 years were signed with respectively: WWF-NL for Eur 2,130,000, WWF Belgium for Eur 300,000 and the Royal Dutch Embassy for USD 4,867,500.

Figure 2 gives an overview of the spending for the different themes for 2012. The total spending for 2012 is USD 2.5 Million and was spent under the following components:

1. Terrestrial Guianas (includes the subcomponents Land use Planning & Protected Areas, Carbon and Goldmining)
2. Education & Communications
3. Marine Guianas
4. Operations (including salaries)

In calendar year 2012 our focus was to finalize our major project, the Guianas Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project 2007-2012 and the preparation of the proposal for the Royal Dutch Embassy. The low spending for 2012 was a result of the following activities: finalization of the GSNRM project, fundraising activities for the coming 4 years, the start of the new program in 2012 and the recruitment of new staff for the offices in Suriname, Guyana and French Guiana. Having the necessary staff in place we anticipate that in the coming years our spending will increase as projected.

**WWF GUIANAS**  
**REGIONAL OFFICE-SURINAME**  
Henck Arronstraat 63,  
Suite D + E  
Paramaribo, Suriname  
Tel.: (597) 422 357  
Fax: (597) 422 349  
E-mail: [wwf@wwf.sr](mailto:wwf@wwf.sr)  
[www.wwfguianas.org](http://www.wwfguianas.org)

**GUYANAS**  
285 Irving Street  
Queenstown, Georgetown,  
Guyana  
Tel.: (592) 223-7802  
Fax: (592) 223-7801

**FRENCH GUIANA**  
Lottisement Katoury 5  
Route Montabo 97300  
Cayenne, French Guiana  
Tél./Fax: (594) 594 31 38 28  
P.O.Box: WWF BP 617  
97334 Cayenne Cedex  
E-mail: [guyane@wwf.fr](mailto:guyane@wwf.fr)

## 5 + 1 THEMES

WWF Guianas' work focuses on five themes: Land-Use Planning and Protected Areas, Payment for Forest Carbon and other Services, Gold mining Pollution Abatement, Marine Turtle Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries; Communication and Education is an overarching theme for all activities.

## 1968

WWF is present since 1968. The Guianas office in Paramaribo has been established in 1998.

## + 9.0 MILLION EURO

WWF Guianas' new four-year program has a total value of over 9.0 million euro divided among the three Guianas.



## 26 EMPLOYEES

WWF Guianas has a staff of 26 employees, who work together with countless supporters, volunteers, grantees, consultants, partner organizations and government institutions.