



WWF

HIGHLIGHTS

GUI

2013

WWF-Guianas Highlights 2013





WWF-Guianas Highlights 2013

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Cover photo: Male Tufted Coquette (*Lophornis ornatus*) in French Guiana
This striking hummingbird is seven centimetres long and found in all three Guianas.
© Michel Giraud-Audine

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The WWF 2013 programme was co-funded by The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Suriname, WWF-Netherlands, WWF-Belgium, WWF-France, WWF International, WWF-US, and the European Union.

The WWF Marine Turtle Conservation project is co-funded by WWF-Netherlands, the Adessium Foundation, the PO Amazonie, FEDER, DEAL, the CNES, the MEDDE and Région Guyane.



FOREWORD



Dominiek Plouvier

© WWF-Guianas

The role of WWF is quite simply to save the planet whilst supporting sustainable development. Nowhere is this more important than in the Guianas. Our work covers almost 10% of the Amazon biome – perhaps the single most important forest block on the planet – and whose future is critical in the fight to maintain the world’s biodiversity and to reduce the impact of climate change, which is fuelled in great part by the loss of tropical forests.

WWF-Guianas covers two independent countries, Guyana and Suriname, plus an overseas territory of France, French Guiana. While WWF has had a presence in Suriname since the 1960s helping to save marine turtles, a regional office covering the three Guianas was only created in Paramaribo in 1998. WWF was originally set up in Europe and the US, but for several years there has been a clear momentum at the highest level to go “truly global”, implying more investment in, and independence of, the countries in the global South and East, whilst increasing their decision-making power within the overall organization. Over the last year WWF-Guianas has taken some important steps to become more “truly global” by strengthening its overall team in the three Guianas and consolidating a solid funding base. In the coming years national advisory boards will be set up in each country to strengthen even more the voice of the Guianas and its people in the WWF network.

Worldwide, the Guianas are critically important nesting sites for the leatherback, green and olive ridley turtles. As in every year, major work was carried out in the three Guianas to help the governments and communities to save these nesting grounds and to fight against poaching and (illegal) consumption of turtle eggs. We continue to build on major research, started several years ago, on the impact of turtle by-catch by different kinds of fisheries equipment, and important gains have already been made.

In Guyana, major work was carried out in 2013 in support of the newly formed Protected Areas Commission, particularly in the management of the Kaieteur National Park. Furthermore, an important biodiversity assessment was carried out in the Southern Rupununi, with a large team of international and national scientists that led to the discovery of some species new to science. A book on the wetlands of Guyana, produced by WWF and local scientists, was launched during a Ramsar Secretariat mission to Guyana. Guyana has not yet signed up to this Convention, and it is hoped that this book will highlight the importance of these freshwater resources and encourage them to do so. In Suriname, 2013 saw further investments in the Peperpot Nature Park, with the funding of the first phase of the Peperpot Discovery Centre, aimed at providing nature education for children and adults in Suriname, as well as boosting ecotourism close to Paramaribo. WWF also helped government efforts in tackling climate change through supporting the REDD Readiness Preparation process. In French Guiana, WWF was instrumental in moving civil society to take a firm stand against illegal gold mining in Parc Amazonien and elsewhere. Further investments, in collaboration with partners, are directed at establishing mechanisms to allow for the tracing of gold – a critical step in moving towards certification. Gold mining is still by far the most important environmental threat in all three Guianas, and WWF’s role is to help show the negative effects of uncontrolled mining, and freshwater pollution in particular, as well as looking for lasting solutions. A film, *Amazon Gold*, showing the devastation due to small scale gold mining in Peru, was aired in all three Guianas and provoked high interest and debates in civil society.

Each year, WWF-Guianas publishes its Annual *Highlights* to showcase what the organization has done to protect nature and promote sustainable development. We hope you enjoy it, and want to remind you that more detailed and regularly updated information can be found on our website www.wwfguianas.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Plouvier', written over a horizontal line.

Dominiek Plouvier, Regional Representative WWF-Guianas

PROTECTED AREAS AND SOUND LAND-USE PLANNING

77-98%
OF THE SURFACE OF THE
THREE GUIANAS IS TROPICAL
RAINFOREST.

Almost 50%
OF FRENCH GUIANA IS A
PROTECTED AREA.



0
ROADS EXIST
IN THE INTERIOR
OF SURINAME
SO FAR.

625,000 HA
OF GUYANA IS MANAGED
EXCLUSIVELY BY THE
INDIGENOUS WAI WAI.
IT IS HOPED THIS WILL
BECOME THE LARGEST
PROTECTED AREA IN THE
COUNTRY.

These promising numbers suggest that all is well in the Guianas. Population pressures are low and the forest stock is still vibrant. However, ideal as the situation may seem at first glance, the Guianas face strong pressures on their tropical forests and fresh water resources, especially by small- and medium-scale gold mining. WWF's aim is not to stop development, but rather to ensure that it is done in a rational, planned manner. The Guianas offer a great opportunity to showcase how development need not result in environmental damage. In order to identify those areas to be safeguarded, research on and awareness of biodiversity, as well as collaboration with indigenous people, play a key role in the work of WWF-Guianas.

PROTECTED AREAS AND LAND-USE PLANNING IN 2013

SHOWING THE VALUE

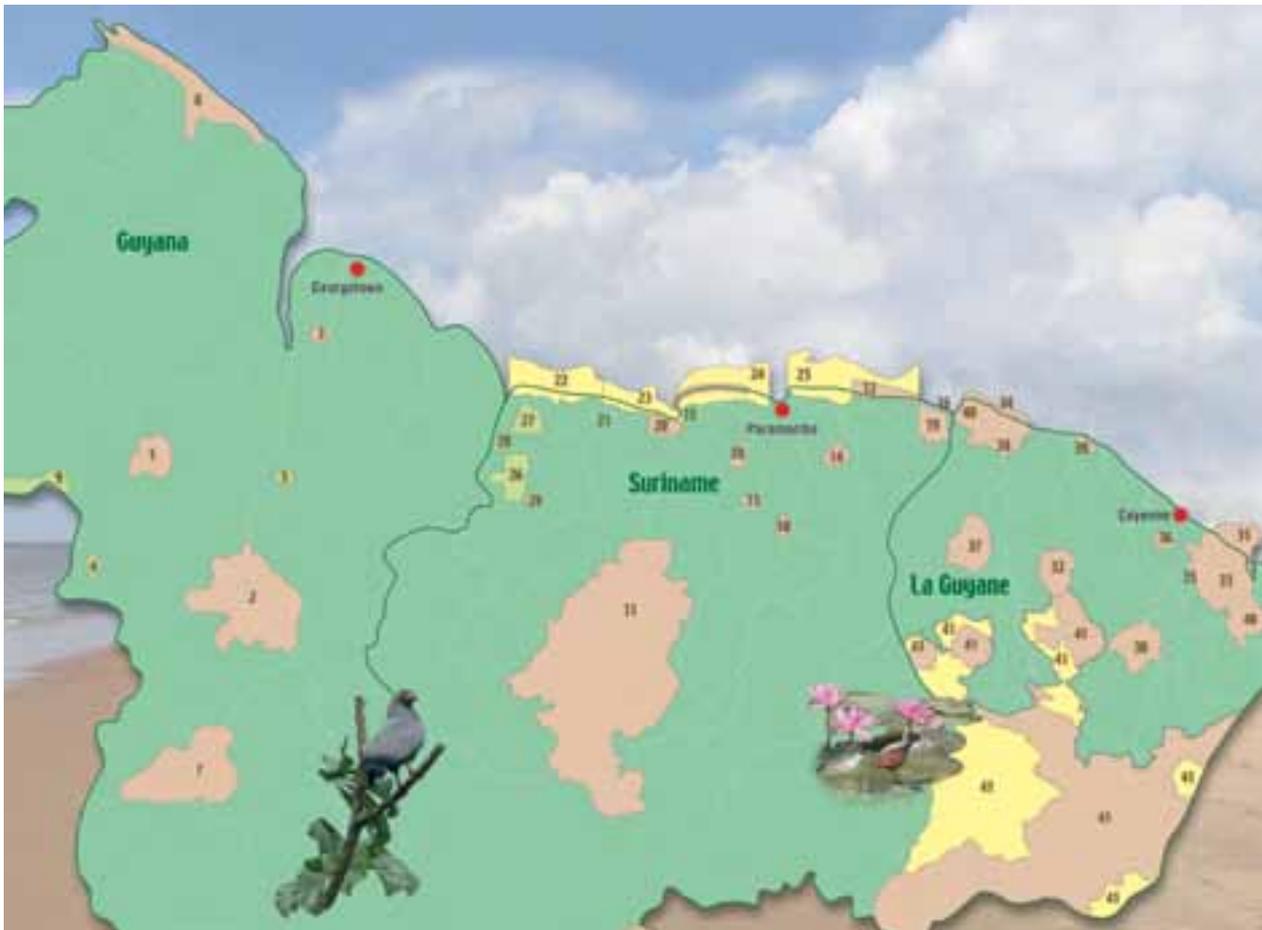
Biodiversity Assessment in the unspoilt Rupununi Savanna

SHOWING THE BEAUTY

Discovery Centre in Peperpot Nature Park

SHOWING THE IMPORTANCE

Publication of *Wetlands of Guyana*



WORKING WITH NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

The Kaieteur National Park and ecotourism infrastructure

WORKING WITH UNIVERSITIES

Scenario modelling and Strategic Impact Assessments for hydropower dam and road

WORKING WITH INDIGENOUS GROUPS

Helping the Wai Wai get greater recognition of their area

SPOTLIGHT

SHOWING THE VALUE

RUPUNUNI



© WWF-Guianas / Vitus Antone

In October and November 2013, WWF fielded a Biodiversity Assessment Team (BAT) to produce a rapid, but detailed, analysis of the biodiversity of two sites in the South Rupununi of Guyana. A team of a dozen national and international researchers, together with University of Guyana students and parataxonomists from the local community surveyed mixed savannah/forest/riverine areas near the Kusad Mountains and around Parabara. These areas are locally considered as being biodiversity rich, but are under pressure because of growing interest in mining, large-scale agriculture, and oil and gas exploration, since the upgrading of the Brazil to Georgetown highway increased accessibility.

BAT survey team fishing at a creek in the South Rupununi

Preliminary results of the expedition identified 241 species of plants, 302 birds, 150 fish, 34 reptiles, 25 amphibians, 23 small mammals, and over 300 species of insects. A parallel process with four local communities compiled information on natural resource usage by those communities, and identified management practices with the potential to help ensure sustainable exploitation. Presentations of the preliminary results were made to the local communities and the general public in Georgetown. One component of the BAT was a series of training workshops in field sampling techniques, offered by the international taxonomic experts to students at the University of Guyana, thereby building Guyana's capacity to carry out biodiversity assessments and improve natural resource management in the future. The final BAT report will be published in 2014.



© WWF-Guianas / Vitus Antone

What's hiding in there? One of the BAT members from South Rupununi communities searching a burrow



© WWF-Guianas / Donald Taphorn

A new species of *Geophagus*, soon to be described, caught by the WWF BAT fish survey team on the Takutu River, South Rupununi



© WWF-Guianas / Vitus Antone

The BAT plant survey team in Guyana identify and prepare plant specimens which will then be pressed



© WWF-Guianas / Vitus Antone

A flooded section of the rich South Rupununi savannas

DISCOVERY CENTRE IN PEPERPOT NATURE PARK

Suriname’s first private nature reserve is the result of a close collaboration between WWF-Guianas and Stichting Marienburg, with generous funding from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Suriname. Set within an area targeted for broader urban development, Peperpot Nature Park is a small but biologically rich forest block, covering a modest 820 hectares that is home to over 250 bird species, which attract ornithologists from all over the world. Critically, it also acts as an intact corridor with the forested interior of Suriname – and even jaguars and tapirs have been spotted here.

Lying only 5km from Paramaribo, the park is ideally situated to attract city dwellers, and to act as a showcase for the country’s biodiversity and natural heritage. Nature education and ecotourism are a vital means to raise awareness for nature conservation in Suriname, and for people from the city to learn about and value their natural heritage. The potential of the area is so great that Suriname’s First Lady agreed to become patroness of the park.

WWF-Guianas has supported the preparation of a management plan for the Park, expansion of the current nature trails, development of the website and the design of the Peperpot Nature Park Discovery Centre for nature education, conservation of natural and cultural heritage, and research. The design was unveiled by the First Lady in June 2013. Construction of the Discovery Centre will commence in 2014.



© WWF-Guianas / atelier DUTCH

Architectural impression by “atelier DUTCH” of the Discovery Centre in Peperpot Nature Park



© WWF-Guianas / Karin Spang

First Lady unveiling model of the Discovery Centre



© WWF-Guianas / Karin Spang

“Look, so many of them!” Visitors in awe of the Peperpot Park monkeys



© WWF-Guianas / Laurens Gomes

A common squirrel monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*) in Peperpot Nature Park

SHOWING THE IMPORTANCE

WETLANDS OF GUYANA

Guyana, the “Land of Many Waters”, is the only country in South America which is not yet a party to the Ramsar Convention,¹ and with this initiative WWF is hoping to encourage the government to join. The launch of WWF’s publication, *Wetlands of Guyana* created a platform for advocating for the protection of Guyana’s extensive wetlands and freshwater



Cover of the *Wetlands of Guyana* book

resources. The book provides baseline information on biological resources, socio-economic uses, and options for management for a number of Guyana’s most critical wetlands. A digital copy is available on the WWF-Guianas website.

WORKING WITH NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

KAIETEUR NATIONAL PARK (KNP)



© WWF-Guianas / Alesha Williams

The majestic Kaieteur Falls

Despite being the first National Park in the Amazon (est. 1929) and being home to the spectacular Kaieteur Falls, which, at 226 metres, is four times the height of Niagara Falls, Kaieteur National Park has largely untapped tourist potential which is enormous.

WWF is supporting Guyana’s new Protected Areas Commission in improving the effective management and tourism development of Kaieteur National Park. In 2013 a revised management plan for KNP, including data collected during WWF’s 2011 biodiversity assessment, was handed over to the Commission.

To directly support tourism growth, WWF asked a landscape architect to provide a plan for trail restoration and maintenance, and an architect to plan for the rehabilitation of the guest house and staff quarters.

WWF also provided tour guide training for interested individuals from the nearby indigenous villages of Chenapau, Karisparu and Paramakatoi. These communities have limited employment possibilities, and this training produced a pool of guides to improve the tourist experience, address the chronic shortage of park staff, and provide livelihood opportunities and direct benefits for the local communities. To help address the shortage of local people eligible for advancement in the Civil Services, WWF awarded scholarships to two students from Chenapau to attend a two-year course on Natural Resource Management, Forestry, Agriculture, and Tourism.

WWF also facilitated a visit of Chenapau community representatives to the North Rupununi, where a long-standing, mutually beneficial relationship exists between indigenous communities and the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Development. The Chenapau representatives were introduced to models of natural resource-based community enterprises (ecotourism, non-timber forest products, crafts), and learned about local environmental education programmes.

¹ The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, known as the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

WORKING WITH INDIGENOUS GROUPS

FRESHWATER TURTLES



© WWF-Guianas / Florent Taberlet

River turtle (*Podocnemis expansa*) of the Tabuleiro do Embaubal archipelago

The French Guiana WWF has been involved in the project “Quelônios para sempre” (turtles forever) in Brazil. The project involved the local communities of the Tabuleiro do Embaubal archipelago, on the Xingu River, in the Brazilian Amazon, who have been consuming large river turtles and their eggs for a long time. Until recently, this had a limited impact, due to low human population pressure. However, with the increase in population and a growing demand from urban centres, a steep decline in aquatic turtles has been seen.

WWF recognized the similarities between this situation in Brazil and that of Awala-Yalimapo in French Guiana, where WWF has been investing for over 10 years in marine turtles. Here, WWF works alongside residents and researchers to promote on the ground conservation of turtles while enabling a contribution to local economic development - including tourism. Drawing from that experience, the subsequent creation of a protected area in the Tabuleiro do Embaubal was far more acclaimed by the local population than initially expected, and this led to better governance of natural resources, which ensured their sustainable use. Educational activities encouraged real ownership of the concept of sustainable management, and exchanges with Awala-Yalimapo proved highly successful. After only two years, the turtle-based tourism potential is starting to be realized, and the project employs several local people.

In a similar manner, WWF has provided resources in the south of Guyana to support indigenous community-based conservation initiatives, including projects that monitor and protect river turtles and other aquatic resources. Support was provided to members of the Kanuku Mountain Community Representative Group (KMCRG), the South Central People’s Development Association (SCPDA) and Yupukari Village.

Cover of book published on the study of potential impacts of dam and road on the communities



WORKING WITH UNIVERSITIES

TAPAJAI HYDRO DAM PROJECT

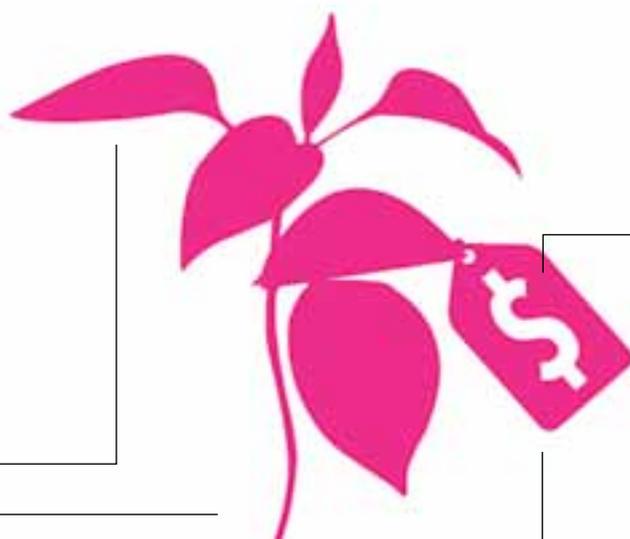
The Tapajai hydro dam project has been under discussion for decades in Suriname. The current government - facing the need for more energy for a fast growing economy - had revived the plans for the dam. Although hydropower has the potential to be a greener source of energy, the Tapajai project would have affected natural water flows across the whole watershed, greatly reducing the water flow to the Maroni River and French Guiana. WWF-Guianas, through support to a consortium of Surinamese and Dutch partners,² prepared a study on the likely biological and socio-economic impacts of the dam and accompanying road. Two seminars and training sessions allowed this information to be shared with key government and business representatives, as well as university students and the wider public. In April 2013 the President of Suriname announced that plans for the dam were once again being shelved.

² Surinamese partners were AdeK-University and ACT. The Dutch partners were: Planet Trails Foundation (consortium leaders), Cedla, IVM-VU University, Object Vision.

PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

798
BIRD SPECIES CAN BE
OBSERVED WITHIN THE
DIFFERENT ECOSYSTEMS
OF THE GUIANAS.

65-90%
OF ALL PLANT SPECIES IN THE
GUIANA SHIELD ARE CONSIDERED
USEFUL BY LOCAL, INDIGENOUS
AND MAROON PEOPLE.



2.6%
OF THE WORLD'S
TERRESTRIAL CARBON STOCK IS
CAPTURED IN THE FORESTS
OF THE GUIANAS.

\$250 MILLION
WAS PROMISED OVER FIVE YEARS
IN A GROUNDBREAKING GRANT
FROM THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT
TO GUYANA IN 2009.

Nature brings critical benefits – ecosystem services – to mankind and this is one of many reasons to protect the environment. One mechanism to keep forests intact is to promote sustainable income streams via ecotourism and through carbon trading. Amongst the Guianas, this mechanism is most advanced in Guyana, thanks to an agreement with the Norwegian government to pay up to \$250 million to Guyana over five years if Guyana's historically low deforestation levels are maintained. These funds are supporting the implementation of the country's Low Carbon Development Strategy and building national capacity in climate change issues.

PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN 2013

MEASURING CARBON

National Forest Inventory

PAYMENT FOR CARBON

Financial mechanisms for protecting forest carbon funded by the World Bank

MONITORING CARBON LOSS

Regional Carbon Observatory announced



© Roger Leguen / WWF-Canlon

Misty Amazonian tropical rainforest landscape seen from the Inselberg in the Nouragues Nature Reserve, French Guiana

ECOTOURISM

Throughout the three Guianas, ecotourism is strongly promoted by WWF. This is done especially in the WWF focal areas of the Kaieteur National Park, Peperpot, Trésor, Park Amazonien, Galibi and Awala Yalimapo (Amana Nature Reserve), and is especially linked to our work under the Protected Areas and Marine Turtle Conservation themes.

SPOTLIGHT

PAYMENT FOR CARBON

WORLD BANK FUNDING

Suriname's so called REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (or R-PP) received approval by the World Bank in March 2013 and the programme will receive US\$7 million to start working on REDD+ (payment for carbon). An important element of the success of the approval was the stakeholder engagement process, including forest-dependent people, in order to come to a joint agreement and understanding of the potential benefits of REDD+ for all people of Suriname. WWF-Guianas contributed to this national process with media materials and technical inputs to the R-PP. WWF also undertook a REDD+ dialogue process with forest-dependent communities in the remote southern village of Kwamalasamutu, and provided a travel grant to three indigenous leaders to provide their perspectives during the final stage of the R-PP approval at the World Bank. This success built upon the earlier support by WWF-Guianas, including the development of a road map for the Climate Compatible Development Agency (which led the R-PP process), and strengthening government technical capacity. The World Bank funding is not scheduled for release before May/June 2014, so WWF-Guianas is supporting an R-PP transition project, focusing on institutional strengthening and awareness of REDD+.



© WWF-Guianas / Laurens Gomes

Traditional surroundings don't exclude mobile phones



© WWF-Guianas / Laurens Gomes

Consulting all persons in the local village, Kwamalasamutu



© WWF-Guianas / Laurens Gomes

View of the village

MEASURING CARBON

NATIONAL FOREST INVENTORY

In **Suriname**, WWF-Guianas has co-financed a country-wide pilot project to develop a National Forest Inventory. This work, carried out by the Stichting voor Bosbeheer en Bostoezicht (SBB) in collaboration with the Austrian Natural Resources Management and International Cooperation Agency (ANRICA), uses an innovative approach to enable determination of forest cover and diversity, together with a baseline to facilitate monitoring of changes in the forest carbon stocks. This approach uses two stabilized cameras mounted under the wings of a small airplane that create 3D images of discrete areas of the forest, which are then correlated with on-the-ground field surveys. The lessons and outputs from this pilot project will be scaled up to inform a comprehensive National Forest Inventory; to set baselines for National REDD+ carbon stock accounting; and to provide important primary data to feed in to any future National Land-Use Planning system.

In **Guyana**, WWF supported a PhD study to measure the carbon and timber stock recovery in forests that were logged 20 years ago. Research conducted in various tropical forests has revealed that a substantial percentage of carbon remains after selective logging, but less is known about the long-term trajectories of these forest stands. As a substantial amount of Guyana's forest estate is classified as production forests, and has been logged or will be subjected to logging in the future, such data will contribute to building predictive models of forest dynamics.



© WWF-Guianas



© WWF-Guianas

Conducting forest carbon studies

MONITORING CARBON LOSS

REGIONAL CARBON OBSERVATORY

In **French Guiana**, the local assembly, Région Guyane, has announced that a 'Regional Carbon Observatory' will be created to monitor activities within the forest that lead to deforestation. WWF has been working for several years on forest carbon issues in the region, and is seen as a partner for this new institution.

Linked to this, WWF is supporting the creation of a carbon trail in the Trésor Nature Reserve. Using the natural forest as a backdrop, this trail will explain, in simple terms, the value of carbon and the role forests play in mitigating climate change. The trail is due for completion in 2014.

GOLD MINING POLLUTION ABATEMENT

98

COUNTRIES HAVE NOW SIGNED THE MINAMATA CONVENTION, FORMALLY ADOPTED IN OCTOBER 2013.



+20 TONS

OF MERCURY IS ESTIMATED TO BE DISPERSED IN THE ENVIRONMENT OF SURINAME EACH YEAR.

26,000km

OF RIVERS IN THE GUIANAS WERE ALREADY POTENTIALLY IMPACTED BY SMALL SCALE GOLD MINING IN 2008.

79%

OF THE CHILDREN IN SOME VILLAGES ALONG THE MAROWIJNE RIVER HAD ABNORMALLY HIGH HAIR MERCURY LEVELS IN A 1998 STUDY.

With approximately 50,000 miners involved, small-scale gold mining is a significant environmental and social issue across the Guianas. It has led to deforestation and environmental degradation and, moreover, to mercury contamination of the environment with strong negative impacts on both wildlife and people. This is a complex issue since mining also provides significant revenue to the respective governments. WWF-Guianas focuses its efforts on raising awareness on the impacts –especially in protected areas – by supporting government policy change and regulations, and promoting the concept of “responsible gold”.

GOLD MINING POLLUTION ABATEMENT IN 2013

RAISING AWARENESS- GOLD MINING IN PROTECTED AREAS:
Brownsberg and Parc Amazonien



© WWF-Guianas / Erian Steur

Destroyed area within Brownsberg Park, as captured during a flyover in 2012

**RAISING AWARENESS -
FOSTERING PUBLIC DEBATE:**
Amazon Gold

**RAISING AWARENESS - CIVIL
SOCIETY:**
Les Hurlleurs de Guyane

CONSUMER AWARENESS:
Responsible gold and “non
a l’or illegal” (no to illegal
gold)

**RAISING AWARENESS OF
GOLD MINING IN
PROTECTED AREAS**

BROWNSBERG NATIONAL PARK

Brownsberg National Park in Suriname is blessed with beautiful scenery and rich biodiversity. It also has rich gold deposits. This has led to encroachment by illegal miners since the late nineties, but their numbers plus the damage that was caused steadily increased. When WWF-Guianas published a photo documentary based on a flyover in 2012, there was a public outcry and this led to miners being evicted from the park on several occasions by the relevant authorities. However, in each case miners quickly resumed activities, albeit at lower numbers. In order to protect Brownsberg, WWF-Guianas commissioned work with some of the small-scale miners and government authorities to identify alternative mining locations where miners can legally work under a formal license, but outside of the Park. As a result, four suitable working areas were designated – and more will be developed later – and first steps are being taken to relocate miners to these new areas.

**Raising awareness of
goldmining in
protected areas:**

Brownsberg Nature Park in Suriname is being destroyed by illegal small-scale gold mining.



© WWF-Guianas / Erian Steur

Other destroyed area within Brownsberg Park

Earth Hour 2013

WWF used Earth Hour in March 2013 as a platform for pledges from two key Ministers to work on Brownsberg and mining-related issues. WWF will continue to identify opportunities to build on this support and to continue to seek solutions to this issue.



© WWF-Guianas / Karin Spang

Earth Hour 2013:
Minister Kromosoeto of the Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management declares his commitment to Brownsberg National Park



**RAISING AWARENESS OF
GOLD MINING IN
PROTECTED AREAS**

PARC AMAZONIEN

WWF organized four field missions to Parc Amazonien to monitor illegal gold mining and its impact. This was followed by press coverage as well as a high profile conference.



Poster for the conference on the WWF missions into the interior



© WWF-Guianas / Florent Taberlet

Right and below:
Gold mining surrounding
the Parc

**Raising awareness
of gold mining in
protected areas:**

Parc Amazonien in French Guiana is encroached upon by small scale gold mining.



© WWF-Guianas / Florent Taberlet



Observed mining activities in French Guiana

Raising awareness of gold mining in protected areas

Parc Amazonien falls under French jurisdiction, and, as such, is easily the largest “European” National Park. However, it is suffering from significant illegal mining. For example, in December 2013, figures presented by the authorities showed that 100 illegal mining sites were located within the park boundaries.

To complement this State communication, Région Guyane has announced the future creation of a body to monitor the territory for any illegal extraction activities.

RAISING CONSUMER AWARENESS

Non a L'or illegal

The campaign “No to illegal gold” aims to alert consumers to the issues surrounding gold production. This year the campaign focused on government cooperation issues and the need for better tracking of illegal resource use. An e-card was sent to members of the National Parliament in France involved in environmental issues in French Guiana or with France-Brazil relations, along with a press package which included our new WWF study on distinguishing legal and illegal sites based on satellite images. These actions were locally complemented with a press conference presenting the study, with a demand for improved monitoring in French Guiana, which was held on St Valentine’s Day - when gold jewellery sales peak in France.



Valentine e-card sent to different relations

President Hollande’s visit

In December 2013 French President Hollande visited French Guiana. Taking advantage of his presence, WWF organised a field trip to the Upper Maroni region with Lucie Décosse, three-time judo world champion and ambassador for WWF’s “No to illegal gold” campaign. Lucie Décosse was the special guest of the Daily News Bulletin and able to share her testimony with a wide audience. She symbolically handed over the 12,000 signatures in support of the campaign to



Lucie Decosse handing over 12,000 signatures to the presidential councilor

When is gold ‘responsible’ gold?

Région Guyane with the help of the Chamber of Industries and WWF headed expert meetings with a wide array of stakeholders, where environmental and social principles and criteria for responsible gold were produced. This work could serve as a basis for future certification schemes.

GOAL: THE CONSUMER
ONLY BUYS GOLD THAT
IS PRODUCED UNDER
ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS
(RESPONSIBLE GOLD)



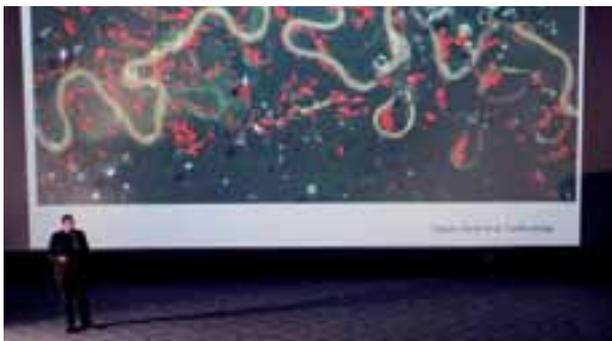
© WWF-Guianas / Karin Spang

Proving the origins of gold-gold traceability

The French Guiana WWF office has started a project on the traceability of gold. Analytical (physical and/or chemical) tracing of gold can potentially give the information to determine from which location the gold originates; a critical consideration in verifying the “fairness” of the gold. In Australia and South Africa this is already happening, with forensic investigators using mass spectrometry techniques to characterize the trace elements in gold, and thereby its source.



Poster of *Amazon Gold*, multiple award-winning film portraying the impacts of small-scale gold mining in Peru



Luis Fernandez discussing destruction of the Madre de Dios area in Peru because of small-scale gold mining

RAISING AWARENESS

AMAZON GOLD

As a mechanism for raising awareness and keeping the topic of mining and mercury high on the political agenda, WWF invited Sarah DuPont, the producer of *Amazon Gold*, a multi-award winning documentary about the devastating and rapid impact of gold mining in Madre de Dios, Peru, to screen her film in all three Guianas. Sarah was accompanied by Luis Fernandez of the 's Carnegie Institution's Department of Global Ecology at Stanford University, who presented his research on mercury and its impacts on human health. Over the course of a week, screenings were held in Georgetown, Paramaribo and Cayenne, for diverse groups, including miners, regulatory agencies, academia, youth and the wider public. This included public panel discussions aired on live national television and wide media coverage.

SPOTLIGHT

RAISING AWARENESS

THE HOWLERS OF FRENCH GUIANA

In French Guiana, WWF organized a public conference on illegal gold mining in June 2013. Despite the expressed will of many individuals and organizations to curb illegal gold mining, there was an apparent lack of civil mobilization. Therefore, as a follow-up, citizen mobilization workshops were initiated. The workshops quickly became weekly, and civil society uptake was even stronger than expected. This grass roots movement calls itself "Hurleurs de Guyane" (the Howlers of French Guiana) and brings together more than 40 organizations from all sectors (cultural, economic, environmental etc.) and more than 300 individuals. The spokespersons are all local personalities. The Howlers are now an established locally-based force on the illegal gold mining control issue. The first big event organized by the Howlers was a public gathering of 800 people in central Cayenne for the visit of President Hollande to French Guiana. One direct impact was the establishment of regular information briefing sessions by the Préfecture.

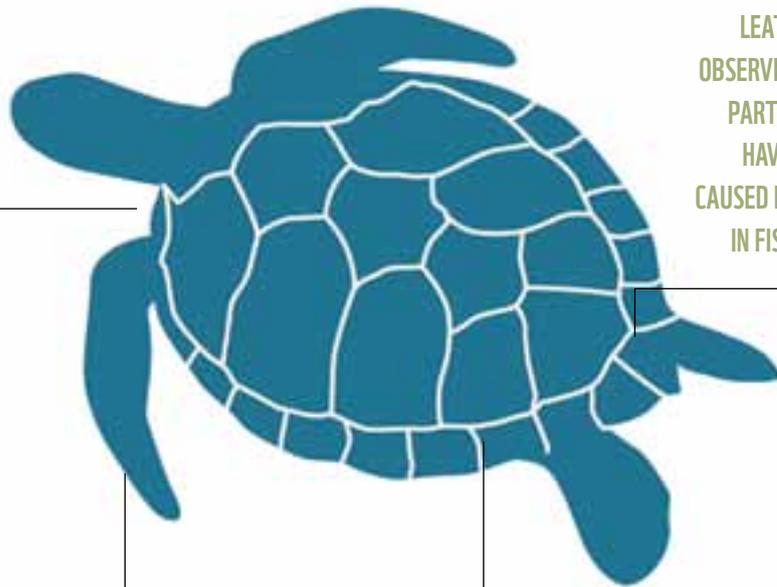


© Les Hurleurs de Guyane

Les Hurleurs de Guyane
<http://www.hurleursdeguyane.org>

MARINE TURTLES OF THE GUIANAS

40%
OF THE ATLANTIC
LEATHERBACK POPULATION
NEST ON THE BEACHES OF THE
GUIANAS.



1 IN 4
LEATHERBACK TURTLES
OBSERVED IN THE WESTERN
PART OF FRENCH GUIANA
HAVE SCARS PROBABLY
CAUSED BY ENTANGLEMENT
IN FISHNETS, ACCORDING
TO CNRS.

1968
AW WWF'S FIRST
INVOLVEMENT IN MARINE
TURTLE CONSERVATION IN
THE GUIANAS.

5
REGIONS IN THE GUIANAS ARE
USED BY TURTLES NESTING.

The WWF-Guianas Marine Turtle programme is working on the reduction of accidental catch of turtles in fisheries and poaching of marine turtle eggs on nesting beaches. WWF-Guianas conducts research, collaborates with partners and develops awareness activities to conserve the marine turtles nesting in the Guianas.



Their biggest threat: fishermen untangling a captured olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)

SPOTLIGHT

LEATHERBACK STATUS

In November 2013 IUCN published the updated Red List assessments for leatherbacks.

The global leatherback status has been updated from ‘critically endangered’ to ‘vulnerable’. For the first time, the status of the leatherback was also assessed at regional level; which allows to differentiate between subpopulations and develop conservation measures appropriate to the regional status. In many parts of its range, the leatherback is still critically endangered and in rapid decline, but in the Atlantic the species seems to be on the road to recover. Leatherbacks continue to depend on conservation efforts and protection of the turtles, their offspring and their habitat remains crucial. The northwest Atlantic subpopulation of leatherbacks (including that of the Guianas) increased by 20.6% over the past 40 years and the status of this population is now assessed as: “least concern”.



RESEARCH ON MARINE TURTLE BY-CATCH: A STORY OF REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Map showing the route of green turtles from French Guiana to Brazil. This area is also known to be important for fisheries, thus heightening the chances of by-catch.



As marine turtles are highly migratory species, regional collaboration has always been of great importance:

just how much was emphasized when the results of the tracking of 16 green turtles became public. The Guianas green turtles –contrary to the leatherbacks which swim to Canada- all apparently migrate to Brazil to graze on that juicy sea grass. As the route of the green turtles overlaps with areas of high fishing activity, this scientific revelation is of huge importance when tackling the issue of by-catch.

It also underlines the necessity to strongly cooperate not only within the Guianas, but also with Brazil. The bi-annual regional marine turtle symposium did just that, and the participants agreed to share nesting data at the end of each season in order to improve the protection of turtles throughout their range.

By-catch represents the largest problem affecting marine turtles of the Guianas; a fully-grown turtle is already rare. Awareness-raising and outreach to the fishermen is essential.



MONITORING OF TURTLES AND POACHING

Poaching of turtle eggs remains a problem, especially in Suriname. In 2013, reported poaching in Suriname and Guyana was recorded at less than 10% of the total number of eggs laid, and far less in French Guiana.

The police in Suriname have made an exceptional effort in 2013 in catching egg traffickers. All in all more than 50,000 turtle eggs have been confiscated and destroyed.

Via frequent messaging on poaching and the penalties imposed, WWF-Guianas aims to increase the perceived risk of poaching.



© WWF-Guianas / Karin Spang

Poaching of marine turtle eggs is still a big problem in Suriname

MONITORING OF BEACH EROSION

Beach erosion in the Guianas is seen as a potential threat in the near future to marine turtle nesting habitats. Beaches are shifting and seem to be getting smaller in size, which makes it harder for turtles to find suitable nesting places. In order to monitor beach dynamics, a project has started in which the beaches are systematically photographed in an aerial survey at the beginning of each nesting season, with GPS coordinates allocated to all photos.



© WWF-Guianas / Karin Bilo

The beaches in the Guianas suffer from beach erosion, making it harder each year for turtles to nest

SPOTLIGHT

LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN CONSERVATION

WWF advocates active involvement of the local communities in marine turtle conservation projects. Many people on the projects have a history of turtle poaching. By engaging them in turtle conservation projects, WWF is hoping to use their knowledge and networks and convince former poachers of the value of turtles nesting on their beaches. In Suriname, during the 2013 nesting season, the entire monitoring team of 14 people consisted of men from Galibi, the indigenous village on the Marowijne River. These men were selected by the community-based organization, Stidunal, and were formally commissioned by the Minister.

In Guyana, the turtle monitoring team also entirely consists of people from the community; staff live on Shell Beach or in Moruca. Finally, in French Guiana, the

Amana reserve and its partners employ mainly persons from the Awala-Yalimapo community for their annual nest- and track-counting.



© WWF-Guianas / Karin Spang

Monitoring team of local community Galibi; just commissioned by the Minister

In Suriname -in an unprecedented event- the Minister in charge opened the nesting season at one of the major nesting sites, and included a strong plea against poaching. Captains of the local villages and

staff from the Ministry of Physical Planning, Land and Forest Management (RGB) were present to mark the start of the nesting season and highlight the importance of marine turtle conservation. The event was covered very well by the national media.

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION FOR MARINE TURTLES

- A Belgian film crew from RTBF visited Suriname in August 2013 and produced an episode in the series 'Code Aventure', in which a Belgian girl and a girl from Galibi explore the nesting beaches.
- Another crew from Belgium came to Suriname to produce a documentary on sustainable fisheries and turtle by-catch reduction, to be used in the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) campaign of WWF-Belgium.
- The documentary "Mission: Save the Ocean" including marine turtles was filmed in Suriname and aired on the National Geographic Channel in Europe.

Poaching of marine turtle eggs is still a big problem in Suriname.

Right: Minister Kromosoeto in a plea on national TV against the consumption of turtle eggs

Far right: Filming of a documentary on marine turtles for Discovery Channel



© WWF-Guianas / Karin Spang



© WWF-Guianas / Karin Spang



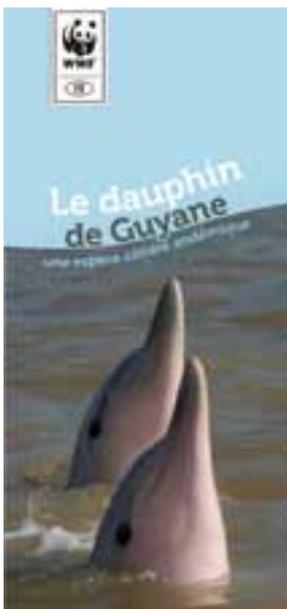
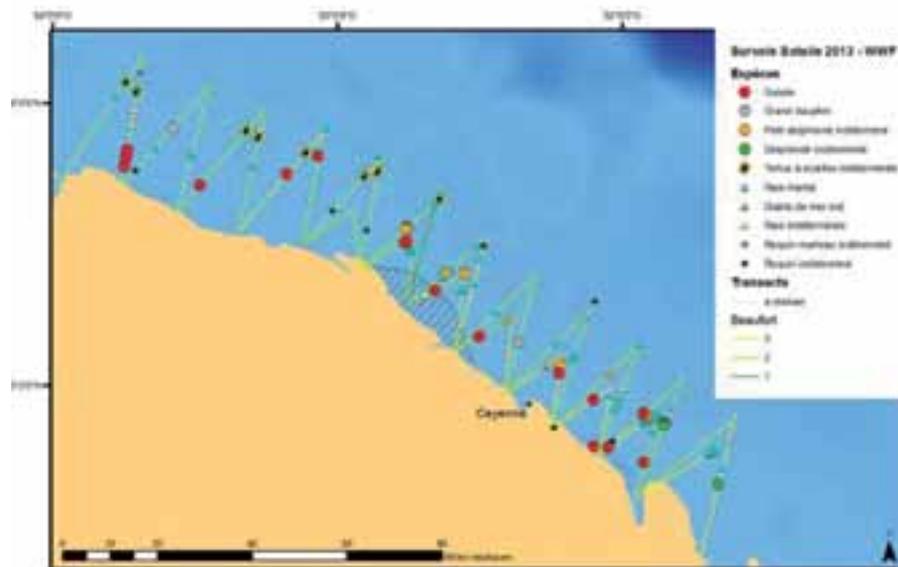
COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS

In French Guiana, the governmental organization DEAL initiated a revision of the activities undertaken for marine turtle conservation. Following a multi-stakeholder analysis (including the work of WWF), a 10-years long action plan will be defined, covering all marine turtles related aspects (research, enforcement, awareness, etc).

THE MARINE MAMMAL PROGRAM

The marine mammal program is part of the program of WWF France and executed by the French Guiana office.

Map showing the dolphin population as counted during an aerial survey in French Guiana



A dolphin leaflet published by the WWF French Guiana office

In November 2012 a new project was initiated on the conservation of the emblematic Guianas dolphin. The project, coordinated by the French Guiana office, will be carried out in French Guiana and Suriname. The aim of the project is to estimate the population of the species and to sensitize the public about their existence; their ecology and the threats to their conservation (gillnet by-catch, anthropogenic pollution). The final objective is to deliver proposals for their protection.

As part of this project, an extensive aerial survey has been conducted in French Guiana to arrive at a population assessment via a standardized protocol of aerial counting and line-transect sampling.

The first results also showed numerous observations of marine vertebrates along the shore, highlighting important populations of marine mammals. The mapping will be extended to include the Surinamese shore and flights will take place in March 2014.

Participative data collection is also planned, and the project includes a range a communication tools such as a leaflet about the description and the biology of the species, and a participative observation-form.

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

80%

OF THE SHRIMPING FLEET IN SURINAME WAS REDUCED IN THE LAST 20 YEARS DUE TO OVERFISHING.

60%

OF ALL FISHING BOATS IN FRENCH GUIANA WATERS ARE ILLEGAL FOREIGN BOATS.



ALL

SHRIMP TRAWLERS IN FRENCH GUIANA AND SURINAME USE TURTLE EXCLUDER DEVICES (TEDs).

6 WEEKS

ANNUALLY GUYANA'S WATERS ARE CLOSED FOR TRAWLING.

The dynamic coast of the Guianas consists of mudflats, sandy beaches, mangrove swamps and muddy waters, which offer a productive breeding ground for fish and shrimp because of the nutrients in the water.

The biggest problem in the Guianas is Illegal, Unregulated and Uncontrolled (IUU) fishing and the limited capacity to combat it.

WWF closely works with the governments of the Guianas to support sustainable development of artisanal and trawl fisheries, in order to ensure food security and improve livelihoods of fishing communities.

The dynamic coasts of the Guianas have muddy waters, which offer a productive breeding ground for fish and shrimp because of the nutrients in the water. The biggest problem in the Guianas is the control of Illegal, Unregulated and Uncontrolled (IUU) fisheries. WWF strongly works with the governments of the Guianas to support measures against IUU.

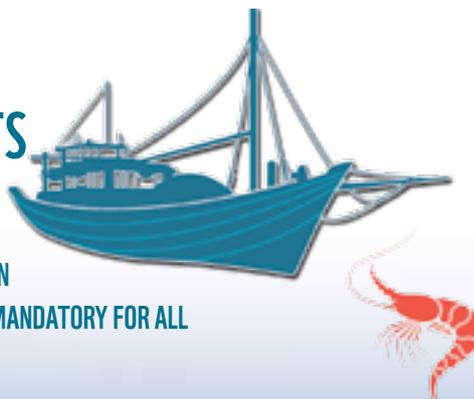
119 LICENSED BOATS

FISHING FOR SHRIMP & SEABOB

ALL USE TEDs

ON BOARD CAMERAS UNDER DISCUSSION

SATELLITE MONITORING (VMS) TO BE MANDATORY FOR ALL TRAWLERS

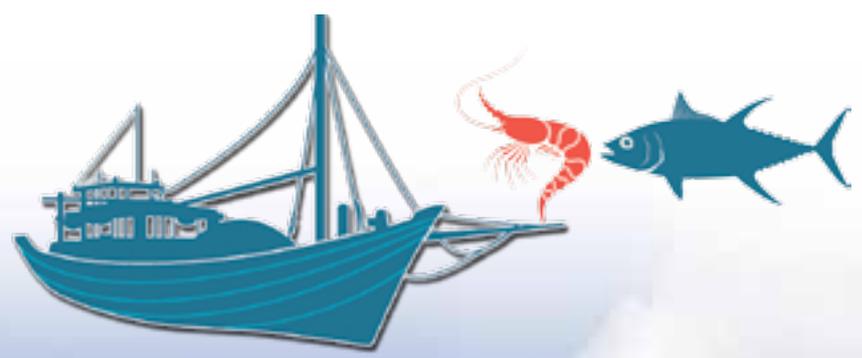




Fishery Management Plans (FMP) have been developed in consultation with the fisheries sector and the departments of fisheries in Suriname and Guyana.

WWF-Guianas placed special emphasis on:

- Reduction of fleet overcapacity
- Improved traceability of vessels - (vessel monitoring systems)
- Spatial management of fisheries - (no fishing zones; seasonal/area closures)
- Reduction of by-catch - (on-board observers, alternative gear -2014)

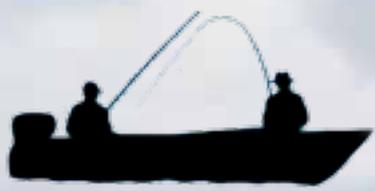


135 LICENSED BOATS

FISHING FOR FISH, SHRIMP & SEABOB
ALL USE TEDs
SATELLITE MONITORING (VMS) TO BE MANDATORY FOR ALL FISHERIES

40 BOATS

FISHING FOR SHRIMP
ALL USE TEDs
ALL USE VMS
FISHING RESTRICTIONS ON SHALLOW WATERS.



1043 BOATS

MOST REGISTERED

60% OF ALL FISHING BOATS IN FRENCH GUIANESE WATERS ARE ILLEGAL FOREIGN BOATS



130+ BOATS

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Fishery Management Plans (FMP) have been developed in consultation with the fisheries sector and the departments of fisheries in Suriname and Guyana. WWF-Guianas placed special emphasis on

- Reduction of fleet overcapacity
- Improved traceability of vessels (vessel monitoring systems; see below)
- Spatial management of fisheries (no fishing zones etc; see below)
- Reduction of by-catch (on-board observer programme; see below)

These issues are addressed in the management plans, and strong policy measures have been proposed and adopted to deal with these for the 2014-2018 period.

INTRODUCTION OF VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEMS

The Department of Fisheries in Guyana announced in 2012 that all trawlers are expected to install Vessel Monitoring System units by 2013 to improve monitoring of the trawl fleet and to give protection against piracy. 30 VMS units are currently being installed and another 70 are being negotiated.

In Suriname, the Fisheries Management Plan 2013-2018 stipulates that VMS will be mandatory on board all vessels fishing in Surinamese waters by July 2014. Each license holder must install a tracking system on board that identifies the boat and its geographic position. All vessels fishing outside their designated fishing zone will automatically be flagged and fined.



© WWF-Guianas / Morino Madari

Placement of the buoy to demarcate the no fishing zone in Galibi fishing community

DEMARICATION OF THE NO FISHING ZONE

A buoy was installed to clearly mark the no fishing zone of Galibi Nature Reserve. Demarcation of the no fishing zone is expected not only to reduce the interaction between turtles and fisheries, but also reduce the by-catch of other non-target species in the near-shore waters during the closed season. With the expected arrival of new boats for the coast guard, surveillance and enforcement within the area will also improve.



Typical artisanal fishing
boat in Suriname

ON-BOARD OBSERVER PROGRAMME TO MONITOR BY-CATCH AND DISCARDS

A protocol was developed for by-catch monitoring in the artisanal fisheries by the Regional Fisheries Committee and WWF in French Guiana.

For a period of six months, about 5% of the artisanal fishing effort will be monitored by two on-board observers to collect detailed information on catch composition and spatial and temporal by-catch hotspots per gear type and per gillnet type. Such information will be used to inform by-catch mitigation measures.

The French protocol has been adapted for the Guyanese context and the development of a by-catch monitoring programme in Guyana is being discussed with the Department of Fisheries and the Georgetown Fisheries Cooperative. Due to safety and logistical concerns, the project in Guyana will be smaller, but will still provide interesting insight in the extent of by-catch in the Chinese seine fishery.³

Collection of data on catch and by-catch was highlighted as a priority in the Fishery Management Plan, and will be used to inform by-catch mitigation measures.

³ Chinese seines are a type of fyke net moored across the current, used for targeting shrimp, and resulting in a lot of discards (trash). About one third of the artisanal fisheries in Guyana use this gear/method.

THE WWF-GUIANAS PROGRAMME

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF THE CALENDAR YEAR 2013

(PERIOD: JANUARY-DECEMBER 2013)

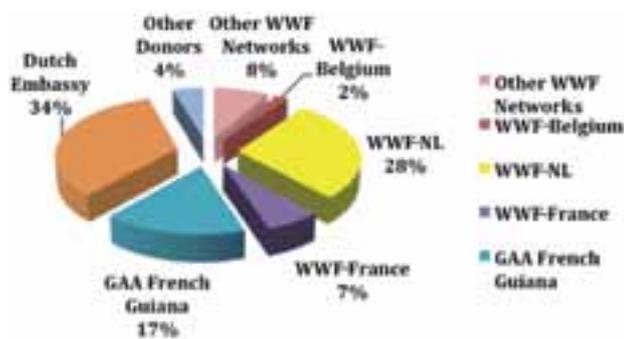


Figure 1: Spending per donor WWF-Guianas 2013

Figure 1 shows the percentage contributed by the different donors to the WWF-Guianas Programme for the calendar year 2013. The Royal Dutch Embassy is the major donor to our programme, with a contribution of 34% in 2013, followed by WWF-Netherlands with a share amounting to 28% of the project activities, and GAA French Guiana with 17%. Other WWF Networks supported the programmes with 8%, closely followed by WWF-France with 7% and WWF-Belgium with 2%. The contribution under the heading, Other WWF Networks, includes support from WWF International through levies raised, as well as support from WWF-US. Under the heading, Other Donors, is accommodated the contribution from the Adessium Foundation for the marine turtle campaign-“Aku orah mangan ndok penju” (“ I don’t eat sea turtle eggs.”), and the contributions from Norad, Cedla/Gomiam and other donors. Current contracts with WWF-Netherlands and WWF-Belgium will end 30 June 2015.

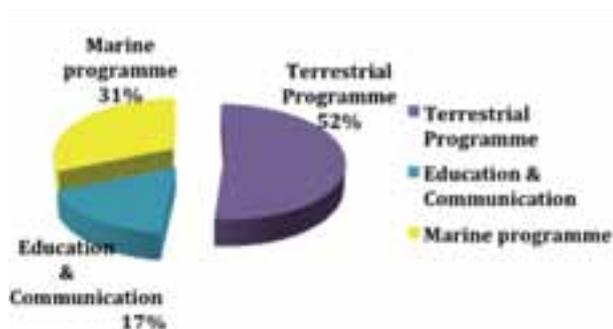


Figure 2: Spending per theme WWF-Guianas 2013

Figure 2 gives an overview of the spending for the different themes for 2013. The total spending for 2013 was US\$3.72 million and was spent under the following components:

1. The Terrestrial Programme including the subcomponents Land-Use Planning and Protected Areas; Payment for Ecosystem Services; and Gold Mining Pollution Abatement
2. Education and Communication
3. The Marine Programme consisting of the subcomponents Marine Turtles and Sustainable Fisheries.

Spending increased by 49% in 2013 compared to 2012. Having almost all staff positions filled in 2012, our main focus was on the execution and implementation of our project activities. This is also reflected in the number of agreements that were signed in Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.

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5 + 1 THEMES

The WWF-Guianas work focuses on the five themes mentioned in these Highlights. Communication and Education are overarching themes.

1968

WWF-Guianas is working in the Guianas since 1968. The Guianas office in Paramaribo was established in 1999.



+ 9.0 MILLION EUROS

WWF Guianas' new four-year programme has a total value of over 9.0 million euros 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.