

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Securing a Living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Southern Guyana (GEF ID: 10288)



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1. Introduction

To support the ecological integrity of the Amazon, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL) II, led by the World Bank as the GEF Agency, in 2019. The program objective is to improve integrated landscape management and conservation of ecosystems in targeted areas in the Amazon region, and includes Child Projects in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname. The proposed Child Project, **Securing a Living Amazon by Strengthening the Management of Protected Areas and Priority Landscapes in Southern Guyana**, contributes directly to this program. The aim of the Project is to strengthen landscape connectivity through improved management of the Kanuku Mountain Protected Area and in the North Rupununi Wetlands in southern Guyana. This will be achieved through the following four components:

1. *Integrated Protected Landscapes*: It will support strengthening of the KMPA's management, in coordination with the Indigenous communities who live around and utilize resources of the protected area. More specifically, the project will support new infrastructure for PAC's site level operations and provide training and capacity building for PAC site level staff and local communities, and strengthen natural resource use planning in the KMPA through a participatory process and following the FPIC process.
2. *Integrated Productive Landscapes*: The project will support a process for integrated management planning in the North Rupununi Wetland landscape, which will include a governance framework for decision making, as well as overall goals and objectives for the landscape. The project will also support implementation of sustainable land and water management activities.
3. *Policies/Incentives for Protected and Productive Landscapes*: The project will support the revision of the PA Act through a legal review, preparation of regulatory text in consultation with all key stakeholders, and submission of Revised Act to Cabinet for Review and tabling in Parliament.
4. *Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation*: The component includes monitoring and evaluation, communications, as well as cooperation with the wider Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program.

The Child Project area lies in southern Guyana and comprises two sites: the North Rupununi Wetlands (NRW) and the adjacent Kanuku Mountains Protected Area (KMPA). The North Rupununi Wetlands has enormous vertebrate diversity and consists of a mixture of seasonal/intermittent flooded savannahs and freshwater bodies and permanent freshwater areas, including rivers, streams, creeks, marshes and lakes. Flooding during the rainy season creates a complex hydrological connection between the Amazon and Essequibo River systems and allows for the exchange of fauna and ensures the water and food security for twenty-one indigenous Makushi communities, which have approximately 7,000 inhabitants. This flooding and hydrological connection replenish fish stocks, recharges water sources, allows for the exchange of fauna, particularly freshwater fishes thereby increasing diversity, and promote gene flow. The Kanuku Mountains, which are adjacent to the NRW, were declared a protected area in 2012. It is documented as having the second-highest bat diversity (89 species) of any protected area in the world and holds 70% of the 25 bird species considered to be endemic to the Guiana Shield. 99% of its 611,000 hectares are covered in forest, making it important for carbon sequestration (10.4% of Guyana's irrecoverable carbon by mass is in PAs)¹ and climate regulation; 1% is savannah.

¹Noon, Monica L., et al. "Mapping the Irrecoverable Carbon in Earth's Ecosystems." *Nature Sustainability*, 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-021-00803-6>.

This document represents the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the project and builds on the stakeholder consultations undertaken during the project design stage. Stakeholders include affected groups at local and national levels of the private and public sector men, women, youth and elders in local communities, and other affected members in the landscape of which the project affects. Consultations identified key project stakeholders, their ongoing involvement in the project, and the roles and responsibilities for overseeing execution of this plan.

2. Regulations and Requirements for Stakeholder Engagement:

WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement

The Lead Executing Agency is responsible for ensuring compliance with GEF and WWF standards on Stakeholder Engagement, specifically the WWF [Standard on Stakeholder Engagement](#) and the associated [Procedures for Implementation of the Standard on Stakeholder Engagement](#). Stakeholder engagement is an overarching term that encompasses a range of activities and interactions with stakeholders throughout the project cycle and is an essential aspect of good project management.

The WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement requires the Executing Agency to engage stakeholders throughout the life of the project; communicate significant changes to project stakeholders and consult on potential risks and impacts; establish a grievance redress mechanism and register and respond to grievances throughout project execution, and; disseminate information in a way that is relevant, transparent, objective, meaningful, easily accessible. The Standard on Stakeholder Engagement promotes an inclusive process to support the development of strong, constructive and responsive relationships that help to identify and manage risks, and which encourage positive outcomes for stakeholders and project activities.

Guyana Rules and Regulations

The project will adhere to the Laws of Guyana, and all engagements with Indigenous people will adhere to the [Amerindian Act, 2006](#). Section 5, specifically addresses “Restriction on entry into District, Area of Village”, and outlines protocol for entry into Indigenous communities. See Appendix 1.

Any project related research will adhere to the research permitting protocols of the Environmental Protection Agency’s research protocols. Any research conducted on Indigenous titled lands will adhere to the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs’ research protocols ([hyperlink](#) and Appendix 1).

The project will follow WWF guidelines and Guyana government regulations to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. During field visits and in-country travel, all attempts to practice social distancing will be made, as well as the use of personal protective equipment. The project team will provide extra PPE during field visits for any community members who need it to participate in project-related activities.

3. Project Stakeholders

WWF defines stakeholders as “persons or groups who are directly or indirectly affected by a project, as well as those who may have an interest in a project and/or the ability to influence its outcomes, either positively or negatively.” Project stakeholders include the following:

A. Local and Indigenous Communities / Community Based Organizations

The project will engage communities in the NRW and surrounding the KMPA, which is the traditional home of the Indigenous Makushi and Wapichan people. These communities represent key stakeholders for the project.

Communities in the NRW site comprise the NRDDDB (described below), thus they will have a role in management and governance of the area. The communities associated with the KMPA support decision-making, planning and management of the PA, with the PAC. Villages to be engaged include: (a) For the NRW site: Apoteri, Rewa, Crashwater, Annai, Surama, Wowetta, Rupertee, Kwatamang, Toka, Yakarinta, Massara, Kwaimatta, Yupukari, (Kaicumbay), Quatata, Kotoka, Simone, Nappi, Parishara, Hiowa, and Moco-Moco; (b) For KMPA site: Mururanau, Shea, Rupunau, Sand Creek, Shulinab (Meriwau and Quiko), Parikwarwanau, Moco-Moco, St Ignatius (Kumu and Quarrie), Nappi (Hiowa and Parishara), Katoka, Yupukari (Kaicumbay), Apoteri, Rewa and Crashwater².

Indigenous and local communities have organized themselves into groups/bodies that are mechanisms for decision making in the landscape. These include:

- **Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group (KMCRG)** - Communities around the south and western boundary of the KMPA have organized themselves into this umbrella body which supports decision-making, planning and management of the PA, with the PAC. The office is located in Lethem.
- **North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB)** - Each elected Toshao (Village leader) represents their village's interest on the NRDDDB. The NRDDDB provides a mechanism for community leaders to meet, discuss, and make decisions relating to the NRDDDB operation, management of lands and resources, community planning and development, youth empowerment etc. The management of the NRW has been an important area of focus for the NRDDDB. The Bina Hill Institute, which provides education and training, is also part of the NRDDDB. The office is located at Bina Hill, Annai, North Rupununi.
- **South Rupununi District Council (SRDC)** –SRDC was established by order under Section 35 of the Amerindian Act and is the legal representative institution and governing body of the 21 mostly Wapichan communities of the South Rupununi. Some communities that are part of the KMCRG are also part of the SRDC. The office is located in Aishalton, South Rupununi.

B. Private Sector Stakeholders

There are mining and forestry concession holders, agriculture and ranching leases as well as private sector actors including transportation, tourism and business-related actors in the NRW. These stakeholders will be engaged through the multi-stakeholder platform and as stakeholders to the project, given that their activities impact management and ecological integrity of the overall NRW as outlined in Components 2 and 3.

C. Government of Guyana

The project will be executed by EPA, PAC, and the GFC. PAC will oversee activities related to the Kanuku Mountains Protected Area and will engage communities surrounding the PA. The North Rupununi Wetlands are a mosaic of Indigenous titled lands, state lands, forestry concessions, private ranches and agricultural leases, as such, many subject specific government agencies have been working in the subdistrict and include the EPA, GGMC, GFC, GLSC, MoA, GWCMC, Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Fisheries, Ministry

² Apoteri, Rewa and Crashwater are not officially part of the KMCRG, but as they are on the northern side of the KMPA, and use resources in the area, their request is to be considered stakeholders in the KMPA. This was stated at the consultation in Rewa and detailed in the table 2

of Amerindian Affairs and the Regional Democratic Council of Region 9 which has the responsibility for the overall management and administration of the Region. Many of these agencies have also been supportive of development related work in their subject area with the NRDDDB; many of the agencies also conduct outreach and advocacy to communities in the region. These government agencies will be engaged through a multi-stakeholder platform to ensure participatory decision making in the NRW.

D. Non-Governmental Organizations

There are a number of Non-Governmental Organizations that are active in the project area. These include Frankfurt Zoological Society, Conservation International – Guyana, IFAD, CIFOR (Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme), Field Museum, WWF Guianas, Cobra Collective, Amazon Conservation Trust, Amerindian Research Unit (University of Guyana), and Iwokrama. There are also many tourism NGOs and private companies who also work in the NRW. All of these organizations actively work with communities in the North Rupununi Wetlands and overall project area, and/or undertake research and assessments of the area. As such, they will be an important stakeholder in the project and should be invited to participate in the multi-stakeholder platform to inform planning of the NRW.

4. Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement:

Stakeholder engagement took place on the initial project strategy (the initial project sites were located to the east of the current project areas). During PIF stage, WWF-Guianas consulted with government agencies, NGOs and concessionaires. During project development, a kickoff workshop was held on 18 September, 2019 with representatives from government agencies, Toshias from three Indigenous communities (Rewa, Crashwater, and Apoteri), NRDDDB, KMCRG, logging concessionaires and non-governmental organizations. Additional consultations were held with Indigenous communities (Crashwater, Rewa and Apoteri) and groups (NRDDDB, Fair View, KMCRG, Iwokrama); loggers; miners; and government agencies.

The project strategy was adjusted and approved by the Government of Guyana towards the end of 2020. Full stakeholder engagement on the revised strategy was limited due to COVID-19. While ongoing engagement was conducted with government partners throughout development of the project strategy (especially EPA, PAC, and GFC), consultations with the Indigenous communities were limited by travel restrictions and lack of teleconferencing facilities, which made virtual interviews and teleconferencing impossible in some situations. The project therefore relied on Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with representative groups such as NRDDDB and Iwokrama.

The following consultations took place virtually and were hosted by EPA:

- Meeting with Field Museum representative (13 September, 2021): The purpose of the meeting was to share information on the project and gather feedback. Field Museum (FM) highlighted the work which can inform spatial analysis. FM has information on the hydrological/ecological portal (area that should be kept intact if the area is to function well) and is currently identifying terrestrial hotspots in Guyana using terrestrial and freshwater species. FM noted that the GoG is interested in this work in the context of LCDS. Other researchers are working on highlighting KBAs in the North Rupununi. Additional research needs include: major rapid biological and social inventory; water chemistry; flooding regime and extent of flooding. FM noted that the approach of having some kind of management of the NRW is good, and there is need to amass data to delineate areas. Updating natural resource use by communities (which is done through a consultative process with communities and which can involve spatially representing areas which communities consider as important for their needs) would be useful as this can guide the management planning process. They also recommended incorporation of capacity building needs, e.g. continued support for youth and wildlife clubs, way that local people depend on

the resources, structure set up for involvement of young people, ranger training so that people could protect the area and know how to gather data.

- Meeting with CI-Guyana and Iwokrama representatives (28 September, 2021): The purpose of the meeting was to share information on the project and gather feedback. Iwokrama highlighted their many initiatives over the years with NR communities, including wildlife clubs, building capacity of NRDDDB through various projects, also noted the Makushi Research Unit and a State of the North Rupununi Report. Expressed the need for support in promoting greater collaboration between communities in resource management. CI Guyana suggested a focus on activities that would support management of community-owned lands (stewardship), a link to regional plans such as the Regional Development Plan, a stakeholder analysis to build collaboration mechanisms, and alignment with NRDDDB's (3yr) Action Plan and potential support development of new and more detailed strategic plan.
- Conversation with representative of North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB) based in North Rupununi, Region 9 (29 September 2021): The purpose of the meeting was to share information on the project and gather feedback. NRDDDB noted the support of the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Project, which has worked with a select number of communities – this has seen their wildlife clubs coming active again and has also supported fisheries management. The NRDDDB representative noted that more is needed, including all-around capacity building for the communities of the NRW on how to do environmental monitoring, coordinate data collection, and analyze such data to help inform management decisions and actions. The North Rupununi Adaptive Management Plan (Darwin Initiative) was also noted.
- Meeting with Region 9 Regional Chairman -Mr. Bryan Allicock (18 October 2021): The purpose of the meeting was to share information on the project and gather feedback. The Regional Chairman noted that there is interest in developing a freshwater management plan at the regional level due to concerns of water pollution due to mining. Mining remains a concern for South Rupununi villages. He noted that several projects that are operating in the area as well as useful projects that have closed out. He noted specifically that it would be helpful to have similar activities to what was supported under the Arapaima Management Plan programme, which helped to monitor and protect the protect species from poaching. There are three entities in the North Rupununi that participate in GFC regulated timber operations, and it was noted that most communities have informally adopted GFC timber harvesting standards for managing logging activities on their village lands.
- Validation Workshop (7 February, 2022): The project was presented to key stakeholders for validation before submission of the project to GEF. The objectives of the meeting were to: briefly present an overview of the final Project Document to be submitted to the GEF, provide an opportunity for any remaining comment or questions, and explain next steps after Project Document submission. Overall participants were supportive of the project and its outcomes. Feedback from participants included: (1) the project should ensure that there is coordination with ongoing activities at the project sites as this prevents communities from being 'overloaded' and to prevent duplication of efforts; (2) the regional government (RDC) should be a stakeholder in the project; (3) what aspects of the PA Act were being considered for revision and is co-management being considered; (4) project should incorporate Village Improvement Plans of communities into the resource-use mapping and zoning activities under component 1; and (5) the project should support the KMCRG. Appropriate changes were made to the project document. Stakeholders were informed that during the first few months of the project, consultations with communities and other stakeholders will be done in order to refine the project activities.

- Community Consultations (September 22 to October 5, 2022): A local consultant and team including the EPA, PAC and WWF conducted eight community consultations in clusters with community participants traveling to a central location. A total of 178 (94 male, 84 female) people from 28 communities participated in the eight consultations; 34 communities were invited including Rupunau, Sand Creek, Shea, Mururanau, Katoka, Simonie, Annai, Surama, Wowetta, Kwatamang, Aranaputa, Yakarinta, Massara, Kwaimatta, Toka, Rupertee, Rewa, Apoteri, Crashwater, Yupukari, Fly Hill, Kaicumbay, Quatata, Moco Moco, St. Ignatius, Quarrie, Kumu, Parikwarwaunau, Nappi, Hiowa, Parishara, Shulinab, Quiko and Mirwow. The communities which did not attend were Annai, Wowetta, Aranaputa, Shea, Crashwater and Meriwow; this was due to conflict with prior activities, poor road / impassable road conditions. The consultations were an opportunity for implementing agencies to provide information on the proposed project and for the local consultant to collect data necessary for the development of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Safeguards Policy. Community participants were engaged and expressed interest in the project. General feedback from the consultation included but is not limited to: (1) Villagers want to ensure sustainable resource management but are not clear on what the KMPA management plan encompasses; (2) Villagers are interested in monitoring and research but ongoing training is necessary; (3) Villagers are vulnerable to development (socio and economically); (4) Indigenous people see themselves as part of the landscape and natural resources and also feel that the environment itself is vulnerable to unsustainable use by Indigenous and non -Indigenous people and development; (5) there are Community Based Management Plans and resource maps which should be integrated into the project; (6) Project focal points should be located at NRDDb, KMCRG and SRDC and these locations should also be a hub for communication and information dissemination; (7) In-depth community consultations per community must be conducted at the start of the project implementation, Makushi and Wapichan translators should be used and a special effort through interactive activities such as sports should be made to engage youth and women's should be made.

See consultation log frame in Appendix III.

5. Approach to Stakeholder Engagement and Communications

The purpose of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan is to ensure appropriate and consistent involvement of project stakeholders in every stage of the project implementation, supporting effective communication and working relationships. Because the project areas overlap with indigenous lands, Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPP) will also be developed for the project, outlining the FPIC process the project team and communities will collaborate on. The Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework which will be used to develop the IPPs can be found in the ESMF. These IPPs will be complimentary to the SEP laid out here. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be responsible for engaging stakeholders and ensure that the views and inputs of stakeholders are taken into consideration throughout project implementation.

Stakeholder engagement will include meetings and consultations to capture perspectives, gaps, needs and opportunities related to the project. It will also involve training, workshops and research and monitoring activities. Different stakeholders will require specific engagement strategies; project partners may be engaged through email, meetings, social media, but many of the stakeholders who reside outside of urban areas, especially Indigenous and rural people, have limited and intermittent access to communication as well as gaps between communication media. In all cases, hard copy of letters in the appropriate languages should be sent to all Indigenous and rural stakeholders, requesting and or inviting them to meetings. This should be done at least 2 weeks in advance. Follow up can then be done via social media, telephone, text and What App. Leaders often travel to a city centre once a week or so and can download messages then.

Most Indigenous and rural people often don't have access to a printer for dissemination of media or review of documents. Printed copies of all documentation, with a letter outlining needs and deadlines should be sent to communities in duplicate or triplicate for their review.

Table 1 outlines project stakeholders, engagement plan and methods and resources for communication.

Table 1 Activities for Consultations with Stakeholders

Stakeholder Type	Name	Engagement Plan for Execution	Method and resources or communication
Communities and Indigenous People	<p>The project will engage communities in the NRW and surrounding the KMPA, which is the traditional home and resource use areas of the Indigenous Makushi and Wapichan people.</p> <p>(a) For the NRW site: Apoteri, Rewa, Crashwater, Annai, Surama, Wowetta, Rupertee, Kwatamang, Toka, Yakarinta, Massara, Kwaimatta, Yupukari, (Kaicumbay), Quatata, Kotoka, Simone, Nappi, Parishara, Hiowa, and Moco-Moco;</p> <p>(b) For KMPA site: Mururanau, Shea, Rupunau, Sand Creek, Shulinab (Meriwau and Quiko), Parikwarwanau, Moco-Moco, St Ignatius (Kumu and Quarrie), Nappi (Hiowa and Parishara), Katoka, Yupukari (Kaicumbay), Apoteri, Rewa and Crashwater.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities will be consulted in line with FPIC principles within the first 6 months of project start to validate the proposed project activities, adjustments will be made based on these consultations to ensure consensus and support. These consultations will take place before any on the ground activities begin, in order to facilitate a truly collaborative process. The specifics of the FPIC process will be agreed to with communities as outlined in a separate Indigenous Peoples Plan. Communities will be consulted and engaged in all project components once outputs are mutually agreed (bullet point above). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Component 1:</u> PAC will engage communities to co-develop community resource maps and land use plans. Community members will be invited to trainings and capacity building workshops. <u>Component 2:</u> Community representation on the multi-stakeholder platform (Output 1.1.4), community consultation throughout the NRW planning process, and, if desired, communities can apply to directly implement activities on their titled lands through Output 1.1.5. 	<p>Hard copy of letters/ documents, follow up with What App and soft copy of letters</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Social media</p> <p>Face to face Meetings</p> <p>Radio Lethem</p> <p>Radio Paiwomak</p> <p>Printed material</p> <p>Maps</p> <p>Safeguards and Gender Officer</p> <p>Makushi or Wapichan translator</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Component 3: Communities will be consulted on potential revisions to the PA Act. ● FPIC will be followed according to the safeguard plans, and activities will be in accordance with the Protected Areas Act 2011 and the Amerindian Act 2006. ● Robust grievance mechanism will be in place. 	
Indigenous Representative Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kanaku Mountain Community Resource Group (KMCRG) ● North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB) ● South Rupununi District Council (SRDC) 	<p>These organizations will be invited to have representation on the multi-stakeholder platform (with regular meetings), through which these organizations will be consistently engaged in decision-making for the NRW planning process, and will have input to the type of activities and selection of partners for activities being implemented under 1.1.5 of the output.</p> <p>A representative from the NGOs active in the area will sit on the Project Steering Committee on a rotating basis.</p>	<p>Hard copy of letters/ documents, follow up with What App and soft copy of letters</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Social media</p> <p>What App</p> <p>Face to face Meetings</p> <p>Radio Lethem</p> <p>Radio Paiwomak</p> <p>Printed material</p> <p>Maps</p> <p>Safeguards and Gender Officer</p> <p>Makushi or Wapichan translator</p>
Government of Guyana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EPA ● PAC ● GFC 	<p>The project implementing agencies: EPA is the lead executing agency for the project. PAC and GFC are executing partners under the project. All three government agencies will be responsible for implementing project activities. PAC will lead activities around the KMPA and on revisions to the PA Act (Component 1, 3). EPA will lead activities in the NRW (Component 2), The GFC will be responsible for strengthening the sustainable use of forest resources to support SLWM practices in the landscape.</p>	<p>Email</p> <p>Project management meetings/Zoom</p> <p>Letters</p> <p>Website</p> <p>Printed materials</p> <p>Maps</p> <p>Public service messages via print, television and social media</p>
	<p>The Government agencies with a mandate to regulated activities in the NRW include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GGMC ● GLSC 	<p>Key government agencies will be invited to have representation on the multi-stakeholder platform (with regular meetings) through which these organizations will be consistently engaged in decision-</p>	<p>Email</p> <p>What App</p> <p>Meetings/Zoom</p> <p>Letters</p> <p>Website</p> <p>Printed material</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Amerindian Affairs Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries Regional Democratic Council #9 	making and participatory roles for the NRW planning process.	Maps
NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iwokrama International Centre Frankfurt Zoological Society Conservation International – Guyana IFAD CIFOR Field Museum WWF Guianas Cobra Collective Amazon Conservation Trust Amerindian Research Unit 	Key NGOs will be invited to comment on and participate in various project components. Under Component 2, NGOs will be invited to provide input throughout the NRW planning process. Some may be invited to join the multi-stakeholder platform. NGO's may be able to apply under the Output 1.1.5 competitive process especially where partnership is requested by indigenous communities. NGOs will also be invited to provide input into revisions of the PA Act.	Email Telephone What App Website Meetings/Zoom Letters Website Printed materials Maps Stakeholder platform
Private Sector	<p>Concession holders and private sector actors in the NRW (including for agriculture, ranches logging, tourism, wildlife traders and trappers, commercial fishers, and community tourism initiatives etc).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit Rupununi Pakaraima Mountain Inn Guyana Truly Wild Karanambu Lodge and Ranch Joe Hill Santa Fe Farms San Jose Ranch Waikin Ranch Manari Ranch Makushi Yemkun 	<p>Concession holders and private sector actors will be engaged through the multi-stakeholder platform, and will be consulted throughout the NRW planning process.</p> <p>Community tourism operators and their representative bodies are also key stakeholders in the KMPA.</p>	<p>Hard copy of letters/ documents, follow up with What App and soft copy of letters</p> <p>Email Social media What App Face to face Meetings Radio Lethem Radio Paiwomak Printed material Maps Email Telephone Website Public service messages</p> <p>Community engagement specialist Makushi or Wapichan translator</p>

	Cooperative (MYC loggers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rupununi Loggers Association • Aranaputa Loggers Association • Wildlife trappers and traders, commercial fishers 		
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Stakeholder engagement will also:

- Provide information about the project in a timely manner using media most appropriate to their location (email, phone call, letter, face to face); many people working and living outside of Georgetown rely on what ever communication tools which may be present in their area and there are many gaps between service providers and types of communication available. Table 1 above lists communication methods per group;
- Provide advance notice about meetings requesting their participation; at least 2-3 weeks notice should be given to stakeholders located outside an urban centre due to challenges with communication and logistics;
- Be inclusive of gender;
- Employ a translator in communities where English is a second language; if consultations are gender sensitive, gender of translator should be considered;
- Respect privacy if stakeholders are unwilling to share information about culturally sensitive information (sacred sites, hunting/fishing grounds, etc).
- Send follow up documentation to stakeholders (consultation reports, maps etc., by the implementing agency);
- Provide adequate copies of material and time to provide feedback;
- Respect the Ministry of Indigenous People's Affairs protocols for engaging with Indigenous communities (Appendix I);
- Share the grievance mechanism, and other sources of information (telephone numbers, website etc);
- Adhere to national Covid-19 guidelines and regulations.

A Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan has been developed to ensure all people are properly engaged, consulted, and have the opportunity to be active participants within the project.

In addition to the methods above, the project will implement a knowledge management and communication plan. The knowledge management and communication plan will be aligned to the stakeholder engagement plan to ensure information is properly disseminated to key stakeholders. The Communication Plan and related communication products will also be developed and shared through the GEF Amazon Sustainable Landscapes II (ASL) Impact Program, and more widely, to ensure uptake and sharing of best practices to regional/global practitioners.

Appendix V of the Project Document includes a project timeline, inclusive of stakeholder engagement activities.

6. Resources and Responsibilities

The PMU is responsible for ensuring compliance with the GEF and WWF standards on Stakeholder Engagement, specifically the WWF [Standard on Stakeholder Engagement](#) and the associated [Procedures for Implementation of the Standard on Stakeholder Engagement](#). The WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement requires the Executing

Agency to engage all stakeholders— including project affected groups, women and men in local communities, and local CBOs and CSOs —throughout the life of the project; communicate significant changes to project stakeholders and consult on potential risks and impacts; establish a grievance redress mechanism and register and respond to grievances throughout project execution.

WWF-US, as the GEF Project Implementing Agency, is responsible for oversight. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as the lead Executing Agency, is responsible for executing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and overall compliance with the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement. A Safeguards and Gender Specialist will be appointed to the PMU to ensure effective, inclusive and gender-sensitive stakeholder engagement throughout all project activities. The EPA, PAC, and project partners will be responsible for carrying out specified stakeholder engagement activities. Workshops and travel costs have been budgeted in the project to ensure resources toward these activities.

7. Grievances Mechanism

The grievance redress mechanism is designed to enable the receipt of complaints of affected women and men and public concerns regarding the environmental and social performance of the project. In short, the aim of the mechanism is to provide people fearing, or suffering adverse project-related impacts with the opportunity to be heard and have their complaints resolved or recommended to another body for resolution. It is designed to address the concerns of the communities with a particular project, identify the root causes of the conflicts, and find options for the resolution of grievances. Therefore, it is an essential tool to foster good cooperation with project stakeholders⁵ and ensure adequate delivery of previously agreed-upon results.

This mechanism is designed to:

- Address potential breaches of WWF's policies and procedures;
- Be independent, transparent, and effective;
- Be accessible to project-affected people;
- Keep complainants abreast of progress of cases brought forward; and
- Maintain records on all cases and issues brought forward for review.

The PMU will be responsible for informing project-affected parties about the grievance mechanisms. Contact information of the staff member responsible for the grievance mechanism in the PMU will be made publicly available.

Project-Level Grievance Mechanism

The outline of the project-level grievance mechanism is included as part of the safeguard plans in the ESMF, and will be fully detailed within the first quarter of project implementation. This will describe the process by which people concerned with, or potentially affected by, the project can express their grievances for consideration and redress. It will also detail how grievances will be received, by whom, how the grievances will be resolved and how the response will be communicated.

During community consultations in September and October 2022, participants suggested that a project focal point at each NRDDB, KMCRG and SRDC could be responsible for addressing communications between grievances reported at the community level and the PMU. Where grievances at the community level could be first brought to the local focal point, discussed and then forwarded to the PMU to be processed through the grievance mechanism.

WWF GEF Agency Grievance Mechanism

Project-affected communities and other interested stakeholders may raise a grievance at any time to the WWF GEF Agency. Contact information of the WWF GEF Agency will be made publicly available.

A grievance can be filed with the Project Complaints Officer (PCO), a WWF staff member fully independent from the WWF GEF Agency, who is responsible for the WWF Accountability and Grievance Mechanism and who can be reached at: Email: SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org.

Mailing address:

Project Complaints Officer, World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

Complaints may be submitted in the Affected Party's native language and should include the following information:

- Complainant's name and contact information;
- If not filed directly by the complainant, proof that those representing the affected people have authority to do so;
- The specific project or program of concern;
- The harm that is or may be resulting from the project;
- The relevant Environmental and Social Safeguards policy or provision (if known);
- Any other relevant information or documents;
- Any actions taken so far to resolve the problem, including contacting WWF;
- Proposed solutions; and
- Whether confidentiality is requested (stating reasons).

The PCO will respond within 10 business days of receipt, and claims will be filed and included in project monitoring.

Stakeholders may also submit a complaint online or over the phone through an independent third-party platform at <https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/59041/index.html> or <https://report.whistleb.com/en/wwf>.

8. Monitoring and Reporting

Progress against the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be monitored and reported on throughout implementation.

The following comprises the monitoring and reporting activities to be undertaken with respect to stakeholder engagement by the PMU:

- The SEP will be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary at an annual Reflection Workshop. The review will ensure that the list of project stakeholders and methods of engagement remain appropriate. Stakeholders will be engaged on an ongoing basis (through Reflection Workshop when appropriate, and/or through consultations) to review activities, progress, and inform project reports/decision making.
- Activities related to stakeholder engagement will be documented and reported by the PMU to the WWF GEF Agency every 6 months in a Project Progress Report (as part of regular reporting). The project Results Framework and Annual Work Plan and Budget will track beneficiaries of the project and activities related to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- Stakeholder Engagement activities and progress will be monitored through the following indicators:
 - GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

- Indicator SEP 1: Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis
- Indicator SEP 2: Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis)
- Indicator SEP 3: Number of engagements (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders and rightsholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)

Stakeholder Engagement will be evaluated by **independent consultants** recruited for the project midterm and terminal evaluation.

The WWF GEF Agency will undertake annual supervision missions to ensure compliance, and report on progress against the Stakeholder Engagement Plan annually to the GEF through Project Implementation Reports.

Appendix I: Access to Indigenous Villages

Access to Indigenous Villages – Ministry of Amerindian Affairs

Step 1: Application

The Amerindian Act of 2006, Section 5, part II states “A person, other than a person travelling for official business for the Government who wishes to enter Village lands shall apply for and obtain the permission of the village Council”.

A person, other than a person traveling for official business for the Government, who wishes to conduct any scientific, anthropological or archaeological research or any other research or study which relates to biological diversity, the environment or natural resources or to use or knowledge thereof within Village lands shall apply for an obtain in advance-

- a. The permission of the Village Council
- b. All permits required under any other written law; and
- c. The permission of the Minister

Note:

- Each person is required to complete the Application form for entry into an Indigenous Village.
- Submission of entry application to the Ministry must be accompanied by the written consent of the Village Council and any other permission necessary and a letter addressed to the Honourable Minister on purpose of the visit.
- Entry applications with all other correspondence should be submitted at least one month prior to visit. Applications and accompanying documents can be emailed to the Ministry.

Step 2: Report; use of scientific and other research

A person who carries out any research or study under section 5 (3) shall provide the Village Council and the Minister with:

- A full written report of his findings
- A copy of all recordings made; and
- A copy of any publication containing material derived from such research.
- person who wishes to make use of any material derived from research or study shall:
- Apply and obtain the permission of the Village Council, the Minister, and the Minister with the responsibility for culture, and the Environmental Protection Agency established under the Environmental Protection Act 1996.
- In good faith negotiate and enter into a benefit sharing agreement with the Village Council.

Appendix II: List of Communities Engaged in the Project

Communities organized in alphabetical order:

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Annai | 13. Meriwow | 25. Sand Creek |
| 2. Apoteri | 14. Moco Moco | 26. Shea |
| 3. Aranaputa | 15. Mururanau | 27. Shulinab |
| 4. Crashwater | 16. Nappi | 28. Simonie |
| 5. Fly Hill | 17. Parikwarwaunau | 29. St. Ignatius |
| 6. Hiowa | 18. Parishara | 30. Surama |
| 7. Kaicumbay | 19. Quarrie | 31. Toka |
| 8. Katoka | 20. Quatata | 32. Wowetta |
| 9. Kumu | 21. Quiko | 33. Yakarinta |
| 10. Kwaimatta | 22. Rewa | 34. Yupukari |
| 11. Kwatamang | 23. Rupertee | |
| 12. Massara | 24. Rupunau | |

Communities organized by geographical cluster:

- Rupunau, Sand Creek, Shea, Mururanau
- Katoka, Simonie
- Annai, Surama, Wowetta, Kwatamang, Aranaputa, Yakarinta, Massara, Kwaimatta, Toka, Rupertee
- Rewa, Apoteri, Crashwater
- Yupukari, Fly Hill, Kaicumbay, Quatata
- Moco Moco, St. Ignatius, Quarrie, Kumu, Parikwarwaunau
- Nappi, Hiowa, Parishara
- Shulinab, Quiko and Meriwow

Appendix III: Documentation of Stakeholder Consultations

Date	Description of Consultation	Venue	Objective of the Consultation	Summary of Meeting Outcomes	Participants
2022/02/07	Validation workshop	Zoom Meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Briefly present an overview of the final project document to be submitted to the GEF. Provide an opportunity for any remaining comment or questions. Explain next steps after Project Document submission. 	<p>Stakeholders validated the project for submission. Several suggestions and points were raised, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project should ensure that there is coordination with ongoing activities at the project sites as this prevents communities from being “overloaded” and to prevent duplication of efforts. The regional government (RDC) should be a stakeholder in the project. What aspects of the PA act were being considered for revision and is co management being considered? Project should incorporate Village Improvement Plans of communities into the resource- use mapping and zoning activities under Component 1. Support should be provided to the KMCRG. <p>Appropriate changes were made to the project document. Stakeholders were informed that during the first few months of the project, consultations with communities and other stakeholders will be done in order to refine the project activities.</p>	<p>Aretha Forde (EPA) Rhea Kanhai (EPA) Rene Edwards (CI) Michelle Astwood (MNR) Andrea Mahammed (GLSC) Asib Mohamed (GLSC) Lucia Chuquillanqui (WWF GEF) Colis Primo (EPA) Juliana Persaud (WWF Guianas) Kelcie Marques (GLSC) Lesley De Souza (Field Museum) Maria Fraser Rachel Kaplan (WWF GEF) Reshana Thomas (MNR) Gerard Pereira (KMCRG) Roland Austin (GLSC)</p>
2021/10/13	Meeting with Lesley De Souza, Chicago Field Museum	Zoom Meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Share background of Guyana’s ASL Child Project proposal Understand what past and current work these organizations have been engaged particularly in the NR Wetlands (Component 2) 	<p>The following were major points of the discussion: FM undertaking work to identify terrestrial hotspots in Guyana using terrestrial and freshwater species. This builds off the work done by Jake Bicknell. FM notes that VP Jagdeo is interested in this work in the context of LCDS and FM to make a presentation to the EPA.</p>	<p>Lesley De Souza (Field Museum) Diana Fernandes (EPA) Sean Mendonca (EPA) Juliana Persaud (WWF)</p>

			<p>3. Gather information on potential activities that the Pro Doc should give attention to in regards to support management for the NR Wetlands.</p>	<p>The approach of having some kind of management is good. There is need to amass data to delineate area. FM has information on delineation of hydrological/ecological portal (area that should be kept intact if the area is to function well). Indicated that Nappi reserve has cut off one of the creeks.</p> <p>Updating natural resource use by communities would be useful as this can guide the management planning process.</p> <p>Other researchers are working on highlighting KBA in the North Rupununi and this could be used in delineating the area.</p> <p>Capacity building needs should be incorporated. E.g. continued support for youth and wildlife clubs; what that local people depend on resources; structure to set up for involvement of young people; ranger training so that people can protect the area and know how to gather data.</p> <p>Research needs include: major rapid biological and social inventory; water chemistry, flooding regime and extent of flooding.</p> <p>EPA recommended tying ASL work to traditional knowledge of communities.</p>	
2021/10/18	Meeting with Regional Chairman, Mr. Bryan Allicock	Zoom Meeting	Same as above	<p>Meeting began with an overview of the ASL Regional Project and Guyana's proposed focus on activities surrounding the Kanaku Mountains Protected Area and the NR Wetlands that would contribute to promoting conservation and better management of these landscapes. Bryan Allicock then share the following notable points:</p> <p>There have been plans to develop a freshwater management plan at the regional level due to concerns of water pollution due to mining.</p> <p>Hinterland Environmental Sustainable Agricultural Development (HESAD Project) which supports small-scale farmers in areas</p>	<p>Bryan Allicock (Regional Chairman, Reg 9)</p> <p>Sean Mendonca (EPA)</p> <p>Juliana Persaud (WWF)</p>

				<p>including improved management of natural resources associated with their farming practices.</p> <p>Arapaima Management Plan was a good programme that helped to monitor and protect species from poaching. Efforts to have such activities again would be helpful.</p> <p>Savannah fires continue to be a problem (there is a current project in the South Rupununi that seeks to monitor the effects of savannah burning and promote customary practices aligned with traditional knowledge and practices).</p> <p>PARD has been working on a Regional Development Plan with would include a “land use plan for Region 9”.</p> <p>Mining remains a concern for South Rupununi Villages.</p> <p>Question was posed specifically to forestry in the NR: there are three entities in the NR what participate in the GFC regulated timber operations including Aranaputa. Notably, it was noted too that most communities have informally adopted GFC timber harvesting standards for managing logging activities on their village lands.</p> <p>Question was posed on the usefulness of the CMRV project in NR. Mr. Allicock indicated that the project built capacity for community researchers to collect data using smart phones which helped to monitor state and use of resources within community lands.</p>	
2021/09/29	Conversation with representative of the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) based in	45 mins discussion via phone	Same as above	<p>NRDDB has over the years seen the execution of several projects focused on improving natural resource management of community lands.</p> <p>There was an NRD Adaptive Management Plan (Darwin Initiative) project but lost momentum after project was work was completed.</p>	Sean Mendonca (EPA) Ivor Marslow (NRDDB CEO)

	North Rupununi, Region 9.			<p>Iwokrama supported wildlife club activities in the earlier years but this is greatly reduced. Today SWM project does work with a select number of communities that has seen their wildlife clubs being re engaging, but more is needed. SWM also focuses support on Fisheries Management. Past monitoring activities were associated with the CMRV projects which saw training of community members to be resource and monitoring officers. More recently there was the Darwin Initiative project what focused on traditional knowledge and its link to conservation.</p> <p>There is need for all around capacity building for the communities of the NR on how to do environmental monitoring and coordinate data collection and analyzing such data to help inform management decisions and actions.</p>	
2021/09/28	Meeting with CI_Guyana and Iwokrama Representatives	Zoom Meeting	<p>Share background of Regional ASL Project and Guyana's Child Project Proposal.</p> <p>Understand what past and current work these organizations have been engaged particularly in the NR Wetlands (Component 2)</p> <p>Gather information on potential activities that the Pro Doc should give attention to in regards to management of the NR Wetlands.</p>	<p>Iwokrama highlighted their many initiatives over the years with NRD communities in support of wildlife clubs and capacity building of NRDDB through various projects. Reference was made to the Makushi Research Unit and a State of the North Rupununi Report. Expressed the need for support in promoting greater collaboration between communities in resource management.</p> <p>CI-Guyana: They recommended a focus on activities that would support management of community owned lands (stewardship). Opportunities to ensure synergies with regional development plans would be important. Mentioned the Regional Development Plan which should speak to actions linked to NR Wetlands). Strengthening regional mechanisms for collaboration (i.e building a network and</p>	<p>Diana Fernandes (EPA)</p> <p>Sean Mendonca (EPA)</p> <p>Raquel Thomas (Iwokrama)</p> <p>Vanessa Benn (Iwokrama)</p> <p>Curtis Bernard (CI)</p> <p>Damian Fernandes (CI)</p> <p>Marcelle Chan A Sue (CI)</p>

				<p>building capacity). Another activity which might be useful would involve “mapping out” the various stakeholders in the Rupununi I and their activities to assess potential risks/concerns and opportunities for working together in the interest of the NR Wetlands.</p> <p>Project activities should support the NRDDDB’s (3yr) Action Plan and potential support development of new and more detailed strategic plan.</p> <p>Recommended speaking with Mr. Bryan Allicock (Regional Chairman), Ivor Marslow (NRDDDB), and Mike Williams (associated with on going conservation initiatives in NR).</p>	
2022/09/23	Rupunau Sand Creek Mururanau	Wichabai Ranch	Share background of Regional ASL Project and Guyana’s Child Project Proposal and collect data necessary for the development of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Safeguards Policy with the South Rupununi communities of Rupunau, Sand Creek, Shea and Mururanau	<p>Shea was the only community not in attendance, this was due to distance and arduous travel conditions. Main points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land and resources both in and out of the PA are used for traditional hunting, fishing, farming, pork knocking (artisanal mining) and gathering for livelihoods (including house materials) as well as tourism. Community members also use the resources for small scale commercial purposes. The type of resource use in the PA needs to be defined. Some community members are not clear on their rights to access the resources and feel that they have been restricted from accessing the PA. Some dispute about the PA boundaries and titled land boundaries; some communities were hoping to get their land title extension before agreeing to 	<p>Devon Dublin (WWF) Colis Primo (EPA) Michelle Joseph (rapporteur) Samantha James (local consultant)</p> <p>A full list of community participants can be found in the Consultation Summary document.</p>

				<p>the PA boundary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members concerned with commercial trapping and hunting of birds, turtles, fish as well as logging. • Protection of watersheds, environment, and sacred sites is necessary. • Integrated management plans between all stakeholder partners are necessary. • Communications should be sent 2 weeks in advance via SRDC, phone call, What App. • Sand Creek and Rupanau is comfortable with Wichabai as a meeting place. • Meeting Place – Wichabai is too far for Maruranau. Request for Project to come directly to village. • Full consultations however, should be held in each village because of travel constraints. • A translator for better communication and understanding of the project. 	
2022/09/26	Katoka Simonie	Katoka Village Office	Share background of Regional ASL Project and Guyana's Child Project Proposal and collect data necessary for the development of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Safeguards Policy with the communities of Katoka and Simonie.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katoka and Simonie use the PA for traditional livelihoods. • There is concern that other communities access Katoka's traditional territory for resource collection and commercial fishing. • Younger people don't go into the PA as much as the older generation. Lifestyles have changed and traditional life is eroding, this may lead to less pressure on the natural resources. • Land use activities in the NRW included fishing, farming, transportation corridor, trapping song birds, hunting, grazing 	<p>Devon Dublin (WWF) Colis Primo (EPA) Nadia Hunte (PAC) Michelle Joseph (rapporteur) Samantha James (local consultant)</p> <p>A full list of community participants can be found in the Consultation Summary document.</p>

				<p>cattle, gathering. There are water buffalo here. Other users include Massara, Crashwater, Yakarinta, Massara, Kwaimatta, Karanambu, Yupukari.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community conflict is resolved locally, guided by the Amerindian Act. • When the project starts, participants would look forward to Community consultations in each village with Makushi translator, field exercises in the protected areas, training and capacity building, jobs monitoring. • They are members of KMCRG and NRDDDB. • Toshao visits Lethem every week, Whatsapp messages can be sent to Toshao who will respond once in Lethem. Katoka can also be contacted through Yupukari Village Council. Semonie receives information from Katoka VC. 	
2022/09/27	<p>Surama Kwatamang Yakarinta Massara Toka Rupertee</p>	<p>Rupertee Village Benab</p>	<p>Share background of Regional ASL Project and Guyana's Child Project Proposal and collect data necessary for the development of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Safeguards Policy with the North Rupununi communities of Annai, Surama, Wowetta, Kwatamang, Aranaputa, Yakrinta, Massara, Toka, Rupertee.</p>	<p>The NRW are used by a wide stakeholder group including researchers, local and foreign tourists, and people from Georgetown and Brazil who come here to hunt, fish, trap and trade wildlife, traffick drugs.</p> <p>There is a business community of traders, business people as well as ranchers and large scale agriculture companies.</p> <p>All development initiatives need FPIC and environmental monitoring to ensure the integrity of the wetlands.</p> <p>Road accidents are an issue. Development has both positive and negative outcomes on indigenous culture and lifestyle.</p> <p>Need integration between local and national land use planning.</p>	<p>Devon Dublin (WWF) Colis Primo (EPA) Nadia Hunte (PAC) Michelle Joseph (rapporteur) Samantha James (local consultant)</p> <p>A full list of community participants can be found in the Consultation Summary document.</p>

				<p>The project should build in previous NRDDDB initiatives for resource use, monitoring and management.</p> <p>Engage communities through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work in small groups – youth, women, elders. - Phone calls - Advance notice of meetings/workshops. - Not everyone has access to internet and phone service. There are gaps in communication. - With regards to voicing concerns and/or complaints, suggestions, recommendations, there should be a safe space to do that. (grievance mechanism). Focal Point at NRDDDB. - Meet villagers in the villages. - Youths (School leavers) a difficult demographic to reach. Their attendance and engagements in community meetings is severely low. Because of this, the elders are stuck in leadership positions. - The Community Service Officer groups can be used as a channel to reach youths. - Youth Whatsapp groups. - Facebook page where youths can engage with interesting content related to the project. - Engagement through wildlife clubs – school age groups. - Sport Clubs, Culture groups can support engagement through fun day activities, quizzes, football competitions, pageants. 	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secondary School engagements. - Entertaining activities and leadership workshops. - Have a big “Environmental Day” and include the different clubs. - Wildlife Festival - Use of Tik Tok videos to reach youths. <p>Monitoring and project grievance can be done through NRDDDB or NTC.</p>	
2022/09/28	Rewa Apoteri	Rewa ICT Hub	Share background of Regional ASL Project and Guyana’s Child Project Proposal and collect data necessary for the development of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Safeguards Policy with the riverine communities of Apoteri, Rewa and Crashwater.	<p>Participants were very interested in monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Security is an issue for the communities. - Recruitment of community rangers needed - Training/ workshops for rangers and villagers - Check points to be in place - Regular patrols should be done - Equipment needed for proper and safe patrols. - The Community Policing Group is working but it is a volunteer position and resources are limited. This existing security system can be built on. - Needs the support of the PAC for patrol. - Intruders are well equipped with fire arms and this is a security challenge for the rangers. - Intruders are using local guides to enter area. <p>ARC communities are not part of the KMCRG but should be as they live north to the boundary of the PA and use the resources in some places, especially for tourism (Rewa). ARC should be involved in the management planning of the PA.</p> <p>Wildlife resources (turtles, arapaima, mammals) are being threatened; there are no functioning</p>	<p>Devon Dublin (WWF)</p> <p>Colis Primo (EPA)</p> <p>Nadia Hunte (PAC)</p> <p>Michelle Joseph (rapporteur)</p> <p>Susan George</p> <p>Samantha James (local consultant)</p> <p>A full list of community participants can be found in the Consultation Summary document.</p>

				<p>grievance mechanisms with gov't agencies and communities must deal with these issues themselves.</p> <p>Suggested checkpoints at key areas to assist with monitoring, instead of building a ranger station in the PA, collaborate with tourism initiative for a structure and monitoring.</p> <p>NRDDB also needs to be more proactive and reach out to villages.</p> <p>Request for extension of titled land was made in 2014 and in 2016 for Rewa, Apoteri and Crashwater but no response to date.</p> <p>Rewa was and is not in support of logging concessions being granted especially in head waters of the Rewa and Quitaro. The communities are highly dependent on the rivers and want to ensure that it is not polluted or destroyed. Tourism will be severely affected as well as other traditional activities for survival and the health of the environment. The proposals and job offers by these companies cannot compensate for the potential negative impact on the environment.</p> <p>Apoteri is concerned about logging and mining concessions being granted close to the PA and titled lands. Villagers are dependent on the water resources, wildlife and medicinal plants. This poses a threat on the tourism and health of the villagers. A request for extension from King Williams to Apoteri existing boundaries for conservation was made in 2014 and resubmitted in 2022 to the NTC. Awaiting</p>	
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				<p>approval.</p> <p>Rewa submitted a request for land extension several years ago and is now becoming frustrated with the delayed process. No feedback or follow up from the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and other agencies on this and other matters.</p> <p>Agencies and organizations should be attendance at NRDDDB meetings, eg – RDC, EPA, KMCRG, CI, PAC.</p> <p>Future consultations should be per village and must have a Makushi and Wapichan translator (Apoteri is Wapichan), advance notice must be given to council and being on time is important.</p>	
2022/09/29	Yupukari Fly Hill Kaicumbay Quatata	Yupukari Village Benab	Share background of Regional ASL Project and Guyana's Child Project Proposal and collect data necessary for the development of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Safeguards Policy with the communities of Yupukari, Fly Hill, Kaicumbay and Quatata.	<p>Several stakeholders use the land in and around Yupukari, including other NR communities, Central Lethem villages, Brazilians, Nappi, Katoka and illegal small planes. Activities include fishing, hunting, bird and mammal trapping, rustling, tourism, large scale agriculture companies, mining, and fuel stop for illegal planes.</p> <p>Currently they can solve small scale problems in their own, but they are not equipped to deal with intruders who are heavily armed. Security is an issue. There is a lot of traffic on the river.</p> <p>Currently, all people have equal access to community land and resources but when the population grows, then what is currently sustainable farming and resource use, may no longer be sustainable.</p>	<p>Devon Dublin (WWF) Colis Primo (EPA) Nadia Hunte (PAC) Michelle Joseph (rapporteur) Maisie Li (translator) Samantha James (local consultant)</p> <p>A full list of community participants can be found in the Consultation Summary document.</p>

				<p>Community was and is interested in monitoring, rangers should be strategically placed in the river. Fish resources are being extracted.</p> <p>Yupukari Village is involved in business of tourism and the village is expected to preserve nature but because of the employment constraints, villagers are forced to hunt and trap for an income. When trapping, inadvertent burning happens. The village council needs support in training and awareness on the repercussions of these activities. This can be supported by PAC, NRDDDB, KMCRG, CI, RDC, Visit Rupununi. The need for support has to be communicated to these agencies and organizations. Previously there were no engagements.</p> <p>Arapaima management plan should be implemented.</p> <p>Toshao over whelmed with duties and responsibilities, and cannot be expected to be involved in everything.</p> <p>All village councils need to be on board about conservation plans. Project presentations to the different groups of villagers: youths, women, elders. These should be regular. School leavers can be reached through workshop and training sessions. Engage the sport groups, culture groups, community health committee, wildlife clubs. Conduct house to house visits for the elders.</p> <p>Kaicumbay can be contacted through Yupukari Toshao. Internet and HF Radio are out of service. Internet issue is expected to be resolved soon.</p>	
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				<p>Whatsapp groups.</p> <p>Networking system to channel reports, concerns, and complaints or send messages. Focal point can be the steering committee.</p> <p>Yupukari ecosystem is unique in that it is close to two water systems, the Amazon and the Guyana Shield. The village is located where the watershed portal is and feels the need to protect the area.</p> <p>Yupukari could be an information hub for the project. They have a library and Caiman House has the resources to assist.</p>	
2022/10/03	Moco Moco St. Ignatius Quarrie Kumu, Parikwarwaunau	Manari Ranch	Share background of Regional ASL Project and Guyana's Child Project Proposal and collect data necessary for the development of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Safeguards Policy with the central Rupununi communities of Moco Moco, St. Ignatius, Quarrie, Kumu, Parikwarwaunau.	<p>Land titles and gaps between titled land, state land and private land is a concern.</p> <p>Application was made by St. Ignatius and Moco Moco for an extension of land in the savannah area to bring together their homestead and farm land. The two villages have agreed to split the land equally when granted. This inter-village agreement was already signed in the presence of the Guyana Lands and Survey Commission and the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs. The application for the extension is currently in process.</p> <p>Not too many people use the PA, as it's "over the mountain" but people farm at the edges and collect along the mountain foot. St. Ignatius villagers were under the impression that the area in the PA that is traditionally used was theirs. Would like clarity on the boundaries and hopes that the project with its partners can do that. Villagers would also like to have access to</p>	<p>Devon Dublin (WWF) Colis Primo (EPA) Steven Husbands (PAC) Michelle Joseph (rapporteur) Samantha James (local consultant)</p> <p>A full list of community participants can be found in the Consultation Summary document.</p>

				<p>the PA and continue their sustainable traditional use. Weramour is a satellite village of Rupunau who also uses the PA.</p> <p>There have been concerns of illegal mining in the PA.</p> <p>Challenges with being close to a busy road include littering of the environment by road users. Close proximity to Lethem. Villages do not monitor everyone that comes. Intends to move village office to the entry point to have more control over entry. Illegal activities – suspected to be drug trafficking because of traversing time. Motorbikes are traversing areas regularly, trade in illegal bikes .Trafficking person – women are taken to mining areas.</p> <p>Communities interested in monitoring Communities are skilled in monitoring of the illegal crossings at the Brazil/ Guyana borders. CMRV was done for resource management and Livelihood with Nappi, Moco Moco and other communities.</p> <p>Kumu has camera trapping training through SWM – 2 persons were trained. More training is needed – to involve youth. Central communities do not have a district council. KMCRG has been the point of contact and this system can be used for the project with regards to training. Previous training with CI on mapping. Parikwarunawa will be trained in camera trapping by SRCS.</p> <p>Communications by many of the central communities are by email via the government Wi-Fi. The ICT Hubs are not functioning yet.</p>	
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				<p>Point of contact when operational.</p> <p>Quarrie uses Tourism Lodge Wi-Fi at a cost.</p> <p>Facebook, Whatsapp</p> <p>Phone Service in most central communities.</p> <p>Letters via PAC to KMCRG.</p> <p>Letters/ messages to Parikwarunawa can be sent via village bus and dropped off at the village shop.</p>	
2022/10/04	Nappi Hiowa Parishara	Nappi Village Benab	<p>Share background of Regional ASL Project and Guyana's Child Project Proposal and collect data necessary for the development of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Safeguards Policy with the central Rupununi communities of Nappi, Hiowa and Parishara.</p>	<p>Nappi mountain is not in the PA but Nappi title and it's used for farming, Tourism – Bush Cow Eco Trails, Fishing , Gathering Howia also farms in the Moco Moco titled area and uses it for other traditional activities.</p> <p>Parishara farms in the PA. The PA is actually on Parishara titled boundary.</p> <p>Nappi uses outside of the titled area for gathering, cattle grazing lands, hunting and fishing. A first meeting was held between the Moco Moco and Nappi to discuss resource use and sharing in early 2022.</p> <p>Nappi has a reservoir and have rules for fishing. The villages developed a management plan for the reservoir. Nappi, Parishar and Howia villages use the reservoir.</p> <p>There is unfair use of reservoir.</p> <p>Persons are stealing fishing nets and this seems to be a local issue. The village council plans to have a meeting to put rules and regulation – safeguards in place to iron out the issues.</p> <p>Outsiders use reservoir for recreational purposes. A villager is operating privately and doing a tambique business. An area is blocked off for this harvesting.</p> <p>Nappi, Howia and Parishara are not part of the NRDDDB but are previewed to its functions. The</p>	<p>Devon Dublin (WWF)</p> <p>Colis Primo (EPA)</p> <p>Steven Husbands (PAC)</p> <p>Michelle Joseph (rapporteur)</p> <p>Samantha James (local consultant)</p> <p>A full list of community participants can be found in the Consultation Summary document.</p>

				<p>NRDDB makes presentations at the KMCRG meetings. The villages are interested in what the NRDDB does and would like to be informed of its responsibilities since the resources in the wetlands are shared.</p> <p>Nappi had initially told the lead agencies on the PA Consultations that the proposed land extension in in the PA would be granted. This is now an issue with the PAC and the villagers felt let down by this.</p> <p>Future consultations should have a translator so that all villagers can understand the language used by the agencies and that explanation can grant understanding by all parties involved.</p> <p>Updated maps illustrating titled areas, KMPA, ranches, resource areas, tourism sites and other and uses needed for future consultations.</p> <p>There are hardly any real or direct benefits to the communities. An example of this would be the proposed construction of a ranger house on the boundaries of Nappi and the PA and this has not come to fruition as promised. Villagers feel that decisions are made at top levels without considering the suggestion and recommendations from the villages.</p> <p>The villages are doing their best to manage and preserve their resources in the titled area as well as the PA but there is also a need for building materials and other resources from the PA. There is a concern about the terms of using the PA and the villages believe that there should be clarity on how and when resources can be extracted. Clarity should also be given on what number is considered sustainable and what the</p>	
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				<p>limits are for village benefits.</p> <p>Villagers feel vulnerable because they do not know the correct language to use to express their needs nor do they know how to negotiate with agencies.</p> <p>Train someone to relay information to the villages.</p> <p>Toshao needs a secretary who is trained in language, concepts, ideas etc.</p> <p>Posters, brochures with the information will help to relay the info. Hand out will be effective. One per household.</p> <p>Toshao can record sessions to play back for villagers.</p> <p>Radio Station – Radio Lethem can be used to disseminate information.</p> <p>Translators for meetings/workshops so every villager understands.</p> <p>Need time to process information and have a space for feedback.</p>	
2022/10/05	Shulinab Quiko	Shulinab Sports Pavilion	Share background of Regional ASL Project and Guyana's Child Project Proposal and collect data necessary for the development of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Safeguards Policy with the Rupununi communities of Shulinab, Quiko and Meriwow.	<p>Shulinab and it's satellite villages use the PA for farming, hunting, collecting materials. They made an extension request into the PA 6 years ago and toshao recently followed up. No closure.</p> <p>Sand Creek, Nappi and surrounding areas use the PA.</p> <p>The public highway bisects the village and road access is a concern. Children on the road are not</p>	<p>Devon Dublin (WWF)</p> <p>Colis Primo (EPA)</p> <p>Steven Husbands (PAC)</p> <p>Michelle Joseph (rapporteur)</p> <p>Samantha James (local consultant)</p> <p>A full list of community participants can be found in the Consultation Summary document.</p>

			<p>safe. The Road safety rules in place.</p> <p>Contractors who come to work impregnate young women. Trafficking in persons, illegal activities, most visitors do not report to the village office. It is also difficult to control who comes and goes because of the traversing time. Travelers also buy animals and wildlife in the village.</p> <p>Villagers wants a forum where rules and regulations of the KMPA can be revised to suit the way of life of villagers. – Village rules and the PA rules must be complimenting each other. There are sub rules under the SRDC and the governance of the SRDC can be studied to better understand how it works.</p> <p>SRDC is currently working on funding a new safeguard for the villages. This is to pay a salary to monitor the gate at Surwuarb in an effort to clamp down on wildlife hunting, rustling, bird trapping and serve as a check point for persons entering the area. There is however a back track to the south through Baitoon Village which may be difficult to monitor but this track becomes inaccessible during the rainy season.</p> <p>All river boundaries are porous, especially those that lead though Baitoon, Sawrawau, Bishiroon, Kattur and Potaranu. These are villages situated along the Takutu River and security is compromised.</p> <p>Trapping of wildlife, song birds and turtles is going out here for commercial purposes.</p> <p>Savannah fires are a major issue for villages. Although villagers were trained on fire</p>	
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				<p>monitoring by SRCS this is still a problem.</p> <p>Language and culture are vulnerable gaps between the elders and the youths.</p> <p>There is a breakdown in transfer of information on the KMPA rules and regulations to the younger generation.</p> <p>No sensitization session on fishing regulations for villagers. Fishing happens during the spawning periods and this is hurting the population.</p> <p>Alternatives such as rearing chicken to substitute for fish during the spawning period can be presented as an option. SWM Fisheries Management Plan is also an opportunity to help. There is a South Rupununi Wildlife Management plan of which all SRDC communities are a part of and this can also be a useful tool.</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement Plan and future consultations should have a local translator per village, the project should also consult with each community directly, to get a broader perspective from stakeholders to inform project implementation.</p> <p>Having a facilitator, familiar with community protocol and local customs and terrain is also an asset for successful consultation.</p> <p>A large, up to date map showing both the North and South Rupununi, the KMPA (proposed ranger stations), community titled lands, agricultural leases, and topography should be used for future consultation.</p>	
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