



**SWM SUSTAINABLE
WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME**

newsletter

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WELCOME

Welcome to the first Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme newsletter. It is packed with information about this important African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States initiative.

What is the SWM Programme all about? Recent studies have shown that overhunting for wild meat is threatening hundreds of wildlife species with extinction. As wildlife populations decline, many indigenous peoples' and rural communities are being left without food and an income. This situation is becoming more critical as the demand for wild meat grows, particularly in towns and cities.

Over the next five years, we will be developing innovative solutions, based on field projects in twelve ACP member countries, to tackle these challenges. It's an exciting and innovative Programme, and one of the most comprehensive of its kind. To keep you up to date on our progress, news and views we will be sharing these newsletters every three months.

The European Union is funding the SWM Programme with co-funding from the French Global Environment Facility. It is being implemented by a dynamic consortium of four partners, as shown by the logos, who are working together with governments to conserve wildlife and develop sustainable futures.

Hubert Boulet
SWM Programme Coordinator

Donors



HIGHLIGHTS

In each country, we are working closely with national authorities and local institutions. We would like to thank all our partners for their involvement and support!

Democratic Republic of the Congo - Ituri landscape

We are supporting two approaches to natural resources management, one within a national protected area (Okapi Faunal Reserve) and the other a community-based approach in Local Community Forest Concessions. An ongoing Value Chain Analysis and a forthcoming Consumption Study will help us understand the wild meat and domestic meat sector, from production to consumption.

Gabon - Mulundu Department

Our model is focused on the sustainable management of village hunting and the local wild meat trade. We have been presenting the project to local stakeholders, identifying pilot villages and setting up our team to undertake diagnostic surveys on local hunting and fishing practices, as well as the availability and consumption of meat products.

Guyana - Rupununi Savannahs

We are developing new models for sustainable wildlife and fisheries management in savannah-forest landscapes. We have revised the regional fisheries management plan, received consent from 27 communities to start project activities, finalized study protocols to use camera traps, prepared an eco-tourism plan and assessed livestock development possibilities.

Madagascar - Makira landscape

For many endemic species, hunting is ecologically unsustainable even though it currently provides local communities with essential proteins and micronutrients. We promote consumption and improve access to more resilient or domestic species through the development of backyard poultry and fish farming. Current practices in fish farming have been evaluated and participatory mapping carried out.

Papua New Guinea - Bismarck Forest Corridor

This model focuses on sustainable wildlife consumption, for both cultural materials and food, at the village level. Development of protein-rich tree crops and nursery programmes are underway to offset any reduction in protein intake from reduced hunting and to limit deforestation. The project is addressing sensitive gender issues.

Republic of Congo - Ouessou basin

We will focus on community management of hunting and fishing within logging concessions and reduction of wild meat consumption in logging towns and secondary cities. The Project Document has been approved, and project activities should begin shortly.

Sahelian Wetlands Site - RESSOURCE Project

Senegal, Mali, Chad, Sudan and Egypt - The initiative is working on the sustainable management of migratory waterbirds in wetlands. We are assessing the socio-economic importance of waterbirds for local populations and have supported the process to designate the "Trois Marigots" community reserve in the Senegal River delta as a Ramsar Site and have built capacity for the International Waterbird Census.

Zambia and Zimbabwe - KaZa Transfrontier Conservation Area

We are promoting local development through the sustainable use of natural resources, including wildlife and fisheries, in the Simalaha Conservancy (Zambia) and Mucheni Conservancy (Zimbabwe). Our first activities focused on building dialogue and partnerships with communities and local stakeholders, completing participatory maps and a baseline survey to address burning issues like Human-Wildlife Conflict and access to water.

SPECIAL FOCUS - COMMUNITIES

"The needs, rights and interests of local communities underpin all SWM Programme activities," explains Marta Gruca, the SWM community relations focal point, "this is essential to ensure that our work is culturally sensitive and sustainable over time". The SWM Community Rights-Based Approach guides each of the projects to ensure that:

- rights-holders (e.g. communities) are empowered to claim and exercise their rights;
- duty-bearers (e.g. local authorities) have the capacity to respect, protect, and fulfil rights of the rights-holders;
- no-harm or human rights violations to any individuals or group occur as a result of project activities.

In line with these overarching principles, the SWM Programme requires that a Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process is followed wherever we work with indigenous or rural communities. Marta Gruca emphasises that "indigenous peoples and local communities are free to give or withhold consent to a proposed SWM project or activity, and should fully participate in project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation". This is a major focus for the project teams in 2019.



COUNTRY STORY - GUYANA

“The Rupununi Savannah is teeming with wildlife, including a large variety of bird species,” explains Dr. Nathalie van Vliet, the SWM Guyana Site Coordinator. “Even the Arapaima, the world’s largest scaled freshwater fish, lives here”. Fish and wildlife are an integral part of the indigenous culture and diet in this region of Guyana, which borders Brazil and Venezuela. “Traditional hunting and fishing practices are still common,” she says “despite the availability of beef from cattle raised in the Rupununi traditional extensive ranching systems”. On the Coast of Guyana, wild meat and fish from the interior, including the Rupununi, are available for sale in local markets, restaurants and private houses.

However, threats to the Rupununi’s rich biodiversity are increasing as the area becomes more accessible and new economic activities take off. Over the next five years, the SWM Guyana Project will, therefore, focus its efforts on developing sustainable community-led wildlife and fisheries management initiatives. The hope is that these examples will be replicated elsewhere in Guyana and abroad. The Project activities are being implemented by the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission in coordination with CIFOR. Dr van Vliet is pleased with the progress being made.

“During these first six months we have built up a strong working relationship with local communities, agreed on a revised fisheries management plan, finalized our study protocols for camera trapping, planned eco-tourism activities and assessed the potential for livestock development, and started a wildlife road-kill assessment,” she said.



FACTS AND FIGURES

Seven-year ACP initiative being implemented in **12 pilot countries**

Implementation of activities began in **August 2018**

Largest European Union funded biodiversity programme

Eight sustainable approaches being developed

Six common Results are guiding activities in each country

EVENTS CORNER

Forests at the heart of Sustainable Development Conference

7 February 2019

European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

The FAO Deputy Director-General, Maria-Helena Semedo, highlighted the SWM Programme as an example of collaboration in her keynote conference presentation. [Webcast](#) (SWM Programme at minute 23:45)



SWM Six-Month Implementation Workshop

21 to 24 January 2019

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

The workshop brought together the four partner organizations, the European Union and national counterparts to share information on the progress being made during the first six months of the SWM Programme. [More info](#)



FROM THE FIELD



Working with fishermen to improve fishery management plans in the Rupununi, Guyana.

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NEWSROOM

Recent SWM Programme news items include:

- Major new Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme underway in Zimbabwe. Spiked Online Media Zimbabwe [click here](#)
- Action, local involvement urged to protect Sahel birds and wetlands. FAO News [click here](#)
- Alimentation : La gestion durable de la faune sauvage et la sécurité alimentaire des populations rurales au Gabon. Gabon Review [click here](#)
- UN FAO efforts towards sustainable wildlife management and improved food security and livelihoods TRAFFIC Bulletin Volume 30, No.2 [click here](#)

WHAT'S COMING UP?

- World Migratory Bird Day
11 May
www.worldmigratorybirdday.org
- International Day for Biological Diversity
22 May
www.cbd.int/idb
- CITES 18th Conference of the Parties
23 May - 03 June
Colombo, Sri Lanka
<https://citescop18.gov.lk>

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SWM TALKS

Mr. Viwanou Gnassounou, Assistant Secretary General, African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) §

Millions of people depend on wild meat for food and income. Wild meat is an important source of protein, fat and micronutrients, particularly for indigenous peoples and rural communities in many of the 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states. Continuous urbanisation has led to an increase in the wild meat trade, with immediate and significant threats to the conservation of biological diversity. If hunting for wild meat is not managed at sustainable levels, then wildlife populations will decline and rural communities will suffer rising levels of food insecurity.



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One of the primary objectives of the ACP Group is to support the sustainable development of its Member States. This ACP initiative, funded by the European Union, is therefore of utmost importance to design and implement solutions that achieve both human development goals and wildlife conservation. The SWM Programme is focusing on improving how wildlife hunting is regulated; increasing the supply of sustainably produced meat products and farmed fish; strengthening the management capacities of indigenous and rural communities; and reducing demand for wild meat, particularly in towns and cities. Based on the lessons and recommendations from the 12 ACP countries participating in the SWM Programme we will then adapt and replicate viable solutions in many other ACP countries.

The SWM Programme is also contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by supporting governments achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 2 on Zero Hunger, Goal 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production, and Goal 15 on Life on Land.



FIND OUT MORE

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www.swm-programme.org (coming soon)