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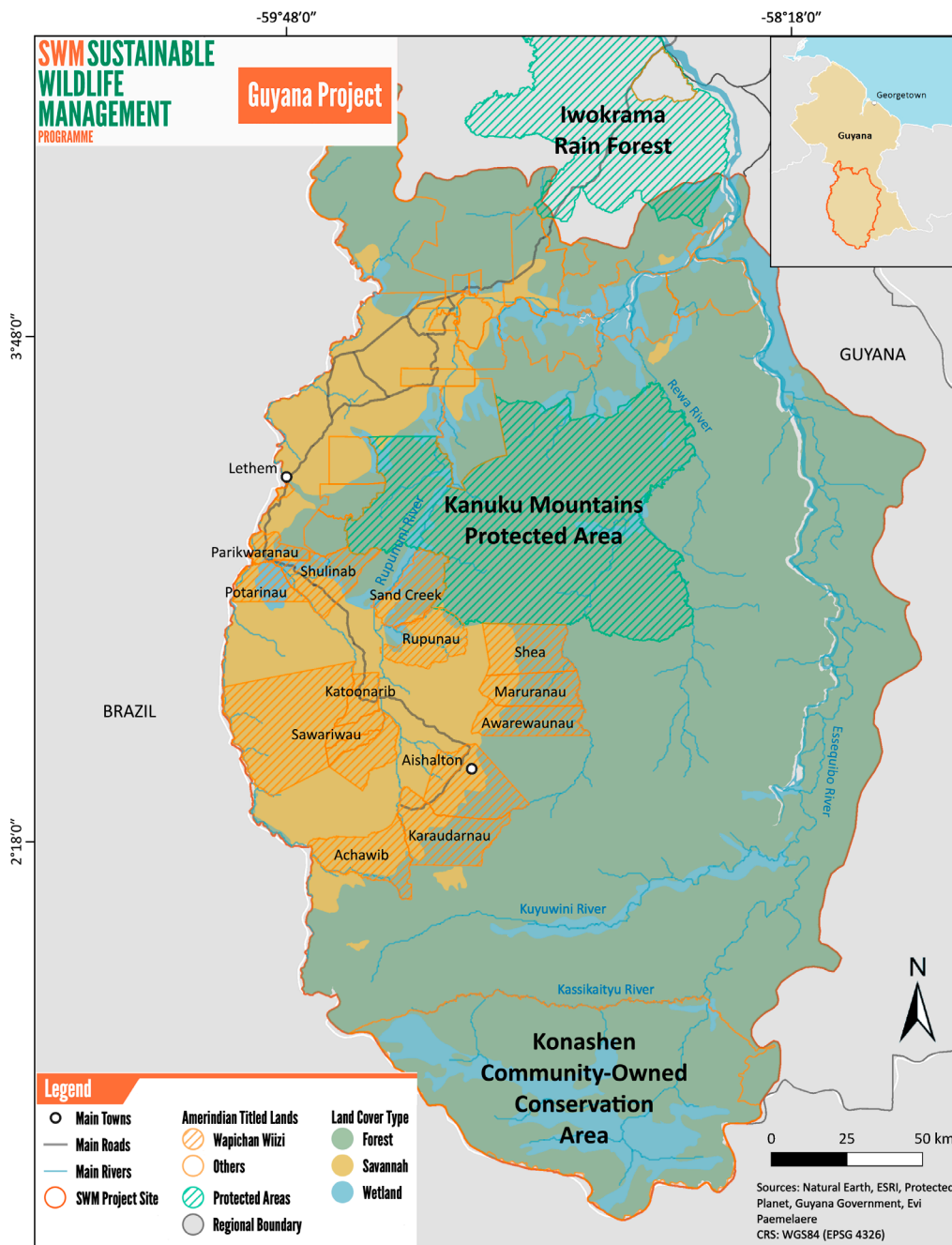
Wildlife use in Wapichan Wiizi



**SWM SUSTAINABLE
WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT
PROGRAMME**

Wildlife use in Wapichan Wiizi

The Wapichan Wiizi (Wapichan territory) lies in the South Rupununi, Region 9, between the Takutu, Kassikaityu and Essequibo rivers. The land includes the southern part of the Kanuku Mountains. Wapichan Wiizi harbours a highly diverse habitat with continuous tracts of primary forest, "bush islands", gallery forests, open and tree savannah, and seasonally flooded wetlands. The Wapichan Wiizi is home to many species of fish and wildlife, some of which are rare or threatened globally, like the red siskin, giant anteater, yellow-spotted river turtle and black curassow.





The Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Committee (WWWC)

In 2019, villages from the South Rupununi formed the Wapichan Wiizi Wildlife Committee (WWWC). The objectives of the WWWC are to:



Promote the care of conservation and sustainable management of wildlife species and habitats across Wapichan Wiizi.



Empower communities to make informed wildlife management decisions through studies of species with high conservation value.



Raise public awareness through activities that promote the conservation and sustainable management of wildlife.



Explore wildlife livelihood opportunities.



Incorporate traditional knowledge into conservation and sustainable management of wildlife.



Assist village councils in establishing rules on the protection, conservation and sustainable management of wildlife.

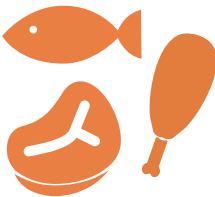


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Hunting in Wapichan Wiizi



Around **51%** of the households eat at least one type of meat per day.



Fish, beef and chicken are mentioned by **52%** of the households as their most important sources of animal protein.

Wild meat is eaten in nearly all households, but the frequency of wild meat consumption compared to fish or other meats varies greatly between villages:

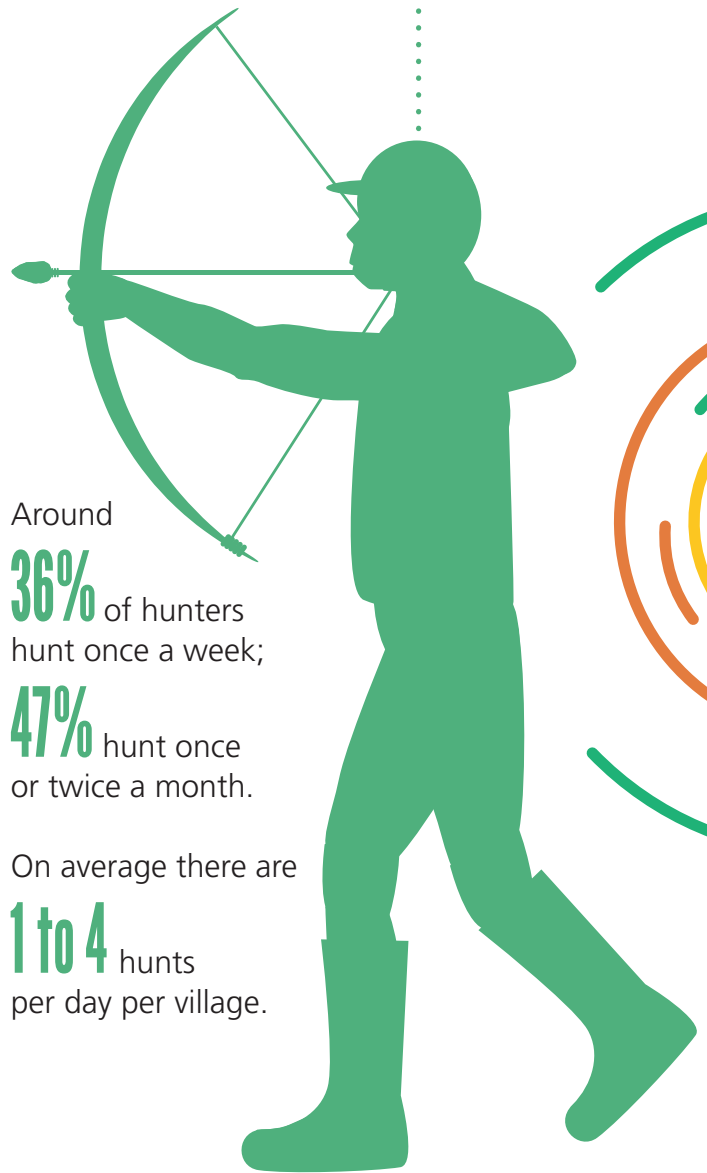
83% of households eat wild meat on a regular basis in Sawariwau, but only

9% of households do so in Karaudarnau.



On average, people eat **3-5 kg** of wild meat per person per year.

There is at least **1 active hunter** in half of the households.



Around **36%** of hunters hunt once a week;

47% hunt once or twice a month.

On average there are

1 to 4 hunts per day per village.



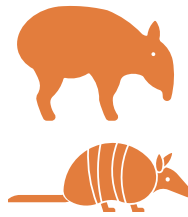
Hunters travel an average of **9 km** from the village. However, they may occasionally travel as far as 76 km to go hunting.



Hunting in Wapichan Wiizi is mostly for subsistence use. Only **4%** of hunters might sell part of their catch.



On average, **51%** of hunters share their catch with other households.



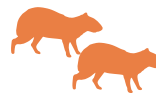
Savannah villages and forest-edge villages differ in the species hunted. Tapir, peccaries and bush deer are hunted by forest-edge villagers, while savannah deer and armadillo are hunted by savannah villagers.



Rodents (labba, agouti) rank highest in terms of number of individuals killed.



Ungulates (deer) rank highest in terms of biomass harvested.



The agouti is one of the most commonly hunted species. They can be hunted around cultivated plots, fallows, secondary forests and bush islands.



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Why is wildmeat important for the Wapichan people?

"[Wild meat] is the Indigenous way of life. When we used to eat only wild meat, our elders never had sicknesses like diabetes."

"Hunting helps save money. [Wild meat] is all natural and that makes it healthy."

"[Wild meat] is healthy, but we need to let [wildlife] live."

"[Wild meat] is important for us. It's part of the tradition."

How people feel about wild meat



If we could no longer consume wild meat, we would feel...:

"...as though we are being denied a basic right."

"...a sense of loss of something special."

"...a loss of identity, as wild meat is a part of the Indigenous diet."

Where do people prefer to eat wild meat





Hunting guidelines within Wapichan Wiizi

Each village has guidelines to ensure the land stays plentiful. Check with the village council for information.

Common hunting guidelines in Wapichan Wiizi are:

- Hunt only what you need for your family's own consumption and for sharing within the village.*
- Leave pregnant wildlife to reproduce.
- Let young animals grow; only hunt adults.
- Let the leader of the peccary pack live.
- If using fire for hunting, avoid uncontrolled fires that may kill wildlife or destroy their habitat.
- Practice traditional hunting methods (such as bows and arrows or traditional traps)
- Respect our sacred sites: hunt elsewhere.

For visitors

We welcome visitors that respect our village guidelines to keep our lands wild and our traditions alive.

- Upon arrival, check in with the village office.
- Ask village permission to hunt.*
- Show your valid collecting/trapping license from the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission (GWCMC).
- Pay the village hunting permit fee.
- Report species and quantities hunted before leaving.

* For commercial hunting: If you plan to hunt and sell outside the village land, please contact the GWCMC for national level requirements and approach the village. Some villages do not authorize commercial hunting.




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Vulnerability of commonly hunted species

	Hunted species	International trade
Yellow	Aro (savannah deer)	NP – NQ
	Kapashi (armadillo)	NP – NQ
	Kasho (capybara)	NP – NQ
	Koshara (bush deer)	NP – NQ
Orange	Sowan (iguana)	P - Q
	Bididi and bai (duck)	NP - NQ
	Pawish (powis)	NP - Q
	Kodoi (tapir)	P - NQ
	Dazao/dyaoruka (river turtle)	P - Q
	Bichi (white lipped peccary)	P - NQ
	Worada (land turtle)	P – (quota under revision)
Green	Sokoru (agouti)	NP – NQ
	Oran (labba)	NP - Q
	Bakuru (collared peccary)	P - NQ

Legend

 Species considered stable at the global level, but reportedly exposed to threats that could cause declines in the Rupununi

 Species listed as threatened at a global level by the IUCN

 Species considered stable both internationally and locally

International trade

(For permits and quota: contact GWCMC)

P = CITES permit required for international trade

NP = No CITES permit required for international trade

Q = Quota set in Guyana/international trade occurs

NQ = No quota set in Guyana/no international trade



GWCMC – Guyana Wildlife Management and Conservation Commission

Tel: (+592) 223 0940

<http://wildlife.gov.gy/>

Did you know?



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It takes about four years for a **tapir** to have its first young: three years to mature and one year of pregnancy. After this, they can produce a maximum of one young every two years! One hunted tapir takes years to replace.



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Capybaras depend on their social group to survive and the dominant male sires most offspring.

In a lifetime, female **capybaras** can have about four litters of four young on average (range two-eight). Many young die before becoming adults due to infanticide and predation.

For **capybara** herds to thrive, no more than one-fifth of adults should be harvested per year per social group, depending on habitat quality.



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The **savannah deer** is different from the North American species, and is mostly found in savannah and forest edge habitat, limiting its distribution to Guyana. The openness of its habitat makes it vulnerable to hunting.



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