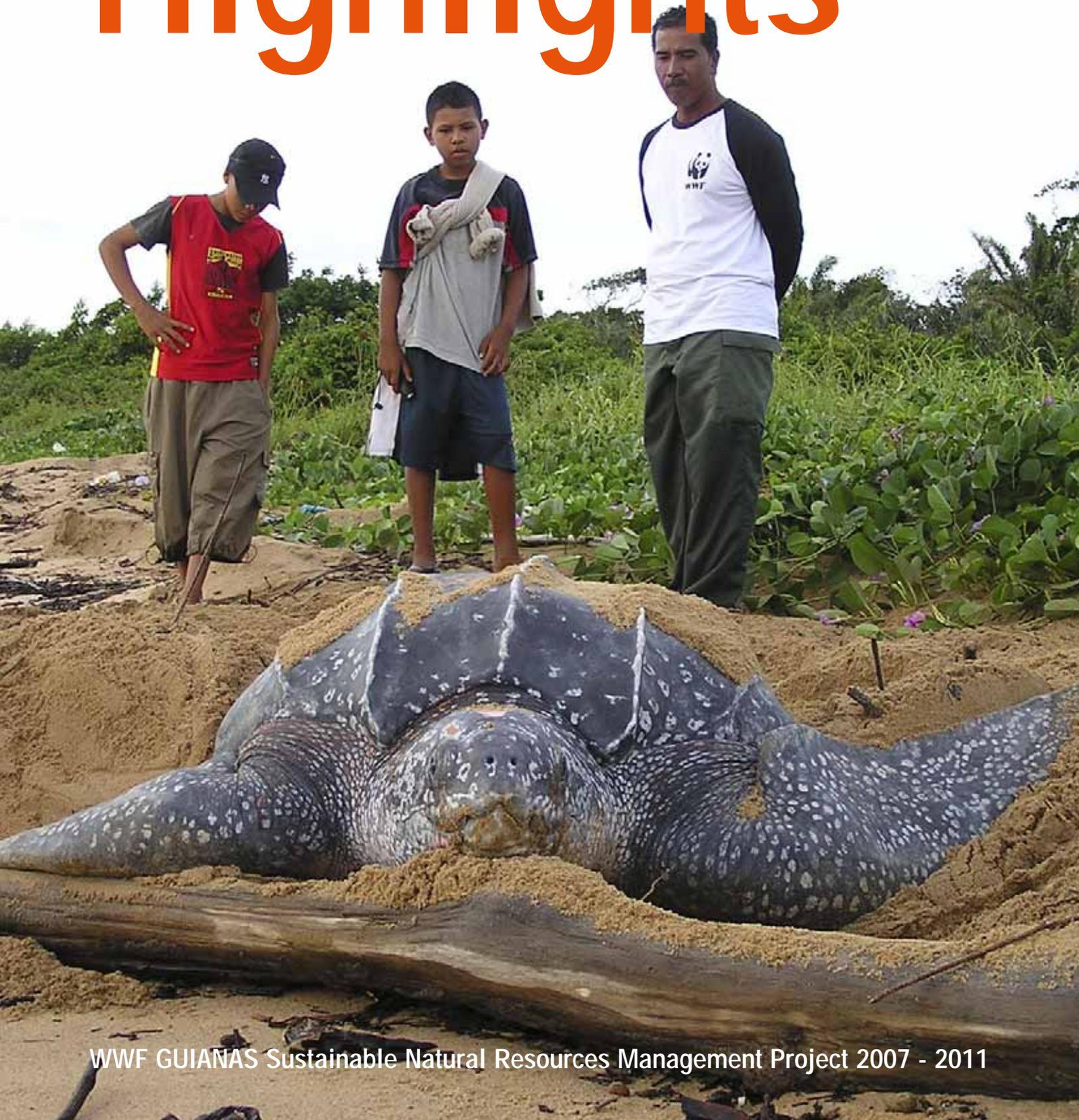




WWF® *for a living planet®*

WWF Guianas

Highlights





WWF Guianas



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WWF Guianas Highlights 2007



WWF Guianas is pleased to present its 2007 "Highlights". Through these highlights we proudly share some of our accomplishments for 2007 with our partners, colleagues, and friends in conservation. We hope that in so doing the peoples of the Guianas are given an opportunity to better understand the work of WWF including our conservation priorities, challenges, and achievements.

This publication is also intended to showcase WWF Guianas investments and activities to its multiple donors, thousands of international supporters and members of WWF organizations who help contribute to our important work in the Guianas.

The year 2007 was one of transition for our organization. It marked the end of the 5-year Guianas Sustainable Forest Management Project and the beginning of the new 4-year Guianas Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project. The staff invested a lot of time in reporting, writing project proposals and lobbying towards its donors for continued funding. We finally succeeded and managed to secure funding for another four years in August 2007, from the Embassy of the Netherlands in Suriname, the French Global Environmental fund (FFEM) and WWF Netherlands.

Despite these many administrative activities, a lot of work occurred in the field. The primary focus of WWF's work in the region is the sustainable use of the forest natural resources. The forests of the Guianas are immensely rich, naturally. WWF hopes to preserve this richness whilst ensuring that contributions to livelihoods are also protected and where possible enhanced. WWF Guianas continues to expand its energies in the broad field of conservation and sustainable management of the natural resources of the Guianas: support to protected areas management, sustainable forest management, goldmining pollution abatement, wildlife protection and management, and above all, environmental education, communication and awareness raising.

A major milestone in the conservation of forests and freshwaters in the Guianas during 2007 was the creation of Park Amazonien in French Guiana. The Park covers an area of 3.3 million hectares, of which 2 million are the core zone, and 1.3 million hectares can be considered as a multiple use management area. WWF Guianas wants to congratulate the French Government for this important step towards conservation of forests in the Guiana Shield, and is honored to be part of the Board of the Park. WWF plans to be vigilant towards the management of the park with special attention being paid to illegal mining in the core and the buffer zone.

Illegal gold mining is currently considered a significant threat to the forest, freshwater and marine biological diversity of the Guianas. Whilst we are working to promote and expand sustainable forest management practices in the region, manage international wildlife trade and other forms of species exploitation; strengthen the management of priority wetlands, and safeguard biodiversity hotspots, illegal gold mining continues to increase, so too all negative consequences it brings to the environment. Every day forests continue to be destroyed, rivers and creeks are polluted with mercury, and societies and cultures are irreversibly disrupted or altered.

WWF seeks to minimize as much as possible activities that adversely affect peoples and their environment. We hope that readers enjoy this publication and look forward to further collaboration with all stakeholders in 2008.

Dominiek Plouvier
WWF Guianas Regional Representative





WWF Guianas



Lineated Woodpecker



Leatherback turtle at Galibi Nature Reserve
Suriname

Protected Areas Management

Park Amazonien in French Guiana: 3.3 million ha of protected areas

On February 28, 2007, the Park Amazonien was established. This 3.3 Million hectares of rainforest is located in the south of French Guiana, and is the largest protected area in the Guianas. The southern part of the Park borders the network of protected areas in northern Brazil, which among others includes the Tumucumaque Park and the Maicuri Reserve. The Brazilian and French networks of protected areas present a proud 12M ha area, the largest protected tropical forest in the world.

Within the rich biodiversity of the Park Amazonien are found traditional and tribal people. The management of the Park faces the challenge to bring a balance between the protection of a natural heritage recognized throughout the world on one side, and the support for development which respects the way of life of the local communities on the other. "The creation of the Park Amazonien represents a strong commitment for long term conservation of the forests of French Guiana. Nevertheless, in spite of active efforts, the situation in the field is still raising much concern in relation with still high pressure from illegal gold-mining activities", emphasizes Laurent Kelle, head of the WWF Office in French Guiana. WWF participated in all consultations that led to the establishment of the Park. "With the proper management, this park can provide long lasting benefits for the people and biodiversity conservation in French Guiana".

A large part of the Park will be under strict protection, meaning that no economic activities, such as logging, may take place there. Yet, dispersed through the magnificent landscapes are large areas degraded by unsustainable activities of illegal gold miners. "It is only through a strong cooperation with Brazil and Suriname that we will be able to significantly reduce the negative impacts of small- and medium scale goldmining, and in the long run optimize the management of this large network of protected areas", said Laurent Kelle. Therefore WWF Guianas under its gold mining pollution abatement program will provide technical support to the miners to increase their knowledge about other techniques that have less impact on the environment and significantly reduce and eventually stop the use of mercury in this industry.

Kulalasi experience

Kulalasi is a local Amerindian NGO created in the mid-90s to facilitate the creation and future management of the Amana Nature Reserve in French Guiana. Since 1997 it has been involved in annual protection and scientific monitoring of marine turtles. In 2002, WWF took the initiative to develop the monitoring of remote nesting sites of the Nature Reserve's coast, in close collaboration with Kulalasi. In 2003 most of the leatherback turtle nests recorded in the Nature Reserve were observed to be outside of the Awala Yalimapo beach. Also, specific data on birds and jaguar presence were gathered. The results of this monitoring have helped demonstrate the important contribution that local communities can make to data collection and species management.

The partnership between WWF and Kulalasi is an interesting one. From the time the monitoring program commenced till recent, there has been a progressive transfer of capacities and responsibilities by WWF to this community organization. Each year, the WWF field involvement has been reduced whilst Kulalasi's expertise has grown. This, combined with a growing interest by the local community to increase its involvement in natural resources management led, in 2007, to the full management of this marine turtle project by Kulalasi, with WWF making only occasional field visits to assess the quality of the work of the group. WWF hopes that this experience which is largely based on capacity building and trust in local community initiative, can be developed elsewhere in the region, for the shared benefit of communities and the proper management of natural resources.



Symposium on Local Communities and Protected Areas

There is growing emphasis all over the world on the important role that communities play and are still playing in biodiversity conservation. In April 2007 WWF Guianas hosted two 2-day symposia on **“Local Communities and Protected Areas: Alternative Approaches in Policy and Practice”**. One symposium was held in Paramaribo, Suriname whilst the other was held in Georgetown, Guyana. The objective of these symposia was to share information and international experiences on innovative approaches to community-led conservation and local community involvement in protected areas creation and management. It was hoped that local participants would benefit significantly from the experiences of international visitors.

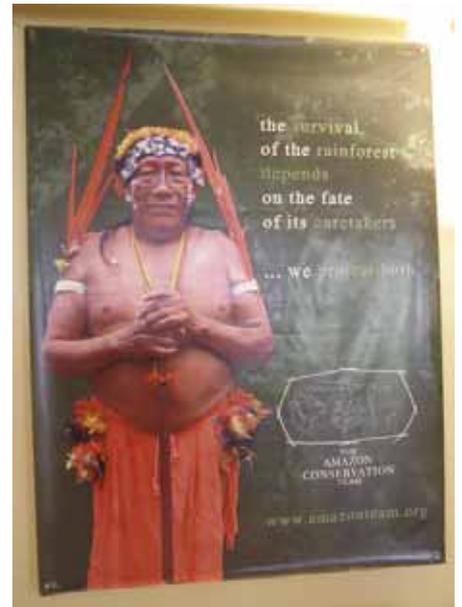
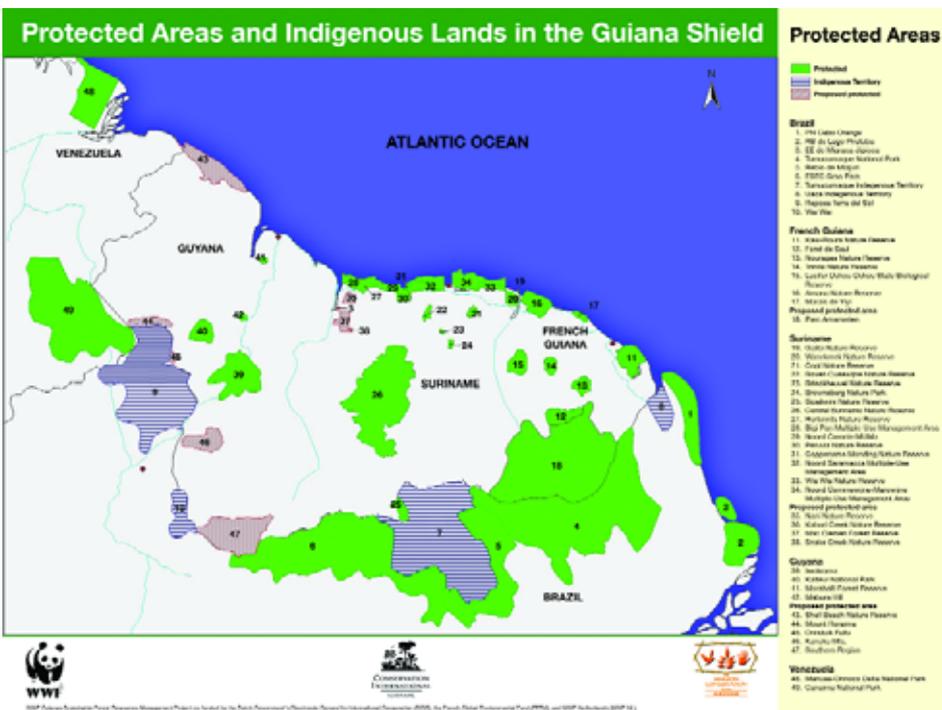
More than 200 participants attended the symposia, amongst whom were government representatives responsible for protected areas and local community issues, representatives of local communities and community organizations, conservation organizations, other NGOs and research institutions.

Focal topics included:

- Changing international policy context on local communities rights and protected areas
- Best practice standards for effective participation in protected areas establishment and management
- Equitable sharing of costs and benefits of protected areas; examples of international experience
- Emerging experience in establishment of community protected areas (community conservation areas)



Conference attendants listen to opening speech



Poster made by Amazon Conservation Team in Suriname

In Suriname the organizers were WWF Guianas, Amazon Conservation Team (ACT Suriname) and Conservation International (CI) Suriname. In Guyana only WWF Guianas organized the event.



WWF Guianas



Degraded landscape due to intense mining



Miner handles mercury with bare hands, a common practice in mining in the Guianas



A retort is used to trap poisonous mercury vapors when burning the gold-mercury amalgam



Training of miners a part of the awareness program

Gold Mining Pollution Abatement

Mining Symposium in Guyana

WWF Guianas supported three persons from the Geological and Mining Department of Suriname to attend the bi-annual workshop held on the 21-22 August 2007, hosted by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission in Georgetown. The theme was "Sustainable Development in the Mining Sector". A wide cross-section of representatives from both large and small scale mining companies (local and foreign) attended the workshop.

The representatives from GMD and the WWF Guianas goldmining impact abatement officer presented a technical paper on 'Clean Small Scale Goldmining-A Utopian approach for Guyana. The presentation addressed the environmental problems of the sector and identified several best practice techniques that focused on improved gold recovery, mercury recovery techniques, and tailings management. With regards to biodiversity conservation, mine rehabilitation and revegetation techniques were addressed. The presentation concluded with some discussion on alternative livelihood for miners and post mining communities.

Publication:

Challenges with minimizing mercury pollution in small-scale gold mining

WWF Guianas goldmining pollution abatement coordinator Rickford Vieira together with Gavin Hilson wrote a position paper on mercury in the Guianas. This paper examines the barriers to mitigating mercury pollution at small-scale gold mines in the Guianas (Guyana, French Guiana and Suriname), and prescribes recommendations for overcoming these obstacles.

With each of the Guianas facing near-identical illegal mining and environmental problems, there is merit in ensuring that similar regulations and standards are in place across the board. Regional authorities recognize this, and are entertaining the possibility of moving toward harmonizing the legislation in place for small-scale mining in the Guianas, particularly regulations pertaining to the environment and more specifically, mercury. Officers at WWF Guianas are certainly convinced of the merits of such a move, and are working to initiate dialogue with each of the governments to develop regulations and policies that will make the region's regulatory environment for artisanal small-scale mining more uniform. This could help to prevent environmental problems from mounting within areas characterized by the least stringent legislation and monitoring.

WWF Guianas supports the ban on export of metallic mercury and urges the international communities, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations, and the private sector to move towards establishing and endorsing a global, legally binding instrument to control and possible abatement the atrocities that can be caused by mercury pollution.

Establishment a gold miners association in Suriname

With co-funding from the Inter-American Development Bank, WWF Guianas was instrumental in establishing a small scale gold miners association in Suriname. Due to the scattered mining activities, one national association could not be formed as was originally hoped. Therefore various mining sites were zoned and the miners organized accordingly. Six pilot sites were selected, where the Surinamese miners were willing to establish a local association. The miners were trained in the structures, procedures and administrative aspects of the functioning and management of the association.

From the six selected mining zones, four organizations were ready to adopt statutes. At the end of 2007, one of these organizations Tu Buka Foundation, has officially requested the Minister of Natural Resources in Suriname to designate mining zones for practicing small-scale miners, according to article 36.3 of the mining decree 1986. They await his response.



Illegal gold mining in Park Amazonien in French Guiana

Illegal gold mining is the major threat to biodiversity in the Park Amazonien. WWF drew the attention to the severity of the impacts of this industry in the Park in the presence of local media in February 2007. During a fly-over of the area, several gold mining sites in the south of Cacao village were observed, and the area of Approuague valley, in the North of the Park, appeared highly impacted.

Around the Camopi area, large illegal gold mining sites in the core zone of the Park were observed. From the air the team observed that all the tributaries suffer the impacts of gold mining. The Camopi waters, emerging near the village, showed strong turbidity, due to intense gold mining activities upstream. Several hundreds of clandestine gold miners “work” and live in illegally established villages in the core zone of the Park. The aerial observation corroborated the alarming report of the previous January by the Kwata Association, another environmental NGO working in French Guiana. In their report they indicated that while they were conducting a fauna inventory mission in the core area of the park they detected an increase of illegal gold mining. This was based on observations of small boats loaded with materials travelling towards clandestine sites, exchange of gun shots and reduction of some large wildlife species because of poaching.

This fact-finding mission also highlighted the problem facing residents in the park. It showed that despite efforts to curtail the mining activities, mining is still highly prevalent in the park. Therefore collaboration with Brazil and Suriname is indispensable for increasing the effectiveness of mining controls. In this context, WWF has reaffirmed its support to Park Amazonien in French Guiana and to the necessary controls and actions needed to combat illegal gold mining.

Brownsberg Nature Park under threat

The Brownsberg Nature Park is one of the key areas in Suriname for biodiversity conservation, research and ecotourism. The more than 12.000 ha displays a wealth of flora and fauna under the almost continuous canopy top that stands 500m above sea level.

At the foot of this mountain another reality abruptly disturbs this splendor. Illegal and ever expanding gold mining activities cause major environmental destruction. The health and social issues are subdued to the ever increasing international gold prices that fuel this uncontrolled gold rush. What used to be white water creeks are now dark colored streams of mud, causing aquatic species to die and tourism to suffer. Therefore STINASU took action in late 2007 to have these illegal miners removed from the park. WWF Guianas applauds and supports STINASU in its efforts to stand against these illegal and destructive activities, and regain the park for what it was intended for.

WWF has supported STINASU, the managing authority of the park, for years for park management, infrastructure, training and logistics. Therefore WWF called on the people of Suriname to support the protection of this beautiful nature park for biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development of people of the Brownsberg area where the park is situated. Thus WWF launched an agricultural project together with the International Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and a local CBO Tjufanga, for alternative income generation, for people of the area.



Large scale impacts of small & medium - scale gold mining in the Guianas



Wild flowers bloom at Brownsberg Nature Park

Recently started agricultural project of Tjufanga





WWF Guianas



Sustainable Forest Management

Community Forestry in Suriname

The community Eendragt (Unity) in Marshallkreek, approximately 120 km south of Paramaribo the capital of Suriname has been assigned a community forest concession which they have harvested in conventional ways, for many years, not fully aware that they were harvesting almost all commercial species. Not surprisingly, income declined and this led the them to seek support from CELOS (the Center for Agricultural Research in Suriname). After many consultations, they collaborated with CELOS to develop and implement the project "Promoting Sustainable Management of the Community Forest of the Maroon community in Marshallkreek". It was initiated in November 2006 and successfully completed in April 2007 with funding from WWF Guianas.

The implementation of the project activities was a joint effort of partners such as SBB (Foundation for Forest management and Control), ADEKUS (Anton de Kom University of Suriname) and the members of the community organization *Ma Sosie and A Fu wan Du* themselves. The main outputs of the program were the Forest Management Plan for the community forest of the Village of Eendragt in Marshallkreek which has a size of approximately 3000 hectares.

In 2006, a preliminary phase commenced which involved conducting an inventory of available forest resources, timber and non timber. This was successfully completed. The next planning phase was training and capacity building. Community members were trained in the basic techniques of inventory, and the improvement of soil quality for agriculture. By late 2007, the zoning of the community forest was done and through consultations and training they produced a management plan for the community forest of the village of Eendragt.

With additional funding from Global Opportunities Fund (GOF) through the British High Commission in Guyana, WWF Guianas for 2008 has committed to continued collaboration with CELOS and the village to implement the activities as identified during the planning and preparation phase. The main interest of the project will be on non-timber forest products (NTFP's). The gathering of market information for these products is thus important. In addition, the rehabilitation of degraded forest and training and awareness of community members will ensure the involvement of the community in the sustainable use of its forest resources and broaden its capacity for income generation for now and the future. The project activities will initiate in January 2008 and are expected to be completed by December of the same year.



Consultations in Marshallkreek

The success of this project has encouraged the interest of the Community Based Organization of the village of Pokigron, STIWEPO, to approach WWF Guianas for assistance with the sustainable use of their forest concession. WWF and STIWEPO are in the process of development of a project proposal for the responsible exploitation of the forest resources within the Pokigron concession.

Suma Lumber's main scoping for forest certification



Training in directional felling a part of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)



Skidder training

Suma Lumber Company N.V., established in April 1998 aims to manage their 60,000 ha of forest concessions areas in the Tibiti-region in a responsible way. Since 2004 Suma Lumber has been putting procedures in place and training their staff in order to get their forest management FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified. The certifier chosen is *Control Union*, a Dutch based FSC accredited certification enterprise. WWF Guianas has been providing technical assistance to Suma Lumber to improve its management plan and procedures, for monitoring of social and environmental impact and also financing of Reduced Impact logging training. In December 2007 the main scoping was conducted, preceded by a pre-scoping session in order to determine the priority areas for improvement.



Suma Lumber had a very successful year considering that they will probably be the first Surinamese company to get an FSC certificate. This will be significant as it will help demonstrate that certification is possible in Suriname. The company has invested a lot in training of its personnel, and in putting in place measures to ensure that contractors operating within their concessions work according to Reduced Impact Logging standards. They still have some issues to resolve but with the commitment from the management and support of WWF Guianas the prognoses are positive.

WWF Guianas applauds this voluntary effort and commitment of Suma Lumber to reach FSC certification, and in so doing demonstrates responsible forest management in Suriname.

Community Forestry in Guyana

In the communities of Kwebana and Batavia in Guyana, the WWF Guianas Forest Officer Odessa Duncan, supported the training conducted by Forest Training Centre of local foresters and residents in correct forest utilization in November 2007. The training session on resource evaluation, mapping, planning of harvesting, reduced impact logging, development of forest management plans and annual operational plan was conducted by FTCL at their Manaka training site. Members of the two communities (Kwebana and Batavia), attended the training that was conducted from the 11th to the 23rd of November 2007. This activity comes under the Hinterland Community Development project funded by the British High Commission.

The sessions were well attended with participants coming from Batavia and Kwebana. Six participants from Kwebana were as young as 15 years old and five are currently still attending school. "The young ones will be trained now, so that they can internalize the principles of sustainable forest management as they will undoubtedly become involved in the logging industry of the community as they grow up", said a leading member within the Kwebana logging association. The training sessions were very practical, and what was taught could be applied immediately.

The group acknowledged that the training program provided education on all aspects of forestry operations that they were ignorant about; in fact they understood the importance of planning and good management for the sustainability of the forest resources. One example that was given was the importance of buffer zones. Members of the Batavia community were harvesting within the buffer zones of the river to facilitate the easy transport of harvested material down the river. They were unaware of the danger of this activity to the water quality and flow of the river. They were looking forward on their return home to have meetings with other members of their respective communities in order to implement what they had learnt from the training.

WWF will monitor the project closely in collaboration with the Forestry Community Worker that will be based at the community.



Training at Batavia

Below: Training for use of equipment at Batavia



Log yard



WWF Guianas



Waterfall at Brownsberg Nature Park Suriname



Arapaima gigas, the largest freshwater fish in the world

Freshwater Conservation and Management

Community-Based Management of the Arapaima in Guyana

The largest freshwater fish in the Amazon Basin and Upper Essequibo River in south Guyana is the *Arapaima gigas*. This unique fish surfaces to breathe every 5-20 minutes, and can grow to a maximum of 3m in length, weighing up to 200Kg. Due to concerns for this species and decline of its population in Guyana, a plan for the management and sustainable use of the Arapaima was designed by the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB), Iwokrama and the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. This plan was approved by Cabinet in 2006. The Arapaima management plan is community-based, and implemented by the NRDDB, the members of thirteen communities of the North Rupununi, with support of the Fisheries Department and other NGO's.

The process of developing the Arapaima management plan began in 2001, through a series of participatory meetings between community fishermen, governmental and nongovernmental organizations. The objectives of the plan are to increase the local Arapaima population, improve local organization institutions and increase local fishermen's income.

In 2007, WWF Guianas, partnered with the NRDDB to support the initial implementation of the management plan since its approval in 2006. A WWF Guianas grant was then provided to the NRDDB to a) enable the re-establishment of the Executive Fisheries Committee (EFC) and each of the thirteen individual Community Fisheries Committees, b) facilitate community outreach for open discussion and understanding of the plan and c) commence continued Arapaima population counts. Additionally, as part of the WWF Guianas funded project, outreach visits were conducted to all of the target communities. At these outreach visits leaders of the NRDDB and the EFC explained the management plan, in local Makusi (an Amerindian language) when necessary, and feedback was received on villagers' impressions of the plan.

This Arapaima management plan is based on a similar successful Brazilian management system that relies on determining the quota to be harvested based on annual counts of Arapaima. In this system the number of Arapaima is determined in all managed lakes at the beginning of every dry season. The most important rules of this management plan are that only adult individuals are harvested and only when they are not reproducing.

To date, four counts of Arapaima population in the North Rupununi Wetlands have taken place: March 2001 - 450 fish were estimated, at one meter and over; October 2001 - 825 fish one meter and over were estimated. In November 2002, 1105 Arapaima one meter and over were counted, and in January 2004, 1170 Arapaima were counted. Further counts will continue starting January 2008. Counts will be conducted by local fishermen experienced and trained in Arapaima surveys (trained in Brazil). Five additional fishermen will also be trained. The WWF Guianas Freshwater Officer and an officer of the Fisheries Department will work along with the fishermen.

World Wetlands Day 2007 at Bigi Pan in Nickerie in Suriname

WWF Guianas, together with its partners Nature Conservation Division (Natuurbeheer) and Center for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS) celebrated World Wetlands Day 2007, in Suriname. The visit was graced by the presence of Mrs. Margarita Astralaga, Regional Coordinator for North, Mid and South America for Ramsar. This was her first visit to Suriname.

On the 1st February the team went to the North Coppename Monding Nature Reserve, Suriname's designated Ramsar site. This reserve is 12.000 ha and was established in 1966, with an IUCN category IV listing. This coastal reserve is home to many migratory bird species, thus making it a haven for bird watchers. In Suriname there are a number of special nature reserves known as a Multiple Use Management Areas (MUMAs) in which commercial activities including fishing is allowed. Therefore it is not unusual to find many small to medium sized fishing boats daily on the Coppename River.



On 2nd February the activities started with the formal opening of the WWD 2007 Exhibition in Solom, Longmay. The theme for the year was "Fish for Tomorrow". The speeches were given by the Chairman of Solom, Mr. Karijokromo, Minu Parahoe of CELOS, Margarita Astralaga, Jerrel Pinas of WWF Guianas and the District Commissioner of Nickerie, Mr. Shankar. All speakers addressed various aspects of wetland conservation and the involvement of partners and citizens in the protection of such sites.

During the morning, hundreds of school children attended the exhibition where CELOS, NCD and WWF Guianas had interactive and informational booths set up. The children were entertained with games specially designed to increase their knowledge and understanding of wetland issues. In addition, booth presenters provided additional information about wetlands and nature conservation with the use of posters, exhibits, brochures and photographs. The enthusiastic public was well rewarded with prizes, including book and car stickers, pens, books, calendars, and lots more.

In the afternoon, the WWF / NCD officers, along with Ms. Astralaga paid a visit to the Bigi Pan Wetland, a MUMA (136,000 ha) along the coast of Nickerie. This area provides nesting habitats for different types of migratory birds, such as the white and red ibis. However amidst this beautiful scenery, poachers rampage the reserve hunting the red ibis. This illegal hunting and collection of the red ibis is so severe that local management authorities and WWF Guianas fear that the species is likely to soon disappear from this and other similar sites along the coast, especially if no immediate action is taken. WWF Guianas has offered technical and other assistance to help in the more effective management of the Bigi Pan and other high priority wetland areas along the coast. WWF appreciates and acknowledges the economic importance of the rich biological diversity of the Bigi Pan area and urges therefore the Nickerie people to support the protection of this nature reserve.



Sign at the entrance of the Bigi Pan wetland



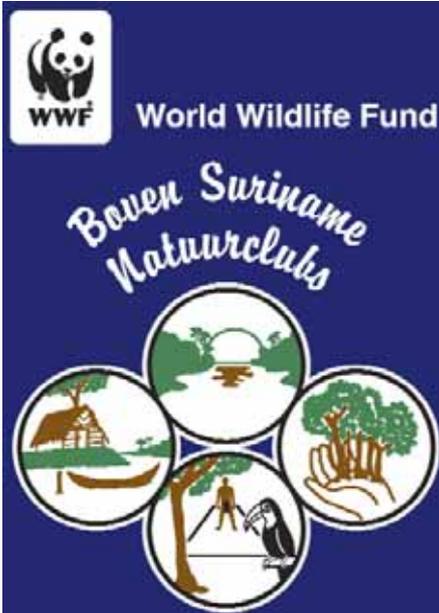
Bigi Pan Multiple Use Management Area is 136.000 ha large.



Snail kite at the Bigi Pan in Suriname



WWF Guianas



Design of the T-shirts for the Wildlife Clubs



Images from the Wildlife Club Jamboree in Suriname



Children running in the animal relay race

Species Conservation and Management

Wildlife Clubs in Boven Suriname

In 2007, as a first step in promoting and facilitating community-based wildlife conservation in the region, WWF Guianas through public consultation, education and awareness raising, successfully established 10 wildlife clubs in Suriname. The clubs are comprised of students and young school leavers, along with volunteering teachers and community leaders. The wildlife or nature clubs work as focal points for the expansion of community comprehension on conservation issues relevant to the geographic area, the building of conservation skills, and the initiation of action designed to maintain fragile ecosystems or to reverse or halt processes that threaten their existence. WWF will serve to provide the technical and material support to the clubs, and will work closely with local leaders and the communities to identify priority issues, skills and actions.

The majority (9) of the nature clubs have been established in Maroon villages situated in the heart of the rainforest, along the Boven Suriname River. One additional club has been formed in the Amerindian village of Apetina, also located in Suriname's forested interior. All the "club" villages are relatively isolated with many lacking electricity and piped water. However, due to the abundance of forests and water, the more than 5,000 persons who live in the target villages depend heavily on the surrounding environment for most or all of their food, shelter and recreation. In all cases however, the communities are slowly becoming less and less isolated as contact increases steadily with the city of Paramaribo and its modern services. The importation and disposal of non-biodegradable materials, such as fuels and plastics, the consumption of natural resources and the more frequent use of environmentally destructive chemicals, are on the increase. Intervention to ensure sustained community development is thus important at this point in time. WWF realizes this and has thus taken action to guide the development process. Through such units as the wildlife or nature clubs, WWF hopes that rural communities can be better prepared to self manage their natural resources especially in light of growing infrastructure, changing lifestyles and increasing foreign imports that exploit natural resources and on occasion, threaten the foundation on which these resources rely. The formation of nature clubs will not be restricted to Suriname. WWF is hoping to expand its efforts to Guyana where it will hopefully establish at least 3 more clubs within rural communities.

Species Identification Manual

In order to assist the region in monitoring its international wildlife trade, WWF, in 2002, undertook a major project - the production of a Species Identification Manual. This pocket sized booklet was specially designed for Wildlife Monitoring and Trade Enforcement officers from each of the countries in the region. The ID Manual focused on over 300 species of fauna that are either legally or illegally involved in international trade. The booklet provides simple and easy to follow descriptions of the key species in trade together with the local names (Surinamese, Dutch, English, Guyanese) and specific permit requirements (National export permits, CITES [Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna] permit) for each species. A selected number of species that are fully protected per country and thus not approved for trade are included in the booklet. This is to ensure that no Game Warden, Forest Manager or Customs Official permits shipment of any of these "Protected Animals".

The booklets were completely distributed to trade monitoring and enforcement officers of the Governments of the 3 Guianas, Customs personnel of several of the importing countries, such as the United States, the Netherlands, and France. In addition, many books were provided to local tour operators, schools, universities and police to ensure national compliance with wildlife trade laws and international conventions. From 2004, all WWF Species ID Manuals had been distributed. However requests to WWF from all target groups for more copies continued.



Cover of the WWF Species Identification Manual



This positive response to the booklet led to a reprint of the booklet in 2006. By January of 2007, WWF was able to commence distribution of a revised, consolidated version of the Manual (both Guyana and Suriname Manuals have been combined). Throughout 2007 primary target groups (Customs Officers, and Government Game Wardens and Forest Management Officials, Major Tour Operators, Biologists, Researchers) have received copies of the Manual.

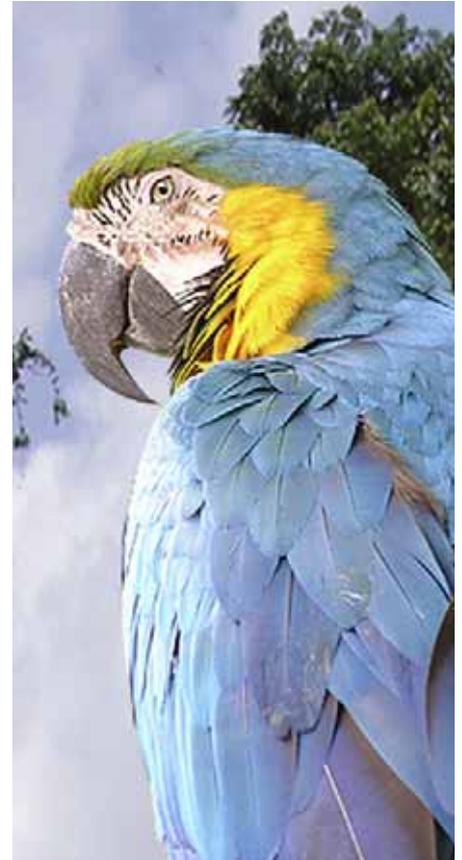
Regional Bird Population Assessments

Of the countries of the Guianas, Suriname and Guyana both have a legal International Wildlife Trade. This means that annually, the Wildlife Divisions of each country approve the harvesting of hundreds of birds from the wild for shipment to other countries. The basis of the trade rests on the assumption that there are sufficient wild populations to tolerate or sustain some level of exploitation.

WWF's role in the Guianas is to assist local authorities to ensure that exploitation of any wild species remains at sustainable levels so that no species is threatened by extinction as a result of local or international trade. Consequently, WWF, under its Species Conservation Program, has been supporting the monitoring of wildlife populations that are most targeted for trade. In Guyana and Suriname, the species of great importance are the birds, specifically the Parrots and Macaws. In both countries, these species are heavily exploited, with several hundreds being collected and eventually shipped out of the region.

Consequently, in 2007, WWF signed Grant Agreements with the Nature Conservation Division of the Ministry of Physical Planning, Lands and Forest Management in Suriname and the Guyana Amazon Tropical Bird Society, to facilitate assessment of the Psittacine populations in select locations in Suriname and Guyana respectively. Through regular evaluations of the populations, it is possible to determine their capacity to sustain continued exploitation. Such information can then be used to guide the Wildlife Trade Management Authorities in each country in establishing or revising export quotas for the various species. The national surveys are each designed to last several months and the results will be presented at a regional consultation in Suriname in early 2008. All key stakeholders will also be provided with copies of the final assessment reports.

Annually, hundreds of birds, frogs, reptiles and mammals are removed from the Guianas rainforests and coasts and shipped to Europe, Asia, the United States and other parts of the world. WWF works together with local authorities in all 3 countries of the Guianas to ensure that there is adequate monitoring of the collection and shipment of wildlife approved for trade. Suriname, Guyana and French Guiana (as part of France) are all signatory to the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES).



Blue and yellow macaw

Two red and yellow macaws in the wild at Apetina Suriname





WWF Guianas

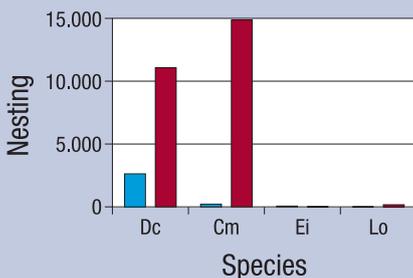


Green turtle made in sand by Amerindian girls in Suriname



Satellite transmitter

Nesting Data 2007



■ Guyana (Annette and Almond beaches) Nests
 ■ Suriname (Matapica and Galibi Nature reserve) Nests

Species	Guyana	Suriname
Leatherback <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	1762	7380
Green Turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i>	146	9908
Hawksbill Turtle <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	41	7
Olive Ridley <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	1	113

Marine Turtle Conservation

When research helps conservation

Marine turtles are of high conservation priority for WWF Guianas. Annually significant resources are invested in the conservation of local populations. This is done through formal grant agreements with Government Agencies (Suriname) and NGO's (Guyana). Conservation work includes assessment of population size, protection of nesting females and their nesting and foraging habitats, and prevention of bycatch. At the end of every nesting season, WWF and partners compile data collected and use this to evaluate the health and recovery of the local turtle populations. The data is also used to raise awareness and develop species management plans. WWF occasionally gets involved in research projects designed to contribute to nature conservation. One such research project was the CARET Guianas (Coordinated Approach to Restore Endangered Turtles) project, which involved transboundary satellite monitoring of the olive ridley turtle. This project was undertaken in collaboration with CNRS (Conseil Scientifique Régional de Protection de la Nature) in Suriname and French Guiana. During the 2007 nesting season, 10 satellite devices were deployed from Cayenne (the most important nesting site for olive ridley turtle in South America), and 2 from Thomas Eilanti beach (Suriname), the former important nesting site.

Satellite devices are useful tools to monitor movements of species. With this research it was possible to assess the migratory and foraging habitats of the olive ridley and thus determine what the major off-shore threats are to the species. The study resulted in the identification of coastal areas of high occurrence of the olive ridley turtle (mostly off of the main estuaries), and highlighted the need for regional cooperation to properly conserve the species.

Qui est la tortue olivâtre?
 La tortue olivâtre est la plus petite des sept espèces de tortues marines. Présente dans toutes les zones de littoral, elle est particulièrement abondante dans les zones littorales protégées. Elle est considérée comme une espèce vulnérable.

Carte d'identité
 Sous-classe : Océlophora
 Famille : Cheloniidae
 Genre : *Lepidochelys*
 Espèce : *olivacea*
 Taille moyenne : 70 cm
 Poids moyen : 30 kg
 Statut : vulnérable selon la liste rouge de l'UICN

La tortue olivâtre en Guyane
 La tortue olivâtre vient pondre sur les côtes guyanaises entre les rivières de l'est et de l'ouest. Elle pond en moyenne 2 fois durant la saison. Les protections strictes de la zone littorale à l'est du département ont permis la survie de la population.

Suivi satellitaire de la tortue olivâtre
 Les tortues marines sont suivies depuis longtemps afin de leur rendre à terme leur liberté, en surveillant leur déplacement et leur état de santé.

Objectifs
 Que font les tortues entre deux pontes ?
 Où vont-elles entre les deux pontes ?
 Et sont-elles menacées ?
 Ce sont les questions auxquelles les biologistes tentent de répondre.

Le matériel
 Les tortues olivâtres sont équipées pour la conservation de la tortue et de la zone littorale de l'UICN. À chaque pontée, elles sont équipées d'un satellite qui leur permet de suivre leur déplacement et leur état de santé.

Dispersion entre deux pontes
 Après leur 1^{ère} ponte, les tortues olivâtres s'éloignent des côtes et se dirigent vers le large. Elles effectuent des déplacements importants, parfois de plusieurs milliers de kilomètres, avant de revenir pondre.

Dispersion hors saison
 À la fin de la saison de ponte, les tortues se dispersent vers les zones littorales de l'ouest et du sud-ouest. Elles restent dans ces zones littorales pendant la saison de ponte.

Awareness poster for marine turtle conservation

Reduction in Fisheries bycatch: Facilitating regional adoption of Turtle Extruder Devices

A significant threat to marine turtles in the Guianas and in fact throughout many oceans worldwide is the incidental capture of marine turtles in fisheries. Turtles are reptiles, not fish, therefore they cannot breathe under water. As turtles swim or dive in search of food, or migrating to or away from nesting beaches they sometimes accidentally interact with trawl nets, drifting gill nets, and other forms of fish gear. Turtles become entangled in the net and if they are unable to free themselves in time, they drown. A study conducted in Suriname in 2006 suggests that in the Guianas alone, at least 1,000 turtles are caught in fish nets annually. A large percentage of these are believed to drown.



In Guyana and Suriname it is required by law that all shrimp trawlers use turtle extruder devices or TEDs. These are basically trap doors that permit a captured turtle to escape unharmed from the net. WWF supports the use of TEDs in fisheries and in August commenced efforts to strengthen its involvement with the Dept. of Fisheries and the Commercial shrimp trawling Industry to ensure that all trawling in Suriname waters is done with TEDs. Unfortunately, the use of TEDs in Fisheries is not compulsory by law in French Guiana. Consequently, WWF has been working in collaboration with IFREMER (Institut Francais d'Exploitation de la Mer), and CRPMEM (Regional Committee of Marine Fisheries) to encourage the voluntary use of TEDs by shrimp vessels in French waters.

Study on fisheries practices in the Marowijne area

To better understand fisheries threats to marine turtles and permit better planning for sustainable management of the area WWF initiated an assessment of fisheries practices in the Marowijne area. This estuary is known to host major marine turtle nesting sites. With the support of the local communities of Awala Yalimapo in French Guiana and Galibi in Suriname, and through a collaboration with the Regional Committee of Marine Fisheries (CRPMEM), a four-months assessment (June - September) of fishing effort was conducted. In general it was found that fisheries impact on marine turtles can be reduced by using smaller nets.

Embroidery supports marine turtle conservation in Guyana

A significant threat to marine turtles is the collection of eggs for human consumption. This has been a tradition in coastal communities for decades. Unfortunately, as global threats to marine turtles increase, and economic pressures also increase, impacts on populations through nest harvesting have become too severe, and now threaten turtle survival. As a result, WWF welcomes opportunities to support alternative income generation by former egg collectors.

In the community of Moruca, Guyana, a small group of women started an embroidery project in order to raise income for themselves whilst promoting turtle conservation. The women work in close association with the Guyana Marine Turtle Conservation Society (GMTCS), producing handmade hats, bags, pillow cases and tea towels embroidered with local flora and fauna, especially of the four species of sea turtles that nest at Shell Beach, Guyana. In 2007, the unique artistic work of the group received international credit as a Germany retailer placed an order of 400 "Save our sea turtle bags". WWF was thus pleased to provide economic support to the group to assist them in the creation of the conservation messages, the packaging and labeling of their products. WWF is committed to further support to the group in 2008.

First Marowijne Days

With the high occurrence of marine turtles in the Marowijne estuary, good opportunities for ecotourism exist. In addition to facilitating research on the tourism potential of the Marowijne Estuary, WWF took the initiative to collaborate with the Awala Yalimapo town council and the Kulalasi NGO, to host the first "Marowijne's Sustainable Management Days" workshop. Held in October, 2007, these days were fully dedicated to trans-boundary exchanges and promotion of cooperation. The first day was dedicated to information exchange and dialogue on tourism between stakeholders from Galibi, the Suriname Tourism Authority, the Awala Yalimapo community and the Tourism Agency in French Guiana.

The second day focused on fisheries, facilitating participants to share recent data on fishing practices, and to discuss the need for better registration and monitoring of fishing efforts. The great success of these days helped demonstrate the importance of stakeholder dialogue as a means to achieving a common vision especially with regards to the management of trans-boundary areas, and the sharing of rich biodiversity and ecological resources.



Green turtle at beach of Awala Yalimapo



First Marowijne days in Awala Yalimapo



Participants at symposium in Awala Yalimapo



Embroidery made by the Moruca women



WWF Guianas



Children with banner at the independence marathon in Suriname

Below: WWF games at the Jaarbeurs 2007



Environmental Education and Communications

Independence marathon in Suriname

The Independence of Suriname (November 25th) is celebrated with a wide variety of events and activities. Sports take a high priority in that list. As the 2007 theme was “A Healthy Environment for Everybody”, WWF and other environmental NGO’s were asked to participate and help organize the sporting event.

In order to strengthen awareness about the need for a healthy environment a number of awareness items were developed jointly by the group of environmental NGOs (the “Nature Web”) and distributed to participants of the sporting events. Large banners (3x1m) displayed the same messages for the thousands that visited and witnessed the events live and on television.

Nearly 20 schools in Paramaribo attended the event. The almost 6000 students carried their hand-made colorful banners with messages emphasizing the theme. “Keep our school clean”, and “Fight against obesity” were some of the messages portrayed.

The events of the day were a youth environmental walk, a half and a full marathon. The youth walk began with an opening speech by Jerrel Pinas, Communications officer of WWF Guianas. Then Minister of Education in Suriname, Edwin Wolf, started the youth race, with a single shot of the starting gun.



Jaarbeurs 2007

WWF Guianas participated in the annual fair in November. It was a unique opportunity for the organization to interact in an informal setting with the public and in so doing share or rather, exchange information on priority conservation issues.

It is estimated that over 2000 people visited the WWF booth during the fair. WWF’s primary goal was to raise awareness on issues associated with illegal, unregulated gold mining; poor forest management; species, their habitats, conservation and sustainable use; human-based threats to marine turtles; and the socio-economic and ecological importance of freshwater and wetlands. To help get messages across, the WWF staff utilized “game playing” to increase their level of interaction with the public. It is well known that children and adults learn more when they are at ease and or enjoying themselves in non-formal settings. The WWF booth, despite being well stocked with brochures, books and other informational material was designed to achieve just such an informal, visitor interactive and “playful” atmosphere.

For all the games of course, prizes were awarded. WWF got the opportunity to display several of its new promotional items portraying the theme “Saving Wildlife, Saving our forests.”

The investment of WWF staff time and energy produced the desired results. One can expect to see us again, in 2008, with new materials, stronger messages, and bigger ideas!



Schools and Environment

"Species conservation can be integrated into several components (both formal and informal) of the primary and secondary school education curricula". This was the key message of a series of two-day WWF Wildlife Conservation teacher training workshops that were conducted in Guyana in August. The workshops were run by the WWF Guianas Species Conservation Officer, Dr. Marie-Louise Felix and were designed to teach educators how they could integrate wildlife conservation into their school programs. Areas of focus included Social Studies, Mathematics, English Language and Literature, Geography, Art, Science, Drama and Sports. Approximately 60 teachers attended. At the end of the workshops, Marie-Louise invited and challenged participants to utilize what they had learnt as soon as possible, preferably at the start of the new school year. Marie-Louise also indicated that WWF would be willing to support some innovative ideas developed by the teachers.

One school immediately took WWF up on its offer. Students and staff of St. Andrew's Primary School wished to demonstrate how they could integrate wildlife conservation into sport and culture with a proposal to develop sport T-shirts for the students which would at the same time be used to promote protection of 3 wild animal species found in Guyana and which are considered flagships for wildlife conservation in the region. WWF approved the proposal and undertook the development of the artwork and sponsorship of the T-shirts. 400 T-shirts were produced and presented to the St. Andrew's School in October. To date the T-shirts have been used during sporting events, on regular school days and during the Mashramani Festival in March 2008, where wildlife conservation was also the theme of the school presentation.

GuyExpo 2007

WWF takes pleasure in participating in public exhibitions as this allows the organization to interact with large numbers and a wide cross-section of the Guianas public. This was the case with Guy Expo 2007. Several hundreds of persons visited the WWF booth facilitating the exchange of information on Wildlife, Freshwater and Forest Conservation. WWF's work on gold mining pollution abatement, marine turtles and protected areas management were also highlighted. As with several of the other WWF exhibitions, our participation at GuyExpo was intended to educate through information exchange, visual presentations and implementation of games with attractive prizes, in order to encourage investigation and learning, and entertain spectators.

Marine Turtle Campaign in French Guiana

In light of the CARET project, WWF launched an important campaign highlighting the importance of Cayenne nesting beaches. These beaches together with those of Suriname and Guyana provide nesting areas for nearly half of the global population of Atlantic leatherbacks. The main visual aid of the campaign that lasted three weeks were 50 large billboards (4mx3m) placed along major roads. These showed an olive ridley turtle announcing turtle presence on the Cayenne beaches, and ask for their "Respect!"



Below: Children of St. Andrews primary school in Guyana



People attending the WWF booth at GuyExpo 2007



Billboard produced for marine turtle awareness campaign in French Guiana.



WWF Guianas



WWF GUIANAS

Protection of Biodiversity and responsible use of natural resources for socio-economic development

Effective management of protected areas

Species conservation

Fresh water conservation

Gold mining pollution abatement

Sustainable forest management

Marine turtle conservation

Education & awareness



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Poster designed by Jerrel Pinas

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Marine turtle conservation:

Marowijne days, satellite transmitter, embroidery;
Marie-Louise Felix © WWF Guianas
Sand turtle, green turtle; Jerrel Pinas © WWF Guianas

Environmental Education:

Marathon, jaarbeurs; Jerrel Pinas © WWF Guianas
St. Andrews, GuyExpo; Marie-Louise Felix © WWF Guianas
Billboard French Guiana; Laurent Kelle © WWF Guianas



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Our Mission

To conserve the distinct natural communities and sustain the important ecological processes and services in the Guianas in order to protect the region's biological diversity and maintain the socio-economic benefits.

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