



PROJECT LOCATION:  
**GUYANA**

PROJECT START DATE:  
**MARCH 3 2014**

PROJECT END DATE:  
**MAY 31, 2016**

GRANT FUNDS APPROVED:  
**US \$500,000**

ENVELOPE:  
**DIRECT FIRM SUPPORT**

## CATCH AND RELEASE SPORT FISHING IN THE NORTH RUPUNUNI GUYANA

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

#### THE PROJECT:

Thousands of indigenous people. 12 Amerindian Communities. Three Lodges. One Region. One Cluster. One Endangered Fish. This is the essence of the Catch and Release Sport Fishing project in the North Rupununi, Guyana.

The Cluster comprises three eco-lodges - Karanambu, Surama and Rewa – who joined forces to develop an internationally competitive and sustainable sport fishing Tourism cluster in Guyana, with a view to increasing income for Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), preservation and protection of Arapaima stocks, and improved quality of life for the surrounding communities.

A key output of the project is a robust regulatory framework for sustainable management of the Arapaima and Catch and Release activity based upon data and best practices research carried out under the project. Work

to study the patterns and development of the Arapaima fish intensified under the project with outstanding results. The cluster intends to engage the Government of Guyana, and advocate for the proposed framework to encourage countrywide adoption, use and enforcement of sustainable practices going forward.

#### OBJECTIVE:

To improve the capacity and competitiveness of the Rupununi Catch and Release cluster and to introduce and market catch and release sport fishing as a viable ecotourism product in Guyana.

#### HOW DONOR FUNDS ARE BEING USED:

The development of an internationally competitive and sustainable sport fishing cluster in Guyana with complimentary catch and release protocols based on scientific research and aquatic medicine.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS THUS FAR:

1. The design and implementation of scientifically based protocols to encourage proper management and the sustainable development of Arapaima stocks.
2. Drafting of legislative and administrative framework to regulate Catch and Release activities in the Rupununi.
3. Impact assessment of catch and release practices to develop protocols which will minimize stress from the activity and increase existing stocks as well as prolong life.
4. Training for lodge guides and surrounding communities in sustainable catch and release practices.
5. Upgraded Information Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure at the eco-lodges.
6. Intensive hospitality training culminating in an exchange program with Georgetown Tourism and Hospitality Associations of Guyana hotels to improve the quality of the hospitality experience at the lodges.
7. Upgraded Solar Energy Grids at the Rewa, Surama and Karanambu eco-lodges making all three Lodges powered 100% by solar energy.
8. Emergency First Aid Training and Certification of 60 Cluster members through the American Heart Association.