



PRESS RELEASE

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLANET: POLICY FORUM GUYANA ADVANCES INNOVATION IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



CHILDREN of Lake Tapakuma introduce PFG staff to their pet “Labby” (Labba – Cuniculus paca)

Georgetown, Guyana - As World Wildlife Day approaches, the global community shifts its focus to the intricate relationship between humanity and nature. Under the theme "Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation," this year's celebration underscores our collective responsibility towards safeguarding Earth's biodiversity.

Guyana, renowned for its breathtaking landscapes and diverse ecosystems, takes centre stage in this global conversation. On March 3rd, 2024, the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission will host a vibrant wildlife fair at the Guyana Zoological Park, uniting stakeholders, conservationists, and enthusiasts.

Among the distinguished participants is Policy Forum Guyana, dedicated to pioneering innovative approaches to environmental stewardship. Invited by the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission, Policy Forum Guyana proudly announces its participation in the wildlife fair, showcasing groundbreaking initiatives to deepen the connection between people and wildlife.

"At Policy Forum Guyana, we are passionate about bridging the gap between humanity and the natural world," says Benita Davis, Programme Coordinator. "Through collaborative efforts and

innovative solutions, we strive to empower communities to become champions of environmental conservation."

At the heart of Policy Forum Guyana's exhibit lies a captivating freshwater board game, meticulously designed to highlight the intricate interplay between Guyanese communities and four emblematic local species: the majestic Arapaima, the playful Giant River Otter, the formidable Black Caiman, and the regal Jabiru.

This educational masterpiece, currently undergoing mass production by the National Centre for Education and Development, promises to captivate minds and inspire conservation action across generations. Notably, Peace Corps Guyana has generously provided support by deploying a Virtual Service Pilot Participant to aid in the digitization of this innovative game.

Furthermore, Policy Forum Guyana has unveiled "Kyle Learns about Freshwater," a poignant read-aloud story shedding light on the profound impact of pollution on freshwater species. Available in indigenous languages Akawaio and Wapishan, this literary gem serves as a powerful tool for environmental education and cultural preservation.

In a bold move towards leveraging technology for environmental advocacy, Policy Forum Guyana has included Litta Reporta in its publications. Though the app was not created by Policy Forum Guyana, it represents a revolutionary solution to Guyana's solid waste disposal problems. To create a cleaner, greener future, citizens can report dumpsites and coordinate cleanup efforts using this easy-to-use application.

Committed to fostering informed stewardship, Policy Forum Guyana has partnered with the University of British Columbia to develop informative infographics spotlighting the iconic Bangamary fish. These visually engaging posters provide crucial insights into the fish's diet, habitat, and threats, inspiring action to safeguard its dwindling population.



As the wildlife fair beckons, Policy Forum Guyana extends a warm invitation to the public to visit its booth and embark on an immersive journey of discovery and conservation. Attendees can look forward to engaging games, captivating face painting, and exclusive memorabilia, promising an unforgettable experience for all ages.

Moreover, visitors stand a chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime Essequibo River Tour for two by participating in Policy Forum Guyana's exciting social media contest. Simply visit the booth, snap a photo, share it on Facebook and Instagram, and tag Policy Forum Guyana for a chance to win this extraordinary prize.

Join Policy Forum Guyana at the Wildlife Fair this Sunday, March 3rd, 2024, starting at 13:00 hrs, and be part of a transformative journey towards a harmonious coexistence between humanity and the natural world.

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