



Guyana Tourism Authority
National Exhibition Centre
Sophia, Georgetown, Guyana

Tel: (592) 219 0094 - 6
E: info@guyanatourism.com
Web: www.guyanatourism.com

MEDIA RELEASE

Tourism Assessment Outreach and Training conducted in Karasabai

- *GTA prioritises facilitating more community-led and owned tourism in Guyana with the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs*

The Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) successfully conducted a community outreach and training at Karasabai in Region 9 from February 27- March 03, 2019. The team comprised of the Guyana Tourism Authority, Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, and INET.

The purpose of this outreach was to share with the Village Council, Tourism Committee and the residents of Karasabai, GTA's continued commitment towards community led and owned tourism in the region, reconfirm the community's level of interest in tourism development and to discuss a Tourism Action Plan with the committee and stakeholders of the community.

During the five (5) days community outreach, the GTA team engaged eighteen (18) stakeholders from the village to discuss the Tourism Action Plan, pricing and packaging of tours and tourism regulations review. This included the team visiting Kezee Lodge and tourism sites in and around the village to create day & overnight tour packages and identify roles for the village stakeholders. One of the highlighted packages will include bird watching for the famous sun parakeet.

The Karasabai Village Council has already embarked on the construction of a lodge named 'Kezee Lodge' with support from the Projects Department of the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs (MOIPA). When the cabins and facilities are completed, Karasabai will commence hosting overnight visitors who travel to this indigenous village.

GTA in collaboration with INET and the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs was able to successfully installed 24 hours internet service which will improve efficient flow of communication between the community and tourism stakeholders nationally and internationally.

In addition, GTA also collaborated with the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs to successfully conducted a culinary training. This training focused on food preparation & presentation using the local products. Ms. Margaret Cornette, a Catering Facilitator from Hinterland Employment Youth Service (HEYS) Department within the MOIPA facilitated the training; eighteen (18) females were trained. The participants were able to prepare foods using the ingredients that are local to the community. List of dishes include farine fish pie, farine bread, farine fruit cake, cassava bread custard and pudding, farine white pudding, Karasabai baked chicken and more.

GTA has been working with Karasabai Tourism Committee since 2018 to develop their tourism product and to create tour packages. Last year, a GTA team which consisted of GTA's Director and Product Development Officers visited Karasabai to conduct a

participatory consultation with various tourism stakeholders to draft Karasabai Tourism Action Plan. GTA's intention is not to tell the community what to do, but rather provide the community with guidance and the roadmap on how to create a successful tourism enterprise.

Karasabai is one of the most beautiful villages in all of Guyana. Due to the village's foresight to protect the sun parakeet, it has been able to attract and host international birders for several years. Although birders will continue to be attracted to the village, Karasabai's rich natural and cultural tourism aspects have to be developed by the community to better benefit the village as a whole and offer a better visitor experience to travellers.

About the Guyana Tourism Authority: The Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) is a semi-autonomous governmental organisation responsible for developing and promoting sustainable tourism in Guyana through collaboration with sister agencies and the tourism private sector in order to maximise local socio-economic and conservation outcomes and improve the visitors' experience. The GTA is focused on Guyana becoming recognised locally and internationally as a premier destination for protecting its natural and cultural heritage, providing authentic experiences, and maximising local economic benefits. For more information, visit www.guyanatourism.com or call (592) 219-0094.

Media Contact

Nicola Balram (GTA)

nicola@guyanatourism.com

592.219.0094