How Should Fire Be Used?
Fire Use Guidelines

1. Traditional use of fire within the Wapichan territory must be kept alive and practiced.

2. Village councils are encouraged to adopt and enforce regulations governing the use of fire in Wapichan wiizi.

3. Traditional organizations (users’ groups) such as hunters’ groups, fishermen’s groups and other groups who use natural resources must be aware of the traditional methods of fire use.

4. No savannah burning is encouraged during breeding seasons of birds and animals.

5. Parents must ensure that all matches, lighters are safely put away from children.

6. There should be no cooking and roasting near any wooden bridges or infrastructure.

7. All persons using fire for cooking, roasting or smoking in the savannahs and forested areas must ensure that the fire used is out before leaving the area where such activities were conducted.

8. All persons traversing to and from villages are prohibited from burning the savannahs.

9. Villagers needs to be reminded to burn around their homes for protection from uncontrolled fires and snakes.

10. All useful materials must be extracted before burning new farms.

11. All fire use is prohibited within the vicinity of sensitive sites, no go zones, clearly identified habitats, nature farms, settlements and conserved areas.

12. Persons wanting to use fire for commercial hunting and other such activities must obtain the express permission from the village council where such activities are taking place. This will be done with strong control measures in place.

13. All fire damages done to sensitive sites, no go zones, clearly identified habitats, nature farms, settlements and conserved areas must be reported to the village councils.

14. Village councils will create fire management committees to monitor burning within their community lands, and beyond their village titled lands as well.

15. The fire calendar disseminated to communities must be placed at public buildings in the communities so villagers can know when to burn.

16. Knowledge holders of traditional use of fire must have periodic sessions with children in schools, youth groups and other community-based groups to pass on this knowledge and practices.

17. The South Rupununi District Council (SRDC) will monitor how villages enforce the use of the fire calendar and will work with village councils to prevent uncontrolled fires in Wapichan Wiizi.

18. The South Rupununi District Council (SRDC) will host regular meetings on climate change, and the negative impacts from fire on the environment.

19. All communities must give updates on fire management at SRDC quarterly meetings.