



In Suriname, a field study is being conducted to estimate population size of three parrot species

Interest to assess for parrot species population trends has been raised by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), in order to responsibly allow exports of certain parrot species.

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Suriname, through the Nature Conservation Division (NCD), has carried out a pre-study to learn and better understand the locations and habitats of at least three parrot species (*Amazona farinosa*, *Ara ararauna* and *Ara chloropterus*). This work was supported by the ACTO's Bioamazon Project and was undertaken in March 2021. To understand population size of at least the three above mentioned parrot species, a population size study was initiated as well. The first field trip took place in August 2021. Another two are planned for January and July 2022. The population size project is also supported by the ACTO's Bioamazon Project.

Hunting and trapping of species of parrots, have been observed for years by the Nature Conservation Division of Suriname. Interest to assess for parrot species population trends has been raised by the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora \(CITES\)](#), in order to responsibly allow exports of certain parrot species. Without data on species number and how this fluctuate over time, it is hard to manage and allow the export of parrot species. Also is it required according to CITES to get an understanding of the wild populations of Mealy parrot (*Amazona farinosa*), Blue-and-Yellow macaw (*Ara ararauna*) and Red-and-green macaw (*Ara chloropterus*).

Legislation

According to Surinamese Game calendar and law (game law of 1954), the three parrot species of interest are subject to hunting and trapping from July-November. Outside this period, they are protected by law.

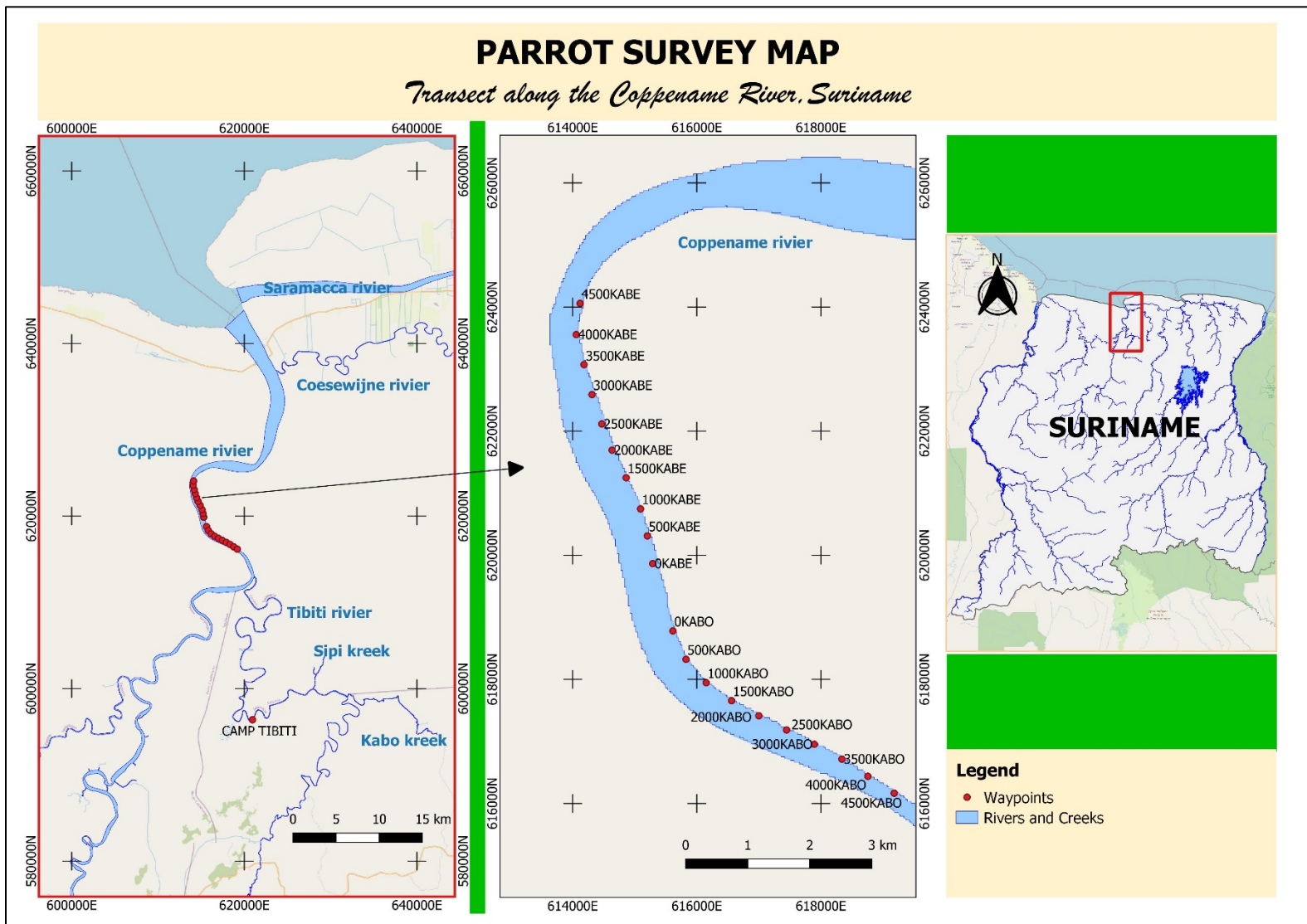
Findings and recommendations

With consideration of the baseline data collected during the pre-study project in March 2021, the following areas were selected and are subject to field visits during the population size project study:

Karani, Corneliskondre, Fossi bergi, Bigibere, Morotokko, MCP (Tarzan & Isriepepie), Kaboerikreek, Papegaai eiland Apoera, Papegaai eiland Washabo and Orealla, Cottica and Barbacoeba.

Below are location maps of the different areas that have been visited till date (during the recent August 2021 visit):

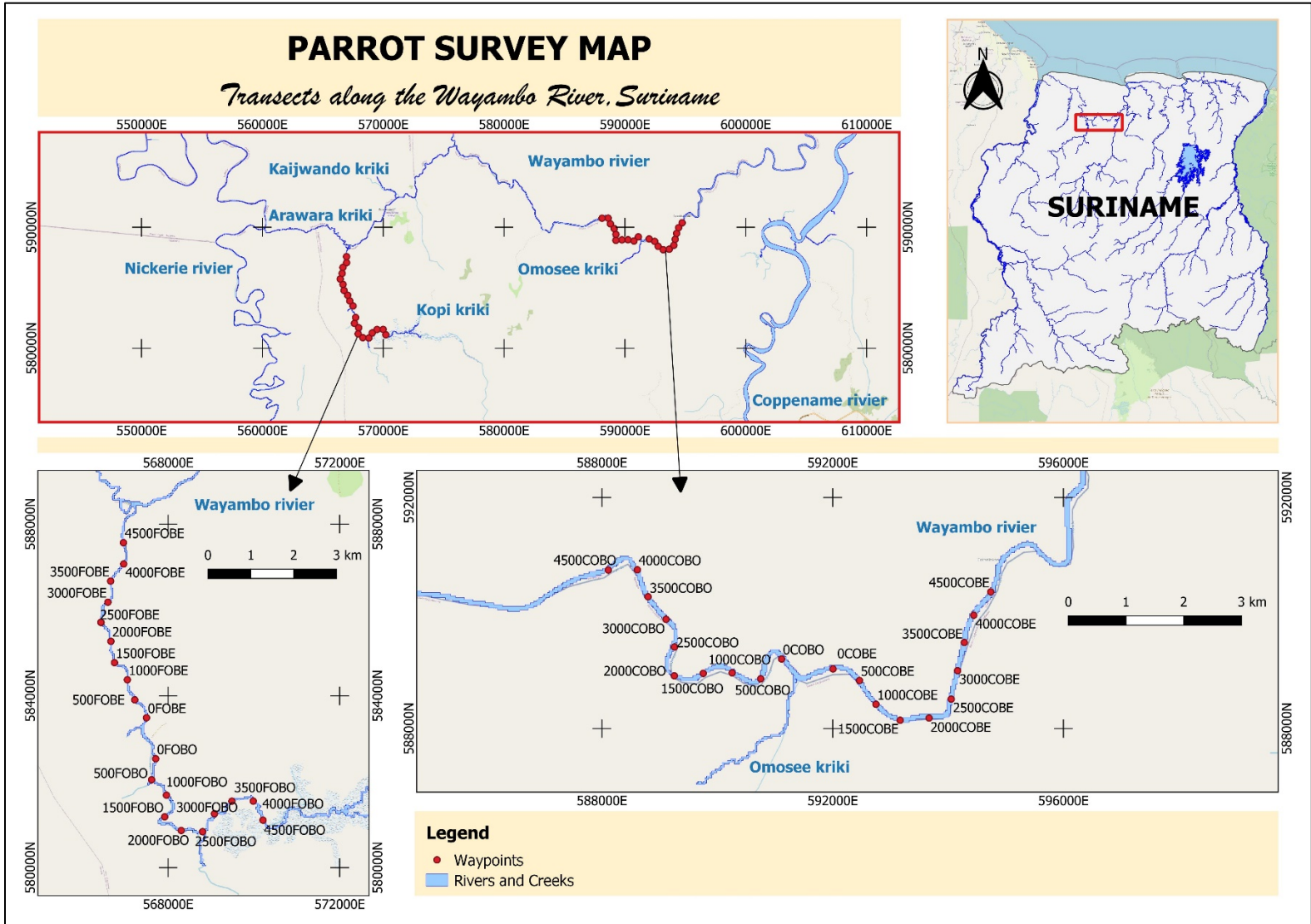
Map 1. River transects along the Coppename River



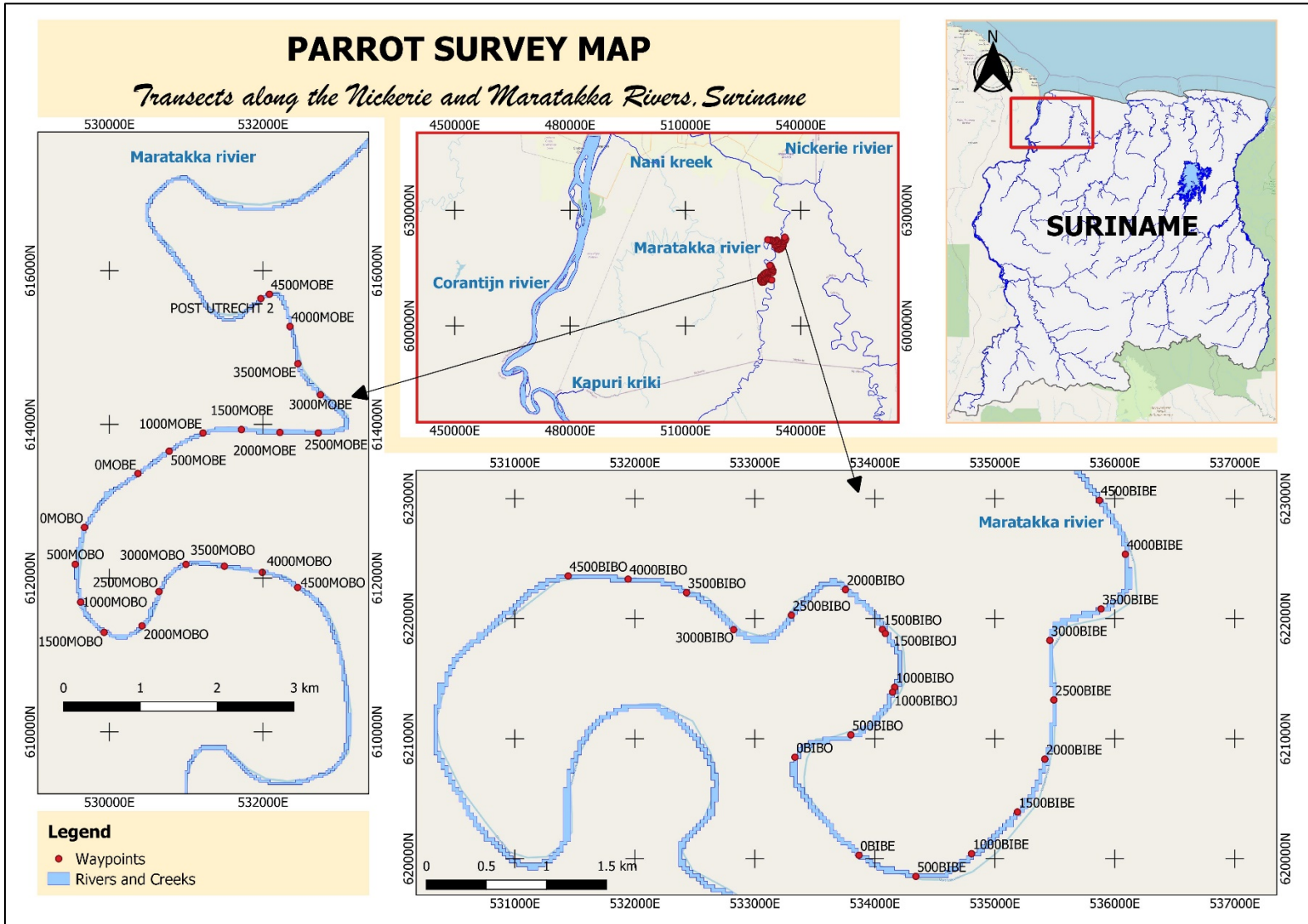
KABE=Karani beneden (downstream)

KABO=Karani boven (upstream)

Map 2. River transects along the Wayambo River



Map 3. River transects along the Nickerie and Maratakka rivers



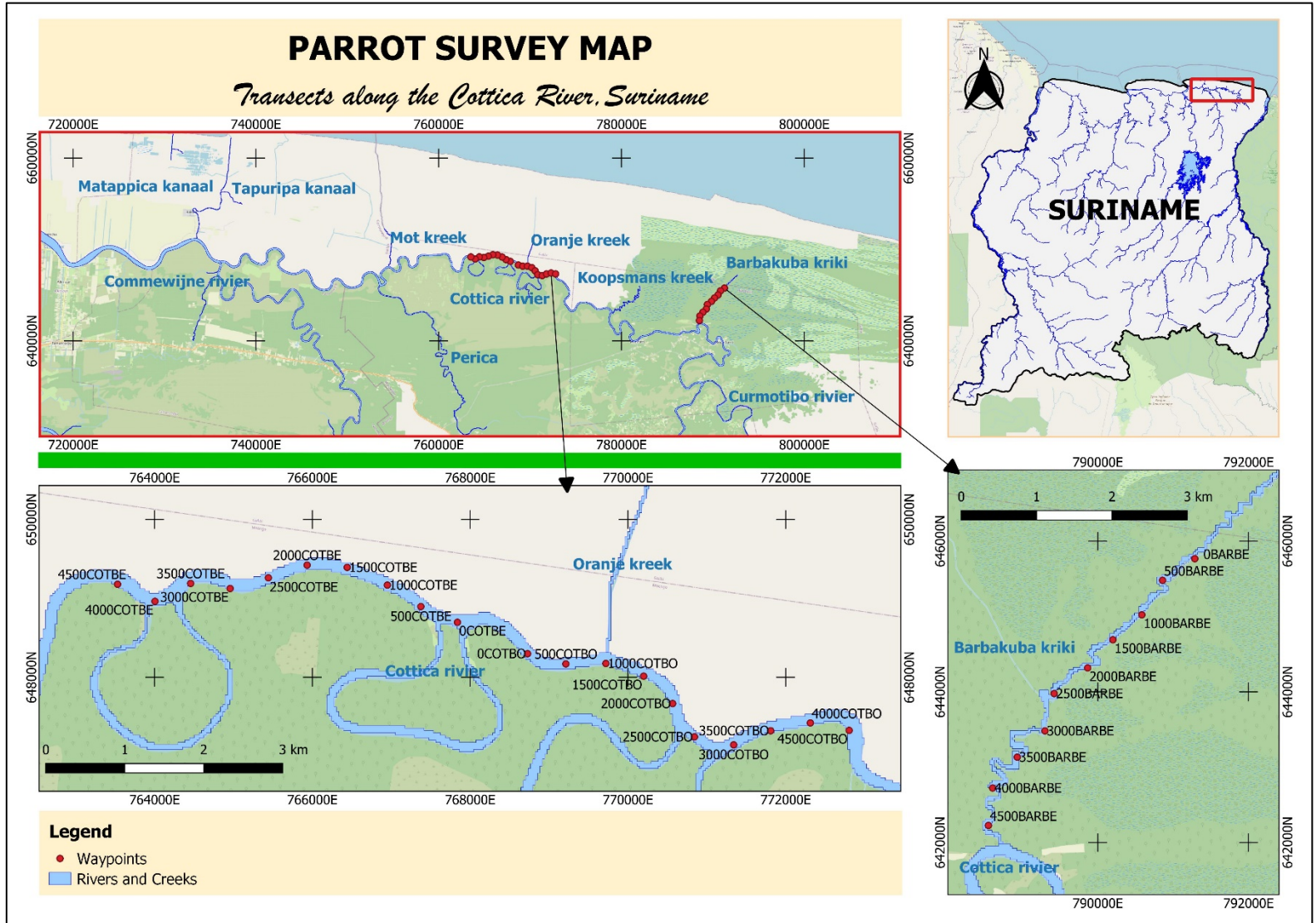
MOBE= Morotokko beneden (downstream)

MOBO= Morotokko boven (upstream)

BIBE= Bigibere beneden (downstream)

BIBO= Bigibere boven (upstream)

Map 4. Transects along the Cottica River



COTBE= Cottica beneden (downstream)

COTBO= Cottica boven (upstream)

BARBE= Barbacoeba

The researchers crew visited the areas Karani, Corneliskondre, Fossi bergi, Bigibere, Morotokko, Cottica and Barbacoeba, during the August 2021 trip.

The following few interesting findings have been assessed during the pre-study of March 2021:



1. The *Euterpe oleracea* palm fruits have proved to be a welcoming food source along the rivers and were eaten by Blue-and-yellow macaws during the pre-study period.

2. Interviews with five local people per research area have indicated, that:

1. The main reason to harvest is to have income and food.
2. All catchers in the MCP are non-local catchers. According to the local interviewees, these non-local catchers are people with the nationality of Guyana.
3. Both local interviewees and animal exporters, have claimed that psittacine species of interest are mostly found and trapped/hunted from May-July (Might be extended till August). According to the Game calendar, the open hunting period for Mealy parrot, Blue-and-yellow macaw and Red-and-green macaw is from July-November. Harvesting that is proceeding earlier is therefore illegal.

Besides interviews with five local people per research area, interviews were held with animal exporters as well. At least nine of the fifteen contacts (of animal exporters) that have been provided by NCD, have been reached. Based on data from eight exporters, most parrot species are harvested at Batavia, Kalebaskreek, Wayambo and Corneliskondre. Data from nine exporters have claimed that the majority of Surinamese parrot species are exported to Thailand. Of interest is to see how much is actually being harvested and what is actually allowed. When comparing data from local interviewees at MCP and Kalebaskreek with actual quota numbers per parrot species of interest, more is caught than is legally allowed.

The results of the population parrot study will therefore reveal trends in population size of the three parrot species of interest, within the selected areas. These areas have been selected since they are well known harvest areas. The final finding report will be issued in August 2022 and will provide data on species numbers, abundance, trapping data and how this field data is related to our set legislation.

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