



WAPICHAN TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE MODEL

South Central and South Rupununi Districts
Toshaos Councils, Region 9, GUYANA

Chief Kokoi, COP13 Cancún, 11 December 2016



BAOKOPA'O WA DI'ITINPAN WADAUNIINAO ATI'O NII

Kaimanamana'o, wa zaamatapan, wa di'itapan na'apamnii wa sha'apatan Wapichan wiizi Guyana'ao raza

THINKING TOGETHER FOR THOSE COMING BEHIND US

An outline plan for the care of Wapichan territory in Guyana

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Wapichan territory in Guyana

A document of the
Indigenous peoples of the South Rupunui



CONTENTS OF OUR TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE PLAN:



- ◎ **Objectives:** purpose of the plan
- ◎ **Vision** for our territory in 25 years hence
- ◎ 5 chapters on '**different kinds of lands**': e.g. forest, savannah, rivers/creeks/ wetlands
- ◎ 6 Chapters on different **land uses** (e.g. farming, hunting, fishing & gathering, use of fire)
- ◎ 3 Chapters on **important places** in our territory
- ◎ 2 chapters on **development**
- ◎ 1 chapter on local **governance** and **implementation**



EACH CHAPTER CONTAINS:

- ◎ **Importance** of our lands and customary land uses
- ◎ **Goals** and targets: **Where we want to get to**
- ◎ Land management **principles**: **How we will do it**
- ◎ **Customary laws**
- ◎ **General agreements** and actions
- ◎ Existing and **proposed Village Rules**
- ◎ **Plans and agreed actions** for specific places

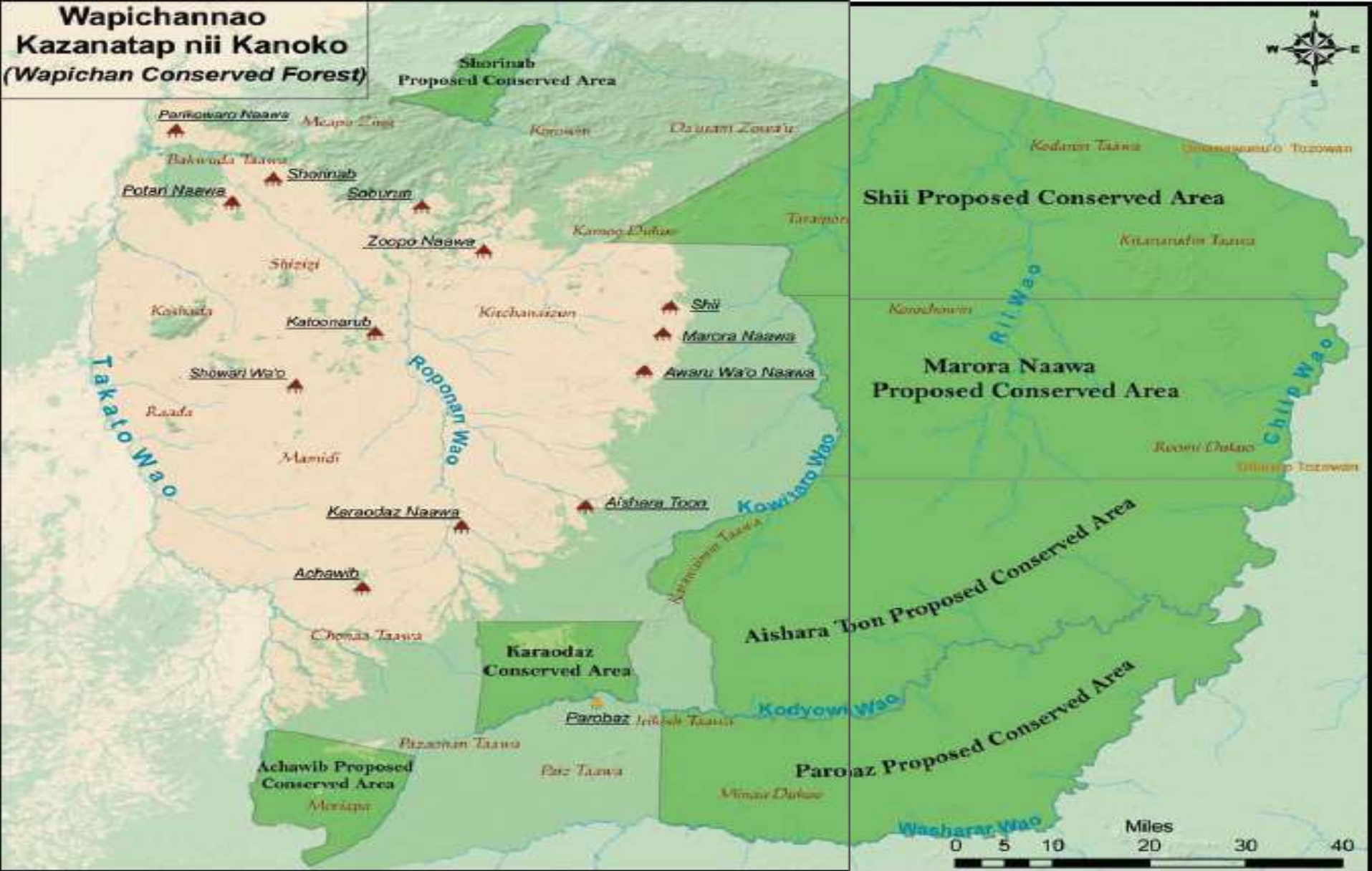
EXAMPLE: KANOKO (FOREST)





ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS

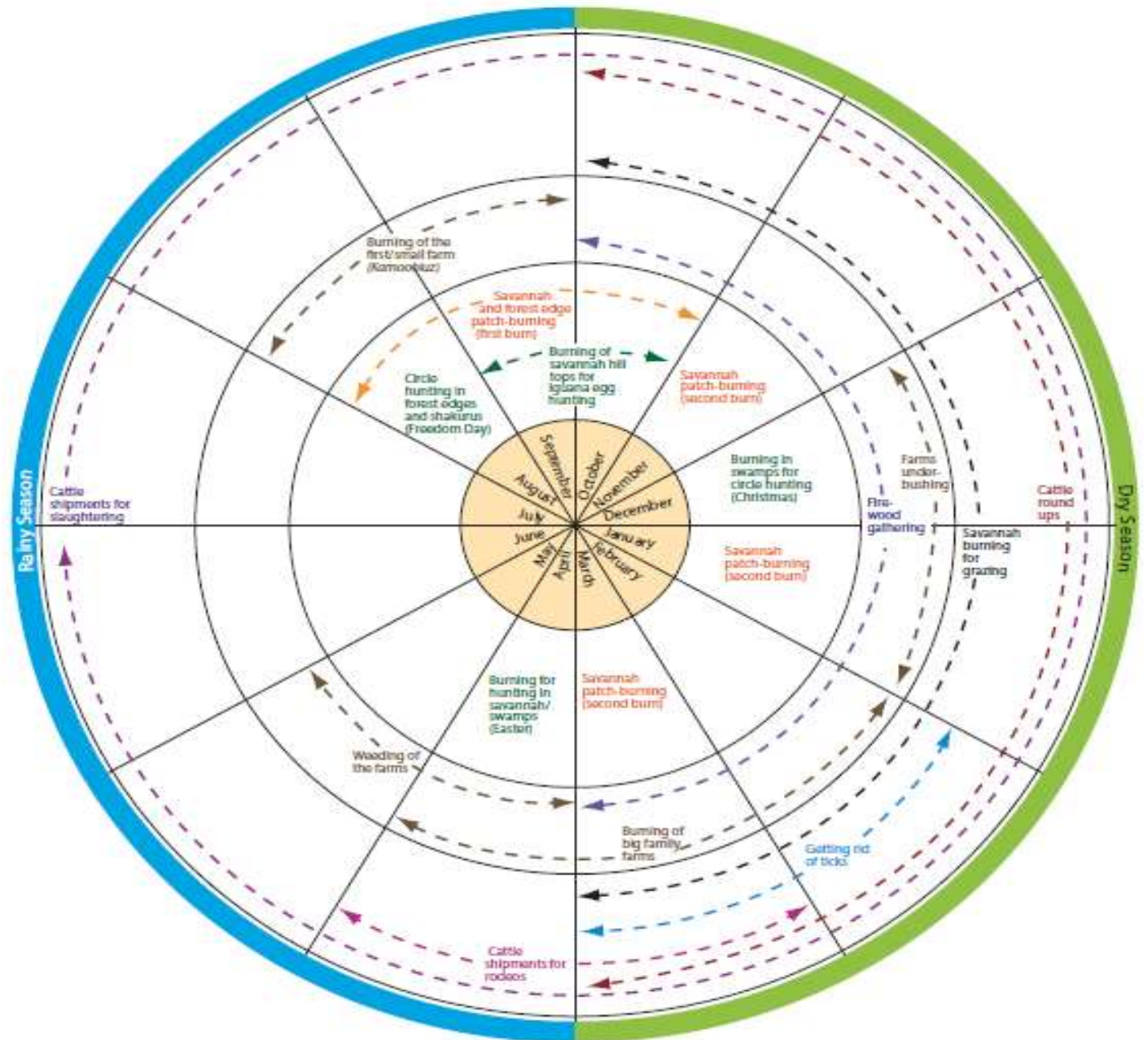
- ⊙ Setting up Wapichan Conserved Forest
- ⊙ Caring for our forest resources
- ⊙ Strict controls on commercial lumbering
- ⊙ No destructive developments
- ⊙ Teaching our young people forest skills and traditional knowledge
- ⊙ DTCs will support villages to carry out an inventory of timber and non-timber resources



WAPICHAN CONSERVED FOREST

USE OF FIRE





WAPICHAN FIRE CALENDAR



ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS

- ⊙ Agreements on places to be kept free from fire e.g. Upper slopes and peaks of mountains
- ⊙ No dropping of fires near sensitive sites without prior community agreement
- ⊙ Interested VCs and communities may nominate and agree local leaders to oversee the use of fire in their areas
- ⊙ We will pass on traditional knowledge on good burning practices to our young people
- ⊙ Fire will only be dropped at the right times and in safe situations (prevent uncontrolled fires)
- ⊙ We will follow up our 2011 fire study with more community-based research

HOW WE MADE OUR PLAN: THROUGH COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

- Our customary laws, land management principles, our vision for our territory and agreed actions were drawn up through DTC and project team consultations in all participating villages and communities (2008-2011):



Working in local languages



Public meetings

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED:



- ▶ 18 public meetings/consultations
- ▶ 33 village workshops, including user group discussions
- ▶ 26 DTC meetings by sub-district
- ▶ 4 joint DTC meetings + 3 joint DTC workshops
- ▶ 2 participatory natural resource management studies (use of fire and waters/fisheries management)
- ▶ 3 participatory livelihood studies (cash crops, livestock, craft)
- ▶ 12 intercommunity workshops
- ▶ 5 write workshops (SCPDA and DTC): to review and correct different drafts
- ▶ Two large validation assemblies (October 2011)



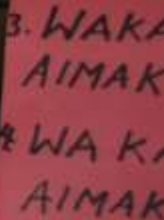
MAPPING

- ◎ **1:50,000 maps digitised for whole area**

Two teams of local mappers (S Central and Deep South) received training in:

- ◎ Use of hand-held GPS units (entering/reading coordinates)
- ◎ Collecting information with holders of traditional knowledge and land users (through community workshops, sketch mapping, interviews, oral histories, story-telling, field visits with elders and local guides)
- ◎ How to keep mapping log books

...also trained one Wapichan GIS specialist (inputting data and graphics)



COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS AND CONSULTATIONS

- ☐ To create map legend
- ☐ To document land uses, important sites, the geographic extent of resource use and our attachment to the land (sacred sites etc)
- ☐ To obtain the correct spellings for places and creeks in our own languages
- ☐ To plan mapping field trips with mappers
- ☐ To review, correct and validate final maps



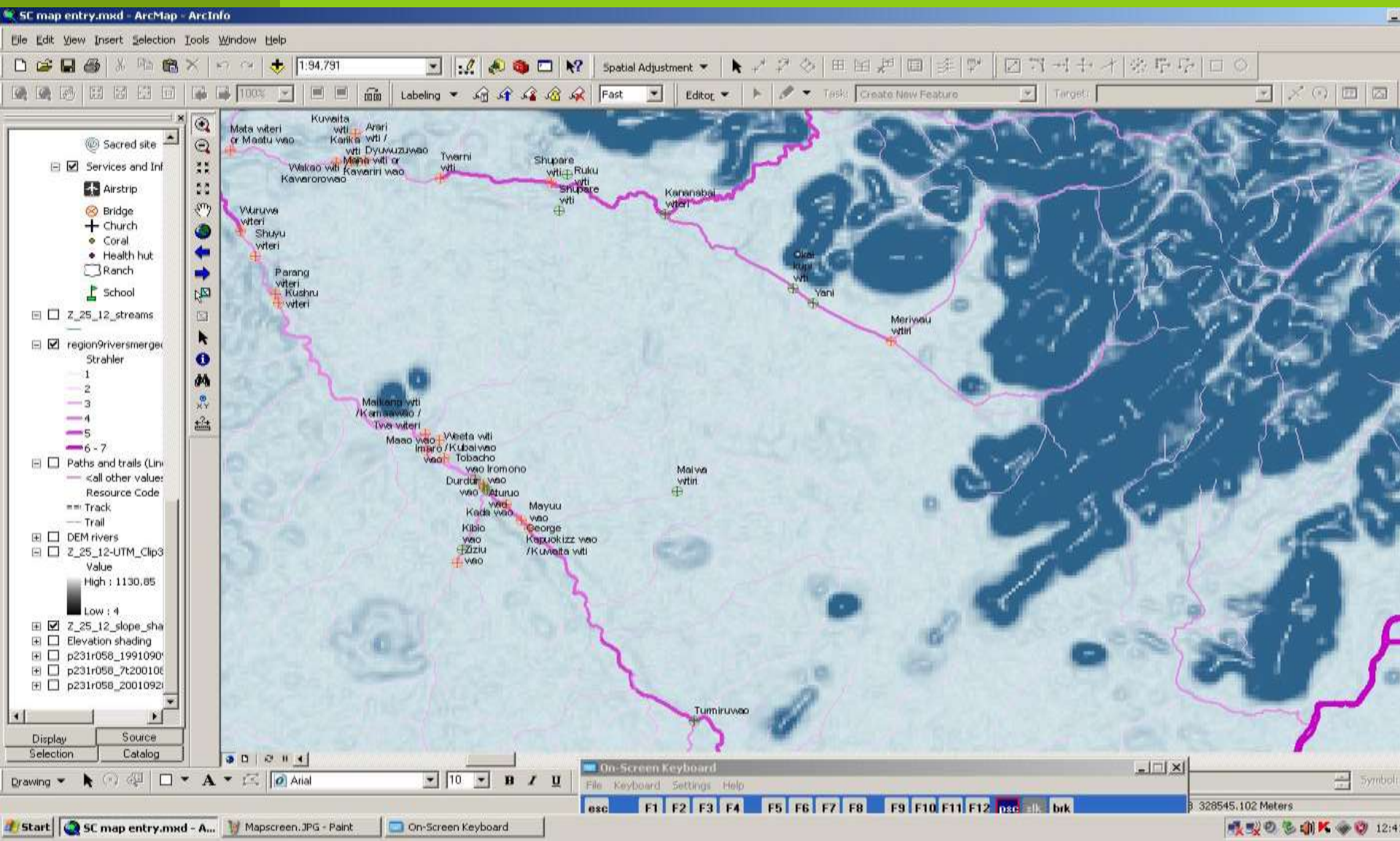
MAPPING FIELDWORK

- ◎ Field trips to map near and distant land use sites and resource areas (prolonged trips - up to three weeks)
- ◎ GPS points taken for:
 - different land uses
 - important cultural sites and useful resources
 - historical sites and former settlements
 - sacred and spiritual sites
 - roads, trails, settlements, homesteads, ranches, rivers, creeks and mountains slopes/peaks etc
- ◎ More than 40,000 GPS points taken in total

INPUTTING FIELD DATA

- ◎ GPS information was fed into a computer (Geographical Information System - Arc View)
- ◎ Field mapping logs were used to cross-check information
- ◎ Computer programming was done to show elevations, width of watercourses and graphics (map legend symbols etc)

USE OF SATELLITE IMAGERY FOR GEO-REFERENCING





USE OF DRAFT MAP IN LAND USE PLANNING

CORRECTION AND VALIDATION



WE USE THE MAP TO:



- ❑ Support Village applications to secure our land titles and title extensions
- ❑ Assist village and inter-village decision-making and planning for sustainable land use and community development
- ❑ Follow-up: a special interactive GIS set up to keep our land use map updated and to monitor our lands and resources
- ❑ Local monitors made dozens of field trips in 2014 to document illegal mining, logging and road developments in Wapichan territory and this information is now being fed into the Wapichan map

PILOTING DRONES



THANK YOU!

