



IWOKRAMA

A MODEL FOR THE WORLD

International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development
Annual Report 2009

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STATEMENTS



“Completing successfully its 2006-10 business plan, Iwokrama has emerged from the last financial year as a more robust business driven institution standing on its own feet and, moreover, providing a platform on which to build further long term growth in the next 24 months”

Not surprisingly, the international financial downturn impacted adversely on Iwokrama’s tourism, sustainable timber and training businesses. Project funding was also affected: payments slowed as donors coped with their own financial preoccupations. These combined pressures obliged the Centre to be even more cost competitive, as well as energetic in seeking new business opportunities.

As a result of hard work and commitment, the emergence of ecosystem services as a new business with potential for further growth and the benefits of a higher international profile, the Centre still achieved a creditable cash surplus at the end of 2009, thereby proving the previous year’s result was not a flash in the pan. Completing successfully its 2006-10 business plan, Iwokrama has emerged as a more robust business driven institution, standing on its own feet and providing a platform on which to build further long term growth in the next 24 months. There was good progress on science too.

The Centre’s international science committee, its newly appointed resident scientist and the recent deployment of new quality scientific equipment in the forest have together enabled the IIC to begin to put in place the building blocks of its new international research programme, focusing on the impacts of climate change on the Iwokrama forest and the contribution which its ecosystem services make to its overall financial value.

This important step forward is due to generous funding from the US Moore Foundation, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat, for which the IIC is deeply grateful.

I congratulate the Centre, its staff, the North Rupununi District Development Board, the local communities (who are Iwokrama’s greatest and most valued asset), as well as my colleagues on the Board of Trustees on their contribution to ensuring Iwokrama emerged successfully from a testing 2009.

Edward Glover

Chairman of the Iwokrama Trustees



“The Centre continued to show through all its work that it is possible to use a rainforest without losing it”

2009 was another successful year for the Centre – with good progress in its programme and business development work.

I am pleased to report that the 2009 audited accounts reveal total annual income of US\$2,232,649 against total expenditure of US\$1,885,207, resulting in a comfortable accumulated cash flow surplus for the year. The international community continued to support the Centre, with EU funding representing just over 30% of project programme for the year. The Centre continued to show through all its work that it is possible to use a rainforest without losing it.

Iwokrama’s sustainable timber business increased output, with harvested volumes increasing by 60% over 2008 levels to 13,605 m³ for the year. Timber revenues increased by 200% over the previous year to US\$168,721. The Iwokrama forest maintained its FSC certification – a testament to its forest management operations meeting high international social, environmental and economic standards.

The number of tourists to Iwokrama increased to 856, compared to 705 the year before. Tourism income reached US\$310,555 for the year. Major works to the main Fred Allcock building, including a new bar and gift shop, were completed in anticipation of an improved tourism season in 2010.

At the national level, together with Conservation International in Guyana, we supported the Government’s Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) by sponsoring a three part dialogue series on various aspects of the strategy. Regionally, we reinforced our position as the “Regional Centre of Excellence” for our work in rainforest conservation and climate change through involvement in the Caricom climate change discussions. Internationally, we were invited to showcase Iwokrama at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad.

After the 2009 inauguration of the Iwokrama Science Committee (ISC), the Centre began to implement a robust science programme, assisted by the appointment of a resident scientist.

We continued to work closely with and to offer support to our community partners through training and capacity building exercises, as well as further integration into our business development activities. We worked with Fair View to develop a management plan for the village which will benefit from a small wood working project initiated by Iwokrama and funded by USAID.

Dane Gobin

CEO



“At the global level, we stand ready and committed – as stewards of the rain forest supporting the Government of Guyana’s and Iwokrama’s efforts in the good fight against the negative impacts of climate change which threatens all of our Earth”

Last year, the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB) and Iwokrama continued their partnership and joint commitment to balance the preservation, conservation and wise utilisation of Iwokrama forest resources through the Collaborative Management Agreement (revised and renewed in August 2008). The NRDDDB also reorganized its administrative structure and is re-structuring its Bina Hill Institute. These combined efforts will strengthen the NRDDDB’s collaboration with Iwokrama in order to support the development of conservation-based businesses, models for ecosystem services, research and protection of fragile resources and the promotion and affirmation of our traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.

Led by the women of the NRDDDB’s Makushi Research Unit, the first Makushi dictionary was launched in December 2009 with support from UNESCO, as well as additional support from the Ministry of Culture’s Walter Roth Museum and the Guyana Book Foundation. The IDB sponsored business development training was successfully delivered by Iwokrama’s training services, benefiting the North Rupununi and providing increased capacity for communities to start small businesses. A new IDB grant aimed at boosting local micro-enterprises and establishing the NRDDDB’s own website will commence in 2010.

Iwokrama’s funding support for a finance manager and logistics clerk was welcomed as we improved our administrative capacity to deliver services to our constituents. We continued to receive benefits from Iwokrama’s tourism and from the Guiana Shield project. Other partners such as IUCN-Netherlands, CI-Guyana and WWF Guianas Programme worked with the NRDDDB and Iwokrama to support the North Rupununi conservation programmes. The NRDDDB’s Community Fund grew during 2009, helping to sustain the NRDDDB operations and, with a contribution from the Fund, contributing to a Master’s Degree scholarship for one of NRDDDB’s young leaders and BHI tutors.

Our Junior Wildlife Clubs continue to thrive and groom the next generation for leadership. For the future: the NRDDDB looks forward to working with Iwokrama to conserve our precious North Rupununi Wetlands and to develop a community forest conservation and benefits system through the opportunities presented by Guyana’s LCDs. At the global level, we stand ready and committed as stewards of the rain forest supporting the Government of Guyana’s and Iwokrama’s efforts in the good fight against the negative impacts of climate change which threatens all of our Earth.

Sydney Allicock
Chairman North Rupununi District Development Board and Iwokrama Trustee (NRDDDB)



“Fair View and Iwokrama maintain relations as good neighbours and keen partners who share a common goal for the greater good of Guyana and the world as a whole.”

Fair View shares a special relationship with the Iwokrama Centre as it has a legal interest in 9% of the Sustainable Utilization Area (SUA) of the Iwokrama Forest. This makes co-management of the forest especially important. Our relationship with the Centre grew in 2009.

In 2009, Fair View continued to receive revenues from Iwokrama Timber Incorporated (ITI), of which it is a shareholder and on whose board it has a director to represent its interests elected through the NRDDDB. In 2010 the village, with support from the Centre, will commence a small wood working operation with funding from USAID.

Tourism also delivered revenues to the village and we continued to benefit from the employment opportunities in Iwokrama’s businesses. During the past year Iwokrama and Fair View worked to develop a management plan for the village so that development would not come at the expense of environmental damage. As always, we stand ready to continue to support the partnership between our village and the Iwokrama Centre in developing models of sustainable forest management, conservation of natural resources and benefit-sharing for the present and future well-being of our people.

Fair View and Iwokrama maintain relations as good neighbours and keen partners who share a common goal for the greater good of Guyana and the world as a whole. In this regard, we were especially proud that the ground breaking Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Guyana and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway regarding cooperation on issues related to climate change, the protection of biodiversity and the enhancement of sustainable development was signed in our village on 9 September 2009.

Bradford Allicock
Toshao of Fair View Village



President Jagdeo and the Norwegian Minister of Environment of Norway, Erik Solheim.



President Jagdeo and Minister Erik Solheim with Fair View villagers.

TOURISM

In 2009, the River Lodge hosted film and television crews, various government officials from other countries and President Jagdeo. All helped to promote Iwokrama and Guyana in general as a world class tourism destination. Blending adventure with tranquility and quality service with exceptional facilities, Iwokrama is the perfect escape for any nature lover.



Cabin interior

Iwokrama had another successful year in tourism with 1,156 visitors to the River Lodge and Research Centre, the highest visitor count in Iwokrama's history and earning the IIC US\$310,555 in revenue. In recognition of its pristine condition and good management, the novel and innovative Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Guyana and Norway, signed at nearby Fair View, was celebrated afterwards at the River Lodge.

One international consultant working on a USAID tourism development project commented:

"Everyone in the group is enjoying the trip immensely. They are all impressed with Iwokrama, which has made a lot of great changes from infrastructure to service to interpretation. The new tourism manager, Jared Bowers and his lovely wife, are just great. The quality and level of service provided has been fantastic."

A new Tourism Manager, Jared Bowers with support from USAID, joined the Centre in 2009 and immediately began to improve the facilities and service at the River Lodge. Improvements include a complete refurbishment of the multi-use Fred Allicock building. In addition, the hammock accommodation buildings at the Canopy Walkway facility (Atta Camp) were converted to rooms to help target the birding market. Some 8 kilometers of new trails were developed and guests can now enjoy a barbecue meal.

These improvements, in conjunction with high quality cabins, improving service and tours, have helped to distinguish Iwokrama as one of Guyana's superior tourism locations. Further work is in hand to ensure that all of Iwokrama's tourism activities see even further improvement in quality.



Cabin exterior



View of the Essequibo River from the Fred Allicock building



Dining in the main building



Hammock area



Jared Bowers

Next page: picturesque view of the Essequibo River from Fair View village



TIMBER

Iwokrama Timber Inc (ITI) successfully emerged from a rigorous second audit and a surveillance visit to maintain its Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.



6x6 posts and at railing Newbury port
1 year weathered



Yale Bridge deck using Greenheart
construction



Newburyport Harborwalk completed
with Iwokrama woods

Tigerwood Guyana Inc-Naturally
Durable Inc – Photo-Paul Fuge

Sustainable Forest Management

Iwokrama Timber Incorporated (ITI) successfully emerged from a rigorous second audit and a surveillance visit to maintain Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for the Iwokrama forest. ITI's private sector partner, Tigerwood Guyana Incorporated (TGI), continued to build capacity during the year, achieving a harvested volume of approximately 14,000 m³ of commercial timber. This represented an increase of 65% over the previous year. Within the annual harvesting cap of only 20,000m³ TGI continued to explore the market for non-traditional species.

The average number of commercial trees (in excess of 10 cm in diameter) in each hectare of Iwokrama's sustainable utilisation area is 307. Under Iwokrama's highly selective harvesting programme, only 3 to 4 trees are cut in each hectare. Each harvested hectare will not be re-visited for 60 years.

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) funded project – "Implementation of the Sustainable Forest Management Programme of the Iwokrama International Centre" – was chosen by the organisation as their best Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) project in South America. Iwokrama presented the results at the World Forestry Congress meeting in Argentina. The Centre also finished a volume and decay study of the Iwokrama forest (perhaps the only one ever done for tropical forests).

The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) continued to monitor ITI's timber operations, with four inspection visits during the year. There was continued training in forestry related activities, such as reduced impact logging (RIL) and the construction of forest roads and log markets. ITI and TGI continued to hold bi-monthly meetings with the local communities to discuss planning and development issues and to resolve any disputes.

Forestry Research Network

As part of the EU funded Forestry Research Network Project, the Fred Allicock Building (Iwokrama's main building at the River Lodge and Research Centre) underwent extensive renovations, including changing the roof; enclosing and converting the atrium to a bar and gift shop on the upper level and offices on the lower level; and extension of the kitchen and repair of the upper floor.

The Inter-American Development Bank

With funding from the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Centre contributed to community development by facilitating a series of business development training sessions at the Bina Hill Institute for community representatives.

The MIF also contributed to the maintenance of forest certification and the further development of sustainable harvesting. Activities included staff training; the advancement of monitoring protocols and a management plan for the Iwokrama forest; the improvement of operational inventories; the documentation of Iwokrama's timber model and the creation of a timber prospectus; as well as the development, registration and protection of the Iwokrama brand and logo.

Next page: View of the Essequibo
River from high in the Iwokrama Forest



TRAINING

The Centre began discussions in 2009 with a major training institution to place up to 150 students per year at Iwokrama.



Trainees at a community session



Forest flower



Making cassava bread

Interns and Volunteers

There were 15 interns and volunteers attached to the IIC in 2009, working with the Centre on forest monitoring, tourism, administration and training. Special thanks go to all our 2009 volunteers and interns for their invaluable service.

Infrastructure

The Caribbean Development Bank provided funding for the construction of new training facilities and for the upgrade of the solar systems at the River Lodge. These works will be completed in 2010

Research

Over 20 researchers visited Iwokrama during 2009 to conduct research, including ecological and biodiversity monitoring and the use of radar biomass mapping. Researchers came from several institutions, including Newcastle University in the United Kingdom, the University of South Florida and the University of Ottawa.

In addition, staff from Newcastle University explored an interpretation and communication strategy for the Centre, with an emphasis on interpreting and communicating the natural and cultural heritage resources of Iwokrama and the surrounding area of the North Rupununi.

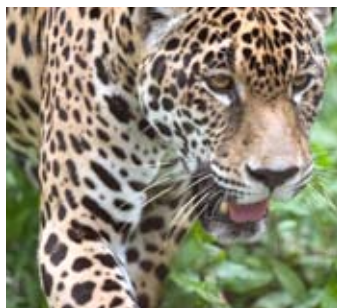
In November 2009, the Centre implemented a landmark "Training of Trainers" workshop for 25 persons targeting community leaders, representatives of Government and non-government agencies and Amerindian advocacy groups. The training was implemented in collaboration with Conservation International and was aimed at helping to build capacity on issues related to the science of climate change, the role of forests, sustainable forest management, ecosystem services and collaborative management. A training manual was also developed specifically for this course titled 'Climate Change, Communities and Co-Managing Forests

Next page: Turtle mountain camp facilities



ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Tropical forests cover about 15% of the world's land surface, acting as giant global 'eco-utilities'.



Iwokrama jaguar



Flooded forest



Forest deer

The natural ecosystem services provided by tropical forests range from watershed protection and water flow regulation to large scale nutrient recycling, rainfall generation and the natural capture and storage of carbon. The world's remaining rainforests capture an estimated 1.3 billion tonnes of carbon per year, of which Iwokrama alone captures 1.3 million tonnes of CO₂ annually. Rainforests play such a vital part in producing water, protecting biodiversity and reducing global emissions. It is important to understand better all the critical ecosystem services they deliver; and to place a greater value on them through innovative financial mechanisms. The IIC sees this as a crucial role the discharge of its mandate set out in the 1996 Iwokrama Act.

Against this background, Iwokrama and a UK private company, Canopy Capital, signed a pioneering agreement in 2008. Under this agreement private investors recognised the vital role of the forest's ecosystem services and the role of the local communities in their maintenance. The two entities agreed to work together to generate financial value for the forest's services. The company's payments – the first ever private payments for ecosystem services made with the intent of generating financial returns – have already enabled the further protection and sustainable use of the forest to the benefit of the communities.

In 2009 the Centre built on this significant agreement by seeking – through its practical work and international relationships and in close consultation with the Guyana Government whose Low Carbon Development Strategy the IIC strongly supports – a longer term financial basis to

- Guarantee the ongoing security of the forest and its communities;
- Develop further the concept of forest entrepreneurship; and, equally important, to
- Lay the basis for a new class of asset management by establishing a financial mechanism which recognises the value of the ecosystem services of the forest.

This work is continuing in 2010.

PREVIOUS



NEXT



RESEARCH

“This is just the start of Iwokrama’s new long term research plan and it has the potential to yield some very important and exciting outcomes. In particular, we hope to show the rest of the world how tropical forests can be both conserved and used sustainably to provide economic benefits to local communities.” says Dr Isabella Bovolo



Canoeing in the Essequibo River



Iguana



Wasp nest

The Iwokrama Science Committee

The inaugural meeting of the Iwokrama Science Committee (ISC) took place in July last year at the University of the West Indies Campus, Trinidad and Tobago.

The ISC’s mandate is to provide scientific advice to the Iwokrama trustees and to oversee the IIC’s new research programme, which is focused on two key elements:

- the measurement of the impacts of climate change on the Iwokrama forest
- the evaluation of the contribution of ecosystem services to the forest’s overall monetary value.

The Committee includes representation from Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, the US, the UK, Germany and the Netherlands.

Implementation of the IIC’s research programme is led by Iwokrama’s recently appointed resident scientist, Dr Isabella Bovolo.

Climate and Hydrology Monitoring

Dr. Isabella Bovolo, a hydrologist from the School of Civil Engineering and Geo-Sciences at Newcastle University, UK, collected vital data last year that will help scientists unlock the secrets of South American rainforest’s changing climate. The next step is preparation of a large-scale hydrology and climate monitoring programme for the entire Iwokrama forest. This work will help put Iwokrama at the forefront of climate research.

“The rainforests in general are quite poorly understood,” says Dr. Bovolo. “The idea is to learn more about the whole earth system and to establish a baseline for future research. In other words, we need to understand what has happened in the past to understand what might happen in the future.” Dr Bovolo concludes that there is a long way to go.



Dr Isabella Bovolo



"Stick" snake

Guyana Shield Initiative Project

The Guiana Shield Initiative (GSI) had its genesis in 1989 with the establishment of the European Working Group on Amazonia. It was officially launched in 1993 by the European Parliament (with the IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands as a partner) to maintain the ecological and associated cultural integrity of the Guiana Shield eco-region. The objective was to develop models for compensation for ecosystem services. This project was driven by the immediate need to develop a response to deforestation in Amazonia. The project officially started on 1 December 2000 and Phase 1 ended on March 2004.

A second phase, funded by the European Union, the Dutch Government, UNDP and IUCN Netherlands Committee started in June 2006. In this phase, lasting over three years, models for payments for ecosystem services are being developed in a number of pilot sites – Iwokrama (Guyana), Mataven (Colombia), Iratapuru (Brazil), and possibly North Saramacca (Suriname).

Iwokrama, the smallest and the first of the three pilot sites selected for project execution, received a mandate to examine sustainable livelihood generation. Iwokrama facilitated a Global Satellite Imagery (GSI) Technical Mission in February 2008. Three major ecosystem services were identified in a baseline study:

- carbon sequestration (carbon stocks and flows)
- biodiversity
- freshwater services.

The project will use existing studies, surveys, remote sensing and ground verification to seek to place a value on such ecosystem services.

Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Study

Iwokrama collaborated with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) to conduct an independent assessment titled "Forest Law Enforcement and Governance and Forest Practices in Guyana". The study was commissioned by and completed on behalf of the Government of Norway. The report was written by Robert Nasi and Jorge Trevin of CIFOR and Iwokrama respectively.

Iwokrama Archive

With generous funding from the Commonwealth Secretariat, a highly professional archivist from the United Kingdom, Penny Baker, began in January this year a project lasting twelve months to overhaul and prepare the IIC's archives for greater access and digitisation. This important step will make it possible for Iwokrama's research material to become available for wider use by research and other institutions.



Black caiman



Penny Baker



Monitoring ranger examining bat specimen

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Using grant money, the team produced over 2,000 healthy lifestyle notebooks which they distributed amongst the schools and wildlife clubs.



Agouti

There were a range of education and awareness projects in Iwokrama's 16 local communities designed to inform, educate, and communicate responsible behavior.

The outreach team included in their work projects on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, protection of wildlife and the environment, physical health, domestic and alcohol abuse and the rights of men, women and children. Using grant money, the team produced over 2,000 healthy lifestyle notebooks which they distributed amongst the schools and wildlife clubs.



Heliconia species



Junior Wildlife Club



Enjoying a river bath



Forest flower



Rewa banner

Next page: Fair View youth in daring dive



PUBLIC OUTREACH

As in previous years, Iwokrama staff helped to facilitate lessons at the Guyana National Museum's Children Summer Camp in August, 2009. This was the museum's third Annual Taxidermy Summer Camp.



Fair View kids at school

Last year also saw a new programme introduced to Georgetown Schools, targeting sixth form environmental and science students. Presented under the theme, 'Careers in Environmental Conservation', Iwokrama staff make presentations once a term for each sixth form school. The first session was held at Roses High school in November 2009. It culminated with a tree planting exercise.

GUYEXPO 2009

Iwokrama participated in "GUYEXPO 2009", Guyana's premier trade fair and exposition hosted by the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, in collaboration with the Guyana Office for Investment (Go-Invest) and Guyana's Private Sector. Iwokrama's booth depicted butterfly farming carried out as a business initiative in the Iwokrama forest. Many children and adults learnt about the life cycle of the butterfly and how butterfly farming is done.



School girl at work

Capacity Building to support National Initiatives in Reducing Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) in Guyana

Iwokrama took part in the National Stakeholder Dialogue Series in August 2009, which focused on the Government of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy.

Iwokrama provided financial support to the North Rupununi District Development Board for their consultations with the 18 communities of the North Rupununi on the Government of Guyana's low carbon development strategy. The Centre covered the cost of transportation and accommodation for the trainers and participants funds provided by the Moore Project.



Tapir

Communities, Climate Change and Co-managing Forests

Jointly organized and implemented by Iwokrama and Conservation International (Guyana) with the assistance of funds from the Moore Foundation and the Goldman Fund, courses focused on the development of capacity to facilitate community level training and discussions on the principles of co-management of lands at local, regional and national scales and the alternative valuation of forests, including ecosystem services such as climate change mitigation.

EU ACP Forest Research Network Project (FORENET)

Iwokrama's CEO, Dane Gobin and Vanessa Benn, FORENET's Focal Point Person (Caribbean) attended the Third Steering Committee Meeting of the project, held in Brussels in June 2009. The meeting facilitated discussions amongst representatives of the African and Pacific partners, along with representatives of the ACP Secretariat, the European Commission and the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

Butterfly Project

The funding of the butterfly project ended in June 2009. Its key partners were Warwick University, the University of Guyana and NRDDDB. The project attained many of its objectives. Iwokrama provided support for the project for two months in 2009. From a book recently published by Warwick University, butterfly lovers can now learn more about some of the different species found in North Rupununi and the Iwokrama forest. WWF has now also joined in the support of this project.

Chainsaw Milling Project

The Forestry Training Centre Incorporated, a subsidiary of the Guyana Forestry Commission, is collaborating with Tropenbos International and Iwokrama to implement the Guyana component of an EU funded project entitled 'Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw lumbering through multi-stakeholder dialogue in Ghana and Guyana'.

The project focuses on the broad theme of forest governance in countries where chainsaw milling is prevalent, Ghana and Guyana in particular. In many local communities, chainsaw lumbering is an important component of livelihoods. The project provides the opportunity to address issues of conflict and illegality associated with chainsaw lumbering.



Specimen at Butterfly Farm



Yupukari school children



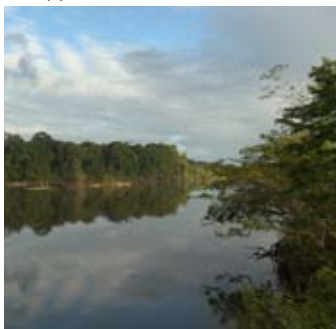
Atta lodge enclosed

MONITORING

Iwokrama's monitoring activities led to several achievements in 2009, including the finalising Iwokrama biophysical monitoring framework and manual.



Tourists capturing view of the forest canopy from Turtle Mountain



The mighty Essequibo River



Dr. Raquel Thomas, Director of Resource Management and Training

The framework links the monitoring activities with the overall goals of the IIC, while the manual gives a detailed description of the methodologies including what is to be done, by whom and when and provides details of data collection, recording and analysis. This allows for a standardised monitoring system which has been fully implemented.

Monitoring received support from the Guiana Shield Initiative (GSI) Phase II Project, funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Guyana Office with technical support from the International Conservation Union (IUCN) Netherlands. Through the project, Iwokrama acquired equipment that further strengthened its monitoring activities, including a boat with an engine and two motor cycles that are used for river and road patrols respectively. This also included equipment that allowed the unit to recommence water quality testing of the Essequibo, Burro Burro and Siparuni Rivers as well as main creeks within the Iwokrama forest.

In April 2009, Iwokrama's socio-economic monitoring framework was finalised and datasheets tested within Fair View. Community outreach benefitted from the GSI project. A Memorandum of Cooperation was also signed with Surama Village to assist with monitoring activities along the Burro Burro River.

In 2010 the unit will seek to improve its monitoring system to international standards and so become a model for the world.



MERCHANDISING

The Centre introduced new Iwokrama branded items.



The newly renovated Fred Allcock Building

The Centre introduced new Iwokrama branded items such as key rings, bottle openers and flash lights. It hopes to expand its offerings in 2010 to include flip-flops, sarongs, swimsuits and a wider variety of community produced products such as craft, peanut butter and honey.

In June, 2009, Iwokrama signed a sponsorship agreement with the Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company Limited (GT & T) to provide uniforms for staff at the Iwokrama River Lodge and to promote the GT & T brand at Iwokrama. The Centre hopes this agreement will lead to other forms of sponsorship and advertisement.



Tote bag



Trail bottle



Lightweight and durable, torchlights



T-shirt



Shirley Felts Water Colour Book

Next page: Passiflora species



2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

“Despite continuing tough international financial conditions, 2009 recorded a healthy cash flow surplus, although smaller than the previous year” says Dane Gobin CEO

Overview

I am delighted to report that our audited 2009 accounts indicate that in the final year of our 2006 – 2010 Business Plan, the Centre has once again moved forward positively. Despite continuing tough international financial conditions, last year recorded a healthy cash flow surplus, although smaller than the previous year. However, for purposes of comparison, the 2008 balance included a large disbursement from the Moore Foundation very late in the year against which no significant related expenditure could be incurred before the financial year was completed.

Because of continuing deterioration in the international economy the Centre exercised caution by reducing its 2009 revenue targets for its core businesses (tourism, timber, training and services) and discounting any major training income, following the end of a large 3-year training contract funded by the German Government aid agency (KfW). Despite these challenges, when earned revenues were calculated on an accrual basis, the Centre slightly exceeded its revenue budget for the year.

The Centre continued to engage in strict budgeting and cost cutting measures (which led to a further 7% reduction in overhead costs) and, for the first time, began to report monthly on the performance of its individual businesses.

Total Revenue

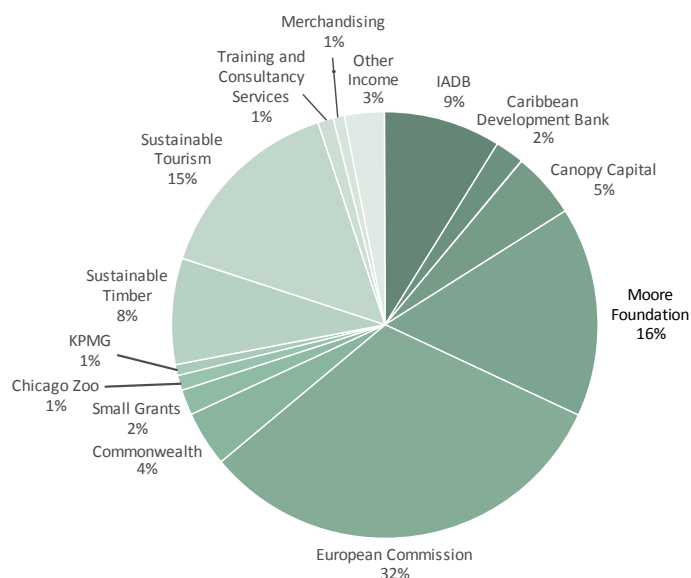
During the auditing process of our 2009 statutory accounts, our external examiners have required us to introduce a change to how we record revenues in our accounts in order to conform to the latest international standards. This alters the revenue reporting format to one using a deferred grant basis and has the effect of increasing the 2009 revenue total to US\$2,232,649 and reducing the equivalent figure for 2008 to US\$1,418,299. The difference between the two figures is largely therefore the result of this accounting change. However, recorded on a basis of cash received, major contributions during 2009 came from:

- Two European Union funded projects, totaling US\$453,983 for research;
- Two IADB projects (US\$196,347) for sustainable timber and science and; and
- Canopy Capital (US\$100,000) supporting the measurement and valuation of the Iwokrama’s ecosystem services.

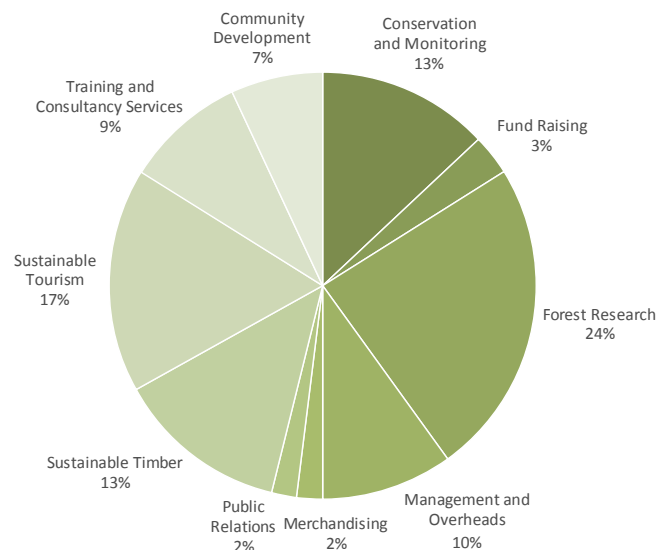
This continued project income reflected clear and unequivocal support for, and recognition of, the Centre’s very important new work.

The IIC is also grateful for continued support from its other partners, including Conservation International; the IUCN; the National Audubon Society; the IIED; the World Bank; the IADB; the British High Commission; the UNDP; Chicago Zoo; the Caribbean Development Bank; the Moore Foundation; KPMG International; and the Darwin and the WWF Guianas Programme amongst others.

Iwokrama Revenue Sources 2009



Iwokrama Expenditure 2009



Earned Income

Apart from donor investments, total earned income bettered its budgets (US\$528,000) by bringing in US\$537,751 on an accrual basis. As mentioned earlier, the 2009 revenue budgets for earned income were not expected to meet the 2008 figure of US\$682,242 because of the end of the KfW training contract.

On individual performances, sustainable timber recorded an increase of 225 % bringing in US\$168,721 against US\$51,882 the previous year. Despite its vulnerability to the poor international economy, sustainable tourism held its ground by recording earnings of US\$310,555, a slight increase over its \$309,669 2008 total. Forest management training and consultancy services were not expected to meet its 2008 total of US\$290,316 but, nevertheless, brought in \$30,530 for the year. Merchandising suffered a decline of 8 % over 2008 levels but a new gift shop and bar at the River Lodge are expected to reverse this trend in 2010.

Expenditure

The Centre's expenditure increased from US\$1,606,174 in 2008 to US\$1,885,207 in 2009, an increase of 17%, mainly owing to increased project activity as expenditure under the Moore project started in January, 2009.

Despite this increase in project activity, which placed a greater demand on the Centre's administrative system, the Centre continued its commitment to reduce its administrative overheads and to allocate these charges amongst its various work programmes. This was reflected in a further reduction of 7% in costs for 2009 which followed a 17% reduction in costs in 2008 and a reduction of 14% over the period 2006 – 2007.

Strict budgeting and cost cutting initiatives continue. In December 2009, the Centre appointed a new Finance Manager under funding from KPMG to overhaul the IIC's financial system and to ensure that financial reports are completed in a timely fashion. The planning phase has been completed for the implementation of a new ACCPAC accounting system now expected to be installed in 2010. This new level of financial management will continue to improve financial decision making and hasten progress towards financial self sufficiency. In addition to a monthly cash flow statement, the Centre continues to report monthly on the performance of its 4 businesses, with managers and coordinators continuing to manage their own budgets within the structured approach provided through regular management reviews.



Derick Lowe, new finance manager





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The Iwokrama International Centre wishes to convey to its partners and donors deep gratitude for their support, advice and guidance during the last year. Their commitment and generosity means much to the IIC and its local communities.

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IWOKRAMA

**Iwokrama International Centre
for Rainforest Conservation
and Development**

77 High Street Kingston
Georgetown, Guyana
South America

Tel: (592) 2251504, Fax: (592) 2259199
Email: iwokrama-general@iwokrama.org
Website: <http://www.iwokrama.org>