



Press Release

The Prince of Wales to continue as Patron of the Iwokrama International Centre (IIC)



Picture courtesy of Mario Testino

Georgetown/London, 15th July 2010 - His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales will be Patron of the Iwokrama International Centre (IIC) for another five years to support further the Centre's work to advance sustainable rainforest management.

First becoming the IIC's Patron in 2000 and renewing his commitment in 2005, The Prince of Wales has been a strong supporter of Iwokrama's work to develop modern rainforest conservation practices and new approaches to valuing the ecosystem services which tropical forests generate for the benefit of mankind.

The Chairman of the Iwokrama Board of Trustees, Edward Glover, warmly welcomed HRH's ongoing support. He said:

"The Iwokrama International Centre, its communities and its trustees greatly value this excellent and most welcome news. Our model is intended to contribute to saving rainforests by delivering not only climate protection and environmental balance but also real opportunities for poverty reduction and wealth creation, particularly for communities whose livelihoods depend directly on these forests. The Prince of Wales's strong personal support and continued commitment means so much to all of us at Iwokrama."

- Ends -

Notes for editors

Contact

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About Iwokrama

The Iwokrama International Centre (IIC) was established in 1996 under a joint mandate from the Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat to manage the Iwokrama forest, a unique reserve of 371,000 hectares of rainforest “in a manner that will lead to lasting ecological, economic and social benefits to the people of Guyana and to the world in general”.

The Iwokrama forest and its research centre, guided by an international science committee, are unique, providing a dedicated site in which to test the concept of a truly sustainable forest where conservation, environmental balance and economic use can be mutually reinforcing. The IIC is now, in collaboration with the Government of Guyana, the Commonwealth and other international partners, developing a new approach to enable countries with rainforests to earn significant income from ecosystem services and creative conservation practice.

Iwokrama brings together:

- ✓ 16 local communities (approximately 7,000 people) who are shareholders and participants in the IIC’s sustainable timber, tourism and research operations and who share benefits through co-management of the forest and benefit sharing arrangements;
- ✓ Scientists engaged in ground breaking research into the impacts of climate change on the forest and measuring the scope and value of its ecosystem services; and
- ✓ A sustainably managed business operation, earning income from the forest and its natural assets, while keeping abreast of ever changing thinking on funding environmental projects in the face of climate change and the scarcity of international finance.

This alliance is committed to showing how a rainforest can be used for real sustainability, real climate change protection and real community benefit.

Iwokrama’s international science committee, which includes representation from Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany, advises the IIC’s Board of Trustees on scientific matters and helps to guide the work of the on-site research team. Current work is focused on the impact of climate change on the Iwokrama forest and the contribution which its ecosystem services make to the overall value of the forest.

For further details about the Iwokrama International Centre please visit www.iwokrama.org.