

IWOKRAMA
Annual Report 2018

IWOKRAMA:

at a glance...

About us

The Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development (Iwokrama) was established in 1996 under a joint mandate from the Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat to manage the Iwokrama Forest.

Iwokrama manages the 371,000 hectare Forest in central Guyana to show how tropical forests can be conserved and sustainably used for ecological, social and economic benefits to local, national and international communities.

The forest is spatially zoned into two distinct areas - the Wilderness Preserve (WP) and the Sustainable Utilization Area (SUA). The SUA is the part of the forest where Iwokrama's model businesses are undertaken.

Find out more at www.iwokrama.org

People and Conservation

Iwokrama's community partners are firmly integrated into forest management through unique co-management, benefit sharing and shareholding agreements. This partnership combines traditional knowledge, science and best practice to develop low-impact sustainable businesses.



Iwokrama's Mission

"To promote the conservation and the sustainable and equitable use of tropical rain forests in a manner that will lead to lasting ecological, economic and social benefits to the people of Guyana and to the world in general, by undertaking research, training and the development and dissemination of technologies."



Biodiversity of Iwokrama

The 371,000 ha Iwokrama Forest is home to 476 different species of birds, 400 species of fish, 82 species of reptiles, 59 species of amphibians, 130 species of mammals and more than 1250 species of plants. Most notably, South America's largest cat - the jaguar; the world's largest scaled freshwater fish - the arapaima; the world's largest otters, river turtles, anteaters, snakes, eagles and caimans can be found in the Iwokrama Forest.

There are 9 distinct forest types in the Iwokrama Forest.

- 33% mixed greenheart, black kakaralli and wamara forest.
- 20% mixed greenheart, sand baromalli and soft wallaba forest
- 16% mora, manicole, crabwood and trysil forest
- 15% mixed low stature forest
- 7% manicole, kokerite and soft wallaba palm forest
- the remainder is less than 5% each of wallaba, dakama, muri scrub and liana forest.

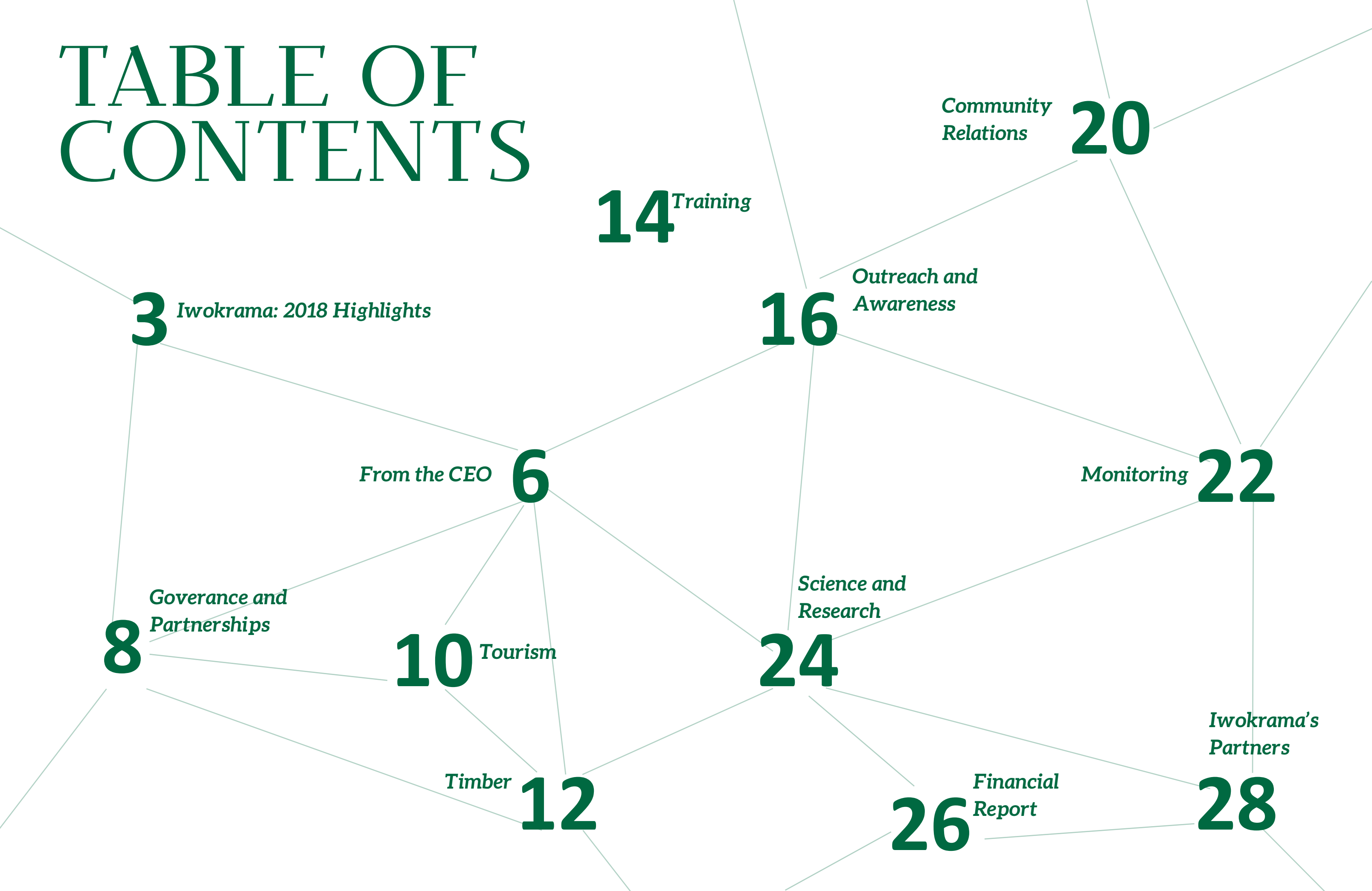
Business at Iwokrama

Iwokrama focuses on the development of innovative models of private– public–community partnerships for the development of forest-based businesses in the areas of

- sustainable timber harvesting
- sustainable tourism
- learning services and
- intellectual property and services including eco-system services.



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FROM THE CEO

2019 will be a milestone year – **30 years** since Guyana’s then President H.E. Hugh Desmond Hoyte offered the Iwokrama Forest as a “*living laboratory*” to the international community at the 1989 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malaysia.

In 2018, Iwokrama continued to align its work with global and national priorities including Guyana’s Green State Development Strategy (GSDS) and His Excellency President David Granger reaffirmed the Government’s support of Iwokrama’s mission and work with the approval of a Government subvention for 2019. The Commonwealth Secretariat, our Centre’s other founding partner, remained engaged through their representative on the Board of Trustees.

Business wise, we amended the timber agreement to provide more flexibility in financial options that would be mutually beneficial to our partners and the Centre. Throughout the year we maintained high standards including retaining the world class Forest Stewardship Council® Certification for Forest Management, which was verified by surveillance audits during the year.

Educational groups such as Operation Wallacea and Earth Expeditions, University of Miami continued their annual pilgrimage. Study tours from the University of Guyana are increasing appreciably, as we welcomed growing numbers of forestry and tourism students at our Research Centre. This area of relationships with education and training institutions remains one that offers much promise.

Unfortunately, seasonal road conditions along the Georgetown-Lethem Road Corridor forced a temporary suspension of our tourism and timber businesses resulting in a reduction of visitor numbers and shipments of processed FSC® certified lumber. Consequently, these sectors of our operations did not perform as well as expected during the year. However, we are hopeful for major improvements to the road in 2019 thereby enabling our businesses to achieve greater potential.

We were pleased to welcome the new members of the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) and maintained close working partnerships with the communities through the Collaborative Management Agreements we jointly renewed two years earlier. During the year, we continued to support the NRDDB’s initiatives and presented progress reports at their quarterly meetings.

In March, we supported Fair View Village to produce the first ever three-dimensional (3D) map of a community in Guyana. This map depicting the topographic features of the 22,000 ha was accomplished by Fair View residents and Iwokrama staff with the support of the Tropenbos Suriname Programme and Exxon Mobil (Guyana). Later in the year we collaborated with Guyana’s First Lady Sandra Granger to launch the STEM Robotics Programme at the Bina Hill Institute, Annai, Region 9 and in Fair View Village, Region 8.

Iwokrama’s Science Committee completed a new 5-Year Research and Science Strategy taking into account current and emerging issues in biodiversity conservation, sustainable management, research and development, and livelihood strategies. Preparatory research activities commenced including baseline biodiversity inventories of the Wilderness Preserve. We are very grateful to Exxon Mobil (Guyana) for their continued support of the science programme.

Construction of a new and dedicated medical facility commenced at the Iwokrama River Lodge to provide better services to visitors, community members, road users and other members of the public traversing our forest.

Iwokrama continued its collaboration with Repsol Exploracion Guyana S.A. which included the development of educational material, posters and outreach activities with the Bina Hill Youth Learning Centre and Annai Secondary. All of our achievements would not have been possible without the valued contributions and collaboration of our partners. I take this opportunity to thank all of our friends, supporters, business partners and donors for their contributions during the year. I would also like to recognise the hard work of our very committed staff, the essential assistance of our founding members, the Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the strong alliances of our community partners for their unwavering support and understanding.



The Iwokrama Forest has been certified for Forest Management in accordance with the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Council® A.C. using the Woodmark Adapted Standard for Guyana (v2.4; 2014)

Dane Gobin BSc MBA
Chief Executive Officer



GOVERNANCE & PARTNERSHIPS

In 1989, the then President of Guyana, His Excellency Hugh Desmond Hoyte offered a part of Guyana’s tropical rain forest for research into Sustainable Development at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Malaysia. Six years later, in November 1996, an agreement was signed between the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat for the establishment of the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development.

Since then, Iwokrama’s founding partners, the Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat remained engaged in the management of and continue to support the Centre in its efforts to develop and demonstrate methods and techniques for the conservation and wise-use of forest resources and contribute to the world’s knowledge of critical aspects of rain forest management and development.

Iwokrama achieves this mandate through partnerships with many partners and stakeholders including

- The twenty local indigenous communities, living in and around the Iwokrama Forest who are our partners in management of the forest and shareholders in the Centre’s sustainable businesses who share benefits through unique co-management and benefit sharing agreements.
- Public and Private Sector partners who provide support and guidance
- International donors whose investments help Iwokrama to deliver on all of its challenging objectives.

Iwokrama recognizes the valuable contributions of all of these stakeholders and partners in its work.

International Board of Trustees

Ms. Katalaina Sapolu; Commonwealth Secretariat

The Honorable Mr. Sydney Allicock; Minister of Indigenous Peoples’ Affairs, Guyana

Mr. James Singh: Commissioner of Forests, Guyana Forestry Commission, Guyana

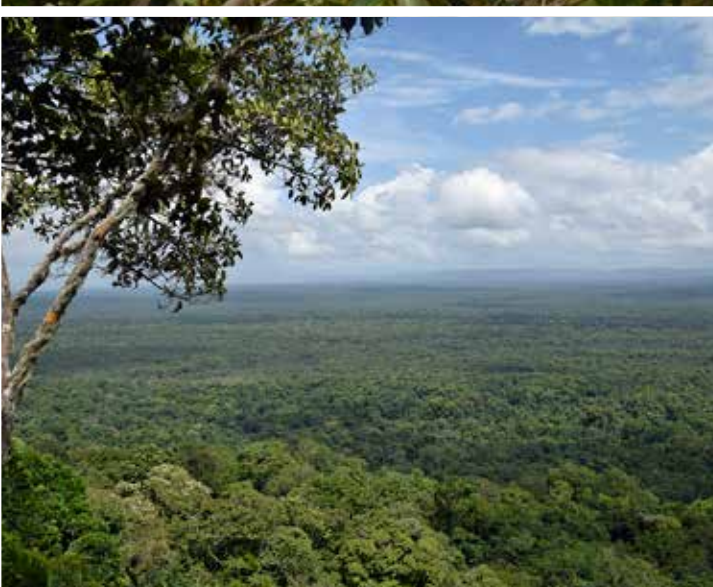
Dr. Kenrick R. Leslie CBE; Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), Belize

Dr. Thomas E Lovejoy: George Mason University, Senior Fellow at the United Nations Foundation

Ms. Frances J Seymour: Centre for Global Development, Washington D.C.

Mr. Dane Gobin: Iwokrama, Guyana

Iwokrama’s Board has ultimate responsibility for the management of the Centre. It determines the policies and priorities of the Centre, appoints the CEO and plays a substantial role in fund-raising.



TOURISM

More than 1200 travelers, mainly from the Guyana, the United States and the United Kingdom visited the Iwokrama River Lodge (IRL) Guyanese visitors outnumbered travelers from the United States and the United Kingdom for the third consecutive year representing 46% of total visitor numbers.

The most popular tour was the Turtle Mountain Hike, more than 50% of our visitors participated in this particular tour, followed by nearby Nature Trails. The Canopy Walkway and Atta Lodge continue to be a popular tour for most of the visitors to the Iwokrama Forest.



The Caribbean Tourism Organisation identified the Iwokrama River Lodge as one of 5 fantastic destinations for Eco-Tourism for those who desire a bit of Adventure.

Special recognition for their exceptional service is given to our Tour Guides: Ann Marcia Johnny and Tichie Roberts who both received sterling reviews from the guests of the Lodge during 2018.



New Products and Development

Iwokrama is developing new tourism products and will be testing them in 2019.

New products include

- *Catch Your Dinner* – Guests will have the opportunity to learn and try traditional fishing and cooking methods
- *Flat Water Canoeing* – A 4-day expedition that provides a boating experience paddling along the Burro-Burro river in the cool of the day, camping and trail walks.
- *Hiking Tours to Turtle Mountain and Turu Falls*
- *New Nature Trails*
- *Biking Tours*

Community-based Tourism

Iwokrama continues to support tourism development in Fair View Village, the community's cultural group has developed a cultural package including songs, poem, and dances. The group performed for a large group of American soldiers, tour groups from Australia and the Czech Republic and the EU Ambassador.

Two guides Ann Marcia Johnny and Alex Honorio successfully completed advanced tour guide training "Raising the bar for Adventure and Eco-tourism Guiding." Alex was also trained as a Master Trainer so he can lead future training.

The training was led by Pandion Consulting.

TIMBER

“If reduced impact logging is extensively adopted, forestry concessions could represent sizeable and important additions to the global conservation estate – over 4 million km².”

Bicknell et al, 2015



Pre-harvest inventory was carried out on **one Management Unit (MU)** with a **gross area of 640 hectares**.

This MU will be harvested part in 2019 and part in 2020



Sustainable timber harvesting operations continued in 2018 with a **total annual production of 16,700 m³**, consisting of 17 species for domestic and international markets.

A total of **1,440 ha** was accessed for **harvesting**, of which 30% was located in Fair View's titled land.



Iwokrama successfully passed its **2nd FSC® Surveillance Certification** Audit by Soil Association in September.

Post-harvest Silvicultural Surveys

Post-harvest Silvicultural Surveys examine the harvesting operations and its impacts to determine compliance with the GFC's Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting. They provide information on harvest intensity (m³/ha) and the extent of damage associated directly with logging and residual stock levels. These surveys provide valuable information and actionable follow-up measures that will be considered in Iwokrama's future forest management planning. Survey design resulted in the establishment and measurement of 75 one-hectare plots.

In 2018, post-harvest surveys were carried out on **7 closed MUs with 54 felling blocks, covering 3,830 ha**.

Post Harvest Surveys were completed with support from Exxon Mobil Guyana



Tropical managed Forests Observatory (TmFO) Meetings

Iwokrama's Forest Manager attended the TmFO Amazonia Technical Committee and Annual General meeting in Belem, Brazil in December. All participants presented summaries of research results for 2018 and discussions were held on the way forward for TmFO under the new Memorandum of Understanding.

The TmFO is an international network of institutions interested in assessing the consequences of logging and human impacts on the ecosystem services furnished by tropical forests (Sist et al 2015). TmFO aims to assess the resilience of production forests at regional levels in the three main regions (Amazon, wet tropical Africa, South East Asia).

TRAINING

University Visits and Expeditions

Several tertiary institutions made return visits to Iwokrama in 2018 including the University of Guyana and University of Central State (USA). Iwokrama also hosted the Rhode Island School of Design for the first time with the expectation of future visits. There were also reconnaissance visits by Auburn University, Alcorn State University and University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff looking for opportunities to partner with Iwokrama. The Ministry of Natural Resources Youth Apprentices also visited the forest to experience conservation in action.

Earth Expeditions

This expedition is run by the Miami University, Ohio which has been in partnership with Iwokrama and Surama Village since 2011. This masters level programme is focused on community conservation approaches and also using inquiry learning techniques.

Operation Wallacea – Guyana

Operation Wallacea is a network of international scientists who design and implement biodiversity and conservation management research programmes. The partnership between Operation Wallacea and Iwokrama was established in 2011. In 2018, Iwokrama hosted 19 researchers and 56 volunteers representing 8 countries.

School Visits

Several schools visited from the North Rupununi and Georgetown. Schools hosted included Annai Secondary, Nappi Primary, Queens College and Marian Academy. The Bina Hill Learning Centre's tourism and forestry students were also hosted in the last quarter of 2018.

Green Expo

Iwokrama participated in the Green Expo hosted by the Government in October with a booth and panel discussions at the International Small Business Summit where staff participated in a panel discussion.

Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management Conference

Two Iwokrama staff participated in a panel discussion at the International Commonwealth Conference for public administrators in October 2018.

STEM Robotics Training

Iwokrama and Exxon Mobil Guyana partnered with the First Lady's Office to support Robotics Training for Annai Secondary School and the Bina Hill Learning Centre in October 2018. The First Lady along with officials from Iwokrama and Exxon were on hand to witness one of the graduation exercises in October 2018.

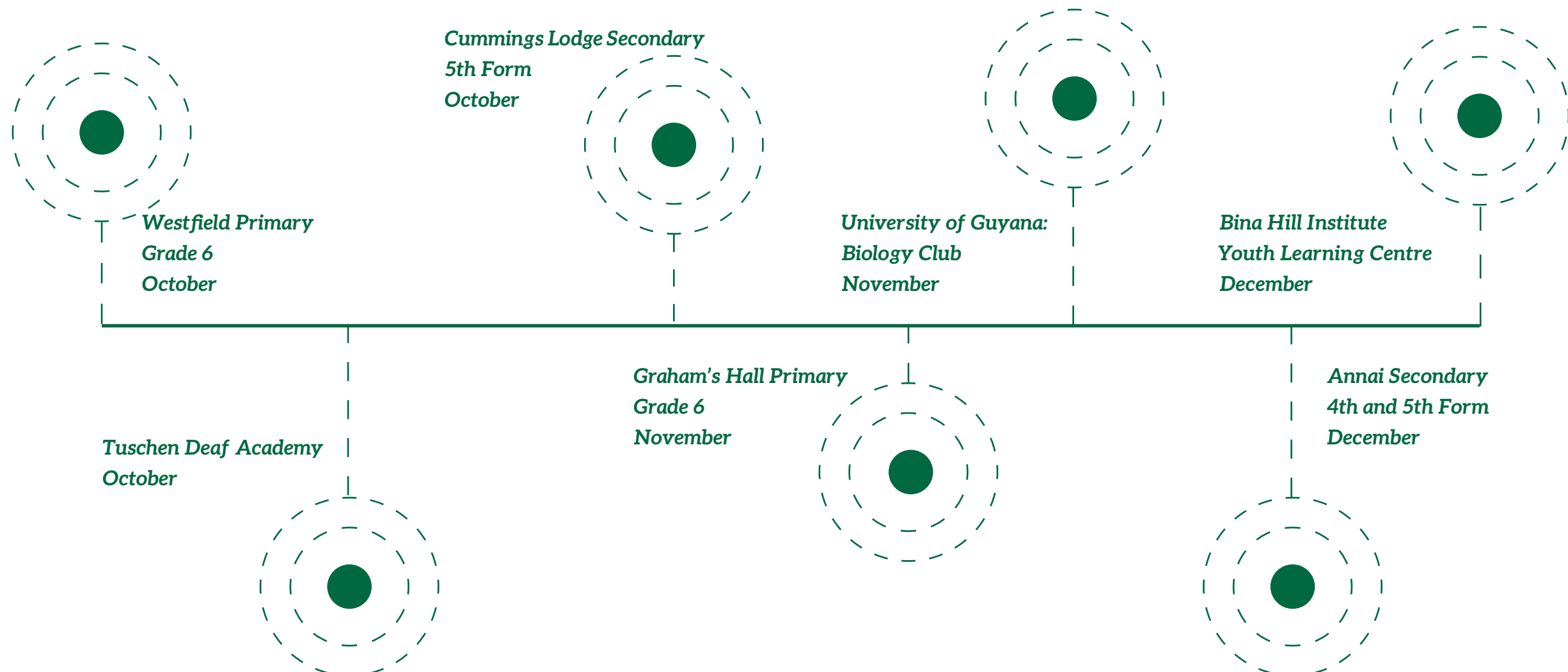




OUTREACH & AWARENESS

Iwokrama continued its outreach and education activities with interactive sessions in Regions 4 and 9. Two hundred and eight students from four schools in Georgetown were given the opportunity to learn more about Iwokrama. Presentations and discussions were focused on protected areas, biodiversity, climate change, sustainable development, sustainable tourism and the centre's work.

Annai Secondary and the Bina Hill Institute Youth Learning Centre participated in a film screening exercise which was hosted with support from Repsol Exploración Guyana S.A. The film screened was "A Plastic Ocean," a documentary highlighting the dangers of littering and the effect plastic waste has on the environment, particularly marine life and the food chain.





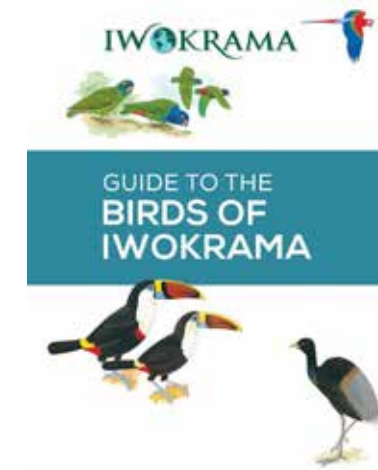
OUTREACH & AWARENESS



2018 marks 22 years since the passage of the Iwokrama Act. To celebrate, Iwokrama hosted an 'Open Day' at the Umana Yana on November 14 showcasing the Centre's work and achievements since its formation.



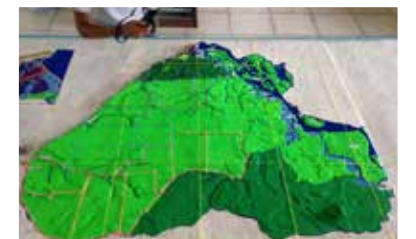
The poster "Cats of the North Rupununi and the Iwokrama Forest" was reprinted with support from Repsol Exploración Guyana S.A.



'Guide to the Birds of the Iwokrama' developed, 2nd in the Iwokrama series with support from Repsol Exploración Guyana S.A.



'Iwokrama 1989-2018 Highlights' produced featuring key achievements in Iwokrama's History



Iwokrama partnered with Fair View village to make the first three dimensional (3D) map of a community in Guyana. This map depicting the topographic features of village was accomplished with the support of the Tropenbos Programme Suriname and Exxon Mobil (Guyana). The process was documented in a video. produced by REELGuyana.

Video link: <https://youtu.be/I8kuW-FKV40>

COMMUNITY RELATIONS



The 20 indigenous communities living in and around the Iwokrama Forest are key to the successful management of the Forest.



Wildlife Clubs

Rangers provided support and encouragement to the Fair View Junior Wildlife Club on monthly Saturday morning birdwatching exercises. This was a great opportunity for club members to develop their interests and skills in environmental management activities.

On an annual June field visit to Guyana, graduate students from Miami University had an opportunity to interact with Surama Junior Wildlife Club; local and international students had an opportunity for information exchange through inquiry based learning activities.



North Rupununi Heritage

In September, Iwokrama hosted an interactive and informative booth at the Indigenous Heritage Month celebrations in Wowetta.

Posters and copies of the bird and mammal guides were distributed and Iwokrama staffers participated in traditional skills competitions like cotton spinning and cassava grating.





MONITORING

Iwokrama monitors key physical and biological components in and around the forest and the related social impacts to measure and track changes over time. Long-term monitoring is used to identify and evaluate the impacts of human activities on the environment.

Bio-physical Monitoring

Biodiversity and environmental monitoring provide valuable information for establishing a baseline reference for biodiversity and comparisons for tracking changes to the environment at Iwokrama.

Road and river monitoring: include assessments of main infrastructure (bridges and culverts), removal of fallen trees and other potential traffic hazards. Rivers patrols along Iwokrama borders also monitored for illegal activities such as mining, hunting, and fishing.

Wildlife monitoring: is conducted on major roadways, rivers and creeks inside Iwokrama. Terrestrial and aquatic fauna are monitored to assess biodiversity trends.

Water quality monitoring: Iwokrama monitors chemical, physical and microbiological parameters to measure the water's ability to sustain aquatic life. These assessments are carried out on major rivers and creeks in and around Iwokrama Forest.

Social Monitoring

The Centre collects and analyzes data through inspections, surveys and literature review to determine the impacts of Iwokrama's work on the neighbouring communities.



Science Programme and Committee

In November 2017, Exxon Mobil Guyana provided funding for Iwokrama to continue its Science Programme.

The first step in developing a 5-year Science Programme was to establish a new Science Committee. This broad-based Committee is comprised of experts from across the biodiversity and science spectrum so that the programme would benefit from both local and international experience.



The Iwokrama Science Committee

- Dane Gobin – CEO, Iwokrama (acting Chairman of the committee)
- Dr Raquel Thomas – Director Resource Management, Iwokrama (secretary to the committee)
- Michael Williams – Executive of the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB)
- Dr Patrick Chesney – Ex UNDP staffer and consultant on Agro-forestry
- Calvin Bernard – Dean, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Guyana
- Khemraj Parsram – Executive Director (ag) – EPA, Guyana
- Dr Thomas Wagner – Heriot – Watt University and Lyell Institute, United Kingdom
- Dr Kamal Bawa – Professor of Biology – University of Massachusetts, Boston

Associates:

- Dr Jake Bicknell – University of Kent, UK
- Dr Ryan Pereira – Lyell University, UK

Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs)

In 2018, the 12 existing PSPs, first established in 2008 were re-measured and 4 new PSP's were established in two of the commercial forest types. Data analysis will include above ground biomass, changes in number of trees/ha; number of trees of a given species including abundance data and growth increments and regeneration.

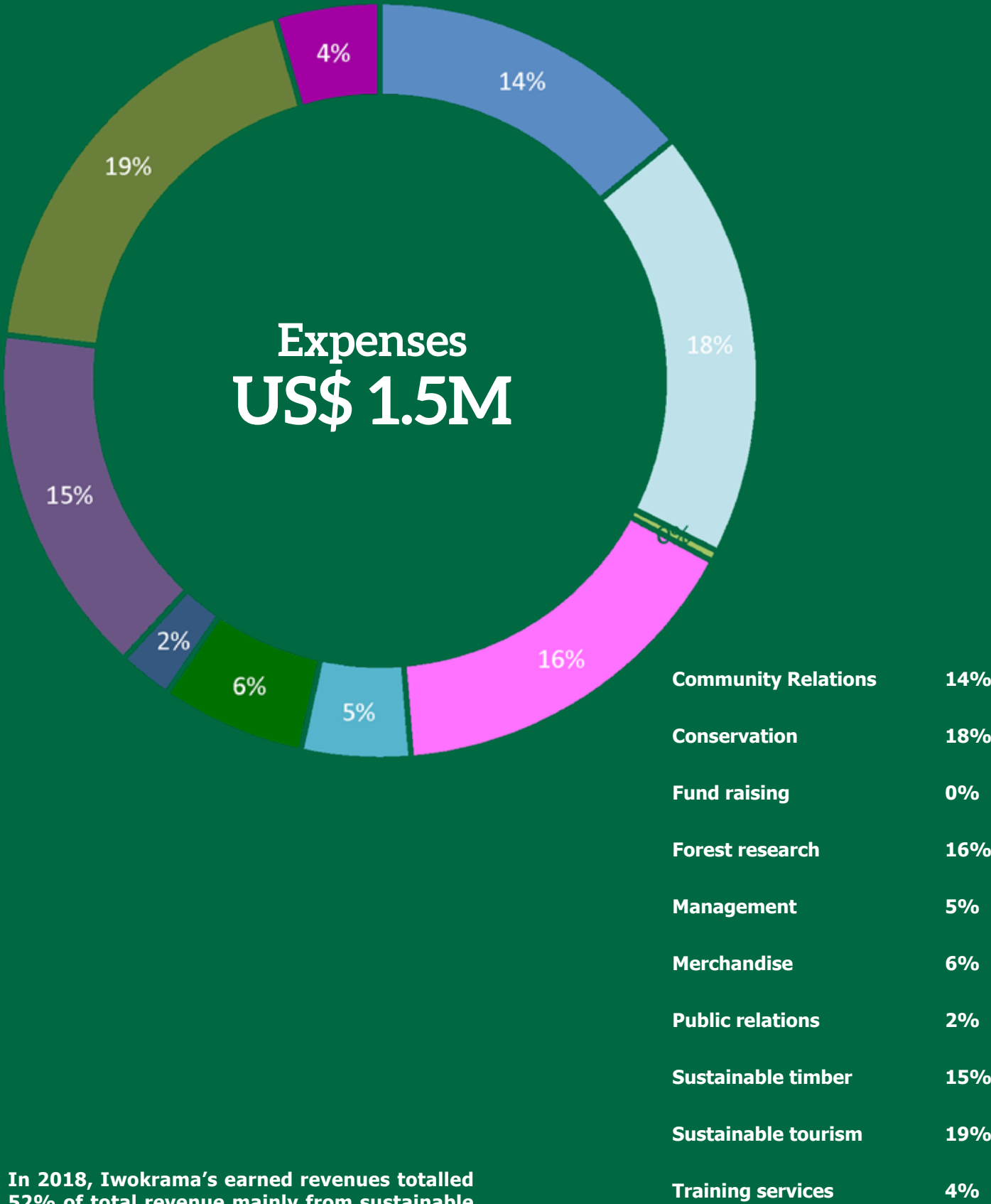
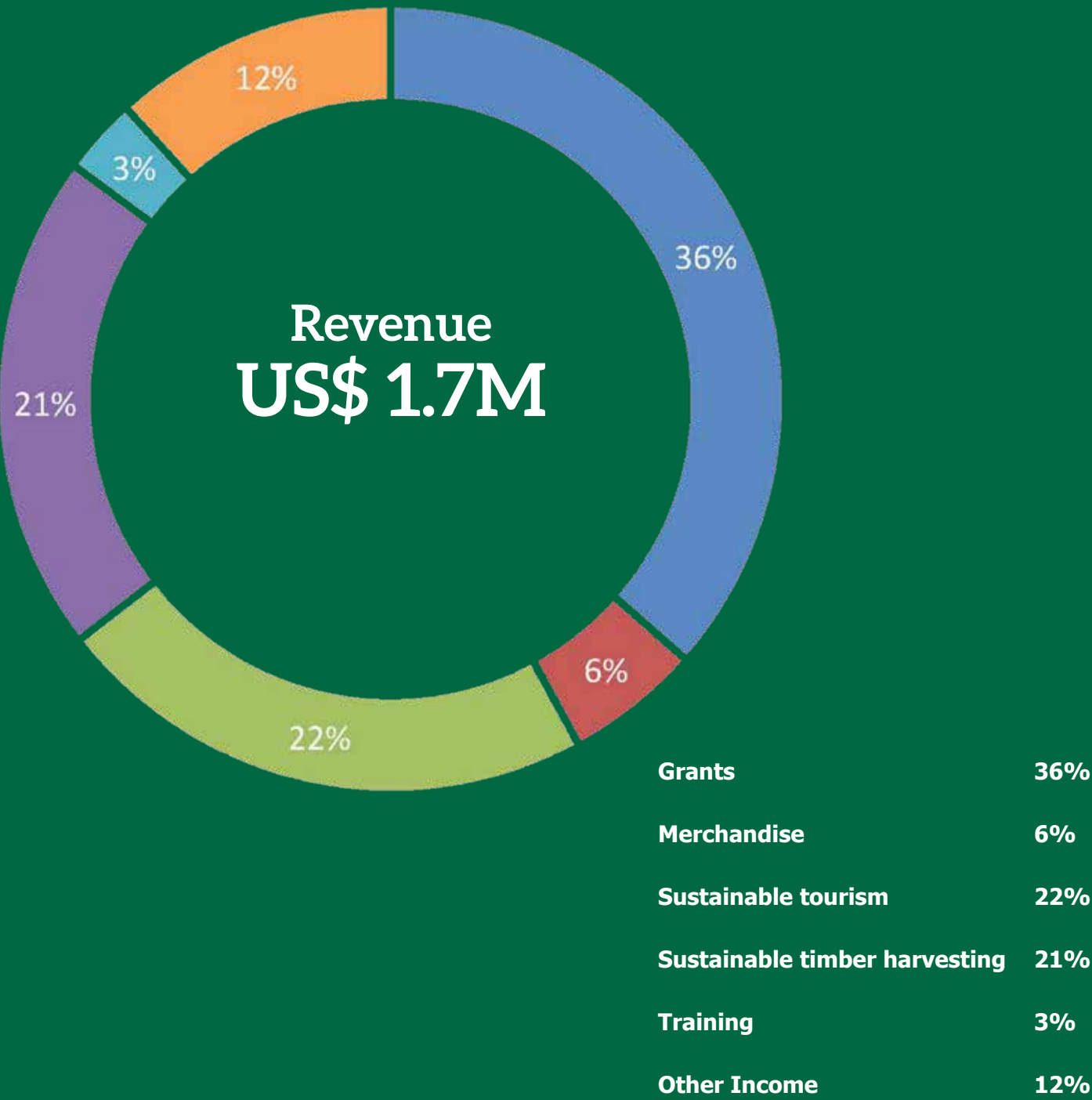
Permanent sample plots are permanently demarcated areas of forest (usually 1 ha), which are periodically remeasured. They are the basis for growth and yield studies and provide knowledge on forest changes under different situations such as climate change and they inform carbon storage capacity.

This PSP Research was supported by Exxon Mobil-Guyana

SCIENCE & RESEARCH



REVENUE & EXPENSES



In 2018, Iwokrama’s earned revenues totalled 52% of total revenue mainly from sustainable tourism and sustainable timber.

Expenses for 2018 totalled US 1.5 Million as outlined in the chart above.

IWOKRAMA’S PARTNERS

Academy of Natural Sciences	Department for International Development
Amazon Conservation Team, Suriname	Earth Expeditions - Miami University
Anton de Kon University, Suriname	Environmental Protection Agency-Guyana
Banks DIH Ltd.	Environmental Resources Management Foundation
Biomimicry Roraima	Embassy of Mexico
Calgary Zoo	European Union
Canadian International Development Agency	Evergreen Forest Products Inc.
Canopy Capital	Eversheds LLP
Cara Group	ExxonMobil
Caribbean Airlines Limited	Farfan & Mendes Ltd
Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre	Flying Doctors of America
Caribbean Development Bank	Forestry Training Centre Inc.
Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN)	Fund for International Development Archives
Center for International Forestry Research	German Government (KfW)
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	German Government under the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Chicago Zoological Society	Giftland Mall
Cleveland Zoo	Global Canopy Programme (Oxford)
Columbus Zoo	Global Environmental Facility
Commonwealth Foundation	Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Commonwealth Secretariat	Guyana Forestry Commission
Community and Tourism Services Inc.	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
Conservation International	Guyana School of Agriculture
Darwin Initiative	Guyana Shield Initiative
Department of Environment	

Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company Limited	Panthera
Guyana Tourism Authority	Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute
Guyana Trade and Investment Services	Protected Areas Commission
Hill and Knowlton	Philadelphia Zoo
Holloman Price	Sterling Products Limited
Horniman Museum	Rain Forest Alliance
HSBC Holdings	Repsol Exploracion Guyana S.A.
Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale (IRET), Gabon	Republic Bank Ltd.
Inter-American Development Bank	Royal Holloway University
International Development and Research Centre	Rumi Foundation
International Forest Products (UK)	Shell UK
International Institute for Environment and Development	Stephenson Harwood LLP
International Tropical Timber Organisation	Smithsonian - Mason School of Conservation
International Union for Conservation of Nature	Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
Jacksonville Zoo	Small Business Bureau
Josephine Whitehead Legal Services	Tate and Lyle
KPMG International	The British Government
Mamiraua Institute for Sustainable Development	The Government of Guyana
McArthur Foundation	Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana
Mc Vantage-Guyana Inc.	Tropenbos International
National Audubon Society	United Nations Development Programme
National Parks Commission, Guyana	University of Guyana
Newcastle University	University of the West Indies
New GPC Inc.	US Agency for International Development
North Rupununi District Development Board	Warwick University
Office of the Climate Change	Wilderness Explorers
Office of HRH Prince of Wales	World Bank
Operation Wallacea	World Wildlife Fund



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