

## PRESS RELEASE

### Celebrating International Science Day- Nov 10, 2023

#### **Guyanese PhD's new research on mammals' use of forest roads in Iwokrama show promising results**

*Georgetown, Guyana. November 9, 2023*

As we celebrate International Science Day 2023 under theme of 'Building Trust in Science', Iwokrama is delighted to share exciting new results from long-term research in monitoring in the Iwokrama Forest.

This recently published study within the Iwokrama sustainable forestry operation area has shown positive results regarding how mammals use logging roads. The study entitled: "*Use of logging roads by terrestrial mammals in a responsibly managed neotropical rainforest in Guyana*" was led by Guyanese PhD student Arianne Harris who is part of the University of Guyana (UG) School of Graduate Studies and Research.

This study aimed to assess how logging road use in an internationally certified, low-harvest RIL forest influences terrestrial mammal occupancy. The reason for looking at this aspect is because poor road development and management can lead to increased vulnerability of terrestrial mammals.

#### **Key takeaways from this study:**

1. Mammal occupancy in the logged forest and control sites (unlogged forests) were similar.
2. Detections of mammals in logged sites were higher along secondary and feeder roads compared to skid trails and the control sites (natural trails).

*The results indicate that 'proper road management geared towards the monitoring and guarded access of logging roads, can have a positive effect on terrestrial mammal occurrence within responsibly managed rainforests.'*

This research was conducted in partnership with University of Guyana under the Iwokrama Science programme with data supplied from Operation Wallacea expeditions through Dr Matt Hallet with the funding support from the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. Noteworthy is that three rangers associated with Iwokrama are recognised as co-authors on this publication.

Ms Harris' PhD was funded by Exxon Mobil Foundation, she has submitted her thesis to UG for review and assessment. She is currently an Instructor within the Biology Department at said university.



The mark of  
responsible forestry

The Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development is an autonomous non-profit institution established by Guyana and the Commonwealth. The Centre manages the nearly one million acre (371,000 hectare) Iwokrama 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.

Iwokrama has been conducting sustainable forestry operations using Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) techniques (RIL) since 2007. These activities are executed within its Sustainable Use Area and are internationally certified for the use of best practice methods.

Photo 1- UG PhD Researcher- Arianne Harris in the Iwokrama Forest



Photo 2- Camera trap image of a Jaguar on a forest road in the Iwokrama forestry area



**Notes to the Editors:**

**1. 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 Centre, guided by an international Board of Trustees, is unique providing a dedicated well managed and researched forest environment. The forest is zoned into a Sustainable Utilization Area (SUA) and a Wilderness Preserve (WP) in which to test the concept of a truly sustainable forest where conservation, environmental balance and economic use can be mutually reinforcing. The IIC collaborates with the Government of Guyana, the Commonwealth and other international partners and donors to develop new approaches and forest management models to enable countries with rainforests to market their ecosystem services whilst carefully managing their resources through innovative and creative conservation practices. In more recent years, the Centre has received support from corporate partners such as Exxon Mobil (Guyana) Limited who has funded the development of its Science Programme and continues to provide an annual contribution to the implementation of this Programme.

Iwokrama brings together:

- 20 local communities (approximately 7,000 people) who are shareholders and participants in the IIC’s sustainable timber, tourism, research operations and forest management activities through complex co-management and benefit sharing arrangements;
- Scientists and researchers 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 portfolio of sustainably managed and certified business models using innovative governance systems which include participation of the private and public sectors and the local communities, earning income from the forest and its natural assets whilst employing international social, environmental and economic best practice, whilst still keeping abreast of the ever changing thinking on funding for environmental projects in the face of climate change and the perennial scarcity of international finance.

This alliance and the Centre’s work programmes are committed to showing how a rain forest can be used for real sustainability, real climate change protection and real community benefit.

For further details about the Iwokrama International Centre please visit [www.iwokrama.org](http://www.iwokrama.org), [www.iwokramariverlodge.com](http://www.iwokramariverlodge.com) or contact Dane Gobin, Chief Executive Officer on [dgobin@iwokrama.org](mailto:dgobin@iwokrama.org).