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FORESTRY

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SCIENCE & RESEARCH

Forest Impact Monitoring: New PhD on the Block! University of Guyana student Arianne Harris sucessfully defended her thesis. Dr. Harris graduated from the University in November and is currently an Instructor there.



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FROM THE CEO



This year, the Centre's operations regained momentum, showing a strong recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Activity increased across all work programmes as our financial position began to stabilize, supported by a multi-year grant from the ExxonMobil Foundation and core funding from the Government of Guyana.

The FAO report "State of the World's Forests – 2024" highlighted that though there was a decline in the Global Deforestation rates, forests still face increasing threats from climate-related stressors, particularly wildfires and pests. The FAO report also highlighted that Mangrove ecosystems face increasing threats from climate change and agricultural land conversion. Even the Iwokrama Forest was challenged by fires in 2024, more so than previous years, we are grateful to our field staff for their stellar efforts in combatting these fires.

The global context reinforces the relevance of Iwokrama and its work in Sustainable Forest Management. Now more than ever, the world needs a tried and tested conservation model that combines people, science and business.

Though the sustainable timber operation didn't meet projections due to weather related and technical challenges experienced by our partners, the Centre was able to maintain its coveted FSC™ certification and became the first in the region to be audited for eco-system services. Tourism operations maintained its performance, even surpassing 2023 visitor numbers by a small margin, as more markets re-opened post-COVID. The Learning Services department experienced growth, as new academic organizations expressed interest and the science and research team completed important research projects, such as post-harvest silvicultural surveys, remeasurement of Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs), and hydrology studies.

While business improved overall, illegal activities in the forest, most notably mining (charged by the ever-increasing gold prices) continued to impact the forest. We continued to work with our partners - the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana and Geology and Mines Commission to conduct several monitoring and enforcement activities during the year.

Our work with our long-standing partners, the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) continued under the guidance of our Co-management Agreement. Substantive support from the ExxonMobil Foundation saw a number of conservation projects being implemented in collaboration with several partner agencies – NAREI, PAC, GMCS, GTA and the EMC Foundation. Our coastal programme in partnership with Environmental Management Consultants Inc. (EMC Inc.) worked with several coastal communities to build tourism capacity, provide education and awareness on mangroves, supported PAC's turtle tagging programme and develop environmental clubs in select schools.

These achievements would not have been possible without the valued contributions and collaboration of our partners. I take this opportunity to thank all our friends, supporters, business partners and donors for their contributions during the year. Special thanks to the ExxonMobil Foundation which provided a substantive grant for our 2022-2024 Science and Community Programmes. 2025 promises more exciting partnerships and conservation work.

I would also like to recognize the hard work of our dedicated and committed staff who remained resolute thus ensuing the success of the Centre.

Special thanks to our founding partners, the Government of Guyana (which continues to provide critical financial support) and the Commonwealth Secretariat. We remain grateful to EMC Inc. for their technical support, partnership and guidance during the year. The strong alliances of our community partners, the NRDDB, and their unwavering support and understanding was a key factor in lwokrama's accomplishments for the year.

We are very excited about 2025. We will continue to align our work to support the Government's new and expanded Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030.

Best wishes for a successful 2025.

Dane Gobin
Chief Executive Officer

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I am honoured to have been appointed Chair of Iwokrama's International Board of Trustees. The Centre continues to be a leading global example of best practice for forest management and biodiversity conservation. Its work over the years has always been aligned with National Development Strategies such as the Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030.

During the year, we have made good progress in our work programmes - research and science, community relations, conservation and monitoring, business development and engagement. Our signature community programme, the Wildlife Clubs, have continued to have a very positive impact on the 400 + young people at the community level and the new wildlife wonders board game has enjoyed immense

Illegal gold mining has continued to be a major challenge in the forest and we are grateful for the support from the Ministry of Natural Resources, its agencies and the security forces in Guyana for this help in curbing this bothersome activity. Our businesses of ecotourism and sustainable timber continue to build capacity as markets open post COVID.

Funding, which has always been a challenge, has stabilized over the last few years and we are hopeful that our founding partners - the Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the donor community will continue to see value in and maintain their support of the Centre's noble work.

2025 is already shaping up to be exciting with the upcoming launch of our new coffee table book and the continuation of our exemplary work in biodiversity conservation and protection.

I would like to thank the Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat for their support over the year. The Centre's CEO and management team have demonstrated continued commitment to its work and operations and the communities remain the Centre's closest conservation partners.

Fareed Amin Chairman, IBOT



FROM THE NRDDB

The North Rupununi District Development Board's partnership with Iwokrama remained strong over the period as we continued to implement our Collaborative Management Agreement.

Engagement with Iwokrama included participating in planning meetings and interview panels, contributing to decision-making forums in Iwokrama's businesses and joint environmental and boundary monitoring of

The wildlife clubs programme continued its success providing benefits for more than four hundred community youth.

The NRDDB joined with Iwokrama to publicly present a zero tolerance position for illegal gold mining in the Iwokrama Forest and on community lands. Additionally, we have agreed that there would be no access through the Iwokrama Forest or community lands to adjacent mining lands.



Iwokrama, through its work programmes continued to support the Makushi Research Unit and Radio Paiwomak, while funds from the Forest User Fee and sustainable businesses contributed to the administrative expenses of the NRDDB.

We wish to express special appreciation to the Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat for their support to Iwokrama and in turn the communities during the year. Congratulations to the Centre's staff for all their hard work and engagement with us over the year and we look forward to an even closer working relationship in 2025.

Chairman, North Rupununi District Development Board





DR RAQUEL THOMAS DIRECTOR, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

Learning Services continued to host students and researchers and we look forward to collaborations with new partners in 2025

Illegal gold mining on the Siparuni River while still a challenge for our monitoring team has decreased due to ongoing collaborations with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission and the Guyana Police Force.



ROHANIE ROOPNARINE

OPERATIONS MANAGER

The operations team provided comprehensive support for all aspects of Iwokrama's work programme, effectively addressing various challenges.

Key achievements include surpassing 2023 tourism numbers and completing detailed forestry operational maps. The team also facilitated informative awareness sessions and valuable training on key topics including Forest Certification, National Laws, and Occupational Safety and Health benefiting both staff and nearby Fair View community. A demonstration of lwokrama's commitment to capacity-building, education, and safety.



KEN RODNEY FOREST MANAGER

This year, the team prepared a new five-year Environmental

and Forestry Management Plan 2025 to 2029, a vital requirement for Sustainable Forest Management.

I also managed several new forestry research projects including the Post-harvest Silvicultural Surveys of 27 closed felling blocks and the biodiversity survey of the Siparuni-Takatu sub-area of the Wilderness Preserve.



TOMICA BESS

ACCOUNTS MANAGER

In 2024, the Accounts Team continued to focus on accurate financial record-keeping, ensuring compliance with accounting standards, and preparation of detailed financial statements.

We implemented the use of printed cheques and commenced, in phased stages, the processing of payments via online interbank transfers, thus improving overall efficiency.



MICHAEL PATTERSON

TOURISM/ASSISTANT OPERATIONS MANAGER

Iwokrama hosted more than 1550 guests at the River Lodge this year. Notable visits included Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago – Dr. Keith Rowley; former President of Colombia – Ivan Duque and former President of Ecuador - Guillermot Lasso.

Stellar reviews and excellent customer service feedback reflects a consistently high level of overall performance by our operations and hospitality teams.



VANESSA BENN

CONSULTANT: DEVELOPMENT

I am thrilled that Iwokrama's achievements and 30-year partnership with over 20 indigenous communities in Guyana were showcased at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2024. Thank you to the Commonwealth Secretariat for this spotlight.

Iwokrama! Successfully implementing conservation and sustainable forest management practices that support livelihoods while ensuring the protection of vital ecosystems.



MICHAEL DEMENDONCA

ASSISTANT FOREST MANAGER/MILL SITE OPERATIONS MANAGER

My duties include ensuring responsible timber harvesting that respects both the environment and the livelihoods of the local communities.

As part of the forestry team, we develop plans that prioritize forest health and biodiversity conservation while identifying suitable areas for timber harvesting and retaining enough areas for natural regeneration and sound forest systems.



ANNE-MARIE FORD

CONSULTANT: SPECIAL PROJECTS

Iwokrama exemplifies how forest conservation can drive climate action, biodiversity conservation, and community development.

Maintaining our forest certification and expanding to verification of ecosystem services is vital to our goal of promoting responsible forestry.

FROM OUR TEAM

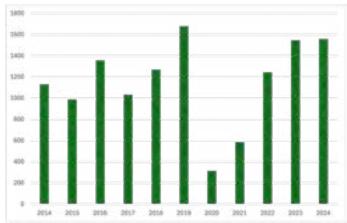
FROM OUR TEAM



More than 1550 travelers visted the Iwokrama River Lodge, the 2nd highest number of guests recorded since Iwokrama welcomed its first guests more than 25 years ago.

This year, the guests were mainly from Guyana and the Turtle Mountain Hike continues to be the most popular tour followed by the Kurupukari Rapids and nearby Petroglyphs.

The graph shows visitor arrivals for the past decade.







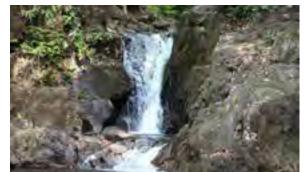
Notable and VIP Visits

- February: Hon. Dr Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago visited with Ministers of Natural Resources (Hon. Vickram Bharrat), Tourism, Industry and Commerce (Hon. Oneidge Waldron), and Amerindian Affairs (Hon. Pauline Sukhai).
- July: Concordia's President and co-founder Mr. Matthew Swift and Chair of Concordia's Amazonas Initiative and Former President of Colombia, HE President Iván Duque, former President of Ecuador -Guillermot Lasso and participants of the Concordia 2024 Amazonas Summit.
- July: Hon Minister of Labour Joseph Hamilton visited lwokrama with a special delegation including members of the International Labour Organisation.
- September: Erik Solheim, former Norwegian Minister of Environment visited the Iwokrama Forest for the second time. His first visit was for the signing of the landmark Guyana - Norway Agreement in 2009.

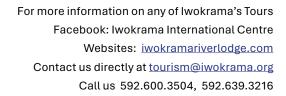














FORESTRY

Forest Certification



In November, Soil Association completed the 2nd Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™) surveillance audit for Iwokrama's Forest Management Certificate. The team also conducted the first Eco-system Services (ESS) audit for the Iwokrama Forest for two services - Biodiversity Conservation and Recreational Services.

The mark of responsible forestry

The final audit report is still pending; however, preliminary indications are that Iwokrama will receive no noncompliances and only two observations.

Non-compliances are a normal part of any assessment / audit process and based on the severity of the non-compliance with the standard, it could prevent the applicant from being certified.

Iwokrama's Forest Management Certificate was most recently renewed in October 2022.

> FSC™ Certification is a voluntary global forest certification system which promotes and validates good forest management.

Sustainable Timber Operations

Harvesting operations were hampered by resource challenges e.g. equipment issues, resulting in only 40% of the approved annual harvest being completed.

Milling operations were also affected by these issues, as annual production was down by about 30% from the previous year. Iwokrama's J-V partners are in the process of obtaining financing in order to re-tool the entire operation.

Fair View Village continued to pursue their own harvesting programme, producing non certified logs for sale on the local market.







Forestry Research: Pre-harvest Forest Inventories

Pre-harvest (operational) inventories were completed in 3 Management Units in the Essequibo and Kurupukari Compartments: MUs E-25, K-48 and K-50 with a combined area of 1,900 hectares.

> Pre-harvest inventories are a requirement of the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC). They play an integral role in assessing the quantity and quality of timber resources, identifying potential harvesting areas, and ensuring adherence to sustainable forest management guidelines.

Forestry Research: Post Harvest Silvicultural Surveys

Iwokrama carried out Post-harvest surveys on 3 closed Management Units with 27 felling blocks, covering 1,923 hectares. The survey design required the measurement and analysis of 27 one-hectare sample plots.

> Post-harvest Silvicultural Surveys are intended to determine the level of compliance with the GFC Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting by examining the harvesting operations and impacts. The parameters to be measured in the post-harvest survey are linked to actionable follow-up measures that will be included in Iwokrama's future forest management planning.

Forestry Research: Biodiversity Survey in the Wilderness Preserve

Iwokrama's Wilderness Preserve covers approximately 50% of the total forest area, is protected from all development activities and, as such, it serves as Iwokrama's biodiversity reserve area. A full survey of the biodiversity values of this area started several years ago completing two of the three WP sub-areas.

This project provided for the completion of the final block – the Siparuni-Takatu sub area with 34,785 ha (19% of the total WP area). The survey design resulted in the establishment of 46 transects with 460 one-tenth ha plots to be surveyed.

> All Forestry Research was funded by the ExxonMobil Foundation through the Guyana Conservation Initiative.









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TRAINING







Capacity Building

- May: Rockstone Village Council and Tourism Committee visited the Iwokrama River Lodge, its sister Lodge, Atta Lodge and Surama Village on a study tour of Eco Tourism in the Rupununi and environs.
- July: 7 leaders from Region 1 communities participated in an exchange visit to the Rupununi including Iwokrama. The guests interacted with staff and learned about Protected Areas Management, Tourism, Sustainable Forestry, Monitoring and Community Relations.
- September: Guyana Marine Conservation Society intern Alexander Mendonca from Region 1, interned at Iwokrama to experience 1st hand sustainable forest management practices especially monitoring and tourism.
- December: Iwokrama hosted 4 leaders from Imbotero and Aruka Mouth (Region 1). This experiential visit provided an opportunity to learn about sustainable management programme with a focus on Tourism. This capacity building experience also included stays at Iwokrama's Atta Lodge and Surama Village.
- December: Iwokrama hosted 1 intern from the Bina Hill Institute for practical skills training in hospitality, tour guiding and environmental monitoring.

Student Visits

- April: Grade 10 Students from Sand Creek Secondary School visited lwokrama to learn about sustainable forestry.
- May: Bina Hill Training Institute students visited and engaged with staff to learn about the Centre's Forestry, Tourism and Monitoring programmes.
- June: This year, 15 students from Miami University Earth Expeditions Group visited Iwokrama and Surama. This Master's level course in inquiry learning on 'Local Wisdom and Conservation' is an annual visit since 2011.
- August: The Ministry of Natural Resources Youth Apprentices visited the forest to gain hands-on experience with Iwokrama staffers. Over 40 youth visited the River Lodge this year on this enriching programme which has been ongoing for seven years.

Drexel University and Academy of Natural Sciences

Iwokrama has engaged with the Drexel University and the Academy of Natural Sciences, Drexel University, Philadelphia for potential partnership opportunities for student exchange visits, research and short courses.

Iwokrama Staffers visited the University in Philadelphia in May. and the Drexel team travelled to Guyana from October 23rd – 26th, during which, they visited the Iwokrama River Lodge, Surama Village and Bina Hill Training Institute where they engaged with Staff and community partners.

These visits provided an opportunity to progress discussions on the development of intensive courses abroad, potential research and other prospective capacity building activities.

While in Guyana, the team from Drexel and the Academy of Natural Sciences also met with the Environmental Protection Agency and visited several of the Mangrove Awareness sites including the Mangrove Centre at NAREI.



Capacity Building - Staff

- May: Massive appreciation to the Protected Areas Commission for hosting our staffer Romella Honorio who participated in the Shell Beach Sea Turtle monitoring programme for two weeks.
- April: Tour Guide Alex Honorio participated in a 3-day catch and release angling in inland waters in Guyana workshop conducted by the SWM in collaboration with the NRDDB, Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries Department and the Guyana Tourism Authority.
- September: Dr Anthony Cummings facilitated drone training for Iwokrama Ranger Rebecca Xavier and GMCS Intern Alexander Mendonca.
- The Tourism Manager successfully completed a Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism via a GOAL scholarship in collaboration with the Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality and ActionINVEST Caribbean Inc.





EDUCATION &AWARENESS

Publications and Awareness Materials

The Iwokrama Team in collaboration with the NRDDB and the Wildlife Clubs have developed several publications to be used in training, school outreach, wildlife club activities and other awareness activities.

- **Posters:** this new poster series highlights the vital work done to conserve the lwokrama Forest and support local communities.
- 2024 Calendar: this Calendar showcased the breathtaking artwork from the wildlife clubs of the North Rupununi. This remarkable art was produced for the Wildlife Club Festival held in Bina Hill at Annai in April 2023 under the Theme "Protecting our culture and natural environment."
- **Board Game:** Iwokrama has developed a new board-game: *Wildlife Wonders Explore with the Giants of El Dorado* which is loosely based on Snakes and Ladders. This engaging game will be a new and exciting way for youth to learn about the "*Giants of El Dorado*," some of South America's largest and protected species. The game is expected to be launched early in 2025.
- Conservation Canvasses: Hand-Painted Banners from the North Rupununi Wildlife Club Festival. The idea originated from a very successful 2023 Wildlife Club Festival at Annai where each club created a banner for the "Parade of Banners" held during the opening ceremony. These banners demonstrated exceptional talent and creativity, and to celebrate their significance, each club developed a story to accompany the banners, resulting in the creation of this unique publication. This publication is expected to be launched early in 2025.













COMSEC Video: The Iwokrama International Centre showcased at COP29

The Iwokrama Team partnered with the Commonwealth Secretariat to develop a short film "Take Only What You Need: The Success Story of the Iwokrama Forest." The film highlighted how the integration of Indigenous wisdom with modern science can foster sustainable livelihoods and economies.

This short film was showcased at the COP29 at an event titled "Indigenous and Local Knowledge Systems in Climate Action: Delivering Together a Resilient Future for All," which was co-hosted by Namibia, Seychelles, and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

During the launch, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland, emphasized the critical role Indigenous Peoples play in addressing the climate crisis.

The short film can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDsUslDJsh8



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB)

The NRDDB holds quarterly meetings, with at least one meeting per year occuring at the Iwokrama River Lodge. These meetings provide an opportunity for the NRDDB leaders to discuss ongoing projects, plan for future activities and for engagement with NGO partners and Government Representatives.

During the 2024 meeting, Iwokrama and the NRDDB renewed an existing **Collaborative Management Agreement** which sets out the framework under which the Iwokrama Forest is managed by the Iwokrama International Centre and the communities (represented by the NRDDB).



Radio Paiwomak, the first community owned radio station, is based in Region 9. It plays an important role in the dissemination of information such as education, biodiversity, and conservation messages. The quarterly meetings of the NRDDB are also broadcast, key to keeping the communities informed.

The GCI Grant supported the distribution of 80 radios to the communities to improve access to the radio broadcasts.

Supported by the ExxonMobil Foundation through the Guyana Conservation Initiative.







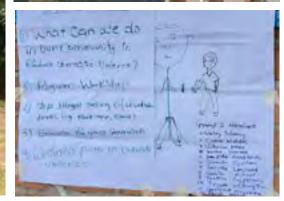














Wildlife Clubs

Iwokrama continued to partner with the NRDDB to support 17 Wildlife Clubs. Club Activities included Birdwatching and Wildlife Monitoring (Monthly), movie nights and exchange visits. The Iwokrama/NRDDB Team also conducted several outreach sessions in key social issues including alcohol and drug abuse and conservation focused on Wetlands.

The clubs held their 3rd Centralised Meeting in February at Bina Hill and the Surama Junior Wildlife Club hosted the other clubs in Surama in August to celebrate *International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples*. All the attending clubs participated in activities such as Banner and Best Traditionally Dressed Boy and Girl Competitions and were treated to Cotton Spinning, Fire Lighting and Arrow Making Demonstrations.

Wildlife Clubs are supported by the ExxonMobil Foundation through the Guyana Conservation Initiative.

Makushi Research Unit

The MRU is a group of indigenous women researchers from villages in the North Rupununi. It was formally established to study ethno-medicine, and culture and they are currently involved in teaching oral Makushi language in schools, promoting traditional culture and raising awareness of domestic violence.

This year, the MRU continued their outreach in 5 communities in the North Rupununi and 4 South Pakaraima Communities. The ladies engaged more than 250 persons on key social issues including domestic violence, alcoholism and rights of the child. The MRU team is also trained to offer counselling services to community members.

Supported by the ExxonMobil Foundation through the Guyana Conservation Initiative.

Fair View Christmas Party

The Fair View Village kiddies were treated to the annual Christmas Party supported by Iwokrama. Appreciation for contributions from Iwokrama staff, Mings, THAG, Camex Ltd, Farfan and Mendes Ltd, Sheriza Waith and other partners. Iwokrama is also thankful for the support of the Fair View Council, Teachers and Parents.

MONITORING

Iwokrama has a comprehensive monitoring system that collects and analyses data to track changes and human impacts on the ecosystem. It includes social, environmental, road and river, forest impact, wildlife and boundary monitoring.

Social monitoring differs from bio-physical or environmental monitoring in that it includes the analysis of both statistical and qualitative data. Several parameters are monitored quarterly and/or annually such as visitor numbers, employment, population, health, tourism, community relations and education.

Bio-physical monitoring identifies key components to monitor pressures affecting the ecosystem.

Social Monitoring

The majority of Iwokrama staff continued to be from the local communities, primarily from Fair View Village. During the year, the community's population increased, but school attendance decreased as older children attend better regional schools, which is expected to benefit the community over the long-term.

Environmental and Boundary Monitoring

Monitoring Patrols are conducted on a regular schedule along the road and river: 37 Road Patrols (general, water quality, bird and borrow pit and wildlife) and 25 River Patrols (upstream and downstream) were completed.

The Boundary Posting activity continued with the posting of 3 more sections of the southern boundary with high visibility signs and paint at 1.0 km intervals.

- The continuation of the Corkwood boundary approx 20 km.
- The Ladysmith River from its mouth on the Essequibo River for approx 20 km.
- The Siparuparu River from its mouth on the Burro-Burro River approx 20 km.

Clearly demarcated boundaries can potentially reduce incursions into the forest and illegal activities and improve clarity in monitoring. To clearly identify these boundaries have been marked with high visibility paint and signage at 1 and 2 km intervals.

Supported by the ExxonMobil Foundation through the Guyana Conservation Initiative.

















Community Co-Monitoring

Iwokrama has MfCs for co-monitoring with Surama, Apoteri and Rewa villages, the three indigenous communities located near the rivers that border or pass through the Iwokrama Forest.

This year, monitoring efforts were impacted by low river levels which introduced different challenges and opportunities. The prolonged drought significantly impacted water levels, affecting aquatic wildlife, including Arapaima, the world's largest scaled freshwater fish. In April, the Apoteri team led rescue efforts, successfully relocating 55 Arapaima that were trapped in drying ponds. Unfortunately, the rescue teams were unable to save 27 fish.

Conversely, the Surama team successfully recorded and documented several petroglyphs along the Burro Burro River, which flows through the Iwokrama Forest and is shared with Surama Village.

During routine monitoring, the teams encountered local fishermen mainly for subsistence purposes and a few coastlanders hunting and fishing along the Essequibo River. Species recorded during the monitoring missions including powis, giant river otters, black caiman, arapaima, brown capuchin and red howler monkeys.

The communities are committed to continuing co-monitoring activities, which have strengthened their ability to protect their integrity and reduced illegal incursions.

Supported by the ExxonMobil Foundation through the Guyana Conservation Initiative.

Illegal Mining

Iwokrama continued to be challenged by illegal mining this year, however, enforcement activities have increased through through collaboration with Ministry of Natural Resources, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, Guyana Police Force and Protected Areas Commission. Through this collaboration several arrests were made and numerous pieces of equipment were seized.

Additionally, Iwokrama, the NRDDB and the communities of the North Rupununi have signed a Joint Communique that strongly condems any form of illegal gold mining in the Iwokrama Forest. The parties agreed to work together on a comprehensive monitoring programme and expressed gratitude to the Government of Guyana for its continued support in eradicating this major problem.





Gender and Forests

Iwokrama continued to provide support to the Gender and Forest Group (GFG) which is conducting research on the role of gender in the management and use of Guyana's forests. The Group has completed a desk-top review of available literature on the subject and is conducting surveys in primarily forest-based communities across the administrative regions to gather current information.

This year, surveys were conducted in 2 forest dependent communities in the North Rupununi – Wowetta and Fair View. A final report has been produced but is still to be shared with the communities and the wider stakeholder group.

The GFG also facilitated a safety and health workshop for members of the Yarrowkabra Charcoal Burners Association with support from the Guyana Forestry Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Labour and Iwokrama

Supported by the ExxonMobil Foundation through the Guyana Conservation Initiative.

SCIENCE & RESEARCH



Forest Impact Monitoring: New PhD on the Block!

University of Guyana student Arianne Harris sucessfully defended her thesis coming out of research titled "An assessment of the long-term impact of Iwokrama's sustainable harvesting operation on faunal diversity mainly birds and bats "

Dr. Harris graduated from the University in November and is currently an Instructor at the University.

This forest impact research on key indicator faunal species, which was completed with Iwokrama in collaboration with University of Guyana and University of Kent provided encouraging insight into the impacts of reduced impact logging.

Supported by the ExxonMobil Foundation through the Guyana Conservation Initiative.

Arthropod Study

The American Museum of Natural History with support from Iwokrama's rangers continued research on arthropod orders regarding the systematics of Arachnida, Hymenoptera, Odonata, Diptera and other insect groups with the aim of increasing the sampling body from Guyana.

Collection were conducted in September 2023 and May 2024. This research is on-going.

Fisheries

Iwokrama supported research titled "Student Research in Freshwater Ecosystems at the Epicenter of Neotropica Biodiversity, Guiana" with Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas A&M University and University of Guyana.

This research builds on earlier partnerships that helped to identify gap areas for field research and areas of conservation concern and documented impacts of mercury contamination in freshwater organisms. This collaboration also discovered and described new aquatic species.

Hydrology

Iwokrama in collaboration with the Lyell Centre, Heriot Watt University continued the study known as the "BOOGIE" project, to look at invisible carbon in the water ways within the Essequibo River at transect points within the Iwokrama Forest as part of a global project.

Collections begun early in 2022 and ended in June. The data collected over this period is currently being analysed.

Silicon Study

Iwokrama facilitated more PhD research: "Is silicon a key player in the Wood Economics Spectrum?' by Guyanese researcher Mahendra Doraisami, University of Toronto. The research sampled 26 wood species in the Iwokrama Forest across two forest types.











PROJECTS

Guvana Conservation Initiative

Conservation Initiative (GCI) to support quality baseline of the Mahaica River. coastal and hinterland conservation initiatives, species conservation. education and awareness.

on project implementation.

The beneficiary organisations include

- the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA)
- the Guyana Marine Conservation Society (GMCS) • the National Agricultural Research
- and Extension Institute (NAREI).
- the EMC Foundation.
- Protected Areas Commission (PAC)
- Drexel University's Patrick Centre
- Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB), associated satellite organisations and local indigenous communities.

Through these collaborations, the GCI helps to address critical environmental and socio-economic challenges, creating a balanced approach to development that integrates community empowerment, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience.

Ecosystem Restoration and Management

Drexel University's Patrick Centre: EMC Inc has the GTA:Support was provided to two indigenous communities: Iwokrama has received a multi-year grant mandate to coordinate efforts for management of the Santa Aratack (Region 3) and St Cuthbert's Mission (Region 4) from the ExxonMobil Foundation: Guyana Mahaica Watershed which includes establishing a water in areas such as

Thematic Areas include The Patrick Centre is providing technical support through ecosystem restoration training, capacity building, equipment and support towards and management, sustainable livelihood the preparation of a State of the Watershed Report.

Key stakeholders, include the Hydrometeorological Service (Hydromet), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Environmental Management Consultants National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NOIA) and the Inc. (EMC) is providing technical support Mahaica Mahaicony Abary District Development Authority (MMA/ADA).



Sustainable Livelihood Initiatives

- Training: Tour Guiding and Interpretation Skills, Tourism Operations and Hospitality,
- Stakeholder Engagement: tour operators and other stakeholders were engaged in discussions focused on protection and sustainability of the Mahaica Watershed. The forum allowed for information sharing and provided opportunities to identify current challenges and collaborative actions for the conservation of the watershed.

NAREI: A comprehensive livelihoods assessment was conducted from January to June in Regions 1-6 which included surveys in 507 households, workshops and interviews with key stakeholders from conservation NGOs, and the private and public sectors.

This initiative prioritized critical areas such as business planning, market development, and environmental sustainability.



Species Conservation

Protected Areas Commission: The 2024 Turtle NAREI: Public awareness is a key part of mangrove coriacea), and Hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys Book. imbricata).

Almond Beach:

- 66 nests were recorded, 61 nests of which were relocated and 5 left undisturbed in their natural
- 84 turtle crawls were documented, including 46 Green turtles, of which 38 were not seen.

Throughout the season, there were 2 re-migrants, 1 returning turtle, and 3 newly tagged turtles.

Tiger Beach:

• 57 nests were recorded, comprising 28 Leatherback turtles, 27 Green turtles, and 2 Hawksbill turtles.



Education and Awareness

monitoring season at Shell Beach Protected Area conservation and management. The on-going public observed three species of marine turtles: Green turtles awareness campaign includes a comprehensive suite (Chelonia mydas), Leatherback turtle (Dermochelys of educational materials such as a Children's Activity

in addition to new publications, NAREI has

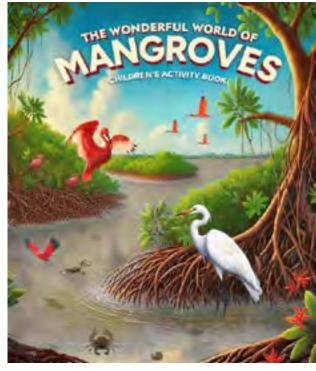
- launched specialised library spaces at the National Library and several high schools. These corners will feature Mangrove Publications and are designed to promote environmental stewardship among students.
- upgraded the Mangrove Visitor Centre to enhance visitor experience including equipment for educational tours.
- provided training and awareness: in Regions 3-6 to raise awareness and engage local communities on the critical role of mangrove ecosystems along the coastline.

EMC Foundation: E-Stem and Wildlife Clubs

In 2024, the EMC Foundation partnered with seventeen schools along the coast to establish Environmental Clubs and implement the E-STEM Program. These clubs work to promote environmental awareness, encourage sustainable practices, and empower local communities to take proactive measures on environmental issues.

In total, 283 students participated in the ESTEM Programme.

In 2024, GMCS focused on education and capacity building including Boat Captaincy Training, Collaborations with Iwokrama for several internships and exchange visits and a Natural Resource Management workshop with leaders of Imbotero communities.











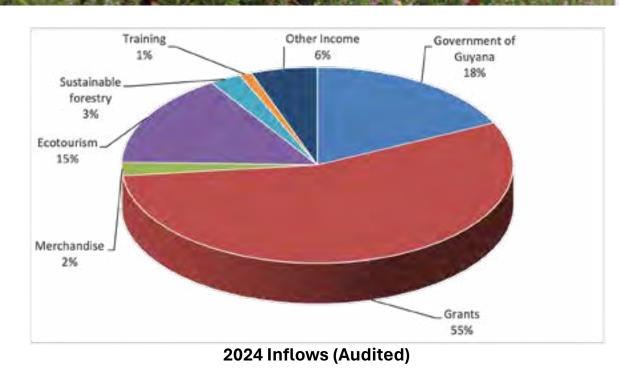
Four years after COVID, Iwokrama River Lodge hosted over 1,550 guests, indicating a return to normal operations and an increase in global travel. Despite an increase in local construction and the reopening of global timber markets, our Joint Venture partners encountered technical challenges. These issues were further complicated by unusual weather patterns, which affected timber operations. This is reflected in the income analysis below.

The Centre, however, through support from a multi-year grant ExxonMobil Foundation and continued support from the Government of Guyana was able to implement all its work programmes effectively.

Iwokrama has again received an unqualified audited report. Income analysis reveal that 55% of our revenues came from grants, 21% came from our businesses (forestry, merchandising, tourism and training), 6% from other sources and 18% from the Government of Guyana – which remained a solid development and founding partner of the Centre.

The Audited expenditure report shows that 53% was for forestry research, a key part of Iwokrama's mandate (mainly project related), 25% on business, 8% on our community work, 11% on our conservation work and 0.1% on fundraising activities. Our overheads represented a mere 3% of our total expenditure mainly owing to a continuing austerity programme and creativeness of our team.

We hope that the sustainable businesses, will continue to recover and grow in 2025 thus allowing them to make more substantive contributions to core operating costs in the longer term.



Sustainable forestry

8%

12%

15%

15%

Community relations

SN

Conservation

11%

Fundraising

0.1%

Management

3%

Forest research

53%

2024 Outflows (Audited)

PARTNERS

- Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
- Amazon Conservation Team, Suriname
- Anton de Kon University, Suriname
- Banks DIH Ltd.
- Bina Hill Training Institute
- Boise State University
- Brookfield Zoo, Chicago
- Calgary Zoo
- Caribbean Youth Environment Network
- Center for International Forestry Research
- Chicago Zoological Society
- Commonwealth Secretariat
- Community and Tourism Services Inc.
- Conservation International Guyana
- Darwin Initiative
- Drexel University
- Earth Expeditions Miami University
- **Environmental Management Consultants Inc**
- Environmental Protection Agency-Guyana
- Environmental Resources Management Foundation
- European Union
- Evergreen Forest Products Inc.
- ExxonMobil Foundation
- ExxonMobil Guyana
- Farfan and Mendes Ltd
- Food and Agriculture Organisation
- Forestry Training Centre Inc.
- German Government under the

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Giftland Mall
- Global Canopy Programme (Oxford)
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- GTI Wood Products Inc.
- **Guyana Forestry Commission**
- Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
- Guyana Marine Conservation Society
- Guyana Police Force
- Guyana School of Agriculture
- Guyana Shield Initiative
- Guyana Society for Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- Guyana Tourism Authority
- Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission
- Horniman Museum
- Hupkes Wijma B.V
- Hydrometeorological Service
- Inter-American Development Bank
- International Development and Research
- International Tropical Timber Organisation
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Jacksonville Zoo
- Lyell Centre, Heriot Watt University
- Makushi Research Unit



- Mamiraua Institute for Sustainable Development
- McArthur Foundation
- Mings Products and Services
- Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
- Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ministry of Public Works
- Ministry of Tourism
- National Agricultural Research & Extension Institute
- National Audubon Society
- National Communications Network
- National Parks Commission, Guyana
- National Toshaos Council
- New GPC Inc.
- Newcastle University
- North Rupununi District Development Board
- Office of HRH The Prince of Wales (until Sept
- Office of King Charles III
- Office of Climate Change
- Office of the First Ladv
- Open University
- Operation Wallacea
- Panthera
- Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute
- Philadelphia Zoo
- Protected Areas Commission
- Radio Paiwomak

- Rain Forest Alliance
- Repsol Exploración Guyana, S.A.
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- Rumi Foundation
- Ryerson University
- Smithsonian Mason School of Conservation
- Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
- STEM Guyana
- Sterling Products Limited
- The British Government
- The British High Commission
- The Canadian High Commission
- The Embassy of the United States
- The Government of Guyana
- The World Bank
- Tourism and Hospitality Association of
- Tropical managed Forests Observatory
- United Nations Development Programme
- University of Central Lancashire
- University of Guyana
- University of Kent
- University of Oxford
- University of the West Indies
- US Agency for International Development
- Visit Rupununi
- Warwick University
- Wilderness Explorers
- World Wildlife Fund



IWOKRAMA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR RAIN FOREST CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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