

IWOKRAMA

Annual Report 2019

Honouring the Memory of a Rupununi Icon: "Uncle Fred"

Robert Fredrick Allicock, MS
June 20, 1932 - May 12, 2019



Guyana and the Rupununi suffered a great loss at his passing on May 12. He was key to the success of Iwokrama, he and his son Daniel were instrumental in choosing the site for the Iwokrama Field Station, now known as the Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre (IRL).

He was Iwokrama's first Field Station Manager, though he held this position more than once. His expansive traditional knowledge contributed to many of the management decisions that Iwokrama made including the zoning of the forest into a Wilderness Preserve and Sustainable Untilisation Area. The main building (the round house) at the IRL was aptly named the Fred Allicock Building in his honour many years ago.

May he always Rest In Peace.



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From the CEO



This year was a milestone year for Iwokrama – 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. The Centre held a modest ceremony to celebrate this milestone and His Excellency Brigadier David Granger, MSS, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana made the feature address. The second highlight of the evening was a forty-three-minute documentary on Iwokrama's sustainable forestry operation, funded by GIZ (a short version was aired).

In 2019, global deforestation rates continues to climb to between 16m-24m hectares thus underlining the importance of the Centre's models of sustainable forest management. During the year, the Centre continued to align its work with global and national priorities including the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Guyana's Green State Development Strategy (GSDS). His Excellency Brigadier David Granger reaffirmed his 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 and HRH, Prince Charles, renewed his patronage of Iwokrama.

Our earned revenue sources – sustainable forestry and tourism continued to provide important unrestricted revenues to support the Centre's core operations. The Centre was able to maintain its FSC™ certificate and the results of the 3rd Surveillance Audit are expected early in 2020. The Centre earned USD$344,000 approx. from timber which was just about 3% below 2018 figures – as a result of the Centre testing alternative payment scales based on sawn timber rather than log volume. Tourism also performed credibly with a 20% increase in visitor number to 1,632 visitors with corresponding earnings rising 35% to US$506,000 approximately – the highest tourism numbers in the Centre's history. The Centre also inked an MOU with the Guyana Tourism Authority for tourism development in Guyana.

Educational groups such as Operation Wallacea and Earth Expeditions (Miami University) continued their annual pilgrimage to Iwokrama. Study tours from the University of Guyana are increasing appreciably as we welcomed growing numbers of forestry and biology students at our Research Centre. This area of relationships with education and training institutions remains one that offers much promise. Exxon Mobil Guyana, continued its support of the Centre's science programme, now three years in running. These funds were applied to the current biodiversity research and hydrology projects with Kent / University of Guyana and Heriot Watt University respectively. The Centre also completed the first ever Legal Guidebook for natural resource practitioners / enforcement agencies in Guyana under this project.

Our community relations programme really geared up during the year with 66 different outreach activities to the 20 NRDDB Communities. We continued to attend the bi-monthly meetings of the NRDDB and collaborate to implement our Collaborative Management Agreement (CMA). Capacity building programmes including the STEM programme were launched in Region 9 and the communities remained closely integrated into Iwokrama's operations.

The occasional poor road conditions along the Georgetown to Lethem corridor hampered business activities resulting in a reduction of visitors and shipments of processed lumber. However, we are hopeful for major improvements to the road in 2020 thereby making access easier to the field and thus enabling our businesses to achieve greater potential.

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

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.

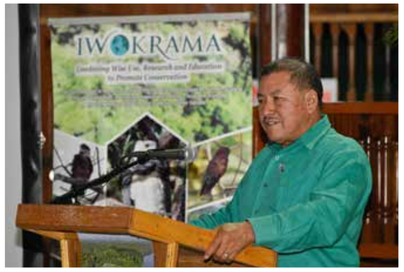


Dane Gobin
Chief Executive Officer

FSC
www.fsc.org

The mark of responsible forestry
FSC™ C131490

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)
























Iwokrama celebrated 30 Years since offer of Guyana's Forest made to International Community

The Iwokrama Rain Forest Programme has its origins in a visionary offer by the then President of Guyana, Hugh Desmond Hoyte, to set aside a large block of primary rain forest in the interior of Guyana for conservation, and experimental research into sustainable utilization. This offer was made during a meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government in October 1989. The Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development was later established by the passing of the Iwokrama Act of 1996 by then President Dr Cheddie Jagan.

In November, Iwokrama celebrated 30 years since this magnanimous offer was made. H.E. Brigadier David A. Granger, MSS. President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana joined the celebration at the Umana Yana.

Long Service and Partner Awards were presented at the celebration.

The original offer by then President Hoyte in 1989 was to "*set aside part of Guyana's forests for a project, under Commonwealth auspices, for developing and demonstrating methods of sustainable management of tropical rain forests and of conserving biological diversity*"

Partner Awards for outstanding contribution to the development of Iwokrama:

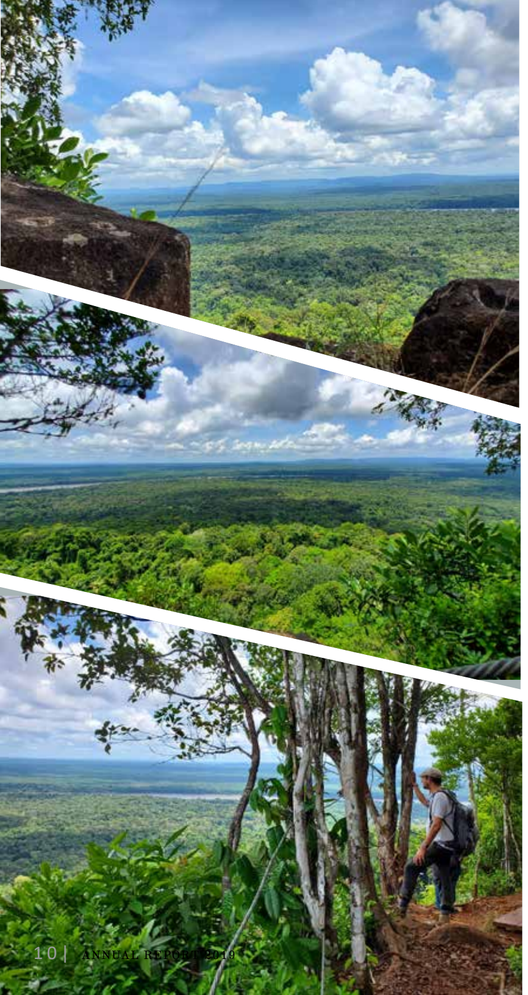
- North Rupununi District Development Board
- Annette Arjoon-Martins
- Vanda Radzik
- Michael Williams

Long service awards in recognition of dedicated service to Iwokrama:

- Colin Jarvis
- Veerainsammy Narine
- Emmanuel Andries
- James Presley Honorio

Iwokrama Documentary with CATS- GIZ programme

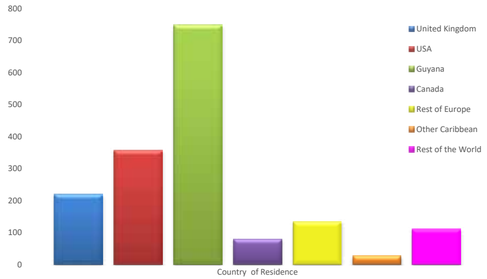
A new forty-three minute documentary on Iwokrama will be available in 2020. Funded by CATS-GIZ, the film was produced by the Blue Paw film company. A short version of the film was shown at Iwokrama's 30th commemoration celebration.



Tourism

More than 1600 travelers visited the Iwokrama River Lodge in 2019 mainly from the United Kingdom, United States and Guyana. For the fourth consecutive year, Guyanese visitors outnumbered travelers from the United States and the United Kingdom representing 45% of total visitor numbers.

The most popular tour continues to be the Turtle Mountain Hike, more than 40% of visitors viewed this spectacular vista.

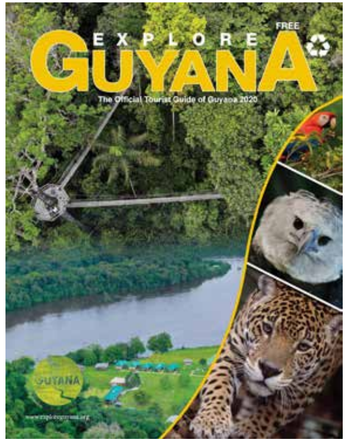


In recognition of the 30th Anniversary of the offer of Guyana's Forest to the world, the Iwokrama River Lodge and Canopy Walkway were featured on the cover of the 2020 Explore Guyana Magazine.

The magazine includes three articles written from different perspectives:

- '*Iwokrama: Guyana's Gift to the World'* by Guyanese journalist Devina Samaroo,
- 'Iwokrama River Lodge: The Perfect Blend of Nature and Service', by British travel blogger and photojournalist Jay Banbooke, and
- *My trip to Iwokrama – A jewel nestled in a Million Acres of Wild Forest*" by Canadian with Guyanese roots, Imran Rahaman.

Explore Guyana is the official tourist guide published by the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana.









Notable and VIP visits included the the First Lady – H.E. Sandra Granger, US Ambassador and her family; Deputy US Ambassador; French Ambassador to Guyana and Suriname; the Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources of South Africa, Director General – Ministry of Finance; Flying Doctors of the Americas, Penn State University, University of Indiana, the Caricom General Secretary; the Chinese Embassy, Executives of the Caribbean Premier League and the Directors and Managers of Inter-American Development Bank.



Product Development

Iwokrama has added two new tours that will be launched in 2020

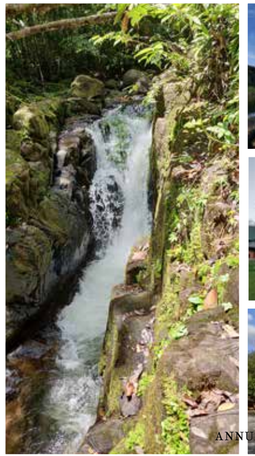
- A Day Tour:

Groups of 8 or 16 will fly from the Eugene F. Correia International Airport over lush rain forest and meandering rivers to the Iwokrama-Fair View airstrip. They will spend the day exploring the Screaming Piha nature trail, enjoying a boat tour to the Kurupukari rapids and petroglyphs, an optional dip in the cool Essequibo waters and a delectable lunch.

- Turu Falls/Turtle Mountain Hike:

Part of a 3 day/2 night stay at the River Lodge, this new tour includes a hike to the breathtaking Turtle Mountain, a trek to the beautiful Turu Falls and relaxing sundowners and caiman spotting. Guests will have the opportunity to experience the rain forest, see wildlife and capture amazing photos.

For more information on any of Iwokrama's Tours
Facebook: Iwokrama International Centre
Websites: iwokrama.org and iwokramariverlodge.com
Contact us directly at tourism@iwokrama.org









Timber

Sustainable Forest Management

- Sustainable timber harvesting operations continued in 2019 with a total annual production of 22,860 m3, consisting of 13 species for domestic and international markets;
- A total area of 1,670 ha was accessed for harvesting, of which 35% was located in Fair View's titled land;
- Pre-harvest inventory was carried out on four Management Units with a net area of 1,710 hectares. These MUs will be harvested all in 2020.
- Iwokrama sucessfully passed its 3rd Forest Stewardship Council™ Surveillance Audit by Soil Association in September.

FSC™ Certification is a voluntary global forest certification system which promotes and validates good forest management i.e. management that is socially, environmentally and economically sound.

Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs)

Following up on the PSP census carried out in 2018, a draft PSP report was produced providing summary results on the state and changes in the Iwokrama Forest for:

- basal area (m2/ha)
- stem density (trees/ha)
- above ground biomass (carbon stocks)
- species abundance
- tree growth rates
- height-diameter allometry.

Permanent sample plots are permanently demarcated areas of forest, typically of one hectare, which are periodically remeasured. They are the basis for growth and yield studies; they provide knowledge on forest changes under different situations such as climate change and they inform carbon storage capacity. Forest management then, can be based on this knowledge and be continuously adapted to new information.















Post-harvest Silvicultural Surveys

- Post-harvest surveys were carried out on 3 closed MUs with 24 felling blocks, covering 1,500 ha;
- Survey design resulted in the establishment and measurement of 29 one-hectare plots;

Post-harvest Silvicultural Surveys are intended to determine the level of compliance to the GFC Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting by examining the harvesting operations and impacts from two perspectives: operational efficiency (information relating to harvest intensity (m3/ha) and standards) and residual stand condition (extent of damage associated directly to logging and residual stock levels). Thus, the parameters to be measured in the post-harvest survey are linked to actionable follow-up measures that will be included in IIC's future forest management planning.

Visits to the Mill Site

In November, Twenty-eight students from the Bina Hill Youth Learning Centre visited the Iwokrama Forest. Presentations on the History of and Sustainable Forest Management in the Iwokrama Forest were given by the Assistant Forest Manager and the forestry team.

A tour of the Mill Site Saw Mill operation was also conducted followed by light refreshment at the Mill Site Canteen.

Timber Committee

A timber committee made up of Fair View Village, Iwokrama Forestry Team and representatives from the private sector partner meets every month. The purpose of the committee is to keep all partners informed about the timber business and to provide a forum for discussion.

Other Forestry Activities – Research Projects

A new 2-year research project was initiated in March 2019 to assess the vulnerability of forest carbon stocks to climate change in the Guiana Shield ecoregion. The Project is supervised and co-funded by Oxford University and the Global Challenges Research Fund.

The overarching goal is to build and strengthen human geospatial research and analysis capacity in Guyana and Suriname to assist development of policies to mitigate climate change impacts and engage in the green-climate economy.

Training

Training is a key part of Iwokrama's sustainable business portfolio and it provides the opportunity for Iwokrama to demonstrate its model of natural resource management.

University/School visits/Expeditions

Iwokrama continues to host international and local students including

- Operation Wallacea and Earth Expeditions both for 9th time.
- Several groups from the University of Guyana's Forestry and Biology Departments.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources, Youth in Natural Resources Apprenticeship Programme visited for the third consecutive year
- The Bina Hill Youth Learning Centre and students from several schools in the Rupununi
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Professors from the Indiana University did a recci visit
- Destination Conservation, shared knowledge on use of film and photography for conservation.















Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Training

Iwokrama partnered with the Ministry of Public Communications and BrainStreet to execute a training course on ICT at the Iwokrama River Lodge. The participants were from seven partner communities including Fair View, Surama, Aranaputa, Rupertee, Annai Central, Wowetta and Kwatamang. Some of Iwokrama's staff also participated.

Forest Botany Training

Conducted by Dr Raquel Thomas and assisted by forest technician, Linsford La'Goudou in October 2020, this training was to enhance staff knowledge on plants. Also attending were seven staff from the Protected Areas Commission, tour guides from Surama, villagers from Fair View and two students from Bina Hill Training Institute.

Internships - Bina Hill Institute Youth Learning Centre

Iwokrama continues to support the Bina Hill YLC by providing internships for students. this year Iwokrama provided practical skill training for two BHI Interns – who were exposed to tour guiding techniques, research, monitoring, maintenance, kitchen assistance and housekeeping. In particular two projects were completed - Cultural Show/Redesign IRL Cabin keys.





Community Relations

The relationship between the Iwokrama and it local community partners is woven into a rich fabric that has become part of modern cultural identity of the people who live and use the Iwokrama Forest and Rupununi Wetlands.

Iwokrama continued to engage its local community partners through capacity building, discussion and information sharing.

Activities included

- Visits to the 20 Communities which are members of the NRDDB
- Presentations at Quarterly NRDDB Meetings
- Meetings with the NRDDB Executive
- Timber Committee Meetings with Fair View
- Support to Wild Life Clubs and Schools
- Training: Log Scaling, Reduced Impact Logging Techniques, Forest Botany
- Broadcasts on Radio Paiwomak
- Support for Community Activities: Graduations, Sports and Games Days















Outreach & Awareness















Exhibitions

- **Exhibition For International Day For Biological Diversity**

Hosted by the EPA-Guyana on 23rd May under the theme: "*Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health.*" The objective was to share knowledge on the relationships between food systems, nutrition and biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

- **Exhibition to Showcase Guyana's Multi-Use Of Forests.**

Hosted by the Guyana Forestry Commission on 11th June. The objective was to showcase Guyana's Multi-Use forests and allow for networking among the private sector, NGOs, academia and the general public. This event was graced by the President of Ghana, representatives from various Ministries, the International Community, Government officials, students, etc.

- **Caribbean Airlines Limited 2nd Travel Expo.**

Hosted by CAL on 27th September. The objective was to highlight products/ services in the travel industry and create linkages with other stakeholders within the sector. This event showcased Iwokrama's Ecotourism business.

- **Guyana International Petroleum Exhibition (GIPEX)**

Iwokrama joined its private sector partner Repsol Exploración Guyana, S.A. in their booth at the exhibition which ran from 20th – 22nd November. REPSOL also provided an opportunity for Iwokrama to make a presentation which highlighted the education and awareness activities Iwokrama and Repsol Exploración Guyana, S.A.have collaborated on during the past 3 years.

Annual Outreach to Schools

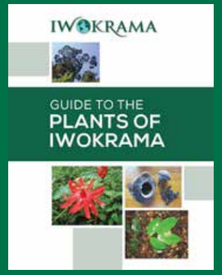
Iwokrama's annual environmental school outreach ran from November 4th – 26th. and included seven secondary schools in Georgetown: **Charlestown, Dolphin, Kingston, New Central High, North Georgetown, St. John's College and Tutorial High** and two special needs organizations: **the Ptolemy Reid Rehabilitation Centre and the Guyana Society for the Blind.**

The aim was to raise awareness about Protected Areas in Guyana including the Iwokrama Forest; our work in forest conservation and sustainable development and Solid Waste Management (i.e. littering).

New Outreach Publications

Two new publications have been produced for outreach activities with support from Repsol Exploración Guyana S.A

A Guide to the Plants of Iwokrama: Third in the series, this guide was written by Dr. Raquel Thomas.



A Makushi Song Book: is a collaboration between the Bina Hill Youth Learning Centre and Iwokrama in observance of the UN's International Year of Indigenous Languages and the Iwokrama's relationship with the communities of the North Rupununi.



Repsol Exploración Guyana, S.A's support of Iwokrama's outreach activities continued for a third year - two new publications, support to the Fair View Wildlife Club, Fair View Children's Christmas Party, Surama Nursery School and the opportunity to show case Iwokrama at an International Oil and Gas Conference.

Partnership with the Office of the First Lady







STEM Robotics workshop for 50 Kurupukari Primary School (Fair View Village) pupils.

Support for Fair View Students to participate STEM Guyana - Tullow Oil Third Annual Robotics Exhibition - young innovator, Taris Andries of the Fair View Robotics Team was one of the first winners of the grand giveaway at the exhibition.



During the year, the Centre partnered with the Office of the First Lady to implement several projects related to the Centre's community outreach and science and research which was funded by Exxon Mobil Guyana Limited. Of particular significance is the STEM Robotics Workshops in Regions 8 and 9 (first of its kind, which started in 2018). The joint initiative also saw students from the hinterland attending the annual robotics competition in Georgetown

Monitoring

Iwokrama's comprehensive monitoring system focuses on monitoring changes in naturally dynamic systems, and the impacts of human activities on ecological processes and biodiversity. It includes bio-physical, road and river, forest impact, wildlife, water quality and boundary monitoring.

Iwokrama, Surama and Apoteri-Rewa Co-Monitoring Agreements

In the third quarter, Iwokrama renewed Co-monitoring Agreements with Surama, Apoteri and Rewa Villages to monitor key waterways along the Essequibo River. Surama will serve to monitor the Burro-Burro River and Apoteri and Rewa will monitor the Rupununi River. Iwokrama will continue to collaborate with our local community partners to protect these key waterways from illegal and unauthorised activities.

Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) Evaluation

Iwokrama, in collaboration with the Protected Areas Commission, conducted a METT evaluation with Iwokrama staff and key partners (NRDDB) to assess the management effectiveness of Iwokrama as a protected area in comparison to other protected areas in Guyana and the world. The METT aims to give guidance to managers and others by sharing lessons learnt, and best practices in protected areas management and governance.

Partnerships for Monitoring

The Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, Guyana Forestry Commission and the Guyana Police Force continued to support Iwokrama's efforts to protect the forest from illegal and unauthorised activities. In 2019, Iwokrama encountered illegal mining along the Siparuni River and the illegal logging of six trees upstream Essequibo River.

Training for Rangers

- Rangers attended an '**Introductory Water Quality Monitoring**' short course hosted by the University of Guyana in collaboration with Organization of American States-Chile. The course focused on water quality collection techniques and data analysis.
- Rangers attended a '**Large Mammal Training**' short course hosted by the Sustainable Wildlife Management Project Guyana (SWM) at Manari Ranch, Lethem. Areas of focus for the training involved using different tools and techniques used in large mammal monitoring.













Science & Research

The Iwokrama Forest is a well-researched ecosystem with a good set of baseline and historical data, making it ideally placed for long-term research into the effects of climate change and human interventions on the forest ecosystems and its peoples.

Current Research

- Hydrology Study: Iwokrama in collaboration with the Lyell Centre, Heriot Watt University has commenced a study to examine invisible carbon in the water ways in the Iwokrama Forest. This project is funded by ExxonMobil
- Biodiversity Study: A new study in collaboration with University of Kent, UK and University of Guyana (UG) to assess the long-term impact of Iwokrama's sustainable harvesting operation on faunal diversity mainly birds and bats. UG student Arianne Harris (PhD) will complete this research; active field work starts in 2020. This project is also funded by ExxonMobil
- Fungi Study: Iwokrama is partnering with Perdue University to document fungi in the Iwokrama Forest. Additionally a Guyanese PhD student, Dillon Husbands, who is at Perdue, is looking at fungi found on Greenheart seeds.
- Biodiversity Study: Felisa Mearns, University of Guyana student completed her BSc research focused on animal plant interactions and impacts on recruitment.

Iwokrama's collaboration with ExxonMobil continued for a third year - support included new research supervised by the Science Committee, forest inventories, new publications, STEM Training and Community Outreach.





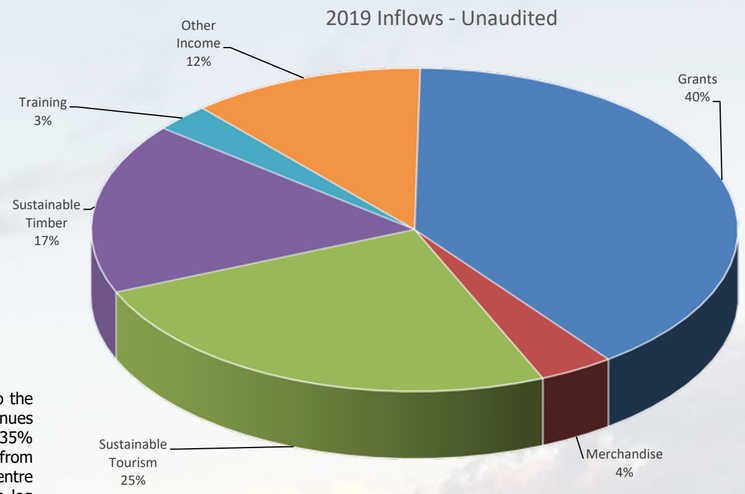








Financial Report

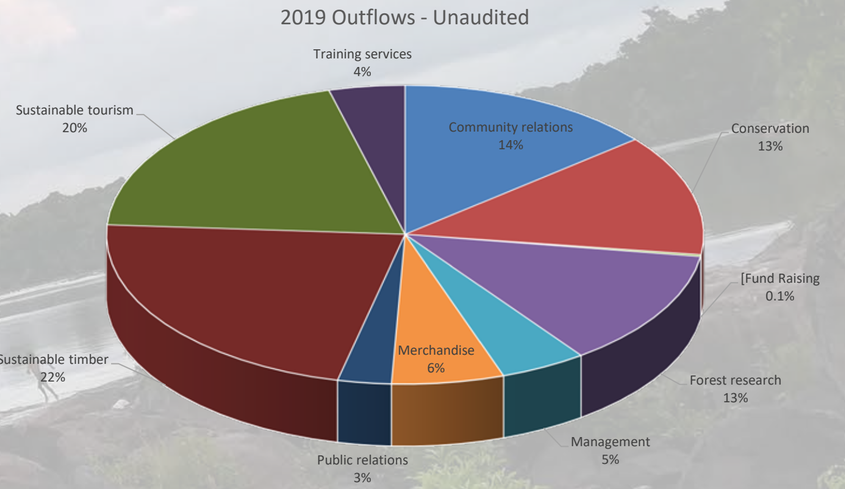


Earned revenues led by sustainable tourism continued to be crucial to the Centre's core and unrestricted funding during the year. Tourism revenues benefited from a 20% increase in visitor numbers - resulting in a 35% increase in revenue. The Centre earned approximately USD$344,000 from timber - about a 3% decrease from the 2018 figures – a result of the Centre testing alternative payment scales based on sawn timber rather than log volume.

The Centre maintained its austerity programme and expects that the sustainable businesses will continue to make more substantive contributions to the Centre's core costs thus reducing its dependency on grant/donor receipts and providing a more viable and stable financial model for the Centre.

The charts which follow show the contributions to total revenue from the various revenue sources and the percentage of programmatic expenditure of overall expenditure (excluding depreciation).

Accounts are unaudited at this time.



Donors & Partners

- Academy of Natural Sciences
- Amazon Conservation Team, Suriname
- Anton de Kon University, Suriname
- Backpacker International Inc
- Banks DIH Ltd.
- Biomimicry Roraima
- Boise State University
- Brookfield Zoo, Chicago
- Calgary Zoo
- Canadian International Development Agency
- Canopy Capital
- Cara Group
- Caribbean Airlines Limited
- Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
- Caribbean Development Bank
- Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN)
- Center for International Forestry Research
- Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
- Chicago Zoological Society
- Cleveland Zoo
- Columbus Zoo
- Commonwealth Foundation
- Commonwealth Secretariat
- Community and Tourism Services Inc.
- Conservation International
- Darwin Initiative
- Department for International Development
- Department of Environment
- Destination Conservation
- Earth Expeditions - Miami University
- Embassy of Mexico
- Environmental Protection Agency-Guyana
- Environmental Resources Management Foundation
- European Union
- Evergreen Forest Products Inc.
- Eversheds LLP
- ExxonMobil
- Farfan & Mendes Ltd
- Flying Doctors of America
- Forestry Training Centre Inc.
- Fund for International Development Archives
- German Government (KfW)
- German Government under the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Giftland Mall
- Global Canopy Programme (Oxford)
- Global Environmental Facility
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Guyana Forestry Commission
- Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
- Guyana Police Force
- Guyana School of Agriculture
- Guyana Shield Initiative
- Guyana Society for Biodiversity and Ecosystems (GSBE)
- Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company Limited
- Guyana Tourism Authority
- Guyana Trade and Investment Services
- Hill and Knowlton
- Holloman Price
- Horniman Museum
- HSBC Holdings
- Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale (IRET), Gabon
- Inter-American Development Bank
- International Development and Research Centre
- International Forest Products (UK)
- International Institute for Environment and Development
- International Tropical Timber Organisation
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Jacksonville Zoo
- Josephine Whitehead Legal Services
- KPMG International
- Lyell Centre, Heriot Watt University
- Mamiraua Institute for Sustainable Development
- Mc Vantage-Guyana Inc.
- McArthur Foundation
- National Audubon Society
- National Communications Network
- National Parks Commission, Guyana
- New GPC Inc.
- Newcastle University
- North Rupununi District Development Board
- Office of the First Lady
- Office of HRH Prince of Wales
- Office of the Climate Change
- Open University
- Operation Wallacea
- Panthera
- Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute
- Philadelphia Zoo
- Protected Areas Commission
- Radio 93.1 Real FM
- Radio 94.1
- Rain Forest Alliance
- Repsol Exploración Guyana, S.A.
- Republic Bank Ltd.
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- Rumi Foundation
- Ryerson University
- Shell UK
- Small Business Bureau
- Smithsonian - Mason School of Conservation
- Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
- StemGuyana
- Stephenson Harwood LLP
- Sterling Products Limited
- Tate and Lyle
- The British Government
- The Government of Guyana
- Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana
- Tropenbos International
- United Nations Development Programme
- Univserity of Central Lancashire
- University of Guyana
- University of Kent
- University of Oxford
- University of the West Indies
- US Agency for International Development
- Warwick University
- Wilderness Explorers
- World Bank
- World Wildlife Fund

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