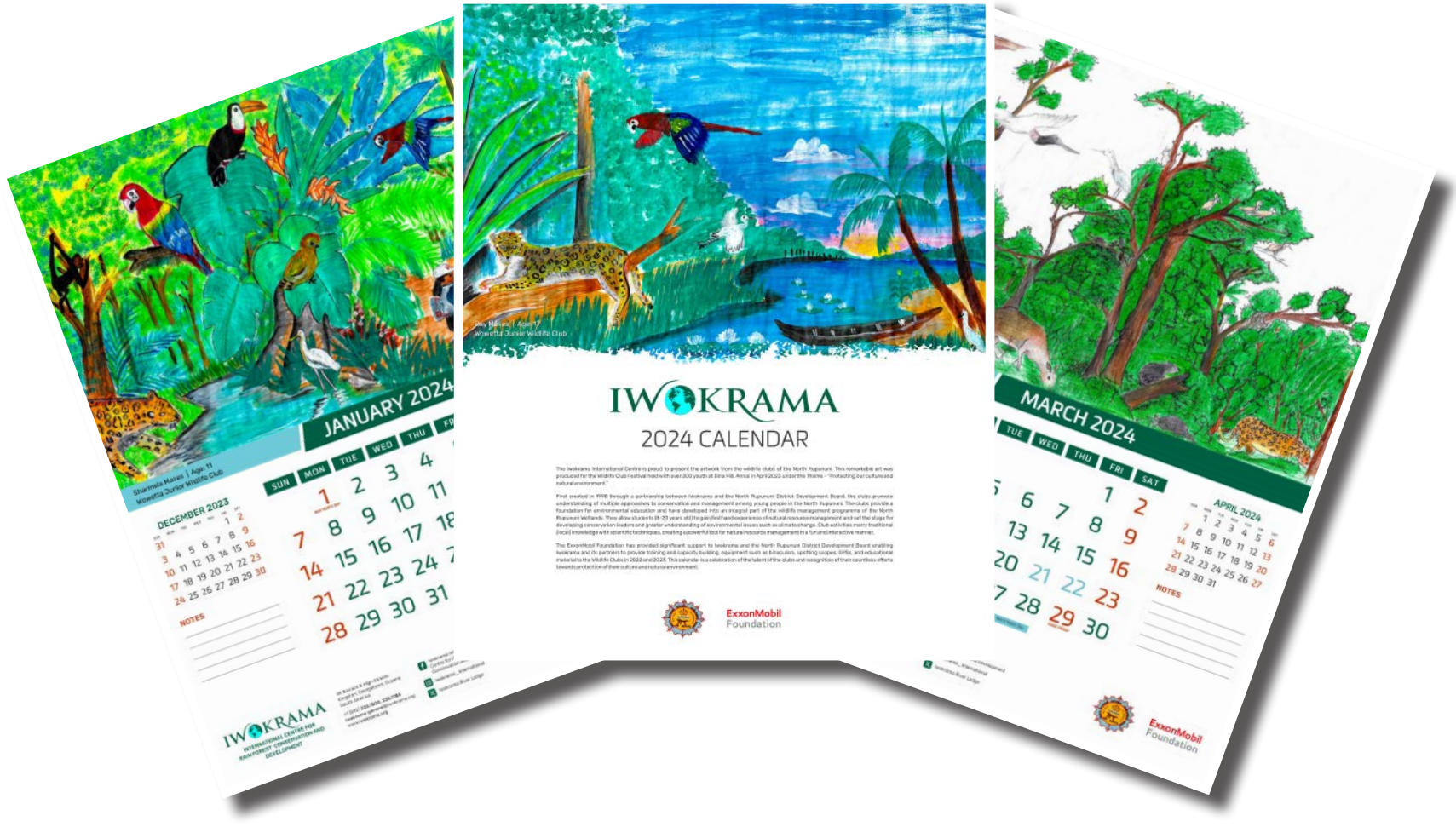


IW KRAMA

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Iwokrama is proud to present its 2024 Calendar which showcases 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.”

Wildlife or environmental clubs are community initiatives that provide an opportunity for youth (8 – 20 yrs. old) to gain first-hand experience in natural resource management, to nurture their strong sense of caring for the environment and build their individual capacity. The festival provided an opportunity for club members to exchange ideas, play games, and to celebrate the North Rupununi’s rich wildlife and their own culture.

The ExxonMobil Foundation has provided significant support to Iwokrama and the North Rupununi District Development Board enabling us to provide training and capacity building, equipment and educational material to the Wildlife Clubs in 2022 and 2023.

This calendar is a celebration of the talent of the clubs and recognition of their countless efforts towards protection of their culture and natural environment.

CONTENTS

FROM THE CEO 6

TOURISM 8

TIMBER 10

TRAINING & AWARENESS 12

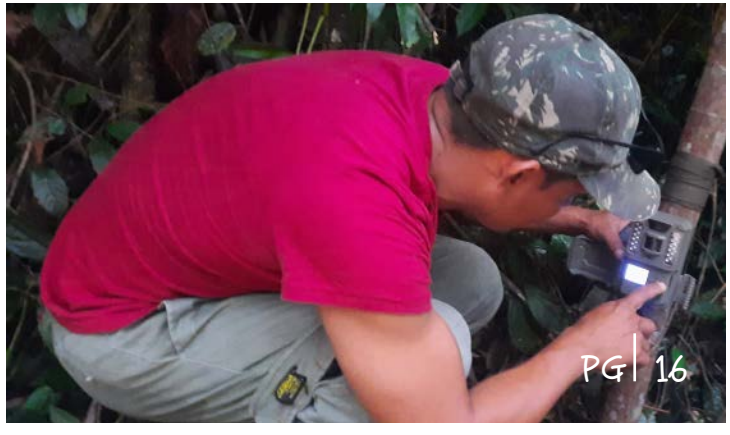
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 14













16 MONITORING

18 SCIENCE & RESEARCH

20 PROJECTS

22 FINANCIAL REPORTS

24 PARTNERS

FROM THE CEO



2023 was an excellent year as the Centre rebounded fully from the COVID-19 Pandemic. All facets of the Centre's operations saw marked increases especially in its research and tourism operations.

Global Forest Watch stated "*The loss of primary forests - those untouched by people and sometimes known as old-growth forests - in the tropics declined 9% last year compared to 2022. But Global Forest Watch researchers said the destruction remains stubbornly high. The world last year lost about 37,000 square kilometers (14,000 square miles) of tropical primary forest, an area nearly as big as Switzerland and larger than the U.S. state of Maryland*".

Guyana, despite a world-class oil find, remains carbon negative and committed to low carbon development through the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030 – an innovative national development strategy that provides a model to balance conservation of Guyana's still 82% forest cover and natural assets with the oil and gas sector.

This global and national situation 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.

We continued our push to earn unrestricted income through our sustainable businesses: sustainable forestry and ecotourism. More markets began to re-open post-COVID paving the way for decent growth in these businesses. The Centre was able to maintain its coveted FSC™ Certification and tourism numbers grew to just under pre-COVID levels – there is hope for rapid growth in 2024. Our training business also saw some recovery as a few educational groups restarted their annual visits to Iwokrama and the Centre is pursuing relationships with learning institutions internationally.

Illegal activities in the forest, most notably illegal mining continued, though on a reduced basis due to the sustained efforts of Iwokrama and its partners, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana and Geology and Mines Commission. The teams collaborated to conduct several joint 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 C0-management agreement. The substantive support from the ExxonMobil Foundation saw a number of projects being implemented – we restarted and supported 17 wildlife clubs in the communities (culminating in a wildlife festival), conducted a guide training course, completed

an informatics project and launched a 2024 calendar with beautiful images coming out of our work with the Wildlife Clubs. Our research programme saw the completion of some key research projects including post-harvest silvicultural surveys, data analysis, remeasurement of all the Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs), hydrology and carbon analysis.
Our recently started coastal programme in partnership with Environmental Management Consultants Inc. (EMC) worked with national agencies and several coastal communities to build tourism capacity, provide education and awareness, support mangrove restoration including a brand-new Mangrove Interpretation Centre at the National Agricultural and Research Extension Institute.

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 2022-2023 Science and Community Programmes and which has already committed to 2024-2025 period.

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 continued to provide critical annual financial support over the years) and the Commonwealth Secretariat. The strong alliances of our community partners, the NRDDB, and their unwavering support and understanding was a key factor in Iwokrama's accomplishments for the year.

We are very excited about 2024. We will continue to align our work to support the Government's new and expanded Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030.

Enjoy this report and please visit us on www.iwokrama.org or contact me on dgobin@iwokrama.org.

Best wishes for a successful 2024.



Dane Gobin
Chief Executive Officer



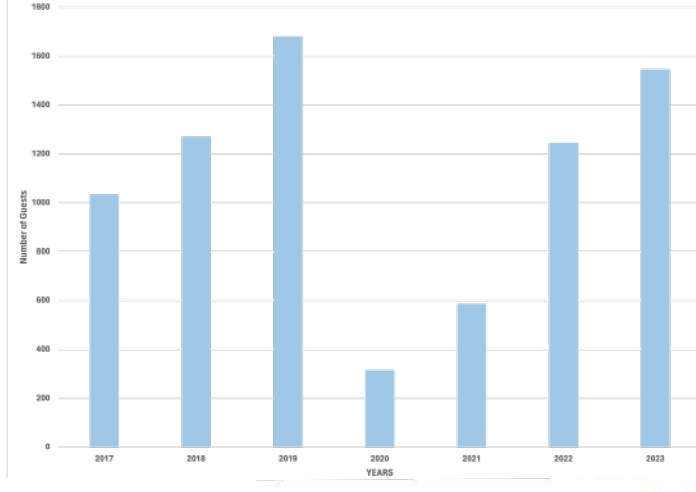
TOURISM



This year, Iwokrama accommodated more than 1,500 guests at the River Lodge, almost 25% increase from 2022 and the second highest number of visitors since Iwokrama hosted its first guests in 1997. The Graph shows visitor arrivals for the past seven years.

The most popular tours were the nearby nature trails and Turtle Mountain Hike followed by the boat tours to the Kurupukari Rapids and nearby Petroglyphs.

Three new tours were launched in 2023 with support from the Guyana Tourism Authority and a biking tour is currently in development.



Good Travel Seal+ Certification



The Iwokrama River Lodge was one of five lodges to receive GreenDestinations - Good Travel Seal+ Certification for its tourism operations. This initative was lead by Romel Richmond, Senior Marketing Research Analyst at the Guyana Tourism Authority.

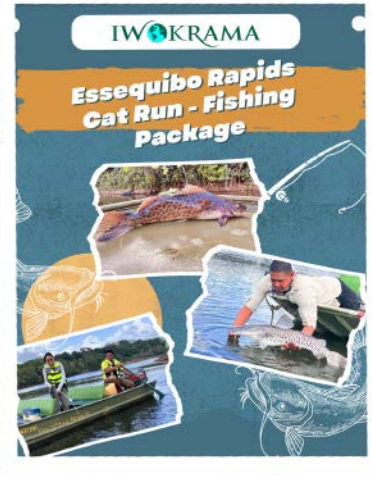
GTS certification consists of 12 themes and 57 general criteria, GTS+ includes an additional 14 criteria.

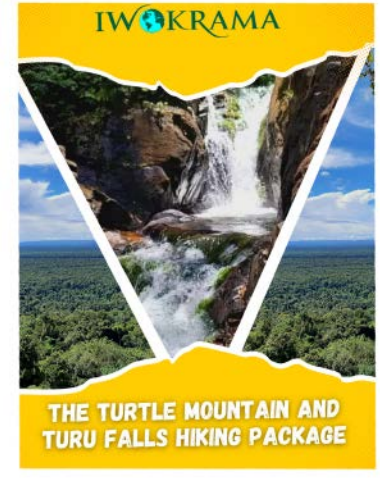
Three New Tours Launched

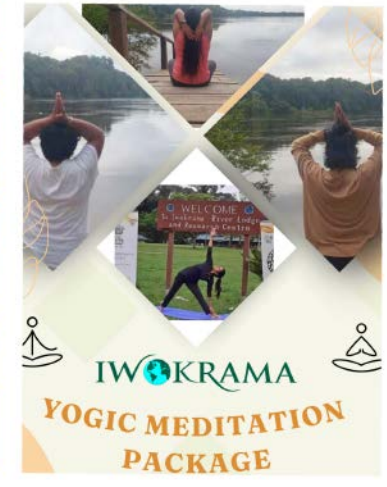
Essequibo Rapids Cat Run-Fishing is a seasonal tour (September to April) that takes avid fishers in search of Peacock Bass and a variety of catfish. Visit Koratoka and Accouri Falls and Turtle Pond in search of Piranha and Arawana.

Turtle Mountain and Turu Falls Hike includes a hike to the top of Turtle Mountain for a stunning jungle vista at the 300m summit and a 2.5 hour early morning hike to Turu Falls on the following day.

Yogic Meditation starts with Yogasana and simple yogic cleansing practices before an exhilirating hike to the Turtle Mountain Summit for a breathtaking view of the Forest. This tour also includes Yog Nidra (mindful relaxation), Guided Meditation, Nature Walks and Boat Trips.











For more information on any of Iwokrama's Tours
Facebook: Iwokrama International Centre
Websites: iwokramariverlodge.com
Contact us directly at tourism@iwokrama.org
Call us 592.600.3504, 592.639.3216





Iwokrama awarded Best Lodge and Best Chef for 2023 by Visit Rupununi.

The Iwokrama Team won two awards at this year's Visit Rupununi Tourism Awards and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

The Iwokrama River Lodge was awarded **Best Lodge 2023**, and our head Chef Colin Browne was recognized as the **Best Cook 2023.** The Lodge has been serving guests for almost 25 years and these awards are testament to the hard work, commitment and dedication of Iwokrama's staff almost all of whom come from the surrounding local indigenous communities.

Visit Rupununi is a Regional Destination Management and Marketing Organisation that promotes sustainable, responsible, wildlife friendly tourism services.

The Iwokrama River Lodge Access Road received some much-needed maintenance work thanks to support from the Minister of Natural Resources, Hon. Minister Vickram Bharrat.











Notable and VIP Visits

Guyanese-born International Celebrities Visit Iwokrama

Acclaimed actresses Letitia Wright and Carol Christine Hilaria "CCH" Pounder visited the Lodge in January and November, respectively. Ms. Wright is well known for her performances in both Black Panther movies and Ms. Pounder for her role in the Avatar franchise and television series such as ER and NCIS: New Orleans.

Havard Museum Visit

Dr Gonzalo Giribet, Director of Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology along with Mr Jason Fraser, Commissioner, Protected Areas Commission and Mr. Shyam Nokta of EMC Inc. in August. Dr Giribet's visit was part of the Government of Guyana's '*Guyana Development Initiative'*.

European Commission Visits

- HE Frans Timmermans, Vice President of the European Commission, members of the European Union Delegation the Minister of Natural Resources, Hon. Vickram Bharrat, and representatives from the Guyana Forestry Commission in June.

- European Commission's Deputy Director General of International Partnerships, Ms. Myram Ferran, Guyana's Minister of Natural Resources, Hon. Vickram Bharrat and their delegations in November.

TIMBER

Forest Certification

The Iwokrama Forest has retained its Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™) Certification for Forest Management following an annual surveillance audit in October.

The mark of responsible forestry

The certificate was renewed in October of 2022, the Iwokrama Forest has maintained its certification uninterrupted since October 2016. Iwokrama received one observation during this audit.

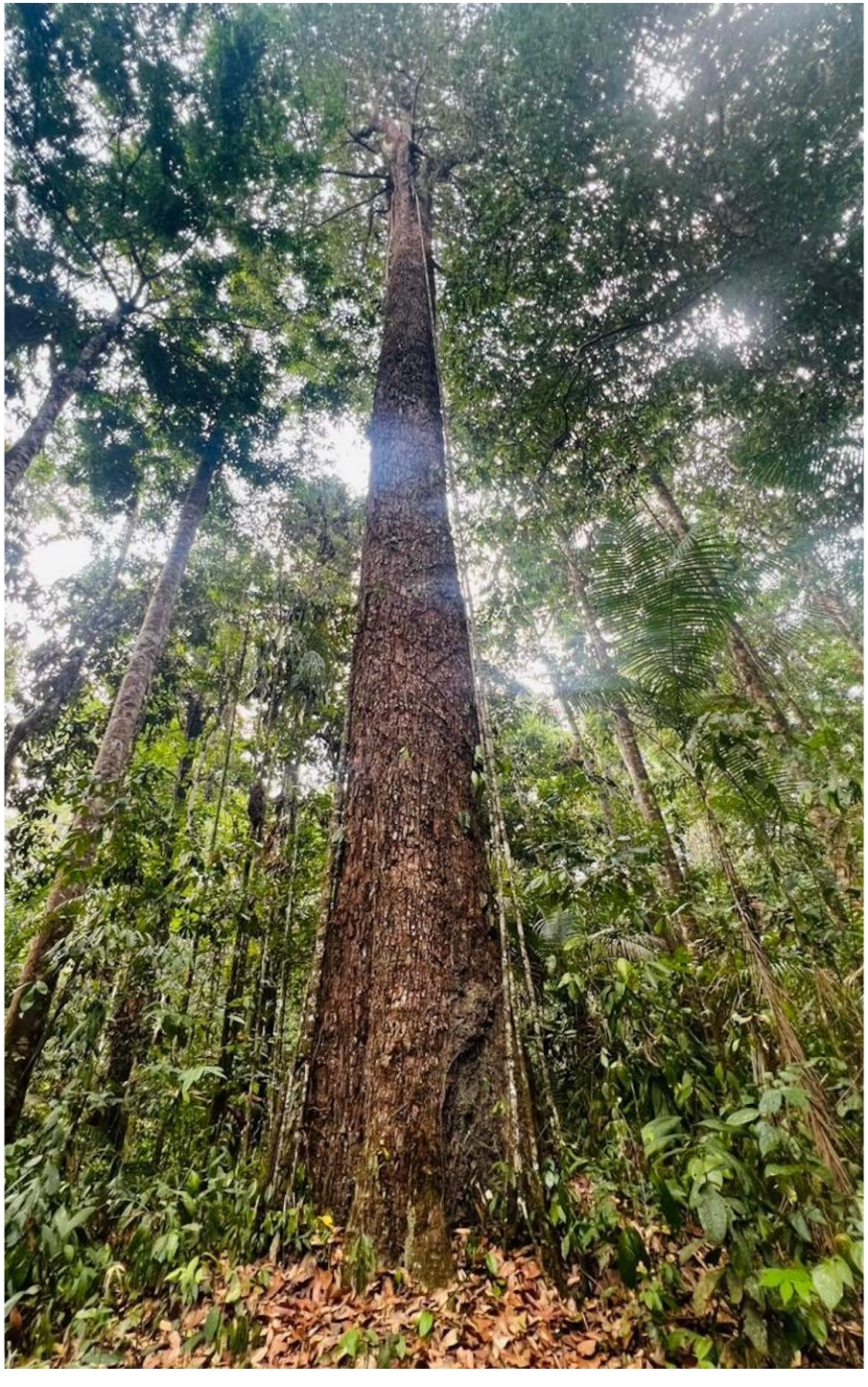
FSC™ Certification is a voluntary global forest certification system which promotes and validates good forest management.

Operations

Although harvesting operations continued to be challenged by equipment issues, approximately 72% of the planned annual harvest was completed. Milling operations progressed normally without undue equipment issues and the sawmills processed about 70% of delivered timber stocks.

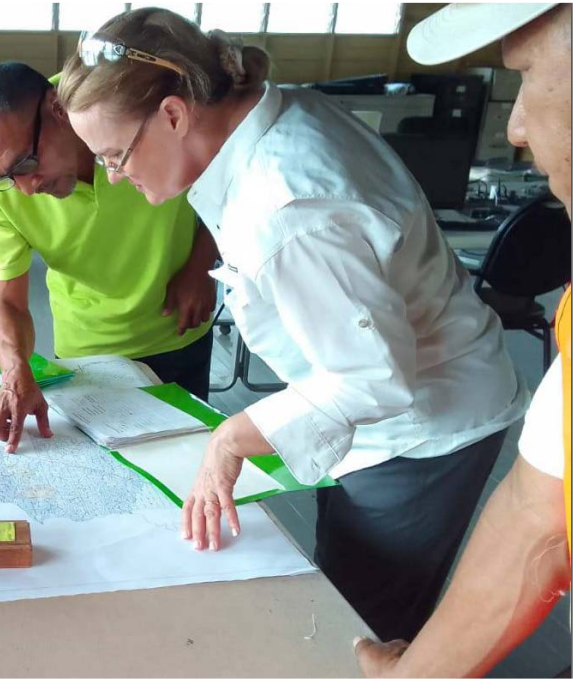
In the meantime, Iwokrama's joint-venture partners continue to source equipment to improve efficiency of the operation.

Fair View Village also continued to pursue their own harvesting program on their titled lands, producing non-*FSC™* logs for sale to local mills.















Forestry Research

Pre-harvest Forest Inventories are a requirement of the Guyana Forestry Commission and an integral part of forest management planning. They include detailed topographic surveys, tree enumeration and mapping.

Inventories were completed in four Management Units: MUs K-29, K-30, K-31 & K-32 with a total area of 2,240 hectares.

Post Harvest Silvicultural Surveys are used to determine compliance with the GFC Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting by examining the harvesting operations and its impacts. These surveys also provide important information on change in forest dynamics and help track wildlife movement after timber harvesting.

Post-harvest surveys were completed on 3 closed Management Units with 23 felling blocks, covering 1,787 hectares. .

Remeasurement of Permanent Sample Plots

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

Forest management can then be based on this knowledge and be continuously adapted with new information.

IIC carried out the re-census of all tree species, including natural regeneration on 18 existing PSPs.

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

TRAINING & AWARENESS







Tour Guiding and Interpretation

Iwokrama partnered with the Guyana Tourism Authority and EMC Inc to host a tourism course –"*An Introduction to Tour Guiding and Interpretation*" from August 1st – 6th at the Iwokrama River Lodge under the guidance of trainers Kenneth Shivdyal, Kenneth Butler and Kieran Samuels.

The course hosted 15 persons from national agencies, conservation partners and indigenous communities. This program offered a transformative learning experience, consisting of five dynamic modules which ranged from professionalism to tour management and leadership and field trips to various tourism sites in the Iwokrama Forest and neighbouring Surama village which has an award-winning community tourism product.

Training was funded by the ExxonMobil Foundation through the Guyana Conservation Initiative

Educational Visits

- Seven Grade 6 students and teachers from Fair View Primary School visited Iwokrama's Head Office in Georgetown in February to learn more about our operations.
- Iwokrama hosted nine University of Guyana Forestry students in March who were interested in learning more about Iwokrama's sustainable forestry operations.
- Twenty members from the Annai Wildlife Club visited the Iwokrama River Lodge and Canopy Walkway in May.
- The Miami University Earth Expeditions group of 16 students was hosted in early June. This Master's level course in inquiry learning on 'Local Wisdom and Conservation' is an annual experience with Iwokrama and Surama Community.
- Over 15 youth of the Aranaputa Wildlife Club visited Iwokrama River Lodge in July to learn more about our work.
- Two batches of students from the Ministry of Natural Resources "Youths in Natural Resources Apprenticeship Programme" were hosted in August for the 6th year. More than 40 youths engaged with Iwokrama Staffers capacity building exercises with Iwokrama staffers.
- Over 14 students from the Bina Hill Training Institute visited the Iwokrama's Canopy Walkway in October.

Book Donations

Iwokrama partnered with Repsol Exploración Guyana, S.A. to support and enhance reading corners in several schools in the Rupununi, part of Repsol Exploración Guyana, S.A's national book donation initiative.
Fair View, Toka, Surama and Massara communities received donations of reading material during the year.




CAUTION!
Slippery


WOOD CREEPER
TRAIL


WELCOME
to Iwokrama River Lodge
and Research









COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Iwokrama hosts NRDDB at the Iwokrama River Lodge

Iwokrama hosted the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) at the Iwokrama River Lodge in May. This forum provided the opportunity for the NRDDB and Iwokrama to discuss ongoing projects, plans and activities and to share information and concerns. Iwokrama has been encouraging this visit annually for leaders to see '*boots on ground*' work of the organization.

Funded by the ExxonMobil Foundation through the Guyana Conservation Initiative.



Iwokrama supports the NTC for Village Plan Outreach

Iwokrama has partnered with the National Toshaos Council (NTC) to support the council's outreach activities to aid in the development of village sustainability plans. Village plans are a requirement for the communities to be able to access carbon credit financing under the Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030.

Funded by the ExxonMobil Foundation through the Guyana Conservation Initiative.

Makushi Research Unit

With support from Iwokrama, the MRU engaged with several communities on key social issues including domestic violence and alcoholism. The MRU team is also trained to offer counselling services to community members.

Funded by the ExxonMobil Foundation through the Guyana Conservation Initiative

Radio Paiwomak

Radio Paiwomak, the first community-owned radio station, plays an important role in information sharing in the Rupununi. The quarterly meetings of the NRDDB are also broadcast, important for keeping the communities informed. Iwokrama facilitated media training for 7 persons (Radio Paiwomak Staff and the NRDDB) which will enhance the quality of the material developed locally for broadcast. The Centre also donated radios for distribution to communities to improve access to the radio broadcasts.

Funded by the ExxonMobil Foundation through the Guyana Conservation Initiative





Fair View Christmas Party

Iwokrama was happy to support Santa's visit to the kiddies of Fair View Village for the usual annual Christmas festivities. Appreciation for contributions from Iwokrama staff, Mings, THAG, Camex Ltd, Farfan and Mendes Ltd, Ryan Rajmangal (58 miles) and other partners. Iwokrama was also thankful for support of the Fair View leadership, Head Master, Teachers and Parents.



Wildlife Clubs

Iwokrama continued to partner with the NRDDB to support the Wildlife Clubs in the Rupununi. Eleven new clubs were started in Annai, Apoteri, Aranaputa, Crashwater, Kwamitta, Kwatamang, Massara, Qwatata, Rewa and Yakerinta bringing the total number of clubs to seventeen.

Club Activities included Birdwatching and Wildlife Monitoring (Monthly), Training in Public Speaking, data management and the use of GPS and field trips and exchange visits. The clubs held their 2nd Centralised Meeting in February at Bina Hill in Annai to plan for the Wildlife Club Festival.

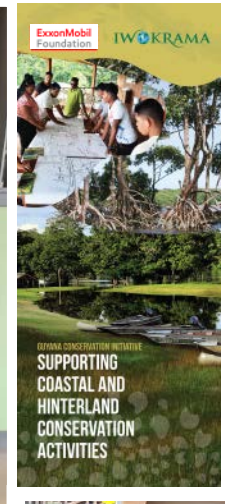
The Wildlife Club Festival was held on April 4th and 5th under the theme "*Protecting our culture and Natural Environment*." All 17 clubs attended the festival participating in activities including Art, Banner, Poetry and Volleyball Competitions and Environmental Fashion, Cotton Spinning, Archery and Local Band Contests.

The Festival was more than a celebration of Makushi culture, it allowed the participants the opportunity to engage and present solutions to environmental and social issues in the wider community.

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













MONITORING

Monitoring refers to information or data sampling which is repeated in specific intervals of time and serves certain scientific and/or management purposes.

Iwokrama monitors key physical, biological components and related social impacts to measure and track changes over time.

Boundary and Environmental Patrols are conducted on a regular schedule along the road and river. 45 Road Patrols (general, water quality, bird and borrow pit and wildlife) and 31 River Patrols (upstream and downstream) were completed.

Social Monitoring is distinct from biological or other environmental monitoring, because it includes both statistical and qualitative reviews.

Iwokrama has identified several indicators that are monitored and assessed quarterly and annually, these include parameters such as visitor numbers, employment, population, health tourism, community relations and education.

Long-term monitoring is used to identify and evaluate the impacts of human activities on the environment.

Community Co-Monitoring

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

Community Monitoring commenced in January with support for fuel provided by Iwokrama. The teams from each community conducted regular patrols and reported an increase in fishermen due to dropping water levels, mainly locals who were fishing for subsistence purposes. However a few coastlanders were observed during the second half of the year along the Essequibo River.

Monitoring teams also identified key species which included giant river otters, black caiman, arapaima, and brown capuchin and red howler monkeys.

Funded by the ExxonMobil Foundation through the Guyana Conservation Initiative













Four Rangers on Wild Life Training Course

The Guyana Wildlife Management and Conservation Commission supported the participation of four rangers in a training program focused on '***Confiscated Animals- Rescue and Enforcement***'. The course was sponsored by the US Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

Sea Turtle Monitoring Internship

Appreciation to the Protected Areas Commission for providing Iwokrama's Tour Guide Chelsea Peters with a two-week internship to participate in sea turtle monitoring at the Shell Beach Protected Area in June.

















SCIENCE & RESEARCH

Forest Impact Monitoring

University of Guyana student Arianne Harris' (PhD) research titled *"An assessment of the long-term impact of Iwokrama's sustainable harvesting operation on faunal diversity mainly birds and bats* " is now complete. Ms. Harris has completed her PhD thesis and has submitted it to the University for review and assessment. She is currently an Instructor within the Biology Department.

Additionally, two chapters have been accepted for publication in high-impact scientific journals. The 1st publication regarded medium-large mammals in the Iwokrama rainforest and how logging roads impact their occupancy in logged areas. This paper was published in the Journal of Forest Ecology and Management and can be accessed here: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0378112723006357

The 2nd publication discussed the long-term impacts and changes in select vertebrate communities (birds and bats) of Iwokrama's Reduced-Impact Logging activities. This paper was published in the Journal of Applied Ecology and can be accessed here: https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1365-2664.14537

This research project began in 2018 funded by a grant from ExxonMobil Guyana and continued under a grant from the ExxonMobil Foundation titled "Guyana Conservation Initiative."





Gender and Forests Group

The Gender and Forests Group (GFG), in collaboration with the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) and Iwokrama hosted a reveal workshop on September 29th to present the findings of their research, including the recommendations identified in four forest-based communities. Forty-two people participated in this workshop, including representatives from Government, development partners, private sector and civil society.

The research was conducted in four forest based communities in Guyana and was funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The Gender and Forests Group is an informal collection of Guyanese professionals interested in strengthening the connection between gender and forests.

Funded by the ExxonMobil Foundation through the Guyana Conservation Initiative





Arthropods

Researchers associated with the American Museum of Natural History conducted Arthropod research with Senior Ranger James Honorio in the Iwokrama Forest in September.

The work was part of larger project regarding the systematics of Arachnida, Hymenoptera, Odonata, Diptera and other insect groups with the aim of increasing the sampling body from Guyana.

Invisible Carbon Study

Iwokrama in collaboration with the Lyell Centre, Heriot Watt University, has commenced a study to look at the invisible carbon in the Essequibo River at transect points within the Iwokrama Forest Reserve and closer to the mouth of the River as part of a global project.

This project, is led by PhD candidate Elizabeth Cowling under the supervision of Dr. Ryan Pereira. Collections started at the beginning of 2022 and are ongoing.









Iwokrama Co-authored Research Papers 2023

Harris, A.E., Hallett, M., Davis, M., Carter, M., Singh, D, Roopsind, A., Maharaj, G. and Bicknell, J.E. **Use of logging roads by terrestrial mammals in a responsibly managed neotropical rainforest in Guyana.** Forest Ecology and Management. 548 (2023) 121401.

Harris, A. E., Maharaj, G., Hallett, M., Thomas, R., Roopsind, A., O'Shea, B. J., & Bicknell, J. E. (2023). **Variable shifts in bird and bat assemblages as a result of reduced-impact logging revealed after 10 years.** Journal of Applied Ecology, 00, 1–15.

ter Steege, H., Pitman, N.C.A., do Amaral, I.L. et al. **Mapping density, diversity and species-richness of the Amazon tree flora**. Commun Biol 6, 1130 (2023).

Peripato et al., **More than 10,000 pre-Columbian earthworks are still hidden throughout Amazonia**. Science 382, 103–109 (2023)

PROJECTS

Guyana Conservation Initiative

Iwokrama has received a multi- year grant from the ExxonMobil Foundation: ***Guyana Conservation Initiative*** to support coastal and hinterland conservation activities. Thematic Areas include conservation, ecosystem restoration, sustainable livelihood initiatives, community development, education, awareness and sensitization,

Environmental Management Consultants Inc. (EMC) is providing technical support on project implementation.

The beneficiary organisations include

- the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI),
- the Guyana Marine Conservation Society (GMCS)
- the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA),
- the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB), associated satellite organisations and local indigenous communities.
- the EMC Foundation.

In addition to activities in the Iwokrama Forest the GCI Grant has supported several activities on the coast managed by EMC in collaboration with NAREI, GTA, GMCS and the EMC Foundation.

NAREI: The new **Mangrove Information Centre** provides a significant stride in the development of national mangrove conservation efforts. It demonstrates NAREI's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

Construction of the Mangrove Information Centre began in December 2022 and was completed in 2023. The building was officially launched on December







NAREI: Signage and Public Awareness Materials

Public awareness is a key part of mangrove conservation and management. NAREI's on-going public awareness campaign includes billboards, signage and resource materials which highlight the importance of mangroves and the need for their protection.

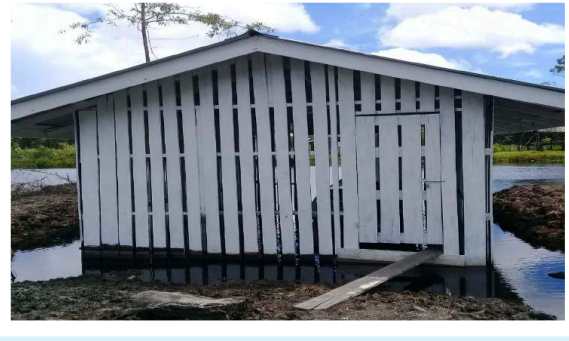
NAREI: Mangrove Restoration activities are on-ongoing in 3 communities in East Berbice Corentyne. Restoration improves the natural flood defence against sea level rise, storm surges, and extreme wave events.
The restoration process includes

- Public awareness and consultation sessions
- Training for and development of 22 mangrove nurseries
- Planting of 40,000 seedlings,



GMCS: The GCI Grant supported the *Construction of a Boat House at the Imbotero Research Centre* and several education and capacity building activities including

- *A Sensitization Session on Mangroves* was conducted at the Imbotero Research Centre from August 17th – 19th
- *An Experiential Exchange Visit* - the Imbotero Community Development Council visited the Warapoka to experience their community tourism product.
- *Participation in the Training Course* – "Introduction to Tour Guiding and Interpretation" at the Iwokrama River Lodge – August 1st – 6th



EMC Foundation: The **Secondary School Environmental Quiz** was a televised program that aimed to inform, educate and entertain the Guyanese public about environmental concepts and issues.

The Quiz was recorded in February and broadcast on national television, radio, and social media platforms from March 6th to 24th. After 4 rounds of competition, ***Anna Regina Multilateral*** emerged winners and ***North-West Secondary*** as the runners-up.











EMC Foundation: Wildlife Clubs

The EMC Foundation Team engaged with the Toshaos of Warapoka, Moraikobai, Santa Mission, and Wakapau Villages to discuss the formation of wildlife clubs.

Initial Meetings were held in the communities between July and September which allowed the team, students, and parents to engage and learn more about the objectives of the clubs and develop individual work plans.



GTA: Support provided to two indigenous communities Wakapau (Region 1) and Santa Aratack (Region 3) included.

- *Equipment for Tour Guiding and Health and Safety* including life jackets, first aid kits, Field Guides, spotting scopes
- *Training* in the areas of Product Development, Governance and Leadership, Quality Service, Finance, and Tour Guiding.





Biopama

Iwokrama has secured funds from Biopama for project titled *'Improve infrastructure and capacity for monitoring and community development within Iwokrama Forest'*. The project had a no-cost extension to May 2023.

The grant supported rehabiltation of the Ranger Stations, the Wildlife Club Festival, additional equipment for the wildlife clubs and a workshop for Community Leaders. The workshop which focused on the *Legal Field Guide for Natural Resource Practitoners* was held in May with participants from the NRDDB, the Bina Hill Institite, Iwokrama rangers and community members. The training was facilitated by Attorney-at-Law Teni Housty who also compiled the manual for Iwokrama.

A special session was also held with participants and visiting Community Service Organisations on Village Sustainability Plans.

Village plans are a requirement for the communities to be able to access carbon credit financing under the Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030.

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme assists African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to address their priorities for improved management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources.





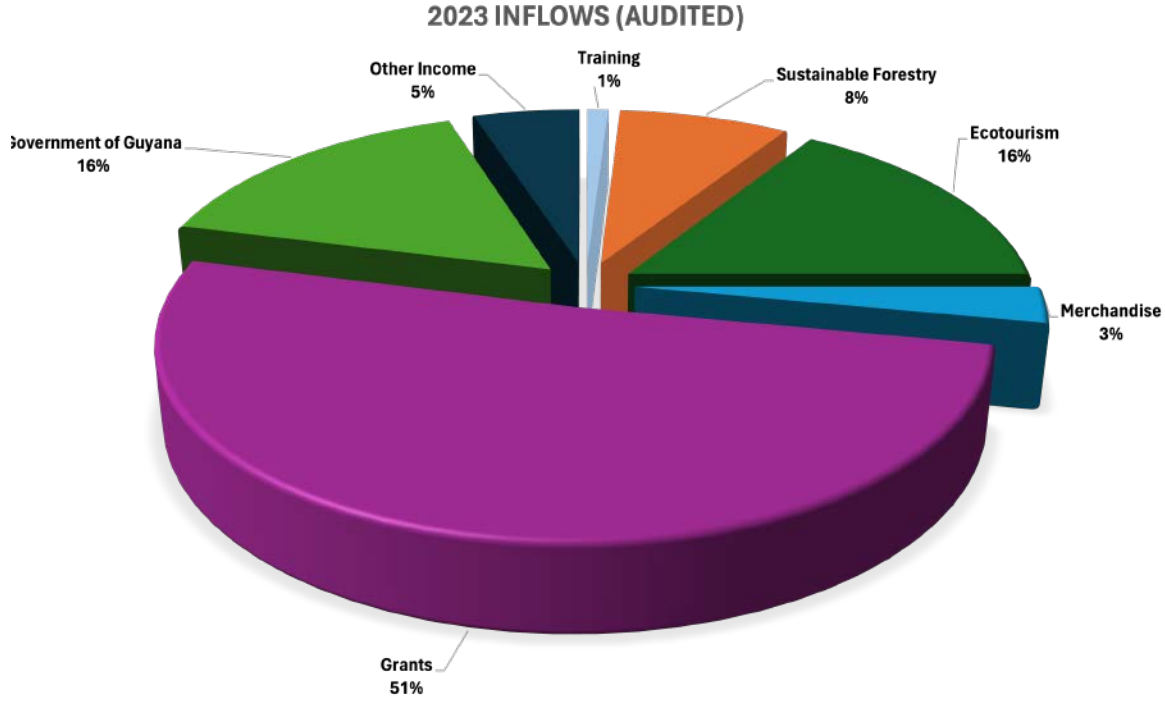
FINANCIAL REPORTS

Three years post COVID, the River Lodge welcomed more than 1,500 guests, a positive sign that the Centre's operations were returning to normalcy.

Global Timber Markets have also reopened, and so timber operations started to ramp up with its new European based partner who was engaged in May 2023.

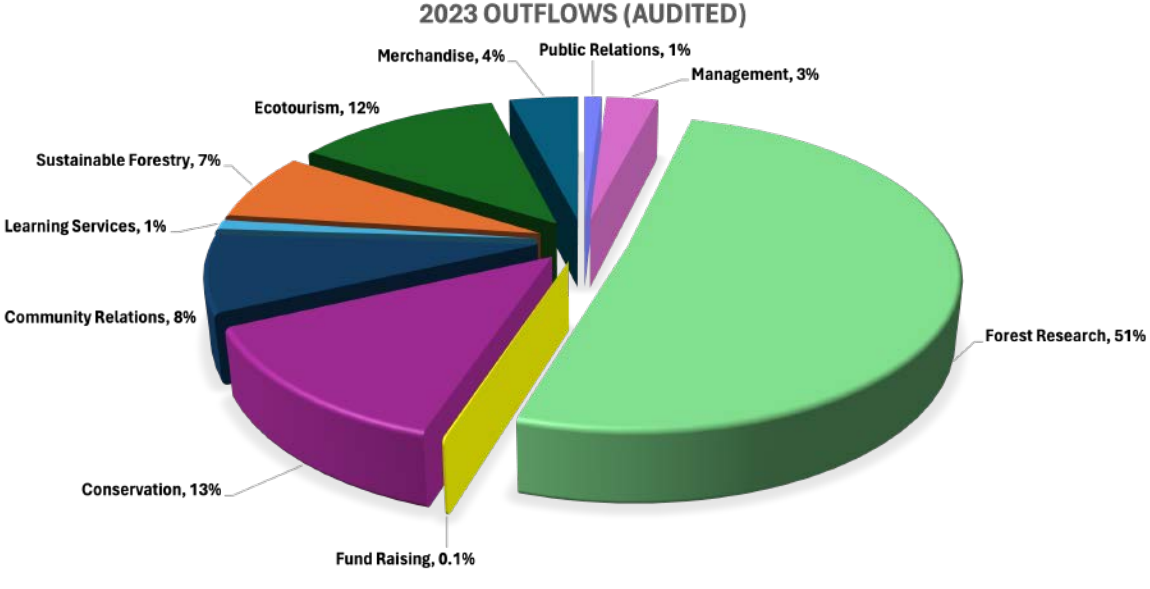
Iwokrama continued to implement the multi-year ExxonMobil Foundation project activity and completed several other grants including Biopama.

The Centre has received an unqualified audited report. Income analysis reveal that 51% of our revenues came from grants, 28% came from our businesses (forestry, merchandising, tourism and training), 5% from other sources and 16% from the Government of Guyana – which remained a solid development partner of the Centre through the tough COVID years.









The Audited expenditure report shows that 51% was for forestry research (mainly project related), 25% on business related 8% on our community work, 13% 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.

We hope that the sustainable businesses, will continue to grow in 2024 thus allowing them to make more substantive contributions to core operating costs in the longer term.

PARTNERS

- Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
- Amazon Conservation Team, Suriname
- Anton de Kon University, Suriname
- Backpack International Inc.
- Banks DIH Ltd.
- Bina Hill Training Institute
- Biomimicry Roraima
- 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
- 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
- Flying Doctors of America
- 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
- Instream Energy Systems
- Inter-American Development Bank
- International Development and Research Centre
- 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
- 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 Era Bookshop
- New GPC Inc.
- Newcastle University
- North Rupununi District Development Board
- Office of HRH The Prince of Wales (until September 2022)
- Office of the Climate Change
- Office of the First Lady
- 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.
- Republic Bank Ltd.
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- Rumi Foundation
- Ryerson University
- SBM Offshore
- 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 Guyana
- 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

Photo Credits:
J Christian, M DeMendonca, A Ford, A Harris, M Patterson, C Peters, M Pierre, R Persaud, S Seelall, A Synder, R Thomas, EMC Inc., Iwokrama International Centre.



IWOKRAMA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
RAIN FOREST CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

49 BARRACK & HIGH STREETS, KINGSTON
GEORGETOWN, GUYANA
T: 592.225.1504, 225.1186
E: IWOKRAMA-GENERAL@IWOKRAMA.ORG
W: WWW.IWOKRAMA.ORG