

IWOKRAMA

ANNUAL REPORT 2016





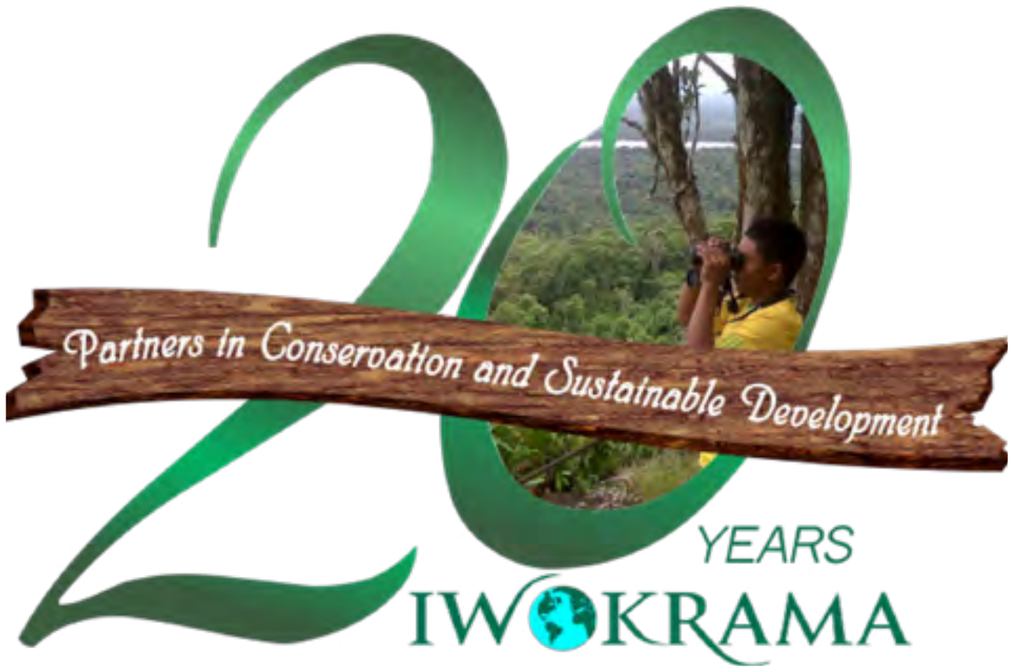


"Iwokrama, with its rich biodiversity, is pivotal to positioning our economy onto a green growth pathway. It is our key to preserving our environmental patrimony. The pursuit of sustainable development cannot be achieved unless there is an unobstructed obligation to the protection of our biodiversity. Iwokrama, with yet undiscovered and unexploited resources, is essential to our economic existence,"

His Excellency Brigadier David Granger, MSS,
President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

"So the world still needs to keep rain forests safe whilst at the same time being able to use the forest in a sustainable fashion for the national development of the countries bestowed with them – this is the safeguarding work which Iwokrama does - bringing together people, science and business to create models of sustainable forest management."

Mr. Dane Gobin
Chief Executive Officer, Iwokrama



"Iwokrama is part of the lungs of the Earth. It is a global resource helping to mitigate climate change. Guyana looks to the international community to commit more resources to the Centre to allow it to continue to be a model of sustainable development,"

His Excellency Brigadier David Granger, MSS,
President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

Long-Service staff recognized....

Maiodeen Jameer *and* ***Colin Jarvis*** *received special recognition in honour and gratitude for their dedicated service to Iwokrama for more than twenty years.*

Current and past staff and friends of Iwokrama were loud in their praise for these two gentlemen who are considered amongst the best drivers Guyana has ever produced.

Congratulations Jameer and Colin!!

On August 10th an "***Evening with Iwokrama***" was held to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the passage of the Iwokrama International Centre for Conservation and Development Act on the 7th May, 1996. The programme included presentations by His Excellency Brigadier David Granger, MSS, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Hon. Sydney Allicock, MS Vice-President, Minister of Indigenous People's Affairs and Iwokrama Trustee, Vanda Radzik - civil society activist and long-time friend of Iwokrama, Michael Williams – Deputy Chairman of the North Rupununi District Development Board and Dane Gobin, CEO of the Iwokrama International Centre. Messages were read from Iwokrama's Patron: HRH Prince Charles and Dr Patrick I Gomes, the Secretary General of the ACP and a video message from the Commonwealth Secretary-General: the Rt Honourable Patricia Scotland SC was presented. Long service awards were presented to Maiodeen Jameer and Colin Jarvis who both joined the Centre over twenty years ago and Fredrick Allicock for his invaluable contributions towards the development of the Centre.

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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)























FROM THE CEO



In 2016, the Centre celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the passage of the Iwokrama Act – twenty years of developing models of sustainable forest management. 2015 was the hottest year on record and the hottest month ever recorded on earth was August 2016 – ironically, the month Iwokrama celebrated its 20th Anniversary.

So why is our work in sustainable forest management important? Global warming, which is linked to extreme weather – more frequent droughts, heavier rainfall and more powerful hurricanes is fueled by greenhouse gasses; which are absorbed by trees. Yet still we lose an area of forest the size of 20 football fields every minute – at that rate, in 100 years there will be no more forests.

The international community has recognized the important role that forests play in regulating climate and COP 21 in Paris in December 2015 saw the international community reaching a monumental agreement on climate change. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals further highlighted the importance of sustainable forest management. A/RES/70/1 Goal 15 states "*Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.*"

His Excellency Brigadier David Granger, MSS. President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana reaffirmed his support of Iwokrama by providing funding for the Centre, the rehabilitation and upgrade of the Iwokrama – Fair View Airstrip and the construction of a brick walkway at the Iwokrama River Lodge.

His Excellency also launched National Tree Day at the Iwokrama River Lodge in October under the theme "*Sustaining Biodiversity: Plant a Tree.*"

The Commonwealth Secretariat, the Centre's other founding partner, also continued to offer support to the Centre with a visit to the Iwokrama Forest by the Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Nations: the Rt. Honourable Patricia Scotland Q.C and support for the Centre to attend a major Commonwealth sponsored Climate Change meeting in London.

In early December, Prince Harry visited the Iwokrama River Lodge and held discussions with the Centre's management on some of its challenges and successes.

Iwokrama continued its work on finding a financial model that would reduce its dependency on donor funding and return the Centre to more sustained viability. A key component of this model is Iwokrama's earned revenue sources which remained an important contributor to financing the Centre's core costs.

The Centre made good progress with the development of Phase II of its sustainable model timber harvesting and processing business

FROM THE CEO

and the Iwokrama Forest once again, became the only forest in Guyana to have achieved Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™) accreditation for Forest Management. In this regard we are grateful for support from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH-Caribbean Aqua-Terrestrial Solutions (CATS).

More importantly, the UK Government relaxed its ban on Guyana's wood by accepting FSC™ certified wood from the Iwokrama Forest.

Tourism was consistent in its contribution to Iwokrama's unrestricted revenues and the Centre served over 1,300 visitors during the year. The River Lodge was also the first lodge to receive its license from the Guyana Tourism Authority under the Interior Lodges and Resort Regulations No. 17 of 2008. The Centre also saw an increased interest in its training and research programmes from Universities in North America and Europe and from institutions such as Operation Wallacea and Earth Expeditions – University of Miami. The research, training and education component remains the area with the best prospects for growth. During the latter part of the year, the Centre launched its climate change training module using four high schools as pilots and final year students of the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Guyana toured the Centre's FSC™ certified timber operation and received a course in Sustainable Forest Management from the Centre's personnel.

The communities remained our closest partners and after an extensive consultation exercise, we renewed the Collaborative Management Agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding we have with the communities in January. During the year, members of the 20 communities toured Iwokrama's field operations including the sustainable forestry operation to get an understanding of the various aspects of Iwokrama and the Centre continued to attend the statutory meetings of the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our friends, supporters, business partners and donors who contributed during the period. I would also like to recognise the hard work of our very committed staff, the Government of Guyana who provided financial support and the communities for their unwavering support and understanding.

Already 2017, looks full of promise with the Centre moving ahead with the construction of its World Class Centre for Biodiversity Research working closely with the University of Guyana with support from the President and Government of Guyana and several donor funded projects in the pipeline.



Dane Gobin BSc MBA
Chief Executive Officer

Key Partnerships
for Sustainable Forest Management

One of Iwokrama's major strengths is its capacity to collaborate with local communities and other partners in the management of the Iwokrama Forest. Iwokrama operates in close partnership with a wide range of local, national and international partners and donors. The Centre's two founding partners are the Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat

The management of the Iwokrama Forest includes support from several stakeholders. The Forest is jointly managed by the Centre and its community partners through complex collaborative management and benefit-sharing agreements and donors provide much needed resources for the Centre to carry out its mandate.

Iwokrama's partnerships with local Government Ministries such as the Ministry of the Presidency and the Ministries of Natural Resources, Education and Foreign Affairs allowed the Centre to participate in and support national initiatives. Other partnerships included the Department of the Environment, the Guyana Forestry Commission, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency. Our partners in business development activities - timber and tourism were key to the Centre earning revenues to keep its core activities going.

The 20 local communities living in and around the Iwokrama Forest are key to the effective management and monitoring of the Forest as they frequently use the forest and can quickly spot illegal operators and infractions in the forest.

Consultations were held with the communities throughout the year so that we could finalize revisions of the Collaborative Management Agreement (CMA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Centre and the communities.

Other national partners included the University of Guyana, the Protected Area Commission, World Wildlife Fund- Guyana and Conservation International- Guyana amongst others.

At the international level, the Centre engaged with several donors including Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative, the United Nations Development Programme, the European Union, University of Massachusetts – Boston, Biomimicry Roraima and CIFOR amongst others.

Newcastle University, University of the West Indies, University of Miami and Operation Wallacea are a few of our international science and research partners.

The Centre recognizes the valuable input of these stakeholders and partners in its work.

IWOKRAMA'S INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. R. K. Pachauri: Chairman,

Mr. Deodat Maharaj: Deputy-Chairman,

The Hononrable Mr. Sydney Allicock: Minister of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, Guyana

Mr. James Singh: Guyana Forestry Commission, Guyana

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

Dr. Elizabeth Losos: Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS)

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

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

Mr. Dane Gobin: Iwokrama, Guyana

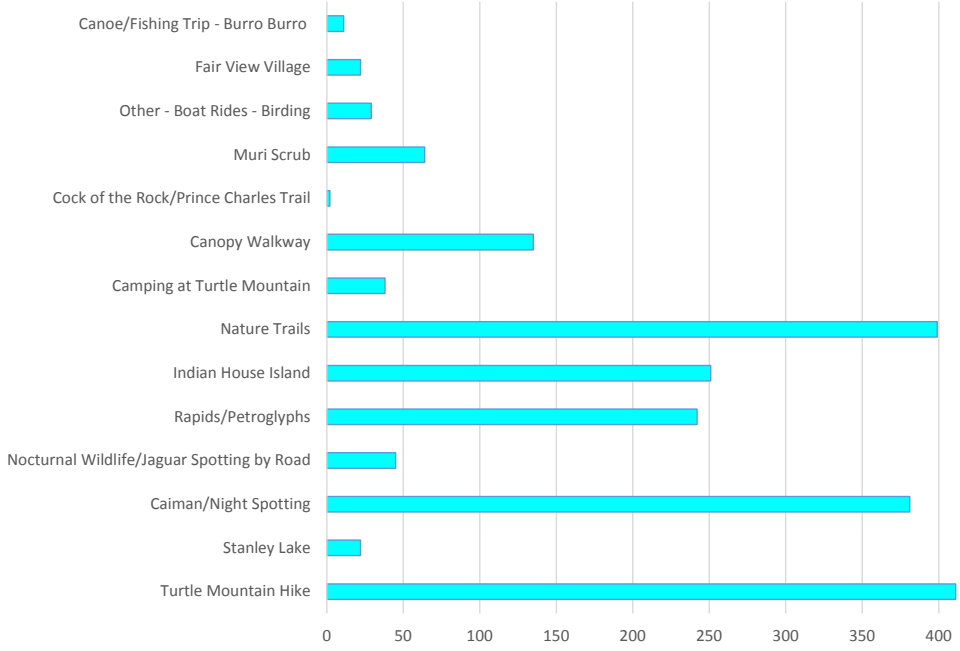
TOURISM



The Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre is located on the bank of the majestic Essequibo River in the heart of Guyana. This gem is in the 371,000 ha Iwokrama Forest - a gift to the world from the Government and people of Guyana to demonstrate its commitment to climate change mitigation and sustainable forest management.

The Iwokrama River Lodge continues to be one of the most visited destinations in the North Rupununi. Tourism, Iwokrama's oldest sustainable business, has always been a consistent revenue earner and saw a 3.6% increase from the previous year, bringing the total visitors for 2016 to 1356.

The increasing interest of birders and the growing numbers of Guyanese visitors to Iwokrama were the main reasons for the increase. The chart below shows the most popular activities in 2016 were the Turtle Mountain Hike, Nature walks and River tours.



Product Development and Enhancement

CERTIFICATION: INTERIOR LODGES AND RESORT REGULATIONS

The Iwokrama River Lodge was the first and only property to meet conformity requirements for 2016 under the Interior Lodges and Resort Regulations No. 17 of 2008. The License was issued by the Guyana Tourism Authority on the 23rd September.


Certificate of Conformity

TRAINING: TOUR GUIDE

Iwokrama facilitated tour guide training for several tourism operaters and partners. New information and bird-guiding techniques were provided by expert guide Waldyke Prince. Training lasted for four days and all participants received certificates.

The Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) provided training for tour guides focused mainly on tours of Georgetown. Shara Seelall, marketing and PR coordinator attended and received a Tour Guiding certificate that qualifies her to conduct Georgetown City Tours.

TRAINING: PASTRY AND DESSERT PREP.

Canadian Executive Service Organisation (CESO) volunteers provided training in pastry making and dessert preparations for the kitchen staff at the Iwokrama River Lodge.

CESO is a grant program offered through the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG) to provide training in tourism related skills.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Iwokrama was awarded the People's Choice Award for Responsible Tourism by the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) on November 25th 2016. The GTA held an Award Ceremony to honour persons within the industry for their outstanding investment, dedication and service to the tourism industry.



Marketing and Promotion

includes attendance at trade shows to promote Iwokrama's sustainable businesses, production of annual reports, sponsorship of environmental and community development events such as the popular annual wildlife festival for the wildlife clubs from the communities.

JANUARY: Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana Sales Blitz in Trinidad. Booths were set up at two of the main malls in Trinidad and a cocktail reception, where the team from Guyana met with all the tour operators in Trinidad.

FEBRUARY: Travel & Adventure Show in Washington D.C. Nearly 5000 persons visited Iwokrama's booth and were intrigued about Guyana and Iwokrama.

MARCH: Iwokrama participated in Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana Sales Blitz in Guyana held at the Giftland Mall.

MAY: Jubilee Festival in honour of Guyana's 50th Independence Anniversary. At the Jubilee Festival, Iwokrama launched its "*Golden Jubilee Special*". This affordable all inclusive package ran from May 1 - August 31.

TIMBER



Iwokrama manages 371,000 ha of tropical rain forest to demonstrate that environmental conservation, social consciousness and sustainable economic activities can be mutually reinforcing and still contribute to the reduction of global deforestation rates. Iwokrama shows that a rain forest can be used for real sustainability, real climate change protection and real community benefit.

Iwokrama Forest certified for Forest Management

Iwokrama received Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™) Certification for Forest Management for the Iwokrama Forest on 14th October 2016 following a main assessment conducted by Soil Association Certification Ltd. in September. The Iwokrama Forest is now the only area in Guyana that is FSC™ certified for Forest Management.

FSC™ Certification is a voluntary global forest certification system with 10 principles (9 of which are applicable to Iwokrama; Principle 10 refers to Plantation Forests). It is the highest international accolade that forest owners/managers can achieve for forest management, forest production systems and forest products. It promotes and validates good forest management i.e. management that is socially, environmentally and economically sound.



Iwokrama expresses its thanks to the German Government for providing support through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) implemented Caribbean Aqua-Terrestrial Solutions Programme for its support in preparing for Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™) Certification. Special gratitude to Dr Horst Vogel of the GIZ programme for his support and for taking a special interest in this project.

Our appreciation also goes out to the Guiana Shield Tropical Timber Programme of the Netherlands (appointed by the IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative)

For more information: www.fsc.org/en
www.caribbeancats.org









Iwokrama showcased Model Timber Harvesting operation at the Commonwealth Secretariat.



In February, Iwokrama hosted a stakeholder meeting at the Commonwealth Secretariat, Malborough House in London to showcase Iwokrama's Model Timber Harvesting Operation. During this meeting technical and strategic presentations were made by Iwokrama's Chief Executive Officer, Forest Management personnel and Iwokrama's private sector partner – Farfan and Mendes Ltd.

Discussions included selection of species, harvesting volumes and products, Iwokrama's sustainable forest management practices, the involvement of local communities in the business model and Iwokrama's efforts to achieve FSC™ Certification.

Participants included the Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth and representatives from Canopy Capital, Commonwealth Forestry Association, Sustainable Trade Initiative, Aitken and Howard Ltd, Wijma UK Ltd, Evergreen Forest Products, former members of Iwokrama's International Board of Trustees, Operation Wallacea and McVantage-Guyana (associates of Farfan and Mendes Ltd.)

This event was supported by Caribbean Aqua-Terrestrial Solutions Programme (implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) funded by the German Government).



Greenheart Ban relaxed: UK Buyer accepts Iwokrama's FSC™ Certified Timber

More than a year after one of the biggest traders in the United Kingdom placed a procurement ban on Guyana's Greenheart (*Chlorocardium rodiei*), the ban was relaxed allowing Iwokrama's FSC™ Certified Timber.

The FSC™ Forest Management Certification allowed the Centre and its partners full access to key international markets and has set a precedent for other operators in Guyana to follow.

The FSC™ label gives consumers the assurance that the wood and wood-based products they purchase were sourced from responsibly managed forests.

Forestry Students from the University of Guyana visit the Iwokrama Forest

Eleven students and a lecturer from the Forestry Department of the University of Guyana visited the forest to learn more about sustainable forest management (SFM). The third-year students who were taking the Forest Industries and Marketing Course (FOR 3104) which includes the procedures for Forest Certification visited the Iwokrama Forest to observe a fully certified timber operation.

Iwokrama's Forest Manager provided information on Iwokrama's SFM Practices after which the students went into the field for practical demonstrations on reduced impact logging practices, sawmilling and site rehabilitation.

TRAINING



Iwokrama's training programme is dedicated to capacity building of the citizens of Guyana, the region and the world. With 371,000 ha of relatively intact forest, unique and amazing biodiversity, strong community partnerships and a broad spectrum of ecosystems, the Iwokrama Forest offers the perfect "living laboratory" where students can learn first-hand about the rain forest and all that is involved in effective management.

Operation Wallacea Expedition: The sixth annual Operation Wallacea Expedition was implemented in the Iwokrama Forest and Surama Village These scientific expeditions continue to provide valuable data for Iwokama and Surama's long term monitoring programmes.

The science team included Dr Burton Lim (Royal Ontario Museum) and Deirdre Jafferally with small mammals, Dr. Brian O Shea (North Carolina Museum of Natural Science) who looked at birds, Matt Hallet (Miami University) continued his work with large mammals using camera traps. Dr. Dan Fitzpatrick focused on dung beetles and Hannah O Sullivan and Kenneth Butler (of Surama) focused on herpetology. Volunteers and students were again provided with an opportunity to learn about scientific techniques for faunal surveys.

Iwokrama Rangers, Surama villagers and former University of Guyana interns continued to provide important support for these expeditions. This year four interns from University of Guyana and four Rangers from the Kanaku Mountain Protected Area joined the team.









Mexico-Iwokrama Partnership



There were two exchange visits between experts of CONANP (Protected Areas Commission of Mexico) and Iwokrama in 2016.

This collaboration grew from an objective of sharing information and lessons learned in protected areas management and research. In April 2016, Mexican officials, visited the Iwokrama Forest and the North Rupununi.

In October 2016, Vanessa Benn and Raquel Thomas of Iwokrama visited the Calakmul Protected Area in Mexico. The Iwokrama Forest and Calakmul Reserve have many commonalties but also have many aspects that can be learned and shared.

In Mexico, the Iwokrama team visited several protected areas sites, indigenous communities (mostly Mayan), an ancient Mayan city and interacted with and gave presentations on Guyana and Iwokrama to CONANP staff and indigenous students.

The team also visited the forest to learn about the chicle bleeding of the tree Manilkara spp. which mirrors balata bleeding (*Manilkara bidentata*) in Guyana and the factory where the chicle organic and certified gum was produced.

Support for the visit to Mexico was provided by the very kind courtesy of the Mexican Embassy in Guyana

Memorandum of Understanding inked with Panthera

Panthera is a private, not-for-profit organization based in New York, USA. Founded in 2006, Panthera's sole mission is conservation of the world's 37 species of wild cats. Utilizing the knowledge and expertise of the world's top cat biologists, and working in partnership with local and international NGOs, scientific institutions, and government agencies, Panthera develops, implements, and oversees range-wide species conservation strategies.

The focus on the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) is aimed at creating the world's most extensive genetic corridor for a species and promoting connectivity between populations throughout the entire landscape.

Panthera signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Guyana in 2013 to undertake research and conservation initiatives to protect Guyana's national animal: the jaguar through conservation, education and mitigation of human jaguar related conflicts.



In 2016, Iwokrama and Panthera signed a MoU with the aim to develop and implement strategic actions for the science and conservation of jaguars in Guyana, framed under Panthera's Jaguar Corridor Initiative.

Kanaku Protected Areas –Iwokrama Staff exchange

The relationship between Iwokrama and the Protected Areas Commission continued in 2016 with the Kanuku Mountain Rangers' participation in the 2016 season of Operation Wallacea. This was a great opportunity for the rangers to work with scientists to learn more about scientific methods of faunal data collection.

Kanaku Protected Areas –Iwokrama Staff exchange cont'd

Later in the year, two of Iwokrama's senior rangers, Micah Davis and Martin Carter participated in an expedition in the Kanaku Mountains specially focused on camera trapping techniques. The expedition was facilitated by Iwokrama associate scientist, Matt Hallett and the Protected Areas Commission. The Iwokrama rangers who have years of experience in camera trapping techniques and other monitoring techniques were able to share their valuable experience with the Kanaku Mountain/PAC team.

Three Kanaku Mountain rangers also attended a botany training session led by Iwokrama staffers in December 2016.

Outreach to Schools



Iwokrama, with support from the Government of Guyana embarked on a series of climate change awareness workshops in high schools along the coast.

The objective of this programme was to help build awareness among high school students on the effects of climate change and the actions undertaken by Guyana to address these effects.

A total of one hundred and fifty three (153) students and eleven (11) teachers participated from Christ Church Secondary, Christianburg-Wismar Secondary, Berbice High School and President's College.

During the half-day sessions, participants discussed and explored:

- The role and importance of the Iwokrama Forest and other protected areas of Guyana (Kanuku Mountains, Shell Beach, Kaieteur National Park and Koneshen Community Owned Conservation Area).

- Climate change, the causes and effects and actions taken by Guyana and internationally to address and counter this phenomenon.

During the sessions, staff and friends of Iwokrama shared their experiences and passion for the work they do and offered guidance to students on planning for careers in natural resource management and conservation. Teachers and students expressed enthusiasm for continued education and awareness programmes and were particularly keen on visiting the Iwokrama Forest and the various protected areas in Guyana to have hands-on experience

Iwokrama and 'Round Town':

Alex Arjoon from the show 'Round Town', which airs on on E-Networks joined the Iwokrama team on the school outreach.

'Round Town' highlights the culture and beauty of Guyana and reflects on topical issues within Guyanese society.
One episode will focus on issues related to sustainability and youth.

Up-Cycling Competition:

A spin–off of one of the workshops: Berbice High Students competed against each other to design an innovative piece through up-cycling or recycling.

The winner of this competition won an all-expense paid trip to Kaieteur Falls - kind compliments of Mrs. Annette Arjoon-Martins and Air Services Limited.

MONITORING



Monitoring is an essential component of sustainable forest management: Iwokrama collects critical information to assess the status of and monitor changes in the forest's ecosystems. Iwokrama's aim is to identify areas or species that may be adversely affected by anthropogenic activities and use the data collected to mitigate negative impacts.

In 2016, Iwokrama's Monitoring unit continued to execute the biophysical monitoring programme by collecting data on key species which are known to be important indicators of the ecological health of the forest and rivers.

A total of 37 road patrols, 5 upstream and 9 downstream river patrols were executed within and along the borders of the Iwokrama Forest. River patrols observed that the water quality in the Siparuni River continues to be negatively affected by small mining operations along the north side of that river. Wildlife observations along the road and rivers remained constant throughout the year. The Monitoring Unit has been pursuing more collaborative monitoring systems in order to safeguard the integrity of the Iwokrama Forest.

Iwokrama currently has a co-monitoring agreement with the village of Surama for the monitoring of the Burro Burro River within Iwokrama as it is known as an important spawning area for various fish populations.

Iwokrama's Rangers are currently negotiating with the villages of Apoteri and Rewa for co-monitoring of the Eessequibo and Rupununi Rivers.

Iwokrama-Fair View Airstrip Extended

The renovation and extension of the Iwokrama- Fair View Airstrip was completed in December 2016. The airstrip has been extended to 4,500 linear feet and can now accommodate larger aircraft with the hope of increasing the efficiency of transportation to and from Iwokrama. The original airstrip was built in 2007.

Extension works included construction of a ring-road and a fence for security purposes with funding from the Government of Guyana.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Iwokrama's relationship with its local community partners is based on equal partnerships rather than the more traditional relationships: patron-client or senior partner-junior partner. Iwokrama benefits from the knowledge, skills and support of local communities and in return, the communities are partners/shareholders in the management and conservation of the Iwokrama Forest.

Innovative Agreements with the NRDDB reviewed and renewed

Iwokrama's unique relationship with community partner, the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) is outlined in a Collaborative Management Agreement (CMA) and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which sets out guidelines on how the Iwokrama Forest should be managed between the Iwokrama Centre and the communities. The NRDDB is the umbrella organisation that represents the interest of the local communities of the North Rupununi. The first CMA was initially cosigned by sixteen community partners in 2005 and was subsequently renewed in 2011 and 2014.

The renewal process was the result of 4 months of consultations with the communities which extend from Fair View in the Iwokrama Forest, to the riverain communities of Rewa, Crash Water and Apoteri and across the rolling savannahs to the foot hills of the Pakaraima Mountains - with approximately 7,000 residents. These consultations resulted in rich dialogue and a deeper understanding of the relationship between the organizations. Three drafts were presented for review and consultation which resulted in many changes to the agreement.

A simple signing ceremony was held on January 14th during a statutory meeting of the NRDDB, which for the first time, was held at the Centre's River Lodge located at Kurupukari on the Upper Essequibo River. This commendable achievement is a great example of Iwokrama's relationship with its community partners.









Arapaima Rescue and Community Collaboration



In January, the Rupununi Savannahs faced severe drought and water levels in wells, creeks and rivers were extremely low. In the Rewa River, the endangered arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*), the largest, scaled fresh water fish in the world, were trapped in drying ponds.

Iwokrama rangers mentored Bina Hill Student volunteers and collaborated with other community members to implement a successful rescue of more than twenty-five adult arapaima from drying ponds to the Rewa River.



Earth Expedition visits Iwokrama

The University of Miami, Ohio's Earth Expedition course visits Iwokrama annually in June. In its sixth year, the course entitled "*Local Wisdom for Conservation*" gives masters' students an up-close opportunity to understand conservation and the importance of indigenous knowledge for resource management.

EPA Green Award for Environmental Leadership

The Environmental Protection Agency Guyana presented Iwokrama with the award for Environmental Leadership in recognition of outstanding leadership and innovation towards sustainability practices through the Centre's work with wildlife clubs in the North Rupununi, Region 9.





Monitoring for Management

In May 2016, a short course focusing on inquiry-based research was hosted for Bina Hill Students.

Iwokrama's Rangers worked with 37 students to build skills in field research techniques. It is anticipated that they will be equipped with the skills to monitor and better manage their resources.



11th Wildlife Festival hosted in Annai

Respect the Power of Nature for the Future was the theme for the 11th extravaganza for youth in wildlife clubs. During the 2-day festival in March, indigenous youth celebrated the environment though sports, art, poetry and culture. Two hundred and four participants from twelve clubs participated this year and the Centre invited collaboration from other organizations, the private and public sector and individuals who provided t-shirts and prizes for participants.

During the event, community leaders and mentors volunteered their time and expertise to judge events such as traditional archery, cotton spinning and cassava grating. Experienced facilitators also mentored and provided insight and leadership in sessions that addressed social issues facing today's youth.

SCIENCE & RESEARCH



Science and research are an integral part of Iwokrama's mission to demonstrate conservation and responsible use of forest resources. The Iwokrama Forest is a well-researched ecosystem: extensive baseline and historical data and unique partnerships with local communities makes Iwokrama perfectly placed for long-term research into the effects of climate change and human interventions on the forest.

Iwokrama supports fourth Biodiversity Congress on the Guiana Shield

Iwokrama was proud to support the **IV International Congress on Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield** which was held at the Arthur Chung Convention Centre, Georgetown, Guyana from August 8 - 12, 2016. This meeting of academics, specialists, policy-makers, loggers, miners and other forest users, professors and students, professionals and advocates, local and indigenous community leaders and volunteers, engaged over 300 participants from the Guiana Shield countries (Brazil, Colombia, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela), Japan, North America and Europe in academic presentations, keynote speeches, panel discussions, poster presentations, workshops and field trips.

The Congress was organized under the auspices of the International Society on Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield (IBG) and through a local organizing committee led by the Guyana Society on Biodiversity and Ecosystems (the IBG affiliate in Guyana) with support of the United Nations Development Programme, Guiana Shield Facility, World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International-Guyana, University of Guyana, the Government of Guyana and Iwokrama.

The IV IBG Congress was held under the theme ***"Leveraging our High Endemicity, Cultural Diversity and Intact Ecosystems for Inclusive Growth and Secure Futures"*** and provided a forum for discussion stemming from more than one hundred oral presentations.

Presentations made by Iwokrama Staff and colleagues included:

Bat Monitoring and REDD+ at Iwokrama Forest and Surama Village in Central Guyana (*Dr. B Lim)*

Community owned solutions: identifying local best practices for social-ecological sustainability in the Guiana Shield *(Dr. J Mistry)*

The challenge of transmitting indigenous practices and knowledge in a rapidly changing worlds for sustainability (*Dr. D Jafferally*)

Reconciling timber extraction with biodiversity conservation in tropical forests using reduced impact logging (*Dr. J Bicknell*)

New records of the bush dog (*Speothos venaticus*) from camera traps and opportunistic encounters in the Rupununi Region (*M Hallett and S James)*

The implications of traditional shifting cultivation practices among the Makushi people for sustainability and conservation in the North Rupununi, Guyana (Dr. D Jafferally)

New distributional records of amphibians and reptiles revealed through rapid inventories across Guyana (Dr. A Snyder)

Designing protected area networks for biodiversity conservation under REDD+ (Dr. J Bicknell).

Georgetown FLEGT Seminar: Sharing Regional Lessons on VPA Processes: Transitioning from Negotiations to Implementation.





Guyana is engaged in a process of negotiations with the European Union for a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) under the global Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. The plan outlines the EU's response to the problem of illegal logging and trade in associated timber products.

However, a recent evaluation reported that despite successes in the deliberative processes which the FLEGT VPAs have promoted, FLEGT licensed timber is still not on the world market.

In response, Guyana's National Technical Working Group and the FLEGT Facilitation Support Office collaborated with the Amerindian Peoples Association (APA), European Forest Institute (EFI), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Iwokrama to promote the exchange of experience and lessons learned from countries that are in the implementation phase.

This regional event, the second in the series was held in Georgetown during September 2016 under the theme ***"Sharing Regional Lessons on VPA processes: Transitioning from Negotiations to Implementation"*** and attracted over ninety (90) participants from 10 countries including Ghana, Guatemala Honduras, Liberia and the European Union.

The participants included loggers and sawmillers in the timber trade and representatives from Government, Civil Society, Private Sector, NGOs and Academia.

Topics discussed included:
Experiences in Transitioning from Negotiations to Implementation; Lessons Learned from Civil Society in the Implementation of VPAs; Timber Legality Systems; the International Timber Market and Opportunities and Challenges in Transitioning from Negotiation to Implementation Phase.

For further information please see: http://www.forestry.gov.gy/2016/10/07/regional-seminar-held-to-share-lessons-on-forest-law-enforcement-governance-and-trade-voluntary-partnerships-agreements-flegt-vpa-in-support-of-the-legal-trade-in-timber/

Iwokrama partners in Panel Discussion and Mini-Exhibition for Agriculture Month & World Food Day 2016.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations lead worldwide observances for Agriculture Month and World Food Day during October, under the theme ***"Climate is Changing. Food and Agriculture must too"***

Iwokrama joined partners at FAO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Ministry of Agriculture, Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and Conservation International Guyana (CI) in an organized Panel Discussion and mini - Exhibition for Agriculture Month & World Food Day on October 20, 2016.

Support Community Development and Conservation

Iwokrama is registered in the US as a non-profit organization which is tax exempt under section 501(c)(3).

Contributions may be made

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FINANCIAL REPORT



"Earned revenues led by sustainable forestry and ecotourism continued to be crucial to the Centre's survival during the year"

"Phase II of our sustainable forestry operations built significant capacity during the year and made a good contribution to our core costs. We maintained our austerity programme and expect that a recommitment by its founding partners and a fully constituted Board, the Centre will make strong strides towards achieving a sustainable financial model"

Dane Gobin, CEO

Overview

The 2016 audit report, similar to those of previous years, has also earned a clean and unqualified audit opinion.

Total income was up 34 % to US$1,400,390 in 2016 from US$1,043,398 in 2015. Grant funding was up 48% to US$555,195 from US$374,966 in 2015 mainly because of a US$345,234 grant from the Government of Guyana. Overall, grants accounted for 40% of total revenues in 2016 as opposed to 36% in 2015.

Over the period, and for the second consecutive time, the Centre's businesses provided good contributions to Centre's core costs earning US$661,881 for 2016. This earned revenue was up 7% from 2015's figure of US$619,534. These represent 47% and 60% of total income respectively (it should be noted that "other" income was unusually high because of the disposal of vehicular assets which would distort the percentages).

We are confident that the Centre's 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.

Total expenditure of US$1,293,666 (excluding depreciation) was 13% above the 2015 figure of US$1,143,837. This slight increase in expenditure when compared with the more substantive corresponding 34% increase in income levels was the result of the Centre ramping up its businesses whilst at the same time still employing its austerity programme.

We would like to express our sincerest thanks to the Government of Guyana, the European Union, United Nations Development Programme, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, GEF Small Grants Programme and the IDH

FINANCIAL REPORT

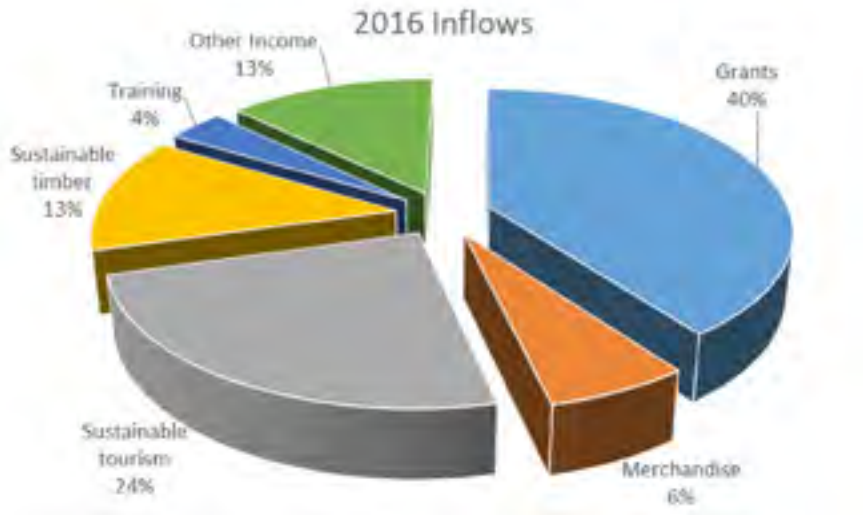
Sustainable Trade Initiative amongst others for making contributions over the period.

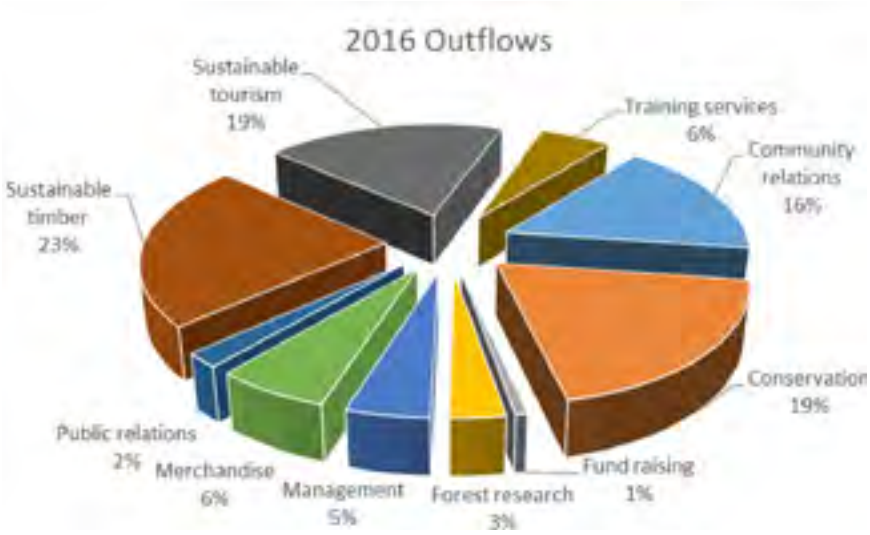
Overall, the Centre's financial position improved by ending the year with a surplus of US$106,724 as against a deficit of US$100,439 in 2015. We are very confident that timber revenues in 2017 will further improve this surplus position. From a cash flow perspective, the Centre ended 2016 with a cash flow of US$137,072 as compared with US$4,849 for 2015.

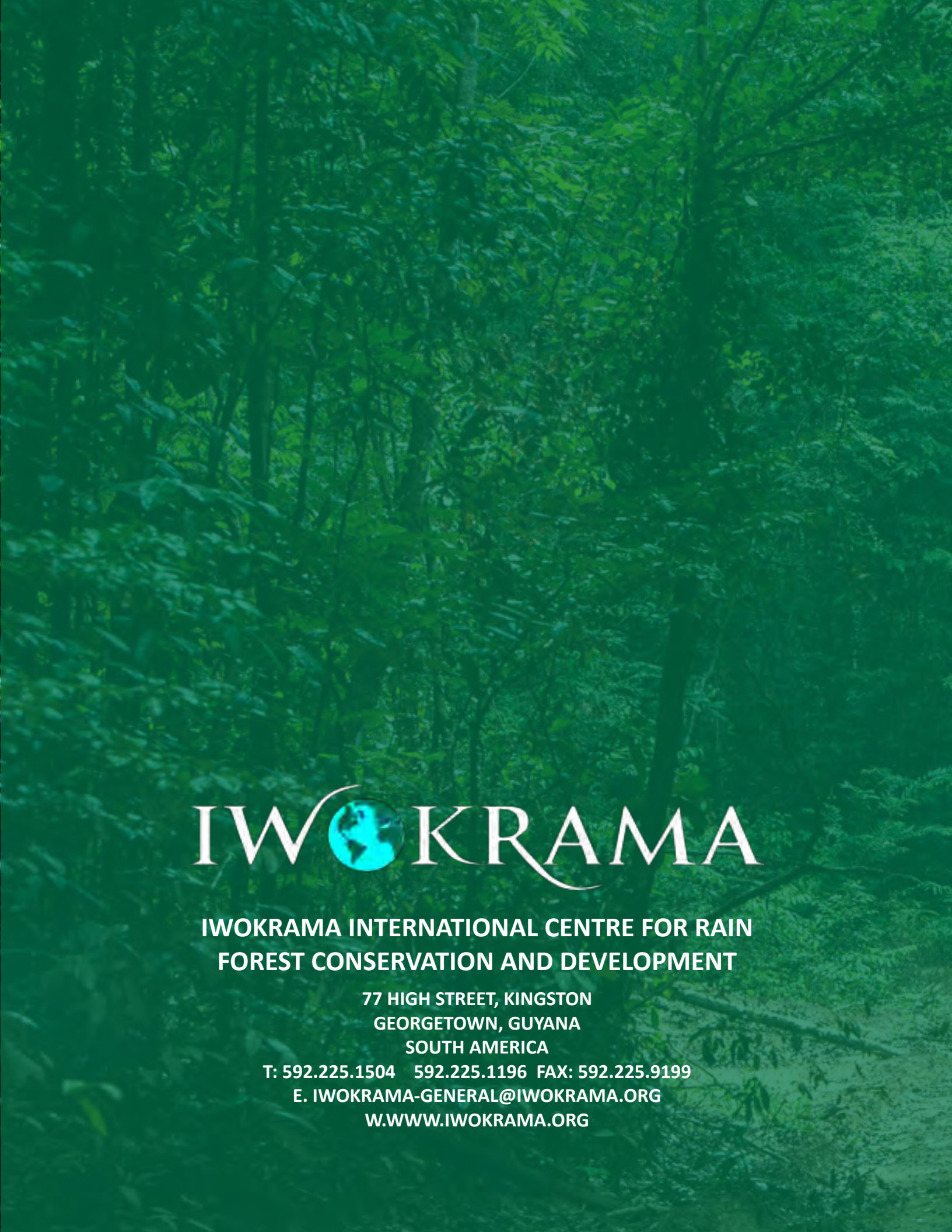
The charts which follow show the contributions to total revenue from the various revenue sources and the percentage of programmatic expenditure of overall expenditure (excluding depreciation).



Dane Gobin BSc MBA
Chief Executive Officer







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