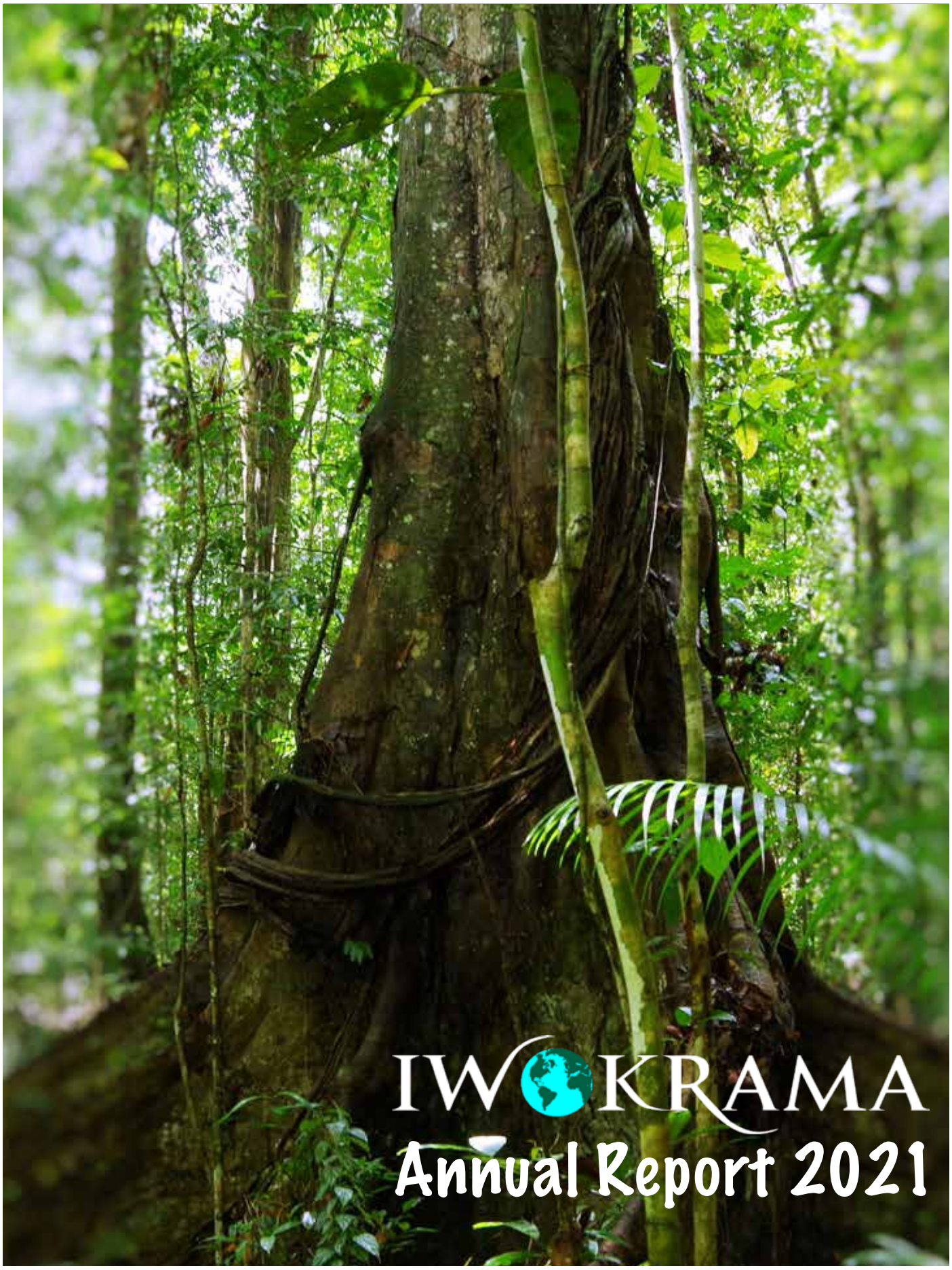

IWOKRAMA
Annual Report 2021



Iwokrama Celebrated 25 years since the Centre's Establishment

On March 14th, Iwokrama celebrated 25 years since the passage of the Iwokrama Act (Act No 7 of 1996) in the National Parliament. The Act was assented to on May 7th by then President H.E. Dr. Cheddie Jagan, MP which marked the establishment of the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development.

In April, Iwokrama launched an education series of presentations and videos as a first activity to mark this occasion. This series is meant to be educational for students, the general public and targets issues such as biodiversity, protected areas and the business of conservation.

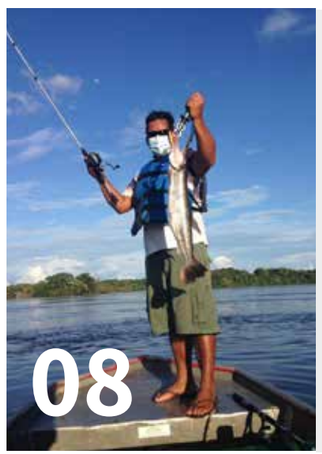
The videos can be viewed on Iwokrama's YouTube Channel - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQSsDr3RYfWqK65hLIkddEw/featured

As part of the celebrations , Iwokrama teamed with the '*Main Street Artists' Group*' and the '*Moving Circle of Artists*' for an art exhibition and sale in November.

The groups also collaborated with Protected Areas Commission to paint some of the tree stumps at the National Park as part of pre-exhibition activities. Appreciation to Banks DIH for their support.

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FROM THE CEO

COVID–19 continued to create disruptions for the Centre, resulting in several adjustments to its workplan in 2021.

Despite markets remaining mostly soft, staffing and logistical disruptions caused by COVID-19 and an unusually heavy rainy season, our sustainable forestry business chugged along during the year. We successfully completed another Forest Certification Surveillance Audit and worked with Fair View village to develop their community-based forestry project. Tourism suffered the most from markets that were still closed owing to travel restrictions and the rising costs of inputs globally. Never-the-less, the Centre pressed on, serving 650 guests (approximately 50% of its pre-COVID level).

Operations in the field also slowed significantly for most of the year with travel restrictions and temporary pauses in work which made it difficult to execute projects in a timely manner. A substantive education group from the UK cancelled its trip but encouragingly, a US based learning institution, visited Iwokrama over the summer. Illegal activities in the forest, most notably illegal mining continued and Iwokrama worked with its partners, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana and Geology and Mines Commission to conduct monitoring and enforcement activities during the year.

In spite of these challenges, the Centre still delivered on some key outputs for the year. We were able to continue our biodiversity research project in partnership with Kent University and University of Guyana which includes a scholarship for a PhD student, we completed some key research projects with regard to post harvest silvicultural surveys, data analysis and Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) and started a project funded by ACTO to conduct research on three indicator species in the forest. Iwokrama continued its work on Virtual Reality (VR) which is expected to help change the way we manage the Iwokrama Forest. Iwokrama has also partnered with Environmental Management Consultants (EMC) to conduct a hydrology project on the upper and lower Essequibo River.

COVID-19 also resulted in limited engagement with our community partners. We attended the first NRDDB meeting in November after 20 months, but were providing regular quarterly reports to the communities. In partnership with the Ministry of Health, we provided emergency COVID-19 and other healthcare services for the communities.

Repsol Exploracion-Guyana S.A continued their support which allowed the Centre to continue to its education and outreach activities in the local communities and nationally, through publications and provision of educational material and solar



upgrades in Fair View and Surama. Donors also supported Iwokrama's Annual Christmas gift drive for Fair View Village, since there could be no party this year.

To support its fundraising programme, Iwokrama completed a draft brochure to support a new Sponsor a Hectare programme it hopes to launch in the 2nd quarter in 2022 after consultations with Government. We finalized the Biopama Project which will support monitoring and finalized a sizeable Exxon Foundation Grant for research and community development activities in the Forest to be implemented in 2022.

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. We are very grateful to Repsol Exploracion-Guyana S.A., Evergreen Forest Products Inc, Wilderness Explorers and other donors for their continued support. Special thanks to the Exxon Mobil Foundation who provided a substantive grant for our 2022 Science and Community Programmes.

I would also like to recognize the hard work of our staff who remained committed despite challenging financial and other personal circumstances - this made it possible for Iwokrama to survive the year. Special thanks to our founding partners, the Government of Guyana which continued to provide financial support over the year 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.

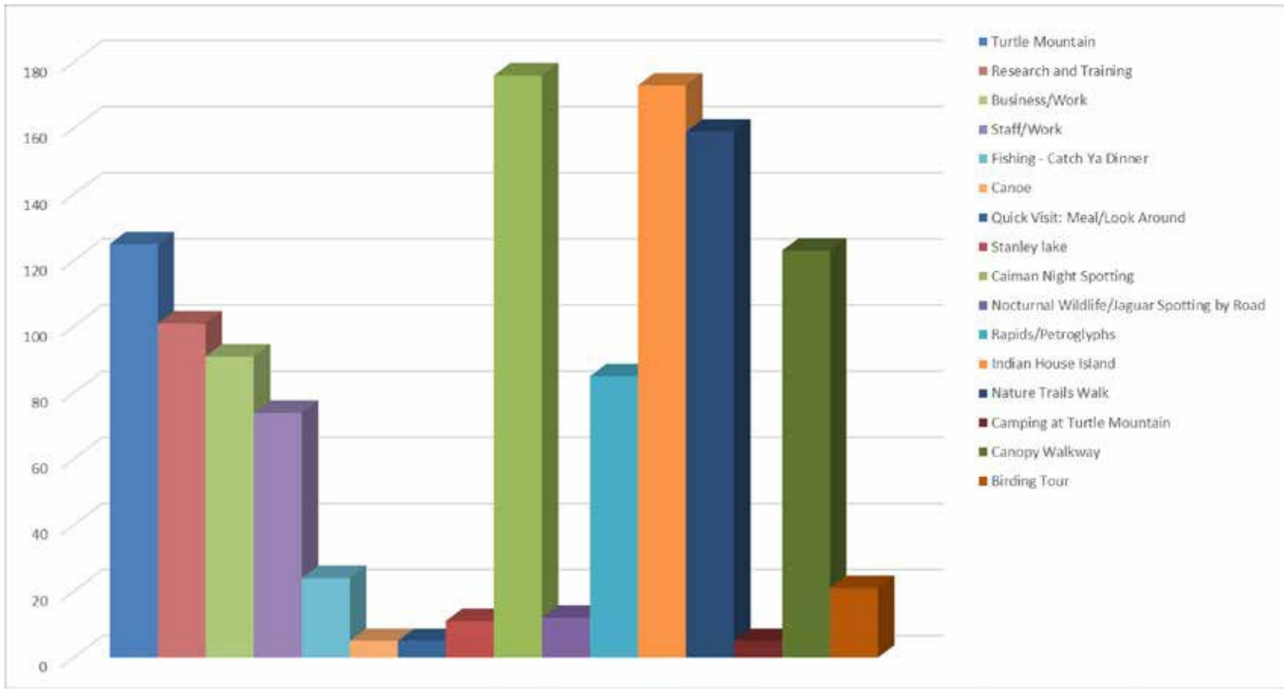
2022 will be a better year. Already the Government's vaccination programme is resulting in reduced mortality rates and the Centre will continue to align its work to support the Government's new and expanded Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). We will also continue to work on building a new model of forest management using virtual reality and online platforms to circumvent the disruptions from the still enduring COVID-19 pandemic.



Dane Gobin
Chief Executive Officer

TOURISM

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



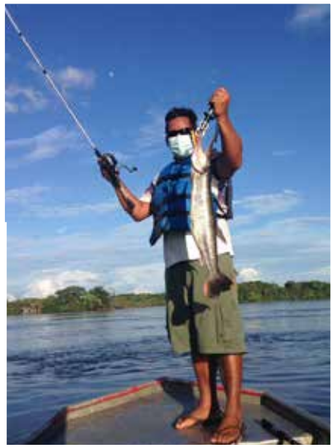
Even with the novel Covid-19 virus and unusually heavy rains and flooding, Iwokrama hosted more than 600 guests at the River Lodge, almost 50% increase from 2020. The majority of our visitors were Guyanese – in response to our post covid-19 domestic package, followed by the USA.

The most popular tours were boat tours - Caiman Spotting and Indian House Island, followed by nearby Nature Trails, Turtle Mountain and the Canopy Walkway.

Our new fishing tour "***Catch ya dinner***" showed great promise among avid fishermen and we hope that interest will continue to grow in 2022.















New Tours

An Extended Fishing Tour

This seasonal tour will take the fishers upstream over the Kurupukari Rapids, Accouri Falls, Marataitai Rapids, Gold Falls and up to Koratoka rapids, or downstream to Turtle Pond, and up to Stanley Lake and Burro Burro River during the months of September - April.

Target species include Peacock bass, wolf fish, silver drum fish, Lou Lou, Redtail Catfish, Arawana and a series of catfish.

Think Iwokrama! A Wedding Destination with a Difference!

For those couples who are thinking of a small wedding in an exotic location, the Iwokrama Forest may be the perfect place.

The Iwokrama River Lodge offers scenic and tranquil beauty, spacious green lawns, and a beautiful dining area, surrounded by lush rainforest, making it ideal for those who have a more adventurous spirit.

TIMBER

Iwokrama's new partner – Evergreen Forest Products Inc has settled in but not without some challenges - including unusually heavy rains, soft markets and equipment sourcing challenges. However, they completed about 50% of the planned annual harvest. New staffing in key senior positions by year's-end provide a positive outlook for 2022.













Forestry Research

The Oxford Project

The Oxford Carbon Assessment Project, which was co-funded by the Oxford University and the Global Challenges Research Fund, terminated this year. However, due to the valuable information generated by this project, Iwokrama is hoping to continue the work, on a reduced scale into 2022.





The TmFO Project

The TmFO provided financial assistance to Iwokrama for

- measuring and recording of the precise GPS coordinates of each of the four corners of all Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs);
- as well as for providing total tree height and bole length data for a sampling of trees and poles in each PSP.

The Tropical managed Forests Observatory (TmFO) is an international network of institutions interested in assessing the consequences of logging and human impacts on the ecosystem services furnished by tropical forests (Sist et al 2015).

TmFO aims to assess the resilience of production forests at regional levels in the three main regions (Amazon, wet tropical Africa, South East Asia).

Forest Certification

Iwokrama successfully passed two surveillance audits in 2021.

- the 4th Surveillance audit which was postponed from 2020 in January
- and the 5th Surveillance audit in November.

Iwokrama opted to have a 5th Surveillance audit and extend its FSC™ Certificate for 12 months. This decision was influenced by the novel Corona Virus and resulting travel restrictions. Both audits were hybrid audits, where the technical expert was on-site and the audit team leader audited remotely.

FSC™
www.fsc.org
FSC™ C131490
The mark of responsible forestry

Iwokrama - One Intact Forest Landscape

In compliance with FSC™ requirements for the identification of Intact Forest Landscapes, Iwokrama has used the imaging provided by Global Forest Watch (GFW). GFW has identified 91% of the Iwokrama Forest as an intact forest landscape and also suggests that the Iwokrama Forest should be considered two separate IFLs, separated by the Linden Lethem Road.



GFW maintains that the existence of the Linden-Lethem Road, presupposes a 1 km wide disturbed area on either side, causing sufficient separation to create two separate IFLs in Iwokrama's FMU. This ruling would disrupt the basic concepts (cutting cycles and AAC calculations) that Iwokrama's forest management planning is based on.

In order to demonstrate that the existence of a road corridor does not impact the intact nature of the Iwokrama Forest, Iwokrama undertook to provide a series of low-level, real-time drone images along the road corridor. All these images show zero disturbance thus highlighting the fact that GFW's assessment of a 2 km wide disturbed road corridor is erroneous, and thus reinforcing Iwokrama's claim that the Iwokrama Forest is one IFL.

TRAINING & AWARENESS

Educational Visits

The Miami University Earth Expeditions group was hosted in 2021 after missing 2020 due to the Covid Pandemic. The 2021 expedition was significant as it was the 10th year of hosting by Iwokrama and Surama Village.





The Ministry of Natural Resources, Youth in Natural Resources Apprenticeship Programme visited for the fourth consecutive year. This year three smaller groups visited, experiencing the capacity building exercises with Iwokrama staffers.

Iwokrama also hosted forestry students from the University of Guyana in December.





Where Did All The Animals Go? (WDATAG)

Iwokrama and the Mayor of Linden Waneka Arrindell teamed up with British Artist Jane McCracken's art and conservation project 'Where Did All the Animals Go' and worked with youth from Kurupukari Primary, McKenzie Primary and the Haurauni Ophanage (through Empower Guyana) in March/April where they drew local wildlife with ballpoint/biro pens. The artwork was used in an online exhibition held later in the year in the UK with other participating countries including UK, Kenya, USA and Malaysia.

Local biologist/artist who was conducting her PhD field research work in Iwokrama, Arianne Harris was designated Art Ambassador for the Guyana leg of the project.

WDATAG is an art and environmental education project, with drawing, one of the oldest forms of communication at its core. Project Founder, Artist, Jane Lee McCracken, is sharing her passion for drawing and wildlife in partnership with international wildlife charity Born Free and a dynamic group of North East England teachers and outreach partners in Guyana, Africa and California.













COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Confidence Becomes You

Sonia Noel through the Sonia Noel Foundation continued her partnership with Iwokrama working with a group of young women in Fair View Village on her '*Confidence becomes You'* programme.

Sessions with the young women were held in April and September at the Iwokrama River Lodge on various aspects of developing confidence including Reproductive Health, Etiquette as well as a learning module on Tie Dying.



Reproductive Health

To help battle the issue of teenage pregnancy, Iwokrama staffers led by Medical personnel LeAndre Stellingburg, along with Sonia Noel and Sergeant Jobe of the Guyana Police Force held sessions with the Youth in Fair View Village from age 10 years and up.

This was organized through the Fair View Village Council and School Principal.



Community Support During Pandemic

WWF partnered with Iwokrama and provided funding for food support for five North Rupununi communities due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The NRDDB also assisted with getting the food to some of the communities.









Iwokrama donates motorcycle to NRDDB

To support the NRDDB's continued good work and to assist with transportation challenges, a motor cycle was handed over to the new Chair of the NRDDB, Mr Bradford Allicock.

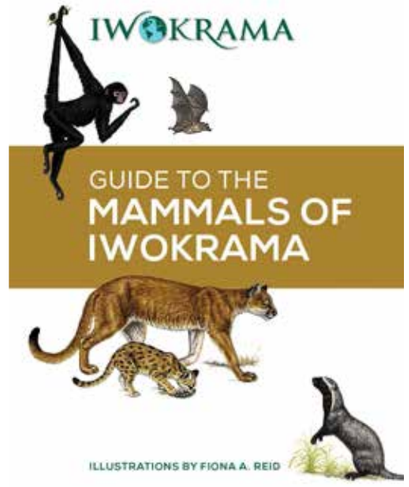


Education and Outreach

Repsol Exploración Guyana, S.A. continued to support Iwokrama's outreach activities for a fifth year.

This year they provided educational materials and solar upgrades to Fair View Primary and Surama Nursery and Primary Schools.

Repsol also supported Iwokrama's Covid Relief efforts by providing for santisation and cleaning supplies.



REPRINT: Mammal Guide

Iwokrama partnered with Repsol Exploración Guyana S.A. to update and reprint the Guide to the Mammals of the Iwokrama Forest. The guide was first published in 1999, reprinted in 2017 and again in 2021. It identifies 71 of the most distinctive mammals found in the 371,000 ha Iwokrama Forest.

Copies of the Guide can be downloaded from the Iwokrama website: https://iwokrama.org/library-and-archive/publications/

MONITORING

Iwokrama's monitoring system monitors changes in the naturally dynamic ecosystems and the impacts of human activities on ecological processes and biodiversity. Monitoring activities include road and river, forest impact, wildlife, water quality and boundary monitoring. Iwokrama's rangers also look for illegal activity during their regular patrols.

Social Monitoring Data is collected quarterly from key individuals, consultations, community engagement, and meetings, then analyzed to determine the impacts of Iwokrama's work and operations on neighboring communities.

Biophysical Monitoring Data is collects critical information daily, weekly, quarterly and bi-annually to assess the status of and monitor changes in the forest.



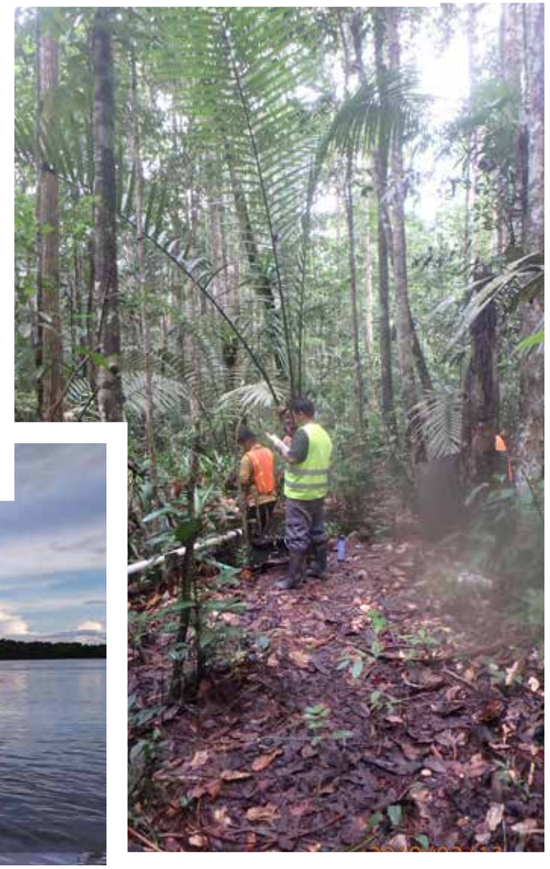














SCIENCE & RESEARCH





Forest Impact Monitoring

The research team embarked on the final data season in February from the 5th to 22nd. During this time, surveys were completed on the control site, located roughly 15km away from previous research plots. The control plot consists of 3 survey sites. Once surveys of all FIM data collection sites were completed, data entry and preliminary analysis commenced. Preliminary analysis took place from March-May with regularized supervisory meetings with the University.

In September, Ms Harris registered for her third and final year in the University of Guyana Mphil PhD program (2021-2022). She plans to commit the remainder of 2022 to full dissertation writing, with the aim to submit and defend in 2023.

An assessment of the long-term impact of Iwokrama's sustainable harvesting operation on faunal diversity mainly birds and bats. UG student Arianne Harris (PhD) is completing this research.
This research project is funded by ExxonMobil





Fungi Research

Purdue University (USA) colleagues returned to continue their fungal research work in Iwokrama inclusive of fungal diversity. Guyanese PhD student Dillon Husbands continued research on *Xylaria karyophthora* which she discovered has been adversely infecting Greenheart seeds in several sites around the country.

The team also did some capacity building work with three Indigenous Interns that were visiting from Region 1 on a research tourism capacity building exercise.





Mercury Study

Iwokrama also hosted researchers from the Institute of Research and Development (France) who were collaborating with WWF Guyana to look at the environmental impact of mercury on the environment inclusive of soil, fish and humans.

An intact site in Iwokrama was selected for comparison with other sites around the country.

PROJECTS

BIOPAMA

Iwokrama secured funds from Biopama for project titled '***Improve infrastructure and capacity for monitoring and community development within Iwokrama Forest***'. The project agreement was signed in December and activities include equipment to support monitoring and youth activities, training workshops and rehabilitation work for the ranger stations.





DETECT

Iwokrama collaborated with Open University (UK), the North Rupununi District Development Board, Ministry of Health and other key institutions to advance new techniques for Malaria control. The one year Discovery Phase tested the use of radar imagery and drone technology to identify vunerable sites for mosquito breeding and subsequent biocontrol treatment. The pilot study was conducted in Yupukari Village. Consultations were also done in several communities including Fair View, Annai, Wowetta, Kwatamang, Rupertee and Toka to gather information related to Malaria.

RENFORESAP

Iwokrama finalised a review on tourism in the three Guianas (Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana) under the project, ***"Strengthening the Network of Protected Areas in the Guiana Shield and their contributions to sustainable development in respect of local cultures, values and lifestyles"*** The project which is now completed had the specific objective to seek strengthening of dialogues between protected areas managers and stakeholders by sharing experiences and other exchanges that can lead to improved protected areas management in the region.
The key areas the project addressed included:

- Ecotourism Development in and around Protected Areas
- Participatory Science for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
- Strategies for combatting illegal mining in Protect Areas
- Transmission of Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Heritage





Management Plans drafted for selected Wildlife Species in Guyana

Iwokrama enabled the preparation of Management Plans for prioritized Amazonian species: yellow- and red-footed tortoises (*Chelonioids spp*.), caiman (*Caiman crocodilus, Paleosuchus trigonatus and Paleosuchus palpebrosus)* and the lowland tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*). The plans were informed by population assessments and were commissioned by the Amazon Conservation Treaty Organization (ACTO) in support of the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission (GWCMC).

Research methods included field surveys (camera and pitfall traps, and catch and release), and information and data gathering through questionnaires, key informant interviews and literature review. Stakeholder consultations and peer reviews on the draft plans will be facilitated by the research team prior to finalization and implementation by the GWCMC.

Iwokrama is grateful for the support of Government agencies, logging and mining concessions, research organizations, community groups, villages, wildlife biologists, rangers and other experts, wildlife trappers and wildmeat traders, and the general public, and recognizes their valued contributions to this assignment.





FINANCIAL REPORT

The Covid-19 pandemic endured during 2021 and continued to have a significant impact on Iwokrama's field operations substantially affecting revenues and implementation of our workplan.

All business operations were closed in April and while the timber harvesting operation restarted in May, it was plagued with production, demand, staffing challenges and the closure of many international ports.

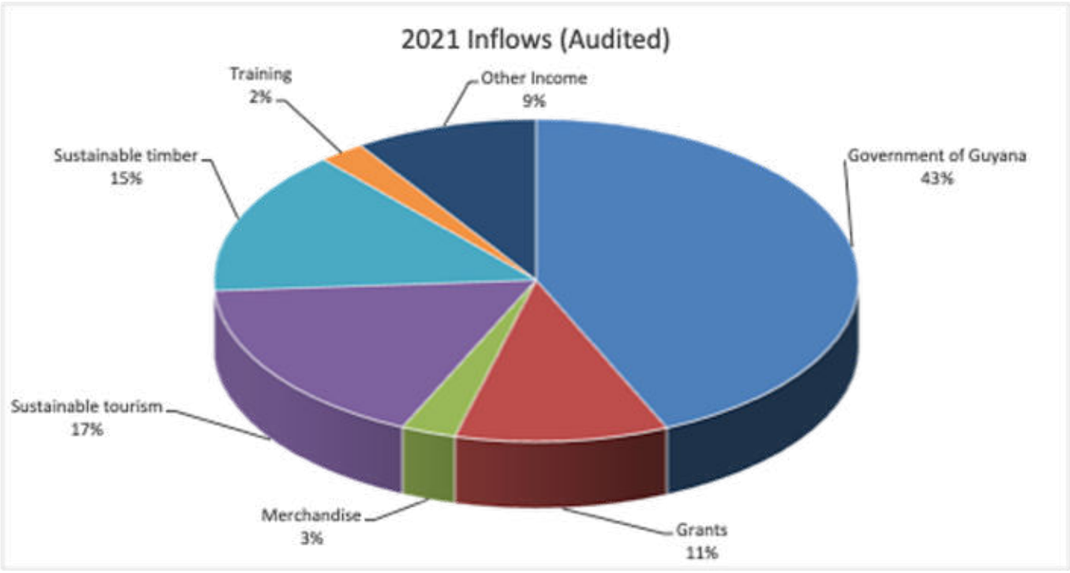
Tourism was the hardest hit as global travel restrictions continued to limit travel opportunities and resulted in low visitation rates from both local and international tourists despite very attractive pricing and marketing initiatives. The restrictions also caused cancellations of our learning programmes for students and researchers.

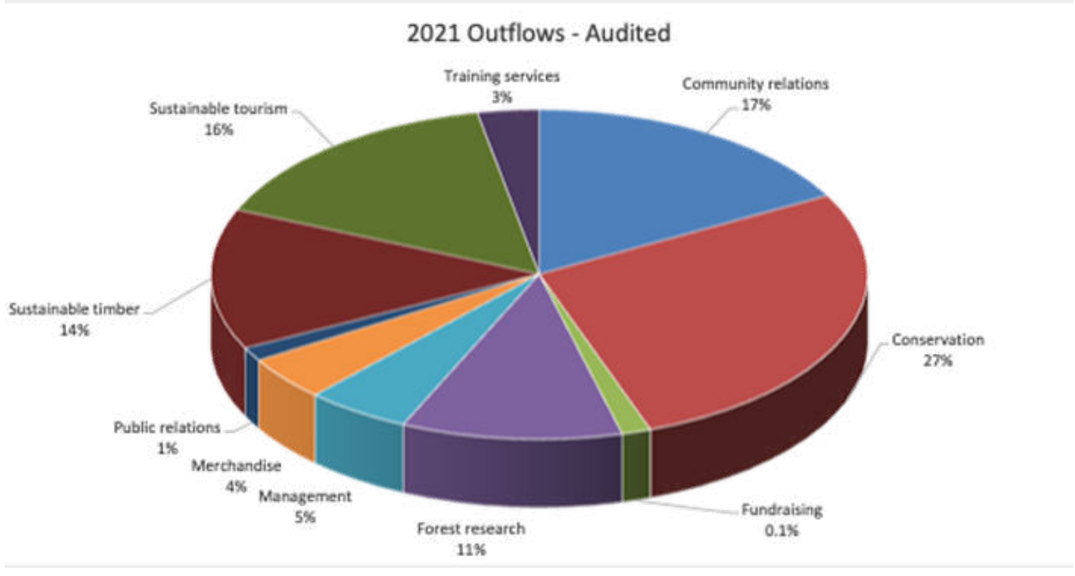
As expected, business / earned revenues declined, however, with continued support from the Government of Guyana and the Centre's partners, the Centre was still able to deliver on key outputs for conservation, boundary monitoring and community relations. We also used the "down-time" to improve facilities and develop new opportunities in anticipation of the opening of the travel market in 2022.

The Centre maintained its austerity programme and continued to seek additional funding in support of research and science. We hope that the sustainable businesses, will continue to make substantive contributions to core operating costs in the longer term despite current global challenges.

The charts which follow are extracts from our 2021 audited accounts and show the contributions to total revenue from the various revenue sources and the percentage of programmatic expenditure of overall expenditure (excluding depreciation).

The Centre is thankful to the Government of Guyana for continuing to be major contributor to the Centre's finances through these turbulent times.





PARTNERS

- Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States
- Amazon Conservation Team, Suriname
- Anton de Kon University, Suriname
- Backpack International Inc.
- Banks DIH Ltd.
- 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
- Darwin Initiative
- Earth Expeditions - Miami University
- Embassy of Mexico
- Environmental Management Consultants
- Environmental Protection Agency-Guyana
- Environmental Resources Management Foundation
- European Union
- Evergreen Forest Products Inc.
- ExxonMobil
- Flying Doctors of America
- 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
- 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 Trade and Investment Services
- Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission
- Horniman Museum
- Hydrometeorological Service
- 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
- Mamiraua Institute for Sustainable Development
- McArthur Foundation
- National Audubon Society
- National Communications Network
- National Parks Commission, Guyana
- New Era Bookshop
- New GPC Inc.
- Newcastle University
- North Rupununi District Development Board
- Office of HRH The Prince of Wales
- 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
- Rain Forest Alliance
- Repsol Exploración Guyana, S.A.
- Republic Bank Ltd.
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- Rumi Foundation
- Ryerson University
- Smithsonian - Mason School of Conservation
- Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
- STEM Guyana
- Sterling Products Limited
- The British Government
- The 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
- Warwick University
- Wilderness Explorers
- World Wildlife Fund

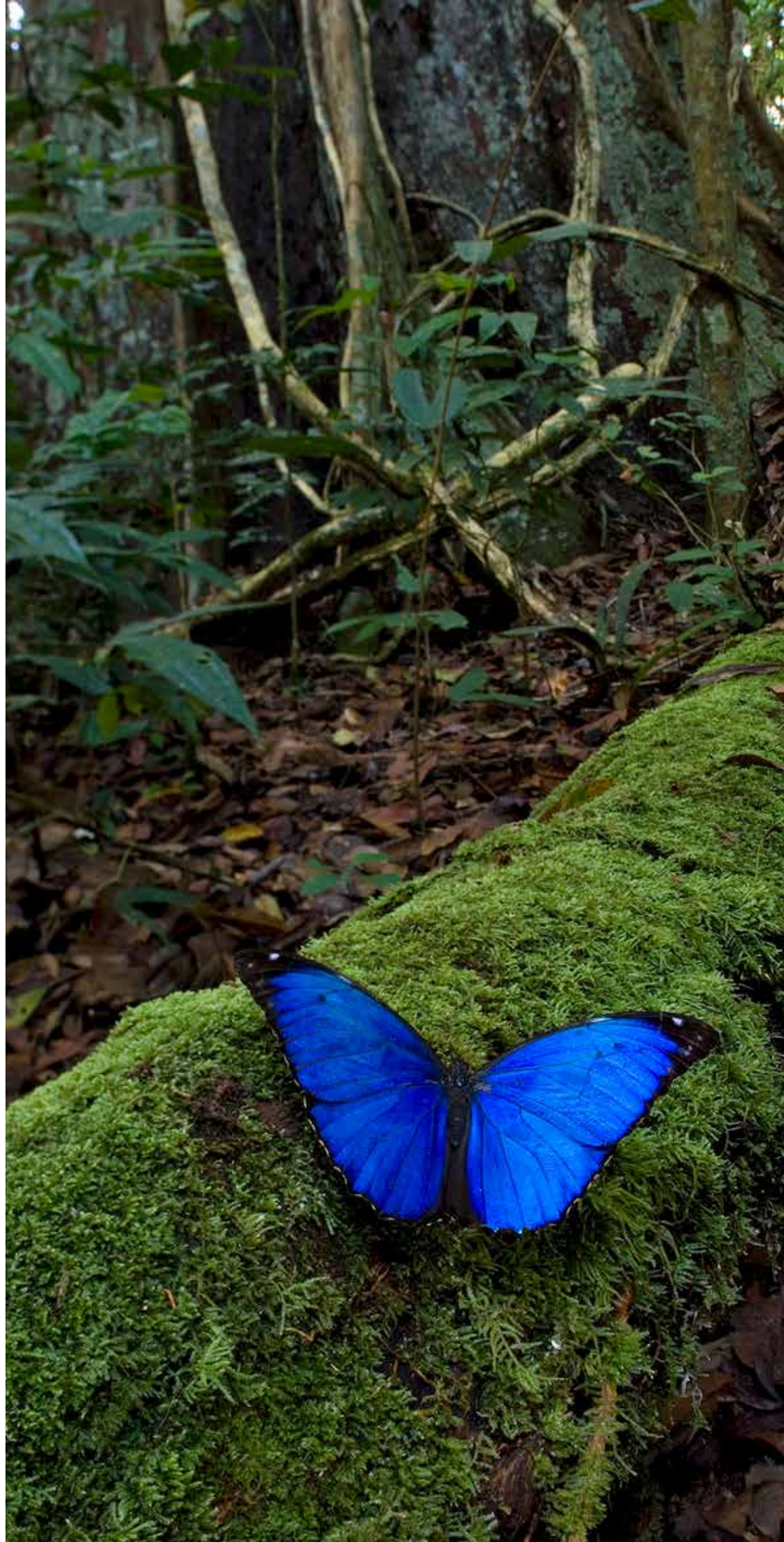


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