

IWOKRAMA

International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development

Annual Report 2012-2013

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Iwokrama: A Snap-shot!

Patron: His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales.

"The Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development shall implement the Iwokrama Rain Forest Programme by undertaking research, training and the development of technologies which will promote the conservation and sustainable and equitable use of tropical rain forests in a manner that will lead to lasting ecological, economic and social benefits to the people of Guyana and to the world in general".

The Iwokrama Rain Forest Programme was conceived in the "*run-up*" to the Rio Summit in 1992 and is a key environmental programme dedicated by the Government of Guyana to the Commonwealth and the World in 1989. Since its foundation in 1996, through the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development Act, Act No 7 of 1996, Iwokrama has sought to advance best practice in the sustainable management of the world's remaining rain forests.



Iwokrama's Mission

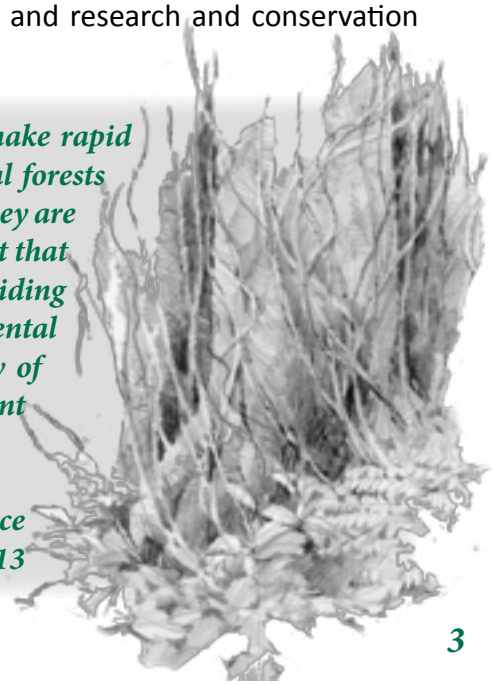
"To promote the conservation and the sustainable and equitable use of tropical rain forests in a manner that will lead to lasting ecological, economic and social benefits to the people of Guyana and to the world in general, by undertaking research, training, and the development and dissemination of technologies."

With its clear vision and unique partnership with local communities, science and business, along with its innovative work on the impacts of climate change on tropical forests and the contribution of ecosystem services to their financial value, Iwokrama would be a worthy participant in the study and development of further conservation measures as part of the international transition to low carbon economies.

Essentially, it aims to show that you can use a forest without losing it and that forests are worth more alive than dead. This translates into work programmes in business development (sustainable timber, sustainable tourism, training, and ecosystem services), community development, science and research and conservation and monitoring.

"I certainly don't need to remind you all of why it is so essential that we make rapid progress in this direction, as you all know far better than I, that the tropical forests play an absolutely critical role in ensuring the stability of the global climate; they are vital in providing global food, water and energy security; and, let us not forget that reducing deforestation is also very likely the single most effective way of avoiding the mass extinction of animals and plants. Tropical forests are also fundamental in ensuring that we are able to protect and support the incredible diversity of human cultures, let alone the poorest people on Earth, that are so dependent upon them."

HRH The Prince of Wales at a meeting on Tropical Forest Science
Published on 8th May 2013



Message from the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana



Remarks by
His Excellency Donald Ramotar
President of the Republic of Guyana

"I assure you of the Government of Guyana's continued commitment to support the Iwokrama Programme to make greater contributions towards better understanding and management of forest ecosystems for local and international benefit".

Twenty-five years ago, Guyana made a significant commitment to the world's sustainable development efforts by offering 2% of its land mass – the Iwokrama Forest - for research, conservation and sustainable use of tropical rainforests for global benefit. The international community applauded this act and supported the implementation of the Iwokrama International Centre in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat. Since then, the Government of Guyana has remained committed to the Iwokrama Programme. However, in recent years financial support from the international community has dwindled and it has become necessary for the Government of Guyana to inject significant direct financial support to the Centre so that it may carry on with its noble work.

The rate of deforestation in the world remains unabated despite the international rhetoric on the dangers of increased emissions of greenhouse gasses. Forests have an important role to play in the fight against climate change and our challenge is to ensure forests are worth more alive than dead. In this regard, Guyana is playing a significant role through our Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and the partnership with the Kingdom of Norway. Our model of green growth based on payment for forest climate services is well recognized not only for the experience and lessons it is providing but also for the benefits that are flowing to the country and all Guyanese.

There are many synergies with what Guyana is doing nationally and the objectives of the Iwokrama Programme. This reinforces the importance of the Centre's mission to create sustainable management models for the multiple resources and values that

Message from the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

rainforests contain. In this regard, I look forward to positive results from the Centre's sustainable forest utilization initiatives and its other business development projects such as tourism and training services. This is necessary not only for the important lessons they will provide for sustainable forest management but also to generate much needed revenue to support the Centre's operation.

I encourage and appeal for the continued support of the international community, the Commonwealth Secretariat and others to the Centre through this challenging period. I assure you of the Government of Guyana's continued commitment to support Iwokrama to make greater contributions towards better understanding and management of forest ecosystems for local and international benefit.

Donald Ramotar

Tropical forests occupy only 7% of the Earth's surface, they capture and store naturally - without cost - an estimated 1.2 billion tonnes of CO2 per year.



These forests are, moreover, part of an interconnected system that

- *manages the pollination of plants;*
- *maintains biodiversity;*
- *absorbs wastes and pollutants from the atmosphere;*
- *controls of soil erosion;*
- *stores water and generates new rainfall in areas far away from the forests;*
- *cools the earth; and*
- *produces oxygen.*

Message from the Chairman





The Working Group II Report released at the end of March 2014 highlights the serious impacts of climate change, providing strong reasons for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), options on which are provided in the Working Group III report, released in April 2014. This latter report places emphasis on sustainable forest management and reducing deforestation as cost effective mitigation measures, which further reinforces the relevance of Iwokrama's work in this field.

The IPCC's Working Group I contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report was completed in September 2013, and clearly confirmed the fact that most of the warming which has taken place since the middle of the last century was extremely likely the result of human action. When we use the terms "*extremely likely*" we are assigning a probability of over 95%. At the same time it reported that since the beginning of industrialization there has been a 40% increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, a fact which became universally known when the monitoring station in Mauna Loa in Hawaii made this finding public in May 2013.

One of the areas which has been substantially responsible for emissions of greenhouse gases is the forest sector. Large scale deforestation and degradation of forest cover has been taking place, in some cases at an accelerating pace, as a result of which, greenhouse gas emissions have been growing very rapidly. Arrest of deforestation in some of the richest forests in the world is therefore an important part of mitigation measures for reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Since taking over as Chair of the Trust for Iwokrama in late 2012, I have been making humble efforts in continuing the Centre's work towards developing a sustainable financial model.

Iwokrama is a one of a kind institution that has the capacity to help reduce the global rate of deforestation by providing models of sustainable forest management using multiple forest resources. The second phase of the Centre's low -impact sustainable forestry model will show how a forest can be used without losing it and will pursue forest certification thus validating its high social and environmental operating standards. The Centre will also continue its tourism and training businesses and further explore arrangements for assessment and valuation of ecosystem services.

As expected, the continuing downturn in the global economy has impacted adversely on Iwokrama's tourism and training businesses. Project funding was not insulated as well since payments in this sector slowed as donors coped with their own financial problems and reprioritized their areas of support.

These combined pressures obliged the Centre to be even more cost conscious, as well as innovative in seeking new business opportunities.

But there are signs of a sober reassessment of priorities, and there is growing awareness of the reality of climate change, which shows some indications of changes in the international aid agenda. The IPCC (of which I am the Chairman) 5th Assessment Report, the Working Group I contribution to which was released in September 2013, confirms that climate change is being caused by human actions. The Working Group II Report released at the end of March 2014 highlights the serious impacts of climate change, providing strong reasons for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), options on which are provided in the Working Group III report, released in April 2014. These reports further reinforce the relevance of Iwokrama's work on climate change and sustainable forest management.

Message from the Chairman

Iwokrama is truly an important global asset which must be supported if the international community is serious about dealing with the challenge of climate change.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government reaffirmed their support for the Centre at the last Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2013. The Commonwealth Secretariat has also supported the preparation of a new Five-Year Business Plan for the Centre which is expected to be completed during the second quarter of 2014. This plan will provide a blueprint for the Centre's path towards a suitable sustainable financial model.

Against this background I commend the Centre, its staff, the North Rupununi District Development Board, the local communities (Iwokrama s greatest asset), the Centre's donors as well as my colleagues on the Board of Trustees on their contributions in ensuring Iwokrama emerging successfully from a very difficult 2013. I look forward to similar levels of resolve in 2014.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincerest gratitude to His Excellency, the President of Guyana, and the Government of Guyana for providing the much needed and timely financial support that allowed the Centre to carry on its important work during this challenging period.



Dr R K Pachauri
Chairman
Iwokrama Board of Trustees



Iwokrama brings together in a unique alliance:

- ***sixteen indigenous communities (approximately 7,000 people), who are shareholders and participants in Iwokrama's sustainable timber, ecotourism and training businesses and research operations and who, as the forest's co-managers, share benefits through co-management and benefit sharing agreements.***

- ***scientists engaged in ground breaking research into the impacts of climate change on the forest and the measuring the scope and value of its eco-system services; and***

- ***sustainably managed business operations (Tourism, Timber, and Training), earning income from the forest and its natural assets, while keeping abreast of ever changing international thinking on funding environmental projects in the face of climate change and the scarcity of international finance.***

This alliance is committed to demonstrating how a rain forest can be used for real sustainability, real climate change protection and real community benefit.

Message from the CEO



2012 - 2013 remained another challenging period for the Centre as it struggled to find a viable financial model in light of the still enduring international financial crisis. Support from the Government of Guyana continued to be our major source of funding and the Centre continued to implement its austerity programme and pursue consolidation activities.

From an institutional perspective, two strategic reports were commissioned by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Government of Guyana in 2013. These reports will be the basis of the new Five-Year Business Plan which is being developed by Yale University and is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2014.

Governance wise, Dr Rajendra K. Pachauri, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Director General of The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) was appointed Chairman of the Board late in 2012 and immediately started to address the challenges of the Centre.

Iwokrama's earned revenue sources remain important, if the Centre is to reduce its reliance on donor/grant funding. To this end, the Trustees approved the second phase of the Centre's sustainable timber operations. Tourism was consistent in its contribution to Iwokrama's revenues and the Centre also saw an increased interest in its training and research programmes from Universities in North America and Europe.



Boundary and road monitoring continued to be the mainstay of our Conservation and Monitoring programme given the pressures on the forest from illegal mining, hunting and fishing. The Centre participated in a joint monitoring and enforcement exercise which resulted in three persons being caught within the environs of the Iwokrama Forest. The perpetrators were subsequently prosecuted and fined thus sending a clear signal that these illegal activities will not be tolerated.

We continued to work closely with and offer support to our community partners through training and capacity building exercises, as well as further integration into our business development activities. We are working with Fair View Village to craft a revised co-management agreement and to develop a new agreement for the village's participation in our timber operations. Work continued with the NORAD funded Community-MRV project (Guyana's first C-MRV Initiative) and the learning is now being transferred to other communities.

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 during the period. Special thanks to the Government of Guyana who provided the funds to maintain the Centre and to the communities for their unending support and understanding.



Dane Gobin
Chief Executive Officer
Iwokrama International Centre

Message from the NRDDB



Iwokrama's relationship with the communities continued to grow over the period.

The North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) continued to collaborate on the Community Measuring, Reporting and Verification (C-MRV) project which saw several community members being trained in MRV work. This community MRV work is the first of its kind in Guyana.

Several of our communities received radios and other equipment to enhance communications.

The communities were particularly happy that Iwokrama and Surama were able to successfully intercept hunters who constantly illegally prey on our fish and wildlife resources. We are also grateful for the emergency and other health outreach programmes provided by Iwokrama's medical personnel.

Iwokrama has already started negotiations with Fair View Village to revise their Co-Management and Benefit Sharing agreements and in similar fashion the same will be done for the agreements with the NRDDB.

We continued to benefit from our share of the Forest User Fee and from Iwokrama tourists passing through the communities. Although on a reduced scale, our members also received training in various aspects of forest management and forest ecology.

We look forward to the second phase of Iwokrama's sustainable timber operations as we feel strongly that the forest must be used in a sustainable fashion in order for it to be conserved – in other words we can use our forest without losing it.

We also recognize the challenges that Iwokrama and other similar organizations are facing and would like to encourage the international community to continue to support such initiatives as they provide valuable management models for the sustainable use of rainforest resources.

Michael Williams
Chairman
North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB)

"One of the nicest lodges in Guyana.
- We stayed here one night on our way back to Georgetown after spending 2 weeks further south. The accommodations were the best we stayed in anywhere in Guyana. The food was good but you get only what they put out for that meal. If you don't like it, too bad. Expect chicken. The rooms are very nice....
Muncie_birder - Muncie, Indiana, Nov 21, 2012"





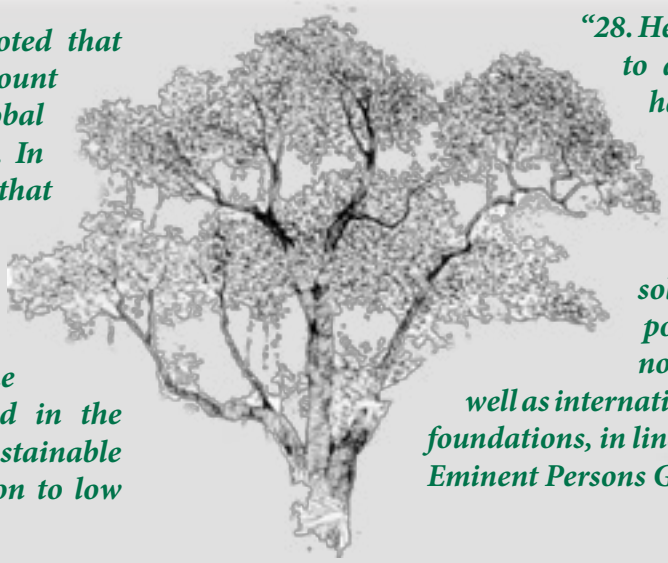
Governance and Institutional Development

In November 2012, Dr Rajendra K Pachauri, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Director General of The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) which is based in India, was appointed Chairman of the International Board of Trustees and immediately started to address the strategic challenges of the Centre. As part of this initiative, during the latter part of 2012, the Board benefitted from the experience and skills of three new Trustees - Dr Thomas Lovejoy, Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid and Ms Frances Seymour. We welcome them to the Board.

To help guide the Centre on a path to sustainability, two high level reports were commissioned by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Government of Guyana (funded by HRH Prince Charles' Office) that sought to establish what the Centre's costs were and to explore suitable sustainable financial models for the Centre respectively. These reports were completed in April 2013 and will be the basis for the Centre's new Five-Year Business Plan which is being developed by Yale University and expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2014.

The Commonwealth Heads reaffirmed their commitment to the Centre at the 23rd Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Sri Lanka in 2013.

"27. Heads of Government noted that deforestation continued to account for approximately 20% of the global emissions of greenhouse gases. In this regard, they acknowledge that the Iwokrama Rainforest Programme continues to play a valuable role in the Commonwealth's endeavours to promote research on the impact of climate change and in the development of models for sustainable forest management in transition to low carbon development."



"28. Heads therefore noted that efforts to develop sustainable financing have fallen short of expectations and called on Commonwealth Governments and the Secretariat to intensify efforts to find a long-term solution, including through potential collaboration with non-Commonwealth countries as well as international organisations and private foundations, in line with recommendations of the Eminent Persons Group's 2011 Report."

Final Communique - 23rd Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Sri Lanka, 2013

This support follows Recommendation# 42 of the 2011 Eminent Persons Group (EPG) Report which states that:

"CW governments should renew their commitment to the Iwokrama Rainforest programme by mandating the establishment of machinery to provide it with core funding, and to make use of the knowledge and research outcomes gained from its research. The Secretariat should be authorised to set-up a funding mechanism including through seeking partners for the Iwokrama programme from among CW and non-CW countries as well as private sector groups and foundations that have an interest in climate change, conservation and sustainable use of forests."

Recommendation #42 of the 2011 Eminent Persons Group Report

Iwokrama's Board of Trustees



Dr Rajendra K Pachauri – Chairman
Dr Pachauri is the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Director General of The Energy Resources Institute (TERI).



Dr Cyrus Rustomjee – Deputy Chairman
Dr Rustomjee is the Director of Economic Affairs Division at the Commonwealth Secretariat



Honourable Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett M.P. – Trustee
Minister Rodrigues-Birkett is a Member of Parliament and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in the Government of Guyana



James Singh – Trustee
Mr Singh is the Commissioner of Forests of the Guyana Forestry Commission



Andrew Bishop – Trustee
Mr Bishop is Guyana's lead negotiator to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)



Sydney Allicock M.P. – Trustee
Mr Allicock is a Member of the Parliament of Guyana and elder of the Surama Village located in the North Rupununi

Dr Kenrick Leslie – Trustee
Dr Leslie is Executive Director of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) based in Belize



Dr Elizabeth Losos – Trustee
Dr Losos is President and CEO of the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS)



Dr Thomas E Lovejoy – Trustee
Dr Lovejoy is Professor of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University and a Senior Fellow at the United Nations Foundation



Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid – Trustee
Dr Hamid is Founding Chairman of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Member, UN Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia



Frances J. Seymour – Trustee
Ms Seymour is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Global Development in Washington, DC



Dane Gobin BSc. MBA – Board Secretary
Mr Gobin is Chief Executive Officer of Iwokrama

Business Development: Tourism

The Iwokrama Forest and neighbouring Rupununi Wetlands offer visitors the opportunity for an exceptional natural and cultural experience.

It is a vast wilderness of nearly one million acres – home to 471 bird species, 134 types of fish, 81 different reptiles, 56 species of amphibians and 142 different mammals, South America's largest cat - the jaguar; the world's largest scaled fresh water fish - the Arapaima; the world's largest otters, river turtles, anteaters, snakes, eagles and caimans and more than 1250 recorded plant species.

More than 1,500 guests visited the Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre in 2012 and 2013 mainly from the United Kingdom and North America.

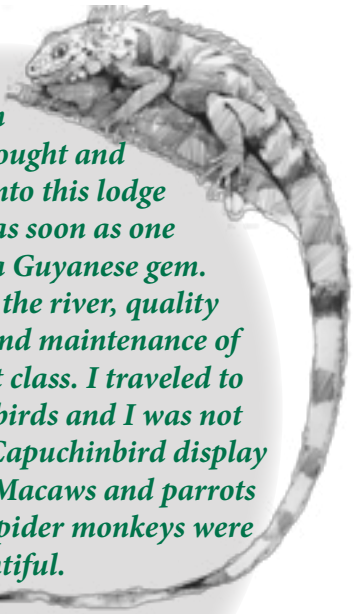
The comments below are testament to exciting experiences of our guests.

"One of my best experiences ever

- The Iwokrama River Lodge is nestled in an amazing natural reserve of tropical rainforset abounding with birds and wildlife. The lodge itself is a beautiful open-air building overlooking the Essequibo River and diners can enjoy a spectacular view while being visited by a variety of local songbirds mooching crumbs. We stayed in one of the cabins and found it totally comfortable, right down to the hammock on the verandah…. –

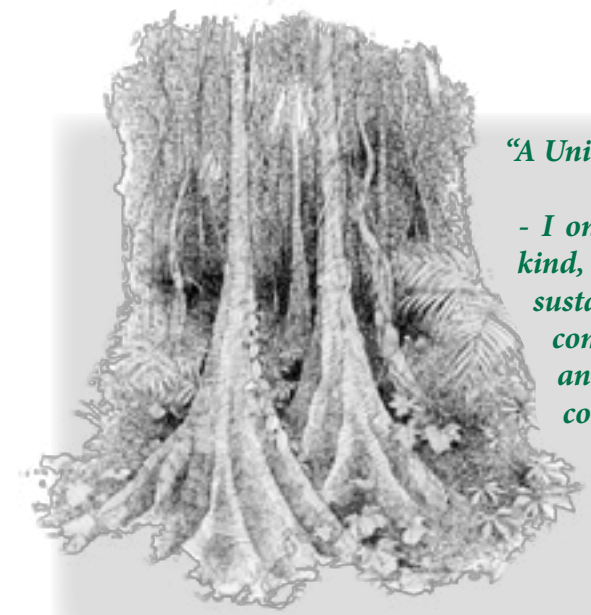


Cat-n-Mouse – British Columbia – Dec 2012"



"A Gem
- The thought and effort put into this lodge is apparent as soon as one drives in. It is a Guyanese gem. The location on the river, quality of the buildings and maintenance of the facilites is first class. I traveled to Iwokrama to see birds and I was not disappointed. The Capuchinbird display was phenomenal. Macaws and parrots abound. And the spider monkeys were plentiful.

–Reasonable50-Greenwich, Connecticut - Oct 2013"



"A Unique and Special Place

- I only stayed one night, but wish I had stayed longer! This is a one-of-a-kind, extraordinary place dedicated to providing the world with a protected, sustainably managed rainforest. The setting is beautiful, the accommodations comfortable, the staff friendly and accommodating. Staying here is not only an educational opportunity, it's a chance to support this unique model of conservation and community development. Definitely visit the surrounding amerindian communities, speak to the knowledgeable staff, or find a scientist, researcher or forester on site to learn from! It may take an intrepid traveler to make the journey and appreciate what Iwokrama stands for, but it is well worth the effort. –

Mandalaytogeneve – Arlington, Virginia – Dec 2012"

Business Development: Tourism

New tourism business plan

Iwokrama's world class tourism product has a significant competitive advantage in its rich mostly undisturbed biodiversity, geographical features and cultural and historical assets. To help capitalize on this huge potential, a fully-costed Five-Year Tourism Business Plan: 2013-2017, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) was completed in April 2013.

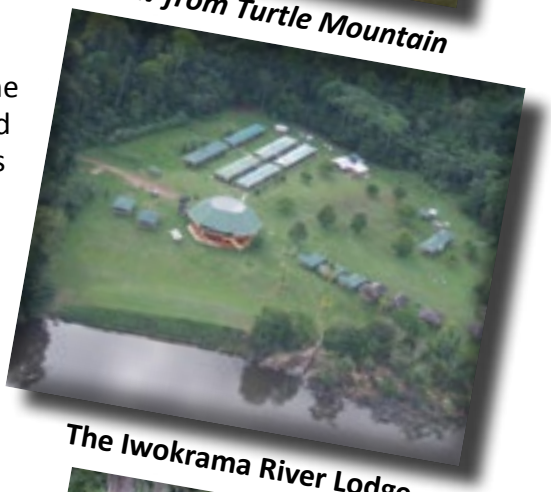
The Business Plan includes a review of existing policies, identifies new strategies for upgrading and expanding the tourism business, market analysis, management and operational plan, marketing strategy and a financial plan with projections. We expect to implement this plan in 2014, contingent on the availability of funds.



One view from Turtle Mountain

New tourism website

Iwokrama has commissioned a new dedicated tourism website for the Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre featuring the hospitality and activity offerings of the Lodge. The new website will focus on Iwokrama's tourism and will include standard information like accommodation details, activities, meals, transportation, visitor resources, maps, and contact information. It is expected to be completed within the 1st quarter of 2014.



The Iwokrama River Lodge

Iwokrama wins sustainable tourism award

In April 2012, Iwokrama was awarded ***The Community Benefit Award*** for its long term commitment to conservation and community development at the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO)/Travel Mole Sustainable Tourism Awards. These awards are aimed at identifying, recognising and showcasing sustainable tourism best practices in the Caribbean which embrace sustainable tourism concepts and core values.

New tourism manager

A new Tourism Manager, Jerry A-Kum, was contracted by the Centre in December 2013 and is expected to start in February 2014. He will be responsible for implementing the new Tourism Business Plan and all tourism activities at Iwokrama.



Iwokrama Canopy Walkway

For reservations and more information contact:

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Facebook: Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development
Instagram: Iwokrama Tourism



Our spacious cabins

Business Development: Timber

Iwokrama enters the second phase of its sustainable timber operations

At the July 2013 Board Meeting, Iwokrama's Board decided to embark on the development of the second phase of Iwokrama's sustainable timber operation model; where Iwokrama will maintain control of the harvesting operation and a private sector partner will conduct the sawmilling operation. The intention of this business model is to showcase best practices in the timber industry using an innovative governance arrangement that includes the private and public sectors and local communities.



Iwokrama Forest and the Essequibo River

As with its other businesses, Iwokrama will replicate its overarching management and sustainability protocols by building local and regional capacity in sustainable forest management including models of benefit-sharing amongst multiple stakeholders, reduced impact logging (RIL) techniques, directional felling and the use of non-traditional species.

Iwokrama will employ a 60-year cutting cycle, harvesting a maximum of 20 m^3/ha from a minimum of 20 species and 1,800 ha per year - **less than 0.5% of the Iwokrama Forest,** which will result in the removal of only a few stems per ha, causing no noticeable gaps in the forest canopy.



FML's new head office

Iwokrama is also pleased to announce that Farfan and Mendes Limited (FML) was selected in 2013 as the preferred candidate from amongst four (4) companies which submitted proposals through a competitive process. It is expected that a formal agreement between Iwokrama and FML will be signed early in 2014.

Iwokrama will ensure that all operations continue to comply with the stipulations of local regulatory agencies and intends to once again achieve international accreditation of its forest management practices and operations by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in 2014.



Measuring tree diameter

New five-year forest management plan submitted to the Guyana Forestry Commission.

The new Environmental and Forestry Management Plan (E&FMP) covers a period of 5 years - January 2014 to December 2018 and applies to the portion of the Iwokrama Forest designated for Timber Harvesting - the Net Operable Area (NOA). The NOA excludes non-commercial forest types, special use reserves; river and stream buffers; road buffers; slopes greater than 40%; and small, isolated inaccessible areas.



Wood-Mizer industrial sawmill

Like the first E&FMP, it was prepared in keeping with National Protocols and Guidelines. This document will be periodically revised to incorporate feedback from biological, social and management information obtained from Iwokrama's monitoring programmes and to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.

Business Development: Timber

Annual Plans of Operation for 2013 and 2014 submitted to the Guyana Forestry Commission

The Annual Plans of Operations (AOP) are submitted to the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) each year in keeping with national forest management guidelines.

The plans outline the activities to be undertaken each year in agreement with those set out in the Five-Year Forest Management Plan (E&FMP).

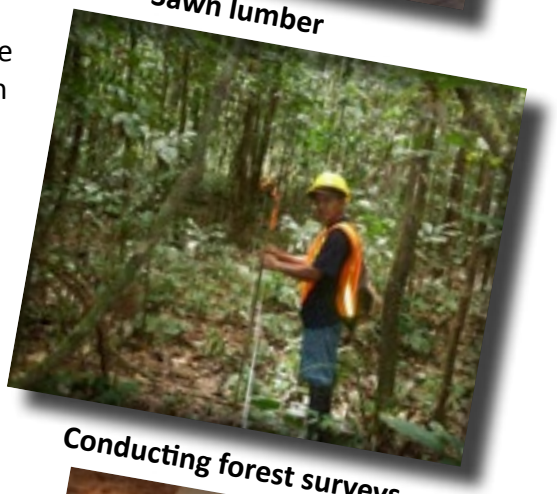


Sawn lumber

Post-harvest silvicultural survey completed

Iwokrama conducted post-harvest surveys in Management Units K-39 and K-41, completing the field work in September 2012. The surveys were done to determine the level of compliance with the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting, which outlines the standards for maintaining a healthy and productive forest and to examine harvest impacts from two perspectives - operational efficiency and environmental damage to the forest.

The Post-Harvest Silvicultural Survey field work was carried out with the financial support of the Inter-American Development Bank.



Conducting forest surveys

"Iwokrama is a unique initiative to show the world how an important part of the global commons, a large and rich rainforest, can be protected and used by human society in a sustainable manner."

- Dr. R K Pachauri, ANI News, Nov 30th 2012





Sawn lumber



Forest road

Business Development: Training and Consultancy

The Iwokrama Forest offers the ideal "*living laboratory*" where students can experience the rain forest and all that is involved in effective management of tropical rain forests, first hand.

Iwokrama has extensive experience in collecting and cataloguing material and developing training courses in the areas of natural resource management, rangering, tour guiding, participatory approaches in community-based resource management, and management of protected areas. Specialised courses can also be developed upon request.

In 2012 and 2013, Iwokrama hosted more than 200 students and professors from nine school and University groups, three of which have been visiting Iwokrama annually since 2011.

The comments below reflect the exciting experience which the Iwokrama Forest offers:



Earth Expeditions group at Turtle Mountain



Examining a bat

"Some time ago I wrote to you enquiring about Expedition Guyana. I have today just reached home after having spent an amazing month there thanks to Opwall. Guyana was amazing, the wildlife was unbelievable and the landscapes unforgetable. I made friends I believe will last a lifetime and I just wanted to let you know and to thank you, very much, for having answered my enquiries. Finally I wanted to let you know that I think Opwall is doing something amazing and contributing invaluable data for conservation. I sincerely hope to be a part of future Opwall expeditions.

- Marta Calix, Operation Wallacea, August 2013

This year's course was wonderful. The group's chemistry made it a very special 10 days. I took some notes in my journal about some changes for next year. As for dates, August 1-10 sounds good to me. Students really enjoy spending time with the wildlife club kids.

Thanks!

- Ricardo Stanoss, Earth Expeditions, August 2013



"I will always cherish the daily exhilaration of waking up in the rainforest. More than once I remember peering out from beneath my mosquito net to see if that strange noise was in fact a jaguar, as my imagination has convinced me, or just one of my fellow volunteers falling from his hammock again"

King Edward School, Birmingham, Expedition to Guyana 2012

Business Development: Training and Consultancy

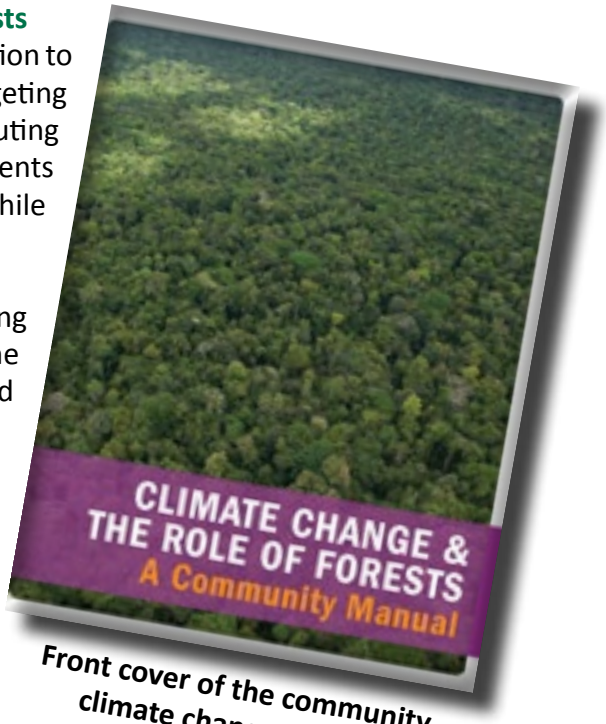
Training and capacity building in climate change and the role of forests

Iwokrama received funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to support Guyana's initiatives on natural resource management by targeting Amerindian, government and private sector stakeholders and contributing to the enhancement of their capacity to engage in and reach agreements on sustainable forest management and resource co-management, while monitoring the utilization of forest resources.

To do so, Iwokrama conducted a series of Training Workshops addressing Climate Change and the Role of Forests. Iwokrama provided the workshops in collaboration with National Regulatory Agencies and other partners.

Topics included the science of climate change, the role of forests and the concept of reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD).

Iwokrama continues to distribute the Climate Change Community Manual which was developed with other partners.



Front cover of the community climate change manual

Iwokrama builds capacity for GIS

Through funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Iwokrama contributed to increasing national capacity in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) through the donation of equipment to the University of Guyana for a Research and Teaching Laboratory, the Forestry Training Centre Inc. and the Guyana Forestry Commission.

The Guyana School of Agriculture received computers, audio-visual equipment and books to boost their Certificate in Forestry programme.



Hand over of equipment to the Guyana School of Agriculture

Iwokrama's Mascot - "Sankar" the Caiman



Sankar is a nearly 5m long black caiman (Melanosuchus niger) who lives near the Iwokrama River Lodge and often comes to the boat landing to bask in the sunshine.

The black caiman is a large carnivorous reptile (growing to sizes of 5-6m long) that lives along slow-moving rivers, lakes, seasonally flooded savannahs and other freshwater habitats of South America. It is listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Conservation Dependent.

Community Development

Communities are the mainstay of Iwokrama's work and we rely heavily on the support from the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) as co-managers of the Iwokrama Forest.
In this regard the communities are involved in almost every aspect of our operations ranging from administrative activities such as sitting on interview panels to participating in monitoring patrols and numerous other Iwokrama projects. A community member also sits on the Iwokrama's International Board of Trustees – the highest level of decision making at the Centre.



C-MRV project management team

Community Measuring, Reporting and Verification (C-MRV) and REDD Compass



The C-MRV project was a joint project implemented in Guyana between 2011 and 2013 by three partners: the Global Canopy Programme (GCP-UK), Iwokrama and the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) with technical support from the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC). **It is the very first community MRV initiative in Guyana.**



Community Monitor using a mobile phone for data collection

The C-MRV project employs 38 local people and has trained more than 50 persons from the 16 NRDDB villages to monitor the health of their forests and savannah ecosystems; to measure their community forest carbon stocks and to assess the well-being of their communities using open-source google software developed for mobile phones.

"REDD Compass" is the second phase of the C-MRV project and focuses on consolidating the community monitoring approach in the North Rupununi and building on and replicating experiences internationally e.g. transferal of methods to the Chico Mendes Foundation in Acre, Brazil, sharing lessons-learned and standards and safeguards for C-MRV, enabling national stakeholder dialogue and review of the C-MRV achievements and challenges.

Iwokrama boosts communication networks of Regions 8 and 9 communities

Iwokrama has also received funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to support the improvement and expansion of existing radio and internet-based community networks of Amerindian stakeholders including remote Patamona, Wai Wai and Wapishan communities of Regions Eight and Nine. The enhanced network facilitates the delivery of support through workshops and training programmes conducted by Iwokrama and other partners.



Hand over of communication equipment

Communities that have benefitted from the communications support are Kato, Kamana, Waipa, Kopinang and Kanapang in Region 8 and Annai Central, Surama, Maruranau , Aranaputa, Kwatamang, Massara , Wowetta, Yupukari, Kwatata, Rupertee, Karanambu, Yakarinta, Kwaimatta, Shea, Masakenari, Sand Creek and Moco, Moco in Region 9.

Community Development

Community Owned Best practice for sustainable Resource Adaptive management in the Guiana Shield, South America (COBRA)

The COBRA Project - Local Solutions to Future Challenges: **C**ommunity **O**wned **B**est Practice for Sustainable **R**esource **A**daptive Management in the Guiana Shield is a three year project which started in September 2011 and is funded by the European Commission. It is made up of a consortium of eight partners comprising research institutes, civil society organisations and local communities and their associations.



Project Cobra -creative commons

In Guyana, Iwokrama is the national partner; co-partnering with the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) at the local community level. The project is working with the communities of the North Rupununi and Tumucumaque, Brazil to explore its aim at the local community level.

The aim of the project is to find ways to integrate community-owned solutions within policies addressing escalating social, economic and environmental crises, through accessible information and communication technologies. The main goals of the project are to help strengthen local communities and encourage policy makers and civil society organisations to work with communities to promote local solutions.

Further details about the project can be found at the COBRA website at www.projectcobra.org.

'En-compass - an international diamond of cultural dissemination, capacity building with countries from the north, east, south and west'

The En-compass project was implemented in collaboration with Newcastle University and the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) and similar organisations in Kenya and China.



En-Compass team at Newcastle

The key purposes of the project were to strengthen local indigenous culture through increasing access to intangible and tangible cultural heritage expressions, products and services in China, Kenya and Guyana (focus on North Rupununi) and to encourage improved management and safeguarding of these resources.

The main outputs included



Anil Roberts and his MA certificate

Year 1: Exchanges of art, music and heritage practitioners, who developed a travelling exhibition for the four territories. Three artists, cultural experts and musicians (Glen Allicock, Benita Roberts and Ozwald Hussein) from North Rupununi and St Cuthbert's Mission visited Newcastle, Kenya and China. Three participants each from all the other territories also visited the North Rupununi.

Year 2: 'in-country' training on heritage management and preservation in the three developing territories. This workshop was conducted in 2012 at Bina Hill, Annai, North Rupununi with a facilitator from Newcastle University, Dr Aron Mazel.

Year 3: Postgraduate education and training for participants from the three developing territories at the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies (ICCHS), Newcastle University. Three Amerindian students, (Anil Roberts, Guy Marco, Grace Roberts,) completed their Masters' Degrees in Heritage Studies in 2013.

Science and Research

New species of poison dart frog discovered in Iwokrama



Mora tree

We continue to explore and investigate the properties of the Forest.

A new species of the poison dart frog has been discovered in the Iwokrama Forest during a study, led by biologists Dr Raffael Ernst, Dr Phillipe Kok and Monique Hölting from Technische Universität Berlin, to determine whether the conservation of amphibians and ecotourism could be reconciled.



Poison dart frog

During the fieldwork for this project, the researchers encountered an inconspicuous brown frog, only the size of a thumbnail that they could not assign to any known species - it was a previously undescribed species of poison dart frog which is now being scientifically described by Dresden and Belgian scientists. This little amphibian has been given the distinctive name *Allobates amissibilis* (in Latin "*that may be lost"*) because it has been described in a very limited area in the Iwokrama Mountains and is thought to be a micro-endemic species and therefore vulnerable to changes in their environment.

The study was sponsored by the Stiftung Artenschutz [Species Conservation Foundation], the Verband Deutscher Zoodirektoren [Association of German Zoo Directors] and the Dresden team.

Management level inventory completed in the Wilderness Preserve.



Data entry in the forest

A comprehensive management level forest inventory in the Wilderness Preserve (WP) was completed in 2012. It covered four major commercial forest types and the methodology was identical to the management level inventory completed in the Sustainable Use Area (SUA) in 2003.
The forest resource of the WP was never adequately quantified which restricted Iwokrama's ability to use the WP as a control area to monitor the impact of commercial activities carried out in the SUA and to adequately quantify the revenue generation potential of the Forest, particularly with regard to eco-system services and carbon stocks.

The inventory was carried out with financial support from the EU funded Forestry Research Network Project.

2013 Marianne Schmink Innovation award in Tropical Conservation and Development



Anand Roopsind in the forest

Iwokrama proudly congratulates Anand Roopsind, PhD student in University of Florida's Biology Department, and his partners the REDD+ Adaptation Working Group, the recipients of the 2013 Marianne Schmink Innovation Award. The winning project is titled "*Identifying the drivers of "forest degradation" from logging in REDD+ landscapes using "Agent-Based Modeling".*

This project goes beyond "*business as usual*" by finding novel ways to assess forest degradation that results from inappropriate tropical forest management and developing appropriate interventions to mitigate its impacts. We are proud to collaborate with and support Anand on this award winning research initiative.

Science and Research

Climate monitoring continues

Iwokrama continues to monitor climate and hydrology to gather important climate and baseline data for quantifying and characterising weather patterns. Establishing a baseline is key to the understanding of the climate and water-cycle that is vital for sustainable forest management, assessments of forest ecosystem services, biodiversity, carbon capture and storage, ecology and impacts on human populations amongst others.



Automated weather station

The monitoring programme is designed to

- Quantify rainfall and evapotranspiration budgets to provide baseline data which can help to quantify the rainfall and evapotranspiration components of the water balance for the Iwokrama Forest and to measure rainfall.

- Characterise a key climate transition zone: Iwokrama is located between the coastal-influenced climate with higher annual rainfall and two wet seasons, and the drier continental climate typically with a single wet season.

- Characterise hydrological response of the landscape: The diverse landscape of the Iwokrama Forest is typified by spatial variations in geology and soils, topography, and vegetation types. This diversity can lead to different types of hydrological response, with consequences for other aspects such as nutrient cycling and erosion.

- Measure forest management impacts: A key aspect of studies at Iwokrama is to understand the impacts of sustainable forest management. Based on the historical and planned forest harvesting programme, catchment monitoring locations have been selected to represent different stages in the harvesting cycle.

Newcastle University partnered with Iwokrama on this monitoring project with financial support from the Inter-American Development Bank.

Iwokrama successfully lobbied to host the 2016 IBG meeting.

The International Society of Biodiversity of the Guiana Shield (IBG) is an international society without political, national, social or cultural affiliations that strives to maintain a reputation as a highly reliable and independent source of information and advice on biodiversity and related environmental issues of the Guiana Shield ecoregion.

Guyana's case to host the IV Congress was presented by Iwokrama and both Iwokrama and WWF Guyana were nominated to serve as Guyana representatives on the IBG's Board for the next three years.



Guyana's delegation to the 3rd IBG Congress, Suriname 2013

Science and Research

FORENET – Establishing a Forestry Research Network for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries

The research facilities of Iwokrama functioned as the regional focal point organization (RFPO) for the Caribbean under the European Commission funded Forest Research Network Project (FORENET). These facilities, along with those of MEPNRT/Makokou-Ipassa (Gabon) for central Africa and PNGFRI (Papua New Guinea) for the Pacific region, act as bases and observatories for a joint ACP-Europe tropical research programme on the science of sustainable forest management.

The overall objective of the FORENET Project was to strengthen capacities in ACP countries to undertake collaborative applied forest-related research that will produce results directly applicable for the sustainable management of humid tropical forests.

ACP states participating in FORENET are:

- Central Africa: Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon;
- Caribbean: the Republic of Guyana and Suriname;
- Pacific region: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Research projects completed under FORENET Project:

Project Title	Institution and Lead Researcher	Partner Institutions
Quantification of Baseline Data for the Wilderness Preserve	Iwokrama Kenneth Rodney	Forestry Training Centre Incorporated (FTCI); Bina Hill Institute (BHI); North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB)
Evaluating Iwokrama's capacity building programmes with communities of the North Rupununi	Iwokrama Samantha James	NRDDB
Indigenous People, Livelihoods and Climate Change. The Guyana and Suriname Perspectives	School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Guyana Paulette Bynoe	Formal Training Link: Gwendolyn Emanuels-Smith (ACT-Suriname)
Indigenous knowledge for indicating climate change in a tropical forest ecosystem in Suriname	Gwendolyn Emanuels-Smith	Amazon Conservation Team (Suriname)
Resistance and resilience of forest and anuran communities in CMS Experimental Plots at Kabo	Anton de Kom University, Suriname Gwendolyn Landburg	Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands

The FORENET project also supported the following projects:

Project Title	Institution and Lead Researcher	Partner Institutions
An assessment of post harvest conditions on private lands harvested by community based enterprises (and the potential for community based rehabilitation or silvicultural programmes)	Forestry Training Centre Inc Godfrey Marshall	Guyana Forestry Commission, Iwokrama, Tropenbos International, CELOS (Suriname)
Assessment of Forest biomass and carbon stocks for REDD Preparation in ACP Member Countries	University of Guyana	Iwokrama, Center for International Research (CIFOR), Forest Research Institute of Papua New Guinea and Institut de Recherches en Ecologie Tropical du CENAREST (Gabon)

Iwokrama through the FORENET project also facilitated training in "Above-ground Carbon Assessments"in Gabon for the University of Guyana and the National Agricultural Research Institute (NAREI) and "Soil Carbon Assessments" in Papua New Guinea for the University of Guyana.

Science and Research

Chainsaw milling project phase 2

The Second Phase of the Chainsaw Milling Project commenced in 2012 with title ***"Supporting the integration of legal and legitimate domestic timber markets into Voluntary Partnership Agreements"***

This phase of the European Union (EU) funded project in which Iwokrama partners with the Forestry Training Centre and Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC), along with partners in Ghana and Tropenbos International focuses on European Union Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) implementation and supports the implementation of Government of Guyana's Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) process.



Sign on the Chainsaw Milling project office

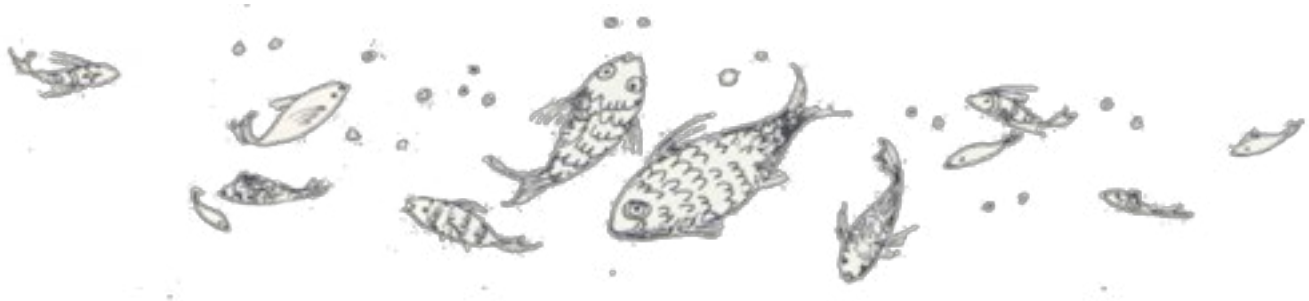
The project aims at an effective incorporation of domestic market issues into FLEGT VPAs in Ghana, Guyana and other countries by

a) promoting viable livelihoods in poor forest-dependent communities;

b) ensuring adequate supply of legal timber on the domestic market in conformity with the sustainable production capacity of the forest resources and the socio-economic development of forest dependent communities; and

c) improving consistency between the objectives of FLEGT VPAs and those of socio-economic development of actors dependent on timber production and trade.

For more information please see **www.chainsawmilling.org**



Conservation and Monitoring

Boundary survey - Siparuni/Takatu River

A boundary survey of the Siparuni/Takatu River was carried out in October 2013. The team discovered three separate sets of petroglyphs, of archeological interest near a large over-grown clearing alongside the Siparuni River that may have been an old Amerindian settlement.



The area was abundant with River Otters, Caiman and fish. Spider monkeys were seen on a number of occasions and tapir and capybara tracks were evident on visible mud banks. A number of important bird species were also spotted such as Black Curassows, Ospreys, Macaws and Kingfishers.

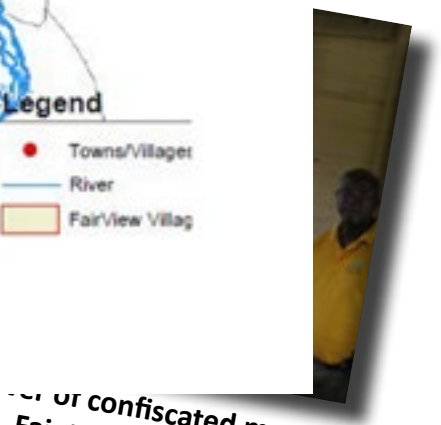
Joint operation in

A joint operation
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EPA, Iwokrama, Su
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livelihood.



...f confiscated meat to Fair View Village

Iwokrama distributed the confiscated Labba and Powis to the nearby communities of Surama and Fair View.

Post-harvest faunal surveys completed

Post-Harvest Faunal Surveys were completed in 2013 in two management units of the forest. The surveys were conducted to measure the effects of sustainable harvesting on the rain forest and to inform silvicultural and other practices in order to ensure that timber harvesting is ecologically sustainable.



Howler monkey

Sponsorship

Late in 2013, Iwokrama launched its corporate sponsorship programme which seeks to get local and international corporate citizens involved in supporting the work of the Centre whilst providing them an opportunity to invest in caring for the environment.

Areas covered by the sponsorship include maintenance of guest cabins and other field infrastructure, signage, uniforms, and monitoring in addition to many other activities.

In 2014 the Centre will approach various local private sector umbrella organizations for outreach of this programme.



Cabins at the Iwokrama River Lodge



Sign sponsored by Sterling Products Ltd

For overseas based companies wishing to support Iwokrama, the Centre is currently reactivating its 501 (c) (3) status which will allow companies in the United States to make tax-free contributions.

Already Sterling Products Limited of Guyana and Evergreen Forest Products Inc. of the United States have provided support for signage / merchandise and our monitoring programme respectively.

Santa visits Fair View Village!





It has now become a wonderful custom that the children of Fair View Village are treated to some Christmas cheer. This tradition was started in 2008 by our Forest Manager and his wife and has grown to include generous contributions of gifts and goodies by staff and friends of Iwokrama.

Special Thanks to Global Shapers, Sterling Products Limited, Lowe's Service Station, Apollo Kanhai and many many others who contributed to the 2013 Christmas Party.



An Extra Special Thank You to Global Shapers who also donated school supplies to the Children of Fair View Village in September 2013.

Financial Report

"Over the period, the Government of Guyana remained the Centre's largest supporter"

"We are confident that in 2014 with the start of the second phase of our sustainable timber operations, the implementation of the new tourism Business Plan, maintenance of its austerity programme, and a recommitment by its founding partners, the Centre will make strong strides towards developing a sustainable financial model"

Dane Gobin,
Chief Executive Officer

Overview

Both the 2012 and 2013 audited accounts have received an unqualified audit opinion and are available on request.

Over the period, the Government of Guyana remained the Centre's largest supporter. Total income of US$1,220,325 in 2013 was down 38% over 2012 levels of US$1,961,133 mainly as a result of a 40% drop in Grants income. As expected, total expenditure fell in 2013 recording levels of US$1,197,290 against US$2,151,122 in 2012 – a decrease of approximately 44%. This decrease was also as a result of the Centre's austerity programme which included a reduction in staffing levels and operational expenditure together with a consolidation of activities.

However, we are confident that in 2014 with the start of the second phase of our sustainable timber operations, the implementation of the new tourism Business Plan, maintenance of its austerity programme, and a recommitment by its founding partners, the Centre will make strong strides towards developing a sustainable financial model.

We would like to express our sincerest thanks to the Government of Guyana, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the European Union, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, NORAD, the Caribbean Development Bank and Chicago Zoo for making contributions over the period.

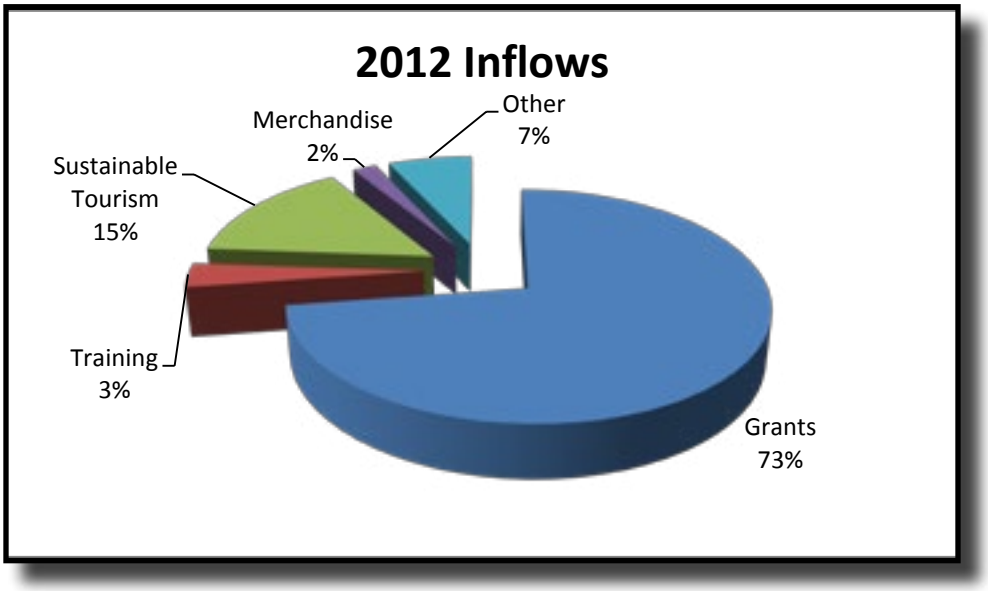
Total revenue

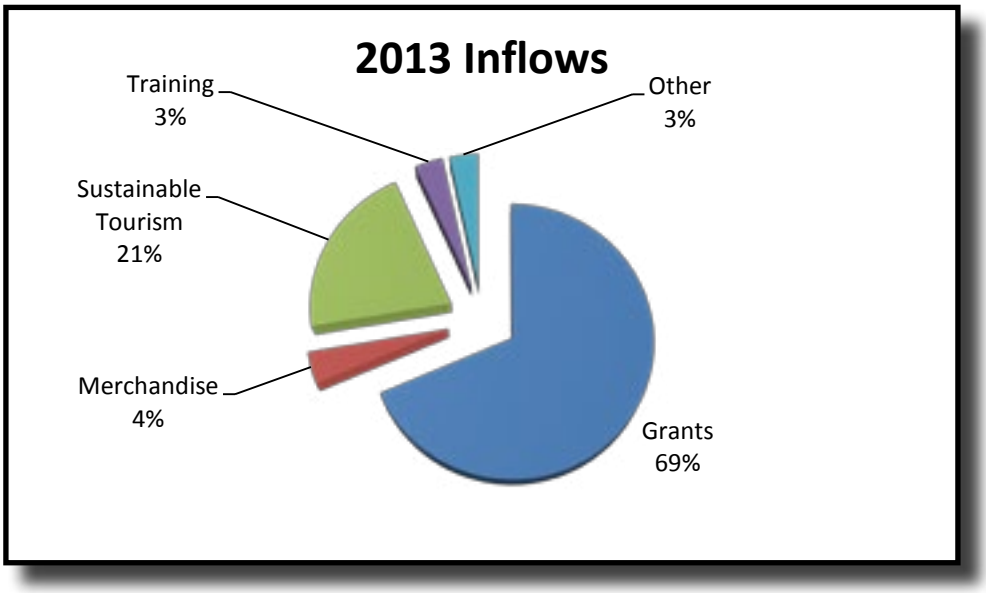
Total revenue fell from US$1,961,133 in 2012 to US$1,220,325 in 2013. There was a substantive decrease of over 40% in grant income which moved from US$1,425,602 in 2012 to only US$836,537 (US$450,000 came from the Government of Guyana) in 2013. The pie-charts which follow show the contributions to total revenue from the various revenue sources.

Tourism revenues held steady at US$255,690 in 2013 with a small decrease of 13% over 2012 figures as the Centre was unable to recruit a dedicated tourism manager. We expect tourism to start to deliver better results with the addition of a new dedicated tourism manager who will implement our new tourism business plan. Training services also showed a reduction of 40% bringing in US$40,615 in 2013 as against US$67,611 in 2012. We expect that the renewed interest of many Universities and Environmental Clubs will help these numbers to improve in 2014. The Centre did not record any earnings from sustainable timber activities as the second phase of the timber operations are not expected to start before the third quarter of 2014.



Financial Report



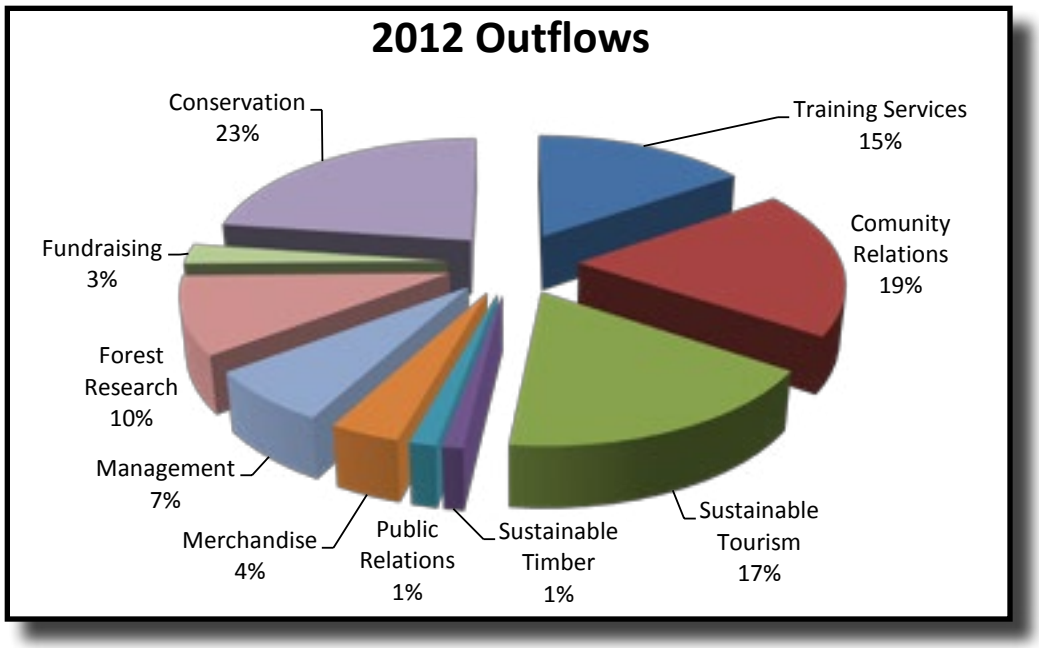


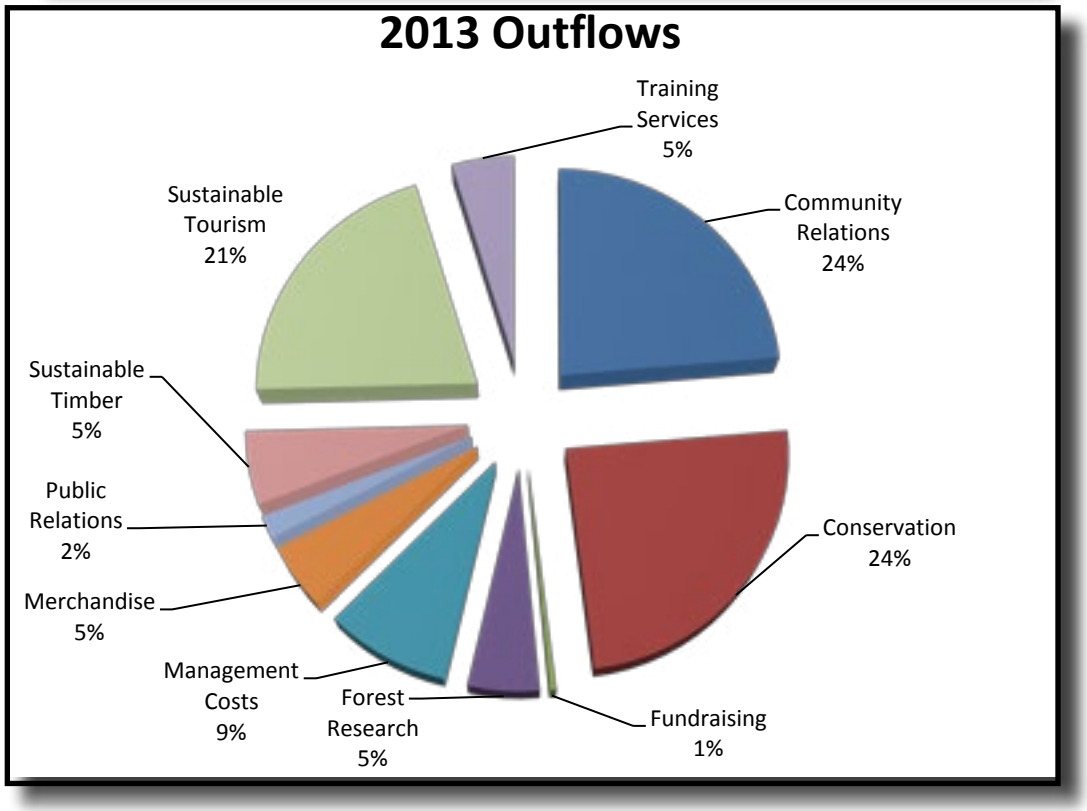
Expenditure

The reduction in the Centre's income led to a corresponding reduction in its expenditure from US$2,151,122 (including depreciation of US$196,720 and a one-time paper loss of US$500,276 from fees accrued from timber) in 2012 to US$1,197,290 (including depreciation of US$100,822) in 2013, a decrease of approximately 44 %. This was mainly owing to decrease in its capacity to undertake fundraising efforts which was down 87% (US$4,941 in 2013), training down 77% (US$51,584 in 2013) and forest research down 61% (US$55,683 in 2013) over 2012 figures. Despite the Centre's challenges, it continued to deliver on its community development programme which was only down 6% (US$259,469 in 2013) and its conservation and monitoring programme which was down 19% (US$267,511 in 2013) on 2012 figures. The pie-charts which follow show expenditure in each programmatic area as a percentage of total expenditure (excluding depreciation and bad debts).

The prolonged austerity programme resulted in the loss of a number of key staff and so the Centre had to consider specific increases in emoluments to retain certain key staff. Despite these increases and together with increased transport and other operational costs, the Centre's management costs decreased from US$99,038 in 2012 to US$97,051 in 2013. However, as a percentage of overall expenditure (excluding depreciation and bad debts) for 2012 and 2013 these costs represented 7% and 9% respectively.

Financial Report





Performance

Overall, the Centre improved its financial position from a deficit of US$189,989 in 2012 to a small surplus of US$23,035 in 2013. From a cash flow perspective, the Centre ended 2012 with a cash flow of US$250,280 and US$68,102 for 2013.



Dane Gobin
Chief Executive Officer

Contributors and Partners

Amazon Conservation Team, Suriname

Anton de Kon University, Suriname

Calgary Zoo

Canopy Capital

Cara Group

Caribbean Airlines Limited

Caribbean Development Bank

Center for International Forestry Research

Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

Chicago Zoological Society

Cleveland Zoo

Columbus Zoo

Commonwealth Foundation

Commonwealth Secretariat

Community and Tourism Services Inc

Conservation International

Darwin Initiative

Department for International Development

Earth Expeditions - Miami University

Environmental Protection Agency-Guyana

Environmental Resources Management Foundation

European Union

Evergreen Forest Products Inc.

Eversheds LLP

Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock

Forestry Training Centre Inc.

Fund for International Development Archives

German Government (KfW)

Global Canopy Programme (Oxford)

Global Environmental Facility

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Guyana Forestry Commission

Guyana Geology and Mines Commission

Guyana School of Agriculture

Guyana Shield Initiative

Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company Limited

Guyana Tourism Authority

Guyana Trade and Investment Services

Hill and Knowlton

Holloman Price

Horniman Museum

HSBC Holdings

Institut de Recherche en Ecologie Tropicale (IRET), Gabon

Inter-American Development Bank

International Development and Research Centre

International Forest Products (UK)

International Institute for Environment and Development

International Tropical Timber Organisation

International Union for Conservation of Nature

Jacksonville Zoo

Josephine Whitehead Legal Services

KPMG International

McArthur Foundation

Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, Guyana

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Guyana

Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, Guyana

Ministry of Public Works and Hydraulics

Ministry of Tourism Trade and Industry, Guyana

National Audubon Society National Parks Commission, Guyana

Newcastle University

New GPC Inc.

North Rupununi District Development Board

Office of the Climate Change, Office of the President, Guyana

Operation Wallacea

Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute

Philadelphia Zoo

Rain Forest Alliance

Royal Holloway University

Rumi Foundation

Shell UK

Stephenson Harwood LLP

Sterling Products Limited

Tate and Lyle

The British Government

The Government of Guyana

Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana

Tropenbos International

United Nations Development Programme

University of Guyana

University of the West Indies

US Agency for International Development

Warwick University

Wilderness Explorers

World Bank

World Wildlife Fund

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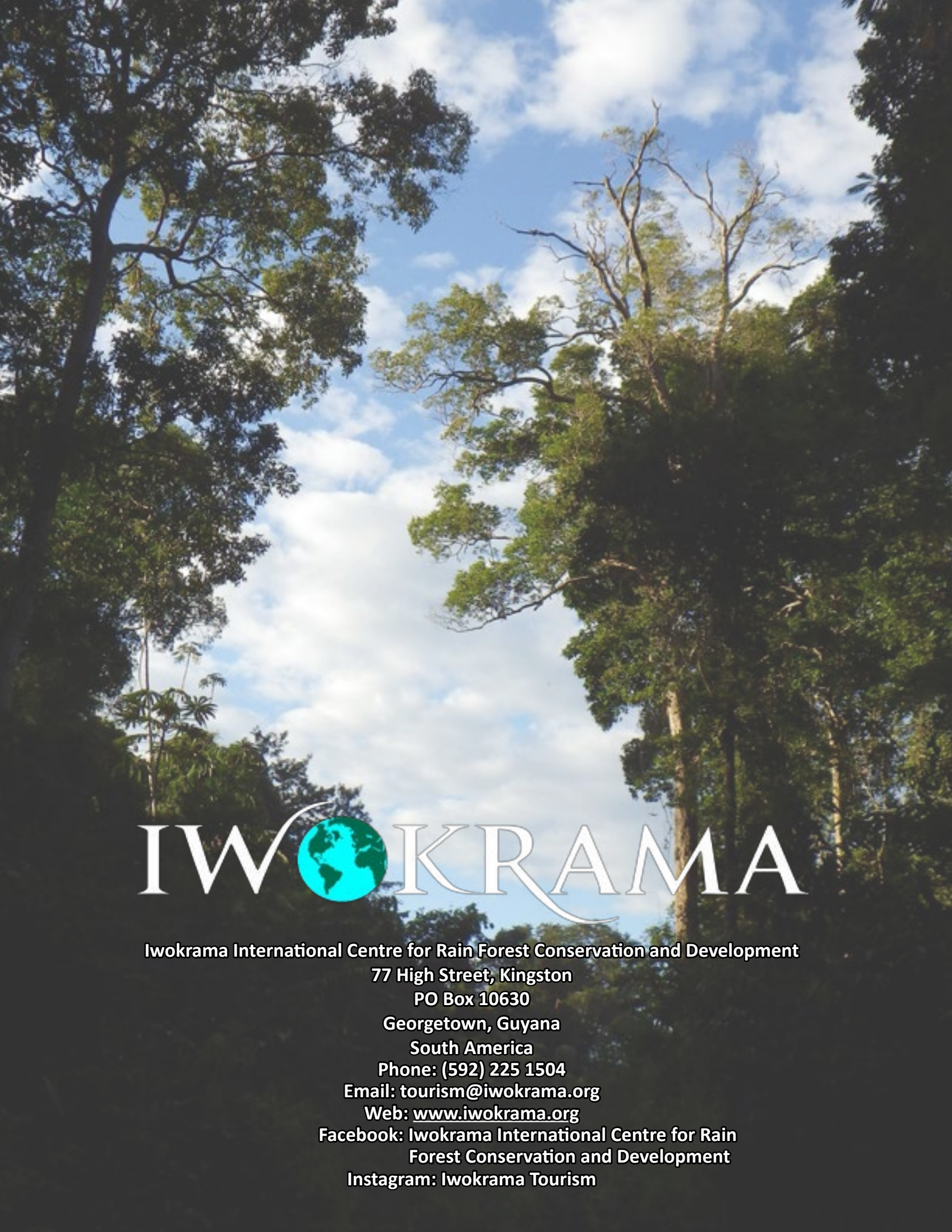
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