IWOKRAMA

Annual Report 2014













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Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Events in 2014 underlined the continuing relevance of Iwokrama's mission: to demonstrate how tropical forests can be sustainably managed in ways that benefit local communities, national development goals, and global objectives. With the launch of Global Forest Watch in February, everyone with a connection to the internet now has access to compelling satellite imagery showing the continuing rapid rate of deforestation (still estimated to be eighteen million hectares annually) throughout the tropics.

In April, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) emphasized the role of sustainable forest management and reducing deforestation as cost effective measures to mitigate climate change. In September, the highlight of the U.N. Secretary General's Climate Summit was the New York Declaration on Forests, in which a broad range of governments, companies, civil society, and indigenous groups pledged to support the goal of halving deforestation by 2020.

In 2014, the Centre continued its work on finding a financial model that would reduce its dependency on donor funding and return the Centre to more sustained viability and a comprehensive 2015-2019 Business Plan was developed by the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences.

Iwokrama's earned revenue sources remained an important contributor to the Centre's core costs. The development of phase II our sustainable model timber harvesting and processing business continued with substantial investments in plant, machinery and infrastructure by our private sector partner, Farfan and Mendes Limited, and operations are expected to begin the second quarter 2015. In this regard, we welcomed support from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to support Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for this model forestry operation. Tourism was consistent in its contribution to Iwokrama's unrestricted revenues and the Centre also saw an increased interest in its training and research programmes from Universities in North America and Europe.

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 successfully completed the NORAD funded Community-MRV project (Guyana's first CMRV Initiative) through collaboration with the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) and other local and overseas partners and we are pleased that this capacity is now being transferred to other communities in Guyana.

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.

Dane Gobin BSc MBA
Chief Executive Officer



Iwokrama's International Board of Trustees

Dr R. K. Pachauri: Chairman, Chairman of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Director General of the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in India.

Dr. Deodat Maharaj: Deputy-Chairman, Deputy Secretary-General (Economic & Social Development) Commonwealth Secretariat

The Honourable Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues- Birkett, M.P.: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guyana

Mr. Andrew Bishop: Guyana's Lead Negotiator to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Mr. Sydney Allicock M.P.: Elder of Surama Village, Guyana

Mr. James Singh: Commissioner of Forests, Guyana Forestry Commission, Guyana

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

Dr. Elizabeth Losos: President and Chief Executive Officer, Organization of Tropical Studies (OTS)

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

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

Ms. Frances J Seymour: Senior Fellow at the Centre for Global Development, Washington D.C.

Mr. Dane Gobin: CEO, Iwokrama, Guyana

The Centre held its 23rd Board Meeting in New York on September 27th. Given the Centre's financial situation, fundraising initiatives dominated the meeting and the meeting ended with the Trustees agreeing to aggressively pursue fundraising targets.

Business Development

Yale University develops Five Year Business Plan

In October, a team from Yale University completed a Fve Year Business Plan for the Centre. The plan called for a financial model that included a broad range of revenue sources including earned revenues (sustainable timber, eco-tourism and learning services), ecosystem services and traditional donors. A key target was to reduce the Centre's reliance on donor funding by building its business development portfolio.

World Travel Market

Iwokrama attended the World Travel Market 2014 from November 4th – 6th. WTM is the leading global event for the travel industry and offered a unique opportunity to present Iwokrama as a nature destination to the whole global travel trade and a forum to meet, network, negotiate and conduct business.

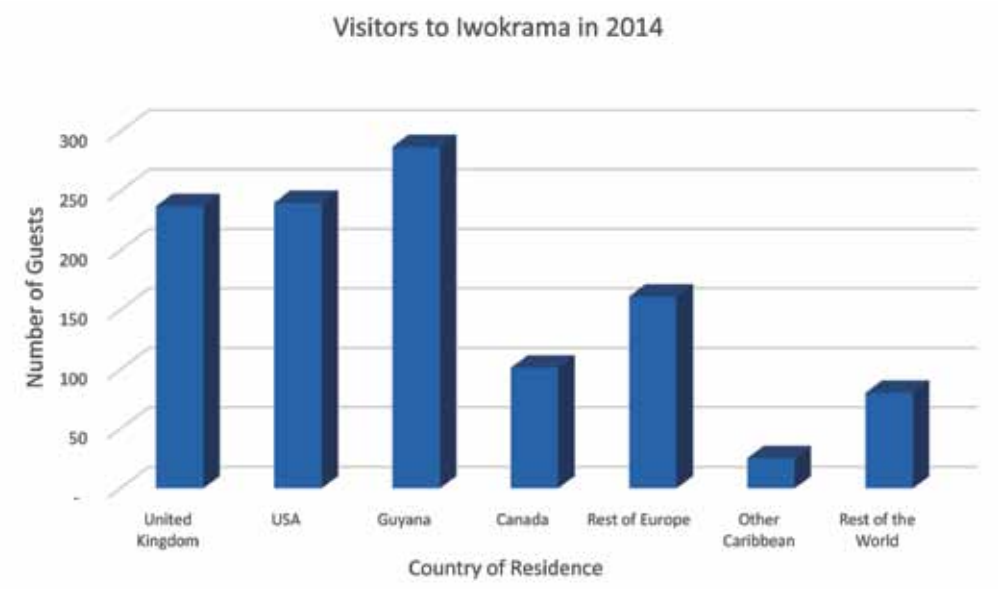


Yale University Team arrived at the Iwokrama River Lodge on October 3rd

Tourism:
The Beauty of a jungle alive

The Iwokrama Forest and Rupununi Wetlands and Savannahs are an extraordinary destination for naturalists and birders and those seeking an exceptional natural and cultural experience set in a learning context.

More than 1,100 guests visited the Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre in 2014, mainly from Guyana, the United States of America and the United Kingdom.



Iwokrama increases presence on Social Media and Travel Websites.

The Iwokrama River Lodge is now listed on Trip Advisor and Booking.com. It is an excellent marketing tool for enhancing international awareness of the Iwokrama River Lodge, but most importantly to increase direct sales of tours and packages.

Booking.com is available in more than 41 languages and is listed as the number one travel site in the world.

Iwokrama River Lodge is also listed on www.responsibletravel.com, Instagram and Pinterest. Responsibletravel.com is one of the world's largest online green travel companies. It increases our reach to people worldwide who are searching for destinations where the harm involved in tourism is kept to a minimum, and where local communities benefit.



Instagram has become very popular and is currently owned by Facebook. The emphasis on photographs is highly useful for portraying the Iwokrama River Lodge.

Pinterest though less popular than Instagram, is used for sharing images with the world. Images posted anywhere, can be pinned on Pinterest.

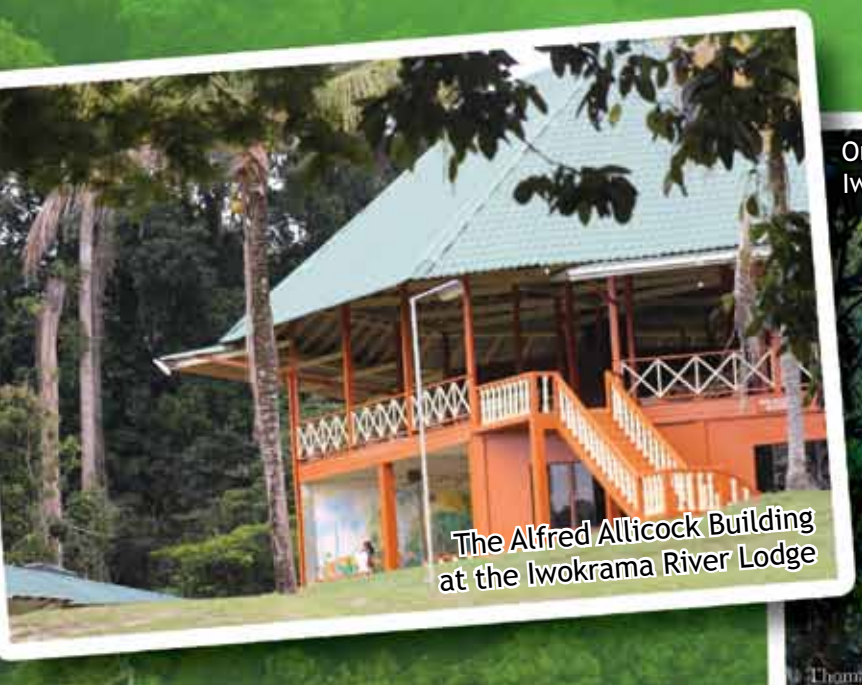
New Tourism Website

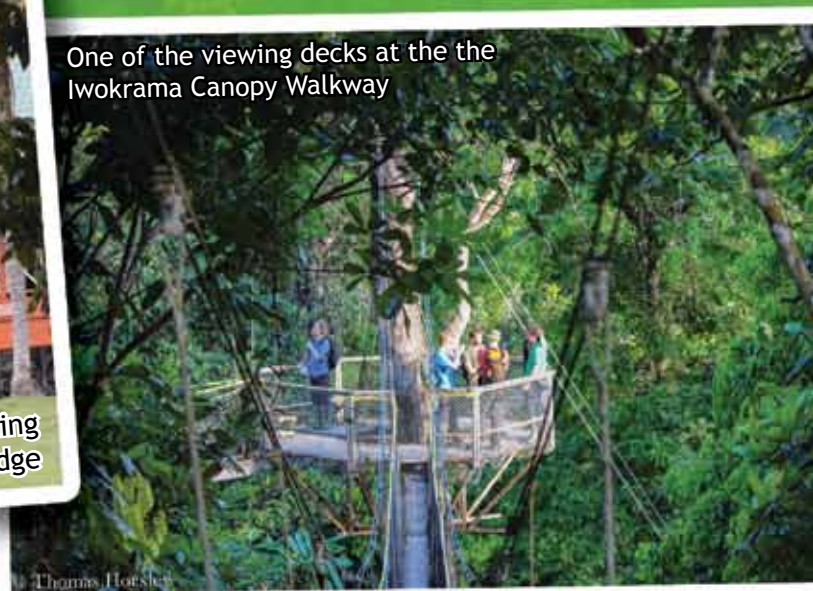
New dedicated tourism website for the Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre launched. www.iwokramariverlodge.com features the hospitality and activity offerings of the Lodge. The new website will focus on Iwokrama's tourism and will include standard information like accommodation details.

Tourism:
The Beauty of a jungle alive

"The EXPERIENCE of a lifetime!"
CasEngleby - *Reviewed October 9, 2014*
Iwokrama River Lodge offers a very unique experience. One of the best you'll ever have. It gives guests the opportunity to experience the thick jungle with the help and safe watch of experienced guides. The stay is one you won't soon forget, the cabins being very tourist friendly and the staff always able to accommodate. Not only is Iwokrama a tourist destination, it is also a research center. So many amazing things are studied at Iwokrama, things that will help us save what little natural forests and species we have left, and your stay brings their staff and scientist that much closer to discovering something important.
Stayed July 2014

"Ecotourism the way it should be."
Hans S - *Brooklyn, New York - Reviewed August 26, 2014*
Iwokrama was a magnificent experience. Not the easiest place to get to, but worth it. Great food, amazing guides who know their birds, and a low-impact operation. An important point is that the money you spend there contributes to conservation of the amazing biodiversity of the area and to the livelihood of the local Amerindian population. This is the way ecotourism (or tourism in general?) should be. Stayed August 2014, traveled with family


The Alfred Allicock Building at the Iwokrama River Lodge


One of the viewing decks at the the Iwokrama Canopy Walkway

"Life changing"

Mark B - Georgetown, Guyana - *Reviewed August 18, 2014*

If you're adventurous and you love nature, then Iwokrama is the place to be! I've been there with a research team "Operation Wallacea" and we've spent 4 days at the River lodge; it was truly a great experience. The staff members were friendly and the meals were great. The River Lodge is rich in biodiversity (it has lots of different plants and animals) and i would consider their the perfect place for ecotourism in Guyana. Overall the group spent one month in the fields doing biodiversity surveys at the river lodge and at both Surama and Canopy walkway. The experience was life changing because we have seen so many different animal species within that month, it is almost unheard of. So, if you love nature and you have a passion for wildlife, visit Iwokrama River Lodge! Stayed June 2014, traveled on business

"Wonderful!"

Sandy12592014 - Hamilton, Canada - *Reviewed May 12, 2014*

Our group of 36 Visited Iwokrama River Lodge in Mid April. Wow! what an Idyllic place. Although quite difficult to get to after a long bumpy and dusty ride from Surama, the staff were there to welcome us with refreshments and an inviting smile. After a tasty lunch followed by a much need shower in our basic but comfortable cabins, we went out for a boat ride along the Essequibo in the late afternoon to take in some breathtaking views of this beautiful part of paradise. Just to be there to listen to the sounds of the various birds getting ready to bed down for the night was an awe inspiring experience. So sorry that we were not able to spend more than a night at this beautiful location in the rain forest but would certainly.... definitely.... return for some more of this.



Navigating the Burro Burro River

Earth Expeditions Group at the summit of Turtle Mountain

Timber:
Using the Forest without losing it

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 annually.

Arresting the rate of deforestation (estimated to be 14M ha/annum) in some of the richest forests in the world is an important part of mitigation measures for reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The development of an economically viable timber business which follows international social environmental and cultural best practise methods has the potential to reduce the threat of deforestation and possibly reduce the impacts of climate change by reducing GHG emissions.

Iwokrama is starting Phase II of its sustainable timber harvesting operations which will be a demonstration model that will be able to showcase best practice methods and will be using innovative governance systems that include private and public sectors and local communities.

1. The 2015 Plan of Operations (AOP) has been completed and submitted to the Guyana Forestry Commission in fulfilment of national forest management guidelines.

2. In preparation for 2015 harvesting activities, approximately 19km of forest roads have been built, including log markets and 5km of road maintenance completed.

Iwokrama enters new partnership with Farfan and Mendes Limited

Iwokrama signed a five-year agreement with Farfan and Mendes Limited (FML) in January 2014 to conduct sawmilling operations in the Iwokrama Forest. Iwokrama and FML will develop a model timber business to showcase best practices in the timber industry. This model operation will employ a 60-year cutting cycle, harvesting 17 species including Bulletwood, Crabwood, Greenheart, Purpleheart, Silverballi, Wallaba and Wamara.

The agreement also allows for community participation through a management committee on which a representative of the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) will sit.

FML has agreed to follow Forest Stewardship Council Certification guidelines in addition to all national guidelines and laws. This will ensure that we have third party validation of employing best practices in our forestry operations. FML is also committed to producing value added products such as kiln dried flooring and mouldings in addition to traditional primary products such as squares and planks.

Iwokrama receives support for Forest Stewardship Council Certification

Iwokrama has received funding from the German Government under the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) implemented Caribbean Aqua-Terrestrial Solutions Programme to enable the Iwokrama Centre to achieve Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification of the Iwokrama Forest and its sustainable timber harvesting and sawmilling operations.

The grant runs for a period of 18 months and provides US$ 234,000 to support key aspects of FSC compliance activities which include institutional strengthening, stakeholder engagement, training and capacity building and compliance with FSC and Other Laws and Guidelines.

For more information about the Caribbean Aqua-Terrestrial Solutions Programme
http://caribbeancats.org/



Buttress of Mora Trees in the Iwokrama Forest

Training:
Active Learning by Doing

The Iwokrama International Centre, in partnership, with Operation Wallacea (www.opwall.com) provides a training space for staff, scientists, volunteers and school groups. Operation Wallacea is a network of academics from European and North American universities, who design and implement biodiversity and conservation management research programmes. Research is supported by students who join the programme, to strengthen their CV or resume, gain course credit, or collect data for a dissertation or thesis. Academics benefit from funding for high quality fieldwork enabling them to publish papers in peer reviewed journals.

Earth Expeditions is a ground breaking global conservation and education program supporting university courses, degree programs, and collaborative projects in Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Americas. Its mission is to build an alliance of individuals with first-hand knowledge of inquiry-driven, community-based learning for the benefit of ecological communities, student achievement, and global understanding. The focus has mainly been on educators and learning about inquiry methods of teaching e.g. citizen science and school yard ecology

Iwokrama

2014 University Groups and School Visits	Students	Professors/Scientists	Total
American College, Antigua- April (Recci Trip)		2	2
Phoenix Zoo (Recci Trip) -August		2	2
Operation Wallacea - June to August			
School Group 1	10	3	13
School Group 2	5	1	6
School Group 3	20	3	23
University Group 1	21		21
University Group 2	16		16
Scientists		15	15
New School of Public Engagement, NY- July	10	3	13
Earth Expeditions - Miami University- August	18	2	20
University of Lancashire- September	20	2	22
Belgian Herpatology Group- November	9	1	10
TOTAL			163

Community Development:
A people centered approach to Conservation

Iwokrama provides training on Tour Guiding and Coastal Birding

Iwokrama is exceptional among conservation organisations because it collaborates with local communities in every aspect of its work - it is committed to a participatory approach in the management of natural resources and sustainable business development in the Forest.

Iwokrama relies heavily on the support of the 16 local indigenous communities of the North Rupununi, represented by the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB), who are our partners, stakeholders and shareholders. A community member also sits on the Iwokrama International Board of Trustees – the highest level of decision making at the Centre.

The training was funded by the German Government under the GIZ implemented Caribbean Aqua-Terrestrial Solutions Programme. The Birding training was conducted by Waldyke Prince, assisted by Leon Moore and included sessions on bird identification, bird ecology and habits and bird/wildlife photography.

The training on Elements of Tour Guiding included leadership and communication, managing groups, conflict management and responsible tour guiding. The main trainers were Paul Waldron and Bonita Harris but also included enrichment sessions with Iwokrama staffers, the GIZ Project Coordinator - Annette Arjoon-Martins and other experienced tourism personnel and representatives from NGOs.

Trainees came from Hope Beach, Greenfield areas, Victoria, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, Protected Areas Commission, Wilderness Explorers, Evergreen Tours, community members from Warmadong and Paurima villages.

Community Measuring, Reporting and Verification (C-MRV)

THE Community Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (CMRV) Project, which was pioneered over the past two and a half years in the North Rupununi Wetlands of Guyana, wrapped up on September 30th with the presentation and discussion of a comprehensive monitoring report of the resources and social well-being of all 16 villages in the North Rupununi.

The C-MRV project is linked to the National MRV system of the Guyana Forestry Commission. It hired more than 40 community members and was managed and executed by a community manager, field coordinator, GIS Staffers and 32 community monitors (from the 16 communities linked with Iwokrama) and other technical staff. Technical support was also provided by Global Canopy Programme-UK (GCP) and Iwokrama.

Project Partners: Global Canopy Programme-UK, North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB) and Iwokrama.

Community Development:
A people centered approach to Conservation

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

The collaborative project on Community Owned Best Practices between Iwokrama, the North Rupununi District Development Board, Royal Holloway University and other partners continued to help strengthen local communities and encourage policy makes and civil society organisations to work with communities to promote local solutions.

Staff and partners visited several communities in the Guiana Shield Countries to share experiences and conduct training in participatory videos and photo stories – country visits included Brazil, Venezuela, Suriname, Colombia and French Guiana.

The highlight of the year was the Indigenous Film Festival under the theme "Community-owned Solutions for Social-Ecological Challenges" to showcase films and photo stories at the Main Street, Plaza from September 16th – 19th. This international event coincided with Amerindian Heritage Month and is recorded as the first Indigenous Film Festival to be held in Guyana. The festival brought together indigenous groups, academics, activists, policy makers, development workers and government officials from across the Guiana Shield.

Community Development:
A people centered approach to Conservation

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, the North Rupununi District Development Board and similar organizations in Kenya and China. The project focused on heritage management and preservation in Guyana (North Rupununi), Kenya, China (Hainan Province) and Newcastle UK.

The project staged a travelling exhibition on Heritage in Guyana in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport and the Guyana National Museum. The exhibition was also shown in Kenya and will be displayed at Newcastle University and in China in 2015"

Iwokrama also held a workshop on Heritage Management at the University of Guyana with participants from the nine Amerindian tribal nations of Guyana, University of Guyana and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport. The workshop was hosted in collaboration with the Amerindian Research Unit, University of Guyana.

Participation in the First North Rupununi Science Fair - March 2014

Iwokrama's rangers made a presentation on the Centre's monitoring programme and demonstrated the use of equipment used for water quality monitoring.

Science and Research:
Iwokrama: A Living Laboratory

Iwokrama facilitates fact-finding mission for Centre for Global Development

Dr Nancy Birdsall, President of the Centre for Global Development (CGD) led a fact-finding mission to Georgetown during February 18 – 20, 2014 to research Guyana's lessons and experiences on REDD+ Cooperation Agreements. She was accompanied by Dr Jonah Busch, Research Fellow of the Washington DC-based international think tank.

Iwokrama functioned as the lead agency for the Guyana-leg of this study which also included Brazil and Indonesia. A wide cross section of actors were interviewed during the mission including President Donald Ramotar, other senior government and opposition figures, officials of the natural resources regulatory groups, NGOs and representatives of Loggers', Miners' and Amerindian advocacy groups.

Findings of the mission were published in a blogpost How Well Are Performance-Based Payments Working? Lessons from Guyana.

The full report Assessing Performance – Based Payments for Forest Conservation: Six Successes, Four Worries, and Six Possibilities to Explore of the Guyana - Norway Agreement.

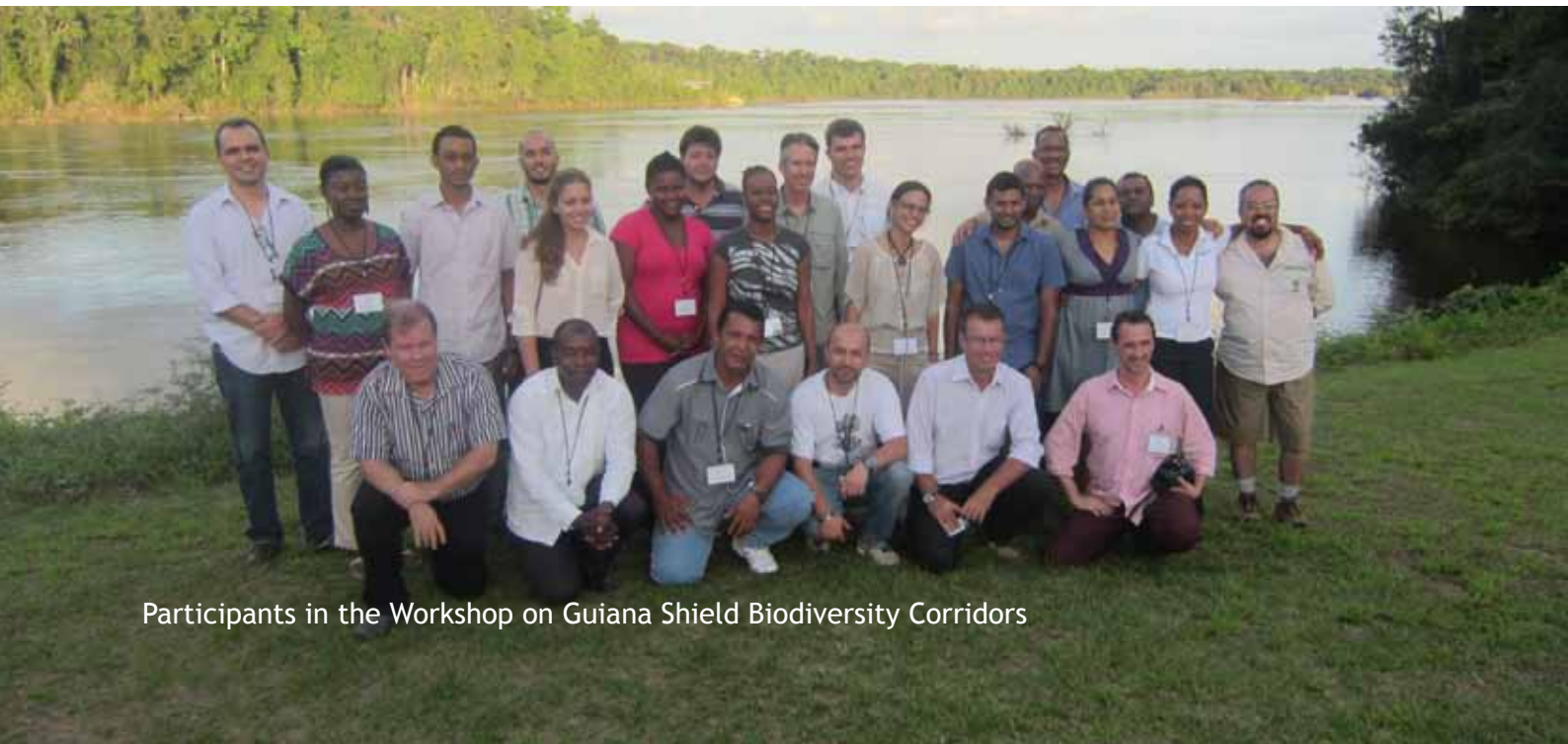
Iwokrama piloted the second round of the study which was based on feedback from a focus group of experts on the factors that enable Guyana to help determine, implement and assess comprehensive and effective REDD+ policies. Findings of this study will see the inclusion of Guyana in a CGD report titled Why Forests? Why Now? The Science, Economics, and Politics of Tropical Forests and Climate Change. Former President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo participated in the Expert Panel.

Science and Research:
Iwokrama: A Living Laboratory

Iwokrama hosts Biodiversity workshop at the Iwokrama River Lodge and Research Centre

The Guiana Shield Facility (of the United Nations Development Programme) in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held a Workshop on Guiana Shield Biodiversity Corridors to streamline support for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at the Iwokrama River Lodge during May 21-23, 2014. Presentations were made by representatives from the Caribbean Development Bank, International Union for Conservation of Nature, World Wildlife Fund WWF and other participants from Brazil, Columbia, Suriname, Venezuela, French Guiana and Guyana.

The workshop ended with a consensus plan of action regarding the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to biological corridors, connectivity conservation and transboundary conservation within the Guiana Shield Ecoregion. The Kurupukari Action Plan details agreed-upon actions organized around regional and subregional initiatives that foster implementation of transboundary and connectivity conservation actions including, inter alia, creating synergies with existing global and regional platforms; developing/organizing a technical database that allows identifying and prioritizing transboundary corridors; strengthening indigenous and other networks regionally to share territorial management experiences, ideas, best practices and capacity building for natural resources management; strengthen and facilitate academic research into connectivity science; and to support national efforts, and facilitate and support intergovernmental cooperation.



Participants in the Workshop on Guiana Shield Biodiversity Corridors

Science and Research:
Iwokrama: A Living Laboratory

Chainsaw Milling Project

The CSMP is being implemented in Guyana through the partnership between the Forestry Training Centre Inc (FTCI) and Iwokrama. This EU-funded project is overseen by Tropenbos International and is also being conducted simultaneously in Ghana.

As part of the support provided to Community Forestry Associations, a Manual on Best Practices for Chainsaw Milling has being developed. This manual focuses on improving the practice of chainsaw loggers in the trade.

Community awareness sessions have also been held in several communities on Forest Laws. These sessions are led by the Guyana Forestry Commission and a Handbook on Forest Laws is also being prepared for dissemination.

For further information please see www.chainsawmilling.org

Conservation and Monitoring:
Wise Use of Resources

Iwokrama's monitoring unit is ultimately responsible for all anecdotal and scientific data collection and response regarding the environment, biodiversity and security within forest.

- Road and River monitoring continued at least 3 times per month – this allowed the team to carry out standard wildlife, water, traffic and weather monitoring as well as documenting and appropriately responding to human/illegal activities.

- Rangers worked with a number of international scientists and school groups as well as supported the Tourism and Hospitality Unit of Iwokrama.

- Continuous infrastructure assessment and maintenance – assessment and maintenance work was done throughout the year on our two existing Ranger Stations, the Fair View Airstrip, Canopy Walkway, IRL compound and the road and bridges within Iwokrama; also garbage was collected along the 73 km public access road that runs through the Iwokrama forest.

During 2014, all of our Rangers benefitted from in-house geographic orientation and computer literacy training as well as First Responders Training and First Aid Certification.



Iwokrama's Monitoring Team

Financials
Forests are worth more alive than dead

Government of Guyana supports Iwokrama Centre

Over the period, the Government of Guyana was the main supporter to the Centre and provided approximately US$631,000, bringing its total contribution to US$1,531,000 over the last two years. In this regard the Centre would like to express its heart-felt thanks to His Excellency, the President of Guyana and the Government of Guyana.



Aerial view of the Iwokrama River Lodge

Iwokrama International Centre
Independent Auditor's Report for the Year ended 2014

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements of Iwokrama International Centre which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2014, revenue and expenditure statement, statement of changes in reserves and statement of cash flows for the year then ended.

Directors'/Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Directors/ Management are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

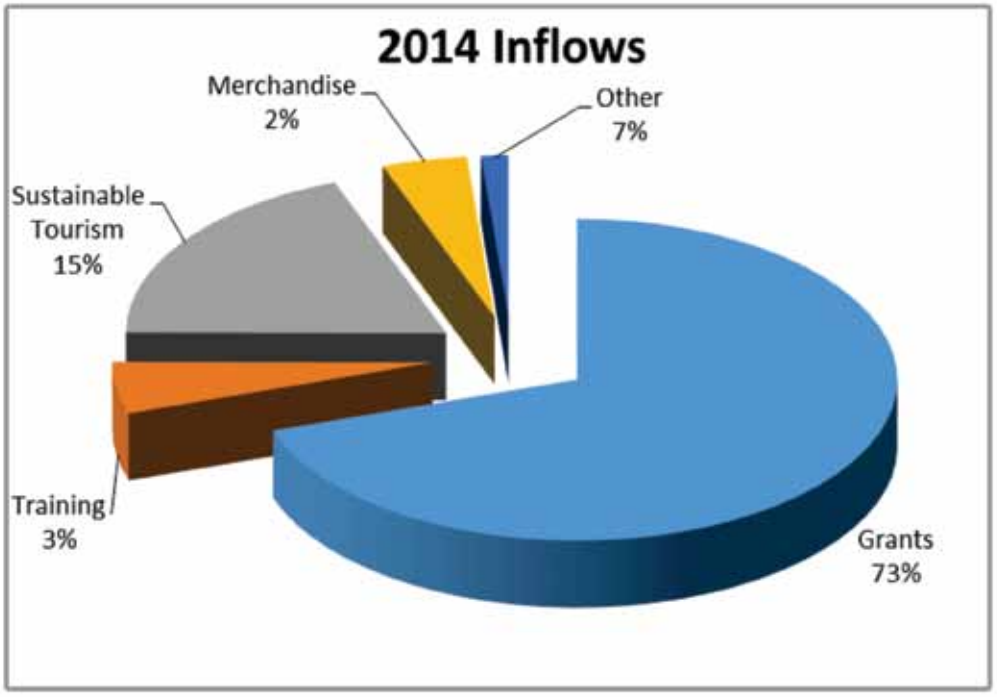
Opinion

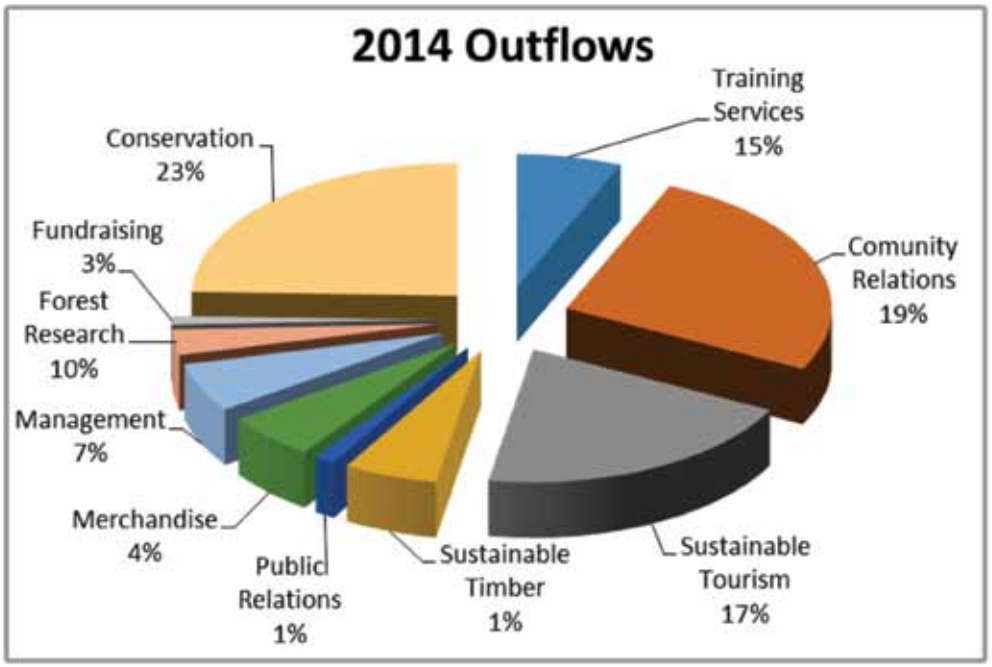
In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view, in all material respects of the financial position of Iwokrama International Centre as at 31 December 2014 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements
The financial statements comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 1991

TSD LAL & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

2014 Audited Financial Report





Notes

Notes

