IWOKRAMA

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



MODEL OF THE IWOKRAMA
RIVER LODGE BY:

GEORGE TANCREDO
BALATA ARTIST OF NAPPI VILLAGE



Mr. George Tancredo, legendary balata artisan of Nappi Village, Central Rupununi was renowned for creating beautiful craftwork. His masterpieces included representations of Rupununi fauna and various aspects of traditional Macushi life. Each piece was remarkably detailed and would have taken several hours or days to complete depending on the level of intricacy.

Such was his talent that he represented Guyana at international craft shows and was once invited to Buckingham Palace in England. Mr Tancredo's model of the Iwokrama River Lodge (Cover Photo) is displayed at Iwokrama's Head Office while another of his classics is a sculpture of an entire Macushi village, comprising hundreds of small figures - this can be viewed at the National Gallery in Georgetown.

Maestro George Tancredo passed away in October 2020. His works are forever treasures and also serve as sound testimony for the conservation of the historic bulletwood (*Manilkara bidentata*) tree upon which the rubber trade flourished decades ago.

Special permission is required from the Guyana Forestry Commission to fell Bulletwood Trees commercially.

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From the CEO



COVID – 19 created many disruptions for the Centre during 2020 including the closure of all the sustainable businesses causing the Centre to rethink its workplan.

Iwokrama's sustainable forestry business restarted with a new partner after the previous partner opted to leave but it remains plagued with demand, production and shipping challenges. Tourism remains the hardest hit – visits stopped abruptly in April due to travel restrictions and even though the River Lodge re-opened in December, tourism continues to face major challenges from cancelled visits and low domestic visitation despite very attractive pricing.

Field activities also slowed significantly for most of the year with travel restrictions and lockdowns making it difficult to execute projects and the Centre had to reconfigure project work with its donors. Educational groups such as Operation Wallacea and Earth Expeditions were also forced to postpone their annual trips to Iwokrama. There was an increase in illegal activity in the forest, most notably illegal mining and the Centre worked with its partners, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission to conduct monitoring and enforcement activities during the year. The Centre, with support from ExxonMobil Guyana, procured a drone to support its monitoring programme by providing aerial views of the forest. Support was also provided to two communities to aid them in monitoring and preventing illegal activities in their area.

Despite these drawbacks, the Centre still delivered on some key outputs for the year. We were able to continue our biodiversity research project in partnership with Kent University and University of Guyana which includes a PhD scholarship, and the completion of some key research projects including Post Harvest Silvicultural Surveys and Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs). Realizing that the Centre needed a new model to manage the forest, Iwokrama worked with the IDB to produce a road map for a large-scale Virtual Reality (VR) project for Iwokrama and the North Rupununi and produced a mini VR game as the first step. Iwokrama also signed MOUs with Environmental Management Consultants, Guyana's premier environmental consultants and the Guyana Meteorological Office for water quality and weather monitoring.

The indigenous communities were also affected by COVID-19 and Iwokrama, through funding from ExxonMobil Guyana and other donors, provided masks and sanitization supplies to 12 communities of the North Rupununi.

Repsol Exploracion-Guyana S.A continued their support which allowed the Centre to assist our community partners by providing school and educational supplies, sanitization supplies, masks and food supplies. They, along with other partners, also supported Iwokrama's Annual Christmas gift drive for Fair View Village ,since there could be no party this year.

Our community partners were unable to hold the bi-monthly meetings and so Iwokrama provided a quarterly report on its activities to the NRDDB. To support its fundraising programme, Iwokrama completed a brochure to support a new Sponsor a Hectare programme it hopes to launch in the 2nd quarter in 2021.

All of our achievements would not have been possible without the valued contributions and collaboration of our partners. I take this opportunity to thank all of our friends, supporters, business partners and donors for their contributions during the year. We are very grateful to, the IDB, Repsol Exploracion-Guyana S.A., GIZ, Evergreen Forest Products Inc and other donors for their continued support. Special thanks to ExxonMobil Guyana who has continued to support our Science Programme for the past 4 years.

I would also like to recognize the hard work of our very committed staff who were affected by the furloughs and salary adjustments that made it possible for Iwokrama to survive the year. Special thanks to our founding partners, the Government of Guyana which continued to provide substantial support over the year and the Commonwealth Secretariat. The strong alliances of our community partners, the NRDDB, and their unwavering support and understanding was a key factor in Iwokrama's accomplishments for the year.

For 2021, the Centre will continue to align its work to support the Government's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and work on building a new model of forest management using virtual reality and online platforms to circumvent the disruptions from the still enduring COVID-19 pandemic.



Dane Gobin
Chief Executive Officer



Tourism





2020 will be remembered as the year the global travel and tourism industry was reset by the novel corona virus. As a result of travel restrictions and lock-down, the Iwokrama River Lodge was closed from March – November and welcomed only 314 guests – Jan -March and December.

In keeping with the Guyana Tourism Authority and the National Covid Task Force, the tourism team developed a standard operational procedure for the implementation of safe travel to our River Lodge and Iwokrama was granted conditional approval for reopening in December 2020 by the authority.

During the period March – November, the Iwokrama team:

- Developed new, shorter tours - the Black Caiman, the King Fisher and the Capuchin.
- Partnered with Saxacalli Research Centre and Nature Reserve to develop a day tour to the Saxacalli Resort. The facility offers opportunities for historical day tours, retreats, school tours and a practical classroom for teaching amongst others.
- Conducted extensive repairs and maintenance to the Fred Allicock Building and Cabin 6 and cleaned and sanitized all Cabins prior to re-opening in December.





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







Forestry

New Partners

Sustainable timber harvesting operations halted in March due to national Covid-19 Restrictions. During the national lockdown, existing partners – FML/McV-Guyana opted to close operations in the Iwokrama Forest, the agreement was terminated in April.

Iwokrama advertised for a new partner and got a preferred bidder, Evergreen Forest Products Inc., a 40-year-old company who has been supplying the United States with Guyana's hardwoods for the past 15 years. A new partnership agreement was signed in May, 2020.

Post-harvest Silvicultural Surveys

Post-harvest surveys were carried out on 3 closed Management Units which contained 30 felling blocks over an area of 1,668 ha.

Post-harvest Silvicultural Surveys are intended to determine the level of compliance to the GFC Code of Practice for Timber Harvesting. They examine the harvesting operations and its impacts to determine operational efficiency and residual stand condition (extent of damage associated directly to logging and residual stock levels).

These surveys were funded by ExxonMobil.

Forest Certification

FSC
www.fsc.org
FSC™ C131490

The mark of responsible forestry

Iwokrama's 4th FSC™ Surveillance Audit by Soil Association Certification was postponed to early 2021 due to Covid-19 Travel Restrictions.

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



Oxford Project

The research project **to assess the vulnerability of forest carbon stocks to climate change in the Guiana Shield ecoregion** continued with a few delays. The overarching goal is to build and strengthen human geospatial research and analysis capacity in Guyana and Suriname to assist development of policies to mitigate climate change impacts and engage in the green-climate economy.

The Project is supervised and co-funded by Oxford University and the Global Challenges Research Fund.







Training & Awareness

Iwokrama-UG Webinar Series

Iwokrama partnered with the University of Guyana and the National Communications Network (NCN) for a four-month series from September to December titled: ***Emerging Sciences***

The Thematic areas included

- Indigenous People and Conservation; Education as a tool in Conservation
- Biodiversity and Ecology
- Sustainable Agriculture; Mangrove Conservation & Ecology
- Natural Resource Management

Presenters and Moderators were Iwokrama Staffers, University of Guyana Lecturers (UG) and UG Graduates.













Where Did All The Animals Go? (WDATAG)

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

Iwokrama and the Mayor of Linden are the key Guyana partners and everyone is encouraged to participate. In 2021, three primary schools will be selected and children will be encouraged to draw animals that are endangered in Guyana. These drawings will be displayed in an online gallery along with those from other countries.



Educational Visits

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all training, research and student visits were cancelled.

Annual visits from Operation Wallacea and Earth Expeditions were also postponed. Both expeditions were due to celebrate 10 years since these initiatives started in Guyana.

Two training courses: Tour Guide Training and Forest Botany were postponed.

Funding from IDB and New Zealand was secured for these courses.

ECCAM Scholars Graduate

We are pleased to announce that three (3) staff members who were awarded scholarships under the ***Education for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (ECCAM)*** project have successfully completed their studies!

ECCAM was an intra-ACP project funded by the European Commission to promote cooperation between higher education institutions in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) regions. The Fiji National University (FNU) was the coordinating institution in association with the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the University of Guyana. The Iwokrama International Centre was the only associate partner of the project.

Ms. Shara Seelall graduated from UWI with a Master of Science degree (distinction) in Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Caribbean, while Messers. Jason Dick-Grant and Purnanand Lalbachan were both conferred with Executive Master of Business Administration degrees from FNU.

Hearty congratulations Shara, Jason and Purnanand (Mickey)! We are proud of your achievements and delighted that you continue to contribute to Guyana's development.







Community Outreach

Fair View Tourism Workshop

A work-shop was held with Fair View Village in March, building on their interest in developing their own tourism product. The two-day workshop included discussions on the history of the village, types of tourism and potential attractions in Fair View. Outcomes incuded the formation of a Tourism Committee, the development of a potential tour package and identification of training requirements.





Forestry Workshop with Fair View

After Fair View expressed an interest in starting their own timber operations, a work-shop was held in October. The workshop provided an overview of Iwokrama's forestry operations starting at the inventory process and concluding with Forest Certification.

The discussions also included Profitability, Fair View's timber and collaborative management agreements with Iwokrama.

Iwokrama continues to support Fair View's Timber Harvesting Iniative.



Mask Donations

Several individuals and organisations joined Iwokrama to help reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus by donating reusable face masks for Iwokrama Staff and the North Rupununi Communities.

Special Appreciation to Rotary International, Vanda Radzik, Janice Viera of VDos Consultancy, ExxonMobil and Mings Products and Services Limited for their support.







Collaboration for Youth Support

Backpack International (BPI), USA teamed up with Iwokrama to provide backpacks for children of Fair View Village and Iwokrama staffers. BPI also donated books for school libraries which will be distributed to the 20 communities of the NRDDB in the new year.

Oslyn Rodrigues, founder of BPI, is Guyanese born, has committed to partnering with Iwokrama to continue outreach to communities.

Fair View Christmas Present Drive

Iwokrama was unable to host its usual Christmas party for the Children of Fair View, but with support from partners and donations from friends was able to provide Christmas Presents and funds for food for a Village Social.

Special Appreciation to Repsol Exploración Guyana, S.A and Evergreen Forest Products Inc for their support.

Santa was unable to visit due to Covid-19 Travel Restrictions Safety First. Maybe 2021.

Education and Covid-19 Response Support

Repsol Exploración Guyana, S.A. continued to support Iwokrama's outreach activities for a fourth year. This year they provided educational materials to Fair View Primary and Surama Nursery and Primary Schools and continued support for the annual Christmas Celebrations in Fair View Village.

Repsol also supported Iwokrama's Covid Relief efforts by providing funding for the provision of food and santisation and cleaning supplies to three North Rupununi Communities.

Monitoring

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

Illegal Mining along the Siparuni River.

Illegal mining activities increased in the Forest during the year, as the Covid-19 Pandemic resulted in reduced staffing and monitoring patrols. The miners took advantage of the reduced patrols and intensified their operations; employing the use of small dredges which caused significant damage including the removal of trees.

Additional support from the Ministry of Natural Resources Corp of Wardens, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission and the Guyana Police Force resulted in an arrest in October. However, illegal mining continues to be a challenge because the miners are also active in the 1 KM buffer on other side of the Siparuni River (Iwokrama Border) and are crossing the river to the Iwokrama Forest.

No mining is allowed in the buffer zone which serves to protect the Iwokrama Forest. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Police continue to give valuable support and increased monitoring and enforcement is expected to occur in 2021.

Iwokrama donates monitoring equipment to the Ministry of Natural Resources

In December, Iwokrama donated equipment in support of the Ministry of Natural Resources' Corp of Wardens for the Ministry's monitoring exercises. The Wardens have provided critical support to Iwokrama particularly for monitoring for illegal gold mining.

Iwokrama is very grateful for the ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and looks forward to strengthening this relationship.
















HACH
476
253
412







*Current Research: **Forest Impact Monitoring** - The assessment the long-term impact of Iwokrama's sustainable harvesting operation on faunal diversity mainly birds and bats. UG student Arianne Harris (PhD)photo top left) will complete this research; This research project is funded by ExxonMobil.*





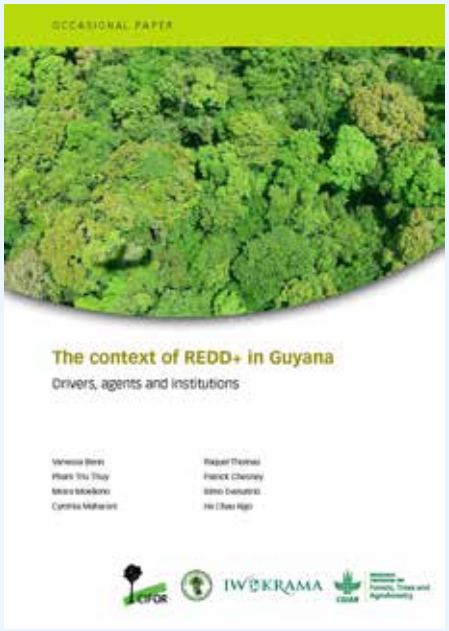
Forest Impact Monitoring

Forest Impact Monitoring (FIM) research began in February, with the objective of collecting biodiversity data in Iwokrama's post logging area.

The first field season took place from the beginning of February - mid-March - during this season, 2 post-harvest plots, 1 consisting of 2 survey sites and the other consisting of 4 survey sites were surveyed.

The second field season, started in October - early December. During this season, we surveyed 2 post-harvest plots: both consisting of 4 survey sites.

Projects



Reporting on REDD+ in Guyana

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) partnered with Iwokrama to conduct a study on the progress of reducing deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) in Guyana as part of a global comparative study involving 14 countries. The findings were published in a CIFOR occasional paper titled: ***The Context of REDD+ in Guyana: Drivers, agents and institutions.*** The report highlighted Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and the landmark US$250million agreement with the Kingdom of Norway including its achievements and challenges; advances in developing a robust monitoring, reporting and verification system and independent forest monitoring practices.

The full report is accessible at OP-201.pdf (cifor.org)







RENFORESAP

Iwokrama completed a review of tourism in the three Guianas (Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana) under the project, *"Strengthening the Network of Protected Areas in the Guiana Shield and their contributions to sustainable development in respect of local cultures, values and lifestyles."*
Key Areas of the project are

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

DETECT

Iwokrama is collaborating with Open University (UK), the North Rupununi District Development Board, the Ministry of Health and other key institutions to develop new techniques for Malaria control. This one-year Discovery Phase includes testing the use of radar imagery and drone technology to identify potential mosquito breeding sites and the potential for biocontrol. The pilot study is being conducted in Yupukari Village. Once successful, the project will be expanded to include other North Rupununi Communities. Iwokrama is collecting information from Fair View, Toka, Annai Central, Wowetta, Rupertee and Kwatamang.

National Assessment of Tapir, Caiman and Tortoise Populations

Iwokrama was commissioned to conduct population assessments and prepare management plans for three Amazonian species in Guyana – tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), yellow-footed tortoise (*Chelonoidis denticulata*) and caiman (*Caiman crocodilus, Paleosuchus trigonatus and P. palpebrosus*).

This project is facilitated by an agreement between the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and the German Government with KfW funding. The Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission is the national implementing partner.
The project aims to contribute to the conservation of Amazonian Biodiversity, by increasing the effectiveness of management and monitoring and the control of fauna and flora threatened by trade. Iwokrama's assignment will end in September 2021.

Forestry Research: Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs)

A full census of all 16 PSPs was completed in 2020, data analysis and reporting will be completed in 2021. Data analysis will include above ground biomass, changes in the number of trees/ha; the number of trees of a given species and growth increments and regeneration.

PSPs are permanently demarcated areas of forest, typically of one hectare, which are periodically remeasured. They are the basis for growth and yield studies and provide information on forest changes. Forest managers use this knowledge to aid in planning.

This research project is funded by ExxonMobil.







Remote Monitoring using Drone Technology

Iwokama can now monitor the forest remotely using drone technology. The drone, which has communication capability, will help to identify and monitor areas of the forest where illegal activities are prevalent, supporting the work of enforcement teams which include the Guyana Police Force, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Corps of Wardens and the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission.

The Guyana Drone Operators Association provided training to Iwokrama Staffers in November.

The Drone and Training was funded by ExxonMobil. Support was also provided to two communities to aid them in monitoring illegal activities in their area.





Covid-19 Response

Iwokrama provided masks and cleaning and sanitization supplies to 10 Communities in the North Rupununi with support from ExxonMobil.



IWOKRAMA ExxonMobil

A PARTNERSHIP FOR SCIENCE

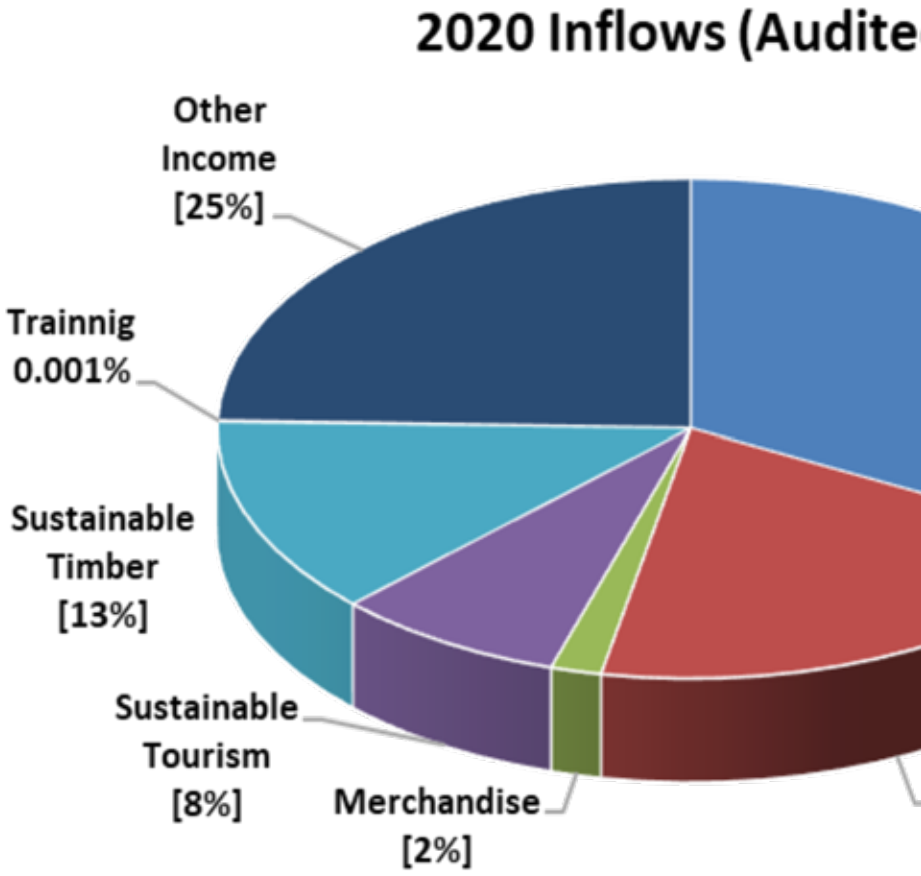
Financial Report

Like many organisations globally, the Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on Iwokrama's field operations substantially affecting revenues. All business operations were closed in April and while the timber harvesting operation restarted in May, it was plagued with production and demand challenges and limited by the closure of many international ports.

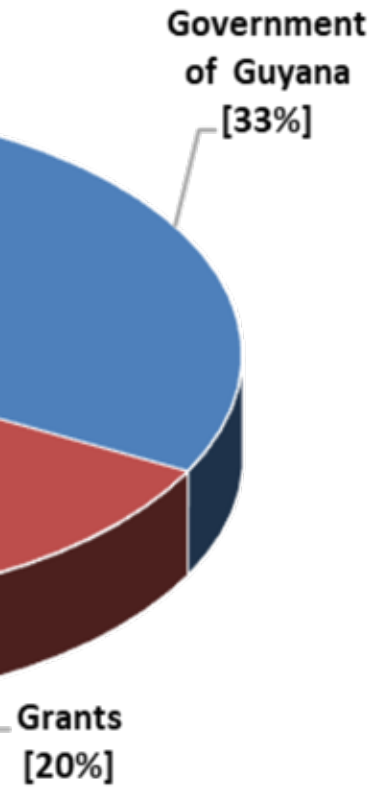
Tourism was the hardest hit as global travel restrictions continued to limit opportunities, which resulted in cancelled visits and low domestic visitation despite very attractive pricing and marketing initiatives. Travel restrictions also caused cancellations for all student and research visits. As expected, business / earned revenues declined, however with continued support from the Government of Guyana and its partners, the Centre was still able to deliver on key outputs. We also used the "down-time" to improve facilities and develop new opportunities in anticipation of the opening of the travel market in 2021.

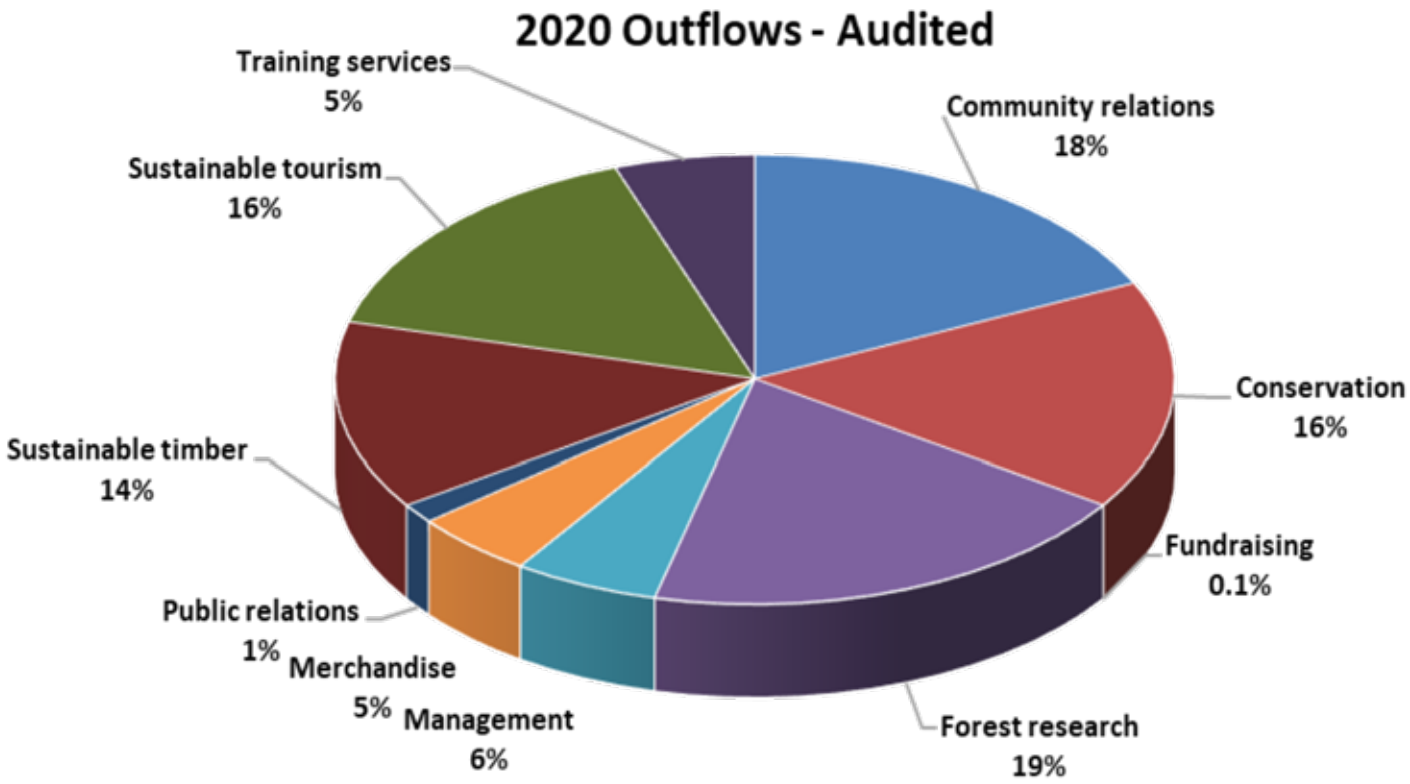
The Centre maintained its austerity programme and continued to seek additional funding in support of research and science. We expect that the sustainable businesses, will continue to make substantive contributions to core operating costs despite current global challenges and will in the coming year make greater contribution to the Centre's unrestricted funds.

The charts which follow are extracts from our audited 2020 accounts and show the contributions to total revenue from the various revenue sources and the percentage of programmatic expenditure of overall expenditure (excluding depreciation).



d)


Government
of Guyana
[33%]
Grants
[20%]


2020 Outflows - Audited
Training services
5%
Community relations
18%
Sustainable tourism
16%
Conservation
16%
Sustainable timber
14%
Fundraising
0.1%
Public relations
1%
Merchandise
5%
Management
6%
Forest research
19%



Partners

- Amazon Conservation Team, Suriname
- Anton de Kon University, Suriname
- Backpack International Inc.
- Banks DIH Ltd.
- Biomimicry Roraima
- Boise State University
- Brookfield Zoo, Chicago
- Calgary Zoo
- Caribbean Youth Environment Network
- Center for International Forestry Research
- Chicago Zoological Society
- Commonwealth Secretariat
- Community and Tourism Services Inc.
- Conservation International
- Darwin Initiative
- Earth Expeditions - Miami University
- Embassy of Mexico
- Environmental Protection Agency-Guyana
- Environmental Resources Management Foundation
- European Union
- Evergreen Forest Products Inc.
- ExxonMobil
- Flying Doctors of America
- Forestry Training Centre Inc.
- German Government under the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Giftland Mall
- Global Canopy Programme (Oxford)

- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Guyana Forestry Commission
- Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
- Guyana Police Force
- Guyana School of Agriculture
- Guyana Shield Initiative
- Guyana Society for Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- Guyana Tourism Authority
- Guyana Trade and Investment Services
- Horniman Museum
- Inter-American Development Bank
- International Development and Research Centre
- International Tropical Timber Organisation
- International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Jacksonville Zoo
- Lyell Centre, Heriot Watt University
- Mamiraua Institute for Sustainable Development
- McArthur Foundation
- National Audubon Society
- National Communications Network
- National Parks Commission, Guyana
- New GPC Inc.
- Newcastle University
- North Rupununi District Development Board
- Office of the First Lady
- Office of HRH The Prince of Wales
- Office of the Climate Change
- Open University
- Operation Wallacea
- Panthera
- Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute
- Philadelphia Zoo
- Protected Areas Commission
- Rain Forest Alliance
- Repsol Exploración Guyana, S.A.
- Republic Bank Ltd.
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- Rumi Foundation
- Ryerson University
- Smithsonian - Mason School of Conservation
- Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
- STEM Guyana
- Sterling Products Limited
- The British Government
- The Government of Guyana
- The World Bank
- Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana
- United Nations Development Programme
- University of Central Lancashire
- University of Guyana
- University of Kent
- University of Oxford
- University of the West Indies
- US Agency for International Development
- Warwick University
- Wilderness Explorers
- World Wildlife Fund

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IWOKRAMA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR

RAIN FOREST CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

49 BARRACK & HIGH STREETS, KINGSTON
GEORGETOWN, GUYANA
T: (592) 2251504, 225 1186
E: IWOKRAMA-GENERAL@IWOKRAMA.ORG
W: WWW.IWOKRAMA.ORG