

# **IWOKRAMA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR RAINFOREST CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – IWOKRAMA RESEACH AND SCIENCE AND PROGRAMME**

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**14<sup>th</sup> July, 2014**

## Request for Proposals (RFP) Advertisement

### **Iwokrama Research and Science Programme**

This RFP seeks to solicit proposals from private and public companies / institutions / Universities and other organizations engaged in tropical rainforest conservation under changing climate and land use wishing to partner with the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development to further enhance activities that provide earned revenues for the Centre. A priority is to fully develop Iwokrama's science and research activities into a vibrant, innovative and internationally leading research programme which will at the same time provide revenues for the Centre. Such a partnership would entail investments in infrastructure, equipment and materials, marketing and other related areas.

To this end, the Centre now invites interested companies / corporations / donors / universities / learning institutions and other institutions who have access to the requisite equipment, human, financial and other resources to submit proposals for the development of Iwokrama's research and science programme.

The proposal should address critical aspects from a wide range of scientific research objectives, including but not limited to sustainable forest management, climate change, hydrology/geochemistry interactions, biodiversity, bio-prospecting and ecosystems services and community impacts. There is also room for knowledge transfer in the form of training and capacity building in these areas. Proposals should also indicate the type of engagement envisaged including but not limited to partnerships, concession arrangements and joint ventures.

All activities must demonstrate sustainable ecological, social, and cultural practices and be geared towards certified best-practice protocols.

Interested parties are asked to include evidence of resources, capacity and related experience in their current business.

For further documentation on this RFP kindly contact:

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This is an open ended request for proposals and proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis and on a first- submitted, first- considered basis; where the earlier proposals will be first considered

**14<sup>th</sup> July, 2014**

## **Request for Proposals (RFP)**

### **Strategic Partner(s) for Iwokrama's Science and Research Programme**

#### ***1. Introduction***

Over the last few years, as a result of the still enduring international financial crisis and a shift in donor priorities, the Centre has experienced funding challenges especially with regard to meeting its core costs which are estimated to be approximately US\$1,200,000 annually. It is now imperative that the Centre make urgent efforts to generate its own revenues by 1) developing sustainable business models using the natural assets of the forests whilst employing international economic, social and environmental best practices and 2) capitalize on the intellectual knowledge it has accumulated from its 25 year history of research into sustainable development. These businesses are expected to be developed through innovative partnerships amongst the private sector, the local communities and Iwokrama.

The Centre has recently engaged a partner to develop phase 2 of its sustainable timber operations which are expected to start early in 2015 and ecotourism remains a profitable activity for the Centre. Learning services is now a growing area of revenue generation for the Centre as the Centre has several international groups that now visit Iwokrama annually. The Centre would now like to consider a similar development path for its research and science activities.

This RFP now seeks to solicit proposals from private and public companies / institutions / Universities / donors and other organizations wishing to partner with the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development to further enhance research and science based activities that would provide earned revenues for the Centre. Such partnership(s) would entail investments in infrastructure, equipment and materials, marketing and other related areas.

## **2. Background**

The Iwokrama Centre manages the 371,000 Ha Iwokrama Forest in central Guyana. This extraordinary site is part of the Guiana Shield Frontier Forest, one of the four remaining extensive pristine forested areas left in the world (the Amazon, Congo, and Papua New Guinea are the other three). The Guiana Shield Forests are set in a complex social, economic and cultural environment whose inhabitants are among the poorest people in the world. The area is characterized by weak national and local community institutions, and dispersed small scale gold mining, chainsaw logging, and wildlife trading. The Guiana Shield, the Amazon, the Congo, and Papua New Guinea represent the last chance for humanity to demonstrate that we can effectively manage tropical rain forests.

The broader global context for tropical rain forest management includes the need to consider private sector and local community involvement. The private sector exports more than US\$28 billion worth of products every year from developing nation forests. The financial benefits from these businesses are not equitably distributed and the negative ecological consequences of some forest use systems are already being felt in many countries. Over 20% of the remaining tropical forest areas are owned or managed by indigenous people. It therefore seems clear that the effective management of tropical forests will require pluralistic and collaborative efforts involving local communities, the private sector, the public sector, and non-government organizations. In this context, Iwokrama's objectives are to show how tropical rain forests can be sustainably used and conserved, show how multiple goods and services can be captured from forests, forge a pathway for private sector and community involvement in using and conserving forests, and finally transfer management models to other forest users and owners. Essentially, the Centre aims to prove that forests are worth more alive than dead and you can use a forest without losing it.

Iwokrama brings together in a unique alliance:

- Sixteen local communities (approximately 7,000 people), who are shareholders and participants in IIC's operations and who, as the forest's co-managers with the Centre, 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 ecosystem services; and
- A sustainably managed business operation, 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 showing how a rainforest can be used for real sustainability, real climate change protection and real community benefit.

Three main research themes at Iwokrama strategically underpin the alliance between the environment, the communities, science and business. These are Environmental Resilience, Human, social and cultural capital and Ecosystem service values.

All business, community and scientific activities at Iwokrama are now being brought together into one integrated approach to reinforce the Centre as a leading international example of forestry management in a changing climate.

Supervised by the IIC's CEO and his team under the strategic policy direction of the IIC's International Board of Trustees, Iwokrama conducts:

- Up to date scientific research into the impacts of climate change on the forest;
- Ground breaking steps to measure and evaluate the contribution which Iwokrama's natural services make to the forest's overall financial value;
- Four core self-supporting businesses - selective timber harvesting, eco-tourism, training services and the forest's services - putting into practice 25 years of intensive experience of conservation and sustainable forest management since the IIC's foundation;
- Innovative governance models of business development which include private sector and local community participation through shareholding agreements;
- A unique form of devolved governance (enshrined in the Act of Parliament) placed in the hands of international trustees; and most important of all

- Close knit relationships with the local communities, based on equality and mutual trust, which help drive the co-management of Iwokrama and its multi-dimensional resources.

To achieve its mandate, the Centre's work programmes include community development, conservation and monitoring, science and research, sustainable timber operations, eco-tourism, learning services and information and communication.

The Centre is governed by an International Board of Trustees and His Royal Highness, Prince Charles of Wales is its Patron.

Please visit [www.iwokrama.org](http://www.iwokrama.org) for more information

### **Location**

The Iwokrama Forest is located in the heart of Guyana (**Exhibit I**). The Iwokrama River Lodge is located approximately 340 km from Georgetown on the left bank of the Essequibo River at Kurupukari (**Exhibit II**). The River Lodge and the Reserve can be accessed by air and road. By air, it is approximately 1 ¼ hours by light aircraft to Iwokrama's Airstrip at Kurupukari. By road it is a 6 -9 hour drive (based on road condition) from Georgetown through Linden along the Georgetown – Lethem road.

### **Forest Zoning**

The Iwokrama forest is divided into two equal zones – the Sustainable Utilization Area (SUA) and the Wilderness Preserve (WP). The SUA is where most of the business development will be conducted whilst the WP is used as a baseline control area.

### **Local Communities**

Iwokrama is expecting that any business development will be managed by a joint venture between local communities and the private sector.

The individuals living in, or near, the Iwokrama Forest include the following people:

- There is one permanent settlement within the Iwokrama Forest, which is the Arawak/Makushi/Wapishana settlement of Fair View. This village comprises about 110 people in 21 households. The Amerindian Act does not formally recognize the interests of the villagers of Fair View with respect to the lands within the Iwokrama Forest.

- Surama Village is the closest village to the Iwokrama Forest and the Makushi-Arawak inhabitants of this village use areas within the Iwokrama Forest. The village comprises about 302 people in 57 households. Surama village is part of Annai District, which is recognized by the Amerindian Act; however, the Act does not formally recognize all of the land use areas of these villagers.
- There are approximately 3,500 people living in thirteen villages south of the Iwokrama Forest in Region 9. Approximately 91 percent of these people are Amerindian (77% Makushi; 11% Wapishana; and 3% Arawak). Five percent of households are self-described as 'Mixed,' (Head of Household is half Coastlander/half Amerindian) and 3 percent of households as 'Coastlander,' (African or East Indian descent).
- There are approximately 7,000 people living in fifteen villages west of the Iwokrama Forest in Region 8. The majority of these people are Amerindian (mainly Patamona with two Makushi villages). About one third of these people are located within a week's walk of the Iwokrama Forest border along the Siparuni River.

These peoples are represented through different mechanisms. Village councils established under the Amerindian Act represent Amerindian villages and districts. A community development council with an elected chairperson represents the people of Fair View, Apoteri, Rewa, and Crash Water Villages. All of the communities of the North Rupununi are represented by the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB), which consists of leaders from all of the villages of the North Rupununi and Iwokrama Forest. The people of Region 8 are represented by their respective village councils and by a Region 8 area council. It is important to recognize that different communities, or groups within communities, may have different interests in the Iwokrama Forest that reflect their different needs and aspirations.

To date very limited archaeological work has been carried out in the Iwokrama Forest. However there is evidence of past human occupation of the forest. The only archaeological surveys completed have been limited to main riverain areas and have established the location of many petroglyphs. Other petroglyphs have been found within the Forest but have not yet been systematically catalogued. There is a strong oral historical record of human occupancy within the area. This is confirmed by plant and other collectors and the zoning inventory teams, who have noted the evidence of potsherds, stone tools and other signs of human occupation within several areas of the Forest. The location of palm stands in well-defined areas of the Forest is also suggestive of past anthropogenic influences. The oral historical record has

preserved a number of stories and deep rooted cultural beliefs about the Iwokrama Mountains situated inside the Iwokrama Forest.

Article 6(1) of the Iwokrama Act states that Iwokrama cannot “prejudice, alter or affect any right or privilege heretofore legally or traditionally possessed, exercised or enjoyed by any Amerindian who has a particular connection with any area of land within or neighbouring the Programme Site.” Traditional rights and privileges include the access to, and use of, the biophysical resources of the Iwokrama Forest. In this context, Iwokrama presently permits local subsistence activities within the Iwokrama Forest; however, it should be noted that commercial activities by community members were also “traditionally enjoyed” by Amerindians who harvested Curare in the Iwokrama Mountains, were employed in the Balata trade prior to the 1970s and worked in gold mining.

Iwokrama’s relationship with local communities is based on an equal partnership rather than the more traditional patron-client or senior partner - junior partner relationships of natural resource extraction arrangements. Iwokrama benefits from the knowledge, skills, good will and support of local communities. In return, communities expect to be partners in the sustainable use and conservation practices of the Iwokrama Forest.

The main interests of local communities in Iwokrama are to monitor the local impacts of Iwokrama and to ensure that local opportunities for business development, employment, training, and education accrue to local communities. At the same time, local people have expressed concerns that local subsistence, spiritual and cultural values in the Iwokrama Forest are maintained.

While the Guyanese people, in general, are recognized as the legal owners of the Iwokrama Forest, the indigenous peoples who live in, and around, the Iwokrama Forest maintain a claim of ancestral domain and land ownership rights in the Iwokrama Forest. In addition, local people represent a major human resource base from which the Iwokrama Centre draws for the management of the Iwokrama Forest. This human resource base has strong local knowledge and skills and also provides political support and key niche marketing link for Iwokrama.

Local people benefit from the Iwokrama Forest though legally maintained access rights to forest resources. Iwokrama also provides benefits through support of local institutions, local employment and local empowerment. Iwokrama can however potentially lead to negative impacts on communities through the migration of workers from outside of the area and through negative social and cultural impacts in communities. Local people support

Iwokrama substantially through the supporting the management of the broader Iwokrama ecosystem. Local people also provide skills and knowledge for development in the Iwokrama Forest. Finally, local communities are some of the strongest supporters of the Iwokrama programme.

## **Climate**

The total annual rainfall in the area varies from as much as 3,000 mm in the north to as low as 1,400 mm near the southern boundary of the Iwokrama Forest. There is a clear northeast to southwest gradient of declining rainfall that runs parallel to the main Kurupukari to Annai road alignment. Between 50% and 70% of the total annual rainfall occurs during the four wet season months between May and August and the intensity of rainfall during this period can often peak at more than 100 mm in a day. The driest months of the year are October and March with an intervening increase in rainfall from November to February in northern areas.

Precipitation in the area is highly sensitive to the El Niño climate events that occur every 6-10 years. Typical heavy rains during the June-August period can be dampened by as much as 50% of the long-term average and a 2-4 week rainless period often occurs in the north during the 'little dry season' months of February and March when an event takes place. In the south, rainfall is severely limited from October – March even during a typical year. Rainless periods of several months are possible during severe El Niño events (e.g. 1940-41, 1983-84 and 1997-98) and forest fires in the savannas, near settlements and along roads have historically coincided with these periods. In contrast, during La Niña periods, unusually intense and prolonged rainfall events during the May-August wet season lead to flash flooding, rapid road wash-out and extensive levee breaks along most waterways.

Daily temperatures range from an average minimum of 22 C at night during the July wet season to an average maximum of 36 C at mid-day during the October dry season. Relative humidity is generally highest at Kurupukari but can drop to seasonal lows of 50%. North Rupununi savanna locations at Annai and Surama and St. Ignatius in the far South Savanna are generally drier, hotter and less humid, on average, than Kurupukari. Temperatures are the same as Kurupukari, ranging from dry season highs around 36 C in October down to 22 C in July. Relative humidity, however, can dip at mid-day to less than 45% in October. Humidity tends to be highest in the early morning (0100 and 0400 hours) and lowest at mid-day (1200 to 1400 hrs) at all locations, regardless of season. Temperatures in the Iwokrama Mountains are expected to generally be 3 to 5 C lower than at Kurupukari, based on the standard adiabatic lapse rate of 6 C decreases in temperature for every 1000m increase in elevation.

Wind speed is, on average, higher during the dry season (Oct-Mar) than the wet season (Apr-Sept) at both lowland forest and savanna locations, but the highest instantaneous wind speeds tend to accompany severe thunderstorms from May-August. Winds flow predictably from the east to northeast during the dry season. Winds during the wet season continue to move principally from E/NE to S/SW, but this is much more variable than in the dry season.

In recent years traditional weather patterns have been increasingly difficult to predict as a result of climate change phenomenon. There are longer dry spells and higher intensity rainfall patterns.

### **Health Considerations**

Malaria is relatively common in the Iwokrama Forest but the area is constantly flooded but Iwokrama as an employer has lost few working days in recent years owing to staff illness. Consequently, the effective management of malaria in the Iwokrama Forest is an important component of management. Malaria is also a major concern of local communities especially with the communities frequenting the “gold bush”, so Iwokrama’s management of the disease is therefore important in breaking the cycle of endemic infection between Iwokrama Forest workers and local communities.

While HIV has yet to impact workers in the Iwokrama Forest, Guyana is considered to have one of the highest rates of HIV infection in South Latin America.

Alcoholism and its related negative impacts at household, family and individual levels historically tend to increase in interior communities that are increasingly incorporated into a cash economy.

### **Iwokrama Board of Trustees Guidelines for Business Development**

- All resource utilization rights and contractual arrangements with business partners must be developed through open, competitive processes that are transparent to all stakeholders;
- Potential partners must be committed to independent evaluation and certification of their environmental performance and see high standards of environmental stewardship as part of their core business strategy;
- Potential partners must be committed to developing equity partnerships with their employees and/or with local communities living in or near the Iwokrama Forest

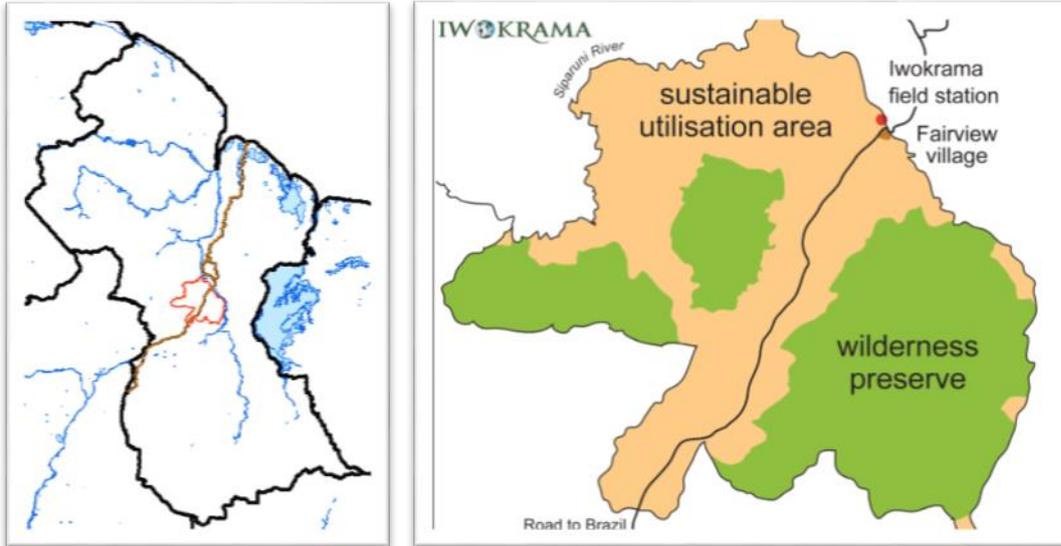
- Potential partners must be committed to honoring the Intellectual Property Rights and Benefit Sharing Protocols being developed by the Centre with its stakeholders;
- Potential partners must demonstrate the capacity to link Iwokrama with high value niche markets;
- Preference will be given to outside partners prepared to involve national entrepreneurs in joint venture operations.

The Centre's governance model for business development in the Iwokrama forest is intended to bring together the distinct capacities of the private sector (commercial experience, capital, marketing technical expertise), local communities (ownership and traditional knowledge) and Iwokrama (monitoring and impact assessment) to produce a best practice model for timber harvesting and processing which concentrates on adding value locally.

Such an arrangement will ensure that benefits and responsibilities are equitably shared with the resource owners and operators and so minimize negative social and cultural impacts.

### ***3. Technical Information – Research and Science Programme***

- Overview.** The Iwokrama International Centre (IIC) is perfectly placed to develop long-term research into tropical forests including the effects of climate change and human interventions on the forest ecosystems and its peoples. Iwokrama has developed a good set of baseline and historical data and has fostered good working relationships with the local indigenous communities and the government since the establishment in 1996 of its 371,000 hectares intact rainforest site in central Guyana. It is a unique site, integrating people, business models (a sustainable reduced impact timber operation, ecotourism activities, a community owned butterfly farm and training in forest management) with science.



Iwokrama is now entering into a research-oriented phase making use of its established datasets to show how a rainforest can be used for real sustainability, real climate change protection and real community benefit. Three main research themes at Iwokrama strategically underpin the alliance between the environment, the communities, science and business. These are Environmental Resilience, Human, social and cultural capital and Ecosystem service values.

Iwokrama's new research programme - one element of this integrated approach - is designed in particular to transform Iwokrama into a globally recognized centre of excellence. The Commonwealth Secretariat and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) have taken the lead in providing initial funding to:

- Develop further an archive of the past scientific research;
- Collate and interpret available hydro-meteorological data at Iwokrama and in the surrounding region; and
- Develop a platform for storing future data and research study outputs.

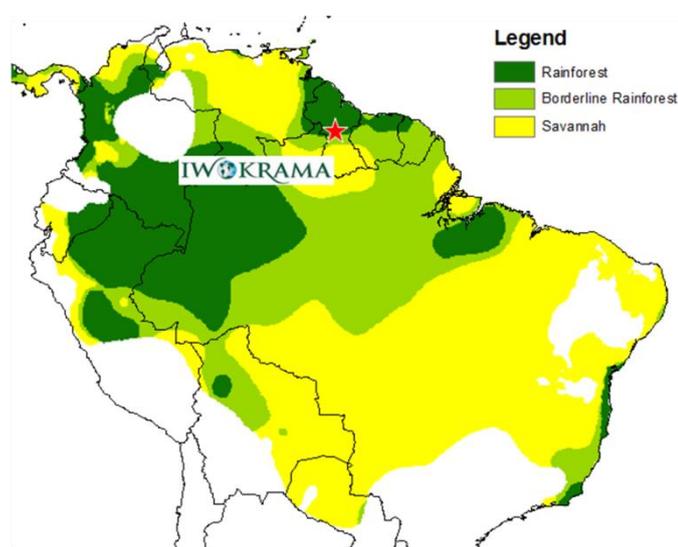
The IADB assistance also enabled the IIC in the past to employ a senior research scientist to develop research and manage projects on the ground; and to establish an International Science Committee to advise the Iwokrama trustees on research issues, including eco-system services and their protection in a changing climate. Iwokrama's scientific activity brings added strength to existing Caribbean expertise.

b. **Faunal diversity.** Iwokrama is home to the following faunal diversity, 30% of which is classified as rare and endangered.

- + 130 species of mammals (including Giant Anteater *Myrmecophaga tridactyla*, Giant River Otter *teronura brasiliensis*, Jaguar *Panthera onca*, Puma *Felis concolor*, Red Howler monkeys *Alouatta seniculus*, Cabybara *Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*)
- + 500 species of birds (including Harpy Eagle *Harpia harpyja*, Jagura *Panthera onca*)
- ~ 150 species of reptiles and amphibians (including Black Caiman *Melanosuchus niger*, Anaconda *Eunectes murinus*, Bush master *Lachesis muta*)
- + 420 species of fish (including Arapaima *Arapaima Gigas*)
- 86 species of bats

c. **Floral diversity.** There are 9 distinct forest types in the Iwokrama forest. The largest forest type covers 33% of the forest is made up of mixed greenheart, black kakaralli and wamara forest and is found mainly on the Kurupukari sandy plains and terraces landforms. Around 20% of the forest is mixed greenheart, sand baromalli and soft wallaba forest found on the higher elevations of the kurupukari sandy plains and on terraces landforms, whilst about 16% of the forest is mora, manicole, crabwood and trysil forest which is found on lower floodplains and sandy plains. 15% of the forest is mixed low stature forest which is found on high hills, whilst 7% of the forest is manicole, kokerite, soft wallaba palm forest found on the lower elevations and in riverine floodplains. The remainder of the forest is less than 5% each of wallaba, dakama, muri scrub and liana forest, wallaba, dakama and muri scrub.

d. **Strategic location** – Iwokrama is significant because it is in a key geographical position to study the complex interactions between climate and vegetation; and for examining the climatic transition zone existing between Guyana’s wet coastal area and the savannah in the south. The savannah and transitional borderland rainforest forest belt that separates the coastal area of Guyana from the upper Amazon Basin) may expand due to changes in climate such as



projected increases in temperature. Edge effects at forest boundaries - and habitat fragmentation - may therefore have complex effects on forest-climate interactions, with important consequences for atmospheric circulation, water cycling, and precipitation. Due to its proximity to the savannah and borderland region, Iwokrama is likely to experience the impact of climate related changes to the rainforests earlier than in other rain forested areas.

In addition, new evidence suggests that coastal forests, like those of the Guianas, may be critical to maintenance of inland water cycles, such as those occurring within the Amazon biome - by acting as a 'biological pump' drawing moisture, in this case from the SE Atlantic inland to the Amazon basin. Taken together, this increases the need for a well-supported research centre in the region.

- e. **Research / Science Projects.** The first phase of Iwokrama's research focused on the collection of baseline information to help inform management planning for the forest: zoning of the forest, forest management and monitoring. Many biodiversity surveys were conducted in the wider Guianas area. However, there were also several specific projects that encapsulated other issues, including bio-prospecting (entophytic fungi), forest utilisation, wetlands, marketing and social research.

Iwokrama was engaged in a number of projects that fitted well with the IIC's continuing research agenda goals. These were:

- Hydrology and climate monitoring (IDB)
- FORENET: Forest Research Network for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (EU)
- Chainsaw milling project: Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw lumbering through multi-stakeholder dialogue in Ghana and Guyana (EU)
- NRDDDB fisheries project: Building individual, organisational and institutional capacities for ecologically sustainable tourism development and fisheries management in the North Rupununi Wetlands (EU)
- Encompass: An international diamond of cultural dissemination, capacity building with countries from the North, East South and West (EU)
- Community monitoring for REDD+ (NORAD)

- COBRA: Community owned best practice for sustainable resource adaptive management in the Guiana Shield (EU)
- Wildlife, water and social monitoring, also pre- and post-harvest wildlife impact assessments (Iwokrama)
- Capacity building to support national initiatives (Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation)

In addition to these large projects, Iwokrama is part of the RAINFOR (monitoring of forest biomass and dynamics related to climate across Amazon region) network, and works closely with several researchers on topics related to nutrient cycling, soil properties, frog biodiversity and wildlife distributions. Iwokrama is also part of the Satoyama Initiative.

These projects have begun to take research at Iwokrama into a new direction, building on the baseline information and providing a new focus and a more holistic approach covering all aspects of the ecosystem services that forests provide. The challenge now is to establish an overall research framework that will allow the valuable work carried out in these and future projects to contribute in a coordinated way towards:

- The enhancement of the internationally-recognised fundamental science needed to achieve greater understanding of the ecosystem services provided by the Iwokrama forest and to establish how vulnerable they are to stress, particularly from climate change;
- Developing capabilities for quantifying and valuing ecosystem services, and assessing impacts of different possible future economic or climate scenarios and consequently the sustainability of forest management practices;
- Providing long-term monitoring of forest cover, climate/hydrology, and biodiversity, giving evidence for changes in ecosystem services; and
- Supporting training and capacity building in the region to continue to develop and deliver these functions in the long term.

f. **Iwokrama Science Committee (ISC).** In 2009 the Board of Trustees of the Iwokrama International Centre (IIC) established (in accordance with Article 14 of the Iwokrama Act) the Iwokrama Science Committee (ISC) to assist the Centre to launch and oversee a new phase of integrated on-site research. The committee includes representatives from Newcastle University, University of the West Indies and the University of Guyana

amongst other institutions. The duties of the ISC include but are not limited to:

- Provide the Trustees with a strategic science overview and advice;
- Propose for consideration and adoption by the Trustees, the direction, goals and content of the new science programme (conducted under the auspices of the IIC);
- Support the Centre in ensuring that the research carried out at Iwokrama is co-ordinated;
- Identify and help the Centre to secure the resources required for this programme;
- Help to select and provide guidance to a new resident scientist;
- Monitor the programme's implementation by Iwokrama's on-site research team against designated timelines;
- Build partnerships with other institutions; and
- Set internationally recognised codes of best practices and protocols.

The Committee, with oversight by Trustee Dr Elizabeth Losos, would also ensure that this important work was consistent with the IIC's overriding objective of delivering lasting ecological, economic and social benefits to the local communities; to the people of Guyana; to the Commonwealth; and to the wider world.

The work is expected to be conducted in a manner consistent with the IIC's objective of developing a business model able to show the international community how it is possible to translate investment in the forest into real sustainability, climate change protection and community benefit, while advancing knowledge for science and society.

## **g. Research Themes**

### **IWOKRAMA'S RESEARCH THEMES**

#### **Environmental Resilience**

- How resilient are tropical environments, like Iwokrama, to local and global change?
- What impact will different land use practices have on biodiversity and ecosystem services?
- What are the likely consequences of environmental change for human livelihoods and their resilience?
- What are the linkages and feedbacks that contribute to resilience?

#### **Human, social and cultural capital**

- What values can be derived from past cultural practices and expressions and how can these values be best invested for current communities?
- What is needed to develop sustainable forest-based entrepreneurship drawing on ecosystem services and how might communities contribute to and benefit from their development?
- How can local communities participate in the governance and economic benefits of ecosystem services?
- How can sustainable forest management build and shape human and social capital?

#### **Ecosystem service values**

- What are the values of Iwokrama's ecosystem services?
- Are these values changing and if so how and why and what are the consequences?
- What mechanisms might provide incentives to optimize the values of ecosystem services across a range of scales?

## **h. Management Objectives for Iwokrama's Science and Research Programme.**

- Measurement and valuation of Iwokrama's ecosystem services and the benefits they deliver to human well-being and the resilience of the forest;
- Practical ways to improve community benefits;
- Interactions between climate change and the Iwokrama forest and the influence of the Iwokrama forest on the global climate; and
- Development, testing and installation of new models of sustainability, crossing traditional disciplinary boundaries.

## **i. Research Guidelines.** All research and science investigations should adhere to the following principles:

- Research conducted under the auspices of the IIC complies with all national laws, international standards, norms and guidelines;

- Adopted research programmes are financially sustainable over the research period;
  - Research programmes, comprising human capacity building and partnerships with the local community and relevant institutions will be developed where possible;
  - Intellectual property rights are respected and technology transfer ensured;
  - The research findings are made publicly available.
- j. **Existing Equipment and Facilities.** Currently Iwokrama has 8 dedicated rooms at the River Lodge suitable for accommodating up to 16 students and researchers. In addition there are basic field camps with hammock accommodation. Access to the River Lodge is either by car or air (we have our own airstrip located approximately 1.6 km from the River Lodge).

The 30 person strong supporting staff complement includes rangers, guides, drivers, boat captains, medical personnel, hospitality staff, security and chefs amongst others.

There are full restaurant facilities, a medical room and a conference room at the Iwokrama River Lodge complete with teaching aids such as overhead projectors and broadband internet. There is a lab with basic laboratory equipment.

The Centre has two Casella weather stations installed in strategic parts of the forest in addition to flow metres and other climate measuring equipment.

#### ***4. Opportunities and Preferred Engagement***

This RFP is only open to registered entities such as registered organizations, companies, corporations, universities, donors and philanthropic organizations amongst others.

There are differing levels of participation such as universities and other educational institutions and research based companies wanting to use the Iwokrama Forest for field studies or pharmaceutical companies interested in developing products from medicinal plants. Learning / Training institutions and

training centres may also be interested in using the forest and our facilities as a “space” practical training and capacity building purposes in the areas of sustainable forest management, climate change monitoring etc. Philanthropic institutions and other donors may be interested in providing funding for research and science infrastructure, equipment and other development and marketing activities.

Ideally, the Centre would like to partner with one partner to develop the full gamut of research and science opportunities but the Centre will also consider multiple partners such as Universities and learning institutions wanting to forge long term relationships with the Centre. This could be done either through a partnership, joint venture, concession basis or other type of engagement. Priority areas for investments would be field infrastructure, research equipment and supplies and marketing.

In addition, whilst this RFP is specific to the Centre’s research and science programme, we would encourage prospective partners to suggest other forms of engagement in other areas of the Centre’s operations as well.

The Centre proposes to enter into formal contracts with qualified partners who will be expected to provide all the financial and technical resources to implement their proposals.

#### ***5. Fees / Payments to Iwokrama***

Depending on the structure of the engagement, the Centre will expect some sort of annual license, concessions or “retainer” fee. Universities and other learning institutions wishing to partner with Iwokrama would pay an annual fee for access to Iwokrama’s research facilities and field services. More strategic partners would be expected to provide investment funds for developing the research and science potential at Iwokrama.

The final financial arrangements will depend on the structure of the relationship(s) and Iwokrama will consider other benefit sharing options including profit sharing and joint ventures.

#### ***6. Field Visit***

Prospective partners may call to arrange a convenient time for field visits (at their own expense) by contacting the C.E.O of the Centre

## **7. Timescales and Contacts**

RFP's will be reviewed on a rolling consideration basis as they are received where the early proposals will be considered first and so prospective partners are encouraged to submit proposals as early as is possible. Proposals should be submitted either by E-mail to [dgobin@iwokrama.org](mailto:dgobin@iwokrama.org) or **three hard copies and one electronic copy** by mail or hand to:

**Request For Proposals – Iwokrama Research and Science Programme**  
**Dane Gobin**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Iwokrama International Centre**  
**77 High Street**  
**Georgetown, Guyana**

## **8. Briefing Session**

Depending on the level of interest it receives from this RFP, a briefing session to answer queries and provide clarifications may be held and prospective partners will be advised of the date for such a briefing session. However, prospective partners are encouraged to contact the CEO ([dgobin@iwokrama.org](mailto:dgobin@iwokrama.org)) directly for any clarifications required.

## **9. Developing your Proposal**

All proposals must be written in English and should include but not be limited to the following information:

- a. Complete contact details of the applicant
- b. Description of the proposing organization, including but not limited to:
  - i. Type of business – partnership, corporation, public or private, University, Learning institution. Please indicate type of registration – corporation / NGO / Friendly society etc.
  - ii. Brief history of the organization – age, turnover, number of employees, geography in which the entity operates, type of business, management structure etc

- iii. Description of all of the current activities of the organization especially with regard to research and science
  - iv. Information on current certification, environmental and social best practices being implemented
  - v. Please provide audited accounts for the last three years of the company or bank letter to verify financial solvency
- c. Description of the proposed engagement should include including information on the following areas:
- i. Information on reasons why the entity is interested in working with Iwokrama
  - ii. Description of engagement envisaged
  - iii. Proposed activities and /or development plan
  - iv. Type and tenure of agreement required
  - v. A preliminary time frame for starting the engagement
  - vi. A description of the financial / benefit sharing arrangements with Iwokrama
  - vii. Level of investment projected (if applicable)
  - viii. Proposed engagement of other stakeholders such as NGO's clients etc.
  - ix. Proposed engagement with local communities
  - x. Please provide documentary evidence on availability of capital for proposed investment.
- d. Iwokrama undertakes to use its best endeavours to maintain confidentiality of any information submitted and will contact selected companies after reviewing the proposals should additional information be required
- e. Proposals will be considered by an Iwokrama review team and feedback will be provided to the successful within one month of the receipt of the Proposal.

**10. Additional Information on Iwokrama**

For further details and information on Iwokrama please visit our website at [www.iwokrama.org](http://www.iwokrama.org).

**Exhibit I**  
**Location of Iwokrama Forest in Guyana**



## Exhibit II Location of the Iwokrama River Lodge

