

# Experiences in sustainably managing rainforest-resources in collaboration with indigenous communities in the Iwokrama Forest, Guyana

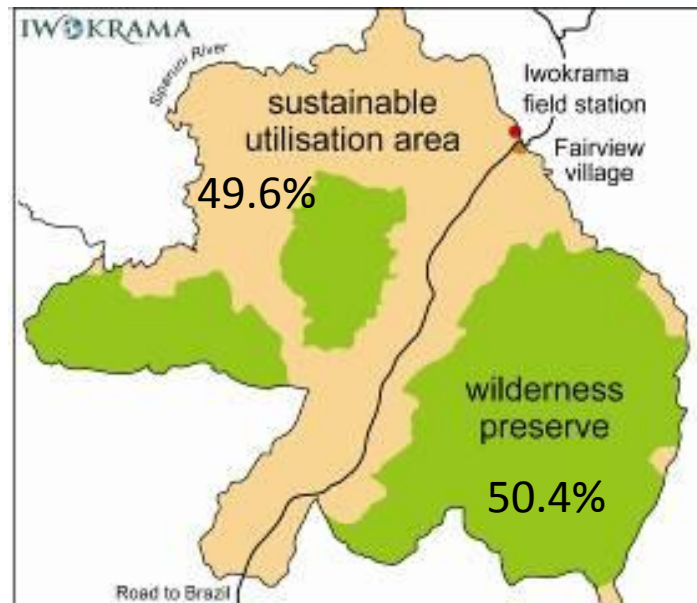
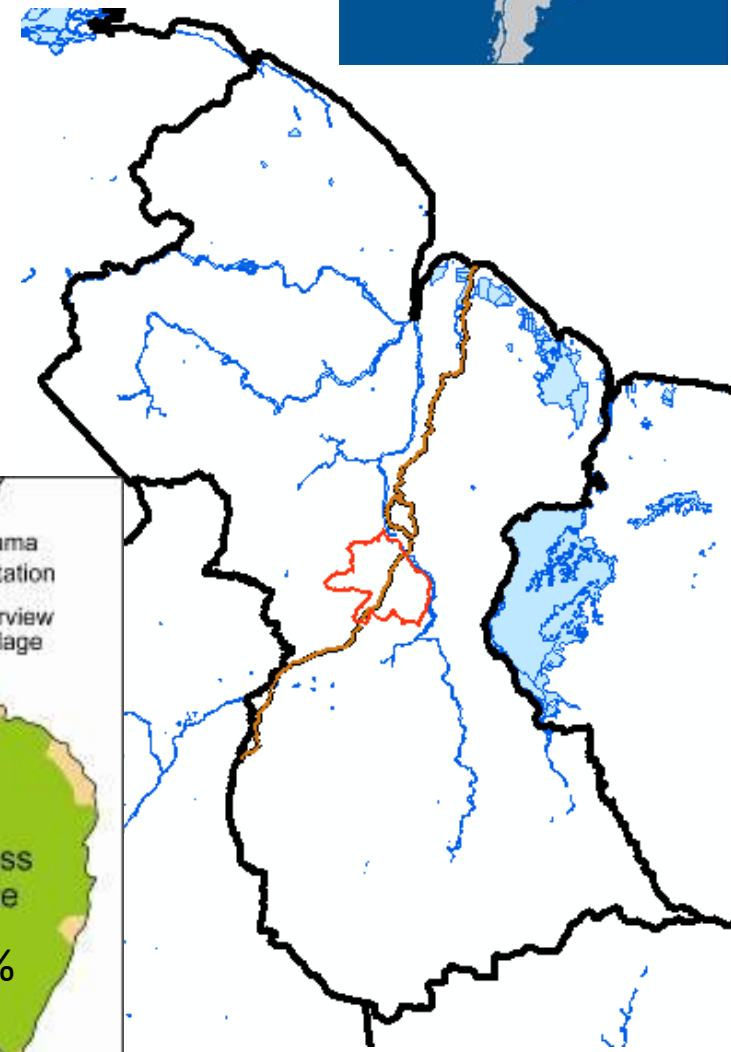
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# Iwokrama



- 1 million acres (371,681 hectares)  
~2 % of Guyana's Forest
- Established by Guyana and the Commonwealth in 1989 (Act in 1996)
- An international experiment in sustainable development
- Prince Charles - Patron



# Iwokrama's Mission

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



# Challenge of Integration



# Communities & Co-Management



## **The Iwokrama Act (1996) –**

- Legislation that guarantees and protects rights and enables access to the use of the Iwokrama Forest by the Indigenous Peoples in the communities “neighbouring” the Forest who have customary (traditional) rights to the Forest
- Community representation on Iwokrama Board of Trustees

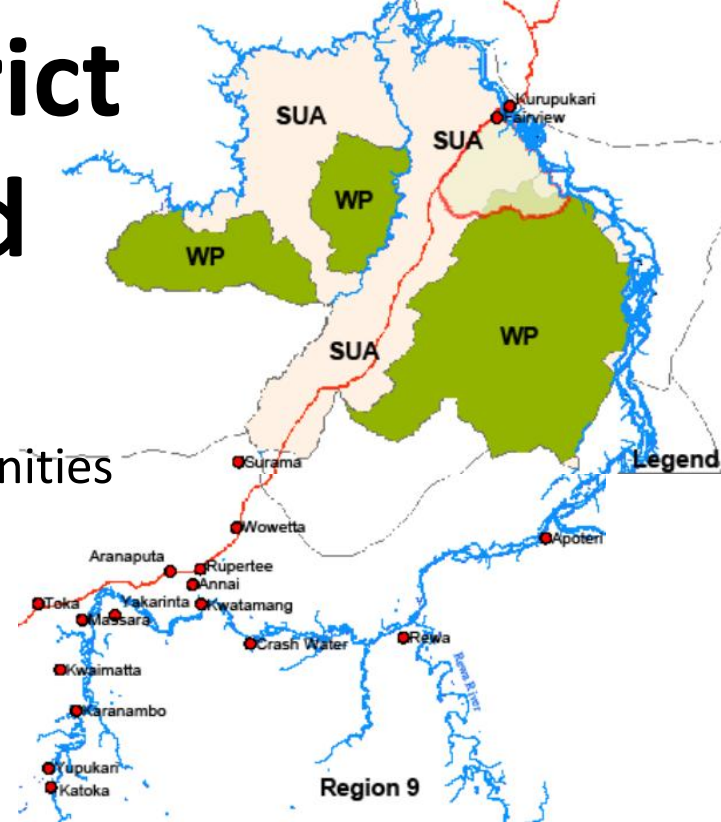
# North Rupununi District Development Board

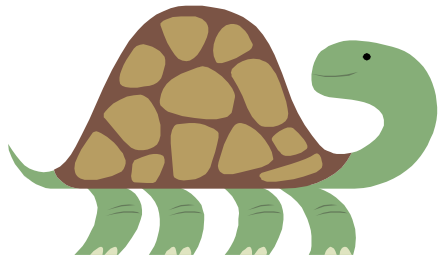
## NRDDB

- Established 1996 (NGO)
- Umbrella body for 18 local Amerindian Communities with titled land in and around Iwokrama
- Better representation and capacity at national level eg Ministry of Amerindian Affairs

## Strong partnership with Iwokrama

- Memorandum of Understanding -2003
  - » Identified common goals and objectives and outlined protocols to be observed
- Collaborative management agreement-2005, revised 2008
  - » Binding Iwokrama and NRDDB to commitments
  - » Framework for collaborate management of forest
- Collaborative management agreement with Fairview
  - » Recognition of partnership (ownership of 22,000 ha, 2006)
  - » Ownership in timber business - Shareholding agreement
  - » Benefit sharing mechanism eg Tourism- visitors fee





# Wildlife Clubs

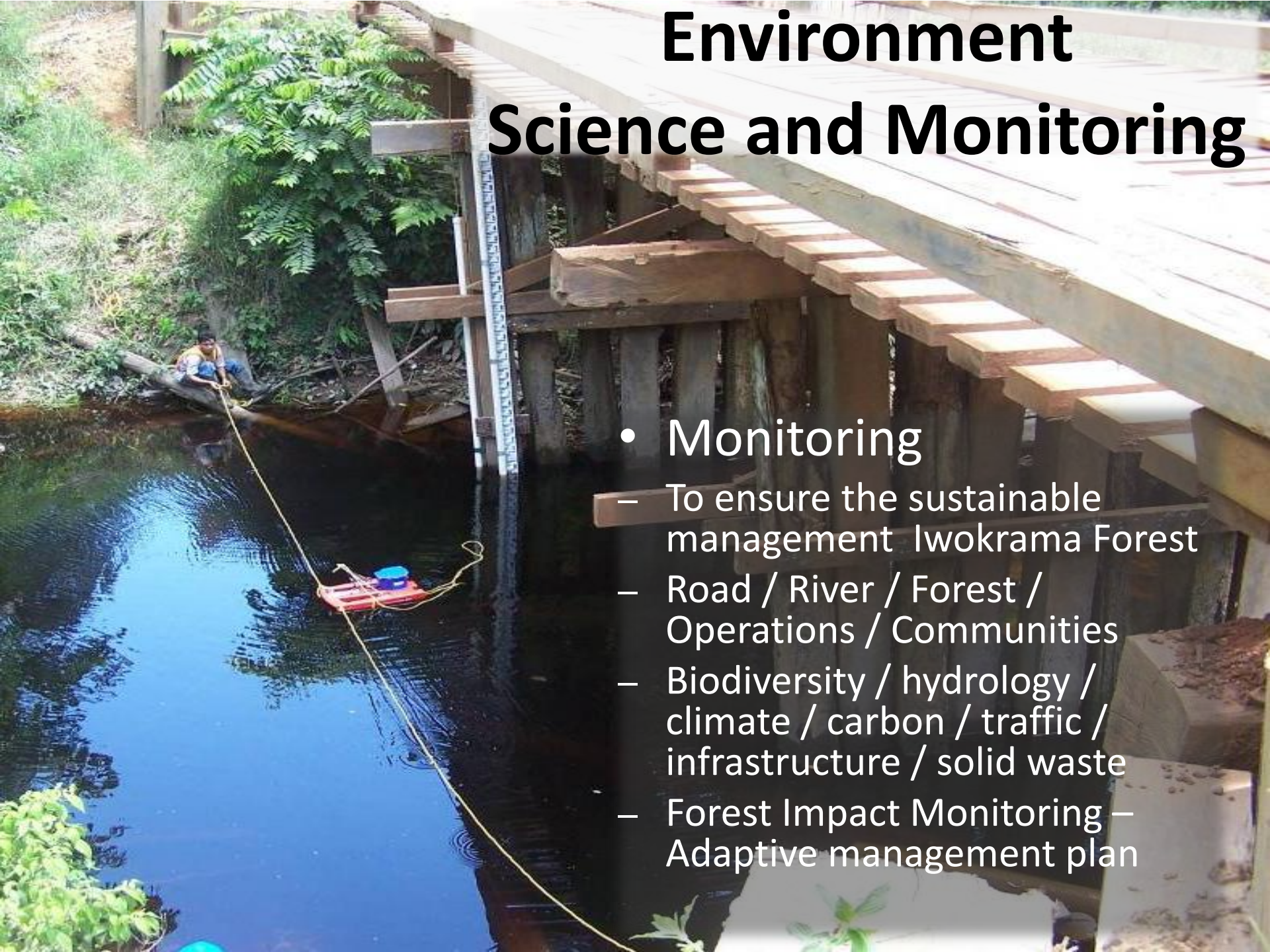
Started in 1989

- To help develop conservation leaders
  - Provide experience of natural resource management
- To share information
  - Provide forum for discussion of environmental and other issues
- To build capacity
  - Encourage youths to develop the interest and skills necessary for management, organizational and governance issues
- Better prospects
  - Proposal writing / projects & research / monitoring / further education / radio announcer / rangers / teachers / representatives / village council / tour guides / employment in the area (60% of Iwokrama staff from the communities)



# Environment Science and Monitoring

- Monitoring
  - To ensure the sustainable management Iwokrama Forest
  - Road / River / Forest / Operations / Communities
  - Biodiversity / hydrology / climate / carbon / traffic / infrastructure / solid waste
  - Forest Impact Monitoring – Adaptive management plan





# Current Research Activities

Hydro-climate	Biodiversity	Social
<p>Hydrology &amp; Climate Monitoring Program <small>IDB</small></p> <p>PhD – Impact of forestry on nutrient cycling <small>Newcastle Uni</small></p> <p>Measuring Dust from Africa <small>Iwokrama</small></p> <p>PhD – Remote sensing <small>Newcastle Uni</small></p> <p>PhD – Soil geochemistry <small>Newcastle Uni</small></p>	<p>Wildlife Monitoring <small>Iwokrama</small></p> <p>Forestry Operations Impact Monitoring <small>Fisheries EC</small></p> <p>Monitoring forest biomass <small>Leeds Uni</small></p> <p>Monitoring Jaguars <small>WWF</small></p> <p>PhD – Impact of forestry on frogs <small>Berlin Uni</small></p> <p>PhD – Impact of forestry on birds/bats/mammals <small>Kent Uni</small></p> <p>PhD – Modelling Otters, Black Caiman, wildfowl &amp; bromeliads <small>Newcastle Uni</small></p>	<p>ENCOMPASS<sup>EC</sup> project</p> <p>COBRA project <small>EC</small></p> <p>Community Monitoring for REDD <small>NORAD</small></p> <p>PhD - Ecomuseums <small>Newcastle Uni</small></p> <p>Chainsaw Milling <small>EC</small></p> <p>FORENET <small>EC/CIFOR</small></p> <p>Moore Project <small>Moore</small></p> <p>Project Fauna <small>Moore</small></p> <p>PhD ESS scales in social-ecological context <small>Royal HollowayUni</small></p>

# Community Monitoring for REDD+:

Building a platform for communities to share their forest intelligence

- Global Canopy / Iwokrama / NRDDDB
- NORAD Funded
- Linked with National MRV (GFC)
- Started July 2011
- Aims:
  - » Local maintenance of traditional forest knowledge
  - » National measuring, reporting & verification for REDD + payments
  - » Building global awareness of the importance of tropical forests and the role of local communities as forest stewards
- Employs over 40 community people
- Participatory monitoring scheme that can be implemented by trained technicians working in own communities



# ENCOMPASS (Newcastle University, UK)

Investing in People: Access to local culture, protection and promotion of cultural diversity

- EC funded project
- Started Oct 2010 for 3 years
- Strengthen local culture through increasing access to intangible and tangible cultural heritage expressions, products and services
- Involves communities with exchanges of art, music and heritage practitioners from:
  - » China, England, Guyana and Kenya
- Grass-roots initiative to work together to identify and safeguard threatened heritage resources



Cassava processing in Kenya



Local arts and crafts in Bombolulu

# Business: Integrating Conservation & Use

An aerial photograph showing a vast, dense tropical forest. A wide, calm river flows through the lower right portion of the image. In the center-left, a small clearing contains several buildings with green roofs and a large white dome structure, surrounded by a grassy area. The forest extends to the top and left edges of the frame.

- Tourism
- Butterfly project
- Training
- Sustainable Timber Operation

# Towards the Future

The lesson / success of the Iwokrama-NRDDDB partnership for co-management relies on:

- “ownership” by local people,
- practice of principles for good governance
- combined vision and skills of stakeholders / partners in the process



# Challenges

- Sustainability of natural resources
- Building resistance to climate/weather
- Terrain / transport / new road
- Limited Funding
  - » Alternative livelihoods
  - » Potential failure of existing projects due to lack of funding
- Capacity Building
  - » Need follow up activities / financial support
  - » Cannot develop capacity / proposals without financing
  - » Migration of young to cities/abroad
- Identifying and pursuing community / national policies for development and partnership
- Job opportunities for community members in light of pressures of development and growing population of the communities



# Improvements

- More use of Indigenous Peoples' ideas and systems (including respecting cultural norms)
- Benefits of working with Amerindians:
  - » First hand knowledge of the environment and respect for the use of the natural resources.
  - » Respectful use of indigenous knowledge for community development and management of natural resources
  - » More consideration for natural resources exploitation and be more trustful in planning agreements
  - » IP not just incorporated as stakeholders but as shareholders
- Working together integrating finances, type of labour and planning
- More direct funding and develop a better system of monitoring finances and progress



# Suggestions of what to do as an international network

- Share experiences / mentoring
- Identify similar organisations/situations
- Form collaborations
- Apply for funding schemes with new partners to trial new methodologies

