

Challenges and Solutions on Eco-tourism development in PAs


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Our Mandate

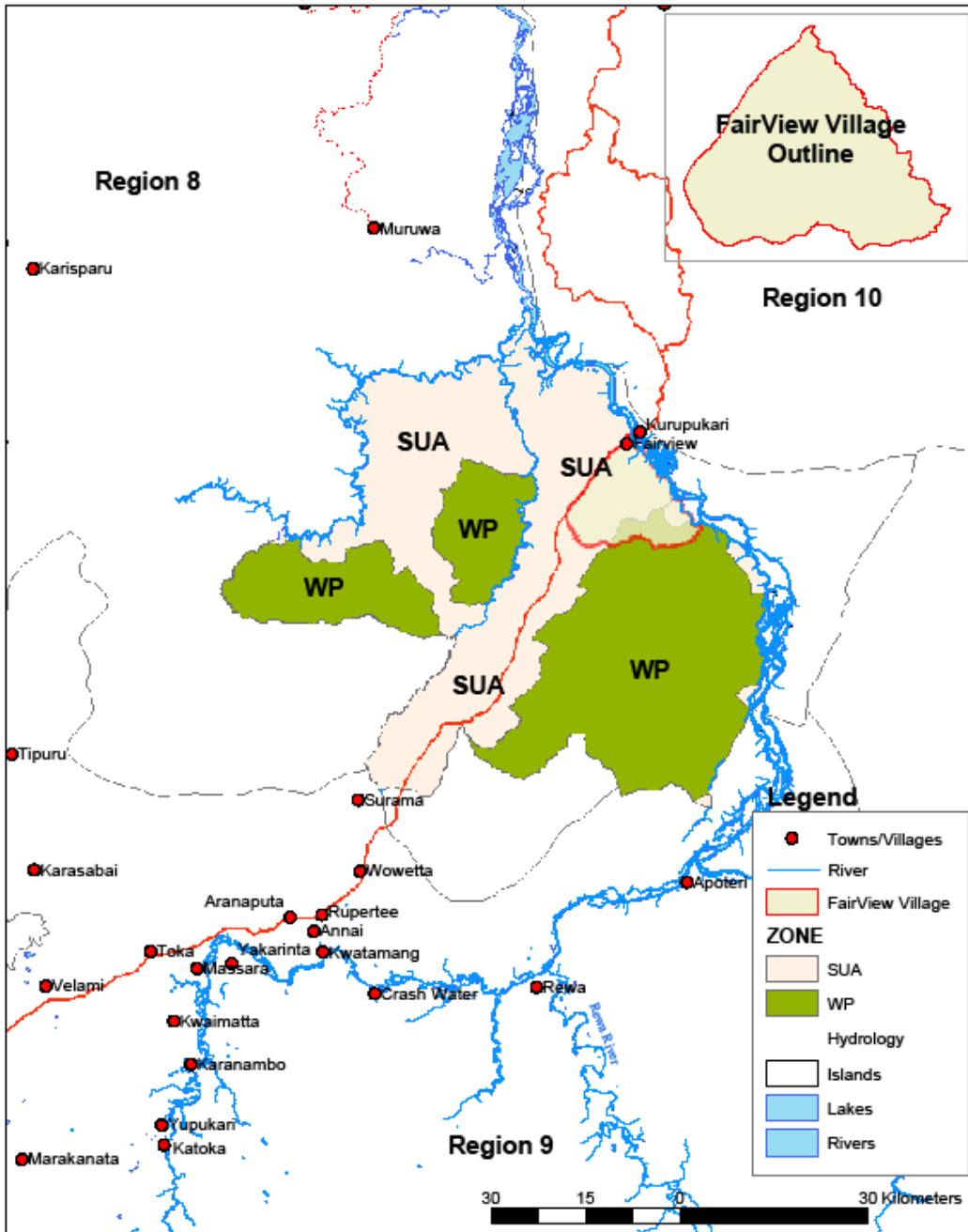
Iwokrama Mission is “to promote the conservation and wise use of tropical forest in a manner that will lead to lasting ecological, cultural, economical and social benefits to the people of Guyana and the world in general by undertaking research, training and the development and dissemination of technologies”

Core Values – The Approach, the Forest and the People

- A people centre approach to conservation and wise use
- Developing low volume, high value markets for multiple forest products and services
- Encourage local, national and international partnership – NRDDDB, BHI, etc
- Active learning by doing – Train, train, train
- Iwokrama Forest is in the heart of one of the four last untouched tropical forest in the world- Guiana Shield

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- Iwokrama forest is unique – with over 500 species of birds; 142 mammals; fish 134, over 450 bird spp
 - Give habit to several endangered mega fauna including the world largest bird of prey; south America largest cat, world largest fresh water scaled fish etc
 - Iwokrama is the homeland of the Makushi who had live and used the forest for thousands of years
 - The people are fully involved with every aspect of our work
 - Fully represented and is the key to conservation being realise into national development

IWOKRAMA FOREST And NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES



IWOKRAMA ZONES

WP- Wilderness Preserve

SUA- Sustainable Utilisation Area

Challenges

- Initial Community Resistance
- Stakeholder expectations - road users, community people, government
- Illegal activities – mining, fishing, forestry, tourism operation
- A road run through the PA and is bordered by national waterways
- To consistently deliver impeccable customer service to various guest – ie tourist, researchers, schools groups, business people, local communities etc
- Infrastructure Maintenance- buildings, vehicles, boats

Solutions

- Community Awareness /Outreach – Rangers when back into their communities and deliver conservation messages in their own languages
- Capacity Building – Provide learning opportunities for community residents to actively learn by doing, today some of our guides are tour operators in their own rights
- Training – Iwokrama had training in ranger and guide services, Community-based Resource Management, Sustainable Forest Management, Protected Area Management just to name a few. Training is continuous

Solutions

- Partnership – co-management, the introduction of the three legged stool, Gov, private sector and communities
- A people centre approach to natural resource management. Over 4500 makushi people are the host communities
- Government support – all our presidents had used Iwokrama as a jewel in their green development plans at international climate change/conservation forums
- In planning, a component in tourist fees should include maintenance fund

A Glimpse into IRL Tourism Operation – meet the Staff





Happy Staff, Happy Guest, Happy Staff

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Thank You and See You There



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