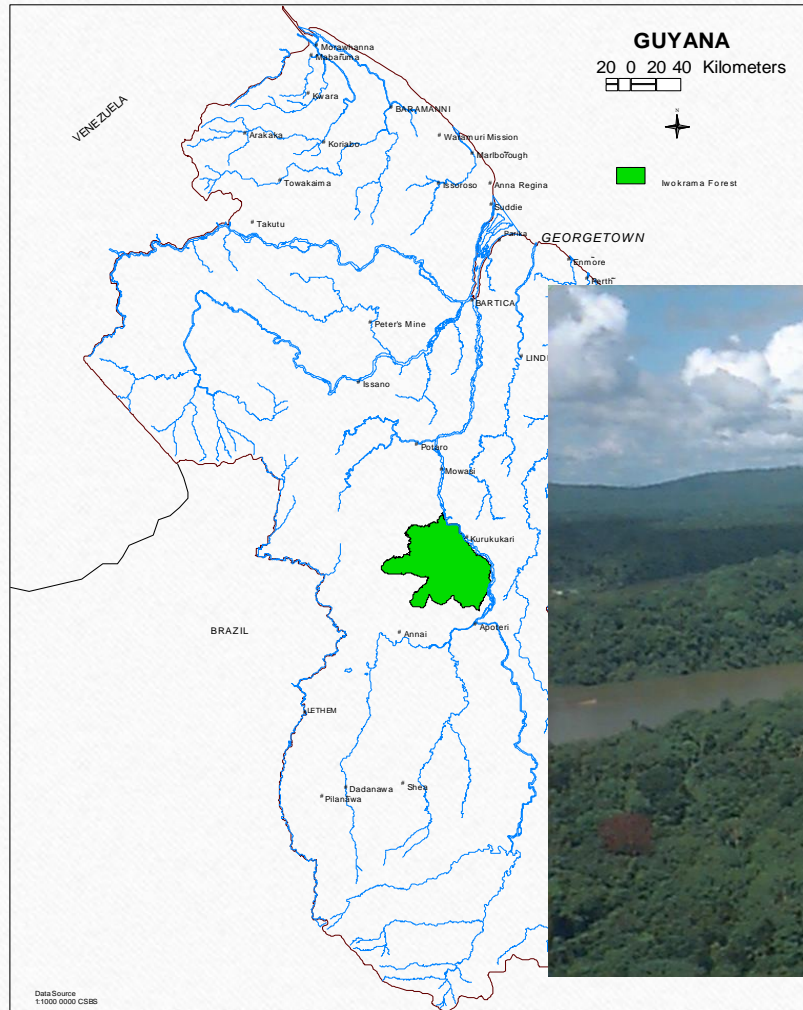


Keeping Culture Alive

Iwokrama Forest and the
North Rupununi District Development Board

Iwokrama Forest



- A forest in Central Guyana (360,000 ha)
- An autonomous international research and development Centre



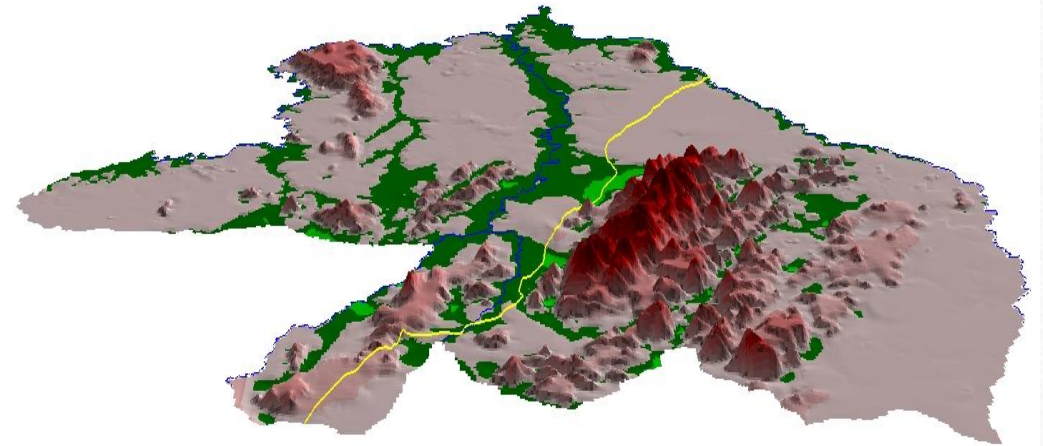
History

- 1989: The Government of Guyana's offer - Commonwealth
- 1996: Legislation
- 1998: Centre becomes operational



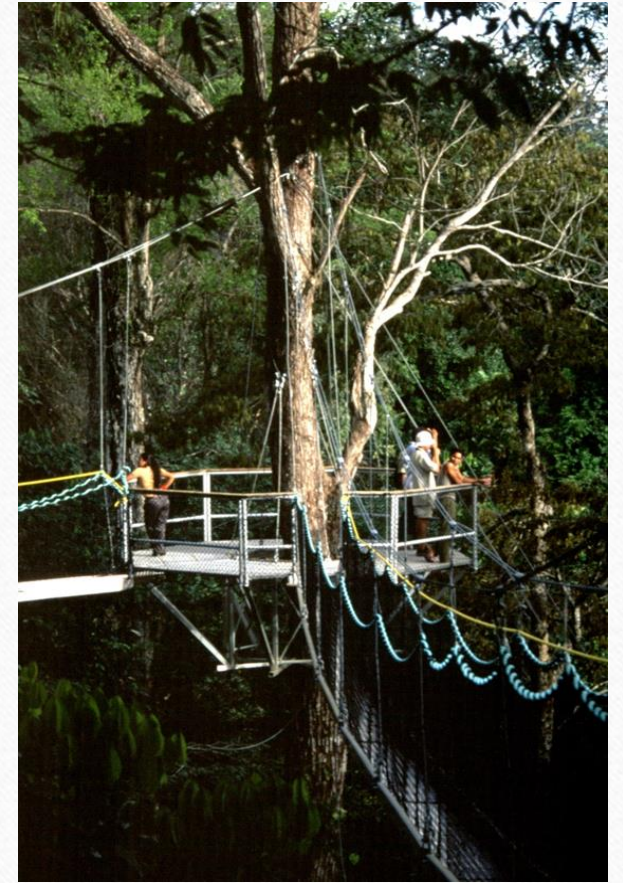
Iwokrama Forest

- Takes its name from the Iwokrama Mountain range, which is a dominating feature of the forest site
- Makushi Amerindian word
- Place of Refuge-Legend



Iwokrama Mission

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

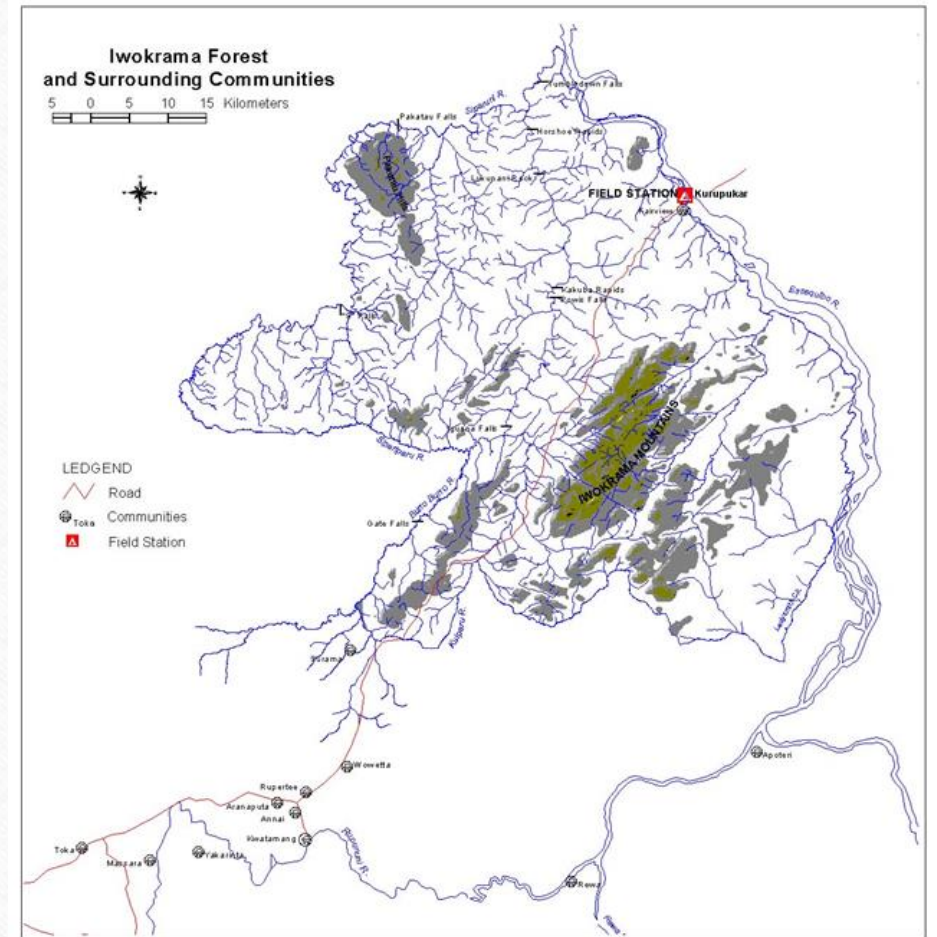


Iwokrama's Beneficiaries

➤ Direct beneficiaries – communities of the North Rupununi

“nothing in this Act shall be construed to 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”

“ensure adequate consultation with, and involvement of, the Amerindian community in the activities of the Programme a process of dialogue and interchange of views with the said community shall be embarked upon by the Centre”



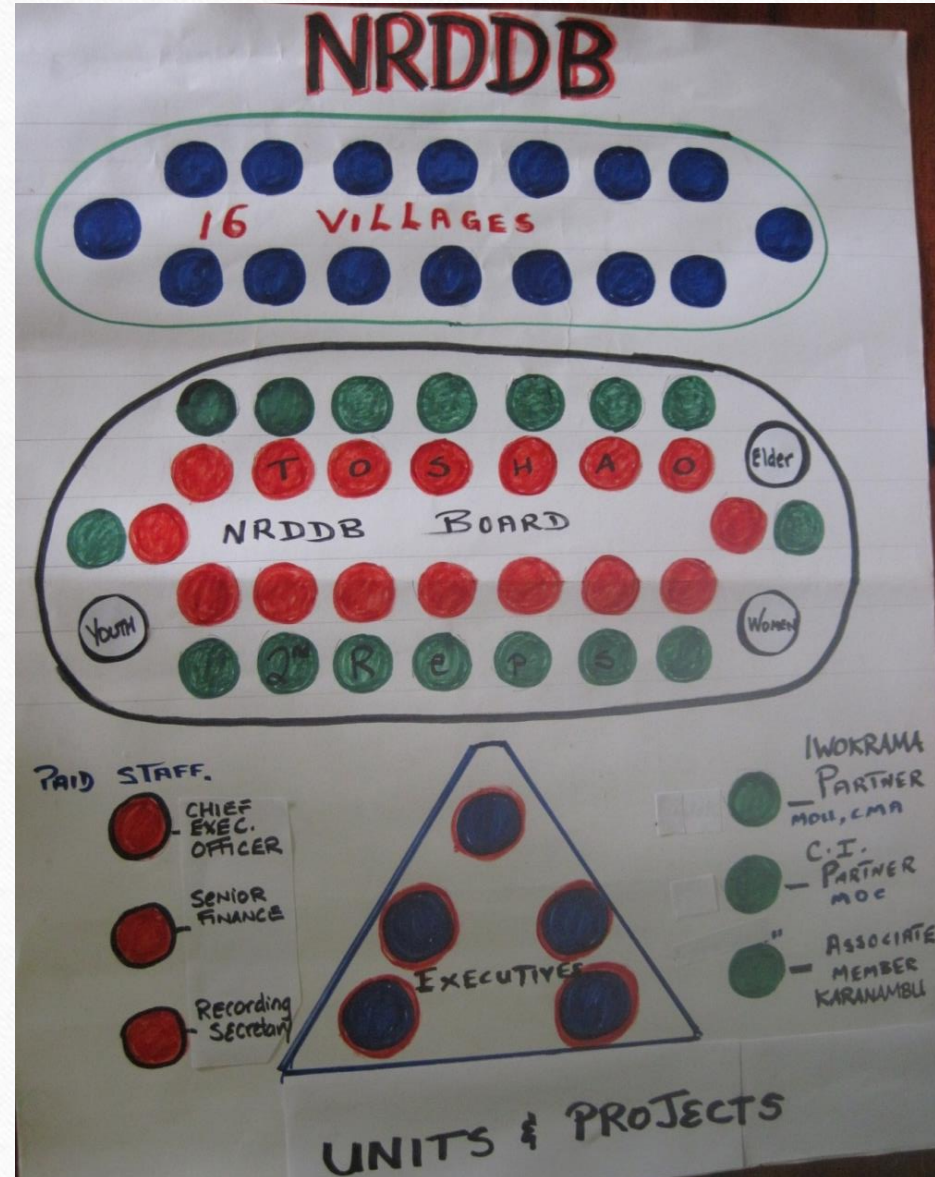
Getting Organized – North Rupununi District Development Board

- Started in 1996 (officially registered as an organization in 2000)
- Started with 13 mainly Makushi communities
- Aim was to act as the representative voice of the communities to Iwokrama and Government



What is the NRDDDB?

The North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDDB) is an autonomous non-governmental, non-profit, community-based organisation that now comprises of representatives from 5 indigenous villages and 5 satellite communities in the North Rupununi.





The people of the North Rupununi are represented on the NRDDDB by the Toshaos, Councilors, Elders, Women and Youth Representatives.

Achieving Shared Goals

Communities

Government

Non-government



How does the relationship work?

To achieve shared goals NRDDDB collaborates with other stakeholders (governmental and non-governmental) and funders. The collaborations are done either directly with the NRDDDB to the communities or the NRDDDB linking the stakeholder directly to the community with a need.

NRDDB represents community interests in many areas.



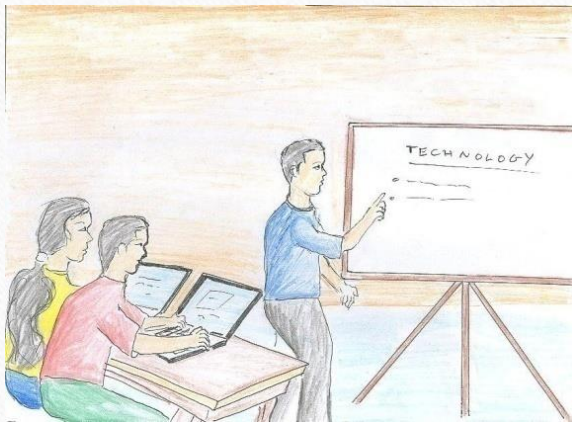
Industrial development



Continuation of traditional skills and knowledge



Conservation and management of biodiversity



Education and training



Small business development

How has Iwokrama help Sustain Makushi Living Culture?

“Endeavour to preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable utilization of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices; and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices;”



Zoning of the Iwokrama Forest

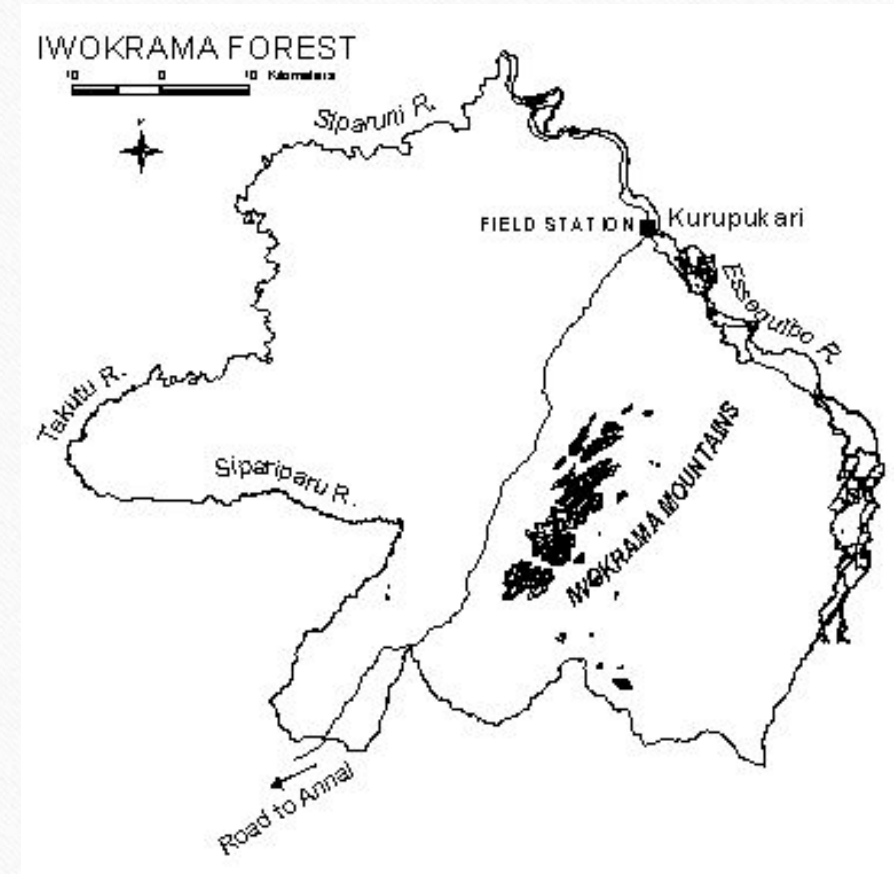
- **Wilderness Preserve (WP)**
 - *A protected area free from major human impact*
- **Sustainable Utilisation Area (SUA)**
 - *An area to demonstrate that forests could be used sustainably for the production of goods and services*



A test scenario

Road Management Plan

- Management of the section of road leading to Brazil with runs through the Iwokrama Forest (72 km)
- Aim is to ensure that there are minimum adverse impacts to forest resources in and around the Iwokrama forest by road users and to mitigate any potential impacts.



Education and Outreach

- Building Capacity
- Wildlife Clubs of the North Rupununi
- Community Environmental Workers (CEWs)
- Makushi Research Unit (MRU)
- Ranger Training Program
- Tour Guide Training



Makushi Research Unit

- Women from village who help with the social aspects
- Done various work that deals with the preservation and conservation of Makushi culture
- Instrumental in resource use workshops
- Have evolved a new group Medicine from Trees



Community Environmental Workers

Community Resource Environmental Works

- Persons hired within villages to be a link between Iwokrama and village
- Help in research and education (work with clubs- demonstrating the process of knowledge learned, knowledge shared)
- Trained community monitors for environmental sustainability



Wildlife Clubs

- 13 established clubs
- Conducted various sessions with them on: bird watching, frog watching, importance of plants and animals
- Involved in research
- Learned additional skills that will aid both their personal and village development
- Conduct own studies and program e.g. Wildlife Club Festival



Some Club Activities



Building Networks and Project Development



The End

