

November 7, 2017

Iwokrama to Re-Launch Science Programme at World Science Day Event
Made possible by a \$62 Million Contribution from ExxonMobil

Join us in celebration of World Science Day for Peace and Development and the re-launch of Iwokrama's Science Programme.

For this event, Iwokrama is happy to announce a new partnership with ExxonMobil who will be providing a generous charitable contribution to the tune of \$62 Million Guyana Dollars (US\$300,000) to support the re-launch its Science Programme.

Iwokrama will host this inaugural World Science Day event with Keynote Speaker Mr. Andrew Mitchell on 'Shaping the Green Economy: Iwokrama's role'.

"I am encouraged by the positive support from ExxonMobil," said Dane Gobin, CEO Iwokrama. "Together, we will work to foster an international science hub that supports biodiversity research, education, and sustainable development for the country, region, and global community."

With this partnership between the two organisations to re-establish the internationally prestigious Science Programme, the intention will be to action key scientific research, within the Iwokrama forest.

"We're committed to the communities where we live and work, and we're proud to partner with an organization as community-minded as the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development," said Rod Henson, ExxonMobil Guyana Country Manager. "We're excited to see the Science Programme revitalized and the sustainable impacts the research will have across the region and globe."



The Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development is an autonomous non-profit institution established by Guyana and the Commonwealth. The Centre manages the nearly one million acre (371,000 hectare) Iwokrama Forest in central Guyana to show how tropical forests can be conserved and sustainably used for ecological, social and economic benefits to local, national and international communities.

The initial contribution from ExxonMobil will support the establishment of the Iwokrama Science Committee and commission initial research, based on the advice of the Committee, to inform a more comprehensive program on biodiversity. Funding will also enhance local capacity, including staffing and limited facility improvements.

Every year in November, World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated. The day seeks to highlight the important role that science plays in society and underscores the need for wide public information sharing and debates on emerging issues. Such issues include, green economy development, climate change, application-based scientific knowledge generation, new species discoveries and species conservation, to name a few.

Mr. Mitchell is an international thought leader on tropical forests, climate change and natural capital. Starting his career as a zoologist, he advanced to gain 40-years' experience spanning scientific research, conservation and finance for forests. Mr. Mitchell is currently Founder Director of the innovative Global Canopy Programme in the United Kingdom.

The lecture will take place on Wednesday, November 8, 2017, at Pegasus Hotel commencing at 18:00 hours. The World Science Day Event is kindly sponsored by ExxonMobil's affiliate in Guyana, Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Limited.

The public is welcome to join us at this auspicious event.

Notes to the Editors:

About Iwokrama

The Iwokrama International Centre (IIC) was established in 1996 under a joint mandate from the Government of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat to manage the Iwokrama forest, a unique reserve of 371,000 hectares of rainforest “in a manner that will lead to lasting ecological, economic and social benefits to the people of Guyana and to the world in general”.

The Centre, guided by an international Board of Trustees is unique, providing a dedicated well managed and researched forest environment. The forest is zoned into a Sustainable Utilization Area (SUA) and a Wilderness Preserve (WP) in which to test the concept of a truly sustainable forest where conservation, environmental balance and economic use can be mutually reinforcing. The IIC collaborates with the Government of Guyana, the Commonwealth and other international partners and donors to develop new approaches and forest management models to enable countries with rainforests to market their ecosystem services whilst carefully managing their resources through innovative and creative conservation practices.

Iwokrama brings together:

- 20 local communities (approximately 7,000 people) who are shareholders and participants in the IIC’s sustainable timber, tourism, research operations and forest management activities through complex co-management and benefit sharing arrangements;
- Scientists and researchers engaged in ground breaking research into the impacts of climate change on the forest and measuring the scope and value of its ecosystem services; and
- A portfolio of sustainably managed and certified business models using innovative governance systems which include participation of the private and public sectors and the local communities, earning income from the forest and its natural assets whilst employing international social, environmental and economic best practice, whilst still keeping abreast of the ever changing thinking on funding for environmental projects in the face of climate change and the perennial scarcity of international finance.

This alliance and the Centre’s work programmes are committed to showing how a rain forest can be used for real sustainability, real climate change protection and real community benefit.

For further details about the Iwokrama International Centre please visit www.iwokrama.org , www.iwokramariverlodge.com or contact Dane Gobin, Chief Executive Officer on dgobin@iwokrama.org