

ITTO Project PD 297/04 Rev.2 (F) “Implementation of the Sustainable Forest Management Programme of the Iwokrama International Centre”

Application of ITTO Criterion and Indicators at the level of the Forest Management Unit - March 1, 2007

Criteria 1 – Resource Security

1.1 The legal establishment of forest areas or management units (Compliance level 2)

- The Iwokrama Forest was legally established through the Iwokrama Act – 1996.
- Iwokrama’s zoning process established the Wilderness Preserve (WP) - protection forest and the Sustainable Utilization Area (SUA) - production forest – 2001.
- ITTO Project PD 10/97 Rev.1 (F) established the Net Operable Area (NOA) for sustainable timber production within the SUA – 2003, which provided for special reserve areas and buffer zones.
- The WP, SUA and NOA areas have been approved by Iwokrama’s International Board of Trustees (IBOT).
- Fair View Village’s titled land within the Iwokrama Forest has still not been surveyed.
- The Co-management Agreement between fair View and Iwokrama is still not signed.

1.2 Existence of a management plan (Compliance level 3)

- ITTO Project PD 10/97 Rev.1 (F) carried out the management inventory of the NOA and developed the first 5-year management plan.
- The management plan is revised as required based on experience.

1.3 Clear demarcation of boundaries in the field (Compliance level 2)

- The Iwokrama Act describes the metes and bounds of the Iwokrama Forest boundaries; however, these have not been surveyed on the ground.
- The Iwokrama Forest boundaries are not posted.
- Fair View Village’s titled land has not been surveyed or posted.

1.4 The presence or absence of illegal exploitation and encroachment (Compliance level 3)

- The Iwokrama International Centre (IIC) carries out regular road and river monitoring patrols to ensure that no unauthorized activities take place within the forest reserve.

1.5 The duration of concession agreements (Compliance level 3)

- The Iwokrama Act provides for the IIC to manage the Iwokrama Forest in perpetuity.

Criteria 2 – The Continuity of Timber Production

2.1 The presence of clear, official harvesting rules (Compliance level 2)

- Iwokrama uses the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) Code of Practice (CoP) for forest management planning and for timber harvesting, which establishes national guidelines for determining Annual Allowable Cut (AAC), harvesting best practices and workplace health and safety.
- Iwokrama uses Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) guidelines for felling, skidding and road building activities.

2.2 Long term soil productivity (Compliance level 3)

- CoP and RIL guidelines provide for protection of forest soils against severe compaction and erosion.
- The selective nature of the harvesting system employed ensures that soil nutrients (vegetative matter) are retained.

2.3 A pre-logging stand inventory (Compliance level 3)

- Pre-harvest (100%) inventories of annual operating areas are carried out as per GFC and RIL guidelines.

2.4 The number of trees and/or volume of timber/ha harvested (Compliance level 3)

- All felled trees are scaled and tree numbers and volumes are recorded in a timber harvesting database.
- The timber harvesting database is cross checked against the harvest plan lists of trees selected for harvesting.
- A register is maintained of actual timber harvested per hectare.

2.5 Provision for monitoring the residual growing stock after logging (Compliance level 1)

- Post-harvest inventories, as per CoP and RIL guidelines, will be carried out on each 600 ha Management Unit following closure.
- PSPs will be established in future harvesting areas.

2.6 Records of annual product outputs over time (Compliance level 2)

- Monthly and annual harvest records are maintained by species.
- Complete records kept of timber product shipments to Georgetown by species, sizes and volumes.
- At present, no records are kept on NTFP production.

2.7 Net productive area (Compliance level 3)

- ITTO Project PD 10/97 Rev.1 (F) established the Net Operable Area (NOA) for sustainable timber production within the SUA – 2003, which provided for special reserve areas and buffer zones.
- The NOA covers 29% of the Iwokrama Forest

2.8 Records of annual areas cut over time (Compliance level 3)

- A register is maintained of actual area harvested annually.

Criteria 3 – The Conservation of Flora and Fauna

3.1 Protection of eco-systems in the concession or management unit (Compliance level 3)

- The participative zoning exercise, which concluded with the definition of the WP and the SUA, provided the foundation for forest management. The protection of the diversity of natural forest types and aquatic ecosystems were major criteria in that exercise. Together with the subsequent zoning of the NOA, which concluded with a total 70.7% of the Iwokrama Forest withdrawn from timber utilization, is particularly relevant for achieving habitat and ecosystem protection.

- Taking into account the WP and the SUA, all forest types are represented in the reserve areas with more than 30% of their total area in the forest. Studies in Guyana suggest that forest types can be assimilated to habitats in their function as conservation units.
- An EIA, carried out between 2004 and 2007, defines the biodiversity values of the Forest, and the expected impacts on ecosystems as a result of the planned timber operations.
- Monitoring activities on identified conservation attributes have been taking place regularly for several years, and will be reviewed and integrated into an Integrated Monitoring Protocol. They will include specific forest and logging monitoring through a set of permanent sample plots on both areas to be logged and reserve areas.

3.2 The extent of vegetation disturbance after logging (*Compliance level 2*)

- Post-harvest inventories, as per CoP and RIL guidelines, will be carried out on each 600 ha Management Unit following closure.
- PSPs will be established in future harvesting areas.

Criteria 4 – An Acceptable Level of Environmental Impact

4.1 Extent of soil disturbance (*Compliance level 2*)

- JV timber operation just started in February 2007.
- Actual skidding and road/trail construction still not up to RIL standards.
- RIL courses will be provided.

4.2 Extent and spatial distribution of riparian and other watershed protection areas (*Compliance level 3*)

- The NOA has established riparian buffer zones.
- The CoP and RIL guidelines regarding watershed protection are being followed.
- Pre-harvest inventories are mapping all small streams and swamps and buffers are being established.

4.3 The extent and severity of soil erosion (*Compliance level 2*)

- JV timber operation just started in February 2007.
- Actual skidding and road/trail construction still not up to RIL standards.
- RIL courses will be provided.

4.4 Provision for protection of bodies of water (*Compliance level 3*)

- CoP and RIL guidelines for stream crossings in harvesting areas are being followed.
- Special care is being taken with 3-mile creek which flows through Fair View Village.

Criteria 5 – Socio-economic Benefits

5.1 The number of people employed (*Compliance level 3*)

- IIC and JV policy is to offer employment opportunity to local communities in forest management and timber harvesting activities, as well as to provide training in RIL and

CoP techniques. Employment opportunities exist in forest inventory, felling, equipment operators and operator's assistants, as well as general labor activities.

5.2 The nature and extent of benefits from forestry activities (Compliance level 2)

- Pay scales for all workers are standardized by job category and individual's experience level. Traditional knowledge (e.g. tree identifiers) is paid at the skilled labor level.
- Fair View Village will be a shareholder in the JV company and will receive a percentage of the profits from timber harvesting, both from harvesting on their land as well as from harvesting in the Iwokrama Forest in general.
- NTFP production needs to be assessed for economic viability and arrangements worked out with Fair View.

Criteria 6 – Planning and Adjustment to Experiences

6.1 Community consultation (Compliance level 3)

- Consultation is highly facilitated by the fact that the stakeholder communities, mainly Amerindian communities of the North Rupununi Region, are officially represented in the direction of Iwokrama.
- Fair View Village, the only community whose titled land is situated within the Iwokrama Forest, is a partner of Iwokrama in Iwokrama Timber Inc., which formed with a private partner the joint venture Iwokrama Sustainable Timber Inc, ISTI.
- Iwokrama and the North Rupununi District Development Board (NRDDB), which represents sixteen stakeholder communities, have entered into collaborative management and share-holding agreements with each other and with Fair View. The NRDDB is the umbrella organization of the North Rupununi communities, and is recognized by Iwokrama as its community partner since 1996.
- Consultation was also essential in the participatory process that led to the zoning of the Iwokrama Forest, which determined, on a permanent basis, the planning framework and the major management definitions for the forest.

6.2 Arrangements for forest management to take into account traditional forest utilization (Compliance level 3)

- The participative zoning exercise, carried out with Amerindian communities and stakeholders, identified and included in the planning process all the aspects of traditional forest utilization. These include subsistence use areas for traditional agriculture, sites of cultural or spiritual significance, sustainable wildlife harvesting, and archeological, historical and cultural heritage sites. Once the sustainable utilization area (SUA) was defined through that exercise, the area of reserved forest was extended by taking into consideration several other related values, including special use areas for Fair View Village, an Amerindian community within the Iwokrama Forest.

Compliance levels *:

0 = nil or very low

1 = low

2 = medium

3 = high