

## An Assessment of the Impacts of COVID-19 and Potential Recovery Measures for Sustainable Ecotourism Operations in Guyana

Type of priority area	Terrestrial Protected Area	Indigenous and Community Conserved Area (ICCA)	
Primary objective	Effectiveness of Management	Livelihoods	
Target groups	Local Communities	Indigenous people	National or local PA agency
Main activity focus	Eco-tourism	Sustainable financing	Survey/Data knowledge management

**Duration**  
01/02/2023 to 31/01/2024

**Type of grant & budget**  
EUR 42,444.76

**Location**  
The Iwokrama Protected Rainforest Area in the Potaro – Siparuni Administrative Region of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

**Protected & Conserved Areas**  
Iwokrama Protected Rainforest Area

**WDPA ID**  
116298

**BIOPAMA RRIS Link**  
<https://rris.biopama.org/ps/116298>

**Project Lead**  
Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Guyana

**Project Partners**  
N/A

**Description of the project.**  
The project intends to interview stakeholders from the Iwokrama Protected Forest Area which include indigenous community and staff of an Eco-Lodge in the protected area to identify how the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted their operation and livelihoods within the protected area. The information gathered will then be used to prepare an Eco-tourism recovery manual from the COVID-19 pandemic, scientific manuscripts to be submitted for peer review to international journals and several reports to be shared with the stakeholders of Iwokrama and the wider tourism sector of Guyana. The project will also enhance the promotion of Iwokrama through digital media advertisements and online platforms. The entire project will culminate with a tourism stakeholder’s conference where all the project findings will be shared to the larger tourism sector of Guyana.





#### Diagnostic Tools Used

N/A



#### The BIOPAMA AC Objective(s) Addressed

- ✓ Increased resilience to major shocks and recovery of the protected and conserved areas including sustainable/innovative funding planning.



#### Priority Need Addressed

N/A



#### The change the project implementation will bring for the protected areas

The Iwokrama Protected Area is a unique case study site that demonstrates the benefits of an effective eco-tourism model that enhances conservation efforts. The challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic are unique to the eco-tourism industry in general as the level of travel restrictions imposed globally was unprecedented. The eco-tourism operations in Iwokrama was not prepared for the measures taken to alleviate COVID-19 which has impacted the operations of its conservation efforts and the livelihoods of numerous indigenous communities. The change the project will therefore bring to the protected area is in better preparing the eco-tourism operation of Iwokrama for future pandemic circumstances similar to COVID-19 by understanding how the COVID-19 pandemic affected current operations.

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BIOPAMA assists the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to address their priorities for improved management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources. BIOPAMA provides a variety of tools, services and funding to conservation actors in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The BIOPAMA grant-making facility is managed by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and supports projects on the ground to strengthen the management and governance of protected and conserved areas, with a total budget of 21 million Euros.

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