

**PRESENTATION GIVEN AT THE TRANSLINKS NATURE,
WEALTH AND POWER WORKSHOP**

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

JUNE 20 – 21, 2007

HOSTED BY ENTERPRISEWORKS/VITA



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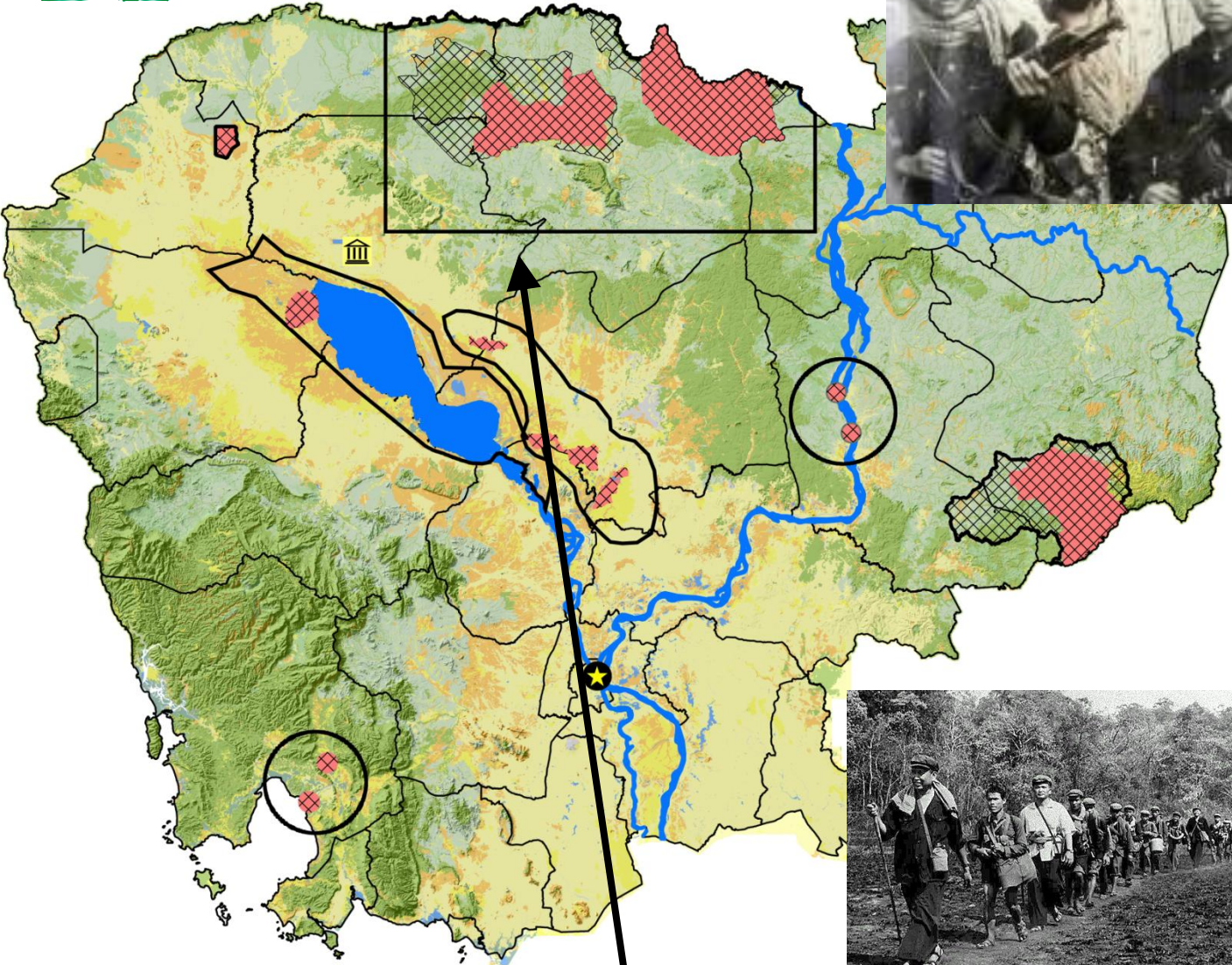
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WCS Cambodia Program



Tmatboey Community-based Ecotourism Project



Cambodia



Northern Plains



Unique community of birds:
5 Critically Endangered,
8 Endangered or Vulnerable, and
8 Near-threatened species
Including:
Large waterbirds: Giant & White-shouldered Ibis, Greater & Lesser Adjutant, Sarus Crane, Black-necked Stork, Oriental Darter
And:
3 species of Critically Endangered vultures





Globally Threatened Mammals:
5 Critically Endangered or Endangered
13 Vulnerable or Data Deficient, and
5 Near-threatened species
Including:
Tiger, Leopard, Asian Elephant, Eld's Deer
Dhole, Gaur, Banteng, Fishing Cat, Golden
Cat, Silvered Langur, Pileated Gibbon



When should WCS engage in tourism?:

- Where we have *control* over who brings tourists and where they go in the park
- Where we are able to *control* benefit sharing mechanisms (already established)
- Where we can *control* how the product is sold to potential tourists

So we can *control* how ecotourism can support to wildlife conservation

There were also practical challenges:

- We risk becoming distracted from the task at hand: conservation work
- We would need to locate additional funds possibly competing with existing priorities
- We would have to redefine our relationship with key partners and engage with a whole new cast

Etc. etc. there are lots more.

There are also institutional risks

We are not tour operators

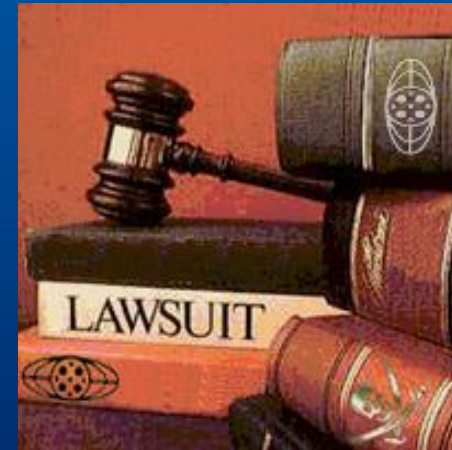


Institutional risks:

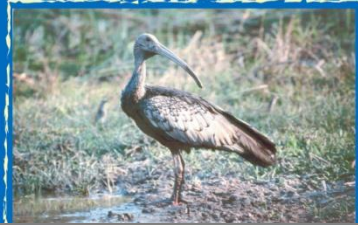
- There are potential liability issues



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- Is this really the image of WCS we want to promote?
-



Two pairs of White-shouldered Ibis nest near the village. These are the only nests known in mainland Asia.









1. Tmatboey

One Isolated Community:

- 22,000 hectares, 185 families (820 people) in a Wildlife Sanctuary
- Nesting White-shouldered Ibis (only known site in mainland Asia) and Giant Ibis
- Two of the rarest species in the world
- Birds are dependent on human-influenced landscape
- High interest from global bird-watching tourism market (high-paying)
- Relatively easy access from a major tourism centre with 2 million visitors/year at Angkor (4 hours)



Criteria for a tourism site

- Contains charismatic species 
- Guarantees wildlife viewing 
- Is close to an international airport/major tourist centre 
- Offers easy (short), comfortable and safe access ?
- Provides internationally acceptable standards of food and accommodation ?
- Is close to other tourist attractions such as cultural features 
- Offers unique landscapes 
- Is moderately inexpensive 

* Wilkie, D. and Carpenter, J. F. 1999. Can nature tourism help finance protected areas in the Congo Basin?

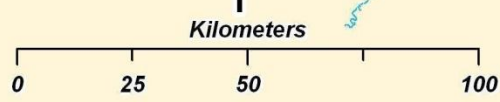
Oryx Vol 33 No 4

Birding Eco-tourism Sites Across Northern Cambodia



Legend

- Major Temple
- Main Town
- National Boundaries
- Province Boundaries
- Main Road
- Water



Your Hosts

Advisors



Mr. Nong Bot



Mr. Tun Nan



Mr. Moi Hoeng

Deputy
Commune
Chief

Village
Elder

Village
Chief



Mr. Preap Veal

Deputy
Commune
Chief



Mr. Nhem Siphon

Community Protected Area Committee members

Committee Chief



Mr. Ton Pedite

Deputy Committee Chiefs



Mr. Vut Voen



Mr. Deb Kemoun

Committee Members



Mr. Keng Ron



Mr. Yin Sary



Mr. Hom Lut



Ms. Seng
Chreang



Ms. Chim
Sokhun



Mr. Yin Thing

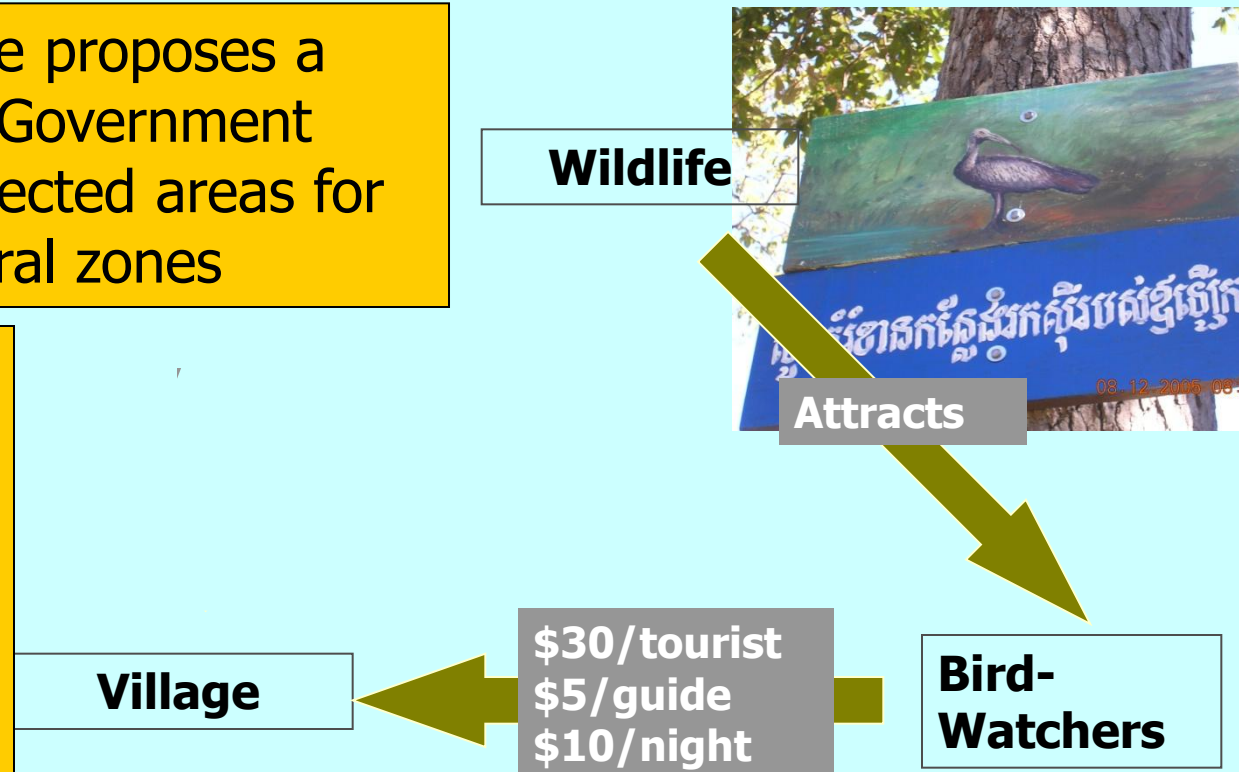
But, tourism ≠ conservation

■ 3. How to ensure conservation?

- All villagers developed a local “no-hunting” policy, signed with WCS and the Wildlife Sanctuary authorities

- The village committee proposes a “land-use plan” to the Government
This includes core protected areas for the birds and agricultural zones

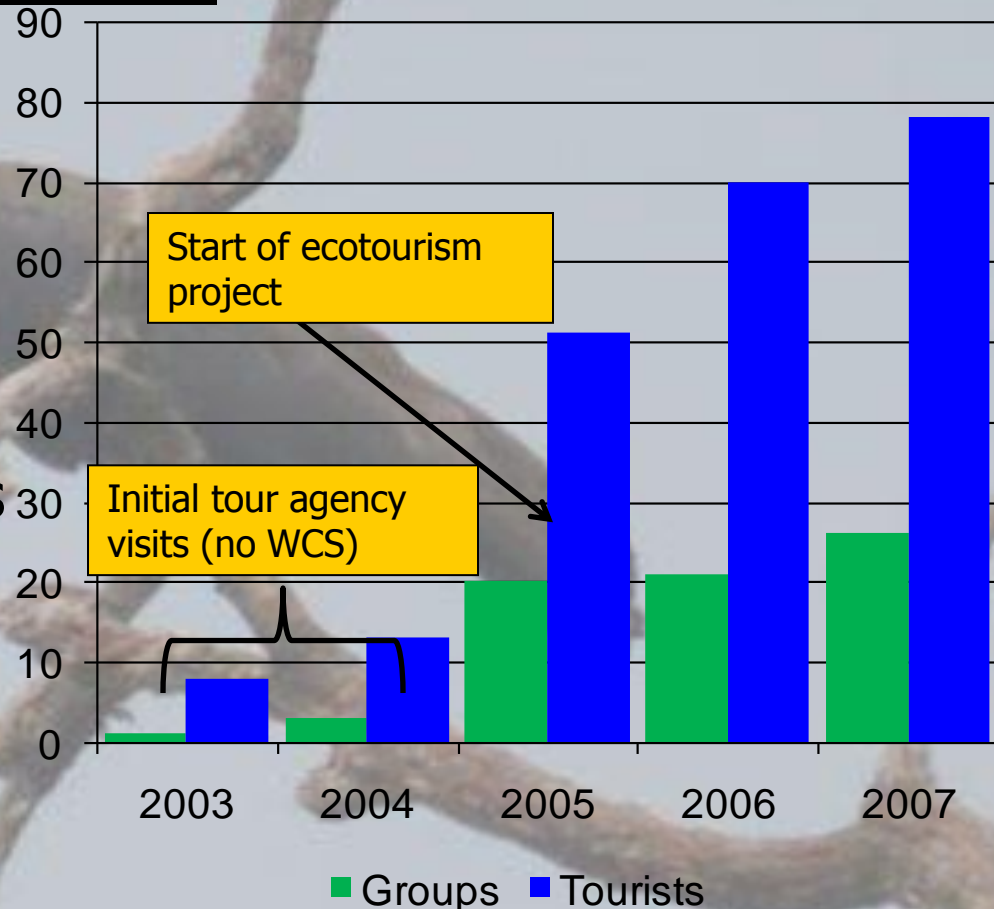
- Villagers understand that tourism benefits are linked to maintenance of these agreements
- Managed by the village committee



Does it work?

Tourism

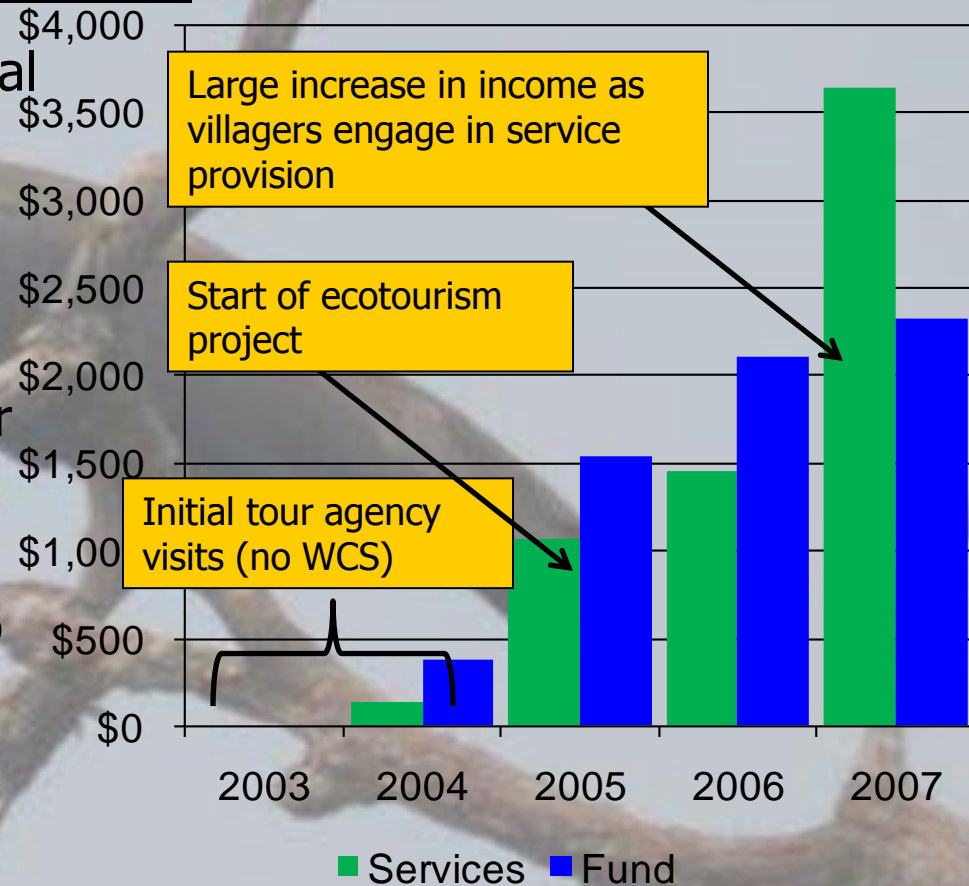
- Number of tourists is increasing annually
- Tourists are staying longer and visiting more sites
- Potential exists to replicate the model at other locations (e.g. Vulture Restaurants, White-Winged Wood Duck)
- SVC made \$16,500 in 2006-07, money which will be invested in conservation
- **Key Challenge:** to build a tourism market



12-35% annual growth
(depending on site)

Does it work? Local Development

- Community uses fund for communal construction projects, but benefits individuals indirectly
- How to make a livelihood from tourism? Increase incomes
- In 2006/7 the committee took over responsibility for all aspects of tourism management
- Tourist numbers increased by 11% but service payments increased by 150%
- 24 individuals made ~\$20/month
90 individuals were involved
- New guesthouse will increase service payments by 50% more in 2007/8

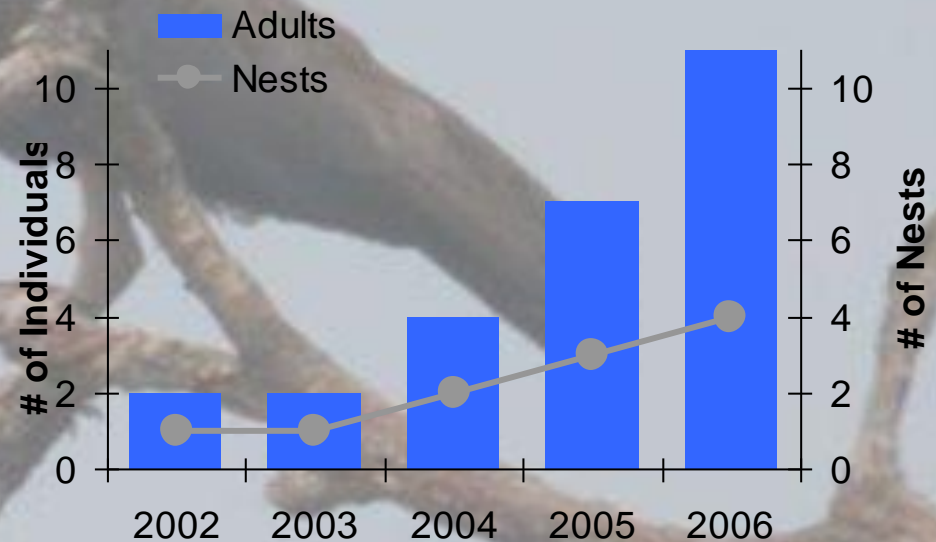


Provide a genuine livelihood from ecotourism

Does it work? Conservation

- 'Pride' associated with having foreigners visiting and sleeping in their village – powerful education tool
- Villagers have improved awareness of key species and their importance
- Community consensus for conservation : no hunting agreement kept
- Successful at building Political and Donor support
- Wildlife is increasing!!

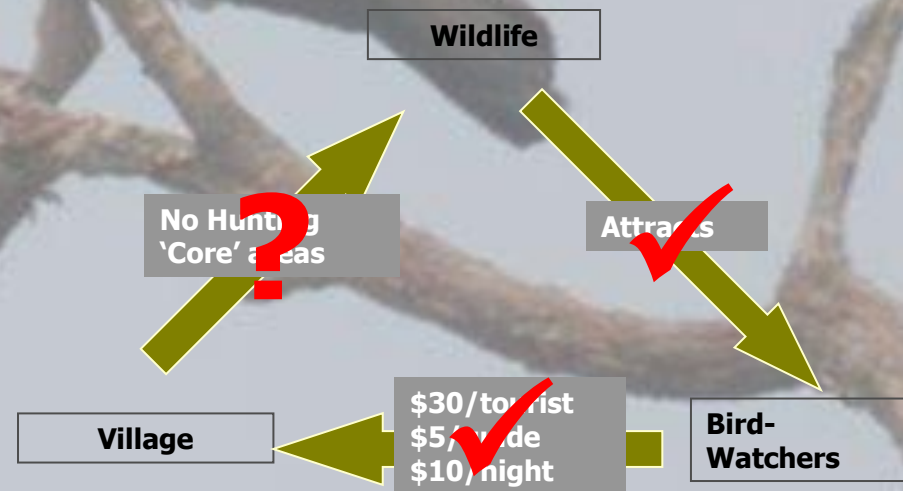
White-shouldered Ibis population is increasing (4 pairs now, up from one)



Giant Ibis population has stabilised (5 pairs)

But it doesn't all work

- Villagers have 'given up' hunting of key species, but not land conversion to agriculture, i.e. tourism benefits have been partly **additional** rather than a **substitute**
 - Wildlife is cheap, illegal land clearance can be lucrative
 - Community is learning how to manage resources
- This will require significant increases in Community Capacity to manage resources: tourists, land & the birds
- Will they increase the level of self-governance to protect the resource?
- Can they improve their ability to provide tourism services?
- Potential incomes must be raised to allow individuals to make a 'livelihood switch' to ecotourism



Acknowledgements



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