



Profiting from eco-tourism in Cambodia

Presentation prepared on behalf of

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07 April 2016

Wildlife Conservation Society





Description

Through eco-tourism the WCS, park authorities, business and communities are protecting globally significant endangered species in Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary, northern Cambodia.

These enterprises generate enough revenue for local people to change their behavior to more wildlife friendly ways, while also increasing their wealth. Communities manage eco-lodges and provide employment.

A community payment directly linked to conservation is discretionary spending for the village committee.



The Context

- Cambodia: incredible biodiversity; millions of tourists
- Poor rural communities
- Many PAs, few resources



- Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary: Mangrove ecosystem



Building Blocks

Building block 1: Improved planning and coordination

Building block 2: Political engagement and promotion

Building block 3: Income generation and access to markets

The 'Critical success factor': What you see is what you pay





Impacts

- PKWS is now seen as a model park in Cambodia.
- Populations of endangered species increasing
- Nest protection schemes linked to eco-tourism result in over 90% success rates each year.
- Rates of deforestation declined as communities adhere to land-use plans and have secure tenure and user rights.
- Hunting of threatened species greatly reduced
- Household and community income have increased sufficiently to change behavior and generate conservation outcomes, and income diversification has improved economic and social resilience.
- More constructive relationships between communities and park authorities
- The value of the park has been demonstrated to higher levels of government
- Several agricultural concessions have been declined or cancelled, and political support for the park is high.

Thank you

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