Darwin Initiative

Annual Report

1. Darwin Project Information

Project Ref. Number	14-046
Project Title	**Sustainable tourism supporting species conservation in the Srepok Wilderness, Cambodia**
Country(ies)	Cambodia
UK Contractor	IIED
Partner Organisation(s)	WWF Cambodia,
Darwin Grant Value	£172,619
Start/End dates	May 2005-March 2008
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and annual report number (1,2,3..)	1 May 2005-31 March 2006
Project website	www.iied.org; www.panda.org
Author(s), date	James MacGregor and Nick Cox, 27 April 2006

2. Project Background

The purpose of this project is to secure community access to benefits generated through sustainable wildlife tourism in the Srepok Wilderness Area (SWA) in Cambodia, based on the long-term viability of key species. The dry forests in the Srepok Wilderness Area (SWA) of Cambodia contain some of Southeast Asia's last significant populations of iconic animals such as Asian elephant, tiger, and gaur. A serious decline in species populations in the last few decades due to unsustainable harvesting and habitat loss has prompted urgent action from the Government, WWF, and other local partners to address this trend. In conjunction with IIED, these groups have identified high-value low-impact wildlife ecotourism as a means of securing the future of these species and their ecosystem through generating financing for conservation activities and supporting local livelihoods as well as ensuring the financial sustainability of the protected area.

The key outputs from this project are:

- Core protection zone and surrounding conservancies' boundaries established; co-management agreements endorsed by communities and local government
- Baseline biological data collated and analysed; Communities, Government institutions and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) participate in wildlife surveys
- Community institutions and Government capacities for biodiversity management and wildlife tourism improved
- Socio-economic status established; Tourism economic feasibility study completed; SWA Community Tourism Council established; SWA tourism plan developed and endorsed
- SWA tourism business development portfolio produced, and private sector agreements finalised
- Project successes communicated nationally and internationally.

3. Progress

Before Darwin Initiative funding (2003-2005)

The overall SWA project was established in January 2003 as a joint partnership between WWF Cambodia and the Government of Cambodia's Forestry Administration. In 2003 a feasibility study on wildlife eco-tourism was conducted for NE Cambodia and highlighted the SWA as having high potential for high-value low-density tourism. This report corroborated earlier findings by southern African Protected Area specialists who identified the SWA as the greatest potential for conservation and tourism development in the Dry Forests in Cambodia. Recommendations were made to adapt the southern African approach to community-based ecotourism. The first phase (2003-2005) focused on establishing basic infrastructure in the SWA and ranger training.

First year of Darwin Initiative funding (2005-2006)

During the first year of this project, our methodological approach to securing sustainable tourism in the SWA has centred on two core aspects: developing baseline information and assessing the local replicability of best practice from international experience.

- *Baseline information* is essential for the SWA project to guide management approaches to complex socio-economic and environmental problems. The information targeted in Year 1 of this project includes: tourism feasibility, socio-economic structure of neighbouring indigenous and recently-settled communities, and ranger-based biodiversity monitoring.
- *Local replicability* of the southern African "model" of protected area management has been the fundamental methodology since 2004 for this project. Funding from the Darwin Initiative has provided input from recently developed "best practice" methodologies in community-based wildlife management; MOMS – Management Oriented Monitoring System – a system first developed in Namibia. In order to assess the applicability of MOMS for SWA, the project conducted a feasibility study (see annex 3). The methodology for the consultant team, which has previously implemented locally-relevant MOMS throughout southern Africa, was to visit the SWA with the team leaders, community extension team and other relevant team members, to assess the options for developing a MOMS for SWA.

Changes in practice from the initial logframe and timeframe

There has been some slippage in the timeframe for this project owing to the excessive length of the wet season and the volume of rainfall – both factors delayed work from re-starting in the dry season owing to an inability to gain access by road into the core area of the SWA at Merouch, and to some of the priority communities; particularly those in the north, the most remote part of the landscape. The unexpected challenges faced by the project were indicated to the Darwin Initiative Secretariat in February 06. Yet, outside of the prolonged wet season, this project has encountered no significant difficulties. The potential for the increasingly erratic rainfall patterns and intensity holds potential risks for this project over the next year. Climatologists in Thailand are for instance predicting three years of higher than average rainfall for neighbouring Thailand owing to a regional version of the *El nino effect*. However, project staff will build in extra time allowances required for travel and preparation in order to avoid delays in project activities.

Enhancements to the project during the first year:

Closer links with Namibian experience. Originally it was envisaged that this project would be *replicating* best practice in community tourism development and community-based monitoring from Namibia. This was actioned in January 06, when the project brought over one of the designers and implementers of MOMS and a key player in the Namibian community-based natural resource management field to conduct a MOMS feasibility study in the SWA (see draft in Annex 3).

During his visit, the community rangers expressed a wish to learn more about the southern African system – being equal parts perplexed and intrigued by the approach, methodology, underlying ethos and operationalization of the MOMS approach. The project team has since successfully leveraged Darwin Initiative funding to access additional funds for a month-long in-depth *learning exchange* between WWF Cambodia and WWF Namibia (see proposal Annex 4). Three community rangers will be accompanied by four senior project staff during this learning mission that will include active participation in the mid-year MOMS audit in Caprivi, Northern Namibia. Other activities and outputs planned include:

- Development of modules of MOMS specifically for the SWA by the community rangers and project staff
- Week of shadowing Namibian National Parks employees on foot and vehicle patrols in Etosha National Park and Waterberg Plateau Park
- Visits to community based tourism developments
- Several seminars with government, NGO and private sector participants in tourism and protected area management in Namibia to share experiences and crucially to gain perspectives on the proposed methodology of the project team for managing the SWA development during the coming two years.

Training of trainers for 3D modelling. One of the key outputs of the community survey component of the SWA project is to facilitate resource planning in communities through the development of 3D models of the SWA and surrounding communes. It was originally envisaged that this work would be done by current project staff. Given the Filipino contacts of the projects Community Extension Team Leader, the project will bring over a pioneer and active practitioner of 3D modelling from the Philippines in April 2006. This will add an extra capacity building element to the project by training local trainers to replicate the 3D modelling activities in a number of key communes in the near future.

Timetable (workplan) for Year 2 of the Darwin Initiative project (2006-2007)

Date	***Financial year***	***Key milestones***
April 06	06/07	- 3D-modelling workshop
September 06	06/07	- Ecotourism economic feasibility study completed
December 06	06/07	- Tourist WTP survey completed
by March 07	06/07	- Ecotourism training completed
June/July 06	06/07	- Learning tour to Namibia
October 06	06/07	- Ranger training course
October 06	06/07	- Dry Forest Coalition meeting - project results shared
November 06	06/07	- Wildlife monitoring guide developed
November 06	06/07	- Biodiversity and ecotourism training course (2)

December 06	06/07	- Wildlife monitoring training course (2)
March 07	06/07	- Species management plans produced
by March 07	06/07	- Tourism action plan produced
March 07	06/07	- Wildlife monitoring survey report (2)

5. Partnerships

Project team collaboration

There have been three visits to Cambodia by UK partners and one by Namibian partners funded through the Darwin Initiative project to design project methodology and strategy, discuss project progress, and to conduct research.

In addition the wider project team based in Cambodia – which includes eight partners – have been meeting on an ad hoc basis regularly, keeping each other informed of progress, discussing and debating ideas and potential solutions to funding and resource gaps.

External collaboration

In addition to enduring collaboration between the project team and national partners in the conservation and development field, the following new collaborative relationships have been helped by the Darwin Initiative funding:

- There is an emerging collaboration between this Darwin Initiative-funded project and one hosted by Fauna and Flora International (FFI) at the Royal Agricultural University in Phnom Penh. Both project leader teams are exploring potential for research to be conducted by Master's students on the Darwin-funded M.Sc. Biodiversity course on the key ongoing research objectives for the SWA.
- The project part-funded a training course on biodiversity monitoring and ranger training which was organised in collaboration with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in Cambodia.
- There is a strong link with the WWF Namibia team to cooperate on the MOMS applicability which is continuing into FY06/07 with a learning exchange visit (see section above and Annex 4 for the proposal).
- Conservation international (CI) are sending six of their rangers from their Cardamom Mountains project to receive law enforcement ranger training in the SWA.

6. Impact and Sustainability

The profile of the SWA is growing as both news of the work being conducted and the genuine upward trends in wildlife numbers are leaking out. Particularly encouraging is:

- Increasing interest from government delegations in visiting and understanding the progress on sustainable tourism and conservation development that have been conducted at the SWA.
- Local NGOs involved in conservation are increasingly interested in learning from the innovative and pioneering technologies being employed in ranger training, patrolling protocols, monitoring and management, environmental education, and linking the social aspects of neighbouring community incentives with PA management needs, etc.

The need to manage the flow of information on this project has been identified by the project team as key to ensuring the project objectives are met. To this end, a media strategy is being developed by IIED and WWF to attend to a raft of issues concerning this project's successes, needs from strategic outlets of information, periodic press releases, technical reports series, and to ensure that issues such as the confirmation of tiger presence are treated as successes and not opportunities.

The strategy underlying this project is developing sustainable tourism that genuinely contributes to the conservation and development goals of the SWA. The initial tourism feasibility is in draft form and should be ready soon. One key aspect of this is to ensure that not only is the tourism environmentally, socially and economically sound, but also that when the donor funding is withdrawn, the SWA has opportunities for sustainable financing through private sector sources.

7. Timelines and Dissemination

Owing to the prolonged wet season, the timetable has shifted by approximately two months, but the objectives and outputs are identical. This has affected the following outputs detailed in the original proposal:

- Tourism feasibility – which is now due in September 06
- 3D mapping workshop – which is now being held in April 06.

Dissemination activities in the host country include:

- Reporting to national and provincial government agencies
- Regular informal information exchange with other conservation NGOs
- Media strategy has been developed which includes a detailed timetable for engagement with local and international media.

Funding for dissemination activities has been secured for beyond the lifespan of the Darwin Initiative project from other sources.

Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	TOTAL
6A	8 day wildlife ranger training course	1				1
8	IIED project team staff time and visits to project	3				3
9	Draft SWA management plan	1				1
12B	Input to MIST – national wildlife and wildlife crime database	1				1
14A	Informal meetings held to discuss project progress	3				3
15A	Press release and feature	3				3

	stories		
15C	PR in January 06	1	1
20	Computers and printers	2	2
20	6 Digital Camera traps for monitoring wildlife	6	6
23	Funds from Habitat Grup Empresarial, USFWS, WWF Netherlands, WWF International	US$320,000	320,000

Table 2: Publications

Type * (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. contact address, website)	Cost £
Draft report	The Feasibility for a Community-Based Wildlife Monitoring System for the Srepok Wilderness Area, Cambodia, Richard Diggle, 2006	IIED/ WWF-Greater Mekong	WWF Cambodia: nick.cox@wwfgreatermekong.org IIED: james.macgregor@iied.org	£0

8. Project Expenditure

Table 3: Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)

Item	Budget (please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project schedule)	Expenditure	Balance

It has been agreed with the Darwin Initiative Secretariat to allow a virement to the second year of the project for a sum not in excess of £22,000. This figure was based upon a "worst case scenario" for the constrained ability to work during the wet season. In practice, some aspects of the project were able to be financed during the first year. In total, the project timelines have been affected only in part (see section 7).

9. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

Our core methodology for contributing to our project purpose in Year 1 has been to build a strong and flexible team to work on the different project components. The key aspects with respect to this project can be split:

1. *Qualitative:*
    a. *Staff recruitment* –
        i. Community Extension Team leader has been in post since January 2006;
        ii. Two additional provincial government staff [based with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries] have been seconded to this project.
        iii. Six community wildlife rangers are employed by this project
    b. *Peer review of outputs and methodologies* – this has been provided by IIED staff directly involved with the project, IIED staff with technical specialisms in areas related to project methods and outputs, and by IIED and WWF's collaborators within the conservation sphere. In addition, some of the technical aspects associated with this project are "cutting edge" – such as the MOMS modules. Peer review has been obtained through engagement with the full team at WWF Namibia and within southern African conservation circles to ensure that quality of research and operationalization of outcomes is assured.

2. Quantitative:
    a. Community rangers – this project is committed to growing the knowledge and effectiveness of the community rangers, Forestry Administration staff, and the police associated with the patrolling, monitoring, and management of the SWA. To this end, we have designed our training sessions to measure performance trends, with each of the rangers taking part in the training course being accorded a grade on their performance. This grade is monitored at each new training round for improvement.
    b. Monitoring outcomes - the use of a database of all biodiversity-related incidents in the SWA (e.g. illegal activities, wildlife sightings) provides not only crucial management tools for the project leaders, but also an indicator of the data collected during ranger patrols. Since the commencement of the Darwin Initiative project, there have been more frequent sightings of large mammals and in larger herds. The frequency of poaching incidents is hard to measure since successful poaching often leaves no obvious evidence. However, there is evidence of better community relations leading to greater trust of the SWA project teams and the importance of their work.

What we have learnt:

- The project team might need to engineer multiple tourism use zoning within the SWA to ensure that relevant and key communities are sufficiently engaged with the SWA development process – this will necessitate a more in-depth tourism feasibility. The project team are currently considering a strategy including potentially hiring an external tourism consultant to expand the tourism component beyond a single-use lodge in the core area of the SWA.
- The economic reality of running a protected area necessitates equal amount of work being conducted outside of the PA - such as stakeholder engagement and political lobbying.

10. Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period

1. *Removed from public version*

2. Sign board at project headquarters in the Srepok Wilderness Area. Donors indicated are WWF, Habitat Grup Empresarial, Darwin Initiative, US Fish & Wildlife Service.

3. Cambodian Minister of Tourism, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, and Minister of Environment, unveil SWA sign at headquarters during visit in December 2005. See press releases in Annex 5 for details of the December event.

■ I agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section

In this section you have the chance to let us know about outstanding achievements of your project over the year that you consider worth highlighting to ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat. This could relate to achievements already mentioned in this report, on which you would like to expand further, or achievements that were in addition to the ones planned and deserve particular attention e.g. in terms of best practice. The idea is to use this section for various promotion and dissemination purposes, including e.g. publication in the Defra Annual Report, Darwin promotion material, or on the Darwin website. As we will not be able to ask projects on an individual basis for their consent to publish the content of this section, please note the above agreement clause.

Annex 1 - Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2005/2006

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2005-Mar 2006	Actions required/planned for next period
Goal*:* To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve • The conservation of biological diversity, • The sustainable use of its components, and • The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources			
Purpose Threatened key species in the Srepok Wilderness Area protected, and community access to benefits through sustainable wildlife tourism secured in the SWA in Cambodia	Benefits to 2[1] communities from improved management of wildlife and other biodiversity ensured through establishment of clear benefit sharing and management framework by 2008	-All villages in three communes are involved in pilot activities - Technical reports from the field are indicating greater community involvement and engagement with ranger and community ranger teams	The project team might need to engineer multiple tourism use zoning within the SWA to ensure that relevant and key communities are sufficiently engaged with the SWA development process.
	Wildlife tourism and community benefit-sharing policies developed and influenced by 2008	-SWA tourism plan is being formulated. Currently, a draft tourism feasibility is being linked with the ongoing socio-economic surveys (500 household surveys completed so far)	Further effort to engage meaningfully with the wider private sector in Cambodia is key, owing to the potential for co-development and the sector's expressed desire to be more keenly involved with

[1] It was originally planned to work with five communities, however, stakeholders have decided that in order to maximize impact and ensure optimal community participation and buy-in, the project should initially focus on two communities

		-Two key government agencies have expressed high-level political buy-in to the SWA. Both unveiled the SWA “entrance display sign” in December 2005 (see Section 11).	community-based tourism development.
	Community empowerment ensuring foundations for sustainable tourism in place by 2008	- PRA assessment reports are in draft format and the findings are being further ground-truthed by focus groups in the communities. - Identification of three potential “community tourism champions” in each of the three communes in which the project works	
	Globally significant biodiversity restored to the extent that surveys clearly indicate higher numbers of gaur and Eld’s deer, and at least constant numbers of elephant and tiger by 2008	- Community rangers are reporting higher numbers and crucially larger herds of gaur and banteng while on patrols. - Camera trap captures first tiger in the SWA. In the past limited evidence of permanent pride was given by spoor. A Darwin Initiative-sponsored camera captured this picture.	The project team request that the Darwin Initiative DO NOT publicise the camera-trapping of an image of the first tiger in the SWA. First, it is too early to claim a success from such a siting – tigers can range very wide. Second, we are keen not to start rumours in Cambodia and Vietnam of the potential existence of tigers owing to their perceived high value in the international trade for medicine. The situation is quite serious: early in 2006 three poachers were killed in the SWA by a rival group of poachers.

Outputs			
1. Core protection zone and surrounding conservancies' boundaries established; co-management agreements endorsed by communities and local government	At least 2 mapping workshops held by end yr 1.	Training and mapping workshops organised for April 06. Preliminary PRA data collected and being analysed. General recommendations for Species Management Plans included in the Draft Protected Area Management Plan (March 06).	Workshop report scheduled June 06. Two 3D models for individual communes developed by November 06. Initial report scheduled September 06. Draft Protected Area Management Plan completed and submitted to the Government of Cambodia (March 2006) for comments, review and expected approval in late-2006.
2. Baseline biological data collated and analysed; Communities, Gov't institutions and CBOs participate in wildlife surveys	Local version of MOMS monitoring system is set up for SWA; Camera trapping, Field monitoring: At least 20 community members trained by WWF/local community rangers in wildlife monitoring by end yr 2.	Feasibility report on MOMS adaptation for the SWA completed March 06. Camera trapping ongoing since October 05. Monthly, biannual and annual field survey progress reports. Data on biodiversity in SWA has been inputted to MIST system. Ranger training workshop January 06.	Learning tour of Forest Administration and SWA community members to Namibia to observe and learn from the MOMS audit in community conservancies in June 06. Law enforcement workshop planned May 06.

		Community extension team leader hired by the project Jan 06.	
3. Community institutions and Gov't capacities for biodiversity management and wildlife tourism improved	Community Tourism Council established in yr1;	Extensive stakeholder consultation with provincial government. WWF has been requested to provide technical assistance on ecotourism planning at provincial level. Organised two ministerial level tourism awareness visits to the SWA (Dec 05). Consultation with Cambodian University Biodiversity M.Sc. course organisers about providing research opportunities in the SWA for Cambodian students.	SWA management board to be established in November 06.
4. Socio-economic status established; Tourism economic feasibility study completed; SWA Community Tourism Council established; SWA tourism plan developed and endorsed	At least 3 socio-economic surveys by middle yr 1; SWA tourism feasibility study completed by end yr 1.	Socio-economic surveys conducted in three key communes neighbouring the SWA. Sample size 500 households. Tourism feasibility study research ongoing; draft due May 06. Economic study to be completed September 06, and WTP surveys by December 06.	Plan for two UK socio-economics Master's students linking with Cambodian researchers to investigate tourism opportunities in the SWA Plan for UK Master's student to conduct research on the significance of fire ecology-livelihood interactions in rural Mondulkiri.

5. SWA tourism business development portfolio produced, and private sector agreements finalised	At least 2 investor visits and workshops organised by end yr 1;.	Two investor visits to the SWA (June 05 and Dec 05). Extensive engagement with the private sector participants in Cambodia.	Greater investor engagement is essential as the initial results from the tourism feasibility are developed. The project team are keen to zone multiple tourism uses to enhance potential community engagement/ involvement/ compensation for foregoing livelihoods.
6. Project successes communicated nationally and internationally	Number of reports, articles, press releases, presentations given by yr 3	Press releases in Dec 05 and Jan 06 widely disseminated in national and international media. BBC World Service radio programme (17/12/05) about the SWA. Project partner organisation websites operational. SWA featured in national media in both Khmer and English.	

Note: Please do NOT expand rows to include activities since their completion and outcomes should be reported under the column on progress and achievements at output and purpose levels.

Annex 2 Project Logical Framework [see section 3]

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Goal:			
To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources			
Purpose:			
Threatened key species in the Srepok Wilderness Area protected, and community access to benefits through sustainable wildlife tourism secured in the SWA in Cambodia	Benefits to 2[2] communities from improved management of wildlife and other biodiversity ensured through establishment of clear benefit sharing and management framework by 2008	-Community co-mgm't agreements - Workshop/meeting minutes -'SWA Community Tourism Council' reports -Number of communities involved in pilot activities - Monthly and annually technical reports	-Continued community support and awareness -Continued Gov't support and will to cooperate -Adequate staff and resources for wildlife conservation
	Wildlife tourism and community benefit-sharing policies developed and influenced by 2008	-SWA tourism plan clearly stating no. of communities in plan -Number of gov't agencies in plan dev't	-Continued community support and awareness -Continued Gov't support and will to cooperate - Inter-ministerial cooperation takes place. Project recommendations included in policy and enforcement strategy. -Effective project communication

[2] It was originally planned to work with five communities, however, stakeholders have decided that in order to maximize impact and ensure optimal community participation and buy-in, the project should initially focus on two communities

	Community empowerment ensuring foundations for sustainable tourism in place by 2008	- Democratic community based organisation (CBO) promulgated. - CBO constitution - CBO meeting reports - community member employed in trainee management role in tourism enterprise - conservancies established as legal entities - PRA assessment reports	- CBO constitution - official support for the CBO - legislative possibility to establish conservancies - tourism enterprise(s) established - legislative possibility to bestow de facto rights to CBO
	Globally significant biodiversity restored to the extent that surveys clearly indicate higher numbers of gaur and Eld's deer, and at least constant numbers of elephant and tiger by 2008	- reports on surveys of wildlife by communities and Darwin project partners - Number of gov't plans using SWA models -Annual 'SWA wildlife census' reports	- transferability of MOMS monitoring from southern Africa to Cambodia - -Uncontrollable external factors do not increase in SWA
Outputs:			
1. Core protection zone and surrounding conservancies' boundaries established; co-management agreements endorsed by communities and local government	At least 2 mapping workshops held by end yr 1, and zoning boundary maps and information signs produced and community conservancies established by middle yr 2;	Maps, workshop reports; PRA assessment reports; Species Management Plans;	Communities and local gov't understand and can identify boundaries; they continue to support co-mgm't
2. Baseline biological data collated and analysed; Communities, Gov't institutions and CBOs participate in wildlife surveys	Local version of MOMS monitoring system is set up for SWA; in addition to ongoing community, camera trapping, and field monitoring: at least 3 surveys conducted by end yr 2. At least 20 community members	Field survey reports, GIS maps; Database of biodiversity and socio-economic data; Participants attendance and assessment records	Trained personnel remain in position and committed to long term participation MOMS is an acceptable tool for local communities to use

	trained by WWF/local community rangers in wildlife monitoring by end yr 2.		
3. Community institutions and Gov't capacities for biodiversity management and wildlife tourism improved	Community Tourism Council established in yr1; At least 5 training courses organised by yr 3; Cambodian national studying Tourism M.Sc. in South Africa or UK by yr 2	CBO constitution; Training materials; Workshop reports; Degree certificate	Trained personnel remain in position/commit to sharing skills
4. Socio-economic status established; Tourism economic feasibility study completed; SWA Community Tourism Council established; SWA tourism plan developed and endorsed	At least 3 socio-economic surveys by middle yr 1; SWA tourism feasibility study completed by end yr 1; Community Tourism Council established by yr 1; At least 2 workshops held, tourism plan endorsed by end yr 2;	Workshop reports; Feasibility study report; Meeting minutes; Community Tourism Council TORs; Tourism plan document	All relevant stakeholders willing and able to participate in process to establish Community Tourism Council and plan.
5. SWA tourism business development portfolio produced, and private sector agreements finalised	At least 2 investor visits and workshops organised by end yr 1; Business portfolio produced and distributed to investors by end yr 2; Agreements by end yr 3	Visit reports; Workshop reports; Business portfolio document; Agreement documents	Private sector committed to sustainable tourism development approach
6. Project successes communicated nationally and internationally	Training materials including "training trainers" available yr1; locally-relevant versions of monitoring and conservancy establishment tools available yr2; Number of reports, articles, press releases, presentations given by yr 3	Publications in national and international media; Presentations; Reports to Darwin	Communications effectively reach target audience

Activities	Activity Milestones (Summary of Project Implementation Timetable)
Community-based wildlife management **(relating to outputs 1 and 2).**	▪ Training needs assessment conducted in early year 1; ▪ Development of local or Cambodian version of the MOMS monitoring system; ▪ Training from southern African experts on local version of MOMS monitoring system; ▪ 3-D modelling workshops for SWA by yr 1; 3-D modelling workshops for SWA by yr 1; ▪ Wildlife census, enforcement , camera-trapping and community-based monitoring training by yr 1; ▪ SWA zoning workshops by yr 2; ▪ Co-management/conservancy meetings; wildlife surveys by yr 3
Sharing of benefits from tourism with local communities **(relating to output 4)**	▪ Socio-economic surveys by yr 1; ▪ 3D modelling w/shop; PLUP (participatory land-used planning) w/shop by yr 1; ▪ Participatory GIS and community mapping by yr 1; ▪ PRAs, yr 1-yr 3;
Wildlife tourism management framework and capacity building **(relating to outputs 4, 5 and 6)**	▪ Training (local, regional, national) on conducting visitor surveys by yr 1; ▪ Conduct visitor surveys with local gov't by yr 1; ▪ Engage tour operators, conduct feasibility studies for SWA tourism yr 1; ▪ Training w/shops (business tools, negotiation, financial management) yr 1; ▪ Establish SWA Community Tourism Council (Y1), and run CTC meetings (all yrs) ▪ Develop Tourism action plan by yr 2 ▪ Scholarship for a Cambodian national by yr 2
Communicating successes **(relating to output 6)**	▪ Inform Dry Forest Coalition; Communications, advocacy and publicity, all yrs

Annex 3 – Executive Summary of Report on the Feasibility for a Community-Based Wildlife Monitoring System for the SWA, Cambodia

The Srepok Wilderness Area (SWA) project involves the Cambodian government, international NGOs, private sector donor, and rural communities. The area falls within the Mondulkiri Protected Forest and is considered a high biodiversity priority. Uncontrolled hunting has decimated the wildlife, such as tiger, wild water buffalo and elephant. The project's primary purpose is to restore the once abundant large mammal populations and involves a series of components to address such factors as: local poverty, lack of local awareness, uncontrolled and over-exploitation of natural resources, in-migration of non-resident people, government staff capacity building, lack of monitoring of wildlife, lack of protected area management planning and infrastructure development. Given the area's similarities with Southern African, i.e. large mammals, dwindling wildlife populations, and increasing human pressures, the SWA project is a pilot for implementing the Southern African approaches to sustainable utilisation of wildlife and community participation.

A key component of the project involves monitoring wildlife numbers, and law enforcement through ranger patrols. During the first two years the project deployed a combination of field monitoring techniques; infrared-based camera-traps and conventional patrolling. The data has confirmed the presence and distribution of a number of priority species, such as tiger and wild water buffalo, has monitored the types and numbers of illegal activities, and recorded the patrolling efforts. It is currently too early, (and in some cases data is inadequate), for trends or indices to be detected.

One objective of the project is to involve local communities in monitoring biodiversity, potentially through the establishment of a community-based monitoring system. Current monitoring techniques do not involve local communities directly, although the majority of rangers working for the project are from local communities, and are not government employees. The project is therefore considering using a devolved monitoring process first developed in Southern Africa called MOMS (**m**anagement **o**riented **m**onitoring **s**ystems). The process involves field staff and community members in designing a monitoring process and undertaking the data collection, recording and analysing with minimal support from external or senior technicians. It is a simple and cost effective approach that was initially developed for community managed conservation areas that have limited long term funds and resources to conduct high-tech monitoring systems. The paper based system provides sufficient data to guide management decisions and is ideally suited to: build capacity of field staff, stimulate discussion amongst local resource users, and encourage local participation. The MOMS process ensures that the monitoring objectives are clear, that the expectations and information needs are met and that the end user of data is identified. The approach has been adopted with good results in the communal areas of Namibia and been expanded to state protected areas in Namibia, Zambia, Botswana and Mozambique.

Based on the Namibian experience of how MOMS can become the catalyst to engage community support and involvement for conservation programmes, there is sufficient justification to warrant the deployment of an adapted MOMS version in the SWA. Specifically, the MOMS approach is ideally suited to meet one of the three objectives of the project: "To establish community-based monitoring of indicator species in order to track the progress of wildlife restoration and inform natural resource management

efforts". It is recommended that the project initially consider using MOMS only for those issues that can maximise the engagement of communities and for the time being leave the majority of monitoring of wildlife to MIST.

In the event that the project decides to implement a revised version of MOMS and the issues raised are satisfactorily resolved amongst all the partners, this feasibility report offers suggestions and a set of next steps. Each point is based on lessons learnt from personal experience on implementing a MOMS version in Namibia and on conducting a field visit to SWA. The general recommendations of this study are to:

1. Define a monitoring strategy – including identifying information flows and roles and responsibilities of project staff;

2. Prioritise what needs to be monitored - prioritise measures based on applicability to overall project goals and simplicity of implementation;

3. Community involvement - develop the capacity of community rangers already employed by the project, and increase community involvement and awareness of MOMS;

4. Complement MIST - MOMS should complement the nationally used MIST system, i.e., by focusing more on community and livelihoods issues than biodiversity. MOMS should also not add too much of an extra work load on rangers;

5. Implement in each ranger outpost - each outpost and ranger team in the SWA should have a clearly identified data filing system and would be responsible for data collection and analysis;

6. Conduct study tour to Namibia – providing an excellent opportunity to see MOMS being implemented first hand, and to learn from communities and protected area staff;

7. External technical support – maintain regular contact with MOMS designers from Namibia and utilise their technical expertise, especially during set up of MOMS in SWA;

8. Timeline for implementation – it is recommended that the MOMS is established over a 2 year phase with the aim of full implementation by the beginning of year 3;

Annex 4 – Funding application for the learning exchange between SWA project staff and WWF-LIFE (Namibia)

TERMS OF REFERENCE 9Z1389.01 GRANT 04 - ATTACHMENT 1

Support for Ecoregion Action Programmes - Small Grant Application

Name of Ecoregion Action Programme	*Lower Mekong Dry Forests EAP (LMDFE)*
Name of Proposed Small Grant Activity	***Bringing African Community-Based Wildlife Monitoring to Asia*** *– Learning from the Namibian experience*
Name and Title of Applicant(s)	*Nick Cox* *Dry Forests Programme Coordinator*
Date of application	*8/3/06*

SUMMARY – What will be achieved with the small grant?

Increased capacity, enthusiasm, collaboration and understanding among Cambodian government, community rangers, and WWF Cambodia staff to develop and adapt the Southern African "Management Orientated Monitoring Systems" (MOMS), an innovative participatory wildlife monitoring approach used in Namibia and replicated in other African countries. A learning visit in Namibia will equip project staff with the skills to begin implementation of MOMS in the Srepok Wilderness Area (SWA) of the Cambodian Eastern Plains Dry Forests, within the LMDFE. The MOMS system will be paired with the Southern African protected area management and wildlife use model being piloted in the SWA.

1. Background (Concern). Set the context. What problems and/ or opportunities are creating the need for this small grant?

The SWA field staff (government and community) are now familiar with the PA management aspect of the approach, but lack the skills needed to include the collection of community-oriented data. The development of a community-based wildlife monitoring system will ultimately assist local communities in collecting *and interpreting* data that is of practical everyday use; the understanding being that that this monitoring will aid communities to make informed decisions about resource use in their communally-managed forests and other applicable community areas adjacent to the SWA**.** The study tour is partially funded for some support to field activities in Namibia through a Darwin Initiative grant; additional funding is needed for travel and subsistence costs for WWF and government staff.

2. Scope and Vision (Purpose). What is this small grant for? What do you plan to achieve, where, and by when? How does this fit with the overall Vision of the Ecoregion Action Programme?

The Srepok Wilderness Area project in Cambodia is an innovative conservation approach modelled on the Southern African experience relating to the sustainable use of wildlife as a means of benefiting biodiversity and people. Now entering a new phase, the project aims to use the Namibian 'MOMS' community-based wildlife monitoring system to involve representatives of local communities in the operation of the protected area, including monitoring the recovery of wildlife populations and other natural resources and patterns of use that have important implications for local livelihoods. The grant will be used to fund a visit to Namibia in late June/early July for two WWF Cambodia staff, two Cambodian government/WWF officers (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry Fisheries/SWAP), and the senior community ranger on the SWA project. This proposed study tour will take place from 23 June

until 12 July.

Support for the proposed activities will build the enthusiasm and capacity needed to make the implementation of MOMS in Cambodia a reality, and will contribute to greater understanding and collaboration between the key implementing stakeholders: activities will include; participation in the MOMS bi-annual audit conducted by WWF LIFE in June, to see first-hand what is entailed in compiling and managing the data; a site visit to local communities with Namibia's MOMS staff to discuss with communities how they view and use the MOMS approach in their everyday lives; participants will also visit WWF Namibia/LIFE offices where SWAP staff can work with MOMS staff to finalize monitoring materials for full implementation in Cambodia, and; a trip to Etosha NP, for SWAP staff to view MOMS in action in the Park's system as well as to view the tourism facilities, in preparation for the development of high end tourism in the SWA.

The SWAP is the flagship project of the LMDF EAP. This study tour will enable the realisation of a main goal of the next phase for involving communities in PA management; empowering them to make decisions over natural resource use in the Dry Forests, and will provide important experience for Cambodian staff in seeing the African model of conservation in practice therefore strengthening the implementation of the theory behind the whole approach in Cambodia, and providing impetus for its replication elsewhere in the ecoregion, e.g. Phnom Prich wildlife sanctuary in Cambodia, Yok Don NP in Vietnam, and Xe Pian NBCA in Laos. This directly supports the ecoregion vision of protection of the globally significant biodiversity of the dry forests through protection of habitats and species in support of sustainable social development.

3. Strategy (Task). What activity will be carried out under this small grant to work towards the vision? Briefly describe the main activities/ outputs to be delivered and show how they link to the Ecoregion vision

Specifically the following activities will directly support the LMDFE plan:

- Obj. 1 Conserving species and habitats; Target 1 on monitoring of flagship species; - *Observation of methodologies in action during bi-annual audit; adaptation of materials used in Namibia for use in LMDF (SWA); the SWAP team will benefit from capacity building on data collection and data analysis*
- Obj. 2 Sustainability of livelihoods; Target 5 on improving CBNRM - *Site visit to communities where SWAP staff will observe the MOMS methodology being implemented at the site-level. Examples of issues and threats at site level may be discussed and sharing of lessons learned.*
- Obj. 4 Building capacity Target 8 on building capacity of institutions and empowering communities to make decisions on NRM - *Methodologies from Namibia will be observed to assess opportunities for use in LMDF (SWA) context. The visit to the Parks, incl. Etosha, will help SWAP staff understand how the MOMS approach is utilized within government structures. SWAP staff will also work with WWF LIFE team to develop materials for use in Cambodia.*
- Obj 4 Building capacity; Target 9 on sustainable financing – *Participants will observe the operation of tourism facilities and services; increasing the understanding of the key issues for developing tourism in the SWA; increased awareness of why tourism and benefit sharing is key to success in SWA, and how this could be replicated in other PAs/landscapes in the Dry Forests.*

4. Leadership and Accountability. Who is the project leader?

Nick Cox, Dry Forests programme coordinator, and SWAP Technical Advisor, Martin von Kaschke. The learning and training visit will also be joined by WWF Namibia staff, and IIED environmental economist James MacGregor (leader for Darwin project).

5. Stakeholders and Partners. List key stakeholders who have an interest in the success or failure of this activity or who will benefit either directly or indirectly from this activity.

Though **local communities** might not be fully aware yet, the successful implementation of the MOMS approach, as part of the overall approach in the Eastern Plains landscape, particularly the SWA has far reaching implications for their involvement in the management of biodiversity for sustainable livelihoods;

The **provincial and national government** has committed to the development of conservation initiatives in the Eastern Plains Dry Forests landscape; this initiative is a crucial step toward ensuring concrete benefits are realized for communities, and therefore easing the pressure on governments to find alternatives for communities in need.

Our **donors** to this project (WWF Netherlands, Darwin, Habitat) all have a stake in the long term success of this project and particularly are looking for real results in involving local people.

Other **conservation NGOs** such as WCS are aware of the attempt to introduce a form of MOMS in the SWA and are positive about the potential for replication to other sites in need of developing a framework within which communities can be given a tangible role in conservation management.

6. Resources Required (please provide a brief budget breakdown and attach as an Annex to this application)

The grant will be used for international airfares (Phnom Penh - Windhoek); visas, local travel and accommodation and food – see annex.

7. Goals, Objectives and Monitoring. How will the success of this activity be measured? (propose 2-3 key indicators)

Development of new and revision of draft MOMS materials prepared by WWF Cambodia for implementation in SWAP target communities (monitoring cards and data interpretation materials for communities to analyses data)

- Particiaption in the bi-annual audit (analysis of data collected and recorded by communities during field surveys)
- Visit to national park to observe high end tourism in operation and discussions with park staff on key issues for developing tourism in a sustainable manner as a means to support conservation
- Report of key findings, lessons learned, and concrete next steps and action points for implementing MOMS in the SWA communities
- Presentations by government and community study tour participants in workshop for SWAP staff in the field site in Cambodia on lessons learned from Africa

8. Risks and Assumptions. Are there any (internal and external) risks associated with the activity? If so, what steps would you suggest to minimise risk?

Language and understanding is always an issue. The accent of English spoken in Southern Africa and the speed of the language makes it difficult for the Cambodian staff. The SWAP TA will ensure that confusion is minimized and understanding is of a high level.

Annex 5 – Press releases

Press Release

For immediate release - 12th December 2005

Conservation the Best Option to Support Development

in Cambodian Eastern Plains

MONDULKIRI PROVINCE, CAMBODIA – Today, the Ministry of Environment (MoE), and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF), publicly inaugurated two protected areas in the Cambodian Eastern Plains Landscape. The two protected areas - Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary, and Mondulkiri Protected Forest – form part of one of the largest complexes of connected protected areas in Southeast Asia, covering more than 1 million ha (10,000km^2) in a region referred to as the Eastern Plains.

Today's event, co-organized by WWF – the global conservation organization, together with MoE, and MAFF, included a helicopter flight for senior government officials, ambassadors, and international donors, to visit the remote headquarters of the two protected areas in Mondulkiri. The ceremony, chaired by Dr Mok Mareth of MoE, Dr Chan Sarun of MAFF, and Dr Chris Hails Programme Director of WWF International, highlighted the global significance of the unique Dry Forest habitats in the Eastern Plains of Cambodia. Also participating in the event was H.E Lay Prohas, Minister of Tourism, HE Eng Chhoun Lim, Minister of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction, as well as representatives of other government ministries, provincial governors, provincial government departments, district, commune, and village leaders, and local and international NGO's.

Prior to the ceremony, a helicopter flight took a delegation of 30 VIPs to the two protected areas, Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary (PPWS) and Mondulkiri Protected Forest (MPF), for a short tour and presentations by the protected area managers. During the flight, the delegation were treated to expansive views of the vast, unspoiled landscape of the Cambodian Dry Forests in their lush, green state that is typical of the wet season.

Through this event, WWF commended the achievements of the Royal Cambodian government, particularly the MoE and the MAFF. Ultimately, it is anticipated that public and international recognition of the government's action towards designating large areas of natural forests as protected areas will prompt government partners to establish effective protected area management structures and encourage immediate action and commitment to safeguard this area and other globally significant landscapes in Cambodia, especially in the Dry Forests. This type of forest, otherwise known as Deciduous Dipterocarp Forest, is much more open than other tropical forests, making it ideal habitat for populations of large mammals, but also makes it more at risk from conversion for agriculture.

Fifty years ago, the large mammal populations of the Cambodian Eastern Plains were described as second only to Africa in terms of their abundance. Although significant populations of Cambodia's rare and threatened species still reside there, years of war and civil strife have caused many animal populations to plummet, and now several species face extinction. Nevertheless, in light of the government's commitment to protect the remaining wildlife and its habitats, WWF remains optimistic. "Despite the massive toll that Cambodia's recent history has taken on the Dry Forests, there is still hope for the incredible and globally significant biodiversity found here," Dr. Chris Hails said. "Taking action to protect this area now, will allow wildlife populations to recover and return the Eastern Plains Landscape to its former glory," he continued.

The Eastern Plains, like many parts of Africa, have high potential for sustainable wildlife tourism. Due to the intact nature of the Dry Forest habitat in the Eastern Plains, and the high potential for restoring wildlife populations, WWF, in partnership with the Forestry Administration of MAFF, have recently initiated a pilot ecotourism project with financial support from Spanish donor Habitat Grup Empresarial, and the Darwin Initiative of the British government's Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs. This project aims to develop wildlife tourism, similar to the safari style of tourism in parts of Africa, as a means of generating income to pay for a part of the costs of conservation, and to provide income for local communities and the government.

The development of the Eastern Plains for high quality and sustainable tourism also fits within the Government's own development strategies. Dr. Mok Moreth, Minister of Environment, presented his vision for the development of sustainable tourism in the Eastern Plains saying that "effective protection....and conservation of wildlife species will help to make this area become a major tourist destination, [second only] to Angkor..., and that ecotourism will help to reduce poverty within local communities".

WWF believes that sustainable tourism development, as one component of effective management of the protected area complex in the Dry Forests, is one of the most viable options for the Eastern Plains, as there is limited potential for other development activities such as agricultural development for example, because of poor soil fertility and limited water resources.

Talking of the need to maintain the connectivity of the protected areas in the landscape, Dr Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, referred to the "wise protection" demonstrated by the physical links between the protected areas. The minister also emphasised the critical importance of protected forests for local livelihoods through the sustainable use of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), and called for greater collaboration between government officials and local communities to protect the protected areas "for the hopes and benefits of the next generation".

WWF hopes that today's high level event will help to usher in even greater commitment from the government in addressing key threats to the country's biodiversity and greater cooperation between key environmental ministries.

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Notes to Editors:

-The term Dry Forests refers to a habitat characterised by open deciduous forest, and the associated mosaic of mixed, denser deciduous forest, and semi-evergreen forest.

- The Eastern Plains Landscape of Cambodia is home to many rare and endangered animal species, and is considered one of the last refuges for populations of several large mammal species in the Dry Forests of Southeast Asia, such as tiger, Asian elephant, wild water buffalo, banteng, gaur, Eld's deer, and endangered large birds including the

sarus crane, and white-shouldered and giant ibises. All these species require large amounts of space and migrate freely throughout the landscape, and many times they cross into Vietnam, where hunting and trade threats are considered to be more serious.

- ‘Protected area’ is here used to refer to the internationally recognised term for any classification and designation of protected area, irrespective of the government agency responsible for its management. In Cambodia the ‘Protected Area System’ is management by MoE, while MAFF has a number of other officially designated protected areas designated as ‘Protected Forests’, ‘Protected Landscapes’, and a ‘Biodiversity Conservation Area’.

-WWF has worked in Cambodia since the mid 1990's and is part of the WWF Greater Mekong Programme. WWF Cambodia’s Mission is to ensure that there will be strong participation and support from all peoples to conserve the country's rich biological diversity. Through the encouragement of sustainable use of natural resources, WWF Cambodia will promote new opportunities for the benefit of all people, enhancing local livelihoods and contributing to poverty reduction in the Kingdom of Cambodia. The WWF Cambodia programme runs projects mainly in Mondulkiri province through the Srepok Wilderness Area Project (SWAP), Species project in Phnom Prich Wildlife Sanctuary, and MOSAIC (Management of Strategic Areas for Integrated Conservation), and has a staff of more than 75 including field rangers.

- WWF currently has no plans to develop hunting as part of tourism development. Hunting would only be considered as part of a sustainable funding mechanism to support conservation and local community development if and when wildlife populations have recovered to carrying capacity, and only then would hunting of excess animals be considered and in accordance with strict regulations, and based on independent scientific analysis.

- WWF is calling for concerted efforts in raising funds and developing partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders in order to secure biodiversity conservation on a large scale and over the long term. In the short-term, a key goal of WWF is to achieve protection and effective management of an entire landscape within the Lower Mekong Dry Forests Ecoregion; the Eastern Plains. This will contribute considerably to conserving globally significant biodiversity and essential natural resources that support the livelihoods of local communities.

MEDIA RELEASE

From the International Institute for Environment & Development

Wednesday 4 January 2006

AFRICAN-STYLE ECOTOURISM BOOST FOR CAMBODIA

Local people and endangered animals such as elephants, tigers and wild water buffalo will benefit from a unique ecotourism initiative in Southeast Asia led by the London-based International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and WWF in Cambodia. The new project in the dry forests of Northeast Cambodia will conserve species through the involvement of poor rural communities - which know the area best - in all aspects of tourism development and operation.

"Being pro poor, pro wildlife and pro tourism may seem like a tall order, but our experience of similar projects in southern Africa shows that these things can be happy bedfellows," said IIED's James MacGregor. "This is what sustainable development should be about - managing natural resources to meet the needs of people and protect the ecosystems that underpin our future."

This part of Cambodia has seen a dramatic decline in species populations as a result of habitat loss and unsustainable harvesting. To generate new sources of income and meet obligations under international treaties such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the Government of Cambodia has identified the development of ecotourism as a key priority in its national plan. It is now one of the nation's fastest growing industries and is moving into rural areas.

The new project is based in the forested "Srepok Wilderness Area". Working in alliance with grassroots organisations, such as the "Dry Forests Coalition", IIED will provide the necessary start-up research and project-building training to "tool up" local communities to manage the emerging ecotourism infrastructure. This will draw on highly successful model first piloted in Namibia's Caprivi region.

The southern African approach is known locally as the 'Event Book', but it's technical title is "Management Orientated Monitoring System". It helps local people (whether communities or park rangers) to collect and analyse their own crucial conservation data without having to rely on outside expertise. The Namibian experience has spawned similar devolved systems in Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia, and IIED aims to assist the people of the Srepok Wilderness Area to develop their own unique wildlife monitoring and management.

"You cannot manage what you can't measure, and you cannot measure what you can't describe," said Richard Diggle, one of the pioneers of the Event Book system in Namibia who will be visiting the Cambodian project to share ideas. "This system has worked well in Africa and can work in Cambodia and other parts of the world if it is used as a handbook and not a blueprint."

In Cambodia, IIED will focus on "training the trainers" in order to build local capacity. By

the end of the first year of the project, six community members - perhaps former hunters or poachers - will be trained as full-time wildlife rangers. Thirty local people will be trained in wildlife monitoring in the second year. Students from Cambodian universities will also help conduct a tourism feasibility study and a scholarship will be given for one person to study “community-based wildlife management” at a Wildlife College in South Africa, returning to share expertise in the latter part of the course.

Key to the success of the project will be the unique combination of traditional means of survival, such as using elephants to cut through dense forest, and high-tech equipment, such as digi-cams, to monitor wildlife. Learning from the African experience, another innovation will be to help forge lasting partnerships between private sector tourism operators and local communities. Investors will be encouraged to visit the project area in its early stages with the aim of building trust and collaboration.

Ecotourism has often failed to meet its honourable aims in many parts of the world. However, IIED believes that the southern African participatory and “high value, low impact” approach can lead to success in Cambodia and other poor countries.

James MacGregor said: “With the right recipe of local knowledge, international experience and government backing, ecotourism can be truly sustainable and responsible. The key is the involvement of local communities and grassroots organisations in planning and management - we can only play an enabling role by providing some tried and tested tools.”

IIED’s work in Cambodia is supported by the “Darwin Initiative”, a fund of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

UK biodiversity minister Jim Knight MP said: "Tourism can be a creative and powerful key to achieving sustainable development, which can benefit local people and biodiversity. Finding integrated solutions that both enhance local livelihoods and conserve wildlife for the benefit of all is a challenge we are pleased to support."

Ends.

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Notes to editors

The International Institute for Environment & Development (IIED) is a London-based think tank working for global policy solutions rooted in the reality of local people at the frontline of sustainable development. www.iied.org

Annex 6 – Executive Summary of Report of Ranger Training in SWA in January 2006

Cambodia's Eastern Plains contain extensive dry forests that support a diversity of threatened wildlife, including globally or regionally significant populations of a number of mammals and birds. Recognizing the importance of these forests and their wildlife, the Government of Cambodia and the WWF Cambodia Conservation Programme initiated the Srepok Wilderness Area (SWA) Project to protect part of this landscape. In order to develop staff capacity at the site, a basic ranger training workshop was held during 10-17th January 2006 at the Mereuch Station. This followed from a similar training held in May 2005, and will be repeated in future on an annual basis. Sixteen staff who are community rangers employed by WWF, and FA staff associated with the SWA project, along with staff of the Northern Plains (WCS/FA/MoE) project participated. These staff are responsible for patrolling and monitoring forest and wildlife crimes and other illegal activity. The training was done by Khmer and foreign instructors. This report details who received training and what they learnt, an assessment of capacity, along with recommendations for field implementation of skills and future training

Recommendations

1 Training was done on-site at the Srepok Wilderness Area Project, Mereuch Headquarters. This is an excellent training facility in the heart of the reserve. The site is highly suitable for wildlife, forestry or protected area training.

2 SWA rangers were taught on their home territory making the training relevant to their everyday jobs. Northern Plains staff benefited from seeing a different site with similar conservation importance and threats. SWA staff who were less educationally inclined were involved in the training as guides and trackers on practical exercises.

3 The workshop brought together community rangers, FA, MoE, Department of Fisheries staff and police, as well as staff of two project sites in Cambodia, thus creating a stimulating atmosphere, encouraging the exchange of experiences.

4 The training focussed on identification of key species of birds and mammals since these are of greatest conservation concern. Participants quickly understood the concept of key species, and demonstrated proficiency in identifying them and recognizing their primary habitats. Rangers particularly skilled at identifying key species might take part in wildlife research or nature tourism activities.

5 Proficiency at practical skills taught during the workshop will require repeated practice in the field. This is especially the case for navigation skills (map reading, using compasses and GPS). The trainers encourage patrol supervisors and the SWA site manager to help develop their rangers' capacity by encouraging them to practice skills learnt. In the first place, this can be done by ensuring <u>all</u> patrols include as essential equipment, (1) field notebooks and pen (one for each ranger), (2) a topographic map (one for each team), (3) a GPS (one for each team), (4) wildlife and patrol datasheets (one for each team) and (5) wildlife field guides (one for each team). Additionally, for rangers involved in wildlife survey or assessment, essential field equipment for each team will include (6) a set of binoculars and (7) a Silva compass.

6 Rangers should be asked to formally debrief their supervisors/managers after each patrol so they get in the habit of writing their observations down and filling in datasheets, and thinking what information is important to report. A camera and field sketches can help less literate rangers to make their debriefing effective.

7 A logbook might be kept for key species records so that valuable observations are not lost. Information from ranger notebooks could be transferred to the logbook on a regular basis.

8 It's widely recognized that some rangers do not need maps to find their way in the forest. However, maps can be used to help these rangers inform other staff and their supervisors of their patrol routes. In this sense, every ranger should be able to plot waypoints from the GPS and patrol routes and locations of significant observations

accurately onto a map.

9 Field staff should have access to maps of their areas, and compasses, so they can practice using them and become confident with field navigation. Two compasses were donated to SWA at the end of the training in 2005. Copies of topographic sheets were provided during this training. To make sure these items are available for use by patrol rangers, they should be kept in an equipment store at Mereuch and checked in and out by the field supervisor.

10 The standard patrol forms were provided to the project. These should help streamline the collection of patrol observations and allow the project manager the ability to measure enforcement effort. Monthly reports can be made using the MIST database system. These can help the field site manager adapt the enforcement effort to meet changing situation. The system will only work if (1) rangers collect accurate information and submit completed forms after each patrol, (2) data is duly entered onto the MIST database, and (3) monthly reports are created for the field site manager. This training has ensured that (1) can happen. Additional training will need to be done to ensure that (2) and (3) also happen.

11 Two modifications of the reporting system are suggested. These are the same suggestions from last year's training; (1) include on the back of the form space for writing the name and address of illegal persons encountered, (2) rangers should additionally take digital photorecords of illegal persons. The modifications will facilitate recognition of repeat offenders. Martin von Kaschke has suggested that records of ALL visitors to SWA should be made. This should be possible since there are relatively few people encountered in the forest, so all can be documented. At the SBCA project, by comparison, hundreds of visitors to the reserve are duly documented EACH WEEK. Visitors must register their intent and purpose in entering the reserve, and leave their ID cards with project staff. No visitors are allowed to overnight in the reserve. A similar system might be applied at SWA.

12 Performance on this training course was measured via practical tests of knowledge (50%), proficiency in use of patrol forms (25%), and by a score given for motivation (25%). A passing score was set at 60%. All participants passed the course with an average score of 84% (range: 71 – 94%)[1]. Due to the excellent performance on the course, next year's course will be made more difficult and challenging.

13 Rangers varied in their educational backgrounds. Therefore the course content was made simple but relevant to the work of rangers. We found all rangers responded well to the training with an average level of motivation of 79%.

14 The level of improvement indicated by changes in test scores before and after each training module (average change = +20%), participants absorbed a considerable amount of information from this short course.

15 Born Thearong (WWF/Ministry of Fisheries) was the most outstanding participant in the training. His learning was most improved (+33% from 5 training modules) and he achieved a rank of 2 on the course with a grade of A.