

# Savannakhet communities benefiting from ecotourism treks



Communities

connected with

Benefits of tourism

## Background

SNV is advising the Provincial Tourism Office (PTO) and other provincial government offices on the planning and development of ecotourism activities.

After careful preparation the PTO is now running ecotourism treks in three protected areas. All have been developed with the agreement and participation of local villagers.

The treks make use of the assets that already exist in the villages and the natural environment, and are already bringing tangible benefits for the communities involved.

## Objectives

- Increased economic opportunities for villagers in and around conservation areas in the province;
- Increased conservation awareness (of both nature and culture) amongst village communities and district/provincial authorities;
- Enhanced government capacity at provincial, district and village levels.

Netherlands

Development

Organisation

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Connecting People's Capacities

## Results

The capacity of the Provincial Tourism Office (PTO) staff has been built through the following achievements:

- Trekking trails have been established in three protected areas. These treks became fully operational in November 2004. The treks include forest walking, river travel, homestays, food collection with village guides and camping.
- Villagers are now receiving additional income from tourist visits
- In December 2004 a guide unit was established (as a unit of the tourism office) to manage the treks
- Ecoguides have been trained and certified

## Client update: Savannakhet Provincial Tourism Office

Current advisory work includes:

- Reinforcing issues related to conservation and the environment in villages involved in the treks
- Assisting the guide unit with making marketing links with the private sector

## Future advisory work

Advisory assistance will continue to help the guide unit improve and market its products. Special attention will be paid to advising the PTO about marketing its ecotourism products in specialist international markets.



*The treks have been developed in collaboration with the communities they visit, and create employment and income for them*

SNV is dedicated to a society where all people enjoy the freedom to pursue their own sustainable development. Our advisors contribute to this by strengthening the capacity of local organisations.

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