

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

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Case Study Name:	How Do You Know it When You See it? Community-Based Ecotourism in the Cardamom Mountains of Southwestern Cambodia		
Author:	J.K. Reimer & Pierre Walter		
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Region:	Southeast Asia		
Country:	Cambodia		
Ecosystem Type:	Mountain Ecosystems		
Social Characteristics:	War-torn Society		
Scale of Study:	Community		
Resource Type:	Tourism/Ecotourism		
Type of Initiative:	Research-driven Project		
Community-Based Work:	Conservation		
Keywords:	Community Based Ecotourism, Cambodia		

Summary:

In this case study of a community-based ecotourism project in the rainforest of southwestern Cambodia, Honey's (2008) analytical framework for "authentic" ecotourism is applied to examine the social dimensions of sustainable ecotourism. Following a discussion of the meaning of ecotourism in the literature and an overview of ecotourism in Cambodia, the study site, research methodology and Findings are presented. In this exploratory case study, qualitative research methods included participant observation, interviews, focus groups and analysis of project documents. Findings for each of Honey's seven analytical categories showed the complexity of community-based ecotourism in addressing often contradictory concerns of environmental conservation, local livelihood, and cultural preservation, and the importance of local context to management of ecotourism. The social dimension of gender, while not explicit in Honey's framework, was also seen to be a key analytical category for community-based ecotourism and sustainable development.