

Dear Friends of Chi Phat,

We hope this news letter finds you all in good health. There are a few things we would like to share with you since our last July news letter.

- Project legislations: we have recently secured the following documents with signatures from all government departments up to Provincial level:
 1. Final Chi Phat Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) Rules and Regulations
 2. Outdoor activities development map

Additionally we have completed the process of Chi Phat becoming a Community Based Organization (CBO) with final signatures from the Ministry of Interior. This effort is the last stone of making Chi Phat CBET Committee an official legal entity.

One more important activity is the election of a new CBET committee. The old committee has been working on this project for the last 3 years and is making place to a new committee with 3 years term.

- We are very pleased to announce the official opening of the new CBET Eco visitor Center. The Center is mainly built out of Bamboo that was collected in the village area and went through a curing process to make it insects free. The Center includes: Exhibition section with information about the forest and project, Restaurant, CBET Management office, Meeting/training room, Workshop, Storage for equipment, eco-sound toilet facility and Storage for Bamboo.
- We are also pleased to announce the opening of our flag outdoor facility, the Bird Watching camp site at Damnak Kos. The facility can support 8 visitors and includes an option for field beds. Supporting facilities will include a floating pontoon, toilet and cooking area. Facilities in Antea Prang (Veal Ta Prak) and Jar site will follow shortly.
- The mountainbikingcardamoms.com website is being upgraded and soon be changed to ecoadventurecambodia.com. We are aiming to officially launch the new website by the end of this month and we will send you all a notice.



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Chi Phat 3rd Newsletter, January 2010

- We are happy to finally (!) provide the tour packages for 2010. We have developed 17 tour packages that include new tours such as **Bird watching tours** and the **Grand tours**.

To your consideration, this itineraries and prices are not 100% stable and we do expect issues that will result with modifications to come up, we kindly ask you to have a close look at the tour packages and let us know if you identify mistakes or other issues so we can correct. We ask your apology in advance for any inconvenience.

Products and activities:

Motor and Traditional Boat group:

In our efforts to improve the Sunrise Bird Watching Tour, we are now working to improve our Row boats with new cushioned seats. We hope to have this service available soon!

Kayaks: (Attached photos)

The Chi Phat CBET committee is the proud owner of a new flit of 6 double seat and 4 single seat Kayaks. At the moment Kayaks are only available for renting and use at the close by village water ways, for: Double seat at \$7 for half day and \$12 for full day and Single seat at \$5 for half day and \$10 for full day.

We are working to include Kayaking in our tour packages and hope this will be available soon, 1 of the options in the pipe line is Kayaking back to Andoung Tuek from Chi Phat on the visit last day, this is a good 21km Kayaking that we estimate will take 5 hours, if any of you see this option attractive please let us know.

Tour packages and booking: (Attached)

As you all know we are slowly transferring the booking management to the CBET Committee and we thank all of you that already stand in direct communication with the Committee for booking! We are fully aware of the challenges you are facing by doing so but this is the right way to make this project sustainable, we thank you again for your patience and support!

To help ease this issue we have made a substantial effort to cover as many options as possible and have included a code (e.g. Q#04) to every tour package so as to make both yours and the committee life easier.

We are strongly requesting the Friends of Chi Phat to use this tour packages as much as possible without asking the committee for modifications, we know that this may limit you when offering activities to your respective clients but on the other hand it will insure a smother communication between all and maybe the most important, higher reliability from our side.

If any of you have an idea or request for other tour options please let us know and we will work to add it to our tour package pool and distribute to all of you.

We will also soon have the results from Sophea Sok study of the communication between tour operator and Chi Phat CBET and see with you and the committee in which other ways we can improve communication.

Outdoor Campsites: (attached photos)

As mentioned above, we have opened the first outdoor campsite at Damnak Kos (see in attached map) which will include a sleeping facility for a maximum of 8 visitors, an eco-sound toilet, cooking area, floating pontoon and solar powered light bulbs for cooking and emergency use.

This site will operate as a base for exploration of the higher attributes of the Stuneg Pruit River through the new bird watching activities presented in the attached documents.

Tourist visitation analysis: (please find attached)

2009 was a good year for the CBET project in Chi Phat, 829 visitors came to the project and income to the community excides \$22,000.

Over 150 families are involved in Chi Phat CBET including 66 ex-wildlife hunters.

As we still see some service issues in our project that are generated by different reasons, we kindly ask you to make sure your clients are well aware about the nature of the trip in Chi Phat and that they are also aware that things might not all go 100%...

We appreciate and thank all of you that promote and send tourists to Chi Phat, and we hope to learn and improve our services for the satisfaction of your clients.

Training:

As planned, we have partnered with Live & Learn to provide 3 months training that included eco-guiding, conflict resolution, accounting, booking management and more, this training will end in February. Wildlife Alliance and Live & Learn will continue to cooperate in 2010 to improve the capacity of the Chi Phat and Trapeang Roueng CBET committees.

Administration:

Fees transferee to Chi Phat CBET Committee, for those of you who are planning to send visitors to Chi Phat in the near future, the CBET committee has opened a bank account in ACLEDA and tour fees can be directly deposited to this account without additional bank fees as long as deposits are made to ACLEDA branch in your town. For more information please contact Mr. Phon at the CBET office in Chi Phat.

Other:

CBET in Chi Phat is currently hosting 1 French speaking volunteer, Ms. Laura Berteloot, in the effort to keep improving our project. Laura is a master in sustainable tourism development and will stay with us for about 2 month and mainly concentrate on helping the committee with the office management as well as working with visitors and with the Friends of Chi Phat but also with the different service groups.

We wish you happy and beautiful 2010 and we hope to see you soon in Chi Phat!

The Chi Phat CBET Committee and Wildlife Alliance CBET staff.