

**Positive economic reinforcement
against poisoning. Bunyala model.**

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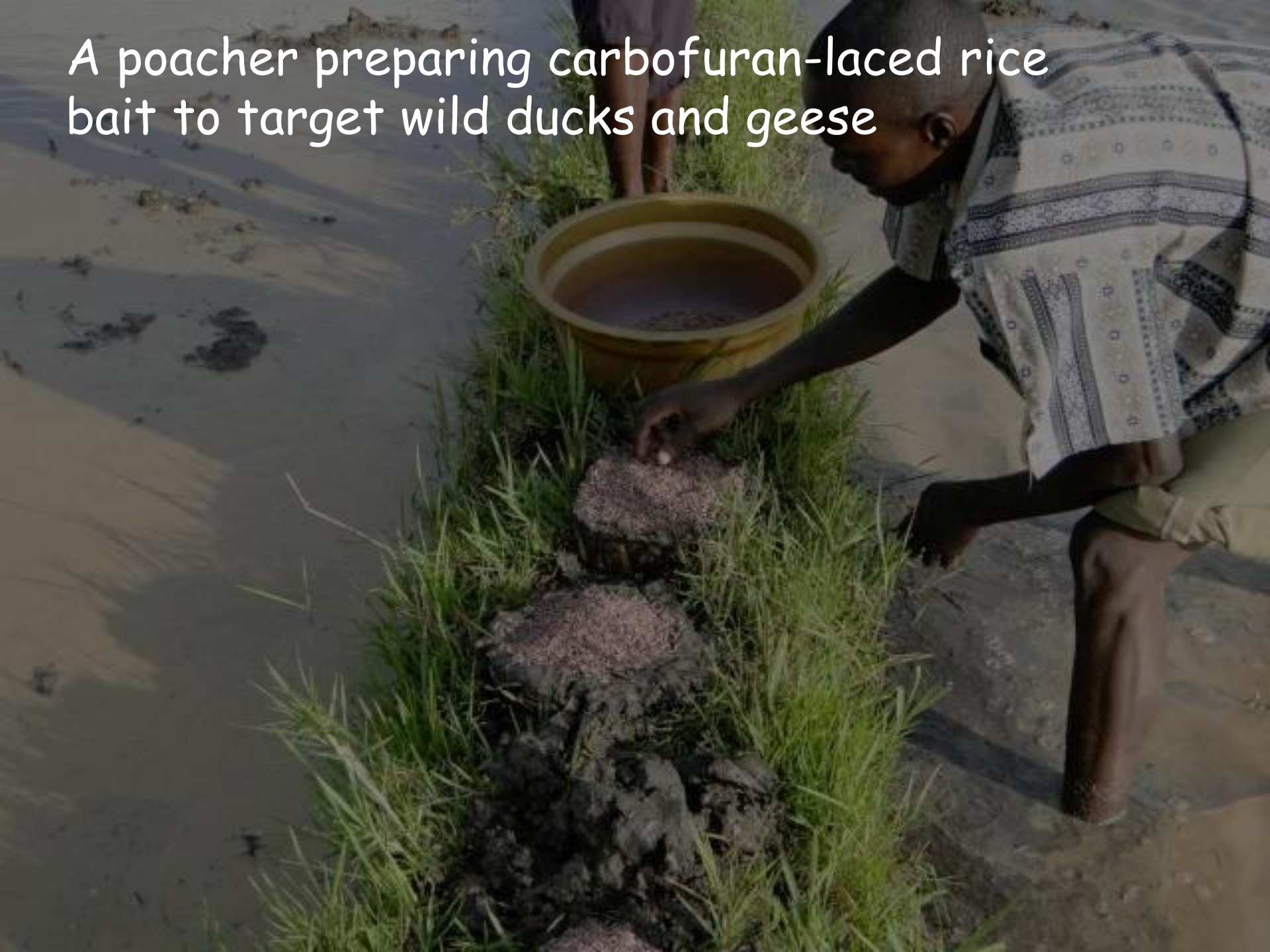
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Background

- Bird poisoning primarily for economic gain by poachers.
- Poisoning for pest/locust bird control by farmers.

NB: Poisoned birds ALL consumed by human beings.

A poacher preparing carbofuran-laced rice
bait to target wild ducks and geese



Resultant poisoned Fulvous Whistling Ducks



Other seedeaters-doves & weaverbirds-also
not spared



Carbofuran-laced *Pila ovata* snails to
target snail-eating Openbills



Poisoned Openbills and incapacitated live decoys
used to lure others to poison-laced bait



A man wearing sunglasses and a khaki shirt is sitting on the ground in a field of dry grass. He is holding a dead bird in his hands. The background is a field of dry grass.

Quantifying study (counting poisoned birds): Feb'09

to Dec '09:

- Carbofuran used

- 3186/8659 (dead/total exposed) or 37% of 33 species died

- 452/1005 or 45% of 8 palaearctics poison-killed

- 2734/7654 or 38% of 24 African species poison-killed

Some of the other species also counted,
after being poisoned



Broad categorization of bird meat price per bird (Ksh/Usd) before and after education in 2009

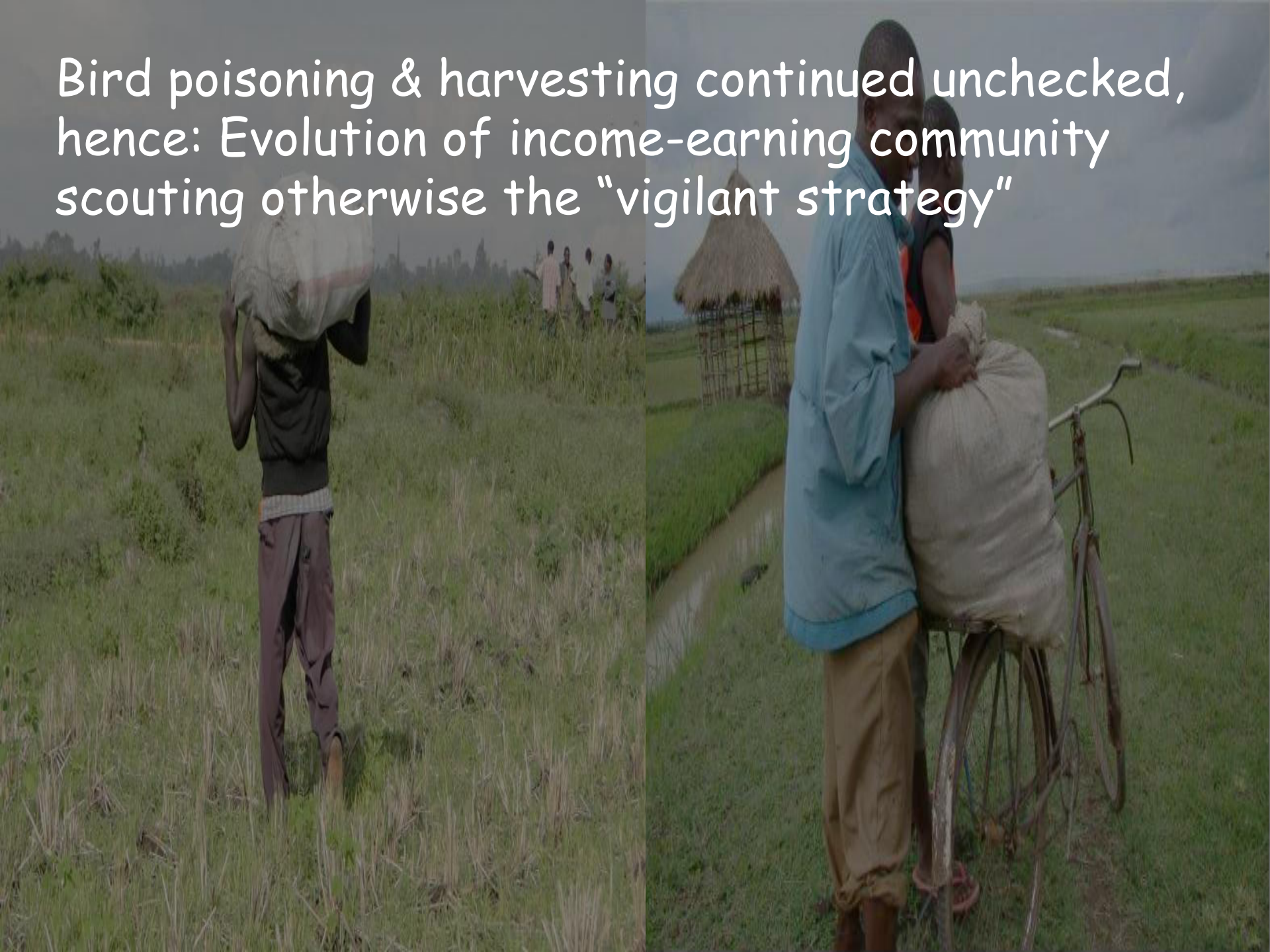
Species/family	Phase I of interviews/ questionnaires		Phase II of interviews/ questionnaires	
	Raw KSh/USD	Dried/Roasted KSh/USD	Raw KSh/USD	Dried/Roasted KSh/USD
African openbill	50/0.60	70/0.87	80/0.99	100/1.2
Marabou stork	400/4.97		400/4.97	
Ibises and egrets	40/0.50		40/0.50	
Pigeons and doves	20/0.25	40/0.50	40/0.50	50/0.60
Sandpipers	10/0.1		20/0.25	
Widowbirds/ weavers/pipits	5/0		10/0.1	

*1 USD = ca 80 Ksh

Conservation action:

- Local community education (2009-2011):
But unsuccessful because of weak justification (Gaps on intoxication info)
- Government involvement: Furnished with reports, engaged in fact-finding mission but recommendations shelved.

Bird poisoning & harvesting continued unchecked,
hence: Evolution of income-earning community
scouting otherwise the “vigilant strategy”



Objectives of vigilant strategy

MAIN: Initiate sustainable avian and other biodiversity resource exploitation

- Appreciation of bird/other biodiversity
- Safeguard birds/other biodiversity & human lives from poisoning

Methods

- Income-earning educational & systematic bird monitoring (1 scout = €10/week)
 - Vigilant foot surveys at the rice plantation.
 - Raptor Road Surveys beyond Bunyala (warning system especially against poisoning).

Educating scouts about birds hence their appreciation



Foot survey monitoring by local scouts
against poisoning





Raptor road survey monitoring of all raptors but focussing on Hooded Vulture & Beaudouin's Snake Eagle in the locality & at poisoning risk



Results

- Reduced poisoning incidences:
 - Sept 2012- Dec 2013: 34 poisoning incidences; 142 prevented.
 - Jan 2014 - March 2014: 0 observed poisoning incidences (does not mean NO POISONING).

*Poisoning observed nearly daily pre Sept'12.

•Detection & monitoring of other threats particularly raptor snaring against domestic chicken kills and for use of their carcasses as scare decoys to parasitic birds



Problems/Limitations

- Lack of justification of the dire consequences of poisoning (poisons not well known/understood)
 - No demonstration of human intoxication
 - No concise demonstration of raptor poisoning

And yet there is possible additional dermal intoxication while preparing bait by poachers aside from consumption of poisoned birds



Mixing bait & poison with bare hands



And possible raptor poisoning such as this kestrel coming to feed on live termites mingling with laid out laced termite bait at the vents of termite mounds



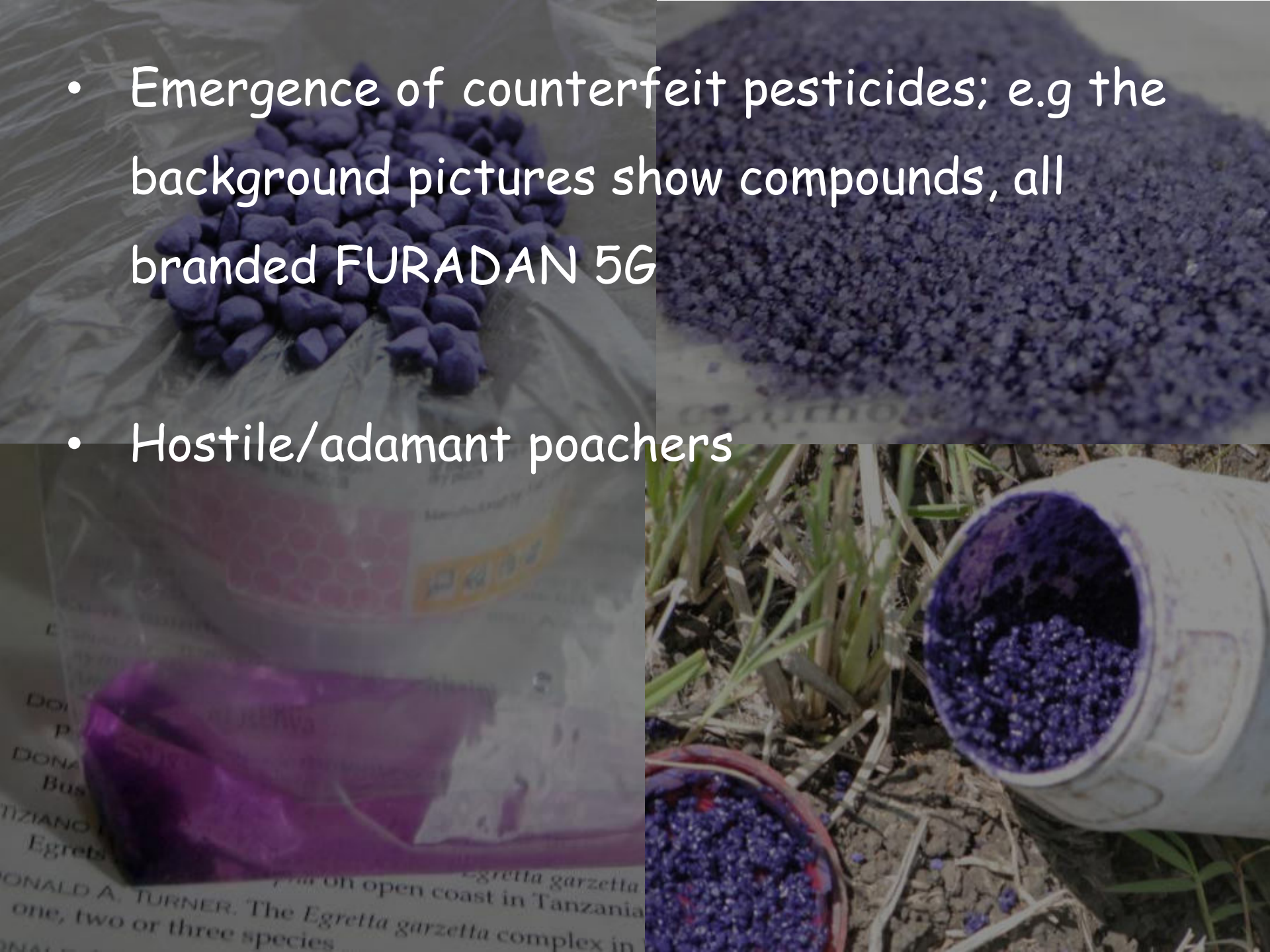
A man wearing a blue beanie and a red t-shirt with a graphic is sitting outdoors. He is pointing his right index finger at a laptop screen. Another person is partially visible behind him, also looking at the screen. The background shows green foliage. The image has a semi-transparent dark overlay.

Problems/limitations continued:

- Lack of a proper premise/housing/room
hence: Scouts being taught in the open, on
random grounds that complicates dealing
with;
- Semi-illiterate scouts
- Hostile environment especially flooding

- Emergence of counterfeit pesticides; e.g the background pictures show compounds, all branded FURADAN 5G

- Hostile/adamant poachers



- Intermittent funding
 - Inadequate equipment: headlamps, GPS units, motorcycle (probably a vehicle), classroom & furniture (tent-doubling up as an office/store room- chairs, writing board), power source (Solar), partly funded schemes.

- PI up-keep/salary

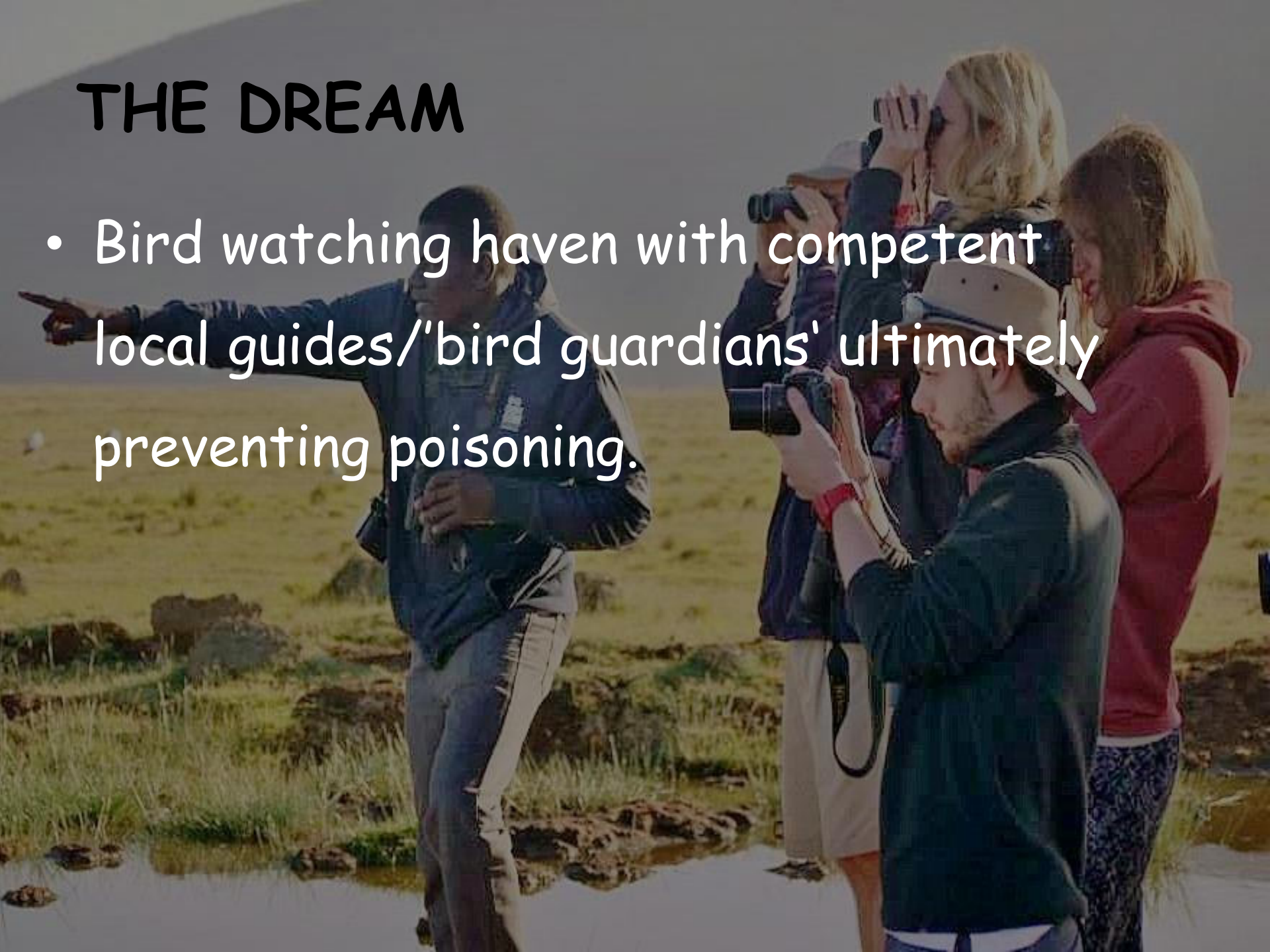
(affects consistency; PI has to leave
& fundraise via side jobs for upkeep)

- Remoteness of locality

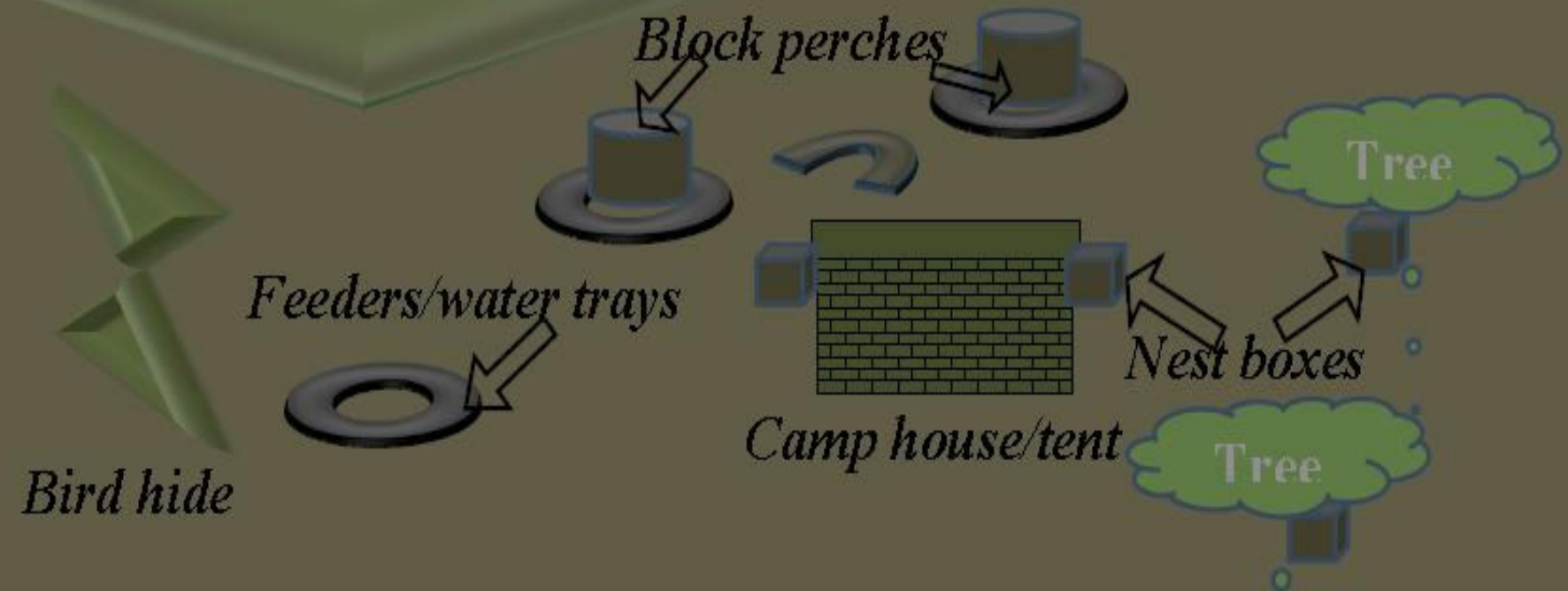
- need for aggressive marketing &
sacrificial touring incentives
(justification of a vehicle)

THE DREAM

- Bird watching haven with competent local guides/'bird guardians' ultimately preventing poisoning.



- A site with integrated structures to enhance bird watching and discourage poisoning



Conclusion

- Direct wages/salaries to locals linked to LIVE birdlife have played a significant role in preventing poisoning
- Sustained income could END poisoning

Acknowledgement

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- Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists

****Beloved friends & well-wishers ****

The end