

## Papua New Guinea Niche Market Tourism Demand Assessment









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# Part 1: Tourism Demand Assessment Overview

## State of Play

- Understand current markets
- Understand and assess tourism offer

## **Market Sizing**

- Identify and evaluate 5 niche markets
- Size markets to understand potential demand to PNG
- Analyze market perceptions

## Benchmarking

 Identify and assess competitor destinations to determine success factors for development

#### Forward Look

- Create tourism growth scenarios
- High level investment advice for high growth scenarios



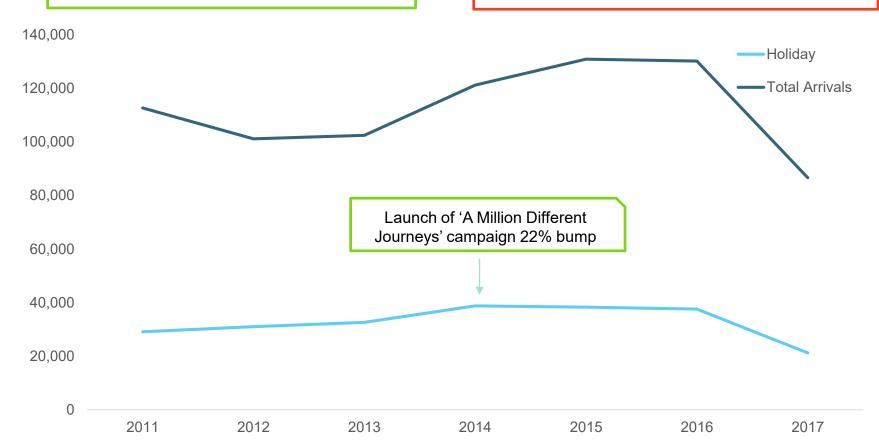
## Tourism is Growing but Susceptible to Shocks



PNG Total and Holiday Arrivals 2011 - 2017



Decrease in all arrivals from 2016 to 2017 due to elections

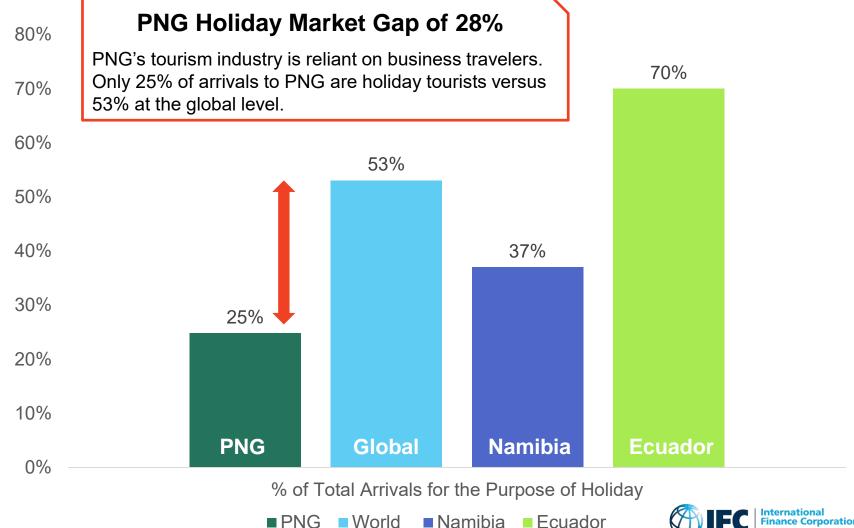




## PNG's Holiday Market Gap Limits Benefit



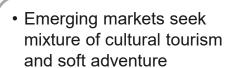
Arrivals by Purpose of Visit PNG versus Fiji, Namibia and Global



## PNG is Reliant on the Australian Market

Holiday Source Market 2017





 Growth potential for China, Japan and Korea

 Seeks a mixture of naturebased and cultural activities

Cultural tourism is a key appeal

Focus on trekking, cultural and historical tourism

Kokoda Track is main product

Australia & New Zealand

#### North America

South-

**Northeast** 

**Europe** 

east Asia

Other

#### **UNWTO Regional Categories**

Northeast Asia: China, Japan, South Korea

Southeast Asia: Malaysia,

Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia



6

Source: TPA, 2018

# Tourism Concentration on Two Products: Kokoda Track & Cultural Festivals



- ✓ Strong community benefits
- ✓ Well known in existing source markets
- PNG comparative advantage in region



2,600 Tourists Participated in the Kokoda Track in 2016



- ✓ Location specific limiting benefit outside geographic area
- ✓ Festivals are time specific
- ✓ Carrying capacity issues
- ✓ Limited product development
- ✓ Not full tapping into markets



10,000 Cultural Tourists to PNG in 2016



## Selected Niche Market Segments











# Bird Watching

Observing or Photographing birds in their natural habitat

## **Diving**

Scuba diving in fresh or salt water. Includes only active divers with advanced certifications

## Historical tourism

Visiting
sites/relics/
monuments/
memorials/
services related
to World War 1
or World War 2

## **Cultural tourism**

Visiting a destination for an indigenous cultural experience.

# Soft Adventure tourism

Soft adventure activities that are low risk such as hiking, fishing, and kayaking, excludes trekking, bird watching and diving





## Niche Markets were selected based on:











Product availability and stage of development in PNG

Comparative advantage of PNG's tourism assets

Current value of niche market to PNG

Potential for niche market growth at global level

Priority for PNG government and industry

Sustainability: environmental, social, cultural and financial

Availability of market research and definition of niche segment



## Globally Niche Markets Are Large and Robust

2016 Global & PNG Niche Market Number of Trips



Global

D N O

Diving	Birdwatching	Historical tourism	Cultural tourism	Soft adventure tourism
2.5	4.9	5.5	270	357
million trips	million trips	million trips	million trips	million trips

13,64C 5,665 trips trips trips trips trips *36% 15%* **27**% 1% of PNG of PNG of PNG of PNG of PNG **Holiday Market Holiday Market Holiday Market Holiday Market Holiday Market** 

## Globally Niche Markets Are Powerful

2016 Global & PNG Niche Market Total Spend



Global

# PNG

Diving	Birdwatching	Historical tourism	Cultural tourism	Soft adventure tourism
\$8.1	\$22.0	\$18.8	\$453	\$470
USD billion	USD billion	USD billion	USD billion	USD billion
\$6.9	\$3.3	\$16.2	\$35	\$32.2

**USD** million

*15%* 

of PNG

**Holiday Market** 

**USD** million

*30%* 

of PNG

**Holiday Market** 

**USD** million

*33*%

of PNG

**Holiday Market** 

**USD** million

6%

of PNG

**Holiday Market** 

**USD** million

3%

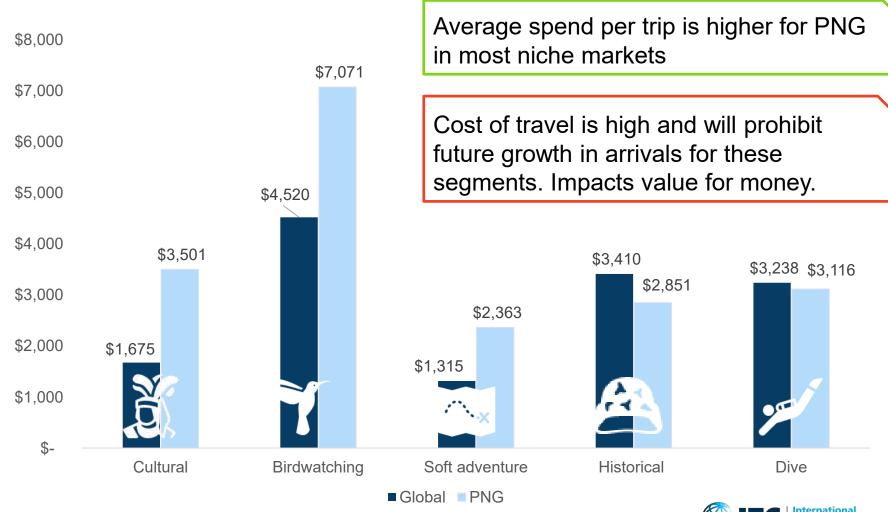
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**Holiday Market** 

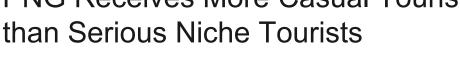
## Price of Travel to PNG Prohibits Growth



Global & PNG Niche Market Average Price per Trip (USD)



# PNG Receives More Casual Tourists



Casual Tourists versus Niche Market Tourists



Cultural Market alignment between participation Soft Adventure and primary reason for visit for soft adventure travelers. Historical Dive Few serious divers and birdwatchers visit PNG for the primary reason of engaging in niche activities even though participation is high. Birdwatching 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% ■ Percent of PNG Holiday Arrivals Engaging in Activity Primary Reason for Visit



# Part 2: Niche Market Findings

#### Full Tourism Demand Assessment Includes:

#### Global Markets

- Number of travelers
- Revenue
- Average spend per trip
- Average length of trip

#### Global Potential

- Demographics
- Trends

#### **PNG Potential**

- Current markets
- Growth potential
- Critical constraints

Recommendations to Increase Niche Market Arrivals to PNG





## Niche Market Traveller Profile Details

## **Demographics**



Age



Top 3 key source markets

## **Booking Habits**



Time in advance that bookings are made



Method of booking

## **Traveling Habits**



Avg. number of trips per year



Average duration of each trip



Average spend per trip



Top 3 global destinations



Preferred format of activity participation





## **Comparison Destination Cases**

- Identify destinations that have harnessed the potential of a niche market
- Understand their development story and key elements for success





Average Length of Trip



Average Spend per Day on Tours

Similarity of Product Offerings to Those in PNG

Challenges faced by the comparison destination

Potential lessons for PNG

Tourism development story

Understanding of marketing efforts



# KEY TAKEAWAYS: Cultural Tourists Need Interactive Products & Itineraries





Products

Authentic and meaningful experiences

- Engage with local peoples and cultures through interactive tours
- Culinary practices



- Well-travelled and seek new and unique experiences
- Ease of access to information for planning
- Prefer to travel independently



- Mismatch between booking preferences
- Focus on festivals limit experiences
- Authentic but not interactive



- Itinerary development to showcase range of products
- · Customizable tours through inbound
- · Destination awareness raising through online media



Book 3 months in advance



Book individually online



Prefer independent travel



## **Cultural Tourism: Namibia**



#### **CASE**

- Strong wildlife tourism
- Need to diversify products and engage new markets
- Desire for community benefit
- Need to spread tourism into rural areas

#### SUCCESS FACTORS

- Strong enabling environment and mechanisms for community based tourism
- Holistic product development linked to private sector
- Packaging cultural tourist products into customizable itineraries
- Efficient and targeted marketing focused on high return on investment



# KEY TAKEAWAYS: Birdwatching investments must meet the needs of multiple markets





- More remote and lesser known with new species
- Immersive experiences with local communities surrounding birding sites
- Growth in wildlife photography with lower cost equipment and popular wildlife and birding documentaries



- Traditional market is older and US/EU focused
- Growing interest in younger market
- Increasing interest from Asia markets with focus on photography



- Many casual birders
- Focus on traditional EU markets
- Low market penetration



- Additional research on endemic birds needed to raise awareness
- Targeting traditional market through print
- Appropriate infrastructure development for shifting market
- Online marketing needed for younger market



40 - 70 years old



- USA
- 2. United Kingdom
- 3. Netherlands



- . Costa Rica
- 2. Ecuador
- 3. USA



## **Birdwatching: Ecuador**



#### **CASE**

- Strong tourism in Galapagos Islands but limited on mainland
- Desire for sustainable use of natural resources and long term conservation
- Need for economic benefit in communities in and near protected areas

#### **SUCCESS FACTORS**

- Sustainable tourism plan to manage protected areas
- Road infrastructure connecting regions to reduce travel time
- Public and private sector collaboration on clearly defined marketing strategy
- Specialized training and support for birding guides
- Diverse accommodation options for a variety of budget and interests



## **KEY TAKEAWAYS: PNG Lacks Sufficient** Soft Adventure Tourism Products





- Natural environment, learning and meaningful experiences
- Most popular are hiking, ecotourism and cultural
- Environmental sustainability of products and destinations

**Travel Patterns** 

- Customizable trips for unique experiences
- Adult and middle age couples
- Wiling to travel far

**PNG** Now

- Strong adventure tourism assets
- Few formally developed products and access to land challenges
- Not specifically targeting this market

**PNG Future** 

- Need more formally developed products
- Itinerary development to highlight range of activities
- Targeted marketing to adventure outbound tour operators



30 - 55vears old



Independent travel with a partner



- 2. Europe (UK, DE, FR)



- New Zealand
- Southern Africa
- South America



## Soft Adventure: Rwanda

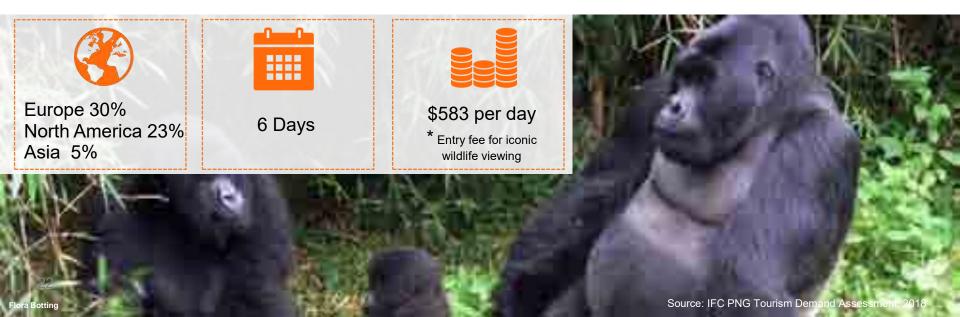


#### **CASE**

- Negative international reputation
- Low overall recognition in market
- Strong natural assets with gorillas and national parks
- Lack of formally developed products
- Need to diversify products to attract new visitors in medium term
- Desire for economic growth and diversification

#### **SUCCESS FACTORS**

- Developed tourism on iconic tourism product and then diversified
- Conservation by communities and former poachers
- Intensive marketing to improve online discoverability, raised awareness, and changed international perceptions
- Government prioritizing necessary infrastructure improvements



# KEY TAKEAWAYS: Historical tourists seek engaging and multifaceted stories





Products

- Desire to experience history in person
- Immersive storytelling to bring the site to life
- Multiple perspectives

Travel Patterns

- · Booking very far in advance
- Older demographic
- Shifting market to students and dark tourists

PNG Now

- Unique and iconic WW2 story
- Underdeveloped tourism assets
- · High casual participation
- · PNG story is not always included

PNG Future

- Product development and infrastructure upgrades
- Research and guide training to tell a strong narrative and the PNG story
- Targeted marketing at specialized outbound tour operators



18 months



Age 50 - 75 years old



With Tour Guide



## Historical: Okinawa, Japan



#### **CASE**

- Shifting trends in the historical niche market with fewer veteran tourists
- Need for historical tourism products to speak to a range of tourists as their markets diversify
- Desire to expand the tourism experience in Okinawa

#### **SUCCESS FACTORS**

- Strong destination management created quality products, infrastructure and transportation
- Bundling products to include historical tourism in more packages
- Collaborating with outbound tour operators specializing in military tours
- High-quality guides give an immersive experience with holistic perspectives and storytelling



## KEY TAKEAWAYS: Divers Need to Know Why PNG is Special





**Products** 

Coral Triangle gaining awareness in market

- Specialized interests e.g. wreck, muck, night
- Bragging rights experiences

**Travel Patterns** 

- Chinese market driving new global demand
- Reliance on review sites and word of mouth
- Spending as much time as possible in water
- Dive safety is a key consideration

**PNG** Now

- Strong competition in Coral Triangle
- Undefined unique selling point
- Well coordinated industry with active private sector

**PNG Future** 

- Define the comparative advantages of PNG dive destinations
- Raise overall destination awareness
- Protect the environment
- Build confidence in global dive market



- USA
- Europe (UK, DE, FR)
- China



10 days



Buddy Diving with a **Dive Master** 



## Diving: Sulawesi, Indonesia



#### **CASE**

- Desire for conservation of marine assets for long term benefit
- Tourism skills not meeting the industry need
- Low coordination between industry, government and community

#### **SUCCESS FACTORS**

- Direct air connections to destination allowing mid-budget market growth
- Proactive and collaborative marketing by public and private sector
- Targeted policy and marketing decisions to grow emerging markets
- Government established 16m hectares of marine protected areas
- Private sector participates in shaping park policies, awareness/education and employment.





10 Days





**Christian Gloor** 

# Part 3: Unlocking the Potential of Niche Market Tourism for PNG







**Diving** 



Historical tourism



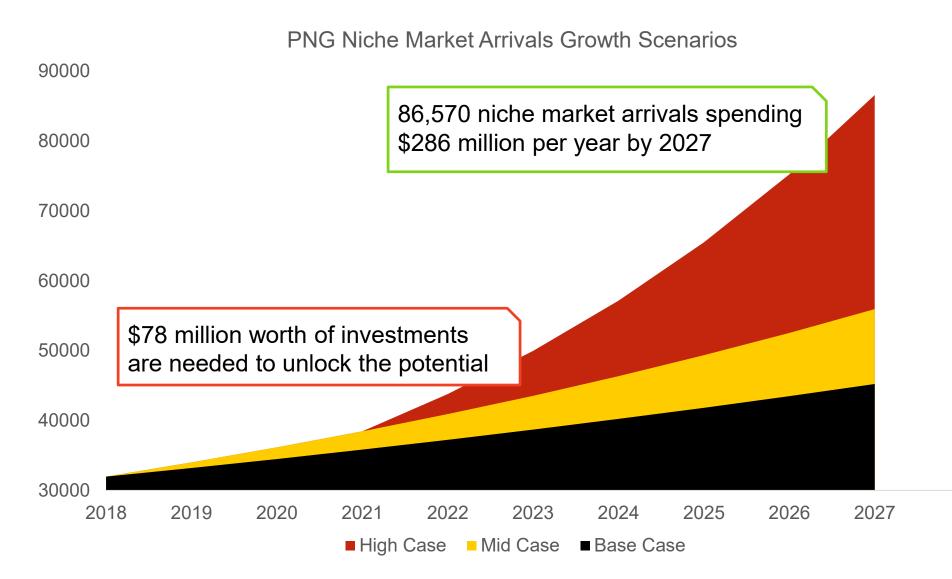
**Cultural tourism** 



Soft Adventure tourism

## Unlocking the Potential of Niche Market Tourism







## **Investment Scenarios**





**Base Case**: Status quo - PNG tourism industry does not invest outside of existing programs. PNG's past market growth is maintained.

Mid Case: PNG invests in facilitating investments to attract more niche visitors. Mirrors global niche market past growth trends.

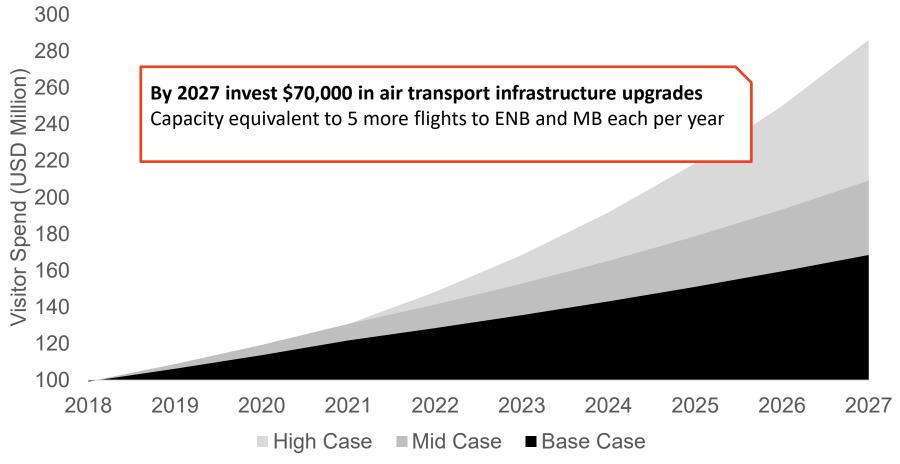
High Case: PNG invests further in facilitating investments to attract additional niche visitors. Growth mirrors past niche market trends for 3 years and then reflects global forecasts for niche market growth.



# Base Case: Investment is Needed to Address Capacity







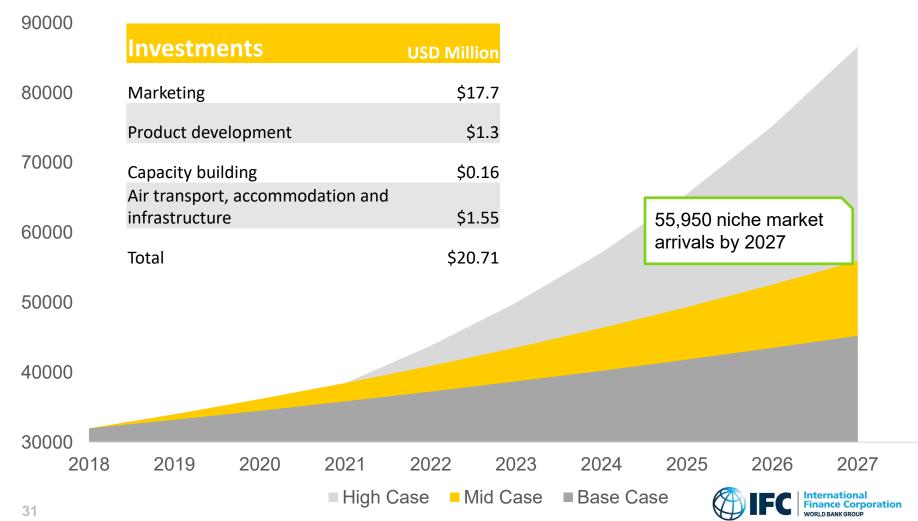


# Mid Growth Case: Investments are Required to Attract more Tourists



Creating Markets, Creating Opportunities





## Mid Case: Recommendations for Facilitating Investments

#### Public Sector & Donor Investments

## **Capacity Building**

- Provide scholarship to existing educational programs and financing for SME development
- Conduct in situ tour guide training program
- Implement specialist training program for birdwatching guides with international expert

#### Infrastructure

Upgrade historical tourism sites

### Marketing

 Implement Public Relations Campaign to address safety perceptions

#### Mixed Public & Private Investments

### **Product Development**

- Develop itineraries for cultural and soft adventure
- Formalize historical tourism products and develop itineraries
- Define comparative advantage of sites, conduct research and compile information for birdwatching and dive markets

## Marketing

- Destination awareness campaigns
- Conduct niche market specific famils

#### Infrastructure

- Continue dive mooring program
- Develop soft adventure sites

## **Private Sector Investments**

#### Infrastructure

Build birdwatching hides, trails and platform

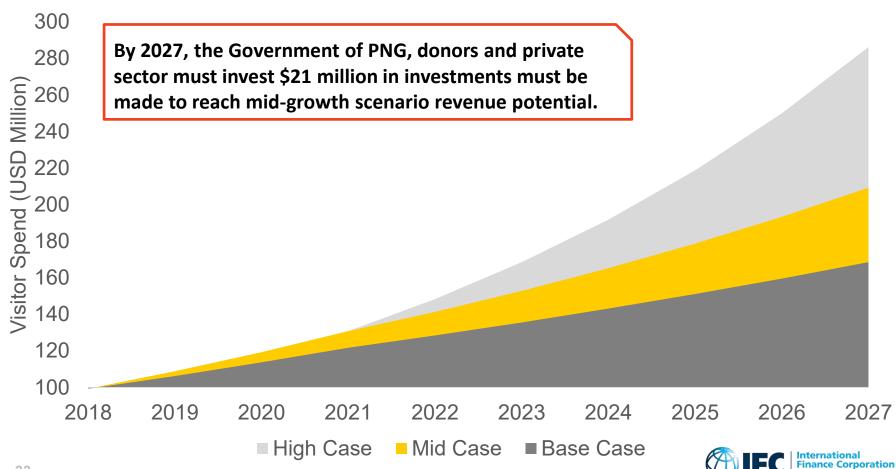
## **Capacity Building**

Provide ground staff training for airport staff

# Mid Growth Case: Investments Need to Address Capacity

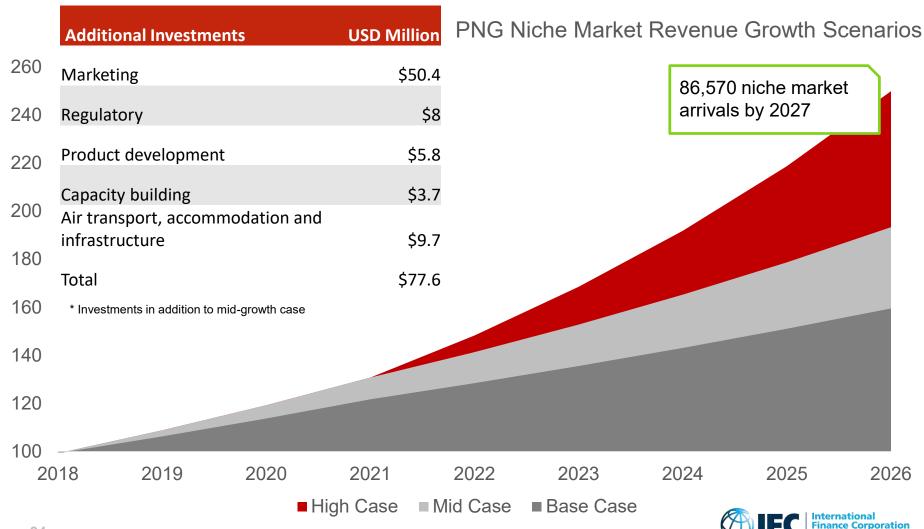






# High Growth Case: Further Investments are Required to Attract more Tourists





## High Case: Recommendations for Facilitating Investments

### **Public Sector & Donor Investments**

#### Regulatory

- Implement Youth Engagement Program
- Expand Tourist Police Taskforce
- Implement biodiversity conservation program

#### **Capacity Building**

- Implement capacity building programs to strengthen provincial tourism associations and TVET in PNG
- Provide paramedics guide training

#### Infrastructure

- Upgrade historical tourism sites
- Provide birdwatching accommodation incentives
- Upgrade roads to attractions

#### Marketing

- Implement targeted destination marketing campaigns to raise awareness for cultural and soft adventure tourism markets
- Implement online marketing campaigns coordinated with private sector, especially for dive markets

#### Mixed Public & Private Investments

#### **Product Development**

- Develop regional historical tourism route
- Develop soft adventure products
- Implement community based tourism project for soft adventure and cultural tourism

#### Marketing

- Private sector to participate in niche specific tradeshows especially for birdwatching
- Target specialized historical tourism outbound operators

#### Infrastructure

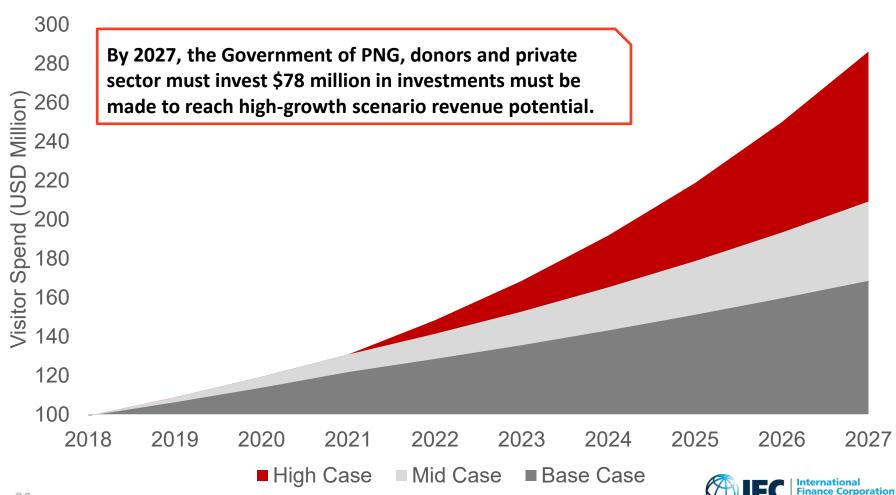
- Build dive infrastructure
- Upgrade historical tourism sites
- Develop soft adventure sites



# High Growth Case: Investments are Required to Attract more Tourists









The Government of PNG and the tourism industry must make coordinated investments to unlock the potential of niche market tourism and close their holiday market gap.

■ High Case

Mid Case

■ Base Case



IFC's work in Papua New Guinea is guided by the Papua New Guinea Partnership. Australia, New Zealand, and IFC are working together through the partnership to promote sustainable economic development, reduce poverty and stimulate private sector investment in Papua New Guinea.





Creating Markets, Creating Opportunities