

Information Sheet



Travel for Others Onlus - Italy, Nepal

In brief

The Travel for Others Onlus project has been set up to develop education, health, training, employment and environment in the Thame Valley in Nepal. This is an area just off the main tourist route but one that is increasingly vulnerable to increased trekking pressure and the changes this brings. The key purpose is to modify the impact of tourism on the area by changing the attitudes of visitors, to allow the project to succeed a grant of EUR€27,000 has been awarded. The intention is to do this by producing a bio-tourism guide to the area. The second objective is to undertake environmental activities in the area with a local teacher and the third objective is to train local Sherpa's to guide tourists in the area in order to manage the benefit of tourism in a way that was not done in the more heavily visited Khumbu Valley area.

The Project

The Thame Valley in the Everest region has enormous potential for education and for the preservation of the local environment. By organising environmental education programmes the project hopes to develop qualified and sustainable tourism in the area; a less aggressive tourism, on a smaller scale, and more evolved from the point of

view of environmental awareness. The project is a collaboration between the University of Turin and Italian naturalists.

In November 2006 Travel for Others self-financed the first phase of its Environmental Education project in order to evaluate the feasibility of the projects continuation. This analysis has given different suggestions for defining the objectives of the project in the Thame Valley. The aim is to have a form of tourism that would be less aggressive, bringing together the local people with travellers and trekkers.

Several elements will be brought together to provide a form of tourism that is educational about the local area as well as the environmental impacts. It is hoped that the local Sherpa population will be trained in the art of accompanying tourists and travellers throughout this spectacular territory to discover an invaluable ecosystem and explore the diversity of the local culture. The local Thame School will also be involved in environmental activities to support the project.

The Organisation

Travel for Others Onlus is an Italian Association with the purpose of assisting and offering solidarity in the following social sectors: Education, Health, Training-Employment, Sport and Environment. Its activities seek to involve those countries and those contexts that are most frequently penalised by the global development process, which has become increasingly evident at the onset of this new millennium. Travel for Others implements mostly simple strategies that are concrete and as immediate as possible. It involves volunteers who are ready to transform a portion of their travel and leisure time into an opportunity to do something to benefit weaker populations and social-environmental contexts at risk. This is a new concept of "travel" that is less selfish and unilateral and more in keeping with a sense of global responsibility.

Special attention is paid to the themes of development, to a conscientious exportation of cultural and economic models, to the critical application of cognitive and technological tools that are proposed; never forgetting to appreciate and safeguard the special characteristics and traditions of the local people you meet along the way.

Primary Mission

The Association aims to promote responsible tourism in the Himalayan region, and introduce European people to an alternative mountain tourism and general tourism in foreign countries; a tourism respectful of environmental and cultural heritage.

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