

[RETURN TO ONLINE PROFILE](#)

TIPS FOR GOOD PRACTICE

COMMUNITY LIAISON

- Establish a co-operative structure
 - Establish clear communication with your local Panchayat, community and Forest Department taking into account cultural protocols and existing systems of local governance.
 - Consult on issues which impact the community such as safety and security, use of natural resources, and issues relating to cultural heritage (see [Cultural Heritage](#) profile).
 - Develop an informal or formal system of communication and interaction eg:
 - involvement of local stakeholders on a management committee
 - a forum for tackling issues of joint concern
 - a system enabling grievances to be aired and resolved promptly
 - a trust to manage the flow of benefits to the community.
 - Maintain regular and transparent communication.
- Support local rights and development
 - Ensure as an absolute minimum your operations do not infringe on any legal or customary rights of local people.
 - Work through pre-existing community structures where the process of transparency is there for everyone in the community to see.
 - Reach written agreements on type, level of involvement and benefit-sharing.
 - Offer to help the community develop a system of monitoring and control of impacts to their lives and environment caused by tourism.
 - Respond immediately to negative feedback and grievances and act promptly and in consultation with the community to plan a course of action.
 - Respect the community's right to say NO at any time of their involvement.
- Prioritise local employment and help to catalyse enterprise (see [Local Economy](#) profile).
- Respect local culture (see [Cultural Heritage](#) profile).

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Set a policy for providing support to your local community and review it annually.
- Assess local needs working in partnership with your local Panchayat, Forest Department and/or local NGOs as appropriate and tailor your support accordingly.
- Encourage your guests to support local projects or provide gifts through briefing, donation boxes, envelopes in guest room and opportunities to visit local projects. Some lodges offer voluntourism giving their guests a unique insight into local life and an opportunity to contribute.
- Record financial and in-kind support (guests and your own).
- Consider donating a percentage of your profits to community projects; the best practitioners have set up trusts to manage the flow of benefits to the community.

Information included may not be appropriate to every situation, destination and country and is intended for general guidance only and may be subject to change.



EXAMPLES OF WHAT TO SUPPORT

• EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Local schools – support one or more of your local schools
 - Help with materials and equipment such as stationery, furniture, computers and musical instruments.
 - Provision of libraries and books.
 - Help with uniforms, school bags and water bottles.
 - Equipment for clean water.
 - Infrastructure support eg building repairs, sports facilities.
 - Hygiene training, nutritional support and meals.
 - Teaching support (eg English, nature, environment and conservation, computers).
 - Access to new curriculum materials through e-learning (see [Meghshala Trust](#)).
 - Teacher training, support with salaries and covering new posts.
 - Bursaries for students to support further education.
- Organise visits to the park for local children.
- Support initiatives involving differently-abled children
 - Provide access to the parks and nature for blind, deaf and other children with special needs, for example, working in partnership with the Forest Department and NGOs.
- Skills development
 - Provide skills training for youth, women's self-help groups or other sections of the community in areas such as guiding, hospitality, handicrafts, arts and performing arts, organic horticulture, beekeeping and rainwater harvesting.



Photo: Pugdundee Safaris

• WATER

- Provide local villagers with access to water.
- Develop rainwater harvesting initiatives to benefit the local community.
- Provide water treatment equipment.



Photo: Red Earth

• HEALTH

- Run health check-up camps in the community and/or schools.
- Run eye check-up camps in the community and/or schools.
- Support with medical emergencies.
- Support local government campaigns (eg polio).
- Provide items which can impact health in your area such as mosquito nets.
- Offer support with snake bites (eg provision of anti-venom, and training workshops and awareness raising on snake bite management).

• RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Provide renewable energy for your local community eg solar lamps and biogas for cooking.
- Some lodges have provided biogas units or high efficiency, smoke-free chulhas as an alternative to cooking with wood, beneficial for health and reducing the use of wood.



Photo: Singinawa Conservation Foundation

- **WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

- Support or help to catalyse women's Self-Help Groups to develop skills and enterprise (see also Local Economy profile).
- Support women's hygiene (eg sanitary towels).

- **AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY**

- Catalyse opportunities for producing food for community use or for sale (eg training in beekeeping, plots of land to grow food).
- Provide compensation for loss of livestock.
- Provide veterinary support.
- Provide support with tree-planting for community food and wood supplies.
- Provide appropriately treated sewage sludge and/or compost for use on agricultural land to enhance soil fertility (see Water conservation and treatment).



Photo: Flame of the Forest

- **OTHER SUPPORT**

- Provide items of support for your local Panchayat's office.
- Provide practical or financial support for accidents, emergencies, marriages and bereavements.
- Provide warm clothing to the local community, schools or forest guards.
- Mark national days such as Diwali and support local events such as local weddings.

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Pintu, a local farmer given a helping hand by Kipling Camp to establish a native plant nursery near Kanha. He now has saplings for 83 indigenous tree species, distributes plants throughout India and lectures on the use of native trees and planting techniques. Read further examples of training and enterprise help in Local Economy section.

HELP US DRIVE THE CHANGE

Your corporate commitment to sustainability



TOFTigers is a global business-to-business nature travel charity with a mission to improve the ecological and economic sustainability of wildlands and wildlife across Asia. Well-planned and well-managed responsible tourism is a force for good bringing economic benefits to rural areas, restoring habitat, supporting conservation and local communities, changing poachers into protectors and giving visitors inspiring experiences of nature. We work with the travel trade, destinations, accommodation providers, governmental and conservation organisations to make this happen through training, advocacy, certification, promoting best practice and partnership working.

Our **certification programmes** place local communities, nature and environmental sustainability at the heart of business operations. They are a symbol of assurance for travellers and the travel trade that the places they select to stay at have been reviewed by environmental experts and exceed a minimum standard on a journey towards best practice. The PUG certification is recognised by the United Nation's Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) and is aimed solely at nature focused accommodation. The Footprint certification has a broader client base that is not wholly nature focused and encompasses accommodation providers in rural, natural or more urban landscapes.

[Sign up for certification](#), [get involved in our campaign](#) or view sustainable travel options [on our website](#) and download the [Great Wildlife Travel Guide](#).

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Correct at time of press. Information included may not be appropriate to every situation, destination and country and is intended for general guidance only and may be subject to change.

Compiled for TOFTigers by [Positive Nature](#) and [Sycom Projects Consultants Pvt Ltd](#), March 2021

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