



POKHARA LODGE

COMMUNITY SUPPORT, CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH

The Lodge is part of the local community and provides a range of support through its Community Support Partnership. Our focus is on education, environment and health issues.

Since the Lodge's inception the company, staff and guests have supported various projects including financing for local schools, health posts, community forestry projects, a forest nursery, schoolteachers and forest rangers.

Current Projects:

Amar Jyoti Secondary School

Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge and our guests' donations have supported the re-building of the secondary school block providing facilities beyond that available from the local government education budget. Improved desks, well rendered classrooms, whiteboards and electricity have all been provided as part of this project.

The school committee has worked closely with the wider community and the school operates up to Class 10 – School Leaving Certificate, the equivalent of UK GCSE. They have already raised some Rs.700,000 to cover costs of deposits with the Local Education Office and have a fund to pay for additional teachers.

Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge continues to support this excellent community-led project and has raised over US\$25,000 to date towards the costs of more classrooms and infrastructure. As a result the children can complete their main schooling in the community and not have to travel to Pokhara and other towns for their last two years of school. This also encourages higher enrolment of girl pupils up to Class 10.

Future plans include development of further classrooms and a school hall in order to ensure the school can keep pace with national plans to develop education policy in Nepal.

Volunteer Teacher Training

In partnership with People & Places responsible volunteering, we support the placement of volunteer teachers from the United Kingdom to mentor local teachers at Amar Jyoti and other local primary schools. The volunteers, based at the lodge, provide English language skills and support the development of teaching in English medium – the schools' policy.

www.travel-peopleandplaces.co.uk

Shillinge Project

In conjunction with the International Trust for Nature Conservation the lodge aims to combine non-timber forest product development in conjunction with longer-term community forest management practices. Recent support to the Community Forest User Group was used to fence and manage several open areas with a view to regeneration of mixed mid-hills forest and non-timber forest product production.

[\[www.itnc.org\]](http://www.itnc.org)

Rakhi Shillinge Forest Ranger

The lodge and ITNC provide wages for a community forest ranger to monitor and protect the community forest.

Shiva Shakti Primary School

The Lodge guests donations support the wages for an additional teacher beyond the level provided by government budget thus improving teacher / pupil ratios at this local primary school.

Just US\$80 (£50) a month pays for a primary school teacher. There is a vital need to ensure class sizes are sensible at primary school if children are to be well grounded in the “Three Rs” – reading, writing and arithmetic.

This is an on going commitment Tiger Mountain has made to invest in the best possible local primary education for the community. We look to our guests to support us in this worthy cause.

Conservation and Research

The guides at Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge undertake a range of basic research and monitoring works to provide important baseline data for conservation.

The International Trust for Nature Conservation (UK Registered Charity No.281101)

Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge provides logistic and management support for the International Trust for Nature Conservation’s Shillinge Project that operates in the vicinity of the Lodge. This project aims at a novel integration of non-timber forest product development with longer-term community forestry management practices.

www.itnc.org

Weather Monitoring

Staff have recorded the basic weather data since 2004. Daily readings at 0845 and 1745 Nepal standard time log the maximum, minimum and actual temperature,

barometric pressure and relative humidity. This is recorded in the format required by the Department of Meteorology of the government.

Weather data can be download from our website.

Waterfowl Monitoring

Birdlife International (formerly the Asian Wetlands Bureau) has been monitoring waterfowl throughout Asia for many years. Guides at Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge have been conducting a census of the various lakes in the Pokhara Valley since 2005. This data is sent to Bird Conservation Nepal and thence to Birdlife International.

Waterfowl data can be download from our website.

Butterfly Monitoring

Butterflies can be an important indicator of healthy eco-systems. Guides at the lodge conduct a monthly butterfly survey within the lodge compound. The data gathered is available for researchers. To date over 260 species have been recorded in the grounds of the lodge.

Butterfly data can be download from our website.