

Engaging Host Communities Ensuring Benefits

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Empowerment & Ecotourism Principles

- What do TIES principles have to say?
 - *“Build environmental and cultural awareness and respect.”*
 - *“Provide positive experiences for both visitors and hosts.”*
 - *“Recognize the rights and spiritual beliefs of the Indigenous People in your community and work in partnership with them to create empowerment.”*

EMPOWER WHO & WHAT FOR?

What do we Need to Think About?

- What are the characteristics of the local community?
 - How many villages?
 - Livelihood characteristics & sources of income?
 - Dependency upon natural resources?
 - Power & decision-making structures?
 - A united community vs a separated community?
 - Access to basic services (water, health, education, internet!)

What are we Empowering People For?

- To achieve the conservation objectives of the protected area
- To sustainably manage the PA's biodiversity & ecotourism systems
- To improve income & employment opportunities
- To improve the quality & reliability of basic services (water, health, education & internet!)

Four Areas of Community Capacity Building:

- Increase knowledge of tourism industry / sector
- Assist them to participate in tourism planning
- Assist them to take up tourism positions & establish businesses
- Assist them to manage tourism impacts on communities & PAs

**WHOSE JOB IS IT TO EMPOWER LOCAL
COMMUNITIES – THE PRIVATE SECTOR,
GOVERNMENTS OR DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERS?**

WHO IS BEST AT IT AND WHY?