



IPPG NEWSLETTER

March 2003

Editorial

By a coincidence 2002 was the UN Years of Ecotourism and Mountains, so a lot of beneficial attention was focussed on the porter issue. In this issue you will find a cross-section of all the effort that has gone into the year from all the voluntary IPPG representatives and our sister organizations such as *Tourism Concern*, *Porters Progress*, *Himalayan Explorers Connection*, *Porteadores Inka Ñan* and the *Kilimanjaro Porters Association*.

Just writing these names makes me realize just how much progress there has been since 1997 when IPPG was formed. There is plenty still to do and IPPG is asking its supporters for donations. As always, 99% of every donation is spent directly on projects and not on wages, expenses or infrastructure. This is what makes IPPG uniquely efficient. If you have a charitable urge and want to help some of the poorest of the poor who are trying to help themselves, join us by giving generously to your local representative.

A huge thank you to all our IPPG reps worldwide who work entirely voluntarily and with little recognition to help porters worldwide.

Dr Jim Duff **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR**

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IPPG projects for 2003

Ongoing projects

- Circulate the newsletter
- Give talks and media interviews, writing articles
- Distribute flyers aimed at porters and the trekking public
- Continue working with other NGOs, government bodies and trekking companies
- Continue to hang the Mountain Porter Travelling Photo Exhibition worldwide
- Continue to support Kul Bahadur Rai (see report)

New projects

- Build two porter shelters in the Annapurna, Nepal (see HongKong report)
- Set up a rescue worker and build a porter shelter at Machermo in the Gokyo region, Nepal (see Machermo article)
- Help support the start up of Porteadores Inka Ñan, Peru

IPPG recommends the following five guidelines

- 1** Adequate clothing should be provided to porters for their protection in bad weather and at altitude. This means windproof jacket and trousers, fleece jacket, long johns, suitable footwear (leather boots in snow), socks, hat, gloves and sunglasses.
- 2** Above the tree line, porters should have access to shelter, either a room in a lodge or tent (mess tents are not good enough), a sleeping pad and a blanket (or sleeping bag). They should also be provided with food and warm drinks, or cooking equipment and fuel.
- 3** Porters should be provided with the same standard of medical care, as you would expect for yourself, including insurance.

Porters should not be paid off because of illness or injury without the leader or the trekkers assessing their condition carefully. Sirdars must let their trek leader or the trekkers know if they are paying off a sick porter. Failure to do this has resulted in many deaths. Sick porters should be sent down with someone who speaks their language and understands their illness along with a letter describing their complaint. Sufficient funds should be provided to cover the cost of their rescue and treatment. They should never be sent down alone.
- 4**
- 5** No porter should be asked to carry a load that is too heavy for their physical abilities. Weight limits may need to be adjusted for altitude, trail and weather conditions. Good judgement and careful observation is needed to make this decision.

What is IPPG?

IPPG (International Porter Protection Group) is a grassroots organisation that was started in 1997 after the avoidable death of yet another Nepali who was working for a trekking company. He got sick, got paid off and sent back on his own, and died 30 hours later.

Our aim is to raise awareness of the problems endured by trekking porters and to educate and change the practices where necessary. This applies to trekking companies and their employees, (especially the leaders and sirdars who are in directly in charge of porters), trekkers and the porters themselves.

Over the six years that IPPG has been active, there has been many positive changes. It is slowly becoming less usual to see trekking porters who are not adequately equipped and who huddle up around a small fire of junipers behind a boulder at 4000 metres. Aidposts/hospitals now report that most sick porters that come to them are now accompanied by a trekker, the sirdar or the leader. Thankfully the Nepalese government is getting stricter about care for the trekking porters and bodies such as TAAN (Travel Agents Association of Nepal) and NMA (Nepal Mountaineering Association) are using their prestige to push for necessary changes.

Many NGO's are now working for similar aims. The main ones that we know of are Porters' Progress, Porteadores Inka Ñan (The Inka Porter Project), HEC (Himalayan Explorer Connection) and Tourism Concern (UK). As you read this newsletter you will get an idea of their different approaches, projects and policies. Yet we are all working for the same common goal and support each other's

efforts. All the 25+ people who are actively involved in IPPG are volunteers. No one is paid. Each representative works independently, yet we help each other to achieve the common goal.

Who are the porters of Nepal?

In Nepal, there are three broad categories of mountain porters.

First, the '**traditional porter**' who works for local people.

The job is not very well paid and the loads are heavier but it is not so dangerous as it is usually carried out between villages at a lower altitude (although this has been changing with more hotels and restaurants being built up at altitude).

The second category is the '**high altitude porter**' (HAP). This is a small group elite group, often Sherpas, who carry loads above base camp on expeditions. While their job is very risky they are very well equipped for it and well paid (often in US\$).

The third category is the '**trekking porter**'. There are around 100,000 trekking porters working in Nepal in a good trekking season. They mostly come from the lower altitude middle hills and are typically poor farmers who need the cash. They often carry above the tree line into snow conditions, at altitudes up to and above the height of an expedition base camp. As a result they are at high risk of hypothermia, frostbite and Acute Mountain Sickness. They earn between 2 and 5 US\$ a day. They also have a chance to learn English, make friends with foreigners and can therefore improve their conditions (for example, several trekking companies are owned by ex-porters).

**IPPG works on
behalf of the
trekking porters**

From the reps around the world

AUSTRALIA Lyn Taylor

Throughout this year I have been presenting slide shows at many different venues. At these presentations I talk on the issues of IPPG, once again the response has been very positive and I will continue to do these shows during 2003. I have been interviewed several times on radio and I have had some encouraging feedback. I will continue to network in these areas during 2003.

On Friday 10/1/03 *Carrying the Burden* was shown on SBS for the first time in Australia. The response I had was immediate with many emails from people wanting to assist with clothing and cash donations. We are yet to receive this money but I am sure it will soon follow.

This year, Lyn Taylor's Adventure Travel donated a computer to the Porter's Progress. The smile on Arjun's face when I presented it to him was worth the stress of taking it over.

I now have an assistant, Rachel Stanton, and together we are planning fundraisers in schools and bringing the photo-exhibition to Australia. Rae has also been helping with this newsletter.

SPECIAL THANK YOU'S to World Expeditions and Brad who keep supporting IPPG by shipping clothes to Nepal for the porter bank and sponsoring the newsletter. Thank you to the organisers of the Backpackers Expo in Sydney and Melbourne for allowing us to present at the Expo free of charge. I would also like to thank Peregrine for manning the stand at the Expo in Melbourne, apparently many people visited the stand and the response was very positive. A very special thank you to all those wonderful people in Katoomba NSW who have through Mountain Designs trekking shop donated several articles of warm clothing. Thank you also to Thai Airways who allows my company's clients to carry an excess of 10 kgs each for porters' clothes.

Thank you also to Dr Trish Batchelor who is involved in the Machermo rescue post and who has taken the photo exhibition to Barcelona in May 2002

Ed: Lyn also does a great job of enrolling new country representatives.

AUSTRIA Oskar Skuk & Bernhard Fassl

Oskar did slide shows and also collected clothes. Bernhard is in Utah, see USA report.

CANADA Elsie James

Carrying the Burden was shown at the Banff International Mountain Film Festival in

November 2001. This and the subsequent 2002 touring show has kept me busy responding to follow up inquiries and certainly increased awareness of the plight of Nepali Porters. I sent posters and brochures to all the major venues ie. Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal. In Calgary, I was invited to introduce the film and IPPG to the audience.

Ben Ayers represented IPPG and PP at the November 2002 show where we had a display at the exhibit that is held in conjunction with the Film Festival. Ben then toured several places in Western Canada making presentations.

Mountain Equipment Co-op, Edmonton, hosted a film and information night in late January as part of their Speakers Program inviting me to speak about our work in Nepal. In July, I was invited to make a presentation at a Rotary Club Breakfast meeting in Calgary. It was well received and may, at some point, result in a cash donation - I hope.

Special Thanks are extended to the following organizations and individuals who have given us outstanding support in 2002:

- **The Management & Staff of the Banff Centre for Mountain Culture** whose continuing support has opened several opportunities for IPPG and Porters Progress
- **Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC)** and former employee, Kim Westfall, who together collected and shipped 9 boxes of clothing to Nepal in March
- **Adventure Guides Inc, Kitchener, ON** - impressed by what they learned from *Carrying the Burden* they donated four boxes of clothing to the Bank
- **Monod Sports, Banff, Canada** for a good supply of quality boot socks and pants
- **Bhim Dhungana, a Nepali Congress Party worker, Rupchandra Gurung and Ramesh Dhamala of Himalayan Ecological Trekking (P) Ltd, Nepal**, who spent many hours, days and weeks negotiating with Customs Officials in Kathmandu and were successful in obtaining the MEC shipment - Duty Free! Not an easy feat!—
- And to the many generous, individual donors of new and used clothing items and money in support of our work in Nepal.

I would like to introduce Wanda Vivequin, my new assistant.

Born in Holland but raised in Kenya, Lebanon, Canada and New Zealand, Wanda Vivequin has come almost full circle and is now living in Edmonton Alberta. Her interest in Nepal stretches right back to when she was 12 years

old. Never sure why and how this love affair with Nepal began, Wanda finally visited the country for the first time in 2001 and has been going back every year since then. She works with a Nepali company to run treks for mainly New Zealanders and has a strong commitment to doing whatever she can to advocate for the safety and wellbeing of porters and Nepali people in general.

FRANCE Dr Nicholas Peschanski

I hear from trekkers that there is some improvement in the clothing and equipment for porters in Nepal. Five French trekking agencies have adopted the IPPG guidelines.

I contacted a new Swiss association that promotes the porters' conditions in the trekking business through the Himalayas, *Association pour le Respect et la Dignité des Porteurs d'Himalaya*, Président Christian Giraud. We share the same ideas and aims so we'll continue to contact each other.

I am doing slide show about porters in the next month in some hospitals and city halls.

GERMANY Monika Schiefer

The Alpine Association of South Tyrol (AVS) showed the IPPG photo exhibition on the Wolkensteiner Symposium, an alpine medical congress in Gröden/South Tyrol. Dr Urs Hefti made a speech on the opening and the exhibition was so successful that a new single show is planned for 2003.

The Alpine Association and its 90 sections and locations decided to implement the IPPG rules and to apply for IPPG-membership. A press release from IPPG was published on an NGO meeting at German-Nepal Association in Cologne. The IPPG newsletter was distributed.

Altogether there is an increase of interest, inquiries for supporting porters, especially for the clothing bank and porter insurances.

Although I am now resigning as a rep, I hope to continue helping with the artwork and to find new possibilities and venues to show the photo exhibition again in 2003.

HONG KONG Pete Clarke

In the last year we have been involved with fundraising for Porters Progress and the Annapurna Porter Shelter Project. Ben Ayers spent 4 days in HK passing through on his way back to Nepal. He presented his slide show and talk to the staff and students of Island School in a full school assembly. This certainly fired everybody up on the porter issue and fund raising has been pretty good since and is now organised by Wilberforce House at Island School, which has adopted "Support a Porter"

as one of its charities. There was a sponsored walk and a sponsored fast, which netted US\$ 5000 between them. I managed to find 200 pairs of good quality woollen socks in the back of a clothes shop in Stanley Market. After buying them for \$1.50 a pair, I managed to "sell" them for \$3 a pair. The purchaser immediately donated the socks back to me to send to Nepal!! The upshot was 200 pairs of socks found their way onto the feet of porters in Nepal and, at the same time, we raised about \$300.

The annual Island School community service visit took place to Kathmandu in October. Although the main purpose of our visit is to work with an orphanage that the school sponsors, we did manage to do a bit for Porters Progress. We took along a donated laptop to give them for use up in Lukla. We also bought them a new laser printer and a new TV and DVD player for the classroom. The students visited Porters Progress office and distributed flyers around Thamel. In Kathmandu, I met up with Prakash and Gehendra Gurung of the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) and signed the document which committed us to building two porter shelters near Annapurna Base Camp. One will be at Machhapuchhre Base Camp and the other at Deurali. The total cost is of the order of \$10,000 and we have handed over the first instalment. ACAP will arrange and supervise the construction. We are hoping they might be finished by the end of 2003. We had a donation of \$700 from a group of teachers and the students are now gearing themselves up for this year's fundraising. My major contribution to the fundraising is well under way. I am the proud owner of a beard, which I have had since 1975. I am prepared to shave it off if I can raise \$3000. Watch this space!

ITALY Navyo Eller

In September, I organized a talk on porters at the Katmandu Rotary Club with Dr Jim Duff. This was well received and hopefully this will bring a donation in the near future. In December I contacted various organizations and magazines. Most have responded positively to enthusiastic to the initiative.

In course of 2003 there will be the first activities (exhibition in Rome, Vicenza) and more reps will appear in Italy for IPPG. I am now in direct contact with the magazines and we will launch some interviews soon in with La Rivista del Trekking (www.trekking.it) and La Rivista della Montagna (www.cda.it). Both are leading magazines. Both Directors are personally interested.

NEPAL Prakash Adhikari

There is a peace talk going on and there is a ceasefire at the moment. We Nepalese are very much hopeful for peace, progress and happiness. I hope and pray for the god to help the government and the Maoists to find strength and patience to settle down this problem by talks.

In 2002, a Sustainable Tourism Training workshop for porters was organised in Pokhara in joint collaboration of IPPG and ACAP. IPPG Brochure for porters was completed and been distributed. *(Ed: Prakash has produced a fantastic Nepalese language glossy brochure for porters on AMS, HAPE, HACE, frostbite and hypothermia. This is a huge step forward in education for the porters. Copies (in Nepalese only) can be obtained from Prakash.)*

A major breakthrough was an invitation from TAAN (Travel Agents Association of Nepal) to meet, along with the HRA (Himalayan Rescue Association) and NMA (Nepal Mountaineering Institute), to discuss porter issues. A lively three-hour discussion ensued and an agreement reached to meet at least annually. It feels like the tide has turned! Next meeting will hopefully include HEC and PP.

From Elsie: for the first time, the Nepalese government has put the rules and standards as they relate to Porters and other trekking industry staff on its web site www.immi.gov.np. It specifically states that anyone hiring a guide or porter must provide life, accident, medical and evacuation insurance and puts the onus on the trekker to find out if the agency they use does insure their staff.

Ed. The Nepalese political atmosphere is precarious, and porters suffer from a drastic reduction in the trekking industry. Some estimates say tourism is down by 50 to 70 percent. Few people go on the out-of-the way treks these days. It is still safe to trek the main trails so far and it is a great time to go as there are so few other trekkers!

NEW ZEALAND Cheska Hadleigh

Last year the main focus was collecting clothes from an outdoor shop, negotiating with Thai Airlines to allow excess baggage for tourists travelling with World Expeditions taking clothes out for porters. Then connecting travelers, large rubbish bags of clothes, boots, etc. and Arjun in Kathmandu for collection at the other end. I had two huge bags of boots and a tent /packs to go at the end of last year. I am hoping that Thai will agree to the baggage waiver in April so we can get boots out to Nepal.

PERU Alison Crowther

Read the report on Porteadores Inka Ñan in this newsletter

SCANDINAVIA Lena Fauske

The Norwegian Mountain Tourist Association published my 10-page article on Nepal, IPPG and the story of Kul, in their yearbook for 2002. The association has nearly 200,000 registered members, all of whom receive this book, and thousands of non-members also read it. We continue to spread information on IPPG to individuals, organisations and companies with interest in Nepal, and have established close working contact with the Nepali Consul in Oslo. Lena had a group of trekkers in the Solo Khumbu this autumn, and brought clothing and sleeping mats for the porters. David took a quick visit to Porters Progress in Lukla, sat in the background while a class was in progress, and concluded: "I'm impressed - let's keep supporting it". We received clothing/gear from three companies in Norway this year: Ulvang, Vertikal and Berghaus, and would like to thank them.

SWITZERLAND Dr Urs Hefti

I did various lectures about the porters and IPPG. One of them was done at the International Wolkensteiner Conference on Mountain Medicine, Italy, 4-7 Sept 2002 (same place where the photo exhibition was shown) and it seemed to me that many people did like the lecture about the porters much more than the scientific ones! There was the world highest press conference about the porters issue, at the top of the Kilimanjaro, with official statements on the Swiss Radio and Swiss Television, organized by Andre Lüthi, CEO from Globetrotter, one of the leading travel company of Switzerland. Globetrotter has agreed to inexpensive advertisement of IPPG and the guidelines in their travel brochure. I've been teaching activities for the Swiss Alpine Club and travel agencies, where I talked about the porter issue.

Plans for 2003

Writing a story about the porters in different Swiss newspapers and Swiss Radio. I will climb Kilimanjaro this autumn and do a piece for Swiss Radio and maybe TV.

UK Jo Chittenden

My first assignment was to represent IPPG at a meeting of British tour operators to discuss the issues of porter welfare in the industry! (see Tourism Concern's report in this issue).

Many thanks to Williams Lea in London and their employees, and Lin Ketchell of Blue Sage Trekking for raising the money necessary to open the Machermo rescue post this year. Three companies, Himalayan Kingdoms, Brasher Boots and Qatar Airways combined to

freight boots out to Kathmandu in the summer and look set to repeat the exercise this year. Last year IPPG-UK was able to send £3000 to Porters Progress in Kathmandu, thanks to Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

World Expeditions, Jagged Globe and Himalayan Kingdoms have all contributed financially to the work of IPPG. Jagged Globe, a leading UK specialist in mountaineering expeditions, invited IPPG (Dr Jim Duff and myself) to talk to their guides about porters. I'd also like to thank the individuals who return from their travels and feel moved to send in their cheques and letters of support.

In October this year, Ben Ayers will be talking and showing slides of his work with Porters Progress in Nepal at a fundraising lecture series organised by World Expeditions, thanks to Brad Atwal for organising this. Brad has actually agreed to take over as UK rep. Brad's four years experience marketing for a leading Australian adventure company has brought him closer to porter issues across the globe. In the past he has assisted the IPPG by fundraising & assisting the porter clothing bank project.

SCOTLAND Jeff Frew

As an IPPG rep and a trustee of Community Action Nepal (www.canepal.com), I am involved in building the porter shelter and rescue post up in Machermo. This is being funded by CAN. I hope to set up talks in the UK with Ben and

Machermo porter rescue post (IPPG)

The Gokyo valley has always been a tough place for porters. The valley is long, at high altitude and it is a long way to medical help. As more trekkers are attracted to this beautiful area, more porters are exposed to its dangers. In October 2001 two porters died. The local people say that is average for each season and have taken to calling the place 'death valley'!

As a direct response to this situation IPPG is starting a porter rescue post at Machermo. This is the best place as it would serve porters descending from Gokyo and the Cho La. The Nepali rescue worker will be trained in first aid and common illness including AMS, frostbite, hypothermia, diarrhoea and respiratory problems. If necessary, they will arrange evacuation of very sick porters to Khunde (Hillary) hospital. The rescue post will also act as a place to educate porters on the dangers they face.

The rescue post will be starting at the spring season 2003. To begin with, the rescue worker will be living and working from a room in Namgyal lodge (Namgyal and the villagers have been very supportive with this project). Thanks to Prakash Adhikari and Dr Trish Batchelor for organising this.

We also have the support of Machermo village and CAN (Community Action Nepal -UK) to build a combined rescue post and a porter shelter. This will cost around 60,000 US\$ due to the huge expense of building at such a remote and high place. The building will hopefully be completed in 2004.

Doug Scott this year and may have an outlet to sell crafts made by porters, with direct payments going to them to enhance economic sustainability.

USA Peter Herrick-Stare, Bernhard Fassel

Slide and video shows (BBC video) promoting IPPG were shown, with fundraising during these events. There was a collection of clothes, enough to outfit 30 porters, which Bernhard will bring to Nepal on his next trip. IPPG information sheets were distributed at outdoor stores in Salt Lake City (inc REI and Black Diamond). Bernhard has been assessing the local situation of porters on the Tibetan side of Mount Everest in fall 2002. Conclusion: due to strict regulations from Chinese authorities and the fact that all of the porters are inhabitants of high altitude areas, conditions seem better compared to Nepal.

Plans for 2003

Slide shows and video shows. Collecting clothes. Writing articles about porters to be published in Israeli travel magazines. Distributing newsletters and IPPG Info at Mountain festivals and ski/climbing fairs in Utah.

Special Thanks to the Department Head of Pediatrics of Primary Children's Medical Center in Utah for supporting Bernhard

Funding

Many thanks to Blue Sage Trekking (UK) who raised £1,300 sponsored by William Lea Company and their employees. This money will be used to start and run the rescue post for the first season (spring 2003).

IPPG is looking for donors willing to support various aspects of the rescue post on an ongoing basis.

If you or your organization can help with this project please contact **Jim Duff** (IPPG international coordinator)
info@ippg.net

Update on Kul Bahadur Rai

Kul Bahadur Rai (pictured with his daughters) is the porter featured in Carrying the Burden BBC documentary.

Financial assistance is being provided to Kul through the IPPG Porter Relief Fund, Himalayan Explorers Connection and a private donor/member of HEC.

- Twice in 2002, Kul has required additional surgery to correct some problems that have developed from his amputations. The surgery has improved his ability to walk independently and has reduced his discomfort. He now wears modified boots/shoes and is able to stand.
- He continues to be employed in a craft workshop in the Pashupatinath temple area of Kathmandu where he has learned several new skills.
- In October, he was able to travel to his small village southeast of Lukla and spend the Dashain and Tihar Festivals with his family.
- He returned to Kathmandu in early December and brought two of his three daughters with him. They are now attending a private school in Kathmandu. Plans are underway for his wife and youngest daughter to join them in the near future. Finally, after more than four years, his family will be re-united.
- Prakash Adhikari, IPPG Rep in Nepal, along with Elsie James, IPPG Canada (who spends half the year in Nepal), and Tara Nath Girmire of HEC are working closely with Kul. Our major objective is to find a suitable vocational training program for him that will give the family some future independence. A savings program has been started to help him achieve his goals.



Elsie James

A new benchmark for large companies in 'Above the tree line' care for porters

For a second year a large international adventure travel company has set a new standard of porter care for their porters trekking above the tree line in the Himalayas. They have been providing dedicated tents, blankets and mats, all meals and drinks cooked by the trekkers' cook on kerosene, full protective clothing and boots, and insurance for chopper rescue.

The benefits are obvious. It is warmly welcomed by trek leaders, sherpas, porters and trekkers. Everyone involved feels more comfortable (specially the porters!). It enables the leader to keep a close eye on the porters, reducing the risk of illness and injury. There is no wood/juniper destruction and last but not least the trekkers have a much closer interaction with their porters.

While some small and medium sized companies have been doing similar things for years, this is the first time that I know a major company has undertaken full responsibility for its porters and the environment.

It is my impression that sleeping bags are not necessarily needed but mats and blankets are. All porters carry blankets and make a huddle in their tent which are like hot houses even in very cold weather. There are exceptions where sleeping bags are needed for porters, eg. round Dhaulagiri, Ampho Lapsa, but these trips are more expeditionary anyway.

Companies that undertake this standard of care pay less money to the porters as food, cooking and shelter are provided. This is reasonable and the porters I have talked to prefer the catered option because they are safer and warmer and can take the same amount of money home.

Rejane Belanger



Congratulations to Syl (Canada) and new baby!

Tourism Concern report

Radical Move By UK Trek Tour Operators Helps Transform Mountain

Porters' Lives (extract from www.tourismconcern.org.uk, press release 26/11/02)

Tourism Concern's campaign *Trekking Wrongs: Porters' Rights* has triggered a dramatic increase in the number of UK 'porter-friendly' trek operators.

The campaign has prompted action amongst British trekking operators to protect porters used by their trips. Tourism Concern has worked specifically with operators taking treks to the Himalayas, Macchu Pichu in Peru and Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. (...)

As a result of Tourism Concern's work, 40 of the 81 tour operators contacted by Tourism Concern last year now have policies to provide essential protection, fair pay and humane working conditions.

Tourism Concern's message is **'Do go trekking - it is a vital income for trekking communities. But please go with an operator who has committed to protecting its porters.'** (...)

That so many tour operators have come on board to make such important changes is extremely encouraging. "This is great news, a move forward for the tourism industry. We are glad that operators recognise that providing basic protection is crucial," says Tourism Concern's director, Patricia Barnett.

The campaign is also receiving a lot of public support, she says. "No-one wants to see people die during a holiday. Trekkers often assume porters are superhuman and can take these tough conditions. It's a myth, no-one can sleep out in sub zero temperatures without proper protection. The fact that these operators now have policies to protect the porters will make it easier for trekkers to make an ethical decision about who to go with."

Tourism Concern is a membership organization campaigning for ethical and fairly traded tourism. For more information, visit their website www.tourismconcern.org.uk

Porteadores Inka Ñan

The Inka Porter Project

After raising 500 pounds from a climbing festival to give to a charity working with porters, I travelled to Peru in January 2002. A friend from the South American Explorers Club and I decided to meet porters directly. Their issues were many - lack of waterproof and safe equipment, no space to get back home after treks on public transport, bad pay and in some cases no pay, carrying practices which cut off blood supply, food of a calorific value that could not sustain them...the list goes on. The porters urged me to set up an organisation for them and they came up with the name *Porteadores Inka Ñan* (PIN). They persuaded me to leave my job at an environmental charity, to work on the project full time to try to get it off the ground. I maintain that PIN will need to be an organisation directed by the porters themselves, with volunteers and future staff acting as facilitators.

Porters are scattered in rural villages, and due to local customs and community practice we need to explain the project and seek permission from each community leader to set up a porter group there. This involves trips of many hours in uncomfortable lorries - on roads often impassable through landslides and earthquakes.

We now have a website www.peruweb.org/porters, our first flyer, links with the governmental departments in Peru, tour operators in Peru, North America and the UK and an impressive advisory group of mountain and rural development professionals. Tourism Concern will be our charitable 'parent' in the UK and Himalayan Explorers Connection are performing that function in the US, enabling us to apply to trusts for funding of our various programmes.

What we urgently need now is funding and donations of equipment. To carry us through the first crucial months: setting up an office and resource centre, to run capacity building workshops, and store equipment; establishing a porter communications network; creating agreements with local tour operators and write funding applications. Specific equipment needs are mattresses, sleeping bags, 3 person tents, durable waterproof ponchos and head lamps that can take rechargeable batteries. We also need long-term Spanish speaking volunteers, preferably with knowledge of rural development and environment issues.

For the full wishlist, volunteer information, photos, and details of plans and projects visit www.peruweb.org/porters.

Alison Crowther peru@ippg.net

Himalayan Explorers Connection (HEC) report

The last several months have been exciting for the Himalayan Explorers Connection and the Porter Assistance Project.

Africa

In December 2002, the *Kilimanjaro Porter Assistance Project* was opened in Moshi Tanzania to help the thousands of porters the climb Mt Kilimanjaro each year. Many months and volunteer hours were needed to meet with the porters, trekking operators, and Kilimanjaro park officials to determine the need for a Porter Assistance Project in Africa. HEC staff member Donovan Pacholl is now running the office in Moshi. Hundreds of pounds (weight) of clothing from Nike ACG, Montrail, Mountain Hardware, Thorlos, REI, and Smartwool have been sent to Africa and in early January the office started to loan its first clothing to porters. Porter education classes have recently started.

Nepal

In the HEC Nepal office, and with partnership of the Kathmandu Environmental Education Project (KEEP), the *Porter Assistance Project* has been educating tourists about the needs of the porters with daily screenings of the film *Carrying the Burden*. Clothing is being loaned on a daily basis for trekkers and operators to use for their porters.

The goal for 2003 is to work closely with TAAN and the tour operators to help them set up their own clothing programs for their porters and to transition much of the collected clothing to these programs. Also in 2003 a new English-Nepali porter phrasebook will be created and made available to trekkers to give to their porters as a gift. This will encourage the trekkers to meet their porters and spend time teaching English while on their treks.

Peru

In 2002 HEC, South American Explorers Club, IPPG, and Portadores Inka Ñan have been working together to develop a program for the

porters on the Inca Trail. HEC has been helping to coordinate efforts to collect gear and to support U.S. couriers to deliver the gear to the offices of *Portadores Inka Ñan*.

Educating Tourists and Trekkers

A recent HEC survey found that over 90% of U.S. based tour adventure travel companies that operate in Africa and Nepal have no formal policy about porter treatment. The HEC is now working with many of these tour operators to put together a formal 'best practices' policy on proper porter treatment that includes educating their guides, staff, and climbers visiting these remote areas.

A new educational handout was created for trekkers and tourists on proper treatment of porters. Versions for Nepal and Africa porters are now available at the Porter Assistance Project offices in Africa and Nepal. Poster versions are on display in the offices of the Himalayan Rescue Association, KEEP, HEC and Porters Progress. We hope to be getting these in the hands of all travelers to Nepal and Mt Kilimanjaro.

Mountain Hardware, Lowe Alpine, American Alpine Journal have all put information about the work with porters in their publications. Inside Outdoor, a new magazine targeted to the gear and clothing makers, will be running one-page ads in their monthly publication starting in February, these ads are directed to the clothing companies to get support for the clothing and gear that is needed.

Thanks so much to all the volunteers and companies that have made these programs possible.

Ken Stober **Director of International Operations**

ken@hec.org www.hec.org

HEC is a 501c3 charity and donations are tax-deductible

Mera porter first aid post

Sponsored by Summit Trekking and their manager Kit Spencer, this post is situated at Khare, 5200m. It has been running for three seasons now and 251 porters have been treated for various reasons such as (in order of frequency) headache, diarrhoea, cough/chest pain, AMS, abdominal problems, eye infection, trauma, and various others. It is estimated that each treatment costs US\$5, when all costs are taken into account.

Kit Spencer has been helping with the planning of the Machermo porter rescue post. His experience with the Mera post is invaluable.

Porters' Progress Report

The year of 2002 closed upon Nepal like a suitcase heading for Thailand. The decline in tourist travel to Nepal due to political unrest has led to a severe shortage of work for everyone in the trekking industry. Porters' Progress is working harder than ever to facilitate porters' own dreams of a safe and sustainable trekking industry, and to show how appreciation and creativity can lead to non-violent social change. Our programs all continue to exhibit rapid growth and development, and porters are coming up with new ideas daily.

We feel that it is important to mention our continuing belief that trekking in Nepal, and hiring a porter, is the most direct action a foreign visitor can take to change the lives of these amazing men and women.

In 2002, Porters' Progress saw a 50% increase in warm clothing lent out to porters, and we were able to put shoes, socks, jackets, hats, gloves, and some pretty tacky sunglasses onto 1,591 porters. We also had 2,736 'student-visits' (one student-visit is one porter attending one class) to our English classes alone. Dozens of kind volunteers from around the world shared their native tongues as well, and porters filled their notebooks with basic phrases in Spanish, French, German, and Japanese. Our Empowerment classes were often filled to capacity, with as many as 60 porters cramming into our small offices. During these meetings, porters stepped forward to offer examples of their own successes, and suggestions about how to create more success in their lives and industry themselves. In total, we had 1,166 porters attending 129 such meetings.

The numbers can go on forever. We have been overwhelmed with all we've been able to accomplish, and also all of the support we have received from around the world. A certain magic has settled into our offices, and many afternoons were spent simply singing and

dancing with porters, eating mangoes, drawing, and dreaming. Porters' Progress believes in the power of dancing, dreams, and mangoes. We believe that the only true solution to the social and institutional problems that porters face will be one derived from the hope, creativity, and determination that burns underneath every forehead, every tumpeline, and every load that porters carry.

We feel that porters are truly beginning to inherit our organization. Our official NGO registration in Nepal has allowed us to begin the slow transition to an Executive Board staffed solely by porters.

Porters have begun to collect poems and other creative work, and have put together a yearly literary magazine, "Two Fists of Breath." Ben Ayers has been translating these poems into English, and it is our intention to publish a full-length book of translations soon. Women porters are coming into our offices for the first time and their voices are now heard among the songs and the shouts.

More than ever, a single trekker can make a difference. If you are thinking of trekking in Nepal – please hire a porter and treat him/her well. Make sure that your porter is given the standard of treatment and compensation that you would expect for yourself. Also, please stop by either of our offices to donate some of your time, energy, and input (and bring your dancing shoes).

Writing an article on porters' issues?

While we welcome the media to use this newsletter and our web site as a source of information, please remember that porters depend on trekkers for their livelihood and beating up tales of exploitation can have a very negative effect. IPPG encourages people to go trekking and make a real difference to the lives of these remarkable people. *Ed*

We owe our successes to a great variety of sponsors and supporters, and the IPPG stands out among these. Without the ongoing partnership and cooperation of IPPG representatives from across the world, our offices would not be open today. We also extend our gratitude to all of those who have supported us through this period of growth and development, and to those upon whose continued support we depend.

Ben Ayers Porters' Progress Founder

More information about Porters' Progress is available at www.portersprogress.org or you can email us at info@portersprogress.org

Porter Clothing Banks

Donations of good quality clothes and gear are highly appreciated. What the porters need most are good sturdy boots, socks, fleeces, rain/wind gear, hats and gloves/mittens. Find below the different Porter Clothing Banks and their contact details.

Nepal

There are now two clothing banks in Kathmandu

- Porters' Progress, contact Arjun, GPO Box 19234 Thamel, ph: 410020 porter@wlink.com.np
- HEC (Himalayan Explorer Club), contact Tara Nath Ghimire, next to KEEP, Thamel, ph: 259275 members@hec.org

There is also a Porters' Progress clothing bank in Lukla, ask around town.

Africa (Tanzania)

Kilimanjaro Porter Assistance Project, contact Donovan Pacholl, ph: 744817615, donovan_pacholl@yahoo.com

Film Reviews and Poetry

Film review

You won't find these films at your local cinema nor will you find the book at your local bookstore, but they are both well worth seeing. Two videos were released in Fall 2002 in Kathmandu – one entitled, *Trekking Wisely* (English language only) and the other *A Porter's Story* (In Nepali - with or without English subtitles).

Produced by Australian filmmaker, Serena Rix, with funding from the Australian Government, Banff Centre for Mountain Culture and the Himalayan Rescue Association, the videos are proving to be excellent tools in the continuing effort to educate both trekkers and trekking staff about the hazards of travelling in high places. In addition they are helping people recognize the symptoms of Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS, HACE and HAPE) are preventable.

Trekking Wisely includes personal interviews with foreign trekkers talking about their experiences with altitude related issues. It's understandable, and although it gives serious warning to people contemplating high altitude travel, it puts the viewer's mind at ease. It answers many of the common questions about this potentially deadly problem at the same time, giving a sense of reassurance with the proper preparation and sticking to a few simple rules. Read the review of the second video, *A Porter's Story* by the producer herself in this newsletter.

The Producer has done an excellent job of both of these films. If trekking companies, tour operators, etc. have access to them and use them effectively, I am sure that lives will be saved. I think these videos are a MUST SEE for everyone trekking or climbing in the Himalaya – experienced or novice – Trekker, Porter or Guide. The life you save may be your own!

Both videos are available for purchase from the Himalayan Rescue Association in Kathmandu

Elsie James

Help needed!

If you are going to Nepal, Tanzania or Peru and could take a bag of clothes over, contact the clothing banks in USA or the IPPG representative in your country. There is plenty of stored gear waiting to find couriers to be taken over!

Peru

Porteadores Inka Ñan contact Alison Crowther South American Explorers Club, Apartado 500, Cusco, ph: +51 84 24 50 21, peru@ippg.net

USA

- HEC (Himalayan Explorer Club), contact Ken Stober, ken@hec.org, 503-466-2219
- Porters' Progress, contact Ben Ayers, info@portersprogress.org

Today, a Nepali's morality
Only considers possessions.

Respected porters, brothers -
Today, a Nepali's identity
Has become selfish.

Respected porters, brothers -
We're only here as long as our physical health is.
Of course, we will become wealthy and happy.

Respected porters, brothers -
If your soul is content and peaceful
Your creativity can build a Taj Mahall!

Respected porters, brothers -
Make your hardship into a possession.
Soak this earth with your sweat.

Make a storehouse for your sweat.

by Nanda Raj Rai **porter**
(translated by Ben Ayers)

Porter's Story

Prakash Rai stumbles under his load and lands on the side of the well-trodden track. His worsening cough echoes from his rib cage into the valley, and his breathing is laboured, even on this unusually flat section of the Annapurna trail.

After taking twice as long as all the other porters to reach camp, Prakash's headache and cough has worsened, his appetite gone. After a disturbed night sleep, he can barely drag himself from his makeshift bed.

The scene described above is oft repeated around the trekking routes of Nepal, but in this case, Prakash, a real life porter, is my 'hero actor' starring in an educational film for porters about health and safety, particularly at high altitude.

Porter's Story is a 30-minute video entirely in Nepali made specifically for porters, about porters. It aims to educate them about the risks of trekking at high altitude, and how to recognise, treat and prevent altitude sickness, frostbite and hypothermia.

The idea for a video for porters was born in October 2000. In the same week that I was trekking in the Everest region, two porters and an Australian woman died due to altitude sickness. After meeting Prakash Adhikari, Chief Executive of Himalayan Rescue Association (HRA), and also Nepal's IPPG representative, I floated the idea of a video to educate trekkers about altitude sickness. "A film for trekkers would be great," smiled Prakash enthusiastically, "but a film for porters could be even more useful."

The Australian Embassy in Kathmandu provided the majority of the funds for *Porter's Story*, supported by donations from IPPG, HRA, Australian Volunteers International and the Banff Centre for Mountain Culture.

Almost all the porters we met were delighted to help with the film. Porters became actors, interviewees, camera assistants, poets and musicians. Some even tried to help me direct! "Don't look at the camera. Speak louder" they would command their friends.

Porter's Story is now screened at Porters Progress in Kathmandu and Lukla, and at HRA and KEEP, among other places. The challenge remains to find more places along the trekking routes willing to have porters crowding inside to watch the video. It is a delight to watch the faces of porters as they see their friends, their stories, and their woes unfold on the television screen. They have never seen a film made for them before. By the end of the film, though they may not yet be experts in altitude sickness, the point has been made: that the dangers of altitude can be fatal, and they can happen to anyone. But with a little knowledge and care for each other, fatalities can be prevented.

One of the porters I interviewed, Shantari Rai, summed up the message of the film well. He almost died several years ago from HAPE, and by a stroke of good fortune, was one of the few porters ever evacuated by helicopter from an HRA clinic.

"God blessed me, that's why I got the opportunity to live longer. I work for the trekking industry, so now when I go to high altitude, I think about it very carefully. What use is the money if I am dead?"

Serena Rix

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

IPPG representatives needed in Germany, Denmark, Spain, Israel, Eastern European countries, in nearly all states of the USA, and any other country without one. If you can help or would like more information on what it entails, contact the Rep Coordinator Lyn Taylor australia@ippg.net

Incident reports

A freak accident

Nema and Chesonde (two porters) and myself were walking from Tilicho Base Camp Lodge to Tilicho Tal. The weather was good. After just over one hour the two porters were walking about 20m in front of me when Chesonde was struck by a large rock. The cause of the rock being disturbed is unknown; the section of path being comparatively safe.

Chesonde was killed instantly, due to a serious head injury (I am a qualified First Aider). I sent a message to the Police Post at Humde. The Police arrived the next afternoon for a preliminary investigation. The Inspector from Chame arrived the next day for a full investigation.

It was decided that a Post Mortem was required to show that his death was not connected with rebel activities. The body was then carried down

IPPG has no membership. You join by simply becoming aware or donating time, effort or cash!

to Khangsar, the next morning to Humde. (...) The Post mortem was followed by a cremation, service conducted by the Lama. Cremation is the norm in his village. The following day there was a small service (purification), when we were given a small piece of the skeleton to take back to his village. The next day his ashes were scattered in the river.

Nema and I returned to Kathmandu by plane via Pokhara. His father, uncle and brother came down from his village and we met in Kathmandu.

I paid the father his full wages and 10% of the insurance up front. The insurance is a long process but I am sure that the claim will be successful in the end, as all procedures have been followed. I paid all the expenses: Police, Doctor, etc.

As everybody has told me it was a freak accident and I should not blame myself. However this does not bring back a young man of 20 years. This was the fifth trek Chesonde had done with me. We often shared rooms or tents. In Pokhara we stayed in the same hotel. Fortunately I can remember the good times we had together and the experiences we shared like boating, mountain biking and flying.

It was a personal tragedy for me and the recovery is slow. Chesonde was always referred to as my Nepali son. I treated him as my son.

CB, UK

Ed: Accidents happen, even when all the best precautions are taken. This response was exemplary

Young porter at work

On my journey in the Annapurna region I was disappointed to see a 10 year old carrying a heavy kitchen load, he was employed by a well-known company and had just crossed the Throng La. I spoke to the Guide and Sirdar attached to the group and made it very clear that employing anyone under the age of 16 yrs is appalling. Since arriving home I have emailed the company concerned and they were very concerned and advised me that one of their clients also complained and that the matter has been dealt with. I am sure that this particular Guide and Sirdar will not make the same mistake again. If you know of anyone going on a trek to Nepal please ask them to follow up any incident that involves porters that is disturbing.

LT, Australia

ED: If you come across incidents involving porters, contact your IPPG rep. IPPG will contact the company and suggest ways to improve their operation in a more sustainable way. IPPG has a policy of not publicly naming companies or individuals involved in incidents

Deaths on Kilimanjaro Raise Concern About Porters' Safety

November 15, 2002

The death of three Tanzanian porters on Mount Kilimanjaro nearly two months ago has raised concern about the plight of local people hired to accompany trekkers/climbers scaling the world's big peaks.

The three men died during a violent storm on the 19,340-foot (5,895 meters) mountain—the highest peak in Africa. They were not all in the same party, but are thought to have died of hypothermia on the same day, September 17.

About 20,000 climbers attempt the ascent up Mount Kilimanjaro every year. Fall is the prime climbing season because the weather is relatively tame that time of year. This year, however, the week of September 17 had the worst weather conditions on the mountain that some people had seen in a dozen years. "All week the rain was very heavy, with wind blowing extraordinarily," said Debbie Addison, co-owner and manager of South Africa-based Wild Frontiers. "Then there was a sudden drop in temperature, compounded by the wind chill coming down off the summit."

Her company had employed Anthony Minja, one of the porters who died. According to a post-mortem report, 47-year-old Minja died of acute cardiovascular failure, most likely related to hypothermia and possibly altitude sickness. He had been climbing along the Machame route with a group led by Wild Frontiers' local operator in Tanzania, Keys Hotel and Tours, when he decided to descend the mountain on his own.

He separated from the main group on the third day of the six-day climb, and his body was later found at 12,630 feet (3,849 meters), between the Shira and Baranco camps. It had been his first trip up Kilimanjaro as a porter.

The other two porters had been working for Tanzania-based Zara International. One died along the Machame route, the other while climbing the Marangu route. The exact causes of their deaths was not reported, and no additional information about them was available.

Report by Sandra Keats for **National Geographic Adventure**

More on Kilimanjaro porters on http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2002/11/1115_02_1115_KilimanPorters.html

Death on Mera Peak, problems in Gokyo valley

We heard rumours of between one and three porter deaths, but only one dead porter was brought back from the Mera Peak trek to Lukla. (It is very difficult to check reports and the police are not forthcoming with statistics).

While in the Gokyo valley, we found a very sick porter (AMS) sheltering beneath a boulder and alerted the French trekkers involved. (They had no idea where their porters were sleeping and were ashamed when they found out). This was at 4500 meters, minus 5 °C, a brisk breeze and light snow.

The Editor

Letters to the editor

Hi Lyn

I just saw the documentary *Carrying the Burden* on SBS tonight.

I went on a trek last year and can truly understand many of the difficulties IPPG is trying to address. It is great to see that such an organisation exists.

Well done!! Keep up the fabulous work.

Best wishes

T

Dearest Dr Jim Duff,

I am a kind of porter guide, I have got licence from the Government. I am working free lance, guide some time, sometime trekking agent send me porter in highest mountain and they pay me as very little money. No insurance if I die there, so nobody will bring my body down to my village (...)

Could you tell me how can we make the one majority of trekking workers in tourism industry. All porter guides have to come together, and agents have to be together and support us and give us medicine if we get problem if we have no money at that time. Please let me know about this kindly. Also in Nepal the highest cast people hate us as they don't like the low cast. We are real porter workers.

BBK

Ed: IPPG believes that it is up to the porters to eventually negotiate with the Nepal government to set minimum wages, maximum weights and enforce the laws that say you must have insurance. Caste discrimination is obviously a problem as well. This will take you some time but it will happen.


Alpenverein Südtirol
Referat für Natur und Umwelt
Dear Mrs. Schiefer,

On behalf of the AVS, I would like, by means of this communication, to extend to you once again our most heartfelt thanks for your readiness to help with the organisation of the IPPG photo exhibition. As Dr Franz Müller has probably already told you, the exhibition was shown at a doctors' congress in Gröden and was very well received.

Prompted in part by the IPPG photo exhibition, the AVS responded to a request from the nature and environment unit and spoke out at its 85th General Meeting in favour of providing support for mountain porters. A concrete range of measures on this topic was unanimously agreed. Amongst other measures, the AVS (with its 90 sections and locations) undertakes in this document to implement the minimum ethical standards for porters on all of its own expeditions. It also undertakes actively to demand such standards from other trekking and expedition organisers in South Tyrol. These measures will be implemented in 2003.

Best regards

Mag. Thomas Schmarda 8/3/03



**Anyone interested to
organise the *Mountain
Porter Travelling
Photo Exhibition*
in their country, please
let Rejane know
(info@ippg.net)**

Financial Reports 2002

Note: each country in their own currency

AUSTRALIA

Balance at 1.1.02 AUD\$2,516.64

Income

Donations

C Whitehead	50.00
Ian and Ruth Gawler	200.00
D M Ledder	50.00
Westgarth Primary School	80.00
World Expeditions	100.00
TM Wilanowski	30.00
S A Bush	10.00
Lyn Taylor	80.00
Treksafe (PAC)	1650.00
Trish Bachelor	160.00
Unknown	50.00
CE Bartlett	175.00

Fundraiser

J Duff 340.00

TOTAL \$2975.00

Expenses

Administration	727.87
Website	2768.48
Serena Rix Productions	1000.00
Buying of porter clothing	200.00
Porteadores Inka Ñan	1368.62

TOTAL \$6064.97

Balance at 31.12.02 AUD-\$573.33

NEPAL

Balance at 1.1.02 NRS 231,800

Income

IPPG Canada	9,600.00
Bank interest	4,889.71

TOTAL 14,489.71

Expenses

Admin (newsletter)	19,700.00
Administration	11,000.00
Porter Training workshop	32,000.00
Kul Bahadur	29,686.00
Porter story video	500.00
IPPG Brochure printing	80,500

TOTAL 173,386.00

Bal at 31.12.02 NRS 72,903.71

SWITZERLAND

Balance at 31.12.02 SF 600

UK

Balance at 1.1.02 £ 4,224.74

Income

Donations

Classic Nepal Travel	50.00
KE Rose	26.80
Unknown	331.11
L Holbrook	100.00
K Asthana	58.00
Dr Hillenbrand	15.00

Fundraisers

Doug Scott	244.50
Bank Interest	1.80

TOTAL 827.21

Expenses

Administration	424.40
Porters Progress	3000.00
Computer (to be repaid)	320.00
JG conference (to be repaid)	72.00
Bank	35.06

TOTAL 3851.46

Balance at 31.12.02 £1200.49

PERU

Income

Donations

IPPG - OZ US \$750

TOTAL \$750

Expenses

Making of the video	140
Administration	340
Travel	120
Porter workshop	150

TOTAL \$750

Balance at 31.12.02 nil

USA

Balance at 1.1.02 US\$210

Expenses

Administration 23

TOTAL 23

Balance at 31.12.02 US\$187

UTAH

Income

Donations 150

TOTAL 150

Expenses

Administration 50

TOTAL 50

Balance at 31.12.02 US\$100

GERMANY

Note from Monika: the report from 2001 was not quite correct. I have settled the account as follows

Balance at 1.1.02 -1090,00 €

Income

Donations

JS 1090,00 €

MS 405,00 €

TOTAL 1495,00 €

Expenses

Translations 113,00 €

Administration 95 €

Photo exhibition 197 €

TOTAL 405,00 €

Balance at 31.12.02 0,00 €

CANADA

Balance at 1.1.02 C\$ 840.22

Income

Donations

O. Myhre, Calgary 200 (To Porters Progress)

K. Myhre, Calgary 100 (To Porters Relief Fund)

B. Downie, Calgary 100 (To Porters Relief Fund)

S. Duncan, Vancouver 20 (General Fund)

Bank Interest 0.23

TOTAL \$420.23

Expenses

Porters Progress 500.00

Porters Relief Fund 200.00 (IPPG Nepal)

Administration 27.47

Displays & presentations 139.45

TOTAL \$866.92

Balance at 31.12.02 C\$ 393.53

HONG KONG

All the monies raised for the construction of the shelters is now run through the Island School amalgamated charities account. The total cost for the two shelters is approx US\$10,000.

\$4,000 has been paid to ACAP as the first instalment, another \$4000 will be paid after the mid term report, and the final \$2000 on completion (hopefully end 2003). Fundraising is approximately half way there, and Pete is confident that it will be there by the end of the year.

It is quite simple to be a supporter of IPPG

Spread the word, step in and complain about perceived injustices, ask your travel or trekking agent about their policy on porter safety and complain loudly if this is not up to standard.

Finally, if you go trekking, take care of your porters!

Reps Coming and Going

Departed

Monika Scheiffer (GERMANY)

Jo Chittenden (UK)

Bobby McKenna (EAST AFRICA)

Angela Hawse (USA)

A big thank you!!

New: Brad Atwal (UK)

Alison Crowther (PERU)

Navyo Eller (ITALY)

Chris Morris (EAST AFRICA)

Wanda Vivequin (Canada)

How Do I Contact IPPG

Anyone may contact IPPG representatives to obtain more information, send personal accounts of trekking porters' misadventures, make suggestions, send articles, or make a donation

International

Coordinator

Dr Jim Duff, 53 Dale Street,
Ulverston, LA129AR, Cumbria, UK
Ph 012295 86225
info@ippg.net
Dr Jim Duff is available for talks,
interviews and articles on porters.

Australia

Lyn Taylor, PO Box 947, Mona
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Ph (02) 99977442
australia@ippg.net

Austria

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Porters Progress

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portersprogress@ippg.net
www.portersprogress.org

**IPPG ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO GO TREKKING
AND TO DO SO IN A NON-EXPLOITATIVE, SUSTAINABLE WAY**

Yes! I would like to support IPPG!

- Find enclosed a donation of \$ _____
- I would like to give \$ _____ for the following specific project (*please tick*):
- Machermo Porter Rescue Post
 - Porteadores Inka Ñan
 - Porters Progress and the Porter Clothing Bank
 - Rescue Funds
 - Porter Shelters Project
 - Porter Documentary
 - Wherever the money is most needed
- I would like to sponsor an injured porter and/or their dependents by committing to give \$ _____ per year to the Porter Relief Fund
- I am unable to give anything at the moment but would like to receive the IPPG newsletter

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Prov/State _____ P/code _____

Country _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE OR TO THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR (SEE PAGE 16). THANK YOU.



WWW.IPPG.NET

More information on IPPG can be found at www.ippg.net